

Groton Daily Independent

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Groton Area Schedule of Events

Groton Area is closed today
Tuesday, March 5, 2019
State Student Congress

Service Notice: LeRoy Woods

Mass of Christian Burial for LeRoy Woods, 78, of Groton and formerly of Garden City, will be 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 6th at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton. Father Mike Kelly will officiate. Burial will follow at a later date in Garden City under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held Tuesday at the church from 5-7 p.m. with a wake service at 7:00 p.m.

LeRoy passed away March 3, 2019 at Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center.

Help Wanted

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

CLOSED! Recycling
Trailer in Groton

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

- 1- Service Notice: LeRoy Woods
- 1- Help Wanted
- 1- Bates Township Notice
- 2- Glimpse from Greenfield
- 2- Truss Pros is Hiring
- 4- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 5- I "Hate" Winter Party at Groton Care & Rehab
- 6- Dinger and Bisbee accepted into SD Middle School All State Band
- 7- Nine Jackrabbits earn Big 12 academic awards including Hawkins
- 9- Men's basketball spreads the wealth in quarterfinal victory over Sioux Falls
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Bates Township

BATES TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Bates Township will hold its annual meeting and election on Tuesday, March 5th, 2019 at the home of the Clerk, 14523 409th Ave, Conde.

Election of officers and business meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m.

We will be receiving bids for road maintenance and gravel. Please mail bids to

Betty Geist, Bates Township Clerk, 14523 409th Ave., Conde, SD 57434 prior to meeting date.

Betty Geist, Township Clerk



Glimpse From Greenfield

Brock Greenfield
State Senator
District 2

As Session began this year, there lingered an issue that pitted our Rural Electric Associates versus those municipalities who provide electrical services. The concern rested with service areas and a SD law that was passed in the 1970's. That law allows municipalities to annex new areas and to take over REA service areas. This is of particular concern in areas that are boasting residential growth and commercial growth outside the boundaries of cities.

The law from the 70's seems to many to be fundamentally flawed because, although it calls for muni's to compensate REA's, the formula calls for repayment over the course of 7 years for any new installs. In some cases, the muni's are planning ahead and are annexing bare ground with the idea that they will have more options for building industrial parks or that new residential developments will spring up in the future. Hence, in those cases, there are few or no existing or new service hookups that require the compensation. Once outside the 7 year period, the municipalities have the REA infrastructure and what would have been their customers and they get off virtually scot-free. I brought SB 66 that served as the REA's attempt at readdressing the issue. Senator Schoenbeck brought three other bills on behalf of the municipalities that represented other perspectives and aspects of the issue. With the two sides both concerned that the other side would prevail, negotiations began. Although the two sides appeared to be getting close to an agreement, talks stalled and they opted to ask us to take the matter up in the interim. SB 66 is currently the bill that seeks to accomplish that. My bill was "hoghoused" or extensively amended to strike the original language with the new language inserted. Subsequent to the agreement being reached, Senator Schoenbeck withdrew his three bills. The bill passed the Senate with two "friendly" no votes in case the issue gets amended on the House side and we need to put together a conference committee. One of those two people is guaranteed to be on there. I write about this matter right off the bat because it literally began as the highest-profile issue that generated more interest than any other the first 4 weeks of session.

I had three measures up on the Senate floor last Tuesday. In caucus, I told the Senators that it was my goal to pitch each bill in 30 seconds. I'm going to try to type with brevity, also. HJR 1004 seeks to rescind four previous calls for Constitutional Conventions for specific purposes. Several years ago, we attempted to clean up all previous calls for CC's. We did so with 10 of them, but these four remained. They were from 1907-1958. None of them had any relevance any more. HB 1242 will insert opossums into the list of predators/

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To apply visit www.uslbn.com/careers or call Diane at 605-448-2929.

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varmints. Current law lists opossums in the list of fur-bearing animals. Many of the other critters on that list are also on the predator/varmint list. Because opossums contribute to the demise of pheasant populations, etc., it was decided to insert opossums into the P/V list. This will encourage more hunting and trapping of them. HB 1157 seeks to allow challenges regarding candidate qualifications if a person has credible evidence that a candidate does not qualify to be a candidate. Currently, we have requirements on the books for people to run for legislative and executive offices. However, a person cannot challenge candidate petitions except on the basis that maybe there are not enough valid signatures. As I wrapped up my pitch on the floor, I said "This puts teeth in our law and integrity into our election process. I DID manage to pitch all 3 bills in a combined total of 1:24. As they say on Dragnet, "Just the facts..." And the fact that there were single no votes on two bills and a unanimous vote on the other suggests to me that I might have to learn to shut my mouth! As the Bible says, "Brevity is the would of wit." ...and I guess it paves the way to legislative success, too!

A couple setbacks, as far as I was concerned happened when HB 1087 and HB 1108 died in committee. HB 1087 sought to provide for ensuring free speech and academic freedom on public campuses across South Dakota. The Regents had a number of students come to Pierre to testify against the bill. Other students came to testify in favor of the bill. One proponent of the bill told us that he was displaying the American flag as a tribute to those lost in the 9/11 terror attacks. He was told that the flag is "offensive" to some. Another student spoke of her experiences on campus as a student leader who often had her voice stifled by the administration. What we are seeing in modern-day academia is a real indictment on public higher learning. They're more interested in sheltering the snowflakes from being offended than they are in fostering a learning environment that challenges students to think for themselves. If you are offended by the flag, you may choose to go somewhere else where that country's flag is not offensive to you. I am tired of the ultra-radical minority always getting its way at the expense of the all-too-often silent majority. Also, if you want a little homework assignment, do an internet search for "Inclusive Excellence University of South Dakota". Their policy is a real hum-dinger, and it flies in the face of free speech. It's precisely that kind of drivel that leads to "Hawaiian Night" being renamed "Beach Night" and leis being banned because they're "culturally insensitive".

HB 1108 stated that no curriculum up to Grade 7 in South Dakota may teach students about "gender dysphoria". Gender dysphoria is a mental illness that finds boys thinking they're girls and girls thinking they are boys. In most cases, those who suffer from gender dysphoria spontaneously decide they really are the sex/gender that they were born as. However, there is a movement afoot to embrace gender dysphoria as normal. This is largely promoted by the LGBTQ community that previously had argued that sexuality was an inborn behavior based on one's DNA. Now they say DNA has nothing to do with a person's sexual identity. While this movement has not been integrated into most of our classrooms, we were introduced to the "Sanford Harmony" curriculum and the "Genderbread Person" which are being promoted in some classrooms. The best argument made by the opponents of the bill was that "We're not doing this in Grades K-7." That begs the question, then, as to why they would be opposed to such legislation. Keep in mind, some of the very people opposing this bill have made the argument that they simply don't have time to require civics education in our schools. Then it is counterintuitive that they would allow the door to be open to the prospect of having schools allow for gender dysphoria instruction. It is bizarre to me that if I told somebody I am a Black teenage boy, they would dismiss me as incorrect, at best. But when you throw in sexuality, the whole discussion changes. So, I guess maybe if I identify as a Black teenage girl, they would celebrate my identity. Some of you will not agree with me, but the whole world seems to have been turned upside-down in the past decade, and I am having a hard time understanding why. I have my theories, though.

We are down to crunch time. By the end of this week, you will have heard about budgetary deliberations that have taken place, and you will also be apprised of what the SD response is to the potential for dealing with pipeline protesters. You will also know how the hemp bill progresses, and whether the Senate passes it, amends it and passes it, or kills it. If it is passed in any form, it will either go back to the House for concurrence with Senate amendments or it will proceed to the Governor's desk for her signature or veto. Finally, by the end of next week, everything will have been buttoned-up, and you will be able to resume with "normal" life.

Until next week, may God bless you and yours!

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Another weekend without football, which means it is time to break down another position on the Minnesota Vikings' roster. After already breaking down the quarterbacks, running backs, and wide receivers, it's time to focus on the tight end and fullback positions.

The Vikings have high-profile guys at quarterback, running back, and wide receiver, so it's no surprise that the tight end and fullback positions get overlooked sometimes – which is a shame because Kyle Rudolph and C.J. Ham are vital parts to the Vikings' offense.

Kyle Rudolph had the second-best year of his career in 2018. He was third on the team with 64 catches for 634 yards, while also adding four touchdowns (those stats are all in the top 10 among tight ends across the league). Rudolph is only 29 years old and is entering the last year in his contract, which will pay him \$7.625 million in 2019. There are many who believe Rudolph will be asked to take a pay cut or else he'll be released, but I wouldn't be surprised if the team gave him an extension instead. He is a top 10 tight end in the NFL and will usually make the play when his number is called. If the Vikings' new offensive coordinator utilizes Rudolph as a weapon in the middle of the field and in the red zone, we could see him put up some good stats in 2019.

Tyler Conklin, a fifth-round pick in last year's draft, was the second most productive tight end on the roster last season. His stat line (five catches for 77 yards) isn't great, but it should be noted he was only on the field 14% of the time (146 of a possible 1051 offensive plays). Conklin will be 24 years old when the season starts, and he is entering the second year of a four-year deal he signed as a rookie. He will make \$640,257 in 2019.

David Morgan finished the season with five catches for 36 yards, while playing 22% of the time (231 offensive plays). The fourth-year player will be 26 years old when the season starts, and is set to make \$753,864 in the final year of his contract.

C.J. Ham was the only fullback on the Vikings' roster last year. Hailing from Duluth, MN and playing college football at Augustana in Sioux Falls, SD, the second-year player was used sparingly, seeing the field for only 140 offensive snaps. He was primarily used as a blocking fullback, but Ham carried the ball six times for eight yards and had 11 catches for 85 receiving yards. His rookie contract expired after the 2018 season, and it's not a given he'll be back next season due to the changes at offensive coordinator.

Make sure to check out next week's article, when we break down the offensive line, a group that has frustrated Vikings fans for many years. If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL). Skol!



I "HATE"

WINTER

PARTY

Free Root Beer Floats

Open to the community

Thursday, March 7th

Starting at 2 p.m.



GROTON

CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

1106 North Second Street
605.397.2365



Pictured left to right: Mrs. Desiree Yeigh (Director), Gretchen Dinger (Flute), Cole Bisbee (Baritone), and Mr. Austin Fordham (Director) (Courtesy Photo)

Dinger and Bisbee accepted into SD Middle School All State Band

The South Dakota Music Education Association presented the Middle School All-State Band, at Huron High School on March 2, 2019. This featured grades 6-8 in the state of South Dakota in the 20th year of the event. Sixth grader Gretchen Dinger and Eighth grade Cole Bisbee represented Groton Area.

SDMEA was proud to bring composer and conductor, Tyler S. Grant to the event this year. He commissioned two pieces for the 20th Anniversary. The Middle School All-State Band was also be under the direction of South Dakota State University's Dr. Jacob Wallace.

Tyler S. Grant states "his commissioned work is depicting the geography and folklore of Badlands National Park. It is programmatic in nature and will be a great homage to one of the state's landmarks and one that serves as a great opportunity for musical growth in the students at honor band!"

Gretchen and Cole had the privilege to world premiere Grant's piece title "Banshee of the Badlands." It will officially be published within the next year.

The audition process for this band requires sending in a recording of a chromatic scale, a selected major and minor scale, an etude in 4/4 time, and an etude in 6/8 time There were a total of 450 auditions sent in from the state of South Dakota. The concert was legally recorded and will air on SD Public Broadcasting at a date to be announced. The concert received a standing ovation, and both students represented Groton Area well. Congratulations Gretchen and Cole on a wonderful accomplishment!

Nine Jackrabbits earn Big 12 academic awards including Hawkins

IRVING, Texas — Nine South Dakota State University wrestlers were recognized Thursday as members of the 2019 Academic All-Big 12 Wrestling Team.

Earning first-team recognition were senior Seth Gross (interdisciplinary studies major), junior Brett Bye (agricultural systems technology), sophomores Colten Carlson (dairy production), Spencer Huber (mechanical engineering) and Blake Wolters, (agricultural/biosystems engineering) and redshirt freshman Kelby Hawkins (business economics). Second-team honors were presented to senior Logan Peterson (political science/history), junior Henry Pohlmeier (political science) and redshirt freshman Rylee Molitor (entrepreneurial studies).

First-team members consist of those who have maintained a 3.20 or better GPA while the second-team selections hold a 3.00 to 3.19 GPA.

Peterson was honored on the 2019 Academic All-Big 12 Wrestling Team for the third time, while Carlson and Pohlmeier were repeat selections.

To qualify, student-athletes must maintain a 3.00 GPA or higher either cumulative or the two previous semesters and must have participated in 20 percent of their team's scheduled contests. Freshmen and transfers are not eligible in their first year of academic residence. Senior student-athletes who have participated for a minimum of two years and meet all the criteria except percent of participation are also eligible.

A total of 91 student-athletes — 61 first-team selections and 30 on the second team — were honored among the conference's 12 squads.



Kelby Hawkins wrestled #8 Branson Ashworth of Wyoming.

(Courtesy photo)



Redshirt freshman Kelby Hawkins (174 pounds) made his collegiate dual debut Dec. 16 in a win at Oregon State. (Courtesy

photo)

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Biography of Kelby Hawkins

2017-18: Served as an understudy at 165 pounds during redshirt season ... competed in five open tournaments, posting a 9-8 overall record ... placed fifth with 2-2 record at Bison Open (11/11) ... won individual title at MSU Dragon Open, turning in a 4-0 record that including a pin in championship match (12/2)

BEFORE SDSU: Wrestled on the varsity squad for six seasons and compiled a 242-26 career record with 164 wins by pin at Webster Area High School ... turned in four seasons with 40 or more wins, including posting a 40-1 record as a senior en route to a third-place finish at 160 pounds ... placed fifth at state as a junior, ending the season with a 40-6 overall record ... won five region titles ... also placed second at 120 pounds at Class B state meet as a freshman and was fourth at 132 pounds as a sophomore ... team captain in both wrestling and football ... all-state selection in football ... also an academic all-state selection and member of the National Honor Society ... his uncle, Tim Hawkins, played football at SDSU from 1987-90.

Kelby is the son of Lance and Kristie Hawkins, Groton.



Kelby Hawkins is pictured with his parents, Krisitie and Lance Hawkins, Groton. (Photo from Kelby Hawkins FB Page)

Men's basketball spreads the wealth in quarterfinal victory over Sioux Falls

Sioux Falls, S.D. – The Northern State University men's basketball team advanced to the semifinal round of the NSIC/Sanford Health Basketball Tournament, following a 79-76 victory over the University of Sioux Falls on Sunday. The Wolves improve to 24-6 overall this season, with their second postseason victory of the year.

Northern trailed by six with 4:41 to play in the first half, however went on a 6-0 run in the final two minutes of play to gain a 45-40 halftime lead. The Cougars out-scored the Wolves in the second, 36-34, however the 5-point first half lead held for NSU.

The Wolves out-shot the Cougars at a 49.1 percent clip from the floor and 31.6 percent clip from the 3-point line. NSU went 19-of-29 from the free throw line, and combined for six made 3-pointers, 34 rebounds, 13 assists, eight steals, and one block. Northern tallied 40 points in the paint, 29 points off the bench, 14 points off nine offensive boards, 13 points off turnovers, and five fast break points.

Parker Fox led four in double figures for the Wolves with 17 points. The redshirt freshman shot 75.0 percent from the floor and added a team leading eight rebounds, as well as three assists, one block, and one steal. Gabe King was second on the team and led the starters with 15 points and three rebounds. The junior shot 55.6 percent from the floor, and knocked down 3-of-6 from the 3-point line.

Andrew Kallman and Ian Smith rounded out those in double digits with 14 and 13 points respectively. Kallman tallied five rebounds, two assists, and a team high three steals. Smith led the team with five assists, and notched six rebounds and two steals. The senior hit 6-of-13 from the floor, while the sophomore drained 9-of-10 from the foul line.

Justin Decker and Bo Fries tallied six and two points respectively in their starting roles. Fries appeared in just three minutes after an injury. Decker shot 50.0 percent from the floor and added one assist and one rebound.

Mason Stark notched eight points off the bench for NSU, hitting 4-of-7 from the field. The redshirt freshman added two rebounds, one assist, and one steal. Cole Dahl and Jordan Belka grabbed the final points for NSU with three and one respectively. Dahl recorded three bounds and one steal as well.

Northern will face Winona State tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. from the Sanford Pentagon. Winona entered the tournament as the fourth seed from the South Division and defeated Minot State and Minnesota Crookston.

How We Get

Bacterial Pneumonia

My good friend, a single man in his 60s, didn't like going to the medical clinic for anything, let alone a cold. His illness started with a fever, aches all over and a sudden overabundance of mucus. After one or two days of those obvious viral symptoms, for which we have no good therapy, he got better, except he acquired a new dry hacky cough.

Initially he did what he should have and stopped going to work, put a box of tissues and a waste basket next to his comfort chair, drank plenty of hot lemonade and tea, got plenty of rest and took Tylenol. After a few days and while covering his dry cough and washing his hands a lot, he went back to work. So far, so good . . .

On day five or six, he developed a fever again with new and profound weakness. His dry cough became productive and the mucus occasionally was streaked with blood. After one more day of fever, he developed shaking chills, and his daughter called me to explain her dad seemed to be in trouble. We got him to the emergency room where they began powerful intravenous antibiotics. He had pneumonia, a life-threatening bacterial lung infection, which invaded because the viral infection first weakened his lung defenses. The bacterial infection had also spread into his blood stream and was disseminating throughout his body. This is called sepsis and it kills unless treated very early.

My friend was very sick for about four weeks but recovered to be strong enough to go back to work again thanks to excellent medical and nursing care with effective support, antibiotics and rehabilitation. In retrospect, antibiotics would not have helped if they were started too early during the viral process. The time to attack early with antibiotics should have been at the time of the second fever. Studies show if antibiotics are given during the viral infection, a bacterial pneumonia will still follow in about the same frequency, only now there will likely be resistance to that specific antibiotic.

Take home message:

1. Bacterial pneumonia can follow a viral respiratory infection, but, antibiotics won't help until the bacterial infection begins;
2. We should all cover our coughs, wash our hands frequently and keep our fingers out of our own eyes and noses;
3. The flu shot saves lives by preventing the viral infection in the first place.

For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairiedoc.org and follow The Prairie Doc® on Facebook, featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming live and broadcast on SDPTV most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



By Richard P. Holm, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

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Today in Weather History

March 4, 1994: Two to five inches of snow fell across northeast and part of central South Dakota from the 3rd into the 4th. This new snowfall, combined with the already deep and expansive snowpack and winds of 20 to 40 mph, brought widespread blowing and drifting snow. Visibilities were reduced to near zero at times, making travel treacherous. Snowdrifts blocked many roads. Many schools, as well as several highways, were closed. Several vehicles became stuck and had to be pulled out. Some snowfall amounts included 4 inches at Clear Lake, Britton, Waubay, and Wilmot; and 5 inches at Onida, Blunt, Highmore, Miller, and Milbank.

1873: The second inauguration of Ulysses S. Grant remains Washington, DC's, record cold March day. The low was 4 degrees, and by noon with the sunshine, the temperature was 16 degrees. Wind chills were around 30 degrees below zero. The 40 mph winds made his inaugural address inaudible to most on the platform with him.

1899: Cyclone Mahina, aka "The Bathurst Bay Hurricane" in Australia was credited with having produced the highest storm surge on record in the world. The cyclone, with an estimated central pressure of 911 millibars or 26.90 inches of mercury caused a 42.6-foot surge when it came ashore on the coast of northern Australia. The storm killed as many as 400 people and is currently Australia's deadliest cyclone.

1983: Brownsville, Texas recorded a high of 100 degrees, the earliest the city has ever hit the century mark.

1926 - A hurricane came inland near Daytona Beach, FL. The hurricane caused 2.5 million dollars damage in eastern Florida, including the Jacksonville area. (David Ludlum)

1939 - The temperature at Lewiston, ID, hit 117 degrees to establish an all-time record high for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1943 - On a whim, and flying a single engine AT-6, Lieutenant Ralph O'Hair and Colonel Duckworth were the first to fly into a hurricane. It started regular Air Force flights into hurricanes. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Minnesota spawned a tornado which moved in a southwesterly direction for a distance of thirty miles across Rice County and Goodhue County. Trees were uprooted and tossed about like toys, and a horse lifted by the tornado was observed sailing horizontally through the air. Thunderstorms drenched La Crosse, WI, with 5.26 inches of rain, their second highest 24 hour total of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

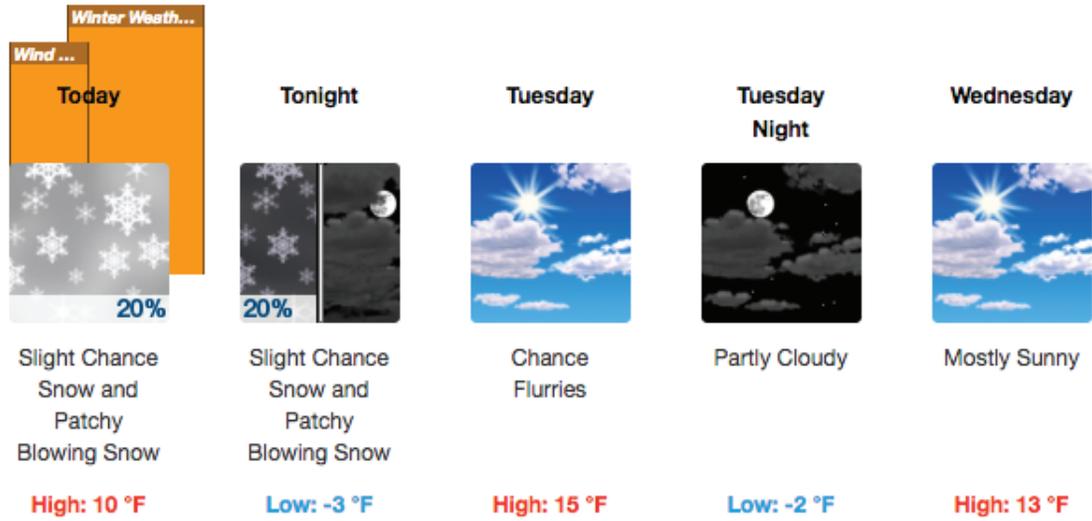
1988 - Hot weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Williston, ND, reported a record high of 108 degrees. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the eastern U.S., and in southeastern Texas. Richland County, SC, was soaked with up to 5.5 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the southwestern U.S. Yuma, AZ, experienced their most severe thunderstorm of record. Strong thunderstorm winds, with unofficial gusts as high as 95 mph, reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust and sand. Yuma got nearly as much rain in one hour as is normally received in an entire year. The storm total of 2.55 inches of rain was a record 24 hour total for July. Property damage due to flash flooding and high winds was in the millions. (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Wisconsin and northern Illinois to New England, with 103 reports of large hail and damaging winds through the day. Thunderstorms in Wisconsin produced hail three inches in diameter near Oshkosh, and wind gusts to 65 mph at Germantown. (The National Weather Summary)

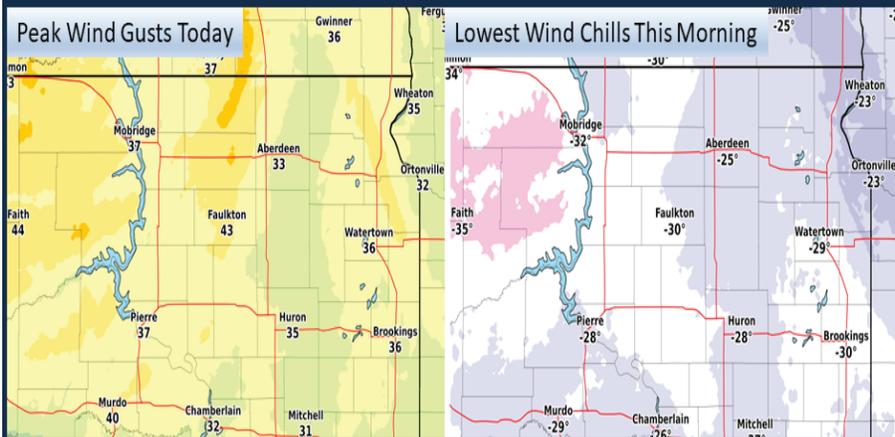
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BITTER COLD/AREAS OF BLOWING SNOW

Morning Wind Chills 25 below to 35 below zero. Winds of 25 to 35 mph with gusts over 40 mph today causing areas of blowing snow with visibilities below a mile at times



Today – Highs 6 to 13 above. Scattered Flurries or Light Snow Showers East River.

Tuesday and Wednesday – Continued Cold. Highs 10 to 20 above.

Wednesday Night and Thursday – Cold/Chance of snow Mainly Central South Dakota.

Published on: 03/04/2019 at 5:22AM

Bitter cold wind chills of 25 to 35 below zero are expected mainly this morning. Otherwise, northwest winds of 25 to 35 mph with gusts over 40 mph will bring areas of blowing snow with visibilities below a mile at times.

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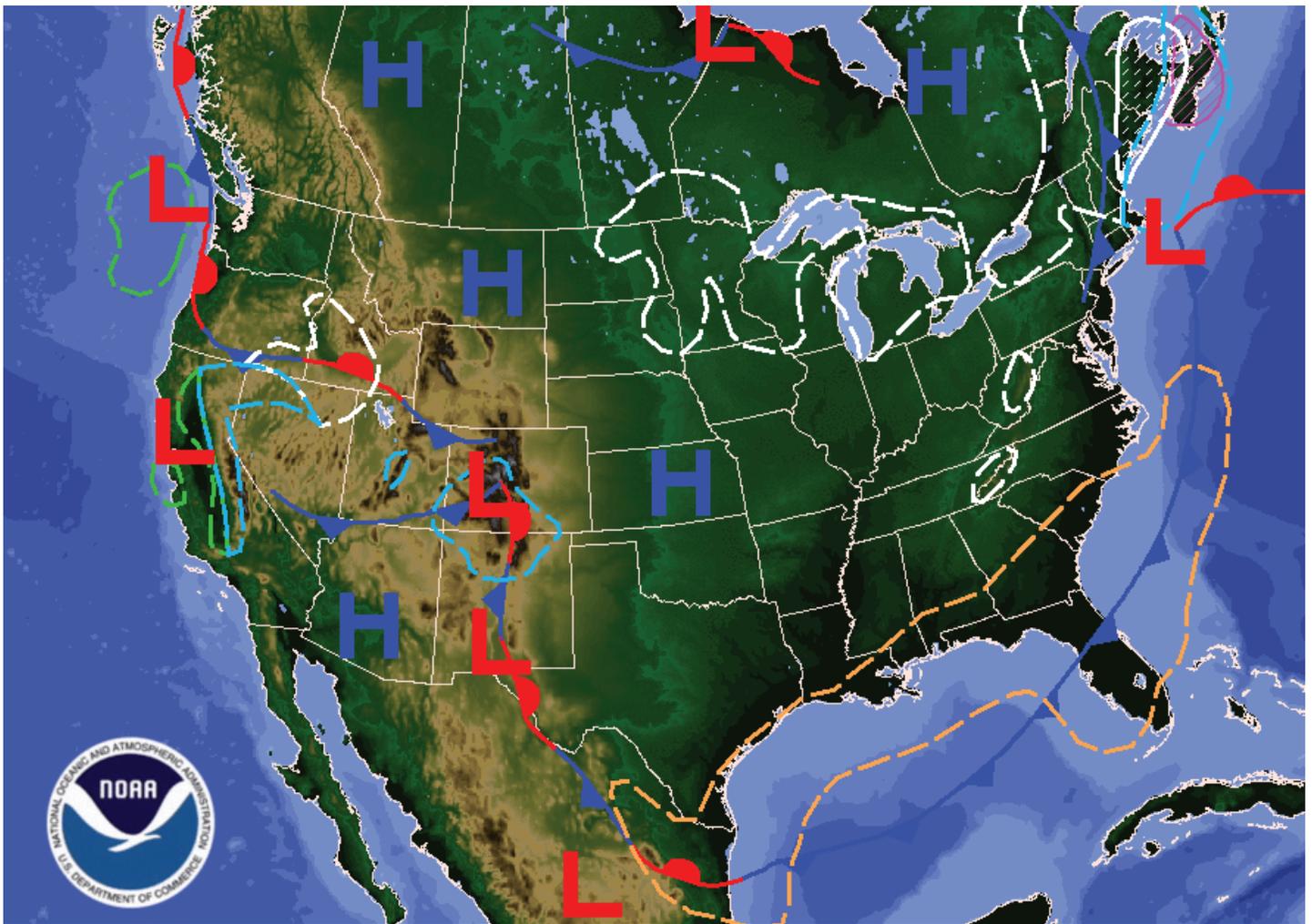
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: -1 °F at 4:20 PM (NEW RECORD)
Low Outside Temp: -22 °F at 5:35 AM (NEW RECORD)
High Gust: 20 mph at 10:16 AM
Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 73° in 1905
Record Low: -23° in 1917
Average High: 34°F
Average Low: 15°F
Average Precip in Mar.: 0.09
Precip to date in Mar.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 1.11
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 6:25 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:05 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Mar 04, 2019, issued 4:19 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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PEACEFUL, PLEASANT PATHS

Peace and pleasant paths sound boring, some would say. Life needs to be exciting, exhilarating, and certainly filled with many different events that are challenging and consuming.

But, is there something more for us to understand? Certainly.

One of my dear friends sponsors an Indianapolis race car. Another played professional soccer for years. Then, there is Greg the Sheriff whose life is filled with sirens and radio alerts with calls to immediate action and life impacting decisions. Another is a pediatric anesthesiologist, who with one very slight miscalculation, would bear the results of that mistake into eternity.

There is one common denominator among all of them: a reassuring pleasantness that confirms their walk with God and their trust in His wisdom. Walking in the ways of Godly wisdom unites their inner and outer man and their lives become filled with joy and happiness, peace and satisfaction. In the midst of trouble and turmoil they all have gracious, delightful, enjoyable dispositions and being in their company brings blessings because they walk with God.

Do they have moments that challenge and threaten their pleasant, peaceful attitudes? Of course. But, in the midst of those moments, their confidence is not changed nor do their skills become impaired. Why? Because of a peace that comes from God.

The word for peace is shalom. It is not a peace that eliminates or ends turmoil and turbulence in their lives. Instead, it is a peace that comes from being satisfied with doing Gods will, being grateful for His gifts, following and trusting His wisdom and worshiping Him.

Prayer: Lord, give us Your shalom! Fill our hearts with Your wisdom and our minds with determination to obey Your teachings. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 3:17 She will guide you down delightful paths; all her ways are satisfying.

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

USD investigates law school's 'Hawaiian Day' advice

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The University of South Dakota has launched an investigation into the Student Bar Association's decision to change the name of its winter social event from "Hawaiian Day" to "Beach Day."

The group said earlier it was changing the name because it was advised by law school administrators that it violated the school's policy of inclusiveness. A law school student had raised concerns that handing out leis at the party could be culturally insensitive.

USD President Sheila Gestring said in a statement this weekend that the investigation will focus on the actions of the interim administration of the law school. Gestring says the investigation will determine whether those actions violated Board of Regents policies on freedom of expression.

She says administrative censorship of student speech and expression is a serious matter and not something USD condones.

Wiener dog race steals the show at South Dakota hockey game

By **MAKENZIE L. HUBER**, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — More than 10,000 people witnessed a true underdog story in South Dakota. Biscuit, a "master barker," earned a trophy full of dog bones after being the first dachshund to cross the finish line at the 12th annual Wiener Dog Races hosted by the Sioux Falls Stampede in the Denny Sanford Premier Center.

This was Biscuit's third race — and the first time he'd ever crossed the finish line, said his owner, Melinda Kroeger.

"I think I'm still shaking," Kroeger told the Argus Leader. "I was not expecting to win. I'm just speechless."

The races have attracted a sold out crowd for the past five years. The game raised more than \$12,000 for the Dakota Dachshund Rescue.

The Stampede even changed its team name to the "Fighting Wiener Dogs" for the night and sported jerseys for the event.

There's just something inspiring about watching dachshunds sprint across the ice like ferocious, barking bullets with stubby legs. At least that's what the sold out crowd thought.

Kroeger, who's been a fan of the Stampede for years and watched the races each year, knew there was no other breed for her when she decided to adopt Biscuit almost three years ago.

"We got him for this purpose," she said. Biscuit himself is a fan of the Stampede and enjoys listening to Stampede hockey on the radio, according to his biography.

This year was different for Biscuit, Kroeger said. He had a support team cheering for him all sporting "Team Biscuit" T-shirts, and Kroeger made sure his favorite toy would spur him to reach the finish line this year.

The Wiener Dog Race is Korey McDonald's favorite game of the year.

"Whenever the schedule comes out, the first thing people ask is when the Wiener Dog Race game is," said McDonald, director of sales for the Stampede.

The trophy filled with dog biscuits will be the centerpiece of Kroeger's hockey memorabilia. But first, Biscuit will have to eat through his earnings.

"It will probably take him a while," Kroeger said. "He'd like to eat all of them, but we'll have to ration them out over a few days."

Biscuit competed in the championship against three other dachshunds, including Bear, who earned third place in last year's race. This year, Bear got fourth place because his leg got stuck in his jersey during the race.

But even though Bear didn't win, his owner, Denise Schmidt, said the night wasn't about winning.

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"We do it to raise money for other dachshunds in the Dakota Dachshund Rescue," Schmidt said. "Any place is good. It's all for the dogs."

But Bear will get a shot at redemption next year. Biscuit will work to earn gold a second year in a row as well.

"It's for hockey, it's for a good cause — and just why not?" Kroeger said.

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

Rapid City schools delay classes Monday due to wind chill

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Schools in Rapid City will start late on Monday due to arctic cold.

Rapid City Area Schools will start two hours late on Monday. The National Weather Service issued a wind chill warning for Rapid City until late Monday morning.

In Sioux Falls, all public outdoor skating rinks were closed Sunday due to a wind chill advisory.

Former Colorado Gov. Hickenlooper joins presidential race

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper said on Monday he's running for president, casting himself as a can-do uniter who's used to overcoming adversity and accomplishing liberal goals in a politically divided state.

"I'm running for president because we need dreamers in Washington, but we also need to get things done," Hickenlooper, 67, said in a video announcing his campaign. "I've proven again and again I can bring people together to produce the progressive change Washington has failed to deliver."

He becomes the second governor to enter the sprawling field, after Washington Gov. Jay Inslee announced last week, and is trying to cast himself as a pragmatist who can also take on President Donald Trump. Though as governor Hickenlooper prided himself for staying above partisan fights, he has argued his record as a former governor and big-city mayor distinguishes him from a broad field of Democratic presidential aspirants who are backing ambitious liberal plans on health care, taxes and the climate.

Hickenlooper has hedged on supporting Democratic rallying cries like Medicare for All and the Green New Deal to combat climate change. He once worked as a geologist for a petroleum company and was roundly criticized for telling a congressional panel he drank fracking fluid while arguing for the safety of the energy extraction technique.

It was after Hickenlooper was laid off from his geologist position during the energy bust of the 1980s that he inadvertently started on his road to politics. He opened a brewpub in a then-desolate stretch of downtown Denver that unexpectedly took off. That enabled Hickenlooper to become wealthy by building a mini-empire of restaurants and bars. It also led to him making a quixotic run for Denver mayor in 1993. Campaign ads featured Hickenlooper feeding quarters into parking meters to protest the city's charging for Sunday parking downtown. He won handily.

As mayor, Hickenlooper helped persuade dozens of suburban cities, sometimes led by Republicans, to back a tax hike to fund a light-rail network. He was filmed diving out of an airplane to advocate for a statewide ballot measure to suspend an anti-tax measure passed in the 1990s and allow the state budget to grow. When he ran for governor in 2010, he featured an ad of himself fully dressed, walking into a shower to scrub off negative attacks.

It's all part of Hickenlooper's quirky political image — he vows not to run attack ads and has frequently made fun of his tendency to misspeak and wander off political message.

Hickenlooper was supported by some Republicans as governor. His first term was marked by a series of disasters and tragedies, some of which he alluded to in his launch video — record wildfires and floods, the assassination of his own prison chief by a member of a white supremacist prison gang and the 2012 Aurora theater shooting, which killed 12. After that attack and the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting massacre in Connecticut months later, Hickenlooper called for gun control legislation and signed bills

requiring universal background checks and limiting magazine capacity to 15 rounds.

He backed civil unions for gay couples and signed a law providing them in Colorado in 2013, before the U.S. Supreme Court legalized gay marriage. He announced in 2013 that he opposed the death penalty and refused to execute a quadruple-murderer who was on death row. And, as he prepared to leave office and was openly mulling a presidential bid, he ordered the state to adopt California's low-emission vehicle standards to fight climate change.

The last move was widely seen as shoring up an area that has long created tension for Hickenlooper — his relationship with the energy industry. Groups opposed to the expansion of energy exploration into Denver's suburbs often complained that Hickenlooper was too close to the oil and gas business, which remains a powerful force in Colorado politics.

As governor, Hickenlooper opposed ballot measures to limit drilling in populated areas. Hickenlooper's successor, Democratic Gov. Jared Polis, has been more critical of the industry. Last week, Polis announced he'd pursue a wide range of new policies that would limit energy exploration.

Another potential vulnerability for Hickenlooper is money. As a former governor, he can't recycle donations from prior campaigns into a presidential account, as can the many U.S. Senators in the field. Hickenlooper's political committee raised \$1 million during the first two months of the year, in contrast to senators such as Kamala Harris of California, Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who raised more than that amount in the 24 hours after they announced their campaigns.

Still, Hillary Clinton vetted Hickenlooper as a possible running mate in 2016, and Democrats have spoken about his potential national appeal for years. In his launch video, Hickenlooper says, following images of Trump: "As a skinny kid with Coke bottle glasses and a funny last name, I've stood up to my fair share of bullies."

Hickenlooper is expected to focus heavily on Iowa, where many Coloradans come from and a state where his low-key, genial approach could be potent. In previous trips he's emphasized his record and how he can bring warring parties together. During a January swing he stopped by a Des Moines brewpub where a customer asked him how he'd win the primary of "who hates Trump the most?"

Hickenlooper responded by rattling off his governing accomplishments.

"Everyone yells at Trump, he will win," Hickenlooper said. "You have to laugh at him and joke along and say: 'Hey, this is what I did.'"

Hickenlooper announcement video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwIk0hUmzk8&feature=youtu.be>

This story has been corrected to show Hickenlooper is 67, not 66.

Searches to resume after tornado kills 23 in Alabama

By KIM CHANDLER, Associated Press

BEAUREGARD, Ala. (AP) — Rescuers prepared Monday to tear through the rubble of mobile homes and houses in search of survivors of a powerful tornado that rampaged through southeast Alabama and killed at least 23 people.

The trail of destruction was at least half a mile wide and overwhelmed rural Lee County's coroners' office, forcing it to call in help from the state.

"The devastation is incredible," Lee County Sheriff Jay Jones said.

Drones flying overhead equipped with heat-seeking devices had scanned the area for survivors, but the dangerous conditions halted the search late Sunday, Sheriff Jones said. Rescuers planned to resume the search at daylight Monday.

The Sunday tornado, which had winds that appeared to be around 160 mph (257 kph) or greater, was part of a powerful storm system that also slashed its way across parts of Georgia, South Carolina and Florida.

Levi Baker, who lives near the hard-hit area in Alabama, took a chain saw to help clear a path for ambulances and other first-responder vehicles. He said he saw bodies of dead people and dead animals.

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He said some houses were demolished and trees were uprooted or snapped in half. One house was swept off its foundation and was sitting in the middle of the road.

"It was just destruction," Baker said. "There were mobile homes gone. Frames on the other side of the road."

Jones said the twister traveled straight down a county road in the rural community of Beauregard reducing homes to slabs.

Scott Fillmer was at home when the storm hit in Lee County.

"I looked out the window and it was nothing but black, but you could hear that freight train noise," Fillmer said.

The National Weather Service confirmed late Sunday a tornado with at least an F3 rating caused the destruction in Alabama. Although the statement did not give exact wind estimates, F3 storms typically are gauged at wind speeds of between 158-206 mph (254-331 kph).

After nightfall Sunday, the rain had stopped and pieces of metal debris and tree branches littered roadways in Beauregard. Two sheriff's vehicles blocked reporters and others from reaching the worst-hit area. Power appeared to be out in many places.

In a tweet late Sunday, President Donald Trump said: "To the great people of Alabama and surrounding areas: Please be careful and safe. Tornadoes and storms were truly violent and more could be coming. To the families and friends of the victims, and to the injured, God bless you all!"

Rita Smith, spokeswoman for the Lee County Emergency Management Agency, said about 150 first responders had quickly jumped in to help search the debris after the storm struck in Beauregard. At least one trained canine could be seen with search crews as numerous ambulances and emergency vehicles, lights flashing, converged on the area.

At the R&D Grocery on Monday morning in Beauregard, residents were constantly asking each other if they were okay.

"I'm still thanking God I'm among the living," said John Jones, who has lived in Beauregard for most of his life.

No deaths had been reported Sunday evening from storm-damaged Alabama counties other than Lee County, said Gregory Robinson, spokesman for the Alabama Emergency Management Agency. But he said crews were still surveying damage in several counties in the southwestern part of the state.

Numerous tornado warnings were posted across parts of Alabama, Georgia, Florida and South Carolina on Sunday afternoon as the storm system raced across the region. Weather officials said they confirmed other tornadoes around the region by radar alone and would send teams out Monday to assess those and other storms.

In rural Talbotton, Georgia, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) south of Atlanta, a handful of people were injured by either powerful straight-line winds or a tornado that destroyed several mobile homes and damaged other buildings, said Leigh Ann Erenheim, director of the Talbot County Emergency Management Agency.

News footage showed smashed buildings with rooftops blown away, cars overturned and debris everywhere. Trees all around had been snapped bare of branches.

"The last check I had was between six and eight injuries," Erenheim said in a phone interview. "From what I understand it was minor injuries, though one fellow did say his leg might be broken."

She said searches of damaged homes and structures had turned up no serious injuries or deaths there.

Henry Wilson of the Peach County Emergency Management Agency near Macon in central Georgia said a barn had been destroyed and trees and power poles had been snapped, leaving many in the area without power.

Authorities in southwest Georgia were searching door-to-door in darkened neighborhoods after a possible tornado touched down in the rural city of Cairo, about 33 miles (53 kilometers) north of Tallahassee, Florida, on Sunday evening. There were no immediate reports of serious injuries.

Authorities said a tornado was confirmed by radar in the Florida Panhandle late Sunday afternoon. A portion of Interstate 10 on the Panhandle was blocked in one direction for a time in Walton County in the

aftermath, said Don Harrigan, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Tallahassee.

Associated Press writers Jeff Martin in Beauregard, Alabama; Russ Bynum in Savannah, Georgia; Bill Cormier in Atlanta; and Ryan Kryska in New York contributed to this report.

Spielberg's push against Netflix at the Oscars hits a nerve

By LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When Steven Spielberg speaks about the business of Hollywood, everyone generally listens and few dissent. But reports that he intends to support rule changes that could block Netflix from Oscars-eligibility have provoked a heated, and unwieldy, debate online this weekend. It has found the legendary filmmaker at odds with some industry heavyweights, who have pointed out that Netflix has been an important supporter of minority filmmakers and stories, especially in awards campaigns, while also reigniting the ongoing streaming versus theatrical debate.

Spielberg has weighed in before on whether streaming movies should compete for the film industry's most prestigious award (TV movies, he said last year, should compete for Emmys), but that was before Netflix nearly succeeded in getting its first best picture Oscar for Alfonso Cuarón's "Roma" at last week's Academy Awards. Netflix, of course, did not win the top award — "Green Book," which was produced partially by Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment, did.

Still, Netflix was a legitimate contender and this year, the streaming service is likely to step up its awards game even more with Martin Scorsese's "The Irishman," which The Hollywood Reporter said may also be gunning for a wide-theatrical release. A teaser ad aired during the 91st Oscars for the gangster drama said "in theaters next fall," instead of the "in select theaters" phrasing that was used for "Roma."

But Netflix also isn't playing by the same rules as other studios. The company doesn't report theatrical grosses, for one, and it's been vexing some more traditional Hollywood executives throughout this award season and there have been whispers in recent weeks that a reckoning is coming.

Now, Spielberg and others are planning to do something about it by supporting a revised film academy regulation at an upcoming meeting of the organization's board of governors that would disqualify Netflix from the Oscars, or at least how the streaming giant currently operates during awards season.

This year "Roma" got a limited theatrical qualifying run and an expensive campaign with one of the industry's most successful awards publicists, Lisa Taback, leading the charge. But Netflix, operates somewhat outside of the industry while also infiltrating its most important institutions, like the Oscars and the Motion Picture Association of America. Some like Spielberg, are worried about what that will mean for the future of movies.

"Steven feels strongly about the difference between the streaming and theatrical situation," an Amblin spokesperson told IndieWire's Anne Thompson late last week. "He'll be happy if the others will join (his campaign) when that comes up. He will see what happens."

An Amblin representative said Sunday there was nothing to add.

But some see Spielberg's position as wrong-minded, especially when it comes to the Academy Awards, which requires a theatrical run to be eligible for an award. Many online have pointed out the hypocrisy that the organization allows members to watch films on DVD screeners before voting.

Filmmaker Ava DuVernay tweeted at the film academy's handle in response to the news that the topic would be discussed at a board of governors meeting, which is comprised of only 54 people out of over 8,000 members.

"I hope if this is true, that you'll have filmmakers in the room or read statements from directors like me who feel differently," DuVernay wrote.

Some took a more direct approach, questioning whether Spielberg understands how important Netflix has been to minority filmmakers in recent years.

Franklin Leonard, who founded The BlackList, which surveys the best unproduced scripts in Hollywood, noted that Netflix's first four major Oscar campaigns were all by and about people of color: "Beasts of No

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Nation," "The 13th," "Mudbound" and "Roma."

"It's possible that Steven Spielberg doesn't know how difficult it is to get movies made in the legacy system as a woman or a person of color. In his extraordinary career, he hasn't exactly produced or executive produced many films directed by them," Leonard tweeted Saturday. "By my count, Spielberg does one roughly every two decades."

It's important to note that Netflix didn't produce "Beasts of No Nation," "Mudbound" or "Roma," but rather acquired them for distribution. But if Oscar campaigns are no longer part of the equation in a Netflix-partnership, top-tier filmmakers are likely to take their talents and films elsewhere.

Others, like "First Reformed" filmmaker Paul Schrader, had a slightly different take.

"The notion of squeezing 200+ people into a dark unventilated space to see a flickering image was created by exhibition economics not any notion of the 'theatrical experience,'" Schrader wrote in a Facebook post Saturday. "Netflix allows many financially marginal films to have a platform and that's a good thing."

But his Academy Award-nominated film, he thinks, would have gotten lost on Netflix and possibly, "Rellegated to film esoterica." Netflix had the option to purchase the film out of the Toronto International Film Festival and didn't. A24 did and stuck with the provocative film through awards season.

"Distribution models are in flux," Schrader concluded. "It's not as simple as theatrical versus streaming."

One thing is certain, however: Netflix is not going away any time soon and how it integrates with the traditional structures of Hollywood, like the Oscars, is a story that's still being written.

Sean Baker, who directed "The Florida Project," suggested a compromise: That Netflix offered a "theatrical tier" to pricing plans, which would allow members to see its films in theaters for free.

"I know I'd spend an extra 2 dollars a month to see films like 'Roma' or 'Buster Scruggs' on the big screen," Baker tweeted. "Just an idea with no details ironed out. But we need to find solutions like this in which everybody bends a bit in order to keep the film community (which includes theater owners, film festivals and competitive distributors) alive and kicking."

Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ldbahr

Xi firmly in charge as China turns to legislative season

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A year since effectively making himself China's leader for life, Xi Jinping appears firmly in charge, despite a slowing economy, a trade war with the United States and rumbles of discontent over his concentration of power.

As China's president and head of the ruling Communist Party, Xi wields more authority than any leader since Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s and looms large over the annual legislative session that starts Tuesday.

Since assuming the party helm in 2012, Xi has eliminated rival factions, gutted civil society and brought the party under his firm control by way of a sprawling anti-corruption campaign and the opening of party committees in private businesses and foreign companies.

Still, with the economy's go-go years firmly in the past and local governments mired in debt, the horizon remains littered with challenges.

"Global sources of turmoil and risks have increased and the external environment is complicated and grim," Xi told officials in a speech last month.

This year's legislative session is expected to be considerably less dramatic than last year's, when Xi's move to amend the constitution to remove term limits on the presidency opened the way for him to remain head of state for as long as he wants.

The move reversed a trend toward greater restraint on the leadership, advertising Xi's willingness to upend what tenuous rules and structures the party had institutionalized in recent decades.

Chief among them is the tradition that, by his second five-year term, the leader should begin pointing to a likely successor. Xi has made no moves in this area while arrogating to himself ever-greater authority over government, from the economy to foreign policy and the military. As party general secretary, Xi is

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head of its all-powerful seven-member Politburo Standing Committee.

"To my mind, the most important question now is: Which norm is the next to fall?" Carl Minzner, a professor at Fordham Law School in New York City and author of a recent book on Chinese politics, said in an email.

For now, though, more immediate concerns predominate.

At a wide-ranging news conference Monday, congress spokesman Zhang Yesui reiterated Beijing's desire to find a mutually acceptable resolution to the tariff dispute with the U.S. and touted the advantages of a draft law that he said would mark a "fundamental change" in how China manages foreign investment.

While the foreign investment law is the only item on the congress' agenda, Zhang said its standing committee would be taking on new legislation in the areas of drug regulation, veterans' affairs and protection of the Yangtze River, China's most important internal waterway.

The standing committee meets every two months to deal with the bulk of the congress' legislative chores.

As with last year, Zhang declined to disclose the planned increase in China's defense budget, the world's largest behind the U.S., but appeared to indicate it would continue the trend of single-digit percentage growth in place since 2016.

"When it comes to whether a country poses a military threat to other countries, the key is that country's military and foreign policies, not how much its defense budget increases," Zhang said.

"China's limited defense spending is for safeguarding the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the country. It is not a threat to other countries," he said.

China's armed forces have undergone a thorough expansion and modernization program in recent years, raising concerns in Washington and among its neighbors, particularly those sharing overlapping territorial claims in the strategically vital South China Sea. China also claims ownership of East China Sea islands controlled by traditional rival Japan and threatens to attack self-governing Taiwan to take control of what it regards as a breakaway Chinese territory.

Xi has cast himself as an ardent nationalist and foreign policy hawk, protecting himself from accusations of being too soft toward the West.

Yet while he appears solidly in control, University of Oxford China specialist Patricia Thornton says discontent lies under the surface, citing criticism over the removal of term limits and Xi's heavy-handed management of foreign policy and trade, along with reports showing an erosion of confidence in the economic outlook.

"There have been signs of discontent brewing among political and socioeconomics elites that could translate into some backpedaling on current central policies," Thornton said.

Cheng Li of the Brookings Institution says Xi finds himself in a "delicate situation" and may make a show of including others in the decision-making process, as long as his leadership isn't challenged.

"He will not change the way he is already above the Standing Committee," Li said. "But in some of the other things, Xi may give other leaders more chance."

Independent commentator and veteran observer of Chinese politics Zhang Lifan questions whether Xi may have overplayed his hand, leaving him open to more direct criticism.

"Xi's power peaked at the time of the constitutional revision last year, but the centralization of power may not be as complete as he thinks," Zhang said.

"As more and more problems crop up, questions about his governing ability held in private will be placed on the table," he said.

As with every year, this week's meetings have brought a sweeping security crackdown, with neighborhood committees mobilized to patrol for trouble and construction work suspended to avoid accidents. Known government critics were confined to their homes or taken on what are euphemistically called "holiday trips" by the security forces to ensure they couldn't be contacted.

Such concerns may be heightened because this year marks several sensitive historical dates, including the 70th anniversary on Oct. 1 of the founding of the People's Republic and the 60th anniversary this month of an uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet.

June will see the 30th anniversary of the military's crushing of the 1989 pro-democracy protests centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square, and the 10th anniversary of deadly anti-Chinese riots in Xinjiang that has led to the interment over the past two years of an estimated 1 million members of Muslim minority groups.

New techniques let scientists zero in on individual cells

By MALCOLM RITTER, AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Did you hear what happened when Bill Gates walked into a bar? Everybody there immediately became millionaires — on average.

That joke about a very rich man is an old one among statisticians. So why did Peter Smibert use it to explain a revolution in biology?

Because it shows averages can be misleading. And Smibert, of the New York Genome Center, says that includes when scientists are trying to understand the basic unit of life, the cell.

Until recently, trying to study key traits of cells from people and other animals often meant analyzing bulk samples of tissue, producing a mushed-up average of results from many cell types. It was like trying to learn about a banana by studying a strawberry-blueberry-orange-banana smoothie.

In recent years, however, scientists have developed techniques that let them directly study the DNA codes, the activity of genes and other traits of individual cells. The approach has become widely adopted, revealing details about the body that couldn't be shown before. And it has opened the door to pursuing an audacious goal: listing every cell type in the human body.

"Single-cell analysis is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of our biology and health," Dr. Francis Collins, the director of the National Institutes of Health, declared recently.

In fact, the journal *Science* named the techniques that allow single-cell tracking of gene activity over time in developing organisms and organs as its "breakthrough of the year" for 2018. Its announcement declared, "The single-cell revolution is just starting."

A SLEW OF DISCOVERIES

Even complicated animals like us are really just massive communities of cells, each taking on a particular role and working with its neighbors. An average adult human has 37 trillion or so of them, and they're surprisingly varied: the inner lining of the colon, for example, has more than 50 kinds of cells.

It was just five years ago that methods for decoding of DNA and its chemical cousin RNA from individual cells became broadly accessible, according to the journal *Nature Methods*. New techniques are still being developed to pry more and more secrets out of individual cells.

The single-cell approach is leading to a slew of discoveries. In just the past year, for example:

— Scientists closely tracked gene activity within fish and frog embryos, a step toward the longstanding goal of understanding how a single fertilized egg can produce an animal. One study compiled results from more than 92,000 zebrafish embryonic cells.

— Other researchers revealed details of the physical connection between pregnant women and the fetus, giving potential clues for understanding some causes of stillbirth.

— A study found a pattern of gene activity in some melanoma cells that let them resist immunotherapy, the practice of unleashing the body's immune system on cancer. That might lead to finding a way to render those cells vulnerable.

And a pair of other studies may affect research into cystic fibrosis, the genetic disease that causes lung infections and limits breathing ability. Scientists have long known that the disease stems from a faulty version of protein called CFTR. The studies identified a type of rare cell in the airway that makes large amounts of CFTR, surpassing earlier but only dimly understood indications that such cells existed.

The discovery offers great potential for guiding the development of new treatments, said Dr. William Skach, senior vice president of research affairs for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Single-cell techniques will be important in studying them further for coming up with new therapies, he said. (Two co-authors of one paper are from the foundation).

At the MD Anderson Cancer Center of the University of Texas, Nicholas Navin uses single-cell DNA stud-

ies to reveal different patterns of mutations in various cells of a single tumor. That lets him reconstruct when and where those mutations appeared as the tumor evolved from benign cells. And he can identify cells that contain combinations of mutations that make them the most lethal.

Someday, such research should indicate what treatments to use for particular patients, or which patients have the highest risk of the disease progressing, he says. It might also allow doctors to check how well their treatments are working against a cancer over time. A decade or two from now, it might let doctors detect cancers very early by picking up and analyzing the DNA of rare cells in blood tests, he says.

MAPPING ALL THE CELLS

Meanwhile, the ability to produce single-cell results for hundreds of thousands of cells at a time has opened the door to a huge effort to catalog every cell type in the human body. More than 1,000 scientists from 57 countries have joined the Human Cell Atlas Consortium, which estimates it will eventually profile at least 10 billion cells found in both healthy and sick people.

Why do this? It's a natural follow to the big project that catalogued all the human genes, says co-organizer Aviv Regev, a biology professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and researcher at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. (Her salary is paid by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, which also supports The Associated Press Health & Science Department.)

The gene map led to identifying thousands of genetic variants that raise or lower the risk of many diseases. But to turn that into therapies, scientists have to know in which cells those variants act, she said. And to run down those cells in the human body, "we have to map all of them."

Some cells are rarer than others, but these can be just as critical for a functioning body as their more plentiful neighbors, she said.

She hopes for a first draft of the cell atlas in about five years, focused on certain organs and tissues of the body. To finish the job might take about a decade, she figures. Regev won't hazard a guess about how many cell types will be found for the entire human body.

"This is not going to cure all disease immediately," she said, but "it is a critical stepping stone."

This Associated Press series was produced in partnership with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

House Democrats expand Russia probe, seeking more documents

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Declaring it's "very clear" President Donald Trump obstructed justice, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, says the panel is requesting documents Monday from more than 60 people from Trump's administration, family and business as part of a rapidly expanding Russia investigation.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., said the House Judiciary Committee wants to review documents from the Justice Department, the president's son Donald Trump Jr. and Trump Organization chief financial officer Allen Weisselberg. Former White House chief of staff John Kelly and former White House counsel Don McGahn also are likely targets, he said.

"We are going to initiate investigations into abuses of power, into corruption and into obstruction of justice," Nadler said. "We will do everything we can to get that evidence."

Asked if he believed Trump obstructed justice, Nadler said, "Yes, I do."

Nadler isn't calling the inquiry an impeachment investigation but said House Democrats, now in the majority, are simply doing "our job to protect the rule of law" after Republicans during the first two years of Trump's term were "shielding the president from any proper accountability."

"We're far from making decisions" about impeachment, he said.

In a tweet on Sunday, Trump blasted anew the Russia investigation, calling it a partisan probe unfairly aimed at discrediting his win in the 2016 presidential election. "I am an innocent man being persecuted by some very bad, conflicted & corrupt people in a Witch Hunt that is illegal & should never have been

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allowed to start - And only because I won the Election!" he wrote.

Nadler's comments follow a bad political week for Trump. He emerged empty-handed from a high-profile summit with North Korea leader Kim Jong Un on denuclearization and Trump's former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, in three days of congressional testimony, publicly characterized the president as a "con man" and "cheat."

Newly empowered House Democrats are flexing their strength with blossoming investigations. A half-dozen House committees are now probing alleged coordination between Trump associates and Russia's efforts to sway the 2016 election, Trump's tax returns and possible conflicts of interest involving the Trump family business and policy-making. The House oversight committee, for instance, has set a Monday deadline for the White House to turn over documents related to security clearances after The New York Times reported that the president ordered officials to grant his son-in-law Jared Kushner's clearance over the objections of national security officials.

Nadler's added lines of inquiry also come as special counsel Robert Mueller is believed to be wrapping up his work into possible questions of Trump campaign collusion and obstruction in the Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election. In his testimony, Cohen acknowledged he did not witness or know directly of collusion between Trump aides and Russia but had his "suspicions."

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., on Sunday accused House Democrats of prejudging Trump as part of a query based purely on partisan politics.

"I think Congressman Nadler decided to impeach the president the day the president won the election," McCarthy said. "Listen to exactly what he said. He talks about impeachment before he even became chairman and then he says, 'you've got to persuade people to get there.' There's nothing that the president did wrong."

"Show me where the president did anything to be impeached...Nadler is setting the framework now that the Democrats are not to believe the Mueller report," he said.

Nadler said Sunday his committee will seek to review the Mueller report but stressed the investigation "goes far beyond collusion."

He pointed to what he considered several instances of obstruction of justice by the president, including the "1,100 times he referred to the Mueller investigation as a 'witch hunt'" as well Trump's abrupt firing of FBI director James Comey in 2017. According to Comey, Trump had encouraged the then-FBI director to drop an investigation into former national security adviser Michael Flynn. Trump has denied he told Comey to end the Flynn probe.

"It's very clear that the president obstructed justice," Nadler said.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has kept calls for impeachment at bay by insisting that Mueller first must be allowed to finish his work, and present his findings publicly — though it's unclear whether the White House will allow its full release.

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., who chairs the House intelligence committee, on Sunday also stressed that it's too early to make judgments about impeachment.

"That is something that we will have to await Bob Mueller's report and the underlying evidence to determine. We will also have to look at the whole body of improper and criminal actions by the president including those campaign finance crimes to determine whether they rise to the level of removal from office," Schiff said.

Nadler and McCarthy spoke on ABC's "This Week," and Schiff appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Associated Press writer Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

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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. POWERFUL TORNADO STRIKES ALABAMA

The F3 twister packing at least 150 mph winds kills at least 23 people, leveling single-family homes and mobile homes in the rural southeast Alabama town of Beauregard.

2. HOUSE PREPARES TO EXPAND OBSTRUCTION PROBE

The chairman of the House committee that would be in charge of impeachment says the panel is requesting documents from more than 60 people from Trump's administration, family and business.

3. XI FIRMLY IN CHARGE AS CHINA TURNS TO LEGISLATIVE SEASON

The Chinese president wields his expanding influence despite a slowing economy, a trade war with the U.S. and rumbles of discontent over his concentration of power.

4. 'IT'S PURE HELL'

The Florida Panhandle county hardest hit by Hurricane Michael in October is still experiencing a housing crisis with Bay County officials saying that 7,800 people are still homeless.

5. TRUMP SAYS COHEN HEARING MAY HAVE HURT NORTH KOREA RESULTS

Trump criticized Democrats for holding the congressional hearing with his former personal attorney while he was in sensitive negotiations with Kim Jong Un.

6. WHERE ADVANCES IN CELL RESEARCH HAVE LED

Scientists can now zero in on individual cells to examine their DNA or the gene activity, leading to an ambitious plan to determine every type of cell in the human body.

7. DEATH OF 'HOOD CNN' PIONEER EXPOSES GANGLAND REPORTING RISKS

The killing of Zack Stoner in a new genre of news in which videographers interview street gangs and rappers in high-crime areas unnerves other gangland reporters nationwide.

8. BILL CLINTON HAS 2020 ADVICE; FEW CANDIDATES ARE SEEKING IT

The former U.S. president is taking meetings with some Democrats running for the White House, but the early front-runners and the women have stayed away.

9. WHAT YAZIDI WOMEN FEAR

Those who escaped captivity from the Islamic State group say they worry hundreds of other women are still missing — and may never return home.

10. SPIELBERG'S PUSH AGAINST NETFLIX STRIKES RANKLES SOME

The Oscar-winning director's push against Netflix at the Academy Awards hits a cultural nerve and reignites the streaming versus theatrical debate.

Bill Clinton has 2020 advice, but few candidates seeking it

By JULIE PACE, AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly 20 years after he left the White House, Bill Clinton is still sought after for advice by some Democrats running for president. But the names on his dance card in recent months underscore how much his standing in the party has changed.

So far, none of the party's early front-runners has had a formal meeting with Clinton. Nor have the women who are running in the historically diverse primary field.

Instead, Clinton has spoken mostly with male candidates who are considered longshots for the Democratic nomination, including Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, former Housing secretary Julian Castro and former Maryland Rep. John Delaney.

Clinton remains one of Democrats' most successful politicians of the last half-century and one of its strongest messengers on the economy. Yet the party has shifted considerably to the left since his two terms in White House, and his personal baggage — as well as lingering hostilities from his wife Hillary Clinton's failed 2016 campaign — make him an awkward adviser for some in his party's next class of presidential

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hopefuls.

Tensions run particularly deep between the Clintons and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who has launched another bid for the White House. The Clintons blame Sanders for damaging Hillary Clinton during the 2016 primary. And as they assess the 2020 field, the Clintons don't believe Sanders is capable of beating Trump, according to those who have spoken with them.

"I think that at some point bygones can be bygones, but what you can't get around is the electability question," said David Brock, a longtime Clinton ally.

Neither side tried to mask the tensions in the days since Sanders launched his 2020 campaign. When asked Friday on ABC's "The View" whether he would seek campaign advice from Hillary Clinton, Sanders said: "I think not."

There was not much warmth between Sanders and Hillary Clinton on Sunday when the two were in Selma, Alabama, to mark the 54th anniversary of the "Bloody Sunday" clash.

Bill Clinton has offered advice to a handful of candidates, sometimes meeting them at his New York office or speaking to them by phone. Former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper was meeting with Hillary Clinton at the couple's Chappaqua, New York, home when the former president stopped by and sat in on the rest of the meeting.

Castro, the former secretary of Housing and Urban Development, said he spoke with Clinton in January and "got some good advice," though he wouldn't elaborate on what they discussed. Others discussed meetings with Clinton on the condition of anonymity in order to speak about the private conversations.

Clinton's friends say he still relishes the political debate and is closely monitoring early developments in the primary. While he doesn't have much of a relationship with some of the younger White House hopefuls, like Beto O'Rourke, some of his contemporaries are considering running, including former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and former Vice President Joe Biden. Neither has had a formal meeting with Clinton about the campaign, but they've talked politics with him for years.

The 72-year-old former president rarely offers tactical advice about how to structure a campaign, according to people with knowledge of the conversations. He's said to be well-aware that technology and campaign tactics have significantly evolved since he was last on the ballot in 1996.

But the famously verbose Clinton does dive deep into policy and offers advice on how to appeal to the same economic anxiety that drove some white, working-class voters to side with Trump over his wife.

Clinton's focus on white, working-class voters became something of a joke within his wife's 2016 campaign, with aides privately mocking his insistence on plunging more energy and resources into states like Michigan and Wisconsin. Top campaign advisers believed they didn't need to invest heavily in those reliably Democratic states, then watched Trump narrowly edge Clinton out in the upper Midwest on his way to the presidency.

Some progressives say that while they agree Democrats can't turn their backs on white, working-class voters, they see Clinton's more centrist approach to winning back those voters as a throwback to an era — and a party — that no longer exists.

"Times have changed," said Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, a liberal group that has endorsed Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren. "The center of gravity within the Democratic Party and the electorate overall has moved massively in a more populist direction."

Indeed, some of Clinton's signature policies — including the North America Free Trade Agreement and the 1994 crime bill — are out of step with the mainstream of the Democratic Party. Clinton himself has acknowledged that the crime bill worsened the problem of mass incarcerations, particularly among black men.

It's Clinton's personal baggage that has created another uncomfortable dynamic with Democrats running for the White House.

New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, who had been backed by the couple throughout her political career, said Clinton should have resigned from office because of his affair with a White House intern. The former president has tried to publicly brush off the comment, saying Gillibrand — a leading Senate voice on

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sexual harassment and assault — is “living in a different context.” But Clinton allies say the couple’s anger at Gillibrand runs deep and their relationship may be irreparable.

Other women seeking the Democratic nomination also haven’t met with Clinton, including Warren and California Sen. Kamala Harris. Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar spoke with Clinton briefly at last month’s funeral for John Dingell, the retired Democratic congressman.

2020 wouldn’t be the first time Clinton has been sidelined in part because of his personal transgressions. His own vice president, Al Gore, distanced himself from Clinton during the 2000 campaign, a move some Democrats still see as a mistake. But views on Clinton shifted, and by 2012, he was considered one of the strongest surrogates for Barack Obama’s re-election campaign.

In a shot at those who see Clinton as an albatross this time around, one ally of the former president referenced Gore and said the track record isn’t good for candidates who distance themselves from Clinton.

Associated Press writers Brian Slodysko in Washington, Nicholas Riccardi in Denver, Errin Haines Whack in Selma, Alabama, and Michelle Price in Las Vegas contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

Hopes for missing Yazidis dim as Islamic State defeat looms

By PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press

DAHUK, Iraq (AP) — Baseh Hammo was 38 when she was enslaved by militants of the Islamic State group. Raped and abused, she was sold 17 times among members of the so-called “caliphate,” and moved from city to city across a vast stretch of territory IS once controlled in northern Iraq and Syria.

Her ordeal came to an end in January in the Syrian village of Baghouz, when an IS member took pity on her as the final battle loomed with U.S.-led Syrian Kurdish forces. He put her on a truck with his own family and allowed them to leave the village. She was picked up by Syrian Kurdish forces and reunited with her two daughters in Iraq a few days later.

Yet many Yazidis, followers of a minority faith, are still missing, five years after IS militants stormed Yazidi towns and villages in Iraq’s Sinjar region and abducted women and children. Women were forced into sexual slavery, and boys were taken to be indoctrinated in jihadi ideology.

Hopes surged last month during a two-week pause in the U.S.-led coalition’s assault on Baghouz that some of the estimated 3,000 Yazidis still unaccounted for would emerge.

But few turned up among the thousands who streamed out of the tiny village. Hussein Karo, who heads the Yazidi Rescue Bureau in Iraq’s regional Kurdish government, said only 47 Yazidis were rescued.

Now, as U.S.-backed forces resume their final assault on Baghouz, Hammo and Farha Farman, another rescued Yazidi woman, told The Associated Press they fear many may never return home and that the offensive endangers Yazidis who are still in the village.

The two said some are refusing to leave their children behind with their IS fathers while others are staying out of conviction, having adopted the jihadi ideology. Many are simply too terrified to flee.

Hammo said her days as a slave were consumed with loneliness and violence.

She was sold 17 times. One of her owners, a Swede, would lock her in the home for days without food while he went to fight. Another man, an Albanian, stomped on her hands in his military boots, after she scolded him for buying a 9-year-old slave girl.

In the Syrian town of Raqqa, once the seat of the caliphate, her nephews, 12 and 13 years old, carried guns and served as guards to a German IS fighter. When she invited them to eat with her, they refused, saying she was an infidel. She snapped back at them, “You’re one of us. You’re infidels, too.”

Hammo’s final months in captivity were especially trying as hunger gripped what was left of the caliphate. Bread grew scarce, and she began making dough for herself out of chicken feed. By the time she was brought to Baghouz, she was eating grass and leaves.

“I cannot even look at anything the color green anymore,” said a frail Hammo, her face gaunt, and her

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hands scarred from the abuse. She had heard there were still 1,000 Yazidis inside Baghouz, including 130 boys training to become jihadis.

Farman, 21, who arrived in Iraq in early February, feared for her sister and nine young male relatives still missing after being abducted five years ago.

Both Farman and Hammo, now staying in bleak camps for the displaced in Iraq, said international air-strikes had killed some Yazidis living as slaves in the caliphate.

Hammo said she had urged a Yazidi woman married to an Uzbek IS fighter to leave Baghouz with her, but the woman, who has had two children with the man, refused.

"She said she'd blow herself up first," said Hammo.

Another Yazidi woman in Bahgouz, who had been married off to a Saudi man, was forced to give up two of her boys to be trained as IS fighters. "She said she couldn't leave without them," Hammo said.

In 2014, when the Islamic State group was at the height of its power and its self-styled caliphate spanned a third of both Syria and Iraq, IS militants stormed Yazidi communities in Iraq's Sinjar region. The extremists, who consider the Kurdish-speaking religious minority to be heretics, enslaved, raped and killed thousands of Yazidis. Close to 200,000 members of the minority fled their homes.

Farman was 17 when she was abducted by IS from Sinjar. She was sold to a Syrian man who went on to carry out a suicide operation for IS. His family then sold her to a Saudi man who beat her savagely for trying to escape — twice.

The first time she tried to flee, she slipped out with a group of other Yazidi women to the countryside. "But we couldn't get anywhere, so we gave ourselves up," she said, speaking to the AP in a tent she is staying in with her aunt. She said she is haunted by nightmares that keep her from sleeping.

IS jailed her for a week after her first escape attempt, then turned her over to her captor who beat her savagely with cables and hoses.

The second time she tried to escape, her parents sent a paid smuggler to bring her to safety, but he was caught and gave up her name under IS interrogation. The Saudi man again punished Farman.

All the while, the militants were losing territory against advancing Syrian government and Syrian Kurdish forces, and she moved from city to city with her abuser along the Euphrates River, until they were finally trapped in Baghouz.

"I got to see half of Syria," she said, ironically.

Finally, the Saudi man asked if she would flee with him to Turkey. She refused, so he sold her to a smuggler for \$10,000, money arranged by the Yazidi community in exile, to help her leave on her own.

Farman made it out, but the Saudi man did not. He was caught by the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish forces outside Baghouz, and has not been heard of since, she said.

Associated Press writer Salar Salim in Dahuk, Iraq, contributed to this report.

At least 23 dead as tornadoes, severe storms ravage South

By KIM CHANDLER, Associated Press

BEAUREGARD, Ala. (AP) — A tornado roared into southeast Alabama and killed at least 23 people and injured several others Sunday, part of a severe storm system that caused catastrophic damage and unleashed other tornadoes around the Southeast.

"Unfortunately our toll, as far as fatalities, does stand at 23 at the current time," Lee County Sheriff Jay Jones told WRBL-TV of the death toll. He added that two people were in intensive care.

Drones flying overhead equipped with heat-seeking devices had scanned the area for survivors but the dangerous conditions halted the search late Sunday, Jones said. "The devastation is incredible," he said. An intense ground search would resume Monday morning.

Jones said the twister traveled straight down a county road in the rural community of Beauregard and that the path of damage and destruction appeared at least a half mile wide. He said single-family homes and mobile homes were destroyed, adding some homes were reduced to slabs. He had told reporters

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earlier that several people were taken to hospitals, some with "very serious injuries."

Lee County Coroner Bill Harris told The Associated Press that he had to call in help from the state, because there were more bodies than his four-person office can handle.

The National Weather Service confirmed late Sunday a tornado with at least an F3 rating and a track at least half a mile (.8 kilometers) wide caused the deadly destruction in Alabama. Although the statement did not give exact wind estimates, F3 storms typically are gauged at wind speeds of between 158-206 mph (254-331 kilometers per hour).

Dozens of emergency responders rushed to join search and rescue efforts in hard-hit Lee County after what forecasters said they think was a large tornado touched down Sunday afternoon, unleashed by a powerful storm system that also slashed its way across parts of Georgia, South Carolina and Florida.

Radar and video evidence showed what looked like a large tornado crossing the area near Beauregard shortly after 2 p.m. on Sunday, said meteorologist Meredith Wyatt with the Birmingham office of the National Weather Service.

"It appears it stayed on the ground for at least a mile and maybe longer," Jones told the AP.

After nightfall Sunday, the rain had stopped and pieces of metal debris and tree branches littered roadways in Beauregard. Two sheriff's vehicles blocked reporters and others from reaching the worst-hit area. Power appeared to be out in many places.

President Donald Trump tweeted late Sunday, "To the great people of Alabama and surrounding areas: Please be careful and safe. ... To the families and friends of the victims, and to the injured, God bless you all!"

Rita Smith, spokeswoman for the Lee County Emergency Management Agency, said about 150 first responders had quickly jumped in to efforts to search the debris after the storm struck in Beauregard. At least one trained canine could be seen with search crews as numerous ambulances and emergency vehicles, lights flashing, converged on the area.

No deaths had been reported Sunday evening from storm-damaged Alabama counties outside Lee County, said Gregory Robinson, spokesman for the Alabama Emergency Management Agency. But he said crews were still surveying damage in several counties in the southwestern part of the state.

Numerous tornado warnings were posted across parts of Alabama, Georgia, Florida and South Carolina on Sunday afternoon as the powerful storm system raced across the region. Weather officials said they confirmed other tornadoes around the region by radar alone and would send teams out early Monday to assess those and other storms.

In rural Talbotton, Georgia, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) south of Atlanta, a handful of people were injured by either powerful straight-line winds or a tornado that destroyed several mobile homes and damaged other buildings, said Leigh Ann Erenheim, director of the Talbot County Emergency Management Agency.

Televised broadcast news footage showed smashed buildings with rooftops blown away, cars overturned and debris everywhere. Trees all around had been snapped bare of branches.

"The last check I had was between six and eight injuries," Erenheim said in a phone interview. "From what I understand it was minor injuries, though one fellow did say his leg might be broken."

She said searches of damaged homes and structures had turned up no serious injuries or deaths there.

Henry Wilson of the Peach County Emergency Management Agency near Macon in central Georgia said a barn had been destroyed and trees and power poles had been snapped, leaving many in the area without power.

Authorities in southwest Georgia are searching door-to-door in darkened neighborhoods after a possible tornado touched down in the rural city of Cairo, about 33 miles (53 kilometers) north of Tallahassee, Florida, on Sunday evening. There were no immediate reports of serious injuries.

Authorities said a tornado was confirmed by radar in the Florida Panhandle late Sunday afternoon. A portion of Interstate 10 on the Panhandle was blocked in one direction for a time in Walton County in the aftermath, said Don Harrigan, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Tallahassee.

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"There's a squall line moving through the area," Harrigan told AP. "And when you have a mature line of storms moving into an area where low level winds are very strong, you tend to have tornadoes developing. It's a favorable environment for tornadoes."

The threat of severe weather continued into the late-night hours. A tornado watch was in effect for much of eastern Georgia, including Athens, Augusta and Savannah. The tornado watch also covered a large area of South Carolina, including the cities of Charleston and Columbia.

Associated Press writers Russ Bynum in Savannah, Georgia, Bill Cormier in Atlanta, and Ryan Kryska in New York contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that the twister traveled down a county road in the rural community of Beaufort, not a main artery.

Fledgling gangland news fills niche neglected by other media

By MICHAEL TARM, AP Legal Affairs Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Shawn Cotton no longer drives his \$55,000, bright pink Corvette to work because he's afraid it could get him killed like his friend. But there are two things he won't leave home without: his bulletproof vest and the 9 mm pistol he slips into his pocket.

Cotton, 28, quit his \$7-an-hour job cleaning refrigerators at a big-box store six years ago to enter a new and uniquely dangerous field of newsgathering in which video journalists interview street gangs and rappers in high-crime areas, then post the videos on YouTube channels.

Dozens of gangland videographers like him nationwide risk their lives to provide a voice for communities routinely ignored by mainstream media, creating an alternative news genre that Cotton's friend Zack Stoner liked to call "hood CNN" before he was killed in a drive-by shooting last year in Chicago.

Stoner, known by his nickname ZackTV, was a trailblazer in the genre and considered a mentor by gangland reporters around the country. His still-unsolved slaying exposed an ominous side to their line of reporting, where gun violence is a recurring theme, and showed how vulnerable these newsgatherers are.

Says Cotton about the impact of Stoner's death: "Now, I think every day about getting shot,"

Only after Stoner was killed did he begin arming himself and seeking to keep a lower profile when gathering content for his Say Cheese channel. That means not driving the car in the conspicuous color into gang territories, lest he make it easier for gangs angered by his reporting to track him.

Other top channels in the genre include Chicago World News, HoodVlogs in Los Angeles and Detroit's CharlieBo313. When it comes to his channel, Cotton said, his subscribers often dictate where he travels, encouraging him to cover specific gangs or rappers locked in escalating disputes. Reports often show members waving guns and cash, or flashing rival gang signs upside down — a recognized indication of disdain.

Critics say the channels glorify gang life and provide a platform — alongside other social media — for gangs to taunt each other, thus stoking violence.

"If you are making gangs look cool, you're recruiting more people to join gangs," says Mike Knox, a former Houston gang-unit police officer.

Defenders say the channels fill a neglected news niche, telling important human-interest stories that aren't a priority for traditional media and telling them from places where those outlets are often afraid to go.

"What Zack provided was a platform where (those on the streets thought), 'I can be myself, I can cuss, I can tell you how I feel ... and it ain't gonna be censored,'" says Rodney Phillips, an ex-gang member who works for Chicago anti-violence groups. "He was showing the unadulterated truth."

Stoner had just left a rap concert around 1:30 a.m. May 30 at Chicago's Refuge club when a car pulled alongside his. A dozen shots rang out. Stoner's bullet-riddled SUV veered into a lamppost. He had been shot in the head and neck and was pronounced dead three hours later.

Stoner once described how he would always conduct interviews with a camera in one hand and a gun within reach of the other.

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"I've been taking this chance with my life," he said on video, pulling a handgun from his coat pocket. "You just gotta be prepared."

Cotton, who travels around the country but considers Texas home, spoke with Stoner about the risks of their work: You could invite the wrath of gangs that believe a report favored hated rivals, or draw the attention of young gang members who might shoot merely out of hopes of gaining higher status in the gang by killing a notable member of the community.

Cotton said he receives multiple death threats a week via social media. One threat came after he reported that a gang member ran from a fight. One message read: "We're going to do you like we did Zack."

Why take such risks? Providing a voice for the community is one motivator. Money is also a big incentive.

YouTube pays a fraction of a penny per video view for ads on YouTube-based sites. Channels like Cotton's, which has over 400,000 subscribers and a million monthly views, can generate over \$15,000 a month. Stoner had over 200,000 subscribers.

Stoner rarely ventured outside Chicago, which tallied over 560 mostly gang-related killings last year. The day of Stoner's funeral, his friend, Davis "T Streetz" Thomas, was killed, one of many fatal shootings of aspiring rappers in 2018.

Stoner understood, as does Cotton, that some degree of danger makes more compelling videos, boosting viewership. With its homicide numbers and depth of hip-hop talent, Chicago is fertile ground for stories.

Far from lauding gangs, Stoner would berate them for perpetuating violence.

"We kill one another for some stupid (things). We gotta be smarter than that, y'all," he said in one video.

But Stoner was also empathetic.

He told the Chicago Defender newspaper in early 2018 that the young black men he interviewed were "stuck in this box" they wanted desperately to escape, despite tough exteriors that are obligatory in their worlds.

"A lot of people may look at these individuals like they're thugs ... nobodies," he said. "Never judge a book by its cover."

Stoner wasn't in a gang, but was raised in gang territory and knew the culture well.

"He dressed like them. He looked like them," Phillips said. "They saw a lot of Zack in themselves."

Stoner was adept at negotiating the patchwork of 60 Chicago gangs. But while gangs would welcome him, his friends feared his growing influence and wealth were fueling grudges against him. Some urged him to leave Illinois.

"But he would never leave Chicago. He loved Chicago," his cousin, Albert Curtis, said.

Stoner had close calls. He dove for cover during a 2016 interview when someone leaned out a car window and opened fire, injuring half a dozen people.

He inadvertently landed some gang members in legal straits. Suburban Chicago police arrested purported gang members in 2017 after observing them waving guns on ZackTV1. They hadn't heeded Stoner's advice: If you're a felon and insist on waving guns on camera, make sure they're not real.

Who killed Stoner and why are still discussed regularly on social media. Cellphone video taken from a nearby apartment after the gunfire shows several young men running to Stoner's vehicle. They speed away after someone screams. It's unclear if they were gunmen, or friends of Stoner who feared they could also get shot.

After what happened to Stoner, Cotton mulled leaving the field of gangland news. But he still likes the work and the money.

"I'm not going to switch careers," Cotton says, "just because I'm scared."

Follow Michael Tarm on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/mtarm>

US says closing consulate in Jerusalem no policy shift

By ISABEL DEBRE, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The United States has officially shuttered its consulate in Jerusalem, downgrading the status of its main diplomatic mission to the Palestinians by folding it into the U.S. Embassy to Israel.

For decades, the consulate functioned as a de facto embassy to the Palestinians. Now, that outreach will be handled by a Palestinian affairs unit, under the command of the embassy.

The symbolic shift hands authority over U.S. diplomatic channels with the West Bank and Gaza to ambassador David Friedman, a longtime supporter and fundraiser for the West Bank settler movement and fierce critic of the Palestinian leadership.

The announcement from the State Department came early Monday in Jerusalem, the merger effective that day.

"This decision was driven by our global efforts to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our diplomatic engagements and operations," State Department spokesman Robert Palladino said in a statement. "It does not signal a change of U.S. policy on Jerusalem, the West Bank, or the Gaza Strip."

When first announced by U.S. Secretary Mike Pompeo in October, the move infuriated Palestinians, fueling their suspicions that the U.S. was recognizing Israeli control over east Jerusalem and the West Bank, territories that Palestinians seek for a future state.

Palestinian official Saeb Erekat called the move "the final nail in the coffin" for the U.S. role in peacemaking.

The downgrade is just the latest in a string of divisive decisions by the Trump administration that have backed Israel and alienated the Palestinians, who say they have lost faith in the U.S. administration's role as a neutral arbiter in peace process.

Last year the U.S. recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and relocated its embassy there, upending U.S. policy toward one of the most explosive issues of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Palestinians in turn cut off most ties with the administration.

The administration also has slashed hundreds of millions of dollars in humanitarian aid to the Palestinians, including assistance to hospitals and peace-building programs. It has cut funding to the U.N. agency that provides aid to Palestinians classified as refugees. Last fall, it shut down the Palestinian diplomatic mission in Washington.

The Trump administration has cited the reluctance of Palestinian leaders to enter peace negotiations with Israel as the reason for such punitive measures, although the U.S. has yet to present its much-anticipated but still mysterious "Deal of the Century" to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, announced last month that the U.S. would unveil the deal after Israeli elections in April. The Palestinian Authority has preemptively rejected the plan, accusing the U.S. of bias toward Israel.

AP Diplomatic Writer Matthew Lee in Washington contributed to this report.

Adviser says Trump 'gave nothing away' in North Korea talks

By KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House national security adviser on Sunday described President Donald Trump's summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as a success despite the lack of an agreement providing for verifiable dismantling of the North's nuclear sites.

John Bolton, in three television interviews, tried to make the case that Trump advanced America's national security interests by rejecting a bad agreement while working to persuade Kim to take "the big deal that really could make a difference for North Korea."

The U.S. and North Korea have offered contradictory accounts of why last week's summit in Vietnam broke down, though both pointed to American sanctions as a sticking point.

However, in a tweet Sunday night, Trump offered another possibility. He appeared to cast criticism at Democrats for holding a congressional hearing with his former lawyer Michael Cohen while he was in

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sensitive negotiations overseas.

"For the Democrats to interview in open hearings a convicted liar & fraudster, at the same time as the very important Nuclear Summit with North Korea, is perhaps a new low in American politics and may have contributed to the "walk." Never done when a president is overseas. Shame!" Trump tweeted.

In new show appearances, Bolton said the leaders left on good terms and that Trump made an important point to North Korea and other countries that negotiate with him.

"He's not desperate for a deal, not with North Korea, not with anybody if it's contrary to American national interests," Bolton said.

Bolton also sought to explain Trump's comments about taking Kim's word about Otto Warmbier, the American college student who was held prisoner in North Korea, then sent home in a vegetative state. Trump said he didn't believe Kim knew about or would have allowed what happened to Warmbier.

"He tells me that he didn't know about it, and I will take him at his word," Trump said at a news conference last week.

Bolton said Trump's "got a difficult line to walk to" in negotiating with North Korea.

"It doesn't mean that he accepts it as reality. It means that he accepts that's what Kim Jong Un said," Bolton said.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., a close Trump ally, broke with the president.

"I think Kim knew what happened, which was wrong," McCarthy said.

Some have been critical for Trump letting Kim stand with him on the world stage given North Korea's poor human rights record. Kim will be able to portray himself to his people and supporters as the charismatic head of a nuclear-armed power, not an international pariah that starves its citizens so it can build weapons.

But Bolton said that Trump's view is that he "gave nothing away."

Asked whether that was his view, too, Bolton replied: "The president's view is he gave nothing away. That's what matters, not my view."

Rep. Adam Schiff, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, summarized the summit as a "spectacular failure" made all the worse by Trump's comments on "murder of an American citizen, Otto Warmbier."

"This is, I think, the result of a president who is not prepared for these kind of negotiations, a staff that is not well-prepared and that is essentially flying by the seat of its pants, and it has real-world consequences," Schiff said. "Those reactors continue to spin on, producing more material that can threaten us and our allies," said Schiff, D-Calif.

Bolton said Trump has "turned traditional diplomacy on its head, and after all in the case of North Korea, why not? Traditional diplomacy has failed in the last three administrations."

An example of that non-traditional diplomacy was formally unveiled Sunday when South Korea and the U.S. announced they would not conduct massive springtime military drills and were replacing them with smaller exercises. They described it as an effort to support diplomacy aimed at resolving the North Korean nuclear crisis.

"The reason I do not want military drills with South Korea is to save hundreds of millions of dollars for the U.S. for which we are not reimbursed," Trump tweeted Sunday. "That was my position long before I became President. Also, reducing tensions with North Korea at this time is a good thing!"

Bolton spoke on "Fox News Sunday," CNN's "State of the Union" and CBS's "Face the Nation." McCarthy was on ABC's "This Week," and Schiff was on CBS.

Brother of man killed by police wants Calif. to prosecute

By JOHN ROGERS, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The brother of a black man shot to death by police said Sunday he wants to see the officers who fired the fatal bullets held accountable

Stevante Clark called on California's attorney general to prosecute them after the local district attorney declined to do so. He told reporters his family was devastated, first by his brother Stephon's killing last March as he held a cellphone, and again Saturday when Sacramento County District Attorney Anne Marie

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Schubert announced the officers would not be charged.

"Our lives are suffering, our hearts are shattered, my family is in agony ever since the callous murder of my brother in my grandmother's backyard," the soft-spoken Clark told a news conference attended by his family and friends.

"I would like for the attorney general to prosecute the officers," he added. "I want justice and accountability."

Earlier Sunday the family's attorney, Ben Crump, said on the Rev. Al Sharpton's MSNBC program that state Attorney General Xavier Becerra is expected to release the findings of his own investigation into the shooting on March 18.

That's the anniversary of Clark's death, and Crump said he anticipates a large protest at the state Capitol that day. There have been several in Sacramento since the shooting.

In announcing that Officers Terrance Mercadal and Jared Robinet would not be charged, Schubert said prosecutors who reviewed video footage and other evidence determined they were telling the truth when they said they thought the cellphone Stephon Clark was holding was a gun.

Schubert also said physical evidence revealed Clark was the vandalism suspect they were looking for who had just broken three vehicle windows and an elderly man's sliding glass patio door before climbing a fence to reach his grandparents' backyard.

She said the 22-year-old had been going through a troubled time in the days leading up to the shooting.

The mother of his two children had recently filed a domestic abuse complaint against him that could have put him in jail, Schubert said, adding he'd been researching suicide websites. Among them, she said, were those that suggested using a tranquilizer that was found in his body.

His brother complained that revealing that information was an attempt to blame his brother for getting killed.

"No matter what he did on the 16th and the 17th doesn't determine what happened on the 18th," he said. "All of these things are irrelevant."

"Stephon, it was like he was killed again," he continued. "Literally she ran his name through the dirt."

Schubert, who called the shooting a tragedy, repeatedly apologized for raising the personal details during her hour-long presentation on Saturday.

"I can't tell ultimately what was going on in his mind," she said. "He was in a state of despair and he was impaired, and that may have affected his judgment."

Stevante Clark said his family plans to mark the upcoming anniversary of his brother's death with a weekend honoring his life that will begin on March 15 and conclude on March 18. He called on the community to remain peaceful.

"Everything that's peaceful that's done, we support it," he said, adding the family's ultimate goal is to change laws to limit police shootings and to hold police departments more accountable.

Police officials and Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg have said that since the shooting the department has increased training, limited foot pursuits like those in the Clark case and committed to quickly releasing videos of officer-involved shootings.

Clark said he appreciates all of that.

"But at the end of the day Stephon is not here with us," he said.

House to query 60 Trump officials in obstruction probe

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Declaring it's "very clear" President Donald Trump obstructed justice, the chairman of the House committee that would be in charge of impeachment says the panel is requesting documents Monday from more than 60 people from Trump's administration, family and business as part of a rapidly expanding Russia investigation.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., said the House Judiciary Committee wants to review documents from the

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Justice Department, the president's son Donald Trump Jr. and Trump Organization chief financial officer Allen Weisselberg. Former White House chief of staff John Kelly and former White House counsel Don McGahn also are likely targets, he said.

"We are going to initiate investigations into abuses of power, into corruption and into obstruction of justice," Nadler said. "We will do everything we can to get that evidence."

Asked if he believed Trump obstructed justice, Nadler said, "Yes, I do."

Nadler isn't calling the inquiry an impeachment investigation but said House Democrats, now in the majority, are simply doing "our job to protect the rule of law" after Republicans during the first two years of Trump's term were "shielding the president from any proper accountability."

"We're far from making decisions" about impeachment, he said.

In a tweet on Sunday, Trump blasted anew the Russia investigation, calling it a partisan probe unfairly aimed at discrediting his win in the 2016 presidential election. "I am an innocent man being persecuted by some very bad, conflicted & corrupt people in a Witch Hunt that is illegal & should never have been allowed to start - And only because I won the Election!" he wrote.

Nadler's comments follow a bad political week for Trump. He emerged empty-handed from a high-profile summit with North Korea leader Kim Jong Un on denuclearization and Trump's former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, in three days of congressional testimony, publicly characterized the president as a "con man" and "cheat."

Newly empowered House Democrats are flexing their strength with blossoming investigations. A half-dozen House committees are now probing alleged coordination between Trump associates and Russia's efforts to sway the 2016 election, Trump's tax returns and possible conflicts of interest involving the Trump family business and policy-making. The House oversight committee, for instance, has set a Monday deadline for the White House to turn over documents related to security clearances after The New York Times reported that the president ordered officials to grant his son-in-law Jared Kushner's clearance over the objections of national security officials.

Nadler's added lines of inquiry also come as special counsel Robert Mueller is believed to be wrapping up his work into possible questions of Trump campaign collusion and obstruction in the Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election. In his testimony, Cohen acknowledged he did not witness or know directly of collusion between Trump aides and Russia but had his "suspicions."

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., on Sunday accused House Democrats of prejudging Trump as part of a query based purely on partisan politics.

"I think Congressman Nadler decided to impeach the president the day the president won the election," McCarthy said. "Listen to exactly what he said. He talks about impeachment before he even became chairman and then he says, 'you've got to persuade people to get there.' There's nothing that the president did wrong."

"Show me where the president did anything to be impeached...Nadler is setting the framework now that the Democrats are not to believe the Mueller report," he said.

Nadler said Sunday his committee will seek to review the Mueller report but stressed the investigation "goes far beyond collusion."

He pointed to what he considered several instances of obstruction of justice by the president, including the "1,100 times he referred to the Mueller investigation as a 'witch hunt'" as well Trump's abrupt firing of FBI director James Comey in 2017. According to Comey, Trump had encouraged the then-FBI director to drop an investigation into former national security adviser Michael Flynn. Trump has denied he told Comey to end the Flynn probe.

"It's very clear that the president obstructed justice," Nadler said.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has kept calls for impeachment at bay by insisting that Mueller first must be allowed to finish his work, and present his findings publicly — though it's unclear whether the White House will allow its full release.

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., who chairs the House intelligence committee, on Sunday also stressed that it's too early to make judgments about impeachment.

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"That is something that we will have to await Bob Mueller's report and the underlying evidence to determine. We will also have to look at the whole body of improper and criminal actions by the president including those campaign finance crimes to determine whether they rise to the level of removal from office," Schiff said.

Nadler and McCarthy spoke on ABC's "This Week," and Schiff appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Associated Press writer Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

Follow all of AP's Trump Investigations coverage at <https://apnews.com/TrumpInvestigations>

Senate seems to have votes to reject Trump's wall move

WASHINGTON (AP) — Opponents of President Donald Trump's declaration of a national emergency at the U.S.-Mexico border appear to have enough Senate votes to reject his move, now that Republican Rand Paul of Kentucky has said he can't go along with the White House.

The House has voted to derail the action, and if the Senate follows later this month, the measure would go to Trump for his promised veto.

Three other Republican senators have announced they'll vote "no" — Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Thom Tillis of North Carolina. Paul makes it four, and assuming that all 47 Democrats and their independent allies go against Trump, that would give opponents 51 votes — just past the majority needed.

Congress is unlikely to have the votes to override.

"I can't vote to give the president the power to spend money that hasn't been appropriated by Congress," Paul said at a GOP dinner Saturday night at Western Kentucky University, according to the Bowling Green (Ky.) Daily News.

"We may want more money for border security, but Congress didn't authorize it. If we take away those checks and balances, it's a dangerous thing."

Many lawmakers opposed to the emergency declaration say it tramples Congress' constitutional power to control spending and would set a precedent for future Democratic presidents to make such a declaration for their own purposes. They also are concerned Trump would siphon money from home-state projects to barrier construction.

Under the declaration, Trump would divert \$3.6 billion from military construction to erect more border barriers. He's invoking other powers to transfer an additional \$3.1 billion to construction.

Defending Iditarod champ remains self-proclaimed 'goofball'

By MARK THIESSEN, Associated Press

WILLOW, Alaska (AP) — Joar Leifseth Ulsom may not be flashy or brash, but he has sled cred.

The quiet, unassuming 32-year-old defending champion of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race leads the field of 52 mushers hoping to be the first to reach Alaska's western coast after a thousand-mile (1,600-kilometer) trek across the wilderness.

Most of the contestants are Americans, but the lineup also features international mushers: two from Norway, including Ulsom; four from Canada; and one each from Sweden and France.

Their quest officially began Sunday when the mushers took off from a frozen lake about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Anchorage. A ceremonial start designed to be a fan-friendly experience was held Saturday in downtown Anchorage.

The winner is expected in Nome, an old Gold Rush town on Alaska's Bering Sea coast, in about nine days.

The Iditarod seems to go in streaks. Lance Mackey in 2007 won his first of four straight before health problems began to set in. Two years after Mackey's run, the Seavey legacy took hold, with mushers Mitch and his son, Dallas, combining to win the next six races.

Ulsom broke the Seaveys' string last year. If that came as a shock to anyone, they weren't paying at-

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tention to his career.

His worst Iditarod finish was seventh place in 2013, his rookie year. Since then, he's had two sixth place finishes and a couple of fourths.

It's all part of his strategy.

"Basically since I came to Alaska, I kind of had a good plan," he said. He tweaks it little by little every year, but he hasn't made any wholesale changes to his training now that he's the defending champion.

What has changed for the musher living in Willow, Alaska's dog-mushing capital, was the instant fame his victor status granted him, not only in Alaska but in his Norway.

"It's definitely been a bigger deal winning the race than I thought it was going to be," he said.

Ulsom traveled to Norway twice last summer for dog symposiums where his victory was celebrated alongside those of other winter athletes. Norway won the most medals at last year's Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

There is "definitely a lot of pride in Norway from the Olympics and for me winning the race because mushing, I think, is second to Alaska in popularity," he said. "It's a big deal in Norway, and they have some good races over there."

But he promises it hasn't changed him or gone to his head.

"It was a lot of fun, and people are excited and stuff, but nothing crazy," he said. "I'm still just a normal goofball."

One of Norway's big sled dog races is the Finnmarkslopet, which starts about a week after the Iditarod. Ulsom said it draws mushers from across Europe, but for the second year in a row, it has one of the top American mushers.

Four-time Iditarod champion Dallas Seavey took his team to Norway last year in protest after Iditarod officials said some of his dogs tested positive in 2017 for an opioid painkiller, an allegation he adamantly denied. New members were later placed on the Iditarod's governing board, and they reversed the decision, clearing Seavey of any wrongdoing.

Yet Seavey chose to race again this year in Norway, telling The Associated Press he had unfinished business there after placing third last year. He said he would eventually return to the Alaska race.

The Iditarod has suffered other recent setbacks, many related to the animal rights organization People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals pressuring national sponsors to drop the race.

When national sponsors drop out, smaller Alaska-based companies fill the void, but the race has been hurt financially. The winning musher will earn about \$50,000 and a new pickup, the same as last year. But it's down about \$20,000 from the winner's purse in 2017. The total purse this year is again \$500,000 — about \$250,000 below the 2017 purse.

Ulsom calls the PETA activism "kind of ridiculous when you start looking into it," adding that mushers take "exceptional" care of the dogs and use them for what they're meant to be used for.

"These dogs have it in them that they want to run, and so that's what they're bred and meant to do, and they love it," he said.

US-built capsule with a dummy aboard docks at space station

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A sleek new American-built capsule with just a test dummy aboard docked smoothly with the International Space Station on Sunday, bringing the U.S. a big step closer to getting back in the business of launching astronauts.

The white, bullet-shaped Dragon capsule, developed by Elon Musk's SpaceX company under contract to NASA, closed in on the orbiting station nearly 260 miles above the Pacific Ocean and, flying autonomously, linked up on its own, without the help of the robotic arm normally used to guide spacecraft into position.

Dragon's arrival marked the first time in eight years that an American-made spacecraft capable of carrying humans has flown to the space station.

If this six-day test flight goes well, a Dragon capsule could take two NASA astronauts to the orbiting

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outpost this summer.

"A new generation of space flight starts now with the arrival of @SpaceX's Crew Dragon to the @Space Station," NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine tweeted. "Congratulations to all for this historic achievement getting us closer to flying American Astronauts on American rockets."

Ever since NASA retired the space shuttle in 2011, the U.S. has been hitching rides to and from the space station aboard Russian Soyuz spacecraft. In the meantime, NASA is paying two companies — SpaceX and Boeing — to build and operate America's next generation of rocket ships.

SpaceX's 27-foot-long (8-meter-long) capsule rocketed into orbit early Saturday from NASA's Kennedy Space Center with a mannequin strapped into one of its four seats in a dashing, white-and-black, form-fitting SpaceX spacesuit. The test dummy was nicknamed Ripley after the main character in the "Alien" movies.

Ripley and the capsule are rigged with sensors to measure noise, vibration and stresses and monitor the life-support, propulsion and other critical systems.

As the capsule closed in on the space station, its nose cap was wide open like a dragon's mouth to expose the docking mechanism. In a docking with a crew aboard, the capsule would likewise operate autonomously, though the astronauts might push a button or two and would be able to intervene if necessary.

The three U.S., Canadian and Russian crew members aboard the space station watched the rendezvous via TV cameras. Within hours, the capsule's hatch swung open and the three astronauts floated inside to remove supplies and take air samples, wearing oxygen masks and hoods until they got the all-clear.

Canadian astronaut David Saint-Jacques pronounced the docking flawless and called it "a beautiful thing to see."

"Welcome to the new era in spaceflight," he said.

Dragon will remain at the space station until Friday, when it will undock for an old-school, "Right Stuff"-style splashdown in the Atlantic, a few hundred miles off Florida.

As part of Sunday's shakedown, the space station astronauts sent commands for Dragon to retreat and then move forward again, before the capsule closed in for good. SpaceX employees at company headquarters in Hawthorne, California, cheered the docking, then burst into applause again when the Dragon's latches were secured.

The two astronauts set to fly aboard Dragon as early as July, Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken, witnessed the Florida liftoff, then rushed to Southern California to watch Sunday's maneuver.

"Just super excited to see it," Behnken said minutes after the linkup. "Just one more milestone that gets us ready for our flight coming up here."

Next up, though, is Boeing, which is looking to launch its Starliner capsule without a crew as early as April and with a crew possibly in August.

SpaceX already has made 16 trips to the space station using cargo Dragons. The version designed for humans is slightly bigger and safer.

It can carry as many as seven people and has three windows, emergency-abort engines that can pull the capsule to safety, and streamlined controls, with just 30 buttons and touch screens, compared with the space shuttle cockpit's 2,000 switches and circuit breakers.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, March 4, the 63rd day of 2019. There are 302 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 4, 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt took office as America's 32nd president.

On this date:

In 1791, Vermont became the 14th state.

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In 1793, George Washington was sworn in for a second term as president of the United States during a ceremony in Philadelphia.

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated for a second term of office; with the end of the Civil War in sight, Lincoln declared: "With malice toward none, with charity for all."

In 1913, the "Buffalo nickel" officially went into circulation.

In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge's inauguration was broadcast live on 21 radio stations coast-to-coast.

In 1952, Ronald Reagan and Nancy Davis were married in San Fernando Valley, California.

In 1974, the first issue of People magazine, then called People Weekly, was published by Time-Life Inc.; on the cover was actress Mia Farrow.

In 1977, some 1,500 people were killed in an earthquake that shook southern and eastern Europe.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan addressed the nation on the Iran-Contra affair, acknowledging that his overtures to Iran had "deteriorated" into an arms-for-hostages deal.

In 1994, in New York, four extremists were convicted of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing that killed six people and injured more than a thousand. Actor-comedian John Candy died in Durango, Mexico, at age 43.

In 1998, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that sexual harassment at work can be illegal even when the offender and victim are of the same gender.

In 2005, Martha Stewart, imprisoned for five months for her role in a stock scandal, left federal prison to start five months of home confinement.

Ten years ago: British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, addressing a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress, called on Americans to look beyond their own tumbling financial markets to see a world gripped by an "economic hurricane" that could be turned around with U.S. help. Playwright Horton Foote, who'd won an Oscar for his screen adaptation of "To Kill a Mockingbird," died in Hartford, Conn. at age 92.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama submitted a \$3.9 trillion budget for fiscal 2015. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met in Ukraine with the new government's leaders in a show of support following Russia's military incursion into the Crimean Peninsula.

One year ago: "The Shape of Water" won the Oscar for best picture and in three other categories; the top prize was announced by Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway a year after they were caught up in the erroneous announcement that "La La Land" and not "Moonlight" had won for best picture. Russian President Vladimir Putin said Russia would "never" extradite any of the 13 Russians who'd been indicted by the United States for election-meddling; he also insisted to NBC News that they didn't act on behalf of his government. Former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter were found unconscious on a bench in the southwestern English city of Salisbury; both survived what British authorities said was a murder attempt using a nerve agent.

Today's Birthdays: Former Congressional Budget Office director Alice Rivlin is 88. Actress Paula Prentiss is 81. Movie director Adrian Lyne is 78. Singer Shakin' Stevens is 71. Author James Ellroy is 71. Energy Secretary Rick Perry is 69. Singer Chris Rea is 68. Actor/rock singer-musician Ronn Moss is 67. Actress Kay Lenz is 66. Musician Emilio Estefan is 66. Movie director Scott Hicks is 66. Actress Catherine O'Hara is 65. Actor Mykelti (MY'-kul-tee) Williamson is 62. Actress Patricia Heaton is 61. Sen. Tina Smith, D-Minn., is 61. Actor Steven Weber is 58. Rock musician Jason Newsted is 56. Actress Stacy Edwards is 54. Rapper Grand Puba is 53. Rock musician Patrick Hannan (The Sundays) is 53. Rock singer Evan Dando (Lemonheads) is 52. Actress Patsy Kensit is 51. Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., is 51. Gay rights activist Chaz Bono is 50. Actress Andrea Bendewald is 49. Actor Nick Stabile (stah-BEEL') is 49. Rock musician Fergal Lawler (The Cranberries) is 48. Country singer Jason Sellers is 48. Jazz musician Jason Marsalis is 42. Actress Jessica Heap is 36. Actor Scott Michael Foster is 34. TV personality Whitney Port is 34. Actress Audrey Esparza is 33. Actress Margo Harshman is 33. Actor Josh Bowman is 31. Actress Andrea Bowen is 29. Actress Jenna Boyd is 26.

Thought for Today: "I do not understand the world, but I watch its progress." — Katherine Anne Porter, American author (1894-1980).

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