

Groton Area Schedule of Events

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
7:00pm- 9:00pm, School Board Meeting, Groton Area High School

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

End of 3rd Quarter, Groton Area School District

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Girls Varsity State Tournament @ Sioux Falls
Boys Varsity State Tournament @ Sioux Falls
No School, Groton Area School District - Spring Break

Friday, March 15, 2019

Girls Varsity State Tournament @ Sioux Falls
Boys Varsity State Tournament @ Sioux Falls
No School, Groton Area School District - Spring Break

Help Wanted

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

CLOSED! Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

- 1- Help Wanted
- 1- Lovely little storm
- 2- Truss Pros is Hiring
- 2- Brock Greenfield's Column
- 4- School Board Agenda
- 5- Sunshine Week Article: Town by town, local journalism is dying in plain sight
- 7- Noem Approves Legislation To Fight Sex Trafficking, Streamline Adult Adoption
- 8- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column
- 9- NWS Snow Accumulations Report
- 10- Today in Weather History
- 11- Weather Pages
- 13- Daily Devotional
- 14- 2019 Groton Events
- 15- News from the Associated Press
- 31- Paul's Semon Message for this week

Lovely little storm

Well, a major winter storm hit the area on Saturday, leaving around 10 inches of heavy snow throughout the area. The wind did pick up and the snow drifts are hard from the drifting. No travel was advised across the northern half of South Dakota last night. As the area digs out today, dry weather will set in for a couple of days before another system treks into the region. That could produce, rain, freezing drizzle and/or snow, so stay tuned for updates as the storm closes in on the Dakotas.

Meanwhile, if you are out shoveling snow, take plenty of breaks and drink plenty of liquids (primarily non-alcoholic). Deaths do occur after a snow storm from people who are overdoing it.

Access to the fitness center and the laundromat were opened up this morning after the city plowed Main Street, so you will not have to crawl over 3-foot banks of snow.



Glimpse From Greenfield

Brock Greenfield
State Senator
District 2

With Week 9 now in the books, the issues remaining are the larger budgetary items and any bills that were passed from one side to the other in an amended fashion. On Thursday of last week, all bills had to be passed or killed by the second chamber. If bills were not amended, they are on the Governor's desk awaiting her signature or veto. If they passed with amendments, they will head back

to their house of origin for that body to consider either concurring with the amendments or disagreeing with the amendments and sending the bills to conference committees where three Senators and three Reps will try to iron out the differences.

Some of the significant bills we heard on the Senate floor are discussed below.

HB 1055 was offered in response to a horrifying situation that happened in another state but could happen anywhere if the law is silent. This bill would require doctors to notify and get parents' agreement before the doc can institute a "Do Not Resuscitate" order for an unemancipated minor. This would seem to be a common sense measure, but in the case that drew people's attention to this issue, the doctor acted unilaterally to make the decision that a child was facing a life-limiting illness and that child would not receive potentially life-saving treatment.

HB 1204 is the "lemonade stand" bill that allows minors to be exempted from paying sales tax on their first \$1,000 worth of sales of goods or services. In practice, no kid who runs a lemonade stand or who mows lawns or shovels snow realizes he/she is subject to sales tax. In those rare instances in which the Department of Revenue learns of a child's entrepreneurial endeavors, the Department has to try to shake them down for the taxes due. Often, more costs are incurred in trying to track down the few dollars due, so it really is a common sense measure. Moreover, every time we hear of kids being shaken down by their states' Dept's of Revenue, we say, "Really?!?!..." followed by our editorial comments about trying to collect taxes from kids who have likely already spent their earnings on consumable items.

HB 1111 seeks to expedite the process by which members of the military or their spouses can obtain their professional or occupational licenses when they are relocated

NOW HIRING!

Truss Pros

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Looking for assemblers - both shifts & Class A CDL Drivers

**New Starting Competitive Wages
Overtime Available**

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

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

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to South Dakota. This measure acknowledges that people who serve our country are often in dynamic situations, and it is important that they and their spouses are able to obtain employment and meet their family's needs. Also, on the Military and Veterans Affairs front, we passed HB 1171 and HB 1201. HB 1171 makes our law consistent whether a person who is a veteran as defined in our statutes attends a university or a technical institute. Until this year, we had not been asked to allow veterans to attend classes at technical institutes on a tuition-free basis. They had been allowed to do so at regental institutions. This bill will extend the opportunity to the tech's. HB 1201 allows for special hunting opportunities to be extended to veterans or Purple Heart recipients for more than a one- or two-day period. Current statute speaks to the special hunts, but confines them to one or two days only.

HB 1191 was the bill that would have allowed for industrial hemp to be grown by SD agricultural producers. The bill, as you probably know, passed the House 65-2, before the administration put on the full-court press to kill the bill. The bill was amended on the Senate side to address a number of concerns, but the administration continued to stand in opposition. I voted for it, and it passed the Senate, 21-14. Now, it will go back to the House for their consideration. If they concur with Senate amendments, the bill will go to the Governor's desk where it will await a veto. Forty-four states have passed similar bills, but because of the concerns over enforcing our marijuana laws, we have always been reluctant to pass such a bill. When the 2018 farm bill allowed for states to proceed with hemp production, many people felt this might offer another opportunity to capture more dollars and to introduce a new rotation crop into the mix. Then again, marijuana! Hemp is not marijuana, but it is a close cousin. I understand the desire to stand against it—and I always have. However, with virtually every other state exploring the option of allowing hemp production, we'd better figure out what our plan is for the future. We will potentially have interstate truck traffic hauling loads of it across our state. We are going to have to be nimble enough to figure out a way to accurately test it to determine whether it is hemp (under 0.3% THC) or marijuana (over 0.3% THC). And that's whether or not we ever pass hemp legislation.

In good news, we undid one of the things I groused about last week. HB 1087 had been killed in committee last week, but we revived it and passed it this week. This bill speaks to campus free speech and intellectual diversity. The bill was amended, thanks largely to the efforts of Senator Novstrup who opposed the bill last week and Representative Peterson who was the bill's prime sponsor. They worked tirelessly with the Board of Regents to come up with new language, which passed the Senate 26-7. I commend the Regents' Executive Director, Dr. Paul Beran, and their legal counsel, Nathan Lukkes, for all their efforts to reach an agreement that creates a much better legal environment as it relates to protecting ALL students' voices going forward.

As I wrap up, I'll mention that I successfully carried a couple bills on the floor, but they are not as significant as the others I've outlined. Perhaps next week I will discuss them. Just one last blip...the budget talks did not proceed as efficiently as I had hoped last week. That is not to say, though, that progress wasn't made. It was. I believe I will have good news to report on the nursing homes, adjustment training centers, mental health, education, and state employees fronts next week. We look to be in good shape in terms of providing significant increases in those priority areas.

As always, thank you for reading and for all your thoughts and prayers! God bless you!

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GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting

March 11, 2019 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of February 11, 2019 school board meeting as drafted.
2. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...*as fiscal agent*.
3. Approval of February 2019 District bills for payment.
4. Approval of February 2019 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
5. Approval of February 2019 School Transportation Report.
6. Approval of February 2019 School Lunch Report
7. Acknowledge receipt of Notification for Public School Exemption #19-14.
8. Acknowledge receipt of Notification for Public School Exemption #19-15.
9. Approve Open Enrollment #19-22 and #19-23.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. School Board Committee Reports:
 - a. **Building, Grounds, & Transportation:** Clint Fjelstad, Merle Harder
 - b. **Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum:** Deb Gengerke, Kara Pharis
 - c. **Negotiations:** Grant Rix, Steve Smith, Marty Weismantel
3. Discussion/possible action on 2018-2019 school calendar amendments related to make-up snow days.
4. Discussion on potential structure changes to North Central Special Education Cooperative.
5. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review SD Department of Health Food Service Inspections of Groton Area Elementary [99/100] and Groton Area High School [99/100].
2. Approve resignation/retirement of Jodi Sternhagen, HS Counselor, effective at conclusion of the 2018-2019 contract.
3. Approve signed administrative contracts.
4. Executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) personnel including Superintendent Evaluation and SDCL 1-25-2(4) negotiations.

ADJOURN

Town by town, local journalism is dying in plain sight

By **DAVID BAUDER and DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press**

WAYNESVILLE, Mo. (AP) — Five minutes late, Darrell Todd Maurina sweeps into a meeting room and plugs in his laptop computer. He places a Wi-Fi hotspot on the table and turns on a digital recorder. The earplug in his left ear is attached to a police scanner in his pants pocket.

Maurina, who posts his work to Facebook, represents the press — in its entirety.

He is the only person who has come to the Pulaski County courthouse to tell residents what their commissioners are up to, the only one who will report on their deliberations about how to satisfy the Federal Emergency Management Agency so it will pay to repair a road inundated during a 2013 flood.

Last September, this community in central Missouri's Ozark hills became a statistic. With the shutdown of its newspaper, the Daily Guide, it joined more than 1,400 other cities and towns across the U.S. to lose a newspaper over the past 15 years, according to an Associated Press analysis of data compiled by the University of North Carolina.

The reasons for the closures vary. But the result is that many Americans no longer have someone watching the city council for them, chronicling the soccer exploits of their children or reporting on the kindly neighbor who died.

In many places, local journalism is dying in plain sight.

The Daily Guide, which traces to 1962, served the twin towns of Waynesville and St. Robert near the Army's sprawling Fort Leonard Wood. It was a family owned paper into the 1980s before it was sold to a series of corporate owners that culminated with GateHouse Media Inc., the nation's largest newspaper company.

As recently as 2010, the Daily Guide had four full-time news people, along with a page designer and three ad salespeople.

But people left and weren't replaced. Last spring, the Daily Guide was cut from five to three days a week. In June, the last newsroom staffer, editor Natalie Sanders, quit — she was burned out, she said. The last edition was published three months later, on Sept. 7.

"It felt like an old friend died," Sanders said. "I sat and I cried, I really did."

The death of the Daily Guide raises questions not easily answered, the same ones asked at newspapers big and small across the country.

Did GateHouse stop investing because people were less interested in reading the paper? Or did people lose interest because the lack of investment made it a less satisfying read?

GateHouse said the Daily Guide, like many smaller newspapers across the country, was hurt by a dwindling advertising market among national retailers. It faces the same financial pressures as virtually every other newspaper company: Circulation in the U.S. has declined every year for three decades, while advertising revenue across the industry has nosedived since 2006, according to the Pew Research Center.

The challenges are especially difficult in smaller communities.

"They're getting eaten away at every level," said Ken Doctor, a news industry analyst at Harvard's Nieman Lab.

The Daily Guide supplemented its income through outside printing jobs, but those dried up, too, said Bernie Szachara, president of U.S. newspaper operations for GateHouse. Given an unforgiving marketplace, there's no guarantee additional investment in the paper would have paid off, he said.



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Szachara said the decision was made to include some news about Waynesville in a weekly advertising circular distributed around Pulaski County.

"We were trying not to create a ghost town," he said.

To residents of Waynesville, the loss of their newspaper left a hole in the community. Many are still coming to grips with what is missing in their lives.

"Losing a newspaper," said Keith Pritchard, 63, chairman of the board at the Security Bank of Pulaski County and a lifelong resident, "is like losing the heartbeat of a town."

Pritchard has scrapbooks of news clippings about his three daughters. He wonders: How will young families collect such memories?

Other residents talk with dismay about church picnics or school plays they might have attended but only learn of through Facebook postings after the fact.

"I miss the newspaper, the chance to sit down over a cup of coffee and a bagel or a doughnut ... and find out what's going on in the community," said Bill Slabaugh, a retiree. Now he talks to friends and "candidly, for the most part, I'm ignorant."

Beyond the emotions are practical concerns about the loss of an information source.

Like many communities, Waynesville is struggling with a drug problem. The four murders last year were the most in memory, and all were drug-related.

Without a newspaper's reporting, Waynesville Police Chief Dan Cordova said many in the community are unaware of the extent of the problem. Social media is a resource, but Cordova is concerned about not reaching everyone.

It isn't just local residents who notice the absence of community-based journalism. As the newspaper industry has struggled, a host of philanthropic efforts have begun to fill at least some of the gaps.

Whether any of those efforts ever help Waynesville and small towns like it remains to be seen.

After the Daily Guide folded, Waynesville briefly had an alternative. A local businessman, Louie Keen, bankrolled a newspaper, the Uranus Examiner, that was delivered for free. It was shunned by local advertisers and lasted just five issues.

So Waynesville is left with local radio and Maurina's Facebook site. He says that for journalism to survive, reporters need to get back to the basics of being at every event and "telling everyone what the sirens were about last night."

As "small newspapers wither and die, that's going to cause major problems in communities," he said. "Somebody needs to pick up the slack and, at least in this community, I'm able to do that."

Associated Press Business writer Alexandra Olson in New York and video journalist Peter Banda, from Waynesville, contributed to this report.

Follow Dave Bauder at <https://twitter.com/dbauder> and David A. Lieb at <https://twitter.com/DavidALieb>

Noem Approves Legislation To Fight Sex Trafficking, Streamline Adult Adoption Signs 12 Bills on Variety of Topics

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem finalized two pro-family bills.

Noem signed HB1198, a bill to further define human trafficking.

“South Dakota is not immune from the horrors of sex trafficking,” said Noem. “For years, those who buy and sell people for sex have been able to hide behind technical jargon to get away with their heinous actions. The legislation I signed today clearly defines coercion and will help us prosecute human trafficking in South Dakota. Our work isn’t done until this evil industry is gone for good, but this is a step in the right direction.”

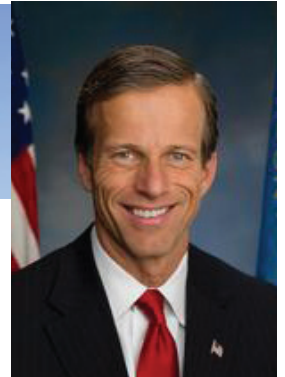
Noem also signed HB1067, which revises provisions surrounding adult adoption.

“Family can and should mean more than your last name. For some situations, legal adoption – even past the age of 18 – can mean the world,” said Noem. “I’m optimistic about the ways this might impact teenagers in the foster system. Every child deserves a home, and every person deserves a family.”

Noem signed the following pieces of legislation today:

- HB1054 – An act to revise certain provisions regarding the possession of firearms on certain vehicles
- HB1056 – An act to prohibit certain local ordinances regarding firearms
- HB1067 – An act to revise certain provisions regarding adult adoption
- HB1076 – An act to revise certain real estate licensee advertising restriction and grant rule-making authority regarding real estate teams
- HB1082 – An act to revise certain provisions regarding scrap metal purchases
- HB1124 – An act to require health care facilities that perform mammography to inform mammography patients on breast density
- HB1157 – An act to revise provisions regarding challenges to candidate nominating petitions
- HB1198 – An act to define activities that constitute human trafficking
- HB1200 – An act to require the posting of contact information for persons serving on a board of township supervisors
- HB1255 – An act to make an appropriation from the coordinated natural resources conservation fund to the State Conservation Commission, and to declare an emergency
- HB1258 – An act to create the clean air act settlement fund, to make an appropriation from the fund, and to declare an emergency
- HB1262 – An act to make an appropriation to reimburse certain health care professionals who have complied with the requirements for certain health care recruitment assistance programs and to declare an emergency

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Getting "PHIT"

Thanks to better technology, innovative research, and greater access to information, Americans are living with more effective tools to help them pursue healthier, more active lives. These technological advancements have made it more affordable for people to own things like wearable fitness devices that help track their physical activity and other health data in real time. And with the swipe of a finger, people are using new digital platforms to find popular fitness routines or healthy recipes, or they can even sign up for a fitness class by simply opening a mobile app.

Not only has it become trendy to pursue a healthy lifestyle, but social media and other online tools have made it easier for people to connect with audiences and share ideas about how to stay fit, offer advice about how to make healthy decisions, or challenge people to get active. Whether it's competing with friends and family to see who gets the most steps each day or tracking who completes the most workouts in a week, Americans are becoming more interested in finding new ways to achieve better health results for themselves and their families.

I strongly believe in personal responsibility and individual choices and recognize that when it comes to decisions about fitness and other preventive health routines, cost can be prohibitive for some families. Investing in preventive health is one way Congress can encourage people to make healthier choices and get active, which would help reduce the risk of costly – and sometimes deadly – chronic conditions, like obesity, heart disease, diabetes, and more.

I recently reintroduced a bipartisan bill that would encourage healthier living by treating certain sports and fitness expenses as medical care under the tax code. My bill, the Personal Health Investment Today (PHIT) Act, would allow Americans to use a portion of the money they've saved in pre-tax health savings accounts or flexible spending accounts for qualified fitness purchases.

While my bill wouldn't cover things like a new pair of tennis shoes or athletic wear or fees for a golf or country club, it would allow for the purchase of certain gym memberships and fitness equipment and things like children's sports league fees and cleats or other gear that might be required for them to participate (up to \$250 per item, other than exercise equipment, and total expenses cannot exceed \$1,000 for single filers and \$2,000 for joint filers each year).

Among the PHIT Act's advocates are professional athletes like Heisman Trophy winner Herschel Walker, Olympian Carl Lewis, MLB National League MVP Steve Garvey, and NHL all-star Alex Ovechkin, among many others. I've had the opportunity to welcome several of them to my office to discuss the PHIT Act and the importance of getting young people, in particular, more involved in physical activity. I'm glad they're willing to lend their voices to this cause.

My bill is also supported by industries and associations from around the country. "Youth activity is the foundation for an active healthy lifestyle. Cost has become a barrier to youth sports, and PHIT will lower that barrier to give more children the opportunity of a healthy life," said Tom Cove, president of the Sports and Fitness Industry Association.

Healthy living is already becoming more popular, and we know preventive care is good for us, but I'm hoping that by passing the bipartisan PHIT Act, we can make it more affordable, too.

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HIGHEST SNOW ACCUMULATIONS

Preliminary, as more observations come in Sunday morning



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 3/10/2019 1:44 AM Central

6NE Mahto	12"
8N Promise	11"
Mobridge	10"
7W Trail City	10"
Pollock	10"
6E Timber Lake	10"
Webster	10"
2ESE Artichoke	10"
Aberdeen	9.8"
Herreid	9.5"
2SSE Claremont	9.4"
2ESE Aberdeen	9.3"



How much snow did you get? Let us know.
Plan to travel today? Check road conditions first!



SD... <https://www.safetravelusa.com/sd/>

ND... <https://www.dot.nd.gov/travel-info-v2/>

MN... <https://hb.511mn.org>

Published on: 03/10/2019 at 1:47AM

While additional snow reports will come in through the day, here is a look at some of the higher amounts reported as of early Sunday morning.

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Today in Weather History

March 10, 2005: High winds of 35 to 45 mph with gusts to near 70 mph occurred across all of central and northeast South Dakota from early morning to early evening. The high winds overturned a semi-truck near Mound City; knocked a large branch down onto a pickup truck in Selby; blew a glass door of a store in Clark off; tore a sign down in Aberdeen, and ripped the roof off a mobile home in South Shore.

March 10, 2009: A low-pressure system tracking across the panhandle of Oklahoma into the Great Lakes region produced moderate to heavy snow across northeast South Dakota from the morning to the evening of the 10th. Strong north to northwest winds gusting to 45 mph resulted in blizzard conditions. Travel became difficult, if not, impossible across northeast South Dakota. Interstate 29 between Watertown and the North Dakota border was closed for several hours. Several minor accidents occurred along with some injuries. Snowfall amounts included; 3 inches near Milbank; 4 inches near Columbia, Summit, and at Sisseton; 5 inches at Waubay and Wilmot; 6 inches 10 miles northeast of Sisseton, Britton, and Roy Lake; 7 inches in Webster and Westport.

Bitter cold air filtered in behind the low-pressure system bringing record cold to the area. On the 11th, Aberdeen and Sisseton broke their record low highs for the date with afternoon highs only reaching zero. The record at Aberdeen had been in place since 1896. Sisseton also set a record low of 14 degrees below zero on March 12th.

1884: John Park Finley issued the first experimental tornado prediction. Finley had studied the atmospheric parameters that were present during previous tornadoes. Many of these same criteria are still used by operational forecasters today. But the use of tornado forecasts would be banned just a few years later and would remain banned until 1952.

1986: Severe thunderstorms and tornadoes hit Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. A total of 19 tornadoes occurred. Three of the tornadoes in Indiana reached F3 intensity. A densely populated subdivision of Southeast Lexington, Kentucky was heavily damaged by a tornado. Twenty people were injured, and 900 homes were destroyed or demolished. A very strong thunderstorm downburst hit the Cincinnati area. At the Greater Cincinnati Airport, windows were blown out of the control tower, injuring the six controllers on duty. At Newport, Kentucky, 120 houses were destroyed from winds estimated from 100 to 140 mph.

1912 - The barometric pressure reached 29.26 inches at Los Angeles, CA, and 29.46 inches at San Diego CA, setting all-time records for those two locations. (David Ludlum)

1922 - Dodge City, KS, reported a record 24 hour total of 17.5 inches of snow. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Strong northwesterly winds ushered arctic air into the eastern U.S. Gales lashed the middle and northern Atlantic coast. Winds gusted to 50 mph at Manteo NC and Cape Hatteras NC. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A winter storm produced snow and high winds in the Central Rocky Mountain Region. Snowfall totals in Utah ranged up to 42 inches at Alta, with 36 inches reported at the Brian Head Ski Resort in 24 hours. Winds gusted to 72 mph at La Junta CO and Artesia NM. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)






1989 - Thirty-four cities in the central and southwestern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. The high of 85 degrees at Hanksville UT was a record for March, and Pueblo CO equalled their March record of 86 degrees. Hill City KS warmed from a morning low of 30 degrees to an afternoon high of 89 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing along a warm front produced severe weather from southeast Iowa to central Indiana and north central Kentucky. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 65 mph at Fort Knox KY, and hail two inches in diameter west of Lebanon IN. Evening thunderstorms over central Oklahoma deluged Guthrie with 4.5 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


2010 - As many as four people are injured, one is killed and homes were damaged in Center Hill and Pearson, AR, by an EF2 tornado.

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Slight Chance Rain/Freezing Rain then Slight Chance Rain
High: 24 °F	Low: 4 °F	High: 26 °F	Low: 19 °F	High: 38 °F


Today



DRY

Highs: 21 to 30°


Monday



Highs: 24 to 33°


Tuesday

Rain over E SD and W MN (chance of Freezing Rain in the morning)



Highs: 37 to 44°

Plan to Travel Today? Check road conditions first.



SD... <https://www.safetravelusa.com/sd/>
 ND... <https://www.dot.nd.gov/travel-info-v2/>
 MN... <https://hb.511mn.org>

www.weather.gov National Weather Service Graphic Created 3/10/2019 4:08 AM
 Aberdeen, SD

Published on: 03/10/2019 at 4:11AM

Dry high pressure will take hold of our area through much of Monday. Precipitation looks to return to eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota on Tuesday, potentially starting as freezing rain before changing to all rain as temperatures warm into the mid 30s to mid 40s. We're looking into the potential for another storm around Wednesday through Thursday. Stay tuned, as this one could bring rain, snow, or a wintry mix of precipitation.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 30 °F at 10:15 AM

Low Outside Temp: 20 °F at 9:41 PM

High Gust: 31 mph at 7:59 PM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 65° in 1913

Record Low: -24° in 1948

Average High: 37°F

Average Low: 18°F

Average Precip in Mar.: 0.27

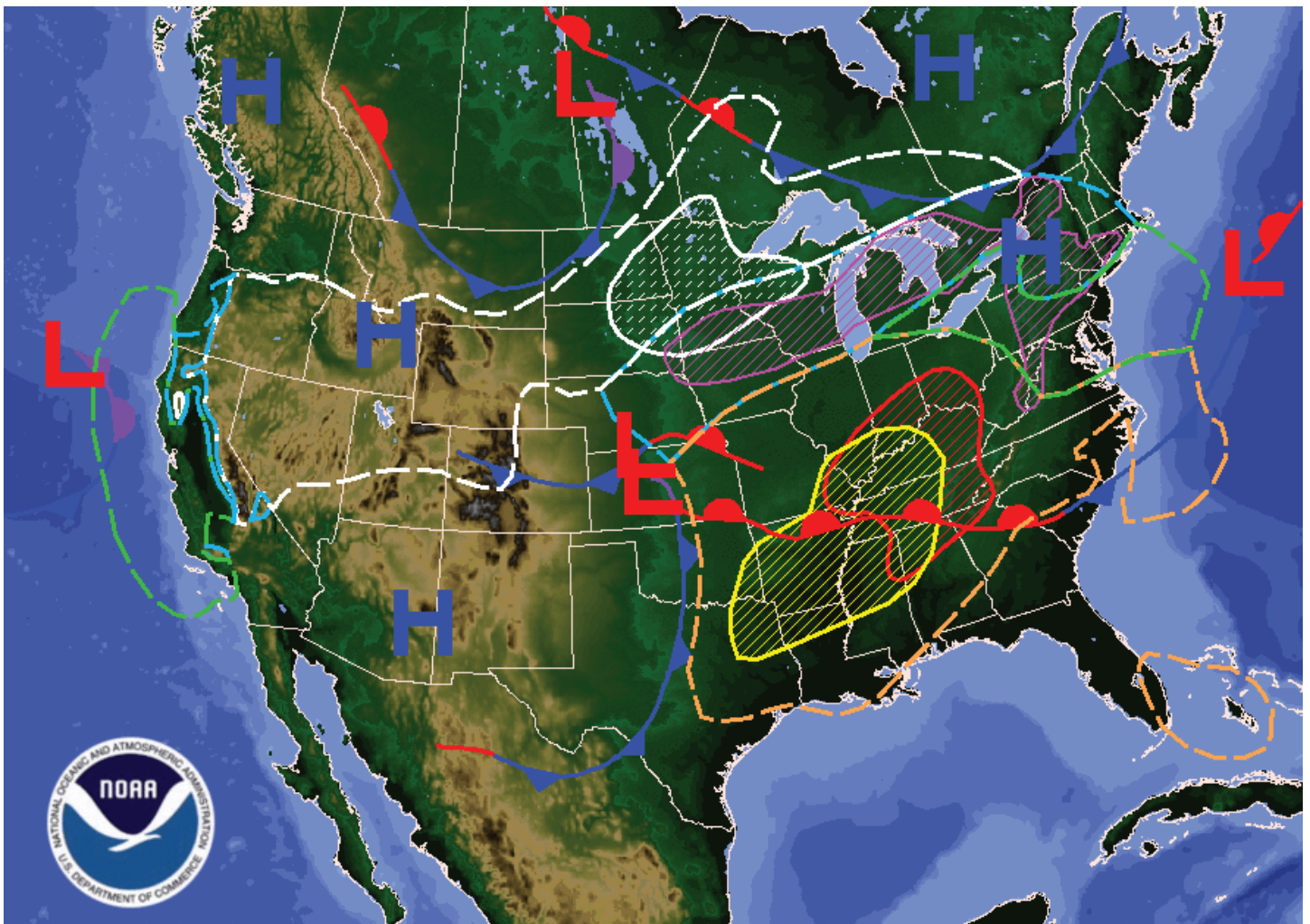
Precip to date in Mar.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 1.29

Precip Year to Date: 1.46

Sunset Tonight: 7:33 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:54 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Mar 09, 2019, issued 4:51 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Hurley 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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THE IMPORTANCE OF WISDOM

Imagine seeds with no soil. Or, fish without water. A body with no bones. The sun with no orbit. Lungs without oxygen.

What insanity! would be a natural response. Its not the way things are. They fall into place naturally: Soil before seeds, water before fish, bones to support flesh, a path for the sun to follow, and oxygen to fill lungs. They reflect planning, and planning is a result of wisdom.

The story of creation in Scripture reflects wisdom, understanding, and knowledge. The universe unveils a very carefully designed plan that is controlled, orderly, predictable and dependable. Nothing is random. Yes, we have unexpected events but they pass, and life continues. Things may be different from what they once were, but the rules that govern the universe are still in place and always will be.

Everywhere we look we see Gods wisdom. And, when you think of it, wisdom existed before creation. This wisdom is actually something God is! It is the wisdom of God that guided creation. It is the wisdom of God that actively keeps things together. And it is this same wisdom that originates in God that will guide us and guard us and give us peace in life if we agree to live by His rules.

It is almost inconceivable to believe that the One who created all things, is in all things and sustains all things, would even consider sharing His wisdom with us! Its His to keep!

Although His wisdom is available, it is conditional. If we want it, we must live an obedient, trusting life in keeping with His Word. Then, He will open the door to His wisdom and bless us.

Prayer: Lord, how marvelous are Your ways. Open our hearts to see what can be if we trust in Your wisdom. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 3:19-20 By wisdom the Lord founded the earth; by understanding he created the heavens. By his knowledge the deep fountains of the earth burst forth, and the dew settles beneath the night sky.

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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

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News from the Associated Press

Saturday's Scores By The Associated Press

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Class B State Tournament

Championship: DeSmet 49, Ethan 39

Third Place: Corsica/Stickney 55, Freeman 45

Fifth Place: Warner 54, White River 48

Seventh Place: Ipswich 52, Waverly-South Shore 49

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

Jackson, Tut help Omaha beat North Dakota in Summit tourney

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Zach Jackson had 21 points and eight rebounds and Wanjang Tut scored 18 points on 7-of-10 shooting to help Omaha beat North Dakota 81-76 on Saturday night in the Summit League tournament.

Mitch Hahn had 14 points and nine rebounds and Matt Pile added 12 points and eight boards for Omaha (20-10). The second-seeded Mavericks will play either No. 3 seed Purdue Fort Wayne or No. 6 seed South Dakota in Monday's semifinals.

Ayo Akinwale hit two free throws to give Omaha the lead for good and spark a 9-0 run that made it 20-11 about seven minutes in. Hahn hit a 3-pointer to give the Mavericks a 10-point lead — their biggest — late in the first half and his dunk with 5:39 to go made it 74-65. Cortez Seales answered with a jumper and Marlon Stewart scored nine consecutive UND points in an 11-3 run that pulled the Fighting Hawks within one with 1:16 remaining but Tut made a layup and Hahn added two free throws to cap the scoring.

Stewart led North Dakota (12-18) with 26 points.

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

02-08-10-12-20

(two, eight, ten, twelve, twenty)

Estimated jackpot: \$157,000

Lotto America

05-07-30-34-36, Star Ball: 4, ASB: 2

(five, seven, thirty, thirty-four, thirty-six; Star Ball: four; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$16.68 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

Powerball

05-06-45-55-59, Powerball: 14, Power Play: 3

(five, six, forty-five, fifty-five, fifty-nine; Powerball: fourteen; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$414 million

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Montague hits clutch FTs, W. Illinois topples S. Dakota St.

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Keshon Montague made his only points on the night as he calmly sank two free throws in the waning seconds to assure Western Illinois' upset of South Dakota State 79-76 in the opening round of the Summit League tournament on Saturday.

Montague, who had made two free throws all year, was all zeros across the score sheet Saturday night until he dropped in both free throws with 10 seconds left in the game.

South Dakota State's David Jenkins had just nailed a 3 to close to 77-76 with 14 seconds remaining. The Jackrabbits quickly fouled Montague on the next possession.

Jenkins launched a 3 at the buzzer but it rimmed out. It was the first time in Summit League history that a No. 8 seed had upset a No. 1 seed.

Ben Pyle and Kobe Webster led the Leathernecks with 17 points apiece. Brandon Gilbeck had 13 points to go with 13 rebounds.

The Leathernecks (10-20) will play next on Monday when they face the winner of the North Dakota State-Oral Roberts game to be played Sunday.

Jenkins finished with 29 points, Tevin King added 19 and Mike Daum had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Jackrabbits (24-8).

Upper Midwest hit with rain, sleet and heavy snow

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A storm bringing a mixed bag of heavy, wet snow in some areas and rain and sleet in others made travel hazardous Saturday in the Dakotas and Minnesota, some of which was due to street flooding.

The National Weather Service issued winter storm watches and warnings for a wide swath of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and several counties in western Wisconsin with predictions of up to a foot of snow in some areas.

No travel was advised in south central and southeastern North Dakota due to heavy snow creating slippery road conditions and near zero visibility. A similar advisory was issued in South Dakota for Interstate 90 from Chamberlain to Rapid City.

Only an inch and a half of snow fell in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, but it was preceded by a half inch of rain that produced flooded streets and caused cars to slide into ditches or become stuck. Streets were also flooded in Fairmount, Minnesota, because of clogged storm drains.

The Weather Service downgraded its prediction for snow in the Minneapolis area to 4 to 6 inches because there was more rain and sleet than expected.

Wanted: More pastures for West's overpopulated wild horses

By MEAD GRUVER Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — If you ever wished to gaze at a stomping, snorting, neighing panorama of Western heritage from your living-room window, now could be your chance.

A classic image of the American West — wild horses stampeding across the landscape — not only has endured through the years but has multiplied past the point of range damage. Through May 3, the U.S. government is seeking more private pastures for an overpopulation of wild horses.

Many consider rounding up wild horses to live out their lives on private pastures a reasonable approach to a tricky problem. Wild horses, after all, not only have romantic value, they are protected by federal law.

Just keep in mind a few of the dozens of requirements for getting paid by the government to provide wild horses a home.

"It's not like you can do this in your backyard, or even a 5 acre (2 hectare) plot," said Debbie Collins, outreach specialist for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Program in Norman, Oklahoma.

You need a lot of fenced-in land, enough to sustain anywhere from 200 to 5,000 healthy horses. Exactly

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how much land depends on pasture quality as determined by the government, but you can safely assume several hundred if not thousands of acres (hectares).

The pastured horses typically are left on their own with little human intervention. Still, they require continuous water and basic shelter from the elements, such as trees or a canyon; supplemental forage; and corrals for loading and unloading from trailers.

Participants in the private-pasture system must live in 14 Western and Midwestern states, from eastern Washington to the Texas Panhandle. Over two-thirds of the 37 existing off-range pastures are in Oklahoma and Kansas.

And: These horses aren't pets. They've had little exposure to people. Many are over 5 years old and therefore not ideal for training and individual adoption or sale, other options available through the BLM.

Still, there's no shortage of interest in the off-range pasture program. People call all the time asking for details, Collins said.

"My only advice would be to go into it with your eyes wide open," said Dwayne Oldham, a former Wyoming state veterinarian who has taken in wild horses on his family's Double D cattle ranch outside Lander, Wyoming, since 2015.

Working with the government can be demanding, but providing for the over 130 horses on the Wind River Wild Horse Sanctuary on the ranch isn't too difficult, Oldham said.

The sanctuary is a little different from most private wild-horse pastures: It's open to the public. Tourists headed to Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks increasingly stop there.

About 50 miles (80 kilometers) to the south, cattle ranchers, wild horse advocates and the BLM have been embroiled in decades of lawsuits over wild horses in an area of mostly unfenced, interspersed public and private lands called the Checkerboard. The booming wild horse population there competes with cattle for forage and water in the high desert, the ranchers claim.

The BLM abides by the 1971 Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, which protects wild horses and burros on BLM land in 10 Western states, attorneys for the government say.

"We want to be part of the solution and not just the adversary," Oldham said.

A group often involved in wild-horse litigation, the American Wild Horse Campaign, says darting mares with contraceptives is the best answer to overpopulation but is underused. Roundups only encourage compensatory breeding and overpopulation, said Grace Kuhn with the group.

However, the group doesn't oppose off-range pastures as an alternative to keeping wild horses in corrals for long periods.

"We do advocate that if the government is going to be removing wild horses from the range, long-term is more cost-effective than short-term holding," Kuhn said.

Over 55,000 more horses and burros live wild in the West than the roughly 27,000 the BLM says can thrive in harmony with the landscape.

Adoptions and sales through the Wild Horse and Burro Program have recovered to over 3,400 a year after hitting a low of about 1,800 in 2014.

But while the number of off-range pastures has boomed from just a couple in the 1990s, the number of horses on them hovers very close to their current carrying capacity of about 36,500.

The number of pastured wild horses is determined mainly through roundups and adoptions. Stallions are gelded and kept at different off-range pastures than mares, preventing reproduction aside from the occasional pregnant mare rounded up from the wild.

How many new off-range pastures are established through the latest bid solicitation, the first of its kind since 2016, will depend on costs and how many existing ones get renewed, Collins said.

"It's just a happier, healthier environment for a horse to be able to be out in a pasture," she said.

Follow Mead Gruver at <https://twitter.com/meadgruver>

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South Dakota deputy taken to hospital after rear-end crash

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Minnehaha County deputy was taken to the hospital after his squad car was rear-ended by another vehicle on Interstate 90 in southeastern South Dakota.

The Argus Leader reports that the crash happened shortly before 6 a.m. while the deputy was assisting in a different collision.

The deputy was taken to a local hospital where he was treated and released. The driver of the SUV that hit the deputy vehicle was also treated.

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

Duke's Zion Williamson, RJ Barrett contend for Wooden Award

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Duke teammates Zion Williamson and RJ Barrett, along with Gonzaga's Brandon Clarke and Rui Hachimura, are among 15 players on the ballot for the John R. Wooden Award that goes to the nation's outstanding college basketball player.

The other contenders are Jarrett Culver of Texas Tech, Mike Daum of South Dakota State, Carsen Edwards of Purdue, Ethan Happ of Wisconsin, Markus Howard of Marquette, De'Andre Hunter of Virginia, Dedic Lawson of Kansas, Ja Morant of Murray State, PJ Washington of Kentucky, Grant Williams of Tennessee and Cassius Winston of Michigan State.

The ballot was announced Saturday by the Los Angeles Athletic Club.

Voting by a national media panel takes place March 18-25, which includes the opening rounds of the NCAA Tournament. Fans can vote online.

The top 10 vote-getters will be named to the Wooden Award All American team after the Elite Eight round of the NCAA Tournament. Five finalists will vie for the Wooden Award to be presented on April 12 in Los Angeles.

More AP college basketball: <https://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_Top25

South Dakota sees wide disparity in college readiness

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota is seeing a wide disparity in how high schools prepare students for college, a newspaper investigation found.

Nearly a third of South Dakota high school graduates enrolling in the state's public universities needed remedial classes in reading, math or both between 2010 and 2017, according to the Argus Leader's analysis of graduation data collected by the South Dakota Board of Regents.

The number of graduates who required remedial classes fluctuated over the eight-year period, dropping to a low of 28 percent but jumping back to nearly 33 percent in 2017.

The data only track students who enrolled in the state's public university system, so graduates who enrolled elsewhere or didn't go to college aren't included. But the findings still show that some high schools are struggling to prepare students for college.

Tri-Valley High School in Colton had one of the highest rates of graduates needing remedial classes, particularly in math.

Superintendent Mike Lodmel said he realized many students weren't taking advanced math courses because they would get a head start on the math requirements in eighth grade and finish them by sophomore year.

"We found in many cases students were not taking math courses beyond Algebra II, which was the exact opposite of our intentions (with eighth-grade Algebra)," Lodmel said.

Tri-Valley plans to require students to take at least three math courses, which Lodmel hopes will help boost students' college readiness. The district is also adding an elective ACT prep course, an advanced writing course and more reading courses to help reduce the need for remedial classes.

Chamberlain High School in Chamberlain had the highest percentage of graduates who needed remedial classes in the state over that period. But the district has improved their rate over the last few years, from 64 percent of graduates in 2011 to 36 percent in 2017.

"We encourage our students to have math class every year," said Superintendent Deb Johnson.

The district also plans to join more than two dozen other districts next year in participating in the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, a statewide program that offers training and support to prepare high school students for life after graduation.

"We have decided, for us, it's time to enter into the program," Johnson said.

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

No survivors on crashed Ethiopian Airlines flight: state TV

By ELIAS MESERET Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — An Ethiopian Airlines flight crashed shortly after takeoff from Ethiopia's capital on Sunday morning, killing all 157 people thought to be on board, the airline and state broadcaster said.

It was not immediately clear what caused the crash of the Boeing 737-8 MAX plane, which was new and had been delivered to the airline in November, records show.

The state-owned Ethiopian Airlines, widely considered the best-managed airline in Africa, calls itself Africa's largest carrier and has ambitions of becoming the gateway to the continent.

Its statement said 149 passengers and eight crew members were thought to be on the plane that crashed six minutes after departing Addis Ababa on its way to Kenya's capital, Nairobi. The crash occurred around Bishoftu, or Debre Zeit, some 50 kilometers (31 miles) south of Addis Ababa, at 8:44 a.m.

The plane showed unstable vertical speed after takeoff, air traffic monitor Flightradar 24 said in a Twitter post. Visibility appeared to be clear.

State broadcaster EBC reported all passengers were dead and that the passengers included 33 nationalities. An Ethiopian Airlines spokesman said 32 Kenyans and 17 Ethiopians were among the victims.

Grieving family members gathered at Bole Airport. A statement by the Ethiopian prime minister's office offered its "deepest condolences" to families.

Kenya's transport minister, James Macharia, told reporters that authorities had not yet received the passenger manifest. He said an emergency response had been set up for family and friends.

"My prayers go to all the families and associates of those on board," Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta said, as many Kenyans braced for the worst.

Records show that the plane was new. The Planespotters civil aviation database shows that the Boeing 737-8 MAX was delivered to Ethiopian Airlines in mid-November.

In October, another Boeing 737-8 MAX plunged into the Java Sea just minutes after taking off from Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, killing all 189 people on board the plane Lion Air flight. The cockpit data recorder showed that the jet's airspeed indicator had malfunctioned on its last four flights, though Lion Air initially claimed that problems with the aircraft had been fixed.

The last deadly crash of an Ethiopian Airlines passenger plane was in 2010, when the plane crashed minutes after takeoff from Beirut killing all 90 people on board.

Sunday's crash comes as the country's reformist prime minister, Abiy Ahmed, has vowed to open up the airline and other sectors to foreign investment in a major transformation of the state-centered economy.

Ethiopian Airlines has been expanding assertively, recently opening a route to Moscow and in January inaugurating a new passenger terminal in Addis Ababa to triple capacity.

Speaking at the inauguration, the prime minister challenged the airline to build a new "Airport City" terminal in Bishoftu — where Sunday's crash occurred.

Follow Africa news at https://twitter.com/AP_Africa

As budget deficit balloons, few in Washington seem to care

By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal budget deficit is ballooning on President Donald Trump's watch and few in Washington seem to care.

And even if they did, the political dynamics that enabled bipartisan deficit-cutting deals decades ago has disappeared, replaced by bitter partisanship and chronic dysfunction.

That's the reality that will greet Trump's latest budget, which will promptly be shelved after landing with a thud on Monday. Like previous spending blueprints, Trump's plan for the 2020 budget year will propose cuts to many domestic programs favored by lawmakers in both parties but leave alone politically popular retirement programs such as Medicare and Social Security.

Washington probably will devote months to wrestling over erasing the last remnants of a failed 2011 budget deal that would otherwise cut core Pentagon operations by \$71 billion and domestic agencies and foreign aid by \$55 billion. Top lawmakers are pushing for a reprise of three prior deals to use spending cuts or new revenues and prop up additional spending rather than defray deficits that are again approaching \$1 trillion.

It's put deficit hawks in a gloomy mood.

"The president doesn't care. The leadership of the Democratic Party doesn't care," said former Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H. "And social media is in stampede mode."

Trump's budget arrives as the latest Treasury Department figures show a 77 percent spike in the deficit over the first four months of the budget year, driven by falling revenues and steady growth in spending.

Trump's 2017 tax cut bears much of the blame, along with sharp increases in spending for both the Pentagon and domestic agencies and the growing federal retirement costs of the baby boom generation. Promises that the tax cut would stir so much economic growth that it would mostly pay for itself have been proved woefully wrong.

Trump's upcoming budget, however, won't address any of the main factors behind the growing, intractable deficits that have driven the U.S. debt above \$22 trillion. Its most striking proposed cuts — to domestic agency operations — were rejected when tea party Republicans controlled the House, and they face equally grim prospects now that Democrats are in the majority.

Trump has given no indication he's much interested in the deficit and he's rejected any idea of curbing Medicare or Social Security, the massive federal retirement programs whose imbalances are the chief deficit drivers.

An administration official said Friday that the president's plan promises to balance the budget in 15 years. The official was not authorized to publicly discuss specifics about the budget before the document's official release and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Democrats have witnessed the retirement of a generation of lawmakers who came up in the 1980s and 1990s and negotiated deficit-cutting deals in 1990 and 1993. But those agreements came at significant political cost to both President George H.W. Bush, who lost re-election, and President Bill Clinton, whose party lost control of Congress in 1995.

But the moderate wing of the Democratic Party has withered with the electoral wipeout of "Blue Dog" Democrats at the hands of tea party forces over recent election cycles.

"Concern about the deficit is so woefully out of fashion that it's hard to even imagine it coming back into fashion," said Rep. Jim Cooper, D-Tenn., one of his party's few remaining deficit hawks. "This is as out of fashion as bell bottoms."

While in control of the House, Republicans used to generate nonbinding budget blueprints that promised to balance the federal ledger by relying on a controversial plan to eventually transform Medicare into a voucher-like program. But they never pursued follow-up legislation that would actually do it.

Republicans, who seized Congress more than two decades ago promising and ultimately achieving balanced budgets during the Clinton administration, have instead focused on two major rounds of tax cuts during the Trump era and the administration of President George W. Bush in 2001.

Nor are Republicans willing to consider tough deficit-cutting steps such as higher taxes or Pentagon

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budget cuts. Leading Democratic presidential contenders talk of "Medicare for All" and increasing Social Security benefits instead of curbing them.

"You have to get pretty damn serious about revenue as well as defense spending, and those are two things the Republicans don't want to bring into the conversation," said Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill. "My Democratic friends who talk about expansion of benefits. I've told them to 'get real.'"

Trump has never gone to the mat for his plan to slash domestic spending such as renewable energy programs.

"If Trump can be criticized I think the perception has been that he has not fought for the spending cuts that he's proposed," said former Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C. "There's no upside to trying to cut anything. There's no political reward. But if you cut something there's a lot of political downside."

Neither is there any reservoir of the political will and bipartisan trust required to take the political heat for the tough steps it would take to rein in deficits. And it's not like voters are clamoring for action.

"There's been very little dialogue in the last several years about debt and deficit and how to really be able to address it," said Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla. "It just never came up" in the 2016 election. "It still doesn't come up."

The deficit registered \$714 billion during Trump's first year in office but is projected to hit about \$900 billion this year, according to the Congressional Budget Office, which says Trump's tax cut will add \$1.5 trillion to the deficit over 10 years.

"One of the short-term goals should be — I know it's not a lofty goal — stopping things from getting a lot worse. It's something the Republicans obviously were unable to do. That's a low bar, but they couldn't meet a low bar," said Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md.

AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

R. Kelly: 'We're going to straighten all this stuff out'

By DON BABWIN and TERESA CRAWFORD Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — R. Kelly walked out of a Chicago jail on Saturday after someone who officials say did not want to be publicly identified paid \$161,633 that the R&B singer owed in back child support.

Kelly, who was ordered taken into custody on Wednesday by a judge after Kelly said he didn't have the entire amount he owed, briefly spoke with reporters, telling them: "I promise you, we're going to straighten all this stuff out." He said that was all he could say, a stark contrast to a nationally televised broadcast that aired earlier in the week in which he cried and ranted about being "assassinated" by allegations of sexual abuse that led to criminal charges last month.

Cara Smith, the chief policy officer for the Cook County sheriff's office, which runs the jail, said a person who wished to remain anonymous handed a check on Saturday morning to the county clerk's office for the full amount of Kelly's back child support. A bond slip where people putting up money to secure an inmate's release write their names and relationship to the inmate was left blank, Smith said.

Kelly's attorney, Steve Greenberg, said he could not discuss the child support payment because of a judge's gag order in that case.

As is done with other high-profile inmates, Kelly, 52, was held in a solo cell under round-the-clock observation.

It was his second trip to jail in a matter of weeks and the second time a person has stepped up with money to get Kelly out of jail.

Last month, after he was charged with 10 counts of aggravated sexual abuse pertaining to three girls and a woman, he was taken to the same jail. Kelly, whose attorney said at the time that the singer's finances were in disarray, then spent a weekend in jail before a 47-year-old suburban Chicago business owner posted his \$100,000 bail.

His attorney and publicist told a similar story this week before and after the hearing in which the judge ordered Kelly into custody, with the publicist telling reporters that Kelly was prepared to pay \$50,000 to

\$60,000 on Wednesday but was not able to pay the entire amount.

Kelly has denied any wrongdoing and has pleaded not guilty to the sexual abuse charges. He has also very publicly proclaimed his innocence, telling Gayle King in an interview that aired Wednesday on "CBS This Morning" that all his accusers were lying about him. He also talked about his finances, saying that people had stolen money from his bank accounts, though he offered no details.

Greenberg told reporters on Saturday that Kelly's attorneys "haven't seen one piece of evidence."

"When we get those things, we're going to fight this case like we fight any other case, in the courtroom, based on the evidence," he said.

Check out the AP's complete coverage of the investigations into R. Kelly.

For Jussie Smollett, 1 story equals 16 felony counts

By DON BABWIN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — News that a grand jury had indicted "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett for allegedly lying to Chicago police about being attacked by two masked men may not have made much of a splash except for one thing: The lone felony count that Smollett had been arrested on last month had turned into 16.

The reasons Smollett is facing 16 counts rather than just one count of disorderly conduct — the felony in Illinois that people are charged with when accused of lying to police — are not fully explained in the indictment that a grand jury returned Thursday. But legal experts say indictments like that aren't uncommon in Chicago, and there are some explanations as to how the grand jury could have arrived at the 16 counts, eight of them for Smollett's comments to a police officer and eight others for what he told a detective.

The first starts with something that has been apparent since Chicago police Superintendent Eddie Johnson briefed reporters last month on the investigation: Authorities are angry at Smollett.

"What you have is a police department and prosecutors that are obviously mad at him for embarrassing the city so they took every one of his lies and made it into another count," said Terry Sullivan, a prominent local attorney who as a young prosecutor helped convict serial killer John Wayne Gacy in 1980 of killing 33 young men.

Smollett's attorney, Mark Geragos, called the 16-count indictment "prosecutorial overkill." But prominent Chicago defense attorney Joseph Lopez, who is not involved in the Smollett case, said it's the way prosecutors in Chicago do business.

"It is common practice for the Cook County state's attorney to charge as much as they can for any kind of crime," he said.

A former state appellate judge suggested such a strategy might be employed by prosecutors trying to protect themselves from the possibility that a jury or a judge might believe some, but not all, of the allegations.

"If you only charge him with one or two counts and they find him not guilty of them, you're done," said David Erickson, who now teaches at Chicago Kent College of Law. "This gives the prosecution the ability to convict him of any one of these lies."

Lopez said it appears that when prosecutors went to the grand jury they simply dissected the case, breaking Smollett's account into each of its individual pieces and accused him of one count per detail they believe he made up.

That means that one count might stem from Smollett's contention that the men hurled racial and homophobic taunts at him and another for what he said was the way they beat him. Another could be tied to his claim that the men doused him with an unknown chemical and another still for his statement that one of them looped a rope tied like a noose around his neck. Then there was his assertion, police said, that he could see one of the men was white because he could see the skin around his eyes. The two men police say Smollett hired to take part in the attack are both black.

"The lies add up pretty fast," Lopez said.

Another explanation for the multiple counts is that perhaps Smollett gave multiple statements to the

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police, meaning that individual counts represent separate interviews with police.

Each count is a Class 4 felony, which carries a possible prison sentence of one to three years. If Smollett is convicted, a judge could allow him to be given probation instead of imposing a prison sentence.

Lopez and Erickson agreed that if Smollett is convicted, it won't matter whether it's on one or several counts when it comes to sentencing. That's because he would be sentenced for only one of them.

"If you add them all up it's still only one crime," Erickson said. "That's just how it is."

And Lopez said that if Smollett is convicted of multiple counts, prosecutors can ask that the sentences be served consecutively but it is highly unlikely a judge would do so.

Smollett's legal troubles may not begin and end with this one indictment. Days before the Jan. 29 incident, a letter threatening Smollett was sent to the studio where the television show is filmed — a letter Johnson told reporters the day Smollett appeared in court that the actor had actually sent.

The FBI, which is investigating that letter, has declined to comment on the investigation. But if Smollett did talk to the FBI, depending on what he said, he could be in more legal trouble.

"Lying to the FBI is a crime," said Erickson.

Smollett is scheduled to appear in court on Thursday, where he will likely enter a formal plea to the 16 counts.

"Jussie adamantly maintains his innocence even if law enforcement has robbed him of that presumption," Geragos, his attorney, said.

[Check out the AP's complete coverage](#) of the Jussie Smollett case.

Pot-litics: 2020 Democrats line up behind legalization

By **MICHAEL R. BLOOD** and **NICHOLAS RICCARDI** Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A growing list of Democratic presidential contenders want the U.S. government to legalize marijuana, reflecting a nationwide shift as more Americans look favorably on cannabis.

Making marijuana legal at the federal level is the "smart thing to do," says California Sen. Kamala Harris, a former prosecutor whose home state is the nation's largest legal pot shop. New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, a prominent legalization advocate on Capitol Hill, says the war on drugs has been a "war on people."

Former Texas Congressman Beto O'Rourke, who appears poised to join the 2020 Democratic field, has written a book arguing marijuana legalization would hobble drug cartels. In an email to supporters this week, he called again to end the federal prohibition on marijuana.

"Who is going to be the last man — more likely than not a black man — to languish behind bars for possessing or using marijuana when it is legal in some form in more than half of the states in this country?" O'Rourke wrote.

It's a far different approach from the not-so-distant past, when it was seen as politically damaging to acknowledge smoking pot and no major presidential candidate backed legalization.

In 1992, then-White House candidate Bill Clinton delivered a famously tortured response about a youthful dalliance with cannabis, claiming he tried it as a graduate student in England but "didn't inhale." And two decades before that, President Richard Nixon unleashed a war on marijuana and other drugs and it helped carry him to a second term.

This year, leading Democrats hold similar positions supporting legalization. Presidential hopefuls in the Senate who have co-sponsored Booker's legislation to end the federal prohibition include Harris, New York's Kirsten Gillibrand, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Vermont's Bernie Sanders, who campaigned on decriminalizing pot in his 2016 presidential bid.

Another 2020 Democratic candidate, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, supports legalization and believes states should have the right to determine how to handle marijuana regulation within their borders but hasn't signed on to Booker's legislation.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who entered the contest this month, said in his announcement speech it's

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“about time” to legalize the drug nationally.

During his 2012 run for governor, Inslee opposed the ballot initiative that made Washington one of the first two states to legalize so-called recreational marijuana. As governor, however, he has frequently touted what he describes as Washington’s successful experiment with regulation and has urged the Obama and Trump administrations not to intervene. He recently began pardoning people with small-time marijuana convictions.

The widespread endorsement for national marijuana reform among Democrats tracks the nation’s evolving views.

In the late 1960s — the era of Woodstock and Vietnam — 12 percent of Americans supported legalization, according to the Gallup poll. By last year, the figure hit a record 66 percent. About 75 percent of Democrats support legalization, along with a slim majority of Republicans.

Most Americans now live in states where marijuana is legal in some form. Pot dispensaries are familiar sights in cities like Los Angeles and Denver, and conservative strongholds like Utah and Oklahoma have established medical marijuana programs.

To Mason Tvert of the Marijuana Policy Project, a pro-legalization advocacy group, it’s not surprising there’s broad support among candidates to end the federal prohibition.

“It’s no longer popular to be in favor of marijuana prohibition,” Tvert said.

But there are limits: “We are not seeing any candidates saying, ‘I am currently a marijuana user,’” he added.

The trajectory toward legal pot has come with generational change.

In a 2003 Democratic presidential forum, candidates John Kerry, John Edwards and Howard Dean acknowledged using marijuana in the past. Former President Barack Obama has been open about his youthful drug use, sometimes with a jab of humor: “When I was a kid, I inhaled. Frequently. That was the point,” he said in 2006.

In a recent radio interview on the syndicated “The Breakfast Club,” Harris recalled smoking pot in her college days in the 1980s. She was an early supporter of medical marijuana but the Los Angeles Times reported that in 2010, the year she was elected California attorney general, that Harris opposed an initiative to more broadly legalize marijuana.

How potent the legal pot platform might be with voters in 2020 is only a guess.

Polls show some of the strongest support comes from younger voters. In California, millennials are now the largest generation among registered voters. However, younger voters are also the most likely to stay home on Election Day, said Paul Mitchell of Political Data Inc., a nonpartisan research firm.

President Donald Trump’s position on cannabis remains somewhat opaque. He has said he supports laws legalizing medical marijuana but hasn’t offered a definitive position on broader legalization.

In a departure from his predecessor, Jeff Sessions, new Attorney General William Barr has said he will “not go after” marijuana companies in states where cannabis is legal, even though he personally believes the drug should be outlawed.

Standing somewhat apart from the Democratic field is the man who presided over one of the first legal recreational marijuana marketplaces in the nation, former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper.

Hickenlooper opposed the ballot measure that fully legalized marijuana in Colorado in 2012. But he said he accepted the will of the voters and won praise for implementing the measure. He says his “worst fears” about legalization haven’t been realized and considers the system better than when the drug was illegal.

Still, Hickenlooper isn’t willing to go as far as some competitors. Rather than calling for national legalization, he wants the drug to no longer be a Schedule 1 controlled substance so it can be studied.

He doesn’t think the federal government “should come in and tell every state that it should be legal,” believing states should make their own determinations.

“I trust this process by which states should be the models of, or laboratories of, democracy,” he said.

___ Riccardi reported from Denver. Associated Press Writer Gene Johnson in Seattle contributed. Blood is a member of AP’s marijuana beat team. Follow our complete marijuana coverage: <https://apnews.com/Marijuana> .

AP Explains: What Facebook's 'privacy vision' really means

By MAE ANDERSON AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark Zuckerberg's abrupt Wednesday declaration of a new "privacy vision" for social networking was for many people a sort of Rorschach test.

Looked at one way, the manifesto read as an apology of sorts for Facebook's history of privacy transgressions, and suggested that the social network would de-emphasize its huge public social network in favor of private messaging between individuals and among small groups.

Looked at another, it turned Facebook into a kind of privacy champion by embracing encrypted messaging that's shielded from prying eyes — including those of Facebook itself.

Yet another reading suggested the whole thing was a public-relations exercise designed to lull its users while Facebook entrenches its competitive position in messaging and uses it to develop new sources of user data to feed its voracious advertising machine.

As with many things Facebook, the truth lies somewhere in between. Facebook so far isn't elaborating much on Zuckerberg's manifesto. Here's a guide to what we know at the moment about its plans.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO FACEBOOK

In one sense, nothing. Its existing social network, with its newsfeeds and pages and 2.3 billion global users and \$22 billion in 2018 profit, won't change and will likely continue to grow. Although user growth has been stagnant in North America, Facebook's global user base expanded 9 percent in the last quarter of 2018.

But Zuckerberg suggested that Facebook's future growth will depend more on private messaging such as what it offers with its WhatsApp, Messenger and Instagram Direct services. The Facebook CEO said private messaging between individuals and small groups is "by far" the fastest growing part of online communications.

Naturally, Facebook wants to be there in a big way.

WHAT'S CHANGING IN MESSAGING

Its first step will be to make its three messaging services communicate better with each other. That would let you message a friend on WhatsApp from Facebook Messenger, which isn't currently possible. It would also link your messaging accounts to your Facebook ID, so people can find you more easily.

Zuckerberg also promised to greatly increase the security of these messages. It will implement so-called end-to-end encryption for messaging, which would scramble them so that no one but the sender and recipients could read them. That would bar access by governments and Facebook. WhatsApp is already encrypted this way, but Messenger and Instagram Direct are not.

The first change users might notice is their address book, said Siva Vaidhyanathan, director of the Center for Media and Citizenship at the University of Virginia. While your Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp contacts might be quite different now, if the services combine to some degree, your contact lists will, too.

"As these services merge, we might end up basically having these huge combined address books from three messaging services," he said.

WHEN THIS WILL HAPPEN

You're not likely to see any of these changes anytime soon. In his blog post, Zuckerberg said the plan will be rolled out "over the next few years. ... A lot of this work is in the early stages."

And it's subject to change. EMarketer analyst Debra Aho Williamson points out that previous Facebook visions of the future haven't quite panned out. A few years ago, for instance, Zuckerberg predicted that video and augmented and virtual reality would be a much bigger part of Facebook than what materialized, for example.

But it shows that Facebook is trying to adapt as people shift toward services like Instagram and WhatsApp over Facebook — which today has 15 million fewer U.S. users than in since 2017, according to Edison Research. In his post Zuckerberg said he expects Messenger and WhatsApp will eventually become the main ways people communicate on Facebook's network.

"There's not a sense that things will fundamentally change overnight, or even probably this year," Wil-

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liamson said, "But it signals Facebook is thinking more seriously about embracing the way people communicate today."

WHAT IT MEANS FOR PRIVACY

Encrypted messaging is in many ways a big plus for privacy. But the way Facebook collects information about you on its main service site isn't changing, said Jen King, director of consumer privacy at Stanford Law School's Center for Internet and Society.

"This is limited to a very specific part of the platform and it doesn't really address all the ways Facebook is still collecting data about you," she said. So users should still be alert about privacy settings and careful about what they choose to share on Facebook.

Facebook is likely to collect data about your messaging — so-called metadata that, according to security experts, will let it know who you communicate with, when and how often you text them, where you are when you do it and for how long. That can tell Facebook a lot about you even if it can't read the contents of your messages.

VANISHING POSTS

Though the timeline is hazy, Zuckerberg did outline other changes users will eventually see. He said the company is looking at ways to make messages less permanent, a la Snapchat or Instagram "Stories," which disappear after 24 hours.

"Messages could be deleted after a month or a year by default," Zuckerberg wrote. "This would reduce the risk of your messages resurfacing and embarrassing you later." Zuckerberg said users will have the ability to change the time frame or turn off auto-deletion. "And we could also provide an option for you to set individual messages to expire after a few seconds or minutes if you wanted."

PAYMENTS

Facebook will likely also expand the way users can use its platform to pay for things, said Justin Brookman, director of consumer privacy and technology policy for Consumer Reports. Zuckerberg didn't mention any new payment plans specifically but did bring up payments four times in his post.

Currently Facebook lets its users pay friends or businesses digitally by linking a credit card or PayPal account and that's method is not likely to change anytime soon. But as Facebook looks to emulate Chinese behemoth WeChat, it could let you reserve a table through Facebook instead of going through an outside app, or order an Uber.

"Ideally Facebook will try to get a cut of all transactions," Brookman said. A digital currency of Facebook's own is also rumored to be in the works.

"Like many other companies Facebook is exploring ways to leverage the power of blockchain technology," Facebook said in a statement. "This new small team is exploring many different applications. We don't have anything further to share."

Wanted: More pastures for West's overpopulated wild horses

By MEAD GRUVER Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — If you ever wished to gaze at a stomping, snorting, neighing panorama of Western heritage from your living-room window, now could be your chance.

A classic image of the American West — wild horses stampeding across the landscape — not only has endured through the years but has multiplied past the point of range damage. Through May 3, the U.S. government is seeking more private pastures for an overpopulation of wild horses.

Many consider rounding up wild horses to live out their lives on private pastures a reasonable approach to a tricky problem. Wild horses, after all, not only have romantic value, they are protected by federal law.

Just keep in mind a few of the dozens of requirements for getting paid by the government to provide wild horses a home.

"It's not like you can do this in your backyard, or even a 5 acre (2 hectare) plot," said Debbie Collins, outreach specialist for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Program in Norman, Oklahoma.

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You need a lot of fenced-in land, enough to sustain anywhere from 200 to 5,000 healthy horses. Exactly how much land depends on pasture quality as determined by the government, but you can safely assume several hundred if not thousands of acres (hectares).

The pastured horses typically are left on their own with little human intervention. Still, they require continuous water and basic shelter from the elements, such as trees or a canyon; supplemental forage; and corrals for loading and unloading from trailers.

Participants in the private-pasture system must live in 14 Western and Midwestern states, from eastern Washington to the Texas Panhandle. Over two-thirds of the 37 existing off-range pastures are in Oklahoma and Kansas.

And: These horses aren't pets. They've had little exposure to people. Many are over 5 years old and therefore not ideal for training and individual adoption or sale, other options available through the BLM.

Still, there's no shortage of interest in the off-range pasture program. People call all the time asking for details, Collins said.

"My only advice would be to go into it with your eyes wide open," said Dwayne Oldham, a former Wyoming state veterinarian who has taken in wild horses on his family's Double D cattle ranch outside Lander, Wyoming, since 2015.

Working with the government can be demanding, but providing for the over 130 horses on the Wind River Wild Horse Sanctuary on the ranch isn't too difficult, Oldham said.

The sanctuary is a little different from most private wild-horse pastures: It's open to the public. Tourists headed to Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks increasingly stop there.

About 50 miles (80 kilometers) to the south, cattle ranchers, wild horse advocates and the BLM have been embroiled in decades of lawsuits over wild horses in an area of mostly unfenced, interspersed public and private lands called the Checkerboard. The booming wild horse population there competes with cattle for forage and water in the high desert, the ranchers claim.

The BLM abides by the 1971 Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, which protects wild horses and burros on BLM land in 10 Western states, attorneys for the government say.

"We want to be part of the solution and not just the adversary," Oldham said.

A group often involved in wild-horse litigation, the American Wild Horse Campaign, says darting mares with contraceptives is the best answer to overpopulation but is underused. Roundups only encourage compensatory breeding and overpopulation, said Grace Kuhn with the group.

However, the group doesn't oppose off-range pastures as an alternative to keeping wild horses in corrals for long periods.

"We do advocate that if the government is going to be removing wild horses from the range, long-term is more cost-effective than short-term holding," Kuhn said.

Over 55,000 more horses and burros live wild in the West than the roughly 27,000 the BLM says can thrive in harmony with the landscape.

Adoptions and sales through the Wild Horse and Burro Program have recovered to over 3,400 a year after hitting a low of about 1,800 in 2014.

But while the number of off-range pastures has boomed from just a couple in the 1990s, the number of horses on them hovers very close to their current carrying capacity of about 36,500.

The number of pastured wild horses is determined mainly through roundups and adoptions. Stallions are gelded and kept at different off-range pastures than mares, preventing reproduction aside from the occasional pregnant mare rounded up from the wild.

How many new off-range pastures are established through the latest bid solicitation, the first of its kind since 2016, will depend on costs and how many existing ones get renewed, Collins said.

"It's just a happier, healthier environment for a horse to be able to be out in a pasture," she said.

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Michigan man receives congratulatory telegram 50 years later

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — A man who graduated from the University of Michigan in 1969 has finally received a congratulatory telegram from family friends that was sent more than 50 years ago.

Robert Fink received the Western Union telegram this year. Western Union ended its telegram business in 2006. The Washington Post first reported on the telegram finally being delivered to Fink.

The telegram originally arrived in 1969 at an Ann Arbor apartment Fink shared with three classmates a day after he had left to attend graduate school in New York.

Christina Zaske rediscovered the telegram in December after removing the bottom drawer of an old filing cabinet now owned by Ann Arbor-based digital marketing agency ICON Interactive to retrieve a piece of paper that had fallen inside.

"I looked inside, mostly because I was curious to see an actual telegram," Zaske told The Ann Arbor News.

Zaske saw Fink's name on the paper and used the internet to find him and return the note. Fink is now a professor at Oakland University in Rochester, a Detroit suburb that's about 45 miles northeast of Ann Arbor.

"I was surprised to learn that he had never received the telegram and was glad that I could reunite it with its intended recipient all of these years later," Zaske said.

Fink said the letter has brought back memories and made him reflect on his old connections.

"The theme for me has been that the long arm of the past is reaching out and grabbing me, and I should take it seriously," he said.

Fink said he's regretful he never had the chance to thank Ben and Lillian Fischman for sending the telegram, noting that they've both died.

"It also left me with a funny sense of guilt that they had thought about me that way," Fink said. "It took some effort to send a telegram — it's not like texting someone. It touched me they had thought about me and made the effort to do so."

Companies decry 'valve turners' who shut down pipelines

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON** Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — As Enbridge prepared to move climate-damaging tar sands crude through a 40-year-old pipeline in eastern Canada in 2015, environmentalists and indigenous peoples including Vanessa Gray thought about what happened in Michigan just five years earlier: Another of the company's lines had burst, sending oil into a river in one of the largest spills in U.S. history.

With that in mind, Gray and others decided they needed to do more than just speak out. In December 2015, three activists from Montreal entered Enbridge property near the Quebec-Ontario border and turned an above-ground emergency pipeline shut-off valve. About two weeks later, Gray and two others did the same at a different site, drawing even more attention because authorities levied charges that could have landed them in prison for life.

They ended up with no jail time and accomplished their goal of raising awareness.

"I hope it inspires others," Gray, 26, a member of an Ojibwe tribe, said in a recent interview.

It already has, by activists in the U.S. who believe fossil fuels are precipitating a global warming crisis. Just last month four activists targeted an Enbridge oil pipeline in northern Minnesota. But pipeline companies say so-called valve turners are dangerous — to themselves and the public — and many energy industry officials and advocates say they should be treated as domestic terrorists. Several states are considering increasing fines and prison terms for such incidents and holding associated organizations legally accountable as well.

"It's reminiscent of a number of years ago when environmental groups were spiking trees to interfere with the timber industry," said Alan Olson, executive director of the Montana Petroleum Association. "When environmental groups go out to cause physical harm or to harm infrastructure, in my mind that is domestic terrorism."

To Michael Foster, it's a wake-up call to a world quickly approaching "a life-or-death moment."

"We must stop the flow of fossil fuels as a society," said the mental health counselor from Seattle who

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spent six months in jail for turning a pipeline shut-off valve in North Dakota in October 2016. "You can argue about the best, or better, ways to do it, but we haven't done it yet, and we've run out of time."

Foster was part of a loose-knit group of 11 climate change activists who dubbed themselves Climate Direct Action and simultaneously turned shut-off valves on five pipelines in North Dakota, Minnesota, Montana and Washington state that carry Canadian tar sands crude into the U.S.

"We were committed to nonviolence. We were committed to safety and making sure no communities were impacted or damage occurred. We weren't interested in damaging equipment," Foster said. "That's where we took the cue from Canada."

In response to that action, federal regulators issued a bulletin warning that tampering with pipeline valves can result in "death, injury, and economic and environmental harm." None of the valve-turning incidents has led to an injury or a spill, but critics say the protest tactic is at the very least hypocritical.

"What eco-extremists fail to recognize is that their own reckless actions risk seriously harming the same environment that they claim to be trying to protect," said Craig Stevens, spokesman for Grow America's Infrastructure Now, a pro-pipeline coalition.

Enbridge spokesman Jesse Semko said tampering with pipelines is no different than targeting railways or power lines, and the company "will support the prosecution of those individuals to the fullest extent of the law."

But some think the law doesn't go far enough. The valve-turning protests all have been prosecuted under state laws, and the punishments have varied. No protester other than Foster has spent more than two days in jail.

A group of bipartisan lawmakers, led by Colorado Republican Rep. Ken. Buck, asked the U.S. Justice Department in October 2017 whether protesters could be prosecuted under federal domestic terrorism laws. The response in February 2018 from Assistant Attorney General Stephen Boyd, provided by Buck's office, didn't give much clarity. Boyd said pipeline protest incidents "may or may not qualify as 'domestic terrorism,'" and he wouldn't comment on whether any federal investigations were happening. The department didn't respond to an Associated Press request for comment.

Some states aren't waiting for federal action. The American Legislative Exchange Council has created a model bill that carries stiff penalties for protest incidents targeting "critical infrastructure" such as pipelines. It's inspired by a 2017 Oklahoma law that carries penalties of up to 10 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

Louisiana last year passed a law similar to the model, and the legislatures in North Dakota, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Mississippi and Indiana are considering similar bills this year, according to Grant Kidwell, the council's energy policy expert. A proposal in the Wyoming Legislature failed to pass.

The oil and gas industry also is acting. The Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance in October 2017 launched an online database to catalog what it calls attacks on pipelines, including valve-turning.

"I hope it doesn't spread," Alliance President and CEO Toby Mack said. "I think it's pretty obvious that it's just kind of a stupid way of making a point."

Activists believe the stupidity lies in ignoring a climate change crisis.

"The state of the movement for climate justice in the United States is in need of more boldness," said Jay O'Hara, co-founder of the Climate Disobedience Center.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, March 10, the 69th day of 2019. There are 296 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 10, 1969, James Earl Ray pleaded guilty in Memphis, Tennessee (on his 41st birthday) to assassinating civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. (Ray later repudiated that plea, maintaining his in-

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nocence until his death.)

On this date:

In 1496, Christopher Columbus concluded his second visit to the Western Hemisphere as he left Hispaniola for Spain.

In 1848, the U.S. Senate ratified the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican-American War.

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln assigned Ulysses S. Grant, who had just received his commission as lieutenant-general, to the command of the Armies of the United States.

In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell's assistant, Thomas Watson, heard Bell say over his experimental telephone: "Mr. Watson — come here — I want to see you" from the next room of Bell's Boston laboratory.

In 1913, former slave, abolitionist and Underground Railroad "conductor" Harriet Tubman died in Auburn, New York; she was in her 90s.

In 1933, a magnitude 6.4 earthquake centered off Long Beach, California, resulted in 120 deaths.

In 1965, Neil Simon's play "The Odd Couple," starring Walter Matthau and Art Carney, opened on Broadway.

In 1980, "Scarsdale Diet" author Dr. Herman Tarnower was shot to death at his home in Purchase, New York. (Tarnower's former lover, Jean Harris, was convicted of his murder; she served nearly 12 years in prison before being released in January 1993.)

In 1985, Konstantin U. Chernenko, who was the Soviet Union's leader for 13 months, died at age 73; he was succeeded by Mikhail Gorbachev.

In 1988, pop singer Andy Gibb died in Oxford, England, at age 30 of heart inflammation.

In 1993, Dr. David Gunn was shot to death outside a Pensacola, Florida, abortion clinic. (Shooter Michael Griffin is serving a life sentence.)

In 2003, shortly before the start of the Iraq war, Natalie Maines, lead singer of the Dixie Chicks, told a London audience: "Just so you know... we're ashamed the president of the United States is from Texas." (Maines later apologized for the phrasing of her remark.)

Ten years ago: In his first major speech on education, President Barack Obama called for tying teachers' pay to student performance and expanding innovative charter schools. A gunman, 28-year-old Michael McLendon, killed 10 people, including his mother, four other relatives and the wife and child of a local sheriff's deputy across two rural Alabama counties before committing suicide.

Five years ago: Joe McGuinness, 71, the adventurous and news-making writer and reporter, died in Worcester (WUS'-tur), Massachusetts.

One year ago: Syrian government forces made their deepest push yet into the eastern suburbs of the capital Damascus in a major blow to opposition fighters. Campaigning in western Pennsylvania for a Republican House candidate, President Donald Trump told a rally that his new tariffs were saving the steel industry.

Today's Birthdays: Talk show host Ralph Emery is 86. Bluegrass/country singer-musician Norman Blake is 81. Actor Chuck Norris is 79. Playwright David Rabe is 79. Singer Dean Torrence (Jan and Dean) is 79. Actress Katharine Houghton (Film: "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?") is 77. Actor Richard Gant is 75. Rock musician Tom Scholz (Boston) is 72. Former Canadian Prime Minister Kim Campbell is 72. TV personality/businesswoman Barbara Corcoran (TV: "Shark Tank") is 70. Actress Aloma Wright is 69. Blues musician Ronnie Earl (Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters) is 66. Producer-director-writer Paul Haggis is 66. Alt-country/rock musician Gary Louris is 64. Actress Shannon Tweed is 62. Pop/jazz singer Jeanie Bryson is 61. Actress Sharon Stone is 61. Rock musician Gail Greenwood is 59. Magician Lance Burton is 59. Movie producer Scott Gardenhour is 58. Actress Jasmine Guy is 57. Rock musician Jeff Ament (Pearl Jam) is 56. Music producer Rick Rubin is 56. Britain's Prince Edward is 55. Rock singer Edie Brickell is 53. Actor Stephen Mailer is 53. Actor Philip Anthony-Rodriguez is 51. Actress Paget Brewster is 50. Actor Jon Hamm is 48. Rapper-producer Timbaland is 47. Actor Cristian (kris-tee-AHN') de la Fuente is 45. Rock musician Jerry Horton (Papa Roach) is 44. Actor Jeff Branson is 42. Singer Robin Thicke is 42. Actress Bree Turner is 42. Olympic gold medal gymnast Shannon Miller is 42. Contemporary Christian singer Michael Barnes (Red) is 40. Actor Edi Gathegi is 40. Rock musician Matt Asti (MGMT) is 39. Actor Thomas Middleditch

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is 37. Country singer Carrie Underwood is 36. Actress Olivia Wilde is 35. Rhythm-and-blues singer Emeli Sande (EH'-mihl-ee SAN'-day) is 32. Country singer Rachel Reinert is 30. Country musician Jared Hampton (LANCO) is 28. Actress Emily Osment is 27.

Thought for Today: "To the living we owe respect, but to the dead we owe only the truth." — Voltaire, French writer and philosopher (1694-1778).

God reveals our invisibility through Jesus Christ

by Paul Irvin Kosel

With no service at Heaven Bound Ministries, Pierpont; and Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden, a video message for the week was made. Below the printed edition with the link to the video provided below.

For the video, [click here](#)

The weather outside is frightful, but the fire is do delightful.

During the winter months, when a strong storm hits, visibility can be so bad that you can't even see the road ahead of you. When it is all white, you feel like you're driving blindfolded, not knowing where you are going. It can be quite a frightful experience.

You see, God is visible and invisible. People often wonder where God is at since we can't see him. But Paul clearly mentions that it is the son who became the visible messenger for the invisible Father. Even Moses grappled with the invisible God, wanting the almighty to show His glory. We read in Exodus 33:17-23: "And the Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name." Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." Then the Lord said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

The glory of God is hidden even from Moses, and while he can see God's back, he cannot see his face. When we are driving in a blizzard, we cannot see anything. Everything is hidden. Thus, when a blizzard or winter storm warning is issued, people are suppose to stay home and do not travel. Traveling could result in death because of the invisibility of the environment.

So while the weather outside is frightful, and seeing God's face is frightful and devastating, the fire is do delightful. The fire becomes the way. Many times throughout the Bible, fire is used. A couple that stick out in my mind is the pillar of fire that separated the Israelites from the Egyptians. There was also the burning bush that was not being consumed where God talked with Moses. Then we have the Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2:3-4, "They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

It brings to mind Colossians 1:15-16 where Paul says, "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him."

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Our invisible God has made Himself visible through Jesus Christ, His Son. We cannot see the Father, yet through the Son, we can see him. Jesus told this to his disciples in John 14, indicating that Jesus is the way to the Father.

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." (contrast that with Moses who wanted to see God)

9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. (thus, our invisible God has become visible to us) How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. 12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

And then shortly thereafter, Jesus promised not to leave them as orphans, but will send the Spirit of God upon them. So through Jesus Christ, we see the Father and with the power of the Holy Spirit, we see the God's glory living in each one of us; unless, of course, we are living in a blizzard.

And in way, we are living in a blizzard of a darkened world. For in Ephesians 5:7-14, Paul explains that we are to live as the children of light. "Therefore do not be partners with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.""

Well, now we have a lot to decipher here. The first part talks about not even partnering with the dark side. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God.

Nothing will drag a person down faster than negative vibes. It's important that we hang around positive and Godly people. For those type of people are common to you and can help lift you up when you are down. Proverbs 22: "Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared." And again in Proverbs 12:26, "The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray." The morale of the story. Choose your friends carefully.

Now we have children of light versus those in the dark. You see, the children living the dark think they are getting away with it. They would rather live in a blizzard of sin, but John 3 explains the verdict: 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that

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their deeds will be exposed.”

We cannot live and get away with sin in the darkness of this world. We may think that we are living an invisible life, but God reveals our invisibility through Jesus Christ. Jesus said in John 8:12, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

The weather outside is frightful, but the fire is do delightful.

We talked about fire last week and how you need to keep it burning. If the fire is so delightful, then why do we allow it to slowly go out. God’s fire is much stronger than our fire. We need to have the fuel from God through the power of the Holy Spirit to kindle the flame each day of our life. That fuel, or lifeline, is our way to salvation.

“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. – John 14:6 NKJV

I came across the neat idea of the ABCs of salvation. It’s way to get lead us out of the blizzard and into the saving arms of God.

A = Admit we have sinned. James said in chapter 2, “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.” Isn’t it interesting that Jesus is judge, jury and our attorney at the same time. He points out our sin and we are convicted to death by the jury. But our attorney said, “Wait a minute! Not so fast!”

B = Believe in Jesus Christ. “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV. Our attorney has said that we have received the Grace of God. Grace is God choosing to bless us rather than curse us as our sin deserves. As Billy Graham said, “Today Christ is our lawyer, pleading on our behalf. He is our Savior, willing to forgive and cleanse and forget. However, there is coming a fearful day when He will be the Judge.”

C = Confess - “Romans 10:9-10: “If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.” This is where the Judge comes into the picture. And the visualization can’t be any more clearer than in Mathew 25 with the sheep and goats.

The Sheep and the Goats

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire

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prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

45 "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Admit - Believe - Confess. The weather outside is frightful, but the fire is delightful. Don't let a blizzard ruin your day. The blizzard of thinking you are in isolation. For where there is a blizzard, there is the fire that will melt the gloom and doom. And yes, spring is coming! You can't tell that by today's weather - but there is coming a day when newness will spring forth. You see, with Jesus Christ, we have the promise of eternal life and the devil of the blizzard will forever be cast into the lake of fire .

We are waiting for the time of spring as newness comes forth, just like we are waiting for the time when God will come again with his glory and splendor.

We should live holy and godly lives

We should look forward to Christ's second coming...

We should be active in praying for His second coming...

Don't be caught off guard. 2 Peter 3:10 New International Version (NIV)

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves, do what it says. James 1:22.

May the grace of God which surpasses all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

We come to understand that prayer is not just asking for things—although that certainly is part of it. Far more importantly, prayer is talking with God. It's getting close to and spending time with the one you love. It's seeking him first, touching him, getting to know him better, being with him, and waiting in his presence. It's acknowledging him as the source of power upon whom you can depend. It's that fire we seek in the blizzard of our lives. It's taking the time to say, Speak to my heart, Lord, and tell me what I need to hear. It is partnering with him. It is aligning our spirit with his to see that his perfect will is done. It is establishing ourselves and our lives as being connected to God.

"Dear God,

I know I'm a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness.

I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died for my sin and that you raised Him to life.

I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will.

I pray this in the name of Jesus, who has also taught us to pray:

Our Father, which art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done in earth,

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As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.

Read more: https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/lord_traditional_king_james.html#ixzz5hhU8hhY1