

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 238 ~ 1 of 57

Groton Area Schedule of Events

The Groton Area School District will be opening two hours late on Tuesday, March 5, 2019.

OST will be opening at 7 AM.

4 year old preschool will be meeting at 10:30AM.

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

State Student Congress

7:00 p.m.: City Council Meeting at the Groton Community Center

Saturday, March 9, 2019

Regional Destination Imagination, Groton Area High School

Best of Show Competition, Sioux Falls Washington High School

Sunday, March 10, 2019

2:00pm- 6:00pm, Open Gym, GHS Arena

Grades JK-8 2pm - 4pm; Grades 6-12 4pm - 6pm

Monday, March 11, 2019

Big Question National Qualifier Debate, Aberdeen Central High School

- 1- Help Wanted
- 1- Bates Township Notice
- 2- DeHoet named to NEC All-Conference
- 2- Truss Pros is Hiring
- 2- Coming up on GDILIVE.COM
- 3- The Life of LeRoy Woods
- 4- January Students of the Month
- 5- I "Hate" Winter Party at Groton Care & Rehab
- 6- Owner-occupied property tax relief deadline approaching
- 6- Location of Psalms 118:8
- 7- Pump Prices Steadily Rising
- 8- EarthTalk
- 9- Shop fire in Columbia
- 9- Siren testing to begin tomorrow
- 10- Winter storm possible for this weekend
- 11- Anatomy of an ice dam
- 12- Mason Stark seals NSIC Championship appearance for Northern State men
- 13- Today in Weather History
- 14- Weather Pages
- 16- Daily Devotional
- 17- 2019 Groton Events
- 18 - News from the Associated Press

Help Wanted

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

CLOSED! Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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

DeHoet named to NEC All-Conference



**Brodyn
DeHoet**

Brodyn DeHoet of Groton Area was named to the second team of the NEC All-Conference Team. He averaged 18 points, 11 rebounds, two assists and two steals per game.

Members of the first team are Jacob Prouty and Micah Burke of Clark-Willow Lake, Kyler Meyer, Britton-Hecla; Nate Nielsen, Sisseton; and Connor Bawdon, Hamlin.

Second team members including DeHoet are Brady Morgan, Roncalli; Kellan Benck, Deuel, and Caleb White and Jamison Pratt, Tiospa Zina.

Third team members are Micaiah Utecht and Max Baloun, Redfield-Doland, Max Reede, Roncalli, Stone Burke, Clark-Willow Lake, and Max McCulloch, Milbank.

**Coming Up on
GDILIVE.COM**

Coming up on GDILIVE.COM

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

7 p.m.

Groton Community Center

NOW HIRING!

Truss Pros

10954 424th Avenue | Britton, SD 57430

**Looking for assemblers - both shifts &
Class A CDL Drivers**

**New Starting Competitive Wages
Overtime Available**

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Comprehensive Health,
- Dental & Vision insurance
- Life Insurance
- STD
- LTD
- 401k
- Holiday Pay
- Vacation Pay
- Paid Sick Leave
- Referral Bonuses

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

The Life of LeRoy Woods

LeRoy Woods, 78, Groton, formerly of Watertown & Garden City, moved to Heaven on March 3, 2019, to be with his wife Mickie. He was a resident at the Groton Care & Rehab Center for 1 year after Mickie move to Heaven to prepare their eternal home .

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 from 5-7 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton, SD with Liturgical Wake service beginning at 7 p.m. Visitation will continue 1 hour prior to Mass.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at 11 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton, with Father Mike Kelly officiating. The organist will be Anne Marie Smith. The casket bearers will be his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Burial will be at a later date at the Garden City, SD cemetery.

He was born LeRoy George Woods on January 29, 1941 in Hetland, SD (Kingsbury County), the oldest of 4 children born to George and Murial (Barber) Woods. He started high school in Lake Preston lettering in football is freshman year. Through several family moves he finished high school in Henry, SD graduating in 1959. LeRoy joined the army in 1960. He was a helicopter mechanic stationed in Europe for most of his service. LeRoy was honorably discharged in 1963.

On August 9, 1963 at St. Otto Catholic Church in Webster, SD he was united in marriage to Margaret "Mickie" Clemen after knowing each other for 4 months. He and Mickie made Garden City their home for 50 years where they raised their 4 children. The summer of 2013 LeRoy and Mickie moved to Watertown, SD until Mickie moved to Heaven on February 22, 2018. The last 5 years in Watertown were a beautiful way to finish their earthly life together.

LeRoy worked his entire life as a mechanic with the ability to fix anything. He was mechanic and parts man for Hartman's Implement in Garden City from 1963 until 1985, when International Harvester merged with Case. LeRoy often gave thanks to lifelong friend Bob Murphy of Clark, SD. Bob was his mentor in the early years and an example of what a good man should be! LeRoy never stopped working and got so much joy in taking broken things and making them like new again. Through the years LeRoy & Mickie ran their own repair shop, "LeRoy's Repair". They enjoyed helping friends and neighbors in the Clark County area. Later he worked for Dakota Style Chips of Clark, McCain Foods of Clark, and various other locations before health challenges caused him to retire.

The greatest Joy in LeRoy's life was his family and helping others. He was quiet, so the love of his life Mickie could take the lead, but was always quick with a one liner at just the right time. He loved to laugh during happy times and wanted to help everyone during the sad. He had hands as tough as steel with a heart of solid gold. His earthly life was happiest when sharing the "good stuff" with his brothers, sister, kids, grandkids, & great grandkids. His happiness is now eternal as he's with Mickie again in our Heavenly Father's Beautiful home.

Greeting him in Heaven are his parents, wife Mickie, brother-in-law Roy Olson, and all the people he helped over the years.

Grateful for sharing his life are children Tom (Patti) Woods, Groton; Jamie (David) Nemmers, Huron; Bill (Colleen) Woods, Raymond, MN; and Peggy (Robert) McAdams, Sioux Falls; 11 grandchildren, Brianna (Zach) Geary, Mariah (Jayde) Graves, Samantha (James) Roepke, Sarah (Dalton) Sichmeller, Davis Nemmers, Emily Woods, Katie Nemmers, Brodie Woods, Noelle Nemmers, Ethan Nemmers and Carysa McAdams; 4 great-grandchildren, Nolan Graves, Zander Geary, Milo Roepke and Talon Sichmeller. He also leaves siblings Dean (Glenda) Woods of Florence, Duane (Linda) Woods and "Annie" Helen Woods all of Watertown and in-laws Nancy Olson of Dassel, MN and Robert (Janel) Clemen of Minneapolis and many nieces and nephews.



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January Students of the Month

The student council is sponsoring Student of the Month. Each month the faculty select students who show outstanding academic achievement. These students receive certificates and have an end of the year recognition with the principal.

January: 6th - Alexis Geffre, 7th - Holden Sippel, 8th - Elliana Weismantel, 9th - Jordan Bjerke, 10th - Alexis Hanten, 11th - Kayla Jensen, 12th - Alexis Simon



Alexis Geffre, sixth grade, is the daughter of Tammi and Cory Geffre, Aberdeen. Siblings are Parker and Sam and their dog is Katie.

Alexis is involved in soccer, basketball, softball and volleyball. She has been named to the honor roll and the student of the month. She is interested in sports and math and math is her favorite subject. She wants to be successful at a good job and her role model is Alex Morgan.



Holden Sippel, seventh grade, is the son of Crystal Strom and Doug Sippel, Groton. Gage is his brother.

Holden likes to go hunting and playing basketball and football. He has been getting straight A's for the first time and he got his first deer. He likes watching football and movies and playing board games. Science is his favorite subject and he plans to play football at SDSU. His parents are his role models.



Elliana Weismantel, eighth grade, is the daughter of Marty and Amy Weismantel, Columbia. Hattie is her sister.

Elliana is involved in band, choir, dance and piano. Her accomplishments include being received in to the honor band in seventh grade and eighth grade and earning first and third places in MathCounts. She is interested in band, choir, dance, piano and likes spending time with family and friends. Math is his favorite subject. He plans to possibly attend Northern for teaching or some job in the medical field. Her sister, Hattie, is her role model.



Jordan Bjerke, freshman, is the son of Jerry and Kathy Bjerke, Groton. Siblings are Torri, Becca, Brea, Cameron, Jessie and Maddie.

Jordan is involved in baseball, basketball, FFA and FBLA. He has been on the honor roll and is interested in sports. Ag is his favorite subject and his future plans are unknown at this time. His role models are his dad and Austin Jones.



Alexis Hanten, sophomore, is the daughter of Cody and Sarah Hanten, Groton. Siblings are Caleb, Teagan and Gavin.

Alexis is involved in FBLA, FCCLA, Chamber Choir, show choir, jazz band, dance club, statistician, 4-H and track. Her accomplishments include a superior rating on a vocal solo, first place at local Snow Queen talent show, president of 4-H club and a solo in show choir. She is interested in music, literature and writing, theater, cooking and baking and saving. English and choir are her favorite subjects and she plans to be a physical therapist or vocal director. Her grandmother Keller is her role model.



Kayla Jensen, junior, is the daughter of Robin and Lynn Jensen, Claremont. Abby is her sister.

Kayla's activities include show choir, dance team, theatre (one-act play and all-school play). Her accomplishments include 4-H Quotes to Live By essay contest with first place nationally, second place trophy at NSU math competition, letterwinner in band and on the 4.0 honor roll. She is interested in hockey, music, animals, writing and art, theatre, dance and photography. English is her favorite subject and she plans to be a special education teacher and a photographer. Her aunt Vonnie is her role model.



Alexis Simon, senior, is the daughter of Nick and Jamie Simon, Groton. Brothers are Lucas, Cole and Carter. Her accomplishments include being on the 4.0 honor roll, student of the month, academic all-state football, volleyball and basketball, and 2016 Groton Junior Snow Queen. She is interested in traveling, spending time with family and friends, shopping and watching movies. FACS is her favorite subject and she plans to attend University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, and major in finance or international business. Ellen Degeneres is her role model.



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

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Q: What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?

A: Psalms 117

Q: What is the longest chapter in the Bible?

A: Psalms 119

Q: Which chapter is in the center of the Bible?

A: Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118

**Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118
Add these numbers up and you get 1188**

Q: What is the center verse in the Bible?

A: Psalms 118:8

Q: Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives?

The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the center of His will, just send them to the center of His Word!

Psalms 118:8

"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."

Amen...Praise the LORD !!!

Owner-occupied property tax relief deadline approaching

PIERRE, S.D. – Homeowners have until March 15 to apply for property tax relief through South Dakota's owner-occupied program.

Any South Dakotan who owned and occupied a home on Nov. 1, 2018 is eligible for this classification and its property tax reduction. Taxpayers who have previously received this reduction and still own and occupy the same home will continue to receive the property tax relief without applying.

The Department of Revenue recently sent taxpayers their 2019 valuation notices, which indicate if the property classification is owner-occupied. Homeowners are advised to check their notices to ensure their property is classified as owner-occupied.

Taxpayers who have purchased or built a home prior to Nov. 1, 2018 may apply for this classification through their local county director of equalization. The form is available on the Department of Revenue web site at http://dor.sd.gov/Taxes/Property_Taxes/Forms.aspx.

If applicants have questions about the owner-occupied program, they are encouraged to contact their local county director of equalization or call the Department of Revenue's property tax division at 605-773-3311.

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Pump Prices Steadily Rising

March 4, 2019 - The national gas price average has increased nearly 20-cents since the beginning of the year, which is the largest jump during the January-February time frame since 2015. Pump prices rose steadily across the country in February, a month that saw a number of refineries undergoing planned and unplanned maintenance, and an increase in crude oil prices.

Today's national average is \$2.42, which is three-cents more expensive than last week, 17-cents more expensive than a month ago, but 10-cents cheaper than a year ago.

South Dakota Average Gas Prices:

Current Avg. \$2.33
Yesterday Avg. \$2.33
Week Ago Avg. \$2.26
Month Ago Avg. \$2.14
Year Ago Avg. \$2.56

"Pump prices have been pushed higher this week due to reduced gasoline stock levels and increased demand," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "Motorists can expect gas prices to continue to increase as refineries gear up for spring gasoline production and maintenance season."

Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 largest weekly increases are: Florida (+13 cents), Alabama (+11 cents), Mississippi (+8 cents), Louisiana (+8 cents), Kansas (+6 cents), South Dakota (+6 cents), Texas (+5 cents), North Dakota (+5 cents), Colorado (+5 cents) and Michigan (+5 cents).

The nation's top 10 least expensive markets are: Missouri (\$2.17), Arkansas (\$2.17), Utah (\$2.18), Mississippi (\$2.19), South Carolina (\$2.19), Texas (\$2.19), Virginia (\$2.20), Colorado (\$2.20), Louisiana (\$2.21) and Tennessee (\$2.22).

Central and Great Lakes Region

The Great Lakes and Central states have among the biggest month-over-month difference in gas prices in the country. With gas prices a quarter or more expensive, nine states land on the top 10 list: Michigan (+32 cents), Minnesota (+31 cents), Kansas (+30 cents), Iowa (+29 cents), Oklahoma (+28 cents), Wisconsin (+27 cents), Missouri (+27 cents), Nebraska (+26 cents) and Illinois (+26 cents).

On the week, Indiana (-10 cents) and Kentucky (-1 cent) were the only states in the region to see gas prices decrease. In the rest of the region, gas price averages increased one to 10 cents, while gas prices range from \$2.17 in Missouri to \$2.47 in Illinois.

Oil market dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI dropped \$1.42 to settle at \$55.80. Oil prices took a downward turn last week due to concerns that global crude demand may be lower than expected. Moving into this week, crude prices may rise on optimism that the United States and China are closer to a deal that resolves the ongoing trade spat between two of the world's largest economies. Tightened global supply due to OPEC's 1.2 million b/d production reduction agreement (which will be through June 2019) and decreased crude exports from Venezuela and Iran could also help prices increase.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.

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EARTHTALK ™ Questions & Answers About Our Environment

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: What is a low-carbon diet and is it good for losing weight or is it only about saving the planet?
-- Jane Monroe, Scranton, PA

Not to be confused with a "low-carb" diet, which involves avoiding carbohydrates (bread, rice, pasta) as a way to lose weight or keep it off, a low-carbon diet—whereby you limit foods that generate a lot of carbon (CO₂) emissions in their production and distribution—is indeed more about reducing your carbon footprint than your waistline. That said, proponents of a low-carbon diet say that eating with reduced greenhouse gas emissions in mind is healthier for us than the typical American diet whereby carbon-intensive meat, dairy and processed foods occupy too large a share of our overall food intake.

A recent study from the University of Michigan Center for Sustainable Systems backs up these assertions. Researchers correlated data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey—a snapshot of what 16,000 Americans consumed over one 24-hour period—with information on the nutritional value and greenhouse gas impacts of different food items, concluding that the better a diet is for the planet, the better it is for our health. Furthermore, the 20 percent of Americans who eat what researchers consider a "high-carbon" diet (rich in red meat, dairy and exotic and processed foods) are responsible for almost half of the nation's food-related CO₂ emissions. The upshot is that changing the behavior and food choices of this small segment of the population could pay big dividends for public health and for reducing our overall national carbon footprint.

The concept of a low-carbon diet was first popularized in the U.S. by Bon Appétit Management Company, which runs more than 1,000 cafés in 33 states for corporations, universities and venues. Back in 2007, the company partnered with the non-profit Ecotrust to compile and conduct Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs)—measuring the amount of CO₂ emitted during a given food product's entire life cycle—for thousands of different foods. These LCAs became the basis for the "Food Scores" section of its EatLowCarbon.org website, which provides information to help people reduce their carbon footprints through food choices.

Besides launching EatLowCarbon.org, Bon Appétit's managers also embarked on a five-year internal campaign to ratchet down the emissions generated by the company's own operations and offerings by 25 percent. The company stopped buying air-freighted seafood, reduced its use of tropical fruit by half, shrank beef purchases by 33 percent and cheese by 10 percent while cutting food waste by one-third. Overall these moves shaved some five million pounds of carbon emissions per month off Bon Appétit's contribution to global warming.

The fact that food and the systems to produce and distribute it are responsible for about a third of all greenhouse gas emissions means that everyone has a lot of potential for fighting global warming through sourcing locally produced and in-season foods to minimize emissions-intensive 'food miles', buying only as much as we can eat to reduce waste, and minimizing consumption of red meat, dairy and processed foods. In the case of climate change, if we don't watch what we eat, it could really come back to haunt us.

CONTACTS: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/; "Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use associated with production of individual self-selected US diets"; <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/aab0ac>; Bon Appétit Management Company, bamco.com; Ecotrust, ecotrust.org; Eat Low Carbon, EatLowCarbon.org.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. To donate, visit www.earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

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Shop fire in Columbia

Rural fire crews from Columbia, Groton, and Aberdeen Rural have been on scene of a shop fire since 11:15pm. Shop was located on S. Lake Blvd in Columbia. No injuries have been reported. BCEM, BCSO, and Northwestern Energy were also on scene. (Info and photos

from BCEM Facebook Page)



Siren testing to begin tomorrow

Info from the Brown County Emergency Management Facebook Page: As I read about the deadly tornadoes down south. We want to remind you that Brown County will be starting weekly outdoor warning siren testing. This starts this month so Wednesday evening at 6:00pm. Yes, we know there is still snow so don't send us a bunch of comments, this is per our policy to make sure our equipment is ready to go when the storms get here and for you to also be reminded of severe summer weather. Now is the time for you and your family to make sure your prepared for summer weather also.

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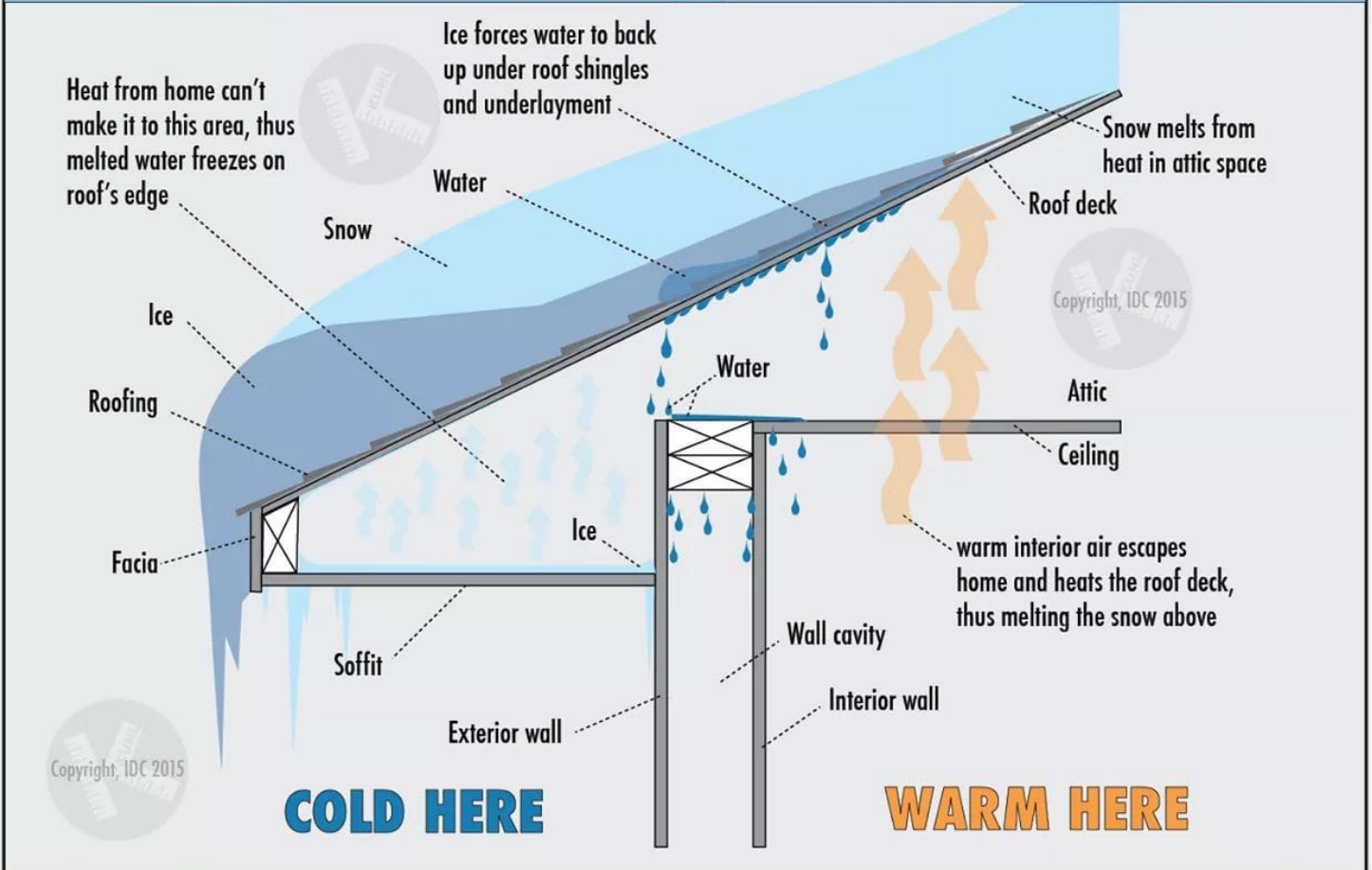
Latest Winter Storm Probability for Saturday and Sunday

One certainty: A major Winter Storm will eject out of the Rockies and into the Plains this weekend. Main uncertainty: The exact track and speed. Still plenty of time for these details to be worked out. Still watching another powerful system that could potentially take the same track March 13. #MarchMadness

ANATOMY OF AN ICE DAM

Illustration by Steve Kuhl, The Ice Dam Company

www.theicedamcompany.com



Mason Stark seals NSIC Championship appearance for Northern State men

Sioux Falls, S.D. – The Northern State University men's basketball team advanced Monday in the NSIC/Sanford Health Basketball Tournament, following a game winning shot by Mason Stark with under one second remaining. The Wolves defeated the Warriors 77-76, improving to 25-6 overall this season.

Winona State led by three with 21 seconds left in regulation. Ian Smith drove the lane and brought NSU within one knocking down his 11th and 12th points of the game. The Wolves fouled the Warriors, who were unable to drain their first free throw attempt, and Parker Fox came down with the defense rebound. Northern moved the ball up the floor and Ian Smith dished it to Mason Stark, who drove the lane for the game winner.

Northern trailed Winona State 42-34 at the half, and the Wolves battled back with 43 points in the second. NSU shot 51.9 percent from the floor, 27.8 percent from the 3-point line, and 94.7 percent from the foul line in the win. They tallied five made 3-pointers, 11 assists, three blocks, and three steals. They out-rebounded the Warriors 28-25 in the win. Northern notched 38 points in the paint, 12 points off the bench, 11 points off turnovers, eight fast break points, and five points off four offensive rebounds.

Gabe King and Andrew Kallman led the team scoring 19 points apiece. King knocked down 7-of-11 from the floor and 3-of-3 from the free throw line with five rebounds and two blocks. Kallman shot 41.7 percent from the floor and went a perfect 7-of-7 from the foul line. The sophomore added two rebounds and one assist.

Ian Smith and Justin Decker were the final two Wolves in double figures with 12 and ten points respectively. Smith led the team, notching a double-double with ten points, as well as four assists and one steal. He shot 85.7 percent from the floor as well. Decker tallied three rebounds, two assists, and one steal.

Cole Dahl added five points, in his first start of the 2018-19 season. He added three rebounds and one assist. Mason Stark led the team off the bench with six points, shooting 50.0 percent from the floor. He added two rebounds, one assist, one block, and one steal. Parker Fox and Jordan Belka grabbed the final six points for NSU in the game.

The Wolves will appear in the NSIC/Sanford Health Basketball Tournament championship game for the second straight year. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m. from the Sanford Pentagon, between Northern State and Southwest Minnesota State.

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Today in Weather History

March 5, 1966: The historic blizzard of 1966, which started on March 2, comes to an end in the Dakotas. North Dakota saw severe livestock losses with an estimated 18,500 cattle, 7,500 sheep, and 600 hogs killed. On a farm in eastern North Dakota, 7,000 turkeys perished. The total damage to livestock was estimated at near \$4 million. In South Dakota, an estimated 50,000 cattle, 46,000 sheep, and 1,800 hogs were killed. Most of the deaths occurred in the central and northern central part of the state.

1894: The low temperature of 36 degrees at San Diego, California on this day was their lowest on record for March.

1959: Near blizzard conditions occurred over northern and central Oklahoma. Up to seven inches of snow fell and winds up to 50 mph created snow drifts 4 to 8 feet deep. In Edmond, a bus slid off the road into a ditch and overturned, injuring 16 people.

1966: A plane crashes near Mount Fuji in Japan after encountering severe turbulence. The pilot veered a few miles off course to give the passengers a better view of Mount Fuji when it tremendous wind gusts. All 124 people on board the aircraft were killed.

1972: Palm Springs, California recorded a high of 100 degrees, the earliest the city has ever hit the century mark.

1989: A F2 tornado killed one person and injured six others in Heard County, Georgia. A stronger, F3 tornado injured 23 persons and caused more than 5 million dollars damage around Grantville, Georgia.

2007: The morning temperature dropped to 51 degrees below zero at Key Lake, Saskatchewan Canada.

1960 - Eastern Massachusetts greatest March snowstorm of record began to abate. The storm produced record 24 hour snowfall totals of 27.2 inches at Blue Hill Observatory, 17.7 inches at Worcester, and 16.6 inches at Boston. Winds gusted to 70 mph. (3rd-5th) (The Weather Channel)

1962 - A tremendous storm raged along the Atlantic coast. The great Atlantic storm caused more than 200 million dollars property damage from Florida to New England. Winds along the Middle Atlantic Coast reached 70 mph raising forty foot waves, and as much as 33 inches of snow blanketed the mountains of Virginia. The Virginia shoreline was rearranged by historic tidal flooding caused by the combination of the long stretch of strong onshore winds and the Spring Tides. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A storm in the western U.S. produced heavy rain and high winds in California. Up to six inches of rain soaked the San Francisco Bay area in 24 hours, and winds gusted to 100 mph at the Wheeler Ridge Pumping Plant near the Tehachapi Mountains. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - While snow blanketed eastern Kansas and northern Oklahoma, eight cities in North Dakota reported new record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 61 degrees at Bismarck ND was 27 degrees warmer than that at Chanute KS. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the southeastern U.S. A strong (F-2) tornado killed one person and injured six others in Heard County GA. A strong (F-3) tornado injured 23 persons and caused more than five million dollars damage around Grantville GA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms over eastern Colorado, developing ahead of a major storm system, produced up to three inches of small hail around Colorado Springs in the late morning and early afternoon. Strong thunderstorms swept through southeastern sections of the Denver area during the evening hours. These strong thunderstorms also produced up to three inches of small hail, along with wind gusts to 50 mph, and as much as 2.4 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today



Patchy
Blowing Snow
and Blustery

High: 14 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: -5 °F

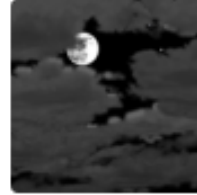
Wednesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 12 °F

Wednesday
Night



Mostly Cloudy

Low: -4 °F

Thursday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 13 °F

More Snow on the Way?!

...Another system moving in Wednesday night and Thursday...

Wed night and Thurs

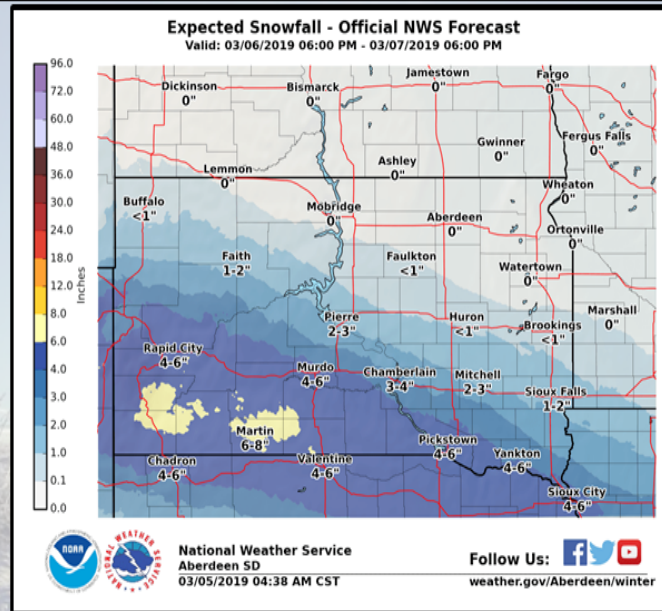
Generally 2 to 6 inches from Pierre area and points west and south.

Saturday and Sunday

Potential increasing for a much stronger storm system. Perhaps 6 to 12 inches with strong winds?? Questions remain on specifics.

Middle of Next Week

Yet another strong snowstorm perhaps?? Early signs show something could affect the northern plains.



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 3/5/2019 5:50 AM Central

Published on: 03/05/2019 at 5:58AM

Well here we go again, no signs in sight to the end of this active weather pattern. The first storm system set to affect the area arrives Wednesday night into Thursday, with generally 2 to 6 inches of snow from the Pierre region and points west and south, as shown in the graphic. Winds do not appear to be a big issue with this system, so impacts from blowing and drifting snow should be minor. Confidence may be increasing a bit though, in regards to a much stronger storm system this weekend, with potential for heavy snow and strong winds. Early indications suggest maybe 6 to 12 inches, but specifics on exactly where still remain. Strong winds appear to be associated with this storm as well. Stay tuned to the latest forecasts regarding this storm as any changes in the track could affect snow amounts. This could have significant impacts on weekend travel depending on the exact track. And do we dare say, but early signs are hinting at yet another significant storm system possible by the middle of next week!

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 11 °F at 4:29 PM

Low Outside Temp: -8 °F at 5:08 AM

High Gust: 26 mph at 5:13 PM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 74° in 2000

Record Low: -22° in 1919

Average High: 35°F

Average Low: 15°F

Average Precip in Mar.: 0.11

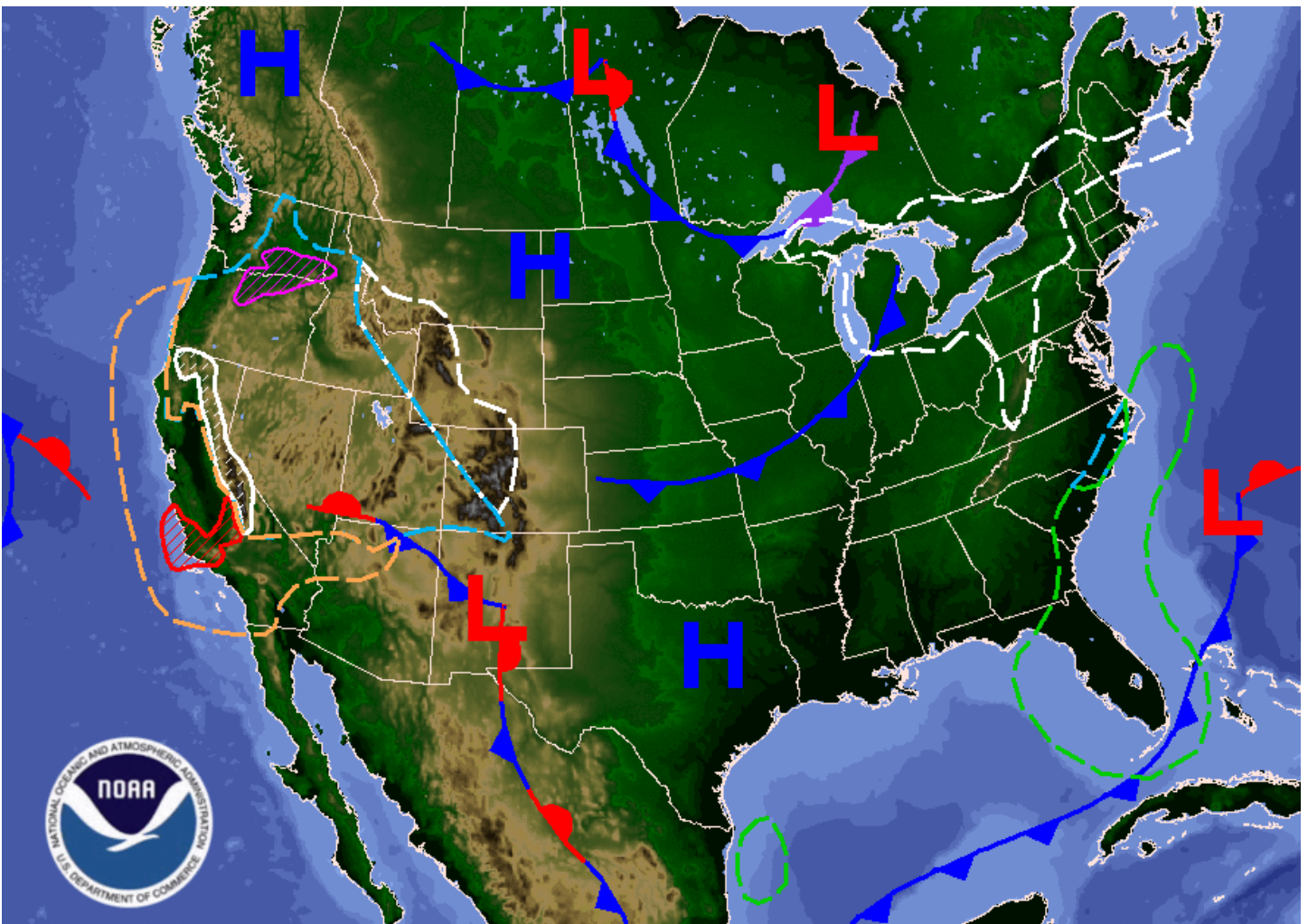
Precip to date in Mar.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 1.13

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 6:26 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:03 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Mar 05, 2019, issued 4:21 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds 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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A TREE, LIFE, AND WISDOM

Embrace is a word that is filled with deep, loving memories for most of us. Others perhaps have never felt the intensity of love through the arms of a parent or spouse, a child or a friend. It implies hugs and squeezes; arms wrapped tightly around someone we truly care for and are a special part of our life. It can also be compared to holding on to an object for dear life - fearing that if we let go, we'll be lost forever.

When we travel back to Genesis, we are introduced to the Garden of Eden and the tree of life. It appears throughout Scripture. Even in Revelation we read of new heavens and the new earth. It is a symbol of a long and fruitful, productive and an especially blessed or happy life.

She (wisdom), wrote Solomon, is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who hold on to her will be blessed. If we embrace wisdom, we have the assurance - or promise - of being blessed as a result of our efforts.

Unfortunately, there is no assurance or promise of the blessing. Blessings from God, according to His Word, do not come automatically. The tree of life is stationary and if we want its blessings, we must go to the tree and embrace the tree. We have the responsibility to go to the tree: the tree will not come to us.

So it is with God's wisdom. If we want it, we must go to it and embrace it and cling to it as though we were clinging to a raft in a raging sea about to be swept to our death.

God's wisdom is available. But we must seek it and embrace it.

Prayer: Lord, through Your love You make Your wisdom available to guide us and guard us. The decision to accept, however, is ours. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 3:18 She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who hold on to her will be blessed.

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

Noem offers bills aimed at possible Keystone XL protests

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem said Monday that she's proposing a new framework for oil pipeline construction before building starts on the Keystone XL pipeline, introducing legislation that would require companies behind such projects to chip in on protest-related expenses and create a way to go after the money of those who fund destructive demonstrations.

Noem said she wants make sure there's enough funding so local governments don't bankrupt themselves during construction. She also wants officials to be able to aggressively pursue people who financially back violence and gain access to those funds as well.

The push comes late in the state's 2019 legislative session, timing that critics panned.

"To the best of our knowledge, this type of approach has not happened anywhere in the nation before, and this next-generation pipeline construction model was developed to directly address issues caused by out-of-state rioters funded by out-of-state interests that have attacked nearby projects," Noem said. "The current model for developing major energy infrastructure projects clearly needed to have an update."

Noem's bills come after opponents of the Dakota Access oil pipeline staged large protests that resulted in 761 arrests in southern North Dakota over a six-month span beginning in late 2016. The state spent tens of millions of dollars policing the protests. Officials are working hard to make sure disruptive and violent protests don't happen in South Dakota with Keystone XL, Noem said.

The American Civil Liberties Union of South Dakota said the legislation could infringe on free speech rights.

"The right to join with fellow citizens in protest or peaceful assembly is critical to a functioning democracy and at the core of the First Amendment," Libby Skarin, the group's policy director, said in a statement.

One bill would tap a pipeline developer, among other sources, to fund expenses in areas such as law enforcement that arise from pipeline protests. Approved claims from the state, cities or counties would be billed to the pipeline developer, which could contest the claims. If the state or local governments were reimbursed from another source for the claim, the money would be credited to the pipeline company.

The other bill would create an avenue for the state to seek money from people who engage in "riot boosting." Under the bill, individuals or groups would be liable if they encouraged people in a riot to be violent.

Money collected would be used to pay for riot damage claims or could be transferred into a pipeline expense fund.

Officials have already changed state law in anticipation of Keystone XL protests. In 2017, they made it a Class 1 misdemeanor for someone to stand in the highway to stop traffic or to trespass in a posted emergency area. That was a scaled-back version of a bill championed by then-Gov. Dennis Daugaard amid concerns about large demonstrations similar to the Dakota Access protests.

Noem's office said her bills arose from discussions with lawmakers, authorities, stakeholders and pipeline developer TransCanada. The 1,184-mile (1,900 kilometer) pipeline is intended to ship up to 830,000 barrels a day of Canadian crude through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska, where it would connect with lines to carry oil to Gulf Coast refineries.

A federal judge in Montana in February largely kept in place an injunction that blocks TransCanada from performing preliminary work on the stalled pipeline.

TransCanada spokesman Terry Cunha said in an email that the company appreciates Noem's efforts to help advance the construction of Keystone XL and other pipelines in a way that ensures the safety of workers and state residents.

"Any legislation that deters unlawful activities and encourages the advancement of critical infrastructure projects is a positive step in the right direction," Cunha said.

Rebecca Terk, a lobbyist for conservation and family agriculture group Dakota Rural Action, said the legislation is an "incredible overreach" and the bills conflate protest with rioting.

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The developer of the Dakota Access pipeline last month sued the environmental group Greenpeace in North Dakota. Energy Transfer Partners accused the group and activists of conspiring to use illegal and violent means to disrupt construction, and of benefiting from the ensuing publicity to increase donations.

Greenpeace has said the company is trying to silence peaceful advocacy. A judge tossed the ETP claim out of federal court, but the company is pursuing similar claims in state court.

Follow James Nord on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/Jvnord>

Deadwood sports betting amendment gets new life at Capitol

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A measure proposing that South Dakota voters should decide on legalizing sports betting in Deadwood got new life Monday after earlier failing during a committee hearing.

The House State Affairs Committee voted 7-3 against the proposal, but representatives later used a procedural move to order its delivery to the floor. The measure has already passed through the Senate.

Deadwood Gaming Association Executive Director Mike Rodman said backers will exhaust their legislative options before gathering signatures to put the proposed constitutional amendment on the 2020 ballot. The group's goal is to get the measure in "front of the voters of South Dakota and let them decide."

If supporters don't find luck at the Capitol, then they would have to collect nearly 34,000 signatures to put the measure to a statewide vote. In South Dakota, the Legislature can place a constitutional change before voters or amendment supporters can gather names. Petitions are due in November.

"We believe that people have a right to have their say in sports betting, and we want to give them that opportunity," Rodman said.

Deadwood is known as the city where Wild Bill Hickok was gunned down in 1876 while playing poker in a saloon, and after gambling was legalized there in 1989, Deadwood became a major force in South Dakota's tourism industry.

Sports wagering would provide another amenity for visitors, providing a boost for hotels, shops and restaurants, Rodman told the committee.

Lynzie Montague, who oversees two properties in Deadwood for Liv Hospitality, said sports wagering could help with employee retention, generate revenue and attract extra tax dollars. She said sports betting could be key to the survival of the town.

"In our peak season, it's like Christmas every day. Casinos and business are making money, we hire additional associates and we enthusiastically embrace our guests and foster new relationships," Montague said. "This quickly comes to an end once October hits and the offseason is on the horizon."

Representing Republican Gov. Kristi Noem's administration, Revenue Department Deputy Secretary David Wiest opposed the measure, saying it's more gambling and that regulation costs would exceed revenues generated.

"Gov. Noem has made it clear that she does not wish to have gambling expanded in South Dakota," Wiest said.

The push this session comes after the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way last year for all states to offer legal sports betting. The proposed constitutional amendment would allow the Legislature to authorize wagering in Deadwood and at tribal casinos.

In 2014, 57 percent of voters approved an amendment that paved the way for allowing keno, craps and roulette in Deadwood.

New superintendent for Devils Tower National Monument named

DEVILS TOWER, Wyo. (AP) — The first national monument in the U.S. is getting a new superintendent. National Park Service officials announced Monday that Amnesty Kochanowski will begin the top job at Devils Tower National Monument on March 17.

Kochanowski has been serving as interim superintendent since July. She will succeed Tim Reid as su-

perintendent.

Kochanowski has been the safety, health and wellness manager for Cedar Breaks National Monument, Pipe Spring National Monument and Zion National Park in Utah and Arizona since 2011.

Devils Tower is a more than 1,250-foot-tall (380-meter) volcanic formation in the Bear Lodge Mountains. The national monument covers more than 2 square miles (5 square kilometers).

It is one of two national monuments in Wyoming.

Blogger challenges SD ban on out-of-state fundraising

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A political blogger from Aberdeen is suing in federal court to overturn South Dakota's ban on out-of-state fundraising for citizens' initiatives.

Cory Heidelberger and his ballot-question committee, SD Voice, filed the lawsuit on Friday.

The lawsuit calls the ban "a blatantly unconstitutional law that criminalizes lawful political speech and trashes the United States Constitution."

South Dakota voters approved the ban in November. Experts say the restriction is unlikely to survive legal challenge.

Former House Speaker Mark Mickelson sponsored the initiative, which he said was necessary to preserve the ballot measure process for state residents.

The law is scheduled to take effect July 1. Heidelberger argues that if the ban takes effect, it would unconstitutionally prohibit him and SD Voice from supporting an initiative proposed for the 2020 general election ballot. SD Voice already has received out-of-state money for that petition drive, according to the lawsuit.

"Money is speech, and freedom of speech applies to everyone from every state and in every state," Heidelberger wrote about the lawsuit on his blog, Dakota Free Press.

Out-of-state donors put more than \$10 million into campaigns for or against South Dakota ballot questions during the 2016 election cycle.

The new law prohibits contributions to ballot question committees from nonresidents, out-of-state political committees and entities that haven't filed with the secretary of state's office for the preceding four years.

The lawsuit names as defendants Gov. Kristi Noem, state Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg and Secretary of State Steve Barnett, who were all elected in November. None has filed a response yet, the Rapid City Journal reported.

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

Panel revives campus 'intellectual diversity' measure

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers have resuscitated a measure seeking to promote "intellectual diversity" on college campuses.

The Senate State Affairs Committee voted 7-2 Monday to revive the bill, which the panel had voted down last week. Republican Sen. Al Novstrup, who pushed to reconsider the measure, says the sponsor and the Board of Regents want more time to talk.

Regents CEO and Executive Director Paul Beran says he'd rather have a cooperative approach than a hostile approach with the Legislature.

The discussions come as the University of South Dakota is investigating after the Student Bar Association changed the name of an event from "Hawaiian Day" to "Beach Day" because it was advised by administrators that it violated the school's inclusiveness policy.

The panel is scheduled Wednesday to debate Rep. Sue Peterson's bill.

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Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

Rapid City Journal, Feb. 28

Johnson stands by convictions with declaration vote

Courage and conviction won the day over congressional political pressure in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday. South Dakota's lone congressman broke with his party and voted his conscience, ignoring all political calculations.

Rep. Dusty Johnson was one of 13 Republicans — the only one from a massive swath across the middle of the country — to vote with Democrats to block the President's emergency declaration funding a southern border wall.

President Trump has promised to veto the action should it reach his desk, making Johnson's move even more impressive.

The president's popularity in South Dakota is no secret. Trump's approval rating here is the third highest among all the states — trailing only West Virginia and Wyoming — according to a recent Gallup poll.

And Johnson is far from bulletproof. Having been in office only a few months, he surely knows any ideological misstep could invite challenges from inside his party. The politically savvy — the safe thing for Johnson — would have been to cede to the president's wishes and vote against the bill.

Furthermore, the Democrats didn't need Johnson's vote. The bill would have easily passed without it.

But Johnson stuck to his convictions because he believed it was the right thing for the country. It took guts.

With his Midwest modesty on full display, Johnson said by phone Wednesday: "I don't think it took guts at all. I took an oath to the Constitution."

Johnson voted to block the declaration not because he disagrees with the need for stronger border security, but because he recognizes a superior call to preserve our government of laws.

"Throughout the last two months, I've reliably voted with the president on border security and the border wall," Johnson said in a written statement. "There is still work to be done, and I'm committed to working with him in Congress to continue the progress we've made."

No, Johnson acted because he believes the president overstepped his power. As a member of Congress, it is Johnson's sworn duty to provide a check on executive power.

The Journal believes that the expansion of executive power which occurred under the Obama Administration was wrong and dangerous. The same principle holds true under President Trump.

"Separation of powers is a central American value, brilliantly established by our Founders," Johnson said. "It makes governing messy and frustrating, but concentrations of power threaten liberty. This is true, regardless of which party holds the White House."

Johnson knows the facts of our Constitution do not change depending on who sits in the Oval Office.

He said Wednesday that conservative people can disagree with his vote, and he won't criticize the votes of others.

"For 30 years, Congress has been giving away too much power," Johnson said, noting he wants stop that.

Johnson points out that if Democrats win the next presidential election, Republicans in Congress will need vital constitutional checks.

The bill now moves to the Senate, where it must be taken up within 18 days.

South Dakota Sen. Mike Rounds has expressed concerns over the president's emergency declaration.

"If you get another president who believes that climate change is the crisis of the day, that means they could then funnel money out of ongoing programs into climate change," Rounds said.

Sen. John Thune, the party whip, recognizes that other Republican senators have expressed concerns over the bill, but he has stopped short of saying whether he shares those concerns.

Let's hope our senators show the courage and conviction of our freshman congressman, placing the Constitution above party loyalty.

Fundamentally, this vote is not about border security. It is about the ongoing consolidation of power in

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the executive branch and the precedent it sets for future generations.

South Dakota should be proud we elected a man who has the courage to stand up for important ideals, even in the face of strong political pressure.

American News, Aberdeen, March 3 **Demand action on insulin prices**

Finger-pointing.

It's a tactic that stops any potential progress.

But when the heads of pharmaceutical companies testified before U.S. Senate Tuesday, that's exactly what they did.

In the Feb. 24 American News, readers met Trey Casanova, a 7-year-old who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes three years ago, and his 10-year-old sister, Delanie, who was diagnosed with the same disease on New Year's Eve.

The Casanova family has racked up thousands and thousands of dollars in insulin and supply costs. And that's with insurance.

The American Medical Association has noted that the price of insulin increased nearly 200 percent from 2002 to 2013. But nothing beyond the price has changed — not a single thing, said Nancy Hartung, registered nurse and diabetes educator at Sanford Aberdeen.

Across the country, the high cost has those without insurance or the means to afford insulin taking matters into their own hands, purchasing insulin over the counter and "winging it" or rationing what insulin they can afford, Hartung said.

Even worse, some 26-year-olds who have fallen off their parents' insurance are dying, according to several media reports.

Dying.

That, combined with the high cost of insulin and other prescription drugs, has caught the attention of many, some of whom might be in power to actually enact change. That's after the attorney general in Minnesota — and those in some other states — filed a lawsuit against insulin makers.

The rising cost of drugs, in general, is something President Donald Trump discussed in his State of the Union Address. And it needs to stay on the national radar.

Representatives in Washington, D.C., are now working to combat the costs and hold the pharmaceutical companies to more affordable terms. At times, it takes many, many hands to make progress.

Those hands cannot, under any circumstances, point fingers at others. Each has to own its role in the problem.

According to The Washington Post, the heads of the pharmaceutical companies agreed that the system is broken.

But they also "declined to commit to lowering their own prices" and instead deflected blame to insurance companies.

Not everyone has insurance, though. And people who don't are sometimes paying the highest price — death.

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease. It is not caused by lack of exercise or excessive weight. And the people — kids and adults — who have Type 1 diabetes will die without insulin.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) perhaps said it best: "Like most Americans, I'm sick and tired of the blame game. It's time for solutions."

Advocate for that yourself, your family and your friends by contacting South Dakota's congressional delegation. Let them know we want action, that the status quo is not alright, that we can and must do better. Take on the injustice of the price tag that hangs from each vial of insulin.

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Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, March 1

As winter rages, community stands tall

Winter as an adversary has earned our respect.

Curse it as we might, there is a solemnity to the ritual of living in the Upper Midwest, where frigid weather coarsens our spirit for nearly half a lifetime, offering as mercy the soggy mirage of spring.

Meteorologists insist that the winter of 2018-19 won't set all-time records for total snowfall or low temperatures, but we are skeptical of that claim. Our March madness portends misery. The forecast stares back and shrugs.

There's a stubborn pride, or maybe masochism, to what we endure. How many times have we shoveled or blown snow from our driveways, only to be summoned hours later to clear spillover from the plow, knowing we'll soon repeat the process?

Cars that won't start. Stumbles on sidewalks. Too many sneezes and pipe near-freezes.

Winter is not a season, it's an occupation, said novelist Sinclair Lewis. He might as well have been talking about South Dakota.

So why do we do it? For those who have a choice, why live here at all, facing this adversary on an annual basis? Why not seek less-extreme surroundings and never try to explain wind chill again?

There are the obvious reasons dealing with family connections, jobs, the conveniences of a small city and advantages while raising a family. Many of those factors helped Sioux Falls evolve as a city, and we take solace in the fact that we have advantages that many places do not.

Harsh winters, however, make us look harder for the appeal of the Plains, with answers more elusive by the day. But here's the thing: We don't suffer in silence. Surviving winter becomes a form of group therapy that bonds us together, turning dreary isolation into shared determination.

Though it all, there are stories to tell. That became evident on a recent afternoon in the Argus Leader newsroom, when positive winter tales began to spring forth as the snow piled up outside.

One reporter recalled when her car went into the ditch a few miles from the Beresford exit on Interstate 29 during a winter storm. After calling the overworked police, she sat there for an hour until a car with two young men pulled a U-turn on the interstate. "They spent the next 20 minutes trying to get my car out and back on the road," she said. "Eventually, they succeeded, and I was able to get home. I never got their names."

Another thought back to volunteering at a meal ministry downtown, where he was reminded of those without a home who see brutal winters not as an inconvenience but as a daily struggle to not be left in the cold. The sight of children huddled for breakfast with donated winter coats made him proud to be part of a community that cares.

The last scene took place at an interstate truck stop near Summit during a raging blizzard. A half-dozen travelers, all strangers, worked together to figure out what to do next. They shared information. They commiserated. They joked. And then they went on their way, warmed with coffee, a better knowledge of what's out there, and in one case, a convoy arranged on a handshake.

These stories help explain why we put up with long stretches of darkness as we await the light of spring. Our sense of place is elevated by an unspoken expectation that we are in this together, mostly because we choose to be, and a realization sinks in.

When the ice melts away and the lilies bloom and nature's awakening surprises us anew, there is no adversary too great for us to defeat with our appreciation. When that day comes, however long it takes, we are triumphant once again.

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Man who mailed handgun facing up to 2 years in prison

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A man who mailed a handgun to someone in Canton is facing up to two years in prison.

Kohl Hammer has pleaded guilty to illegally mailing the gun in Rapid City last summer. It's illegal for most people to send pistols, revolvers and other small firearms through the U.S. mail. Military members, law enforcement, dealers and manufacturers are exempt.

The Rapid City Journal says law enforcement found the weapon while serving a search warrant after the package arrived at an address in Canton. It's unclear how law enforcement knew or suspected that a weapon had been illegally sent.

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

House panel opens sweeping probe of Trump, his associates

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats launched a sweeping new probe of President Donald Trump, an aggressive investigation that threatens to shadow the president through the 2020 election season with potentially damaging inquiries into his White House, campaign and family businesses.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler said Monday his panel was beginning the probe into possible obstruction of justice, corruption and abuse of power and is sending document requests to 81 people linked to the president and his associates.

The broad investigation could be setting the stage for an impeachment effort, although Democratic leaders have pledged to investigate all avenues and review special counsel Robert Mueller's upcoming report before trying any drastic action. Nadler said the document requests, with responses to most due by March 18, are a way to "begin building the public record."

"Over the last several years, President Trump has evaded accountability for his near-daily attacks on our basic legal, ethical, and constitutional rules and norms," said Nadler, D-N.Y. "Investigating these threats to the rule of law is an obligation of Congress and a core function of the House Judiciary Committee."

Trump dismissed the Nadler probe and others as futile efforts "in search of a crime."

"Ridiculous!" he exclaimed on Twitter.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders called the House probe "a disgraceful and abusive investigation into tired, false allegations."

In a statement Monday night, Sanders said: "Chairman Nadler and his fellow Democrats have embarked on this fishing expedition because they are terrified that their two-year false narrative of 'Russia collusion' is crumbling. Their intimidation and abuse of American citizens is shameful."

Separate congressional probes are already swirling around the president, including an effort announced Monday by three other House Democratic chairmen to obtain information about private conversations between him and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In a letter to the White House and State Department, the House intelligence, Foreign Affairs and Oversight and Reform panels sent broad requests for details about Trump and Putin's private meetings by phone and in person. In addition to document requests, the committees are asking to interview interpreters who sat in on meetings, including a one-on-one session in Helsinki last summer.

The State Department pledged to "work cooperatively with the committees."

The new probes signal that now that Democrats hold a majority in the House, Trump's legal and political peril is nowhere near over, even as the special counsel's Russia investigation winds down.

They are also an indication of the Democrats' current strategy — to flood the administration with oversight requests, keeping Trump and his associates on trial publicly while also playing a long game when it comes to possible impeachment. While some more liberal members of the Democratic caucus would like to see Trump impeached now, Democratic leaders have been more cautious.

Trump told reporters after Nadler's probe was announced that "I cooperate all the time with everybody."

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He added: "You know, the beautiful thing? No collusion. It's all a hoax."

Mueller is investigating Russian intervention in the 2016 election and whether Trump's campaign conspired with Russia. But the House probes go far beyond collusion. The House intelligence panel has announced a separate probe not only into the Russian interference but also Trump's foreign financial interests. The Oversight and Reform Committee has launched multiple investigations into all facets of the administration.

The 81 names and entities on the Judiciary Committee's list touch all parts of Trump's life — the White House, his businesses, his campaign and the committee that oversaw the transition from campaign to presidency. There are also people connected to Russian interference in the 2016 campaign, including participants in a meeting at Trump Tower with a Russian lawyer before the election.

The committee is also asking the FBI, the Justice Department and others for documents related to possible pardons for Trump's former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, former national security adviser Michael Flynn and former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort. All three have been charged in special counsel Mueller's investigation.

In a request sent to the White House, the committee asks for information surrounding former FBI Director James Comey's termination, communications with Justice Department officials, the Trump Tower meeting and multiple other matters. Trump Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said the White House had received the letter and "the counsel's office and relevant White House officials will review it and respond at the appropriate time."

The panel's list includes two of the president's sons, Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump, and many of his current and former close advisers, including Steve Bannon, longtime spokeswoman Hope Hicks, former Press Secretary Sean Spicer and former White House Counsel Don McGahn.

The letters to Hicks and Spicer ask them to turn over any work diaries, journals or "a description of daily events related to your employment" by Trump. The committee asked McGahn for documents related to any discussion involving Trump regarding the possibility of firing Mueller around June of 2017 "or any conversation in which President Trump stated, in words or substance, that he wanted the Mueller investigation shut down, restrained or otherwise limited in or around December 2017."

The committee seeks from Cohen, Trump's former personal lawyer who called Trump a "con man" and a "cheat" in congressional testimony last week, "any audio or video recordings" of conversations with Trump or conversations about his presidential campaign.

The list of document requests also includes the National Rifle Association and Trump's embattled charitable foundation, which he is shutting down after agreeing to a court-supervised process.

Nadler said in most of the letters that he was limiting the requests to documents that had already been provided to other investigators, an attempt to receive as much as possible in the two-week timeline. The committee said there might be additional requests.

The panel expects some people to produce right away, and others may eventually face subpoenas, according to a person familiar with the investigation. The person declined to be named to discuss the committee's internal process.

The top Republican on the committee, Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, said Nadler was "recklessly prejudging the president for obstruction" and pursuing evidence to back up his conclusion.

Associated Press writers Chad Day, Padmananda Rama, Michael Balsamo, Deb Riechmann, Matthew Lee and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Read the document requests: <http://apne.ws/87a9kpP>

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

Man finds father's body in Alabama tornado wreckage

By **KIM CHANDLER** and **JEFF MARTIN**, Associated Press

BEAUREGARD, Ala. (AP) — Picking through the twisted debris that had been her Alabama mobile home, Carol Dean found her wedding dress and a Father's Day note to her husband reading, "Daddy, I love you to pieces." But the storm took the 53-year-old husband and father.

Dean was on the clock Sunday afternoon at Walmart while her husband was home in Beauregard. As forecasters warned stormy weather was heading toward the Alabama-Georgia line, she said, David Wayne Dean sent a text message cautioning a friend to keep up with the weather on the news.

Then the storm hit and David Dean didn't make it out. His body was found on the other side of an embankment in the neighbor's yard.

"Our son found him," Dean said between sobs Monday. "He was done and gone before we got to him. My life is gone. He was the reason I lived, the reason that I got up."

The tornado that struck the area where the Deans lived packed winds estimated at 170 mph (274 kph) and chewed a path of destruction nearly a mile (1.6 kilometer) wide. Mobile homes tucked among tall pine trees were swept from their bases and smashed into unrecognizable piles of rubble. Toys, clothes, insulation, water heaters and pieces of metal were scattered across the hillsides where once towering pines were snapped in half.

On Monday, the storm's toll stood at 23 people dead in this rural community in Lee County. According to the sheriff, dozens remained missing after the deadliest U.S. tornado in nearly six years. Rescue crews using dogs and drones searched for victims amid splintered lumber and twisted metal.

"I'm not going to be surprised if we don't come up with some more deceased. Hopefully we won't," Lee County Coroner Bill Harris told a news conference. He said the dead included almost entire families and at least three children, ages 6, 9 and 10. A post on the Lee-Scott Academy's Facebook page identified fourth-grader Taylor Thornton as being among those killed.

An unincorporated community of roughly 10,000 people near the Georgia state line, Beauregard is in the same county as Auburn University. The community has a few small stores, two schools and a volunteer fire department dotting the main highway.

On the day after the disaster, volunteers used chain saws to clear paths for emergency workers. Neighbors and friends helped one another sift among the ruins.

Julie Morrison and her daughter-in-law picked through the remnants of Morrison's home, looking for keys and a wallet. They managed to salvage the couple's safe, her husband's motorcycle boots and her embossed Bible.

Morrison said she and her husband took shelter in the bathtub — her husband jumping in at the last minute — as the twister lifted their house off its foundation and swept it into the woods.

"We knew we were flying because it picked the house up," Morrison said, figuring that the shower's fiberglass enclosure helped them survive.

The National Weather Service said one and possibly two tornadoes struck the area. A powerful EF-4 twister was blamed for most of the destruction on a path about 24 miles (39 kilometers) long, meteorologist Chris Darden said. Darden said the "monster tornado" was the deadliest twister to hit the U.S. since May 2013, when an EF-5 killed 24 people in Moore, Oklahoma.

"It looks like someone almost just took a giant knife and scraped the ground," Sheriff Jay Jones said. Most of the fatalities occurred with a square-mile (2.6 square kilometer) area, he said.

County Emergency Management Director Kathy Carson said she was "pretty sure" tornado sirens in Beauregard sounded warnings. But authorities were busy with the search-and-rescue and had not yet looked into the question.

The twister was part of a powerful storm system that slashed its way across the Deep South, spawning numerous tornado warnings in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida.

An early March tornado outbreak in the Alabama-Mississippi area is not unusual, tornado experts said.

The weather service's Storm Prediction Center posted forecasts for higher tornado activity in the region

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Thursday, three days before the disaster. University of Georgia meteorology professor Marshall Shepherd said government forecasters "were all over it."

An EF-5 tornado that struck Joplin, Missouri, in May 2011 killed 158 people. And an outbreak of tornadoes in the Southeast a month before that left an estimated 316 people dead, including at least 250 in Alabama.

For Beauregard, days of mourning lies ahead. The coroner said Monday that he would soon begin releasing bodies to funeral homes.

After the storm, Dean rushed home from work in time to say goodbye to her husband, a man others called "Roaddog" for his love of Harley-Davidson motorcycles. She pushed past sheriff's deputies who tried to keep people from the area and went to where her husband's body lay.

"They took me down to him," Dean said, "and I got to spend a little time with him before they took him away."

Associated Press writers Russ Bynum in Savannah, Georgia; Seth Borenstein in Washington; Bill Cormier in Atlanta; video journalist Sarah Blake Morgan in Beauregard; and Ryan Kryska in New York contributed to this report; along with AP news researcher Jennifer Farrar in New York.

FBI adds an anti-bribery squad focusing on South America

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Aiming to crack down on money laundering and bribes to overseas governments, the FBI is stepping up its efforts to root out foreign corruption with a new squad of agents based in Miami.

The squad will focus its efforts not only on Miami but also in South America, a continent that has been home to some of the Justice Department's most significant international corruption prosecutions of the last several years. The Miami squad joins three others based in the FBI's largest field offices — Washington, New York and Los Angeles.

"We're protecting the rule of law," Leslie Backschie, the chief of the FBI's international corruption unit, said in an interview Monday. "If there's no rule of law, you'll have certain societies where they feel like their governments are so corrupt, they'll go to other elements that are considered fundamental, that they see as clean or something against the corrupt regime, and that becomes a threat to national security."

The unit aims to identify violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, a U.S. law that makes it illegal to bribe foreign officials. The FBI has also been doing outreach to companies in a variety of industries, from oil to pharmaceuticals, to teach them about red flags that could indicate corruption and encourage the companies to "self-report" potentially improper conduct to the bureau.

"One thing when I talk to companies, I'm like, 'When you pay a bribe, do you know where your bribe goes? Is your bribe going to fund terrorism?'" Backschie said.

And so far, the cases the unit has brought have resulted in billions of dollars in settlements.

Last September, for instance, the Brazilian-owned energy company, Petrobras, agreed to pay more than \$853 million to resolve investigations into allegations that executives paid hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes to Brazilian politicians and political parties. And in December 2016, the Brazil-based construction conglomerate Odebrecht and another petrochemical company agreed to pay more than \$3.5 billion to settle charges they bribed politicians around the world through a web of shell companies and off-the-books transactions.

"We've seen a lot of activity in South America — Odebrecht, Petrobras. South America is a place where ... we've seen corruption. We've had a lot of work there," Backschie said.

"But not just South America. Miami itself, it's an economic center," she added. "It's a big flow of money in and out of Miami. It's a city where we see individuals hiding their money, through shell companies, through real estate, through boating."

More broadly, special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation has shone a spotlight on international corruption. Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort is being sentenced Thursday in federal court in Virginia on charges that he evaded taxes on millions of dollars in income received through political con-

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sulting on behalf of a pro-Russia Ukrainian political party, and that he concealed his money in undisclosed foreign bank accounts.

Prosecutors have scored 34 convictions in cases brought by the international corruption unit from 2016 until 2018. The cases are often longer-running and more financially complex than other crimes the FBI investigates.

Agents also have to be conscious of any potential political ramifications because international corruption cases can have widespread effects that influence elections and economies, Backschies said. In addition to regular conversations about cases, FBI supervisors meet with lawyers at the Justice Department in Washington each quarter to review potential prosecutions and the possible consequences.

"These cases are very politically sensitive, not just in the U.S. but overseas," she said. "When you're looking at foreign officials in other governments — I mean, look, in Malaysia, the president wasn't re-elected. We saw presidents toppled in Brazil. These are the results of cases like this. When you're looking at high-level government officials, there's a lot of sensitivities."

The agents are working to ensure there's "a place where business can compete fairly," and in most cases other governments are glad to accept the FBI's help in rooting out corruption, Backschies said.

"You can't just have one agent or two agents in a field office addressing it. ...You can't be working this two hours a week. It's just not going to work. You need full-time dedicated resources," she said.

The unit had been splitting cases involving South American countries between the three other offices before Backschies decided they should refocus their resources and add agents in Miami. The new squad will be comprised of six agents, who will start in their roles later this month, plus a supervisor and a forensic accountant. Unlike other FBI field office squads that focus on violent crime and public corruption and report to local leadership, this one will answer to officials at headquarters in Washington.

"Beverly Hills, New York, Miami — these are cities where we find people hiding their money" in real estate and boating, Backshies said. "They're attractive cities for that."

Follow Balsamo and Tucker on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MikeBalsamo1 and www.twitter.com/etuckerAP.

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. HOUSE PANEL SEEKS DOCUMENTS ON 81 PEOPLE LINKED TO TRUMP

A House panel is probing the president and his administration for possible obstruction of justice, corruption and abuse of power. Trump dismisses the investigation as "ridiculous."

2. JAPAN COURT OK'S GHOSN'S RELEASE ON BAIL

A court in Tokyo approves the release of the former Nissan chairman on \$8.9 million bail, although the end of his four months of detention is delayed when prosecutors appeal the decision.

3. CHINA SETS ROBUST GROWTH TARGET

Beijing announces a robust annual economic growth target and a 7.5 percent rise in military spending at a legislative session overshadowed by a tariff war with Washington.

4. 'DADDY, I LOVE YOU TO PIECES'

Picking through the twisted debris that had been her Alabama mobile home, Carol Dean found that Father's Day note to her husband the day after a powerful tornado took the 53-year-old's life.

5. BORDER AGENTS USING FIREARMS AT LOWER RATE

There were 15 instances in which U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers and agents used firearms during the budget year 2018, the AP learns.

6. REPORT: WHITE SUPREMACIST PROPAGANDA EFFORTS SOAR

College campuses remain a primary target for hateful flyers, but the Anti-Defamation League says the number of off-campus propaganda incidents soared last year.

7. 2ND MAN SEEMS TO BE FREE OF AIDS VIRUS AFTER TRANSPLANT

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A London man appears to be free of the AIDS virus after a stem cell transplant, the second success including the "Berlin patient" 12 years ago, doctors report.

8. WHO'S NOT RUNNING IN 2020

Hillary Clinton says she won't seek the president nomination next year, but vows she's "not going anywhere."

9. REPORT FINDS FEW SENIORS ARE GETTING ROUTINE MEMORY CHECKUPS

Few seniors get their cognitive abilities regularly tested during check-ups that would help diagnose some early warning signs of dementia.

10. IT'S FAT TUESDAY

Thousands of people gathering in New Orleans will celebrate Mardi Gras with parades, bead-throwing fun and costumed merrymaking in the streets.

China sets robust growth target to shore up cooling economy

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China announced a robust annual economic growth target and a 7.5 percent rise in military spending Tuesday as it convened an annual legislative session overshadowed by a tariff war with Washington.

Seeking to defuse U.S. and European complaints the Chinese system is rigged against foreign companies, Premier Li Keqiang promised in a speech to the National People's Congress they will be "treated as equals" with their Chinese competitors.

Li, the country's top economic official, set this year's growth target at 6 to 6.5 percent, reflecting determination to shore up a cooling, state-dominated economy and prevent politically dangerous job losses. Slightly below last year's 6.6 percent growth, a three-decade low, it would be among the world's strongest if achieved.

The premier promised to "promote China-U.S. trade negotiations," but gave no details of talks aimed at ending the fight with President Donald Trump over Beijing's technology ambitions and complaints it steals or pressures companies to hand over technology.

Li, No. 2 in the ruling Communist Party behind President Xi Jinping, pledged higher spending on development of technologies including artificial intelligence, electric cars, biotechnology and new materials that China's leaders see as a path to prosperity and global influence. He also promised more money for education, social programs and public works construction.

China's emergence as a competitor in smartphones, telecom equipment, solar power and other technologies has increased the range of products available to consumers and helped to drive down prices. But it rattles Washington and other governments that worry Chinese competition is a threat to their industries and employment.

Li warned the second-largest economy faces a "graver and more complicated environment" and risks that "are greater in number and size."

The two-week gathering of the congress's 3,000-plus delegates in the cavernous Great Hall of the People is China's biggest event of the year. It does little lawmaking, but serves as a platform to highlight the government's plans for the year.

President Xi Jinping's government is expected to use this year's session to announce tax cuts and more support for entrepreneurs who generate much of China's new jobs and wealth.

Legislators also are due to endorse a law that aims to ease tensions with Washington and Europe by discouraging officials from pressuring foreign companies to hand over technology.

Higher government spending will push the budget deficit from 2.6 percent of total economic output to 2.8 percent, Li said.

The plans reflect "emphatic pro-growth efforts" to "offset external headwinds," Vishnu Varathan of Mizuho Bank said in a report.

Proposed tax cuts of up to 2 trillion yuan (\$300 billion) would put "significant spending power" in the

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hands of consumers and companies, helping to buoy sagging demand for autos, household appliances and other goods, Varathan said.

Spending on the Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, will rise to 1.2 trillion yuan (\$178 billion), according to a separate report issued by the finance ministry. China's total military outlay, the second-largest behind the United States, is estimated by independent experts to exceed \$220 billion a year when off-budget expenses are added in.

The spending will pay to expand China's navy and acquire advanced aircraft and other weapons to help Beijing enforce its territorial claims in the South China Sea.

The slower rise in military spending, down from double digit increases in previous years, reflects changing priorities, said Yue Gang, a military expert and retired Chinese army colonel.

"It is more urgent for China to prepare for a trade war with the U.S., instead of a physical war," Yue said. Military reforms are nearly complete, and "China needs the money to be used for more urgent matters," he said.

The tariff fight with Trump over Beijing's technology ambitions has rattled Chinese consumers and investors, prompting some to put off spending, which could add to downward pressure on economic growth.

News reports say Washington and Beijing might be close to an agreement to end the battle. But the chief U.S. envoy, Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, said earlier the two sides still had much work to do.

No agreements have been announced on the core of the dispute: U.S. pressure on Beijing to roll back its plans for state-led creation of global competitors in robotics and other technology.

Washington, Europe and other trading partners say those violate China's market-opening obligations. Some American officials worry they might erode U.S. industrial leadership.

It's unclear if Trump would be mollified by the technology measure, part of a law on foreign investment that state media say the congress is due to endorse.

It would bar officials from using "administrative measures" to pressure companies to hand over technology. Foreign business groups welcomed the proposal but said they need to see enforcement rules to know whether it will improve conditions.

Li tried to reassure investors by promising foreign companies will be "treated as equals" with Chinese enterprises in a "fair and impartial market environment."

Foreign business groups and governments complain Beijing routinely violates its commitments under the World Trade Organization to ensure such equality, or "national treatment." They say rules on investment, technology licensing and other facets of business discriminate against foreign companies or shield Chinese enterprises from competition.

Xi and other Chinese leaders have announced changes over the past year including tariff cuts on imported consumer goods and plans to allow full foreign ownership in auto manufacturing. But business groups say those have little impact on operating conditions.

Beijing faces a WTO challenge filed in July by the European Union against technology licensing rules the 28-nation trade bloc said improperly hamper the ability of foreign companies to protect and profit from their technology.

Li promised "competitive neutrality," or equal treatment of state-owned and private companies by regulators. But he gave no details of how far that might extend for foreign competitors.

"Enterprises under all forms of ownership will be treated on an equal footing," the premier said.

AP writers Yanan Wang and Christopher Bodeen and researcher Yu Bing contributed.

Second man seems to be free of AIDS virus after transplant

By CARLA K. JOHNSON, AP Medical Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — A London man appears to be free of the AIDS virus after a stem cell transplant, the second success including the "Berlin patient," doctors reported.

The therapy had an early success with Timothy Ray Brown, a U.S. man treated in Germany who is 12

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years post-transplant and still free of HIV. Until now, Brown is the only person thought to have been cured of infection with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Such transplants are dangerous and have failed in other patients. They're also impractical to try to cure the millions already infected.

The latest case "shows the cure of Timothy Brown was not a fluke and can be recreated," said Dr. Keith Jerome of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle who had no role. He added that it could lead to a simpler approach that could be used more widely.

The case was published online Monday by the journal Nature and will be presented at an HIV conference in Seattle.

The patient has not been identified. He was diagnosed with HIV in 2003 and started taking drugs to control the infection in 2012. It's unclear why he waited that long. He developed Hodgkin lymphoma that year and agreed to a stem cell transplant to treat the cancer in 2016.

With the right kind of donor, his doctors figured, the London patient might get a bonus beyond treating his cancer: a possible HIV cure.

Doctors found a donor with a gene mutation that confers natural resistance to HIV. About 1 percent of people descended from northern Europeans have inherited the mutation from both parents and are immune to most HIV. The donor had this double copy of the mutation.

That was "an improbable event," said lead researcher Ravindra Gupta of University College London. "That's why this has not been observed more frequently."

The transplant changed the London patient's immune system, giving him the donor's mutation and HIV resistance.

The patient voluntarily stopped taking HIV drugs to see if the virus would come back.

Usually, HIV patients expect to stay on daily pills for life to suppress the virus. When drugs are stopped, the virus roars back, usually in two to three weeks.

That didn't happen with the London patient. There is still no trace of the virus after 18 months off the drugs.

Brown said he would like to meet the London patient and would encourage him to go public because "it's been very useful for science and for giving hope to HIV-positive people, to people living with HIV," he told The Associated Press Monday.

Stem cell transplants typically are harsh procedures which start with radiation or chemotherapy to damage the body's existing immune system and make room for a new one. There are complications too. Brown had to have a second stem cell transplant when his leukemia returned.

Compared to Brown, the London patient had a less punishing form of chemotherapy to get ready for the transplant, didn't have radiation and had only a mild reaction to the transplant.

Dr. Gero Hutter, the German doctor who treated Brown, called the new case "great news" and "one piece in the HIV cure puzzle."

AP video journalists Manuel Valdes in Seattle and Havovi Todd in London contributed.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

APNewsBreak: Border agents using firearms at lower rate

By COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Firearms use by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers and agents is declining, and less-lethal force is also down, according to data obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press. The decrease comes as fewer people are crossing the border illegally and after the agency overhauled how force should be deployed at the border.

There were 15 instances where officers and agents used firearms during the budget year 2018, down

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from a high of 55 was reported during the 2012 budget year, and down from 17 during 2017's budget year and 25 the budget year before.

Despite high-profile instances in recent months where agents used tear gas on groups of migrants that included children, use of less-lethal force like tear gas, batons or stun guns are also down, to 898. That's a decrease from the high in 2013 of 1,168, according to the data.

There are high-profile exceptions, like the shooting death by agents of a 19-year-old Guatemalan woman who crossed the border near Laredo, Texas, last May, but the firearms low comes as Border Patrol agents and Customs officers face an increase in the number of assaults, according to the data.

Fewer people are being apprehended crossing the border illegally each year — about 400,000 last year compared with more than 1 million in 2000. Those apprehended used to be mostly single men from Mexico, but now an increasing number of families from Central America are caught crossing the border illegally — since January nearly 100,000 families have been apprehended between ports of entry. From October through September 2018, about the same number of families was apprehended at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Complaints of excessive force prompted the border enforcement agency to commission an audit and investigation by the Police Executive Research Forum, a research and policy group. The 2013 audit highlighted problems that included foot-patrol agents without access to less-lethal options, and it recommended law enforcement not be allowed to use deadly force when people throw rocks — a suggestion that was rejected.

Following those reviews, major training and policy changes were made. Border Patrol agents now undergo scenario-based drills at the academy and learn how to de-escalate tense situations. They get 64 hours of on-the-job training on use of force. Agents and officers are authorized to use deadly force when there is reasonable belief in an imminent danger of serious physical injury or death to the officer or another person.

They have discretion on how to deploy less-than-lethal force: It must be both "objectively reasonable and necessary in order to carry out law enforcement duties" — and used when other "empty hand" techniques are not sufficient to control disorderly or violent subjects.

Officials say they deploy the lowest form of force necessary to take control of a situation, but instances a few months ago where tear gas was used on migrants that included children drew strong criticism.

As part of its review process, the National Use of Force Review Board looked into 14 different incidents and lower-level review boards took on 219 cases. The boards determine whether an officer or agent used force correctly or whether it was out of policy. Such instances are flagged for possible re-training or misconduct charges — which is handled through a separate channel.

The data does not include instances where off-duty agents and officers are accused of violence. A U.S. Border Patrol agent, Ricardo Cepeda Jr., was arrested earlier this week on attempted murder charges after he was accused of shooting his girlfriend while she held their baby in Edinburg, Texas.

Japan court OK's Nissan ex-Chairman Ghosn's release on bail

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — The Tokyo District Court approved the release of former Nissan Chairman Carlos Ghosn on 1 billion yen (\$8.9 million) bail on Tuesday, although the end of his four months of detention in Japan was delayed when prosecutors appealed that decision.

Prosecutors filed their objection to Ghosn's release within hours of the announcement he was going to be granted bail.

A lawyer for Ghosn said he would not be able to leave the Tokyo Detention Center until Wednesday at the earliest, even if the appeal is rejected, because bail procedures can't be done at night.

The acceptance of Ghosn's request for bail, his third, came a day after the lawyer, Junichiro Hironaka, said he was confident the auto executive would gain his release.

Hironaka, who recently joined Ghosn's defense team, is famous for winning acquittals in Japan, a nation where the conviction rate is 99 percent.

Hironaka said Monday that he had offered new ways to monitor Ghosn after his release, such as camera

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surveillance. Hironaka also questioned the grounds for Ghosn's arrest, calling the case "very peculiar," and suggesting it could have been dealt with as an internal company matter.

He welcomed the decision, telling reporters: "It was good we proposed concrete ways showing how he would not tamper with evidence or try to flee."

The 1 billion yen bail set by the court was relatively high but not the highest ever in Japan.

Among the conditions for Ghosn's release were restrictions on where he can live, a ban on foreign travel and other promises not to tamper with evidence or try to flee, the court said.

The former head of the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi Motors alliance has been detained since he was arrested on Nov. 19. He says he is innocent of charges of falsifying financial information and of breach of trust.

In Japan, suspects are routinely detained for months, often until their trials start. That's especially true of those who insist on their innocence.

Prosecutors say suspects may tamper with evidence and shouldn't be released. Two previous requests submitted by his legal team were denied. His previous defense lawyer, Motonari Ohtsuru, had said Ghosn's release might not come for months.

Hironaka is among many critics of the Japanese justice system who say such lengthy detentions of suspects are unfair. He referred to the situation as "hostage justice."

Ghosn is charged with falsifying financial reports by under-reporting compensation that he contends was never paid or decided upon. The breach of trust allegations center on a temporary transfer of Ghosn's investment losses to Nissan's books that he says caused no losses to the automaker. They also name payments to a Saudi businessman that he says were for legitimate services.

Ghosn's family had appealed for his release, calling his detention a human rights violation.

Nissan Motor Co. declined comment on the criminal case but said it was working on strengthening corporate governance. Nissan has dismissed Ghosn as chairman, although he remains on the board pending a decision at a shareholders' meeting.

"Nissan's internal investigation has uncovered substantial evidence of blatantly unethical conduct," company spokesman Nick Maxfield said.

Yuri Kageyama is on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

On Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/yurikageyama/?hl=en>

Unusual alliance in Sri Lanka forged to save blue whales

By MARIA CHENG, Associated Press

When the feeding grounds of blue whales overlap with busy shipping lanes, business interests often supersede those of the endangered marine mammals.

But in Sri Lanka, an unusual alliance has been forged: conservationists and shipping companies have aligned in a bid to move the heavily-trafficked lane about 28 kilometers (17 miles) away to help avoid collisions between whales and freighters. The only holdout is Sri Lanka, which has so far declined to sign off on the proposal, jeopardizing the future there of the biggest animal ever known to have lived on the planet, scientists say.

The hundreds of blue whales in Sri Lankan waters — marine biologists estimate there are 600 to 1,500 — feed on tiny shrimp in the shipping lane, and are also believed to mate and give birth nearby. Shipping executives say they would gladly relocate the traffic corridor, recognizing their ships would be safer in waters not already clogged with fishing vessels, whale-watching boats and the whales themselves, which can grow to more than 33 meters (100 feet), more than twice the length of a Tyrannosaurus Rex dinosaur.

Bryan Wood-Thomas, vice president of the World Shipping Council, said the group wrote to the Sri Lankan prime minister in 2017, affirming that all major international shipping organizations believed Sri Lanka should work with the United Nations to move its traffic lane.

"This is one of the few cases in the world where we can physically separate ships from where the whales are," Wood-Thomas said. "Yes, it adds a little distance, fuel and money to shipping costs, but the extra

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cost is really minor.”

He said it was no small feat to get the majority of the world’s shipping companies to agree to move the shipping lane in Sri Lanka.

“There are other places in the world where doing this would incur significant fuel costs or add a lot of time to the journey that businesses will not be happy to absorb,” he said.

For a shipping lane to be moved, the country whose waters are most affected must submit a formal proposal to the International Maritime Organization, the U.N. agency that regulates shipping. Despite numerous meetings between scientists, the shipping industry and U.N. officials during the past six years, Sri Lankan officials have demurred from supporting the shipping lane shift.

Rear Adm. Rohana Perera of Sri Lanka’s Marine Environment Protection Authority said the government is concerned about the economic impact of the proposed shipping lane move on its ports, fearing passing ships might not be as inclined to stop in Sri Lanka. He said a decision would “hopefully” be made in March.

The recent political turmoil in Sri Lanka has also complicated matters; a new government was only formed in late December after the president sacked the prime minister, prompting a constitutional crisis. Perera acknowledged Sri Lanka had other priorities at the moment, but said they also recognized the importance of protecting blue whales.

“Conservation problems are usually so complex, but this one is very clear-cut,” said Asha de Vos, executive director of Oceanswell, a Sri Lankan marine nonprofit. “This is a situation where Sri Lanka could really shine by taking the initiative.”

In many parts of the world, there is no easy solution to the convergence of ships and cetaceans.

For example, scientists have long been worried about the sperm whales that live in the Straits of Gibraltar, but have few solutions.

“It’s an incredibly busy area for shipping, but unfortunately, there’s not much scope for moving the shipping lane because the straits are so narrow,” said Russell Leaper, the scientific lead for blue whales at the International Fund for Animal Welfare, a conservation group.

Once hunted to the brink of extinction, the blue whale population has slowly begun to rebound since being granted protection from commercial whaling in 1946. Due to their size, the whales’ only known predators are orcas and humans. Conservationists estimate there are between 5,000 and 15,000 blue whales globally and although their numbers are believed to be increasing, they are still classified as “endangered.”

Scientists warn that blue whales in Sri Lanka are particularly vulnerable because they are the only population that doesn’t migrate, making them especially susceptible to local threats such as ship strikes, Leaper said.

“It’s a very unusual population because they’re very isolated and they are in Sri Lanka all year around,” he said. “Removing that one threat of ship strikes would make a very large contribution to saving them.”

Although statistics on how many whales are killed by ships are patchy, some studies estimate dozens of blue whales are fatally struck by ships in Sri Lankan waters every year. Scientists say they believe that for every blue whale identified in a ship accident, up to 50 others go undetected, largely because once whales are struck and killed, they sink to the bottom of the ocean.

Michael Fishbach, executive director of the Great Whale Conservancy, said that protecting blue whales is crucial not just for the species, but for the planet. He explained that whales help stimulate the production of plankton, which in turn produces more oxygen to offset the impact of climate change.

“For the health of the oceans, we really need more whales,” Fishbach said.

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Dressed up, ready for fun: New Orleans celebrates Mardi Gras

By REBECCA SANTANA, Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The streets of New Orleans will be filled Tuesday with excited kids catching beads from atop ladders, revelers in fancy costumes walking through the French Quarter and Mardi Gras Indians wearing finely beaded costumes.

Tuesday marks the final day of the Mardi Gras season, which began on Jan. 6.

After rainy weather affected some parades Sunday, the weather Tuesday is expected to be cold but sunny.

The festivities kick off early in the morning when the Northside Skull and Bone Gang walks through the Treme neighborhood before the sun comes up, wearing costumes that look like skeletons and waking people up to celebrate the day.

Then the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club will parade along the city's famed St. Charles Avenue followed by the Rex Parade. Zulu's practice of wearing black makeup during its parade has drawn attention and criticism after news that two Virginia politicians wore blackface heightened attention nationally to the issue.

Zulu issued a statement in February saying that their parade costumes bear no resemblance to those worn by "blackface" minstrel performers at the turn of the century and that their costumes are designed to honor garments worn by South African Zulu warriors.

Tuesday's Rex parade is also expected to feature a stop at "The Rex House," despite a fire that heavily damaged the historic mansion. The home along St. Charles Avenue has been an important stop along the Rex parade route since 1907, and the Rex king usually stops at the house during the parade.

A fire on Feb. 20 caused massive damage to the three-story, 150-year-old mansion whose occupants over the years include four kings and a queen of Rex.

This year's Carnival season also has featured numerous jabs at the NFL and its commissioner Roger Goodell, over the now-infamous "no-call" that came during the Jan. 20 NFC Championship game between the Los Angeles Rams and the New Orleans Saints.

A Rams defensive back leveled a Saints receiver with a helmet-to-helmet hit at a crucial point in the final minutes of regulation time. The Rams went on to win the game and then lost to the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl.

NFL officials acknowledged after the game that flags should have been thrown. But judging by the number of Saints fans dressed up as blind referees during the Mardi Gras season — and likely again on Tuesday — fans here have neither forgiven nor forgotten.

The party officially ends at midnight, when police on horseback ride down Bourbon Street to ceremonially "clear" the street — a symbol meant to mark the end of the Carnival season. Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, which for many Christians is a period of fasting and reflection ahead of Easter.

Follow Santana on Twitter @ruskygal.

Report finds few seniors are getting routine memory checkups

By LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Few seniors get their thinking and memory abilities regularly tested during checkups, according to a new report from the Alzheimer's Association that raises questions about how best to find out if a problem is brewing.

Medicare pays for an annual "wellness visit" that is supposed to include what's called a cognitive assessment — a brief check for some early warning signs of dementia, so people who need a more thorough exam can get one.

But doctors aren't required to conduct a specific test, and there's little data on how often they perform these cognitive snapshots.

About half of seniors say they've ever discussed thinking or memory with a health care provider, and less than a third say they've ever been assessed for possible cognitive problems, according to an Alzheimer's Association survey being released Tuesday.

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Even fewer, 16 percent, said they get regular cognitive assessments — a stark contrast to the blood pressure and cholesterol checks that just about everyone gets routinely. Just 1 in 3 knew cognition is supposed to be part of the annual wellness visit.

Even though many older adults say they've noticed changes in their mental abilities, "the majority of the time seniors are waiting for the physician to bring it up," said Alzheimer's Association chief program officer Joanne Pike.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

About 50 million people worldwide have dementia, and Alzheimer's is the most common type, affecting 5.8 million people in the U.S. The disease takes root in the brain decades before symptoms appear. There is no cure, and today's treatments only ease symptoms, not blocking the disease from gradually worsening.

Still, it's important to be alert to signs of mental decline. Some slowing of memory is a normal part of aging, like temporarily misplacing your keys. But more significant declines in memory, thinking skills or behavior can require medical care.

It might be something treatable like sleep apnea, depression or a side effect of medication.

But if someone is developing dementia, knowing early allows people time to plan for their future care — and to participate in research studies of possible new treatments, Pike said.

WHAT'S INVOLVED IN A COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT?

The doctor looks for any signs of impairment as the check-up gets under way, asks the patient directly about any changes over time, and asks any family members who came along for the visit if they have concerns.

Then the doctor sometimes, not always, administers a test, such as telling the senior to remember a short list of words or to draw a clock showing a certain time.

Some written tests excel at spotting subtle problems, but they're too simplistic to rule out trouble in high-functioning people. Nor does a poor score mean there's really a problem, just that more sophisticated testing is required.

WHY DON'T ALL SENIORS GET SCREENED?

Medical guidelines don't say everyone needs a formal assessment with those memory quizzes, cautioned Dr. Sumi Sexton of Georgetown University's School of Medicine and editor of the journal *American Family Physician*, who wasn't involved with the survey.

In fact, you might be getting assessed and not realize it, she said. Maybe a conversation with the doctor shows that you're pretty active and doing well. Or maybe the doctor spots that you're taking medications that can impede cognition — and changes your prescription, waiting to see if that solved any problem before looking for other potential causes.

"We are all attuned to memory issues," said Sexton, who tends to screen frequently — but wasn't surprised at the report's low screening numbers, because a discussion about cognitive impairment takes time in an already crammed check-up.

And it's hard for patients to bring up, said Jim Gulley, 69, who was diagnosed with early-stage Alzheimer's in 2015. He marked "memory issues" on a check-up questionnaire but then crossed it out — only to have his longtime doctor insist on a discussion.

"I was definitely afraid," said Gulley, of Penfield, New York. His father had had dementia, and he knew "the stigma is not dead." But after Gulley told his church about his diagnosis, he was inundated with help — and with other seniors asking how to know if something's wrong. He now counsels people to talk to their doctors early.

The Associated Press Health & Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Guaido returns to Venezuela and a new phase in campaign

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Opposition leader Juan Guaido shrouded the route and timing of his return in secrecy amid concerns he might be detained by Venezuela's government. Yet he breezed through airport immigration checks and brazenly called for the downfall of President Nicolas Maduro at a rally where the presence of security forces was minimal.

Guaido's homecoming Monday was the latest chapter in his struggle with Maduro, who has been warned by the United States and other countries not to move against his adversary and possibly realized arresting his foe could generate more street protests. And, while Guaido's presence is likely to add at least short-term momentum to his campaign for political change, Maduro has proven resilient and still commands the critical loyalty of top military officers.

Venezuela is gripped by a humanitarian crisis that is expected to worsen as U.S. oil sanctions designed to put more pressure on Maduro take their toll. With both political factions holding firm amid increasing deprivation for Venezuelans, some analysts speculate that they might be considering negotiations on an end to the standoff.

The fact that Guaido was not detained, at least so far, reflects the pressure Maduro faces not to intervene, said Luis Vicente Leon, head of the Caracas-based polling firm Datanalisis. "But it seems to indicate the beginning of a negotiation, local and international, whose details are not yet clear," Leon said in a tweet.

For now, Guaido, leader of the opposition-controlled National Assembly, seems intent on probing Maduro's socialist government for vulnerabilities, saying he would meet Tuesday with public employee unions in an attempt to secure their cooperation. He also called for big protests on Saturday, a tactic that has sometimes been countered by Maduro loyalists with flag-waving rallies of their own.

On Monday, Guaido showed off his passport before climbing onto scaffolding and pumping his fist during the demonstration in Caracas, delighting euphoric followers. There was no immediate comment from Maduro's government, which sought to focus the public's attention on Carnival festivities Monday and Tuesday.

Still, while thousands of Venezuelans heeded Guaido's call for protests coinciding with his return, many worry the government might crack down on the opposition as it has in the past, jailing or driving into exile top opposition leaders.

"We know the risks that we face. That's never stopped us," Guaido said.

He was greeted at the country's main airport by top diplomats from the United States, Germany, Spain and other countries who possibly hoped to head off any move to detain Guaido by bearing witness to his return.

"We hope there won't be any escalation and that parliamentary immunity is respected," said Spanish Ambassador Jesus Silva Fernandez.

The United States and some 50 other countries have recognized Guaido as the legitimate leader of Venezuela, arguing that Maduro's re-election last year was invalid because popular opposition candidates were barred from running. Maduro has accused those nations of participating in a U.S.-backed coup plot against him.

Guaido, who left Venezuela last month despite a court order banning him from foreign travel, visited Colombia, Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and Ecuador. The governments of those countries support his claim to be Venezuela's interim president and have urged Maduro to resign so the country can prepare for free and fair elections.

The United States congratulated the opposition leader on his return home.

"The international community must unite and push for the end of Maduro's brutal regime and the peaceful restoration of democracy in Venezuela," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said.

Colombian President Ivan Duque tweeted that Guaido's homecoming was part of the "irreversible path that Venezuela has taken toward democracy."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for dialogue by all parties to end the political impasse.

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Among the demonstrators who waited for Guaido at the Caracas rally was Wilfredo Moya, a former construction worker who said Venezuelans hoping for change should be patient.

"It's a long process," he said.

Associated Press writer Scott Smith contributed to this report.

House Democrats launch aggressive new Trump probe

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats launched a sweeping new probe of President Donald Trump on Monday, an aggressive investigation that threatens to shadow the president through the 2020 election season with potentially damaging inquiries into his White House, campaign and family businesses.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler said his panel was beginning the probe into possible obstruction of justice, corruption and abuse of power and is sending document requests to 81 people linked to the president and his associates.

The broad investigation could be setting the stage for an impeachment effort, although Democratic leaders have pledged to investigate all avenues and review special counsel Robert Mueller's upcoming report before trying any drastic action. Nadler said the document requests, with responses to most due by March 18, are a way to "begin building the public record."

"Over the last several years, President Trump has evaded accountability for his near-daily attacks on our basic legal, ethical, and constitutional rules and norms," said Nadler, D-N.Y. "Investigating these threats to the rule of law is an obligation of Congress and a core function of the House Judiciary Committee."

Trump dismissed the Nadler probe and others as futile efforts "in search of a crime."

"Ridiculous!" he exclaimed on Twitter.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders called the House probe "a disgraceful and abusive investigation into tired, false allegations."

In a statement Monday night, Sanders said: "Chairman Nadler and his fellow Democrats have embarked on this fishing expedition because they are terrified that their two-year false narrative of 'Russia collusion' is crumbling. Their intimidation and abuse of American citizens is shameful."

Separate congressional probes are already swirling around the president, including an effort announced Monday by three other House Democratic chairmen to obtain information about private conversations between him and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In a letter to the White House and State Department, the House intelligence, Foreign Affairs and Oversight and Reform panels sent broad requests for details about Trump and Putin's private meetings by phone and in person. In addition to document requests, the committees are asking to interview interpreters who sat in on meetings, including a one-on-one session in Helsinki last summer.

The State Department pledged to "work cooperatively with the committees."

The new probes signal that now that Democrats hold a majority in the House, Trump's legal and political peril is nowhere near over, even as the special counsel's Russia investigation winds down.

They are also an indication of the Democrats' current strategy — to flood the administration with oversight requests, keeping Trump and his associates on trial publicly while also playing a long game when it comes to possible impeachment. While some more liberal members of the Democratic caucus would like to see Trump impeached now, Democratic leaders have been more cautious.

Trump told reporters after Nadler's probe was announced that "I cooperate all the time with everybody."

He added: "You know, the beautiful thing? No collusion. It's all a hoax."

Trump's 2020 re-election campaign released a statement Monday night saying, "These desperate Democrats know they cannot beat President Trump in 2020, so instead they have embarked on a disgraceful witch hunt with one singular aim: topple the will of the American people and seize the power that they have zero chance at winning legitimately."

Mueller is investigating Russian intervention in the 2016 election and whether Trump's campaign conspired

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with Russia. But the House probes go far beyond collusion. The House intelligence panel has announced a separate probe not only into the Russian interference but also Trump's foreign financial interests. The Oversight and Reform Committee has launched multiple investigations into all facets of the administration.

The 81 names and entities on the Judiciary Committee's list touch all parts of Trump's life — the White House, his businesses, his campaign and the committee that oversaw the transition from campaign to presidency. There are also people connected to Russian interference in the 2016 campaign, including participants in a meeting at Trump Tower with a Russian lawyer before the election.

The committee is also asking the FBI, the Justice Department and others for documents related to possible pardons for Trump's former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, former national security adviser Michael Flynn and former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort. All three have been charged in special counsel Mueller's investigation.

In a request sent to the White House, the committee asks for information surrounding former FBI Director James Comey's termination, communications with Justice Department officials, the Trump Tower meeting and multiple other matters. Trump Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said the White House had received the letter and "the counsel's office and relevant White House officials will review it and respond at the appropriate time."

The panel's list includes two of the president's sons, Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump, and many of his current and former close advisers, including Steve Bannon, longtime spokeswoman Hope Hicks, former Press Secretary Sean Spicer and former White House Counsel Don McGahn.

The letters to Hicks and Spicer ask them to turn over any work diaries, journals or "a description of daily events related to your employment" by Trump. The committee asked McGahn for documents related to any discussion involving Trump regarding the possibility of firing Mueller around June of 2017 "or any conversation in which President Trump stated, in words or substance, that he wanted the Mueller investigation shut down, restrained or otherwise limited in or around December 2017."

The committee seeks from Cohen, Trump's former personal lawyer who called Trump a "con man" and a "cheat" in congressional testimony last week, "any audio or video recordings" of conversations with Trump or conversations about his presidential campaign.

The list of document requests also includes the National Rifle Association and Trump's embattled charitable foundation, which he is shutting down after agreeing to a court-supervised process.

Nadler said in most of the letters that he was limiting the requests to documents that had already been provided to other investigators, an attempt to receive as much as possible in the two-week timeline. The committee said there might be additional requests.

The panel expects some people to produce right away, and others may eventually face subpoenas, according to a person familiar with the investigation. The person declined to be named to discuss the committee's internal process.

Nadler said Sunday on ABC's "This Week," the Democrats 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.

Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin, a Democratic member of the panel, said Monday that "impeachment is the end of a process, not the beginning of a process," adding that it should not be a "fetish," nor should it be "a taboo."

The top Republican on the committee, Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, said Nadler was "recklessly prejudging the president for obstruction" and pursuing evidence to back up his conclusion.

Associated Press writers Chad Day, Padmananda Rama, Michael Balsamo, Deb Riechmann, Matthew Lee and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Read the document requests: <http://apne.ws/87a9kpP>

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

23 dead, dozens missing in tornado-blasted Alabama community

By KIM CHANDLER and JEFF MARTIN, Associated Press

BEAUREGARD, Ala. (AP) — Rescue crews using dogs and drones searched for victims amid splintered lumber and twisted metal Monday after the deadliest U.S. tornado in nearly six years ripped through a rural Alabama community. At least 23 people were killed, some of them children.

Dozens were missing in Lee County nearly a day after the twister struck, according to the sheriff, who said that crews had combed the hardest-hit areas but that other places had yet to be searched.

The winds Sunday afternoon obliterated numerous homes, leaving huge, jumbled piles of wood and household belongings. Some homes were reduced to concrete slabs. Debris was scattered across the countryside, with shredded metal hanging from the pine trees.

"I'm not going to be surprised if we don't come up with some more deceased. Hopefully we won't," Coroner Bill Harris said. He said the dead included almost entire families and at least three children, ages 6, 9 and 10.

A post on the Lee-Scott Academy's Facebook page said fourth-grader Taylor Thornton was among those killed.

On the day after the disaster, volunteers used chain saws to clear paths for emergency workers. Neighbors and friends helped one another find some of their belongings in the ruins.

Carol Dean found her wedding dress among the wreckage of her mobile home. But the storm took her 53-year-old husband. She said David Wayne Dean was at home Sunday afternoon and had texted a friend to beware when the tornado hit.

"He didn't make it out," she said.

Dean said she rushed home from her job at Walmart when she couldn't reach her husband on the phone. She pushed her way past sheriff's deputies who tried to keep her out of the damaged area. Her children had found David Dean's body in a neighbor's yard.

"They took me down to him," Dean said, "and I got to spend a little time with him before they took him away."

At the R&D Grocery, rattled residents asked one another if they were OK. And a big banner that read "#BEAUREGARDSTRONG" was hung on a fence at Beauregard High School.

The National Weather Service said one and possibly two tornadoes struck the area, with a powerful EF-4 twister with winds estimated at 170 mph (274 kph) blamed for most of the destruction. It carved a path nearly a mile (1.6 kilometers) wide and 24 miles (39 kilometers) long, said meteorologist Chris Darden.

Darden said the "monster tornado" was the deadliest twister to hit the U.S. since May 2013, when an EF-5 killed 24 people in Moore, Oklahoma.

"It looks like someone almost just took a giant knife and scraped the ground," Sheriff Jay Jones said.

County Emergency Management Director Kathy Carson said she was "pretty sure" that tornado sirens in Beauregard sounded warnings but that authorities were busy with the search-and-rescue and had not yet looked into the question.

Crews searching door-to-door used dogs as well as drones that can detect heat from a body. "We're basically using everything we can get our hands on," the sheriff said.

President Donald Trump tweeted that he told the Federal Emergency Management Agency to give Alabama "the A Plus treatment."

The twister was part of a powerful storm system that slashed its way across the Deep South, spawning numerous tornado warnings in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida.

"All we could do is just hold on for life and pray," said Jonathan Clardy, who huddled with his family inside their Beauregard trailer as the tornado ripped the roof off. "It's a blessing from God that me and my young'uns are alive."

Beauregard, named for a Confederate general, is an unincorporated community of roughly 10,000 people near the Georgia state line. The community is in the same county as Auburn University and has a few small stores, two schools and a volunteer fire department dotting the main highway.

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"Everybody in Beauregard is a real close-knit family," Clardy said. "Everybody knows everybody around here. Everybody is heartbroken."

Julie Morrison and her daughter-in-law picked through the ruins of Morrison's home in Beauregard, looking for keys and a wallet. They managed to salvage her husband's motorcycle boots and a Bible.

Morrison said she and her husband took shelter in the bathtub as the twister lifted their house off the ground and swept it into the woods.

"We knew we were flying because it picked the house up," Morrison said, figuring that the shower's fiberglass enclosure helped them survive. She said her son-in-law later dug them out.

Along one hard-hit country road, giant pieces of metal from a farm building dangled from pine branches 20 feet (6 meters) in the air, making loud creaking sounds as the wind blew. For an entire mile down the road, pines were snapped in half. A mobile home crushed by two trees marked the end of the path of destruction.

An early March tornado outbreak in the Alabama-Mississippi area is not unusual, tornado experts said.

The weather service's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma, posted forecasts for higher tornado activity in the region on Thursday, three days before the disaster. University of Georgia meteorology professor Marshall Shepherd said government forecasters "were all over it."

An EF-5 tornado that struck Joplin, Missouri, in May 2011 killed 158 people. And an outbreak of tornadoes in the Southeast a month before that left an estimated 316 people dead, including at least 250 in Alabama.

Associated Press writers Russ Bynum in Savannah, Georgia; Seth Borenstein in Washington; Bill Cormier in Atlanta; and Ryan Kryska in New York contributed to this report, along with AP news researcher Jennifer Farrar in New York.

Telling stories of gang life, while risking their own

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.

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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.

"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>

\$1.5 billion Mega Millions jackpot claimed in South Carolina

By REBECCA SANTANA, Associated Press

The mystery is over. Partly.

Lottery officials on Monday announced that a South Carolina resident had stepped forward to claim the \$1.5 billion Mega Millions jackpot from last October — the largest jackpot payout to a single winner in U.S. history — but elected to remain anonymous.

A lottery commission statement said the person submitting the claim for what was the second-largest lottery in U.S. history has chosen the cash option, a one-time payment of nearly \$878,000,000.

The biggest jackpot in U.S. history — a \$1.585 billion Powerball prize won on Jan. 13, 2016 — was split between buyers in three states. That jackpot also had some mystery as the California winners didn't come forward until about six months later.

"We are delighted that the winner is a South Carolinian and has come forward to claim this remarkable prize," said Hogan Brown, the Commission's Executive Director. "We respect the winner's decision to remain anonymous, and we will honor the winner's wishes."

The commission said the winner "marvels at how every decision made that day brought the winner to the store, at that very moment" to buy the winning ticket. The winner allowed a fellow customer to make a Mega Millions lottery ticket purchase in front of the winner while in line at the store, the commission said.

"A simple act of kindness led to an amazing outcome," the statement said.

South Carolina is one of a handful of states where winners can remain anonymous — a choice that winners often make to protect themselves from being targeted by criminals or unscrupulous people seeking money.

The winning ticket was sold between Oct. 20 and Oct. 23 of last year at the KC Mart convenience store in Simpsonville, a suburb of the South Carolina city of Greenville.

"It's exciting. Good for me, good for him, her, whoever it is," said Chirag Patel, owner of the convenience store. That's because Patel gets a \$50,000 payment for selling the winning ticket — something he wouldn't have gotten if the prize went unclaimed.

Patel said he'll use the money to pay for renovations to the store in Simpsonville as well as some of the six other convenience stores he owns. When asked why he thinks the winner took so long to come forward, Patel said: "That's a lot of money to manage."

For months, South Carolina residents had speculated on why the winner hadn't stepped forward.

Some theorized that the winner was on the run from police and feared a background check if he or she won. Some thought the winner was so overwhelmed at seeing the winning numbers pop up that he or she died on the spot. Others speculated that the winning ticket had been purchased by an office pool and was now the subject of litigation.

The winner had until April 19 to claim the prize. If it had gone unclaimed, the money would have gone back to the 44 states where the tickets were purchased.

The statement Monday gave no clue as to why the winner took his or her time to come forward.

The prize being claimed does come with other benefits for the state besides the cachet of knowing a new multimillionaire is walking around somewhere.

The lottery commission said the state will get \$61 million in income taxes from the winner. And that could get passed along to taxpayers if a proposal goes through to give a \$50 rebate to each person who files income taxes.

"I'm glad the money stays in South Carolina. Obviously, South Carolina will reap the benefits of that,"

House Ways and Means Chairman Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, told The Post and Courier.

He added: "What we're hoping is that, through the taxpayer rebate, all taxpayers in this state will also benefit as a result."

China accuses detained Canadians of stealing state secrets

By **ROB GILLIES** and **CHRISTOPHER BODEEN**, Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — China accused two detained Canadians on Monday of acting together to steal state secrets, just days after Canada announced it will proceed with a U.S. extradition request for a senior Chinese tech executive.

China arrested the two Canadians on Dec. 10 in what was widely seen as an attempt to pressure Canada to release Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of Chinese tech giant Huawei Technologies, who was arrested in Vancouver on Dec. 1 at the request of U.S. authorities.

Meng's arrest set off a diplomatic furor and has severely strained Canadian relations with China.

The U.S. is seeking the extradition of Meng, who is the daughter of Huawei's founder, to face charges she misled banks about the company's business with Iran.

China's official Xinhua News Agency cited unidentified Chinese authorities as saying former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig violated Chinese laws by acting as a spy and stealing state secrets and intelligence with the help of Canadian businessman Michael Spavor. It was the first time the two men's cases have been linked.

It said Kovrig often entered China using an ordinary passport and business visas, and acquired information from Spavor, his "main contact."

"Authorities stressed that China is a country ruled by law and will firmly crack down on criminal acts that severely undermine national security," Xinhua said.

The same information was posted on the official news blog of the ruling Communist Party's Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission.

No other details were given and Xinhua said further judicial proceedings would "take place based on the case's progress."

"We are obviously very concerned by this position that China has taken," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said. "It is unfortunate that China continues to move forward on these arbitrary detentions."

Kovrig is a former diplomat who was working as an expert on Asia for the International Crisis Group think tank. Spavor is an entrepreneur known for contacts with high-ranking North Korean officials, including leader Kim Jong Un.

Rob Malley, president of the International Crisis Group, said the accusations against Kovrig are unsubstantiated and unfounded.

"Michael worked transparently and openly, keeping Chinese authorities informed of what he did and of his mandate: to advise all parties, Beijing included, on steps they could take to resolve and prevent deadly conflict around the world," Malley said.

"But false accusations aside, the reality is clear for all to see. The timing of Michael's detention and his citizenship leave little doubt as to why he is being arbitrarily detained. We continue to hope that China will do the right thing and release him so that he can be reunited with his family."

After Meng's arrest, a Chinese court also sentenced a Canadian to death in a sudden retrial, overturning a 15-year prison term handed down earlier. Kovrig and Spavor haven't had access to a lawyer or to their families since being arrested.

Canada said Friday that it will allow court hearings for the U.S. extradition request for Meng to proceed.

David Mulroney, a former Canadian ambassador to China, said the new allegations against Kovrig and Spavor are a response to that action.

"Every step in the process will be matched by a step by China. The desire is to raise the pressure to extent that we simply give in," Mulroney said.

Meng is due in court on Wednesday to set a date for the extradition proceedings to start. It could be

several months or even years before her case is resolved

Guy Saint-Jacques, also a former Canadian ambassador to China, said Beijing is clearly putting additional pressure on Canada.

"It's a predictable escalation in the crisis," he said. "They are probably hoping it will convince the prime minister to free Meng."

Lawyers for Meng, who is staying at a property she owns in Vancouver after her release on bail, said Sunday she is suing the Canadian government, its border agency and the national police force, alleging she was detained, searched and interrogated before she was told she was under arrest.

Meng's lawsuit alleges that instead of immediately arresting her, they interrogated her "under the guise of a routine customs" examination and used the opportunity to "compel her to provide evidence and information."

Also Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang accused Canada and the U.S. of abusing their bilateral extradition treaty. He reiterated Beijing's demand that Washington withdraw its accusations against Meng.

The U.S. has been lobbying its allies to shun Huawei's products on national security grounds, saying Chinese law requires the company to provide the government with intelligence on its foreign clients whenever requested.

A Chinese government spokesman took issue Monday with the U.S. claims that Huawei poses a threat to other countries' information security.

Spokesman Zhang Yesui said U.S. officials were taking China's national security law out of context and "playing up the so-called security risks" associated with Chinese companies.

Associated Press writer Rob Gillies reported this story in Toronto and AP writer Christopher Bodeen reported in Beijing.

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

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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.

Netflix has its strong defenders, which include the A-list talent it has attracted for its projects. Ben Affleck, speaking at the premiere of his new Netflix film "Triple Frontier," said the streaming service is "heavily invested in telling stories."

"It's very exciting because you get the sense you're defining where the future of cinema and distribution is going, you know? Already, people are watching movies on more and more platforms than they ever had, and you get a sense that you're part of sort of the emerging transition," Affleck told The Associated Press on Sunday.

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 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."

Netflix's film account tweeted that it was dedicated to give film access for people who either can't afford the movie tickets or live in towns without theaters and also "Letting everyone, everywhere enjoy releases at the same time."

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 "theatri-

cal 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."

AP Writer John Carucci contributed to this report.

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

Luke Perry, heartthrob on '90210,' dies at 52 after stroke

By LYNN ELBER, AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Luke Perry, who gained instant heartthrob status as wealthy rebel Dylan McKay on "Beverly Hills, 90210," died Monday after suffering a massive stroke, his publicist said. He was 52.

Perry was surrounded by family and friends when he died, publicist Arnold Robinson said. The actor had been hospitalized since last Wednesday, after a 911 call summoned medical help to his home in the Sherman Oaks section of Los Angeles.

"The family appreciates the outpouring of support and prayers that have been extended to Luke from around the world, and respectfully request privacy in this time of great mourning," Robinson said in a statement. Those at Perry's bedside included his children, Jake and Sophie; fiancée Wendy Madison Bauer; former wife, Minnie Sharp, and mother Ann Bennett.

Although Perry was best-known for his role as McKay, he enjoyed a prolific film and television career. Most recently, he played construction company owner Fred Andrews, father of main character Archie Andrews, for three seasons on "Riverdale," the CW series that gives a dark take on "Archie" comics. A fourth season has been slated.

The actor's next big screen role will be in Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time In Hollywood," which is slated for release in July.

"90210" co-star Ian Ziering paid tribute to his co-star on Twitter, where fans and celebrities shared their memories of Perry and mourned him. "I will forever bask in the loving memories we've shared over the last thirty years," Ziering said. "May your journey forward be enriched by the magnificent souls who have passed before you, just like you have done here, for those you leave behind."

Born and raised in rural Fredericktown, Ohio, Perry gained fame on "Beverly Hills, 90210," which ran from 1990 to 2000. In a 2006 interview with The Associated Press, he recounted being partly inspired to pursue acting by a photo of Paul Newman his mother kept on her mirror.

He played out the memory of hearing his mother say, "He's the most beautiful man in the world, honey ... he's a movie star."

"I thought, 'OK, that's cool.' I watched him and, 'Yeah, man, who didn't want to be Paul Newman!'"

But Perry expanded his interests far beyond acting, identifying history as a passion and family a priority.

"When you are younger you can have only work, and I did for a long time," he told the AP in 2006. "But it doesn't command my attention that way anymore. A lot of the mysteries and the questions I had about it I've figured out, but life offers up mysteries every day."

He had roles in a handful of films, including "The Fifth Element," "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "8 Seconds" and "American Strays," appeared in HBO's prison drama "Oz" as a televangelist convicted of fraud, and voiced cartoons including "The Incredible Hulk" and "Mortal Kombat."

He made his Broadway musical debut as Brad in the "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," and starred on London's West End in another stage adaptation of a film, "When Harry Met Sally." In recent years he starred in the series "Ties That Bind" and "Body of Proof."

The same day he was hospitalized, Fox TV announced that it would be running a six-episode return of "90210" featuring most of the original cast, but Perry was not among those announced.

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On the original series, Perry's character went from loner to part of a close-knit circle that included twins Brenda and Brandon Walsh (Shannen Doherty, Jason Priestley), but also endured a string of romantic, family and other setbacks, including drug addiction. Perry left the series in 1995 to pursue other roles, returning in 1998 for the rest of the show's run as a guest star.

In a 2011 interview with the AP, Perry said he and his male co-stars were a "really good strong core group" while the show aired and maintained close ties. The friendship and trust he shared with Priestley created a sort of "shorthand" when it came to filming, Perry said.

Guaido returns to Venezuela, calls for more street protests

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — A defiant Juan Guaido returned home to Venezuela on Monday despite concerns the opposition leader might be detained and urged supporters at a rally to intensify their campaign to topple the government of President Nicolas Maduro.

The 35-year-old leader of Venezuela's National Assembly showed off his passport before climbing onto scaffolding and pumping his fist during the demonstration in Caracas, delighting euphoric followers whose efforts to oust Maduro have fallen short in a nation gripped by a humanitarian crisis.

There were few security forces nearby and no immediate comment from Maduro's government, which has tried to divert the public's attention to carnival festivities Monday and Tuesday. While thousands of Venezuelans heeded Guaido's call for protests coinciding with his return, many wonder whether he can maintain momentum against a government that, while under extreme pressure itself, has relentlessly cracked down on opponents in the past, jailing or driving into exile top opposition leaders.

"We know the risks that we face. That's never stopped us," Guaido said after arriving at Venezuela's main airport and going through immigration checks. He was greeted by top diplomats from the United States, Germany, Spain and other countries who possibly hoped to head off any move to detain Guaido by bearing witness to his return.

"We hope there won't be any escalation and that parliamentary immunity is respected," said Spanish Ambassador Jesus Silva Fernandez.

The United States and some 50 other countries have recognized Guaido as the legitimate leader of Venezuela, arguing that Maduro's re-election last year was invalid because popular opposition candidates were barred from running.

At the rally, Guaido called for massive protests on Saturday and said he would meet Tuesday with public employee unions controlled by the government of Maduro, who retains the support of military generals despite the desertion of hundreds of lower-ranking military personnel.

"The regime must understand, the dictatorship must understand... that we're stronger than ever. We'll continue protesting, we'll continue mobilizing," said Guaido, who had ignored an official ban on foreign travel to leave Venezuela last month.

Guaido visited Colombia, Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and Ecuador over the past week — all countries that support his claim to be Venezuela's interim president and call on Maduro to resign so that the country can prepare for free and fair elections.

The United States, which has warned Maduro not to act against Guaido, congratulated the opposition leader on his return to Venezuela.

"The international community must unite and push for the end of Maduro's brutal regime and the peaceful restoration of democracy in Venezuela," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said. Colombian President Ivan Duque tweeted that Guaido's homecoming was part of the "irreversible path that Venezuela has taken toward democracy."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for dialogue by all parties to end the political impasse.

"We obviously remain very concerned about the situation in Venezuela," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. "It's important from the secretary-general's viewpoint that all actors — all political actors in Venezuela and abroad — make all efforts to lower tensions."

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Maduro has said he is the target of a U.S.-backed coup plot after the Trump administration joined dozens of other countries in backing Guaido. The United States has also imposed oil sanctions on Venezuela, which has the world's largest oil reserves.

Guaido's return is a moment of reckoning not only for the opposition leader, whose presence in Venezuela was essential for his movement to regain momentum, but also for Maduro, analysts said. The fact that Guaido was not detained, at least so far, reflects the pressure Maduro faces not to intervene, said Luis Vicente Leon, head of the Caracas-based polling firm Datanalisis. "But it seems to indicate the beginning of a negotiation, local and international, whose details are not yet clear," Leon said in a tweet.

Venezuela's vice president, Delcy Rodriguez, did not directly address a question about whether Guaido could face arrest during an interview with Russian state-owned TV channel RT. But she left open the possibility, saying Guaido had broken the law and is "a Venezuelan who conspires with foreign governments to overthrow a constitutional government."

The Maduro government has in the past jailed and driven into exile some of Venezuela's most prominent opposition leaders, including Leopoldo Lopez, who lives under house arrest and another lawmaker holed up at the home of Chile's ambassador in the Venezuelan capital.

For his part, Maduro has somewhat incongruously urged Venezuelans to enjoy the carnival season, even though most people don't have the resources to travel to beaches or other holiday spots. On Sunday, he tweeted that Venezuelans nationwide were enjoying carnival "in peace and happiness."

Among the demonstrators who waited for Guaido at the Caracas rally was Wilfredo Moya, a 55-year-old former construction worker who said Venezuelans hoping for change should be patient.

"It's a long process," he said.

Associated Press writer Scott Smith in Caracas contributed to this report.

Oregon man snowed in with taco sauce grateful for rescue

By GILLIAN FLACCUS, Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — An Oregon man who was rescued after five days stuck in deep snow with his dog is deeply grateful to his rescuers and embarrassed to have caused so much trouble, his aunt told The Associated Press on Monday.

Jeremy Taylor's 4-wheel-drive vehicle got stuck Feb. 24 in snow on a U.S. Forest Service road as he headed to do some off-road driving in the wilderness outside the central Oregon city of Bend.

As night fell, Taylor, 36, decided to sleep in his car with his Australian shepherd, Ally, and hike out the next day, his aunt, Denise Tremaine said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

Taylor fashioned some snowshoes from pieces of the roof rack he uses for his kayak and started off on Feb. 25. But after a mile (1.6 kilometers), Taylor had to turn around because the dog was sinking in the deep snow and could not continue.

Taylor carried Ally back to the car and the two hunkered down there, sharing a sleeping bag to keep warm. Taylor had a full tank of gas and was able to blast the heat briefly when it got unbearably cold and ate a few packets of taco sauce he had with him, she said.

He and the dog drank melted ice, but she said she does not think Taylor fed the dog hot sauce.

"That's his world right there, that dog. She goes everywhere with him," Tremaine said of the dog. "He would never, ever leave that dog in the car."

Eventually, Tremaine said, heavy snow from more snowstorms made it impossible for Taylor to open his vehicle's door.

At one point, he saw an airplane overhead and raced to push the snow off the car's roof so rescuers might see him, but it did not work. He did not have a cellphone with him or any emergency supplies, she added.

"He didn't take the provisions he should have. I gave him a little of that talk and I'm just glad he's alive, because I think there was a point there when he didn't think he was going to make it," she said.

What Taylor did not know is that by Feb. 27, his friends had realized that the self-employed building con-

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tractor was missing. He had not shown up to work and no one had heard from him, so friends reported him missing.

Search and rescue crews combed the forests outside Bend by snowmobile, airplane and drone and as word spread on social media, friends and acquaintances searched on their own using snowmobiles.

On Friday afternoon, a snowmobiler found Taylor and he and his dog were brought out of the woods on a snowcat, a type of snow tractor, and they were reunited with family and friends.

He returned home to find his roof was damaged from heavy snow and his water pipes were frozen, Tremaine said.

On Monday, he headed back to work and ignored interview requests from TV bookers and messages to talk with public relations representatives for Taco Bell, among others, she said. He did not respond to a Facebook message from the AP seeking comment.

"Jeremy is very, very quiet and he doesn't want the limelight. He is just incredibly sorry and slightly embarrassed that so many people were out looking for him," Tremaine said.

Over the years, many people have gotten stranded on Oregon's snowbound rural roads — and the outcome isn't always so good.

In 2000, a 29-year-old man was discovered by snowmobilers clinging to life in his car, which was completely buried by snow in the Deschutes National Forest near Bend. Thomas Wade Truett had been stuck for 16 days in five feet (1.5 meters) of snow, surviving on orange juice and almond M&Ms. He had written a goodbye letter to his parents.

Six years later, a family of four headed home to San Francisco from a Thanksgiving trip to Seattle and Portland missed a turn and wound up stranded for a week on a logging road after trying to take a short cut over a mountain range.

The husband, James Kim, tried to hike for help and died after walking 20 miles (32 kilometers) in freezing temperatures. His wife and two young daughters were found alive in the car after a nine-day ordeal.

A Montana man starved to death in 1994 after getting stuck on the same road in winter.

Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/gflaccus>

Putin suspends Russia's obligations under 1987 nuclear pact

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — President Vladimir Putin suspended Russia's participation in a nuclear arms treaty the Trump administration already decided to leave, alleging Monday that Washington and not Moscow was in violation of the 1987 pact.

In a decree, Putin suspended Russia's obligations under the terms of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty and said hold would remain in place "until the U.S. ends its violations of the treaty or until it terminates."

Putin's order came as Gen. Valery Gerasimov, the head of the Russian military's General Staff, was in Vienna for talks on strategic stability with U.S. Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The INF treaty was one of the issues discussed in what the Russia's Defense Ministry described as "constructive" talks.

The U.S. gave notice of its intention to withdraw from the INF a month ago, setting the stage for it to terminate in six months unless Moscow returns to compliance. Russia has denied any breaches, and accused the U.S. of violating the pact.

The U.S. has accused Russia of developing and deploying a cruise missile that violates provisions of the pact that ban production, testing and deployment of land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometers (310 to 3,410 miles).

The move also reflected President Donald Trump's administration's view that the treaty was an obstacle to efforts needed to counter intermediate-range missiles deployed by China, which isn't part of the treaty.

Russia has charged that the U.S. has breached the pact by deploying missile defense facilities in eastern

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Europe that could fire cruise missiles instead of interceptors — a claim rejected by the U.S.

The collapse of the INF Treaty has stoked fears of a replay of a Cold War-era Europe missile crisis, when the U.S. and the Soviet Union both deployed intermediate-range missiles on the continent during the 1980s.

Such weapons take less time to reach their targets compared to intercontinental ballistic missiles. Their deployment was seen as particularly destabilizing, leaving no time for decision-makers and raising the likelihood of a global nuclear conflict over a false launch warning.

Last month, Putin ordered the development of new land-based intermediate-range weapons, but emphasized that Russia would not deploy them in the European part of the country unless it was in response to the U.S. taking the action against Russia.

The Russian leader has warned Washington against placing new missiles in Europe, promising that Moscow would retaliate by fielding new weapons that can reach targets more quickly.

The treaty's demise "could actually trigger a possible missile crisis in Europe as it did in the 1980s," Moscow-based military expert Pavel Felgenhauer said. "The tensions between East and West are growing, and that means there is a possibility of a war. It's not imminent, but the possibility is there."

At the United Nations, spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters that Secretary-General Antonio Guterres holds strong hope Moscow and Washington will be able to resolve their differences over the treaty in the coming months.

"The INF is a very important part of the international arms control architecture," Dujarric said.

"It has contributed tangibly to the maintenance of peace and stability, notably in Europe."

Associated Press writer Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this report.

'She said she'd blow herself up first': Hope dims on Yazidis

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,

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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 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 airstrikes 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 Baghouz, 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.

UK, EU to hold more Brexit talks as May woos opposition

By JILL LAWLESS and RAF CASERT, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Senior European Union and British officials were set to hold more Brexit talks less than a month before the United Kingdom is scheduled to leave the bloc, as U.K. officials denied Monday that attempts to seal a divorce deal are deadlocked.

EU and U.K. officials said the bloc's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, will meet U.K. Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay and Attorney General Geoffrey Cox on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Theresa May's spokesman, James Slack, said the two sides have "definitely been making

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progress" over the past few weeks and negotiations are at a "critical point."

Britain is due to leave the EU on March 29, but Parliament has rejected May's deal, raising the prospect of a chaotic, economically damaging departure from the bloc.

British lawmakers' objections center on a provision to guarantee there are no customs posts or other barriers along the currently invisible border between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland. The mechanism, known as the backstop, is a safeguard that would keep the U.K. in a customs union with the EU to remove the need for checks until a permanent new trading relationship is in place.

Brexit-supporting lawmakers in the U.K. fear the backstop could be used to bind Britain to EU regulations indefinitely, and May wants to revise the deal to reassure opponents that it would only apply temporarily.

EU leaders insist that the legally binding Brexit withdrawal agreement can't be reopened, and talks are focusing on drafting an addendum or other additional words.

"We are happy to offer further clarifications and further assurances if that can help the U.K. government get the agreement over the line," Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said Monday.

"But from day one we have been very straight about a few things and among those is that Brexit cannot lead, under any circumstances, to the emergence of a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland."

Tweaks and clarifications, however, are unlikely to satisfy Britain's most ardent pro-Brexit lawmakers.

Cox, Britain's attorney general, dismissed media reports that he had given up on securing significant changes from the EU. He tweeted that much of the reporting had been inaccurate, and "complex and detailed negotiations cannot be conducted in public."

As May tries to build support for her deal before bringing it back to Parliament next week, she is being accused of trying to bribe opposition politicians into voting for it.

The government has announced a 1.6 billion-pound (\$2.1 billion) package of funding over six years to help regenerate run-down communities.

Many are towns in areas of central and northern England represented by the opposition Labour Party, and the move is being seen as a bid to win support from their lawmakers for May's withdrawal agreement with the EU.

But Labour lawmakers reacted coolly to the announcement. Chris Bryant called the money "corrupt, patronizing, pathetic" and "all to appease the Brexit monster."

Labour legislator Gareth Snell said the allocation for his area of central England was "less than the total value of cuts faced by Stoke-on-Trent City Council alone over the same period" because of the Conservative government's austerity measures.

May's spokesman denied the money was a bribe, saying it was not conditional on support for May's Brexit deal.

As the stalemate continues, pressure is growing for a delay to Brexit, or a new referendum on Britain's EU membership.

Rajesh Agrawal, London's deputy mayor for business czar, told The Associated Press that with just 25 days left to go, "we need to take the pressure off."

He said this could be done by revoking Article 50, which formally triggered the Brexit process, "and then we go back to the people for confirmation. Because it's only right and democratic to let the people have the final say."

Casert reported from Brussels. Frank Jordans in Berlin contributed to this story.

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Keith Flint, singer of electronic band The Prodigy, dies

By DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Keith Flint, the fiery frontman of British dance-electronic band The Prodigy, was found dead Monday at his home near London, the band said. He was 49.

Prodigy co-founder Liam Howlett said in an Instagram post that Flint killed himself over the weekend. "I'm shell shocked ... confused and heart broken," he wrote.

Police confirmed that the body of a 49-year-old man had been found at a home in Brook Hill, northeast of London. They said the death was being treated as non-suspicious and a file would be sent to the coroner — standard practice in cases of violent or unexplained deaths.

Flint was the stage persona of the band, whose 1990s hits "Firestarter" and "Breathe" were an incendiary fusion of techno, breakbeat and acid house music.

He was renowned for his manic stage energy and distinctive look: black eyeliner and hair spiked into two horns.

"A true pioneer, innovator and legend," the band said in a statement confirming his death. "He will be forever missed."

The Prodigy sold 30 million records, helping to take rave music from an insular community of party-goers to an international audience. They had seven No. 1 albums in Britain, most recently with "No Tourists" in 2018.

The band attracted criticism for the 1997 single "Smack My Bitch Up," and the accompanying sex- and drug-fueled video. The National Organization for Women accused the song of encouraging violence against women, and it was banned by the BBC.

The band denied misogyny, pointing out that the song's protagonist is revealed in the video to be a woman.

Born Keith Charles Flint on Sept. 17, 1969 in east London, he moved to east of the city to Braintree, Essex as a child, where he met Howlett at a nightclub.

The Prodigy was formed in the early 1990s, with Howlett as producer and Flint originally employed as a dancer before becoming singer and the onstage focal point.

The band's rise coincided with soul-searching in Britain over electronic dance music and its related drug culture, and the Prodigy became known as much for its anti-establishment stance as for its songs. The band members were vocal critics of the U.K.'s Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, which banned the raves popularized in the late-1980s during the so-called Second Summer of Love.

Electronic duo the Chemical Brothers tweeted that Flint "as an amazing front man, a true original and he will be missed."

Grime musician Dizzee Rascal said he had opened for The Prodigy in 2009, "and he was one of the nicest people I've met and always was every time I met him, the whole band were. When it comes to stage few people can carry a show like him I'm proud to say I've seen it for myself."

Jill Lawless contributed to this report.

Asian shares fall, China's edge up on bullish growth target

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Shares have declined in most Asian markets, tracking an overnight sell-off on Wall Street.

But stocks in Shanghai and Shenzhen advanced early Tuesday after the government set an ambitious target for growth this year that implies strong government support for the economy.

The Shanghai Composite index rose 0.1 percent to 3,031.00, while the benchmark in Shenzhen, a smaller, more domestic-oriented market jumped 0.8 percent to 1,685.17.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang told the annual session of the country's rubber-stamp parliament that the government was setting a growth target in a range of 6 to 6.5 percent. That shows official determination

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to shore up the cooling economy and prevent politically hazardous job losses and is slightly below last year's 6.6 percent growth, a three-decade low.

Li promised higher spending on technology development. Beijing is also aiming to raise military spending by 7.5 percent.

Elsewhere in Asia the focus was mainly on an absence of news of fresh progress in China-U.S. trade talks.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index lost 0.5 percent to 21,714.70 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong edged 0.1 percent lower to 28,932.74. South Korea's Kospi dropped 0.5 percent to 2,178.75.

Australia's S&P ASX 200 fell 0.3 percent after the central bank opted to keep its key policy rate at 1.5 percent. Shares fell in Taiwan and most of Southeast Asia.

The upward momentum from Asia on Monday faded as investors grew impatient for more details on reports that the U.S. and China are moving closer to a deal to resolve their costly trade dispute.

The world's two largest economies have pulled back from an immediate escalation of their damaging trade war, with President Donald Trump postponing a deadline for raising tariffs on more Chinese goods, citing progress in a series of talks. Media reports say the nations could strike a deal this month.

Investors have been hoping for a resolution in the long-running trade dispute between the world's biggest economies, which centers on China's technological ambitions. Washington claims Beijing is stealing technology and forcing companies to turn over technology in order to do business.

"The devil is still in the details and those details are still pretty sparse at this point," said David Lefkowitz, senior Americas equity strategist at UBS Global Wealth Management. "When tariffs might be removed is definitely a key question, and also there's still some uncertainty about whether or not a deal will be consummated."

The sell-off Monday centered mainly on health-related and technology shares that have made the most gains recently.

The S&P 500 index dropped 0.4 percent to 2,792.81. The index, a benchmark for many mutual funds, is still up 11.4 percent so far this year.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.8 percent, to 25,819.65, while the Nasdaq composite lost 0.2 percent to 7,577.57. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies gave up 14.20 points, or 0.9 percent, to 1,575.44.

Major indexes in Europe finished mostly higher.

ENERGY: U.S. crude lost 30 cents to \$56.29 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It rose 1.4 percent Monday to settle at \$56.59 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 28 cents to \$65.39 a barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 111.91 yen from 111.74 yen on Monday. The euro weakened to \$1.1327 from \$1.1341.

AP Business Writers Damien J. Troise and Alex Veiga contributed.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, March 5, the 64th day of 2019. There are 301 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 5, 1963, country music performers Patsy Cline, Cowboy Copas and Hawkshaw Hawkins died in the crash of their plane, a Piper Comanche, near Camden, Tennessee, along with pilot Randy Hughes (Cline's manager).

On this date:

In 1770, the Boston Massacre took place as British soldiers who'd been taunted by a crowd of colonists opened fire, killing five people.

In 1868, the impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson began in the U.S. Senate, with Chief Jus-

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tice Salmon P. Chase presiding. Johnson, the first U.S. president to be impeached, was accused of "high crimes and misdemeanors" stemming from his attempt to fire Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton; the trial ended on May 26 with Johnson's acquittal.

In 1933, in German parliamentary elections, the Nazi Party won 44 percent of the vote; the Nazis joined with a conservative nationalist party to gain a slender majority in the Reichstag.

In 1946, Winston Churchill delivered his "Iron Curtain" speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, in which he said: "From Stettin in the Baltic, to Trieste in the Adriatic, an 'iron curtain' has descended across the continent, allowing police governments to rule Eastern Europe."

In 1953, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin died after three decades in power. Composer Sergei Prokofiev died in Moscow at age 61.

In 1955, Elvis Presley made his television debut on "Louisiana Hayride" carried by KSLA-TV Shreveport.

In 1966, BOAC Flight 911, a Boeing 707, crashed into Japan's Mount Fuji after breaking up in severe turbulence; all 124 people on board were killed.

In 1970, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons went into effect after 43 nations ratified it.

In 1982, comedian John Belushi was found dead of a drug overdose in a rented bungalow in Hollywood; he was 33.

In 1998, NASA scientists said enough water was frozen in the loose soil of the moon to support a lunar base and perhaps, one day, a human colony.

In 2002, President George W. Bush slapped punishing tariffs of eight to 30 percent on several types of imported steel in an effort to aid the ailing U.S. industry.

In 2003, In a blunt warning to the United States and Britain, the foreign ministers of France, Germany and Russia said they would block any attempt to get U.N. approval for war against Iraq.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama hosted a White House summit where he pumped allies and skeptics alike for ways to overhaul the nation's costly and frustrating health care system. As thousands demonstrated outside, California Supreme Court justices listened to legal arguments over the passage of Proposition 8, which banned same-sex marriage. NATO agreed, after intense internal debate, to restore normal relations with Russia seven months after it had frozen ties in response to Moscow's invasion of Georgia.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama's choice to lead the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, Debo Adegbile (DAY'-boh uh-DAYG'-bih-lay), was blocked by bipartisan Senate opposition over his legal work at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund on behalf of Mumia Abu-Jamal, who's serving life in prison in the 1981 shooting death of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner. The former Internal Revenue Service official at the heart of the controversy over the agency's targeting of conservative groups, Lois Lerner, once again refused to answer questions at a House hearing.

One year ago: House Speaker Paul Ryan and other Republican allies of President Donald Trump pleaded with him to back away from his threatened tariffs, but Trump responded, "We're not backing down." Los Angeles police arrested Terry Bryant, 47, on charges that he stole Frances McDormand's Oscar trophy after the Academy Awards a night earlier; the award was returned to the actress. The Nielsen company announced that the Academy Awards viewership had plunged to a record low of 26.5 million, down 20 percent from a year earlier. Longtime Republican Sen. Thad Cochran of Mississippi said he would resign because of health problems. (Cindy Hyde-Smith was appointed to succeed Cochran until a November special election, which she won.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Paul Sand is 87. Actor James B. Sikking is 85. Actor Dean Stockwell is 83. Actor Fred Williamson is 81. Actress Samantha Eggar is 80. Actor Michael Warren is 73. Actor Eddie Hodges is 72. Singer Eddy Grant is 71. Rock musician Alan Clark (Dire Straits) is 67. Actress-comedian Marsha Warfield is 65. Magician Penn Jillette is 64. Actress Adriana Barraza is 63. Actress Talia Balsam is 60. Rock singers Charlie and Craig Reid (The Proclaimers) are 57. Pro Football Hall of Famer Michael Irvin is 53. Actor Paul Blackthorne is 50. Rock musician John Frusciante (froo-SHAN'-tee) is 49. Singer Rome is 49. Actor Kevin Connolly is 45. Actress Eva Mendes is 45. Actress Jill Ritchie is 45. Actress Jolene Blalock is 44. Model Niki Taylor is 44. Actress Kimberly McCullough is 41. Actress Karolina Wydra is 38. Singer-songwriter Amanda

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Shires is 37. Actress Dominique McElligott is 33. Actor Sterling Knight is 30. Actor Jake Lloyd is 30. Actor Micah Fowler is 21.

Thought for Today: "More tears have been shed over men's lack of manners than their lack of morals."
— Helen Hathaway, American writer (1893-1932).

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