

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Monday, January 25

**School Breakfast:** Breakfast bagel, fruit, juice, milk.

**School Lunch:** Quesadilla, mixed vegetables, broccoli and dip, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Baked chicken breast, mashed potatoes and gravy, California blend vegetables, lemon tart bar, whole wheat bread.

**Birthdays:** Debra Olson, Marc Hanson

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

6:30pm: BBB at Northwestern: C game at 6:30 (no JV), varsity to follow

7:00pm: School Board meeting

## Tuesday, January 26

**School Breakfast:** Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

**School Lunch:** Hamburgers, French fries, romaine salad, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Baked pork chop, au gratin potatoes, peas and carrots, iced honey cookie, whole wheat bread.

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

4:00pm: JHBBB host Warner (7th at 4:00, 8th at 5:00)

6:30pm: BBB host Hitchcock-Tulare

## Wednesday, January 27

FFA State Degree Review/Star Interviews at Webster

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

**School Lunch:** Hot dog wraps, baked beans, carrots and dip, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Lasagna rotini, tossed salad with dressing, ambrosia fruit salad, oatmeal spice cookie, whole wheat bread.

**Birthdays:** Jennifer Podoll, Kristie Hawkins, Marcia Blumhardt, Rhonda Millim, Wendy Cooper

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

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

## The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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**Groton Daily**  
INDEPENDENT

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www.397news.com ~ 397-NEWS (6397) Paul: 397-7460

Follow The Groton  
Activities On-Line



Paul Irvin Kosel and Justin Olson  
Julianna and Jeslyn Kosel

# gdilive.com

## Coming up this week at [gdilive.com](http://gdilive.com)

**Monday, Jan. 25: Boys' Basketball at Northwestern (Varsity only)**

**Tuesday, Jan. 26: Boys' Basketball hosting Hitchcock-Tulare (Varsity only)**

**Thursday, Jan. 28: Girls' Basketball at Sisseton (Varsity only)**

**Friday, Jan. 29: Boys' Basketball hosting Sisseton (JV and Varsity)**

**Saturday, Jan. 30: Girls' Basketball at Gettysburg (Varsity only)**

**Saturday, Jan. 30: Groton Wrestling Tournament**

**Sunday, Jan. 31: 2 p.m. Performance of the Carnival of Silver Skates**

Ready to bring your heart and expertise to a team that feels more like a family? Bring your passion for patient care to the Golden LivingCenter in Groton. The Groton facility is now hiring for CNAs and Nurses. They have new wages with an excellent benefits package. All shifts are open. Join the team today by calling Jessica at 397-2365. The Golden LivingCenter of Groton is looking for you!



## Glimpse From Greenfield

**Brock Greenfield**  
**State Senator**  
**District 2**

During the second week of session, legislators were generally occupied working on drafting, circulating, and/or submitting legislation. Committee work was slightly busier than during the first week, but with the number of bills in-play to-date still relatively low, busier times for committees remain on the horizon.

In Commerce & Energy Com-

mittee on Tuesday, we took up a bill that had been held over from the previous week. I briefly mentioned this bill in my previous article. It was brought forth by the Department of Labor on behalf of the SD Athletic Commission. The Athletic Commission (not to be confused with the SD High School Activities Association) was established in 2012. This body is charged with sanctioning and overseeing any boxing, kickboxing, mixed martial arts, or sparring events held in South Dakota. Over the first two years that the commission was in-place, no events were held within the state. However, since July 1, 2014, seven such competitions have occurred. Over the course of the previous year-and-a-half, the Department has had an opportunity to assess what costs are being incurred by the Commission in performing their duties associated with each event. The price tag, on average, is \$3,000. Current law, however, only allows the commission to charge the event promoter a minimum of \$1,000 or 5% of the gross revenues, whichever is greater. Four of the seven exhibitions have yielded only the \$1,000 minimum. Thus, in each of these instances, the Athletic Commission has lost \$2,000 for performing its duties. With the original allocation of dollars dwindling rapidly, the Commission has worked with the promoters to bring forward this bill that will ensure that the Commission will not have to come back to the legislature to seek tax dollars in the future. The promoters have agreed that they need to have more "skin in the game" if they want to continue to host events here going forward. We passed an amendment to the bill unanimously to address the concerns that had been brought up at our previous meeting, and the bill passed out of committee 5-2.

On Thursday, when the aforementioned bill hit the floor, I was asked to carry it. Interestingly, prior to the initial committee hearing, I had been predisposed to oppose the bill. However, after asking several questions and gaining a better understanding as to why the bill was before us--and after the bill had been amended--I was able to support it, and I did pitch the bill before the full Senate. It was actually an enjoyable interaction on the floor. I was asked by some of the opponents to answer questions. After much back-and-forth, we were set to vote. Because of the nature of the bill, it required a 2/3 majority, rather than a simple majority vote in order to pass. With four Senators not present during the vote, I knew we could only afford to lose seven votes in order to achieve the 24-vote threshold to pass the bill over to the House. In the end, the final tally was exactly that--24-7. It was gratifying when a few Senators approached me over the next two days and expressed what a good debate it was and that my arguments had won them over.

Most of the other bills that have come to the floor so far during session have been "clean up" in nature, as the various departments have encountered issues with existing law over the past year and have identified ways to improve the law books. Thus, the bills have not been particularly controversial and have only garnered a handful of "no" votes. As we move into these next few weeks, however, the debates will become livelier. I would encourage you to tune into SD Public Television during the afternoon. They carry gavel-to-gavel live coverage of the floor proceedings from the Senate, and then they run gavel-to-gavel tape-delayed coverage from the House. It truly provides South Dakotans an opportunity to see their deliberative bodies at-work as we consider all the bills that will have an affect on the lives of all SD citizens.

As a quick heads-up for those who hold commercial driver's licenses, SB 34 seeks to change the law

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to require you to observe the .04 BAC level no matter whether you are operating a commercial OR a noncommercial (personal) vehicle. This would be a stark change to the existing policy, in which the legal limit when operating a noncommercial vehicle is .08. It would hold you to the .04 standard at all times, and could have a lasting impact on your employment should you be found to be in operation of a personal vehicle and be over the .04 limit. You will want to keep an eye on this bill as it goes through the process. There is currently some confusion as to the genesis of the bill. Some say it is in response to a federal mandate, while others have said that no such federal mandate exists and other states are not pursuing the same legislation.

I appreciate all your calls, emails, and personal visits as session rolls on. Thanks to all of you who have shared your insights, concerns, and questions as we contemplate the bills that have been (and will be) introduced. Also, thank you to those who read our articles and provide feedback. It is wonderful to know that so many people are engaged in this process. Until next time, I wish you well. God bless each of you!

Brock

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## Today in Weather History

January 25, 2010: A large upper level low pressure area combined with a cold surface high pressure area building in from the north brought light snow and very strong winds creating widespread blizzard conditions across north central and northeast South Dakota. Snowfall amounts of 1 to 4 inches combined with north winds of 25 to 40 mph gusting up to 55 mph created frequent whiteout conditions across the area. Travel was significantly affected or halted and several schools were closed. Interstate-29 was closed from the North Dakota border and south on the 25th until the morning of the 26th. The blizzard hampered efforts to restore power to the thousands of customers from the previous winter storm. The snowfall began in the morning hours from 6 to 10 am and ended around the time the blizzard conditions subsided.

1821: The Hudson River was frozen solid during the midst of the coldest winter in forty-one years. Thousands of persons crossed the ice from New York City to New Jersey, and refreshment taverns were set up in the middle of the river to warm pedestrians.

1937: Las Vegas, Nevada dropped to 8 degrees above zero, setting an all-time record low for the city.

1949: Las Vegas, Nevada recorded 4.7 inches of snow. This brought the monthly snowfall total to 16.7 inches which still ranks as their snowiest month on record.

1965 - Alta, UT, was in the midst of a storm that left the town buried under 105 inches of snow establishing a record for the state. (David Ludlum)

1987 - The second major storm in three days hit the Eastern Seaboard producing up to 15 inches of snow in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. Up to 30 inches of snow covered the ground in Virginia following the two storms. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - High winds created blizzard conditions in the mountains of Colorado. Winds gusted to 109 mph at Echo Lake, and a wind gust to 193 mph was reported atop Mount Evans. A "nor'easter" moving up the Atlantic Coast spread heavy snow from the Carolinas to New England, with as much as 16 inches reported in the Poconos of eastern Pennsylvania. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Bitter cold air, coming down from Alaska, settled over the Northern Rockies. Wilson WY reported a morning low of 48 degrees below zero. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the south central U.S. One thunderstorm in north central Texas spawned a tornado which injured three persons at Troy. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



# Think of it!

## Livestream your wedding!








### How cool would that be?!

### And with that, you get an HD DVD of the wedding.

### Call Paper Paul at 605/397-7460 for details.

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
 50%	 10%					
Chance Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow	Patchy Blowing Snow and Blustery then Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 26 °F	Low: 19 °F	High: 25 °F	Low: 11 °F	High: 34 °F	Low: 27 °F	High: 37 °F



## Snow Ending Today

Follow us on Social Media

[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)

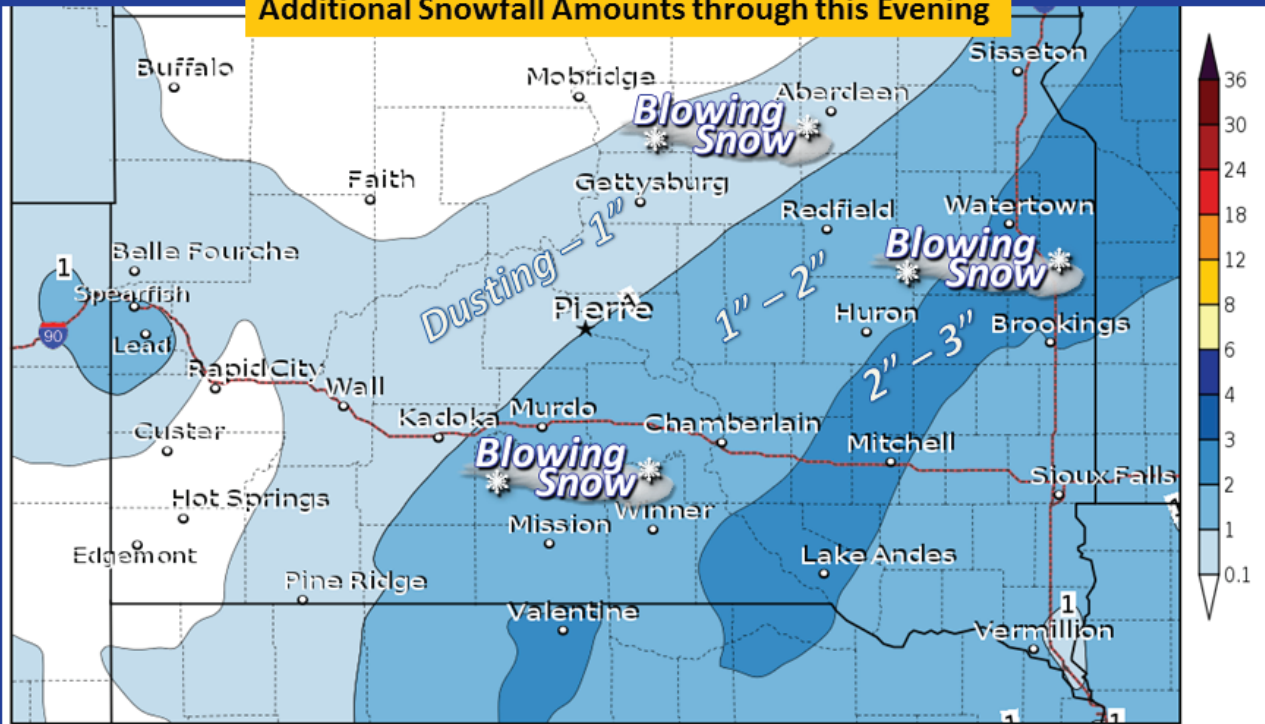


National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

### Additional Snowfall Amounts through this Evening



Published on: 01/25/2016 at 4:52AM

Light snow will continue across south central and southeastern South Dakota, as well as western Minnesota through this afternoon. Winds will increase to the north this afternoon which could cause patchy blowing and drifting snow. Visibilities could be reduced in open country area. Winds will subside later this evening.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 27.5 at 3:29 PM

**Low:** 16.8 at 2:57 PM

**High Gust:** 18 at 5:30 PM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 54° in 1942

**Record Low:** -33° in 1904

**Average High:** 23°F

**Average Low:** 2°F

**Average Precip in Jan.:** 0.39

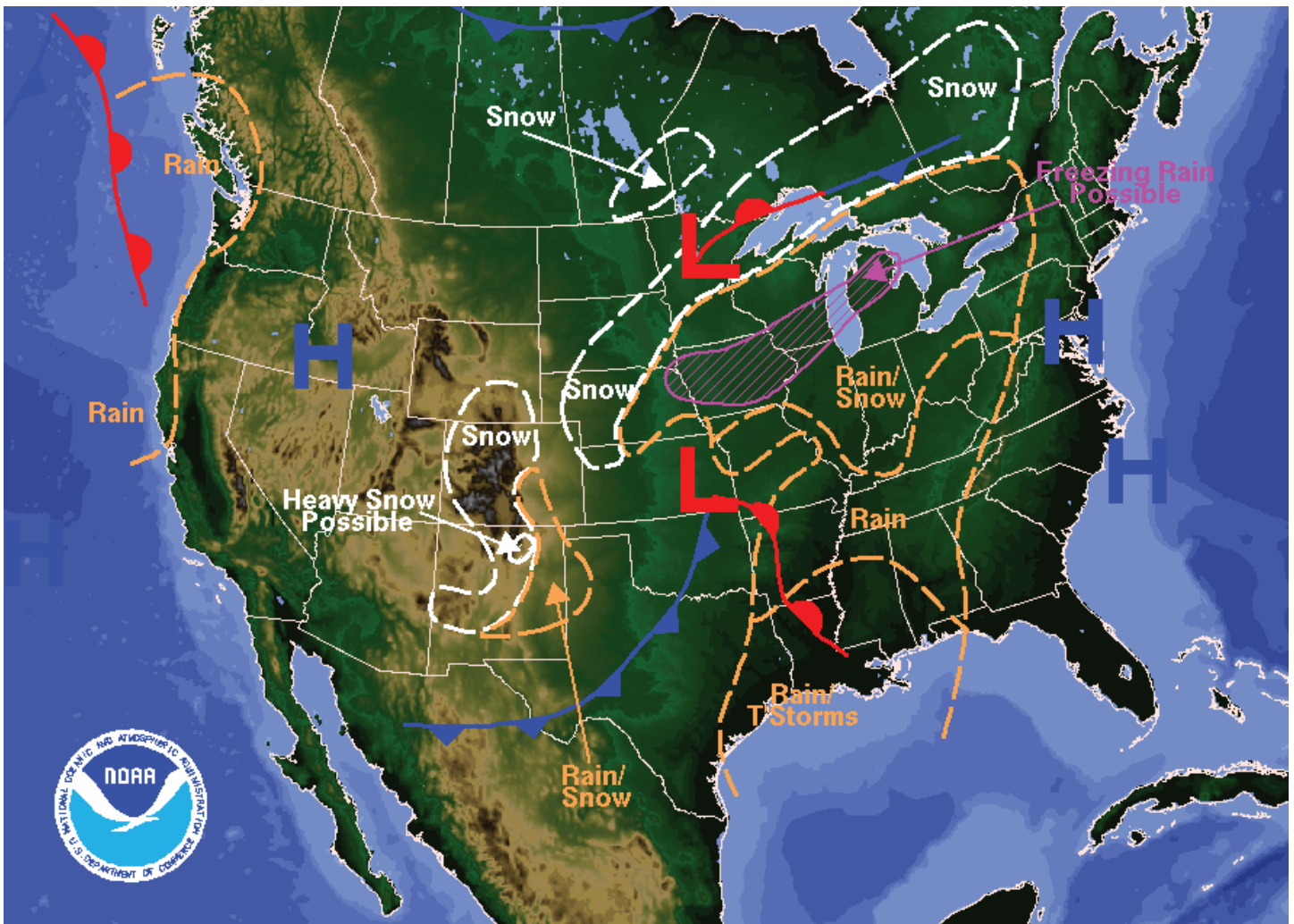
**Precip to date in Jan.:** 0.00

**Average Precip to date:** 0.39

**Precip Year to Date:** 0.00

**Sunset Tonight:** 5:29 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 8:01 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Jan 25, 2016, issued 3:49 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Fanning based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## WHAT TO BELIEVE

Two burglars very proficiently disabled the alarm system and carefully picked the lock of a well-secured home. Just as they were quietly opening the door, a large guard dog suddenly appeared.

"Go in," said one, confidently pushing the thief that was standing before him. "He's OK, he is barking but wagging his tail."

"True," said the other. "But I don't know which to believe."

There are times when some of us struggle with the goodness of God's grace and our salvation. We have questions about what we should really believe.

Someone might say, "You are too bad to be saved; the sins you have committed are beyond God's forgiveness." But the Lord says, "I came to call sinners, not the righteous to repentance."

Another might say, "You are too young to be saved. You don't understand what it means to be born again." But God's Word declares, "Now is the accepted time."

Others say, "I can't hold out." But His Word assures us, "He is able to keep us from falling and to present us faultless!"

**Prayer:** Father, in times of doubt and defeat, may we keep our eyes on You and our faith in You. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.



## News from the Associated Press

### **Hundreds of Dakotas students get stranded in eastern storm**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota and North Dakota enjoyed a relatively balmy weekend while the East Coast was hit by a paralyzing blizzard, but some students in the Dakotas got caught up in the big storm.

Students from throughout the two states were in Washington, D.C., for an anti-abortion rally on Friday. On their return trip, they got stuck for hours on Pennsylvania highways clogged with snow and vehicles.

More than 250 students in more than half a dozen buses were stranded for as long as 22 hours. They were finally returning home late Sunday and Monday.

The storm dropped snow from the Gulf Coast to New England, with some areas getting more than 2 feet. At least 30 deaths were blamed on the weather.

### **Police arrest suspect in weekend armed robbery of casino**

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — Watertown police have a suspect in custody in the armed robbery of a casino.

Authorities say a man walked into Midtown Smoke Shop and Casino about 9:15 p.m. Saturday, pointed a handgun at an employee and demanded money. He fled with an undisclosed amount of money, and no one was hurt.

Police arrested the 35-year-old man at his residence without incident on Sunday.

### **4 families displaced in Vermillion apartment building fire**

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — No one was hurt but four families were displaced in an apartment building fire in Vermillion.

The American Red Cross reports that one of the apartments in the four-unit building was destroyed and two others suffered major damage in the early morning fire on Sunday.

There was no immediate word on the cause of the blaze.

The Red Cross is providing food, clothing and shelter to the families.

### **JLG Architects expanding to Sioux Falls in the spring**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An architecture firm with locations throughout the Upper Midwest is adding one in South Dakota's largest city.

JLG Architects says it will open the Sioux Falls office in the spring with plans to create more than dozen jobs over the next decade.

The office will be the company's tenth. It also has locations in Brookings, South Dakota; in the North Dakota cities of Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot, Williston and Dickinson; and in Minneapolis and Alexandria, Minnesota.

### **South Dakota cattle on feed up 11 percent**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more animals reported 255,000 cattle on feed on January 1, up 11 percent from last year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says in its latest report that placements in feedlots during December totaled 41,000 head, up 52 percent from the previous year.

Marketings of fed cattle during in December totaled 35,000 head, up 17 percent from the previous year.

Other disappearance during December totaled 1,000 head, down 1,000 head from the previous year.

## **Watertown training geared toward women in agriculture**

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — A training program aiming to help women in agriculture better understand farm and ranch management will begin in Watertown next month.

The South Dakota State University Extension is offering the series of courses with topics that include farm record-keeping, marketing, communication skills, insurance, and retirement and estate planning.

The courses are part of Annie's Project, a program that started in Illinois in 2003 and has since spread to other states. The program is named for an Illinois woman who ran a farm and raised six children in the 1950s.

Robin Salverson with SDSU Extension says the program is designed to empower women by providing detailed information and networking opportunities.

The series of six classes begins Feb. 16 at the Regional Extension Center in Watertown. The cost is \$125 per person.

## **Cold snap hits east Asia, blamed for more than 65 deaths**

**RALPH JENNINGS, Associated Press**

**LOUISE WATT, Associated Press**

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Unusually cold weather in eastern Asia has been blamed for more than 65 deaths, disrupted transportation and brought the first snow to a subtropical city in southern China in almost 50 years. Here is a look at the worst cold weather to hit the region in years:

### **TAIWAN**

Temperatures in Taiwan's capital of Taipei plunged to a 16-year low of 4 degrees Celsius (39 Fahrenheit), killing 57 mostly elderly people, according to government officials. The semi-official Focus Taiwan news website reported that 85 people had died because of the cold.

Most homes in subtropical Taiwan lack central heating, and the cold caused heart trouble and breathing problems for many of the victims, a city official said. Normally, temperatures in Taipei hover around 16 degrees C (60 degrees F) in January, according to Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau.

The cold snap was blamed in the deaths of 40 people in the capital, Taipei, and 17 in neighboring New Taipei City. The cold front also left 9 centimeters (3.5 inches) of snow on Taipei's highest peak.

### **JAPAN**

Heavy snow in western and central Japan left five people dead over the weekend and possibly a sixth on Monday.

Kyodo News service said the victims included a woman who fell from a roof while removing snow, a man in a weather-related traffic accident, another man found under a snowplow and a couple that fell into an irrigation channel, apparently while removing snow.

An 88-year-old woman in western Japan's Tottori prefecture died after a landslide hit her house before dawn on Monday, Kyodo and other media reported.

The heavy snow stranded motorists, delayed bullet train service and caused flight cancellations.

### **MAINLAND CHINA**

Most parts of mainland China experienced their coldest weather in decades over the weekend. The southern city of Guangzhou, which has a humid subtropical climate, saw snow for the first time since 1967 on Sunday.

The cold led to at least four deaths — strawberry farmers who died of carbon monoxide poisoning when they turned up the heat in a greenhouse, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

The cold spell coincided with the beginning of the 40-day travel rush for the Lunar New Year, which is on Feb. 8 this year, disrupting cars, flights and trains. More than 11,000 passengers were stranded at Kunming airport in southern Yunnan province.

Temperatures fell 8 to 16 degrees Celsius from Thursday to Sunday in parts of north China, and temperatures in central and eastern China were 6 to 8 degrees lower than average, Xinhua said.

The National Meteorological Bureau forecast that temperatures in southern China would drop another 3-8 degrees on Monday.

## SOUTH KOREA

Temperatures in the capital, Seoul, fell to minus 18 degrees Celsius on Sunday, the lowest since 2001. On Saturday, Jeju Island received 12 centimeters (4.7 inches) of snow, the heaviest since 1984, and its airport was closed from Saturday until Monday.

The shutdown stranded about 86,000 people, mostly tourists, on the island and forced the cancellations of about 1,100 flights, according to Transport Ministry and airport officials.

## Icy roads, spotty transit service follow East Coast blizzard

**MICHAEL R. SISAK, Associated Press**

**VERENA DOBNIK, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — East Coast residents who made the most of a paralyzing weekend blizzard face fresh challenges as the workweek begins: slippery roads, spotty transit service and mounds of snow that buried cars and blocked sidewalk entrances.

For many, the weekend extends into Monday because of closed schools and government offices. Officials were cautioning against unnecessary driving, even as they expected some commuter trains to be delayed or canceled.

The storm dropped snow from the Gulf Coast to New England, with near-record snowfalls tallied from Washington, D.C. to New York City. At least 30 deaths were blamed on the weather, with shoveling snow and breathing carbon monoxide together claiming almost as many lives as car crashes.

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin was on a rescheduled pre-dawn flight from Springfield, Illinois, to Chicago while on the way to Washington on Monday morning. The Illinois Democrat said he's not even sure he'll be able to get to D.C. today, but he's been through this before.

"Most of us who spend part of our lives in Washington know to expect the worst when it comes to snow," he said. "I knew the forecast was enough to cause a problem."

The snow began Friday, and the last flakes fell just before midnight Saturday. In its aftermath, crews raced all day Sunday to clear streets and sidewalks devoid of their usual bustle.

Sunday's brilliant sunshine and gently rising temperatures provided a respite from the blizzard that dropped a record 29.2 inches on Baltimore. The weekend timing could not have been better, enabling many to enjoy a gorgeous winter day.

It was just right for a huge snowball fight in Baltimore, where more than 600 people responded to organizer Aaron Brazell's invite on Facebook.

"I knew people would be cooped up in their houses and wanting to come outside," said Brazell, who was beamed by multiple blasts of perfectly soft but firm snow.

But one day of sunshine wasn't enough to clear many roads. Cars parked in neighborhoods were encased in snow, some of it pushed from the streets by plows. In downtown Philadelphia, some sidewalk entrances were blocked by mounds of snow.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio encouraged people to leave their plowed-in cars all week after a one-day record of 26.6 inches fell in Central Park.

That advice came too late for Bob Raldiris, who tried shoveling his Nissan Maxima out of a spot in Ridgewood, Queens, before passing plows and trucks spoiled his labor. "This is terrible," he said, pointing to a pile of snow three feet high.

Federal offices will be closed Monday, and Virginia's state workers were told to stay home. Schools from Washington to the Jersey Shore gave students Monday off; In the D.C. suburbs, classes also were canceled for Tuesday.

New York's transit authority said partial service on the Long Island Rail Road was restored on three of its 12 branches and diesel train service was operating on three other branches. The problems were due to switches and tracks that were refrozen overnight due to low temperatures. New York City subways, buses and Metro-North Railroad service were operating on a normal schedule Monday.

Broadway reopened after going dark at the last minute during the snowstorm, but museums remained

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closed in Washington, and the House of Representatives postponed votes until February, citing the storm's impact on travel.

Flying remained particularly messy after nearly 12,000 weekend flights were canceled. Airports resumed limited service in New York City, Baltimore, and Philadelphia, which said it got an entire winter's snow in two days. Washington-area airports remained closed Sunday after the punishing blizzard.

Major airlines also canceled hundreds of flights for Monday. Along with clearing snow and ice from facilities and equipment, the operators of airlines, train and transit systems had to figure out how to get snowbound employees to work.

Amtrak operated a reduced number of trains on all its routes, serving many people who couldn't get around otherwise, spokesman Marc Magliari said. But bus and rail service was expected to be limited around the region into Monday.

Overall snowfall of 26.8 inches in Central Park made it New York's second biggest winter storm since records began in 1869, and Saturday's 26.6 inches made for a single-day record in the city.

Some of the blizzard's heaviest snow bands wound up over New York City and Long Island, sending snow totals spiking higher than the 12-18 inches forecasters predicted Thursday.

"Just about everybody was expecting a strong storm system," National Weather Service meteorologist Peter Wichrowski said Sunday. "The question always was, just how heavy was the precipitation going to be?"

Washington's records were less clear. The official three-day total of 17.8 inches measured at Reagan National Airport was impossibly short of accumulations recorded elsewhere in the city. An official total of 22.4 inches landed at the National Zoo, for example.

The zoo remained closed through Monday but a video of its giant panda Tian Tian making snow angels got more than 48 million views. Joining the fun, Jeffrey Perez, of Millersville, Maryland, climbed into a panda suit and rolled around in the snow, snagging more than half a million views of his own.

Mother Nature was less deadly this time than human nature. A beloved Capitol policeman joined a grim list of people suffering heart attacks while shoveling snow. And a growing number of people died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

In Passaic, New Jersey, on Sunday, a mother and year-old son watching their family shovel snow from the apparent safety of their car died because snow blocked the tailpipe; her 3-year-old daughter was in critical condition. A man who tried to shovel out his car in Muhlenberg Township, Pennsylvania, met a similar fate after a snowplow buried him inside. And an elderly couple in Greenville, South Carolina, was poisoned by the generator in their garage after losing power.

Roofs collapsed on a Pennsylvania church, a Virginia theater and a barn outside Frederick, Maryland, which got 33.5 inches of snow, killing some cows. Douglas Fink felt terrible about that: "I was trying to protect them, but they probably would have been better off just standing outside."

## 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. ICY ROADS, SPOTTY TRANSIT SERVICE FOLLOW EAST COAST BLIZZARD

At least 30 deaths are blamed on the weather, with shoveling snow and breathing carbon monoxide together claiming almost as many lives as car crashes.

### 2. VIDEO PURPORTS TO SHOW PARIS ATTACKERS COMMITTING PREVIOUS KILLINGS

The nine men are filmed beheading bound prisoners or shooting a kneeling captive in Islamic State group-controlled territory sometime before the Nov. 13 Paris massacre.

### 3. WHO DISMISSES POSTURING AHEAD OF PEACE TALKS ON SYRIA

John Kerry says statements from Syrian officials that they will make no concessions and complaints from opposition figures that they are being forced into the negotiations reflect only "rumors."

### 4. WHOSE FAILURES IMPERIL MIGRANT CHILDREN

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An AP investigation finds as tens of thousands of young migrants fleeing Central America crossed the border, overwhelmed U.S. officials placed some of them in homes where they were sexually assaulted, starved or forced to work for little or no pay.

## 5. TRUMP'S WIFE REMAINS PRIVATE DESPITE PROSPECT OF PRESIDENCY

Should the billionaire win the Republican presidential nomination, the Slovenian model will face big decisions about her family and her position in American history.

## 6. AUTHORITIES STRUGGLING TO PIECE TOGETHER DARING JAIL ESCAPE

The priority is finding the men but a probe also is under way to see whether they had any help from inside or outside the prison in Southern California.

## 7. WHY ROMANIA'S CRACKDOWN ON GRAFT TRIGGERS LITERARY BOOM

Prisoners release hundreds of non-fiction books because the country's law allows them to have their sentences reduced by 30 days for every "scientific work" they publish.

## 8. CASE SEEKING CANCER SCREENINGS FOR SMOKERS HEADS TO TRIAL

The plaintiffs are not seeking money, but instead want Philip Morris to pay for a monitoring program to detect early signs of lung cancer.

## 9. SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RESIDENTS LIST RENTALS AT STEEP PRICES FOR SUPER BOWL 50

For example, there's a luxury 8,500-square-foot home in San Jose, California, offered for \$10,000 a night.

## 10. MANNING'S BRONCOS FACE PANTHERS

"I'm fortunate and grateful that I have the opportunity to contribute still, in some way," he says.

## European shares relapse into losses as oil prices fall back

**ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer**

TOKYO (AP) — European shares fell Monday as oil prices slipped back below \$32 a barrel while Asian markets were buoyed for a second day by stimulus hopes.

**KEEPING SCORE:** Germany's DAX fell 0.5 percent to 9,717.15 and France's CAC 40 lost 0.7 percent to 4,306.61. Britain's FTSE 100 slipped 0.6 percent to 5,863.96. Wall Street looked set for losses. Dow futures were down 0.5 percent at 15,931.00 and S&P 500 futures dropped 0.4 percent to 1,892.20.

**OIL PRICES:** A rally in battered crude oil prices that began Friday appears short-lived. After modest gains earlier in the day, U.S. crude was down \$1.10 to \$31.09 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Friday, it shot up \$2.66 to \$32.19 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, lost \$1.11 to \$31.07 a barrel. It gained \$2.93, or 10 percent, on Friday to \$32.18 a barrel in London.

**ANALYST VIEWPOINT:** "Markets have rallied on hints of further easing by the ECB and speculation that the BOJ will follow suit. But there has been no major change in fundamentals to support the rally, and the concern is if and when it fizzles out, markets could even drop below their recent lows," Angus Nicholson of IG said in a commentary.

**ECB BOOST:** On Friday European Central Bank head Mario Draghi said the bank has a lot of options to boost inflation and is determined and willing to act. On Thursday Draghi suggested the ECB will consider more stimulus action at its next meeting in March. The signals from Europe also spurred expectations that the Bank of Japan would consider adding to its already lavish stimulus.

**JAPAN TRADE:** Investors shrugged off trade data for December released Monday that showed exports fell for three straight months, though imports fell at a faster pace thanks to the collapse in oil prices. The December trade surplus of 140.2 billion yen (\$1.2 billion) compared with a deficit of 379.7 billion yen in November and a deficit of 665.6 billion yen in December 2014. Share prices were supported by speculation the central bank may opt for further monetary easing at a two-day policy meeting that starts Thursday.

**ASIA'S DAY:** Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.9 percent to 17,110.91 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng jumped 1.4 percent to 19,340.14. The Shanghai Composite Index climbed 0.8 percent to 2,938.51 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 1.8 percent to 5,006.60. South Korea's Kospi was up 0.7 percent at 1,893.43, and shares in Taiwan, New Zealand and Southeast Asia also were higher.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar edged down to 118.30 yen from 118.79 yen on Friday. The euro rose to \$1.0826

from \$1.0799.

## Paris attackers were versed in atrocity, IS video shows

LORI HINNANT, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A new video released by the Islamic State group purports to show the extremists who carried out the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris committing atrocities in IS-controlled territory while plotting the slaughter in the French capital that left 130 people dead and hundreds wounded. The group also threatens Britain.

The 17-minute video, released Sunday, shows the extent of the planning that went into the multiple attacks in Paris, which French authorities have said from the beginning were planned in Syria. It also is likely meant to serve as a recruitment tool to rally followers to the extremists' sinister cause.

All nine men seen in the video died in the Paris attacks or their aftermath. Seven of the attackers — four from Belgium and three from France — spoke fluent French. The two others — identified by their noms de guerre as Iraqis — spoke in Arabic.

Seven of the militants, including a 20-year-old who was the youngest of the group, were filmed standing behind bound captives, described as "apostates," who were either beheaded or shot.

"Soon on the Champs-Élysées," says Samy Amimour, who was raised in a Paris suburb near the French national stadium, as he holds a captive's head aloft.

The Nov. 13 attacks targeted a packed concert hall, a restaurant and cafe, and a soccer match at the national stadium.

Immediately after the attacks, French President Francois Hollande imposed a nationwide state of emergency that is to remain in place until Feb. 26. Hollande has asked for an extension and reiterated that request Monday.

"No threat will give France pause in what it must do against terrorist. And if I have taken steps to extend the state of emergency, it is because I am aware of the threat and that we will not concede," Hollande said in response to the video.

French Foreign Ministry spokesman Romain Nadal said the government is studying the video but would not comment on its contents.

The video was apparently filmed before the men slipped back into Europe and contains no footage shot by the attackers during the days of terror that began Nov. 13 and ended only on Nov. 18 with the death of Abdelhamid Abbaoud, who was believed to be the leader of the attacks and who died in a police raid on an apartment near the Stade de France.

Instead, it was assembled from news video, amateur video and material shot before the men left for Paris. The video did not specify where the nine men were filmed, but it was believed to have been in IS-controlled territory in Syria. Abbaoud is seen simply speaking in a room.

One of the suicide bombers that night, Brahim Abdeslam, is seen at a makeshift shooting range. Abdeslam, whose brother Salah fled Paris that night and remains at large, blew himself up at a Paris cafe where he was the only victim. Salah Abdeslam is not seen in the video.

According to the anti-Islamic State activist group Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently, Brahim Abdeslam and two other attackers were trained in Raqqa, the extremist group's stronghold and the capital of its self-proclaimed caliphate.

In the video, as in other Islamic State propaganda trying to drive a wedge between European Muslims and their governments, the men say it is a religious duty to join them.

They threaten more attacks in Europe, and the footage closes with one of the militants holding a severed head and footage of Cameron giving a speech — with a text in English warning that whoever stands with the unbelievers "will be a target for our swords."

The video was released by Alhayat, the Islamic State group's media arm.

## Laos assures US it will help counter Chinese assertiveness

**DANIEL MALLOY, Associated Press**

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — The prime minister of communist Laos assured U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Monday that this small nation will help counter China's assertiveness in the South China Sea.

Laos this year takes the rotating chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, with the group's heads of state scheduled to hold a special meeting next month in Sunnylands, California, at the invitation of President Barack Obama as part of his foreign policy to reach out to the region as a counterweight to China.

Kerry's visit to the landlocked nation of fewer than 7 million people was meant to pave the way for the summit, with a goal of making sure Laos holds the group. Kerry arrived in the Laotian capital Sunday.

Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong "was very clear that he wants a unified ASEAN and he wants maritime rights protected and he wants to avoid militarization and avoid the conflict," Kerry told reporters. "And that will develop as we go into Sunnylands, and there will be a greater, I'm sure, articulation of that unity going forward."

ASEAN nations such as Vietnam and the Philippines have become increasingly concerned with China's territorial claims in the South China Sea, including the construction of man-made islands and airstrips in contested areas.

But other ASEAN nations are more pro-China, including Cambodia, which blocked ASEAN from reaching consensus on the South China Sea during its 2012 chairmanship of the group. Cambodia is Kerry's next stop on an around the world diplomatic marathon this week that will also take him to China.

Murray Hiebert, a Laos expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, noted that "these statements by Lao leaders aren't totally surprising."

He noted that a Communist Party congress in Laos last week removed a party chief generally considered as pro-Chinese and replaced him with one who appears to be more evenhanded in his views about China and Vietnam, Laos' other big neighbor and fellow member of ASEAN.

Later this year, Obama will become the first U.S. president to visit Laos for the ASEAN summit. Laos is one of the last few communist nations remaining in the world. The country has moved away from a hard line communist system in the past two decades, but like its close ally Vietnam, it retains a one-party political system and its government has been criticized for being intolerant of dissent.

Kerry said relations with Laos are improving after a period of war and mutual suspicion. In addition to meetings with Thammavong and Thongloun Sisoulith, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Kerry toured That Luang, the golden-spired Buddhist structure that is Laos' most sacred monument. Kerry also was scheduled to meet with members of Obama's Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative.

Kerry and Laos' leaders discussed increased U.S. funding for a variety of projects here. That includes the removal of unexploded bombs dropped by American warplanes during the Vietnam War era, which still cause frequent casualties. Kerry, a Vietnam war veteran, also brought up a new \$6 million child nutrition program, and U.S.-funded "smart infrastructure" for the Mekong River.

"We still have concerns about human rights and freedom of expression and other issues, and I raised those," Kerry said. "But it is also - you know, we are partnering on a wide range of issues."

Phil Robertson, the deputy Asia director for Human Rights Watch, said he hopes for more human rights pressure on Laos as the country prepares to host world leaders all year.

"The international community should demand Laos' leaders end their restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly, stop their crushing censorship of the media, and permit freedom of association for workers to form independent trade unions," Robertson said.

## Trump's wife remains private despite prospect of presidency

**LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — First lady Melania Trump.

If that prospect evokes no clear image, that's no accident. Donald Trump's wife has said little in the

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campaign about the type of first lady she'd like to be should her husband win the Republican nomination and the presidency. The distance, she's said, is intentional so she can focus on the couple's 9-year-old son, Barron.

But should he become the GOP candidate for the fall, the Slovenian-born model, mother and multilingual speaker would face big decisions about her family, her life and her potential position in American history. The presidential voting starts when Iowans caucus Feb. 1.

For now, Melania Trump is her husband's top supporter at events, a striking brunette swathed in couture, frequently seen but seldom heard. Her first campaign turn came in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, in November, as the candidate called his family on stage during a rally. Turning to Melania, his third wife, Trump asked if she'd like to say something.

She stepped to the microphone and cocked a manicured thumb over an elegant shoulder.

"Isn't he the best?" Mrs. Trump, 45, asked the crowd in heavily accented English. "He will be the best president ever. We love you!" Like her husband, she is not given to understatement.

As his supporters roared, Donald Trump gave her a kiss and could be heard saying: "Thank you, honey. Very nice."

It was the barest of glimpses into the life of a couple who celebrated their 11th wedding anniversary Friday. Their relationship began at least six years earlier, dating back to the 1998 party in Manhattan when the newly separated Trump asked then-model Melania Knauss, 24 years his junior, for her telephone number. She rebuffed him because he was with a date that night, she has said.

By the next year, they were a couple. Trump was seeking the Reform Party nomination in the 2000 presidential election. His girlfriend was asked how she viewed herself if ever she became first lady.

"I would be very traditional," she told The New York Times. "Like Betty Ford or Jackie Kennedy."

Would she now stay as far above the political fray as the couple's triplex overlooking Central Park? That's largely up to the Trumps, but they're in no hurry to decide.

Through a spokeswoman, Mrs. Trump declined an interview request from The Associated Press.

A sketch of what we know:

## WHAT'S UNPRECEDENTED

In many ways, Melania Trump would be a first in American history: She'd be the only first lady who is the third wife of a president, and the first to be born and raised in a communist nation, according to Carl Anthony, historian at the National First Ladies' Library. She almost certainly has shown more skin than any other U.S. first lady — that was her in 2006, very pregnant, in a gold bikini on the steps of her husband's private jet in Vogue magazine.

## WHAT'S NOT

By 2016, Melania Trump has gotten married, had a child and adopted a much more traditional posture as a candidate's spouse. She wouldn't be the first president's wife to be born in another country — that would be Louisa Adams, born in England. Nor would she be the first first lady to have married a divorced man — hello, Nancy Reagan. And she'd be the third first lady to have worked as a professional model, after Pat Nixon and Betty Ford.

## MELANIA'S ROLE

Experts on first ladies said Melania Trump is being smart by laying low now, especially if she is not comfortable talking about politics and policy. But eventually, they said, she'd be wise to build on what she knows. Melania Trump studied design and architecture at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia — so perhaps advocating for historical preservation would suit her. Maybe she'd expand her charity work. Even her model-perfect poise and ability to speak multiple languages could be an asset to her English-only husband during state dinners and other White House social events.

"It's best when they draw from their experience, and marry that up with the overall focus of their husbands' administration," said Anita McBride, who was chief of staff to first lady Laura Bush.

Anthony said: "I think she is a great emotional support to him or a ballast for him."

## DELEGATING DUTIES



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Donald Trump has signaled that his daughter, Ivanka, might be unusually prominent for a president's daughter. He volunteers Ivanka's name when asked whose advice he values. It was she, not Melania, who introduced her father when he announced his campaign. During breaks in Republican debates, it was Ivanka, one of Donald Trump's five children, with whom he huddled.

NOT ARM CANDY

For all of her public discretion, Melania Trump has been consistently public about one thing: She's more than an accessory. "I have my own mind," she told Harper's Bazaar in an interview published this month. "I am my own person, and I think my husband likes that about me."

Note to Washington power snobs: Don't expect Melania Trump to put up with condescension.

On a visit to the Trump triplex above Manhattan, one of the contestants on his show, "The Apprentice," says to Melania: "You're very, very lucky."

"Thank you," Melania, holding a glass of champagne, says with a glittering smile. "And he's not lucky?"

## AP FACT CHECK: GOP candidates misstate military spending

**RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press**

EDITOR'S NOTE \_ An occasional look at public statements and how well they adhere to the facts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush says the Obama administration has "gutted" every weapons system in the U.S. military's inventory. GOP rival Donald Trump says the military is a "disaster." Florida Sen. Marco Rubio maintains that President Barack Obama is more interested in providing money to Planned Parenthood than for the nation's armed forces.

Gutted? Disaster?

Trashing Obama and arguing that he has failed to spend enough on defense has become a staple for Republican presidential hopefuls. At the debates and campaign stops, they've cast him as a feckless commander in chief, standing idly by while the world's finest military withers away.

What's lost in the din: Money spent on weapons modernization is on par with the George W. Bush administration. The military cuts that GOP contenders are complaining about were approved by Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill. The military budget is being squeezed by the insistence of lawmakers in both parties that money be spent on bases and equipment that the Pentagon says it doesn't need.

And the government spends roughly 1,000 times more on the armed forces than on Planned Parenthood.

A few of the GOP candidates' claims and how they compare with the facts:

"In this administration, every weapon system has been gutted," Jeb Bush said at a debate in South Carolina earlier this month.

THE FACTS: Total spending for the modernization for major weapons systems actually has remained stable since Bush's brother, President George W. Bush, left office in January 2009. The department's "selected acquisition reports," which detail past, current and future investments in dozens of weapons programs, show the value of the military services' modernization portfolio in November 2008 was \$1.64 trillion. The latest reports, from March 2015, show a value of \$1.62 trillion.

The armed forces are undergoing a transformation, according to the Defense Department's budget strategy. The military services will no longer be sized for large, prolonged operations — a reference to the lengthy wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which involved massive reconstruction and humanitarian relief components. The focus now is on building a high-tech force that is nimble enough to defeat Islamic State militants and much more sophisticated adversaries.

For example, the Air Force is pushing ahead with the development and acquisition of an advanced bomber, known as Long-Range Strike, to replace the aging fleet of B-1 and B-52 bombers. The B-52s were first deployed when Dwight Eisenhower was president. The B-1s, which were fielded in the 1980s, are no longer certified for nuclear missions.

The new bomber is a highly classified, \$80 billion project designed to build an information-age aircraft that eventually may be capable of flying without a pilot aboard. The Air Force awarded Northrop Grumman Corp. the bomber contract in October. The contract is part of the Pentagon's broader plan to modernize

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the entire nuclear force — missile-toting submarines, land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles and long-range bombers.

The nagging question for any major weapons program is how to keep them from becoming budget busters. On Obama's watch, the Joint Strike Fighter — the single most expensive military project ever — has experienced significant cost, schedule, and performance setbacks that have driven up the price tag. The Government Accountability Office estimated last year that nearly \$400 billion will be needed to buy the planned 2,457 aircraft for the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps.

Obama is "more interested in funding Planned Parenthood than he is in funding the military," Rubio said.

THE FACTS: While the defense budget has dropped in recent years, the cuts were approved by Republicans as well as Democrats in Congress, then signed into law by Obama. But even with the reductions, the size of the special operations forces, which include Navy SEALs and Army Green Berets, has grown.

For 2016, the current budget year, the Defense Department's budget is roughly \$581 billion. That includes \$59 billion for fighting IS, operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and other missions. There's \$111 billion for new equipment and upgrades, ranging from jet fighters, helicopters, ships and submarines. Another \$70 billion is for the research and development of new technologies.

The Budget Control Act set limits on how much could be spent on defense through 2021. Between 2011 and 2014, the Pentagon's budget fell by more than \$100 billion. And in 2013 automatic budget cuts known as sequestration kicked in, forcing across-the-board reductions that led to widespread concern the military services would be unprepared to fight the nation's wars.

Yet Congress and the Obama administration still haven't been able to agree on a way out of the constraints both sides were responsible for setting.

Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill have resisted money-saving measures proposed by the Pentagon, such as closing excess military bases. Congress also has prohibited the retirement of the A-10 aircraft that provides close air support for ground troops. And for more than a decade, both Congress and the White House didn't offset the costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. They just wrote a check, adding to an already massive deficit.

Mike McCord, the Pentagon comptroller, said in a recent presentation, that the defense budget request for 2017 will be \$584 billion.

Planned Parenthood affiliates received \$524.8 million in federal health services grants and reimbursements, according to the organization's annual report.

"Our military is a disaster," Trump said.

THE FACTS: The bombastic GOP front-runner typically avoids specifics, so it's unclear what he meant exactly.

There is, however, concern among congressional Republicans and Democrats that too many active-duty troops are being cut from the force.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and an advocate for bigger defense budgets, said Thursday that the force-reduction decisions were made before the growth of IS or Russia's invasion of Ukraine. If the sequestration process isn't reversed, McCain said, the Army could drop to 420,000 troops from a wartime peak of 570,000.

"Readiness suffers as our Army shrinks," McCain said, adding that only a little more than one third of the Army's brigade combat teams are ready for deployment and decisive operations.

But McCain, the leading Republican voice in Congress on national security issues, acknowledged the difficulty of seeking more money for defense when so much is being wasted on weapons programs that exceed their expected costs.

"It's hard for us to go back to our constituents when we have a \$2 billion cost overrun on an aircraft carrier," McCain said. "If we're going to have credibility with the American people, we cannot have these horror stories."

## Case seeking cancer screenings for smokers heads to trial

**DENISE LAVOIE, AP Legal Affairs Writer**

BOSTON (AP) — A decade after a group of smokers from Massachusetts sued Philip Morris USA to try to force the cigarette maker to pay for lung cancer screenings, the case will finally be heard by a jury.

Smokers in the class-action lawsuit allege Philip Morris manufactured a defective cigarette knowing it could have made a safer product with fewer carcinogens.

They are not seeking money, but instead want to compel Philip Morris to pay for highly detailed, three-dimensional chest scans that can detect signs of early-stage lung cancer that may be too small to show up on traditional X-rays.

The closely watched case heads to trial this week in federal court in Boston.

The jury will be asked to decide whether Philip Morris made Marlboro cigarettes that are unreasonably dangerous. If the jury finds in favor of the smokers, a second phase will be held to determine how a medical monitoring program will be administered.

No smokers are expected to testify during the first phase. Instead, it will be a trial of dueling experts.

The plaintiffs plan to call a former Philip Morris employee to testify that feasible alternative designs of Marlboros have existed for decades. They also plan to call a psychologist who will testify that given a choice between Marlboros or a safer cigarette, a non-addicted, informed person would choose the safer alternative.

Philip Morris is expected to call experts in cigarette design and marketing who are likely to testify that the company's lower-tar and lower-nicotine cigarettes — on the market since the late 1970s — have failed to gain a significant market share among any group of smoker.

Richard Daynard, a law professor at Northeastern University and anti-smoking activist, said past lawsuits seeking to force tobacco companies to provide medical monitoring have failed. But Daynard said he believes the Massachusetts case has a stronger chance of succeeding because recent studies have found that the sophisticated screening can save lives.

"What's happened is you have better technology which captures the tumors at a much earlier stage where there's a very good chance that if you get them that the person ... is probably not going to die from it," Daynard said.

A Philip Morris spokesman declined to comment, and lawyers for the company did not respond to messages.

In court documents, the company denied that its cigarettes are defectively designed and argued that three-dimensional chest scans would not be effective or necessary for every person covered by the lawsuit.

The case covers Massachusetts smokers who, as of February 2013, were at least 50, had at least a 20 pack-year history of smoking Marlboros and have not been diagnosed with lung cancer. Pack-years are calculated by multiplying the average number of packs per day by the number of years a person has smoked.

The two sides agree that the chest scans are "reasonably and periodically necessary" for smokers 55 to 74 with at least a 30 pack-year history. They disagree on the rest of the smokers in the lawsuit.

Since the case was filed in 2006, insurers have begun to cover the screenings for certain smokers. Last year, Medicare announced it would pay for annual screenings for beneficiaries 55 to 77 with at least a 30 pack-year history.

U.S. District Judge Denise Casper rejected a request to exclude evidence about insurers agreeing to pay for three-dimensional chest scans, but said she'll instruct jurors that they are not allowed to consider whether any of the smokers have insurance coverage for screening.

"The fact that insurance now covers it and it's recognized for certain groups as being efficacious may have some evidentiary value in the case, but it does not change the fact that Philip Morris could be liable for the cost of the scans," said Christopher Weld, an attorney for the smokers.

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## 50th Super Bowl: Manning's Broncos face Newton's Panthers

HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Pro Football Writer

Peyton Manning is the only five-time MVP in NFL history, one of the faces of the league and, at 39, the oldest starting quarterback to lead a team to the Super Bowl.

Slowed by age and injury, he is no longer the record-breaking passer he once was. Most folks figure Manning's fourth Super Sunday appearance will be his last game as a pro.

Cam Newton is at the opposite end of his career, just 26, making his debut in the big game. He also is expected to earn MVP honors for the first time, part of a new breed of dual-threat QBs as good at running as they are at throwing.

For the next two weeks, until Manning's AFC champion Denver Broncos (14-4) play Newton's NFC champion Carolina Panthers (17-1) for the Lombardi Trophy in Santa Clara, California, on Feb. 7, most of the focus will be on the two quarterbacks who were No. 1 overall draft picks 13 years apart.

"Oh, wow," said Newton, whose Panthers opened as 4-point favorites with most bookmakers. "Playing 'The Sheriff.'"

That is a reference to Manning, who is 1-2 in past Super Bowls. He won a championship with the Indianapolis Colts in 2007, lost with the Colts in 2010, and lost again with the Broncos in 2014.

But this is a different version of Manning.

Yes, he's still as good as anyone at diagnosing defenses and changing things up — or appearing to, anyway — at the line of scrimmage.

Yes, he's still out there yelling "Omaha!"

"He most certainly is a Hall of Famer," Panthers coach Ron Rivera said.

But Manning is not quite as capable as he was, once upon a time, when it comes to putting the football exactly where he wants it, especially on deep routes.

This has hardly been a record-setting season for Manning — or, until now, one worth remembering. Overall, the bad far outweighed the good, including one game with a passer rating of 0.0, 17 interceptions to only nine touchdown passes in the regular season, being sidelined for six weeks with a series of injuries, getting relegated to backup duty in the NFL for the first time, and vehemently denying a report linking Manning's wife to the banned drug HGH.

"My role has been different and my contributions are different," Manning said. "But I'm fortunate and grateful that I have the opportunity to contribute still, in some way. And it's a great honor to be going back to the Super Bowl."

Here are some of the other story lines for the 50th Super Bowl, which will be Denver's record-tying eighth and Carolina's second:

**SUPERMAN:** Newton threw for 335 yards and two TDs, and he ran for 47 yards and a pair of scores, leading Carolina past the Arizona Cardinals 49-15 in the NFC title game Sunday night. It was the type of dynamic performance he put in all season, the sort of promise he showed while winning a Heisman Trophy in college at Auburn. "I keep saying it: We're not finished. We're not finished," Newton said.

**MILLER TIME:** Broncos linebacker Von Miller was terrific Sunday, getting 2 1/2 sacks and an interception in a 20-18 victory over Tom Brady and the New England Patriots in the AFC title game. "I wanted to do it for Peyton," said Miller, who was injured and missed Denver's loss to Seattle in the 2014 Super Bowl.

**DOMINANT DEFENSES:** Both of these teams excel at defense. The Broncos led the NFL with 52 sacks and allowed a league-low 283.1 yards per game, then made life difficult as can be for Brady on Sunday, knocking him to the ground over and over. No one forced more turnovers than the Panthers, and only five clubs gave up fewer points (the Broncos were one, naturally). Against Arizona, Carolina produced seven takeaways.

**CAROLINA'S STARTS:** If the Panthers are able to get off to the sort of start they've made commonplace lately, they might not even give the Broncos a chance to make a game of it. In their two games this postseason, Carolina outscored its opponents 55-7 in the first half. That includes leads of 17-0 after one quarter and 24-7 after two against Arizona. "We wanted to start fast," Newton said. "We wanted to keep

the pressure on.”

INJURIES: Panthers linebacker Thomas Davis said he broke his right forearm against Arizona — “I knew something was wrong,” he said — but sounded like someone who plans to play in the Super Bowl. The Broncos, meanwhile, lost both of their starting safeties — T.J. Ward and Darian Stewart — to injuries during Sunday’s game.

## Kerry dismisses posturing ahead of peace talks on Syria

**MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer**

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Monday dismissed Syrian government claims and opposition complaints as posturing ahead of U.N.-led peace talks that are supposed to begin this week.

Kerry, in Laos after discussing the negotiations with officials in Switzerland and Saudi Arabia last week, said he expected there would be clarity about when the talks would start within the next 72 hours. They had been due to start on Monday in Geneva, but have been delayed because of disagreements over which groups can represent the opposition at the table.

Since arriving in Laos on Sunday, Kerry said, he had spoken to the U.N. special envoy for Syria and the foreign ministers of Russia, Saudi Arabia, France and Turkey to try to reach consensus on how the talks will be run and a planned ceasefire would proceed.

“We’re going to have the meeting and (the talks) are going to start,” Kerry told reporters. “But what we are trying to do is to make absolutely certain that when they start everyone is clear about roles and what’s happening so you don’t go there and wind up with a question mark or a failure. You don’t want to start Day One by not being able to make progress.”

He said his conversations with colleagues were mainly about how the cease-fire and confidence-building measures, such as opening up areas for humanitarian access, would work. He declined to elaborate but said any disagreements arising in the Geneva talks would be addressed by another meeting of the 20-odd member International Syria Support Group that is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 11.

Kerry said recent statements from Syrian officials that they will make no concessions at the negotiating table and complaints from opposition figures that they are being forced into the talks reflect only “tensions” and “rumors.” He also denied suggestions of disunity among countries that back the opposition and said U.S. support for foes of Syrian President Bashar Assad remains solid.

“I think these are just tensions. These are things you hear as people are worried,” he said.

Over the weekend, a senior official in Assad’s ruling Baath party said the government would not make any new concessions in the peace talks at a time when the Syrian army with the help of Russia is making progress in different parts of the country.

“We are not going to give today what we did not give over the past five years,” Hilal al-Hilal said late Saturday, during a visit to troops in areas they recently captured from insurgents outside the capital, Damascus.

Kerry said that claim was inconsistent with the positions of Russia and Iran. Assad’s main backers have agreed to a U.N.-supported political transition process that is to form a new government over the next 18 months.

“That doesn’t make sense,” Kerry said. “If that’s their attitude, the war does not end. That is not the Russian attitude. The Russians say (the Syrians) are going to go and they are going to negotiate.”

He added, however, that nothing was certain. “We are going to know very quickly, in a month or two or three, whether these guys are serious.”

Kerry, who met with the chief opposition negotiator in Saudi Arabia on Saturday, also addressed complaints from Assad foes who say the U.S. and others are giving in to demands from the government and its supporters.

“The position of the United States is and hasn’t changed. We are still supporting the opposition, politically, financially and militarily,” he said, adding later: “We completely empowered them. I don’t know where this is coming from.”

The opposition demands that Assad have no role in Syria’s future, even during a transitional period,

while Russia, Iran and the government say that is to be determined by the Syrian people. While maintaining that Assad cannot be part of the long-term future, the U.S. and others have dropped demands for his immediate removal and have agreed that the negotiations should decide his fate.

"It's up to the Syrians to decide what happens to Assad," Kerry said. "They are the negotiators and they will decide the future."

Kerry said he had explained to the opposition that the composition of a transitional government would have to be agreed by "mutual consent" from the two sides.

"I told them you have a veto, and so does he and so you're going to have to decide how to move forward," he said.

"I just don't buy into this public back and forth. It doesn't serve any purpose," he said. "We have to get to the negotiations without preconditions and get into the discussion of a cease-fire and humanitarian access ... and lay down the road ahead for the transition discussion itself and put to test whether they are serious. Or, if they aren't serious, war will continue."

"It's up to them," he said.

## Authorities struggling to piece together daring jail escape

**CHRISTOPHER WEBER, Associated Press**

**AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It was a daring and elaborate escape: cutting through metal, crawling through plumbing tunnels, climbing a roof, rappelling four stories to freedom using ropes made from bedsheets.

But this wasn't a Hollywood movie; it was a real-life breakout that left authorities struggling to find three escapees — one an alleged killer — and put together the pieces of how they managed to thwart security at a Southern California maximum-security jail.

The priority was finding the men — whom are possibly armed and considered dangerous — but a probe also is underway to see whether the men had any help from inside or outside the Orange County Men's Central Jail, authorities said Sunday.

Jonathan Tieu, 20; Bac Duong, 43, and Hossein Nayeri, 37, were all awaiting trial for violent crimes but their cases were unconnected. They vanished from a dormitory they shared with around 65 other men on Friday shortly after the 5 a.m. inmate head count, county sheriff's officials said.

Somehow, the men obtained tools that allowed them to cut through the quarter-inch-thick grill on a dormitory wall, then got into plumbing tunnels. Cutting their way through additional half-inch-thick steel bars, the trio made their way to an unguarded area of the roof of the four-story building, where they apparently moved aside some razor wire and rappelled to the ground using elaborately braided ropes made from linens, authorities said.

The escape wasn't noticed for 16 hours, until a nighttime head count that was delayed about an hour because of a fight involving some other inmates that may — or may not — have been part of the escape plan.

Clearly, the plan had been long in the making and carefully thought out, sheriff's Lt. Jeff Hallock said.

"We're talking about breaching, in some places, significant amounts of steel, rebar and metal," Hallock said.

As federal and local authorities staged a round-the-clock manhunt, there remained a lot of questions about the escape itself. How did the men get the cutting tools? When did they make the rope and where did they stash it? How did they know the jail layout so well? Did they have outside help, maybe a car waiting after they ran off on foot in their orange jail jumpsuits?

And perhaps most importantly: did other inmates or jail employees help them?

"We're going to take a look at everybody who may have been assigned there," Hallock said. "What I can assure you is that the compromises in security have been shored up."

He didn't provide details.

"I've been in law enforcement for 37 years, always working for sheriff's departments that manage jails. And escapes do occur from time to time," Sheriff Sandra Hutchens said. "We try and limit that. We learn

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from the mistakes. I can tell you that this is a very sophisticated-looking operation. People in jail have a lot of time to sit around and think about ways to defeat our systems.”

There had been two previous escapes from the jail but they were decades ago. In fact, nobody had managed it in more than 20 years.

But the aging jail, built in 1968 and housing some 900 men, does have some vulnerabilities. Its design allows inmates to move through different areas more easily than more modern jails.

And inmates do move, which makes it difficult to get daytime head counts.

“We have people going to court, we have people going for medical treatment, and you can’t leave them locked down 24 hours a day. There are requirements that they get out and exercise from time to time,” Hutchens said.

The inmates include 20-year-old Jonathan Tieu, who had been held on a \$1 million bond since October 2013 on charges of murder, attempted murder and shooting at an inhabited dwelling. His case is believed to be gang-related.

On Sunday, his mother and sister said they hadn’t heard from him and tearfully pleaded for him to surrender.

“I miss you... I want my son back,” his mother, Lu Ann Nguyen of Santa Ana, told KABC-TV.

“I for sure know he wasn’t the one who orchestrated this. I feel he was manipulated or tricked into doing this,” said his sister, Tiffany Tieu.

“Just turn in yourself in. Don’t let (it) drag on,” she said.

Hossein Nayeri, 37, had been held without bond since September 2014 on charges of kidnapping, torture, aggravated mayhem and burglary. Nayeri and three other men are accused of kidnapping a California marijuana dispensary owner in 2012. They drove the dispensary owner to a desert spot where they believed he had hidden money and then cut off his penis, authorities said.

After the crime, Nayeri fled the U.S. to his native Iran, where he remained for several months. He was arrested in Prague in November 2014 while changing flights from Iran to Spain to visit family.

The third escaped inmate, 43-year-old Bac Duong, was being held without bond since last month on charges of attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, shooting at an inhabited dwelling, being an ex-felon in possession of a firearm and other

While the Mexican border is only a couple of hours south of the prison, authorities said they had no evidence that the men had left the country. Their alleged victims, as well as prosecutors and detectives involved in their cases, have been warned and investigators also are reaching out to family and acquaintances of the escaped inmates.

Federal authorities are offering \$50,000 in rewards for information leading to their recapture.

“We’re in a position where we absolutely need the public’s help,” Hallock said. “There’s people out there that know who these people are, who may have seen them. We’re asking for phone calls, whether it’s any piece of information you may have.”

“We’re exhausting every lead that we currently have,” he said.

## Israel strikes Hamas target in Gaza after rocket fire

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military says its aircraft struck a Hamas target in the Gaza Strip in response to rocket fire from the territory.

The military says that it hit a military training facility of the Islamic militant group that rules the Gaza Strip early on Monday. No injuries were reported.

Hours earlier, a rocket landed in Israel, causing no injuries.

The Israel-Gaza frontier has been largely quiet since Israel and Hamas fought a 50-day war in 2014 that killed more than 2,200 Palestinians and 73 people on the Israeli side. Still, rockets are launched occasionally from the territory and Israel typically responds with airstrikes.

Several Gazans have been killed in clashes with Israeli troops during the current outburst of Israeli-Palestinian violence, which has mainly centered on Jerusalem and the West Bank.

## Tina Fey returns as Sarah Palin on 'SNL,' Oscars parodied

NEW YORK (AP) — Tina Fey returned to "Saturday Night Live" to reprise her impression of Sarah Palin and give a rambling, sometimes-rhyming endorsement to Donald Trump.

The sketch kicked off the cold open to "SNL" on Saturday, with Fey and Darrell Hammond skewering the former Alaska governor's endorsement speech in Iowa on Tuesday. As Palin, Fey said she had come to Iowa to break from "my full-time career of writing things on Facebook."

"SNL" also parodied this year's all-white Oscar nominees in a mock award show that nominated white actors playing bit roles in African-American dramas. Last week, the only Oscar nominations that the "Rocky" sequel "Creed" and the N.W.A biopic "Straight Outta Compton" received were for white people: Sylvester Stallone for "Creed," and "Compton" writers Jonathan Herman and Andrea Berloff.

In the sketch, an award was given to "all the white guys" in predominantly black films modeled after "Creed," "Compton" and "Beasts of No Nation." The roles were barely cameos, like: "White Man With Camera" and "Unseen Voice On Phone."

"Saturday Night Live," however, has also been much-criticized in the past about its own diversity. Following an uproar in 2013, it added Sasheer Zamata, Leslie Jones and writer LaKendra Tookes.

## AP INVESTIGATION: Feds' failures imperil migrant children

**GARANACE BURKE, Associated Press Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — As tens of thousands of children fleeing violence in Central America crossed the border in search of safe harbor, overwhelmed U.S. officials weakened child protection policies, placing some young migrants in homes where they were sexually assaulted, starved or forced to work for little or no pay, an Associated Press investigation has found.

Without enough beds to house the record numbers of young arrivals, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services lowered its safety standards during border surges in the last three years to swiftly move children out of government shelters and into sponsors' homes. The procedures were increasingly relaxed as the number of young migrants rose in response to spiraling gang and drug violence in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, according to emails, agency memos and operations manuals obtained by AP, some under the Freedom of Information Act.

First, the government stopped fingerprinting most adults seeking to claim the children. In April 2014, the agency stopped requiring original copies of birth certificates to prove most sponsors' identities. The next month, it decided not to complete forms that request sponsors' personal and identifying information before sending many of the children to sponsors' homes. Then, it eliminated FBI criminal history checks for many sponsors.

Since the rule changes, the AP has identified more than two dozen children who were placed with sponsors who subjected them to sexual abuse, labor trafficking, or severe abuse and neglect.

"This is clearly the tip of the iceberg," said Jacqueline Bhabha, research director at the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University. "We would never release domestic children to private settings with as little scrutiny."

Advocates say it is hard to gauge the total number of children exposed to dangerous conditions among the more than 89,000 placed with sponsors since October 2013 because many of the migrants designated for follow-up were nowhere to be found when social workers tried to reach them.

Federal officials won't disclose details of how the agency was stretched so thin, but say they are strengthening the procedures as the number of young migrants once again is on the rise, and recently signed a contract to open new shelters.

"We are not taking shortcuts," HHS spokesman Mark Weber said. "The program does an amazing job overall."

### YOUNG VICTIMS

One of the cases reviewed by the AP involved a then-14-year-old from Guatemala who arrived in the U.S. in September 2014 and was sent to a sponsor's tiny apartment in Los Angeles, where he was held for



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three weeks. In an interview, Marvin Velasco said his sponsor, a distant relative who he had never met, deprived him of food, which left him weak and praying for his salvation.

"He told authorities that he was going to take me to school and help me with food and clothing, but it wasn't like that at all," said Velasco, who since has been granted special legal status for young immigrants. "The whole time, I was just praying and thinking about my family."

Velasco's perilous journey from Guatemala included crossing a river, even though he doesn't swim, and getting lost at night in a frigid desert. Once in the U.S., he turned himself in to U.S. Border Patrol agents in Reynosa, Texas, and was sent to a shelter run by HHS' Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Unlike the extensive screenings required in the U.S. foster care system, the ORR had stopped requiring that social workers complete extensive background checks or fingerprint most sponsors when they placed Velasco with his brother-in-law's father. Social workers did not visit the sponsor's one-bedroom apartment before he arrived or check up on him afterward, said Gina Manciatì, the boy's attorney.

Velasco said he soon realized that nine other people lived there. The sponsor told Velasco he would be punished if he left the apartment, and demanded rent payments. When Velasco told the sponsor he wanted to study, the man called the boy's parents in Guatemala, threatening to kick him out if they didn't pay. Then the sponsor started withholding food, Velasco said.

With help from the sponsor's son, Velasco escaped and sought sanctuary in a nearby church, where he met a parishioner who took him in and became his legal guardian. Now 15 and living with a Guatemalan immigrant family that is raising him as their son, he is thriving in school and leads the church's devotional band.

Other accounts uncovered by the AP include:

— A 14-year-old Honduran girl whose stepfather forced her to work over a period of several months at cantinas in central Florida where women drink, dance and sometimes have sex with patrons.

— A 17-year-old from Honduras sent to live with an aunt in Texas, who forced her to work in a restaurant at night and clean houses on weekends, and often locked her in the home.

— A 17-year-old Guatemalan placed with a friend's brother in Alabama who vowed to help him attend school, but instead was made to work in a restaurant for 12 hours a day to earn rent.

— A Central American teen placed with a family friend who forced her to cook, clean and care for a group of younger children in a Florida trailer park.

— A Honduran teen placed with a sponsor in New York City who was so physically abusive that she ran away and sought refuge in a shelter.

Experts who work with migrant children, including a psychologist and an attorney, cited cases in which unaccompanied children were raped by relatives or other people associated with their sponsors.

Weber said the ORR has added more home visits and background checks since July, when federal prosecutors charged sponsors and associates with running a trafficking ring in rural Ohio that forced six unaccompanied minors to work on egg farms. Lured north with the promise of an education, the teens instead were forced to work under threats of death for up to 12 hours a day.

"These tragic situations do happen when there are bad actors involved, and that makes it incredibly difficult for the government to ferret them out," Weber said. "I know we learn from lessons and keep trying to improve the system to ensure the child is placed in a safe place, and I'm confident the vast majority of the kids are."

## HOW THE PROBLEM EVOLVED

Contractors and advocates say that, starting in 2012, they repeatedly warned HHS about the steady increase in children arriving at the border. The agency itself warned case management staff in 2013 that "fraudulent sponsors" in Colorado, Iowa and Minnesota had sought to claim multiple, unrelated minors. By the summer of 2014, the challenge of dealing with a sea of unaccompanied minors had become a full-blown crisis.

"So many kids were piling up at the Border Patrol stations that the agency had to start emptying their

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shelter beds," said Jennifer Podkul, senior program officer at the nonprofit Women's Refugee Commission. "They sped up reunification procedures that they had in place for years."

By law, child migrants traveling alone must be sent to an ORR facility within three days of being detained. The agency then is responsible for the children's care until they are united with a relative or sponsor in the community they can live with while awaiting immigration court hearings. Sponsors can be parents, grandparents, distant relatives or unrelated adults, such as family friends, and all are expected to enroll the children in school, help them get health care and attend court.

In 2012, caseworkers followed a stringent process before releasing children to sponsors, including background checks, fingerprints, 60-day home studies and signed agreements that the children would appear in immigration court. But in November 2013, overburdened by a sudden influx of unaccompanied children, the agency took the first of what would be a series of steps to lower its standards, stating in a manual that most parents and legal guardians would not be fingerprinted.

ORR said the relaxed rules on the front end were compensated on the back end by more children getting social services attention after being released into the community. Even now, though, most young migrants rarely see child welfare workers after landing at sponsors' homes.

Only a small group of at-risk children who the government believes need extra protection are visited by social workers contracted by ORR, and the services cease when the children turn 18. But sometimes, those vulnerable children vanish before social workers reach them. Federal contractor Lutheran Immigrant Refugee Services has tracked 201 cases in which children ran away or the families couldn't be traced, which represents 11 percent of their closed cases since 2013.

Last year, a social worker visited an apartment complex in Fort Meyers, Florida, to see if it was suitable for a new placement. The government had sent more than a dozen other children to live there, but the social worker found nothing but an empty apartment, said Hilary Chester, associate director of anti-trafficking programs at U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops, another federal contractor.

"We were concerned that it could have been a front to have those kids released so that traffickers could get them into the workforce," Chester said. "No one knows where the kids are."

ORR bars releasing children to people who have been convicted of child abuse or neglect or violent felonies like homicide and rape. But in November, a whistleblower told Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, that federal authorities had placed unaccompanied children with convicted criminals. The whistleblower alleged that 3,400 sponsors listed in a government database had criminal histories including homicide, child molestation, sexual assault and human trafficking, according to Grassley's office.

Weber, the HHS spokesman, said the agency's inspector general is reviewing the claim.

## A NEW WAVE ARRIVES

As crime and violence deepen in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador — fueled in part by the cocaine trade and political instability — contractors worry that the latest wave of child migrants could approach the 2014 levels that spurred President Barack Obama to declare an "urgent humanitarian situation."

Federal immigration agents' recent controversial efforts to round up Central American families for possible deportation have further complicated the situation, creating a climate of fear and instability in communities that are welcoming children, and putting some minors who lack attorneys at risk of deportation, advocates said.

Weber said HHS is better prepared to accommodate the new child migrants, including preparing to add 2,200 shelter beds where children can stay while awaiting placement. A national call center where children and sponsors can report problems has been established, but Weber said children also should contact local authorities if they feel unsafe.

Last month, HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell warned Congress the agency needed an additional \$400 million to be able to provide shelter and referral services to the young migrants, but the request was denied.

After that, the agency directed contractors to speed up home visits to get children out of detention and into families' homes more quickly.

Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, who chairs the Senate's bipartisan Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations,

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said he will hold a hearing on the agency's child placement program Thursday because he is concerned that the failures revealed in the egg farm case are systemic.

"We think reforms are necessary and urgently required because there are kids right now who are coming in over the border," Portman said. "This is a problem that has to be addressed."

## Today in History The Associated Press

### Today in History

Today is Monday, Jan. 25, the 25th day of 2016. There are 341 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 25, 1915, America's first official transcontinental telephone call took place as Alexander Graham Bell, who was in New York, spoke to his former assistant, Thomas Watson, who was in San Francisco, over a line set up by American Telephone & Telegraph.

### On this date:

In 1533, England's King Henry VIII secretly married his second wife, Anne Boleyn, who later gave birth to Elizabeth I.

In 1890, reporter Nellie Bly (Elizabeth Cochrane) of the New York World completed a round-the-world journey in 72 days, 6 hours and 11 minutes. The United Mine Workers of America was founded in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1915, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Coppage v. Kansas*, upheld the right of employers to bar employees from belonging to labor unions by making them sign a "yellow dog contract."

In 1924, the first Winter Olympic Games opened in Chamonix (shah-moh-NEE'), France.

In 1945, the World War II Battle of the Bulge ended as German forces were pushed back to their original positions. Grand Rapids, Michigan, became the first community to add fluoride to its public water supply.

In 1947, American gangster Al Capone died in Miami Beach, Florida, at age 48.

In 1955, the Soviet Union formally ended its state of war with Germany.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy held the first presidential news conference to be carried live on radio and television.

In 1971, Charles Manson and three women followers were convicted in Los Angeles of murder and conspiracy in the 1969 slayings of seven people, including actress Sharon Tate. Idi Amin seized power in Uganda by ousting President Milton Obote (oh-BOH'tay) in a military coup.

In 1981, the 52 Americans held hostage by Iran for 444 days arrived in the United States.

In 1990, an Avianca Boeing 707 ran out of fuel and crashed in Cove Neck, Long Island, New York; 73 of the 158 people aboard were killed. Actress Ava Gardner died in London at age 67.

In 1995, the U.S. and Norway launched a Black Brant rocket carrying equipment to study the aurora borealis, startling Russian officials who wondered at first if the rocket was an incoming Trident missile. (Russian President Boris Yeltsin reportedly was given his "nuclear briefcase" for possible retaliation before realizing there was no threat.)

In 2005, A videotape showed Roy Hallums, an American kidnapped in Baghdad the previous November, pleading for his life. (Hallums was rescued by coalition troops on Sept. 7, 2005.) A stampede during a Hindu festival in western India killed some 300 people. Architect Philip Johnson died in New Canaan, Connecticut, at age 98.

**Ten years ago:** In his first encyclical, "God Is Love," Pope Benedict XVI said the Roman Catholic Church had a duty through its charitable work to influence political leaders to ease suffering and promote justice. Seven children were killed when the car they were in was crushed between a truck and a stopped school bus in Lake Butler, Florida. Richard Hatch of "Survivor" fame was convicted in Providence, Rhode Island, of failing to pay taxes on his \$1 million in winnings (he later served more than three years in federal prison).

**Five years ago:** Pleading for unity in a newly divided government, President Barack Obama used his

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State of the Union address to implore Democrats and Republicans to rally behind his vision of economic revival, declaring: "We will move forward together or not at all." In Egypt, thousands of anti-government protesters clashed with police during a Tunisia-inspired demonstration to demand the end of President Hosni Mubarak's rule. A federal judge in New York sentenced Ahmed Ghailani (guh-LAHN'-ee), the first Guantanamo detainee to have a U.S. civilian trial, to life in prison for conspiring in the bombing of two U.S. embassies in Africa in 1998.

**One year ago:** The left-wing Syriza party rode an anti-austerity platform to victory in Greece's parliamentary elections, setting the stage for a showdown with international creditors. Party leader Alexis Tsipras promised to end the "five years of humiliation and pain" that Greece had endured since an international bailout saved it from bankruptcy in 2010. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (shin-zoh ah-bay) offered condolences to the family and friends of Haruna Yukawa, a 42-year-old adventurer taken hostage in Syria, and said a video purporting to show that he had been killed was likely authentic. "Birdman" won best ensemble from the Screen Actors Guild, a day after winning the top honor at the Producer Guild Awards.

**Today's Birthdays:** Country singer Claude Gray is 84. Movie director Tobe Hooper is 73. Actress Leigh Taylor-Young is 71. Actress Jenifer (cq) Lewis is 59. Actress Dinah Manoff is 58. Country musician Mike Burch (River Road) is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kina is 47. Actress China Kantner is 45. Actress Ana Ortiz is 45. Drummer Joe Sirois (sih-ROYS') of Mighty Mighty Bosstones is 44. Musician Matt Odmark (OHD'-mark) (Jars of Clay) is 42. Actress Mia Kirshner is 41. Actress Christine Lakin is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer Alicia (ah-LEE'-shuh) Keys is 35. Actor Michael Trevino is 31. Pop musician Calum Hood (5 Seconds to Summer) is 20.

**Thought for Today:** "A first-rate organizer is never in a hurry. He is never late. He always keeps up his sleeve a margin for the unexpected." — Arnold Bennett, English poet, author and critic (1867-1931).