

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 06, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 212 ~ 1 of 39

Groton Area Schedule of Events

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- Bowling Scores
- 2- City Council Meeting Story
- 3- Cavs beat Lady Tigers
- 3- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ads
- 4- Locke, Monson place at Big Dakota Conference Tourney
- 5- Today in Weather History
- 6-7 Weather Pages
- 8- Daily Devotional
- 9- 2019 Groton Events
- 10- News from the Associated Press

Groton Coffee Cup League

Feb. 5 Team Standings, James Valley 17, Kens 15, Biker Chix 13, Ten Pins 11

High Games: Vicki Walter 191, LaVonne Raap 178, Vickie Kramp 173.

High Series: Vicki Walter 510, Vickie Kramp 485, Joyce Walter 449.

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.

Citizens reach out to city council for nursing home future

The Groton City Council listed to local citizens who are concerned about Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center. The local facility has gone into receivership after being sold and people are concerned that they will lose it. In addition, local people would be further from loved ones there. This may become a problem in the near future for not just family's, but the community as well since this nursing facility has been around for so long. Doris Strom said the facility went into operation in 1972. Roger Rix, spokes person for the group, along with Anita Lowary, both said the facility has major issues and it needs updates.

Lowary said that the city should not consider taking over the facility, but added there are other options available. It was suggested reactivating the housing commission to try and get an essential function bond. Dick Kolker said that the community should look at the Bristol facility to see how they are doing such a good job with its operation. Lowary said a local non-profit organization could be an option.

There is concern that losing the facility would be a major blow to the local economy in addition to creating hardships for residents in the facility. "We would also lose population," Rix said.

It was pointed out that the Groton nursing home is the third highest employer for the town of Groton, so they're afraid that by losing the facility it will bring lost to everyone and many will be out of work and families will need to find somewhere for their family members who reside there. Lowary said that could be miles away. Kolker said that he'd like to see a committee put together so that if something should happen to this facility, they are ready to take the bull by the horns... Anything that can help save this nursing home...

As of now, they are unsure of where the state stands with the facility and Rix said the time to get something organized is now rather than later.

The council recognized the Groton Firemen for their donation of two picnic tables for the new pool shelter.

Waste Water Superintendent Dwight Zerr talked about manholes that are in need of replacement on Aspen Avenue. Two quotes were sought and HydroClean had the low quote of about \$27,000. The other quote was from Dahme Construction for around \$44,000.

Dan Sunne from the Groton Electric Dept. said that everything is looking good the most part. The Groton Police Dept. has offered their time to be spotter at night, if needed.

Police Chief Stacy Mayou reported that the body cams are in and operational, one of the vehicles is still maybe misfiring and they are still trying to figure out whether it's a sensor problem. They also have concerns about people driving smaller cars while the snow is deep and they just want people to be careful and mindful to avoid fender benders.

Summer employment opportunities include lifeguards, cemetery work, baseball/softball coaches, ticket takers and public works dept. The deadline for these applications is March 5th.

There is current legislation being considered to freeze current electric territories in South Dakota. That would prevent municipalities from adding to their electric territory. The council will consider passing a resolution to in support of keeping the current territory law on the books.

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Cavaliers beat Lady Tigers

A 13-point, two 11-point and one 8-point runs by Roncalli allowed the Cavaliers to post a 52-18 win over the Groton Area Lady Tigers Tuesday evening in Groton.

Groton held an early lead of 4-3 before the Cavaliers had an 11-point run to take a 14-4 lead. It was 17-9 after the first quarter. The Cavaliers had an eight-point run in the second quarter en route to a 31-14 lead at halftime. The Cavaliers had a 13-point run between the second and third quarter and finished the game with 11 straight points. It was 48-18 at the end of the third quarter. Both teams subbed down in the fourth quarter as only four points were scored, all by Roncalli.

Payton Maine led the Tigers with five points followed by Allyssa Locke with four, Gracie Traphagen three and adding two points apiece were Jennie Doeden, Eliza Wanner and Kaycie Hawkins. Jori Ewart led the Cavaliers with 16 points followed by Mariah Winegar with 13, Jamie Ewart eight, Megan Streier seven and Abby Hanson and Elissa Hammerich each had four points. The Cavaliers were 10 of 13 from the line off of Groton Area's 12 team fouls. Groton Area was one for one off of Roncalli's eight team fouls. The Cavaliers dominated the boards, 32-14 with Winegar having 10 for Roncalli and Doeden and Wanner each had four for Groton Area. The Tigers has 10 turnovers, five of which were steals. Roncalli had five turnovers, two of which were steals. Doeden had three of the team's five assists.

The Tigers were eight of 31 from the field for 26 percent. Groton Area was one of 11 in three-pointers with Maine making the only one. The Cavaliers were 18 of 44 in shooting for 41 percent. Jori Ewart made three three-pointers and Megan Streier made one.

Roncalli won the junior varsity game, 41-23. Scoring for Groton Area: Kenzie McInerney 6, Gracie Traphagen 5, Allyssa Locke 3, Brooke Gengerke 3, Maddie Bjerke 3, Trista Keith 2, Caitlynn Barse 1.

Cook/ Dietary Aide

Flexible schedule
and new wage
scale.

Contact Pam Rohrbach

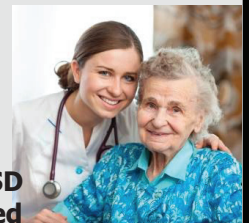


1106 North Second Street
605.397.2365



HELP WANTED

Director of Nursing



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

Contact Brynn Pickrel



1106 North Second Street
605.397.2365

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Locke, Monson place at Big Dakota Conference Tourney

Groton Area's wrestling team took part in the Big Dakota Conference wrestling tournament held Saturday at Stanley County. Wyatt Locke placed second at 285 pounds and Dragr Monson placed fourth at 113 pounds.

113

Champ. Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) over Kal Pond (Pine Ridge) (Fall 0:56)

Varsity - Quarterfinals - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) over Lincoln Stuwe (Potter County) (Fall 1:01)

Semifinals - Keegan Haider (Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey-Wessington) over Dragr Monson (Groton Area) (Dec 8-2)

Cons. Semis - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) over Isaac Aman (Mobridge-Pollock) (Fall 0:41)

Varsity - 3rd Place Match - Landon Sudbeck (Parkston) over Dragr Monson (Groton Area) (SV-1 5-3)

152

Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) over Adam Bohnet (Winner) (Fall 1:03)

Varsity - Champ. Round 1 - Mason Heath (Bennett County) over Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) (Fall 1:57)

Varsity - Cons. Round 1 - Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) over Kraig Kenobbie (Chamberlain) (Fall 3:41)

Cons. Round 2 - Daniel Cremer (Marion/Freeman) over Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) (Fall 0:22)

160

Jayden Lemons (Marion/Freeman) over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) (MD 9-0)

Varsity - Champ. Round 1 - Weston Ireland (Bennett County) over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) (Fall 0:48)

Champ. Round 1 - Joe Woodring (Redfield Area) over Evin Nehls (Groton Area) (Fall 0:50)

Cons. Round 1 - Joey Cole (Winner) over Evin Nehls (Groton Area) (Fall 0:19)

195

Champ. Round 1 - Rylie Stevens (Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey-Wessington) over Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) (Fall 0:52)

Varsity - Cons. Round 1 - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) over Blaine LaPointe (Todd County) (Fall 0:18)

Varsity - Cons. Round 2 - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) over Eden Arcoren (Todd County) (Fall 0:42)

Cons. Round 3 - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) over Charley Pravecek (Winner) (Dec 7-1)

Cons. Semis - Rylie Stevens (Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey-Wessington) over Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) (Fall 4:09)

285

Varsity - Champ. Round 1 - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) over Kameron Styles (Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes) (Fall 1:00)

Quarterfinals - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) over Dylan Endres (Stanley County) (Fall 0:48)

Varsity - Semifinals - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) over Waylon Marshall (Todd County) (Fall 2:16)

Varsity - 1st Place Match - Nash Hutmacher (Chamberlain) over Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) (Fall 1:27)

285

Varsity - Champ. Round 1 - Jackson Soulek (Chamberlain) over Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) (Fall 0:35)

Varsity - Cons. Round 1 - Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) over Austin Severson (Kimball/White Lake/Platte-Geddes) (Fall 2:29)

Cons. Round 2 - Henry Eichstadt (Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey-Wessington) over Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) (Fall 1:20)

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Today in Weather History

February 6, 1959: A man from Gary in Deuel County was in critical condition with frozen hands, feet, and arms after spending the night in his car in subzero weather.

February 6, 1987: Record warmth occurred across all of central, north central, and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota with highs in the mid-50s to the lower 60s. Aberdeen, Kennebec, Mobridge, Pierre, Sisseton, Timber Lake, Watertown, and Wheaton all set record highs on this date in 1987. Pierre recorded the warmest temperature for the day with 62 degrees.

1978: A massive nor'easter buried the cities of the northeastern U.S. Storm totals included 18 inches in New York City, 16 inches at Philadelphia, and 14 inches at Baltimore. The Boston MA area received 25 to 30 inches in "The Great New England Blizzard," and the mayor outlawed travel in the city for an entire week.

2010: On February 5-6, a severe nor'easter, commonly referred to as Snowmageddon, impacted the east coast from North Carolina to New York. Some snowfall amounts include; 32.9 inches at Washington Dulles International Airport; 28.5 inches at the Philadelphia International Airport; 21.1 inches at the Pittsburgh International Airport; 18.2 in Atlantic City; Trace in Central Park.

1807 - It was the famous "Cold Friday" in the Midwest and South. The temperature did not rise above zero in Ohio and Kentucky. (David Ludlum)

1978 - A massive nor'easter buried the cities of the northeastern U.S. Storm totals included 18 inches at New York City, 16 inches at Philadelphia, and 14 inches at Baltimore. The Boston MA area received 25 to 30 inches in "The Great New England Blizzard" and the mayor outlawed travel in the city for an entire week. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Brownsville, TX, was deluged with seven inches of rain in just two hours, and flooding in some parts of the city was worse than that caused by Hurricane Beulah in 1967. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Arctic cold invaded the south central and eastern U.S. Sixteen cities reported new record low temperatures for the date. Squalls in the Great Lakes Region produced a foot of snow at Arcade NY in three hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)






1989 - Forty-one cities in the western U.S. reported new record low temperatures for the date. Lows of -30 degrees at Ely NV and -33 degrees at Richfield UT were all-time records. Morning lows of 31 degrees at San Francisco CA and -15 degrees at Reno NV were records for February. Logan Canyon UT was the cold spot in the nation with a low of 54 degrees below zero, and Craig CO hit 51 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - A second cold front brought more heavy snow to the high elevations of Oregon, with 12 inches reported at Sunset Summit. Ten inches of snow blanketed Crater Lake and Mount Bachelor. Heavy snow also blanketed northeastern Nevada and parts of Washington State. In Nevada, up to a foot of snow was reported between Spring Creek and Lamoille. Stevens Pass WA received 14 inches of snow in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Winter Weather Advisory

Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
				
70%	80%	60%		
Snow Likely	Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow	Snow Likely and Areas Blowing Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Cold
High: 3 °F	Low: -6 °F	High: -3 °F	Low: -22 °F	High: -6 °F

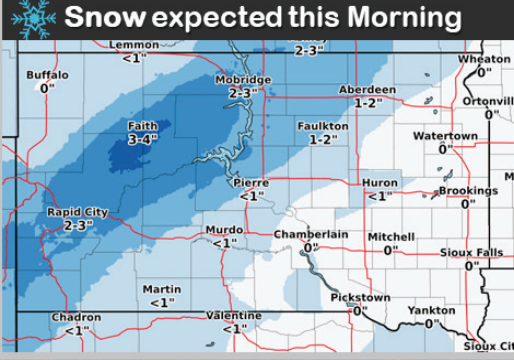
Aberdeen, SD

This Morning:
Snow over western and central SD.

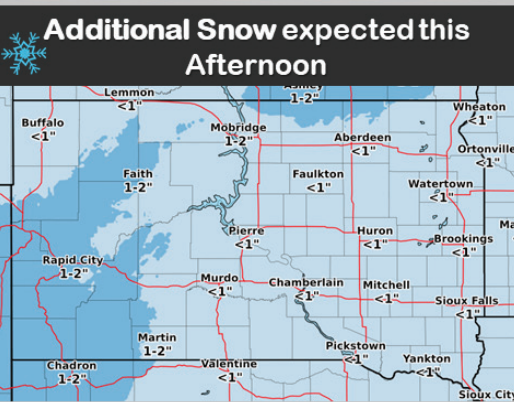
This afternoon: 
Light snow.
Patchy blowing snow over central SD.

Tonight through Thursday:
Light to moderate snow.
Areas of blowing snow.
Wind Chills of -15 to -35°

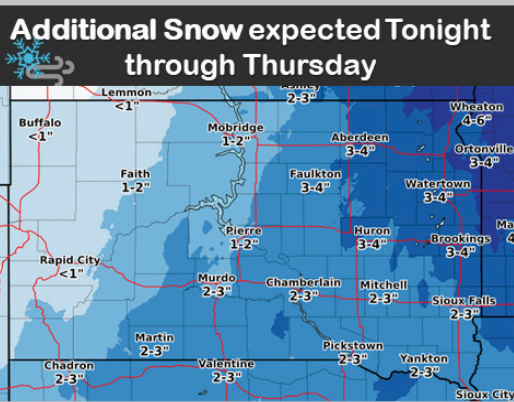
Snow expected this Morning



Additional Snow expected this Afternoon



Additional Snow expected Tonight through Thursday



Published on: 02/06/2019 at 2:57AM

Snow over western and central South Dakota this morning will push across the rest of the area this afternoon. Expect snow intensity and winds to increase tonight through Thursday, especially over far northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. Gusty winds will result in areas of blowing snow, along with wind chills of -15 to -35.

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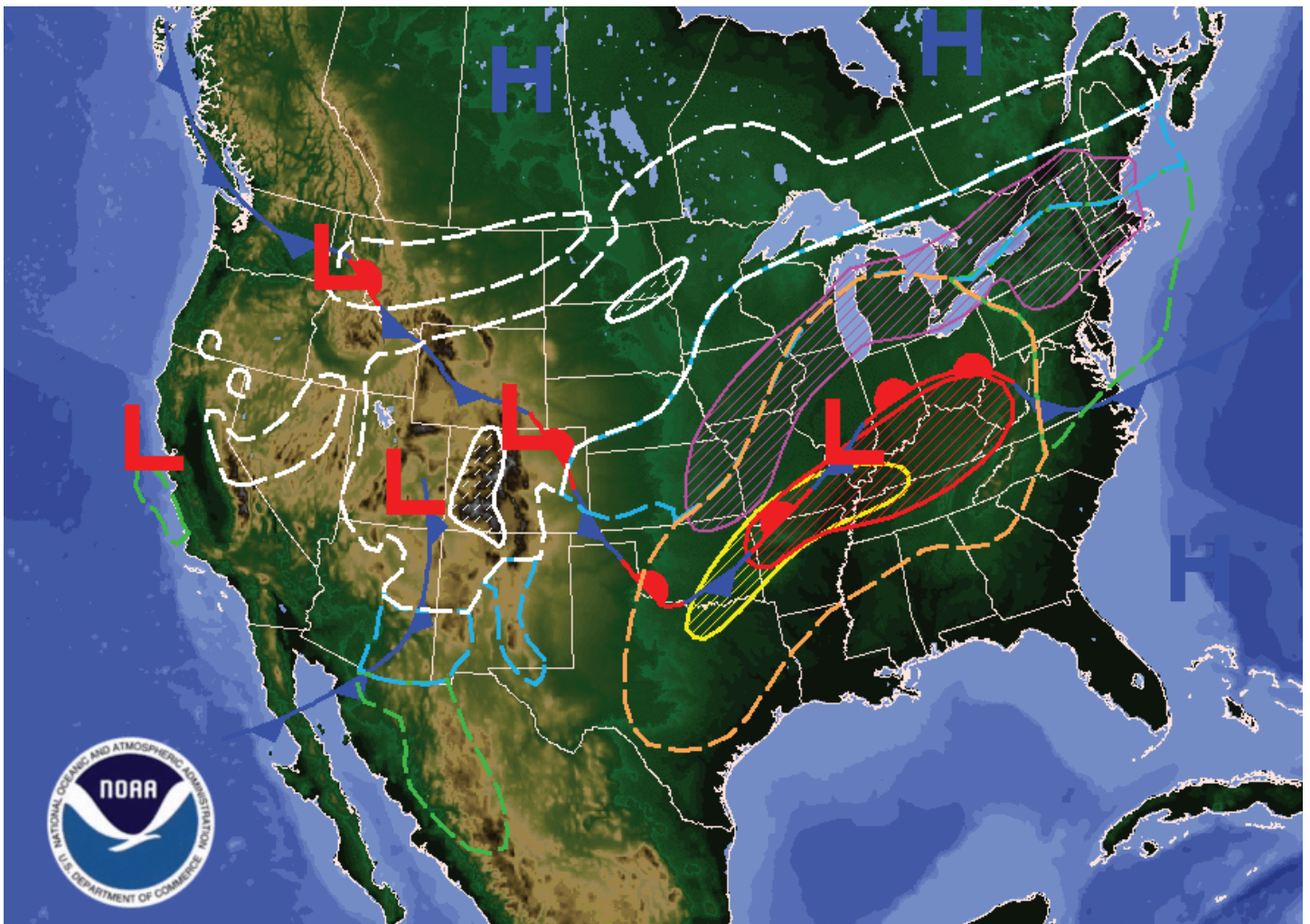
Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 0 °F at 12:47 PM
Low Outside Temp: -7 °F at 12:00 AM
High Gust: 15 mph at 1:29 PM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 58 in 1987
Record Low: -33 in 1907
Average High: 25°F
Average Low: 4°F
Average Precip in Feb.: 0.08
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.55
Precip Year to Date: 0.09
Sunset Tonight: 5:48 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:47 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Feb 06, 2019, issued 4:27 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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LOOKING DEEPER

Advice only has value if it achieves its goals. Often, we follow the advice we get if it agrees with what we want to hear or if it comes from a trusted friend. When we need sound, reliable, and timely advice, we need assurance that our source is wise. Certainly, advice coming from David, a man after God's own heart, would be worth following. So, when he gave advice to his son, it was a tipping point in his career as a king, husband, father, teacher, and warrior.

And, his advice was simple, and can be summed up in a few words: Be strong and obedient to God. But, what does this mean?

First and foremost, Solomon, if he chose to succeed, needed a deep, personal relationship with God. As he grew up in David's household, he saw his father reading the law and prophets, worshipping and praying, writing the psalms and following God faithfully. David proved what obedience was. And, when he failed, he repented, and returned to obeying God's teachings!

However, he had to know God's laws to obey them. To know them, he had to study them before he could apply them. This would take time from other things - but would be time well invested and keep him from failing in life by being disobedient to God.

He also was given advice to worship God wholeheartedly, surrender to Him completely and serve Him willingly and faithfully. Sadly, history shows us that he refused to do that.

As the story of Solomon unfolds in the Bible, we read of what might have been if he had surrendered to God completely. His lack of surrender destroyed the plan God had for him.

The same is true for us. We must study God's Word and, surrender to Him, or fail.

Prayer: Father, may we willingly study and obey Your Word, and then surrender our lives to You and bring honor to Your Name and peace to our lives. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: 1 Kings 2:1-3 When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son. I am about to go the way of all the earth, he said. So be strong, act like a man and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go.

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

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News from the Associated Press

12-year sentence for repeated assaults on girlfriend

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man convicted of assaulting his girlfriend and repeatedly violating no-contact orders has been sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Twenty-eight-year-old Demarcus Terrell Bethany was convicted by a Minnehaha County jury in December on 24 charges, including aggravated assault, simple assault, contributing to abuse of a child and 13 protection order violations.

The victim, in a statement, told Bethany his actions during their relationship caused her anger, pain, countless tears and shame. She says she continued with the case because she wanted to stand up for herself and other victims.

The Argus Leader says a judge Tuesday suspended another 23 years in prison, unless Bethany violates terms of his probation.

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

Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Arlington 70, Florence/Henry 51
Bon Homme 64, Burke 33
Canistota 65, Menno 52
Chamberlain 77, Crow Creek 51
Clark/Willow Lake 63, Sisseton 46
Colome 53, North Central, Neb. 33
Crofton, Neb. 80, McCook Central/Montrose 75
Dakota Valley 72, Vermillion 56
DeSmet 67, Flandreau 55
Dell Rapids 56, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 44
Dell Rapids St. Mary 84, Centerville 50
Gayville-Volin 48, Freeman Academy/Marion 38
Hamlin 56, Deubrook 35
Highmore-Harrold 63, Hitchcock-Tulare 29
Hot Springs 56, Douglas 45
Howard 51, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 48
Huron 71, Pierre 55
Kadoka Area 57, New Underwood 24
Lake Preston 57, Waverly-South Shore 42
Lead-Deadwood 61, Bison 57
Lennox 65, Tri-Valley 36
Leola/Frederick 63, Edmunds Central 43
Madison 72, West Central 47
Marty Indian 61, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 58
Milbank 69, Britton-Hecla 67
Mitchell Christian 52, James Valley Christian 48
Northwestern 81, Webster 53
Parkston 63, Scotland 29

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Pine Ridge 62, Bennett County 31
Platte-Geddes 68, Todd County 63
Rapid City Christian 78, Belle Fourche 70
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 66, Iroquois 47
Sioux Falls Lincoln 68, Brandon Valley 59
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 42, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 41
Sioux Valley 82, Deuel 43
St. Thomas More 53, Red Cloud 46
Sully Buttes 69, Herreid/Selby Area 57
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 68, Wagner 49
Viborg-Hurley 85, Avon 32
Warner 53, Redfield/Doland 49
Watertown 67, Brookings 55
Winner 82, St. Francis Indian 68
Yankton 69, Sioux Falls Washington 54
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS
Baltic vs. Elkton-Lake Benton, ppd.
Takini vs. Tiospaye Topa, ccd.

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 52, Groton Area 18
Andes Central/Dakota Christian 38, Marty Indian 24
Avon 66, Menno 27
Brandon Valley 59, Minneota, Minn. 39
Bridgewater-Emery 74, Alcester-Hudson 32
Britton-Hecla 55, Aberdeen Central 34
Brookings 48, Watertown 31
Burke 38, Bon Homme 32
Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley, Minn. 45, Wilmot 33
Corsica/Stickney 54, Kimball/White Lake 29
DeSmet 49, Flandreau 45
Dell Rapids 52, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 42
Deuel 59, Sioux Valley 34
Douglas 61, Hill City 49
Faith 69, Wall 50
Faulkton 61, Potter County 27
Freeman 52, Hanson 29
Gayville-Volin 41, Freeman Academy/Marion 33
Hamlin 57, Deubrook 31
Herreid/Selby Area 37, Sully Buttes 33
Howard 62, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 16
Huron 42, Pierre 40
Ipswich 49, Waubay/Summit 41
James Valley Christian 45, Mitchell Christian 43
Kingsley-Pierson, Iowa 55, Elk Point-Jefferson 48
Lead-Deadwood 42, Hot Springs 12
Lemmon 63, Bison 21
Leola/Frederick 43, Edmunds Central 29
Miller 75, Stanley County 18
North Central, Neb. 70, Colome 30
Northwestern 63, Webster 46

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Parkston 55, Scotland 34
Rapid City Christian 65, Bennett County 54
Rapid City Stevens 51, Sturgis Brown 43
Sioux Falls Christian 56, Tri-Valley 30
Sioux Falls Lincoln 53, Harrisburg 52
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 48, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 31
Sioux Falls Washington 54, Yankton 42
Solen, N.D. 69, McLaughlin 59
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 61, Wagner 53, OT
Vermillion 75, Dakota Valley 70, 2OT
Warner 60, Redfield/Doland 47
Waverly-South Shore 70, Langford 68
West Central 68, McCook Central/Montrose 56
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS(equals)
Beresford vs. Chester, ppd.
Elkton-Lake Benton vs. Garretson, ppd.
Takini vs. Tiospaye Topa, ccd.

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

03-34-36-59-66, Mega Ball: 7, Megaplier: 2

(three, thirty-four, thirty-six, fifty-nine, sixty-six; Mega Ball: seven; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$139 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$204 million

Search for missing 9-year-old girl turns into recovery try

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in western South Dakota say the search for a missing 9-year-old girl is turning into an effort to find her body.

The Pennington County Sheriff's Office said Tuesday night that if the girl was outside, it's unlikely she survived. The girl ran away from a residential youth home amid frigid weather.

Investigators say the girl wasn't wearing a coat when she slipped away from the Children's Home Society on Sunday morning near Rapid City. The temperature in the area was about 29 degrees (negative 1.7 Celsius) at the time.

Authorities have not ruled out the possibility that she found a warm place or that someone picked her up. More than 200 people assisted by dogs have been searching for the girl over the last three days.

South Dakota priest pleads guilty to sexually touching girl

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A priest who served in Rapid City, South Dakota, has admitted to sexually abusing a child.

Thirty-eight-year-old John Praveen pleaded guilty Tuesday to sexually touching a 13-year-old girl over her clothes last year. The Rapid City Journal reports Praveen's lawyer, John Murphy, says prosecutors will drop another count against Praveen under a plea deal.

Murphy says prosecutors also agreed to ask that Praveen be sentenced to local jail time and probation,

not prison. Sentencing is scheduled for April 4.

Praveen worked at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Rapid City and All Saints Church in Eagle Butte. He had worked at Our Lady of Perpetual Help since June until his arrest in October. He belongs to the Holy Spirit Fathers, an order based in Hyderabad, India.

Praveen remains in jail.

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

Representatives send birth, death reporting bill to Senate

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota House has approved a bill aimed at addressing concerns about a polygamous group's Black Hills outpost by making it a misdemeanor not to report births and deaths.

Representatives voted 67-1 on Tuesday to send the measure to the Senate. Republican Rep. Tim Goodwin, the sponsor, says it's a starting point so members of the group have to follow the law.

State law currently requires births and deaths to be reported, but there's no penalty for failing to do so. The Department of Health said in 2017 that no such records had been filed from the compound's address in the previous 10 years.

One former resident, though, said births occurred at the site, including two of her own children.

The Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints opened the 140-acre outpost over a decade ago.

House panel backs bill to expand texting while driving ban

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

The House Transportation Committee voted 12-1 to advance the prohibition to the chamber's floor. Republican Rep. Doug Barthel, the sponsor, told committee members that distracted driving is not safe.

"We can all agree that distracted driving is not a good thing. It's just a question of whether or not we make it enforceable and against the law," Barthel, a former Sioux Falls police chief, said after the meeting. "I think it's something that is long overdue."

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.

Texting, browsing Facebook and sending an email while on the road would be a misdemeanor. But 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.

There was no opposition testimony during the committee hearing.

Jacob Wilts, a South Dakota State University student who does track and cross country, asked members to support the bill, saying that a former high school teammate got killed by a distracted driver while out for a run.

"As somebody who runs around the streets and the sidewalks a lot, I'll tell you that distracted driving is very scary," Wilts said.

Blackface photo reopens long history of bigotry in medicine

By DEEPTI HAJELA, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The racist photo on Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's yearbook page wasn't the only thing that disgusted Monifa Bandele. She was especially appalled that the image was published as he was graduating from medical school and about to become a pediatrician.

The 1984 photo has stirred a national political furor and reopened the long history of bigotry in American medicine. The revelations about Northam gave many African-Americans a new reason to be distrustful of

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doctors.

"If you devalue black people, that's going to impact how you treat black people," said Bandele, senior vice president at Moms Rising, an advocacy group where she works on reproductive health issues, including maternal mortality. "And not just him, all of the medical professionals connected to the school, to the yearbook ... basically, your slip is showing. If you felt that black people were equal to white people in any way, shape or form, you would not think that this was OK."

The photo surfaced from the pages of the Eastern Virginia Medical School yearbook. The image showed one man in blackface and another in a Ku Klux Klan robe. The Democratic governor denied that he's in the photo but acknowledged wearing blackface on a separate occasion.

A diverse group of families whose children Northam treated as a pediatric neurologist supported his gubernatorial campaign, praising his determination to improve patients' lives. He worships at a predominantly black church, and nine of his medical school classmates signed a statement saying they don't believe he's "ever engaged in, promoted, tolerated, or condoned racism."

But that's just why some find the blackface photo so pernicious: After all, if even a doctor with such a long career in service to others had this on his yearbook page, what does that do to people's ability to trust?

The history of race and medicine includes an experiment conducted in Jim Crow-era Alabama, where hundreds of black men with syphilis were left untreated for decades so government researchers could track the disease's progress in what came to be called the "Tuskegee syphilis study."

Other stark examples include Dr. J. Marion Sims, a physician in the 1800s who used enslaved African-American women as his medical subjects, operating on them without anesthesia as he developed a gynecological technique.

African-Americans have long complained of being ignored by doctors and having their concerns downplayed. Several studies over the years have documented bias in medicine, including research showing that white doctors sometimes think black patients are less likely to feel pain.

In one high-profile case, tennis star Serena Williams wrote in January 2018 that following the birth of her daughter, she had to push medical professionals to test her to diagnose what turned out to be blood clots in her lungs. Black women are much more likely than white women to die from pregnancy-related issues, and many black women pointed to Williams' example as emblematic of a larger problem.

Erika Stallings, a black woman living in Harlem, cited her own experience following a 2014 mastectomy and those of many other people she's talked to in her work as a freelance writer covering racial bias in health care.

"It's so widespread to the point ... it's like going to war to go to the doctor's office. They wear their best clothes. They mention how many degrees they have. They make sure other people come to the doctor's office with them so they have an advocate," she said.

The Northam story gave Lillie Head Tyson a new reason to be skeptical. Not that she needed one.

Tyson, a black Virginia woman who voted for Northam, is the daughter of the late Freddie Lee Tyson, who was part of the Tuskegee experiment. The study was publicly revealed in 1972, only 12 years before the yearbook photo was published. The timing wasn't lost on Tyson.

"It's not anything that we haven't heard before, but it is still shocking. You wonder how deep this really goes," she said Tuesday in a telephone interview.

Keith Brown, a network engineer in Lexington, Kentucky, has organized health fairs to encourage black men to take care of themselves, knowing that many are reluctant to see doctors in part because of the past. Among older people, Tuskegee was seen as a reason not to go.

The Northam story sowed similar doubts. Brown said he would not want to see a doctor with something like in their past "because it makes you wonder if they're still a racist and what kind of treatment would they provide you."

Sylvia Perry, an assistant professor of social psychology at Northwestern University who focuses on prejudice and health disparities in medicine, said the Northam photo reinforces the concerns of people who have suspicions about doctors and racial bias.

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"It's like they can finally put a name to a face — literally — and say: 'This is an example. This is exactly what I'm talking about,'" she said.

Associated Press writer Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama, and video producer Noreen Nasir in Chicago contributed to this report.

Deepti Hajela covers issues of race, ethnicity and immigration for The Associated Press. Follow her on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/dhajela>. For more of her work, search for her name at <https://apnews.com>.

Trump calls for bipartisanship, a hard line on immigration

By JULIE PACE and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Face to face with emboldened Democrats, President Donald Trump called on Washington to cast aside "revenge, resistance and retribution" and end "ridiculous partisan investigations" in a State of the Union address delivered at a vulnerable moment for his presidency.

Trump appealed Tuesday night for bipartisanship but refused to yield on the hardline immigration policies that have infuriated Democrats and forced the recent government shutdown. He renewed his call for a border wall and cast illegal immigration as a threat to Americans' safety and economic security.

Trump accepted no blame for his role in cultivating the rancorous atmosphere in the nation's capital, and he didn't outline a clear path for collaborating with Democrats who are eager to block his agenda. Their opposition was on vivid display as Democratic congresswomen in the audience formed a sea of white in a nod to early 20th-century suffragettes.

Trump is staring down a two-year stretch that will determine whether he is re-elected or leaves office in defeat. His speech sought to shore up Republican support that had eroded slightly during the recent government shutdown and previewed a fresh defense against Democrats as they ready a round of investigations into every aspect of his administration.

"If there is going to be peace and legislation, there cannot be war and investigation," he declared. Lawmakers in the cavernous House chamber sat largely silent.

Looming over the president's address was a fast-approaching Feb. 15 deadline to fund the government and avoid another shutdown. Democrats have refused to acquiesce to his demands for a border wall, and Republicans are increasingly unwilling to shut down the government to help him fulfill his signature campaign pledge. Nor does the GOP support the president's plan to declare a national emergency if Congress won't fund the wall.

Wary of publicly highlighting those intraparty divisions, Trump made no mention of an emergency declaration in his remarks. He did offer a lengthy defense of his call for a border wall, declaring: "I will build it." But he delivered no ultimatums about what it would take for him to sign legislation to keep the government open.

"I am asking you to defend our very dangerous southern border out of love and devotion to our fellow citizens and to our country," he said, painting a dark and foreboding picture of the risks posed to Americans by illegal immigration.

The 72-year-old Trump harkened back to moments of American greatness, celebrating the moon landing as astronaut Buzz Aldrin looked on from the audience and heralding the liberation of Europe from the Nazis. He led the House chamber in singing happy birthday to a Holocaust survivor sitting with first lady Melania Trump.

"Together, we represent the most extraordinary nation in all of history. What will we do with this moment? How will we be remembered?" Trump said.

The president ticked through a litany of issues with crossover appeal, including boosting infrastructure, lowering prescription drug costs and combating childhood cancer. But he also appealed to his political base, both with his harsh rhetoric on immigration and a call for Congress to pass legislation to prohibit the "late-term abortion of children."

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Trump devoted much of his speech to foreign policy, another area where Republicans have increasingly distanced themselves from the White House. He announced details of a second meeting with North Korea's Kim Jong Un, outlining a Feb. 27-28 summit in Vietnam.

Trump and Kim's first summit garnered only a vaguely worded commitment by the North to denuclearize. But the president said his outreach to Pyongyang had made the U.S. safer.

"If I had not been elected president of the United States, we would right now, in my opinion, be in a major war with North Korea," he said.

As he condemned political turmoil in Venezuela, Trump declared that "America will never be a socialist country" — a remark that may also have been targeted at high-profile Democrats who identify as socialists.

The president was surrounded by symbols of his emboldened political opposition. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who was praised by Democrats for her hard-line negotiating during the shutdown, sat behind Trump as he spoke. And several senators running for president were also in the audience, including Sens. Kamala Harris of California and Cory Booker of New Jersey.

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

Speaking from Atlanta, Abrams calls the shutdown a political stunt that "defied every tenet of fairness and abandoned not just our people, but our values."

Trump's address amounted to an opening argument for his re-election campaign. Polls show he has work to do, with his approval rating falling to just 34 percent after the shutdown, according to a recent survey conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

One bright spot for the president has been the economy, which has added jobs for 100 straight months. "The only thing that can stop it," he said, "are foolish wars, politics or ridiculous partisan investigations" — an apparent swipe at the special counsel investigation into ties between Russia and Trump's 2016 campaign, as well as the upcoming congressional investigations.

The diverse Democratic caucus, which includes a bevy of women, sat silently for much of Trump's speech. But they leapt to their feet when he noted there are "more women in the workforce than ever before."

The increase is due to population growth — and not something Trump can credit to any of his policies.

The president also defended his decisions to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria and Afghanistan over the opposition from national security officials and many Republican lawmakers.

"Great nations do not fight endless wars," he said, adding that the U.S. is working with allies to "destroy the remnants" of the Islamic State group and that he has "accelerated" efforts to reach a settlement in Afghanistan.

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 of the Americans leaving. Several leading GOP lawmakers have sharply criticized his plans to withdraw from Syria, as well as from Afghanistan.

Trump's guests for the speech included Alice Marie Johnson, a woman whose life sentence for drug offenses was commuted by the president, and Joshua Trump, a sixth-grade student from Wilmington, Delaware, who has been bullied over his last name. They sat with Mrs. Trump during the address.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Catherine Lucey at http://twitter.com/catherine_lucey

This story has been corrected to show that Trump's guest for the speech was Alice Marie Johnson, not Anna Marie Johnson.

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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. 'THERE CANNOT BE WAR AND INVESTIGATION'

In a line from his State of the Union address that largely fell flat, Trump calls on Congress to cast aside partisanship but refuses to yield on immigration policies that have infuriated Democrats.

2. WHAT WILL COME OUT OF TRUMP-KIM II IN VIETNAM

Trump has announced plans for his second North Korea summit, but is Kim Jong Un ready to make a deal on the central issue, denuclearization.

3. HOUSE DEMOCRATS GET DOWN TO GOVERNING

From gun control to climate change to "Obamacare," congressional Democrats are about to uncork their bottled-up legislative energy.

4. TORTURE STILL SCARS IRANIANS 40 YEARS AFTER REVOLUTION

U.N. investigators and rights group say that even today, Iran tortures and arbitrarily detains prisoners.

5. BRAZIL AIMS AT OUSTING 'MARXIST IDEOLOGY'

Officials say they want to excise references to feminism, homosexuality and violence against women in textbooks and have the military take over some public schools.

6. WHAT BREXIT COULD SPELL

As economic adjustments ripple across the 28-nation bloc, small countries like Portugal could feel a lot of economic pain.

7. HIGH PROFILE SOUTH SUDAN DETAINEE, NOW FREE

The spokesman for the country's armed opposition leader has spoken out about his alleged kidnapping in neighboring Kenya, deportation to his home country and death sentence.

8. COMING TO A CABIN NEAR YOU

Leg room as United Airlines will woo high-fare passengers by retrofitting more than 100 planes to add more premium seats on key routes.

9. IT'S BOBBLEHEAD MANIA

A new museum in Milwaukee will exhibit more than 6,500 figures of athletes, mascots, celebrities, animals, cartoon characters, politicians and more.

10. ABC SEES SILVER LINING IN OSCARS FLAP

Disarray over the exit of Kevin Hart as the host of the cinematic showcase had an upside — people paid attention, network executives say.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump's claims in his State of Union address

By CALVIN WOODWARD, CHRISTOPHER RUGABER and COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump laced his State of the Union speech with puffed-up numbers and partial truths Tuesday as he hailed an "economic miracle," warned of human traffickers flooding across the border and appeared to place Afghanistan in the Middle East instead of where it is, Asia.

Trump used information selectively in claiming a drop in drug prices not seen in half a century and promised the nation it would see bountiful benefits from a trade deal that hasn't been approved, might not be and in any event makes only modest changes from the status quo.

For her part, Democrat Stacey Abrams reflected a recent and misleading talking point by her party when she slammed the Trump administration for choosing to "cage children" at the border, ignoring a practice also employed by the Obama administration to hold migrant children in facilities with chain-link fencing.

Here's a look at some of the statements from State of the Union night:

MIDDLE EAST WARS

TRUMP: "Our brave troops have now been fighting in the Middle East for almost 19 years."

THE FACTS: Trump exaggerated the length of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The war in Afghanistan began in October 2001, in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks. The invasion of Iraq was in March 2003.

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The U.S. has been at war for a bit more than 17 years.

Also, he refers to fighting in the Middle East. Iraq is in the Middle East, but Afghanistan is in south and central Asia.

FOOD STAMPS

TRUMP, describing progress over the last two years: "Nearly 5 million Americans have been lifted off food stamps."

THE FACTS: The number of people receiving food stamps actually hasn't declined that much.

Government data show there were 44.2 million people participating in the Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program in 2016, before Trump took office. In 2018, there were 40.3 million people participating in SNAP. That's a decline of 3.9 million, not the 5 million that Trump talked about.

The number of people participating in the SNAP program peaked in 2013 and has been going down since that time.

Trump's last budget proposed cutting SNAP by \$213 billion over 10 years. The administration also has been pushing to give states more flexibility in implementing the program, including tightening work requirements for recipients.

ABRAMS-ECONOMY

ABRAMS: "The Republican tax bill rigged the system against working people. Rather than bringing back jobs, plants are closing, layoffs are looming and wages struggle to keep pace with the actual cost of living.

THE FACTS: The economy is doing better in the wake of the Trump administration's tax cuts than Abrams suggests. The number of people seeking unemployment benefits, a proxy for layoffs, briefly fell to a five-decade low last month. And average hourly pay is running ahead of inflation.

BORDER WALL

TRUMP: "These (border) agents will tell you where walls go up, illegal crossings go way, way down ... San Diego used to have the most illegal border crossings in our country. In response, a strong security wall was put in place. This powerful barrier almost completely ended illegal crossings ... Simply put, walls work and walls save lives."

THE FACTS: It's a lot more complicated than that.

Yes, Border Patrol arrests in the San Diego sector plummeted 96 percent from nearly 630,000 in 1986 to barely 26,000 in 2017, a period during which walls were built. But the crackdown pushed illegal crossings to less-patrolled and more remote Arizona deserts, where thousands died in the heat. Arrests in Tucson in 2000 nearly matched San Diego's peak.

Critics say the "water-balloon effect" — build a wall in one spot and migrants will find an opening elsewhere — undermines Trump's argument, though proponents say it only demonstrates that walls should be extended.

The Government Accountability Office reported in 2017 that the U.S. has not developed metrics that demonstrate how barriers have contributed to border security.

TARIFFS

TRUMP: "We recently imposed tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese goods — and now our treasury is receiving billions of dollars."

THE FACTS: This is misleading. Yes, money from tariffs is going into the federal treasury, but it's largely coming from U.S. businesses and consumers. It's not foreign countries that are paying these import taxes by cutting a check to the government.

His reference to money coming into the treasury "now" belies the fact that tariffs go back to the founding of the country. This revenue did not start with his increased tariffs on some goods from China.

Tariffs did produce \$41.3 billion in tax revenues in the last budget year, according to the Treasury Department. But that is a small fraction of a federal budget that exceeds \$4.1 trillion.

The tariffs paid by U.S. companies also tend to result in higher prices for consumers, which is what happened for washing machines after the Trump administration imposed import taxes.

TRADE-NAFTA

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TRUMP: "Our new U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement — or USMCA — will replace NAFTA and deliver for American workers: bringing back our manufacturing jobs, expanding American agriculture, protecting intellectual property, and ensuring that more cars are proudly stamped with the four beautiful words: MADE IN THE USA."

THE FACTS: It's unlikely to do all those things, since the new agreement largely preserves the structure and substance of NAFTA. In addition, the deal has not been ratified and its chances in Congress are uncertain.

In one new feature, the deal requires that 40 percent of cars' contents eventually be made in countries that pay autoworkers at least \$16 an hour — that is, in the United States, or Canada, but not in Mexico. It also requires Mexico to pursue an overhaul of labor law to encourage independent unions that will bargain for higher wages and better working conditions for Mexicans.

Still, just before the agreement was signed, General Motors announced that it would lay off 14,000 workers and close five plants in the United States and Canada.

Philip Levy, senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and a trade official in Republican President George W. Bush's White House, says: "President Trump has seriously overhyped this agreement."

DRUG PRICING

TRUMP: "Already, as a result of my administration's efforts, in 2018 drug prices experienced their single largest decline in 46 years."

THE FACTS: Trump is selectively citing statistics to exaggerate what seems to be a slowdown in prices. A broader look at the data shows that drug prices are still rising, but more moderately. Some independent experts say criticism from Trump and congressional Democrats may be causing pharmaceutical companies to show restraint.

The Consumer Price Index for prescription drugs shows a 0.6 percent reduction in prices in December 2018 when compared with December 2017, the biggest drop in nearly 50 years. The government index tracks a set of medications including brand drugs and generics.

However, that same index showed a 1.6 percent increase when comparing the full 12 months of 2018 with the entire previous year.

"The annualized number gives you a better picture," said economist Paul Hughes-Cromwick of Altarum, a nonprofit research organization. "It could be that something quirky happened in December."

Separately, an analysis of brand-name drug prices by The Associated Press shows there were 2,712 price increases in the first half of this January, as compared with 3,327 increases during the same period last year.

The size of this year's increases was not as pronounced. Both this year and last, the number of price cuts was minuscule. The information for the analysis was provided by the health data firm Elsevier.

WAGES

TRUMP: "Wages are rising at the fastest pace in decades, and growing for blue collar workers, who I promised to fight for, they're growing faster than anyone else thought possible."

THE FACTS: This is an unsupported statement because the data on hourly wages for private workers only go back to 2006, not decades.

But data on wages for production workers date back to 1939 — and Trump's claim appears to be unfounded.

Average hourly earnings for production and non-supervisory workers are up 3.4 percent over the past year, according to the Labor Department. Those wage gains were higher as recently as early 2009. And they were averaging roughly 4 percent before the start of the Great Recession in late 2007.

There are other ways to track wage gains — and those don't work in Trump's favor, either.

Adjusted for inflation, median weekly wages rose just 0.6 percent in 2018. The gains in weekly wages were 2.1 percent in 2015.

ABRAMS-MIGRANT CHILDREN

ABRAMS, in the Democratic response: "We know bipartisanship could craft a 21st century immigration plan but this administration chooses to cage children and tear families apart."

THE FACTS: The cages that Abrams mentions are actually chain-link fences and the Obama administration used them, too.

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Children are held behind them, inside holding Border Patrol facilities, under the Trump administration. As well, Obama's administration detained large numbers of unaccompanied children inside chain link fences in 2014. Images that circulated online of children in cages during the height of Trump's family separations controversy were actually from 2014 when Obama was in office.

Children are placed in such areas by age and sex for safety reasons and are held for up to 72 hours by the Border Patrol.

The Department of Homeland Security inspector general visited five detention facilities for unaccompanied children on the Texas border with Mexico in late June, during the height of the furor over family separations, and found they appeared to comply with detention standards. The government watchdog reported that cleanliness was inconsistent but that the children had access to toilets, food, drinks, clean bedding and hygiene items.

At the height of the family separations, about 2,400 children were separated. Since then, 118 children were separated. Immigration officials are allowed to take a child from a parent in certain cases — serious criminal charges against a parent, concerns over the health and welfare of a child or medical concerns.

That policy has long been in place and is separate from the now-suspended zero-tolerance Trump administration policy that saw children separated from parents only because they had crossed illegally.

MINORITY UNEMPLOYMENT

TRUMP: "African-American, Hispanic-American and Asian-American unemployment have all reached their lowest levels ever recorded."

THE FACTS: What he's not saying is that the unemployment rates for all three groups have gone up since reaching record low levels.

Black unemployment reached a record low, 5.9 percent, in May, but rose to 6.8 percent in January.

Latino unemployment fell to 4.4 percent, its lowest ever, last October, and Asian unemployment fell to a record low of 2.2 percent in May. But Latino and Asian unemployment also have increased, in part because of the government shutdown, which elevated unemployment last month.

The African-American rate is still nearly double the jobless rate for whites, at 3.5 percent.

The most dramatic drop in black unemployment came under President Barack Obama, when it fell from a recession high of 16.8 percent in March 2010 to 7.8 percent in January 2017.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

TRUMP: "Human traffickers and sex traffickers take advantage of the wide open areas between our ports of entry to smuggle thousands of young girls and women into the United States and to sell them into prostitution and modern-day slavery."

THE FACTS: His administration has not supplied evidence that women and girls are smuggled by the "thousands" across remote areas of the border for these purposes. What has been established is nearly 80 percent of international trafficking victims cross through legal ports of entry, a flow that would not be stopped by a border wall.

Trump distorts how often trafficking victims come from the southern border, according to the Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative, a global hub for trafficking statistics with data contributed by organizations from around the world.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline, a venture supported by federal money and operated by the anti-trafficking group Polaris, began tracking individual victim records in 2015. From January through June 31, 2018, it tracked 35,000 potential victims. Of those, there was a near equal distribution between foreigners on one hand and U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents on the other.

Most of the labor trafficking victims were foreign, and most of the sex trafficking victims were U.S. citizens. Of foreign nationals, Mexico had the most frequently trafficked.

ECONOMY

TRUMP: "In just over two years since the election, we have launched an unprecedented economic boom — a boom that has rarely been seen before. There's been nothing like it. ... An economic miracle is taking place in the United States."

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THE FACTS: The president is vastly exaggerating what has been a mild improvement in growth and hiring. The economy is healthy but not nearly one of the best in U.S. history.

The economy expanded at an annual rate of 3.8 percent last spring and summer, a solid pace. But it was just the fastest in four years. In the late 1990s, growth topped 4 percent for four straight years, a level it has not yet reached under Trump. And growth even reached 7.2 percent in 1984.

Almost all independent economists expect slower growth this year as the effect of the Trump administration's tax cuts fade, trade tensions and slower global growth hold back exports, and higher interest rates make it more expensive to borrow to buy cars and homes.

WOMEN IN WORKFORCE

TRUMP: "All Americans can be proud that we have more women in the workforce than ever before."

THE FACTS: Of course, there are more women working than ever before. But that's due to population growth — and not something that Trump can credit to any his policies.

The big question is whether a greater percentage of women is working or searching for a job than at any point in history. And on this count, women have enjoyed better times.

Women's labor force participation rate right now is 57.5 percent, according to the Labor Department. The rate has ticked up recently, but it was higher in 2012 and peaked in 2000 at roughly 60 percent.

ENERGY

TRUMP: "We have unleashed a revolution in American energy - the United States is now the number one producer of oil and natural gas in the world."

THE FACTS: True, if "we" means Trump and his recent predecessors. It's not all to Trump's credit. The government says the U.S. became the world's top natural gas producer in 2013, under Barack Obama's administration.

The U.S. now leads the world in oil production, too, under Trump. That's largely because of a boom in production from shale oil, which also began under Obama.

Contributed by Associated Press writers Hope Yen, Josh Boak, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Ellen Knickmeyer and Lolita C. Baldor in Washington and Elliot Spagat in San Diego.

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House Democrats getting down to the grunt work of governing

By **LISA MASCARO, AP Congressional Correspondent**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House committee will hold its first hearing on gun violence in years. Two others will gavel in to address climate change. And three more will debate protecting pre-existing health conditions and the Affordable Care Act.

That's before noon on Wednesday.

After eight years in the minority, House Democrats are about to uncork their bottled-up legislative energy. The agenda goes beyond oversight of President Donald Trump's administration and Russian election interference to the bread-and-butter issues of jobs, health care and the economy. Far from the House floor, the grunt work of governing will play out in the confines of the committee rooms, on the day after Trump's State of the Union address.

"We have a lot of work to do," said Rep. Katherine Clark, D-Mass., a member of party leadership.

House Democrats got off to a rough start in the new Congress as the 35-day government shutdown jammed the agenda, frustrating some lawmakers and halting the energetic freshmen class that swept to power in the midterm election.

With the longest government closure over, for now, the new House majority is eager to deliver on its promises before the next election shifts attention yet again.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi made a calculation after the midterm election to forego a traditional 100-days

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agenda — or the 100-hours to-do list she rolled out in 2007, the last time Democrats had the majority — in favor of a return to the legislative process.

It's partly a nod to the diverse majority whose members hold different views on some issues. But it's also a part of Democrats' efforts to revive traditional governing, rather than lurching from crisis to crisis, as had become the norm when Republicans were unable to control their often unruly conservative flank. Under new House rules, every bill must pass through committee before coming to a vote on the floor.

They may not want to put it this way, but House Democrats are trying to make Congress great again.

James Curry, an associate professor of political science at the University of Utah, said Democrats have a short window to capture the public's attention. "They want to show voters they can legislate, they can run the government, they can do the things they said they're going to do," he said.

"Reality," Curry added, "is obviously more complicated than that."

Much of the House's legislative product will fall flat in the Senate, where Republicans retain majority control, and Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is expected to ensure his chamber serves as a backstop to prevent Democratic bills from landing on Trump's desk.

In some ways, the prospect of divided government frees up Democrats to simply pass the bills they prefer, without much interest in the bipartisanship that would be needed for Trump to sign them into law.

The more likely result is that the legislative agenda sets the stage for the next election, in 2020, when voters will be assessing not only the performance of the new majority but also which party they prefer in the White House.

This month, Democrats expect to pass H.R. 1, a sweeping reform of campaign finance and voting rights laws, and then turn to legislation to expand background checks for sales and transfers of firearms.

In announcing the first gun-violence hearing for the House Judiciary Committee in at least eight years, Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., said that "for far too long, Republicans in Congress have offered moments of silence instead of action in the wake of gun tragedies. That era is over."

Several committees have posted videos ahead of their hearings in movie-like trailers to the coming action.

Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona, the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, promised a month of hearings on climate change — the first sustained look at the topic for his panel since 2009.

"What we have not seen from this committee in a decade-plus is attention to climate change," Grijalva said, alongside video clips of Trump calling climate change a "hoax." "On the contrary. We've seen a pattern of denial."

As other lawmakers, including some newly elected freshmen, join on screen, Grijalva says, "Now we're at a point with this new majority that that is going to change."

The Foreign Affairs Committee will debate the war in Yemen, and consider a war powers resolution to halt U.S. involvement in the Saudi-led coalition.

The Energy and Commerce Committee is among several panels delving into health care and also climate change. The Oversight Committee will hold a hearing Wednesday on ethics in the executive branch. And the Appropriations Committee will hold a hearing taking stock of the recent government shutdown.

Next week's agenda is shaping up to be almost as full.

Pelosi said in a letter to colleagues this week that the committees are "moving forward." She noted that 18 freshmen have been named chairs of subcommittees. The last time Democrats welcomed such a big class of freshmen, the Watergate class of 1974, no freshmen had such assignments.

Curry said the robust committee strategy serves a purpose for leaders, too. "Why not open the process up a little bit and let everybody express themselves?" he said. "It's a nice way to give everybody something to do."

Associated Press writer Matthew Daly contributed to this report.

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Yearbook staff disagree on whether racist photo was mix-up

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 if it were put there intentionally, it's unlikely that many students would have noticed, according to alumni who put together the publication or submitted pictures to it 35 years ago.

Dr. 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 a Ku Klux Klan hood and robes.

Fellow yearbook staffer Dr. William Elwood disagrees. 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.

Regardless of how the photo got there, it's possible 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 she thought "numerous pages" of the yearbook had received the wrong photos. At the same time, however, Northam acknowledged that he wore blackface to imitate Michael Jackson at a dance contest in Texas decades ago.

The image was one of at least three blackface photos in the 1984 publication, which was reviewed by an Associated Press reporter. One of the others shows a man in blackface who is 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 they have commissioned an investigation into all past yearbooks and the school's culture.

"We are acutely hurt by the events that occurred," school president Dr. Richard V. Homan said at a news conference Tuesday. "But it does not compare to the feelings of outrage and pain for our minority and African-American community here at EVMS, Virginia and around the nation."

Homan said when he discovered in early 2014 that photos of students posing in Confederate uniforms had appeared in the previous year's yearbook, he eliminated the program, which he said students had lost interest in anyway.

The 1984 photo became public after it was posted Friday on the conservative website Big League Politics. 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 the next day said it was not him in the photo. On Tuesday, the governor gave no public indication of whether he would step down. 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 the photo.

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

M. Scott Klavans, a Florida urologist and former Northam classmate, told the AP he is pretty sure the photo was taken at a Halloween party where attendees were told to dress up in the crudest or most ob-

noxious costumes they could imagine.

Klavans said he doesn't remember whether Northam was wearing either of the costumes in the photo, but he said there were a "lot of people dressed up in costumes that were not appropriate at the time."

Dr. Kevin Lynch, a Maryland physician who was friends with Northam in medical school, said he does remember occasionally seeing people wearing blackface at parties, but doesn't recall Northam ever doing so. "He's done great things. He's not a racist," Lynch said.

A group of nine alumni who attended the medical school with Northam, including Nguyen-Tan, Marsh, and Virginia ophthalmologist Dr. Lisa Framm Sklar, released a statement Tuesday in which they denounced the photo, but also said they don't believe Northam is in it or that the governor "ever engaged in, promoted, tolerated, or condoned racism."

Sklar, who is Jewish, and Nguyen-Tan, who was born in Vietnam, both said in separate interviews that they did not perceive any kind of racist atmosphere or bigotry among students.

Northam is "the furthest thing he can be from someone who is a racist or bigot," Nguyen-Tan said.

Elwood 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."

This story has been edited to correct that the student who told Northam numerous pages were mixed up was a woman, not a man.

Associated Press researchers Randy Herschaft and Jennifer Farrar, and AP writer Jennifer Peltz, in New York; AP researcher Monika Mathur in Washington; Associated Press writer Jonathan Drew in Raleigh, North Carolina; and AP writer Alanna Durkin Richer in Boston, contributed to this report.

In Democratic response, Abrams sharply rebukes Trump

By **BILL BARROW**, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Stacey Abrams harnessed the frustration of Democrats on Tuesday with a sharp rebuke of President Donald Trump for abandoning working Americans and fomenting partisan and cultural discord.

Just months after narrowly losing her bid to become America's first black woman governor, the Georgia Democrat stepped onto the biggest stage of her political career to deliver her party's rebuttal to Trump's State of the Union address. She was the first black woman to deliver such an address and used the high-wattage event to blister Trump on everything from education and school safety to being out of touch with the middle class.

But she was especially stinging when it came to Trump's role in the 35-day partial government shutdown over his demands for a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border.

"The shutdown was a stunt engineered by the president of the United States, one that defied every tenet of fairness and abandoned not just our people, but our values," Abrams said.

Her speech was much shorter than the president's hour-plus address. And she largely avoided the pitfalls of others who delivered similar responses, including Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who broke from his script in 2013 to swig sips of water, and Democratic Rep. Joe Kennedy III, who was ridiculed for his overuse of ChapStick in 2018.

Still, a union hall in Atlanta doesn't compare to the grandeur — and bright lights — of the House chamber, where Trump delivered his speech.

In choosing Abrams to deliver the Democratic response to Trump, party leaders acknowledged the power and influence of women — especially black women — in anchoring the Democratic base. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer is trying to persuade Abrams, 45, to run for Senate in 2020, sensing the opportunity to flip a Republican-held seat and bolster turnout in Georgia, which could become a presidential battleground.

Some potential 2020 Democratic presidential contenders were quick to praise her performance.

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"Stacey Abrams achieved in a matter of minutes something Donald Trump failed to do in over an hour — to embrace and give voice to the spirit and core values that make America great," former Vice President Joe Biden tweeted.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders said, "I think all know why she would have been a wonderful governor of Georgia."

In her speech, the Yale-educated attorney traced her personal story to her parents, who were raised in segregated Jim Crow Mississippi. She recalled how her family and neighbors overcame adversity by relying on each other and valuing education.

"These were our family values: faith, service, education and responsibility," she said, crediting her parents, both of them United Methodist ministers, for teaching her about "this uncommon grace of community."

"We do not succeed alone," she added. "In these United States, when times are tough, we can persevere because our friends and neighbors will come for us."

Abrams' audience at the union hall included workers, activists, labor leaders, health care professionals, educators, entrepreneurs and voters who her aides say had trouble casting their ballots in 2018. Abrams abandoned her governor's race without a formal concession, asserting that her opponent, Brian Kemp used his last post as secretary of state to make it harder for people, particularly minorities and the poor, to cast ballots. Kemp defended his job performance, but Abrams has still emerged as a leading voting-rights advocate nationally.

"Let's be clear: voter suppression is real," she said Tuesday, arguing that the issue must be solved before government will be capable of addressing matters from climate change to expanding health care access.

"This is the next battle for our democracy, one where all eligible citizens can have their say about the vision we want for our country," Abrams said. "The foundation of our moral leadership around the globe is free and fair elections, where voters pick their leaders - not where politicians pick their voters."

As she did running for governor, Abrams spoke candidly about her personal debts, which Republicans have used as an attack. Abrams often said her student loans and other debts amassed caring for family members left her more empathetic than most politicians to what the majority of U.S. households experience in day-to-day life. "My family understood firsthand that while success is not guaranteed, we live in a nation where opportunity is possible," she said.

Republicans are not sparing Abrams, with the Republican National Committee lambasting what it calls "extreme policies" that were "rejected by her home state of Georgia last November." Trump resisted any shots at Abrams leading up to their prime-time juxtaposition. But last fall, as he advocated for Kemp, the president called Abrams "unqualified" for statewide office.

Even as she critiqued Trump, she said she wasn't rooting for his failure.

"I'm disappointed by the president's approach to our problems," she said. "I still don't want him to fail. But we need him to tell the truth, and to respect his duties and the extraordinary diversity that defines America."

Follow Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP>

Brexit could spell economic peril for parts of the EU

By BARRY HATTON, Associated Press

BARCELOS, Portugal (AP) — For the more than 120 workers at the Pedrosa & Rodrigues garment factory in northwestern Portugal, events in another country 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) to the north could jeopardize their livelihood.

Sales to Britain make up about half of this family business's annual revenue of about 14 million euros (\$16 million). But the U.K.'s impending departure from the European Union could make "Made in Portugal" labels less attractive once borders go back up between Britain and the 27 other countries in the bloc.

"The worst-case scenario is losing 7 million euros" a year, says Ana Pedrosa Rodrigues, the company's client relations manager. "It would be extremely worrying."

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Companies like Pedrosa & Rodrigues fear they could be part of the collateral damage from Britain's withdrawal from the EU's single market, which guarantees no tariffs on trade and free movement for goods, workers and money. As Brexit-inspired economic adjustments ripple across the bloc, small countries like Portugal could feel a lot of economic pain, although the extent of the disruption remains unclear because the terms of Britain's divorce deal with the EU remain unresolved.

Some economic forecasts have produced scary numbers. The Portuguese government says Brexit could wipe out up to 26 percent of Portuguese exports of goods and services and shave 1 percentage point off the country's GDP.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, a policy adviser to developed economies, estimates that if Britain leaves without an agreement on new trade terms with the EU, it could reduce the EU's GDP by around 1 percentage point by 2020. That's more than half a year's economic growth at current rates. It could be three times worse for Britain, the OECD says.

The OECD notes that some countries, sectors and businesses across the EU will feel more pain than others.

A report last year by the European Committee of the Regions, an EU advisory body, identified Ireland as the likely major casualty of Brexit due to its geographic proximity to Britain, which historically has tied them together commercially.

Some German regions, such as Stuttgart, that rely on auto industry exports to Britain could also feel the economic shockwaves, it said. Chemical and plastics companies in Belgium and the Netherlands are at risk, too.

In Portugal, which has had close ties with Britain since the Treaty of Windsor in 1386, the textiles sector based in the northwest is one of the country's most exposed industries. It is largely located in what is one of the poorest regions of Portugal and western Europe.

The textile companies already have felt a chill, with sales to Britain dropping by more than 3 percent since the 2016 Brexit referendum, according to Paulo Vaz, director-general of the Portuguese Textile and Clothing Association, which represents about 500 companies in the sector.

He puts that down to the weak pound, which makes purchases from countries like Portugal that use the euro more expensive, and cautious spending by British consumers at a time when their financial future is uncertain.

He says these are tense times for Portuguese companies, especially with the U.K. playing such a central role in the local textile industry.

"We're talking about a market that is our fourth-largest, that's worth around 450 million euros (\$516 million) a year to us and that was growing, and that now can be severely harmed by all this," Vaz said, referring to Brexit.

For some businesses, the British market is their lifeblood.

The two-story Pedrosa & Rodrigues factory sits amid green fields on the fringes of a small town in Portugal's industrial heartland, where textile companies are an economic mainstay and provide about 130,000 jobs.

Inside, there is a hum of sewing machines, a hissing of irons and a rumble of high-tech cloth-cutting machines. Ana Pedrosa Rodrigues remembers sitting as a child on the running boards of these machines after her parents started the company with five employees in a garage in 1982.

Ana and her two older brothers recently joined their parents at the company. The other employees include husbands and wives, fathers and sons, brothers and sisters. Generations of workers are common in the industry. Almost all of the workers live in town, many of them within walking distance, and have served on average of 19 years.

Pedrosa & Rodrigues has prospered in part by selling "affordable luxury" brands to some of Britain's well-known fashion labels. The company makes ME+EM T-shirts that can be found at Selfridge's in London and produces some of the All England Club's range of Wimbledon tennis wear. In an ironic twist, it also delivers to British brand L.K. Bennett — a label occasionally worn by British Prime Minister Theresa May.

Every Friday, workers stack dozens of brown cardboard boxes at the factory's loading bay and place

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them on trucks for the 2-3 day trip to warehouses in central Britain.

At the moment, the trucks drive straight across the EU's open borders. If they are shut, the paperwork, delays and tariffs could add 12 percent to the cost price.

A loss of British business would translate, inevitably, into job losses—and not just at this company, Ana Pedrosa Rodrigues says.

"We are at the front end of a supply chain, and the losses would have a knock-on effect for our suppliers," she said. That includes the fabric producers, dyeing companies, printers and embroiderers. Most of them are their neighbors. "Nobody would escape the impact."

Sofia Cardoso, a 43-year-old employee of Pedrosa & Rodrigues whose husband also works for a textile company, refuses to be gloomy, saying the sector has built up a lot of resilience over its long history.

"We've been through crises before and we've survived," she said. "I think we'll get through this one too."

Brazil education overhaul aims at ousting 'Marxist ideology'

By DIANE JEANTET, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — President Jair Bolsonaro is taking his anti-leftist ideological war to Brazil's classrooms and universities, causing angst among teachers and education officials who say the government wants to fight an enemy that doesn't exist.

Bolsonaro and top officials have announced plans to revise textbooks to excise references to feminism, homosexuality and violence against women, say the military will take over some public schools and frequently bash Paulo Freire, one of Brazil's most famous educators, whose ideas had worldwide influence.

"One of the goals to get Brazil out of the worst positions in international education rankings is to combat the Marxist rubbish that has spread in educational institutions," Bolsonaro tweeted on the eve of his inauguration.

While students may not yet find many differences as they return to school this month, changes are afoot.

"We are still waiting to see how, in practice, all this is going to turn out," said Nilton Brandao, president of one of Brazil's largest teachers' unions, PROIFES Federacao. "Right now, it does not make any sense."

For the government, the ideological battle begins with the removal of Freire's legacy in schools, which Bolsonaro and other conservatives say turns students into "political militants."

Freire, who died in 1997, was one of the founders of critical pedagogy. Conservatives contend Freire's method encourages students to challenge traditional values such as family and the church. A socialist, Freire was briefly imprisoned during the 1964-1985 military dictatorship that Bolsonaro has repeatedly praised.

On the campaign trail, Bolsonaro said he wanted to "enter the Education Ministry with a flamethrower to remove Paulo Freire."

Bolsonaro and his education minister appear to be looking for inspiration in philosophers like Olavo de Carvalho, a Brazilian who lives in the U.S. and is known for his anti-globalism and anti-socialist views.

While Freire believed in the state's mission to educate the Brazilian people, including poor rural farmers and the illiterate, de Carvalho advocates reducing the state's role in education, favoring private or religious schools.

"The government does not have to educate anyone; it is the society that has to educate itself," de Carvalho said last year during a talk about education on his YouTube channel. He added that proposals "based on the idea that the federal government is the great educator I am going to fight to the death."

After Bolsonaro took office Jan. 1, the Education Ministry dismantled its diversity department and published a new set of guidelines for textbook publishers that eliminated references to topics such as violence against women and sexism.

Receiving an outpouring of criticism, officials backtracked on the revised texts, saying the new guidelines had been written by the previous administration and published by mistake. Even so, Education Minister Ricardo Velez Rodriguez vowed in his inaugural speech to end the "aggressive promotion of the gender ideology."

Velez instead defended what he called traditional values, such as family, church, school and the nation,

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which he said were threatened by a "crazy globalist wave."

Bolsonaro has said he would review the content of Brazil's national high school exam to rid it of any questions on gender or LGBT movements. He made the announcement in a YouTube video after seeing a question from last year's exam on a "secret dialect used by gays and transvestites," called Pajuba.

The Pajuba dialect mixes Portuguese and West African languages and is mostly used in Afro-Brazilian religions but has also been adopted by the Brazilian LGBT community.

"Don't worry, there won't be any more questions like this," Bolsonaro said.

After his inauguration, Velez told the newspaper Folha de S. Paulo that his office will encourage municipalities interested in letting their schools be run by the military or the police.

Brazil has 13 military-run schools, which are aimed at educating children of soldiers but also accept some students based on merit. The military is the most respected institution in the country and its schools have a better reputation than many public schools.

The military is also sometimes called in to co-run public schools and bring back order.

Last year, 39.5 million students attended a public school, while private institutions, which can cost several thousand dollars a month, served 9 million.

Opponents say the selective admission process of military schools would end up being discriminatory in impoverished areas.

In general, critics say the administration is focused on the wrong things.

Claudia Costin, director of Brazil's Center for Excellence and Innovation in Education Policies, a think tank based in Rio de Janeiro, said efforts should focus on improving training and salaries for teachers, making the entrance exam for teachers tougher and building a common syllabus for schools across the country.

The government "complains about indoctrination at school," Costin said. "But it is not with laws that you solve these things."

Brazil ranked 63rd out of the 72 countries and regions in the 2015 Program for International Student Assessment, conducted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

According to the group, Brazil has as one of the largest shares of adults without secondary education. Schools are overcrowded, teacher salaries are low and school buildings are often crumbling.

More than 5,800 schools had no water supply in 2017, nearly 5,000 had no electricity and 8,400 had no sewage, according to government figures.

Many Brazilians don't appear convinced by Bolsonaro's plans.

In a poll published Jan. 8, 71 percent of those surveyed said politics should be discussed at school and 54 percent thought it was fine to discuss sexual education inside the classroom.

The poll, however, indicated that the new administration's conservative views played well with evangelicals, a powerful voter base for Bolsonaro during the campaign. Fifty-nine percent of evangelicals said they did not approve of sexual education being discussed at school.

The Datafolha poll was based on 2,077 interviews carried out Dec. 18 and Dec. 19, with a margin of error of two percentage points.

Caua dos Santos Borges, a 15-year-old public school student in Rio de Janeiro, said that in her experience teachers rarely spoke about politics in the classroom and gender had never felt like a core area of the curriculum.

"Once, a student asked the teacher if he supported Bolsonaro, but the teacher didn't respond and changed the subject," dos Santos Borges said.

Diane Jeantet on Twitter: twitter.com/dianejeantet

Trump to meet North Korean leader Feb. 27-28 in Vietnam

By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he will hold a two-day summit with North Korea leader Kim Jong Un Feb. 27-28 in Vietnam to continue his efforts to persuade Kim to give up

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his nuclear weapons.

Trump has said his outreach to Kim and their first meeting last June in Singapore opened a path to peace. But there is not yet a concrete plan for how denuclearization could be implemented.

Denuclearizing North Korea is something that has eluded the U.S. for more than two decades, since it was first learned that North Korea was close to acquiring the means for nuclear weapons.

"As part of a bold new diplomacy, we continue our historic push for peace on the Korean Peninsula," Trump said in his State of the Union address.

Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats told Congress last week that U.S. intelligence officials do not believe Kim will eliminate his nuclear weapons or the capacity to build more because he believes they are key to the survival of the regime. Satellite video taken since the June summit has indicated North Korea is continuing to produce nuclear materials at its weapons factories.

Last year, North Korea released American detainees, suspended nuclear and long-range missile tests and dismantled a nuclear test site and parts of a rocket launch facility without the presence of outside experts.

It has repeatedly demanded that the United States reciprocate with measures such as sanctions relief, but Washington has called for North Korea to take steps such as providing a detailed account of its nuclear and missile facilities that would be inspected and dismantled under a potential deal.

At the second Trump-Kim summit, some experts say North Korea is likely to seek to trade the destruction of its main Yongbyon nuclear complex for a U.S. promise to formally declare the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, open a liaison office in Pyongyang and allow the North to resume some lucrative economic projects with South Korea.

"Our hostages have come home, nuclear testing has stopped, and there has not been a missile launch in more than 15 months," Trump said. "If I had not been elected president of the United States, we would right now, in my opinion, be in a major war with North Korea.

"Much work remains to be done, but my relationship with Kim Jong Un is a good one," he said in announcing their second meeting.

Stephen Biegun, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's special representative for North Korea, is hopeful, but acknowledges that many issues make it especially complicated for the two countries to "embark on a diplomatic initiative of this magnitude." Biegun was in Pyongyang on Tuesday.

The Vietnamese city where the two leaders will meet was not announced. The country, however, is keen to project itself on the world stage. It is a single-party communist state that boasts of tight political control and a tough security apparatus similar to Singapore's.

Where Singapore leans West, generally appreciative of U.S. influence in Asia, Vietnam leans East. Even with its edgy relationship with China, it has a long fraternal history with Asia's communist states. This is friendly ground for Kim and closer than Singapore.

On a related issue, the State Department said this week that the U.S. and South Korea have reached a tentative agreement on sharing the costs of keeping 28,500 American troops in South Korea, but no final deal has been signed to replace the existing agreement, which expired at the end of 2018. South Korea pays more than \$800 million a year, but Trump has demanded that Seoul pay 50 percent more.

News that a tentative agreement has been reached offers relief to those who worried Trump would use the lack of a deal as a reason to pull U.S. troops out of South Korea as part of negotiations with Kim. North Korea has claimed that the presence of American troops in the South is proof that the U.S. has hostile intentions in the region.

Trump said after his first meeting with Kim in June that while he'd like to bring troops home, "that's not part of the equation right now."

Associated Press writer Grant Peck in Bangkok contributed to this report.

House panel expected to send Russia transcripts to Mueller

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the panel's first act since Democrats took the majority, the House Intelligence Committee is expected to vote to send more than 50 interview transcripts to special counsel Robert Mueller.

The panel is meeting Wednesday for the first time since California Rep. Adam Schiff became chairman. Schiff has long said that sending Mueller the transcripts from the panel's now-closed investigation into Russian election interference would be one of his top priorities.

Two associates of President Donald Trump have already been charged with lying to the committee, and Schiff has said Mueller should consider whether additional perjury charges are warranted.

As is tradition, the committee will meet behind closed doors. A notice for the meeting says that one of the agenda items is "transmission of certain committee transcripts to the Department of Justice." A person familiar with the meeting said the vote is to send the transcripts to Mueller's office. The person asked not to be named because committee business is confidential.

Charged with lying to the panel are Trump's former personal lawyer Michael Cohen and longtime adviser Roger Stone.

Cohen pleaded guilty in November to lying to the House and Senate intelligence committees in a statement about his role in a Trump business proposal in Moscow. He acknowledged that he misled lawmakers by saying he had abandoned the project in January 2016 when he actually continued pursuing it for months after that.

Cohen, who is scheduled to begin serving a three-year prison sentence in March, will return to the House panel on Friday for another closed-door interview. Since he testified in 2017, the former fixer has turned on the president, cooperating with Mueller's probe and a separate investigation in New York. He was charged with crimes that included arranging the payment of hush money to conceal his boss' alleged sexual affairs. He told a judge that he agreed time and again to cover up Trump's "dirty deeds" out of "blind loyalty."

Stone pleaded not guilty to charges last month that he lied to the House panel about his discussions during the 2016 election about WikiLeaks, the anti-secrecy group that released thousands of emails stolen from Democrats. He is also charged with obstructing the House probe by allegedly encouraging one of his associates, New York radio host Randy Credico, to refuse to testify before the House panel in an effort to conceal Stone's false statements.

Mueller requested Stone's transcript last year and the panel voted to release it in December, ahead of the January charges. Democrats had previously pushed the GOP-led committee to release all of the transcripts to Mueller, but Republicans said Mueller hadn't requested them. The committee did vote to release most of the transcripts to the public, but they are still being reviewed by the intelligence community for classified information.

It is unclear if Mueller has since requested any other transcripts, or if he has already seen any of them. It is possible that Mueller could have gained access to the documents through the intelligence agencies that are reviewing them.

Among the transcripts that would be released would be interviews with Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr.; his son-in-law, Jared Kushner; his longtime spokeswoman, Hope Hicks; and his former bodyguard Keith Schiller. There are dozens of other transcripts of interviews with former Obama administration officials and Trump associates.

Republicans closed their Russia probe last March, concluding there was no evidence of conspiracy or collusion between Russia and Trump's presidential campaign. Democrats strongly objected, saying that the Republicans prematurely closed the investigation. Schiff has indicated he wants to re-open parts of that probe.

Women in white: Democrats draw contrast at Trump's address

By LISA MASCARO and LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The women of the House wore white. The men wore dark suits. And the contrast laid bare the growing gender gap between Democrats and Republicans.

Wearing the color of the suffragists, the Democratic women of the House put on a stunning display of solidarity during the State of the Union address Tuesday.

They paid tribute to the women who came before them and gave a nod to their own achievement, as more women than ever are now representatives in the House.

There were white pantsuits, of course. But also sheath power dresses. Even a puffy zip snow vest. Hats for some, removed once inside. Shawls and scarves.

In the chamber, there has long been a growing gender divide with Democratic women outnumbering Republicans. The House now has more than 100 women in office. But the vast majority of them, about 90, are Democrats. House Republican women count just over a dozen.

Even when the senators arrive for a joint session like this, the gap comes into view — with the sea of dark suits on one side of the aisle, and the diversity of colorful suits and dresses on the other.

On this night, the simplicity of white offered a reminder that fashion is often political. Theirs was a reflection of the voters who sent them to office last November giving Democrats the House majority.

During his speech, President Donald Trump noted the number of women in newly created jobs last year, touching off a remarkable moment.

The women in white leapt to their feet and high-fived, pointing at themselves and each other. They had won some of those very jobs.

Trump, surprised, said, "You weren't supposed to do that."

Then, because he knew the part of his speech that was coming next, told them not to sit quite yet, promising "You're going to like this."

Trump recounted that a century after the Congress passed the Constitutional amendment "giving women the right to vote, we also have more women serving in the Congress than ever before."

More high-fives and the women in white, repurposing a favorite outburst of the men in suits on the other side of the aisle, chanted, "U-S-A!"

Among them was Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who also wore white last month when the 29-year-old was sworn into office, now a prominent member of the freshmen class.

"That's great," Trump said. "Very great."

Speaker Nancy Pelosi watched over the night, the first woman to wield the gavel, when she rose to the position in 2007, and now the only speaker in half a century to reclaim it when she was elected again in January.

Trump and Pelosi shook hands before the speech, pleasant enough. But he began his speech without the formal introduction the speaker traditionally gives the president, and Pelosi sat down.

The two had sparred during the partial federal shutdown over whether he should even give the speech at all. Pelosi said no, not until the government reopened. He said yes, but eventually relented.

Pelosi often says her strength comes from the unity of her diverse Democratic caucus, and that power was on display Tuesday.

A few of the Democrats' male colleagues joined them in white. Rep. Dean Phillips, a newly elected Democrat from Minnesota, wore a white jacket, as did Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill. Many other men wore white ribbons of support.

As soon as the speech was done, the women headed for the doors, their place in history, in white, complete.

United to pursue high-fare travelers with more premium seats

By DAVID KOENIG, AP Airlines Writer

United Airlines will woo high-fare passengers by retrofitting more than 100 planes to add more premium seats on key routes.

The airline also plans to start using a new 50-seat jet with mostly premium seats on some key business-travel routes.

United announced the moves Wednesday. They are part of an industry trend to give more space and better service to high-paying passengers who account for a disproportionate share of airline revenue.

Andrew Nocella, the airline's chief commercial officer, said executives decided that United has "a shortage of business-class seats into the premium markets, and this fixed that problem."

Henry Harteveltdt, an airline analyst at Atmosphere Research, said United's announcement was a bold challenge to Delta Air Lines, the acknowledged front-runner among the nation's top three carriers for its on-time performance and strong profit margins.

"This is big news. They are taking direct aim at Delta and its strength with premium travelers," Harteveltdt said.

United will retrofit 21 of its Boeing 767-300ER jets starting in the next several weeks. It will reduce seats from 214 to 167 by shrinking the economy section while going from 30 to 46 business-class seats and adding 22 "premium plus" seats. The planes will fly first between United's hub in Newark, New Jersey, and London.

The airline also plans to add a few more first-class seats to its Airbus A319 and A320 planes. By year end, it hopes to begin flying new 50-seat Bombardier CRJ 550 jets between Chicago and smaller markets with many business travelers, such as Bentonville, Arkansas, the home of Walmart. Federal regulators have not yet certified the plane.

Small, 50-seat planes are notoriously cramped and unpopular with many travelers. Nocella said United's new small planes — 18 feet (6 meters) longer than the planes it uses now — will have 10 business-class seats, 20 "economy plus" seats and only 20 regular economy seats.

"By making those 50-seat jets more comfortable, United has a good chance of attracting more business and frequent flyers," said Harteveltdt, the analyst.

Chicago-based United is the nation's third-biggest airline by revenue, trailing American and Delta.

David Koenig can be reached at <http://twitter.com/airlinewriter>

Analysis: Wary of probes, Trump aims at 2020 with Dem offer

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's State of the Union address had a proposition for Democrats: Set aside investigations and make deals instead.

"If there is going to be peace and legislation, there cannot be war and investigation," Trump said.

The line landed with a thud — and even a smattering of laughs — but the president didn't appear bothered. The offer wasn't a serious pitch, but a preview of how Trump plans to defend himself in the difficult months to come. With the special counsel probe nearing its end and newly empowered House Democrats just getting started, the president is bracing for a flurry of subpoenas, high-profile hearings and political recriminations.

Trump's third address to Congress came at perhaps the most vulnerable moment yet of his two-year presidency, troubled by unfulfilled promises, encroaching investigations and a splintering Republican Party.

Haunted by fallout from the longest government shutdown in history and facing the potential of another one next week, his message to lawmakers marked an attempt to seize the high ground ahead of a contentious re-election fight and looming oversight probes.

"An economic miracle is taking place in the United States — and the only thing that can stop it are foolish wars, politics, or ridiculous partisan investigations," Trump said.

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Trump, who successfully ran against Washington in 2016, is gearing up to paint Democrats as purveyors of the “politics of revenge, resistance and retribution.”

It’s a gambit that delighted Republicans in the room, who long ago tired of Trump’s combative approach toward opponents and investigators. But the strategy appeared destined to last for one night only — and couldn’t have found a more unlikely promoter.

Trump has hardly held back against Democrats in recent days. Hours before the speech he assailed Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer after the New York Democrat criticized him. Trump said Schumer was “upset that he didn’t win the Senate, after spending a fortune, like he thought he would.” Earlier in the week, in an appeal for border security, Trump argued that “Dems do nothing.”

And Trump had warned in November that if Democrats move on his tax returns and seek to stymie his presidency under investigations, “then we’re going to do the same thing and government comes to a halt.”

Democrats, who retook the House majority in 2018 in large part because they pledged to block Trump’s agenda and launch the sweeping investigations the president rails against, see the investigation as a fulfillment of their own pledge to voters.

“Tonight, the President spoke about the honor of being in the House Chamber, and all the progress that has been achieved here,” said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. “But at the same time, he threatened the United States Congress not to exercise its constitutional responsibility of oversight.”

In fact, the onslaught of Democratic investigations into potential misconduct and Trump’s controversial policies was set to kick into high gear barely 36 hours after the president left the House chamber.

Just this week, Democrats are preparing to hold hearings on Trump’s family separation policy along the U.S.-Mexico border and the possibility of releasing his tax returns. Friday will feature testimony from acting Attorney General Matt Whitaker regarding his oversight of special counsel Robert Mueller’s probe and from Michael Cohen, the president’s longtime political and business fixer who is a central figure in the investigation.

Trump’s pleas for action on area of common ground like infrastructure, prescription drug pricing and ending the spread of HIV seemed aimed at centrist voters who have strayed from his orbit after two rollercoaster years. Yet his ability to fully reach across the aisle remains hampered by the ongoing battle over his efforts to secure funding for his signature campaign promise — the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico that Democrats have vowed to block.

And even as he attempted to outmaneuver Democrats, Trump is confronting his own party’s newfound willingness to stray from his orbit as lawmakers debate immigration legislation ahead of a Feb. 15 funding deadline. Wayward Republicans undercut Trump during the five-week government shutdown, and White House allies now acknowledge there is insufficient GOP support on Capitol Hill to sustain Trump through another shutdown fight.

Even in the hours before Trump took the rostrum, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell dropped his longstanding demand that the president first agree to sign any funding bill before he allows a vote on it. As Democratic and Republican negotiators met on Capitol Hill, McConnell said he hoped Trump would sign whatever compromise emerges.

White House allies acknowledge it would be foolish to expect Trump to hold fire in the face of those probes and refrain from name-calling and efforts to delegitimize the investigations. Still, the president’s allies hope voters will at least give Trump credit for trying to reach across the aisle.

“In a lot of ways this is the first campaign speech for 2020,” said Jason Miller, a former top Trump campaign communications aide. “This is the president’s opportunity to demonstrate his vision for the country and where he’d like to go, and also talk about his accomplishments over the last two years in a setting that is unique to the presidency.”

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Catherine Lucey contributed.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Zeke Miller has covered the White House and politics in Washington since 2011. Follow him at <http://twitter.com/zekejmilller>

In SOTU address, Trump calls for end of resistance politics

By JULIE PACE and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Face to face with emboldened Democrats, President Donald Trump on Tuesday called on Washington to cast aside “revenge, resistance and retribution” and end “ridiculous partisan investigations” in a State of the Union address delivered at a vulnerable moment for his presidency.

Trump appealed for bipartisanship but refused to yield on the hard-line immigration policies that have infuriated Democrats and forced the recent government shutdown. He renewed his call for a border wall and cast illegal immigration as a threat to Americans’ safety and economic security.

Trump accepted no blame for his role in cultivating the rancorous atmosphere in the nation’s capital, and he didn’t outline a clear path for collaborating with Democrats who are eager to block his agenda. Their opposition was on vivid display as Democratic congresswomen in the audience formed a sea of white in a nod to early 20th-century suffragettes.

Trump is staring down a two-year stretch that will determine whether he is re-elected or leaves office in defeat. His speech sought to shore up Republican support that had eroded slightly during the recent government shutdown and previewed a fresh defense against Democrats as they ready a round of investigations into every aspect of his administration.

“If there is going to be peace and legislation, there cannot be war and investigation,” he declared. Lawmakers in the cavernous House chamber sat largely silent.

Looming over the president’s address was a fast-approaching Feb. 15 deadline to fund the government and avoid another shutdown. Democrats have refused to acquiesce to his demands for a border wall, and Republicans are increasingly unwilling to shut down the government to help him fulfill his signature campaign pledge. Nor does the GOP support the president’s plan to declare a national emergency if Congress won’t fund the wall.

Wary of publicly highlighting those intraparty divisions, Trump made no mention of an emergency declaration in his remarks. He did offer a lengthy defense of his call for a border wall, declaring: “I will build it.” But he delivered no ultimatums about what it would take for him to sign legislation to keep the government open.

“I am asking you to defend our very dangerous southern border out of love and devotion to our fellow citizens and to our country,” he said, painting a dark and foreboding picture of the risks posed to Americans by illegal immigration.

The 72-year-old Trump harkened back to moments of American greatness, celebrating the moon landing as astronaut Buzz Aldrin looked on from the audience and heralding the liberation of Europe from the Nazis. He led the House chamber in singing happy birthday to a Holocaust survivor sitting with first lady Melania Trump.

“Together, we represent the most extraordinary nation in all of history. What will we do with this moment? How will we be remembered?” Trump said.

The president ticked through a litany of issues with crossover appeal, including boosting infrastructure, lowering prescription drug costs and combating childhood cancer. But he also appealed to his political base, both with his harsh rhetoric on immigration and a call for Congress to pass legislation to prohibit the “late-term abortion of children.”

Trump devoted much of his speech to foreign policy, another area where Republicans have increasingly distanced themselves from the White House. He announced details of a second meeting with North Korea’s Kim Jong Un, outlining a Feb. 27-28 summit in Vietnam.

Trump and Kim’s first summit garnered only a vaguely worded commitment by the North to denuclearize. But the president said his outreach to Pyongyang had made the U.S. safer.

“If I had not been elected president of the United States, we would right now, in my opinion, be in a major war with North Korea,” he said.

As he condemned political turmoil in Venezuela, Trump declared that “America will never be a socialist country” — a remark that may also have been targeted at high-profile Democrats who identify as socialists.

The president was surrounded by symbols of his emboldened political opposition. House Speaker Nancy

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Pelosi, who was praised by Democrats for her hard-line negotiating during the shutdown, sat behind Trump as he spoke. And several senators running for president were also in the audience, including Sens. Kamala Harris of California and Cory Booker of New Jersey.

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

Speaking from Atlanta, Abrams calls the shutdown a political stunt that "defied every tenet of fairness and abandoned not just our people, but our values."

Trump's address amounted to an opening argument for his re-election campaign. Polls show he has work to do, with his approval rating falling to just 34 percent after the shutdown, according to a recent survey conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

One bright spot for the president has been the economy, which has added jobs for 100 straight months. "The only thing that can stop it," he said, "are foolish wars, politics or ridiculous partisan investigations" — an apparent swipe at the special counsel investigation into ties between Russia and Trump's 2016 campaign, as well as the upcoming congressional investigations.

The diverse Democratic caucus, which includes a bevy of women, sat silently for much of Trump's speech. But they leapt to their feet when he noted there are "more women in the workforce than ever before."

The increase is due to population growth — and not something Trump can credit to any of his policies.

The president also defended his decisions to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria and Afghanistan over the opposition from national security officials and many Republican lawmakers.

"Great nations do not fight endless wars," he said, adding that the U.S. is working with allies to "destroy the remnants" of the Islamic State group and that he has "accelerated" efforts to reach a settlement in Afghanistan.

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 of the Americans leaving. Several leading GOP lawmakers have sharply criticized his plans to withdraw from Syria, as well as from Afghanistan.

Trump's guests for the speech included Alice Marie Johnson, a woman whose life sentence for drug offenses was commuted by the president, and Joshua Trump, a sixth-grade student from Wilmington, Delaware, who has been bullied over his last name. They sat with Mrs. Trump during the address.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Catherine Lucey at http://twitter.com/catherine_lucey

This story has been corrected to show that Trump's guest for the speech was Alice Marie Johnson, not Anna Marie Johnson.

Beto O'Rourke says he'll decide on 2020 run by month's end

By STEVE PEOPLES and WILL WEISSERT, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Breaking months of near-silence about his political future, Democrat Beto O'Rourke said Tuesday that he would announce his decision about a 2020 presidential run "before the end of the month" and suggested he's leaning toward it.

The former Texas congressman, who found political stardom in his unsuccessful Senate bid last fall, opened up about a potential 2020 run in a conversation with a bigger star, Oprah Winfrey, during a taping of her program "Oprah's SuperSoul Conversations from Times Square."

"I have been thinking about running for president," O'Rourke told Winfrey as the packed audience cheered. The 46-year-old Democrat cited his desire to help unify the country. "I'm so excited at the prospect of being able to play that role."

O'Rourke dazzled Democrats last year by nearly defeating Republican Sen. Ted Cruz in the country's largest red state. In recent weeks, however, his presidential prospects have been overshadowed by the

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generally well-received 2020 campaign launches of Sens. Kamala Harris of California, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Cory Booker of New Jersey.

His comments Tuesday offered a powerful reminder that the Democratic field is far from set.

Winfrey, who has flirted with a potential run of her own, appeared to encourage O'Rourke to run during the wide-ranging interview that spanned nearly an hour.

"What's it going to take for you to say, 'Yes, I'm doing it?'" she asked.

The decision, O'Rourke said, would really be up to his family. He has three children under the age of 13.

"For the last seven years, my family hasn't seen me," he said. He added, "That's the far more important responsibility."

Winfrey herself has been the center of 2020 speculation, though she has said she doesn't plan to run. She remains an influential figure in Democratic politics, however.

Her endorsement of Barack Obama was pivotal to his 2008 campaign. She also took the rare step of campaigning for Democrat Stacey Abrams ahead of her near-upset in the Georgia governor's race.

Winfrey's show blurs the line between politics and pop culture. The lineup on Tuesday featured actors Bradley Cooper and Michael B. Jordan and philanthropist Melinda Gates, underscoring the sense of celebrity that surrounds O'Rourke.

O'Rourke's low profile in recent weeks has taken curious turns.

He treated Instagram followers to a glimpse inside his mouth during a teeth cleaning while trying to decry the Trump administration's border wall. He also recently traveled in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado, but his meandering online posts documenting the journey highlighted things like the open-face roast beef sandwich he had for lunch rather than offering hints about how he'd handle the rigors of a presidential campaign.

Compare that to his potential 2020 rivals swarming states that kick off presidential voting: New York Sen. Kristen Gillibrand and former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper will be in South Carolina this week, Booker is visiting Iowa and Warren is set to formally announce her presidential bid Saturday, then hit New Hampshire and Iowa.

O'Rourke said he needed to spend time traveling alone to help overcome "a profound disappointment in myself that I let so many people down." He said he emerged with the reinforced belief that "people are so good."

The Texas Democrat, who represented a border state in Congress for six years, also took aim at President Donald Trump's push to build a border wall, calling it "a racist response to a problem that we don't have."

Though the taping was Tuesday, the interview won't air on Winfrey's network until Feb. 16. After that, O'Rourke doesn't have another headline-grabbing event on his schedule — at least not yet.

Weissert reported from Austin, Texas.

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.

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"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 a niche, 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 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

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 6, the 37th day of 2019. There are 328 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 6, 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, was born in Tampico, Illinois.

On this date:

In 1778, during the American Revolutionary War, the United States won official recognition and military support from France with the signing of a Treaty of Alliance in Paris.

In 1788, Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1933, the 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the so-called "lame duck" amendment, was proclaimed in effect by Secretary of State Henry Stimson.

In 1952, Britain's King George VI, 56, died at Sandringham House in Norfolk, England; he was succeeded as monarch by his 25-year-old elder daughter, who became Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1968, the Winter Olympic Games were opened in Grenoble, France, by French President Charles de Gaulle.

In 1987, Wall Street Journal reporter Gerald Seib (syb) was released after being detained six days by Iran, accused of being a spy for Israel; Iran said the detention was a result of misunderstandings.

In 1991, comedian and television performer Danny Thomas died in Los Angeles at age 79.

In 1993, tennis Hall of Famer and human rights advocate Arthur Ashe died in New York at age 49.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton signed a bill changing the name of Washington National Airport to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Pop music star Falco, who had a 1986 hit with "Rock Me Amadeus," died in a traffic accident in the Dominican Republic; he was 40. Carl Wilson, a founding member of The Beach Boys, died in Los Angeles at age 51.

In 2000, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton launched her successful candidacy for the U.S. Senate.

In 2003, Edging closer to war, President George W. Bush declared "the game is over" for Saddam Hussein and urged skeptical allies to join in disarming Iraq. ABC's "20/20" aired a British documentary, "Living With Michael Jackson," in which the King of Pop revealed he sometimes let children sleep in his bed.

In 2008, the Bush White House defended the use of the interrogation technique known as waterboarding, saying it was legal — not torture as critics argued — and had saved American lives. The Phoenix Suns acquired Shaquille O'Neal in a stunning blockbuster deal that sent four-time All-Star Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks to the Miami Heat.

Ten years ago: Key senators and the White House reached tentative agreement on an economic stimulus measure at the heart of President Barack Obama's recovery plan. Federal health officials said Peanut Corp. of America, a Georgia peanut processor, had knowingly shipped salmonella-laced products as far back as 2007. Death claimed actors James Whitmore at age 87 and Philip Carey at age 83.

Five years ago: House Speaker John Boehner all but ruled out passage of immigration legislation before the fall elections. A suicide bomber blew himself up at the gates of a Syrian prison and rebels stormed in behind him, freeing hundreds of inmates. Jay Leno said goodbye to NBC's "The Tonight Show" for the second time, making way for Jimmy Fallon to take over as host. Baseball Hall of Famer Ralph Kiner, 91, died in Rancho Mirage, California. Former U.S. poet laureate Maxine Kumin died in Warner, New Hampshire, at age 88.

One year ago: Casino mogul Steve Wynn resigned as chairman and CEO of Wynn Resorts amid sexual misconduct allegations. SpaceX's big new rocket blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center on its first test flight, carrying a red sports car on a route that would take it to the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. Poland's president signed legislation making it a crime to blame Poland for Holocaust crimes committed by Nazi Germany.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Rip Torn is 88. Actress Mamie Van Doren is 88. Actor Mike Farrell is 80. Former

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NBC News anchorman Tom Brokaw is 79. Singer Fabian is 76. Actress Gayle Hunnicutt is 76. Actor Michael Tucker is 75. Producer-director-writer Jim Sheridan is 70. Actor Jon Walmsley is 63. Actress Kathy Najimy is 62. Rock musician Simon Phillips (Toto) is 62. Actor-director Robert Townsend is 62. Actor Barry Miller is 61. Actress Megan Gallagher is 59. Rock singer Axl Rose (Guns N' Roses) is 57. Country singer Richie McDonald is 57. Singer Rick Astley is 53. Rock musician Tim Brown (Boo Radleys) is 50. "Good Morning America" co-host Amy Robach is 46. Actor Josh Stewart is 42. Actor Ben Lawson is 39. Actor Brandon Hammond is 35. Actress Crystal Reed (TV: "Teen Wolf") is 34. Actress Alice Greczyn (GREH'-chihn) is 33. Actress Anna Diop is 31. Rhythm and blues singer/actress Tinashe is 26.

Thought for Today: "Cherish your wilderness." — Maxine Kumin (1925-2014).