

Groton Daily Independent

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The Groton Robotics Team of Travis Townsend, Tanner McGannon and Danny Feist took first place at the GT Robotics January 2019 VEX Robotics Tournament held Saturday at the GHS Gym. The teams of G.A.T. Wrenches and G-Force were the champions. G.A.T. Wrenches also won the Excellence Award. The Gear Heads were tournament finalists. Three teams from Eureka, five from Groton, four from Britton-Hecla and one from Sioux Falls were in attendance. The weather limited the number of teams in attendance. (Photo from Beverly McGannon's

facebook page)

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Sunday, January 20, 2019

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

2:00 pm: Carnival of Silver Skates dress rehearsal

Monday, January 21, 2019

Groton Area boys basketball hosts Northwestern Area. (C game at 5:15 p.m. followed by junior varsity and then the varsity game)

6:00pm: Wrestling: Boys JH Tournament vs. Redfield-Doland @ Redfield Jr-Sr High School

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

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.

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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Last day for Pepsi Products at the Groton Dairy Queen

The Groton Dairy Queen will be making the switch to Coca Cola products after they close today. The long standing Pepsi contract has been replaced with the Coca Cola contract. Through the rest of today, any size Pepsi product is only 50 cents.

Death Notice: Linda Dobbins

Linda Dobbins, 70, of Groton, passed away January 18, 2019 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Wrestling Results

Clark/Willow Lake, SD 60.0 Groton Area, SD 18.0

113: Dragr Monson (Groton Area) wins by forfeit.
170: Brandan Gehrke (Clark/Willow Lake) over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) (Fall 1:54)
195: Caleb Orris (Clark/Willow Lake) over Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) (Fall 1:07)
220: Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) win by forfeit.

Groton Area, SD 30.0 Hamlin, SD 6.0

113: Dragr Monson (Groton Area) wins by forfeit.
170: Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) wins by forfeit.
182: Evin Nehls (Groton Area) wins by forfeit.
220: Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) over logan sikkink (Hamlin) (Fall 0:44)
285: Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) wins by forfeit.

Groton Prairie Mixed

Jan. 17 Team Standings: Foxes 35, Chipmunks 35, Cheetahs 34½ Shih Tzus 31, Coyotes 23, Jackelopes 21½

Men's High Games: Roger Colestock 242, Brad Waage 236, 234, 216, Roger Spanier, Brad Larson 207

Women's High Games: Darci Spanier 195, 174, Vicki Walter 176, Nicole Kassube 167

Men's High Series: Brad Waage 686, Roger Colestock 622, Roger Spanier 550

Women's High Series: Darci Spanier 529, Sue Stanley 489, Vicki Walter 470



Peterson Farms Seed Hires Jade Albrecht

Peterson Farms Seed, headquartered near Prosper, ND, announces Jade Albrecht has been hired as Sales Agronomist at the Peterson Farms Seed dealership in Kindred, ND.

Albrecht is an NDSU graduate originally from Columbia, SD. He grew up on a 5th generation corn and soybean farm with a cow/calf operation. He previously worked as a sales agronomist at an area Coop. He resides in West Fargo with his wife.

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Mens' Basketball

Second half comeback comes up short for Northern men

Aberdeen, S.D. – It came down to the final possession, and the Northern State University men's basketball team was unable to sink the long range three and send the game into overtime. The Wolves fell to Wayne State College 84-81 from Wachs Arena, dropping to 14-4 overall and 10-2 in the NSIC.

The Wolves trailed by 14 with 5:21 to play in regulation and began to chip away at the Wayne State lead. Back-to-back made threes by Ian Smith and Mason Stark with 11 and four seconds remaining brought the Wolves within one of the Wildcats. Northern fouled on the Wayne in-bound and the Wildcats sunk the two free throw attempts, giving the Wolves just seconds to send the game into overtime.

The Wildcats were efficient offensively, shooting a game high 56.9 percent from the floor. Northern shot 46.8 percent from the field, 85.0 percent from the free throw line, and just 26.1 percent from the 3-point line. Each team tallied six made 3-pointers in the game, with the Wolves notching nine assists, two steals, and one block.

Northern combined for 40 points in the paint, 20 points off the bench, 13 points off 12 offensive rebounds, and five points off turnovers. They out-rebounded the Wildcats 38-26 in the contest, and finished the game with three players notching double figure points.

Ian Smith took the team on his back with a career high 39 points. He blew past his previous mark of 26, notching 19 points in the first 20 minutes of play. He shot 60.9 percent from the floor and a perfect 9-of-9 from the foul line. The senior was second on the team with six rebounds, and led NSU with three assists.

Mason Stark led the team off the bench with 13 points, hitting 3-of-4 from the 3-point line. He added two assists, as well as a team high two steals. Justin Decker as the final Wolf in double figures with 12 points. Stark and Decker shot 80.0 and 71.4 percent from the floor respectively to lead the team.

Parker Fox added seven points and six rebounds off the bench for NSU, while Gabe King tallied six points and a team leading seven rebounds. Bo Fries also pulled down a team leading seven boards, and added two points and two assists. Andrew Kallman tallied the final two points for the Wolves, as well as one rebound and one assist.

Northern begins a 4-game road tilt next Friday and Saturday at St. Cloud State and Minnesota Duluth. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m. versus the Huskies on Friday and 5:30 p.m. versus the Bulldogs on Saturday.

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A Week of Opposition and Consensus

PIERRE – We were still in first gear this week in Pierre, but that’s better than standing still!

This past week in Senate Taxation we heard Senate Bill 28, which would have replaced the decal system for amusement devices with normal sales taxes on gross receipts. We also heard Senate Bill 27 which would have repealed the annual license fee for coin operated washers and dryers and replaced it with the regular sales tax. Both bills were deferred to the 41st day which tables them for the rest of session. I did not agree with the action on SB 28 because this bill would have helped create more efficient tax administration. However, I did agree with the tabling of SB 27. This bill also would have helped to create a more efficient tax law, but at the same time it became clear to me due to the testimony of apartment managers that it would increase taxes more on poor citizens who can’t afford their own laundry facilities.

Over the summer I served on the Access to Mental Health Services interim study committee. Thousands of our residents are suffering because of a severe shortage of mental health services across the state. I was glad that a bill sponsored by this committee passed the Senate unanimously. It creates five task forces with the purpose of researching, developing, and proposing legislation for sustainable improvements to mental health services within the state by December of this year. We need to improve West River access and find ways to quit using our jails as holding places for mentally ill people who need services.

Last week was “play national politics” week in the Senate. Senate Resolution 5, brought by several Republicans, commends Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds for their votes to confirm Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination to the United States Supreme Court and wishes Associate Justice Kavanaugh well in his new role. This resolution was a waste of the legislative body’s time and an insult to anyone who felt that Dr. Blasey-Ford’s testimony was not respected during the confirmation process, or that Justice Kavanaugh’s reactions to it were not indicative of a judicial temperament. As Senator Troy Heinert of Mission said in debate, “If the appointment and votes which happened months ago are of importance to the other Senators...then a personal thank you card or phone conversation would suffice. There is no reason for a Republican controlled state Senate in a Republican dominated state to send thanks through a Senate resolution that takes up valuable time in an already short legislative session.” When Democrats tried to amend the motion to address the adverse consequences of the current federal shutdown to South Dakota citizens, the Republicans used parliamentary maneuvers to keep the amendment from even being read.

I appreciate your input on any issue. I can respond to you most efficiently if you send me an email to my state email address: susan.wismer@sdlegislature.gov.



81st Annual

Carnival of Silver Skates

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

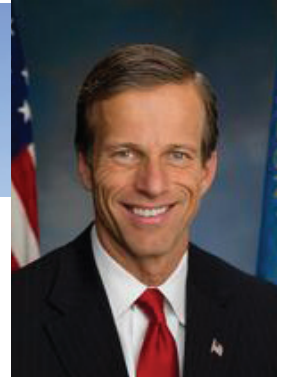
Join us for a fun “Road Trip”!

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”

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Honoring States' Rights on Concealed Carry

There are usually a handful of things drivers consider as they cross from one state into another – changes to the speed limit, different rules for the use of mobile devices, or, if they're traveling on a motorcycle, possible helmet requirements. Of all the things drivers might consider, though, whether or not their driver's license would be honored by the state through which they're traveling is not likely one of them.

It's hard for people to imagine a situation in which a legally licensed driver who travels from one state to another would be required to get multiple driver's licenses, particularly because all drivers are required to abide by the traffic laws in each state they are operating a vehicle. For example, if a driver is cited for exceeding the speed limit in one state, his or her defense can't be that he or she is allowed to go that fast because a different state's speed limit is higher.

I believe the same logic that applies to driver's licenses, at least in this case, should also apply to law-abiding citizens exercising their Second Amendment right to carry a concealed firearm. If, based on a gun owner's home state's laws, he or she is eligible or approved to carry a concealed firearm, his or her ability to lawfully do so should be honored in other states, assuming that state also allows concealed carry and the permit holder abides by the applicable laws (not unlike abiding by another state's traffic laws).

I recently joined dozens of my Senate colleagues in reintroducing legislation, the Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, that would help create the kind of logical parity that I've just described, because state borders shouldn't restrict lawful citizens from exercising their constitutional rights. Not only have I long supported this legislation, a version of which was first introduced in 2006, I've led the effort during several previous Congresses and am glad to join it once again.

In fact, in 2009, I authored a version of this bill as an amendment, and it received 58 votes, including 20 Democrats, which was only two votes short of adoption in the Democrat-led chamber. The 2009 vote was the furthest this legislative effort has advanced in the Senate. In 2018, a companion bill passed the House of Representatives 231-198.

As a gun owner and proud supporter of the Second Amendment, I believe there are responsible approaches to gun laws that balance safety with individual rights and states' rights. The Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act strikes the right balance and respects state sovereignty by allowing law-abiding citizens who are permitted to carry concealed firearms in their home states to have their rights honored in others.

Importantly, if this bill became law, it would grant reciprocity without creating a national standard or requiring so-called "Constitutional carry" states to establish a concealed carry permitting regime when they currently do not require a permit for its citizens. Should South Dakota then enact its pending concealed carry bill, other states would have to honor our state's law.

This idea isn't new, nor is it radical. It simply allows states to set the standards by which concealed carry permit holders must abide, something they are already able to do under current law, and gives law-abiding citizens the ability to have their rights honored outside of their home state. I remain hopeful that this is an idea we can work with our colleagues to improve in a way that we're able to secure the votes we need to get it across the finish line.



SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR **KRISTI NOEM**



Expanding Broadband

I've heard it said that 65 percent of children in elementary school today will work in jobs that don't yet exist. These jobs of the future – the jobs our children will depend on to support families of their own – will almost certainly require access to technology, particularly the internet. We must make those investments now. Raising the next generation with tools such as broadband is our responsibility.

South Dakota's lack of broadband is a big problem to tackle. Half our counties have rural areas where one in four people don't have adequate internet access. Some counties have rural areas where half the residents don't have reliable access. We must close the broadband gap to ensure South Dakotans have the opportunity to work and hire locally while selling globally.

That's easier said than done. Fiber optic line can cost \$15,000 per mile to lay, and the low number of customers in some rural areas makes it too expensive for companies to justify their investment.

Some have discouraged me from even trying to expand access across the state because it's too hard and too expensive. But I refuse to quit. Geographic location cannot be an excuse for the government to do nothing when the future vitality of our economy is at stake. Geographic location no longer has to be a barrier to participating in the global economy.

Earlier this month, I announced my plan to close the broadband gap. Partnering with others, I want to connect as many more South Dakotans as possible to high speed internet over the next four years.

To accomplish this goal, we'll bring together industry leaders. Our state's rural telecom companies, in particular, have considerable experience in bringing broadband service to our rural areas. Our state's other wireline service providers have an important role to play in areas they serve as well, and I look forward to working with them on increasing their level of service.

What's more, I want to bring in companies with emerging technologies in the fixed wireless arena, such as Microsoft's Airband initiative, that may offer more cost-efficient ways to provide fast, reliable service to our most difficult to serve locations. And I see a role for companies ready to invest in new 5G technology, which promises faster, more reliable service over cellular data networks.

Additionally, we're going to commit state resources to closing the broadband gap. But we can't, and shouldn't, exclusively rely on those to get us across the finish line, so we're developing a series of public-private partnerships to help overcome the challenges of service in rural areas and achieve the ambitious goals we've set for South Dakota.

I'm confident we can find a way to bridge our own challenges and secure broadband for South Dakota's next generation and beyond.

Highway Patrol Accepting Trooper Applications Now

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota's Highway Patrol is looking for as many new troopers as it can hire.

Applications are now being accepted for the Patrol's next hiring period. Deadline to apply is Feb. 28.

"We are planning to hire a large class so we are encouraging all those men and women who are thinking about pursuing a career with the Highway Patrol to apply," says Department of Public Safety Secretary Craig Price. "Due to retirements and other departures, we have positions to fill throughout the state."

The Highway Patrol's hiring and training process takes about a year to complete. The hiring period includes written and physical tests, interviews and other examinations. Once the recruits are hired, those who are not currently certified as law enforcement officers in South Dakota or another state must first attend the 13-week South Dakota Law Enforcement Training Academy. That is followed by the South Dakota Highway Patrol Recruit Academy which lasts 10 weeks and is followed by another 10 weeks training in the field.

"This is a lengthy and detailed process, but it is designed to be that way," says Secretary Price. "We want to find the most talented people we can find."

Recruiting seminars for women interested in joining the Highway Patrol will be held later this month in Aberdeen, Rapid City, Pierre, Sioux Falls and Watertown. Additional details on those seminars will be announced at a later date.

Those hired in this next period will begin training later this fall. A current nine-member Highway Patrol recruit class, which started last year, will graduate in April.

People with questions about the hiring process can call the Highway Patrol Training Division at 605-773-2231.

The Highway Patrol is part of the Department of Public Safety.

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Glimpse From Greenfield

Brock Greenfield
State Senator
District 2

Greetings from Pierre as we kick off another exciting session! My legislative year kicked off with the first inauguration I've ever attended. During the festivities of inauguration weekend, all legislators who were in town were sworn in prior to the new Governor being sworn in. Just before the swearing-in for the legislators, I was approached by the Chief Justice of SD's Supreme

Court. He informed me that he had received an email transmission from a member of the Senate asking that a lady not be seated. He told me he had no grounds on which to deny the Senator from taking her oath, and he would defer to me as the President Pro Tempore to handle any of the discussion or procedures that needed to occur. Now, I know many of you are familiar to an extent with the manufactured controversy over one Senator and one Representative who were said to not meet the residency requirement to be eligible to run for office. Since these allegations came up in December, I spent dozens and dozens of hours in conversations and conducting research on the matter. In the end, I can tell you with confidence that each of the ladies in question meets the residency requirement, and each of them was subsequently seated without so much as a motion to seek other action. It was much ado about nothing, but it sure occupied a ton of man-hours and got a lot of people riled up.

The remainder of the weekend found the Capitol Ball and Inaugural Ball taking place, complete with grand marches of all the Constitutional Officers—as well as the Lieutenant Governor and Governor's families—and the first-ever Sunday morning church service in the Capitol Rotunda. It was a completely wonderful weekend capped-off with the worship service featuring two members of the group Brulé and heartfelt prayers for our state and our leaders. Governor Kristi Noem has ushered in a new day in Pierre with her faith-based focus as she was sworn into office.

With all the preliminary activities taken care of, session began in typical Week 1 fashion. I'm sure you've seen and read many accounts of the various addresses, so I will refrain from typing a recap except to say that Governor Noem presented a State of the State that was widely embraced and seemingly contained very little that people objected to. I did hear from a constituent who was concerned about the Governor's proposal to require ALL students to take a basic citizenship test prior to graduation. I have since shared with the Governor the concern that children with learning disabilities may have difficulties with this. She told me accommodations would be made for any students with such challenges.

This year, I have again been elected by the full Senate to serve as the President Pro Tempore, which is the top spot in the Senate. My duties include selecting Pages, assigning Senators to committees, assigning bills to committees, conducting floor proceedings in the absence of the Lieutenant Governor, and a whole host of other responsibilities. Unfortunately, I was not able to talk enough people into serving on the Appropriations Committee, so I will be serving on there AND on State Affairs. Two days a week for two hours a day, I will have overlapping committee responsibilities. It is not ideal, but it's the hand I've been dealt. I thought about voting against the person who appointed me to those committees, but then I realized I had nobody to blame but myself!

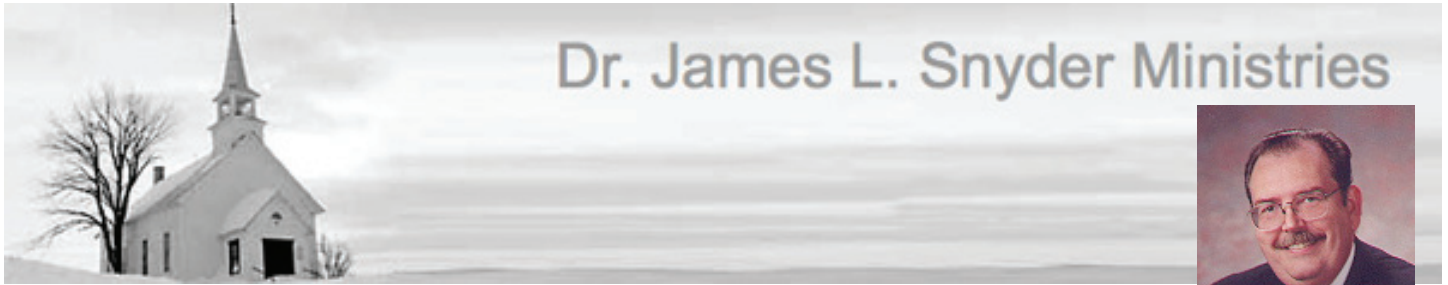
I have been working on a number of bills in the days leading up to session. Now that my committee load includes appropriations, which meets roughly five hours every morning, I will be trying to farm some of my bills out to other good advocates. However, I do plan on trying to make sure all of them get introduced into the process and have somebody there to carry the water. I will provide glimpses as to what I am working on in the upcoming weeks.

As always, I really appreciate you reading my article. For those who pray, I ask for your prayers for wisdom, discernment, health and strength for those who serve our state and nation.

God bless you and yours!

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Why childhood is better the second time around

This week the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly had the privilege of attending our youngest granddaughter's second birthday party. I wanted to go to her third birthday party but she was not old enough yet. So, I will have to wait another year.

On the way home we sat in silence thinking about the party we had just attended. It just does not seem possible that we have eight grandchildren. I broke the silence with a little comment along this line. "I'm just not old enough to be a grandfather of eight grandchildren. I don't feel old enough to be a grandfather"

From the other passenger in the car came a rather sarcastic snicker, if I say so myself.

"What's that supposed to mean?" I retorted.

"Well," she said rather slowly as if she was trying to collect her thoughts and use the right words, "believe me, putting all feelings aside, you're old enough."

I did not quite know what she meant by that, and I was afraid if I ask she would tell me. I quickly changed the subject and said, "Didn't Jordin look cute with birthday cake all over her face?"

She laughed.

Then, I thought I was talking to myself but apparently, I said it aloud, a least loud enough for my wife to hear. "I wonder what it's like to be two years old?"

"Get ready," my wife said with a laugh in her voice, "you're about ready to enter into your second childhood."

At the time, I rather resented the comment, but upon further reflection, I do not see anything wrong with that. After all, what is wrong with enjoying childhood the second time around?

I really do not think it is possible to enjoy childhood the first time. There are so many things to interfere.

First off, are parents constantly telling you what to do or not to do. Telling you when to go to bed. Telling you when to get up in the morning. Telling you when to eat. Telling you what to eat. Telling... telling... telling...

How in the world can anybody enjoy life when people are always telling them what to do? The problem is, when a person is two years old they have absolutely no leverage against overbearing parents. The only thing the two-year-old can do to get the upper hand with his parents is to wait until they are in the supermarket with lots of people around and then throw a temper tantrum.

Here is the advantage of entering a second time into your childhood. Nobody is around to tell you what to do or what not to do. You are on your own, at least in this area. Of course, in your second childhood it is not possible to throw a temper tantrum in a public supermarket and get away with it.

The advantage of having a second childhood is that you have all that experience behind you to use to your advantage that a two year old could not possibly have. This in itself covers a multitude of sins.

"What's wrong with your husband?" Somebody may ask my wife.

"Oh," she responds quite mechanically, "he's into his second childhood."

"I understand, my husband's there too."

And all is right with the world.

In a person's first childhood, he is quite limited in his outlook. He does not know what he is missing. But during the second childhood, he has the benefit of knowing this and using it for his own personal profit.

For example, when the parents of a two-year-old take him out to a restaurant he is completely at the

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mercy of the parents.

"Eat your vegetables," the parents demand, "then you can have dessert."

There is nothing the two-year-old can do at this point. After all, the one who pays the bill gets to say who does what.

Now, as I enter my second childhood I have the advantage of knowing that all that malarkey about eating your vegetables first is just that... malarkey. And, since I am paying the bill, I will eat the desert whenever I want to eat it. In fact, I will start with dessert and end with dessert. And while I am on the subject, if I do not want to order vegetables, I will order no vegetable.

Many has been the time when my wife and I are out to a restaurant and she will order a properly balanced meal, while I order dessert.

"You do know vegetables are good for you?" my wife will insist.

"I know no such thing," I reply.

The two-year-old believes it when his parents say that vegetables are good for him, especially the green vegetables. But someone like myself, enjoying the second go around of his childhood, knows this is absolutely not true. And, it is not true that I have to clean my plate before I can have my dessert.

As a mature man enjoying his second childhood, I do not have to believe everything people tell me. If dessert was not good for me, why in the world does it taste so good to me?

I have good scriptural evidence that God is on my side here. In the Psalms I read about God, "Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's" (Psalms 103: 5 KJV).

God has my best interest in mind for the longest period of time.

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LATI President's List

WATERTOWN, SD... Michael Cartney, Lake Area Technical Institute President, announces the current President's List. The President's List is a list of outstanding students who, through their initiative and ability, have indicated a seriousness of purpose in their educational program. The President's List is limited to full-time students who have achieved a semester grade point average of 3.5 to 4.0. Students with a 4.0 have been noted by an *.

Local students on the President's List are Paityn Bonn*, Conde; Keegan Schelle, Groton; Willow Seurer, Groton; Zachary Sumption, Frederick; Spenser Vetter, Frederick; McKayla Jensen, Columbia; James Erickson*, Langford; Shelby Everson*, Langford; Tyler Heilman*, Westport; and Emmalea Watje, Andover.

2018-2019 Fall SDHSAA Academic Achievement Team Awards

Initiated during the 1996-97 school year, the SDHSAA ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT TEAM AWARD program is designed to recognize varsity athletic teams and fine arts groups for their academic excellence.

The South Dakota High School Activities Association believes that high school students learn in two distinct ways; inside the classroom and outside the classroom – on the stage and/or athletic field. This academic program creates a positive environment for school teams to have its members excel in the classroom. This program is also meant to motivate students toward academic excellence and to promote academic encouragement from teammates.

All varsity athletic teams and fine arts groups that achieve a combined grade point average of 3.0 or higher are eligible to receive the SDHSAA ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT TEAM AWARD. With the completion of all the SDHSAA fall activities, the SDHSAA announces the following schools and their teams who have received the "Academic Achievement Team Awards" for the 2018-2019 Fall Season.

Frederick Area: Volleyball Team and Football Team.

Groton Area: Girls Soccer Team, Boys Cross Country Team, Football Cheerleaders, Girls Cross Country Team and Volleyball Team.

Langford Area: All-State Chorus, Girls Cross Country Team, Oral Interpretation, Football Cheerleaders, Volleyball Team and Football Team.

Warner: Football Cheerleaders, Volleyball Team, Oral Interpretation, Girls Cross Country Team, Boys Cross Country Team and All-State Chorus.

Northern State University releases fall 2018 Dean's List

ABERDEEN, S.D. – Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D., has released the dean's list for the fall 2018 semester.

Students who have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester are eligible for the dean's list.

Local students on the NSU Dean's List are:

Full-time students, 3.50-3.99: Jayleen Lier, Jessica Pruitt and Dustin Stephenson, Bath; Hattie Weismantel, Columbia; Dallas Johnson, Frederick; Jasmine Schaller and Megan Unzen, Groton; Zachariah Fries, Langford; Alexis Boesl and Ryder Carey, Warner; Meghan Conn, Kaitlyn Goehring and Trevor Goehring, Westport.

Full-time students, 4.00: Andrew Buechler, Bath; Haley Grandpre, Conde; Kiana Kokales, Breanna Marzahn and Carly Wheeting, Groton; Wendy Barrett, Bo Fries and Chance Olson, Langford; Peyton Ellingson, Taylor Ellingson Schreiber and Justin Waldner, Stratford; Courtney Bladow and Jack Braun, Warner; Lucas Fredrick, Westport.

Part-time students, 3.50-3.99: Britni Carlson, Groton.

Part-time students, 4.00: Courtney Ullrich, Bath.

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Dakota State 2018 Fall Honors List Released

MADISON, S.D., January 14, 2019 – A total of 595 full-time and 202 part-time students qualified for the President's Academic Honors list for the 2018 fall semester at Dakota State University (DSU) in Madison, S.D. Tanner Peck of Warner achieved a grade point average of 3.5 to 4.0 to qualify for the honors list.

South Dakota students named to NDSU Dean's List

Fargo, N.D., Jan. 11 — Area South Dakota students were among the 4,125 North Dakota State University students to be placed on the fall 2018 dean's list.

A student must earn a 3.50 grade point average or higher and be enrolled in at least 12 class credits to qualify for the dean's list.

Erika D. Herr, Bristol, Exercise Science; and Derrek B. Tuszka, Warner, Crop and Weed Sciences, were named to the Dean's List.

USD Announces Fall 2018 Dean's List and Academic Honors

VERMILLION, S.D. – The University of South Dakota announced its Academic Honors and Dean's List to recognize over 2,200 students for their high academic achievement during the Fall 2018 semester.

Full-time, undergraduate students are named to the Dean's List if they received a 3.5 GPA for courses they took in the Fall 2018 semester and had no incomplete or failing grades. For part-time students, those with fewer than 12 credit hours, the recognition is called Academic Honors.

Students on the Dean's List are Samuel Sanderson, Claremont; Michaela M Podoll, Frederick; Jackson R. Oliver, Kari L Hanson, Lexi N Gustafson, Lucas J Sternhagen, Luke B Smith, Madison Sippel, Marlee E Jones, Mason R Madsen and Taylor A Gustafson, all of Groton; Bess C Seaman, Warner.

Those on the Academic Honors List are Natalia C Dohman, Groton; Tyler Kann, Langford.

SDSU Dean's List Fall 2018

BROOKINGS, S.D. - The following students have been named to the dean's list for academic excellence after the fall 2018 semester at South Dakota State University. To earn dean's list distinctions in SDSU's colleges, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credits and must have earned at least a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Students with an asterisk received a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Students from 36 states and 30 foreign nations are on the list.

Students with F, I, U, RI or RU grades are not eligible regardless of system term GPA attained. Note that these criteria include courses that were taken at other South Dakota institutions this term. A minimum of 12 credits within the 100-699 course range must be taken. A student who passes pregeneral education courses may still qualify, if the student has 12 other credits that do fall within the 100-699 range.

Those on the Dean's List are Jaden Lee Oliver, James Lee Thompson, Faith Emily Crissman*, Jessica Jean Adler, Macy Quinn Knecht, Kelby Nathan Hawkins, Maggie Ann Simon, Keri Jo Pappas*, Ashley Elizabeth Gibbs*, Maryn Renee Howard, Nicole Grand Lewandowsk* and Erin Elizabeth Smith*, all of Groton; Katherine Ann LaMee, Andover; Jack Allan Carlson, Bristol; Dylan Michael Frey*, Claremont; Cory Wren Murphy*, Frederick; Cassidy Opal Kann, Langford; and Brady Jake Hallenbeck, Warner.

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Monson, Locke take first at Kingsbury Wrestling Tournament

Drager Monson at 113 pounds and Wyatt Locke at 285 pounds both placed first at the Kingsbury Wrestling Tournament held Saturday in Arlington. Also wrestling were Grady O'Neill and Adrian Knutson.

113: Dragr Monson (23-8) placed 1st and scored 25.5 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 23-8 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 23-8 won by fall over Josh Long (Sisseton) 8-17 (Fall 0:31)

Semifinal - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 23-8 won by tech fall over Hunter Witte (Flandreau) 9-11 (TF-1.5 2:51 (15-0))

1st Place Match - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) 23-8 won by fall over Dylan Zell (Kingsbury County) 16-11 (Fall 2:48)

182: Grady O'Neill (8-14) scored 6.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 8-14 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 8-14 won by forfeit over Forfeit Forfeit (Marion/Freeman) 12-8 (For.)

Semifinal - Jacob Schoon (Brookings) 23-0 won by fall over Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 8-14 (Fall 1:25)

Cons. Semi - Zavier Centeno (Parker) 12-14 won by decision over Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) 8-14 (Dec 7-2)

285: Adrian Knutson (11-13)

Champ. Round 1 - Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 11-13 won by forfeit over Forfeit Forfeit (Sioux Falls Washington) 5-18 (For.)

Quarterfinal - Tucker Christie (Brookings) 14-10 won by fall over Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 11-13 (Fall 1:49)

Cons. Round 2 - Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 11-13 won by fall over Jason Ebeling (Parker) 0-9 (Fall 1:00)

Cons. Round 3 - Geoff Dunkelberger (Parker) 11-24 won by fall over Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) 11-13 (Fall 1:44)

285: Wyatt Locke (16-2) placed 1st and scored 24.0 team points.

Champ. Round 1 - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 16-2 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 16-2 won by fall over Geoff Dunkelberger (Parker) 11-24 (Fall 2:23)

Semifinal - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 16-2 won by decision over Tucker Christie (Brookings) 14-10 (Dec 3-1)

1st Place Match - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 16-2 won by fall over Jadeon Biggers (Lyman County) 21-8 (Fall 0:54)

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Today in Weather History

January 20, 1944: A late January warm up occurred on this date in weather history in 1944. Temperatures rose into the upper 50s to the mid-60s across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. Overnight lows in the 20s and lower 30s were above the normal highs for the year. Record highs were set at Aberdeen, Kennebec, Sisseton, and Watertown. Watertown rose to 56 degrees, Sisseton rose to 58 degrees, Aberdeen rose to 60 degrees, and Kennebec rose to 65 degrees. Also, Moberly rose to 57 degrees, and Pierre rose to 61 degrees.

1883: Yuma, Arizona sets their all-time record low of 22 degrees. This record is tied in 1911 and again in 1937.

1933: Phoenix, Arizona receives 1 inch of snow. This sets the record for the most ever recorded in Phoenix.

1937 - The wettest Inaugural Day of record with 1.77 inches of rain in 24 hours. Temperatures were only in the 30s as Franklin D. Roosevelt was sworn in for his second term. (David Ludlum)

1943 - Strange vertical antics took place in the Black Hills of South Dakota. While the temperature at Deadwood was a frigid 16 degrees below zero, the town of Lead, just a mile and a half away, but 600 feet higher in elevation, reported a balmy 52 degree reading. (David Ludlum)

1954 - The temperature at Rogers Pass, MT, plunged to 70 degrees below zero to establish a new record for the continental U.S. (David Ludlum)

1978 - A paralyzing "Nor'easter" produced a record 21 inches of snow at Boston, 15 to 20 inches in Rhode Island, and one to two feet of snow in Pennsylvania. Winds along the coast of Connecticut gusted to 70 mph. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Gale force winds lingered along the northern Atlantic coast in the wake of a holiday weekend storm. High winds along the eastern slopes of the Northern Rockies gusted to 67 mph at Livingston MT, and high winds in southern California gusted to 70 mph near San Bernardino. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A storm in the Upper Midwest produced heavy snow and gale force winds. Up to 27.5 inches of snow was reported along the Lake Superior shoreline of Michigan, with 22 inches at Marquette. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - The temperature in the Washington D.C. area warmed into the lower 50s for the Presidential Inauguration during the late morning hours, before gusty northwest winds ushered in colder air that afternoon. (National Weather Summary)

1990 - While heavy thunderstorm rains drenched the Central Gulf Coast States, with 4.23 inches reported at Centreville AL in 24 hours, unseasonably warm weather continued across Florida. Five cities in Florida reported record high temperatures for the date. Tampa FL equalled their record high for January of 85 degrees. (National Weather Summary)

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Today



Flurries
Likely then
Mostly Cloudy

High: 6 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy
then Snow and
Patchy
Blowing Snow

Low: 1 °F

M.L.King
Day



Chance Snow

High: 17 °F

Monday
Night



Snow Likely

Low: 9 °F

Tuesday



Slight Chance
Snow then
Partly Sunny

High: 19 °F

Snow Winding Down



Additional Light Accumulation in Northeast SD and Western Minnesota through Mid Morning

Sunday



2 to 15

Monday



14 to 31



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 1/20/2019 5:11 AM Central

Published on: 01/20/2019 at 5:19AM

Cold weather will last through the weekend. The active pattern will also continue this week with more light snow in the forecast tonight and again Sunday night through Monday night.

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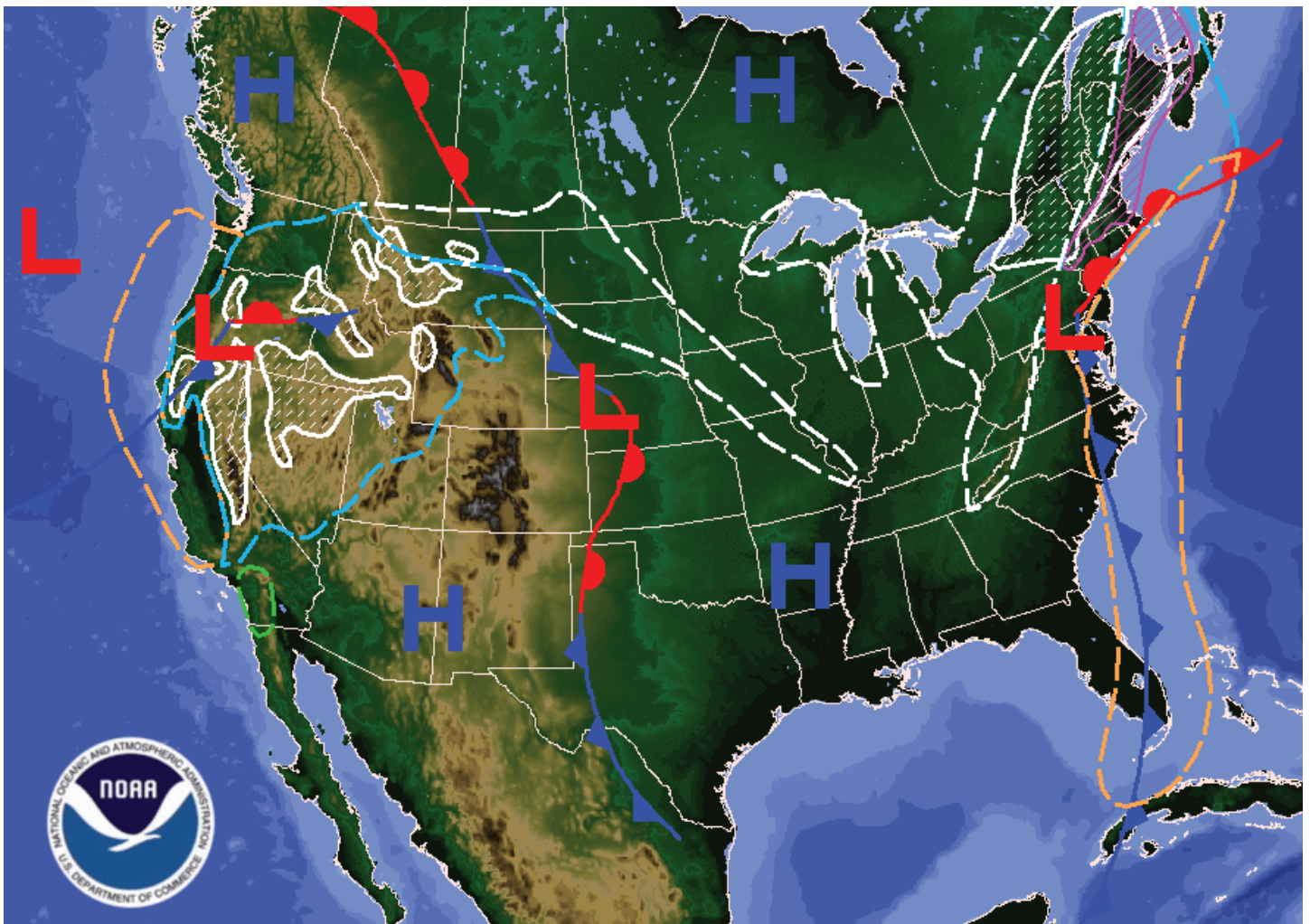
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 2 °F at 10:28 PM
Low Outside Temp: -20 °F at 8:21 AM
High Gust: 9 mph at 12:01 AM
Precip: 5" on Saturday, 1" on Sunday

Today's Info

Record High: 60 in 1944
Record Low: -29 in 1936
Average High: 22°F
Average Low: 1°F
Average Precip in Jan.: 0.31
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.31
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:23 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:06 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Jan 20, 2019, issued 4:42 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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HIS WAYS ARE THE RIGHT WAYS

Whenever we have a box delivered to our home that says, Instructions Inside, I immediately take it to my wife. It doesn't matter if it is large or small or somewhere in between, I know exactly what to do with it. If it needs to be put together, or is in pieces, it's beyond the skills and talents that God gave me. It's another example of God's grace: He graciously brought her to me to make up for many of my deficiencies.

That's the way God is. Whatever we lack, whatever we need, whatever is beyond us is always available to us through His grace and guidance. With God's Spirit within us and the fact that His Word is sufficient for us, we must then submit to Him, follow Him and depend on Him. We cannot do what He has for us to do without Him!

God knows our strength and limitations, our skills and talents. He is anxious for us to grow into the likeness of His Son, Jesus Christ. So, it is important for us to look to Him, depend on Him and follow Him because life is too difficult without Him. We often mislead ourselves if we do not recognize where we are and where God wants us to be. That's why David reminded us that we need God to show us His ways. Like it or not, we must admit that it is too easy to confuse our ways with His ways and not accomplish His purpose for our lives or know how we can serve others.

God can only guide whom He governs. When we allow Him to show us and teach us, He can then lead us in the path He has laid out for us.

Prayer: Father, Your ways are perfect ways. May we willingly accept them as we submit to Your leadership. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Psalm 25:4 Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.

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
- 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
- 11/09/2019 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

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News from the  Associated Press

Saturday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Bennett County 53, Philip 40
Bowman County, N.D. 59, Belle Fourche 41
Burke 53, Gayville-Volin 47
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 72, Little Wound 69
Dell Rapids 68, Elk Point-Jefferson 40
Faulkton 58, Waubay/Summit 30
Gregory 51, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 49
Harrisburg 64, Pierre 57
Highmore-Harrold 55, McCook Central/Montrose 46
Ipswich 60, James Valley Christian 52
Iroquois 55, Great Plains Lutheran 47
Red Cloud 68, Custer 55
Sioux Falls Christian 61, Watertown 56
Sioux Falls Lincoln 56, Huron 52
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 57, Rapid City Stevens 51
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 58, Rapid City Central 56
Tiospa Zina Tribal 83, Flandreau Indian 55
Todd County 70, Crow Creek 68
Wall 51, New Underwood 30
West Central 74, Milbank 64
DVC Tournament
Consolation Semifinal
Deubrook 50, Estelline/Hendricks 40
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 55, Lake Preston 52
Semifinal
Arlington 63, Colman-Egan 37
Elkton-Lake Benton 76, Dell Rapids St. Mary 69
Hanson Classic
Aberdeen Roncalli 82, Sioux Valley 81
Clark/Willow Lake 62, Timber Lake 41
Flandreau 53, Leola/Frederick 45
Hanson 47, Colome 44
Irene-Wakonda 57, Castlewood 55
Parker 69, Rapid City Christian 59
Tea Area 58, St. Thomas More 54
Viborg-Hurley 70, Aberdeen Christian 60
White River 61, Bridgewater-Emery 56
Panhandle Conference Tournament
Fifth Place
Edgemont 49, Crawford, Neb. 39

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

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GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Bon Homme 51, Jones County 20
Bowman County, N.D. 44, Belle Fourche 35
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 67, Little Wound 51
Dell Rapids 64, Elk Point-Jefferson 54
Faith 77, McIntosh 42
Faulkton 55, Waubay/Summit 30
Flandreau Indian 61, Tiospa Zina Tribal 60
Great Plains Lutheran 56, Iroquois 17
Gregory 61, Sunshine Bible Academy 42
Harding County 51, Tiospaye Topa 43
Ipswich 59, James Valley Christian 43
Lead-Deadwood 53, Hot Springs 23
Lemmon 56, Bison 23
New Underwood 50, Wall 27
Northwestern 63, Wilmot 59
Philip 58, Bennett County 25
Rapid City Central 69, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 41
Red Cloud 69, Custer 27
Sioux Falls Lincoln 54, Huron 34
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 48, Rapid City Stevens 42
Timber Lake 71, Dupree 64
Todd County 67, Crow Creek 46
Waverly-South Shore 63, Kadoka Area 51
West Central 58, Milbank 42
White River 62, Lyman 42
Wolsey-Wessington 43, Potter County 27
DVC Tournament
Championship
Estelline/Hendricks 58, Deubrook 55
Fifth Place
Lake Preston 49, Dell Rapids St. Mary 43
Seventh Place
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 41, Elkton-Lake Benton 37
Third Place
Arlington 40, Colman-Egan 39
Great Plains Conference Classic
Avon 45, Corsica/Stickney 30
Colome 47, Centerville 23
Marty Indian 56, Freeman Academy/Marion 34

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

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SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

03-16-17-34-35

(three, sixteen, seventeen, thirty-four, thirty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$43,000

Lotto America

24-29-46-49-51, Star Ball: 8, ASB: 2

(twenty-four, twenty-nine, forty-six, forty-nine, fifty-one; Star Ball: eight; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$13.94 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$82 million

Powerball

05-08-41-65-66, Powerball: 20, Power Play: 3

(five, eight, forty-one, sixty-five, sixty-six; Powerball: twenty; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$129 million

Winter storm forces airline cancellations, road troubles

By COREY WILLIAMS, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — A plane carrying 129 people skidded Saturday from a slick Chicago runway and a plow driver was killed when his truck rolled over outside Kansas City following a winter storm that covered many parts of the Midwest in snow and ice.

No injuries were reported on the United Airlines flight at O'Hare International Airport as it arrived Saturday morning from Phoenix, Chicago Fire officials said. The massive storm which dumped 10 inches (25 centimeters) of snow on some areas in the Midwest prompted the cancellation of nearly 1,000 flights at Chicago's airports. The average delay at O'Hare was nearly an hour Saturday afternoon.

Kansas Department of Transportation snowplow driver Stephen Windler, 25, died about 6 a.m. Saturday on U.S. Highway 69, according to the Wichita Eagle . A police crash report says his truck "traveled to the right, traversing the shoulder and drove into the grass" before it rolled over. Windler was thrown from the vehicle which landed on top of him.

The storm moved Saturday toward the Northeast and New England. Some northern parts of New England could see up to 18 inches (46 centimeters) of snow.

A 15-vehicle crash blocked a section of Interstate 55 in southeastern Missouri near Ste. Genevieve Saturday afternoon and drivers were urged to find an alternative route. In Detroit, many motorists were moving well below posted speed limits along freeways due to slushy conditions. Amtrak canceled some trains Saturday from Chicago to Washington and New York and between New York and Boston and Pennsylvania on Sunday.

In Nebraska, authorities closed Omaha's Eppley Airfield on Friday afternoon after a Southwest Airlines plane slid off an ice-slicked runway. No one was injured. The airfield later reopened.

The snow was part of a wall of hazardous weather that moved from the Dakotas across the Great Lakes states. The storm brought snow, ice and strong winds, followed by deep cold. The highest snowfall totals were expected in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, which could see up to 18 inches (46) centimeters.

But some Midwesterners weren't going to let a little winter weather keep them from going outside.

In downtown Detroit, Celeste Tremmel was out training for a marathon amid heavy and steady snowfall.

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"When you run a marathon, you run no matter the weather," said Tremmel, who plans to run a March marathon in South Carolina.

Running in snow is "like running in sand, so you go a lot slower and it's a lot more work," she said. "I'm really tired ... but 40 degrees, wind and hail is worse."

Further east, the National Weather Service in Albany, New York, said snow could fall at a rate of 1 to 3 inches (2.5-7.5 centimeters) an hour, creating "difficult to impossible travel conditions" in areas.

The storm prompted the cancellation of a Special Olympics competition in upstate New York. Nearly 200 athletes from around New York state were expected to compete in snowshoeing, snowboarding, cross country, and Nordic and Alpine skiing at West Mountain, just outside Glens Falls.

In New York City, the worst of the storm was expected from Saturday afternoon through Sunday afternoon, with snow accumulations of 3-6 inches (7.5-15 centimeters), followed by rain that could turn to ice as temperatures drop later Sunday. Single-digit temperatures could last into Monday. Strong wind gusts beginning Sunday afternoon could bring down snow- or ice-burdened tree limbs and power lines.

Following the storm system, some areas of the Midwest were expecting high winds and bitter cold.

In Iowa, temperatures in the teens Saturday were expected to drop below zero (-17 Celsius) overnight, producing wind chills as low as 20-below (-29 Celsius) by Sunday morning.

Film airing on PBS highlights Native American links to rock

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS, Associated Press**

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — As a child, Fred Lincoln "Link" Wray Jr. hid under a bed when the Ku Klux Klan came to his parents' home in rural North Carolina. Racist groups often targeted the poor family of Shawnee Native American ancestry as the Wrays endured segregation in the American South just like African-Americans.

Wray eventually took all that rage of his early years and crafted a 1958 instrumental hit "Rumble" using a distinct, distorted electric guitar sound that would influence rock 'n' roll musicians from Iggy Pop and Neil Young to Pete Townshend of The Who and Slash of Guns N' Roses. Though the song had no lyrics, it was banned in the 1950s for allegedly encouraging teen violence.

Wray is one of many Native Americans musicians whose stories are featured in a documentary set to air on the PBS series "Independent Lens" showing how Native Americans helped lay the foundations to rock, blues and jazz and shaped generations of musicians. "RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked the World" will be broadcast online and on most PBS stations Monday.

The film is the brainchild of Apache guitarist Stevie Salas, who has performed with the likes of Rod Stewart and Mick Jagger. It was during a tour with Stewart that the Oceanside, California-raised Salas began to wonder about other Native American rock musicians who came before him. "I was there with Rod Stewart and thinking, 'Am I the only Indian to have ever played at (New York's) Madison Garden?'" Salas told The Associated Press. "So I started to investigate."

Soon Salas, now 54, stumbled upon Wray, a musician he'd admired but had no idea he was Native American. Then he found out about the Norman, Oklahoma-born Jesse Ed Davis, a guitarist of Kiowa and Comanche ancestry who performed with John Lennon.

The hobby searching for Native American rock musicians eventually launched an exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, then a film.

"People need to know about Link Wray. People need to know about Jesse Ed Davis," Salas said.

But rock musicians aren't the only popular performers "RUMBLE" seeks to highlight. The documentary touches on blues pioneer Charley Patton, an early 20th Century Mississippi Delta guitarist of Choctaw and African-American ancestry. The film shows how some of Patton's music preserved on rough vinyl recordings is similar to traditional American Indian songs. Those traditions were fused with black music.

Legendary bluesman Howlin' Wolf would say he learned to play the guitar from an "Indian man" by the name of Charley Patton.

The film also introduces viewers to the largely forgotten jazz vocalist Mildred Bailey. A member of the Coeur d'Alene tribe in the Pacific Northwest, Bailey began singing ragtime in the 1920s and developed

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a swing style that blended traditional Native American vocals with jazz. She became known as the "The Queen of Swing" who performed at speakeasies and had a style so unique that young Italian-American aspiring singers Tony Bennett and Frank Sinatra began copying her form.

"She was one of the great improvisers of jazz," Bennett said on the film. "I was completely influenced by Mildred Bailey. She sang perfect, for me."

The film also explores the career of Robbie Robertson, a Canadian musician of Mohawk and Cayuga descent, who performed with Bob Dylan in the mid-1960s before forming his own group called The Band.

"Be proud that you're an Indian," Robertson said he was told as a child, "but be careful who you tell."

The documentary dives into the career of Davis, lead guitarist for Taj Mahal, who died in 1988 of a heroin overdose. And it goes into the momentous career of Randy Castillo, the Albuquerque, New Mexico-born Isleta Pueblo drummer for Ozzy Osbourne and Mötley Crüe, whose life was cut short by cancer in 2002.

As the Native American musicians get closer to the 21st century, the film shows that they stopped hiding their identity and began to celebrate it.

"This is a missing chapter to this history of music," co-director Catherine Bainbridge said. "Native Americans were at the center of our popular music."

Associated Press Writer Russell Contreras is a member of the AP's race and ethnicity team. Follow Contreras on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/russcontreras>

Police arrest teen wanted in connection with shooting death

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have apprehended a teen wanted in connection with the shooting death of a man on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation.

KNBN-TV reports that Rapid City police arrested the 16-year-old suspect Saturday morning.

The teen is wanted in connection to the killing of 24-year-old Marcus Antonio of Eagle Butte on Sunday night.

The shooting remains under investigation

Information from: KNBN-TV, <http://www.newscenter1.com>

Bitter cold forces Sioux Falls Women's March indoors

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Organizers of the 2019 Sioux Falls Women's March talked about postponing the event because of brutal winter weather — but moved it indoors instead.

The Argus Leader reports that hundreds of people gathered at the downtown Holiday Inn in Sioux Falls for the gathering, which included tables set up by groups like Planned Parenthood, Sioux Falls Pride and South Dakota Voices for Peace and Justice.

Attendees carried signs bearing slogans like "Angry Women Get Things Done" and "March. Vote. Win."

Co-organizer Megan Forster says event planners were "lucky to have people show up" in subzero temperatures.

Ann Wilson, a Sioux Falls resident, says she was inspired to be there after attending the first national Women's March in Washington D.C. in 2017.

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

Major winter storm wreaks havoc on travel

By The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A major winter storm that has brought some of the coldest temperatures of the season covered a large swath of the U.S. in snow as it wreaked havoc on air travel and caused slick road conditions throughout New England Sunday.

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Nearly 5,000 flights were canceled Sunday around the country, with Boston Logan Airport being one of the hardest hit, according to FlightAware, a flight tracking company. The National Weather Service issued winter storm warnings or advisories for part or all of at least 15 states stretching from southeast Missouri to the northern tip of Maine.

The storm was caused by the clash of an Arctic high pressure system with a low pressure system coming through the Ohio Valley, said National Weather Service meteorologist Dan Hofmann.

"It happens that this one is going through a relatively high population area," Hofmann said.

Parts of northern New England could see up to 2 feet of snow, which will be followed Sunday night by bitter cold and wind chills as low as 35 below zero in parts of Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire. Parts of upstate New York got up to 11 inches (28 centimeters) of snow overnight, according to the Weather Channel.

Some New Englanders welcomed the fresh snow. Nicholas Nicolet and his 6-year-old son Rocco got outside early Sunday morning to enjoy the snow in Montpelier, Vermont, as they cross-country skied on the city's sidewalks during the storm.

"We think it's great," said Nicolet, who said he and his son were out to door by 7 a.m.

Earlier, the system dumped up to 10 inches of snow on parts of the Midwest Saturday.

A plane carrying 129 people skidded from a slick runway at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport Saturday. No injuries were reported on the United Airlines flight as it arrived from Phoenix, Chicago Fire officials said.

In Kansas, a snowplow driver was killed when the plow drove onto the shoulder of a road and rolled over, throwing him under the vehicle. It wasn't clear why the driver had moved to the shoulder from the roadway.

A 15-vehicle crash on slippery roads blocked a section of Interstate 55 in southeastern Missouri near Ste. Genevieve Saturday afternoon and drivers were urged to find an alternative route. In Detroit, many motorists were moving well below posted speed limits along freeways due to slushy conditions. Amtrak canceled some trains Saturday from Chicago to Washington and New York and between New York and Boston and Pennsylvania on Sunday.

As the storm system moves east, the frigid Arctic air behind it was expected to envelop many parts of the Midwest where it had just snowed.

"The air that it is bringing down with it is very, very cold," Hofmann said.

President Donald Trump remarked at how large the storm system was in a tweet early Sunday, urging Americans affected by the winter storm to "be careful."

"Amazing how big this system is. Wouldn't be bad to have a little of that good old fashioned Global Warming right now!" Trump tweeted.

He has conflated short-term weather patterns with longer-term climate change before, even though the White House's own National Climate Assessment rejects the idea that a particular plunge in temperatures can cast uncertainty on whether Earth is warming.

That report, issued in November, said climate change "is transforming where and how we live and presents growing challenges to human health and quality of life, the economy, and the natural systems that support us."

After 2016 ruling, battles over juvenile lifer cases persist

By SHARON COHEN and ADAM GELLER, AP National Writers

Locked up for life at 15, Norman Brown remains defined by the crime that put him behind bars.

Twenty-seven years ago, Brown joined a neighbor more than twice his age to rob a jewelry shop in Chesterfield, Missouri, and the man shot the owner to death. The shooter was executed. But state officials, bound by a 2016 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, pledged to give Brown an opportunity to get out — then rejected parole in a process a federal judge ruled recently must be overhauled.

Three years after the Supreme Court gave inmates like Brown a chance at freedom, the justice system is gaining speed in revisiting scores of cases. About 400 offenders originally sentenced to life without parole

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as juveniles have been released nationwide, and hundreds of others have been resentenced to shorter terms or made eligible for release by law.

But most remain behind bars as prosecutors and judges wrestle with difficult cases. Tensions have mounted and lawsuits have been filed in states like Missouri, while in 21 others, life-without-parole sentences are prohibited for those 17 and younger. About a third of those bans have been approved since 2016, according to the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth.

"The national trend is certainly one where states are moving away from these sentences, whether by legislation or through the courts," said Jody Kent Lavy, executive director of the group. But "there are still some outliers that in many ways are refusing to comply with the court's mandate."

In Missouri, lawmakers decided the more than 100 inmates serving life for adolescent crimes would get a parole hearing after 25 years. But the state is in court because the parole board has denied release in 85 percent of cases it has heard and has yet to free anyone.

Parole hearings have been brief and focused on inmates' crimes, with little, if any, attention on the circumstances preceding them or what offenders have done to rehabilitate themselves, a lawsuit filed by the MacArthur Justice Center alleges.

The board's actions violate the constitutional requirement that inmates be provided a "realistic opportunity for release," a federal judge determined in October, ordering changes. Missouri's corrections agency and attorney general's office declined comment.

After Brown's hearing in May 2017, the board cited his crime in denying parole. The state has since argued he is not yet eligible because he received consecutive sentences. Brown, now 42, said he hopes the board will eventually recognize his remorse, as well as his thousands of hours in restorative justice programs and work as a prison hospice caretaker and training rescue dogs.

In a telephone interview from Potosi Correctional Center, Brown recounted what he did that night in 1991.

"It's shameful. ... Because I'm an adult now, I know what it is to love your family," he said. "I can definitely see where (opposition to release) comes from, and I think it comes from a place of pain."

Florence Honickman's husband, Stephen, was killed by Brown's companion, and she vividly recalls the teen snatching a pendant off her neck as she lay bleeding from bullet wounds. She lives in Florida but returned to Missouri to oppose Brown's parole.

"My family was turned upside down and inside out," she said in an interview. "Do you really know deep down that this man — he's a man now, not a child — has he really, really changed?"

The high court's 2016 decision, one of four in recent years focused on the punishment of juveniles, hinged partly on research showing the brains of adolescents are slow to develop, making teen offenders likelier to act recklessly but capable of rehabilitation. The court said they must not be punished with the same severity and finality as adults, and that a life-without-parole sentence should be reserved for those inmates deemed beyond rehabilitation.

At the time, more than 2,000 inmates were serving mandatory life-without-parole sentences, most for murder convictions. And most cases were clustered in a few states.

In Pennsylvania, 399 of more than 500 juvenile lifers have been resentenced and 163 have been released, according to the Department of Corrections. Bradley Bridge, of the Defenders Association of Philadelphia, said the last of that city's 325 lifers could be resentenced this spring. Judges have recently rejected some negotiated sentences as too light. The last of their deliberations are complicated by the fact that many still awaiting resentencing have served less time and have less of a prison record to assess, or they have mental illnesses or a history of prison violations.

"The cases we have remaining are probably the toughest ones," Bridge said.

In Louisiana, after years of resistance by courts and prosecutors, the state is reconsidering the sentences of roughly 300 offenders. Through December, 45 had come before a parole committee, with 37 approved for release and 31 of those now out, according to the Board of Pardons and Parole.

Ivy Mathis was released in December after serving 26 years for killing a man during a home robbery. Mathis said that in prison she outgrew the rebelliousness of her teen years, worked in hospice care and

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got culinary training. She now works as a cook in two restaurants.

"I'm just thanking God, and I made up my mind, I will never return to prison. ... I'm not taking this second chance for granted," she said.

Henry Montgomery, whose case was at the center of the Supreme Court's 2016 ruling, has not been so lucky. Montgomery, 72, was denied parole last year. He was 16 when he killed a police officer who caught him skipping school. Montgomery, who worked in a prison silk screening shop and founded a boxing association for inmates, will be eligible for another hearing in February 2020.

"He's stoic," said Keith Nordyke, a lawyer with the Louisiana Parole Project. "You know one of the things that prison teaches you — 54 years of prison — is patience."

Louisiana prosecutors are seeking new life sentences for 80 other inmates; the state recently approved \$1.3 million for inmates' defense.

In Michigan, where a case before the state Supreme Court delayed reconsideration of many cases, more than 140 inmates have been resentenced, and about half of them have been freed. But prosecutors are pursuing new life-without-parole sentences for about 200 others.

Kent County Prosecutor Chris Becker has sought no-parole terms in about half of his 24 cases, and judges so far have agreed for four inmates — including Damon Jackson, 39, convicted in the death of his infant son. The boy was shaken, sexually abused and left blind and deaf before dying 2½ years later.

"We tried to take the worst of the worst, the most depraved ones," Becker said.

In some cases, judges have rebuffed prosecutors' bids for new life terms.

In another Kent County case, a judge recently resentenced inmates Chad Maleski and Joshua Rogers to 35 to 60 years, making them parole-eligible in about 17 years. Maleski and Rogers were 17 when they joined two others in abducting 66-year-old Willie Jones outside a Grand Rapids bowling alley. Jones was stuffed in the trunk of his car, repeatedly stabbed and left to die in a field. The judge cited Rogers' remorse and participation in prison self-improvement programs and Maleski's cooperation that led authorities to Jones' body. Both men apologized.

James Jones, the victim's nephew, had planned to speak harshly about Rogers at his resentencing. But after praying and hearing of the inmate's progress, he offered forgiveness.

"Who knows what God has (in store) for this young man?" Jones said.

While the Supreme Court's decision has prompted change, the justices have shown little appetite for revisiting the issue of juvenile sentences, leaving unsettled what to do with the thousands of other former teen offenders who are legally entitled to parole but serving such lengthy terms they are unlikely to ever get out.

In April, the court declined to hear the case of Missouri offender Bobby Bostic, who was 16 when he and a friend held up people delivering donated Christmas gifts to a poor St. Louis family. Bostic fired a shot that grazed one man. The teens also forced their way into a woman's car and demanded cash at gunpoint. Bostic's friend groped the victim before the two teens released her.

Bostic, who turned down a plea bargain, was sentenced to 241 years and won't be eligible for parole until he turns 112. He unsuccessfully appealed his sentence to Missouri's top court. And despite an earlier ruling banning life sentences for juveniles who did not kill, the high court declined to take the case.

"I'm not the victim," said Bostic, 40, who dreams of publishing six nonfiction books and nine volumes of poetry if released. "But a teenager dying in prison, what lesson do you teach him? He's got nothing to hope for."

In Maryland, the American Civil Liberties Union alleges in a lawsuit the state's parole system is unconstitutional because the release of juvenile offenders is rare and decided in secrecy. When the case was filed in 2016, no juvenile offender had been paroled for nonmedical reasons in two decades, said Sonia Kumar, an ACLU lawyer.

State law requires the governor to approve parole for any inmates sentenced to life. Gov. Larry Hogan has granted parole to three former juvenile offenders since taking office in 2015, all for medical reasons, and has granted clemency to two others.

Kumar argues there still is no meaningful opportunity for the state's 200-300 juvenile lifers to get out,

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even if they have evidence of rehabilitation. She represents two inmates recommended for clemency in 2017 whose cases are still pending with the governor. Both have served more than 35 years, have almost perfect prison records and have taken education classes, held jobs and won praise from corrections officers. Hogan's spokeswoman said these decisions require a "thorough deliberative process."

Other governors have recently approved inmates' release.

Before exiting office, Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam granted clemency this month to Cyntoia Brown, who was 16 when she got life for fatally shooting a Nashville real estate agent after he picked her up and paid her for sex. Brown's lawyers contended she was a sex trafficking victim who not only feared for her life but also lacked the mental capability to be culpable in the slaying because she was impaired by her mother's alcohol use while she was in the womb.

Under Tennessee's sentencing laws, Brown, now 30, would not have been eligible for parole until after serving 51 years — a mandate the governor said was "too harsh, especially in light of the extraordinary steps Ms. Brown has taken to rebuild her life."

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper granted clemency last month to Curtis Brooks, serving life for his role in a 1995 fatal carjacking at the age of 15. Brooks already has served about 24 years; if he'd been resentenced per the Supreme Court's ruling, he would have faced at least six more before becoming eligible for parole.

Brooks was homeless when he met three boys and joined in a plan to steal a car in exchange for a place to stay, according to his former public defender, Hollynd Hoskins, who shepherded his clemency petition. Christopher Ramos, 24, was killed in the carjacking; Brooks was not the shooter.

Brooks' release was championed by a juror who convicted him, the trial judge, the lead detective in the case and his former elementary school teacher, now a Maryland legislator. He plans to work for her after his release in July. The victim's family had opposed clemency, however, and Brooks said he would not presume to ask for their forgiveness.

"It's not that I don't want it. I don't know if I am deserving," he said in a phone interview from prison. "I want them to see in the way I live my life that I do understand the impact of what happened that night. ... I want them hopefully one day to see the person I was, not the person I am."

See AP's full coverage of the aftermath of the court's ruling on juvenile lifers [here](#) .

Death toll reaches 79 in Mexico fuel pipeline fire horror

By MARK STEVENSON, Associated Press

TLAHUELILPAN, Mexico (AP) — They were warned to stay away from the geyser of gasoline gushing from the illegally tapped pipeline in central Mexico, but Gerardo Perez says he and his son joined others in bypassing the soldiers. As they neared the spurting fuel he was overcome with foreboding.

Perez recalls telling his son: "Let's go ... this thing is going to explode."

And it did, with a fireball that engulfed locals scooping up the spilling gasoline and underscored the dangers of an epidemic of fuel theft from pipelines that Mexico's new president has vowed to fight.

By Sunday morning the death toll from Friday's blaze had risen to 79, with another 81 hospitalized in serious condition, according to federal Health Minister Jorge Alcocer. Dozens more were missing.

Perez and his son escaped the flames. On Saturday, he returned to the scorched field in the town of Tlahuelilpan in Hidalgo state to look for missing friends. It was a fruitless task. Only a handful of the remains still had skin. Dozens were burned to the bone or to ash when the gusher of gasoline exploded.

Just a few feet from where the pipeline passed through an alfalfa field, the dead seem to have fallen in heaps, perhaps as they stumbled over each other or tried to help one another as the geyser of gasoline turned to flames.

Several of the deceased lay on their backs, their arms stretched out in agony. Some seemed to have covered their chests in a last attempt to protect themselves from the blast. A few corpses seemed to

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embrace each other in death. Lost shoes were scattered around a space the size of a soccer field. Closer to the explosion, forensic workers marked mounds of ash with numbers.

On Friday, hundreds of people had gathered in an almost festive atmosphere in a field where the duct had been perforated by fuel thieves and gasoline spewed 20 feet into the air.

State oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, said the pipeline, which supplies much of central Mexico with fuel, had just reopened after being shut since Dec. 23 and that it had been breached 10 times over three months.

The tragedy came just three weeks after President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador launched an offensive against fuel theft gangs that had drilled dangerous, illegal taps into pipelines an astounding 12,581 times in the first 10 months of 2018, an average of about 42 per day. The crackdown has led to widespread fuel shortages at gas stations throughout the country as Pemex altered distribution, both licit and illicit.

Lopez Obrador vowed on Sunday to continue the fight against a practice that steals about \$3 billion per year in fuel.

"Mexico needs to end corruption," Lopez Obrador said. "This is not negotiable."

He said he would offer financial aid to communities along pipelines that have become somewhat dependent on income from fuel theft rings.

Lopez Obrador faces an uphill fight against a practice that locals say is deeply rooted in the poor rural areas where pipelines pass, covered by only a foot or two of dirt. In some cases, locals support the fuel thieves.

Tlahuelilpan, population 20,000, is just 8 miles (13 kilometers) from Pemex's Tula refinery. Pemex Chief Executive Octavio Romero said an estimated 10,000 barrels of premium gasoline were rushing through the pipeline with 20 kilograms of pressure when it was ruptured.

Locals on Saturday expressed both sympathy and consternation toward the president's war on fuel gangs.

Arely Calva Martinez said the recent shortages at gas stations raised the temptation to salvage fuel from the gusher.

Her brother Marco Alfredo, a teacher, was desperate for gas to drive 90 minutes back and forth to work when word spread via Facebook that fuel spewing into the field. Marco Alfredo and another brother, Yo-nathan, were in the field when the fire erupted. They haven't been seen since.

"I think if there had been gas in the gas stations, many of these people wouldn't have been here," Calva Martinez said while holding a picture of her brothers.

Tears streamed down Erica Bautista's cheeks as she held up her cellphone with pictures of her brother, Valentin Hernandez Cornejo, 24, a taxi driver, and his wife, Yesica, both of whom are also missing. Valentin faced "enormous lines" for a limited ration of gas, she said. Then he received a phone call alerting him to the fuel spill.

"We want to at least find a cadaver," she said while weeping.

Health officials were taking DNA samples from direct relatives at the local community center in Tlahuelilpan to aid in identification. Outside, a long, chilling list of the missing was taped to a window.

Wrapped in a blanket, Hugo Olvera Estrada said he had gone to six nearby hospitals looking for his 13-year-old son, who had joined the crowd at the fuel spill. He hasn't been seen since.

"Ay, no, where is my son?" he wailed.

Lopez Obrador launched the offensive against illegal taps soon after taking office Dec. 1, deploying 3,200 marines to guard pipelines and refineries. His administration also shut down pipelines to detect and deter illegal taps, relying more on delivering fuel by tanker truck.

Mexican Defense Secretary Luis Cresencio said there are 50 soldiers stationed every 12 miles along the pipelines, and that they patrol 24 hours a day. But the soldiers have been ordered not to engage with fuel thieves out of fear that an escalation could result in more shootings of unarmed civilians or more soldiers being beaten by a mob.

"We don't want this sort of confrontation," Cresencio said.

A second pipeline burst into flames Friday in the neighboring state of Queretaro as a result of another illegal tap. But in this fire there were no reported casualties.

In December 2010, authorities also blamed thieves for a pipeline explosion in a central Mexico near the capital that killed 28 people, including 13 children.

Associated Press writer Amy Guthrie contributed to this story from Mexico City.

GOP senators try to figure how out closely to run with Trump

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI, ADAM BEAM and DAVID SHARP, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Republican Sen. Cory Gardner helped mastermind the GOP's midterm strategy of pushing Senate candidates closer to President Donald Trump. But heading into his own 2020 re-election bid in Colorado, he's allowing more distance with the not-so-popular president.

And he's not alone.

Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina is reviving his proposal for an immigration deal as part of talks to reopen the government. Centrist Sen. Susan Collins, who did not support Trump in 2016, faces a delicate balancing. In Arizona, Sen. Martha McSally has to consider her proximity to Trump as she runs to keep the seat she was appointed to after having lost to a Democrat in November.

As Republican senators set out to run for re-election in states where views on Trump are mixed, they're trying to figure out how closely to align themselves with Trump.

"I made it clear when I ran for Senate that, when my party's wrong, I'm going to say it," Gardner said in an interview.

Gardner is one of two Republican senators up for re-election in states won by Democrat Hillary Clinton in the last presidential election; Collins is the other.

Democrats will be on offense in 2020, on much easier terrain with a wider map of incumbent Republicans at risk. Winning the Senate majority will require a net gain of at least three seats — four if Republicans hold the White House.

Democrats are expected to target Tillis and McSally, representing states where demographics are shifting against Republicans and where Democrats recently won statewide elections. Democrats also hope to field a strong candidate against Sen. David Purdue in Georgia, which has been trending their way, and are watching Kansas, where Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has been mentioned as a possible contender for a seat opening up due to a retirement.

Mike Noble, a Republican pollster in Arizona, said the 2020 election in Arizona probably will be a repeat of what McSally just encountered in 2018. She hewed close to Trump to survive a GOP primary but was rejected by voters in the general election.

"This is just a replication of the situation she was put in during the campaign," Noble said.

Republicans now hold a 53-47 edge in the Senate.

While Republicans will try to protect their incumbents, they also will look to take on Democratic senators on the ballot in states won by Trump. They include Sen. Gary Peters in Michigan, though Democrats won a Senate race in the state handily in November, and Sen. Doug Jones in Alabama.

Strategists say it's much too early to assess how shutdown politics or other developments this early in the campaign cycle will influence the 2020 Senate map, if at all.

Carl Forti, the political director at Senate Leadership Fund, an influential outside group aligned with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said the race for the White House between Trump and the wide-open field of Democratic contenders will almost certainly overpower the congressional contests.

"The presidential race drives the messaging," Forti said. "It'll be a struggle down ballot to be heard."

Some Republicans seem certain to position themselves closer to Trump as they see the political power he brings to their home states.

McConnell, who was initially cool to Trump's candidacy, has since embraced him, particularly on the shutdown strategy.

In daily speeches in the Senate, McConnell is backing up Trump. Some voters seem pleased with the turn of events.

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"Up until this year I wasn't really too fond of Sen. McConnell," said 76-year-old Sandy Furjanic, who lives in Princeton, Kentucky. But this year, she says McConnell has shown he is "supporting the president, unlike some other Republicans I know."

In Maine, Collins' brand of centrist politics is being put to the test. She is the last Senate Republican in New England, but voters are known for splitting their tickets and independents comprise the largest voting bloc. Democrats are eager to take her on. But no big-name Democratic candidates have stepped forward to challenge her, despite early rumblings about former U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice jumping in the race.

Yet it's Gardner, a skilled politician and fundraiser, who is widely considered the most vulnerable Senate Republican. Clinton won his state by 5 percentage points in 2016, and Colorado took an even sharper turn to the left on 2018, when Democrats won every statewide contest and captured the governor's mansion by 11 percentage points.

Colorado Democrats have criticized Gardner as being too close to Trump. The senator voted for the president's two Supreme Court nominees, the GOP tax cut and unsuccessful effort to repeal much of President Obama's health care law. He also led the arm of the GOP overseeing Senate races and helped the party expand its majority by two in November before stepping down weeks later.

"The vitriol against Donald Trump among the median voter who's going to decide this election is so strong," said David Flaherty, a GOP pollster in Colorado. "It needs to be really strong from Cory about why he's his own man and not just a rubber stamp on Donald Trump's policies."

This year, Gardner was among the first Republicans to quickly call on the president to reopen the government, without the money Trump is demanding for the border wall with Mexico, and took the message directly to the president during a recent meeting with Senate Republicans.

That stance illustrates how Gardner is squeezed in Colorado, where Trump still has an avid following. Anil Mathai, chairman of the Republican party in suburban Adams County, said on a local radio show that Gardner's stance on the shutdown was "ludicrous."

David Pourshoushtari, a spokesman for Colorado's Democratic Party, said Gardner is "trying to have it both ways, and I think Colorado voters are going to see straight through that."

Beam reported from Lexington, Kentucky, and Sharp from Portland, Maine. AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro in Washington contributed to this report.

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Democrats aren't buying Trump's shutdown-ending 'compromise'

By JILL COLVIN, CATHERINE LUCEY and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a bid to break the shutdown stalemate, President Donald Trump offered to extend temporary protections for young people brought to the U.S. illegally as children and those fleeing disaster zones in exchange for his long-promised border wall. But while Trump cast the move as a "common-sense compromise," Democrats were quick to dismiss it as a "non-starter."

With polls showing a majority of Americans blaming him and Republicans for the impasse, Trump said from the White House that he was there "to break the logjam and provide Congress with a path forward to end the government shutdown and solve the crisis on the southern border."

Hoping to put pressure on Democrats, the White House billed the announcement as a major step forward. But Trump did not budge on his \$5.7 billion demand for the wall and, in essence, offered to temporarily roll-back some of his own hawkish immigration actions — actions that have been blocked by federal courts.

Following a week marked by his pointed clashes with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, it was not clear if Trump's offer would lead to serious steps to reopen the government, shut for a record 29 days. Trump's move came as hundreds of thousands of federal workers go without paychecks, with many enduring financial hardship. Many public services are unavailable to Americans during the closure.

Democrats dismissed Trump's proposal even before his formal remarks. Pelosi said the expected offer

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was nothing more than “a compilation of several previously rejected initiatives” and that the effort could not pass the House

“What is original in the President’s proposal is not good. What is good in the proposal is not original,” she later tweeted.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer also panned the proposal as “more hostage taking,” saying that it was Trump who had “single-handedly” imperiled the future of the immigrants he proposed to help.

The New York Democrat said there is only “one way out” of the shutdown. “Open up the government, Mr. President, and then Democrats and Republicans can have a civil discussion and come up with bipartisan solutions.” he said.

Democrats had made their own move late Friday to try to break the impasse when they pledged to provide hundreds of millions of dollars more for border security. But Trump, who has yet to acknowledge that offer, laid out his own plan, which officials said had been in the works for days.

Seeking to cast the plan as a bipartisan way forward, Trump said Saturday he was incorporating ideas from “rank-and-file” Democrats, as top Democrats made clear they had not been consulted. He also said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell would bring the legislation to a vote this week, though Democrats appeared likely to block it. McConnell had previously stated that no vote should be held in the Senate until Trump and Democrats agreed on a bill.

Trump’s plan seems to stand little chance of getting the 60 votes needed in the Senate. Chris Coons of Delaware, a Democrat the White House has looked to as a possible partner on immigration negotiations, said he will not support it. And Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, another key centrist, said she would study the details of the plan but did not commit to vote for it.

She added of the shutdown: “This needs to end now.”

Trump’s remarks from the Diplomatic Room marked the second time he has addressed the nation as the partial shutdown drags on. On this occasion, he sought to strike a diplomatic tone, emphasizing the need to work across the aisle. He maintained a border barrier was needed to block what he describes as the flow of drugs and crime into the country — but described “steel barriers in high-priority locations” instead of “a 2,000-mile concrete structure from sea to sea.”

The proposal was met with immediate criticism from some conservative corners, including NumbersUSA, which seeks to reduce both legal and illegal immigration to the U.S. “The offer the President announced today is a loser for the forgotten American workers who were central to his campaign promises,” said Roy Beck, the group’s president.

At the other end of the political spectrum, Trump’s offer was panned by progressive groups, with Anthony Romero, the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, calling it a “one-sided proposal.”

Trump embraced the shutdown in December in large part because of angry warnings from his most ardent supporters that he was passing up on his last, best shot to build the wall before Democrat took control of the House in the new year. After his announcement Saturday, some supporters appeared unhappy with his effort to bridge the divide with Democrats.

“Trump proposes amnesty,” tweeted conservative firebrand Ann Coulter. “We voted for Trump and got Jeb!” she said, in a reference to Trump’s 2016 rival, Jeb Bush.

In a briefing with reporters, Vice President Mike Pence defended the proposal from criticism from the right. “This is not an amnesty bill,” he insisted.

White House acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney also sought to increase the pressure on congressional Democrats in advance of Tuesday, the deadline for the next federal pay period and the day officials said McConnell would begin to move on legislation.

“If the bill is filibustered on Tuesday...people will not get paid,” he said.

Mulvaney said that Trump had not ruled out one day declaring a national emergency to circumvent Congress to get his wall money — as he has threatened — but added that Trump maintains that the “best way to fix this is through legislation.”

Trump’s son-in-law and senior aide, Jared Kushner, along with Vice President Mike Pence, had led the

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efforts build the plan Trump announced on Saturday, according to three people familiar with White House thinking who were not authorized to speak publicly. After a heated meeting with Pelosi and Schumer that Trump stormed out of, the president directed his aides to bypass Democratic leaders and instead reach out to rank-and-file members for ideas.

To ensure wall funding, Trump said he would extend temporary protections for three years for “Dreamers,” young people brought to the country illegally as children. Administration officials said the protections would apply only to the approximately 700,000 people currently enrolled in the Obama-era program shielding them from deportation, and not all those who could be eligible. The plan would offer no pathway to citizenship for those immigrants — a deal breaker for many Democrats.

Trump also proposed a three-year extension to the temporary protected status the U.S. offers to immigrants fleeing countries affected by natural disasters or violence. Officials said the exemption would apply to about 300,000 people who currently live in the U.S. under the program and have been here since 2011. That means people from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Haiti — countries that saw the status revoked since Trump took office — would get a reprieve.

Democrats, however, criticized Trump’s proposal for failing to offer a permanent solution for the immigrants in question and because he refuses back away from his demand a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, which the party strongly opposes. Democrats have told Trump he must reopen government before talks can start.

Trump had repeatedly dismissed the idea of a deal involving Dreamers in recent weeks, saying he would prefer to see first whether the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, survived a court challenge.

On Friday, the Supreme Court took no action on the Trump administration’s request to decide by early summer whether Trump’s bid to end that program was legal, meaning it probably will survive at least another year.

But during a recent trip to the U.S.-Mexico border, Trump hinted at the possibility, saying he would consider working on the wall and DACA “simultaneously.”

A previous attempt to reach a compromise that addressed the status of “Dreamers” broke down a year ago as a result of escalating White House demands.

Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Matthew Daly in Washington and Colleen Long in Brooklyn, New York, contributed to this report.

AP Exclusive: Vatican knew of Argentine bishop misconduct

By ALMUDENA CALATRAVA, NATACHA PISARENKO and NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

ORAN, Argentina (AP) — The Vatican received information in 2015 and 2017 that an Argentine bishop close to Pope Francis had taken naked selfies, exhibited “obscene” behavior and had been accused of misconduct with seminarians, his former vicar general told The Associated Press, undermining Vatican claims that allegations of sexual abuse were only made a few months ago.

Francis accepted Bishop Gustavo Zanchetta’s resignation in August 2017, after priests in the remote northern Argentine diocese of Oran complained about his authoritarian rule and a former vicar, seminary rector and another prelate provided reports to the Vatican alleging abuses of power, inappropriate behavior and sexual harassment of adult seminarians, said the former vicar, the Rev. Juan Jose Manzano.

The scandal over Zanchetta, 54, is the latest to implicate Francis as he and the Catholic hierarchy as a whole face an unprecedented crisis of confidence over their mishandling of cases of clergy sexual abuse of minors and misconduct with adults. Francis has summoned church leaders to a summit next month to chart the course forward for the universal church, but his own actions in individual cases are increasingly in the spotlight.

The pope’s decision to allow Zanchetta to resign quietly, and then promote him to the No. 2 position

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in one of the Vatican's most sensitive offices, has raised questions again about whether Francis turned a blind eye to misconduct of his allies and dismissed allegations against them as ideological attacks.

Manzano, Oran's vicar general under Zanchetta who is now a parish priest, said he was one of the diocesan officials who raised the alarm about his boss in 2015 and sent the digital selfies to the Vatican.

In an interview with AP in the pews of his St. Cayetano parish in Oran, Manzano said he was one of the three current and former diocesan officials who made a second complaint to the Vatican's embassy in Buenos Aires in May or June of 2017 "when the situation was much more serious, not just because there had been a question about sexual abuses, but because the diocese was increasingly heading into the abyss."

"In 2015, we just sent a 'digital support' with selfie photos of the previous bishop in obscene or out of place behavior that seemed inappropriate and dangerous," he told AP in a follow-up email. "It was an alarm that we made to the Holy See via some friendly bishops. The nunciature didn't intervene directly, but the Holy Father summoned Zanchetta and he justified himself saying that his cellphone had been hacked, and that there were people who were out to damage the image of the pope."

Francis had named Zanchetta to Oran, a humble city some 1,650 kilometers (1,025 miles) northwest of Buenos Aires in Salta province, in 2013 in one of his first Argentine bishop appointments as pope. He knew Zanchetta well; Zanchetta had been the executive undersecretary of the Argentine bishops conference, which the former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio headed for two successive terms, from 2005-2011.

And by all indications, they were close. Manzano said Bergoglio had been Zanchetta's confessor and treated him as a "spiritual son."

All of which could explain why Francis named him to Oran despite complaints about alleged abuses of power when Zanchetta was in charge of economic affairs in his home diocese of Quilmes, which is in the ecclesial province of Buenos Aires which Bergoglio headed.

Earlier this month, the Vatican confirmed that the new bishop of Oran had opened a preliminary canonical investigation into Zanchetta for alleged sexual abuse. But Vatican spokesman Alessandro Gisotti stressed in a Jan. 3 statement that the abuse allegations had only emerged at the end of 2018, after Zanchetta's resignation and nearly a year after Francis created the new position for him as "assessor" of the Vatican's financial management office.

At the time of his resignation, Zanchetta had only asked Francis to let him leave Oran because he had difficult relations with its priests and was "unable to govern the clergy," Gisotti said in the statement.

"At the time of his resignation there were accusations against him of authoritarianism, but there were no accusations of sexual abuse against him," the statement said.

Manzano said the Vatican had information about sexually inappropriate behavior starting in 2015, with the naked selfies, and reports of alleged misconduct and harassment in May or June of 2017, though he noted they didn't constitute formal canonical complaints.

After the 2015 report, Francis summoned Zanchetta to Rome, Manzano said. He returned to Argentina "improved, to the point that no one even investigated how those photos got to Rome."

But as the months passed, Zanchetta "became more aggressive and took impulsive decisions, manipulating facts, people, influences to reach his goals." Manzano said Zanchetta started coming to the seminary at all hours, drinking with the seminarians and bringing a seminarian with him whenever he visited a parish, sometimes without asking permission of the rector.

"The rector tried to keep the students in order, being present when the bishop appeared, but the monsignor looked for ways to avoid his attention and to discredit him in front of the young guys," Manzano told AP in an email. "The bad feeling was aggravated when some of them left the seminary. It was then that the rector investigated and warned of harassment and inappropriate behavior."

In May or June 2017, Manzano, the rector and another priest presented their concerns to the No. 2 in the Buenos Aires nunciature, Monsignor Vincenzo Turturro, "who moved it forward fabulously," Manzano said. Manzano said he reported about Zanchetta's alleged abuses of power with the clergy, while the rector reported about the alleged sexual abuses in the seminary. Manzano said he didn't know the details of the alleged abuses, but he ruled out any acts of rape.

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The pope summoned Zanchetta again in July 2017. Returning home, Zanchetta announced his resignation in a July 29 statement saying he needed immediate treatment for a health problem.

Zanchetta spent time in Corrientes before leaving for Spain, where he is believed to have met with one of Francis' spiritual guides, the Rev. German Arana, a Jesuit to whom Francis had sent another problematic bishop, the Chilean Juan Barros.

Zanchetta largely disappeared from public view until the Vatican, in an official announcement Dec. 19, 2017, said Francis had named him to the new position of "assessor" in APSA, a key administrative department which manages the Holy See's real estate and financial holdings.

Zanchetta has not publicly responded to the allegations against him. The Vatican has not provided information when asked, other than to say he is not working while the investigation takes its course.

Manzano defended Francis' handling of the case, saying the pope himself should be considered a victim of Zanchetta's "manipulation."

"There was never any intent to hide anything. There was never any intent of the Holy Father to defend him against anything," Manzano said. He denied there was any contradiction in the Vatican's Jan. 3 statement, distinguishing between a report about alleged sexual abuse and a formal complaint.

The current bishop of Oran, Bishop Luis Antonio Scozzina, declined to speak to AP on camera, saying he wanted to keep silent until the investigation was in the hands of the Holy See. He has issued a statement urging victims to come forward and provide testimony. But he told AP he didn't want to create a media circus that might compromise the rights of both victims and accused.

A catechist in the diocese said church leaders had told staff and volunteers not to speak to the media about the allegations at the seminary.

The mother of one seminarian said her son had told her that the allegations of sexual misconduct involving some of his colleagues in the seminary were true. "Unfortunately yes, he told me when I asked him about this," she said, speaking on condition of anonymity to protect her son.

The scandal, which was first reported by The Tribune newspaper of Salta, has taken its toll in Oran, a deeply conservative community near the Bolivian border.

"I feel a great pain, because as a Christian how can we let these things take place?" asked pensioner Hector Jimenez. Teacher Gianina del Valle Chein said the Vatican should have treated Zanchetta like "like any normal person who did something, and not hide him, take him away to somewhere else so that he can keep doing the same thing."

Winfield contributed from Rome. Silvia Noviaskey contributed from Oran.

Call for political action after Laquan McDonald cases

By SARA BURNETT, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Activists and others who were disappointed by the outcome of two historic cases involving the killing of black teenager Laquan McDonald by a white Chicago police officer see a way forward — by turning tragedy into political power.

A judge on Friday sentenced former Chicago police officer Jason Van Dyke to less than seven years in prison for McDonald's 2014 death.

Video of Van Dyke firing 16 shots at McDonald as he walked away from the officer prompted protests, a U.S. Justice Department investigation of the Chicago Police Department and the firing of the police superintendent, among other changes. It also was a key piece of evidence in Van Dyke's trial, when a jury last year found him guilty of second-degree murder and 16 counts of aggravated battery.

The judge's sentence of six years and nine months — less than half of the penalty sought by prosecutors — means the 40-year-old could be released in just over three years. It came a day after a different judge acquitted three other Chicago police officers accused of lying about the shooting to protect Van Dyke.

Activist William Calloway, who helped force Mayor Rahm Emanuel to release police video of the shooting, said he and other community members were "heartbroken" by the judges' decisions, but won't give

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up seeking changes.

"If you're a black Chicagoan, don't protest. Don't take to the streets," he said. "It's time we take to the polls."

Calloway is trying to defeat a five-term alderman in local elections next month to win a seat on the Chicago City Council. He has criticized the incumbent and other black aldermen for not doing enough to change the culture of a police force that has long had a reputation of racial bias and condoning police brutality.

The McDonald shooting already has been a major factor in Chicago politics.

The charges against Van Dyke were announced in 2015, the same day City Hall — under a judge's order — released the video.

The case was widely seen as the reason the county's top prosecutor, Anita Alvarez, was voted out of office a few months later, and it's thought to be a factor in Emanuel's decision not to seek a third term next month.

Roughly a dozen candidates are running to replace him, and almost all of them blasted both judges' decisions this week and what they said was a lack of accountability for officers who commit crimes while on duty.

"With so many members of our Black and Brown communities criminalized and jailed for non-violent drug offenses, Van Dyke's sentence today shows that our lives don't matter," Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, a top candidate who's African-American, said in a written statement.

The impact has extended to communities outside Chicago, said Rashad Robinson, president of the national civil rights organization Color Of Change.

The group worked with Chicago-area activists to unseat Alvarez, with a "Bye, Anita" campaign. It's also helped elect new district attorneys in places like Philadelphia and in St. Louis County, where a white officer wasn't charged with the 2014 killing of Michel Brown, a black and unarmed 18-year-old, in Ferguson, Missouri.

Color of Change opened an office in downtown Ferguson to support Wesley Bell, who last fall was the first African-American to be elected St. Louis County circuit attorney. Bell's first action after taking office was to remove three veteran assistant prosecutors, including one who played a role in presenting evidence to a grand jury in the case. He's also made policy changes, such as ending prosecutions for most marijuana possession cases.

"The killing of Laquan and that video is one of the many catalysts that have sparked this current movement we're in of prosecutor accountability," Robinson said. "Our metric of success as a movement can't solely be based on whether or not police officers go to prison, but that the culture of policing changes in this country."

Changes implemented in Chicago include a requirement that the city release video of fatal police shootings within 60 days. The city has also changed how police shootings are investigated. The Police Department accelerated a program to equip all officers with body cameras.

And the fact that Van Dyke was charged and convicted is historic — no other Chicago officer has faced the same fate in a half-century. The other three officers are believed to be the first to be charged with covering up a police-involved shooting.

Even as McDonald's great uncle lamented the length of the sentence, he noted the significance.

"If they'd have sentenced him to one minute, it is a victory," the Rev. Martin Hunter said. "It sets a precedent and it sends a strong message to unjust police officers that now you can and will go to jail if you're caught lying, if you're caught breaking the law."

Associated Press journalists Don Babwin, Michael Tarm, Noreen Nasir and Teresa Crawford also contributed to this report.

For more stories about this case, visit AP's Laquan McDonald hub

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The shutdown today: Trump makes offer to Democrats

By The Associated Press

What's up with the partial government shutdown on Day 30:

WHAT'S NEW

President Donald Trump sought to break the government shutdown impasse Saturday, offering to extend protections for young people brought to the country illegally as children, if Democrats give him \$5.7 billion for his long-promised border wall. But Democrats dismissed the offer as non-starter, calling on Trump to re-open the government first.

Speaking from the White House, Trump said he was offering a "common-sense compromise both parties should embrace."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the president's proposal for ending the 29-day partial government shutdown was "a compilation of several previously rejected initiatives, each of which is unacceptable." Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said Trump's proposal is simply "more hostage taking." The New York Democrat said Trump's plan offers "one-sided and ineffective remedies."

HITTING HOME

The partial government shutdown is hitting home for President Donald Trump in a very personal way. He lives in government-run housing, after all. Just 21 of the roughly 80 people who help care for the White House — from butlers to electricians to chefs — are reporting to work. The rest have been furloughed.

In the latest example of brinkmanship during the partial government shutdown, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi canceled her plans to travel by commercial plane to visit U.S. troops in Afghanistan, saying President Donald Trump had caused a security risk by talking about the trip.

The Democratic governors of Michigan, New York and Washington on Friday asked the Trump administration to let states offer unemployment benefits to federal employees who are working without pay during the partial government shutdown that began nearly a month ago.

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"Simply put, there is no rational justification to deny these employees the same short-term relief being offered to furloughed federal employees across the country," said Democratic governors asking the Trump administration to let states offer unemployment benefits to those federal workers still on the job but not getting paid.

"We still have to make sure our kids eat, make sure to have a roof over their head," said Shalique Caraballo, whose wife is a TSA worker in Atlanta. "We sweat in private and don't let the kids see the struggle."

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

An estimated 460,000 employees are working without pay, including at the FBI, TSA and other federal law enforcement offices. Also, about 340,000 workers have been furloughed. Some federal contractors have also discontinued their services, leaving thousands of employees temporarily without work and without a paycheck.

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

Students in 'MAGA' hats mock Native American after rally

By ADAM BEAM and BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — A diocese in Kentucky apologized Saturday after videos emerged showing students from a Catholic boys' high school mocking Native Americans outside the Lincoln Memorial after a rally in Washington.

The Indigenous Peoples March in Washington on Friday coincided with the March for Life, which drew thousands of anti-abortion protesters, including a group from Covington Catholic High School in Park Hills.

Videos circulating online show a youth staring at and standing extremely close to Nathan Phillips, a 64-year-old Native American man singing and playing a drum.

Other students, some wearing Covington clothing and many wearing "Make America Great Again" hats and sweat shirts, surrounded them, chanting, laughing and jeering.

In a joint statement, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington and Covington Catholic High School apologized to Phillips. Officials said they are investigating and will take "appropriate action, up to and including expulsion."

"We extend our deepest apologies to Mr. Phillips," the statement read. "This behavior is opposed to the Church's teachings on the dignity and respect of the human person."

According to the "Indian Country Today" website, Phillips is an Omaha elder and Vietnam veteran who holds an annual ceremony honoring Native American veterans at Arlington National Cemetery.

Marcus Frejo, a member of the Pawnee and Seminole tribes who is also known as Chief Quese Imc, said he had been a part of the march and was among a small group of people remaining after the rally when the boisterous students began chanting slogans such as "Make America great" and then began doing the haka, a traditional Maori dance.

In a phone interview, Frejo told The Associated Press he felt they were mocking the dance and also heckling a couple of black men nearby.

One 11-minute video of the confrontation shows the Haka dance and students loudly chanting before Phillips and Frejo approached them. The footage doesn't show any black person being being heckled, but one black man with a camera smiles as he shoots footage of the group.

Frejo said he joined Phillips to defuse the situation, singing the anthem from the American Indian Movement with both men beating out the tempo on hand drums.

Although he feared a mob mentality that could turn ugly, Frejo said he was at peace singing despite the scorn. He briefly felt something special happen as they repeatedly sang the tune.

"They went from mocking us and laughing at us to singing with us. I heard it three times," Frejo said. "That spirit moved through us, that drum, and it slowly started to move through some of those youths."

Eventually a calm fell over the group of students and they broke up and walked away.

"When I was there singing, I heard them saying 'Build that wall, build that wall,'" Phillips said, as he wiped away tears in a video posted on Instagram. "This is indigenous lands. We're not supposed to have walls here. We never did."

He told The Washington Post that while he was drumming, he thought about his wife, Shoshana, who died of bone marrow cancer nearly four years ago, and the threats that indigenous communities around the world are facing.

"I felt like the spirit was talking through me," Phillips said.

State Rep. Ruth Buffalo, a North Dakota state lawmaker and member of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, said she was saddened to see students showing disrespect to an elder who is also a U.S. military veteran at what was supposed to be a celebration of all cultures.

"The behavior shown in that video is just a snapshot of what indigenous people have faced and are continuing to face," Buffalo said.

She said she hoped it would lead to some kind of meeting with the students to provide education on issues facing Native Americans.

The videos prompted a torrent of outrage online. Actress and activist Alyssa Milano tweeted that the footage "brought me to tears," while actor Chris Evans tweeted that the students' actions were "appall-

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ing" and "shameful."

U.S. Rep. Deb Haaland, D-New Mexico, who is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna and had been at the rally earlier in the day, used Twitter to sharply criticize what she called a "heartbreaking" display of "blatant hate, disrespect, and intolerance."

Haaland, who is also Catholic, told AP she was particularly saddened to see the boys mocking an elder, who is revered in Native American culture. She placed some of the blame on President Donald Trump, who has used Indian names like Pocahontas as an insult.

"It is sad that we have a president who uses Native American women's names as racial slurs, and that's an example that these kids are clearly following considering the fact that they had their 'Make America Great Again' hats on," Haaland said. "He's really brought out the worst in people."

Melley reported from Los Angeles.

Storm that carpeted Midwest with snow barrels to New England

By COREY WILLIAMS, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — A major winter storm that blanketed most of the Midwest with snow earlier in the weekend barreled toward New England Sunday, where it was expected to cause transportation havoc ranging from slick and clogged roads to hundreds of cancelled airline flights.

The National Weather Service issued winter storm warnings or advisories for part or all of at least 15 states stretching from southeast Missouri to the northern tip of Maine.

The storm was caused by the clash of an Arctic high pressure system with a low pressure system coming through the Ohio Valley, said NWS Baltimore-Washington, D.C. meteorologist Dan Hofmann.

"It happens that this one is going through a relatively high population area," Hofmann said.

Earlier, the system dumped up to 10 inches of snow on parts of the Midwest Saturday, with more on the way Sunday from lake-effect snow off the Great Lakes.

A plane carrying 129 people skidded from a slick runway at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport Saturday. No injuries were reported on the United Airlines flight as it arrived from Phoenix, Chicago Fire officials said..

In Kansas, a snowplow driver was killed when the plow drove onto the shoulder of a road and rolled over, throwing him under the vehicle. It wasn't clear why the driver had moved to the shoulder from the roadway.

A 15-vehicle crash on slippery roads blocked a section of Interstate 55 in southeastern Missouri near Ste. Genevieve Saturday afternoon and drivers were urged to find an alternative route. In Detroit, many motorists were moving well below posted speed limits along freeways due to slushy conditions. Amtrak canceled some trains Saturday from Chicago to Washington and New York and between New York and Boston and Pennsylvania on Sunday.

Hundreds of flights were cancelled in and out of Chicago area airports on Saturday and as the storm moved east airlines were cancelling flights to the east coast. FlightAware said late Saturday that airlines had cancelled 250 flights that were supposed to leave Sunday from Boston's Logan International Airport. Dozens of Sunday flights were also cancelled from New York's John F. Kennedy International, Reagan National in Washington and Newark Liberty International in New Jersey.

Some Midwest residents didn't let winter weather keep them from going outside.

In downtown Detroit, Celeste Tremmel was out training for a marathon amid heavy and steady snowfall. "When you run a marathon, you run no matter the weather," said Tremmel, who plans to run a March marathon in South Carolina.

Running in snow is "like running in sand, so you go a lot slower and it's a lot more work," she said. "I'm really tired ... but 40 degrees, wind and hail is worse."

As the storm system moves east, the frigid Arctic air behind it was expected to envelop many parts of

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the Midwest where it had just snowed.

"The air that it is bringing down with it is very, very cold," Hofmann said.

In Iowa, temperatures in the teens Saturday had dropped to zero (-17 Celsius) or below by late Saturday, producing wind chills as low as 20-below (-29 Celsius) by Sunday morning.

Tshisekedi declared Congo's president, but runner-up revolts

By SALEH MWANAMILONGO and CARLEY PETESCH, Associated Press

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — Congo's election crisis deepened early Sunday when the Constitutional Court confirmed the win of Felix Tshisekedi, rejecting claims of fraud, and runner-up Martin Fayulu promptly declared himself the country's "only legitimate president."

Fayulu's supporters have alleged an extraordinary backroom deal by outgoing President Joseph Kabila to rig the vote in favor of the opposition after the ruling party's candidate did so poorly that a Plan B was needed. Neither side has acknowledged the accusations.

The court, however, said Fayulu offered no proof to back his assertions that he had won easily based on leaked data attributed to the electoral commission.

Fayulu urged Congolese to take to the streets to peacefully protest what he called "constitutional coup d'état," accusing the court of validating false results. "It's no secret ... that you have elected me president," he said.

Neither Congolese nor the international community should recognize Tshisekedi, nor obey him, Fayulu added.

Tshisekedi said early Sunday that the Constitutional Court's decision confirming him as the winner of the presidential election was a victory for the entire country.

"It is Congo that won," said Tshisekedi, speaking to his supporters after the court decision. "It is not the victory of one camp against another. I am engaged in a campaign to reconcile all Congolese. ... The Congo that we are going to form will not be a Congo of division, hatred or tribalism. It will be a reconciled Congo, a strong Congo that will be focused on development, peace and security."

The largely untested Tshisekedi, son of the late, charismatic opposition leader Etienne, is set to be inaugurated on Tuesday. His supporters who had gathered outside the court cheered.

"It's a shame that Mr. Fayulu wants to stay isolated," Tshisekedi's spokesman, Vidiye Tshimanga, told The Associated Press. He said the two men once had been part of an opposition coalition demanding that Kabila step down.

The new president will need everyone for the reconstruction of the country, Tshimanga said, as the Congolese people have "suffered a lot in recent years."

The court's declaration came shortly after the African Union in an unprecedented move asked Congo to delay announcing the final election results, citing "serious doubts" about the vote. It planned to send a high-level delegation on Monday to find a way out of the crisis, fearing unrest spilling across borders of the vast Central African nation.

Congo's government replied it was up to the courts.

The court turned away Fayulu's request for a recount in the Dec. 30 vote.

Government spokesman Lambert Mende quickly acknowledged the court's decision, congratulating Tshisekedi as Congo's fifth president.

The country of 80 million people, rich in the minerals key to smartphones around the world, is moving close to achieving its first peaceful, democratic transfer of power since independence in 1960.

But observers have warned that the court's upholding of the official results could lead to further unrest. At least 34 people have been killed since provisional results were released on Jan. 10, the United Nations has said.

The court could have ordered a recount or ordered a new election.

It called unfounded a challenge filed by another candidate, Theodore Ngoy, that objected to the electoral commission's last-minute decision to bar some 1 million voters from the election over a deadly Ebola

virus outbreak.

The court said Tshisekedi won with more than 7 million votes, or 38 percent, and Fayulu received 34 percent. However, leaked data published by some media outlets, attributed to the electoral commission and representing 86 percent of the votes, show that Fayulu won 59 percent while Tshisekedi received 19 percent.

Fayulu, a lawmaker and businessman who is outspoken about cleaning up Congo's sprawling corruption, is widely seen as posing more of a threat to Kabila, his allies and the vast wealth they have amassed.

All of the election results, not just the presidential ones, had been widely questioned after Kabila's ruling coalition won a majority in legislative and provincial votes while its presidential candidate finished a distant third.

Congo's election had been meant to take place in late 2016, and many Congolese worried that Kabila, in power since 2001, was seeking a way to stay in office. Barred from serving three consecutive terms, Kabila already has hinted he might run again in 2023.

After Tshisekedi was announced as the surprise winner in provisional results on Jan. 10, some Congolese weary of turmoil appeared to decide that replacing Kabila with an opposition figure was enough, despite questions about the vote.

Reflecting the yearning for stability, 33 Congolese non-governmental groups and civil society movements on Thursday called on people to comply with whatever the court rules to "preserve the peace."

With that perhaps in mind, Tshisekedi's party sharply rejected the AU's attempted intervention.

The continental body's stance is "the work of some mining lobbies seeking to destabilize the Democratic Republic of Congo in order to perpetuate the looting of this country," the party's secretary-general, Jean-Marc Kabund, said in a statement.

Ahead of the court's ruling, hundreds of Tshisekedi's supporters were in the streets of the capital, Kinshasa, waving tree branches and banners reading "Congo for the Congolese."

Petesch reported from Dakar, Senegal.

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Trump offers temporary 'Dreamers' deal for border wall

By JILL COLVIN, CATHERINE LUCEY and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a bid to break the shutdown stalemate, President Donald Trump on Saturday offered to extend temporary protections for young people brought to the U.S. illegally as children and those fleeing disaster zones in exchange for his long-promised border wall. But while Trump cast the move as a "common-sense compromise," Democrats were quick to dismiss it as a "non-starter."

With polls showing a majority of Americans blaming him and Republicans for the impasse, Trump said from the White House that he was there "to break the logjam and provide Congress with a path forward to end the government shutdown and solve the crisis on the southern border."

Hoping to put pressure on Democrats, the White House billed the announcement as a major step forward. But Trump did not budge on his \$5.7 billion demand for the wall and, in essence, offered to temporarily roll-back some of his own hawkish immigration actions — actions that have been blocked by federal courts.

Following a week marked by his pointed clashes with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, it was not clear if Trump's offer would lead to serious steps to reopen the government, shut for a record 29 days. Trump's move came as hundreds of thousands of federal workers go without paychecks, with many enduring financial hardship. Many public services are unavailable to Americans during the closure.

Democrats dismissed Trump's proposal even before his formal remarks. Pelosi said the expected offer was nothing more than "a compilation of several previously rejected initiatives" and that the effort could not pass the House.

"What is original in the President's proposal is not good. What is good in the proposal is not original,"

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she later tweeted.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer also panned the proposal as “more hostage taking,” saying that it was Trump who had “single-handedly” imperiled the future of the immigrants he proposed to help.

The New York Democrat said there is only “one way out” of the shutdown. “Open up the government, Mr. President, and then Democrats and Republicans can have a civil discussion and come up with bipartisan solutions.” he said.

Democrats had made their own move late Friday to try to break the impasse when they pledged to provide hundreds of millions of dollars more for border security. But Trump, who has yet to acknowledge that offer, laid out his own plan, which officials said had been in the works for days.

Seeking to cast the plan as a bipartisan way forward, Trump said Saturday he was incorporating ideas from “rank-and-file” Democrats, as top Democrats made clear they had not been consulted. He also said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell would bring the legislation to a vote this week, though Democrats appeared likely to block it. McConnell had previously stated that no vote should be held in the Senate until Trump and Democrats agreed on a bill.

Trump’s plan seems to stand little chance of getting the 60 votes needed in the Senate. Chris Coons of Delaware, a Democrat the White House has looked to as a possible partner on immigration negotiations, said he will not support it. And Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, another key centrist, said she would study the detail plan but did not commit to vote for it.

She added of the shutdown: “This needs to end now.”

Trump’s remarks from the Diplomatic Room marked the second time he has addressed the nation as the partial shutdown drags on. On this occasion, he sought to strike a diplomatic tone, emphasizing the need to work across the aisle. He maintained a border barrier was needed to block what he describes as the flow of drugs and crime into the country — but described “steel barriers in high-priority locations” instead of “a 2,000-mile concrete structure from sea to sea.”

The proposal was met with immediate criticism from some conservative corners, including NumbersUSA, which seeks to reduce both legal and illegal immigration to the U.S. “The offer the President announced today is a loser for the forgotten American workers who were central to his campaign promises,” said Roy Beck, the group’s president.

At the other end of the political spectrum, Trump’s offer was panned by progressive groups, with Anthony Romero, the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, calling it a “one-sided proposal.”

Trump embraced the shutdown in December in large part because of angry warnings from his most ardent supporters that he was passing up on his last, best shot to build the wall before Democrat took control of the House in the new year. After his announcement Saturday, some supporters appeared unhappy with his effort to bridge the divide with Democrats.

“Trump proposes amnesty,” tweeted conservative firebrand Ann Coulter. “We voted for Trump and got Jeb!” she said, in a reference to Trump’s 2016 rival, Jeb Bush.

In a briefing with reporters, Vice President Mike Pence defended the proposal from criticism from the right. “This is not an amnesty bill,” he insisted.

White House acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney also sought to increase the pressure on congressional Democrats in advance of Tuesday, the deadline for the next federal pay period and the day officials said McConnell would begin to move on legislation.

“If the bill is filibustered on Tuesday...people will not get paid,” he said.

Mulvaney said that Trump had not ruled out one day declaring a national emergency to circumvent Congress to get his wall money — as he has threatened — but added that Trump maintains that the “best way to fix this is through legislation.”

Trump’s son-in-law and senior aide, Jared Kushner, along with Vice President Mike Pence, had led the efforts build the plan Trump announced on Saturday, according to three people familiar with White House thinking who were not authorized to speak publicly. After a heated meeting with Pelosi and Schumer that Trump stormed out of, the president directed his aides to bypass Democratic leaders and instead reach

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out to rank-and-file members for ideas.

To ensure wall funding, Trump said he would extend temporary protections for three years for “Dreamers,” young people brought to the country illegally as children. Administration officials said the protections would apply only to the approximately 700,000 people currently enrolled in the Obama-era program shielding them from deportation, and not all those who could be eligible. The plan would offer no pathway to citizenship for those immigrants — a deal breaker for many Democrats.

Trump also proposed a three-year extension to the temporary protected status the U.S. offers to immigrants fleeing countries affected by natural disasters or violence. Officials said the exemption would apply to about 300,000 people who currently live in the U.S. under the program and have been here since 2011. That means people from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Haiti — countries that saw the status revoked since Trump took office — would get a reprieve.

Democrats, however, criticized Trump’s proposal for failing to offer a permanent solution for the immigrants in question and because he refuses back away from his demand a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, which the party strongly opposes. Democrats have told Trump he must reopen government before talks can start.

Trump had repeatedly dismissed the idea of a deal involving Dreamers in recent weeks, saying he would prefer to see first whether the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, survived a court challenge.

On Friday, the Supreme Court took no action on the Trump administration’s request to decide by early summer whether Trump’s bid to end that program was legal, meaning it probably will survive at least another year.

But during a recent trip to the U.S.-Mexico border, Trump hinted at the possibility, saying he would consider working on the wall and DACA “simultaneously.”

A previous attempt to reach a compromise that addressed the status of “Dreamers” broke down a year ago as a result of escalating White House demands.

Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Matthew Daly in Washington and Colleen Long in Brooklyn, New York, contributed to this report.

A scaled-down, but still angry, Women’s March returns

By ASHRAF KHALIL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid internal controversies and a capital city deeply distracted by the partial government shutdown, the third Women’s March returned to Washington on Saturday with an enduring message of anger and defiance aimed directly at President Donald Trump’s White House.

The original march in 2017, the day after Trump’s inauguration, flooded the city with pink-hatted protesters. The exact size of the turnout remains subject to a politically charged debate, but it’s generally regarded as the largest Washington protest since the Vietnam era.

This year was a more modest affair for multiple reasons. An estimated 100,000 protesters packed several blocks around Freedom Plaza, just east of the White House, holding a daylong rally. The march itself took about an hour and only moved about four blocks west along Pennsylvania Avenue past the Trump International Hotel before looping back to Freedom Plaza.

Organizers submitted a permit application estimating up to 500,000 participants even though it was widely expected that the turnout would be smaller. The original plan was to gather on the National Mall. But with the forecast calling for snow and freezing rain and the National Park Service no longer plowing snow because of the shutdown, organizers on Thursday changed the march’s location and route.

As it turned out the weather was chilly but otherwise pleasant, and the mood among the marchers a now-familiar mix of sister-power camaraderie and defiant anger toward Trump and the larger power structure. As always the Trump administration was the direct target of most of the abuse — with fresh bitterness stemming from more recent events like Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh’s successful confirmation

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last fall despite a direct accusation of sexual misconduct when he was in high school.

One sign declared, "Strong women only fear weak men." Another stated, "MOOD: Still pretty mad about Kavanaugh."

Parallel marches took place in dozens of cities around the country.

In Los Angeles, a few hundred demonstrators gathered in Pershing Square downtown and marched to Grand Park as the crowd swelled to thousands.

"Democracy is not a spectator sport and I came out to continue to stand for that proposition, said Ellen Klugman of Marina Del Rey. "If I don't go, who will?"

In San Francisco, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was in the march and video on Twitter showed people clapping and cheering as she passed.

In Denver, protester Jacquelynn Sigl said it's a mistake to focus solely on Trump.

"It's not OK, the rhetoric the president has today, but it's also important to know this isn't an anti-Trump rally," she said. "This isn't about him. It's about the thought that's running across the country right now."

Preparations for this year's march were roiled by an intense ideological debate among the movement's senior leadership. In November, Teresa Shook, one of the movement's founders, accused the four main leaders of the national march organization of anti-Semitism.

The accusation was leveled at two primary leaders: Linda Sarsour, a Palestinian-American who has frequently criticized Israeli policies, and Tamika Mallory, who has maintained a public association with Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

Shook, a retired lawyer from Hawaii, has been credited with sparking the movement by creating a Facebook event that went viral and snowballed into the massive protest on Jan. 21, 2017. In a recent Facebook post, she claimed Sarsour and Mallory, along with fellow organizers Bob Bland and Carmen Perez, had "steered the Movement away from its true course" and called for all four to step down.

The four march organizers have denied the charge, but Sarsour has publicly expressed regret that they were not "faster and clearer in helping people understand our values."

Despite pleas for unity, the internal tensions were most keenly felt in New York. An alternate women's march organization held a parallel rally a few miles away from the official New York Women's March protest, and one activist actually disrupted the main protest.

As New York march director Agunda Okeyo was making her opening remarks, an activist named Laura Loomer came on stage and shouted that the march "does not represent Jewish people" and called it "the real Nazi march."

Loomer is a longtime political provocateur whose previous protests have included handcuffing herself to a Twitter office after the service banned her and jumping a fence at a home owned by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

As Loomer was ushered from the stage, Okeyo challenged her.

"This is not a negative day," Okeyo said. "You're not coming with that. We're not doing that today. What we're doing today is we're going to uplift each other and we're going to make sure we stay positive."

Associated Press writers Michael Sisak in New York, Dan Elliott in Denver and Daisy Nguyen in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Follow Khalil on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/Ashrafkhalil

Mexican pipeline explosion kills 73, leaves nightmare of ash

By MARK STEVENSON, Associated Press

TLAHUELILPAN, Mexico (AP) — Gerardo Perez returned Saturday to the scorched field in central Mexico where he'd seen an illegal pipeline tap burst into flames to see if he could recognize missing friends. He couldn't. Only a handful of the remains still had skin. Dozens were burned to the bone or to ash when the gusher of gasoline exploded, killing at least 73 people.

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Perez said he and his son bypassed soldiers and ignored warnings to stay clear of the geyser Friday evening in the town of Tlahuelilpan in Hidalgo state, about 62 miles (100 kilometers) north of Mexico City.

"We're stubborn," he said. But as Perez neared the spurting fuel, he was overcome with foreboding. He recalls telling his son: "Let's go ... this thing is going to explode."

And it did, with the fireball engulfing locals collecting the spilling gasoline in buckets, jugs and garbage cans. Video footage showed flames shooting high into the night sky, and screaming people running from the explosion, some themselves burning and waving their arms. Perez and his son made it out.

By Saturday evening the death toll had risen to 73, according to Hidalgo Gov. Omar Fayad. Officials said at least another 74 were injured and dozens more were missing. Fifty-four bodies have yet to be identified.

Forensic experts were separating and counting charred heaps of corpses while anguished relatives of those presumed dead gathered around the scene of carnage.

Just a few feet from where the pipeline passed through an alfalfa field, the dead seem to have fallen in heaps, perhaps as they stumbled over each other or tried to help one another as the geyser of gasoline turned to flames.

Several of the deceased lay on their backs, their arms stretched out in agony. Some seemed to have covered their chests in a last attempt to protect themselves from the blast. A few corpses seemed to embrace each other in death. Lost shoes were scattered around a space the size of a soccer field, as were half-melted plastic jugs the victims carried to gather spilling fuel. Closer to the explosion, forensic workers marked mounds of ash with numbers.

On Friday, hundreds of people had gathered in an almost festive atmosphere in a field where a duct had been perforated by fuel thieves and gasoline spewed 20 feet into the air.

State oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, said the pipeline, which supplies much of central Mexico with fuel, had just reopened after being shut since Dec. 23 and that it had been breached 10 times over three months.

The tragedy came just three weeks after President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador launched an offensive against fuel theft gangs that have drilled dangerous, illegal taps into pipelines an astounding 12,581 times in the first 10 months of 2018, an average of about 42 per day. The crackdown has led to widespread fuel shortages at gas stations throughout the country as Pemex deviates distribution, both licit and illicit.

Lopez Obrador vowed on Saturday to continue the fight against a practice that steals about \$3 billion per year in fuel.

"We are going to eradicate that which not only causes material damages, it is not only what the nation loses by this illegal trade, this black market of fuel, but the risk, the danger, the loss of human lives," he said.

He said the attorney general's office will investigate whether the explosion was intentional — caused by an individual or group — or whether the fireball occurred due to the inherent risk of clandestine fuel extraction. He called on townspeople to give testimony not only about Friday's events in Hidalgo, but about the entire black-market chain of fuel theft.

"I believe in the people, I trust in the people, and I know that with these painful, regrettable lessons, the people will also distance themselves from these practices," he said.

Lopez Obrador faces an uphill fight against a practice that locals say is deeply rooted in the poor rural areas where pipelines pass, covered by only a foot or two of dirt. Specialized fuel thieves who tap the lines usually cart their bounty off in trucks. But in recent days, as the government cracks down on fuel theft rings, the gangs have punctured pipelines and invited locals to help themselves.

Tlahuelilpan, population 20,000, is just 8 miles (13 kilometers) from Pemex's Tula refinery. Pemex Chief Executive Octavio Romero said an estimated 10,000 barrels of premium gasoline were rushing through the pipeline with 20 kilograms of pressure when it was ruptured.

Locals on Saturday expressed both sympathy and consternation toward the president's war on fuel gangs.

Arely Calva Martinez said the recent shortages at gas stations raised the temptation to salvage fuel from the gusher.

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Her brother Marco Alfredo, a teacher, was desperate for gas to drive 90 minutes back and forth to work when word spread via Facebook that fuel spewing into the field. Marco Alfredo and another brother, Yo-nathan, were in the field when the fire erupted. They haven't been seen since.

"I think if there had been gas in the gas stations, many of these people wouldn't have been here," Calva Martinez said while holding a picture of her brothers.

Tears streamed down Erica Bautista's cheeks as she held up her cellphone with pictures of her brother, Valentin Hernandez Cornejo, 24, a taxi driver, and his wife, Yesica, both of whom are also missing. Valentin faced "enormous lines" for a limited ration of gas, she said. Then he received a phone call alerting him to the fuel spill.

"We want to at least find a cadaver," she said while weeping.

Health officials were taking DNA samples from direct relatives at the local community center in Tlahuel-ilpan to aid in identification. Outside, a long, chilling list of the missing was taped to a window.

Wrapped in a blanket, Hugo Olvera Estrada said he had gone to six nearby hospitals looking for his 13-year-old son, who had joined the crowd at the fuel spill. He hasn't been seen since.

"Ay, no, where is my son?" he wailed.

Lopez Obrador launched the offensive against illegal taps soon after taking office Dec. 1, deploying 3,200 marines to guard pipelines and refineries. His administration also shut down pipelines to detect and deter illegal taps, relying more on delivering fuel by tanker truck. There aren't enough trucks, however.

Mexican Defense Secretary Luis Cresencio said Saturday there are 50 soldiers stationed every 12 miles along the pipelines, and that they patrol 24 hours a day. But the soldiers have been ordered not to engage with fuel thieves out of fear that an escalation could result in more shootings of unarmed civilians or more soldiers being beaten by a mob.

"We don't want this sort of confrontation," Cresencio said.

Officials say 25 military personnel arrived on the scene soon after the pipeline started spewing fuel on Friday. Over the course of two hours, hundreds of civilians came to fill containers with gasoline from a gusher shooting 20 feet (six meters) into the air.

A second pipeline burst into flames Friday in the neighboring state of Queretaro as a result of another illegal tap. But in this fire there were no reported casualties.

In December 2010, authorities also blamed oil thieves for a pipeline explosion in a central Mexico near the capital that killed 28 people, including 13 children. That blast burned people and scorched homes, affecting 5,000 residents in an area six miles (10 kilometers) wide in San Martin Texmelucan.

Associated Press writer Amy Guthrie contributed to this story from Mexico City.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump on the wall, drugs, Russia, vets

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was a week of half-truths, changed stories and outright fabrications in President Donald Trump's Washington.

Trump assailed Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., for playing on the beach in Puerto Rico, though she never went. His vice president echoed Trump's declaration of victory against the Islamic State group despite a deadly suicide bombing for which the militants claimed responsibility. Trump overstated what he's done for veterans.

A look at some of the rhetoric from Trump and his team as the president faced intensifying pressure over the partial government shutdown and scrutiny from Democrats over his dealings with Russia:

THE SHUTDOWN

TRUMP: "If we build a powerful and fully designed see-through steel barrier on our southern border, the crime rate and drug problem in our country would be quickly and greatly reduced. Some say it could be cut in half." — remarks from White House on Saturday.

TRUMP, on the virtues of a wall: "We can stop heroin." — White House remarks Saturday.

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THE FACTS: His comments fly in the face of findings by his government about how drugs get into the county. Drugs from Mexico are primarily smuggled into the U.S. at official border crossings, not remote lands that can be walled off. His proposal Saturday to end the government shutdown implicitly recognizes that reality by proposing money to improve drug-detection technology specifically at land ports of entry.

Even so, Trump pitched a wall as a solution to drugs and crime.

The Drug Enforcement Administration says "only a small percentage" of heroin seized by U.S. authorities comes across on territory between ports of entry. It says the same is true of drugs overall.

Even if a wall could stop all drugs from Mexico, America's drug problem would be far from over. For example, the government says about 40 percent of opioid deaths in 2016 involved prescription painkillers, made by pharmaceutical companies. Some feed the addiction of people who have prescriptions; others are stolen and sold on the black market. Moreover, illicit versions of powerful synthetic opioids such as fentanyl have come to the U.S. from China.

On crime, many researchers have found that people in the U.S. illegally are less likely to commit violence than U.S. citizens.

TRUMP: "Nancy Pelosi's in Hawaii over the holidays, now she's in Puerto Rico with a bunch of Democrats and lobbyists, you know, enjoying the sun and partying down there." — Fox News interview on Jan. 12.

TRUMP: "I'd rather see the Democrats come back from their vacation and act. ... I'm in the White House, and most of them are in different locations. They're watching a certain musical in a very nice location." — Fox News interview.

TRUMP: "A lot of the Democrats were in Puerto Rico celebrating something. I don't know, maybe they're celebrating the shutdown." — comments Monday.

THE FACTS: Far from "enjoying the sun" in Puerto Rico, Pelosi stayed in Washington, which got a big snowfall. She spent that weekend working at the Capitol, said Drew Hammill, her deputy chief of staff.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer did not go to Puerto Rico, either. The senator from New York spent that weekend in New York, said spokesman Justin Goodman.

Most Democratic lawmakers were somewhere other than Puerto Rico. Most who went are members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. They attended the annual winter retreat of the caucus's political and fundraising arm.

Some attended "Hamilton" as the musical opened a two-week run in Puerto Rico expected to raise millions of dollars for artists and cultural groups struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Referring to Democrats at the fundraising performance in his Fox News interview, Trump called it "frankly, ridiculous."

During the trip, lawmakers indeed met political contributors but also made several visits to local and federal institutions, said Marieli Padro, spokeswoman for Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner Jenniffer Gonzalez. Last Saturday, a small group visited the veterans' hospital to learn about its needs post-hurricane, while another group met U.S. Coast Guard officials.

Trump is correct that Pelosi visited Hawaii over the Christmas holiday.

KEVIN HASSETT, Trump economic adviser: "You know as soon as it's resolved, then people get their paychecks and the government will go back to acting normal and the economy will go back to the 3 percent growth that President Trump's policies have delivered." — interview Tuesday with Fox Business Network.

THE FACTS: It's true the economy probably will get a boost once the shutdown ends, but few independent economists think that boost will be sustained. The economy is facing other headwinds that make it unlikely growth will return to 2018's pace. Before the shutdown, most independent economists already were forecasting that growth would slow this year as the impact of President Trump's tax credit fades and trade tensions and slowing global growth take a toll.

Even if the government shutdown ends up being a wash in economic terms, with strong growth in the second quarter offsetting weakness in the first, the economy is likely to be weaker this year than last. Scott Anderson, an economist at Bank of the West, expects last year's stock market drop will cause many

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wealthier households to pull back on spending, a drag on growth this year.

He's not alone. A group of 15 economists at major U.S. banks earlier this month projected that growth would slow to just a 2.1 percent pace in 2019, down from roughly 3 percent in 2018.

The economy's current health is difficult to gauge because the partial shutdown means many economic statistics aren't being released. Recent signs are mixed: The job market is strong, with few layoffs in sight, and manufacturing output rose in December. But higher interest rates have also caused home prices and sales to fall.

TRUMP: "We need strong barriers and walls. Nothing else is going to work." — remarks Thursday at the Pentagon.

TRUMP: "You can have all the people you want dressed in military. You can have ICE. You can have Border Patrol. If you don't have that barrier, there's not a thing you can do. You know, they all say, 'We like technology.' I like technology, too. But we can have all the drones in the world flying around; we can have all the sensors in the world, but if you don't have a strong steel or concrete barrier, there's no way you're going to stop these people from rushing." — remarks Monday in New Orleans.

THE FACTS: The evidence is inconclusive on the effectiveness of border walls or other barriers.

Congress' main watchdog reported in 2017 that the government does not have a way to measure how well barriers work to deter immigrants crossing illegally from Mexico. Despite \$2.3 billion spent by the government on such construction from 2007 to 2015, the Government Accountability Office found that authorities "cannot measure the contribution of fencing to border security operations along the southwest border because it has not developed metrics for this assessment."

Few people dispute that fences contributed to a sharp drop in crossings in cities such as San Diego and El Paso, Texas. Before fences were built in San Diego, crossers played soccer on U.S. soil as vendors hawked tamales, waiting until night fell to overwhelm agents. But those barriers also pushed people into more remote and less-patrolled areas such as in Arizona, where thousands of migrants have perished in extreme heat.

When barriers were built in the Border Patrol's Yuma, Arizona, sector in the mid-2000s, arrests for illegal crossings plummeted 94 percent in three years to 8,363 from 138,438. When barriers were built in San Diego in the 1990s and early 2000s, arrests fell 80 percent over seven years from 524,231 in 1995 to 100,681 in 2002. But both areas also saw sharp increases in Border Patrol staffing during that time, making it difficult to pinpoint why illegal crossings fell so dramatically.

SYRIA

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE: "The caliphate has crumbled, and ISIS has been defeated." — remarks Wednesday at State Department.

THE FACTS: Pence's remark followed the deadly suicide bombing claimed by IS, which demonstrated the extremist group, however weakened, has not been vanquished. The bombing underscored Pentagon assertions that IS is still a threat and capable of deadly attacks.

The attack killed at least 16 people in Syria, including two U.S. service members and two American civilians. It was the deadliest assault on U.S. troops in Syria since American forces went into the country in 2015.

A tweet Wednesday morning by Pence's press secretary, Alyssa Farah, indicated the vice president had been briefed on the attacks before he delivered his remarks claiming the defeat of IS. Pence later released a statement acknowledging the fatalities and IS "remnants" but reaffirming Trump's plan to withdraw troops.

"We will never allow the remnants of ISIS to re-establish their evil and murderous caliphate," he said.

Trump, in a Dec. 19 tweet, announced the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria. He said: "We have defeated ISIS in Syria, my only reason for being there during the Trump Presidency." He said the troops would begin coming home "now." That plan triggered immediate pushback from military leaders and the resignation of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

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Over the past month, however, Trump and others have appeared to adjust the timeline, and U.S. officials have suggested it will probably take several months to withdraw American forces from Syria safely.

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

RUDY GIULIANI: Trump's lawyer: "I never said there was no collusion between the campaign (and Russia)." — interview Wednesday with CNN.

THE FACTS: Actually, he did deny in the past that there was any collusion between the Trump campaign and Russians.

Asked by Fox News in July if that was his position, he said, "Correct." Giuliani has previously called the idea of the Trump campaign's collusion with Russia "total fake news." "No collusion," he also said.

Giuliani continued to deny that Trump himself was involved any collusion, whatever others in his campaign may or may not have done.

He sought to clarify his remarks after, saying he had no knowledge of collusion "by any of the thousands of people who worked on the campaign."

Evidence so far points to a broad range of Trump associates who had Russia-related contacts during the 2016 presidential campaign and transition period, and some have been caught lying about it.

VETERANS

TRUMP: "Just announced that Veterans unemployment has reached an 18 year low, really good news for our Vets and their families. Will soon be an all time low! Do you think the media will report on this and all of the other great economic news?" — tweet Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Trump is wrong in terms of up-to-date monthly data, right when measuring veterans' unemployment over a longer term.

It is true that the average veterans' unemployment rate for 2018 was 3.5 percent, the lowest annual figure since 2000, when it was 2.9 percent.

On a monthly basis, the rate is more volatile. The lowest vets' unemployment rate under Trump was 2.7 percent in October 2017, and it has risen a bit since then to 3.2 percent in December, the latest data available. In the 18 years that the government has tracked veterans' unemployment data, the lowest monthly rate was 2.3 percent in May 2000.

Veterans' unemployment has fallen mostly for the same reasons that joblessness has dropped generally: strong hiring and steady economic growth for the past eight years.

TRUMP: "We got Veterans Choice. We got Veterans Choice approved, which is pretty amazing. They've been trying to get that for years and years — decades and decades." — remarks Monday in New Orleans.

THE FACTS: No, he is not the first president in "decades and decades" to get Congress to pass a private-sector health program for veterans. Congress first approved the Veterans Choice program in 2014 during the Obama administration.

The program was approved after some veterans died while waiting months for appointments at the Phoenix VA medical center. It allows veterans to see doctors outside the VA system if they must wait more than 30 days for an appointment or drive more than 40 miles to a VA facility.

Trump did sign legislation in June to expand the Choice program, part of his campaign promise to give veterans greater access to private care at government expense. The exact scope of that new program will be subject to yet-to-be-completed rules that will determine veterans' eligibility as well as federal funding. The VA has yet to resolve long-term financing due to congressional budget caps that could put money for VA or other domestic programs at risk later this year.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker and Christopher Rugaber in Washington and Danica Coto in San Juan, Puerto Rico, contributed to this report.

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This story has been corrected to reflect that Vice President Mike Pence, not President Donald Trump, spoke about Syria at the State Department.

Multiple women eyeing 2020 hands Dems 'wonderful challenge'

By ELANA SCHOR and JUANA SUMMERS, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Advocates for gender equality are reckoning with what one called a “wonderful challenge” — four or more women running for president in 2020.

To many activists, that means a field more reflective of a party that counts women as a crucial voting bloc. But the prospect of multiple women in the race also presents obstacles, with no single candidate holding a claim to women’s votes to the degree Hillary Clinton did in 2016. The women’s vote, and groups that provide financial and grassroots support, could split.

Looming over it all is persistent gender bias and the question of whether Americans are ready to elect a female president.

“We do realize there’s still sexism in this country, and what we’re trying to do is change minds. I think this country is more than ready for this to happen, I really do,” said EMILY’s List President Stephanie Schriock, whose group aids the campaigns of Democratic women supporting abortion rights. “But that doesn’t make it easy.”

For now, many women are basking in the success of the November elections that sent a historically diverse class to Congress. Crowds gathering in cities nationwide Saturday for events tied to the third annual Women’s March.

In the early days of the Democratic primary, leaders of many advocacy organizations are thrilled that so many women are seeking the presidency, but are not to back any particular candidate.

EMILY’s List, which spent \$37 million on House races in 2018 and was a pivotal Clinton ally, is “not currently endorsing any candidate for the Democratic nomination for president” in 2020, Schriock said. She demurred when asked if that strategy would change.

A wait-and-see approach works for now, but groups that actively bolster female candidates could face pressure to align with specific campaigns as the primary goes on.

Deirdre Schifeling, executive director of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, said only that the group’s estimated 12 million backers are dedicated to defeating President Donald Trump and that she looks forward to working with “all candidates” in the primary.

NARAL Pro-Choice America’s president, Ilyse Hogue, said the abortion rights group has made no firm decision about whether to eventually back one or more Democratic hopefuls and that “we see it as a plus, not a minus, if we haven’t endorsed by the Iowa caucus” because it means that members see multiple candidates supporting their goals.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren last month became the first woman to launch a presidential exploratory effort, joined shortly afterward by New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard. Sens. Kamala Harris of California and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota also are considering running.

Among that top tier of female candidates, Gillibrand is particularly vocal in invoking her gender as a driver of her campaign. She put women’s priorities and perspective at the forefront of her launch this week. She pledged to fight for children and highlighted her work on behalf of sexual misconduct victims.

Gillibrand was one of the few prominent 2020 Democrats who attended a Women’s March event this year amid anti-Semitism charges that have plagued the event’s national leadership team. But the senator said the controversy wouldn’t disrupt her commitment to the march’s broader mission.

Gillibrand also praised Iowa voters for sending two women represent the state in Congress. “This is what changing the face of leadership looks like,” she said.

“The truth is if we change who’s at the decision-making table, we change everything. Now is our time

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to reclaim our power. Now is our time to raise our voices," she told activists gathered at Iowa's Capitol.

Warren's campaign has so far emphasized racial and economic inequity more than gender. Pundits are already speculating about her and Gillibrand's "likability" - a reminder, for some influential women, of the uneven playing field that Clinton faced challenging Trump.

Democratic Sen. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii recalled "all kinds of strange attitudes that come out" when women seek executive office and called for "more attention paid" to gender bias given the historic success of female candidates in 2018.

The presence of several women in the presidential field, activists and analysts say, hopefully can make it easier to identify and address sexism.

"Because there are so many women running, it doesn't totally inoculate women from sexism, but it does provide some guardrails," said Shaunna Thomas, executive director of Ultraviolet, a group advocating for gender equality throughout American life.

Kelly Dittmar, a scholar at the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, said, "The fact that we're willing to call it out, that's where the progress is. We have to just be realistic that racism and sexism within our institutions are really deep-seated."

Cecile Richards, who led Planned Parenthood for 12 years, predicted that the high-profile female Democratic candidates would push their male counterparts to work harder to appeal to female voters.

"What do the men who are running for office have to offer women?" Richards asked. "Right now, women have a lot of candidates they can look at who look a lot more like them, who have been on the front lines of their issues for a long, long time."

Survivors: Up to 117 missing from sunken boat off Libya

By FRANCES D'EMILIO, Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Three survivors of a rubber dinghy that sank in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Libya say up to 117 other migrants were aboard at the time, a U.N. migration official said Saturday.

It appeared to be the latest tragedy on the dangerous central Mediterranean route from North Africa to Europe.

Flavio Di Giacomo of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) told Italian state TV that "unfortunately about 120" migrants were reported by survivors to have been on the overloaded smugglers' dinghy when it was launched from Libyan shores on Thursday evening.

"After a few hours, it began sinking and people began drowning," Di Giacomo said.

Among the missing are 10 women and two children, including a two-month-old baby, he said. Survivors indicated their fellow migrants came from Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Gambia and Sudan, Di Giacomo said.

Italian President Sergio Mattarella, who has urged that the government show more compassion for migrants, expressed his "deep sorrow for the tragedy that has taken place in the Mediterranean."

Premier Giuseppe Conte told reporters he was "shocked" at the reports of the sinking and vowed that Italy would continue to combat human traffickers.

Italy's populist government has banned private rescue boats from bringing migrants to Italian shores. Together with Malta, Italy has also launched probes of the rescue groups themselves, claiming their operations might facilitate trafficking.

The three survivors of the sinking were plucked to safety by an Italian navy helicopter on Friday afternoon, the navy said.

The Italian navy said when its patrol plane first spotted the sinking dinghy it had about 20 persons aboard. The plane's crew launched two life rafts near the dinghy, which inflated, and a navy destroyer 100 nautical (200 kilometers) away sent a helicopter to the scene.

That helicopter rescued the survivors, two from a life raft and one from the water, the navy said, adding that all had hypothermia.

They were flown to Lampedusa, an Italian island near Sicily, and treated in a hospital, Di Giacomo said.

Many migrants cannot afford to pay for life vests, an extra cost when boarding a smuggler's boat in

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Libya. The survivors said the migrants aboard the dinghy didn't have any.

It wasn't immediately clear exactly how many migrants might have died before the navy plane spotted the sinking dinghy.

The Italian Coast Guard says Libya asked a nearby cargo ship to search for survivors but the ship reported it found no one.

Libyan navy spokesman Ayoub Gassim said one of its boats was sent Friday to the scene but it "had a mechanical issue and we had to call it back." The official said 50 migrants were believed to have been aboard the dinghy when it set sail.

According to the IOM, at least 2,297 people died at sea or went missing trying to reach Europe in 2018. In all, 116,959 migrants reached Europe by sea routes last year, it says.

The U.N. refugee agency UNHCR, said Saturday it was "appalled" at the news of the latest migrant deaths in the Mediterranean. In a statement from its Geneva headquarters, it said in addition to those missing off Libya, 53 people died in recent days in the western Mediterranean, where one survivor was rescued by a fishing boat after being stranded for more than 24 hours at sea.

"We cannot turn a blind eye to the high numbers of people dying on Europe's doorstep," said U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.

Italy has trained and equipped the Libyan coast guard so it can intercept and rescue more migrant boats closer to their shores. But U.N. refugee officials and rights advocates say the migrants rescued by the Libyans are returned to dangerous, overcrowded detention facilities, where detainees face insufficient rations, rape, beatings and torture.

Libyan navy official Ayoub Gassim said Saturday the Libyan navy had stopped two smuggling boats, one with 67 migrants aboard and the other with 20.

In a separate operation, the German rescue group Sea-Watch said it rescued 47 people from a rubber boat off the coast of Libya.

After Italy's populist government took power in June 2018, the number of migrants reaching Italy after rescue at sea dropped off sharply, as anti-migrant Interior Minister Matteo Salvini refused to let humanitarian rescue vessels enter Italian ports.

Salvini says Italy has received hundreds of thousands of migrants rescued from Libyan-based smugglers in unseaworthy boats in the last few years and demands that other European Union countries do their part.

After the latest sea tragedy, Salvini said when humanitarian rescue boats patrol off Libya, "the smugglers resume their dirty trafficking (and) people start dying again."

David Rising in Berlin and Rami Musa in Benghazi, Libya, contributed to this story.

Frances D'Emilio is on twitter at www.twitter.com/fdemilio.

Trump says 'things are going very well' with North Korea

By **MATTHEW LEE** and **DEB RIECHMANN**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Saturday that "things are going very well with North Korea" and he plans a second summit with leader Kim Jong Un to try to broker a deal that would entice the North to give up its nuclear weapons.

"We've agreed to meet sometime probably the end of February. We've picked a country, but we'll be announcing it in the future. Kim Jong Un is looking very forward to it and so am I," the president told reporters Saturday at the White House.

The initial news of a second meeting with the reclusive North Korean leader came after Trump's 90-minute session Friday in the Oval Office with a North Korean envoy, Kim Yong Chol, who traveled to Washington to discuss denuclearization talks.

"We have made a lot of progress as far as denuclearization is concerned and we're talking about a lot of different things," Trump said, adding it's "not been reported, unfortunately, but it will be. Things are

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going very with North Korea.”

In May, North Korea released three American detainees and sent them home with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo after his meeting with the North Korean leader in Pyongyang.

The second summit signals stepped-up efforts by both countries to continue talks. Trump has exchanged letters with the North Korean leader amid little tangible progress on the vague denuclearization agreement reached at their first meeting last June in Singapore.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said “it’s high time” for serious negotiations between the United States and North Korea to outline a road map for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. The U.N. chief said New York on Friday that would allow both sides “to know exactly what the next steps will be, and to have predictability in the way negotiations take place.”

Trump has spoken several times of having a second summit early this year. Vietnam has been considered as a possible summit venue, along with Thailand, Hawaii and Singapore.

Since the Singapore talks, several private analysts have published reports detailing continuing North Korean development of nuclear and missile technology. A planned meeting between Pompeo and the envoy, who is North Korea’s former spy chief, in New York last November was abruptly canceled. U.S. officials said at the time that North Korea had called off the session.

The special U.S. envoy for North Korea negotiations, Steve Biegun, planned to travel to Sweden for further talks over the weekend.

The talks have stalled over North Korea’s refusal to provide a detailed accounting of its nuclear and missile facilities that would be used by inspectors to verify any deal to dismantle them. The North also has demanded that the U.S. end harsh economic penalties and provide security guarantees before it takes any steps beyond its initial suspension of nuclear and missile tests.

Harry Kazianis, a North Korea expert at the Center for National Interest, said any talks between the two nations are a positive development, but the hard work of negotiating an agreement has only begun.

As a possible first step, Kazianis said, North Korea could agree to close its nuclear centrifuge facility at Yongbyon in exchange for some relief from U.S. sanctions or a peace declaration ending the Korean War. The three-year war between North and South Korea ended in 1953 with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

South Korea said it expects the second summit between Trump and Kim to be “a turning point in firmly establishing a permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula.”

Kim expressed frustration in an annual New Year’s address over the lack of progress in negotiations. But on a visit to Beijing last week, he said North Korea would pursue a second summit “to achieve results that will be welcomed by the international community,” according to China’s official Xinhua News Agency.

Kim’s latest trip to China, his fourth since last year, came as the North’s strongest ally has encouraged negotiations with the U.S. while at the same time arguing in favor of an immediate easing of sanctions.

The U.S. and North Korea seemed close to war at points during 2017. The North staged a series of weapons tests that brought it closer to its nuclear goal of one day being able to target anywhere on the U.S. mainland. The two sides then turned to insulting each other: Trump called Kim “Little Rocket Man” and North Korea said Trump was a “dotard.”

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Jan. 20, the 20th day of 2019. There are 345 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Jan. 20, 2017, Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th president of the United States, pledging emphatically to empower America’s “forgotten men and women.” Protesters registered their rage against the new president in a chaotic confrontation with police just blocks from the inaugural parade.

On this date:

In 1649, King Charles I of England went on trial, accused of high treason (he was found guilty and ex-

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ecuted by month's end).

In 1887, the U.S. Senate approved an agreement to lease Pearl Harbor in Hawaii as a naval base.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first chief executive to be inaugurated on Jan. 20 instead of March 4.

In 1942, Nazi officials held the notorious Wannsee conference, during which they arrived at their "final solution" that called for exterminating Europe's Jews.

In 1953, Dwight D. Eisenhower took the oath of office as president of the United States; Richard M. Nixon was sworn in as vice president.

In 1964, Capitol Records released the album "Meet the Beatles!"

In 1969, Richard M. Nixon was inaugurated as the 37th President of the United States.

In 1981, Iran released 52 Americans it had held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

In 1986, the United States observed the first federal holiday in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1989, George H.W. Bush was sworn in as the 41st president of the United States; Dan Quayle was sworn in as vice president.

In 1994, Shannon Faulkner became the first woman to attend classes at The Citadel in South Carolina. (Faulkner joined the cadet corps in Aug. 1995 under court order but soon dropped out, citing isolation and stress from the legal battle.)

In 2001, George Walker Bush became America's 43rd president after one of the most turbulent elections in U.S. history.

Ten years ago: Barack Obama was sworn in as the nation's 44th, as well as first African-American, president. Russian natural gas began flowing into Ukraine after a nearly two-week cutoff that had left large parts of Europe cold and dark.

Five years ago: Iran unplugged banks of centrifuges involved in its most sensitive nuclear enrichment program, prompting the U.S. and the European Union to partially lift economic sanctions as a landmark deal aimed at easing concerns over Iran's nuclear program went into effect. American missionary Kenneth Bae, jailed in North Korea for more than a year, appeared before reporters in Pyongyang and appealed to the U.S. government to do its best to secure his release. (Bae and fellow American Matthew Miller were freed in Nov. 2014.)

One year ago: A dispute in Congress over spending and immigration forced scores of federal government agencies and outposts to close their doors; tourists were turned away from sites including the Statue of Liberty and Philadelphia's Independence Hall. (Congress voted two days later to temporarily pay for resumed operations.) On the anniversary of President Donald Trump's inauguration, demonstrators in cities across the country marched in support of female empowerment and denounced Trump's views on immigration, abortion, LGBT rights and other issues.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Arte Johnson is 90. Former astronaut Buzz Aldrin is 89. Olympic gold medal figure skater Carol Heiss is 79. Singer Eric Stewart is 74. Movie director David Lynch is 73. Country-rock musician George Grantham (Poco) is 72. Israeli activist Natan Sharansky is 71. Actor Daniel Benzali is 69. Rock musician Paul Stanley (KISS) is 67. Rock musician Ian Hill (Judas Priest) is 67. Comedian Bill Maher (MAR) is 63. Actor Lorenzo Lamas is 61. Actor James Denton is 56. Rock musician Greg K. (The Offspring) is 54. Country singer John Michael Montgomery is 54. Sophie, Countess of Wessex, is 54. Actor Rainn Wilson is 53. Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway is 52. Actress Stacey Dash is 52. TV personality Melissa Rivers is 51. Singer Xavier is 51. Actor Reno Wilson is 50. Singer Edwin McCain is 49. Actor Skeet Ulrich is 49. Rap musician ?uestlove (questlove) (The Roots) is 48. Former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley is 47. Rock musician Rob Bourdon (Linkin Park) is 40. Singer-songwriter Bonnie McKee is 35. Country singer Brantley Gilbert is 34. Rock singer Kevin Parker (Tame Impala) is 33. Actor Evan Peters is 32.

Thought for Today: "To enjoy life one should give up the lure of life." — Mohandas K. Gandhi, Indian religious leader (1869-1948).