

Groton Daily Independent

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Groton Area Schedule of Events

The Groton Area School District will be opening two hours late on Monday, 2/25/2019. OST will be opening at 9:00 AM. There will be no 3 year old preschool. The 4 year old group will meet at 10:30 AM. Buses will run only where possible.

Monday, February 25, 2019

Basketball: Girls Varsity Region 1A: (High Seed (Host) #1 Seed---Bye #2 vs #7 #3 vs #6 #4 vs #5)

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Basketball: Boys Varsity Region 1A: (High Seed (Host) #1 Seed---Bye #2 vs #7 #3 vs #6 #4 vs #5)

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Basketball: Girls Varsity Region 1A: High Seed (Host) #1 vs #4/#5 winner #2/#7 winner vs #3/#6 winner

Friday, March 1, 2019

Basketball: Boys Varsity Region 1A: High Seed (Host) #1 vs #4/#5 Winner #2/#7 Winner vs #3/#6 Winner
State Debate at Sioux Falls O'Gorman High School

Saturday, March 2, 2019

State Debate at Sioux Falls O'Gorman High School

Sunday, March 3, 2019

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

- 1- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ad
- 1- Help Wanted
- 2- GDILIVE.COM: Girls game tonight vs. Sis-seton
- 3- GDILIVE.COM: Boys game tomorrow night vs. Milbank
- 4- Boys Region 1A Bracket
- 5- Girls Region 1A Bracket
- 6- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 7- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column
- 8- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column
- 9- Faulk County Road photo
- 10- Today in Weather History
- 11- Weather Pages
- 13- Daily Devotional
- 14- 2019 Groton Events
- 15 - News from the Associated Press

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

Help Wanted

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

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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It's Girls Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM
Region 1A Game



Sisseton VS
Redmen



Groton Area Tigers

Monday, Feb. 25, 2019
7:00 p.m.
at the Groton Area Arena

Broadcast Sponsored by:

- *Blocker Construction
- *Lori's Pharmacy
- *Professional Management Services
 - *Olson Development
 - *Groton Legion Post #39
 - *Groton Chiropractic Clinic
- *TN Tax Business Solutions
 - *BK Custom T's & More
 - *Weber Landscaping
- *Coteau View Hunts & Kennels
- *Grain Solutions, LLC with Jessie Zak
- *McGannon Plumbing, Heating and Cooling
 - *DeHoet Trucking
- *Aberdeen Chrysler Center
- *Ken's Food Fair of Groton
- *Bahr Spray Foam

It's Boys' Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM

Region 1A Game



Milbank VS



Groton Area Tigers

Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019

7:00 p.m.

at the Groton Area Arena

Broadcast Sponsored by:

- *Blocker Construction
- *Lori's Pharmacy
- *Professional Management Services
- *Olson Development
- *Groton Legion Post #39
- *Groton Chiropractic Clinic
- *TN Tax Business Solutions
- *BK Custom T's & More
- *Weber Landscaping
- *Coteau View Hunts & Kennels
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- *Aberdeen Chrysler Center
- *Ken's Food Fair of Groton
- *Bahr Spray Foam

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Region 1A Boys Basketball Tournament

[Print Bracket](#)

#1 Tiospa Zina

Score:

Date: March 1, 2019

Time: 7:00

Site: Agency Village

Score:

SODAK 16 QUALIFIER

#4 Groton Area

Score:

Date: Feb 26, 2019

Time: 7:00

Site: Groton

Score:

#5 Milbank

#2 Aberdeen Roncalli

Score:

Date: Feb 26, 2019

Time: 7:00

Site: Aberdeen Roncalli

Score:

#7 Webster Area

#3 Redfield/Doland

Score:

Date: Feb 26, 2019

Time: 7:00

Site: Redfield

Score:

#6 Sisseton

Score:

Date: March 1, 2019

Time: 7:00

Site: High Seed

Score:

School	Seed Pts.
Tiospa Zina	44.000
Aberdeen Roncalli	43.400
Redfield/Doland	40.211
Groton Area	39.700
Milbank	39.579
Sisseton	39.444
Webster Area	37.316

SODAK 16 QUALIFIER

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Region 1A Girls Basketball Tournament

[Print Bracket](#)

#1 Aberdeen Roncalli

Score:

Date: 2/28/19
Time: 7:00 PM
Site: Higher Seed

Score:

#4 Milbank

Score:

Date: 2/25/19
Time: 7:00 PM
Site: Higher Seed

Score:

#5 Tiospa Zina

#2 Redfield/Doland

Score:

Date: 2/25/19
Time: 7:00 PM
Site: Higher Seeds

Score:

#7 Webster Area

#3 Groton Area

Score:

Date: 2/25/19
Time: 7:00 PM
Site: Higher Seed

Score:

#6 Sisseton

SODAK 16 QUALIFIER

School	Seed Pts.
Aberdeen Roncalli	42.895
Redfield/Doland	41.947
Groton Area	39.750
Milbank	39.722
Tiospa Zina	37.450
Sisseton	35.842
Webster Area	35.842

SODAK 16 QUALIFIER

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The NFL offseason is in full swing. The draft combine, where the best college football players are measured, tested, poked and prodded, will start this Friday and go through the weekend. NFL General Managers, head coaches and scouts will be in attendance – and although most draft boards are nearly finished by this time, this will be a team's chance to finalize their rankings and add or remove players based on medical checks and interviews. Once the combine is over, teams will switch their focus to free agency, which will begin March 13. Then it will be the NFL draft. The NFL season never stops!

Before we get into all of that, we continue our recap of the Minnesota Vikings' 2018 season. We have already covered the quarterbacks and running backs; now we switch to the wide receivers.

The Vikings had one of the best WR duos in the league last year. Adam Thielen and Stefon Diggs were clearly the two best pass catchers on the roster, and there was a steep drop-off in production after them.

Adam Thielen led the Vikings with 113 catches for 1,373 yards and nine touchdowns. Thielen's 113 receptions were tied for the third best mark among NFL wide receivers, and his 1,373 yards were good for 8th in the league. Thielen was especially productive on third down, accounting for 74 first downs (good for 4th in the NFL among WRs). Although there has been some speculation about him holding out for a bigger contract this offseason, as it sits now, Thielen is set to make \$8.1 million this season. He is also signed through the 2020 season.

Stefon Diggs was second on the team with 102 catches for 1,021 yards and nine touchdowns. Thielen was clearly the primary option on most plays, but Diggs still managed to be in the top 20 in those three categories. Diggs signed a contract extension last offseason, locking him in through the 2023 season and paying him nearly \$12.5 million this year.

Laquon Treadwell finished third on the roster with 35 catches for 302 yards and one touchdown. The former first round pick hasn't lived up to his potential and will have to make a major leap forward if he plans to stick with the team. This is the last year of his rookie contract, although the Vikings can pick up his fifth-year option if they choose, and he will be paid slightly over \$3 million this season.

Aldrick Robinson was acquired in the middle of the season, but he quickly developed a rapport with Kirk Cousins. Robinson only caught 17 passes for 231 yards, but he did have five touchdowns this past season. He is an unrestricted free agent this offseason, so it remains to be seen if the Vikings decide to bring him back.

Rounding out the wide receiver roster is Chad Beebe and Brandon Zylstra. Beebe caught four passes for 39 yards, while Zylstra caught one pass for 23 yards. Both players are entering the second season of their three-year contracts and both will be paid \$570,000 in 2019.

Don't forget to check back next week, as we take a look at the Vikings tight ends and fullbacks. As always, if you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL). Skol!

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Nominating South Dakota's Best and Brightest Students to our Nation's Service Academies

Each year, I have the opportunity to nominate students from our state to our nation's service academies. Four of the academies require a nomination: the Military Academy at West Point, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy and the Merchant Marine Academy. Nominations are not required for the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. In 2018, I was able to nominate 27 South Dakotans to the various academies.

The U.S. service academies are among the most elite educational institutions in the world. The young men and women who graduate from a service academy are commissioned as military officers. After receiving a top-notch education, they will serve our country as active-duty military members.

Students interested in attending a service academy go through a rigorous application process. Because the academies only accept the best of the best, students must meet eligibility requirements in leadership, physical fitness, character and scholarship. The young people joining the military directly from the academies are among the highest caliber our country has to offer—a result of the challenging training and education they received.

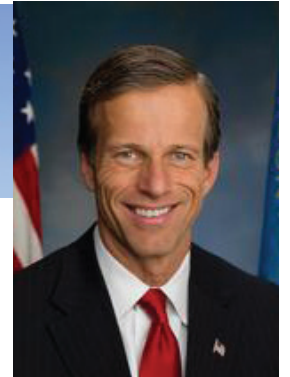
If you or someone you know is thinking about applying for a service academy, I'd encourage you to reach out to us. The process can be confusing, and we're here to help make it as straightforward as possible. It's our goal to get South Dakota's best students placed at an academy where they will thrive.

Students must first apply directly to the academy of their choosing, and if they meet the requirements of the academy, they can contact my office, or Sen. Thune's and Rep. Johnson's, for a nomination. Our nomination advisory committee will review applications and interview prospective nominees before I make a final decision on who to nominate. I have a set number of nominations I can make each year to each academy, depending on how many openings they have available. After the nominations are made, the admissions office at each academy make the ultimate decision about who will receive an offer of appointment.

Our office is available to assist students—and their parents—who are looking into the academy application process. Each year, we hold "Academy Day" events in different towns across the state so students and their families can hear first-hand from academy representatives and meet with our team to help answer questions.

This year, we will hold Academy Day events in Rapid City on Saturday, April 6, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, and in Sioux Falls on Saturday, April 13, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Prairie West Branch Library. For more information on these Academy Days, or for other questions related to the academy process, please call my Sioux Falls office at (605) 336-0486 or visit the academy page on my website, www.rounds.senate.gov.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



A College Degree Built on a Mountain of Debt

There's no doubt students who decide to pursue higher education at one of the many universities and colleges throughout the United States are making a significant investment in their future, but a vast majority of them end up trading their cap and gown for a mountain of debt and uncertainty. In fact, 70 percent of American college graduates leave school with a "significant amount of loans," which total nearly \$1.5 trillion collectively, according to a 2018 CNBC report.

According to the same CNBC report, Americans are graduating with an average debt that's comparable to a 10 percent down payment on a \$370,000 home or the cost of a new Tesla Model 3. The average debt held by graduates is equivalent to roughly two-thirds of South Dakota's median household income for an entire year.

I'm not suggesting that getting a college degree isn't worth it, but I am saying that the debt it potentially creates can present a hurdle for many graduates and new job-seekers while many of them are finding out for the first time what life is like on their own – paying for rent, groceries, and utilities, or maybe making a car payment, all while trying to ensure they have enough left over in their budget for their monthly student loan payments.

Students who graduate from American universities and colleges are a valuable commodity, which is why I recently introduced the bipartisan Employer Participation in Repayment Act with several of my Senate colleagues, including Sen. Mike Rounds, which would create a win-win scenario for graduates and employers, and it could also help incentivize job-seekers to keep their talent here in the United States.

I joined Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) in leading this effort that would give employers the option to participate in a program that would allow them to contribute up to \$5,250 each year (tax-free) to help pay down an employee's student loan debt. There's an obvious benefit for graduates, but it also gives employers a new tool and benefit option to attract or retain top-level talent. If our bill became law, the employer could either make a payment directly to an employee or send it to a student loan lender, cutting out the middle man.

"Expanding employer education assistance helps address the skills gap, which is holding back both workers and employers. When employers are able to help workers pay off student debt, more people will have confidence to pursue higher education and be better prepared to fill high-skilled fields," said Johnny C. Taylor Jr., president and CEO of the Society for Human Resource Management, which highlights the many layers of support our bill enjoys.

While passing this bipartisan legislation wouldn't be a silver bullet with respect to the growing concerns over student loan debt and the rising cost of tuition in America, it would certainly help ease some of the pain.

Several of my Senate colleagues, including the chairman of the committee that oversees education, who also happened to lead the U.S. Department of Education in the 1990s, are working on some ideas to address the broader issue of lowering the overall cost of education. I stand ready to work with them to find fiscally responsible policies that can help graduates overcome this debt burden and enter the workforce in a stronger, more certain position.

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There really is a road under there!

The Faulk County Sheriff's Dept. took this photo of Faulk County Hwy 11 south of Faulkton. It has drifting over the roads! The road is impassable in several spots! This is a picture taken 8 miles south of Faulkton.

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Today in Weather History

February 25, 1987: Six to thirty inches of snow fell on this date in 1987 across much of western and central South Dakota. Three to six inches of snow fell in the northeast part of South Dakota. Some of the most significant snowfall amounts reported were 30 inches at Phillip, 26 inches at Murdo and Timber Lake, with 15 inches at Rapid City. Numerous accidents occurred in the western and central sections of the state. Many roads were closed including interstate 90 for most of the 27th. Slippery roads were a major factor in the vehicle injuries of three women on Highway 12, six and one-half miles east of Ipswich in the late afternoon of the 27th. The storm began on the 24th and lasted into the 28th.

February 25, 2000: Unusual February severe thunderstorms produced nickel to quarter size hail in Lyman and Hand counties on this date in 2000.




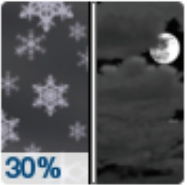

1934: An outbreak of six tornadoes killed nineteen in Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Hardest hit was Bowden, GA and Shady Grove, AL. One home in Lauderdale County, Mississippi was picked up, thrown 400 feet and blown to bits. Six family members were killed in the house.

1991: Black rain fell over southeastern Turkey for 10-hours, causing panic among people. The black rain was the result of soot from burning oil fields in Kuwait.

2010: A strong nor'easter spread significant snow and windy conditions across the Middle Atlantic region from Thursday, February 25th into Friday, February 26th. An area of low pressure developed off the Carolina coast late Wednesday night February 24th and then strengthened as it tracked northward to near Long Island, New York by Thursday evening. As low pressure aloft deepened over the Mid-Atlantic coast Thursday night into Friday, the surface low retrograded and moved westward into northern New Jersey and southern New York. By Saturday, February 27th, the low pushed into southern New England and gradually weakened over the weekend. Strong wind gusts were measured throughout the Middle Atlantic region as a result of this coastal storm. Some of the highest wind gusts recorded include 62 mph measured at Cape May, New Jersey; 52 mph at the Atlantic City Marina; 51 mph at the Mount Pocono Airport and Lewes, Delaware; and 50 mph at Dover Air Force Base. Wind gusts of 40 mph or greater were also recorded at Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Allentown. Considerable blowing and drifting snow resulted, especially from the Poconos eastward into northern New Jersey. Snow drifts as high as 3 to 5 feet were seen across portions of Warren and Sussex counties in New Jersey. Total accumulations of 20 inches or more were recorded from Morris and Sussex counties in New Jersey westward into Monroe County Pennsylvania. A band of 12 to 18 inches of snow accumulation was measured from Warren and Morris counties in New Jersey westward to Lehigh County Pennsylvania. In addition to snow that accumulated during the daytime on Thursday, many locations across the region experienced a heavier burst of snow with gusty winds Thursday night into early Friday thanks to additional moisture that wrapped around the low-pressure system. Some areas saw snowfall rates of 1 to 2 inches per hour, especially from northern New Jersey and into the Poconos. Central Park ended the month with a total of 36.9 inches of snow, making this the snowiest month since records began in 1869.

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
 30%	 60%	 60%	 30%	
Chance Snow and Patchy Fog	Mostly Cloudy then Snow Likely	Snow Likely and Patchy Fog	Chance Snow then Mostly Cloudy	Cold
High: 0 °F	Low: -9 °F	High: 6 °F	Low: -5 °F	High: 9 °F





Cold Tonight Winds Chills of -20 to -35°F

Tonight


 -7 to -18°

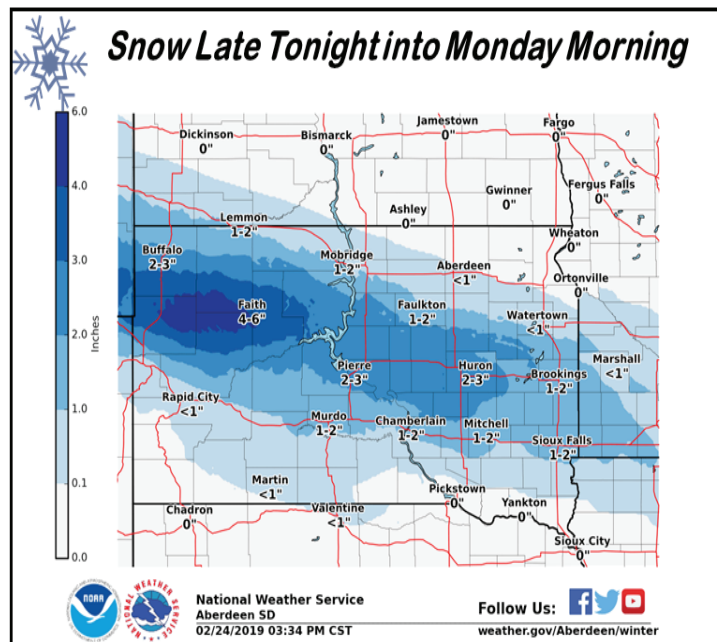
Monday

 -1 to 5°

 Light snow, mainly in the morning

Monday night

 -5 to -15
Snow moves into the region late Monday night into Tuesday



Published on: 02/24/2019 at 3:58PM

Gusty winds and blowing snow will diminish through this evening. High pressure over the area tonight will bring bitter cold temperatures with wind chill values dropping to 20 below zero to as much as 35 degrees below zero. A weak system crossing the area late tonight into Monday will bring light snow to western and central South Dakota.

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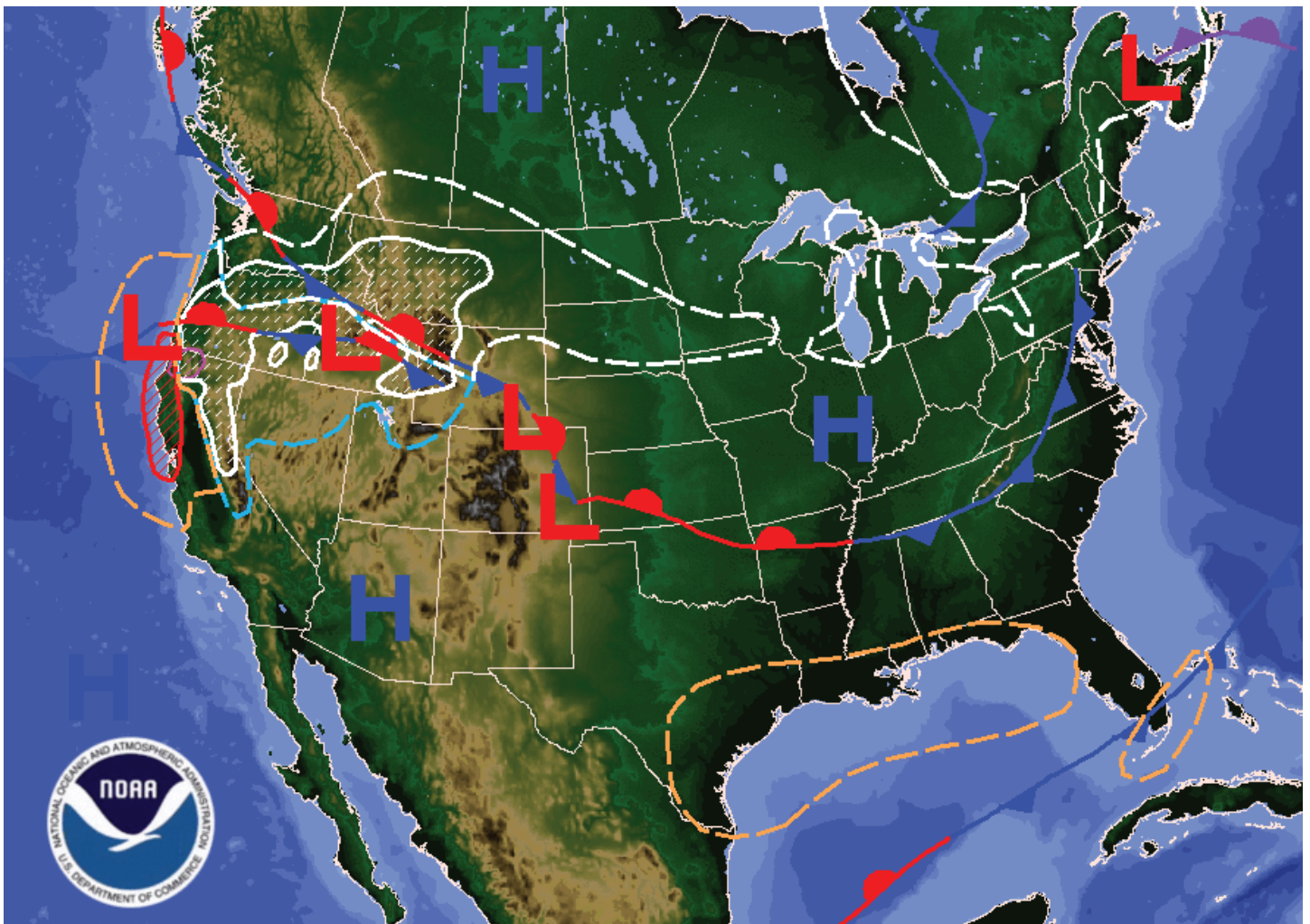
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 8 °F at 3:12 AM
Low Outside Temp: -10 °F at 10:09 PM
High Gust: 36 mph at 9:10 AM
Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 70° in 1958
Record Low: -29° in 1919
Average High: 31°F
Average Low: 12°F
Average Precip in Feb.: 0.45
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.92
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 6:14 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:19 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Feb 25, 2019, issued 4:56 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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ABANDONED TO GOD

Dogs have always been an important part of my life. As long as I can remember, unless prohibited by policies or laws, I have had a dog in my residence. To this very day, I can visualize each of them.

Three of them, however, had one particular trait in common: if they could not see me or sense my presence, they would become extremely anxious. They would run from one location to another trying to find me; sit under my desk while I worked; lay between me and the door, not wanting me leave without them or wait impatiently and bark or whine if I left home without them. They lived to be with me, and I was their safety and security - their protector, if you will.

The two most familiar verses in Proverbs begin with the word trust. Trust in the Lord, writes Solomon. And, this word trust far exceeds what comes to mind when we normally think of having trust in someone. It represents a trust in someone that brings us a deep sense of security, a type of safety that is impenetrable, and a belief that there is no one or no thing that can get to us or ever harm us. It is a trust in someone who is much more conscious of our every need and who is completely competent and capable of taking care of us - more so than we are of ourselves.

Life is filled with uncertainties. When we awaken in the morning, we have no guarantee that we will make it home safely or see the sunset. No one has any assurance that their investments will be there when it comes time to retire. We have friends that we thought we could depend on - and then find ourselves abandoned, pleading for help. But trusting in the Lord is different. Why? We have His promise: I will never leave you nor forsake you!

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for granting us Your peace, presence, power, and protection as we travel through life. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

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

Mission man pleads not guilty to escaping federal custody

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Mission man has pleaded not guilty to escaping from federal custody. The U.S. attorney's office says 28-year-old Roger Spider Jr. was in the custody of federal marshals last month on a domestic assault charge when he failed to report back to jail after a furlough. He's accused of escape and also criminal contempt for not following terms of the furlough order. He could face up to five years in federal prison if convicted.

Dangerous cold blanketing Upper Midwest after weekend storm

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Dangerous cold is once again blanketing the Upper Midwest, after some parts of the region endured a weekend blizzard that shut down several highways. The National Weather Service has posted wind chill advisories or warnings for much of the Dakotas, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The combination of low temperatures and wind is making it feel like the minus 40s in northern North Dakota and northern Minnesota.

Several highways remain closed or blocked in southern Minnesota after the weekend storm that dumped about a foot of snow in some places.

Transportation officials have reopened Interstate 29 in northeastern North Dakota but they're continuing to warn travelers about poor driving conditions.

South Dakota woman becomes nurse after car accident

By **KATHERINE GRANDSTRAND, Aberdeen American News**

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — After a brutal car crash in 1998, Roxie Orr-Price was told that she would likely spend the rest of her life in a nursing home.

"They told my parents to find a facility," Orr-Price told the Aberdeen American News.

The prediction turned out to be partially accurate — Orr-Price is now a licensed practical nurse and has spent her 10-year career working in long-term care facilities.

"No one thought I'd make it this far," she said. "It's only because I'm stubborn. It's my best quality. You tell me I can't do something, I'm going to do it. It's my best and worst quality."

It was Valentine's Day, 1998 — just more than 21 years ago. Orr-Price was 17 and a junior in high school on her way to a dance in Clark with three friends.

"I was your typical junior in high school," she said.

They were driving a Dodge Dynasty that was owned by the Orrs, but Orr-Price wasn't the driver, said Marcia Orr, her mother. The roads were slick that night and had recently been reconfigured due to flooding in the area.

"It was a foggy, icy night. It was not nice," Orr said.

The Orrs were serving Valentine's dinner at their restaurant, the Hot Spot in Bristol, that night. When they first got the call, Orr said she was worried that the girls had been drinking and that they would need to fetch them from jail, but that wasn't the case at all.

Based on reports and recollections, Orr said the girls were likely driving a little too fast, missed a curve and hit a pole. It was in the days before everyone had a cellphone, and the girls definitely didn't have one.

Luckily, the car crashed about a quarter mile away from a farmhouse, and one of the people who lived there was a first responder, Orr said. And one of the girls in the car was the daughter of a nurse. She knew that Orr-Price, who was vomiting, should sit up so she wouldn't choke or develop pneumonia.

Orr-Price was flown to Sioux Falls to Avera McKennan from Watertown and was in a coma for two to three weeks. Her skull was crushed and a chunk of her brain was removed — a strip that was 4 centimeters by 15 centimeters, she said.

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She got to leave the hospital early for one night — her junior prom — and even got to sleep in her bed that night.

“The night I was in my bed was nice,” Orr-Price said.

But then it was back to Sioux Falls for more physical therapy.

The first week when Orr-Price was in a coma, both Harold and Marcia Orr stayed with her in Sioux Falls. But by week two, they thought someone needed to go back home and run the business — the restaurant and Dale’s Service.. That’s what Harold Orr did. Marcia Orr stayed with her daughter until she went home for good.

Despite having a traumatic brain injury, Orr-Price graduated from Bristol High School on time with the rest of the class of 1999.

“Our special ed teacher stayed the whole summer so that me and another girl could make up our major subjects — English, science, math that you need — we got to make them up and graduate with our class,” Orr-Price said.

Her senior year, she was Miss Bristol in the Snow Queen competition.

She continued to go to physical therapy in Aberdeen. She had to relearn how to do everything, Orr said.

“My parents have been the best for saying, ‘Do it, try. If you fail, we’re not ashamed of it,’” Orr-Price said.

She was told that college might not be a good idea. So, of course, she enrolled at Northern State University and took her generals, then Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, where she earned an associate degree to be a medical assistant.

A few years later, she decided she wanted to become a nurse, so she went back to school at Lake Area and earned her licensed practical nursing degree.

“The best compliment I ever get is, ‘I would have never known if you didn’t tell me,’” Orr-Price said. “I always do tell all my employers, and I tell my coworkers.”

Orr-Price said she still has trouble with balance. She can’t stand on one leg without falling down, nor can she stand with one foot directly in front of the other.

And she doesn’t have a filter. All of those things most people think and don’t say, Orr-Price just goes ahead and says them.

“It has a lot to do with my behaviors and emotions,” she said of her injury’s effects.

She’s an avid note-taker. Orr-Price said her short-term memory isn’t great — it’s not too bad, though. On memory tests, she said she’s about average.

Partly because of her brain injury and partly because she’s an auditory learner, Orr-Price is constantly talking. Saying things aloud helps her commit them to memory.

If there’s a lot going on, Orr-Price said she gets easily overwhelmed.

She needs a lot of sleep. Sometimes she’ll doze off for a full 24 hours if she doesn’t have any obligations.

“Everyone is different with their head injury, it affects everyone differently,” Orr-Price said. “It’s a silent disability.”

Because of the missing slice of brain, Orr-Price said she has a constant headache, something she refuses to treat with drugs.

“I will not take narcotics because I know I will like not having a headache and I’ll be addicted,” Orr-Price said. “They can’t fix it because where they took the brain out, nerves are just firing.”

Because of her injury, Orr-Price said she doesn’t have to work. She could be on disability at home all day. But that’s not what she wants.

“I’m not disabled. I have a disability, but I’m not disabled,” she said. “I feel I can work, and I want to work, so I do work.”

Growing up, she and her siblings worked at their parents’ business. She has a twin sister named Rachel and two brothers, Paul and David.

“We worked. We had to do the cashier part for the gas station and we had to mop — mop, mop, mop — and clean everything, because everything has to be clean, clean, clean,” Orr-Price said. “We had to work every day, regardless.”

It wasn’t until recently that Orr-Price started working full-time, she said. About four months ago, her

boss asked her to go to 40-hour weeks.

"If I get overwhelmed or if I start making errors or something, I won't be offended if you cut me back," Orr-Price said she told her boss.

Orr-Price lives with her husband, Dustin, and teenage daughter, Gwendolyn, in Aberdeen.

"I've lived longer with a head injury than I lived without," Orr-Price said. "It bothers me that there's a stigma about it."

The crash changed her life, but that doesn't mean she's sore about it.

"It was an accident. If it wasn't, they would have called it an on-purpose," Orr-Price said. "Even to this day, I have bad days and I get down, but you have to remind yourself, 'Was it a bad five minutes that you milked out for the whole day, or was it a bad day?'"

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

South Dakota student to join shooting sports team in college

By JASON GROSS, Black Hills Pioneer

BELLE FOURCHE, S.D. (AP) — Belle Fourche High School senior Emma Singer recently signed a letter of intent to compete on the Concordia University shooting sports team.

The Seward, Nebraska, college's Lutheran roots first attracted Singer's attention. Opportunities to earn a degree, grow her faith and continue in shooting sports factored in her decision. She plans to study biology and go on to become a veterinarian.

Singer sets her future goals one step at a time. They include focusing on becoming a better shooter, seeing where she is and competing against others.

"From there, I'll make bigger goals, hopefully. I just want to make sure to have fun, and keep my head up no matter what," Singer told the Black Hills Pioneer.

This is the next step on a journey that started in Yuma, Arizona. Her brother started in this endeavor a year before she did.

"I saw that he was having a lot of fun shooting, and I've grown up shooting my whole life, pretty much," she recalled.

Singer was an eighth-grader when she began in shooting sports.

"I wanted to compete in that because I love competition," she said. "I've been in competition sports for most of my life."

The Singer family moved to Belle Fourche the summer of her sophomore year. She recalled it was initially difficult to continue shooting here, because there were not any clubs.

Living in Arizona enabled her to shoot year-round. She went out to shoot in South Dakota when the weather permitted and joined 4-H shooting sports.

Singer joined the Bronc Bird Busters club in Belle Fourche last year, when she was a junior. This group represents the high school and was in its first season.

"It was pretty amazing being able to help get that program up and started," Singer said. She added the club is teaching many youngsters about gun safety, having a good time shooting and creating friendships.

Last year's national competition stood out for Singer, who recalled team members rented a cabin in Michigan. She said it was also fun to spend time with teammates and cheer them on during competition.

Singer has shot pistols but prefers shotguns and rifles. A CZ All-American Over/Under 12-gauge is her gun of choice. She purchased it at 4-H nationals and used a Mossberg Over/Under shotgun before that.

The biggest challenge for her centers on the mental side of things, especially while competing. She said she tends to find herself counting her hits and misses.

She said she quickly learned the shooting sports basics, as she has shot for most of her life.

The Bronc Bird Busters season is a nine-week program, with two trap-shooting sessions per week. Shooters may also qualify for state and national events.

A shooter calls out "pull" to release a brightly colored clay pigeon into the sky. The shooter takes aim

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and fires a shotgun in hopes of breaking the disc.

"Outside of that, I just go when I can to shoot," she said.

Her competition goals are to do her best every time. If she struggles, she tries to put that behind her and get a clean slate for each target.

"I try to adopt the mindset of, once it happens, to forget about it," Singer said. "I can look at the score afterward, so I try to not think about the score at all while I'm shooting."

She doesn't worry about how others are doing and focuses only on each target ahead of her.

Singer calms herself and stays quiet when she is almost ready to shoot. She stays away from others so she can clear her mind and focus on the upcoming task.

Her mood at an event is a combination of nervousness and quiet confidence.

"I know I have to have confidence going into it, or else I will not do good," Singer said. She added she has had days, like at large shoots, where confidence has been lacking.

"I enjoy the chance to be able to go out and shoot guns. The fact that I can go out and do that with friends and family: it's just a good time."

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

Drivers rescued in Minnesota snow; Wisconsin pileup kills 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Authorities have rescued dozens of people stranded by a blizzard that howled across southern Minnesota and dumped about a foot of snow in some places. In east-central Wisconsin, one person was killed and several others injured Sunday in an interstate pileup involving more than 100 vehicles during whiteout conditions.

The Minnesota National Guard rescued 30 people in Freeborn County on Saturday night, Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management said in a tweet. Sheriff's deputies rescued an additional 20 people.

Forty-eight people were sheltered at a National Guard armory in Albert Lea, near the Minnesota-Iowa border, while the Owatonna armory housed 24 people stranded by the blizzard.

Gov. Tim Walz declared a state of emergency late Saturday and ordered the guard to help stranded motorists in Freeborn and Steele counties. Conditions were so bad in southern Minnesota on Sunday that state Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Joe Kelly urged residents to stay home, or to stay in their vehicles and wait for help if stranded on the road.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation said Interstate 35 is closed from Owatonna to the Iowa border and I-90 is closed from Dexter in Mower County west, due to poor driving conditions with blowing and drifting snow. Many other highways in southeastern Minnesota were closed Sunday morning.

The National Weather Service reported 13 inches (33 centimeters) of snow in Kasson, 11.5 inches (29 centimeters) in Albert Lea and 11 inches (27.9 centimeters) in Ellendale.

In Wisconsin, one person was killed and several others injured and taken to hospitals Sunday in a pileup amid whiteout conditions on southbound Interstate 41 that involved more than 100 vehicles, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office said.

North Dakota transportation officials closed I-29 in both the northbound and southbound lanes from Grand Forks to the Canadian border on Sunday because of blowing snow, which was creating icy road conditions, areas of zero visibility and life-threatening driving conditions.

South Dakota State upends No. 23 South Dakota women in OT

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Macy Miller scored 28 points and Tagyn Larson had 21 points and 11 rebounds to lead South Dakota State over No. 23 South Dakota 82-78 in overtime on Sunday and take command of the Summit League race.

The Jackrabbits (22-6, 14-1) have one league game remaining at home against Western Illinois. The Coyotes (24-4, 12-2) have home games left against North Dakota State and North Dakota. The teams split their season series with the Coyotes winning 105-98 in double overtime on Jan. 6.

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SDSU extended its win streak to 12 while ending South Dakota's at 11.

A Miller 3-pointer — the game's final field goal — gave South Dakota State the lead for good with 1:02 left in overtime. Five free throws in the final 38 seconds kept the Coyotes at bay.

South Dakota held a lead from late in the first period until early in the fourth when the Jackrabbits got consecutive 3-pointers from Madison Guebert followed by another from Cascio Jensen to start a 13-2 run for a four-point lead. South Dakota rallied to tie at 69-all with 1:45 remaining in regulation and that was the score heading into overtime.

Guebert finished with four 3-pointers and 18 points. SDSU made 23 of 32 free throws to 10 of 14 for South Dakota.

Ciara Duffy scored 23 points and Chloe Lamb 19 to lead the Coyotes.

Legislature to debate civics test, science education bills

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Lawmakers will debate measures this week to create a reporter shield law, lengthen legislative terms and allow a proposed casino complex in a southeastern South Dakota city.

The Legislature returns Monday. Senators are to have a floor debate about a constitutional amendment asking voters to allow a nonprofit group one gambling license in Yankton.

House lawmakers plan to debate putting a separate amendment to voters that would double legislators' two-year terms.

A Senate panel is scheduled Tuesday to weigh a bill that would require high school students to pass a civics test to graduate. Another panel will debate the reporter shield law that day.

The full House is to debate a bill Monday allowing teachers to decide how much skepticism to inject into lessons on scientific topics such as climate change and the Big Bang.

2 suffer minor injuries when plane flips in South Dakota

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A pilot and co-pilot suffered minor injuries when their plane flipped while attempting a "touch-and-go" near Aberdeen.

Brown County sheriff's Chief Deputy Dave Lunzman says the pilot misjudged the depth of snow on Richmond Lake on Saturday afternoon. The plane ended upside-down on the lake's snowy, icy surface.

Lunzman tells the American News the plane took off from Aberdeen Regional Airport around 2 p.m.

The 65-year-old pilot and his 41-year-old co-pilot are both from Aberdeen. Lunzman says both men are experienced pilots.

In a touch-and-go, the pilot drops down and touches the surface without actually landing.

There were no mechanical issues with the single-engine plane.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

School for the Blind uses beeps and bells for student growth

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Students at the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired are learning how to relying on their ears when it comes to physical education.

Every ball and piece of athletic equipment at the school has some form of a sound component.

Basketballs have bells, bases and baseballs have built-in beepers to help familiarize participants, and there are beeper boxes that can be set up behind 3-D archery targets to help students find the bullseye, the Aberdeen American News reported.

Michael Gast, a school for the blind student, said 3-D models help him better visualize concepts. "For me, it's easier to learn things hands-on," he said.

Christy Hulscher, a school for the blind teacher, maintains it's important for the students to remain active and healthy. Her classroom's storage space is filled with adaptive equipment for just about every sport imaginable. Some was acquired recently with the help of a grant.

Hulscher said she also introduced the students to archery. At most, there are two students shooting at targets at any given time. They begin by shooting from 15 feet, she said, before increasing their distance to 10 to 15 meters, which is 33 feet to 49 feet. Hulscher said the purpose is to help students understand what they can accomplish. "Archery reveals to them how much upper body strength they have," she said.

Another student activity involves using a Kin-ball. The ball has a bell inside. Students grab it and bounce it to a classmate or toss it over their heads. The bell inside helps students get a sense of where it is.

The hallways inside the school are filled with textures on the wall that notify students whenever they're passing a bathroom. They are also used to identify different classrooms.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

'Green Book' wins best picture in an upset at the Oscars

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The segregation-era road-trip drama "Green Book" was crowned best picture at the 91st Academy Awards, delighting those who see the film as a feel-good throwback but disappointing others who ridicule it as an outdated inversion of "Driving Miss Daisy."

In a year when Hollywood could have made history by bestowing its top award on Netflix ("Roma") or Marvel ("Black Panther") for the first time, the motion picture academy instead threw its fullest support Sunday behind a traditional interracial buddy tale that proved as popular as it was divisive. But Peter Farrelly's "Green Book" weathered criticism that it was retrograde and inauthentic to triumph over more acclaimed films and bigger box-office successes.

It was an unexpected finale to a brisk, hostless ceremony that was awash in historic wins for diversity, including Spike Lee's first competitive Oscar. More women and more individual black nominees won than ever before.

The Oscars otherwise spread awards around for Ryan Coogler's superhero sensation "Black Panther," Alfonso Cuarón's black-and-white personal epic "Roma" and the Freddie Mercury biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody."

Lee, whose "Do the Right Thing" came out the same year "Driving Miss Daisy" won best picture, was among those most visibly upset by the award handed to "Green Book." After presenter Julia Roberts announced it, Lee stood up, waved his hands in disgust and appeared to try to leave the Dolby Theatre before returning.

"Green Book" also won best supporting actor for Mahershala Ali and best original screenplay.

"The whole story is about love," said Farrelly, a filmmaker best known for broad comedies like "Dumb and Dumber" and "There's Something About Mary." "It's about loving each other despite the differences and find out the truth about who we are. We're the same people."

Backstage, Lee clutched a glass of champagne while reflecting on the 30 years between "Driving Miss Daisy" and "Green Book." "I'm snake bit," he said, laughing. "Every time somebody's driving somebody, I lose!"

Lee's win for best adapted screenplay for his white supremacist drama "BlacKkKlansman," an award he shared with three co-writers, gave the ceremony its signature moment. The crowd rose in a standing ovation, Lee leapt into the arms of presenter Samuel L. Jackson and even the backstage press room burst into applause.

Lee, whose film includes footage of President Donald Trump following the violent white supremacist protests in Charlottesville, Virginia, urged mobilization for the upcoming election.

"Let's be on the right side of history. Make the moral choice between love and hate," said Lee, who was given an honorary Oscar in 2015. "Let's do the right thing! You knew I had to get that in there."

One of the biggest surprises of the night was in the best actress category. Olivia Colman won for her Queen Anne in the royal romp "The Favourite," denying Glenn Close her first Oscar. Close remains the most-nominated living actor never to win, with seven nominations.

"Ooo. It's genuinely quite stressful," said a staggered Colman, who later turned to Close to say she was

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her idol, "and this is not how I wanted it to be."

The night's co-lead nominee "Roma" won best director and best cinematography for Cuarón, whose film also notched Mexico's first foreign language film Oscar. Cuarón and his "Three Amigos" countrymen — Alejandro Inarritu and Guillermo del Toro, who presented Cuarón with best picture — have had a stranglehold on the category, winning five of the last six years.

Cuarón, who becoming the first director to ever win for serving as his own director of photography, referenced an especially international crop of nominees in one of his three acceptance speeches.

"When asked about the New Wave, Claude Chabrol said there are no waves, there is only the ocean," said Cuarón, referring to the French filmmaker. "The nominees tonight have proven that we are a part of the same ocean."

The wins for "Roma" gave Netflix its most significant awards yet, but "Green Book" denied the streaming giant the best picture win it dearly sought. Netflix remains to some a contentious force in Hollywood, since it largely bypasses theaters. The wins for "Black Panther" — along with best animated film winner "Spider-Man: Into the Spider Verse" — meant the first Academy Awards for Marvel, the most consistent blockbuster factor Hollywood has ever seen.

The lush, big-budget craft of "Black Panther" won for Ruth Carter's costume design, Hannah Beachler and Jay Hart's production design, and Ludwig Göransson's score. Beachler had been the first African-American to ever be nominated in the category. Beachler and Carter became just the second and third black women to win non-acting Oscars.

"It just means that we've opened the door," Carter, a veteran costume designer, said backstage. "Finally, the door is wide open."

Two years after winning for his role in "Moonlight," Mahershala Ali won again for his supporting performance in "Green Book" — a role many said was really a lead. Ali is the second black actor to win two Oscars following Denzel Washington, who won for "Glory" and "Training Day." Ali dedicated the award to his grandmother.

"Bohemian Rhapsody," which kicked off the ABC telecast with a performance by Queen, won four awards despite pans from many critics and sexual assault allegations against its director, Bryan Singer, who was fired in mid-production for not showing up. Its star, Rami Malek, won best actor for his full-bodied and prosthetic teeth-aided performance, and the film was honored for editing, sound mixing and sound editing.

"We made a film about a gay man, an immigrant who lived his life unapologetically himself," said Malek who after the ceremony fell and was checked out by medics before making the rounds at post-show festivities. "We're longing for stories like this. I am the son of immigrants from Egypt. I'm a first-generation American, and part of my story is being written right now."

Queen launched Sunday's ceremony with a medley of hits that gave the awards a distinctly Grammy-like flavor, as Hollywood's most prestigious ceremony sought to prove that it's still "champion of the world" after last year's record-low ratings.

To compensate for a lack of host, the motion picture academy leaned on its presenters, including an ornately outfitted Melissa McCarthy and Brian Tyree Henry and a Keegan-Michael Key who floated down like Mary Poppins. Following Queen, Tina Fey — alongside Amy Poehler and Maya Rudolph — welcomed the Dolby Theatre audience to "the one-millionth Academy Awards."

Rudolph summarized a rocky Oscar preamble that featured numerous missteps and backtracks by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences: "There is no host, there won't be a popular movie category and Mexico is not paying for the wall."

The trio then presented best supporting actress to Regina King for her pained matriarch in Barry Jenkins' James Baldwin adaptation "If Beale Street Could Talk." The crowd gave King a standing ovation for her first Oscar.

The inclusivity of the winners Sunday stood in stark contrast to the #OscarsSoWhite backlash that marked the 2016 and 2015 Oscars. Since then, the academy has worked to diversify its largely white and male membership, adding several thousand new members and opening the academy up internationally. Still,

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this year's nominations were criticized for not including a female best director nominee or a best-picture nominee directed by a woman.

Though the once presumed front-runner "A Star Is Born" saw its chances flame out, it won, as expected, for the song "Shallow," which Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper performed during the ceremony. As she came off the stage, Cooper had his arm around Gaga as she asked, "Did I nail it?"

Best documentary went to Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin's "Free Solo," which chronicles rock climber Alex Honnold's famed, free solo ascent of Yosemite's El Capitan, a 3,000-foot wall of sheer granite, without ropes or climbing equipment. "Free Solo" was among a handful of hugely successful documentaries last year including the nominated Ruth Bader Ginsburg documentary "RBG" and the snubbed Fred Rogers doc "Won't You Be My Neighbor."

"Thank you Alex Honnold for teaching us to believe in the impossible," said Vasarhelyi. "This film is for everyone who believes in the impossible."

Adam McKay's Dick Cheney biopic "Vice" won makeup and hairstyling for its extensive physical transformations. The category was one of the four that the academy initially planned to present during a commercial break and as its winners — Greg Cannom, Kate Biscoe and Patricia Dehaney — dragged on in a litany of thank-yous and were the first to have their microphone cut off.

To turn around ratings, Oscar producers pledged a shorter show. In the academy's favor was a popular crop of nominees: "Bohemian Rhapsody," "A Star Is Born" and, most of all, "Black Panther" all amassed huge sums in ticket sales. Typically, when there are box-office hits (like "Titanic"), more people watch the Oscars.

Associated Press writers Kristin M. Hall, Andrew Dalton and Lindsey Bahr contributed to this report.

This story corrects the first name of Brian Tyree Henry and the last name of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

For full coverage of the Oscars, visit: <https://apnews.com/AcademyAwards>

Hanoi Postcard: Children hope to give Kim comradely welcome

By **TRAN VAN MINH, Associated Press**

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Children at a kindergarten in Hanoi, some in Korean traditional "Hanbok" dress, have been practicing singing and dancing, hoping to show off their talents to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un when he comes to town this week for his second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Elsewhere in the Vietnam-Korea Friendship Kindergarten, students have been assembling picture montages on maps of Vietnam and the Koreas. In another classroom, children were coloring in Vietnamese and North Korean flags with which they hope to greet Kim.

"We really want for Mr. Kim Jong Un, the great leader of the Korean people, to visit our school," said Ngo Thi Minh Ha, the school's rector.

Apple-cheeked youngsters in traditional national garb meeting a paternal leader is a mainstay of old-style communist iconography, and North Korea is the closest thing left to an old-style communist state. It even has its own separate word for Hanbok-style clothing: "Joson-ot."

But the ties that once bound Vietnam to North Korea in their fight against the U.S. have long since frayed. These days, South Korea is the Korea most Vietnamese look to, as evidenced by Vietnam's many billboards for the goods and services of companies such as Samsung, Lotte and Hyundai, and the massive amount of trade and investment coming from Seoul.

The kindergarten, however, swims against the tide of history. It was built in 1978, three years after the end of the Vietnam War, a gift from the North Korean government, which also supplied it with toys, musical instruments, tables, chairs and cookware, according to Hoang Thi Thanh, the school's rector from 2002 to 2013.

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The school initially had just four classrooms accommodating 120 children, but according to Thanh, "I was very happy and proud to be one of the first teachers of the school, because it was probably the most beautiful school in Hanoi at that time."

It's now a three-story complex with a large courtyard and a student body of 470 in a busy residential neighborhood with run-down, 1970s-era apartment buildings.

The students learn about North Korea, its leaders, landmarks and culture, lessons that are supplemented by a sister relationship with a kindergarten in Pyongyang with which visits are exchanged each year.

According to Thanh, there was a political hiccup in 2010, when the North Korean government proposed renaming the school after Kim Il Sung, North Korea's founding father. Vietnam, whose ruling communist party has always favored collective leadership over personalized rule, demurred. A compromise was reached in which two classrooms were named after Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il — the grandfather and father, respectively, of Kim Jong Un — while a kindergarten classroom in Pyongyang was named after Vietnamese revolutionary hero Ho Chi Minh.

Ha, the rector, hopes Kim and Trump can achieve an agreement, and echoes the common sentiment that maybe Vietnam has something to teach North Korea, saying she hopes "the Korean people will enjoy peace and like the Vietnamese people, the Korean nation will embark on a reform process for development and prosperity."

For local parents, however, education rather than politics is the main concern.

"I had checked out some kindergartens near my house, but I decided to send my son here, because this school has good facilities and good teachers," Trieu Phuong Nhung said as she took her 4-year-old son to school.

Stocks surge on US decision to postpone China tariff hike

By **JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — China's stock market surged Monday after President Donald Trump's decision to postpone a tariff hike on Chinese imports and state media expressed hopes the fight with Washington over Beijing's technology ambitions can be resolved.

Other financial markets in Europe and Asia recorded more modest gains following Trump's announcement the Washington talks made "substantial progress" toward ending the tariff fight.

The conflict has threatened to disrupt global trade and drag on weakening economic growth.

Washington accuses Beijing of stealing or pressuring foreign companies to hand over technology. The Trump administration wants China to roll back plans for government-led creation of global leaders in robotics and other technology that its trading partners say violate Beijing's free-trade obligations and some American officials worry they might erode U.S. industrial leadership.

The weekend talks made progress on technology transfer, protection of intellectual property rights and non-tariff barriers to market access, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. It cautioned there are "still some differences that need more time to be ironed out."

On Twitter, Trump said negotiators also made progress on U.S. agricultural sales to China.

Neither government gave more details but both expressed optimism.

Trump said he would postpone a March 1 deadline for increasing 10 percent punitive duties on \$200 billion of Chinese imports to 25 percent but he set no new date.

Trump said many disputes will take more time to resolve but he hopes to "put these more challenging issues into a longer-term negotiating framework." He said if progress is made, he will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping at his Florida resort to finalize an agreement.

"If all works well, we're going to have some very big news over the next week or two," Trump told American governors at a White House ball. He added, "we still have a little ways to go."

The talks "sent a positive signal to the world" and "laid the foundation for the final agreement," the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily said.

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"China solemnly shows it is willing to adopt a cooperative approach to resolve economic and trade frictions," the newspaper said.

The Shanghai Composite index rose 5.6 percent to an eight-month high.

Trump's decision was a "positive signal," said the vice president of the U.S.-China Business Council, Jake Parker.

The decision "seems to indicate that there's enough forward momentum that they believe they don't need to raise tariffs now," Parker said.

Another ruling party newspaper, the Global Times, said the talks "solved most of the problems of both sides" and negotiators were "already preparing the text of an agreement."

However, it cautioned they "still need to continue to make efforts."

Even if the two sides reach a compromise on trade, relations also are strained by disputes over technology, investment and geopolitics.

"The U.S.-China relationship should remain contentious," Marie Diron of Moody's Investors Service said in a report. She expects relations to "swing between compromise and conflict."

A potential stumbling block is Chinese resistance to U.S. pressure for an enforcement mechanism with penalties if Beijing fails to carry out its commitments. American officials accuse China of failing to fulfill past promises to change economic regulations.

The world's two biggest economies have raised tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's goods.

Trump and Xi agreed Dec. 1 to postpone more penalties while they negotiate. Increases that already were imposed remained in place, battering companies on both sides.

Other financial markets rose Monday, with London's FTSE 100 index up 0.4 percent, but gains were smaller. Share prices already had risen in recent weeks on expectations Trump would postpone the tariff hike.

Some Chinese were skeptical.

"We won't really fight, right? A trade war, by its nature, is nothing more than a war of words, isn't it?" said Geng Yanhua, an employee of an Internet company.

"Playing up the tariffs issue only won't really hurt us," said Geng. "It will be fine as long as no one wages a war."

Associated Press researchers Fu Ting and Liu Zheng in Beijing contributed.

Israeli startups join firms making lab-grown 'clean meat'

By ILAN BEN ZION, Associated Press

NES ZIONA, Israel (AP) — Several Israeli start-ups have joined a handful of companies around the globe trying to develop lab-grown meat, something they see as a solution to the needs of the world's ever-growing population and burgeoning demand for food.

The product has been known under different names, including cultured meat, in-vitro or artificial and "clean meat" — a term advocates say underscores its environment-friendly nature. It's basically made of animal muscle cells grown in a culture in a lab, a technology similar to stem cells.

And while "synthetic steaks" are perhaps not a candidate for everyone's favorite dish, they could someday compete with conventional chicken or beef, an affordable price tag permitting.

"Producing meat is very inefficient," said Yaakov Nahmias, a bioengineering professor at Hebrew University and founder of Future Meat Technologies. Cultured meat, by comparison, consumes "10 times less water, less land, less energy than the current meat production."

Advocates say lab-grown meat is flavorful and better for the environment than conventional meat. They say it consumes less water, energy and land, produces less greenhouse gases and reduces animal suffering.

Agriculture is estimated to generate around 13 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, with livestock alone responsible for two-thirds of those emissions, according to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization.

For Israel, the advances are a far cry from the country's early decades, when meat was rationed.

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In fact, Israel is quickly becoming “the leader in the space, or (is) side-by-side with Silicon Valley” in cultured meat technologies, said Alex Shirazi, co-founder of the Cultured Meat and Future Food podcast and a founder of the Cultured Meat Symposium, an industry gathering in San Francisco in November.

Israel has a thriving high-tech scene, so the pursuit of lab-grown meat was a natural avenue for its entrepreneurs, experts say. The government’s Innovation Authority has also sought to stimulate food-technology companies through grants and the financing of a \$25 million food-tech incubator.

Israel currently imports much of its meat and the government is invested in creating food security.

For observant Jews, several prominent Orthodox rabbis have already expressed approval for lab-grown meat being kosher. Because it doesn’t come from a slaughtered animal, some rabbis have even said cultured meat could be consumed as a cheeseburger — a combination of meat and milk otherwise forbidden in Jewish tradition.

In February, the Good Food Institute, a Washington-based non-profit promoting the development of meat alternatives, announced a series of research grants “for the benefit of the entire scientific community and good food industry.”

One of the six \$250,000 grants for “clean meat” researchers went to Israel, and a second Israeli researcher received funds for “plant-based” meat alternatives.

“Israel is a fertile ground for tech in general and specifically for what we call alternative protein,” said Beni Nofech, a board member at the institute. “Israel is such an innovation-driven economy and infrastructure, both governmental and private, is already in place to actually catalyze innovation and research.”

The industry still faces some significant hurdles, including astronomical cost, developmental challenges, regulatory issues and questions about whether people are ready to eat lab-grown meat.

Until now, most companies involved in the effort have only managed to produce fleshy granules.

Future Meat Technologies, a company based out of Jerusalem’s Hebrew University, and SuperMeat are among those combining animal cells and plant proteins as a potential alternative to processed meats.

Aleph Farms, an Israeli start-up launched in 2017, announced in December it succeeded in producing a lab-grown “minute steak” made from bovine cells that closely resembles the texture and flavor of its cow-borne counterpart.

For now, the tiny steaks are just 3 millimeters (a tenth of an inch) wide — roughly the size of a very thin strip of roast beef.

Each Israeli player has raised several million dollars in early investment, including from major food manufacturers such as U.S. giant Tyson Foods, Germany’s PHW Group, and Israel’s Strauss Group.

The first lab-grown burger was made by a Dutch company in 2013 at a cost of over \$300,000. Production costs have fallen in the years since. Last year, U.S.-based Memphis Meats’ ground beef alternative was reported to cost about \$2,400 per pound. Each slice of Aleph Farms’ “steak” costs about \$50 to produce.

Before it can hit the shelves, lab-grown meat will face regulatory obstacles. The U.S. government’s FDA and USDA announced in November they would “jointly oversee the production of cell-cultured food products derived from livestock and poultry.”

Cultured meat has already faced resistance from the U.S. meat industry and will probably face a label battle once it comes on the market.

Even if the industry can overcome these obstacles, the technology necessary to make these synthetic sirloins commercially viable remains years away.

Max Elder, a food researcher at the San Francisco-based Institute for the Future, says the biggest challenge may be convincing consumers to eat a steak essentially grown in a petri dish.

Nonetheless, researchers and environmentalists agree the need for sustainable, lab-grown alternatives to industrial farming is essential.

“If we want to make sure that our kids eat the same thing that we eat today, then we need to dramatically change the way we manufacture it,” said Nahmias, the Hebrew University professor.

Expectations low as Trump looks for win in NKorea summit

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will head into his second meeting with North Korea's Kim Jong Un having reframed what would make a successful summit, lowering expectations for Pyongyang's denuclearization while eager to declare a flashy victory to offset the political turmoil he faces at home.

Trump was the driving force behind this week's Vietnam summit, aiming to recreate the global spectacle of his first meeting with Kim, although that initial summit yielded few concrete results and the months that followed have produced little optimism about what will be achieved in the sequel. He once warned that North Korea's arsenal posed such a threat to humanity that he may have no choice but to rain "fire and fury" on the rogue nation, yet on Sunday declared that he was in no hurry for Pyongyang to prove it was abandoning its weapons.

"I'm not in a rush. I don't want to rush anybody, I just don't want testing. As long as there's no testing, we're happy," Trump told a gathering of governors at the White House. Hours earlier, he ended a tweet about the summit by posing the key question that looms over their meeting in Vietnam: "Denuclearization?"

He did not provide an answer.

Though worries abound across world capitals about what Trump might be willing to give up in the name of a win, the president was ready to write himself into the history books before he and Kim even shake hands in Hanoi.

"If I were not elected president, you would have been in a war with North Korea," Trump said last week. "We now have a situation where the relationships are good — where there has been no nuclear testing, no missiles, no rockets."

Whatever the North Koreans have done so far, the survival of the Kim regime is always the primary concern.

Kim inherited a nascent, incomplete nuclear program from his father, and after years of accelerated effort and fighting through crippling sanctions, he built an arsenal that demonstrates the potential capability to deliver a thermonuclear weapon to the mainland United States. That is the fundamental reason Washington now sits at the negotiating table.

Kim, his world standing elevated after receiving an audience with a U.S. president, has yet to show a convincing sign that he is willing to deal away an arsenal that might provide a stronger guarantee of survival than whatever security assurance the United States could provide. The North Koreans have largely eschewed staff-level talks, pushing for discussions between Trump and Kim.

Trump will arrive in Hanoi on Tuesday on Air Force One while his counterpart, lacking a modern aircraft fleet, travels via armored train. Though details of the summit remain closely held, the two leaders are expected to meet at some point one-on-one, joined only by translators.

The easing of tension between the two nations, Trump and his allies believe, stems from the U.S. president's own unorthodox and unpredictable style of diplomacy. Often prizing personal rapport over long-held strategic interests, Trump has pointed to his budding relationship with the young and reclusive leader, frequently showing visitors to the Oval Office his flattering letters from Kim.

Trump, who has long declared that North Korea represented the gravest foreign threat of his presidency, told reporters recently that his efforts to defang Pyongyang had moved Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to nominate him for a Nobel Peace Prize, something Abe would not confirm or deny. And, always with an eye on his media coverage, Trump had delighted in the round-the-clock phenomenon created by the first Kim summit, held last June in Singapore. He urged reluctant aides as early as last fall to begin preparations for a second meeting.

The images of the first face-to-face meeting between a U.S. president and his North Korean counterpart resonated across the globe. Four main goals emerged: establishing new relations between the nations, building a new peace on the Korean Peninsula, completing denuclearization of the peninsula and recovering U.S. POW/MIA remains from the Korean War.

While some remains have been returned to the United States, little has been achieved on the other

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points. Korean and American negotiators have not settled on either the parameters of denuclearization or the timetable for the removal of both Korean weapons and American sanctions.

"The key lessons of Singapore are that President Trump sees tremendous value in the imagery of diplomacy and wants to be seen as a bold leader, even if the substance of the diplomacy is far behind the pageantry," said Abraham Denmark, director of the Asia Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

U.S. intelligence officials testified before Congress last month that it remains unlikely Kim would fully dismantle his arsenal. And many voices in the Trump administration, including national security adviser John Bolton, have expressed skepticism that North Korea would ever live up to a deal.

Mark Chinoy, senior fellow at U.S.-China Institute at the University of Southern California, made clear that after generations of hostility, the convivial atmosphere of Singapore "can't be discounted." But Chinoy noted that Trump had agreed to North Korea's "formulation of 'denuclearization of the Korean peninsula,' which Pyongyang has long made clear meant an end to the US security alliance with South Korea and an end to the US nuclear umbrella intended to defend South Korea and Japan."

After the last summit, Trump unilaterally suspended some military drills with South Korea, alarming some in Seoul and at the Pentagon. But he was insistent this week that he would not drawdown U.S. troops from South Korea. And American officials, even as they hint at a relaxed timetable for Pyongyang to account for its full arsenal, have continued to publicly insist they would not ease punishing sanctions on North Korea until denuclearization is complete.

A year ago, North Korea suspended its nuclear and long-range missile tests and said it dismantled its nuclear testing ground but those measures were not perceived as meaningful reductions. Experts believe Kim, who is enjoying warmer relations with South Korea and the easing of pressure from Russia and China, will seek a U.S. commitment for improved bilateral relations and partial sanctions relief while trying to minimize any concessions on his nuclear facilities and weapons.

"Kim is doing pretty well as it is," said Scott Seaman of the Eurasia Group. "The threat of a U.S. military strike is essentially zero, Kim's diplomatic charm offensive has made him into a bigger player on the world stage, and he continues to whittle away at international commitment to sanctions."

The Hanoi summit comes at a politically perilous time for Trump.

His potential 2020 foes have begun unleashing their attacks. The newly elected Democratic House has begun its onslaught of investigations into the president, calling his former fixer, Michael Cohen, to appear before Congress while the president is in Vietnam. And special counsel Robert Mueller, who has investigated possible ties between Trump's campaign Russian election interference, may finalize his report within days of the president's return to the United States.

Trump may be eager to change the subject and some foreign policy experts fear that could prompt the president to make a significant concession or strike an attention-grabbing deal — such as a declaration to formally end the Korean War, which has been suspended in an armistice since 1953 — without extracting much in return from Kim. North Korea's long history of human rights abuses is also unlikely to be on the agenda.

"Clearly, the president is looking for a win," said Denmark. "The North Koreans know this and will likely expect President Trump to be looking to make an agreement with limited regard for its content."

Associated Press writers Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul and Deb Riechmann, Catherine Lucey, Zeke Miller and Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

Follow all of AP's summit coverage at <https://apnews.com/Trump-KimSummit>

US and Venezuela opposition to discuss ways to oust Maduro

By BEN FOX, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is planning new ways to pressure Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro to give up power and other means to provide assistance to the people of the economically devastated South American nation after a weekend effort failed to deliver aid.

Vice President Mike Pence travels Monday to the Colombian capital to meet with members of a regional coalition and Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido to discuss the next steps aimed at ousting Maduro.

A senior administration official said Pence is expected to announce “clear actions” as he speaks to members of the Lima Group, a coalition of more than a dozen nations organized to address the crisis in Venezuela.

“We are going to show the world and Maduro that the United States stands with the people of Venezuela and that the United States stands with Guaido,” the official told reporters, speaking on condition of anonymity to preview the speech in Bogota. “And we are going to continue to stand with him until democracy is restored and humanitarian aid gets to where it needs to go.”

Pence’s appearance before the Lima Group comes two days after a U.S.-backed effort to deliver humanitarian across the border from Colombia ended in violence, with forces loyal to Maduro firing tear gas and buckshot on activists accompanying the supplies and setting the material on fire. Two people were killed and at least 300 wounded.

For weeks, the U.S. and regional allies had been amassing emergency food and medical kits on Venezuela’s borders in anticipation of carrying out a “humanitarian avalanche” by land and sea to undermine Maduro’s rule.

Guaido, who has been recognized as interim president by the U.S. and 50 other governments who say Maduro’s re-election last year was illegitimate, has called on the international community to consider “all options” to resolve Venezuela’s crisis. A close ally, Julio Borges, the opposition ambassador to the Lima Group, was more explicit Sunday, urging the use of force against Maduro’s government. But U.S. officials have avoided talk of military action.

The administration official said the U.S. plans to bring “the full measure of its economic and diplomatic weight to bear on this issue.” Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in interviews on “Fox News Sunday” and CNN’s “State of the Union,” did not rule out U.S. military force but said “there are more sanctions to be had.”

But any additional sanctions will increase the suffering of the Venezuelan people and may lead to more political violence, said Mark Weisbrot, the co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, who advocates a negotiated end to the political crisis.

“The ‘humanitarian aid’ this weekend was a public relations stunt, since the aid was just a tiny fraction of the food and medicine that they are depriving Venezuelans of with the sanctions,” Weisbrot said. “As the Trump administration admitted, it was an attempt to get the Venezuelan military to disobey Maduro. It was a farce, and it failed.”

High court deciding fate of cross-shaped Maryland memorial

By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Steven C. Lowe says he has always thought that a 40-foot-tall, concrete cross that stands on a large, grassy highway median near his Maryland home was odd.

For years, he says, he didn’t know that the cross is a war memorial. A plaque on the cross’ base lists the names of 49 area residents who died in World War I, but it isn’t easily read from the road and getting to the monument requires dashing across traffic. Lowe said he felt the cross implied that the city favored Christians over others.

“It certainly made me raise my eyebrows,” said Lowe, 68, who is retired from the telecommunications industry.

In 2014, Lowe, two other area residents and the District of Columbia-based American Humanist Association, a group that includes atheists and agnostics, sued to challenge the cross. They argue that the

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cross' location on public land violates the First Amendment's establishment clause, which prohibits the government from favoring one religion over others. The group lost the first round in court, but in 2017 an appeals court ruled the cross unconstitutional. Now, the cross' supporters are asking the Supreme Court to overturn that ruling in a case the justices will hear Wednesday.

The memorial's supporters would seem to have a good shot based on the court's decision to take the case and the court's more conservative makeup, seen as more likely to uphold such displays. Plus, even liberal Justice Stephen Breyer voted in a 2005 case to uphold a Ten Commandments display on public property.

Backers of the nearly 100-year-old cross, also called the "Peace Cross," say if the justices rule against them it could threaten hundreds of monuments nationwide. Opponents, for their part, say few memorials are truly similar. They argue the cross should be moved to private property or modified into a nonreligious monument such as a slab or obelisk, a suggestion backers say would be desecration.

Arguing for the cross at the high court are The American Legion, which raised money for the cross and completed it in 1925, and officials with the state of Maryland, which took over managing the site in 1960. They have the support of the Trump administration and 30 states.

Supporters say the cross is a fixture of Bladensburg, Maryland, just about 5 miles from the Supreme Court. Traffic reporters use it as a reference point in radio reports. Residents give directions that refer to it.

Maryland officials argue that the cross doesn't violate the Constitution because it has a secular purpose and meaning, honoring veterans, in an area where several other memorials to veterans stand. On the other side, the American Humanist Association says that using a cross as a war memorial doesn't make the cross secular; it makes the war memorial Christian.

Similar monuments have met with a mixed fate at the high court. On the same day in 2005, for example, the court upheld a Ten Commandments monument on the grounds of the Texas state capitol while striking down Ten Commandments displays in Kentucky courthouses. Justice Breyer, whose vote made the difference in the outcome in both cases, said the history of the courthouse displays demonstrated a government effort to promote religion while the Texas display had a primarily nonreligious purpose.

The American Legion, represented by lawyers with the Texas-based First Liberty Institute, says that a test the court announced in 1971 for use in such cases, which asks whether the government's action has a secular purpose, advances or inhibits religion or fosters "an excessive government entanglement with religion," has proved unworkable. They say that question the justices should be asking is whether the government's action is coercive, which they say the cross is not. The court doesn't have to rule that broadly, however, to side with the monument's supporters.

The monument's backers say they just want the cross left alone. Speaking recently at an American Legion post near the cross, member Stan Shaw said modifying the cross would be "a slap in a veteran's face." As for the suggestion the monument should be moved, Mike Moore, another member, said he's "not sure how one could do it." Add that to the fact that the monument is cracking and repair work has been on hold.

Relatives of the men whose names are on the cross have also asked the court to let it stand where it is. Mary Ann LaQuay, whose uncle Thomas Fenwick's name is on the cross, says it's a way for her to remember her uncle, who caught pneumonia and died while fighting in France. His grave is in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, but LaQuay, 80, says she feels "like the cross represents his memorial."

Those challenging the cross say they want to make clear that they aren't against veterans or veterans memorials. Fred Edwards, a longtime official with the American Humanist Association, says they just don't think it's right to leave the impression that only Christian soldiers are being celebrated.

Lowe, the Maryland resident who lives near the cross, said some people have asked him: Why not just leave the cross alone?

"I think it was a violation of the Constitution when it was built," he said. "The fact that it is old doesn't make it right. It's an old wrong."

Should drug dealers be charged with murder? States ponder

By DAVE COLLINS, Associated Press

STAFFORD, Conn. (AP) — Having lost his 29-year-old son to a fentanyl overdose, Dean Palozej believes dealers who peddle drugs that kill should be locked up for a very long time — for the rest of their life, in some cases.

A state representative who heard the story felt the same way. With a piece of legislation introduced this year, he joined lawmakers around the country who have been pushing for murder or manslaughter charges in a get-tough campaign against people who supply drugs that cause fatal overdoses, in efforts to curb the opioid overdose crisis.

Spencer Palozej died Feb. 1, 2018, one day shy of his 30th birthday, at his home in Manchester. In frequent pain from injuries and surgeries, he would occasionally buy oxycodone pills from an acquaintance but received fentanyl-laced pills in his last purchase instead, Dean Palozej said. No arrests have been made.

"If they're dealing fentanyl ... they're just pumping poison out into the streets," Dean Palozej said. "I'd like to see these guys on a first offense get three to five years. The second offense, charge them with murder. This is going on way too much. People are dying."

Lawmakers in Connecticut, Hawaii, Mississippi and Virginia have proposed murder and manslaughter charges for overdoses this year. Several states passed such laws over the past two years, while others have taken to charging drug deaths under murder and manslaughter statutes that don't specifically mention overdoses.

Twenty states now have so-called "drug-induced homicide" laws that carry the same sentences as murder and manslaughter, according to the Drug Policy Alliance, a nonprofit drug policy organization based in New York.

Federal law has included a penalty of 20 years to life in prison for providing drugs that cause fatal overdoses since Congress passed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, spurred by the cocaine overdose death of basketball star Len Bias that year.

There is a debate, however, about whether such laws are good policy. Supporters say the laws are needed to properly punish and deter dealers and others who supply drugs that kill. Opponents argue those laws are not a deterrent, discourage people from calling 911 for help for overdose victims and help fuel higher arrest rates of minorities.

"Supply-side tactics really haven't been proven to work over the past five decades they've been implemented," said Lindsay LaSalle, director of public health law and policy for the Drug Policy Alliance. "I think the focus needs to be on the demand."

Statistics on murder, manslaughter and homicide prosecutions involving overdoses are not widely available because few state and local government agencies keep track. But from 2011 to 2016, the number of news stories about people charged with or prosecuted for drug-induced homicides increased from 363 to 1,178 — more than a 300 percent increase that corresponds with the rise of opioid-related deaths, according to the alliance.

Around 47,600 Americans died of opioid overdoses in 2017, a 13 percent increase compared with 2016 and more than 2½ times as many as the 18,515 opioid deaths in 2007, federal data shows. The rise of the highly potent fentanyl is the reason, law enforcement officials say.

Connecticut state Rep. Kurt Vail, a Republican who represents Dean Palozej's hometown of Stafford, introduced the proposed law in their state in January after talking with Palozej after Spencer's death. The law would make it murder to supply drugs that cause a fatal overdose, and conviction would bring a prison sentence of up to 60 years.

"I think it was kind of time to up the punishment and make it more of a deterrent to deal to these people that are using opioids," said Vail, a former correctional officer. "Those people who are taking advantage of these people who are addicted, they are scumbags."

A similar bill proposed by Vail in 2017, in response to increasing overdose deaths in his district, died in committee.

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Legislation treating overdoses as murder or manslaughter also was introduced this year in Hawaii, Mississippi and Virginia. The Mississippi bill died in committee, while the others remain pending.

Police have not made an arrest in connection with Spencer Palozej's death but have been keeping tabs on a suspect, Dean Palozej said. Shortly before his death, Spencer Palozej texted the suspect to bring him "just the regular," Dean Palozej said.

Manchester Detective Lt. John Rossetti, whose department has been investigating Spencer Palozej's death, said it often is difficult to charge someone who supplies drugs that cause an overdose. The main obstacles are finding the dealers, catching them with drugs and proving those drugs are the same ones that killed the overdose victims, he said. He declined to comment on the Spencer Palozej investigation.

Dean Palozej is upset that no arrests have been made more than a year after his son's death.

"We cry everyday all of us. It truly broke all our hearts," he said. "We have to get some laws in place that lock these guys up."

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. WHAT TOOK BEST PICTURE AT OSCARS

In an upset, the segregation-era road-trip drama "Green Book" is crowned top film at the 91st Academy Awards. Not everyone, notably Spike Lee among others, was happy with the result.

2. TRUMP REFRAMES SUMMIT EXPECTATIONS

The U.S. president lowers expectations for North Korea's denuclearization while eager to declare a flashy victory to offset the political turmoil he faces at home.

3. DENUCLEARIZATION STILL AN ELUSIVE TARGET

The issue of a declaration and verification from Pyongyang will likely eventually become a major sticking point in future negotiations as it did in past nuclear diplomacy.

4. US, VENEZUELA OPPOSITION SEEK TO OUST MADURO

Vice President Mike Pence travels to Bogota to meet with members of a regional coalition and Juan Guaido to discuss the next steps aimed at forcing out the embattled president.

5. R. KELLY REMAINS JAILED

Confidants for the 52-year-old R&B star are making arrangements to pay the \$100,000 bail needed to free him as he awaits trial for aggravated sexual abuse.

6. WHO WILL PUBLICLY OPPOSE TRUMP ON NATIONAL EMERGENCY

A group of former national security officials is set to release a statement arguing that there is no justification for the president to use such a declaration to fund a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

7. SUPREME COURT DECIDING FATE OF CROSS-SHAPED MEMORIAL

At issue is whether a 40-foot-tall concrete cross at a highway median in Maryland violates the First Amendment's establishment clause.

8. TOP HOUSE DEMOCRAT PRESSURING NEW AG BARR

Rep. Adam Schiff threatens to call Robert Mueller to testify, subpoena documents and sue the Trump administration if the full report on the special counsel's Russia investigation is not made public.

9. MARKETS CHEER TARIFF DELAY

Trump's decision to extend a deadline to escalate tariffs on Chinese imports raises cautious optimism in China and boosts share prices across Asia.

10. SERENA WILLIAMS CARTOON DEEMED NOT RACIST

A media watchdog in Australia rules there was no breach of its standards in a cartoon of the tennis star which attracted global condemnation.

Tornado death confirmed as violent storms smack the South

COLUMBUS, Miss. (AP) — Weekend storms raked parts of the Southeast, leaving deaths and injuries in their wake as a tornado smashed into a commercial district in a small Mississippi city and drenching rains fed a rising flood threat.

A woman was killed when a tornado hit Columbus, Mississippi, and a man died when he drove into floodwaters in Tennessee, officials said.

Columbus Mayor Robert Smith Sr. said 41-year-old Ashley Glynell Pounds of Tupelo and her husband were renovating a house Saturday evening, and when the husband went to get them something to eat, the building collapsed in the storm and killed her.

Smith said 12 other people were injured, but the injuries did not appear to be major. City spokesman Joe Dillon said the tornado also seriously damaged a school and two community center buildings.

"There was pretty extensive damage," Dillon said Sunday, a day after the Columbus twister struck. "But the streets today have been filled with workers and volunteers, all working hard to clean up the mess."

In Knox County, Tennessee, officials said a man died after his vehicle became submerged in high water.

Saturday afternoon's tornado in Columbus was confirmed on radar, said meteorologist Anna Wolverton with the National Weather Service in Jackson. She told The Associated Press that experts were dispatched Sunday to the east Mississippi city of about 23,000 people to gauge the tornado's intensity. Officials said a second, smaller twister damaged a mobile home and a shed and snapped trees in a small community in the region that same afternoon as severe storms rolled through.

At First Pentecostal Church in Columbus, the Rev. Steve Blaylock said the building was "a total loss," with a wall pushed in, holes in the roof and substantial water damage. He and his congregants tried to salvage what they could on the morning after the storm. But he said they still held a Sunday prayer service and even went ahead with a scheduled baptism, using a borrowed portable baptismal pool.

"We will rebuild. We've got a good church here," Blaylock said. "It'll be a testimony of God."

Residents of one street on the east side of Columbus were out early Sunday morning with chain saws, clearing away branches of the many trees that had snapped or were uprooted in the storm. Metal siding and roofing materials were scattered throughout the neighborhood of older homes. While the houses generally remained standing, sheds and outbuildings were mostly demolished.

Lee Lawrence, who said he has been selling used cars for decades in Columbus, told The AP that four buildings on his car lot were destroyed. He said trees toppled across vehicles and car windows were blown out.

Lawrence said he was at home getting ready to take a bath when the storm struck.

"The wind all of a sudden just got so strong and it was raining so much you could hardly see out the door, and I could hear a roaring. Evidently it came close," he said, speaking with AP in a phone interview.

"It will be a start-over deal," Lawrence said. "I can't say it will come back better or stronger, but we'll come back."

A photographer working for The AP in Columbus said some antique cars on Lawrence's lot were resting in the debris of a destroyed building a nearby pet grooming business appeared now to be mostly twisted piles of metal. A printing shop had been speared by a pipe.

Elsewhere around the South, homes, highways, parks and bridges were flooded or put out of commission amid the heavy rains and severe storms.

News outlets report that water rescues have been performed in some Middle Tennessee counties.

Interstate 40 near the Tennessee line with North Carolina was closed by a rockslide, one of the dozens of roads and highways shut down throughout the region, transportation officials said.

Officials said a mudslide destroyed a Subway restaurant in Signal Mountain, Tennessee. No injuries were reported.

In West Virginia, authorities have evacuated 11 families in the southern part of the state after low-lying areas flooded from heavy rains. Workers cleaned up from mudslides and high wind warnings remained in effect Sunday for much of the state. More than 50,000 customers were without power at one point,

emergency officials said, warning driving would be difficult in high winds and more power lines could fall.

In Bruce, Mississippi, rivers broke flood stage and flash floods poured into homes and businesses. News outlets report that officials in Grenada, Mississippi, declared a local state of emergency after dozens of streets and homes flooded. A 6-mile (9-kilometer) stretch of the Natchez Trace Parkway was closed in Mississippi after water covered part of the road.

Kentucky announced Friday that it was closing the U.S. 51 bridge over the Ohio River to Cairo, Illinois, because of flooding on the southern approach. The bridge, which carries 4,700 vehicles a day, is likely to stay closed until Thursday, and possibly longer.

The Ohio River at Cairo was predicted to crest Sunday at its third-highest level ever recorded, and stay that high into next week. The Tennessee River near Savannah, Tennessee, also was forecast to crest at near-record levels.

Associated Press writers Adrian Sainz in Memphis, Tennessee and Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama, contributed to this story, along with staff photographer Rogelio Solis and freelance photographer Jim Lytle working in Columbus, Mississippi.

Vietnam vows 'maximum level' security for Trump-Kim summit

By FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — With North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on an armored train barreling through China toward Vietnam's capital, and U.S. President Donald Trump about to board a jet for Hanoi, Vietnamese officials scrambled Monday to finish preparations for a rushed summit that will capture global attention.

Officials in Hanoi said they had about 10 days to prepare for the summit — much less than the nearly two months they said Singapore was given for the first Trump-Kim meeting last year— but still vowed to provide airtight security for the two leaders.

"Security will be at the maximum level," Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Le Hoai Trung told reporters at a briefing meant to showcase the nation's efforts to welcome Kim and Trump.

Another official, Nguyen Manh Hung, the leader of the information ministry, said the 3,000 journalists from 40 countries expected in Hanoi could rely on his agency as "you'd count on a family member."

The world will be watching as Trump and Kim deal with one of Asia's biggest security challenges: North Korea's pursuit of a nuclear program that stands on the verge of viably threatening any target on the planet.

Although many experts are skeptical that Kim will give up the nukes he likely sees as his best guarantee of continued rule, there was a palpable, carnival-like excitement among many in Hanoi as the final preparations were put in place.

T-shirts were being sold bearing Kim's face along with the phrase "Rocket Man," a nod to the insulting nickname Trump gave Kim in 2017, when North Korean weapons tests and back-and-forth threats by the leaders had many fearing war. Kindergarteners dressed in traditional Korean Hanbok were practicing songs meant to welcome Kim. Grinning tourists were posing in front of the hundreds of U.S. and North Korean flags around the city.

The ultra-tight security will be appreciated by North Korean authorities, who are extremely vigilant about the safety of Kim, the third member of his family to rule the North with absolute power. Kim's decision to take a train, not a plane, may have been influenced by better ability to control security. When Kim flew to Singapore, North Korea borrowed a Chinese plane.

Vietnam is eager to show off its huge economic and development improvements since the destruction of the Vietnam War, but the country also tolerates no dissent and is able to provide the kind of firm hand not allowed by more democratic potential hosts.

Take the reaction to two men impersonating Kim and Trump who'd been posing for pictures with curious onlookers ahead of the summit.

Last week, the Kim lookalike, whose name is Lee Howard Ho Wun, posted on Facebook that about 15 police or immigration officers demanded a mandatory "interview" and threatened him with deportation.

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He said officials later told him that his visa was invalid and he had to leave the country.

"I feel a little bit annoyed," the Hong Kong-based impersonator, who uses the name Howard X, said as he checked out of his hotel. "But what is to be expected of a one-party state with no sense of humor?"

Vietnam has also announced an unprecedented traffic ban along a possible arrival route for Kim. The Communist Party's Nhan Dan newspaper quoted the Roads Department as saying the ban will affect the 169-kilometer (105-mile) stretch of Highway One from Dong Dang, on the border with China, to Hanoi.

Hundreds of soldiers guarded the area near the Dong Dang railway station on Monday ahead of Kim's expected arrival. Kim may get off his train in Dong Dang and finish his journey to Hanoi by car.

There are high expectations for the Hanoi summit after a vague declaration at the first meeting in June in Singapore that disappointed many.

In a meeting with senior aides in Seoul, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Monday that the Trump-Kim talks would be a critical opportunity to achieve peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Moon, who met Kim three times last year and has lobbied hard to revive nuclear diplomacy between the U.S. and North Korea, is eager for a breakthrough that would allow him to push ambitious plans for inter-Korean engagement, including lucrative joint economic projects that are held back by U.S.-led sanctions against the North.

"If President Trump succeeds in dissolving the world's last remaining Cold War rivalry, it will become yet another great feat that will be indelibly recorded in world history," Moon said.

Trump, via Twitter, has worked to temper those expectations, predicting before leaving for Hanoi a "continuation of the progress" made in Singapore but adding a tantalizing nod to "Denuclearization?" He also said that Kim knows that "without nuclear weapons, his country could fast become one of the great economic powers anywhere in the World."

North Korea has spent decades, at great political and economic sacrifice, building its nuclear program, and there is widespread skepticism among experts that it will give away that program cheaply.

South Korean media have reported that Trump and Kim might strike a deal that stops short of a hoped-for roadmap for full North Korean denuclearization.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on "Fox News Sunday" that he was hoping for a "substantive step forward." He cautioned, "it may not happen, but I hope that it will."

AP journalists Yves Dam Van in Dong Dang and Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report.

Top Oscar moments: Buoyant Spike Lee, daffy Olivia Colman

By JOCELYN NOVECK, AP National Writer

Spike Lee bounding into the arms of Samuel L. Jackson, and trading shout-outs to Brooklyn (and hats!) with Barbra Streisand. A weeping Lady Gaga in her elegant up-do, extolling the virtues of hard work. A stunned Olivia Colman and her delightfully daft acceptance speech. Historic breakthroughs for winners of color, and for women.

Yes, the hostless Oscars at first threatened to be a rather antiseptic affair, but the brisk-moving ceremony soon came alive with genuinely moving feel-good moments and heartwarming surprises — though it finished on a decidedly unsettled note with a best-picture win for the divisive segregation-era drama "Green Book."

Some key moments from one of the more unusual nights in recent Oscar memory:

WAKANDA MAKES HISTORY, AGAIN

It was a great night for diversity at the Oscars, thanks in part to the groundbreaking Marvel film "Black Panther." Celebrated costume designer Ruth E. Carter won for her vivid, futuristic designs, the first black winner in the category, and moments later Hannah Beachler became the first black winner (and nominee,

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too) in production design. "This has been a long time coming," mused Carter, who thanked the academy for honoring "the empowered way women can look and lead onscreen." As for Beachler, she gave a deeply emotional speech, singling out the ways she had become stronger. "I give the strength to all of those who come next to keep going, to never give up," she said.

FINALLY, OSCAR DOES THE 'RIGHT THING'

Carter also thanked Lee, with whom she worked on the 1992 "Malcolm X," and soon Lee himself was onstage, accepting his award for best adapted screenplay for "BlackKkKlansman." It was perhaps the feel-good moment of the night as the director, who'd never won a competitive Oscar, leaped up into the arms of presenter Jackson. His speech touched on Black History Month, Jamestown, and his own grandmother, "who called me Spikey-poo," and used her Social Security checks to put him through school. He ended with a political call to arms: "Let's all be on the right side of history," he said of the presidential election. "Let's do the right thing!"

A GREAT NIGHT FOR GRANDMA...

It wasn't just Lee's grandma who came in for special praise. Best supporting actor Mahershala Ali dedicated his second Oscar to his own grandmother, "who has been in my ear my entire life, telling me that if first I don't succeed, try try again, that I could do anything I put my mind to." And if it wasn't Grandma, it was Mom. Best supporting actress Regina King brought mother Gloria as her date, and thanked her tearfully "for teaching me that God is always leaning in my direction." Best actor Rami Malek also pointed out his mom as he accepted his award for "Bohemian Rhapsody," saying, "I love you, lady." Carter, winning her costume award, called her own 97-year-old mother "the original superhero." Best actress nominee Yalitza Aparicio brought her mother as her date, at one point introducing her to actor Diego Luna. Not to be outdone, while closing the show presenter Julia Roberts thanked her children — and "Bradley Cooper's mother."

... AND ACTUALLY FOR ALL WOMEN...

A record number of women took home Oscars on Sunday — 15. It had been a record year for female nominees, too. But that doesn't mean the picture is entirely rosy. After all, none of this year's nominated films for best picture had a female director. And there's still the glaring statistic that only one woman has won best director in the history of the Oscars: Kathryn Bigelow. And only five have been nominated, including none this year.

AND FOR ... BUNNIES?

So there may not have been an actual Oscar host giving regular comic asides, but Melissa McCarthy delivered a huge laugh just when it was needed. Presenting the costume award along with Brian Tyree Henry, McCarthy, a nominee for best actress, appeared in an elaborate royal get-up, channeling Olivia Colman's Queen Anne in "The Favourite," including a cape embellished with stuffed rabbits — a reference to the queen's beloved pets. The two actors dryly hailed costume designers for their "nuance and sophistication," and also for "never distracting from the story." This, as McCarthy wrestled with a stuffed rabbit on her hand that prevented her from opening the envelope.

THE QUEEN PREVAILS

In the night's most stunning upset, it was Colman, and not the heavily favored Glenn Close, who took the best actress trophy for her blazingly eccentric turn in "The Favourite." The British actress then proceeded to charm the audience — and the world — with a tearful yet goofy acceptance speech. "Ooh, this is genuinely quite stressful," she began, adding that it was "hilarious" that she had an Oscar. Her delightfully daft remarks got better and better, culminating with a random gush: "LADY GAGA!!"

OH, SPEAKING OF GAGA

While the lady herself didn't take home the actress prize for "A Star Is Born," she did get her Oscar, for the addictive song "Shallow," which she performed with co-star and director Bradley Cooper. Gaga was weeping with joy as she accepted the award along with co-writers Mark Ronson, Andrew Wyatt and Anthony Rossomando. After thanking Cooper for believing in her, she gave the kind of inspirational talk she's become known for on the awards circuit: "If you are at home and you're sitting on your couch, and you are watching this right now, all I have to say is that this is hard work," she said. "I've worked hard for

a long time, and it's not about winning. But what it's about is not giving up."

A FIRST FOR MEXICO

This was definitely not the first rodeo for Mexican director Alfonso Cuarón, who'd already won the best director prize for the 2014 "Gravity." With this year's much-lauded and highly personal project "Roma," he picked up another directing award and the cinematography prize, but "Roma" also won the foreign language award, a first for Mexico. "I grew up watching foreign language films and learning so much from them and being inspired," Cuarón said, noting slyly that they included "Citizen Kane" and "Jaws" and "The Godfather." Despite his growing Oscar haul, Cuarón remarked with a smile: "It never gets old being up here."

For full coverage of the Oscars, visit: <https://apnews.com/AcademyAwards> .

AP Explains: How to verify North Korea's nukes

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — The success of this week's second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un hinges largely on whether Kim proves he's truly committed to denuclearization.

One of the simplest and surest ways for Kim to do so is by disclosing a detailed, complete inventory of his nuclear program and allowing a robust verification process. But he's already opposed submitting such a declaration, saying it's no different from providing the U.S. with a target list.

The summit in Hanoi may end without the submission of a nuclear declaration. But unless Trump wants to settle for the partial denuclearization of North Korea, the issue of a declaration and verification will likely eventually become a major sticking point in future negotiations as it did in past nuclear diplomacy.

A look at the declaration and verification standoff, which sparked the first round of the North Korean nuclear crisis 25 years ago and derailed six-nation diplomacy a decade ago:

THE DECLARATION DISPUTE

North Korea's nuclear program remains shrouded in near-total secrecy. There are outside estimates on the North's advancing weapons arsenals, but they vary widely.

If Kim really plans to abandon his nuclear ambition entirely as he's pledged, he can first disclose details about his weapons program such as the number of nuclear warheads and missiles, the amount of fissile materials for bombs and alleged covert uranium-enrichment plants.

Then, he can let the U.S. and others verify his information by allowing them to visit declared sites, take samples, and interview scientists and engineers working there. This kind of verification must come before North Korea takes steps to disable, dismantle or destroy its nuclear facilities so as to prevent it from destroying evidence about its past nuclear activities, said analyst Shin Beomchul of Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies.

But during a meeting with visiting South Korean President Moon Jae-in in September, Kim said that "a request to submit (the declaration) at a time when confidence between the U.S. and North Korea hasn't been established is same as requesting to submit a list of places for strikes," according to Moon's office.

Shin said Kim "is just trying to find an excuse not to" submit a declaration. He said North Korea can provide an initial declaration without specifying the locations for its nuclear-related assets so it doesn't have to worry about U.S. attacks, and can declare their locations when it decides to have them denuclearized.

"A full declaration is a dead end because it is tantamount to surrender, and Kim has not surrendered nor will he," nuclear physicist Siegfried S. Hecker, who has repeatedly visited nuclear facilities in North Korea, wrote in late November on 38 North, a website specializing in North Korea studies.

Hecker said actions like North Korea destroying a key nuclear facility and the U.S. taking steps toward normalizing ties would serve to build the trust required for the North to initiate a phased declaration process.

WHAT MATTERS?

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It's no secret North Korea has facilities to produce both plutonium and highly enriched uranium, two key ingredients to manufacture bombs, at its main Yongbyon nuclear complex north of Pyongyang. Its plutonium factories were once the subject of international inspections, and North Korea in 2010 unveiled a small industrial-scale uranium enrichment facility at Yongbyon to a Stanford University delegation that included Hecker.

But it's not clear exactly how much weapons-grade plutonium or highly enriched uranium has been produced there or where the fissile materials are now. South Korean and other foreign assessments say the North has used some of those materials to build up to 60-70 nuclear warheads, but it's not known where those weapons are deployed. The North has more than 1,000 ballistic missiles, some of which can be loaded with those bombs, but there is also no reliable information about their exact locations.

"The core of a declaration should be the amount of nuclear materials and warheads, rather than plants that have already been exposed to us," said analyst Lee Choon Geun of South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute.

Plutonium-related factories are relatively large and generate much heat, making it easier for outsiders to detect. Thus, with satellite photos and reactor details from past inspections, it isn't too difficult to estimate plutonium inventories. But it's much more difficult or virtually impossible to estimate uranium inventories because the North is likely running multiple uranium-enrichment plants, experts say.

In South Korea, there has been recent media speculation that the North could end up providing a partial nuclear declaration during the Vietnam summit.

Stephen Biegun, the top U.S. envoy on North Korea, suggested that Washington might not push for a declaration at the start of the North's denuclearization procedures.

"Before the process of denuclearization can be final, we must also have a complete understanding of the full extent of the North Korean weapons of mass destruction missile programs," Biegun said in a Jan. 31 speech at Stanford University. "We will get that at some point through a comprehensive declaration."

PAST WRAGGLING

North Korea's nuclear quest traces back to the late 1950s, when it signed a nuclear cooperation agreement with the Soviet Union. But it still joined the U.N.'s atomic watchdog, the IAEA, in 1974 and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1985.

After years of delay, North Korea submitted an inventory of its nuclear facilities and accepted IAEA inspections in 1992. But inconsistencies quickly emerged between a North Korean declaration of the amount of plutonium extracted from spent reactor fuel at Yongbyon and an IAEA analysis.

The IAEA demanded special inspections at two undeclared sites. After rejecting that, an angry North Korea announced in 1993 that it was withdrawing from the nonproliferation treaty, touching off the first nuclear crisis. In June 1994, it quit the IAEA.

Tensions were lowered after the U.S. and North Korea signed a landmark disarmament-for-aid deal in October 1994. But the second crisis flared in 2002, when U.S. officials accused North Korea of covertly running a uranium-enrichment program.

Five years of regional disarmament talks involving the U.S., North and South Korea, China, Russia and Japan were subsequently launched in 2003. The six-party talks, held in Beijing in fits and starts, led North Korea to disable key elements at its plutonium-producing facilities at Yongbyon in return for energy, economic and security benefits.

In June 2008, North Korea handed over 18,000 pages of documents on its plutonium program, and a 60-page, partial accounting of its nuclear program that omitted details about nuclear warheads, a uranium-enrichment program and possible nuclear proliferation. The U.S. still responded by removing the North from its terrorism blacklist and relaxed some trade sanctions.

But squabbling erupted soon over how to verify North Korea's nuclear past.

U.S. officials said North Korea had previously agreed to allow experts to take samples and conduct forensic tests at all of its declared nuclear facilities and undeclared sites. But the North countered that it

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only agreed to let nuclear inspectors visit its Yongbyon complex, view related documents and interview scientists, and said it would not allow outside inspectors to take samples.

Six-party talks held in December 2008 failed to resolve that dispute and have never been held again.

Former US security officials to oppose emergency declaration

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group of former U.S. national security officials is set to release a statement arguing there is no justification for President Donald Trump to use a national emergency declaration to fund a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The statement, which was reviewed by The Associated Press, has 58 signatures from prominent former officials, including former Secretaries of State Madeline Albright and John Kerry, former Defense Secretaries Chuck Hagel and Leon Panetta and former Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

The statement is set to be released Monday, a day before the Democratic-controlled House is expected to vote to block Trump from using the declaration. The measure is sure to pass, and the GOP-run Senate may adopt it as well, though Trump has already promised a veto.

"There is no factual basis for the declaration of a national emergency," says the statement, which argues that border crossings are near a 40-year low and that there is no terrorist emergency at the border.

Trump declared an emergency to obtain wall funding beyond the \$1.4 billion Congress approved for border security. The move allows the president to bypass Congress to use money from the Pentagon and other budgets.

Trump's edict is also being challenged in the federal courts, where a host of Democratic-led states such as California are among those that have sued to overturn Trump's order.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump's repeated fabrications on voting fraud

By HOPE YEN, CALVIN WOODWARD and CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is spreading tall tales about election fraud.

Asked about ballot malfeasance involving a Republican in North Carolina, the president insisted he condemns voter fraud "of any kind, whether it's Democrat or Republican" and pointed to a "million fraudulent votes" cast in California. But no such case exists.

In fact, he has frequently asserted massive fraud in California since losing the state in 2016 to Democrat Hillary Clinton by more than 4 million votes, but has not cited any evidence. He's made similar assertions about voting fraud in Florida and Texas, also off the mark.

Heading into his summit this week with North Korea's leader, Trump also has been misrepresenting the history of diplomacy with that country, ignoring the work of predecessors. Democrats, meantime, went after Trump for holding migrant children in the same chain-link facilities used by the Obama administration, calling them "cages" to suggest Trump is acting with singular cruelty.

A look at some of the political rhetoric:

VOTING FRAUD

TRUMP: "I condemn any election fraud. And when I look at what's happened in California with the votes, when I look at what happened — as you know, there was just a case where they found a million fraudulent votes. ...When I look at what's happened in Texas. When I look at that catastrophe that took place in Florida where the Republican candidates kept getting less and less and less and less. And fortunately, Rick Scott and Ron ended up winning their election, but it was disgraceful what happened there. ...I condemn any voter fraud of any kind, whether it's Democrat or Republican. ...And that includes North Carolina." — remarks Friday with China's Vice Premier Liu He.

THE FACTS: Actually, there have been no reported cases of 1 million fraudulent votes cast in California, nor has Trump provided any support for his claim of widespread fraud. He's also misrepresenting cases in Texas and Florida.

Trump pointed to other cases when asked about evidence of fraud involving a Republican in North Carolina. The state's elections board last week ordered a new House election after GOP candidate Mark Harris

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conceded his lead was tainted by evidence of ballot-tampering by political operatives working for him.

But Trump is making unfounded charges of fraud in Florida's Senate and governor races, which he has previously asserted were nearly "stolen" by Democrats.

He describes a dwindling vote margin as suspicious, but it is not uncommon for vote tallies to change in the days after the election as local officials process mailed and provisional ballots. In Florida, both Scott and governor's candidate Rick DeSantis saw their leads fall as the Democratic strongholds of Palm Beach and Broward counties continued to count votes.

Scott was still governor when he alleged possible fraud in his Senate race. The governor's state agencies charged with investigating impropriety said no credible allegations existed. The two GOP candidates ultimately prevailed in their races after a recount.

Trump also refers to a report from the Texas secretary of state's office last month suggesting as many as 95,000 non-U.S. citizens may be on the state's voter rolls and as many as 58,000 may have cast a ballot at least once since 1996, which Trump has described as the "tip of the iceberg." Since the report came out, however, state elections officials have acknowledged serious problems with citizens being wrongly included in the original data. The list has subsequently been cut by at least 20,000 names — voters who turned out to be citizens. While it's possible some foreigners voted, there are no signs of a widespread number as Trump has suggested that would change an electoral outcome.

NORTH KOREA

TRUMP, on getting North Korea to "denuclearize": "I think they want to do something. But you know, you've been talking about this for 80 years. They've been talking about this for many, many years, and no administration has done anything." — remarks Wednesday with Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz.

THE FACTS: He's wrong in suggesting his administration is the first to start on denuclearization with North Korea. The Bill Clinton and George W. Bush administrations both did so.

Clinton reached an aid-for-disarmament deal in 1994 that halted North Korea's plutonium production for eight years, freezing what was then a very small nuclear arsenal. Bush took a tougher stance toward North Korea, and the 1994 nuclear deal collapsed because of suspicions that the North was running a secret uranium enrichment program. Bush, too, ultimately pursued negotiations. That led to a temporary disabling of some nuclear facilities, but talks fell apart because of differences over verification. What has most advanced under Trump is the level of engagement with North Korea. He is the first to meet the leader of North Korea.

2018 ELECTIONS

TRUMP: "There is far more ENERGY on the Right than there is on the Left. That's why we just won the Senate and why we will win big in 2020. The Fake News just doesn't want to report the facts. Border Security is a big factor." — tweet Saturday.

THE FACTS: He's entitled to that opinion. But the non-observer of U.S. politics would not know from that comment that while Republicans maintained control of the Senate in November, Democrats took control of the House. Lawmakers from both parties have blocked Trump's request for \$5.7 billion to fulfill his pledge to build a wall, leading him to declare a national emergency this month to shift money earmarked for military construction to the border without congressional approval.

Democrats have introduced a resolution disapproving of the declaration and it was likely to pass both chambers of Congress and face a presidential veto.

MIGRANT CHILDREN

SEN. KAMALA HARRIS of California, a Democratic presidential contender: "The trauma these children experience will live on for decades to come. It's absurd that it needs to be repeated: Ripping babies away from their parents to put them in cages is inhumane." — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: The "cages" are chain-link fences and the Obama administration used them for migrant children, too. That hasn't stopped a variety of Democrats from seizing on the visceral kids-in-cages image

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as evidence of Trump administration cruelty. Among them, Democrat Stacey Abrams, in her response to Trump's State of the Union address, declared "this administration chooses to cage children."

Children are held behind chain link fences inside Border Patrol facilities. Obama's administration detained large numbers of unaccompanied children in such a manner in 2014 during a surge of migrant children at the border. Images that circulated online of children in chain link pens during the height of Trump's family separations controversy — and blamed on him — were actually from 2014 when Obama was in office.

Children are placed in such areas by age and sex for safety reasons and are generally held for up to 72 hours by the Border Patrol. They then go into the custody of the Health and Human Services Department and are housed in shelters until they are placed with sponsors in the U.S., usually parents or close relatives. Some children who are with their families will go into family detention or will be released with their family into the country as their immigration cases play out.

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

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

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

EMERGENCY DECLARATION

SEN. KEVIN CRAMER, Republican of North Dakota: "Barack Obama declared a national emergency to fight swine flu and we didn't have a single case of it in the United States." — podcast posted Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Cramer is wrong. More than 1,000 people had died in the U.S. from the flu strain known as H1N1, commonly called the swine flu, by the time Obama declared a national emergency over the outbreak Oct. 23, 2009. The first swine flu death in the U.S. was reported in April 2009. By the time of Obama's declaration, widespread flu activity was reported in 46 states. The government estimates the flu strain was linked to more than 274,000 hospitalizations and 12,000 deaths in the U.S. between April 2009 and April 2010, according to final figures released in 2011.

Cramer's false statement that Obama declared an emergency absent any deaths came as he argued that Trump was justified in declaring one to find money to build his proposed border wall.

THE WALL

TRUMP: "We have just built this powerful Wall in New Mexico. Completed on January 30, 2019 - 47 days ahead of schedule! Many miles more now under construction! #FinishTheWall." — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: This is the latest of many examples of Trump presenting replacement fencing or pre-existing barrier as evidence that his promised wall is coming along. In reality, Trump has not completed any additional miles of barrier in his presidency.

In this case, he is citing the replacement of 20 miles (32 kilometers) of existing fencing at Santa Teresa, New Mexico, just outside El Paso, the only barrier construction in New Mexico so far. The \$73 million project started in April.

Construction was beginning this month for 14 miles (22 km) of new fencing in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas — the first additional miles of barrier in Trump's presidency. That's from money approved by Congress a year ago.

Money approved by Congress this month to avert a government shutdown would cover about 55 more miles (88 km) and he's trying unilaterally to free up money for more.

Trump now often incorrectly portrays his wall as largely complete, with the rally cry, "Finish the wall,"

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which replaced his initial slogan, "Build the wall." In fact, the barrier now in service — about 650 miles (1,050 km) of fencing — was put in place by previous administrations.

TRUMP: "The failed Fast Train project in California, where the cost overruns are becoming world record setting, is hundreds of times more expensive than the desperately needed Wall!" — tweet Tuesday.

THE FACTS: The high-speed rail project is nowhere close to being "hundreds of times" more expensive than Trump's proposed border wall. The estimated cost for a San Francisco-to-Los Angeles train has more than doubled to \$77 billion. That's about 13 times the \$5.7 billion Trump sought unsuccessfully from Congress to build just part of the wall. Last year, he sought \$25 billion to pay the full costs of building his wall, also rejected by Congress. The California project would cost three times more than that — far from "hundreds of times more."

Gov. Gavin Newsom, D-Calif., said earlier this month the project "as currently planned, would cost too much and take too long." He said the state would focus on completing a shorter segment in the Central Valley while seeking money from new sources for the longer route.

ILLEGAL CROSSINGS

CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL XAVIER BECERRA, on whether there's a crisis at the border: "We have the lowest level of entries into the country by those that don't have permission than we've had in some 20 years." — interview with ABC's "This Week" on Feb. 17.

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

Illegal crossings remain relatively low in historical terms but not as low as Becerra claims. California is leading a 16-state coalition in a suit challenging Trump's power to declare an emergency to steer more money to build a wall along the Mexico border.

DEMS ON ECONOMY

SEN. BERNIE SANDERS of Vermont, announcing his run for president: "We should not have an economy in which tens of millions of workers earn starvation wages." — email Tuesday to supporters.

THE FACTS: Sanders is overstating his case regarding "starvation wages."

According to his campaign, he defines "starvation wages" as anything below \$15 an hour. But if a family, for example, has two people making \$14 an hour each, working full time, that's roughly \$56,000 in household income before taxes. If they live outside large, expensive cities, their costs of living will also be relatively low. The Census Bureau considers a single parent with two children to be poor if they earn less than \$19,749, or about \$9.90 an hour.

It's true that many people with jobs are still poor. In 2016, census data showed that 7.2 million people were working, but still lived below the poverty line. It's also true that a lot of workers — nearly 40 percent, or 60 million — earn less than \$15 an hour, according to government data compiled by the liberal Economic Policy Institute. But wages have also been rising in the past several years for lower-income workers, thanks in part to higher minimum wages. For those at the 20th percentile of earnings — meaning that 80 percent of workers earn more — their wages rose 4.8 percent last year, more than any other income group, according to that institute.

SEN. KAMALA HARRIS: "The average tax refund is down about \$170 compared to last year. Let's call the President's tax cut what it is: a middle-class tax hike to line the pockets of already wealthy corporations and the 1%." — tweet Feb. 11.

THE FACTS: She's wrong to suggest that smaller tax refunds basically amount to a "middle-class tax

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hike." The size of a refund doesn't necessarily have anything to do with how much someone is paying in taxes. Many people ended up with less of their taxes withheld from their paychecks in 2018 as a result of Trump's tax cut. That would result in a smaller refund, but it doesn't mean they paid more in federal taxes.

Explaining the tweet, a campaign spokeswoman, Kirsten Allen, said "many middle-class families are seeing increases, while the bulk of the benefits go to corporations and the wealthy. And the long term analysis of this bill is that it raises middle-class taxes." Allen also noted that high-tax states such as California are particularly affected because the new law caps the deduction for state and local taxes at \$10,000.

Trump's tax cut did skew to the wealthy, but most middle-income taxpayers should see a tax cut this year, according to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center. The average taxpayer is expected to get a tax cut of about \$1,600 in 2018, the center calculates, with two-thirds of U.S. taxpayers getting a cut and about 6 percent paying more.

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

TRUMP: "The Mueller investigation is totally conflicted, illegal and rigged! Should never have been allowed to begin, except for the Collusion and many crimes committed by the Democrats. Witch Hunt!" — tweet Feb. 17.

THE FACTS: Trump's frequent claim that Mueller's team is "totally conflicted" to the point of being rigged is off the mark.

He's previously pointed to Mueller's team, for instance, as "13 angry Democrats," even though Mueller is a Republican and some others on his team owe their jobs largely to Republican presidents. Some have indeed given money to Democratic candidates over the years. But Mueller could not have barred them from serving on that basis because regulations prohibit the consideration of political affiliation for personnel actions involving career attorneys. Mueller reports to Attorney General William Barr, and before him, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who are both Trump appointees.

Mueller was appointed as special counsel by Rosenstein in May 2017, eight days after Trump's abrupt firing of FBI Director James Comey and the subsequent disclosure that Trump had encouraged Comey to drop an investigation into former national security adviser Michael Flynn, according to Comey, which raised questions about possible obstruction of justice. Trump has denied he told Comey to end the Flynn probe.

Associated Press writers Amanda Seitz in Chicago, Susan Montoya Bryan in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Elliot Spagat in San Diego and Jill Colvin, Juana Summers and Colleen Long in Washington contributed to this report.

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Maduro opponents boost military rhetoric in Venezuela crisis

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and CHRISTINE ARMARIO, Associated Press

CUCUTA, Colombia (AP) — Opposition leader Juan Guaido has called on the international community to consider "all options" to resolve Venezuela's crisis, a dramatic escalation in rhetoric that echoes comments from the Trump administration hinting at potential U.S. military involvement.

Guaido's comments late Saturday came after a tumultuous day that saw President Nicolas Maduro's forces fire tear gas and buckshot on activists trying to deliver humanitarian aid in violent clashes that left two people dead and some 300 injured.

For weeks, the U.S. and regional allies had been amassing emergency food and medical kits on Venezuela's borders in anticipation of carrying out a "humanitarian avalanche" by land and sea to undermine Maduro's rule.

With activists failing to penetrate government blockades and deliver the aid, Guaido announced late Saturday that he would escalate his appeal to the international community — beginning with a meeting

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Monday in Colombia's capital with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence on the sidelines of an emergency summit of leaders of the so-called Lima Group to discuss Venezuela's crisis.

He said he would urge the international community to keep "all options open" in the fight to restore Venezuela's democracy, using identical language to that of President Donald Trump, who in his public statements has repeatedly refused to rule out force and reportedly even secretly pressed aides as early as 2017 about the possibility of a military incursion.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has also stepped up the belligerent rhetoric, saying on CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday that Maduro's "days are numbered."

Republican Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, who visited the border last week and has Trump's ear on policy toward Venezuela, tweeted out pictures of anti-American strongmen including Panama's Manuel Noriega, Libya's Moammar Gadhafi and Romania's Nicolae Ceausescu at the height of their power and then brutal downfall — the not so subtle suggestion being that Maduro himself could suffer a similar fate.

A close Guaido ally, Julio Borges, the exiled leader of congress who is Guaido's ambassador to the Lima Group, was even more explicit in urging a military option. "We are going to demand an escalation of diplomatic pressure ... and the use of force against Nicolas Maduro's dictatorship," he said Sunday.

It's a prospect that analysts warn risks fracturing a hard-won coalition of Latin American nations who've come together to pressure Maduro's socialist government. Most Latin American governments, even conservative ones like those in neighboring Colombia and Brazil, are on the record opposing a military solution and would face huge dissent should they back any military action led by the U.S., whose interventions in the region during the Cold War remain an open wound.

"These governments know they would face a huge tide of internal opinion greatly offended by a U.S.-led invasion for historical and political reasons," said Ivan Briscoe, the Latin America director for the Crisis Group, a Belgium-based think tank.

It also could split what has until been bipartisan support for the Trump administration's policy toward Venezuela.

Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut, a senior Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, over the weekend warned about a "potential trap being set by Trump."

"Cheering humanitarian convoys sounds like the right thing to do, but what if it's not about the aid? What if the real agenda is laying a pretext for war?" Murphy said on Twitter.

At the same time, though polls say Venezuelans overwhelmingly want Maduro to resign, almost an equal number reject the possibility of a foreign invasion to resolve the political impasse.

Resting at the foot of the Simon Bolivar bridge as work crews in Colombia began removing debris left by the unrest, Claudia Aguilar said she would support a military invasion but worries it would lead to more bloodshed.

The 29-year-old pregnant mother of three said she crossed illegally into Colombia on Sunday to buy a bag of rice and pasta for her family after Maduro ordered a partial closure of the border two days earlier.

"We're with fear, dear God, of what will happen," she said standing near the dirt trail she took to sneak across the border. "More blood, more deaths. The president of Venezuela does whatever he wants."

In addition to weakening multilateral pressure against Maduro, analysts say the opposition saber rattling also risks undermining Guaido's goal of peeling off support from the military, the country's crucial powerbroker.

The 35-year-old Guaido has won the backing of more than 50 governments around the world since declaring himself interim president at a rally in January, arguing that Maduro's re-election last year was illegitimate because some popular opposition candidates were barred from running.

But he's so far been unable to cause a major rift inside the military, despite repeated appeals and the offer of amnesty to those joining the opposition's fight for power.

"How many of you national guardsmen have a sick mother? How many have kids in school without food," he implored Saturday night, standing next to a warehouse where 600 tons of food and medicine have been stockpiled on the Colombian border. "You don't owe any obedience to a sadist ... who celebrates

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the denial of humanitarian aid the country needs.”

Maduro has deftly courted support from the military since becoming president in 2013, offering top commanders key posts in his cabinet, including the presidency of state-run oil giant PDVSA, the source of virtually all of Venezuela’s dollar earnings.

More than 100 members of the security forces, most of them lower-rank soldiers, deserted and took refuge inside Colombia during Saturday’s unrest, according to migration officials. But none of them was higher ranked than a National Guard major, and there’s been little suggestion any battalion or division commanders are willing to defect despite almost daily calls by Guaido and the U.S.

To be sure, there’s no indication the U.S. is planning a military invasion and Trump has made a habit of threatening friends and foes alike — China, North Korea and Canada among them — only to dial back the rhetoric down the road. Washington still has more diplomatic tools available, including extending oil sanctions to punish non-American entities that conduct business with Maduro’s government in much the way such sanctions strangled communist Cuba for decades.

Still, as early as 2017, Trump reportedly raised the possibility of a U.S. military incursion in Venezuela similar to the 1989 invasion that led to the ouster of Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega, both in an Oval Office meeting with then Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and other aides, as well as at a session with leaders of four Latin American allies on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, according to a senior administration official who has since left the White House.

In both cases Trump abandoned the war talk at the urging of his advisers and allies in the region. Prior to the current crisis, there was never any war planning by the military, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in order to discuss the private conversations.

Still, momentum toward a confrontation seems to be building as hopes for a quick crumbling of Maduro’s government fade.

“It acts like a magnet,” said Briscoe of the possibility of a U.S.-led intervention. “As Plan A and B fail, it’s where everyone seems to be going. But the further you move in that direction, you weaken the multilateral approach and reduce the possibility that large parts of the military will turn against Maduro.”

Associated Press writer Joshua Goodman reported from Caracas, Venezuela, and AP writer Christine Armario reported in Cucuta, Colombia.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Feb. 25, the 56th day of 2019. There are 309 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Feb. 25, 1986, President Ferdinand Marcos fled the Philippines after 20 years of rule in the wake of a tainted election; Corazon Aquino assumed the presidency.

On this date:

In 1570, England’s Queen Elizabeth I was excommunicated by Pope Pius V, who accused the monarch of heresy.

In 1793, President George Washington held the first Cabinet meeting on record at his Mount Vernon home; attending were Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of War Henry Knox and Attorney General Edmund Randolph.

In 1836, inventor Samuel Colt patented his revolver.

In 1862, Nashville, Tenn., became the first Confederate state capital to be occupied by the North during the Civil War.

In 1901, United States Steel Corp. was incorporated by J.P. Morgan.

In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving Congress the power to levy and collect income taxes, was declared in effect by Secretary of State Philander Chase Knox.

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In 1919, Oregon became the first state to tax gasoline, at one cent per gallon.

In 1922, French serial killer Henri Landru, convicted of murdering 10 women and the son of one of them, was executed in Versailles (vehr-SY').

In 1964, Eastern Airlines Flight 304, a DC-8, crashed shortly after taking off from New Orleans International Airport, killing all 58 on board. Muhammad Ali (then known as Cassius Clay) became world heavyweight boxing champion as he defeated Sonny Liston in Miami Beach.

In 1983, playwright Tennessee Williams was found dead in his New York hotel suite; he was 71.

In 1991, during the Persian Gulf War, 28 Americans were killed when an Iraqi Scud missile hit a U.S. barracks in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

In 1994, American-born Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein opened fire with an automatic rifle inside the Tomb of the Patriarchs in the West Bank, killing 29 Muslims before he was beaten to death by worshippers. At the Winter Olympics in Norway, Oksana Baiul of Ukraine won the gold medal in ladies' figure skating while Nancy Kerrigan won the silver and Chen Lu of China the bronze; Tonya Harding came in eighth.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama introduced former Washington Gov. Gary Locke as his nominee for commerce secretary after two earlier choices dropped out. A Turkish Airlines Boeing 737 crashed while trying to land at Amsterdam's main airport, but 126 of the people on board survived; nine were killed, including the pilots.

Five years ago: In a blunt warning to Afghan President Hamid Karzai, President Barack Obama threatened to withdraw all U.S. troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2014 if a crucial security pact wasn't signed. (U.S. and Afghan officials signed the pact in Sept. 2014.) Jim Lange, the first host of the popular game show "The Dating Game," died in Mill Valley, California, at age 81.

One year ago: China's official news agency said the country's ruling Communist Party had proposed scrapping term limits for China's president, appearing to lay the groundwork for Xi Jinping to rule as president beyond 2023. (China's rubber-stamp lawmakers approved that change on March 11.) The board of directors of The Weinstein Company, co-founded by Harvey Weinstein, said the company would likely file for bankruptcy after last-ditch talks to sell its assets collapsed. (A private equity firm emerged in May as the winning bidder for the company.) Students at the Florida high school where 17 classmates and staff members were killed returned to gather belongings that had been abandoned in panic during the shooting. The Winter Olympics in South Korea came to an end as officials from North and South Korea shared a VIP box at the closing ceremonies with U.S. presidential adviser and first daughter Ivanka Trump.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Ann McCrea is 88. Actor Tom Courtenay is 82. Former CBS newsman Bob Schieffer is 82. Actress Diane Baker is 81. Actress Karen Grassle is 77. Former talk show host Sally Jessy Raphael is 77. Former professional wrestler Ric Flair is 70. Humorist Jack Handey is 70. Movie director Neil Jordan is 69. Rock singer-musician/actor John Doe (X) is 66. Rock musician Dennis Diken (The Smithereens) is 62. Rock singer-musician Mike Peters (The Alarm; Big Country) is 60. Actress Veronica Webb is 54. Actor Alexis Denisof is 53. Actress Tea (TAY'-ah) Leoni is 53. Comedian Carrot Top is 52. Actress Lesley Boone is 51. Actor Sean Astin is 48. Singer Daniel Powter is 48. Latin singer Julio Iglesias Jr. is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Justin Jeffre is 46. Rock musician Richard Liles is 46. Actor Anson Mount is 46. Comedian-actress Chelsea Handler is 44. Actress Rashida Jones is 43. Country singer Shawna Thompson (Thompson Square) is 41. Actor Justin Berfield is 33. Actors James and Oliver Phelps ("Harry Potter" movies) are 33. Actress Jameela Jamil is 33. Rock musician Erik Haager (Carolina Liar) is 32.

Thought for Today: "He who never leaves his country is full of prejudices." — Carlo Goldoni, Italian playwright (born this date in 1707, died 1793).

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