

Groton Daily Independent

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Groton Area Schedule of Events

Thursday, February 21, 2019

4:00pm: Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Deuel @ Groton Area High School (JV Girls game at 4pm, JV Boys game at 5pm, Varsity Girls game at 6:30pm, Varsity Boys game at 8pm)

Friday, February 22, 2019

Wrestling: Boys Varsity State @ Rapid City (Combined State Tourney (Class A & B))

6:30pm: Basketball: Girls Varsity Game (Rescheduled from 02-12-19) vs. Webster Area High School @ Groton Area High School

Saturday, February 23, 2019

Robotics at Harrisburg High School

Show Choir at Vermillion

Wrestling: Boys Varsity State @ Rapid City (Combined State Tourney (Class A & B))

- 1- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ad
- 1- Help Wanted
- 2- BB: Deuel
- 3- Stuck in the snow
- 3- Kiwanis Potato Bar Feed
- 4- Illegally Dumped Snow Causing Problems
- 4- Morton's 80th Birthday Card Shower
- 5- MathCounts team places fifth
- 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)

School Announcements

The Groton Area School District will be opening two hours late on Wednesday, February 20.

There will be no 8:30 AM preschool. The Government class trip is cancelled. The FFA breakfast is postponed. OST will open at 7 a.m.

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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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

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It's Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Deuel
Cardinals** VS



Groton Area Tigers

Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019
Girls at 6:30 p.m. ~ Boys at 8:00
at Groton

Broadcast of this game is sponsored by

Allied Climate Professionals
Bahr Spray Foam
Blocker Construction
Doug Abeln Seed Company
James Valley Seed - Doug Jorgensen
John Sieh Agency
Groton Chiropractic Clinic
Locke Electric
Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.
Northeast Chiropractic Clinic
Professional Management Services, Inc.
Sanford Health
Tyson DeHoet Trucking
Weber Landscaping

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Spike Nehls slid into the ditch on US12 in Groton. Dick Donovan is directing Dale Grenz in pulling him out. The area received a strong six inches of snow from the system that went through the area yesterday. (Photo by Tina Kosel)



Kiwanis Potato Bar Feed

**Thursday, February 21
serving 5pm - 7:30pm**

Groton HS Arena

\$6 per person

Doubleheader GBB & BBB

Groton vs. Deuel



Illegally Dumped Snow Causing Problems

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Department of Transportation is reminding the public and commercial snow removal operators that it is illegal to place or dump excess snow on highway right of way, which includes driving surfaces, shoulders and ditches.

"The state has seen some significant snowfall the last few weeks and more snow is expected the next few days," said Kristi Sandal, public information officer. "The space within the right of way needs to be reserved for future snowfall so the department's plow operators have a place to put that snow. If the ditches are full from snow dumped by private and commercial entities, it severely hampers the department's ability to clear roadways and make them safe for travel."

Violation of the anti-dumping law is a Class 1 misdemeanor, with a penalty of up to one year in jail, \$2,000 in fines, or both. It is the policy of the SDDOT to remove snow that has been illegally piled within the highway right of way that may be a safety hazard. In addition, violators will be billed for the costs of removing illegally dumped snow.

"Piling snow in the state highway right of way can actually be very dangerous for motorists," says Sandal. "Snow piles can restrict sight distance and they pose an extreme hazard if a vehicle leaves the roadway. Snow piles that remain adjacent to the road may cause additional drifting and visibility problems posing more safety hazards to travelers, as well as additional expenses for manpower and equipment to remove the illegally dumped snow."

Property owners and access users are reminded it is their responsibility to remove snow from the ends of driveways and around their own mailboxes.

The department asks landowners and commercial snow-removal operators to keep excess snow on private property or haul it to legal dumping sites.



**Card Shower
for
Darlene Morton's
80th Birthday
on Feb. 24, 2019
Send to:
320 Grant Ave. NE
Conde, SD 57434**

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Front row from left: Groton Area Middle School, 5th Place, COACH: Darlyne Johnson, Ethan Clark, Jackson Dinger, Jacob Lewandowski, Ellie Weismantel, CO-COACH: Whitney Berner. Second row from left: Roncalli Junior High School, 6th Place, COACH: Rose Kraft, Tyler Berndt, Bryce Falken, Cason Hellwig, Sawyer Henrich, CO-COACH: Mandy Smid. (Courtesy Photo)

MathCounts team places fifth

The 2019 Northeastern South Dakota Chapter MathCounts Competition was held at the Student Center on the campus of Northern State University in Aberdeen on Wednesday, February 6. Groton team members, Ethan Clark, Jackson Dinger, Jacob Lewandowski, and Ellie Weismantel, earned the fifth place trophy and plaque. George S. Mickelson Middle School of Brookings won the team competition and advances to the state competition on March 9 in Pierre, along with the second place team from Simmons Middle School of Aberdeen.

Besides the team, Dillon Abeln, Caleb Hanten, Andrew Marzahn, and Bryson Wambach also participated in the chapter competition.

The top four highest scoring individuals and the coach of the winning team at the state event will represent South Dakota at the national competition in May, 2019.

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Today in Weather History

February 21, 1918: An amazing warm-up of 83 degrees in just 12 hours at Granville, North Dakota from Chinook winds. The temperature soared from an early morning low of 33 degrees below zero to an afternoon temperature of 50 degrees. Chinook winds are caused by the compression of Pacific air descending the Rockies. Compressing the air causes it to heat up resulting in the dramatic temperature rises.

February 21, 1969: Heavy snow along with winds of 15 to 25 mph caused blowing and drifting snow which closed many roads. Snowfall amounts of 5 to 12 inches were common across eastern South Dakota from the 20th into the 22nd. Some snowfall amounts included, 5 inches at Clear Lake and Brookings, 6 inches at Wilmot, 7 inches at Milbank, Redfield and Mitchell, 8 inches at Conde, 9 inches at Webster, Sioux Falls, and Huron.

1971: A massive tornado outbreak occurred in the Delta region of northeastern Louisiana and Mississippi. The first major tornado touched down at about 2:50 p.m. in Louisiana and crossed into Mississippi. 46 were killed by this twister, which struck the towns of Dehli and Inverness. 121 people lost their lives that day, including 110 in Mississippi. A total of 1600 people were injured, 900 homes severely damaged or destroyed. The total loss was around 19 million dollars.

1918 - A spectacular chinook wind at Granville, ND, caused the temperature to spurt from a morning low of 33 degrees below zero to an afternoon high of 50 degrees above zero. (David Ludlum)

1935 - Frequent duststorms occurred in eastern Colorado during the month, forcing schools to close and people to stay indoors. A fatality occurred on this date when two section cars collided on the railroad near Arriba CO, due to poor visibility. (The Weather Channel)

1936 - The temperature at Langdon, ND, climbed above zero for the first time in six weeks. Readings never got above freezing during all three winter months. (David Ludlum)

1971 - An outbreak of tornadoes hit northeastern Louisiana and northern and central Mississippi. The tornadoes claimed 121 lives, including 110 in Mississippi. Three tornadoes accounted for 118 of the deaths. There are 1600 persons injured, 900 homes were destroyed or badly damaged, and total damage was 19 million dollars. (David Ludlum)

1971 - Elk City, OK, was buried under 36 inches of snow to establish a 24 hour snowfall record for the state. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Low pressure over central California produced gale force winds along the coast, and produced thunderstorms which pelted Stockton, Oakland and San Jose with small hail. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A storm tracking across southern Canada produced high winds in the north central U.S., with gusted to 90 mph reported at Boulder CO. The high winds snapped trees and power lines, and ripped shingles off roofs. The Kentucky Fried Chicken Bucket was blown off their store in Havre MT. An eighteen foot fiberglass bear was blown off its stand along a store front in west Cody WY, and sailed east into downtown Cody before the owners were able to transport their wandering bear back home in a horse trailer. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing during the morning hours spread severe weather across Georgia and the Carolinas. Strong thunderstorm winds caused one death and thirteen injuries in North Carolina, and another four injuries in South Carolina. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Overnight thunderstorms produced heavy rain in central Texas. Rainfall totals ranged up to 2.80 inches at Camp Verde, with 2.20 inches reported at Leakey. Thunderstorms early in the day produced high winds in southern Texas, with wind gusts to 60 mph reported at Alice. Daytime thunderstorms in eastern Texas

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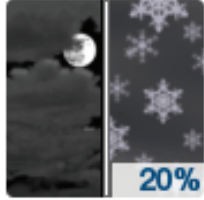
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Today



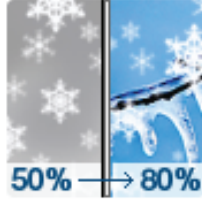
Isolated Flurries

Tonight



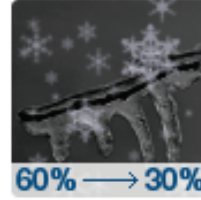
Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Snow

Friday



Chance Snow and Patchy Fog then Wintry Mix

Friday Night



Wintry Mix Likely then Chance Wintry Mix

Saturday



Slight Chance Snow then Partly Sunny

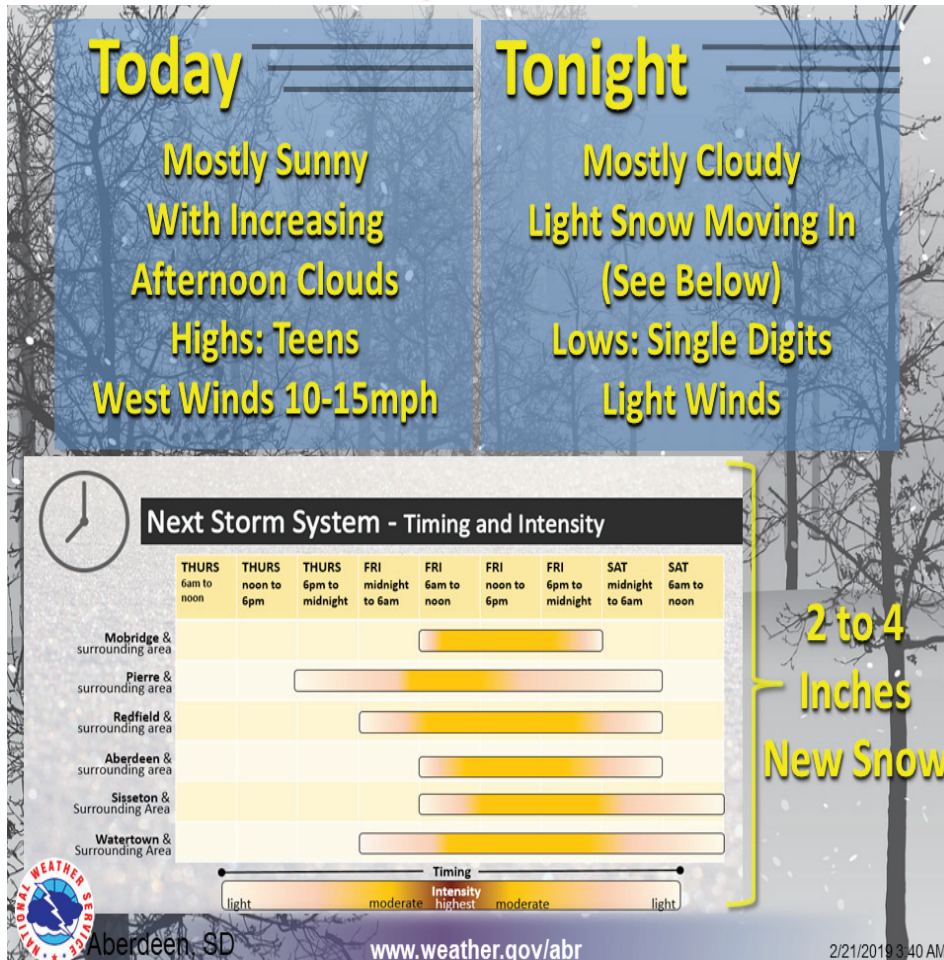
High: 16 °F

Low: 4 °F

High: 20 °F

Low: 11 °F

High: 21 °F



Most of the area will see a "relatively" nice day, albeit with temperatures still below average. Increasing afternoon clouds are expected ahead of the next system that will spread light to moderate snow across the area early Friday through Saturday. Could also see some freezing drizzle mixed in, which is something to watch. Sunday, while precipitation should be gone, we will see winds increase which will bring its own set of problems.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 23 °F at 12:27 PM

Low Outside Temp: 5 °F at 8:00 PM

High Gust: 14 mph at 8:12 AM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 64° in 2017

Record Low: -30° in 1918

Average High: 30°F

Average Low: 10°F

Average Precip in Feb.: 0.35

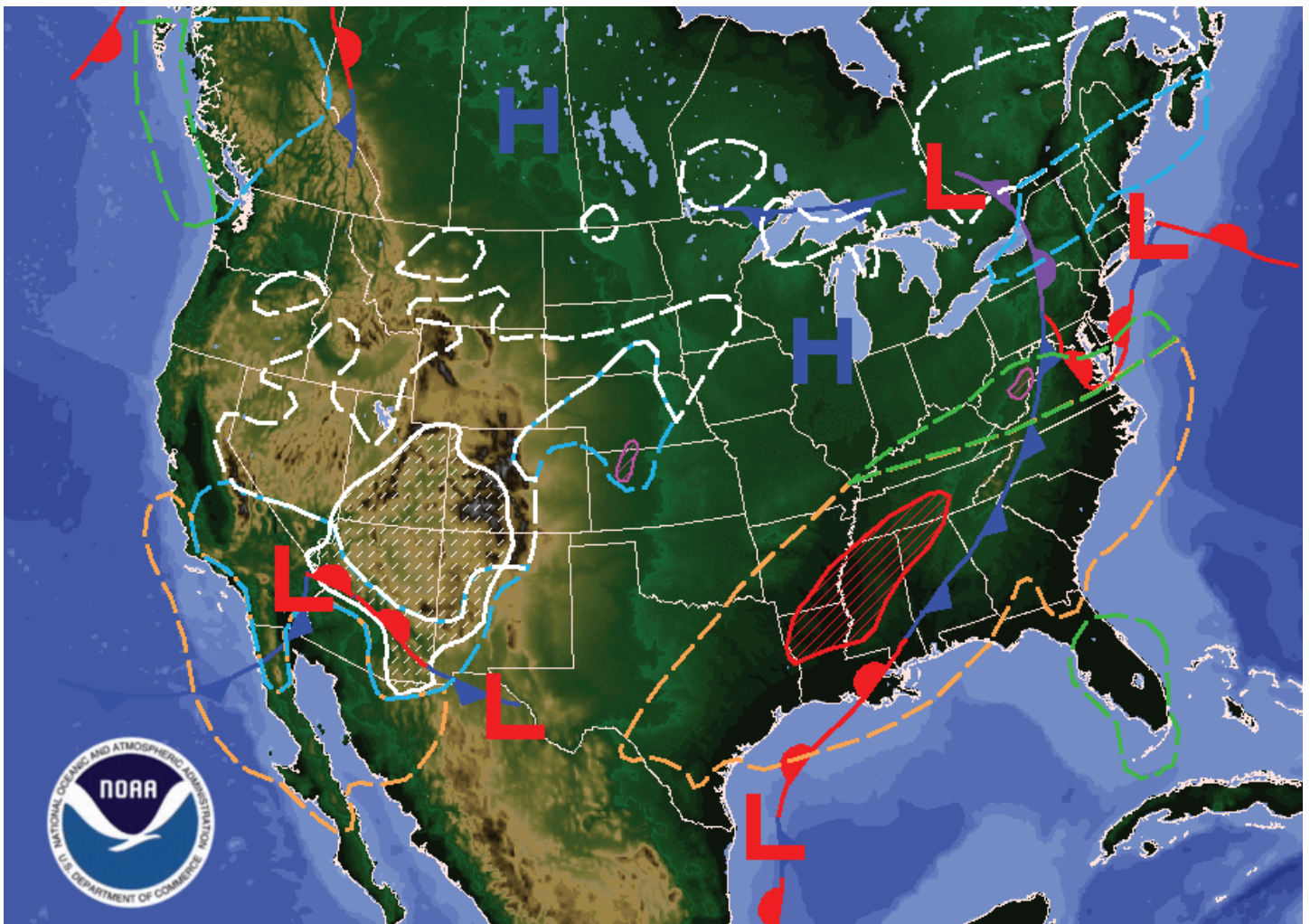
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.82

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 6:09 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:24 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Feb 21, 2019, issued 5:02 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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ATTRACTIVE BUT DEADLY

Everyone seems to enjoy a little attention and some flattery now and then. Although we may think that a little flattery is good for the ego, there is a real danger that it can lead to death. Solomons Proverbs contain that warning. And, we often see or hear his warnings come to life on TV, radio, and in print.

Wisdom, Solomon writes, will not only protect you from men who would lead you astray but Wisdom will save you also from the adulteress woman, from the wayward woman with her seductive ways.

Someone has said that two of the most difficult sins to resist are pride and sexual immorality because both are so attractive and seductive. Pride says, I deserve it while sexual desire says, I need it. When combined, their appeal leads to death, and only the strength that comes from God will enable one to overcome them.

The path from seduction to sin is easily overlooked and difficult to recognize. The seductress begins with what appears to be an invitation to friendship that soon becomes a relationship that destroys the innocent. Many times the conversation begins with idle talk that excites the imagination and then leads to acts that were unintended, but eventually become a way of life that leads to the spirits of death.

Can a seductive woman be identified easily? Is there a way to recognize her quickly and then avoid her completely? Yes! This woman is the enemy of morality and virtue and can be detected by her words and ways. Solomon carefully describes her for us.

Prayer: Lord, give us wisdom to recognize clues that can be easily overlooked and lead us in righteous paths. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 2:16 Wisdom will save you also from the adulteress woman, from the wayward woman with her seductive ways.

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

Snowfall in the Upper Midwest this week setting records

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Upper Midwest snowfall is setting records.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune reports the nearly 9 inches of snow Wednesday in the Twin Cities shattered the snowfall record for February, at 31.5 inches. The previous record was 26.5 inches in 1962.

Other parts of Minnesota got as much as a foot of snow, and St. Cloud also set a record for its snowiest February.

The National Weather Service in South Dakota reports that the 7.2 inches of snow that fell Wednesday in Sioux Falls set a city record for the date. The previous record of 7.1 inches was set in 1953.

In North Dakota, there were two three-vehicle crashes on Interstate 94, and a pickup crashed into a snowplow on the interstate.

Snow also led to some school closures in Wisconsin.

Rapid City Council closer to changing public behavior law

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City has taken another step toward changing a local law that regulates public behavior and safety.

The Rapid City Journal reports that the City Council voted unanimously this week to repeal the city's "aggressive solicitation" ordinance and replace it with an "unlawful behavior" in public places ordinance. The move will require final passage at the council's March 4 meeting to take effect.

The proposed change came after the city attorney said existing law violates the constitutional right to free speech.

Some opponents say the city should be focusing on helping people who struggle with housing, unemployment and drugs, not on prosecuting them. They also believe the new ordinance is vague.

Council members say they're confident it will be enforced only as a last resort.

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

Lesley Visser named winner of 2018 Al Neuharth Award

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Veteran sports broadcaster Lesley Visser has been named this year's winner of the Al Neuharth Award for Excellence.

Visser got her start with the Boston Globe in 1974 and now works for CBS. She has accomplished many firsts for female sports broadcasters and is the only sportscaster to work on network broadcasts of the Final Four, World Series, NBA Finals, Super Bowl, Olympics, Triple Crown, World Figure Skating Championship and U.S. Open.

The Al Neuharth Award is presented by the University of South Dakota and the Freedom Forum Institute, a nonpartisan foundation that champions the First Amendment. The award is named after the founder of USA Today, the Freedom Forum and the Newseum.

Past award winners include Walter Cronkite, Tom Brokaw, Larry King, Katie Couric and Chris Berman.

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

01-03-25-26-29

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(one, three, twenty-five, twenty-six, twenty-nine)
Estimated jackpot: \$108,000

Lotto America
12-15-16-21-46, Star Ball: 7, ASB: 3
(twelve, fifteen, sixteen, twenty-one, forty-six; Star Ball: seven; ASB: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$15.5 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$224 million

Powerball
27-49-50-51-52, Powerball: 2, Power Play: 2
(twenty-seven, forty-nine, fifty, fifty-one, fifty-two; Powerball: two; Power Play: two)
Estimated jackpot: \$282 million

Wednesday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL
Crazy Horse 82, Tiospaye Topa 37
Faulkton 60, Miller 51
Timber Lake 67, Little Wound 60
GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL
Pine Ridge 92, McLaughlin 71
Red Cloud 84, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 65

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

Umude double-double lifts South Dakota over Denver 72-45

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Stanley Umude had 18 points and 10 rebounds to lift South Dakota to a 72-45 win over Denver on Wednesday night.

Triston Simpson had 13 points and six rebounds for South Dakota (11-15, 5-8 Summit League). Cody Kelley added 12 points. Trey Burch-Manning had 11 points for the home team.

David Nzekwesi had 14 points for the Pioneers (7-20, 2-11), who have now lost six straight games. Joe Rosga added 13 points. Alperen Kurnaz had eight rebounds.

The Coyotes improve to 2-0 against the Pioneers on the season. South Dakota defeated Denver 71-70 on Jan. 2. South Dakota matches up against South Dakota State on the road on Saturday. Denver plays North Dakota on the road on Saturday.

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

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Gov. Kristi Noem awards \$2.5M for new school for the blind

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Kristi Noem has awarded a \$2.5 million state grant to construct the new School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Aberdeen.

The governor's office said Wednesday that the funds come from the Governor's Office of Economic Development Future Fund. Noem says the grant will ensure the continued legacy of "quality education and excellent student engagement" for years into the future.

Former Gov. Dennis Daugaard last year also pledged \$2.5 million for the construction of the school, which will be built on Northern State University's campus. It's expected to be finished this year.

The governors' grants match Aberdeen's pledge of \$5 million to the school-university campaign. School Superintendent Marje Kaiser says it's "wonderful" to receive that level of support from the city and two governors.

Noem cautions about costs of ending presumptive probation

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Kristi Noem is asking that lawmakers hold off on reversing South Dakota's presumptive probation policy, a top priority for the state attorney general.

Noem said Wednesday she would like stakeholders to discuss the best approach forward "rather than just repealing the entire presumptive probation."

A Senate panel is set to vote Thursday on the bill, which is the cornerstone of Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg's legislative agenda.

Presumptive probation requires judges to sentence people who have committed certain nonviolent, lower-level felonies to probation rather than prison, unless there's a "significant risk" to the public.

Ravnsborg has said the measure seeks to give law enforcement, prosecutors and judges their "discretion back." Noem says officials want to make sure they're appropriately addressing crime, but ending presumptive probation would mean significantly more people serving prison and jail time.

House panel passes science bill despite critics from K-12

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A bill that would let South Dakota teachers decide how much skepticism to inject into lessons on scientific topics such as climate change and the Big Bang passed its first legislative test on Wednesday.

The House Education Committee voted 8-6 to endorse the bill, sending it to the chamber's floor. Republican Sen. Phil Jensen, the bill's Senate sponsor, said the measure would provide protections from termination to teachers who want to help students learn to think critically.

"Now, to those who worship at the altar of global warming, it is perhaps unnerving that their dogma may be challenged," Jensen said. "Please support House Bill 1270 so that our students can learn how to think, not just what to think. To do less is simply indoctrination."

The bill says teachers can't be stopped from helping students understand, analyze or critique "in an objective scientific manner the strengths and weaknesses" of scientific information presented in classes aligned with South Dakota's educational content standards. The standards set expectations for "what students should know and be able to do" at the end of each grade, according to the Department of Education's website.

Representatives of school boards, administrators and teachers opposed the bill. Education Department official Brett Arenz said South Dakota teachers have the knowledge, expertise and academic freedom they need to teach science and promote critical thinking.

"This bill is not an academic freedom bill. It is about prohibiting local school boards and administrators from carrying out the curriculum that these local boards adopt," Arenz said.

Republican Gov. Kristi Noem said earlier Wednesday that she hadn't reviewed the bill.

Mirror legislation failed during the 2017 legislative session in the House Education Committee after passing through the Senate. Critics raised worries then that such a bill would embolden some teachers to start

presenting creationism in their classrooms.

But Jensen disputed the concerns, saying creationism wouldn't be allowed to be taught because it's not covered in the state's content standards. Educators who are teaching within the standards are on "safe ground," Jensen said.

"But if you go off and you start teaching creationism, then you're on shaky ground and you could be fired, and rightfully so," he said.

Democratic Rep. Erin Healy, an opponent of the measure, said she's worried that passing it would set up school districts for legal liability.

"That's not going to help our kids. That's not going to help them get the education that they need," she said. "It's just going to hurt our school districts."

50M gallons of polluted water pours daily from US mine sites

By MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press

RIMINI, Mont. (AP) — Every day many millions of gallons of water loaded with arsenic, lead and other toxic metals flow from some of the most contaminated mining sites in the U.S. and into surrounding streams and ponds without being treated, The Associated Press has found.

That torrent is poisoning aquatic life and tainting water supplies in Montana, California, Colorado, Oklahoma and at least five other states.

The pollution is a legacy of how the mining industry was allowed to operate in the U.S. for more than a century. Companies that built mines for silver, lead, gold and other "hardrock" minerals could move on once they were no longer profitable, leaving behind tainted water that still leaks out of the mines or is cleaned up at taxpayer expense.

Using data from public records requests and independent researchers, the AP examined 43 mining sites under federal oversight, some containing dozens or even hundreds of individual mines.

The records show that at average flows, more than 50 million gallons (189 million liters) of contaminated wastewater streams daily from the sites. In many cases, it runs untreated into nearby groundwater, rivers and ponds — a roughly 20-million-gallon (76-million-liter) daily dose of pollution that could fill more than 2,000 tanker trucks.

The remainder of the waste is captured or treated in a costly effort that will need to carry on indefinitely, for perhaps thousands of years, often with little hope for reimbursement.

The volumes vastly exceed the release from Colorado's Gold King Mine disaster in 2015, when a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency cleanup crew inadvertently triggered the release of 3 million gallons (11.4 million liters) of mustard-colored mine sludge, fouling rivers in three states.

At many mines, the pollution has continued decades after their enlistment in the federal Superfund cleanup program for the nation's most hazardous sites, which faces sharp cuts under President Donald Trump.

Federal officials have raised fears that at least six of the sites examined by AP could have blowouts like the one at Gold King.

Some sites feature massive piles or impoundments of mine waste known as tailings. A tailings dam collapse in Brazil last month killed at least 169 people and left 140 missing. A similar 2014 accident in British Columbia swept millions of cubic yards of contaminated mud into a nearby lake, resulting in one of Canada's worst environmental disasters.

But even short of a calamitous accident, many mines pose the chronic problem of relentless pollution.

AP also found mining sites where untreated water harms the environment or threatens drinking water supplies in North and South Carolina, Vermont, Missouri and Oregon.

TAINTED WELLS

In mountains outside the Montana capital of Helena, about 30 households can't drink their tap water because groundwater was polluted by about 150 abandoned gold, lead and copper mines that operated from the 1870s until 1953.

The community of Rimini was added to the Superfund list in 1999. Contaminated soil in residents' yards was replaced, and the EPA has provided bottled water for a decade. But polluted water still pours from

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the mines and into Upper Tenmile Creek.

"The fact that bottled water is provided is great," said 30-year Rimini resident Catherine Maynard, a natural resources analyst for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Where it falls short is it's not piped into our home. Water that's piped into our home is still contaminated water. Washing dishes and bathing — that metal-laden water is still running through our pipes."

Estimates of the number of such abandoned mine sites range from 161,000 in 12 western states to as many as 500,000 nationwide. At least 33,000 have degraded the environment, according to the Government Accountability Office, and thousands more are discovered every year.

Officials have yet to complete work including basic risk analyses on about 80 percent of abandoned mining sites on federal lands. Most are controlled by the Bureau of Land Management, which under Trump is seeking to consolidate mine cleanups with another program and cut their combined 2019 spending from \$35 million to \$13 million.

PERPETUAL POLLUTION

Problems at some sites are intractable.

Among them:

— In eastern Oklahoma's Tar Creek mining district, waterways are devoid of life and elevated lead levels persist in the blood of children despite a two-decade effort to clean up lead and zinc mines. More than \$300 million has been committed since 1983, but only a small fraction of the impacted land has been reclaimed and contaminated water continues to flow.

— At northern California's Iron Mountain Mine, cleanup teams battle to contain highly acidic water that percolates through a former copper and zinc mine and drains into a Sacramento River tributary. The mine discharged six tons of toxic sludge daily before an EPA cleanup. Authorities now spend \$5 million a year to remove poisonous sludge that had caused massive fish kills, and they expect to keep at it forever.

— In Colorado's San Juan Mountains, site of the Gold King blowout, some 400 abandoned or inactive mine sites contribute an estimated 15 million gallons (57 million liters) of acid mine drainage per day.

AP also found mining sites where untreated water harms the environment or threatens drinking water supplies in North and South Carolina, Vermont, Missouri and Oregon.

This landscape of polluted sites occurred under mining industry rules largely unchanged since the 1872 Mining Act.

State and federal laws in recent decades have held companies more accountable than in the past, but critics say huge loopholes all but ensure that some of today's mines will foul waterways or require perpetual cleanups.

To avoid a catastrophe like Gold King, EPA officials now require advance approval for work on many mining sites. But they acknowledge they're only dealing with a small portion of the problem.

"We have been trying to play a very careful game of prioritization," said Dana Stalcup, deputy director of the Superfund program. "We know the Superfund program is not the answer to the hundreds of thousands of mines out there, but the mines we are working on we want to do them the best we can."

The 43 sites examined by AP are mining locations for which officials and researchers have reliable estimates of polluted water releases. Officials said flow rates at the sites vary.

Average flows were unavailable for nine sites that only had high and low estimates of how much polluted water flowed out. For those sites, the AP used the lower estimates for its analysis.

QUESTIONS OVER WHO SHOULD PAY

To date, the EPA has spent an estimated \$4 billion on mining cleanups. Under Trump, the agency has identified a small number of Superfund sites for heightened attention after cleanup efforts stalled or dragged on for years. They include five mining sites examined by AP.

Former EPA assistant administrator Mathy Stanislaus said more money is needed to address mining pollution on a systematic basis, rather than jumping from one emergency response to another.

"The piecemeal approach is just not working," said Stanislaus, who oversaw the Superfund program for almost eight years ending in 2017.

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Democrats have sought unsuccessfully to create a special cleanup fund for old hardrock mine sites, with fees paid by the mining industry. Such a fund has been in place for coal mines since 1977, with more than \$11 billion in fees collected and hundreds of sites reclaimed.

The mining industry has resisted doing the same for hardrock mines, and Republicans in Congress have blocked the Democratic proposals.

Montana Mining Association director Tammy Johnson acknowledged abandoned mines have left a legacy of pollution, but added that companies still in operation should not be forced to pay for those problems.

"Back in the day there really wasn't a lot known about acid mine drainage," she said. "I just don't think that today's companies bear the responsibility."

In 2017, the EPA proposed requiring companies still operating mines to post cleanup bonds or offer other financial assurances so taxpayers don't end up footing cleanup bills. The Trump administration halted the rule, but environmental groups are scheduled to appear in federal court next month in a lawsuit that seeks to revive it.

"When something gets on a Superfund site, that doesn't mean it instantly and magically gets cleaned up," said Earthjustice attorney Amanda Goodin. "Having money immediately available from a responsible party would be a game changer."

Follow Matthew Brown at <https://twitter.com/matthewbrownap>

Canadian man arrested for Deadwood casino bomb threats

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — A 45-year-old man is in custody in the Canadian province of Alberta for allegedly phoning in bomb threats that cleared a Deadwood hotel and casino for about 3 1/2 hours Sunday.

Deadwood Police Chief Kelly Fuller says the First Gold Hotel and Casino was evacuated after the man called there twice, warning of a bomb in the building. An explosives team from Ellsworth Air Force Base searched the building and found nothing.

The Rapid City Journal reports investigators traced the phone calls to Ahsan Qadir Muhammad, who was arrested by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. It wasn't known if he had an attorney representing him.

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

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. 'EMPIRE' ACTOR TURNS HIMSELF IN

Jussie Smollett to face accusations that he filed a false police report when he told authorities he was attacked in Chicago by two men.

2. FIRE IN ANCIENT SHOPPING DISTRICT IN BANGLADESH KILLS DOZENS

A devastating fire raced through densely packed buildings in a centuries-old shopping district in Bangladesh's capital, killing at least 81 people, officials and witnesses say.

3. WHO IS PREPARING RESOLUTION AGAINST TRUMP DECLARATION

House Democrats will file a resolution aimed at blocking the national emergency declaration President Donald Trump has issued to help finance his wall along the Southwest border.

4. ADVOCATES: U.S. STILL SEPARATING MIGRANT FAMILIES NEEDLESSLY

The Texas Civil Rights Project released a report that counts 272 separations at a single Texas courthouse since June, when President Donald Trump issued an executive order ending widespread separations.

5. FEDS SAY COAST GUARD OFFICER COMPILED HIT LIST OF LAWMAKERS

Prosecutors say a Coast Guard lieutenant is a "domestic terrorist" who wrote about biological attacks and had what appeared to be a hit list that included prominent Democrats and media figures.

6. POPE DEMANDS BISHOPS ACT TO END SCOURGE OF SEX ABUSE

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Pope Francis warns bishops the Catholic faithful are demanding more than just condemnation of clergy sex abuse but concrete action to respond to the scandal.

7. WHY 2ND TRUMP-KIM SUMMIT IS A CRUCIAL MOMENT FOR S. KOREA LEADER

The upcoming Trump-Kim meeting will be a crucial moment for South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who is desperate for more room to continue his engagement with North Korea, now limited by tough U.S.-led sanctions.

8. CLIMATE THREAT DOUBTER LEADING EFFORT TO ADVISE TRUMP

The Trump administration is exploring the idea of forming a special committee to look at climate change and security risks, with the effort being coordinated by a 79-year-old physicist who rejects mainstream climate science.

9. HURRICANES CREATE NATURAL CLIMATE CHANGE LABS IN PUERTO RICO

Hurricanes that pounded Puerto Rico in 2017 may give scientists clues to how the world will respond to climate change and increasingly severe weather.

10. WHAT'S NEXT FOR NO. 1 DUKE, ZION AFTER KNEE INJURY

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski says Zion Williamson's knee is stable and the sprain is mild, but doesn't know how much time his star freshman will miss.

Police: 'Empire' actor turns self in to face charge

By DON BABWIN, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett turned himself in early Thursday to face accusations that he filed a false police report when he told authorities he was attacked in Chicago by two men who hurled racist and anti-gay slurs and looped a rope around his neck, police said.

Smollett turned himself in at central booking and was arrested, Chicago police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said. Chicago police Superintendent Eddie Johnson was scheduled to hold a Thursday morning news conference, and Smollett was expected to appear in court later in the day. Police haven't described a motive.

The whispers about Smollett's account started with reports that he had not fully cooperated with police after telling authorities he was attacked. Then detectives in a city bristling with surveillance cameras could not find video of the beating. Later, two brothers were taken into custody for questioning but were released after two days, with police saying they were no longer suspects.

Following three weeks of mounting suspicions, Smollett was charged Wednesday with felony disorder conduct, a charge that could bring up to three years in prison and force the actor, who is black and gay, to pay for the cost of the investigation into his report of a Jan. 29 beating.

In less than a month, the 36-year-old changed from being the seemingly sympathetic victim of a hate crime to being accused of fabricating the entire thing.

The felony charge emerged on the same day detectives and the two brothers testified before a grand jury. Smollett's attorneys met with prosecutors and police, but it was unknown what they discussed or whether Smollett attended the meeting.

In a statement, attorneys Todd Pugh and Victor Henderson said Smollett "enjoys the presumption of innocence, particularly when there has been an investigation like this one where information, both true and false, has been repeatedly leaked."

The announcement of the charges followed a flurry of activity in recent days, including lengthy police interviews of the brothers, a search of their home and their release after officers cleared them.

Investigators have not said what the brothers told detectives or what evidence detectives collected. But it became increasingly clear that serious questions had arisen about Smollett's account — something police signaled Friday when they announced a "significant shift in the trajectory" of the probe after the brothers were freed.

Smollett, who plays a gay character on the hit Fox television show "Empire," said he was attacked Jan. 29 as he was walking home from a downtown Subway sandwich shop. He said the masked men beat him,

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made derogatory comments and yelled "This is MAGA country" — an apparent reference to President Donald Trump's campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again" — before fleeing.

Earlier Wednesday, Fox Entertainment and 20th Century Fox Television issued a statement saying Smollett "continues to be a consummate professional on set" and that his character is not being written off the show. The series is shot in Chicago and follows a black family as they navigate the ups and downs of the recording industry.

The studio's statement followed reports that Smollett's role was being slashed amid the police investigation.

After reviewing hundreds of hours of video, detectives did find and release images of two people they said they wanted to question and last week picked up the brothers at O'Hare International Airport as they returned from Nigeria. Police questioned the men and searched their apartment.

The brothers, who were identified by their attorney as Abimbola "Abel" and Olabinjo "Ola" Osundairo, were held for nearly 48 hours on suspicion of assaulting Smollett.

The day after they were released, police said the men provided information that had "shifted the trajectory of the investigation," and detectives requested another interview with Smollett.

Police said one of the men had worked on "Empire," and Smollett's attorneys said one of the men is the actor's personal trainer, whom he hired to help get him physically ready for a music video. The actor released his debut album, "Sum of My Music," last year.

Smollett was charged by prosecutors, not the grand jury. The police spokesman said the brothers appeared before the panel to "lock in their testimony."

Speaking outside the courthouse where the grand jury met, the brothers' attorney said the two men testified for about two and a half hours.

"There was a point where this story needed to be told, and they manned up and they said we're going to correct this," Gloria Schmidt said.

She said her clients did not care about a plea deal or immunity. "You don't need immunity when you have the truth," she said.

She also said her clients received money from Smollett, but she did not elaborate.

Smollett has been active in LGBTQ issues, and initial reports of the assault drew outrage and support for him on social media, including from Sen. Kamala Harris of California and TV talk show host Ellen DeGeneres.

Referring to a published account of the attack, President Donald Trump told reporters at the White House that "it doesn't get worse, as far as I'm concerned."

But several hours after Smollett was declared a suspect and the charges announced, there was little reaction from celebrities online.

Former Cook County prosecutor Andrew Weisberg said judges rarely throw defendants in prison for making false reports, opting instead to place them on probation, particularly if they have no prior criminal record.

Smollett has a record — one that concerns giving false information to police when he was pulled over on suspicion of driving under the influence. According to records, he was also charged with false impersonation and driving without a license. He later pleaded no contest to a reduced charge and took an alcohol education and treatment program.

Another prospective problem is the bill someone might receive after falsely reporting a crime that prompted a nearly monthlong investigation, including the collection and review of hundreds of hours of surveillance video.

The size of the tab is anyone's guess, but given how much time the police have invested, the cost could be huge.

Weisberg recently represented a client who was charged with making a false report after surveillance video discredited her account of being robbed by three men at O'Hare Airport.

For an investigation that took a single day, his client had to split restitution of \$8,400, Weisberg said. In Smollett's case, "I can imagine that this would be easily into the hundreds of thousands of dollars."

Check out the AP's complete coverage of the Jussie Smollett case.

Deadly Bangladesh fire shows lapses in development

By EMILY SCHMALL and JULHAS ALAM, Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A fire in Bangladesh that killed at least 81 people in the oldest part of the capital shows the lapses in public safety that continue to plague the South Asian country despite its rapid economic growth.

While the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina touts the garment factories and gleaming office towers in Dhaka's north side as signs of progress, illegal shops and overcrowding in Chawkbazar, one of the city's many warren-like southern districts, impeded firefighters' ability to put out Wednesday night's blaze, illustrating the country's uneven development.

The government has zoning laws and regulations on the books, but has met public resistance when it tried to enforce them, Bangladesh planning experts said Thursday.

Business owners in old Dhaka routinely bribe government employees responsible for building oversight, they said.

After a warehouse storing flammable material caught fire in 2010 in Nimtoli, a district near Chawkbazar, killing at least 123 people, authorities promised to bring the area into compliance with building codes, and evict chemical warehouses from buildings where people lived.

Industrial facilities can't legally exist in areas that are zoned residential, said Mohammed Manjur Morshed, an assistant professor of urban planning at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology.

"This type of thing happens, there's a big initiative to move everything out, and then after some time people forget about it and the government is really not interested any more. It's like that," Morshed said.

"Corruption buys building permits, and then there's very little oversight to see whether anyone is building according to the submitted plan," he said.

In 2014, three people were killed and three others severely burned when a perfume warehouse on the third floor of a building in Chawkbazar caught fire. The following year, a fire gutted eight plastic factories.

Morshed said government regulations are sufficient, but are routinely flouted in Chawkbazar.

The contrast between new and old Dhaka — the city's north and south sides — is stark, said Shafiq-Ur Rahman, an urban planning professor at Jahangirnagar University in Dhaka.

"As the area was developed continuously, there is very high population density and haphazard growth," he said. "You need to consider preservation to maintain the heritage, but this is not the first time. We have an unfortunate history, and we need in redevelopment to figure how to provide services, like access for firefighters."

Denizens of the Muslim-majority nation throng to Chawkbazar each year for Mughal foods to celebrate iftar, when Muslims break their fast during Ramadan.

In the festive atmosphere, makeshift stalls and itinerant vendors sell spices, sweets, minced mutton, kebabs and other delicacies in tight passageways teeming with the faithful.

Thousands of animals are slaughtered in the open during Eid-ul-Azha, a sacrificial festival, near Chawkbazar Shahi Mosque.

A government eviction drive in 400-year-old Chawkbazar and other areas of Old Dhaka to clear makeshift stalls from walkways was met with protests last May on the eve of Ramadan by business owners and residents.

According to local reports, some 500 illegal stands were evicted from the narrow streets. In response, hundreds of legal shops closed in protest.

It was not immediately clear whether the death toll from Wednesday's blaze would affect the status quo in Old Dhaka.

On Thursday afternoon, shops had opened and the streets were crowded in much of Chawkbazar, except for within a police cordon where authorities continued to comb through the destruction left by the blaze.

The fire was about 500 meters (550 feet) away from Dhaka's 18th-century Central Jail, a former Mughal

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fort where ex-Prime Minister and opposition leader Khaleda Zia has been held since February last year on corruption charges. Since 2016, the jail has only been used to hold opposition figures, and Zia is currently the only inmate. It was not threatened by the fire.

Schmall reported from New Delhi.

Pope demands bishops act now on abuse; victims speak of pain

By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis opened a landmark sex abuse prevention summit Thursday by warning senior Catholic figures that the faithful are demanding concrete action against predator priests and not just words of condemnation. Victims then told the bishops of the searing emotional pain of their abuse.

Francis opened the four-day summit by telling the Catholic hierarchy that their own responsibility to deal effectively with priests who rape and molest children weighed on the proceedings.

"Listen to the cry of the young, who want justice," and seize the opportunity to "transform this evil into a chance for understanding and purification," Francis told the 190 leaders of bishops conferences and religious orders.

"The holy people of God are watching and expect not just simple and obvious condemnations, but efficient and concrete measures to be established," he warned.

More than 30 years after the scandal first erupted in Ireland and Australia and 20 years after it hit the U.S., bishops and Catholic officials in many parts of Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia still either deny that clergy sex abuse exists in their regions or downplay the problem.

Francis, the first Latin American pope, called the summit after he himself botched a well-known sex abuse cover-up case in Chile last year. Realizing he had erred, he has vowed to chart a new course and is bringing the rest of the church leadership along with him.

The summit is meant as a tutorial for church leaders to learn the importance of preventing sex abuse in their churches, tending to victims and investigating the crimes when they occur.

The Vatican's senior sex crimes investigator delivered a step-by-step lesson Thursday on investigating abuse cases, citing the example of Pope Benedict XVI, who turned the Vatican around on the issue two decades ago.

Archbishop Charles Scicluna told bishops they should cooperate with civil law enforcement investigations and announce decisions about predators to their communities once cases have been decided.

He said victims had the right to damages from the church and that bishops should consider using lay experts to help guide them during the sex abuse investigations.

The people of God "should come to know us as friends of their safety and that of their children and youth," he said. "We will protect them at all cost. We will lay down our lives for the flocks entrusted to us."

Finally, Scicluna warned them that it was a "grave sin" to withhold information from the Vatican about candidates for bishops — a reference to the recent scandal of the now-defrocked former American cardinal, Theodore McCarrick. It was apparently an open secret in some church circles that McCarrick slept with young seminarians. He was defrocked last week by Francis after a Vatican trial found credible reports that he abused minors.

In the summit's opening keynote speech, Manila Cardinal Luis Tagle choked up as told the bishops that the wounds they had inflicted on the faithful through their negligence and indifference recalled the wounds of Christ on the cross. He demanded bishops and superiors no longer turn a blind eye to the harm caused by clergy abuse and cover-ups.

"Our lack of response to the suffering of victims, yes even to the point of rejecting them and covering up the scandal to protect perpetrators and the institution, has injured our people," Tagle said in his speech. The result, he said, had left a "deep wound in our relationship with those we are sent to serve."

Abuse survivors have turned out in droves in Rome to demand accountability and transparency from church leaders and assert that the time of sex abuse cover-ups is over.

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At the summit Thursday, the church leaders heard five videotaped testimonies from victims about the trauma of their abuse and the cruel, additional pain the hierarchy's indifference caused them. Their names were not released to protect their privacy.

One woman from Africa told the summit that the priest who began raping her at 15 forced her to have three abortions over the following 13 years.

"He gave me everything I wanted when I accepted to have sex; otherwise he would beat me," she said.

A survivor from Chile told the churchmen they had inflicted even more pain on victims by discrediting them and protecting the priests who abused them.

"You are the physicians of the soul and yet, with rare exceptions, you have been transformed — in some cases — into murderers of the soul, into murderers of the faith," the man said.

On the eve of the summit, Phil Saviano, who helped expose the U.S. abuse scandal by priests two decades ago, demanded that the Vatican release the names of abusers and their files.

"Do it to break the code of silence," he told the organizing committee. "Do it out of respect for the victims of these men, and do it to help prevent these creeps from abusing any more children."

The Vatican isn't expecting any miracles or even a final document to come out of the summit. But organizers say it marks a turning point in the way the Catholic Church has dealt with the problem, with Francis' own acknowledgment of his mistakes in handling the Chile abuse case a key point of departure.

Hours before the Vatican summit opened, activists in Poland pulled down a statue of a priest accused of sexually abusing minors. They said the stunt was to protest the failure of the Polish Catholic Church in resolving the problem of clergy sex abuse.

Video footage showed three men attaching a rope around the statue of the late Monsignor Henryk Jankowski in the northern city of Gdansk and pulling it to the ground in the dark. They then placed children's underwear in one of the statue's hands and a white lace church vestment worn by altar boys on the statue's body. Jankowski is accused of molesting boys.

The private broadcaster TVN24 reported the three men were arrested.

Jankowski, who died in 2010, rose to prominence in the 1980s through his support for the pro-democracy Solidarity movement against Poland's communist regime. World leaders including President George H.W. Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher visited his church to recognize his anti-communist activity.

More AP coverage of clergy sex abuse at <https://www.apnews.com/Sexualabusebyclergy>

Brothers in Smollett case are bodybuilders, aspiring actors

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — An attorney representing the brothers at the center of an investigation into the attack reported by Jussie Smollett said her clients "manned up" and testified in front of a grand jury, before prosecutors charged the "Empire" actor with filing a false police report.

Gloria Schmidt spoke to reporters Wednesday outside a Chicago courthouse where the brothers met with the grand jury, which was collecting evidence in the case. Without providing details, she said the two men accepted money from Smollett and wanted to come clean. She said they weren't motivated by any promises from prosecutors.

"There was never a change of heart," Schmidt said. "There was a point where this story needed to be told, and they manned up and they said, 'We're gonna correct this.' Plea deal, immunity, all of that — they don't care about that."

The brothers, identified by Schmidt as Abimbola "Abel" Osundairo and Olabinjo Osundairo, are of Nigerian descent. But they told a reporter at CBS2-Chicago that they were "born and raised in Chicago and are American citizens."

They are bodybuilders who have developed an online following and have dabbled in acting and at least one failed business venture, according to social media posts and news reports.

Abimbola Osundairo, 25, graduated from Lake View High School in Chicago, where he participated in

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football, track and field, soccer, and wrestling, before joining the football team at Quincy University in western Illinois, according to a football profile on the university's website. Olabinjo Osundairo, 27, also was on the Quincy football team and had attended Latmos Comprehensive College in Lagos, Nigeria, according to his football profile.

Smollett, who is black and gay, he was physically attacked by two men who shouted homophobic and racial slurs at him before beating him up and throwing some kind of chemical on him the early morning of Jan. 29. He also said his attackers shouted, "This is MAGA country," an apparent reference to President Donald Trump's campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again," and looped a rope around his neck.

The brothers told a CBS2 reporter in a phone interview that they are not racist, homophobic or anti-Trump, the news station reported.

Chicago police said they reviewed video of Smollett walking downtown but found nothing showing an attack. They released images of two people, later identified as the brothers, whom they called "persons of interest" in the case because they were in the area at the time.

The Osundairos were arrested on Feb. 13 at O'Hare International Airport after returning from Nigeria when police learned at least one of them worked on "Empire." Police said they left for Nigeria on the day of the attack. Police released them after two days, saying the "investigation had shifted" following interviews with the brothers.

The Cook County State's Attorney charged the 36-year-old Smollett on Wednesday with felony disorderly conduct for allegedly filing a false police report. He turned himself in to police early Thursday to face the charge, police said.

Smollett's attorneys, Todd Pugh and Victor P. Henderson, met with prosecutors and police earlier Wednesday afternoon. It's unknown what was discussed or whether Smollett attended the meeting. The attorneys didn't reply to requests seeking comment.

A man identified on some videos as the Osundairos' business partner, Leland Stanford, did not respond Wednesday to a Facebook message. The Osundairos did not respond to a message on their "Team Abel" Facebook page or to an email posted on their YouTube page, and a voice message left at a phone number listed for their father also was not returned.

Smollett's lawyers had said the actor was angered and "victimized" by reports that he may have played a role in staging the attack.

"As a victim of a hate crime who has cooperated with the police investigation, Jussie Smollett is angered and devastated by recent reports that the perpetrators are individuals he is familiar with," the weekend statement read. "He has now been further victimized by claims attributed to these alleged perpetrators that Jussie played a role in his own attack. Nothing is further from the truth and anyone claiming otherwise is lying."

The statement said one of the brothers was Smollett's personal trainer, and the Chicago Tribune — which is not naming the brothers — reported that Smollett follows their bodybuilding page on Instagram.

The Osundairos, who promote a fitness and diet program under the title "Team Abel," have more than 20,000 Instagram followers and more than 1,600 followers on Facebook. They also have a "Team Abel" YouTube channel.

They're also aspiring actors who have posted auditions online and reportedly worked with Smollett on "Empire."

The Tribune reported that neither brother has been credited for work on "Empire," though the older brother said in a 2015 interview that he played the prison bodyguard for Chris Rock's character. Rock guest-starred on the Season 2 premiere of "Empire" in 2015.

The newspaper also reported that the brothers signed in 2016 with Hinsdale, Illinois-based Babes 'N Beaus Model and Talent Agency, according to one of the owners, Don Underwood.

Each appeared on an episode of NBC's "Chicago P.D." last year, and both had roles in the 2017 independent movie "The Worst Nightmare," the Tribune reported. One had a small part in Spike Lee's 2015 film, "Chi-Raq."

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State records showed the Osundairos established a party and decoration store in 2015 that was dissolved last year, the Tribune reported. Federal court records show they filed for bankruptcy in 2016 with tens of thousands of dollars in student loan debt and their store "operating at a loss."

The newspaper reported that the older brother pleaded guilty in 2012 to aggravated battery and was sentenced to two years of probation for a stabbing that occurred a year earlier about a block away from the brothers' home, according to Cook County records. His brother was ticketed for a DUI in 2015.

Check out the AP's complete coverage of the Jussie Smollett case

Advocates say US still separates migrant families needlessly

By NOMAAN MERCHANT, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Months after the Trump administration announced an end to its widescale separation of migrant parents and children, the policy remains a heated issue in the courts and at the border as critics contend the government is still needlessly breaking up immigrant families.

The Texas Civil Rights Project released a report Thursday that counts 272 separations at a single Texas courthouse since June, when President Donald Trump issued an executive order ending widespread separations amid public outrage.

The bulk of those cases involve children who cross the U.S.-Mexico border with relatives other than their parents, such as grandparents, uncles and aunts, or adult siblings.

Thirty-eight cases involved a parent or legal guardian, the majority of whom had criminal convictions, the group said.

In a statement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection argued the group incorrectly categorized cases involving other relatives because the Homeland Security Act "does not make concessions for anyone other than a parent or legal guardian." CBP includes the Border Patrol, which apprehends people entering the U.S. illegally.

The government and the American Civil Liberties Union were due back in court Thursday to discuss what might be thousands of children who were separated before a June court order requiring the speedy re-unification of families.

The government has acknowledged taking more than 2,700 children from their families and has reunited most of them, but a watchdog report last month found that thousands of other children were separated and released before the order.

"What's happening is the government is doing separations unilaterally without any process to contest the separations and without a child welfare expert overseeing the separations," ACLU lawyer Lee Gelernt said.

One concern, Gelernt and others said, is the fate of children cared for by relatives in arrangements that were never formalized.

In one case discovered by the Texas Civil Rights Project, an 11-year-old boy from Guatemala was separated from his uncle, who was his caretaker because his father had not been involved in his life and his mother had died of cancer, said Efren Olivares, a lawyer for the project.

"Those are very difficult situations, especially because the government takes the position that it is not their responsibility to reunite them because they are not the legal guardian," he said.

Lawyers from the project have gone almost every day since last spring to the courthouse in McAllen to find adults charged with illegally entering the U.S. and ask them if they had brought any children. McAllen is in South Texas' Rio Grande Valley, the busiest corridor for illegal border crossings.

U.S. immigration authorities say that under anti-trafficking law, children crossing the border without a parent or legal guardian must be processed as "unaccompanied," even if they are with an adult who isn't their parent or legal guardian.

"Absent verification that an adult is the parent or legal guardian of a minor, CBP will continue to prioritize the safety of a minor and comply with the statutory requirements," the agency said.

Unaccompanied children and teenagers from Central America are generally sent to government facilities,

while the adults could face detention and prosecution for illegally entering the U.S. Authorities can also separate parents and children if it considers separation to be in the child's best interest, with a parent's criminal history often being a factor.

Gelernt said the government should work to determine if an adult relative is the child's caretaker.

"There can't be a presumption that you just take the child away if it's not the biological or adoptive parent," Gelernt said.

Members of Congress on Tuesday visited an emergency facility for migrant children in Homestead, Florida, which has expanded after the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services closed a facility in Tornillo, Texas, under public pressure.

U.S. Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, a Florida Democrat, said she had spoken to a girl who had been detained for nine months after being separated from her aunt. There were 1,575 children at the facility last week.

Another Florida Democrat, U.S. Rep. Donna Shalala, said the government's definition of an "unaccompanied minor" was too narrow and leads to unnecessary separations.

"If you don't come with a parent, but you come with an aunt, an uncle, a cousin, or a brother, you are defined as unaccompanied," said Shalala, a former health and human services secretary. "We need to get these children to family members much more quickly."

The government said in December it had separated 81 migrant children at the border since the June executive order. According to the government data, 197 adults and 139 minors were separated from April 19 through Sept. 30 because they were found to not be related, though that could include grandparents or other relatives if there was no proof of relationship.

The Health and Human Services Department's inspector general said last month that 118 children were separated from their parents from July 1 through Nov. 7.

Associated Press journalists Colleen Long in Washington and Adriana Gomez Licon and Josh Replogle in Miami contributed to this report.

Feds: Coast Guard lieutenant compiled hit list of lawmakers

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Coast Guard lieutenant who was arrested last week is a "domestic terrorist" who drafted an email discussing biological attacks and had what appeared to be a hit list that included prominent Democrats and media figures, prosecutors said in court papers.

Christopher Paul Hasson is due to appear Thursday in federal court in Maryland after his arrest on gun and drug offenses, but prosecutors say those charges are the "proverbial tip of the iceberg."

"The defendant is a domestic terrorist, bent on committing acts dangerous to human life that are intended to affect governmental conduct," prosecutors wrote in court papers.

Hasson, who works at the Coast Guard's headquarters in Washington, has espoused extremist views for years, according to prosecutors. Court papers detail a June 2017 draft email in which Hasson wrote that he was "dreaming of a way to kill almost every last person on the earth," and pondering how he might be able to acquire anthrax and toxins to create botulism or a deadly influenza.

In the same email, Hasson described an "interesting idea" that included "biological attacks followed by attack on food supply" as well as a bombing and sniper attacks, according to court documents filed by prosecutors.

In September 2017, Hasson sent himself a draft letter that he had written to a neo-Nazi leader and "identified himself as a White Nationalist for over 30 years and advocated for 'focused violence' in order to establish a white homeland," prosecutors wrote.

Hasson routinely read portions of a manifesto written by Norwegian mass murderer Anders Behring Breivik that prosecutors said instructs would-be assailants to collect firearms, food, disguises and survival tools, court papers said. Breivik, a right-wing extremist, is serving a 21-year sentence for killing 77 people

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in a 2011 bomb-and-shooting rampage.

Hasson also expressed admiration for Russia. "Looking to Russia with hopeful eyes or any land that despises the west's liberalism," he wrote in the draft email. Prosecutors say during the past two years he had regularly searched online for pro-Russian as well as neo-Nazi literature.

Prosecutors allege that Hasson visited thousands of websites that sold guns and researched military tactical manuals on improvised munitions.

Federal agents found 15 firearms — including several rifles — and over 1,000 rounds of ammunition inside Hasson's basement apartment in Silver Spring, Maryland. They also found a container with more than 30 bottles that were labeled as human growth hormone, court papers said.

Prosecutors wrote that Hasson "began the process of targeting specific victims," including several prominent Democrats in Congress and 2020 presidential candidates. In February 2018, he searched the internet for the "most liberal senators," as well as searching "do senators have ss (secret service) protection" and "are supreme court justices protected," according to the court filing.

Hasson's list of prominent Democrats included House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and presidential hopefuls Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand, Elizabeth Warren, Cory Booker and Kamala Harris.

The list — created in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet — also included mentions of John Podesta, who was Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman, along with Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Maxine Waters, former Rep. Beto O'Rourke, MSNBC's Chris Hayes and Joe Scarborough and CNN's Chris Cuomo and Van Jones, according to the court filing.

Hasson appeared to be a chronic user of the opioid painkiller Tramadol and had purchased a flask filled with four ounces of "synthetic urine" online, prosecutors said. Authorities suspect Hasson had purchased fake urine to use in case he was randomly selected for a drug test.

The chief at the federal defender's office in Maryland — which is representing Hasson — declined to comment on the allegations. The Coast Guard did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Hasson's arrest. No one answered the door Wednesday at the home address for Hasson listed in public records.

Hasson's arrest on Feb. 15 was first noted by Seamus Hughes, the deputy director of the Program on Extremism at George Washington University.

Associated Press writer Michael Kunzelman in Silver Spring, Maryland, contributed to this report.

Democrats prepare resolution against Trump's declaration

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats will file a resolution Friday aimed at blocking the national emergency declaration that President Donald Trump has issued to help finance his wall along the Southwest border, teeing up a clash over billions of dollars, immigration policy and the Constitution's separation of powers.

Though the effort seems almost certain to ultimately fall short — perhaps to a Trump veto — the votes will let Democrats take a defiant stance against Trump that is sure to please liberal voters. They will also put some Republicans from swing districts and states in a difficult spot.

Formally introducing the measure sets up a vote by the full House likely by mid-March, perhaps as soon as next week, because of a timeline spelled out by law. Initial passage by the Democratic-run House seems assured.

The measure would then move to the Republican-controlled Senate, where there may be enough GOP defections for approval. The law that spells out the rules for emergency declarations seems to require the Senate to address the issue too, but there's never been a congressional effort to block one and some procedural uncertainties remain.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., seemed to predict approval, telling colleagues in a letter that her

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chamber will "move swiftly" to pass it and "the resolution will be referred to the Senate and then sent to the President's desk."

Should the House and Senate initially approve the measure, Congress seems unlikely to muster the two-thirds majorities in each chamber that would be needed later to override a certain Trump veto.

Even so, Republican senators facing tough 2020 re-election fights in competitive states like Arizona, Colorado and North Carolina would have to take stances that could risk dividing the GOP's pro-Trump and more moderate voters.

Moderate Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said Wednesday she would back a resolution blocking the declaration, making her the first Republican to publicly state her support for the effort to thwart the emergency. With Republicans holding a 53-47 majority, three more GOP senators would need to vote with Democrats for the resolution to win initial approval.

The votes could also cause discomfort for other Republicans who've opposed the declaration. Many have expressed concerns that Trump's declaration sets a precedent for future Democratic presidents to declare emergencies to help their own favored issues, like global warming or gun control.

The battle is over an emergency declaration Trump has issued to access billions of dollars beyond what Congress has authorized to start erecting border barriers. Building the wall was the most visible trademark of his presidential campaign.

Congress approved a vast spending bill last week providing nearly \$1.4 billion to build 55 miles of border barriers in Texas' Rio Grande Valley while preventing a renewed government shutdown. That measure represented a rejection of Trump's demand for \$5.7 billion to construct more than 200 miles.

Besides signing the bill, Trump also declared a national emergency and used other authorities that he says gives him access to an additional \$6.6 billion for wall building. That money would be transferred from a federal asset forfeiture fund, Defense Department anti-drug efforts and a military construction fund. Federal officials have yet to identify specifically which projects would be affected.

Pelosi and Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-Texas, circulated separate letters Wednesday to lawmakers seeking co-sponsors to his one-sentence resolution. A Castro aide said there were already 102 co-sponsors, all Democrats. Both letters targeted Friday for the measure's introduction.

While Congress is in recess this week, the House has a brief "pro forma" session Friday for bill introductions but no votes.

Castro's measure says Trump's emergency declaration "is hereby terminated." He chairs the 38-member Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

"The President's decision to go outside the bounds of the law to try to get what he failed to achieve in the constitutional legislative process violates the Constitution and must be terminated," Pelosi wrote.

Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said in a joint statement last week that lawmakers will use "every remedy available" to defend Congress' powers, including in the courts.

Democratic aides said Wednesday that leaders were still deciding exactly what legal action to take, and when.

Outside activists said they understood from conversations with congressional staff that Democrats were likely to file their own lawsuit, rather than simply joining other actions that 16 state attorneys general and liberal, environmental and other organizations have commenced separately.

It remained unclear whether Democrats would wait for congressional action to play out before going to the courts.

Speaking Tuesday about the attorneys general suit, Trump said he expected to do "very well" in the case and said he had an "absolute right" to make the declaration.

Democrats and some Republicans say there is no emergency at the border. They say Trump is improperly declaring one to work around Congress' rejection of the higher amounts.

Once a resolution of disapproval is introduced, the national emergency law says it must be assigned to a committee, which has 15 calendar days to send it to the full chamber. The House parliamentarian has assigned Castro's measure to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

That chamber then has three calendar days to vote on it. The timing could be shortened, which is why

a vote could occur more quickly.

The same procedure is then repeated in the second chamber. The law requires those timetables unless either chamber votes to do otherwise. If McConnell tries using that provision to delay the vote on the resolution, the vote on slowing the measure will become the key showdown.

A spokesman for McConnell declined to comment on what the leader will do.

N Carolina US House candidate faces questions over choices

By EMERY P. DALESIO, Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — When the Republican narrowly leading the country's last undecided congressional election asks North Carolina elections officials to overlook ballot manipulation in a rural county and declare him the winner, he'll have to overcome testimony from a compelling witness — his son.

GOP congressional candidate Mark Harris is expected to tell a special investigative hearing of the state elections board on Thursday that it should certify his November victory and send him to Washington. Democrat Dan McCready's lawyers contend the race was tainted and a new election should be ordered.

McCready trailed Harris by 905 votes out of about 280,000 cast in November's election, but then allegations surfaced that in the eastern corner of the 9th congressional district Bladen County political operative Leslie McCrae Dowless was manipulating mail-in ballots.

North Carolina's elections director said this week that Dowless conducted an illegal and well-funded ballot-harvesting operation during the 2018 election cycle while working for Harris. Dowless' workers in rural Bladen County testified that they were directed to forge signatures, collect blank or incomplete ballots voters handed over, and even fill in votes for local candidates who hadn't earned them.

Harris' had previously said he never suspected his campaign could have deployed a vote-getting specialist who collected ballots by the bundle and turned them in when he wanted. But on Wednesday, the candidate's son, John Harris, said he'd warned his father about Dowless' operation since mid-2016.

John Harris said his warnings were overridden because local Republican figures recommended Dowless to Mark Harris, who was gearing up for a primary rematch against incumbent GOP U.S. Rep. Robert Pittenger. Mark Harris and his wife met Dowless in April 2017, when the operative insisted his method for maximizing mail-in vote results was legal and grounded in local relationships, John Harris said Wednesday.

Local politicians knew and had used Dowless since at least 2010, and the community had even voted him to a local soil and water conservation board, Harris' lawyer, David Freedman, said. Harris largely went along with those local recommendations, the attorney said.

"I think he's much too trusting," Freedman said.

Mark Harris previously told The Associated Press he sought out and hired Dowless because he delivered votes, including for a Republican rival in the 2016 GOP primary. Harris said he discussed with an attorney after that primary whether to challenge Dowless' incredible results for a GOP rival with mail-in ballots in Bladen County. Dowless' methods in the 2016 general election were referred to federal prosecutors, who took no action.

Since October, John Harris has worked as a federal prosecutor in the civil division of the same U.S. Justice Department office in Raleigh. He said he was testifying voluntarily in his capacity as a private citizen and not as a Justice Department employee.

His son's testimony, paired with TV and other interviews Mark Harris gave denying any prior knowledge of a contractor who made illegal vote-getting his business, undercut his claims of truthfulness, McCready attorney Marc Elias said Wednesday.

"Now we know that he was warned by his son in quite stark terms and over both phone and in emails," he said. "We know that what Dr. Harris has been telling us, which is that no one warned him, is patently untrue."

Harris decided to hire Dowless over his son's warnings not because a former judge or other local Republicans recommended him, but because Dowless had gotten votes in the past, Elias said.

"He wanted the same kind of abnormal, fraudulent results that he had been the victim of. And this time,

McCrae Dowless was going to be on his team," Elias said.

Follow Emery P. Dalesio on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/emerydalesio> . His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/emery%20dalesio> .

2-day teacher strike over in West Virginia: School to resume

By JOHN RABY, Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Unions for West Virginia teachers ended their two-day strike Wednesday night after lawmakers did not act on a doomed, broad-based education bill.

Leaders of three unions representing teachers and school service personnel said at a news conference that classrooms would reopen statewide on Thursday.

The House of Delegates made no mention of Tuesday's passage of a motion that effectively killed the bill.

According to legislative rules, a lawmaker who voted to table the bill had until Wednesday to ask to have the vote reconsidered. The House adjourned until Thursday without such a move being made.

The complex bill "is now dead. It's gone," said Fred Albert, president of the American Federation of Teachers' West Virginia chapter. "So our voices were heard."

Schools in 54 of the state's 55 counties were closed for a second day Wednesday. The lone holdout again was Putnam County.

Unions for teachers and school service workers went on strike Tuesday over the legislation that they said lacked their input and was retaliation for a nine-day walkout last year. That strike launched the national "Red4Ed" movement, which included strikes in Kentucky, Oklahoma, Arizona, Washington state, and more recently, Los Angeles and Denver.

The unions and teachers opposed provisions in the legislation that, among other things, would have created the state's first charter schools and allow education savings accounts for parents to pay for private school. Proponents said the moves would have given parents more school choices.

"This was once again a united effort," said Dale Lee, president of the West Virginia Education Association. "The winners in this, once again, are the children of West Virginia (who) are assured of a great public education for all of them, not just a select few."

The union leaders said they reserve the right to call teachers back out on strike before the end of the legislative session in early March to take action as they see fit. Portions of the complex bill could still be offered through amendments to other legislation in the final two weeks of the session.

The unions have trust issues with lawmakers, especially becoming wary of leaders in the Senate after actions during the 2018 strike and again this month when the chamber rushed to act on the bill.

"I feel cautiously optimistic," said Sarah Duncan, a visual arts teacher at Walton Elementary-Middle School in Roane County. "I hope that (lawmakers) continue to do the right thing. I hope that they don't try and bring back those parts of the bill that got the bill killed in the first place, like education savings accounts and charter schools."

Duncan said "a lot of people think that teachers get two days off, that it's a lot of fun. But being on strike is a lot more stressful. It's not fun."

Like the House, the Senate, reversing course from its original bill, removed a clause that would invalidate the entire legislation if any part is struck down, and took out language requiring teachers sign off annually on union dues and requiring teacher pay to be withheld during a strike.

Earlier Wednesday a House committee endorsed a pay increase for teachers, school service workers and state police. The teacher pay raise was part of the original legislation that the House tabled. The House plans a public hearing on the raises Friday. It would give annual salary increases of \$2,120 to teachers, \$2,370 to state police and \$115 per month for school service workers.

Last year state teachers received an average 5 percent raise to end the nine-day strike.

Ego, publicity at stake when stars and TV critics meet

By LYNN ELBER and DAVID BAUDER, Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Jerrod Carmichael, lamenting what he called the “terrible” state of TV comedy, asked his audience if they’d seen some of it. Staring back at the comedian was a hotel ballroom filled with journalists whose job it is to cover television.

“I think they see all of it,” helpfully offered Ramy Youssef, his fellow producer and star of their new Hulu sitcom.

“Poor y’all,” Carmichael said, a sympathetic coda to a semiannual event in which broadcast networks, cable channels and streaming platforms parade the shows and stars they hope will get attention from the 250 members of the Television Critics Association and, in turn, viewers.

The group, TCA for short, has been meeting twice a year, winter and summer, since it was founded in 1978. TV producers, actors and sometimes executives trek to a hotel — or more accurately, limo there, and mostly within upscale L.A.-adjacent areas — to answer questions about their shows and mingle with reporters at cocktail parties for more questions.

The stars are easy to spot: they’re well-dressed. Reporters, not so much, but they have the upper hand and a microphone during the Q&A sessions that are the core of the roughly two-week-long event. Adherence to the journalistic maxim of “no cheering in the press box” means celebrities face the unnerving sound of silence as they step out on an ad hoc stage.

“They can’t applaud?” a puzzled Ruth Westheimer, aka sex expert Dr. Ruth and the subject of a new documentary, said at this month’s just-ended meeting at the Langham Huntington hotel.

Dustin Hoffman, touting the short-lived series “Luck” in 2012, felt likewise.

“That was the thinnest applause I’ve ever heard. If it was a play, we would know we were in a flop,” he said, which drew zero response from the room and more from Hoffman: “I don’t even get a laugh for that.”

There’s further uneasiness to be had. With every reporter now online — whether they work for a newspaper or a website — their stories, tweets and blogs are posted as soon as a celebrity offers up a remark bearing a hint of news. That means a roomful of reporters making more eye contact with their laptops than with the panelists, who in turn are left staring at rows of Mac logos.

“I wish I’d bought Apple stock before coming out here,” is an oft-repeated wisecrack, said TCA President Daniel Fienberg. Then there’s the similarly familiar response from actors asked about plot twists in spoiler-inclined shows: “I’d tell you, but I’d have to kill you.”

“The number of drinking games that you could play associated with your typical TCA (meeting) is myriad,” said Fienberg, chief TV critic for The Hollywood Reporter.

Sometimes the questions can be downright rude. Jon Bon Jovi discovered that when he was invited to the stage by Fox — for reasons still unclear — during the network’s promotion of a new season of “American Idol.”

The first reporter given a microphone asked him, “What are you doing here?”

Not the rock star adulation he’s accustomed to. But HBO’s session for “Big Little Lies” last week was an example of press tour at its best.

It was packed with star power you’d rarely see gathered together in front of the media — Meryl Streep, Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon, Laura Dern and Zoe Kravitz — displaying an easy camaraderie as they gave smart answers to smart questions. They offered priceless quips, like Witherspoon’s mock gripe that she’s always left with the tab when they go out, along with insights about the upcoming second season.

Less stellar was the session on PBS’ upcoming “Nova” series about the planets, in which a scientist on the Mars Rover expedition was asked if it was true that stars twinkle but planets don’t, and commanded by another reporter to “talk about Mars.”

Whether the questions were uniformly better back in the day, the TCA meetings nicknamed “press tours” — for no apparent reason, since touring isn’t involved — belonged to a very different universe, a pre-digital version.

“Without any question, the internet and the immediacy of this event have changed completely. It’s a different creature,” said the TCA’s Fienberg.

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In the late '70s, with cable TV on the cusp of expansion and Netflix not yet a noun, ABC, CBS and NBC defined television. TCA members came from the daily newspapers that had plenty of pages to give to TV features, with scribes from the Philadelphia Enquirer, Houston Chronicle and Boston Globe among the group's first officers.

Networks offered reporters three full days of round-table interviews with industry figures and wooed them with splashy entertainment featuring such stars as Garry Shandling, recalled Fred Rothenberg, who covered TV for The Associated Press from 1981-86 and later became a network producer. Broadcasters had "a lot of money back in the '80s," he said, and the big spending paid off for everyone involved.

"Most of the TV critics had a vacation," Rothenberg said, stockpiling interviews for feature stories to be written and published later, when a show aired. There were also occasional flurries of stories when executives such as then-NBC chief executive Grant Tinker took part and made newsier comments.

Networks still field TCA panels, but they've cut back to one day or even less as the critical darlings of cable and streaming, such as HBO's "Game of Thrones" and Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale," increasingly distract journalists.

There's always an Acorn TV to fill the network void: The niche streaming platform that caters to fans of U.K. series was glad simply to have the chance to be noticed by TV's tastemakers and promote new shows including "Manhunt," said Matthew Graham, Acorn's general manager.

And what reporter would want to miss moments such as the one from the "Big Little Lies" session, in which Streep fielded a question about personal stories the co-stars shared during the production in a coastal California town.

"What happens in Monterey, stays in Monterey," she said, smiling.

This story corrects the spelling of Fienberg's name in two references.

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By LYNN ELBER and DAVID BAUDER, Associated Press

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Muslim group seeks congressional probe on terror watchlist

By **MATTHEW BARAKAT**, Associated Press

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP) — A Muslim civil rights group called for a congressional investigation Wednesday after its lawsuit revealed that the U.S. government has shared access to parts of its terrorist watchlist with more than 1,400 private entities, including hospitals and universities.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations said Congress should look into why the FBI has given such wide access to the list, which CAIR believes is riddled with errors. Broad dissemination of the names makes life more difficult for those who are wrongly included, CAIR says. Many on the list are believed to be Muslim.

"This is a wholesale profiling of a religious minority community," said CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad. "To share private information of citizens and non-citizens with corporations is illegal and outrageous."

The FBI said in a statement Wednesday night that private groups only receive a subset of the terrorist watchlist called the Known or Suspected Terrorist List. It is unclear how significantly that narrows the list from the watchlist, which is formally known as the Terrorist Screening Center Database and includes hundreds of thousands of names.

Gadeir Abbas, lawyer for CAIR, said there is no evidence that the list of Known or Suspected Terrorists, or KST, is in any meaningful way less broad than the overall watchlist. Indeed, the articulated standard for inclusion on the watchlist is a reasonable suspicion of being a known or suspected terrorist.

"The FBI is using the complexity of the list to portray it as less nefarious than it is," Abbas said.

The FBI statement says that any private agency accessing the list "must comply with agreements to ensure the security and confidentiality of the information. A requestor can only ask for information about a specific individual and cannot access all the data available in the KST File." Any private entity that comes into a contact with a match from the list is instructed to contact the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center for further instructions, the FBI said.

The council filed a lawsuit in 2016 challenging the list's constitutionality and saying those wrongly placed on it routinely face difficulties in travel, financial transactions and their dealings with law enforcement.

In response to the lawsuit, a federal official recently acknowledged in a court filing that more than 1,400 private entities received access to the list.

For years, the government had insisted that it did not generally share the list with private organizations.

A hearing is scheduled in federal court for Friday on CAIR's request that the government now detail exactly which entities have received access to the names. CAIR also wants to know what private organizations are doing with the watchlist information — whether, for example, it is influencing universities' admissions decisions or is being used by hospitals to screen would-be visitors.

In depositions and in court hearings, government officials had denied until very recently that the watchlist compiled by the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center is shared with private entities. At a hearing in September, government lawyer Dena Roth told U.S. District Judge Anthony Trenga that the Terrorist Screening Center "does not work with private partners, and that watchlist status itself ... is considered law enforcement sensitive information and is not shared with the public."

Despite that assurance, the judge ordered the government to be more specific about how it disseminates the watchlist. Trenga said the plaintiffs are entitled to the information to try to prove their case that inclusion on the list causes them to suffer "real world consequences."

In response to the judge's order, TSC Deputy Director of Operations Timothy Groh filed a statement earlier this month acknowledging that 1,441 private entities have received permission to access the watchlist.

Groh said those entities must be in some way connected to the criminal justice system. He cited police forces at private universities, hospital security staff and private correctional facilities as examples.

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He said private groups are expected to abide by a detailed set of rules designed to ensure the list is used properly. It is not clear what those restrictions are.

The exact number of people on the list is kept secret by the government, but it acknowledged in an earlier lawsuit that it adds hundreds of thousands of names every year. It also emphasized that names are routinely removed.

Faiza Patel, a director at the New York University law school's Brennan Center for Justice, said the government's willingness to share the list with private organizations is problematic because the list has so many people who are wrongly included in the database.

"When you tag someone as a terrorist it can have serious consequences for people," she said.

Asian stocks change little ahead of more US-China talks

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stock markets were little-changed Thursday following a listless day on Wall Street ahead of U.S.-Chinese negotiations aimed at ending a tariff battle.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index lost 0.1 percent to 21,402.69 after a gauge of manufacturing activity fell to a three-year low, suggesting Japanese economic growth is slowing. The Shanghai Composite Index was unchanged at 2,762.67.

Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 added 0.4 percent to 6,120.50 while Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 9 points to 28,526.95. Seoul's Kospi was unchanged at 2,230.15. Benchmarks in New Zealand and Taiwan advanced while Southeast Asian markets mostly declined.

Investors looked ahead to talks in Washington on a fight over Beijing's technology ambitions ahead of a March 2 deadline for a possible U.S. tariff hike. Neither government has released details but companies saw the decision to hold more talks as a sign of progress after a U.S. envoy said a meeting in Beijing last week "made headway."

President Donald Trump told reporters Tuesday the talks were "going very well." Trump has suggested he might postpone the tariff hike on \$200 billion of goods but made no firm commitment.

The U.S. Federal Reserve reassured investors by releasing minutes of its latest meeting saying, as expected, it will be patient with interest rate hikes amid economic uncertainty.

Lack of details in the Fed's report "leaves the region to await further US-China developments," said Jingyi Pan of IG in a report. After markets rose on Trump's positive comments, she said, "one should not be surprised" to see more gains.

The benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 0.2 percent to 2,784.70. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 0.2 percent to 25,954.44. The Nasdaq composite rose 0.03 percent to 7,489.07.

Germany's DAX, the FTSE 100 in London and France's CAC 40 all gained 0.3 percent.

JAPANESE MANUFACTURING: The preliminary reading on a monthly purchasing managers' index fell to 48.5 on a 100-point scale from January's 50.3. It was the second unusually large monthly decline and the PMI's lowest level since October 2016. "Such large falls are rare and suggest that the economy is losing momentum rapidly," said Marcel Thieli of Capital Economics in a report.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 8 cents to \$57.24 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 71 cents on Wednesday to \$57.16. Brent crude, used to price international oils, advanced 2 cents to \$67.10 per barrel in London. It gained 63 cents the previous session to \$67.08.

CURRENCIES: The dollar edged down to 110.82 yen from Wednesday's 110.85 yen. The euro gained to \$1.1341 from \$1.1336.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 21, the 52nd day of 2019. There are 313 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 21, 1972, President Richard M. Nixon began his historic visit to China as he and his wife, Pat, arrived in Beijing.

On this date:

In 1613, Mikhail Romanov, 16, was unanimously chosen by Russia's national assembly to be czar, beginning a dynasty that would last three centuries.

In 1911, composer Gustav Mahler, despite a fever, conducted the New York Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall in what turned out to be his final concert (he died the following May).

In 1916, the World War I Battle of Verdun began in France as German forces attacked; the French were able to prevail after 10 months of fighting.

In 1945, during the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima, the escort carrier USS Bismarck Sea was sunk by kamikazes with the loss of 318 men.

In 1958, the USS Gudgeon (SS-567) became the first American submarine to complete a round-the-world cruise, eight months after departing from Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

In 1965, black Muslim leader and civil rights activist Malcolm X, 39, was shot to death inside Harlem's Audubon Ballroom in New York by assassins identified as members of the Nation of Islam. (Three men were convicted of murder and imprisoned; all were eventually paroled.)

In 1973, Israeli fighter planes shot down Libyan Arab Airlines Flight 114 over the Sinai Desert, killing all but five of the 113 people on board.

In 1975, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman were sentenced to 2 1/2 to 8 years in prison for their roles in the Watergate cover-up (each ended up serving a year and a-half).

In 1986, Larry Wu-tai Chin, the first American found guilty of spying for China, killed himself in his Virginia jail cell.

In 1992, Kristi Yamaguchi (yah-mah-GOO'-chee) of the United States won the gold medal in ladies' figure skating at the Albertville Olympics; Midori Ito (mee-doh-ree ee-toh) of Japan won the silver, Nancy Kerrigan of the U.S., the bronze.

In 2000, Consumer advocate Ralph Nader announced his entry into the presidential race, bidding for the nomination of the Green Party.

In 2013, Drew Peterson, the Chicago-area police officer who gained notoriety after his much-younger fourth wife, Stacy Peterson, vanished in 2007, was sentenced to 38 years in prison for murdering his third wife, Kathleen Savio.

Ten years ago: In a last full day of talks in Asia, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton stressed American and Chinese cooperation on the economy and climate change. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai in Kabul to discuss the ongoing American strategic review of the U.S. mission in Afghanistan.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama granted an audience to Tibet's Dalai Lama over the strong objections from China that the U.S. was meddling in its affairs. Matteo Renzi formed a coalition government in Italy; at 39, he became the country's youngest premier ever. At age 18, Mikaela Shiffrin of the U.S. made Alpine skiing history as the youngest ever winner of an Olympic slalom gold medal, finishing 0.53 seconds faster than Austrian Marlies Schild.

One year ago: The Rev. Billy Graham, a confidant of presidents and the most widely heard Christian evangelist in history, died at his North Carolina home; he was 99. A week after the Florida school shooting, President Donald Trump met with teen survivors of school violence and parents of slain children; Trump promised to be "very strong on background checks" and suggested he supported letting some teachers and other school employees carry weapons. Thousands of protesters swarmed the Florida state Capitol,

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calling for changes to gun laws, a ban on assault-type weapons and improved care for the mentally ill. The NBA fined Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban \$600,000 for saying he had recently told some of his players that "losing is our best option." (The Mavericks had one of the league's worst records, putting them in position to land a high draft pick.)

Today's Birthdays: Former Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe (moo-GAH'-bay) is 95. Movie director Bob Rafelson is 86. Actor Gary Lockwood is 82. Actor-director Richard Beymer is 80. Actor Peter McEnery is 79. U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., is 79. Film/music company executive David Geffen is 76. Actress Tyne Daly is 73. Actor Anthony Daniels is 73. Tricia Nixon Cox is 73. Former Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine, is 72. Rock musician Jerry Harrison (The Heads) is 70. Actress Christine Ebersole is 66. Actor William Petersen is 66. Actor Kelsey Grammer is 64. Country singer Mary Chapin Carpenter is 61. Actor Kim Coates is 61. Actor Jack Coleman is 61. Actor Christopher Atkins is 58. Rock singer Ranking Roger is 58. Actor William Baldwin is 56. Rock musician Michael Ward is 52. Actress Aunjanue Ellis is 50. Blues musician Corey Harris is 50. Country singer Eric Heatherly is 49. Rock musician Eric Wilson is 49. Rock musician Tad Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 46. Singer Rhiannon Giddens (Carolina Chocolate Drops) is 42. Actor Tituss Burgess is 40. Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt is 40. Comedian-actor Jordan Peele is 40. Actor Brendan Sexton III is 39. Singer Charlotte Church is 33. Actress Ashley Greene is 32. Actress Ellen Page is 32. Actor Corbin Bleu is 30. Actress Hayley Orrantia is 25. Actress Sophie Turner is 23.

Thought for Today: "You owe it to us all to get on with what you're good at." — W.H. Auden, Anglo-American poet (born this date in 1907, died 1973).

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