

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Saturday, February 2, 2019

10:00am: Basketball: Groton Area girls vs. Dakota Valley @ Madison High School main gym. (DAK 12 vs NEC Conference Clash)

10:00am: Wrestling: Boys Varsity Tournament @ Stanley County High School

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

Skating Rink Hours

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

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

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

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

Groton Prairie Mixed

Chipmunks 70, Cheetahs 61 ½, Foxes 55, Jackelopes 43 ½, Shih Tzus 41, Coyotes 29

High game: Men – Brad Waage 213, 213, 195, Mike Siegler 210, Roger Colestock 188
Women – Lori Giedt 166, Karen Spanier 158, 156, 154, Vicki Jorgensen 152

High series: Men – Brad Waage 621, Mike Siegler 540, Roger Colestock 534
Women – Karen Spanier 468, Vicki Jorgensen 428, Lori Giedt 421

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It's Girls' Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



Dakota Valley



VS

Groton Area Tigers

Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019

10:00 a.m.

at Madison High School Main Gym

Broadcast of this game is sponsored by

Aberdeen
Chrysler Center

901 Auto Plaza Drive
Aberdeen, SD

800.874.9173

www.aberdeenchrysler.com

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Decker career high and second half spark lifts Northern State over Concordia-St. Paul

St. Paul, Minn. – Career highs were the name of the game for the Northern State University Wolves in their 90-79 victory over Concordia-St. Paul on Friday evening. Northern tallied seven single game career highs from four players in the win, and improved to 16-5 overall and 12-3 in the NSIC, with just seven games remaining in the regular season.

The Wolves trailed by one at the half, but buckled down in the second cruising to an 11-point victory over the Golden Bears. Northern shot 59.3 percent from the field in the second, scoring 51 points, while holding Concordia to just 39 points and a 37.5 field goal percentage. In addition, the Wolves knocked down a season high 14 buckets from beyond the arc, shooting 53.8 percent from the 3-point line.

They tallied 24 points in the paint, 22 points off the bench, nine second chance points, eight points off turnovers, and five fast break points. NSU combined for 22 assists, six blocks, and five steals, while out-rebounding the Golden Bears 36-34 in the win.

Justin Decker led the team with a career high 25 points, shooting 71.4 percent from the floor. The senior was a perfect 3-for-3 from the 3-point line and 2-for-2 from the foul line. He added five rebounds and two steals as well.

Bo Fries and Mason Stark followed with 15 points apiece, notching career highs of their own. Fries tallied a career high and team leading six assists and three steals. The senior also added six rebounds and hit 3-of-4 from the 3-point line. Stark tallied a hat trick of career marks with a team leading seven rebounds and three blocks, as well as four assists.

Andrew Kallman and Gabe King tallied eight and five points respectively, rounding out the starting five for the Wolves. Kallman tallied five assists, two rebounds, and one block; while King dished out a career high six assists and added five rebounds.

Jordan Belka and Parker Fox led the team off the bench with eight and seven points respectively. Belka shot 50.0 percent from the floor and added one rebound and one assist. Fox was second on the team with two blocks, and grabbed five rebounds in 16 minutes of action.

Roko Dominovic and Cole Dahl added four and three points respectively as the final Wolves to make an appearance in the game. The pair each hit 1-of-2 from the field and added one rebound.

Northern returns to the hardwood this evening at Minnesota State. Tip-off is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. versus the Mavericks.

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Contact Brynn Pickrel



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Game Statistics Report TZ Varsity (Home) 78, Groton Varsity (Away) 33

Game Statistics

Player	No.	2Pt	2PtA	2Pt%	3Pt	3PtA	3Pt%	FG	FGA	FG%	EFG%	FT	FTA	FT %	Pts
Abbey	23	1	2	50.0%	0	3	0.0%	1	5	20.0%	20.0%	1	2	50.0%	3
Barse	10	2	3	66.7%	0	0	0.0%	2	3	66.7%	66.7%	0	0	0.0%	4
Funmaker	30	5	5	100.0%	0	0	0.0%	5	5	100.0%	100.0%	0	0	0.0%	10
German	3	0	0	0.0%	1	3	33.3%	1	3	33.3%	50.0%	0	0	0.0%	3
Greenley	11	6	8	75.0%	0	0	0.0%	6	8	75.0%	75.0%	4	5	80.0%	16
Hablane	12	0	2	0.0%	0	2	0.0%	0	4	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Halseide	24	3	7	42.9%	1	3	33.3%	4	10	40.0%	45.0%	2	2	100.0%	11
Holy Bear	32	1	1	100.0%	0	0	0.0%	1	1	100.0%	100.0%	0	0	0.0%	2
Kuttkins	13	1	1	100.0%	0	0	0.0%	1	1	100.0%	100.0%	0	0	0.0%	2
Pratt	21	4	8	50.0%	0	0	0.0%	4	8	50.0%	50.0%	1	3	33.3%	9
Shepherd	33	3	3	100.0%	0	3	0.0%	3	6	50.0%	50.0%	0	0	0.0%	6
Shepherd	22	1	2	50.0%	0	0	0.0%	1	2	50.0%	50.0%	0	0	0.0%	2
White	2	2	5	40.0%	1	7	14.3%	3	12	25.0%	29.2%	3	7	42.9%	10
Unassigned		0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
TZ Varsity Totals		29	47	61.7%	3	21	14.3%	32	68	47.1%	49.3%	11	19	57.9%	78
Groton Varsity Totals		6	31	19.4%	5	21	23.8%	11	52	21.2%	26.0%	6	11	54.5%	33
Jackson	31	0	1	0.0%	2	2	100.0%	2	3	66.7%	100.0%	0	0	0.0%	6
Jordan	25	0	0	0.0%	0	1	0.0%	0	1	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Lane	1	0	0	0.0%	1	3	33.3%	1	3	33.3%	50.0%	0	1	0.0%	3
Pierce	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
DeHoet	32	0	0	0.0%	0	1	0.0%	0	1	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Diegel	55	1	7	14.3%	1	7	14.3%	2	14	14.3%	17.9%	2	4	50.0%	7
Jones	34	0	3	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	3	0.0%	0.0%	1	2	50.0%	1
Kurtz	20	2	7	28.6%	0	2	0.0%	2	9	22.2%	22.2%	0	0	0.0%	4
Larson	24	1	4	25.0%	0	1	0.0%	1	5	20.0%	20.0%	0	0	0.0%	2
Smith	3	0	0	0.0%	0	1	0.0%	0	1	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Traphagen	50	1	3	33.3%	0	0	0.0%	1	3	33.3%	33.3%	1	2	50.0%	3
Zak	12	1	6	16.7%	1	3	33.3%	2	9	22.2%	27.8%	2	2	100.0%	7
Unassigned		0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0

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Today in Weather History

February 2, 1960: Heavy icing from freezing rain accumulations from the afternoon of the 2nd to the afternoon of the 3rd occurred mainly across the eastern half of the state. Severe damage to power lines and telephone service happened in the Watertown and Wessington Springs area. Ice coatings of up to 3 inches thick and has an estimated weight of nine pounds per foot of wire formed around telephone and some power lines over a wide area of the eastern counties. A 300-foot tower high collapsed at Wessington Springs, and in some areas, utility wires were entirely down for stretches of 2 to 3 miles. Some 170 long distance telephone circuits were knocked out in larger cities, and 19 towns from Bonesteel to Watertown on the north were completely without phone service for two to three days after the storm. Many highways were treacherous, and numerous vehicles collided or slid off the road into the ditch. Many schools were also closed.

February 2, 2003: Widespread freezing rain developed across parts of central and into northeast South Dakota through the late night hours producing significant icing of a quarter to a half inch by the late morning hours. No significant tree damage or power outages occurred. Although, travel was greatly disrupted with many accidents and vehicles sliding off the road. The freezing rain changed over to snow during the mid-morning hours and became heavy with 6 to 9 inches of snow accumulating before it ended in the late evening. Some snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Ree Heights, Miller, and Faulkton, 7 inches at Clear Lake, 8 inches at Bryant, and 9 inches at Milbank.

February 2, 2011: Blizzard conditions developed along and east of the Sisseton Hills late on February 2nd and continued into the mid-morning hours of February 3rd. Strong southwest winds of 30 to 40 mph gusting to around 55 mph picked up the existing snow cover causing blizzard conditions which wreaked havoc along Interstate-29. Whiteout conditions and heavy drifting brought traffic to a halt along a stretch of Interstate-29 from north of Wilmot to Sisseton. One-hundred fifty to two-hundred vehicles were stranded along this stretch. A full-scale rescue operation ensued during the night and continued into the next day. Interstate-29 was closed from Watertown to the North Dakota border as it took most of the day to clean up all of the stalled vehicles. There were also many accidents along the stretch of the interstate with many people stranded for up to twelve hours. There were also many other people stranded on secondary roads which had to be rescued. No injuries occurred as a result of this incident. The Roberts County Emergency Manager was stranded and conducted emergency operations from his vehicle. Interstate-29 reopened the evening of the 3rd.

1898: The naming of hurricanes after women was always the center of controversy. In the Southern Hemisphere near Australia, tropical cyclones were once called Willy-Willies. An Australian Meteorologist, Clement Wragge is credited for giving girls names to tropical cyclones by the end of the 19th Century. On this date, Wragge's weather journal showed a Willy-Willy named "Eline."

1905: At Des Moines, Iowa, a low temperature of 26 degrees below zero set their all-time February record low. This record would be tied just 11 days later on the 13th. At Sioux City, Iowa, the low of 30 degrees below zero remains as their third coldest temperature on record.

1952: An area of low pressure moved out of the Gulf of Mexico and across southern Florida on this day. It produced 60 mph winds and two to four inches of rain on February 2 and 3. Once the storm reached the Atlantic, it became the first February tropical storm.

1996: An Arctic outbreak that lasted from late January through early February produced nearly 400 hundred record lows, 15 all-time low readings and over 50 new record lows for February. Four states recorded their all-time record low temperatures including Tower, Minnesota on this date with a reading of 60 degrees below zero, canceling Tower's annual Icebox Days festival because it is too cold. Locations that reported their all-time record low or tied included: Cresco, IA: -36°, Osage, IA: -34°, Charles City, IA tied their all-time record low with -32° and Lancaster, WI tied their all-time record low with -31°. International Falls, MN, and Glasgow, MT set records for February with -45° and -38°, respectively. The temperature at Embarrass, MN plummeted to -53°. Rochester, MN dipped to -34° for its coldest temperature in 45 years. Green Bay, WI only reached -16° for the high temperature for the day, their coldest high temperature on record in February. The place to be this day was in Orlando, FL where it was a balmy 85 degrees.

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Today



Partly Sunny

High: 21 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 11 °F

Sunday



Mostly Cloudy
then Chance
Wintry Mix

High: 18 °F

Sunday
Night



Snow and
Patchy
Blowing Snow

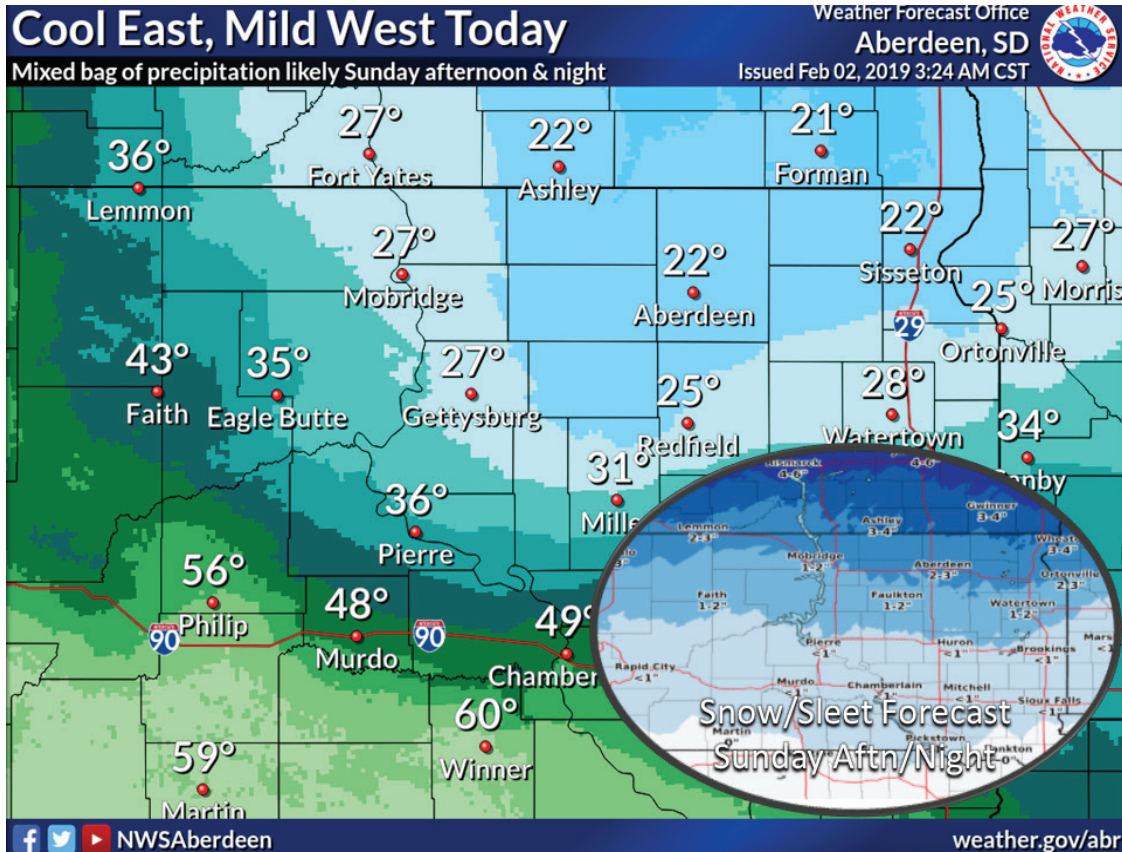
Low: -3 °F

Monday



Slight Chance
Snow and
Patchy
Blowing Snow

High: 1 °F



Published on: 02/02/2019 at 3:42AM

24 mph at 2:18 PM

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 26 °F at 9:25 PM

Low Outside Temp: 2 °F at 4:19 AM

High Gust: 24 mph at 2:18 PM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 60 in 1991

Record Low: -39 in 1917

Average High: 24°F

Average Low: 3°F

Average Precip in Feb.: 0.01

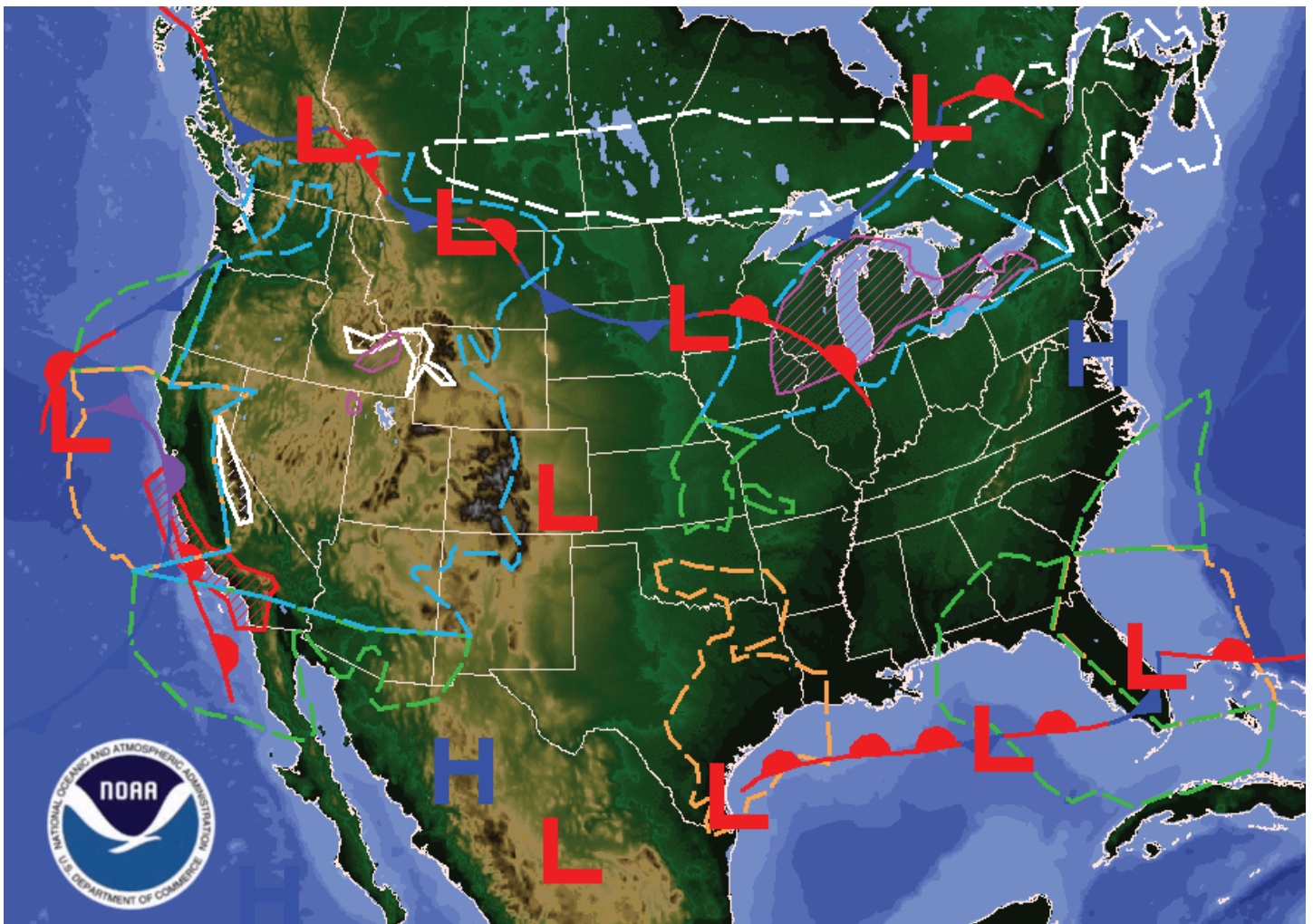
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.48

Precip Year to Date: 0.09

Sunset Tonight: 5:42 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:52 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Feb 02, 2019, issued 4:13 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kebede with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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WHATS A PROVERB?

Little Ruby was saying her bedtime prayers. Dear God, she prayed, please help bad people to be good and good people to be nice. Whether Ruby knew it or not, she provided a simple way of describing what the book of Proverbs is: a guidebook for living a life that pleases God.

Over the years, various cultures and societies have established different criteria to describe whether or not one is successful. Many have put wealth at the top of the list. And, money, to some degree, is important and necessary if one is to have the necessities of life. Others would speak of power, prestige, and ones position in society as being critical. Those words express the core values of individuals who want to be recognized for what they have accomplished on the worlds stage in politics, the military, banking, or finance. No doubt some want to be remembered for doing some thing that no one else has done - like discovering a medicine that extends life or setting a record in a particular sport, inventing a product or procedure that makes life better or is useful, valuable or delightful.

But, those whose lives are guided by the lessons that we find in The Proverbs are those who fear God and allow Him to guide them, guard them and give them His gifts.

We often talk about hindsight, sometimes we wish we had foresight, but Solomons Proverbs gives us the insight to make decisions based on Gods laws. Proverbs provide us with Gods wisdom that is underwritten by God to give us His power to live good, godly lives.

Prayer: Grant us willful hearts, Lord, to obey Your laws. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 1:1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel.

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
- 06/13/2019 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

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

02-37-48-66-68, Mega Ball: 11, Megaplier: 5

(two, thirty-seven, forty-eight, sixty-six, sixty-eight; Mega Ball: eleven; Megaplier: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$125 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$191 million

South Dakota student becomes interested in policing

By ARIELLE ZIONTS, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — When 19-year-old Sydney Word went back to her father's home in Kadoka over winter break, she and childhood friends reflected on the career paths they've chosen.

"I would have never have thought that you were going to school to be a law enforcement officer," Word said a friend told her.

Word didn't expect it either. She described herself as a "little renegade" who was "constantly getting into some kind of trouble" with friends while growing up.

But after taking health care classes in Mitchell and working as a ranch hand for her family near Kyle, Word decided this past fall to sign up for the criminal justice program at Western Dakota Tech in Rapid City.

Soon, Word told the Rapid City Journal, WDT and the Akicita program — a mentorship program for Native American students taking criminal justice classes — helped her develop a passion for the field and set her sight on becoming a police officer and maybe a detective someday.

"In the Native American culture what we do is that we're healers and we're fighters and we're protectors," said Word, who is Lakota. "And for me, I just feel like I'm one of those people that wants to help others and wants to help people become better.

"So for me wanting to become a police officer, I want to help those that need the help, I want to help take someone out of a bad situation and get them away from abuse ... I want people to know that they're safe," Word said.

In addition to her studies — which have resulted in making the dean's list with a 3.6 GPA — Word is a member of student government, a Native American cultural club and the Akicita program. Akicita means warrior in Lakota, Word said.

The program, which began in the fall, pairs Native WDT criminal justice students with a mentor from the Rapid City Police Department or Pennington County Sheriff's Office. It's funded with a grant to the police department from Community Oriented Policing Services, a program of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Akicita is meant to be mutually beneficial — students benefit through networking, mentorship and being introduced to various fields within the criminal justice system, while law enforcement agencies hope to increase their number of Native officers and deputies.

"It sets you up with someone and gives you kind of a foot in the door to kind of figure out what you want to do, that's what I like about it," Word said.

Word calls her mentor, Hollie Strand, a forensic examiner with the Internet Crimes Against Children department at the sheriff's office, a "tough lady."

She said Strand has introduced her to people with different jobs in the criminal justice system so she

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can learn about their various roles. Word also frequently checks in with Strand via email to catch up or receive advice.

"I love her passion for law enforcement," Strand said. "She wants to make a difference and has chosen a path that gives her the ability to make a difference every day she is on the job.

"I think the Akicita program is important because this field can be rather intimidating, and there are so many different areas of law enforcement that a person might not know about," Strand said. "I would not have made it this far into my career without my mentors."

Heidi Mecham, support specialist for Akicita, said the main goal of the program is to create "a good support system for the Native American students who are in our program. Making sure that they have some hands-on experiences" and a network.

Mentors benefit by learning about cultural sensitivity from the Native community, Mecham said. "These officers are learning as much from our students" as students learn from the officers, she said.

Of the 128 officers in the police department, just three are Native Americans, said Assistant Chief and Akicita mentor Don Hedrick. Out of 98 deputies, one is Native, said Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom. Both departments have other minority officers, and more Native employees who work in the jail, at the Care Campus, in juvenile services and in other more behind-the-scenes roles.

"We target applicants from all walks of life, but we struggle annually receiving applications from Native Americans. The ultimate goal is for our department to reflect the community we serve," Hedrick wrote in an email. "Historical trauma is a real issue for our community and we need to acknowledge some of the truths from the past that have impacted our community. Some Native Americans might be hesitant to join our department due to law enforcement being a symbolic representation of generational mistrust. Building bridges is something we are continuously working on with programs like the Collective Healing Initiative, trauma-informed policing trainings, and the Akicita mentorship program."

"Any claims of profiling and other discriminatory behavior by officers are thoroughly investigated; in 2018 we did not receive any allegations of such behavior," Hedrick said when asked if current, not just past discriminatory, behavior could help explain why RCPD has few Native officers.

Mecham said half of WDT's criminal justice program has many women and Natives, but she said not all students want to be police officers. Others want to work as parole officers, in administration or in other positions. She said students are also split between whether they want to stay in the Rapid City area, work on a reservation or work elsewhere in the state.

Native people may not apply to be officers in the Rapid City area if they don't see other Native officers, Word said.

As for her future, Word said she's "leaning toward" wanting to work at the Rapid City Police Department. "There's something new each day," she said of policing.

Word said her plan is to work as a police officer for five years in order to gain experience and credibility and then transition to investigations.

"I like a challenge," Word said of why she wants to become a detective.

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

South Dakota family has Super Bowl snack stadium tradition

By KATHERINE GRANDSTRAND, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — No one will go hungry at the Hoffman house on Super Bowl Sunday.

No one will go hungry at their house for the whole week after, either.

Since 2012, Jody and Bill Hoffman have hosted a Super Bowl party, regardless of who's playing.

"We always say BYOB, but we've got all the food, don't bring any food," Jody Hoffman told the Aberdeen American News.

The crowning jewel of their party is their double-decker snack stadium. It's filled with all the favorites.

"It's all finger food, so everybody just sort of grazes and then my job during the Super Bowl is to just

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refill it the whole time," Jody Hoffman said.

The field is a 9-by-13-inch pan filled with a layered taco dip — topped with scallions to mimic a green field and lined with sour cream piped out of an icing bag.

"Around it, we put chips where the stands would be, and we try to pick ... the right color," Jody Hoffman said.

It's pretty easy to find white, yellow and blue corn tortilla chips, she said. And they've used Doritos when they wanted orange. But green tortilla chips didn't go over so well.

"The green chips were not good," Jody Hoffman said. "They were not delicious. We didn't like that, so we pray for green teams not to make it."

The crowd favorite is chocolate dipped strawberries that Jody Hoffman turns into footballs with the help of white frosting.

"On one side we do a whole side of chocolate-covered strawberries," Jody Hoffman said.

The rest of the snack stadium is filled with sandwich fixings and other game day favorites, like mozzarella sticks or jalapeno poppers, she said. It's a few hundred dollars to fill it completely.

And the food doesn't end there — there's also a full buffet of slow cookers filled with chili, hot wings and other snacks that are best kept warm, Jody said.

"When we remodeled the kitchen, we actually built the buffet for the Super Bowl party," Bill Hoffman said.

The snack stadium was a Bill Hoffman original. Jody Hoffman's only request was that it fit a standard cake pan.

The Hoffmans have some advice for anyone wishing to recreate their stadium.

"Make it smaller," Jody Hoffman said. "It's expensive to fill."

"Make it smaller and lighter," Bill Hoffman added.

"It doesn't have to be this huge," Jody Hoffman said.

It even has folding table legs, something Bill Hoffman said he found at Menards with the rest of the raw materials. Most of the year, the stadium lives in storage.

As a blended family, the Hoffmans have six kids ages 11 to 19. It's been tradition that the kids have their own party in the basement while the adults watch the game upstairs, Jody Hoffman said.

Even with all the people, there tends to be leftovers, she said. She'll make an omelet with leftover dip, and sandwiches will be a main meal or snack feature for the following week.

As for the rest of football season — the Hoffmans will watch their favorite teams — Jody Hoffman, a Boston native, favors the New England Patriots, while Bill Hoffman cheers on the Chicago Bears.

"I don't really care," Jody Hoffman said. "Honestly, I just like the Super Bowl. I get excited in the playoffs. I start paying attention in the playoffs, but I block off the Super Bowl day."

Both will be cheering on the Patriots Feb. 3, Bill said.

The crew at the party changes a little bit each year, but that's part of the fun, Jody Hoffman said.

"It's the more the merrier," she said. "It takes a lot of people to eat that."

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

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL=

Aberdeen Roncalli 62, Sisseton 49

Belle Fourche 51, Douglas 41

Beresford 69, Alcester-Hudson 47

Bon Homme 69, Avon 46

Brandon Valley 60, Brookings 47

Bridgewater-Emery 59, Gayville-Volin 35

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Britton-Hecla 56, Waverly-South Shore 35
Chamberlain 54, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 42
Colome 62, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 40
Dakota Valley 81, Elk Point-Jefferson 53
Dell Rapids 61, Tri-Valley 43
Florence/Henry 50, Waubay/Summit 47
Hamlin 67, Webster 55
Hanson 78, Wagner 67
Huron 66, Spearfish 39
Kimball/White Lake 74, Ethan 50
Lennox 64, Madison 56
Lower Brule 73, Flandreau Indian 59
Marshall, Minn. 63, Watertown 39
McCook Central/Montrose 61, Garretson 50
Mobridge-Pollock 71, Wakpala 50
Oelrichs 57, Takini 22
Parkston 53, Gregory 50
Rapid City Christian 60, Chadron, Neb. 51
Rapid City Stevens 60, Rapid City Central 52
Red Cloud 82, St. Francis Indian 72
Redfield/Doland 66, Milbank 64
Sioux Falls Christian 71, Canton 49
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 66, Aberdeen Central 47
Sturgis Brown 63, Mitchell 60
Sully Buttes 76, Potter County 71, OT
Tiospa Zina Tribal 78, Groton Area 33
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 69, Marty Indian 47
Viborg-Hurley 59, Freeman Academy/Marion 37
Wall 51, Kadoka Area 5
Wessington Springs 66, Iroquois 52
White River 86, Bennett County 60
Little Moreau Tournament=
Consolation Semifinal=
Bison 61, Dupree 45
McIntosh 58, Tiospaye Topa 56
Semifinal=
Lemmon 55, Faith 47
Timber Lake 64, Harding County 29
GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL=
Arlington 46, Lake Preston 42
Beresford 47, Alcester-Hudson 13
Brandon Valley 53, Brookings 37
Bridgewater-Emery 71, Gayville-Volin 32
Canistota 59, Howard 47
Chadron, Neb. 44, Rapid City Christian 23
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Northwestern (Mendon), Mo. 67, Leola/Frederick 42
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Some high school basketball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

Human toll of cold: more than 2 dozen dead, hundreds hurt

By STEVE KARNOWSKI and TAMMY WEBBER, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The dangerous cold and heavy snow that hobbled the northern U.S. this week has retreated, but not before exacting a human toll: more than two dozen weather-related deaths in eight states and hundreds of injuries, including frostbite, broken bones, heart attacks and carbon monoxide poisoning.

In Illinois alone, hospitals reported more than 220 cases of frostbite and hypothermia since Tuesday, when the polar vortex moved in and overnight temperatures plunged to minus 30 (minus 34 Celsius) or lower — with wind chills of minus 50 (minus 45 Celsius) or worse in some areas.

Hennepin Healthcare in Minneapolis normally sees around 30 frostbite patients in an entire winter. It admitted 18 in the past week, spokeswoman Christine Hill said Friday.

“I definitely saw more frostbite than I’ve ever seen in my entire career just in the last three days,” said Dr. Andrea Rowland-Fischer, an emergency department physician at Hennepin Healthcare.

Most of those patients, she said, had underlying problems that made it difficult for them to take care of themselves: the developmentally delayed, the mentally ill, the very young and the very old. They also included people with injuries related to drugs and alcohol — people who passed out or did not realize they were cold or injured.

“It’s heartbreaking when there are people who can’t take care of themselves and get exposed, just because they either escape from the care that they’re being given or because they’re not being supervised.”

Others got frostbite on their way to work after being exposed to the cold for a short time, often on their hands, feet, ears and face. That included people whose cars would not start or who got stuck outside

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for other reasons, as well as those who just did not think they could get frostbitten so quickly and went outside without gloves or other protective gear.

Several required "maximal treatment," admission to the hospital's burn unit for therapies that include drugs to restore circulation to try to avoid amputations. Some of them will probably still require amputations, a decision usually made by burn doctors four to 10 days after the injury.

Many people decided to stay home even when they were sick to avoid slippery roads and subzero temperatures. In western Michigan, a health care system's online service saw a major spike this week.

More than 400 people over four days used Spectrum Health's MedNow to see a nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant about non-emergency issues, such as aches, rashes, cold and flu, said Joe Brennan, MedNow senior director. Most used an app on their phone. The usual four-day volume is 250.

"We had soreness-and-sickness calls from people who were shoveling 2 ½ feet of snow," Brennan said. "Instead of going to urgent care or an emergency department, they had an option to stay at home."

Another danger was from carbon monoxide. A family of nine in Wheeling, Illinois, about 30 miles northwest of Chicago, was taken to local hospitals after heating their home with a charcoal grill. In Rockford, Illinois, four people were treated because they had warmed up cars in a closed garage or because a furnace vent became blocked by ice and snow.

The snow that accompanied the cold also caused problems.

In Raymond, New Hampshire, the driver of a state Department of Transportation vehicle was struck in the head Thursday after ice and snow flew off a truck ahead and broke through the windshield. The driver was hospitalized with a laceration to the head and other possible injuries.

In just a two-day period, Tuesday and Wednesday, Mercyhealth in Rockford treated 15 people for broken bones from falling on the ice, 10 people who were in car crashes caused by snow and eight people who complained of chest pain or shortness of breath from shoveling snow, hospital officials said.

Rockford set a new record low of minus 31 degrees Thursday, but the hospital only treated two cases of frostbite, emergency physician Dr. John Pakiela said.

"It was Antarctica there for a few days ... but I think people listened to professional advice and heeded warnings," about staying indoors or bundling up, he said.

By Friday, the deep freeze had mostly abated, with temperatures climbing as high as the low 20s (minus 5 or 6 Celsius) in Minneapolis and Chicago. In western North Dakota, the temperature in Dickinson climbed above freezing (0 Celsius) by midmorning — a jump of nearly 60 degrees compared with Tuesday's low of minus 17 degrees (minus 27 Celsius).

The weather was thought to be a factor in at least 27 deaths, including a 90-year-old Michigan woman who died of hypothermia after locking herself out of her home while feeding birds — one of at least nine people who were found outdoors. A motorist also died during a snowstorm Friday after striking a salt truck that had pulled off the side of Interstate 70 in central Indiana. Others died after freezing outdoors or in unheated homes or while shoveling snow.

Karnowski reported from St. Paul, Minnesota. Associated Press writers Kathy McCormack in Concord, New Hampshire; Blake Nicholson in Bismarck, North Dakota; and Ed White in Detroit also contributed to this story.

US government appeals ruling that blocked Keystone pipeline

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — The Trump administration is appealing a court ruling that blocked the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

Justice Department attorneys on Friday appealed the November ruling from U.S. District Judge Brian Morris that blocked a construction permit for the 1,184-mile (1,900-kilometer) pipeline.

The line sponsored by Calgary-based TransCanada would begin in Alberta and shuttle as much as 830,000 barrels a day of crude through a half dozen states to terminals on the Gulf Coast.

It was rejected by former President Barack Obama in 2015. That decision was reversed in 2017 by President Donald Trump, who has promoted the \$8 billion project as part of his effort to boost American

energy industries.

After environmental groups sued, Morris said the administration had not fully considered potential oil spills and other impacts and that further reviews were needed.

The Latest: Woman, 90, dies feeding birds in extreme cold

CHICAGO (AP) — The Latest on the frigid weather in the Midwest and Northeast (all times local):

4:15 p.m.

A 90-year-old woman has died in the extreme cold after locking herself out of her home in southwestern Michigan.

WOOD-TV says Ada Salna was found covered with snow on the steps of her home Wednesday near Three Rivers in St. Joseph County. Pathologist Joyce deJong says Salna died of hypothermia. Blood loss from a cut also contributed to her death.

The TV station says Salna was feeding birds when she was locked out.

3:55 p.m.

Another woman may have died as a result of the extreme winter weather.

Authorities in Minnesota's Carver County say they received a report of a car accident on Monday evening. They arrived and found a vehicle off the roadway. Forty-six-year-old Amy Debower of Chaska was found dead outside the vehicle.

Carver County Sheriff Jason Kamerud says a preliminary investigation suggests the extreme weather may have been a factor in Debower's death. The investigation is ongoing.

Carver County is south of Minneapolis.

Debower's death brings the number of fatalities that could be linked to this week's severe weather system to at least 25.

2:50 p.m.

A good Samaritan triggered an effort that eventually housed over 100 homeless people in a Chicago hotel during dangerously cold weather.

Cindy Payne confirms she, her husband and a few friends went to a homeless camp late Tuesday as temperatures sank to negative 23 degrees (-30.5 Celsius). They worried the city and charities wouldn't have the resources to help.

She says they persuaded some people to go to the Amber Inn. Payne charged 20 rooms to her credit card at \$70 each.

The next evening, the Chicago Police Department had to confiscate nearly 100 propane tanks after one exploded. The tanks had been donated to help warm the camp.

Payne and her friends returned to the camp and posted about their effort on social media, prompting donations of food, clothing and enough money to house about 120 people at the hotel through Saturday night.

1:45 p.m.

Public defenders and a correction officers' union say more than 1,000 inmates have been stuck in cold cells at a federal jail in New York for at least a week.

The lead federal defender in Brooklyn, Deirdre von Dornum, tells The New York Times that inmates have flooded federal defenders' offices with calls about poor heating, little or no hot water and dark cells at the Metropolitan Detention Center.

Paralegal Rachel Bass says "frantic" callers couldn't get extra blankets or clothing and complained of congestion and sore throats.

One inmate said a corrections officer checked the temperature in a housing unit and it was 34 degrees.

Jail officials say the building experienced a partial power outage on Saturday but denied that it affected

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heat and hot water supply.

12:30 p.m.

A FedEx worker has been found dead outside in a western Illinois city that has been experiencing record low temperatures, and authorities are investigating if the extreme cold played a factor in his death.

Police say a colleague found the body of 69-year-old William L. Murphy between two semitrailers at the delivery company's East Moline facility Thursday morning, when Moline hit a record low of minus 33 degrees (-36 Celsius).

Rock Island County Coroner Brian Gustafson says Murphy's death "appears to be medical or natural" and that an autopsy scheduled for Monday will determine if the frigid temperature played a role.

FedEx Corp. said in a statement that the company is saddened and working with local authorities as they investigate.

11:25 a.m.

Temperatures are starting to rise after a week of life-threatening cold across the Midwest and Northeast. Dickinson, North Dakota, surpassed the freezing mark of 32 degrees above zero (0 Celsius) midmorning Friday, making the city more than 50 degrees warmer than its low of minus 17 (-27 C) on Tuesday.

National Weather Service meteorologist Adam Jones says the abrupt change in weather is due to a shift in the prevailing winds. Instead of northerly winds bringing down frigid arctic air, westerly winds are ushering in milder Pacific air. He says the warmup will continue moving east and make it to the Great Lakes and the Northeast this weekend.

Experts say the rapid thaw is unprecedented and could create problems of its own — bursting pipes, flooding rivers and crumbling roads.

10:05 a.m.

Authorities say one person has died in a crash involving a salt truck on Interstate 70 in central Indiana.

Indiana State Police Sgt. John Perrine tells the Indianapolis Star that the crash happened about 6:15 a.m. Friday near Monrovia in Hendricks County. Perrine says the Indiana Department of Transportation salt truck pulled over due to a mechanical issue and its hazard lights were on. He says another vehicle struck the truck's rear and the person in that vehicle died.

The crash happened as a snow storm moved across Indiana, bringing 1 to 3 inches (2.5 to 7.5 centimeters) of accumulation. The storm follows a deep freeze that saw temperatures as low as minus 25 (-31 C) in LaPorte on Thursday morning.

Temperatures are forecast to rise in the coming days, with highs reaching the 50s in Indiana on Sunday.

9:15 a.m.

Authorities in New York say the death of a homeless man whose frozen body was found in a suburban Buffalo bus shelter might be related to the arctic cold that has blanketed much of the northern U.S. this week.

An autopsy was planned to determine whether the man found in the village of Williamsville froze to death or died of another cause. His name wasn't immediately released.

The number of deaths that could be blamed on the subzero cold has climbed to at least 17. The deaths have occurred in eight states, from Iowa to New York.

The frigid conditions are starting to ease in the Midwest, where a dramatic swing of as much as 80 degrees was expected within days in parts of the region.

7 a.m.

Authorities are investigating the death of a man found frozen in his backyard in a Milwaukee suburb.

The Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office responded to the home in Cudahy on Thursday, the same day temperatures plunged to record lows in several Midwestern cities.

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No details about the man or what preceded his death were immediately released. An autopsy is scheduled. At least 16 deaths are now blamed on the bitterly cold weather that has held much of the region in a historic deep freeze.

The frigid conditions are starting to ease, and a dramatic swing of as much as 80 degrees was expected within days in parts of the region.

6:30 a.m.

Water main breaks and burst pipes have disrupted operations at several facilities in Michigan amid bitterly cold weather, including a Detroit court and a university library.

The 36th District Court was closed Friday amid flooding caused by a burst pipe. The damage follows this week's subzero temperatures. A restoration company will work through the weekend to get the court ready to reopen Monday.

In suburban Detroit, the Kresge Library at Oakland University was closed Friday due to flooding caused by a water main break. And in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the city of Escanaba was cleared to resume using water after a water main break.

Similar problems are expected amid a rapid thaw. A flood warning remains in effect along the Muskegon River in western Michigan due to an ice jam.

12 a.m.

Many of the same Midwestern commuters who bundled up like polar explorers this week might soon get by with a light jacket.

Forecasts say the region will see a rapid thaw over the next few days, with temperatures climbing by as much as 80 degrees. Experts say it's unprecedented, and it could create problems of its own such as bursting pipes, flooding rivers and crumbling roads.

Jeff Masters is meteorology director of the Weather Underground firm. He says past cold waves have not dissipated this quickly.

Rockford, Illinois, saw a record-breaking minus 31 (minus 35 Celsius) on Thursday but should be around 50 (10 Celsius) on Monday. Other previously frozen areas can expect temperatures of 55 (13 Celsius) or higher.

Submarine-decal motorcycle kicks off submarine commissioning

NEW LONDON, Conn. (AP) — A custom-made motorcycle is in New London to help kick off the commissioning of a new Navy attack submarine.

The 2018 Harley-Davidson Street Glide motorcycle pays homage to both the attack submarine USS South Dakota, which will be commissioned in Groton on Saturday, and the battleship USS South Dakota — one of the most decorated battleships of World War II. The Day reports the bike was on display Thursday night at the official kickoff event for the commissioning.

The event drew a crowd of about 700, including the crew of the South Dakota. Harley-Davidson donated the bike and plans to keep it in shape for the next 30 years.

Eventually, officials plan to place the bike in a South Dakota museum for permanent display.

Information from: The Day, <http://www.theday.com>

Survey suggests solid economic growth ahead for Midwest

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A January survey of business supply managers is signaling solid economic growth over the next three to six months for nine Midwestern and Plains states despite a slight decline in business confidence, according a report issued Friday.

The Mid-America Business Conditions Index rose to 56.0 last month from 55.2 in December, the report

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said. The November figure was 54.1.

"The regional economy continues to expand at a positive pace," said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey. "However, as in recent months, shortages of skilled workers and international trade tension (and) tariffs remain an impediment to even stronger growth."

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth. A score below that suggests decline. The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Economic optimism reflected in the business confidence index fell to its lowest level in three years: 53.7, compared with December's 54.1.

"However, I expect business confidence to depend heavily on trade talks with China," Goss said. "Approximately one in five supply manager reported that access to international markets was essential to their firm's success," while more than a third indicated that the access was either important or very important, he said.

The regional trade numbers for January were mixed: imports headed higher and new export orders remained weak. The new export orders index inched up to a weak 48.3 from December's 48.1, and the import index soared to 54.4 from 41.1 in December.

The January employment index jumped to 58.5 from 50.0 in December.

"Overall manufacturing employment growth in the region over the past 12 months has been very healthy at 2.4 percent, compared to a lower 2.3 percent for the U.S.," Goss said.

Board closes Corps of Discovery Welcome Center

NORFOLK, Neb. (AP) — The Corps of Discovery Welcome Center in northeastern Nebraska has closed. Station KNEN reports that the center's board of directors took action Thursday to shutter it, the last day the center was open to the public.

It's been open for 18 years alongside U.S. Highway 81 in Cedar County, just south of the South Dakota state line at Yankton. The center's major funding source, the Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District, recently told the board that it would not continue its financial support.

Volunteers will spend the next two weeks cleaning, moving inventory and donating furniture and appliances.

Information from: KNEN-FM, <http://www.knenfm.com>

APNewsBreak: Detainee on hunger strike details force-feeding

By GARANCE BURKE and MARTHA MENDOZA, Associated Press

Three times a day, a 22-year-old Indian man on a hunger strike says, he is dragged from his cell in a Texas immigration detention center, his feet scraping the floor as he goes. He's put on a bed where he says his arms and legs are strapped down and a group of people force-feed him by pouring liquid into tubes pushed through his nose.

The man is among a group of nine detainees in the El Paso facility who immigration officials acknowledged Friday are being hydrated and fed against their will under court orders. That's up from six men who were being fed through nasal tubes Wednesday when The Associated Press first reported on the force-feeding.

"They tie us on the force-feeding bed, and then they put a lot of liquid into the tubes, and the pressure is immense so we end up vomiting it out," said the man, who called the AP Friday from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility where he is being held. "We can't talk properly, and we can't breathe properly. The pipe is not an easy process, but they try to push it down our noses and throats."

Speaking through an interpreter, the hunger striker interviewed by the AP said he has lost 50 pounds since he began refusing food more than a month ago after coming to the United States seeking asylum. AP is only using his last name, Singh, out of family concerns for his safety in the U.S. and India. He said he is refusing food to protest guards' unfair treatment of him and other Punjabis, who he said are being

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denied bond while other detainees from other countries were allowed out.

In a statement, ICE said it fully respects the rights of all people to voice their opinion without interference. "ICE does not retaliate in any way against hunger strikers. ICE explains the negative health effects of not eating to our detainees. For their health and safety, ICE closely monitors the food and water intake of those detainees identified as being on a hunger strike," the agency said.

The AP's reports on the force-feeding have garnered international headlines and angry responses from policymakers and human rights advocates.

U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar, an El Paso Democrat, visited some of the men after the initial reports, tweeting afterward that their situation is "unacceptable."

"El Paso and our country are better than this," she said.

Human Rights Watch published a dispatch Friday describing force-feeding as "cruel, inhuman and degrading."

Hunger strikes among immigrant detainees are uncommon, and court orders authorizing force-feeding are rare, said an ICE official. Although the agency doesn't keep statistics on this, attorneys, advocates and ICE staffers who AP spoke with did not recall a situation at an immigration detention site where it has come to this.

Detainees, their attorneys and advocates have said that up to 30 men have been on hunger strikes over the last month. According to ICE, 10 detainees from India and Nicaragua who are being held at the El Paso detention site have refused nine consecutive meals — the immigration agency's benchmark for when to start calling refusal to eat a hunger strike.

Another four detainees are on hunger strikes in the agency's Miami, Phoenix, San Diego and San Francisco areas of responsibility, agency spokeswoman Leticia Zamarripa said. She did not say whether they were being force-fed.

Singh said he came to the United States in August of last year along with his cousin, seeking to escape violence in his home state of Punjab in India. Court records show he was arrested near El Paso and pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor. His uncle, Amrit Singh, said that his asylum claim had been denied.

Singh, the hunger striker, and a volunteer who has visited the facility said that the men have been requesting pillows to elevate their heads when the liquid nutrition is administered through their noses because the material backs up and causes them pain.

Nathan Craig, a volunteer with the nonprofit group Advocate Visitors with Immigrants in Detention, told the AP that one of the men he spoke with has a thyroid condition and has not been receiving his medicine.

"Both of the men I spoke to personally have visible trouble walking, they are frail and they are receiving by IV liquids, something like three times a day," Craig said after an earlier visit.

Singh said they're not getting the help they've requested.

"We keep asking them on a daily basis for the pillows, but we don't have the pillows yet," Singh said. "They don't give us wheelchairs, despite the fact that we are so weak. They drag us on our feet."

The International Red Cross, American Medical Association and World Medical Association condemn force-feeding hunger strikers as unethical.

Virginia governor loses key support; future in doubt

By ALAN SUDERMAN, Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam appears to have almost no choice but to resign after losing support from virtually the entire state Democratic party and other key allies, who urged the governor to leave office because of a racist photo in which he appeared more than 30 years ago.

The Virginia Legislative Black Caucus, the state House Democratic Caucus and the state Senate Democratic Caucus all called on Northam to resign late Friday, along with several key progressive groups that have been some of the governor's closest political allies.

Their calls for Northam to step down came in a wave late Friday, after the Democrat had apologized for appearing in a photo in which one person is dressed in blackface and another is wearing a full Ku Klux

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Klan uniform. The photo appeared in his 1984 medical school yearbook.

The yearbook images were first published Friday afternoon by the conservative news outlet Big League Politics. The Virginian-Pilot later obtained a copy from Eastern Virginia Medical School, which Northam attended. The photo shows two people looking at the camera — one in blackface wearing a hat, bow tie and plaid pants; the other in a full Ku Klux Klan robe.

An Associated Press reporter saw the yearbook page and confirmed its authenticity at the medical school.

In his first apology, issued in a written statement, Northam called the costume he wore “clearly racist and offensive,” but he didn’t say which one he had worn.

He later issued a video statement saying he was “deeply sorry” but still committed to serving the “remainder of my term.”

“I accept responsibility for my past actions and I am ready to do the hard work of regaining your trust,” Northam said.

But Northam appears to have virtually no path forward to remain in office without any institutional support. His departure would mean current Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, a Democrat who is only the second African American to win statewide office in Virginia, would be the next governor. Northam’s term was set to end in 2022.

Black lawmakers said they met with Northam Friday evening, and said in a statement they appreciate his service.

“But given what was revealed today, it is clear that he can no longer effectively serve as governor,” the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus said, “It is time for him to resign, so that Virginia can begin the process of healing.”

State Sen. Louise Lucas of Portsmouth, a close ally of Northam and longtime African-American lawmaker, described a hastily called conference call with black leaders around the state as “intense,” her voice breaking, but did not elaborate.

Several Democratic presidential hopefuls and potential presidential candidates, including former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, also called on Northam to resign.

Northam spent years actively courting the black community in the lead up to his 2017 gubernatorial run, building relationships that helped him win both the primary and the general election. He’s a member of a predominantly black church on Virginia’s Eastern Shore, where he grew up.

“It’s a matter of relationships and trust. That’s not something that you build overnight,” Northam told the AP during a 2017 campaign stop while describing his relationship with the black community.

Northam, a folksy pediatric neurologist who is personal friends with many GOP lawmakers, has recently come under fire from Republicans who have accused him of backing infanticide after he said he supported a bill loosening restrictions on late-term abortions.

Last week, Florida’s secretary of state resigned after photos from a 2005 Halloween party showed him in blackface while dressed as a Hurricane Katrina victim.

Associated Press writer Ben Finley contributed to this report.

Russia to pull plug on nuclear arms pact after US does same

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Following in the footsteps of the U.S., Russia will abandon a centerpiece nuclear arms treaty but will only deploy intermediate-range nuclear missiles if Washington does so, President Vladimir Putin said Saturday.

U.S. President Donald Trump accused Moscow on Friday of violating the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty with “impunity” by deploying banned missiles. Trump said in a statement that the U.S. will “move forward” with developing its own military response options to Russia’s deployment of banned cruise missiles that could target Western Europe.

Moscow has strongly denied any breaches and accused Washington of making false accusations in order

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to justify its pullout.

The collapse of the INF Treaty has raised fears of a repeat of a Cold War showdown in the 1980s, when the U.S. and the Soviet Union both deployed intermediate-range missiles on the continent. Such weapons were seen as particularly destabilizing as they only take a few minutes to reach their targets, leaving no time for decision-makers and raising the likelihood of a global nuclear conflict over a false launch warning.

After the U.S. gave notice of its intention to withdraw from the treaty in six months, Putin said that Russia would do the same. He ordered the development of new land-based intermediate-range weapons, but emphasized that Russia won't deploy them in the European part of the country or elsewhere unless the U.S. does so.

"We will respond quid pro quo," Putin said. "Our American partners have announced they were suspending their participation in the treaty and will do the same. They have announced they will conduct research and development, and we will act accordingly."

The U.S. has accused Russia of developing and deploying a cruise missile that violates provisions of the pact that ban production, testing and deployment of land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometers (310 to 3,410 miles).

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the treaty would terminate in six months unless Russia accepts U.S. demands that it verifiably destroy the cruise missiles that Washington claims are in violation. NATO allies have strongly backed Washington and urged Moscow to save the treaty by returning to compliance.

But Russia has categorically rejected the U.S. claims of violation, charging that the missile, which is part of the Iskander-M missile system, has a maximum range of 480 kilometers (298 miles). Russian officials claimed that the U.S. assertions about the alleged breach of the pact by Moscow were intended to shift the blame for the pact's demise to Russia.

Putin has argued that it makes no sense for Russia to deploy a ground-based cruise missile violating the treaty because it has such weapons on ships and aircraft, which aren't banned by the pact.

Speaking Saturday in televised meeting with his foreign and defense ministers, Putin instructed the military to work on developing new land-based weapons that were previously forbidden by the INF treaty.

Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu reported to Putin that they would include a land-based version of the Kalibr ship-based cruise missile and a new hypersonic intermediate-range ballistic missile.

Putin emphasized that such new weapons won't be deployed unless the U.S. does so.

"Russia will not station intermediate-range weapons in Europe or other regions until similar U.S. weapons appear in those regions," he said.

At the same time, the Russian leader said he would like to review the progress on building other prospective weapons that don't fall under the INF treaty, including the intercontinental Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle and the Poseidon underwater nuclear drone.

He noted Shoigu's report that a key stage in testing of the Poseidon was completed several days ago.

The Russian leader last year unveiled an array of new nuclear weapons, including the Avangard and the Poseidon, saying that they can't be intercepted.

Putin also noted during Saturday's meeting that he would like the military to prepare a response to the possible deployment of weapons in space.

The Pentagon's new strategy unveiled last month calls for a new array of space-based sensors and other high-tech systems to more quickly detect and shoot down incoming missiles.

Putin instructed the military to make sure the research and development works on new weapons don't swell military spending. He said the military must reconfigure the existing defense budget to find money for the new weapons.

"We must not and will not be drawn into a costly arms race," he said.

Deb Riechmann, Robert Burns, Matthew Lee and Lynn Berry in Washington contributed to this report.

New Jersey Democratic Sen. Cory Booker launches 2020 bid

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By **ELANA SCHOR, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Sen. Cory Booker on Friday declared his bid for the presidency in 2020 with a sweeping call to unite a deeply polarized nation around a “common purpose.”

The New Jersey Democrat, who is the second black candidate in a primary field that’s already historically diverse, delivered his message of unity amid an era marked by bitter political division. He announced his run on the first day of Black History Month, underscoring his consequential status as America’s potential second black president after Barack Obama.

“I believe that we can build a country where no one is forgotten, no one is left behind; where parents can put food on the table; where there are good-paying jobs with good benefits in every neighborhood; where our criminal justice system keeps us safe, instead of shuffling more children into cages and coffins; where we see the faces of our leaders on television and feel pride, not shame,” Booker said in a video message to supporters, subtly jabbing at President Donald Trump.

“It is not a matter of can we, it’s a matter of do we have the collective will, the American will?” he added. “I believe we do.”

Booker enters what’s shaping up to be a crowded presidential primary, with three of his fellow Democratic senators — Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Kamala Harris of California and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York — already either declared or exploring a run. But he’s spent months telegraphing his intentions to join the race, visiting the early-voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina to build connections with key powerbrokers. He already has slated trips back to those states later this month.

Booker began reaching out to key constituencies Friday, conducting call-in interviews with three radio shows popular with black and Hispanic listeners. Later on Friday, Booker will be a guest on “The View,” a TV talk show popular with female viewers, where his mother plans to sit in the audience.

A former mayor of Newark, New Jersey’s largest city, Booker won a special Senate election in 2013 to replace Democrat Frank Lautenberg and then won a full Senate term in 2014. He will be able to run for a second full Senate term in 2020 while running for president, thanks to a law that New Jersey’s governor signed in November.

But that doesn’t mean the 49-year-old’s path to the nomination will be easy. As many as five more Democratic senators could soon mount their own primary bids, creating a competition for voters’ attention, and several of Booker’s rival presidential hopefuls bring higher name recognition to a race that may also feature popular former Vice President Joe Biden.

The affable Booker, known for his fluency in connecting with voters during an age of selfies and social media, also could face some difficulty winning the hearts of the Democratic base due to his past financial ties to banking and pharmaceutical interests. Booker said he would stop taking contributions from pharmaceutical companies in 2017, the year that he partnered with potential presidential rival Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont on a bill that would allow importation of prescription drugs from Canada.

He also will likely stand alone as an unmarried candidate, though he brings a compelling personal biography that could help elevate his message that “the only way we can make change is when people come together.”

Booker’s father grew up in a low-income community in North Carolina, and the senator has recalled his family’s later struggle to settle in suburban New Jersey amid discrimination against black homebuyers. The senator has brought a heartfelt and passionate style to his achievements in the Senate, at times fusing his personal spirituality with policy proposals that focus on social justice. Booker played a key role in the bipartisan criminal justice reform bill that Trump supported last year, for example, a deal he helped strike two months after sparring with Republicans during the battle over Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh’s confirmation.

In his announcement video, Booker invoked the fight against slavery and the role of immigration in building the nation’s character.

“The history of our nation is defined by collective action; by interwoven destinies of slaves and abolitionists; of those born here and those who chose America as home; of those who took up arms to defend our country and those who linked arms to challenge and change it,” he said.

Born in the nation's capital but raised in New Jersey, Booker made a name for himself as Newark mayor by personally shoveling the snow of residents. He has \$4.1 million left in his campaign coffers that could also be used to assist his presidential run. Rather than opening an exploratory committee to test the waters, Booker took the direct step to open a campaign seeking the Democratic nomination.

Booker is aligning with many other prominent Democratic White House contenders by forswearing all donations from corporate political action committees and federal lobbyists to his campaign, dubbed Cory 2020. A prominent Booker supporter, San Francisco attorney Steve Phillips, says he is working on millions of dollars in committed donations to a so-called super PAC that would boost the senator's candidacy, but Booker's campaign is openly against super PACs playing any role in the presidential race.

Booker's campaign manager will be Addisu Demissie, who managed California Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom's campaign last year and previously worked on Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential bid. His deputy campaign manager, Jenna Lowenstein, is also a veteran of Clinton's 2016 campaign, while his current Senate chief of staff, Matt Klapper, will serve as a senior campaign adviser.

Trump is latest to give State of Union at time of turmoil

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is the latest chief executive to deliver a State of the Union address at a time of turmoil.

But others may have had it even worse. Abraham Lincoln delivered a written report during the Civil War, Richard Nixon spoke while embroiled in the Watergate scandal and Bill Clinton gave one of his State of the Union speeches just weeks after he'd been impeached in the very same room.

Despite all of that, presidential historian Douglas Brinkley called Trump's upcoming address on Tuesday "a strange and bizarre State of the Union."

There's the continuing federal investigation into Trump campaign contacts with Russia, calls for Trump to be removed from office and the president's own threat to again close down parts of the government if Congress refuses to spend billions of dollars to build his long-promised U.S.-Mexico border wall.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi added to the theatrics surrounding the event by forcing Trump to postpone the speech a week because of the original shutdown, a record 35-day stoppage.

Plenty of State of the Union addresses have unfolded in turbulent times.

Two decades ago, Democrat Clinton delivered a State of the Union speech not long after the Republican-controlled House impeached him in December 1998 on grounds that he had lied to a federal grand jury and had obstructed justice in the wake of his relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

And just hours before Clinton delivered his speech — in the same chamber where he had become just the second president ever to be impeached — White House lawyers opened their defense of the president in a Senate trial in which they argued he was innocent of the charges and "must not be removed from office."

No president had ever delivered a State of the Union address under such extraordinary conditions.

Speculation was rampant that Clinton would cancel, according to former Senate historian Donald Ritchie. But not only did Clinton show up, he spoke in characteristic length about a booming economy, balanced federal budgets and a proposal to protect Social Security for the ages. He did not mention the circumstances leading up to the impeachment vote that threatened his presidency.

"He came and he delivered a message as if nothing was going on," Ritchie recalled. "It took a lot of the steam out of the impeachment effort against him."

The Senate acquitted Clinton the following month.

Decades earlier, Nixon devoted much of his final State of the Union speech in January 1974 to the country's energy crisis. But near the end of his remarks, he added a "personal word" about Watergate. Nixon called for the investigation to end, declaring "one year of Watergate is enough" and said he had no "intention whatever" of resigning.

But the Republican reversed course and stepped down that August, becoming the only president ever to resign. Nixon had faced impeachment by the House over his participation in the attempted cover-up of

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a break-in at Democratic Party headquarters executed by burglars connected to his re-election campaign. Shortly after taking office, President Gerald Ford — Nixon's vice president and successor — pardoned Nixon.

Ford then used his 1975 State of the Union speech to declare "the state of the union is not good" — though not due to any Watergate fallout. Ford cited high unemployment, a recession, inflation, a rising federal deficit and climbing national debt, the energy situation and other issues as reasons for his bleak assessment.

Lincoln faced a situation "more grim than it is now, by far," said Brinkley, referencing the Civil War.

In December 1865, eight months after the war began, Lincoln noted in his State of the Union address — they were written in those days — that "a disloyal portion of the American people have during the whole year been engaged in an attempt to divide and destroy the Union."

Lincoln also warned that "a nation which endures factious domestic division is exposed to disrespect abroad, and one party, if not both, is sure sooner or later to invoke foreign intervention."

AP News Researcher Monika Mathur contributed to this report.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

Deadly Brazil dam collapse was disaster waiting to happen

By ANNA JEAN KAISER, The Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Lax regulations, chronic short staffing and a law that muffled the voices of environmentalists on mining licenses made the devastating collapse of a dam in southeastern Brazil all but destined to happen, experts and legislators say.

The failure of the dam holding back iron ore mining waste on Jan. 25 unleashed an avalanche of mud that buried buildings and contaminated water downstream. At least 115 people have died, and another 248 people remain missing.

But one of the cruelest parts of the tragedy in Brumadinho is that it has happened before: In 2015, mining dams burst in nearby Mariana in what is considered Brazil's worst environmental disaster.

What's more, it could happen again, as many Brazilian states and the federal government move to ease regulation in the name of economic development.

In the three years since the Mariana rupture killed 19 people, the regulation of the industry has gotten less, not more, rigorous in Minas Gerais state.

"It felt like it was just a matter of time before something bigger would happen," said Josiele Rosa Silva Tomas, the president of the Brumadinho residents' association.

Problems that existed when the dams in Mariana burst have persisted, like dramatic short-staffing, while a new law has reduced the say of environmental groups in the project licensing process.

And the danger remains widespread: A 2017 report from the National Water Agency classified more than 700 dams nationwide as a high risk of collapse and with high potential for causing damage.

In fact, some fear the risk may only increase. Environmental groups accused the previous Congress and president of rolling back significant protections, and many expect further weakening under President Jair Bolsonaro, who has said environmental regulation hamstringing several industries, including mining.

But the politics that contributed to the collapses in Minas Gerais are much more local. For centuries, the mineral-rich state has revolved around the mining industry — its name, given by Portuguese colonizers, translates to "General Mines."

More than 300 mines employ thousands in the state, often in poor, rural areas.

Civil society groups often struggle to achieve basic guarantees. For instance, Tomas' group has long fought to prevent mining projects from contaminating drinking water.

"Minas Gerais has a centuries-long history of being lenient with the mining sector. It's cultural," Joao Vitor Xavier, a state deputy, told The Associated Press. "The industry creates a discourse where they dangle

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jobs and economic growth in front of people, but they put profit over safety.”

The CEO of Vale SA, which owned and operated the Brumadinho mining complex, acknowledges their regulatory measures fell short.

“Apparently to work under the (current) rules has not worked,” Flavio Schvartsman said during a press conference several hours after the dam breach.

Vale officials have said they don’t yet know why the dam collapsed.

Arrest warrants have been issued for five people responsible for safety assessments of the dam, including three Vale employees. Vale was also involved in the Mariana rupture: The dams there were administered by the Brazilian giant and Australia’s BHP Billiton.

The Mariana collapse unleashed nearly 80 million cubic yards (60 million cubic meters) of mining waste into rivers and eventually the Atlantic Ocean. While its environmental impact is considered the worst in Brazilian history, Brumadinho has already far surpassed its death toll.

In the wake of the Mariana tragedy, Minas Gerais was already struggling to implement what regulation it had: A 2016 audit found the state had only 20 percent of the staff needed at the agency charged with regulating mines. Environmentalists say mining regulation has gotten even weaker since.

In 2015, the state approved a new process for licensing mining projects. It shifted responsibility from a board that included several environmental organizations to the state environmental secretary, who created a new board with a majority of participants favorable to mining industry interests.

Then-Gov. Fernando Pimentel argued the bill would reduce bureaucracy. But days before the law was approved, the Minas Association of Environmental Defense called it “one of the biggest setbacks in environmental regulation in the country.”

“The conditions are set so the licenses never get turned down,” Maria Teresa Corujo, a rare pro-environmental voice on the new board, told the AP.

In December, Corujo, of the National Forum of Civil Society in Watershed Communities, was the only member of the new board to vote against approving the expansion of the mining complex in Brumadinho. Notes from that meeting show the complex’s pollutant rating had been downgraded — a move that is now the purview of the environmental secretary — allowing the company to skip regulatory steps.

In July 2018, Xavier, the state lawmaker who has pushed for a ban on iron ore waste dams, made a grave prediction.

“I’m not saying we might have other dam ruptures in Minas Gerais. I am saying that, from everything I’ve seen and studied, I have no doubt we will have more ruptures of dams,” he told the state assembly.

Today, he still has no doubt that there will be more tragedies unless more rigorous regulations are implemented.

“These dams are not 100 percent safe,” he said. “How many of them can rupture? Any one of them.”

Trump suspends arms treaty, citing Chinese, Russian threats

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is pulling the plug on a decades-old nuclear arms treaty with Russia, lifting what it sees as unreasonable constraints on competing with a resurgent Russia and a more assertive China. The move announced Friday sets the stage for delicate talks with U.S. allies over potential new American missile deployments.

In explaining his decision, which he had foreshadowed months ago, President Donald Trump accused Moscow of violating the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty with “impunity” by deploying banned missiles. Moscow denies it is in violation and has accused Washington of resisting its efforts to resolve the dispute.

Democrats in Congress and some arms control advocates criticized Trump’s decision as opening the door to an arms race.

“The U.S. threat to terminate the treaty will not bring Russia back into compliance and could unleash a dangerous and costly new missile competition between the United States and Russia in Europe and

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beyond," the private Arms Control Association said. It argued that Washington had not exhausted options for drawing Russia back into compliance.

Trump said in a statement that the U.S. will "move forward" with developing its own military response options to Russia's banned deployment of cruise missiles that could target western Europe.

"We cannot be the only country in the world unilaterally bound by this treaty, or any other," Trump said. Other officials said the treaty could still be saved if Russia reverses course and returns to compliance, but that window of opportunity will close in six months when the American withdrawal is due to take effect.

The Trump decision reflects his administration's view that the arms treaty was an unacceptable obstacle to more forcefully confronting not only Russia but also China. China's military has grown mightily since the treaty was signed, and the pact has prevented the U.S. from deploying weapons to counter some of those being developed in Beijing.

Leaving the INF pact, however, risks aggravating relations with European allies, who share the administration's view that Russia is violating the treaty but who have not endorsed a U.S. withdrawal.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, speaking to reporters after Trump's statement, said Russia will be formally notified on Saturday that the U.S. is withdrawing from the treaty, effective in six months. In the meantime, starting Saturday, the U.S. will suspend its obligations under the treaty.

Pompeo said that if, in the coming six months, Russia accepts U.S. demands that it verifiably destroy the cruise missiles that Washington claims are a violation, then the treaty can be saved. If it does not, "the treaty terminates," he said.

Administration officials have dismissed concerns that the treaty's demise could trigger a race to develop and deploy more intermediate-range missiles. U.S. officials have emphasized their fear that China, which is not party to the treaty, is gaining a significant military advantage in Asia by deploying large numbers of missiles with ranges beyond the treaty's limit. Whether the U.S. will now respond by deploying INF non-compliant missiles in Asia is unclear. In any case, it seems unlikely Beijing would agree to any negotiated limits on its weaponry.

Russia accused the U.S. of unilaterally seeking to neuter the treaty.

"I 'congratulate' the whole world; the United States has taken another step toward its destruction today," said Konstantin Kosachev, head of the foreign affairs committee in Russia's upper house of parliament.

INF was the first arms control measure to ban an entire class of weapons: ground-launched cruise missiles with a range between 500 kilometers (310 miles) and 5,500 kilometers (3,400 miles). At the time, in the late stages of the Cold War, the U.S. and its allies were mainly concerned by the perceived threat of Russian medium-range nuclear missiles that were targeted at Europe. The U.S. deployed similar missiles in response, in the 1980s, leading to negotiations that produced the INF treaty.

Rep. Adam Smith, a Washington state Democrat and new chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, blasted Trump for raising the risk of nuclear war.

"The administration's ideological aversion to arms control as a tool for advancing national security is endangering our safety, as well as that of our allies and partners," Smith said. "The risk of miscalculation or misunderstanding is already higher than at any point since the end of the Cold War, and this decision only makes it worse."

U.S. officials say they have little reason to think Moscow will change its stance in the next six months.

"We have raised Russia's noncompliance with Russian officials — including at the highest levels of government — more than 30 times," Pompeo said. "We have provided Russia an ample window of time to mend its way. Tomorrow that time runs out."

Jens Stoltenberg, the NATO secretary-general, said in an interview Friday with The Associated Press that Russia can still save the treaty by returning to compliance before the U.S. withdrawal takes effect.

"But at the same time, we have started to assess the consequences, look into options," Stoltenberg said. "We need to make sure that we respond as an alliance, all 29 allies, because all allies are involved and all allies are affected."

Trump said his administration will move forward with developing military response options. But senior Trump administration officials said they don't expect any immediate testing or deployment of weapons that

are banned under the treaty. The current Pentagon budget includes \$48 million for research on potential military responses to the alleged Russian violations, but U.S. officials said the options do not include a nuclear missile.

The officials, speaking after Trump's announcement, said the U.S. is not in position to flight test, let alone deploy, INF noncompliant missiles as a counter to Russia any time soon. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House.

One official said allies will be consulted before any decisions are made on responding to any Russian missiles.

Leaving the treaty would allow the Trump administration to counter the Chinese, but it's unclear how it would do that. U.S. security concerns are complicated by what U.S. intelligence officials earlier this week called efforts by China and Russia to expand their global influence, particularly in Asia and the Middle East.

"China and Russia are more aligned than at any point since the mid-1950s, and the relationship is likely to strengthen in the coming years as some of their interests and threat perceptions converge," Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats said in testimony Tuesday to Congress.

Associated Press writer Lynn Berry contributed to this report.

Struggle for control of Venezuela returning to the streets

By SCOTT SMITH, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Momentum is growing for Venezuela's opposition movement led by lawmaker Juan Guaido, who has called supporters back into the streets for nationwide protests Saturday, escalating pressure on embattled President Nicolas Maduro to step down.

A defiant Maduro's socialist government has called on its own loyalists to flood the streets waving flags to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Bolivarian revolution launched by the late Hugo Chavez.

The dueling demonstrations will play out amid a political standoff in its second week of heightened tensions — and with the potential to spark violent clashes between the opposition and security forces.

Guaido has turned down offers from the presidents of Mexico and Uruguay to negotiate with Maduro. In a letter Guaido urged both presidents to back Venezuela's struggle, saying to remain neutral aligns them with Maduro.

"At this historical moment that our country is going through, to be neutral is to be on the side of the regime that has condemned hundreds of thousands of human beings to misery, hunger and exile — including death," he said.

Guaido declared himself interim president last week before tens of thousands of cheering supporters and vowed to end Maduro's "dictatorship." His claim to the presidency is backed by the United States and some two dozen other nations.

The opposition seeks to usher in a transition by holding democratic elections, Guaido said in the letter to Uruguayan President Tabare Vazquez and Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

The United States has also rejected the offers from Mexico, Uruguay and the Vatican to mediate a dialogue.

Vice President Mike Pence on Friday met with exiled Venezuelans in Miami, reassuring them the Trump administration would continue to weaken Maduro.

"This is no time for dialogue," Pence said at a church, prompting loud cheers from the Venezuelan exiles. "It is time to end the Maduro regime."

President Donald Trump's national security adviser John Bolton tweeted Thursday that Maduro and his top advisers should retire to "a nice beach somewhere far away from Venezuela." Bolton's talk turned tougher Friday in an interview with conservative radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt in which he warned that it could be a beach area more like Guantanamo.

Later Friday, Bolton tweeted that Washington would send humanitarian aid to Venezuela despite Maduro's refusal to accept such assistance. The comment came after Guaido said he would defy the aid ban and receive convoys of medicine into Venezuela with the help of neighboring nations.

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"Pursuant to the request of Interim President Juan Guaido, and in consultation with his officials the US will mobilize and transport humanitarian aid—medicine, surgical supplies, and nutritional supplements for the people of Venezuela. It's time for Maduro to get out of the way," Bolton's tweet said.

Maduro remains dug in, blaming the White House for openly backing what he calls a coup to remove him from power and exploit his country's vast oil wealth. He retains support from powerful allies, including Russia and China, but is growing increasingly isolated as more nations back Guaido.

Maduro on Friday continued a show of might as commander-in-chief that has seen him crisscross Venezuela to oversee military exercises as he vows to defend his socialist government no matter the cost.

"We're in a historic battle," Maduro told several hundred troops standing in formation around armored vehicles. "We're facing the greatest political, diplomatic and economic aggression that Venezuela has confronted in 200 years."

The military's top leadership is backing Maduro, though analysts warn that rank-and-file troops frustrated by their country's economic and humanitarian crisis may not share that unwavering loyalty.

The opposition's street protests planned for Saturday are the second such mass action this week. Guaido led a peaceful demonstration Wednesday with residents stepping out of their homes and workplaces for two hours. Last week, street protests turned violent in days of unrest that killed nearly three dozen people in clashes with government security forces.

Meanwhile, a prominent opposition lawmaker called on a group of European Union and Latin American countries to support Maduro's ouster — without negotiations.

An "international contact group" announced Thursday by the EU's top diplomat, Federica Mogherini, "should help to cease the usurpation of power by Maduro and establish a transitional government until new elections," said Francisco Sucre, who heads the international committee of the opposition-led National Assembly.

"There is no possible discussion here. Maduro has to leave," Sucre told The Associated Press in Madrid, where he wrapped up a three-day European tour to enlist support for Guaido.

The European Parliament has called on the EU's member states to recognize Guaido as interim president. The socialist government of Spain, which has strong historic, cultural and economic ties to Venezuela, has said it will do so on Monday if Maduro doesn't call a general election by Sunday.

"Power is evaporating from Maduro's hands with the passing of the hours," Sucre said. "We have been contacted by diplomats across Europe who are ready to take a step forward, but they are waiting for the right moment."

Meanwhile, California-based Chevron Corp. said its operations in Venezuela will continue normally for the "foreseeable future" despite newly imposed U.S. sanctions on Venezuelan state-owned oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA.

Chevron has four joint-venture operations for exploration and production with PDVSA, as the Venezuelan company is known. The Trump administration has banned U.S. companies from doing business with PDVSA but allowed a six-month grace period for those with ongoing operations in the South American country.

"For the foreseeable future, we feel like we can maintain a good stable operation and a safe operation on the ground in Venezuela," Chevron CEO Michael Wirth said Friday in a conference call with Wall Street analysts.

Chevron's refining operations in the U.S. are well-prepared to handle an expected disruption of Venezuelan crude supply due to the sanctions, Wirth said, adding that Chevron had a contingency plan in anticipation of the sanctions and has alternate sourcing.

Associated Press writers Alexandra Olson in New York and Adriana Gomez Licon in Doral, Florida, contributed to this report.

Seal takeovers, downed trees: Parks clean up post-shutdown

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By **BRADY McCOMBS** and **FELICIA FONSECA**, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — National park visitors cut new trails in sensitive soil. They pried open gates while no one was watching. They found bathrooms locked, so they went outside. One off-roader even mowed down an iconic twisted-limbed Joshua tree in California.

During the 35-day government shutdown, some visitors at parks and other protected areas nationwide left behind messes that National Park Service officials are scrambling to clean up as they brace for the possibility of another closure ahead of the busy Presidents Day weekend this month.

Conservationists warn that damage to sensitive lands could take decades to recover. National parks already faced an estimated \$12 billion maintenance backlog that now has grown.

Many parks went unstaffed during the shutdown, while others had skeleton crews with local governments and nonprofits contributing money and volunteers.

National Park Service spokesman Mike Litterst in Washington, D.C., declined to provide a full accounting of the damage at more than 400 locations, saying it was isolated and most visitors took good care of the land.

But interviews with park officials and nonprofits that help keep parks running reveal a toll from people and winter storms when workers could not make fixes quickly.

President Donald Trump has said another shutdown could start Feb. 15 if he and Democratic leaders can't agree on funding for a U.S.-Mexico border wall, compounding pressure on the park service to catch up on repairs.

Hiring seasonal workers who typically start in the spring as rangers, fee collectors and hiking guides also has been delayed.

"We're kind of ready to just have a bit more stability," said Angie Richman, a spokeswoman at Arches National Park in Utah.

A colony of elephant seals took over a Northern California beach in Point Reyes National Seashore without workers to discourage the animals from congregating in the popular tourist area. Spokesman John Dell'Osso said rangers and volunteers will lead visitors on walks to see roughly 50 adult seals and 43 pups.

The Grand Canyon postponed a highly competitive lottery that provides permits for self-guided rafting trips on the Colorado River in 2020 because staff has to catch up on other work. Matt Baldwin with the river permits office said the lottery is rescheduled for Feb. 16, which could change with another shutdown. That also could lead the park to miss out on its centennial celebration Feb. 26.

At Southern California's Joshua Tree National Park, Superintendent David Smith said officials still were assessing damage Friday but at least one signature tree died when an off-road vehicle ran it over during the shutdown. It's not the same toppled tree from a picture distributed by the park service early in the shutdown that was used widely to illustrate the perils of understaffed or closed parks.

Park spokesman Jeremy Barnum said rangers who discovered the tree initially thought vandals destroyed it during the shutdown but that botanists later determined it fell earlier. He said the park "apologizes for any confusion this initial report may have caused."

Smith said several other Joshua trees that can live hundreds of years were damaged, including one that was spray-painted, but the park has yet to determine the exact number and when it happened. Someone also cut down a juniper tree and off-road vehicles dug extensive wheel marks into the delicate desert soil, Smith said.

Workers at Death Valley National Park in California cleaned up 1,655 clumps of toilet paper and 429 piles of human waste as the shutdown hit during one of the busiest times of year, a park statement said Friday.

Superintendent Mike Reynolds also said that "people tried to do the right thing by leaving trash next to full dumpsters, but wind and animals dispersed it. The park's resources, visitors and wildlife all paid the price."

Workers have to rake and replant vegetation to repair ruts from off-road vehicles, delaying other work in the 3.4 million-acre park. Staffers spent a combined 1,500 hours this week documenting the damage, cleaning and making repairs, Reynolds said, calling the overall effects "disturbing."

"It became pretty depressing the kinds of things people will do when they are unsupervised," said David Blacker, executive director of the Death Valley Natural History Association.

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Visitors at Arches in Utah left waste outside a restroom, stomped out five trails in a permit-only area that was shut down and damaged an entrance gate to allow vehicles to drive on snow-covered roads when the park was closed after a storm, Richman said.

People in Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park drove around locked gates and through meadows, spokeswoman Kyle Patterson said.

At Great Smoky Mountains National Park straddling the North Carolina-Tennessee line, visitors cut locks on some gates to closed roads and stole about \$5,000 in maintenance tools, spokeswoman Dana Soehn said.

Officials at Zion National Park in Utah, Mesa Verde National Park in southwestern Colorado and Olympic National Park in Washington were fixing trails, roads and campgrounds damaged from winter storms. Mesa Verde wasn't set to open until Monday, and some areas were still closed at Zion and Olympic.

Campgrounds, visitors centers and trails that seasonal workers help prepare could face delayed openings, and families planning spring break or summer vacations might think twice about visiting if they don't think national parks are safe or fully staffed, said Phil Francis, chairman of the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks.

"There are a lot of impacts that will be felt in the future that aren't being felt or even talked about now," he said.

Meanwhile, the prospect of another shutdown looms.

Elizabeth Jackson, a spokeswoman for Guadalupe Mountains National Park on the Texas-New Mexico border, noted the stress on workers.

"It's a way of life if you're a federal employee," Jackson said. "Not to be glib, but it's something we face every year."

Fonseca reported from Flagstaff, Arizona. Associated Press writers Ellen Knickmeyer in Washington, D.C.; David Warren in Dallas; Matt Volz in Helena, Montana; and Dan Elliott in Denver contributed to this story.

Human toll of cold: more than 2 dozen dead, hundreds hurt

By **STEVE KARNOWSKI** and **TAMMY WEBBER**, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The dangerous cold and heavy snow that hobbled the northern U.S. this week has retreated, but not before exacting a human toll: more than two dozen weather-related deaths in eight states and hundreds of injuries, including frostbite, broken bones, heart attacks and carbon monoxide poisoning.

In Illinois alone, hospitals reported more than 220 cases of frostbite and hypothermia since Tuesday, when the polar vortex moved in and overnight temperatures plunged to minus 30 (minus 34 Celsius) or lower — with wind chills of minus 50 (minus 45 Celsius) or worse in some areas.

Hennepin Healthcare in Minneapolis normally sees around 30 frostbite patients in an entire winter. It admitted 18 in the past week, spokeswoman Christine Hill said Friday.

"I definitely saw more frostbite than I've ever seen in my entire career just in the last three days," said Dr. Andrea Rowland-Fischer, an emergency department physician at Hennepin Healthcare.

Most of those patients, she said, had underlying problems that made it difficult for them to take care of themselves: the developmentally delayed, the mentally ill, the very young and the very old. They also included people with injuries related to drugs and alcohol — people who passed out or did not realize they were cold or injured.

"It's heartbreaking when there are people who can't take care of themselves and get exposed, just because they either escape from the care that they're being given or because they're not being supervised."

Others got frostbite on their way to work after being exposed to the cold for a short time, often on their hands, feet, ears and face. That included people whose cars would not start or who got stuck outside for other reasons, as well as those who just did not think they could get frostbitten so quickly and went outside without gloves or other protective gear.

Several required "maximal treatment," admission to the hospital's burn unit for therapies that include drugs to restore circulation to try to avoid amputations. Some of them will probably still require amputa-

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tions, a decision usually made by burn doctors four to 10 days after the injury.

Many people decided to stay home even when they were sick to avoid slippery roads and subzero temperatures. In western Michigan, a health care system's online service saw a major spike this week.

More than 400 people over four days used Spectrum Health's MedNow to see a nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant about non-emergency issues, such as aches, rashes, cold and flu, said Joe Brennan, MedNow senior director. Most used an app on their phone. The usual four-day volume is 250.

"We had soreness-and-sickness calls from people who were shoveling 2 ½ feet of snow," Brennan said. "Instead of going to urgent care or an emergency department, they had an option to stay at home."

Another danger was from carbon monoxide. A family of nine in Wheeling, Illinois, about 30 miles northwest of Chicago, was taken to local hospitals after heating their home with a charcoal grill. In Rockford, Illinois, four people were treated because they had warmed up cars in a closed garage or because a furnace vent became blocked by ice and snow.

The snow that accompanied the cold also caused problems.

In Raymond, New Hampshire, the driver of a state Department of Transportation vehicle was struck in the head Thursday after ice and snow flew off a truck ahead and broke through the windshield. The driver was hospitalized with a laceration to the head and other possible injuries.

In just a two-day period, Tuesday and Wednesday, Mercyhealth in Rockford treated 15 people for broken bones from falling on the ice, 10 people who were in car crashes caused by snow and eight people who complained of chest pain or shortness of breath from shoveling snow, hospital officials said.

Rockford set a new record low of minus 31 degrees Thursday, but the hospital only treated two cases of frostbite, emergency physician Dr. John Pakiela said.

"It was Antarctica there for a few days ... but I think people listened to professional advice and heeded warnings," about staying indoors or bundling up, he said.

By Friday, the deep freeze had mostly abated, with temperatures climbing as high as the low 20s (minus 5 or 6 Celsius) in Minneapolis and Chicago. In western North Dakota, the temperature in Dickinson climbed above freezing (0 Celsius) by midmorning — a jump of nearly 60 degrees compared with Tuesday's low of minus 17 degrees (minus 27 Celsius).

The weather was thought to be a factor in at least 27 deaths, including a 90-year-old Michigan woman who died of hypothermia after locking herself out of her home while feeding birds — one of at least nine people who were found outdoors. A motorist also died during a snowstorm Friday after striking a salt truck that had pulled off the side of Interstate 70 in central Indiana. Others died after freezing outdoors or in unheated homes or while shoveling snow.

Karnowski reported from St. Paul, Minnesota. Associated Press writers Kathy McCormack in Concord, New Hampshire; Blake Nicholson in Bismarck, North Dakota; and Ed White in Detroit also contributed to this story.

Trump health chief asks Congress to pass drug discount plan

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration's top health official asked Congress on Friday to pass its new prescription drug discount plan and provide it to all patients, not just those covered by government programs like Medicare.

The plan would take now-hidden rebates among industry players like drug companies and insurers and channel them directly to consumers when they go to pay for their medications.

Patients with high drug copays stand to benefit from the proposal, while people who take no prescription drugs, or who rely on generics mainly, would probably pay somewhat more, since premiums are expected to rise.

A day after unveiling the plan as a proposed regulation, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar raised the stakes by calling on Congress to make it law and broaden it to include people covered by

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employer health insurance, not just Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

"Congress has an opportunity to follow through on their calls for transparency ... by passing our proposal into law immediately and extending it into the commercial drug market," Azar said in a speech at the Bipartisan Policy Center think tank.

Ahead of next week's State of the Union speech, President Donald Trump is under political pressure to show results for his promise to slash prescription drug costs. Data show that prices for brand-name drugs have continued to rise, though at a somewhat slower pace. Polls show consumers across the political spectrum want government action.

Democrats say the administration's plan doesn't go far enough because it still leaves drug companies free to set high list prices. They say drug pricing is like a black box, and it's impossible to tell if prices reflect actual costs or if companies are charging what they think the market will bear.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., says she's also worried that the plan would raise premiums. HHS acknowledges Medicare prescription premiums would go up \$3 to \$5 a month.

Nonetheless, the administration's proposal appears to be in the mix as Congress gears up to craft legislation addressing prescription drug costs. Friday evening, the Republican chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, expressed his support. Rebates "ought to lower costs to patients, and this is a good first step towards that goal," Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., said in a statement.

The complex plan would work by doing away with an exemption from federal anti-kickback rules that currently allows drugmakers, insurers and middlemen called pharmacy benefit managers to negotiate rebates among themselves.

Drug companies pay rebates to make sure their medications are covered by insurance plans that are the intermediaries between them and patients. HHS says hidden rebates can amount to up to 30 percent of a drug's list price. Insurers say they use the money from rebates to hold down premiums for all consumers.

Under the plan, the current anti-kickback exemption for industry rebates would be replaced with a new one for discounts offered directly to consumers.

Azar said the idea would reshape the drug pricing system, shifting it away from hidden rebates to upfront discounts, creating pressure on drugmakers to keep prices down. The proposal was co-authored with the HHS inspector general's office.

Experts say it will take time to sort out all the potential consequences.

Peter Bach, director of the Center for Health Policy and Outcomes at New York's Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, said the current system of rebates harms patients who take costly drugs with high copays.

Think people with cancer, patients with intractable illnesses such as multiple sclerosis or rheumatoid arthritis, and those who take brand-name medicines with no generic competition. Patients' cost sharing is often based on list prices, not the cost of the drug after rebates.

"Simply put, those on no medications at all will just see their premiums go up and see no savings because they don't take any medicine," said Bach. "Those on generics only may be essentially in this category (as well).

"But those on expensive medications ... they will see savings in total," he added. More than half a million people filled at least \$50,000 in prescriptions in 2014, according to an Express Scripts report.

Insurers and pharmacy benefit managers like Express Scripts and CVS oppose the administration plan, saying it will undercut their ability to bargain with drugmakers for lower prices.

Drugmakers have applauded the administration's action.

Consumers are worried about prices for brand-name drugs, particularly new medications that promise breakthrough results. Generics account for nearly 90 percent of prescriptions filled, but brand-name drugs account for more than 70 percent of the spending.

Azar contends that under the current system everybody but the patient benefits from high prices. A high list price makes room for bigger negotiated rebates for insurers and middlemen. And drugmakers then merely build that expectation into their prices.

Before joining the Trump administration, Azar was a top executive for drugmaker Eli Lilly. That led to criticism that he would be an industry pawn. But the drugmakers vehemently disagree with some of his

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other ideas, including an experiment using lower international drug prices to cut some Medicare costs.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Feb. 2, the 33rd day of 2019. There are 332 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 2, 1990, in a dramatic concession to South Africa's black majority, President F.W. de Klerk lifted a ban on the African National Congress and promised to free Nelson Mandela.

On this date:

In 1653, New Amsterdam — now New York City — was incorporated.

In 1887, Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, held its first Groundhog Day festival.

In 1914, Charles Chaplin made his movie debut as the comedy short "Making a Living" was released by Keystone Film Co. The musical "Shameen Dhu," featuring the song "Too Ra Loo Ra Loo Rai," opened on Broadway.

In 1925, the legendary Alaska Serum Run ended as the last of a series of dog mushers brought a life-saving treatment to Nome, the scene of a diphtheria epidemic, six days after the drug left Nenana.

In 1932, Duke Ellington and His Orchestra recorded "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)" for Brunswick Records.

In 1942, a Los Angeles Times column by W.H. Anderson urged security measures against Japanese-Americans, arguing that a Japanese-American "almost inevitably ... grows up to be a Japanese, not an American."

In 1943, the remainder of Nazi forces from the Battle of Stalingrad surrendered in a major victory for the Soviets in World War II.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman sent a 10-point civil rights program to Congress, where the proposals ran into fierce opposition from southern lawmakers.

In 1964, Ranger 6, a lunar probe launched by NASA, crashed onto the surface of the moon as planned, but failed to send back any TV images.

In 1971, Idi Amin, having seized power in Uganda, proclaimed himself president.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan pressed his case for additional aid to the Nicaraguan Contras a day ahead of a vote by the U.S. House of Representatives. (The three major broadcast TV networks declined to carry the speech, which was covered by CNN; a divided House voted to reject Reagan's request for \$36.2 million in new aid.)

In 2002, inside the World Economic Forum in New York, foreign economic leaders criticized the United States for protectionist policies while outside, thousands of protesters demonstrated against global capitalism.

Ten years ago: Hillary Rodham Clinton was sworn in as U.S. secretary of state. The Senate confirmed Eric Holder, 75-21, to be attorney general. President Barack Obama's choice for health secretary, Tom Daschle, apologized for failing to pay more than \$120,000 in taxes. (Daschle ended up withdrawing his nomination.) Gunmen abducted American U.N. worker John Solecki in Quetta, Pakistan, killing his driver. (Solecki was released unharmed two months later.) Moammar Gadhafi of Libya was elected leader of the African Union. Iran sent its first domestically made satellite, Omid ("hope"), into orbit.

Five years ago: Academy Award-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman, 46, was found dead in his New York apartment from a combination of heroin, cocaine and other drugs. The Seattle Seahawks won their first Super Bowl title, crushing the favored Denver Broncos 43-8.

One year ago: At the sentencing hearing in Michigan for former sports doctor Larry Nassar, a distraught father of three girls who'd been sexually abused tried to attack Nassar before being tackled by sheriff's deputies and hauled out of court. (Randall Margraves later apologized; the judge said there was "no way" she would fine him or send him to jail for trying to attack Nassar.) The Dow industrials fell more than 650

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points as the stock market completed its worst week in two years amid fears of inflation and disappointing quarterly results from technology and energy giants.

Today's Birthdays: Former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing (val-eh-REE' ZHEES'-kahr deh-STANG') is 93. Comedian Tom Smothers is 82. Rock singer-guitarist Graham Nash is 77. Television executive Barry Diller is 77. Actor Bo Hopkins is 75. Country singer Howard Bellamy (The Bellamy Brothers) is 73. TV chef Ina (EE'-nuh) Garten is 71. Actor Jack McGee is 70. Actor Brent Spiner (SPY'-nur) is 70. Rock musician Ross Valory (Journey) is 70. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, is 67. The former president of South Korea, Park Geun-hye (goon-hay), is 67. Model Christie Brinkley is 65. Actor Michael Talbott is 64. Actress Kim Zimmer is 64. Actor Michael T. Weiss is 57. Actor-comedian Adam Ferrara is 53. Rock musician Robert DeLeo (Army of Anyone; Stone Temple Pilots) is 53. Actress Jennifer Westfeldt is 49. Rock musician Ben Mize is 48. Rapper T-Mo is 47. Actress Marissa Jaret Winokur is 46. Actress Lori Beth Denberg is 43. Rock musician Jesse Siebenberg (Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real) is 43. Singer Shakira is 42. Actor Rich Sommer is 41. Country singer Blaine Larsen is 33. Actress Zosia (ZAH'-shuh) Mamet is 31.

Thought for Today: "History teaches us that men and nations behave wisely once they have exhausted all other alternatives." — Abba Eban (1915-2002).