

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 218 ~ 1 of 56

Groton Area Schedule of Events

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

GBB Game with Webster Area was postponed to Feb. 22 in Groton.

1- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ad

1- Tunheim celebrate is Saturday

2- Three grapplers place at Howard Tourney

3- C&MA members pack KAH Meals

3- Clark named to USF Dean's List

3- Bowling Scores

4- Weekly Vikings Roundup

5-G-Force Seeded Number 1 going into Elimination at Patriots Last Chance Robotics Tournament

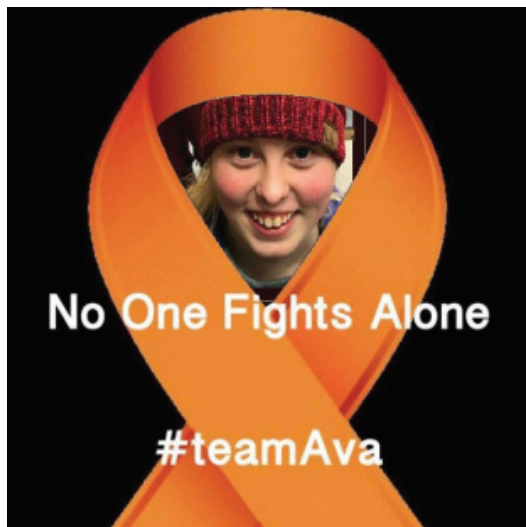
6- Today in Weather History

7- Weather Pages

9- Daily Devotional

10- 2019 Groton Events

11- News from the Associated Press



Ava's celebration of life will be on Saturday at 3pm at the Groton High School Gym

HELP WANTED

Director of Nursing



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

Contact Brynn Pickrel



GROTON

CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

1106 North Second Street
605.397.2365

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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OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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Three grapplers place at Howard Tourney

Groton Area placed three wrestlers at the Howard Invitational held Saturday. Wyatt Locke placed first at 285 pounds, Grady O'Neill placed second at 195 pounds and Dragr Monson placed third at 113 pounds.

113: Champ. Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) received a bye

- Dragr Monson (Groton Area) over Forfeit Forfeit (Mt. Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica-Stickney) (For.)

Semifinals - Lane Miller (Howard) over Dragr Monson (Groton Area) (Fall 3:11)

Cons. Semis - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) over Logan Buseman (Parker) (TF 17-2 3:00)

3rd Place Match - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) over Griffin Tobin (Mt. Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica-Stickney) (Fall 2:51)

152: Champ. Round 1 - Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) received a bye

Quarterfinals - Daniel Cremer (Marion/Freeman) over Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) (Fall 1:17)

Cons. Round 2 - Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) received a bye

Cons. Round 3 - Beau Williams (Canton) over Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) (Fall 2:34)

160: Champ. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) received a bye

Quarterfinals - Logan Schlim (Howard) over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) (Fall 3:43)

Cons. Round 2 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) received a bye

Cons. Round 3 - Reece Risseeuw (Mt. Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica-Stickney) over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) (MD 9-0)

160: Champ. Round 1 - Evin Nehls (Groton Area) received a bye

Quarterfinals - Charlie Patten (Parker) over Evin Nehls (Groton Area) (Fall 0:31)

Cons. Round 2 - Evin Nehls (Groton Area) received a bye

Cons. Round 3 - Jayden Lemons (Marion/Freeman) over Evin Nehls (Groton Area) (Fall 4:11)

170: Champ. Round 1 - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) over Forfeit Forfeit (Canton) (For.)

Quarterfinals - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) over Gabriel Turpin (Howard) (Fall 2:30)

Semifinals - Gage Carter (Faulkton Area) over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) (Fall 1:22)

Cons. Semis - Cole Pranger (Mt. Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica-Stickney) over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) (Fall 3:22)

195: Champ. Round 1 - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) received a bye

Quarterfinals - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) received a bye

Semifinals - Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) over Levi Wieman (Parker) (Fall 0:32)

1st Place Match - Elijah Isais (Canton) over Grady O'Neill (Groton Area) (MD 11-2)

285: Champ. Round 1 - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) received a bye

Quarterfinals - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) over Quinn Ashes (Andes Central/Dakota Christian) (Fall 0:29)

Semifinals - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) over Kellen Cassidy (Mt. Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica-Stickney) (Fall 1:02)

1st Place Match - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) over Dylan Endres (Stanley County) (Fall 1:56)

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Members of the Groton C&MA Church helped pack boxes for Kids Against Hunger in Aberdeen on Sunday. They packed 8,640 meals. (Photo from Kids Against Hunger - Aberdeen Facebook Page)

Clark named to USF Dean's List

SIOUX FALLS, South Dakota—The University of Sioux Falls has released its Dean's List for fall semester 2018, and over 500 students made the list. To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must achieve a semester grade point average of 3.5 or greater on a 4.0 scale.

The following local student(s) made the Fall Semester 2018 USF Dean's List:

Kennedy Clark, Senior, Elementary Education Groton, South Dakota

The University of Sioux Falls is a transformative university committed to academic excellence and celebration of the Christian faith. USF offers more than 90 undergraduate programs and adult and graduate offerings in business, degree completion, education and nursing, as well as the Center for Professional Development. For more information about USF, visit www.usiouxfalls.edu or call 605-331-5000.

Groton Coffee Cup League

Feb. 12 Team Standings: Kens Fairway 19, James Valley 18, Biker Chix 16, Ten Pins 11

High Games: Myrna Stange 164, Nancy Radke 164, LaVonne Raap 157, Mary Jane Jark 156, Vickie Kramp 156

High Series: Vickie Kramp 433, Sam Bahr 427, Vicki Walter 422

Conde National league

Feb. 11 Team Standings: Pirates 17½, Cubs 15, Tigers 15, Braves 13½, Mets 12, Giants 11.

Men's High Games: Ron Beldon 225, Troy Lindberg 189, Larry Frohling 188.

Men's High Series: Ron Beldon 523, Troy Lindberg 508, Larry Frohling 506.

Women's High Games: Vickie Kramp 196, Sandy Hoops 174, Michelle Johnson 171.

Women's High Series: Vickie Kramp 484, Sandy Hoops 453, Alice Severson 440.

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The 2018 NFL season is officially behind us. After making the NFC Championship game after the 2017 season and signing the best quarterback available in free agency last offseason, the Minnesota Vikings went into the season with lofty expectations. It's safe to say the team failed to meet those expectations in nearly every way.

Now that the season is over, it's time to take a look at the Vikings' roster from 2018. We'll break down each position, with an emphasis on how the players performed in relation to the rest of the league – as well as the contract situation for each player. Today we start with the most important position in the NFL: quarterback.

Last offseason, the Vikings' quarterback position was the talk of every major news outlet in the country. Coming off an NFC Championship appearance, the Vikings were able to "upgrade" the position in order to get over the hump and hopefully make it to the Super Bowl. While it's true the Vikings' passing stats took a step forward, the question remains if the Vikings got what they paid for.

Kirk Cousins was signed by the Vikings last offseason. The veteran signal caller started all 16 games for the Vikings, finishing the season with 4,298 yards (10th in the league), 30 touchdowns (9th) and 10 interceptions (11th in the league among QBs with at least 200 pass attempts). Cousins also added 123 yards and a touchdown on the ground, while also fumbling the ball four times.

Cousins is under contract for two more seasons, with a cap hit of \$29 million for 2019 and \$31 million for 2020. Cousins' entire contract was fully guaranteed, which means if the Vikings cut him this offseason, they would still owe him \$60 million (so don't expect him to be going anywhere this year or next).

Sitting behind Cousins on the depth chart is apparently a lucrative position, since no other quarterback threw a pass for the Vikings in 2018.

The Vikings' backup last season was Trevor Siemian. The Denver Broncos took Siemian in the seventh round of the 2015 draft and traded him to the Vikings last offseason. He made nearly \$2 million to sit on the bench in 2018 and will be an unrestricted free agent this offseason. He is still relatively young, and the Vikings got a good look at him for a year, so it will be interesting to see if the team liked him enough to bring him back as their backup.

The only other quarterback on the Vikings' roster going into 2019, besides Kirk Cousins, is Kyle Slotter – an undrafted rookie in 2017 who originally signed with the Broncos before being cut and winding up with the Vikings. Slotter is on the final year of his deal and is set to make \$645,000 this season. The Vikings have thought highly enough to keep him around, but the real question is whether he can improve his game enough to make the Vikings comfortable keeping him as the backup, or if he will forever remain a third-string quarterback.

That does it for our quarterback breakdown, but make sure to check back next week as we take a look at the running back position. And as always, if you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL). Skol!

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G-Force Seeded Number 1 going into Elimination at Patriots Last Chance Robotics Tournament

Groton Robotics' G-Force team (Travis Townsend, Tannor McGannon, Dan Feist) came back after losing their first match of the day to be in first place at the end of the qualifying matches at the Patriots Last Chance Meet, Saturday in Box Elder. Travis and his team came back by spending a lot of time at the practice field making adjustments to their robot and its programming. Their hard work is what made this happen.

"I should have not said anything about a Groton team being in the championship match of every tournament, because this time we failed, said Jim Lane, Groton's robotics coach. G-Force and their Geek Squad (Steven Paulson, Lee Iverson, Isaac Smith, Nick Morris) alliance were defeated in their quarter final match. The other teams also did not fare well in the first matches of the elimination rounds; all the Groton teams were defeated in the first matches of elimination.

"Speaking of working, G.A.T. Wrenches was missing their team captain, Noah Tullis, but I was proud to see the present team members (Corbin Reich, Adrian Knutson) working hard to repair the small mechanical problems that haunted them all day" said Jim Lane. "From our conversations after the tournament, I know each teams is already has plans for what they need to work on for the state tournament in Harrisburg February 23."

The trip home was a new adventure for GT Robotics. Lane said, "We often have snow or less than great driving conditions, but this trip brought a new challenge. We blew a tire on the bus. Fortunately, it was one of the duals and we were able to limp into Kadoka. There, thanks to the mutual aid agreement of the Associated School Boards and some great people of the Kadoka school district and Loren Bahr of Groton Area, we were able to make the rest of the trip home in a Kadoka bus. Thank you, Kadoka, and the Associated School Boards for the mutual aid program."

Results from the Groton competition for all five of GT Robotics' teams are below, along with results for this year's prior tournaments.

Rankings of GT Robotics teams at the end of qualifying rounds for the tournaments

Tournament	Location	Groton	Mitchell	Harrisburg	Rapid City	Canton	Groton	Box Elder
	Number of teams in	11	23	24	20	16	13	26
	Tourney and date	Oct 20	Nov 3	Nov 17	Dec 8	Jan 5	Jan 19	Feb 9
9050A	G-Force	2	22	7	3	2	3	1
9050B	Gear Heads	10	19	6	9	16	4	12
9050C	G.A.T. Wrenches	11	16	2	n/a	3	1	22
9050D	Geek Squad	7	18	15	17	15	9	19
9050E	Galaxy	5	3	19	13	12	11	14

How far did GT Robotics team get in elimination rounds (playoffs)?

Tournament	Groton	Mitchell	Harrisburg	Rapid City	Canton	Groton	Box Elder
9050A	Champion		Champion	Finals	Finals	Champion	Quarter
9050B		Quarter	Quarter	Semi	Semi	Finals	
9050C	Finals	Semi	Finals	n/a	Finals	Champion	
9050D	Semi	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter
9050E	Semi	Finals	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Semi	

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Today in Weather History

February 13, 1995: Snow fell over a broad strip from southwest to northeast South Dakota. The snow began as freezing rain in the northeast, and there were several vehicle accidents attributed to the icing. The most substantial snow was at Custer in the Black Hills with 14 inches. A few amounts of six to eight inches were reported over the plains of the southwest, central, and northeast South Dakota. Strong winds caused some blowing and drifting snow in northeastern South Dakota.

1905: Freezing temperatures were recorded over the states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri. Morning lows of 29 degrees below zero at Gravette, Arkansas, 40 below at Lebanon Kansas, and 40 below at Warsaw Missouri established all-time records for those three states.

The low temperature at Vinita, Oklahoma plummeted to 27 degrees below zero. This temperature would be tied in the city of Watts in January 1930, and at Blackwell and Medford in February 2011. The negative 27-degree reading is cold enough to be the 2nd lowest temperature on record in Oklahoma. The coldest is 31 degrees below zero, recorded at Nowata on February 10th, 2011.

1958: Tallahassee, Florida recorded their most substantial snowfall on record with close to 3 inches.

1995: A National Weather Service Survey Team concluded a weak (F1) tornado occurred at the General Motors Desert Proving Grounds facility in Mesa Arizona. Moderate damage was observed. A roof was damaged, and about 20 vehicles were damaged and moved around. One car was lifted, moved several feet, and set down inside a roped off area containing solar exposure equipment. The tornado traveled northeast and lasted about five minutes.

2000: Late in the day and into the early morning hours of the 14th, severe thunderstorms spawned six tornadoes over southwestern Georgia that killed 19, injured 202, and caused \$35 million dollars in damages. An F3 tornado hit southern Camilla, killing 11 and injuring 175 in the town.

1784 - Ice floes blocked the Mississippi River at New Orleans, then passed into the Gulf of Mexico. The only other time this occurred was during the "Great Arctic Outbreak" of 1899. (David Ludlum)

1885 - The "Friday the 13th" avalanche at Alva, UT, killed sixteen persons, and left thirteen others buried for twelve hours before being rescued. (David Ludlum)

1889 - It was the coldest morning of record along the Gulf Coast. The temperature dipped to 7 above zero at New Orleans LA and Pensacola FL, and plunged to -1 degree at Mobile AL. The mercury dipped to -2 degrees at Tallahassee, the coldest reading of record for the state of Florida. (David Ludlum)

1905 - Morning lows of -29 degrees at Pond AR, -40 degrees at Lebanon KS, and -40 degrees at Warsaw MO established all-time records for those three states. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A storm in the western U.S. produced heavy rain over central California. Chews Ridge reported nearly eleven inches of rain in 24 hours, and extensive flooding occurred in San Benito County. The Mount Rose ski resort in Nevada experienced a "white-out" with 60 mph winds and 36 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Strong winds in the wake of a storm in the northeastern U.S., gusting to 60 mph at Oswego NY, produced six foot snow drifts in northeastern Ohio. High winds in the mountains of Utah, gusting to 106 mph at the Snowbird ski resort, contributed to a forty car pile-up on Interstate 15, near the town of Bluffdale. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms produced locally heavy rain and flash flooding from central Texas to western Pennsylvania. Up to ten inches of rain deluged western Kentucky in two days, with five day totals ranging up to 13.16 inches at Gilbertsville Dam KY. Flooding caused tens of millions of dollars damage, including 18 million dollars damage at Frankfort KY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - A slow moving cold front brought heavy snow to Utah, Colorado and Wyoming. Big Horn WY reported 15 inches of snow, and up to 22 inches was reported in Utah. In Colorado, 8 to 12 inches of snow fell over the northwest suburbs of Denver, while 16 to 22 inches was reported in the high mountain elevations west of Fort Collins. Strong winds accompanied the heavy snow, and bitter cold weather followed in its wake. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today



Increasing
Clouds

High: 15 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 3 °F

Thursday



Patchy
Blowing Snow
and Blustery

High: 6 °F

Thursday
Night



Mostly Clear

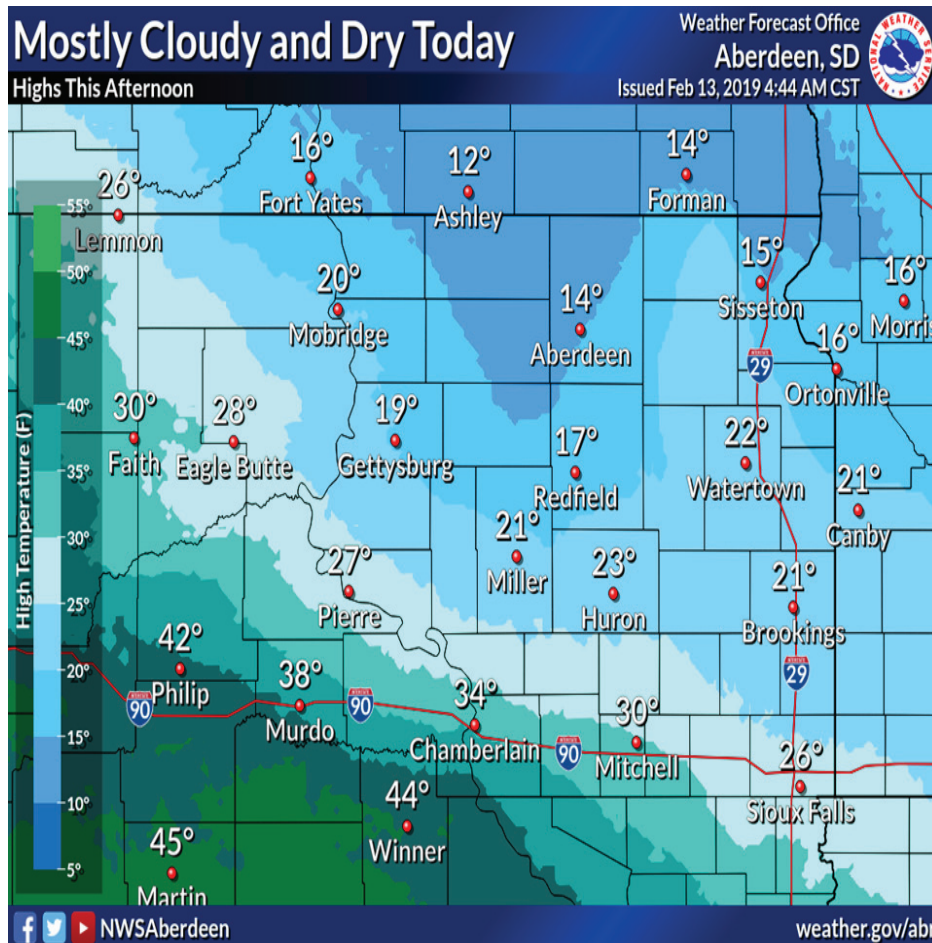
Low: -17 °F

Friday



Cold

High: 3 °F



Published on: 02/13/2019 at 5:17AM

Mostly cloudy and dry today across the region with highs mainly in the teens and 20s. Southwest South Dakota will see 30s and 40s.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 17 °F at 12:00 AM

Low Outside Temp: -12 °F at 9:55 PM

High Gust: 21 mph at 3:35 PM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 60° in 1901

Record Low: -34° in 1905

Average High: 27°F

Average Low: 6°F

Average Precip in Feb.: 0.19

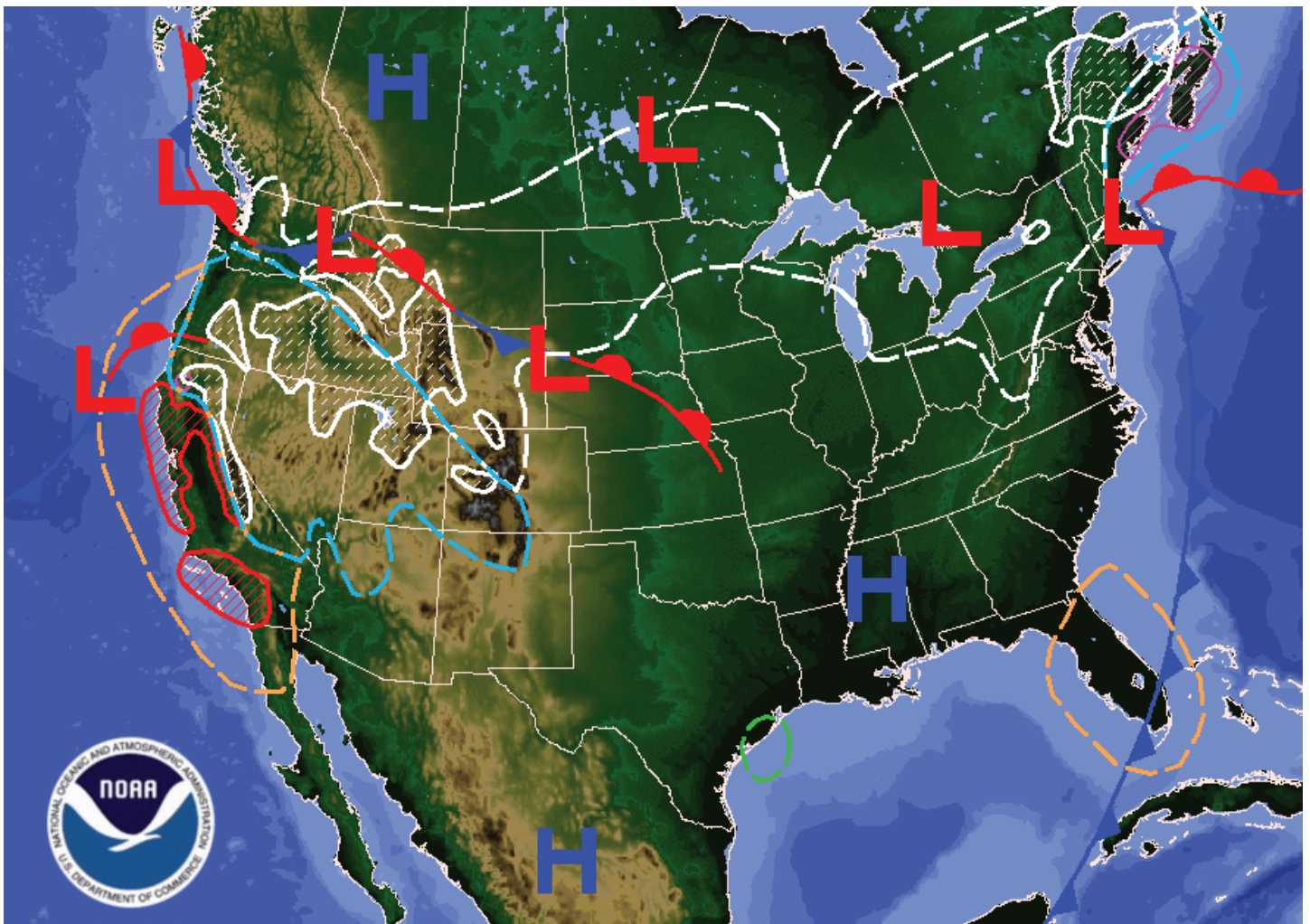
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.66

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:58 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:37 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Feb 13, 2019, issued 4:46 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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



WHOS SIMPLE?

God gives prudence to the simple? Who are the simple ones, and what does prudence mean? And, if I'm not simple, do I need prudence? asked a student in rapid succession. Trying to answer him while the class listened carefully was very important to me. I didn't want them to think I didn't know what I had been talking about.

Solomon was not being smug, or putting anyone down, or ridiculing them, or being sarcastic. He was too wise to do that. He was being compassionate and giving a warning to those who are easily led or gullible. There are times when all of us fall into one of those two categories: following the wrong leader or not thinking things through carefully.

And the word, simple, as used here, refers to people who are aimless, or inexperienced, who allow themselves to drift into temptation. They are unaware of what is going on around them, and, unfortunately, do not care to do anything about it. People in this condition are easily led astray because they have no interest in doing what is good for themselves, nor what the right thing to do might be. Honoring God is of no concern to them when faced with temptation. The simple refuse to accept God's wisdom as a guide for their lives and even refuse to hear and accept His guidance because they refuse to honor Him.

But, because of His love and grace, God continually reaches out to them, wanting to impart His wisdom to them. First, however, they must accept Him as Savior and enthrone Him as Lord.

God's wisdom is available to those who hear and respect Him. Never forget that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Those who do not hear and fear Him will remain simple.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for reaching out to us in love, and wanting us to have Your wisdom to guide us each day. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 1:4 For giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young.

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

Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Christian 56, Langford 40
Alcester-Hudson 57, Centerville 45
Bon Homme 51, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 50
Brandon Valley 76, Harrisburg 50
Bridgewater-Emery 71, Irene-Wakonda 58
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 75, St. Francis Indian 39
Colome 63, Burke 35
Corsica/Stickney 58, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 50
Freeman 64, Ethan 53
Hanson 85, Avon 56
Hitchcock-Tulare 41, Iroquois 37
Kimball/White Lake 62, Wessington Springs 37
Lennox 71, Beresford 42
Lusk, Wyo. 67, Edgemont 55
Lyman 62, Gregory 56
Napoleon/Gackle-Streeter, N.D. 60, Herreid/Selby Area 53
New England, N.D. 67, Harding County 57
Northwestern 68, Redfield/Doland 62
Pine Ridge 76, Little Wound 75
Red Cloud 58, Douglas 45
Sioux City, West, Iowa 93, Dakota Valley 67
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 56, Mitchell 54
Sioux Valley 72, Castlewood 52
St. Thomas More 78, Hot Springs 65
Stanley County 61, Mobridge-Pollock 42
Sturgis Brown 58, Belle Fourche 22
Sully Buttes 70, Sunshine Bible Academy 56
Vermillion 79, Wagner 43
Viborg-Hurley 55, Menno 35
Wall 71, Oelrichs 66
Winner 66, Platte-Geddes 54

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Brookings vs. Huron, ppd.
Sisseton vs. Dell Rapids, ccd.

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Alcester-Hudson 40, Centerville 31
Belle Fourche 62, Sturgis Brown 54
Beresford 55, Lennox 42
Canistota 57, Scotland 28
Castlewood 60, Sioux Valley 27
Chester 49, Arlington 27
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 70, Bennett County 34
Corsica/Stickney 61, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 34

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Crazy Horse 56, Tiospaye Topa 43
Edgemont 42, Hot Springs 35
Ethan 50, Freeman 31
Faith 52, Philip 39
Freeman Academy/Marion 37, Marty Indian 35
Garretson 64, Parker 45
Hill City 51, Custer 39
Hitchcock-Tulare 58, Iroquois 25
Irene-Wakonda 46, Bridgewater-Emery 41
Kimball/White Lake 49, Wessington Springs 14
Langford 46, Aberdeen Christian 12
Leola/Frederick 41, James Valley Christian 39
Lower Brule 68, Crow Creek 50
Menno 53, Viborg-Hurley 34
Mitchell 67, Pierre 45
Mitchell Christian 47, Wolsey-Wessington 30
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 54, Bon Homme 30
New Underwood 42, Newell 37
Redfield/Doland 45, Northwestern 43
St. Thomas More 64, Douglas 56
Sully Buttes 61, Sunshine Bible Academy 32
Todd County 70, Little Wound 69
Vermillion 73, Wagner 31
Wall 49, Oelrichs 22
Winner 70, Platte-Geddes 45
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS
Huron vs. Brookings, ppd.
Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta, Minn. vs. Milbank, ccd.
Webster Area at Groton Area, PPD to Feb. 22

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

15-32-39-50-65, Mega Ball: 7, Megaplier: 3

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

Estimated jackpot: \$173 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$242 million

Another blast of winter makes travel tough in Upper Midwest

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Unrelenting winter weather again made travel difficult in the Upper Midwest Tuesday, causing highway spinouts, hundreds of school closings and some grounded flights. At least two deaths were linked to the frigid, snowy weather.

The latest winter storm was stressing already weary plow drivers who worked to keep up with the ac-

cumulating snow. Up to a foot of new snow was expected in Wisconsin, where a winter storm warning was posted for most of the state.

Schools across the state canceled classes, including the districts of Milwaukee, La Crosse, Wausau, Madison and Waukesha. For some districts, it was the fifth day in two weeks that classes were canceled because of the snow or dangerously cold temperatures.

The snow grounded at least 10 flights Tuesday morning at Dane County Regional Airport.

In Sioux Falls, South Dakota, a man found dead under a downtown bridge may have died from the frigid weather, police said. The man was discovered just before 7 a.m. Tuesday, police spokesman Officer Sam Clemens said. The National Weather Service says the temperature in Sioux Falls was 12 degrees (minus 11 Celsius) around the time the man was found.

In Milwaukee, the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office said a 62-year-old man collapsed and died while shoveling snow Tuesday.

The National Weather Service says wind gusts of up to 30 mph reduced visibility and created dangerous travel conditions for motorists who decided to venture out.

In North Dakota, 16 head of cattle were killed when a semi driver hauling the livestock was blinded by blowing snow from a passing truck, hit an embankment and rolled over Monday afternoon. The Highway Patrol says the driver suffered minor injuries. About five dozen head of cattle survived the crash.

The Minnesota State Patrol was dealing with numerous crashes and spinouts around the state. Patrol Sgt. Jesse Grabow says three children were in a minivan that rolled over on Interstate 94 near Rothsay Tuesday. Grabow says the children were properly restrained and were not hurt.

A winter storm warning was also posted for southeastern Minnesota until midnight. Rochester schools were among districts that canceled classes Tuesday. St. Paul public schools canceled most after-school activities. Both Minneapolis and St. Paul declared snow emergencies beginning at 9 p.m., triggering parking restrictions.

Former tribal official sentenced to life for child sex abuse

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — A former Yankton Sioux tribal official has been sentenced to life in federal prison after being convicted of child sexual abuse over a span of more than a decade.

The U.S. Attorney's office says 55-year-old Quentin Bruguier of Lake Andes was sentenced Monday to 12 concurrent life sentences. Bruguier also received three concurrent 10-year prison terms.

Prosecutors say Bruguier used fear or force to engage in sexual acts with children between 1992 and 2016. He was convicted in November of 15 counts of sexual abuse offenses involving children.

Bruguier also was ordered to pay \$1,500 to the Federal Crime Victims Fund.

South Dakota House OKs limits on teaching gender dysphoria

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota representatives approved a bill Tuesday that would prohibit public school instruction about gender dysphoria through seventh grade.

The House voted 39-30 to send the measure to the state Senate. Republican Rep. Tom Pischke, the sponsor, said the intent of the measure is to make sure that public schools are not "teaching and confusing our young children to be more susceptible to this dysphoria."

People with gender dysphoria suffer discomfort or distress due to the discrepancy between their gender identity and gender at birth. Democratic Rep. Kelly Sullivan said legislation that targets transgender kids amounts to discrimination.

"This bill would be discriminatory," Sullivan said. "I think we are better than this as lawmakers. I know that South Dakota is better than this. We have to stop searching for a solution to a problem that does not exist."

Libby Skarin, policy director at the ACLU of South Dakota, said in a statement that the measure is fueled

by "fear and misunderstanding of transgender youth in our state." The measure reinforces the false notion that transgender students aren't "entitled to the same dignity and respect as all students," Skarin said.

The measure originally sought to ban teaching about gender identity or expression, but was changed in a House panel last week. A similar proposal was scuttled last year.

Republican Rep. Fred Deutsch, a bill supporter who proposed an unsuccessful measure in 2016 to restrict the bathrooms transgender students could use, said children who have psychological conditions, including gender dysphoria, need compassion and respect. But he said it's vital that "we protect our children that we're sending to public schools from the influences of other children that are suffering with different disorders."

"I don't want my grandchildren going to kindergarten and being confused if they're a boy or a girl," he said. "Treat our children with respect, all of them, but let's not subject them to notions of fancy."

Republican Rep. Taffy Howard said supporters want educators to do their jobs: teach reading, writing and arithmetic.

South Dakota this year has introduced four "anti-trans" bills, more than any other state, said Cathryn Oakley, state legislative director and senior counsel at the Human Rights Campaign. Oakley said it's not really clear what the gender dysphoria bill would do, "other than truly stigmatize" transgender children and imply that they can be taught to be transgender.

"(The bill), in specifically calling out gender dysphoria, is unique among the laws that limit instruction on LGBTQ issues and is unlike anything else that we've seen introduced this year or even last," Oakley said.

A Senate panel in January voted down a bill that would have voided an activities association policy allowing transgender students request to participate on the athletic team that matches their gender identity. A similar measure is awaiting a hearing in the House.

A House committee last week rejected a measure that said a parent can refuse consent to health care treatments for a minor child if the parent thought it would induce, confirm or promote the child's belief that their gender identity is different than their sex at birth.

South Dakota group wants to rescind Wounded Knee medals

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota group is pushing to rescind medals awarded for the Wounded Knee Massacre because of a tweet by President Donald Trump.

Four Directions Inc. sent letters last week to Trump and other federal officials, asking for the removal of 20 medals awarded to soldiers who took part in the 1890 massacre that killed an estimated 250 Native Americans, including many women and children.

The Rapid City Journal reports the group wants language rescinding the medals included in the next National Defense Authorization Act.

Trump made light of the Wounded Knee massacre in a tweet last month mocking a video by Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Democratic presidential hopeful Trump has mocked for her claim to Native American ancestry.

South Dakota's congressional delegation has criticized the Trump tweet.

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

North Dakota to sue feds over pipeline protest police costs

By BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota will sue the federal government to try to recoup the \$38 million it spent policing the prolonged protests against the Dakota Access oil pipeline — a tactic one expert believes has little chance of success.

The Army Corps of Engineers didn't respond to an administrative claim filed last July, so a lawsuit is the next step, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem said Tuesday. He didn't have an estimate on the cost, which will be funded either through his department's existing budget or through a state fund set up for such litigation.

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Justice Department spokesman Wyn Hornbuckle declined comment.

Thousands of opponents of the \$3.8 billion pipeline that's been moving North Dakota oil to Illinois since June 2017 gathered in southern North Dakota in 2016 and early 2017, camping on federal land and often clashing with police, resulting in 761 arrests over six months.

North Dakota contends the Corps allowed protesters to illegally camp without a federal permit. The Corps has said protesters weren't evicted due to free speech reasons.

University of St. Thomas law professor Gregory Sisk, an expert on civil litigation with the federal government, considers North Dakota's case "a long shot." He said lawsuits that essentially allege the government failed at its job typically don't succeed, and he gives North Dakota "a 1 in 10 chance."

Stenehjem said he thinks the state has "a solid claim." He said he heard similar skepticism when the state sued Minnesota several years ago over a law that impacted North Dakota electricity exports, and "we won."

President Donald Trump last year denied a state-requested disaster declaration to cover the state's costs. The Justice Department eventually did give the state a \$10 million grant for policing-related bills. Texas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners chipped in \$15 million.

Stenehjem maintains the \$25 million doesn't impact the federal government's responsibility for the \$38 million total cost. He said it's up to the Corps to prove that it deserves an offset for the Justice Department grant, and that "the federal government is not entitled to take advantage of a donation from a private party."

Stenehjem said the state would be open to settlement talks, but Sisk questions if the Corps will be willing to negotiate because it could set a bad precedent for the agency.

Any money the state gets for protest policing costs, donated or otherwise, goes toward compensating agencies that paid out money and repaying money borrowed from the state-owned Bank of North Dakota, with any extra going into the state's general fund, according to Stenehjem.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

Senate panel passes bill on missing, slain indigenous women

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota bill that would direct state authorities to prepare guidelines for the reporting and investigation of missing and murdered indigenous women is headed to the Senate floor.

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted unanimously Tuesday to endorse the bill. It would also mandate that the Division of Criminal Investigation establish training programs for law enforcement on conducting investigations into missing and slain Native American women.

Republican Rep. Tamara St. John, a member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, said the goal of the measure she's co-sponsoring is to put a large spotlight on the issue. She said the data is important so that "we really know what we're dealing with nationally."

"It's been something that's been talked about for a really long time," St. John said after the hearing. "You can just imagine what it feels like to not know what happened to your loved one."

GOP Sen. Lynne DiSanto, the measure's Senate sponsor, said it's meant to work toward getting consistent and accurate data in a complicated system of jurisdictions. South Dakota is an area of focus because of factors that include the Interstate 90 corridor, so-called man camps around pipeline construction and the proximity of multiple Native American reservations, she said.

St. John said the measure is also a response to the stalling out last year of a federal bill intended to help solve crimes against Native Americans. The measure, Savanna's Act, received unanimous Senate approval after being introduced by former North Dakota Sen. Heidi Heitkamp but was blocked by the outgoing chairman of the U.S. House Judiciary Committee.

Senate panel OKs campus carry despite higher ed opposition

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota public universities and technical schools would be barred from restricting people's ability to carry guns on campus under a bill approved Tuesday by a state Senate panel.

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted 4-3 to advance the bill to the floor despite opposition from student officials, the Board of Regents and the Board of Technical Education. Jordan Mason, political director at South Dakota Gun Owners, said the bill would give students a "fighting chance to defend themselves."

But University of South Dakota President Sheila Gestring said she's worried freely allowing guns on campus would hurt the campus climate and the community's safety. Regents' policy prohibits firearms on campus with some exceptions.

"Not only could allowing guns on campus make our students, staff and faculty fearful of coming to campus to learn and to work, but it could also result in injuries and deaths for our campus community," Gestring said. "Allowing guns in an environment where depression and drinking are common could have unintended consequences."

The move could also hurt the university's ability to draw high-profile events such as NCAA Championships, Gestring said.

South Dakota State University Students' Association Government Affairs Chair Cole McDougall said students overwhelmingly believe firearms have no place in a higher education setting. Paul Beran, chief executive officer and executive director of the Board of Regents, said university campuses are "incredibly safe," a situation that wouldn't be improved by the addition of guns.

"This is an idea borne of a really good intention, of an intention to want to make campus safer, to give students autonomy in their own safety," Beran said. "A lot of really well-intentioned ideas are bad ideas, and this particular idea is a bad idea."

Such legislation has failed previously at the Capitol. But Republican Sen. Stace Nelson, a bill co-sponsor, said gun-free zones don't work.

"The right to bear arms is a right. It's not a theory," he said. "You don't have a right to disarm your fellow South Dakotans."

State lawmakers have approved gun-rights legislation this year. Republican Gov. Kristi Noem last month signed into law a measure allowing people to carry concealed pistols without a permit in South Dakota.

South Dakota winter wheat acres down 4 percent

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's winter wheat crop is a bit smaller than it was a year ago.

The federal Agriculture Department says South Dakota farmers last fall planted 800,000 acres of the crop, down 4 percent from 830,000 acres the previous year.

Winter wheat goes dormant over the winter, then begins growing again in the spring and is harvested in the summer.

Nationally, farmers planted 31.3 million acres of winter wheat, down 4 percent and the second-lowest U.S. acreage on record.

Woman injured when stray bullet pierces bathroom mirror

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police say a Sioux Falls woman was injured when a bullet was accidentally shot through a wall from a neighboring apartment.

Authorities say the 27-year-old woman was standing in front of her bathroom mirror when the bullet came through the mirror Sunday. Police weren't sure whether the woman was grazed by the bullet or was injured by the shattered mirror. But, she's expected to be OK.

The Argus Leader reports the neighbor says he was cleaning his gun when it accidentally fired. He's not expected to face charges.

US, China envoys hold talks before Trump tariff decision

By **JOE McDONALD** and **PAUL WISEMAN**, AP Business Writers

BEIJING (AP) — U.S. and Chinese trade negotiators are meeting this week for talks President Donald Trump says will help decide whether he escalates a technology dispute by going ahead with a March 2 tariff hike on \$200 billion of imports from China.

Two days of talks starting Thursday allow too little time to resolve the war over Beijing's technology ambitions that threatens to drag on weakening global economic growth, businesspeople and economists say. They believe China's goal is to make enough progress to persuade Trump to extend his deadline.

There are few signs of movement on the thorniest issue: Washington's demand that Beijing scale back its efforts to nurture world leaders in robotics and other technologies. China's trading partners say the state support for industries violates Beijing's market-opening obligations and some American officials worry they might erode U.S. industrial leadership.

This week, Beijing wants "to see the threat of additional tariff imposition being removed for as long as possible," with minimal conditions attached, said Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics.

Trump's December agreement to postpone more tariff hikes while the two sides negotiate expires March 1. The following day, a 10 percent tariff imposed in July on \$200 billion of Chinese imports would rise to 25 percent.

On Tuesday, Trump said while he is not inclined to extend the March 2 deadline, he might let it "slide for a little while" if talks go well. Earlier, the White House called March 2 a "hard deadline."

Companies on both sides have been battered by Washington's tariffs and retaliatory duties imposed by the government of Chinese President Xi Jinping. The stakes are rising as global economic growth cools.

Trump hiked tariffs on Chinese goods over complaints Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology. The dispute has spread to include Chinese industry development plans, cyberspying and the countries' lopsided trade balance.

Chinese leaders have offered to narrow their multibillion-dollar trade surplus with the United States. But they have balked at making major changes in development plans they see as a path to prosperity and more global influence.

"China will continue resisting U.S. demands in certain areas, such as changes to its industrial strategy and the role of the state in its economy," said Eswar Prasad, a Cornell University economist who was head of the China division at the International Monetary Fund.

Chinese officials reject complaints that foreign companies are required to hand over technology. But business groups and foreign governments point to rules they say compel companies to disclose trade secrets or share technology with state-owned local partners.

Chinese officials also are balking at U.S. pressure to accept an enforcement mechanism to monitor whether Beijing carries out its promises, said Kuijs.

"They feel that it is humiliating for China," he said.

The U.S. delegation is led by Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, who has said his priority is Chinese industrial policy. He is accompanied by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

The Chinese side is led by Vice Premier Liu He, Xi's top economic adviser. It will be his second meeting with Lighthizer following last month's talks in Washington.

Business groups and economists say the decision by the top trade envoys to participate suggests the talks might be making enough progress to require higher-level political decisions.

Their deputies have met since Monday to make preparations. On the American side, that includes Jeffrey Gerrish, a deputy trade representative, and David Malpass, a Treasury undersecretary who is Trump's nominee for World Bank president.

Even if negotiators produce an agreement, it run might into opposition from within the Trump administration, Prasad said.

"The hardliners seem loath to settle for a deal that represents anything less than total capitulation by China on all U.S. demands," he said.

Beijing has tried to deflect pressure by emphasizing China's growth as an export market. It has announced a series of changes over the past year to open finance and other fields, including allowing full foreign ownership in its auto industry for the first time.

Regulators have announced plans to improve protection of foreign patents and copyrights. But it is unclear whether that will satisfy Washington and other governments that complain the system is designed to extract technology from foreign companies and to use official industrial standards to shield Chinese enterprises from competition.

"There's been notably less progress" around such issues, said Jeremie Waterman, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's China Center and a former U.S. trade official.

Negotiators have said any final agreement will have to be made by Trump and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping. Trump said last week they plan to meet, but not before the March 1 deadline.

"When the time is right, the hope would be that the personal chemistry that exists (between Trump and Xi) will pay dividends," said Erin Ennis, senior vice president at the U.S.-China Business Council.

The Hong Kong newspaper The South China Morning Post reported Monday the meeting could take place in late March on the southern Chinese island of Hainan.

Other possible sites include Beijing or Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, where the two met in April 2017, the U.S. news website Axios reported, citing Trump administration officials.

And what if Trump goes ahead with a March 2 tariff hike to step up pressure on Beijing?

"We certainly hope not," said Waterman. "It would be a terrible cost for American consumers and a terrible hit to the global economy."

Wiseman reported from Washington.

Unhappy with deal, Trump still doesn't expect a new shutdown

By JILL COLVIN, ANDREW TAYLOR, ALAN FRAM and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Under mounting pressure from his own party, President Donald Trump appeared to be grudgingly leaning toward accepting an agreement that would head off a threatened second government shutdown but provide just a fraction of the money he's been demanding for his Mexican border wall.

Trump said Tuesday he would need more time to study the plan, but he also declared he was not expecting another shutdown this weekend when funding for parts of the government would run out. He strongly signaled he planned to scrounge up additional dollars for the wall by raiding other federal coffers to deliver on the signature promise of his presidential campaign.

"I can't say I'm happy. I can't say I'm thrilled," Trump said of the proposed deal. "But the wall is getting built, regardless. It doesn't matter because we're doing other things beyond what we're talking about here."

Trump sounded more conciliatory in a Tuesday night tweet, thanking "all Republicans for the work you have done in dealing with the Radical Left on Border Security."

Accepting the deal, worked out by congressional negotiators from both parties, would be a disappointment for a president who has repeatedly insisted he needs \$5.7 billion for a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border, saying the project is paramount for national security. Trump turned down a similar deal in December, forcing the 35-day partial shutdown that left hundreds of thousands of federal workers without paychecks and Republicans reeling. There is little appetite in Washington for a repeat.

Lawmakers tentatively agreed Monday night to a deal that would provide nearly \$1.4 billion for border barriers and keep the government funded for the rest of the fiscal year, which ends on Sept. 30.

The agreement would allow 55 miles (88 kilometers) of new fencing — constructed using existing designs such as metal slats— but far less than the 215 miles (345 kilometers) the White House demanded in December. The fencing would be built in Texas' Rio Grande Valley.

Full details were not expected to be released until Wednesday as lawmakers worked to translate their verbal agreement into legislation. But Republican leaders urged Trump to sign on.

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"I hope he signs the bill," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who joined other GOP leaders in selling it as a necessary compromise that represented a major concession from Democrats.

Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby, R-Ala., expressed optimism Trump would be on board.

"We believe from our dealings with them and the latitude they've given us, they will support it," he said. "We certainly hope so."

Others were less upbeat. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, who traveled with the president to a rally in Cornyn's home state Monday night, said, "My impression flying back with him from El Paso last night is that he thinks it's pretty thin gruel."

A presidential rejection of the deal could plunge Congress into a new crisis, as lawmakers have no clear Plan B. They need to pass some kind of funding bill to avoid another shutdown at midnight Friday and have worked to avoid turning to another short-term bill that would only prolong the border debate.

Speaking at a Cabinet meeting, Trump said of a possible shutdown: "I don't think it's going to happen."

Still, he made clear that, if he does sign on to the deal, he is strongly considering supplementing it by moving money from what he described as less important areas of government.

"We have a lot of money in this country and we're using some of that money — a small percentage of that money — to build the wall, which we desperately need," he said.

That could be more difficult than he made it sound, facing challenges in Congress or federal court or both.

The White House has long been laying the groundwork for Trump to use executive action to bypass Congress and divert money into wall construction. He could declare a national emergency or invoke other executive authority to tap funds including money set aside for military construction, disaster relief and counterdrug efforts.

Previewing that strategy last week, acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney said, "We'll take as much money as you can give us, and then we will go off and find the money someplace else — legally — in order to secure that southern barrier." He said more than \$5.7 billion in available funds had been identified.

McConnell, who had previously said he was troubled by the concept of declaring a national emergency, said Tuesday that Trump "ought to feel free to use whatever tools he can legally use to enhance his effort to secure the border."

The framework now under consideration contains plenty to anger lawmakers on both the right and left — more border fencing than many Democrats would like and too little for conservative Republicans — but its authors praised it as a genuine compromise that would keep the government open and allow everyone to move on.

Trump was briefed on the plan Tuesday by Shelby and sounded more optimistic after the meeting. "Looking over all aspects knowing that this will be hooked up with lots of money from other sources," he tweeted, adding, "Regardless of Wall money, it is being built as we speak!"

A Senate aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the aide was not authorized to describe the conversation by name, said the senator told Trump the wall money in the agreement was a down payment. Shelby did not ask whether Trump would sign the measure, but Trump told him he would study it.

The aide said the measure contains \$22.5 billion for border security programs, including programs run by Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Congressional negotiators plan to release the legislation Wednesday. The measure and most of its details have so far been closely held.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer urged Trump to accept the package to avert another shutdown, calling the tentative accord "welcome news."

But the proposal was met with fury by some on the right, including Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity, a close friend of the president, who slammed it as a "garbage compromise."

Jenny Beth Martin, co-founder of the Tea Party Patriots, released a scathing statement saying she and others had been "hoodwinked."

"This so-called 'deal' is worse than a joke," she said.

The hosts of Trump favorite "Fox & Friends," however, urged the president to agree to the deal and keep the government open, a relief to White House officials and congressional Republicans who had been

nervously watching the roll call of conservative media voices, trying to predict where Trump would land. Conservative Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., a close ally of the president, said that if Trump does agree to the deal, he could be spared a “conservative uproar because everyone expects executive action to follow.” That’s despite concerns from many Republicans about executive over-reach and the precedent Trump might be setting for future presidents of both parties.

“Two things are clear. We will not have a shutdown of the government and executive action to reprogram additional border security dollars is required,” Meadows said.

After the El Paso rally, Trump climbed back aboard Air Force One elated by his boisterous crowd. But his attention quickly turned to the deal as the presidential plane began to streak away from the border city.

As aides filled him in on the outlines, Trump kept an eye on the coverage on Fox News, which was playing onboard, according to a Republican familiar with the president’s interactions but not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

And, despite the late hour, Trump began calling allies, a process he continued Tuesday from the White House.

The president made clear that he had wanted more money for the wall and worried that it was being spun as a defeat for him in the media, according to the Republican. But others expected him to sign on nonetheless.

Associated Press writers Darlene Superville and Lisa Mascaro in Washington contributed to this report

3 siblings bond through March For Our Lives after shooting

By KELLI KENNEDY, Associated Press

PARKLAND, Fla. (AP) — Last February, Matt Deitsch was living his dream studying at a California university. His brother, Ryan, was about to graduate from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and head to college, the natural next step for the middle child from a family in the affluent suburb of Parkland.

Since the shooting, the brothers have put college on hold and moved into the national spotlight as they helped organize March For Our Lives, sparking a national conversation about gun control. They’ve crisscrossed the country with their younger sister Sam, speaking about assault rifles bans and universal background checks and visiting college campuses to register young voters.

Matt, now 21, flew to South Africa to accept the International Children’s Peace Prize. He and younger brother Ryan worked with “Avengers” actor Mark Ruffalo to write a public service announcement encouraging youth to vote.

“I don’t think anyone can truly explain the political journey we’ve been thrust onto. I feel like we have a better understanding of our nation’s politics than most of our politicians” Ryan said.

Last Valentine’s Day, Stoneman Douglas alumnus Matt was working with a startup T-shirt company that student Joaquin Oliver was going to model for three days later. Instead, Deitsch attended Oliver’s funeral that Saturday.

Ryan, a senior at the time, was hiding in a closet in his journalism class and emerged to grab footage for the school newspaper.

Sam, then a freshman, lost a close friend: 14-year-old Jaime Guttenberg. She’s spent the year in therapy and giving speeches about gun violence. She turns Sweet Sixteen on Thursday, the anniversary of the day her friend and 16 others died.

All three siblings found comfort in advocacy and one another.

Just hours after the shooting, the high school students became impossible to ignore— riding their bikes to TV interviews, trolling politicians on social media and rallying around the cry of “Never Again.” Gun-rights advocates also have emerged from Stoneman Douglas students, with Kyle Kashuv the most prominent.

Almost overnight, students like Emma Gonzalez and David Hogg became household names. Behind the scenes, more than a dozen others — among them the three red-headed Deitsch siblings — worked to launch what would become a longer term grassroots campaign.

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Matt helped write many of the talking points "so that we could counterpunch what was being used against us which was incredibly more aggressive than we could ever imagine."

In one of the organization's first real stabs at the National Rifle Association and politicians that support it — a live town hall with CNN — Ryan hammered Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, asking "Why do we have to march on Washington just to save innocent lives?"

These days, he helps to run the organization's content committee, making sure the message is on point whether it's a video or merchandising. He has deferred college for now, drawing a meager salary from March For Our Lives, saying he made more money as a waiter and food delivery driver.

Matt, director of strategy, runs the day-to-day operations along with Jaclyn Corin.

"I work 110-plus hours a week. I've been on three national tours, around the country in the last 10 months. I've been to 41 states plus DC. ... This work doesn't stop," he said.

Days after the shooting, Ryan and Sam headed to Tallahassee with busloads of students to push state lawmakers for gun reform. Discouraged that Florida lawmakers voted not to consider a proposed ban on assault rifles, they organized a trip to Washington with a handful of students, including Delaney Tarr and Alex Wind. They met with 200 lawmakers in two days.

The brother said the meetings were disappointing: Lawmakers made excuses, misquoted the constitution and treated them coldly.

"If they had pretended to be competent and that they were fighting for our lives, that they were working to protect us, March For Our Lives would have never existed. We would have hit the brakes," Matt said.

The students had glimpsed the inner workings of the Legislature and decided it wasn't working for them.

"That started the fire in our eyes on a whole other level," Matt said.

The Deitsch siblings express anger as they retell their story during a recent interview in their home. But they also frequently burst into laughter. It's their panacea.

When Sam is overcome by grief and missing her friend, the brothers pull out silly memes from social media to coax a smile. She says they've gotten closer since the shooting. They laugh about counterprotester antics and bond over what being at the epicenter of a movement is like.

"This year has been really, really hard for me and my mental health, and when I think how I have to live for (Jaime) ... ," Sam said, her voice trailing off in tears.

Looking ahead, March For Our Lives is already focusing on the next election. The group has said it is encouraged by impressive youth turnout in midterm elections and the growth of nearly 100 local chapters around the country. This year's goal is to find creative ways to engage with disinterested youth.

"We had hundreds of thousands of students stand up and become politically active for the first time in their lives," Matt said. "And every day there's more of us."

Find all The Associated Press' coverage marking one year since the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, at <https://apnews.com/ParklandFloridaschoolshooting> .

No escape? El Chapo likely off to 'prison of all prisons'

By JIM MUSTIAN, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In the world of corrections, there are inmates who pose security risks, and then there's "El Chapo."

Drug lord Joaquin Guzman has an unparalleled record of jailbreaks, having escaped two high-security Mexican prisons before his ultimate capture and extradition to the United States.

So with Guzman convicted Tuesday of drug trafficking and staring at an expected life sentence, where will the U.S. imprison a larger-than-life kingpin with a Houdini-like tendency to slip away?

Experts say Guzman seems the ideal candidate for the federal government's "Supermax" prison in Florence, Colorado, also known as ADX for "administrative maximum." The facility is so secure, so remote and so austere that it has been called the "Alcatraz of the Rockies."

"El Chapo fits the bill perfectly," said Cameron Lindsay, a retired warden who ran three federal lockups,

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including the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn. "I'd be absolutely shocked if he's not sent to the ADX."

Located outside an old mining town about two hours south of Denver, Supermax's hardened buildings house the nation's most violent offenders, with many of its 400 inmates held alone for 23 hours a day in 7-by-12-foot (2.1-by-3.7 meter) cells with fixed furnishings made of reinforced concrete.

Unabomber Ted Kaczynski, Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, Sept. 11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui and Oklahoma City bombing accomplice Terry Nichols are among those who call it home.

But Guzman, set to be sentenced in June for smuggling enormous amounts of narcotics into the U.S and having a hand in dozens of murders, would stand out even from Supermax's infamous roster because of his almost mythical reputation for breaking out.

That includes a sensational 2015 escape from the maximum-security Altiplano prison in central Mexico, where he communicated with accomplices for weeks via cellphone, slipped into an escape hatch beneath his shower, hopped on the back of a waiting motorcycle and sped through a mile-long, hand-dug tunnel to freedom.

Bribery is widely believed to have enabled that jailbreak, as well as a 2001 escape in which Guzman was smuggled out of another top-security Mexican prison in a laundry basket.

"There had to be collusion from within," said Mike Vigil, a former U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent who worked undercover in Mexico. "There is no doubt corruption played a role in both of his spectacular escapes."

Could that happen at Supermax? Not likely.

Prisoners at Supermax spend years in solitary confinement and often go days "with only a few words spoken to them," an Amnesty International report found. One former prisoner, in an interview with The Boston Globe, described the lockup as a "high-tech version of hell, designed to shut down all sensory perception."

Most inmates at Supermax are given a television, but their only actual view of the outside world is a 4-inch window. The window's design prevents them from even determining where they are housed in the facility. Human interaction is minimal. Prisoners eat all meals in the solitude of their own cells, within feet of their toilets.

The facility itself is guarded by razor-wire fences, gun towers, heavily armed patrols and attack dogs.

"If ever there were an escape-proof prison, it's the facility at Florence," said Burl Cain, the former longtime warden of the maximum-security Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. "It's the prison of all prisons."

While federal authorities have not said for certain where El Chapo will be housed, he's staring at "a sentence from which there is no escape and no return," U.S. Attorney Richard Donoghue said after Tuesday's verdict.

Guzman's confinement leading up to his three-month trial included remarkable security measures reflecting his immense flight risk. He has been housed in solitary confinement in a high-security wing of the Metropolitan Correctional Center, a Manhattan lockup known as "Little Gitmo" that has held notorious terrorists and mobsters.

Authorities have routinely shut down the Brooklyn Bridge to shuttle "El Chapo" to federal court in a police motorcade that includes a SWAT team and ambulance tracked by helicopters. Heavily armed federal officers and bomb-sniffing dogs have patrolled outside the federal courthouse in Brooklyn. Officials were so concerned about security, in fact, that Guzman was forbidden from hugging his wife at his trial.

That apparently won't be a problem if he winds up in Supermax, where all visits are non-contact, and prisoners are separated from their visitors by a thick plexiglass screen.

"Other than when being placed in restraints and escorted by guards, prisoners may spend years without touching another human being," the Amnesty International report found.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. 'I CAN'T SAY I'M THRILLED'

Trump says he's not expecting the government to shut down again, a signal that he's leaning toward accepting a budget deal that denies him most of the money he's sought for a border wall.

2. 'EL CHAPO' HEADING TO 'ALCATRAZ OF THE ROCKIES'

Experts say convicted Mexican drug lord Joaquin Guzman will likely be sentenced to the ADX Supermax in Florence, Colorado — the most secure prison ever constructed in the U.S.

3. SIBLINGS BOND AFTER PARKLAND MASSACRE

Three Florida siblings have devoted long hours to the March for Our Lives movement since a gunman killed 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School last year.

4. WHERE FAKE NEWS IS WIDESPREAD

Nigeria is so awash in falsehoods posted on social media that news outlets have banded together before Saturday's election to separate fact from fiction.

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Politician's accuser speaks about issue of sexual assault

By PAUL ELIAS, Associated Press

STANFORD, Calif. (AP) — A college professor avoided talking directly about her accusation that Virginia's lieutenant governor sexually assaulted her, but she wasn't shy about publicly discussing her research and thoughts on the growing number of women reporting abuse.

"One thing that I notice about sexual violence is that a lot of people would like to glance away from this," Vanessa Tyson told a Stanford University symposium on Tuesday night. "It's one of the ugliest parts of humanity. Trust me."

Tyson, appearing as one of two panelists at the event called "Betrayal and Courage in the Age of #MeToo," was making her first public appearance since she accused Virginia Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax of assaulting her in 2004. Tyson is a political science professor at Southern California's Scripps College who is spending a year at Stanford as a research fellow.

Fairfax said he recalled the encounter, which he said was consensual, and denied assaulting or coercing Tyson.

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"Perhaps we have to reshape how we understand consent and how we teach it to society as a whole," Tyson said during her talk, which also included her experience with students who were sexually assaulted confiding in her and the difficulty victims have with indifferent institutions that don't take their claims seriously.

"Speaking as a professor at a women's college, sometimes you have to lead by example," Tyson said. "No matter how hard it is."

Tyson slipped in and out of the symposium without talking to reporters. Stanford authorities barred audience members from asking Tyson about the matter.

Camera crews greeted audience members arriving at the reception and symposium at Stanford's Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, a usually quiet location tucked high on a hill about a mile from the main campus. The 100 audience members crammed in the main room greeted Tyson with a standing ovation. Dozens more watched a video feed from a nearby room.

She told the audience she was "deeply disturbed" by attempts to discredit victims' credibility. Tyson recounted how she and Stanford colleagues watched on television Christine Blasey Ford testify in Washington, D.C., during Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation hearing.

"As she shook, we shook with her," she said. "As she told her story, we felt the pain she so visibly demonstrated."

Tyson is now represented by the same legal team that represented Blasey Ford.

"When we hear someone else's story, there's a beauty in it knowing you aren't alone," she said. "Don't be afraid to see survivors for who they are. The beautiful parts, the ugly parts. All of them. They didn't deserve what happened to them."

Tyson was joined on stage by a fellow center researcher Jennifer Freyd and moderated by law school professor Paul Brest to discuss "the underlying dynamics of sexual violence and institutional betrayal" according to symposium literature. Tyson is an associate professor of political science at Scripps College about 30 miles (50 kilometers) east of Los Angeles. She is spending the year at Stanford in part researching "the political discourse surrounding sexual assault," according to the center's website.

Tyson's accusation was made public last week when a friend shared a private Facebook message sent by Tyson that alluded to the possibility of Fairfax becoming governor if the current Gov. Ralph Northam was forced to resign because of a racism scandal. That message was posted on a conservative political website that follows Virginia politics.

The Associated Press typically does not identify those who say they were sexually assaulted, but Tyson issued a statement last week in her name.

In the statement, Tyson said Fairfax held her head down and forced her to perform oral sex in his hotel room at the Democratic National Convention in Boston in 2004. Tyson has not otherwise commented publicly and hasn't responded to multiple requests for comment from The Associated Press.

Nigeria in battle against fake news ahead of elections

By **RODNEY MUHUMUZA and SAM OLUKOYA, Associated Press**

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — In Nigeria fake news can be so outlandish, yet widely believed, that the president recently felt compelled to declare that he had not died and been replaced by a Sudanese body double.

"It's (the) real me, I assure you," President Muhammadu Buhari said late last year, to dispel the story that was viewed more than 500,000 times on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Nigeria's fake news can also be lethal.

The stakes are high in Nigeria ahead of Saturday's presidential vote marked by widespread discontent over unemployment, poverty and insecurity in some parts of the country. Officials warn that fake or outdated pictures depicting communal violence trigger retaliatory killings.

Many were killed in reprisal killings sparked by horrific, but false, photos purporting to depict deaths in the conflict between herders and farmers in central Nigeria last year, said Tolu Ogunlesi, a media assistant to Nigeria's president.

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"Fake news kills people. We have seen a lot of things like that," he said. "Some of the deadly clashes in Nigeria were sparked off by fake news." He suggested that "the naming and shaming of members that peddle fake news" could stem the problem.

Africa's most populous country is so awash in falsehoods posted on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube that 16 media outlets have been collaborating on a fact-checking initiative, CrossCheck Nigeria, to research suspect election claims circulating online.

Some of the stories CrossCheck Nigeria recently discredited include allegations the first lady wants Nigerians to vote against her husband, as well as a suggestion that U.S. President Donald Trump endorsed opposition candidate Atiku Abubakar. Such allegations almost always appear on social media and sometimes are published by news websites.

The project is similar to Africa Check, which calls itself the continent's first fact-checking organization and has operated since 2012.

In the United States the term 'fake news' became frequently used after the 2016 election, which was allegedly marked by a Russian misinformation campaign. But in Africa fake news has long been a contentious matter, fueled in part by illiteracy and government secrecy even as the continent's 1.2 billion people rapidly acquire mobile handsets and gain internet access. The issue is now urgent: more than 24 percent of people on the continent were online last year, the strongest growth in the world, according to the U.N. agency International Telecommunication Union.

Some African governments want to make publishing fake news a crime, a step too far for journalists in countries where the press already is censored and reporters can be jailed for critical stories.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta last year signed a cybercrimes bill that calls for fines and prison sentences for people convicted of spreading fake news. The law followed a disputed 2017 presidential election marred by online misinformation campaigns that raised political tensions in a country known for deadly post-vote violence along ethnic lines.

In Uganda, where there has been a surge in false news seen as portraying the government negatively, authorities warn that perpetrators face charges under a 2011 law prescribing criminal penalties for the misuse of a computer.

But activists warn that countering misinformation with legislation could be used to censor the press. The Committee to Protect Journalists opposed Kenya's law over concerns it would stifle press freedom. In Uganda there also has been resistance from the courts.

A Ugandan opposition activist was jailed last year on charges that he falsely accused the government of trying to kill pop star and politician Bobi Wine. A magistrate ordered the activist, Moses Bigirwa, freed in January, ruling that publishing fake news was not a crime.

Some governments in Africa have been accused of spreading misinformation themselves or maligning reports that were true. Authorities in Nigeria frequently challenge the veracity of reports of alleged abuses by military officers during campaigns against militants. They also have fiercely disagreed when human rights watchdogs, citing witnesses on the ground, report higher death tolls than the government's official ones.

Reports by Amnesty International's Nigeria office on the conduct of Nigerian troops fighting Islamic extremist group Boko Haram have created conflicts with the military, which has accused the local branch of the human rights group of publishing false accounts.

"Fake news has become like a cliché and ticket for demonizing the journalist, the media and the NGOs," Amnesty International Nigeria spokesman Isa Sanusi said, noting that false news spreads quickly in Nigeria because public officials often are not open with government information.

"The only thing that is fueling it is the fact that information is not available," he said. "The solution to stopping fake news in Nigeria is transparency, particularly from the side of the authorities."

False reports spread on social media so fast and frequently that some people who are the subjects of it simply have to laugh.

Nigerian writer and Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka said during a BBC-hosted conference on the spread of false news in Nigeria that he enjoyed reading the regular obituaries of his death.

Underscoring the severity of the problem, however, Soyinka warned that "if we are not careful, World War III will be started by fake news, and that fake news will probably be generated by a Nigerian."

Olukoya reported from Lagos, Nigeria.

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K-pop and fancy sneakers: Kim Jong Un's cultural revolution

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — Dancers in hot pants. Factories pumping out Air Jordan lookalikes. TV dramas that are actually fun to watch.

North Korean pop culture, long dismissed by critics as a kitschy throwback to the dark days of Stalinism, is getting a major upgrade under leader Kim Jong Un.

The changes are being seen in everything from television dramas and animation programs to the variety and packaging of consumer goods, which have improved significantly under Kim. Whether it's a defensive attempt to keep up with South Korea or an indication that Kim is willing to embrace aspects of Western consumer culture that his predecessors might have viewed as suspiciously bourgeois isn't clear.

"The most important thing for us is to produce a product that suits the people's tastes," Kim Kyong Hui of the Ryuwon Shoe Factory told The Associated Press recently in the facility's showroom, which is filled with dozens of kinds of shoes for running, volleyball, soccer — even table tennis. "The respected leader Kim Jong Un has instructed us to closely study shoes from all over the world and learn from their example," she added, pointing to a pair of flame-red high-top basketball shoes.

To be sure, North Korea remains one of the most insular countries in the world. Change comes cautiously and anyone who openly criticizes the government or leadership or is seen as a threat can expect severe repercussions. But there appears to be more of a willingness under Kim to experiment around some of the edges.

The most visible upgrades are on television and its normal menu of propaganda programs and documentaries in praise of the leaders.

Viewers of the main state-run TV network — the only channel that can be seen anywhere in the country — are now stopping their routines to watch the latest episodes of "The Wild Ginseng Gatherers of the Imjin War," a historical drama set in the late 16th century, when Korea was struggling against a Japanese invasion.

The anti-Japan, nationalistic theme is nothing new. A similar theme was used for Kim Jong Un's first big contribution to the television lineup, an animated series reviving a popular comic from his father's era called "The Boy General" that made its debut in 2015. The animation, set in the Koguryo period when Korea was fighting off Chinese incursions, was such a hit that people would stop whatever they were doing to watch it. A Boy General game was created for mobile phones. New episodes are believed to be forthcoming.

What the TV drama, first aired last July, and the Boy General animation share that's new is their high production values.

The acting in the movie is grittier and more compelling, the plots more engaging and the sets and costumes are decidedly more elaborate than previous projects. Even the dialogue spoken in Japanese by the villains, played of course by North Korean actors, is generally accurate, though delivered with a heavy North Korean accent. The Boy General, meanwhile, makes skillful use of computer effects and is visually on par with some of the best animation in the world.

The improvements reflect awareness within Kim's regime that the North Korean public is increasingly familiar with foreign pop culture despite severe restrictions that make it impossible for most to travel abroad or freely experience foreign movies, music or books.

That familiarity is particularly true of the North Korean elite, who are accustomed to seeing brand name products from Dior to Sony on the shelves of upscale stores in Pyongyang, the capital. Cheap knockoffs

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from China are common in marketplaces around the country.

Watching South Korean movies or listening to South Korean music is illegal. But a lot makes its way over the border and, even for those who would never dream of taking that risk, the officially approved cultural fare isn't entirely void of foreign treats.

Bollywood films are popular in state-run cinemas — 2009's "Three Idiots" with Aamir Khan, for example, was recently shown in a cinema just across the street from Kim Il Sung Square. North Korea's educational channel regularly features long clips from foreign documentaries, and dog-eared Harry Potter books are among the most popular items at the People's Grand Study House, North Korea's biggest library.

North Korea's "approach to the influx of foreign media has been to 'modernize' media production to provide an attractive and competitive product that caters to younger generations for whom older productions are no longer attractive," said Geoffrey See, the founder of the Choson Exchange, a Singapore-based non-profit that supports change in North Korea through exposure to knowledge and information in business, entrepreneurship and law.

"For consumer goods, it also ties into a state policy to encourage more domestic production and import substitution," he said.

Kim's first attempt to update the pop culture scene started almost as soon as he assumed power in late 2011 with the creation of the Moranbong Band, an ensemble of female vocalists and musicians who are the "soft face" of his regime.

Although the members all belong to the Korean People's Army, they are known for performing in mini-skirts and wearing their hair fashionably short. They have released dozens of songs, all of which get lots of exposure through concert tours, DVDs and airtime on television.

They are beginning to look a bit passe, however.

In February last year, North Korea sent some of its top musicians, including a female quintet that performed in black shorts and red tops, south of the Demilitarized Zone to perform during South Korea's Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. Two months later, Kim was in the audience as the South Korean girl group Red Velvet put on what is believed to be the first real K-pop show ever held in Pyongyang. The North Korean act that performed in South Korea was so well received that Kim sent them to Beijing last month for another goodwill tour.

Still, military orchestras and classically trained vocalists who perform in traditional "Choson-ot" gowns remain the mainstay of the Pyongyang musical scene. The girl band's performance in Beijing was backed up by the state's military chorus and orchestra, all in full uniform.

More importantly, there has been no effort to delink the arts from politics.

When the musical group returned to Pyongyang, Kim urged them to continue to "conduct original artistic activities pulsating with the party's ideology" and act "courageously as mouthpieces of the party," according to state media.

Talmadge has been the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief since 2013. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram: @EricTalmadge

Police detective killed by friendly fire in New York City

By **MICHAEL R. SISKAK, STEPHEN R. GROVES** and **MICHAEL BALSAMO**, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York City police detective was shot and killed by friendly fire Tuesday night as officers confronted a robbery suspect who turned out to be armed with a replica handgun, Commissioner James O'Neill said.

"This appears to be an absolutely tragic case of friendly fire," an emotional O'Neill said at a late-night news conference.

Det. Brian Simonsen, 42, was struck in the chest as multiple officers fired on the suspect at a T-Mobile store in Queens, O'Neill said. Simonsen, a 19-year NYPD veteran, was put in a squad car and taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

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Sgt. Matthew Gorman was shot in the leg, O'Neill said. A passerby stopped and drove him to the hospital in his car. Gorman is in stable condition.

The suspect, a 27-year-old man with an extensive criminal record, was armed with an imitation firearm, O'Neill said. He was wounded and is hospitalized in stable condition.

"Make no mistake about it, friendly fire aside, it is because of the actions of the suspect that Det. Simonsen is dead," O'Neill said.

Police swarmed to the store at around 6:10 p.m. after a 911 caller standing outside reported seeing the suspect — dressed in all black and carrying a duffel bag — take two employees to a back room at gunpoint, according to dramatic dispatch audio.

"No sirens, guys," a dispatcher warns.

Simonsen and Gorman were working on another case nearby when the call came over and arrived around the same time as patrol officers, O'Neill said. At first, the front of the store appeared empty, he said.

Then a man matching the suspect's description emerged from the rear of the store pointing at them what appeared to be handgun and police started shooting, he said.

"Shots fired! Shots fired!" an officer is heard yelling on the dispatch audio over a barrage of gunshots.

About a minute later, Gorman tells dispatchers that he's been hit and an officer screams for dispatchers to rush an ambulance to the scene.

Arwindern Singh, who lives across the street from the store, said he heard about 20 shots go off and thought they were firecrackers.

When he went outside, he said "all of a sudden there were cops all over."

The gunfire blew out the store's doors, showering the sidewalk with glass. Bullet holes pocked frosted windows decorated with the T-Mobile logo. Scores of police officers streamed to the scene, which was roped off with crime tape. Some walked together in a line, searching for evidence.

At Jamaica Hospital, officers guarded the emergency room entrance as O'Neill and Mayor Bill de Blasio met with Gorman and offered their condolences to Simonsen's wife and mother.

"It was heartbreaking. Absolutely heartbreaking," De Blasio said. "His mom, who has suffered so much. His wife. The shock that they're feeling was so painful to see."

Simonsen should've been off Tuesday for a union meeting, but he opted to go to work so he could continue tracking a string of recent robberies, Detectives' Endowment Association president Michael Palladino said.

Given the suspect's criminal history, Palladino said: "I think we have to ask the question: Why was someone with such an extensive arrest record out on the street and not incarcerated?"

In 2009, Simonsen investigated the death of an 11-month old boy who drowned in a bucket of water at an unlicensed daycare while the woman running it was passed out on NyQuil. Simonsen testified at Kristal Khan's trial, which ended in her conviction, that she "didn't show any emotion" when he questioned her two hours after the incident.

The last New York City police officer killed in the line of duty was a 12-year veteran and mother of three who was gunned down in 2017 while sitting in a police vehicle.

Officer Miosotis Familia, 48, was writing in her notebook when ex-convict Alexander Bonds strode up and shot her through a window. Bonds, who had railed about police and prison officers in a Facebook video months earlier, was fatally shot by officers soon after the attack.

In December, a police officer on Staten Island survived being hit by friendly fire as officers responding to a domestic dispute call shot and killed a man carrying a knife.

De Blasio on Tuesday night praised officers for rushing into dangerous situations and taking decisive action when lives are threatened.

"They know it's a moment where they cannot hesitate, where even a moment of hesitation can mean a life is lost," De Blasio said. "That bravery and that resolve is something that we all need to understand."

Balsamo reported from Washington. AP reporter Tom McElroy contributed to this report.

Ginsburg's absence from Supreme Court not as long as others

By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has missed a month of Supreme Court arguments as she recovers from lung cancer surgery. But she's not the first justice to be away for a while and her absence hardly compares with those of some of her predecessors.

The day before the Supreme Court began its term in October 1949, Justice William Douglas broke 14 ribs and suffered a punctured lung when he was thrown from his horse on a trail in the Cascade Mountains in Washington. He didn't return to the bench for nearly a half year, and his long recovery caused delays in several cases, including challenges to segregation.

Like much of what goes on away from public view at the Supreme Court, how the justices deal with a colleague's absence can be opaque. The individual justice decides whether to rule on cases even if she has missed arguments. Indeed, Chief Justice John Roberts already has announced that Ginsburg is participating in the cases she missed.

And only the justice can decide when an injury or illness is so severe that retirement is the only option. A quarter century after his riding accident, Douglas suffered a serious stroke, but refused to retire for months. His weakened state caused a backlog in the court's work and the other justices refused to issue decisions in cases where Douglas had provided the fifth, majority-making vote.

"There aren't any rules about this and so much is left to the individual justice," said Erwin Chemerinsky, who argued a case during Ginsburg's absence.

The 85-year-old Ginsburg could be back on the bench when the court next meets on Tuesday, and even as she has been away, she has not missed any votes.

In some state court systems, including California, the highest court can essentially borrow a judge from a lower court to temporarily replace an absent member, said Chemerinsky, the dean of the law school at the University of California, Berkeley.

The Supreme Court has no similar arrangement. The nine justices are there for as long as they wish, and neither a retired justice nor an appellate judge can fill a void.

The 25th Amendment to the Constitution sets out what happens if a president is incapacitated, but refuses to relinquish power. In Congress, the absence of a single lawmaker is not likely to make a lasting difference, while the absence of a single justice on the nine-member court can be significant. Also, elected officials have terms of office that last six years at most, in the case of senators.

The most recent example of a justice missing substantial time was in 2004 and 2005, when Chief Justice William Rehnquist was suffering from thyroid cancer and was not on the bench for 44 arguments over five months. Justice John Paul Stevens, the longest-serving justice at the time, presided when Rehnquist was away, except for the day in late February 2005 when Stevens' flight from Florida was canceled and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor ran the show.

Still, Rehnquist voted in most of the cases for which he did not attend the arguments. He returned to the court in late March and made it through the end of the court's term in late June before dying on Sept. 3 at the age of 80.

Douglas' accident occurred in steep terrain more than a mile above sea level, just after he stopped to adjust the girth on his horse's saddle. He fell an estimated 50 feet down a rocky hillside where his boyhood friend and riding partner, Elon Gilbert, found him lying on a ledge, according to The Associated Press' report from the time.

Douglas, then 50, was a noted outdoorsman who hiked and rode extensively. While he recuperated, he was photographed in his hospital bed and then astride a horse when he took his first ride after the accident.

There's a suggestion in news accounts that the other justices were irritated by the length of his absence. He came back to the court in time to hear Thurgood Marshall argue that Texas' refusal to accommodate a black student in its whites-only law school was unconstitutional. Marshall, then the nation's most prominent civil rights lawyer, prevailed in a unanimous decision.

Douglas already had become the court's longest-serving justice by the time of his stroke on the last day of 1974. Though unable to walk and generally weakened by the stroke, Douglas refused to retire.

Because of his illness, the court ordered a new round of arguments in eight cases in the spring of 1975, an unusually large number.

"They agreed to take away his vote because they thought he was incompetent," historian David Garrow said.

When the new term began that October, Douglas was still on the court. At arguments, Douglas "had moments of lucidity and energy followed by near incoherence and sleep," authors Bob Woodward and Scott Armstrong wrote in "The Brethren," their book about the court.

By November, Douglas had had enough and reluctantly submitted his resignation after more than 36 years as a justice.

Despite El Chapo arrest, powerful Sinaloa cartel marches on

By MARIA VERZA and MARK STEVENSON, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's powerful Sinaloa cartel marches on despite the arrest, extradition and now conviction in New York of its notorious leader, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, and the proof of this lies in huge, multi-drug shipments detected on the border in recent weeks.

Those heaping bags of fentanyl and plastic tubs of crystal meth, heroin and cocaine offer no sign that the cartel has been weakened, lost sway over its traditional territory in northwestern Mexico or seen its international reach curtailed by the loss of its notorious leader.

"It's still a major, major force in the Mexican criminal underworld," Mexican security analyst Alejandro Hope said.

The cartel still controls a worldwide web of contacts that can move Colombian cocaine to Cameroon and Mexican meth cooks to Malaysia. It also controls seaports to get drugs and precursor chemicals shipped in from around the globe; employs labs and chemists to process them; bribes corrupt cops to ensure the drugs can be moved to the border; has engineered multimillion-dollar tunnels to smuggle tons of marijuana and cocaine under the frontier; and pays "mules" to ferry shipments in cars and trucks.

That doesn't even count the armies of hitmen and enforcers who moonlight in extortion and kidnapping, plus the money launderers, front corporations and political contacts. There's also a world of professionals such as architects, jewelers and even musical groups, who provide entertainment and launder money.

Perhaps most important, Sinaloa continues to control what's referred to as the "last mile" in the United States, using its wholesale distribution network to get drugs into the hands of local gangs and street dealers.

"All 23 of our divisions have an investigation at least at the local level that ties back to the Sinaloa cartel," said Will Glaspy, a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent in charge of the Houston division who has held posts along the U.S.-Mexico border from California to Texas. "Their distribution network is that well established in the United States."

So at the cartel's stronghold in the mountains of Sinaloa state, it's business as usual for Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, who has helped run the cartel since it was founded over three decades ago. He has a reputation as a level-headed, old-style capo known more for negotiating than for bloodshed.

"El Mayo is still considered the main player at the table," Glaspy said.

A succession fight that broke out after Guzman's third detention, in 2016, was ultimately resolved by the arrest of Damaso Lopez Nunez and his son Damaso Lopez Serrano, who led a rival faction. Today the cartel is seen as firmly under the command of Zambada in partnership with Guzman's sons Ivan, Archivaldo and Alfredo, known collectively as "los Chapitos," or "the little Chapos."

Ismael Bojorquez, director of the Riodoce newspaper in the Sinaloa state capital of Culiacan, said the Chapitos "control street-level drug dealing, especially in Culiacan, and the defense operations, the weapons," while "El Mayo takes care of the big deals."

Guzman, whose conviction Tuesday in New York likely means he will spend decades behind bars in the United States, is famous for twice pulling off brazen escapes from maximum-security prisons, earning him international notoriety perhaps rivaled only by the late Colombian drug kingpin Pablo Escobar. He is

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said to have a voracious appetite for luxury goods and women, marrying multiple times, including to an 18-year-old beauty queen in 2007.

Zambada has proven more elusive, simply by staying in his rural stronghold where the cartel holds sway. If Guzman had done like Zambada "and just stayed up in the mountains, perhaps he would still be a free man," said Mike Vigil, former chief of international operations for the DEA. "His obsession with women created his downfall."

Meanwhile, the new government that took charge Dec. 1 in Mexico says it is no longer in the business of hunting down drug lords.

"We haven't arrested capos, because that is not our main function," President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said Jan. 30. "The government's main function is to guarantee public safety, and the strategy is no longer to carry out raids to capture capos." He added, "Officially there isn't a war anymore."

Some in Mexico believe that authorities and even U.S. officials prefer the continued reign of a relatively stable, old-school boss like Zambada, rather than the confusion and bloodshed that might break out if he were gone.

"El Mayo remains king. He has never been captured or pursued as much" as Guzman, said author Jose Reveles, who writes about the cartels.

The cartel is best understood as "more of a federation of different clans than as a corporate-like structure," Hope said.

So while the capture and trial of Guzman "was a great moral victory for the rule of law, it did very little to have a negative impact on the Sinaloa cartel," Vigil said.

During Guzman's absence, the cartel has continued to develop a highly lucrative profit-center in fentanyl. The synthetic opioid can be bought for \$9,000 per kilogram in China, cut to 1 percent purity, pressed into fake OxyContin pills and marketed in the United States for nearly pure profit.

According to Ray Donovan, head of the DEA's New York office, Guzman was at the forefront of the fentanyl threat. As far back as the early 2010s, his cartel began spiking Mexican-produced heroin with fentanyl to boost its potency so it could compete with heroin from other regions, Donovan said.

But the cartel is not good at mixing and measuring, and the amount of fentanyl in counterfeit pills can vary from 0.03 to 1.99 milligrams per tablet — in other words, from almost none to a lethal dose.

That is probably one of the two biggest threats to the Sinaloa cartel: It's literally killing its customers.

The other is the upstart Jalisco New Generation cartel, which has tried to stage incursions into Sinaloa territory, sparking bloody turf battles in places like Tijuana. The border city across from San Diego has become one of the world's deadliest cities.

But, Bojorquez noted, Sinaloa has been largely able to fight off its rival.

"The drugs keep flowing," he said, "and the business goes on."

Associated Press writers Christopher Sherman and Peter Orsi in Mexico City and Tom Hays in New York contributed to this report.

Gucci creative head breaks silence over 'blackface' sweater

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Gucci's creative director broke his silence Tuesday over an \$890 sweater that resembled blackface, saying racism was never his intention.

Alessandro Michele, a design force at the Italian fashion house, lamented in a letter to employees both his own pain and "that of the people who saw in one of my creative projects an intolerable insult."

The black sweater with a pull-up neck featured a cutout surrounded by cartoonish red lips. Michele wrote that it was not inspired by blackface but by the late Leigh Bowery, a performance artist, club promoter and fashion designer who often used flamboyant face makeup and costumes.

Regardless, Michele said, he takes "full accountability" for the sweater, which was pulled last week amid widespread criticism.

Gucci has apologized, saying in a previous statement posted on Twitter that it was committed to diversity and considered it a “fundamental value to be fully upheld, respected and at the forefront of every decision we make.”

The balaclava-style sweater that covered the nose above the cutout was ridiculed on social media as insensitive and racist. It emerged as attention in the U.S. was focused on old photos showing politicians with their faces blackened.

Other fashion brands have made similar missteps .

In December, Prada said it was no longer selling a line of accessories that featured a character with brown skin and exaggerated red lips after complaints they resembled blackface.

Michele’s internal letter was reported by the site Fashionista.com and Women’s Wear Daily.

Marco Bizzarri, Gucci’s president and CEO, told WWD, “The lack of knowledge of diversity and the consequent understanding are not at the level we expected, despite all the efforts we did inside the company in the last four years.”

The company is now “evaluating all the processes” to ensure “the right level of awareness and visibility,” he said.

California governor scales back high-speed train

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California Gov. Gavin Newsom declared Tuesday there “isn’t a path” for completing the state’s plan for a high-speed rail line between San Francisco and Los Angeles, yet his office insisted he is fully committed to building such a project.

Newsom, delivering his first State of the State address, said he’d shift his focus to completing just a 171-mile segment of the line already under construction in the state’s Central Valley. The project is key to the economic vitality of the state’s agricultural heartland, he said.

A high-speed rail line linking Los Angeles to San Francisco was the goal when voters approved a ballot measure in 2008. The roughly 520-mile line initially was estimated to cost \$33 billion and was pegged for completion in 2020. Officials eventually hoped to connect the line to San Diego and Sacramento.

Subsequent estimates more than doubled the cost to \$77 billion and pushed the timeline to 2033.

“Let’s be real,” Newsom said. “The project, as currently planned, would cost too much and take too long . . . Right now, there simply isn’t a path to get from Sacramento to San Diego, let alone from San Francisco to L.A. I wish there were.”

Newsom said he’d continue doing environmental reviews for the LA-San Francisco line and seek private investment to connect the Central Valley to the state’s major hubs, prompting confusion about whether he actually was changing the policy of his predecessor, Jerry Brown.

Newsom’s spokesman Nathan Click said the governor is committed to completing the longer line with additional private and federal money “as the Central Valley section demonstrates the viability of the broader project.”

The questions about Newsom’s rail plans clouded his first State of the State address in which he outlined his vision for leading the nation’s most populous state. California, he said, faces “hard decisions that are coming due” on clean water, housing and homelessness.

Newsom used the speech to contrast his administration with Brown’s as much as he did to take issue with President Donald Trump. He blasted the president’s views on immigration — Newsom called the border emergency “a manufactured crisis” — but also complimented Trump’s calls for lowering prescription drug costs.

Trump has criticized California’s high-speed rail plan. Newsom said the state risked having to return \$3.5 billion in federal money if building stops on the Central Valley leg or it doesn’t complete the environmental reviews. Rail leaders have long said they do not have enough state money to complete the line. Private investment has been tied to getting more government investment.

Newsom did not provide any fresh details about how he planned to leverage or gather private money

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in a way his predecessors could not.

His speech left lawmakers with different interpretations of how the project would move forward.

Democratic state Sen. Anna Caballero, who represents part of the Central Valley, called the shift to a line only from Bakersfield to Merced "disappointing." But she said she hopes to see that line connected to other state hubs at some point.

"People need to see it move to really feel like it's important," she said.

Republican state Sen. Jim Nielsen of Fresno said Newsom's comments were an acknowledgement the full train would never be completed.

"It cannot be achieved, and the governor has essentially admitted it," he said. "This entire thing has now changed from whether or not there's going to be a high-speed rail to what's going to be left for central California."

Newsom rejected the idea that his plan would create a "train to nowhere" and said building in the Central Valley would help revitalize the economically depressed region. He also replaced Brown's head of the state board that oversees the project and pledged more accountability for contractors that run over costs by putting information about how rail dollars are spent online.

Newsom also announced a new head of the state water board, a new chair of the state board of education and a new task force on housing and homelessness. It's typical for new governors to remake the administration, even if executive power remains within the same party.

He announced the creation of the new Commission on Homelessness & Supportive Housing to address what he said is a moral issue that has become a public health crisis. His administration recently sued the Orange County city of Huntington Beach, accusing it of not meeting mandated affordable housing goals.

The governor has invited the leaders of 47 other noncomplying cities to a meeting next week for what he called "a candid conversation."

"I don't intend to file suit against all 47, but I'm not going to preside over neglect and denial," he said. "These cities need to summon the political courage to build their fair share of housing."

Newsom also promised to have a plan within 60 days for dealing with the recent bankruptcy filing by Pacific Gas & Electric Corp. after years of devastating wildfires.

He said he has convened a team of the nation's best bankruptcy lawyers and financial experts from the energy sector to work with his administration to develop a strategy to protect the state's power grid, wildfire victims, company employees and ratepayers.

"We are all frustrated and angry that it's come to this," Newsom said. "PG&E didn't do enough to secure dangerous equipment or plan for the future."

He also promised to address the pressure that climate change is putting on utilities.

Associated Press writer Don Thompson contributed.

This story has been corrected to show the segment from Merced to Bakersfield is 171 miles, not 119 miles.

National debt hits new milestone, topping \$22 trillion

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The national debt has passed a new milestone, topping \$22 trillion for the first time. The Treasury Department's daily statement showed Tuesday that total outstanding public debt stands at \$22.01 trillion. It stood at \$19.95 trillion when President Donald Trump took office on Jan. 20, 2017.

The debt figure has been accelerating since the passage of Trump's \$1.5 trillion tax cut in December 2017 and action by Congress last year to increase spending on domestic and military programs.

The national debt is the total of the annual budget deficits. The Congressional Budget Office projects that this year's deficit will be \$897 billion — a 15.1 percent increase over last year's imbalance of \$779 billion. In the coming years, the CBO forecasts that the deficit will keep rising, top \$1 trillion annually beginning in 2022 and never drop below \$1 trillion through 2029. Much of the increase will come from mounting costs

to fund Social Security and Medicare as the vast generation of baby boomers continue to retire.

The Trump administration contends that its tax cuts will eventually pay for themselves by generating faster economic growth. That projection is disputed by many economists.

Despite the rising levels of federal debt, many economists say they think the risks remain slight and point to current interest rates, which remain unusually low by historical standards. Still, some budget experts warn that ever-rising federal debt poses substantial risks for the government because it could make it harder to respond to a financial crisis through tax cuts or spending increases.

Michael Peterson, head of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, says "our growing national debt matters because it threatens the economic future of every American."

Denver teachers, officials negotiate to try to end strike

By COLLEEN SLEVIN, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Denver teachers and district leaders were trying to end a strike over pay Tuesday with the help of a federal negotiator.

The teachers are following the lead of educators across the country by donning red amid strikes and protests for better pay and working conditions.

All schools remained open and staffed by administrators, substitutes and teachers not participating in the strike. At the start of the talks, superintendent Susana Cordova acknowledged that students were not getting the kind of instruction they normally would and said she was committed to reaching a deal to end the strike.

Lead union negotiator Rob Gould interrupted to tell her, "You can't do the job without us."

The negotiations began with discussions over changing Denver's pay system to more closely resemble other districts that allow teachers to advance in pay based on experience, education and training. Both sides met publicly and in private to discuss proposals.

The talks are scheduled to last until 8 p.m.

Preliminary reports from the school district indicate 58 percent of teachers did not report to work on Tuesday, slightly more than on the first day of the strike Monday.

The walkout came about a year after West Virginia teachers launched the national "Red4Ed" movement with a nine-day strike in which they won 5 percent pay raises. Most recently, Los Angeles teachers held a six-day strike last month.

There are 71,000 students in district-run schools. Another 21,000 are enrolled in charter schools unaffected by the strike.

Lily Eskelsen Garcia, president of the National Education Association, told a crowd of picketing teachers outside the state Capitol on Monday that theirs was the latest in a national movement to provide just compensation to educators.

"You are unique here in Denver because here you are saying, 'Can I just know what I'm being paid?'" she said. "Let me tell you: You are going to change this."

The dispute is over the school district's incentive-based pay system. The district gives bonuses ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000 a year to teachers who work in schools with students from low-income families, in schools that are designated high priority or in positions that are considered hard to staff, such as special education or speech language pathology.

The union is pushing to lower or eliminate some of those bonuses to free up more money that would be added to overall teacher pay. The district sees the disputed bonuses as key to boosting the academic performance of poor and minority students.

Kimberly Beckeman, a ceramics and sculpture teacher at South High School, said she cried when the union announced teachers would go ahead and strike after 15 months of negotiations. She said she did not want to leave her students, but it was time to act.

"It's what's right. It's not ideal. I don't want to be out here," she said on a picket line outside the school Monday.

Teachers say the reliance on bonuses leads to high turnover, which they say hurts students, and that spending money on smaller class sizes and adding support staff, like counselors, is the best way to help disadvantaged students.

The district has proposed raising starting teacher pay from \$43,255 to \$45,500 a year. That's \$300 a year less than the union's proposal, which would add \$50 million a year to teacher base pay, according to union officials.

Associated Press writers P. Solomon Banda and James Anderson in Denver contributed to this report.

Senate backs major public lands, conservation bill

By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Tuesday approved a major public lands bill that revives a popular conservation program, adds 1.3 million acres of new wilderness, expands several national parks and creates five new national monuments.

The measure, the largest public lands bill considered by Congress in a decade, combines more than 100 separate bills that designate more than 350 miles of river as wild and scenic, add 2,600 miles of new federal trails and create nearly 700,000 acres of new recreation and conservation areas. The bill also withdraws 370,000 acres in Montana and Washington state from mineral development.

The Senate approved the bill, 92-8, sending it to the House.

Lawmakers from both parties said the bill's most important provision was to permanently reauthorize the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, which supports conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the country. The program expired last fall after Congress could not agree on language to extend it.

"The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been a pre-eminent program for access to public lands" for more than 50 years, said Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash. The program has supported more than 42,000 state and local projects throughout the U.S. since its creation in 1964.

The hodgepodge bill offered something for nearly everyone, with projects stretching across the country.

Even so, the bill was derailed last year after Republican Sen. Mike Lee objected, saying he wanted to exempt his home state of Utah from a law that allows the president to designate federal lands as a national monument protected from development.

Lee's objection during a heated Senate debate in December forced lawmakers to start over in the new Congress, culminating in Tuesday's Senate vote.

Sen. Cory Gardner, a Colorado Republican who clashed with Lee on the Senate floor, said the vote caps four years of work to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund and protect public lands.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, who chairs the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said the bill enhances use of public lands and water, while promoting conservation and sporting activities such as hunting and fishing.

The bill includes provisions sponsored by more than half of the senators, Murkowski said, applauding a "very, very collaborative" process.

She and other senators called the Land and Water Conservation Fund one of the most popular and effective programs Congress has ever created.

The program uses federal royalties from offshore oil and gas drilling to fund conservation and public recreation projects around the country. The fund is authorized to collect \$900 million a year but generally receives less than half that amount from Congress.

"This victory was a long time in the making, and it is the result of the steadfast efforts of many who care deeply about America's natural treasures," said Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C. "Protecting this program is the right thing to do for our children, grandchildren and countless generations so that they may come to enjoy the great American outdoors as we have."

The bill creates three new national monuments to be administered by the National Park Service and two others overseen by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, respectively. The three park

service monuments are the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument in Mississippi and the Mill Springs and Camp Nelson national monuments in Kentucky.

The Evers site was the home of the slain civil rights leader, while Mill Springs commemorates a Civil War battlefield. Camp Nelson was used as Union Army hospital and recruiting center during the Civil War. President Donald Trump proclaimed Camp Nelson a national monument last year, but the bill gives it permanent, congressionally approved protection.

The bill also designates the former Saint Francis Dam site in California as a national memorial and monument. The dam outside Los Angeles collapsed in 1928, killing 431 people in one of the largest tragedies in California history.

"While this monument will serve as a reminder of the consequences of a failure of infrastructure, it offers a lesson going forward," said Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif.

The bill also sets aside 850 acres in central Utah as the Jurassic National Monument, designed to enhance the area's "paleontological, scientific, educational and recreational resources."

Place your bets: NASCAR pushes its chips on sports gambling

By DAN GELSTON, AP Sports Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Brendan Gaughan is the son of a casino magnate and has long grasped the allure of throwing down a few bucks to wager on a sporting event.

Heck, Gaughan once bet on himself in Las Vegas to win the 2004 Daytona 500. Gaughan got a stern talking to from NASCAR back in the day when gambling was perhaps the most taboo topic in sports. March Madness brackets, Super Bowl prop bets, they all go hand-in-hand with the biggest games as much as the highlights, but wagers on the upstart underdog or 5-1 favorite were saved for Vegas, office pools and the neighborhood bookie operating illegally.

But societal attitudes — and more to the point, laws — toward betting have evolved, leading even sports leagues to loosen their stances as a new world of potential partnerships and revenue streams has opened.

Count NASCAR as the latest sport racing toward the gambling industry.

"The more people betting and playing fantasy games on your sport, the more people watch," Gaughan said during Daytona 500 qualifying. "NASCAR has always known that. They still know that."

Gaughan is happy to give NASCAR fans and the betting public the latest inside scoop on the sport. He co-hosts both the "Fantasy Racing Preview with Pete Pistone" on SiriusXM and "Gone Racin" on VSin, a national sports gambling news network.

"When it comes to fantasy sports and betting on NASCAR races, there's nothing wrong with it," Gaughan said.

NASCAR is on board — and on the betting boards of sportsbooks from Nevada and beyond — with legalized betting in 2019.

"I wanted to go all in on gambling last year," NASCAR executive Steve O'Donnell said.

But NASCAR took a step back and scanned the gambling landscape before implementing gambling guidelines in the rulebook for this season. Among the new restrictions: drivers and team members are banned from betting on races or disclosing confidential information. They are allowed to participate in fantasy sports relating to the three national touring series, Cup, Xfinity and Truck, but may not accept prizes with a value of more than \$250 in any games. The bans are in line with other major sports.

NASCAR partnered with Sportradar Integrity Services to develop a comprehensive gambling policy intended to protect the sport from cheating scandals.

"We have so many people that are linked to the cars. I think the integrity is a big piece to it," O'Donnell said.

But fans? Get ready for action.

Nevada's effective monopoly on sports betting ended last spring, when the Supreme Court ruled the ban should be lifted. Casinos in seven other states — Rhode Island, Delaware, Mississippi, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and New Mexico — now accept wagers on sports. The list is expected to grow

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by next year with numerous states considering bills.

Dover International Speedway, because of its alliance with Dover Downs Hotel & Casino on the same property, pounced and opened an on-site kiosk for its fall race and became the only track that allowed sports gambling on its property. The white tent was nearly as popular a stop as a selfie in front of the Monster Mile and the track will bring it back for the May race.

"I would consider it a success from the standpoint of the fan interaction, the fan education," said John Hensley, general manager and senior director of horse racing and sports betting at Dover Downs. "We never went into it looking at it as a revenue generator. We always looked at it as just an additional amenity for that motorsports fan. Just based on the experience and word of mouth from the fall race, I would anticipate a greater flow of traffic for the spring, for sure."

Football, basketball and baseball historically generate the bulk of sports betting and NASCAR has yet to spark interest among the masses. Vernon Kirk, director of the Delaware lottery, said full-scale sports betting started in Delaware on June 5, 2018, and less than one-tenth of 1 percent has been wagered on auto racing (\$129,250 out of \$134,707,750).

And there's already a hitch that could slow bets: NASCAR this season has decided for the first time to strip drivers of victories if their cars are deemed illegal. There will be a roughly 90-minute inspection after the race and the winner will not be deemed official until the process is completed. Will fans really want to linger around the pay window another couple of hours just to cash in a ticket?

"The state's risk manager will delay any payout until NASCAR releases the official order of finish," Kirk said. "Our casinos will receive an email reminding them of NASCAR's new procedures the week of Daytona."

The betting lines supplied by William Hill are set: Kevin Harvick and Kyle Busch are 5-1 favorites to win the 2019 Cup series championship. 2018 champ Joey Logano checks in at 7-1. For Sunday's Daytona 500, Harvick has 15-2 odds, Logano is at 8-1 and Brad Keselowski is also at 8-1 to win "The Great American Race."

Fantasy NASCAR is already popular with both Fanduel and DraftKings offering bettors the chance to create lineups each week. With only one elite series race each weekend, NASCAR has less volume than some of the stick and ball sports.

"Most people will say that the online experience is really where the volume is going to be," Hensley said.

There are more gambling tie-ins for the sport on the horizon: Speedway Motorsports Inc. and EquiLottery Games announced plans for Car Cash, a three-number lottery draw game based on race results. NASCAR also will allow race teams to have sports gambling sponsors at all races.

Anyone in NASCAR caught breaking the gambling rules faces the possibility of suspension, indefinite suspension or termination.

"The rules are in place," Hensley said, "but you can't legislate human behavior."

More AP Auto Racing: <https://racing.ap.org> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Notorious drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman convicted

By TOM HAYS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Mexico's most notorious drug lord, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, was convicted Tuesday of running an industrial-scale smuggling operation after a three-month trial packed with Hollywood-style tales of grisly killings, political payoffs, cocaine hidden in jalapeno cans, jewel-encrusted guns and a naked escape with his mistress through a tunnel.

Guzman listened to a drumbeat of guilty verdicts on drug and conspiracy charges that could put the 61-year-old escape artist behind bars for decades in a maximum-security U.S. prison selected to thwart another one of the breakouts that made him a folk hero in his native country.

A jury whose members' identities were kept secret as a security measure reached a verdict after deliberating six days in the expansive case. They sorted through what authorities called an "avalanche" of evidence gathered since the late 1980s that Guzman and his murderous Sinaloa drug cartel made billions

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in profits by smuggling tons of cocaine, heroin, meth and marijuana into the U.S.

As the judge read the verdict, Guzman stared at the jury, and his wife watched the scene, both with resignation in their faces. When the jurors were discharged and Guzman stood to leave the courtroom, the couple traded thumbs-ups.

U.S. District Judge Brian Cogan lauded the jury's meticulous attention to detail and the "remarkable" approach it took toward deliberations. Cogan said it made him "very proud to be an American."

Evidence showed drugs poured into the U.S. through secret tunnels or hidden in tanker trucks, concealed in the undercarriage of passenger cars and packed in rail cars passing through legitimate points of entry — suggesting that a border wall wouldn't be much of a worry.

The prosecution's case against Guzman, a roughly 5½-foot figure whose nickname translates to "Shorty," included the testimony of several turncoats and other witnesses. Among them were Guzman's former Sinaloa lieutenants, a computer encryption expert and a Colombian cocaine supplier who underwent extreme plastic surgery to disguise his appearance.

One Sinaloa insider described Mexican workers getting contact highs while packing cocaine into thousands of jalapeno cans — shipments that totaled 25 to 30 tons of cocaine worth \$500 million each year. Another testified how Guzman sometimes acted as his own sicario, or hitman, punishing a Sinaloan who dared to work for another cartel by kidnapping him, beating and shooting him and having his men bury the victim while he was still alive, gasping for air.

The defense case lasted just half an hour. Guzman's lawyers did not deny his crimes as much as argue he was a fall guy for government witnesses who were more evil than he was.

In closing arguments, defense attorney Jeffrey Lichtman urged the jury not to believe government witnesses who "lie, steal, cheat, deal drugs and kill people."

U.S. Attorney Richard Donoghue called the conviction "a victory for the American people who suffered so much" while the defendant poured poison over the borders. He expected Guzman to get life without parole.

"It is a sentence from which there is no escape and no return," Donoghue told a news conference outside the courthouse, through snow and sleet.

He added: "There are those who say the war on drugs is not worth fighting. Those people are wrong."

Ray Donovan, head of the Drug Enforcement Administration's New York office said the case underscored Guzman's true colors, showing that "the real Chapo is a ruthless killer and manipulator."

Lichtman said the defense "fought like complete savages" and will appeal the case. "No matter who the defendant is, you still have to fight to the death."

He said his client was a positive thinker who "doesn't give up."

Upon hearing the verdict, Guzman was "as cool as a cucumber," Lichtman added. "Honest to god, we were more upset than he was."

Deliberations were complicated by the trial's vast scope. Jurors were tasked with making 53 decisions about whether prosecutors have proven different elements of the case.

The trial cast a harsh glare on the corruption that allowed the cartel to flourish. Colombian trafficker Alex Cifuentes caused a stir by testifying that former Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto took a \$100 million bribe from Guzman. Peña Nieto denied it, but the allegation fit a theme: politicians, army commanders, police and prosecutors, all on the take.

The tension at times was cut by some of the trial's sideshows, such as the sight of Guzman and his wife, Emma Coronel Aispuro, showing up in matching burgundy velvet blazers in a gesture of solidarity. Another day, a Chapo-size actor who played the kingpin in the TV series "Narcos: Mexico" came to watch, telling reporters that seeing the defendant flash him a smile was "surreal."

While the trial was dominated by Guzman's persona as a near-mythical outlaw who carried a diamond-encrusted handgun and stayed one step ahead of the law, the jury never heard from Guzman himself, except when he told the judge he wouldn't testify.

But his sing-songy voice filled the courtroom, thanks to recordings of intercepted phone calls. "Amigo!"

he said to a cartel distributor in Chicago. "Here at your service."

One of the trial's most memorable tales came from girlfriend Lucero Guadalupe Sanchez Lopez, who testified she was in bed in a safe house with an on-the-run Guzman in 2014 when Mexican marines started breaking down his door. She said Guzman led her to a trap door beneath a bathtub that opened up to a tunnel that allowed them to escape.

Asked what he was wearing, she replied: "He was naked. He took off running. He left us behind."

The defendant had previously escaped from jail by hiding in a laundry bin in 2001. He then got an escort from crooked police officers into Mexico City before retreating to one of his many mountainside hideaways. In 2014, he pulled off another jail break, escaping through a mile-long lighted tunnel on a motorcycle on rails.

Even when Guzman was recaptured in 2016 before his extradition to the United States, he was plotting another escape, prosecutor Andrea Goldberg said in closing arguments.

"Why? Because he is guilty and he never wanted to be in a position where he would have to answer for his crimes," she told the jury. "He wanted to avoid sitting right there. In front of you."

Associated Press writers Jim Mustian and Claudia Torrens contributed to this report.

Maduro challenger plans caravans for US aid to Venezuela

By SCOTT SMITH and CHRISTINE ARMARIO, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Opposition leader Juan Guaido said Tuesday that he will try to run caravans of badly needed food and medicine into Venezuela but won't start for nearly two weeks, a timeline that threatens to deflate momentum toward unseating entrenched President Nicolas Maduro.

Surrounded by thousands of cheering supporters, Guaido set Feb. 23 as the date for bringing in the badly needed U.S. assistance that has been warehoused on the Colombian border since last week, but he provided few details.

The 11-day wait was sure to be a disappointment for Venezuelans desperate for the supplies. More than 2 million people have fled the country's soaring hyperinflation and severe food and medical shortages over the last two years. The minimum wage, which most Venezuelans earn, amounts to less than \$6 a month, and it is common to see people scouring garbage for food in the streets of Caracas.

"Right now, I'm going to give this order to the armed forces: Allow in the humanitarian aid. That's an order," Guaido told the mass of people gathered in Caracas.

Despite the authoritative-sounding assertion, there has been little evidence that the allegiance of the security forces — the country's key powerbroker — has swung behind Guaido, a virtually unknown lawmaker until last month, when he took the helm of the National Assembly.

Guaido provided few details on how the aid would be brought in from the Colombian border city of Cucuta, except to call for mobilizing caravans of Venezuelans — a daring and potentially dangerous maneuver that could lead to more violent confrontation with the security forces.

At least 40 people have already been killed in clashes since the 35-year-old lawmaker declared himself interim president Jan. 23.

Jose Manuel Olivares, Guaido's representative in helping lead the aid mission from Colombia, acknowledged the risk, saying he and other lawmakers plan to be at the front of the Feb. 23 push to get the aid in, even if it means risking their lives.

"We have never told people to do something we are not willing to do," he said. "We're going to be there with people taking the risk."

Diego Moya-Ocampos, a Venezuela analyst with the London-based consulting firm IHS Global Insight, said Guaido has gained broad support beyond the middle classes and deep into Venezuela's slums, once a stronghold of the ruling socialist party.

But that hasn't translated into support from the military and security forces, who Moya-Ocampos said continue to distrust the opposition and fear being held accountable for criminal activity and human rights

violations if the regime changes, despite Guaidó's offer of amnesty.

"The military has had more than one opportunity to withdraw support for Maduro," Moya-Ocampos said. "It has consistently continued to back him."

On the international stage, Guaidó has won backing from nearly 60 countries, including the United States, which has pledged an initial \$20 million in support and has already shipped emergency food and medicine. Canada says it will send \$53 million in aid.

Guaidó told the crowd that thousands of volunteers he has recruited online would help organize the food and medical supplies and get them across from Colombia. He also announced a second collection point for aid to be brought in from Brazil.

Maduro backers, meanwhile, gathered at a square in the capital, cheering and waving flags. They spoke out on state TV against intervention from what they called the "U.S. empire," saying Maduro is Venezuela's rightful president.

"We know that behind this supposed humanitarian aid is the intention to intervene in Venezuela," Vice President Delcy Rodríguez said on state TV. "It's a cheap show."

Despite having the world's largest oil reserves, Venezuela is gripped by widespread malnutrition, disease and violence after 20 years of socialist rule launched by the late President Hugo Chávez. Critics accuse Maduro, Chávez's hand-picked successor, of unfairly winning an election last year for a second six-year term by banning his popular rivals from running and jailing others.

Maduro has made a show of overseeing military operations played on state TV almost daily. He has jogged with troops in formation, mounted an amphibious tank and railed against what he says is an impending U.S. invasion that he has likened to a Latin American Vietnam.

Maduro says the humanitarian aid is part of a U.S.-led coup to topple him and won't let it across the border. Venezuela's military last week barricaded a key bridge between Venezuela and Colombia in an apparent attempt to keep the aid from entering.

On Tuesday, protesters called on Maduro to relent, citing epidemic hunger and illnesses that can't be treated in Venezuela.

"Nicolas Maduro should put his hand on his heart and accept that aid," said Mayerly Prada, among a group of protesters on the Colombian side of the Tienditas International Bridge. "It's help for many Venezuelans like my son."

Prada, a 24-year-old mother of two, said she left her home in Venezuela last week after her 2-year-old son came down with a rash and he wasn't able to get treatment at home. She hoped to get medicine and return to Venezuela.

Juan Carlos Capacho, a councilman from the Colombian border city of Cucuta, which has been inundated with Venezuelan migrants, said the outcome depends on what the people of Venezuela do next.

"The call to the Venezuelan people is to get out and define their destiny," he said. "We are certain there is no barricade, no chain, no obstacle that can detain the march of history."

Associated Press writer Scott Smith reported this story in Caracas and AP writer Christine Armario reported from Cucuta, Colombia.

Trial of Catalan separatists begins in Madrid amid protests

By ARITZ PARRA and JOSEPH WILSON, Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — A politically charged trial of a dozen Catalan separatist leaders began Tuesday in Spain's Supreme Court amid protests and the possibility of an early general election being called in the country.

The defendants are being tried on rebellion and other charges stemming from their roles in pushing ahead with a unilateral independence declaration in October 2017. The declaration was based on the results of a divisive secession referendum that ignored a constitutional ban.

The trial, arguably Spain's most important in four decades of democracy, started as the future of Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's minority government hinged on a last-minute change of position by Catalan pro-

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independence parties to back his 2019 budget.

Sanchez could be forced to call an early election if the Catalan separatists, whose support brought the Socialists to power last year, don't change their current position of voting against his spending plan Wednesday.

The separatists want Sanchez to agree to talks on self-determination for their region, but the government argues that Spain's constitution doesn't allow it.

Opening the parliamentary debate on Tuesday, Spanish Budget Minister Maria Jesus Montero told Catalan lawmakers that the government would "not give in to any blackmail by anybody."

"Under no circumstance will we agree to include the right to self-determination in Catalonia in any talking points," she said.

Meanwhile, Sanchez appeared to put more pressure on his opponents by tweeting that "the right-wing and the separatists will vote against a budget that helps social causes."

"They both want the same thing: a Catalonia that is divided and a Spain that is divided," he wrote.

In response, Catalan lawmakers said that despite the imminent vote Wednesday, there was still time for the government to "rectify."

Tensions between regional and central authorities peaked with the 2017 breakaway attempt but the conflict has been festering ever since. The 7.5 million residents of Catalonia remain divided by the secession question.

In Barcelona, thousands marched to a central square on Tuesday, demanding independence and criticizing Spain's judiciary. Some carried signs with the slogan, "Self-determination is not a crime." Earlier, pro-independence activists briefly blocked highways and the entrance to the state prosecutor's office before they were cleared by the regional police without incident.

In Madrid, right-wing protesters carrying national flags shouted as lawyers and three defendants who were free on bail entered the 18th-century convent that houses Spain's Supreme Court.

Former Catalan Vice President Oriol Junqueras, the regional parliament's former Speaker Carme Forcadell and the other 10 defendants weren't expected to testify Tuesday. They sat on four benches in the middle of the courtroom.

The defendants sat facing a seven-judge panel headed by Supreme Court magistrate Manuel Marchena, who presided. They held papers, smiled to each other at times and waved at relatives in the courtroom.

Junqueras' lawyer, Andreu Van den Eynde, was the first to speak, arguing that the cause goes "against political dissidence."

"We are before an exceptional trial," he told the judges, adding that "self-determination is the formula to avoid conflicts in the world."

Catalan President Quim Torra, a fervent separatist who has had to apologize for anti-Spanish comments, followed the proceedings from the back of the courtroom, where 100 seats were reserved for defendants' relatives, journalists and members of the public who lined up for hours to get one of the limited spots.

Torra later called the trial a "farce" and said any guilty verdicts would be appealed to European courts.

"No court can put Catalan democracy on trial," Torra said. "This case will end up in European and international courts, and we will win it."

Among those not on trial is Carles Puigdemont, Torra's predecessor who fled Spain. He called for the 12 separatists to be absolved for their alleged crimes and called the trial "a stress test for the Spanish democracy."

Addressing reporters at a news conference in Berlin, the former Catalan leader added: "I trust, however, that the Spanish state will take advantage of this chance to issue the correct sentence, which is absolution."

Puigdemont successfully avoided extradition to Spain when a German court refused to send him back on charges of rebellion last year. Since then, he has campaigned in Europe for the Catalans to be able to settle their links to Spain in a vote.

Those who stayed behind and showed up in court are the ones standing trial. Junqueras, Puigdemont's No. 2 at the time, faces up to 25 in prison if found guilty of rebellion, while others charged with sedition

or misuse of public funds could get shorter sentences if convicted.

The proceedings were broadcast live on television in a display of transparency that aims to fight the separatists' attack on the court's credibility. Authorities in Spain have dismissed the notion that the trial is political and say it follows the European Union's highest standards.

Proceedings were likely to last for at least three months. The verdicts, and any sentences, will be delivered months later.

Wilson reported from Barcelona.

Notorious drug lord Joaquin 'El Chapo' Guzman convicted

By TOM HAYS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Mexico's most notorious drug lord, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, was convicted Tuesday of running an industrial-scale smuggling operation after a three-month trial packed with Hollywood-style tales of grisly killings, political payoffs, cocaine hidden in jalapeno cans, jewel-encrusted guns and a naked escape with his mistress through a tunnel.

Guzman listened to a drumbeat of guilty verdicts on drug and conspiracy charges that could put the 61-year-old escape artist behind bars for decades in a maximum-security U.S. prison selected to thwart another one of the breakouts that made him a folk hero in his native country.

A jury whose members' identities were kept secret as a security measure reached a verdict after deliberating six days in the expansive case. They sorted through what authorities called an "avalanche" of evidence gathered since the late 1980s that Guzman and his murderous Sinaloa drug cartel made billions in profits by smuggling tons of cocaine, heroin, meth and marijuana into the U.S.

As the judge read the verdict, Guzman stared at the jury, and his wife watched the scene, both with resignation in their faces. When the jurors were discharged and Guzman stood to leave the courtroom, the couple traded thumbs-ups.

U.S. District Judge Brian Cogan lauded the jury's meticulous attention to detail and the "remarkable" approach it took toward deliberations. Cogan said it made him "very proud to be an American."

Evidence showed drugs poured into the U.S. through secret tunnels or hidden in tanker trucks, concealed in the undercarriage of passenger cars and packed in rail cars passing through legitimate points of entry — suggesting that a border wall wouldn't be much of a worry.

The prosecution's case against Guzman, a roughly 5½-foot figure whose nickname translates to "Shorty," included the testimony of several turncoats and other witnesses. Among them were Guzman's former Sinaloa lieutenants, a computer encryption expert and a Colombian cocaine supplier who underwent extreme plastic surgery to disguise his appearance.

One Sinaloa insider described Mexican workers getting contact highs while packing cocaine into thousands of jalapeno cans — shipments that totaled 25 to 30 tons of cocaine worth \$500 million each year. Another testified how Guzman sometimes acted as his own sicario, or hitman, punishing a Sinaloan who dared to work for another cartel by kidnapping him, beating and shooting him and having his men bury the victim while he was still alive, gasping for air.

The defense case lasted just half an hour. Guzman's lawyers did not deny his crimes as much as argue he was a fall guy for government witnesses who were more evil than he was.

In closing arguments, defense attorney Jeffrey Lichtman urged the jury not to believe government witnesses who "lie, steal, cheat, deal drugs and kill people."

U.S. Attorney Richard Donoghue called the conviction "a victory for the American people who suffered so much" while the defendant poured poison over the borders. He expected Guzman to get life without parole.

"It is a sentence from which there is no escape and no return," Donoghue told a news conference outside the courthouse, through snow and sleet.

He added: "There are those who say the war on drugs is not worth fighting. Those people are wrong."

Ray Donovan, head of the Drug Enforcement Administration's New York office, said the case underscored

Guzman's true colors, showing that "the real Chapo is a ruthless killer and manipulator."

Lichtman said the defense "fought like complete savages" and will appeal the case. "No matter who the defendant is, you still have to fight to the death."

He said his client was a positive thinker who "doesn't give up."

Upon hearing the verdict, Guzman was "as cool as a cucumber," Lichtman added. "Honest to god, we were more upset than he was."

Deliberations were complicated by the trial's vast scope. Jurors were tasked with making 53 decisions about whether prosecutors had proven different elements of the case.

The trial cast a harsh glare on the corruption that allowed the cartel to flourish. Colombian trafficker Alex Cifuentes caused a stir by testifying that former Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto took a \$100 million bribe from Guzman. Peña Nieto denied it, but the allegation fit a theme: politicians, army commanders, police and prosecutors, all on the take.

The tension at times was cut by some of the trial's sideshows, such as the sight of Guzman and his wife, Emma Coronel Aispuro, showing up in matching burgundy velvet blazers in a gesture of solidarity. Another day, a Chapo-size actor who played the kingpin in the TV series "Narcos: Mexico" came to watch, telling reporters that seeing the defendant flash him a smile was "surreal."

While the trial was dominated by Guzman's persona as a near-mythical outlaw who carried a diamond-encrusted handgun and stayed one step ahead of the law, the jury never heard from Guzman himself, except when he told the judge he wouldn't testify.

But his sing-songy voice filled the courtroom, thanks to recordings of intercepted phone calls. "Amigo!" he said to a cartel distributor in Chicago. "Here at your service."

One of the trial's most memorable tales came from girlfriend Lucero Guadalupe Sanchez Lopez, who testified she was in bed in a safe house with an on-the-run Guzman in 2014 when Mexican marines started breaking down his door. She said Guzman led her to a trap door beneath a bathtub that opened up to a tunnel that allowed them to escape.

Asked what he was wearing, she replied: "He was naked. He took off running. He left us behind."

The defendant had previously escaped from jail by hiding in a laundry bin in 2001. He then got an escort from crooked police officers into Mexico City before retreating to one of his many mountainside hideaways. In 2014, he pulled off another jail break, escaping through a mile-long lighted tunnel on a motorcycle on rails.

Even when Guzman was recaptured in 2016 before his extradition to the United States, he was plotting another escape, prosecutor Andrea Goldberg said in closing arguments.

"Why? Because he is guilty and he never wanted to be in a position where he would have to answer for his crimes," she told the jury. "He wanted to avoid sitting right there. In front of you."

Associated Press writers Jim Mustian and Claudia Torrens contributed to this report.

Ex-astronaut Mark Kelly makes Democratic bid for Senate seat

By JONATHAN J. COOPER, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Retired astronaut Mark Kelly, who became a prominent gun-control advocate after his wife and former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords was shot in a failed assassination attempt, announced Tuesday he will run to finish John McCain's last term in the U.S. Senate.

If he wins the Democratic nomination, Kelly would take on Republican Martha McSally in what is expected to be one of the most closely contested Senate races of the 2020 election.

Kelly described himself as an independent-minded centrist who will take a scientist's data-driven approach to solving problems such as climate change, wage stagnation and health care affordability.

"You see a lot of partisanship in Washington and a lot of polarization, and to some extent we've created that," Kelly told The Associated Press. "It's going to take people who are more independent to fix it. Arizonans value independence."

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If Kelly is nominated the race would pit the Navy veteran and astronaut against McSally, a trailblazing Air Force pilot, in the contest to replace McCain, a legendary Navy flyer who was famously shot down and held captive in North Vietnam.

McSally is a former Republican congresswoman who was appointed to McCain's seat after she narrowly lost to Democrat Kyrsten Sinema last November in the race for outgoing Republican Jeff Flake's seat. McSally leaned heavily on her record as the first woman to fly a combat mission, but she was hurt by her embrace of President Donald Trump.

Kelly decried politicians who "ignore data and facts and in some cases don't even believe in science," but did not take on Trump directly, saying he's "not going to focus on the presidency or the White House."

The 2020 election will decide who finishes the last two years of McCain's term. The winner would have to run again for a full six-year term in 2022.

Democrats are eagerly watching the Arizona contest, having already defeated McSally. The party is also gauging whether Arizona could be competitive at the presidential level in 2020 after Trump won by 4 percentage points in 2016.

Kelly has never held elected office. He flew combat missions during the first Gulf War and was a Navy test pilot before becoming an astronaut along with his twin brother, Scott Kelly. He flew four space missions over 10 years and commanded the Space Shuttle Endeavor in 2011.

Kelly and Giffords have pushed Congress to enact gun control measures with little success. They shifted their focus to state legislatures in recent years, helping to strengthen background checks and domestic violence protections.

Giffords was severely wounded in a mass shooting on Jan. 8, 2011. The shooting at a Giffords meet-and-greet event in Tucson left six dead and 13 injured.

Giffords played a prominent role in the four-minute video Tuesday launching Kelly's campaign.

"I thought then that I had the risky job," Kelly says to Giffords. "Turned out, you were the one that had the risky job."

Kelly told the AP Giffords, who has been a rising Democratic star before the shooting, will join him frequently during campaign appearances.

Republican Gov. Doug Ducey appointed McSally to the vacant Senate seat after his temporary appointee, former Sen. Jon Kyl, resigned after a few months in office.

Arizona has been a longstanding Republican stronghold, but a growing Latino population and frustration among women with Trump have helped Democrats make inroads.

U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego of Phoenix is also considering a Senate run that would likely position him to Kelly's left politically.

"I've made no secret of the fact that I'm looking seriously at running for the U.S. Senate in 2020, and that hasn't changed," Gallego said on Twitter following Kelly's announcement. "I'll be making a final decision and announcement soon."

Former Attorney General Grant Woods, a lifelong Republican who became a Democrat and a fierce critic of Trump, said last week he will not run for the seat.

McCain, a legendary and beloved Arizona politician, died last year from an aggressive form of brain cancer after more than three decades in the Senate.

Win or lose at the Oscars, Glenn Close is loving the moment

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Glenn Close stands doubled over laughing in the doorway to her downtown Manhattan apartment while her loyal white Havanese, Pip, circles an arriving reporter.

It's star time for both. Close, among the most accomplished performers never to win an Oscar, may finally break through with "The Wife," in which, ironically, she plays a deferential spouse (to an acclaimed author, played by Jonathan Pryce) who has been long overlooked. The never-nominated Pip has developed his own following, thanks in part to an appearance on "The View." The dog's Instagram account, under

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the name "Sir Pippin of Beanfield," is up to 3,400 followers.

Inside, Close hands the reporter a bottle of red wine to open as she recounts how hours earlier, while walking Pip in a park, a lady stopped her to relate her own story of being held back in her profession by a man. These are the kinds of stories Close has heard a lot since "The Wife" came out and since she gave a show-stopping acceptance speech at the Golden Globes where she spoke movingly about how her mother sublimated herself to Close's father, a prominent surgeon.

"Another woman crossing the street was like, 'I love you, Glenn!'" says Close. "People down in the pharmacy, they're all cheering me on."

Seemingly everyone knows that Close, 71, has emerged as the best actress front-runner after early buzz favored Lady Gaga for "A Star is Born." "The Wife" may be a modest independent film (\$9 million at the box office, and still playing six months after opening), but the moment feels finely tailored to Close, the most-nominated living actor never to win an Oscar.

What would an Academy Award mean to her? She pauses.

"It would mean a lot but I wouldn't want it to be a pity Oscar because I've been an actress for 45 years," says Close, whose previous honors include three Tony awards, three Emmys and three Globes. "People have been going back and looking at my basic body of work and the six times I lost and what those roles were. So I can't pretend it's just for 'The Wife.' But I feel like everybody's rooting for me."

But that's not to say Close will be crestfallen if she doesn't win. She smiles. "I've decided if I lose, I'm going to look at the camera and say: 'I'm OK.'"

And she is. Much more than OK, even. Making "The Wife" has been its own cathartic, empowering experience for Close.

"It's taken me a long time to gain control of my own life. When I made 'The Wife,' I was in control of my own life for probably the first time," says Close. "I felt like I had new wings. Or maybe my wings were finally developed."

That's a startling pronouncement for an actress who has for decades been one of the most versatile and subtle actors of film, television and theater. A late bloomer, she didn't act in her first film until age 35. But since, Close has unfailingly embodied intelligence and depth in everything from her early breakthroughs in "The World According to Garp" and "The Big Chill" to "Sunset Boulevard" (twice on stage, decades apart; she hopes to make a film of the musical this year); from her ruthless attorney on "Damages" to her infamous Alex Forrest in "Fatal Attraction."

"Nobody thought I could be sexy," Close says of the time before 1987's "Fatal Attraction," a film she'd like to see remade from the woman's perspective rather than the sympathetic point-of-view of Michael Douglas' cheating husband. "In making the movie a hit, I basically had to betray what I thought was the essence of that character," says Close.

"The Wife," a feminist parable based on Meg Wolitzer's 2003 novel, came to Close about six years ago, shortly before divorcing her third husband, venture capitalist David Evans Shaw. When it's mentioned to Close that she doesn't seem like someone who would ever sublimate herself to another, she responds, "Oh, you don't know me, personally," and lets out a loud laugh.

"I'm at a time in my life where I'm not beholden to anyone. I mean, I always am attached with every molecule in my body to my daughter, whether she likes it or not. But I'm not attached to any partner," says Close, whose 30-year-old daughter Annie Starke co-stars in "The Wife." "And I think it's for the first time in my life that I haven't felt the obligation to not be who I am, to put a shade over the light, to temper your power. And it's incredibly liberating."

That "The Wife" features Close and her daughter (who plays a younger version of the same character) gives the film an added, multigenerational layer of meaning. Both Close and Starke together crafted the character with inspiration from the women of their shared family tree. Foremost in Close's mind was her mother, who married at 18.

"It broke my heart to hear her say in her late '80s that she accomplished nothing," says Close, tearing up. "You can say, 'But, oh, you're such a good mother. Oh, you stuck it out with dad.' That wasn't the

point. It was something else. That's what I think resonated with a lot of women about that (Golden Globes) speech. Because we do what we naturally do. And for a lot of women that might be OK. But it hasn't been in the tradition to seek personal fulfillment for women."

Starke also drew on her paternal grandmother, a GE chemist who she said worked on the Manhattan Project before being fired for becoming pregnant with her father's brother. "I know she always wondered what could have been," said Starke by phone from Los Angeles.

"It was quite a powerful preparation experience," said Starke of working with her mother. "She keeps telling me that she feels like she's at the top of her power. She's getting recognition for something that hit so close to home. Hopefully the seventh time is the charm."

"The Wife" premiered just as the #MeToo movement was being born. It debuted at the Toronto International Film Festival in September 2017. Sony Pictures Classic, which acquired the movie, chose to wait to release it in August, timed to get ahead of the awards season rush.

"One of the reasons it was so fresh and so strong for us was how powerful Glenn was in the sequences where she's not even speaking," said Michael Barker, co-president of Sony Pictures Classic. "It's just her face and her face isn't even the central face in the frame. Even though it was a few months before the MeToo movement really kicked in, it was obvious the theme was very urgent and important."

Close, relaxing on a sofa next to Pip, grants she, like everyone else, thought Gaga was going to win at the Globes. ("I was just kind of going with low expectations, just keep your sanity," she says.) What she'd most like in awards season is the chance to sit with whom she calls her "category sisters" — all the best-actress nominees — at the same table.

All through the season, Close has worn her grandmother's wedding ring, one more reminder of the countless women who, like the protagonist of "The Wife," deferred their own self-expression to serve a husband or a family. "She should have been an actress," Close says, rubbing the ring. "So I feel like they're with me."

Follow AP Film Writer Jake Coyle on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/jakecoyleAP

Is Beto back? O'Rourke's Trump counter-rally teases 2020 run

By WILL WEISSERT, Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — His voice occasionally cracking, Beto O'Rourke delivered an emotional appeal to thousands of cheering El Pasoans, vowing that Donald Trump shouldn't be allowed to stoke fears in his hometown. Only when the possible 2020 presidential hopeful paused for effect was the boom of the president's speech — echoing from the Trump rally less than a block away — heard in the distance.

It's not easy to drown out Trump. But at his rival rally Monday night, O'Rourke showed he was willing to go to great lengths to try. The event was the latest signal that the former Democratic congressman is readying for a White House run, and it was a window into what an O'Rourke campaign might look like.

On a makeshift stage at a baseball field, O'Rourke aimed for optimism and placed his opposition to Trump's immigration policies front and center. He wants to stick to "what unites us rather than what divides us," O'Rourke said, reviving the rhetoric that made him a Democratic star during his failed Texas Senate bid last year. He sprinkled in fluent Spanish and praise for immigrants and was backed by a Mariachi band. Celebrity photographer Annie Leibovitz was spotted backstage, following O'Rourke closely, and has been taking his picture around El Paso in recent weeks.

O'Rourke decided to stage a counter-rally after Trump announced plans to stump in El Paso. The president has used this city to make his case for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. O'Rourke told reporters Monday he "just wasn't going to let anyone else tell El Paso's story."

The move was characteristically unconventional and media savvy. At a time when many in the Democratic field are keeping Trump at arm's length, O'Rourke went head-to-head, leading a march that hugged part of El Paso's border with Mexico before concluding at the baseball complex close to where Trump was delivering his own speech at the same time.

The march followed the border for a few blocks, affording views of the towering metal slats erected

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along it. Wearing a black fleece over a white button-up shirt with the sleeves rolled up that has become a trademark, O'Rourke grinned widely and waved at longtime supporters and friends, stopping frequently to hug many of them. Marchers all around him alternated between chanting "No wall!" and "Beto! Beto! Beto!"

It was a clear return to the arena for a politician who has recently made headlines for his public soul-searching and road-tripping, both documented in social media posts and online essays. In an interview with Oprah Winfrey last week, he acknowledged he had been coming to terms with his November loss to Republican Sen. Ted Cruz and was now considering a presidential bid.

Many in El Paso had hoped O'Rourke would use Monday's march and rally to announce his plans. He's said he will make up his mind by the end of the month.

O'Rourke barely mentioned the name of the man Democrats hope to knock from the White House next year. But he wasn't shy about assailing Trump's immigration policies, an animating force for both men.

"I think we all hate Trump, that's a given, at least for anybody in the Democratic primary," said Texas Democratic strategist Mike Lavigne. "If you're running, you are trying to consolidate your support, stay positive."

The president says "Walls work," arguing that El Paso has become one of the safest cities in the nation because of border barriers standing between it and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, just across the Rio Grande.

Fencing has been around in some form here since the 1970s, though it wasn't really fortified until after 2006. But FBI statistics show El Paso had very low crime rates per capita years before the border barriers were reinforced — and O'Rourke says walls have nothing to do with keeping the city safe.

"We know that walls do not save lives. Walls end lives," he told the ballfield rally crowd. "We stand for America, and we stand against walls."

It was the first of what will be many dueling campaign rallies of the 2020 presidential cycle — and turnout was strong despite cold, blustery conditions that were unusual in a West Texas locale known for its desert heat. O'Rourke's camp said 7,000 people crowded onto an open-air baseball diamond. Trump filled a nearby coliseum that could similarly hold thousands.

Claiming that his rally drew 35,000 attendees including those listening outside, the president also initially, falsely said only 200 to 300 were at O'Rourke's rally. "That maybe ends his presidential challenge," Trump said.

At a Cabinet meeting back in Washington on Tuesday, Trump was still raising the issue, saying, "We had a competitor that decided to challenge me with the crowds and he failed very badly."

"From what I hear, he had less than 1,000 people, and we had a packed arena, and we had probably 25,000 outside of the arena," the president said. "It was an incredible night in Texas."

Rule could limit college response to off-campus sex assaults

By COLLIN BINKLEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — At some of the nation's largest universities, the vast majority of sexual assaults take place not in dorm rooms or anywhere else on school property but in the neighborhoods beyond campus boundaries, according to data obtained by The Associated Press.

But the schools' obligation to investigate and respond to those off-campus attacks could be dramatically reduced by the Education Department's proposed overhaul of campus sexual assault rules. That's alarmed advocacy groups and school officials who say it would strip students of important protections in the areas where most of them live.

At the University of Texas in Austin, officials have received 58 reports of sexual assaults on campus grounds since the fall of 2014 while fielding 237 involving private apartments, houses and other areas outside campus, according to the data obtained through public records requests. Another 160 reports didn't include locations.

"The majority of our students are just not in proximity to campus, and a lot of things happen when they're not on campus," said Krista Anderson, the university's Title IX coordinator. Of the school's 51,000 students, she said, only about 18 percent live in campus housing.

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For now, federal guidelines urge colleges to take action against any sexual misconduct that disrupts a student's education, regardless of where it took place.

But in its proposed rule, the department says schools should be required to address sexual misconduct only if it occurs within their "programs or activities," a designation that would exclude many cases off campus.

The proposal is included in Education Secretary Betsy DeVos' revision of Obama-era guidance on campus sexual assault, which officials say is unfairly skewed against those accused of assault and goes beyond the intended scope of Title IX, the federal law barring sex discrimination in education. Some colleges had complained that the Obama rules were too complex and could be overly burdensome.

The AP asked the nation's 10 largest public universities for several years of data on the topic. Out of eight that provided data, five had more reports from off campus than on school property: The University of Texas, Texas A&M, Arizona State, Michigan State and the University of Central Florida.

At Texas A&M, for example, the number of sexual assaults reported from beyond campus since 2014 is twice the number on school property.

Leaders of some schools say the proposal appears to let them decide whether to handle cases beyond their borders, but conflicting language has led some to believe they would actually be barred from it.

One section says schools would be permitted to address cases outside their property, while another says schools would have to dismiss all complaints from outside their programs. Dozens of schools have asked the department for clarification.

"There is a concern that these regulations might strictly limit the jurisdiction of the university to conduct which occurs on campus," said David Bunis, general counsel for Worcester Polytechnic Institute, a private school in Massachusetts.

Department spokeswoman Liz Hill said schools would be able to investigate cases outside their programs "at their discretion" but did not clarify the discrepancy. Unless the conflicting language is changed, legal experts say, it could give accused students legal grounds to get their cases dismissed.

Since the proposal was issued in November, it has generated a flood of feedback from students, parents, schools, politicians and activists on both sides.

A recent public comment period drew more than 104,000 responses, already the most in department history, and federal officials announced Tuesday that they would re-open the comment period for one day, on Feb. 15, because technical errors may have blocked some users from submitting feedback.

Tens of thousands of comments have been credited to campaigns meant to inundate the agency with criticism. In western Pennsylvania, for example, a local chapter of the National Organization for Women recently hosted an event on how to submit comments, one of many similar gatherings across the country.

Opponents are fighting against several of the plan's key provisions, including changes that would narrow the definition of sexual harassment and allow students accused of sexual misconduct to question their accusers through a representative.

Few points, however, have drawn as much anger as the move to reduce schools' obligations off campus. In public comments, students said it would leave little recourse for those assaulted at parties, bars or other sites. Advocacy groups worry that fewer victims would report assaults, and that more would drop out of school.

"We think it's very dangerous," said Terri Poore, policy director at the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, an advocacy group in Washington, D.C. "There are several other very, very, disturbing issues, but this is absolutely among the worst aspects of the proposed rule."

Many colleges have raised their own concerns, especially institutions that fear the rule would cut off their authority at campus boundaries.

Laurie Nichols, president of the University of Wyoming, told the Education Department that curbing schools' powers would simply push sexual violence to areas where offenders know they're beyond the school's reach.

In her comment, Nichols added that refusing to take action off campus "communicates indifference on

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the part of the institution and ignores the impact of these experiences on a student's ability to succeed in the classroom."

Still, few colleges are asking the department to keep things just as they are. Instead, many want the flexibility to decide which cases to handle, even though they say they have no plans to scale back investigations.

Loyola University in Chicago is among those asking for the discretion to choose. Officials wrote that, regardless of where sexual misconduct takes place, "the lasting impact of such misconduct is likely to affect our students' education and sense of safety."

Further questions have emerged about the handling of online sexual harassment, which isn't explicitly addressed in the proposal. It's a major concern for many schools below the college level, which are bound by the same federal rules and have faced growing problems with cyberbullying.

The School Superintendents Association, which represents more than 13,000 education leaders, told the department it was "shocked" that the proposal seems to prevent schools from responding to online sexual misconduct.

"While monitoring and taking steps to address these activities can be burdensome, district policies have been built around doing so," the group wrote. "This would unduly tie the hands of school leaders who believe every child deserves a safe and healthy learning environment."

Even supporters of the rule say it needs clarification, but they contend it's a step in the right direction. Some argue that police are better equipped than schools to handle cases away from campus property, although advocates who work with victims counter that only a fraction of assaults are ever reported to police.

Cynthia Garrett, leader of Families Advocating for Campus Equality, a group that represents students accused of sexual misconduct, said existing rules have led some colleges to investigate sexual misconduct hundreds of miles away. She added that schools should handle some off campus cases, but only within reason.

"I just think it has to be a practical consideration. Is this something where the school has any power over the property? Can they go there? Can they look at the evidence?" she said. "It's very difficult to set a bright-line rule, which is unfortunate because it would certainly help matters."

The Education Department is now reviewing the public comments before it issues a final rule, a process expected to take several months.

Federal officials estimate that, if the rule is finalized, the number of off-campus cases schools investigate would fall by somewhere between 11 percent and 30 percent. As a result, the agency predicts, schools would collectively save up to \$456 million over a decade.

Officials based their analysis on the assumption that about 40 percent of sexual assaults involving students take place off-campus, a statistic that comes from an insurance company's study of 305 sexual assault claims filed between 2011 and 2013. Some other surveys have put the figure above 60 percent.

Colleges say it's difficult to track exactly how many offenses take place off-campus. Many assaults are never reported. Sometimes the information is channeled through friends or professors who don't know where it happened.

At the University of Florida it was roughly an even split between off-campus and on-campus sexual assault complaints, according to the data obtained by the AP. Ohio State University had more cases on campus. The University of Maryland University College, which does not have residence halls and offers the majority of its classes online, says no sexual assaults have been reported in the past five years.

At the University of Central Florida, officials say they're awaiting the department's final rule but have not stopped investigating off-campus sexual misconduct complaints involving students or employees.

"It is the university's mission to provide a safe environment for all students and employees. Accordingly, we have no plans to change this practice, but we'll reassess if mandated to do so when the new regulations are issued by the federal government," Nancy Myers, director of the school's Office of Institutional Equity, said in a statement.

Anderson, the University of Texas official, said the school has no plans to narrow the scope of its work

even if the final rule allows it. Although cases that arise off campus can be complicated, she said, the university will continue to investigate them unless it's explicitly forbidden.

"The complex cases are the ones that need our attention," Anderson said. "We have a duty to address those and respond to it appropriately."

Follow Collin Binkley on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/cbinkley>

Heading south: Warming to change how US cities feel in 2080

By **SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The climate in New York City in 60 years could feel like Arkansas now. Chicago could seem like Kansas City and San Francisco could get a Southern California climate if global warming pollution continues at the current pace, a new study finds.

In 2080, North Carolina's capital, Raleigh, could feel more like Florida's capital, Tallahassee, while the nation's capital will have a climate more akin to just north of the Mississippi Delta, if the globe stays on its current carbon pollution trend. Miami might as well be southern Mexico and the beautiful mornings in future Des Moines, Iowa, could feel like they are straight out of Oklahoma.

That's according to a study Tuesday in the journal *Nature Communications* that tries to explain climate change better.

"The children alive today, like my daughter who is 12, they're going to see a dramatic transformation of climate. It's already under way," said study lead author Matt Fitzpatrick. He's an ecology professor at the University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Sciences in Frostburg, Maryland, which won't quite measure up to its name with climate more like current day southern Kentucky.

But if the world cuts back on its carbon dioxide emissions, peaking around 2040, then New York's climate can stay closer to home, feeling more like central Maryland, while Chicago's climate could be somewhat like Dayton, Ohio's.

Fitzpatrick looked at 12 different variables for 540 U.S. and Canadian cities under two climate change scenarios to find out what the future might feel like in a way a regular person might understand. He averaged the climate results from 27 different computer models then found the city that most resembles that futuristic scenario.

He put the results on website that allows people to check how their nearest city could feel: <http://shiny.al.umces.edu:3838/futCitiesApp/cityApp/>

"Wow," said Northern Illinois University climate scientist Victor Gensini, who wasn't part of the study. "The science here isn't new but a great way to bring impacts to the local scale user."

The 540 cities on average move 528 miles (850 kilometers) to the south climate-wise, if carbon emissions keep soaring. If the world cuts back, the cities move on average 319 miles (514 kilometers).

The city that moves the most is Wasilla, Alaska, which if emissions aren't cut back could feel like eastern Wisconsin, 11 degrees warmer in the summer. It's a change of about 2,720 miles (4,379 kilometers).

"Visualizations that tap into our own lived experiences make a lot of sense," said Oregon State University climate scientist Kathie Dello, who wasn't part of the study and doesn't like what it shows for her region. "Telling people in historically mild Portland that the climate in the late 21st century will be more like the hot Central Valley of California is jarring."

Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter: @borenbears .

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Parkland anniversary highlights Democratic shift on guns

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI, Associated Press

In the final weeks before the 2008 election, Barack Obama's campaign sent mailers to Florida voters reassuring them that he supported the Second Amendment. In the opening days of the 2020 Democratic primary, it's hard to imagine any candidate feeling the need to make a similar gesture.

"Guns are no longer the third rail," said Steve Schale, a political operative who ran Obama's Florida campaign in 2008. "Ten to 12 years ago, Democrats had to — for political necessity — be really careful about how they talked about it. Now, if you don't talk about it, you're not part of the political conversation."

Democrats are increasingly emboldened to embrace gun control as the anniversary of America's deadliest mass shooting at a high school approaches on Thursday. The shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, killed 17 students and staff members and roused a group of young activists who sought to make gun violence a generational issue for younger voters.

Since then, Democrats say they're buoyed by their success in last year's midterms. The party won back the House of Representatives, fueled by victories in several competitive, suburban swing districts where candidates highlighted gun control.

Lucy McBath, who became a gun control activist after her 17-year-old son was shot to death at a gas station in 2012, won a suburban Atlanta congressional district that had long been held by the GOP. Jason Crow, a former Army Ranger, ousted the Republican congressman and gun rights supporter who represented the district where the Aurora theater shooting happened outside Denver in 2012. Even in Republican-dominated Texas, backing gun control didn't stop Democrats from flipping a suburban Houston seat to their column.

AP VoteCast, a nationwide survey of the American electorate, found 8 percent of midterm voters across the country called gun policy the top issue facing the nation. They broke for Democrats over Republicans by more than 4 to 1.

"The primary thing that's shifted in the politics of this issue is voter intensity was on their side. It's now on ours," said Peter Ambler, executive director of the gun control group founded by former Rep. Gabby Giffords after she was injured in a 2011 mass shooting.

Giffords' husband, Mark Kelly, said Tuesday that he would run as a Democrat for Arizona's Senate seat next year, suggesting that gun control won't soon fade from the campaign trail.

Democratic bullishness on guns is reflected by the unanimity in its sprawling presidential field on the issue. Presidential aspirants who once took a more moderate stance and opposed elements of gun control, such as Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and Bernie Sanders of Vermont, have now embraced the cause. And the most prominent potential moderates in the Democratic field, former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and former Vice President Joe Biden, are longtime gun control advocates.

But there's no guarantee the Democrats' leftward turn on guns will help them recreate their 2018 victory during the 2020 presidential election, which will take place on different terrain than the diverse, educated suburbs where Democrats performed best in November. Democrats will have to win more rural, whiter states to defeat Republican Donald Trump in the Electoral College in 2020. Florida will again play a crucial role, and Democrats lost major races there last year despite being the location of the Parkland shooting.

In 2016, Hillary Clinton ran on a platform of unabashed gun control — partly a product of attacking Sanders for his more conservative gun control positions in the Democratic presidential primary. Trump accused her of trying to do away with the Second Amendment and warned she might appoint Supreme Court justices with that goal. Republicans believe that's part of the reason Trump eked out his 2016 win.

"The threat of a Hillary Clinton presidency brought gun owners out of the woodwork in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania," said Dave Workman, a longtime gun rights activist at the Second Amendment Foundation in Washington state. Gun owners "may not like everything about Trump, but they sure don't want him replaced by Kamala Harris or Cory Booker," Workman added, referring to the California and New Jersey senators running for the Democratic presidential nomination.

So far, Democrats like Booker and Harris routinely allude to problems of gun violence but have not

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released detailed plans to control it. The candidates may soon find themselves in a bidding war for the Democratic base on the issue, much as they have been tugged left on taxes and universal health care.

"They're going to go too far," Brad Todd, a Republican strategist, said.

Still, Democrats think the tide has turned since 2016. Celinda Lake, a Democratic pollster, said Trump was able to win then because many female suburban swing voters didn't believe he would really govern as a conservative president on hot-button issues like guns. Now, she said, they have no illusions.

"The victory for Democrats is going to come from the enthusiasm of women," Lake said. "Parkland is a breakthrough moment that we need to take advantage of."

Despite Democratic losses in Florida last year, there was a silver lining to party faithful on guns. In the weeks after Parkland, the GOP-controlled Florida legislature passed a bill allowing authorities to seize firearms from people deemed a threat, as well as implementing a three-day waiting period on gun purchases. It was the first gun control bill passed in Florida in decades, and it was signed by then-Gov. Rick Scott, who highlighted it in his successful Republican Senate campaign.

Schale, who advised Parkland students and families who helped push the legislation, acknowledged that the gun issue could accentuate the divides that helped Trump win in 2016. But he believes the Democratic side is bigger.

"There's a risk that Republicans could be out of the mainstream" on guns, Schale said.

Associated Press writer Hannah Fingerhut in Washington contributed to this report.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump says no more planes or cows under Dems

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Let Democrats have their way, President Donald Trump suggested, and the United States will become a country without border security, airplanes or cows.

Trump warned of a variety of dire consequences from the Democratic playbook as he rallied Monday night in the border city of El Paso, Texas, in a hall where banners proclaimed "Finish the Wall" even though he barely has a start on the one he promised.

Both at the White House and in El Paso, he presented the border wall as a work in progress, hailing the start of a "big, big portion" with much more coming soon. It was a hefty exaggeration from a president who has yet to see an extra mile of barrier completed since he took office.

With another government shutdown looming — a tentative agreement reached by lawmakers Monday could avert it — and illegal immigration still at the heart of the budget dispute, Trump is pulling out the stops to portray his proposed wall as an answer to crime and drugs. As he's done repeatedly, Trump also defied the record in claiming that the wall that Congress has refused to pay for is rapidly coming together anyway.

In the course of the evening, he also took a swipe at the Green New Deal, a sweeping plan put forward by a group of Democrats last week to transform the U.S. economy to combat climate change and create thousands of jobs in renewable energy. This is where gaseous cows come into it.

A look at his remarks:

TRUMP, on the effects of the Green New Deal: "You're not allowed to own cows anymore." He added that the plan would "shut down American energy" and "a little thing called air travel."

THE FACTS: The Democratic plan would do none of those things. Trump chose to ignore the actual provisions of the plan, which calls for a drastic drop in greenhouse-gas emissions from fossil fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas but would not ban methane-emitting cows or air travel.

Instead, Trump took his cue from a fact sheet that was distributed by the office of Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York last week, then clumsily disavowed by her and replaced with a more accurate summary of the plan.

The first version described measures beyond those contained in the plan, such as: "Build out high-speed rail at a scale where air travel stops becoming necessary." And it made the impolitic statement: "We set

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a goal to get to net-zero, rather than zero emissions, in 10 years because we aren't sure that we'll be able to fully get rid of farting cows and airplanes that fast." Corbin Trent, a spokesman for Ocasio-Cortez, said that was meant as an ironic quip.

TRUMP, on the effect of a border wall on crime in El Paso: "When that wall went up, it's a whole different ball game. ... I don't care whether a mayor is a Republican or a Democrat. They're full of crap when they say it hasn't made a big difference. I heard the same thing from the fake news. They said, 'Oh crime, it actually stayed the same.' It didn't stay the same. It went way down. ... Thanks to a powerful border wall in El Paso, Texas, it's one of America's safest cities now." — rally remarks.

THE FACT: Trump falsely suggests a dramatic drop in crime in El Paso due to a border wall. In fact, the city's murder rate was less than half the national average in 2005, the year before the start of its border fence. It's true that the FBI's Uniform Crime Report shows that El Paso's annual number of reported violent crimes dropped from nearly 5,000 in 1995 to around 2,700 in 2016. But that corresponded with similar declines in violent crime nationwide and included periods when the city's crime rates increased year over year, despite new fencing and walls.

Before the wall project started, El Paso had been rated one of the three safest major U.S. cities going back to 1997.

TRUMP, on his proposed wall: "We've built a lot of it." — rally remarks.

TRUMP: "We've actually started a big, big portion of the wall today at a very important location, and it's going to go up pretty quickly over the next nine months. That whole area will be finished. It's fully funded ... and we're going to have a lot of wall being built over the next period of time." — White House remarks.

THE FACTS: There's less going on here than his words convey. Construction is getting started on merely 14 miles (23 kilometers) of extended barrier, approved by Congress about a year ago in an appropriation that also authorized money to renovate and strengthen some existing fencing. The extension will be in Texas' Rio Grande Valley. That's not a "big, big portion" of the grand project he promised in his campaign and countless times since — a wall that, combined with existing fencing and natural barriers, would seal the nearly 2,000-mile (3,200-kilometre) border with Mexico.

The recent fight with Democrats in Congress has been over his demand for a \$5.7 billion down payment on the wall. That money would pay for a little over 200 miles (320 kilometers) of new barrier. Democrats have refused to approve anything close to that for extended barrier construction.

Trump also promised in the campaign that he would make Mexico pay for the wall, which it refused to do. He inherited over 650 miles (1,050 kilometers) of border barrier from previous administrations.

TRUMP, on preparations for his rally: "We have a line that is very long already. I mean, you see what's going on. And I understand our competitor's got a line, too, but it's a tiny little line." — at the White House.

THE FACTS: That's not true. His comment came about four hours before his El Paso rally and a competing one nearby, led by Beto O'Rourke, a prospective Democratic presidential contender. The gathering for both events was small at the time. People were standing around in a dusty wind, not so much lined up.

TRUMP, addressing El Paso rally: "He has 200 people, 300 people, not too good. ... That may be the end of his presidential bid."

THE FACTS: That's not true, either. O'Rourke's march and rally drew thousands. Police did not give an estimate, but his crowd filled up nearly all of a baseball field from the stage at the infield to the edge of outfield and was tightly packed.

TRUMP: "Drugs pouring through the border kills tens of thousands of innocent Americans a year, including heroin, meth, cocaine, fentanyl, so many others — they come through the southern border. We have a drug problem over the last 6, 7, 10 years like we have never had before. We can have such a big cut in

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the numbers, the percentages, if we get the wall built.” — rally remarks.

THE FACTS: His assertion that a wall would stop most drugs from “pouring” into the U.S. runs counter to his government’s findings on how the illegal substances get in. Most of it is smuggled through official border crossings, not remote stretches of the border.

The Drug Enforcement Administration says “only a small percentage” of heroin seized by U.S. authorities comes across on territory between ports of entry. The same is true of drugs generally, with the exception of marijuana.

In a 2018 report, the agency said the most common trafficking technique by transnational criminal organizations is to hide drugs in passenger vehicles or tractor-trailers as they drive into the U.S. through entry ports, where they are stopped and subject to inspection. They also employ buses, cargo trains and tunnels, the report says, citing other smuggling methods that also would not be choked off by a border wall.

TRUMP: “Illegal immigration hurts all Americans, including millions of legal immigrants, by driving down wages, draining public resources and claiming countless innocent lives.” — rally remarks.

THE FACTS: These assertions are unsupported by research, which Trump appeared to acknowledge obliquely by making a crack about “phony stats.”

The weight of research on wages suggests that immigrants have not suppressed them, although it’s not cut and dried. What’s clear is that macro forces that go beyond immigration are at work in the sluggishness of wage growth: the decline in unionization, an intensified push to maximize corporate profits, growing health insurance costs that supplant wages and the rise of a lower-wage global labor force that in an intertwined worldwide economy can hinder pay growth for Americans.

On public resources, the National Academy of Sciences concluded: “An immigrant and a native-born person with similar characteristics will likely have the same fiscal impact.” The academy found that because state and local governments supply most of the money for public schools, immigrants often receive more in benefits than they pay in taxes. But education produces children who grow into adults who get jobs, buy cars, buy houses and pay taxes and thereby contribute to economic growth. And succeeding generations of immigrant families become net contributors to government budgets, according to the study.

On the loss of lives, plenty of research challenges the assumption that people in the country illegally drive up violent crime. In one such study, sociologists Michael Light and Ty Miller reviewed crime in every state and the District of Columbia from 1990 to 2014. They found that a rising number of immigrants in the country illegally corresponded with a drop, not a rise, in reported crime.

TRUMP: “We’re going to El Paso. ... We’re going there to keep our country safe, and we don’t want murderers and drug dealers and gang members, MS-13, and some of the worst people in the world coming into our country. ... We need a wall.” — remarks at White House.

THE FACTS: Trump suggests that weak border enforcement is contributing to vicious crime committed by MS-13, a gang held responsible for murders in cities across the U.S. But sealing the border completely would not eliminate the gang. It was founded in the U.S. in the 1980s by Salvadoran immigrants and has sunk roots in the country. Some of its members are U.S. citizens and not subject to deportation or border enforcement.

The government has not said recently how many members it thinks are citizens and immigrants. In notable raids on MS-13 in 2015 and 2016, most of the people caught were found to be U.S. citizens.

Associated Press writers Will Weissert in El Paso, Texas, Elliot Spagat in San Diego and Kevin Freking, Michael Balsamo and Matthew Daly in Washington contributed to this report.

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Asian shares mostly higher on US-China trade deal optimism

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mostly higher Wednesday, cheered by prospects for a resolution to the costly trade dispute between the U.S. and China, which had also sent Wall Street indexes higher.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 added 1.5 percent to 21,185.59 in morning trading, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 slipped 0.3 percent to 6,062.80. South Korea's Kospi edged up 0.3 percent to 2,197.50. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained nearly 0.4 percent to 28,270.46, while the Shanghai Composite index stood at 2,686.23, up 0.5 percent.

President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he might let a March 2 deadline slide in trade talks with China if the two countries get close to a deal. Earlier, the White House had called the date a "hard deadline."

Both nations are trying to reach a deal before March 1. That's when additional tariffs will kick in, escalating the conflict and further hurting companies and consumers with higher prices on materials and products.

A pan-Pacific trade dispute is detrimental to the export-dependent Asian region, and a slowdown in growth in China will hurt neighboring economies, such as Japan's.

WALL STREET: The S&P 500 index gained 34.93 points, or 1.3 percent, to 2,744.73. The Dow climbed 372.65 points, or 1.5 percent, to 25,425.76. The index was briefly up by 405 points. The Nasdaq composite rose 106.71 points, or 1.5 percent, to 7,414.62. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks, which has been leading the other indexes this year, added 19.25 points, or 1.3 percent, to 1,538.23.

ENERGY: U.S. benchmark crude rose 50 cents to \$53.60 a barrel. It rose 1.3 percent to settle at \$53.10 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, gained 53 cents to \$62.95 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 110.63 yen from 110.50 yen Tuesday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1338 from \$1.1285.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 13, the 44th day of 2019. There are 321 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 13, 2016, Justice Antonin Scalia, the influential conservative and most provocative member of the U.S. Supreme Court, was found dead at a private residence in the Big Bend area of West Texas; he was 79.

On this date:

In 1633, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei arrived in Rome for trial before the Inquisition, accused of defending Copernican theory that the Earth revolved around the sun instead of the other way around. (Galileo was found vehemently suspect of heresy, and ended up being sentenced to a form of house arrest.)

In 1861, Abraham Lincoln was officially declared winner of the 1860 presidential election as electors cast their ballots.

In 1935, a jury in Flemington, New Jersey, found Bruno Richard Hauptmann guilty of first-degree murder in the kidnap-slaying of Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was later executed.)

In 1943, during World War II, the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve was officially established.

In 1945, during World War II, Allied planes began bombing the German city of Dresden. The Soviets captured Budapest, Hungary, from the Germans.

In 1974, Nobel Prize-winning Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn was expelled from the Soviet Union.

In 1984, Konstantin Chernenko (chehr-NYEN'-koh) was chosen to be general secretary of the Soviet

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Communist Party's Central Committee, succeeding the late Yuri Andropov.

In 1988, the 15th Winter Olympics opened in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

In 1996, the rock musical "Rent," by Jonathan Larson, opened off-Broadway.

In 1998, Dr. David Satcher was sworn in as the 16th Surgeon General of the United States during an Oval Office ceremony.

In 2013, beginning a long farewell to his flock, a weary Pope Benedict XVI celebrated his final public Mass as pontiff, presiding over Ash Wednesday services inside St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

In 2017, President Donald Trump's embattled national security adviser, Michael Flynn, resigned following reports he had misled Vice President Mike Pence and other officials about his contacts with Russia. Kim Jong Nam, the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, died after falling ill at an airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; two women are accused of killing him by smearing a nerve agent onto his face.

Ten years ago: A \$787 billion stimulus bill aimed at easing the worst economic crisis in decades cleared both houses of Congress. Peanut Corp. of America, the Lynchburg, Va.-based peanut processing company at the heart of a national salmonella outbreak, filed for bankruptcy. A female suicide bomber targeted Shiite pilgrims in Musayyib, Iraq, killing at least 40.

Five years ago: Justyna Kowalczyk of Poland dominated her favorite event at the Sochi Olympics, winning the women's cross-country 10-kilometer classical race despite skiing with a fractured foot; Japanese figure skater Yuzuru Hanyu won the men's short program on a night that four-time Olympic medalist Evgeni Plushenko retired from competitive skating. Actor Ralph Waite, 85, died in Palm Desert, California.

One year ago: President Donald Trump's personal attorney, Michael Cohen, said he had paid \$130,000 out of his own pocket to a porn actress who claimed to have had a sexual relationship with Trump. Ahmad Khan Rahimi was sentenced in New York to multiple terms of life in prison for setting off small bombs in New York and New Jersey, including a pressure-cooker device that blasted shrapnel across a New York City block; the attacks in September, 2016, left 30 people injured. A bichon frise named Flynn was named best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club in New York, a choice that seemed to surprise most in the packed crowd at Madison Square Garden.

Today's Birthdays: U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager (ret.) is 96. Actress Kim Novak is 86. Actor George Segal is 85. Actor Bo Svenson is 78. Actress Carol Lynley is 77. Singer-musician Peter Tork (The Monkees) is 77. Actress Stockard Channing is 75. Talk show host Jerry Springer is 75. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., is 73. Singer Peter Gabriel is 69. Actor David Naughton is 68. Rock musician Peter Hook is 63. Actor Matt Salinger is 59. Singer Henry Rollins is 58. Actor Neal McDonough is 53. Singer Freedom Williams is 53. Actress Kelly Hu is 51. Rock singer Matt Berninger (The National) is 48. Rock musician Todd Harrell (formerly with 3 Doors Down) is 47. Country musician Scott Thomas (Parmalee) is 46. Singer Robbie Williams is 45. Singer-songwriter Feist is 43. Rhythm-and-blues performer Natalie Stewart is 40. Actress Mena Suvari (MEE'-nuh soo-VAHR'-ee) is 40. Rock musician Dash Hutton (Haim (HY'-ehm)) is 34. Actress Katie Volding is 30. Michael Joseph Jackson Jr. (also known as Prince Michael Jackson I) is 22.

Thought for Today: "The world has no sympathy with any but positive griefs; it will pity you for what you lose, but never for what you lack." — Anne Sophie Swetchine, Russian-French author (1782-1857).