

Groton Daily Independent

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**Card Shower
for
Dee Baily's
90th Birthday**
**Send to:
715 W. Willow
Groton, SD 57445
Her birthday is Dec. 21**

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.



Sperry Stump Removal Tyler: 605/216-8431
Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!
TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Sunday, December 16, 2018

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

Monday, December 17, 2018

6:00pm: Basketball: Girls 7th/8th Game vs. Britton-Hecla School @ Britton-Hecla High School. One Game at 6pm. Varsity to Follow (No JV game)

6:00pm: Wrestling: Boys JH Tournament @ Sisseton High School

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

5:15pm: Basketball: Boys C Game vs. Britton-Hecla School @ Groton Area High School followed by JV and varsity games.

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Groton City Council Meeting Agenda
December 17, 2018 – 7:00pm
Groton Community Center

1. Ted Dickey Public Hearing
2. Resolution 2018-5 Financing Water System Improvements
3. Ken Hier with Clark Engineering – 2019 Street project
4. Open Sealed Gravel Bids for 2019
5. Minutes
6. Bills
7. November Finance Report
8. Christmas Light Contest
9. NECOG – Joint Cooperative Agreement
10. Second reading Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance #723
11. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
12. Second reading 2019 Salary Ordinance #722
13. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
14. Adjournment

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A jump started first half, pushes Northern State over UMary

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University men’s basketball team cruised to their sixth straight victory on Saturday evening, defeating the University of Mary 76-59. Northern improves to 9-2 overall and 5-0 in the NSIC, as the only unbeaten team in the North Division.

The Wolves got out to a roaring 21-point lead in the first half, shooting 72.0 percent from the field and 76.9 percent from the 3-point line. UMary battled back in the second, ultimately out-scoring the Wolves in the half but it was not enough to overcome the spread. Northern out-rebounded Mary 34-27 in the win, and recorded a game high 12 made 3-pointers, 18 assists, and two blocks.

NSU shot 57.7 percent from the floor, 46.2 percent from beyond the arc, and 44.4 percent from the foul line in the game. The Wolves tallied 30 points in the paint, 27 points off the bench, 14 second chance points off ten offensive boards, and 11 points off seven Marauder turnovers. They held their largest lead of the game, of 27-points, with 7:37 left on the clock in the first.

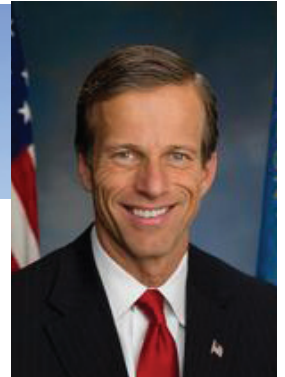
Ian Smith and Gabe King led the team with 12 points apiece, shooting 60.0 and 55.6 percent from the floor respectively. Smith also grabbed a team high nine rebounds, and dished out a game high six assists. Andrew Kallman matched Smith in the assist column with six of his own, adding nine points, one rebound, and one block.

Bo Fries and Justin Decker combined for the final 16 points from the NSU starters with nine and seven respectively. Fries was second on the team with five rebounds, hitting 2-of-2 from beyond the arc, while Decker notched three rebounds and shot 50.0 percent from the floor.

Parker Fox led the team off the bench with ten points, knocking down 5-of-6 from the field. The freshman added three rebounds and two assists. Cole Dahl added nine points of his own, all by virtue of the long ball, in addition to four rebounds and one block. Mason Stark and Jordan Belka tallied the final points for the Wolves with five and three apiece.

Next up for the Wolves is a midweek match-up with NSIC travel partner MSU Moorhead. Tip-off is set for 8 p.m. on Wednesday the 19th, on the campus of Concordia College.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



When You Defend Agriculture, You Defend South Dakota

In a 1982 radio address to the nation, President Ronald Reagan had a simple yet poignant message for U.S. farmers. He said, "I've always thought that when we Americans get up in the morning, when we see bacon, eggs, toast, and milk on our breakfast table, we should give thanks that our farmers are survivors. You are the real miracle workers of the modern world – keepers of an incredible system based on faith, freedom, hard work, productivity, and profit."

Reagan's edict to the American people was as true then as it is today: farming and ranching is no easy business. In fact, if you ask most farmers and ranchers today, they'd tell you it's less of a business and more of a way of life. They'd tell you that you're born with it in your blood – the willingness to climb out of bed before the sun breaks in the east and, without a complaint or dragging feet, work until Mother Nature turns out the lights in the west.

Farmers and ranchers care about what they do and how they do it nearly as much as they care about their family, friends, and the Lord above who knows there's a uniqueness about them – a toughness that, despite the hardest times, will never break their faith. These are the people I'm proud to represent in Washington, and they're why I left it all on the field when it came to writing and passing the 2018 farm bill.

I work on a lot of meaningful issues with my colleagues in Washington, but when it comes to defending South Dakota's top industry, I take a backseat to no one. I've never underestimated or taken for granted what it means to fight for our state's agriculture community, and I never will.

I introduced my first farm bill proposal in early 2017 and spent more than a year drafting proposal after proposal to help lay the groundwork for the bipartisan farm bill Congress just overwhelmingly approved. Without their help, I can honestly say it would look much different than it does today. And because of their help, it will help provide more of the economic certainty and security they want and need.

The provision I'm proudest to have had included in the bill is the establishment of the Soil Health and Income Protection Program. SHIPP, as it's known, is a three-to-five-year enrollment alternative to the popular Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), which, while a popular program, locks up enrolled land for a decade or more. This is the first time in the 30-plus year history of CRP that farmers will have the opportunity to enroll in a short-term conserving use program like this one that has these kinds of flexible options.

I wish there was enough time or room on this page to describe all of the big things in the farm bill that will benefit South Dakota, but suffice it to say, the bill contains nearly 20 provisions that have our state's fingerprints on them – a direct result of the feedback and suggestions I received from farmers and ranchers throughout the state over the last few years.

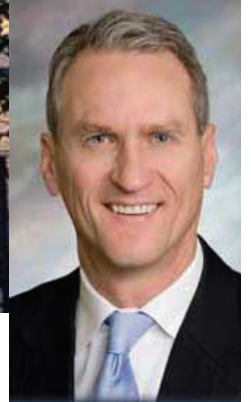
I can't think of a better or more succinct way of explaining the government's role in agriculture than how President Reagan described it, saying it should "act as friend, partner, and promoter of American farmers and their products." He said, "I want with all my heart to see your burdens lifted, to see farmers who have given so much to America receive the rewards they deserve." It's true, and I believe the 2018 farm bill mirrors that timeless perspective.

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South Dakota Governor
Dennis Daugaard



Sharing the Joy and Peace of Christmas

Sometimes I wonder if every kid who grew up on a South Dakota farm or ranch went out with their dad on Christmas Eve searching for Santa Claus.

We always did. Dad would load us kids in the car. Mom stayed behind, to finish a few jobs, she always said. We would drive in the hushed countryside, peering through the frosted windows at the night sky for a glimpse of a sleigh and reindeer. Young as I was, I found magic in the search.

On clear nights, the moon and stars twinkled from horizon to horizon. Fresh snow on the stubble fields and pastures sparkled as if someone had spilled a huge bag of sugar. Once or twice the moonlight on the snow played tricks on my young mind, making me believe I spotted the shadow of a flying object. When I looked up, though, all I saw was that magnificent blanket of stars in the South Dakota sky.

We never found Santa, but somehow when we returned to the warm farmhouse, he'd been there. Brightly wrapped presents lay under and around the tree. One year, he even left our presents on the low, snow-covered kitchen roof. I love the memories of those childhood Christmas Eves, even if we never caught the jolly man in the red suit. As a child, I knew he was out there.

I suppose I had my doubts once in a while, just as eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon did in 1897 when she wrote to the editor of the New York Sun to ask, "Please tell me the truth. Is there a Santa Claus?"

Francis Church, editor of the newspaper, responded with a wonderful and timeless editorial that included the lines, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy."

No child, no adult, needs to actually spy Santa Claus to know that love, generosity and devotion exist. Those qualities surround us, if we only pause to recognize them. Any mom or dad will know how rewarding it is to watch a child open a gift. And it is truly fulfilling, a rich gift to our spirits, to share the joy of the season with others. We can do that with our own children home from college or on leave from military duty. We can do it with friends and neighbors. We can do it with strangers we meet on the street, with anyone in need in our communities.

Taking time at Christmas to appreciate the gifts we receive all year round and to share the gifts we have with others is a sure way to make the holiday a most fulfilling and blessed time of the year.

And it isn't just at Christmas season that we could appreciate and share our gifts. Bob Hope, that gentle and witty comedian, once said, "My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: Loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?"

Why, indeed? May each of us find joy and peace in the blessings of this Christmas season, and may we share that joy and peace all through the year.

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Five-Year Farm Bill Will Provide Certainty, Stability to South Dakota Ag Community

After months of negotiations, Congress recently passed a five-year farm bill with strong bipartisan support. This vital piece of legislation will provide certainty for farmers and ranchers across the country, and especially in South Dakota where our state's economy depends on agriculture. With more than 31,500 farms across the state, South Dakota ranks in the top 10 for ag production, providing a \$21 billion dollar impact on our economy annually.

With net farm income down 50 percent in the past five years and producers on the tip of the spear with the ongoing trade disputes, the farm bill will provide our ag community with much-needed stability as they plan for the future. A five-year farm bill is necessary to give South Dakota producers the certainty they need to help weather times of low commodity prices, such as the one we are experiencing now. Measures included in the farm bill can help them keep their operations viable.

During farm bill negotiations, I outlined my priorities to the leaders of the Senate Agriculture Committee to make certain the top concerns of South Dakota producers were heard. I was pleased most of these priorities were addressed as part of the final farm bill package, including a measure to increase the cap for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres from 24 million acres to 27 million acres, with 2 million acres reserved for grasslands. The farm bill also strengthens the federal crop insurance program, increases the total Farm Service Agency (FSA) Guaranteed and Direct Loan Program authorization to \$12 billion and establishes an Animal Disease and Preparedness Program. This includes a vaccination bank to combat economic, food and national security concerns. Additionally, it allows for re-enrollment for producers utilizing commodity programs under Title I, specifically Price-Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC).

It also includes Sen. John Thune's provision to update and improve accuracy of the U.S. Drought Monitor and better use collected data to determine emergency grazing procedures through FSA. This is an important provision for South Dakota producers in times of extreme drought like we experienced in much of the state last year.

Farmers and ranchers in South Dakota work hard every day to feed and fuel a growing population here in the U.S. and around the world. As in all businesses, some years are better than others. During those tough times, it's important that producers have access to tools that can help them keep going.

I thank Senate and House Agriculture Committee leaders and members for their work getting this important bill passed the finish line. It is a critical step toward providing certainty and stability for South Dakota farmers and ranchers as we continue to seek ways to improve the ag economy as a whole.

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Redfield-Doland girls hands Groton Area first loss

Redfield-Doland opened its girls basketball season Saturday with a 70-42 win over the Groton Area Tigers. Groton Area now goes to 1-1 on the season and will travel to Britton on Monday. There will only be the varsity game starting around 6:30 p.m. as the Braves do not have a junior varsity team this year.

The Pheasants led at the quarterstops at 22-12, 43-30 and 57-39. Jennie Doeden led the Tigers with 12 points, Payton Maine had 10 points and she had seven of the team's 12 rebounds, Kaycie Hawkins had six points, Gracie Traphagen four and Eliza Wanner had two points. Groton Area had eight assists with Maine, Doeden and Kenzie McInerney each having two. Both teams had 12 turnovers. The Pheasants dominated the boards, 33-12, with Addison Rozell having nine rebounds.

Hannah Kuehn led the Pheasants with 23 points which included six three-pointers, Addison Rozell had 22 points which included a three-pointer and three three-point plays (made a basket, was fouled and made the free throw), Kailee Clausen had eight rebounds with two three-pointers, Katelyn Nelson made two three-pointers for six points, Eve Millar had four points and 10 assists, Georgia Kuehn had four points and Katelyn Nelson added a three-pointer.

Groton Area was five of 11 in three-pointers with Maine and Hanson each having two three-pointers and Traphagen having one. The Tigers were four of eight from the line while the Pheasants were eight of nine.

Redfield-Doland won the junior varsity game, 30-22. The Pheasants led at the quarterstops at 5-4, 16-6 and 25-15. Gracie Traphagen had 15 points while Allyssa Locke had five, Maddie Bjerke four and Kenzie McInerney, Caitlynn Barse and Trista Keith each had two points.

The Redfield-Doland Livestream was sponsored by:

Allied Climate Professionals
Bahr Spray Foam
Blocker Construction
Doug Abeln Seed Company
James Valley Seed - Doug Jorgensen
John Sieh Agency
Locke Electric
Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.
Northeast Chiropractic Clinic
Sanford Health
Weber Landscaping

Make sure you tell these sponsors "Thank You" and patronize them as well!

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Groton eighth grade MathCounts takes first at Roncalli

The Roncalli Invitational MathCounts Countdown Competition was held on Wednesday, December 5, 2018. Students from Aberdeen area schools participated in the event, which was sponsored by 3M of Aberdeen. Four separate countdown competitions were held simultaneously in the gymnasium.

The Groton team of Ethan Clark, Caleb Hanten, Jacob Lewandowski, and Andrew Marazhan received first place in the eighth grade division.

Three Groton students earned individual places in their respective brackets of the competition. Ethan Clark placed first and Caleb Hanten placed second in their respective eighth grade brackets; Dillon Abeln earned second place in his seventh grade bracket.

MathCounts is a nationwide coaching and competition program for middle school students that promotes excellence in mathematics. Simmons hosts the next junior high competition on Wednesday, January 23, 2019.



Eighth Grade Team Winners: Front row from left: Groton, 1st place, Ethan Clark, Caleb Hanten, Jacob Lewandowski, and Andrew Marazhan; Back row from left: Roncalli, 2nd place, Lauren Dosch, Garrett Griffin, Sawyer Henrich, and Samuel Koch. (Courtesy photo)

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Today in Weather History

December 16, 1967: With temperatures in the upper 20s, heavy freezing rain fell in west central and southwest Minnesota at night on the 16th, causing widespread ice accumulations on all exposed surfaces, and power and telephone poles and lines went down over a vast region. Some places were without power and phone service for three to four days. This storm was classified as the most severe ice storm in the past 20 years in some areas. Reports were received of turkeys and other poultry dying due to the cold in the countryside. 20 to 30 cars were in the ditch on one slick stretch of road in Rock County. Further west, throughout eastern South Dakota, freezing rain for most of the day formed ice from 3/8 to 3/4 inch on exposed surfaces. Extensive damage was caused to utility lines. All roads became dangerous for traveling, and one death was directly linked to the ice storm. The ice cut off a regular water supply, causing one person to attempt to get water from a cistern. She slipped on the ice into the cistern. Three deaths were indirectly related to the ice storm; two due to automobile accidents, and one due to a heart attack.

December 16, 2000: Northwest winds of 30 to 50 mph, with gusts to 60 mph, combined with newly fallen snow and arctic air to bring widespread blizzard conditions and extreme wind chills as low as 70 below zero to west central Minnesota and much of South Dakota from late on the 15th through the 16th. Events were canceled, travel was shut down, and some motorists were stranded. Both US Highway 12 and Interstate 29 in South Dakota were closed throughout the day. As an indirect result of the low visibility, a semi-truck hit and totaled a pickup truck in the snow just west of Clark.

December 16, 1811: An estimated Magnitude 7.5 earthquake struck the Mississippi Valley near the town of New Madrid in Missouri at 2:15 am local time. People were awakened by the shaking in New York City, Washington D.C., and Charleston, South Carolina. The ground motions were described as most alarming and frightening in places like Nashville, Tennessee, and Louisville, Kentucky. In the epicentral area, the ground surface was described as in great convulsion with sand and water ejected tens of feet into the air.

December 16, 1941: In 1941, only two women were employed by the Weather Bureau. By 1945, more than 900 women are employed by the Weather Bureau as observers and forecasters, as a result of filling positions of men during World War II. Eleven days after Pearl Harbor, the Army requested that all weather broadcasts be discontinued. The fear was that the enemy would use this information to plan an attack on the United States.

1835 - New England experienced one of their coldest days of record. At noon on that bitterly cold Wednesday the mercury stood at four degrees below at Boston, 15 degrees below at Norfolk CT, and 17 degrees below at Hanover NH. The temperature at Boston was 12 degrees below zero by sunset. Gale force winds accompanied the severe cold, and that night a great New York City fire destroyed much of the financial district. (David Ludlum)

1917 - An ice jam closed the Ohio River between Warsaw, KY, and Rising Sun, IN. The thirty foot high ice jam held for 58 days, and backed up the river a distance of 100 miles. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A Pacific storm battered the coast of California with rain and high winds, and dumped heavy snow on the mountains of California. Winds along the coast gusted to 70 mph at Point Arguello, and winds in the Tehachapi Mountains of southern California gusted to 100 mph at Wheeler Ridge. Snowfall totals ranged up to 24 inches at Mammoth Mountain. Snow fell for two minutes at Malibu Beach, and Disneyland was closed due to the weather for only the second time in twenty-four years. A winter storm which began in the Southern Rockies four days earlier finished its course producing snow and high winds in New England. Snowfall totals ranged up to 19 inches at Blanchard ME. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Fairbanks, AK, reported freezing rain and record warm temperatures. The afternoon high of 41 degrees was 43 degrees above normal. Snow and high winds continued to plague the mountains of southern California. Mount Wilson CA reported two inches of rain in six hours during the early morning, and a storm total of more than 3.50 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Fifty-seven cities from the Southern and Central Plains to the Appalachians reported record low temperatures for the date, including North Platte NE with a reading of 17 degrees below zero. Squalls in the Great Lakes Region produced 18 inches of snow at Syracuse NY, and 30 inches at Carlisle IND. Low pressure brought heavy snow to northern New England, with 18 inches reported at Derby VT and Saint Johnsbury VT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today



Sunny

High: 43 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 16 °F

Monday



Sunny

High: 44 °F

Monday
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 23 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 44 °F

NWS ABERDEEN



DECEMBER 16-19, 2018

{ DRY & WARM }

Sunday - Wednesday

HIGHS

40s

except upper 30s Monday, east of the James River
and a few low 50s readings west of the Missouri River



Sunday-Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday

Published on: 12/16/2018 at 3:09AM

Dry & Warm for most through Wednesday! Highs will mainly be in the 40s, with increasing clouds through mid week.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 48 °F at 12:17 PM

Low Outside Temp: 29 °F at 9:08 PM

High Gust: 34 mph at 12:20 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 62° in 1962

Record Low: -28° in 1951

Average High: 25°F

Average Low: 5°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.25

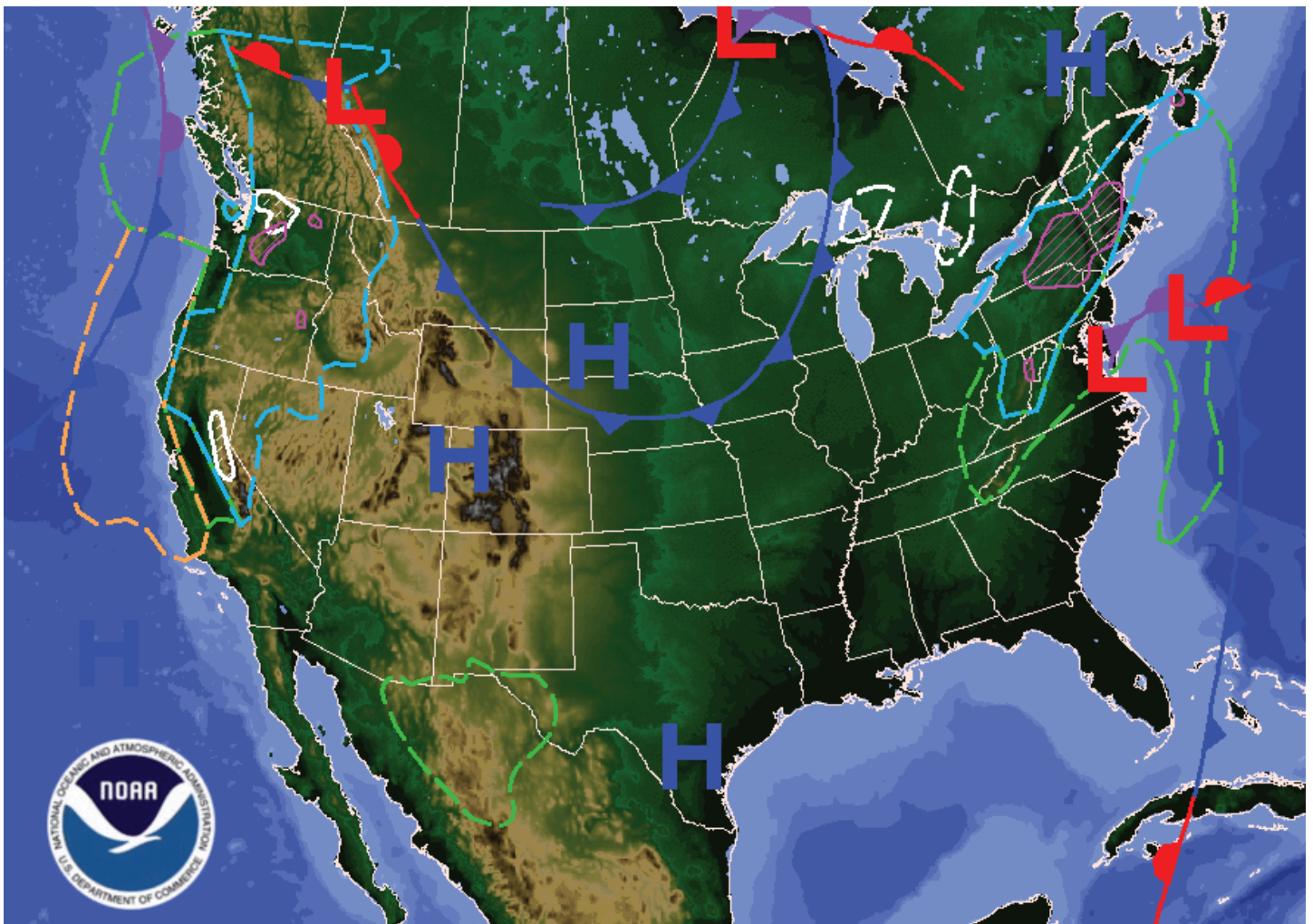
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.45

Precip Year to Date: 15.81

Sunset Tonight: 4:51 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:08 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Dec 16, 2018, issued 3:44 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Snell with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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GIFTS

Christmas gifts generate great excitement and interest. After the presents are wrapped and placed under the tree, many people spend countless hours trying to figure out what might be on the inside. Sometimes the gifts are carefully shaken or lifted to see if the weight or size might give an indication about what could be inside.

But when God gave us the first Christmas gift its value was obvious. It was a gift of love that could not be measured or found outside of Him. It was a gift of mercy that only He could provide. And it was a gift of grace that only He could provide through His Son.

Gods love is ultimately expressed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. His love is the source of His mercy and grace and it is because of His love that we have mercy and grace. It was because of His love that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him will find His mercy and enjoy His grace and be with Him forever in eternity.

John says something very significant about this love. If God loved us, he says, we ought to love one another. His love does not end with our salvation, but with our obligation to share His love with others. It begins a pattern of self-sacrificing love that Christians must live by sharing His mercy and grace with others.

Prayer: Lord, we often forget how responsible we are to share Your gifts of love, mercy and salvation with others. Give us no peace until we share Your gifts. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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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

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News from the  Associated Press

Saturday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Bennett County 73, Lyman 64
Bon Homme 44, McCook Central/Montrose 39
Britton-Hecla 72, Wilmot 50
Dakota Valley 78, Woodbury Central, Merville, Iowa 32
Edgemont 56, Moorcroft, Wyo. 44
Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn. 69, Flandreau Indian 58
Hot Springs 60, Hill City 33
Huron 63, Rapid City Central 55
Ipswich 61, Webster 34
Iroquois 52, Centerville 38
Langford 48, Hitchcock-Tulare 32
Lemmon 50, Hettinger/Scranton, N.D. 37
Mitchell Christian 67, Wessington Springs 43
Pierre 72, Spearfish 37
Rapid City Stevens 73, Mitchell 46
Sioux Falls Christian 75, Chamberlain 46
Stuart, Neb. 40, Burke 34
Sturgis Brown 72, Aberdeen Central 46
Timber Lake 74, Strasburg, Colo. 40
Timber Lake 74, Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D. 40
Winner 58, Sully Buttes 49
Yankton 58, Watertown 48
Lakota Nation Invitational
Makosica
Fifth Place: Tiospa Zina Tribal 60, Little Wound 48
Seventh Place: Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 72, Lower Brule 63
Third Place: Red Cloud 64, Omaha Nation, Neb. 48
Paha Sapa
Championship: Todd County 50, Custer 47
Fifth Place: St. Francis Indian 64, Marty Indian 57
Seventh Place: Oelrichs 60, Crazy Horse 37
Third Place: McLaughlin 57, Crow Creek 39
Stateline Shootout at Belle Fourche, S.D.
Belle Fourche 58, Newcastle, Wyo. 55
Sundance, Wyo. 62, Lead-Deadwood 57

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Andes Central/Dakota Christian 60, Scotland 31
Britton-Hecla 34, Wilmot 25
Centerville 60, Iroquois 29
Faith 60, New Underwood 42
Hettinger/Scranton, N.D. 59, Lemmon 27
Hill City 53, Hot Springs 23

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Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn. 55, Flandreau Indian 29
Ipswich 45, Webster 37
Langford 51, Hitchcock-Tulare 34
Lyman 43, Bennett County 25
Mitchell Christian 43, Wessington Springs 30
Moorcroft, Wyo. 58, Edgemont 26
Northwestern 48, Miller 42
Rapid City Central 60, Huron 43
Rapid City Stevens 49, Mitchell 47
Redfield/Doland 70, Groton Area 42
Spearfish 80, Pierre 70
Stuart, Neb. 43, Burke 36
Timber Lake 60, Leola/Frederick 35
Wall 54, Harding County 27
Winner 64, Sully Buttes 38
Yankton 56, Watertown 44
Entringer Classic
Arlington 47, Sioux Valley 44
DeSmet 55, Dell Rapids 37
Dell Rapids St. Mary 58, Elkton-Lake Benton 40
Deubrook 55, Madison 41
Deuel 58, Colman-Egan 42
Garretson 49, Castlewood 38
Hamlin 56, Flandreau 53
Lakota Nation Invitational
Makosica
Championship: Todd County 71, Crow Creek 47
Fifth Place: White River 69, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 43
Seventh Place: Lower Brule 58, Little Wound 54
Third Place" Pine Ridge 73, Red Cloud 56
Paha Sapa
Championship: Custer 52, St. Francis Indian 51
Fifth Place: McLaughlin 58, Oelrichs 33
Seventh Place: Crazy Horse 53, Omaha Nation, Neb. 51
Third Place: Tiospa Zina Tribal 62, Marty Indian 56
Pentagon Classic
Bridgewater-Emery 65, Parker 58
Ethan 42, Irene-Wakonda 36
Hopkins, Minn. 81, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 41
Sioux Falls Washington 39, Lennox 35
St. Michael-Albertville, Minn. 75, Sioux Falls Lincoln 33
St. Thomas More 48, Crofton, Neb. 42
Vermillion 45, Sisseton 18
Stateline Shootout at Belle Fourche, S.D.
Belle Fourche 63, Newcastle, Wyo. 25
Lead-Deadwood 52, Sundance, Wyo. 14

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

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Caroline, No. 7 Nevada rally again to beat South Dakota St.

By EMERSON MARCUS, Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Nevada coach Eric Musselman says he focuses on the stars.

"Some coaches have a philosophy that they're going to let the (opposing) stars score and they are going to shut everyone else down," Musselman said. "We don't hide the fact that our total focus is on the star players and we want the peripheral players to beat us."

That's exactly what No. 7 Nevada did in its 72-68 victory Saturday over South Dakota State and its duo of Mike Daum and David Jenkins.

The tandem had averaged 48.7 points this season. They scored a total of 10 points Saturday.

"Those two guys are elite scorers, probably the best duo in the country, and they (Nevada) held them in check tonight," South Dakota State coach T.J. Otselberger said.

The Jackrabbits jumped ahead 40-33 at halftime in the matchup of 2018 NCAA Tournament teams. Nevada held South Dakota State to 30 percent shooting in the second half en route to its fourth straight comeback of seven points or more.

Jordan Caroline led Nevada with 21 points. Caleb Martin scored 20 points for Nevada (11-0), and Cody Martin and Trey Porter had 12 each.

But Musselman cared more about Porter's defense than his offense, especially against the All-American Daum.

"That's the best defensive performance on one guy by one individual since I've been coaching here," Musselman said. "I think (Porter) is one of the best defenders in the entire country, if not the best interior defender in the entire country."

After scoring 40 points in the first half against Nevada — and a school-record 139 points in its last game against Savannah State — the Jackrabbits were held to 28 points in the second half Saturday.

Skyler Flatten led South Dakota State (9-4) with 20 points. Owen King scored 13 points, shooting 5 of 6 from the floor.

South Dakota State outrebounded Nevada 41-37, but the Jackrabbits committed 15 turnovers to the Wolf Pack's 6.

Nevada lived from beyond the arc in the first half, shooting 22 of its first 28 shots from deep. Sixty percent of Nevada's total shots Saturday came from 3-point range.

"They did good packing in the paint," Nevada forward Caleb Martin said. "It's one of those things where coach really wants us to try to get to the lane, but us as players, we kind of settle too much because there was that many open shots from the three."

Nevada shot 10 of 39 on 3-point shots and 34 percent from the field.

The Wolf Pack's best 3-point shooter, Jazz Johnson, did not play Saturday after a concussion he suffered in the team's last game against Grand Canyon. Johnson has shot 55 percent from beyond the arc this year, which ranks third best in the nation.

"People are going to try different things on us like (South Dakota State's) sagging man (to man defense) today," Martin said. "We just got to figure it out and ultimately we just got to knock down shots."

BIG PICTURE

South Dakota State: The Jackrabbits, of the Summit League, played toe-to-toe on the road against the seventh ranked team in the country.

Nevada: After nine flights and 5,875 miles on the road — 25 days since its last home game — Nevada stayed undefeated, grabbing the program's best record to start a season since it entered Division I in 1969-70.

LIVING BEYOND THE ARC

Nevada set a school-record with 39 attempted 3-point shots.

UP NEXT

South Dakota State: At Eastern Washington on Tuesday night.

Nevada: Host Akron on Saturday.

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SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
01-03-04-29-31
(one, three, four, twenty-nine, thirty-one)
Estimated jackpot: \$27,000

Lotto America
16-18-35-36-48, Star Ball: 2, ASB: 3
(sixteen, eighteen, thirty-five, thirty-six, forty-eight; Star Ball: two; ASB: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$12.52 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$284 million

Powerball
08-38-43-52-55, Powerball: 17, Power Play: 3
(eight, thirty-eight, forty-three, fifty-two, fifty-five; Powerball: seventeen; Power Play: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$246 million

South Dakota women defeat No. 22 Missouri in milestone win

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Ciarra Duffy scored 20 points and South Dakota beat No. 22 Missouri 74-61 on Saturday for the Coyotes' first road win over a Top 25 team in program history.

The Coyotes (10-1) won their eighth straight game, a streak that includes a November victory over then-No. 23 Iowa. Their only loss came at Drake, which briefly made the Top 25 after that.

South Dakota took the lead for good early in the third quarter when the Arens sisters — senior Allison and sophomore Monica — combined for eight points in a 10-0 run. Missouri cut a 13-point deficit to two on Sophie Cunningham's 3-pointer that capped 17-7 run over the first six minutes of the fourth quarter. But those were the Tigers' final points — they missed their last six shots — while the Coyotes finished on an 11-0 streak.

Monica Arens finished with 13 points and Allison Arens 10.

Cunningham scored 19 points with 11 rebounds to lead the Tigers (8-3), who had a five-game win streak snapped.

Missouri made 12 3-pointers, five more than the Coyotes, but were outscored 30-16 in the paint and outrebounded 41-34.

Aberdeen animal shelter hopes to raise \$1M for new facility

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — The Aberdeen Area Humane Society hopes to raise at least \$1 million for a new shelter and outdoor facility.

The current shelter was built in the 1980s, and manager Elaine Schaible told the American News the standards of care for animals have changed.

"This one has seen some better days," Schaible said. "You walk through six to seven doorways to get anywhere in the building."

Annie Stenvig, president of the humane society's board of directors, said the shelter's current building limits the nonprofit on how it cares for animals.

"One of the big challenges we have out at the shelter is when we intake new animals we don't have a really good place to keep them," Stenvig said.

The board hasn't decided on a design plan for the new facility, but Stenvig estimated that construction costs alone will be at least \$1 million.

"We would like to have maybe a community space where kids could come and read to the animals, have a better meet-and-greet area," Stenvig said. "Being able to provide a better outdoor space is also one of the goals. And it would give us a little bit more capacity."

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

South Dakota researcher working on fire-risk estimation tool

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's state fire meteorologist is part of a coalition using satellite technology to notify fire managers when fuels are abnormally dry.

Darren Clabo, a research scientist and instructor at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, is collaborating with colleagues from other scientific agencies including NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to create a tool called Fire Risk Estimation 2.0, or FiRE, the Rapid City Journal reported .

The tool analyzes drought, high-resolution fuel and precipitation conditions to produce a fire-danger assessment map that land managers and firefighters can monitor daily. The tool will first be put to use in Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota, but could become more widely used in coming years.

The device was first developed during the spring of 2017, several months before the Legion Lake fire burst out of Custer State Park in December 2017. Clabo said the second version of the tool shows potential to produce warnings about fuel conditions.

"The biggest concerns we have for monitoring wildfires is assessing the status of fuels," Clabo said. "Right now, it's really difficult to determine fuel dryness on a sub-county scale. The FiRE tool uses satellite data to give our first responders a leg up on suppressing fires as quickly as possible."

The device was funded with subsidies from the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information and NASA DEVELOP, with partnerships from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Legion Lake fire — the third-largest wildfire in Black Hills history — began on Dec. 11, 2017, when a tree fell onto an overhead electricity line in Custer State Park. There was no snow cover in the immediate area, and dry fire fuels in the form of dormant vegetation were among several factors that contributed to the fire's growth.

By the time the fire was fully contained on Dec. 19, 2017, it had spread out of Custer State Park into Wind Cave National Park and onto privately owned land.

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

South Dakota park attendance drops from 2017 record

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Officials say South Dakota state park attendance was down about 90,000 visitors this year from a record set in 2017.

The Rapid City Journal reports attendance for the more than 60 parks and recreation areas in South Dakota dropped from about 6.3 million in 2017 to about 6.2 million. Both numbers were taken through November of each year.

South Dakota's most popular state park, Custer State Park, saw an increase in attendance this year of about 30,000. More than 1.8 million people have visited Custer State Park in 2018.

The park also brought in nearly \$7 million in revenue for the state for the second consecutive year.

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

Kushner-linked firm targets richer areas in program for poor

By JEFF HORWITZ and STEPHEN BRAUN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A real estate investment firm founded by President Donald Trump's son-in-law and White House adviser Jared Kushner is betting big on the administration's Opportunity Zone tax breaks.

But New York-based Cadre isn't that interested in steering its investors to the poorest, most-downtrodden areas that the program seeks to revitalize.

Cadre tells investors in marketing materials that it doesn't plan to look for development deals in most of the Opportunity Zones because of their "unfavorable growth prospects."

Cadre says it'll target a "small subset" of zones where both populations and incomes are on the rise.

Kushner holds at least a \$25 million, nonmanagement stake in Cadre.

It's a high-profile example of how early investor interest in the program appears focused on wealthier zones that already have attracted plenty of investment.

Yellow vest protesters still block French traffic circles

PARIS (AP) — Yellow vest protesters are occupying dozens of traffic roundabouts in France, even as their movement for economic justice appears to be losing momentum on the fifth straight weekend of demonstrations.

Some protesters remained Sunday despite a call by Interior Minister Christophe Castaner to free the traffic roundabouts. Eight people have died in incidents tied to the yellow vest movement, mostly from traffic accidents linked to roads blocked by protesters.

On Saturday, protesters took to the streets in cities across France, including in Paris, but in far fewer numbers than on previous weekends.

The protesters take their name from the yellow safety vests French motorists carry in their vehicles. The protests began in November against fuel tax hikes but have morphed into a general expression of anger at the government of President Emmanuel Macron.

Investigations look at Trump's life from all angles

By CALVIN WOODWARD and JULIE PACE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Investigations now entangle Donald Trump's White House, campaign, transition, inauguration, charity and business. For Trump, the political, the personal and the deeply personal are all under examination.

Less than two years into Trump's presidency, his business associates, political advisers and family members are being probed, along with the practices of his late father. On Saturday, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke became the fourth Cabinet member to leave under an ethical cloud, having sparked 17 investigations into his actions on the job, by one watchdog's count.

All of this with the first special counsel investigation against a president in 20 years hanging over Trump's head, spinning out charges and strong-arming guilty pleas from underlings while keeping in suspense whether the president — "Individual 1" in prosecutor Robert Mueller's coded legalese — will end up accused of criminal behavior himself.

The scope of the scrutiny has shaped Trump's presidency, proving a steady distraction from his governing agenda. So far, much of it has been launched by federal prosecutors and government watchdogs that eschew partisanship. The intensity is certain to increase next year when Democrats assume control of the House and the subpoena power that comes with it.

Although Trump dismisses the investigations as politically motivated "witch hunts," his high-octane Twitter account frequently betrays just how consumed he is by the scrutiny. He's also said to watch hours of television coverage on milestone days in the investigations.

"It saps your energy, diverts your attention and you simply can't lead because your opponents are up in arms against you," Cal Jillson, a Southern Methodist University political scientist and historian, said of the scrutiny. "It weakens your friends and emboldens your enemies."

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Almost midway through his term, Trump is struggling to deliver on his central campaign promises. He may end the year without a Republican-led Congress giving him the \$5 billion he wants for a border wall. And he's previewed few legislative priorities for 2019.

Even if he had, it's unlikely the new Democratic House majority would have much incentive to help a president weakened by investigations rack up wins as his own re-election campaign approaches.

Perhaps not since Bill Clinton felt hounded by a "vast right wing conspiracy," as Hillary Clinton put it, has a president been under such duress from investigation.

This jeopardy has come with Trump's party in control of Congress and the Justice Department driving at least three separate criminal investigations. They are the Mueller probe looking into possible collusion, obstruction of justice or other wrongdoing in contacts between the Trump campaign and Russia; the New York campaign-finance case involving hush money paid to Trump's alleged lovers; and now a case from New York, first reported by The Wall Street Journal this past week, examining the finances and operations of Trump's inaugural committee and whether foreign interests made illegal payments to it.

Behind those matters is a battery of lawsuits or inquiries from state attorneys general and other parties tied mainly to Trump businesses.

At best, the investigations are overshadowing what has been positive economic news. At worst, the probes are a threat to the presidency, Trump's family and his business interests.

The deep diving will only grow in the new year when Democrats take over the House. They are expected to launch their own investigations and could pursue impeachment, though party leaders caution they could face a political backlash by taking that step.

Even if Trump avoids impeachment, the Democratic investigations will create headaches. Administration officials will be called to testify before Congress and lawmakers will seek a trove of documents, probably including Trump's tax returns, which he has refused to make public.

A bare-bones White House staff may struggle to keep up. A tally by the Brookings Institution finds more than 60 percent of Trump's top aides have left in the first two years, a turnover rate exceeding the previous five presidents. In addition, 10 Cabinet secretaries have departed, more than Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Clinton lost in two years. The shake-ups now have left Mick Mulvaney, Trump's budget chief, doing double duty indefinitely as the president's chief of staff.

That combination makes it hard to imagine a president effectively engaged in policy, even if — as in the case of Clinton — the drawn-out investigations lead to an impeachment that fails to remove the president.

"The modern presidency is extraordinarily complex and demanding so you need the president's full attention," Jillson says. "Where your attention should be, you're also thinking about meeting with your lawyers."

As the investigations mount, few Republicans have dissociated themselves publicly from Trump. But privately, some lawmakers do worry that the investigations will damage his re-election prospects and their own chances in 2020 House and Senate races.

The federal campaign finance probe has put GOP lawmakers in a particularly awkward position. Prosecutors — as well as Trump's longtime personal lawyer Michael Cohen and a tabloid company that has long been an ally — assert that Trump directed hush payments to keep women quiet about alleged affairs in the closing weeks of the 2016 campaign. Such a payment would violate campaign finance laws. Cohen was sentenced this past week to three years in prison.

Underscoring the balancing act for Republicans, outgoing Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah initially stated that he didn't much care about Trump being implicated in Cohen's crime, then thought better of his words.

"I made comments about allegations against the president that were irresponsible and a poor reflection on my lengthy record of dedication to the rule of law," Hatch said in a statement Friday.

Five people in Trump's orbit have pleaded guilty to charges in the continuing Mueller probe. Among them, Paul Manafort and Rick Gates were Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, for a time in Trump's presidential campaign. George Papadopoulos, a lower-level campaign adviser, was sentenced to 14 days in prison and is out. The others are Michael Flynn, who was Trump's first national security adviser in office and is to be sentenced Tuesday, and Cohen, who is expected to begin his sentence in March.

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In addition, the special counsel's office says Flynn, in giving 19 interviews and turning over a mountain of documents, has assisted in a criminal investigation that has yet to be revealed.

In other words, there's no end in sight.

Trump is also exposed to legal peril beyond that from federal prosecutors. Among the lawsuits or investigations:

—Democratic attorneys general in Maryland and the District of Columbia and congressional Democrats are challenging the Trump Organization's business transactions with foreign and state government interests, such as those at his Washington hotel, citing the constitutional ban on presidents taking payments from such sources without congressional consent.

—Summer Zervos, once a contestant on Trump's TV show, has sued Trump for defamation for accusing her of lying. She alleged in 2016 that he made unwelcome physical contact with her. He's failed several times to derail the case.

—New York tax officials are looking into whether Trump or his charitable foundation misrepresented tax liability. In addition, the New York tax department said it is "vigorously pursuing all appropriate avenues of investigation" after a New York Times report found Trump and his family, going back to transactions by his father, Fred Trump, cheated on taxes for decades. The report said Trump received the equivalent today of at least \$413 million from his father, much of it through dubious tax maneuvers. Trump called the report "a very old, boring and often told hit piece on me."

—New York authorities allege in a lawsuit that Trump illegally tapped his charitable Trump Foundation to settle legal disputes, help his campaign for president and cover personal and business expenses, including the purchase of a life-size portrait of himself for \$10,000.

Stanley Renshon, political scientist at the City University of New York and a psychoanalyst, says all of that adds up to a lot of people, not just the left, "trying to make his presidency untenable."

It is, perhaps, vaster than the right-wing "conspiracy" the Clintons endured, Renshon says. "I call it the everybody conspiracy."

Nations at climate talks back universal emissions rules

By **FRANK JORDANS, Associated Press**

KATOWICE, Poland (AP) — Nearly 200 countries at the U.N. climate talks have agreed upon universal, transparent rules on how nations can cut greenhouse gas emissions and curb global warming, putting the principles of the 2015 Paris climate accord into action.

But to the frustration of environmentalists and a group of countries who were urging more ambitious climate goals, negotiators on Saturday delayed decisions on two other climate issues until next year in an effort to get a deal on them.

Michal Kurtyka, the Polish official chairing the talks, says while each individual country would likely find some parts of the agreement it didn't like, efforts had been made to balance the interests of all parties.

He says "we will all have to give in order to gain."

Judge's ruling on 'Obamacare' poses new problems for GOP

By **RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge's ruling that the Obama health law is unconstitutional has landed like a stink bomb among Republicans, who've seen the politics of health care flip as Americans increasingly value the overhaul's core parts, including protections for pre-existing medical conditions and Medicaid for more low-income people.

While the decision by the Republican-appointed judge in Texas was sweeping, it has little immediate practical impact because the Affordable Care Act remains in place while the legal battle continues, possibly to the Supreme Court.

HealthCare.gov, the government's site for signing up, was taking applications Saturday, the deadline in most states for enrolling for coverage next year, and those benefits will take effect as scheduled Jan.

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1. Medicaid expansion will proceed in Virginia, one of the latest states to accept that option. Employers will still be required to cover the young adult children of workers, and Medicare recipients will still get discounted prescription drugs.

But Republicans, still stinging from their loss of the House in the midterm elections, are facing a fresh political quandary after U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor said the entire 2010 health law was invalid.

Warnings about the Texas lawsuit were part of the political narrative behind Democrats' electoral gains. Health care was the top issue for about one-fourth of voters in the November election, ahead of immigration and jobs and the economy, according to VoteCast, a nationwide survey for The Associated Press. Those most concerned with health care supported Democrats overwhelmingly.

In his ruling, O'Connor reasoned that the body of the law could not be surgically separated from its now-meaningless requirement for people to have health insurance.

"On the assumption that the Supreme Court upholds, we will get great, great health care for our people," President Donald Trump told reporters during a visit Saturday to Arlington National Cemetery. "We'll have to sit down with the Democrats to do it, but I'm sure they want to do it also."

Economist Gail Wilensky, who oversaw the Medicare program for President George H.W. Bush, said the state attorneys general from GOP strongholds who filed the lawsuit really weren't very considerate of their fellow Republicans.

"The fact that they could cause their fellow Republicans harm did not seem to bother them," said Wilensky, a critic of President Barack Obama's signature domestic achievement.

"The people who raised it are a bunch of guys who don't have serious election issues, mostly from states where saber-rattling against the ACA is fine," she added. "How many elections do you have to get battered before you find another issue?"

Douglas Holtz-Eakin, top policy adviser to Republican John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign, said he was struck by the relative silence from top Republicans after the ruling issued.

A prominent example: "The House was not party to this suit, and we are reviewing the ruling and its impact," said AshLee Strong, spokeswoman for House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

Republicans are "going to have to figure out what to do," Holtz-Eakin said. "If it's invalidated by the courts, it's not ... 'We're going to do it our way.' They're going to have to get together with the Democrats in the House."

The GOP's failed effort last year to repeal the law showed there's no consensus within the party itself.

Trump tweeted Friday night that "Congress must pass a STRONG law that provides GREAT healthcare and protects pre-existing conditions."

"Get it done!" he told Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who is expected to be speaker in January. But Trump had no plan of his own to offer in the 2017 "repeal and replace" debate.

Two top House Republicans issued diverging statements.

Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California said "Obamacare is a broken law," but added, "I am committed to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make sure America's healthcare system works for all Americans."

The third-ranking GOP leader, Louisiana Rep. Steve Scalise, praised the judge's ruling and made no mention of working with Democrats, whom he accused of "running a fear-mongering campaign" to win control of the House last month.

The chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, said that if the law is ultimately overturned, then members of Congress from both parties should start over, working together. He urged maintaining provisions such as protections for pre-existing medical conditions, no lifetime dollar limits on insurance coverage, and allowing young adults to stay on parental coverage until age 26.

Democrats were united in condemning the ruling.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York said voters will remember. "What will stand is Republican ownership of such a harmful and disastrous lawsuit," Schumer tweeted.

The next chapter in the legal case could take months to play out.

A coalition of Democratic state officials led by California Attorney General Xavier Becerra will appeal O'Connor's decision, most likely to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit in New Orleans.

"The legal merits of the case are frivolous," said University of Michigan law professor Nicholas Bagley. "The notion that the unconstitutionality of an unenforceable mandate somehow requires toppling the entire ACA is bonkers." Bagley supports the law generally, but has been critical of how it has been put into effect.

Loyalty among attributes Mulvaney brings to White House job

By JILL COLVIN, JONATHAN LEMIRE and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Demonstrated loyalty. Political savvy. Personal rapport.

And, as a bonus, a decent golf game.

President Donald Trump had long made clear the qualities he was looking for in his next chief of staff. And when his first pick turned him down, sparking a frantic search, the president turned to the man he'd already tapped for two previous jobs in his administration: Mick Mulvaney, a blunt, fast-talking former South Carolina congressman turned budget chief who had told Trump months ago he wanted the job.

It was an obvious choice to many outside the administration that reflects the challenges ahead: Trump will soon be fighting for re-election as he contends with a House controlled by Democrats eager to use their new subpoena power to investigate his administration and business dealings. And the Russia investigation continues, with the drip-drip of new allegations mounting daily.

But for Trump, a notoriously mercurial president who has already cycled through two chiefs of staffs in as many years, the decision was as much about current appearances as future negotiations: Spurned by several front-runners and angry over the growing narrative that he couldn't find someone to take the job, Trump made the offer Friday afternoon at a meeting that had originally been scheduled to discuss the ongoing budget showdown that threatens a holiday shutdown. Mulvaney accepted — and even kept his current position as director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Trump had made clear to confidantes that, for his third chief of staff, he wanted someone that he liked personally and who would not try to rein him in as John Kelly had during the first months of his soon-to-sour tenure. Trump missed the more freewheeling feel of the Oval Office under his first chief of staff, Reince Priebus, and wanted someone he could get along with — someone he could trade gossip with, who would complain along with him about his favorite subject, the "fake news," as well as someone with the political savvy he felt Kelly lacked.

But Mulvaney was not always fond of Trump. At a November 2016 event in South Carolina, Mulvaney said "Do I like Donald Trump? No" but added that he was a better choice for president than Hillary Clinton.

The then-congressman, who was captured on video unearthed by The Daily Beast on Saturday, added that he was backing Trump "as enthusiastically as I can, given the fact that I think he's a terrible human being."

Mulvaney "will let Trump be Trump," Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., who knows both men well, said in an interview Saturday. While other top advisers in the administration have tried to steer the president's policies, Paul said, Mulvaney gets Trump and shares some of his instincts on both domestic and a non-interventionist foreign policy.

Mulvaney's "not going to squash" Trump's instincts, said Paul, who welcomed the congressman as an early supporter of his own libertarian-leaning presidential bid in 2015.

Though Mulvaney had sent mixed public signals in recent weeks as to whether he wanted the chief of staff position, he previously expressed to Trump that he wanted the job. Over a dinner last summer during a bout of deliberations about Kelly's future, Mulvaney told Trump that was interested and vowed to manage the staff and not the president, an answer Trump liked, according to a White House official and a person familiar with the dinner who were not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations.

Having grown increasingly weary of aides who would tell him no, Trump felt aligned with the man he had appointed OMB director. He also had become personally fond of Mulvaney as the two met to discuss

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budget matters and played golf together. The president, who has little patience for lengthy briefings, also appreciated the colorful maps and graphics the budget director would use to highlight his presentations. And he considered Mulvaney a natural on television.

During one particularly memorable televised Cabinet meeting, Mulvaney discussed his efforts to overhaul government regulation by explaining, in dramatic exasperation, that the Food and Drug Administration regulates cheese pizza, but not if one adds pepperoni, and that an open-face roast beef sandwich comes under different jurisdiction than one with two slices of bread.

"This is stupid," said Mulvaney at the end of his colorful monologue.

Trump loved the performance.

"That was incredibly said," Trump marveled, telling the assembled press, "I think you should put that on television, not what I said." For Trump, who rarely likes to cede the spotlight, it was an especially notable comment.

Mulvaney, who was elected to Congress in the 2010 tea-party wave, had also shown a willingness to put aside his own, long-held principles in service of Trump. In Congress, he had been a staunch fiscal conservative who helped found the hard-right House Freedom Caucus and railed against deficits. But at OMB, he presided over a growing federal deficit as Trump boosted defense spending and pushed steep tax cuts.

Indeed, in February Mulvaney told a congressional committee that, as a member of Congress, he probably wouldn't have voted for the budget proposal he was presenting.

"But I'm the director of the Office of Management and Budget," he said, "and my job is to fund the president's priorities, which is exactly what we did."

After he was announced as budget director, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi called Mulvaney a "radical" who had consistently voted to cut Medicare benefits and was a supporter of government shutdowns in 2013 and 2015 over spending for the health care law and Planned Parenthood.

Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill added, "It sends a clear message that at this critical time the President would choose to elevate the architect of the last Republican government shutdown."

Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer on Friday said in a tweet that Trump's decision to elevate Mulvaney to the chief of staff role was "Very troubling (but not surprising!)"

But Jonathan Slemrod, who ran Mulvaney's outreach to Congress, said Mulvaney has the ability to work on Capitol Hill and was a skilled manager who could run a large organization.

"Mick has stronger relationships on the Hill than the press wants to write," Slemrod said. "He's willing to compromise. He's willing to work with both sides."

Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, another founder of the House Freedom Caucus, also downplayed any friction between Mulvaney and rank-and-file Republicans, saying there has been nothing that needed smoothing over.

"Mick is a great pick," Jordan said, and will "do an outstanding job."

It is unclear how extensively Mulvaney plans to reorganize the White House. In a letter to OMB staff Saturday afternoon obtained by The Associated Press, Mulvaney said that four staffers — including his chief of staff, Emma Doyle — would be moving over to the West Wing when he begins, effective Jan. 2.

"When I got here almost two years ago, I told everyone that I had one goal, one motto, one sort of mission statement for OMB: quiet competence. That is, after all, what OMB is all about," he said in the letter. "I plan to take this motto with me as I work to fill the shoes of General Kelly, who provided an outstanding service to the President and the American people."

Follow Colvin, Lemire and Mascaro on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj>, <https://twitter.com/JonLemire> and <https://twitter.com/LisaMascaro>

Zinke resigns as interior secretary amid numerous probes

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, MATTHEW BROWN and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, facing federal investigations into his travel, political activity and potential conflicts of interest, will be leaving the administration at year's end, President Donald Trump said Saturday. In his resignation letter, obtained by The Associated Press, Zinke said "vicious and politically motivated attacks" against him had "created an unfortunate distraction" in fulfilling the agency's mission.

Trump, in tweeting Zinke's departure, said the former Montana congressman "accomplished much during his tenure" and that a replacement would be announced next week. The Cabinet post requires Senate confirmation.

Zinke is leaving weeks before Democrats take control of the House, a shift in power that promises to sharpen the probes into his conduct. His departure comes amid a staff shake-up as Trump heads into his third year in office facing increased legal exposure due to intensifying investigations into his campaign, business, foundation and administration.

Zinke's resignation letter, obtained from a Zinke aide on Saturday, cites what he calls "meritless and false claims" and says that "to some, truth no longer matters."

The letter, dated Saturday, said Zinke's last day would be Jan. 2. It was not clear whether Zinke had already submitted the letter when Trump tweeted.

Zinke, 57, played a leading part in Trump's efforts to roll back federal environmental regulations and promote domestic energy development. He drew attention from his first day on the job, when he mounted a roan gelding to ride across Washington's National Mall to the Department of Interior.

Zinke had remained an ardent promoter of both missions, and his own macho image, despite growing talk that he had lost Trump's favor. On Tuesday, Zinke appeared on stage at an Environmental Protection Agency ceremony for a rollback on water regulations. Mentioning his background as a Navy SEAL at least twice, he led the audience in a round of applause for the U.S. oil and gas industry.

Trump never established a deep personal connection with Zinke but appreciated how he stood tall against criticisms from environmental groups as he worked to roll back protections. But the White House concluded in recent weeks that Zinke was likely the Cabinet member most vulnerable to investigations led by newly empowered Democrats in Congress, according to an administration official not authorized to publicly discuss personnel matters who spoke on condition of anonymity.

His tenure was temporarily extended as Interior helped with the response to California wildfires and the West Wing was consumed with speculation over the future of chief of staff John Kelly. But White House officials pressured him to resign, the official said, which he did after his department's Christmas party on Thursday night. On Saturday night, hours after his resignation became public, Zinke was spotted at the White House for another holiday party, the Congressional Ball.

As interior secretary, Zinke pushed to develop oil, natural gas and coal beneath public lands in line with the administration's business-friendly aims. But he has been dogged by ethics probes, including one centered on a Montana land deal involving a foundation he created and the chairman of an energy services company, Halliburton, that does business with the Interior Department.

Investigators also are reviewing Zinke's decision to block two tribes from opening a casino in Connecticut and his redrawing of boundaries to shrink a Utah national monument. Zinke has denied wrongdoing.

The Associated Press reported last month that the department's internal watchdog had referred an investigation of Zinke to the Justice Department.

Zinke's travels with his wife, Lola Zinke, also had come under scrutiny.

Interior's inspector general's office said Zinke allowed his wife to ride in government vehicles with him despite a department policy that prohibits nongovernment officials from doing so. The report also said the department spent more than \$25,000 to provide security for the couple when they took a vacation to Turkey and Greece.

Trump told reporters this fall he was evaluating Zinke's future in the administration in light of the al-

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legations and offered a lukewarm vote of confidence. Zinke in November denied he already was hunting for his next job.

"I enjoy working for the president," he told a Montana radio station. "Now, If you do your job, he supports you."

"I think I'm probably going to be the commander of space command," Zinke said. "How's that one?"

Zinke outlasted EPA chief Scott Pruitt, another enthusiastic advocate of Trump's business-friendly way of governing who lost favor with Trump amid ethics scandals. Pruitt resigned in July. Trump's first Health and Human Services secretary, Tom Price, also resigned under a cloud of ethical questions.

Democratic leaders in Congress were scathing in response to the news that Zinke was leaving as well.

"Ryan Zinke was one of the most toxic members of the cabinet in the way he treated our environment, our precious public lands, and the way he treated the govt like it was his personal honey pot," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of the New York tweeted Saturday. "The swamp cabinet will be a little less foul without him."

House Minority Leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi, who is set to become speaker in January, said Zinke had "been a shameless handmaiden for the special interests" and his "staggering ethical abuses have delivered a serious and lasting blow to America's public lands, environment, clean air and clean water."

Arizona Rep. Raul Grijalva, the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, had warned that after Democrats took control of the House they intended to call Zinke to testify on his ethics issues.

Grijalva spokesman Adam Sarvana said Saturday that committee leaders still intended to ask for Zinke's testimony. "It's safe to say that Citizen Zinke may be leaving, but real oversight of former Secretary Zinke has not even started," Sarvana said in an email.

Earlier this month, Zinke unleashed a jarring personal attack on Grijalva, tweeting, "It's hard for him to think straight from the bottom of the bottle."

Zinke got a warmer send-off from Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, head of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, who said in a statement that he had been a "strong partner for Western states."

Under Zinke's watch, the Interior Department moved to auction off more oil leases, ended a moratorium on new sales of federally owned coal, and repealed mandates governing drilling. Zinke's focus on the president's energy agenda was cheered by oil, gas and mining advocates, who credit the administration with seeking to balance conservation with development on public lands. But his tenure was denounced by most conservation groups.

"Zinke will go down as the worst Interior secretary in history," said Kieran Suckling, executive director of the Center for Biological Diversity, in a statement released Saturday. "His slash-and-burn approach was absolutely destructive for public lands and wildlife. Allowing David Bernhardt to continue to call the shots will still be just as ugly. Different people, same appetite for greed and profit."

Bernhardt, the deputy secretary, is in line to lead the Interior Department on an interim basis. He has spent years in Washington as a lobbyist for the oil and gas industry and has deep ties to Republican politicians and conservative interest groups.

Two outgoing Republican congressmen are said to be interested in the job.

Rep. Raul Labrador of Idaho planned to go to the White House on Saturday to discuss the job with officials, said a GOP congressional aide who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe Labrador's private plans. Labrador, 51, a member of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, who is retiring from Congress after eight years. He lost a bid for his state's GOP gubernatorial nomination last spring.

Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Calif., is also interested in Zinke's job, according to another Republican congressional aide who described the situation only on condition of anonymity. The aide said the White House has made inquiries about Denham to Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., who will be House minority leader next year. Denham, 51, has been involved in water issues in California. He lost his bid for re-election last month.

As head of Interior, Zinke made plans to realign the agency's bureaucracy, trimming the equivalent of 4,600 jobs, about 7 percent of its workforce. He also proposed a massive overhaul that would have moved

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decision-making out of Washington, relocating headquarters staff to Western states at a cost of \$17.5 million. Zinke was a one-term congressman when Trump selected him to join his incoming Cabinet in December 2016.

An early Trump supporter, Zinke is close to the president's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., and publicly expressed his interest in a Cabinet post when Trump visited Montana in May 2016.

Brown reported from Red Lodge, Montana. Associated Press writers Matthew Daly and Alan Fram in Washington contributed to this report.

Family of migrant girl disputes official story on her death

By The Associated Press

The family of a 7-year-old Guatemalan girl who died in U.S. Border Patrol custody is disputing an account from U.S. officials who said she had not been given food or water for days.

In a statement released by lawyers, the parents of Jakelin Caal said the girl had been given food and water and appeared to be in good health as she traveled through Mexico with her father, 29-year-old Nery Gilberto Caal Cuz. The family added that Jakelin had not been traveling through the desert for days before she was taken into custody.

Tekandi Paniagua, the Guatemalan consul in Del Rio, Texas, told The Associated Press that he spoke with the Jakelin's father. The consul said Nery Caal told him the group they were traveling with was dropped off in Mexico about a 90-minute walk from the border.

Border Patrol officials did not immediately respond to the family's comments.

The family's statement was released Saturday during a news conference in El Paso, Texas, at an immigrant shelter where Jakelin's father is staying. Her family did not attend and has asked for privacy.

Jakelin and her father were seeking asylum in the U.S. and were among a large group of migrants arrested Dec. 6 near a remote border crossing in New Mexico. Hours later they were placed on a bus to the nearest Border Patrol station, but Jakelin began vomiting and eventually stopped breathing. She later died at a Texas hospital.

Border Patrol officials on Friday said agents did everything they could to save the girl but that she had not had food or water for days. They added that an initial screening showed no evidence of health problems, and that her father had signed a form indicating she was in good health.

But the family took issue with that form, which was in English, a language her father doesn't speak or read. He communicated with border agents in Spanish but he primarily speaks the Mayan Q'eqchi' language.

"It is unacceptable for any government agency to have persons in custody sign documents in a language that they clearly do not understand," the statement said.

Jakelin's family is urging authorities to conduct an "objective and thorough" investigation into the death and to determine whether officials met standards for the arrest and custody of children.

A cause of death has not yet been released. A private prayer service was held in Texas on Friday so her father could see Jakelin's body before it is taken to Guatemala, said Ruben Garcia, director of the Annunciation House shelter where her father is staying.

"All of us were moved by the depth of his faith and his trust that God's hand is in all of this," Garcia said.

Family members in Guatemala said Caal decided to migrate with his favorite child to earn money he could send back home. Jakelin's mother and three siblings remained in San Antonio Secortez, a village of about 420 inhabitants.

Tear gas in Paris, but fewer protesters and bigger demands

By ELAINE GANLEY, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A protest movement that has brought the French into the streets for five Saturdays in a row in a major challenge to President Emmanuel Macron lost momentum in its latest nationwide outcry, but the smaller crowds pushed fervently for one of their expanding demands, a citizen's referendum to

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help define policy.

The most resonant call Saturday was a leap from the demand for relief from fuel tax hikes that gave birth to the protest in mid-November by rank-and-file French wearing yellow safety vests to slow vehicles at the traffic circles that dot France's countryside.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner announced in a tweet the death of an eighth person since the start of the protests, implying it occurred at a traffic circle, some of which have been manned day and night by protesters.

"Traffic circles must be freed and the security of all must again become the rule," he said, in a new effort to tamp down a movement that appears to be losing momentum.

The government put 69,000 security forces into the streets and called for calm after the last two Saturdays of major violence, including vandalization of the outside and inside of the Arc de Triomphe, which cradles the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

"Protesting is a right. So let's know how to exercise it," the French government tweeted.

Some 8,000 police, with 14 armored vehicles and water cannons, were out anew in Paris to guard against property destruction and looting that marred the two previous protests.

They fired rounds of tear gas into crowds on the famed Champs-Elysees, where chic shops and restaurants were boarded up, and at dusk turned water on protesters bundled against frigid weather to disperse them.

Police said 115 people were taken into custody in Paris, most for banding together to commit acts of violence. Seven people were slightly injured. Police in riot gear were seen tackling one protester and dragging him off the Champs-Elysees.

Police estimate Paris protesters numbered 3,000 maximum — less than half the number a week ago — and the sharp downturn in violence was reflected in demonstrations across the country.

But the smaller crowds were fervent — and more demanding, with signs carried high or scrawled on the backs of vests calling for a referendum system that would let citizens directly impose national policies.

Among the yellow vests on the Champs-Elysees was Francis Queruel, a 70-year-old retiree from the small town of Goussainville, about 35 miles (60 kilometers) southwest of Paris, who said he was angered by "the violence of money," whereby the rich thrive and the rest are squeezed.

"There are 9 million poor in France and people who work but have no money at the end of the month to eat," said Queruel. While he said he has a good pension at 3,600 euros a month, he complained it's not indexed to the cost of living. Above all, Queruel worries for his grown children and the French who can't make ends meet.

"When you're hungry, it's terrible," said Queruel. "People were silent for a long time and now it's the eruption of a volcano," he said.

Pricillia Ludosky, one of several figures credited with helping trigger the movement, spoke to hundreds of people filling the square at the Paris Opera house and denounced "colossal fiscal oppression ... while a small elite constantly escapes paying taxes."

Without any clear leadership, the yellow vest movement has attracted a wide range of disgruntled people across France's political spectrum, including political parties trying to win new backers.

On Monday, Macron, whose popularity is plummeting, offered a package of measures in a bid to placate protesters, including a 100-euro monthly increase to the minimum wage. However, he refused to reinstate a wealth tax he slashed at the start of his presidency, a move that enforced a perception that he is the "president of the rich."

Lionel Fraisse, 63, a retired worker for the state agency that runs Metros and suburban trains, said the measures were simply "to put the people to sleep."

Fraisse, who arrived from the Essonne region south of Paris with former colleagues, said what he wants most is for Macron "to validate his legitimacy" with a referendum.

Until then, "the movement must lose neither its vigor nor its legitimacy," he said.

Elena Becatoros and Raphael Satter in Paris contributed to this report.

For more coverage of France's yellow vest protest movement, go to: <https://www.apnews.com/France-Protests>

Ukraine Orthodox leaders approve break with Russian church

By YURAS KARMANAU and EFREM LUKATSKY, Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian Orthodox leaders on Saturday approved the creation of a unified church independent of the Moscow Patriarchate and elected a leader to head that new church — a move that could exponentially raise tensions with neighboring Russia.

The vote, held at a closed-door synod in Kiev's St. Sophia Cathedral, is the latest in a series of confrontations between Ukraine and authorities in Russia, including President Vladimir Putin's government. Ahead of the vote, the Russian Orthodox Church called on the United Nations, the leaders of Germany and France, the pope and other spiritual leaders to protect Orthodox believers in Ukraine.

The leader of the new autocephalous Ukrainian Orthodox Church will be Metropolitan Epiphanius, a 39-year-old bishop from the Kiev Patriarchate.

"God heard our appeals and gave us this anticipated unity," Epiphanius told a crowd of thousands who had gathered outside the cathedral on Saturday to hear the news. He stressed that the new church's doors would be open to all, and encouraged Ukrainians to rally behind it.

Still spiritual leaders attending Saturday's synod couched their efforts to create an independent church in patriotic rhetoric. Father Sergei Dmitriev said — given Ukraine's ongoing conflicts with Russia — "we should have our own church, not an agent of the Kremlin in Ukraine."

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, who has made the creation of a new church a key campaign issue, attended the synod Saturday as a non-voting observer.

"Ukraine was not, is not, and will not be the canonical territory of the Russian church," Poroshenko told the gathering, adding that creating an independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church was now a matter of national security.

"This is a question of Ukrainian statehood," Poroshenko said. "We are seizing spiritual independence, which can be likened to political independence. We are breaking the chains that tie us to the (Russian) empire."

Representatives of Ukraine's three Orthodox Churches attended the synod in Kiev, but only two from the branch loyal to Moscow showed up. One Russian bishop — Metropolitan Hilarion in Volokolamsk — on Saturday compared those two representatives of the Moscow-backed church to Judas, the biblical betrayer of Jesus.

The newly formed community is expected to receive independence from the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Istanbul-based institution considered the so-called "first among equals" of leaders of the world's Orthodox Churches.

Relations between Ukraine and Russia have been damaged by Russia's 2014 annexation of the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea and its support for armed separatists fighting the government in eastern Ukraine. The church schism and a Nov. 25 naval clash in the Black Sea in which Russia seized three Ukrainian ships and detained 24 Ukrainian crewmen have caused them to deteriorate further.

Saturday's religious rupture from the Russian Orthodox Church is a potent — possibly explosive — mix of politics, religious faith and national identity.

Since the late 1600s, the Orthodox Church in Ukraine had been a wing of the Russian Orthodox Church rather than being ecclesiastically independent. Many Ukrainians, however, resented the implication that Ukraine was a vassal of Russia.

The move Saturday raises deep concerns about what will happen to the approximately 12,000 churches in Ukraine that were under the Moscow Patriarchate.

In recent years, about 50 churches in Ukraine under the Moscow Patriarchate have been forcibly seized and transferred to the Kiev Patriarchate, according to Metropolitan Antony Pakanich.

Poroshenko said Saturday he would travel with Epiphanius to Istanbul in January to receive a Tomos

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— an official document — from the head of global Orthodoxy that grants the new church independence. The Ukrainian leader promised “to respect those who decide, for one reason or another,” to remain with the Ukrainian branch of the Russian Orthodox Church — and also promised to protect those who choose to leave the Moscow Patriarchate and join the new church.

A spokesman for Patriarch Kirill, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, vowed Saturday that the Moscow Patriarchate will continue to work in Ukraine despite the creation of the new independent church.

Ukrainian authorities have sought to portray Russian Orthodox priests in Ukraine as supporting Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine, claims that the clerics have rejected.

Dmitriev, a Ukrainian army priest, was once loyal to the Moscow Patriarchate but changed his allegiance to the Kiev Patriarchate after the Russian-affiliated church began refusing to hold funerals for Ukrainian soldiers who died fighting in eastern Ukraine.

As church tensions have grown, Ukraine’s Security Service has searched Russian Orthodox churches in Ukraine and the homes of Russian Orthodox priests in several Ukrainian cities. The agency also has summoned dozens of priests in for questioning.

Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny, who has from time to time exhibited nationalist sympathies, lashed out at Putin for Ukraine’s bid for religious autonomy.

“What was forged over centuries was destroyed by Putin and his idiots in four years,” Navalny wrote on Twitter. “Putin is an enemy of the Russian world.”

Karmanau reported from Minsk, Belarus. Mathew Bodner contributed from Moscow.

Australia recognizes west Jerusalem as Israel’s capital

SYDNEY (AP) — Australia has decided to formally recognize west Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, but won’t move its embassy until there’s a peace settlement between Israel and the Palestinians, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced Saturday.

Morrison said in a speech that Australia would recognize east Jerusalem as Palestine’s capital only after a settlement has been reached on a two-state solution. The Australian Embassy won’t be moved from Tel Aviv until such a time, he said.

While the embassy move is delayed, Morrison said his government would establish a defense and trade office in Jerusalem and would also start looking for an appropriate site for the embassy.

“The Australian government has decided that Australia now recognizes west Jerusalem, as the seat of the Knesset and many of the institutions of government, is the capital of Israel,” Morrison said.

He said the decision respects both a commitment to a two-state solution and long-standing respect for relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Australia becomes the third country to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, following the U.S. and Guatemala.

Unlike its predecessors, however, Australia recognized only the western part of the city. The move, therefore, is unlikely to please either side entirely.

For the Palestinians, it offers a partial resolution to an issue that they believe should be resolved through negotiations. That decision is softened, though, by recognizing their claim to east Jerusalem.

The Israelis welcome recognition of Jerusalem as their capital, but the Australian decision falls far short of their claim to all of the city. Refusing to include east Jerusalem, home to the city’s most important religious sites, is likely to upset Israeli nationalists who dominate Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s coalition.

Israel’s foreign ministry commended Australia’s move as “a step in the right direction.” In a statement, it also praised the Australian government’s stance against anti-Semitism and its pro-Israel position at the U.N.

Senior Palestinian official Saeb Erekat slammed Australia’s “irresponsible policies” that led to the recognition.

“The policies of this Australian administration have done nothing to advance the two-state solution,” Erekat said in a statement, stressing the Palestinian view that the holy city remains a final-status issue in

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Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, which have run aground.

Morrison had earlier floated the idea that Australia may follow the contentious U.S. move of relocating its embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv, but it was seen by many Australians as a political stunt. Critics called it a cynical attempt to win votes in a by-election in October for a Sydney seat with a high Jewish population.

The consideration had sparked backlash from Muslim-majority Indonesia and Malaysia, threatening a free trade deal that has now been delayed.

Opposition leader Bill Shorten said the decision to recognize west Jerusalem as Israel's capital but not move the embassy there was a "humiliating backdown" from the October by-election campaign.

"What I'm worried is that Mr. Morrison put his political interest ahead of our national interest," Shorten told reporters.

Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed it in a move that is not internationally recognized. Israel considers east Jerusalem an indivisible part of its capital, while the Palestinians seek the area, home to the city's most sensitive holy sites, as the capital of a future state.

Associated Press writers Josef Federman in Jerusalem and Fares Akram in Gaza City, Gaza Strip, contributed to this report.

Wisconsin, Michigan Republicans enact lame-duck limits

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

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Republicans in Wisconsin and Michigan enacted last-minute limits on Democratic power Friday, with outgoing GOP governors in both Upper Midwest states signing measures protecting their priorities before leaving office in less than a month.

Democrats derided the moves as desperate power grabs, while Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder downplayed the scope of their actions while defending their rights to do it.

"There's a lot of hype and hysteria, particularly in the national media, implying this is a power shift. It's not," Walker said before signing bills that weaken powers of the incoming Democratic governor and attorney general and limit early voting to two weeks before an election.

The push in both states mirrors tactics employed by North Carolina Republicans in 2016.

Snyder signed measures to significantly scale back citizen-initiated measures to raise Michigan's minimum wage and require paid sick leave for workers, finalizing an unprecedented Republican-backed legislative maneuver that opponents blasted as shameful.

To prevent minimum wage and earned sick time initiatives from going to voters last month, GOP lawmakers approved them in September. That allowed them to more easily alter the measures with simple majority votes rather than the three-fourths support that would have been needed if voters had passed the proposals.

The tactic — never done before — was pushed by the business community as necessary to avoid jeopardizing the economy. But it was criticized as an unconstitutional attack on voters' will at a time Republicans in Michigan are trying to dilute the powers of incoming elected Democrats.

Snyder signed the bills in private and issued a statement calling them a "good balance" between what the ballot drives proposed and what legislators drafted initially.

"They address a number of difficulties for job providers while still ensuring paid medical leave benefits and increased minimum-wage incomes for many Michiganders," he said.

Walker traveled 130 miles from his Capitol office to sign the bills in Green Bay, a more conservative city far from the liberal capital of Madison where protesters converged on the Capitol to voice opposition to the lame-duck legislative session two weeks ago.

Just two hours later, a group run by former Democratic U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced it planned legal action to block the limitation on early voting.

Members of both parties, including Democratic Gov.-elect Tony Evers and former Republican Gov. Scott McCallum, urged Walker to reject the legislation. Evers accused Walker of ignoring and overriding the will

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of the people by signing the bills into law.

"People will remember he took a stand that was not reflective of this last election," Evers said. "I will be reviewing our options and do everything we can to make sure the people of this state are not ignored or overlooked."

Walker, speaking after he signed the bills, brushed aside what he called "high-pitched hysteria" from critics of the legislation. He said his legacy will be the record he left behind that includes all-but eliminating collective bargaining for public workers, not the lame-duck measures.

Walker's signing of the bills came a day after he announced a \$28 million incentive package to keep open a Kimberly-Clark Corp. plant in northeast Wisconsin. One of the lame-duck bills would prevent Evers from making such a deal, instead requiring the Legislature's budget committee to sign off.

In Michigan, Democratic state Rep. Christine Greig blasted Snyder.

"With a flick of his lame-duck pen, Gov. Snyder chose to rob the people of Michigan of the strong paycheck and good benefits they deserve," she said in a statement. "It is shameful that this governor, who is just counting down the days to the end of his tenure, would use this opportunity to hurt the people of Michigan one last time."

Eggert reported from Lansing, Michigan.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Dec. 16, the 350th day of 2018. There are 15 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 16, 1944, the World War II Battle of the Bulge began as German forces launched a surprise attack against Allied forces through the Ardennes Forest in Belgium and Luxembourg (the Allies were eventually able to turn the Germans back).

On this date:

In 1773, the Boston Tea Party took place as American colonists boarded a British ship and dumped more than 300 chests of tea into Boston Harbor to protest tea taxes.

In 1905, the entertainment trade publication Variety came out with its first weekly issue.

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman proclaimed a national state of emergency in order to fight "world conquest by Communist imperialism."

In 1960, 134 people were killed when a United Air Lines DC-8 and a TWA Super Constellation collided over New York City.

In 1976, the government halted its swine flu vaccination program following reports of paralysis apparently linked to the vaccine.

In 1980, Harland Sanders, founder of the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant chain, died in Shelbyville, Kentucky, at age 90.

In 1982, Environmental Protection Agency head Anne M. Gorsuch became the first Cabinet-level officer to be cited for contempt of Congress for refusing to submit documents requested by a congressional committee.

In 1985, at services in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, offered condolences to families of 248 soldiers killed in the crash of a chartered plane in Newfoundland.

In 1991, the U.N. General Assembly rescinded its 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism by a vote of 111-25.

In 2000, President-elect George W. Bush selected Colin Powell to become the first African-American secretary of state.

In 2001, after nine weeks of fighting, Afghan militia leaders claimed control of the last mountain bastion of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida fighters, but bin Laden himself was nowhere to be seen.

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In 2012, President Barack Obama visited Newtown, Connecticut, the scene of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre; after meeting privately with victims' families, the president told an evening vigil he would use "whatever power" he had to prevent future shootings.

Ten years ago: President-elect Barack Obama announced his choice of Arne Duncan, the head of the Chicago school system, to be his education secretary. The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to authorize nations to conduct land and air attacks on pirate bases on the coast of Somalia. The Cleveland Clinic announced its surgeons had performed the nation's first near-total face transplant on a severely disfigured woman. (The woman, Connie Culp, went public with her identity in May 2009.) Police in Hollywood, Fla., closed their investigation into the 1981 abduction-slaying of 6-year-old Adam Walsh, saying a serial killer who'd died more than a decade earlier in prison, Ottis Toole, was responsible.

Five years ago: In the first ruling of its kind, U.S. District Court Judge Richard Leon declared that the National Security Agency's bulk collection of Americans' telephone records likely violated the Constitution's ban on unreasonable search. Ray Price, 87, one of country music's most popular and influential singers and bandleaders, died in Mount Pleasant, Texas.

One year ago: Two female couples tied the knot in Australia's first same-sex weddings under new legislation allowing gay marriages.

Today's Birthdays: Civil rights attorney Morris Dees is 82. Actress Joyce Bulifant is 81. Actress Liv Ullmann is 80. CBS news correspondent Lesley Stahl is 77. Former Nevada Gov. Jim Gibbons is 74. Pop musician Tony Hicks (The Hollies) is 73. Pop singer Benny Andersson (ABBA) is 72. Actor Ben Cross is 71. Rock singer-musician Billy Gibbons (ZZ Top) is 69. Rock musician Bill Bateman (The Blasters) is 67. Actor Xander Berkeley is 63. Actress Alison LaPlaca is 59. Actor Sam Robards is 57. Actor Jon Tenney is 57. Actor Benjamin Bratt is 55. Country singer-songwriter Jeff Carson is 55. Actor-comedian JB Smoove is 53. Actress Miranda Otto is 51. Actor Daniel Cosgrove is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Michael McCary is 47. Actor Jonathan Scarfe is 43. Actress Krysten Ritter is 37. Actress Zoe Jarman is 36. Country musician Chris Scruggs is 36. Actor Theo James is 34. Actress Amanda Setton is 33. Rock musician Dave Rublin (American Authors) is 32. Actress Hallee Hirsh is 31. Actress Anna Popplewell is 30. Actor Stephan James is 25.

Thought for Today: "There is no king who has not had a slave among his ancestors, and no slave who has not had a king among his." — Helen Keller, American author and lecturer (1880-1968).