

Groton Area Schedule of Events

The following change has been made to the JHBB schedule:

JHBBB @ Warner on February 11 has been changed to JHBBB @ HOME on Friday, February 8 (in the old gym). 7th grade will play at 4, followed by 8th grade at 5.

Monday, February 4, 2019

Junior High Boys Basketball at Britton-Hecla. (7th grade at 4 p.m., 8th grade at 5 p.m.)

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Girls' Basketball hosts Aberdeen Roncalli. (JV at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game.)

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Small Group Music Contest at Northern State University
10:15am- 3:10pm: MathCounts at Northern State University (Northeastern South Dakota Chapter Competition)

Thursday, February 7, 2019

1:30pm- 8:30pm: Parent/Teacher Conferences at GHS Gymnasium and Groton Area Elementary School

Friday, February 8, 2019

Rushmore Challenge Debate at Harrisburg High School
Faculty Inservice - No School
Doubleheader Basketball with Warner in Groton. (Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5 p.m., Varsity girls at 6:30 p.m. followed by Varsity boys game.)

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

- 2- GDILIVE.COM - GBB-Northwestern Makeup Game
- 3- Brock Greenfield's Column
- 3- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ads
- 4- City Council Meeting Agenda
- 5- Groton's MathCounts takes first at Simmons Invite
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7-8 Weather Pages
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10- 2019 Groton Events
- 11- News from the Associated Press

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 Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 2 of 42

It's Girls' Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Northwestern
Wildcats**

VS



Groton Area Tigers

Monday, Feb. 4, 2019

8:00 p.m.

at the Groton Area Arena

Broadcast Sponsored by

Allied Climate Professionals

Bahr Spray Foam

Blocker Construction

Doug Abeln Seed Company

James Valley Seed - Doug Jorgensen

John Sieh Agency

Locke Electric

Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.

Northeast Chiropractic Clinic

Professional Management Services, Inc.

Sanford Health

Tyson DeHoet Trucking

Weber Landscaping



Glimpse From Greenfield

Brock Greenfield
State Senator
District 2

As I wrote last week, I apprised you of the progress on SB 47 which was the bill I primed on the Senate side regarding "Constitutional" or permitless carry of firearms. I reported that the bill was due in House State Affairs last Monday and that it may be heard as soon as Tuesday on the floor if it successfully passed out of the committee. When it came before the House committee, I was asked to carry it

again, so I did. As I pitched the bill, I foreshadowed some of the arguments the committee might hear against the bill from opponents. The first opponent took exception, saying that he was not going to make those arguments (even though he had on the Senate side). He then said that his association supported "Constitutional" carry, but they wanted the bill amended. In rebuttal, I took the committee back to 2012 when the exact version of the bill he claimed to want was being considered. Again, it contained the very language he said he wanted this year, yet his association worked against that bill in 2012 and ultimately pled successfully with the Governor to veto the bill. I encouraged the committee to pass the bill as-is without any amendments because the opponents were merely trying to muddy the waters. The committee passed the bill 10-3, and the next day, the House passed it 47-23.

Most of you have followed the story, but for those who don't or for those who are reading the archived version of this article years down the road, we were all pleasantly surprised to find out that Governor Noem decided quickly that she would sign the bill into law. Accordingly, on Thursday at noon, she held a public signing ceremony and made SB 47 the first bill she signed as Governor of SD. The Rotunda was crowded with a number of interested people from the public and numerous media outlets present to witness the event. In the end, the bill traveled very quickly through the legislative process. From the time it was first heard in Senate Judiciary until the time it was signed into law was two weeks.

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Dietary Aide**

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Sign on bonus available
Full benefits included.

Contact Brynn Pickrel

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Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 4 of 42

Some of you have been following the progress on a group of bills that pit the SD Rural Electric Associates versus the municipalities that run their own electrical operations. It really comes down to a law that has been on the books for several years that places the REA's in a disadvantaged position as it relates to territorial issues. For now, the bills are on hold and the two sides are working diligently to try to strike a fair and equitable solution. I really appreciate the good-faith negotiations that are taking place, and I am optimistic that a reasonable conclusion will be achieved. More on that as developments occur.

The Senate passed HB 1037, which I mentioned last week. This allows Northern State University to spend several millions of dollars that they have secured from PRIVATE donations to build a sports complex just south of Wachs' Arena. The bill had passed the House unanimously and passed the Senate 31-2. There was overwhelming support for the bill because of the tremendous efforts on the part of the university and because of the phenomenal buy-in and support from those in the region.

The Senate also took up consideration of SB 62 which attempted to secure additional dollars for nursing homes, adjustment training centers, and mental health institutions. The additional dollars would have come from savings achieved when those who utilize Indian Health Services are referred to other healthcare facilities and they are wholly covered by the federal government instead of under the normal state-federal Medicaid program. Admittedly, there were a lot of ramifications to this bill in that it essentially sought to bind future legislatures by actions taken by this one. There is long-standing caselaw that says that one legislature CANNOT bind a future legislature. It was also pointed out that everything that this bill sought to do can be done through the normal appropriations process. I did support the bill, but it failed on a vote of 16-16. As noted, though, we will continue to focus on providing more funding throughout session as we appropriators work through the budget process.

Speaking of approps, in Joint Appropriations, we heard two days of testimony from the Board of Regents office and all six universities as well as the SD School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the SD School for the Deaf. We rounded out the week with budget presentations from Tourism on Wednesday and from GF&P and Agriculture on Thursday.

I have several bills that will be taken up for action in committees and on the floor in the coming days. I will update you on those bills' progress as they move along. For now, I will sign off. Here's wishing you many blessings in the week to come.

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

February 4, 2019—7:00pm

Groton Community Center

1. Public Comments -pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)

2. Roger Rix

3. Minutes

4. Bills

5. Department Reports

6. Advertise for summer employment

7. Resolution and Statement of Municipal Electric Utilities Benefits

8. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)

9. Adjournment



First Place/first row from left: Groton: Ethan Clark; Jack Dinger; Jacob Lewandowski; Ellie Weismantel & Coach Miss Berner.

Second Place/second row from Left: Roncalli: Sawyer Henrich; Tyler Berndt; Cason Hellwig; Bryce Falken. (Courtesy Photo)

Groton's MathCounts takes first at Simmons Invite

The Simmons Invitational MathCounts Competition was held on Wednesday, January 23, 2019. Students from eleven Aberdeen area schools (Britton-Hecla, Eureka, Frederick, Holgate, Milbank, Northwestern, Roncalli, Selby, Simmons, Warner, and Groton) participated in the event, which was sponsored by 3M of Aberdeen.

One of the Groton Area Middle School teams earned first place trophies. The team members were Ethan Clark, Jack Dinger, Jacob Lewandowski, and Ellie Weismantel. Roncalli placed second, followed by Simmons in third place and Warner in fourth place.

Three Groton students also received individual recognition and medals by placing in the individual/countdown portion of the competition: Ethan Clark (first place), Jack Dinger (eighth place), and Jacob Lewandowski (tenth place).

Eight Groton students will participate in the Northeastern South Dakota Chapter MathCounts Competition on Wednesday, February 6, 2019, at Northern State University in Aberdeen. The results will determine the teams and individuals who will advance to the state competition in Pierre on Saturday, March 9.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 6 of 42

Today in Weather History

February 4, 1984: A fast-moving blizzard pounded the northeast and east-central with light snow and raging winds. Snow amounts were less than 2 inches region-wide. As the storm progressed, temperatures dropped thirty degrees in three hours as winds gusted to 70 mph. Fierce winds struck quickly, plummeting visibilities to zero and made travel difficult in a matter of minutes. No travel was advised across much of the area. Hundreds of travelers became stranded in the white-out, and the highway crews were pulled off the road to wait for decreasing winds. There were also some spotty power outages.

1924: In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 20.3 inches of snow fell in a 24 hour period. This ranks as the most snowfall in a 24 hour period since 1884. This storm caused over \$1 million damage. Communication with the outside world was said at the time to be back to the days of the "Indian signal fire." Streetcar and train service crippled. Snowdrifts of 8 to 10 feet high were common along with much ice on trees and wires. Car ferries remained in port. Schools were closed, and several plate glass windows were broken.

1982: Barrow, Alaska reached 36 degrees on this date. This is their warmest temperature ever recorded in February. In fact, this is the second time they climbed above freezing in February. The only date was February 14, 2006, when the temperature reached 35 degrees.

1995: A massive nor'easter pounded areas from the southern Mid-Atlantic to northern New England. It would be the only significant storm in the 94-95 winter season. Over 20 inches of snow buried parts of upstate New York. Wind chills dropped as cold as 40 degrees below zero. Behind the storm, arctic air crossing the relatively warm waters of the Great Lakes produced intense lake effect squalls for nearly two weeks from the 4th through the 14th. Downwind of Lake Ontario, storm totals included: Oswego County: Palermo: 85 inches, Fulton: 60 inches, and Oswego: 46 inches.

2011: A winter storm settled four to six inches of snow over northern Texas, including Dallas, just days before the Super Bowl between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Green Bay Packers. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the CBS new in Dallas/Fort Worth.

1961 - The third great snowstorm of the winter season struck the northeastern U.S. Cortland NY received 40 inches of snow. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Gales lashed the northern Pacific coast and the coast of northern New England. A storm in the central U.S. produced five inches of snow at Rapid City SD. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A winter storm produced heavy snow from the Upper Ohio Valley to New England, with up to 12 inches reported in Vermont and New Hampshire. Strong northerly winds in the Upper Midwest produced wind chill readings as cold as 60 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Two dozen cities in the south central and northwestern U.S. reported new record low temperatures for the date. The low of 14 below zero at Boise ID was a February record. A winter storm continued in the southwestern U.S. Alta UT reported 49 inches of snow in four days, Wolf Creek CO reported 66 inches in six days, including 28 inches in 24 hours, and up to 84 inches buried the ski resorts of northern New Mexico in three days. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

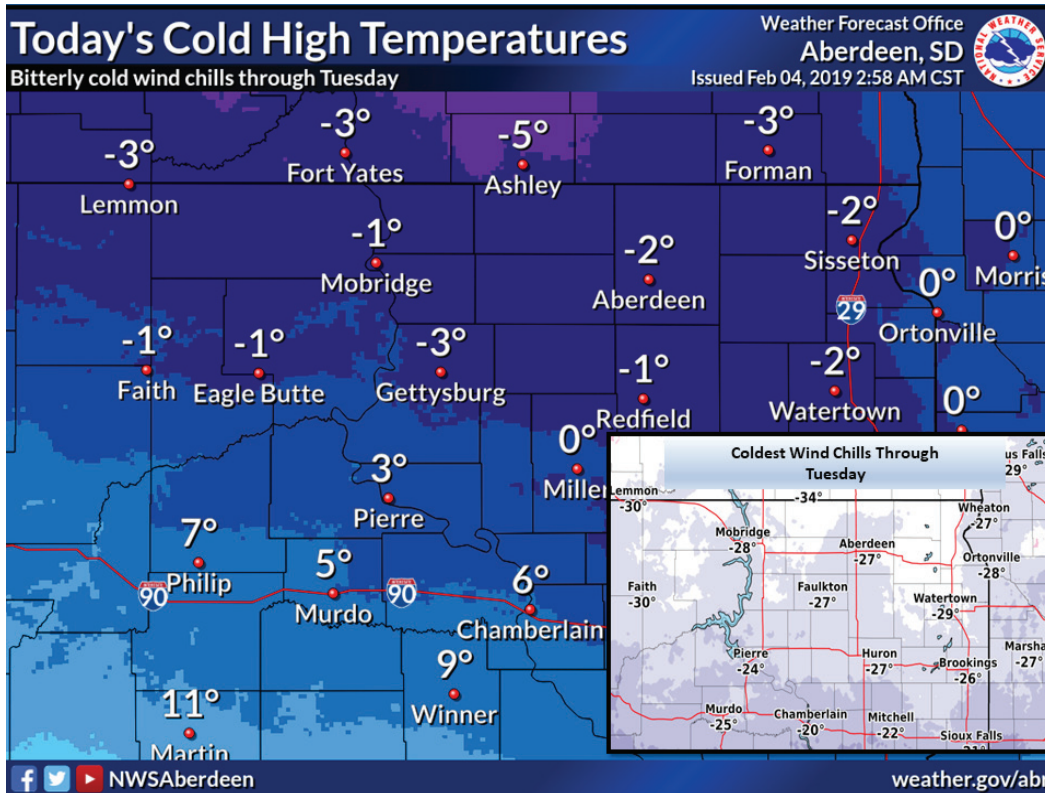
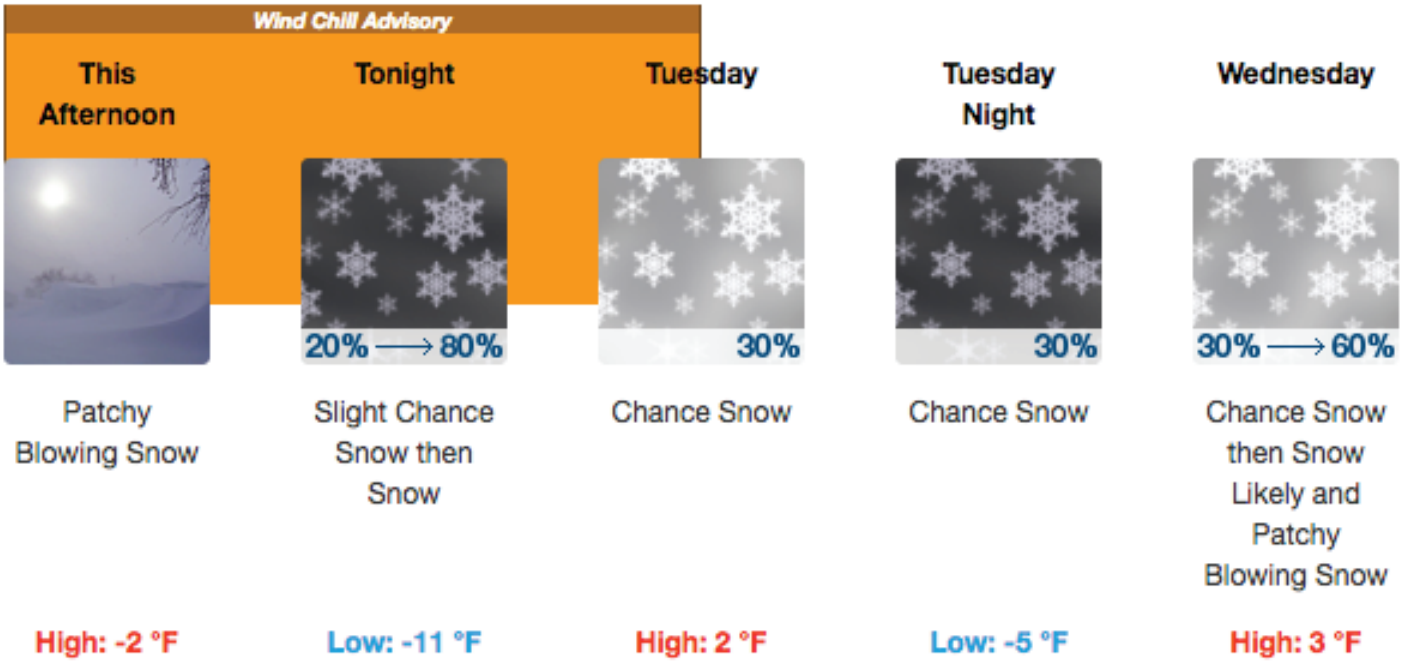
1990 - A winter storm produced heavy snow in the northeastern U.S. Snowfall totals in Maine ranged up to 13 inches at Gorham, with 11 inches reported at Portland. Totals in New Hampshire ranged up to 14 inches at Franconia, with 13 inches reported at Portsmouth. A mixture of snow, sleet and freezing rain caused numerous traffic accidents in eastern New York State resulting in three deaths and fourteen injuries. Subzero cold also gripped parts of the northeastern U.S. Caribou ME and Houlton ME reported morning lows of 15 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2004 - 7.15 inches of rain deluges Pinson, AL, setting an all-time record rainfall over 24 hours for the town. The Weather Doctor

2007 - Kahului reports a minimum temperature of 54°F, a daily low temperature record for the date. The Weather Doctor

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 7 of 42



Cold air will continue to filter south through Tuesday across the region. Wind chills will also be quite cold across the area during this time. Lastly, a weak system will bring more light snow to the Northern Plains tonight.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 8 of 42

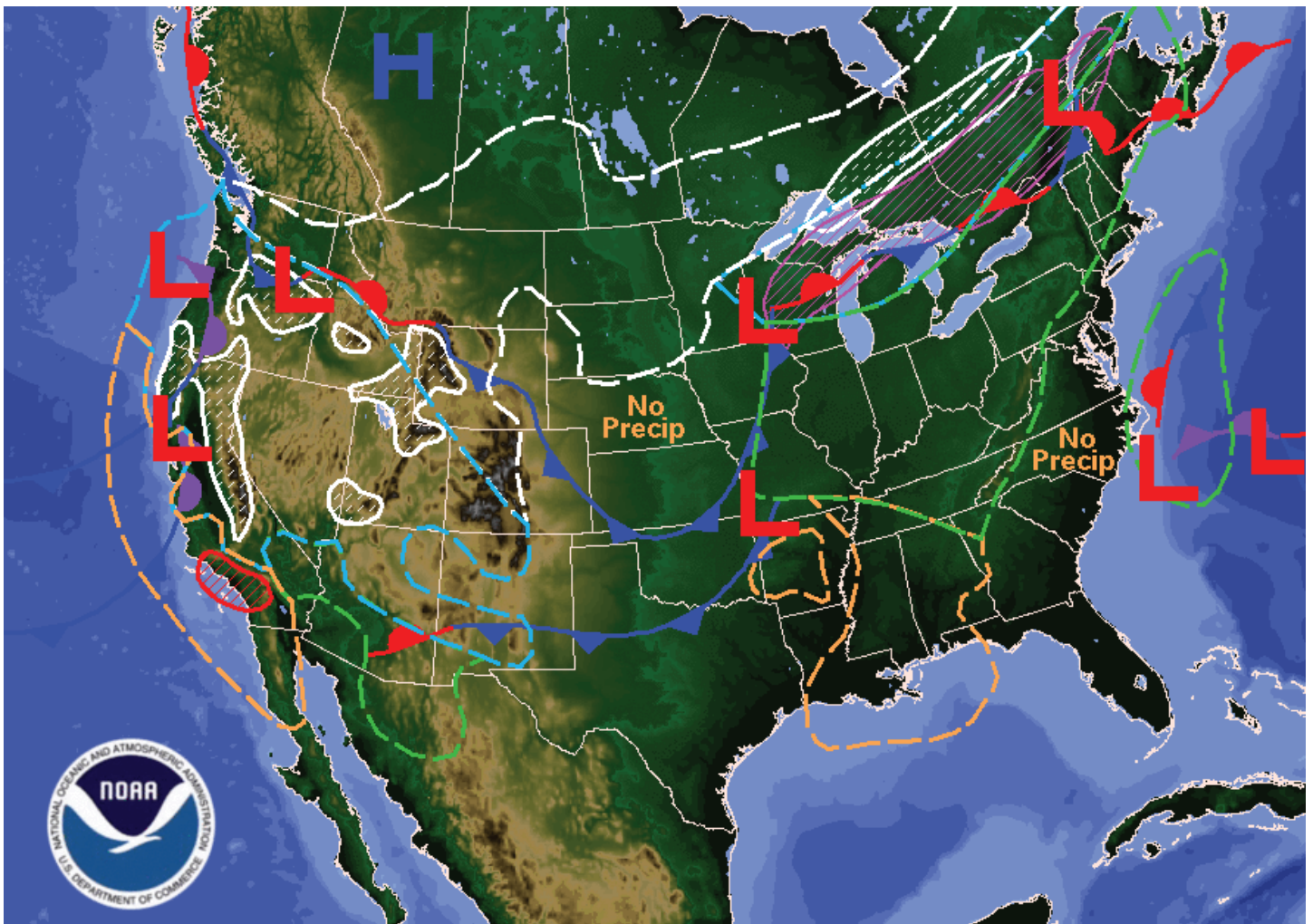
Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 14 °F at 6:24 AM
Low Outside Temp: -3 °F at 10:22 PM
High Gust: 25 mph at 7:44 AM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 55 in 2005
Record Low: -36 in 1893
Average High: 25°F
Average Low: 3°F
Average Precip in Feb.: 0.04
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.51
Precip Year to Date: 0.09
Sunset Tonight: 5:45 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:50 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Feb 04, 2019, issued 4:20 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 9 of 42



WHERE DID THE PROVERBS COME FROM?

No one has ever asked me to answer a question that had no limits. Sometimes, I have been asked questions that have encouraged me to think big or to go beyond what I have thought of in the past, or to think into the future for what could be. Those questions have been very challenging. However, no one has ever approached me and said, Ask for whatever you want me to give you, and I will! At least, no one who had the power to give me a whatever.

But that happened to Solomon. And, the one who asked him that question was not his father who he would replace as king. It was One who was much more powerful than his father, and One who, indeed, could grant Solomon the whatever he wished for. It was God Himself!

He realized and admitted to God that he was not qualified to be a king. He saw himself as a little child. So, he asked God to give Your child a discerning heart (not mind) to govern Your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of Yours? Then, the very next verse begins with, The Lord was pleased that Solomon asked for this! And, God responded: I will give you what you asked for and what you have not asked for: wealth and honor, and in your lifetime you will have no equal!

What an interesting question: Ask for whatever you want - and what a humble answer: Nothing for myself. My only desire is to have a discerning heart.

God granted his request and through him gave us His inspired, infallible, inerrant Proverbs as life guides.

Prayer: Father, in Your wisdom, You gave Your servant wisdom to offer to Your children so they could live well! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: 1 Kings 3:9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?

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

Guard's 114th Fighter Wing welcomed home

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Three-hundred-35 members of the South Dakota Air National Guard are welcomed home in Sioux Falls.

The 114th Fighter Wing's homecoming celebration Sunday in Sioux Falls had been delayed since December because of the weather. The fighter wing members were deployed to Afghanistan, Qatar and Germany.

First Sgt. Carrie Kunkel tells KSFY-TV that it's hard being away from family, but at the same time they're proud to serve their country. Kunkel has been in the Air Guard for 18 years.

The 114th Fighter Wing was away for four months.

Information from: KSFY-TV, <http://www.ksfy.com>

University of South Dakota group works on suicide prevention

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF, Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — As a University of South Dakota freshman, Erik Muckey was asked to help college students dealing with depression and suicide.

Muckey's involvement started in 2010 at the request of fellow USD freshman Dennis "D.J." Smith, who was affected by the issue.

"D.J. had lost a friend to suicide while he was in high school, and he wanted to do something to make a difference," Muckey told the Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan. "We went to different high schools — I'm from Corsica and D.J. is from Mitchell — but became friends. When he asked, I agreed to help him in founding an organization. Along with others, we started the Lost & Found Association on the USD campus."

The organization initially provided outreach and connecting students with resources. In addition, the organization raised funds to cover the cost of medication and counseling for college students.

Lost & Found also seeks to shine a light on the issue, Muckey said.

"The game has changed. More than 40,000 people die by suicide every year," he said. "Suicides are the most prevalent they have been in the last 30 to 40 years. There are more suicides, and there is also better reporting of it."

Within the larger figure, more than 100 young adults (ages 15-24) die by suicide each day in the United States. Currently, suicide is the second leading cause of death for that age group.

At first, Muckey admitted he didn't fully understand mental health needs.

"I had never had any experiences with anxiety or depression," he said.

But that situation changed during his senior year.

"For most college students, the freshman year is the hardest because you're transitioning into college and adjusting to that atmosphere. You can feel so lonely," he said. "But for me, the senior year was worst. It was much harder than my freshman year."

During his final year at USD, Muckey experienced multiple pressures. He was serving as Student Government Association president, completing his bachelor's degree and seeking to enter a highly competitive program in graduate school.

Those stressors were compounded by his driven nature.

"You ask people around me, and they'll say I'm really hard on myself. I want everything to be just right," he said.

Muckey became more task-driven, devoting less time to socializing and connecting with others. He felt overwhelmed and battled depression.

He found the help he needed from both his family and a professional. The experience provided him with additional insight into college students facing mental health issues.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 12 of 42

Young adults need to stay connected with others and find balance, he said.

"Basically, what it means is having a good life," he said. "We have our family and friends, but we also have a relationship with a higher being or something spiritual."

Through the years, Lost & Found has established chapters at USD and South Dakota State University in Brookings, serving nearly 25,000 students.

At one time, the organization had a chapter at Dakota State University in Madison, but the school's enrollment of about 3,300 students didn't work as well for the model, Muckey said.

Lost & Found focuses on campus mental health in three key areas: student engagement, campus counseling center support and resources, and training and advocacy.

However, the organization faced a pivotal moment in 2014.

The seven board members — six from USD and one from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln — were all graduating from college. In addition, Smith was entering the Peace Corps and serving in Tanzania.

At that point, Muckey decided to keep Lost & Found moving forward, or at least in existence.

"The decision was whether we were going to continue or let the chapters go their own ways," he said. "At the time, I didn't feel comfortable being vice president, so I jumped in as president and took over the board. We're an umbrella organization for both campus chapters."

After graduation, Muckey worked in Sioux Falls. In 2016, the organization achieved 501(c)3 status, bolstering its future.

Muckey became executive director of Lost & Found. He remained active with the organization after moving to the Twin Cities nearly two years ago for graduate school at the University of Minnesota. In addition, he founded and serves as managing partner of the PASQ company working with rural development.

His graduate work consists of a dual master's program. He studies rural development and policy at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. He also studies entrepreneurial management at the Carlson School of Management's MBA program.

Recently, Muckey was named a 2019 Sands Fellow at the Carlson School of Management. Through the \$5,000 fellowship, he will seek to build new partnerships and programs that will bring Lost & Found to Minnesota and strengthen its existing programs in South Dakota.

The number of students battling anxiety, depression and other mental health issues has skyrocketed in recent years, Muckey said.

"Nationwide, the number of college students seeking campus counseling centers rose 30 percent in the last five years, while the student population grew by only 5 percent. There is a great disparity there," he said.

"Campus counseling centers are nationwide saying they are seeing a tremendous increase in the usage of services. What else do we need to do?"

Why is there a soaring rise in mental health needs?

"Right here," Muckey said, holding up his smartphone. "You have to be mindful of it. A lot of students are unable to unplug. Their phone is always turned on. They're always tied into their phone. It's very easy to feel as if you're in a culture where you have to deliver constantly and move on to the next thing."

Social media has also changed the definition of "friend," Muckey said.

"It's no substitute for face-to-face communication. It can leave us more isolated from others if we rely on our Facebook friends," he said. "In many ways, social experiences are becoming more foreign to college students."

Social media can also lead to more online bullying and an obsession with an online and phone "image" or "brand."

In addition, college students feel heightened expectations and that they always need to have a plan for every aspect of their future, he said.

Muckey offers other thoughts on the rising numbers.

"My feeling is that, on college campuses, more students are seeing where to go (for help)," he said. "I think another aspect is that more people have more access to college than ever before. They are also tapping into the pool of students who are statistically more likely to have experienced depressive episodes,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 13 of 42

anxiety, ADHD or whatever.”

Taken all together, the stressors can become overwhelming, Muckey said. At the same time, a stigma still surrounds mental health issues, especially in rural areas, he added.

“I think more students are looking for help, but the stigma is as present as it ever has been,” he said. “We are slowly talking about it more and more, but I don’t know if people know how to address it.”

The time has come to see mental health as important as physical needs, he said.

“We as a society have pushed hard on seeing our primary care providers,” he said. “Let’s get a push for primary mental health care providers.”

Lost & Found focuses on campus mental health in three key areas: student engagement, campus counseling center support and resources, and training and advocacy.

“Our mission is to build resilient people and communities with compassion, inclusion and understanding,” Muckey said.

The organization brings together student leaders, counseling centers, and campus and community partners. They conduct research and develop effective local solutions for improving mental health and, ultimately, preventing suicide.

Student chapters consist of members who complete leadership development, active listening and storytelling, and crisis intervention training to reach their at-risk peers.

Besides the general student population, Lost & Found wants to reach out to marginalized groups that may feel unique pressures or not know where to turn for help, Muckey said.

Lost & Found has received strong support from the LGBT community, he said. Other groups could include students of color and students who are the first in their family to attend college, he added.

Lost & Found wants to help find a variety of short- and long-term solution, Muckey said.

On the one hand, helpline centers will remain the first line of responding to crisis situations, he said. Lost & Found doesn’t offer outpatient services but is working to create an information bank of available resources.

In addition, Lost & Found is also working with Lumen Therapy of Sioux City on alternatives such as yoga and meditation.

“There are untapped mental health options. We need to be more creative when we think of mental health services,” he said. “We’re taking more of a strength-based approach, which we believe is a much better approach.”

When it comes to reaching out to those with needs, the best resource may be family and friends, Muckey said.

“It’s great to ask, ‘Are you OK?’ The concept is in the right move. At the end of the day, if you’re dealing with depression, you generally tend to feel isolated and not as likely to reach out. You may think ... ‘I don’t want to unload my burdens on others,’” he said. “What you want to say is: ‘I sense something wrong. You don’t seem quite yourself, are you OK?’ The best advocates for someone struggling with depression are the ones closest in their lives.”

Muckey believes that mental health issues, including suicidal thoughts, can be positively addressed.

“I think what gives me hope is that people see this as an issue that needs to be addressed. It doesn’t have to be done in a way or talked about in a way that’s a downer,” he said. “There is a lot of strength in trying to save lives and trying to help people learn how to live. That’s the most rewarding part of all this.”

Muckey turns to his own bout with depression as an example.

“I can feel good that I have benefited from very close friends and mentors who have helped me go through my own journey,” he said. “A little bit of self-discovery can help us find something bigger than all of us. In the process, we have helped people who were lost and have now found their way.”

South Dakota brewery plans for the future

By JEREMY FUGLEBERG, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Fernson Brewing Co. may be the largest brewer in Sioux Falls, distributing their locally made beer all over the city and to five states, but don't mistake it as a beer behemoth set on world conquest.

The heart of Fernson's plans for the future skew close to home.

The company recently announced it is buying Bros Brasserie Americano in the heart of downtown. And Fernson isn't planning to add more states to its distribution list, focusing instead on making new and better beer, diving into new collaborations, and taking on more opportunities to pour itself into Sioux Falls.

The Bros purchase should serve as a clear sign: Fernson, already an institution in the local beer scene, is here to stay.

"We're doing this to be more of a part of Sioux Falls," CEO Joel Thompson told the Argus Leader. "We get excited about working with people. It's why (collaboration) projects — like Zoo Brew and Wedge with Sanford International — things like that are the things that get our team most excited because it shows, hey, we're not just a beer factory. We can partake in things of this community and do things that make it cooler, better, more exciting, do things that are different."

Fernson is still a small business. And it's a young one, on the verge of its fourth birthday in February. Run by two brothers, Thompson and his older brother Blake, and close friend Derek Fernholz, the company has 20 employees.

When Blake Thompson and Derek Fernholz launched Fernson in 2015, they saw an opportunity. The craft beer revolution was still young, especially in South Dakota, where mass-produced light beers such as Bud Light have reigned supreme for decades.

When Fernson opened for business there were only a few thousand breweries nationwide, Joel Thompson said. Now there are 7,000 with 2,000-3,000 more planned.

"It's an interesting time in beer," Thompson said, before admitting moments later: "It's nuts."

Fernson wasn't the first new-era craft brewer in Sioux Falls (that honor goes to Monks House of Ale Repute and Gandy Dancer Brew Works). Nor was it the last. But it has grown to be the biggest, even as it has been joined by a growing number of brewers and brewpubs such as Hydra Beer Co., WoodGrain Brewing Co. and Remedy Brewing Co.

The beer-making scene in Sioux Falls remains a small one. The brewers know each other and each other's products well, and frequently collaborate. Thompson said Fernson, which currently has a taproom at its north Sioux Falls brewery and the Fernson on 8th taproom on the eastern edge of downtown, doesn't even see brewpubs such as WoodGrain and Remedy as competition.

"It's just a totally different business," he said. "They're trying to do something different, and what they're doing is really cool. We get to compete with the Anheuser-Buschs of the world, and around here it's tricky."

Fernson brewed 5,000 barrels of beer in 2018, a pittance by even larger craft brewer standards. And its beer is distributed across a comparatively huge region — South Dakota and four other states: Nebraska, North Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. The regional distribution puts Fernson squarely in competition with both big international beer giants and other local small craft brewers.

"The perception from the outside is we're doing so good, we're dominating," Thompson said. "But it's a tough small business to run with a ton of competition. We are really small ... It's tricky, less people, more space between, and you've got to figure it out. We're still learning."

Some local brewers in other states have succeeded by staying hyper-local, staying within their state borders, and there may be a lesson there, Thompson indicated. He said he's open to the idea of offering Fernson beer through various retailers through family connections in the wine business, and doing occasional drops of beer into bigger cities thirsty for new brews. But Fernson likely won't continue to expand its regular distribution.

"I have a hard time thinking anytime in the next five years we'll be outside of the five states we're in right now," he said

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 15 of 42

All local brewers were and are faced with the same problem — or at least the same hurdle. Bud Light still is the No. 1 South Dakota beer, and it and other variants of easy drinking light lager (like Miller Lite, Coors Light and Busch Light) still define “beer” for most South Dakota palates.

“We get a lot of people who have never drunk anything but Busch Light, and we take it upon ourselves to introduce them to other beer,” Thompson said.

It was an early lesson for the Fernson founders. Blake Thompson and Fernholz started out with two other beer varieties, ones less common to South Dakota taste buds: A hopped up double-IPA and a petite saison. Both would become Fernson mainstay brews and tasty for fans, but prove somewhat adventurous for local beer drinkers.

“It’s not anywhere close to what people are used to drinking, so we came out with Lion’s Paw,” Thompson said.

Lion’s Paw is Fernson’s No. 1 product. They built a lager smooth, reminiscent of those big-name lagers without falling flat on the complexity scale. Thompson, standing in the production room of the brewery nods toward the row of steel brewing tanks rising from the concrete floor.

“That’s the reason have most of these tanks — (Lion’s Paw) resonated with people,” he said.

Now, Lion’s Paw makes up about 60-70 percent of Fernson’s production. Fernson expanded past the initial beers, the Shy Giant IPA, Farmhouse Ale and Lion’s Paw, and added other regular favorites Wagonplane Porter and Curio sour ale.

Fernson’s future will include a new lineup.

“If one beer is 65-70 percent of your sales, why not take a chance and throw a different one in there, substitute one?” Thompson said.

With family in the wine business, there’s a future plan for a stack of wine and bourbon barrels in the corner of the brewery, some now housing imperial Russian ales and sour ale stocks. But Thompson said that, and plans for other future products, are still up in the air.

“At the moment this is a fun curiosity at best,” he said. “At some point we’re going to sit down and plan it out, and have a clear objective.”

So, the real action is just inside the brewery’s door from the taproom, its new pilot brewing system.

Fernson got a loan financed through the Governor’s Office of Economic Development last year, allowing it to buy new equipment to boost beer quality, as well as buy a five-barrel pilot brewing system, allowing the brewers to make small test batches of multiple brews.

The new system is revolutionizing Fernson’s work on new beer. When the Sioux Falls Business Journal visited the brewery, it had three brews on the pilot system: a sour IPA, a hazy IPA, and another sour — “a take on cherry pie,” according to Thompson.

“Since we’ve had this five-barrel system, we’ve got the ability to scale and test recipes and do some testing in our taprooms, where we get feedback and understand what people want and what people like,” he said. “I would guess that in the next 12 months our core lineup will look different than it does right now for that reason.”

Fernson will use its relocated taproom in the former Bros space on Phillips Avenue downtown, as well as its current taproom at the brewery on Robur Drive, to roll out its micro-brews as taproom exclusives.

So while Fernson may not be looking at spreading its brews far and wide, it’s not done growing, and especially, trying new things.

“We’ve got people and we’ve got this big manufacturing facility. We’re feeling like we’re doing injustice as a business to not continue to explore ways to utilize what we have,” he said. “At the moment, beer capacity is not at 100 percent, so we have the ability to just explore a little bit.”

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 16 of 42

Daum moves up NCAA scoring list, sets SDSU's rebound record

DENVER (AP) — Mike Daum scored 28 points to move past Larry Bird in the Division I record books and grabbed 12 rebounds to break South Dakota State's career program record, helping the Jackrabbits beat Denver 92-82 on Sunday.

Daum reached 20 points for the 74th time in his career and tied the program rebounding record, set by Mark Tetzlaff, with his 11th of the game, breaking it on a putback with 2:15 left for a 19-point lead.

Bird sat in 14th place when the season began with 2,850, but has been passed twice the season. Campbell guard Chris Clemons leads the nation in scoring this season and has 2,875 career points after his second straight 39-point game on Saturday. Daum has 2,854 points.

Skyler Flatten scored a career-high 36 points, on 14-of-18 shooting, with eight 3-pointers for South Dakota State (19-6, 9-1 Summit League). The Jackrabbits shot 56 percent from the field, including 14 of 29 from 3-point range.

Daum had 13 points and eight rebounds in the first half, Flatten added 15 points and SDSU led 42-31 at the break after making 5 of 12 3-pointers.

David Nzekwesi scored 21 points and Jase Townsend added 17 — each career highs — for Denver (7-16, 2-7). Ade Murkey scored all 10 of his points in the first half.

Lawmakers to debate sports betting, distracted driving plans

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers plan to take up bills this week to create a reporter shield law, allow sports betting in Deadwood and ban teaching about gender identity in elementary and middle schools.

Here's a glance at what's on the agenda when the Legislature returns to Pierre on Tuesday:

EDUCATION

Bills seeking to promote "intellectual diversity" at state universities, require high school students to pass a civics test to graduate and prohibit public school instruction about gender identity or expression through seventh grade are set to be debated Wednesday in the House Education Committee.

The wide-ranging intellectual diversity bill would designate outdoor university areas as public forums, prohibit officials from discriminating against student organizations based on their expression and direct the Board of Regents to set policy requiring state universities to maintain a commitment to free expression.

The proposal would require reporting to the governor, regents and legislators. It would also mandate requirements for students graduating after Jan. 1, 2020, including U.S. history and government courses and scoring at least 85 percent on the U.S. citizenship test.

Gov. Kristi Noem's education bill calls for high school students to score at least 70 percent on a civics test to get a diploma. The exam would include at least 50 questions from the U.S. citizenship test.

The proposal to block teaching about gender identity mirrors a measure that was shelved last year.

REPORTER SHIELD LAW

The House Judiciary Committee plans to debate a bill Wednesday that would give protections to journalists who refuse to disclose information or sources. Noem called for a reporter shield law in her State of the State address.

Noem has said it's important that investigative journalists can work without fear of having to reveal their sources or getting pulled in front of a court to testify. The bill would block courts, the Legislature and other public bodies in South Dakota from holding in contempt journalists who assert the privilege.

SPORTS BETTING

A proposal asking voters to legalize sports betting in Deadwood is set to have a hearing Wednesday in the Senate State Affairs Committee. The push comes after the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way last

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 17 of 42

year for all states to offer legal sports betting.

The proposed constitutional amendment would allow the Legislature to authorize wagering in Deadwood and at tribal casinos. If sports betting gets voters' blessing in 2020, it could be available by July 2021.

Supporters say it would help keep historic Deadwood competitive as a gambling destination. House Majority Leader Lee Qualm said he opposes the plan because people can become addicted to gambling. He said it ends up destroying families and costing far more than the state gets in revenue.

DISTRACTED DRIVING

People would be mostly barred from using mobile devices while driving under a bill scheduled for debate Tuesday in the House Transportation Committee. Texting, browsing Facebook and sending an email while on the road would be a misdemeanor. Using a navigation app, making a telephone call or operating in hands-free mode and using a device during an emergency would be allowed.

Under current law, drivers can't text or email when operating a vehicle, but they have to be pulled over for a different violation for it to be enforced. The new bill would increase the penalty and make it a primary offense, which means motorists buried in their phones could be stopped for it.

Republican Rep. Doug Barthel, the sponsor, said he brought the measure for the safety of people on the road. The measure would serve as a good deterrent, he said.

"What's in the books right now, it's good in spirit, but the reality is, it's very difficult to enforce and most people know that," said Barthel, a former Sioux Falls police chief.

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

Senate Democratic leader Troy Heinert is set to present a bill to recognize South Dakota's American Indian heritage by making the state's official indigenous languages Lakota, Dakota and Nakota.

The Senate State Affairs Committee will debate the measure Friday. Heinert, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, said it's important that South Dakota recognizes "part of our unique history." He said it's a way to acknowledge the importance of indigenous languages.

DRIVER'S LICENSES

A bill that would allow people to take a driving test in Spanish is set to get its first legislative hearing. Right now, it's only available in English under a state law dictating that English is the language of any official public document.

The Senate Transportation Committee on Wednesday is scheduled to debate the measure that would direct the state to offer driver's license and permit applications, test materials and exams in Spanish. It would take effect in 2021.

Democratic Sen. Reynold Nesiba, the sponsor, said it's been a workforce development issue, particularly in Sioux Falls. House Speaker Pro Tempore Spencer Gosch said it's premature to have reached a conclusion about the bill, but said he planned to question whether officials would also change road signs to be repeated in Spanish.

Nesiba said road signs are "pretty universal around the world."

Couple settles with Humane Society over seizure of 11 dogs

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Humane Society of the Black Hills has reached a settlement with a former Rapid City couple who accused the group of unlawfully seizing their 11 dogs.

The shelter took Dana and Shelly Sorenson's dogs on Nov. 21, 2018, after the couple reported that one of their pets had bitten a French bulldog, the Rapid City Journal reported. The couple accused the Humane Society of taking all 11 dogs rather than just the one suspected in the attack.

"They still maintain the Humane Society should not have seized their canines and saw this as a way to resolve it without" accumulating more fees, Robert Pasqualucci, the Sorensons' lawyer, said.

The Humane Society agreed to cover the \$5,000 in boarding costs as part of the settlement reached in

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 18 of 42

late December 2018, according to Pasqualucci and Ryan Sutton, the lawyer who represented the Humane Society.

Neither side admitted wrongdoing.

We settled "just for a quick resolution of the case. Neither side really necessarily wanted to take it to trial," Sutton said.

The Sorensons initially wanted the shelter to cover all costs, nearly \$8,400 as of Dec. 4. The costs included testing, treating and boarding their pets. But Sutton contended at a December court hearing that the Sorensons must pay that fee if they want their dogs back.

None of the dogs was found to be dangerous, he said.

Sutton also argued in court that Shelly Sorenson consented to the search and seizure, but even if she hadn't, a warrant wasn't necessary to take all 11 animals due to the immediacy and seriousness of the situation.

Pasqualucci said his clients moved out of the Rapid City area after the settlement was reached.

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

Blackface scandal spotlights deeply embedded racism in US

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, AP National Writer

When Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam refused to resign last week, he did so in the shadow of a Capitol built by a founding father and a slave owner, in the former seat of the Confederacy still wrestling with what to do about statues that honor those who fought to preserve slavery.

The 35-year-old photo on his yearbook page of a person in blackface and another person in a Ku Klux Klan robe has brought about a stunning reversal of fortune in Northam's political career and laid bare for the nation just how deeply racist behavior remains interwoven in American culture, institutions and politics. In rejecting calls to step down, the 59-year-old white son of Virginia came across to many African-Americans as displaying a sense of white privilege.

"What we have learned over the last 24 hours along with all the incidents of the last two years brings front and center the need for this nation to deal with the question of race once and for all," NAACP President Derrick Johnson said in an interview Saturday. "Because we have (President Donald) Trump in the White House, who has created a political landscape of intolerance and racial hatred, this has exposed a wound that has been festering for a while now."

The incident came on the first day of Black History Month and as Virginians prepare to mark the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans to the settlement of Jamestown.

"I think a lot of black folks are tired of apologies and talking," said Wes Bellamy, a councilman in Charlottesville, Virginia, who has worked for the removal of Confederate statues in the city. "This is another ugly stain on our state's history. We are going to have to commit ourselves to making this right — not just with our words, but with our resources."

Should Northam, a Democrat, ultimately step down, Lt. Gov Justin Fairfax would become the second black governor in the South since Reconstruction. Last month, Fairfax, the only black official currently elected statewide, sat down in protest as the Virginia Senate recognized Lee-Jackson Day, which honors Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson.

Virginia is still healing from the racial wounds inflicted in August 2017, when white supremacists marched on Charlottesville to protest the removal of a statue of Lee. Many of the mostly white men who converged on the city chanting racist slogans and burning torches were about the same age that Northam would've been as a student at Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Northam's age belies the assumption that their actions reflected the tenor and tone of the era. In 1984 when the photograph was included in Northam's yearbook page, civil rights activist Jesse Jackson was running for president. Pioneering black entertainer Bill Cosby was the star of one of America's most popular television shows. African-Americans were climbing the nation's social, professional, political and economic

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 19 of 42

ladders at unprecedented speed.

In his initial apology, Northam said that the photo does not represent who he is now. A day later, he denied being in the photograph at all, while admitting to wearing blackface to imitate Michael Jackson at a dance contest.

The incident is the third in recent weeks: Last month, Florida's secretary of state resigned after photos from a 2005 Halloween party showed him in blackface dressed as a Hurricane Katrina victim. Also last month, videos surfaced of people in blackface at the University of Oklahoma, including a man walking near campus. Two students withdrew from the university and apologized.

Such incidents are not only hurtful; they can be harmful when they happen at institutions of higher learning and are perpetrated by people who go on to impact the lives of people of color as decision-makers — from politicians to doctors. A recent University of Virginia study showed that black Americans are systematically undertreated for pain relative to white patients, and that white laypeople and medical students and residents hold false beliefs about the biological differences between the races — beliefs that can affect the perception and treatment of black patients.

The trust Northam, a pediatric neurologist, established with his patients was not unlike the faith he sought from voters. In running for governor, many people — including the 87 percent of black voters who supported him — saw Northam as a candidate who belongs to a party associated with justice and equality, who ran against an opponent tied to a president who has been accused of racism.

Their vote for Northam was, in part, a rejection of those views and beliefs. The governor's defiance amid the roar for him to step aside among even his Democratic colleagues, black and white, casts doubt on Northam's ability to represent these voters going forward, said NAACP President Johnson.

"If we cannot recognize African-Americans are full citizens entitled to humane treatment by our public policy makers, how can we expect public policy to meet the needs and interests of those communities being portrayed as less than human?" Johnson asked.

It also raises a critical question: In politics, should sincerity and repentance for a racist past matter more than the hurt feelings of Americans who live on the receiving end of racism?

Northam's lieutenant governor doesn't think so.

"I have worked closely with Ralph Northam over many years. He has been a friend to me and has treated my family and me with hospitality and respect," Fairfax wrote in a statement Saturday, noting that he is a descendant of people enslaved in Virginia. "While his career has been marked by service to children, soldiers and constituents, I cannot condone the actions from his past that, at the very least, suggest a comfort with Virginia's darker history of white supremacy, racial stereotyping, and intimidation."

Fairfax has not called for Northam's resignation, but by Sunday, he was one of the few Democrats who had spoken publicly and not called for him to step down.

Northam "doesn't want to go down on something he doesn't think he did," said Anthea Butler, a University of Pennsylvania religion professor who has written about politics. "I don't know how he thinks he can show up in the black community. He's hobbling what he can do for his African-American constituents, and we're asked to do the labor of forgiveness and healing. We're over it. Why should he be allowed to stay?"

His stance illustrates how many Americans have come to view racism since the end of legally-enforced segregation, defined by only the most egregious, blatant examples like using the N-word or the Ku Klux Klan.

"That's the boundary. Everything else is not," said Carol Anderson, Emory University African American studies professor and author of 'White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide.'

"Unless you're burning a cross, you're not racist," Anderson said. "But racism since the Civil Rights Movement is deceptively structural."

Whack is The Associated Press' national writer on race and ethnicity. Follow her work on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/emarvelous>.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 20 of 42

UAE gives pope pomp-filled welcome ceremony at visit's start

By NICOLE WINFIELD and JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Pope Francis received a grandiose, pomp-filled welcome on Monday as he opened his historic visit to the Arabian Peninsula by meeting with Emirati rulers ahead of an address to faith leaders gathered in a Muslim region known for its restrictions on religious freedom.

Francis arrived at the Abu Dhabi presidential palace in a tiny Kia hatchback, but was greeted with an artillery salute and military flyover by a country now at war.

Even for a nation known for its excesses, the Emiratis' red-carpet welcome was remarkable for a pope who prides himself on simplicity. It featured horse-mounted guards escorting the pontiff's motorcade through the palace gardens while the flyover trailed the yellow and white smoke of the Holy See flag.

As cannons boomed and a military band played, Francis stood somberly between Abu Dhabi's powerful crown prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and the Emirati vice president and prime minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, during the presentation of delegations in the courtyard of the domed palace.

In a message to the prince, written in the palace book of honor, Francis thanked him for his hospitality and assured the people of the UAE of his prayers and "the divine blessings of peace and fraternal solidarity." Francis gave the crown prince a medal depicting his peace-loving namesake, St. Francis of Assisi, meeting the Egyptian sultan Malek el-Kamel 800 years ago.

Sheikh Mohammed, for his part, gave Francis a framed notarized decree from June 22, 1963, in which the then-ruler of Abu Dhabi donated the land for the construction of the first Catholic church in the Emirates.

"We discussed enhancing cooperation, consolidating dialogue, tolerance, human coexistence & important initiatives to achieve peace, stability and development for peoples and societies," Sheikh Mohammed tweeted.

Francis' speech to the gathering of faith leaders on Monday evening is to be the highlight of his brief, 40-hour visit to Abu Dhabi, the first to the Arabian Peninsula by a pope. His trip culminates on Tuesday with a huge papal Mass at the city's sports stadium expected to draw some 135,000 faithful in a never-before-seen display of public Christian worship here.

As Francis began his trip, human rights groups who are banned from the UAE urged him to use his visit to press for accountability by the Emirati leadership for atrocities in the war in Yemen and its repression of dissent at home.

"Despite its assertions about tolerance, the UAE government has demonstrated no real interest in improving its human rights record," Human Rights Watch said in a letter to Francis.

It was a reference to the UAE's often-stated claims of religious tolerance — it has a minister for tolerance, is hosting the interfaith meeting Francis is attending and has declared 2019 its "Year of Tolerance." That respect for non-Muslim forms of worship, however, runs up against the political reality of media censorship, repression of political dissent and limits placed on religious freedom.

Francis had actually made an urgent appeal for an end to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen just before he left the Vatican, calling Sunday for observation of a limited cease-fire so that food and medicine can get to its people, who are suffering the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The UAE has been Saudi Arabia's main ally in the war in Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition is fighting the country's Houthi rebels. Francis' pre-trip appeal was a way for him to avoid embarrassing his hosts with a public denunciation of the humanitarian costs of the war while in the region.

In another sign that regional politics was playing a not-insignificant role in Francis' visit, the papal plane flew north of Qatar and around the peninsular, energy-rich nation on his flight Sunday.

Four Arab nations — Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — have been boycotting Qatar since June 2017 as part of a regional political dispute. Tensions are still high between the nations, especially after Qatar's win at the Emirates-hosted Asian Cup soccer tournament this past week.

By avoiding Qatari airspace, Francis omitted sending a telegram of greetings to the country's ruler, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, as he would do when flying through the airspace of countries. He sent one when passing by the island nation of Bahrain.

Sheikh Tamim traveled Monday to Kuwait, which has been mediating the crisis.

Gambrell contributed from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Throwback night: Pats wins Super Bowl the old-fashioned way

By EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Graying but still gritty, Tom Brady, Bill Belichick and the Patriots came to the Super Bowl intending to stave off, for at least one more game, the inevitable onslaught of the NFL's future.

Job well done.

Pro football never looked flatter, older and more stuck in the days of the VCR than it did Sunday.

In a Super Bowl only New England could love, the Patriots won their sixth title by lumbering their way to a 13-3 victory over the Los Angeles Rams — that young, brash, high-flying team with the 33-year-old coach and the 24-year-old quarterback who were, we thought, changing football before our very eyes.

If only we could've kept them open.

Among the Super Bowl records set: Fewest points by both teams (16); fewest points by the winning team (13); fewest combined points through three quarters (6); most consecutive drives ending with a punt (8 by the Rams); longest punt (65 yards).

The halftime show with Maroon 5 offered no relief — roundly ripped, including by an Associated Press reviewer who called it "Empty. Boring. Basic. Sleepy."

He could have said the same about the game. But give credit where it's due.

The defense designed by Belichick turned Rams quarterback Jared Goff into a jittery mess. He completed 19 of 38 passes for 229 yards, with an assortment of rushed throws, misread coverages and, in the tiny windows in which LA showed any sign of life, a pair of terrible passes.

One, trailing 3-0 in the third quarter, was late and high to wide-open Brandin Cooks in the end zone; the other, trailing 10-3 with 4:17 left in the fourth quarter, was high under pressure for an easy interception by Patriots cornerback Stephon Gilmore that essentially ended the game.

"I know I definitely have a lot to learn from this one," said Rams coach Sean McVay, who, at 33, is exactly half the age of Belichick.

McVay has been the flavor of the month in the copycat NFL. Other teams have hired away three of his assistant coaches over the last two years, as the rest of the league tries to catch up with his newfangled offense that cracked 30 points in 13 games this season.

On Sunday, it managed one 53-yard field goal from Greg Zuerlein and didn't take a snap inside the New England 20.

Gilmore's interception came minutes after Brady engineered the game's lone touchdown drive.

It was five plays and included four straight completions: 18 yards to Rob Gronkowski, 13 yards to Julian Edelman, seven yards to backup running back Rex Burkhead, then a 29-yard teardrop placed perfectly into the arms of Gronkowski, who was double-covered. Sony Michel ran it in from 2 yards for the touchdown with 7 minutes left.

"We couldn't get points on the board for one reason or another," Brady said, "but in the end, it feels a lot better than last year, when we did get some points on the board."

Last year, the Patriots fell 41-33 to Philly in a back-and-forth thriller that essentially featured one good defensive play: a sack and strip on Brady by Eagles defensive end Brandon Graham with the clock running down.

The year before, the Patriots scored 31 points in the second half and overtime for a riveting 34-28 comeback win over Atlanta and title No. 5.

Then, this.

New England's road to a sixth Lombardi Trophy — tied with Pittsburgh for the most — was never easy this season. The Patriots lost five times, didn't have home-field advantage through the playoffs and, after every loss, were beset by questions over whether the 41-year-old Brady and his 66-year-old coach might

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 22 of 42

be winding down.

Through it all, though, they could score. New England averaged 27.2 points a game. And in the run through the playoffs, the offense scored 10 touchdowns and Brady barely got touched, and never got sacked.

They were not clicking like that Sunday at the \$1.5 billion Mercedes-Benz Stadium, where 70,081 fans — most of them cheering for New England — watched the game.

Other than Edelman, whose 10 catches for 141 yards won him MVP honors and made him look like a combination of Michael Irvin and Jerry Rice considering everything happening around him, the Patriots were out of sync.

Brady's first pass got intercepted. He went 21 for 35 for 262 yards and a passer rating of 71.4 — more than 26 points lower than he averaged this season.

New England outgained Los Angeles 195-57 in the first half, but settled for two field goal attempts — one miss and one make — for a 3-0 lead at the break.

It was 3-3 heading into the fourth quarter — the fewest points through the first 45 minutes of any playoff game since a 1980 barnburner between the Bucs and Rams that LA won 9-0.

Maybe the biggest irony of all: The New England dynasty's five previous Super Bowl victories came by 3, 3, 3, 4 and 6. Two were decided on the last play. The other three came down to the final minutes.

Compared to that, this was a veritable runaway.

On a day when New England held LA running back Todd Gurley to 35 yards, when LA couldn't muster a drive longer than five plays for nearly three quarters, and when LA's Johnny Hekker (eight punts, 46.3 yard average) was his team's most effective player, a 10-point lead at the end felt like a million.

"It's a beautiful thing, man," said New England cornerback Jason McCourty.

And a game only the Patriots could love.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/tag/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

Some lofty goals from 2018 State of Union speech still unmet

By KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump whiffed on some lofty goals that he laid out in last year's State of the Union address, most notably his call for an overhaul of immigration laws and a "great wall on our southern border" but also on his pitches for a big infrastructure boost and bringing unity to Washington. He scored victories on legislation dealing with prison and sentencing overhauls, and in giving terminally ill patients more treatment options. His promise of new trade deals is a work in progress.

Some issues Trump highlighted in his speech from Jan. 30, 2018, and how things worked out.

IMMIGRATION OVERHAUL

TRUMP: "For over 30 years, Washington has tried and failed to solve this problem. This Congress can be the one that finally makes it happen."

WHAT HAPPENED: The Senate took up four immigration-related bills just a few weeks after Trump's State of the Union address in January 2018, and all four failed.

Senators soundly rejected the proposal Trump favored. Besides helping Dreamers achieve citizenship, the president's measure would have provided wall funding in one burst, rather than doling it out over 10 years as the bipartisan plan proposed. In addition, Trump's bill would have prevented legal immigrants from sponsoring parents and siblings for citizenship and would have ended a visa lottery aimed at allowing more diverse immigrants into the U.S.

The White House lobbied to defeat the primary alternative — a compromise bill that would have offered a path to citizenship for young immigrants in the country illegally who were brought here as children and \$25 billion for a border security trust fund doled out over 10 years.

Months later, the Republican-led House resoundingly rejected a far-ranging immigration bill, with nearly half of Republicans opposing the measure. The depth of GOP opposition was an embarrassing showing

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 23 of 42

for Trump and a rebuff of House leaders. More recently, with Democrats now in control of the House, the government experienced its longest shutdown ever over the president's refusal to sign spending measures that did not include money for the border wall. Congressional talks on border security continue, with the threat of another shutdown on Feb. 15 if there's no deal.

CHANGING THE TONE

TRUMP: "Tonight, I call upon all of us to set aside our differences, to seek out common ground, and to summon the unity we need to deliver for the people we were elected to serve."

WHAT HAPPENED: The 35-day shutdown is Exhibit A that unity remains elusive. Exhibit B is the vitriol in the president's Twitter feed. Critics' comments about Trump can be brutal as well. Freshman Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., told supporters after her swearing in that lawmakers will work to impeach Trump, using a vulgarity to describe the president.

TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS

TRUMP: "People who are terminally ill should not have to go from country to country to seek a cure — I want to give them a chance right here at home. It is time for the Congress to give these wonderful Americans the 'right to try.'"

WHAT HAPPENED: Congress passed such legislation and Trump signed it into law in May. The bill helps people suffering from deadly diseases access experimental treatments. Supporters said it would give patients "a beacon of hope." Opponents, including patients' groups and Democrats, said it peddled false hope and ineffective drugs to desperate patients.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

TRUMP: "One of my greatest priorities is to reduce the price of prescription drugs. In many other countries, these drugs cost far less than what we pay in the United States. That is why I have directed my administration to make fixing the injustice of high drug prices one of our top priorities. Prices will come down."

WHAT HAPPENED: The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that prices for a basket of brand-name and generic drugs that it tracks fell 0.6 percent last year. Still, an Associated Press analysis solely of brand-name drugs during the first seven months of 2018 found 96 price increases for every price cut. Lawmakers from both parties have announced that tackling high prescription drugs costs is a priority for the new Congress.

NEGOTIATING NEW TRADE DEALS

TRUMP: "We will work to fix bad trade deals and negotiate new ones."

WHAT HAPPENED: The administration renegotiated a revised North America trade pact that scored wins for autoworkers and dairy farmers, but the deal needs approval from Congress. Trump got South Korea to agree to a rewrite of a 2012 trade deal in which Seoul submitted to quotas on its steel and aluminum exports to the United States and modestly opened South Korea's auto market to U.S. automakers. Trump's effort to reset trade with China has resulted in both nations increasing the tariffs that importers pay, which companies must absorb or pass on to consumers through higher prices. Negotiations continue, with the U.S. set to raise tariffs on an additional \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports in March if a deal is not reached.

INFRASTRUCTURE

TRUMP: "Tonight, I am calling on the Congress to produce a bill that generates at least \$1.5 trillion for the new infrastructure investment we need."

WHAT HAPPENED: Despite lawmakers from both parties saying they wanted to invest in the nation's roads and bridges, no proposal gained traction. The sticking point is how to pay for it, and there simply wasn't the political will to make it happen.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 24 of 42

TRUMP: "As America regains its strength, this opportunity must be extended to all citizens. That is why this year we will embark on reforming our prisons to help former inmates who have served their time get a second chance."

WHAT HAPPENED: Trump helped to push a prison and sentencing overhaul over the finish line in December when he came out strongly for the compromise that Republican and Democratic senators had worked out. The law gives judges more discretion when sentencing some drug offenders and will boost prisoner rehabilitation programs, among other efforts.

GUANTANAMO

TRUMP: "I am asking Congress to ensure that in the fight against ISIS and al-Qaida we continue to have all necessary power to detain terrorists wherever we chase them down, wherever we find them. And in many cases, for them it will now be Guantanamo Bay."

WHAT HAPPENED: The president has kept open the detention center on the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, but no new prisoners have been brought there under Trump. The administration allowed the release of one prisoner, a Saudi who was sent back to his homeland to serve out the remainder of his prison sentence as part of a plea agreement with U.S. military prosecutors. The U.S. now holds 40 prisoners at Guantanamo.

Virginia gov. resists resignation call over blackface photo

By ALAN SUDERMAN, Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam was clinging to office Monday morning amid nearly unanimous calls from his own party to resign over a racist photo in his 1984 medical school yearbook, after a bizarre weekend in which he first admitted he was in the picture, and then denied it.

The Democrat's stunning about-face — at a weekend news conference where he also acknowledged putting on blackface to imitate Michael Jackson at a dance contest decades ago, and appeared to briefly entertain the notion of doing the moonwalk for reporters — only seemed to make things worse.

A Northam official, who was not authorized to speak on the record, said the governor met Sunday evening with minority officials in his administration. It wasn't immediately known what was discussed and the official spoke on condition of anonymity.

The chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus declared that Northam "still does not understand the seriousness of his actions."

The yearbook photo shows someone in blackface and another person in a Ku Klux Klan hood and robe.

"I think he's been completely dishonest and disingenuous," Rep. Karen Bass, D-California, said on NBC's "Meet the Press." "He knew this picture was there, and he could've come clean and talked to African-Americans that he's close to decades ago."

Northam worshipped at his home church, the predominantly black First Baptist in Capeville, but otherwise kept out of sight on Sunday as calls intensified for him to step down.

The scandal threatens to cripple Northam's ability to govern. He has lost the support of virtually all of the state's Democratic establishment. Top Republicans in the Virginia General Assembly also urged Northam to step down, as did many declared and potential Democratic presidential candidates.

Virginia governors can be removed for "malfeasance in office, corruption, neglect of duty, or other high crime or misdemeanor" under the state constitution, but top Democrats said they don't believe it will come to that.

Former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe predicted that Northam — who served as McAuliffe's lieutenant governor — will eventually leave office.

"Ralph will do the right thing for the Commonwealth of Virginia," McAuliffe said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union."

Northam apologized on Friday for appearing in the photograph on his yearbook page. He did not say which costume he was wearing, but said he was "deeply sorry for the decision I made to appear as I did in

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 25 of 42

this photo." On Saturday, though, the governor reversed course and said the picture "is definitely not me."

While talking with reporters, Northam acknowledged he once used shoe polish to put on blackface as part of a Michael Jackson costume for a 1984 dance contest in Texas, when he was in the Army. Northam said he regrets that he didn't understand "the harmful legacy of an action like that."

Asked by a reporter if he could still do Jackson's famous moonwalk, Northam looked at the floor as if thinking about demonstrating it. His wife put a stop to it, telling him, "Inappropriate circumstances."

His shifting explanations did little or nothing to sway prominent Democrats who had swiftly disowned him.

One of the few voices backing Northam on Sunday was former Virginia Rep. Jim Moran, a Democrat who served in Congress from 1991 to 2015.

Moran told ABC's "This Week" that Northam's record — including his support of Medicaid expansion and of public schools in minority neighborhoods — shows that the embattled governor is a friend of African-Americans and that he should ride out the storm.

"I think it is a rush to judgment before we know all of the facts and before we've considered all of the consequences," said Moran, who is white. "I don't think these public shamings really get us all that much."

But both of Virginia's U.S. senators, Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, joined the dean of Virginia's congressional delegation, Rep. Bobby Scott, in saying they no longer believe Northam can serve effectively. James Ryan, president of the University of Virginia, said it would be "exceedingly difficult" for Northam to continue serving.

If Northam does resign, Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax would become the second African-American governor in the state's history. He stopped short of calling for Northam's departure but said he "cannot condone actions" from Northam's past that "suggest a comfort with Virginia's darker history of white supremacy, racial stereotyping and intimidation."

McAuliffe faulted Northam's handling of the furor.

"If it wasn't him in the photo, he should've said that on Friday," McAuliffe said. "Instinctively, you know if you put black paint on your face. You know if you put a hood on. And so if it isn't you, you come out immediately and say, 'This is not me.'"

Ultimately, McAuliffe said, "It doesn't matter whether he was in the photo or not in the photo at this point. We have to close that chapter. We have to move Virginia forward."

Northam, a pediatric neurologist who came to politics late in life, spent years courting the black community in the run-up to his 2017 race for governor.

He recently came under fire from Republicans who have accused him of backing infanticide after he said he supported a bill loosening restrictions on late-term abortions.

Late last month, 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.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. BLACKFACE SCANDAL UNDERLINES "FESTERING WOUND" OF RACISM

The crisis engulfing involving Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam came on the first day of Black History Month and as Virginians prepared to mark the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans to the settlement of Jamestown.

2. TOM BRADY AND BILL BELICHICK DO IT AGAIN

In a Super Bowl only New England could love, the Patriots won their sixth title by lumbering their way to a 13-3 victory over the Los Angeles Rams.

3. VOWS, PLEDGES AND PROMISES

President Trump whiffed on some lofty goals laid out in last year's State of the Union address, like his

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 26 of 42

call for an overhaul of immigration laws and a "great wall on our southern border," but scored victories on prison and sentencing overhauls and in giving terminally ill patients more treatment options.

4. VENEZUELA OPPOSITION LEADER GETS BOOST FROM EUROPE

Germany, Spain, France, the U.K. and Sweden have announced that they are recognizing Juan Guaidó as the country's interim president and are urging him to hold a new presidential election.

5. PONTIFF'S HISTORIC TRIP TO MUSLIM NATION IN GULF

Francis' speech to a gathering of faith leaders will be the highlight of his brief, 40-hour visit to Abu Dhabi, the first to the Arabian Peninsula by a pope.

6. FIVE KILLED IN CALIFORNIA AIRCRAFT INCIDENT

The male pilot — the only person in the twin-engine Cessna — and four people in a house that caught fire died, after the plane apparently came apart, raining debris across the Yorba Linda neighborhood.

7. WILL PRESIDENT'S RE-ELECTION BID HAVE REPUBLICAN COMPETITORS

Worried about a potential Republican primary challenge, Donald Trump's campaign has launched a state-by-state effort to prevent an intraparty fight that could spill over into the general-election campaign.

8. WHERE CRUCIAL AFGHANISTAN NEGOTIATIONS STAND

The U.S. and the Taliban are reportedly close to a deal to withdraw U.S. forces after 17 years of war. There are still plenty of obstacles to an agreement.

9. A PERSONAL VIEW OF BRAZIL'S BREACHED DAM DISASTER

Photographer Leo Correa traveled to Brumadinho on assignment for The Associated Press on the day a mining dam collapsed and spent nearly a week documenting the tragedy.

10. RENOWNED SWISS CONDUCTOR BACK DESPITE SCANDAL

Charles Dutoit has returned to a major world stage for the first time since 10 women accused him of sexual assault and harassment — and he earned repeated ovations from the awed Paris audience.

EU countries step up pressure on Venezuela's defiant Maduro

By **BARRY HATTON, Associated Press**

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — A key group of European Union countries endorsed Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó as the country's interim president on Monday, piling the pressure on embattled President Nicolás Maduro to resign and let the country hold a new presidential election.

Maduro, for his part, stood defiant and accused the United States of preparing a coup in the South American country.

Spain, Germany, France and Britain delivered diplomatic blows to Maduro's rule by publicly supporting Guaidó after giving Maduro a Sunday deadline to call a presidential election, which he didn't heed. Sweden, Denmark, Austria, the Netherlands and Lithuania also lined up behind Guaidó, the self-declared interim president who also has the support of the United States and many South American nations.

The European countries urged Guaidó to hold free and fair elections as soon as possible.

"We are working for the return of full democracy in Venezuela: human rights, elections and no more political prisoners," Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said in a televised announcement.

He said Spain, which has a large Venezuelan community, is also working on a humanitarian aid program for Venezuela, where shortages of basic items are acute. Critics of Maduro blame the Venezuelan government's mismanagement for the lack of food and medical supplies.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said during a visit to Japan on Monday that Guaidó "is the legitimate interim president."

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, speaking to France Inter Radio, appealed for an early presidential election that will ensure "the Venezuelan crisis ends peacefully."

Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström said the election that brought Maduro to power was neither free nor fair and told Swedish broadcaster SVT on Monday that Venezuelans "now must get new, free and fair elections instead."

But Maduro showed no signs of caving in to the pressure and lashed out at the EU and the Trump

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 27 of 42

administration, which has also put pressure on the Venezuelan government by imposing sanctions on Venezuelan oil exports and demanding Maduro's departure.

"I don't accept ultimatums from anybody," Maduro told Spanish TV channel La Sexta in an interview broadcast late Sunday. "Why should the EU be giving ultimatums to a country?"

He added that Venezuela is being "threatened by the biggest powers in the world."

Turning to Washington's role in the Venezuelan crisis, Maduro claimed that "the military option is on (U.S. President) Donald Trump's table."

"The United States wants to return to the 20th century of military coups, subordinate puppet governments and the looting of resources," Maduro said.

Trump campaign takes steps to prevent a challenge within GOP

By ZEKE MILLER and STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Worried about a potential Republican primary challenge, President Donald Trump's campaign has launched a state-by-state effort to prevent an intraparty fight that could spill over into the general-election campaign.

The nascent initiative has been an intense focus in recent weeks and includes taking steps to change state party rules, crowd out potential rivals and quell any early signs of opposition that could embarrass the president.

It is an acknowledgment that Trump, who effectively hijacked the Republican Party in 2016, hasn't completely cemented his grip on the GOP and, in any event, is not likely to coast to the 2020 GOP nomination without some form of opposition. While any primary challenge would almost certainly be unsuccessful, Trump aides are looking to prevent a repeat of the convention discord that highlighted the electoral weaknesses of Presidents George H.W. Bush and Jimmy Carter in their failed re-election campaigns.

To defend against that prospect, Trump's campaign has deployed what it calls an unprecedented effort to monitor and influence local party operations. It has used endorsements, lobbying and rule changes to increase the likelihood that only loyal Trump activists make it to the Republican nominating convention in August 2020.

Bill Stepien, a senior adviser to the Trump campaign, calls it all a "process of ensuring that the national convention is a television commercial for the president for an audience of 300 million and not an internal fight."

One early success for Trump's campaign was in Massachusetts, where Trump backer and former state Rep. Jim Lyons last month defeated the candidate backed by Massachusetts Republican Gov. Charlie Baker, a Trump critic, to serve as the state party chairman.

"We have a constant focus on tracking everything regarding this process," Stepien said. "Who's running, what their level of support for the president is and what their vote counts are."

The campaign's work extends beyond state party leadership races, which are taking place in many key states in the coming weeks. Trump's team plans to organize at county and state caucuses and conventions over the next 18 months to elevate pro-Trump leaders and potential delegates. Ahead of the convention, it aims to have complete control of the convention agenda, rules and platform — and to identify any potential trouble-makers well in advance.

That sort of organization is a leap from Trump's 2016 delegate operation, which faced challenges by anti-Trump activists in the party. Trump aides say it's the most aggressive effort ever launched to protect an incumbent.

Nick Trainer, a White House veteran named last month as the campaign's director of delegates and party organization, is leading a team of three to coordinate with state and local parties in the run-up to the convention.

Yet the efforts to protect Trump simply highlight his vulnerability, said an adviser to one potential Republican opponent.

"They're not talented, but they're not idiotic. They rightfully understand that he could be badly dam-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 28 of 42

aged or lose in a nomination battle. They're doing too much. It looks weak," said John Weaver, a senior adviser to former Ohio Gov. John Kasich, one of the few high-profile Republicans seriously contemplating a primary challenge.

Trump's campaign is closely monitoring the intentions of Kasich and other potential primary challengers, and aides said they expect someone to mount a campaign for the nomination. But they insist their efforts are not borne out of fear that Trump is vulnerable.

Primary challenges against incumbent presidents have never been successful in the modern era. And Trump's poll numbers among Republican voters have proven to be resilient. Still, his aides said they are taking lessons from one-term leaders who lost their re-elections after embarrassing nominating fights.

Those in the past who challenged a president both distracted the incumbent from the November campaign and offered a voice to intraparty discontent, seeding weaknesses that were exploited by a general-election rival.

Pat Buchanan's campaign against Bush in 1992 focused in part on highlighting Bush's broken pledge not to raise taxes, a vulnerability that dogged Bush throughout the campaign. In a show of party unity Buchanan was awarded the opening night keynote at that year's GOP convention. He delivered a "culture war" speech that Bush loyalists believed contributed to his loss.

As an incumbent, Trump already wields control over the Republican National Committee, which voted last month to express its "undivided support" for Trump and his "effective presidency." But he's getting a boost from well-placed allies at the state level.

In Iowa, the state Republican Party adopted new rules more than a year ago to seize control of the delegate selection process in direct response to the messy convention floor fight in Cleveland in 2016. Virtually all of Iowa's delegates had preferred Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, and they fought unsuccessfully to oppose Trump at the convention.

"It was embarrassing. It was troubling. To be honest with you, it made me mad," said Iowa GOP Chairman Jeff Kaufman, a strong Trump supporter. "Donald Trump won the Republican nomination fair and square. That was about people not accepting a loss."

The new rules, made in consultation with the White House, would make it much more difficult for a Trump challenger to install anti-Trump delegates after the caucuses. Smart campaigns with energized activists, like Cruz's and Ron Paul's before him, had been able to send their own loyalists to the national convention regardless of the wishes of party leaders or caucus voters. No more.

Going forward, a nominating committee that's already been named by the pro-Trump state central committee will control the delegate selection process.

Kaufman said that technically, he and the rest of the state GOP would be neutral should Trump face a primary challenge. He makes clear, however, that he's been a strong supporter of the president and doesn't see a serious primary challenge on the horizon.

It's much the same in New Hampshire, where party leaders must technically remain neutral to preserve their status as the first-in-the-nation primary. But the Trump campaign backed Saturday's election of new state GOP Chairman Stephen Stepanek, who served as Trump's state co-chairman in 2016.

Stepanek was the preferred choice over former state chair Jennifer Horn, who emerged as an outspoken Trump critic since leaving the chairmanship after the 2016 election.

Meanwhile, states like South Carolina and Kansas are openly discussing cancelling their primaries and caucuses, but the Trump campaign insists it is staying out of those discussions, noting that state parties in some states are required to foot the bill for nominating contests.

Peoples reported from New York.

European nations recognize Guaido as Venezuelan leader

MADRID (AP) — Spain, France and Sweden have all announced that they are recognizing Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido as the country's interim president and are urging him to hold a new presidential election.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez told reporters in Madrid on Monday that "we are working for the return of full democracy in Venezuela: human rights, elections and no more political prisoners."

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, speaking Monday to France Inter Radio, urged Guaido to call an early presidential election that will ensure "the Venezuelan crisis ends peacefully."

Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom told Swedish broadcaster SVT the vote that brought Maduro to power was not a "free and fair election."

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has so far rejected calls by European countries to call an early election.

Q&A: US envoy's road to Afghan peace littered with obstacles

By KATHY GANNON, Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad is in a hurry to find a peace deal for Afghanistan that would allow America to bring home its troops after 17 years of war, but the road ahead is littered with obstacles.

After years of U.S. insisting on talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban, Khalilzad began meeting with the insurgents shortly after his appointment in September, giving into a key demand from the Taliban, who view the Kabul government as an American puppet.

President Donald Trump's frustration with the costly and interminable war, as well as reports of a U.S. plan to withdraw half of its roughly 15,000 troops by the summer, has lent a sense of urgency to Khalilzad's mission.

The Taliban, who ruled Afghanistan according to a harsh version of Islamic law from 1996 to 2001 and hosted Osama bin Laden as he masterminded the Sept. 11 attacks, say they no longer seek a monopoly on power and would not pose a threat to other countries.

But many fear a full NATO withdrawal would leave the weak and corrupt Afghan government vulnerable to collapse, or unleash yet another round of fighting in a war that has already killed tens of thousands of Afghans.

WHO IS NEGOTIATING?

While the U.S. says it is committed to an "Afghan-led" process, the main talks are between Khalilzad and the Taliban's political leadership, which is based in the Gulf nation of Qatar and includes several veteran battlefield commanders.

The Taliban came to the table from a position of strength, having taken over nearly half the country. Their daily attacks on Afghan forces are so deadly that the government and the U.S. have classified Afghan casualty figures. On a few occasions, the Taliban have seized entire cities, only withdrawing in the face of Afghan counteroffensives and NATO air assaults.

The Taliban negotiators are led by Abdul Ghani Baradar, a veteran commander released by Pakistan last year after eight years in prison, apparently upon a U.S. request. He is believed to command enough respect within the movement to sell a peace deal to front-line fighters. The team also includes two of the five Taliban leaders freed from Guantanamo Bay in 2014 in exchange for a captured U.S. soldier.

Khalilzad is also meeting with Pakistan, which is widely believed to harbor the Taliban's top leadership, as well as China, India and Russia, which have an interest in stabilizing the region — and in expanding their influence.

WHAT HAVE THEY AGREED TO?

The two sides are reportedly closing in on a deal in which the U.S. would withdraw from Afghanistan in return for a Taliban promise not to allow it to be used as a launchpad for terrorist attacks. They are also

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 30 of 42

reportedly discussing a cease-fire and the formation of an interim government.

Khalilzad has said that the U.S. remains committed to women's rights, the rule of law and freedom of the press, but says it will be left to the Afghans to negotiate those rights.

WHAT ABOUT THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT?

The government is rife with corruption and deeply divided along ethnic and factional lines. Its authority is largely confined to major cities, with the Taliban effectively controlling much of the countryside. The U.S. and NATO formally ended their combat mission in 2014 but still provide air support and crucial aid to Afghan forces.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, who will seek re-election in July, is vehemently opposed to an interim government or further delays in elections.

But he appears to have been largely sidelined in the talks. His own peace envoy, Omer Daudzai, has been following Khalilzad across the region and meeting with the same people, apparently to keep tabs on him.

WHAT IF THE TALIBAN TAKE OVER?

Memories are still fresh of the Taliban's hard-line rule, when they forbade girls' education and women working outside the home. But the group has struck a more conciliatory tone in recent years, and last week the Taliban called upon Afghans to "forget their past and tolerate one another."

The Taliban are militarily formidable, but it's not clear they have the numbers to overthrow the government, and the group has said it does not want a monopoly on power.

The Western-backed government, meanwhile, is widely seen as corrupt and inefficient. Afghans complain of poor public services, insecurity and widespread graft. Women secured new freedoms after 2001, but their lives are still heavily restricted in the deeply conservative country. Seventeen years after the fall of the Taliban, Afghanistan still ranks among the worst countries in the world to be a woman.

Afghans would welcome any agreement that brings improved security and governance. But they distrust both sides given their history of repression and brutal internecine fighting. Many fear the U.S. will settle for an agreement that breaks down as soon as the last American soldier leaves, plunging the country into yet another round of civil war.

IS PEACE POSSIBLE?

Afghanistan has been mired in war for decades, and while the U.S. and the Taliban have both claimed significant progress in the latest talks, they have yet to pen a deal.

It's unclear whether the Taliban are willing or able to crack down on other armed groups. Afghanistan is home to a vicious Islamic State affiliate that has survived clashes with both the Afghan government and the Taliban, and which might be able to recruit even more disgruntled Taliban fighters if the group is seen as caving to U.S. demands.

The U.S. says it has largely eradicated al-Qaida in Afghanistan and Pakistan, but senior figures, including the group's leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, and bin Laden's son, Hamza, are believed to be based in the region. Without knowing the militants' location, or who is protecting them, it would be difficult to verify any agreement to root them out.

That would leave the U.S. in more or less the same position it was nearly two decades ago, when a small group of foreign fighters in Afghanistan plotted the 9/11 attacks.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump's untruths on Russia probe, wall, jobs

By HOPE YEN, CALVIN WOODWARD and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is glossing over the facts when it comes to the Russia investigation and his economic performance.

The president suggests the 34 charges issued or guilty pleas achieved by special counsel Robert Mueller

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 31 of 42

have had little to do with him. But Trump's ignoring reality. Most significantly, his former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, has implicated Trump in a crime by linking him to a hush-money scheme. Cohen also pleaded guilty to lying to Congress about his efforts during the 2016 campaign to line up a Trump Tower Moscow project, saying he did so to align with Trump's "political messaging."

On the economy, Trump claimed record low unemployment for blacks, Hispanics and Asian-Americans even as the numbers have risen after the partial government shutdown. And he described the steel industry as "totally revived" despite 20,000 job losses over the past decade.

A look at his past week's claims, also covering global warming and purported progress in building a border wall:

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

TRUMP: "Of the 34 people, many of them were bloggers from Moscow or they were people that had nothing to do with me, had nothing to do with what they're talking about or there were people that got caught telling a fib or telling a lie. I think it's a terrible thing that's happened to this country, because this investigation is a witch hunt." — interview with CBS, broadcast Sunday.

THE FACTS: Trump's correct that Mueller's team has indicted or gotten guilty pleas from 34 people. He's wrong to suggest that none had anything to do with him or were simply "bloggers from Moscow." Among these people are six Trump associates and 25 Russians accused of interfering in the 2016 election.

In particular, Cohen definitely was in trouble for what he did for Trump. Cohen pleaded guilty in August to several criminal charges and stated that Trump directed him to arrange payments of hush money to porn actress Stormy Daniels and former Playboy model Karen McDougal to fend off damage to Trump's White House bid. Prosecutors' court filings in December backed up Cohen's claims.

The Justice Department says the hush money payments were unreported campaign contributions meant to influence the outcome of the election. That assertion makes the payments subject to campaign finance laws, which restrict how much people can donate to a campaign and bar corporations from making direct contributions.

It is true that many of Trump's former associates, including Cohen, were charged with either lying to the FBI or Congress.

The 25 Russians charged were not simply "bloggers."

According to Mueller's indictment last February, 13 Russians and three Russian entities are accused of attempting to help Trump defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton by running a hidden social media trolling campaign and seeking to mobilize Trump supporters at rallies while posing as American political activists. The indictment says the surreptitious campaign was organized by the Internet Research Agency, a Russian troll farm financed by companies controlled by Yevgeny Prigozhin, a wealthy businessman with ties to President Vladimir Putin.

Mueller's team also charged 12 Russian military intelligence officers in July with hacking into the Clinton presidential campaign and the Democratic Party and releasing tens of thousands of private communications. The charges say the Russian defendants, using a persona known as Guccifer 2.0, in August 2016 contacted a person in touch with the Trump campaign to offer help. And they say that on the same day that Trump, in a speech, urged Russia to find Clinton's missing emails, Russian hackers tried for the first time to break into email accounts used by her personal office.

TRUMP: "You look at General Flynn where the FBI said he wasn't lying, but Robert Mueller said he was, and they took a man and destroyed his life." — interview with CBS.

THE FACTS: That's not what the FBI said. And Michael Flynn, Trump's former national security adviser, has agreed that he lied to the FBI, having pleaded guilty to it.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 32 of 42

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

At his sentencing hearing in December, Flynn acknowledged to Judge Emmet Sullivan that he knew it was a crime when he lied to the FBI in January 2017. Flynn declined to accept the judge's offer to withdraw his guilty plea. Neither he nor his lawyers disputed that he had lied to agents.

UNEMPLOYMENT

TRUMP: "You saw the jobs report just came out. ...The African-Americans have the best employment numbers in the history of our country. Hispanic Americans have the best employment numbers in the history of our country. Asian-Americans the best in the history of our country." — CBS interview.

THE FACTS: Black unemployment is not currently the lowest ever, possibly in part to the partial government shutdown, which lifted joblessness last month.

Black unemployment did reach a low, 5.9 percent, in May. But that figure is volatile on a monthly basis. That rate has since increased to 6.8 percent in January.

Hispanic and Asian-American joblessness has also risen off record lows last year. Hispanic unemployment last month was 4.9 percent, up from a low of 4.4 percent reached in October and December. Asian-American unemployment was at 3.1 percent, up from 2.2 percent in May.

Moreover, there are multiple signs that the racial wealth gap is now worsening. The most dramatic drop in black unemployment came under President Barack Obama, when it fell from a recession high of 16.8 percent in March 2010 to 7.8 percent in January 2017.

THE WALL

TRUMP: "The chant now should be 'finish the wall' as opposed to 'Build the Wall' because we're building a lot of wall. I started this six months ago — we really started going to town — because I could see we were going nowhere with the Democrats." — comments Friday.

TRUMP: "Large sections of WALL have already been built with much more either under construction or ready to go. Renovation of existing WALLS is also a very big part of the plan to finally, after many decades, properly Secure Our Border. The Wall is getting done one way or the other!" — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: Despite all his talk of progress, he's added no extra miles of barrier to the border to date. Construction is to start this month on a levee wall system in the Rio Grande Valley that will add 14 miles of barrier, the first lengthening in his presidency. That will be paid for as part of \$1.4 billion approved by Congress last year.

Most work under contracts awarded by the Trump administration has been for replacement of existing barrier.

When Trump says large parts of the wall "have already been built," he's not acknowledging that previous administrations built those sections. Barriers currently extend for 654 miles (1,052 kilometers), or about one-third of the border. That construction was mostly done from 2006 to 2009.

STEEL INDUSTRY

TRUMP: "Tariffs on the 'dumping' of Steel in the United States have totally revived our Steel Industry. New and expanded plants are happening all over the U.S. We have not only saved this important industry, but created many jobs. Also, billions paid to our treasury. A BIG WIN FOR U.S." — tweet Jan. 28.

THE FACTS: He's exaggerating the recovery of the steel industry, particularly when it comes to jobs. In December, the steel industry employed 141,600 people, the Labor Department says in its latest data. Last March, when Trump said he would impose the tariffs, it was 139,400. That's a gain of just 2,200 jobs during a period when the overall economy added nearly 2 million jobs. On a percentage basis, steel industry jobs grew 1.6 percent, barely higher than the 1.3 percent increase in all jobs.

Yet those figures still lag behind where they were before the 2008-2009 recession. When that downturn began, there were nearly 162,000 steelworkers.

Some companies have said they will add or expand plants. It's difficult to know just how many jobs will

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 33 of 42

be added by newly planned mills. But construction spending on factories has yet to take off significantly after having been in decline between 2016 and much of 2018. Construction spending on factories has been flat in the past year, according to the Census Bureau.

Trump's reference to "billions paid to our treasury" concerns money raised from tariffs on foreign steel and other products. Such tariffs are generally paid by U.S. importers, not foreign countries or companies, and the costs are often passed on to consumers. So that money going to the government is mostly coming from Americans.

VOTER FRAUD

TRUMP: "58,000 non-citizens voted in Texas, with 95,000 non-citizens registered to vote. These numbers are just the tip of the iceberg. All over the country, especially in California, voter fraud is rampant. Must be stopped. Strong voter ID!" — tweet Jan. 27.

THE FACTS: That "iceberg" quickly began to melt as officials found serious problems with a report from the Texas secretary of state's office on voter fraud. More broadly, Trump is overstating the magnitude of such fraud across the U.S.

The Texas report suggested as many as 95,000 non-U.S. citizens may be on the state's voter rolls and as many as 58,000 may have cast a ballot at least once since 1996. Since it came out, however, state elections officials have been notifying county election chiefs of problems with the findings. Local officials told The Associated Press that they received calls from Texas Secretary of State David Whitley's office indicating that some citizens had been wrongly included in the original data.

So far no one on the lists has been confirmed as a noncitizen voter. Election officials in Texas' largest county say about 18,000 voters in the Houston area were wrongfully flagged as potentially ineligible to vote and those officials expect more such mistakes to be found on their list.

Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, a Trump ally, acknowledged problems in the report, saying "many of these individuals may have been naturalized before registering and voting, which makes their conduct perfectly legal."

Early claims by other states of possible illegal voting on a rampant scale haven't held up.

When Florida began searching for noncitizens in 2012, for instance, state officials initially found 180,000 people suspected of being ineligible to vote when comparing databases of registered voters and driver's licenses. Florida officials later assembled a purge list of more than 2,600 names but that, too, was beset by inaccuracies. Eventually, a revised list of 198 names of possible noncitizens was produced through the use of a federal database.

In the U.S. overall, the actual number of fraud cases has been very small, and the type that voter IDs are designed to prevent — voter impersonation at the ballot box — is almost nonexistent. In court cases that have invalidated some ID laws as having discriminatory effects, election officials could barely cite a case in which a person was charged with in-person voting fraud.

JUDGES

TRUMP: "After all that I have done for the Military, our great Veterans, Judges (99), Justices (2) ... does anybody really think I won't build the WALL?" — tweet Jan. 27.

THE FACTS: He's boasting here about his record of getting federal judges and justices on the bench. But that record is not extraordinary. He also misstates the total number of judges who have been confirmed by the Senate — it's 85, not 99.

While Trump did successfully nominate two justices to the Supreme Court, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, during his first two years in office, four other modern presidents did the same — Democrats Barack Obama, Bill Clinton and John F. Kennedy, and Republican Richard Nixon. Trump, meanwhile, is surpassed in the number of confirmed justices by Warren Harding (four), William Taft (five), Abraham Lincoln (three) and George Washington (six), according to Russell Wheeler, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution and expert on judicial appointments.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 34 of 42

Trump's 85 total judicial appointees lag behind five former presidents at comparable points in office. The five are George W. Bush, 99; Clinton, 128; Ronald Reagan, 88; Nixon, 91; and Kennedy, 111, according to Wheeler's analysis.

CLIMATE CHANGE

TRUMP: "In the beautiful Midwest, wind chill temperatures are reaching minus 60 degrees, the coldest ever recorded. In coming days, expected to get even colder. People can't last outside even for minutes. What the hell is going on with Global Warming? Please come back fast, we need you!" — tweet Jan. 28.

THE FACTS: Global warming does not need to make a comeback because it hasn't gone away. Extreme cold spells in parts of the globe do not signal a retreat.

Earth is considerably warmer than it was 30 years ago and especially 100 years ago. The lower 48 states make up only 1.6 percent of the globe, so what's happening there at any particular time is not a yardstick of the planet's climate. Even so, despite the brutal cold in the Midwest and East, five Western states are warmer than normal.

"This is simply an extreme weather event and not representative of global scale temperature trends," said Northern Illinois University climate scientist Victor Gensini. "The exact opposite is happening in Australia," which has been broiling with triple-digit heat that is setting records.

Trump's own administration released a scientific report last year saying that while human-caused climate change will reduce cold weather deaths "in 49 large cities in the United States, changes in extreme hot and extreme cold temperatures are projected to result in more than 9,000 additional premature deaths per year" by the end of this century if greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise at recent rates.

Trump routinely conflates weather and climate. Weather is like mood, which is fleeting. Climate is like personality, which is long term.

Associated Press writers Christopher Rugaber, Jill Colvin, Colleen Long and Seth Borenstein in Washington, Elliot Spagat in San Diego and Paul J. Weber in Austin, Texas, contributed to this report.

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Justice Department to probe federal jail in NYC

By JULIE WALKER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. Department of Justice said Sunday it will work with the Bureau of Prisons to examine what happened at a federal detention center in Brooklyn that had lost heat and electricity last week and to ensure that it has a backup system in place.

"In the coming days, the Department will work with the Bureau of Prisons to examine what happened and ensure the facility has the power, heat and backup systems in place to prevent the problem from re-occurring," said Wyn Hornbuckle, deputy director of public affairs for the Justice Department.

Electrical power was finally restored at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn at about 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Hornbuckle said.

Protesters have gathered outside the facility in recent days following news reports that those housed there have largely been without heat or power for the past week and also haven't been able to communicate with lawyers or loved ones. Outdoor temperatures have been well below freezing on some recent days, though Sunday was warmer.

"With the heat and hot water operational, and the restoration of electrical power, the facility can now begin to return to regular operations," Hornbuckle said.

Earlier Sunday, some demonstrators attempted to enter the facility, and guards drove them back with pushes and shoves. Witnesses said they also used pepper spray. A reporter and photographer for The Associated Press were at the facility when a woman, whose son is being detained, tried to get into the jail.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 35 of 42

On Sunday, an inmate was able to call through the window of his cell, which faces out to the street, to his mother below. The woman, Yvonne Murchison, was crying and upset and tried to get into the facility, where visits have been stopped.

"I'd trade places with him any day, that's my child," she said.

She was followed by activists and media into the lobby, where visitors have to pass through metal detectors.

Witnesses said officers used significant force to push the people out, with some of those attempting to come in being pushed to the ground. The AP photographer felt some type of spray, and began to have trouble breathing. Those affected were seen washing out their eyes with water or milk.

The Bureau of Prisons has acknowledged that the jail "experienced a partial power outage due to a fire in the switch gear room." The bureau had said a new electrical panel was being installed by an outside contractor. The agency insisted that inmates had hot water for showers and sinks, and were getting medications as needed.

The jail administration did not return an email seeking comment on the clash Sunday.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo called for an investigation of the circumstances of the loss of heat and electricity by the federal Department of Justice, saying the situation was "a violation of human decency and dignity" and also raises "questions of potential violations of law."

The Democrat said he wanted answers, and those responsible held accountable.

"Prisoners in New York are human beings," Cuomo said. "Let's treat them that way."

The New York Civil Liberties Union released a statement Sunday calling on the Bureau of Prisons to "ensure that no detainee be subjected to retaliation for peacefully protesting."

"Today's confrontation between the Bureau of Prisons and family members of people jailed at MDC highlights the desperate need to address the dangerous, inhumane and unlawful conditions inside the facility," NYCLU executive director Donna Lieberman said.

Associated Press Writer Michael Balsamo contributed to this report.

Outsider romps to victory in El Salvador presidential vote

By **MARCOS ALEMAN, Associated Press**

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — A former mayor of El Salvador's capital romped to victory in Sunday's presidential election, winning more votes than his two closest rivals combined to end a quarter century of two-party dominance in the crime-plagued Central America nation.

The Supreme Electoral Court declared Nayib Bukele the winner, saying he had nearly 54 percent of the votes, with nearly 90 percent of ballots counted. Carlos Callejas of the Nationalist Republican Alliance was far behind in second with less than 32 percent, while even farther back were former Foreign Minister Hugo Martinez of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and a minor party candidate.

Bukele surpassed the 50 percent of the votes needed to avoid a March runoff, and he had already claimed victory before a jubilant crowd in the capital and invited supporters to celebrate in the streets.

"We have full certainty that we have won the presidency, and we have won in the first round," Bukele said.

All four candidates promised to end corruption, stamp out gang violence and create more jobs, with crushing crime at the top of the agenda. Roughly 67,000 Salvadorans belong to gangs that terrorize their communities with extortion, murder and other forms of violence.

The candidates proposed creating economic opportunities and restoring social values to dissuade Salvadorans from engaging in criminal behavior.

There were no reports of major problems in voting.

Bukele, 37, made his political debut in 2012 as a small-town mayor with the now-ruling FMLN and won election in the capital three years later, automatically making him a potential presidential contender. But his frequent criticism of the leftist party's leadership led to his expulsion, and he wound up as the unlikely standard-bearer of a small conservative party known as the Grand Alliance for National Unity, whose ini-

tials — GANA — mean “win” in Spanish.

The FMLN and the conservative Alliance, known as ARENA, have dominated Salvadoran politics since a 1992 peace deal that ended a brutal civil war. But both parties have been stained by corruption scandals and neither has been able to stem gang violence.

“I came to vote because I want the country to change, because we are tired of so much corruption,” said Estela Henriquez, 27, at a polling place in the capital.

More than 4,500 election observers, including representatives of the Organization of American States and the European Union, were on hand.

El Salvador is small both in size and population, with just 6.5 million people. Close to a third of its households live in poverty, while the World Bank says per capita income is \$3,560.

Salvadorans searching for a better life have joined recent caravans of migrants trekking through Mexico toward the U.S.

MMA fighter wanted in killings captured after escaping van

CONROE, Texas (AP) — An MMA fighter suspected of killing two people, including an ex-girlfriend, was captured Sunday after escaping from a prisoner transport van in Texas, authorities said.

Cedric Marks was taken into custody after a nine-hour manhunt involving multiple law enforcement agencies, Montgomery County sheriff’s Lt. Scott Spencer said in a tweet Sunday evening. Marks was found hiding in a trash can and surrendered without incident, Conroe police said on their Facebook page.

Marks escaped Sunday morning from the private prison transport van during a stop at a McDonald’s in Conroe about 40 miles (65 kilometers) north of Houston, Conroe police Lt. Dorcy McGinnis said during a news conference.

McGinnis said murder warrants were issued Sunday for Marks in last month’s killings of an ex-girlfriend, Jenna Scott, and a friend of hers, Michael Swearingin, who disappeared Jan. 4 and were found buried in a shallow grave in Clearview, Oklahoma, on Jan. 15.

Marks was arrested in Michigan last month on a Bell County, Texas, charge alleging that on Aug. 21, he broke into Scott’s home in Temple, which is about 60 miles (100 kilometers) north of Austin. Authorities say he escaped while being transferred to Bell County to face that charge.

Scott requested a protective order against Marks last July, accusing him of choking her unconscious twice, Temple television station KCEN reported.

“Each time he allowed me to regain consciousness and then he choked me out again,” Scott said in an affidavit.

The protective order request was denied.

She also reported to police that Marks had broken into her home in August while her daughter, who was 9, was there. She said he took her cellphone to prevent her from calling 911.

The Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office’s initial tweet about Sunday’s escape said Marks was facing three “pending murder charges,” but it didn’t immediately respond to requests for further information about those charges.

Police in Bloomington, Minnesota, say Marks remains a person of interest in the 2009 disappearance of April Pease, who was the mother of one of his children. The two were involved in a fierce custody dispute in Washington state and Pease, who had a drug problem, went to live in a Bloomington women’s shelter because she said she was afraid of Marks. Like Scott, Pease alleged that Marks had choked her unconscious on more than one occasion, according to a court custody investigator. Pease went missing in March 2009 and Marks got custody of their son.

Pease’s mother, Dottie Pease, told KCEN last month that she had believed her daughter might have had a drug relapse, but that given the developments in Texas, she thought it was possible that Marks might have had something to do with her daughter’s disappearance.

Two women were arrested in Michigan on charges related to Marks.

Maya Maxwell is charged with evidence tampering and is jailed in Bell County, Texas, on \$150,000 bond.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 37 of 42

According to an arrest affidavit, she told detectives that she drove Swearingin's vehicle to Austin in an attempt to hide it from investigators. It was found abandoned in the city Jan. 6.

Ginell McDonough, who is Marks' wife and the mother of two of his two children, is jailed in Muskegon County, Michigan, on an obstruction of justice charge. She is accused of allowing Marks and Maxwell to stay in her home between Jan. 5 and Jan. 9.

Jail records do not list an attorney for either woman.

Marks compiled a record of 31-28-0 during his professional MMA career, which began in 1999, according to mixedmartialarts.com . His last fight was in September.

This story has been corrected to show that Spencer is with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office instead of Conroe police, and to show in several references that the suspect's last name is Marks instead of Crews.

1 deputy killed, another wounded in 12-hour standoff in Ohio

By LISA CORNWELL, Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — A sheriff's deputy was shot and killed during a 12-hour standoff at an apartment complex in Ohio that left another deputy wounded and a suspect in custody, authorities said Sunday.

Capt. Jeff Sellars of the Clermont County Sheriff's Office said officers responded about 7 p.m. Saturday to the Royal Oaks Apartments in Pierce Township, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) east of Cincinnati, following a 911 call from a man who said he believed someone was inside his residence.

Authorities say the caller then said that he was armed and eventually told the dispatcher that he was suicidal.

But it was unclear from authorities' statements whether the caller was referring to himself or to the person he said was inside his home. It was also unclear whether the suspect himself made the call. Authorities found only one person in the home.

Authorities say 23-year-old Wade Edward Winn was taken into custody. Clermont County Municipal Court records show Winn has been charged with aggravated murder and attempted aggravated murder.

David O'Neil, a spokesman for Ohio's attorney general, confirmed the charges Sunday but said he couldn't disclose where the suspect was being held.

The Clermont County Sheriff's Office said Detective Bill Brewer died from his wounds. The other deputy, Lt. Nick DeRose, was treated for a gunshot wound in the ankle and released from a hospital, O'Neil said.

"Deputy Brewer gave his life attempting to help a person who was admittedly suicidal," Sheriff Steve Leahy said in a press release. "This will forever change the atmosphere of the Clermont County Sheriff's Office."

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost said in a separate release that Brewer's "valor is now recorded for all time, written in blood."

"We mourn and we will remember," Yost said

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine on Sunday ordered all U.S. and state flags throughout Clermont County and at the Statehouse flown at half-staff in honor of Brewer. The Republican governor's order is in effect from Sunday until sunset on the day of Brewer's interment.

A court hearing was scheduled for Winn at 10 a.m. Monday in Clermont County Municipal Court in Batavia, O'Neil said.

Authorities say the investigation is ongoing.

Grammy-nominated rapper 21 Savage in US immigration custody

ATLANTA (AP) — Grammy-nominated rapper 21 Savage was taken into federal immigration custody early Sunday, authorities said.

The artist, whose given name is Sha Yaa Bin Abraham-Joseph, was arrested in a targeted operation in the Atlanta area involving local and federal law enforcement officers, U.S. Immigration and Customs En-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 38 of 42

forcement spokesman Bryan Cox said in an emailed statement. Abraham-Joseph is a British citizen who overstayed his visa and is also has a felony conviction, Cox said.

"We are working diligently to get Mr. Abraham-Joseph out of detention while we work with the authorities to clear up any misunderstandings," lawyer Dina LaPolt said without elaborating.

Abraham-Joseph is a role model to young people in the U.S., especially in Atlanta, LaPolt said.

Abraham-Joseph is nominated for two awards at next week's Grammys, including record of the year for "Rockstar" alongside Post Malone. His second solo album "I Am I Was," released in December, debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 albums chart.

Abraham-Joseph entered the U.S. legally in July 2005, but has been present in the country illegally since his visa expired in July 2006, Cox said. He was convicted on felony drug charges in October 2014 in Fulton County, Cox said.

He has been placed in deportation proceedings in federal immigration court, Cox said.

LeBron James apologized in December for posting one of Abraham-Joseph's lyrics that referenced "Jewish money." The basketball star apologized on ESPN, saying he got caught up in the music and thought the lyric was a "compliment."

The rapper later tweeted his own apology for the lyric from the song "ASMR," which says, "We been getting that Jewish money, Everything is Kosher."

Democratic contenders hoping to run on soaking the rich

By **NICHOLAS RICCARDI** and **ELANA SCHOR**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The last Democrat to win a presidential election, Barack Obama, ran in 2012 on a platform of raising taxes for top earners to nearly 40 percent. Now a new crop of Democratic presidential hopefuls is signaling that they want to go even further.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren is floating a 2 percent tax on all assets of people with a net worth of more than \$50 million — a moon-shot plan that could face legal challenges for hitting investments, homes and cars, not just income. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is pitching a steeply higher inheritance tax on large estates.

Others targeting higher income earners include California Sen. Kamala Harris, who has proposed rolling back the recent GOP tax cuts for wealthier families to pay for tax rebates for middle- and lower-income earners.

The eruption of high-end tax proposals is a shift for Democrats, who have traditionally not centered their presidential bids around tax hikes — particularly at this early stage of a campaign. It underscores the party's march to the left and candidates' desire to tap into the Wall Street-rattling energy of liberal voters.

"If you're looking for a bumper sticker, 'tax rich people' is a pretty good bumper sticker," said Howard Glickman of the centrist Tax Policy Center.

Beyond its messaging power, taxing the wealthy also gives Democratic contenders a way to propose paying for their sweeping progressive agendas.

Sanders put it simply last week: "We need additional revenue if we're going to provide health care for all, rebuild our infrastructure, make public colleges and universities tuition-free."

The rush to tax the rich has prompted criticism from others eyeing the White House — namely billionaires Michael Bloomberg, a former Republican who is considering running as a Democrat, and former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz, who is mulling an independent run for president.

Schultz says he was driven from the Democratic Party by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the rising star who's issued her own call for a 70 percent income tax rate on people making more than \$10 million. Democratic strategists worry Schultz could peel off a small but vital slice of affluent voters and help President Donald Trump get re-elected in a three-way race.

But to progressive Democratic contenders, the criticism from billionaires like Schultz proves their point. "The billionaires are writing the rules around here. And guess what: all those rules favor the billionaires," Warren said in an interview.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 39 of 42

Republicans, meanwhile, are eager to cast the Democratic tax proposals as damaging to an economy that has steadily grown since Trump took office.

Texas Sen. John Cornyn, a senior GOP member of the tax-writing Finance Committee, described Warren and Sanders' tax plans as playing off "the politics of personal envy." He predicted economic blowback from reversing the current tax laws muscled through by Republicans in 2017.

The \$2 trillion tax bill Trump signed into law was a boon for many wealthy Americans, with low-and middle-income Americans receiving smaller cuts.

While many Democrats have previously backed higher taxes for the wealthiest Americans, they've rarely made the issue such an early focal point of their campaigns. Obama shied away from tax increases during his first run for office, as did almost every Democratic nominee since Walter Mondale in 1984 pledged to raise voters' taxes and lost to President Reagan in an historic landslide.

But polls now show that voters are happy to see higher-end taxes, to a point. In April 2018, Gallup found that about 6 in 10 Americans thought the wealthy didn't pay their fair share of taxes. A Fox News poll last week found 7 in 10 Americans supported raising taxes on people making more than 10 million dollars a year and 65 percent on those making more than \$1 million. But support plunges when family income drops, with only 44 percent backing higher taxes on those making more than \$250,000.

"What's happened sometimes in these debates is the 'on the wealthy' gets left out in some people's minds," said Democratic pollster Mark Mellman. "The question is to what extent you can control the interpretation" of tax increases.

Democrats seem to have learned that lesson, at least with the 70-percent rate from Ocasio-Cortez, a New York Democrat, and a Warren proposal that would only hit an estimated 75,000 households in the United States — the upper echelon of U.S. wealth.

"It's clear that the people they're targeting are the very, very, very well-off," said Alan Viard of the conservative American Enterprise Institute.

But Viard and other critics warn that the higher Democrats go, the less revenue they may actually get. That's because the wealthy can shift around assets to avoid new levies. And Warren's proposal, because it taxes more than income, may not comply with the Constitution, which was amended to allow the federal government to tax income, not wealth.

Glickman said that Warren's tax may be the most politically viable, because it targets such wealthy individuals. But it may be the toughest to implement. Several European countries have recently eliminated wealth taxes because they are so hard to administer, and the value of the mega-rich's holdings so hard to pin down, Glickman said.

Economists advising Warren's campaign project it will raise \$2.75 trillion over 10 years, but Glickman was skeptical.

"When that much money is at stake, rich guys are going to go out and hire really smart tax lawyers," he said.

While Warren has enthusiastically embraced her tax plan's impact on the wealthy, Harris' early messaging has focused more on boosting middle-income earners with a \$500 a month refundable tax credit to households earning less than \$100,000 a year.

Harris would pay for this partly by eliminating the Trump tax cuts for households earning more than \$100,000. That could be politically risky because this group, while comfortable, is largely not the mega-rich.

Riccardi reported from Denver. AP polling writer Hannah Fingerhut contributed to this report.

Pope in UAE for historic trip after call for Yemen relief

By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Pope Francis landed Sunday in Abu Dhabi on the first-ever papal trip to the Arabian Peninsula, where he is seeking to turn a page in Christian-Muslim relations while also ministering to a unique, thriving Catholic community.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 40 of 42

Francis earlier Sunday called for the urgent observation of a limited cease-fire in Yemen reached in December and for food and medicine to get to its people, who are suffering the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

He made the appeal at the Vatican before boarding a plane to the United Arab Emirates, which has been Saudi Arabia's main ally in its war in Yemen — a way to avoid embarrassing his hosts with a public call while in the region. Abu Dhabi's powerful crown prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, greeted the pontiff with smiles along with Cabinet ministers and an honor guard when he landed around 9:50 p.m. in the Emirati capital.

"The people are exhausted by the long conflict and many children are hungry, but humanitarian aid isn't accessible," Francis said in his noontime Sunday blessing. "The cries of these children and their parents rise up" to God.

Francis traveled to Abu Dhabi to participate in a conference on interreligious dialogue sponsored the Emirates-based Muslim Council of Elders, an initiative that seeks to counter religious fanaticism by promoting a moderate brand of Islam. It's the brainchild of Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, the grand imam of Egypt's Al-Azhar, the revered 1,000-year-old seat of Sunni Islam that trains clerics and scholars from around the world.

In a video message to the Emirates on the eve of his trip, Francis paid homage to his "friend and dear brother" el-Tayeb and praised his courage in calling the meeting to assert that "God unites and doesn't divide."

"I am pleased with this meeting offered by the Lord to write, on your dear land, a new page in the history of relations among religions and confirm that we are brothers despite our differences," Francis said.

In a statement Saturday, Al-Azhar described the upcoming meeting as "historic" and praised the "deeply fraternal relationship" between its imam and the pope, which it said even includes birthday greetings. El-Tayeb also met Francis at the airport.

Francis and el-Tayeb are to address the "Human Fraternity Meeting" Monday that has drawn not only Christian and Muslim representatives but hundreds of Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and other Christian faith leaders. It's all part of the Emirates' "Year of Tolerance" and its effort to show its openness to other faiths in a region otherwise known for severe restrictions on religions outside of Islam.

"It's something new for the Muslim world, that within the discussion of dialogue, they're talking about interreligious dialogue across the board," beyond basic Christian-Muslim relations, said Marco Impagliazzo, president of the, a Rome-based Catholic organization active in interfaith relations who will be attending the conference.

Francis' other main initiative in Abu Dhabi is a giant Mass on Tuesday in the city's main sports arena that is expected to draw some 135,000 people in what some have called the largest show of public Christian worship on the Arabian Peninsula. There, Francis will see firsthand a Catholic community that is big, diverse and dynamic, at a time when the wider Mideast has seen an exodus of Christians fleeing persecution at the hands of the Islamic State group and others.

Of the over 9 million people now living in the UAE, around 1 million are Emirati while the rest are foreigners drawn to the oil-rich federation to work in everything from white-collar finance to construction.

The Catholic Church believes there are some 1 million Catholics in the UAE. Most are Filipino and Indian, many of whom have left behind families for work and can face precarious labor conditions, which human rights groups regularly denounce.

"The church has a unique role because it becomes home," said Brandon Vaidyanathan, chair of the sociology department at Catholic University in Washington, who grew up in Dubai. "It becomes a place of belonging" in a country where foreigners can live, work and practice their faith but will never gain citizenship.

Vaidyanathan, who converted from Hinduism to Catholicism while living in Dubai, said the Emirates' religious tolerance is commendable given the trends of the region. He noted the "unprecedented" nature of the government's invitation to Francis, its donation of lands for churches and even a recent decision to rename a mosque "Mother Mary of Jesus."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 41 of 42

Yet he pointed to the difference between freedom to worship and true religious freedom. Crosses, for example, can only be displayed inside churches, proselytizing for faiths other than Islam is banned and Muslims are forbidden from converting.

Francis will likely focus on issues of religious freedom and fraternity in his public remarks. Unlike all his other foreign trips, he will not deliver a political speech.

Vatican spokesman Alessandro Gisotti said the reason was to give greater emphasis to his speech to the interfaith conference. He dodged a question about whether Francis would raise Yemen's yearslong war in his private talks with the Emirates' ruler. The UAE is deeply involved in the Saudi-led war in the Arab world's poorest country, where tens of thousands have been killed and millions face food and medical shortages.

"I don't know if the Holy Father will confront it publicly or privately, but certainly on many occasions, even recently, he has underlined the need to search for peace in particular to guarantee the humanitarian rights of the population, especially children," Gisotti said.

Aid groups working in Yemen hope Francis won't just rely on his public appeals, but will use his visit to bring his message to the Emirati leadership in person.

CAFOD, the overseas aid group of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, recently joined a coalition of British humanitarian organizations in appealing for Yemen's limited cease-fire to hold so that humanitarian aid can reach the most vulnerable.

"We have confidence in the greatness of the pope to be our advocate and the advocate for the Yemeni people," said Giovanna Reda, CAFOD's head of humanitarian programs for the Middle East.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Feb. 4, the 35th day of 2019. There are 330 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 4, 1974, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst, 19, was kidnapped in Berkeley, California, by the radical Symbionese Liberation Army.

On this date:

In 1783, Britain's King George III proclaimed a formal cessation of hostilities in the American Revolutionary War.

In 1789, electors chose George Washington to be the first president of the United States.

In 1861, delegates from six southern states that had recently seceded from the Union met in Montgomery, Alabama, to form the Confederate States of America.

In 1913, Rosa Parks, a black woman whose 1955 refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Ala., city bus to a white man sparked a civil rights revolution, was born Rosa Louise McCauley in Tuskegee.

In 1938, the Thornton Wilder play "Our Town" opened on Broadway. Walt Disney's animated feature "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" opened in general U.S. release.

In 1944, the Bronze Star Medal, honoring "heroic or meritorious achievement or service," was authorized by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1962, a rare conjunction of the sun, the moon, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn occurred.

In 1983, pop singer-musician Karen Carpenter died in Downey, California, at age 32.

In 1987, pianist Liberace died at his Palm Springs, California, home at age 67.

In 1997, a civil jury in Santa Monica, California, found O.J. Simpson liable for the deaths of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

In 1999, Amadou Diallo, an unarmed West African immigrant, was shot and killed in front of his Bronx home by four plainclothes New York City police officers. (The officers were acquitted at trial.)

In 2004, the Massachusetts high court declared that gay couples were entitled to nothing less than marriage, and that Vermont-style civil unions would not suffice. The social networking website Facebook

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Feb. 04, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 210 ~ 42 of 42

had its beginnings as Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg launched "Thefacebook."

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama imposed a \$500,000 cap on executive pay for companies receiving federal bailout money; the president also signed a bill extending health coverage to 4 million uninsured children. Lux Interior, co-founder and lead singer of the horror-punk band The Cramps, died in Glendale, Calif., at age 62.

Five years ago: The Congressional Budget Office said several million American workers would reduce their hours on the job or leave the workforce entirely because of incentives built into President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

One year ago: The Philadelphia Eagles, led by backup quarterback Nick Foles, became NFL champs for the first time since 1960, beating Tom Brady and the New England Patriots 41-33 in the Super Bowl. An Amtrak passenger train slammed into a parked freight train in the early-morning darkness in South Carolina after a thrown switch sent it hurtling down a side track; the conductor and engineer were killed and more than 100 passengers were injured. Indianapolis Colts linebacker Edwin Jackson and his Uber driver were struck and killed as they stood on the shoulder of an Indianapolis highway. (The driver of the truck that hit them, a man from Guatemala living illegally in the United States, would be sentenced to 16 years in prison for the drunken-driving crash.) Actor John Mahoney, who played the dad of two psychiatrists on the TV show "Frasier," died in Chicago at the age of 77.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Jerry Adler is 90. Former Argentinian President Isabel Peron is 88. Actor Gary Conway is 83. Actor John Schuck is 79. Rock musician John Steel (The Animals) is 78. Singer Florence LaRue (The Fifth Dimension) is 77. Former Vice President Dan Quayle is 72. Rock singer Alice Cooper is 71. Actor Michael Beck is 70. Actress Lisa Eichhorn is 67. Football Hall of Famer Lawrence Taylor is 60. Actress Pamelyn Ferdin is 60. Rock singer Tim Booth is 59. Rock musician Henry Bogdan is 58. Country singer Clint Black is 57. Rock musician Noodles (The Offspring) is 56. Country musician Dave Buchanan (Yankee Grey) is 53. Actress Gabrielle Anwar is 49. Actor Rob Corddry is 48. Singer David (dah-VEED') Garza is 48. Actor Michael Goorjian is 48. TV personality Nicolle Wallace is 47. Olympic gold medal boxer Oscar De La Hoya is 46. Rock musician Rick Burch (Jimmy Eat World) is 44. Singer Natalie Imbruglia (em-BROO'-lee-ah) is 44. Rapper Cam'ron is 43. Rock singer Gavin DeGraw is 42. Rock singer Zoe Manville is 35. Actor/musician Bashy, AKA Ashley Thomas, is 34. Actor Charlie Barnett is 31. Olympic gold medal gymnast-turned-singer Carly Patterson is 31. Actress Kyla Kenedy (cq) (TV: "Speechless") is 16.

Thought for Today: "Habit is necessary; it is the habit of having habits, of turning a trail into a rut, that must be incessantly fought against if one is to remain alive." — Edith Wharton, American author (1862-1937).