

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 221 ~ 1 of 40

## Groton Area Schedule of Events

### Saturday, February 16, 2019

Debate at Watertown High School (National Qualifier)  
Show Choir at Aberdeen Central High School (Groton performs at 2 p.m. in the library and again at 6 p.m. with the awards ceremony at 8:25 p.m.)

9:00am: Basketball: Boys 7th/8th Tournament vs. Britton-Hecla JH @ Britton-Hecla High School

(Cancelled due to lack of entries.) Basketball: Boys C Tournament @ Hamlin High School

10:00am: Wrestling: Boys Varsity Regions at Redfield-Doland

### Sunday, February 17, 2019

11:00am: Youth Wrestling Tournament at Groton Area High School

### Monday, February 18, 2019

GBB at Milbank (make-up game). Varsity only with game starting around 7:30 p.m.

No School at Groton Area School District (President's Day)

- 1- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ad
- 1- Help Wanted
- 1- Tunheim celebration to be on GDILIVE.COM
- 2- Stat Sheet from Groton-Milbank game
- 3- Obit: Ava Tunheim
- 4- Wolves take a close one from Minnesota Duluth
- 4- Regional standings
- 5- Special Olympics Unified Cheerleading
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7- Weather Pages
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10- 2019 Groton Events
- 11 - News from the Associated Press

## Help Wanted

Looking for a fun, part-time job? Groton Dairy Queen is now hiring. Stop in for an application. (0216.0316)

## Celebration of Life

on GDILIVE.COM



## Ava Tunheim

## Saturday,

## Feb. 16, 2019

## GHS Arena

3:00 p.m.

## 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

## OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

## Skating Rink Hours

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

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

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

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

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## The Life of Ava Tunheim



GROTON/Lindsay, TX – Ava Tunheim 14 formerly of Groton passed away Sunday February 10, 2019 after a courageous battle with cancer.

A Celebration of Life will be Held at 3:00 P.M. Saturday February 16, 2019 at the Groton Gymnasium.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials to be sent C/O Nathan Tunheim PO Box 396 Lindsay, TX 76250

Ava Shae Tunheim was born on September 3, 2004 at Aberdeen, South Dakota. She attended Kindergarten through 2nd grade at Langford School and continued on to attend 3rd through 7th grade at Groton Elementary School. Just recently the family relocated to Lindsay, Texas where Ava was enrolled in the 8th grade.

Ava was the sweetest girl you could ever meet! She was so thoughtful, kind, and caring. She always put everyone's feelings above her own. Not a day went by

that Ava didn't have a smile on her face, regardless of how she felt. She loved her life, her friends, and most of all her family. We will never forget the kindness and love she gave to everyone she touched. We will never forget all the good times and wonderful memories with our sweet Ava. She was our Angel on earth and now in heaven. We will always love you and never forget you Ava Shae Tunheim! You are ALWAYS in our hearts!

Ava had a zest for life and loved to sing and dance! She also enjoyed cooking, playing basketball and volleyball, crafts, camping, side by siding, hunting, boating, and shopping! She was a people person and loved anything that involved people and her family. She also loved spending time with her Grandmas.

Ava will be forever in the hearts of her parents Nathan and Alison Tunheim, brothers; Christopher and Tobey, sister-in-law Iris, Grandparents; Lyle and Darlene Tunheim, Vicki Fisher, and Charles Odom. She will also be missed by many aunts, uncles, and cousins whom she loved dearly.



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Region 1 BOYS	Seed Points	W-L
<a href="#">Tiospa Zina</a>	43.778	16-2
<a href="#">Aberdeen Roncalli</a>	42.944	13-5
<a href="#">Milbank</a>	39.824	7-10
<a href="#">Redfield/Doland</a>	39.765	8-9
<a href="#">Groton Area</a>	39.316	6-13
<a href="#">Sisseton</a>	39.067	5-10
<a href="#">Webster Area</a>	37.533	4-11

Region 1 GIRLS	Seed Points	W-L
<a href="#">Aberdeen Roncalli</a>	43.000	14-4
<a href="#">Redfield/Doland</a>	42.438	11-5
<a href="#">Groton Area</a>	39.563	6-10
<a href="#">Milbank</a>	39.286	5-9
<a href="#">Tiospa Zina</a>	38.235	7-10
<a href="#">Webster Area</a>	36.375	3-13
<a href="#">Sisseton</a>	35.706	2-15

**The top four teams will host a regional game.**

**1 more week of regular action left**

## Wolves take a close one from Minnesota Duluth

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University men’s basketball team sailed to their fifth straight victory on Friday evening, defeating Minnesota Duluth 72-70 from Wachs Arena. The Wolves improved to 20-5 overall and 16-3 in the NSIC, in front of a packed house of 5,318 fans.

For just the third time this season, the Wolves were out-shot by their opponents but came away with the win. Northern shot 43.4 percent from the floor, while the Bulldogs shot 47.4 percent from the floor. The Wolves tallied 34 points in the first, and led the Bulldogs by six at half. Duluth battled back in the second, out-scoring Northern 42-38, however it was not enough to seal the victory.

Northern tallied 30 points in the paint, 13 points off the bench, and 11 points off eight offensive boards. They combined for 30 rebounds, six assists, six blocks, six steals, and four 3-pointers.

Gabe King led the team with 18 points, shooting 60.0 percent from the field and a perfect 5-for-5 from the free throw line. The junior added four rebounds and one assist as well. Justin Decker and Ian Smith followed with 15 and 14 points respectively. Decker tallied five rebounds, two blocks, and two steals, while Smith notched three rebounds, two assists, and two steals.

Bo Fries led the team at the rim with nine rebounds, adding seven points, two assists, and one block. Mason Stark matched Fries’ total and led the team off the bench with seven points, shooting 50.0 percent from the floor. The redshirt freshman also tallied four rebounds.

Parker Fox and Andrew Kallman grabbed the final 11 points for the Wolves, notching six and five respectively. Kallman tallied three rebounds, two assists, and two steals, and Fox notched two rebounds and two blocks.

The Northern State men return to the Wachs Arena floor this evening, for their final regular season home contest. NSU will tip-off with St. Cloud State at 6 p.m. for senior night.



## Special Olympics Unified Cheerleading

**Ashley Flihs, Tatum Wright, Missy Hill and Madeline Schuelke were cheering for the Special Olympics basketball games in Redfield. They were cheering for the Hub City Express.** (Photo by Becky Erickson)

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## Today in Weather History

February 16, 1969: Freezing drizzle and thick fog formed a heavy glaze on utility lines resulting in several broken power and telephone lines across northern South Dakota.

1903: The temperature at Pokegama Dam, Minnesota plunged to 59 degrees below zero to establish a state record. This record was held until February 2, 1996, when the temperature at Tower fell to 60 degrees below zero.

1889: A surge of arctic air produced all-time record high barometric pressure readings of 31.08 inches at Duluth Minnesota, 30.97 inches at Chicago Illinois, and 30.94 inches at South Bend Indiana. Readings of 31.00 inches at Milwaukee Wisconsin, and 30.98 inches at Rockford, Illinois, tied their all-time records. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the southeastern U.S. Highs of 81 degrees at Athens Georgia, 87 degrees at Charleston South Carolina, 85 degrees at Macon Georgia, and 86 degrees at Savannah Georgia were records for February.

1899 - Washington D.C. received 1.26 inches of rain in six hours atop a snow cover more than 30 inches deep making it the soggiest day of record. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1903 - The temperature at Pokegama Dam MN plunged to 59 degrees below zero to establish a state record. (David Ludlum)

1943 - Record cold prevailed in the northeastern U.S. The mercury plunged to 43 degrees below zero at Concord NH, and to -39 degrees at Portland ME. The morning low of -32 degrees at Falls Village CT established a state record, yet the afternoon high that day was 20 degrees above zero. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A winter storm produced snow and ice in the Ohio Valley and the Appalachian Region. Snowfall totals in Virginia ranged up to 14 inches around Farmville, while Granville NC reported eight inches of sleet and ice. Freezing rain in eastern North Carolina caused extensive damage to power lines. Gales lashed the coast of Virginia and North Carolina. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

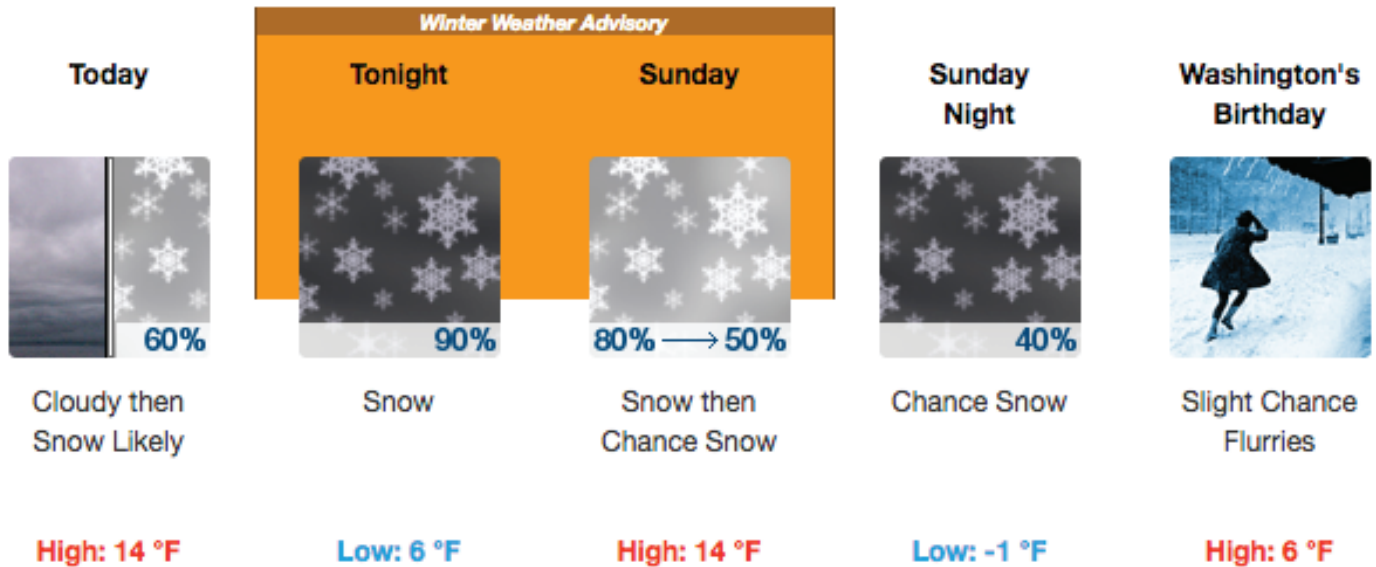
1988 - Santa Ana winds in southern California gusted to 50 mph in the Rancho Cucamonga area. Quiet weather prevailed across the rest of the nation. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A surge of arctic air produced all-time record high barometric pressure readings of 31.08 inches at Duluth MN, 30.97 inches at Chicago IL and 30.94 inches at South Bend IN. Readings of 31.00 inches at Milwaukee WI and 30.98 inches at Rockford IL tied their all-time records. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the southeastern U.S. Highs of 81 degrees at Athens GA, 87 degrees at Charleston SC, 85 degrees at Macon GA, and 86 degrees at Savannah GA were records for February. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Strong thunderstorms developing ahead of an arctic cold front produced severe weather across the southeastern U.S. between mid morning on the 15th and early evening on the 16th. Thunderstorms spawned thirteen tornadoes, including one which, prior to dawn on the 16th, injured eleven persons near Carrollton GA. There were also 121 reports of large hail or damaging winds. A late afternoon thunderstorm on the 15th produced baseball size hail at Jackson MS, and prior to dawn on the 16th, a thunderstorm produced high winds which injured four persons at Goodwater AL. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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## Heavy Snow Accumulation - Central & North Central South Dakota

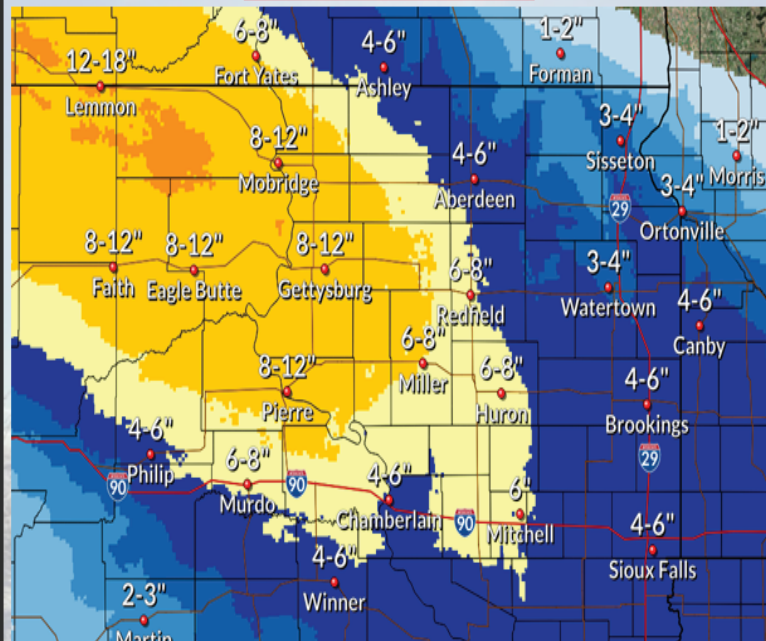
### Today

Snow moves into the Missouri Valley later this morning. Snow will become heavy during the afternoon. Snowfall rates an inch per hour possible.

### Tonight-Sunday

While gradually weakening to light accumulating snow tonight and persisting for well over 24 hours into Sunday evening, snow-covered and slippery roads will lead to poor traveling conditions.

### Storm Total Snowfall



Updated: 2/16/2019 5:38 AM Central

Published on: 02/16/2019 at 5:41AM

Moderate to heavy snow will move into the Missouri Valley today, with the heaviest snowfall occurring over north-central South Dakota, mainly during the afternoon hours. The heavy snow will weaken and broaden, becoming light snow for a good portion of the area tonight through Sunday afternoon.

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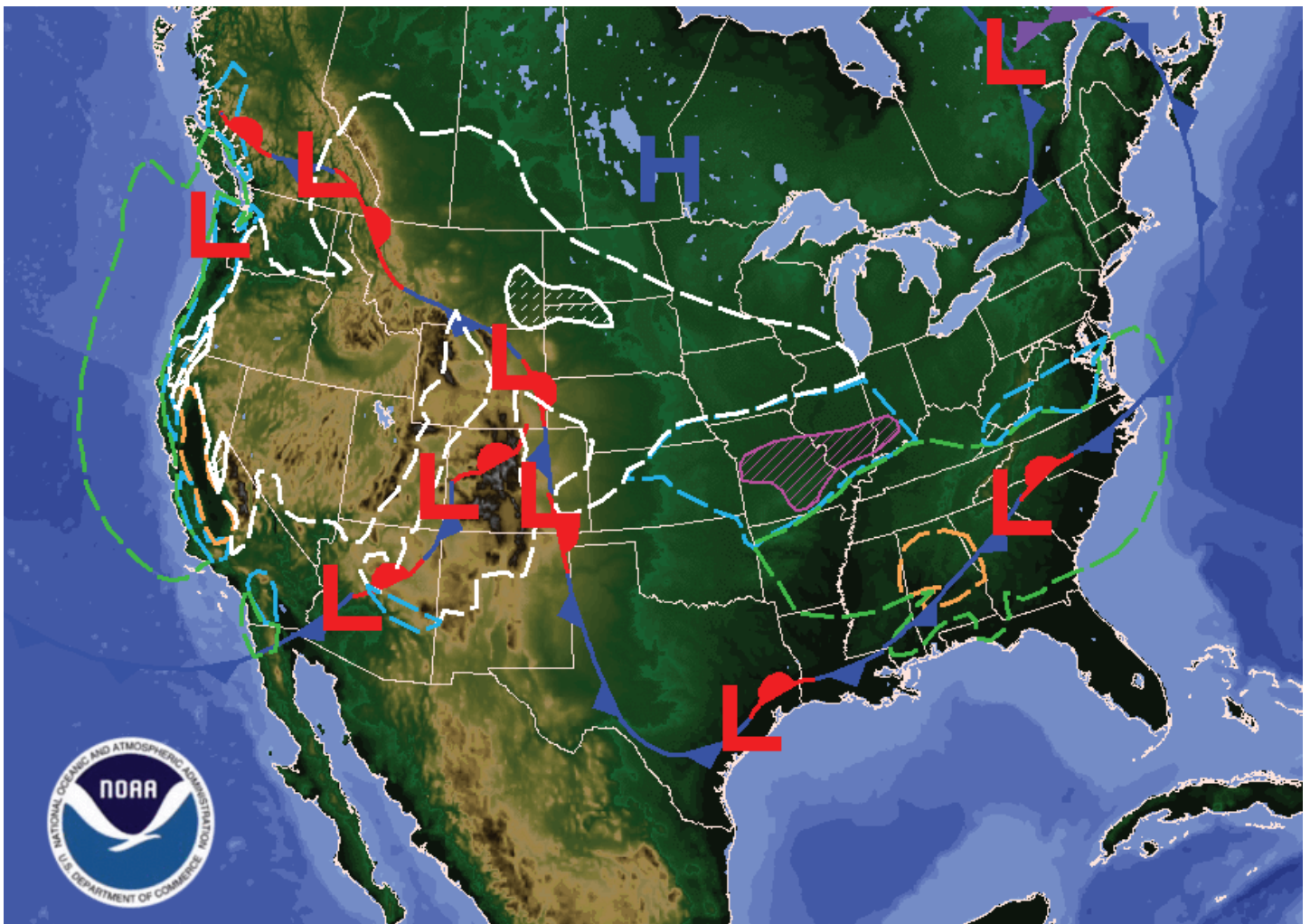
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 0 °F at 4:01 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: -22 °F at 6:53 AM**  
**High Gust: 13 mph at 1:19 AM**  
**Precip:**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 56° in 1981**  
**Record Low: -40° in 1936**  
**Average High: 28°F**  
**Average Low: 8°F**  
**Average Precip in Feb.: 0.25**  
**Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 0.72**  
**Precip Year to Date: 0.00**  
**Sunset Tonight: 6:02 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:32 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Feb 16, 2019, issued 3:54 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Kong with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

**Rain**  
**Rain and T'Storms**  
**Rain and Snow**  
**Snow**

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



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## OBEDIENCE

The Ten Commandments appear to be divided into two sections: four of them teach the importance of honoring God, and six of them teach us to honor mankind. The fifth commandment would logically appear at the bottom of the first tablet. It is the first commandment that contains a promise: Honor your father and mother so that you may live long (and in peace) in the land the Lord your God is giving you. These words are echoed in Colossians: Children, obey your parents in all things, for this pleases God.

Perhaps it would be wise to clear up the phrase, My son, in verse eight. If we acknowledge that Proverbs was written for all mankind who acknowledge God as their Lord and follow His teachings, then everyone, no matter their age, would be included in My son.

Since this is written to children, it would be good to remind ourselves that the main characteristic of youth is vulnerability. The young would disagree with parents who would say that they are ignorant of the ways of the world and have no foresight or insight to see the results or consequences of their behavior. They need stern, loving advice, and warnings from parents who walk their talk and have the best interests of their children at heart. No one has more responsibility for the wellbeing and development of their children than their parents.

But there are other parents who are also guilty of neglecting children. Mature Christians are responsible for the new-born Christian. This verse is an indictment on all of us who have allowed the young in Christ to face temptation, unarmed with the Word of God.

Prayer: Lord, forgive us for being negligent in instructing the young at home and in church. We need forgiveness. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 1:8 Listen, my son, to your fathers instruction and do not forsake your mothers teaching.

## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 03/17/2019 Groton American Legion Spring Fundraiser
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main
- 11/09/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course 2019 Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services

## News from the Associated Press

### **Rapid City council to vote on changing public behavior law**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City officials have proposed changing a local law that regulates public behavior and safety after the city attorney said it violates the constitutional right to free speech.

Ordinance violations include aggressive panhandling, asking for money after dark and near ATMs, at building entrances and other locations.

The Rapid City Journal reports that the city's Legal and Finance Committee unanimously voted Wednesday to repeal the "aggressive solicitation" ordinance and replace it with an "unlawful behavior" in public places ordinance.

The proposed measure would make it illegal to engage in actions that cause someone to fear for their life or property within 30 feet of a vehicle or ATM.

The city council is expected to vote on the amendment next week.

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

### **Sanford Health launches Child Life program in Bismarck**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Sanford Health in Bismarck is starting a new program in the hospital that uses music and entertainment to help children heal.

The Bismarck Tribune reports that the Dakotas-based health care provider launched the Child Life program in November with funds from the Sanford Health Foundation's "Above and Beyond" campaign.

The program also exists in Fargo and Sioux Falls.

Under the program, a child development specialist and a music therapist work with children throughout the hospital, including in the pediatric intensive care unit and at children's clinics. The specialists can help a child understand a diagnosis and prepare for a procedure, as well as play with the child and provide support to their families.

The cost of Child Life program services to families is free since it's financed by donations.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

## **Friday's Scores** By The Associated Press

### **BOYS PREP BASKETBALL**

Aberdeen Roncalli 61, Britton-Hecla 55  
Arlington 43, Chester 29  
Beresford 54, Wagner 37  
Bon Homme 62, Gregory 47  
Brookings 70, Pierre 61  
Canistota 59, Colman-Egan 54  
Canton 70, Alcester-Hudson 44  
Castlewood 61, Estelline/Hendricks 36  
Clark/Willow Lake 64, Redfield/Doland 45  
DeSmet 59, Miller 36  
Dell Rapids St. Mary 65, Baltic 48  
Elkton-Lake Benton 67, Howard 55  
Ethan 68, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 55  
Hamlin 64, Sisseton 54

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Herreid/Selby Area 58, Leola/Frederick 56  
Highmore-Harrold 66, Potter County 56  
James Valley Christian 47, Wessington Springs 44  
Jones County 69, Bennett County 35  
Lake Preston 70, Iroquois 39  
Lennox 65, Dell Rapids 51  
Madison 83, Dakota Valley 81, OT  
Menno 50, Scotland 30  
Milbank 64, Groton Area 55  
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 44, Parkston 43  
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 46, Flandreau Indian 42  
Parker 56, Bridgewater-Emery 54  
Sioux Falls Lincoln 73, Aberdeen Central 49  
Sully Buttes 58, Faulkton 46  
Sunshine Bible Academy 58, Edmunds Central 46  
Tea Area 81, Elk Point-Jefferson 50  
Tiospa Zina Tribal 64, Webster 40  
Watertown 60, Huron 57  
West Central 52, McCook Central/Montrose 48  
White River 62, Philip 49  
Winner 70, Mobridge-Pollock 62  
Yankton 58, Mitchell 50

## **GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL**

Aberdeen Roncalli 60, Clark/Willow Lake 32  
Beresford 77, Chester 60  
Bon Homme 58, Gayville-Volin 46  
Brookings 66, Pierre 48  
Canton 70, Alcester-Hudson 44  
Castlewood 46, Colman-Egan 33  
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 57, Timber Lake 44  
Crazy Horse def. Takini, forfeit  
Dakota Valley 56, Madison 36  
DeSmet 53, Miller 37  
Dell Rapids St. Mary 61, Elkton-Lake Benton 35  
Elk Point-Jefferson 49, Tea Area 46  
Ethan 55, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 33  
Faith 52, Belle Fourche 42  
Flandreau Indian 56, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 17  
Florence/Henry 69, Deubrook 55  
Freeman 65, Scotland 36  
Hamlin 58, Sisseton 17  
Herreid/Selby Area 53, Northwestern 42  
Ipswich 75, Highmore 47  
McCook Central/Montrose 52, Parkston 43  
Sioux Falls Christian 61, Chamberlain 31  
Sioux Falls Lincoln 53, Aberdeen Central 39  
St. Francis Indian 74, Crow Creek 65  
St. Thomas More 53, Hot Springs 10  
Sunshine Bible Academy 40, Edmunds Central 30  
Todd County 84, Kadoka Area 58

Vermillion 55, Viborg-Hurley 38  
Wall 56, Dupree 54  
Watertown 65, Huron 54  
Waubay/Summit 59, Wilmot 32  
Wessington Springs 69, James Valley Christian 41  
White River 62, Philip 49  
Winner 67, Mobridge-Pollock 27  
Yankton 75, Worthington, Minn. 30

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

## South Dakota retreat to help veterans, first responders

By JACI CONRAD PEARSON, Black Hills Pioneer

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — “Where the hills heal the heroes.” That’s the motto for and mission of Sacred Mountain Retreat Center, a nonprofit set to open outside of Deadwood in short order, meeting a tall mission.

“The goal of Sacred Mountain Retreat Center is to bring our military, first responders, and their families to South Dakota for a time of respite and healing,” Sacred Mountain Retreat Center Founder and President Jerrid Geving told the Black Hills Pioneer. “To create an opportunity to strengthen and renew each individual, and the family, as a whole. It’s a place to connect with others at an all-inclusive lodge in the beautiful Black Hills.”

Geving, who is originally from Baker, Montana, recently purchased the retreat center after his family celebrated his grandmother’s 80th birthday at the facility and he fell in love with the place and its potential.

“I said to my folks, ‘Why don’t we buy that retreat center in Deadwood and turn it into a healing center for veterans and first responders?’” Geving recalled. “I’ve always had a very strong passion for our military, for our first responders, and I always wanted to someday give back. I didn’t know how, but I knew I would, give back to the men and women who have served our country.”

Once he and his family made up their minds, the retreat center purchase moved swiftly; the Gevings began negotiations on the property in September 2018 and closed on the sale in February.

Sacred Mountain Retreat Center is a 10,000-square-foot lodge located off Highway 385 outside of Deadwood. It sits on 65 acres, bordered by Forest Service on all three sides. There are eight bedrooms in the main lodge, as well as a one-bedroom suite.

“We’re revamping all the rooms,” Geving said. “They had twin bunk beds in them and we’re in the process of taking those out ... in order to sleep 32 comfortably and to accommodate wheelchairs.”

There is no charge for veterans and first responders who come to the retreat center.

“We’re hoping to have first group of people in the middle of March,” Geving said. “It’s a smaller group of warriors or first responders. Our ultimate goal when we’re up and running, is we’re hoping to bring in six to 10 warriors or first responders for a six-day program. We’ll fly them in, house them, feed them, give them access to some counseling, some mentors, some therapy massage and yoga. We’ll have an equine program, nature hikes, team building, logging, blacksmithing, welding, different skills of that nature.”

Nature and natural are key words in the Sacred Mountain Retreat Center visitor’s journey.

“Our main thing behind this whole thing is we want it to be all natural,” Geving said. “The big thing right now is trying to get them off the opioids, the antidepressants, and all of the things that these guys are not necessarily addicted to, but it’s not helping them. And replace that with physical and therapy programs. We’ve got two infrared saunas that heat you from the inside out. It’s huge for inflammation and for detoxing. It helps regenerate you. That’s one of our big pushes.”

Stationary bikes, a row machine, yoga, and Pilates will also be part of the program.

“We’ve also got these Wellness Pro Plus machines, they’re a vibration sound wave machine and are amazing for depression and anxiety, migraine headaches, aches and pains,” Geving said. “They’ll be able to go for walks, just look at things and find peace, quietness, that’s one of our big things.”

Geving, who has a long family history of military service, became interested in helping veterans and came up with the idea of a retreat center, following the development of his friendship with double amputee Dana Bowman, who lost both legs in a training episode while serving on the Golden Knights parachute team.

"We hired Dana to come to Baker, Montana, to jump into the rodeo," Geving said. "He and I just hit it off as friends and he invited me to a couple more events. One, in Sheridan, and it was the best weekend ever, spent with a group of warriors suffering from PTSD, just enjoying a weekend of fun and entertainment. I helped put it all on and we became very close friends and it just snowballed from there. I helped in Dallas, an event in Ohio, and back to Sheridan, where a group of parachutists would come in and you'd jump these warriors, 30-40 guys over a three-day period."

Fast-forward to today and getting the word out about Sacred Mountain Retreat.

"We have a Facebook page," Geving explained. "And we have a vetting group. A team of volunteers with backgrounds in the military, police, a firefighter, but no one will ever be turned down. If someone reaches out, we will bring them in ... there are 33 veterans a day, on average, committing suicide right now. That's more than drunk driving accidents and with that, we don't see any of that on the news. That's been my biggest drive. Why aren't these things being published? Why aren't we hearing about the other side, as well? Give a veteran a helping hand."

And how has interest been for potential veterans and first responders to visit Sacred Mountain Retreat and access to counseling and a network of individuals in various fields to assist with follow-up and after-care, as needed?

"I can't even tell you how much interest," Geving said. "Since our Facebook page opened right after Thanksgiving, there have been, I'd say 8-10 messages a day asking 'How do I qualify?' 'What do we do?' I don't think we'll have a problem filling the facility with eight guests every other week for the first six months. Once that's over, we'll re-evaluate and see if we need to expand to more or what we're wanting to do. We want to be successful and we want to help these guys."

Ensuring success will also entail a follow-up program.

"For six months, we'll follow up with one of our mentors or staff every day, then every other day, then weekly," Geving said. "The follow-up is going to be huge."

Initially, the center will employ three people, part-time. Once it's up and running, the goal is to employ between six and eight, including a cook, mentors, counselor, doctor, groundskeeper, and others.

"The employee mix is a work in progress," Geving said. "I don't want to overstaff ourselves right now. As things develop, we'll develop more staff."

Geving said the staff will hold credentials in their respective areas of expertise and some will be paid positions; others, volunteer. For example, one of the counselors will fly in from the Dallas-Fort Worth area to help train. A potential therapist is just finishing up four years of schooling and is interested in taking over the therapy program. A doctor who currently resides in Tennessee and would eventually like to make South Dakota their home plans on coming up and spending a week every month.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

## Butterfly House in South Dakota to expand, rebrand

By **PATRICK ANDERSON, Argus Leader**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — After spending years preparing for its next stage, the Sioux Falls Butterfly House and Aquarium is heading for a metamorphosis.

Organizers for the Sioux Falls center recently provided more details about their future plans and celebrated the midway-point of an ongoing fundraising effort.

The group's \$7.5 million campaign will nearly triple the size of its current facility in southern Sioux Falls, but the planned expansion also comes with a shift in focus and branding.

Eventually, when the money is raised and construction is finished, the group will shed its old name, Butterfly House and Aquarium, to become the Dakota Aquarium.

"We do plan on becoming more of a focus on the aquarium," CEO Audrey Willard told the Argus Leader.

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"That's what we see as a really special opportunity, especially for our landlocked kids that never get to see the ocean."

If all goes to plan, the entire project will be finished by summer of 2021. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer on the first phase of the project, expanding the building's office and storage space.

Since adding aquarium equipment six years ago and seeing a jump in interest among families in the Sioux Falls community, organizers for the Butterfly House and Aquarium have continued to re-examine the facility's future, planning for a better way to meet a shift in demand.

The building at Sertoma Park had an average attendance of about 45,000 a year before adding the aquarium. Last year, its attendance reached about 87,000, Willard said.

The group already underwent a name change, leaving behind the old Sertoma namesake and transitioning from "Marine Cove" to "Aquarium" in its title.

Leaders were planning to move their operation downtown and sell the old property to the state. That plan fell through when state officials decided in 2017 they weren't going to buy the land, Willard said.

Staying in its current location will allow the Dakota Aquarium to take advantage of the playgrounds and park nearby, Willard said.

The planned expansion would add to the existing structure on all four sides. It would increase the total space from 10,900 square feet to 27,000 square feet, with more space for offices and educational experiences.

The aquarium facilities would take up more than 10,000 square feet, and feature what Willard called the "building blocks in the ocean."

The center would be able to expand its aquariums and tide pools filled with jellyfish and coral reef, adding more exhibits. The new aquarium will add features, including an octopus exhibit, a massive beach habitat called the Lagoonal Reef and an exhibit that provides a behind-the-scenes look at running the aquarium, designed to inspire future marine biologists.

The butterflies, meanwhile, aren't going anywhere.

"The butterflies will always be a special part of who we are," Willard said.

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

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

10-38-40-43-65, Mega Ball: 12, Megaplier: 2

(ten, thirty-eight, forty, forty-three, sixty-five; Mega Ball: twelve; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$190 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$260 million

## Judge keeps most Keystone XL pipeline work on hold

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A federal judge in Montana has largely kept in place an injunction that blocks a Canadian company from performing preliminary work on the stalled Keystone XL oil pipeline.

U.S. District Judge Brian Morris on Friday denied a request by Calgary-based TransCanada to begin constructing worker camps for the 1,184-mile pipeline that would ship crude from Alberta to the Gulf Coast.

However, Morris said TransCanada could perform some limited activities outside the pipeline's right-of-way. Those include the construction and use of pipe storage and container yards.

TransCanada attorneys had argued the injunction issued by Morris in November could cause it to miss the 2019 construction season and further delay the project.

An appeal of November's ruling is pending before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

## Vatican defrocks former US cardinal McCarrick over sex abuse

By **FRANCES D'EMILIO** and **NICOLE WINFIELD**, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis has defrocked former U.S. Cardinal Theodore McCarrick after Vatican officials found him guilty of soliciting for sex while hearing confession and of sexual crimes against minors and adults, the Holy See said Saturday.

McCarrick, 88, is the highest-ranking Catholic churchman to be laicized, as the process is called. It means he can no longer celebrate Mass or other sacraments, wear clerical vestments or be addressed by any religious title. He is the first churchman who reached the rank of cardinal to be defrocked in the church's sex abuse scandals.

The punishment for the once-powerful prelate, who had served as the archbishop of Washington, spent years in New Jersey dioceses and had been an influential fundraiser for the church, was announced five days before Francis leads an extraordinary gathering of bishops from around the world to help the church grapple with the crisis of sex abuse by clergy and the systematic cover-ups by church hierarchy. The decades-long scandals have shaken the faith of many Catholics and threaten Francis' papacy.

The scandal swirling around McCarrick was particularly damning to the church's reputation because it apparently was an open secret in some church circles that he slept with adult seminarians. Francis removed McCarrick as a cardinal in July after a U.S. church investigation determined that an allegation he fondled a teenage altar boy in the 1970s was credible.

The Vatican's press office said the Holy See's doctrinal watchdog office, the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, found McCarrick on Jan. 11 guilty of "solicitation in the sacrament of confession, and sins against the Sixth Commandment with minors and adults, with the aggravating factor of the abuse of power." The commandment forbids adultery.

The officials "imposed on him the penalty of dismissal from the clerical state." It considered his appeal on Wednesday and upheld its ruling, telling McCarrick Friday of that decision, the Vatican said.

McCarrick, when he was ordained a priest in his native New York City in 1958, took a vow of celibacy in accordance with church rules on priests.

The pope "has recognized the definitive nature of this decision made in accordance with (church) law, rendering it as 'res iudicata,'" the Vatican said, using the Latin phrase for admitting no further recourse.

One victim, James Grein, the son of a family friend of McCarrick's, had testified to church officials that, among other abuses, McCarrick had repeatedly groped him during confession. He said the abuse, which went on for decades, began when he was 11.

"Today I am happy that the pope believed me," Grein said in a statement issued through his lawyer.

Grein also expressed hope that McCarrick "will no longer be able to use the power of Jesus' church to manipulate families and sexually abuse children."

Adding that it's "time for us to cleanse the church," Grein said pressure needs to be put on state attorney generals and senators to change the statute of limitations for abuse cases.

"Hundreds of priests, bishops and cardinals are hiding behind man-made law," he said.

McCarrick's civil lawyer, Barry Coburn, told The Associated Press that for the time being his client had no comment on the defrocking. Coburn also declined to say if McCarrick was still residing at the Kansas friary where he had moved to when Francis ordered him to live in penance and prayer while the investigation continued.

The archdiocese of Washington, D.C., where McCarrick was posted at the pinnacle of his clerical career, from 2001-2006, said in a statement it hoped that the Vatican decision "serves to help the healing process for survivors of abuse, as well as those who have experienced disappointment or disillusionment because of what former Archbishop McCarrick has done."



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Complaints were also made about McCarrick's conduct in the New Jersey dioceses of Newark and Metuchen, where he previously served.

Francis' move marks a remarkable downfall for the globe-trotting powerbroker and influential church fundraiser who mingled with presidents and popes but preferred to be called "Uncle Ted" by the young men he courted.

The Vatican summit, which starts Thursday and runs through Feb. 24, will draw church leaders from around the world to talk about preventing sex abuse. It was called in part to respond to the McCarrick scandal as well as to the explosion of the abuse crisis in Chile and its escalation in the United States last year.

Despite the apparent common knowledge in church circles of his sexual behavior, McCarrick rose to the heights of church power. He even acted as the spokesman for U.S. bishops when they enacted a "zero tolerance" policy against sexually abusive priests in 2002.

That apparent hypocrisy, coupled with allegations in the Pennsylvania grand jury report detailing decades of abuse and cover-up in six dioceses, outraged many among the rank-and-file faithful who had trusted church leaders to reform how they handled sex abuse after 2002.

The allegation regarding the altar boy was the first known against McCarrick to involve a minor — a far more serious offense than sleeping with adult seminarians.

Francis himself became implicated in the decade-long McCarrick cover-up after a former Vatican ambassador to the U.S. accused the pope of rehabilitating the cardinal from sanctions imposed by Pope Benedict XVI despite being told of his penchant for young men.

Francis hasn't responded to those claims. But he has ordered a limited Vatican investigation. The Vatican has acknowledged the outcome may produce evidence that mistakes were made, but said Francis would "follow the path of truth, wherever it may lead."

An advocate for church accountability in the sex abuse crisis demanded Saturday that Francis "tell the truth about what he knew and when he knew it" about McCarrick. Anne Barrett Doyle of BishopAccountability.org says also demanded that the pope use immediately laicize other abusive bishops.

In a statement, she said of the 101 accused bishops her group has tracked, McCarrick is only the seventh to be laicized. She said the other 94 either still hold the title of bishop or did so until they died.

Vatican watchers have compared the McCarrick cover-up scandal to that of the Rev. Marcial Maciel, perhaps the 20th-century Catholic Church's most notorious pedophile. Maciel's sex crimes against children were ignored for decades by a Vatican bureaucracy impressed by his ability to bring in donations and vocations. Among Maciel's staunchest admirers was Pope John Paul II, who later became a saint.

Like Maciel, McCarrick was a powerful, popular prelate who funneled millions in donations to the Vatican. He apparently got a calculated pass for what many in the church hierarchy would have either discounted as ideological-fueled rumor or brushed off as a mere "moral lapse" in sleeping with adult men.

Frances D'Emilio is on twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/fdemilio>

## Climate change means more floods, great and localized

By JEFFREY COLLINS, Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — When he took the job 15 years ago, Horry County Emergency Manager Randy Webster figured his biggest disasters would be wind and surge rolling over his county's beaches, South Carolina's top tourist destination.

Instead, his worries have shifted inland, where rivers overflowing their banks have caused two massive floods in three years.

"We're getting into this sort of unknown territory," Webster said. "We typically in emergency management have some point of reference to work with. Two floods like this — it's unheard of."

Scientists say the Earth's warming climate means more heavy rainfall over short periods of time, and that translates to larger, more ferocious storms on the scale of 2017's Hurricane Harvey in Texas or 2018's

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Hurricane Florence in the Carolinas. Florence dumped six months' worth of rain on the Carolinas in the course of just a few days.

The growing realization that such events are going to become more common as the result of global warming is forcing Webster and other state officials to revisit how they prepare for and respond to natural disasters.

Late last year, Republican Gov. Henry McMaster created the South Carolina Floodwater Commission to figure out how to better combat flooding unleashed by hurricanes, rising ocean levels and other rain systems upstream that send rivers and creeks over their banks on the way to the Atlantic Ocean.

One thing that local governments must do is use forecast tools that predict several different scenarios based on possible temperature rise, rather than relying on flood maps of the past, when severe inundations were rare, said Larry Larson, a former director and senior policy adviser for the Association of State Floodplain Managers.

They also should be prepared to alter landscapes, divert runoff, and to buy up houses and other private properties that frequently end up under water, and to elevate those buildings if necessary, Larson said.

"These owners won't sell after the first flood; they think they have another 99 years to go," he said. "But they will sell after the second flood."

Property owners are resistant because of the cues they get from weather forecasters and government officials, who still employ such terminology as "100-year" floods. Despite its name, a 100-year flood doesn't mean once-in-a-lifetime. Instead, it means a level of flooding that has a 1 percent chance of happening in any particular year, said Susan L. Cutter, director of the Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute at the University of South Carolina.

"People are not really good at understanding probability," Cutter said.

Dealing with the consequences of natural disasters is daunting even when residents receive advance notice. Emergency officials in Conway, a city of 23,000 about 15 miles (24 kilometers) from the beach, took the map of Hurricane Matthew's flooding in 2016 and — based on forecasts — drew the lines out a little farther, accurately predicting nearly to a home which ones would flood during Hurricane Florence in September. That gave residents a week or more to get whatever they could out their homes.

Kevin Tovornik was one of them. Tovornik lost his air conditioner and duct work in the 2016 flood. In 2018, he saved his furniture, but still ended up losing the house. For a while, he paid two mortgages: this one and one on a townhome he had to move into 30 miles (48 kilometers) away. To save money, he now lives in an RV in his yard in Conway. He hasn't been able to start repairs on the house because too much rain has fallen over the past few months for anything to dry out.

Tovornik and his wife don't want to rebuild. He said he would now have to elevate the house with no guarantee there isn't another record flood to come on the Waccamaw River, which crested 3.5 feet (1 meter) above the level it reached during Matthew. But at the moment, he can only get back 75 percent of the appraised value of the house through the federal government's buyback program.

"Where else in South Carolina right now is your house losing that kind of value?" Tovornik said. "It's hard to get your feet back on the ground. You have so many strikes against you. You have a mortgage on a house that is uninhabitable."

As they consider how to plan for and react to future weather events, the governor and fellow politically conservative members of the South Carolina Floodwater Commission aren't quite ready to accept the general consensus among scientists that pollution and other manmade factors are largely to blame for climate change.

The commission's leader, attorney and environmental professor Tom Mullikin said solving the problem can't be derailed by what he described as politically charged debates over the cause.

"We are going to deal with the real-time impacts of a climate that has changed throughout all of time," Mullikin said. "We — the governor — is not entertaining a political conversation."

Whatever the causes of the extreme weather, meteorologists say it will strike again as it did last year, when more than 100 reporting stations, mostly east of the Mississippi River, recorded more rainfall than at any other time, according to the Southeast Regional Climate Center. Weather experts are also investigating

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potentially record rainfall in South Carolina and North Carolina last year.

Pickens County Emergency Management Director Denise Kwiatek first got a sign the weather world was changing five years ago.

In the summer of 2013, Kwiatek knew a heavy storm was hitting a section of Pickens County in the northern part of the state, but conditions didn't seem too bad in the middle of the county where she was. And yet, just 15 miles (24 kilometers) away, thousands of plant species collected over decades at Clemson University's South Carolina Botanical Gardens were being swept away as 8 inches (20 centimeters) of rain fell in a few hours.

"More of those little events are happening. We are learning to be more vigilant," Kwiatek said.

## AP FACT CHECK: Trump's skewed picture of border perils

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump describes drugs flowing across the hinterlands from Mexico, a federal prison population laden with criminals who are in the U.S. illegally and a Texas city transformed by a border barrier into a safe place to live. It's a misleading and in some ways false picture, and one that underpins his extraordinary declaration of a national emergency at the southern border.

Trump opened this past week with a rally in El Paso, Texas, and capped it with his emergency declaration Friday, a move taken to free up billions of dollars for a border wall that Congress refused to give him. Along the way, the president took unearned credit for developments in the auto industry, health care for veterans and trade with China.

As Trump played up the perils of illegal immigration, several Democrats went the other way, understating illegal crossings.

A look at a week of political rhetoric:

### THE WALL

TRUMP: "I've built a lot of wall. I have a lot of money, and I've built a lot of wall." — Rose Garden remarks Friday.

THE FACTS: He's built no new miles of wall, lacking the money. His new construction to date has replaced existing barriers.

This month marks the start of construction of 14 miles (22 kilometers) of fencing in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas, the first lengthening of barrier in his presidency. That's from money approved by Congress a year ago, most of which was for renovating existing barrier.

Money approved by Congress in the new deal to avert another government shutdown would cover about 55 more miles (88 km).

Trump often has often portrayed his wall, falsely, as largely complete, to a point where "Finish the wall" has become his rallying cry, replacing "Build the wall." That masks a distinct lack of progress in physically sealing the border — a frustration that is now prompting him to find money outside the normal channels of congressional appropriation. Trump inherited about 650 miles (1,050 km) of physical border barrier from previous administrations.

### EMERGENCY DECLARATION

TRUMP, on past presidents declaring national emergencies: "There's rarely been a problem. They sign it; nobody cares. I guess they weren't very exciting. But nobody cares. ... And the people that say we create precedent — well, what do you have? Fifty-six? There are a lot of times — well, that's creating precedent. And many of those are far less important than having a border." — Rose Garden remarks.

THE FACTS: Those declarations were rarely as consequential, and that's precisely why they were mostly uncontroversial. He's roughly correct about the numbers. But past declarations did not involve the unilateral spending of substantial sums of money that Congress — which holds the power of the purse — did not approve.

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Emergency declarations by Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton were overwhelmingly for the purpose of addressing crises that emerged abroad. Many blocked foreign interests or terrorist-linked entities from access to funds. Some prohibited certain imports from or investments in countries associated with human rights abuses.

Trump's number resembles findings from the Brennan Center for Justice, which has tracked 58 emergency declarations back to 1978.

"It's extremely rare for a president to declare a national emergency in a bid to fund domestic construction projects, particularly one that Congress has explicitly refused to fund," said Andrew Boyle, an attorney in the national security program at the center. "The ones that former presidents declared are of a different sort."

Obama declared a national emergency in July 2011 to impose sanctions on transnational criminal groups, blocking any American property interests and freezing their assets, authorizing financial sanctions against anyone aiding them and barring their members from entering the United States. It authorized sanctions against criminal cartels in Mexico, Japan, Italy and Eastern Europe. It did not direct billions in spending by the U.S. treasury.

## DRUG SMUGGLING

TRUMP: "And a big majority of the big drugs — the big drug loads — don't go through ports of entry. They can't go through ports of entry. You can't take big loads because you have people — we have some very capable people; the Border Patrol, law enforcement — looking." — Rose Garden remarks.

TRUMP: "We have tremendous amounts of drugs flowing into our country, much of it coming from the southern border. When you look and when you listen to politicians — in particular, certain Democrats — they say it all comes through the port of entry. It's wrong. It's wrong. It's just a lie. It's all a lie." — Rose Garden remarks.

THE FACTS: His own administration says illicit drugs come mainly through ports of entry. He has persistently contradicted his officials — never mind Democrats — on this point. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration said in a 2018 report that 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. at official crossings. They also use buses, cargo trains and tunnels, the report says, citing smuggling methods that would not be choked off by a border wall.

"Only a small percentage" of heroin seized by U.S. authorities comes across on territory between ports of entry, the agency says, and the same is true of drugs generally. The great majority of heroin, methamphetamines, cocaine and fentanyl is seized at ports of entry. Marijuana is one exception; significant quantities are seized between entry ports.

Even if a wall could stop all drugs from Mexico, America's drug problem would be far from over. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says about 40 percent of opioid deaths in 2016 involved prescription painkillers. Those drugs are made by pharmaceutical companies. Some feed the addiction of people who have prescriptions; others are stolen and sold on the black market. Moreover, illicit versions of powerful synthetic opioids such as fentanyl have come to the U.S. from China, not Mexico.

## IMMIGRANT CRIME

TRUMP: "Take a look at our federal prison population. See how many of them, percentage-wise, are illegal aliens. Just see. Go ahead and see." — Rose Garden remarks.

THE FACTS: About 40 percent of the people who entered federal prison in 2014 were foreigners, according to the most recent Bureau of Justice Statistics report. The vast majority of the foreigners (20,842 of 28,821) were being held for immigration violations, not violent or property crimes. It's not clear how many were in the country illegally. The federal prison population is not a solid yardstick of immigrant crime because it represents only 10 percent of the overall prison population of the U.S. Most people convicted of crimes are in state prison.

## DEMOCRATS ON IMMIGRATION

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SEN. DIANNE FEINSTEIN, Democrat of California: "Unauthorized border crossings are at their lowest levels in decades, about one-third of their peak levels two decades ago. If there were an emergency, the president wouldn't have waited two years to make this political decision." — tweet Thursday.

CALIFORNIA GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM: "We are currently experiencing the lowest number of (illegal) border crossings since 1971." — State of the State speech Tuesday.

THE FACTS: They're wrong in saying illegal crossings are the lowest in recent decades, based on Border Patrol arrests, the most widely used gauge. That was true in the 2017 budget year, when Border Patrol arrests along the Mexican border fell to 303,916, the smallest number since 1971. But arrests jumped 31 percent last year, to 396,579. And in the 2019 budget year, which started in October, southern border arrests nearly doubled through January, to 201,497 from 109,543 the same period a year earlier.

Illegal crossings remain relatively low in historical terms but not as low as the Democrats said.

## KLOBUCHAR'S STAFF

DEMOCRATIC SEN. AMY KLOBUCHAR, a 2020 presidential candidate, responding to reports she can be a tough boss: "I was teasing President Obama the other day. They have hired, the White House hired, over 20 of my staff members. You only have about 25 in a Senate office. And a number of them have come back to me when they were over there. So that's my story. I know I can be too tough sometimes. And I can push too hard, that's obvious. But a lot of it is because I have high expectations for myself, I have high expectations for the people that work with me." — interview Monday with MSNBC.

KLOBUCHAR CAMPAIGN: "She has many staff ... who have gone on to do amazing things, from working in the Obama Administration (over 20 of them) to running for office to even serving as the Agriculture Commissioner for Minnesota." — statement to news media this month.

THE FACTS: Klobuchar is correct that more than 20 former staffers later worked for Obama, though not all in the White House, with some serving in his administration or on his 2008 campaign, according to a list provided to The Associated Press.

Among them are Jake Sullivan, a former chief counsel to Klobuchar who served in Obama's State Department and was Vice President Joe Biden's national security adviser; Rob Friedlander, a former Klobuchar press secretary who became a spokesman in the Obama Treasury Department; and Joe Paulsen, who worked on Klobuchar's advance team and moved on to become an Obama aide and the president's golfing buddy.

As for "a number of them" coming back to work for her again, three were identified by her campaign team.

They are Brigit Helgen, a former Klobuchar press secretary who served in the U.S. Trade Representative's office in the Obama administration and returned as Klobuchar's chief of staff; Hannah Hankins, a former special assistant who served as communications director and senior adviser for Obama's Domestic Policy Council and returned as Klobuchar's deputy chief of staff; and Andrea Mokros, a former Klobuchar deputy chief of staff who later managed scheduling and advance operations for first lady Michelle Obama. Mokros was an outside political consultant for Klobuchar for her 2018 Senate re-election campaign.

A survey of senators by the website LegiStorm from 2001 to 2016 found that Klobuchar's office had the highest turnover in the Senate. A recent HuffPost article portrayed her as a demanding manager who lost some potential 2020 campaign staff members because of her reputation.

## AUTO INDUSTRY

TRUMP: "A lot of car companies are coming back to the United States." — Cabinet meeting Tuesday.

TRUMP: "We're most proud of the fact — you look at the car companies, they're moving back, they're going into Michigan, they're going into Pennsylvania, they're going back to Ohio, so many companies are coming back." — El Paso, Texas, rally Monday.

TRUMP: "We have massive numbers of companies coming back into our country — car companies. We have seven car companies coming back in right now and there's going to be a lot more." — remarks to reporters Feb. 6.

THE FACTS: There's no such discernible influx. And at the end of this past week, industrial production

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numbers for January showed an 8.8 percent plunge in the making of motor vehicles and auto parts from the previous month.

Since Trump took office in 2017, auto manufacturing employment has risen by about 51,000 jobs to just over 1 million, according to the Labor Department. That's a 5 percent increase over two years.

There have been new factory announcements, but excluding those that were planned before Trump took office, they don't add up to seven.

Last month, Volkswagen announced plans to expand manufacturing in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Toyota is building a new factory in Alabama with Mazda, and Volvo opened a plant in South Carolina last year, but in each case, that was in the works before Trump took office.

Fiat Chrysler also has nebulous plans to return some pickup truck production from Mexico to suburban Detroit next year, and it may reopen a small Detroit factory to build an SUV. At least one Chinese auto-maker wants to build in the U.S. starting next year but hasn't announced a site.

Against those uncertain and limited gains, GM is laying people off and plans to close four U.S. factories. Both GM and Ford also are letting go of white-collar workers in restructuring efforts.

## TARIFFS

TRUMP: "China's paying us billions of dollars a year in tariffs." — Rose Garden remarks.

THE FACTS: U.S. importers typically pay tariffs, not the exporting country. The cost is borne by U.S. business and often passed on to consumers, so the trade dispute is not generating a new source of wealth for the U.S.

After Trump imposed tariffs last year on roughly half the goods that the U.S. imports from China, Ford Motor Co. said the import taxes would raise its costs \$1 billion through this year. Caterpillar said the steel tariffs would cost the company about \$100 million in 2018.

## VETERANS

TRUMP: "Another one they said could never get passed, they have been trying to do it for 40 years, we passed VA Choice. Veterans Choice. ... VA Choice, they would wait on line for days and weeks, they couldn't see a doctor. Now, they go out, they have a choice. They get a private doctor, they have things taken care of, and we pay their bills." — El Paso rally.

THE FACTS: He's not the first president in 40 years to get Congress to pass a private-sector health program for veterans. And while it's true the VA recently announced plans to expand eligibility for veterans in the Veterans Choice program, the program remains limited due in part to uncertain funding and longer waits. Contrary to Trump's depiction, veterans still must wait "for days and weeks."

The VA said this month it does not expect a significant increase in new appointments outside VA under the expanded program.

Congress first approved the program in 2014 during the Obama administration after some veterans died while waiting months for appointments at the Phoenix VA medical center. The program currently allows veterans to see doctors outside the VA system if they must wait more than 30 days for an appointment or drive more than 40 miles to a VA facility. Now they are to have that option for a private doctor if their VA wait is only 20 days (28 for specialty care) or their drive is only 30 minutes.

That is to start in June, under a law Trump signed last year to expand the Choice program. But the expanded Choice eligibility may do little to provide immediate help.

That's because veterans often must wait even longer for an appointment in the private sector. Last year, then-Secretary David Shulkin said VA care is "often 40 percent better in terms of wait times" compared with the private sector. In 2018, 34 percent of all VA appointments were with outside physicians, down from 36 percent in 2017.

The VA also must resolve long-term financing due to congressional budget caps after the White House opposed new money to pay for the program. As a result, lawmakers could be forced later this year to limit the program, or slash core VA or other domestic programs.

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Also key to the program's success is an overhaul of VA's electronic medical records to allow seamless sharing of medical records with private physicians, a process expected to take up to 10 years. VA Secretary Robert Wilkie has said full implementation of the expanded Choice program is "years" away.

## GREEN NEW DEAL

TRUMP, on the effects of the Green New Deal floated by some Democrats: "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." — El Paso rally Monday.

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, 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 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.

## EL PASO CRIME

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." — El Paso rally.

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.

## CROWD SIZE

TRUMP, describing the crowd for a competing rally in El Paso, Texas, led by Beto O'Rourke, a potential 2020 Democratic presidential candidate: "He has 200 people, 300 people, not too good. ... That may be the end of his presidential bid." — El Paso rally.

THE FACTS: That's far from true. 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.

## IMMIGRANTS-COSTS AND BENEFITS

TRUMP: "Illegal immigration hurts all Americans, including millions of legal immigrants, by driving down wages, draining public resources and claiming countless innocent lives." — El Paso rally.

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

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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.

MS-13

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." — White House remarks Monday.

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 Tom Krisher in Detroit, Will Weissert in El Paso, Texas, Elliot Spagat in San Diego, and Josh Boak, Colleen Long, Kevin Freking, Michael Balsamo and Matthew Daly in Washington contributed to this report.

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## Dem presidential candidates introducing themselves to voters

By ELANA SCHOR, Associated Press

Five Democratic senators vying for their party's nomination to challenge President Donald Trump in 2020 are fanning out across the country Saturday to campaign and meet voters.

Kamala Harris of California plans to spend her second straight day in the pivotal early-voting state of South Carolina, holding a town hall meeting in Columbia, the capital. Also visiting the state is Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who's set to meet voters in Greenville before heading to Georgia — an unusual early stop for a White House hopeful but one that signals Democratic hopes to make inroads in the South.

Cory Booker of New Jersey and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York are focusing on New Hampshire. For Booker, it's his first visit to there since joining the race earlier this month.

Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota is making her own uncommon choice for early campaigning by visiting Wisconsin before heading to Iowa, home to the nation's first caucus.

The senators are campaigning during the long holiday weekend that marks the start of Congress' first recess this year. And their outreach to voters comes in the wake of Trump's controversial decision to declare a national emergency in order to unilaterally redirect federal money for his promised wall along the



U.S.-Mexico border.

## Gone in a New York minute: How the Amazon deal fell apart

By JOSEPH PISANI, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In early November, word began to leak that Amazon was serious about choosing New York to build a giant new campus. The city was eager to lure the company and its thousands of high-paying tech jobs, offering billions in tax incentives and lighting the Empire State Building in Amazon orange.

Even Governor Andrew Cuomo got in on the action: "I'll change my name to Amazon Cuomo if that's what it takes," he joked at the time.

Then Amazon made it official: It chose the Long Island City neighborhood of Queens to build a \$2.5 billion campus that could house 25,000 workers, in addition to new offices planned for northern Virginia. Cuomo and New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, Democrats who have been political adversaries for years, trumpeted the decision as a major coup after edging out more than 230 other proposals.

But what they didn't expect was the protests, the hostile public hearings and the disparaging tweets that would come in the next three months, eventually leading to Amazon's dramatic Valentine's Day breakup with New York.

Immediately after Amazon's Nov. 12 announcement, criticism started to pour in. The deal included \$1.5 billion in special tax breaks and grants for the company, but a closer look at the total package revealed it to be worth at least \$2.8 billion. Some of the same politicians who had signed a letter to woo Amazon were now balking at the tax incentives.

"Offering massive corporate welfare from scarce public resources to one of the wealthiest corporations in the world at a time of great need in our state is just wrong," said New York State Sen. Michael Gianaris and New York City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer, Democrats who represent the Long Island City area, in a joint statement.

The next day, CEO Jeff Bezos was on the cover of The New York Post in a cartoon-like illustration, hanging out of a helicopter, holding money bags in each hand, with cash billowing above the skyline. "QUEENS RANSOM," the headline screamed. The New York Times editorial board, meanwhile, called the deal a "bad bargain" for the city: "We won't know for 10 years whether the promised 25,000 jobs will materialize," it said.

Anti-Amazon rallies were planned for the next week. Protesters stormed a New York Amazon bookstore on the day after Thanksgiving and then went to a rally on the steps of a courthouse near the site of the new headquarters in the pouring rain. Some held cardboard boxes with Amazon's smile logo turned upside down.

They had a long list of grievances: the deal was done secretly; Amazon, one of the world's most valuable companies, didn't need nearly \$3 billion in tax incentives; rising rents could push people out of the neighborhood; and the company was opposed to unionization.

The helipad kept coming up, too: Amazon, in its deal with the city, was promised it could build a spot to land a helicopter on or near the new offices.

At the first public hearing in December, which turned into a hostile, three-hour interrogation of two Amazon executives by city lawmakers, the helipad was mentioned more than a dozen times. The image of high-paid executives buzzing by a nearby low-income housing project became a symbol of corporate greed.

Queens residents soon found postcards from Amazon in their mailboxes, trumpeting the benefits of the project. Gianaris sent his own version, calling the company "Scamazon" and urging people to call Bezos and tell him to stay in Seattle.

At a second city council hearing in January, Amazon's vice president for public policy, Brian Huseman, subtly suggested that perhaps the company's decision to come to New York could be reversed.

"We want to invest in a community that wants us," he said.

Then came a sign that Amazon's opponents might actually succeed in derailing the deal: In early February, Gianaris was tapped for a seat on a little-known state panel that often has to approve state funding for big

economic development projects. That meant if Amazon's deal went before the board, Gianaris could kill it. "I'm not looking to negotiate a better deal," Gianaris said at the time. "I am against the deal that has been proposed."

Cuomo had the power to block Gianaris' appointment, but he didn't indicate whether he would take that step.

Meanwhile, Amazon's own doubts about the project started to show. On Feb. 8, The Washington Post reported that the company was having second thoughts about the Queens location.

On Wednesday, Cuomo brokered a meeting with four top Amazon executives and the leaders of three unions critical of the deal. The union leaders walked away with the impression that the parties had an agreed upon framework for further negotiations, said Stuart Appelbaum, president of the Retail Wholesale and Department Store Union.

"We had a good conversation. We talked about next steps. We shook hands," Appelbaum said.

An Amazon representative did not respond to a request for comment for this story.

The final blow landed Thursday, when Amazon announced on a blog post that it was backing out, surprising the mayor, who had spoken to an Amazon executive Monday night and received "no indication" that the company would bail.

Amazon still expected the deal to be approved, according to a source familiar with Amazon's thinking, but that the constant criticism from politicians didn't make sense for the company to grow there.

"I was flabbergasted," De Blasio said. "Why on earth after all of the effort we all put in would you simply walk away?"

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Associated Press Writers Alexandra Olson and Karen Matthews in New York, and David Klepper in Albany, New York, contributed to this report.

## Illinois man being fired from job fatally shoots 5 workers

By **CARRIE ANTLFINGER** and **AMANDA SEITZ**, Associated Press

AURORA, Ill. (AP) — The frantic calls started pouring in at 1:24 p.m. A gunman was shooting people inside a sprawling manufacturing warehouse in Aurora, Illinois.

Within four minutes, the first police officers rushed to the 29,000-square-foot building in the suburban Chicago city and were fired on immediately; one was struck outside and four others shot inside.

By the time the chaos ended Friday afternoon, five male employees of Henry Pratt Co. were found dead and the gunman was killed in a shootout with police after a 90-minute search of the sprawling warehouse. Five male police officers were hospitalized with injuries that were not life-threatening.

"For so many years, we have seen similar situations throughout our nation and the horrible feeling that we get when we see it on the news. To experience it first-hand, is even more painful," said Aurora Mayor Richard C. Irvin.

Aurora Police Chief Kristen Ziman said the gunman, 45-year-old Gary Martin, was being fired from his job Friday after 15 years with the company. It was not immediately known why Martin was being fired.

"We don't know whether he had the gun on him at the time or if he went to retrieve it," Ziman said.

She also said that authorities don't yet know if the employees firing him were among the victims. The names of those killed were not immediately released.

In addition to the five employees killed, a sixth worker was taken to a hospital with injuries that were not life-threatening. A sixth police officer suffered a knee injury while officers were searching the building.

The shooting shocked the city of 200,000 that is about 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Chicago.

Christy Fonseca often worries about some of the gang-related crimes and shootings around her mother's Aurora neighborhood. But she never expected the type of phone call she got from her mom on Friday, warning her to be careful with an active shooter loose in the town.

Police cars with screaming sirens revved past her as she drove to her mother's house, where the Henry Pratt building is visible from the porch stoop. It was only when they flipped on the television news that

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they realized Martin had killed people just a few hundred feet away.

"In Aurora, period, we'd never thought anything like this would happen," Fonseca, a lifelong resident, said as she looked out at the warehouse where Henry Pratt makes valves for industrial purposes.

At Acorn Woods Condominiums where Martin lived, a mix of brick apartments and condos nestled on a quiet street just a mile and a half from the shooting, neighbors gathered on sidewalks near Martin's unit talking and wondering among themselves if they knew or had come in contact with him.

Mary McKnight stepped out of her car with a cherry cheesecake purchased for her son's birthday, to find a flurry of police cars, officers and media trucks.

"This is a strange thing to come home to, right," she said. She had just learned that the shooter lived close by and his unit in the complex had been taped off by police.

Asked if Martin's rampage had been a "classic" workplace shooting, police chief Ziman said:

"I don't know. We can only surmise with a gentleman that's being terminated that this was something he intended to do."

## Trump emergency declaration faces fights in the courts

By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Let the lawsuits begin.

President Donald Trump declared a national emergency along the southern border and predicted his administration would end up defending it all the way to the Supreme Court.

That might have been the only thing Trump said Friday that produced near-universal agreement.

The American Civil Liberties Union announced its intention to sue less than an hour after the White House released the text of Trump's declaration that the "current situation at the southern border presents a border security and humanitarian crisis that threatens core national security interests and constitutes a national emergency."

Nonprofit watchdog group Public Citizen filed suit later, urging the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to "bar Trump and the U.S. Department of Defense from using the declaration and funds appropriated for other purposes to build a border wall."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and several Democratic state attorneys general already have said they might go to court.

The coming legal fight seems likely to hinge on two main issues: Can the president declare a national emergency to build a border wall in the face of Congress' refusal to give him all the money he wanted and, under the federal law Trump invoked in his declaration, can the Defense Department take money from some congressionally approved military construction projects to pay for wall construction?

The Pentagon has so far not said which projects might be affected.

But after weeks of publicly ruminating whether to act, Trump's signature on the declaration set in motion a quick march to the courthouse.

Trump relied on the National Emergencies Act of 1976, which Congress adopted as a way to put some limits on presidential use of national emergencies. The act requires a president to notify Congress publicly of the national emergency and to report every six months. The law also says the president must renew the emergency every year, simply by notifying Congress. The House and Senate also can revoke a declaration by majority vote, though it would take a two-thirds vote by each house to override an expected presidential veto.

Beyond that, though, the law doesn't say what constitutes a national emergency or impose any other limits on the president.

The broad grant of discretion to the president could make it hard to persuade courts to rule that Trump exceeded his authority in declaring a border emergency. "He's the one who gets to make the call. We can't second-guess it," said John Eastman, a professor of constitutional law at the Chapman University School of Law.

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Courts often are reluctant to look beyond the justifications the president included in his proclamation, Ohio State University law professor Peter Shane said on a call organized by the liberal American Constitution Society.

But other legal experts said the facts are powerfully arrayed against the president. They include government statistics showing a decades-long decline in illegal border crossings as well as Trump's rejection of a deal last year that would have provided more than the nearly \$1.4 billion he got for border security in the budget agreement he signed Thursday. Opponents of the declaration also are certain to use Trump's own words at his Rose Garden news conference Friday to argue that there is no emergency on the border.

"I could do the wall over a longer period of time," Trump said. "I didn't need to do this, but I'd rather do it much faster."

Republican Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan said Congress made a conscious choice not to give Trump what he wanted. "A prerequisite for declaring an emergency is that the situation requires immediate action and Congress does not have an opportunity to act," Amash said on Twitter.

ACLU executive director Anthony Romero said Trump's remarks are an admission that there is no national emergency. "He just grew impatient and frustrated with Congress," Romero said in a statement that also said the rights group would file a lawsuit next week.

Trying to turn the president's words against him failed in the challenge to Trump's ban on travel to the United States by citizens of several mostly Muslim countries. The ban's opponents argued that Trump's comments as a candidate and as president showed the ban was motivated by anti-Muslim bias, not concern about national security. Lower courts struck down the ban, but the Supreme Court upheld it in a 5-4 vote last year.

Trump said he expected to lose in lower courts that he claims have been unfair to him, particularly if lawsuits are filed in California. "Hopefully, we'll get a fair shake and we'll win in the Supreme Court, just like the ban," he said.

Beyond the challenge to Trump's authority to declare an emergency, lawsuits also are expected to focus on the military construction project law that allows the re-allocation of money in a national emergency.

Eastman said he doubts that the Supreme Court would try to interfere with Trump's decision to send the military to the border and then authorize the use of money from other Defense Department construction projects to build miles of a border wall. "The president is authorized to make those judgments, not some judge in San Francisco," Eastman said.

But the ACLU's suit will argue that Congress allowed for flexibility in using money it appropriated for projects needed to support the emergency use of the military forces, like overseas military airfields in wartime.

Several legal experts said claims that the building of the wall is not the kind of project contemplated in the military construction law could be more difficult to rebut because border security is more like a law enforcement issue than a military emergency.

But Shane, the Ohio State professor, said, "It's hard to know how exactly this is going to unfold politically or judicially."

## **Nigeria delays election until Feb. 23 over 'challenges'**

**By CARA ANNA, Associated Press**

KANO, Nigeria (AP) — Nigeria's electoral commission delayed the presidential election until Feb. 23, making the announcement a mere five hours before polls were set to open Saturday. It cited unspecified "challenges" amid reports that voting materials had not been delivered to all parts of the country.

Residents of Africa's most populous nation and largest democracy will soon wake up to outrage. Many had relocated for the chance to vote.

"This was a difficult decision to take but necessary for successful delivery of the elections and the consolidation of our democracy," commission chairman Mahmood Yakubu told reporters in the capital, Abuja. He said more details would be released during an afternoon briefing.

A review of logistics, along with the determination to hold a credible vote, led the commission to conclude

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that going ahead with the election as planned was “no longer feasible,” he said.

Nigeria also postponed the previous presidential election in 2015 because of deadly insecurity in the northeast, which remains under threat from Islamic extremists.

As word filtered out after midnight of a possible election delay at least in some regions, the Situation Room, a civil society collective monitoring the vote, said in a statement that “any suggestion that the election be held in a staggered manner will be totally unacceptable, and would be a recipe for a disastrous election.”

More than 84 million voters in this country of some 190 million had been expected to head to the polls in what is seen as a close and heated race between 76-year-old President Muhammadu Buhari and top challenger Atiku Abubakar, a billionaire former vice president.

Both have pledged to work for a peaceful election even as their supporters, including high-level officials, have caused alarm with vivid warnings against foreign interference and allegations of rigging.

“This is truly disappointing but ... Nigeria will prevail,” the spokesman for Vice President Yemi Osinbajo said on Twitter, noting that Buhari was already in his hometown where he had been set to vote.

When Buhari came to power in 2015 he made history with the first defeat of an incumbent president in an election hailed as one of the most transparent and untroubled ever in Nigeria, which has seen deadly post-vote violence in the past.

Now Buhari could become the second incumbent to be unseated. His term has been marked by a crash in global oil prices that spun Nigeria’s heavily crude-dependent economy into a rare recession, from which it only emerged in 2017. Unemployment shot up. The country passed India as the nation with the most people living in extreme poverty. More than 13 million children are said to be out of school.

Insecurity on multiple fronts has seen little improvement, worrying neighbors of the West African regional powerhouse and beyond. While the military pushed Boko Haram extremists out of many communities in the country’s northeast, claims of the group being “crushed” have withered in the face of continuing violence. A new offshoot pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group has surged in recent months, attacking military bases — and this week, a governor’s convoy — sending tens of thousands of people fleeing anew.

On top of that, banditry in the northwest, oil militants in the south and deadly fighting in the central region between farmers and herders over increasingly precious land keep security forces stretched and the population on edge. On Friday, authorities reported at least 66 deaths in a single community this week in what one resident blamed on farmer-herder clashes.

“We love our country and we need our country to be safe from all the violence ... and all the nonsense that takes place during election time,” worshipper Amin Muhammad Khalif said as he emerged Friday from prayers in Kano, Nigeria’s second-largest city in a nation largely evenly split between Muslims and Christians.

Even in the fight against corruption, in which Buhari could claim some progress, many in Nigeria have expressed concern that those targeted are mostly opposition figures..

Meanwhile, many Nigerians worry about Buhari himself after he spent more than 150 days outside the country for still-unspecified medical treatment. Spare in both charisma and physique, Buhari spoke for just a few minutes at his final campaign rally on Thursday and struggled to hear or grasp a number of questions in a recent televised town hall.

Borrowing a page from President Donald Trump’s playbook, top challenger Abubakar has campaigned on the theme of “Let’s Make Nigeria Work Again,” while vowing to apply his business acumen to privatize Nigeria’s all-important state oil company and lift 50 million people out of poverty by 2025.

Despite such proclamations, Abubakar has never managed to shake years of corruption allegations. And, as Buhari grumbled in his final pre-election address to the nation on Thursday, one “cannot simply proclaim jobs into existence.”

In the end, the now-delayed vote could come down to the sorry state of Africa’s largest economy and people’s empty pockets, and stomachs.

In Abuja, 56-year-old Bako Sharibu was wrist-deep in a dumpster as he fished out pieces of plastic for recycling. His shy smile disappeared as he recalled that he once had good work as a janitor. Now he struggles to make his target of 300 naira (83 cents) a day.

“Everybody suffers too much. Hungry everywhere,” he said, adding that if he could save a few thousand

naira he would send the money to his three children in northern Kaduna state. Then he shook his pocket. It was near sunset. He had just 50 naira in hand. He will be voting for Abubakar, he said. Nigeria needs change.

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## Employee being fired fatally shoots 5 co-workers in Illinois

By CARRIE ANTLFINGER and AMANDA SEITZ, Associated Press

AURORA, Ill. (AP) — A 15-year employee being fired from a suburban Chicago manufacturing company started shooting Friday, killing five co-workers and wounding five police officers before he was killed by police, authorities said.

Aurora, Illinois, Police Chief Kristen Ziman said 45-year-old Gary Martin “was being terminated” before he started shooting at the Henry Pratt Co. — which makes valves for industrial purposes — in the city about 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Chicago.

She told a news conference that in addition to the five employees killed, a sixth worker was taken to a hospital with injuries that were not life threatening. A sixth police officer suffered a knee injury while officers were searching the building.

Ziman said officers arrived within four minutes of receiving reports of the shooting and were fired upon as soon as they entered the 29,000-square-foot manufacturing warehouse.

Police said they did not know the gunman’s motive.

“May God bless the brave law enforcement officers who continue to run toward danger,” Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker said at the news conference.

John Probst, an employee at the Henry Pratt Co. in Aurora, told ABC7 that he ran out of the back door as the shooting unfolded Friday afternoon. Probst says he recognized the gunman and that he works for the company.

“What I saw was the guy running down the aisle with a pistol with a laser on it,” Probst said.

Probst said he wasn’t hurt but that another colleague was “bleeding pretty bad.”

“It’s a shame that mass shootings such as this have become commonplace in our country. It’s a shame that a cold and heartless offender would be so selfish as to think he has the right to take an innocent life,” Aurora Mayor Richard C. Irvin said.

At Acorn Woods Condominiums where Martin lived, a mix of brick apartments and condos nestled on a quiet street just a mile and a half from the shooting, neighbors gathered on sidewalks near Martin’s unit talking and wondering among themselves if they knew or had come in contact with him.

Mary McKnight stepped out of her car with a cherry cheesecake purchased for her son’s birthday, to find a flurry of police cars, officers and media trucks.

“This is a strange thing to come home to, right,” she said. She had just learned that the shooter lived close by and his unit in the complex had been taped off by police.

Christy Fonseca often worries about some of the gang-related crimes and shootings around her mother’s Aurora neighborhood. But she never expected the type of phone call she got from her mom on Friday, warning her to be careful with an active shooter loose in the town.

Police cars with screaming sirens revved past her as she drove to her mother’s house, where the Henry Pratt building is visible from the porch stoop. It was only when they flipped on the television news that they realized Martin had killed people just a few hundred feet away.

“In Aurora, period, we’d never thought anything like this would happen,” Fonseca, a lifelong resident of the Chicago suburb, said as she looked out at the factory.

The White House said President Donald Trump was briefed on the shooting and monitoring the situation as he prepared to depart for a weekend trip to his home in Palm Beach, Florida. Trump tweeted his thanks to law enforcement officers in Aurora and offered his condolences to the victims and their families.

"America is with you," he said.

For The Latest on the shooting: <https://bit.ly/2EchSOO>

## **Snow too thick to plow keeps skiers from California resorts**

**By OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ and JOHN ANTCZAK, Associated Press**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Winter weather enveloping California's mountains for a fourth straight day Friday kept skiers from hitting the slopes at the start of the Presidents Day holiday weekend, with snow so deep that plows could not tackle it and cities scrambled to find places to pile it.

Several routes to the ski mecca of Lake Tahoe shut down, including about 70 miles (110 kilometers) of Interstate 80 from Colfax, California, to the Nevada state line.

I-80 was reopened to passenger vehicles Friday evening.

Chains were required for travel in many other parts of the towering Sierra Nevada.

"All avid skiers are itching to get out on the mountain, but the roads are pretty treacherous right now," said Kevin Cooper, marketing director for Lake Tahoe TV.

The storm was expected to dump between 3 and 6 feet (1 to 2 meters) of fresh snow in a region where some ski resorts reported getting 3 feet (1 meter) since Thursday. Officials warned of avalanches in the greater Lake Tahoe Area, where heavy snow and high winds were expected through Sunday.

Storms also have swamped much of the state with heavy rain that crumbled roads and flooded a resort north of San Francisco where a kayaker paddled through a meeting room after a nearby river swelled over its banks. The onslaught extended into Arizona and other parts of the U.S. West, with a winter blast also hitting Missouri.

In California, the heavy snow forced some skiers to cancel their plans.

Aura Campa of Oakland and her partner were hoping to take advantage of their season passes and the fresh powder at Squaw Valley-Alpine Meadows resort, but a near-accident on an icy road last weekend made them reconsider.

When a main highway through the Lake Tahoe area was crushed with traffic, she drove her SUV on a side road. Her vehicle didn't have chains, and when it was going uphill, the vehicle went into reverse.

"That was really scary for us. It was on a tiny hill with a small amount of ice but that was enough for us to think twice about traveling through a snowstorm again," Campa said. "We're not going to risk it."

Authorities told people to stay home as snow kept piling up.

"State Route 267 is so deep that plows can no longer plow. They have ordered up a large blower to try and clear the pass," Placer County sheriff's Lt. Andrew Scott said in a tweet with a video of the snow-covered road.

About 140 miles (225 kilometers) southeast of Lake Tahoe, Mammoth Mountain was about to break a more than 30-year record for monthly snowfall, resort spokesman Justin Romano said. Skiers and snowboarders should be able to reach the slopes as long as they have chains or snow tires, he said.

The resort has already gotten 163 inches (414 centimeters) of snow this month, just 5 inches shy of its snowfall record for February, set in 1986.

The storms heavily damaged — and in some places destroyed — parts of roads leading to Idyllwild and other mountain communities about 100 miles (161 kilometers) east of Los Angeles, but access was not cut off.

Crews were starting repairs on State Routes 74 and 243. A route combining surviving portions of the two mountain highways and a county road kept the communities connected to the world, but authorities urged outsiders to leave the tenuous route to residents.

"We're discouraging tourism and snow play up there this weekend," California Department of Transportation spokeswoman Terri Kasinga said.

Highways also were damaged in the nearby San Bernardino Mountains, where ski resorts around Big Bear Lake have an abundance of snow. Kasinga said those routes would be open to the public.

In other parts of California, crews turned to cleanup after a storm Thursday led to at least three deaths. A woman pulled from rising water in a flood-control channel in Corona, southeast of Los Angeles, had a heart attack and died. About 50 miles (80 kilometers) east, a man was found dead after floodwaters swept him away in a rural community. A man's body also was recovered from a fast-flowing creek in Escondido, northeast of San Diego.

Winter weather extended into Arizona and the Rocky Mountains.

Firefighters rescued a motorist who called 911 to report that runoff swept his car down a wash in Tucson, Arizona. In northern Arizona, a handful of popular recreation areas around the red-rock resort town of Sedona closed because of heavy flooding. More storms were expected to drop snow in northern Arizona this weekend.

In parts of Colorado, Montana and Wyoming, road crews worked to clear avalanches that had closed mountain highways and to ease the threat of more slides.

Antczak reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writers Daisy Nguyen in San Francisco; Amanda Lee Myers in Los Angeles; Felicia Fonseca in Flagstaff, Arizona; Paul Davenport in Phoenix; and Bob Moen in Cheyenne, Wyoming, contributed to this report.

## Chicago police release 2 men questioned in Smollett case

By DON BABWIN, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago police late Friday released without charges two Nigerian brothers arrested on suspicion of assaulting "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett and said they have new evidence to investigate as a result of questioning them.

"The individuals questioned by police in the Empire case have now been released without charging and detectives have additional investigative work to complete," Chicago police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said in a brief statement.

He gave no details of the new evidence.

Smollett, who is black and gay, has said two masked men shouting racial and anti-gay slurs and "This is MAGA country!" beat him and looped a rope around his neck early on Jan. 29 before running away. He said they also poured some kind of chemical on him.

Smollett, 36, said he was out getting food at a Subway sandwich shop in downtown Chicago when the attack happened.

A spokeswoman for Smollett said she had no comment on the release of the two men Friday.

The two men, identified only as Nigerian brothers, were picked up at Chicago's O'Hare Airport on Wednesday on their return from Nigeria after police learned at least one worked on "Empire," Guglielmi said. He said he did not know what the man's job was.

Guglielmi also said police searched the Chicago apartment where the men lived. But he said he had no information on what was found.

Police earlier this week said there was "no evidence to say that this is a hoax" and that Smollett "continues to be treated by police as a victim, not a suspect."

Police have said they found no surveillance video of an attack but continue to look. Investigators also said they were contacting stores in the hope of finding out who bought the rope that was around Smollett's neck.

In an interview with ABC News, the singer and actor said he didn't remove the rope from around his neck before police arrived "because I wanted them to see."

Smollett also said he initially refused to give police his cellphone because the device contained private content and phone numbers. He later gave detectives heavily redacted phone records that police have said are insufficient for an investigation.

See AP's complete coverage of the Jussie Smollett case: <https://www.apnews.com/JussieSmollett>



## Judge limits public comments in Trump confidant Stone's case

By CHAD DAY and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Friday placed some limits on what President Donald Trump's longtime confidant Roger Stone and his lawyers can say publicly about his criminal case in the special counsel's Russia probe.

But U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson stopped short of imposing a broad ban on public comments by the outspoken political operative, issuing a limited gag order she said was necessary to ensure Stone's right to a fair trial and "to maintain the dignity and seriousness of the courthouse and these proceedings."

The order bars Stone from commenting about his pending case near the courthouse, but it does not constrain him from making other public statements about the prosecution. It does generally bar his lawyers, prosecutors and witnesses from making public comments that could "pose a substantial likelihood" of prejudicing potential jurors.

Jackson's order comes after a string of media appearances by the attention-seeking political consultant since his indictment and arrest last month. In several of those interviews, Stone had blasted special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian election interference as politically motivated and criticized his case as involving only "process crimes."

Jackson had cited those media appearances in raising the prospect of a gag order, warning Stone at a hearing not to treat his case like a "book tour."

Stone's lawyers had argued that any limits on his public comments would infringe on his First Amendment right to free speech. They wrote in a filing last week that Stone's comments wouldn't merit a "clear and present danger to a fair trial." Mueller's prosecutors didn't oppose a gag order.

In her order, Jackson said she considered not only the potential impact of public comments on jurors but also the need to maintain order at the federal courthouse in Washington.

Citing the "size and vociferousness" of crowds already attracted to Stone's court proceedings, Jackson barred Stone, lawyers and witnesses from making any statements to the news media while entering and exiting the courthouse.

Jackson left open the possibility that she could amend the order in the future and reminded Stone that he is not permitted to contact any witnesses in the case. She also said if Stone complained about pretrial publicity at a later date, she would consider whether he had brought it on himself.

The 66-year-old Stone was arrested in an FBI raid at his Fort Lauderdale, Florida, home last month. He has pleaded not guilty to charges of lying to Congress, obstruction and witness tampering. The charges stem from conversations he had during the 2016 election about WikiLeaks, the anti-secrecy group that released material stolen from Democratic groups, including Hillary Clinton's campaign.

U.S. intelligence agencies have said that Russia was the source of the hacked material, and last year Mueller charged 12 Russian intelligence officers in the hacking.

Stone is not accused of directly coordinating with WikiLeaks. But Mueller's team did confirm in a court filing Friday that investigators have evidence of communication between Stone and WikiLeaks and between Stone and Guccifer 2.0, who purported to be a Romanian hacker responsible for the intrusions but who authorities say was actually a front for Russian intelligence.

Mueller did not provide details of the communications, though The Atlantic last year published what it said were Twitter direct messages between Stone and WikiLeaks, including one in which WikiLeaks appeared to scold Stone for suggesting in his public comments an association with the organization.

The messages that have been made public were exchanged after WikiLeaks had begun releasing the hacked material, and they don't show Stone coordinating with the anti-secrecy group.

Stone has been outspoken since his arrest, declaring his innocence in a news conference following his first court appearance in Florida and accusing Mueller of heavy-handed tactics by having him arrested in a pre-dawn raid.

He's been more muted outside the courthouse in Washington, though he did hold a hotel news confer-

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ence — accompanied by a host from the conspiracy theory website InfoWars — in which he said he would respect any gag order from the judge but also expected to appeal it.

He maintained he had no negative information about the president to share with Mueller and insisted he hadn't done anything wrong.

"I am not accused of Russian collusion, I am not accused of collaboration with WikiLeaks, I am not accused of conspiracy," Stone said. "There is no evidence or accusation that I knew in advance about the source or content of the WikiLeaks material."

Read the order: <http://apne.ws/DZtnY0b>

This story has been corrected to reflect that the gag order bars Stone from making comments about his case only near the federal courthouse in Washington, not in media appearances or elsewhere. It also applies more broadly to lawyers and witnesses, not just Stone.

## Academy reverses plans, will air all awards live at Oscars

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bowing to a backlash that had threatened to engulf an already blunder-plagued Academy Awards, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on Friday reversed its decision to present four awards during the commercial breaks of this year's Oscar broadcast.

All 24 categories will be shown live, after all, at the 91st Academy Awards on February 24, the academy announced in a statement. On Monday, the academy had said that the winning speeches for cinematography, film editing, makeup and hairstyling and live-action short would be aired in a shortened, taped segment during the broadcast.

"Nine days until the showtime, still tweaking the script" the Academy tweeted Friday.

The academy did not address whether the change meant extending the show's length, which organizers have said would be reduced to three hours.

The academy's move to strike awards from the live broadcast was fiercely contested by many of this year's Oscar nominees, including "Roma" director Alfonso Cuarón and "BlacKkKlansman" filmmaker Spike Lee. The American Society of Cinematographers on Wednesday issued an open-letter to the academy, signed by Martin Scorsese, Brad Pitt and others, calling the plans an insult to the cinematic arts.

"When the recognition of those responsible for the creation of outstanding cinema is being diminished by the very institution whose purpose it is to protect it, then we are no longer upholding the spirit of the academy's promise to celebrate film as a collaborative art form," the letter read.

The academy on Wednesday defended the decision and blamed "a chain of misinformation" on the backlash. Following record-low ratings to last year's broadcast, the academy has made a swifter, three-hour telecast a priority. ABC, which airs the Oscars, is planning to premiere a sneak-peak of a new drama series after the Oscar telecast, which regularly ranks as the most-watched non-NFL broadcast of the year.

This is just the latest flip-flop by the academy in its attempts to tweak the Oscars.

The academy's headaches began after it last summer trotted out the induction of a "popular film Oscar." The plan sparked such outrage (Rob Lowe pronounced the film industry dead, "survived by sequels, tent-poles and vertical integration") that the new award was scuttled within a month.

Kevin Hart was announced as this year's Oscar host only to withdraw days later when many took issue with his old homophobic tweets and the comedian initially "chose to pass on the apology." Hart finally apologized as he resigned, leaving the Oscars host-less for only the fifth time in its 91-year history.

And after first planning to limit the best song nominee performances, the academy confirmed that all songs will indeed be performed.

Veteran makeup artist Lois Burwell, who is on the film academy's board of governors, on Friday called the efforts to change the Oscars an "evolving process."

"With anything creative, you start in one place and then there's the journey to where you end up," said

Burwell. "And sometimes you have to do things that don't work in order to find out what does work. So there's always a kind of awkwardness about someone going, 'Oh no, that was a mistake.' But a mistake is something you learn from and build upon."

AP Entertainment Writer Ryan Pearson in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## **Payless ShoeSource to shutter all of its remaining US stores**

**By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO, AP Retail Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Payless ShoeSource is shuttering all of its 2,100 remaining stores in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, joining a list of iconic names like Toys R Us and Bon-Ton that have closed down in the last year.

The Topeka, Kansas-based chain said Friday it will hold liquidation sales starting Sunday and wind down its e-commerce operations. All of the stores will remain open until at least the end of March and the majority will remain open until May.

The debt-burdened chain filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in April 2017, closing hundreds of stores as part of its reorganization.

At the time, it had over 4,400 stores in more than 30 countries. It remerged from restructuring four months later with about 3,500 stores and eliminated more than \$435 million in debt.

The company said in an email that the liquidation doesn't affect its franchise operations or its Latin American stores, which remain open for business as usual. It lists 18,000 employees worldwide.

Shoppers are increasingly shifting their buying online or heading to discount stores like T.J. Maxx to grab deals on name-brand shoes. That shift has hurt traditional retailers, even low-price outlets like Payless. Heavy debt loads have also handcuffed retailers, leaving them less flexible to invest in their businesses.

But bankruptcies and store closures will continue through 2019 so there's "no light at the end of the tunnel," according to a report by Coresight Research.

Before this announcement, there have been 2,187 U.S. store closing announcements this year, with Gymboree and Ascena Retail, the parent of Lane Bryant and other brands, accounting for more than half the total, according to the research firm. This year's total is up 23 percent from the 1,776 announcements a year ago. Year-to-date, retailers have announced 1,411 store openings, offsetting 65 percent of store closures, it said.

Payless was founded in 1956 by two cousins, Louis and Shaol Lee Pozez, to offer self-service stores selling affordable footwear.

Follow Anne D'Innocenzio: <http://twitter.com/ADInnocenzio>

## **Kaepernick, Eric Reid settle collusion grievances with NFL**

**By BARRY WILNER, AP Pro Football Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — With a public hearing looming and the threat of owners and league officials facing depositions, the NFL settled collusion cases brought by Colin Kaepernick and Eric Reid.

The league, about to celebrate its 100th season, faced criticism from all sides thanks to the protest movement started by Kaepernick. Many Kaepernick supporters wanted to see him back on the field, while other fans said they wouldn't watch if the league allowed players to protest during the national anthem.

The league and Kaepernick's lawyer sent out statements Friday saying that "the parties have decided to resolve the pending grievances" and that a confidentiality agreement would prevent either side from commenting further.

It remains unclear if the NFL admitted wrongdoing or how much money Reid, Kaepernick or others may have received. Considering the lost salary both players claimed and legal costs, the settlement could have climbed into the tens of millions of dollars.

"For the past several months, counsel for Mr. Kaepernick and Mr. Reid have engaged in an ongoing dialogue with representatives of the NFL," the league statement said. "As a result of those discussions,

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the parties have decided to resolve the pending grievances. The resolution of this matter is subject to a confidentiality agreement so there will be no further comment by any party.”

Kaepernick’s lawyer Mark Geragos tweeted a similar statement .

The protests slowed down this season, as the NFL made contributions to organizations chosen by players and promised more attention to social justice issues. But the controversy reignited every time there was a development in the case.

A hearing was scheduled for later this month.

Kaepernick and Reid filed collusion grievances against the league, saying they were blacklisted because of protests during the national anthem at games. Kaepernick has not played in the league since 2016, while Reid missed three games last season before signing with Carolina. Kaepernick contended the owners violated their collective bargaining agreement with players by conspiring to keep him off teams.

While the players seemed intent on pursuing the cases, the league might not have been eager for those deposed — including Commissioner Roger Goodell and several owners and league executives — to appear. Still, for the players to prove collusion is a mighty challenge because, according to the 2011 labor agreement between the union and league, a “club, its employees or agents” must have “entered into an agreement” to limit contract offers.

Kaepernick filed his grievance in August 2017. Arbitrator Stephen B. Burbank sent it to trial, denying the league’s request to throw out the former 49ers quarterback’s claims. Burbank’s decision meant there was enough evidence of collusion to keep the grievances going.

A wave of protests by NFL players began in 2016 after Kaepernick kneeled during the national anthem to call attention to police brutality and racial inequality. The protests grew into one of the most polarizing issues in sports, with President Donald Trump loudly urging the league to suspend or fire players who demonstrate during “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

While he has been away from the playing field, Kaepernick has become an advocate for battling social and racial injustice. On Thursday, a person with knowledge of the conversations told the AP that Kaepernick turned down a chance to join the fledgling Alliance of American Football , seeking \$20 million or more from the upstart league that pays its players \$225,000 over three seasons.

Safety Reid recently re-signed with the Panthers for three years and more than \$22 million. He noted then that he got “fair market value” after making just \$1.69 million last season from the Panthers.

“If anything, it proves my point from last year,” Reid said. “I didn’t sign until the (fourth) week and did for almost the league minimum. And this year I signed a more substantial contract. And nothing has changed. I’m still the same player.”

Officials with the players union said Friday afternoon that they had just learned of the settlement and had no details.

“We continuously supported Colin and Eric from the start of their protests, participated with their lawyers throughout their legal proceedings and were prepared to participate in the upcoming trial in pursuit of both truth and justice for what we believe the NFL and its clubs did to them,” the NFLPA said in statement. “We are glad that Eric has earned a job and a new contract, we continue to hope that Colin gets his opportunity as well.”

Kaepernick has one strong supporter in Basketball Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

“I think it’s a win for Colin,” Abdul-Jabbar said. “I think he wants to go back and start playing again. I think that’s what he wants. He had a statement that he had to make through his demonstrations, but he’s a quarterback and I think he should be working.”

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AP Sports Writer Tim Reynolds contributed.

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More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/tag/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Paradise area was heaven for victims of deadly wildfire

By JOCELYN GECKER and JANIE HAR, Associated Press

On that frantic morning, TK Huff was calm. The 71-year-old amputee sat in his wheelchair, pointing a garden hose at what quickly became the deadliest wildfire in California history.

Nobody knew at the time, early on Nov. 8, how bad it would be. When his family called at 7:15 a.m., Huff said he would leave. But he never made it out.

All around, fires were breaking out, and men and women — most of them elderly, many of them disabled — were doomed: Flames soon overtook 74-year-old Richard Brown's beloved log cabin in the Sierra Nevada foothills. On the edge of neighboring Paradise, a blaze prompted the Feather Canyon Retirement Community to evacuate its residents — all except 88-year-old Julian Binstock, overlooked in the chaos.

It was just the start of a day that was almost unfathomable. An entire town was burned off the map of California. Nearly 14,000 homes were incinerated.

All told, 85 people would perish. The oldest was 99; of the 73 bodies that have been identified, 59 were 65 or older. One hundred days later — with the aid of public records showing the locations of victims' deaths, CalFire mapping of the fire's progression and dozens of interviews — their stories can be told. How they lived, how they died.

And how a fire that started at 6:30 a.m. in the tiny town of Pulga would become the nation's deadliest and most destructive wildfire in more than a century.

The flames spread through the back of Concow, where Huff lived. This was no ordinary fire, with fronts marching steadily forward. Wind gusts of at least 50 mph blew hot embers a mile or more, creating multiple fires at once and igniting areas the size of football fields every few seconds, said CalFire spokesman Scott McLean.

Huff and his wife, Margaret, who died in August, knew the risk of wildfires. Their house, high on a wooded ridge, burned down in 2008. But this was the house where three generations gathered for Easter egg hunts, for Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners, and pretty much every weekend of the year. With no internet or cell reception, the focus was always on family.

So they rebuilt.

Huff was stoic and strong, a farm laborer who worked in the fields his whole life; he lost a leg in a potato harvesting accident in 2001 but didn't let his disability hold him back, said his daughter-in-law Pearl Lankford, whose own house in Paradise burned down along with the homes of eight family members.

When the fire arrived, just after sunrise, Huff's instinct was to save his house.

"We told him, 'You need to evacuate now,'" said his granddaughter Jordan Huff, 22, who lived in Paradise. "He was putting out the flames in his backyard in his wheelchair," she said. "There was no distress in his voice."

Soon after the family's call at 7:15 that morning, the house phone went dead. A CalFire simulation shows that by 9 a.m., flames had overtaken Green Forest Lane, where Huff lived.

His remains were found in the ashes of his house. The only thing still standing was his wheelchair, near the back fence with the garden hose.

By then a separate fire about a mile away had destroyed the log cabin built by Richard Brown, the unofficial mayor of Concow, a Vietnam veteran whose mom and stepdad had a winery in Paradise — which is how he came to name his daughter, Chardonnay Telly. She recalled her dad as relentlessly upbeat, a man who loved to tinker with old cars that inevitably broke down in the middle of nowhere.

His remains would later be found under one of those vehicles, on his beloved patch of land.

About the same time, more than two miles to the west, on the eastern edge of Paradise, the Feather Canyon Retirement Community was hastily evacuating its more than 100 residents. In the chaos, they somehow overlooked Julian Binstock, 88 — something that rarely happened in a life that took him from Brooklyn to Harvard University to the entertainment business, where he would become a vice president of Warner Communications.

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At the retirement community, where he had moved with his wife Elisabetta a decade ago, he was known for his sense of humor. Each year, he won the award for "Funniest Resident"; he kept up his reputation by asking his children for jokes to try out on his neighbors, said his daughter, Christina Lamb, of Southborough, Massachusetts.

By 9 a.m., the community was gone, and so was Binstock.

Lamb, her two siblings and children would spend a frantic week looking for him in evacuation centers and hospitals, but he had died in his residence.

She doesn't fault the retirement center. "It's the fire's fault," she said.

By 10 a.m., the fire surged across a canyon and into the town of Paradise, population 27,000. It had torched 20 square miles and sparked a separate fire miles away on the other side of town.

On the eastern edge of Paradise, 93-year-old Dorothy Lee Herrera had already left a frantic voicemail for her son, Arthur Lee: "There's a fire, we've got to get out!"

But by the time he called back, there was no answer. She and her husband, Lou Herrera, 86, died in the house where they'd lived for a quarter century, amid the ashes of trees that provided fruit for Dorothy's delicious pies.

North of the Herrera home, the fire roared through the Ridgewood Mobile Home Park, a tidy community for people 55 and older near the Ponderosa Elementary School, killing Teresa Ammons, 82, Helen Pace, 84, and Dorothy Mack, an 87-year-old retired clerk for the California Department of Corrections who loved Paradise. To her it was a more affordable Grass Valley, the Northern California town where she's grown up.

Ernie Foss, a 63-year-old musician, also left the expensive San Francisco Bay Area for the cheaper Paradise. His body and that of his dog, Bernice, were found outside his home, near his wheelchair and minivan, according to his children.

The body of his caretaker and stepson, Andrew Burt, was found a quarter-mile away on Edgewood Lane, outside a vehicle at an intersection where four others died in their cars, trying to flee.

Burt was 36 and among the younger victims of the fire. He moved to Paradise with his mother, Linda, and her husband, Foss, about a decade ago and stayed on as a caregiver after his mother died in 2012. His brother, James Burt, said he can't imagine how dire the situation must have been for Andrew to leave Ernie Foss behind.

"The general consensus was that Andy would not have abandoned Ernie," he said, "but if Ernie had passed or told Andy to save himself, he would have."

By the time the fire reached Burt and Foss, it was 10:45 a.m.

Minutes later, the inferno consumed David Marbury, 66. A private man who loved horses, Marbury grew up in Vallejo, California, and headed for the Navy after high school. He eventually retired from the commuter rail Bay Area Rapid Transit and moved to Paradise — "just a good person all around," said his niece, Sadia Quint.

By 11 a.m., the center of Paradise was being overtaken by flames.

More than a half-dozen fires to the east of town had merged to form a 32 square-mile inferno, a wall of fire and smoke roughly the size of Manhattan.

As the blaze raced west, it reached the homes of John Digby and Victoria Taft — 2.5 miles apart — almost simultaneously.

Both had spoken to their adult children that morning for the last time.

Victoria Taft's parting words with her 22-year-old daughter, Christina, were tense. A neighbor had come knocking around 8:30 a.m. A fire was coming — they should evacuate. Mother and daughter argued about what to do.

Taft refused to leave. If the threat was real, authorities would order an evacuation, she told her daughter. By 10 a.m. Christina could see the morning sky blackening from smoke. She packed the car and left, joining what had become a bumper-to-bumper exodus.

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Victoria Taft's remains were recovered from the ruins of her living room.

In the aftermath, Christina set out to memorialize her mother and in the process discovered a woman she hardly knew existed — a free spirited, fun-loving Southern California beauty who acted in television, movies and commercials, partied with rock stars in the '70s and '80s and traveled the world before motherhood became her focus.

Taft, 66, was losing her eyesight from glaucoma and suffered from memory loss. When Christina asked about her youth, Taft didn't remember the details. But among the items Christina frantically grabbed that morning were boxes of documents from a closet, only later discovering the contents: her mom's old resumes, head shots, casting lists.

The decision to leave her mother behind will forever haunt her. "I didn't do enough to get my mom out," she said. "I feel like I accidentally killed her by not helping her."

Across town, John Digby talked by phone with his son Roman in Owatonna, Minnesota. The son wanted his father to see a doctor about his sore throat. Digby — a 78-year-old Air Force veteran and retired postal carrier — didn't mention anything about a fire.

Two hours later, the fire reached Digby at his home in Space 3 at the Pine Springs Mobile Home Park. A neighbor later told Roman Digby that he tried to get his father to leave, but his father said no.

A quarter-hour after the fire reached Digby and Taft, it came for Andrew Downer — who also had a chance to leave, but chose not to.

Downer, 54, had lost his right leg to diabetes and infection from surgery, and he used a wheelchair. His caregiver Cindy MacDonald was thinking about running over to fix him breakfast, but then she got a call warning of fire. She offered to pick Downer up, but he declined. The dogs didn't want to go. He didn't want to leave the place to looters.

Downer, described by friends as loud and fun and generous, died in the house he had filled with collections of marbles, crystals and antiques — and condiments.

Nearly three weeks later, 80-year-old Larry R. Smith was taken off life support at a Northern California medical center — the 85th and final victim of the Camp Fire.

"Uncle Ronnie" — born to a Dust Bowl family of eight children that had come to California to pick crops — loved to host gatherings of the clan on the rambling property he purchased in Paradise about three decades ago. Recently, he had started showing signs of dementia but he was independent and reluctant to leave the first house he ever purchased.

Smith had tried to save his treasured truck, a 1993 Dodge Ram that he rarely drove but plastered with contradictory political bumper stickers. Rescuers found Smith barefoot and badly burned.

He died on Nov. 25.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Feb. 16, the 47th day of 2019. There are 318 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 16, 1959, Fidel Castro became premier of Cuba a month and a-half after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

On this date:

In 1804, Lt. Stephen Decatur led a successful raid into Tripoli Harbor to burn the U.S. Navy frigate Philadelphia, which had fallen into the hands of pirates during the First Barbary War.

In 1862, the Civil War Battle of Fort Donelson in Tennessee ended as some 12,000 Confederate soldiers surrendered; Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's victory earned him the moniker "Unconditional Surrender Grant."

In 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was organized in New York City.

In 1945, American troops landed on the island of Corregidor in the Philippines during World War II.

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In 1948, N-B-C T-V began airing its first nightly newscast, "The Camel Newsreel Theatre," which consisted of Fox Movietone newsreels.

In 1961, the United States launched the Explorer 9 satellite.

In 1968, the nation's first 911 emergency telephone system was inaugurated in Haleyville, Alabama, as the speaker of the Alabama House, Rankin Fite, placed a call from the mayor's office in City Hall to a red telephone at the police station (also located in City Hall) that was answered by U.S. Rep. Tom Bevill.

In 1988, seven people were shot to death during an office rampage in Sunnyvale, California, by a man obsessed with a co-worker who was wounded in the attack. (The gunman is on death row.)

In 1996, eleven people were killed in a fiery collision between an Amtrak passenger train and a Maryland commuter train in Silver Spring, Md.

In 1998, a China Airlines Airbus A300 trying to land in fog near Taipei, Taiwan, crashed, killing all 196 people on board, plus seven on the ground.

In 2001, The United States and Britain staged air strikes against radar stations and air defense command centers in Iraq. President George W. Bush met with Mexican President Vicente Fox on the first foreign trip of Bush's presidency. Dr. William H. Masters, who with his partner and later wife Virginia Johnson, pioneered research in the field of human sexuality, died in Tucson, Ariz., at age 85.

In 2003, more than 100,000 people demonstrated in the streets of San Francisco to protest a possible U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Ten years ago: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton arrived in Tokyo to begin her first trip abroad as President Barack Obama's chief diplomat. The government of Pakistan agreed to implement Islamic law in the northwestern region of Malakand in an attempt to pacify a spreading Taliban insurgency. In Stamford, Conn., a 200-pound chimpanzee named Travis went berserk, severely mauling its owner's friend, Charla Nash; Travis was shot dead by police.

Five years ago: U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, during a visit to Indonesia, called climate change perhaps the "most fearsome" destructive weapon and mocked those who denied its existence or questioned its causes, comparing them to people who insist the earth is flat.

One year ago: In an indictment, special counsel Robert Mueller accused 13 Russians of an elaborate plot to disrupt the 2016 U.S. presidential election with a huge but hidden social media trolling campaign aimed in part at helping Donald Trump. The FBI said it had received a tip in January that the suspect in the Florida school shooting had a "desire to kill" and access to guns, but agents failed to investigate. President Donald Trump visited Florida, where he saw two survivors of the school shooting that left 17 people dead and thanked doctors and nurses who helped the wounded. Stocks closed out their strongest week in five years, and had recovered more than half of the losses from a plunge at the beginning of the month. Former presidential hopeful Mitt Romney officially launched his political comeback attempt, announcing that he was running for the Utah Senate seat that had been held by Republican Orrin Hatch, who chose not to seek re-election. (Romney would be elected in November, handily defeating Democrat Jenny Wilson.)

Today's Birthdays: Jazz/pop singer-actress Peggy King is 89. Actor Jeremy Bulloch is 74. Actor William Katt is 68. Actor LeVar Burton is 62. Actor-rapper Ice-T is 61. Actress Lisa Loring is 61. International Tennis Hall of Famer John McEnroe is 60. Rock musician Andy Taylor is 58. Rock musician Dave Lombardo (Slayer) is 54. Actress Sarah Clarke is 48. Olympic gold medal runner Cathy Freeman is 46. Actor Mahershala Ali is 45. Singer Sam Salter is 44. Electronic dance music artist Bassnectar is 41. Rapper Lupe Fiasco is 37. Actress Chloe Wepper is 33. Pop-rock singer Ryan Follese (FAHL'-eh-say) (Hot Chelle (SHEL) Rae) is 32. Rock musician Danielle Haim (HYM) is 30. Actress Elizabeth Olsen is 30. Actor Mike Weinberg is 26.

Thought for Today: "There are two kinds of man: the ones who make history and the ones who endure it." — Camilo Jose Cela, Nobel Prize-winning Spanish author (1916-2002).