

Groton Area Schedule of Events

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.)

- 1- Conde National League
- 2- GDILIVE.COM - GBB-Roncalli Game
- 3- Strom 4 Generation Photo
- 3- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ads
- 4- Tigers score 5 points in 5 seconds to pull off win over Northwestern
- 5- January 27-28th, 2019 Blizzard
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7-8 Weather Pages
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10- 2019 Groton Events
- 11- News from the Associated Press

Conde National League

Feb. 4 Team Standings: Pirates 14½, Cubs 14, Tigers 14, Braves 13½, Mets 9, Giants 7

Men High Games: Larry Frohling 210, Russ Bethke 189, Lance Frohling 181.

Men's High Series: Larry Frohling 543, Lance Frohling 528, Ryan Bethke 491.

Women's High Games: Nancy Radke 183, 157; Sandy Hoops 175; Vickie Kramp 157.

Women's High Series: Sandy Hoops 460, Vickie Kramp 439, Nancy Radke 433.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

Skating Rink Hours

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

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

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

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

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It's Girls' Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Roncalli
Cavaliers**

VS



Groton Area Tigers

Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019

8:00 p.m.

at 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

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Strom Four Generation

Nick Strom is holding, Zoey, Doris Strom and Alan Strom is holding Ava. (Courtesy Photo)

Cook/ Dietary Aide

Flexible schedule
and new wage
scale.

Contact Pam Rohrbach



GROTON
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

1106 North Second Street
605.397.2365

HELP WANTED

Director of Nursing



Current RN licensure in SD
BSN/MSN degree preferred
Sign on bonus available
Full benefits included.

Contact Brynn Pickrel



GROTON
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

1106 North Second Street
605.397.2365

Tigers score 5 points in 5 seconds to pull off win over Northwestern

Jennie Doeden and Miranda Hanson teamed for two shots with five seconds left in the game to lift Groton Area to a 39-37 win over Northwestern in girls' basketball action played Monday in Groton.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, 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.

Groton Area trailed 14-1, early in the game as the Wildcats were ready to run away with the game. Northwestern led, 21-10, at half time. In the first quarter, Groton Area missed seven shots and Northwestern was five of 18 for 27 percent.

The Tigers went to a 2-1-2 zone defense in the second quarter. Miranda Hanson made Groton Area's first field goal with 6:30 left in the second quarter. The Tiger zone defense left the Wildcats being out-rebounded and finding the easy inside shots were no longer there. The zone defense basically cut the Wildcat's field goal attempts in half. Northwestern held a 21-10 lead at half time.

In the second quarter, Groton Area was four of 12 in shooting for 33 percent and Northwestern was three of 10 for 30 percent.

By the third period, the Tiger defense started to wear down Northwestern. Northwestern took a 23-10 lead right away in the third quarter, but Groton Area would score the next 10 points to cut the lead to three at 23-20. Northwestern went back on top by five, but by the end of the third quarter, it was a one-point lead for the Wildcats, 27-26. In the third quarter, Groton Area made seven of 10 field goals for 70 percent while Northwestern was two of seven for 28 percent.

Doeden completed a three-point play to start the fourth quarter and the Tigers had captured their first lead of the game, 28-27. Northwestern stood firm and tied the game at 29 and recaptured the lead, 37-31 with 60 seconds left on the clock. The Tigers made a three-pointer to make it 37-34. Northwestern threw the ball on the inbound pass and the Tigers had the ball with time ticking. Then from the top of the key, Jennie Doeden made a three-pointer with five seconds left to the game at 37. Again, on the inbound pass, Northwestern threw the ball away and the Tigers had the ball. Doeden had the ball, passed it to Miranda Hanson on the basket and she made the shot at the buzzer to give Groton Area the win.

In the fourth quarter, Groton Area made five of nine shots for 55 percent and Northwestern made three of 10 for 30 percent. Northwestern had 13 of its 14 turnovers in the last three quarters.

Jennie Doeden led the Tigers with 13 points, eight rebounds, seven assists and three steals. Gracie Traphagen scored six of her eight points in the third quarter as she fouled out with 6:00 to go in the game. Miranda Hanson finished with seven points, Payton Maine had six, Eliza Wanner three and Kaycie Hawkins two points.

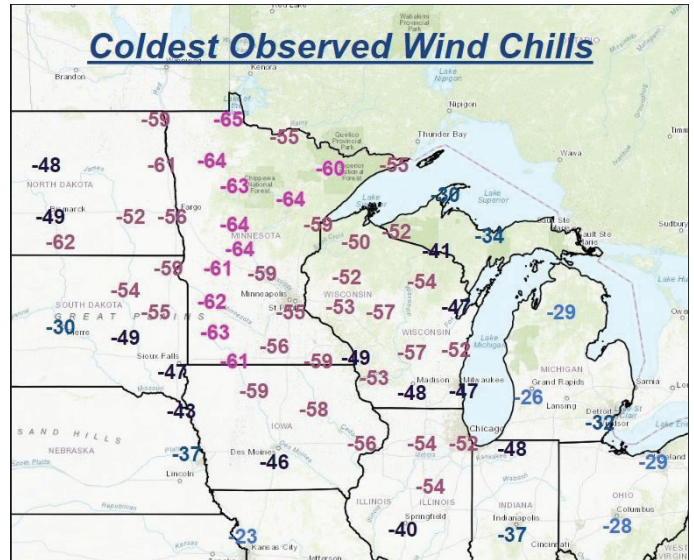
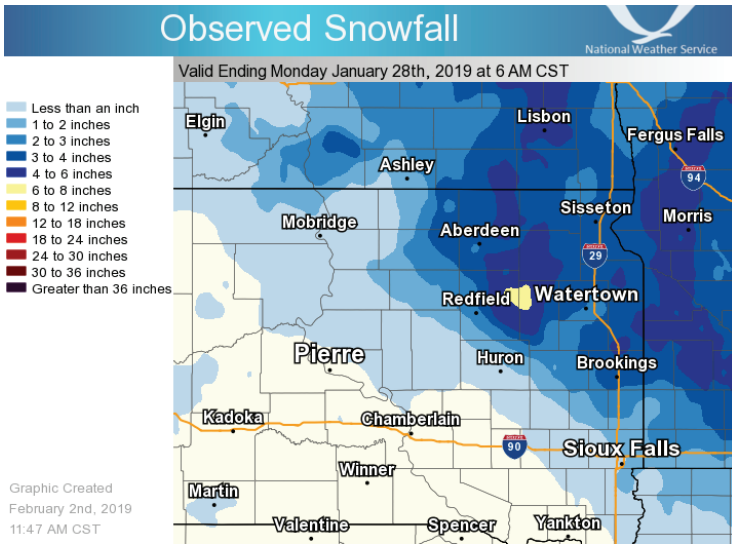
For the game, Groton Area made 12 of 43 shots for 37 percent while Northwestern was 12 of 45 for 29 percent. The Tigers were three of four from the line for 75 percent off of Northwestern's six team fouls. Northwestern was six of 10 from the line for 60 percent off of Groton Area's 15 team fouls. Payton Maine had two three-pointers while Hanson and Doeden each had one.

The Wildcats were led by Miranda Thorson with 12 points followed by Hannah Schentzel with 11, Riley Grandpre and Sydney Schell each had six and Madalyn Groft had two points.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 27-21. Gracie Traphagen led the Tigers with 11 points, Trista Keith had six, Maddie Bjerke five, Brooke Gengerke three and Allyssa Locke two.

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January 27-28th, 2019 Blizzard

A powerful Alberta Clipper passed through the region from the 27th through the 28th. Relatively high amounts of snow ranging from two to five inches, with locally higher amounts, fell in northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota throughout the afternoon and overnight hours of the 27th. Very strong northwesterly winds began occurring the evening of the 27th. Fresh snow along with gusts up to 72 mph led to blizzard conditions in the area. First responders took part in over 30 rescues in Brown County alone.

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Today in Weather History

February 5, 1978: Another winter blizzard plagued the northern half of the state beginning on February 5th and continuing until the 9th. The unusual aspect of this blizzard was that the wind came from the southeast between 25 to 45 mph. Only one to three inches of new snow accumulation fell during the five-day period but was piled high on the existing large snow drifts. Most of the northern half of the state was paralyzed due to blocked roads. Eighteen counties across the north part of the South Dakota were declared a disaster by the governor. There were also numerous livestock losses.

1745: Today is National Weatherman/Meteorologist day commemorating the birth of John Jeffries in 1745. Jeffries, one of America's first weather observers, began taking daily weather observations in Boston, MA in 1774 and he made the first balloon observation in 1784.

1887: San Francisco experienced its most significant snowstorm of record. Nearly four inches was reported in downtown San Francisco, and the western hills of the city received seven inches. Excited crowds went on a snowball throwing rampage.

1920: An intense nor'easter dumped 17.5 inches of snow over a three day period in New York City, New York.

1986: A supercell thunderstorm tracked through the Tomball area northwest of Houston, TX and produced four tornadoes along with damaging microburst winds and up to tennis ball size hail. An F3 tornado killed two people, injured 80 others and devastated a mobile home park and the David Wayne Hooks Airport. 300 aircraft were either damaged or destroyed. Much of the more substantial hail was propelled by 60 to 80 mph winds, resulting in widespread moderate damage. Total damage from this storm was 80 million dollars.

2008: The Super Tuesday 2008 Tornado Outbreak has been one of the deadliest tornado outbreaks in the US with 59 fatalities reported. So far, it ranks in the top 15 deadly tornado outbreaks (and the highest number of tornado deaths since 1985). According to the SPC Storm Reports, there were over 300 reports of tornadoes, large hail (up to 4.25 inches in diameter in Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri), and damaging wind gusts from Texas to Ohio and West Virginia. The outbreak produced at least 64 tornadoes, some producing EF-3, and EF-4 damage.

1887 - San Francisco experienced its greatest snowstorm of record. Nearly four inches was reported in downtown San Francisco, and the western hills of the city received seven inches. Excited crowds went on a snowball throwing rampage. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Thunderstorms in the Southern Plains Region caused flooding in parts of south central Texas. Del Rio TX was soaked with two inches of rain in two hours prior to sunrise. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Cold and snow invaded the southern U.S. Roswell NM was buried under 16.5 inches of snow in 24 hours, an all-time record for that location. Parts of the Central Gulf Coast Region reported their first significant snow in fifteen years. Strong winds in Minnesota and the Dakotas produced wind chill readings as cold as 75 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Severe cold gripped much of the nation. Thirty cities reported new record low temperatures for the date. Morning lows of 9 above at Astoria OR and 27 below zero at Ely NV were records for February. In Alaska, Point Barrow warmed to 24 degrees above zero, and Nome reached 30 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

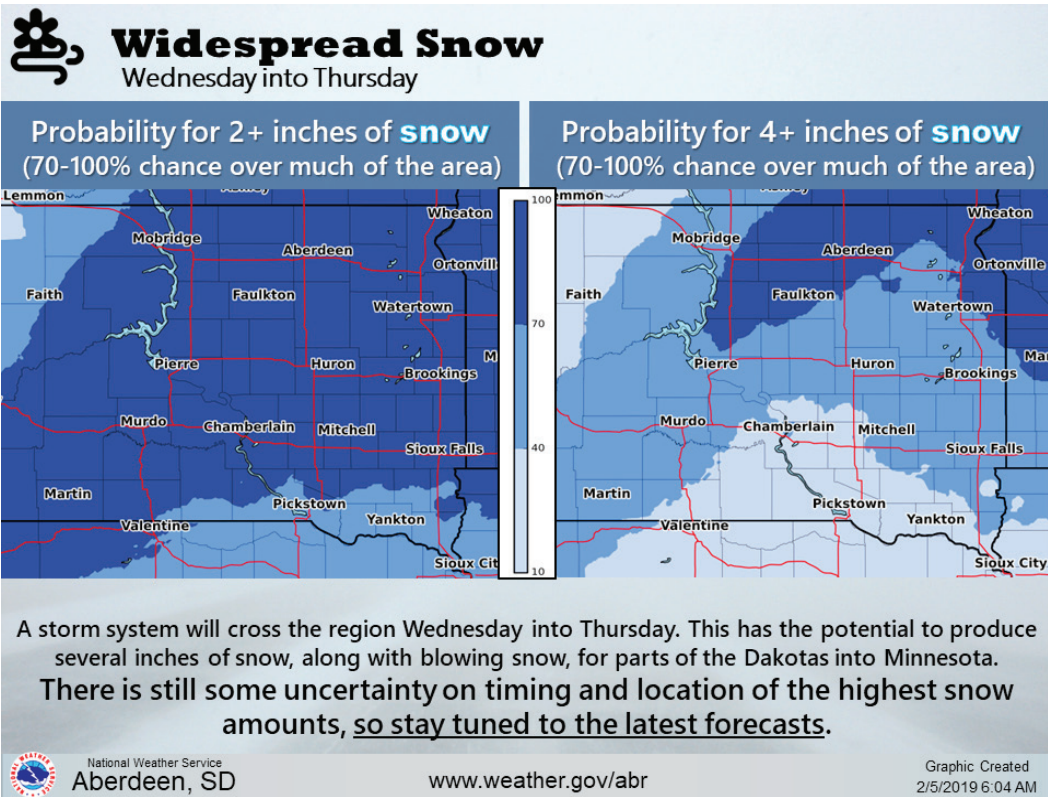
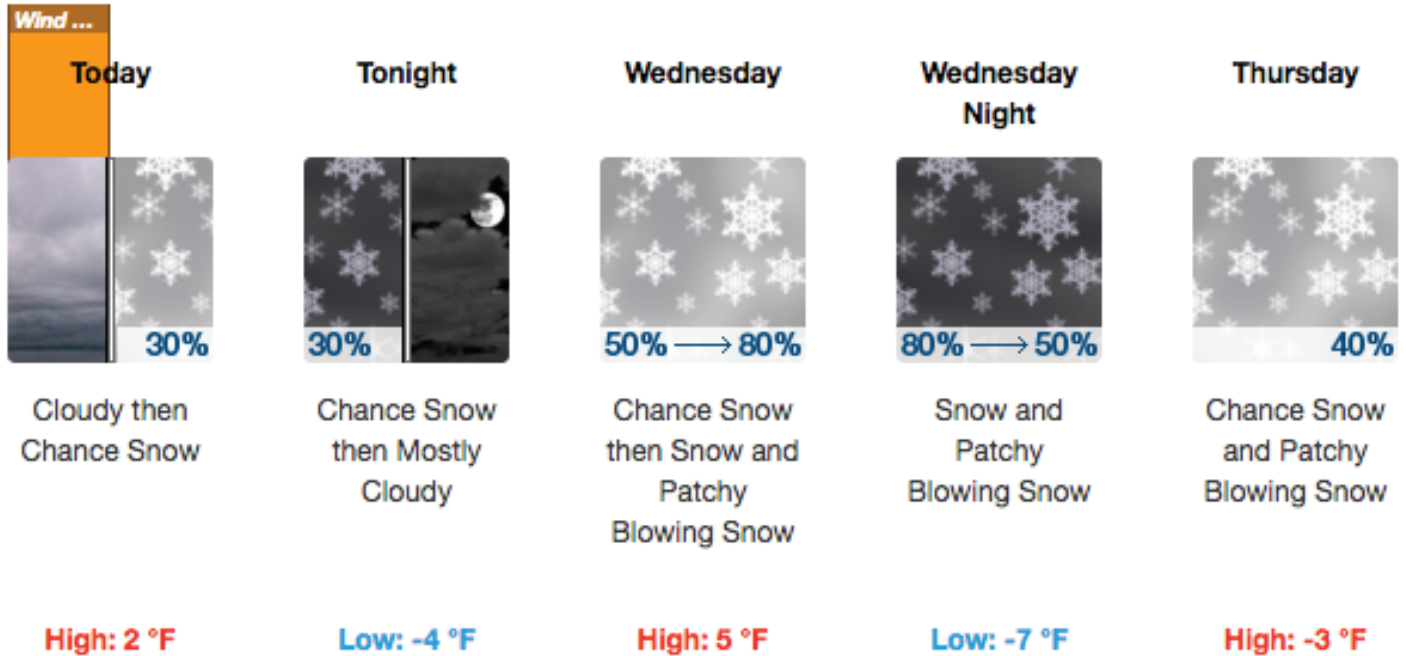
1990 - For the second time in two days, and the third time in a week, high winds plagued the north-western U.S. Winds in Oregon gusted to 60 mph at Cape Disappointment, and wind gusts in Washington State reached 67 mph at Bellingham. The first in a series of cold fronts began to produce heavy snow in the mountains of Washington and Oregon. Ten inches of snow fell at Timberline OR. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2006 - Mount Washington Observatory in New Hampshire reaches a high of 41°F, the warmest February 5th on record at the summit and two degrees off the monthly mark, where records have been kept since 1932. The Weather Doctor

2008 - The deadliest round of tornadoes in nearly a quarter century kill 58 people in the south. The storms kill 32 people in Tennessee, 14 in Arkansas, seven in Kentucky and five in Alabama. Damage is likely to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars. The Weather Doctor

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Widespread Snow (and blowing snow) expected Wednesday into Thursday. There is a very high probability that we'll be getting 2 inches or more snow, with over 4 inches of snow expected over portions of northeastern SD and western MN. Stay tuned to the latest forecasts, as the location and timing becomes fine-tuned.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: -4 °F at 2:50 PM

Low Outside Temp: -9 °F at 6:33 AM

High Gust: 23 mph at 1:40 AM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 57 in 1991

Record Low: -36 in 1907

Average High: 25°F

Average Low: 4°F

Average Precip in Feb.: 0.06

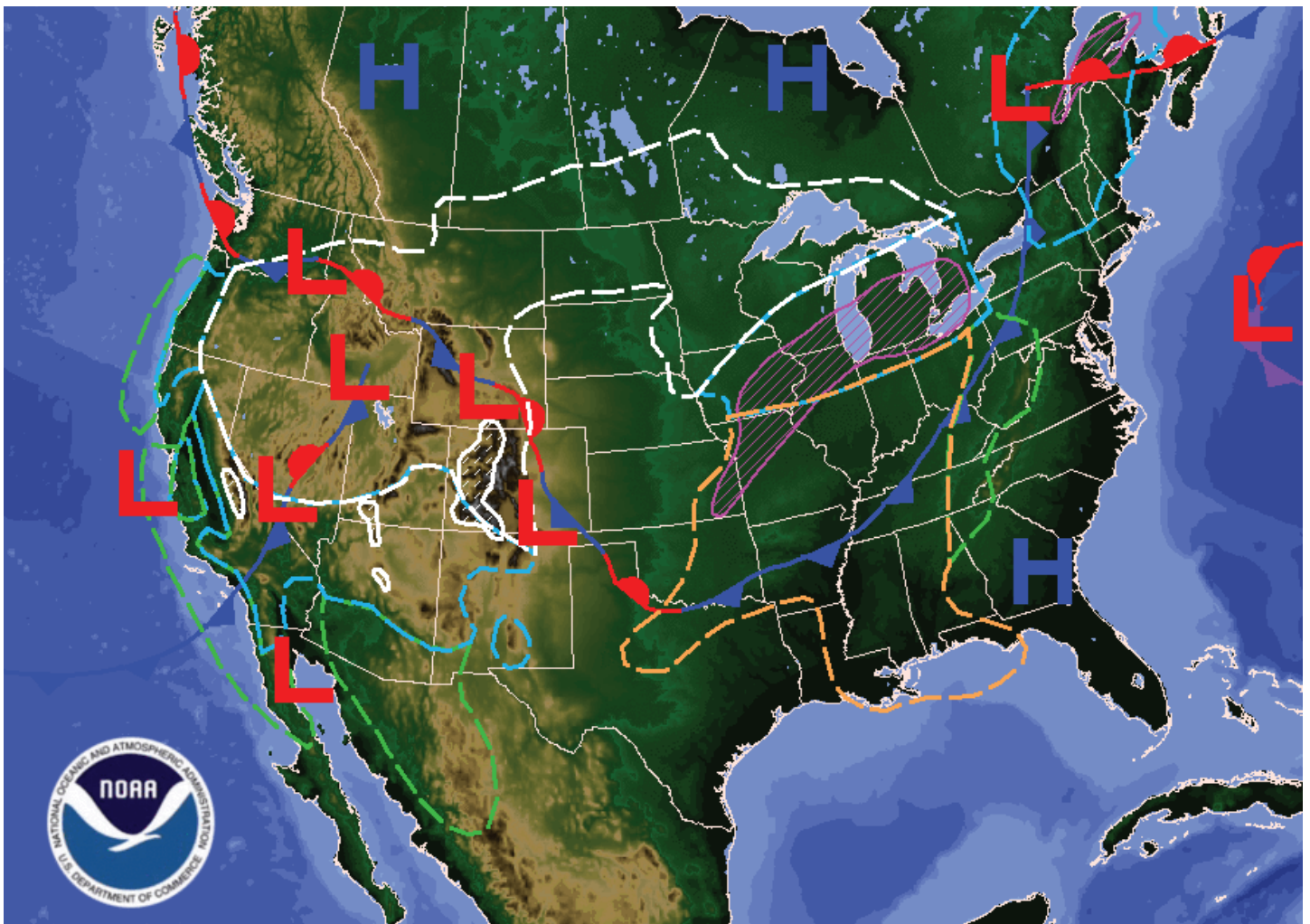
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.53

Precip Year to Date: 0.09

Sunset Tonight: 5:46 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:49 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Feb 05, 2019, issued 4:36 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

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

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FATHERLY ADVICE

There is no shortage of advice in today's world. We can discover endless resources in the exploding number of self-help books and magazines, radio and TV shows. No matter where we look or what we listen to, someone has some formula to solve our problems, enrich our lives, make us more attractive, add years to our lives, and make us wealthy.

Solomon, apart from his Proverbs, also offered insight on how to live life well in some of his other writings. And, at the end of his life he wrote, Of making many books there is no end...all has been heard, and here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments. In these few words, he went back to the beginning of his reign when his father, David, gave him some fatherly advice Solomon, be strong, act like a man, and observe what the Lord your God requires.

There are, as mentioned earlier, many sources and resources on how to live life. But the advice we find here is different. After reflecting on his life and reviewing his successes and failures, he summed up the essence of life: Life, apart from God, is meaningless.

David, a man after God's own heart, offered his son, Solomon, a man who would one day be recognized as the wisest man who ever lived the formula for success.

God's wisdom, however, only has value if followed. As long as Solomon followed the advice of his father, David, God honored and blessed him. And, nothing since then has changed.

If we follow the advice of our Heavenly Father as He presents it in His Word, He will honor and bless us, guide us and guard us, too!

Prayer: To accept and live by Your requirements, Father, is easier said than done. But, with Your power, it is possible if we trust in Your strength, not ours.. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Ecclesiastes 12:12-13 Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them. Of making many books there is no end, and much study wears the body. Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

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

More than 100 involved in search for 9-year-old girl

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Pennington County Sheriff's Office says more than 100 people are looking for a 9-year-old girl who ran away from a residential youth home near Rockerville.

It's the third day of the search for Serenity Dennard who left the Children's Home Society Sunday morning without a coat. Sheriff's officials say deputies have been going door to door speaking with neighbors and looking in outbuildings, hay bales, log piles and other spaces.

Authorities have located a couple they were seeking who spotted the girl. The couple was able to give investigators a better timeline of events. The sheriff's office says Tuesday's focus is on a 1-mile radius of the children's home campus.

Officials are encouraging anyone living in the Rockerville, Foster Gulch and Highway 16 area to check their property.

House panel backs bill to expand texting while driving ban

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A House panel has endorsed a bill that would expand the state's texting while driving ban to mostly prohibit mobile device use by people behind the wheel.

The House Transportation Committee voted 12-1 Tuesday to advance the bill. Republican Rep. Doug Barthel, the sponsor, says distracted driving is not safe.

Right now, drivers can't text or email when operating a vehicle, but they must be pulled over for a different violation for it to be enforced.

The new bill would increase the penalty for device use while driving and make it a primary offense, which means motorists buried in their phones could be stopped for it.

Using a navigation app, making a telephone call or operating in hands-free mode and using a device during an emergency would still be allowed.

FBI identifies man fatally shot by Rosebud tribal officer

ROSEBUD, S.D. (AP) — The FBI has identified the man who died after he was shot by an officer on the Rosebud Indian Reservation.

The agency says 25-year-old Jacob Archambault, of St. Francis, died as a result of a tribal officer-involved shooting Jan. 27. Rosebud Sioux Tribe Law Enforcement Services earlier said officers shot at Archambault's car and that it crashed down a cliff. They did not make it clear how Archambault died.

Mother sent to prison for injuring baby

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A St. Francis mother has been sentenced to about 9 months in federal prison for injuring her baby.

Twenty-year-old Tara Red Kettle recently pleaded guilty to assaulting a minor. Red Kettle was indicted by a federal grand jury last June. She was accused of throwing her infant child on a bed in frustration, causing the baby's head to strike a wall.

The case was investigated by Rosebud Sioux Tribe Law Enforcement Services and the FBI. A federal judge also ordered 1 year of supervised release to follow the prison sentence.

Police: Man had methamphetamine, fake bills

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police have arrested a Sioux Falls man they say was carrying methamphetamine as well as 18 fake \$100 bills.

Officers were called to check on the welfare of the 30-year-old Sioux Falls man and found him in the

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parking lot of the Red Roof Inn. The man fled from police who caught up with him as he tried to pull a stun gun from his jacket Saturday.

Authorities are recommending charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, carrying a concealed weapon without a permit, possession of a forged instrument, resisting arrest and fleeing police.

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Canton 71, Centerville 39
Chester 64, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 54
Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley, Minn. 50, Wilmot 45
Colman-Egan 61, Baltic 41
Dakota Valley 72, Spirit Lake, Iowa 63
DeSmet 59, Castlewood 56
Dell Rapids St. Mary 72, Gayville-Volin 48
Elk Point-Jefferson 70, Lawton-Bronson, Iowa 60
Elkton-Lake Benton 72, Great Plains Lutheran 45
Hamlin 63, Arlington 60
Hitchcock-Tulare 47, James Valley Christian 30
Howard 77, Iroquois 53
Jones County 57, Sully Buttes 49
Langford 44, Waubay/Summit 36
Milbank 66, Deuel 55
Oelrichs 75, Newell 45
Parker 55, Bon Homme 36
Potter County 71, Redfield/Doland 59
Viborg-Hurley 82, Canistota 74
Wagner 64, Ethan 55
Wall 61, Philip 35
Warner 40, Britton-Hecla 37

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Avon 63, Gregory 42
Bon Homme 45, Parker 33
Canton 56, Centerville 46
Colman-Egan 53, Baltic 40
Corsica/Stickney 61, Burke 36
Dakota Valley 78, Sioux City, North, Iowa 52
Dell Rapids St. Mary 58, Gayville-Volin 41
Deubrook 55, Madison 45
Deuel 47, Milbank 43
Ethan 66, Wagner 44
Florence/Henry 59, Estelline/Hendricks 44
Grant County, N.D. 72, Lemmon 46
Great Plains Lutheran 47, Elkton-Lake Benton 38
Groton Area 39, Northwestern 37
Hamlin 62, Arlington 41
Hitchcock-Tulare 47, James Valley Christian 30
Langford 41, Waubay/Summit 35

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Lawton-Bronson, Iowa 49, Elk Point-Jefferson 38
Lead-Deadwood 52, Upton, Wyo. 30
Miller 44, Lower Brule 42
New Underwood 65, Kadoka Area 59, OT
Newell 43, Sundance, Wyo. 40
Redfield/Doland 54, Potter County 30
Sully Buttes 53, Jones County 30
Tea Area 63, Western Christian, Iowa 60
Timber Lake 55, Standing Rock, N.D. 49
Todd County 77, Stanley County 33
Viborg-Hurley 65, Canistota 60
Warner 55, Britton-Hecla 25
Waverly-South Shore 61, Lyman 44
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS
Sisseton vs. Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta, Minn., ccd.

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

Search ramps up for missing 9-year-old in South Dakota

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A western South Dakota sheriff says searchers so far have found no trace of a missing 9-year-old girl who ran away from staff at a residential youth home.

Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom said Monday afternoon that 65 people assisted by dogs are searching for Serenity Dennard. The Civil Air Patrol joined the search Monday morning.

Sheriff's officials say she left the Children's Home Society near Rockerville about 11 a.m. Sunday without a coat. The Rapid City Journal reports the organization's executive director, Bill Colson, says Serenity was playing in the gym inside the facility when she ran away from staff.

Investigators want to talk with a couple who last saw the girl near the children's home. The couple were cutting wood and driving a pickup. Deputies want to get a better idea of where Serenity was headed.

North Dakota heads for another deep freeze

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota is headed for another deep freeze.

The National Weather Service is issuing a wind chill advisory for the entire state of North Dakota and parts of South Dakota and Minnesota until noon Tuesday. Wind chills are expected to plunge as low as minus 35 (minus 37 Celsius).

Heavy snow and gusty winds were making travel difficult in North Dakota. A no-travel advisory was issued for northeastern North Dakota, including Grafton, Pembina and Cavalier, due to snow and blowing snow. Some schools and government offices in North Dakota were forced to open late on Monday.

The weather service reports a foot of snow fell in western North Dakota near the Montana border. Minot received 11 inches (28 centimeters) of snow while Williston and Stanley saw 10 inches (25 centimeters).

SD Senate panel to debate expanding lobbying restrictions

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A broader swath of state employees would be covered under rules barring officials from private lobbying for two years after leaving government in a bill South Dakota lawmakers plan to debate this week.

Republican Sen. Stace Nelson said Monday that his measure would prohibit former state employees from using their relationships for the benefit of private companies to lobby. The Senate State Affairs Committee is scheduled to hear the plan Wednesday.

The prohibition in current law — a violation is a misdemeanor — applies to elected officials, department

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and agency heads, division directors and the highest-paid employee reporting to them. Nelson's bill would expand the list to include employees of the governor, paid members of the governor's transition team and Unified Judicial System employees.

"It would extend those moratoriums on going from working for the seat of government to lobbying the next day and using those significant contacts as a state employee to influence state government on the behalf of a private interest," Nelson said.

The push comes after lawmakers in 2017 tightened the restrictions following the repeal a voter-imposed government ethics overhaul. A spokeswoman for Republican Gov. Kristi Noem said in an email that the governor and her team are reviewing the measure.

Nelson said the plan is one in a series of bills he's bringing that aim to address perceptions of corruption in state government. They include legislation on nepotism, drug testing lawmakers and requiring legislative caucuses to be open to the public.

'Find Your True North' is new Minnesota tourism campaign

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Minnesota's state tourism agency has unveiled a new marketing campaign based on the slogan "Find Your True North."

The True North campaign was announced Monday at Explore Minnesota Tourism's annual conference. Officials say it leverages the "Bold North" tagline from last year's Super Bowl in Minneapolis, and efforts to use Minnesota's northern latitude to set it apart from other Midwestern states.

It also expands on the agency's "Only in Minnesota" campaign, which launched in 2014, updating the slogan to, "Find Your True North. #OnlyinMN."

The new campaign launches this spring with TV, print and digital ads across Minnesota, and in Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota and North Dakota. Other target markets include Chicago, Denver, Kansas City, Omaha and Winnipeg.

Explore Minnesota says tourism is a \$15.3 billion industry in the state.

Girl's Basketball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school girl's preseason poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points and last week's ranking.

Class AA

1. O'Gorman (20)	14-2	104	2
2. Harrisburg (1)	13-2	84	1
3. Brandon Valley	11-3	63	3
4. Stevens	12-3	37	5
5. Brookings	10-3	17	RV

Receiving votes: Lincoln 10.

Class A

1. Lennox (17)	14-1	100	1
2. Winner (4)	15-0	83	2
3. West Central	13-0	69	3
4. McCook Central-Montrose	13-1	41	5
5. Vermillion	11-3	8	RV

Receiving votes: SF Christian 7, St. Thomas More 4, Belle Fourche 2, Todd County 1.

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Class B

1. Ethan (21)	14-0	105	1
2. Warner	13-2	70	2
3. De Smet	14-1	62	3
4. Corsica-Stickney	14-1	45	4
5. Faith	15-0	30	5

Receiving votes: Bridgewater-Emery 2, Avon 1.

Boy's Basketball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school boy's preseason poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points and last week's ranking.

Class AA

1. Lincoln (12)	11-1	93	1
2. Brandon Valley (9)	11-2	92	2
3. O'Gorman	9-5	58	3
4. Yankton	11-3	45	4
5. Roosevelt	9-4	21	5

Receiving votes: Stevens 5, Harrisburg 1

Class A

1. Tea Area (21)	15-1	105	1
2. St. Thomas More	12-1	82	2
3. SF Christian	13-2	64	3
4. Pine Ridge	12-3	33	5
5. Red Cloud	12-3	14	4

Receiving votes: Tiospa Zina 5, Dakota Valley 5, Sioux Valley 4, Lennox 3.

Class B

1. White River (12)	14-1	96	1
2. Clark-Willow Lake (9)	12-1	92	2
3. Viborg-Hurley	13-1	51	4
4. Bridgewater-Emery	13-3	48	3
5. Sully Buttes	11-2	23	5

Receiving votes: De Smet 2, Arlington 2, Timber Lake 1.

Driver gets 16-year prison term for crash that killed family

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Porcupine corrections officer has been sentenced to 16 years in prison after being convicted in a drunken-driving crash that killed a family on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Tyler Makes Him First earlier pleaded guilty to three involuntary manslaughter charges in the 2017 crash that killed 42-year-old Waylon Red Elk Sr., his pregnant 34-year-old wife Jaylene Pretends Eagle; and their 1-year-old son Waylon Red Elk Jr. The prosecution in return dropped a charge involving the unborn child, who was nearly due at 7 1/2 months' gestation, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Make Him First's sentence exceeded sentencing guidelines because he was a corrections officer who swore to follow and protect the law, Assistant U.S. Attorney Benjamin Patterson said. He was driving with three and a half times the legal limit of alcohol in his system and caused a "catastrophic" crash that took the lives of four innocent people, Patterson said.

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"Sixteen years, but what is that? He'll be back. He'll be breathing. But I'll never have my daughter back or the grandbabies," said Phyllis Wilcox, Pretends Eagle's mother, after the sentencing.

Jeffrey Viken, a judge at the Rapid City federal courthouse, also ordered him to pay \$9,300 in restitution. Make Him First was initially scheduled to be sentenced Jan. 4 but the hearing was postponed and he was sent to jail after testing positive for marijuana. The defendant had a blood alcohol content of 0.28, surpassing the legal limit when his pickup crossed the center line and struck the family's car.

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

Officials seek information on fatal shootings of eagles

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Federal and South Dakota officials are looking for information about the recent killing of a 2-year-old golden eagle found in South Dakota.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering up to \$2,500 for information that leads to the conviction of those involved in shooting eagles in South Dakota.

The agency said Friday three other eagles had been killed in central South Dakota within the previous five weeks. Officials estimate nearly 1,000 golden eagles are illegally shot annually.

Officials say agents retrieved the radio-collared golden eagle Jan. 29 after it registered a dead signal. The service says it had traveled to Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, through Canada and to Alaska and back before being killed.

Golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, Jan. 28

Time for legislators to stop wasting our time

What do South Dakotans want from our legislators in Pierre?

Is it that they should hit the ground running at the start of our brief legislative session to tackle issues that most affect their constituents' pocketbooks and basic well-being?

As the clock ticks away on the 40 days allotted to make laws that can improve the lives of all South Dakotans, do we expect lawmakers will finally buckle down and tackle the challenge of closing gaps in mental health care access? Of crafting effective criminal justice reform? Of inoculating our citizens against a raging opioid and meth epidemic?

Do we need them to put their noses to the grindstone to address a broken health care system on our reservations that, instead of healing its patients, leaves them sicker and worse off?

Do we hope that they roll up their sleeves and plunge into rescuing our parents and grandparents from the crisis of a failing nursing home network brought low by stingy Medicaid reimbursement rates?

Is that what we expect from our elected representatives in Pierre's House and Senate chambers?

If so, judging by the most visible debates undertaken in the first weeks of the current legislative session, South Dakotans are not being properly represented.

What we've seen instead is bluster and posture from the majority party on motions that do little to make the lives of our citizens less fraught.

Tell the federal government to Build That Wall!

Tell our senators in D.C. "Well done!" on their lockstep party-line confirmation votes for newly minted United States Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

Tell doctors word for word what they have to say to their abortion-seeking patients without regard for medical utility.

Tell the South Dakota High School Activities Association that they can take their carefully researched

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policy for transgender athletes and stuff it.

Thankfully, for the economic good of the state, that latest tilt at transgender windmills was scuttled early. But currently chewing up time on the legislative clock is yet another run at eliminating the permit process for carrying a concealed firearm in South Dakota.

Several Republican state lawmakers are trotting this chestnut out again after two successive years of it failing to become law. New governor Kristi Noem telegraphed support for such a bill during her campaign, unlike her predecessor.

But what base motivation underlies the push to erase safeguards that are less onerous than those that keep people who shouldn't be behind the wheel from slipping into the driver's seat?

Open carry is already legal. Concealed carry is legal with a permit. Have South Dakotans been clamoring for the ability to pack heat under their winter coat without the intolerable inconvenience of filling out paperwork at their county sheriff's office and paying a token \$10 fee?

The answer is no.

In separate polls taken in 2017 and 2018 to determine statewide support for similar bills during those legislative sessions, SurveyUSA found that just under 90 percent of South Dakotans supported permits that require background checks and a fee for carrying a concealed firearm. Those polled included Republicans, Democrats and independents, gun owners and non-gun owners, parents and non-parents.

Nonetheless, these legislators persist.

Instead of answering an urgent practical need shared by state citizens, they aim to join the ranks of other "constitutional carry" activists in further eroding regulations on owning and carrying firearms.

On its face, their argument sounds plausible: the U.S. Supreme Court has found that Second Amendment constitutional protections extend to individuals, not only to "well-regulated militias."

But our eyes need only drift up from the Second Amendment to the First to remind us that constitutional rights aren't absolute.

There are numerous exceptions to the First Amendment right to free speech, among them libel, slander, lying under oath, fraud, child pornography, and speech that is likely to incite imminent lawless action. Crying "Fire!" in a crowded theater is excluded. We also advise not joking about bombs when you're inside an airport.

Like 90 percent of South Dakota voters, state law enforcement objects to permitless concealed carry. The South Dakota State's Attorneys Association and the South Dakota Sheriff's Association have also publicly opposed the bill.

After sailing through both Senate committee and a full Senate vote, SB 47 is on its way to the state House of Representatives.

We ask elected officials there, on behalf of all South Dakotans, to give this bill the "deferred to the 41st legislative day" treatment.

We ask them to turn instead to swift and decisive action that will improve access to mental health care, address the growing nursing home crisis, and grapple with opioid and methamphetamine addiction and related crime.

We appeal to the supermajority party's self-image of fiscal responsibility and conservative stewardship of taxpayer dollars, to their boldly stated mission of cutting government waste and inefficiency.

The clock is ticking. Stop wasting our time.

Rapid City Journal, Jan. 31

Prohibit secrecy where taxpayer money involved

It was a messy lawsuit. Things happened and bad decisions got made. Not your finest hour. A confidential settlement can make it go away quietly, and why not? It's your money. It's nobody else's business.

But what if it was your money and somebody else decided to settle confidentially in order to protect their reputation? And now they won't disclose the price you paid or how they arrived at the amount. They won't even say who made the mistake or whether malice was involved.

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And that's what happens when a city, county or school board gets sued and quietly settles without disclosing the details to taxpayers.

South Dakota is one of only a few states where the law allows government boards to pretend taxpayer money is truly lawmaker money. It's time the Legislature set them straight by prohibiting confidential settlements involving government bodies. Exceptions must be allowed to protect victims, but boards should not be allowed to protect themselves without judicial review.

Senate Bill 59, advanced by the Senate Judiciary Committee Tuesday, would bar government entities from entering into secret settlements. It would also allow judicial discretion and exceptions to keep the names of crime victims confidential.

At Tuesday's hearing, the bill was opposed by lobbyists representing bankers, retailers, insurers and the South Dakota Trial Lawyers Association, who argued it would lead to increased litigation costs.

The bill's prime sponsor, Sen. Art Rusch, a Republican from Vermillion and a retired judge, argued the public's right to know trumps any theoretical additional cost of litigation.

"It's my feeling the taxpayer has a right to know where their tax money is going," he said.

Why is this even a question? It's taxpayer money. Of course they have a right to know. And if there's any question about undue harm to a victim or related individual, only a judge should be able to restrict those details.

What funding entity — in this case taxpayers — allows an employee — in this case elected officials — to decide whether or not to provide an explanation about matters of money? How can employers — in this case voters — make responsible decisions about whether to retain their employees?

Hey boss, if you don't ask questions about this, I can shave a few bucks off your bill. It's a fool's offer. No employer would accept it.

And yet this isn't the first time Rusch has proposed this fix. His most recent effort found success in the Senate but failed in the House.

This time, Gov. Kristi Noem has indicated support for Rusch's bill, saying she believes in transparency in government.

The South Dakota Supreme Court has also weighed in on the matter, ruling in 2017 that the city of Sioux Falls had no right to withhold information surrounding repairs to the Denny Sanford Premier Center.

It's time for legislators to affirm that they also support the rights of taxpayers. Nobody else should be forced to require the courts to uphold their right to know about matters involving their own money. It's that simple.

Madison Daily Leader, Madison, Jan. 28

Lawmakers should ban confidential settlements

On Tuesday, the South Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee will consider a bill that would bar government officials from negotiating confidential settlements.

The settlement agreement may involve a claim for monetary damages or equitable relief, either by the government entity or by the other party. A similar bill was introduced last year and did not pass, but this year's bill has been modified to improve its chances of passage.

Two settlements come to mind right away. The City of Sioux Falls entered into a confidential settlement with the builders of the Denny Sanford Premier Center, in regards to bulging exterior panels. And just two weeks ago, the Brookings School District entered into a confidential settlement with a former student who sued the district for denying her due process involving her suspension.

The bill under consideration would also make settlements a public record.

Governments belong to the people, and the people deserve to know how their tax dollars are being spent. Governments are already required to publish all their expenditures, but settlements are sometimes made by a third party, which aren't published. For example, a city may have a liability insurance policy, and in a settlement, the insurance company would pay monetary damages.

The bill would not involve any confidential settlements that don't involve the state or local government.

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The bill also includes a number of items that could be redacted from the public release of a settlement, such as medical information, certain student information, trade secrets, computer passwords, credit card numbers, information regarding security of a facility and much more.

We believe SB 59 is a good bill and deserves to pass. Gov. Kristi Noem has indicated her support for the bill as part of her commitment to transparency in government operations.

We're eager to hear the debate on the bill, and look forward to its passage.

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>

Pope acknowledges priests, bishops have sexually abused nuns

By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE (AP) — Pope Francis has for the first time publicly acknowledged the scandal of priests and bishops sexually abusing nuns and says he is committed to doing more to fight the problem.

Speaking to reporters Tuesday, Francis noted that Pope Benedict XVI had taken action against a France-based order after some of its religious sisters had been reduced to "sexual slavery" at the hands of the priest who founded the order and other priests.

"Should we do something more? Yes. Is there the will? Yes. But it's a path that we have already begun," Francis said while returning home from the United Arab Emirates.

"It's not that everyone does this, but there have been priests and bishops who have," Francis added. "And I think that it's continuing because it's not like once you realize it that it stops. It continues. And for some time we've been working on it."

The issue has come to the fore amid the Catholic Church's overall reckoning with the sexual abuse of minors and the #MeToo-inspired acknowledgement that adults can be victims of abuse whenever there is an imbalance of power in a relationship. In the past year, The Associated Press and other media have reported on cases of abused nuns in India, Africa, Europe and South America — evidence that the problem is by no means limited to a certain geographic area.

In November, the organization representing all the world's female Catholic religious orders, the International Union of Superiors General, publicly denounced the "culture of silence and secrecy" that prevented nuns from speaking out and urged sisters to report abuse to their superiors and police. And just last week, the women's magazine of the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano identified the clerical culture of the all-powerful clergy as the culprit. The magazine, "Women Church World," noted that the scandal involves a corollary: nuns being forced to abort the priests' children.

Francis said some clergy had been suspended for mistreating sisters. But he also noted that the mistreatment of women is a problem in society at large, where women are still considered "second-class citizens."

"It's a cultural problem. I dare say that humanity hasn't matured," he said, adding that in some parts of the world the mistreatment gets to the point of femicide.

Francis credited Benedict, pope from 2005-2013, with having had the courage to tackle the problem, saying the popular impression that he was somehow weak was completely wrong.

He said Benedict took action against the French congregation "because a certain slavery of women had

crept in, slavery to the point of sexual slavery on the part of clergy or the founder," he said.

"Sometimes the founder takes away, or empties the freedom of the sisters. It can come to this," Francis said.

Asked if any universal norms might be in the works to tackle the problem — as has been done to handle cases of clergy sexual abuse of minors — Francis implied that the priestly abuse of nuns was still being dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

"There are cases, usually in new congregations and in some regions more than others," he said. "We're working on it."

"Pray that this goes forward," he said of the Vatican efforts to fight it. "I want it to go forward."

Racist yearbook photo went unnoticed by busy med students

By BEN FINLEY, Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — The racist yearbook photo that could sink Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's career may have been mistakenly placed on his profile page — but even it were put there intentionally, it's unlikely that many students would have noticed it, according to alumni who put together the publication or submitted pictures to it 35 years ago.

Giac Chan Nguyen-Tan, a physician practicing in Connecticut, remembers that a page he laid out for the 1984 Eastern Virginia Medical School yearbook was changed without his knowledge before publication.

"Could (the offensive photo) have been slipped in there? Absolutely," he said, adding that he doesn't remember laying out Northam's page, which ended up including a photo of one person in blackface and another dressed in Ku Klux Klan hood and robes.

Students submitted their photos in an envelope with their name on it, said fellow yearbook staffer Dr. William Elwood. Elwood said he doubts any photos were mixed up — and he says it's unlikely that someone could have pulled a prank because a limited number of people had keys to the yearbook room. He said he took his job seriously and received no complaints after the yearbook was published.

It's possible that not many noticed what was in the yearbook; few students enrolled in the intense medical school program took the publication very seriously — or even looked at it — after it was published, several classmates said. For many, the yearbook was simply not a priority. Northam and his former roommate, Dr. John "Rob" Marsh, rushed off to the military immediately after graduation. Others embarked on their residencies.

"The yearbook comes out in the fall when you're gone," said Marsh, who roomed with Northam for two years before graduating in 1983.

The half page that Northam was allotted in the yearbook includes three pictures, including one of him in a suit. A fourth photo shows a man in blackface standing next to a person in a full KKK costume. At a news conference Saturday, Northam remarked that a former, unidentified classmate told him he thought "numerous pages" of the yearbook had received the wrong photos.

The offensive image was one of at least three blackface photos in the yearbook's 1984 edition. One photo in the yearbook, which was reviewed by an Associated Press reporter, shows a man in blackface, dressed up as a woman wearing a wig. A caption reads: "'Baby Love,' who ever thought Diana Ross would make it to Medical School!"

Calling the photos "shockingly abhorrent," school leaders said have commissioned an investigation into all past yearbooks and the school's culture. The investigation will be led by high-powered attorney Richard Cullen, a former Virginia attorney general and a former U.S. Attorney in Virginia who directed investigations into financial institutions and defense contractors, the school said in a statement.

The photo became public after it was published on the conservative website Big League Politics. The site's editor-in-chief, Patrick Howley, who wrote the article, said the photo was brought to his attention that day by a tipster upset by Northam saying he supported a bill loosening restrictions on late-term abortions.

The image set off a firestorm of criticism and calls from both state and national Democrats and Republicans for the 59-year-old Democratic governor to resign. Northam initially apologized for appearing

in the photo but refused to step down. The next day, he said it wasn't him in the photo. On Tuesday, the governor gave no public indication of which way he was leaning. He spent Monday in conversations with top advisers about whether he can still govern.

Retired physician and former Northam classmate Walt Broadnax, one of the few black students in the school's 1984 class, said he believes Northam's claim that he wasn't in that photo.

"There is no way anyone would tolerate someone going to a party in blackface," said Broadnax, 60, a retired physician. "If I had known about it then, it would have been an issue."

Other students interviewed by The Associated Press said they don't remember a racist culture at the medical school. Some of the few minority students who were there described an inclusive, even progressive, setting for 1984.

Nguyen-Tan, who said he also doesn't believe it's Northam in the photo, said he never saw anyone in blackface or a KKK robe at the school.

Born in Vietnam, he said he is well acquainted with racism and that Northam is "the furthest thing he can be from someone who is a racist or bigot."

Regarding the photo, "If I had seen that it came from Ralph, I would have thought it was a picture from one of the Halloween parties and wouldn't have thought much of it," Nguyen-Tan said.

Elwood said he doesn't recall seeing any racist photos during the layout process for the publication. He said he saw Northam's page shortly after publication but wasn't shocked or outraged.

"It looked like it was done at a Halloween party," he said. "The political and social climate of this country is far different than it was 35 years ago."

Associated Press researchers Randy Herschaft in New York and Monika Mathur in Washington; and Associated Press writer Jonathan Drew in Raleigh contributed to this report.

Governor scandal hangs over busy day for Virginia government

By ALAN SUDERMAN, Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — One of the busiest days on the Virginia legislature's calendar began under a cloud of suspense Tuesday as Gov. Ralph Northam weighed whether he can continue in the job amid the fallout over a racist photo on his 1984 medical school yearbook page.

With tension running high, lawmakers began arriving for crossover day — when the House and Senate must finish bills to send to the other chamber — after days of turmoil set off by the photo, which depicts someone in blackface standing next to another person in a Ku Klux Klan hood and robe.

Amid a barrage of calls for his resignation from his own party, the 59-year-old Democratic governor gave no public indication of which way he was leaning as he met privately with top advisers.

State Sen. Louise Lucas, a prominent African-American lawmaker and former Northam ally who has pressed for him to step down, said the governor doesn't need to take a few more days to consider his options and make up his mind.

"I am so praying that he will do that and get it behind us," Lucas said. "What's a little bit more of time going to do for us?"

In another sign of the difficulty he faces in carrying out his duties, a statement from Northam offering condolences on the death of a state trooper in a shootout prompted a fresh flurry Tuesday of Twitter comments urging him to step down.

The uncertainty comes at a time when Northam's office is in the middle of negotiations with the Republican-controlled legislature over a major tax overhaul and changes to the state budget.

Nearly all of the state's Democratic establishment has turned against Northam, as have many of the party's national figures, but no one from his Cabinet has resigned.

The political crisis deepened when the man next in line to be governor, Democratic Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, was confronted with an uncorroborated allegation of sexual misconduct first reported by a conservative website. Fairfax denied the allegation Monday and called it a political smear, telling reporters the 2004

encounter with a woman was consensual.

The woman has retained Washington law firm Katz Marshall & Banks and is consulting with it about her next steps, said a person close to the legal team who was not authorized to discuss the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity.

One of the firm's founding partners, Debra Katz, represented Christine Blasey Ford, who accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her decades ago when they were teenagers. Kavanaugh denied the allegation and later was confirmed to the court.

The Associated Press is not reporting the details of the Fairfax accusation because AP has not been able to corroborate it.

Northam, a pediatric neurologist who graduated from Eastern Virginia Medical School and came to politics late in life, is one year into his four-year term. If Northam resigns, Fairfax will become the second black governor in Virginia history.

The furor over the photo erupted Friday, when Northam first admitted he was in the picture without saying which costume he was wearing, and apologized. But a day later, he denied he was in the photo, while also acknowledging he once used shoe polish to blacken his face and look like Michael Jackson at a dance contest in Texas decades ago.

As for the allegations against the lieutenant governor, The Washington Post said Monday that it was approached by the woman in 2017 and carefully investigated but never published a story for lack of any independent evidence.

The Post said the woman had not told anyone about it, the account could not be corroborated, Fairfax denied it, and the Post was unable to find other similar allegations against him among people who knew him in college, law school or in politics.

The woman did not immediately respond to a voicemail, text message or email from an AP reporter.

The allegations were first reported by Big League Politics, the news outlet that first published the year-book image.

Associated Press writers Julie Pace in Washington and Ben Finley in Norfolk, Virginia, contributed to this report.

Lunar New Year allows US companies to find prosperity too

By TERRY TANG, Associated Press

As Asian-Americans across the U.S. mark the Lunar New Year on Tuesday, they can celebrate by eating Mickey Mouse-shaped tofu, sporting a pair of Year of the Pig-inspired Nike shoes and by snacking on pricey cupcakes.

The delicacies and traditions that once made a generation of Asian-Americans feel foreign are now fodder for merchandizing. Between now and Feb. 17, Disney California Adventure Park is offering "Asian eats" that include the Mickey-shaped tofu and purple yam macarons. Nike is issuing a limited-edition Chinese New Year collection of shoes with traditional Chinese patchwork. And housewares giant Williams Sonoma has a slew of Lunar New Year dishware and its website offers a set of nine "Year of the Pig" cupcakes for \$80.

Robert Passikoff, a marketing consultant and founder of Brand Keys Inc., said there's been a "reawakening" in the last few years of the United States' world view of China. But it's also about differentiating your business and growing revenue, not necessarily inclusion.

"They're not there as social workers to create harmony among the disenfranchised people," Passikoff said. "The other side is brands are all looking for an itch, they're all looking for some way to engage customers. And if the Lunar New Year will do it, why not?"

Chinese fast-food chain Panda Express funded a New Year's-themed interactive exhibit inside a Los Angeles mall. "The House of Good Fortune: A Lunar New Year," includes different rooms showcasing customs, like a room of "flying" red envelopes and a "hall of long noodles," a customary dish that symbolizes long life.

"Crazy Rich Asians" cast member Harry Shum Jr. promoted the exhibit and brushed off those who may

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scoff at the company's efforts.

"I think it's good to be reminded of these traditions. It's been so important for many generations before us to try and pass that on and also experience it in a new way," Shum said.

Andrea Cherng, the Panda Restaurant Group's chief marketing officer and the daughter of Chinese-American founders Andrew and Peggy Cherng, said she knows some Asian-Americans will roll their eyes.

"Now the reality about Panda is that we were many people's first Chinese experience in the U.S.," Cherng said. "But then what a fantastic opportunity for us to be able to bridge cultures and bring to them our interpretation of what's so special about this holiday."

Christopher Tai, 37, of San Francisco, recently bought a Golden State Warriors jersey specially made for the Lunar New Year as a gift for his girlfriend's father. The design includes the Chinese character for "warrior." He said the jersey shows an effort at inclusion.

"They're recognizing an underrepresented part of their fan base," Tai said.

But he wonders if shoppers who snap up Williams Sonoma dishware will come away learning anything.

"I feel like a lot of people are attracted to these aesthetic elements like say red, dragons, dogs or shiny gold, without really knowing the significance of the colors and symbols and what the animals mean," Tai said.

"There's a part of me that's still that kid who felt my culture was very 'other.' From that standpoint, I'm happy to see it more mainstream," said Lisa Hsia, 37, of Oakland, California. "But at the same time when I see Chinese New Year shoes or whatever, I have to ask, who's putting this together and who's it for?"

Most Chinese traditionally ring in the Lunar New Year, which is assigned one of 12 animals each year off the Chinese zodiac, with a family dinner the evening before. The meals typically include a whole chicken, a whole fish, pork, noodles, spring rolls and dumplings, whose shape resembles ancient Chinese gold ingot currency.

Other customs include giving money-filled red envelopes to children or single young adults and sharing mandarin oranges, which represent good fortune. The celebrations, which are also commemorated in Vietnam and other countries with ethnic Chinese communities, can last up to two weeks.

As Asian populations in the U.S. and social media use grow, it's easier for people to be aware of the holiday and its customs.

Xi Chen, who is from China but teaches Mandarin to middle-schoolers in Hamilton, Massachusetts, incorporated dumpling-making as part of her Lunar New Year lesson.

"We don't have many Asian restaurants in town. Some students told me it was the first time in their life they've tried dumplings," Chen said.

Stella Loh, 39, of Los Altos, California, said as a kid, she often got questions like, "Didn't we already celebrate the new year?"

But now, even non-Asian co-workers have been wishing her a happy new year.

"I'd never really brought it up before," Loh said. "It's always nice to know people who aren't Chinese recognize a piece of your own culture."

Follow Terry Tang on Twitter at twitter.com/ttangAP

Apartment inferno kills 10; deadliest Paris fire since 2005

By THOMAS ADAMSON and LORI HINNANT, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Paris' deadliest fire in over a decade killed at least 10 people Tuesday as flames engulfed a nine-story apartment building, sending residents to the roof and clambering across balconies to escape.

A 40-year-old woman who lived in the building, said to have a history of psychiatric problems, was arrested nearby and held on suspicion of having set the fire not long before. French police opened a criminal investigation for voluntary arson resulting in death.

Multiple neighbors said they heard the suspect and her neighbor, an off-duty firefighter, arguing over the woman's music before the fire broke out.

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Police responding to the dispute stopped by the woman's apartment. The firefighter and his girlfriend told officers they were leaving to sleep elsewhere in peace and thought the neighbor had lost her mind and one day there would be an accident because of her, according to a police report seen by The Associated Press.

In an interview with Le Parisien newspaper, the 22-year-old firefighter said he returned to the building a few minutes later, shortly after midnight, hoping the woman had gone. Instead, he ran into her in the stairwell, which was already beginning to smell of smoke.

"She wished me good luck, telling me that I loved flames," he recalled in the interview.

Another resident later told him the woman put paper and wood in front of his apartment door, the firefighter told Le Parisien, which did not give his name.

Survivors described a chaos of smoke and flames, and the young firefighter said he ran upstairs to try and evacuate the building. One neighbor recalled clambering out of her eighth-floor apartment and over balconies to reach safety.

"I climbed across several balconies, with nothing beneath, and then was backed into a corner. There were people climbing hand-over-hand to get to where I was and escape the flames," said a resident identified only as Claire, her eyes wide with shock soon after her rescue.

Another resident, an off-duty police officer, threw on clothes and rang doorbell after doorbell, trying desperately to alert his neighbors.

"I couldn't save everyone. I can't forgive myself," the man identified as Fabrice told France Info radio, adding that smoke and flames prevented him from climbing higher than the fourth floor.

Jacqueline Ravier, who lives on the same street as the apartment building, described seeing a young man blackened by smoke and a woman motionless on the ground.

For hours, she said, flames shot out from the top of the building as smoke-covered victims fled. Shaken residents were brought to her building and the one next door.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner spoke to reporters at the scene Tuesday morning, as plumes of smoke speckled the sky.

"I want to salute the huge mobilization of the Paris firefighters," he said. "More than 250 people arrived immediately and, throughout the night, saved over 50 people in truly exceptional conditions."

It was the deadliest fire in Paris since the April 2005 hotel fire near the capital's famed Opera that killed 24 people. Over 30 people were being treated for "relatively" light injuries, Castaner said. Among the injured were at least eight firefighters.

Authorities suspect the fire resulted from a criminal act, he said.

Officials said suspect had "a history of psychiatric problems."

A judicial official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as an investigation was ongoing, told the AP the woman was drunk when officers detained her.

A police patrol responding to a trash can fire around the same time spotted the woman with her hand in another trash can, according to a second police report obtained by The Associated Press. She was staring at the firetrucks streaming toward the building, the document states. The young firefighter said he saw her as well.

"She was waiting to see what would happen," he said in the newspaper interview.

The document says the officers put the woman under brief surveillance and detained her at 12:45 a.m. after she allegedly tied a scarf around a car's rear-view mirror and raised a cigarette lighter to it.

She was undergoing medical tests Tuesday evening.

City fire service spokesman Clement Cognon told the AP that firefighters were going door-to-door to ensure there are no more victims, and to prevent residual fires.

"The situation was already dramatic when the firefighters arrived," Cognon said.

Firefighters plucked some people from the roof and balconies, at one point pleading with a man to stay where he was. The fire was extinguished by midmorning.

Emergency workers also sought to shore up the building, which was badly damaged. Images released of the operation released by the fire service showed flames shooting out of windows and stretching across

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the upper floors.

The building is on rue Erlanger in the 16th arrondissement, one of the calmest and priciest districts of Paris. It is close to the popular Bois de Boulogne park and about a kilometer (less than a mile) from the Roland Garros stadium that hosts the French Open tennis tournament and near the Parc des Princes stadium that's home to Paris Saint-Germain, the country's top soccer team.

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Twitter: "France wakes up with emotion after the fire in rue Erlanger in Paris last night."

The fire comes a month after a deadly explosion and blaze linked to a gas leak in a Paris bakery. In September 2015, there was a fire in a northern Parisian neighborhood that left eight dead.

Samuel Petrequin, Nicolas Garriga, Angela Charlton and Elaine Ganley in Paris contributed.

Trump squabbles with Democrats before speech on unity

By JULIE PACE, AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — The bitter partisanship of the past two years was on full display Tuesday just hours before President Donald Trump was to call for optimism and unity in his State of the Union address.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York seems to have triggered the latest Trump twitter outburst when he said on the Senate floor that the president talks about unity in his annual addresses to the nation but "spends the other 364 days of the year dividing us." He accused Trump of "blatant hypocrisy."

Minutes later, Trump tweeted that Schumer hadn't even seen the speech and was "just upset that he didn't win the Senate, after spending a fortune."

Skepticism was already expected from both sides of the aisle for Trump's televised address to lawmakers and the nation. Democrats, emboldened after the midterm elections and the recent shutdown fight, see little evidence that the president is willing to compromise. Even Trump's staunchest allies know that bipartisan rhetoric read off of a teleprompter is usually undermined by scorching tweets and unpredictable policy maneuvers.

The deeply personal attacks show the challenge for Trump as he attempts a reset with Congress. Still, the fact that his advisers feel a need to try a different approach is a tacit acknowledgement that the president's standing is weakened as he begins his third year in office.

The shutdown left some Republicans frustrated over his insistence on a border wall, something they warned him the new Democratic House majority would not bend on. Trump's approval rating during the shutdown dipped to 34 percent, down from 42 percent a month earlier, according to a recent survey conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders indicated the president would highlight what he sees as achievements and downplay discord.

"You're going to continue see the president push for policies that help continue the economic boom," Sanders said Monday night while appearing on "Hannity" on Fox News. "You're also going to see the president call on Congress and say, 'Look, we can either work together and get great things done or we can fight each other and get nothing done.' And frankly, the American people deserve better than that."

But Washington's most recent debate offered few signs of cooperation between Trump and Democrats. Under pressure from conservative backers, Trump refused to sign a government funding bill that did not include money for his long-sought border wall. With hundreds of thousands of Americans missing paychecks, Trump ultimately agreed to reopen the government for three weeks to allow negotiations on border security to continue.

With the new Feb. 15 funding deadline looming, Trump is expected to use his address to outline his demands, which still include funding for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. He's teased the possibility of declaring a national emergency to secure wall funding if Congress doesn't act, though it appeared unlikely he would take that step Tuesday night. Advisers have also been reviewing options to secure some funding without making such a declaration.

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"You'll hear the State of the Union, and then you'll see what happens right after the State of the Union," Trump told reporters.

The president's address marks the first time he is speaking before a Congress that is not fully under Republican control. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who won plaudits from Democrats for her hardline negotiating tactics during the shutdown, will be seated behind the president — a visual reminder of Trump's political opposition.

In a letter Monday night to House Democrats, Pelosi wrote that she hopes "we will hear a commitment from the President on issues that have bipartisan support in the Congress and the Country, such as lowering the price of prescription drugs and rebuilding America's infrastructure."

In the audience will be several Democrats running to challenge Trump in 2020, including Sens. Kamala Harris of California, Cory Booker of New Jersey, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York.

Another Democratic star, Stacey Abrams, will deliver the party's response to Trump. Abrams narrowly lost her bid in November to become Georgia's first black governor, and party leaders are aggressively recruiting her to run for Senate.

Schumer earlier previewed Democrats' message for countering Trump, declaring Monday, "The number one reason the state of the union has such woes is the president."

While Trump was still putting the final touches on the speech Tuesday, he was expected to use some of his televised address to showcase a growing economy. Despite the shutdown, the U.S. economy added a robust 304,000 jobs in January, marking 100 straight months of job growth. That's the longest such period on record.

Trump and his top aides have also hinted that he is likely to use the address to announce a major milestone in the fight against the Islamic State group in Syria. Despite the objections of some advisers, Trump announced in December that he was withdrawing U.S. forces in Syria.

In a weekend interview with CBS, Trump said efforts to defeat the IS group were "at 99 percent right now. We'll be at 100."

U.S. officials say the Islamic State group now controls less than 10 square kilometers (3.9 square miles) of territory in Syria, an area smaller than New York's Central Park. That's down from an estimated 400 to 600 square kilometers (155 to 230 square miles) that the group held at the end of November before Trump announced the withdrawal, according to two officials who were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

However, a Defense Department inspector general report released Monday said the Islamic State group "remains a potent force of battle-hardened and well-disciplined fighters that could likely resurge in Syria" absent continued counterterrorism pressure. According to the Pentagon, the group is still able to coordinate offensives and counteroffensives.

Administration officials say the White House has also been weighing several "moonshot" goals. An announcement is expected on a new initiative aimed at ending transmissions of HIV by 2030. "He will be asking for bipartisan support to make that happen," said White House counselor Kellyanne Conway.

Trump's guests for the speech include Anna Marie Johnson, a 63-year-old woman whose life sentence for drug offenses was commuted by the president, and Joshua Trump, a sixth-grade student from Wilmington, Delaware, who was allegedly bullied because of his last name. They will sit with first lady Melania Trump during the address.

Associated Press writers Catherine Lucey, Zeke Miller, Darlene Superville, Matthew Lee and Lolita C. Baldor contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

White House says feds' inaugural probe part of 'hysteria'

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal subpoena seeking documents from Donald Trump's inaugural committee is part of "a hysteria" over the fact that he's president, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said on Tuesday.

Federal prosecutors in New York issued the subpoena on Monday, furthering a federal inquiry into a fund that has faced mounting scrutiny into how it raised and spent its money.

Inaugural committee spokeswoman Kristin Celauro told The Associated Press that the committee had received the subpoena and was still reviewing it. "It is our intention to cooperate with the inquiry," she said.

The investigation is the latest in a series of criminal inquiries into Trump's campaign and presidency.

"Actually, I think the common thread is a hysteria over the fact that this president became president," Sanders said in response to a CNN question. "The common thread is that there is so much hatred out there that they will look for anything to try to create and tie problems to this president."

Later, Sanders reiterated to reporters that the investigation "has nothing to do with the White House."

"I think the biggest focus and the thing that most Americans care about has nothing to do with the inaugural and it has everything to do with what the path forward looks like," she said.

The Wall Street Journal, citing a copy of the subpoena, reported that prosecutors asked for "all documents" related to the committee's donors and vendors, as well as records relating to "benefits" donors received after making contributions.

The newspaper reported late last year that federal prosecutors are investigating whether committee donors made contributions in exchange for political favors — a potential violation of federal corruption laws. It said the inquiry also was focused on whether the inauguration misspent the \$107 million it raised to stage events celebrating Trump's inauguration.

The subpoena also requested documents relating to donations "made by or on behalf of foreign nationals, including but not limited to any communications regarding or relating to the possibility of donations by foreign nationals," the Journal reported.

The New York Times reported late last year that federal prosecutors are examining whether anyone from Qatar, Saudi Arabia or other Middle Eastern countries made illegal payments to the committee and a pro-Trump super political action committee. Foreign contributions to inaugural funds and PACs are prohibited under federal law.

The head of the inaugural committee, Tom Barrack, confirmed to The Associated Press that he was questioned by special counsel Robert Mueller in 2017. He told the AP he was not a target of the Mueller investigation.

Pope caps visit to Arabian Peninsula with historic Mass

By NICOLE WINFIELD and AYA BATRAWY, Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The soft hymns of "Hallelujah" boomed from speakers Tuesday as Pope Francis celebrated the first papal Mass in the Arabian Peninsula for about 180,000 people, capping a visit to the United Arab Emirates that emphasized the presence of minority Christians in the region and a greater understanding with Islam.

It was considered to be the largest display of public worship by Christians on the peninsula, the birthplace of Islam. A large, golden-hued cross on an all-white stage provided a simple and profound backdrop.

The Mass at Zayed Sports City Stadium, named for the founding father of the UAE, drew Catholics from 100 countries, including the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Uganda and Lebanon, reflecting the range of nationalities drawn to the Emirates' promise of jobs, safety and tolerance.

Cheers erupted inside and outside the stadium when Francis arrived and looped through the crowd in his open-sided popemobile, with chants of "Viva il Papa" and "We love you!" Yellow and white Vatican flags decorated the stadium, and smaller versions were handed out to worshippers inside.

Vatican spokesman Alessandro Gisotti said about 180,000 people attended, with 135,000 tickets distributed for spots inside and outside the stadium to throngs eager for a glimpse of the pope.

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Also in attendance were about 4,000 Muslims — evidence of the enormous diversity and emphasis for interreligious tolerance that the UAE promotes among the country's 9 million people.

In his homily, delivered in Italian and translated into Arabic with English subtitles on giant video screens, Francis spoke to the many migrant workers who endure years of separation from their families in order to send money home.

"It is most certainly not easy for you to live far from home, missing the affection of your loved ones, and perhaps also feeling uncertainty about the future," he said. "But the Lord is faithful and does not abandon his people."

Many worshippers wept throughout the sermon, their heads bowed in prayer; others kept their eyes focused on the pope and the screens carrying his message.

Monica Birungi, a hotel employee in Dubai who supports her family and 2-year-old daughter in Uganda, said Francis' words about sacrifice resonated deeply with her.

"I came to Dubai to work for money to help my family, so when they talked about that ... it made me feel at home," she said.

The pope also told his flock — many of them low-wage earners — that they need not be involved in "superhuman" works to be faithful. It was a message extolling humility in a country that is home to the world's biggest skyscraper, the Burj Khalifa, and known for opulence and excess.

Jesus "did not ask us to build great works or draw attention to ourselves with extraordinary gestures. He asked us to produce just one work of art, possible for everyone: our own life," Francis said.

The Mass came a day after the pope joined hands with Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, the grand imam of Al-Azhar, the more than 1,000-year-old seat of learning in Sunni Islam, to produce a joint appeal for Christian and Muslim leaders to work together to promote peace and reject war.

A front-page photo in Abu Dhabi's The National newspaper featured Francis and el-Tayeb hugging under the words "One Human Family."

The papal trip to the UAE, which began Sunday evening and ended after Tuesday's Mass, was infused with symbolism, state pageantry and calls for peace. The logo for the visit depicted a dove with an olive branch.

The pope met with senior Muslim clerics in the grand Sheikh Zayed Mosque on Monday before delivering a speech in front of Abu Dhabi's powerful crown prince and hundreds of imams, ministers, rabbis and swamis in the Emirati capital that began with the Muslim salutation "Asalaam alaikum" — or "peace be upon you."

Francis' appeal for peace comes as the UAE's forces are involved in a Saudi-led war in Yemen that has driven the Arab world's poorest country to the brink of famine and created the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

At the Mass, the elated crowd expressed appreciation for the pope's words.

"He is almost divine. He has a special charisma, which appeals to each one," said Raphael Muntenkurian, 64, an Indian native and former seminarian who has lived in the UAE for more than 30 years.

"Everybody is actually mesmerized by his appeal for peace and tolerance," he said. "His simplicity and humility is always praiseworthy."

The crowd also expressed appreciation to UAE rulers for organizing the Mass in a country where Islam is the official religion.

"We have to say it is really a big event for us which we never expected," said Sumitha Pinto, an Indian native who has lived in the UAE for nearly 20 years. She attended the Mass with her husband and four sons, the youngest of whom held up sign with the pope's photo that read: "Welcome Pope Francis. Make Me a Channel of Your Peace."

Pinto and her husband said that as Christians, they did not always feel safe in India, but in the UAE, "we feel we all are one. ... They treat everyone equally."

The Emirates' Catholic community, estimated at 1 million, is something of an anomaly for the region — large, diverse and thriving at a time when the wider Middle East has seen Christians fleeing persecution at the hands of the Islamic State group and others.

Catholics in the UAE usually are foreigners working in jobs ranging from white-collar finance to construction. Most are Filipino and Indian, and can face precarious labor conditions, which human rights groups regularly denounce.

In an indication of the diversity of the Catholic flock, the prayers during Mass were read in a variety of languages and addressed the variety of hardships many face.

A prayer in the Indian language of Konkani called for public officials to be "illuminated" and promote the dignity of all, while the one in the Filipino language of Tagalog urged prayers for migrants and workers in the UAE so that "their sacrifice and work may blossom and sustain their families." The one in French called for those who foment violence to change their ways and "stop wars, overcome hatred and help us forge links of justice and peace."

Francis' trip came 800 years after his peace-loving namesake St. Francis of Assisi visited an Egyptian sultan and marked the culmination of years of Holy See efforts to improve relations with the Muslim world after they hit a low during the papacy of Pope Benedict XVI.

Since then, religious fanaticism and faith-inspired wars have only grown, inspiring the pontiff's efforts to promote tolerance and understanding.

Associated Press writer Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed.

21 Savage's English origins stun fans of the Atlanta rapper

By **ANDREW DALTON**, AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It was a shock for fans when 21 Savage was taken into custody by U.S. immigration agents in Georgia. It was an even bigger shock to learn he had been an immigrant in the first place.

The Grammy-nominated rapper and his music are so deeply associated with Atlanta that the notion he was actually born in England and brought to the U.S. at age 12 felt downright bizarre.

Scores of surprised tweets came after his Sunday arrest. Memes bloomed that some called cruel under the circumstances, including one of him dressed as a Buckingham Palace guard, along with an old video of him talking in a mock English accent about tea and crumpets.

"It seems so outlandish that the prototypical Atlanta rapper is not from Atlanta," said Samuel Hine, a writer and editor at GQ who researched 21 Savage and spent a day with him for a profile in the magazine last year. "I think that's why so many people were sort of making fun of him, and making memes."

By all accounts, few knew his real birthplace, and it certainly wasn't publicly known. His accent gave no indication, and his birth name, Sha Yaa Bin Abraham-Joseph, could come from any number of birthplaces.

"I certainly heard no whispers challenging his accepted backstory," Hine said.

Abraham-Joseph was detained in a targeted operation in the Atlanta area and put in deportation proceedings, U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement spokesman Bryan Cox said.

Abraham-Joseph's attorneys said U.S. immigration officials have known his status at least since 2017, when he applied for a new visa. That application is pending, and his attorneys say he should not be detained.

Both sides agree that Abraham-Joseph came to the U.S. as a child in 2005, and he stayed in after his visa expired in 2006.

"He, like almost two million other children, was left without legal status through no fault of his own," Kuck Baxter Immigration, the law firm representing Abraham-Joseph, said in a statement Monday, adding that he now has U.S. Citizen children of his own.

Abraham-Joseph then spent his teenage years in Atlanta, and his image and later his music became defined by the city's distinctive hip-hop culture. Even the "21" in his name is a reference to the block where he lived there.

"Him growing up in Atlanta is a pretty fundamental part of his story," Hine said. "His identity is so rooted in his Atlanta sound, his Atlanta crew."

Abraham-Joseph was truthful when he rapped about his youthful exploits in Atlanta, including run-ins with the law over guns and drugs, Hine said. He just left out the stuff that came before that.

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A pair of mixtapes in 2015 made his star rise quickly in the Atlanta underground. Collaborations with Atlanta artists including Metro Boomin and Offset of rap group Migos raised his profile.

He signed with Epic Records and made a pair of high-charting solo albums.

He collaborated with Drake, Cardi B, and Post Malone, whose song with 21 Savage, "Rockstar," is nominated for two Grammys at Sunday's awards ceremony in Los Angeles.

For many who love 21 Savage, surprise about his arrest quickly gave way to outrage.

Offset tweeted that he was "PRAYING FOR MY DAWG. ALL THE MEMES ... AINT FUNNY HIS FAMILY DEPENDING ON HIM."

Rapper Vince Staples joined many others in tweeting, "Free 21!"

Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors established an online petition to stop his deportation that was fast gaining signatories.

Singer Demi Lovato felt some of the anger when she tweeted Sunday that "21 savage memes have been my favorite part of the Super Bowl." She later clarified that she wasn't laughing "at anyone getting deported," but subsequently deleted her Twitter account.

While it's not clear if it had anything to do with his own status, Abraham-Joseph did just recently address the subject of immigration and detention. Last week on the "Tonight Show," he added a verse to his song "A Lot: that include the line, "been through some things, but I couldn't imagine my kids stuck at the border."

This version corrects spelling of the GQ writer and editor's last name to Hine, not Hines.

Associated Press Writer Kate Brumback in Atlanta contributed.

Follow Andrew Dalton on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton> .

US commander: IS hold in Syria, Iraq on verge of collapse

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is expected to declare near-total triumph over the Islamic State group in Syria in his State of the Union address Tuesday, but U.S. defense officials are increasingly fearful that the militants are simply biding their time until the Americans leave the battlefield as planned.

IS militants have lost territory since Trump's surprise announcement in December that he was pulling U.S. forces out, but military officials warn the fighters could regroup within six months to a year after the Americans leave.

A Defense Department watchdog report released Monday warned of just such a possibility.

The Islamic State group "remains a potent force of battle-hardened and well-disciplined fighters that 'could likely resurge in Syria' absent continued counterterrorism pressure," the report from the inspector general said.

The top commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, Gen. Joseph Votel, told a Senate committee on Tuesday that of the 34,000 square miles of territory that IS once held, it now controls less than 20 square miles.

"It is important to understand that even though this territory has been reclaimed, the fight against ISIS and violent extremists is not over and our mission has not changed," Votel, commander of U.S. Central Command, told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"The coalition's hard-won battlefield gains can only be secured by maintaining a vigilant offensive against the now largely dispersed and disaggregated ISIS that retains leaders, fighters, facilitators, resources and the profane ideology that fuels their efforts."

Votel said there are now between 1,000 and 1,500 IS fighters in the small area they still control in the southern part of the Euphrates River Valley near the Iraqi border. The remainder, he said, have "dispersed"

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and “gone to ground,” suggesting they retain the potential to return.

Trump’s decision to leave Syria, which he initially said would be rapid but later slowed down, shocked U.S. allies led to the resignations of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and the top envoy to the anti-IS coalition, Brett McGurk.

Votel was asked at Tuesday’s hearing whether he was asked for his advice about a Syria withdrawal before Trump announced his decision.

“I was not consulted,” the general said.

The withdrawal will fulfill Trump’s goal of bringing troops home from Syria, but military leaders have pushed back for months, arguing that IS remains a threat and could regroup. U.S. policy has been to keep troops in place until the extremists are eradicated.

Fears that IS fighters are making strategic maneuvers ahead of a U.S. pullout could also fuel criticism that Trump is telegraphing his military plans — the same thing he accused President Barack Obama of doing in Afghanistan.

U.S. officials in recent weeks say IS has lost 99.5 percent of its territory and is holding on to fewer than 10 square kilometers of turf in Syria — an area smaller than New York’s Central Park. In late November and December that figure had been estimated at between 400 and 600 square kilometers, according to officials briefed on the matter.

But several defense officials said Monday that many fighters fled to ungoverned spaces and other pockets in the north and in the west and are likely hiding out until they can regroup.

Trump said in a weekend interview that the caliphate is “almost knocked out.”

“We’re at 99 percent right now, we’ll be at 100,” he said on CBS’ “Face the Nation.”

U.S. officials say that IS fighters hold only several villages in the Middle Euphrates River Valley that amount to significantly less than 10 square kilometers. But, they say they don’t expect that area to be cleared of militants for another several weeks, at best.

Officials say that overall, there are about 2,000 IS militants in Syria.

The Defense Department watchdog report warned that even with the IS forces on the run, the group “is still able to coordinate offensives and counter-offensives, as well as operate as a decentralized insurgency.”

The report, which covers October through December 2018, also includes a classified section that was provided to Congress and includes a more detailed Pentagon assessment on the impact of the troops withdrawal and the status of IS militants and other foreign fighters in Syria.

According to the report, U.S. Central Command believes that IS fighters will continue to conduct “opportunistic attacks” on U.S. troops as they withdraw. And it says, “If Sunni socio-economic, political, and sectarian grievances are not adequately addressed by the national and local governments of Iraq and Syria it is very likely that ISIS will have the opportunity to set conditions for future resurgence and territorial control.”

Central Command said that the Islamic State group is “regenerating key functions and capabilities more quickly in Iraq than in Syria,” but unless there is sustained counterterrorism pressure, IS militants “could likely resurge in Syria within six to twelve months and regain limited territory” in the Middle Euphrates River Valley.

Despite Trump’s order to withdraw, American officials maintain that the goal remains the “enduring defeat” of the Islamic State group and are moving ahead with a long-planned meeting of top diplomats from the 79-member U.S.-led anti-IS coalition this week. The aim of the conference is to recommit the coalition to that aim and ensure that the departure of U.S. troops does not overly complicate that mission.

Trump himself is expected to speak to the gathered foreign ministers at the State Department-hosted conference on Wednesday is widely expected to reiterate and expand on his anti-IS message from the State of the Union, officials said.

Associated Press writer Lolita C. Baldor contributed to this report.

Millennial Money: Student loan default can gut your paycheck

By KELSEY SHEEHY, NerdWallet

There's a dirty little secret of the student debt crisis. One that affects millions of borrowers, but isn't talked about at dinner tables, on social media or in think pieces about student loans.

The taboo topic is wage garnishment and it works like this: Default on your federal student loans and the government can take up to 15 percent of each paycheck to satisfy your debt. That amounts to \$300 per month for someone who normally takes home \$2,000 per month. The Education Department can also withhold federal benefits like tax returns and Social Security payments.

Garnishment is an effective tool to recoup unpaid loans — private collection agencies enlisted by the Education Department took in over \$841.6 million via wage garnishment in the 2018 fiscal year — but it inflicts serious financial strain on borrowers who are already struggling.

"It's a very powerful collection tactic that can really devastate the financial lives of the people subjected to it," says Joanna Darcus, a staff attorney at the National Consumer Law Center who works with low-income student loan borrowers. "They can't afford to pay their rent, buy their medicine, buy clothes for their kids and also pay a large percentage of their wages toward their student loan."

If you received notice of garnishment or are already in the thick of it, don't panic; you have options that are far less painful than a 15 percent hit to your paycheck.

STOP GARNISHMENT BEFORE IT STARTS

The ideal time to take action is when you begin struggling to make payments. At that point, your loan servicer can help you explore other repayment options, including income-based plans that cap your monthly payment.

Once your loans are in default — nearly nine months past due for most federal loans — those options are off the table until your loan is in good standing. You can rehabilitate your loans to move out of default (more on that below). You also have a brief window to consolidate your federal loans (combining them into a single loan with its own interest rate) before the Education Department, via a private collection agency, moves to garnish your wages.

The collection agency handling your federal loans will notify you by mail before it starts garnishing your wages. The notice serves as your 30-day warning. During this time, you can stop the process by negotiating payment arrangements with the agency. The key: It must receive your first payment in that 30-day window.

If you can't make a payment within that window, request a hearing to appeal the garnishment. To prevent garnishment from starting, you must request the hearing in writing within 30 days of the date on your collection notice. You can still file an appeal after garnishment starts, but the collection agency will continue to take up to 15 percent of your take-home pay while the case is reviewed, which can take two to three months.

A hearing sounds intimidating but it's no more than a long form detailing your income, debt and expenses. The goal is to stop or reduce garnishment.

"You hear the word 'hearing' and think, 'Oh my god, I need an attorney!' But it's just a basic exchange of information," says Betsy Mayotte, founder of The Institute of Student Loan Advisors.

Contact the collection agency handling your loan to talk about payment arrangements or get details on a hearing request. Not sure whom to call? Check the National Student Loan Data System to find out who is managing your loan and how to reach them.

REHABILITATE YOUR LOAN

Loan rehabilitation is a one-time "Get out of default" card. Here's how it works:

The collection agency sets a monthly payment based on your income, minus any reasonable monthly expenses. The amount could be as low as \$5 a month.

You'll need to provide documentation, like copies of pay stubs and bills, and complete a detailed form to help determine the amount. Any wages garnished due to defaulted student loans will be considered among your expenses.

Make nine payments of the agreed-upon amount within 10 months and your loans move out of default. Any wage garnishment will stop. And you're once again able to choose a repayment plan that works for you, including several income-based options that could drop your monthly payment to \$0.

Once out of default, take care to stay out. Make your payments each month. Recertify your income every year if you're on an income-based plan. And call your loan servicer if you run into trouble. If you default a second time, you'll have fewer options.

This column was provided to The Associated Press by the personal finance website NerdWallet. Kelsey Sheehy is a writer at NerdWallet. Email: ksheehy@nerdwallet.com. Twitter: @kelseysheehy.

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Turmoil over governor tests Democrats' zero-tolerance policy

By **NICHOLAS RICCARDI**, Associated Press

The denunciations began within hours of the disclosure that Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's medical school yearbook page featured a person in blackface standing next to a person in a Ku Klux Klan outfit. Democratic activists and presidential contenders quickly called for his resignation. By the time the Democratic governor held a press conference to defend himself, both the national and state party had also demanded he leave.

Northam has refused to step down so far — he says he's not in the photo. But the pressure he faces highlights his party's insistence on policing its own when it comes to wrongdoing related to race and, in some cases, sexual misconduct. As the Republican Party has frequently shied away from disciplining or expelling its own members, Democrats have largely embraced a hard line.

That stance allows Democrats to draw a stark contrast with President Donald Trump and other Republicans who have made racist or sexist remarks. It's also a response to the demands of an increasingly diverse Democratic Party whose staunchest supporters are African-Americans and women, whose last president was a black man and who has two black people, one Latino and several women running for president.

"We can't call out Donald Trump, we can't call out Steve King, if we're not walking the talk," said Karine Jean-Pierre of MoveOn, a group founded in the late '90s to fight impeachment proceedings against President Bill Clinton over his affair with a White House intern.

The contrast with King, an Iowa Republican congressman, is one Democrats are eager to make. King had a long history of controversial rhetoric about immigrants, but it wasn't until he defended white supremacy in an interview with The New York Times last month that Republicans in Congress moved to strip him of committee assignments and called for his resignation.

Looming even larger is Trump, who fanned the racist conspiracy that Barack Obama wasn't born in the United States, said a federal judge couldn't rule on a lawsuit against him because he was "Mexican," has been accused of sexual wrongdoing by 19 women and reportedly used a profanity to describe countries that send black immigrants to the U.S.

When it comes to Trump, a 72-year-old white New York billionaire, contrast is everything for Democrats. On Tuesday, they'll answer his State of the Union address with a response from Georgia's Stacey Abrams, a 45-year-old who narrowly lost her bid last year to become America's first black female governor. They'll invite guests who represent key Democratic agenda items — climate and the environment, immigration, LBGQT rights, the plight of federal workers — to watch from the gallery.

The distinction from Trump is especially crucial for Democratic presidential contenders. All the declared candidates — and most of those eyeing a campaign — called on Northam to resign. There have been precious few Northam defenders, but a handful argue he is being prejudged. Former Virginia Rep. Jim Moran decried "a rush to judgment" on CNN on Monday, while former Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman told the cable network that Northam "has a chance to prove what is his essence, not to rush him out of office for

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what is, unfortunately, political reasons.”

Some Democrats bristle at the notion that politics played any role in the revulsion at Northam. “Boot-ing electeds from office who have worn blackface is not about purity,” said Rebecca Katz, a Democratic strategist. “It’s about what’s right.”

The last prominent elected Democrat pushed out of office by his own party was Al Franken, the Minnesota senator who resigned after weeks of internal pressure over sexual harassment allegations in 2017. The Franken departure came as Democrats were still smarting over Trump’s election in the face of numerous sexual harassment and assault allegations. He was replaced in the Senate by another Democrat, Tina Smith, who was overwhelmingly re-elected in November.

Similarly, Democrats lose nothing by jettisoning Northam because they’d maintain control of the governor’s mansion: The next in line is Democratic Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax.

But the Virginia turmoil also illustrated the complications of the zero-tolerance approach.

Fairfax on Monday strongly denied allegations of sexual assault that were initially circulated on a conservative website, calling it a “smear.”

The woman accusing Fairfax has retained Washington, D.C., law firm Katz Marshall & Banks and is consulting with the firm about next steps, said a person close to the legal team who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity. One of the firm’s founding partners, Debra Katz, represented Christine Blasey Ford, who accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her decades ago when they were teenagers. Kavanaugh denied the allegation and later was confirmed to the court.

The Associated Press is not reporting details of the Fairfax allegation because the AP has not confirmed it.

If Northam were to resign and Fairfax were not in position to assume the office, the governorship would go to the Democratic attorney general, a set of dominoes that has unleashed chaos in Virginia’s capital.

Democratic presidential aspirants were notably silent on Fairfax. The party also stood with Keith Ellison as the then-congressman successfully ran for Minnesota attorney general last year despite allegations that he had abused an ex-girlfriend. Ellison also strongly denied those accusations.

In a sign of the crosscurrents Democrats are navigating, multiple liberals asked not to be quoted when discussing the contrast because they were skeptical of the allegations but did not want to be seen as disbelieving people who reported sexual misbehavior.

Sexual harassment allegations have also rattled the potential presidential field. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is mulling a second presidential run, apologized to staffers for sexual harassment allegedly committed by workers on his 2016 presidential campaign. On Saturday, Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, another possible Democratic contender, apologized for not stopping a staffer he fired for sexual harassment from landing a job in the New York mayor’s office.

Still, the Northam case stands out, said Guy Cecil, head of Priorities USA, a major Democratic super PAC and one of the Democrats who immediately called for Northam’s ouster when the yearbook photo first appeared.

“There’s no question that we need to be thoughtful about when we’re approaching these big questions, but I don’t think we’re nearing some sort of tipping point when we say a man who dressed in blackface in the ‘80s shouldn’t be governor,” Cecil said.

Associated Press writer Julie Pace contributed to this story from Washington.

Resort keeps alive tradition of harvesting ice from lake

By MICHAEL CASEY, Associated Press

HOLDERNESS, N.H. (AP) — Modern refrigerators have little appeal for summer guests at a rustic New Hampshire resort who prefer cooling their bottles of water, soda and beer the old-fashioned way.

The preparation begins five months ahead of time, when resort staffers and volunteers gather to harvest ice from nearby Squam Lake. The January ritual dates back to 1897, when Rockywold-Deephaven Camps

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first opened in the town of Holderness, and is practiced for commercial purposes only at a handful of other places in the country.

The group, equipped with chain saws, ice picks and a huge saw on a sled, can harvest 200 tons of ice over several days in a typical winter. They transport the ice to two storage sheds on the campgrounds, where it's kept until the summer. Then, staffers with wheelbarrows provide the ice to resort guests, who place it in an antique icebox — some dating back to the 1930s with oak exteriors and a tin or zinc lining — to keep beverages and snacks cold. Guests are told not to eat the ice, though some old-timers apparently still put a few shards in their cocktails.

"Many of the families have been coming for generations, and people who come here don't like to see much change. They like it to be a simple, quiet place," said John Jurczynski, the co-general manager of Rockywold-Deephaven Camps for the past 29 years and who oversees the ice harvest. A push to bring in electrical refrigerators in the 1960s was rebuffed by guests.

"It's such a neat tradition. People love it," he said.

For weeks, Jurczynski had been putting out bulletins about ice conditions on Squam Lake. By mid-January, the word went out. The ice had finally reached a safe thickness — in this case about 13 inches — and the harvest could begin.

Once they cleared the snow and charted a grid, the cutting started and whining sounds of saws echoed across the lake.

Workers mostly use a contraption called an ice saw — with a huge blade mounted on a sled — to make the cuts. The 16-inch-by-19-inch chunks weighing as much as 120 pounds look like huge pieces of cake with a powdery top and a clear body with bubbles. The blocks are pried loose with the help of chain saws and a line of workers with ice pikes float them along a chute. They are then pushed up a ramp and into a truck for a trip to the storage facilities.

When it's all done, the group collects as many as 3,600 blocks of ice.

"Obviously spending this time and energy, we wouldn't have to do it. We could buy blocks of ice," said Jane Kellogg, a retired teacher on the ice whose father came to the resort as a boy and who used to bring her elementary school students out here to watch the harvest.

"But there is something about the pride this place has in still being the place that maintains that culture, that tradition," she said.

Jon Spence, a resort maintenance worker loading the ice onto the truck, said he prepares for the event each year by watching old movies and videos of ice harvesting. He found a top hat to wear for the occasion but wasn't able to track down the long coats that were popular among harvesters back in the day.

"I love the icing. One of the reasons I've worked here so long is the icing," Spence said. "Whenever anyone asked what I do for a living, I say I am a commercial ice harvester. They don't know what that is. Most people don't get it. Most people think we are ice fishing out here."

Ice harvesting got its start back in 1805 when Frederic Tudor, who lived outside Boston, came up with the idea of "selling cold" and shipping ice around the world, according to Dennis Picard, a retired Massachusetts museum director who is considered an expert on ice harvesting. At its peak, the ice was being shipped as far away as Asia and the venture made Tudor a millionaire, Picard said. Tens of thousands were employed in the industry, mostly in the Northeast and Midwest, he said.

But as gas-powered and electric refrigerators for the home became popular after World War I, replacing old-fashioned iceboxes, ice harvesting declined. These days, only a few outfits in North America harvest ice for commercial purposes. Wine Lake Camp in Ontario does it, as do several places in Wisconsin, Montana and Maine. In the Maine town of South Bristol, the ice is sold commercially and used to produce ice cream for an annual ice cream social in July.

At Rockywold-Deephaven, which is open to guests from June through mid-September, the harvest has not only survived the advances of electricity but also — at least so far — the effects of climate change. There has never been a harvest missed in the past 122 years, though several times they had to move it to another location on the lake because that spot freezes over faster.

And with newcomers like 23-year-old Jack Sengstaken lending a hand, it might just carry on for years

to come.

"It's just really cool to be part of a tradition that has been going on for so long," said Sengstaken who grew up on the lake and whose relatives helped found the nearby town of Sandwich. "You can kind of go back in time a bit."

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. TRUMP AIMS TO UNIFY IN STATE OF THE UNION

The president will call for optimism and unity in his delayed address before Congress, but skeptics are likely to question whether such a reset is possible after two years of bitter partisanship and deeply personal attacks.

2. TRUMP'S INAUGURAL COMMITTEE SUBPOENAED

U.S. prosecutors in New York further a federal inquiry into a fund that has faced mounting scrutiny into how it raised and spent its money.

3. POLICE SUSPECT ARSON IN PARIS FIRE

A blaze in an apartment building killed at least 10 people and sent residents fleeing to the roof or climbing out their windows to escape.

4. 'VIVA IL PAPA'

Pope Francis is greeted with cheers as he ministers to the thriving Catholic community in the United Arab Emirates and concludes his historic visit to the Arabian Peninsula with the first-ever papal Mass there.

5. WHAT IS TESTING DEMOCRATS' ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY

Pressure on Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam to resign is highlighting the party's insistence on policing its own.

6. DIRE WARNING ISSUED FOR HIMALAYAN GLACIERS

One-third of its dense ice will melt by the end of the century due to climate change, threatening water sources for 1.9 billion people, an assessment warns.

7. 21 SAVAGE'S ENGLISH ORIGINS STUN FANS

It was a big shock when fans learned that the Atlanta rapper, taken into custody by U.S. immigration agents, had been an immigrant in the first place.

8. YEAR OF THE PIG

Asia welcomes the new lunar year with visits to temples, family banquets and the world's biggest travel spree.

9. SWIPE RIGHT FOR MAX

Lithuanians create a mobile application inspired by the popular dating app Tinder to match up dogs in local shelters with new owners.

10. BOSTON TO FETE SUPER BOWL CHAMPS

Some one million fans will see the Patriots ride on World War II-era amphibious vehicles as the city's mayor warns fans not to throw beer cans or anything else at the team.

Federal prosecutors subpoena Trump's inaugural committee

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal prosecutors in New York issued a subpoena Monday seeking documents from Donald Trump's inaugural committee, furthering a federal inquiry into a fund that has faced mounting scrutiny into how it raised and spent its money.

Inaugural committee spokeswoman Kristin Celauro told The Associated Press that the committee had received the subpoena and was still reviewing it.

"It is our intention to cooperate with the inquiry," she said.

A second spokesman, Owen Blinksilver, declined to answer questions about which documents prosecutors requested. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan, which issued the subpoena, declined to comment.

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The investigation is the latest in a series of criminal inquiries into Trump's campaign and presidency. Special counsel Robert Mueller is looking into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia and whether the president obstructed the investigation. In a separate case in New York, prosecutors say Trump directed his personal lawyer Michael Cohen to make illegal hush-money payments to two women as a way to quash potential sex scandals during the campaign.

The Wall Street Journal, citing a copy of the subpoena, reported that prosecutors asked for "all documents" related to the committee's donors and vendors, as well as records relating to "benefits" donors received after making contributions.

The newspaper reported late last year that federal prosecutors are investigating whether committee donors made contributions in exchange for political favors— a potential violation of federal corruption laws. It said the inquiry also was focused on whether the inauguration misspent the \$107 million it raised to stage events celebrating Trump's inauguration.

The subpoena also requested documents relating to donations "made by or on behalf of foreign nationals, including but not limited to any communications regarding or relating to the possibility of donations by foreign nationals," the Journal reported.

The New York Times reported late last year that federal prosecutors are examining whether anyone from Qatar, Saudi Arabia or other Middle Eastern countries made illegal payments to the committee and a pro-Trump super political action committee. Foreign contributions to inaugural funds and PACs are prohibited under federal law.

The head of the inaugural committee, Tom Barrack, confirmed to The Associated Press that he was questioned by Mueller in 2017. He told the AP he was not a target of the Mueller investigation.

Neighbors: Plane 'sounded like a missile' as it broke apart

By AMY TAXIN, Associated Press

YORBA LINDA, Calif. (AP) — A small plane shook homes and "sounded like a missile" as it broke apart and rained chunks of metal into a Southern California neighborhood, igniting a house fire that killed four people, witnesses said Monday.

The pilot, a retired Chicago police officer living in Nevada, also died Sunday. Investigators were collecting pieces of the plane that fell into homes across about four blocks in Yorba Linda, a community southeast of Los Angeles.

"The witnesses I've spoken with say that they saw the airplane coming out of the clouds — it was still in one piece — and then they saw the tail breaking off and then the wing breaking off and then something like smoke before the airplane impacted the ground," said Maja Smith, an investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board.

Those witnesses did not report an explosion while the twin-engine propeller-driven Cessna 414A was in the air, she said.

Antonio Pastini, 75, of Gardnerville, Nevada, was the only person aboard, Orange County Sheriff's Lt. Cory Martino said.

Authorities were trying to identify the people who died in the house, describing them only as two males and two females. Martino said DNA may be required because of the condition of the bodies.

Two other people were hospitalized with moderate injuries, he said.

Yorba Linda resident Dave Elfver said he was getting ready to go to a friend's house to watch the Super Bowl when he heard a whining sound "like a motorcycle going a hundred miles per hour."

"The whole house shook. I thought it was an earthquake, but the whining sound didn't make any sense."

Elfver, 75, said he ran to his backyard and saw a house engulfed in flames. He ran toward it along with a crowd of neighbors, and only then he saw an airplane wing in the street.

"I didn't realize what it was until I ran around the corner," he said Monday.

Across the street, one of the columns of a neighbor's home was collapsed and debris from the plane was strewn throughout the street. Another home had broken windows.

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Shawn Winch, 49, said he was in his backyard when he heard what "sounded like a missile coming at my house." He said he saw the plane veer off and debris falling.

"It wasn't intact," he said as the plane came toward the neighborhood. "It was already breaking up."

The aircraft, which can carry up to eight people, took off from the Fullerton Municipal Airport about 12 miles (19 kilometers) away, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Allen Kenitzer said.

Preliminary radar data shows the plane reached about 7,800 feet (2,377 meters) and then rapidly fell, said Elliott Simpson, a NTSB investigator.

The main cabin of the airplane and one engine were found at the bottom of a ravine in the backyard of a house, and the other engine made a hole in the street, Simpson said.

The property where the fuselage ended up is about three houses down from the home that burned. It was not immediately clear what set the two-story house ablaze.

A portion of the plane's right wing had not been found, and investigators would search the burned house, Smith said. The Cessna 414A carries fuel in its wings.

John Cox, an aviation consultant, is confident investigators will figure out why the plane broke apart. Aircraft involved in mid-air breakups leave "fingerprints" — tell-tale signs — in the metal that will allow investigators to "build a sequence of the breakup that will lead them back to where it originated," said Cox, a former commercial pilot who's head of the consulting firm Safety Operating Systems.

Video showed panicked residents running to the house as flames and dark smoke engulfed it. One man used a garden hose to douse a burning wing that landed on the street.

Some tried to run into the burning house, but explosive sounds came from its garage and neighbors called them off, Winch said.

Clint Langford said he was in his living room when he heard a frightening sound.

"It's the eerie, low rumbling sound that keeps getting lower and louder. It was scary," he said. "And then all of a sudden boom. It shook the house."

Video from news helicopters showed plane parts scattered on roofs and driveways. Smith said at least 15 homes had debris.

Investigators will look into the maintenance record structural integrity of the aircraft, as well as the pilot's record, Smith said. The wreckage will be transported to Phoenix, Arizona, for a forensic examination.

Associated Press journalists John Antczak, Amanda Lee Myers and Christopher Weber in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

What to watch during Trump's State of the Union address

By LAURIE KELLMAN and DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump, a uniter?

That's the approach advisers say Trump will take in his first State of the Union address delivered under divided government. A president who's mocked everyone from women to the U.S. intelligence community, foreign leaders and members of Congress is expected to speak Tuesday night of setting aside hard feelings and moving forward.

For an idea of how that goes over, keep an eye on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, seated behind him and over his shoulder, and the record number of women and minorities who dot the audience after the November 2018 elections. And listen for how enthusiastically Republicans applaud Trump's outreach.

What else to watch as Trump addresses the nation at 9 p.m. EST.

AMPED ATMOSPHERE

Everything about the event, including the date, is framed by the longest government shutdown in history. Pelosi suggested Trump postpone the scheduled Jan. 29 speech until the government reopened. Trump, who commands the armed forces, then put off Pelosi's trip overseas on a military plane. She then formally yanked the welcome mat by refusing to hold a vote to allow Trump to address a joint session of Congress.

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The tug of war ended Jan. 25, when Trump lifted the shutdown without getting new money for the wall he wants to build on the U.S.-Mexico border. Pelosi then re-invited Trump to deliver the address on Tuesday and he agreed.

Trump has vowed to get his border wall and has threatened to declare a national emergency to pay for it without Congress' approval.

TRUMP'S ENTRANCE

The pomp begins the moment House Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Irving yells from the back of the chamber, "Madam Speaker, the president of the United States!"

Trump will then walk down the center aisle flanked by Republican leaders, shaking hands with many of the lawmakers who grabbed seats earlier in the day in hopes of making it into photos and video with the president. Republicans will burst into raucous hoots and applause.

Not likely to extend a hand to Trump: The star of the Democratic freshmen, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York.

"But I'll be there and I'll be present to see and listen to what's going on," she told TMZ.

WHO'S IN THE ROOM

It's a rare moment when members of the three separate and co-equal branches of government meet under the same roof.

The night's key visual will be Pelosi sitting behind Trump along with Vice President Mike Pence. All 535 members of Congress are invited, along with members of Trump's Cabinet and the justices of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice John Roberts.

The balcony tells its own story. To the left, Trump will nod to first lady Melania Trump and the administration's guests. Seated elsewhere in the gallery will be lawmakers' invited guests, many chosen to send messages reinforcing each party's agenda. This year the guests include people who have suffered because of the shutdown and those pushing for tougher immigration laws.

DESIGNATED SURVIVOR

It's not just a television show. By tradition, one Cabinet secretary is closeted away at a secure, undisclosed location to ensure continuity of government in case disaster strikes while government leaders attend the speech.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue was last year's "designated survivor."

But Trump's choice this year could be limited by the number of "acting" secretaries in the Cabinet. Only Senate-confirmed secretaries (and natural-born citizens) in the line of succession to the presidency can assume control of government in a crisis.

That means Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan, Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker, Acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt and Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao can't fill the role of designated survivor. Chao is a naturalized U.S. citizen who was born in Taiwan.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE AUDIENCE

Look for women on the Democratic side of the aisle wearing white, the color favored by early 20th century suffragettes and now worn by those who want Trump to easily spot his new opponents. Listen for boos, hisses or silence from the newly empowered Democratic side when Trump speaks. Note whether Trump can raise everyone's gaze and hit feel-good themes that inspire both sides to applaud.

For instance, who's against "unity?" Both Trump and Georgia Democrat Stacey Abrams, who will deliver the rebuttal, have used that idea to preview their remarks.

DEMOCRATS RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT

Nearly a dozen Democrats who dream of succeeding Trump serve in Congress. They will be sizing up

the president and each other as well.

Watch the body language among the would-be Democratic presidents: Who's talking to whom, who gets or gives a hug or a kiss, whose heads are bowed in hushed conversation. Also watch their body language toward Trump. Cameras will be trolling the audience — and the presidential dreamers know it — to see if they can be caught responding with an eye roll or head shake.

ABRAMS AFTER WORDS

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer chose Abrams to deliver the rebuttal in a nod toward the black women who anchor the Democratic Party. Doing so elevates her among Democrats as the leaders woo Abrams to run for the Senate.

Abrams also will provide a contrast with Trump, who has a history of making racially inflammatory remarks.

Abrams is filling a role that for others has proven thankless and generated brutal reviews. Republican Sen. Marco Rubio's lunge for a water bottle became a meme after he delivered his party's response in 2013. Then-Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, a Republican, was panned for being dull in 2009.

Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, appearing on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert," said he twice turned down offers to deliver the rebuttal.

Why? "Because it sucks," he said.

Follow Kellman and Superville on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman> and <http://www.twitter.com/DSupervilleAP>

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,

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it aims to have complete control of the convention agenda, rules and platform — and to identify any potential troublemakers 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 damaged 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 part of 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.

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Stepanek was viewed as decidedly more supportive of the president than former state chairwoman Jennifer Horn, who emerged as an outspoken Trump critic since leaving the position 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.

Super Bowl reaches 100.7 million people, down from 2018

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The New England Patriots' competitive but action-starved Super Bowl victory over the Los Angeles Rams was seen by 100.7 million people on television and streaming services, the smallest audience for football's annual spectacle in a decade.

A boycott by disgruntled New Orleans Saints fans, a campaign by fans of quarterback Colin Kaepernick and a game with only one touchdown combined to shrink the audience. On CBS alone, the game was seen by 98.2 million people, compared to 103.4 million who watched on NBC last year, according to the Nielsen company.

Since reaching a peak of 114.4 million viewers for the Patriots' 2015 victory over the Seattle Seahawks, the Super Bowl audience has slipped each year since. The Super Bowl is traditionally the most-watched television event of the year in the U.S., and its audience hadn't dipped below 100 million since the Pittsburgh Steelers-Arizona Cardinals game in 2009.

CBS dealt with a city that held a major grudge. Many fans in New Orleans, where the hometown Saints were victimized by a blown referee's call toward the end of its loss to the Rams in the NFC championship, skipped the game entirely. Preliminary ratings from New Orleans showed that Super Bowl viewership this year was half what it was in 2018.

New Orleans' Times Picayune newspaper printed a mostly blank front page on Monday with the words, "Super Bowl?" "What Super Bowl?"

The newspaper asked, "you think the NFL is sad that the Saints weren't in it to spice up the night?"

There was also a campaign on Twitter by people who said they would not watch the game because of Kaepernick, the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback who hasn't been able to land a job in the NFL since leading demonstrations in protest of police treatment of minorities.

After a season of offensive fireworks and conference championships that both went into overtime, Sunday's game was a defensive struggle where the teams were tied 3-3 entering the fourth quarter. That's a tough slog for the casual fan, and the Super Bowl draws millions who don't watch football regularly.

At one point CBS commentator Tony Romo said, "this is hard to watch." Others were blunter still. The website The Ringer said that "the historically boring Super Bowl sent football back to the Stone Age."

Cindy Boren of The Washington Post wrote that it was "a snore of a Super Bowl." The New York Times headlined a story: "How boring was the Super Bowl? The punts got exciting."

The words "boring" and "Super Bowl" appeared in the same tweets more than 70,000 times in the past 24 hours. The words "worst" and "Super Bowl" were matched more than 50,000 times.

If anything, football fans have been spoiled by a string of competitive Super Bowls after many years in which big game blowouts became commonplace. This year the game's outcome was in doubt until the final seconds, but it had only one touchdown and few scoring threats.

The one growth area for CBS was streaming. The network said an average of 2.6 million people streamed the game, up 31 percent over last year.

CBS did achieve its goal of having a large audience sample its new talent show, "The World's Best." Nielsen said 22.2 million people watched the show's debut, the most-watched entertainment show since the Oscars last year and the biggest entertainment premiere on TV since "Undercover Boss" debuted after the Super Bowl nine years ago.

Associated Press reporter Eric Carvin in New York contributed to this report.

US prepares to start building portion of Texas border wall

By NOMAAN MERCHANT, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — The U.S. government is preparing to begin construction of more border walls and fencing in South Texas' Rio Grande Valley, likely on federally owned land set aside as wildlife refuge property.

Heavy construction equipment was expected to arrive starting Monday, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said. A photo posted by the nonprofit National Butterfly Center shows an excavator parked next to its property.

Congress last March approved more than \$600 million for 33 miles (53 kilometers) of new barriers in the Rio Grande Valley. While President Donald Trump and top Democrats remain in a standoff over Trump's demand for \$5.7 billion in border wall funding, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has pushed ahead with building what's already funded.

That construction was often described as fencing, and the government funding bill that included construction was supported by some Democrats in the House and Senate. CBP refers to what it plans to build as a "border wall system."

According to designs it released in September, CBP intends to build 25 miles (40 kilometers) of concrete walls to the height of the existing flood-control levee in Hidalgo County next to the Rio Grande, the river that forms the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas. On top of the concrete walls, CBP will install 18-foot (5.5-meter) steel posts and clear a 150-foot (45-meter) enforcement zone in front.

Maps released by CBP show construction would cut through the butterfly center, a nearby state park, and a century-old Catholic chapel next to the river.

Many landowners oppose a border wall and have vowed to fight the U.S. government if it tries to seize their property through eminent domain. Court fights over condemning land could take weeks if not months.

CBP said in its statement that it intends to start construction on federally owned land. Environmental advocates expect the government to use land that's part of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

The refuge consists of dozens of parcels of land purchased over the last 40 years to create a corridor for endangered species and other wildlife.

The Department of Homeland Security can waive environmental restrictions to construct a border wall and issued its waiver for Hidalgo County in October. A coalition of environmental groups has sued DHS over its use of waivers, arguing that wall construction would endanger ocelots, rare birds and other wildlife that rely on refuge land for habitat. That lawsuit is still pending.

Congress last March required CBP not to build in the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge after a public outcry. But it didn't exempt the Lower Rio Grande Valley refuge.

"Santa Ana was not a big enough refuge to sustain all the wildlife down here," said Jim Chapman, a longtime resident of the Rio Grande Valley and member of the group Friends of the Wildlife Corridor.

The National Butterfly Center released the text of an email sent by an attorney from the U.S. Department of Justice. The lawyer, Cliff Stevens, says in the email that construction will begin in mid-February "on federally owned land east of Bentsen State Park."

Directly east of Bentsen State Park is a refuge tract called El Morillo Banco, which is between the state park and the butterfly center. DOJ declined to comment on the email, and CBP did not respond to several requests for comment.

Land already in the hands of the government becomes an easier place to start construction quickly, said U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo. Cuellar has introduced a proposal that would instruct CBP not to build border walls in several places that have environmental and cultural significance.

"The easiest way, historically, is to go to public lands, because who's going to fight them?" he said.

Protesters were walking Monday along the river levee where CBP intends to start construction. The but-

terfly center said on Facebook that a local police officer had declared all their property south of the levee to be off limits. The center says it intends to take legal action.

Chapman said that despite months of protests and meetings, he hadn't seen "any attempt" from the U.S. government "to acknowledge and to take the needs of wildlife into account."

"If you were going to design a border wall with maximal impact, you would do exactly what they were doing," Chapman said. "You couldn't do it worse."

Historians irked by musical 'Hamilton' escalate their duel

By MARK KENNEDY, AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ever since the historical musical "Hamilton" began its march to near-universal infatuation, one group has noticeably withheld its applause — historians. Many academics argue the portrait of Alexander Hamilton, the star of our \$10 bills, is a counterfeit. Now they're escalating their fight.

Ishmael Reed, who has been nominated twice for a National Book Award, has chosen to fight fire with fire — collecting his critique of Lin-Manuel Miranda's acclaimed show into a play.

Reed's "The Haunting of Lin-Manuel Miranda" is an uncompromising take-down of "Hamilton," reminding viewers of the Founding Father's complicity in slavery and his war on Native Americans.

"My goal is that this be a counter-narrative to the text that has been distributed to thousands of students throughout the country," said Reed, who teaches at the California College of the Arts and the University of California at Berkeley and whose latest novel is "Conjugating Hindi."

Reed, whose play had a recent reading in New York and who is raising money for a four-week production in May, is part of a wave of "Hamilton" skeptics — often solitary voices of dissent amid a wall of fawning attention — who have written journal articles, newspaper op-eds and a 2018 collection of essays, "Historians on Hamilton."

Miranda's glowing portrayal of a Hamilton who celebrates open borders — "Immigrants, we get the job done!" — and who denounces slavery has incensed everyone from professors at Harvard to the University of Houston to Rutgers.

They argue that Miranda got Hamilton all wrong — the Founding Father wasn't progressive at all, his actual role as a slave owner has been whitewashed and the pro-immigrant figure onstage hides the fact that he was, in fact, an anti-immigration elitist.

"It's a fictional rewrite of Hamilton. You can't pick the history facts that you want," said Nancy Isenberg, a professor of American history at Louisiana State University who has written a biography of Aaron Burr and is the author of "White Trash: The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America."

It's not just the portrait of Hamilton that has drawn fire. Critics also say Miranda's portrait of Burr is horribly distorted and argue that Hamilton's sister-in-law, Angelica Schuyler, was in no way a feminist, as she is portrayed in the musical. Reed considers "Hamilton" so problematic that even edits to it wouldn't help. "I think the corrective would be to close the show," he said.

Reed's own play borrows from Charles Dickens in portraying a naive Miranda being visited by a succession of ghostly slaves, Native Americans and indentured servants — people Reed argues never made it into the Tony-, Grammy-, and Pulitzer-winning musical. "What I tried to do was to cover the voices that were not present onstage," Reed said.

Reed, who has not seen "Hamilton" but read it, criticizes the musical as just the latest piece of entertainment that is sympathetic to slave owners. "I say this is a successor to 'Gone With the Wind,'" he said. "But at least in 'Gone With the Wind,' Hattie McDaniel had a speaking part."

In Reed's play, Hamilton is unmasked as a slave owner who once worked for a slave trading firm in St. Croix. "You've been up to your blue eyes in the slave trade from the time you were a child," he is told. A slave tells Miranda that the Schuyler family, which Hamilton married into, were brutal slave owners and life under them was "no damned musical comedy."

A horrified fictional Miranda is eventually convinced by the evidence. "I have to undo the damage that I have done," he wails at the end. "Because of me, thousands of school children are trapped intellectually

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in the same lies as I was.”

Perhaps the true villain of the piece is historian Ron Chernow, who wrote the award-winning biography of Hamilton that Miranda relied upon. (“You should have read books by black people,” a slave tells Miranda in Reed’s play.) At the play’s conclusion, the fictional Chernow advises the fictional Miranda to stop making a fuss and just enjoy their “good hustle.”

Chernow has declined to comment on Reed’s criticisms, and a publicist for “Hamilton” and Miranda also declined comment.

However, Miranda has said in interviews that he felt a responsibility to be as historically accurate as possible but that “Hamilton” is necessarily a work of historical fiction, including dramatizations and imprecisions.

Perhaps in a veiled response the critics, producers of “Hamilton” have created an immersive exhibit — to open in Chicago this fall — that promises to take “visitors deeper into the life and times” of Hamilton. How much it will try to correct the impressions made in the musical is unclear.

Harvard Law professor and historian Annette Gordon-Reed, who has criticized the show in the past, is offering her historical consultation for the exhibit. She attended a reading of Reed’s play and sounded a hopeful note that both sides can come together.

“There’s room for my earlier commentary, Mr. Reed’s take, the grand musical itself, and now a good faith effort to consider the musical’s subject in his real-world historical context— which is what the exhibit is designed to do,” she said.

For Reed and Isenberg, the omissions and distortions in “Hamilton” are part of a larger problem with the way the Founding Fathers are portrayed in mainstream history, often as flawless, enlightened geniuses. It even has a name: “Founders Chic.”

Isenberg notes that, over generations, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and then John Adams have been held up periodically as darling patriotic heroes. Now it’s Hamilton’s turn.

“We always want to refashion the Founders to be a mirror for us,” she said. “My job as a historian is to dislodge misconceptions, not to entertain my students and not to make people feel comfortable. That’s what good history does.”

Isenberg even argues that Miranda went further than Chernow in trying to reshape Hamilton into a progressive to celebrate President Barack Obama, portraying the Founding Father into someone hip and multicultural. She notes he once bought two slaves for \$250.

“Imagine if one of the songs in the musical was ‘\$250,’” she said. “This would make everyone in the audience squirm and scream and it would completely undermine the heroic message and the progressive Hamilton that they want and they crave.”

Dr. Lyra D. Monteiro’s criticism jumps from the page to the stage when she notes that three minority actors play white, slave-owning current or future presidents — obscuring “the white supremacist origins of our country.”

“It’s a musical about the mythology of the ruling class — that anybody can join it,” said the Rutgers professor, noting that both Hillary Clinton and Dick Cheney are fans. “It’s the myth that the ruling class of the United States wants to believe.”

Monteiro is keeping her fingers crossed that Reed gets the backing to mount his play. “I’d love to take my students to that,” she said.

Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

5 reasons why autonomous cars aren’t coming anytime soon

By TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — In the world of autonomous vehicles, Pittsburgh and Silicon Valley are bustling hubs of development and testing. But ask those involved in self-driving vehicles when we might actually see them carrying passengers in every city, and you’ll get an almost universal answer: Not anytime soon.

An optimistic assessment is 10 years. Many others say decades as researchers try to conquer a number

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of obstacles. The vehicles themselves will debut in limited, well-mapped areas within cities and spread outward.

The fatal crash in Arizona involving an Uber autonomous vehicle in March slowed progress, largely because it hurt the public's perception of the safety of vehicles. Companies slowed research to be more careful. Google's Waymo, for instance, decided not to launch a fully autonomous ride-hailing service in the Phoenix area and will rely on human backup drivers to ferry passengers, at least for now.

Here are the problems that researchers must overcome to start giving rides without humans behind the wheel:

SNOW AND WEATHER

When it's heavy enough to cover the pavement, snow blocks the view of lane lines that vehicle cameras use to find their way. Researchers so far haven't figured out a way around this. That's why much of the testing is done in warm-weather climates such as Arizona and California.

Heavy snow, rain, fog and sandstorms can obstruct the view of cameras. Light beams sent out by laser sensors can bounce off snowflakes and think they are obstacles. Radar can see through the weather, but it doesn't show the shape of an object needed for computers to figure out what it is.

"It's like losing part of your vision," says Raj Rajkumar, an electrical and computer engineering professor at Carnegie Mellon University.

Researchers are working on laser sensors that use a different light beam wavelength to see through snowflakes, said Greg McGuire, director of the MCity autonomous vehicle testing lab at the University of Michigan. Software also is being developed so vehicles can differentiate between real obstacles and snowflakes, rain, fog, and other conditions.

But many companies are still trying to master the difficult task of driving on a clear day with steady traction.

"Once we are able to have a system reliably perform in those, then we'll start working toward expanding to those more challenging conditions," said Noah Zych, Uber's head of system safety for self-driving cars.

PAVEMENT LINES AND CURBS

Across the globe, roadway marking lines are different, or they may not even exist. Lane lines aren't standardized, so vehicles have to learn how to drive differently in each city. Sometimes there aren't any curbs to help vehicles judge lane width.

For instance, in Pittsburgh's industrial "Strip District," where many self-driving vehicles are tested, the city draws lines across the narrow lanes to mark where vehicles should stop for stop signs. Sometimes the lines are so far back and buildings are so close to the street that autonomous cars can't see traffic on the cross street if they stop at the line. One workaround is to program vehicles to stop for the line and creep forward.

"Is it better to do a double stop?" asked Pete Rander, president of Argo AI, an autonomous vehicle company in which Ford has invested heavily. "Since intersections vary, it's not that easy."

DEALING WITH HUMAN DRIVERS

For many years, autonomous vehicles will have to deal with humans who don't always play by the rules. They double-park or walk in front of cars. Recently in Pittsburgh, an Argo backup driver had to take over when his car stopped during a right turn, blocking an intersection when it couldn't immediately decide whether to go around a double-parked delivery truck.

"Even if the car might eventually figure something out, it's shared space, and it's socially unacceptable" to block traffic, Rander said.

Humans also make eye contact with other drivers to make sure they're looking in the right direction, something still being developed for autonomous vehicles.

Add to that the antagonism that some feel toward robots. People have reportedly been harassing Waymo's autonomous test vehicles near Phoenix. The Arizona Republic reported in December that police

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is suburban Chandler have documented at least 21 cases in the past two years, including a man waiving a gun at a Waymo van and people who slashed tires and threw rocks. One Jeep forced the vans off the road six times.

LEFT TURNS

Deciding when to turn left in front of oncoming traffic without a green arrow is one of the more difficult tasks for human drivers and one that causes many crashes. Autonomous vehicles have the same trouble.

Waymo CEO John Krafcik said in a recent interview that his company's vehicles are still encountering occasional problems at intersections.

"I think the things that humans have challenges with, we're challenged with as well," he said. "So sometimes unprotected lefts are super challenging for a human, sometimes they're super challenging for us."

CONSUMER ACCEPTANCE

The fatal Uber crash near Phoenix last year did more than push the pause button on testing. It also rattled consumers who someday will be asked to ride in self-driving vehicles.

Surveys taken after the Uber crash showed that drivers are reluctant to give up control to a computer. One by AAA found that 73 percent of American drivers would be too fearful to ride in a fully self-driving vehicle. That's up from 63 percent in late 2017.

Autonomous vehicle companies are showing test passengers information on screens about where the vehicles are headed and what its sensors are seeing. The more people ride, the more they trust the vehicles, says Waymo's Krafcik.

"After they become more and more confident they rarely look at the screens, and they're on their phones or relaxing or sleeping," he said.

Tennessee remains at No. 1, top 4 unchanged in AP Top 25

By JOHN MARSHALL, AP Basketball Writer

Tennessee had a couple of shaky moments after earning its first No. 1 ranking in 11 years. The Volunteers are sure rolling now.

Coming off decisive wins over South Carolina and Texas A&M, Tennessee remained atop The Associated Press men's basketball poll for the third straight week.

The Vols received 48 of 64 first-place votes from a media panel in the poll released Monday. No. 2 Duke had 12 first-place votes and No. 3 Virginia four. Gonzaga and Kentucky rounded out the top 5.

"These guys have worked hard," Tennessee coach Rick Barnes said after the Texas A&M game. "They've really become a team. If you could've been in the huddle the last seven minutes, I didn't have to say a word."

Tennessee (20-1, 8-0 SEC) struggled against Vanderbilt in its first game at No. 1 and got off to a slow start against West Virginia. The Vols stomped on the Gamecocks and Aggies by a combined 39 points to break a century-old school record with their 16th straight win.

Tennessee plays Missouri and Florida this week.

"We have a long way to go," junior forward guard Grant Williams said. "We have a long season ahead of us. It's nice to set that record but we want more. We can't ever settle because if we settle or we start thinking that's all we want, we're going to drop to teams left and right."

While the top four remained the same, the top 10 became jumbled after Michigan and Michigan State lost.

The Wolverines, still undefeated two weeks ago, dropped two spots to No. 7 after losing to Iowa. The Spartans fell three spots to No. 9 following a loss to Indiana, which had lost its previous seven games. Michigan State learned last week that guard Joshua Langford would not return this season because of a knee injury.

No. 5 Kentucky, No. 6 Nevada and No. 8 North Carolina all moved up because of the losses.

WOLFPACK BOUNCED

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A pair of losses and an epically bad shooting night bounced North Carolina State from No. 23 to out of the poll without receiving a single vote.

The Wolfpack opened the week with an overtime loss to Virginia, then fell flat in a loss to No. 10 Virginia Tech.

One of the ACC's top offenses, N.C. State was held to 24 total points, the worst output by an ACC team since the shot clock began in the 1985-86 season.

The Wolfpack made nine shots while shooting 16.7 percent, lowest in the history of a league founded in 1953.

Mississippi State was the only other team to drop from the poll, falling out from No. 22 after losing to Alabama.

BEARCATS RISE

Cincinnati has been on a roll lately, stretching its winning streak to seven games with a 73-68 victory over SMU on Saturday.

The Bearcats were rewarded with a spot in Monday's poll at No. 25. It is Cincinnati's first ranking since ending the 2017-18 season at No. 6.

Mick Cronin's crew has road games against Memphis and Houston this week.

Iowa was the only other team to move into the poll, re-entering at No. 20 after its win over Michigan.

RISING/FALLING

Wisconsin had the week's biggest climb, jumping five spots to No. 19 after beating Maryland and Nebraska. No. 17 Iowa State and No. 22 Florida State each moved up three spots.

The biggest drop outside of N.C. State was Buffalo, which dropped five spots to No. 23 after losing to Bowling Green on Friday.

More AP college basketball: <https://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_Top25

US sports leagues split on how to monetize sports betting

By WAYNE PARRY, Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — America's major professional sports leagues are split on how to get a piece of the action from legal sports betting after failing to get early adopting states to cut them in.

But they are back in the game this year with several state legislatures considering granting them fees from sports bets.

The National Football League, Major League Baseball, National Basketball Association and the National Hockey League uniformly fought to stop the spread of sports gambling for years, but retrenched in their positions after a key loss — a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year that granted New Jersey and other states the option to allow wagering.

That shift from the courts to statehouses, Congress and the open market has revealed divisions among the leagues in how to approach the inevitability of expanded legal betting.

Some are lobbying individual states to include a 0.25 percent cut of all sports bets placed in their states. Others are concentrating on making free-market deals with individual gambling companies. Some are doing both those things and others say they don't want or need payments from sportsbooks.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last May that all states are free to legalize sports betting. Eight states currently accept bets with many more expected to follow suit — some soon, others in future years. None of the laws passed in 2018 gave leagues what they'd hoped for.

But at least six states have included fees for the leagues in sports betting bills they are considering this year, with more bills expected.

The NBA, MLB and golf's PGA Tour began lobbying individual states for direct payments, an idea widely known among legislators and lobbyists as an "integrity fee" but that the leagues prefer to call a royalty. The leagues say they deserve to be reimbursed for costs to make sure their games are free from scandal and manipulation. They also feel that outside companies making money from games should share profits

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with those organizing the sports.

"It obviously helps the leagues in providing compensation to us for our product," said Bryan Seeley, a senior vice president of Major League Baseball. "It also helps defray the costs for us for integrity and regulatory costs."

Those costs include hiring additional people to monitor games and betting activity, training players, referees and other league employees on integrity measures, developing special software and hiring outside consultants, said Dan Spillane, an NBA senior vice president. But neither of those leagues would quantify exactly how much integrity measures are costing them or how much is new spending, given that illegal sports betting has been popular in America for a long time and other countries offer legal wagering on their games.

Seeley said gambling companies need to partner with leagues so both sides have incentives to grow appeal and profitability, he said.

"I can't think of another industry where a class of people is able to make hundreds of millions of dollars off someone else's product, put risk on that party, and pay them nothing," Seeley said. "Some of the revenue that's going to be made by the gambling companies needs to be shared."

The NFL — even with the most popular betting sport in the United States — says it never sought such payments.

"Rather, we are focused on game integrity and consumer protection," NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said.

The National Hockey League has put most of its energy into reaching direct deals with gambling companies, including gambling giant MGM Resorts International, one of a flurry of deals the leagues made last year. These pacts have included sportsbooks licensing official league data as well as using league and team logos in marketing and advertising.

"Instead of seeking legislation at the federal level or even at the state level, our approach has been to work directly with the industry," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said. "We believe that, whether it's our intellectual property, our data, whether it's video of our game, we have important assets, and if somebody is going to avail themselves or want to avail themselves of those assets in order to conduct their business, then we're going to need to have a negotiation."

MLB and the NBA say they are pursuing state-by-state fees and deals with private companies as parallel but independent efforts. David Schwartz, director of the Center for Gaming Research at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, sees that as "an adjustment by the leagues to the political reality of the situation."

"I imagine that as the market grows, they will seek various ways to monetize public interest in sports betting, perhaps even some they haven't thought of yet," Schwartz said.

At least five states considered royalties to leagues last year before deciding against paying them. The leagues think they'll do better this year with more lobbying. So far this year, Missouri, New York, Kansas, Illinois, Iowa and Massachusetts have introduced bills providing fees of between 0.2 percent and 1 percent for the leagues.

That doesn't necessarily mean there's strong support for the fees in those states. Lawmakers in several of those jurisdictions say they included the fee in bills for the purposes of discussion, but say they're not convinced it should be adopted.

New York state Sen. Joseph Addabbo Jr. said the bill he sponsored is basically a reintroduction of last year's unsuccessful bill. He's not sold on the 0.2 percent fee it would provide to the leagues, noting that Nevada, where sports betting has been legal for years, does not share its revenue with the leagues.

"Somebody is going to have to justify an integrity fee, credibly," he said. "The leagues say there's more work involved in ensuring the integrity of their games; I get it. But I need to maximize the funding for our state. There's a pie, and everyone wants their little slice. And the state wants the biggest slice."

Iowa state Rep. Bobby Kaufmann included a 0.25 percent fee in one of his state's bills because, "I wanted to give every one of the stakeholders — the casinos, the leagues, the lottery and the horsemen — their 'dream bill.' But I don't believe right now (the fee) has the votes.

"Iowa doesn't have any pro sports leagues, but our casinos are in 19 different locations," he said. "An integrity fee would just direct money away from Iowa to out-of-state entities."

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Missouri state Sen. Paul Wieland opposes such fees, which are in one of his state's bills.

"I don't think that the leagues have any rights to fees," he said. "The leagues are in the sports and entertainment business, and the casinos are in the gaming business. If the leagues feel they should get something, they should work out individual deals with casinos to be the 'official sports book of,' just like beer companies do."

Illinois state Rep. Mike Zalewski won't commit to supporting an integrity fee, but is sympathetic to the position of the leagues.

"It's their product," Zalewski said. "They want to have a say in this."

Some state lawmakers and gambling companies object to the proposed fee taking the form of a percentage of all bets made, as opposed to a percentage of gambling companies' profits, which is a far smaller number.

One thing the leagues have agreed on with one another is the idea of federal regulation, preferring a single set of uniform rules than different laws in each state. A bill introduced late last year that would have the U.S. Justice Department set minimum standards for states to meet in offering sports betting does not include royalties. But it does not explicitly forbid them, either, and whether such payments are ultimately added is expected to be a central focus or negotiations as it makes its way through Congress.

Associated Press writer Geoff Mulvihill in Philadelphia contributed to this report.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 5, the 36th day of 2019. There are 329 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 5, 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed increasing the number of U.S. Supreme Court justices; the proposal, which failed in Congress, drew accusations that Roosevelt was attempting to "pack" the nation's highest court.

On this date:

In 1917, Mexico's present constitution was adopted by the Constitutional Convention in Santiago de Queretaro. The U.S. Congress passed, over President Woodrow Wilson's veto, an act severely curtailing Asian immigration.

In 1918, during World War I, the Cunard liner SS Tuscania, which was transporting about 2,000 American troops to Europe, was torpedoed by a German U-boat in the Irish Sea with the loss of more than 200 people.

In 1958, Gamal Abdel Nasser was formally nominated to become the first president of the new United Arab Republic (a union of Egypt and Syria which lasted until 1961).

In 1971, Apollo 14 astronauts Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell stepped onto the surface of the moon in the first of two lunar excursions.

In 1983, former Nazi Gestapo official Klaus Barbie, expelled from Bolivia, was brought to Lyon (lee-OHN'), France, to stand trial. (He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison -- he died in 1991.)

In 1988, the Arizona House impeached Republican Gov. Evan Mecham (MEE'-kuhm), setting the stage for his trial in the state Senate, where he was convicted of obstructing justice and misusing state funds allegedly funneled to his Pontiac dealership.

In 1989, the Soviet Union announced that all but a small rear-guard contingent of its troops had left Afghanistan.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the Family and Medical Leave Act, granting workers up to 12 weeks

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unpaid leave for family emergencies.

In 1999, Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson was sentenced in Rockville, Md., to a year in jail for assaulting two motorists following a traffic accident (he ended up serving 3 1/2 months).

In 2001, four disciples of Osama bin Laden went on trial in New York in the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa. (The four were convicted and sentenced to life in prison without parole.)

In 2002, A federal grand jury in Alexandria, Va., indicted John Walker Lindh on ten charges, alleging he was trained by Osama bin Laden's network and then conspired with the Taliban to kill Americans. (Lindh later pleaded guilty to lesser offenses and was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison.)

In 2008, more than 80 tornadoes began touching down in the midwestern and southern U.S.; the deadliest of the twisters claimed 57 lives. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, a guru to the Beatles who introduced the West to transcendental meditation, died at his home in the Dutch town of Vlodrop; he was believed to be about 90.

Ten years ago: Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg underwent surgery for pancreatic cancer. USA Swimming suspended Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps for three months after a photo showing him inhaling from a marijuana pipe became public.

Five years ago: A U.N. human rights committee denounced the Vatican for adopting policies that it said allowed priests to rape and molest tens of thousands of children over decades. CVS Caremark announced it would pull cigarettes and other tobacco products from its stores. The state of Texas executed Suzanne Basso for torturing and killing Louis "Buddy" Musso, a mentally impaired man she'd lured to suburban Houston with the promise of marriage.

One year ago: Stocks took their worst loss in six and a half years, with the Dow Jones industrial average plunging more than 1,100 points. Jerome Powell was sworn in as the 16th chairman of the Federal Reserve. Former sports doctor Larry Nassar received his third long prison sentence, 40 to 125 years, for molesting young athletes at an elite Michigan gymnastics club. President Donald Trump accused Democrats of being "un-American" and perhaps "treasonous" for not clapping during his State of the Union address a week earlier.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer Hank Aaron is 85. Actor Stuart Damon is 82. Tony-winning playwright John Guare (gwayr) is 81. Financial writer Jane Bryant Quinn is 80. Actor David Selby is 78. Singer-songwriter Barrett Strong is 78. Football Hall of Famer Roger Staubach is 77. Movie director Michael Mann is 76. Rock singer Al Kooper is 75. Actress Charlotte Rampling is 73. Racing Hall of Famer Darrell Waltrip is 72. Actress Barbara Hershey is 71. Actor Christopher Guest is 71. Actor Tom Wilkinson is 71. Actor-comedian Tim Meadows is 58. Actress Jennifer Jason Leigh is 57. Actress Laura Linney is 55. Rock musician Duff McKagan (Velvet Revolver) is 55. World Golf Hall of Famer Jose Maria Olazabal is 53. Actor-comedian Chris Parnell is 52. Rock singer Chris Barron (Spin Doctors) is 51. Singer Bobby Brown is 50. Actor Michael Sheen is 50. Actor David Chisum is 49. Country singer Sara Evans is 48. Country singer Tyler Farr is 35. Neo-soul musician Mark Shusterman (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 34. Actor-singer Darren Criss is 32. Actor Alex Brightman is 32. Actor Henry Golding is 32. Rock musician Kyle Simmons (Bastille) is 31. Actor Jeremy Sumpter is 30. Drummer Graham Sierota (Echosmith) is 20.

Thought for Today: "Many excellent words are ruined by too definite a knowledge of their meaning." — Aline Kilmer, American poet (1888-1941).