

Groton Daily Independent

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**Reminder of no mail
service today**

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

ACT Practice Test at Groton Area High School
12:30pm- 3:00pm: MathCounts at Aberdeen Roncalli
Middle School

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Big Question Debate at Watertown High School
7:00pm: MS/HS Christmas Concert at GHS Gym-
nasium

Saturday, December 8, 2018

Ringneck LD and PF Debate at Aberdeen Central
High School
Robotics at Rapid City Stevens High School
10:00am: Wrestling: Boys Varsity Tournament vs.
LaMoure/Litchville-Marion @ LaMoure High School
2:00pm: Basketball: Girls Varsity Double Header
vs. Leola-Frederick @ Frederick High School (JV Girls
game at 2pm JV Boys game at 3pm Varsity Girls game
at 4:30pm Varsity Boys game at 6pm)

Sunday, December 9, 2018

(2:00pm- 6:00pm: Open Gym, GHS Arena
Grades JK-8 2pm - 4pm; Grades 6-12 4pm - 6pm)

CLOSED! Recycling Trailer in Gro-
ton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East
Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers
and aluminum cans.

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



**DAKOTA TREE
COMPANY**

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FUNDRAISER ALLFORHUNT shirts: Defy all odds

December 3-7, 2018

Custom shirt made to help a \$15,000 goal on GOFUNDME.com that has not been reached yet, please help us reach our goal. Thanks.



	Men's	youth	Women's	youth
S			S	
M			M	
L			L	
XL			XL	
XXL			XXL	

\$24/shirt

*20/shirt if you order more than one

Name _____

Thank you for helping a great cause. Your money will go toward Hunter's family. You can also donate money at <https://www.gofundme.com/allforhunt>.

Apply your form of payment with this form to the office, or business office at Groton Area High School by Friday, December, 7.

A GoFundMe page has been established for the Schaller family, started by Peyton Johnson. Thus far, in nine days, \$11,880 has been raised of the \$15,000 goal. To donate, [click here](#).

HUNTER SCHALLER BENEFIT December 5th at 4pm Groton Legion WALKING TACO WITH DESSERT Free will donation

Due to Bingo, you must be 21 to enter the Legion, even if you are accompanied by a parent or guardian.



#allforHunt Fundraiser - Keychains \$10 All proceeds to go to the family. You can order at the Groton High School office, Professional Management Services, Lori's Pharmacy or BK Custom T's

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City switches insurance companies at emergency meeting

The Groton City Council held an emergency meeting Tuesday in regard to the insurance coverage for the employees. The council had approved an insurance plan submitted by Insurance Plus of Aberdeen. The quote for the stop-loss program was first given to the finance office Monday afternoon, so not a lot of time was available for review.

Through the day on Tuesday, city employees were reviewing the plan submitted by Insurance Plus with the plan through National General. Questions were raised which then brought about an emergency city council meeting Tuesday night. The meeting was necessary as the quote with Hahn Financial Group was good only through December 5. Finance Officer Hope Block said she attempted to contact the insurance representative of Insurance Plus to get clarifications, but her call was not returned.

Earlier in November, city employees were given options through Hahn Financial Group with different deductibles. The employees had settled in with the 1,500 deductible through National General. Welmark/Blue Cross and Blue Shield was seeing an 18 percent in premiums which prompted the city to look for other options. The Hahn proposal would save the city around \$40,000 for a year and would also save the employees money as well.

The council decided to go with the \$1,500 deductible through Hahn Financial Group with National General as the insured company and the \$3,000 HSA deductible.

Jay Peterson said he had checked with the BBB and National General had an A- rating which is considered an excellent rating. Hahn Financial Group also represents the South Dakota Retailers Association.

Help Wanted

Looking for full-time and part-time labor in Hecla area. Pressure washing livestock trailers and hog barns. Also working in hog barns as needed, training is provided. Must be able to lift at least 50 lbs. Would require some evenings. Must have good work ethic and references. Full-time benefits of health insurance and 401K, part-time has 401K. Contact Cole at 994-2201.

Groton Coffee Cup League

Dec. 4 Team Standings: Kens 4, James Valley 3, Ten Pins 1, Biker Chix 0.

High Games: Vickie Kramp 171; Joyce Walter 162, 145; Sandi Bistedeau 138.

High Series: Joyce Walter 435, Vickie Kramp 434, Angie Carlson 371

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TRY A *New* **HUNGRY UP Deal**

\$4 Hungry-ish Deal
Single
w/Cheese

\$5 Hungry Deal
Double
w/Cheese

\$6 Hangry Deal
Triple
w/Cheese

Includes Fries & Mini Blizzard® TREAT

Royal Blizzard® Treat at an additional charge



 Valid only at:
DQ Grill & Chill Restaurant
11 E Hwy 12
Groton, SD 57445-2175

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Today in Weather History

December 5, 1960:

A storm dropped snow on the entire region from the morning of the 4th to the late afternoon of the 5th, with the highest amounts in the western, central and north central parts of South Dakota. Five to 10 inches of snow fell in these areas. The snow, blown by winds of 30 to 40 mph, caused extensive drifting of streets and highways. A brief period of freezing rain preceded the snow and added to hazardous driving conditions on roads. Schools were closed for one to two days, with 27 towns reporting closed schools in the Aberdeen area alone. Telephone and power disruption was widespread in central and north central counties of the state, as poles and wires were broken by a combination of ice, snow, and the wind. The storm produced mostly rain in the extreme eastern counties of South Dakota into west central Minnesota, with a narrow band of freezing rain preceding light snow immediately to the west. No serious automobile accidents or property damage was reported in this area of freezing rain and light snow.

December 5, 1976: Cold Canadian air moved across South Dakota during the day on Sunday, December 5th. High winds gusted to 63 mph at Philip and 55 mph at Rapid City. One to two inches of snow fell over all of South Dakota; however, many counties in the southeast, south central, and east-central parts of the state received amounts varying from three to five inches. After this storm, nighttime temperatures fell to below zero. Snowfall amounts included 2 inches at Pierre, Aberdeen, and Watertown; and 3 inches at Redfield and Clear Lake.

December 5, 1886: A southern storm dumped heavy snow up into far southwest Virginia. The storm dumped 11 inches in Montgomery Alabama and 22.5 inches in Knoxville, TN. It also dropped 25 inches in Rome, Georgia, and 26 inches in Ashville, North Carolina.

December 5, 1953: A tornado outbreak occurred over northeastern Louisiana, southeastern Arkansas, and western Mississippi on this day. At least four confirmed tornadoes touched down. The strongest tornado was rated F5 as it destroyed the town of Vicksburg, Mississippi. This tornado first touched down just west of the Mississippi River in East Madison Parish in Louisiana. The tornado crossed the Mississippi River and tore through the downtown area of Vicksburg. On the ground for seven miles, this tornado caused 38 deaths, 270 injuries, and cost an estimated \$25 million in damages in 1953. Estimated cost adjusted for inflation in 2013 Dollars would be over \$200 million. The NWS Office in Jackson, Mississippi has an interactive track map of this event which includes photos and personal accounts.

1886 - A big snowstorm in the southeastern U.S. produced 11 inches at Montgomery AL, 18.5 inches at Rome GA, and 22.5 inches at Knoxville TN. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1941 - The temperature at Enosburg Falls soared to 72 degrees to establish a state record for Vermont for the month of December. (The Weather Channel)

1953 - A killer tornado hit Vicksburg, MS, killing 38 persons, injuring 270 others, and causing 25 million dollars damage, the most damage since the forty-seven days of continuous shelling the town received in the Civil War. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Heavy snow blanketed parts of the north central U.S., and freezing drizzle produced a coat of ice up to half an inch thick in northwestern Minnesota and eastern North Dakota. Snowfall totals ranged up to seven inches at Grand Rapids MN, and 12 inches at Seney MI. High winds in the north central U.S. gusted to 63 mph at Pellston MI, and reached 70 mph at Makinaw Bridge MI. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - There was only a "flurry" of activity, as for much of the nation winter remained on hold. The cold and snow of winter was primarily confined to the northeastern U.S. Five cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Norfolk NE with a reading of 65 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - A warm Pacific storm system brought high winds and heavy rain to western Washington and western Oregon. Up to ten inches of rain deluged the western slopes of the Cascade Mountain Range in Washington State over a three day period, and 500 persons had to be evacuated due to flooding along the Skagit River. Up to five inches of rain drenched northwest Oregon, and winds gusted to 71 mph at Netarts. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today

Tonight

Thursday

Thursday
Night

Friday



Partly Sunny
then Chance
Snow

High: 30 °F



Chance
Flurries

Low: 8 °F



Mostly Sunny

High: 18 °F



Partly Cloudy

Low: 7 °F

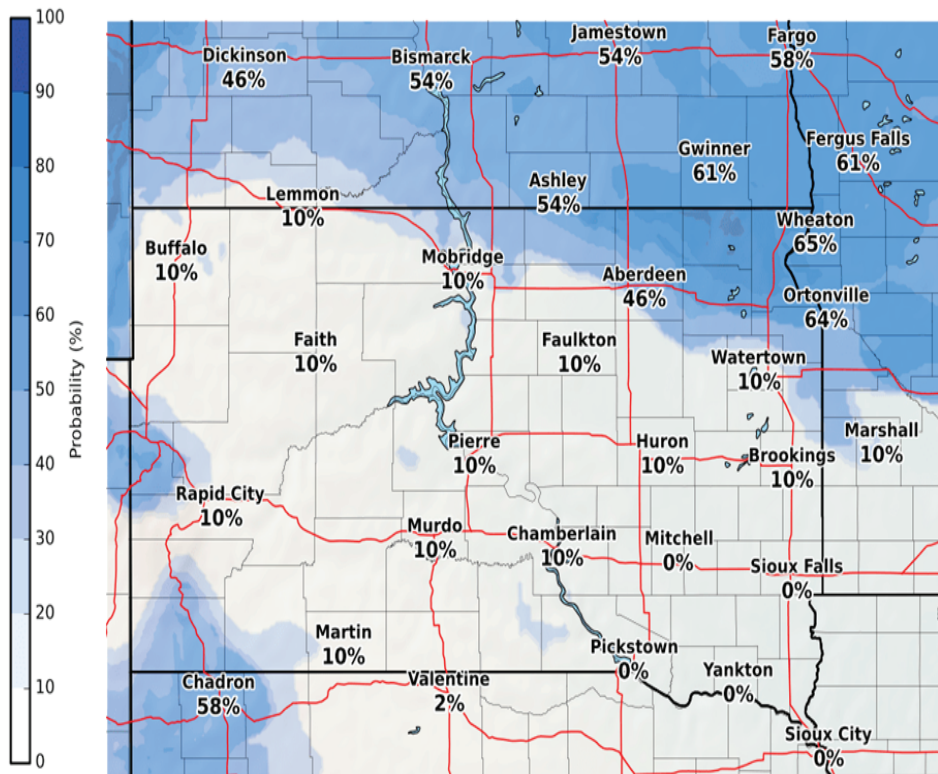


Sunny

High: 25 °F

Percent Chance of 0.1" Snow or More

Valid: 12/05/2018 06:00 AM - 12/06/2018 06:00 AM



National Weather Service
Aberdeen SD
12/05/2018 03:52 AM CST

Follow Us: [f](#) [t](#) [v](#)
weather.gov/Aberdeen/winter

Published on: 12/05/2018 at 5:50AM

A weak system will move east across the region today, with areas of light snow across portions of northeast South Dakota into west central Minnesota. Accumulations are expected to be less than an inch. The graphic here indicates the probability of seeing at least 0.1 inches of snow - basically highlighting areas where "measurable" snow has the highest chances of occurring.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 34 °F at 3:16 PM

Low Outside Temp: 21 °F at 7:47 PM

High Gust: 16 mph at 2:51 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 57° in 1939

Record Low: -25° in 1905

Average High: 29°F

Average Low: 9°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.07

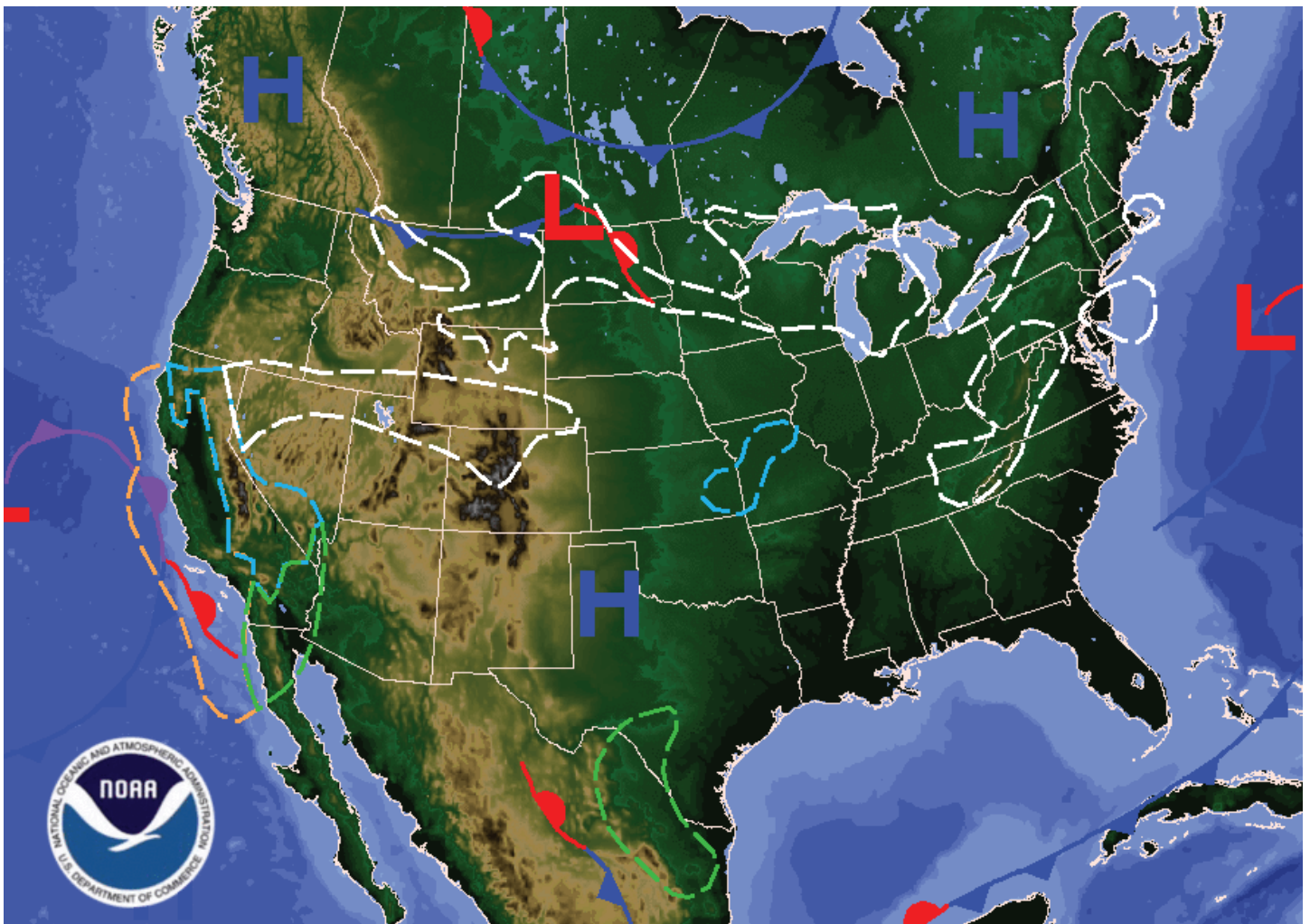
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.27

Precip Year to Date: 15.81

Sunset Tonight: 4:51 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:59 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Dec 05, 2018, issued 4:40 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain	Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Rain and T'Storms	Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Rain and Snow	Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Snow	Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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HOW TO LEARN UNDERSTANDING

James the Fifth of Scotland ruled his subjects quite differently than other rulers did. Historians say that he would often lay aside his royal robes, put on the clothes of an ordinary man, work as they worked and live as they lived. His disguise allowed him to move freely among his people without being recognized.

He did this, we are told, to gain an understanding of their needs and problems, sorrows and difficulties. Then, when he returned to his throne, he would have a clearer insight of his subjects and was better able to rule over them with compassion and care.

That is what Jesus, the King of kings, did. He laid aside His glory. Paul writing of this said, Though he was God, He did not demand and cling to His right as God. He made himself nothing, He took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form!

It is common for most of us to be selfish and express our pride by demanding our rights! We want what we think is rightfully ours for any number of reasons. We believe that we have earned something or deserve something and therefore demand something!

But not Jesus. He laid aside every right that was rightfully His in order to serve others.

As His followers we are to live as He lived. We must develop an attitude of love and humility and willingly and sacrificially serve others as He did!

Prayer: We thank You, Lord, for becoming like one of us and for going through everything that we go through. Knowing this enables us to know just how much You do care. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 2:5-8 I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- Nov./Dec./Jan./Feb./Mar. Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 9/7/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching 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)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party
- 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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

28-31-41-42-50, Mega Ball: 4, Megaplier: 3

(twenty-eight, thirty-one, forty-one, forty-two, fifty; Mega Ball: four; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$208 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$200 million

Colorado routs South Dakota 82-58 for 4th straight win

By PAT GRAHAM, AP Sports Writer

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — Colorado coach Tad Boyle had a little inside information for his team: Work the ball underneath to Evan Battey.

Constantly double-teamed, the big man proved to be double trouble.

Battey scored 14 points and dished out four assists as the Buffaloes routed South Dakota 82-58 on Tuesday night for their fourth straight win.

"When they double him, it's a dangerous deal. He can find the open man well," Boyle said. "Hopefully our players are figuring it out. One way to get a shot: Get the ball to the post and move. They've got to understand he's a big weapon down there."

Battey frequently drew a crowd in the paint, leading to pass after pass back out to the perimeter or to a player cutting toward the basket.

"They do a good job of getting the ball inside. That was the biggest key tonight," South Dakota coach Todd Lee said. "That was a big disadvantage for us all night."

Battey is steadily working his way back into form after starting the season a little rusty.

An academic redshirt last season, Battey was playing pickup basketball with his friends last December when he suffered a stroke. He's regained the feeling on his right side.

"I believe I'm back," Battey said. "I definitely am settling in."

D'Shawn Schwartz scored 14 points and Tyler Bey added 13 points for the Buffaloes (6-1), who never trailed en route to earning win No. 1,300 in program history. They're 1,300-1,198 over their 116 seasons.

Colorado threw some different looks at the Coyotes (4-4) out of the Summit League. The Buffaloes used Shane Gatling as a ball handler, ran plays around Battey in the post and showed some different wrinkles within their motion offense.

"You have to take what the defense gives you," Schwartz explained.

It all went right to help Colorado build a lead that stretched to as many as 29 points late in the second half.

Tyler Peterson led South Dakota with 15 points, while Trey Burch-Manning chipped in 12.

"I think we had a little bit of an off night," Peterson said. "Not really getting a chance to get into a rhythm. Things got away from us a little bit. That was the big thing was to try and slow down their big men."

The Coyotes were plagued by foul trouble as Stanley Umude fouled out with 15:17 remaining. Burch-Manning and Peterson played a good portion of the second half with four fouls.

South Dakota was already short-handed with starters Tyler Hagedorn and Cody Kelley sidelined by injuries. Hagedorn has yet to play this season after averaging 13 points a game in 2017-18. Kelley's missed the last four contests.

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BIG PICTURE

South Dakota: Every game this season, the Coyotes have held the opposition's leading scorer under their average. Guard McKinley Wright IV was their primary focus in the contest and he was held to 11 points, which was slightly below his 14.8 average. The difficulty was Colorado had four players averaging in double figures. It was challenging to pick just one.

Colorado: The Buffs improved to 82-27 in nonconference regular season games under Boyle.

SECOND-HALF TEAM

Over their win streak, the Buffaloes have been a better second-half squad than first. On Tuesday, they were even — 41 points in both.

"I don't want to be a second half team. I don't want to be a first half team," Boyle said. "I want to be a 40-minute team. That means we have to execute and play with energy and effort."

CALL HIM RALPH

For his aggressive play, Battey's teammates have started calling him "Ralph," a play on the school's buffalo mascot "Ralphie."

"I do whatever the team needs me to do," Battey said.

UP NEXT

South Dakota: Plays UMKC on Saturday — the first of two straight at home.

Colorado: Hosts Illinois-Chicago out of the Horizon League on Saturday.

More AP college basketball: www.collegebasketball.ap.org and http://www.twitter.com/AP_Top25

Martin, Harris lead Memphis over South Dakota State 88-80

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Jeremiah Martin and Tyler Harris scored 22 points apiece and Memphis pulled away early and cruised to an 88-80 victory over South Dakota State on Tuesday night.

Memphis (4-4) snapped a two-game skid that included a 78-67 loss to Texas Tech on Saturday.

Martin and Harris each made eight field goals, with Harris hitting four 3-pointers and Martin shooting 6 of 9 from the line.

David Jenkins made eight 3-pointers and scored a career-high 35 points on 11-of-17 shooting to lead South Dakota State (7-3). Mike Daum had 18 points and Skyler Flatten 13.

Antwann Jones' 3-pointer midway through the first half sparked a 25-4 run to close the first half and the Tigers led 40-32. Harris scored 12 points and Martin had 11 before the break.

Flatten's 3 cut the Jackrabbits' deficit to 44-39 early in the second. Memphis answered with an 8-0 surge and led by double digits for most of the second half.

Utility aims for zero carbon emission from electric power

DENVER (AP) — A utility serving 3.6 million electricity customers in eight states said Tuesday it will try to eliminate all its carbon emissions from electrical generation by 2050.

Xcel Energy CEO Ben Fowke acknowledged that not all the technologies the company needs to meet that goal are available yet on a commercial scale, but he said he is encouraged by advances in clean energy technology.

"If we put our minds to it," Fowke said, "we will find the best solution to get us there."

He told the Colorado Sun the goal is a response to climate change.

"This risk of climate change isn't going away and we want to be the company that does something about it and hopefully inspire others to do something about it too," he said.

Xcel has been increasing its solar and wind power generation but said reaching zero carbon emissions could require the company to continue operating its nuclear power plants and using carbon sequestration.

Carbon sequestration would capture carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels and keep it out of the atmosphere.

Xcel has two nuclear power plants in Minnesota, near the towns of Monticello and Red Wing.

Xcel is based in Minneapolis but made the announcement in Denver, part of its service area. The company has customers in Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin.

Xcel also supplies natural gas to 2 million customers across its service area. Their service won't be affected, spokeswoman Michelle Aguayo said.

Xcel said it has already reduced carbon emissions by 35 percent across its eight states since 2005. It set an interim goal of trimming those emissions by 80 percent by 2030.

In Colorado, Xcel is already planning to retire two coal-fired electrical generating stations about a decade early and expand its solar, wind and natural gas generation.

The company has said that will save consumers about \$213 million by 2054 because renewables are getting cheaper.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard proposes spending hikes in final budget

By JAMES NORD

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Retiring Gov. Dennis Daugaard proposed spending increases Tuesday for education, state employees and Medicaid providers in his final budget proposal as governor.

The Republican recommended a nearly \$1.7 billion general fund budget for the upcoming 2020 budget year during his last budget proposal and farewell address to the South Dakota Legislature. The budget lays the groundwork for GOP Gov.-elect Kristi Noem, who will formulate her own proposal to be debated in the upcoming legislative session.

Daugaard's proposal for the 2020 budget year that starts July 1 envisions roughly \$53 million in spending hikes, including 2.3 percent increases for education, Medicaid providers and state workers.

"We've been fortunate in South Dakota to have many governors and many legislators of both parties who kept our finances on track for years, and I hope we never take that for granted," said Daugaard, who noted the state's fully funded retirement system and AAA credit rating. "As I leave you, our state's finances are the envy of the nation."

Noem said there may be a few changes from Daugaard's plan for K-12, Medicaid providers and state employees, but she didn't anticipate a major shift from his proposal. Noem said she'll be working on her budget plan over the rest of December.

Noem will be sworn in to office Jan. 5. The Legislature will reshape the current budget and approve the next one during the session that begins in January.

"This governor has always prioritized fiscal responsibility, and he's built a strong foundation here of doing that again in this budget," Noem said ahead of the speech.

Daugaard expects state collections for the current budget year, which started July 1, will be down slightly compared to lawmakers' projections. He's also projecting lower state expenses than previously anticipated.

While some revenue sources aren't performing as expected, overall ongoing state collections for the first four months of the current budget year are about \$3 million, or 0.5 percent, higher than lawmakers previously anticipated.

Daugaard is proposing emergency expenses for the current state budget year including \$7.4 million to expand the Jameson Annex at the South Dakota State Penitentiary, roughly \$3.9 million for a National Guard Readiness Center and \$2.3 million for a litigation fund.

Daugaard's plan for next budget year calls for spending nearly \$1.75 billion in federal funds, over \$1.4 billion in other state money and about \$1.7 billion in general funds, totaling over \$4.8 billion.

Daugaard's proposal got a mixed review from Democrats. Democratic Party Executive Director Sam Parkinson said in a statement that Democrats can support funding hikes for public schools, state employees and community support providers, but he said the budget plan is "most notable for what's not there," including a lack of new funding for early childhood education and needs-based scholarships.

The governor's proposed increase for Medicaid providers is a positive step, but falls short of the change needed to sustain the state's long-term care infrastructure, said Mark B. Deak, executive director of the

South Dakota Health Care Association, which represents nursing, assisted living and senior living centers. "During the upcoming legislative session, we will work arduously with Gov.-elect Noem and the legislature to demand a budget that adequately funds the long-term care," Deak said in a statement.

Eric Ollila, executive director of the South Dakota State Employees Organization, said the proposed 2.3 percent increase for state workers is favorable. But he said public employees are rejecting a "radical" proposal to require them to pay premiums for the South Dakota State Employee Health Plan. Daugaard said the premiums would be \$20 for a high-deductible plan and \$40 for a low-deductible plan.

During his speech, Daugaard looked back on difficult times during his two terms — Missouri River flooding and massive state spending cuts to eliminate a budget deficit early in his first term — and noted some victories. They included raising the state's teacher pay from the last in the nation, winning a victory at the U.S. Supreme Court allowing states to force online shoppers to pay sales tax and prioritizing the maintenance and repair of highways, bridges and state buildings.

Daugaard credited his staff and family and invoked his parents, who were both born deaf. He said his father died with very little, but he worked hard, took care of himself and paid his bills. He was self-reliant, persistent and frugal, Daugaard said.

"South Dakota is a special place because there are many, many people who carry those same values with them and set that same example in their lives every day," Daugaard said. "That's why I love South Dakota, and that's why it's been my great honor to be your governor, and that is why I know that our best days are still yet to come. Thank you so much."

Key congressman optimistic about passing farm bill soon

By STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

SOUTH ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — A key congressional voice on agriculture, U.S. Rep. Collin Peterson of Minnesota, said Tuesday that he's optimistic that lawmakers can pass a new farm bill next week after a delay caused by the break for the funeral of former President George H.W. Bush.

Peterson, the top Democrat on the House Agriculture Committee, who's expected to become chairman next year, was heavily involved in negotiations that produced an agreement in principle last week among the top committee leaders in both the House and Senate. He said at a news conference that the final bill will get filed Monday, that he expects the House will take it up next Wednesday or Thursday, and that the Senate could then take it up the next day.

"With any luck it'll be out, it'll be passed by the end of next week. But knowing how things go around here, it may drag into the week after," Peterson said. "But I think we are going to get this thing done before the end of the year."

The farm bill governs farm subsidy and other agricultural programs, but by far the largest chunk of its more than \$400 million in spending for the next five years goes to food stamps for the poor. As part of the final deal, House Republicans dropped their push for stricter work requirements for the program, which for months was the biggest sticking point due to opposition from House Democrats and many Senate Republicans.

Peterson said the bill isn't everything he wanted. He said couldn't win support for putting additional money into the bill above the levels set in the 2014 farm bill, so it wasn't possible to raise target prices for farmers who've been slammed by low commodity prices that have been depressed even further by the U.S.-China trade war.

The bill, therefore, largely maintains the status quo, he said. The biggest winners will be milk producers, he said, because the legislation fixes a dairy safety net program created under the 2014 farm bill that didn't work. Participating farmers with about 240 cows or less can now expect to at least break even, he said.

"It isn't the best possible bill, but it's the best bill possible," he said.

Peterson said he doesn't want to drag the process out until next year, even though he could have a greater influence in shaping the package as the House agriculture chairman. If it does get delayed into next year, he said he would still plan to quickly pass the existing agreement and send it to the Senate.

Given that there will be few rural Democrats in the next Congress, he said the current deal is as good as farmers are going to get.

"The clock's ticking," agreed Thom Peterson, a lobbyist for the Minnesota Farmers Union, saying that newspapers have been full of stories lately about farmers facing bankruptcy.

Minnesota Farm Bureau President Kevin Paap said he's excited that the bill is close to passing because farmers will know for certain what help they can expect from the government as they calculate their cash flows and work with their bankers over the winter.

But the congressman also said he doesn't think the bill does enough to protect farmers from the trade war and overproduction that keeps crop prices low. He said he's warned Rep. Nancy Pelosi and other Democratic leaders that the situation is going to be bad enough that Congress will have to look at providing additional aid.

"When that will happen, whether it'll be next year or the year after, I don't know," he said. "How much it'll be, I don't know."

4 semis involved in fiery crash near Arlington

ARLINGTON, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says it's investigating a fiery crash involving four semis near Arlington.

The patrol says one of the four semi drivers has been taken to the hospital with injuries. The crash happened Tuesday morning on Highway 14.

The cause of the crash is under investigation.

Commercial truck crash in Lyman County kills 34-year-old man

IONA, S.D. (AP) — A one-vehicle crash in Lyman County killed a 34-year-old man.

The Highway Patrol says the man failed to negotiate a curve on state Highway 47 south of Iona and lost control of the commercial truck he was driving. It went in the ditch and rolled on its top.

The driver was pronounced dead at the scene about 3:30 a.m. Monday. His name wasn't immediately released.

Second person arrested in Sioux Falls police chase

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a second person has been arrested in a police chase through Sioux Falls that following a shooting outside a casino.

Police were called to the Lucky Lady Casino Saturday night on a report of three men fighting and one pointing a gun at another and firing it into the air. Officials say two of the men got in a stolen pickup with a 17-year-old girl and drove away. Police pursued the truck which eventually crashed into a pole outside a Walgreens.

A 24-year-old man was arrested shortly after the crash. A 25-year-old man was taken into custody later.

The Argus Leader says a judge set bond Monday at \$50,000 for the 24-year-old and \$4,000 for the other man. The two are accused of stealing the pickup from a Sioux Falls car dealership.

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

Noem says Peters won't be returning to Legislature

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov.-elect Kristi Noem says Sen. Deb Peters won't be returning to the Legislature.

A release from Noem did not say why Peters will not be taking the oath of office to represent District 9 in January. Peters wasn't immediately available for comment.

A former lawmaker who served with Peters and is now CEO of the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations, Tim Rave, tells the Argus Leader that Peters has joined the association as vice president of communications and member relations.

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Noem will appoint a legislator to fill Peters' seat, who will serve until Jan. 4. The district includes north-western Minnehaha County.

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

Ceremonies for Bush draw together presidents, world envoys

By CALVIN WOODWARD, LAURIE KELLMAN and ASHRAF KHALIL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's capital bids its final farewell to the late former President George H.W. Bush on Wednesday in a service of prayer and praise that is drawing together world envoys, Americans of high office and a guy from Maine who used to fix things in Bush's house on the water.

A viewing for the 41st president at the hushed Capitol Rotunda closed Wednesday morning. A ceremony at Washington National Cathedral, the nexus of state funerals, will cap three days of remembrance by dignitaries and ordinary citizens as they honored the Republican president who oversaw the post-Cold War transition and led a successful Gulf War, only to lose re-election in a generational shift to Democrat Bill Clinton in 1992.

The four living ex-presidents are coming — among them, George W. Bush will eulogize his father — and President Donald Trump will attend but is not scheduled to speak. Also attending: one king (Jordan), one queen (Jordan), two princes (Britain, Bahrain), Germany's chancellor and Poland's president, among representatives of more than a dozen countries.

Also expected in the invitation-only crowd: Mike Lovejoy, a Kennebunkport electrician and fix-it man who has worked at Bush's Maine summer estate since 1990 and says he was shocked and heartened to be asked to come.

On Tuesday, soldiers, citizens in wheelchairs and long lines of others on foot wound through the Capitol Rotunda to view Bush's casket and honor a president whose legacy included World War military service and a landmark law affirming the rights of the disabled. Former Sen. Bob Dole, a compatriot in war, peace and political struggle, steadied himself out of his wheelchair and saluted his old friend and one-time rival.

After the national funeral service at the cathedral, Bush's remains will be returned to Houston to lie in repose at St. Martin's Episcopal Church before burial Thursday at his family plot on the presidential library grounds at Texas A&M University in College Station. His final resting place will be alongside Barbara Bush, his wife of 73 years who died in April, and Robin Bush, the daughter they lost to leukemia in 1953 at age 3.

Trump ordered the federal government closed Wednesday for a national day of mourning. Flags on public buildings are flying at half-staff for 30 days.

As at notable moments in his life, Bush brought together Republicans and Democrats in his death, and not only the VIPs.

Members of the public who never voted for the man waited in the same long lines as the rest, attesting that Bush possessed the dignity and grace that deserved to be remembered by their presence on a cold overcast day in the capital.

"I'm just here to pay my respects," said Jane Hernandez, a retired physician in the heavily Democratic city and suburbs. "I wasn't the biggest fan of his presidency, but all in all he was a good, sincere guy doing a really hard job as best he could."

Bush's service dog, Sully, was taken to the viewing, too — his main service these last months since Barbara Bush's death in April being to rest his head on her husband's lap. Service dogs are trained to do that.

The CIA also honored Bush, the only spy chief to become president, as three agency directors past and present joined the public in the viewing.

In the midst of the period of mourning, first lady Melania Trump gave Laura Bush, one of her predecessors, a tour of holiday decorations at the White House, a "sweet visit during this somber week," as Mrs. Bush's Instagram account put it. And the Trumps visited members of the Bush family at the Blair House presidential guesthouse, where they are staying. Former President George W. Bush and his wife greeted the Trumps outside before everyone went in for the private, 20-minute visit.

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Although Trump will attend Bush's service, he is not among the eulogists. They are, in addition to Bush's eldest son, Alan Simpson, the former senator and acerbic wit from Wyoming; Brian Mulroney, the former Canadian prime minister who also gave a eulogy for Ronald Reagan; and presidential historian Jon Meacham.

People lined up before dawn to pay respects to the 41st president, a son and father of privilege now celebrated by everyday citizens for his common courtesies and depth of experience.

"He was so qualified, and I think he was just a decent man," said Sharon Terry, touring Washington with friends from an Indianapolis garden club. Said her friend Sue Miller, also in line for the viewing: "I actually think I underestimated him when he was in office. My opinion of him went up seeing how he conducted himself as a statesman afterward."

Fred Curry, one of the few African-Americans in line, is a registered Democrat from Hyattsville, Maryland, who voted for Bush in 1988, the election won by the one-term president. "Honestly I just liked him," he said. "He seemed like a sincere and decent man and you couldn't argue with his qualifications."

Inside the Capitol, Sully, the 2-year-old Labrador retriever assigned to Bush, sat by the casket in the company of people who came to commemorate Bush's signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the 1990 law that, among its many provisions, required businesses that prohibit pets to give access to service dogs.

"After Mrs. Bush's death, general companionship was a big part of Sully's job," John Miller, president and CEO of America's VetDogs, said in a phone interview. "One of the things that I think was important to the president was the rest command, where Sully would rest his head on the president's lap."

The law was just one point of intersection for Bush and Dole, now 95, who was one of its leading advocates in the Senate.

They were fellow World War II veterans, Republican Party leaders, fierce rivals for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination won by Bush ("Stop lying about my record," Dole snapped at Bush) and skilled negotiators. Dole, an Army veteran hit by German machine gunfire in Italy, has gone through life with a disabled right arm. Bush, a Navy pilot, survived a bail-out from his stricken aircraft over the Pacific and an earlier crash landing.

On Tuesday, Dole was helped out of his wheelchair by an aide, slowly steadied himself and saluted Bush with his left hand, his chin quivering.

Dignitaries had come forward on Monday, too, to honor the Texan whose service to his country extended three quarters of a century, from World War II through his final years as an advocate for volunteerism and relief for people displaced by natural disaster. Bush, 94, died Friday.

Trump's relationship with the Bush family has been tense. The current president has mocked the elder Bush for his "thousand points of light" call to volunteerism, challenged his son's legacy as president and trounced "low-energy" Jeb Bush in the Republican presidential primaries en route to office. The late President Bush called Trump a "blowhard."

Those insults have been set aside, but the list of funeral service speakers marked the first time since Lyndon Johnson's death in 1973 that a sitting president was not tapped to eulogize a late president. (Clinton did so for Richard Nixon, and George W. Bush eulogized Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford.)

Bush's death reduces membership in the ex-presidents' club to four: Jimmy Carter, Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

Associated Press writer Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

See AP's complete coverage of George H.W. Bush here: <https://www.apnews.com/GeorgeHWBush>

Wisconsin Senate passes bill limiting governor's powers

By SCOTT BAUER and TODD RICHMOND, Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — The Wisconsin Senate voted just before sunrise Wednesday following an all-night session to pass a sweeping bill in a lame-duck session designed to empower the GOP-controlled Legislature and weaken the Democrat replacing Republican Gov. Scott Walker.

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Republicans pushed on through protests, internal disagreement and Democratic opposition to the measures designed to reduce the powers of incoming Democratic Gov.-elect Tony Evers and Democratic Attorney General-elect Josh Kaul. Both Evers and Kaul urged Republicans not to do it, warning that lawsuits would bring more gridlock to Wisconsin when the new administration, and the first divided government in 10 years, takes over.

But Republicans forged ahead regardless, passing it 17-16 with all Republicans except one in support. All Democrats voted against it. The Assembly was expected to pass the bill later Wednesday, sending it on to Walker for his consideration. Walker has signaled support.

"This is a heck of a way to run a railroad," Democratic Senate Minority Leader Jennifer Shilling said as debate resumed at 5 a.m. "This is embarrassing we're even here."

In one concession, Republicans backed away from giving the Legislature the power to sidestep the attorney general and appoint their own attorney when state laws are challenged in court. An amendment to do away with that provision was part of a Republican rewrite of the bill, made public around 4:30 a.m. after all-night negotiations.

Walker, who was booed and heckled during an afternoon Christmas tree lighting ceremony in the Capitol rotunda, has signaled support for the measures that he would have to sign before they take effect. He's in his final five weeks as governor after losing a bid for a third term to Evers, the state schools superintendent.

Despite the victories by Evers, Kaul and every other Democrat running for statewide office, Republicans maintained majority control in the Legislature for the next two years. Democrats blamed partisan gerrymandering by Republicans for stacking the electoral map against them.

But faced with a Democratic governor for the first time in eight years, legislative Republicans came up with a package of lame-duck bills to protect their priorities and make it harder for Evers to enact his.

"Why are we here today?" Democratic Assembly Minority Leader Gordon Hintz said as the debate of more than nine hours began late Tuesday night. "What are we doing? Nothing we're doing here is about helping the people of Wisconsin. It's about helping politicians. It's about power and self-interest."

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos countered that the bills will ensure a balance of power between the Legislature and the executive branch.

"We have allowed far too much authority to flow to the executive," Vos said. "To you this is all about politics. To me, it's about the institution."

The bill would weaken the governor's ability to put in place rules that enact laws and shield the state jobs agency from his control until September. It would also limit early voting to no more than two weeks before an election, a restriction similar to what a federal judge ruled was unconstitutional. Democrats were optimistic it would be rejected by the courts again.

The proposal would also weaken the attorney general's office by requiring a legislative committee, rather than the attorney general, to sign off on withdrawing from federal lawsuits. That would stop Evers and Kaul from fulfilling their campaign promises to withdraw Wisconsin from a multi-state lawsuit seeking repeal of the Affordable Care Act. They made opposition to that lawsuit a central part of both of their campaigns.

The Legislature passed another measure to enact Medicaid work requirement rules Walker recently won a federal waiver to establish. The bill would also give the Legislature oversight over the governor seeking future waivers for health care, a change Democrats said would handcuff the new administration.

The proposals come after North Carolina lawmakers took similar steps two years ago. Michigan Republicans also are discussing taking action before a Democratic governor takes over there.

Protesters have come and gone in the Capitol the past two days as lawmakers rushed to pass the bills. The tumult was reminiscent of much larger demonstrations in the opening weeks of Walker's time as governor in 2011, when he effectively ended collective bargaining for most public workers.

"The first thing Scott Walker did when he walked through the door of the Capitol was to create chaos," Democratic Sen. Jon Erpenbach said during Senate debate. "The last thing he is doing is creating chaos."

This story has been updated to correct that the Medicaid work requirement bill did not pass on party lines.

Follow Scott Bauer on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sbauerAP>

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. PROSECUTORS RECOMMEND NO JAIL TIME FOR FLYNN

Citing "substantial" cooperation by Michael Flynn in its Russia investigation, the special counsel recommends no jail time for Trump's former national security adviser.

2. A NATION BIDS FARWELL TO BUSH

A funeral service in Washington for the 41st president draws together world envoys, Americans of high office and a handyman from Maine.

3. PRESIDENTS CLUB ASSEMBLES FOR FUNERAL

Trump will be thrown together with the four living occupants of the Oval Office who have given him decidedly mixed reviews.

4. CONFUSION REIGNS AFTER TRADE TRUCE

China promises to carry out a tariff cease-fire with Washington but gives no details about what Xi Jinping and Trump agreed to in Argentina.

5. POWERFUL QUAKE STRIKES SOUTH PACIFIC

The magnitude 7.5 temblor off New Caledonia sends jitters around the region, but there were no initial reports of destructive waves or major damage.

6. WHAT BEST HOPE FOR YEMEN PEACE TALKS MAY BE

U.N. officials don't expect rapid progress toward a political settlement, but they hope headway can be made to address a mounting humanitarian crisis.

7. WHERE SENATORS BROKE WITH TRUMP

Lawmakers briefed by the CIA director are convinced that the Saudi crown prince was involved in the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

8. WISCONSIN REPUBLICANS WORK ON LAME-DUCK BILLS

The measures are designed to empower the GOP-controlled Legislature and weaken the incoming Democrat replacing Republican Gov. Scott Walker.

9. WHO WILL HOST THE OSCARS

The funnyman actor Kevin Hart says the role fulfills a longtime dream.

10. COACHING LEGEND TO STEP AWAY

Citing health concerns and other factors, three-time national champion Urban Meyer of Ohio State says he will retire after the Rose Bowl.

Expectations low as Yemen's warring parties meet for talks

By BRIAN ROHAN, Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Yemen's warring parties will meet in Sweden this week for another attempt at talks aimed at halting their catastrophic 3-year-old war, but there are few incentives for major compromises, and the focus is likely to be on firming up a shaky de-escalation.

U.N. officials say they don't expect rapid progress toward a political settlement, but hope for at least minor steps that would help to address Yemen's worsening humanitarian crisis.

Both the internationally-recognized government, which is backed by a U.S.-sponsored and Saudi-led coalition, and the Iran-aligned Houthi rebels say they are striving for peace. A Houthi delegation arrived in Stockholm late Tuesday, accompanied by U.N. envoy Martin Griffiths. The government delegation and the head of the rebel delegation were heading to Sweden on Wednesday.

Confidence-building measures before the talks included a prisoner swap and the evacuation of wounded rebels for medical treatment. The release of funds from abroad by Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour

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Hadi to pay state employees in rebel-held territory is also in the works.

Yemeni scholar Hisham Al-Omeisy, who has written extensively about the conflict, said the talks would focus on "de-escalation and starting the political process."

"It's not much, but given the humanitarian situation and toxic political atmosphere currently prevalent in Yemen, it's better than nothing."

The conflict began with the Houthi takeover of the capital, Sanaa, and much of northern Yemen in 2014. The Saudi-led coalition went to war with the rebels the following March.

The war has claimed at least 10,000 lives, with experts estimating a much higher toll. Saudi-led airstrikes have hit schools, hospitals and wedding parties, and the Houthis have fired long-range missiles into Saudi Arabia and targeted vessels in the Red Sea.

The fighting in Yemen has generated the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The executive director of the U.N.'s World Food Program, David Beasley, said Tuesday that 12 million people suffer from "severe hunger."

"I've heard many say that this is a country on the brink of catastrophe," Beasley said. "This is not a country on the brink of a catastrophe. This is a country that is in a catastrophe."

The mounting humanitarian needs, and outrage over the killing of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi, have galvanized international support for ending the war. The United States has called for a cease-fire and reduced some of its logistical aid for the coalition. Iran has also signaled support, urging all sides "to have constructive and responsible participation in the talks."

But previous peace efforts have failed, with neither side willing to compromise.

Saudi Arabia is unlikely to tolerate what it views as an Iranian proxy on its doorstep, and the Houthis have little incentive to withdraw from the capital and other territories they have captured and held at great cost. Other armed groups taking part in the chaotic civil war, including southern separatists and local militias, will not be taking part in this week's talks.

At the same time, the two main parties could see the other as weakened, tempting them to make maximalist demands. Saudi Arabia has come under heavy U.S. pressure since the killing of Khashoggi, and the Houthis are under intense financial strain.

The impasse is on vivid display in Hodeida, a Red Sea port city where Yemen imports 70 percent of its food and humanitarian aid. Forces backed by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have been trying to capture the city for months, but have been held off by rebels dug in on its outskirts, with neither side willing to back down.

The fighting in and around Hodeida killed nearly 1,500 civilians last month alone, and has displaced at least 134,000 families since June, according to the U.N. office for humanitarian aid.

One idea likely to be discussed at the talks is a proposal for the rebels to hand over Hodeida to some type of U.N. administration. The two sides might also discuss further prisoner releases.

But the Houthis are unlikely to agree to withdraw from territory or lay down their arms, as the Yemeni government has repeatedly demanded. And Hadi's administration is unlikely to agree to a power-sharing arrangement that would grant the Houthis a larger role in government, which was one of the original aims of the rebellion.

"I don't expect much from this round," said Baligh al-Makhlafy, a Yemeni pro-government analyst attending the talks as a technical consultant. "Maybe there'll be some more exchange of prisoners or some progress on the economy, but I don't think the Houthis will leave Hodeida peacefully. They believe they have a powerful card there."

Follow Brian Rohan on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Brian_Rohan .

Presidents club assembles for Bush funeral, Trump an outlier

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The death of George H.W. Bush is bringing together the five remaining members of an oh-so-exclusive fraternity — the presidents club. But for President Donald Trump, it may not be an entirely comfortable reunion, throwing him together with former occupants of the Oval Office who have given him decidedly mixed reviews.

Wednesday's state funeral for the late president will be attended by "formers" Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter. The last time they were together with Trump was at his inauguration in 2017. Recalling the funerals for Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan, they will all sit together in Washington National Cathedral, with the exception of the younger Bush, who will be seated nearby with his family.

Those who have occupied the Oval Office share an unparalleled experience that typically builds a special camaraderie. And by virtue of health, longevity and opportunities for continued influence, ex-presidents are sticking around longer than ever and staying active in the public eye.

But since taking office, Trump has had little contact with his predecessors. He has not spoken to Democrats Clinton or Obama since his inauguration. He did speak with the younger Bush during the contentious confirmation process for Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, as the previous Republican president helped lobby for his former aide. Democrat Carter has been briefed by White House officials on North Korea, though it was not clear if he has engaged directly with Trump.

Trump has sought to meet the elder Bush's passing with grace, a contrast to the rhythms of much of his tumultuous presidency. He came to office after a campaign in which he harshly criticized his Democratic predecessors and co-opted a Republican Party once dominated by the Bush family. Despite the traditional kinship among presidents, Trump's predecessors have all made their discomfort known in different ways.

"It's unusual that a cabal of ex-presidents from both parties dislike a sitting president and that's what you've got happening right now," said Douglas Brinkley, a history professor at Rice University.

Past presidents often built relationships with their predecessors, Brinkley said. "Bill Clinton would reach out to Richard Nixon for advice on Russia," he said. "Harry Truman leaned heavily on Herbert Hoover. It's endless."

To be sure, Brinkley added, those ties vary from president to president and there have been chilly relationships as well, noting, for example, that "FDR would never talk to Herbert Hoover."

Busy with a mix of personal pursuits, charitable endeavors — and, in some cases, paid speaking gigs — the former leaders don't mingle very often, making a funeral in their group a big occasion. Bonded by the presidency, they tend to exercise caution in their comments about each other. Still, all the living former presidents have aimed barbs — directly or indirectly — at Trump.

In a speech in September, Obama slammed the "crazy stuff" coming out of the White House without directly naming Trump. Last year, the younger Bush made a speech that confronted many of the themes of Trump's presidency without mentioning him by name, cautioning that "bigotry seems emboldened" and the nation's politics "seems more vulnerable to conspiracy theories and outright fabrication."

Over the summer, Carter told The Washington Post that Trump's presidency was a "disaster." And Clinton — stung by Trump's defeat of wife Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential race — told a weekly newspaper in New York state after her stunning loss that Trump "doesn't know much."

Even the late Bush's feelings about Trump were harsh at times. In Mark K. Updegrove's book "The Last Republicans," published last year, the elder Bush called Trump a "blowhard."

The late Bush said he voted for Clinton in 2016 while George W. Bush said he voted for "none of the above."

There have been other moments when the ex-presidents offered more sympathetic sentiments for Trump. After Trump's surprise victory, Obama stood in the Rose Garden at the White House and said he was "rooting" for the next president. Carter told The New York Times in 2017 that the media had been harder on Trump than other presidents. Clinton said in June that America should be rooting for Trump to succeed in his North Korea talks.

While he has struggled to set the right tone in past moments of national grief, Trump has gone out of his way to address Bush's passing with consideration, issuing kind statements and ensuring that Bush family members have whatever they need for the funeral. On Tuesday, first lady Melania Trump welcomed Laura Bush and other family members for a tour of the White House Christmas decorations. And Trump and the first lady visited with members of the Bush family at Blair House.

Jim McGrath, a spokesman for the late president, tweeted thanks to Trump for his efforts, praising the president and the first lady, as well as White House staff and Congress leadership "for their amazing support as we attempt to give this great and good man the send-off he surely deserves."

Brinkley said that presidential funerals tend to be civil occasions, even after political strain.

After all, he said, "Bill and Hillary were at Nixon's funeral and Hillary worked to impeach him."

China promises action on US trade deal but gives no details

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China issued an upbeat but vague promise Wednesday to carry out a tariff cease-fire with Washington but gave no details that might dispel confusion about what Presidents Xi Jinping and Donald Trump agreed to in Argentina.

China has yet to confirm Trump's claim that Beijing committed to cut auto tariffs and buy more American farm exports. That, coupled with conflicting statements by Trump and U.S. officials, helped trigger a tumble in U.S. stock prices Tuesday amid doubt about the chances for a lasting settlement of a battle over technology that threatens to chill global economic growth.

"China will start from implementing specific issues on which consensus has been reached, and the sooner, the better," the Commerce Ministry said on its website.

The two sides have a "clear timetable and road map" for talks, the ministry said, but gave no details. The ministry didn't respond to questions by phone and fax.

The Chinese silence prompted questions about what Trump said was a promise by Beijing to buy more American exports and negotiate over U.S. complaints that it steals American technology.

Stock markets rose Monday after U.S. officials touted the agreement as a historic breakthrough. But they plunged Tuesday after Trump called himself "Tariff Man" on Twitter and renewed threats of penalty duties.

Be patient, said Ma Hong, a trade expert at Tsinghua University in Beijing. He said Chinese leaders are right to move carefully as they deal with contentious details.

The delay in talking "isn't a sign of rejection, but of cautiousness," said Ma.

"The United States has put forward many demands, not all of them reasonable," he said. Negotiations will proceed "step by step, not based on the rhythm of the United States."

Trump is pressing Beijing to roll back plans for state-led development of Chinese technology champions that Washington says violate its market-opening commitments.

Chinese leaders have offered to change some details of plans such as "Made in China 2025." They have rejected pressure to scrap strategies they see as a path to prosperity and global influence, but foreign analysts say they might be starting to understand the depth of foreign opposition to their plans.

Beijing has tried without success to recruit Europe, South Korea and other countries as allies against Trump. They criticize Washington's tactics but share its complaints.

This week's confusion highlights the clash between the secrecy and measured pace of the ruling Communist Party and Trump, who fires off dozens of Twitter comments a day and cultivates an image as a fast-paced, unpredictable deal-maker.

Chinese leaders routinely use delays of months or years to pressure negotiating partners.

Even on routine matters, with no voters to placate and total control of Chinese media, they can frustrate other governments by leaving them waiting weeks or months for a response.

Beijing is less informative than Washington, which "might sometimes be too transparent," with officials issuing conflicting statements, said Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics.

Despite the Chinese silence, the "atmosphere is more constructive" and Beijing might be more willing

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to negotiate, Kuijs said. He noted all the major American players attended the Argentina meeting, giving a sign of "buy in" on a U.S. position. China has responded to Washington's list of demands, though it is unclear what Beijing said.

The Hong Kong newspaper South China Morning Post, citing unidentified sources, said Beijing was preparing to send a 30-member negotiating team to Washington.

"I think there is a higher likelihood that we get meaningful discussions now than in much of the last six months," said Kuijs.

Questions began to swirl after China's foreign minister read a statement Saturday in Buenos Aires that said Washington agreed to halt tariff hikes. Wang Yi failed to mention industrial policy or Trump's demand that Beijing make progress in changing it or face renewed duty increases.

That prompted some economists to ask whether Beijing was presenting a positive image for Chinese audiences or didn't understand the depth of American opposition to its technology plans.

On Tuesday, China's government issued a pledge that appeared to be aimed at mollifying U.S. complaints about rampant violations of patents and copyrights. It promised to create a list of violators that would make it harder for them to do business or get government support.

Analysts noted, however, there were no additional enforcement efforts.

"The notice won't convince President Trump that China is taking a serious stance on the matter," Irene Pang of ING said in a report.

Meanwhile, Rabobank suggested a simpler explanation Wednesday for China's silence: Xi has yet to return to Beijing to approve official statements.

The president, China's most powerful leader since at least the 1980s, flew from Argentina to Panama for an official visit and on Wednesday was in Portugal.

"Talk about one-man rule!" Rabobank researchers said in a report. "(And does the man not have email?)"

Magnitude 7.5 quake strikes in Pacific near New Caledonia

By NICK PERRY, Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — A powerful earthquake that struck in the southern Pacific Ocean on Wednesday sent jitters around the region after authorities warned of possible tsunamis, but there were no initial reports of destructive waves or major damage.

The magnitude 7.5 quake hit in the afternoon near the French territory of New Caledonia at a shallow depth, where earthquakes are generally more damaging. It was felt as far away as Vanuatu, about 630 kilometers (390 miles) away.

Tsunami sirens blared across New Caledonia minutes after the quake. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said tsunami waves of between 1 and 3 meters (3 and 10 feet) were possible along some coasts of New Caledonia and Vanuatu, before later lifting the warning.

Local authorities in New Caledonia ordered residents to evacuate coastal zones on the eastern edge of the archipelago, including the Loyalty Islands and the island of Ile des Pins. The evacuation order from the regional police said western islands didn't need to evacuate but should remain vigilant.

While residents of the region are familiar with tsunami warnings and evacuations, the quake startled tourists, including communications consultant Eugenie Kerleau, 30, vacationing on the island of Lifou from her home in mainland France.

"It was really surprising, I had a feeling of vertigo, the curtains were moving. We were immediately evacuated from the hotel to a calmer point at higher altitude," she told The Associated Press.

No damage was immediately reported, according to Vincent Lepley, crisis coordinator for the Red Cross in New Caledonia.

Judith Rostain, a freelance journalist based in New Caledonia's capital, Noumea, said there was no damage to the city. She said the situation remained unclear on the east coast and scattered outer islands.

In Vanuatu, Dan McGarry said he heard only of three small wave surges hitting the southern island of Aneityum. McGarry, the media director at the Vanuatu Daily Post, said the waves traveled only a couple

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of meters (7 feet) beyond the normal tidal waves, and that everybody was fine on the island.

McGarry said he felt the quake where he is based in Vanuatu's capital, Port Vila, as a mild shaking.

"We get a lot of earthquakes every year," he said. "The tsunami warning was what was different this time, though."

The warning center said there was no tsunami threat to Hawaii.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the quake struck about 168 kilometers (104 miles) east of Tadiné in New Caledonia at a shallow depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles). At least six aftershocks also hit, ranging in magnitude from 5.6 to 6.6.

The populations of Vanuatu and New Caledonia are similar, with just over 280,000 people living in each archipelago.

Last month, voters in New Caledonia elected to remain a territory of France rather than becoming independent. Both New Caledonia and Vanuatu sit on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," the arc of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes and volcanic activity occur.

Charlotte Antoine in Paris and Moussa Moussa in Sydney contributed to this report.

S. Korea abuzz about N. Korean leader Kim's possible trip

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Day after day, rampant speculation about North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's possible trip to Seoul is making headlines in South Korea, despite no official confirmation from either government.

Many analysts say it would be extremely difficult for Kim to fulfill by the end of this year his reported promise to become the first North Korean leader to visit South Korea, given limited time for preparation and impasses in global diplomacy on his nuclear weapons. But others say we will not know until the year is over, noting that several previously unthinkable events have happened in the past months, including Kim's June summit with President Donald Trump in Singapore.

A look at the status of Kim's possible trip to Seoul:

THE SPECULATION

As the year draws to a close, South Korean media, experts and politicians are churning out reports and guesswork on whether Kim will come to Seoul by the end of December, or will postpone or even spike his plan.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in appears to be pushing Kim to keep his promise, though he said there is no time frame for his visit. After a meeting with Trump last week on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Argentina, Moon told reporters that the two agreed that Kim's trip would play a "very positive role" in U.S.-North Korea nuclear diplomacy. Moon suggested that Trump agreed Kim's Seoul trip could come before the resumption of high-level U.S.-North Korean talks, including a possible second Trump-Kim summit.

One of the time frames that South Korean media say would likely be for Kim's trip to South Korea is Dec. 18-20. These dates are based on a belief that the two Koreas would need more than a week of preparation, and would allow Kim to stay at home for a Dec. 17 memorial service for his late dictator father, Kim Jong Il. Also, Kim would be busy in late December preparing for his annual New Year's Day address to outline his policy directions for 2019.

South Korea's presidential Blue House, however, has denied that time frame.

The Blue House reiterated Wednesday that Kim's trip can occur either this month or early next year, saying it's up to North Korea.

THE OBSTACLES

So the ball is in Kim's court now, but his propaganda services have been silent about a Seoul trip.

Kim might find such a trip less beneficial now than when he agreed to it following his third summit with

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Moon in Pyongyang in September. At the time, some experts said the United States could soon accept a North Korean request for jointly declaring the end of the 1950-53 Korean War as part of security assurances to the North so that Kim could find it less burdensome to make a symbolic, emotionally charged trip to Seoul after receiving that political concession.

But North Korea-U.S. diplomacy has since come to a standstill amid disputes over a U.S. demand that North Korea first disclose a full inventory of its nuclear weapons and take other significant denuclearization steps before winning major outside rewards. North Korea, for its part, now wants sanctions relief, the end-of-war declaration and other reciprocal measures from the United States, arguing it has taken some steps, like dismantling its nuclear testing facility and releasing American detainees.

Kim's top lieutenants could also persuade him not to go to Seoul, citing worries about security arrangements for their "supreme leader" visiting an enemy state.

It's almost certain that Kim's trip would trigger huge daily protests in Seoul by activists, conservative politicians and North Korean defectors. South Korea's main conservative opposition says Kim must first apologize for 2010 attacks blamed on the North that killed 50 South Koreans before stepping on South Korean soil.

WHY A KIM TRIP MATTERS

No North Korean leader has traveled to South Korea since the end of the Korean War, which killed millions. There have been five summit talks between the leaders of the Koreas, three of them between Kim and Moon, but they all happened either in Pyongyang or the inter-Korean border village of Panmunjom.

When Kim's influential sister, Kim Yo Jong, and favorite pop diva, Hyon Song Wol, came to South Korea earlier this year at the start of his outreach to the South, their trips triggered a media frenzy here, with TV cameras and photographers following their every move. A Kim trip to Seoul would surely garner even more worldwide attention.

Seoul is the bustling capital of a country that Kim until last year repeatedly vowed to destroy with his nuclear weapons, and which his dictator father and grandfather wanted to unify with the North. Moon would likely arrange many emotional events, such as jointly visiting South Korea's highest peak, Halla Mountain, like they did to the North's sacred Paektu Mountain during their Pyongyang summit. Kim also might address South Korea's parliament, after Moon addressed a Pyongyang stadium packed with 150,000 people at the September summit.

Moon said Kim's trip would be "unprecedented" and contain a message of his commitment to nuclear disarmament, improvement in inter-Korean relations and world peace.

But again, it appears to be up to Kim, whose joint statement with Moon in September stipulated only that his visit to Seoul would come "in the near future." Moon later said that means "within this year."

Kim's father, Kim Jong Il, vowed to visit South Korea at an "appropriate time" after his 2000 summit with then-South Korean President Kim Dae-jung. But he did not carry out his promise before he died in late 2011, handing over power to Kim Jong Un, his youngest son.

Prosecutors recommend no jail time for cooperative Flynn

By CHAD DAY and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's former national security adviser provided so much information to the special counsel's Russia investigation that prosecutors say he shouldn't do any prison time, according to a court filing that describes Michael Flynn's cooperation as "substantial."

The filing by special counsel Robert Mueller provides the first details of Flynn's assistance in the Russia investigation, including that he participated in 19 interviews with prosecutors and cooperated extensively in a separate and undisclosed criminal probe. But the filing's lengthy redactions also underscore how much Mueller has yet to reveal.

It was filed Tuesday, two weeks ahead of Flynn's sentencing and just over a year after he became one of five Trump associates to plead guilty in the Russia probe, in his case admitting to lying to the FBI about

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conversations with the Russian ambassador to the U.S.

Though prosecutors withheld specific details of Flynn's cooperation because of ongoing investigations, their filing nonetheless illustrates the breadth of information Mueller has obtained from people close to Trump as the president increasingly vents his anger at the probe — and those who cooperate with it.

This week, Trump accused his former lawyer, Michael Cohen, of making up "stories" to get a reduced prison sentence after pleading guilty to lying to Congress and also praised longtime confidante Roger Stone for saying he wouldn't testify against Trump.

It's unclear if Trump will now turn his fury on Flynn, whom Trump bonded with during the 2016 campaign.

Trump has repeatedly lamented how Flynn's life has been destroyed by the special counsel's probe. At one point, he tried to protect Flynn by asking former FBI Director James Comey to drop an investigation into his alleged false statements, according to a memo Comey wrote after the February 2017 encounter.

That episode, which Trump has denied, is among those under scrutiny by Mueller as he probes whether the president attempted to obstruct the Russia investigation.

Federal sentencing guidelines recommend between zero and six months in prison, and Mueller's office said Flynn's cooperation merits no prison time.

Prosecutors said Flynn's early cooperation was "particularly valuable" because he was "one of the few people with long-term and firsthand insight" into the events under investigation. They noted his cooperation likely inspired other crucial witnesses to cooperate.

Mueller's team credited Flynn with serving 33 years in the U.S. Army, including five years in combat. But prosecutors also said the long military and government service that sets him apart from all other defendants in the investigation made his deception more troublesome.

"The defendant's extensive government service should have made him particularly aware of the harm caused by providing false information to the government, as well as the rules governing work performed on behalf of a foreign government," they wrote.

Flynn's case has stood apart from those of other Trump associates, who have aggressively criticized the investigation, sought to undermine it and, in some cases, been accused of lying even after agreeing to cooperate.

Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, is accused of repeatedly lying to investigators since his guilty plea. Another Trump campaign aide, George Papadopoulos, is serving a 14-day prison sentence and, though he pleaded guilty to the same crime as Flynn, was denied probation because prosecutors said his cooperation was lacking.

But Flynn has largely remained out of the public eye, appearing only sporadically in media interviews or campaign events, and avoided criticizing the Mueller probe despite widespread encouragement from his supporters to go on the offensive. He has instead spent considerable time with his family and worked to position himself for a post-conviction career.

Another highly anticipated filing is expected Friday from Mueller's office, detailing the lies that prosecutors say Manafort told them after his guilty plea.

In Tuesday's filing, prosecutors emphasized that the conduct Flynn lied about cuts to the core of the investigation into any coordination between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin.

Flynn's false statements stemmed from a Jan. 24, 2017, interview with the FBI about his interactions with Sergey Kislyak, Russia's then-ambassador to the U.S., as the Obama administration was levying sanctions on the Kremlin in response to election interference.

Mueller's office blamed Flynn for other senior Trump transition officials making misleading public statements about his contacts with Russia, an assertion that matches the White House's explanation of Flynn's firing.

"Several senior members of the transition team publicly repeated false information conveyed to them by the defendant about communications between him and the Russian ambassador regarding the sanctions," the filing said.

As part of his plea deal, Flynn said members of Trump's inner circle, including his son-in-law and White House aide Jared Kushner, were involved in — and at times directing — his actions in the weeks before

Trump took office.

According to court papers, in mid-December 2016, Kushner directed Flynn to reach out to several countries, including Russia, about a U.N. Security Council resolution regarding Israeli settlements. During those conversations with Kislyak, Flynn asked Russia to delay or vote against the resolution, a request the Kremlin ultimately rejected.

Flynn also admitted that later in December 2016 he asked Kislyak not to retaliate in response to the Obama administration sanctions, something he initially told FBI agents he didn't do. Flynn made the request after discussing it with deputy national security adviser K.T. McFarland, who was at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort, and being told that Trump's transition team did not want Russia to escalate the situation.

Flynn was forced to resign his post on Feb. 13, 2017, after news reports revealed that Obama administration officials had warned the Trump White House about Flynn's false statements. The White House has said Flynn misled officials— including Vice President Mike Pence — about the content of his conversations.

Flynn also admitted to making false statements about unregistered foreign agent work he performed for the benefit of the Turkish government, a matter Mueller's team cited in Tuesday's filing. Flynn was under investigation by the Justice Department for the work when he became national security adviser.

Read the court filing: <http://apne.ws/CMG15me>

Follow Chad Day and Eric Tucker on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChadSDay> and <https://twitter.com/etuckerAP>

Actor-comedian Kevin Hart will host 2019 Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kevin Hart has a new job — he will host the 2019 Academy Awards, a role the prolific actor-comedian says fulfills a longtime dream.

Hart announced his selection for the 91st Oscars in an Instagram statement Tuesday. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences followed up with a tweet that welcomed him "to the family."

The announcement came hours after trade publication The Hollywood Reporter posted a story calling the Oscars host position "the least wanted job in Hollywood."

Hart clearly doesn't feel that way, writing on Instagram that it has been on his list of dream jobs for years. The 2019 Oscars will be broadcast Feb. 24 on ABC.

"I am blown away simply because this has been a goal on my list for a long time...To be able to join the legendary list of host that have graced this stage is unbelievable," Hart wrote. "I know my mom is smiling from ear to ear right now.

"I will be sure to make sure this years Oscars are a special one," Hart wrote.

Hart takes over hosting duties from Jimmy Kimmel, who presided over the last two ceremonies, including 2016's flub that resulted in the wrong best picture winner being announced. Last year's ceremony was an all-time ratings low, and the film academy has announced a series of changes to the upcoming show .

Those include shortening the broadcast to three hours, and also presenting certain categories during commercial breaks and broadcasting excerpts of those winners' speeches later in the show.

The 39-year-old Hart has become a bankable star with films such as "Ride Along," "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" and "Night School."

Celebrities including Martin Lawrence and Chris Rock, who hosted the ceremony in 2005 and 2016, posted congratulatory messages about Hart's selection Tuesday night.

"Damn I've lost another job to Kevin Hart," Rock posted on Instagram, echoing a joke he told during his 2016 opening monologue . "They got the best person for the job."

After CIA briefing, senators lay blame on Saudi crown prince

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and LISA MASCARO, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Breaking with President Donald Trump, senators leaving a briefing with CIA Director Gina Haspel on Tuesday said they are even more convinced that Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman was involved in the death of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker, R-Tenn., said he believes if the crown prince were put on trial, a jury would find him guilty in “about 30 minutes.”

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who demanded the briefing with Haspel, said there is “zero chance” the crown prince wasn’t involved in Khashoggi’s death.

“There’s not a smoking gun. There’s a smoking saw,” Graham said, referring to reports from the Turkish government that said Saudi agents used a bone saw to dismember Khashoggi after he was killed in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. Graham said “you have to be willfully blind” not to conclude that this was orchestrated and organized by people under the crown prince’s command.

Trump has equivocated over who is to blame for the killing, frustrating senators who are now looking for ways to punish the longtime Middle East ally. The Senate overwhelmingly voted last week to move forward on a resolution curtailing U.S. backing for the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

It’s unclear whether or how that resolution will move forward. The vote last week allowed the Senate to debate the measure, which could happen as soon as next week, but senators are still in negotiations on whether to amend it and what it should say.

Haspel met with a small group of senators, including leadership and the chairmen and top Democrats on the key national security committees, after senators in both parties complained that she didn’t attend an all-Senate briefing with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis last week.

Pompeo and Mattis tried to dissuade senators from punishing Saudi Arabia with the resolution, saying U.S. involvement in the Yemen conflict is central to the Trump administration’s broader goal of containing Iranian influence in the Middle East. Human rights groups say the war is wreaking havoc on the country and subjecting civilians to indiscriminate bombing.

The two men also echoed Trump’s reluctance to blame the crown prince. Pompeo said there was “no direct reporting” connecting the crown prince to the murder, and Mattis said there was “no smoking gun” making the connection.

After that briefing, Graham threatened to withhold his vote on key legislation until he heard from Haspel. “I’m not going to blow past this,” he said. That afternoon, senators frustrated with the briefing and the lack of response to Khashoggi’s killing overwhelmingly voted to move forward with consideration of the Yemen resolution, 63-37.

Illinois Sen. Richard Durbin said the briefing with Haspel “clearly went in to an evaluation of the intelligence” and was much more informative than the session with Mattis and Pompeo.

“I went in believing the crown prince was directly responsible or at least complicit in this and my feelings were strengthened by the information we were given,” Durbin said.

Durbin joined Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer in calling for a full-Senate briefing from Haspel.

“Every senator should hear what I heard this afternoon,” Durbin said.

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, a critic of Saudi Arabia, said that excluding some lawmakers is “the very definition of the deep state” and that he suspected that the Trump administration is attempting to get some lawmakers to switch their votes on the resolution by giving them information.

Khashoggi was killed two months ago. The journalist, who had lived for a time in the U.S. and wrote for The Washington Post, had been critical of the Saudi regime. He was killed in what U.S. officials have described as an elaborate plot as he visited the consulate for marriage paperwork.

U.S. intelligence officials have concluded that the crown prince must have at least known of the plot, but Trump has been reluctant to pin the blame.

“It could very well be that the crown prince had knowledge of this tragic event,” Trump said in a lengthy statement Nov. 20. “Maybe he did and maybe he didn’t!”

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The president has touted Saudi arms deals worth billions of dollars to the U.S. and recently thanked Saudi Arabia for plunging oil prices.

"They have been a great ally in our very important fight against Iran," Trump said in the statement. "The United States intends to remain a steadfast partner of Saudi Arabia to ensure the interests of our country, Israel and all other partners in the region."

While acknowledging the country's long relationship with Saudi Arabia, senators have said the murder can't be excused.

In a column for the Wall Street Journal on Tuesday, Graham wrote that the killing and other moves by the Saudi regime showed "astounding arrogance entitlement" and disregard for international norms.

"We are a coequal branch of government exercising leadership to safeguard the country's long-term interests, values and reputation," wrote Graham, a frequent ally of the president, of the Senate. "After all, someone's got to do it."

Graham said after the briefing that he would push for a nonbinding resolution that the crown prince was "complicit" in Khashoggi's murder. Graham and Paul have also said they think Congress should block a pending arms deal with the kingdom.

Corker said senators are trying to figure out how to amend the resolution, which directs the president to remove most U.S. armed forces from hostilities affecting Yemen. He said finding a compromise will be difficult because some lawmakers don't want to tie Yemen to the Khashoggi killing.

Senators are "trying to figure out an amendment that a larger group of people could get behind that addresses this issue without undermining our national interests," Corker said.

Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby, the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said after the briefing that somebody should be punished.

"Now, the question is, how do you separate the Saudi crown prince and his group from the nation itself," he said.

While Senate passage of a resolution would send a strong message to Saudi Arabia, it's unlikely it would become law before the end of the year. The House hasn't moved on the issue, and Speaker Paul Ryan last week said the Yemen resolution "isn't the way to go."

Associated Press writers Kevin Freking and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

Last salute: A guide to George HW Bush's funeral

By LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George H.W. Bush is getting a national farewell at Washington National Cathedral before family, friends, presidents and foreign dignitaries.

The nation's 41st president died Friday in Houston at age 94. His wife of 73 years, Barbara, passed away in April.

Things to know about the event Wednesday:

THE SCHEDULE

Bush's casket and the family will arrive at the cathedral just before 11 a.m. EST Wednesday, when the service is expected to begin. Bush had been lying in state in the U.S. Capitol rotunda since Monday, with a river of mourners passing through around the clock. The viewing came to a close at 7 a.m. Wednesday.

HOW TO WATCH

The service is closed to the public, but will be aired live on C-SPAN and covered by major television networks.

WHO WILL SPEAK

Four men are expected to deliver eulogies. The late president's son George W. Bush, also a former

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president; former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who held the post while the elder Bush was president; former Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., who has known the Bush family since the 1960s; and historian Jon Meacham, who wrote a Bush biography.

WHO WILL BE THERE

All eyes will be on the row directly in front of the pulpit. That's where President Donald Trump and his wife, Melania, are expected to sit, along with the remaining former presidents and their families: George W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, Barack Obama, Bill Clinton and his wife — Trump's 2016 Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton. Trump has had strained relations (at best) with all of them. But since Bush's death, Trump has extended traditional courtesies to the Bush family, including allowing them to stay at the presidential guest house and visiting with them there.

Also attending: Britain's Prince Charles, the king and queen of Jordan, Polish President Andrzej Duda and other dignitaries from around the world. Look, too, for some of the graybeards from the late president's administration.

HOVERING

Look for much discussion of Bush's legacy of decency, humor and a determination to avoid referring to himself with the pronoun "I." That last habit alone, instilled in Bush by his mother, sets up a contrast with Trump that no one has to mention out loud. Likely, no one will, in keeping with the Bush family's reported wish that the nation mourn their patriarch without the drama of such distractions.

But Meacham wrote an op-ed for The New York Times this week about Bush that ended with a hard-to-mistake reference.

"The nation mourns him not least because we no longer have a president who knows that the story of the nation is not all about him," Meacham wrote.

BUSH AND THE CATHEDRAL

The late president played an important role in the history of the cathedral chartered by Congress in 1893. On Sept. 29, 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt laid the foundation stone. Exactly 83 years later, Bush was there when the final stone was laid in place.

Bush said at the time: "We have constructed here this symbol of our nation's spiritual life, overlooking the center of our nation's secular life, a symbol which combines the permanence of stone and God — both of which will outlast men and memories."

Bush is the fourth president to have his state funeral at the site, according to the cathedral. The others were Dwight D. Eisenhower, Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford. Seven other presidents had memorial services there.

A BIT ABOUT STATE FUNERALS

For U.S. presidents, there's a whole list of customs, protocols and military honors that influence a national farewell, but much of the affair is subject to the family's wishes. The president's survivors are entitled to a military escort for the immediate family, for example, until the remains are buried. A nine-person team that carries the casket is another option. And a flag-draped casket is an honor afforded military veterans and the president as commander in chief.

Bush was a veteran of World War II.

THE LAST TIME

Sen. John McCain's funeral was held at Washington National Cathedral after he died in August of brain cancer. Trump, who derided McCain's heroism in Vietnam and prodded the senator even during his illness, was asked by the family to stay away. But it seemed like the rest of Washington attended and the event became widely regarded as a repudiation of the current president. The assembled crowd burst into ap-

plause when McCain's daughter, Meghan, loudly rejected Trumpism from the pulpit without naming the president. Trump spent the day playing golf.

WHERE TO NEXT

Bush's casket will return to Texas late Wednesday for the last time.

He's expected to lie in repose at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston until 7 a.m. EST Thursday. The church will also hold its own memorial service for the former president later that morning.

A motorcade will take Bush's body to Union Pacific Railroad Westfield Auto Facility, where a funeral train will transport the late president's remains to Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. He'll be laid to rest on the grounds of the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, near his wife, Barbara, and their daughter Robin, who died of leukemia in 1953 at age 3.

Follow Kellman at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

Walker shouted down over GOP attempt to weaken his successor

By **SCOTT BAUER and TODD RICHMOND, Associated Press**

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Demonstrators booed outgoing Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker on Tuesday during a Christmas tree-lighting ceremony, a sign of tumult as Republicans in the Legislature met to push through measures to gut the powers of his Democratic successor.

The Legislature met deep into the night Tuesday to pass a series of bills, first unveiled Friday, that would weaken the governor's office and transfer power away from the Democratic-elect attorney general and give it to the Legislature. The Legislature wasn't expected to complete its work until early Wednesday morning.

Walker has signaled support, but he couldn't escape anger over the rare lame-duck session even during what is normally an upbeat holiday tradition.

The governor, wearing a Santa tie, appeared unfazed as he flipped the switch to light the Christmas tree while one protester shouted "Hey Walker! Go home!" He left without taking questions from reporters about the bills being considered in the rare lame-duck legislative session. Walker, who has signaled support for the measures, later tweeted that he "can handle the shouts," but he urged protesters to "leave the kids alone."

Stung by their election loss last month, Republicans treated the lame-duck session as a final opportunity to use their political clout to weaken the next governor before time runs out. Democrats, who won every statewide constitutional office after nearly a decade-long GOP hold on power, derided the session as a cynical attempt to preserve the party's waning strength.

"If he wanted to put a stop to this, he could," Russ Hahn, a 53-year-old attorney, said of Walker. He was holding a sign that said "GOP Grinch Steals Democracy."

The fact that Walker was making no attempt to halt the effort "clearly indicates he wants to be able to control things outside the governor's office for the next four or eight years," Hahn said.

Republicans were still working to reach final agreement on what exactly they would pass. Leaders from both the Senate and Assembly negotiated into the night, giving opponents hope that the bills may be scaled back. Debate in the Assembly finally began around 10:30 p.m., more than nine hours after it was scheduled to start.

"Even you have questions," Assembly Minority Leader Gordon Hintz said as debate began. "The Senate has questions. Why are we here today? What are we doing? Nothing we're doing here is about helping the people of Wisconsin. It's about helping politicians. It's about power and self-interest."

At one point Tuesday, the public was ordered removed from Senate galleries after repeated warnings to be quiet. Spectators shouted "Shame!" and hurled complaints at senators, temporarily halting debate. Less than an hour later, Republicans let people back in.

The GOP proposals would weaken the governor's ability to put in place rules that enact laws and shield the state jobs agency from his control. Republicans also want to limit early voting to no more than two

weeks before an election.

The Senate passed one measure, on a party-line vote, to enact Medicaid work requirement rules Walker recently won a federal waiver to establish. The bill would also give the Legislature oversight over the governor seeking future waivers for health care, a change Democrats said would handcuff the new administration.

The Wisconsin GOP package would also weaken the attorney general's office by allowing Republican legislative leaders to intervene in cases and hire their own attorneys. A legislative committee, rather than the attorney general, would have to sign off on withdrawing from federal lawsuits.

That would stop Gov.-elect Tony Evers and Attorney General-elect Josh Kaul from fulfilling their campaign promises to withdraw Wisconsin from a multi-state lawsuit seeking repeal of the Affordable Care Act. They made opposition to that lawsuit a central part of both of their campaigns.

Some hinted at filibusters or legal challenges and called the lame-duck session "illegitimate." Former Democratic attorney general and Gov. Jim Doyle said the moves were unconstitutional.

Never in Wisconsin history "has an extraordinary session been used to deny the will of the people and take away powers from the newly elected governor and newly elected attorney general," Democratic Rep. Chris Taylor said.

Despite the victories by Evers, Kaul and other Democrats, the party gained no ground in the Legislature and blamed partisan gerrymandering by Republicans for stacking the electoral map against them.

Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos told reporters that his constituents want him to protect everything the GOP has accomplished over the last eight years under Walker. The legislation, he said, ensures that Evers will have to negotiate with lawmakers and cannot unilaterally erase Republican ideas.

"We do not believe any one individual should have the opportunity to come in and with a stroke of the pen ... eliminate laws passed by our Legislature," Vos said, citing rules enacting voter photo ID, a key GOP initiative during Walker's two terms.

The last lame-duck session in Wisconsin was in 2010, when Democrats tried unsuccessfully to enact labor agreements.

The proposals to bolster Republican legislative power come after North Carolina lawmakers took similar steps two years ago. Michigan Republicans are also discussing taking action before a Democratic governor takes over there.

Opponents have said many of the changes will likely be challenged in court, a process that could create even more gridlock in state government next year.

"This legislation is an effort to undermine the results of the elections we just had for governor and for attorney general," Kaul told reporters Tuesday. "The state is going to be mired in litigation in 2019."

Follow Scott Bauer on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sbauerAP>

Report details new allegations of Moonves' sexual misconduct

By The Associated Press

A report by CBS lawyers outlines more allegations of sexual misconduct by longtime chief Les Moonves, The New York Times reported.

The report alleges that Moonves destroyed evidence and misled investigators as he attempted to protect his reputation and severance payments. It says investigators had received "multiple reports" about a network employee who was "on call" to perform oral sex on Moonves.

"A number of employees were aware of this and believed that the woman was protected from discipline or termination as a result of it," it cited the report as saying. "Moonves admitted to receiving oral sex from the woman, his subordinate, in his office, but described it as consensual."

It said, the woman did not respond to the investigators' requests for an interview.

The report was prepared by lawyers the network hired to determine if Moonves violated the terms of his employment agreement, the newspaper reported Tuesday.

The 59-page report is to be presented to CBS's board of directors before the company's annual meeting next week, it said.

It says Moonves could be denied his \$120 million severance package after he had to quit in September amid numerous allegations of sexual misbehavior.

As part of his contract with CBS he was required to fully cooperate with the network's investigation.

Moonves stepped down following a story by The New Yorker that included a second round of ugly sexual misconduct accusations against the powerful television executive. He is one of many important figures in entertainment to be felled by sexual misconduct allegations.

Man says he will prove he didn't kill Michael Jordan's dad

By **MARTHA WAGGONER, Associated Press**

LUMBERTON, N.C. (AP) — For more than 25 years, the man identified as the triggerman in the death of Michael Jordan's father has repeatedly declared his innocence in the murder.

Now he's going before a judge to lay out evidence he says proves that although he helped dispose of the body, he didn't kill James Jordan in the early-morning darkness one July day in 1993.

"I had nothing to do with this man losing his life, period. I wasn't connected to the murder. I came in after he was already dead. ... The way I look at it is: I denied his family the right to a proper burial because of what I did," Daniel Green said last week in an interview at the Lumberton Correctional Institution in Robeson County, the same county where Jordan was killed.

Jordan was killed July 23, 1993. His body was found 11 days later in a South Carolina swamp. It wasn't identified until dental records confirmed it was James Jordan. His body had been cremated except for his jaw and hands, which were saved for identification.

On Wednesday, Green goes to court, where defense attorney Chris Mumma and prosecutors from the state attorney's general office will argue whether he deserves an evidentiary hearing that could lead to a new trial. Mumma says this is the first time a judge will hear all evidence gathered by the defense. The state Court of Appeals upheld his conviction in 1996, as did the state Supreme Court in 1999.

Green was convicted of first-degree murder. His friend, Larry Demery, testified that Green pulled the trigger and killed Jordan in a roadside robbery gone wrong. Both are serving life sentences.

Green, 44, was 18 when Jordan was killed. He's probably best remembered for a video in which he rapped while wearing an NBA All-Star ring and gold watch that Michael Jordan gave to his father. Green says he got the jewelry from the car console two days later.

Superior Court Judge Winston Gilchrist will hear the arguments in Lee County court in Sanford. Defense filings make various claims. Several people say they saw Green at a family cookout at the time Jordan was killed. Other issues deal with blood-evidence testimony, the handling of Jordan's shirt, and ineffective trial and appellate counsel.

Green said Demery left the cookout to meet someone for a drug deal and he refused an invitation to accompany Demery. Green said he was just out of prison for a conviction that was later vacated, and a girl "was kissing on" him so there was no way he'd abandon that opportunity.

Demery returned hours later, Green said, and told him he approached Jordan at a motel parking lot because he mistakenly thought Jordan was the drug connection he was supposed to meet. He said Demery told him the two had an altercation and Demery killed Jordan.

If that's true, then much of what people think they know about the murder is wrong, starting with the notion that James Jordan was killed as he slept in his parked Lexus along Interstate 95.

"I don't think anybody knows the truth about what happened to James Jordan - the state or the defense," Mumma said.

Attorney Hugh Rogers, who represented Demery, said no physical evidence tied either man to the shooting.

"It became 'he said, he said,'" Rogers said. "I guess looking at the various versions each one gave, once Larry got to his ultimate version, there was more corroboration there than there was to Daniel's ultimate

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version.”

Green said he and Demery became friends in third grade, when they got into a playground fight and a teacher made them apologize and read books together. When he found out Demery had accused him, Green said, he couldn't believe it.

As he wore the jewelry and drove around in the red Lexus, Green said he thought he was using the possessions of a drug dealer. He believes he learned he had helped dispose of the body of James Jordan when he read that in news stories.

By that time, Michael Jordan had helped the North Carolina Tar Heels win the 1982 NCAA championship and led the Chicago Bulls to three NBA titles. He would win three more titles with the Bulls; he now owns the Charlotte Hornets. A spokeswoman for Michael Jordan declined to comment on Green's attempt for a new trial.

In addition to evidence in the defense filings, Green's lawyers will contend that no one was convicted of actually killing James Jordan. Demery accused Green, but jurors found in the sentencing phase that Green didn't kill or intend to kill Jordan, and didn't plan to use deadly force.

The state attorney general's office says jurors' opinions at sentencing aren't relevant to the conviction of first-degree murder under the felony murder rule, which means someone died during the commission of another crime.

The district attorney who prosecuted Green said he doesn't believe it matters who shot Jordan, although he's confident the evidence showed Green pulled the trigger.

“If you ask me who killed James Jordan, I'm going to say Daniel Green and Larry Demery,” said Johnson Britt, who retires at the end of the year.

Follow Martha Waggoner on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/mjwaggonernc>

Asia shares sink after Wall Street sell-off

By **JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stocks sank Wednesday after Wall Street plunged amid confusion about what Washington and Beijing agreed to in a tariff cease-fire.

KEEPING SCORE: Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 1.6 percent to 26,840.74 points and the Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.7 percent to 2,647.55. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 lost 0.4 percent to 21,946.94 while Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 retreated 1.2 percent to 5,641.50. Seoul's Kospi shed 0.6 percent to 2,102.17 and benchmarks in Taiwan, New Zealand and Southeast Asia also declined.

WALL STREET: Investor confidence in the U.S.-China agreement faltered after confusing and conflicting comments from President Donald Trump and some senior officials. That revived fears that the disagreement between the two economic powerhouses could slow the global economy. The Standard & Poor's 500 slid 3.2 percent to 2,700.06. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 3.1 percent to 25,027.07. The Nasdaq composite lost 3.8 percent to 7,158.43. Tech companies, banks and exporters including Boeing and Caterpillar all declined.

TRADE TURMOIL: The Trump administration raised doubts about the substance of a U.S.-China trade cease-fire. That revived fears their tariff battle could chill global economic growth. Trump previously said the agreement in Buenos Aires would lead to sales of American farm goods and cuts in Chinese auto tariffs, but Beijing has yet to confirm that. Trump renewed threats of tariff hikes on Tuesday, saying on Twitter that Washington would have a “real deal” with China or else would charge “major tariffs” on Chinese goods. That made the weekend agreement seem even less likely to produce a long-lasting settlement.

FED WATCH: Markets got jolt from remarks by the president of the Fed's New York regional bank. During a briefing with reporters, John Williams said given his outlook for strong economic growth, he expects “further gradual increases in interest rates will best sponsor a sustained economic expansion.” That seemed to counter Fed Chairman Jay Powell's remarks last week. The jitters helped drive demand for government bonds. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.91 percent from 2.99 percent late Monday, a

large move. The slide in bond yields, which affect interest rates on mortgages and other consumer loans, weighed on bank stocks.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Positive sentiment from the China-U.S. trade war truce dissipated quickly," said Eugene Leow and Radhika Rao of DBS Group in a report. "Questions on trade, worries about US growth and perceived dovishness on the Fed all play a part in explaining these market moves. Concerns were also compounded by increasing news narrative on inverted curves and risks of a recession."

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude fell 53 cents to \$52.72 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 30 cents on Tuesday to close at \$53.25. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost 63 cents to \$61.45 per barrel in London. It gained 39 cents the previous session to \$62.08.

CURRENCY: The dollar gained to 112.95 yen from Wednesday's 112.78 yen. The euro declined to \$1.1330 from \$1.1343.

Cuba to begin full internet access for mobile phones

By **ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press**

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba announced Tuesday night that its citizens will be offered full internet access for mobile phones beginning this week, becoming one of the last nations to offer such service.

Mayra Arevich, president of the Cuban state telecom monopoly ETECSA, went on national television to say Cubans can begin contracting 3G service for the first time Thursday.

Until now, Cubans have had access only to state-run email accounts on their phones.

The Cuban government has been building a 3G network in cities across the island and some tourists, Cuban government officials and foreign businesspeople have had access to it for several years.

The communist-governed island has one of the world's lowest rates of internet use but that has been expanding rapidly since Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro declared detente in 2014. Expansion has not slowed with President Donald Trump's partial rollback of relations.

Cuba authorized home internet in 2017 and hundreds of public Wi-Fi connection points have opened in parks and plazas around the country.

The new service will cost about 10 cents per megabyte, with packages ranging from 600 megabytes for about \$7 to four gigabytes for about \$30.

Those prices are roughly in line with global standards but still out of reach for many Cubans who subsist on state salaries of about \$30 a month.

Cuba ran a fiber-optic connection to Venezuela in 2012, allowing the island to shift from slow and costly satellite links. It then began the slow process of allowing citizens to get online.

The government opened state-run internet cafes in 2013, joined by Wi-Fi sites two years later. The number of sites has grown to more than 800.

The Cuban internet is mostly uncensored but the government blocks a small number of sites like the U.S.-funded Radio and Television Marti networks and others that advocate for systematic change on the island.

ETECSA vice president Tania Velázquez said the new service would come online in stages from Thursday through Saturday to avoid the congestion that struck the mobile network during a series of heavily criticized tests this year.

Andrea Rodriguez on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ARodriguezAP

White House intensifies confusion and fear on US-China deal

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration raised doubts Tuesday about the substance of a U.S.-China trade cease-fire, contributing to a broad stock market plunge and intensifying fears of a global economic slowdown.

Investors had initially welcomed the truce that the administration said was reached over the weekend in

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Argentina between Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping — and sent stocks up Monday. But on Tuesday, after a series of confusing and conflicting words from Trump and some senior officials, stocks tumbled, with the Dow Jones shedding about 800 points, or 3.1 percent.

White House aides have struggled to explain the details of what the two countries actually agreed on. And China has not confirmed that it made most of the concessions that the Trump administration has claimed.

"The sense is that there's less and less agreement between the two sides about what actually took place," said Willie Delwiche, an investment strategist at Baird. "There was a rally in the expectation that something had happened. The problem is that something turned out to be nothing."

Other concerns contributed to the stock sell-off, including falling long-term bond yields. Those lower rates suggested that investors expect the U.S. economy to slow, along with global growth, and possibly fall into recession in the coming year or two.

John Williams, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, also unnerved investors by telling reporters Tuesday that he supports further Fed rate hikes. His remarks renewed fears that the Fed may miscalculate and raise rates so high or so fast as to depress growth.

The disarray surrounding the China deal coincides with a global economy that faces other challenges: Britain is struggling to negotiate its exit from the European Union. Italy's government is seeking to spend and borrow more, which could elevate interest rates and stifle growth.

And in the United States, home sales have fallen sharply in the past year as mortgage rates have jumped.

Trump and White House aides have promoted the apparent U.S.-China agreement in Buenos Aires as a historic breakthrough that would ease trade tensions and potentially reduce tariffs. They announced that China had agreed to buy many more American products and to negotiate over the administration's assertions that Beijing steals American technology. But by Tuesday morning, Trump was renewing his tariff threats in a series of tweets.

"President Xi and I want this deal to happen, and it probably will," Trump tweeted. "But if not remember, I am a Tariff Man. When people or countries come in to raid the great wealth of our Nation, I want them to pay for the privilege of doing so."

Trump added that a 90-day timetable for negotiators to reach a deeper agreement had begun and that his aides would see "whether or not a REAL deal with China is actually possible."

He revisited the issue later Tuesday with a tweet that said: "We are either going to have a REAL DEAL with China, or no deal at all - at which point we will be charging major Tariffs against Chinese product being shipped into the United States. Ultimately, I believe, we will be making a deal - either now or into the future. China does not want Tariffs!"

The president's words had the effect of making the weekend agreement, already a vague and uncertain one, seem even less likely to produce a long-lasting trade accord.

"We expect the relationship between the world's two largest economies to remain contentious," Moody's Investors Service said in a report. "Narrow agreements and modest concessions in their ongoing trade dispute will not bridge the wide gulf in their respective economic, political and strategic interests."

Among the conflicting assertions that White House officials made was over whether China had actually agreed to drop its 40 percent tariffs on U.S. autos.

In addition, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Tuesday on the Fox Business Network that China agreed to buy \$1.2 trillion of U.S. products. But Mnuchin added, "If that's real" — thereby raising some doubt — it would close the U.S. trade deficit with China, and "We have to have a negotiated agreement and have this on paper."

Many economists have expressed skepticism that very much could be achieved to bridge the vast disagreements between the two countries in just 90 days.

"The actual amount of concrete progress made at this meeting appears to have been quite limited," Alec Phillips and other economists at Goldman Sachs wrote in a research note.

During the talks in Buenos Aires, Trump agreed to delay a scheduled escalation in U.S. tariffs on many Chinese goods, from 10 percent to 25 percent, that had been set to take effect Jan. 1. Instead, the two

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sides are to negotiate over U.S. complaints about China's trade practices, notably that it has used predatory tactics to try to achieve supremacy in technology. These practices, according to the administration and outside analysts, include stealing intellectual property and forcing companies to turn over technology to gain access to China's market.

In return for the postponement in the higher U.S. tariffs, the White House said China had agreed to step up its purchases of U.S. farm, energy and industrial goods. Most economists noted that the two countries remain far apart on the sharpest areas of disagreement, which include Beijing's subsidies for strategic Chinese industries, in addition to forced technology transfers and intellectual property theft.

Chief economic adviser Larry Kudlow acknowledged those challenges in remarks Tuesday morning.

"China's discussed these things with the U.S. many times down through the years and the results have not been very good," he said. "So this time around, as I said, I'm hopeful, we're covering more ground than ever ... So we'll see."

Complicating the challenge, Trump's complaints strike at the heart of the Communist Party's state-led economic model and its plans to elevate China to political and cultural leadership by creating global champions in robotics and other fields.

"It's impossible for China to cancel its industry policies or major industry and technology development plans," said economist Cui Fan of the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

Trump had tweeted Sunday that China agreed to "reduce and remove" its 40 percent tariff on cars imported from the U.S. Mnuchin said Monday that there was a "specific agreement" on the auto tariffs.

Yet Kudlow said later that there was no "specific agreement" regarding auto trade, though he added, "We expect those tariffs to go to zero."

Associated Press writer Joe McDonald in Beijing contributed to this report.

Rich sex offender Epstein settles 1 suit, but more to come

By CURT ANDERSON, AP Legal Affairs Writer

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A decade ago, Florida financier Jeffrey Epstein pleaded guilty to sex crimes involving underage girls and got 13 months behind bars. What the public and his accusers didn't know at the time was that he had secretly struck a deal with federal prosecutors that spared him from charges that could have put him away for the rest of his life.

When the deal finally came to light years later, it immediately raised suspicions that Epstein — a man who counted Bill Clinton and Donald Trump among his friends and had some of the finest legal talent in America as his lawyers — had used his wealth and political connections to win special treatment.

Those allegations flared anew in recent weeks as news organizations, led by The Miami Herald, published interviews with the alleged victims and took a closer look at Alexander Acosta, who as the U.S. attorney in Miami in 2008 approved the secret deal. Acosta is now Trump's secretary of labor.

On Tuesday, a lawsuit that many had hoped would expose some of the lurid allegations against Epstein by putting some of his accusers on the stand ended abruptly in a settlement just as jury selection was about to begin.

But the attempt to get to the bottom of the Epstein case and how he managed to get such a light sentence is not over: Some of his accusers are pursuing a separate legal effort to nullify the plea agreement and, they hope, expose him to federal prosecution again.

"That injustice needs to be addressed and will be addressed," said Jack Scarola, one of the attorneys lined up against Epstein. "There is no justification for the broad scope of immunity that was granted."

Epstein, 65, reached the non-prosecution deal with Acosta's office while under investigation on suspicion of sexually abusing at least 40 teenage girls. Under the deal, he pleaded guilty to two state charges, did his time in jail, paid settlements to many of the alleged victims and registered as a sex offender.

He could have faced a far more severe penalty if federal prosecutors had pursued a draft 53-page indictment that was never filed and included sex trafficking charges.

Some of Epstein's accusers are now arguing that their rights were trampled under a federal law that says crime victims must be informed about plea bargains.

One of Epstein's lawyers, Roy Black, has said there was no conspiracy to violate victims' rights, and the plea agreement was "no sweetheart deal by any stretch of the imagination."

Even if the plea bargain is nullified, the final decision on bringing charges would rest solely with the Justice Department.

On Tuesday, Epstein settled a defamation lawsuit brought against him by a lawyer for some of the accusers, Bradley Edwards, who said Epstein tried to derail his representation of the women and ruin his career. In settling, Epstein apologized and agreed to pay an undisclosed amount.

Edwards said some of the accusers — some of whom say they were 13 or 14 when they were molested — were prepared to testify in the lawsuit and may yet get their day in federal court.

"They're willing to talk. They want to share their stories," Edwards said.

Congressional Democrats are calling for an internal Justice Department investigation.

Rep. Lois Frankel, who represents the Palm Beach area, said Tuesday that Epstein "allegedly had dozens and dozens of young, vulnerable women, young women taken to his house where they were sexually exploited."

"I think what has been equally shocking is what I call an extreme minimal punishment for this man without really any public explanation as to why this happened," Frankel added.

Acosta has not commented about the case during the recent media coverage. He was asked briefly about the non-prosecution agreement at his Senate confirmation hearing.

"At the end of the day, based on the evidence, professionals within a prosecutor's office decided that a plea that guarantees someone goes to jail, that guarantees he register generally and guarantees other outcomes, is a good thing," he said.

According to court papers, Epstein had a Palm Beach mansion where girls were brought for what they were sometimes told were massage sessions. He allegedly had female fixers who would look for suitable girls, some of them recruited from Eastern Europe and other parts of the world.

Before the scandal broke, Epstein was friends with Trump and had visited the real estate developer's Mar-a-Lago resort. Trump told interviewers that Epstein was "a great guy." Records also show Clinton flew on Epstein's jet more than two dozen times.

One young woman alleged in court documents that Epstein shared her with his friends, including Britain's Prince Andrew, a charge denied by Buckingham Palace.

Epstein's legal team at various times included such big names as Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr and Harvard professor Alan Dershowitz.

Neither Trump nor Clinton has been accused of any wrongdoing related to Epstein.

Follow Curt Anderson Twitter: <http://twitter.com/Miamicurt>

George H.W. Bush's legacy on racial issues is complicated

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, AP National Writer

George H.W. Bush got elected president after a campaign marked by the infamous Willie Horton ad, about a black murderer who raped a white woman while on a weekend furlough from prison.

On the other side of the racial ledger, Bush appointed Gen. Colin Powell as the first black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

And while Bush replaced civil rights hero Thurgood Marshall with another black man to maintain the racial status quo on the Supreme Court, he picked Clarence Thomas, a conservative whose views are at odds with those of much of black America.

Lionized upon his death as a man of decency and civility, Bush has a mixed and complicated legacy when it comes to race.

"Intellectually and emotionally, he was somebody who was civil rights-minded," said Rice University

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historian Douglas Brinkley. "Bush wanted to see himself as being a man devoid of racism. But the reality is that Bush often had to do dog whistles and appeal to less enlightened Americans on race."

The Rev. Jesse Jackson summed up the 41st president's record this way: "He was a fundamentally fair man. He didn't block any door. He was never a demagogue on the question of race."

Bush, who died Friday at 94, had a political career that spanned decades and straddled the Jim Crow era, the civil rights movement and its aftermath.

To many black Americans, the Willie Horton ad is an indelible stain on his reputation.

The TV spot about the Massachusetts inmate was produced by Bush supporters during his 1988 presidential campaign against Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis. It was widely condemned as racist and is regarded three decades later as one of the most extreme attack ads in modern political history.

The Bush campaign disavowed the ad at the time, but Bush's chief strategist, Lee Atwater, exploited its message to paint Dukakis as soft on crime.

In an interview Monday, Jackson said that he and Bush discussed the ad and that it was the president's biggest regret.

"It was out of character for him," the civil rights leader said of Bush and the Willie Horton strategy. "He did it in the heat of battle."

Bush got his start in politics in Texas, where he joined a Republican Party still regarded as "the party of Lincoln." During his first, losing bid for Congress in 1964, he criticized his opponent's support for the Civil Rights Act, legislation many in his home state opposed.

He won election to Congress two years later and went on to support the Fair Housing Act of 1968, signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson a week after the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination.

Bush considered the housing law "the right thing to do," according to Jackson, who called him "a man of immense dignity who has a very special place in American history."

Bush caused a minor flap during the 1988 Republican National Convention, when he referred to three of his grandchildren as the "little brown ones." The three were children of Bush's son Jeb and his Mexico-born wife, Columba.

Defending himself at a news conference, Bush called his grandchildren his "pride and joy" and added: "For anyone to suggest that that comment of pride is anything other than what it was — I find it personally offensive."

Columba and the grandchildren later ended up in a Spanish-language campaign commercial where Bush promised to help Hispanics because he would have to answer to his family and "answer to history."

Once in office, Bush elevated African-Americans to the heights of public office. He nominated Powell to the top post in the U.S. military. Powell went on to become the first black secretary of state, under Bush's son George W. Bush.

The elder Bush also appointed Dr. Louis Sullivan, founding president of the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, as secretary of health and human services.

"He is someone who I would characterize as fiscally conservative and socially liberal," Sullivan said in an interview Monday. "He believed that people should earn their way, but he felt that everyone should have the equal opportunity for development and appointment to positions. He was very much committed to that, as was his wife, Barbara."

In 1991, Bush nominated Thomas to replace the retiring Marshall, the first African-American on the Supreme Court. Thomas was the ideological opposite of Marshall, a civil rights legend who argued the *Brown v. Board of Education* case that struck down school segregation.

Thomas' controversial nomination was made even more so when former employee Anita Hill accused him in lurid detail of sexual harassment. Thomas denied the allegations and won confirmation.

Currently the longest-serving member of the high court, Thomas has ruled against affirmative action and voted to end key protections in the Voting Rights Act.

Also in 1991, Bush denounced former Ku Klux Klan grand wizard David Duke as a racist and a "charlatan" days before Duke lost his bid for governor of Louisiana. Afterward, Bush said: "I did what I did because of

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principle. This man, his record, is one of racism and bigotry, and I'm sorry, I just felt I had to speak out."

The 1992 Rodney King verdict and Los Angeles riots also tested Bush on race in his final year as president. In a primetime address in the wake of the burning and looting that resulted in dozens of deaths, injuries and arrests, Bush called for law and order while seeming to empathize with those who were angered by the acquittal of the officers charged in the videotaped beating of the black motorist.

"As your president, I guarantee you this violence will end," Bush said. "This is not about civil rights or the great cause of quality that all Americans must hold. It is not a message of protest. It's been the brutality of a mob, pure and simple. But beyond urgent need to restore order is the question of justice."

Bush described the King beating as "revolting" and said he spoke to civil rights leaders who felt betrayed by the jury's decision.

"I felt anger. I felt pain. I thought, 'How can I explain this to my grandchildren?'" he told viewers.

Harvard University historian Leah Wright Rigueur said that ultimately, Bush is hard to pin down on race.

"Bush helped pave the way for the modern Republican Party, we see now," she said. "He gives us Clarence Thomas, but he also gives us Colin Powell. That's his signature, that he plays both sides of the game."

Associated Press writer Russell Contreras contributed to this report from Albuquerque, N.M. Whack is The Associated Press' national writer on race and ethnicity. Follow Contreras and Whack on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/emarvelous> and <http://www.twitter.com/russcontreras> .

See AP's complete coverage of George H.W. Bush here: <https://www.apnews.com/GeorgeHWBush>

House GOP campaign arm targeted by 'unknown entity' in 2018

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands of emails were stolen from aides to the National Republican Congressional Committee during the 2018 midterm campaign, a major breach exposing vulnerabilities that have kept cybersecurity experts on edge since the 2016 presidential race.

The email accounts were compromised during a series of intrusions that had been spread over several months and discovered in April, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press. At least four different party aides had their emails surveilled by hackers, said the person, who was not authorized to discuss the details publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The committee said an "unknown entity" was behind the hack but provided few other details. A cybersecurity firm and the FBI have been investigating the matter, the committee said. The FBI declined to comment.

Politically motivated cyberespionage is commonplace across the world, but Americans have become particularly alert to the possibility of digital interference since Russia's meddling in the 2016 election. The theft of Democrats' emails is still fresh in the minds of many political operatives and lawmakers, who have stepped up defensive measures but still struggle to protect themselves.

Foreign spies routinely try to hack into politicians' emails to gain insight, ferret out weaknesses and win a diplomatic edge. But hackers often launch sweeping spear-phishing campaigns to gain access to a variety accounts — with no political motivation. With no immediate suspects and few technical details, it's unclear what the significance of this latest incursion is.

In August, the Democratic National Committee thought it had thwarted an attempt to break into its massive voter database — but the effort turned out to be unauthorized test that mimicked what an attack would look like.

CrowdStrike, a California-based cybersecurity company, said Tuesday the NRCC asked the company in April to "perform an investigation related to unauthorized access" to the committee's emails. Before that, the company had been helping the committee protect its internal corporate network, which wasn't compromised.

"The cybersecurity of the committee's data is paramount, and upon learning of the intrusion, the NRCC

immediately launched an internal investigation and notified the FBI, which is now investigating the matter," the committee said in a statement. The hack was first reported by Politico.

Earlier this year, NRCC Chairman Steve Stivers said the committee — which raises money to support Republican candidates for the House — hired multiple cybersecurity staffers to work with its candidates and promised to do more.

"We're starting to advise campaigns, but we're not ready to roll the whole thing out. We're working on it," Stivers said in March. "We're working on the technology-based stuff to try and make sure that we know what's out there — which is hard, too — and then we try to defend against it the best we can."

During the 2016 presidential campaign, Russian state-aligned hackers organized the leak of more than 150,000 emails stolen from more than a dozen Democrats. The FBI later said that the Russians had targeted more than 300 people affiliated with the Hillary Clinton campaign and other Democratic institutions over the course of the presidential contest.

Special counsel Robert Mueller is now investigating the whether people close to Donald Trump's presidential campaign had advance knowledge of WikiLeaks' plans.

U.S. officials have expressed concern about foreign interference in U.S. elections. This weekend, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis accused Russia of trying to "muck around" in the November midterm elections. Mattis did not offer specifics and would not elaborate.

In October, the Justice Department unsealed criminal charges detailing a yearslong effort by a Russian troll farm to "sow division and discord in the U.S. political system" by creating thousands of false social media profiles and email accounts that appeared to be from people inside the United States. The complaint provided a clear picture that there is still a hidden but powerful Russian social media effort aimed at spreading distrust for American political candidates and causing divisions on social issues such as immigration and gun control.

The campaign season saw several examples of digital mischief, although none with the impact of the 2016 hacks.

In August, Microsoft alerted the public to attempts by government-backed Russian hackers to target U.S. conservatives' email by creating fake websites that appeared to belong to a pair of think tanks, the Hudson Institute and International Republican Institute. It also confirmed an attempt similarly attributed to Russian hackers to infiltrate the Senate computer network of Sen. Claire McCaskill, the Missouri Democrat who lost a re-election bid in November.

Google later confirmed in September that the personal Gmail accounts of multiple senators and staffers had recently been targeted by foreign hackers, though it did not specify the cyberspies' nationality nor the party affiliations of the targets.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker and Colleen Long in Washington and Raphael Satter in London contributed to this report.

Boy hits target, convinces town to scrap snowball fight ban

SEVERANCE, Colo. (AP) — A 9-year-old boy has convinced the leaders of a small northern Colorado town to overturn a nearly century-old ban on snowball fights, and he already knows who his first target will be — his little brother.

Dane Best, who lives in the often snow-swept town of Severance, presented his arguments at a town board meeting Monday night, and members voted unanimously to lift the ban.

"I think it's an outdated law," Dane said in the lead-up to the meeting. "I want to be able to throw a snowball without getting in trouble."

Dane's mother, Brooke Best, told The Greeley Tribune her son had been talking about snowballs since he found out about a month and a half ago that it was illegal to throw them within town limits. The last time it snowed, Dane said he and his friends looked around for police and joked about breaking the law.

Kyle Rietkerk, assistant to the Severance town administrator, said the rule was part of a larger ordinance

that made it illegal to throw or shoot stones or missiles at people, animals, buildings, trees, any other public or private property or vehicles. Snowballs fell under the town's definition of "missiles."

"All of the kids always get blown away that it's illegal to have snowball fights in Severance," Rietkerk said before the meeting. "So, what ends up happening is (town leaders) always encourage the kids with, 'You have the power you can change the law.' No one has."

Then Dane took up the cause, writing letters with his classmates in support of overturning the ban.

And after Monday night's success, his 4-year-old brother Dax had better watch out. When board members asked Dane during a meeting in November who he wants to hit, he pointed at his little brother.

Dane and his family have researched other Severance ordinances, including one that defines pets only as cats and dogs.

Dane has a guinea pig, which is illegal in Severance, too.

Information from: The Tribune of Greeley, Co, <http://greeleytribune.com>

1st baby born using uterus transplanted from deceased donor

By MARIA CHENG, AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — Brazilian doctors are reporting the world's first baby born to a woman with a uterus transplanted from a deceased donor.

Eleven previous births have used a transplanted womb but from a living donor, usually a relative or friend.

Experts said using uteruses from women who have died could make more transplants possible. Ten previous attempts using deceased donors in the Czech Republic, Turkey and the U.S. have failed.

The baby girl was delivered last December by a woman born without a uterus because of a rare syndrome. The woman — a 32-year-old psychologist — was initially apprehensive about the transplant, said Dr. Dani Ejzenberg, the transplant team's lead doctor at the University of Sao Paulo School of Medicine.

"This was the most important thing in her life," he said. "Now she comes in to show us the baby and she is so happy,"

The woman became pregnant through in vitro fertilization seven months after the transplant. The donor was a 45-year-old woman who had three children and died of a stroke.

The recipient, who was not identified, gave birth by cesarean section. Doctors also removed the womb, partly so the woman would no longer have to take anti-rejection medicines. Nearly a year later, mother and baby are both healthy.

Two more transplants are planned as part of the Brazilian study. Details of the first case were published Tuesday in the medical journal *Lancet*.

Uterus transplantation was pioneered by Swedish doctor Mats Brannstrom, who has delivered eight children from women who got wombs from family members or friends. Two babies have been born at Baylor University Medical Center in Texas and one in Serbia, also from transplants from living donors.

In 2016, doctors at the Cleveland Clinic transplanted a uterus from a deceased donor, but it failed after an infection developed.

"The Brazilian group has proven that using deceased donors is a viable option," said the clinic's Dr. Tommaso Falcone, who was involved in the Ohio case. "It may give us a bigger supply of organs than we thought were possible."

The Cleveland program is continuing to use deceased donors. Falcone said the fact that the transplant was successful after the uterus was preserved in ice for nearly eight hours demonstrated how resilient the uterus is. Doctors try to keep the time an organ is without blood flow to a minimum.

Other experts said the knowledge gained from such procedures might also solve some lingering mysteries about pregnancies.

"There are still lots of things we don't understand about pregnancies, like how embryos implant," said Dr. Cesar Diaz, who co-authored an accompanying commentary in the journal. "These transplants will help us understand implantation and every stage of pregnancy."

The Associated Press Health & Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

2 attorneys general to subpoena Trump Organization, Treasury

By TAMI ABDOLLAH, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The attorneys general of the District of Columbia and Maryland plan to file subpoenas Tuesday seeking records from the Trump Organization, the Treasury Department and dozens of other entities as part of a lawsuit accusing Donald Trump of profiting off the presidency.

The flurry of subpoenas came a day after U.S. District Court Judge Peter J. Messitte approved a brisk schedule for discovery in the case alleging that foreign and domestic government spending at Trump's Washington, D.C., hotel amounts to gifts to the president in violation of the Constitution's emoluments clause.

The subpoenas target 37 entities, including 13 Trump-linked entities and the federal agency that oversees the lease for Trump's Washington hotel. Subpoenas were also being sent to the Department of Defense, General Services Administration, Department of Commerce and Department of Agriculture, all of which have spent taxpayer dollars at the hotel or have information on Trump's finances relevant to the case.

Other Trump entities that officials plan to subpoena include those related to his Washington hotel and its management. Eighteen private entities including restaurants, venues and hotels that compete with the Trump hotel are also being subpoenaed to "illuminate the unfair nature of that competition," said Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh.

"We're seeking to confirm the information that everybody already knows: Trump's violation of the emoluments clause of the Constitution," Frosh said. "He's received numerous payments from foreign governments and state governments and they've been funneled, at least in part, through the Trump (hotel) in D.C."

While news organizations have reported how groups representing Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and the Philippines have hosted events at Trump's D.C. hotel since he took office, the subpoenas offer the best chance to get a complete picture of which foreign and domestic governments are spending at the hotel, how much they are spending and where that money is going. They're also trying to determine how Trump's hotel is affecting the hospitality industry in D.C. and Maryland.

The subpoenas seek to prove that hotel revenues are going to the president through his affiliated entities, including The Donald J. Trump Revocable Trust. Most of the records are being requested back to Jan. 1, 2015.

The Justice Department declined to comment. Neither Trump's personal attorney on the case, William S. Consovoy, nor the White House responded to a request for comment Tuesday.

Trump's Justice Department lawyers filed a notice to the court Friday indicating it plans to challenge the Maryland judge's decision to allow the case to move forward. Justice lawyers have argued that earnings from business activity such as hotel stays don't qualify as emoluments and that any discovery would "be a distraction to the President's performance of his constitutional duties."

The president's notice that he may seek a writ of mandamus — to have the appeal heard by a higher court — is considered an "extraordinary remedy" that partly rests on showing Messitte's decisions to be clearly wrong.

Because the president has not released his tax returns, any responsive records would likely provide the first clear picture of the finances of Trump's business empire as well as his Washington hotel.

There is no indication yet that Frosh and District of Columbia Attorney General Karl A. Racine, both Democrats, would push for the president's tax returns, at least in this initial round of legal discovery, given the sensitive nature of such a request and likely additional delays it would cause. But tax returns for some of Trump's business entities, including the state and federal tax returns for the Trump Organization, are also being requested.

Co-counsel on the case is Washington-based nonprofit Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington.

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The Treasury Department is being subpoenaed to determine not only whether its officials patronized Trump's hotel but also to learn more about Trump's promised donations of profit of foreign government spending at his hotel and similar businesses to the Treasury. In February, The Trump Organization donated \$151,470 — what it said was the total amount of spending in Trump's first year in office. The subpoena requests "all communications" regarding that payment.

State officials earlier told The Associated Press that the IRS would likely be subpoenaed, but it was unclear if that would happen on Tuesday or whether it would happen at all.

"We're certainly not ruling that out, just like we're not ruling out seeking the president's tax returns," Frosh said.

The Trump Organization said in an emailed statement to the AP that the company had "voluntarily donated" the profits and "intend to make a similar contribution in 2019." The company did not comment on the case otherwise.

There is a separate federal lawsuit involving the General Services Administration, which oversees the lease for the hotel with the Trump Organization. Democratic lawmakers want to know how Trump was approved by the GSA to maintain the lease of the Trump International Hotel in Washington after he became president.

The hotel is housed in the historic Old Post Office, which is owned by the federal government, and its lease has a clause barring any "elected official of the government of the United States" from deriving "any benefit."

Maine is also expected to receive a subpoena, likely because its governor, Republican Paul LePage, stayed at Trump's D.C. hotel when he had official business to conduct, including discussions with the president. LePage's office did not respond to a request for comment.

On one of those trips last year, Trump and LePage appeared together at a news conference at which Trump signed an executive order to review orders of the prior administration that established national monuments within the National Park Service. President Barack Obama had established a park and national monument in Maine over LePage's objections in 2016.

If there are no delays, legal discovery would conclude in early August.

This story has been updated to reflect that state officials initially said they would subpoena the IRS on Tuesday but later said they could only confirm their plan to subpoena the Treasury Department.

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

AP FACT CHECK: 'Tariff Man' Trump wrong on import taxes

By JOSH BOAK, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump promised on Twitter that tariffs would maximize the country's economic heft and "MAKE AMERICA RICH AGAIN."

Almost all economists say the president is wrong. That's because tariffs are taxes on imports. They can cause higher prices, reduce trade among countries and hurt overall economic growth as a result.

The president's tweet on Tuesday followed an announcement that the U.S. would not increase a 10 percent tariff on \$200 billion of Chinese goods in 2019. The two largest countries are in the middle of negotiating their terms of trade, after Trump said cheap imports from China were impoverishing the United States.

After Trump announced steel and aluminum tariffs earlier this year, the University of Chicago asked leading academic economists in March whether Americans would be better off because of import taxes.

Not a single economist surveyed said the United States would be wealthier.

Nobel Prize-winning economist Richard Thaler answered the survey by saying, "In net we want more trade not less. This is unlikely to help and runs the risk of starting a trade war. SAD."

A look at the president's tweet and how it compares with the facts:

TRUMP: "I am a Tariff Man. When people or countries come in to raid the great wealth of our Nation,

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I want them to pay for the privilege of doing so. It will always be the best way to max out our economic power. We are right now taking in \$billions in Tariffs. MAKE AMERICA RICH AGAIN.”

THE FACTS: Trump seems to be claiming that tariffs are some kind of a membership fee for foreign companies to trade in the U.S. economy.

They're not. Tariffs are a tax, per Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

The costs of this tax are borne by U.S. consumers and businesses, often in the form of higher prices. Foreign companies may end up selling fewer goods and services if the United States imposes high tariffs. So they pay a price, too.

In some cases, the tariffs exist to protect industries that are vital for national security. Or, the tariffs exist to retaliate against the trade practices of other countries. Or, they might protect politically connected companies.

In the past, White House aides have insisted that Trump's tariff hikes are a negotiating ploy. Yet the president offered no such qualifications on Tuesday.

Tariffs are not seen as some easy way of generating massive wealth for an economically developed nation. Nor do the budget numbers suggest they can come anywhere close to covering the costs of the federal government.

Trump is correct that tariffs did generate \$41.3 billion in tax revenues last fiscal year, according to the Treasury Department. But that is a pittance in a federal budget that exceeds \$4.1 trillion.

The taxes collected on imports were equal to about 1 percent of all federal spending.

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Ohio State coach Urban Meyer to retire after Rose Bowl

By MITCH STACY, AP Sports Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — As Urban Meyer walked off the field after Ohio State routed Michigan, he was pondering his future and when to make a decision about when to call it quits.

The 54-year-old Meyer, in fact, had been thinking about retiring since the middle of last season.

The pain from headaches caused by an arachnoid cyst in his brain had grown worse this season. Off-the-field issues, including a three-game suspension for mismanagement of an assistant coach accused of domestic violence, had worn on him. And an ideal successor just happened to already be in place in the person of Ryan Day, his 39-year-old offensive coordinator.

On Tuesday, two days after the Buckeyes beat Northwestern to earn a second consecutive Big Ten championship, Meyer announced he was stepping down after the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1 and likely would never coach again.

“The decision was a result of cumulative events,” Meyer said during a packed news conference. “And health number one. The fact that we have an elite coach on our staff. The fact that our program is very healthy. We’ve recruited very well. All played a significant role in this.”

Meyer is leaving at the top of his profession after three national championships in a career spanning three decades, the last seven years at Ohio State, where he has an 82-9 record.

He had shown obvious effects of being in pain on the sideline this season, leading to questions about his future. Meyer explained that the headaches became severe last season during Ohio State's game at Penn State and have become a persistent problem this season.

Meyer said he believed he could no longer coach the way he has from the early days at Bowling Green to Utah, Florida and, finally, with the Buckeyes.

“The style of coaching I’ve done for 33 years is very intense, very demanding. I tried to delegate more and CEO more and the product started to feel ...,” he said, not finishing his thought. “I didn’t feel I was doing right by our players and by Gene (Smith, the athletic director).”

Meyer said leaving would have been more difficult if the program wasn't healthy. The Buckeyes are 12-1

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and Meyer said he felt good about his replacement. Day will take over as the 25th coach of the storied program where Meyer won a national title in 2014 after two at Florida (2006, 2008).

"You want to hand it off to someone who could make it stronger," Meyer said.

It was Day who led the Buckeyes when Meyer was suspended before the season opener over his role in the handling of now-fired assistant Zach Smith, who was accused by his ex-wife of domestic abuse. Meyer said he knew about the allegations against Smith — grandson of former Ohio State coach Earle Bruce — but wasn't sure they were true and kept Smith on staff because no criminal charges were filed. The university cited that lapse in suspending Meyer after an investigation.

A report issued by an investigative committee left a stain, detailing behavior by Meyer that could have taken down a coach of lesser stature. The investigation showed he tolerated bad behavior for years from Smith, including domestic-violence accusations, drug addiction, lies and other acts that directly clash with the values Meyer touts publicly.

Meyer acknowledged the investigation was among the reasons for stepping down, and he was asked if the suspension will affect his legacy.

"I'm sure it will," he said. "I can lie to you and say it is not important to me."

The announcement came as the Buckeyes begin preparations for the bowl game against Washington and less than three weeks before schools can sign a fresh batch of recruits. Meyer said his decision had to come before the early signing period opens Dec. 19.

The Buckeyes' strong finish this season belied on-the-field problems that made for a stressful season for Meyer and his staff. He lost star defensive end Nick Bosa to an early season-ending injury, and the defense never fully recovered.

The team alternated expected blowout wins with puzzling play that included a pair of one-point wins (Penn State, Maryland) and a closer-than-expected win over a struggling Nebraska team. A startling blowout loss at unranked Purdue on Oct. 20 pushed Ohio State to the fringe of the national championship chase and prompted questions about Meyer's future. He was forced to address speculation that he would step down and Oct. 29 said he definitely planned to return next season.

Ohio State followed that with five straight wins, including a rout of archrival Michigan that gave the Buckeyes another division title and then pulled away for the easy win over Northwestern.

The success was nothing new for Meyer, who was a standout coach at Utah before he left for Florida in 2005 and rocketed to the top of the college football coaching ranks, a peer of Alabama coach Nick Saban in terms of respect and ability. Critics noted that his success with the Gators was marred by a series of legal issues for his players, with more than two dozen arrests.

Almost exactly nine years ago, Meyer shocked college football by resigning at Florida after five seasons amid what he called stress-related health concerns that came to light when he suffered chest pains following the SEC championship game. He quickly changed his mind, returned for another season and then stepped down in December 2010, saying he wanted to spend more time with family.

He was 46 then. And he wasn't gone long: He took the Ohio State job before the 2012 season after Jim Tressel was forced out for lying to the NCAA amid a memorabilia-for-tattoos scandal.

It appeared to be a dream job for the Toledo native. His contract was extended in April by two years through 2022, increasing Meyer's salary to \$7.6 million in 2018 with annual 6 percent raises. Meyer has about \$38 million left on his contract.

Ohio State will now turn to Day, a second-year Ohio State assistant who had never before been a head coach before he stepped in during Meyers' suspension. Gene Smith said transitioning immediately to Day made more sense than conducting a national coaching search.

"Our program does not need disruption," Smith said. "It does not need to blow up and have people come in and try and adapt to our standards of operation and try and change the infrastructure that we've put in place for the student-athlete."

Former players and fellow coaches were full of praise for Meyer. As former Ohio State running back Carlos Hyde gushed about Meyer in the Jacksonville Jaguars locker room, former Florida defensive end Lerentee McCray walked by and shouted "Urban Legend! Urban Legend!"

"He's definitely one of the best coaches I've been around," Hyde said. "That's one thing I'm going to always remember about him: We won so much."

AP College Football Writer Ralph D. Russo in New York and AP Sports Writer Mark Long in Jacksonville, Florida, contributed to this report.

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/tag/Collegefootball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

US sets deadline for Russia, warns it may quit nuclear pact

By LORNE COOK and MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The United States warned Russia Tuesday it has 60 days to start complying with a landmark missile treaty or Washington could abandon the pact, creating doubts about nuclear security in Europe.

At NATO talks in Brussels, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo accused Russia of "cheating at its arms control obligations" under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. Pompeo warned that if Russia did not comply with the treaty's terms within 60 days, Washington could activate a six-month notice period for leaving the 1987 pact.

"Russia must return to full and verifiable compliance; Russia's failure to do so will result in the demise of the INF Treaty," Pompeo told reporters.

"Our nations have a choice. We either bury our head in the sand or we take common sense action in response to Russia's flagrant disregard for the expressed terms of the INF Treaty," he said.

The U.S. has shared intelligence evidence with its NATO allies that Russia's new SSC-8 ground-fired cruise missile could give Moscow the ability to launch a nuclear strike in Europe with little or no notice.

The bilateral treaty between Washington and Moscow banned all land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with a range between 500 and 5,500 kilometers (310-3,410 miles). Russia says the range of the new system does not exceed 500 kilometers.

Pompeo said Washington "would welcome a Russian change of heart" but that he has seen no indication that Moscow is likely to comply.

U.S. allies in NATO said Tuesday they "strongly support the finding of the United States that Russia is in material breach of its obligations." They called on Russia "to return urgently to full and verifiable compliance."

While Pompeo did not announce the end of the pact, its demise seems all but certain.

"I regret that we now most likely will see the end of the INF Treaty," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said, adding that "no arms control agreement will work if it is only respected by one party."

Stoltenberg said the 29 NATO allies will "collectively develop responses" should the treaty be abandoned, but he declined to say what they might be.

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, said he does not see the Russians returning to compliance under current conditions.

"They are not going to change course on the basis of a U.S. threat to withdraw," Kimball said.

He said the U.S. needs to redouble diplomatic efforts with Russia to find a way to resolve the noncompliance issues, but he doubts this will happen.

In Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said that "Russia strictly complies with the provisions of the treaty, and the American side is aware of that."

Russia's actions in Ukraine also came under the spotlight at Tuesday's NATO meeting.

Stoltenberg accused Russia of using the Crimean Peninsula as a platform to take control of waters off eastern Ukraine, as allies struggled to find ways to dissuade Moscow from destabilizing the former Soviet republic.

Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014, sparking NATO's biggest military buildup in Eastern Europe since the Cold War. On Nov. 25, Russian border guards fired on three Ukrainian navy vessels near Crimea, where Russia's Black Sea fleet is based. The vessels and the crews were captured.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin appealed for NATO support in the confrontation with Russia over the Black Sea and the adjacent Sea of Azov, a key commercial waterway for the country.

"Four years ago, Russia illegally annexed Crimea. Now Russia is attempting to use Crimea to expand its influence and control of the Sea of Azov," Stoltenberg said.

But as to what more NATO would do beyond its existing sea patrols and air policing, he said: "There is already a lot of NATO in the Black Sea."

NATO allies have helped modernize Ukraine's armed forces and boosted their presence in the Black Sea over the last year, with more ships deployed in the region and more air policing. Three NATO allies on the Black Sea — Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey — are also taking individual measures.

NATO nations, individually and through the European Union, have also imposed economic and other sanctions on Russia since it annexed Crimea, but there is little appetite among the allies to broaden those measures.

Klimkin welcomed the political support he received in Brussels, but said: "We shouldn't just stay on the level of declarations, however strong declarations are."

"We need to create a coordinated response to the actions of Russia," Klimkin said, adding that he raised "a set of practical steps with a number of proposals" at the meeting as to how NATO, Ukraine and Georgia might do that together.

He also suggested a possible ban on Russian ships entering other countries' ports if Moscow continues to block the Sea of Azov and said he would raise the idea with European Union ministers next week.

Ukrainian authorities said Tuesday that shipping traffic has resumed on the Sea, but a senior U.S. State Department official said that at NATO "no one would see that as a satisfactory move or the end of the matter."

Robert Burns in Washington and Matthew Bodner in Moscow contributed to this report.

Good boy: Sully the service dog visits Bush's casket

By LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's often said that if you want a friend in Washington, get a dog.

For the last six months, Sully the service dog was President George H.W. Bush's. The yellow Labrador Retriever visited the president's casket in the Capitol Rotunda Tuesday alongside people in wheelchairs who benefited from the Americans With Disabilities Act that Bush signed in 1990.

John Miller, the president and CEO of America's VetDogs, said the Bush family contacted Walter Reed National Military Medical Center after the late president's wife of 73 years, Barbara, died in April. America's VetDogs chose Sully in part for his calm temperament.

"After Mrs. Bush's death, general companionship was a big part of Sul-



Sully, former President George H.W. Bush's service dog, pays his respect to President Bush as he lie in state at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018. (AP Photo/

Manuel Balce Ceneta)

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ly's job," Miller said in a phone interview. "One of the things that I think was important to the president was the rest command, where Sully would rest his head on the president's lap."

Sully is 2 years old. He was named for retired airline pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger III, who became famous for landing a damaged passenger jet on the Hudson River in 2009, saving everyone aboard.

Sully the dog achieved worldwide fame after a Bush family spokesman tweeted a photo of Sully laying by Bush's flag-draped casket with the caption: "Mission completed."

The pup traveled to Washington with the funeral retinue. And on Tuesday morning, officials issued a two-minute warning for Sully's arrival in the Rotunda. Sully padded in, his leash held by Valerie Cramer, America's VetDogs service dog program manager.

At her command, he lay down — and threw a glance over his shoulder at the photographers scrambling to get his photo. He didn't seem fazed. Cramer then led him around the casket to sit among the others. After a few minutes, the procession headed out.

Sully is headed back to America's VetDogs in Smithtown, New York, where he was born and trained, Miller said. Then he'll go for training at Walter Reed to help brace, retrieve and otherwise help the veterans there get care. Sully will be working with two dogs already in service at the veterans' hospital, Sgt. Dillon and Sgt. Truman.

The dogs provided by America's VetDogs are provided free of charge for a service that can cost upward of \$50,000 to breed, train and place them, Miller said.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 5, the 339th day of 2018. There are 26 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 5, 1994, Republicans chose Newt Gingrich to be the first GOP speaker of the House in four decades.

On this date:

In 1776, the first scholastic fraternity in America, Phi Beta Kappa, was organized at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

In 1782, the eighth president of the United States, Martin Van Buren, was born in Kinderhook, New York; he was the first chief executive to be born after American independence.

In 1791, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died in Vienna, Austria, at age 35.

In 1792, George Washington was re-elected president; John Adams was re-elected vice president.

In 1848, President James K. Polk triggered the Gold Rush of '49 by confirming that gold had been discovered in California.

In 1901, movie producer Walt Disney was born in Chicago.

In 1932, German physicist Albert Einstein was granted a visa, making it possible for him to travel to the United States.

In 1933, national Prohibition came to an end as Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, repealing the 18th Amendment.

In 1945, five U.S. Navy torpedo bombers mysteriously disappeared after taking off from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on a training mission with the loss of all 14 crew members; "The Lost Squadron" contributed to the legend of the Bermuda Triangle.

In 1952, the Great Smog of London descended on the British capital; the unusually thick fog, which contained toxic pollutants, lasted five days and was blamed for causing thousands of deaths.

In 1977, Egypt broke diplomatic relations with Syria, Libya, Algeria, Iraq and South Yemen in the wake of criticism that followed President Anwar Sadat's peace overtures to Israel.

In 1988, a federal grand jury in North Carolina indicted PTL founder Jim Bakker and former aide Richard Dortch on fraud and conspiracy charges. (Bakker was convicted on all counts; Dortch pleaded guilty to four

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counts and cooperated with prosecutors in exchange for a lighter sentence. Bakker was initially sentenced to 45 years in prison; the term was eventually reduced to eight years, and he served a total of about five.)

Ten years ago: The Labor Department reported that an alarming half-million jobs had vanished in Nov. 2008 as unemployment hit a 15-year high of 6.7 percent. A judge in Las Vegas sentenced O.J. Simpson to 33 years in prison (with eligibility for parole after nine) for an armed robbery at a hotel room. (Simpson was released to parole on Oct. 1, 2017.) Death claimed actresses Nina Foch at age 84 and Beverly Garland at age 82.

Five years ago: Nelson Mandela, the anti-apartheid leader who became South Africa's first black president, died at age 95.

One year ago: Democratic congressman John Conyers of Michigan resigned from Congress after a nearly 53-year career, becoming the first Capitol Hill politician to lose his job amid the sexual misconduct allegations sweeping through the nation's workplaces. In a bitterly contested runoff election, Atlanta voters narrowly chose Keisha Lance Bottoms as the city's next mayor; a result that would be upheld after a recount requested by rival Mary Norwood. The International Olympic Committee barred Russia and its sports leaders from the upcoming Winter Olympics in South Korea after concluding that members of the Russian government concocted a doping scheme at the 2014 Sochi Games; some Russians would be able to compete as "Olympic Athletes from Russia."

Today's Birthdays: Singer Little Richard is 86. Author Joan Didion is 84. Author Calvin Trillin is 83. Actor Jeroen Krabbe (yeh-ROHN' krah-BAY') is 74. Opera singer Jose Carreras is 72. Pop singer Jim Messina is 71. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL quarterback Jim Plunkett is 71. World Golf Hall of Famer Lanny Wadkins is 69. Actress Morgan Brittany is 67. Actor Brian Backer is 62. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Art Monk is 61. Country singer Ty England is 55. Rock singer-musician John Rzeznik (REZ'-nihk) (The Goo Goo Dolls) is 53. Country singer Gary Allan is 51. Comedian-actress Margaret Cho is 50. Writer-director Morgan J. Freeman is 49. Actress Alex Kapp Horner is 49. Actress Kali Rocha is 47. Rock musician Regina Zernay (Cowboy Mouth) is 46. Actress Paula Patton is 43. Actress Amy Acker is 42. Actor Nick Stahl is 39. Actor Adan Canto is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer Keri Hilson is 36. Actor Gabriel Luna is 36. Actor Frankie Muniz is 33. Actor Ross Bagley is 30.

Thought for Today: "I've never been poor, only broke. Being poor is a frame of mind. Being broke is only a temporary situation." — Mike Todd, American movie producer (1907-1958).