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Tigers remain undefeated with win over Aberdeen Christian

It was an exciting night of high school boys' basketball action at the Aberdeen Civic Center as the Groton area Tigers remained undefeated with a 65-57 win over fourth rated Class B Aberdeen Christian Knights. The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the Aberdeen Chrysler Center.

The Tigers jumped out to an 8-2 lead before the Knights called time-out. Groton Area went on a rally to take a 21-15 lead at the end of the first-quarter. The Knights closed to within three points in the second quarter at 23-20. Groton Area then went on a nine point run and took a 32-20 lead. The Tigers led at halftime 32-22.

In the first quarter Groton Area made seven out of 12 field goals for 58% well Aberdeen Christian was 7 of 17 for 42%. In the second quarter the Tigers were five of nine for 56% and the Knights were three of 13 for 13%.

The Tigers held the upper hand through the third quarter. Groton Area rattled off the first five points of the third quarter to take a 37-24 lead. The Tigers led at the end of the third-quarter 45-36. In the third quarter Groton Area was five of nine in field goals for 56 percent and the Knights were six of 15 for 40 percent.

The game got more intense in the fourth quarter as the Aberdeen Christian Knights tried to rally several times. Groton Area had a 14 point lead at one time at 50-36 early in the fourth quarter; however, the Knights scored eight straight points to cut the lead down to six at 54-48. Free throws starting to play a major role in the fourth quarter as the Tigers were 7 of 14 from the charity stripe.

The Knights increased their intensity as the game wore on taking the ball away and going for easy layups. However some of the layups did not go in and the Tigers would quickly react and would score on the other end. It was a four point lead late in the game at 61-57, but the Tigers clinched the win by making the free throws at the end for the 65 to 57 win.

Coach Brian Dolan said, "I couldn't be more proud of the kid's effort. We executed great. I knew it was going to be a dog fight but I knew our kids would show up for the challenge. We talked about bringing their lunch pails and hard hats and they sure as heck did. Both teams played hard. Both teams played well. We put a game plan in play yesterday and they kids executed it well in 24 hours."

Groton Area will travel to Sisseton on Friday and Dolan said the Tigers have not seen a team like them yet this year. "We're going to have to guard the three-point line on Friday. They play five out and we'll have to change some things up to prepare for them."

Three players hit double figures for Groton Area with Brodyn DeHoet leading all scorers with 24 points followed by Cade Guthmiller and Jonathan Doeden with 12 each, Kaden Kurtz had nine, Austin Jones four and Isaac Smith and Tristan Traphagen each had two points.

Three players also hit double figures for the Knights with Jackson Isakson leading the way with 18 points followed by Andrew Rohrbach with 16, Jett Becker 14, Malek Wieker had five and Jared Pearson and Brent Ekanger each had two points.

For the game, Groton Area made 23 of 43 field goals for 53 percent and the Knights were 22 of 65 for 34 percent. From the line, Groton Area was 16 of 27 for 59 percent off of Aberdeen Christian's 20 team fouls. The Knights were six of 10 for 60 percent off of Groton Area's 12 team fouls. Groton Area had 11 turnovers and the Knights had eight.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 49-18. Scoring for the Tigers: Wyatt Hearnen 2, Jayden Zak 13, Lane Tietz 3, Isaac Smith 8, Lucas Simon 2, Cade Larson 2, Chandler Larson 5, Kannon Coats 2, Tate Larson 6 and Tristan Traphagen 6. Kaden Clark led the Knights with nine points while Andrew Brennan had six and Ben Rohl 3.

- Paul Kosel

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Noem 2020 State of the State Address

Lieutenant Governor Rhoden, Mr. Speaker, members of the legislature, Chief Justice Gilbertson, Justices of the Supreme Court, constitutional officers, and fellow South Dakotans. It is my privilege to stand before you today to discuss the state of our state.

Just 14 days ago, we turned the page not only on a new calendar year, but also on a new decade. And today, we kick-off a new legislative session. Last year, we found so many ways to work together to give greater freedoms to our people, promote our outdoor heritage, and restrict the endless expansion of government into our daily lives. This year, it is my hope that we will find even more opportunities to work together – advancing commonsense solutions to the problems we can solve on behalf of the people of this great state.

One of the things I was taught as a kid was that you don't just complain about things; you work to fix them.

And as this year's session starts, we must keep in mind that we are looking, not just at the short term, but at the long term too.

Fifty-nine years ago, almost to the day, President Eisenhower, in his farewell address, warned the nation to avoid the impulse of living only for today. He spoke candidly about how wrong it would be to mortgage the future of our grandchildren because it would lead to the loss of their political and spiritual heritage. He said, "We want democracy to survive for all generations to come, not to become the insolvent phantom of tomorrow."

As you may recall in my inaugural address, I told you about my desire to be a governor for the next generation. The north star that guides my every decision is the impact a policy, a piece of legislation, or program will have, not only on South Dakotans today, but also on the next generation.

I grew up with a Dad who dreamed of all four of his kids being able to stay on the family ranch if they wanted to. My vision for South Dakota is the same. We must ensure that every South Dakotan can build their life here and make a good living, so they can provide for their families and maintain our traditions and way of life. This is why I am committed to four pillars of protection for South Dakotans: keeping taxes low, limiting government regulation, fighting government intrusion, and keeping government open and honest.

With a year under our belt, I'm proud to stand before you and say we accomplished a lot in 2019, and we did it all without raising taxes and without spending more than we took in. And unlike Illinois, New York, and many other states, we are seeing a net increase in our population. Why? Because Americans are looking for the opportunities that present themselves in states that encourage self-government like we do here in South Dakota.

And to all the business prospects we've been recruiting, I'd like to make the case here and now about why you should join us in South Dakota.

Anyone who has spent time here realizes what great people we have in South Dakota - our work ethic and values are second to none.

We don't have a corporate income tax. And there's also no business inventory tax.

For our hard-working residents, we are one of the few remaining states with no personal income tax - and I am committed to keeping it that way.

We don't burden our citizens with a personal property tax or an inheritance tax.

The taxes that we do have to fund state government are stable and predictable. In addition to my commitment to not raising taxes, our constitution requires a 2/3rd vote in both chambers to raise taxes. In short, if you're worried about tax increases, you needn't be – your business is safe here.

Government in South Dakota lives within its means. We balance our budget without accounting gimmicks or tricks.

I'm proud of our AAA credit rating, and our state pension plan is fully funded. That means businesses that move here don't need to worry about surprise charges, fees, or taxes to make up for an unfunded pension plan like our neighbors in Illinois.

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In South Dakota, we believe in smart regulation. We roll out the red carpet, not the red tape.

Our part-time legislature is one of just a few that is a true citizen legislature. Our legislators come to Pierre, tackle the problems that need to be tackled that session, and then go home to their jobs, their families, and their communities.

Our state parks and outdoor recreational opportunities are second to none. There's a reason we are the pheasant capital of the world.

I have traveled all across this country and around the world, and I can tell you, there is no better place to operate a business and raise a family than in South Dakota.

For employers and employees alike, my goal is to make sure folks across the country and around the world know that South Dakota is THE PLACE to do business. Whether you've owned and operated a business for four generations, or you're looking to start or even relocate your current operation, I want my message to be crystal clear: South Dakota is OPEN for business.

In the next few minutes, I'm going to walk you through some of the specifics of what we were able to accomplish this last year and what we're looking to do in 2020 and beyond.

A priority of my administration has been to open up South Dakota's government and make it more accountable, more accessible, and the most transparent it has ever been. It was Thomas Jefferson who said the whole art of government is honesty. He was right. A government that cannot be trusted by the people is no longer serving one of the primary purposes of government: to preserve the blessings of liberty.

We have taken many steps over the past year to advance this important goal.

As I highlighted in the budget address, we expanded the capabilities of Open.SD.Gov.

We took to heart the importance of fact-based reporting as a key component of holding government accountable, so I asked for a reporter shield law and – together – we got that done.

We took advantage of free technology like YouTube and Facebook Live to bring information directly into the living rooms of South Dakotans. And we are currently working with the Municipal League and local governments to find a way to get their meeting materials online like we do at the state level. In other words, we are making participation in government easier for every South Dakotan, and modern communications tools are incredibly helpful to open government in a state as large as ours.

It is my desire to be the most connected governor the state has ever seen. This includes bringing my administration to every corner of the state and advocating for our great state all across the country. Over the course of this first year, we held official events in nearly 30 counties. I sat down and strategized with hundreds of business leaders. I have visited with teachers, soldiers, farmers and ranchers. And, at the request of the Department of Tourism, I helped promote South Dakota's brand and footprint throughout the nation and globally at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

My team is also working to provide our communities – even the most remote ones – the tools they need to be connected.

In America's early days, mail was delivered via post road. The Founders thought communication was so important to the business of the people and the nation that they included a provision in the Constitution to allow for the government to establish post roads. Well today, in the modern economy, technology allows for the transportation of goods and services by way of a whole different kind of post road – the internet. We want to create an environment where people aren't forced to choose between the modern economy on the one hand, and life in their hometowns on the other. We must make sure our people can harness the latest technology to take advantage of what has become the modern equivalent of a post road.

Along those lines, I stood before you last year and told you we needed to set goals as a state to bring our homes and businesses up to a satisfactory level of broadband access. I outlined a plan to do so, so that more South Dakotans than ever before could be connected to high-speed internet. I told you we couldn't do this alone – that we had to bring industry leaders to the table to help us identify our gaps and outline a plan to bridge them.

Let me provide you with an update on where things stand today.

In March, you approved \$5 million dollars to be used as matching funds for broadband improvement. The Connect South Dakota program, which launched in May, brought in a total of \$12.2 million dollars.

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Because the state now has a plan in place, South Dakota companies have been awarded additional points on their applications for USDA Reconnect grants. This is a federal program that provides funding for telecommunications updates. In December, this federal program awarded another \$9.5 million dollars in high-speed broadband infrastructure that will create or improve connectivity for more than 1,750 homes in rural South Dakota.

Combined, that means our \$5 million dollars has resulted in a \$25 million investment in underserved areas – touching 6,500 homes and nearly 150 businesses.

Let me tell you two stories about this work.

In March of last year, we received a letter from a young couple, the Johnson family. They had recently built a new home in the rural area east of Dell Rapids. They built their home on farm land that has been in the family for five generations. They had all the latest technology – smart switches, smart alarms, smart thermostats – technology that would provide greater convenience and, in some cases, even insurance discounts. But there was one problem... they couldn't use any of it because they didn't have broadband access. They didn't have what they needed for their career, their business, or their kids' school work. One line from the letter that still sticks with me today is "Our daily struggles due to lack of broadband seem so ridiculous in a time when everything relies on being connected."

There's also the story of the Linderman family. John and Patty own the only grocery store in Timber Lake, on the Cheyenne River Reservation. The next nearest grocery store is 40 miles. They didn't have high-speed internet either. For them, that meant they couldn't provide their customers with credit card, debit card, or WIC and EBT payment options. They even had to do all their orders for the store somewhere else. As you can guess, they lost a lot of business. But for Patty and John, they were most heartbroken about sending away those with WIC purchases.

Fast forward to the end of last year, thanks to the work of GOED, the Johnson family and Linderman business are now connected to high-speed internet.

The great news is that there are 6,500 more Johnson families out there and more than 150 business' like the Lindermans. The rural life is their preferred way of life. They want to stay on the land their grandfathers and grandmothers once farmed. They want to stay in the communities they call home. These choices should not stop them from being connected to basic technologies like high-speed internet.

While \$5 million didn't fix our broadband gap overnight, it was a very strong start. More needs to be done. My hope is that we can continue to work together this legislative session to address more of our high-speed internet needs.

I started out my speech with at least 10 reasons why it's great to live and work in South Dakota. And as we focus on economic progress, let me give you some good news.

Since my budget address, revenues have been slightly better than expected. What this means is that we may have extra flexibility to achieve the things we want to accomplish. My number one priority with additional, on-going money will be to provide increases to K-12 schools, providers, and state employees.

In order to do this for many years to come, we must work together to find ways to grow our state's economy. With our eyes fixed to the future, we can ensure that every South Dakotan can build their life here, get good jobs, make a living and support their families.

Over the last year, I sat down with hundreds of business leaders across our state and across the country. I listened to their ideas, needs, and concerns. And I outlined where I would like our state to go this year as well as into the future for the next generation.

One of the bright spots in our state's economy over the last decade has been tourism. Despite tough weather and an up and down economy during that time, tourism has remained strong in the face of challenges and has continued to deliver good results year after year.

This is no small accomplishment.

The tourism industry has achieved nine straight years of record growth, reaching new levels of visitors, spending, and overall impact on our state's economy. It is truly a revenue-generating, job-creating sector for South Dakota.

In 2019, tourism activity directly supported more than 37 thousand jobs and 55 thousand jobs in total.

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This is 8.8 percent of all jobs in the state – 1 out of every 11.

Secretary Hagen has shared with me that despite the flooding and adverse weather we faced statewide in 2019, overall, the initial data his department has received is more encouraging than expected. We will be sharing more about this next week.

In addition to those efforts, let me outline some of the other things we've been working on to grow the economy last year and update you on what we're hoping to do in 2020.

One important and emerging sector is cybersecurity. We all know that the threat of a cyber-attack is an increasing concern to individuals, businesses, and governments in every corner of the globe. In May 2019, the Economic Development Administration awarded a \$1.46 million-dollar grant to Dakota State University to help establish a high-speed research network. Because it is designated as an Opportunity Zone, the investment will receive a \$1.46 million-dollar match in local funds.

For the EDA to invest its money into Dakota State is monumental. It's our academic leader in cybersecurity and it has been designated a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Operations by the National Security Agency.

As I've said before, I want to emphasize that we have a great opportunity to capitalize on world-class talent coming out of DSU. We have a chance to lead the nation in cybersecurity. We must remember to train not only this workforce, but also to attract or create new companies here in South Dakota. Let's keep our graduates, at home, with great jobs and a way of life they love.

Of course, we all know that agriculture is the foundation of our state's economy, and we need to find ways to strengthen and broaden our ag industry.

There's no question last year was a hard year for our farmers. But when times get tough, our people stand together. South Dakotan farmers pressed on.

Fortunately, 2020 looks to be different. Last month, we received the fantastic news that President Trump completed Phase One of a historic trade agreement with China. This new agreement is a win for South Dakota producers.

Knowing first-hand the relentless effort that is needed to negotiate trade deals, I have a deep appreciation for our President's leadership and commitment to mend the U.S-China trade relationship.

I'm traveling to Washington to join President Trump at the White House as he signs this important agreement tomorrow. And I won't be going alone; I've asked Jerry Schmitz, a South Dakota soybean producer, and Craig Andersen, a South Dakota pork producer, to join me. We will all be there as the President locks in this new agreement and opens up new opportunities for South Dakota ag products.

In 2019, we expanded our ag focus to three key areas: precision ag, production ag and value-added ag.

South Dakota counties that are interested in pursuing production ag or livestock development now have new opportunities. Our goal is to develop a lasting infrastructure devoted to agriculture for generations to come.

Over the next 10 years, private industry, South Dakota State University, the School of Mines and Technology, and the state will partner to support research and development in bioprocessing. We must invest in the future of ag in our state, diversifying operations for our farmers, ranchers, and timber producers. Our graduates will have a deeper understanding of how biofuels and agriculture can drive change across the globe.

Like cyber security, South Dakota is uniquely positioned to lead the nation in the development of bioprocessing, and I hope we can work together to support this initiative.

There is another area where we are already a leader – South Dakota is the pheasant capital of the world. We know success often brings imitators. Other states are pursuing that title.

I stand before you today and call on every South Dakotan to get involved in the long-term preservation of our habitat. Pheasant hunting is a statewide tradition. For a century we have been the premier destination for hunters. And I want to make sure that title is ours in the century to come. With neighboring states trying to steal away our hunters, I'm calling on all of us to recognize this threat and join me in doing what it takes to improve and expand our habitat.

We need to continue focusing on CRP efforts. We trapped 50 thousand predators this last year, and

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hopefully more people will find ways to participate in the Second Century Initiative. Though our efforts have just begun, I'm hearing from people all over the state that birds are more plentiful.

I'm also pleased to announce that the bounty program we launched last year has been a success in more ways than one. Game, Fish, and Parks recently conducted a survey on South Dakota's perceptions of the bounty program and the results were overwhelmingly positive. We're getting more people involved in trapping and the outdoors. Hunting, trapping, and shooting are great American traditions, fundamental to the culture and success of our state. These traditions help kids develop respect for nature, for property rights, as well as for other people.

This year, Game, Fish, and Parks and the Department of Tourism will be partnering to not only ensure that people in South Dakota are enjoying their great outdoors, but also that we're attracting others to come to our state and do the same.

On a related note, in 2019, Game, Fish, and Parks began a pilot HuntSAFE program in schools across the state. The goal of the course is to teach students the responsible and safe handling of firearms as well as the values that come from being a true sportsman – values that should never be lost. We have 32 schools that are now certified to teach the program, up from just 8 schools in 2018. I'd love to see every school offer this program.

I talk all the time about finding ways to build up our families and a big part of that is giving people access to the tools they need to be successful.

Occupational licensing laws represent a burden. South Dakota is prepared to be an example of reform for the nation.

Last year, I asked that Secretary Hultman at the Department of Labor and Regulation lead an extensive review of the 101 licenses required in South Dakota.

Overall, South Dakota's licensing system is in good shape, but there are many immediate actions we can take to further reduce burdens on our small business owners.

In the coming weeks, we will be taking several steps toward the goal of smart regulation, including simplifying licensing.

We will work to decrease wait time for license approval. We will find ways to increase transparency by requiring Advisory Committees to adhere to Open Meeting Laws. We will review the complaint and disciplinary processes for all boards and commissions. And we will identify opportunities to allow reciprocity.

Last year, I signed into law legislation that provides for reciprocity for certain licenses for active duty military personnel and their spouses. It is only right that we make it easier for them to supplement their income when they're posted to duty stations here. I know that we are all so grateful for their service. Would you all please join me in recognizing our military men and women?

Everywhere I go across South Dakota, I hear from local business owners and community stakeholders that housing availability is an issue. These businesses have good paying jobs available but struggle to get people to relocate to their communities because the housing choices are limited. It's a classic catch-22 holding back these communities. Developers are reluctant to invest because they don't want to take on the risk of building homes and having them sit empty. And folks are reluctant to expand their businesses because people won't move without good housing choices.

I'm pleased to announce that I've asked GOED to begin utilizing the REDI fund to support multi-family, workforce housing projects. Having suitable housing is economic progress. I'm confident that opening up this fund will get developers to invest in communities where additional housing units are most needed.

South Dakota has many success stories in business. It's important to remember that economic progress is not possible without men and women who are willing to take risk – who are willing to open a business and, for those who already have businesses, to invest even more in our state.

There are many great examples of this. I'd like to highlight three in particular.

In July 2019, I was honored to attend the grand opening for Ag Processing, Inc. – more commonly called AGP. We watched this company go from the drawing board to construction to where it is today. It is impressive. At capacity, AGP processes about 140,000 bushels of soybeans a day, and somewhere

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between 50 and 55 million bushels each year. The plant is a major employer in the Aberdeen area and is becoming an incredible economic driver for the northeastern part of the state.

Out in Rapid City, folks are building an even stronger relationship between the School of Mines and the community. Expected to be completed in 2020, the new Ascent Innovation Center will be open to small business owners who will be able to use the center to house start-up companies and technologies. Its strategic location between School of Mines and Main Street should ignite the redevelopment of that part of town. We believe this center will be instrumental in attracting the next generation of workers to live in South Dakota.

In the eastern part of the state, big things are happening at DeGeest Steel Works of Tea. Earlier this year they opened Lesta USA – a self-learning robot company. I love to see this type of expansion because it shows that in-state companies recognize the advantages of doing business here and are willing to invest even more of their hard-earned money into this great state.

Before I leave economic development, I know many of you believe industrial hemp has a promising economic future.

And over the last year, we've had a long conversation about legalizing hemp. Everyone knows that I don't think it's a good idea.

Last year, I vetoed a bill that didn't address concerns surrounding public safety, law enforcement, or funding. I asked that we wait until we had direction from the federal government and a plan to address those concerns. Now since that time, things have changed. Federal guidelines have been put in place, a South Dakota tribe has been given the green light on production, and other states' actions mean we need to address hemp transportation through our state. The legislative summer study also did important work, and they included some good ideas.

I think we can all agree that we don't want to stress our already thin law enforcement resources. I also think we're all in agreement that we don't want to negatively impact our drug fighting efforts across the state. And given that many of our families are being ripped apart by substance abuse, I know none of us want to take a step backwards as we address these issues.

Our primary obligation is to protect the health and welfare of our citizens, and in the interest of being proactive, I am willing to sign legislation that does the following:

First, it must include reliable enforcement guidelines. I've detailed some of these requirements in a document that I released last week. One of particular interest to me is what impact decriminalization of hemp will have on other criminal drug prosecutions.

Second, it must include responsible regulation regarding licensing, reporting, and inspections. And it will involve a minimum land area size and an appropriate fee structure for the application, annual license, and inspection.

Third, a person must have a permit and any other needed paperwork for the transportation of it. And for those who transport it without the right documentation, there must be suitable legal consequences.

Fourth, if you add up one-time and ongoing costs, I believe this will cost about \$3.5 million dollars, and there must be a plan to pay for it.

Given all that we need to accomplish this year, if this is going to get done, my hope is that we can do it in the coming days so we can focus on our other priorities.

This brings us to the most important institution in the state – the family. We are blessed with great families in this state. As leaders, I think I can speak for everyone here when I say, we value strong families – and opportunities for our kids to be successful. Education is one important area.

An important aspect of education is being open to hear all points of view. Last year, we enacted the country's first broad policy to protect free speech and intellectual diversity on South Dakota's college campuses. I think we can all agree that our college students should hear all sides of a debate in the classroom. It is important that we teach the next generation to openly discuss ideas, think independently, and find ways to work together.

I spoke earlier about all the great work our businesses are doing across the state. But the ability to hire the right employees remains a concern. Some businesses may want to expand but are met with the chal-

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lence of not having enough qualified candidates. Our technical institutes are a solution to this problem. They are finding ways to match skills with the needs of businesses across the state.

Ninety-eight percent of our graduates are employed, continuing their education, or serving in the armed forces after graduation. The system has been recognized nationally over the last five years for excellence in student outcomes by groups such as the Aspen Institute and Wallet Hub. I am proud that Lake Area Tech was recognized as the best two-year college in America in 2017. Mitchell Tech is also being considered for the same honor as one of the top ten 2-year colleges in the nation.

Student success plans, enhanced scholarship support, and strong links to industry and community are all factors that have had a positive impact on students. Since the Build Dakota Scholarship started in the fall of 2015, the number of industry partners contributing to the program has grown. This year, 242 industry partners are participating in the program, up from just 23 in 2015. The partners contribute 50% of the cost of a scholarship to ensure that a graduate not only works in the state of South Dakota, but also that the graduate goes to work for them.

Last year during my State of the State address, I challenged schools and businesses to dramatically increase work experiences for our young people. The South Dakota Week of Work was born.

This is an important effort for our state for a couple of reasons.

It's a good opportunity for students to explore careers and the world of work, and opportunities right here in South Dakota, connecting classrooms to careers.

It is good for our schools because students are motivated when they see how their classroom experiences are relevant in the world. Where it makes sense, schools can align their curriculum to industry needs. And it's good for our businesses because it creates a talent pool. A win-win-win.

I hope business leaders and school administrators will work together to connect students to the opportunities right here in their own backyard. Visit www.sdweekofwork.com to sign up.

Many of our kids have barriers to success that come from outside the classroom. A child's potential can certainly be blocked due to reasons beyond their control. Some schools in our state have started a very successful program that I'd like to see expanded. Nationally, "Jobs for America's Graduates" has a 96 percent success rate getting students through some of the challenges they face. In all of South Dakota's JAG schools, it has succeeded 100 percent of the time. Unfortunately, only five high schools currently offer the program.

In October, Secretary Jones and I visited the Wagner School District, and I spoke personally with students in their JAG program as well as the educators and administrators who run it. The students' stories were inspiring, and the teachers and mentors in the program speak proudly of their graduates. Once at high risk of dropping out, they are now in college or are serving proudly in our military.

A young woman named Tyra is an example of JAG's power. She graduated from Wagner High School in 2017. Raised by her grandmother, JAG helped Tyra realize her potential as a leader, broadening her world view and helping her recognize that achieving goals is possible. She spent her senior year in Italy as a Rotary International Youth Exchange Scholar. She is currently in college, majoring in foreign languages and literature. Tyra is part of the campus Intertribal Student Council. She has spent time as an exchange student in France and has a long-term goal of becoming a linguist for the Air National Guard.

When I met with the students in Wagner, they shared stories of raising younger siblings, parents who had left or passed away, and life with drug addicted parents. Knowing those students' futures are as bright as Tyra's gives me hope that we can help students overcome the barriers they face through JAG.

I'm asking the legislature for one staff person in the Department of Education to help lead the JAG program and to help it expand. Its success will mean closing the opportunity gap and creating greater potential for so many students.

Like a strong educational foundation, a good family is important too. I'd like to thank those, who out of love, have accepted the calling to be foster parents. It is my hope that their example will serve as an inspiration to others to take the same path.

We know all too well that South Dakota is not immune from drug and alcohol abuse or the devastation

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brought about by suicide.

Last year, I asked the Department of Health to lead a joint effort to develop a statewide suicide prevention plan. We will soon unveil our proposal to address suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. We will also continue to focus on mental health. I hope you will support these initiatives.

We must also do more to address one of our biggest substance abuse issues: meth. Last year, my administration launched an awareness campaign about our problem. I'm sure you've heard about it.

Yes, it was bold. Yes, it was provocative. But it needed to be – twice as many South Dakota 12 to 17 year-olds reported using meth in the past year as compared to the national average.

I know that some people didn't like the ads. Whether you liked the ads or not, I can tell you this. I have heard story after story after story of people now talking about the problem. And wanting to do more to address it.

Here's just one story – I just recently received a note from a grandmother named Cheryle. It says she and her husband were taking care of their three grandsons, ages 10, 13, and 17. They were at the breakfast table when they saw the ad on TV. All listened intently. As soon as it was over, Cheryle writes in her note: "it created exactly the conversation it was intended to spark." She concluded by saying, "Thank you for your untiring effort in the war on this horrible drug."

The first phase of the campaign has ended, and we have people's attention. Now we have a rare opportunity. It's time to turn the conversation to the next phase: treatment programs for our fellow South Dakotans who are suffering from addiction.

Last year I asked you to support awareness, prevention, and treatment along with law enforcement efforts. We know that addiction to meth requires more intensive therapy than other addictions. This year, I am asking you to support my request for additional funding to support these intensive treatment programs.

Another vile attack on the person is human trafficking. This crime is one that knows no borders. I led the fight against human trafficking in Congress, and I am bringing legislation this session to combat the crime of human trafficking in our state, particularly as it relates to children and victims.

While many people view these issues as data points, I want to remind you that each of those points is a person, and every person deserves our best effort. Hope and healing come from recovery and from preventing addiction before it starts. I hope you will join me in our efforts.

Another community whose needs we are addressing is the Native American community.

In 2019, we looked for ways to build upon and improve healthcare for Native Americans through agreements with Indian Health Service. In fact, for the first time ever, we have put state-employed nurses in three IHS facilities across the state to better coordinate healthcare. As a result, healthcare is better managed for patients that are referred by IHS to another provider.

We are expanding our outreach efforts to the Native American community and one area of particular interest for our team is to let tribes know about the employment opportunities within the state. It is my hope that we can find ways to work with our Native American community so they can participate more fully in the life and business of the state.

In order to do this, we need to help our tribes be successful. While I am in Washington D.C. tomorrow, I'll be meeting with White House Senior Staff to discuss issues facing our Native American community; narrowing in on health initiatives and tribal infrastructure, including roads and schools. I look forward to the discussion.

We don't ever want to fall into the trap of taking law enforcement and first responders for granted, so I want to publicly highlight two – of many – stories.

In May of 2018, it was a foggy morning in Sturgis. Police officers Dylan Goetch and Christopher Schmoker were dispatched to a home fire. On arriving at the scene, the officers learned that someone was still inside. Dense smoke was pouring from the open doors and windows, the two officers entered the home and located the resident who was already unconscious. With water-soaked t-shirts wrapped around their faces to help them breathe, the officers dragged the unconscious man down a stairway and out of the home – just seconds before the fire collapsed the structure. Doctors later told the rescued man that he

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would not have survived another minute in the heavy smoke.

I am honored to have these officers here today, gentlemen would you please stand, so we can commend your bravery?

Another amazing story of service took place less than 100 miles from here. On November 30th, just two days after Thanksgiving, there was a plane crash near Chamberlain. I'm sure many of you heard about this sad story, and you may recall the terrible winter storm that hit the region that weekend. At the crash scene, these law enforcement officers climbed into the downed plane and pulled three survivors from the wreckage. Working as a team, the officers carried survivors through hundreds of yards through the snow to get them to ambulances and on to the hospital.

Officer Glaus, Officer Harmon, Officer DeWild, and Officer Engel, would you also please stand so we can honor you?

I am pleased to announce that all six of these officers will be the first recipients of a new award in South Dakota. Today, I am creating the Governor's Award for Heroism. Going forward, a person who shows courage and compassion under extraordinary circumstances, such as those that have saved a life, will be eligible for nomination.

In this way, we are recognizing our citizens' courage and bravery. Again, would you all join me in commending these officers for their dedicated service.

I want to close today by taking a few moments to say a special thank you to Chief Justice David Gilbertson. The Chief Justice has spent his life in public service. After law school, he returned to his hometown of Sisseton where he served as state's attorney and city attorney. He was first appointed as a circuit judge in 1986, and then to the Supreme Court in 1995. In 2001, his peers elected him to serve as Chief Justice, and nineteen years later, he is the longest-tenured Chief in our state's history.

The Chief Justice hasn't just ruled on cases. He has been a leader in improvement and reform. He proposed the state's innovative program to bring more attorneys to our rural areas. He advocated for specialty courts - drug and DUI courts, mental health courts, and veterans' courts - to more effectively address the causes of crime and help offenders get back on the right track. He adopted new technology, bringing court records and filings online and allowing cameras in the courtroom.

And, I can personally say that, in my first year as Governor, he has always been willing to offer his advice, wisdom, and support to me as we work together on behalf of the people of South Dakota.

I'm sorry to say that, because I will be at the White House tomorrow for the China agreement signing, I won't be with you to hear the Chief's final State of the Judiciary Address. But I look forward to reading it, and I know we will all benefit from the Chief's thoughts. Please join me in thanking Chief Justice Gilbertson for more than three decades of service to our state.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank my family. I'm incredibly thankful for my family, especially for my husband Bryon. Since I started in public service more than 10 years ago, my job has been the way we operate as a family. I remember bringing the kids to Pierre when I served in the legislature and hauling them to D.C. when I was in Congress. As I've said before, one of the reasons I serve is because of my family. I know that's why you all serve as well.

I look forward to working with you all in the coming months. Let's make South Dakota stronger for our kids and grandkids.

Thank you. God bless you. And May God bless the great State of South Dakota.

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Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.: MathCounts at Aberdeen Simmons Middle School

Thursday, January 16, 2020

6:30 p.m.: Girls' Basketball hosts Sisseton. JV game at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game.

Friday, January 17, 2020

Silver Bowl Debate at Sioux Falls

No School - Faculty Inservice

5 p.m.: Boys' basketball at Sisseton. C game at 5 p.m. followed by JV and then Varsity

Saturday, January 18, 2020

Silver Bowl Debate in Sioux Falls

10:00am: Basketball: Boys 7th/8th Jamboree @ Groton Area High School

10:00am: Wrestling: Varsity Tournament at Potter County (Gettysburg)

Sunday, January 19, 2020

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

2:00-4:00 PM Grades JK-8 (Students must be accompanied by an adult) 4:00-6:00 PM Grades 6-12

Monday, January 20, 2020

6:30pm: Girls Basketball hosts Langford Area with JV at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game.

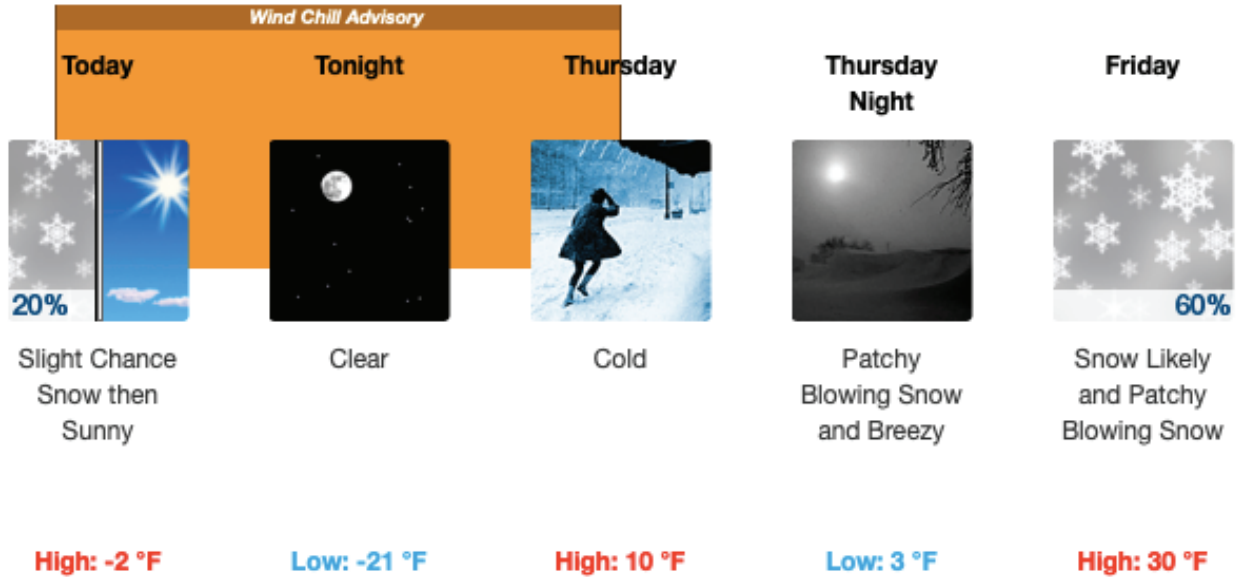
Tuesday, January 21, 2020

4 p.m.: Basketball Double Header with Ipswich here. Girls JV at 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5 p.m., Girls Varsity at 6 p.m. followed by boys varsity game.

4:00pm: Wrestling: Boys 7th/8th Tournament vs. Aberdeen Central @ Aberdeen Civic Arena

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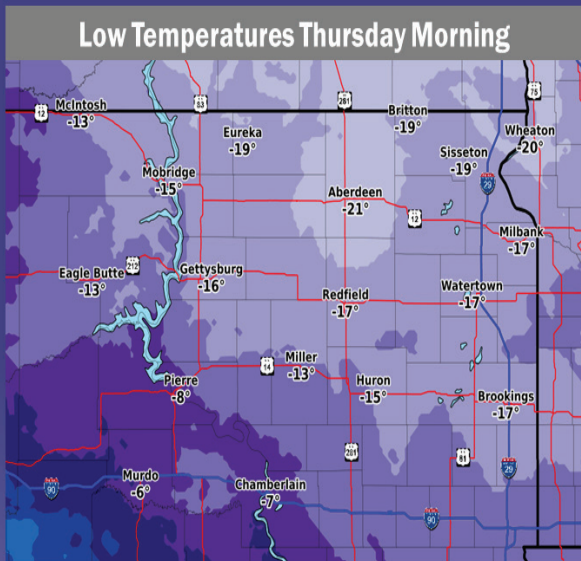
Bitter Cold Wind Chills Tonight!

Frost Bite possible in 5-10 minutes or less


EXTREME COLD



Low Temperatures Thursday Morning



Wind Chills of 25 Below to 35° Below Zero



NWS Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 1/15/2020 5:06 AM Central

Bitter cold wind chills are expected today through Thursday morning. Wind chills will fall into the 25 below zero to 35 degrees below zero range by Thursday morning. Low temperatures Thursday morning will range from the single digits below to 20 degrees below zero.

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Today in Weather History

January 15, 1982: Snowfall amounts of one to four inches and powerful northwest winds of 35 to 45 mph with gusts to 60 mph caused blizzard conditions with widespread drifting across much of South Dakota and Minnesota from the early morning of the 15th to mid-afternoon on the 16th. Wind chills were lowered to 50 to 80 degrees below zero and visibilities were near zero across most of the area. One death was attributed to exposure. There were numerous weather related accidents. Some of the major accidents included; a truck blown off Interstate 90 near Murdo injuring the driver; a truck blown off Highway 281 and turned upside down in a ditch, and a truck slamming into a bridge on Interstate 90 near Murdo. The extreme cold killed numerous fruit trees at a nursery in Watertown.

January 15, 1985: Heavy snow fell in central and south central South Dakota from early evening of the 15th to around noon on the 16th with areas around Pierre receiving up to 18 inches. Generally 5 to 10 inches fell with numerous minor traffic accidents reported. Interstate 90 had a no travel advisory in a 95-mile stretch from Kimball to Murdo until the afternoon of the 16th due to low visibility and heavy drifting. Also, many schools and businesses were closed. Some snowfall amounts included, 4 inches at Kennebec, 6 inches at Murdo, and 10 inches at Pierre.

January 15, 2009: The Arctic high pressure area settled in on the morning of the 15th bringing the coldest temperatures to the region in many years. The combination of a fresh and deep snow pack, clear skies, and light winds allowed temperatures to fall to record levels at many locations on the 15th. Daytime highs remained well below zero across the area. This was one of the coldest days that most areas experienced since the early 1970s. The records were broken by 1 to as much as 7 degrees. 1852: In 1852, the long, cold winter froze the Susquehanna River in Maryland to a depth of 2 to 3 feet, preventing all ferry service. Railroad officials overcame this perplexing situation by laying tracks across the ice, with trestles for inclines at either bank. During the several weeks from January 15 to February 29, approximately 1,300 cars with a total weight of 10,000 tons were hauled across the river from Havre de Grace, Maryland to Perryville, Maryland.

1967: The Green Bay Packers beat the Kansas City Chiefs, 35-10, in Super Bowl I at the Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles. From the weather station at the USC campus in downtown LA, the high temperature was 79 degrees and the low was 51. There was a light west wind.

1972: In Flint, Michigan, daytime temperature rose to only -3 degrees. This is the second coldest maximum temperature recorded in the city of Flint since 1921. Detroit's high temperature was zero.

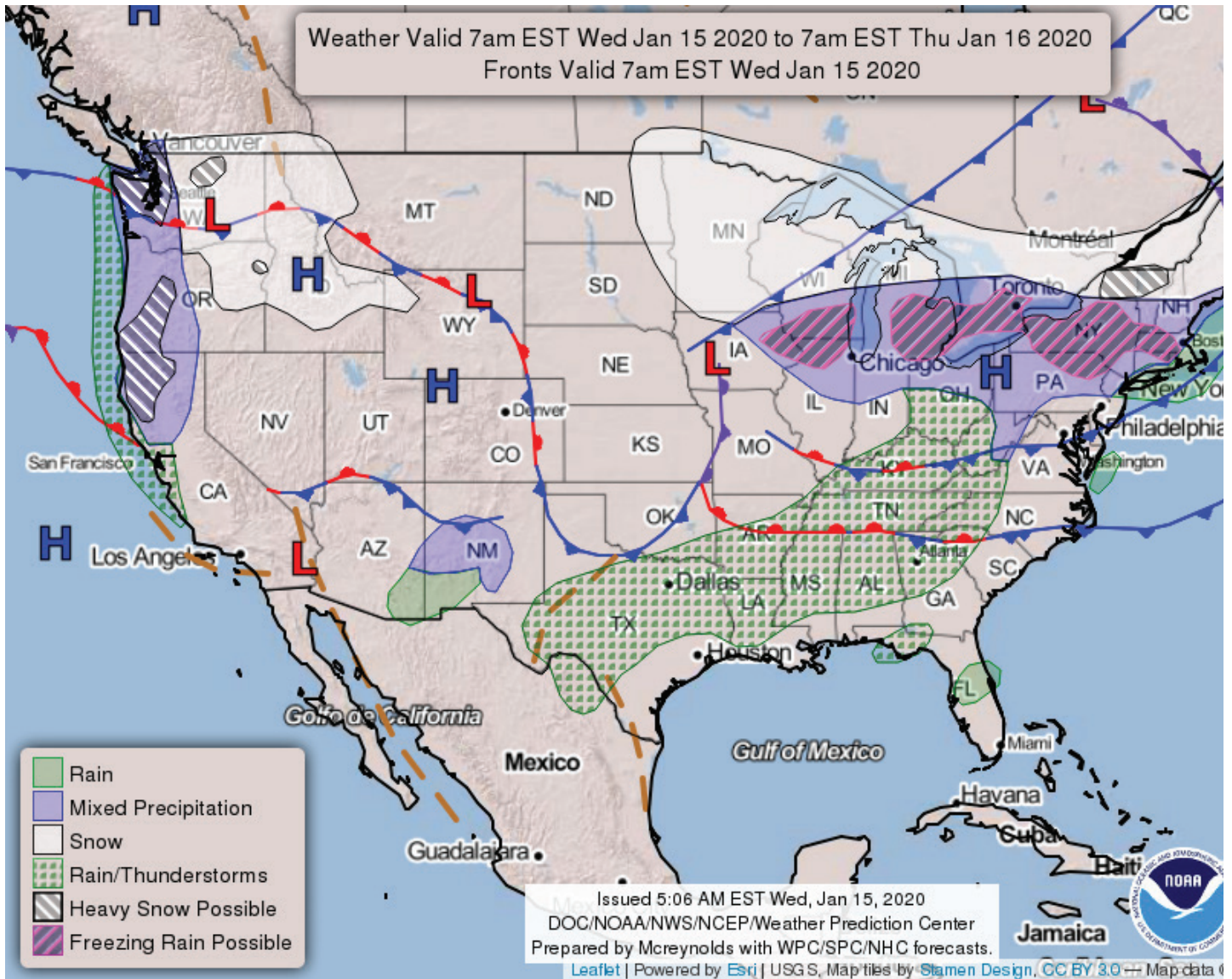
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 24 °F at 12:00 AM
Low Temp: 2 °F at 8:46 AM
Wind: 22 mph at 4:31 AM

Record High: 48° in 1942, 1931
Record Low: -42° in 2009
Average High: 22°F
Average Low: 1°F
Average Precip in Jan.: 0.24
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.24
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:16 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:09 a.m.



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MONEY MATTERS

One day Winston Churchill was informed that he was to address the United Kingdom in one hour. He called a taxi and said to the driver, "Drive me to the British Broadcasting Corporation just as fast as you can."

"Sorry, sir," he responded, "I can't do that. Sir Winston is to broadcast at six o'clock. I want to get home to hear him, and if I drive you to the BBC, I'll miss him. I cannot do that!"

The answer thrilled Churchill so much that he reached in his pocket and gave him a large sum of money.

"The devil with Churchill," said the driver. "Hop in!" and off they rode.

There is nothing wrong with having money or enjoying the things that money can buy. But there is something wrong if wanting money causes us to do the wrong things, do things poorly, or if we compromise our values, to get money.

Jesus said that if power or possessions, position or priorities have first place in our lives they will become worthless and ultimately destroy us. What we have in this world will be left in this world – we cannot take anything from this world into the next. Everything we have now is temporary and cannot be exchanged for anything eternal. The "things" of this world cannot purchase salvation or eternal life. As Christians, we are obligated to make the pursuit of God and building His Kingdom on earth the most important goals of our lives.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to live lives that demonstrate to others that You are Lord of our lives. May we seek first Your righteousness and then Your Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Mark 6:36-37 But Jesus said, "You feed them."

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2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/26/2020 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Sharp (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 04/26/2020 Father/Daughter dance.
- 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
Groton Hosting State B American Legion Baseball Tournament
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/14/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Tuesday:

Mega Millions

09-11-13-31-47, Mega Ball: 11, Megaplier: 2

(nine, eleven, thirteen, thirty-one, forty-seven; Mega Ball: eleven; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$91 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$296 million

Tuesday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS BASKETBALL

Arlington 68, Deuel 29

Bowman County, N.D. 60, Lemmon 58

Brandon Valley 61, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 58

Castlewood 78, Lake Preston 56

Corsica/Stickney 57, Mitchell Christian 24

Crow Creek 79, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 70

Dakota Valley 80, West Central 68

DeSmet 52, Howard 48

Douglas 62, Lead-Deadwood 50

Estelline/Hendricks 69, Great Plains Lutheran 43

Ethan 74, Bridgewater-Emery 70

Faulkton 57, Highmore-Harrold 54

Florence/Henry 57, Northwestern 49

Freeman Academy/Marion 66, Avon 43

Gregory 63, Wagner 33

Groton Area 65, Aberdeen Christian 57

Harding County 77, Dupree 32

Huron 71, Brookings 50

Kimball/White Lake 44, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 42

Langford 58, North Central Co-Op 42

Lennox 60, Elk Point-Jefferson 54, OT

Lower Brule 69, Sunshine Bible Academy 58

McCook Central/Montrose 59, Beresford 48

McLaughlin 66, Mobridge-Pollock 61

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 71, Wessington Springs 44

Parker 74, Freeman 34

Pierre 60, Sturgis Brown 53

Pine Ridge 75, St. Francis Indian 50

Redfield 75, Miller 52

Scotland 62, Centerville 57

Sioux Falls Christian 68, Dell Rapids 56

Sioux Falls Lincoln 81, Mitchell 74, 2OT

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Sioux Valley 76, Hamlin 40
Spearfish 67, Belle Fourche 57
Tea Area 59, Tri-Valley 32
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 75, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 61
Warner 36, Hitchcock-Tulare 23
Webster 63, Waubay/Summit 56
Wilmot 55, Wyndmere-Lidgerwood, N.D. 48
Winner 74, Valentine, Neb. 57
Yankton 56, Sioux Falls Washington 37

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 48, Faulkton 26
Arlington 50, Deuel 38
Avon 62, Freeman Academy/Marion 24
Belle Fourche 45, Spearfish 38
Bison 47, Crazy Horse 39
Bowman County, N.D. 49, Harding County 33
Castlewood 60, Lake Preston 8
Chamberlain 58, Wall 46
Clark/Willow Lake 55, Sisseton 38
Colman-Egan 48, Chester 39
Corsica/Stickney 53, Mitchell Christian 17
DeSmet 46, Howard 43
Estelline/Hendricks 53, Great Plains Lutheran 23
Ethan 63, Bridgewater-Emery 35
Flandreau 78, Garretson 50
Hamlin 75, Sioux Valley 43
Hanson 46, McCook Central/Montrose 35
Harrisburg 56, Sioux Falls Washington 38
Herreid/Selby Area 71, Leola/Frederick 24
Hill City 70, Philip 49
Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn. 64, Canton 44
Hitchcock-Tulare 66, Warner 47
Huron 48, Brookings 41
Jones County 44, Colome 36
Kimball/White Lake 54, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 46, OT
Lead-Deadwood 64, Douglas 44
Lemmon 73, Mott-Regent, N.D. 51
Little Wound 76, Bennett County 52
Lower Brule 68, Sunshine Bible Academy 23
Menno 53, Canistota 29
Miller 52, Redfield 28
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 54, Wessington Springs 33
New Underwood 48, Kadoka Area 41
Potter County 63, Stanley County 28
Scotland 51, Centerville 32
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 49, Brandon Valley 44
St. Thomas More 49, Custer 15
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 34, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 32
Vermillion 52, Madison 42
Wagner 60, Gregory 38

Waverly-South Shore 46, Milbank 34
West Central 78, Dakota Valley 47
White River 72, Todd County 44
Winner 66, Valentine, Neb. 29
West River Tournament=
First Round=
Edgemont 32, Oelrichs 31
Faith 55, Rapid City Christian 40
Moorcroft, Wyo. 54, Hot Springs 40
Newell 72, Upton, Wyo. 48

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

Lawmakers consider banning transgender operations for minors

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Lawmakers in South Dakota are considering whether to ban doctors from performing gender-transition operations and treatment on minors.

A bill introduced Tuesday in the Republican-dominated Legislature would make it a felony for medical providers to perform operations or administer hormone therapy to help minors change their gender. The proposed law would not apply to children born with ambiguous or conflicting genitalia.

Rep. Fred Deutsch, a Florence Republican, introduced the bill in the House on the first day of the legislative session with more than 40 co-sponsors. He called the proposed law a "pause button" for minors who want to get a transgender operation.

"The changes are overwhelming and life-changing. Children need to wait until they're mature to do it," Deutsch said.

The lawmaker called gender-transition operations and hormone therapy "dangerous" because of the psychological and physical toll it takes on minors. He said the bill would not interfere with children's ability to "socially transition," in which a person may take on the dress, name or behavior of their chosen gender.

The American Civil Liberties Union said the bill targets transgender youth who are already vulnerable.

"(Transgender) kids and families should be given the opportunity to thrive in South Dakota," Libby Skarin, policy director for the ACLU of South, said in a statement. "This legislation only stands to harm them and make their lives harder."

Democratic legislative leaders said they would oppose the bill.

Rep. Kelly Sullivan, a Sioux Falls Democrat, said the measure would interfere in the doctor-patient relationship, and that doctors, patients and families should make decisions for treatment.

Sullivan said she is not aware of medical centers that provide gender-transition treatments for minors in the state and called the bill a waste of time by Republicans.

Deutsch said he has found several instances of doctors administering gender-transition treatment in Sioux Falls.

Conservative lawmakers in several states including Texas, Georgia and Kentucky have introduced similar bills. Deutsch said he decided to introduce the bill after reading about the issue online. He also consulted with a group called Kelsey Coalition that opposes gender-transition operations for minors.

The Endocrine Society, which is the leading professional organization for doctors who specialize in hormones, does not recommend gender-transition medical treatment before puberty for children who do not identify with their biological gender. For youths experiencing puberty and older adolescents, the Endocrine Society recommends that a team composed of expert medical professionals and mental health professionals manages treatment.

In 2016, Deutsch sponsored a so-called "bathroom bill" that would have forced public school students to use the bathrooms and locker rooms of their birth gender. That bill was vetoed by former Gov. Dennis

Daugaard.

South Dakota reports 3 flu deaths, 1st of the season

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota has reported three flu deaths, the first deaths of the season, state health officials said Tuesday.

The South Dakota Department of Health says the deaths were reported in Deuel and Mellette counties, and those who died were all 50 years or older.

State epidemiologist Dr. Joshua Clayton says the deaths are a reminder that influenza “can be a very serious illness,” and that it’s not too late to get vaccinated for flu this season.

Flu activity is classified as widespread across South Dakota. So far, the state has reported 1,555 lab-confirmed cases of flu and 59 flu-related hospitalizations.

Judge: South Dakota to pay lawyer fees after fundraising ban

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota taxpayers will pay nearly \$115,000 in lawyer fees to plaintiffs who challenged an initiated measure that prohibited ballot question committees from accepting out-of-state money.

The measure, passed by voters in 2018, was pushed by legislators unhappy with what they saw as outside interference in putting political questions on the ballot. However, U.S. District Judge Charles Kornmann struck the measure down last Thursday as unconstitutional, the Argus Leader reported.

Kornmann said taxpayers should pay the attorney fees, the same taxpayers who violated the U.S. Constitution when they authorized the measure.

“Neither the state Legislature nor the majority of voters are allowed to pass laws that violate the Constitution without risking the possibility that those oppressed by the measure will expend attorney’s fees challenging it, and, upon success, be entitled to reimbursement,” Kornmann wrote.

Last year, Kornmann ruled that the measure violated the U.S. Constitution’s First Amendment right to free speech, which includes political speech. Non-residents and businesses faced potential civil or criminal sanctions for violating the measure, which would have gone into effect on July 1.

The measure was challenged in two separate lawsuits, the first filed by South Dakota Voice and Cory Heidelberger, a liberal activist from Aberdeen. Plaintiffs in the second lawsuit included the South Dakota Newspaper Association, Retailers Association, and Broadcasters Association.

The state of South Dakota argued that it should not be forced to pay attorney fees because voters passed the measure. Kornmann subsequently rejected that theory. He noted that then Attorney General Marty Jackley, whose office is in charge of educating voters on ballot issues, cautioned that the measure would likely generate a challenge on constitutional grounds. That warning appeared on the ballot.

The coalition of groups headed by the South Dakota Newspaper Association hired Jackley to challenge the law after he left office in 2019.

In a statement, Jackley said protecting free speech is a priority for the state Newspaper Association and the Broadcast Association.

“We are pleased with Judge Kornmann’s well-reasoned decisions and believe this now more than ever provides the South Dakota Legislature with the opportunity to improve the transparency and reporting of campaign finance in South Dakota,” he said.

Noem pushes for economic development in State of the State

By **STEPHEN GROVES** Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Kristi Noem used her second State of the State speech to lay out her vision for growing the state’s economy, touting the potential of a home-grown cybersecurity force and a continued focus on programs to broaden the state’s agriculture industry.

As lawmakers mull a tight budget this year, the Republican governor kicked off the legislative session

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by calling them to consider the "next generation." She said her solution to the state's perennial budget crunch is to grow the state economy.

The Republican-dominated Legislature broke into applause when she said she would not be raising taxes.

Noem acknowledged that the state is highly dependent on agriculture and that last year's flooding was especially tough on farmers. She said that President Donald Trump's recent progress on a trade deal with China was good news for the industry. The governor plans to be in Washington, D.C. tomorrow for Trump's signing of the deal.

House Majority Leader, Lee Qualm, R-Platte, is a farmer and said the last year was the toughest that he's ever seen with low commodity prices and record-level amounts of precipitation. He acknowledged that Trump's actions on trade negotiations have hurt his farm business this year, but felt it was the right move to get a better trade deal with China.

The governor reiterated that she does not think that industrial hemp in the state is a "good idea," but said she would not veto a hemp bill if it tightly regulates the crop. She said she hopes it passes early in the session.

Qualm is sponsoring the hemp bill and said he hopes it passes the House before the end of next week.

The governor also pointed to an opportunity for the state to develop a cybersecurity industry with a research network being developed at Dakota State University. She called on the state's universities to continue to develop the next generation in agriculture technology like developing new ways to turn crops and livestock into usable products.

The tourism industry has also grown for the past nine years, according to the governor. She said it was important that the state preserve pheasant habitats to continue to attract hunters to the state.

The state's economic growth has lagged behind the nation's this year and the Legislature is working on how to balance a tight budget.

Noem said she wants to find "extra flexibility" in the budget to fund pay raises for teachers, state employees, and medical providers. The governor did not recommend pay raises to match inflation in her December budget proposal, but said that since then, revenue has been slightly higher than estimates. The state would need to find about \$16 million for each percentage point that it raises pay.

In a press conference after her speech, the governor said she wanted the Legislature to prioritize the pay increases if revenues were high enough. She acknowledged that state law requires the funding increases but said she would let the Legislature decide on the issue.

Democrats said Noem's message on attracting businesses to the state is not new and would not be effective if the state doesn't prioritize funding for education and social services.

"Businesses aren't going to come here if we don't fund education properly," Senate Minority Leader Troy Heinert, D-Mission said. "These issues go hand-in-hand."

The governors also touted some of her accomplishments from the last year, including funding the expansion of broadband to rural areas and pushing initiatives for greater transparency in state government.

Legislators chuckled when Noem mentioned the controversial "Meth. We're On It." campaign. She acknowledged that some people did not like the tagline. Noem wants the Legislator to fund addiction treatment and law enforcement to address meth.

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

Aberdeen American News, Jan. 11

Some good news about industrial hemp

It's nice to kick off the legislative session with a bit of news that could be a boon to South Dakota's farmers.

How big? Only time will tell. Maybe boon isn't even the right word.

Heck, maybe the emphasis should be on the words "could be."

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But we're encouraged that Gov. Kristi Noem has eased her opposition to raising industrial hemp in South Dakota. In a note sent to state lawmakers this week, she said she would not veto a bill allowing hemp to be grown as long as it addresses a series of concerns, including that:

— Growing or possessing hemp amounts consent to inspection and search of the crop. The state can also seize and destroy unlawful hemp without liability.

— The sale or use of hemp and its derivatives for smoking is prohibited.

— Regulations concerning the licensing, reporting and inspection of hemp must be, at minimum, compliant with U.S. Department of Agriculture standards.

— There will be fees to cover an annual license and inspection, and a permit will be required for the transportation of hemp in South Dakota.

— Legislators come up with a way to pay for the hemp program. Noem's office estimates it would cost \$1.9 million to start it and another \$1.6 million to run it. That includes the hiring of seasonal inspectors and two Department of Health lab chemists.

So there are some caveats. But this is a move in the right direction.

State lawmakers will consider a bill that would allow people to grow hemp if they have a minimum plot size of five acres and keep the THC level of the plant below 0.3%. THC is the compound that produces a high in marijuana.

The Legislature approved a similar bill last year, potentially clearing the way for farmers to grow industrial hemp, but Noem vetoed it.

Now, she said, some of her concerns from last year have been addressed. She cited the creation of guidelines by the USDA and suggestions and ideas put forth by a legislative summer study.

It's hard to know how much of a financial benefit the growing of hemp might be for South Dakota farmers. But at least now they appear to be on their way to level footing with ag producers in 46 other states where it's already legal to grow industrial hemp.

Agriculture commodity prices have been in the tank for a few years now, hindering the industry that drives our entire state. Anything we can do that reasonably opens up new markets for our farmers and ranchers is helpful. The better they do, the better we all do. It doesn't matter whether you live in Aberdeen or Sioux Falls, Timber Lake or Britton.

Legalizing the production of industrial hemp is not likely to solve all of our farm and ranch financial problems. But the governor's announcement has the potential to offer some relief. And that's a good thing.

"Given all that we need to accomplish this session, if we can get this done in the coming weeks, it would be a good way to kick off this year's legislative session," Noem said in a statement.

We certainly agree.

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Jan. 13

A change on hemp: Facing reality?

In an apparent shifting of gears on the eve of the start of the 2020 legislative session, South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem surprisingly laid out a road map last week for industrial hemp to become a legal crop in the state.

After successfully thwarting what appeared to be an overwhelmingly popular effort (at least among legislators) to embrace industrial hemp last winter — which left South Dakota as just one of three states in the country that had yet to legalize hemp production — Noem seemed determined to put down more roadblocks for the crop for the upcoming session. She announced this past fall that she would oppose any hemp legislation that reached her desk, even as a legislative study group on hemp was in the process of formulating a proposal for lawmakers to consider this winter.

But last Thursday, the governor suddenly relented. She announced that, even though she still doesn't personally support the legalization of hemp production, she would not veto it as long as four so-called "guardrails" are met with the legislation. The provisions include 1) reliable law enforcement standards; 2) "responsible" regulations in terms of licensing, reporting and inspections; 3) a plan for safe transportation;

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and 4) an adequate funding plan, meaning the state would have to come up with a plan to fund production, with a cost estimated by the governor to be \$1.9 million for startup and another \$1.6 million for operation.

One is still compelled to qualify this as an "apparent" change in approach. You never know what other hurdles might be thrown into this process, especially after last winter when the hemp package appeared to have solid majorities backing it in both the House and Senate, and still failed.

Despite her personal opposition, it does appear the governor is acquiescing to the inevitable. As Noem herself admitted, "things have changed."

There is, for starters, the aforementioned fact that 47 of the 50 states have embraced production, including all of South Dakota's neighbors. In a state where agriculture is the No. 1 economic driver, that stark fact figured to eventually become a hindrance.

Also, South Dakota has been forced to accept the reality that industrial hemp produced in states that have legalized it can be transported across state lines.

And tribes are also going through the process of getting their hemp production requests approved. Recently, the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe had its federal request approved, and two other South Dakota tribes, including the Yankton Sioux Tribe, have their requests pending.

Meanwhile, South Dakota lawmakers have a new proposal ready to go on industrial hemp. According to House Majority Leader Lee Qualm, R-Platte, the new proposal meets most of the requirements spelled out by the governor.

The best guess at this moment may be that funding could be the most difficult issue in this process, especially given the state's tight budgeting, but we'll see what transpires.

Madison Daily Leader, Jan. 7

Capitol security is confronting a paradox

New security procedures at the state Capitol in Pierre will start on Jan. 13. The procedures attempt to make the Capitol building safe, but doing so confronts a paradox: The legislature passed last year -- and Gov. Kristi Noem signed -- a bill allowing people to bring firearms into the Capitol.

South Dakota Department of Public Safety secretary Craig Price stated that the new policies will improve public safety and preserve public access.

A new security-screening room near the Capitol's north entrance will screen visitors. A magnetometer will detect cell phones, keys and other larger metal items. Visitors with internal or external medical devices, such as a pacemaker, will be searched separately. Staff and regular visitors can obtain a pass that allows them to skip the screening process.

The announcement didn't say so, but we presume when a gun is detected by the scanner, then personnel would ask to see the concealed carry permit, which is required to bring a gun into the building.

The ongoing debate about guns and mass shootings in America is complicated. One side believes fewer guns will prevent violence, the other side believes more guns will prevent the bad guys from being the only ones with weapons.

We credit the Department of Public Safety for doing the best they can under the law, but banning pepper spray and knives while allowing guns is an odd paradox.

This year, lawmakers at South Dakota Capitol may be packing

By **STEPHEN GROVES** Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Members of South Dakota's Legislature this year may be carrying concealed weapons at the Statehouse for the first time.

The session that began Tuesday is the first since a law was passed last year to allow concealed-carry at the Statehouse for people who have an advanced permit and who notify the state highway patrol, which provides security at the Capitol.

Sen. Jim Stalzer, a Republican from Sioux Falls, sponsored the initiative last year and said he felt it gave

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lawmakers and state government employees a chance to defend themselves if someone attacks. Guns are allowed in other state government buildings, but had been prohibited at the Capitol because it also houses the Supreme Court — and guns aren't allowed at courthouses in the state. The courtroom has a separate security screening and will still be off limits to guns.

Some Democrats said they did not want any guns in the building unless they were being carried by security.

"I think it makes people more edgy than it does calm," said Rep. Steven McCleerey, a Democrat from Sisseton.

Several lawmakers approached by The Associated Press and asked whether they were carrying guns declined to say. They said doing so could make them targets in the event of a shooting.

Rep. Dayle Hammock, a Republican from Spearfish, estimated that six to 10 legislators would be carrying guns on the first day of the session.

Hammock is a former law enforcement officer and firearm instructor. He said many legislators were interested in taking a gun safety class that he is planning for later in the week. He wants to teach people how to carry safely.

"We do not want a gun hitting the floor whether it goes off or not," Hammock said.

To get an advanced concealed carry permit in South Dakota, people have to complete a course and register with their county sheriff.

Security at the Capitol has been increased this year to add metal detectors and X-ray machines. Department of Public Safety spokesman Tony Mangan said that change had nothing to do with the concealed-carry change.

Hay tainted by toxic beetles kills 14 horses in Wisconsin

MAUSTON, Wis. (AP) — Hay tainted by a toxic beetle is blamed for the deaths of 14 horses and illnesses to dozens of others on a Wisconsin ranch.

Steady rain and flooding this past summer left the hay in fields at Red Ridge Riding Stable in Mauston unusable. So, the owners, Cindy Kanarowski-Peterson and her husband, Lyle Peterson, purchased six semi loads of hay and alfalfa from farms in South Dakota and Wyoming to feed their horses.

A blister beetle that releases a toxin when crushed during harvest is blamed for the horses' deaths and for sickening another 100 horses on the ranch. Veterinarian Dave Kolb performed necropsies on some of the horses. Kolb said the toxin irritates the linings of the horses' stomachs and intestines.

University of Wisconsin-Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab director PJ Liesch said blister beetles comprise an entire family of beetles that can be found worldwide, including nearly 30 species in Wisconsin that aren't typically on hay and alfalfa during harvest.

"In the grand scheme of things, blister beetles are not uncommon in Wisconsin. However, they are rarely an issue in hay," Liesch said in an email to the Wisconsin State Journal. "In my nearly six years as director of the UW Insect Diagnostic Lab, the recent incident in the state is the only time I've encountered an issue with horses and blister beetles. Having multiple horses die is an unusual occurrence."

There were no other reports of horse deaths elsewhere related to the tainted hay.

Kanarowski-Peterson is now trying to increase awareness about blister beetles. And she's launched a Go Fund Me campaign to help cover the cost of buying new hay and paying for veterinarian bills. While insurance would cover the loss of harvested hay due to a fire or tornado, the ranch's insurance policy does not cover blister beetles.

Iran warns Europe as diplomat says officials 'lied' on crash

By NASSER KARMI, JON GAMBRELL and EMILY SCHMALL Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's president warned Wednesday that European soldiers in the Mideast "could be in danger" after three nations challenged Tehran over breaking the limits of its nuclear deal. Tehran's top diplomat meanwhile acknowledged that Iranians "were lied to" for days following the Islamic Republic's

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accidental shutdown of a Ukrainian jetliner that killed 176 people.

President Hassan Rouhani's remarks in a televised Cabinet meeting represent the first direct threat he's made to Europe as tensions remain high between Tehran and Washington over President Donald Trump withdrawing the U.S. from the deal in May 2018.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif's admission, which came at a summit in New Delhi on Wednesday, represents the first time an Iranian official referred to earlier claims from Tehran that a technical malfunction downed the Ukraine International Airlines flight as a lie. The shutdown — and subsequent days of denials that a missile had downed it — sparked days of angry protests in the country.

The current tensions between Iran and the U.S. reached fever-pitch two weeks ago with the American drone strike in Baghdad that killed the powerful Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani. The general had led Iranian proxy forces abroad, including those blame for deadly roadside bomb attacks on U.S. troops in Iraq.

Iran retaliated with a ballistic missile strike targeting Iraqi military bases housing U.S. forces early last Wednesday, just before an anti-aircraft battery shot down the Ukrainian airliner taking off from Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport.

Amid all of this, Britain, France and Germany launched the so-called "dispute mechanism" pertaining to Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. Speaking before his Cabinet, Rouhani showed a rarely seen level of anger in his wide-ranging remarks Wednesday.

"Today, the American soldier is in danger, tomorrow the European soldier could be in danger," Rouhani said. "We want you to leave this region but not with war. We want you to go wisely. It is to your own benefit."

Rouhani did not elaborate.

European forces have been deployed alongside Americans in Iraq and Afghanistan. France also maintains a naval base in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, while Britain has opened a base in the island nation of Bahrain.

Rouhani separately criticized Europe's "baseless" words regarding the nuclear deal. Iran had been holding out for Europe to offer a means by which Tehran could sell its oil abroad despite U.S. sanctions. However, a hoped-for trading mechanism for other goods hasn't taken hold and a French-pitched line of credit also hasn't materialized.

After Soleimani's killing, Iran announced it would no longer abide by any of the nuclear deal's limits, which had been designed to keep Tehran from having enough material to be able to build an atomic bomb if it chose. However, Iran has said it will continue to allow the United Nations' nuclear watchdog access to its nuclear sites. Rouhani on Wednesday also reiterated a longtime Iranian pledge that Tehran doesn't seek the bomb.

The European nations reluctantly triggered the accord's dispute mechanism on Tuesday to force Iran into discussions, starting the clock on a process that could result in the "snapback" of U.N. and EU sanctions on Iran.

The Europeans felt compelled to act, despite objections from Russia and China, because every violation of the deal reduces the so-called "breakout time" Iran needs to produce a nuclear bomb, Britain's Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab told parliament. Under the deal's limits, experts believed Iran needed a year to be able to have enough material for a weapon.

Zarif, speaking in New Delhi at the Raisina Dialogue, blamed U.S. "ignorance" and "arrogance" for "fueling mayhem" in the Middle East. However, he also acknowledged the anger Iranians felt over the plane shutdown.

"In the last few nights, we've had people in the streets of Tehran demonstrating against the fact that they were lied to for a couple of days," Zarif said.

Zarif went on to praise Iran's military for being "brave enough to claim responsibility early on."

However, he said that he and Rouhani only learned that a missile had downed the flight on Friday, raising new questions over how much power Iran's civilian government has in its Shiite theocracy. Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, which shot down the aircraft, knew immediately afterward its missile downed

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the airline.

The Guard is answerable only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who is expected to preside over Friday prayers in Iran for the first time in years over anger about the crash.

But there was a sense that the chance for immediate further retaliation by Iran against the U.S. may have lifted. Hossein Salami, the head of the Guard, said in a speech that Iran's "war project was closed since the people stood" against American pressure.

"Now, we are moving toward peace," Salami said.

That contradicted Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the head of the Guard's aerospace program, who blamed the U.S. in part for the shutdown and vowed further revenge.

"Certainly these consecutive blows will continue and we will avenge the blood of these martyrs on them," said Hajizadeh, who only days earlier apologized and said "I wish I were dead."

Later Wednesday, Iranian state media said the British ambassador to Iran, Robert Macaire, had left the country. Macaire left after being given what the state-run IRNA news agency described as "prior notice," without elaborating. Britain's Foreign Office insisted Macaire's trip to London was "routine, business as usual" and was planned before his arrest in Tehran. It said he planned return to Iran.

Macaire had been held after attending a candlelight vigil Saturday in Tehran over Iran shooting down the Ukrainian jetliner. The vigil quickly turned into an anti-government protests and Macaire left shortly after, only to be arrested by police.

In Ukraine, forensic analysts expect to start decoding next week the flight data recorders recovered from the downed plane. The recorders, known as black boxes, have yet to be transported to Ukraine.

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Schmall from New Delhi. Associated Press writer Jill Lawless in London and Yuras Karmanau in Kyiv, Ukraine, contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. **WHAT TO WATCH AS IMPEACHMENT HEADS TO SENATE** Speaker Nancy Pelosi will name the prosecutors, the House will vote and a procession will carry the articles of impeachment to the Senate for a trial expected to begin next week.

2. **DEMOCRATS RELEASE NEW DOCUMENTS** Among the files obtained from a close associate of Rudy Giuliani include a handwritten note that mentions asking Ukraine's president to investigate "the Biden case."

3. **DEEP UNCERTAINTIES SHADOW DEMOCRATIC DEBATE** Questions about electability, anxieties about gender and sexism, and three leading candidates are about to get yanked off the campaign trail for Trump's impeachment trial.

4. **IRAN'S PRESIDENT WARNS EUROPE** Hassan Rouhani is warning that European soldiers deployed in the Mideast "may be in danger" after Britain, France and Germany challenged Tehran over breaking limits of its 2015 nuclear deal.

5. **'I CAN FEEL IT IN MY LUNGS'** Australians accustomed to spectacular weather are now fearful of long-term health consequences if prolonged exposure to smoke from the country's wildfires becomes the new norm.

6. **DESPITE RISKS, VILLAGERS MAKE PHILIPPINE VOLCANO THEIR HOME** It's the second-most active volcano in the Philippines, yet to more than 5,000 people, the Taal volcano is home.

7. **HOW EUROPE'S ROYALS MIX WORK AND DUTIES** Some royals have struggled to keep all their business activities above board, while others have managed just fine to combine business activities with royal duties.

8. **FAA INVESTIGATING JET FUEL-DUMPING** A Delta plane with engine trouble dumped jet fuel over a densely populated area of Southern California while making an emergency return to the airport, dousing dozens of schoolchildren.

9. **'WHAT IS ARCADIA'** Ken Jennings is the winner of the "Jeopardy!" tournament to name the mythical

"Greatest of All Time" player in the game show's history.

10. BASEBALL COULD FIGHT TECH WITH TECH A growing sign-stealing scandal could take a page from college baseball, where coaches and catchers communicate through an earpiece.

Key takeaways from Democratic presidential debate in Iowa

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Some key takeaways from Tuesday's Democratic presidential debate in Des Moines, the final forum before the Iowa caucuses:

CIVILITY AND SUBSTANCE OVER FIGHTING AND FRICTION

After the United States' killing of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Democrats were bracing for fights over foreign policy. Instead, a whole lot of substance broke out.

There was a brief skirmish between Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who opposed the Iraq War, and former vice president Joe Biden, who apologized for supporting for it. But most of the opening 30-minute discussion — one-quarter of the time set for the debate — focused on the future.

Former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg and California businessman Tom Steyer tried to argue that their outside-the-Beltway resumes would be benefits in the Oval Office. "What we are hearing is 20 years of mistakes by the American government in the Middle East," Steyer said. "It's time for someone from the outside having a strategic view on what we're trying to do."

The two liberals, Sanders and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, argued the United States needed to pull its troops entirely from the Middle East and Afghanistan. "The American people are sick and tired of endless wars that have cost us trillions of dollars," Sanders said.

Warren said generals keep arguing the United States is "turning the corner" in its fights. "We've turned the corner so many times we're going in circles in these regions," she quipped.

The two voices backing traditional foreign policy were Biden and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who both argued for at least a small military presence remaining in the Middle East.

Buttigieg, a 37-year-old who served as a military intelligence officer in Afghanistan, cast foreign policy as part of his generational argument. "There are enlisted people I serve with barely old enough to remember some of those votes," he said after Biden and Sanders talked about their 17-year-old Iraq war votes.

ABOUT THE FIGHT THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN

The pre-debate chatter was about an expected fight between Sanders and Warren over Warren's assertion that Sanders told her in 2018 that a woman couldn't be elected president. Sanders denied it, Warren didn't press it. Their fight didn't happen, but it did spark a more spirited discussion about gender and power.

Sanders continued to deny he'd ever said it. "Does anyone in their right mind believe a woman can't be elected president?" he asked.

The answer is yes. It's a sentiment often heard among Democratic voters and operatives who are still traumatized by Hillary Clinton's 2016 loss. Warren did not repeat onstage that Sanders made the statement but said, "This question about whether or not a woman can be president needs to be addressed head-on."

Warren said she and Klobuchar, the two women on the stage, were the only ones who had won every election they had run. But there was obvious tension when Sanders tried to correct Warren's statement that she was the only person onstage who'd beaten an incumbent Republican in the past 30 years. He noted he'd ousted a Republican when he won his first congressional election in 1990.

"That was 30 years ago," Warren responded coolly.

After the debate, it appeared that Warren declined to shake Sanders' hand.

RARE OOPS FOR 'A' STUDENT

Klobuchar is an "A" student in the art of the local when she campaigns across Iowa. Dropping names of local political officials, cities, counties, vote totals and local heroes, Klobuchar is a disciplined candidate reminding voters in Iowa she understands them.

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Yet, in the middle of an explanation of all the women who won governorships in 2018, she got stuck trying to remember the name of Laura Kelly of Kansas.

"And her name. ... I'm very proud to know her, and her name is governor ... Kelly," Klobuchar said, swallowing the new governor's last name.

She later tried to bounce back with a tongue in cheek. During an exchange about health care, Klobuchar quipped, "The Affordable Care Act is 10 points more popular than the president of the United States."

GLOBAL TRADE HITS HOME IN IOWA

On trade, there was some clarity, at least as far as Sanders is concerned. He refused to support the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, despite his admission that it made modest improvements over the decades-old North American Free Trade Agreement. (Steyer said he wouldn't sign the deal because it didn't do enough to address climate change.)

All the Democrats agreed that President Donald Trump's trade war with China and North American allies has hurt American jobs and the rural economy — especially in Iowa, among the nation's leading export economies.

Sanders' back-and-forth with his colleagues revealed a rift between his economic isolationism and the rest of the field's half-a-loaf approach.

Sanders said the deal will result in the "continuation of the loss of hundreds of thousands of good paying jobs" and stops short of addressing environmental concerns vital to his campaign.

His ideological opposite, Biden, suggested there was nearly no trade pact Sanders would support.

Warren, despite opposing U.S. trade agreements with Asia and Europe, said "we have farmers here in Iowa who are hurting and they are hurting because of Donald Trump's initiated trade wars."

STEYER'S BET HAS PAID OFF

He is worth more than a billion dollars but appears to own only one questionable red knit tie. But Tom Steyer, the activist who ran an investment company, made it to the final debate stage before Iowa votes. And he made his presence felt.

He used his money to fund ads in early states that raised his profile enough to clear the debate's polling and donation thresholds. He has largely been a background presence in previous faceoffs, but Tuesday night he stood out by occupying an unusual niche — the anti-corporate billionaire.

"Corporations are having their way with the American people and the American people are suffering," Steyer said at one point, endorsing the single-payer health care plan outlined by Sanders, an avowed socialist.

Later, he said his children didn't deserve government-paid-for college, effectively siding with Buttigieg's more centrist approach on free college. But then he argued that he had been talking about a wealth tax before Warren, who's made it her keystone proposal. "The redistribution of wealth to the richest Americans from everybody else has to end," he said.

Asked by CNN's Wolf Blitzer if his funding of a pro-impeachment push since late 2017 was a smart move, given that Trump is likely to be acquitted in the upcoming Senate trial, Steyer said: "Standing up for what's right is always worth it, Wolf. And I will never back down from that."

Catch up on the 2020 election campaign with AP experts on our weekly politics podcast, "Ground Game."

Warren makes debate case: Democratic woman can beat Trump

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE, STEVE PEOPLES and DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Elizabeth Warren made a forceful case for a female president and stood behind her accusation suggesting sexism by progressive rival Bernie Sanders in a Democratic debate that raised gender as a key issue in the sprint to Iowa's presidential caucuses.

Sanders vehemently denied Warren's accusation, which threatened to split the Democratic Party's left

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flank -- as well as the senators' longtime liberal alliance -- at a critical moment less than three weeks before voting begins.

"Look at the men on this stage. Collectively they have lost 10 elections," Warren exclaimed on Tuesday night. "The only people on this stage who have won every single election that they've been in are the women."

An incredulous Sanders responded: "Does anybody in their right mind think a woman can't be elected president?" he asked. "Of course a woman can win."

There was a final moment of tension between Sanders and Warren after the debate ended. Having shaken the hands of her other competitors, Warren was shown in video declining to shake Sanders' extended hand.

With the Democratic field tightly bunched among four leading candidates, the debate offered an opportunity for separation. But none of the six candidates on stage had the kind of moment likely to reshape the race in the final weeks before voting starts. Instead, the debate was generally marked by a focus on weighty issues of foreign policy, climate change and how to provide health care for all Americans. Even when disputes emerged, most candidates quickly pivoted to note their larger differences with President Donald Trump.

For his part, Trump spent Tuesday night campaigning in Wisconsin, a state that is critical to his reelection effort. He tried to encourage the feud between Sanders and Warren from afar.

"She said that Bernie stated strongly that a woman can't win," Trump said. "I don't believe that Bernie said that, I really don't. It's not the kind of thing Bernie would say."

Despite such prodding, the debate stage drama was far from the explosion some Democrats feared. Candidates moved with ease through a variety of topics, disagreeing with each other but generally avoiding personal attacks.

Sanders did step up his attacks on former Vice President Joe Biden over his past support of the Iraq War and broad free-trade agreements. Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, who was mired in the middle of the pack, seized on Warren's shifting positions on health care. Billionaire Tom Steyer acknowledged making money from investments in the fossil fuel industry, but highlighted his decade-long fight to combat climate change, an issue that came up repeatedly throughout the night.

Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, sometimes struggled for attention in a debate that often featured points of conflict between his rivals. Perhaps his strongest moment came when he described how, as a military veteran who is vocal about his faith, he could stand up to Trump in a general election.

"I'm ready to take on Donald Trump because when he gets to the tough talk and the chest thumping, he'll have to stand next to an American war veteran and explain how he pretended bone spurs made him ineligible to serve," Buttigieg said. "And if a guy like Donald Trump keeps trying to use religion to somehow recruit Christianity into the GOP, I will be standing there not afraid to talk about a different way to answer the call of faith and insist that God does not belong to a political party."

Questions surrounding war and foreign policy dominated early on. Sanders drew a sharp contrast with Biden by noting his own opposition to a 2002 measure authorizing military action against Iraq.

Sanders called the Iraq invasion "the worst foreign policy blunder in the modern history of this country." "I did everything I could to prevent that war," Sanders said. "Joe saw it differently."

Biden acknowledged that his 2002 vote to authorize military action was "a mistake," but highlighted his role in the Obama administration helping to draw down the U.S. military presence in the region.

Several candidates condemned Trump's recent move to kill Iran's top general and his decision to keep U.S. troops in the region.

"We have to get combat troops out," declared Warren, who also called for reducing the military budget.

Others, including Buttigieg, Biden and Klobuchar, said they favored maintaining a small military presence in the Middle East.

"I bring a different perspective," said Buttigieg. "We can continue to remain engaged without having an endless commitment to ground troops."

The debate featured just six candidates, the fewest of any such forum this cycle after escalating party rules prevented other candidates from participating. For the first time, not a single candidate of color appeared on stage. Every candidate was white, and four were men.

That was a stark contrast from the earlier days of the 2020 contest, which featured the most diverse field of candidates in history. The party is trying to navigate broader debates over how to reflect and embrace the crucial role women and minority voters will play in 2020. To defeat Trump this fall, Democrats need to ensure black, Latino and suburban voters are excited to vote for them against the Republican president.

The debate marked one of the final moments the senators in the race will participate in a campaign-related event before returning to Washington to sit as jurors in Trump's impeachment trial. Those proceedings are likely to begin by the end of the week, making it difficult for senators running for president to spend time with voters Iowa in the contest's final days.

"Some things are more important than politics," Warren said. "I will be there because it is my responsibility."

Peoples and Superville reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Bill Barrow in Des Moines contributed to this report.

Catch up on the 2020 election campaign with AP experts on our weekly politics podcast, "Ground Game."

Business as usual? How Europe's royals mix work and duties

By MIKE CORDER Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — As the British royal family wrestles with the future roles of Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, it could look to Europe for examples of how princes and princesses have tried, with varying degrees of success, to carve out careers away from the pomp and ceremony of their families' traditional duties.

While many members of European royal families pursue careers, some of their experiences offer up a lesson for Harry and Meghan as they seek to disengage from the House of Windsor and move into the private sector: Don't try to cash in on your royal connections.

THE NETHERLANDS

Dutch King Willem-Alexander has a full-time job as his country's monarch, but he still finds time to fly KLM passenger jets to rack up enough hours in the cockpit to keep his pilot's license.

Willem-Alexander's wife Maxima, an Argentine by birth, has plenty of royal duties but also acts as the U.N. Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development, promoting microcredit and other initiatives around the world.

But even the rock-steady Dutch royal family has hit turbulence in the past over business dealings. Willem-Alexander's late grandfather, Prince Bernhard, resigned from official functions over his alleged role in a bribery scandal involving plane maker Lockheed. Former Lockheed vice chairman A. Carl Kotchian told a U.S. Senate hearing in 1976 that Bernhard had been given money in the early 1960s to promote the company's sales in the Netherlands.

A Dutch government panel concluded that the prince had solicited payments of between \$4 million and \$6 million, but found no conclusive evidence that he had actually received money, apart from \$100,000 that Bernhard acknowledged and said he distributed as "Christmas presents."

BELGIUM

Prince Laurent, the brother of Belgium's King Philippe, has long struggled with his royal role and obligations that come with his annual taxpayer-funded endowment.

In an emotional 2018 letter, Laurent wrote that since his youth "my existence was at the service of my brother, my family and the state. I could not work as I pleased or develop projects which could have given

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me some independence.”

The letter didn't prevent the Belgian House of Representatives docking his annual endowment of around 300,000 euros by 46,000 euros after he showed up at a Chinese diplomatic function in military uniform without the consent of the government.

NORWAY

Princess Martha Louise, the oldest of King Harald's children and fourth in line to the throne, gave up the "royal highness" part of her title in 2002 when she married Norwegian writer Ari Behn.

Martha renounced the title saying she wanted the freedom to pursue private interests, including running a cultural and arts business and appearing on television and in the theater.

After her divorce from her husband of 14 years, she and her new American boyfriend, Durek Verrett, organized seminars called "The Princess and the Shaman."

However, after hefty criticism, she apologized and said she would drop her royal title in future work endeavors.

SWEDEN

When Christopher O'Neill, a British-American, married Sweden's Princess Madeleine in 2013, he declined a royal title so he could continue to work as a financier.

Madeleine — the youngest of King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia's three children and fourth in line to the throne — performs royal duties and works with non-profit foundations.

He appears alongside the royal family at major occasions. The couple and their three children, who all have royal titles and are in direct line to the throne, have since moved to Florida.

SPAIN

Members of Spain's royal family hold down many honorary jobs, but only Princess Cristina and her now-imprisoned husband were known to be active in the private sector.

Cristina has worked for Spain's Caixa bank foundation and the Aga Khan trust. But husband Iñaki Urdangarín, King Felipe VI's brother-in-law, was convicted and sentenced in 2016 for using a non-profit institution he co-ran to embezzle about 6 million euros in public funds.

A court found that Urdangarín and his business partner exploited the duke's privileged status to obtain public contracts related to sports events. In the midst of it all, Cristina and Urdangarín were removed as official royal family members. Cristina was acquitted of any criminal responsibility but her summons was a first for the then King Juan Carlos' immediate family.

The probes seriously damaged the image of the king — once one of Spain's most respected figures — and eroded Spaniards' admiration for their royal family, especially as the investigations coincided with a severe economic crisis that widened the gap between rich and poor.

UNITED KINGDOM

Closer to home for Harry and Meghan, British royals have in the past tried to pursue professional careers with varying degrees of success. Prince Edward, the youngest son of Queen Elizabeth II, launched in 1993 a TV production firm called Ardent that failed in 2011 after years of mediocre performance. Many of its films dealt with the royal family and its history.

His wife, Sophie, tried to keep her established public relations firm going after she married Edward in 1999, but she was embarrassed two years later by an undercover reporter pretending to be a wealthy sheikh interested in doing business with her firm. In response, she hinted that the prospective client would get greater publicity because of her royal status.

Edward and Sophie have both concentrated on full-time royal duties in recent years rather than pursue private business interests.

Associated Press writers Jan M. Olsen in Copenhagen, Raf Casert in Brussels, Ciaran Giles in Madrid and Gregory Katz in London contributed.

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AP FACT CHECK: Trump distorts data, Dems cut some corners

By CALVIN WOODWARD, JOSH BOAK and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rallying in swing-state Wisconsin, President Donald Trump used misleading economic data to claim he's created a "blue collar boom" while Democrats vying to replace him cut some corners on the facts in their latest presidential debate.

Here's a look at some statements from both stages, in Milwaukee and Des Moines, Iowa:

TRUMP: "More than 300,000 people under Obama, 300,000 people, left the workforce. Under just three years of my administration, 3.5 million people have joined the workforce."

THE FACTS: Trump is wrong about Barack Obama's record.

More than 5 million people joined the U.S. labor force during Obama's presidency, according to Labor Department figures. These gains reflect the recovery from the Great Recession as well as population growth. But Trump does have reason to celebrate as well. More than 4.8 million people have joined the labor force in just three years of his presidency.

TRUMP: "Mexico's paying for the wall. ... You know that. It's all worked out."

THE FACTS: Mexico isn't paying for Trump's long-promised border wall.

Trump has argued that the updated trade agreement with Canada and Mexico will pay for the wall because of economic benefits he predicts will come from the deal. Nothing in the trade agreement would cover or refund the construction cost or require a payment from Mexico.

Instead, he is assuming a wide variety of economic benefits that can't be quantified or counted on. For example, he has said the deal will dissuade some U.S. companies from moving operations to Mexico and he credits that possibility as a payment by Mexico.

The agreement preserves the existing liberalized environment of low or no tariffs among the U.S., Mexico and Canada, with certain improvements for each country.

Although his 2016 campaign left open the possibility that Mexico might somehow contribute to the cost indirectly, Trump repeatedly roused his crowds with the straight-ahead promise: "I will have Mexico pay for that wall."

JOE BIDEN: "I was a single parent too. When my wife and daughter were killed, my two boys I had to raise. I was a senator — a young senator — I just hadn't been sworn in yet. I was making \$42,000 a year. I commuted every single solitary day to Wilmington, Delaware — over 500 miles a day, excuse me, 250 miles a day — because I could not afford ... child care. It was beyond my reach."

THE FACTS: Child care costs are burdensome for most working U.S. parents, but the former vice president wasn't quite as broke as claimed when suggesting he took the train back to Delaware because child care costs were too high.

A \$42,000 salary might not sound like much today. In fact, Senate records show it was actually \$42,500. But Biden joined the Senate after winning his seat in 1972. Adjusted for inflation, he was earning more than \$256,000 in today's dollars. That is more than four times the median household income.

BERNIE SANDERS: "Medicare for all ... will cost substantially less than the status quo."

THE FACTS: There's no guarantee that "Medicare for All" will cost less.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said in a report last year that total spending under a single-payer system like Sanders is calling for "might be higher or lower than under the current system depending on the key features of the new system."

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Those features have to do with the design of the system, questions like payment rates for hospitals and doctors, and whether patients are required to pay part of the cost of their care. The Vermont senator says his plan would require no cost-sharing from patients, no copays and no deductibles. But completely free care could trigger a surge in demand for medical services, raising costs. Other countries that provide coverage for all do use cost-sharing to help keep spending in check.

A research report last year by the nonprofit Rand think tank estimated that Medicare for All would modestly raise total U.S. health spending.

The study modeled a hypothetical scenario with a plan similar to Sanders' legislation. It found that total U.S. health care spending would be about \$3.9 trillion under Medicare for All in 2019, compared with about \$3.8 trillion under the status quo.

BIDEN: "I was asked to bring 156,000 troops home from that war, which I did. I led that effort."

THE FACTS: Biden is roughly right about bringing troops home, but he didn't mention that the U.S. had to send some back.

President Barack Obama did designate Biden to take the lead in pulling U.S. forces out of Iraq and coordinating efforts to maintain stability in Baghdad. His results were mixed. Biden and Obama failed to win agreement from the Iraqi government to keep a limited number of U.S. troops there after December 2011. That was the deadline for a complete U.S. pullout under a deal negotiated by the Bush administration in late 2008. Biden was still vice president when Obama was compelled to return American troops to Iraq in 2014 after the rise of the Islamic State extremist group.

TRUMP: "Under the Trump economy, the lowest-paid earners are reaping the biggest, fastest and largest gains. ... Earnings for the bottom 10% are rising faster than earnings for the top 10%, proportionally."

THE FACTS: Trump's claim that the biggest pay hikes are going to the poor is misleading. The top 10% of earners saw the biggest raises of any income bracket over the past year. Their usual weekly earnings jumped 8% — or \$168 — from a year ago, according to the Labor Department.

The bottom 10% did fare reasonably well, likely reflecting some of the gains from minimum wage hikes. Their usual weekly incomes grew 7%, or \$30. When the Labor Department looked at the gains by quartile, weekly earnings grew at faster rates at the top levels than the bottom 25%.

TRUMP: "We've created 7 million jobs since the election including more than 1 million manufacturing and construction jobs. Nobody thought that was possible."

THE FACTS: Those numbers are less impressive than Trump claims.

Government figures do back the president's statements. But the job gains under Trump over the past three years were lower than during the final three years of Barack Obama's presidency. More than 8 million jobs were added during that period under Obama, including 1.2 million combined in manufacturing and construction. What these figures suggest is that much of the job growth under Trump reflects the momentum from a recovery that officially began in the middle of 2009.

TRUMP: "Our military has been totally rebuilt."

THE FACTS: It hasn't.

It's true that his administration has accelerated a sharp buildup in defense spending, including a respite from what the U.S. military considered to be crippling spending limits under budget sequestration.

But a number of new Pentagon weapons programs, such as the F-35 fighter jet, were started years before the Trump administration. And it will take years for freshly ordered tanks, planes and other weapons to be built, delivered and put to use.

The Air Force's Minuteman 3 missiles, a key part of the U.S. nuclear force, for instance, have been operating since the early 1970s and the modernization was begun under the Obama administration. They are due to be replaced with a new version, but not until later this decade.

ELIZABETH WARREN: "The only person on this stage who has beaten an incumbent Republican any time in the past 30 years is me."

SANDERS: "Just to set the record straight, I defeated a Republican incumbent running for Congress."

WARREN: "I said, I was the only one who's beaten an incumbent Republican in 30 years."

THE FACTS: Sanders wins this argument — one of the stranger disputes of the night — by a matter of months. In November 1990, Sanders beat Republican incumbent Peter Smith to take Vermont's only House seat. That was 29 years and two months ago. Sanders' win, technically, slips in the 30-year window.

Associated Press writers Robert Burns, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Deb Riechmann, Jill Colvin, Colleen Long, Kevin Freking, Amanda Seitz and Hope Yen contributed to this report.

EDITOR'S NOTE — A look at the veracity of claims by political figures.

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Red Sox manager Alex Cora fired in sign-stealing scandal

By JIMMY GOLEN AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Alex Cora has already been identified as a ringleader in an illegal system of sign stealing when he was with the Houston Astros.

The Red Sox didn't wait to see what punishment Major League Baseball might give him for possibly bringing a similar scheme with him to Boston.

Cora was fired by the team he led to the 2018 World Series title on Tuesday night, one day after baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said he was "an active participant" in the Astros' cheating when he was a bench coach in Houston.

Manfred mentioned Cora by name 11 times in a nine-page report, saying he "originated and executed" the scheme in which Houston used a center field camera to decode catchers' signals to pitchers, then banged on a trash can to relay the signs to batters so they would know what type of pitch was coming.

The Astros fired manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow, making that announcement an hour after Manfred suspended them for the 2020 season for their roles in the cheating scheme. Cora met Tuesday with Boston management and they issued a release saying they had "mutually agreed to part ways."

"Given the findings and the commissioner's ruling, we collectively decided that it would not be possible for Alex to effectively lead the club going forward," the team said in a statement attributed to owner John Henry, chairman Tom Werner, CEO Sam Kennedy and Cora.

The team called a news conference for Wednesday afternoon to address the scandal, which leaves it without a manager less than a month before pitchers and catchers are due to report to spring training.

Bench coach Ron Roenicke, who spent five years managing the Milwaukee Brewers, is the most experienced member of the current coaching staff; former Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek has also been mentioned as a possible replacement.

In suspending Luhnow and Hinch, Manfred said he was withholding Cora's punishment until completing a separate investigation of accusations the Red Sox stole signs in 2018. That investigation will continue; Cora and the Red Sox could both face additional penalties.

"We agreed today that parting ways was the best thing for the organization," Cora said in a statement released by the team. "I do not want to be a distraction to the Red Sox as they move forward."

New Mets manager and former Astros player Carlos Beltrán also was implicated by Manfred in his report Monday — the only player mentioned. Manfred decided that no players would be disciplined for breaking rules prohibiting the use of electronics to steal catchers' signs in 2017 after levying penalties against Boston and the New York Yankees.

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The Mets declined comment on Beltrán's status.

The Los Angeles Dodgers lost the 2017 World Series to the Astros and again in 2018 to the Red Sox.

"All clubs have been asked by Major League Baseball not to comment on today's punishment of the Houston Astros as it's inappropriate to comment on discipline imposed on another club," Los Angeles said in a statement Monday night. "The Dodgers have also been asked not to comment on any wrongdoing during the 2017 World Series and will have no further comment at this time."

A member of Boston's 2007 championship club, Cora was hired in November 2017 to take over a Red Sox team that won back-to-back AL East titles in 2016-17 but failed to advance in the postseason under John Farrell.

Cora guided the team to a franchise-record 108 regular-season victories in 2018 and its fourth World Series title in 15 years. The Red Sox beat a pair of 100-win teams in the Yankees and Astros in the AL playoffs, then defeated the Dodgers in a five-game World Series to make Cora the first Puerto Rican manager to win a championship and the fifth manager to guide a team to a title in his first season.

He was rewarded by president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski with a new contract adding an extra guaranteed season in 2021, a deal that included a club option for 2022.

Dombrowski was fired in September after the Red Sox stumbled toward an 84-78 record and missed the playoffs for the first time since 2015. He was replaced this offseason by former Tampa Bay Rays executive Chaim Bloom, who will lead the search for a new manager.

"This is a sad day for us," Henry, Werner and Kennedy said in a statement. "Alex is a special person and a beloved member of the Red Sox. We are grateful for his impact on our franchise. We will miss his passion, his energy and his significant contributions to the communities of New England and Puerto Rico."

The scandal -- but not the severity of the punishment -- is reminiscent of the New England Patriots' sign-stealing scheme in 2007, in which the team videotaped opposing coaches to decipher their signals. The NFL fined the Patriots \$250,000 and docked them a first-round draft pick, and also fined coach Bill Belichick \$500,000.

Texas Rangers All-Star pitcher Mike Minor eagerly took a jab on Twitter at Cora, who insinuated Minor wasn't "playing the game the right way" when the left-hander encouraged a teammate to drop a popup against Boston during his final start of 2019 so Minor could pursue his 200th strikeout of the season.

"But but he plays the game the right way..." Minor wrote.

Cora's departure means 10 of the 30 major league teams will start the 2020 season with a new manager. Boston's new manager will be its fifth in 10 seasons.

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/MLB> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Pelosi sets Wednesday votes to send impeachment to Senate

By LISA MASCARO, ALAN FRAM, MARY CLARE JALONICK and LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. House is set to vote Wednesday to send the articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump to the Senate for a landmark trial on whether the charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress are grounds for removal.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced the next steps after meeting privately with House Democrats at the Capitol, ending her blockade Tuesday a month after they voted to impeach Trump.

It will be only the third presidential impeachment trial in American history, a serious moment coming amid the backdrop of a politically divided nation and an election year.

"The President and the Senators will be held accountable," Pelosi said in a statement. "The American people deserve the truth, and the Constitution demands a trial."

The Senate is expected to transform into an impeachment court as early as Thursday. The Constitution calls for the chief justice to preside over senators, who serve as jurors, to swear an oath to deliver "impartial justice." The House managers will walk the articles across the Capitol in a dramatic procession

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Wednesday evening after the midday vote.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday the chief justice would open the trial this week, but that the significant proceedings would launch next Tuesday, after the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Trump was impeached by the Democratic-led House last month on charges of abuse of power over pushing Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden as the president withheld aid from the country, and obstructing Congress' ensuing probe.

McConnell met behind closed doors Tuesday with GOP senators who are under pressure from Democrats to call new witnesses and testimony. He urged them to hold together on the next steps, according to a person unauthorized to discuss the private session and granted anonymity.

Late Tuesday, House investigators announced they were turning over a "trove" of new records of phone calls, text messages and other information from Lev Parnas, an associate of Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani. Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff said the information shows Trump's effort "to coerce Ukraine into helping the President's reelection campaign." He said this and other new testimony must be included in the Senate trial.

McConnell, who is negotiating rules for the trial proceedings, he said all 53 GOP senators are on board with his plan to start the session and consider the issue of witnesses later.

Senate Republicans also signaled they would reject the idea of simply voting to dismiss the articles of impeachment against Trump, as the president has suggested. McConnell agreed he does not have the votes to do that.

"There is little or no sentiment in the Republican conference for a motion to dismiss," McConnell said. "Our members feel we have an obligation to listen to the arguments."

In fact, a mounting number of senators say they want to ensure the ground rules include the possibility of calling new witnesses.

Sen. Susan Collins of Maine is leading an effort among some Republicans, including Mitt Romney of Utah and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska for witness votes.

"My position is that there should be a vote on whether or not witnesses should be called," Collins said.

Romney said he wants to hear from John Bolton, the former national security adviser at the White House, who others have said raised alarms about the alternative foreign policy toward Ukraine being run by Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani.

Democrats have been pushing Republicans, who have a slim Senate majority, to consider new testimony, arguing that fresh information has emerged during Pelosi's monthlong delay in transmitting the charges.

"We want the truth," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said Tuesday as the chamber opened. He said that in other presidential impeachment trials the Senate called witnesses. "Do Senate Republicans want to break the lengthy historical precedent?"

Republicans control the chamber, 53-47, and are all but certain to acquit Trump. It takes just 51 votes during the impeachment trial to approve rules or call witnesses. Just four GOP senators could form a majority with Democrats to insist on new testimony. It also would take only 51 senators to vote to dismiss the charges against Trump.

At the private GOP lunch, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky warned that if witnesses are allowed, defense witnesses could also be called. He and other Republicans want to subpoena Biden and his son, Hunter, who served on the board of a gas company in Ukraine, Burisma, while his father was vice president.

"I look forward to forcing votes to call Hunter Biden and many more," tweeted Paul, an ally of the president, late Monday.

McConnell is drafting an organizing resolution that will outline the steps ahead. Approving it will be among their first votes of the trial, likely next Tuesday.

He prefers to model Trump's trial partly on the process used for then-President Bill Clinton's trial in 1999. It, too, contained motions for dismissal or calling new witnesses.

"Fifty-one senators will decide who to call," McConnell said.

McConnell is hesitant to call new witnesses who would prolong the trial and put vulnerable senators

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who are up for reelection in 2020 in a bind with tough choices. At the same time, he wants to give those same senators ample room to show voters they are listening to demands for a fair trial.

Most Republicans now appear willing to go along with McConnell's plan to start the trial first then consider witnesses later, rather than upfront, as Democrats want.

Even if senators are able to vote to call new witnesses, it is not at all clear there would be majorities to subpoena Bolton or the others.

"I've been working to make sure that we will have a process that we can take a vote on whether or not we need additional information, and yes, that would include witnesses," Murkowski told reporters.

McConnell opened the Senate on Tuesday scoffing at what he called the "bizarro world" of Pelosi's impeachment strategy that delayed transmitting the charges for weeks.

"Do these sound like leaders who really believe we are in a constitutional crisis, one that requires the most severe remedy?" McConnell asked. He rejected Pelosi's recent suggestions that whatever the Senate verdict, Trump will be "impeached forever."

"It will fall to the Senate to end it with seriousness and sobriety," he said.

Pelosi has yet to announce House managers to prosecute the case in the Senate.

Schiff is expected to lead the team. He gave the caucus a presentation on Tuesday about the transmittal of the articles and the Senate trial, according to two people who were in the room.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler is also widely expected to be an impeachment manager.

The Senate chaplain opened the day's session with an apparent nod to what's ahead.

"Teach our lawmakers to disagree with respect, civility and humility," Chaplain Barry Black, a retired rear admiral of the Navy, said in prayer. Help them to remember, he prayed, that "patriots reside on both sides of the aisle."

Associated Press writers Matthew Daly, Andrew Taylor and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

EU pressures Iran on atom deal in last-ditch bid to save it

By LORNE COOK and DAVID RISING undefined

BRUSSELS (AP) — Britain, France and Germany on Tuesday ratcheted up pressure on Iran to stop violating its landmark nuclear deal in a last-ditch effort to resolve their differences through talks while also starting a process that could bring back punishing U.N. sanctions on Tehran.

The three European Union countries are being pressed on one side by U.S. President Donald Trump to abandon the agreement like he did unilaterally in 2018, and on the other side from Iran to provide enough economic incentives for them to roll back their violations.

Now, the Europeans have reluctantly triggered the accord's dispute mechanism to force Iran into discussions, starting the clock on a process that could result in the "snapback" of U.N. and EU sanctions on Iran.

The three nations specifically avoided threatening the sanctions while emphasizing hopes for a negotiated resolution. They held off their announcement until tensions between the U.S. and Iran had calmed down after the Jan. 3 killing of an Iranian general in an American drone strike so their intent would not be misinterpreted.

"Our goal is clear: We want to preserve the accord and come to a diplomatic solution within the agreement," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said in a statement. "We will tackle this together with all partners in the agreement. We call on Iran to participate constructively in the negotiation process that is now beginning."

Iran's Foreign Ministry warned of a "serious and strong response" to the European move. But at the same time, ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi held out an olive branch, saying his country was "fully ready to answer any good will and constructive effort" that preserves the nuclear deal, Iran's official IRNA news agency reported.

The U.S. State Department said it fully supports the decision to initiate the dispute resolution mechanism.

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"We believe further diplomatic and economic pressure is warranted by nations," it said in a statement.

"The civilized world must send a clear and unified message to the Iranian regime: Your campaign of terror, murder, mayhem will not be tolerated any longer," Trump said, according to the statement.

The accord, which Iran signed with the U.S., Britain, Germany, France, China and Russia in 2015, has been unraveling since Trump pulled Washington out in 2018 and reinstated sanctions designed to cripple the Islamic Republic under what the U.S. called a "maximum pressure" campaign.

The Europeans felt compelled to act, despite objections from Russia and China, because every violation of the deal reduces the so-called "breakout time" Iran needs to produce a nuclear bomb, Britain's Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab told Parliament.

"Each of these actions were individually serious," Raab said. "Together, they now raise acute concerns about Iran's nuclear ambitions." Iran insists it is not seeking an atomic weapon.

At the time of the signing of the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA, Iran's "breakout" time was estimated to be as little as two months. With the safeguards in place, limiting Iran's stockpiles of enriched uranium and heavy water, the number and types of centrifuges it can use to enrich uranium, and the purity that is allowed, that estimate grew to more than a year.

Trump said the deal should be renegotiated because it didn't address Iran's ballistic missile program or its involvement in regional conflicts, and reimposed U.S. sanctions that have left Iran's economy reeling. To pressure the remaining signatories to provide enough economic incentives to offset the U.S. sanctions, Iran last year began violating its limitations in stages.

Throughout, it has announced the violations publicly and continued to allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency in to its facilities.

Following the U.S. drone strike that killed Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Iran announced what it said was its fifth and final step in violating the deal, saying it would no longer abide by any limitation to its enrichment activities.

That left the Europeans "with no choice" but to invoke the dispute mechanism, Raab told Parliament.

"We do so with a view to bringing Iran back into full compliance," he said, adding that they hope the move will "reinforce the diplomatic track, not to abandon it."

In their letter to the EU's foreign policy chief announcing their move, the three countries distanced themselves from the new U.S. sanctions.

"Our three countries are not joining a campaign to implement maximum pressure against Iran," they said. "Our hope is to bring Iran back into full compliance with its commitments."

At the same time, they rejected Tehran's argument that it was justified in violating the deal because Washington broke the agreement first when it pulled out.

Invoking the dispute mechanism starts a 30-day period in which to resolve the problem, which can be extended and probably will be. If the problem persists, the matter could be brought before the U.N. Security Council and might result in the "snapback" of sanctions that had been lifted under the deal.

After receiving the letter, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, who coordinates the agreement on behalf of the world powers, stressed that the pressure on Iran from Europe does not mean international sanctions will automatically be imposed.

Despite Iran's recent violations, all remaining parties to the JCPOA have said it is worth preserving, saying it is the best way to curb Iran's nuclear program. Diplomats note that even with its violations, Iran is still enriching uranium to a lower purity than it did before the deal, and IAEA inspectors continue to have access to its facilities.

"We see no reason for such a step," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement about the EU countries' decision. It called the move an "ill-considered decision" that could lead to a new escalation and make a return to the original framework "unachievable."

With the growing skepticism that the deal will be able to be saved without U.S. involvement, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson suggested the possibility the agreement could be reworked somehow to address some of Trump's concerns.

"Let's work together to replace the JCPOA with the Trump deal," he told the BBC.

Borrell refused to comment on that but again emphasized that the remaining signatories feel it is the best solution to limiting Iran's nuclear ambitions.

"We have to preserve the nuclear deal and work to go back to full and effective implementation," Borrell said in Strasbourg, France. He described the pact as a "significant achievement" and underlined that "there is no alternative to this agreement."

Raab told Britain's Parliament that "the government in Iran has a choice."

"The regime can take the steps to de-escalate tensions and adhere to the basic rules of international law. Or sink deeper and deeper into political and economic isolation," he said. "We urge Iran to work with us to save the deal."

Rising reported from Beirut. Danica Kirka in London, Frank Jordans and Geir Moulson in Berlin and Daria Litvinova and Jim Heintz in Moscow contributed.

NSA finds major security flaw in Windows 10, free fix issued

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

The National Security Agency has discovered a major security flaw in Microsoft's Windows 10 operating system that could let hackers intercept seemingly secure communications.

But rather than exploit the flaw for its own intelligence needs, the NSA tipped off Microsoft so that it can fix the system for everyone.

Microsoft released a free software patch to fix the flaw Tuesday and credited the intelligence agency for discovering it. The company said it has not seen any evidence that hackers have used the technique.

Amit Yoran, CEO of security firm Tenable, said it is "exceptionally rare if not unprecedented" for the U.S. government to share its discovery of such a critical vulnerability with a company.

Yoran, who was a founding director of the Department of Homeland Security's computer emergency readiness team, urged all organizations to prioritize patching their systems quickly.

An advisory sent by the NSA on Tuesday said "the consequences of not patching the vulnerability are severe and widespread."

Microsoft said an attacker could exploit the vulnerability by spoofing a code-signing certificate so it looked like a file came from a trusted source.

"The user would have no way of knowing the file was malicious, because the digital signature would appear to be from a trusted provider," the company said.

If successfully exploited, attackers would have been able to conduct "man-in-the-middle attacks" and decrypt confidential information they intercept on user connections, the company said.

"The biggest risk is to secure communications," said Adam Meyers, vice president of intelligence for security firm CrowdStrike.

Some computers will get the fix automatically, if they have the automatic update option turned on. Others can get it manually by going to Windows Update in the computer's settings.

Microsoft typically releases security and other updates once a month and waited until Tuesday to disclose the flaw and the NSA's involvement. Microsoft and the NSA both declined to say when the agency privately notified the company.

The agency shared the vulnerability with Microsoft "quickly and responsibly," Neal Ziring, technical director of the NSA's cybersecurity directorate, said in a blog post Tuesday.

Priscilla Moriuchi, who retired from the NSA in 2017 after running its East Asia and Pacific operations, said this is a good example of the "constructive role" that the NSA can play in improving global information security. Moriuchi, now an analyst at the U.S. cybersecurity firm Recorded Future, said it's likely a reflection of changes made in 2017 to how the U.S. determines whether to disclose a major vulnerability or exploit it for intelligence purposes.

The revamping of what's known as the "Vulnerability Equities Process" put more emphasis on disclosing vulnerabilities whenever possible to protect core internet systems and the U.S. economy and general public.

Those changes happened after a mysterious group calling itself the "Shadow Brokers" released a trove of high-level hacking tools stolen from the NSA, forcing companies including Microsoft to repair their systems. The U.S. believes that North Korea and Russia were able to capitalize on those stolen hacking tools to unleash devastating global cyberattacks.

Two popes -- one retired, one reigning -- cause a furor

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Ever since Benedict XVI announced he would become the first pope in 600 years to resign, Catholic theologians, canon lawyers and others warned of the potential confusion in having two popes living side by side in the Vatican, one reigning, the other retired but calling himself "emeritus pope" and still wearing the white cassock of the papacy.

Their worst fears came true this week.

In a saga befitting the Oscar-nominated movie "The Two Popes," Benedict co-wrote a book reaffirming the "necessity" of a celibate priesthood. There was nothing novel with his position, but the book is coming out at the same time Pope Francis is weighing whether to ordain married men in the Amazon because of a priest shortage there.

The implications of Benedict's intervention were grave, since the issue of priestly celibacy is perhaps the most consequential and controversial decision on the current pope's agenda. It raised the specter of a parallel magisterium, or official church teaching, at a time when the church is already polarized between conservatives longing for the orthodox purity of Benedict's reign and progressives cheering Francis' liberalizing reforms.

"It's one thing to publish, as a private citizen, a book about Jesus as Benedict did before he resigned," the Rev. Jean-Francois Chiron, a theologian at the University of Lyon, wrote in the French Catholic daily *La Croix*. "It's another thing to take sides in important, current questions facing the universal church."

On Tuesday, Benedict distanced himself from the publication and asked to be removed as the co-author of the book, "From the Depths of Our Hearts," which is coming out in French on Wednesday and in English next month.

Benedict's longtime secretary, Archbishop Georg Gaenswein, said that there had been a "misunderstanding" with his co-author, Cardinal Robert Sarah of Guinea, and that while Benedict contributed an essay to the book, he never intended to be listed as the co-author.

That should have closed the matter, albeit imperfectly. However, the book's English-language publisher, Ignatius Press, refused to back down, saying the book would carry Benedict's name as co-author.

In a statement, the San Francisco-based Ignatius said it had worked from the text provided by French publisher Fayard, which listed two authors contributing a chapter apiece and a jointly written introduction and conclusion.

"Ignatius Press considers this a coauthored publication," it said.

Ignatius, Fayard and all other publishers clearly have more to gain selling a book authored by a former pope than one written by a Vatican cardinal.

Benedict's association with the book was surprising, given that he had vowed to live "hidden from the world" when he stepped down in 2013, precisely to avoid any suggestion that he still wielded papal authority.

But the controversy made clear once again that the unprecedented reality of a retired and reigning pope still has some wrinkles to be ironed out.

Some commentators have called for new rules for future retired popes, including not allowing them to be called "emeritus pope" or wear the papal white cassock, to remove all real and symbolic associations with the papacy. Instead, they said, they should be called "emeritus bishops of Rome," wear the traditional black of the priesthood and revert back to their pre-papal names.

Others noted that the lines in Benedict's case were particularly blurred — and should be corrected in any future papal abdications — because of Gaenswein's dual role: He is both Benedict's private secretary and the prefect of Francis' papal household.

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Villanova University theologian Massimo Faggioli said the main problem has been that Benedict and his entourage have been winging it for seven years, making up the office of the “emeritus pope” as they go, answerable to no one and regulated by no rules.

“Just as no one is in charge of accepting the pope’s resignation, no one was in charge either of telling Benedict XVI what he could and couldn’t wear, where he could live, what kind of entourage he could have,” Faggioli wrote in the National Catholic Reporter.

He noted that retired bishops at least have official Vatican guidelines to live by.

The guidelines, which are available on the Vatican website, read: “The bishop emeritus will be careful not to interfere in any way, directly or indirectly, in the governance of the diocese. He will want to avoid every attitude and relationship that could even hint at some kind of parallel authority to that of the diocesan bishop, with damaging consequences for the pastoral life of and unity of the diocesan community.”

The Rev. Thomas Reese, a longtime Vatican watcher, said Benedict had for the most part abided by his pledge to keep a low profile and not speak out much.

“However, whenever he did, he made headlines, and discussions of how his views differed from those of Francis followed,” Reese wrote this week in Religion News Service. “This is problematic for a church that prizes unity.”

“We don’t want to imprison them, as Pope Celestine’s successor did to him, but the church needs to make clear that there is only one pope,” Reese said, referring to the last pope to abdicate.

Sarah, for his part, denied allegations from some quarters that he had manipulated the 92-year-old Benedict, whose frailty was on display as recently as last week when a German TV documentary showed him barely able to speak above a whisper.

Sarah produced letters from Benedict making clear Benedict had written the text and approved of publishing it as a book.

But the cardinal — a hero to purists and conservatives and a quiet critic of Francis — also acknowledged that he knew a Benedict-written text on priestly celibacy would create a clamor, and that he persuaded Benedict it was worth it.

Sarah quoted his own correspondence to Benedict: “I imagine that you might think your reflections might not be opportune because of the polemics they might provoke in newspapers, but I am convinced that the whole church needs this gift, which could be published around Christmas or the start of 2020.”

While insisting that he dealt in good faith with Benedict, Sarah agreed after speaking with Gaenswein to remove Benedict’s name as co-author from future editions of the book.

“Considering the polemics provoked by the publication of the book ‘From the Depths of Our Hearts,’ it has been decided that the author of the book in future publications will be: Cardinal Sarah, with the contribution of Benedict XVI,” he tweeted. “However, the complete text will remain absolutely unchanged.”

While the scandal might have died down, the implications for the office of the “emeritus pope” and Sarah have not. Sarah has clashed with Francis before, is ideologically far to the right and is due to offer his resignation as prefect of the Vatican’s liturgy and worship office to Francis in June, when he turns 75.

He had long been pushed by the right wing as a contender to be the first African pope. But Rorate Caeli, a traditionalist blog highly critical of Francis, said Tuesday the scandal had killed those chances, given the suspicions that Sarah took advantage of an old man.

The controversy, it said, “completely undermines his authority as prefect for Divine Worship, and buries any chances he might have in a future conclave.”

“Game over.”

Philippine volcano trembles more, spews lava half-mile high

By JOEAL CALUPITAN and JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

TAGAYTAY, Philippines (AP) — A volcano near the Philippine capital spewed lava into the sky and trembled constantly Tuesday, possibly portending a bigger and more dangerous eruption, as tens of thousands of people fled villages darkened and blanketed by heavy ash.

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Government work was suspended and schools were closed in a number of towns and cities, including Manila, because of health risks from the ash. Hundreds of flights were canceled or delayed, affecting tens of thousands of passengers.

The restiveness of the Taal volcano and several new fissures in the ground nearby likely mean magma is rising and may lead to further eruptive activity, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said.

The volcano was spurting fountains of red-hot lava 800 meters (half a mile) into the sky, and the massive column of ash and volcanic debris at times lit up with streaks of lightning.

The alert level since the eruption began Sunday has been 4, indicating a hazardous eruption is possible in hours to days. Level 5, the highest, means such an eruption is underway.

More than 350 volcanic earthquakes have been recorded near Taal since Sunday, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in New York.

The Philippine institute said about 50 volcanic earthquakes were detected over eight hours Tuesday, indicating rising magma. It also warned that heavy and prolonged ash fall was possible in nearby villages.

"The speed in the rise of magma is important (in determining) when the volcano will have a strong eruption and if it will slow down and freeze," said Renato Solidum, who heads the institute. "As of now, we don't see activities slowing down and the earthquakes still continue."

More than 38,000 people have been relocated so far to over 200 evacuation centers, Dujarric said. He said U.N. teams are visiting centers and supporting authorities, who have asked for help getting face masks.

The picturesque volcano in the middle of a lake in Batangas province south of Manila rumbled to life Sunday in a powerful explosion that blasted a 15-kilometer (9-mile) column of ash, steam and rock into the sky. Clouds of volcanic ash blowing over Manila, 65 kilometers (40 miles) to the north, closed the country's main airport Sunday and part of Monday until the ash fall eased.

More than 500 international and domestic flights were canceled or delayed due to the overnight airport closure, affecting about 80,000 passengers, airport manager Ed Monreal told The Associated Press.

"Hopefully the wind direction does not change. As long as the ash fall does not reach us, then we can be back to normalcy," Monreal said.

The disaster-response agency counted more than 40,000 evacuees in Batangas and nearby Cavite provinces who took shelter in nearly 200 evacuation centers. Officials expected the number to swell.

Solidum warned residents from returning to high-risk villages based on perceptions that the eruption was easing. He warned of pyroclastic flows, super-heated material from the volcano that can travel at great speed and incinerate anything in their path.

Solidum said it would take time for Taal's restiveness to ease and the lives of affected villagers to return to normal but added it's difficult to predict the volcano's behavior with certainty.

"We have to make sure that people understand and, of course, government, that this is not an activity that will just be a short while," Solidum told a news conference.

President Rodrigo Duterte visited hard-hit Batangas, which has been declared a calamity zone for faster disbursement of emergency funds. Accompanied by top disaster-response officials and Cabinet members, he promised the national government would help with the cleanup and reconstruction of the devastated province once the eruption ends.

The government disaster-response agency has not provided details of damage but journalists saw dozens of houses ruined by heavy ash and frequent quakes in two Batangas areas.

At least six people have been taken to a hospital in Tagaytay city in Cavite due to respiratory ailments caused by the ash, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said.

The eruption has not directly caused deaths or major damage. The death of a driver in a crash on an ash-covered road was linked to slippery conditions.

The small island where the 1,020-foot (311-meter) volcano lies has long been designated a "permanent danger zone," though fishing villages have long existed there. Those villages were all evacuated, though volcanology officials have called for a total evacuation of endangered communities within a 14-kilometer (8.7-mile) radius of Taal.

Taal's last disastrous eruption, in 1965, killed hundreds of people. It is the second-most restive of about two dozen active volcanoes in the Philippines, which lies along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," where much of the world's seismic activity occurs.

A long-dormant volcano, Mount Pinatubo, blew its top north of Manila in 1991 in one of the biggest volcanic eruptions of the 20th century, killing hundreds of people.

Gomez reported from Manila. Associated Press journalists Celine Rosario and Kiko Rosario in Manila, Aaron Favila in Tagaytay and Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this report.

Russians hacked company key to Ukraine scandal: researchers

By FRANK BAJAK AP Technology Writer

BOSTON (AP) — A U.S. cybersecurity company says Russian military agents have successfully hacked the Ukrainian gas company at the center of the scandal that led to President Donald Trump's impeachment.

Russian agents launched a phishing campaign in early November to steal the login credentials of employees of Burisma Holdings, the gas company, according to Area 1 Security, a Silicon Valley company that specializes in email security.

Hunter Biden, son of former U.S. vice president and Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden, previously served on Burisma's board.

It was not clear what the hackers were looking for or may have obtained, said Area 1's CEO, Oren Falkowitz, who called the findings "incontrovertible" and posted an eight-page report. The timing of the operation raises the possibility that Russian agents could be searching for material damaging to the Bidens or scheming to plant forged data and sow misinformation online.

The House of Representatives impeached Trump in December for abusing the power of his office by enlisting the Ukrainian government to investigate Biden, a political rival, ahead of the 2020 election. A second charge accused Trump of obstructing a congressional investigation into the matter.

"Our report doesn't make any claims as to what the intent of the hackers were, what they might have been looking for, what they are going to do with their success. We just point out that this is a campaign that's going on," said Falkowitz, a former National Security Agency offensive hacker whose company's clients include candidates for U.S. federal elected offices.

In an earlier interview, he told The Associated Press that the campaigns of top candidates for the U.S. presidency and House and Senate races in 2020 have in the past few months each been targeted by about a thousand phishing emails. Falkowitz did not name the candidates. Nor would he name any of his company's clients.

Burisma did not immediately respond to a request for comment. A spokesman for Biden said in a statement that the incident shows that not just Trump but also Russian President Vladimir Putin "sees Joe Biden as a threat."

Some cybersecurity experts cautioned against blaming Russian military agents without more evidence, however, saying the report indicates Area 1 investigators didn't have access to Burisma's internal logs and compromised email accounts in making the determination.

"That's problematic," tweeted Thomas Rid of Johns Hopkins. "Caution advised based on what we currently know."

And while many experts said it's a good bet the phishing amounts to a Kremlin attempt to smear the Bidens, there are other possibilities. Michael Connell, a former Army intelligence officer and researcher at the government-funded Center for Naval Analyses, notes that Russian agents have previously attacked energy-related computer systems in other countries, most notably Germany.

"The goal of the hackers was probably information gathering, but it also likely included creating backdoors to allow future access (for intel or destructive cyberattacks)," he wrote in an email.

Russian hackers from the GRU, the same military intelligence unit that Area 1 said was behind the operation targeting Burisma, have been indicted for hacking emails from the Democratic National Committee

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and the chairman of Hillary Clinton's campaign during the 2016 presidential race.

Stolen emails were released online at the time by Russian agents and WikiLeaks in an effort to favor Trump, special counsel Robert Mueller determined in his investigation.

Area 1 discovered the phishing campaign by the Russian military intelligence unit on New Year's Eve, said Falkowitz, who would not discuss whom he notified prior to going public or whether Burisma shared information with his company. He said he followed the industry standard process of responsible disclosure, which would include notifying Burisma.

Joan Donovan, a Harvard University disinformation expert, said one of the most dangerous possibilities would be data theft spiced with forgeries — and subsequently leaked. That reportedly happened in 2017 when emails related to the campaign of President Emanuel Macron of France were stolen and published online — with some fakes included— just ahead of his election.

She called the Burisma incident "testament to the fact that we have not paid enough attention to email security" when the consequences of a leak are so high for businesses, politicians and journalists in particular.

"Email is unfortunately the way that we've come to do business but email has become a serious, serious vulnerability," she said.

In phishing, an attacker uses a targeted email to lure a target to a fake site that resembles a familiar one. There, unwitting victims enter their usernames and passwords, which the hackers then harvest. Phished credentials allow attackers both to rifle through a victim's stored email and masquerade as that person.

In the report, Falkowitz said the GRU agents used fake, lookalike domains that were designed to mimic the sites of real Burisma subsidiaries.

Falkowitz said the operation targeting Burisma involved tactics, techniques and procedures that GRU agents had used repeatedly in other phishing operations, matching "several patterns that lots of independent researchers agree mimic this particular Russian actor." Area 1 says it has been tracking the Russian agents for several years.

The discovery's timing — just weeks before presidential primaries begin in the United States — highlights the need to protect political campaigns from targeted phishing attacks, which are behind 95% of all information breaches, said Falkowitz.

Area 1 said its researchers connected the phishing campaign targeting Burisma to an effort earlier last year that targeted Kwartal 95, a media organization founded by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy.

In this case, the Russian military agents, from a group security researchers call "Fancy Bear," peppered Burisma employees with emails designed to look like internal messages, the company said.

In order to detect phishing attacks, Area 1 maintains a global network of sensors designed to sniff out and block them before they reach their targets.

In July, the U.S. Federal Elections Commission gave Area 1 permission to offer its services to candidates for federal elected office and political committees at the same low rates it charges non-profits.

AP writer Yuras Karmanau in Kiev, Ukraine, contributed to this story.

Prohibition began 100 years ago, and its legacy remains

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In this era of bottomless mimosas, craft beers and ever-present happy hours, it's striking to recall that 100 years ago the United States imposed a nationwide ban on the production and sale of all types of alcohol.

The Prohibition Era, which lasted from Jan. 17, 1920, until December 1933, is now viewed as a failed experiment that glamorized illegal drinking, but there are several intriguing parallels in current times.

Americans are consuming more alcohol per capita now than in the time leading up to Prohibition, when alcohol opponents successfully made the case that excessive drinking was ruining family life. More states are also moving to decriminalize marijuana, with legalization backers frequently citing Prohibition's failures. Many of the same speakeasy locations operating in the 1920s are flourishing in a culture that romanticizes

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the era.

And in a time of heightened racial divisions, Prohibition offers a poignant history lesson on how the restrictions targeted blacks and recent immigrants more harshly than other communities. That treatment eventually propelled many of those marginalized Americans into the Democratic Party, which engineered Prohibition's repeal.

"Prohibition had a lot of unintended consequences that backfired on the people who worked so hard to establish the law," said Harvard history professor Lisa McGirr, whose 2015 book "The War on Alcohol" examines Prohibition's political and social repercussions.

"It helped to activate and enfranchise men and women who had not been part of the political process earlier," she said. "That was not the intention of Prohibition supporters."

Ratification of the 18th Amendment in 1919, which set the stage for Prohibition's launch a year later, culminated a century of advocacy by the temperance movement. Leading forces included the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Anti-Saloon League and many Protestant denominations. Prohibition supporters assailed the impact of booze on families and the prominent role that saloons played in immigrant communities.

Prohibition greatly expanded federal law enforcement powers and turned millions of Americans into scofflaws. It provided a new revenue stream for organized crime.

By the time the constitutional amendment was ratified in January 1919, many states had enacted their own prohibition laws. That October, Congress passed a law detailing how the federal government would enforce Prohibition. It was known as the Volstead Act in recognition of its foremost champion, Rep. Andrew Volstead of Minnesota. The law banned the manufacture, sale and transport of any "intoxicating liquor" — beverages with an alcohol content of more than 0.5%, including beer and wine.

Statistically, Prohibition was not an utter failure. Deaths from alcohol-related cirrhosis declined, as did arrests for public drunkenness.

What the statistics don't measure is how extensively Prohibition was flouted. Bootleggers established vast distribution networks. Makers of moonshine and "bathtub gin" proliferated, sometimes producing fatally tainted liquor. Determined drinkers concealed their contraband in hip flasks or hollowed-out canes. Maryland refused to pass a law enforcing the Volstead Act.

McSorley's Old Ale House, established in New York in 1854 and still flourishing as one of the city's oldest bars, never closed during Prohibition. Ostensibly, it served "near beer" with permissibly low alcohol content, but in fact produced a strong ale from a makeshift brewery erected in the basement.

"It wasn't a near beer. It was McSorley's ale," said the pub's manager, Gregory de la Haba. "At least once a week, people ask, 'What did we do during Prohibition?' And my reply, 'We made a ton of money.'"

The federal government, as well as state and local authorities, spent huge sums on enforcement yet never allocated sufficient resources to do the job effectively. Bootleggers awash in cash bribed judges, politicians and law enforcement officers to let their operations continue.

"Newly hired and poorly trained Prohibition agents, along with local and state police, targeted violators at the margins," McGirr wrote in a recent article. "But they lacked the capacity, and at times the will, to go after powerful crime kingpins."

It's simplistic to say Prohibition created organized crime in America, but it fueled a huge expansion as local crime gangs collaborated with those from other regions to establish shipping systems and set prices for bootlegged alcohol. Beneficiaries included Chicago-based gangster Al Capone, who earned tens of millions of dollars annually from bootlegging and speakeasies. In the infamous St. Valentine's Day Massacre of 1929, gunmen disguised as police officers killed seven men from a gang that sought to compete with Capone's empire.

Beyond the ranks of gangsters, legions of Americans were committing or abetting crime. Michael Lerner, in his book "Dry Manhattan: Prohibition in New York City," says courtrooms and jails were so overwhelmed that judges began accepting plea bargains, "making it a common practice in American jurisprudence for the first time."

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Anti-immigrant sentiment was a key factor behind Prohibition, partly because of record-high immigration in the preceding decades.

Saloons in immigrant neighborhoods were prime targets, says Slippery Rock University history professor Aaron Cowan, because middle-class white Protestants viewed them as political and social danger zones.

"Often the political machines run by the bosses were based in these saloons, or used them as a conduit for extending favors," Cowan said. "So there was concern about political corruption, changing social values, immigrants learning radical politics."

Prohibition's start in 1920 coincided with a major expansion of the Ku Klux Klan, which supported the ban on alcohol as it waged its anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic and racist activities.

The Volstead Act "provided a way for the Klan to legitimize its 100% Americanist mission — it could target the drinking of those they perceived to be their enemies," McGirr said.

One notorious example occurred in 1923-24 in southern Illinois' Williamson County, where the Klan mobilized hundreds of volunteers to raid saloons and roadhouses. Hundreds of people were arrested and more than a dozen killed.

That kind of social friction helped spur efforts to repeal Prohibition. Economics also played a role.

While some Prohibition supporters predicted it would boost the economy, instead it proved harmful. Thousands of jobs were lost due to closures of distilleries, breweries and saloons. Federal, state and local governments lost billions in revenue as liquor taxes disappeared. One major consequence: Increasing reliance on income taxes to sustain government spending.

The onset of the Great Depression hastened Prohibition's demise, as the need for more jobs and tax revenue became acute. The Democratic Party called for repeal of Prohibition in its 1932 platform; its presidential nominee, Franklin D. Roosevelt, embraced that cause as he rolled to a landslide victory over incumbent Republican Herbert Hoover.

In March 1933, soon after taking office, Roosevelt signed a law legalizing the sale of wine and 3.2% beer. Congress also proposed a 21st Amendment that would repeal the 18th Amendment. Prohibition formally ended that December, when Utah provided the final vote needed to ratify the new amendment.

One of the pithiest summaries of Prohibition came earlier — a scathing assessment from journalist H.L. Mencken in 1925.

Five years of Prohibition "completely disposed of all the favorite arguments of the Prohibitionists," he wrote. "There is not less crime, but more. There is not less insanity, but more. The cost of government is not smaller, but vastly greater. Respect for law has not increased, but diminished."

Prohibition's centennial comes as the United States is incrementally ending the criminalization of marijuana. Recreational use of pot is now legal in 11 states. More than 30 allow its use for medical purposes.

Marijuana remains illegal under federal law, but Ethan Nadelmann, founder of the pro-legalization Drug Policy Alliance, believes most Americans now view the anti-marijuana crusades of America's "War on Drugs" as misguided in ways that evoke Prohibition.

"Even some of the older generation are saying, 'We went too far. That was a mistake,'" he said.

Iran announces arrests over downing of plane that killed 176

By **NASSER KARIMI** and **AYA BATRAWY** Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran said Tuesday that authorities have made arrests for the accidental shootdown of a Ukrainian passenger plane, which killed all 176 people on board and set off protests in the country demanding accountability after officials initially concealed the cause of the crash.

Iran's Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili said "some individuals" were arrested after "extensive investigations." His statement on the judiciary's website did not say how many people had been detained or name those arrested.

Iran at first dismissed allegations that a missile had brought down the plane, but in the face of mounting evidence officials acknowledged on Saturday — three days after — that its Revolutionary Guard had shot down the plane by mistake as the force braced for a possible military confrontation with the United States.

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The plane, en route from Tehran to the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv, was carrying 167 passengers and nine crew members from several countries, including 82 Iranians and 57 Canadians, many of whom were Iranians with dual citizenship. There were several children among the passengers, including an infant.

Iran's president on Tuesday called for a special court with "a ranking judge and dozens of experts" to be set up to probe the incident.

"The responsibility falls on more than just one person," President Hassan Rouhani said in a televised speech, adding that those found culpable "should be punished."

"There are others, too, and I want that this issue is expressed honestly," he said, without elaborating.

Rouhani called the incident "a painful and unforgivable" mistake and promised that his administration would pursue the case "by all means."

"This is not an ordinary case. The entire the world will be watching this court," he said.

Tensions have been escalating since President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, then reimposed sanctions that had been lifted under the accord.

The deal has quickly unraveled since then, with Iran steadily breaking away from limits on its nuclear program and Europe unable to find ways to keep Tehran committed.

The U.S. sanctions have devastated Iran's economy.

On Tuesday, Britain, France and Germany triggered the so-called "dispute mechanism" action that paves way for possible further sanctions in response to Iran's moves.

Tensions sharply escalated further after on Jan. 3, when a U.S. airstrike killed Iran's most powerful commander, Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani, in Baghdad.

In response, Iran launched ballistic missiles on military bases housing U.S. troops in Iraq to avenge Soleimani's killing. The Ukrainian plane was shot down in Tehran as Iranian forces were on alert for possible U.S. retaliation.

While Rouhani pointed to mistakes and negligence, he also repeated the government's line that the plane tragedy was ultimately rooted in U.S. aggression.

"It was the U.S. that made for an agitated environment. It was the U.S. that created an unusual situation. It was the U.S. that threatened and took our beloved (Soleimani)," he said.

Rouhani called the government's admission that Iranian forces shot down the plane a "first good step."

He added that Iranian experts who retrieved the Ukrainian plane's flight recorder, the so-called black box, have sent it to France for analysis.

Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the head of the Guard's aerospace division, said over the weekend his unit accepts full responsibility for the shutdown. He said when he learned about the downing of the plane, "I wished I was dead."

The incident raised questions about why Iran did not shut down its international airport or airspace the day it was on alert for U.S. military retaliation.

The shutdown and the lack of transparency around it has reignited anger in Iran at the country's leadership. Online videos appeared to show security forces firing live ammunition and tear gas to disperse protests in the streets.

Also Tuesday, Iran's judiciary said that 30 people had been detained in the protests, and that some were released, without elaborating further. An Iranian film director who'd called for protests in Tehran's Azadi, or Freedom, Square is among those released.

Iranian authorities briefly arrested British Ambassador Rob Macaire on Saturday evening. He's said he went to a candlelight vigil to pay his respects for the victims of the Ukrainian plane shutdown and left as soon as the chanting began and it turned into a protest.

Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned the British ambassador on Sunday to protest what it said was his presence at an illegal protest. Britain, in turn, summoned Iran's ambassador on Monday "to convey our strong objections" over the weekend arrest.

Iran's top prosecutor, Mohammad Javad Montazeri, was quoted in local media Tuesday saying the British ambassador must be expelled from the country as soon as possible.

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Batrawy reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 15, the 15th day of 2020. There are 351 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 15, 2009, US Airways Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger ditched his Airbus 320 in the Hudson River after a flock of birds disabled both engines; all 155 people aboard survived.

On this date:

In 1559, England's Queen Elizabeth I was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1865, as the Civil War neared its end, Union forces captured Fort Fisher near Wilmington, North Carolina, depriving the Confederates of their last major seaport.

In 1892, the original rules of basketball, devised by James Naismith, were published for the first time in Springfield, Massachusetts, where the game originated.

In 1919, in Boston, a tank containing an estimated 2.3 million gallons of molasses burst, sending the dark syrup coursing through the city's North End, killing 21 people.

In 1929, civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta.

In 1943, work was completed on the Pentagon, the headquarters of the U.S. Department of War (now Defense).

In 1967, the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League defeated the Kansas City Chiefs of the American Football League 35-10 in the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game, retroactively known as Super Bowl I.

In 1973, President Richard M. Nixon announced the suspension of all U.S. offensive action in North Vietnam, citing progress in peace negotiations.

In 1976, Sara Jane Moore was sentenced to life in prison for her attempt on the life of President Gerald R. Ford in San Francisco. (Moore was released on the last day of 2007.)

In 1987, entertainer Ray Bolger, perhaps best known for playing the Scarecrow in the 1939 MGM musical "The Wizard of Oz," died in Los Angeles at age 83.

In 1993, a historic disarmament ceremony ended in Paris with the last of 125 countries signing a treaty banning chemical weapons.

In 2014, a highly critical and bipartisan Senate report declared that the deadly Sept. 2012 assault on the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, could have been prevented; the report spread blame among the State Department, the military and U.S. intelligence.

Ten years ago: United Nations humanitarian chief John Holmes appealed for more than \$560 million to help 3 million victims of the earthquake in Haiti, calling it "a huge and a horrifying catastrophe." Washington Wizards star Gilbert Arenas pleaded guilty to carrying a pistol without a license in the District of Columbia, a felony. (Arenas was later sentenced to a month in a halfway house and suspended until the end of the season by the NBA.)

Five years ago: In its first lethal injection since a botched one the previous spring, Oklahoma executed a convicted killer with a three-drug method. Police in Belgium conducted raids across the country, killing two suspected Islamist militants. Pope Francis arrived in the Philippines, Asia's most populous Catholic nation, where ecstatic crowds awaited the first papal visit in 20 years.

One year ago: Musical comedy star Carol Channing -- best known to Broadway audiences for her role in "Hello, Dolly!" -- died in California at the age of 97. New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand entered the growing field of 2020 Democratic presidential contenders, telling "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" on CBS that she was launching an exploratory committee. Extremists launched an attack on a luxury hotel complex in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi; the attack took the lives of 20 civilians, one police officer and five attack-

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ers from the group al-Shabab, based in neighboring Somalia. At a Senate confirmation hearing, President Donald Trump's nominee to be attorney general, William Barr, said he believed that Russia had tried to interfere in the 2016 presidential election, and that the special counsel investigation was not a witch hunt.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Margaret O'Brien is 82. Actress Andrea Martin is 73. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Randy White is 67. Actor-director Mario Van Peebles is 63. Rock musician Adam Jones (Tool) is 55. Actor James Nesbitt is 55. Actor Chad Lowe is 52. Alt-country singer Will Oldham (aka Bonnie Prince Billy) is 50. Actress Regina King is 49. Actor Eddie Cahill is 42. NFL quarterback Drew Brees is 41. Rapper/reggaeton artist Pitbull is 39. Actor Victor Rasuk is 35. Actress Jessy Schram is 34. Electronic dance musician Skrillex is 32. Actress/singer Dove Cameron is 24. Singer-songwriter Grace VanderWaal (TV: "America's Got Talent") is 16.

Thought for Today: "A nation or civilization that continues to produce soft-minded men purchases its own spiritual death on the installment plan." — Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968).

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