

# 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.



## Groton Area Schedule of Events

### 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

7:00 pm: City Council meeting at the Groton Community Center

### Tuesday, December 18, 2018

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

6:00pm: Wrestling: Boys Varsity Quad vs. Britton-Hecla School, Ellendale/Edgeley-Kulm, Oakes @ Britton-Hecla High School

### Thursday, December 20, 2018

4:00pm: Basketball: Girls 7th/8th Game vs. Ipswich @ Ipswich High School (7th Grade 4pm 8th Grade 5pm)

6:30pm: Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Ipswich @ Ipswich

### Friday, December 21, 2018

End of 2nd Quarter

1:00pm: Elementary Christmas Concert at Groton Area High School

2:00pm: Early Dismissal Groton Area School District

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It's Girls' Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Britton-Hecla  
Braves**

**VS**



**Groton Area Tigers**

Monday, Dec. 17, 2018  
Varsity Game at 6:30 p.m.  
at Britton

This GDILIVE.COM event is sponsored by

**Aberdeen**  
**Chrysler Center**

901 Auto Plaza Drive  
Aberdeen, SD

**800.874.9173**

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

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## Weekly Vikings Roundup By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings made a coaching change this week when they fired offensive coordinator John DeFilippo and promoted quarterbacks coach Kevin Stefanski to take over. The change appears to have made a huge difference, as the Vikings whooped the Miami Dolphins 41-17 on Sunday – the team's highest point total this season.

The Vikings' offense was rolling on all cylinders Sunday, which ironically came when Kirk Cousins only attempted 21 passes, a season low. He completed 14 of them (67%) for 215 yards, two touchdowns, and one interception (that was returned for a touchdown by Miami). Adam Thielen (two catches, 19 yards) and Stefon Diggs (four catches, 49 yards) were once again the focus of the defense, but Diggs salvaged his day with a touchdown. Rookie tight end Tyler Conklin led the team with 53 receiving yards.

What the Vikings lacked in yardage through the air, they more than made up for it on the ground. The Vikings, led by Dalvin Cook, rushed the ball 40 times for 220 yards. Their rushing total was the team's highest since a November 15, 2015 win against the Oakland Raiders. Cook carried the ball 19 times for 136 yards and two touchdowns, while also adding a catch for 27 yards. Cook continues to show that, when healthy, he is one of the best running backs in the NFL and he deserves to touch the ball as much as possible.

The Vikings' defense continued their recent trend of playing well, as the Dolphins' offense was only able to score 10 points (the other touchdown was a pick-six by the Miami defense). Of the 10 points allowed, the touchdown came on the first play of the second half, when a Miami running back burst through the Vikings defense for a 75-yard score. The Vikings' defense was constantly harassing Dolphins' quarterback Ryan Tannehill, sacking him nine times on Sunday. Tannehill finished the game with 37 net passing yards (passing yards minus yards lost by sack). The Vikings also added 12 tackles for a loss, five pass deflections, and 11 quarterback hits.

The player of the game on offense was Dalvin Cook. His 7.2 yards per carry was astounding, but what really sets him apart is his vision. Cook is able to see where the holes will open up, and he has a plethora of moves to use when he is avoiding defenders. If a defender is unavoidable, Cook can also lower his shoulder and use his power to punish the pursuer.

The player of the game on defense was... well... just about everyone. Defense, more than the offense, is all about the team and working together as a single unit – and the Vikings did that on Sunday. Seven players finished with a sack, with Danielle Hunter and Anthony Barr leading the way with two apiece. Seven Vikings also finished with a tackle for loss, with Hunter leading the way with three. Four Vikings had a pass breakup, and eight players were credited with a quarterback hit. The defense has really begun to play better these last few weeks, and in fact have only given up 97 net passing yards through their last two games.

Looking ahead, the Vikings travel to Detroit to take on the Lions. The game will be a noon start this Sunday, December 23. The two teams played earlier this season, with the Vikings coming out on top 24-9. ESPN gives the Vikings a 58% chance to win this game. Minnesota still controls their own destiny, and if they win the remainder of their games, they will make the playoffs. Detroit has already been eliminated from the postseason, but as a division rival they would love to play the role of spoiler. This game is one the Vikings should win easily, but Detroit won't go down without a fight. At the end of the day, however, I see the Vikings pulling this one out and moving one step closer to the playoffs. Skol!

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

## Christina's World a Picture of Beauty and Science

By Joanie S. Holm, RN CNP

The famous American artist, Andrew Wyeth, graced the world with many works of art. One of his most famous, Christina's World, is at home in the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. This painting portrays a woman in a field of tall grass at the bottom of a hill below a dilapidated farm. On

close inspection, it is noted that the woman has rail thin arms and hands that seem to claw the ground.

The woman is Christina Olson, a friend and neighbor of Wyeth's in Maine. Christina was an extremely independent woman who suffered from a progressive neuromuscular disorder thought to be Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (or CMT). Her ability to walk as a toddler slowly diminished as she aged. She refused to use a wheelchair or walker, preferring to use her arms for crawling.

Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease is one of the most common inherited neurological disorders, affecting approximately 1 in 2,500 people in the United States. The disease is named for the three physicians who first identified it in 1886: Jean-Martin Charcot and Pierre Marie in Paris, France, and Howard Henry Tooth in Cambridge, England.

CMT comprises a group of disorders that affect peripheral nerves, those that lie outside of the brain and spinal cord. CMT is caused by a gene mutation that affects the covering of the nerves. There is no cure and treatment is aimed at symptomatic care.

Upon learning of the story behind the famous and beautiful Andrew Wyeth painting, I enjoy it at a different level. Andrew Wyeth got to know the soul inside the woman who had physical struggles in this life. I'm grateful to him for giving this to the world.

I'm also grateful for Drs. Charcot, Marie, Tooth and all of the other scientists who helped and continue to put the puzzle pieces together for those who suffer with neurodegenerative diseases. Their work may not be lauded as masterpieces and displayed in the museums of the world, but their contribution to society should not be overlooked.

Watch On Call with the Prairie Doc® most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central on SDPTV and follow the Prairie Doc® on Facebook and YouTube for free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library.





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## What's Going on in State Government This Week Gov. Dennis Daugaard's Public Commitments; Public Meetings:

Thursday, December 20, 2 p.m. CST, Pierre – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will be a guest on 1240 AM KCCR with Zach Nelson.

Monday, December 17, and Tuesday, December 18, 9 a.m. CST, Pierre – The South Dakota Cosmetology Commission will hold an Administrative Hearing on the dates listed above, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at Missouri River Plaza, 123 W. Missouri Ave. Cosmetology Commission disciplinary action Case K-2018 will be heard at that time. See hearing notice at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=21>. For more information, contact Kate Boyd at 605-773-6193.

Monday, December 17, 10 am CST, Digital Dakota Network – The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), which works closely with local emergency planning committees, will meet over the Digital Dakota Network at sites in Brookings, Mitchell, Pierre and Rapid City. For a complete agenda, visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?Boardid=36>. For more information, contact Kelsey Newling, DENR, at 605-773-3296.

Tuesday, December 18, 10 a.m. CST – The Fire Marshal's Advisory Board meets at 221 S. Central Ave., Pierre. A draft agenda can be found at: [https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/bcuploads/FMAB%20December%20Meeting%20Agenda%20\(1\).pdf](https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/bcuploads/FMAB%20December%20Meeting%20Agenda%20(1).pdf). Attendees also can dial into the meeting at 1-866-906-7447; access code 2594262. For more information, contact Paul Merriman at 605-773-3562.

Tuesday, December 18, 10 a.m. CST – The South Dakota Board for Nursing Facility Administrators will meet via teleconference. For more information, including public access information, visit <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=69>.

Wednesday, December 19, Sioux Falls – The South Dakota Corn Utilization Council will hold a meeting at the South Dakota Corn office in Sioux Falls. For more information, please call 605-334-0100.

Wednesday, December 19, 11 a.m. CST, Pierre – The Railroad Board of the South Dakota Department of Transportation will hold a meeting in the Commission Room of the Becker-Hansen building located at 700 E. Broadway Ave. The public is invited to attend. To view the meeting agenda, posted 72 hours in advance, visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Template.aspx?id=88>. For more information call 605-773-3265.

Wednesday, December 19, 3 p.m. CST, Pierre – The South Dakota Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission will meet on first floor of the MacKay Building, Conference Room 3, 800 Governors Drive. A proposed agenda is available at <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=79>.

Thursday, December 20, 8 am, Pierre – The Value Added Finance Authority will hold a meeting at the Joe Foss building in Pierre. For more information, please contact Terri LaBrie at 605-773-5436.

Thursday, December 20, 9 a.m. CST, Pierre – The Transportation Commission of the South Dakota Department of Transportation will hold a meeting in the Commission Room of the Becker-Hansen building located at 700 E. Broadway Ave. The public is invited to attend. To view the meeting agenda, posted 72 hours in advance, visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=96>. For more information call 605-773-3265.

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Thursday, December 20, 10 am CST, Pierre – DENR's Board of Minerals and Environment will meet in the Floyd L. Matthew Environmental Education and Training Center in the Joe Foss Building, 523 E. Capitol Ave. Agenda items are available at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?Boardid=67>. For more information, contact Brenda Binegar at 605-773-4216.

Friday, December 21, 9:30 a.m. CST – The South Dakota Speech-Language Pathology Board of Examiners will meet via teleconference. For more information, including public access information, visit <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=94>.

## **You Might Also Be Interested To Know:**

Monday, December 17, to Thursday, December 20 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will host Job Search Assistance Programs (JSAP). JSAP is a workshop for people recovering from job loss or enhancing their job search skills. Trained instructors speak on modern-day techniques used to successfully find employment. Topics covered include resume and cover letter writing, interviewing etiquette, networking effectively, using social media and much more. JSAP will be offered at the following locations:

Monday, December 17, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CST, Sioux Falls – At 811 E. 10th St. Registration required. For more information or to register, call 605-367-5300.

Tuesday, December 18, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MST, Rapid City – At 2330 N. Maple Ave. For more information, call 605-394-2296 or visit [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org).

Wednesday, December 19, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CST, Wagner – At 106 SE Sheridan Ave. For more information, call 605-487-7607, ext. 207 or 212, or visit [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org).

Thursday, December 20, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST, Brookings – At 1310 Main Ave. S., Suite 103. For more information or to register, call 605-688-4350.

Monday, December 17, to Thursday, December 20 – Bring Your 'A' Game to Work encompasses seven different skills including Appreciation, Attitude, Attendance, Appearance, Ambition, Accountability and Acceptance. These soft skills and a willingness to take direction are generally more desired by employers than the specific skills a particular job requires. Bring Your 'A' Game is being offered at no cost to businesses and individuals. For more information or to register online, visit [https://dlr.sd.gov/workforce\\_services/individuals/training\\_opportunities/soft\\_skills\\_training.aspx](https://dlr.sd.gov/workforce_services/individuals/training_opportunities/soft_skills_training.aspx)

The workshop will be offered at the following location(s):

Monday, December 17, 1 – 5 p.m. CST, Aberdeen – At Cornerstones Career Learning Center, 420 S. Roosevelt St. This is day one of a two-day workshop. For more information or to register, please call Jeremy at 605-626-2298. You may also register online at the link above.

Tuesday, December 18, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST, Aberdeen – At Cornerstones Career Learning Center, 420 S. Roosevelt St. This is a day two of a two-day workshop. For more information or to register, please call Jeremy at 605-626-2298. You may also register online at the link above.

Wednesday, December 19, and Thursday, December 20, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CST, Huron – At Cornerstones Career Learning Center, 33 Third St. SE, #202. This is a two-day workshop. For more information or to register, please call 605-353-7175. You may also register online at the link above.

Tuesday, December 18, to Wednesday, December 19 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will hold itinerant office hours. Both job seekers and employers interested in receiving employment and career services at no cost may visit or call during these office hours. More information on programs and services is available at [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org). Itinerant office hours will be held at the following locations:

Tuesday, December 18, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. CST, Wagner – At the Bureau of Indian Affairs, 29775 Main Ave. For more information, call 605-487-7607, ext. 207 or 212, or visit [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org).

Wednesday, December 19, 12 – 3 p.m. CST, Mobridge – At the Mobridge Economic Development office, 205 2nd St. E., Suite 1, or call 605-380-8930 during these hours and 605-626-2340 at any other time. Additional information at [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org).

## Wave of nursing home closures hitting small South Dakota communities

By: Bart Pfankuch

This story was produced by South Dakota News Watch, a non-profit news organization. Find more in-depth reporting at [www.sdnewswatch.org](http://www.sdnewswatch.org).

The health and stability of some of South Dakota's most vulnerable residents are being threatened by a wave of closures of long-term care facilities across the state.

Three nursing homes closed over the past three years and two more are slated for closure by February. Another 17 former Golden Living Centers are now being operated by a state-approved receivership created after the New Jersey firm running the homes went bankrupt.

The closures have occurred in small towns in South Dakota that have few or no options for relocation and are often many miles from another operating nursing home.

The recent nursing home closures in towns such as Tripp, Bryant and Rosholt and the likely closures in Madison and Mobridge have put a hardship on those towns and the people who live or work at the homes. Nursing homes are sometimes the biggest employer in small towns and employees are typically laid off upon closure. Residents of rural nursing homes tend to be locals and uprooting them from their long-term homes is physically and emotionally traumatic for the patients and their loved ones.

Several factors are leading to the closures: a low rate of per-patient payment to facilities that accept Medicaid and Medicare; rapidly increasing costs of skilled nursing care; a shortage of qualified employees in a field with generally low salaries; and a steady reduction in residents due to a "Baby Bust," the term for a drop in the birth rate during and after the Great Depression in the 1920s and 1930s.

The inability of nursing homes – including both non-profit and for-profit facilities – to make money or even just stay afloat is causing a crisis of care for vulnerable state residents that could linger for generations, said Mark B. Deak, executive director of the South Dakota Health Care Association.

"I believe we really are at a pivotal place right now where we have to muster the will to do what needs to be done to take care of those who cannot take care of themselves," Deak said. "It really is a crisis. When you have 18 nursing facilities in receivership, that's never happened in the history of the state. You have two likely to close, and I don't believe they will be the last; they may be just the tip of the iceberg."



**The Mobridge Care and Rehabilitation Center is one of two nursing homes targeted for closure by a financial receiver who has taken control of 19 nursing facilities across South Dakota.** Photo: Courtesy of Mobridge Tribune

## Lack of revenues put nursing home at risk

Deak and other experts say the primary cause of nursing home failures in South Dakota and across the United States is insufficient Medicaid payments to nursing facilities.

According to a recent study commissioned by the American Health Care Association in which 28 states supplied data, South Dakota had the lowest Medicaid reimbursement rate at just \$131 per day. With the cost to house a patient estimated at \$163 in South Dakota, nursing homes are losing \$32 per day, per Medicaid patient, a total loss of about \$39 million a year statewide.

Nursing homes typically survive by housing a mix of patients with differing abilities to pay. Losses from Medicaid patients are offset by higher rates paid by "private pay" patients who can afford to pay on their own or those with long-term care insurance.

In some areas, often those with higher populations and a broader mix of incomes, that system can work. But in rural South Dakota, some nursing homes have more than half of their patients on Medicaid, leading to financial challenges.

"In the nursing home space, there's not as much private pay, so Medicaid and Medicare are major sources," said Caroline Haarmann, vice president for Medicaid reimbursement and research at the American Health Care Association. "It speaks to the challenge that nursing centers face; they're definitely on very thin margins."

Nursing home numbers have been stable on the national level over the past decade, but some areas including in the Great Plains have seen losses and many rural nursing homes are struggling, said Beth Martino, senior vice president of public affairs for the American Health Care Association.

"Many skilled nursing centers across the country are struggling to keep their doors open. The closures and ownership changes that have occurred reflect that trend," Martino wrote in an email. "Medicaid is drastically underfunded, and the margins for many centers are incredibly thin. We are reaching a point nationally where we have to find a way to pay for the care that seniors and individuals with disabilities need and deserve."

South Dakota has about 110 nursing homes with roughly 6,800 beds. About 55 percent of nursing home patients in South Dakota are on Medicaid, according to the state Department of Social Services.

The average nursing home in South Dakota has a positive operating margin of only .7 percent, Deak said, which makes them highly vulnerable to market forces, government payment rates and unexpected facility costs.

Operating costs have continued to increase at nursing homes as patients live longer and encounter a greater need for more skilled care, such as for dementia or Alzheimer's Disease or for patients with bariatric issues or traumatic brain injuries. The average cost to consumers for a nursing home bed ranges from about \$7,000 to \$9,000 a month in South Dakota, Deak said.

That figure, however, must cover the cost of 24-hour care, administration, facilities, food and other overhead costs, he said.

Staffing shortages are common in nursing homes, especially in rural towns with small employment pools. Certified nursing assistants, who do most of the hands-on care, make only about \$12 an hour, which is



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comparable to some retail jobs.

While nursing homes in some areas have waiting lists, those in rural areas have too many openings. The long-term care industry expects admissions to rise in the coming decades as the "Silver Tsunami" of Baby Boomers reaches retirement.

One way the state could ease the burden on nursing homes would be to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate, a cost split between the state and federal governments, but it will take more than that to ensure solvency of rural homes, said Ryan Cwach, a Democratic state representative-elect from Yankton.

Cwach, a lawyer who made nursing home funding a part of his campaign platform, said the Legislature needs to address comprehensive nursing home reform. For instance, Cwach said, the state Medicaid reimbursement level is based on a payment of 90 percent of the estimated daily nursing home cost from 2012, a figure that has certainly risen significantly since then.

Cwach pointed out that availability of one method of paying for nursing home care – long-term care insurance – is dwindling as insurers rapidly leave that market. Cwach said he represented a client at his law firm who didn't qualify for the insurance because he had a knee replacement a decade ago and was considered too high-risk by insurers.

The number of private-pay nursing home residents who prop up the Medicaid and Medicare clients may continue to fall as private and non-profit providers develop more apartment-style long-term care facilities that are attractive to those who can afford to maintain their independence.

Those types of facilities are becoming more common in urban markets such as Sioux Falls and Rapid City, further sapping revenue from rural nursing homes.

"I think we need to step back and approach this with an open mind about other solutions that aren't just fixing Medicaid reimbursement," Cwach said. "It's really a harsh, cruel system that we put on our elderly with the financial component of how we fund nursing homes."

Outgoing Gov. Dennis Daugaard said in his recent 2019-20 budget address that the state is likely to see about \$53 million in new spending in the coming year, including a 2.3 percent hike for Medicaid providers.

Deak said he will lobby lawmakers to use more of that money to boost Medicaid reimbursements for long-term care.

"The moral test of government is how we treat those in the dawn of life, our children, those in the shadows, the disabled, and those in the sunset of life, the elderly," Deak said. "It really comes down to the equation: do we have the will to use the dollars we have available because the chronic underfunding of long-term care is coming home to roost."

## Nursing homes in financial trouble

This list includes the names of 18 South Dakota nursing homes and one assisted living facility that are under control of a financial receiver that intervened when Skyline Healthcare of New Jersey went bankrupt. The homes in Madison and Mobridge have been targeted for closure by the receiver, which has indicated that the entire group of facilities is in financial hardship.

Arlington Care and Rehabilitation Center

Armour Care and Rehabilitation Center

Bella Vista Care and Rehabilitation Center (Rapid City)

Black Hills Care and Rehabilitation Center (Rapid City)

Clark Care and Rehabilitation Center

Covington Care and Rehabilitation Center (Sioux Falls)

Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center

Ipswich Care and Rehabilitation Center

Lake Norden Care and Rehabilitation Center

Madison Care and Rehabilitation Center

Meadowbrook Care and Rehabilitation Center (Rapid City)

Milbank Care and Rehabilitation Center

Mobridge Care and Rehabilitation Center

Park Place Care and Rehabilitation Center (Milbank)

Pierre Day Care and Rehabilitation Center

Prairie Hills Care and Rehabilitation Center (Rapid City)

Redfield Care and Rehabilitation Center

Salem Care and Rehabilitation Center

Watertown Care and Rehabilitation Center

## Panic sets in for nursing administrator

In late April, nursing home administrator Debbie Menzenberg sent a series of urgent emails to South Dakota health officials. Menzenberg was in charge of 18 nursing homes and one assisted living center across the state on behalf of Skyline Healthcare, a New Jersey firm that in January 2017 had assumed management of the nursing facilities owned by Golden Living Centers.

That month, Skyline stopped paying its bills, and Menzenberg told state officials that a company official told her the company was bankrupt and that she should begin discharging residents.

Unpaid water bills at the Bella Vista and Prairie Hills homes in Rapid City resulted in a shut-off notice, Menzenberg wrote. Electric service was in jeopardy at the nursing home in Pierre for the same reason. Employees across the group had not been paid and lost their insurance coverage. The facilities only had enough housekeeping and laundry supplies for four more days of operation and food for residents for only five more days.

"Bottom line, the SD facilities are in harm's way and all residents' safety is at risk and will increase (in risk every day," Menzenberg wrote on April 28. "I NEED HELP!!!" she wrote two days later.

The emails were the opening salvo in a battle to maintain proper management over the struggling nursing homes run by Skyline. In early May, a state circuit judge in Pierre accepted a plan to create Black Hills Receiver, LLC, a firm that is now running the former Skyline nursing homes. The executive in charge of Black Hills Receiver is a former Golden Living Center official. The South Dakota Department of Health signed off on the receivership plan.

Based on court documents, it is clear the entire group of nursing homes is financially unstable. After running the homes since early May, the receiver petitioned the court in November to close the nursing homes in Mobridge and Madison. By law, residents must be given 60 days to vacate after the closures are finalized. The judge and department of health have given initial acceptance to the plan. A spokeswoman for Black Hills Receiver said a brief press release issued by the firm in May would be its only official comment.

In the Nov. 13 petition to close the two facilities, attorneys for the receiver said the Madison and Mobridge homes had to be closed because they expected a loss of nearly \$1.2 million between the two from May through December. Furthermore, the petition notes that the facilities in receivership in total will likely lose \$7.7 million by the end of 2018.

The petition includes ominous language for the other 17 homes. "The receivership as a whole is operating at a significant, and unsustainable, loss," the petition states. "If not addressed in a timely manner, the unsustainable operational losses could result in issues not just at the facilities that have the biggest financial issues, but also across the receivership."

Financial pressure is also being applied by MidCap Financial Services, a firm that said in court filings it is owed nearly \$5 million in loans made to Skyline to run the nursing homes. The firm asserts that Black Hills Receiver is now responsible for the loans and argues that revenues from the nursing homes and value of property are being improperly used by the receiver to "prop up these failing operations" in South Dakota.

"Money to which MidCap is entitled continues to be used to fund failing operations for the sole purpose of preserving the value of plaintiffs' real property," the firm's attorneys wrote in a November court filing.

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"The time for 'patience' has passed."

In all, the 19 facilities in receivership have about 1,000 employees and roughly 900 residents. They are located in Arlington, Armour, Clark, Groton, Ipswich, Lake Norden, Madison, Milbank, Mobridge, Pierre, Rapid City, Redfield, Salem, Sioux Falls and Watertown.

A court hearing is set for Dec. 20 to finalize plans for closure of the Madison home with its roughly 50 beds and Mobridge facility with its roughly 90 beds.

A group of concerned officials is seeking to come up with a plan to save the facility in Mobridge, but the exodus of residents from the home in Madison is well underway, according to Mayor Roy Lindsay.

"People are feeling sorry for the residents and staff, and those who are directly affected are really under stress," Lindsay said. "Where do I take mom or dad? How far away do they have to go? In all of them, you're taking them away from their friends and family."

Lindsay and others are also trying to determine what is next for the property and nursing home itself, both of which are still owned by Golden Living. He said private housing firms may be interested, and also thinks Dakota State University in Madison could take advantage of an opportunity to create new student housing.

The pending closure has had a negative ripple effect on the entire city, Lindsay said. "The stress has been detrimental to everyone."



**The Bella Vista Care and Rehabilitation in Rapid City is one of 19 long-term care facilities now being operated by a court-appointed receiver due to the bankruptcy of a New Jersey firm that ran the former Golden Living Center homes in South Dakota.** Photo:

Bart Pfankuch



## Closures hard on residents and communities

Nursing home closures can take a significant physical and emotional toll on residents, some of whom suffer what is known in scientific studies as "transfer trauma" or a mental condition known as "relocation stress syndrome."

According to a study by Consumer Voice, a national advocacy group for residents of long-term care facilities, those conditions can cause displaced residents to become depressed, agitated, withdrawn, and lead to falls, weight loss or complacency about caring for themselves.

Guy Varud has seen this trauma up close over the past several weeks as he prepares to move out of the Madison Care and Rehabilitation Center, which is a former Golden Living Center facility slated to close by Jan. 31.

Varud, 76, is a retired financial manager from Sioux Falls who suffers immobility due to failed knee surgeries.

Many of his fellow residents are from Madison and receive regular visits from local family and friends, Varud said. A lot of tears have been shed as those residents prepare to move and they and their families begin to understand they may soon be separated by 40 miles or more.

"People cry on the way out; they sit at the tables and cry because they're losing their home," Varud said. "Some of staff cry when they see people leave. It's happening every time you turn around, and it breaks you up."

Varud has connections in Sioux Falls and the resources to find a nursing home bed there when the Madison home closes. He said about half of the home's 50 or so residents have already moved out.

He expressed disappointment that the state Legislature has allowed Medicaid reimbursement rates to fall so low and that the Department of Health has not allowed more time for Madison officials to mitigate impacts of the closure or to find a way to keep the home open.

"To be thrown over the cliff like this is one of the most cruel things I've ever seen," he said. "Many of these Medicaid people use to have substantial incomes, but due to difficulties in their life, mostly health issues, they're on Medicaid, but they paid taxes all their life and they don't deserve this."

Varud, who serves on a patient leadership panel at the Madison nursing home, said he is also concerned that the receiver overseeing the troubled Golden Living Centers is trying to move displaced patients from Madison to other homes that are part of the 18 facilities being run by the receiver.

**"It really is a crisis. When you have 18 nursing facilities in receivership, that's never happened in the history of the state. You have two likely to close, and I don't believe they will be the last; they may be just the tip of the iceberg."** Mark B. Deak, South Dakota Health Care Association

## One town saves its nursing home

Rumors of bad news began to swirl quickly throughout the town of Selby in early October: the Good Samaritan Center nursing home in the town of 625 people was being targeted for closure.

The facility was run by the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society of Sioux Falls, a regional operator of nursing homes. Good Samaritan is based in Sioux Falls and runs housing and health care facilities, including nursing homes, in 23 states.

Like other nursing home operators, Good Sam has faced headwinds in trying to maintain viable homes, said Aaron Woods, director of corporate communications.

"The environment we operate in is undergoing a period of unprecedented transformational change," Woods wrote in an email. "We are committed to the communities we serve and will continue to monitor how all our locations perform."

The Selby nursing home, like a few in Nebraska that have been closed recently by Good Samaritan, was not deemed viable.

The news sent shock waves through the small town, which would have faced the relocation of about 45 residents and the loss of 50 jobs.

"The people living there would have been hurt the most," said Dan Biel, a Selby insurance agent who is now the president of the non-profit Walworth County Care Center group formed to run the nursing home. "But trying to move a 90-year-old person, that would have been the hardest part."

A public meeting was called and about 450 people showed up. The community rallied to save the nearly 60-year-old facility. After negotiations with Good Samaritan, which has agreed to donate the building to the new nonprofit, the fledgling group hired a management firm to handle operations and raised \$400,000 in donations in less than two months to keep the nursing home operational. Donations came from a farmer who sold a load of grain on the group's behalf, from events like a walleye fry and an auction with a comedic hypnotist, and from a business owner whose family members previously lived in the nursing home and gave a major gift of seed money.

Biel said the process has been a whirlwind but so far appears to have a happy ending. Though employees had to accept a lesser insurance plan, most have stayed on, he said. Biel believes that as a standalone institution and with local oversight, the facility can be run more efficiently and more cheaply than Good Samaritan was able to accomplish.

He said the goal is to simply operate the home without a loss and use the new capital reserves for backup only when necessary.

"Obviously people wouldn't be closing nursing homes if they were making money," he said. "So, our main goal is we'd be doing dang good if we just broke even."

The nursing home opened under its new nonprofit ownership on Dec. 1 much to the relief of the residents of the home and the community as a whole.

"The staff has really pulled together and rooted for each other, and the residents are extremely pleased they don't have to move," Biel said, noting that one resident of the home is 103 years old.

A post from Bill Powers: We had a similar situation in White, SD that they faced in Selby. White is a town of about 485. The nursing facility accounted for at least half of our ambulance runs. When it closed in 2014, we met as a community to decide whether we could purchase and operate the facility. After a town hall meeting and some consultation with experts, we decided that it was too great a risk. The building was purchased by developers and has been turned into apartments and businesses.

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## Today in Weather History

December 17, 1993: A prolonged period of snow occurred from December 15th through the 19th over the western half of South Dakota. Several accidents leading to injuries occurred due to ice on the 15th, and many vehicles slid into ditches. Snowfall amounts were 4 to 10 inches. McIntosh received three inches of snow; Timber Lake, Murdo, and Selby received five inches of snow; and six inches accumulated at McLaughlin. Eagle Butte recorded seven inches of new snow.

December 17, 1903: Wilbur and Orville Wright made four brief flights at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina with their first powered aircraft on this day. After having success with their 5-foot biplane kite, the brothers realized the weather conditions in Dayton were not ideal for their flying experiments. They wrote the Weather Bureau in Washington, D.C. requesting a list of suitable places on the east coast where winds were constant. Below is the response the Wright Brothers received from Joseph Doshier, who staffed the Weather Bureau office, wrote in August of 1900 regarding the suitability of Kitty Hawk.

"Mr. Wilbur Wright

Dayton Ohio

Dear Sir,

In reply to yours of the 3rd, I will say the beach here is about one mile wide clear of trees or high hills, and islands for nearly sixty miles south. Conditions: the wind blows mostly from the North and Northeast September and October which is nearly down this piece of land. Giving you many miles of a steady wind with a free sweep. I am sorry to say that you could not rent a house here. So you will have to bring tents. You could obtain frame.

The only way to reach Kitty Hawk is from Manteo Roanoke Island N.C. in a small sail boat. From your letter I believe you would find it here like you wish. Will be pleased at any time to give you any information. Yours very respectfully

JJ. Doshier"

On December 17, with the winds were averaging more than 20 mph, Orville took a flight that lasted 12 seconds for a total distance of 120 feet.

December 17, 1924: From the Monthly Weather Review, "a severe glaze storm occurred in west-central Illinois on December 17 and 18, the area of great destruction embracing a territory about 75 miles in width and 170 miles in length. In the affected area, trees were badly damaged, wires broken, and thousands of electric poles went down. Electric services were paralyzed, and it required weeks to restore operation and months to permanently rebuild the lines.

The street railway company and the Illinois Traction System resumed complete operation 17 days after the storm. Electric light service was completely restored January 10. The ice had practically disappeared from the trees and wires by January 4, but on January 20, there was still considerable ice on the ground.

The Western Union Telegraph Co. lost 8,000 poles and the Illinois Bell Telephone Co. about 23,000. The total damage to wire service in Illinois probably equaled or exceeded \$5,000,000." If the loss of business, the damage to trees and possible injury to winter grains, the storm may be considered one of the most disastrous of its kind in the history of Illinois."

1884 - A three week blockade of snow began at Portland, OR. A record December total of 34 inches was received. (David Ludlum)

1924 - A severe icestorm struck central Illinois. It coated the ground with nearly two inches of glaze at Springfield. The storm caused 21 million dollars damage along with much hardship. Ice was on the trees until the 4th of January, and electricity was not restored until January 10th. (David Ludlum)

1929 - An icestorm in western New York State resulted in much damage and hardship. A Buffalo report stated, "one was kept awake by the breaking limbs, which snapped off with a report much louder than a rifle shot." (17th-18th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A storm in the southwestern U.S. brought heavy rain and heavy snow to parts of California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. Charleston NV was blanketed with 12 inches of snow. Lake Havasu City AZ was drenched with 2.26 inches of rain. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Today



Sunny

High: 49 °F

Tonight



Increasing  
Clouds

Low: 25 °F

Tuesday



Partly Sunny

High: 45 °F

Tuesday  
Night



Partly Cloudy

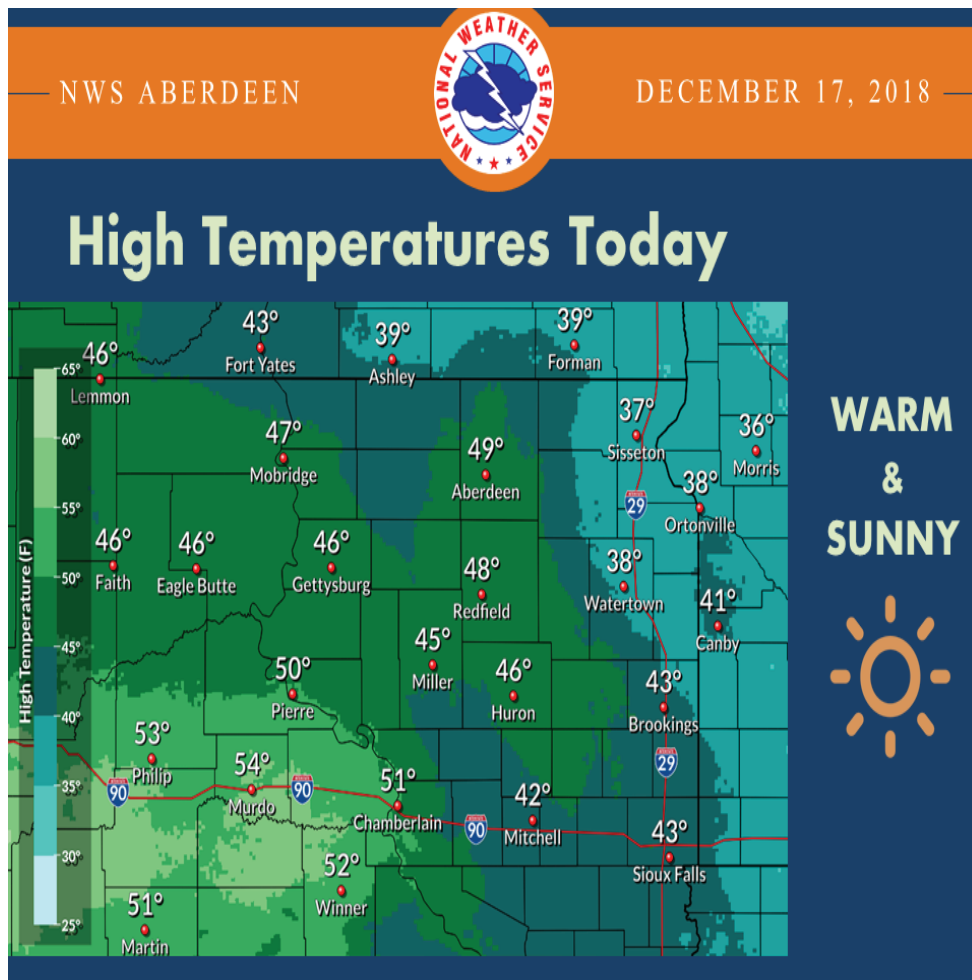
Low: 25 °F

Wednesday



Slight Chance  
Rain/Sleet  
then Mostly  
Cloudy

High: 45 °F



Warm & Sunny today! Expect temperatures to top out in the upper 30s to low 50s. High temperatures will be 15 to 25 degrees above normal for this time of year.



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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 44 °F at 3:32 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 21 °F at 8:16 AM**

**High Gust: 11 mph at 1:53 AM**

**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 53° in 1929**

**Record Low: -32° in 2016**

**Average High: 25°F**

**Average Low: 5°F**

**Average Precip in Dec.: 0.27**

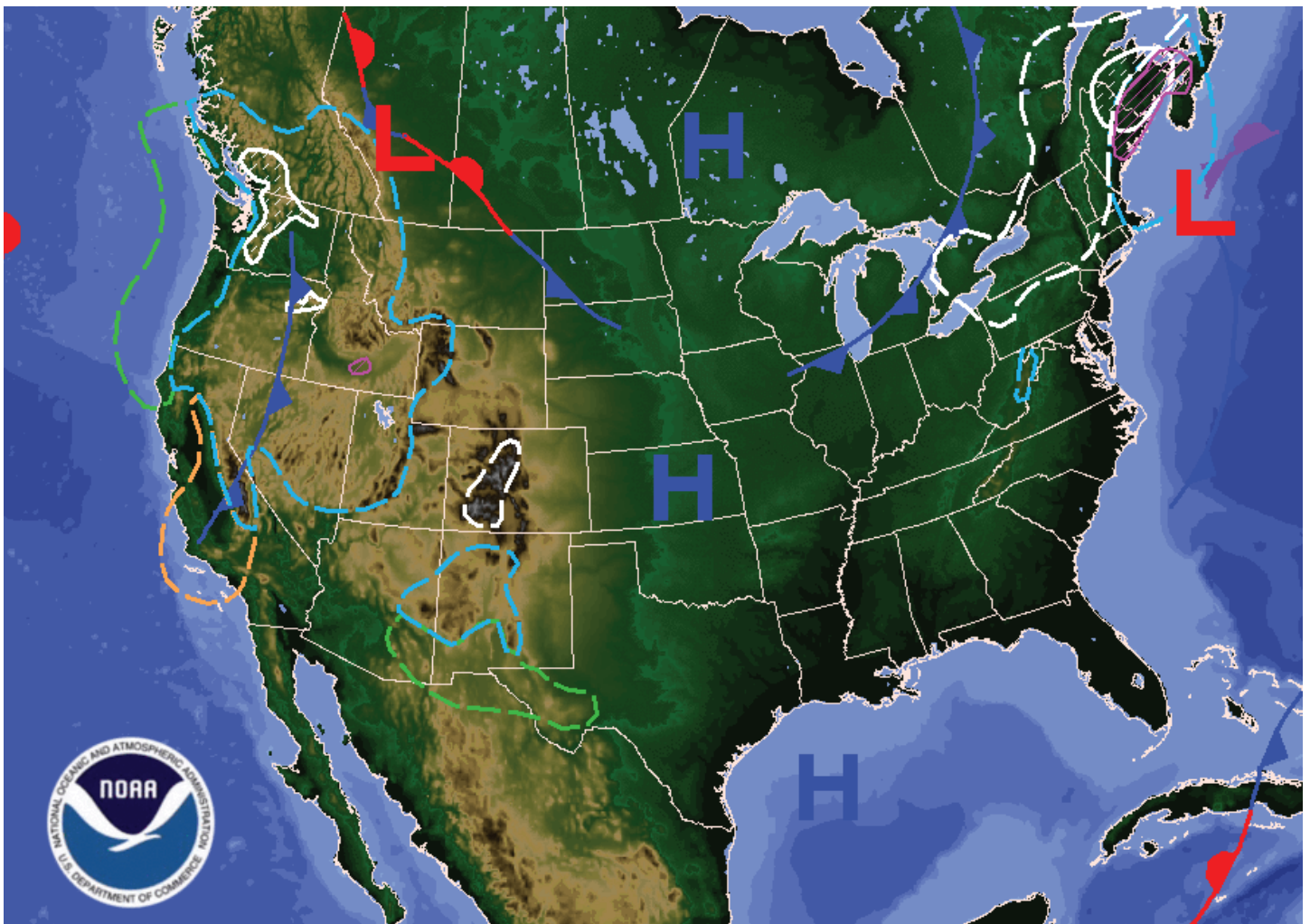
**Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00**

**Average Precip to date: 21.47**

**Precip Year to Date: 15.81**

**Sunset Tonight: 4:52 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:09 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Dec 17, 2018, issued 4:44 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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## NEVER QUIT!

Dont let this be you! said a coach to his football team after a difficult loss. He was pointing to a picture of a player sitting in front of his locker. His helmet was between his feet. His elbows were on his knees and his head was between his hands with a look of sadness in his eyes. Under his helmet were the words, I quit!

As we look into the manger this Christmas we can rejoice together and say, Thank You, God, that You never quit!

Whenever we think of the eternal love that God has for us we often forget about the disappointments He must have endured. Imagine, if you can, what must have entered into His mind and heart when Adam and Eve rejected His path. Consider, if you will, the many agreements He made with people who promised to obey Him and then abandoned their word when they thought He was out of sight. We will never know the grief He suffered because of the hope He had that people would love Him and be obedient to Him.

But, He never gave up. He never quit. Finally, John wrote, We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world!

All of us have suffered many losses in life. None, however, can ever be compared to Gods losses. But He refused to give up even though it cost the life of His Son.

Prayer: We thank You, Father, for Your unfailing love and determination to rescue us. We are overwhelmed when we think that You would sacrifice Your Son for us. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 John 4:14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- Nov./Dec./Jan./Feb./Mar. Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 9/7/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party
- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

## News from the Associated Press

### **Guard soldiers from Upper Midwest back home for Christmas**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — National Guard soldiers from the Upper Midwest who served about a year of duty in Afghanistan are back home in time for Christmas.

Eleven members of the North Dakota Army National Guard's 191st Military Police Company returned home over the weekend.

The soldiers are from 20 communities in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota.

About 15 members of the 191st returned home last month, just before Thanksgiving.

### **Rapid City might see bigger urban deer harvest in 2019**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City committee is recommending a big boost to the annual urban deer harvest.

The Rapid City Journal reports the Public Works Committee is recommending the City Council authorize the killing of 250 deer in city limits, up from 150 last year.

Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Biegler says the recommended increase is based on a jump in deer numbers. He says the reason isn't clear and that the spike could just be cyclical.

Deer in urban areas can cause property damage and lead to vehicle crashes.

If approved by the City Council, certified shooters hired by the city will start targeting deer in early January. Shooters stick to wooded areas on city property, greenways and private property where they've been granted access.

The deer meat goes to charity.

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

### **Brooks, Dayton making concert announcement in Twin Cities**

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Garth Brooks and Gov. Mark Dayton are making a concert announcement after the governor asked the country superstar to schedule another performance when tickets for his May 4th concert in Minneapolis sold out in less than an hour.

The governor's office says at least 50,000 people were in line, on the phone or online Friday when the last ticket was sold for the concert at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

That prompted Dayton's request. Brooks took to Twitter Friday night to thank Dayton and to let fans know he was on board with a second show.

Brooks is to be on hand for Monday's 9 a.m. announcement in the Governor's Reception Room at the state Capitol.

In 2014, Brooks held an 11-show run at Target Center, selling about 205,000 tickets.

### **SD conservation agency amasses over 1.8 million archives**

By **KAIJA SWISHER, Black Hills Pioneer**

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — People who have lived in Spearfish all their lives are often surprised to find out that the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery also includes the National Fish and Aquatic Conservation Archives — meaning that there are items from every state and several foreign countries in its collection of more than 14,000 objects and 1.8 million archival records such as documents, photos, blueprints, etc.

"The FWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) only has three national archives/repositories, and Spearfish is lucky to house one of them," April Gregory, curator, told the Black Hills Pioneer, describing that there have been over 330 fisheries facilities across the United States since the establishment of the U.S. Com-



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mission of Fish and Fisheries in 1871, and the archives in Spearfish houses documents from many of those. "People across the board are surprised and impressed when they learn that the U.S. Fish and Fisheries Commission, one of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's predecessor agencies, was the nation's first federal conservation agency and was established . . . nearly 150 years ago. Most people have no idea that fisheries conservation work has been going on in this country for that long."

Carlos Martinez, director of the hatchery, explained that the collection is national in scope. The hatchery began collecting items in the 1970s and was officially designated as an archive site in the mid-1990s, thanks in part to Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., who served in the U.S. Senate from 1997 to 2015 and was instrumental in getting the appropriations designated to construct a building to house the archives in Spearfish. Every Congressional representative from South Dakota since has supported the hatchery and archives, Martinez said, and the collection is not stagnant — it continues to grow. In 2018, he said, archival material from at least a dozen hatcheries in the Southwest and Pacific Northwest was accessioned.

"Established in 1896, D.C. Booth (hatchery) has a storied history in the Black Hills and the federal fisheries program," Martinez said. "It is a fabulous place to house a significant collection that is national in scope."

When asked what the curator's role consists of, Gregory's short answer included the care and management of the collection through accessioning, cataloging, administration, and housekeeping/pest control; internal and external promotion of the archives; securing new donations; responding to research requests; designing new exhibits and interpretation signs; visitor outreach; and more.

"This position combines my interest in history with my love of wildlife and the outdoors," she said. "It is also a nice mix of hands-on work, manual labor work, research work, working with people and outreach/education work, and, yes, computer work. It is a diverse job — one where you are not stuck at the computer all day or doing the same task over and over. I've also always wanted to work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as I believe in their mission to work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people."

Gregory explained that the main focus of the archive collection is the national history of fisheries work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its predecessor agencies.

"The agency has an impressive history. It is our nation's oldest federal conservation agency with its roots dating to 1871 with the establishment of the U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries by Congress," she said, describing that in 1903, the Commission became the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, and in 1940, it became the Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The fisheries programs of the FWS are approaching their 150th anniversary — an impressive milestone," she said, describing that the archives has paper documents, photographs, maps, letters, etc., dating from throughout that history, including fishery station logbooks, annual reports, egg collection and stocking reports, original blueprints, photos, research papers, correspondence — and there is also a collection of objects that relate to fisheries work, dating from the late 1800s through today. Examples include scientific fisheries equipment, employee uniforms, office equipment, maintenance equipment, and transportation equipment like buckets, pails, troughs, trucks, and boats. "One of our smallest items is a tracking device inserted into the nose of a fish (used for scientific research), and some of the largest items are fish stocking trucks," Gregory said.

She added that the National Fish and Aquatic Conservation Archives brings in researchers from around the country.

"Researchers have included conservationists, writers, historians, scientists, filmmakers, and educators, as well as the interested public," Gregory said. "The hatchery itself receives over 160,000 visitors each year, resulting in a positive economic impact for the community of Spearfish."

And her role in that positive impact is not unnoticed.

"April serves the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contributing her knowledge, skills, and abilities toward increasing others' awareness to the role fisheries played in North American history," Martinez said. "She oversees a significant growth in the number and importance of artifacts housed at the museum, as well as striving to make the resources more widely known among researchers, historians, and the general public. April's position is instrumental in accommodating and collaborating with the 160,000 visitors and 14,000

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volunteer hours D.C. Booth receives annually, in addition to countless researchers who benefit from the National Fish and Aquatic Conservation Archives."

Gregory, who began in the position of curator in January 2017 after serving as the executive director of the Booth Society since 2011, credited Randi Smith, who served as the collection's first curator through March 2014, with building the archives into what it has become.

"It's my job, as the next curator, to continue caring for what she accumulated, and what I accumulate, it will be the next curator's job to care for, and it will continue down the line," she said.

When asked the estimated worth of the archives, Gregory responded with, "Priceless," and added that the Fish and Wildlife Service holds and manages the collection in trust for the American public.

"The FWS recognizes the importance of museum collections to its missions and is committed to proper stewardship of these resources," she said. "FWS follows Department of Interior policies and procedures for managing museum collections that meet the highest standards of the museum profession."

Crucial aspects to maintaining the collection include pest control, housekeeping/cleaning, monitoring the environment, including temperature and humidity, and cataloging backlogged archival documents.

"These maintenance activities are extremely important to ensure the continued existence of our nation's conservation fisheries history — the documents and artifacts provide evidence of activities and tell us more about individuals and institutions," Gregory said. "They tell stories. They also increase our understanding of past work and decisions so that current and future generations can learn from those decisions."

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

## Sioux Falls' fried chicken restaurant brought back to life

By **PATRICK ANDERSON, Sioux Falls Argus Leader**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Vonnie Larsen feels at home here in this tidy restaurant attached to a gas station near Interstate 29.

Truth is, it's more than a home. The Keg was never limited by geography or bricks-and-mortar, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported .

It's a gathering space, a family tradition and a culinary philosophy, all mixed together, seasoned and deep fried with love and care.

"It's in your blood," Vonnie said.

The Keg is the Larsen family.

The Larsens, their children and their grandchildren are celebrating 40 years of serving the Sioux Falls community the family's unique recipe of fried chicken.

Neil Larsen wanted to do something to honor his customers. Some of them are familiar faces who have been ordering chicken since his family first took over the restaurant.

They come each week without fail, willing to wait out any line that may form during the Keg's busy dinner rushes.

They were there during one of the darkest periods of his life, when the Keg closed its last Sioux Falls location in 2012 under the crushing financial pressures left behind by the Great Recession.

"You go, 'all that hard work and it's gone,'" Neil said. "It was really hard on me."

But it was the Keg's loyal clientele who lifted Neil's spirits.

After all, The Keg never really went away, Vonnie said. It just moved.

The Larsens found work running the kitchen at the Lakes Restaurant and Resort on Lake Madison. Old Sioux Falls customers followed them there, making the two-hour drive both ways to pick up chicken.

Neil for the first time realized how much Sioux Falls appreciated his business.

"Oh my God, they love us," Neil said.

The Larsens have already started asking the Keg's thousands of Facebook followers to share photos and stories in advance of the 40th Anniversary celebration.

Sitting in a booth near the front door, Vonnie Larsen hears laughter all the way from the back of the

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kitchen as staff prepare for the 11 a.m. open and the eventual weekday lunch rush.

One of the voices belongs to her daughter.

"My girls are crazy," Vonnie said.

All of her kids have worked at The Keg at some point.

Daughter Becky Mammenga runs front-of-house operations.

She tried to avoid the family business for years. Even moved to Nevada.

But when she agree to fill in at the restaurant after returning to Sioux Falls, Mammenga was drawn to the place.

"The sense of family here, the regulars coming in," she said. "I got to feel that myself."

Casie Scott, another daughter, is on maternity leave from her job managing the kitchen.

That hasn't stopped her from visiting.

"The day I was released from the hospital we came down to see some of my co-workers," Scott said.

She introduced the Keg family them to their newest member.

Micah is 3 weeks old, and Scott is already sure he'll be doing the same things she was doing as a child growing up under the counters of the restaurant.

"He'll be sitting on the counter eating parts of the chicken before you know it," Vonnie said.

Micah's cousin, Shayne Arrowood, is one of two grandchildren who work at the restaurant. He's a part-time cook.

The 20-year-old still remembers when Neil asked him if he wanted to train as a cook and learn how to make the chicken his grandfather has made for 40 years.

He was a teenager at the time.

"I always said I wanted to do that when I was little," Arrowood said. "I just wanted to be part of that experience."

In a different time, in a different place, Vonnie was a loyal customer of The Keg, a single mother of two who often stopped by to grab dinner on her way home from work.

She asked for a job one day, met Neil and the two started dating a couple of weeks later.

"I fell in love with the chicken first," Vonnie said.

That's something she and her husband share. Before they owned the business, they loved the chicken.

Neil grew up eating it. The Keg was the best chicken place in town, he said.

When his family started looking at opening a restaurant, they went to The Keg and asked if they could purchase the recipe. Instead, previous owner offered to sell them the entire business.

The Larsens bought the restaurant in 1979 and took over the old location, putting their teenage son in charge of daily operations.

Neil was 19, just out of high school.

The Keg became his life.

It didn't take long before Neil realized he liked the hard work and that the 60- to 70-hour weeks he was working were paying off.

He moved the restaurant in 1995 to a bigger space, and moved again five years later to an even bigger space next door, where OverTime Sports Grill is currently located.

It was The Keg's most successful iteration, with a line of fryers so big Vonnie believes it may have been the longest in the United States at the time.

It's where the Larsens first introduced the lunch buffet — still a daily offering at the restaurant. It's also where the family ditched the drive-thru and focused on The Keg's quickly growing catering business.

At its peak, the Keg once prepared 4,000 pieces of chicken for an employee appreciation event at Huset's Speedway.

In 2005, he opened a second location.

A lot of Sioux Falls businesses went weeble-wobble after the economy fell through the floor and gas prices spike, Vonnie said.

"We just couldn't wobble back," she said.

The eastern Sioux Falls location closed in 2010. The restaurant on Marion Road closed two years later.

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Vonnie compared it to a death in the family.

But it only took a few years for the Keg to mount a comeback in its hometown.

The Larsens found a good deal on a new location through friends and moved to an almost turn-key space in 2015.

The Keg was instantly slammed by hungry diners clamoring for its chicken. People were taking parking tickets for a closer spot to beat the rush.

"I had people scalping chicken," Vonnie said.

The restaurant is Neil's favorite, a reminder of The Keg's roots.

It's small. Feels almost like a dive, he said with a laugh.

Staying in business this long was an act of love — his love for the Keg, for the people he works with, including his wife, his daughters and his grandchildren.

"I've had a core of good people that have always worked around me," he said. "It's fun coming to work."

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

## Palmer scores 29 to help Nebraska beat Oklahoma State 79-56

By TOM SAVAGE, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Nebraska got 29 points from James Palmer Jr. and the Huskers pulled away in the second half to defeat Oklahoma State 79-56 on Sunday night at the Sanford Pentagon.

Palmer came in averaging 18.7 points per game but blew by that number early in the second half. He scored a season-high 30 points in Nebraska's last outing, a 19-point win over Creighton on Dec. 8.

Playing in front of essentially a home crowd, Nebraska (9-2) also got 16 points from Isaac Copeland Jr. and 14 from Thomas Allen. Allen came off the bench after suffering an illness all week. He was diagnosed with a stomach virus and was in a Lincoln Hospital until early Saturday morning. He left Lincoln for Sioux Falls at 7 a.m., arrived at the venue around noon and played 27 minutes going 5 of 7 from the field.

"For him to come in and be able to understand the defensive game plan and what's going on, I think you can see what we saw in the recruiting process," Nebraska coach Tim Miles said. "Sometimes he's kind of the fifth Beatle. He did a great job tonight and made huge baskets."

Nebraska's biggest lead of the first half was 32-30 when Glynn Watson Jr. buried a deep 3-pointer at the buzzer after the Huskers trailed for most of the half. It was part of a 23-5 run that carried over into the second half and gave Nebraska a 46-35 lead when Allen hit a 3-pointer with 13:53 to play.

Oklahoma State trailed by double figures the rest of the way.

The Huskers extended the lead to 24 when Copeland hit a jumper to make it 70-46 with nearly three minutes to play. A late 3-pointer from freshman Justin Costello made it 79-54 with 29 seconds left — Nebraska's biggest lead of the game.

The Sanford Pentagon is four hours north of Lincoln, Nebraska, and the 3,000-seat venue was overwhelmingly filled with Huskers fans.

"I think it might have caught our guys off guard a little bit. I don't know if they knew exactly what to expect," Miles said. "We just needed to process the whole deal, and I thought we got stronger as the game went on. You have to prove that you can win away from home, and although this had a great environment to it, it's still away from home."

Freshman Yor Anei led Oklahoma State (4-6) with a season-high 17 points and Lindy Waters III and Michael Weathers scored 13 apiece.

### TURNING POINT

Trailing 28-21, the Huskers clamped down on defense and got a pair of 3-pointers from Isaac Copeland to take momentum into halftime. The Nebraska defense also forced two shot-clock violations in the final two minutes of the half, adding to their momentum surge.

### STAT OF THE NIGHT

The Cowboys entered the game shooting 42 percent from 3-point range. Their previous season low was



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seven made 3s, in their last outing, a 63-53 loss to then-unranked but now No. 24 Houston on Dec. 8.

## BIG PICTURE

Oklahoma State has now lost four in a row. The Cowboys shot just 13.3 percent from 3-point range, hit 8 of 15 from the free-throw line and committed 19 turnovers.

The Huskers made 21 free throws and shot 91.3 percent from the stripe — both season highs — and had 10 steals. They have won four of their last five.

## UP NEXT

Oklahoma State will be home for three straight, beginning Dec. 21 vs. Central Arkansas. The Cowboys open their Big 12 conference schedule on Jan. 2 vs. Iowa State.

Nebraska returns to home for two straight, beginning Dec. 22 against Cal State Fullerton.

## Balanced South Dakota beats Colorado State 68-63

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (AP) — Stanley Umude scored 15 points to lead a balanced South Dakota offense in a 68-63 victory over Colorado State on Sunday.

Tyler Peterson added 12 points, Trey Burch-Manning had 10 points and seven rebounds and Cody Kelley scored 10 points with eight rebounds and seven assists for the Coyotes (6-5)

Nico Carvacho scored 20 points and pulled down 17 rebounds for his 20th double-double for the Rams (5-6). J.D. Paige added 19 points.

A Carvacho basket got the Rams within two with two minutes left but the teams missed their final four shots apiece with CSU's Peterson and Logan Power making two free throws each in the final minute.

Umude scored the first six points in a 10-0 run that put South Dakota on top for good at 53-46 with 8:48 remaining.

South Dakota had its largest lead of eight in the first half but a Paige 3-pointer gave the Rams a 30-29 edge at the break.

## Patrol identifies woman who died in crash near Hermosa

HERMOSA, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a woman who died in a single-vehicle crash in Custer County.

The Highway Patrol says 78-year-old Joan Lix, of Hermosa, died in the accident Wednesday night on Box Canyon Road 6 miles west of Hermosa.

The patrol says her sport utility vehicle went off the road, down an embankment and then off a 50-foot cliff, coming to rest on its roof.

Lix was pronounced dead at the scene. She was the only occupant in the vehicle.

## Patrol releases names of 2 women killed in rollover

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have released the names of two women from Mitchell who died in a one-vehicle crash on Interstate 90 in Hanson County.

The Highway Patrol says 52-year-old Lisa Shippy and 43-year-old Darcy Constant were killed in the crash that happened 4 miles east of Mitchell shortly after 10:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The patrol says Shippy was driving a sport utility vehicle that went in the median and rolled several times, coming to rest on its roof in a driving lane.

A 17-year-old passenger was taken to a Mitchell hospital with injuries the patrol says are serious but not life-threatening.

## Locked away, forgotten: Muslim Uighur wives of Pakistani men

By KATHY GANNON, Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The last time Chaudhry Javed Atta saw his wife was over a year ago — the Pakistani trader in dried and fresh produce was leaving their home in northwestern China's heavily Muslim Xinjiang region to go back to his country to renew his visa.

He remembers the last thing she told him: "As soon as you leave, they will take me to the camp and I will not come back."

That was August, 2017. By then, Atta and Amina Manaji, from the Muslim ethnic Uighur group native to Xinjiang, had been married for 14 years.

Atta is one of scores of Pakistani businessmen \_\_\_ and he says there are more than 200 \_\_\_ whose spouses have disappeared, taken to what Chinese authorities tell them are education centers.

Beijing has been accused of interning members of its Muslim population — by some reports as many as 1 million — to "re-educate" them away from their faith. It is seen as a response to riots and violent attacks that the government blamed on separatists. Ethnic Uighurs and Kazakhs in China have told The Associated Press that ostensibly innocuous acts such as praying regularly, viewing a foreign website or taking phone calls from relatives abroad could land one in a camp.

"They call them schools, but they are prisons," Atta said. "They can't leave."

Pakistanis often rally loudly in defense of Islam and Muslims whenever they are perceived offended around the world — most recently over cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad. In 1989, protests spread from Pakistan elsewhere, leading to the fatwa by Iran's Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini against author Salman Rushdie for his depiction of Islam in his book *Satanic Verses*.

But political and economic factors, including concerns about losing out on vast Chinese investments, have kept Pakistan and other Muslim countries silent about the plight in China of fellow Muslims, the Uighurs.

"Cold, hard interests will always carry the day" in international relations, said Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia Program at the Washington-based Wilson Center. "The Muslim world's deafening silence about China's treatment of Muslims can be attributed to its strong interest in maintaining close relations with the world's next superpower."

China is financing major development projects in cash-strapped Pakistan. Islamabad says Beijing's up to \$75 billion development project known the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor — part of an effort to reconstruct the historic Silk Road linking China to all corners of Asia — will bring new prosperity to Pakistan, where the average citizen lives on just \$125 a month.

For Atta, it's not just the separation from his wife.

He has also had to leave their two sons, who are 5 and 7 years old and whose passports were confiscated by the Chinese government, in the care of his wife's family. Otherwise, he said, the authorities would have put them in an orphanage. The AP has previously reported that the government is placing the children of detainees and exiles into dozens of orphanages across Xinjiang.

Atta went back to China twice for a few months but both times his visas expired and he had to return to Pakistan. Getting in touch with family in Xinjiang is a circuitous route that involves reaching out to Pakistani friends still there, who then track down family members willing to talk.

"Now especially I am worried. It is now eight, almost nine months, that I have not seen my children," he said. "I haven't even been able to talk to them."

Last week, Atta finally talked to his brother-in-law after a friend discovered he had a heart attack and was recovering in a hospital in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang.

"He said my sons were good, but he had no news of my wife," said Atta.

China routinely responds to queries on Uighurs by saying its policies are aimed at creating "stability and lasting peace" in Xinjiang but President Xi Jinping's campaign to subdue a sometimes restive region, including the internment of more than 1 million Uighurs and other Muslim minorities, has alarmed a United Nations panel and the U.S. government.

Mushahid Hussain, chairman of Pakistan's Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, said the cardinal principle

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of Pakistan-China relations is to refrain from commenting on anything to do with the other country's domestic issues.

"Given the relationship of Pakistan with China, and in the Muslim world in particular, the Chinese narrative is apparently being accepted across the board as the one that is correct," Hussain said.

A steady stream of Pakistani men has visited Beijing in recent months, lobbying for the release of their wives to little avail. Some say they met Pakistan's ambassador to China, Masood Khalid, on multiple occasions, and were told their issues were raised privately with the Chinese.

Another Pakistani man in a similar predicament, Mir Aman, went to China more than 25 years ago as a poor laborer in search of work.

There, he met his wife, Maheerban Gul, they worked hard and eventually bought a hotel. The couple has two daughters, Shahnaz, 16, and Shakeela, 12, both now with their father in Pakistan.

Last year, Aman first tried to go back to China alone, but the authorities denied him entry at a border crossing without his wife. Then they returned together to Xinjiang. There, she was ordered to report every morning to the police, who gave her books on the Communist Party to read.

"When they would see anything written in Urdu, a prayer mat or something related to religion, they would seize it," he said. "They want to eliminate Islam."

After a few weeks, Aman was ordered to leave even though he had a six-month visa. He was told he could return after one month. When he did, his wife was gone.

For four months he pestered police every day, threatened to take his life in public. He was finally allowed to see his wife, who was brought to a local police station, for just an hour.

They cried. When the meeting ended he was told to go home to Pakistan "and stop making trouble for the administration," Aman said.

He has no idea where she is being held.

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Associated Press video-journalist Dake Kang in Beijing contributed to this report.

## White House closer to partial shutdown with wall demand

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pushing the government to the brink of a partial shutdown, the White House is insisting that Congress provide \$5 billion to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border despite lawmaker resistance from both parties.

Without a resolution, parts of the federal government will shut down at midnight Friday.

"We're going to do whatever is necessary to build the border wall to stop this ongoing crisis of illegal immigration," White House senior adviser Stephen Miller said Sunday.

Asked if that meant having a government shutdown, he said: "If it comes to it, absolutely."

President Donald Trump said last week he would be "proud" to have a shutdown to get Congress to approve a \$5 billion down payment to fulfill his campaign promise to build a border wall. But the president doesn't have the votes from the Republican-controlled Congress to support funding for the wall at that level.

Both major political parties in Congress have suggested that Trump would likely need to make the next move to resolve the impasse. The House is taking an extended weekend break, returning Wednesday night. The Senate returns Monday after a three-day absence.

The Democratic congressional leaders, Sen. Chuck Schumer and Rep. Nancy Pelosi, have proposed no more than \$1.6 billion, as outlined in a bipartisan Senate bill. The money would not go for the wall but for fencing upgrades and other border security. Democrats also offered to simply keep funding at its current level, \$1.3 billion.

Showing no signs of budging, Schumer said Sunday that it was up to Trump to decide whether the federal government will partially shut down, sending thousands of federal employees home without pay during the holidays.

About one-quarter of the government would be affected, including the departments of Homeland Secu-

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city, Transportation, Agriculture, State and Justice, as well as national parks.

"He is not going to get the wall in any form," Schumer said.

Trump had neither accepted nor rejected the Democrats' proposal as of Friday, according to the Democrats, telling them he would take a look. Trump will need Democratic votes either way, now or in the new year, for passage.

Trump, during his 2016 presidential campaign, promised that Mexico would pay for the wall. Mexico refused.

Wyoming Sen. John Barrasso, the No. 3 Republican in the Senate, said Republicans remain hopeful they can come up with a proposal that can be acceptable to Trump and pass both chambers. He suggested that could take the form of a stopgap bill that extends funding until January or a longer-term bill that includes money for border security.

"There are a lot of things you need to do with border security," he said. "One is a physical barrier but also the technology, the manpower, the enforcement, all of those things, and our current laws are in some ways an incentive for people to come to this country illegally, and they go through great risk and possibly great harm."

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, urged senators to revisit a bill she helped push earlier this year that would provide \$2.5 billion for border security, including physical barriers as well as technology and border patrol agents.

Schumer declined to say whether Democrats would be willing to consider proposals other than the two options that he and Pelosi offered.

Republicans "should join us in one of these two proposals, which would get more than enough votes passed and avoid a shutdown," Schumer said. "Then, if the president wants to debate the wall next year, he can. I don't think he'll get it. But he shouldn't use innocent workers as hostage for his temper tantrum."

Miller and Barrasso spoke on CBS' "Face the Nation," Schumer appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press," and Collins was on ABC's "This Week."

## Nissan board meets but no chairman picked to replace Ghosn

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP) — Nissan's board met Monday but failed to pick a new chairman to replace Carlos Ghosn, who was arrested last month on charges of violating financial regulations, saying more discussion was needed.

Nissan Motor Co. Chief Executive Hiroto Saikawa told reporters that the board approved a special committee of outsiders to strengthen governance at the company. A date for the selection of a chairman was not decided.

"We plan to be cautious in this process, and I do not plan to rush this," Saikawa said.

The recommendations for beefing up governance are due in March, and Saikawa said he was willing to wait until then to choose a chairman.

The board meeting came amid an unfolding scandal that threatens the Japanese automaker's two-decade alliance with Renault SA of France and its global brand, and highlights shoddy governance at the manufacturer of the Leaf electric car.

Ghosn and another board member Greg Kelly were formally charged last week with falsifying financial reports in underreporting Ghosn's income by about 5 billion yen (\$44 million) from 2011 to 2015. They were arrested Nov. 19 by Tokyo prosecutors and remain in detention.

A source close to Ghosn's family says Ghosn is innocent, as the alleged income was never decided upon or paid. Aubrey Harwell, the U.S. lawyer for Kelly, an American, says he is innocent, and that Nissan insiders and outside experts had advised him that the financial reporting was proper.

The chairman must be selected from among the board members. Three outside board members — race-car driver Keiko Ihara, Masakazu Toyoda, an academic, and Jean-Baptiste Duzan, formerly of Renault



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— are making that decision.

The special committee for governance includes the three outside board members and four other outsiders, including former judge Seiichiro Nishioka.

One candidate for chairman is Saikawa, who was hand-picked by Ghosn to succeed him as chief executive. He has denounced Ghosn and Kelly as the “masterminds” in a scheme to falsify income reports and abuse company money and assets.

Renault has kept Ghosn as chief executive and chairman, saying its investigation has not found wrongdoing in the awarding of Ghosn’s compensation.

Nissan Motor Co.’s allegations also include million-dollar homes in several nations, including France, Japan, Brazil, Lebanon and the Netherlands, purchased by Nissan or a subsidiary and used by Ghosn.

Wrangling over a home in Rio de Janeiro has developed into a court battle in Brazil, with Nissan seeking to block Ghosn’s family from retrieving items.

Ghosn was born in Brazil of Lebanese ancestry and holds French citizenship. He was sent in by Renault in 1999 to turn around Nissan from the brink of bankruptcy.

It’s unclear when Ghosn and Kelly may be released, with Tokyo prosecutors saying they are a flight risk.

Yuri Kageyama is on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

On Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/yurikageyama/?hl=en>

## Child’s death highlights communication barriers on border

By JULIE WATSON, Associated Press

Shortly before a 7-year-old Guatemalan girl died in U.S. custody, her father signed a form stating that his daughter was in good health. But it’s unclear how much the man understood on the form, which was written in English and read to him in Spanish by Border Patrol agents.

The death of Jakelin Caal highlights the communication challenges along the U.S.-Mexico border as agents come in contact with an increasing number of migrants who speak neither English nor Spanish.

Her father’s native language is the Mayan tongue known as Q’eqchi’. His second language is Spanish. It’s unclear whether something was lost in translation or whether it would have made a difference in saving Jakelin after the two were detained and underwent a health screening along a remote stretch of U.S.-Mexico border. But the case raises questions about the Border Patrol’s use of English-only forms.

All agents are required to speak Spanish, and they receive formal Spanish training. Reading forms in Spanish is often enough to pose basic questions. But some other Spanish-speaking migrants reported signing paperwork that they later said they did not understand.

Scores of immigrant parents who were separated from their children after crossing the border in the spring said they signed forms agreeing to be deported with the understanding that their kids would be returning with them, only to find themselves deported without them. Many had to wait months before being reunited with them in their homelands.

Jakelin and her father, Nery Gilberto Caal Cuz, were part of a group of 163 migrants arrested Dec. 6 near a 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. An initial screening showed no evidence of health problems, they said, and her father spoke to them in Spanish and signed a form indicating she was in good health.

Attorneys in Texas representing Caal criticized U.S. officials for asking him to sign Form I-779, which asks a series of questions with check boxes of “yes” or “no.” In the additional comments section on the form was written “claims good health.”

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

The family also disputed the accounts offered by U.S. officials that the girl walked for days in the desert

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without food or water before crossing. The father's lawyers said Caal took care of his daughter, giving her sufficient water and food, and she appeared to be in good health.

Jakelin's family is asking for an "objective and thorough" investigation to determine whether officials met standards for taking children into custody.

Border Patrol officials did not immediately respond to the family lawyers' statement. The father, who is staying at a shelter in El Paso, Texas, has asked for privacy.

Authorities are conducting an autopsy to determine the cause of death. Results are expected in about a week, said Tekandi Paniagua, the Guatemalan consul in Del Rio, Texas.

Paniagua, who spoke with Jakelin's father, said the two had walked with the other migrants for about 90 minutes before crossing and Caal told him he had no complaints about how agents treated him and his daughter.

Caal speaks broken Spanish. In his impoverished village in Guatemala, Spanish is needed only occasionally, such as when the community deals with schools and health care or for work, Paniagua said.

More than two dozen languages are spoken in Guatemala, and the consulate tries to send interpreters as soon as possible to help detained migrants, Paniagua said. But sometimes by the time they get there, the migrants have already signed forms.

"We'll ask, 'Do you speak Spanish?' And they'll say yes," he said. "Then we'll ask, 'But do you understand Spanish?' And often they'll say, 'No, I need an interpreter.'"

Caal asked the Guatemalan consulate in Texas, which had reached out to him, if he could see his daughter one last time before her body was sent back to her homeland. That request prompted special arrangements at a private funeral home on Friday, when he said goodbye to Jakelin.

The consulate asked him if he wanted an interpreter who could explain everything, including the repatriation of her body, in Q'eqchi'.

He said he did. After listening to the interpreter, Paniagua said, Caal thanked the consulate and said "he felt more comfortable in his own language."

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

### 1. SHUTDOWN THREAT LOOMS AS TRUMP DEMANDS WALL

Pushing the government to the brink of a partial shutdown, the White House insists Congress provide \$5 billion to build a border wall. Both parties have suggested that President Trump would likely need to make the next move to resolve the impasse.

### 2. HOW MIGRANT GIRL'S DEATH UNDERSCORES BORDER AGENT LANGUAGE CHALLENGES

Shortly before a 7-year-old Guatemalan girl died in U.S. custody, her father signed a form stating that his daughter was in good health, but it's unclear how much the man understood because agents did not speak his native tongue.

### 3. WHO SAYS TRUMP WILL TALK TO MUELLER 'OVER MY DEAD BODY'

Rudy Giuliani says he would not allow the president to sit down for an interview with the special counsel investigating Russian interference into the 2016 election.

### 4. WHAT CLIMATE RULES NEARLY 200 NATIONS ADOPT

At the U.N. climate talks, the countries agree to measures that set out how they should report their emissions, along with efforts to reduce them.

### 5. WHEN NEXT GENERATION GPS SATELLITES WILL HEAD TO SPACE

This week, the U.S. Air Force prepares to launch the first of 32 new satellites critical to military and civilian use, including improved location and navigation services.

### 6. SAUDI REJECTS US SENATE 'INTERFERENCE'

Riyadh strongly dismisses the resolution blaming its crown prince for the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

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## 7. LOCKED AWAY, FORGOTTEN

Pakistani men whose Muslim Uighur wives are held in China's re-education camps struggle to reunite their families.

## 8. OFFICIALS FRET VAPING BOOM

Teen drug use may be down, but twice as many high school students are using nicotine-tinged electronic cigarettes compared with last year, according to a large annual U.S. survey.

## 9. 'I DIDN'T THINK THAT PLAYING BINGO WAS UP TO MY SPEED'

Retired secretary Janet Fein, 84, will accomplish a long-held goal this week when she graduates from the University of Texas at Dallas with a bachelor's degree.

## 10. STEELERS SNAP 3-GAME SKID IN RARE WIN OVER PATS

Rookie running back Jaylen Samuels runs for a career-high 142 yards as Pittsburgh holds off New England, 17-10.

## Germany to compensate hundreds who fled Nazis as children

By DAVID RISING, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Germany has agreed to one-time payments for survivors, primarily Jews, who were evacuated from Nazi Germany as children, many of whom never saw their parents again, the organization that negotiates compensation with the German government said Monday.

The New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany said the government had agreed to payments of 2,500 euros (\$2,800) to those still alive from among the 10,000 people who fled on the so-called "Kindertransport."

This year is the 80th anniversary of the beginning of the transport of the children to Britain from Nazi Germany and elsewhere in Europe.

About 1,000 survivors are thought to be alive today, with about half living in Britain, and the payment is seen as a "symbolic recognition of their suffering," Claims Conference negotiator Greg Schneider said.

"In almost all the cases the parents who remained were killed in concentration camps in the Holocaust and they have tremendous psychological issues," Schneider told The Associated Press.

Following the Nazis' anti-Jewish pogrom in November 1938 known as Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass, the British government agreed to allow an unspecified number of Jewish children as refugees from Nazi Germany or territories it had annexed.

Jewish groups inside Nazi Germany planned the transports, and the first arrived in Harwich on Dec. 2, 1938, according to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The last transport from Germany left Sept. 1, 1939 — the day World War II broke out with the Nazi invasion of Poland — and the final transport from continental Europe left the Netherlands on May 14, 1940, the same day Dutch forces surrendered to the Nazis.

In all, about 10,000 children from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland were taken to Britain, about 7,500 of whom were Jewish, according to the museum. About half were placed with foster families, while the others stayed in hostels, schools or farms.

In addition to those who remained in Britain, many resettled in the U.S., Israel, Canada, Australia and elsewhere, Schneider said.

Today, survivors are at least in their 80s and most continue to look back on their escape as the defining moment of their lives as they were put alone onto trains into the unknown, saying goodbye to parents and siblings often for the last time, Schneider said.

"This money is acknowledgement that this was a traumatic, horrible thing that happened to them," he said.

Some survivors already received small payments in the 1950s but that will not bar them from receiving the new benefit, the Claims Conference said.

The Claims Conference carries out continuous negotiations with Germany to expand the number of people eligible for compensation.

Since 1952, the German government has paid more than \$80 billion to individuals for suffering and losses resulting from persecution by the Nazis.

In 2019, the Claims Conference will distribute approximately \$350 million in direct compensation to more than 60,000 survivors in 83 countries, the organization says. In addition, it will provide some \$550 million in grants to social service agencies that provide home care, food, medicine and other services for Holocaust survivors.

## Talks adopt 'rulebook' to put Paris climate deal into action

By FRANK JORDANS, Associated Press

KATOWICE, Poland (AP) — Almost 200 nations, including the world's top greenhouse gas producers, China and the United States, have adopted a set of rules meant to breathe life into the 2015 Paris climate accord by setting out how countries should report their emissions and efforts to reduce them.

But negotiators delayed other key decisions until next year — a move that frustrated environmentalists and countries that wanted more ambitious goals in light of scientists' warnings that the world must shift sharply away from fossil fuels in the coming decade.

"The majority of the rulebook for the Paris agreement has been created, which is something to be thankful for," said Mohamed Adow, a climate policy expert at Christian Aid. "But the fact countries had to be dragged kicking and screaming to the finish line shows that some nations have not woken up" to the dire consequences of global warming as outlined in a report by the U.N Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC.

Officials at the talks, which ended late Saturday in the Polish city of Katowice, agreed upon universal rules on how nations can cut emissions. Poor countries secured assurances on financial support to help them reduce emissions, adapt to changes such as rising sea levels and pay for damage that has already happened.

"Through this package, you have made a thousand little steps forward together," said Michal Kurtyka, a senior Polish official who led the talks.

While each country would likely find some parts of the agreement it did not like, he said, efforts were made to balance the interests of all parties.

"We will all have to give in order to gain," he said. "We will all have to be courageous to look into the future and make yet another step for the sake of humanity."

The talks took place against a backdrop of growing concern among scientists that global warming is proceeding faster than governments are responding to it. Last month, a study found that global warming will worsen disasters such as the deadly California wildfires and the powerful hurricanes that have hit the United States this year.

The recent report by the IPCC concluded that while it's possible to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century compared to pre-industrial times, doing so would require a dramatic overhaul of the global economy, including a shift away from fossil fuels.

Alarmed by efforts to include that idea in the final text of the meeting, the oil-exporting nations of the U.S., Russia, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait blocked an endorsement of the IPCC report midway through this month's talks. That prompted uproar from vulnerable countries like small island nations and environmental groups.

The final text omitted a previous reference to specific reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and merely welcomed the "timely completion" of the IPCC report, not its conclusions.

Johan Rockstrom, a scientist who helps to lead the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, called the agreement "a relief." The Paris deal, he said, "is alive and kicking, despite a rise in populism and nationalism."

His biggest concern, he said, is that the summit "failed to align ambitions with science, in particular missing the necessity of making clear that global emissions from fossil fuels must be cut by half by 2030" to stay in line with the IPCC report.

Alden Meyer, director of strategy and policy at the Union of Concerned Scientists, said the talks created



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"a solid foundation for implementation and strengthening" of the Paris agreement and could help bring the U.S. back into the deal by a future presidential administration.

One major sticking point was how to create a functioning market in carbon credits. Economists believe that an international trading system could be an effective way to drive down greenhouse gas emissions and raise large amounts of money for measures to curb global warming.

But Brazil wanted to keep the piles of carbon credits it had amassed under an old system that developed countries say wasn't credible or transparent.

Among those that pushed back hardest was the United States, despite President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of the Paris climate accord and his promotion of coal as a source of energy.

"Overall, the U.S. role here has been somewhat schizophrenic — pushing coal and dising science on the one hand, but also working hard in the room for strong transparency rules," said Elliot Diringer of the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, a Washington think tank.

The U.S. is still technically in the Paris agreement until 2020, which is why American officials participated in the Katowice talks.

When it came to closing potential loopholes that could allow countries to dodge their commitments to cut emissions, "the U.S. pushed harder than nearly anyone else for transparency rules that put all countries under the same system, and it's largely succeeded," Diringer said.

In the end, a decision on the mechanics of an emissions-trading system was postponed to next year's meeting. Countries also agreed to consider the issue of raising ambitions at a U.N. summit in New York next September.

Canada's Environment Minister Catherine McKenna suggested there was no alternative to such meetings if countries want to tackle global problems, especially as multilateral diplomacy is under pressure from nationalism.

"The world has changed. The political landscape has changed," she told The Associated Press. "Still you're seeing here that we're able to make progress. We're able to discuss the issues. We're able to come to solutions."

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Read more stories on climate issues by The Associated Press at <https://www.apnews.com/Climate> .

## **AP FACT CHECK: Trump's distorted reality in expanding probes**

**By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump keeps changing his story in the swirling investigations into Russia election interference and hush money payments to women who say they had affairs with him.

He insists that payments to porn actress Stormy Daniels and former Playboy model Karen McDougal during the 2016 campaign were "private transactions" and that any crime committed would be the fault of his former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, not him. That's a change from what the president said before. Trump previously had denied knowledge of payments and dismissed any hint of a crime.

In the special counsel's probe into contacts between Russia and the Trump campaign, Trump tried to cast doubt on whether his former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, had lied to the FBI. Flynn in fact pleaded guilty to doing just that.

Over the past week, Trump also made a flurry of false or unsupported statements about immigration. He said, with no evidence, that migrants are plagued with disease. He asserted that Mexico has in effect agreed to pay for his border wall, even as he threatens a partial government shutdown if Congress doesn't approve billions of dollars to build it. He twisted federal statistics to claim the recent arrest of 10 terrorists who don't exist.

A look at the claims:

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COHEN

TRUMP: "Remember, Michael Cohen only became a 'Rat' after the FBI did something which was absolutely

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unthinkable & unheard of until the Witch Hunt was illegally started. They BROKE INTO AN ATTORNEY'S OFFICE!" — tweet Sunday.

THE FACTS: It was not a break-in. The FBI executed a search warrant obtained from a judge in conducting the raid and seizing records on a variety of matters, among them a \$130,000 payment made to porn actress Stormy Daniels by Trump's lawyer, Cohen. The application for the warrant was approved high in the Justice Department.

Former FBI director James Comey tweeted in response Sunday that Trump is "lying about the lawful execution of a search warrant issued by a federal judge."

TRUMP: "I never directed him to do anything wrong. Whatever he did, he did on his own." — interview Thursday with Fox News.

TRUMP: "I never directed Michael Cohen to break the law ... many campaign finance lawyers have strongly stated that I did nothing wrong with respect to campaign finance laws, if they even apply, because this was not campaign finance." — tweets Thursday.

TRUMP: "So now the Dems go to a simple private transaction, wrongly call it a campaign contribution,... which it was not (but even if it was, it is only a CIVIL CASE, like Obama's - but it was done correctly by a lawyer and there would not even be a fine. Lawyer's liability if he made a mistake, not me). Cohen just trying to get his sentence reduced." — tweets Dec. 10.

THE FACTS: Whatever the truth, his account is evolving. Trump's description of the payments as a "simple private transaction" — which he couples with his insistence that "did nothing wrong" with respect to campaign finance laws — is not how he explained it just a few months ago.

In April, Trump issued a blanket denial that he knew anything about reports of \$130,000 in hush-money paid to Daniels, saying reporters would "have to ask Michael Cohen." A month later, he then acknowledged the payments as a "private contract." Trump is now saying if something criminal happened, it would be solely Cohen's fault as his former attorney.

Both Cohen and American Media Inc., the company that owns the National Enquirer tabloid, say they made hush-money payments to Daniels and McDougal for the purpose of helping Trump's 2016 White House bid, a campaign finance violation. Both women alleged they had extramarital affairs with Trump, which the White House denies. Federal prosecutors say the payments were made at Trump's direction.

For the payments themselves to be a crime rather than a civil infraction, prosecutors would need to show that Trump knew that what he was doing was wrong when he directed Cohen to pay the women and that he did so with the goal of benefiting his campaign.

It's unclear what federal prosecutors in New York will decide to do if they conclude that there is evidence that Trump himself committed a crime. In the meantime, Trump's changing version of the truth is running head-on into facts agreed to by prosecutors.

## RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

TRUMP: "Wow, 19,000 Texts between Lisa Page and her lover, Peter S of the FBI, in charge of the Russia Hoax, were just reported as being wiped clean and gone. Such a big story that will never be covered by the Fake News. Witch Hunt!" — tweet Saturday.

THE FACTS: The Justice Department's watchdog, in a report released Thursday, found no evidence the FBI intentionally destroyed text messages of former FBI agent Peter Strzok and former FBI lawyer Lisa Page, who were involved in the Hillary Clinton email investigation when they worked for the bureau.

The inspector general faulted an FBI-wide software failure that has resulted in large portions of FBI text messages not being archived.

The report examined a gap in messages from December 2016 through May 2017 from the phones of Strzok and Page. The FBI ultimately managed to recover thousands of the messages.

Some congressional Republicans had suggested the messages were intentionally deleted. The inspector general report said there was no evidence Strzok and Page circumvented protocol. Strzok was removed

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from special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation after anti-Trump texts were discovered. He has since been fired. Page resigned.

TRUMP: "Well the FBI said Michael Flynn, a general and a great person, they said he didn't lie. And Mueller said: 'Well, maybe he did.' And now they're all having a big dispute, so I think it's a great thing that the judge is looking into that situation. It's an honor for a lot of terrific people." — remarks Thursday.

THE FACTS: That's not what the FBI said. And Flynn, Trump's former national security adviser, has agreed that he lied to the FBI. He pleaded guilty to it and is to be sentenced this week — the first White House official punished as part of special counsel Robert Mueller's ongoing Russia investigation.

The idea that Flynn didn't lie to the FBI picked up steam after Republicans on the House intelligence committee issued a report this year that said ex-FBI director James Comey, in a private briefing, told lawmakers that agents who interviewed Flynn "discerned no physical indications of deception" and saw "nothing that indicated to them that he knew he was lying to them." But Comey called that description "garble" in a private interview with House lawmakers this month.

Comey, in essence, said Flynn was a good liar, having a "natural conversation" with agents, "answered fully their questions, didn't avoid. That notwithstanding, they concluded he was lying."

As for Trump's comment that the judge is looking into the matter, it's true U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan has asked for documents related to the agents who interviewed Flynn. It's not clear from Sullivan's order whether he considers there to be a dispute to resolve or if he just wants to see the underlying documents as he decides Flynn's sentence.

## BORDER SECURITY

TRUMP: "The Democrats policy of Child Separation (sic) on the Border during the Obama Administration was far worse than the way we handle it now. Remember the 2014 picture of children in cages - the Obama years." — tweet Sunday.

THE FACTS: Democratic President Barack Obama did not have a separation policy. The Trump administration didn't, explicitly, either, but that was the effect of his zero tolerance policy, which meant that anyone caught crossing the border illegally was to be criminally prosecuted, even those with few or no previous offences.

The policy meant adults were taken to court for criminal proceedings and their children were separated. In most cases, if the charge took longer than 72 hours to process, which is the longest time that children can be held by Customs and Border Protection, children were sent into the care of the Health and Human Services Department. Zero tolerance remains in effect, but Trump signed an executive order June 20 that stopped separations.

Trump also misrepresents 2014 photos of children in holding cells. They did not involve family separation.

The photos, taken by The Associated Press during the Obama administration, showed children who came to the border without their parents and were being housed at a Customs and Border Protection center in Nogales, Arizona. The photos were identified as such but wrongly described online as illustrating imprisonment under Trump.

TRUMP: "People with tremendous medical difficulty and medical problems are pouring in, and in many — in many cases it's contagious. They're pouring into our country. We have to have border security." — statement in Oval Office meeting Tuesday with Democratic leaders, Rep. Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Chuck Schumer.

THE FACTS: Trump provided no evidence that people coming into the country, including the caravan at the U.S.-Mexico border, are carrying contagious diseases at a higher rate than the U.S. population. Medical screening is part of the process for vetting people who seek asylum.

A study published this month by the UCL-Lancet Commission on Migration and Health called scares about contagion one of the most pervasive myths about migrants. The study found no evidence that migrants pose a significant public health risk to countries such as the U.S. that have good health systems. In fact,

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migrants themselves face health threats from arduous journeys, violence along the way, or overcrowding in shelters or camps, the Lancet commission said. While some may come from regions where certain diseases are common, the report noted that international tourism and movement of animals spread illness, too.

As for the caravan and other migrants from the south, World Bank statistics show Mexico and Central America vaccinate most children against measles, sometimes at a bit higher rate than the U.S. Along the border between Mexico and California, public health departments have long had a system in place to watch for signs of outbreaks of a variety of illnesses, whether they're immigration-related or not.

**TRUMP:** "Our Southern Border is now Secure and will remain that way." — tweet Tuesday.

**TRUMP:** "We need border security. People are pouring into our country, including terrorists. We have terrorists. But we caught 10 terrorists. These are over the last very short period of time — 10. These are very serious people." — statement in Oval Office meeting.

**THE FACTS:** Trump contradicted himself, declaring the border secure and insecure on the same day. And Trump is wrong about the government recently catching 10 terrorists.

His statement is a mangling of federal statistics showing that U.S. Customs and Border Protection stopped an average of seven to 10 people a day in the 2017 budget year who were denied entry to the U.S. because they were on a watch list. That average applied to all points of entry, and overwhelmingly from airports, and was not specific to the southern border. The standard for placing someone on the list is reasonable suspicion, a lower bar than the probable cause needed to arrest someone for an alleged crime. The statistics do not show how many might have been arrested or charged with anything.

In any event, Trump rendered a daily average as 10 recently captured terrorists in the flesh.

As for border security, U.S. arrests on the Mexican border jumped 78 percent in November from a year earlier to the highest level in Trump's presidency. Increased arrests indicate that more people are trying to cross the border illegally.

## JOBS

**PELOSI:** "We came at a place to say, 'How do we meet the needs of American people who have needs?' The economy has — people are losing their jobs." — Oval Office meeting.

**TRUMP:** "Well, we have the lowest unemployment that we've had in 50 years." — Oval Office meeting.

**THE FACTS:** Trump is correct about jobs.

There may always be some layoffs even if the economy is strong. General Motors, for instance, said last month it would cut as many as 14,000 workers in North America in a restructuring aimed at generating cash to spend on innovation, even though U.S. auto sales are near historic highs.

But the U.S. economy has now added jobs for a record 98 straight months, dating to October 2010, during the Obama administration.

The Labor Department reported the unemployment rate in November stayed at 3.7 percent, a five-decade low, for the third straight month.

The job gains are pushing down unemployment rates to historically low levels for a variety of groups. The unemployment rate for men aged 20 and above fell last month to 3.3 percent, the lowest in 18 years. The rate for Americans with just high school diplomas dropped to 3.5 percent, the lowest since December 2000. The African-American jobless rate declined to 5.9 percent, matching May's figure as the lowest on record.

That's making it more challenging for businesses to find the workers they need. Employers have posted 7 million open jobs, outnumbering the ranks of the unemployed, which fell last month to just under 6 million.

## THE WALL

**TRUMP:** "I often stated, 'One way or the other, Mexico is going to pay for the Wall.' This has never changed. Our new deal with Mexico (and Canada), the USMCA, is so much better than the old, very costly & anti-USA NAFTA deal, that just by the money we save, MEXICO IS PAYING FOR THE WALL!" — tweet Thursday.

**THE FACTS:** This is a face-saving statement to mask the fact that Mexico refused to pay for a U.S. border



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wall, Trump gave up trying to make it do so and U.S. taxpayers are on the hook for it.

In essence, Trump is arguing that new terms of trade with Mexico will increase economic growth in the U.S. and produce more tax revenue. That's what everyone hopes trade agreements will do. As part of that, he hopes for a lower trade deficit with Mexico. Neither outcome is assured.

The deal negotiated with Mexico and Canada is an update of the North American Free Trade Agreement he railed against, not a transformative pact. The three countries will continue trading in an environment of mainly low or no tariffs, with improvements here and there for all three partners. There is no credible way for Trump to forecast additional growth covering costs that are being charged to U.S. taxpayers if the wall is built. Trade balances depend on too many factors — consumer tastes, exchange rates, overall economic performance, and the choices of thousands of companies among them — and some are well outside any government's control.

Trump specifically promised in the campaign that Mexico would pay for the wall. That is not the same as trying to reduce the U.S. trade deficit, which is about the exchange of goods and services among private entities rather than payments between governments. Nor is a trade deficit necessarily a penalty on consumers. It is the result of consumers buying things made in another country.

He wants some \$25 billion from Congress for wall construction over five years and promises a partial government shutdown if he does not get a \$5 billion or so portion in the next week. Congress may or may not give him that. If it does, it will not be because lawmakers expect a refund to the treasury in future years from extra growth produced by a trade deal.

TRUMP: "Tremendous amounts of wall have already been built." — statement in meeting Tuesday with Pelosi and Schumer.

TRUMP: "People do not yet realize how much of the Wall, including really effective renovation, has already been built." "We have already built large new sections & fully renovated others, making them like new." — tweets.

THE FACTS: Tremendous portions of the wall have not been built. Yes, some barrier renovation has happened, but little wall construction has been completed under Trump.

Congress allocated roughly \$1.4 billion in the spring — a bit more than 5 percent of what Trump wanted — for border security and specified that the money was not to be used for construction of the prototype wall sections that stand near San Diego. Instead, the money is to strengthen or replace existing fencing with more secure fencing.

Altogether, Trump promised in the campaign that he'd build a 1,000-mile (1,600 kilometer-) wall, as high as 40 feet or 12 meters (and have Mexico pay for it, which isn't happening). If some 650 miles (1,050 km) of existing fencing are considered in the equation, that leaves him with about 350 miles (560 km) of wall to build.

Associated Press writers Jonathan Lemire, Eric Tucker, Chad Day, Luran Neergaard, Josh Boak, Matthew Daly and Colleen Long in Washington, and Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

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## Pelosi flashes survival skills - and she'll need them in '19

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Nancy Pelosi is formidable but not immortal.

The California Democrat seems to have sewn up the race to become House speaker next month, but she also has accepted a maximum four-year expiration date on her tenure. She previously had resisted any term limit, saying it would weaken her.

Pelosi had overwhelming support among Democrats for the top job. But to ensure the majority (prob-

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ably 218 votes) she will need when the full House elects the speaker Jan. 3, she had to quell a rebellion by a stubborn faction of Democrats demanding a new generation of leaders.

It took five weeks, but she prevailed, wielding skills she will need to manage the roughly 235 Democrats, among the 435 representatives, who will comprise the House majority in the new Congress.

A look at what that fight suggests about the coming year:

## SKILLED, RESPECTED AND SOME SAY FEARED ...

Pelosi can find adversaries open to negotiation and cut deals with them, outnumber and isolate opponents and count votes. She can use a network of allies inside and outside Congress to exert pressure. She has experience and relationships built during three decades in Congress — the last 16 years leading Democrats as House minority leader or speaker, the job she held from 2007 into January 2011.

Her ability to apparently nail down the votes she will need is evidence of the broad and deep support she has from Democrats. That should give her a strong starting point when she needs to make strategic decisions for her party or round up votes for legislation.

Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-Calif., among the rebels who opposed Pelosi's election as speaker until the term-limit deal, said no rival for the speaker's job emerged because no one wanted to directly challenge her.

"She's tough, she's good, she's a woman, she's done it before," said Sanchez.

"People are afraid of her," said Rep. Kurt Schrader, D-Ore., who remains against Pelosi. "And it's tough to take pressure, I guess."

## ... BUT SHE DID MAKE A CONCESSION

Pelosi, 78, didn't seem to clinch her victory until agreeing in writing to serve no more than two two-year terms as speaker.

That means she won't be a weakened lame duck, since she can potentially be re-elected to the job in 2020, she says. Her backers note she'd be approaching her 83rd birthday as that second term expires and suggest she wasn't going to serve forever anyway.

Still, the agreement marked a retreat from initial statements that she would not specify an end date to her service because she did not want to lose clout. To any Democrat watching, it showed that as with any congressional leader, rank-and-file lawmakers in sufficient numbers can extract concessions.

## WHICH DEMOCRATS COULD CAUSE HER PROBLEMS?

While Pelosi's most outspoken Democratic opponents span the ideological spectrum, many are moderates in a party that tilts decisively in a liberal direction. Yet once it comes to writing and passing bills, Pelosi's thorniest problems may well come from the party's left wing, not its centrists.

The most hard-left Democrats could try pushing Pelosi to move faster and further than she would like on trying to impeach President Donald Trump. Fearful of moving prematurely and making Democrats look partisan and overzealous, Pelosi has said that impeachment needs to be handled with caution.

To show that Democrats can govern, there may also be times when Pelosi will want her colleagues to produce bills that can get Trump's signature, perhaps on infrastructure. That would require passing legislation acceptable to Republicans. In those instances, it could be hardcore liberals, not Democratic moderates, who are likely to cause most of Pelosi's heartburn.

## THIRST FOR CHANGE REMAINS

While Pelosi seems assured of being speaker for two more years and perhaps two additional years beyond that, the desire for fresh leaders will remain an important dynamic among Democrats.

There are plenty of younger, ambitious Democrats jockeying to move up as Pelosi and her top two lieutenants prepare to move off the scene. Reps. Steny Hoyer of Maryland and James Clyburn of South Carolina, the second- and third-ranking leaders, are also in their late 70s and many Democrats are eager for them to get out of the way.

Democrats have elected five fresh faces to lower-level leadership jobs: Reps. Ben Ray Lujan of New

Mexico, Hakeem Jeffries of New York, Cheri Bustos of Illinois, David Cicilline of Rhode Island and Katherine Clark of Massachusetts. Jeffries and Lujan are in their 40s; the others are in their 50s.

"I think the change has started. I think it's going to accelerate," said Rep. Ed Perlmutter, D-Colo., who wanted new leaders and helped negotiate the term limits Pelosi accepted. "And I think we maintained somebody, in my estimation, who's going to be really good at the helm during some tumultuous times."

## Investors seeking tax breaks skip poverty-stricken areas

By JEFF HORWITZ and STEPHEN BRAUN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A real estate investment firm co-founded by President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser, Jared Kushner, is betting big on the administration's Opportunity Zone tax breaks but isn't that interested in steering its investors to the poorest, most-downtrodden areas that the program seeks to revitalize.

New York-based Cadre, in which Kushner still holds at least a \$25 million passive stake, made it clear to potential investors in recent marketing materials that it doesn't plan to look for development deals in most of those zones because of their "unfavorable growth prospects."

Instead, Cadre says it will target a "small subset" of zones in such cities as Los Angeles, Seattle and Miami where both populations and incomes are already set to rise faster than the national average.

Cadre is a high-profile example of how early investor interest in the program appears focused on the places that need it the least: zones that qualified for the tax breaks despite already drawing substantial investment or are undergoing obvious gentrification.

Among the examples of such zones is a swath of the Upper East Side of Manhattan that includes the top of Fifth Avenue's Museum Mile, where three-bedroom apartments overlooking Central Park sell for \$4 million. Another is Ledroit Park in the nation's capital, which falls mostly in what real estate blog Curbed has anointed Washington's "most gentrified" ZIP code. Yet another Opportunity Zone includes part of The Willows neighborhood of Menlo Park, California, less than 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) from Stanford's campus, where the tech boom has driven home prices to \$1,500 per square foot, 10 times the national average. The Opportunity Zone where Amazon put its New York City headquarters in Queens has a median household income of more than \$130,000.

"It's hard to imagine why we should be subsidizing that," said Brett Theodos, a researcher whose Urban Institute analysis found nearly one-third of the nation's more than 8,700 Opportunity Zones are showing signs of pre-existing heavy investment. "These investors are not bad people. They are responding to the incentives."

Such is the major criticism of the Investing in Opportunity Act, which became law last December as part of the Republican-sponsored tax overhaul. Promoted by Trump in a White House event this past week, it offers developers potentially millions of dollars in capital gains tax breaks to invest in zones selected by states based on such factors as high poverty and low income.

While the program highlights an average 32 percent poverty rate in the zones, it includes a wide range of areas — and allows "contiguous" tracts that might not be low-income but are close enough to distressed areas to qualify.

Cadre said in a statement to The Associated Press that the neighborhoods it is targeting for investment may be poised for growth but still exhibit low median incomes and are "capital deprived."

"At the end of the day, the Opportunity Zone tax benefits only kick in if we succeed for the communities in which we invest," the statement said.

There's no evidence the administration sought to include better-off Opportunity Zones in the program. A White House spokesman told the AP this past week that the choice of the zones was up to the states. The Treasury Department, which certified the final roster of zones, declined to comment on the presence of gentrified areas in the program.

For some funds, the obvious gentrification of some zones was an explicit selling point, a much safer bet

than putting money in seriously distressed areas.

Anthony Scaramucci, the hedge fund executive who was briefly the White House's communications director for Trump, is trying to raise as much as \$3 billion for Opportunity Zone projects. On a marketing call this past week, he pitched both a warehouse project in Savannah, Georgia, and a "swanky" hotel project in Oakland, California.

"For those of you who have yet to go to that part of the Bay Area, I can tell you that it is fully gentrifying," Scaramucci said.

Fundrise, another Opportunity Zone fund that is trying to raise \$500 million for investments, is targeting many of the same areas as Cadre, ranking its "Top Ten" targets for Opportunity Zone investing based on which have the fastest-rising housing costs.

One measure of how much the zones overlap with developers' pre-existing interests is how much they overlap with their current holdings. An AP review of Kushner's holdings found that he holds stakes in 13 Opportunity Zone properties, all in locations deemed by the Urban Institute to be showing indications of rapid change or full-out gentrification.

An AP investigation found that Kushner and his wife, Ivanka Trump, both helped push for the program and as a couple stand to benefit financially from it. Even though Kushner gave up any management role in Cadre, ethics watchdogs say it is a conflict that arose from their decision to become presidential advisers without divesting from their extensive investments.

Marcy Hart, a Philadelphia real estate tax lawyer who has advised clients on the Opportunity Zone program, says she hasn't seen much indication that the program is redirecting investment to places that lacked it before.

"There are some projects that have probably come online because they're in Opportunity Zones," she said. "But my clients were already investing in these areas."

Even some of the program's strongest proponents have acknowledged that not all the Opportunity Zones are equally needy. At a Kemp Foundation gala last month honoring Sean Parker, a San Francisco venture capitalist who helped push for the Opportunity Zone's creation, Parker himself said that the zones included some "low hanging fruit," neighborhoods that were already clearly drawing investment.

But the program's incentives are great enough, he said, that after the obvious opportunities are exhausted, investors will eventually turn their attention to needier areas.

"There will be a lot of capital sitting in opportunity funds, and it's going to have to find a place to go," he said.

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AP Business Writer Bernard Condon in New York contributed to this report.

## Trump lawyer Giuliani rules out Mueller interview with Trump

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a number of probes moving closer to the Oval Office, President Donald Trump and his attorney unleashed a fresh series of attacks on the investigators, questioning their integrity while categorically ruling out the possibility of a presidential interview with the special counsel.

Trump and Rudy Giuliani used Twitter and television interviews Sunday to deliver a series of broadsides against special counsel Robert Mueller and federal prosecutors in New York. Giuliani said he was "disgusted" by the tactics used by Mueller in his probe into Russian election interference, including in securing guilty pleas from the president's former national security adviser Michael Flynn on a charge of lying to federal investigators.

Trump, Giuliani said, would not submit to an interview by Mueller's team.

"They're a joke," Giuliani told "Fox News Sunday." "Over my dead body, but, you know, I could be dead."

The special counsel, who is investigating possible ties between the Trump campaign and Russia, has continued to request an interview with the president. Last month, the White House sent written answers in response to the special counsel's questions about possible collusion. The White House has resisted



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answering questions on possible obstruction of justice.

Giuliani sarcastically said that the only thing left to ask the president was about "several unpaid parking tickets that night, back in 1986, '87 that haven't been explained."

If the president officially refuses an interview request, the special counsel's team could theoretically seek to subpoena him to compel his testimony. Such a move would almost certainly trigger an immediate court fight.

The Supreme Court has never directly ruled on whether a president can be subpoenaed for testimony in a criminal investigation, though the justices have said that a president can be forced to turn over records that have been subpoenaed and can be forced to answer questions as part of a lawsuit.

The special counsel's investigation has spun out charges and strong-armed guilty pleas from Trump underlings while keeping in suspense whether the president — "Individual-1," in Mueller's coded legalese — will end up accused of criminal behavior himself. This past week, his legal exposure grew as his former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, was sentenced to three years in prison after admitting he issued hush-money payments to women who alleged sexual trysts with Trump. Prosecutors and Cohen say he acted at the president's direction, which Trump and Giuliani deny.

Trump and Giuliani have repeatedly tried to paint Cohen as untrustworthy, with the former New York City mayor calling him a "pathological liar."

"Which is the truth?" Giuliani said of the competing stories from Trump and Cohen. "I think I know what the truth is. Unless you're God, you'll never know what the truth is."

Trump and Giuliani have also accused prosecutors of intimidating the president's associates into making false claims.

"Remember, Michael Cohen only became a 'Rat' after the FBI did something which was absolutely unthinkable & unheard of until the Witch Hunt was illegally started," Trump tweeted. "They BROKE INTO AN ATTORNEY'S OFFICE!"

It was not a break-in. The FBI executed a search warrant obtained from a judge in conducting a raid in April on Cohen's home, office and hotel room and seizing records on a variety of matters, among them a \$130,000 payment made to porn actress Stormy Daniels by Cohen. The application for the warrant was approved high in the Justice Department.

In response to Trump's tweet, former FBI Director James Comey tweeted, "This is from the President of our country, lying about the lawful execution of a search warrant issued by a federal judge. Shame on Republicans who don't speak up at this moment — for the FBI, the rule of law, and the truth."

Prosecutors have said Trump directed Cohen to arrange the payments to buy the silence of Daniels and former Playboy model Karen McDougal in the run-up to the 2016 campaign. Federal prosecutors in New York say the payments amounted to illegal campaign contributions because they were made at the height of election season to keep voters from learning of Trump's alleged infidelities.

Giuliani has argued the payments were made to protect Trump's family, not to influence the election.

"If there's another purpose, it's not a campaign contribution," Giuliani told ABC. "Suppose he tried to use campaign funds to pay Stormy Daniels. It wouldn't be illegal. These are not campaign contributions."

The hush money wasn't initially reported on campaign finance documents and, in any case, far exceeded the legally acceptable amount for in-kind contributions. The federal limit on individual contributions is \$2,700.

Cohen also pleaded guilty to lying to investigators about the Trump Organization's goals to build a tower in Moscow. His representative, Lanny Davis, told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday that his written statement to Congress, which contained the lie, was published ahead of his testimony and Cohen then spoke to the White House.

"Not one person from the White House ever said, 'Don't lie,'" Davis said.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the House oversight committee and the likely chairman come January, said he wanted Cohen to testify before Congress about what he told prosecutors. Meanwhile, Trump's fellow Republican, Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, acknowledged on CNN that "it was not a good week for President Trump" and urged "that the special counsel be allowed to complete his investigation unimpeded."

Trump compared his situation to one involving President Barack Obama's 2008 campaign. The Federal Election Commission docked the Obama campaign \$375,000 for regulatory civil violations. The fines stemmed from the campaign's failure to report a batch of contributions, totaling nearly \$1.9 million, on time in the final days of the campaign.

But legal analysts said the accusations against Trump could amount to a felony because they revolve around an alleged conspiracy to conceal payments from campaign contribution reports — and from voters. It's unclear what federal prosecutors in New York will decide to do if they conclude that there is evidence that Trump himself committed a crime.

Trump has not yet laid out a detailed defense, though he could conceivably argue that the payments were made not for the purposes of advancing his campaign but rather to prevent salacious stories from emerging that would be personally humiliating to him and harm his marriage.

That argument was advanced by former Sen. John Edwards, a North Carolina Democrat, in a similar campaign finance case that went to trial in 2012. But that may be tougher for Trump than it was for Edwards given the proximity of the president's payment to the election — timing that, on its face, suggests a link between the money and his political ambitions. Edwards was acquitted on one count of accepting illegal campaign contributions, but jurors couldn't reach a verdict on the five remaining counts, including conspiracy and making false statements.

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Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

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## Scope of investigations into Trump has shaped his presidency

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."

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

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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.

"Let me point out that there are a lot of unanswered ethical, legal and factual questions," Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union."

"But, clearly, this was not a good week for President Trump nor for his campaign organization," she said, adding that it is "critical" for Mueller to be allowed to complete his work "unimpeded, so that we can have the full picture."

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, R-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."

## North Korea marks 7th anniversary of Kim Jong Il's death

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Koreans are marking the seventh anniversary of the death of leader Kim Jong Il with visits to statues and vows of loyalty to his son and successor, Kim Jong Un.

As snow fell Sunday, tens of thousands of people offered flowers and paid respects to the late leader at Mansu Hill in central Pyongyang, the location of huge bronze statues of the "Dear Leader" and national founder Kim Il Sung.

The anniversary observations were expected to continue through Monday across the country.

The death of Kim Jong Il on Dec. 17, 2011, thrust his son into power when he was still in his late 20s and a virtual unknown figure outside of the North.

Despite many predictions from outside experts that he wouldn't be up to the task, Kim Jong Un has consolidated his power, bolstered the country's economy in the face of intense international sanctions and attained a goal his father and grandfather could only dream of — he is the first North Korean leader to possess an arsenal of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles capable of reaching the United States.

With attention focused on the anniversary, there was little mention in the state media of the issues that have gotten the most attention elsewhere, including a flurry of speculation in South Korea that Kim might visit Seoul by the end of the year.

But the North's official Korean Central News Agency ran a lengthy commentary late Sunday that slammed the United States for "slander" and "sheer malice" against the country and for dragging its feet on efforts to improve relations after Kim's summit with President Donald Trump in Singapore in June.

The commentary deliberately focused its criticism on the State Department and administration officials, not at Trump, suggesting that Pyongyang remains open to another summit. Trump has suggested he could meet Kim again early next year.



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With Kim's power base seemingly more solid than ever, and his recent effort to establish himself on the world stage through summits with Trump and others, North Korea watchers have been on the lookout for signs that his own personality cult is being bolstered.

Virtually all homes and public offices in North Korea feature portraits of the elder Kims, who are also memorialized in countless statues, mosaics and cenotaphs around the country. North Korean adults wear pins over their hearts bearing the likenesses of Kim Il Sung or Kim Jong Il, or both.

The North has yet to come out with a Kim Jong Un pin or to order his image join the others on every wall, though Kim and his wife, Ri Sol Ju, have been referred to with increasingly lofty titles — "chairman" for Kim and "respected first lady" for Ri. A special portrait of the young chairman was unveiled recently at a ceremony to welcome the visit of Cuba's president, but none have appeared in public since. And unlike his father and grandfather, Kim's Jan. 8 birthday has yet to be declared a national holiday or even marked on calendars.

None of that should be assumed to be a sign of weakness, however.

Kim is generally afforded the same reverential treatment by the state media, and for maintaining a respectful step behind his predecessors, he is credited with showing humility and confidence.

Talmadge is the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram: @EricTalmadge

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Dec. 17, the 351st day of 2018. There are 14 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright of Dayton, Ohio, conducted the first successful manned powered-airplane flights near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, using their experimental craft, the Wright Flyer.

On this date:

In 1777, France recognized American independence.

In 1865, Franz Schubert's Symphony No. 8, known as the "Unfinished" because only two movements had been completed, was first performed publicly in Vienna 37 years after the composer's death.

In 1944, the U.S. War Department announced it was ending its policy of excluding people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast.

In 1957, the United States successfully test-fired the Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time.

In 1967, Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt, 59, disappeared while swimming in the ocean off Cheviot Beach in Victoria state; despite an extensive search, his body was never found (Holt was succeeded as premier by John McEwen).

In 1969, the U.S. Air Force closed its Project "Blue Book" by concluding there was no evidence of extraterrestrial spaceships behind thousands of UFO sightings. An estimated 50 million TV viewers watched singer Tiny Tim marry his fiancée, Miss Vicky, on NBC's "Tonight Show."

In 1975, Lynette Fromme was sentenced in Sacramento, Calif. to life in prison for her attempt on the life of President Gerald R. Ford. (She was paroled in Aug. 2009.)

In 1979, Arthur McDuffie, a black insurance executive, was fatally injured after leading police on a chase with his motorcycle in Miami. (Four white police officers accused of beating McDuffie were later acquitted, sparking riots.)

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (muhl-ROO'-nee) and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari (sah-LEE'-nuhs deh gohr-TAHR'-ee) signed the North American Free Trade Agreement in separate ceremonies. (After approval by the legislative bodies of the leaders' respective countries, the treaty came into force on Jan. 1, 1994.)

In 1996, Peruvian guerrillas took hundreds of people hostage at the Japanese embassy in Lima (all but 72 of the hostages were later released by the rebels; the siege ended April 22, 1997, with a commando

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raid that resulted in the deaths of all the rebels, two commandos and one hostage). Kofi Annan of Ghana was appointed United Nations secretary-general.

In 2000, President-elect George W. Bush named Stanford professor Condoleezza Rice his national security adviser and Alberto Gonzales to the White House counsel's job, the same day he was named Time magazine's Person of the Year.'

In 2011, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il died after more than a decade of iron rule; he was 69, according to official records, but some reports indicated he was 70.

Ten years ago: President-elect Barack Obama named former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack as agriculture secretary and Colorado Sen. Ken Salazar of Colorado to head the Interior Department. OPEC agreed to slash 2.2 million barrels from daily production — its single largest cut ever. Pro Football Hall of Famer Sammy Baugh died in Rotan, Texas at age 94.

Five years ago: Germany's Parliament elected Chancellor Angela Merkel (AHN'-geh-lah MEHR'-kuhl) to a third term as the leader of Europe's biggest economic power, nearly three months after an awkward election result forced her to put together a new governing coalition. A suicidal gunman opened fire at a Reno, Nevada, hospital campus, killing one person and critically wounding two others before ending his own life.

One year ago: Facing an investigation of allegations of sexual misconduct and using racist language, Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson announced that he would sell the NFL team after the season. "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" took in \$220 million in its debut weekend in North America, good for the second-best opening ever and behind only its predecessor, "The Force Awakens." French sailor Francois Gabart broke the record for sailing around the world alone, circumnavigating the planet in just 42 days and 16 hours.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Armin Mueller-Stahl is 88. Pope Francis is 82. Singer-actor Tommy Steele is 82. Rock singer-musician Art Neville is 81. Actor Bernard Hill is 74. Actor Ernie Hudson is 73. Political commentator Chris Matthews is 73. Comedian-actor Eugene Levy is 72. Actress Marilyn Hassett is 71. Actor Wes Studi is 71. Pop musician Jim Bonfanti (The Raspberries) is 70. Actor Joel Brooks is 69. Rock singer Paul Rodgers is 69. Rhythm-and-blues singer Wanda Hutchinson Vaughn (The Emotions) is 67. Actor Bill Pullman is 65. Actor Barry Livingston is 65. Country singer Sharon White is 65. Producer-director-writer Peter Farrelly is 62. Rock musician Mike Mills (R.E.M.) is 60. Pop singer Sarah Dallin (Bananarama) is 57. Country musician Tim Chewning is 56. Country singer Tracy Byrd is 52. Country musician Duane Propes is 52. Actress Laurie Holden is 49. DJ Homicide (Sugar Ray) is 48. Actor Sean Patrick Thomas is 48. Actress Claire Forlani is 47. Pop-rock musician Eddie Fisher (OneRepublic) is 45. Actress Sarah Paulson is 44. Actress Marissa Ribisi is 44. Actor Giovanni Ribisi is 44. Actress Milla Jovovich (YO'-vuh-vich) is 43. Singer Bree Sharp is 43. Singer-songwriter Ben Goldwasser (MGMT) is 36. Rock singer Mikky Ekko is 35. Actress Shannon Woodward is 34. Actress Emma Bell is 32. Actress Vanessa Zima is 32. Rock musician Taylor York (Paramore) is 29. Actor Graham Rogers is 28. Actor-singer Nat Wolff is 24.

Thought for Today: "The man who has done his level best, and who is conscious that he has done his best, is a success, even though the world may write him down a failure." — B.C. Forbes, Scottish journalist (1880-1954).