

Groton Daily Independent

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Groton Area Schedule of Events

Sunday, February 10, 2019

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

Monday, February 11, 2019

5:00pm: School Board Meeting

5:15pm: Basketball: Boys C Game vs. Aberdeen Roncalli
@ Aberdeen Roncalli High School followed by JV and
varsity

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

6:30pm: Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Webster Area
High School @ Groton Area High School

Thursday, February 14, 2019

LifeTouch Pictures Groton Area Elementary School,
Groton Area High School

4:00pm: Basketball: Boys 7th/8th Game vs. Redfield-
Doland @ Redfield Jr-Sr High School(7th Grade @ 4pm;
8th Grade @ 5pm)

6:30pm: Basketball: Girls Varsity Game @ Milbank

6:30pm: Basketball: Boys Varsity Game @ Langford

- 2- Double Header at Mobridge
- 3- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column
- 4- Rep. Johnson's Weekly Column
- 5- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column
- 6- Lana Greenfield's Column
- 7- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ads
- 8- King's career high leads five Wolves in
double figures in victory over SMSU
- 9- Wolves snap seven game losing streak
with win versus Southwest Minnesota State
- 10- Today in Weather History
- 11- Weather Pages
- 13- Daily Devotional
- 14- 2019 Groton Events
- 15- News from the Associated Press

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is lo-
cated at 10 East Railroad
Ave. It takes cardboard, pa-
pers and aluminum cans.

Skating Rink Hours

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

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

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

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

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Groton Area Lady Tigers beat Moberidge-Pollock

Groton Area rallied from a 10-point deficit to beat Moberidge-Pollock in girls' basketball action played Saturday in Moberidge. Moberidge-Pollock led, 15-6, after the first quarter and 21-14 at half time. Moberidge-Pollock held a 21-11 lead late in the second quarter. Groton Area had a nine-point run in the third period to tie the game at 23 and then took the lead at the end of the third quarter, 27-25. Groton Area went on to win, 39-34.

Gracie Traphagen led all scores with 14 points while Payton Maine had 11, Jennie Doeden had four points, Miranda Hanson and Allyssa Locke each had three points and Eliza Wanner and Kaycie Hawkins each had two points.

Landyn Henderson led Moberidge-Pollock with nine points followed by Megan Zahn with eight, Tyrel Thompson six, Hannah Stroeder five, Hayley Borah four and Myia Feist added one point.

Groton Area shot 13 percent in the first quarter, 22 percent in the second quarter, 35 percent in the third quarter and 33 percent in the fourth quarter. The Tigers ended up making 13 of 48 from the field for 27 percent. Payton Maine made three three-pointers in the second half to help spark the Tiger rally.

Moberidge-Pollock shot 54 percent in the first quarter, 20 percent in the second quarter, 9 percent in the third quarter and 44 percent in the fourth quarter. For the game, Moberidge-Pollock was 14 of 43 in shooting for 33 percent.

Groton Area was 10 of 14 from the line for 71 percent off of Moberidge-Pollock's 16 team fouls while Moberidge-Pollock was four of 12 for 33 percent off of Groton Area's 16 team fouls. Doeden had 10 of Groton Area's 36 rebounds, Hanson had three of Groton Area's five steals, Doeden and Wanner each had three of Groton Area's 10 assists. Both teams had 11 turnovers.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the Aberdeen Chrysler Center. The Lady Tigers will host Webster Area on Tuesday.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 33-30. Gracie Traphagen led Groton Area with eight points followed by Kenize McInerney with seven, Trista Keith had six, Maddie Bjerke and Brooke Gengerke each had five points and Allyssa Locke added three points.

Moberidge-Pollock keeps home game streak alive with win

The home-win streak continues between Moberidge-Pollock and Groton Area in boys' basketball and it now stands at 12. Moberidge-Pollock defeated Groton Area, 62-50.

The home town Tigers went on an 18-3 run in the first half to get a 37-18 lead right before half time. The half time score was 37-21. Groton Area rallied back in the third quarter and made it 47-38 at the break, but as quickly as Groton Area cut the lead down was as quickly as Moberidge-Pollock exploded offensively to claim a 60-44 lead. The teams subbed down to finish the game.

Treyton Diegel made five three-pointers and led all scorers with 17 points while Brodyn DeHoet had 14 points, Kaden Kurtz had eight, Chandler Larson four, Jonathan Doeden three and Cade Guthmiller and Austin Jones each had two points.

Groton Area made 14 of 45 field goals for 31 percent while Moberidge-Pollock was 23 of 51 from the field for 45 percent. Groton Area made 12 of 15 free throws off of Moberidge-Pollock's 15 team fouls while Moberidge-Pollock was nine of 14 off of Groton Area's 15 team fouls.

Moberidge-Pollock was led by Braden Goehring who came off the bench to score 16 points, Bryston Goehring had 14, Reese Cerney 12, Braxton Albers nine, Caden Halsey three and Noah Fried, Noah Feyereisen and Jalen Hitland each had two points.

Moberidge-Pollock had the edge on rebounds, 25-22, with Feyereisen having 11 for Moberidge-Pollock and Doeden having four for Groton Area. Groton Area had 18 turnovers, 12 of which were steals while Moberidge-Pollock had 11 turnovers, five of which were steals with DeHoet having four. DeHoet and Guthmiller each had three of the team's 11 assists.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the Aberdeen Chrysler Center. Groton Area will travel to Aberdeen Roncalli on Monday.

Moberidge-Pollock won the junior varsity game, 47-27. Lane Tietz had six points, Chandler Larson and Lucas Simon each had five, Jace Kroll four, Wyatt Hearnen had three and Jayden Zak and Tristan Traphagen each had two points.

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As Americans, More Unites Us Than Divides Us

President Trump recently delivered his annual State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress. Our Constitution requires the president to provide Congress with an update on the state of our union each year. Throughout our history, some presidents have opted to deliver their messages in person and others have sent in written messages. However, for the past 100 years, it has become the norm for presidents to deliver the message in person. I appreciated hearing from President Trump about his vision for the country, especially his message that we can accomplish much more if we work together.

In his address, the president called on Congress to set aside differences and work in a bipartisan manner to tackle the tough issues before us. I wholeheartedly agree. We can be principled in our beliefs while also working with those who may have different opinions than we do. Our founding fathers would never have been able to write the Constitution if they refused to indulge the views and opinions of their colleagues. It's important we remember much more unites us than divides us as Americans. All of us want to make our country safer, freer and more prosperous for future generations.

As the president said in his State of the Union address, we should continue to focus on the future. We can do this by enacting policies that further grow our economy and strengthen national security--which includes border security. We must also work to make sure all Americans have access to affordable health care and prescription drugs.

In South Dakota, agriculture is our state's economic engine. We will continue working to open new markets for our products through strong, fair trade agreements. Improving our country's aging infrastructure system and addressing the student loan debt crisis are two other areas where I believe we can find bipartisan solutions.

I thank the president for prioritizing these important issues in his annual address to Congress and the nation. The American people expect results, not rhetoric. I'm ready to work with anyone – on either side of the aisle – to tackle these issues head-on.

We are currently in a situation where we have a divided government—Republicans control the Senate and the White House, and Democrats control the House of Representatives. That doesn't mean we can't accomplish meaningful changes for the American people. We've had a productive two years. We've cut taxes for middle class families, eliminated thousands of burdensome federal regulations, confirmed more than 80 fair-minded judges to our nation's federal courts, made more resources available for our men and women in uniform and made it easier for American families and small businesses to access credit through their local financial institutions. I believe we can build on our accomplishments. It may not be easy, but all of us were elected to make changes. That means working together for the betterment of the country, not by abandoning our principles, but by building consensus to move our country forward.

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CONGRESSMAN
DUSTY JOHNSON
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



I'm not a Farmer. But Advocating for Agriculture Matters to Me

I may not be a farmer, but I know what it's like to work hard. If you are a farmer during weeks like this one, where Antarctica looks balmy, there is no option to simply take the day off. Farmers endure. Agriculture endures.

Agriculture is our state's #1 industry. South Dakota's ag economy not only directly matters to farmers and ranchers but also supports our rural and urban communities. Our rich farming and ranching culture should make us all proud. I'm particularly proud that 98% of farms in South Dakota are family-owned and operated, with over 2,500 South Dakota century farms. My work in Congress will make sure these traditions continue.

However, the importance of agriculture goes much further. Federal policies, written and implemented correctly, provide farmers and ranchers the tools to continue producing the safest, most reliable food supply on the planet.

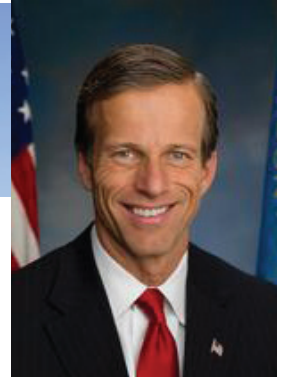
To me, agriculture means food security for South Dakota and our nation. It means providing a safety net that sustains family farms through hard times and inclement weather, so we never become reliant on the politics of other nations to put food on the table.

What we do on the Ag Committee will help preserve the South Dakota we cherish. Most of our land is managed by private land owners, who are primarily farmers and ranchers. For folks who care about clean air, water and quality habitat, the Ag Committee matters. Our work will help us ensure our producers have the tools and technical assistance to continually make improvements, leaving the land in better shape for the next generation.

I will always advocate for self-sufficiency, but life can and will be unpredictable. Working on the Ag Committee means honoring our commitment to those in need and providing a bridge between tough times and independence. I grew up in modest means and I understand how hard it can be for many South Dakota families to make sure there's food in the fridge. While poorly managed government programs can create greater dependence, well-crafted and well-executed policies can enable independence. Creating welfare programs that work for families is something I have a personal interest in and will make a top priority in my work on the Agriculture Committee.

I've been blessed with guidance of South Dakota's farmers, ranchers and consumers over the years and I hope this guidance continues as I represent South Dakota on this committee. We have a good Farm Bill to work with, but a good bill is only as good as its implementation. I will work every day to ensure this bill is as good in practice as it is in promise.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Common Ground

After listening to the president's recent State of the Union address, I expressed optimism about his vision for pursuing an agenda that inspires cooperation, common-sense, and compromise. The two parties, if they're serious about working together, can end the partisan divide in Washington and help enhance Americans' quality of life in the 21st century and beyond.

While this is entirely possible, it's hard not to notice some of the policies my Democrat colleagues are pitching to the American people these days. Believe me, I'm all for debate, exchanging ideas – even if they're ideas I'm unlikely to support – and listening to what people have to say. That said, a few of these recent proposals show just how disconnected some of my colleagues have become with many of the realities ordinary Americans face on a day-to-day basis.

To highlight some of these policy differences, I think it's worth reviewing a few numbers.

First, \$3,000. It might not seem like a substantial amount of money, but that's how much more American families could be shelling out for their energy bills if the Democrats' gimmicky "Green New Deal" were to be enacted. I can speak for most South Dakotans when I say there are few families that could easily absorb an extra \$3,000 hit to their budget just to cover the cost of a bill that targets "harmful" methane emissions from cows, among other things.

Then there's \$32 trillion. Yes, trillion with a "t." That's how much the Democrats' "Medicare for All" government-run health care plan would cost over the course of just 10 years. If you're thinking what I'm thinking – that \$32 trillion is a lot of money – you're right. It's actually equivalent to more than two times the entire federal discretionary budget.

Some federal lawmakers might wish money grew on trees, but it doesn't. It comes from you, the taxpayer. So in order to raise the staggering \$32 trillion it would take to fund a government-run health care system that would jeopardize Medicare as we know it, they would need to raise something else, too: your taxes.

Another number: 175 million. Since Medicare for All would eliminate employer-sponsored insurance, the insurance you might already have and prefer, 175 million Americans would lose their health care coverage and be forced into a government-run replacement. When it comes to the future of health care, I don't think higher taxes and getting kicked off of insurance plans is exactly what the American people had in mind.

Republicans, on the other hand, are working to make life better for the American people, and we'd welcome help from our Democrat colleagues on serious proposals that would help strengthen the economy and create more opportunities for people. The economy is growing, unemployment is low, and wages are rising. The hard work continues, and we're looking for additional ways to further expand the benefits of tax reform, lower Americans' cost of living, and make health care more affordable, while also improving the quality of care.

And that brings me to the most important number: one. We want to do all of these things while leaving you in charge of your own decisions. You know better than anyone else about how to spend your money, make choices for your family, and prepare for future opportunities. I truly hope Democrats are willing to join us in this effort. We can find common ground if we look for it, and when we do, we can keep the economy growing and help keep the American dream alive.

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Lana's Annals

**Lana
Greenfield
District 2
State
Representative**

Greetings to you all. This week moved along very quickly as the bill pace has picked up considerably.

Our local government committee heard HB1200, regarding the posting of contact information for persons providing services to residents of a township. The testimony was about not being able to find contact information of a township supervisor in a locality and that the contact person should have been listed on a website, provided the township has one. The argument was that elected officials should have that information readily available to people. I did not vote favorably as I felt it was a local issue and not our place to enter into this fray. The aggrieved party was not present and did not call in to present any proponent testimony for the

bill. Maybe a simple call to the county auditor could probably have alleviated the issue. However, the bill was passed and sent to the floor. Therefore, we will continue the discussion.

Also our local government committee heard HB1172, a bill that would allow for cooperation with federal officials in matters of immigration. The content was centered around illegal immigrants who have been arrested or lawfully detained with probable cause, such as a traffic violation, domestic problems, or other instances. If they are knowingly illegal, according to the bill, the law officer must report this to a federal agency or immigration official. It was testified over and over that this was only about immigrants who had caused a violation to occur. The spin cycle of the opponents kept the focus on the "victims" who were being sought out and faced with deportation and law officers who faced discipline and termination if they did not report. The discussion became rather heated when a committee member referred to the people as "illegal immigrants." (which I thought to be the correct term). They should be called "undocumented humans" according to one member. At any rate, the bill was killed in committee with a 7-6 vote. As it was so close, the sponsor asked for it to be smoked out. He was supported, and our local government members are sending it to the floor without recommendation. I felt arguments need to be heard on the floor as the vote was so close.

Our education committee heard HB1109, which would exclude certain funds from the calculation of local effort in the state aid formula instituted about three years ago. Several area superintendents testified in strong support of this bill along with others who e-mailed me to encourage its passage. The bill tries to keep local effort, such as wind tower or pipeline money, within those school districts where patrons of that district have committed to these projects. The debacle all started with HB1182, and people had no idea how detrimental this would become to local school districts as they continue to have their funds redistributed to other areas who have no investment in the projects. Our committee voted to send this to the floor. However, it is being sent to the House appropriations to study how it would financially interfere with the formula. More on this as I am prepared to dress in full war gear in order to help school districts that engaged in these economic projects in the first place.

We also had committee discussion on gender instruction in k-7 in some schools. The sponsor's purpose was to point out that dysphoria should not be discussed as a part of classroom discussion. Parents are to handle these matters instead. The bill did pass, and we will see it on the floor next week.

HB1087 proponents and opponents filled our education committee room. This bill promotes intellectual diversity (free speech) on our college campuses. Testimony became quite confusing. Students from USD and SDSU were both proponents and opponents. Some said that their free speech was not in violation and that instructors and officials did not punish them for their views on religion or politics. Other students from the SDSU said this type of bullying was happening. New regental member Paul Berens said the Regents are striving to make sure this does not happen. We also heard testimony from SDSU and USD presidents who said that squelching free speech was not happening while a staff member from Northern said it does happen. I would hope that students are not being indoctrinated on our campuses by liberal professors and punished by receiving lower scholastic marks based on this type of conflict. Hopefully, the

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conversation puts everyone on notice that we promote free thinking in higher education.

HB1035 was a very crazy bill to me. It calls for renaming our unemployment insurance program and calling it reemployment assistance program. The purpose is to change the mindset of people and somehow, some way encourage people who are unemployed to get out and get a job. Testimony was that by changing the terminology, the stigma attached to being unemployed would be removed. The cost to the taxpayer on this "feel good" legislation would be around 13,000 dollars. This passed the House (without my approval), but I hope the Senate can review this and vote it down.

We also listened to HB1110, which creates a penalty for those who fail to file a birth or death certificate. This sounds like a reasonable request, but after considering it further, the inception of the bill was about the compound out at Pringle which seems to be "an island onto itself." I was thinking, however, how are we going to know if this law is being followed if no one can be admitted to the compound to verify what is even happening there?

The last bill I will discuss is making texting and driving a primary offense. To the masses, I suppose, it seems like a great idea; however, I truly believe our distracted driving law covers this. We have all seen people texting and driving, I am certain. I learned a long time ago that just passing a law does not mean that people will follow it. Therefore, I do not assume a sharp drop in texting while driving.

We have a few Cracker Barrels coming up. Lake Norden will host one and will be Saturday, Feb. 16 starting at 1:30; along with that, we will be in Clark and Redfield on February 18th, President's Day. I am not certain of the time in Clark, but Redfield will begin at 2. Hope you can catch one of them. Until next week, stay warm and safe.

Rep. Lana Greenfield

635-6932 or lane.greenfield@sd.legislature.gov

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King's career high leads five Wolves in double figures in victory over SMSU

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University men's basketball team made it 4-straight Saturday, with a 91-81 victory over Southwest Minnesota State. The I Hate Winter victory over the Mustangs moved the Wolves to 19-5 overall and 15-3 in the NSIC.

NSU was potent offensively in the win, shooting 65.2 percent from the floor and 57.1 percent from the 3-point line. They hit 12 from beyond the arc, and combined for 19 team assists. In total, the Wolves scored 34 points in the paint, 33 points off the bench, 12 points off turnovers, and five points off seven offensive boards. In addition, Northern out-rebounded Southwest 32-20 in the win and recorded five blocks and three steals.

It was a balanced attack for the Wolves as five players scored in double figures, led by Gabe King with a career high 23. The junior hit 7-of-8 from the floor, 3-of-4 from the 3-point line, and 6-of-6 from the foul line, while adding six rebounds, two assists, and one block.

Ian Smith followed with 13 points of his own, and led the team with seven assists. Smith added five rebounds and one steal, shooting 55.6 percent from the floor. Parker Fox and Jordan Belka led the team off the bench with 11 points apiece. Fox grabbed a team leading seven rebounds, and added two blocks, one assist, and one steal. He shot 75.0 percent from the floor as well. Belka tallied three rebounds for the Wolves and knocked down 4-of-5 from the field, including three made 3-pointers.

Bo Fries rounded out the Wolves in double figures with ten points, shooting 50.0 percent. He added one block and one assist to the team total. Andrew Kallman, Justin Decker, and Cole Dahl each grabbed six points in the victory, while Mason Stark tallied the final five.

Kallman was second on the team with five assists and added one rebound. Decker was strong on both ends of the floor, shooting 75.0 percent from the floor with five rebounds, two assists, and one block. Dahl hit two from beyond the arc, shooting 66.7 percent and added three rebounds, while Stark tallied one rebound, one assist, and one steal.

The Wolves will close out their regular season home schedule next Friday and Saturday versus Minnesota Duluth and St. Cloud State. Tip-off is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Friday versus the Bulldogs and 6 p.m. on Saturday against the Huskies.

Wolves snap seven game losing streak with win versus Southwest Minnesota State

Aberdeen, S.D. – Wolves finished the game with 16-4 run late in the fourth quarter to snap a seven game losing streak as they defeat Southwest Minnesota State by a final score of 56-51. Wolves improve to 9-15 on the year and 6-12 in NSIC play.

Mustangs out-scored the Wolves in the first quarter 12-10, as the Wolves trailed by two. Wolves were also out-scored by two in the second quarter, as the Wolves trailed by four heading into the intermission. Wolves shot 26.9 percent in the first half, 25.0 percent from behind the arc, six offensive rebounds, and four blocks.

Wolves out-scored the Mustangs in the third quarter, as the Wolves trailed by two heading into the final quarter. Wolves went on a 12-2 run in the fourth quarter to take a late three-point lead with 2:16 left in the game. Two late free throws by Fredrick sealed the 56-51 victory for the Wolves. Wolves shot 36.8 percent from the field, 33.3 percent from behind the arc, 18 points in the paint, seven points off 11 Mustang turnovers, and 12 bench points.

Wolves were led by Lexi Wadsworth with 14 points, seven rebounds, three assists, and two blocks. Brianna Kusler was one point short of a double double with nine points, 12 rebounds, two assists, one block, and one steal. Jessi Marti recorded eight points, one rebound, and four assists. Alayna Johnson only played 18 minutes in foul trouble, she tallied six points, and five rebounds.

Joie Spier tallied eight of the 16 points off the bench, also adding three rebounds, one assist, and one block. Tori Mekash recorded three points starting for the Wolves. Anika Fredrick recorded six points, six rebounds, three assists, and a career high four blocks off the bench. Zoe Hardwick was the last player in the scoring column, finishing with two points, four rebounds, one block, and one steal. Brooke Luitjens tallied one rebound, one assist, and one steal off the bench.

Wolves will return to Wachs Arena next Friday and Saturday as Minnesota Duluth and St. Cloud State. Tip-off is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Friday against the Bulldogs and a 4 p.m. start on Saturday against the Huskies.

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Today in Weather History

February 10, 1993: Snow fell across all of South Dakota from the 10th to the 12th with over 8 inches occurring in south-central, west-central, and the southwest. Some reports included 13 inches at Harrington, 12 inches at Midland, 10.5 inches at Winner, 10 inches near Stephan, Ardmore, and Wagner, 8.5 inches near Lead and Milesville, and 8 inches at Mitchell and Usta.

February 10, 1996: Across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota, an intense area of low pressure and an Arctic high-pressure area created strong winds from 35 to 50 mph with gusts to around 65 mph through the afternoon and into the late evening. These high winds combined with the falling snow and the snow already on the ground to create blizzard conditions and slick roads across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Highway 12 from Webster to Summit was closed the evening of the 10th along with Interstate-29 from Summit to Sisseton. Hundreds of travelers were stranded at Summit for several hours until conditions improved. Some wind gusts included 61 mph at Mobridge and 66 mph at Pierre and Aberdeen.

February 10, 2013: An extreme low-pressure area moving across the region brought widespread heavy snow of 6 to as much as 19 inches. Along with the heavy snow came very strong winds of 30 to 50 mph causing extensive blowing and drifting snow. Roads, highways, along with Interstates 29 and 90 were closed for a time. Schools started late or were closed on Monday the 11th.

1921: The town of Gardner, Georgia was devastated by a massive, estimated F4 tornado that caused an entire section of the small town to disappear. This tornado killed 31 people and injured 100.

1959: St. Louis, Missouri was hit by a massive F4 tornado that killed 21 and injured 345. Over 2000 buildings were damaged or destroyed, including the St. Louis Arena.

1981: A morning tornado at Bay Minette, AL struck the local middle school. The school's gymnasium was severely damaged, and 62 people were hurt, 44 of which were students.

2010: Cyclone Pat slams The Cook Islands with 125 mph winds, which destroyed about 80 percent of the island of Aitutaki.

1899 - The temperature at Monterey plunged to 29 degrees below zero, establishing record for the state of Virginia. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1973 - A major snowstorm struck the southeastern U.S. It produced as much as 18 inches in Georgia, and up to two feet of snow in South Carolina. (David Ludlum)

1978 - As much as eight inches of rain drenched southern California resulting in widespread flooding and mudslides. The heavy rainfall produced a wall of water which ripped through the mountain resort community of Hidden Springs drowning at least thirteen persons. The storm was one of the most destructive of record causing fifty million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1982 - Bismarck, ND, experienced its 45th consecutive day of subzero temperature readings which tied the previous record long string of subzero daily lows ending on the same date in 1937. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A storm in the northeastern U.S. produced heavy snow in southeastern Maine. Grand Falls and Woodland received 15 inches, mainly during the early morning hours, while most of the rest of the state did not even see a flake of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Bitter cold arctic air gripped the north central U.S. International Falls MN was the cold spot in the nation with a low of 35 degrees below zero. Record warm readings were reported in southern California, with highs of 78 at San Francisco and 88 at Los Angeles. San Juan Capistrano CA was the hot spot in the nation with a high of 92 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)






1989 - For the first time all month winter relaxed its grip on the nation. The temperature at Brownsville TX warmed above 60 degrees for the first time in six days, ending their second longest such cold spell of record. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front continued to produce severe weather across the southeastern U.S. through the morning hours and into the late afternoon. There were a total of twenty-nine tornadoes in twenty-nine hours, and 245 reports of large hail or damaging winds. Pre-dawn thunderstorms produced high winds which injured at least seventy persons in Alabama and Georgia, and caused more than twelve million dollars property damage. A tornado at Austell GA prior to daybreak injured two persons and caused two million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Wind ...

Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
90%		20% → 70%	70% → 30%	
Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Slight Chance Snow then Snow Likely and Patchy Blowing Snow	Snow Likely and Patchy Blowing Snow then Chance Snow	Mostly Sunny
High: 6 °F	Low: -1 °F	High: 20 °F	Low: 7 °F	High: 13 °F



Snow today & again Monday into Monday Night
Very Cold Wind Chills this morning

Today

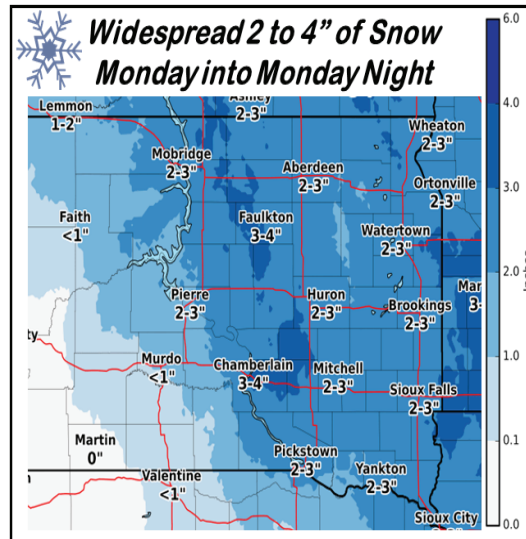
- +2 to +10°
- wind chills -15 to -30° this morning over north central SD
- light snow of 1 to 2"

Tonight

- 6 to +5°
- wind chills -15 to -25° over north central SD

Monday

- +15 to +25°
- widespread snow of 2 to 4"
Monday into Monday night



Published on: 02/10/2019 at 3:54AM

Very cold wind chills will continue this morning, with wind chills of 15 below to 30 below zero over north central South Dakota. Expect 1 to 2 inches of snow today. Although warmer conditions will arrive Monday, it will be accompanied with a widespread snow of 2 to 4 inches from Monday into Monday night.

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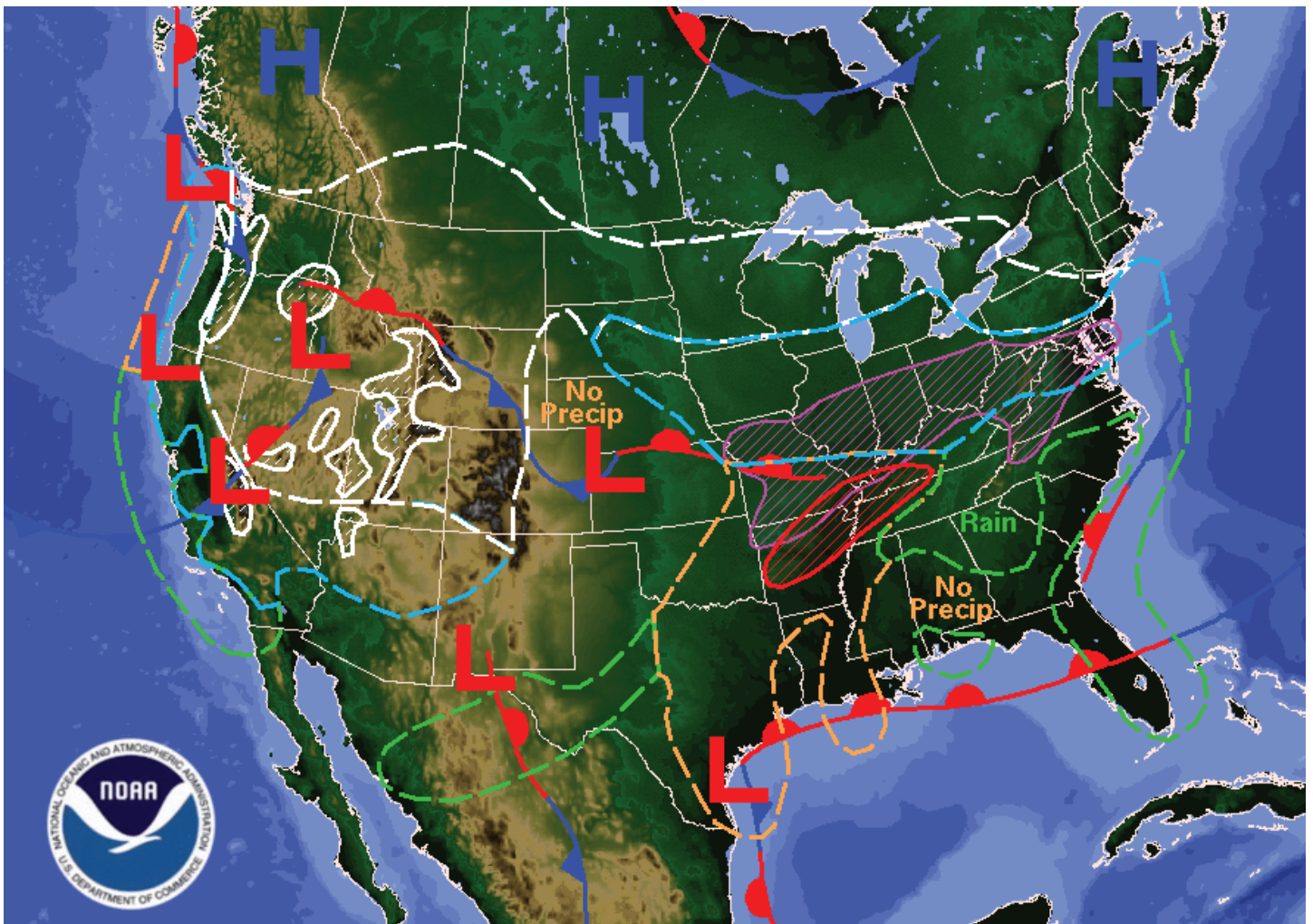
Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 6 °F at 1:20 PM
Low Outside Temp: -5 °F at 12:00 AM
High Gust: 30 mph at 10:30 AM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 53 in 1934, 1977
Record Low: -27 in 1988, 1981
Average High: 26°F
Average Low: 5°F
Average Precip in Feb.: 0.14
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.61
Precip Year to Date: 0.09
Sunset Tonight: 5:53 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:42 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Feb 10, 2019, issued 4:51 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds 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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ATTENTION!

There are very few pictures of Attention! that can rival a US Marine standing tall after hearing that word. As soon as that word is shouted by a superior heels come together, muscles tighten, and faces freeze as though they were carved in granite. Persons who have served in the military know the significance of that word. When shouted to subordinates it results in an external rigidity that is very visible to the onlooker and represents an internal attitude of concentration that is waiting for a command to be obeyed and followed with no hesitation.

Throughout His Word, God uses many different ways to get the attention of His children. There are times when He speaks directly to a person. There are times when He speaks to one person through another person. When God wants the attention of His children, He has many options.

We read in Job that one of Gods options to get our attention is through suffering: For He wounds, but He also binds up; He injures, but His hand also heals, wrote Job.

In Proverbs 1:2 we find a word that can be translated with several different meanings: instruction, discipline, training and chastened. But, in this instance, there is no doubt that it means to teach by discipline or through punishment.

We often hear stories about people who have to hit bottom before they are willing to do something about a problem that is destroying them. It may be God at work. He often uses suffering and hardship to get our attention by raising the bottom to save us because He loves us.

The Lord disciplines those He loves, wrote Solomon. God often uses discipline to get our attention when we abandon Him. Why? Because He refuses to let us destroy ourselves!

Prayer: Lord, we know You love us. Do whatever is necessary to keep us in Your will - even if it means we must suffer for You to get our attention. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 1:2 For gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight.

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
10-12-14-17-22
(ten, twelve, fourteen, seventeen, twenty-two)
Estimated jackpot: \$81,000

Lotto America
06-25-38-47-50, Star Ball: 2, ASB: 3
(six, twenty-five, thirty-eight, forty-seven, fifty; Star Ball: two; ASB: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$14.94 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$173 million

Powerball
01-02-03-07-39, Powerball: 25, Power Play: 3
(one, two, three, seven, thirty-nine; Powerball: twenty-five; Power Play: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$224 million

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Arlington 62, Elkton-Lake Benton 43
Burke 59, Alcester-Hudson 44
Colome 61, Menno 49
Flandreau 65, Clark/Willow Lake 48
Harrisburg 66, Mitchell 52
Hill City 46, Douglas 41
Hot Springs 55, Red Cloud 49
Jones County 62, Gregory 57
Kadoka Area 67, Edgemont 39
Leola/Frederick 55, Webster 51
Madison 80, Canton 36
Milbank 57, Tri-Valley 41
Mobridge-Pollock 62, Groton Area 50
Northwestern 80, Eureka/Bowdle 35
Potter County 68, Hitchcock-Tulare 30
Redfield/Doland 60, Langford 43
Sioux Falls Lincoln 55, Rapid City Stevens 43
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 52, Brookings 50
Sioux Falls Washington 63, Rapid City Central 53

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Spearfish 58, Custer 49
Stanley County 77, Wall 56
Tea Area 68, Lennox 67
Timber Lake 68, Crazy Horse 34
Todd County 79, Miller 77
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 74, Avon 41
Watertown 57, Aberdeen Central 50
Waverly-South Shore 57, Wilmot 49
Dakota Wesleyan University Culver Classic
Bridgewater-Emery 45, Aberdeen Christian 37
Canistota 60, White River 59
DeSmet 73, Hanson 50
Dell Rapids St. Mary 74, Corsica/Stickney 51
Parker 59, Dell Rapids 45
Pine Ridge 59, Aberdeen Roncalli 36
Platte-Geddes 51, Freeman Academy/Marion 47
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 57, Irene-Wakonda 56
Sioux Falls Christian 70, St. Thomas More 55
Sacred Hoops Classic(equals)
Crow Creek 69, Elk Point-Jefferson 41
Little Wound 62, Flandreau Indian 54
Lower Brule 67, Winnebago, Neb. 54
Oelrichs 58, Dupree 47

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 68, Watertown 59
Brandon Valley 57, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 40
Burke 43, Alcester-Hudson 29
Centerville 69, Marty Indian 59
Dell Rapids 66, Sioux Valley 27
Deubrook 55, Chester 41
Estelline/Hendricks 46, James Valley Christian 18
Faith 75, Lemmon 47
Flandreau 53, Clark/Willow Lake 39
Flandreau Indian 82, Tiospaye Topa 37
Freeman 55, Florence/Henry 41
Garretson 54, Colman-Egan 42
Gregory 58, Jones County 48
Groton Area 39, Mobridge-Pollock 34
Highmore-Harrold 34, Wilmot 28
Hitchcock-Tulare 56, Potter County 45
Ipswich 58, Waverly-South Shore 52
Kimball/White Lake 49, Wolsey-Wessington 40
Lead-Deadwood 46, Bison 16
Lennox 77, Tea Area 63
Leola/Frederick 55, Webster 51
Madison 44, Canton 35
Milbank 38, Tri-Valley 28
Rapid City Christian 48, Newell 37
Sioux Falls Lincoln 42, Rapid City Stevens 34
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 50, Brookings 36

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Sioux Falls Washington 53, Rapid City Central 46
Spearfish 58, Custer 49
Todd County 63, Miller 41
Wagner 58, Hanson 55
Wall 62, Stanley County 46
West Central 76, Hamlin 74, OT
Sacred Hoops Classic(equals)
Crow Creek 79, Winnebago, Ill. 36
Flandreau Indian 80, McLaughlin 35
Lower Brule 82, Winnebago, Neb. 75, OT
Lyman 47, Dupree 43
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS
Timber Lake vs. Langford, ccd.

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

Daum lifts South Dakota State over North Dakota 80-55

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mike Daum had 29 points and 20 rebounds as South Dakota State won its ninth consecutive game, routing North Dakota 80-55 on Saturday.

Alex Arians had 14 points and six rebounds for South Dakota State (20-6, 10-1 Summit League). David Jenkins added 14 points. Skyler Flatten had 11 points for the home team.

North Dakota scored 23 second-half points, a season low for the team.

Cortez Seales had 15 points and eight rebounds for the Fighting Hawks (9-16, 3-9). Filip Rebraca added 12 points. Marlon Stewart had 10 points.

The Jackrabbits improve to 2-0 against the Fighting Hawks for the season. South Dakota State defeated North Dakota 78-74 on Jan. 16. South Dakota State takes on Nebraska Omaha on the road on Thursday. North Dakota plays Oral Roberts at home next Saturday.

For more AP college basketball coverage: <https://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and http://twitter.com/AP_Top25

This was generated by Automated Insights, <http://www.automatedinsights.com/ap>, using data from STATS LLC, <https://www.stats.com>

More drugs seized in Sioux Falls in 2018 than ever before.

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police seized a record amount of drugs in 2018, with collections of meth leading the way, the city's police chief said.

Sioux Falls Police Chief Matt Burns said drug prices have never been lower and supplies have never been greater, and he noted a correlation between illegal drugs and other crimes, KELO-TV reported.

"We know that drug trafficking, drug use, and drug crime drive the majority of other property crimes and violent crimes in our city," said Burns. There were eight murders in the city last year, compared to 10 in 2017. But the number of rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults increased.

The drug task force confiscated as much as 56 pounds (25 kilograms) of meth last year, compared to just over 11 pounds (5 kilograms) in 2017.

"We seized more meth in the month of October (last year) than we did in the entirety of 2017," Burns said.

Heroin seizures were also up. The task force took almost 8.5 pounds (3.8 kilograms) of heroin off the streets in 2018 after seizing less than a pound (450 grams) the year before.

Burns emphasized his department will continue to prioritize drug seizures.

"I've said it before from this podium and I'll say it again: We know we can't arrest our way out of the

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drug problem, so it has to be a comprehensive look. But I can tell you the enforcement piece has to be a fundamental piece to it," the police chief said.

Information from: KELO-TV, <http://www.keloland.com>

Critics call for end to South Dakota mental holds in jail

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Young people and adults who have mental disorders should not be thrown in jails when they are suffering a mental crisis and the South Dakota law that allows the practice should be overturned, policy advisers and jail officials say.

South Dakota is among five states, including North Dakota, which allows involuntary mental health holds in jails and juvenile detention centers for up to 24 hours, the Argus Leader reported. But critics say that allowing involuntary mental health holds in jails and juvenile detention centers can traumatize a person who has been diagnosed with a mental illness and could be unconstitutional.

"If you look at it from a strictly medical perspective, being in a jail setting is almost guaranteed to make somebody's mental health crisis worse, not better," said Lisa Dailey, legislative and policy counsel for the Treatment Advocacy Center, a national nonprofit that surveys and ranks states for their mental health policies. "It's the worst possible thing you could do."

South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem agrees the law should be repealed.

"They're not criminals," Noem said. "They're having a crisis at a point in time when they need to be observed, but unfortunately in a lot of communities, that's the only option that folks have."

Courtney Bowie, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union of South Dakota, said putting the mentally ill in jail, with no criminal charge, is a potential violation of rights granted under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

James Gravett, Minnehaha County's Juvenile Court director, said young people on involuntary mental health holds in juvenile detention are locked in a room with just a mattress, sometimes secured in a suicide vest. He said this should never happen and that those youths should be placed in facilities designed to treat mental health trauma, such as Avera Behavioral Health.

Avera is the lone Sioux Falls provider of emergency inpatient mental health care. The amount of involuntary holds authorized by Avera staff has progressively increased in the last few years. The behavior hospital accepted 1,500 holds in 2016. It took around 2,100 holds last year. Others are sent to jail.

South Dakota lawmakers have assembled task forces to consider the state's mental health care resources and have passed a resolution to create five more with the goal of completing in-depth studies of specific mental health services by the end of 2019.

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

Virginia lieutenant governor resists calls to step down

By ALAN SUDERMAN, Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia's embattled lieutenant governor has urged authorities to investigate sexual assault allegations made against him, but hasn't heeded calls to resign and it is unclear what comes next for the once-rising star of the state Democratic Party.

Two women have made allegations against Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax. But on Saturday, Fairfax issued a statement repeating his strong denials that he had ever sexually assaulted anyone and made clear he does not intend to immediately resign.

Democratic Del. Patrick Hope said he wants to introduce articles of impeachment against Fairfax on Monday, but Hope is not a powerful figure in the House and there's little sign there's a broad appetite for impeachment with lawmakers set to finish this year's legislative session by the end of the month.

If an impeachment hearing does occur, though, Meredith Watson, 39, is willing to testify that Fairfax raped her while they were students at Duke University in 2000, her attorney said in a statement.

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"Ms. Watson stands ready, although it will be painful, to tell the Virginia Legislature what Mr. Fairfax did to her when she was 20 years old," the statement said.

Attorneys for Vanessa Tyson, a California college professor who said Fairfax forced her to perform oral sex on him at a Boston hotel in 2004, also released a statement saying their client would be willing to testify.

"We are confident that once the Virginia legislature hears Dr. Tyson's harrowing account of this sexual assault, the testimony of many corroborating witnesses, and evidence of his attempts to mislead the public about The Washington Post's decision not to run a story in 2018, it will conclude that he lacks the character, fitness and credibility to serve in any capacity," the statement said.

Fairfax has denied both allegations and on Saturday asked that "no one rush to judgment."

"Our American values don't just work when it's convenient — they must be applied at the most difficult of times," he said.

Meanwhile, Gov. Ralph Northam pledged to work at healing the state's racial divide and made his first official appearance a week after a racist photo on his 1984 medical school yearbook page surfaced and he acknowledged wearing blackface in the 1980s. Northam has also defied calls from practically his entire party to step down.

After the second allegation against Fairfax was made Friday, he was barraged with demands to step down from top Democrats, including a number of presidential hopefuls and most of Virginia's congressional delegation. Fairfax is the second African-American to ever win statewide office.

Northam — now a year into his four-year term — has told his top staff he's staying in office and said he wants to focus the rest of his term as governor on taking concrete steps toward increasing racial equality.

In his first interview since the scandal erupted, a chastened Northam told The Washington Post on Saturday that the uproar has pushed him to confront the state's deep and lingering divisions over race, as well as his own insensitivity. But he said that reflection has convinced him that, by remaining in office, he can work to resolve them.

"It's obvious from what happened this week that we still have a lot of work to do," Northam said in the interview, conducted at the Executive Mansion. "There are still some very deep wounds in Virginia, and especially in the area of equity."

Northam said he planned to focus on addressing issues stemming from inequality, including improving access to health care, housing, and transportation. He also repeated his contention that he is not pictured in the photo on his yearbook page that shows someone in blackface standing alongside someone in a Ku Klux Klan hood and robe. But he could not explain how the photo wound up there, or why he initially had taken responsibility for it.

"I overreacted," he said. "If I had it to do over again, I would step back and take a deep breath."

On Saturday, Northam made his first official public appearance since he denied being in the photo, attending the funeral for a state trooper killed in a shootout. But he made no public comments upon arriving in Chilhowie, four hours west of the tumult in Richmond.

Meanwhile, the lieutenant governor did not make any public appearances Saturday and released his statement late in the day, after Republican state House Speaker Kirk Cox and the Democratic Party of Virginia joined a chorus of other calls for Fairfax to resign.

Since the two allegations against Fairfax were made, many top Democrats running for president in 2020 have called for Fairfax's resignation, including Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.

Virginia's Democratic congressional delegation was split.

Party elders Sen. Mark Warner and Rep. Bobby Scott said Fairfax should resign if the allegations against him are true.

Other congressional Democrats made unqualified calls for Fairfax to resign.

If Fairfax were to leave, it's unclear who could replace him. Northam may try to appoint a Democrat, while Republicans could mount a legal challenge with the goal of having Sen. Steve Newman, the Senate's pro tem, serve as both a voting senator and temporary lieutenant governor.

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The tumult in Virginia began Feb. 1, with the discovery of the photo on Northam's yearbook profile page. Northam at first admitted he was in the picture, then denied it a day later, but acknowledged he wore blackface to look like Michael Jackson for a dance contest in 1984.

Attorney General Mark Herring has since acknowledged wearing blackface at a college party in 1980. Herring — who would become governor if both Northam and Fairfax resign — had previously called on Northam to resign and came forward after rumors about the existence of a blackface photo of him began circulating at the Capitol.

Although the Democratic Party has taken almost a zero-tolerance approach to misconduct among its members in this #MeToo era, a housecleaning in Virginia could be costly to them: If all three Democrats resigned, Republican Cox would become governor.

Democrats are also despondent about what the scandals have done to their chances of flipping control of the General Assembly. All 140 legislative seats will be up for grabs in November and Democrats had previously been hopeful that voter antipathy toward President Donald Trump would help them cement Virginia's status as a blue state. Now many fret their current crisis in leadership will not only cost them chances of winning GOP-held seats, but also several currently held by Democrats.

Associated Press reporters Steve Helber in Chilhowie, Virginia; Ben Finley in Norfolk, Virginia; Julie Pace and Michael Biesecker in Washington; Jonathan Drew in Durham, North Carolina; Michael Kunzelman in College Park, Maryland; Alanna Durkin Richer in Boston; and Thomas Beaumont in Mason City, Iowa, contributed to this report.

This story has been edited to correct last name in 6th paragraph to Tyson.

South Korea, US sign cost-sharing deal for American troops

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea and the United States struck a new deal Sunday that increases Seoul's contribution for the cost of the American military presence on its soil, overcoming previous failed negotiations that caused worries about their decades-long alliance.

South Korea last year provided about \$830 million, covering roughly 40 percent of the cost of the deployment of 28,500 U.S. soldiers whose presence is meant to deter aggression from North Korea. President Donald Trump has pushed for South Korea to pay more.

On Sunday, chief negotiators from the two countries signed a new cost-sharing plan, which requires South Korea to pay about 1.04 trillion won (\$924 million) in 2019, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The statement said the two countries reaffirmed the need for a "stable" U.S. military deployment amid the "rapidly changing situation on the Korean Peninsula." The ministry said the U.S. assured South Korea that it is committed to the alliance and has no plans to adjust the number of its troops in South Korea.

South Korea began paying for the U.S. military deployment in the early 1990s, after rebuilding its economy from the devastation of the 1950-1953 Korean War. The big U.S. military presence in South Korea is a symbol of the countries' alliance, forged in blood during the war, but also a source of long-running anti-American sentiments.

About 20 anti-U.S. activists rallied near the Foreign Ministry building in Seoul on Sunday, chanting slogans like "No more money for U.S. troops." No violence was reported.

"The United States government realizes that Korea does a lot for our alliance and peace and stability in the region," chief U.S. negotiator Timothy Betts said Sunday in Seoul. "We are very pleased our consultations resulted in agreement that will strengthen transparency and deepen our cooperation and the alliance."

The deal, which involves the spending of South Korean taxpayer money, requires parliamentary approval in South Korea, but not in the United States, according to Seoul's Foreign Ministry.

The allies had failed to reach a new cost-sharing plan during some 10 rounds of talks. A five-year 2014 deal that covered South Korea's payment last year expired at the end of 2018.

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Some conservatives in South Korea voiced concerns over a weakening alliance with the United States at the same time as negotiations with North Korea to deprive it of its nuclear weapons hit a stalemate. They said Trump might use the failed military cost-sharing negotiations as an excuse to pull back some U.S. troops in South Korea as a bargaining chip in talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Trump told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Feb. 3 that he has no plans to withdraw troops from South Korea. During his election campaign, Trump suggested he could pull back troops from South Korea and Japan unless they took on greater a share of the financial burdens of supporting U.S. soldiers deployed there.

South Korean media earlier reported that Trump demanded South Korea double its spending for the U.S. military deployment, before his government eventually asked for 1.13 trillion won (\$1 billion). Seoul's Foreign Ministry said the U.S. had called for a sharp increase in South Korean spending but didn't elaborate.

Trump announced last week that he will sit down with Kim for a second summit in Vietnam in late February. Their first summit in Singapore last June resulted in Kim's vague commitment to the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," a term that his propaganda machine previously used when it argued it would only denuclearize after the U.S. withdraws its troops from South Korea.

Trump's top envoy for North Korea, Stephen Biegun, visited Pyongyang last week to work out details of the upcoming summit. After being briefed by Biegun about his Pyongyang trip, South Korea's presidential office said Sunday that U.S. and North Korean officials plan to meet again the week of Feb. 17 in an unidentified Asian country.

The U.S. military arrived in South Korea to disarm Japan, which colonized the Korean Peninsula from 1910-45, following its World War II defeat. Most U.S. troops were withdrawn in 1949 but they returned the next year to fight alongside South Korea in the Korean War.

Associated Press journalists Chang Yong Jun and Lee Jin-man contributed to this report.

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar expected to join 2020 Dem race

By SARA BURNETT, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota is set to join the 2020 presidential race Sunday, becoming the most prominent Midwestern candidate as the party tries to win back voters in a region that helped put Donald Trump in the White House.

Klobuchar said she would make a "big announcement" about her political plans at an event along the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. She already is scheduled to speak Feb. 21 in Iowa, site of the nation's first caucuses on the nominating calendar.

Klobuchar, who easily won a third-term last year, has cited her broad appeal across Minnesota as she has discussed a potential campaign. She has drawn support from voters in urban, suburban and rural areas, including in dozens of counties Trump won in 2016.

She has said that success could translate to other Midwestern states such as Michigan and Wisconsin, reliably Democratic in presidential races for decades until Trump's victory over Hillary Clinton.

The list of Democrats already in the race features several better-known senators with the ability to raise huge amounts of money — Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Kamala Harris of California, Cory Booker of New Jersey and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York.

The field soon could expand to include prominent Democrats such as former Vice President Joe Biden and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

A Des Moines Register/CNN/Mediacom poll conducted by Selzer & Company in December found that Klobuchar was largely unfamiliar to likely Iowa caucus-goers, with 54 percent saying they didn't know enough about her to have an opinion, while 38 percent had a favorable opinion and 8 percent had an unfavorable opinion.

"She starts out perhaps with a better understanding of Midwestern voters, but I think she faces the same hurdles every one of them face, which is: Are Iowans going to find them either the best candidate to defeat Donald Trump or the candidate that most aligns with their ideologies and issues?" said John

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Norris, a longtime Iowa-based Democratic strategist. "I don't know that coming from Minnesota gives her any advantage with Iowans."

Klobuchar, 58, is known as a straight-shooting, pragmatist willing to work with Republicans, making her one of the Senate's most productive members at passing legislation.

The backdrop of Sunday's event is the Interstate 35 bridge over the Mississippi. The span was built after the previous bridge collapsed in 2007, killing 13 people. Klobuchar had worked with then Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn., to help fund the new bridge and get it completed at a faster-than-usual pace, and has cited it as an example of achieving results through bipartisan cooperation.

Klobuchar's focus in recent months has included prescription drug prices, a new farm bill and election security. She supports the "Green New Deal," a Democratic plan proposed this past week to combat climate change and create thousands of jobs in renewable energy.

But her legislative record has drawn criticism from both the GOP and some fellow Democrats. Some Republicans say Klobuchar is able to get things done because she pushes smaller issues. Some progressives say she lacks the kind of fire and bold ideas needed to bring significant change and excite voters.

Klobuchar, a lawyer and the former prosecutor in Minnesota's largest county, raised her national profile during a Senate Judiciary Committee last fall for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, who was accused of sexually assaulting a woman when they were both in high school.

When Klobuchar asked Kavanaugh whether he ever had had so much to drink that he didn't remember what happened, he turned the question around. He asked Klobuchar, "Have you?"

Unruffled, Klobuchar continued as Kavanaugh asked again. Kavanaugh later apologized to Klobuchar, whose father is an alcoholic.

"When you have a parent who's an alcoholic, you're pretty careful about drinking," she said. "I was truly trying to get to the bottom of the facts and the evidence."

Among the other Midwestern lawmakers who could also seek the nomination are Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio, who has been visiting early-voting states, and Pete Buttigieg, the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, who established an exploratory committee last month.

Klobuchar campaigned with Democrats in Iowa last fall, and in December spoke to progressive farmers and activists about the importance of bridging the divide between urban and rural areas. She said the lesson learned after the 2016 election was "we are not going to leave the Midwest behind."

"This is the moment for the Midwest," she said, "and we don't want to be forgotten again in a national election."

AP polling editor Emily Swanson in Washington contributed to this report.

Gun-seizure laws grow in popularity since Parkland shooting

By RYAN J. FOLEY, Associated Press

In the year since the deadly mass shooting at a Florida high school, more and more states have passed laws making it easier to take guns away from people who may be suicidal or bent on violence against others, and courts are issuing an unprecedented number of seizure orders across the country.

Supporters say these "red flag" laws are among the most promising tools to reduce the nearly 40,000 suicides and homicides by firearm each year in the U.S. Gun advocates, though, say such measures undermine their constitutional rights and can result in people being stripped of their weapons on false or vindictive accusations.

Nine states have passed laws over the past year allowing police or household members to seek court orders requiring people deemed threatening to temporarily surrender their guns, bringing the total to 14. Several more are likely to follow in the months ahead.

More than 1,700 orders allowing guns to be seized for weeks, months or up to a year were issued in 2018 by the courts after they determined the individuals were a threat to themselves or others, according to data from several states obtained by The Associated Press. The actual number is probably much higher

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since the data was incomplete and didn't include California.

The laws gained momentum after it was learned that the young man accused in the Florida attack, Nikolas Cruz, was widely known to be mentally troubled yet had access to weapons, including the assault-style rifle used to kill 17 students and staff members last Valentine's Day at Parkland's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

"Parkland would never have happened if Florida had a red flag law," Linda Beigel Schulman said during a recent news conference with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who is expected to sign his state's new law any day. Her son, Scott Beigel, was a teacher and coach killed during the Parkland attack.

Florida passed a red flag law as part of a gun-control package in the wake of the shooting. Aside from New York, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont also have adopted variations since then. California, Connecticut, Indiana, Oregon and Washington already had similar laws.

Several states are debating them this year, including New Mexico, where two students were killed in a school shooting in December 2017.

Mike Heal, police chief in the town of Aztec, responded to the shooting at the local high school and testified in support of the red flag proposal, saying, "I know I cannot keep everyone safe, but give me the tools to try."

The laws are being invoked frequently in many of the states that have them.

Authorities in Maryland granted more than 300 petitions to temporarily disarm individuals in the three months after the state's law went into effect Oct. 1. Montgomery County Sheriff Darren Popkin said the cases included four "significant" threats of school shootings, and that a majority of the people who were subjects of the orders were suffering from mental health crises.

"These orders are not only being issued appropriately, they are saving lives," Popkin told lawmakers last month.

In Vermont, a prosecutor obtained an order to strip gun rights from a teenager released from jail after being accused of plotting a school shooting.

Florida courts granted more than 1,000 orders in the first nine months of its new law. Broward County, which includes Parkland, has been at the forefront, accounting for roughly 15 percent of cases statewide.

Among the first people subjected to the law was Cruz's younger brother, who authorities said was showing signs of violence after allegedly trespassing at the high school after the shooting. In another case, Florida authorities took dozens of firearms from a bailiff accused of threatening other courthouse employees.

Connecticut has the nation's longest-standing red flag law, which went into effect in 1999 after a mass shooting at the state lottery office. Authorities there say new awareness of the law contributed to a spike in 2018 in warrants issued to take away weapons — 268, the highest total on record, according to court data.

The rise reflects the more aggressive posture police have adopted since the 2012 mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown and other attacks.

One study found that the Connecticut law reduced gun suicides by more than 10 percent in recent years and that a similar law in Indiana led to a 7.5 percent drop.

"It really gives us a unique opportunity as prosecutors to come in before the violence has occurred. Often we are tackling it on the other side," said Kimberly Wyatt, a prosecutor in King County, Washington, who has been seeking one or two such orders per week in and around Seattle.

She said authorities use the best available research and their judgment, looking at whether a person has talked about suicide, threatened others, stalked someone or shown signs of a mental health crisis.

Gun-rights advocates argue that the laws can be used unfairly based on unproven accusations.

"In today's society, the police are going to err on the side of caution. The threshold for issuing these types of warrants has been lowered," lamented Scott Wilson Sr., president of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League.

Debates in state legislatures often turn on how much due process gun owners should receive and who can petition for the orders. In some states, only police can file the petitions. Other states allow members

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of the person's household, relatives, school officials, employers and health care providers to do so.

Most states allow for temporary orders that are issued for days or weeks. Judges then hold hearings to decide whether to extend them for up to one year.

During the debate in New Mexico, Army veteran Rico Giron testified that people could see their guns seized over grudges between family members or neighbors.

"It's incredibly dangerous because it opens the door for vindictiveness and revenge," Giron said.

The bill's sponsor, Democratic Rep. Daymon Ely, said he wants parents to have another option if they have a child suffering from mental illness.

"The state has an obligation to say, 'Yes, there is something we can do for you,'" Ely said.

Associated Press writer Morgan Lee in Santa Fe, New Mexico, contributed to this report.

Follow Ryan J. Foley at <https://twitter.com/rjfoley>

Black Virginia voters feel betrayed, left in no-win scenario

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Eva Siakam's choice to campaign for Ralph Northam in 2017 was a simple one: He was a Democrat and endorsed by Barack Obama, America's first black president.

But sitting in a stylist's chair at Supreme Hair Styling Boutique in Richmond on Friday, she shook her head in disgust when asked about revelations that Northam wore blackface 35 years ago.

"I really believed in him," said Siakam, a 28-year-old student. "To find out that he dressed up in blackface is disappointing. He's shown his disdain for black people."

Black voters who factored prominently in the 2017 election that helped Northam become Virginia governor are feeling betrayed over the scandals that have engulfed the state over the past week, leaving them with a less-than-ideal set of choices at the top of the Democratic Party: a governor and attorney general who wore blackface and a lieutenant governor who stands accused by two women of sexual assault. The next person in line for governor is a conservative Republican.

Many are struggling to come to grips with a list of nagging questions: Do they forgive the Democrats, keep Republicans out of power and demand the governor get serious about racism? Should Northam step down and hand the office to African-American Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, who faces sexual assault allegations? Or should all three of them walk away and let principle prevail, even if the other party takes charge?

The dilemma was being weighed in black barber shops, salons, restaurants and living rooms and in activist and political circles across the state in the midst of a still-unfolding reckoning around race and scandal in the Old Dominion.

"We don't even know where to take the conversation from here," community organizer Chelsea Wise said at a meeting of Democrats in Richmond on Thursday. "Do we want to address all of them, or are we just sticking with Ralph right now? The fact that it's all of our top leadership shows that we need to take a hard look at the Virginia Democratic Party as well."

The governor has been facing calls to resign ever since a photo emerged from his medical school year-book page in 1984 that showed someone in blackface next to a person wearing a Ku Klux Klan robe. He initially said he was in the photo, then denied that but said he did wear blackface when he impersonated Michael Jackson around the same time. Days later, Fairfax was accused of sexually assaulting a woman in 2004, and Attorney General Mark Herring came forward to admit that he, too, wore blackface in the 1980s.

As of Friday night, Northam informed his Cabinet that he was determined to stay in office, Herring remained in a wait-and-see posture, and Fairfax had denied a second accusation of sexual assault, this one from a classmate at Duke University who said he raped her in 2000. Northam is vowing to start an honest conversation on race to begin to heal Virginia's lingering racial legacy.

Siakam said she thinks Northam should resign, but said the conversation must now turn to the larger impacts of racism on communities of color.

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"There's nothing you can do for us to forget, but we should focus more now on structural racism," she said.

African-Americans, who make up 20 percent of Virginia voters, overwhelmingly supported the commonwealth's top three Democrats in 2017, in large part as a repudiation of what they saw as the racist rhetoric and policies prevalent in the 2016 presidential campaign and the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville just months before the election. Both Northam and Herring campaigned heavily in black areas, and were given entree into many communities by local officials, faith leaders, business owners and regular citizens.

Wise said she had reservations about Northam's commitment to black communities during the election, but supported him anyway and was prepared to hold him accountable amid a racially divided national climate.

"We knew Trump had just gotten elected and we needed a Democratic governor in Virginia, especially because of the importance of the state in national elections," Wise, 34, explained. "I almost felt like I couldn't question him because of the urgency and the importance of what we just had on the national level."

Wise said she felt betrayed by Northam's revelations, particularly because he remained silent about his own past after the events of Charlottesville.

"How in the world did you not come out and do your own truth-telling?" she said. "That makes me recognize that you don't have the insight and emotional capacity to take on what we need in Virginia at this time."

Shemicia Bowen campaigned for Democrats up and down the ticket. The 44-year-old Richmond resident said she gasped when she learned the governor had worn blackface 35 years ago. She finds Herring's revelations were even more alarming because he's the state's top lawyer and has to deal with daily decisions affecting black people in the criminal justice system.

Still, Bowen struggles with the way forward for black Virginians. She doesn't think anyone will step down, and as a loyal Democrat, she's not sure they should turn over the state to Republicans.

"We can't just throw the whole ticket away at this point," said Bowen. "But we have to understand that blackface is a blatant form of disrespect. If an elected official isn't aware of that, what else are they not aware of? What else do you feel like is not a big deal? How are you able to effectively be a voice for every person?"

Norfolk native Joe Dillard said Northam should resign, and that the allegations against Fairfax should be investigated before discussing what consequences he should face. But the idea of a Republican governor should all three step aside was not unpalatable if it's the right decision, he said.

"Do I think I should support Democrats to the point where I allow certain things that my great-grandparents would slap me in the face for letting slide? No, I won't," Dillard said. "I am not a Democrat before I'm an African-American man. For me, it's always people over party."

Dillard and Bowen, both members of a group of young blacks active in Virginia politics, said Northam should immediately allocate at least \$20 million to the state's historically black colleges and universities, which have been underfunded. Dillard also suggested an African-American liaison in the governor's office, to establish a pipeline for young blacks to rise to meaningful positions in government. Wise is already looking ahead to future cycles, where she feels more black women in leadership would help restore her confidence in the party.

Jim Scurlock, a longtime elections supervisor in Richmond who went to segregated high schools in Roanoke before experiencing the sting of Jim Crow as a young soldier in the Army in 1960, was withholding judgment on Fairfax. And he said given the national political climate and the country's racist legacy, everyone deserves a second chance.

"Probably many, many more in the General Assembly wore blackface," Scurlock, 82, said. "Virginia is still a racist state. It hasn't changed much. And look at the president and all he has done. I haven't forgiven the president, but he's still in office, so why should they resign?"

Lessons for Brexit from Norway's hard border with Sweden
By DAVID KEYTON and JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

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ORJE, Norway (AP) — With fresh snow crunching under their boots and a handful of papers to be checked and stamped, truck drivers from Latvia, Sweden and Poland make their way across Norway's Orje customs station to a small office where their goods will be cleared out of the European Union and into Norway.

While many border posts in Europe have vanished,, Norway's hard border with the European Union is clearly visible, with cameras, license-plate recognition systems and barriers directing traffic to customs officers.

Norway's membership in the European Economic Area (EEA) grants it access to the EU's vast common market and most goods are exempt from paying duties. Still, everything entering the country must be declared and cleared through customs.

Technological solutions being tested in Norway to digitalize customs procedures for cargo have been seized on by some in Britain as a way to overcome border-related problems that threaten to scuttle a divorce deal with the EU. But the realities of this northern border also show the difficulties that persist.

A divorce deal between Britain and the EU has stumbled over how to guarantee an open border between the United Kingdom's Northern Ireland and EU member state Ireland after Britain leaves the bloc on March 29.

The Irish border area was a flashpoint during decades of conflict in Northern Ireland that cost 3,700 lives. The free flow of people and goods across the near-invisible Irish border now underpins both the local economy and Northern Ireland's peace process.

The EU's proposed solution is for Britain to remain in a customs union with the bloc, eliminating the need for checks until another solution is found. But pro-Brexit British politicians say that would stop the U.K. from forging new trade deals around the world.

Technology may or may not be the answer, depending on who you talk to.

"Everyone agrees that we have to avoid a hard border in Northern Ireland, and ... technology will play a big part in doing so," said Northern Ireland Minister John Penrose.

But EU deputy Brexit negotiator Sabine Weyand said on Twitter: "Can technology solve the Irish border problem? Short answer: not in the next few years."

The Customs office at Orje, on the road connecting the capitals of Oslo and Stockholm, has been testing a new digital clearance system to speed goods through customs by enabling exporters to submit information online up to two hours before a truck reaches the border.

At her desk in Orje, Chief Customs officer Nina Bullock was handling traditional paper border clearance forms when her computer informed her of an incoming truck that used the Express Clearance system.

"We know the truck number, we know the driver, we know what kinds of goods, we know everything," she told The Associated Press. "It will pass by the two cameras and go on. It's doesn't need to come into the office."

That allows Customs officers to conduct risk assessments before the vehicle even reaches the border.

So far, only 10 Swedish companies are in the pilot project, representing just a handful of the 400-450 trucks that cross at this border post each day. But if it's successful, the plan will be expanded.

In the six months since the trial began, Customs section chief Hakon Krogh says some problems have brought the system to a standstill, from snow blocking the camera, to Wi-Fi issues preventing the border barrier from lifting, to truck drivers who misunderstand which customs lane to use.

"It's a pilot program, so it takes time to make things work smoothly before it can be expanded," said Krogh, who still felt the program could have a long-term benefit.

The program also limits flexibility for exporters. If a driver calls in sick and is replaced by another, or extra cargo is added to a shipment, then all the paperwork must be resubmitted online.

Yet a greater barrier to digitalizing the border is the complexity of international trade.

The Svinesund customs office, 90 kilometers (56 miles) south of Orje, is Norway's major road border, with 1,300 trucks each day carrying goods into the country from all over Europe. Customs section chief Kristen Hoiberget has been following the Orje pilot program with interest but warns of systematic challenges to its expansion.

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"It's very easy to deal with a digital system when the goods are uniform," said Hoiberget. "If you have one kind of goods in a lorry, it's less complicated. But if you have a lorry that picks up goods at ten different places abroad, the complexity arises rapidly."

He said most of the export information needed is available digitally but Customs, clearance houses and exporters all use different computer systems.

"There are a lot of prerequisites to a digital border," he said. "A frictionless border would need development and lots of legislation."

Back in Orje, vehicles entering Norway are randomly checked, with officers mainly looking for alcohol and cigarettes, which are cheaper in Sweden. Border changes are coming, but certainly not in the tight two-month timeframe that any Brexit border changes would need.

"If you look 15 years ahead, I guess this office won't be here. I won't be sitting here stamping papers," said Bullock. "But customs officers will still be on duty, to prevent goods coming into Norway that are not supposed to."

As an AP journalist waited in the snow to watch a truck at Orje use the Express Clearance lane, a truck driver made his way across a large parking lot to the customs office.

"You must be doing a Brexit story," he joked. "They'll be in the same boat soon."

Lawless contributed from London.

David Keyton can be followed on Twitter at @DavidKeyton and Jill Lawless can be followed at @JillLawless.

Follow AP's full coverage of Brexit at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

Warren makes presidential bid official with call for change

By ELANA SCHOR, Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Mass. (AP) — Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren made her bid for the presidency official on Saturday in this working-class city, grounding her 2020 campaign in a populist call to fight economic inequality and build "an America that works for everyone."

Warren delivered a sharp call for change at her presidential kickoff, decrying a "middle-class squeeze" that has left Americans crunched with "too little accountability for the rich, too little opportunity for everyone else." She and her backers hope that message can distinguish her in a crowded Democratic field and help her move past the controversy surrounding her past claims to Native American heritage.

Weaving specific policy prescriptions into her remarks, from Medicare for All to the elimination of Washington "lobbying as we know it," Warren avoided taking direct jabs at President Donald Trump. She aimed for a broader institutional shift instead, urging supporters to choose "a government that makes different choices, choices that reflect our values."

Trump "is not the cause of what's broken," Warren told an elated crowd without using the president's name. "He's just the latest - and most extreme - symptom of what's gone wrong in America."

In a tweet, Trump referenced the controversy over her Native American identity, once again using the insulting nickname he's given her.

"Today Elizabeth Warren, sometimes referred to by me as Pocahontas, joined the race for President," Trump tweeted. "Will she run as our first Native American presidential candidate, or has she decided that after 32 years, this is not playing so well anymore? See you on the campaign TRAIL, Liz!"

Asked to explain the tweet's reference to "the campaign TRAIL," the White House didn't respond.

Warren announced her campaign in her home state of Massachusetts at a mill site where factory workers went on strike in the early 20th century, a fitting forum for the longtime consumer advocate to advance her platform.

Supporters turned out in below-freezing temperatures, many hoisting signs — "Win With Warren," one read. A Massachusetts bakery created "Persist" cookies for the event to honor the candidate's slogan,

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"Nevertheless, She Persisted," words first spoken in the Senate to rebuke her.

Warren's rollout rally was a potent motivator for longtime supporters such as Mo Malekafzaly and Carlos Garcia, two longtime backers who attended her rally from Shrewsbury, Massachusetts.

The choice of Lawrence to start her campaign "shows who she's fighting for," Garcia said. Asked if fellow New Englander Sen. Bernie Sanders, a Vermont independent, could pose a serious threat to Warren in New Hampshire's critical primary should he get into the race, Garcia said Warren is "such an effective communicator that I think that people will respond to that very well."

Warren went straight from her kickoff to New Hampshire, home to the nation's first primary, where her campaign projected that 350 people turned out for an event in the city of Dover. She plans to spend Sunday in Iowa, where the leadoff caucuses will be the first test of candidates' viability.

Warren was the first high-profile Democrat to signal interest in running for the White House, forming an exploratory committee on New Year's Eve.

She was endorsed and introduced Saturday by Massachusetts Democrats Sen. Ed Markey and Rep. Joe Kennedy III. Kennedy's backing could prove valuable for Warren, given his status as a rising young Democratic star and his friendship with one of her potential 2020 rivals, former Rep. Beto O'Rourke, D-Texas.

Warren enters the race as one of the party's most recognizable figures. She has spent the past decade in the national spotlight, first emerging as a consumer activist during the financial crisis. She later led the congressional panel that oversaw the 2008 financial industry bailout. After Republicans blocked her from running the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, an agency she helped create, she ran for the Senate in 2012 and unseated a GOP incumbent.

She has \$11 million left over from her commanding 2018 Senate re-election victory that can be used on her presidential run.

Still, Warren must compete against other popular Democrats who will be able to raise substantial money. A recent CNN poll found that fewer Democrats said they'd be very likely to support Warren if she runs than said the same of former Vice President Joe Biden, Sen. Kamala Harris of California and Sanders. Still, about as many Democrats said they'd be at least somewhat likely to support Warren as said the same of Harris or Sanders.

That challenge is on display this weekend as Democratic presidential contenders — or those considering a run — fan out across the crucial early-voting states. New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker is in Iowa, while New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand is visiting South Carolina. Another possible presidential rival, Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown, planned to be in New Hampshire on Saturday, while Sen. Amy Klobuchar is announcing her bid Sunday in her home state of Minnesota.

And Warren's launch comes at a challenging moment for the 69-year-old senator. She's apologized twice over the past two weeks for claiming Native American identity on multiple occasions early in her career. That claim has created fodder for Republicans and could overshadow her campaign.

On Saturday, Trump's re-election campaign manager was quick to respond to her candidacy and called her "a fraud."

Warren got notable backup from Gillibrand, however, who called her Senate colleague "an extraordinary public servant." Speaking to reporters in South Carolina, Gillibrand said Trump's treatment of women, particularly women of color, was "outrageous."

The campaign launch will test whether the controversy is simply a Washington obsession or a substantive threat to her candidacy. Doug Rubin, a Boston-based strategist who advised Warren during her first Senate run in 2012, said in an interview that most voters will respond to "the powerful message she's been talking about," in terms of battling social and economic injustices, rather than the back-and-forth over her personal identity.

Another threat could come from a fellow senator who has yet to announce his own plans for 2020: Sanders. They're both leaders of the Democrats' liberal vanguard, but some Sanders supporters are still upset Warren didn't support him during his 2016 primary run against Hillary Clinton. And as a senator from Vermont who won the New Hampshire primary, he would likely go into the Granite State as an early favorite if he decided to run again.

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Sheri Clark Nadell, a Maine resident who traveled to Warren's New Hampshire event, said that while she likes Sanders and voted for him in his previous campaign, she is less inclined to do so now.

"I'm not sure, at this point, that he could win," Nadell said. "And I feel sad saying that. But we need to win."

Despite their similarities, Warren and Sanders have taken somewhat divergent paths in recent months as they prepare for the primary. After proposing an "ultra-millionaire tax" that would hit the wealthiest 75,000 households in America, Warren told Bloomberg News last week that she continues to "believe in capitalism" but wants to see stricter rules to prevent gaming the system — a marked contrast with the self-described democratic socialism of Sanders.

Associated Press writers Meg Kinnard in Columbia, South Carolina, and Jonathan Lemire in Washington contributed to this report.

Snowstorm buries Pacific Northwest, with more on the way

By GENE JOHNSON, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Residents of the Pacific Northwest took to neighborhood hills with skis, sleds or even just laundry baskets Saturday to celebrate an unusual dump of snow in a region more accustomed to winter rain.

Some areas received more than a foot of snow, and meteorologists say more is on the way early next week. Hundreds of flights were canceled in Seattle and Portland, and heavy snow drifts closed major highways in eastern Washington. Around 50,000 people lost power.

Residents cleared out grocery store shelves and left work early Friday afternoon as the storm arrived. More than a foot of snow (30.5 cm) was recorded by Saturday morning in some areas, including on the Olympic Peninsula, in the nation's latest bout of winter weather.

In Tacoma, hundreds of people turned out for a snowball fight in a park after someone who lives nearby suggested it on Facebook. They took cover behind picnic tables and used sleds as shields.

"This is a perfect morning to bundle up and play in the snow, but stay off the roads if possible," Gov. Jay Inslee wrote on Twitter.

In central Washington, blowing snow and drifts 3 to 4 feet (0.9 to 1.2 meters) deep forced the closure of U.S. 2 and Interstate 90. The Grant County Sheriff's Office warned that snow drifts were blocking many roads. Airports in eastern Washington closed, and numerous car crashes were reported.

"Snow conditions are worsening minute to minute, so don't expect travel conditions to improve," the sheriff's office wrote.

The National Weather Service said additional snow could fall Saturday, and another storm was expected early next week.

About 180 people spent the night at an emergency shelter set up at Seattle Center, with officials going out again on Saturday to get other homeless residents to safety. Inslee declared a state of emergency over the storm. The state transportation department said crews had to clear several trees that had fallen across roads in the Tacoma area.

In Portland, a tanker truck slid into a sport-utility vehicle on an interchange between Interstates 5 and 84 on Saturday, blocking the ramp for hours.

Other parts of the country were also wrestling with difficult weather. Residents of Hawaii were bracing for coastal flooding amid extreme surf predictions. A California man died in rough waters off of Maui on Friday, Hawaii News Now reported.

In California, more than 120 visitors and staff members were rescued Thursday after being trapped by up to 7 feet (2 meters) of snow in a Sierra Nevada resort for five days.

Another winter storm was on the way to the region.

In Yosemite National Park, as many as 50 housing structures near Half Dome Village were damaged by trees toppled during a snowstorm earlier this week, displacing more than 160 employees who provide

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food, lodging and other services for visitors.

Elsewhere, more than 148,000 customers lost power in Michigan following days of freezing rain. The Consumers Energy utility said power would be restored by late Sunday.

In Washington, about 50,000 people lost power. In Seattle, snowfall from Sunday and Monday lingered into the week as below-freezing temperatures gripped the area. A 59-year-old man died Thursday from exposure at a Seattle light rail station.

Residents in Portland and Seattle who are more accustomed to rain than snow waited in long lines to buy shovels and de-icer.

Autumn Sang was at a mobbed grocery store in Tualatin, Oregon, on Friday stocking up for the coming storm for herself and her neighbor, who is disabled and doesn't have a car.

Sang said she had never seen the store so crowded. She grew up in southern Oregon, where snow is more common, and wasn't fazed by the forecast.

"I love it. I'm excited about it," she said of the snow. "I think that Portlanders, most of them are city people and they come from a lot of different places, so they're not so used to it. It's like, 'Use your brain! If you don't have to go out, don't go out.'"

Associated Press journalists Lisa Baumann in Seattle, Amanda Lee Myers in Los Angeles and Gillian Flacus in Portland, Oregon, contributed to this report.

Questions, criticism of Brazil soccer club where 10 killed

By MARCELO SILVA DE SOUSA and MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Under mounting criticism Saturday, Brazilian soccer club Flamengo defended its management of the training ground where a fire killed 10 of its academy players — all between 14 and 16 years old — at a dormitory that had been registered with the city as a parking lot.

Rio de Janeiro's city hall said in a statement that Flamengo was fined 31 times because of infractions at the Ninho do Urubu training ground, which had to be temporarily closed in October 2017. The club did not pay 21 of those fines.

City hall also said the sleeping quarters where Flamengo's players died was irregularly licensed as a parking lot.

"The lodging area hit by the fire is not included in the last project approved by our licensing," it said. "There are no registers of new licensing requests for that area as a sleeping quarter."

Three teenagers injured in the fire were still in the hospital, including one in serious condition.

Flamengo's CEO Reinaldo Belotti pushed back on accusations, saying the licensing issues "have nothing to do with the accident." He said the sleeping quarter was a proper lodging and not an improvised structure.

"We have to take measures to legalize our training ground," Belotti said. "We needed nine certificates and we already have eight. We are working with the fire department."

Belotti linked the heavy Rio rains earlier in the week to what he called "a tragic accident" and said unstable electricity could have sparked the fire.

"It was not because of lack of attention and care from Flamengo. These boys are our biggest asset," he said. "It was all a succession of events after a catastrophic day for Rio."

The Flamengo executive did not take questions and did not explain why the sleeping quarter was registered as a parking lot in the project originally sent to Rio's city hall. Whether bad weather led to a power surge, common in Rio de Janeiro and other parts of Brazil, the club has not detailed what measures, if any, were in place in case of fire.

It was also impossible to ignore a sobering reality: the sleeping quarters must have included such flammable material that 10 young men, all in the best shape of their lives, were not able to escape before being consumed by the flames.

"Flamengo is responsible because it should take care of its athletes and the dormitory where the fire took place was not in the club's project," said Filipe Sales, a 26-year-old fan who stood Saturday outside

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team's headquarters in Southern Rio, where hundreds gathered for a symbolic embrace.

"This has to be an alert for every club in this country, and authorities must investigate severely. Ten kids are dead and this cannot happen again," Sales said.

The incident came just two weeks after the Jan. 25 dam collapse in Brazil unleashed a flood of mining waste in Minas Gerais state, killing at least 157 people and almost as many missing.

On Wednesday night and early Thursday, torrential downpours and strong winds killed at least seven people and left a trail of destruction, stirring a wave of controversy over shoddy infrastructure and lax oversight in Latin America's largest nation.

The cause of the fire was still unknown, although authorities were looking at a possible short circuit in the air conditioning system. The administration of Mayor Marcelo Crivella said it would open an investigation, while local police said they have already heard testimony from 13 surviving players and three Flamengo staffers.

A former Flamengo player who spent 10 years with the institution was critical of its handling of young players. He asked to remain anonymous because he still played in a professional capacity.

"All of the young people in my generation see ourselves reflected in this tragedy," he said. "If law officials investigate, more irregularities will come to light. It's a situation that not only occurs in Flamengo but in all Brazilian football."

In the meantime, the scope of the tragedy became increasingly clear as the Flamengo club announced that all the victims were between 14 and 16 years of age.

Forensic experts identified eight of them: Arthur Vinicius de Barros Silva, Pablo Henrique da Silva Matos, Vitor Isaias Coelho da Silva, Bernardo Augusto Manzke Pisetta, Gedson Corgosinho Beltrao dos Santos, Athila de Souza Paixao, Rykelmo de Souza Vianna, and Christian Esmerio Candido, a 15-year-old goalkeeper that had already played for Brazil's national team's youth divisions.

Player Jhonata Ventura was still in serious condition, while athletes Cauan Emanuel and Francisco Dyogo were listed in stable condition.

A club spokesman said DNA tests would identify the heavily burned remains of other victims, a process that could take months.

Throughout Brazil, mourning rituals and commemorations were under way.

In the southeast city of Volta Redonda, friends and relatives carried the coffin of Arthur Vinicius, who would have turned 15 years old Saturday, and embraced one another in grief.

"He was 15 years old. The same day he was born is the day I'm burying my son," said the teen's mother, Marilia Barros da Silva.

Flamengo's anthem was played during the memorial service, and the club's flag was placed onto the coffin.

Defender Pedro Henrique was buried later in the city of Oliveira, 265 miles (430 kilometers) to the North of Rio. His cousin, Thales Gomes de Souza, told news website G1 the fire "was not a tragedy, it could have been avoided."

"He could be here with us now," Souza said.

Players from the professional Rio-based club arrived at Ninho do Urubu on Saturday also dressed in black for a training session and prayed with Flamengo coach Abel Braga. The team's weekend match against Fluminense in the semifinals of the Rio de Janeiro state championship was postponed to Wednesday.

Like many professional clubs, Flamengo has a development program for promising young players. Many, particularly those who live outside of Rio de Janeiro, stay at the facilities while training.

Not long ago, Brazilian-born soccer stars Vinicius Jr and Lucas Paqueta were living at the same training ground. Vinicius Jr now plays for Real Madrid and Paqueta plays for AC Milan.

Savarese reported from Sao Paulo. Video journalist Renato Domingues in Rio de Janeiro contributed to this report.

Pelosi shows pragmatic streak in pursuit of border deal

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans have vilified Nancy Pelosi for years as a San Francisco liberal and now they're trying to portray her as a captive of resurgent left-wingers in her Democratic Party.

But in her early moves so far as House speaker, Pelosi is displaying her pragmatic streak. She's set to endorse a split-the-differences deal on government funding that appears on track to give President Donald Trump at least some barriers on the border, after she had said Trump's border wall idea was "immoral" and promised he wouldn't get a penny for it.

And as the Democratic Party's progressive wing pursues dreams such as "Medicare for all" and a "Green New Deal," Pelosi is keeping her distance.

"We are results-oriented, values-based, and for the boldest common denominator," Pelosi said in a brief interview on Friday. "Everybody has a path to make their case, to see what the options are. I'm wedded to the Affordable Care Act because I think it's a path to health care for all Americans."

Pelosi presides over a 235-member Democratic caucus that surged into power in last November's midterm election, fueled by voters' anger against Trump. The new majority includes young, high-profile and defiantly liberal lawmakers such as Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., who's a darling among Democratic activists and a social media phenomenon.

"There's a new crop of Democrats that make Pelosi look moderate. I never thought I'd see that day," said Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore. "You see this Green New Deal rollout, you see this Medicare for all rollout and you don't see her buying into those proposals."

While some on the left are demanding Trump's impeachment, Pelosi is urging Democrats to take it slow, saying there needs to be a full vetting of any evidence. She's against demanding Trump's tax returns immediately, to the dismay of impatient lawmakers such as Rep. Bill Pascrell, D-N.J.

There's no denying Pelosi's skills. She was a strong speaker when running the House in 2007-10, keeping Democrats unified and sometimes running roughshod over Republicans. But some in her caucus started to doubt her after punishing election cycles in 2010, 2014 and 2016.

Pelosi overpowered her doubters, however, in a leadership challenge last fall, emerging stronger than when she started. At age 78 she emerged from her shutdown victory over Trump as a hero in the party and is carrying greater leverage into the ongoing negotiations. So far, there's little grouching among Democrats.

Pelosi's more measured approach is playing out this weekend as talks grind on over border security money. Pelosi took a hard line during the recent 35-day partial federal shutdown, refusing to enter into negotiations while the government was shuttered, while dismissing Trump's dream of a border wall.

"We're not doing a wall. Does anybody have any doubt about that? We are not doing a wall. So that's that," Pelosi said last month. She called the idea "an immorality."

Those remarks led many Republicans to believe that Pelosi would become an obstacle in the talks, refusing to agree to enough concessions to win over Republicans controlling the Senate, much less Trump.

Instead, Pelosi is intent on pursuing a deal with Republicans on a \$350 billion-plus appropriations bill that has been hung up for weeks over Trump's border wall demands. She still opposes the idea of a wall but has signaled she's open to vehicle barriers and other steps. She says she's delegating most of the decision-making to allies on the House Appropriations Committee.

"I trust the appropriators," Pelosi said, and she frequently reminds people that she was "forged" on that pragmatic committee. Predictions that she'd be hemmed in by her prior stance, or that she'd be unwilling to buck progressives, aren't coming to fruition.

"Nobody hems in the speaker, OK?" said Rep. Mike Doyle, D-Pa. "The speaker is quite secure in her position and is someone who doesn't have to worry about what anyone chatters about."

Part of that is the difference between making a political point and making a law. Must-pass legislation to fund the government, for example, which requires Trump's approval, gets treated differently than do upcoming messaging measures on climate change, taxes and health care.

Pelosi also relies heavily on her committee chairmen, several of whom have decades of experience in

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the House dating to the Democratic majority of the early 1990s.

Issues where Democrats want an accomplishment this year, such as lowering prescription drug prices, probably require Democrats and Pelosi to cut deals that won't please lots of liberals. Pelosi knows the ropes of divided government, often citing her work with the Bush administration in 2007 to pass legislation boosting automobile mileage standards and production of renewable energy.

But Pelosi hints that issue areas where Democrats are developing proposals to run on in the 2020 elections are more wide open.

"Everything's on the table. Medicare for all is on the table," Pelosi said. "Everybody knows they have a path. There's no blocking of anything. Everybody has the path to make their case."

While high-profile liberals such as Ocasio-Cortez, who won a safe seat in New York City, capture the attention of the party's left wing, Pelosi is more focused on protecting the first-term members who really matter to holding the Democrats' majority: lawmakers who took over GOP seats in areas won by Trump.

Republicans say Pelosi is still a stereotypical San Francisco liberal. It's just that she looks relatively measured when compared with left-wing insurgents.

"She's trying to hold them back from going over the cliff," said the House's top Republican, California Rep. Kevin McCarthy. "The party has moved beyond where she has philosophically been. So she is trying to rein that back."

Trump's Year 3 aims for dramatic sequels to rival originals

By CATHERINE LUCEY and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President Donald Trump prepares to meet North Korea's Kim Jong Un for a second time, he's out to replicate the suspenseful buildup, make-or-break stakes and far-flung rendezvous of their first encounter. The reality star American president will soon learn if the sequel, on this matter and many others, can compete with the original.

In his third year in office, Trump is starting to air some reruns.

Trump is headed into fresh negotiations with North Korea, is still pushing for his long-promised U.S.-Mexico border wall and is considering a new round of tax cuts. The focus on his greatest hits in part reflects Trump's desire to fulfill campaign promises and energize voters for his 2020 re-election campaign. But it's not without risks.

"The danger is the public starts recognizing this is Groundhog Day," said presidential historian Douglas Brinkley. "You keep thinking there is a win and there is no win. It's not clear Trump is scoring durable history points."

With his reality TV background and instinctive sense of how to control a news cycle, Trump has long micromanaged the staging of his image, eager to project power and drama.

Those instincts were on full display during the recent scrap over his second State of the Union address. Trump rejected his aides' suggestions that he deliver the address from an alternate site after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., withdrew her invitation for him to speak at the Capitol during the government shutdown. Trump opted to wait for the real deal.

"There is no venue that can compete with the history, tradition and importance of the House Chamber," he tweeted.

In his dealings with North Korea, both past and future, Trump has been intent on ginning up excitement.

After months of trading escalating nuclear threats with the North, Trump memorably popped his head into the White House briefing room last March to hint at big news to come. Not long afterward, officials announced that a Trump-Kim meeting was in the offing.

From there, Trump teased dates and locations, threatened to cancel it — and did so at one point — before signing off on the plan for the historic meeting in Singapore last June.

Trump was delighted that the first summit received round-the-clock cable TV coverage for days, something he had hoped to repeat last summer when he met with Russia's Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, according to two Republicans close to the White House not authorized to speak publicly about private matters. But

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Trump saw the Putin coverage take a negative turn after he refused to side with U.S. intelligence agencies over the Russian president in a post-summit news conference.

This time, Trump has again tried to draw out the suspense, teasing the possibility of another meeting with Kim for months and waxing poetic about his relationship with the authoritarian leader. But Trump has glossed over the fact that the first meeting produced little in the way of tangible results toward denuclearization, instead stressing that North Korea's threats have fallen off and suggesting there is an opportunity for further progress.

Aides counseled the president that a second summit would probably not carry the same drama as the first, and needed more concrete results, but Trump urged them to push forward before deciding to announce it during this past week's State of the Union address. He insisted to advisers that the Vietnam summit would still be must-see TV, and told one confidant that the idea of "good vs. evil" would be irresistible.

Brinkley noted there is precedent for requiring more than one summit to make a deal, citing the repeated arms control meetings between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. But he argued that those were a better investment, given that "Russia is a great power" while "North Korea is a rogue actor."

As for other White House sequels, Trump would be happy to produce Tax Cut 2.0. He oversaw a massive tax cut at the end of 2017 and teased the possibility of another in the runup to the 2018 midterm elections. Economic adviser Larry Kudlow pushed back on the suggestion that it was simply a pre-election ploy as he spoke to reporters at the White House this past week.

"We're kicking it around," said Kudlow. "We're looking at a couple of very interesting things that may wind up surprising folks."

You can also count on Trump to continue the tough immigration rhetoric that defined his campaign and became a central part of his midterm election push. He forced the government into a 35-day partial shutdown over his demand to fund a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and views his immigration efforts as key to his re-election campaign.

Brinkley said of Trump's repeat performances: "He's a child of the 1970s with boxing matches. It's like the rematch with Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier."

Follow Lucey and Lemire on Twitter at https://twitter.com/catherine_lucey and <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

Woman acquitted of blasphemy still can't leave Pakistan

By KATHY GANNON, Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A Christian woman acquitted of blasphemy after spending eight years on death row in Pakistan has been transferred from a secret location near the capital to another in Karachi, but is still unable to leave the country to join her daughters in Canada, a friend said Saturday.

Aman Ullah, who spoke to Aasia Bibi by telephone Friday, said the 54-year-old Bibi is being held in a room in the southern port city. He said Bibi, who faces death threats by radical Islamists, is frustrated and frightened, uncertain of when she will be able to leave Pakistan.

"She has no indication of when she will leave ... they are not telling her why she cannot leave," said Ullah, who fled the country Friday after receiving threats from extremists angered by his assistance to Bibi, which began while she was on death row.

Ullah has been a liaison between Bibi and European diplomats, who have sought to assist her. The Associated Press spoke to Bibi by telephone with Ullah's assistance following her October acquittal, which was upheld last month.

Bibi's ordeal began in 2009 when two fellow farmworkers refused to drink from the same container as a Christian woman. There was a quarrel and the two Muslim women later accused Bibi of blasphemy. The Supreme Court judges said there were widespread inconsistencies in the testimony against Bibi, who has

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steadfastly maintained her innocence.

The acquittal should have given Bibi her freedom, but Ullah said diplomats were told that her departure from Pakistan, where she feels her life would be in danger, would come not in the short term, but "in the medium term."

He said Bibi told him she is locked in one room of a house.

"The door opens at food time only," said Ullah, and she is allowed to make phone calls in the morning and again at night. He said she usually calls her daughters.

Bibi's husband is with her, he said.

"She is living with her family and given requisite security for safety," Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said in an email.

He said the government was responsible for taking "all possible measures" to protect her and her family, adding that "she is a free citizen after her release from jail and can move anywhere in Pakistan or abroad."

Bibi told Ullah the security detail assigned to her refuses to explain why she is still confined.

Bibi's case has brought international attention to Pakistan's blasphemy law, which carries an automatic death sentence for a conviction of insulting Islam. There have been widespread complaints that the law is used to settle scores and intimidate religious minorities, including Shiite Muslims.

The mere suggestion of blasphemy can incite mobs to kill. After Bibi's October acquittal the radical Tehreek-e-Labbaik party called its followers onto the streets, where they protested for three days demanding Bibi's immediate execution as well as the death of the judges who acquitted her. The party leadership also advocated overthrowing Prime Minister Imran Khan's government and incited the military against the army chief.

Since then the party's leadership has been arrested along with dozens of their supporters for inciting violence.

Ullah, a rights activist, first began aiding those falsely charged with blasphemy when his wife was wrongly accused, and has since helped several people gain their freedom. Bibi's case brought him to the attention of religious radicals.

In recent months, he has been physically assaulted, gunmen have opened fire on his home, and several religious radicals attacked his home. Ullah said he fears being attacked again or charged with blasphemy.

Bibi hopes to be able to join her daughters in Canada, where they have been granted asylum.

US-backed fighters launch final push to defeat IS in Syria

By **BASSEM MROUE**, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian forces said Saturday they have launched a final push to defeat the Islamic State group in the last tiny pocket the extremists hold in eastern Syria.

Syrian Democratic Forces spokesman Mustafa Bali tweeted that the offensive began Saturday after more than 20,000 civilians were evacuated from the IS-held area in the eastern province of Deir el-Zour. An SDF statement said the offensive was focused on the village of Baghouz.

The SDF, backed by U.S. air power, has driven IS from large swaths of territory it once controlled in northern and eastern Syria, confining the extremists to a small pocket of land near the border with Iraq.

Scores of IS fighters are now besieged in two villages, or less than one percent of the self-styled caliphate that once sprawled across large parts of Syria and Iraq. In recent weeks, thousands of civilians, including families of IS fighters, left the area controlled by the extremists.

"The decisive battle began tonight to finish what remains of Daesh terrorists," Bali said, using an Arabic acronym to refer to IS.

"The battle is very fierce," he later told The Associated Press. "Those remaining inside are the most experienced who are defending their last stronghold. According to this you can imagine the ferocity and size of the fighting."

Bali did not say how long they expect the battle to last.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitor, said SDF fighters are advancing

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"cautiously" due to mines planted by IS gunmen. It said U.S.-led coalition warplanes are giving cover to advancing SDF fighters.

U.S. President Donald Trump predicted Wednesday that IS will have lost all of its territory by next week.

"It should be formally announced sometime, probably next week, that we will have 100 percent of the caliphate," Trump told representatives of the 79-member, U.S.-led coalition fighting IS.

U.S. officials have said in recent weeks that IS has lost 99.5 percent of its territory and is holding onto fewer than 5 square kilometers in Syria, or less than 2 square miles, where the bulk of the fighters are concentrated. But activists and residents say IS still has sleeper cells in Syria and Iraq, and is laying the groundwork for an insurgency. The U.S. military has warned the group could stage a comeback if the military and counterterrorism pressure on it is eased.

The Observatory said that since the SDF began its offensive against IS in the area on Sept. 10, some 1,279 IS gunmen and 678 SDF fighters have been killed. It said 401 civilians, including 144 children and teenagers, have been killed since then.

Earlier Saturday, IS militants attacked SDF fighters near an oil field in the country's east, triggering air-strikes by the U.S.-led coalition.

The Observatory said 12 IS gunmen attacked the SDF and clashed with them for several hours until most of the attackers were killed early Saturday. It said 10 attackers were killed, while two managed to flee.

Other activist collectives, including the Step news agency, reported the attack, saying some of the attackers used motorcycles rigged with explosives.

The fighting was concentrated near al-Omar field, Syria's largest.

Ted Bundy's murderous charm still polarizes, 40 years later

By DAN SEWELL, Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — She kept her eyes on the dapper, wavy-haired man who smiled, winked and exuded self-confidence as the courtroom proceedings moved along.

"I don't know what it is he has, but he's fascinating," the teenage spectator explained to me at the time. "He's impressive. He just has a kind of magnetism."

It was that beguiling magnetism that investigators said helped make the object of her interest — Ted Bundy — one of the nation's most prolific serial killers, with at least 30 women and girls' deaths linked to him across multiple states in the late 1970s.

I reported the teenager's comments for The Associated Press' coverage of Bundy's 1979 murder trial in Miami, the first of two murder trials he would have in Florida. She was just one example of a regular courtroom backdrop of spellbound female spectators who were "attractive, young and single," as I wrote at the time, just like the women Bundy was on trial for bludgeoning and sexually assaulting.

"I haven't lost any sleep about the verdict," a relaxed, self-assured Bundy told me in a jail-cell interview a few days after the jury swiftly convicted him of murdering two Florida State University sorority sisters and assaulting three other young women in Tallahassee.

Nearly 40 years after that trial, and 30 years after his death in Florida's electric chair, Bundy's deadly charm continues to captivate and perplex.

Some reactions to a new Netflix documentary series, "Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes," prompted a Twitter appeal to viewers asking them to chill out about his "alleged hotness," adding there are many other attractive men featured on the streaming service who aren't convicted serial killers. Nearly simultaneously, a movie starring heartthrob Zac Efron as Bundy recently made its debut at the Sundance Film Festival with some criticisms that the film, shot last year in the Cincinnati area, glamorizes the killer. A Vanity Fair reviewer wrote that at times, "the movie feels almost sympathetic to Bundy."

Filmmaker Joe Berlinger, who is the director for both projects, acknowledged in a Salt Lake Tribune interview he had tackled "a very polarizing subject" with Bundy, but insisted there's no glorification. His movie hasn't yet been scheduled for wider release. Efron, by the way, isn't the first hunky actor to play Bundy — Mark Harmon starred in the 1986 TV miniseries "The Deliberate Stranger."

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The July 1979 trial I helped cover was for Bundy's rampage on Jan. 15, 1978, in Tallahassee, Florida. Armed with an oak limb, Bundy left two Chi Omega sorority sisters dead and three other women injured. Less than a month later, on Feb. 9, he abducted, sexually assaulted and killed a 12-year-old girl in Lake City, Florida. She was Bundy's final victim in a gruesome series of attacks that claimed the lives of dozens of women in states from Washington to Florida.

During the trial, I interviewed other young women in Miami who talked about Bundy's handsome looks and expressive eyes, and also the chilling testimony about his crimes. A University of Washington psychiatry professor talked in a telephone interview about him giving women "Dracula shivers."

Jurors deliberated less than seven hours on July 24, 1979, before convicting Bundy, then 32, of the Chi Omega murders. Three days later, I was assigned to go to Dade County Jail and find out what I could about what he was doing, who was visiting him and whether he was causing problems for jailers as he had at times during the trial.

A sergeant noticed I had been waiting for a while and asked who I was there to see. "Ted Bundy," I replied quickly. He took me to a visiting cell where Bundy was meeting with one of his attorneys. The cell door closed behind me. I introduced myself, and it was clear by his grin that Bundy was amused by my audacity.

Despite the attorney's uneasiness about an unplanned interview, I sat while Bundy, unshaved and dressed in jail grays left open at the top, leaned back on his elbows on a bench, and went to work on me.

He told me he was innocent, of course. Repeatedly. So innocent, he explained with that same grin spreading across his face, he wasn't losing any sleep. "I'm not trying to sound callous. ... I'm very confident we have a good appeal."

He professed to be surprised and disappointed by the jury's relatively quick verdict after a five-week trial with complicated forensic evidence. He told me it would take a mind like "William S. Burroughs" to explain it. Not a fan of the Beat generation author he referenced, I didn't get what he meant, other than to show he was well-read.

Bundy expected the death penalty but said he'd be "kind of stupid" to predict what Judge Edward Cowart would decide. He then imitated the judge's drawl: "Ah can only hope that the judge will look at mah case with an open mind."

Bundy had me smiling, and he left me wondering about the contrast between this personable, engaging man across from me and the ruthless killer the jury found him to be.

The next week, Judge Cowart sentenced Bundy to die for "extremely wicked, shockingly evil and vile" crimes — a quote that became the title of the new movie. Yet, as he had throughout the trial, Cowart showed judicial firmness mixed with some homespun warmth toward the former law school student who sometimes insisted on questioning witnesses, raising objections, and disrupting his defense team.

Cowart called him "a bright young man" who could have been a good lawyer, one he would "have loved" to have practice before him. "But you went another way, partner," Cowart said. As deputies prepared to take Bundy away, Cowart added softly: "Take care of yourself," and Bundy thanked him.

Eight years later, I would write an obituary for Cowart, a former police officer turned judge who died at 62. A series of attorneys filed appeal after appeal for Bundy. One blamed the "Bundy mystique" for making it impossible for him to get a fair trial. Several argued he was insane.

Al Carlisle, a Utah State Prison psychologist who had interviewed Bundy extensively, understood the difficulty people had believing that the Bundy they saw could be such a calculating, remorseless killer. The courts ruled Bundy was competent.

He knew what he was doing, Carlisle explained to me years ago. Charm was one of his weapons.

"He believes he's smarter than everybody else and that he's going to play the pieces right, and win the chess game," Carlisle said.

It ended Jan. 24, 1989, in Florida's electric chair after he had ended his denials with sometimes-emotional confessions in his final days.

Hundreds of people, women and men, were thronged outside the prison. But this time, most were there

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to cheer his death.

Sewell, now the AP's Cincinnati correspondent, wrote often in Florida about Bundy in the decade from the Chi Omega murders to the execution.

Follow Dan Sewell at <https://twitter.com/dansewell>

French yellow vest anti-govt protests turn violent in Paris

By THOMAS ADAMSON, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A French yellow vest protester's hand was ripped apart Saturday during violent clashes in Paris as demonstrators tried to storm the French National Assembly in a 13th consecutive week of unrest.

Police said the injured protester lost four fingers as police swooped in to stop protesters from breaching the parliament's exterior. Police could not confirm French media reports that the hand of the demonstrator, who is now being treated in the hospital, was blown up by a grenade used to disperse unruly crowds.

As scuffles broke out in front of the National Assembly and French police responded with tear gas, paramedics huddled around the injured protester at the National Assembly gates.

Police used batons and fired tear gas in Paris to disperse demonstrators, some of whom threw debris at riot police. Cars, motorbikes and trash bins were set ablaze as the protest moved toward the city's Invalides monument and onto the Eiffel Tower.

French Interior Minister Christophe Castaner went to Twitter to express his "disgust" as protesters set alight an anti-terror military car. Its yellow smoking plumes, against the backdrop of the Eiffel Tower, made for a powerful image of rejecting authority.

Such vehicles have been a common sight in Paris since deadly extremist attacks in 2015.

"Every day the military ... protects our compatriots from the risk of terrorism. These attacks are intolerable," Castaner said.

Police said 31 demonstrators had been arrested in the unrest. But France's Interior Ministry said this week's protest was significantly smaller than last week's.

The yellow vest activists, who have brought hundreds of thousands onto the streets over the past three months, are now trying to achieve electoral success but the movement is politically divided and has no appointed leader.

French President Emmanuel Macron — the target of many demonstrators' anger — seems to be clawing back support from the public as he tries to address the movement's anger with a national political debate on economic injustice. Recent polls show Macron's approval ratings are rising.

Earlier Saturday, activists in Latvia staged a picket in front of the French embassy in Riga, the capital of the small Baltic EU country, to support the yellow vest movement and urge Latvians to demand higher living standards.

The activists waved Latvia's red-and-white flag, shouting slogans like "the French have woken up, while Latvians remain asleep."

Jari Tanner in Helsinki contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Feb. 10, the 41st day of 2019. There are 324 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 10, 1962, the Soviet Union exchanged captured American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for Rudolf Abel, a Soviet spy held by the United States.

On this date:

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In 1840, Britain's Queen Victoria married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

In 1841, Upper Canada and Lower Canada were proclaimed united under an Act of Union passed by the British Parliament.

In 1863, showman P.T. Barnum staged the wedding of General Tom Thumb and Mercy Lavinia Warren — both little persons — in New York City.

In 1936, Nazi Germany's Reichstag passed a law investing the Gestapo secret police with absolute authority, exempt from any legal review.

In 1949, Arthur Miller's play "Death of a Salesman" opened at Broadway's Morosco Theater with Lee J. Cobb as Willy Loman.

In 1959, a major tornado tore through the St. Louis area, killing 21 people and causing heavy damage.

In 1967, the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, dealing with presidential disability and succession, was ratified as Minnesota and Nevada adopted it.

In 1968, U.S. figure skater Peggy Fleming, 19, won America's only gold medal of the Winter Olympic Games in Grenoble, France, in the ladies' singles event. (Gabriele Seyfert of East Germany earned the silver medal, Hana Maskova of Czechoslovakia, the bronze.)

In 1981, eight people were killed when a fire set by a busboy broke out at the Las Vegas Hilton hotel-casino.

In 1992, boxer Mike Tyson was convicted in Indianapolis of raping Desiree Washington, a Miss Black America contestant. (Tyson served three years in prison.) Author Alex Haley died in Seattle at age 70.

In 2004, the White House, trying to end doubts about President George W. Bush's Vietnam-era military service, released documents it said proved he had met his requirements in the Texas Air National Guard. Democrat John Kerry won the Virginia and Tennessee primaries.

In 2005, playwright Arthur Miller died in Roxbury, Connecticut, at age 89 on the 56th anniversary of the Broadway opening of "Death of a Salesman."

Ten years ago: The Senate approved President Barack Obama's giant economic stimulus measure. U.S. and Russian communication satellites collided in the first-ever crash of its kind in orbit, shooting out a pair of massive debris clouds. Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni's (TSIH'-pee LIHV'-neez) centrist Kadima Party narrowly won the most seats in Israel's 120-member parliament. (However, it was Benjamin Netanyahu who ended up forming the new Israeli government.)

Five years ago: In Iraq, an instructor teaching his militant recruits how to make car bombs accidentally set off explosives in his demonstration, killing 21 of them in a blast that alerted authorities to the existence of a training camp north of Baghdad. Maria Hoefl-Riesch of Germany won Olympic gold at Sochi in the super-combined less than a second ahead of both silver medalist Nicole Hosp of Austria and Julia Mancuso of the United States, who won the bronze. Actress-turned-diplomat Shirley Temple Black, 85, died at her home near San Francisco.

One year ago: Israel carried out a wave of airstrikes in Syria that were ordered after Israel intercepted an Iranian drone that had infiltrated its airspace; it was the most serious Israeli engagement in Syria since the war erupted there almost seven years earlier. In a tweet that appeared to take aim at the rising #MeToo movement, President Donald Trump wrote that "lives are being shattered and destroyed by a mere allegation;" the tweet came in the aftermath of the resignation of a pivotal aide, Rob Porter, who'd been accused of abusing two ex-wives. The Korean women's hockey team, the first in Olympic history to combine players from the North and South, lost its debut game, 8-0, to Switzerland before a cheering, chanting sellout crowd at the Winter Olympics in South Korea.

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Leontyne Price is 92. Actor Robert Wagner is 89. Rock musician Don Wilson (The Ventures) is 86. Singer Roberta Flack is 82. Singer Jimmy Merchant (Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers) is 79. Movie director Michael Apted is 78. Rock musician Bob Spalding (The Ventures) is 72. Olympic gold-medal swimmer Mark Spitz is 69. Walt Disney Co. chairman and chief executive Robert Iger is 68. Rock musician and composer Cory Lerios (Pablo Cruise) is 68. World Golf Hall of Famer Greg Norman is 64. Actress Kathleen Beller is 63. Country singer Lionel Cartwright is 59. Movie director Alexander Payne is 58. ABC News correspondent George Stephanopoulos is 58. Retired MLB All-Star Lenny Dykstra is 56.

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Political commentator Glenn Beck is 55. Actress Laura Dern is 52. Writer-producer-director Vince Gilligan (TV: "Breaking Bad") is 52. Country singer Dude Mowrey is 47. Actor Jason Olive is 47. Actress Elizabeth Banks is 45. Pop singer Rosanna Taverz (Eden's Crush) is 42. Actress Julia Pace Mitchell is 41. Reggaeton singer Don Omar is 41. Country musician Jeremy Baxter (Carolina Rain) is 39. Actress Uzo Aduba is 38. Actress Stephanie Beatriz is 38. Actor Max Brown is 38. Actor Barry Sloane is 38. Rock singer Eric Dill is 37. Rock musician Ben Romans (The Click Five) is 37. Actor Trevante Rhodes is 29. Actress Emma Roberts is 28. Actress Makenzie Vega is 25. Actress Chloe Grace Moretz is 22. Actress Yara Shahidi is 19.

Thought for Today: "Morality is moral only when it is voluntary." — Lincoln Steffens, American journalist (1866-1936).