

Groton Daily Independent

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Friday, January 8

School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Pizza, peas, carrots and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Hot turkey combo, mashed potatoes and gravy, 7 layer salad, peach sauce.

Anniv: Steve & Audrey McKiver

Birthdays: Andrew Kappes, Dragr PJ Monson, Taylor Anderson, Wayne Hein.

5:15pm: BBB host Milbank Area (C game at 5:15 followed by JV at 6:30 and varsity at 8:00)

Saturday, January 9

GBB Classic at Redfield (4:30 p.m., Groton Area vs. Tea Area)

Birthdays: Charlie Cooper, JoAnn Krueger, Koni Sims, Vickie Weifenbach, Kelly Cutler Clark, Jeremy Wieseler

10:00am: 7th/8th Jamboree in Groton (Webster MS, Britton-Hecla, Leola-Frederick)

10:00am: Wrestling Tourney at Miller

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, January 10

Birthdays: Dave Hunter, Edwin Tietz, Maycee Albrecht, Michelle Fliehs, Neil Gilbert

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship

9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church

10:00am: St. John's Lutheran School

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship / Milestones

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

2:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran pastor at Bethesda

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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Midwest Masonry & concrete Pumping

Greg Heilman, owner



405 E 1st Ave., Groton

Greg: 253/929-9137

Mike: 605/492-7041

midwestmasonry1@yahoo.com

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Your \$5 Buck Lunch
just got sweet & smokey.
KC BBQ Bacon Cheeseburger

\$5
BUCK
LUNCH

DQ
Grill & Chill

US 12, Groton ~ 605-397-8627

GROTON
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GROTONFORD.COM 605-397-2311

Lady Tigers go 7-0 with win over Milbank Area

The Groton Area girls kept its undefeated record Thursday night with a 36-33 Northeast Conference win over Milbank Area.

Groton Area took a 5-2 lead before the Bulldogs rallied to take a 6-5 lead. Groton Area then scored the next eight points to take a 13-6 lead at the end of the first quarter. The Tigers were five of 10 from the field for 50 percent, was three of three from the line and had four turnovers. Milbank Area was two of 10 from the field, was two of two from the line and had one turnover.

The Lady TIGers took a 10-point lead early in the second period, 16-6. Groton Area turnovers turned into points for the Bulldogs and it was 16-12. Karlee Mertens made a three-pointer to make it a one-point game at half time, 18-17. In the second quarter, Groton was two of eight from the field, one of two from the line and had five turnovers. Milbank Area was five of eight from the field and had two turnovers.

Caryssa Mielitz opened the third quarter with basket and gave Milbank Area took the lead, 19-18.

The Bulldogs opened up a three-point lead, 21-18, before going on a cold spell. Groton ARea scored 11 unanswered points to take a 29-26 lead which included two straight three-pointers by Miranda Hanson. Groton Area led, 29-22, at the end of the third quarter. In the third quarter, Groton Area was four of 11 from the field, missed one free throw and had two turnovers. Milbank Area was two of eight from the field, was one of two from the line and had six turnovers.

Groton Area opened up an 11-point lead early in the fourth quarter,



Katie Koehler dribbles the ball around the Milbank defense. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Audrey Wanner looks for an open player under the basket. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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S & S Lumber
HARDWARE HANK
201 East Hwy 12 • 605/397-2361

Curtis C. Mitchell, FIC
Financial Representative

Modern Woodmen
FRATERNAL FINANCIAL

311 S. 2nd St., Aberdeen SD 57401
605/725-6200 Cell: 605/216-6200 ~ Curtis.C.Mitchell@mwarep.org
www.modern-woodmen.org

33-22. Two Groton Area turnovers turned into points for Milbank Area and it was 33-26. Groton had a nine-point lead, 35-26, before the Bulldogs started to close the gap by making free throws. It was 35-29 with 46 seconds left. Mielitz hit a three-pointer with three seconds left to make it a three-point game, 36-33. The Tigers missed a free throw, but Milbank was unable to score as the Tigers went on to win, 36-33.

Jessica Bjerke and Carly Wheeting led the Tigers with seven points each followed by Audrey Wanner and Miranda Hanson with six each and Katie Koehler and Harleigh Stange each had five.

Caryssa Mielitz led the Bulldogs with 17 points followed by Molly RICK with seven, Karlee Mertens five and Mikaela Hoeke and Mikayla Street each had two points.

Groton Area made five of 18 three-pointers for 28 percent. Hanson had two three-pointers while Koehler, Stange and Bjerke each made one. Groton Area was 12 of 34 from the field for 35 percent, was seven of 17 from the line of of Milbank's 18 team fouls for 41 percent, had



Miranda Hanson passes off the ball before being double teamed by the Bulldogs. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jessica Bjerke made this three-pointer to give Groton the 23-21 lead with 3:57 left in the third quarter. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Lance Frohling
Groton Location Manager
605-397-2671
frohlingl@fullcircleag.com



1106 N 2nd St.
(605) 397-2365
**Physical Therapy
Services Also Available**

six assists with Wanner having three and two blocks, one each by Koehler and Wheeting. Groton Area had 22 turnovers in the game. Milbank Area had 14 turnovers, 12 of which were steals with Stange and Wheeting each having four. Groton Area had the edge in rebounds, 28-24, with Bjerke having 10 for Groton Area and Mielitz having five for Milbank Area. The Bulldogs were nine of 12 from the line off of Groton Area's 11 team fouls for 75 percent.

Milbank Area won the C game, 30-20. Sam Menzia led the Tigers with eight points followed by Madison Sippel and Eliza Wanner with five each and Portia Kettering with two.

Groton Area had several shots at the basket before Sam Menzia put the ball up and in with 54 seconds left to give Groton Area a 20-19 lead in the junior varsity game. Miranda Hanson made a free throw with 1.4 seconds left and the Lady Tigers won the game, 21-19. Jennuy Doeden led the Tigers with six points followed by Alex Stange and Menzia with four each, Hanson had three and Payton Maine and Gia Gengerke each had two.

Groton Area will play Tea Area at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 9, at the Redfield-Doland Classic in Redfield.



Carly Wheeting gets double teamed by Milbank's Caryssa Mielitz (45) and Shelby Hooth (12). (Photo

by Paul Kosel)

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Grapplers host Milbank Area, Sioux Valley

Groton's wrestlers hosted Milbank Area and Sioux Valley Thursday evening. Two wrestlers competed against Milbank Area. Wyatt Locke at 170 pounds was decided by Jose Chen, 9-5; and Brandyn Anderson at 285 was decided by Tanner Kettwig, 3-2.

Four grapplers took to the mat against Sioux Valley. Thomas Cranford at 132 pounds lost by a major decision to Jamison Stein, 11-3; Grady O'Neil at 145 pounds was pinned by Josephg Thielen in 45 seconds; Wyatt Locke at 170 pounds lost by a major decision to Chance Goodfellow, 14-5; and Brandyn Anderson at 285 pinned Silas Larsen, 2:55.

The Powerball

by Kelly Thompson

Director of Advertising and Public Relations
South Dakota Lottery

The Jan. 9, 2016 Jackpot

The jackpot for the Jan. 9, 2016 drawing is currently an estimated annuitized \$700 million with an estimated cash value of \$428.4 million. It's the largest jackpot in Powerball ever and the largest jackpot of any lottery game in U.S. history. Tomorrow night's drawing is the 19th drawing since the Powerball jackpot was last won on Nov. 4, 2015 in Tennessee.

The odds of winning

The odds of winning the Powerball jackpot are 1:292,201,338. The overall odds of winning ANY prize in Powerball is 1:24.9.

How many jurisdictions have Powerball

Powerball is played in 44 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Claiming the jackpot anonymously

Six states allow players to claim lottery prizes anonymously; South Dakota is not one of them. Under ad-

ministrative rules 48:01:04:16.01 and 48:03:03:05, we can publish the name, city, state of residence, and prize amounts of instant and lotto game winners as a matter of public record. We make sure all of our winners know this.

Payment by annuity vs payment by lump sum

The winner has the choice to take their prize by annuity or one lump sum. If they choose the annuity, they'll receive their prize in 30 graduated annual installments over 29 years. If they choose lump sum, they get the cash value of the jackpot in one lump sum. In either case, the Lottery in the winning state is required to

"There's A Song In The Air"

**To make you aware that
the Coopers are having an**

Open House

Sunday, Jan. 17, 2016

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

208 N. 2nd St., Groton

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withhold 25% of the winnings for the IRS. That's basically a down payment on the winner's taxes for the jackpot; there are generally other tax obligations for the winner when they file their taxes. In South Dakota, the 25% is all we take. If it's won in a state with a state income tax, that percentage will be withheld also.

Where can you buy a Powerball ticket in South Dakota

We have 608 retailers in South Dakota that sell lotto tickets.

Where can players check their numbers to see if they've won

Winning numbers are posted on our website at <http://lottery.sd.gov/> following the draw. We also post them on our Facebook page and Twitter feed and they can be found on the flat screen displays at lotto retailers. Players can also check their own tickets at the ticket self checkers at lottery retailers by scanning the barcode on the Powerball ticket. If the prize is under \$100, the read-out on the ticket checker will show the amount. If it's over \$100, the message will indicate that the prize must be claimed at a Lottery validation center. Validation centers are located in Pierre, Rapid City and Sioux Falls.

South Dakota Powerball winners

We've had three Powerball jackpot winners in South Dakota: Neil Wanless, Mission, \$232.1 million, 5/27/09; Bill and Tina Nguyen, Pierre, \$116.8 million, 5/17/06; and the Watertown 34, Watertown, \$50.9 million, 2/1/03. For the most recent Powerball drawing on Jan. 4, we had 16,128 Powerball winners in South Dakota with a total of \$130,461 won.

Powerball ticket sales in South Dakota for this run (thru Jan. 6)

South Dakota Powerball ticket sales for the entire run thru Jan. 6 are \$3,426,891. Sales for Wednesday's draw alone were \$1,146,851.

Where do Powerball revenues go in South Dakota

Currently, the first \$1.4 million of revenue from the sale of lotto tickets goes to the state General Fund. Any additional revenue is transferred to the Capital Construction Fund. In FY2015, ticket sales of all lotto games in South Dakota totaled \$25,340,133, prizes paid totaled \$12,814,156, retailer commissions totaled \$1,358,225 and revenue distributed totaled \$7,577,367.

What happens if the jackpot is won in South Dakota Saturday night

Jackpot and high tier winners are always announced on our Facebook page and Twitter feeds following the drawing. Winner alerts are issued to the media as soon as possible. Should we have THE winner (or one of the winners, if there are multiple winners) tomorrow night, a press release will be emailed to all media outlets who have provided valid email addresses. The release will contain the amount of the jackpot, the city in which the ticket was sold, the winning numbers and instructions for the winner as to what their next step should be. It will not contain the name of the retailer where the ticket was purchased; that information is used in the verification process when the ticket holder claims their prize and is released to the public when the prize is claimed.

The Life of Richard Nehls



Memorial services for Richard Nehls, 90, of Pierpont will be 1 p.m., on Friday, January 8 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. The Rev. Craig Grams will officiate. Inurnment with military honors will follow at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, Ferney.

Visitation will begin at the church at 11 a.m. on Friday.

Dick died January 5, 2016 at Sanford Medical Center, Webster.

Richard John Nehls was born on July 11, 1925 in Ferney to John and Stella (Simpson) Nehls. He attended school in Ferney and was drafted into the US Army in 1944. Following his honorable discharge, he returned to South Dakota where he worked as a mechanic. In May of 1986 he was united in marriage with Helen (Seymour) Swanson. Together they made their home in Pierpont and Dick later worked for the city before retirement.

Richard was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church and Groton American Legion Post #39. He enjoyed western books and movies, along with old time country music. Dick also had a woodworking shop, where he created many items for friends and family.

Celebrating his life is his wife, Helen of Bristol, daughter, Karen (Todd) Cleveland of Pierpont, son, Roy Nehls of Las Vegas, Nevada, four step-sons: Dean of Aberdeen, John of Slayter, MN, Lanny of Sioux Falls, Dixon of Parker, a step-daughter Mary of Watertown, his brother, Lester Nehls and sisters, Joyce Bawek of Conde, and Florence Schaller of Phoenix, AZ, 16 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his parents, brother, Ralph, and step-son, Kenny.

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GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6 School Board Meeting January 11, 2016 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of December 14, 2015 school board meeting as drafted or amended.
2. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...as school of record.
3. Approval of December District bills for payment.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Approval of December 2015 School Transportation Report and School Lunch Report.
3. Approval of December Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
4. Foster, Jacobs, and Johnson, Inc. presentation on long-term facilities planning [Mike Hubbard].
5. School Board Committee Reports:
 - a. Building, Grounds, & Transportation: Lars Hanson, Marty Weismantel, Merle Harder
 - b. Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum: Dorene Nelson, Grant Rix
 - c. Negotiations: Kelly Kjelden, Steve Smith
6. First Reading of Recommended Policy Changes: AC – Nondiscrimination in Federal Programs (Amend); AC-E(1) Nondiscrimination in Federal Programs Complaint Form (New); AC-E(2) Nondiscrimination in Federal Programs Appeal to Superintendent Form (New); AC-E(3) Nondiscrimination in Federal Programs Appeal to School Board (New); ACAA – Sexual Harassment (Amend); ACAA-E(1) Sexual Harassment Complaint Form (New); ACAA-E(2) Sexual Harassment Complaint Appeal to Superintendent (New); ACAA-E(3) Sexual Harassment Complaint Appeal to School Board (New); BBE – Unexpired Term Fulfillment (Amend); BDDC – Agenda Preparation and Dissemination (Amend); CIA – Principal Evaluations (New); EBCD – Emergency Closings (Amend); GBAA – Veterans Preference (New); GCD – Professional Staff Hiring (Amend); GCN – Professional Teaching Staff Evaluation (Amend); JHG – Reporting Child Abuse (Amend); JO – Student Records (Amend); JO-E(1) – Student Records Notice of Rights (Amend); JOA – Student Directory Information (Amend); JOA-E(1) – Student Records Notice of Rights (Amend); JOA-E(2) – Student Directory Information Opt Out (Amend); KL – Complaint Against School Employee (Amend); KL-E(1) – Complaint Against School Employee Report Form (New); KL-E(2) – Complaint Against School Employee Appeal to Superintendent (New); KL-E(3) Complaint Against School Employee Appeal to School Board (New)

7. Approval of 2016-2017 School Calendar.

8. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Set date and time for annual school board election – April 12, 2016 (7:00 AM – 7:00 PM), and authorize Business Manager Weber to designate officials, with voting precincts in Andover, Bristol, Columbia, and Groton. [3-year terms expiring: Mrs. Nelson, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Harder]
2. Act on resignation of Julie Erdmann from Junior High Volleyball Coaching.
3. Request from Dr. Schwan for consideration of National Association of Secondary School Principals dues.
4. Review and bid specifications for school bus and authorize Business Manager Weber to advertise for bids, and set date for bid opening [Recommend Monday, February 8 at 2:00 PM]
5. Executive session pursuant SDCL 1-25-2(1) for personnel (Superintendent Evaluation).

ADJOURN

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Today in Weather History

January 8, 1969: New snowfall of 3 to 5 inches on top of 10 to 20 inches of previous snow cover were whipped by winds of 30 to 50 mph. Temperatures fell to around 5 below zero resulting in dangerous wind chills. This halted all traffic from early on the 8th to midday on the 9th, closed all schools, and stranded motorists.

January 8, 2010: Arctic high pressure combined with strong northwest winds resulting in extreme wind chills from 35 to nearly 50 degrees below zero across central and northeast South Dakota. Some of the lowest wind chills included, -40 in Aberdeen; -41 in Watertown; -42 in Highmore; -43 in Leola and Faulkton; -44 in Eagle Butte, Herreid, and Gettysburg; and -47 in Bowdle. Several record lows were also tied or broken during the morning hours of the 8th including, -22 degrees NW of Gann Valley and Victor; -23 degrees at Pierre and Sisseton; -24 degrees at Roscoe; and -34 degrees at Pollock.

1953 - A severe icestorm in the northeastern U.S. produced up to four inches of ice in Pennsylvania, and two to three inches in southeastern New York State. In southern New England the ice coated a layer of snow up to 20 inches deep. The storm resulted in 31 deaths and 2.5 million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1973 - A severe icestorm struck Atlanta GA. The storm paralyzed the city closing schools and businesses, and damage from the storm was estimated at 25 million dollars. One to four inches of ice coated northern Georgia leaving 300,000 persons without electricity for up to a week. Between 7 PM and 9 PM on the 7th, 2.27 inches (liquid content) of freezing rain, sleet and snow coated Atlanta, as the temperature hovered at 32 degrees. (7th-8th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A winter storm moving out of the Southern Rockies into the Central Plains Region produced 14 inches of snow at Red River NM, and 17 inches in the Wolf Creek ski area of Colorado. Wichita KS was blanketed with seven inches of snow. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A winter storm spread heavy snow across the northeastern U.S., with up to ten inches reported in southern New Jersey. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Strong northwesterly winds and bitterly cold temperatures prevailed in the north central U.S. Winds in the Great Lakes Region gusted to 58 mph at Chicago IL, and reached 63 mph at Niagara Falls NY. Squalls in western New York State produced 20 inches of snow at Barnes Corners and Lowville. Snow squalls in Upper Michigan produced 26 inches around Keweenaw. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - High winds plagued the northwestern U.S., with the state of Oregon hardest hit. Two persons were killed in Oregon, and nine others were injured, and the high winds downed fifty-five million board feet of timber, valued at more than twenty million dollars. Winds gusted to 90 mph near Pinehurst ID, and wind gusts reached 96 mph at Stevenson WA. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

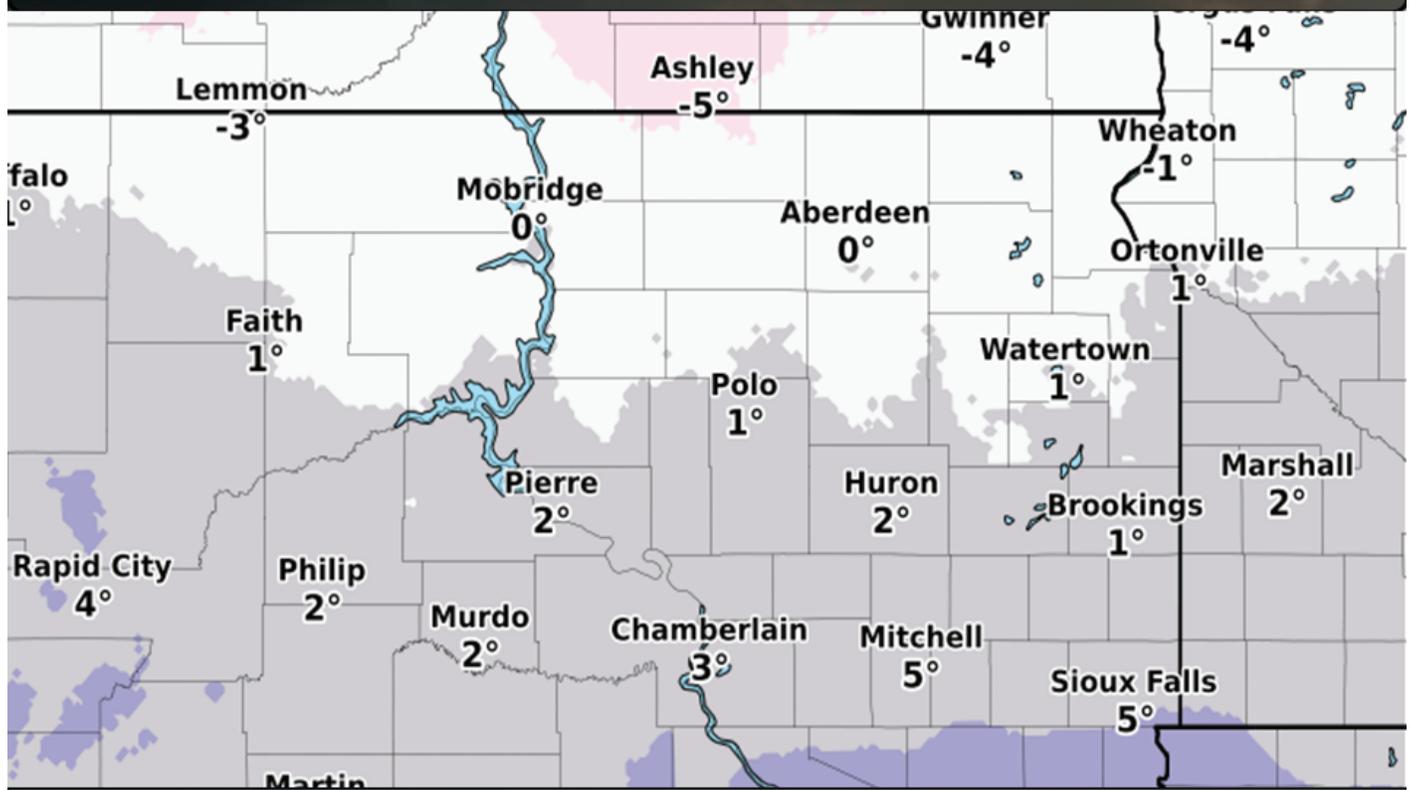
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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
 20%						 20%
Slight Chance Snow and Blustery	Mostly Cloudy	Cold	Mostly Clear	Cold	Mostly Cloudy	Slight Chance Snow
High: 24 °F ↓	Low: 0 °F	High: 3 °F	Low: -17 °F	High: 7 °F	Low: -4 °F	High: 12 °F



Arctic Air Arrives Tonight



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 1/8/2016 5:35 AM Central

Published on: 01/08/2016 at 5:37AM

The much advertised arctic air will begin making its way into the region later today and especially this evening. Lows overnight are expected to drop into the 0 to 5 degree range for much of the area.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 32.5 at 10:22 AM

Low: 23.9 at 11:58 PM

High Gust: 15 at 9:17 PM

Precip: 0.0

Today's Info

Record High: 54° in 1963

Record Low: -39° in 1912

Average High: 22°F

Average Low: 1°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.14

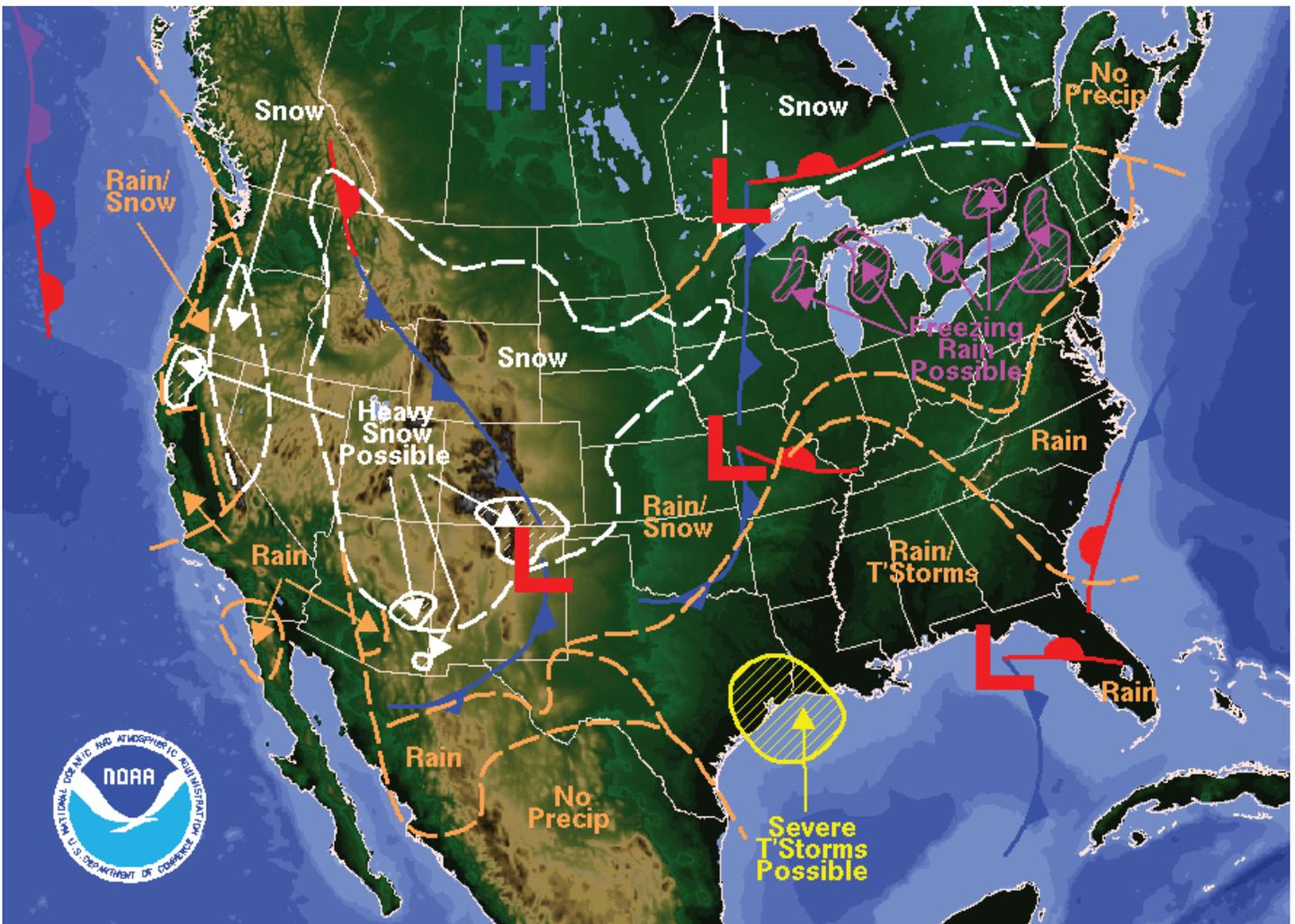
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.14

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:07 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:12 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Jan 08, 2016, issued 2:49 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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LOOKING FOR PERFECTION

Two men seated next to each other on an airplane began talking. They soon discovered that one was married and the other single.

Curiosity finally got the best of the married man and he asked, "Why haven't you married?"

"Because," he answered, "I haven't met the right woman."

"Surely," replied the married man, "you've met one you wanted to marry."

"Oh, yes," he said wistfully, "but she was looking for the perfect man."

In The Living New Testament Romans 3:23 is translated "...all fall short of God's glorious ideal." There are some who like to rate and rank sins – some being more serious or worse than others. While some sins have more serious consequences than others, sin is sin. Whether or not we want to admit that we have sinned, God's Word assures that all of us have, indeed, sinned.

In one way or another, we have all fallen short of His "glorious ideal." Any sin makes us sinners and separates us from God in this life and the life to come. But God in His glorious grace and mercy makes it possible for us to reconnect with Him through His Son and have eternal life.

Prayer: We thank You, Father, for making possible our salvation as undeserving and unworthy as we are. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,

News from the Associated Press

Bullhead woman sentenced for 13th child abuse conviction

BULLHEAD, S.D. (AP) — A Bullhead woman's 13th conviction for child abuse has landed her in federal prison for three years and one month.

U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says 43-year-old Velnita Hairy Chin was arrested last June when she was found drunk and passed out while in the care of several children.

Hairy Chin was indicted last July, pleaded guilty in November and was sentenced this week. She had 12 previous convictions for child abuse or neglect. She'll be on supervised release for three years following her prison term.

Nebraska fugitive who shot himself has died, officials say

NIOBRARA, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a Nebraska fugitive who shot himself rather than surrender to tribal and federal officers has died at a hospital.

The FBI says 25-year-old David Hoffman refused to give up peacefully Wednesday when found on the Santee Sioux Indian Reservation in northeast Nebraska. Authorities say he was taken to a hospital in nearby Yankton, South Dakota, where he died.

FBI spokeswoman Sandra Breault says none of the officers fired and no injuries to anyone else have been reported.

The manhunt began Tuesday afternoon after a Niobrara police officer tried to arrest Hoffman on a Knox County warrant alleging burglary and theft. The Nebraska State Patrol and other agencies joined the search as Niobrara schools and some businesses were locked down.

Sioux Falls convenience store targeted in late-night robbery

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police are investigating the robbery of a convenience store.

Authorities say a male entered the Casey's General Store about 10:30 p.m. Thursday and demanded money, acting as if he had a weapon but not displaying one.

The suspect fled with an undetermined amount of money. No injuries were reported.

Board approves diesel program expansion at Southeast Tech

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Board of Education has given approval to Southeast Technical Institute to expand its diesel technology program.

Southeast Tech will accept up to 24 additional students into the expanded program beginning in fall 2016.

The Sioux Falls school will add an emphasis for students to earn an associate of applied science degree or diploma in agricultural/construction diesel technology. All diesel technology students will complete a common first-year curriculum, and the available emphases for the program's second year are in transportation or agricultural/construction.

Curriculum will be expanded to include additional instruction and experience on critical systems such as emissions, hydraulics and electronics.

The addition is in response to high-demand service areas such as emissions after-treatment, electrohydraulics and advanced system diagnostics.

Wind Cave offering free tours for Martin Luther King Jr Day

WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK, S.D. (AP) — Wind Cave National Park is offering free tours to visitors for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The tours will be free of charge on Jan. 18 at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

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Visitors can view the boxwork formations that make the cave famous. The quarter-mile route is moderately strenuous and lasts an hour.

Park Superintendent Vidal Davila says it's a great time of year to visit the park. Davila says the cave is typically warmer than it is outside, so a tour is a good way to escape the cold.

Tickets are available to those who arrive first.

Thursday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 69, Redfield/Doland 41
Andes Central/Dakota Christian 45, Burke/South Central 36
Belle Fourche 53, Lead-Deadwood 31
Canistota 73, Dell Rapids St. Mary 24
Centerville 70, Freeman Academy 58
Corsica/Stickney 62, Platte-Geddes 35
Crawford, Neb. 58, Edgemont 37
Custer 41, Hill City 30
Dell Rapids 72, Beresford 53
Dupree 50, McIntosh 44
Hanson 57, Kimball/White Lake 52
Harding County 72, Bowman County, N.D. 51
Huron 52, Mitchell 40
Langford 50, Leola/Frederick 11
Menno 50, Mitchell Christian 47
Rapid City Christian 65, Wall 41
Red Cloud 81, Pine Ridge 52
Sioux Falls Lincoln 66, Brandon Valley 53
St. Thomas More 73, Douglas 41
Stanley County 65, McLaughlin 63
Sully Buttes 61, Highmore-Harrold 59
Sundance, Wyo. 71, Newell 47
Timber Lake 64, Edmunds Central 33
Vermillion 54, West Central 47
Warner 75, Ipswich 24
Waubay/Summit 51, Great Plains Lutheran 45
Wessington Springs 74, Sunshine Bible Academy 27
Wolsey-Wessington 59, James Valley Christian 54
Yankton 51, Brookings 50, 2OT
Big East Conference Tournament
First Round
Chester 55, Baltic 42
Flandreau 52, McCook Central/Montrose 43
Parker 61, Garretson 50
Sioux Valley 84, Howard 6
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS
Rosholt vs. Waverly-South Shore, ppd. to Feb 11.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Andes Central/Dakota Christian 51, Burke/South Central 37
Avon 39, Scotland 14
Belle Fourche 47, Lead-Deadwood 38
Centerville 60, Freeman Academy 49

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Chamberlain 56, Crow Creek 27
Colman-Egan 38, Estelline 36
Dakota Valley 40, Lennox 38
Dell Rapids 46, Beresford 25
DeSmet 52, Elkton-Lake Benton 38
Deubrook 55, Arlington 33
Groton Area 36, Milbank Area 33
Hill City 48, Custer 23
Huron 62, Mitchell 36
Iroquois 30, Hendricks, Minn. 27
James Valley Christian 48, Wolsey-Wessington 31
Lemmon 44, Faith 38
Little Wound 79, Kadoka Area 40
McLaughlin 73, Stanley County 26
Menno 35, Mitchell Christian 26
New Underwood 31, Philip 21
Northwestern 51, Hitchcock-Tulare 48
Sunshine Bible Academy 54, Wessington Springs 41
Timber Lake 55, Edmunds Central 21
Vermillion 61, Canton 27
Wall 63, Rapid City Christian 16
Webster 68, Deuel 30
West Central 57, Elk Point-Jefferson 49
Wilmot 50, Florence/Henry 44
Winner 56, Todd County 48
Yankton 38, Brookings 34

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Sisseton vs. Clark/Willow Lake, ppd. to Jan 8.

IUPUI defeats S. Dakota St. 74-67 for first time in 12 tries

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Darell Combs scored 18 points and Jordan Pickett added 14 as IUPUI defeated South Dakota State 74-67 on Thursday night, beating the Jackrabbits for the first time in 12 tries.

Combs converted a 3-point play with a layup and a foul, and Nick Osborne immediately followed with a 3-point shot as the Jaguars (6-12, 2-1 Summit League) took off on an 11-1 run, going from one point down, 49-48 into a 59-50 lead with 5:18 left in the game.

South Dakota State (13-4, 2-1) was unable to close in the final five minutes.

Mike Daum scored a career-high 23 points on 9-for-11 shooting. Deondre Parks and George Marshall scored 15 points each — Marshall with four assists — and Reed Tellinghuisen added 10 points before fouling out with 3:19 left.

The Jaguars took advantage of 21 South Dakota State fouls, sinking 21 of 25 foul shots.

SD woman who killed man in crash can't withdraw guilty plea

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says the state Supreme Court won't allow a Sioux Falls woman to withdraw her guilty plea after driving drunk and killing a man.

Jackley said Thursday the court rejected Tammy Kvasnicka's (kay-VAYS'-nihk-uhz) argument she couldn't remember the crimes and pleaded guilty from fear.

Authorities say she drove the wrong way on Interstate 229 while drunk and hit a car. The crash killed a 27-year-old man.

The high court overturned her initial conviction in March 2013, saying it was improper for an officer dur-

ing trial to compare the force of the crash to more than 900 handguns being fired at once.

Before her second trial, Kvasnicka pleaded guilty to manslaughter and vehicular battery, later trying to withdraw it. She eventually appealed up to the Supreme Court.

Huron police arrest 2 in convenience store theft

HURON, S.D. (AP) — Huron police say they have made two arrests in Sunday's theft of \$1,860 in \$20 bills from a local convenience store.

A man wearing a black head covering and gray hoodie entered the Eastside Corner Pantry just after 1 a.m. Sunday and was in the store about 12 seconds. Police say they posted video and still images to social media and were able to identify a suspect.

Police say they charged Jordan Scheel of Huron with grand theft, possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. His girlfriend, Alexandria Ackerman, was charged with misprision of a felony. Attorney information for the suspects was not immediately available.

Apartment building fire in Madison displaces 3 residents

MADISON, S.D. (AP) — The American Red Cross says it's helping three displaced residents after an apartment building fire in Madison.

Fire Chief Randy Minnaert tells KJAM-AM that the house contains apartments, and the fire broke out Wednesday evening in a main floor apartment. He says it started around the chimney and furnace area, and the heat did more damage than the fire itself.

The Red Cross says two units in the building were affected.

There were no injuries. Firefighters were on scene for about an hour.

Mobridge Ice Fishing Tournament draws more than 500 teams

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — More than 500 two-person teams will drill into the frozen Missouri River and drop their lines this weekend for one of South Dakota's largest winter fishing competitions.

Mild early winter conditions had jeopardized this year's Mobridge Ice Fishing Tournament, which offers about \$85,000 in prizes. But temperatures have since dipped, and the Mobridge Chamber of Commerce's tourism committee voted Tuesday to press forward with Saturday's 15th annual event after gathering ice reports and talking to anglers.

Many of the out-of-state anglers come from North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska, but some travel in from as far away as California and Tennessee, said Lindsay Scott, the chamber's executive director.

The annual event kicks off Thursday and Friday with the Ice Fishing Expo at the Scherr-Howe Events Center, and the 525 teams must attend a rules meeting on Friday evening.

"We launch at 9 a.m. on Saturday, and then we have weigh-in from 4 to 7 (p.m.)," Scott said.

The ice conditions have led to a few changes and warnings: Anglers should not use vehicles on the ice, as ice thickness reports vary from 3 inches to 10-12 inches, and those using all-terrain vehicles should be very cautious.

The tournament encompasses the Missouri River around Mobridge north to Leavenworth Monument and south to Swan Creek. The boundaries also reach into the Grand River, and the committee voted for this year's tournament to extend up to the Highway 12 bridge instead of the Spurline Bridge. Anglers are advised to avoid areas under the bridges, as currents make the ice thickness deceiving.

Teams can fish a maximum of eight standard hook and lines with artificial bait or live bait. Each team will get to weigh in six fish — two that are 20 inches and over and four that are 14-20 inches. The fish must be presented in a bucket of fresh water.

After the weigh-ins, teams will gather back at the events center for prizes.

Officials to hold hearing on seclusion, restraint in schools

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Education officials are going to take public input on a proposal that would allow schools to physically subdue students only in emergency situations.

The Board of Education voted Thursday to hold a public hearing on rules governing the use of seclusion and restraint in schools.

Linda Turner is director of special education programs at the state Department of Education. She says many states have been moving to adopt regulations on the practices. The federal government has also raised concerns about seclusion and restraint.

Restraint can include immobilizing students to safely prevent them from harming themselves or others. Turner has said the proposed regulations are important to ensure that South Dakota students aren't hurt and that educators have the proper training.

The public hearing is expected to happen in March.

Disaster aid for South Dakota June storms tops \$3.4M

State and federal emergency officials say more than \$3.4 million in disaster aid has been approved to help communities in 12 South Dakota counties and 3 tribal nations recover from a series of June storms

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — State and federal emergency officials say more than \$3.4 million in disaster aid has been approved to help communities in 12 South Dakota counties and three tribal nations recover from a series of June storms.

South Dakota Office of Emergency Management Director Tina Titze says 26 applicants including the city of Pierre, West Central Electric Cooperative and the Crow Creek, Lower Brule and Oglala Sioux tribal governments are receiving reimbursements for disaster costs and debris cleanup.

In July, President Barack Obama issued a major disaster declaration for the state, making 12 counties and the three tribal nations eligible for federal disaster aid.

Federal Coordinating Officer Gary Stanley says FEMA reimburses applicants for not less than 75 percent of eligible recovery costs, and the state contributes an additional 10 percent cost-share.

South Dakota town hosts screening of movie with ties to area

LAUREN DONOVAN, The Bismarck Tribune

LEMMON, S.D. (AP) — Jack Deland gamely put on a fake bear coat and gnarly toothed hood to pose on the red carpet with dozens of Lemmon, South Dakota, folks Wednesday night.

Deland was a stand-in for the historical figure of Hugh Glass, who was practically ripped to shreds by a grizzly bear near Lemmon in 1823, and whose survival story is the essence of a new movie "The Revenant," starring Leonardo DiCaprio.

Lemmon scored the Dakotas' only screening, prior to the national release Friday, and the town made the most of the occasion by rolling out a red carpet, photographing everyone who came — with Deland as the long dead hero of the saga — and holding a social afterward, The Bismarck Tribune reported (<http://bit.ly/1OCfCnu>).

"Why not?" said Deland, who moved to Lemmon from Florida a decade ago and fell in love with the area, maybe the opposite of Glass who nearly died in the attack and crawled 200 miles to get revenge on his fur trapping companions who left him for dead.

The audience of about 200 was an interesting mix of cowboys, sequined ladies and buckskinned men, who enjoy re-enacting the fur trade era at summer rendezvous. One in buckskins was Pete Gusenius, of Keldron, South Dakota, who said he's been looking forward to the screening ever since it was OK'd by the studio last month. Like most people from the Lemmon area, he's known the Hugh Glass story since he was a kid.

"I expect this (retelling) to be pretty Hollywood. It's not the real story, but it's still Hugh Glass," Gusenius said.

John Lopez, who created a sculpture of the grizzly attack and parked it out front of the theater for the

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screening, said the night was shaping up to be the success he and other organizers hoped for. Even if the scriptwriter changed up the story, Lopez said, it's the connection to Lemmon that really counts.

"This will go worldwide and a lot of people will try to travel out here," he said.

Theater owner Angela Lane said she was equal parts excited and nervous about hosting the screening.

"It'll be good for the theater and for the whole town," she said. If she had one wish, it's that the movie would have been filmed where the grizzly attacked Glass, a site that's well known and marked with a monument at the Shadehill Reservoir southwest of Lemmon.

"I wish they would have filmed at least part of it here," she said.

US stocks open higher, lifted by strong job gains

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks are opening higher on Wall Street as traders were encouraged by news of strong job gains in the US last month.

The gains early Friday came a day after the market had its worst drop in three months.

Retailers and technology companies had the biggest gains. Energy stocks rose along with the price of oil.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 82 points, or 0.5 percent, to 16,591 as of 9:35 a.m. Eastern time. The Dow lost 392 points the day before.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 11 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,953. The Nasdaq composite rose 44 points, or 1 percent, to 4,733.

China's market also rose. The benchmark index in Shanghai gained 2 percent.

Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.17 percent.

US added strong 292K jobs last month; jobless rate at 5 pct.

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — American employers added a robust 292,000 jobs in December, suggesting that the U.S. economy is so far defying global weakness and growing solidly.

The strong figures underscore the resilience of the United States at a time of financial turmoil stemming from China's slowing economy and plummeting stock market. Most economists expect U.S. consumer spending to continue to offset overseas weakness, though many foresee only modest U.S. growth.

In its monthly jobs report Friday, the Labor Department said the unemployment rate remained 5 percent in December for a third straight month. More Americans started looking for jobs and succeeded in finding them.

The government also said employers added a combined 50,000 more jobs in October and November than it had previously estimated. For the July-September quarter, hiring averaged 284,000 a month — the best three-month pace in a year.

U.S. stock futures, which had been up sharply before the jobs report was released, rose further afterward.

"The economy is reflected most strongly in the jobs numbers — and it's doing OK, maybe better than OK," said David Berson, chief economist at Nationwide Insurance.

For all of 2015, employers added 2.65 million jobs, a monthly average of 221,000. That made 2015 the second-best year for hiring since 1999, after 2014's gain of 3.2 million jobs.

"2015 went out with a megabang," says Patrick O'Keefe, director of economic research at the accounting and consulting firm CohnReznick. "It speaks to the underlying strength of the domestic economy. The United State is intertwined with the international economy but to a far lesser degree than many other countries."

O'Keefe noted that global trade accounts for only about 30 percent of U.S. economic activity, one of the lowest such percentages in the world.

Even as demand for workers grew, average hourly pay slipped a penny in December to \$25.24 an hour. Still, average pay has risen 2.5 percent in the past year, only the second time since the Great Recession ended in mid-2009 that it has reached that level. At the same time, pay growth remains below the roughly 3.5 percent pace typical of a healthy economy.

Last month, the percentage of adults with jobs rose for a second straight month, though it remains

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below pre-recession levels. And many of the new jobs were in higher-paying industries: Construction added 45,000, health care nearly 53,000. Professional and business services, which includes accountants, engineers, and architects as well as lower-paid temporary workers, added 73,000 positions.

For months, U.S. employers have hired steadily even as global growth has flagged and financial markets have sunk. Stronger customer demand has given most businesses confidence to hire even though some sectors — notably manufacturing and oil and gas drilling — are struggling.

Still, stumbling growth in countries like China, the world's second-largest economy, and financial market turmoil might pose long-term challenges for the U.S. economy. A strong dollar and faltering global growth have already cut into exports of factory goods.

The dollar has climbed about 10 percent in value in the past year compared with overseas currencies. That has made U.S. goods more expensive globally while lowering the price of imported products.

In November, exports fell to their lowest level in nearly four years and shaved about 0.6 percentage point from the economy's growth in 2015, according to Goldman Sachs. Most analysts estimate that the economy expanded at a modest pace 2.5 percent last year.

Another blow to manufacturing has been oil prices, which fell to their lowest level in 12 years Thursday. Oil and gas drillers have responded by slashing payrolls and sharply cutting spending on steel pipes and other drilling equipment.

Manufacturing added 30,000 jobs last year, a marked decline from 2014. Yet it makes up just 10 percent of the U.S. economy and oil and gas drilling even less.

For now, Americans are confident enough to buy more homes. Sales of newly built homes jumped nearly 15 percent in 2015 and helped spur building and construction hiring: Construction companies added 215,000 jobs last year, a 3.4 percent gain.

In another sign of consumer health, auto sales rose to a record high last year as cheap gas and low interest rates led to booming sales of SUVs and pickup trucks.

Lower gas prices may have hurt the oil patch, but they should benefit consumers by cutting their gas bills.

Chris Christopher, an economist at IHS, a forecasting firm, estimates that American households saved, on average, \$722 last year from cheaper gas. He expects them to save an additional \$217 in 2016 given the continuing drop in oil prices.

APNewsBreak: Cable behind beach blast has cousins nationwide

JENNIFER McDERMOTT, Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — The cable that caused an explosion at a crowded Rhode Island beach last summer, injuring a woman, may have counterparts lying under beaches, harbors and waterways at dozens of sites nationwide.

There are 48 sites in 12 states where U.S. Coast Guard lights — in lighthouses, buoys or other beacons — were converted to solar power but sub-cables that used to power them are still in the service's database, according to a list the Coast Guard provided to The Associated Press in response to a records request.

The cables' presence in the database indicates they are probably still there, though there's no way of knowing for sure without digging. The Coast Guard couldn't immediately say specifically where the cables are or whether they run beneath or near a beach.

The July 11 explosion at Salty Brine Beach in Narragansett, Rhode Island, was probably caused by hydrogen that built up around a corroded Coast Guard cable, scientists said. The blast hurled Kathleen Danise, of Waterbury, Connecticut, from her beach chair and threw her against a rock jetty 10 feet away, fracturing two ribs. Scientists were initially stumped.

Michigan has the most potential sites, with 21, according to the list. Wisconsin has eight, Illinois five, Indiana and Ohio three each, and Minnesota two. Rhode Island, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia and New York have one each.

In Two Harbors, Minnesota, a Coast Guard cable runs underneath a sidewalk, next to a rocky beach and

out to the breakwall, said Stuart Anderson, lead lineman for the city's electrical department. Anderson said he doesn't know whether the cable, which is on the list, is a cause for concern.

"We don't mess with their stuff," he said. "You would think they would be on top of it more if they had a problem."

Ed Golder, a spokesman for Michigan's Department of Natural Resources, said he didn't know about the cables and that he would contact the Coast Guard.

Environmental officials in states with multiple sites referred questions to the Coast Guard and elsewhere or said they're evaluating their next steps.

Coast Guard officials don't believe the other sites pose a risk because there have been no other reported or related incidents and because environmental factors at the sites, such as sand and water, differ, said Lt. Sarah Janaro, a spokeswoman.

But there's clearly a problem that needs to be addressed, said Chris Reddy, who has closely followed the investigation in Rhode Island as a senior scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts and an expert in marine chemistry and geochemistry.

Reddy cautioned, though, against a "knee-jerk reaction" to dig up all the cables.

The Coast Guard should thoroughly analyze the risks vs. rewards of removing them, Reddy said. For instance, a worker could get hurt hitting a potentially explosive cable with a shovel, but on the other hand, a future explosion could injure a beachgoer.

Unburying the cables could be expensive. The Coast Guard is removing a section of cable protruding into the water in Rhode Island but hasn't awarded a contract.

One of many options could be signs to warn people to stay away, Reddy added.

The Coast Guard may want to deal with the oldest cables first, Reddy said. The dates the cables were installed and disconnected aren't in the database. The one that caused the Rhode Island explosion was installed in the 1950s.

The Coast Guard said that it follows utility and construction industry practice of leaving disconnected cables in place, and that its policies don't require inspections of these cables.

The Coast Guard is waiting to decide whether to act at the other sites until it reviews the findings from Rhode Island, Janaro said. Rhode Island officials are reviewing scientists' final report.

Obama mocks 'conspiracy' at forum on gun control

KATHLEEN HENNESSEY, Associated Press

KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press

FAIRFAX, Va. (AP) — President Barack Obama mocked conspiracy theorists and tore into the National Rifle Association for pushing "imaginary fiction," as he described his plans to tighten gun control rules as modest first steps toward tackling gun violence in America.

In a prime-time, televised town hall meeting Thursday, Obama fielded tough questions from high-profile gun control opponents and supporters alike, often answering with sympathy and without confrontation as he tried to reassure Americans there is a middle ground on a fiercely divisive issue.

The town hall featured several well-known figures in the gun debate. Former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who was shot in 2011, stood as her husband, Mark Kelly, asked Obama about confiscation theories. Taya Kyle, whose late husband was depicted in the film "American Sniper," asked the president about why he doesn't highlight falling murder rates. Cleo Pendleton, whose daughter was shot and killed near Obama's Chicago home, asked about his proposals to stop gun trafficking across state lines.

Kimberly Corban, an NRA supporter, told Obama she'd been raped by an intruder and now feels that owning a gun "seems like my basic responsibility as a parent ... I refuse to let that happen again."

Obama didn't hold back when asked by CNN moderator Anderson Cooper about the notion that the federal government — and Obama in particular — wants to seize all firearms as a precursor to imposing martial law. He blamed that notion on the NRA and like-minded groups that convince its members that "somebody's going to come grab your guns."

"Yes, that is a conspiracy," Obama said. "I'm only going to be here for another year. When would I have

started on this enterprise?" Obama defended his support for the constitutional right to gun ownership while arguing it was consistent with his efforts to curb mass shootings. He said the NRA refused to acknowledge the government's responsibility to make legal products safer, citing seatbelts and child-proof medicine bottles as examples.

Taking the stage at George Mason University, Obama accused the NRA of refusing to participate in the town hall despite having its headquarters nearby.

"Since this is a main reason they exist, you'd think that they'd be prepared to have a debate with the president," Obama said.

NRA spokesman Andrew Arulanandam said beforehand that the group saw "no reason to participate in a public relations spectacle orchestrated by the White House." Several NRA members were in the audience for the event, which was organized and hosted by CNN. And the NRA pushed back on Twitter in real time, noting at one point "none of the president's orders would have stopped any of the recent mass shootings."

The White House has sought to portray the NRA, the nation's largest gun group, as possessing a disproportionate influence over lawmakers that has prevented new gun laws despite polls that show broad U.S. support for measures like universal background checks. Last year, following a series of mass shootings, Obama pledged to "politicize" the issue in an attempt to level the playing field for gun control supporters.

The American Firearms Retailers Association, another lobby group that represents gun dealers, did participate Thursday. Asked how business had been since Obama took office, Kris Jacob, vice president of the group, replied: "It's been busy."

"There's a very serious concern in this country about personal security," he added.

Obama's actions on guns have drawn major attention in the presidential campaign, with the Democratic candidates backing Obama and the Republicans unanimously voicing opposition. Donald Trump, addressing a rally in Vermont just as Obama was holding the town hall, said he would eliminate gun-free zones in schools on his first day if elected to the White House.

"You know what a gun-free zone is for a sicko? That's bait," Trump told the crowd.

Obama's broadside against the NRA came two days after his unveiling of a package of executive actions aimed at keeping guns from people who shouldn't have them. The centerpiece is new federal guidance that seeks to clarify who is "in the business" of selling firearms, triggering a requirement to get a license and conduct background checks on all prospective buyers.

The plan has drawn intense criticism from gun rights groups that have accused the president of trampling on the Second Amendment and railroading Congress by taking action on his own without new laws. Just after his 2012 re-election, Obama pushed hard for a bipartisan gun control bill that collapsed in the Senate, ending any realistic prospects for a legislative solution in the near term.

Ahead of the town hall, Obama put political candidates on notice that he would refuse to support or campaign for anyone who "does not support common-sense gun reform" — including Democrats.

All the candidates running for the Democratic presidential nomination support stricter gun laws, so Obama's declaration in a New York Times op-ed isn't likely to have an impact on the race to replace him. Instead, it appeared aimed at Democratic congressional candidates from competitive districts who might want Obama's support on the campaign trail this year.

State Dep't misses court deadline for Clinton emails

MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department released Friday another 3,000 pages of emails from former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's private email account, missing a court-ordered goal for their production by a week.

The department said the documents include 65 that contain information that has subsequently been deemed "confidential," the lowest classification. One document contained information determined to now be "secret," although it was not identified as such at the time it was sent.

The latest release brings the department into compliance with a court order that demands production of the emails on a rolling monthly basis in response to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit. The depart-

ment has now released 82 percent, or 43,148, of the 55,000 pages of emails Clinton turned over after she left office.

In one email chain, top aide Jake Sullivan sent Clinton a memo from a State Department staffer with his thoughts on Libya policy that Sullivan found impressive. Clinton didn't recognize the staffer's name and asked where he worked. When Sullivan replied that he worked for the State Department, Clinton wrote, "I was surprised that he used personal email account if he is at State."

'Mein Kampf' published in Germany for 1st time since WWII

MICHAEL FAULHABER, Associated Press

GEIR MOULSON, Associated Press

MUNICH (AP) — An annotated edition of "Mein Kampf," the first version of Adolf Hitler's notorious manifesto to be published in Germany since the end of World War II, went on sale Friday — a volume that many hope will help demystify the book and debunk the Nazi leader's writing.

The Munich-based Institute for Contemporary History has worked for several years on the plain-covered volume, officially titled "Hitler, Mein Kampf: A Critical Edition." It launched the book days after the copyright of the German-language original expired at the end of 2015 — 70 years after Hitler's death.

Over the years Bavaria's state finance ministry had used its copyright on the book to prevent the publication of new editions. The book wasn't actually banned in Germany, though, and could be found online, in secondhand bookshops and in libraries.

The new edition "sets out as far as possible Hitler's sources, which were deeply rooted in the German racist tradition of the late 19th century," said the Munich institute's director, Andreas Wirsching. "This edition exposes the false information spread by Hitler, his downright lies and his many half-truths, which aimed at a pure propaganda effect."

"At a time when the well-known formulae of far-right xenophobia are threatening to become ... socially acceptable again in Europe, it is necessary to research and critically present the appalling driving forces of National Socialism and its deadly racism," Wirsching said.

Hitler wrote "Mein Kampf" — "My Struggle" — after he was jailed following the failed 1923 coup attempt known as the Beer Hall Putsch. The rambling tome set out Hitler's ultranationalist, anti-Semitic and anti-communist ideology, which would culminate in the Holocaust and a war of conquest in Europe.

Millions of copies were printed after the Nazis took power in 1933, and it was published after the war in several other countries.

German authorities have made clear that they won't tolerate any new editions without commentary, though none is known to be in the works, with incitement laws likely to be used against any such publications. They are, however, broadly supportive of the annotated edition — priced at 59 euros (\$64).

"I think one shouldn't pretend the book doesn't exist," Education Minister Johanna Wanka told n-tv television. "Such taboos can sometimes be counterproductive. It's important that people who want to debunk this book have the appropriate material."

Ian Kershaw, a Briton who is a leading biographer of Hitler, joined Friday's book presentation and said it was "high time for a rigorously academic edition of 'Mein Kampf'" to be made available.

"For years, I have considered the lifting of the ban on publication long overdue," Kershaw said. "Censorship is almost always pointless in the long term in a free society, and only contributes to creating a negative myth, making a forbidden text more mysterious and awakening an inevitable fascination with the inaccessible."

Germany's main Jewish group, the Central Council of Jews, said it has no objections to the critical edition but strongly supports ongoing efforts to prevent any new "Mein Kampf" without annotations. Its president, Josef Schuster, said he hopes the critical edition will "contribute to debunking Hitler's inhuman ideology and counteracting anti-Semitism."

Jewish opinion has been divided, however. One of Schuster's predecessors, Charlotte Knobloch, has said she worries the new edition will simply awaken interest in the original, not the commentary.

The president of the World Jewish Congress, Ronald Lauder, said it's right to study the book but underlined his opposition to a new edition.

"I don't see the need for a critical edition," he said. "Unlike other works that truly deserve to be republished as annotated editions, 'Mein Kampf' does not. Already, academics, historians and the wider public have easy access to this text."

Paris fugitive's print in suspected bomb-making hideout

JOHN-THOR DAHLBURG, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — A Brussels apartment was likely used to make bombs for the Paris attacks, and one of the plotters also hid out there after escaping a police dragnet, Belgian prosecutors said Friday.

The prosecutors said they found Salah Abdeslam's fingerprint in a search of the apartment on Dec. 10, but don't know when he last holed up there. An international manhunt is ongoing for the 26-year-old Brussels native, whose whereabouts remain unknown.

The search of the apartment also turned up three suspected suicide belts, traces of the same explosive used in the Nov. 13 attacks that killed 130 people and other material that could be used to manufacture bombs, according to the Belgian Federal Prosecutor's Office.

Federal prosecutor Eric Van der Sypt said authorities decided to release the information after more than a month to dispel inaccuracies published by some Belgian media. Refusing to disclose specifics, he said the evidence acquired in the apartment "has helped us get further in the investigation."

Van der Sypt said the third-floor apartment was likely used as a hideout after Abdeslam fled the attacks. Abdeslam, whose older brother Braham was one of the Paris suicide bombers, called for two friends to pick him up in Paris amid the bloodshed and chaos that night that left 130 people dead and hundreds injured.

"We found material to make explosives, we found traces of explosives and we found three belts. So you don't have to be Sherlock Holmes to make the right deduction," Van der Sypt told The Associated Press.

Abdeslam is believed to have played a key logistical role in the Paris carnage. A French gendarme stopped him and his two friends in their car near the border but released them. The friends are among 10 people arrested in Belgium in connection with the attacks.

Authorities now believe Abdeslam returned to the apartment, was eventually picked up by someone else "and we lost trace," Van der Sypt said.

The apartment in the Schaerbeek neighborhood of Brussels had been rented under a false identity that may have been used by one of those who are now under arrest.

The prosecutor's office said the three handmade belts discovered in the search of the residence in the Rue Henri Berge, a quiet residential street flanked on both sides by row houses, "could have been intended for the transport of explosives."

Traces of the highly volatile TATP, which was packed into the suicide vests in November, were found on a piece of cloth, Van der Sypt said, as well as other material that could be used to manufacture explosives.

He said plastic bottles cut in half and containing an unknown substance were also discovered in the apartment, and are being tested by forensic specialists.

The Nov. 13 attacks marked the height of a violent year for France that began with a Jan. 7 assault on the offices of the Charlie Hebdo newspaper.

Paris was again jolted Thursday when a man wearing a fake explosives vest and wielding a butcher's knife ran up to a police station and was shot to death by officers standing guard.

The Paris prosecutor, Francois Molins, said investigators are unsure of the man's true identity.

Molins told France-Inter radio Friday that the assailant carried a paper marked with the Muslim declaration of faith, an emblem of the Islamic State group and a name, and gave his nationality as Tunisian. Molins said he also had a phone with a German SIM card.

Police are "working on the hypothesis" that the assailant is a man who was involved in a minor 2013 robbery in the southern Var region, according to a French security official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the case.

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The official said that the fingerprints of the dead attacker matched those of the robbery suspect, who identified himself at the time as Ali Sallah of Casablanca, Morocco.

Islamic State extremists have claimed responsibility for the January 2015 attacks and the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris.

Belgian authorities said Friday they are concerned about the possibility of new attacks in their country to mark the anniversary of the Jan. 15, 2015 police raid in the eastern city of Verviers that foiled a suspected plot by Islamic extremists. Two returnees from Syria were killed in that action, and a third arrested.

"We obviously take into account these symbolic dates, because they (the extremists) are in search of symbols," Frederic Van Leeuw, Belgium's chief counterterrorism prosecutor, told RTL television.

New UK guidelines: Drinking any alcohol regularly is risky

LONDON (AP) — British health officials say that drinking any alcohol regularly increases the risk of cancer, in tough new guidelines that could be hard to swallow for a nation where having a pint is a hallowed tradition.

Britain's Chief Medical Officer advised both men and women not to drink any more than 14 units of alcohol, or about six pints of beer a week, which still carries a low risk of liver disease or cancer. Previously, men had been allowed up to 21 units a week.

The guidance also clarified advice to pregnant women, recommending they avoid alcohol "as a precaution." In a departure from previous advice, the government said there is no "safe" level of alcohol for pregnant women.

Britain also recommended people have several alcohol-free days a week.

South Korea resumes anti-North Korea propaganda broadcasts

FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press

HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — As world leaders debated how to punish North Korea's claim of a fourth nuclear test, South Korea retaliated by broadcasting anti-Pyongyang propaganda across the rivals' tense border Friday on what was believed to be Kim Jong Un's birthday.

North Korea considers such broadcasts to be an act of psychological warfare and likely will have a furious response. Pyongyang is extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of the authoritarian leadership of Kim, the third member of his family to rule the country. When South Korea briefly resumed propaganda broadcasts in August after an 11-year break, Seoul says the two Koreas exchanged artillery fire, followed by threats of war.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that frontline troops, near 11 sites where loudspeakers started blaring propaganda at noon, were on highest alert. Yonhap said Seoul had deployed missiles, artillery and other weapons systems near the border to swiftly deal with any possible North Korean provocation. South Korea's Defense Ministry did not immediately confirm the reports.

The North Korean response could be harsh because of the high emotions surrounding the likely birthday of Kim, who is believed to be in his early 30s. North Korean military forces often compete to show their loyalty to the leader. The North's state media has yet to mention Kim's birthday or South Korea's loudspeaker campaign.

The broadcasts came as world powers sought to find other ways to punish the North for conducting what it said was its first hydrogen bomb test Wednesday.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry urged China, the North's only major ally and its biggest aid provider, to end "business as usual" with North Korea.

Diplomats at a U.N. Security Council emergency session pledged to swiftly pursue new sanctions. For current sanctions and any new penalties to work, better cooperation and stronger implementation from China is seen as key.

South Korean and U.S. military leaders also have discussed the deployment of U.S. "strategic assets,"

Seoul's Defense Ministry said. Officials refused to elaborate, but the assets likely are B-52 bombers, F-22 stealth fighters and nuclear-powered submarines.

After North Korea's third nuclear test in 2013, the U.S. took the unusual step of sending its most powerful warplanes — B-2 stealth bombers, F-22 stealth fighters and B-52 bombers — to drills with South Korea in a show of force. B-2 and B-52 bombers are capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

It may take weeks or longer to confirm or refute the North's claim that it successfully tested a hydrogen bomb, which would mark a major and unanticipated advance for its still-limited nuclear arsenal. Outside experts are skeptical the blast was a hydrogen bomb, but even a test of an atomic bomb would push North Korea closer to building a nuclear warhead small enough to place on a long-range missile.

Late Friday, the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety said a small amount of radioactive elements was found in air samples collected from the peninsula's eastern seas after the blast but the measured amount was too small to determine whether the North had really detonated a nuclear device.

The institute said the level of xenon-133 isotopes found in the samples was similar to levels normally detected at its two radioactive gas detectors on the eastern and western coasts. KINS official Lee Kihyeong also noted that other types of xenon isotopes used to confirm nuclear explosions weren't detected.

Lee said the institute will continue to collect and analyze more samples.

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond had asked South Korea to refrain from the propaganda broadcasts. But South Korea sees K-pop and propaganda as quick ways to show its displeasure — and a guaranteed irritant to the North's sensitive and proud leadership.

The broadcasts include Korean pop songs, world news and weather forecasts as well as criticism of the North's nuclear test, its troubled economy and dire human rights conditions, according to Seoul's Defense Ministry.

Performers on Seoul's propaganda playlist include a female K-pop band that rose to fame when its members fell multiple times on stage, a middle-aged singer who rose from obscurity last year with a song about living for 100 years and songs by a young female singer, IU, whose sweet, girlish voice might be aimed at North Korean soldiers deployed near the border.

North Koreans are prohibited from listening to K-pop, but defectors have said their countrymen enjoy music and other elements of South Korea popular culture that are smuggled into the country on USB sticks and DVDs.

North Korea worries US Navy commander most in volatile Asia

YOKOSUKA, Japan (AP) — U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin talked to reporters Friday about two of the biggest challenges the U.S. military faces in Asia: North Korea and the South China Sea.

It was his first such meeting with the media since assuming command of the Navy's 7th Fleet last September. He spoke aboard the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier. The 20,000-sailor strong 7th Fleet, based in Yokosuka, Japan, covers a region from India to the international dateline in the Pacific Ocean.

THE KOREAN PENINSULA

Aucoin wouldn't get into specifics, but he said the Navy is monitoring the situation closely following North Korea's nuclear test earlier this week.

"I can't talk about the intel, whether it was an H-bomb, or whatever, but what happened there has definitely got our attention," he said.

The Korean Peninsula is "what keeps me up" for a possible crisis, more than anything else in the 7th Fleet's region, he said, noting that North Korea's ballistic missiles pose a threat to South Korea, Japan and even the United States.

Military information sharing between Japan and South Korea is improving, Aucoin said, despite their deep-seated differences over Japan's past colonization of the peninsula.

"Am I satisfied? No, but there is a real effort to tighten that relationship," he said. "It really is in the best interest of all three countries ... when you're trying to defend your country from a ballistic missile."

CHINA

China's land reclamation work in the South China Sea is causing angst, Aucoin said, and he called on all countries involved to settle their territorial disputes peacefully.

China has told merchant ships to move out of areas it considers its waters, he said. "It would be nice to get clarity on what their intentions are."

On the upside, Aucoin said the relationship between the U.S. and Chinese navies is improving: "Sure there are issues that we see day-to-day, but overall we have a collegial relationship out on the high seas, we talk bridge-to-bridge, we make port calls to some of their ports."

Look for an unknown player or 2 to star wild-card weekend

ROB MAADDI, AP Pro Football Writer

Aaron Rodgers, Adrian Peterson, Ben Roethlisberger, J.J. Watt and the other star players got their teams to the playoffs.

With the season on the line, a lesser-known player often makes the difference.

Remember Malcolm Butler?

The Green Bay Packers won three road games as a sixth-seed in 2010 before they beat Pittsburgh in the Super Bowl. They wouldn't have advanced if it weren't for a surprise performance in the wild-card round, when rookie James Starks had 123 yards rushing in a 21-16 win at Philadelphia after only running for 101 yards in the regular season.

Jermaine Kearse had seven catches and two TDs in 2013. But he caught the go-ahead TD pass in Seattle's 23-17 win over San Francisco in the NFC championship game. The Seahawks went on to beat Denver in the Super Bowl.

So don't be surprised if the big play this weekend comes from someone other than A.J. Green, Antonio Brown, Russell Wilson or DeAndre Hopkins.

Here are potential unsung heroes for each team this wild-card weekend:

CHIEFS: Running back Spencer Ware. Charcandrick West became the primary back after Jamaal Charles went down for the season, but Ware had a better average (5.6) and more TDs (six). He'll probably get fewer touches against the Texans, but should make the most of them. Look for Ware to get the ball in short-yardage and goal-line situations.

TEXANS: Offensive lineman Chris Clark. He fills in for two-time Pro Bowl left tackle Duane Brown, who sustained a season-ending injury in Week 17. Clark has a tough task going against Chiefs linebacker Justin Houston, who returns after missing five games with a knee injury. Clark is no ordinary backup. He started four games this season and 21 over the previous two with Denver. He's familiar with Kansas City and a strong game from him could help the Texans advance.

STEELERS: Wide receiver Markus Wheaton. He was the fourth-leading receiver on the team. While the defense focuses on Brown and Martavis Bryant, Roethlisberger could look to him for a clutch catch or two. The Steelers are missing DeAngelo Williams, so expect them to pass, pass, pass against the Bengals.

BENGALS: Quarterback AJ McCarron. He isn't an unknown because of the position he plays and the fact he won two national titles at Alabama. But he has only three career starts and isn't expected to do much. His big-game experience could help him take a 1-0 lead over Andy Dalton in playoff victories.

SEAHAWKS: Wide receiver Tyler Lockett. The rookie gets overlooked behind Wilson, Marshawn Lynch, Doug Baldwin and Jimmy Graham. But he had six TD catches and returned one punt and one kickoff for scores. He can change the game on one return.

VIKINGS: Peterson's masseuse. Peterson missed practices to rest a back injury suffered in a victory in Green Bay last weekend. He needs to be at his best for the Vikings to beat Seattle so whoever is taking care of his back has an important job.

REDSKINS: Running back Pierre Thomas. The veteran only joined the team last month and is behind Alfred Morris and Matt Jones on the depth chart. But Thomas has turned into a key third-down back and one conversion in a critical spot could help the Redskins knock off the Packers.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

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

1. WHAT PRESIDENT IS CALLING 'IMAGINARY FICTION'

Obama mocks conspiracy theorists and tears into the National Rifle Association as he describes his plans to tighten gun control rules as modest first steps toward tackling gun violence in America.

2. HOW SEOUL IS TRYING TO GET UNDER KIM'S SKIN

South Korea's border broadcasts feature not only criticism of North Korea's nuclear program, troubled economy and human rights abuses, but also features some sugary pop music.

3. THREE REASONS TO WORRY ABOUT CHINA'S ECONOMY

A tumbling currency, a tough transition to promote consumer spending and economic mismanagement by policymakers magnifies concerns about the world's second-biggest economy.

4. CABLE BEHIND BEACH BLAST HAS COMPANY NATIONWIDE

The kind of cable that caused an explosion at a crowded Rhode Island beach last summer may be lying under beaches, harbors and waterways at nearly 50 sites in 12 states, the AP finds.

5. WHY MILITARY ACADEMIES ARE SEEING SPIKE IN SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTS

A senior defense official says the sharp increases are due largely to students' growing confidence in the reporting system and expanded awareness programs.

6. ARMED RANCHERS ASKED TO LEAVE

Three Oregon sheriffs meet with Ammon Bundy's group to try to persuade them to end their occupation of a federal wildlife refuge after many local residents made it plain that's what they want.

7. FOR DEMOCRATIC FRONT-RUNNER, HELP ON THE STUMP

Hillary Clinton's impressive stable of surrogates — including Bill and Chelsea Clinton — are already at work on behalf of her presidential campaign, and the Obamas and Bidens will likely step in too.

8. AS RAIN PUMMELS CALIFORNIA, A WAY TO FIGHT DROUGHT

To offset the state's epic water shortage, agencies are moving to capture more rain to use during dryer times.

9. FAREWELL, SCHNEIDER

Pat Harrington, Jr., who scored as the cocky handyman on "One Day at a Time," has died. He was 86.

10. LOOK FOR UNKNOWN PLAYERS TO RISE UP

Rodgers, Peterson, Roethlisberger, Watt and the other star players got their teams to the NFL playoffs. With the season on the line, a lesser-known player often makes the difference.

Alabama chief justice denies defying US Supreme Court

KIM CHANDLER, Associated Press

PHILLIP LUCAS, Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore — ousted from office a decade ago when he refused to remove a Ten Commandments monument from state property — on Thursday stood by his assertion that Alabama probate judges should not issue marriage licenses to gay couples, a seemingly direct challenge to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that effectively legalized same-sex marriages nationwide.

Moore's stance first appeared on Wednesday in an administrative order; he reiterated his position Thursday in an interview with The Associated Press.

"Until further clarification, (the probate judges) are bound by state law," Moore said.

His order on Wednesday and his remarks on Thursday drew immediate condemnation from civil and gay rights organizations and from a legal advocacy group, which filed a complaint against him with a state commission that investigates judicial misconduct. His critics promptly suggested that he should be removed from the bench again for his refusal to accept the U.S. Supreme Court's decision six months after it was handed down.

Some of the judges who stopped issuing licenses Wednesday immediately after Moore's order, mean-

while, resumed the service Thursday after consulting with attorneys.

In his order, Moore noted that the Alabama Supreme Court has not lifted a March 3 ruling prohibiting probate judges from issuing licenses to gay couples. He said it's up to the state court to decide what to do with that order following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision.

Moore insisted Thursday that he is not defying the high court, but seeking to resolve what he says are lingering questions about the impact of the federal decision. He said he issued the order Wednesday because "there's a lot of confusion out there among probate judges about what to do."

"Some are issuing same-sex marriage licenses, some are not, some are issuing no marriage licenses at all."

Two federal prosecutors in Alabama, however, said on Wednesday that there should be no confusion, because the U.S. Supreme Court ruling trumps whatever the state court has to say on gay marriage. Other legal experts interviewed by the AP agreed.

Richard Cohen, president of the Montgomery-based legal advocacy group the Southern Poverty Law Center, said Moore should be removed from office — again.

"You know back in 2003 he was kicked out of office for violating a federal court order," Cohen said. "This time he's urging 68 probate judges to violate the federal court order that was entered by the district court in Mobile. He's also asking them to ignore the ruling of the United States Supreme Court."

The center — which sued Moore over the Ten Commandment monument — filed an ethics complaint to the state's judicial inquiry commission last year after Moore publicly criticized a federal judge's ruling overturning Alabama's same-sex marriage ban. The advocacy group filed a supplement to that complaint on Wednesday, saying Moore has violated the canons of judicial ethics by refusing to respect the U.S. Supreme Court's decision. The court has not acted on the earlier complaint filed by the SPLC.

Alabama Judicial Inquiry Commission Executive Director Jenny Garrett said she couldn't comment specifically on Moore, but that any potential sanctions for a judge accused of misconduct would be imposed if the commission filed charges in the court of the judiciary and the court found the judge to have committed ethics violations.

All proceedings before the commission are confidential and don't become public until they move to the court of the judiciary, Garrett said. Sanctions the court could impose on a judge include removal from office, suspension without pay, censure and more, Garrett said.

Wayne Flynt, a former Auburn University history professor, said Moore's tactics echo Southern states' resistance to federal school desegregation orders long after the segregation had been ruled illegal.

"We arbitrated these issues between 1861 and 1865," Flynt said of the Civil War conflict that determined who has the final say, states or the federal government.

Regardless of his stance, Moore's order did not appear to have widespread impact.

Probate judges in Lawrence and Madison counties who had stopped issuing all marriage licenses in response to Moore's order Wednesday said they had resumed the service Thursday after consulting with attorneys. Mobile County said licensing operations would resume on Friday.

Whaling museum gears up for 'Moby-Dick' reading marathon

MARK PRATT, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — "Moby-Dick" fans from around the world are getting ready for their own grueling quest — a marathon reading of Herman Melville's classic.

The New Bedford Whaling Museum this weekend is holding its 20th annual nonstop reading of the seminal man vs. whale novel, with a few new twists to mark the anniversary.

What started with just "a couple of die-hards and some grog," according to museum president and CEO James Russell, has grown into a four-day event that culminates in a cover-to-cover, 25-hour reading of the book aloud by about 150 volunteers. Hundreds attend the live event, and thousands more watch a live stream.

The event has become so popular that this year's reading spots were snapped up within an hour.

"This is my favorite museum event of the year," Russell said. "It touches on so many dimensions: the literary experience, the physical works of art, the theatrical performance, the workshops and focus groups."

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The readers are teenagers and nonagenarians. They include Melville scholars and Melville descendants. They come from across the country and overseas. This year's celebrity reader, who traditionally kicks things off by reading what has been called the most famous opening line in literature, "Call me Ishmael," is award-winning author Nathaniel Philbrick.

Portions will be read in foreign languages including Spanish, French and Dutch.

The reading starts at noon Saturday and moves through different galleries of the museum, even at one pointing sailing up the cobblestone street to the Seamen's Bethel — the Whaleman's Chapel in the novel.

New for this year are a four-hour reading of a Portuguese adaptation of "Moby-Dick," and a two-hour children's version, read by kids ages 8 to 12.

Philbrick, who wrote "In the Heart of the Sea," which won the National Book Award for nonfiction and was made into a movie of the same name, called it an honor to get things started.

"It's written with such force and complexity and beautiful language," he said.

Philbrick confesses he didn't read "Moby-Dick" until he was "forced to" as a senior in high school, even though his father was a university English professor who specialized in American maritime literature. Now, he estimates he's read the book a dozen times.

"Ishmael was the best friend I had not met and I was completely harpooned," he said. "It's become like my personal bible."

Every year about 25 to 30 caffeine-fueled Melville aficionados manage to stay awake for the entire reading, Russell said.

"It's an immersive experience," he said.

Fates of 53 Cuban dissidents show difficulty of US policy

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press

MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN, Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — One year ago, the Cuban government began releasing 53 political prisoners that President Barack Obama wanted freed as part of a historic deal to re-establish diplomatic relations between the former Cold War foes.

Obama says he could make the first visit by a sitting U.S. president to post-revolutionary Cuba as early as this spring if he thinks human rights on the island are improving and a presidential trip will help. The fates of the released dissidents show just how hard it will be for the U.S. to push human rights in Cuba in the direction the Obama administration desires.

U.S. government information and an Associated Press assessment of the dissidents' lives 12 months after their release shows that at least 35 have asked for refugee status allowing them to move permanently to the U.S., reducing the ranks of an already weak and divided opposition movement. Many applications have been delayed by vetting of the dissidents' criminal records, some of which have little to do with political activity. Seven have either left Cuba for or are preparing to leave this month.

Among those who remain, at least six men are back in Cuban prison on what their allies say are politically related charges. Others have abandoned activism altogether.

A number of Cuban activists say the new U.S. policy of engagement focuses on diplomatic and economic ties instead of improving human rights. Others say easing tensions between the U.S. and Cuba will inevitably lead to better conditions on the island. International advocacy groups such as Amnesty International say that no matter what the United States does, it's up to Cuba to improve the island's human rights situation.

"The reforms that have to be made in terms of restrictions of liberty must come from the Cuban government, not from the government of the United States," said Marselha Goncalves Margerin, Amnesty International's advocacy director for the Americas.

Cuba's dissidents are viewed with skepticism by many ordinary Cubans who question their backing and motivation. The government historically has characterized them as U.S.-backed mercenaries and for decades has quashed any attempts to organize independent resistance to the single-party state founded by Fidel Castro and run by his brother, Raul.

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Cuban officials did not respond to requests for comment on how the freed dissidents are faring.

In a statement Thursday night, the State Department said: "We have publicly called for the release of political prisoners and others jailed for exercising their internationally recognized freedoms in Cuba, and will continue to do so." It added that the U.S. Embassy has been in contact with many of those freed last year.

Among those back behind bars is Wilberto Parada, who was arrested for public disorder in October when he protested in front of a prosecutor's office in Havana. Vladimir Morera, from the central province of Villa Clara, has been jailed since May on charges of assault. Fellow dissidents said he held a weeklong hunger strike that ended last month.

Another freed government opponent, Carlos Manuel Figueroa Alvarez, was charged with jumping the fence protecting the U.S. Embassy to claim refugee status after he said he was denied a refugee visa in September. Figueroa is now held on Cuban charges of violating a diplomatic site.

Angel Yunier Remon, a rapper from the eastern province of Granma, said he also was denied refugee status despite being named by the State Department several times as a victim of political repression before he was freed in January 2015.

"I'd never opted for refugee status, but government aggression made me feel like an enemy in my own land," Remon said by telephone.

Remon said the U.S. Embassy gave him a document that recognized him as worthy of refugee status, but said he was "non-admissible" to the United States. He said an embassy employee told him that was because of a robbery conviction he had before becoming a political activist.

U.S. officials say that most of the 53 political prisoners who have applied for refugee status are likely to receive it and that those who complain about delays may be misinterpreting normal processing times as problems with their applications. They remain eligible for refugee status, the officials said.

Several of the freed dissidents nonetheless complain they have waited for months to hear from U.S. consular officials, saying they are at risk of harassment while still in Cuba.

"I was very grateful for Obama's effort to free me in January, but now I'm upset about the wait," said Sandalio Mejias, who said he recently was notified of his second appointment, next month, to present documents supporting an a request for refugee status filed nearly a year ago.

About 20 of the freed dissidents have decided not to leave, some because they've abandoned political activism. But others want to stay and work to change the government.

"Our commitment is here," said Jose Daniel Ferrer, leader of the Patriotic Union of Cuba, a group based in the country's east. "We do a lot to make our members aware of that, so that they don't leave."

Along with the freeing the dissidents last year, the U.S. has said it's trying to improve conditions for Cubans by increasing American trade and travel to the island and encouraging Havana to improve telecommunications and the flow of information to one of the world's least-connected countries.

American officials say Cuba's opening of at least 58 public Wi-Fi hotspots nationwide shows its new policy is working, even though Cuban officials don't describe the new Internet facilities as a result of detente.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials privately express concerns about a reverse in Cuba's policy of granting greater freedoms for its people in recent years. The government decided late last year to prevent thousands of medical specialists from leaving the country even for brief vacations without the Health Ministry's permission.

The move came after a flood of doctors began leaving Cuba last year as part of a broader exodus sparked by fears that better relations with the U.S. could end special Cold War migration privileges for Cubans.

Protesters interrupt Trump Vermont rally despite screening

WILSON RING, Associated Press

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) — A rally for Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump in Vermont on Thursday evening was disrupted repeatedly by protesters despite attempts by Trump's staff to screen the crowd.

Thousands of people stood in line for hours waiting to get into the Burlington event after the campaign distributed 20,000 free tickets to the Flynn Center for the Performing Art, which has just 1,400 seats.

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To whittle down the crowd, rally-goers with tickets in hand who'd waited for hours in the cold were asked as they entered the venue whether or not they supported Trump.

Those who said they didn't were promptly escorted out of the building.

Among those turned away was Adam Linnebur, of South Burlington, Vermont, who was asked whether he planned to vote for Trump. When he said he didn't know, he was asked to leave.

"It's not what I expected," said Linnebur, who is supporting Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders, but noted there was nothing on his ticket that said he had to support Trump.

Trump defended the decision, describing it a matter of loyalty.

"We have more than 20,000 people that showed up for 1,400 spots. I'm taking care of my people, not people who don't want to vote for me or are undecided. They are loyal to me and I am loyal to them," he said in a statement released by his campaign.

The event was nonetheless interrupted repeatedly by protesters, who were escorted out of the theater throughout the night.

Vermont is a staunchly Democratic state and the event was held in Burlington, a liberal bastion, just a few feet from the City Hall where Sanders, a Vermont senator, got his start as mayor.

"Most of the guys are not coming up here. They're afraid to come up here because it has a tendency to be a little bit liberal," Trump observed as he kicked off the rally.

At first, Trump seemed to embrace the disruptions, taking them as a badge of honor.

"Isn't this more exciting?" he asked the crowd.

Later, he suggested that security staffers confiscate protesters' coats.

"Keep his coat! Confiscate his coat! You know it's about 10 degrees below zero outside," he called from the stage. "You can keep his coat. Tell him we'll send it to him in a couple of weeks."

But as the disruptions continued, Trump's patience appeared to wear thin.

"We've got to get the security moving a little bit faster here," he said, suggesting security officers were afraid to respond with force.

"This is why we're losing control of our country. This is why. We lose control of our country 'cause everybody's afraid to do anything," he said. "They're afraid to lose their jobs."

Trump also spoke at length about Sanders, criticizing the way he responded to Black Lives Matter protesters at an event in August and accusing him of wanting to raise taxes to 90 percent.

"Oh, would I love to run against Bernie," he said.

On a conference call with supporters shortly after Trump's remarks, Sanders responded, "I would love to run against Trump and I think we would not only win, I think we would win with a very good margin."

Sanders also called Trump a "pathological liar" who says whatever he wants to say and thinks it's the truth.

Trump's rally was scheduled for the same time as President Barack Obama's televised town hall on gun violence in America, and he also broached the topic.

While Trump often vows to eliminate gun-free zones if he's elected, he expanded his pledge Thursday to include schools.

"I will get rid of gun-free zones on schools and — you have to — and on military bases, my first day, it gets signed, OK? My first day," he said.

People began lining up at dawn to attend the event and more than 100 people were already in line by midday, with over seven hours to go before the event. By the time the doors opened at 5 p.m., the line snaked on for blocks.

Sarah Rucki, a special education teacher from St. Albans, brought her 12-year-old son, Gage, also a Trump fan.

"I think that it's pretty awesome that he's coming into Bernie country to speak to those of us that do exist and so support him up here," she said.

Trump opponents also turned out early and shouted back and forth with supporters as they filtered into the theater. They stood outside during Trump's speech, and cheered when people left the building.

As people streamed out, some Trump supporters raised their Trump signs in defiance.

Chants of "Bernie, Bernie" came from protesters.

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Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Jan. 8, the eighth day of 2016. There are 358 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Jan. 8, 1918, President Woodrow Wilson outlined his Fourteen Points for lasting peace after World War I. Mississippi became the first state to ratify the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which established Prohibition.

On this date:

In 1642, astronomer Galileo Galilei died in Arcetri, Italy.

In 1790, President George Washington delivered his first State of the Union address to Congress in New York.

In 1815, the last major engagement of the War of 1812 came to an end as U.S. forces defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans, not having gotten word of the signing of a peace treaty.

In 1863, America's First Transcontinental Railroad had its beginnings as California Gov. Leland Stanford broke ground for the Central Pacific Railroad in Sacramento. (The transcontinental railroad was completed in Promontory, Utah, in May 1869.)

In 1912, the African National Congress was founded in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

In 1935, rock-and-roll legend Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi.

In 1959, Charles de Gaulle was inaugurated as president of France's Fifth Republic.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson, in his State of the Union address, declared an "unconditional war on poverty in America."

In 1975, Judge John J. Sirica ordered the early release from prison of Watergate figures John W. Dean III, Herbert W. Kalmbach and Jeb Stuart Magruder. Democrat Ella Grasso was sworn in as Connecticut's first female governor. Opera singer Richard Tucker, 61, died in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

In 1976, Chinese premier Zhou Enlai, 77, died in Beijing.

In 1982, American Telephone and Telegraph settled the Justice Department's antitrust lawsuit against it by agreeing to divest itself of the 22 Bell System companies.

In 1996, former French president Francois Mitterrand (frahn-SWAH' mee-teh-RAHN') died at age 79.

Ten years ago: The first funerals were held in West Virginia for the 12 miners who'd died in the Sago (SAY'-goh) Mine disaster six days earlier.

Five years ago: U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., was shot and critically wounded when a gunman opened fire as the congresswoman met with constituents in Tucson; six other people were killed, 12 others also injured. (Gunman Jared Lee Loughner (LAWF'-nur) was sentenced in Nov. 2012 to seven consecutive life sentences, plus 140 years.) Both Super Bowl teams from 2010 lost on the first day of the NFL playoffs; the Seattle Seahawks stunned the defending champion New Orleans Saints 41-36 while the New York Jets ended the night with a last-second 17-16 victory over the Indianapolis Colts.

One year ago: Three dissidents were abruptly released in what a leading human rights advocate said was part of Cuba's deal with Washington to release 53 members of the island's political opposition. Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., a tenacious liberal whose election to the Senate in 1992 heralded a new era for women at the upper reaches of political power, announced she would not seek re-election. During a daylong meeting at the Denver airport, U.S. Olympic Committee board members chose Boston over Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, to bid for the 2024 Summer Olympics. Gospel singer Andrae Crouch, 72, died in Los Angeles.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian Larry Storch is 93. Broadcast journalist Sander Vanocur is 88. CBS newsman Charles Osgood is 83. Singer Shirley Bassey is 79. Game show host Bob Eubanks is 78. Country-gospel singer Cristy Lane is 76. Rhythm-and-blues singer Anthony Gourdin (Little Anthony and the Imperials) is 75. Actress Yvette Mimieux is 74. Physicist Stephen Hawking is 74. Singer Juanita Cowart Motley (The Marvelettes) is 72. Actress Kathleen Noone is 71. Rock musician Robby Krieger (The Doors) is

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70. Rock singer David Bowie is 69. Movie director John McTiernan is 65. Actress Harriet Sansom Harris is 61. Singer-songwriter Ron Sexsmith is 52. Actress Maria Pitillo (pih-TIHL'-loh) is 51. Actress Michelle Forbes is 51. Singer R. Kelly is 49. Rock musician Jeff Abercrombie (Fuel) is 47. Actress Ami Dolenz is 47. Reggae singer Sean Paul is 43. Country singer Tift Merritt is 41. Actress-rock singer Jenny Lewis is 40. Actress Amber Benson is 39. Actor Scott Whyte is 38. Singer-songwriter Erin McCarley is 37. Actress Sarah Polley is 37. Actress Rachel Nichols is 36. Actress Gaby Hoffman is 34. Rock musician Disashi Lumumbo-Kasongo (dih-SAH'-shee LUHM'-uhm-boh kuh-SAHN'-goh) (Gym Class Heroes) is 33. Actor Freddie Stroma is 29.

Thought for Today: "Anxiety never yet successfully bridged over any chasm." — Giovanni Ruffini, Italian writer (1807-1881).