

## Groton Area Schedule of Events

### Thursday, January 17, 2019

Boys Basketball hosts Aberdeen Roncalli (7th grade game at 3 p.m., 8th grade game at 4 p.m., C game at 5:15 p.m., JV at 6:30 p.m. with varsity to follow.)

5:00pm: Wrestling: Boys Varsity Triangular vs. Clark/Willow Lake, Hamlin @ Clark Junior-Senior High School (We will wrestle C/WL and Hamlin. We will NOT wrestle Webster.)

### Friday, January 18, 2019

Speech Fiesta Debate at Watertown High School

No School - Faculty Inservice at Warner High School

6:30pm: Girls Varsity Basketball Game vs. Aberdeen Roncalli @ Aberdeen Roncalli High School.



### 81st Annual

## Carnival of Silver Skates

Sunday, January 27th—2:00 and 6:30  
Groton Ice Rink—West Side of Groton, SD

Join us for a fun “Road Trip”!

Admission: 13 & older—\$3.00 / 6-12—\$2.00

Parking: Provided around the rink and on the ice or cozy up on the bleachers  
(Ice parking begins at 10 am, then again at 4:30 pm)

\*\*Check us out on Facebook at “Silver Skates”

### **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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## Skating Rink Hours

**Open Monday - Thursday: 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Friday: 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

**Saturday: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.**

**Sunday: 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

## Groton Area boys have impressive win over Ipswich

Groton Area put on an impressive show Tuesday night as the Tigers handily defeated Ipswich, 65-43. It was the second lowest scoring game for Ipswich this season which now falls to 6-4 on the season.

The Groton Area basketball team has been struggling through the season, but Tuesday night, the Tigers were firing on all cylinders. The lone senior, Treyton Diegel, had four three-pointers to be included in his 18 points to lead all scorers. Brodyn DeHoet had a double-double night with 13 points and sprung for 11 rebounds. Jonathan Doeden had 13 points which included a crowd-pleasing dunk early in the game. Cade Guthmiller had seven fourth-quarter points to have nine points. And Austin Jones, Kaden Kurtz and Tristan Traphagen each had four points.

Another impressive stat was the assists with Groton Area having a season high 23 as DeHoet and Diegel each had six. The Tigers dominated the boards, 41-26, with Ipswich having no offensive rebounds.

Groton Area shot 46 percent from the field while Ipswich made 33 percent of its shots. Groton Area made seven of 15 three-pointers for 47 percent while Ipswich was five of 24 for 29 percent. Groton Area made six of nine free throws for 67 percent off of Ipswich's 10 team fouls. Ipswich was six of 10 from the line for 60 percent off of Groton Area's 12 team fouls. Groton Area had 15 turnovers, nine of which were steals. Ipswich had 14 turnovers, seven of which were steals with DeHoet having three and Kurtz two.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the Aberdeen Chrysler Center.

Ipswich won the C game, 37-28. Scoring: Cogley 10, Hearnen 4, Kettering 4, Tietz 4, Bjerke 2, Coats 2, Larson 2.

Ipswich won the JV game, 54-35. Scoring: Jayden Zak 10, Larson 7, DeHoet 4, Lane 3, Simon 3, Cogley 2, Larson 2, Traphagen 2, Kettering 1, Kroll 1.

## Region-wide Power Outage Last Night

An issue with the WAPA substation south of Groton created a region-wide power outage. The area from Conde to Langford and Pierpont and from Groton to Webster including those municipalities experienced a power outage for a little over half an hour.

## Groton Coffee Cup League

Jan. 15 Team Standings: James Valley 12, Kens 11, Biker chix 9, Ten Pins 8

**High Games:** Vickie Kramp 180, 177; Nancy Radke 174; Sandi Bistedeau 163

**High Series:** Vickie Kramp 507, Nancy Radke 440, Sandi Bistedeau 431

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Date: 1/15/2019  
Time: 8:00 pm

Arena:  
City, State:

## VISITOR: Groton ( )

NO	PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS							MIN		
			FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO		BK	S
22	Doeden, Jonathan	F	4	9	1	1	4	4	1	3	4	4	13	4	1	0	1	16:24
34	Jones, Austin	F	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	2	0	0	16:22
42	DeHoet, Brodyn	F	6	14	1	5	0	2	2	9	11	1	13	6	1	0	3	8:25
20	Kurtz, Kaden	G	1	5	0	1	2	2	0	5	5	0	4	3	0	0	2	24:00
55	Diegel, Treyton	G	7	13	4	7	0	0	1	2	3	3	18	6	2	0	0	8:25
4	Kroll, Jace		0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7:35
11	Guthmiller, Cade		4	4	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	9	3	3	0	1	16:28
12	Zak, Jayden		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	23:32
24	Larson, Chandler		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7:35
32	DeHoet, Cyruss		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15:34
50	Traphagen, Tristan		2	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	15:40
TEAM REBOUNDS									0	14	14						6	
Team Totals			26	56	7	15	6	9	6	35	41	12	65	23	15	0	7	160

Total FG% - 1st: 12/29 0.414 2nd: 14/27 0.519 Game: 0.464 Deadball  
3-PT FG% - 1st: 4/9 0.444 2nd: 3/6 0.500 Game: 0.467 Rebounds  
Total FT% - 1st: 0/3 0.000 2nd: 6/6 1.000 Game: 0.667 (1,0)

## HOME: Ipswich ( )

NO	PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS							MIN		
			FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO		BK	S
10	Kulesa, Ben	F	1	5	1	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	3	0	2	0	1	23:57
50	Moehlenbrink, Reece	C	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	4	4	3	3	1	0	0	0	7:50
4	Kadlec, Will	G	3	11	0	5	2	2	0	4	4	1	8	5	3	0	1	16:14
12	Nierman, Jacob	G	1	8	1	5	1	2	0	1	1	0	4	1	0	0	4	24:10
40	Kadlec, Ty	G	1	6	0	4	0	0	0	1	1	3	2	1	3	0	0	8:17
14	Onken, Jadon		1	2	0	0	1	3	0	1	1	2	3	1	2	0	1	16:02
20	Miller, Matt		0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7:44
22	Gilbert, Ethan		1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	7:44
30	Simes, Carson		3	4	1	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	8	4	0	0	1	8:18
34	Geditz, Max		3	7	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	6	1	1	0	0	24:16
42	Richardt, Jordan		1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	7:44
44	Hettich, Matt		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7:44
TEAM REBOUNDS									0	10	10						2	
Team Totals			16	49	5	24	6	10	0	26	26	10	43	16	14	0	9	160

Total FG% - 1st: 7/22 0.318 2nd: 9/27 0.333 Game: 0.327 Deadball  
3-PT FG% - 1st: 1/7 0.143 2nd: 4/17 0.235 Game: 0.208 Rebounds  
Total FT% - 1st: 4/5 0.800 2nd: 2/5 0.400 Game: 0.600 (1,0)

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Groton	9	18	19	19	65
Ipswich	8	11	6	18	43

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## National Gas Price Average Inches Up for First Time in Three Months

January 14, 2019 - At a penny more expensive on the week, the national gas price average (\$2.25) increased for the first time since October. Despite the increase, today's average is still cheaper month-over-month (-14 cents) and year-over-year (-28 cents).

"The price of crude oil has been slowly, but steadily increasing since the beginning of the year, which is starting to push up pump prices," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "The price per barrel (WTI) increased \$3 from last Monday to close on Friday to settle at \$51 per barrel."

### South Dakota Average Gas Prices:

Current Avg. \$2.15

Yesterday Avg. \$2.15

Week Ago Avg. \$2.16

Month Ago Avg. \$2.39

Year Ago Avg. \$2.48

Last week saw not only more expensive crude oil, but a sizeable build in U.S. gasoline stocks and a small increase in demand. Overall demand has been low lately, contributing to the growth in stocks and helping to keep gas prices lower despite increasing crude prices.

### Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 largest monthly decreases are: Montana (-33 cents), Idaho (-32 cents), Colorado (-32 cents), Wyoming (-31 cents), Utah (-29 cents), Hawaii (-27 cents), South Dakota (-24 cents), North Dakota (-22 cents), New Mexico (-21 cents) and Minnesota (-20 cents).

The nation's top 10 largest yearly decreases are: Michigan (-57 cents), Illinois (-53 cents), Iowa (-49 cents), Indiana (-48 cents), Wisconsin (-45 cents), Nebraska (-45 cents), Ohio (-44 cents), Kentucky (-43 cents), Minnesota (-41 cents) and Kansas (-40 cents).

### Great Lakes and Central

Pump prices are rising across the Great Lakes and Central states with Ohio (+8 cents), Indiana (+8 cents), Missouri (+7 cents), Michigan (+6 cents), Iowa (+6 cents) and Kentucky (+4 cents) seeing the largest jumps in the region on the week. With these increases, many states' averages have surpassed the \$2/gal mark except for Missouri (\$1.89) and Kansas (\$1.97), though motorists can still find gas below the \$2/mark in many states in the region.

For the sixth straight week, gasoline inventories built, adding a staggering 2.7 million bbl in the latest Energy Information Administration (EIA) report. Total stocks sit at 57 million bbl – a 4 million bbl year-over-year surplus.

### Oil market dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI decreased \$1.00 to settle at \$51.59. Although they ended down for the day, crude prices increased overall last week due to optimism that the trade tensions between China and the U.S. may be subsiding.

Reduced trade volatility will likely help curtail stalled global economic growth that could have reduced global demand for crude. Moreover, with OPEC's global pact with large non-OPEC crude producers (including Russia) to reduce crude production by 1.2 million b/d for at least the first six months of 2019 now in effect, the global glut of crude is expected to decline, helping to push crude prices higher. If crude prices continue to climb, motorists will likely see gas prices follow suit.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at [AAA.com/mobile](http://AAA.com/mobile).

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## Today in Weather History

January 16, 1967: In Minnesota, a fast moving blizzard brought winds in excess of 75 mph. The snowfall was light to moderate with extensive blowing and drifting snow. Visibility was near zero for an extended period of time. Temperatures fell rapidly during the storm and by the morning of the 18th, many records low were set. Many vehicles went into the ditch. Thousands of motorists and school children found shelter wherever they could as travel came to a standstill. A Wheaton man froze to death. In South Dakota, rain followed by a sudden drop in temperatures of nearly 30 degrees in 2 hours resulted in widespread freezing rain and significant icing on roads and trees. Strong winds of 35 to 45 mph with gusts to 75 mph along with the ice halted most travel. The wind and icing also caused the toppling of a 270 foot radio tower near Aberdeen.

January 16, 1997: An intense Arctic High brought widespread blizzard conditions and dangerous wind chills of 40 to 70 below to central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. One to 3 inches of snow fell on top of the already deep snowpack of 2 to 5 feet. The blizzard winds brought another round of widespread heavy drifting, blocking area roads and highways. Also, many area schools were closed once again to add to their large number of days missed for the winter season. Fortunately, this blizzard as compared to previous blizzards was short-lived and the people were better prepared.

January 16, 2014: A strong area of surface high pressure building into the region behind an Arctic cold front brought high winds to central and north central South Dakota during the early morning hours of the 16th. Some of the strongest wind gusts include; 69 mph near Whitlocks Bay; 68 mph near Bullhead; 67 mph near Trail City; 66 mph in Foster Bay; 65 mph near Mellette and in Presho; 64 mph near Harrold and in Murdo; and 63 mph in Pierre, Reliance, and Miranda. The strong winds diminished during the late afternoon hours of the 16th. A clipper system passing across the region brought light snowfall and very strong northwest winds gusting in excess of 70 mph at times resulting in blizzard conditions. The highest wind gusts include; 76 mph at the Brown County Landfill; 69 mph in Aberdeen and Cravens Corner; 52 mph near Webster; and 52 mph in Sisseton. Blizzard conditions ended during the late afternoon hours. A no travel advisory was issued in Grant, Codington, Hamlin, and Spink Counties due to poor visibilities. The blizzard led to the cancellation of several area activities and schools and nearly impossible travel conditions.

1990: Heavy snow fell across Prince Williams Sound and the Susitna Valley of southern Alaska. Valdez was buried under 64.9 inches of snow in less than 2 days including a record 47.5 inches in 24 hours. The heavy snow blocked roads, closed schools and sunk 6 vessels in the Valdez harbor under the weight of the heavy snow.

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Today

Tonight

Thursday

Thursday  
Night

Friday



Mostly Sunny

High: 11 °F



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 5 °F



Mostly Cloudy

High: 15 °F



Mostly Cloudy  
then Slight  
Chance Snow

Low: -1 °F



Snow Likely

High: 5 °F



## Probability of 4+” of Snow Friday

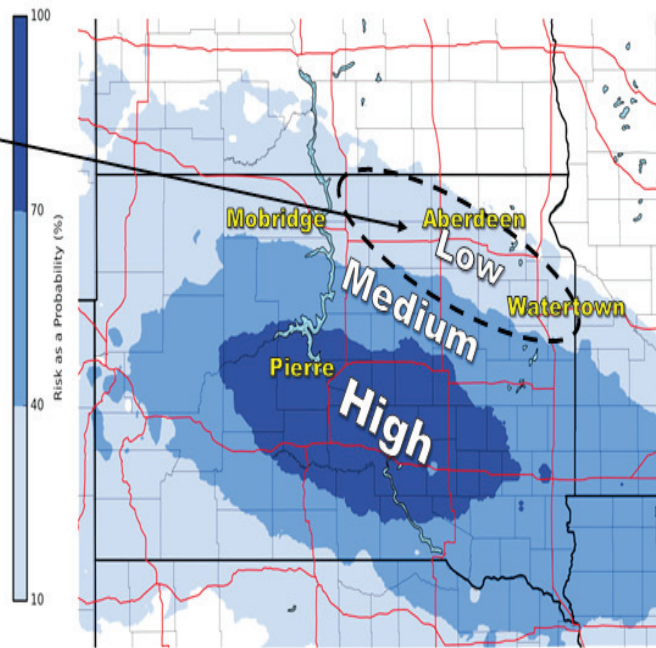


### Some Uncertainty

Dry air on the north side of this system could greatly reduce snow amounts. Shift in storm track remains possible.

### Other Considerations

Most likely all snow precipitation type. Breezy winds could lead to some drifting of this fluffy snow.



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 1/16/2019 5:15 AM Central

Published on: 01/16/2019 at 5:20AM

Late this week, a low pressure system is forecast to move through the region, bringing snow chances, especially to central South Dakota. Light to moderate snow accumulations are possible.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 29 °F at 2:41 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 9 °F at 10:26 PM**

**High Gust: 12 mph at 6:58 AM**

**Precip:**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 49° in 1942**

**Record Low: -30° in 2005**

**Average High: 22°F**

**Average Low: 1°F**

**Average Precip in Jan.: 0.26**

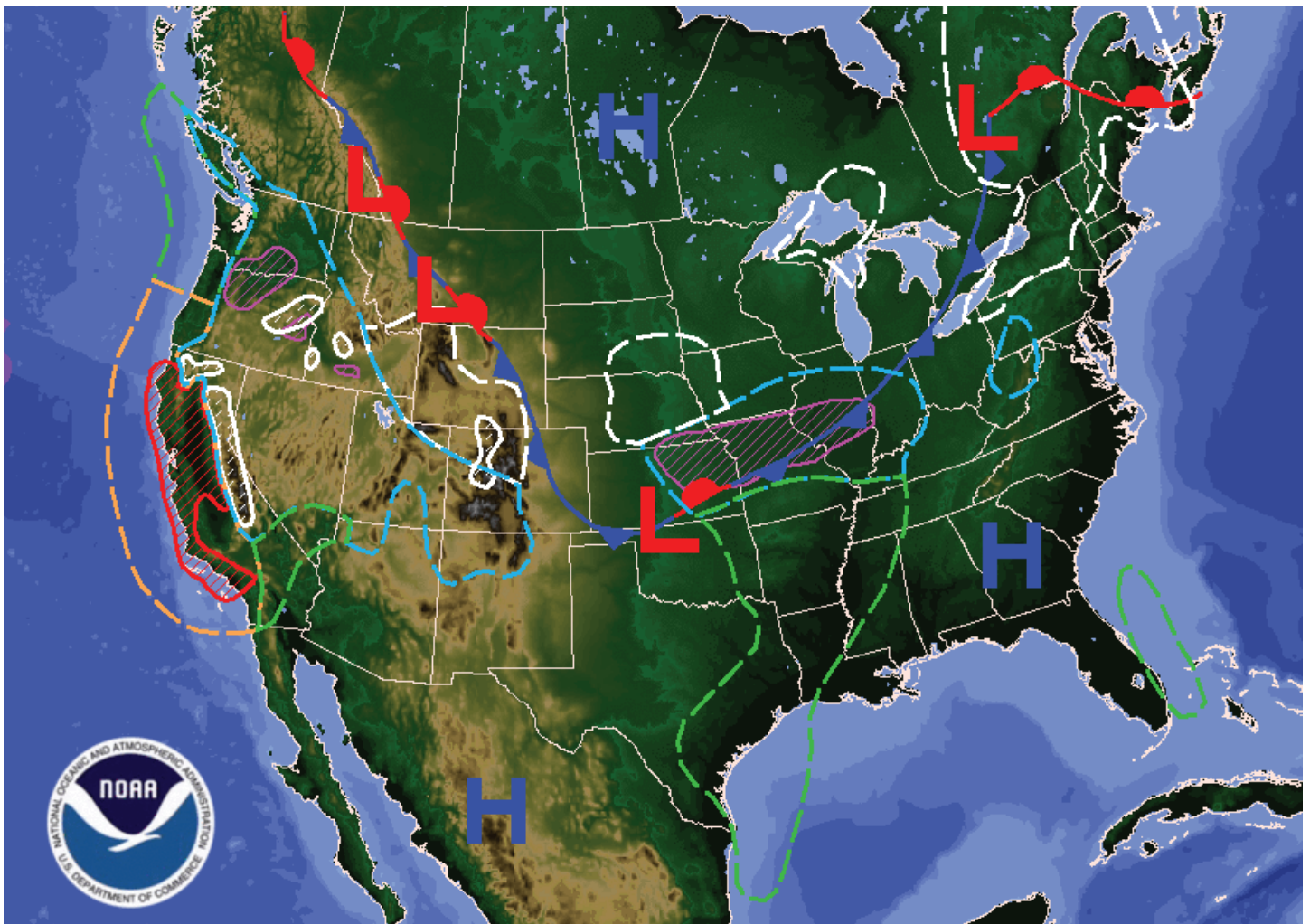
**Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00**

**Average Precip to date: 0.26**

**Precip Year to Date: 0.00**

**Sunset Tonight: 5:18 p.m.**

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



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Jan 16, 2019, issued 4:55 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds 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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## WHO'S IN CONTROL?

No matter where we look - within our borders or around the planet - things seem to be spinning out of control. Each day, perhaps even twice a day, a different nation seems to surface, demanding one thing or another. From hostages to ransoms, from earthquakes to floods, from kidnappings to suicide bombings, there is no way to predict what the next crisis will be or where it will occur.

The Psalmist wrote, Dominion belongs to the Lord, and He rules over the nations. There are times when it is difficult to believe that he knew what he was writing about. Yet, it has to be true if we are to believe His Word. In the final analysis, if we cannot believe that the Bible is the Word of God, that it is inspired, infallible, and inerrant in its entirety, there is nothing left for us to believe in.

Accepting God at His Word, and accepting His Word as truth, are what makes being a Christian unique. When we put our faith, our love, our time, our energy, and our finances into serving Him, we are not only preparing for our eternity with Him, we are, in another way, actually beginning our eternity now because we are building His Kingdom on earth at this very moment.

If we look at what Jesus did and think about what He has challenged and charged us to do, we can, if we choose to, do many of the things He did. We can feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, extend a hand to lift the fallen, share our clothes with the naked, encourage the hopeless, and give help to the sick. If we do as He did, we are working with Him to establish His rule now.

Prayer: Father, may we accept our responsibility to work with You to begin Your reign as Lord over all. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Psalm 22:28 Dominion belongs to the Lord, and He rules over the nations.



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## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 03/17/2019 Groton American Legion Spring Fundraiser
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 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)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main
- 11/9/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course 2019 Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

## News from the Associated Press

### Guilty verdict in fatal shooting of activist

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A jury has convicted a man in the shooting death of a Twin Cities activist.

Jurors in Hennepin County returned a guilty verdict Tuesday on a second-degree unintentional murder charge in the death of 33-year-old Tyrone Williams. Prosecutors say Williams and the defendant, 28-year-old Sid Strickland-Green, knew each other and had argued in the days before the victim was fatally shot last April outside his mother's house in Minneapolis.

Minnesota Public Radio News reports Williams organized and marched against the police killings of black men and in solidarity with Dakota Access Pipeline protesters. Some of the people who marched with him sat with Williams' family in court.

Strickland-Green will be sentenced next month.

Information from: Minnesota Public Radio News, <http://www.mprnews.org>

### Takeaways: AG nominee assures, frustrates Mueller defenders

By CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General nominee William Barr made one thing clear during his Senate confirmation hearing : He may want the job, but he doesn't need it.

The 68-year-old Barr, who has already served once before as attorney general, said Tuesday he's in a position in life where he "can do the right thing and not really care about the consequences."

That's how he reinforced the point that he is willing to stand up to President Donald Trump if he were to improperly interfere in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation. That also allowed him to dodge Democratic senators and avoid making hard commitments about releasing Mueller's final report or refusing from overseeing the probe because of his past comments.

Some takeaways from his appearance before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

HE APPEARS BOUND FOR CONFIRMATION

Republicans are united behind him and Democrats don't have the votes to block him.

Barr said the right things for defenders of the president looking to rein in a Justice Department they see as politically tainted by the handling of Democrat Hillary Clinton's email investigation and the Russia probe involving Trump's campaign.

But he also reassured moderate Republicans and Democrats that he would allow the Russia investigation to proceed and stand up to a mercurial and norm-breaking president.

Sen. John Thune, the No. 2 Senate Republican, even floated the idea of voting to confirm Barr next week.

HE ASSURED MUELLER DEFENDERS ...

Barr gave Mueller fans things to like.

He said he would not carry out any order to fire Mueller without cause. He said it would be an "abuse of power" and breach of a president's constitutional oath for Trump to intervene in an investigation he "has a stake in." He didn't doubt the finding of U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia attempted to sway the 2016 election.

And he rejected Trump's casting the probe as a "witch hunt," saying "it is vitally important" that Mueller be allowed to finish his work.

... AND HE FRUSTRATED THEM

But Barr wouldn't make some of the ironclad promises Democrats wanted.

He said he believes Congress and the American public should be told the result of Mueller's probe, but he stopped short of committing to release the special counsel's report in full.

He similarly hedged on the question of recusal. Barr told senators that he would seek the advice of ca-

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reer ethics officials at the Justice Department, but he wouldn't commit to following whatever decision they recommended. He said he alone would make the decision in "good faith based on the laws and the facts."

Barr said his position was different than that of former Trump Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who re-cused himself from overseeing the Russia probe because he had served on Trump's campaign.

Pressed about whether his previous criticisms of the Russia investigation, he sought to downplay the importance of a memo he authored—and distributed to the Justice Department and White House lawyers. Barr said the memo was intended to be narrowly focused on one of Mueller's reported interpretations of obstruction and shouldn't be read that he has prejudged the investigation.

## HE TURNED DOWN REPPING TRUMP

Not only did Barr send that memo counseling Trump's lawyers on the Mueller probe, he disclosed Tuesday that the president spoke with him about joining his legal team.

In June 2017, Barr said he was approached by David Friedman, U.S. ambassador to Israel, about joining Trump's legal team. Barr said he resisted the idea, saying he had other commitments and didn't want to stick his "head into that meat grinder."

Nonetheless, he agreed to meet with Trump at the White House where he said he turned down Trump's offer. He said he personally told Trump he couldn't represent him.

Barr said he didn't hear from Trump again until he was being considered for attorney general.

## HE'S CLOSE WITH MUELLER

Barr and "Bob" have been friends for nearly 30 years, he told senators. Their wives are close. And under questioning from senators, Barr routinely praised his friend.

He said Mueller wouldn't be involved in a "witch hunt," a reference to Trump's favored moniker for the Russia probe. And he said he made that clear to Trump personally in the White House, telling Trump that "Bob is a straight shooter and should be dealt with as such."

The Barrs and Muellers are good friends, he told the president, "and would be good friends when this is all over."

## HE WON'T RULE OUT JAILING REPORTERS

Barr didn't do much to assure defenders of the free press in light of daily presidential attacks on journalists who scrutinize his actions and those of his administration.

Under questioning from Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., whose father is a journalist, Barr said he couldn't rule out jailing reporters for doing their jobs and even raised the prospect of doing so based on the content of their news reports.

Barr said there are certain situations where a reporter could be held in contempt "as a last resort." He also said he could envision a case for incarceration that would involve news organizations "putting out stuff that is hurting the country."

In 2017, former Attorney General Jeff Sessions said he couldn't make a "blanket commitment" not to jail reporters in response to a similar question from Klobuchar.

AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

29-52-58-60-62, Mega Ball: 7, Megaplier: 2

(twenty-nine, fifty-two, fifty-eight, sixty, sixty-two; Mega Ball: seven; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$55 million

Powerball

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Estimated jackpot: \$112 million

## Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL(equals)  
Aberdeen Christian 67, Faulkton 58  
Bon Homme 64, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 50  
Britton-Hecla 67, Langford 58  
Canistota 71, Freeman Academy/Marion 47  
Flandreau 64, Deuel 39  
Freeman 67, Centerville 61  
Groton Area 65, Ipswich 43  
Hamlin 67, DeSmet 56  
Hanson 60, Howard 4  
Irene-Wakonda 68, Scotland 30  
Jones County 53, Colome 40  
Lennox 60, Chamberlain 41  
Leola/Frederick 60, Ellendale, N.D. 45  
Madison 74, Sisseton 51  
Menno 48, Ethan 40  
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 54, Redfield/Doland 50  
Northwestern 50, Warner 44  
O'Neill, Neb. 47, Wagner 38  
Rapid City Stevens 71, Douglas 28  
Sioux Falls Lincoln 62, Mitchell 59  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 55, Yankton 51  
Sioux Valley 72, Chester 53  
Spearfish 61, Hill City 52  
St. Thomas More 78, Lead-Deadwood 23  
Sully Buttes 67, Timber Lake 57, OT  
Tiospa Zina Tribal 67, Milbank 41  
Vermillion 63, Elk Point-Jefferson 26  
Wakpala 54, Eureka/Bowdle 44  
Waubay/Summit 56, Wilmot 42  
Waverly-South Shore 48, Great Plains Lutheran 19  
281 Conference Tournament(equals)  
Consolation Semifinal(equals)  
Hitchcock-Tulare 53, Wessington Springs 38  
Iroquois 51, Sunshine Bible Academy 48  
Semifinal(equals)  
James Valley Christian 63, Highmore-Harrold 61  
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 45, Wolsey-Wessington 37  
DVC Tournament(equals)  
First Round(equals)  
Arlington 68, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 34  
Dell Rapids St. Mary 83, Estelline/Hendricks 53  
Elkton-Lake Benton 38, Deubrook 36  
Panhandle Conference Basketball Tournament(equals)

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Sioux County, Neb. 51, Edgemont 45  
GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL(equals)  
Aberdeen Roncalli 53, Watertown 33  
Brandon Valley 41, Harrisburg 40  
Bridgewater-Emery 55, Kimball/White Lake 53  
Burke 53, Platte-Geddes 38  
Chamberlain 64, Gregory 53  
DeSmet 51, Hamlin 41  
Ellendale, N.D. 62, Leola/Frederick 47  
Ethan 58, Menno 18  
Flandreau 78, Deuel 44  
Florence/Henry 69, Webster 48  
Hanson 56, Howard 32  
Irene-Wakonda 59, Scotland 32  
Lennox 67, Tri-Valley 32  
McCook Central/Montrose 64, Baltic 26  
Miller 59, Crow Creek 53  
Mott-Regent, N.D. 57, Bison 23  
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 37, Redfield/Doland 29  
O'Neill, Neb. 69, Wagner 48  
Pierre 66, Douglas 48  
Rapid City Christian 63, Oelrichs 43  
Sioux Falls Christian 66, Clark/Willow Lake 44  
Sioux Falls Lincoln 55, Mitchell 51  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 55, Yankton 49  
St. Thomas More 55, Lead-Deadwood 30  
Sully Buttes 60, Timber Lake 49  
Vermillion 46, Elk Point-Jefferson 43  
Wakpala 61, Eureka/Bowdle 50  
Waverly-South Shore 52, Great Plains Lutheran 38  
West Central 54, Dell Rapids 41

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

## Public suggestions for Sioux Falls school names not public

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Sioux Falls school district asked for public suggestions for names for two new schools, but it isn't immediately making all of the public responses public.

Superintendent Brian Maher has denied an open records request from the Argus Leader newspaper . He says the public survey isn't required in the naming process.

School board members are expected to vote on a committee's recommendations for names for a new middle school and high school later this month. The district at that time expects to release a public summary detailing the decision and says it will "explain the community survey results."

The naming process comes after Sioux Falls voters last September approved a \$190 million bond to fund new schools and other improvement projects around the city.

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

## South Dakota fatal plane investigations stalled by shutdown

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Federal investigations into two recent fatal plane crashes in South Dakota have been hindered by the partial government shutdown.

National Transportation Safety Board investigators have been furloughed during the longest ever U.S. government shutdown, forcing the agency to prioritize which crashes they investigate, the Argus Leader reported.

Probes into a plane crash south of Salem that killed its pilot on Sunday and another on Christmas Day in Sioux Falls have been delayed until funding is restored.

"That changes this thing quite dramatically," said Brad Stiefvater, McCook County Emergency Management Director.

McCook County workers removed the wreckage from Sunday's crash scene with NTSB's clearance and planned to preserve it until an examination can begin.

Stiefvater said both he and the NTSB are in the dark on when the agency can oversee an investigation.

After the Sioux Falls plane crash, Minnesota-based company Wentworth Aircraft was contracted by the NTSB to remove the wreckage and store it in a hangar near Minneapolis.

Ted Davies, a Wentworth employee, said it will remain there until the NTSB can get around to investigating what caused the crash. "(We're) just waiting for the shutdown to end," Davies said.

The partial government shutdown has had an impact on many facets of life in the U.S., straining the aviation system, preventing the issue of initial public offerings and prompting some furloughed workers to take on second jobs so they can make ends meet.

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

## House declines to form panel to investigate rep's residency

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota representatives have declined to form a special committee to look into allegations that a House Democrat from Pine Ridge didn't meet state residency requirements to get elected.

The House on Tuesday voted 62-5 against establishing the panel to investigate Rep. Peri Pourier. Republican Rep. Steve Livermont, who sought the committee, asked for support so lawmakers could "get to the truth."

House Minority Leader Jamie Smith "strongly" objected to the push, saying he had no doubt Pourier met residency requirements.

The move comes after two Republicans sought to stop Pourier and Democratic Sen. Red Dawn Foster from being sworn in to office.

The GOP lawmakers contended there's evidence Pourier and Foster weren't state residents for two years before their election, a constitutional requirement.

Republican leaders dismissed the allegations against the Democrats last week.

## South Dakota lawmaker seeks new civics literacy program

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota lawmaker proposed a new state program to recognize students who graduate from high school with a strong understanding of civics.

The bill introduced Tuesday would create the South Dakota state seal of civics literacy program. Students at participating schools who meet the program's requirements would have a reproduction of the state seal attached to their diploma and a note added to their grade transcript.

Republican Rep. Fred Deutsch, the sponsor, said the proposal was patterned after an Arizona measure and it's aimed at improving civics literacy among South Dakota children.

"I want them to have a better understanding of our founding documents, a better understanding of Supreme Court cases that, you know, impact our lives," Deutsch said. "I want them to know about ... both

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the state and federal constitution.”

The proposal comes as Republican Gov. Kristi Noem plans to bring legislation to require high school graduates to be able to pass the U.S. citizenship test. A spokeswoman for the governor, Kristin Wileman, said in an email that Noem is happy to see others recognizing the “need and value for civics education.”

Noem and her team will review the measure in the coming days, Wileman said. Deutsch said it would go hand-in-hand with Noem’s proposal.

Under Deutsch’s bill, the state Board of Education Standards would establish the requirements for a student to receive the state seal of civics literacy; they would have to exceed current social studies graduation standards.

The measure would require the board to get advice from educators who teach history or social science at South Dakota secondary schools.

## South Dakota joining child sexual abuse prevention campaign

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota is joining a movement that gives adults and communities the information and skills to prevent child sexual abuse.

South Dakota on Tuesday is becoming the eighth state to join the national Enough Abuse Campaign. The announcement comes as part of Children’s Day at the Capitol.

The campaign offers educational information to youth, parents and other concerned adults to stop people from abusing children and to prevent children from developing abusive behaviors.

South Dakota groups are accepting applications for trainers to go through the campaign’s curricula to teach people in their communities about the issue.

## Sears staves off liquidation, stores to remain open

NEW YORK (AP) — Sears has won a reprieve in a desperate attempt to stave off its own demise.

The company’s largest shareholder and chairman, Eddie Lampert, won a bankruptcy auction in New York, according to a source familiar with negotiations. The person agreed to speak on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the negotiation publicly.

Lampert had upped his bid to more than \$5 billion in recent days.

Lampert, who steered the company into bankruptcy protection may be able to keep the roughly 400 remaining Sears stores open, which would mean tens of thousands of jobs are saved, at least for now.

Whether Sears, founded 132 years ago, can survive in the era of Amazon remains questionable.

Sears filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in October. At that time, it had 687 stores and 68,000 workers. At its peak in 2012, its stores numbered 4,000.

Lampert says there’s still potential for the company even as it struggles to compete not only with Amazon, but Walmart, Target and dollar stores that have carved out their own niche.

Under Lampert, Sears has survived by spinning off stores and selling brands that had grown synonymous with the company, like Craftsman. Lampert has loaned out his own money and cobbled together deals to keep the company afloat, though critics said he has done so with the aim of benefiting his ESL hedge fund.

Four years ago the company created a real estate investment trust to extract revenue from the enormous number of properties owned by Sears. It sold and leased back more than 200 properties to the REIT, in which Lampert is a significant stake holder.

Lampert personally owns 31 percent of the Sears’ outstanding shares and his hedge fund has an 18.5 percent stake, according to FactSet. He stands to realize a big tax gain keeping Sears alive, using the company’s years of net operating losses to offset future taxable income if one of his other companies takes over the chain, says David Tawil, president and co-founder of Maglan Capital, which follows distressed companies.

Tawil and others believe Lampert wants to be in full control of liquidating Sears’ assets, including real estate.

Lampert combined Sears with Kmart in 2005, about two years after he helped bring Kmart out of bank-

ruptcy. He pledged to return Sears to greatness, but that never happened.

The company, hammered during the recession and outmatched in its aftermath by shifting consumer trends and strong rivals, hasn't had a profitable year since 2010 and has suffered 11 straight years of annual sales declines. Lampert has been criticized for not investing in the stores, which remain shabby. .

## Kenya says all gunmen killed in hotel attack; 14 victims

By BEN CURTIS, Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Kenya's security forces have killed the Islamic extremist gunmen whose assault on a luxury hotel and shopping complex took 14 "innocent lives," the country's president said Wednesday.

"All the terrorists have been eliminated," President Uhuru Kenyatta said in announcing an end to the overnight operation to secure the complex in the capital, Nairobi.

In a televised address, Kenyatta did not say how many attackers were involved. He said more than 700 people were evacuated during the security operation and urged Kenyans to "go back to work without fear," saying the East African country is safe.

Sporadic gunfire could be heard while scores of people were rescued at daybreak during what police called a "mopping-up" exercise. A new blast was heard in the afternoon as witnesses said security forces were making a sweep of the complex for any explosives.

Surveillance video showed the attack that began Tuesday afternoon involved at least four armed men.

Al-Shabab — the extremist group allied to al-Qaida and based in neighboring Somalia — claimed responsibility for the carnage at the DusitD2 hotel complex, which includes bars, restaurants, offices and banks and is in Nairobi's well-to-do Westlands neighborhood with many foreign expatriates. Al-Shabab carried out the 2013 attack at the nearby Westgate Mall in Nairobi that killed 67 people.

The U.S. State Department confirmed that an American citizen was among the dead, and the company I-DEV International confirmed that its co-founder, Jason Spindler, had been killed. The British high commissioner in Kenya said at least one British national had been killed, without giving details.

Kenyan authorities sent special forces into the hotel to flush out the gunmen. Scores of people were rushed to safety in the early morning hours as explosions and gunfire continued.

"To God be the Glory. We have been rescued. Over 50 people in my group. No injuries," tweeted a Kenyan businesswoman, Aggie Asimwe Konde.

Describing the ordeal, Lucy Wanjiru said she had been trying to flee when she saw a woman on the ground floor get shot. She ended up in a washroom with several other scared people. Her friend Cynthia Kibe stayed in contact with her by phone overnight.

"I think I panicked when she told me that the gunshots are next to her," Kibe said. "I had to keep telling her 'Just wait, help is on the way, they are almost there, they are almost there.' And then at one point she was like, 'Please tell me I am getting out of here alive' and then it was just like my breaking point."

Mourning families and friends gathered at a nearby mortuary.

"I am a Muslim and I am Somali, I am Kenyan living here, and in that way I can assure you if al-Shabab found me today they call us what they call 'Mortad' (apostates), that is, someone who works against them and they wouldn't differentiate me from yourself," said Mohamed Yasin Jama, a friend of two colleagues killed.

The coordinated assault began with an explosion that targeted three vehicles outside a bank, and a suicide bombing in the hotel lobby that severely wounded a number of guests, said Kenya's national police chief, Joseph Boinnet.

Kenyan hospitals appealed for blood donations even as the number of wounded remained unclear.

Associated Press video from inside the hotel showed Kenyan security officers searching the building and scared workers emerging from hiding while gunfire could be heard. Some climbed out a window by ladder. One man got up from the floor where he appeared to be trying to hide under a piece of wood paneling, then showed his ID.

Like the attack at the Westgate Mall, this one appeared aimed at wealthy Kenyans and foreigners. It came



a day after a magistrate ruled that three men must stand trial in connection with the Westgate Mall siege. Al-Shabab has vowed retribution against Kenya for sending troops to Somalia to fight it since 2011. Tuesday's violence came three years to the day after al-Shabab extremists attacked a Kenyan military base in Somalia, killing scores of people.

The group has killed hundreds of people in Kenya. In the deadliest attack, al-Shabab claimed responsibility for an assault on Kenya's Garissa University in 2015 that killed 147 people, mostly students.

The latest carnage demonstrated al-Shabab's continued ability to carry out spectacular acts of bloodshed despite a dramatic increase in U.S. airstrikes against it under President Donald Trump.

Associated Press writer Andrew Meldrum in Johannesburg contributed.

Follow Africa news at [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Africa](https://twitter.com/AP_Africa)

## UK government faces no-confidence vote after Brexit defeat

By **DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press**

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May faces a no-confidence vote Wednesday, a day after Parliament rejected her Brexit deal by a historic margin.

May is battling to save her job after staking her political reputation on a last-ditch effort to win support for the divorce agreement she negotiated with the European Union over the last two years. Though defeat was widely expected, the scale of the rout — 432-202 — was devastating for May's leadership.

Immediately after the vote, opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn tabled a no-confidence motion, saying it would give Parliament a chance to give its verdict "on the sheer incompetence of this government."

Still, most analysts predict May will survive because lawmakers from her Conservative Party are unlikely to vote against her, and the Democratic Unionist Party, which supports the government, has said it will continue to back the prime minister. If the government were to lose, it would have 14 days to overturn the result or face a national election.

After the biggest defeat for any British government in well over a century, May promised to consult with senior lawmakers on future moves, but gave little indication of what she plans to do next. Parliament has given the government until Monday to come up with a new plan for leaving the EU.

"The House has spoken and the government will listen," May said after the vote, which leaves her Brexit plan on life support just 10 weeks before Britain is due to leave the bloc on March 29.

May faces a stark choice: Steer the country toward an abrupt break without a deal on future relations with the EU, or try to nudge it toward a softer departure. Meanwhile, lawmakers from both government and opposition parties are trying to wrest control of the Brexit process from a paralyzed government, so that lawmakers can direct planning for Britain's departure from the EU.

But with no clear majority in Parliament for any single alternative, there is a growing chance that Britain may seek to postpone its departure date while politicians work on a new plan — or even hand the decision back to voters in a new referendum on EU membership.

Political analyst Anand Menon, from UK in a Changing Europe, said history is being made week after week in the Brexit saga, with government being held in contempt even as May soldiers on in Downing Street.

"She seems content with bringing something back to Parliament to vote on again," Menon said. "The thing about Theresa May is that nothing seems to phase her. She just keeps on going."

European leaders are now preparing for the worst — even though German Chancellor Angela Merkel said there was still time for further talks. She told reporters in Berlin that "we are now waiting to see what the British prime minister proposes."

But her measured remarks contrasted with the blunt message from French President Emmanuel Macron, who told Britons to "figure it out yourselves." He said Britain needed to get realistic about what was possible.

"Good luck to the representatives of the nation who have to implement something that doesn't exist," Macron said.

EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said the bloc is stepping up preparations for a chaotic "no-deal" departure after Parliament's actions left the bloc "fearing more than ever that there is a risk" of a cliff-edge departure.

Economists warn that an abrupt break with the EU could batter the British economy and bring chaotic scenes at borders, ports and airports. Business groups expressed alarm at the prospect of a no-deal exit.

"Every business will feel 'no-deal' is hurtling closer," said Carolyn Fairbairn, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry. "A new plan is needed immediately."

But investors have so far shrugged off the rejection of May's deal. The pound was up 0.1 percent at \$1.2869 in early morning trading in London, and the FTSE 100 index of leading British shares was down 0.1 percent at 6,888.

While the uncertainty surrounding Brexit remains elevated, many investors think Tuesday night's vote makes it less likely Britain will crash out of the bloc with no deal.

James Smith, an economist at ING, says the "calm market response" suggests investors think at the very least that the government will end up having to seek an extension to the Brexit timetable.

May, who postponed a vote on the deal in December to avoid certain defeat, had implored lawmakers to back her deal and deliver on voters' decision in 2016 to leave the EU.

But the deal was doomed by deep opposition from both sides of the divide over the U.K.'s place in Europe. Pro-Brexit lawmakers say the deal will leave Britain bound indefinitely to EU rules, while pro-EU politicians favor an even closer economic relationship with the bloc.

The most contentious section of the deal was an insurance policy known as the "backstop" designed to prevent the reintroduction of border controls between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, an EU member state. Assurances from EU leaders that the backstop is intended as a temporary measure of last resort failed to win over many British skeptics.

European Council President Donald Tusk highlighted the quagmire the U.K. had sunk into, and hinted that the best solution might be for Britain not to leave.

"If a deal is impossible, and no one wants no deal, then who will finally have the courage to say what the only positive solution is?" he tweeted.

Raf Casert in Strasbourg, France, and Pan Pylas in London, contributed to this report.

Follow AP's full coverage of Brexit at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

## EU leaders plead with UK to get its act together on Brexit

By RAF CASERT, Associated Press

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — European Union leaders were pleading Wednesday with the U.K. to finally get its act together on Brexit, end internal strife and come up with a realistic plan to leave the bloc — well over two years after Britain decided to leave the EU and departure just 10 weeks away.

European politicians watched the spectacle with a mix of shock and utter bafflement after Britain's Parliament discarded Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal in a historic defeat for the government late Tuesday.

EU officials immediately said that plans to cope with a disorderly, no-deal departure on March 29, rife with the prospect of chaos on roads, airports and administration would be sped up.

Hours after the humiliating setback for May's government, EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said early Wednesday that the EU was "fearing more than ever that there is a risk" of a cliff-edge departure.

Guy Verhofstadt, the chief Brexit official in the EU parliament, said in an interview with The Associated Press that Britain had better start seeing the impending departure as a national crisis that goes well beyond party politics.

"The only lesson for them is that they need to sit around one table, opposition and majority to sort out

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what is in the national interest," Verhofstadt said.

What started as a fight within the Conservative Party which led to the June 2016 referendum, then spread to a hostile and bitter divide across British society and most parties in Parliament.

And despite the urgency and the massive economic stakes in winning a smooth departure with a long transition period and a raft of accompanying measures, division has only increased.

"Brexit is a disgrace for the British people and for the EU. Nobody wins. We all lose, in particular the British people," Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez told EU legislators.

EU parliamentarians could hardly believe the chaos in one of the Western world's greatest democratic institutions. Watching Tuesday's debate in the House of Commons, EPP legislator Esther de Lange said she "could not help but thinking 'Boy, collectively they don't know what they want, but, boy, do they hold great speeches.'"

Her EPP boss, Manfred Weber, showed more exasperation than admiration.

"Please, please, tell us finally what you want to achieve," Weber said.

There is a suspicion in EU circles that by running down the clock as close to March 29 as possible, Britain would seek to draw belated concessions from the 27 member states. But so far, unity among them has persevered and on Wednesday, each and all insisted that it would remain that way in the weeks to come.

Barnier said that any future deal would still have to include approving the withdrawal agreement, the 585-page document which the British parliament rejected on Tuesday.

"Whatever happens, ratification of the withdrawal agreement is necessary. It is a precondition," he said.

Barnier said that a linked political declaration on future relations offered "possible options" for further talks.

EU Vice President Frans Timmermans had one clear piece of advice for British legislators: listen to your own musical heroes and he started quoting from the Rolling Stones: "You cannot always get what you want. But if you try sometimes you just might find you get what you need."

Follow AP's full coverage of Brexit at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

## 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. MAY FACES NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE

Analysts expect the British prime minister to keep her job a day after Parliament resoundingly defeated her Brexit deal with the European Union.

### 2. 'I WILL NOT BE BULLIED'

William Barr, Trump's nominee for attorney general, asserts independence from the White House and states that Robert Mueller's investigation is not a "witch hunt."

### 3. KENYA GIVES ALL CLEAR AFTER ATTACK

The African nation's security forces have killed the Islamic extremist gunmen whose assault on a luxury hotel and shopping complex killed 14.

### 4. WHERE SUDS ARE DRYING UP

America's craft beer taps are being squeezed by the government shutdown. New releases are on hold, new breweries are unable to open and some shipments across state lines have been halted.

### 5. WHAT SENATORS WILL SCRUTINIZE

Acting EPA chief Andrew Wheeler, who lobbied in the past for coal companies and other industries regulated by the agency, is seeking a permanent position.

### 6. LA TEACHERS' STRIKE ENTERS 3RD DAY

Los Angeles school administrators are urging the union to resume bargaining as tens of thousands of teachers plan to walk picket lines.

### 7. WHAT IS NOW A MUSEUM IN IRAN

Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's Niavaran Palace, his last refuge in Tehran before he fled the country

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during the 1979 Islamic Revolution, is now a museum.

## 8. MIGRANT CARAVAN ADVANCES, ANOTHER ONE STARTS

The latest caravan of Honduran migrants hoping to reach the U.S. crosses peacefully into Guatemala, while another one assembles in El Salvador.

## 9. SHUTDOWN NOW AFFECTING US ECONOMY

The economic toll of the shutdown is hitting the private sector as airlines can't get planes approved and IPOs are delayed.

## 10. GETTING 'SATISFACTION'

The Rolling Stones are among the headliners for the 50th anniversary of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.

## Congress prepares to skip planned recess if shutdown goes on

By LISA MASCARO, CATHERINE LUCEY and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Staring down the next deadline to pay federal workers, the White House shifted tactics, trying to bypass House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to negotiate with rank-and-file lawmakers even as President Donald Trump dug in for a prolonged shutdown.

The House and Senate announced Tuesday they would stay in session, canceling an upcoming recess week at home if the shutdown continued, which seemed likely. On the shutdown's 25th day Tuesday, Trump did not move off his demand to have Congress provide \$5.7 billion to build his promised border wall with Mexico. Democrats say they will discuss border security once the government has reopened, but Pelosi is refusing money for the wall they view as ineffective and immoral.

The president, on a conference call with supporters, showed no signs of backing down.

"We're going to stay out for a long time, if we have to," Trump said. "We'll be out for a long time."

With some 800,000 federal employees furloughed or working without pay, Trump suggested the partial shutdown, which has clogged airport security lines and shuttered federal agencies, was going smoothly.

"People are very impressed with how well government is working with the circumstances that we're under," Trump said.

Behind the scenes, though, the administration — and its allies on Capitol Hill — are warily eyeing the next payday, hoping to reach a resolution before next week's Tuesday deadline, when they'll need to prepare the next round of paychecks for workers who have been seeing zeros on their pay slips.

"There is definitely a sense that there is a deadline approaching, which would be next Tuesday, to make sure that we're able to solve this problem," said Mercedes Schlapp, a White House spokeswoman.

Tuesday brought another day of high theatrics, but low substance, as the shutdown dragged into its fourth week. The shutdown, already the longest ever, entered its 26th day Wednesday. The previous longest was 21 days in 1995-96, when Bill Clinton was president.

Trump, who a week ago seemed intent on declaring a national emergency in order to build the wall, has turned his attention back to Congress as polling shows he is taking much of the blame for the standoff.

The White House invited rank-and-file lawmakers to lunch with Trump at the White House as part of a strategy to build support from centrist Democrats and newly elected freshmen, including those from areas where the president is popular with voters.

But the White House quickly learned the limits of that approach. None of the House Democrats took Trump up on the offer.

One, Rep. Lou Correa, D-Calif., "welcomes the opportunity to talk with the President about border security," his spokesman said, "as soon as the government is reopened."

Trump ended up lunching with a handful of lesser-known House Republicans. The White House will try again later this week, inviting a bipartisan group of lawmakers known as the Problem Solvers caucus to talks.

Trump urged his supporters to call the offices of Democratic lawmakers to press them to support the wall to reopen the government

A short time later, a group of House Democrats made its way to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McCon-

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nell's office demanding that he consider House-passed bills to fund the government. McConnell was not in his office at the time, so the Democrats left a note.

McConnell says he doesn't want to waste the Senate's time and will only bring up measures that Trump will sign into law. Democrats, he said, have turned Trump's wall into "something evil" and it's time to get the country off the "political carousel" of the shutdown fight.

Republicans complain that Democrats are the ones who are refusing to budge, and they say it's up to Pelosi to bring Trump a new offer.

"The president — who is not well-known for flexibility — has been more flexible than the other side," said Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri, a member of GOP leadership.

Meanwhile, the effects of the partial government closure intensified around the country, with workers facing deepening anxieties about mortgage payments and unpaid bills.

Some lawmakers are reluctant to return home for next week's planned recess — some were planning their first town halls of the new year — as the standoff deepens. JPMorgan's Jamie Dimon told reporters Tuesday that he expects U.S. economic growth to slow to nothing this quarter if the government shutdown continues.

"I hope it doesn't go to the end of the week," said Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, the No. 2 Senate Republican. "I'd like to see us have a breakthrough here."

But hopes of side deals being cut by the White House seemed unlikely, as did the prospect of groups of senators meeting privately to forge a compromise.

Said Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., "The shutdown will eventually take us to a place where the average American is angry at and sick of all of us."

Even though Trump is focused on pushing Democrats to return to the negotiating table, it was the president who walked out of the most recent talks last week after Pelosi told him she would not yield to his demands.

As the White House invited lawmakers to lunch Tuesday, Pelosi gave her blessing for lawmakers to attend. She told her team that the group can see what she and others have been dealing with in trying to negotiate with Trump.

Pelosi predicted that after meeting with Trump, the lawmakers would want to make a "citizen's arrest," according to an aide, who wasn't authorized to publicly discuss the meeting and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Rep. Jim Himes of Connecticut, another centrist Democrat, said the White House is "grasping at straws."

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For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. government shutdown: <https://apnews.com/GovernmentShutdown>

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Associated Press writers Darlene Superville, Matthew Daly, Jonathan Lemire, Alan Fram, Lisa Mascaro, Andrew Taylor, Laurie Kellman, Elana Schor and Ken Sweet contributed to this report.

## No talks scheduled as LA teacher strike enters day 3

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles school administrators urged the union to resume bargaining as tens of thousands of teachers planned to walk picket lines for a third day Wednesday, after being joined on strike for the first time by some of their counterparts from independent charter schools.

"We need our educators back in our classrooms helping inspire our students," said Unified School District Superintendent Austin Beutner. Teachers are pressing for higher pay, smaller class sizes and more support staff that school officials say could bankrupt the nation's second-largest system.

Teachers with the independent Accelerated Schools charter network — who are also union members but negotiate their contract separately — walked off the job Tuesday to demand better working conditions and in support for public school educators.

Los Angeles is experiencing the same tension over charter schools seen in other states, with critics

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arguing the privately run public schools hurt district finances by drawing away students and the money that goes with them. Union President Alex Caputo-Pearl has called the funds flowing to charters an "existential threat."

But Caputo-Pearl said the union isn't against all charters, just their "unregulated growth."

"We don't need to have the grow-as-fast-as-you-can business model that's promoted by charter school billionaires," he said. "We need to invest in our existing schools."

Beutner has said he envisions moving toward a system with public and charter schools under the same leadership. Critics contend Beutner, an investment banker with no education background, wants to run schools like a business.

Charter teachers joining the strike is a big deal because it shows they "see themselves in solidarity with the broader body of district educators," said John Rogers, a professor of education at University of California, Los Angeles.

It wasn't clear how many charter teachers walked off the job.

Unlike strikes in other states, all 1,240 K-12 schools in LA Unified were open. The district has hired hundreds of substitutes to replace tens of thousands of staff, a move the union has called irresponsible.

The walkout Monday was marked by a plunge in attendance, with about 144,000 students out of more than 600,000 in class. On Tuesday that number grew to 159,000.

Parents who sent their kids to school wondered how much teaching was happening as students were herded into large groups. David Biener said his son and daughter completed worksheets in math and history while sitting on the gym floor at their middle school.

"It's not an ideal situation, obviously, but there was some learning going on," he said. "It wasn't a free for all."

Biener was undecided about whether the kids would go back to school on Wednesday.

No new talks have been scheduled.

The union rejected the district's latest offer to hire nearly 1,200 teachers, counselors, nurses and librarians and reduce class sizes by two students. It also included a previously proposed 6-percent raise over the first two years of a three-year contract. The union wants a 6.5 percent hike at the start of a two-year contract.

Caputo-Pearl, the union president, said members are "prepared to go as long as it takes" to get a fair contract. The last strike in 1989 lasted nine days.

Meanwhile, Beutner urged the teachers to join him in pushing for more funding from the state, which provides 90 percent of the district's money.

The district says the demands run up against an expected half-billion-dollar deficit this budget year and billions that are obligated for pension payments and health coverage for retired teachers. "The painful truth is we just don't have enough money," Beutner said.

The union argues that the district is hoarding reserves of \$1.8 billion.

Teachers earn between \$44,000 and \$86,000 annually depending on their education and experience. The district says the average salary is \$75,000.

Follow Weber at <https://twitter.com/WeberCM>

## Super Bowl planners: Shutdown brings 'uncharted territory'

By JEFF MARTIN, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A day after travelers waited nearly 90 minutes in snail-speed security lines at the world's busiest airport, Atlanta's mayor is concerned about the waits that could result when the city hosts the 2019 Super Bowl.

The ongoing partial government shutdown is "uncharted territory" amid planning for one of the world's biggest sporting events, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said Tuesday.

"Obviously, we are in uncharted territory with the shutdown that's gone on this long, and we are prepar-

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ing as best we can from our vantage point," Bottoms said.

The mayor and others at a Tuesday news conference said two years of planning have them well-prepared to protect the public.

"Our goal is for our officers to be visible, for the public to feel safe, be safe, and be able to position ourselves so that we can react immediately to whatever scenario we are confronted with," Atlanta Police Chief Erika Shields said. "I think that with anything you can go in with a spirit of confidence if you have prepared, and we have prepared well."

But the government shutdown is a wild card that arose relatively late in that planning process.

"Certainly there are factors that we don't control such as what's happening with our federal government shutdown and with the long TSA lines," Bottoms said. "We are continuing to encourage people to get to the airport very early."

The expected crush of travelers is significantly more than normal.

On a typical day, 60,000 to 80,000 passengers are screened at Atlanta's airport before departing, airport statistics show.

On Feb. 4, the day Bottoms calls "Mass Exodus Monday," about 110,000 passengers are expected to be departing from Atlanta's airport one day after the Super Bowl.

The partial government shutdown has meant missed paychecks for Transportation Security Administration screeners at airports nationwide.

TSA workers have been calling in sick at a rate that's been more than double what it normally is, the agency has said. That's led to a shortage of screeners at some airports across the country.

No-shows among screeners jumped Sunday and again Monday.

The TSA had a national absence rate of nearly 7 percent Monday, compared to 2.5 percent on a comparable day a year ago, the agency reported Tuesday after getting complete numbers on the absences.

A chaotic scene unfolded at Atlanta's airport on Monday, the first business day after screeners did not receive a paycheck for the first time. Mondays are typically busy for the airport as Atlanta business travelers depart for the work week, and some security lanes went unstaffed as lines backed up.

"Please plan ahead and give yourself 3 hours to clear security," Atlanta airport officials on Monday advised passengers via the airport's Twitter account.

Atlanta passengers led the nation Monday in terms of longest screening delays: The "maximum standard wait time" was 88 minutes, the TSA reported. Passengers who went through TSA PreCheck — an expedited screening program which is typically faster than regular lines — waited 55 minutes, statistics showed.

Friday could be the next big test for the nation's airports, as holiday travelers get away for the upcoming long holiday weekend (Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Monday). Friday is also typically a busy day for airports as business travelers head home for the weekend.

## Craft beer taps squeezed as shutdown delays new releases

By IVAN MORENO, Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The nation's craft beer taps are being squeezed by the government shutdown, which has put new releases on hold, prevented new breweries from opening and stopped shipments of some suds across state lines.

The partial shutdown halted operations at the federal agency that regulates alcohol production and distribution. That means government employees can't issue the permits needed for the beer to flow.

"I've been joking with people that if you're going to want a new beer coming out pretty soon, you're going to have to drink your brother-in-law's home brew," said Russ Klisch, founder and president of Lakefront Brewery in Milwaukee.

Brewers are increasingly nervous that they will lose money if brewery openings and seasonal beers are delayed much longer in the dispute over President Donald Trump's demand for taxpayer funding of a wall along the border with Mexico.

At Lakefront, the release of a new beer has been postponed because the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and

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Trade Bureau isn't open to approve labels for the bottles and cans. The brewery can sell beer in Wisconsin, but sales in other states require federally approved labels.

The shutdown that began Dec. 22 pinches primarily craft brewers, which offer wider varieties of beer and selections that change constantly. The biggest brewers are largely unaffected because they already have government approval for their top national brands.

Lakefront offers about 30 styles of beer throughout the year, including 20 that are sold out of state. In a typical year, about six of those need label approval because they are new.

Out-of-state sales account for about 10 percent of the brewery's annual profits, Klisch said.

The end of the shutdown won't bring an immediate end to the delays. The longer the shutdown continues, the bigger the backlog the bureau will have to sort through when work resumes. That means it could still be months before labels and permits are approved.

"A big part of it will be all the plans that brewers have for 2019 will get thrown out the window," said Paul Gatzka, director of the Brewers Association in Boulder, Colorado.

David Rowland's plan to expand his brewery with a new location is also on hold.

"We really did expect to have our license by now or to be darned close," said Rowland, co-owner of SoMe Brewing Co. in York, Maine.

The new brewery in York Beach is ready to open, he said. But first they need a federal permit. In the meantime, they still have to pay for rent, utilities and loans for the new location.

"We're paying for a second brewery that is not open," Rowland said.

Back in Wisconsin, Mosinee Brewing Co. finds itself in a similar position. The brewery expected to be making its own beer by now, but without a permit, it is limited to selling brews from other Wisconsin companies.

It's too early to quantify the overall economic effect on breweries, said Mark Garthwaite, executive director of the Wisconsin Brewers Guild. But he said smaller brewers who are always introducing new beers — especially those that rely on sales to other states — are likely to suffer most.

Klisch said a beer or two might help the negotiations between Democratic lawmakers and Trump.

"I think if they all got a beer together and they drank one in a room, they would figure it out," he said. Then, after a pause: "A few beers. I think they need a few beers, and they'll figure out this shutdown."

## Senators consider former lobbyist as EPA's permanent chief

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Acting Environmental Protection Agency chief Andrew Wheeler's past lobbying work for coal companies and other industries regulated by the agency is expected to draw scrutiny Wednesday when a Senate committee considers his nomination to the position.

Wheeler's roughly six-month tenure as the agency's acting administrator has been far more low-key than that of the man he replaced, Scott Pruitt. Pruitt's fondness for the perks of power and for alleged favors — from round-the-clock bodyguards to lavish travel to special deals on mattresses from the Trump International Hotel — generated constant headlines and helped lead to Pruitt's resignation as the agency's administrator in July.

In line with Trump's regulation-cutting ethos, the agency under Wheeler has moved forward on major rollbacks and pending rollbacks of Obama-era environmental measures: easing the mileage standards that cars and trucks will have to meet, relaxing measures on climate-changing carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants and removing millions of miles of wetlands and waterways from federal protections, among other changes.

Republican Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming, chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee that will hear from Wheeler on Wednesday and question him, said earlier this month that Wheeler had done an "outstanding" job running the EPA.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and some energy trade groups are among the industries publicly supporting Wheeler's nomination.



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"Wheeler has proven to be a steady hand, and has demonstrated effective leadership while advancing regulatory reforms alongside continued strong environmental protections," Chamber of Commerce executives said in a statement.

But environmental groups say his lobbying work immediately before, for industries regulated by the EPA, should disqualify him outright.

"A coal lobbyist is unfit to run the EPA, period," said Matt Gravatt, associate legislative director at the Sierra Club.

Wheeler worked at the Washington law and lobbying firm Faegre Baker Daniels from 2009 until April 2018, according to his filing with the Office of Government Ethics.

His lobbying clients included coal magnate Bob Murray, who pushed hard on the Trump administration to grant a series of breaks for the sagging domestic coal industry. Wheeler accompanied Murray to a March 2017 meeting to pitch then-new Energy Secretary Rick Perry on Murray's list of desired rule rollbacks and other breaks from the Trump administration for coal.

Murray had sought some of the EPA's coal initiatives under Wheeler, which included signing a rule easing federal regulation of toxic coal ash, removing an Obama rule that pushed electricity providers to move away from dirtier-burning coal plants and targeting an Obama rule limiting emissions of toxic mercury from coal plants.

A watchdog group, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, filed an ethics complaint Tuesday with the EPA's Office of the Inspector General alleging that Wheeler's oversight of those and other rollback proposals at EPA may have violated his government ethics pledge to abstain from regulatory decisions affecting his former lobbying client for at least two years.

"His failure to abide by ethics obligations and to avoid the reality or appearance of conflicts critically undermines the EPA's integrity and weakens public confidence in our government," CREW executive director Noah Bookbinder said in a statement.

EPA spokesman John Konkus called the accusation "baseless" and "wrong."

"Acting Administrator Wheeler works closely with career EPA ethics officials and follows their guidance. This is nothing more than a last-second political stunt by a group to try to attack President Trump's nominee hours before his confirmation hearing and should be recognized as such," Konkus said.

Conservation and environmental groups said Wheeler should also be pressed at Wednesday's hearing on the environmental and public health effects of the EPA's proposed regulatory easing.

"It's imperative the senators ask the tough questions about his role in the decisions and the impact he's going to have" on health and safety, said Collin O'Mara, president of the National Wildlife Federation.

Conservation groups objected this week to the Republican-controlled Senate committee holding Wheeler's nomination hearing during the government shutdown over Trump's funding dispute with Congress.

The grandson of a coal miner, Wheeler worked for the EPA in the 1990s and later as a longtime staffer for Senate Republicans.

## The shutdown today: IRS recalls about 46,000 workers

By The Associated Press

What's up with the partial government shutdown on Day 26:

### WHAT'S NEW

The Internal Revenue Service is recalling about 46,000 of its employees furloughed by the partial government shutdown to handle tax returns and pay out refunds. For now, they'll have to work without pay.

The White House tried to bypass House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in shutdown negotiations, but rank-and-file House Democrats declined an invitation to lunch Tuesday with President Donald Trump.

Some federal workers are taking on odd jobs to make ends meet. They have more options than in past shutdowns.

The partial government shutdown is slowing plans by some companies to issue stock to the public and potentially cutting off a key source of capital for the financial markets.

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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

Democratic Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware: "The shutdown will eventually take us to a place where the average American is angry at and sick of all of us."

## WHAT'S COMING NEXT?

Trump is expected to sign legislation this week authorizing back pay for some 800,000 federal workers who either have been idled or are working without pay for as long as the shutdown lasts.

## WHAT REMAINS CLOSED

Nine of the 15 Cabinet-level departments have not been funded, including Agriculture, Homeland Security, State, Transportation, Interior and Justice. Some iconic National Park facilities are shuttered as are the Smithsonian museums and the National Zoo in Washington. Nearly everyone at NASA is being told to stay home.

## WHO IS AT WORK BUT NOT GETTING PAID

Some 420,000 federal employees whose work is declared essential are working without pay, including at the FBI, TSA and other federal law enforcement offices. Some staff at the State and Homeland Security departments are also working without compensation.

For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. government shutdown: <https://apnews.com/GovernmentShutdown>

## In era of news deserts, no easy fix for local news struggles

By **DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — The local news industry hasn't been the subject of much good news itself, lately. Newspaper circulation is down sharply, and so is employment in the newspaper industry. Financial cutbacks have led to the shutdown of nearly 1,800 daily and weekly newspapers since 2004.

Two developments this week brought the issue into further focus. Facebook, whose success has contributed to the news business' decline, announced Tuesday it would invest \$300 million over three years in news initiatives with an emphasis in local coverage. More ominously, the hedge fund-backed Digital First Media, known for sharp cost-cutting strategies, bid to buy Gannett Co., the publisher of USA Today and several daily newspapers across the country.

"It's a struggle every day," said Charles Sennott, a former newspaper beat reporter who co-founded The GroundTruth Project, a foundation that funds the work of journalists. "Every day we are facing the fact that American journalism is in crisis."

Sennott was buoyed this week to meet with Obed Manuel, a young reporter at the Dallas Morning News whose coverage of Hispanic immigration is paid for in part by The GroundTruth Project.

Yet there was a pall over the newsroom they toured. The Dallas Morning News announced 43 layoffs last week, 20 of them newsroom employees, to cope with persistent declines in readership and advertising revenue.

That's a familiar dynamic in the local news industry, where a positive development like Manuel's hiring can feel like a tender shoot of green struggling to rise in a barren late-winter landscape.

The statistics are numbing: U.S. weekday newspaper circulation is down from 122 million to 73 million in 15 years. The number of working newspaper journalists has been cut in half since 2004. Nearly 1,800 daily and weekly newspapers have been lost in the same period, down to a little more than 7,000.

The tally is compiled Penelope Muse Abernathy, a journalism professor at the University of North Carolina, whose study of the topic has given rise to new terminology: news deserts, refers to communities that are no longer covered by daily journalists; and ghost newspapers is a reference to publications that have become a shadow of their former selves in terms of circulation and ambition.

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Social media behemoths like Facebook have cut into news readership and revenue. But Abernathy said business decisions of newspaper owners are more to blame. Metropolitan and regional newspapers cut circulation in outlying suburban and rural areas, while many weekly newspapers simply shuttered, she said.

"The country feels very divided and I think a lot of the divisiveness in the country is because people feel they are not being heard," Sennott said. There are fewer local reporters around to listen to and report on their concerns, he said.

The challenge for the news business is convincing the public — many of whom aren't particularly enamored with journalists anyway — that this loss hurts them, too, in terms of how connected they are to their communities when there is less opportunity to know what's going on.

"We are really at a tipping point now," Abernathy said. "Can we revitalize the news industry?"

Facebook is donating \$2 million to Report for America, an offshoot of Sennott's GroundTruth Project that has helped pay for reporters at news organizations in Mississippi, Georgia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and elsewhere. Report for America pays part of their salaries, the news organization pays part, and donations are also solicited from the community. There are 13 reporters in place now, with a goal of 50 working by the end of the year.

Facebook is giving a \$5 million grant to the Pulitzer Center for "Bringing Stories Home," which will fund at least 12 in-depth local reporting projects. Much of Pulitzer's previous work has gone to helping pay for international journalism, particularly as it affected local communities.

"This isn't going to solve the challenges facing smaller news organizations and the communities they serve but at least it's a step in the right direction," said Jon Sawyer, executive director of the Pulitzer Center.

Noted Abernathy: "It's a start."

There have been some 500 digital start-ups attempting to replace coverage offered at the 1,800 newspapers that have closed in the past decade and a half, Abernathy said. The problem is these sites mostly serve urban areas, since that's where there is enough business to provide advertising, she said. She's encouraged by foundations that support news, although much of that funding goes to international projects.

Some large news outlets like The New York Times and Washington Post have provided models to succeed in the new environment, said Ken Doctor, a news industry analyst at Harvard's Nieman Lab. The formula includes a healthy investment in journalism, the creation of innovative digital and mobile products and asking readers to help pay for them.

It helps that the Post is owned by Jeff Bezos, the richest man in the world. Few smaller newspapers have anywhere near the resources or determination, he said.

Many companies that own newspapers are motivated by the typical business imperative — making money — and don't necessarily recognize or care too deeply about the public service aspect of journalism, Abernathy said.

"If you believe that (journalists) are a critical part of a functioning democracy, you cannot run this business like you run a widget factory," she said.

Some companies offer a way out, she said. The Minnesota-based Adams Publishing, in business only five years, has viewed the newspapers it has bought as long-term investments, she said. She also pointed to owners of the Pilot, in Southern Pines, North Carolina, who help fund the newspaper by buying or starting other businesses in the community like a bookstore, an arts publication and telephone listings.

"This is very much a long-term game," Sawyer said. "It's why over a third of our budget and staff is devoted to our work in middle and secondary schools, universities and community colleges. The next generation is the one we have to reach, and we believe that compelling, credible journalism is the key."

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 16, the 16th day of 2019. There are 349 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

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On Jan. 16, 1920, Prohibition began in the United States as the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution took effect, one year to the day after its ratification. (It was later repealed by the 21st Amendment.)

On this date:

In 27 B.C., Caesar Augustus was declared the first Emperor of the Roman Empire by the Senate.

In 1547, Ivan IV of Russia (popularly known as "Ivan the Terrible") was crowned Czar.

In 1865, Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman decreed that 400,000 acres of land in the South would be divided into 40-acre lots and given to former slaves. (The order, later revoked by President Andrew Johnson, is believed to have inspired the expression, "Forty acres and a mule.")

In 1912, a day before reaching the South Pole, British explorer Robert Scott and his expedition found evidence that Roald Amundsen of Norway and his team had gotten there ahead of them.

In 1935, fugitive gangster Fred Barker and his mother, Kate "Ma" Barker, were killed in a shootout with the FBI at Lake Weir, Florida.

In 1942, actress Carole Lombard, 33, her mother, Elizabeth, and 20 other people were killed when their plane crashed near Las Vegas, Nevada, while en route to California from a war-bond promotion tour.

In 1978, NASA named 35 candidates to fly on the space shuttle, including Sally K. Ride, who became America's first woman in space, and Guion S. Bluford Jr., who became America's first black astronaut in space.

In 1989, three days of rioting began in Miami when a police officer fatally shot Clement Lloyd, a black motorcyclist, causing a crash that also claimed the life of Lloyd's passenger, Allan Blanchard. (The officer, William Lozano, was convicted of manslaughter, but then was acquitted in a retrial.)

In 1991, the White House announced the start of Operation Desert Storm to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait. (Allied forces prevailed on Feb. 28, 1991.)

In 1992, officials of the government of El Salvador and rebel leaders signed a pact in Mexico City ending 12 years of civil war that had left at least 75,000 people dead.

In 2003, the space shuttle Columbia blasted off for what turned out to be its last flight; on board was Israel's first astronaut, Ilan Ramon (ee-LAHN' rah-MOHN'). (The mission ended in tragedy on Feb. 1, when the shuttle broke up during its return descent, killing all seven crew members.)

In 2007, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., launched his successful bid for the White House.

Ten years ago: President-elect Barack Obama made a pitch for his massive economic stimulus plan at a factory in Bedford Heights, Ohio, saying his proposal would make smart investments in the country's future and create solid jobs in up-and-coming industries. Painter Andrew Wyeth died in Chadds Ford, Pa., at age 91. John Mortimer, the British lawyer-writer who'd created the curmudgeonly criminal lawyer Rumpole of the Bailey, died in the Chiltern Hills, England, at age 85.

Five years ago: The Vatican was called to account for the global priest sex abuse scandal as U.N. experts in Geneva interrogated the Holy See for eight hours about the scale of abuse, and what it was doing to prevent it. The U.S. Senate voted 72-26 for a \$1.1 trillion government-wide spending bill, sending it to President Barack Obama for his signature. The state of Ohio executed Dennis McGuire for the 1989 rape and fatal stabbing of pregnant newlywed Joy Stewart; McGuire gasped and snorted for 26 minutes before he was declared dead, raising questions about the drugs used in his lethal injection. Death claimed actors Russell Johnson ("Gilligan's Island") at age 89 and Dave Madden ("The Partridge Family") at age 82.

One year ago: The Trump administration cut tens of millions of dollars for Palestinian refugees, demanding that the U.N. agency responsible for the programs undertake a "fundamental re-examination." Pope Francis met with survivors of priests who sexually abused them; a spokesman said Francis wept with them and apologized for the "irreparable damage" they suffered. Authorities in Denmark charged inventor Peter Madsen with killing Swedish journalist Kim Wall during a trip on his private submarine. (Madsen was convicted in April and sentenced to life in prison.)

Today's Birthdays: Author William Kennedy is 91. Author-editor Norman Podhoretz is 89. Opera singer Marilyn Horne is 85. Hall of Fame auto racer A.J. Foyt is 84. Singer Barbara Lynn is 77. Country singer Ronnie Milsap is 76. Singer Katherine Anderson Schaffner (The Marvelettes) is 75. Country singer Jim Stafford is 75. Talk show host Dr. Laura Schlessinger is 72. Movie director John Carpenter is 71. Actress-

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dancer-choreographer Debbie Allen is 69. Rhythm-and-blues singer Maxine Jones (En Vogue) is 60. Singer Sade (shah-DAY') is 60. Pop/rock singer-songwriter Jill Sobule is 60. Rock musician Paul Webb (Talk Talk) is 57. Actor David Chokachi (CHOH'-kuh-chee) is 51. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta is 50. Actor-writer-director Josh Evans is 48. Actor-comedian Jonathan Mangum is 48. Actor Richard T. Jones is 47. Actress Josie Davis is 46. Model Kate Moss is 45. Actor-playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda is 39. Country musician James Young (The Eli Young Band) is 39. Rock musician Nick Valensi (The Strokes) is 38. Actress Renee Felice Smith is 34. NFL quarterback Joe Flacco is 34. Actress Yvonne Zima is 30.

Thought for Today: "A fanatic is a man that does what he thinks th' Lord wud do if He knew th' facts iv th' case." — From "Mr. Dooley's Philosophy" by Finley Peter Dunne, American humorist (1867-1936).