

Groton Daily Independent

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Missing one red male lab Buddy and one black female lab Lucy. Call Franne Sippel 397-7949 or Marc 397-7950.

Monday, January 4, 2016

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Pizza cruncher, mixed veggies, carrots and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, broccoli, garlic toast, sherbet.

Anniv: Jay and Jean Peterson

Birthdays: Hannah Swanson, Heath Giedt, Val Fliehs.

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran WELCA study leaders meet with pastor

6:30pm: GBB host Langford Area

7:00pm: City Council Meeting at Groton Community Center

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken patty sandwich, French fries, lettuce salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, rice pilaf, California blend vegetables, peach crisp, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Austin Luecke, Brett Anderson, James Torguson

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

1:30pm: St. John's Lutheran Good Cheer Circle

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

School Breakfast: Egg and cheese omelet, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans, garlic toast, fruit.

Senior Menu: Ham and raisin sauce, sweet potatoes, California blend vegetables, crazy cake.

Anniv: Bill and Vicki Podoll

Birthdays: Alfred Tastad, Carla Ronning, Saman-

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

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Harry Implement
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421

Ferney

A Year-Round College-Planning Calendar for Parents and Prospective Students

By Nathaniel Sillin

Preparing your kids for college isn't just about the money you've put aside for tuition, room and board. It's about making deadlines, making the right choices and making sure your teen has the proper life and money skills to make college a success.

Consider a college-planning calendar you and your university-bound student can follow. Here are some seasonal activities to consider adding to yours:

Winter

No matter how you've prepared financially for your teen's college education, kick off the year with a visit to a qualified financial and tax professional. You might also consider paying for a separate advisory session for your teen so they know how to handle money before they leave for college. January is also a good month to learn about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, better known as the FAFSA (<https://fafsa.ed.gov>), as it's best to fill out the form right after Jan.1 to avoid missing out on available federal and state (<https://fafsa.ed.gov/deadlines.htm>) aid going into your teen's freshman year. That first FAFSA filing will give you an idea of what your Effective Family Contribution (EFC) (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/collegeaid>) will be.

Consult trusted friends and family members for their advice on affording college and strategies to secure grants and scholarships. Resources like FinAid.org and Edvisors.com are good resources for ways to afford college, but it also helps to have face-to-face expertise.

Start evaluating potential schools with your teen. The U.S. Department of Education's College Affordability and Transparency Center (<http://collegecost.ed.gov>) features a range of calculators and resources to help you narrow down school choices with the chance for your teen to secure the most scholarships and grants – money that doesn't have to be paid back.

Spring

Springtime is a good season to start talking about summer jobs and internships (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/summerjob>) that will make for a more attractive college application. Internship application periods may be year-round with many deadlines happening in the fall. If you are expecting your teen to contribute some part of their earnings or savings for future college costs, it's worthwhile to review earning, spending, budgeting, tax and savings fundamentals they'll need to manage money in school.

Also, if your teen hasn't been exposed to banking on a regular basis, it's time. Work with them to compare fees and services on various checking and savings accounts and consider whether it might be wise for you to bank with the same institution to allow for easier transfer of necessary funds from your account to theirs. Also encourage them to find an organized way of keeping track of their finances on paper, on computer or online (<https://www.mint.com>).

Summer

Summer is a time for fun, but it's also a good time to research potential schools and scholarship programs and even take a quick campus tour. The U.S. Department of Education's scholarship site (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships>) offers basic guidance in finding such money and local companies and organizations – including places where your teen can work or intern – may offer local awards.

If your teen is heading into their senior year, the fall is going to be busy. Get admissions test dates and college admissions deadlines down on your calendar as soon as possible. Also budget for college application fees as well as fees for admissions prep tests and the main SAT or ACT tests (more on that below) which may cost well in excess of \$50 based on which test – or tests – your teen needs to take.

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Fall

Fall is the season for college admissions tests, but for students with extra time before graduation, it's also the season for test prep (<http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/test-prep>). Higher-scoring students on such achievement tests generally are in a better position for admissions or certain types of financial aid. High-school sophomores take the PSAT as a primary qualification for National Merit Scholarships, but it also gives an early indication of how students may do during their junior year on their ACT or SAT test, whichever they are encouraged to take. Get your student to check directly with the colleges of their choice to see which tests they require.

Finally, the closer your teen gets to freshman year, the more specific the dates on the calendar become. For college-bound seniors, fall is the time for narrowing down college choices after visits, interviews or auditions so applications can be sent. Once acceptance letters arrive, it's time for parents and teens to evaluate financial aid packages.

Bottom line: Creating a college-planning calendar can help you and your teen target desired schools, learn about money management and break down funding obstacles. Set it up as early as possible.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To foll



Residents woke up this morning to thick frost on the trees.

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Here is how the Schwan's fundraiser works.

Customers phone in the order or order online
They use the code. 25179

If they regularly order online they are asked if they want to contribute to a fundraiser

That is when they put the code in.

Between Dec 2 and Jan 16, we will earn 20% of sales

If a customer orders an ecertificate-and online gift card we get \$10 for the \$25 ecertificate.

When you get an ecertificate, you can go in and purchase right away or you can print it out if you want to give it as a gift or save it for later.

Customers are limited to one ecertificate...BUT if you use an alternate email address you can purchase more than one

If you are not a regular Schwan's customer, when you place your order they will tell you what day
And approximate (2 hour) time they plan to deliver.

You can be a one time customer and support us.

If you order online you must give them a credit card number, however you can switch payment at the door.

It took me a few fundraisers to realize that if I purchase during the first 45 days I contribute 20% and save my ecertificates for after the Jan 16 date, duh! Before that I was purchasing ecertificates and using them right away.

Our greatest income will be during this 45 day period.
After that we will earn 5% until April 16.

Schwan's
Cares™
A Fundraising Network



Support Us

*Giving back to your community
never tasted so delicious.*

Schwan's Home Delivery offers over 350 delicious foods, flash-frozen at the peak of freshness and conveniently delivered to your door. Through Schwans-Cares.com, you can order from Schwan's Home Delivery and help our organization meet its fundraising goals. When you order by **January 16th, 2016**, 20% of product and 40% of eGift Card sales will go back to the organization.

Here are two ways to support us!

Order Online:

1. Visit Schwans-Cares.com
2. Enter Campaign ID: **25179** into the search box located in the upper right hand corner then click to open campaign.
3. Click "Shop to Give" and then select either the "Buy Now" or "Shop Now" option.
4. Select team member, if applicable
5. Start shopping!

Order by Phone:

Call 1-855-870-7208 and provide Campaign ID: **25179**

Thank you for your support!

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Shop online at Schwans-Cares.com
or call 1-855-870-7208



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Today in Weather History

January 4, 1986: Snowfall amounts of 1 to 3 inches along with winds gusting to around 40 mph produced ground blizzard conditions in western South Dakota. Visibility was near zero in many locations with blowing and drifting snow blocking some roads. Some roads were closed in western South Dakota. Several accidents occurred with many cars ended up in the ditch.

January 4, 2005: Heavy snow of up to 10 inches fell across much of Lyman and Jones counties from the 4th until mid-morning of the 5th.

1888 - Sacramento, CA, received 3.5 inches of snow, an all-time record for that location. The heaviest snow in recent history was two inches on February 5th in 1976. (4th-5th) (The Weather Channel)

1971 - A blizzard raged from Kansas to Wisconsin, claiming 27 lives in Iowa. Winds reached 50 mph, and the storm produced up to 20 inches of snow. (David Ludlum)

1982 - Milwaukee, WI, was shut down completely as a storm buried the city under 16 inches of snow in 24 hours. It was the worst storm in thirty-five years. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A storm moving off the Pacific Ocean spread wintery weather across the southwestern U.S., with heavy snow extending from southern California to western Wyoming. Up to 15 inches of snow blanketed the mountains of southern California, and rainfall totals in California ranged up to 2.20 inches in the Chino area. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Frigid arctic air invading the central and eastern U.S. left Florida about the only safe refuge from the cold and snow. A storm in the western U.S. soaked Bodega Bay in central California with 3.12 inches of rain. (National Weather Summary)

1989 - Up to a foot of snow blanketed the mountains of West Virginia, and strong winds in the northeastern U.S. produced wind chill readings as cold as 60 degrees below zero in Maine. Mount Washington NH reported wind gusts to 136 mph along with a temperature of 30 below zero! (National Weather Summary)

1990 - A winter storm moving out of the southwestern U.S. spread heavy snow across Nebraska and Iowa into Wisconsin. Snowfall totals in Nebraska ranged up to 7 inches at Auburn and Tecumseh. Totals in Iowa ranged up to 11 inches at Carlisle. In Iowa, most of the snow fell between midnight and 4 AM. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1994 - A major winter storm blanketed much of the northeastern U.S. with heavy snow. More than two feet was reported in northwestern Pennsylvania, with 33 inches at Waynesburg. There were ten heart attacks, and 185 injuries, related to the heavy snow in northwest Pennsylvania. Whiteout conditions were reported in Vermont and northeastern New York State. A wind gusts to 75 mph was clocked at Shaftsbury VT. In the Adirondacks of eastern New York State, the town of Tupper reported five inches of snow between 1 PM and 2 PM. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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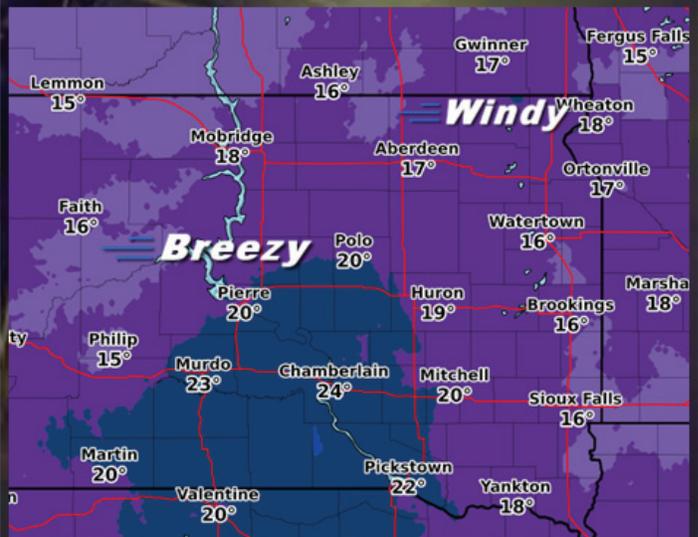
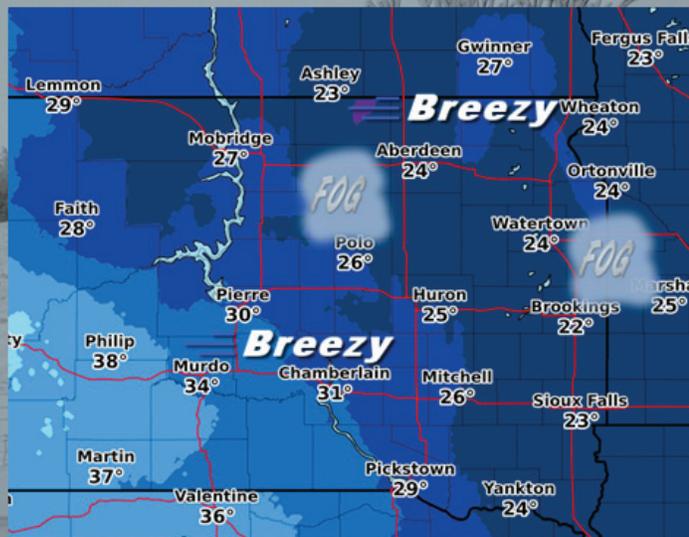
Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
High: 23 °F	Low: 4 °F	High: 22 °F	Low: 15 °F	High: 28 °F	Low: 12 °F	High: 23 °F



Morning Fog, Increasing Southerly Winds

Today

Tonight



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 1/4/2016 4:42 AM Central

Published on: 01/04/2016 at 4:45AM

Fog, dense at times, can be expected through the morning hours. Otherwise, dry conditions and increasingly southerly winds are forecast through this afternoon.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 18.9 at 1:48 PM

Low: 9.2 at 2:45 AM

High Gust: 11 at 7:26 AM

Precip: 0.0

Today's Info

Record High: 54° in 2012

Record Low: -34° in 1912

Average High: 22°F

Average Low: 2°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.07

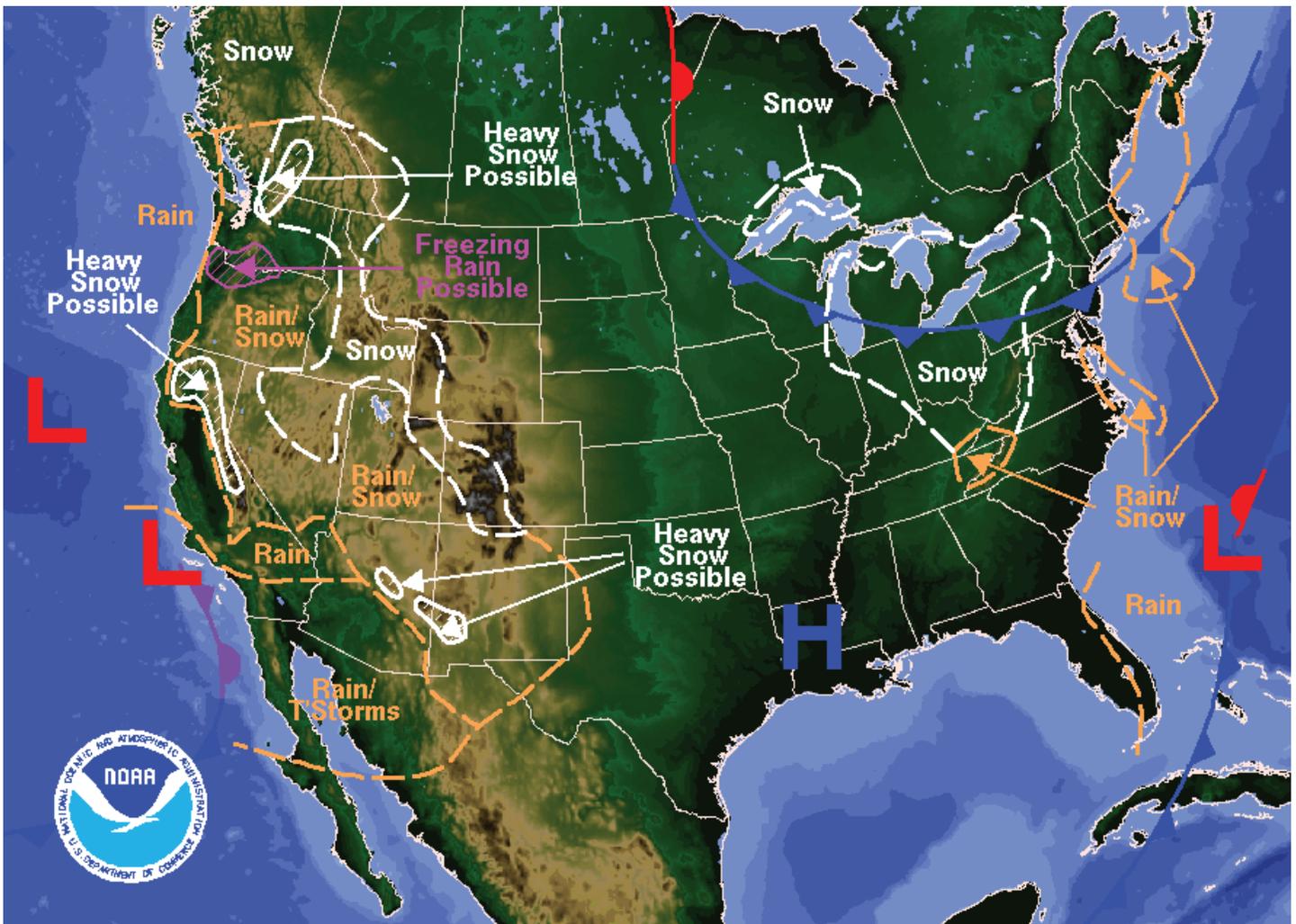
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.07

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:03 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:13 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Jan 04, 2016, issued 2:51 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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FORGIVE!

The word forgive is a troubling word for many of us. It carries with it the idea that the one who is doing the forgiving is willing to excuse someone for his or her wrongdoing or injurious act.

When we look at the word forgive we can easily see that the main part of the word is give. And when we forgive someone we give that person a release from the wrong that he or she has done to us. When we forgive, we give up the right to get even with the one who wronged us.

Consider the grace of God. When He forgives us of our sin, He releases us from the penalty of death that we deserve for the wrongs that we have done against Him and others. We are no longer condemned.

When we as Christians forgive others, we are demonstrating a heart that has been changed by God. Understanding and accepting the greatness of God's forgiveness will enable us to forgive the wrongs others have done to us. That is why Jesus said that those who are unwilling to forgive others do not realize or understand what God has done for us when He willingly forgave us.

Jesus said that if we refuse to forgive others, God will not forgive us. And Paul said, "be kind to each other...forgiving each other as God...has forgiven you."

Prayer: Father, though it is easy to want to get even for wrongs done against us, it is not Christ like. Help us to forgive as Jesus did. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Ephesians 4:32 and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

News from the Associated Press

Purple Reign again: Vikings beat Packers, take NFC North

GENARO C. ARMAS, AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — The joy that Adrian Peterson felt following the Minnesota Vikings' victory over the Green Bay Packers to win the NFC North overshadowed the tightness that the NFL's leading rusher felt in his lower back.

The injury knocked Peterson out for a stretch of the second half of the 20-13 win Sunday night over Green Bay.

It doesn't sound like he has any intention of missing next Sunday's home wild-card playoff game against the Seattle Seahawks.

"It's a little tight, but I'll be OK," Peterson said. "Now I've just got to get up early tomorrow morning, I'm not looking forward to it, and I've got to do what I've got to do to get ready for Sunday."

Peterson ran for a touchdown and cornerback Captain Munnery returned a fumble 55 yards for a score as Minnesota (11-5) claimed its first NFC North title since 2009 and ended the Packers' four-year reign atop the division.

"Coming here, it was always a fight, a dogfight," Peterson said.

It was his second title of the day — he also finished the season with his third career NFL rushing crown.

The Packers (10-6) will travel to Washington to play the NFC East champion Redskins, also on Sunday.

But familiar problems with the sluggish offense plagued coach Mike McCarthy's squad again. A team that started 6-0 and looked to be a strong NFC contender has stumbled into the playoffs with two straight losses.

"Frankly, we didn't do enough of the things you need to do, especially in big games, to come out on top," McCarthy said.

The upstart Vikings made those plays.

Other notes and takeaways from the final game of the 2015 NFL regular season:

PURPLE REIGN AGAIN: Those new black "NFC North Champs" T-shirts and gray caps that the Vikings proudly wore in the locker room should be hot sellers back in Minnesota this week.

"It's been since 2009 and that's too long of a stretch," Peterson said. "That drought is over."

Just two years after finishing 5-10-1, Minnesota is back in the playoffs under second-year coach Mike Zimmer, perhaps a bit ahead of schedule.

"Did we get here faster? I don't know. I have pretty high expectations," Zimmer said. "I don't know, maybe."

FRANTIC FINISH: Lambeau Field in prime time is not an ideal place for any opponent to play.

Yet the Vikings still won in spite of a so-so day for the offense and some harrowing moments late on defense and special teams.

The Vikings knocked away a desperation pass in the end zone from Aaron Rodgers on fourth down as time expired.

Packers kicker Mason Crosby forced a fumble on Cordarrelle Patterson's potentially field-flipping 70-yard kickoff return with 5:21 left. But the Packers' next drive ended with Rodgers being intercepted in the end zone by Xavier Rhodes.

Zimmer smiled and raised both arms in the air after Rodgers' final pass fell incomplete.

A handful of Vikings later came back onto the field to take pictures. They'll remember this night for a while.

WILD CARD MEMORIES: The Packers can take slight consolation from memories of their run to winning the Super Bowl in 2010, when they were the sixth seed.

"Playoff season is here. We know how to win, we know what it takes to win and we have a clear understanding of the things that you can't do to win," McCarthy said.

VIKINGS BLUEPRINT: The offense was rather ho-hum. Peterson ran for 67 yards on 19 carries. Teddy Bridgewater was just 10 of 19 for 99 yards, and the passing game was rendered largely ineffective.

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But the defense stopped Green Bay's dysfunctional offense at nearly every turn until the fast-paced fourth quarter.

Everson Griffen had two sacks, and the Vikings held on at the end after being left out of breath defending the Packers' late no-huddle attack.

"It wasn't fun, to be honest with you. It was nerve-racking," Zimmer said.

FAMILIAR PROBLEM: The dormant Packers scored 10 points in the fourth quarter, including a 16-yard touchdown pass from Aaron Rodgers to Richard Rodgers, and a 43-yard field goal by Crosby.

But a slow start doomed the Packers once again, as did a sluggish running game.

Rodgers finished 28 of 44 for 291 yards with a touchdown and an interception. He was sacked five times.

Running back Eddie Lacy had a strong start, but finished with just 34 yards on 13 carries.

The loss left the Packers without a win over a division opponent at home for the first time since 1968.

Man sentenced for assault at Cheyenne River Reservation

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man who admitted assaulting another man last year on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation has been sentenced to more than two years in prison.

U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange has sentenced 34-year-old Dathan Little Wounded to 28 months in federal custody, followed by two years of supervised release. The Eagle Butte man earlier pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon.

Authorities say Little Wounded assaulted the victim on March 2 outside an apartment complex in Eagle Butte. Authorities say Little Wounded punched and kicked the man several times in the face and abdomen, leaving him with a wound near the left eye area that required stitches.

Little Wounded is now under the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Sioux Falls officials look for dog involved in bite at park

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls officials are searching for a dog that bit a woman's face at a park in the city.

Sioux Falls Animal Control needs to verify the dog's vaccinations. Officials responded to the reported bite on Saturday afternoon.

The dog is thought to be a female white and gray pit bull mix named Morgan that weighs about 50 pounds. The collarless dog bit a woman at the park as she bent down to ready her dog to leave.

Officials say anyone with information about the incident should contact Animal Control.

Most of South Dakota's 2015 fires not in Black Hills

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Agriculture says that for the second year in a row in 2015, most of the state's fire activity was not in the Black Hills.

The department's Agriculture Wildland Fire Division says extremely dry conditions got the season started early in 2015, but it slowed as wetter conditions persevered.

The state's largest fire for the season was the nearly 14,000-acre Sheep Draw fire in Harding County in late March. Rounding out the second and third spots are two April fires: the escaped Cold Brook prescribed burn in Wind Cave National Park, which involved 5,400 acres, and a 5,100-acre fire near Gettysburg.

The largest forest fire in the Black Hills was the 58-acre North Pole fire in March, ignited by slash pile debris burning.

Burnette scores 22; South Dakota beats Oral Roberts 94-84

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Tre Burnette scored 12 of his 22 points in the second half to help South Dakota pull away and beat Oral Roberts 94-84 on Sunday night.

Burnette was 10 of 18 from the floor. Casey Kasperbauer had 20 points and matched career-highs with six assists and three steals for South Dakota (9-7, 1-1 Summit League). Shy McClelland chipped in 18 points and had a career-best six steals.

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The Coyotes shot 52 percent from the field and forced 22 turnovers.

DaQuan Jeffries scored 16 points on 6-of-9 shooting to lead Oral Roberts (8-8, 0-2).

The Golden Eagles had their last lead, 44-42 at halftime. The Coyotes opened the second half on an 18-4 run and lead 60-48 with 15 minutes left. Burnette and McClelland scored six points apiece during the span, and South Dakota had a double-digit lead the rest of the way.

South Dakota State beats Western Illinois 63-59

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — George Marshall scored 18 points, including the go-ahead basket, and South Dakota State beat Western Illinois 63-59 on Sunday.

Marshall made four 3-pointers but it was a 2-pointer with 6:31 to go that gave the Jackrabbits the lead for good at 53-52.

Western Illinois' Garret Covington was fouled on a 3-point attempt with 31 seconds left and he made all three free throws to get the Leathernecks within one, 60-59.

South Dakota State's Deondre Parks sank the first of two free throws and Mike Daum was fouled grabbing the offensive rebound. He made both free throws for a final score as Covington missed a 3-pointer.

Daum had 17 points and seven rebounds off the bench while Parks scored 16 points for the Jackrabbits (13-3, 2-0), who continued their best Division I start.

Covington scored 20 points and Tate Stensgaard 15 for the Leathernecks (7-6, 0-2), who led 32-27 at halftime.

Centrist Project, which backed Pressler in 2014, looks ahead

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A political action committee that backed independent U.S. Senate candidate Larry Pressler in 2014 is hoping that voters will be more open to shedding their partisan ties in 2016.

The Centrist Project aims to empower a growing political middle by channeling the support of moderate Americans to a handful of key U.S. Senate hopefuls across the country. It backed five candidates in 2014, but of those five, only incumbent Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, won her race.

Centrist Project founder Charles Wheelan said getting people to donate money to, and vote for, candidates who lack a major party's backing have been huge challenges. But he feels it's worth the effort, as a small caucus of independent senators could help bridge the gap that has kept Republicans and Democrats from reaching compromises.

"The thinking is if you just pick up one, then people will wake up to the idea that it's possible, and therefore you get more candidates and voters are less worried about throwing away their votes," said Wheelan, a senior lecturer and policy fellow at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. "The first one's tough, but ideally it cycles in the right direction."

The project hasn't yet picked its candidates for 2016.

Pressler, who served as a Republican U.S. senator from 1979 to 1997, decided to run for South Dakota's open seat as an independent in 2014, partly because of his progressive views on social issues and war.

Pressler had difficulty raising funds, but after a poll in October put him ahead of Democratic candidate Rick Weiland and close to former Republican Gov. Mike Rounds, he drew national attention — and attack ads from both sides.

"And I didn't have the money to take to the airwaves and defend those attacks," Pressler said. "It didn't make any difference what my stances on the issues were."

Rounds easily won the seat, with Pressler getting about 17 percent of the vote.

Greg Orman, a Centrist Project-backed independent from Kansas who challenged Republican Sen. Pat Roberts and Democrat Chad Taylor, faced a far different scenario. Orman, an entrepreneur, felt he had a path to victory with three candidates in the race.

When Taylor abruptly dropped out in September over concerns about split votes, Republicans jumped to start branding Orman as the de facto choice of liberal Democrats. It was an attack strategy that wouldn't

have worked on him if there was a Democrat on the ticket, Orman said.

"When it became a two-candidate race, it changed the nature of the race," he said.

Wheelan said the Pressler and Orman campaigns suggest that it may be best for independent candidates to keep low profiles as late in the cycle as possible.

"It's very counterintuitive for politics, but the nature of these races is you kind of got to sneak up from the middle," Wheelan said. "They both peaked too early."

The Centrist Project grew out of Wheelan's book, "The Centrist Manifesto," which argued for a third political party. He eventually scaled back to focus on individual U.S. Senate races.

The 2014 election results offered several other lessons that are shaping the project's mission. The organization this past year has spent considerable time honing its branding and marketing efforts with a focus on trying to connect with independents on an emotional level.

"How can we take what's really kind of a cerebral, wonkish idea — both the strategy and what they stand for — and wrap it in something that resonates more emotionally?" he asked.

US marshal in South Dakota kills South Carolina suspect

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A U.S. Marshals Service deputy in South Dakota shot and killed a man who was wanted in a homicide in South Carolina, authorities said.

Sioux Falls Police Officer Sam Clemens said authorities received a tip that Lonnie Haskell Powers Jr., 37, of Summerville, South Carolina, was in Sioux Falls, and that he was armed. They tracked Powers to a parking lot at Lewis Drug on Saturday afternoon.

When confronted by officers who surrounded the suspect's car with weapons drawn, Clemens said, Powers pulled out a handgun. A deputy marshal shot him once in the chest while he was still in his car, Clemens said. Powers died at the scene.

Video from KFSY-TV shows the drivers' side window was blown out by the shot.

The Berkeley County Sheriff's Office in South Carolina said Powers was wanted in the killing of James Anthony Hill, 55, who was found shot to death in his home near Ridgeville on Dec. 13. The motive is still under investigation.

Theresa Stehly said her car was parked near Powers' vehicle, and that she was coming out of the store as the confrontation unfolded around 1:30 p.m.

"I heard loud talking and I saw there were marshals on either side of this vehicle and police officers ... with their guns drawn," Stehly said. "I heard them assuring him (the suspect) that if he got out of the vehicle he wouldn't be hurt."

Stehly said the officers also ordered him to keep his hands visible.

"Get your hand out of the sack, get your hand out of the sack," and they kept screaming and yelling," Stehly said.

Police cleared the area and locked customers inside the store.

The FBI is leading the investigation.

South Dakota outdoors enthusiasts to see fee hikes in 2016

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Outdoors enthusiasts in South Dakota will see some fee increases in 2016.

People interested in reserving a campsite at a South Dakota state park by phone will now have to pay a \$2 fee, while no fee will be applied to reservations made online.

A seven-day vehicle pass for Custer State Park now costs \$20, up from \$15 last year. Meanwhile, the daily entrance fee for the George S. Mickelson Trail has increased from \$3 to \$4.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission approved the changes in November.

Global stocks sink after Shanghai index dives 7 percent

YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Chinese stocks plunged nearly 7 percent Monday, triggering an emergency trading suspension and giving global markets an unnerving start to 2016. Weak Chinese manufacturing and Middle East tensions were catalysts for the sell-off.

The Shanghai Composite Index dived 6.9 percent to 3,296.66 on the first trading day of the year. The index was at its lowest level in nearly three months.

The official Xinhua News Agency said the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock markets halted trading for the remainder of Monday to avert steeper falls. It was the first time China used the "circuit breaker" mechanism it announced late last year.

In early European trading, Britain's FTSE 100 slipped 1.9 percent to 6,123.91 and Germany's DAX tumbled 3.3 percent to 10,389.11. France's CAC 40 slumped 2.1 percent to 4,537.70. Futures augured losses on Wall Street. Dow futures fell 1.5 percent and S&P 500 futures dropped 1.3 percent.

Authorities have been trying for months to restore confidence in Chinese stocks after a plunge in prices in June rattled global markets and prompted a panicked, multibillion-dollar government intervention. Beijing is gradually unwinding emergency controls that included a freeze on new stock offerings.

Weak manufacturing data was behind the sell-off Monday along with Middle East tensions, which pushed up oil prices.

Huang Cengdong, an analyst for Sinolink Securities in Shanghai, said selling accelerated as investors tried to lock in trades before activity was halted.

He expects more selling in coming weeks ahead of corporate earnings reports.

"The market will not improve because there will be heavy selling in the near future," said Huang.

Elsewhere in Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 tumbled 3.1 percent to close at 18,450.98 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng retreated 2.7 percent to 21,327.12. South Korea's Kospi closed 2.2 percent lower at 1,918.76. Stocks in Australia, Taiwan and Southeast Asia were also lower.

The Caixin/Markit index of Chinese manufacturing, which is based on a survey of factory purchasing managers, fell to 48.2 in December from 48.6 the previous month, marking contraction for the 10th straight month.

It was the latest sign of the headwinds facing China's economy that add to a downbeat outlook for Asian exporters. On Friday, an official manufacturing index also showed a persistent contraction in factory activity despite Beijing's stimulus measures.

China's factory data is "still a long way off stirring up cheer about global demand recovery," said Mizuho Bank Ltd. in a daily commentary. "Asian exporters are expected to continue struggling with exports contraction and growth prospects dampened by related manufacturing gloom."

Escalating tensions in the Middle East pushed up the price of oil, analysts said.

Saudi Arabia said Sunday it is severing diplomatic relations with Iran, a development that could potentially threaten oil supply. The world's largest oil supplier executed a prominent Shiite cleric that prompted protesters to set fire to the Saudi Embassy in Tehran and Iran's top leader to criticize Saudi Arabia.

"Oil markets will be concerned that this could be an incremental step in a deteriorating political situation that might ultimately threaten world oil supply," Ric Spooner, chief analyst at CMC Markets, said in a commentary.

Benchmark U.S. crude added 14 cents to \$37.19 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 36 cents to close at \$37.04 per barrel on the last trading day of 2015. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 20 cents to \$37.48 a barrel in London.

In currencies, the dollar weakened to 118.98 yen from 120.26 yen. The euro rose to \$1.0914 from \$1.0861.

Consumers won't know meat origin after US ends labeling law

MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's now harder to find out where your beef or pork was born, raised and slaughtered.

After more than a decade of wrangling, Congress repealed a labeling law last month that required retailers to include the animal's country of origin on packages of red meat. It's a major victory for the meat industry, which had fought the law in Congress and the courts since the early 2000s.

Lawmakers said they had no choice but to get rid of the labels after the World Trade Organization repeatedly ruled against them. The WTO recently authorized Canada and Mexico, which had challenged the law, to begin more than \$1 billion in economic retaliation against the United States.

"U.S. exporters can now breathe a sigh of relief," said Republican Sen. Pat Roberts of Kansas, chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee. The longtime opponent of the labels helped add the repeal to a massive year-end spending bill. After the law was passed, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said the government immediately would stop requiring the labels.

Consumer groups say the repeal is a disappointment just as consumers are asking for more information on their food packages. Advocates say the labels help people make more informed buying decisions and encourage purchases of American meat.

Before repeal, the labels told shoppers that a particular cut of meat was "born in Canada, raised and slaughtered in the United States" or "born, raised and slaughtered in the United States." Congress first required the labels in 2002 amid fears of mad cow disease from imported cattle. The labels weren't on most packages until 2009, though, due to delays pushed by the meat industry.

Repeal became inevitable once the United States lost all its WTO appeals and the retaliation became a possibility. But the consumer groups criticized Congress for repealing the law for ground meat and pork in addition to the fresh cuts of meat that were the subject of WTO concerns.

The bill was "a holiday gift to the meatpacking industry from Congress," complained the advocacy group Food and Water Watch. Meatpackers who buy Mexican cattle were some of the law's most aggressive opponents.

The repeal also was a big defeat for lawmakers from northern border states where U.S. ranchers directly compete with Canadian ranchers. Those lawmakers insisted on including the labeling in the 2002 and 2008 farm bills and this year fought to replace it with a voluntary program once the WTO rulings came down. But after years of success, this time they were not able to find enough support.

Roger Johnson of the National Farmers Union, which has heavy membership in those states, said the group was "furious" about the repeal.

"Packers will be able to once again deliberately deceive consumers," Johnson said.

Still, there was some good news for food labeling advocates in the spending bill. Despite an aggressive push by the food industry, lawmakers decided not to add language that would have blocked mandatory labeling of genetically modified ingredients. Also, a provision by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, would require labeling of genetically modified salmon recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

The issue is expected to come up again in 2016, with Vermont set to require labeling on genetically modified food this summer.

The day the spending bill passed, Vilsack said he would try to help Congress come up with a middle ground on labeling of engineered foods "in a way that doesn't create significant market disruption, while at the same time recognizing consumers' need to know and right to know basic information."

Obama starts 2016 with a fight over gun control

KATHLEEN HENNESSEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is slated Monday to finalize a set of new executive actions tightening the nation's gun laws, making his first order of business in the new year a clear signal the president in his final year doesn't intend to go quietly.

At a meeting with Attorney General Loretta Lynch, FBI Director James Comey and other top law enforcement officials Obama is expected to sign off on a package of proposals aimed at curbing gun violence and cracking down on unregulated gun sales.

At the top of the list is an effort to expand background checks on gun sales by forcing more sellers to register as federally licensed gun dealers. The changes would be aimed at some unregistered sellers who skirt the background check laws by selling at gun shows, online or informal settings. Other moves being considered include improving reporting of lost and stolen weapons and beefing up inspections of licensed dealers, according to a person familiar with the plans who would not be named discussing proposals before they are finalized.

The package includes measures this White House has long considered but not completed, mindful of the legal fight sure to follow as well as the potential for political backlash for some fellow Democrats.

But after a steady string of mass shootings and with the clock on his tenure ticking down, Obama appears primed to push further than he has in the past.

"We definitely think there are things he can do," said Dan Gross, president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, which advocates for expanding background checks. Gross says his recent conversations with White House aides have left him hopeful.

"It's very clear that the White House is feeling emboldened," he said.

Obama announced the meeting with Lynch in his weekly address from his Hawaii holiday vacation. On Thursday, he'll take his argument to prime time, participating in a town hall discussion of gun violence on CNN. He's slated to make his case for changes in his State of the Union address on Jan. 12.

The high-profile rollout reflects a White House continuing to look for ways to wrap up unfinished business, despite an uncooperative Congress.

After all but ignoring the issue in his first term, Obama changed course after the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in December 2012. Nevertheless, the president failed to push a package of gun measures through Congress, including one expanding background checks.

At the same time, Obama took nearly two dozen executive actions to tighten gun laws, but left a major expansion of background checks out of the mix.

But after the shooting at a community college in Roseburg, Oregon in October, a weary and angry Obama ordered his staff to redouble the effort to look for ways to work around Congress.

Under current law, federally licensed firearms dealers are required to seek background checks on potential firearm purchasers. But advocacy groups say many sellers are currently exempt from having to register, increasing the chance of sales to customers prohibited by law from purchasing a gun.

The administration is expected to reclassify some of those dealers using a mix of criteria, such as the number and frequency of guns sold, whether sellers profit off sales, whether they advertise, rent space or tables at gun shows and pay taxes. White House officials have not yet disclosed the details of the proposal.

Obama's plans immediately set off a political debate on the presidential campaign trail, both over the policy and whether the president has the authority to make it.

Democrat Hillary Clinton, who has already proposed an executive action to close the gun show loophole, cheered Obama's plans.

"I am absolutely convinced we can have gun safety measures consistent with the Constitution," she said during a presidential campaign event in Concord, New Hampshire. "I will take on that fight. I'm very hopeful and excited that the president is going to take some action with executive action in the next week or two ... but if it's a Republican who walks into the White House within the first day, the executive orders will be reversed."

Rival Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent from Vermont, told ABC's "This Week" he wished Congress could find consensus but added the move was the "right thing to do."

Republicans candidates rejected the proposals, including those who have backed some gun control measures in the past.

"This president is a petulant child," New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said Sunday on "Fox News Sunday." "The fact is if he wants to make changes to these laws, go to Congress and convince the Congress that they're necessary. But this is going to be another illegal executive action which I'm sure will be rejected by the courts."

"I don't like changing anything," Donald Trump said on CBS' "Face the Nation." "Right now, they have plenty of rules and regulations."

At least 2 gunmen still holed up at Indian air force base

CHANNI ANAND, Associated Press

MUNEEZA NAQVI, Associated Press

PATHANKOT, India (AP) — At least two gunmen were holed up in a two-story building on an Indian air force base near the Pakistan border and exchanging gunfire with troops Monday, more than two days after they and several others attacked the heavily fortified compound, officials said.

Seven troops and four gunmen have been killed so far in fighting that started after several suspected militants infiltrated the Pathankot air force base before dawn Saturday.

Defense officials have said that authorities had been alerted about a potential attack in the area on Friday, and that aerial surveillance at the base spotted the gunmen as they entered the compound, leading to criticism of the handling of the situation.

The army said in a statement Monday that the building where the remaining gunmen were firing from is part of the living quarters on the base.

Maj. Gen. Dushyant Singh, from India's elite National Security Guard, told reporters in Pathankot that it will take a "long time" to declare the base completely secure because of its size and geography.

The sprawling Pathankot air force base is spread over more than 2,000 acres, including some forested sections with very tall grass. The commanding officer of the base, Lt. Col. J.S. Dhamoon, described it as a "mini-city" that includes homes for families and a school for the children of the personnel stationed there.

Officials have said that there have been no civilian casualties and that no aircraft or military equipment has been damaged in the fighting.

The base houses a fleet of India's Russian-origin MiG-21 fighter jets and Mi-25 and Mi-35 attack helicopters, along with other military hardware.

The fact that seven Indian troops inside a military base were killed despite intelligence alerts has angered many in India.

"The biggest problem is the multiplicity of command and control. Nobody knows who is really in charge," said Rahul Bedi, an analyst for Jane's Information Group.

The Pathankot base and the northern state of Punjab, where it is located, has "probably the highest concentration of military personnel in India because it's so close to the border with Pakistan," Bedi said.

"It's a huge embarrassment," he said. "It's a major goof-up for everybody."

Since Saturday morning, the base has been swarming with air force commandos, army soldiers, National Security Guard troops and local police. Officials, however, have refused to say how many security personnel in all were involved in the fighting and operations to secure the base.

There has also been no clear source of information on the attack for the media. Home Minister Rajnath Singh even tweeted Saturday night to congratulate the troops for successfully killing all of the gunmen.

The air force base is on the highway that connects India's insurgency-plagued Jammu and Kashmir state with the rest of the country. It is also very close to India's border with Pakistan.

The Himalayan region of Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan, but is claimed in its entirety by both. Rebels in India's portion of Kashmir have been fighting since 1989 for independence or merger with Pakistan.

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India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the insurgents, a charge Islamabad denies, and the attack is being viewed as a possible attempt to unravel recent progress in the relationship between the two nations.

Police said they do not know if the gunmen came from the Indian portion of Kashmir, where rebels routinely stage attacks, or from Pakistan.

The violence follows Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surprise Dec. 25 visit to Pakistan, where he met his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif — a trip that marked a significant thaw in the mostly tense relations between the nuclear-armed neighbors.

The two also held an unscheduled meeting at the Paris climate change talks last month.

Ahead of Modi's visit to Pakistan, the national security advisers of both countries met in Thailand. The foreign secretaries of both nations are to meet in Islamabad later this month.

The responses to the attacks from both countries have been muted so far, with neither New Delhi nor Islamabad giving any indication that the planned talks are under any threat.

All political parties in India have condemned the attack, but there were no demands that the government call off the talks with Pakistan. In the past, when it was in opposition, Modi's right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party was a vocal critic of engagement with Pakistan.

Bill Clinton to stump for his wife, bringing old controversy

LISA LERER, Associated Press

KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

KEENE, N.H. (AP) — Bill Clinton is back on the presidential campaign trail — and so is his baggage.

For months, the former president has largely stayed out of the 2016 race, mentioned mostly in passing by Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton. On Monday, he heads out for his first solo campaign events, with stops planned in New Hampshire — a key primary state that gave much-needed momentum to his struggling 1992 presidential bid.

He'll do so after days of attacks over his impeachment and decades-old sex scandals from Republican front-runner Donald Trump.

So far, Bill Clinton has remained mum about Trump's slams — following the lead of his wife's campaign, which believes their candidate comes across as more presidential by rising above what they see as the Republican's crass political tactics.

But the attacks seem to have struck a nerve.

At a campaign event in New Hampshire on Sunday, Katherine Prudhomme O'Brien heckled Clinton about her husband's sexual history, accusing her of enabling him to mistreat women.

"You are very rude and I'm not going to ever call on you," Clinton snapped at O'Brien, after repeated shouted interruptions by the New Hampshire state senator.

The former president, too, has been known to become heated when he feels his wife is under attack, as he did during the 2008 primary with remarks about then-Illinois Sen. Barack Obama that angered black voters in South Carolina.

"I love my husband and, you know, he does get upset when I am attacked," said Clinton, in an interview with NBC's "Meet The Press" last year. "I totally get that."

Just days after Clinton called her husband her "secret weapon" at a campaign event last month, Trump began aiming his fire at Bill Clinton, accusing the former president of mistreating women and his wife of enabling the abuse.

"If Hillary thinks she can unleash her husband, with his terrible record of women abuse, while playing the women's card on me, she is wrong," Trump tweeted last week.

His accusations reverberated across the campaign trail, giving fodder to conservatives who want to use the issue in the 2016 campaign.

"You see what's happened recently and it hasn't been a very pretty picture for her or for Bill," said Trump, in an interview on CBS' "Face the Nation." "Because I'm the only one who's willing to talk about his problems."

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Clinton supporters believe the attacks will backfire, particularly in the general election. Hillary Clinton had some of her highest approval ratings in the wake of disclosures about her husband's affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

The former president's public events in New Hampshire come as he moves into a more public role in his wife's effort. After months of having her husband focus on private fundraisers, Clinton said in a December debate that she would turn to Bill Clinton for advice should she win the White House, particularly on economic issues.

Their schedules on Monday showed the degree to which the ubiquitous political couple will be able to blanket the early primary states in the next two months as Democrats also hold contests in Iowa, Nevada and South Carolina.

While the former president was drumming up support for his wife in New Hampshire, Hillary Clinton was starting a two-day "river-to-river" tour of Iowa, holding town hall meetings and organizing events across the state.

Bill Clinton's longstanding ability to raise money will also be an asset in the weeks ahead, with fundraisers on the calendar in New York, Seattle, Phoenix, Albuquerque, N.M., Cleveland and Fairfield, Conn. The finance events will allow Hillary Clinton to spend more time on the ground in Iowa and also in New Hampshire, where polls have shown her trailing Sanders, who represents neighboring Vermont.

The couple's daughter, Chelsea Clinton, was also getting into the act, headlining fundraisers of her own in Boston, Atlanta and Chicago next week.

Military kids sexually abused hundreds of times each year

RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

EILEEN SULLIVAN, Associated Press

MEGHAN HOYER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cpl. Aaron C. Masa became fast friends with a fellow Marine during field training in North Carolina. But behind his buddy's back, Masa was sexually abusing his friend's 3-year-old stepdaughter. He also took sexually explicit photos of the girl and the Marine's infant daughter.

A military judge convicted Masa last year of sexual abuse of a child and production of child pornography, according to court records and other documents detailing the case. Under the terms of a pretrial agreement, he pleaded guilty and received 30 years in prison.

In total, the children of service members, or military dependents, are sexually assaulted hundreds of times each year, data the Defense Department provided exclusively to The Associated Press show. The abuse is committed most often by male enlisted troops, according to the data, followed by family members.

The figures offer greater insight into the sexual abuse of children committed by service members, a problem of uncertain scale due to a lack of transparency into the military's legal proceedings. With more than 1 million military dependents, the number of cases appears statistically small. But for a profession that prides itself on honor and discipline, any episodes of abuse cast a pall.

Those numbers fall well-short of offering a full picture.

The ages of the offenders and victims, the locations of the incidents and the branch of service that received the report of sexual abuse were omitted. The Defense Department said in a statement that "information that could unintentionally uniquely identify victims was withheld from release to eliminate possible 're-victimization' of the innocent."

It's also unclear how many of the incidents resulted in legal action. The cases represent substantiated occurrences of child sexual abuse reported to the Defense Department's Family Advocacy Program, which does not track judicial proceedings, the department said.

An AP investigation published in November found more inmates are in military prisons for child sex crimes than for any other offense. But the military's opaque justice system keeps the public from knowing the full extent of their crimes or how much time they spend behind bars.

Responding to AP's findings, three Democratic senators have urged Defense Secretary Ash Carter to lift

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what they called the military justice system's "cloak of secrecy" and make records from sex-crimes trials readily accessible.

The senators also raised another concern. Child sex-assault cases are not included in the Defense Department's annual report to Congress on sexual assaults, which focuses primarily on adult-on-adult incidents, they said. The senators — Barbara Boxer of California, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and Mazie Hirono of Hawaii — told Carter in a Dec. 8 letter they are concerned the department may be underestimating how many sexual assaults are occurring in the military.

There were at least 1,584 substantiated cases of military dependents being sexually abused between fiscal years 2010 and 2014, according to the data. Enlisted service members sexually abused children in 840 cases. Family members of the victims accounted for the second largest category with 332 cases.

Most of the enlisted offenders were males whose ranks ranged between E-4 and E-6. In the Marine Corps and Army, for example, those troops are corporals, sergeants and staff sergeants. Officers were involved in 49 of the cases. The victims were overwhelmingly female.

Kathy Robertson, manager of the Family Advocacy Program, said in an emailed response to questions that the incident rates reflect the U.S. military's demographics. Most of the cases involve the E-4 and E-6 ranks because they are the largest number of active-duty personnel and the largest number of parents in the military, she said.

Duplications in the data indicate that as many as 160 additional cases of sexual abuse could have occurred during the 2010 to 2014 period, involving a child who was victimized multiple times or a repeat abuser. The figures also account only for cases involving military dependents, which are the only child victims the department tracks.

In Masa's case, military authorities first became aware of the alleged abuse in June 2014 after the 3-year-old told a neighbor that she did not like Masa because he touched her in certain places and "made it hurt," according to the Naval Criminal Investigative Service's investigation obtained through the Freedom of Information Act.

NCIS blacked out all the names in the report, including Masa's. The AP identified him by the dates and events in the document that matched records from Masa's court-martial.

Masa, 24, admitted during questioning to at least five instances of sexually assaulting her, the NCIS report said. Investigators found nude photos of both girls on his cellphone and later discovered a pair of girl's underwear during a search of his mother's home in Ohio.

The report depicted Masa as a loner with a troubled past. People interviewed by the Navy investigators described him as "oddball" who was picked on in high school in Marietta, Ohio. He graduated near the bottom of his class with a cumulative 1.782 GPA, according to his official transcript.

Masa watched a lot of sexually explicit Japanese animation known as hentai, the NCIS report said, and he had an intense interest in "furry porn," a genre of pornography in which animal characters with human arms and legs engage in sex.

In 2008, Masa was arrested after threatening to bring a gun to school and shoot three other students, according to the NCIS report, which included details of the incident. Police didn't find a gun on him, but he had a knife. He pleaded guilty to a disorderly conduct charge.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps in June 2010, a month after graduating from high school. The arrest wasn't serious enough to bar Masa from enlisting. A Marine Corps spokesman said he was found qualified after a thorough screening process that involved physical, mental and moral evaluations.

Stationed at Camp Lejeune, a sprawling installation on the North Carolina coast, Masa started a friendship with the Marine sergeant and his family in 2013, according to the 286-page NCIS report. They fished together and chopped wood for the sergeant's fire pit. Masa loaned the sergeant money to help the family through a financially difficult period and spent more and more time at their home, the report said. He babysat the girls and volunteered to give the older daughter a bath, the documents said.

Amid the good will, suspicions surfaced. The girls' mother suspected as early as March 2014 that the 3-year-old daughter was being molested because she complained of pain "down there," according to portions of medical records from a hospital near Camp Lejeune that are included in the NCIS report. The girl was sleeping by the door and having nightmares, the mother said.

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Yet at the hospital, the girl was in high spirits, smiling, laughing and jumping on the bed, according to the report. She was diagnosed as having a urinary tract infection and antibiotics were prescribed. "Mom advised to follow up with law enforcement if she has concern about possible molestation," the report said, quoting the medical records.

But an investigation wouldn't be launched until a few months later, after the girl talked to the neighbor. While being questioned by investigators, Masa drew a diagram of the floor plan of the sergeant's home, using X's and O's to show where the abuse occurred.

Masa is serving his sentence at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Saudis sever ties with Iran over embassy, mission attacks

ALI AKBAR DAREINI, Associated Press

JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Saudi Arabia has severed diplomatic ties with regional rival Iran following attacks on the kingdom's embassy and consulate in the Islamic Republic over the execution of a prominent Shiite cleric.

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir announced the cut in relations late on Sunday and gave Iranian diplomatic personnel 48 hours to leave his country. All Saudi diplomatic personnel in Iran have been called home after an attack on the kingdom's embassy in Tehran and a consulate.

The decision came after the mass execution of Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr and 46 others — the largest carried out by Saudi Arabia in three and a half decades — laid bare the sectarian divisions gripping the region. Shiite protesters took to the streets from Bahrain to Pakistan while Arab allies of Sunni-ruled Saudi Arabia quickly lined up behind the kingdom.

The standoff illustrates the kingdom's new aggressiveness under King Salman. During his reign, Saudi Arabia has led a coalition fighting Shiite rebels in Yemen and staunchly opposed regional Shiite power Iran, even as Tehran struck a nuclear deal with world powers.

It also represents just the latest turmoil in the two countries' long-rocky relationship, which saw diplomatic ties between them severed from 1988 to 1991.

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, warned Saudi Arabia on Sunday of "divine revenge" over al-Nimr's death, while Riyadh accused Tehran of supporting "terrorism" in a war of words that threatened to escalate even as the U.S. and the European Union sought to calm the region.

Al-Jubeir told a news conference in Riyadh that the Iranian regime has "a long record of violations of foreign diplomatic missions," dating back to the occupation of the U.S. Embassy in 1979, and such incidents constitute "a flagrant violation of all international agreements," according to the official Saudi Press Agency.

He said Iran's "hostile policy" was aimed "at destabilizing the region's security," accusing Tehran of smuggling weapons and explosives and planting terrorist cells in the kingdom and other countries in the region. He vowed that Saudi Arabia will not allow Iran "to undermine our security."

Al-Nimr was a central figure in Arab Spring-inspired protests by Saudi Arabia's Shiite minority until his arrest in 2012. He was convicted of terrorism charges but denied advocating violence.

While the split between Sunnis and Shiites dates back to the early days of Islam and disagreements over the successor to the Prophet Muhammad, those divisions have only grown as they intertwine with regional politics, with both Iran and Saudi Arabia vying to be the Mideast's top power.

Iran accuses Saudi Arabia of supporting terrorism in part because it backs Syrian rebel groups fighting to oust its embattled ally, President Bashar Assad. Riyadh points to Iran's backing of the Lebanese Hezbollah and other Shiite militant groups in the region as a sign of its support for terrorism. Iran also has backed Shiite rebels in Yemen known as Houthis.

In Tehran, a protest outside the Saudi Embassy early Sunday quickly grew violent as protesters threw stones and gasoline bombs at the embassy, setting part of the building ablaze, according to Gen. Hossein Sajedinia, the country's top police official, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported.

Forty people were arrested and investigators were pursuing other suspects, Tehran prosecutor Abbas Jafari Dowlatabadi said, according to the semi-official ISNA news agency.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani condemned Saudi Arabia's execution of al-Nimr, but also branded

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those who attacked the Saudi Embassy as "extremists."

"It is unjustifiable," he said in a statement. Another Saudi diplomatic mission also was attacked in Mashhad. Western powers sought to calm the tensions.

In Washington, State Department spokesman John Kirby said the Obama administration was aware of the Saudis' severing of ties with Tehran. "We believe that diplomatic engagement and direct conversations remain essential in working through differences and we will continue to urge leaders across the region to take affirmative steps to calm tensions," Kirby said.

Earlier, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini spoke to Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif by phone and urged Tehran to "defuse the tensions and protect the Saudi diplomats," according to a statement.

The disruption in relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran may have implications for peace efforts in Syria. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and others spent significant time trying to bring the countries to the negotiating table and they both sat together at talks aimed at finding a diplomatic solution to the civil war. Last month, Saudi Arabia convened a meeting of Syrian opposition figures that was designed to create a delegation to attend peace talks with the Syrian government that are supposed to begin in mid-January.

Across the region, demonstrators took to the streets Sunday in protest over the execution of al-Nimr.

In Bahrain, police fired tear gas and birdshot at demonstrators on Sitra Island, south of the capital, Manama, wounding some. In al-Daih, west of the capital, Shiite protesters chanted against Saudi Arabia's ruling Al Saud family, as well as against Bahrain's ruling Al Khalifa family.

In Beirut, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah called al-Nimr "the martyr, the holy warrior," while protests erupted from Turkey to India to Pakistan.

Meanwhile, al-Nimr's family prepared for three days of mourning at a mosque in al-Awamiya village in the kingdom's al-Qatif region in predominantly Shiite eastern Saudi Arabia. The sheikh's brother, Mohammed al-Nimr, told The Associated Press that Saudi officials informed his family that the cleric had been buried in an undisclosed cemetery, a development that could lead to further protests.

Early Monday, the state-run Saudi Press Agency said a shooting targeting security forces in the village killed a man and wounded a child. It offered no motive for the attack.

Town watches warily as armed protesters take over refuge

REBECCA BOONE, Associated Press

BURNS, Ore. (AP) — People in this rural eastern Oregon town are used to worrying about friction between the federal government and locals, but the armed takeover of a nearby national wildlife refuge is raising concerns to a new high.

Keith Landon, a longtime resident of Burns and employee at the Reid Country Store, said he knows local law enforcement officials who fear their kids will be targeted by angry militia members. The mother of one of his kids is now involved with an officer, Landon said, and they decided to send their children to another town after they were allegedly threatened by an angry protester.

"I'm hoping most of it's just muscle, trying to push," Landon said. "But it's a scary thing."

Armed protesters took over the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge south of Burns on Saturday after participating in a peaceful rally over the prison sentences of local ranchers Dwight and Steven Hammond.

The Hammonds were convicted of arson three years ago for fires that burned on federal land in 2001 and 2006. Though they served their original sentences for the conviction — Dwight serving three months, Steven serving one year — an appellate judge ruled in October that the terms were too short under federal minimum sentencing laws.

Both men were ordered back to prison for four years each. They have said they plan to turn themselves in Monday.

The decision to send the man back to prison generated controversy and is part of a decades-long dispute between some Westerners and the federal government over the use of public lands.

Brothers Ammon and Ryan Bundy are among those occupying the refuge. Their father, Cliven Bundy,

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was involved in a 2014 standoff with the government over grazing rights in Nevada.

Ryan Bundy told The Associated Press Sunday he hopes to turn the land over to local authorities so people can use it free of federal oversight. He said he hopes the takeover of the property will prompt others to take action across the country to seize local control of federally managed land. Ammon Bundy has previously called on members of militia groups to take a stand with those at the refuge.

On Sunday afternoon, several pickup trucks blocked the entrance to the refuge and armed men wearing camouflage and winter gear used radios to alert those at the refuge buildings when reporters were allowed onto the property.

A small flock of pheasants wandered across the refuge driveway, scattering as men driving utility vehicles traversed the property. Ryan Bundy declined to say how many people were at the site.

"The end goal here is that we are here to restore the rights to the people here so that they can use the land and resources. All of them," Bundy said. That means ranchers can graze their cattle on the land, miners can use their mineral rights, loggers can cut trees and hunters and fishers can recreate, he said.

He said they planned on staying at the refuge as long as it takes. If the situation turns violent, Bundy contends it will be because of the federal government's actions.

"I mean, we're here to restore order, we're here to restore rights and that can go peacefully and easily," Bundy said.

Harney County Sheriff Dave Ward said in a statement Sunday that the group of armed protesters came to town under false pretenses.

"These men came to Harney County claiming to be part of militia groups supporting local ranchers, when in reality these men had alternative motives to attempt to over throw the county and federal government in hopes to spark a movement across the United States," Ward said.

The sheriff says he is working with local and federal authorities to keep the citizens in his county safe and to resolve the situation as quickly and peacefully as possible.

At a restaurant near the refuge Sunday, a local man eating supper said he understood the sentiment but didn't necessarily support the methods of the group. He wouldn't give his name because he said he feared being caught between the federal government and the militia.

Landon, who was a logger until the federal government declared the spotted owl a protected species in the 1980s, damaging the local logging industry, said he also sympathizes with the frustrations expressed by the Bundys.

"The spotted owl started the downfall of our community, then (President) Clinton made the Steens Mountains a wilderness area or whatever. Five generations of ranchers that had been on the Steens, kicked them off. And then management of the wildfires, it totally changed the region," Landon said. "It's hard to discredit what they're trying to do out there. But I don't want anybody hurt."

He said on the surface, it doesn't look like much has changed in Burns, a high desert town of about 2,700 people.

Most of the hotels in the area are booked full, and he's noticed that law enforcement officers are now doing their patrols in pairs instead of singly. But the biggest difference since the takeover is the undercurrent of worry, he said.

"It's weird — I woke up this morning expecting the town to be crawling with this and that agency. But you don't see any of it. They're keeping a low presence," Landon said.

Landon was happy the protesters seized land outside of Burns.

"I'm glad they took the refuge because it's 30 miles away. I mean, they could have took the courthouse here in town."

Israeli military demolishes, seals off attackers' homes

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military says forces are demolishing and sealing off the Jerusalem homes of two Palestinians involved in deadly attacks against Israelis in the city last year.

One attacker, Bahaa Elayan, opened fire on passengers on a bus in October, killing three people. The

same day, Alaa Abu Jamal rammed his car into pedestrians and then stabbed people, killing one. Both attackers were shot and killed at the scene.

Israel claims home demolitions such as Monday's operation are an effective tool to deter attacks. Critics say the tactic amounts to collective punishment.

Since the current round of Israeli-Palestinian violence erupted in mid-September, 21 Israelis have been killed in Palestinian attacks. At least 131 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire, 90 of them said by Israel to have been attackers.

Illinois, Missouri assess damage, cleanup after flooding

JIM SALTER, Associated Press

JIM SUHR, Associated Press

KINCAID, Ill. (AP) — Sharon Stivers mustered a smile as a visitor walked into her muddy yard.

"Welcome to my flood sale," Stivers joked, nodding to a tall stack of water-soaked furniture, appliances and belongings pulled from her home and piled high by the road in the flat central Illinois town of Kincaid. "You can have the whole thing for 50 cents."

The Mississippi River and most other waterways in Missouri and Illinois flooded last week after 10-14 inches of rain fell over a wide swath of the two states. The water receded in most places Sunday but continued to rise in a few. Cleanup and damage assessment was only beginning, and could take weeks.

Twenty-five deaths in the two states were blamed on flooding, nearly all of them the result of vehicles driving over flooded roadways. The death toll rose Sunday when the body of a second teenager missing for several days was found near Kincaid, a town of about 1,400 residents along the South Fork Sangamon River near Springfield.

The Mississippi River was receding except in the far southern tip of both states. After that, flooding is expected to worsen in Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee and other southern states, though the breadth of the flooding there isn't expected to match what happened in Missouri and Illinois.

The Meramec River, the St. Louis-area tributary of the Mississippi that caused so much damage last week, already was below flood stage in the hard-hit Missouri towns of Pacific and Eureka and dropping elsewhere, just three days after reaching record levels. The worst was still to come along the Illinois River, where near-record crests are expected early this week in the Illinois towns of Beardstown, Meredosia and Valley City.

Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner toured flood-damaged homes in Kincaid and urged residents to be careful, noting the rare cold-weather flood carries its own burdens, including the prospect of hypothermia for those wading into water.

Stivers and many of her neighbors spent Sunday removing ruined items from their homes and placing them along the street for trash crews to pick up. Stivers shares a home with a 45-year-old daughter battling breast cancer, along with a granddaughter and four dogs. Floodwaters got 4 feet into their home, located in an area where flood insurance wasn't available.

"I lost my home," Stivers said. "My daughter has cancer and lost her home. Am I mad? When I'm not crying I am."

In Illinois' St. Clair County near St. Louis, emergency management director Herb Simmons said damage assessment began Sunday after the Mississippi started to fall. Though water reached higher than 1993, this flood wasn't as bad, Simmons said.

"In '93 that water came up and stayed on the levees for several months," Simmons said. "This flood came up quick and went down quick."

St. Louis-area cleanup largely was focused around the Meramec. Two wastewater treatment plants were so damaged by the floodwaters that raw sewage spewed into the river. Hundreds of people who had been evacuated in the Missouri communities of Pacific, Eureka, Valley Park and Arnold were cleaning up the mess and filth left behind.

In southeast Missouri, up to 30 homes and several businesses were damaged in Cape Girardeau, a com-

munity of nearly 40,000 residents that is mostly protected by a flood wall. The Mississippi peaked at 48.9 feet Friday night, four-tenths of a foot above the 1993 record, but short of the 50-foot mark projected. Nearby levee breaks and toppings in other places kept the crest down.

Amtrak service between St. Louis and Kansas City was back in business on Sunday, four days after high water that reached the tracks at some locations forced the passenger service to be halted.

6.7 magnitude quake hits India's northeast, leaves 6 dead

WASBIR HUSSAIN, Associated Press

GAUHATI, India (AP) — A 6.7 magnitude earthquake hit India's remote northeast region before dawn on Monday, killing at least six people, injuring more than 100 others and causing damage to several buildings.

The death and injuries were caused by falling debris. Three people were killed in Imphal, the capital of Manipur state, and another three in other parts of the state, said police officer A.K. Jalajit.

The powerful tremor left large cracks in walls and a portion of a popular market building collapsed in the state capital. The area is dotted with small houses. There are few tall buildings in the region, although a newly constructed six-story building collapsed in Imphal, the police control room said.

A bridge also was damaged on the outskirts of Imphal, police said.

India's Meteorological Department said the epicenter of the quake was in Tamenglong region of Manipur state. It struck before dawn on Monday at a depth of 17 kilometers (about 10 miles) not far from the border with Myanmar.

Police officer L. Ragui said dozens of homes were slightly damaged in Tamenglong.

No deaths had been reported so far in the area, but four people suffered injuries when a wall collapsed on them, Ragui said by the telephone.

Shangthon Kamei, a teacher in Tamenglong, said the earthquake rattled buildings.

"It lasted for around one minute. We were sleeping and were woken up by the earthquake," he said.

Telephone and electricity connections were disrupted in some areas.

The epicenter was 35 kilometers (20 miles) northwest of Imphal. The area is remote with poor cellphone and Internet connections, and information about conditions outside of major cities may take time to emerge.

Nearly 90 members of the National Disaster Response Force, a specialized federal force for natural disasters, have left to check on remote areas, police said.

People panicked and rushed out of their homes in Gauhati, the capital of neighboring Assam state, as they felt massive shaking at least twice within 60 seconds.

In Imphal, residents said furniture was knocked over and books fell off shelves.

"The ground swayed for almost a minute, jolting people awake in their homes," said one resident, Apem Arthur.

Carolina and Denver wrap up No. 1 seeds for playoffs

TIM BOOTH, AP Sports Writer

Carolina closed out its remarkable season by wrapping up home-field advantage in the NFC. Denver turned to Peyton Manning to take advantage of New England's slip-up in the AFC. And Rex Ryan made certain to continue the New York Jets' playoff drought.

Carolina and Denver wrapped up the No. 1 playoff seeds in each conference by winning at home on the final day of the regular season on Sunday. Carolina routed Tampa Bay 38-10, while Denver edged San Diego 27-20 to win the AFC West title.

"We find our edge playing in front of the home crowd," Carolina QB Cam Newton said. "Everything here feels just right. We don't have travel to a hostile environment. This is our house — and it's hostile."

New England will be the No. 2 seed in the AFC after losing at Miami, while Arizona will have the other bye in the NFC despite getting routed 36-6 by Seattle.

Denver's victory finally settled the AFC playoff picture. Cincinnati is the No. 3 seed and will host AFC North rival Pittsburgh in a wild-card game on Saturday night, while AFC South champion Houston is the

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No. 4 seed and will host Kansas City, winners of 10 straight games. The Texans and Chiefs will play the first game of the playoffs on Saturday afternoon.

New England will host the early game on Saturday, Jan. 16, with Denver hosting the lowest remaining AFC seed in the late game on Sunday, Jan. 17.

The NFC playoff picture was settled late Sunday night when Minnesota beat Green Bay 20-13 to win the NFC North. The Vikings will host Seattle in the early game Sunday, while Green Bay will travel to NFC East champion Washington for the late Sunday game. The Redskins closed the season with their fourth straight win on Sunday beating Dallas.

Arizona will host the late game on Saturday, Jan. 16, while the Panthers will host the lowest remaining seed in the NFC in the early game on Sunday, Jan. 17.

The highlight of the day was Ryan and the Buffalo Bills stopping the Jets from making the playoffs and gave the Steelers the final playoff spot in the AFC. The Bills beat the Jets 22-17, while Pittsburgh knocked off Cleveland 28-12, the only results that would have gotten the Steelers into the postseason. The Jets have not made the playoffs since 2010.

"I've got a lot of friends over there, and I want them to be successful, but not at my expense," Ryan said.

Ryan has plenty of friends in the Steel City now.

"A lot of thanks to coach Ryan and the rest of the Bills and everybody in Buffalo," Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger said. "I know they're excited about 8-8 and we're excited they got us in."

New England had a chance at home field in the AFC, but flopped in Miami getting beat 20-10. Denver struggled in the first half against San Diego before inserting Manning in place of Brock Osweiler at quarterback and holding on late for the seven-point victory.

"Wherever we play, we play," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said.

Houston also clinched the AFC South with its win over Jacksonville and will host Kansas City after the Chiefs beat Oakland for their 10th straight victory.

Houston avoided the headache of possibly having to look at eight different tiebreakers against the Colts by beating Jacksonville 30-6 to win the AFC South, making Indianapolis' victory over Tennessee moot. The Colts entered the day with the slimmest of chances to win the division, but a Texans loss was needed. Houston is the fourth seed.

"We are not happy with just winning the AFC South," Houston wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins said. "There are bigger goals ahead of us."

Seattle rebounded from last week's loss at home against St. Louis with one of its most dominant victories of the season, winning big at Arizona. The Seahawks led 30-6 at halftime and won for the sixth time in seven games. It'll be their second trip to Minnesota in about a month. Seattle beat the Vikings 38-7 on Dec. 6.

"These guys are confident that we can go wherever we got to go," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said.

Browns clean house, fire coach Mike Pettine, GM Ray Farmer

TOM WITHERS, AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Browns changed uniforms to start the season and their coach and general manager to end it.

Hours after a 28-12 loss to the rival Pittsburgh Steelers in the season finale, owner Jimmy Haslam fired coach Mike Pettine and general manager Ray Farmer following their second straight losing season in charge.

It's almost a tradition.

Pettine went 3-13 this season and 10-22 in two years, dropping 18 of his final 21 games after a promising 7-4 start in 2014. Pettine's job security had been in doubt for months, and not even Haslam's vow at the start of training camp not to "blow things up" could stop another regime change in Cleveland.

Pettine was the team's seventh full-time coach since 1999, and the team has changed coaches and GMs five times since 2008.

"I don't think any of us anticipated going 3-13," said Haslam, who after firing Pettine returned from the

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team's headquarters in Berea, Ohio, to FirstEnergy Stadium to speak to the media. "I certainly didn't and I don't think anybody in our building did. Mike and Ray understand. They understand it's a bottom-line business and you're paid to win games, and losing 18 of 21 is not acceptable. They get that and they understand that and they're first-class guys. I hate it for them and obviously hate it for us."

A former defensive coordinator, Pettine's ouster can be partly linked to the performance of his defense, which ranked at or near the bottom in the league in nearly every statistical category. He's the fifth Cleveland coach in eight years to lose his job following a season-ending loss to the Steelers.

Haslam said the team will begin an immediate search for its eighth full-time coach of the expansion era. The Browns have hired Korn Ferry, an executive search firm, to assist with a quest that's been as perplexing for Cleveland's front office as the one for a franchise quarterback.

"We want to get the right person," Haslam said. "I don't know if it's going to take two weeks or two months."

Haslam's already fired three coaches and three GMs since buying the team from Randy Lerner in 2012.

"The blame for the franchise doing so poorly lays right here with me, because at the end of the day it's our job to put the right people in the right place and provide them with the resources," Haslam said. "I think we've done the latter. But the fact in the two full seasons we've owned the team we've won seven games and three games is unacceptable. We accept full responsibility for that. This has been much harder than we thought it would be, and there's a definite learning curve. I think we've found in life you often learn the hard way, and this has certainly been an example of this."

Potential candidates include Chicago offensive coordinator Andrew Gase, Cincinnati offensive coordinator Hue Jackson, Carolina defensive coordinator Sean McDermott, former Philadelphia coach Chip Kelly, and former Buffalo coach Doug Marrone, now an assistant in Jacksonville.

Once the Browns have their new coach, the plan is to hire a GM. Haslam said Sashi Brown has been promoted to vice president of football operations and will have control over personnel decisions and the 53-man roster.

Haslam still believes the Browns are attractive to quality candidates and downplayed the idea the team needs to make a "splash" with its coaching hire.

Following Sunday's game, the 50-year-old Pettine said he understood change was looming — and inevitable.

"It should be a topic of speculation, given what our results have been," Pettine told reporters. "It is a bottom-line business and you guys don't have a column in the newspaper for moral victories. Our record is that we have won three of our last 21 games. That is just not good enough."

It hasn't helped that the Browns lacked talent, especially offensive playmakers and that's partly Farmer's fault.

The Browns have whiffed on high draft picks, wasted money on a defense that showed little improvement, and remain at the bottom of one of the NFL's toughest divisions.

Farmer, too, was suspended for the first four games this season for texting to the sideline during 2014 games.

One of his biggest mistakes over the past two years appears to be drafting quarterback Johnny Manziel. The 2012 Heisman Trophy winner hasn't lived up to expectations on the field and continues to be a headache off it. He spent 73 days in a rehab facility during the offseason, got benched by Pettine for two games during the year for misbehavior and missed Sunday's game with a concussion. While his teammates finished the season, Manziel was reportedly in Las Vegas.

Haslam wouldn't comment directly on Manziel's whereabouts or his future in Cleveland. He did say the 23-year-old failed to report to the team's facility on Sunday for treatment.

3 held in slaying of Mexico mayor a day after taking office

CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

MARIA VERZA, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Three people, including a minor, were being held Sunday in the slaying of a newly inaugurated mayor just hours into her term in a gang-troubled central Mexican city.

Morelos Gov. Graco Ramirez ordered flags on state buildings flown at half-staff and called for three days of mourning following the killing of Temixco Mayor Gisela Mota.

He blamed organized crime for killing the 33-year-old Mota, a former federal congresswoman who had been sworn in as mayor the day before she was gunned down in her home Saturday morning.

Ramirez ordered security measures for all of the state's mayors, though he gave no details on what that involved.

Ramon Castro Castro, Roman Catholic bishop of Cuernavaca, celebrated Mass at Mota's home Sunday and later spoke critically of a state where some areas are in control of organized crime.

"One theory could be that it was a warning to the other mayors," Castro said to reporters. "If you don't cooperate with organized crime, look at what will happen to you. It's to scare them."

Following Mota's killing, two suspects were killed in a clash with police and three others arrested. Officials said those taken into custody were a 32-year-old woman, an 18-year-old man and a minor. They gave few other details, though state Attorney General Javier Perez Duron said the suspects had been tied to other crimes.

Temixco, with about 100,000 people, is a suburb of Cuernavaca, a city famed among tourists for its colonial center, gardens and jacaranda-decked streets. "The city of eternal spring" was long a favorite weekend getaway for people from nearby Mexico City.

But drug and extortion gangs have plagued the area in recent years, driving away some tourists and residents. The expressway — and drug routes — between Mexico City and the country's murder capital of Acapulco cuts through Cuernavaca and Temixco.

Neither the governor nor prosecutors indicated which criminal organization might be involved in the mayor's slaying.

Drugs, kidnappings and extortion in the area were once under the control of the Beltran Leyva cartel, but that group's collapse a few years ago unleashed fierce competition among its progeny and rivals in Morelos and neighboring Guerrero and Mexico states.

In December 2014, a state lawmaker who was a candidate for mayor of Temixco from the same party as Mota, was kidnapped there. Authorities rescued him the following day and blamed the Guerreros Unidos cartel, which has been clashing with a group known as Los Rojos in Guerrero and Morelos.

Temixco also saw one of Mexico's emblematic killings of the past decade: The 24-year-old son of poet Javier Sicilia and six other people were found slain in March 2011, prompting the writer to start a nationwide movement against violence. Prosecutors said the seven apparently had gotten into an argument with men who turned out to be local members of the Pacifico Sur drug cartel.

Efforts to clean out corrupt local police who have protected gangs led Morelos to put officers under a unified state command in 2014. Temixco joined that system, though the state's main city, Cuernavaca, has resisted.

One organization representing mayors in the country, the Association of Local Authorities of Mexico, issued a statement saying nearly 100 mayors have been killed across Mexico over the past decade, "principally at the hands of organized crime."

Mota's center-left Democratic Revolution Party released a statement describing her as "a strong and brave woman who on taking office as mayor, declared that her fight against crime would be frontal and direct."

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10 Things to Know for Monday

The Associated Press

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

1. SAUDI ARABIA CUTS TIES WITH IRAN

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir has given Iranian diplomats 48 hours to leave the country amid escalating tensions over the kingdom's execution of a prominent cleric.

2. WHERE ARMED PROTESTERS WAGE A STANDOFF

The high desert of eastern Oregon is the latest flashpoint for anti-government sentiment as demonstrators occupied a wildlife refuge to object to prison sentences for a pair of local ranchers.

3. US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES FOCUS ON IOWA

The race for the White House starts in earnest this week as voters begin to tune in and candidates begin a four-week sprint to the Iowa caucuses.

4. WHOSE HAWAIIAN VACATION IS OVER

President Barack Obama says he's ready to tackle unfinished business in his final year in office, beginning with action to reduce gun violence.

5. EUROPE RAISES BARRIERS TO TRAVEL

New restrictions imposed by Sweden to stem a record flow of migrants are a striking example of how national boundaries are re-emerging across the continent.

6. WHY PRETEEN HPV VACCINATION RATES ARE LOW

Among the most common reasons doctors cited for delaying discussions and vaccinations against the sexually transmitted cancer-causing virus were a belief that patients hadn't had sex and that parents would object.

7. 6.7 MAGNITUDE QUAKE HITS INDIA'S NORTHEAST

People panicked and rushed out of their homes in the capital of Assam state after the quake, whose epicenter was in neighboring Manipur state.

8. ILLINOIS, MISSOURI ASSESS FLOODING DAMAGE

The Mississippi River and many of its tributaries continued their retreat from flooding, leaving amid the silt a massive cleanup and recovery effort likely to take weeks.

9. 'DEER HUNTER' CINEMATOGRAPHER DIES AT 85

Vilmos Zsigmond, who helped define American cinema's New Wave in the 1970s, won an Oscar for his work on Steven Spielberg's "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."

10. CAROLINA, DENVER WRAP UP NO. 1 SEEDS FOR PLAYOFFS

The Panthers won home-field advantage by routing Tampa Bay but the highlight of the final day of the regular season was Rex Ryan and the Buffalo Bills stopping the Jets and giving the Steelers the final playoff spot in the AFC.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Jan. 4, the fourth day of 2016. There are 362 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 4, 1896, Utah was admitted as the 45th state.

On this date:

In 1821, the first native-born American saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, died in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

In 1904, the Supreme Court, in *Gonzalez v. Williams*, ruled that Puerto Ricans were not aliens and could enter the United States freely; however, the court stopped short of declaring them U.S. citizens. (Puerto Ricans received U.S. citizenship in 1917.)

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, called for legislation to provide

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assistance for the jobless, elderly, impoverished children and the handicapped.

In 1943, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin made the cover of TIME as the magazine's 1942 "Man of the Year."

In 1951, during the Korean War, North Korean and Communist Chinese forces recaptured the city of Seoul (sohl).

In 1960, author and philosopher Albert Camus (al-BEHR' kah-MOO') died in an automobile accident in Villeblevin, France, at age 46.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson delivered his State of the Union address in which he outlined the goals of his "Great Society."

In 1974, President Richard Nixon refused to hand over tape recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee.

In 1987, 16 people were killed when an Amtrak train bound from Washington, D.C., to Boston collided with Conrail locomotives that had crossed into its path from a side track in Chase, Maryland.

In 1990, Charles Stuart, who claimed that he'd been wounded and his pregnant wife fatally shot by a robber, leapt to his death off a Massachusetts bridge after he himself came under suspicion.

In 1995, the 104th Congress convened, the first entirely under Republican control since the Eisenhower era.

In 2007, Nancy Pelosi was elected the first female speaker of the House as Democrats took control of Congress.

Ten years ago: Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffered a significant stroke; his official powers were transferred to his deputy, Ehud Olmert (EH'-hood OHL'-murt). (Sharon remained in a coma until his death in Jan. 2014.) In a triple-overtime game that began Jan. 3 and finished after midnight, No. 3 Penn State beat No. 22 Florida State, 26-23, in the Orange Bowl. No. 2 Texas won college football's championship, beating No. 1 Southern California 41-38 in the Rose Bowl.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama signed a \$1.4 billion overhaul of the nation's food safety system. The Navy fired the commander of the USS Enterprise, Capt. Owen Honors, more than three years after he'd made lewd videos to boost morale for his crew. (Honors was later reprimanded but allowed to remain in the Navy; he retired in 2012.) The Mega Millions lottery drew two winning tickets for a jackpot totaling \$380 million. (In a strange coincidence, four of the six winning numbers matched those used by a lottery-winning character on the TV show "Lost.")

One year ago: Pope Francis named 156 new cardinals, selecting them from 14 countries, including far-flung corners of the world, to reflect the diversity of the Roman Catholic church and its growth in places like Asia and Africa. North Korea criticized the United States for slapping sanctions on Pyongyang officials and organizations for a cyberattack on Sony Pictures.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Barbara Rush is 89. Football Hall-of-Fame coach Don Shula is 86. Opera singer Grace Bumbry is 79. Actress Dyan Cannon is 77. Author-historian Doris Kearns Goodwin is 73. Country singer Kathy Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 61. Actress Ann Magnuson is 60. Rock musician Bernard Sumner (New Order, Joy Division) is 60. Country singer Patty Loveless is 59. Actor Julian Sands is 58. Rock singer Michael Stipe is 56. Actor Patrick Cassidy is 54. Actor Dave Foley is 53. Actress Dot Jones is 52. Actor Rick Hearst is 51. Singer-musician Cait O'Riordan is 51. Actress Julia Ormond is 51. Tennis player Guy Forget (ghee fohr-ZHAY') is 51. Country singer Deana Carter is 50. Rock musician Benjamin Darvill (Crash Test Dummies) is 49. Actor Josh Stamberg is 46. Actor Jeremy Licht is 45. Actor Damon Gupton is 43. Actress-singer Jill Marie Jones is 41. Alt-country singer Justin Townes Earle is 34. Christian rock singer Spencer Chamberlain (Underoath) is 33. Actress Lenora Crichlow is 31. Comedian-actress Charlyne Yi is 30. Actress-singer Coco Jones is 18.

Thought for Today: "The last temptation is the greatest treason: to do the right deed for the wrong reason." — T.S. Eliot, American-born English poet (born in 1888, died this date in 1965).