

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 1 of 26

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- McKiver Collision Ad
- 2- Rev. Snyder's Column
- 3- Dog Licenses Available
- 3- Santa is coming to Groton
- 4- Senator Rounds' Weekly Column
- 5- 70th Annual Snow Queen
- 5- Sign up for Groton Bucks
- 6- Tree from Huron selected as State Capitol Tree
- 6- Bowling Scores
- 7- Senator Thune's Weekly Column
- 8- Today in Weather History
- 9 - Local Weather Forecast
- 10- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 10- Today's Weather Climate
- 10- National Weather map
- 11- Golden Living Ad
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12 - AP News

Apts for Rent

1 bedroom and HUGE 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments available NOW! All utilities included except A/C, 1 bedroom \$504 and HUGE 2 bedroom 2 bath \$674 Please call or text 239-849-7674

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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Sunday, Nov. 27

- 9 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship (No Sunday School)
- 9 a.m.: St. John's Lutheran Worship
- 10 a.m.: St. John's Lutheran Sunday School
- 10 a.m.: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church
- 3:30 pm: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Golden Living Center
- 7 p.m.: Snow Queen Contest at GHS Gym

Monday, Nov. 28

- Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.
- School Breakfast: French toast sticks, links, fruit, juice, milk.
- School Lunch: BBQ, sweet potato tots, broccoli and dip, fruit.
- 6:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

Tuesday, Nov. 29

- Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, Mandarin Oranges.
- School Breakfast: Egg sandwich, fruit, juice, milk.
- School Lunch: Chicken strips, smiley potatoes, carrots and dip, fruit, muffin.
- 5 p.m.: JH GBB at Clark (7th grade at 5 p.m., 8th grade at 6 p.m.)

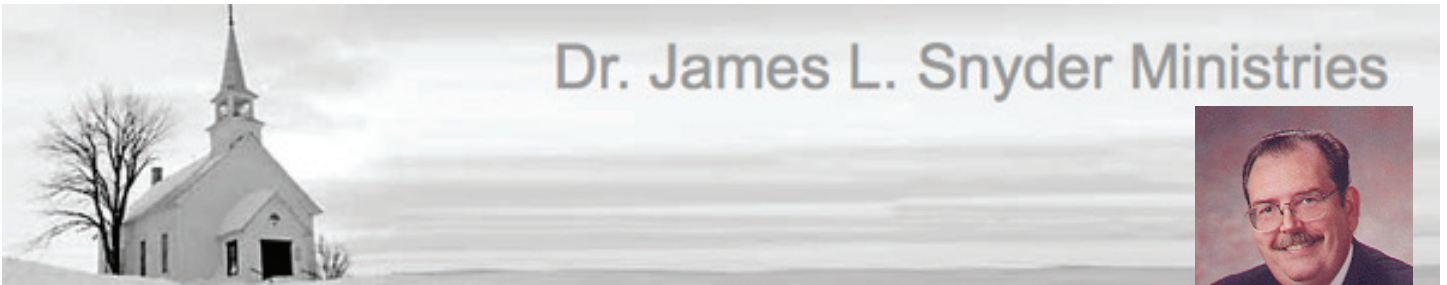
Wednesday, Nov. 30

- Senior Menu: French dip sandwich, macaroni salad, seasoned cabbage, Waldorf Salad.
- School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.
- School Lunch: Taco salad, refried beans, fruit,

MCKIVER COLLISION
Lifetime Warranty on all Collision Work!
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Allen McKiver, Owner ~ 605/397-4404

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 2 of 26



Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



The Only Contest I Really Win Each Year

Between now and the end of the year our house is going to be a mad dash for the stores in preparation for Christmas.

This time of the year, I lay low and try to be as invisible as possible. If I hide in the shadows of the parsonage and do not speak, I am in pretty good shape. I have been practicing this for over 40 years, so I have reached a certain level of proficiency.

Having a wife and two daughters has been a challenge, especially at this time of the year. My son and I have survived and so I am sure I will make it through another year. However, I am not taking anything for granted.

I am somewhat of a competitive person, in some degree. I like a good challenge and I certainly like to win. Going up against the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has not been a successful competition. Even when she loses, so to speak, she wins. When she wins, I also win, so why should I complain?

The contest at this time of the year is to see how much money these ladies of the parsonage can save. I have not kept track over the years for obvious reasons, so I do not know who is ahead and who is behind.

I would not say that they were Shopaholics, but I am pretty sure they are. From my point of view, I am in no position to challenge them on this serious addiction. To challenge them thusly, would require several weeks in a rehabilitation center for myself. Who wants to go there during the holidays?

I try not to keep track, but I believe it all begins with what is called "Black Friday." I am not sure why it is called "Black Friday" because after it is all over my checkbook is in deep red.

On this audacious holiday, if it can be called a holiday, I keep out of their way.

They will start early in the morning and throughout the day they will come home to unload and boast to me about how much money they saved. Then, off they go back on the shopping trail. For my part, I would never want to stand between them and their shopping destination because, I just have grown accustomed to living.

Although I am not much into shopping, I know when to shop and when not to shop. The purpose of my shopping is not to see how much I can save. If I want to save money, I will stay home and drink a nice hot cup of coffee.

Halfway through the shopping season, my wife and I were sitting in the living room drinking our evening coffee and she was explaining to me her shopping plan. The more she talked the less I understood. I did not know you needed a plan to go shopping. My plan is very simple, do not go shopping!

I happen to notice that one of our spare bedrooms was getting rather full of her shopping items. I just walked by the bedroom, glanced in and quickly walked down the hall as far away as possible. If there is one thing I do not want to do around this time of year, it is wrapping Christmas presents.

One year I was enticed into wrapping Christmas presents, I did such a bad job, I was never invited to do it again. I will not say in public that I did that on purpose. I just will say, I love it when a plan comes together.

As we were relaxing in the living room, my wife began explaining how much money she saved this year in shopping. I listened for as long as I could. I do not know how much she saved, just what she told me. It is almost like a contest with her to see how much money she can save each year.

The biggest challenge is to try to out save her two daughters. They have been taught by the best and yet I am not sure they have ever beaten her in this one contest.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 3 of 26

When there was a little lull in the conversation, I sneaked a the little question of my own. "How much," I queried as seriously as possible, "have you saved so far in your shopping?" I thought it was rather an innocent question to present at the time.

"How much," she said with a very serious look, "I saved over \$300 so far." With that, she set back in her chair and smiled. \$300 is a lot of money you have to admit.

Then I pop this one, "How much have you spent so far?"

After some thought and a quick look into her checkbook, she came up with the figure, \$700.

She informed me that her savings were almost half of what she spent.

There was a moment when I was tempted to challenge this contest by saying, "Well, I saved \$700 by not shopping."

On second thought, would it be worth it? Sometimes it is better to concede and have everybody happy, than to win and be the only one that is happy.

Solomon understood this when he wrote, "A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards" (Proverbs 29:11).

My goal in life, particularly as a husband, is to be a wise man.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamessnyder2@att.net or website www.jamessnyderministries.com.

2017 DOG LICENSES AVAILABLE NOW!!

Licenses due by Dec. 30, 2016

Fines start after Dec. 30, 2016

Dogs CAN NOT be licensed without providing updated rabies shot information, please bring records for each dog to City Hall

Please contact City Hall as soon as possible if you no longer have any dogs

Spayed or neutered dogs are \$5 per dog, otherwise \$10 per dog

Hey Kids! Come see Santa!



Saturday, Dec. 10, 9-11 a.m.
Professional Management
Services

Downtown Groton
Cookies & Juice for the kids
Photographer Available

GROTON

Chamber Of Commerce

Made it possible for Santa to come to Groton!

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 4 of 26



Getting our Country Back on Track

As we look forward to the start of a new year, Congress and the new president will have a number of agenda items to start working on to get our country back on track. Along with executive overreach and regulatory reform, finding a solution to our nation's fiscal crisis is one of the more important issues to address. With our debt spiraling out of control at more than \$19 trillion, it's

clear that federal spending at current levels is unsustainable. According to a report from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), in ten years, 99 percent of all revenue will go toward mandatory payments and interest on our debt. We need to begin managing our entire budget before it is too late.

The long-term driver of our debt and deficit remains the rapid growth of mandatory payments. These include Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Already, spending on these mandatory payments, as well as interest on our debt, account for nearly three-quarters of all federal spending. Since the passage of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, Congress has not exercised oversight over mandatory programs. There is no specific committee with oversight over the efficiency of these necessary expenditures. Instead, Congress has focused on defense and non-defense discretionary spending. This makes up only about 28 percent our entire budget today. I believe now we have the opportunity to change this outdated, failing budget process.

Compare our lack of management of Social Security to South Dakota's retirement system, in which both chambers of the legislature and the South Dakota Retirement System Board of Trustees actively manage one of the best retirement systems in the nation, every single year. Proactive management of all mandatory programs would be easier if they were voted on as part of the budget process every single year. Better management of these programs does not necessarily mean cutting them. It means making them as efficient as possible.

When our Founders wrote the Constitution, they explicitly gave Congress the task of setting spending and tax policies for our country. James Madison called this power of the purse "the most complete and effectual weapon with which any constitution can arm the immediate representatives of the people."

Currently, I am working with a number of other senators to find ways to revive the budget process here in Congress, so we can address our budget crisis once and for all. What we have been working on would open up the entire budget to congressional management, including mandatory payments. Our plan would also require the federal budget to be approved and signed into law. Additionally, there would be consequences for Congress should we fail to pass a budget in a timely manner.

As we move forward into a new year, I will continue to encourage my colleagues to work with us to make these important changes to the budget process in Washington. The fiscal crisis isn't coming ten years from now. The crisis is here, and we need to face it head on.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 5 of 26

70th Annual Kiwanis Snow Queen Contest Sunday, Nov. 27, 7 p.m., GHS Gym

Sr./Jr. Snow Queens
Prince/Princesses
Junior Talent
Senior Talent
Guess Frosty



Ice Cream
Social will be
held during
the
intermission



GROTON

Chamber Of Commerce

Sign Up for Groton Chamber
Bucks at the Holiday Boxes
Located This week at the
Groton Dairy Queen
and S & S Lumber

Week of Nov. 28: Groton Vet Clinic & Ken's Food Fair

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 6 of 26

Tree from Huron Selected as State Capitol Tree

PIERRE, S.D. – A 28-foot tall Colorado blue spruce from Huron has been chosen to serve as the featured tree in the South Dakota State Capitol Christmas tree display.

"This tree was donated by Bob and Cheryl Krutzfeldt and has a unique tie to the state department of agriculture," says Rachel Ormseth, urban forestry coordinator for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture's Resource Conservation and Forestry Division. "In 1986, the tree was given to the Krutzfeldt's daughter Linda by department forester John Hinners, who was giving an Arbor Day Presentation at Linda's school. She planted the tree outside her window so she could see the tree every day. Now, that tree is inside our state capitol building as the featured tree in this year's display."

The South Dakota State Capitol Christmas tree display will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily from Nov. 23 through Dec. 26.

Agriculture is a major contributor to South Dakota's economy, generating \$25.6 billion in annual economic activity and employing over 115,000 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture's mission is to promote, protect, preserve and improve this industry for today and tomorrow. Visit us online at <http://sdda.sd.gov> or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Groton Coffee Cup League

Nov. 21 Team Standings: James Valley 23 1/2, Ten Pins 23, Jungle Lanes 19, Kens 14 1/2

High Games: Arlowyn Spencer 185, 176; Joyce Sanderson 177, 176; Mary Jane Jark 176

High Series: Joyce Sanderson 489, Arlowyn Spencer 486, Nancy Radke 448

Conde National league

Team Standings: Cubs 25, Pirates 23, Giants 23, Braves 22, Colts 20, Mets 19

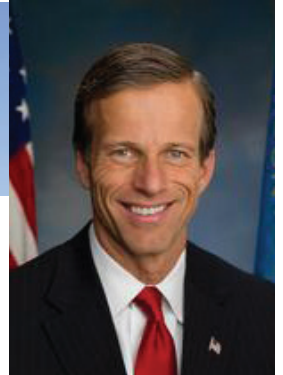
Men's High Games: Tim Olson 189, Bryce Dagartz 183, Justin Kesterson 178

Men's High Series: Bryce Dagartz 502, Tim Olson 493, Preston Brewer 491

Women's High Games: Michelle Johnson 181, 170; Vickie Kramp 176; Mary Larson 168

Women's High Series: Joyce Walter 486, Mary Larson 476, Michelle Johnson 465

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Shopping Small Can Have a Big Impact

Nearly everyone in America is familiar with Black Friday. It's the unofficial start to the holiday shopping season, and with it often comes an early morning, long lines, and, depending on what you're looking for, some pretty good deals. Black Friday is nearly synonymous with the big-box retailers that are able to stock their shelves and warehouses and offer the large and well-publicized deals we're used to seeing on commercials between our favorite TV shows. Not only are shoppers happy with Black Friday deals, but the sales are a boon to the economy, and they help sustain a seasonal workforce who depends on the paycheck.

While Black Friday has cemented its place in American shopping history, it's the Saturday after Thanksgiving that's quickly gaining its own notoriety. "Small Business Saturday," as it's become known, is a nationwide movement that encourages shoppers who brave the long and sometimes fiercely competitive lines on Black Friday to add Main Street's small businesses to their holiday shopping routine as well.

You don't have to look far in South Dakota to find a small business since there are more than 80,000 of them across the state. You likely know someone who works at a small business, or perhaps you work at one yourself. Small businesses represent 96 percent of all businesses in South Dakota, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration, and they employ nearly 60 percent of our workforce. It would be an understatement to say small businesses are the backbone of South Dakota's economy.

South Dakota is full of success stories, and if you've ever visited downtown Sioux Falls, I'm sure you're familiar with one: Chef Chris Hanmer's CH Patisserie. Chris, who is one of America's top pastry chefs, opened his shop in 2013, and it's quickly grown into a must-stop location in Sioux Falls. I'd challenge you to eat only one of his famous macarons – one is never enough. Chris and other small business owners like him not only have successful brick and mortar stores, but they're also using the power of the Internet to connect with shoppers in other parts of the state and country and grow their business along the way.

Small Business Saturday is a great opportunity to get out and support the local small businesses that are often the first ones to give back and support the communities in which they serve. For many entrepreneurs, to build a successful small business is to build a part of their community. We should celebrate their contributions on this Small Business Saturday and continue to support them every month of the year.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 8 of 26

Today in Weather History

November 26, 1989: Snow began falling in western South Dakota during the early evening of the 26th and swept across the state and into west central Minnesota that night and through much of the 27th. Almost two feet of snow fell in parts of the Black Hills, while one to two inches fell in the southeast part of South Dakota. Icy roads caused by rain that preceded the snow in central and eastern parts of the state combined with strong northerly winds on the 27th to make for dangerous traveling conditions. Numerous accidents were reported, and many cars went into ditches. Some of the heavier snow amount in central, north central, and northeast South Dakota were reported at Leola with 6 inches; Mellette and Onida with 5 inches; and Eureka, Faulkton, and Aberdeen with 4 inches.

November 26, 2001: Heavy snow of 6 to 12 inches, along with strong north winds of 20 to 40 mph, caused near-blizzard conditions and challenging travel conditions across most of central and northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Snowfall amounts were 6 to 12 inches in South Dakota and 10 to 14 inches in west central Minnesota. Most schools were closed or started late on both the 26th and 27th and some businesses were also closed. Many flights were also delayed or canceled. Some snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Eagle Butte, Fort Thompson and Webster; 7 inches at Eureka, Onida, Doland, and Watertown; 8 inches at Highmore, Miller, Onaka, Castlewood, and Selby; 9 inches at Sisseton and Peever; 10 inches at Ortonville, Faulkton, Blunt, Murdo, Kennebec, and Stephan; 11 inches at Victor and Gettysburg; 12 inches at Milbank, White Rock, and Clear Lake; 13 inches at Wheaton; and 14 inches at Browns Valley.

1883 - Fire engines were called out in New York City and New Haven, CT, as a result of the afterglow of the sunset due to vivid red ash from the Krakatoa Volcano explosion in August. (The Weather Channel)

1898 - The Portland storm raged across New England producing gale force winds along the coast and heavy snow inland. A foot of snow blanketed Boston MA, and 27 inches fell at New London CT. Winds at Boston gusted to 72 mph, and wind gusts to 98 mph were estimated at Block Island RI. A passenger ship, the S. S. Portland, sank off Cape Cod with the loss of all 191 persons aboard, and Boston Harbor was filled with wrecked ships. The storm wrecked 56 vessels resulting in a total of 456 casualties. (26th-28th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Wet weather prevailed across much of the nation east of the Rockies. Sunny and cool weather prevailed in the western U.S. Snow fell in the central U.S., with totals in Kansas ranging up to six inches at Burr Oak. Much of the area from central Oklahoma to southwestern Minnesota experienced its first snow of the winter season. (The National Weather Summary)

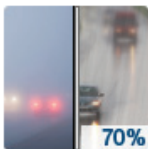






1988 - Snow and high winds created blizzard conditions in Minnesota. Winds gusted to 63 mph at Windom, and snowfall totals ranged up to 14 inches at Aitkin. Snow drifts seven feet high closed many roads. Fargo ND reported a wind chill reading of 34 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A storm system crossing the north central U.S. spread snow across the Dakotas and Minnesota. Heavy snow fell in western South Dakota, with 18 inches reported at Galena. Strong winds associated with the storm gusted to 50 mph in the Great Lakes Region and the Great Plains, with blowing dust reported in Kansas. Thunderstorms associated with the same storm system produced damaging winds in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana during the evening, with gusts to 73 mph reported east of Ypsilante MI. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed ahead of the cold front. Twenty-three cities from the Gulf coast to the Ohio Valley and the Mid Mississippi Valley reported record high temperatures for the date, including Saint Louis MO with a reading of 76 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2005 - A major winter storm affected parts of Nebraska and the Dakotas during the 27th-28th. Snowfall accumulations of 16-20 inches were observed in parts of eastern South Dakota, while wind gusts exceeding 60 mph also accompanied the snow, creating blizzard conditions. Thousands of power outages were caused by the combination of strong winds and heavy snow. In South Dakota, about 8,000 utility poles and 10,000 miles of transmission line were brought down by the storm (Associated Press).

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 9 of 26

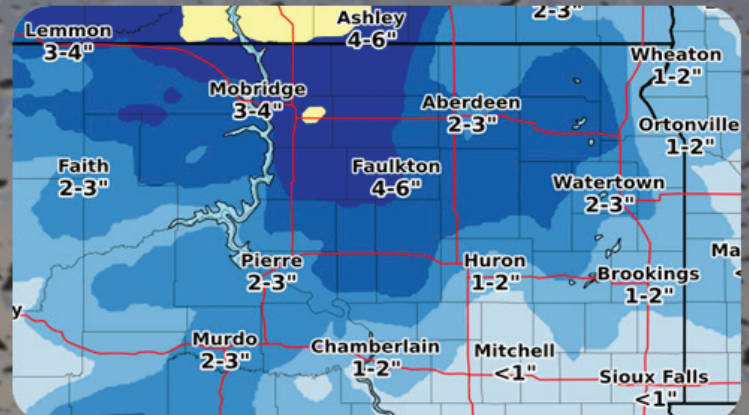
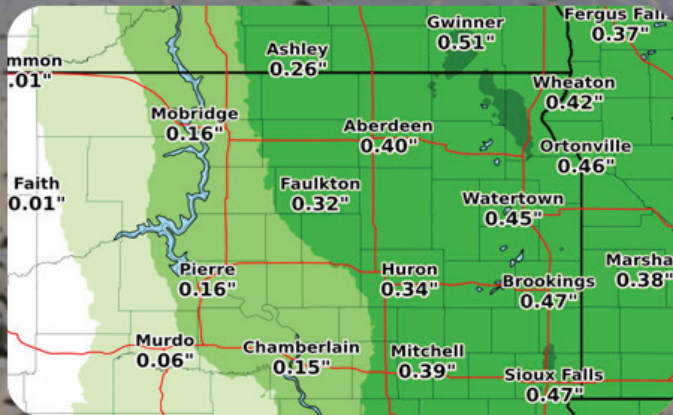
Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
 70%	 90%	 60%	 60%	 60%	 50%	 50%
Patchy Dense Fog then Rain Likely	Rain	Rain/Snow Likely	Snow Likely	Rain/Snow Likely	Chance Snow	Chance Snow
High: 41 °F	Low: 34 °F	High: 38 °F	Low: 31 °F	High: 37 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 32 °F

Rain Arriving This Afternoon

Slowly Changing to Snow Late Tonight through Monday

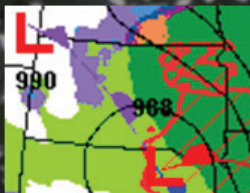
Rain Forecast: This Afternoon & Evening

Snow Forecast: Through Wednesday



Precipitation Evolution – Snow Mix Rain

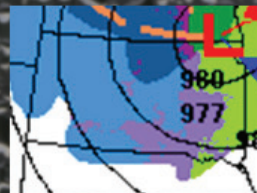
Sun – 6 PM



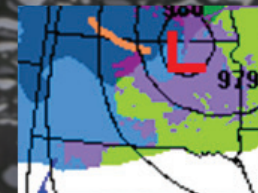
Mon – 12 AM



Mon – 6 AM



Mon – 6 PM



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 11/27/2016 4:21 AM Central

Published on: 11/27/2016 at 4:27AM

A strong storm system will bring rain to the area this afternoon and evening. The rain will slowly change to snow from west to east overnight into Monday. The snow will linger through Wednesday, producing light snow accumulations each day.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 10 of 26

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 46.1 at 3:30 PM

Low Outside Temp: 24.8 at 7:48 PM

High Gust: 7 at 12:27 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 59° in 1949

Record Low: -18° in 1985

Average High: 33°F

Average Low: 13°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.68

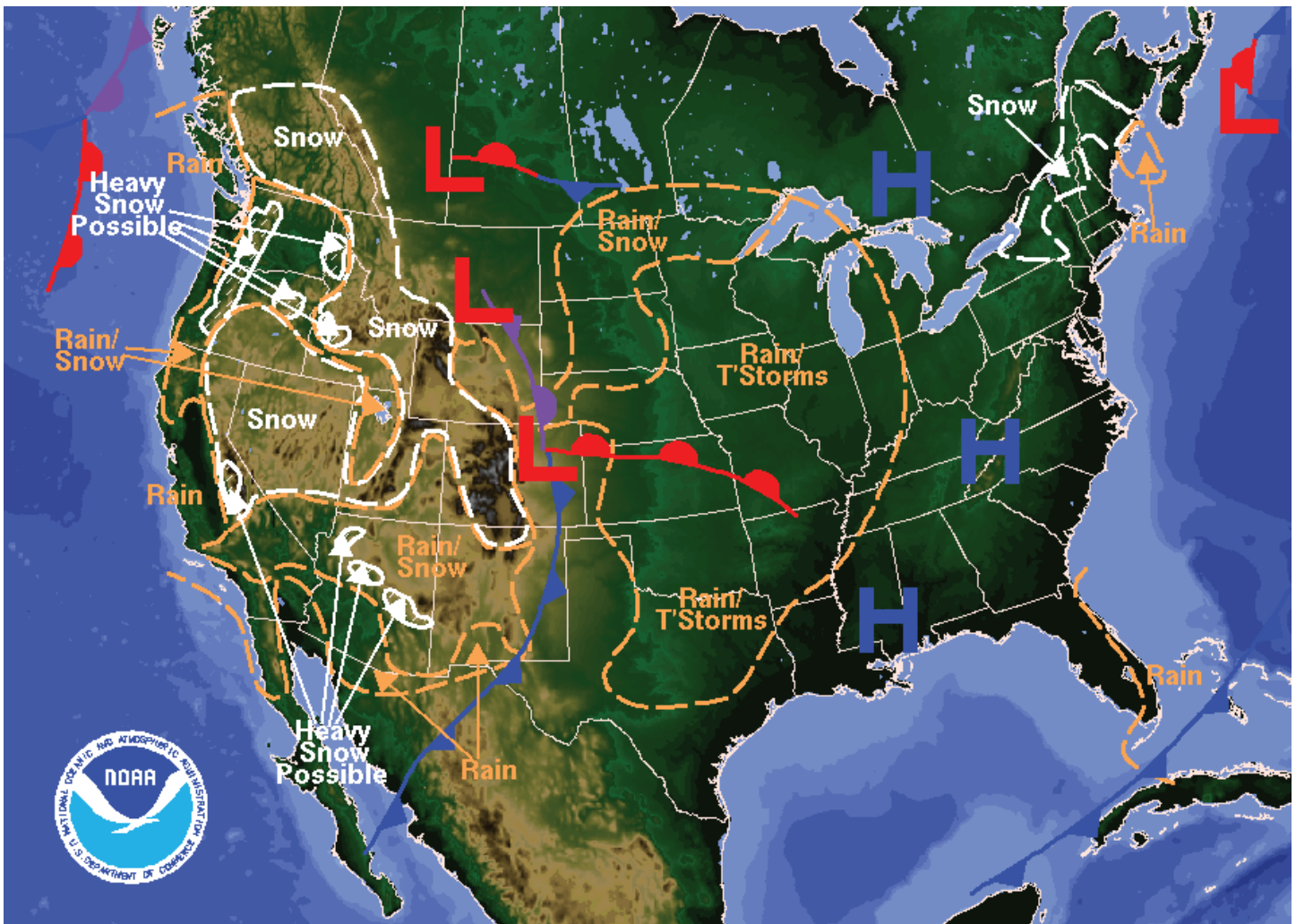
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.20

Average Precip to date: 21.15

Precip Year to Date: 15.20

Sunset Tonight: 4:53 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:50 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Nov 27, 2016, issued 3:52 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 11 of 26



GIVE THANKS IN ALL THINGS

When four-year-old Sammy awoke after surgery, the nurse explained that it would be necessary for him to be fed intravenously for the next few days.

After assuring him that everything would be fine, she began the process to administer the glucose. Always in the habit of giving thanks before each meal, Sammy asked in a brave and cheerful voice, "Aren't you going to give thanks?"

It is not easy to give thanks in painful situations. Nor is it natural to see God's goodness in all of life's trials and troubles. But the Apostle Paul reminds us to "Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

When we give thanks, we acknowledge our confidence in the Lord, knowing that He cares for us. When we give thanks, we express our closeness to God, realizing that He is with us in every situation. When we give thanks, we declare that we are willing to accept the counsel of God knowing that His will is being done.

Prayer: Dear Lord, may I learn the grace of giving thanks to You in all of life's situations. Help me to realize that You are always with me, watching, protecting, providing and guiding me in every area of life. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-23 Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus...



We now accept



for out patient therapy.

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605/397-2365**

News from the Associated Press

New center is safe haven for trafficking victims

By Danielle Ferguson, Argus Leader

FORT THOMPSON, S.D. (AP) — Lisa Heth's small prayer on a drive to a motel in central South Dakota spiraled into an extended-stay human trafficking survivor shelter.

Heth, executive director of Wiconi Wawokiya, is spearheading efforts to open the Pathfinder Center, a motel in central South Dakota converted to a shelter and resource hub for human trafficking victims.

Wiconi Wawokiya is a non-profit organization on the Crow Creek Reservation that serves victims of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2f4GcvP>) reported.

Victims of human trafficking often turn to domestic violence shelters, Heth said. But those shelters usually have a 30-day or so limit for victims to stay.

That's not long enough to help victims cope with layers of trauma they experience while being trafficked, she said. The Pathfinder Center will give trafficking victims a safe place to stay for six months to a year and provide extra services domestic violence shelters don't have.

"Victims are going to be able to come and rest," Heth said. "They can breathe and relax and know they don't only have 30 days to think of somewhere they have to go."

The idea for the shelter came unexpectedly in March 2015. A random phone call from a motel owner and a steady faith led Heth to the bank to ask for a loan to turn the motel into a shelter.

Two loans, a grant and a lot of meetings later, the shelter is on track to open in early 2017. Heth hopes to serve victims from around the state.

The motel's upper level has 14 rooms, each individualized and sponsored by a group to give each victim a place to call their own.

"Those donations show the victims how much (people) care about them," Heth said. "This could be anybody's daughter, niece, sister, aunt. It crosses all financial, racial lines."

The lower level serves as kitchen and office space and rooms for staff and volunteers.

It will also have a room dedicated for interviews if the victims choose to report the trafficking to law enforcement. Those interviews can last hours, sometimes days and having a room in the motel can help victims feel more at ease.

Victims staying in the shelter will have access to education resources, if they want to get their GED or take college courses online, job skills classes, resume building, activity time, daily task skills, etc. Mental health experts will be available if victims request counseling.

The organization is not releasing the exact location of the motel to keep victims' identities safe, Heth said.

"Trafficking is a \$150 billion industry. Traffickers won't take lightly to no longer having access to the girls they had. We're trying to make this as secure as possible," Heth said.

Wiconi Wawokiya will coordinate with other human trafficking awareness organizations around the state to place victims in the shelter.

Heth hopes to hire the rest of her staff in December and open the shelter in February 2017.

There are still a few kinks to work out. Heth is in need of an electrician to rework the kitchen and office space area. The shelter also needs items that can't be purchased with grant money, such as kitchen items, books, art supplies. A complete wish list is on the Pathfinder Center's website.

Elk herd to be reduced, studied for chronic wasting disease

By Seth Tupper, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Gun-propelled nets streaked down from helicopters and engulfed wild elk last week in Wind Cave National Park as researchers began trapping animals in order to perform a long-term study of a fatal disease.

The researchers are capitalizing on an opportunity to monitor the effects of a large and swift reduction in the park's overabundant elk herd. During the next few months, volunteers assisted by park staff will shoot and kill up to 300 elk, bringing the population down from 550 to around 250, with some of the meat going to a statewide hunger-relief group, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2fYJzBl>) reported.

Among the surviving elk will be 40 cows that were fitted with neck collars during last week's helicopter operation. The collars will transmit the location of the elk to researchers for several years, and when a period of inactivity indicates an elk has died, the carcass will be evaluated for causes of death including chronic wasting disease.

Researchers hope to learn whether the lower concentration of elk in the park will slow the spread of the disease, which struck the Wind Cave herd in 2002 and now afflicts an estimated 9.5 percent of the elk. The disease causes brain degeneration, emaciation, abnormal behavior, loss of bodily functions and death.

Glen Sargeant, a research wildlife biologist for the U.S. Geological Survey, said the 53-square-mile park — about 50 miles from Rapid City in the southern Black Hills — will be an excellent laboratory.

"We haven't really understood the role that high population density plays in CWD transmission," said Sargeant, who is based in Jamestown, N.D. "What we're going to learn here is transferable to other places."

The other places include Custer State Park, which shares a border and a colorful history of elk management with Wind Cave National Park.

Elk are native to South Dakota but were hunted and pushed out during the settlement boom of the late 1800s. Elk from other Western states were brought to Custer State Park and Wind Cave National Park in the early 1900s.

The elk thrived in both parks, and public hunting was used to help control numbers in the state park. The federal legislation that created Wind Cave National Park does not allow open public hunting, so park officials sold surplus elk until 1940, used shooters to conduct targeted thinning operations in the 1950s, and began transferring live elk to other tribal, federal and state agencies in the 1970s. The transfers continued until 1997, when the first case of CWD in a South Dakota elk was discovered in a captive herd on private land.

The termination of the transfer program left Wind Cave National Park with few options to control elk numbers, and the elk population grew to 800 by 2004. Around that same time, about 1,000 elk were roaming Custer State Park. Both numbers were higher than each park could sustain.

Then, elk numbers in Custer State Park began declining because of a combination of factors including hunting, predation by mountain lions and a migration outward of elk through vulnerable or open spots in park boundaries. The migrating elk might have been fleeing human visitors, who number nearly 2 million annually at Custer State Park compared with about 600,000 annually at Wind Cave, or they might have been fleeing increased logging activity resulting from a pine-beetle infestation.

"We don't know for sure exactly what caused it, but we do know the population of elk in Custer State Park fell dramatically in a very short time," said Mike Kintigh, Rapid City-based regional supervisor in the Wildlife Division of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks.

The solution for high elk numbers at Wind Cave National Park and low elk numbers at Custer State Park seemed simple: Just push some elk from the national park over the shared boundary into the state park.

That was tried with the aid of horses and helicopters, but with little success. Some of the elk that were herded into Custer State Park exploited weak spots in the boundary fence to escape back into the national park, and many of the elk that did not escape back into the national park took up residence along the fence line, perpetually looking for a way to get through it.

"The elk were homebodies," Kintigh said. "They did not want to leave Wind Cave."

Meanwhile, an effort to allow a natural migration of Wind Cave elk out of the park through adjustable gates also met with little success.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 14 of 26

With the relocation efforts failing and with research revealing a higher prevalence of CWD in the Wind Cave herd than park managers previously suspected, Custer State Park officials declined further elk from the national park, opting instead to grow their own herd in part by limiting hunting licenses.

Wind Cave officials needed another means of thinning their herd, and they settled on volunteer shooters. A lottery was conducted to select 48 volunteers from roughly 1,800 applicants.

From now through February, park staff will accompany the volunteers into the field. The volunteers will first be required to demonstrate their shooting proficiency and physical fitness; if they pass those tests, they will head out on hikes of many miles in pursuit of elk while shouldering packs weighing up to 70 pounds.

Harvested elk will be tested for CWD, and carcasses that are free of the disease will be processed. The volunteer shooters will be eligible to keep some of the meat, and the rest will be given to the nonprofit organization Feeding South Dakota.

Sargeant hopes that sacrificing some elk in the short run will yield findings about CWD to save more elk in the long run.

"Wind Cave is really unique in the sense that we're about to have an opportunity to observe a fairly abrupt change in elk density, and observe population response to that," Sargeant said. "That's kind of a big deal."

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

Cromer leads East Tennessee past S Dakota State 71-59

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — T.J. Cromer sank five 3-pointers and scored 22 points to lead East Tennessee State to a 71-59 win over South Dakota State on Saturday.

Isaac Banks added 11 points and made it a double-double with 11 rebounds for East Tennessee State (4-1), which never trailed. Desonta Bradford had eight points and nine assists.

The Buccaneers darted out to a 14-6 lead in the first half, sparking the run with back-to-back 3-pointers from Cromer right after the opening tipoff. ETSU took a 33-23 advantage into the break and protected it over the final 20 minutes.

South Dakota State (1-6) shaved the deficit 33-26 with Reed Tellinghuisen's layup early in the second half but it was as close as the Jackrabbits would get the rest of the way.

Mike Daum led South Dakota State with 17 points and 10 rebounds, A.J. Hess added 16 points and Tellinghuisen finished with 15.

Milwaukee beats cold-shooting UC Irvine, 54-37

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Brock Stull and Brett Prah combined to score 21 points and Milwaukee cruised past cold-shooting UC Irvine 54-37 at the Pentagon Showcase at the University of South Dakota Saturday.

The game was the second of three tournament games in three days.

The Anteaters managed just 18 first-half points on 5 of 19 shooting from the field, including 1 of 5 from beyond the arc.

Milwaukee opened the game on a 9-2 run and surged to a 29-18 lead at intermission after an August Haas 3-pointer with 1:21 left in the half. The Panthers led by as many as 25 points after Prah tipped in a miss by Jeremy Johnson with 4:23 left in the game.

Stull hit 3 of 6 from distance and finished with 11 points to lead Milwaukee (2-3). Prah added 10 points. Jonathan Galloway and Eyassu Worku each finished with eight points for UC Irvine (3-3).

Pipeline protesters vow to stay camped on federal land

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — Dakota Access oil pipeline protesters will not follow a government directive to leave the federal land where hundreds have camped for months, organizers said Saturday, despite state officials encouraging them to do so.

Standing Rock Sioux tribal leader Dave Archambault and other protest organizers confidently explained that they'll stay at the Oceti Sakowin camp and continue with nonviolent protests a day after Archambault received a letter from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that said all federal lands north of the Cannonball River will be closed to public access Dec. 5 for "safety concerns."

The Corps cited the oncoming winter and increasingly contentious clashes between protesters, who believe the pipeline could harm drinking water and Native American cultural sites, and police.

Standing Rock tribal members believe the land in which the encampment is on is owned by the Sioux through a more than century-old treaty with the U.S. government.

"We are wardens of this land. This is our land and they can't remove us," said protester Isaac Weston, who is an Oglala Sioux member from South Dakota. "We have every right to be here to protect our land and to protect our water."

The vast majority of the several hundred people fighting against the four-state, \$3.8 billion pipeline have created a self-sustaining community at the sprawling camp, which is on Corps land in southern North Dakota, and have put up semi-permanent structures or brought motor homes and trailers in advance of the harsh winter.

On the unseasonably warm Saturday, people were chopping wood and setting up tents at the encampment, which is more than a mile from a Missouri River reservoir where the final large segment of the pipeline is yet to be completed due to the Corps consulting with the tribe. Authorities had set up a staging area about a mile away on a hill overlooking the site.

Dallas Goldtooth, a protest organizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network, said it is "an atrocious example that colonization has not ended for us here as indigenous people," and that the government's request will escalate already rocky tensions.

Representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers didn't immediately return multiple messages Friday or Saturday seeking comment and verification of the letter. Last month, the Corps said it would not evict the encampment, which started as overflow from smaller private and permitted protest sites nearby and began growing in August.

President Barack Obama raised the possibility of rerouting the pipeline in that area earlier this month, something Kelcy Warren, CEO of Texas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners, told The Associated Press is not an option from the company's standpoint. Obama said his administration is monitoring the "challenging situation" but would "let it play out for several more weeks."

Some of the protests have resulted in violent confrontations — one woman suffered a serious arm injury last weekend — and more than 500 people have been arrested since August.

The Corps' letter, according to Archambault, said that those who stay on the land after Dec. 5 may be prosecuted, and that there'll be a free speech zone south of the river.

Archambault said Saturday that he doesn't believe the Corps will forcibly evict people from the camp, adding that the tribe is working to provide protesters protection from the elements on its reservation, which is south of the Cannonball River, but offered few details.

It's the federal government's job to peacefully close the camp because it allowed people to stay there in the first place, Gov. Jack Dalrymple said in a statement Saturday.

"Our state and local law enforcement agencies continue to do all they can to keep private property and public infrastructure free from unpermitted protest activities, and its past time that the federal government provides the law enforcement resources ... to enforce their own order to vacate," the Republican said.

That sentiment was echoed by Morton County Commission chairman Cody Schulz, who said county and state leaders have been seeking federal law enforcement help for months. "It's now time for the federal government to live up to its obligations" said Schulz.

Republican U.S. Sen. John Hoeven and Democratic U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp said the protesters need to move for public safety.

"The well-being and property of ranchers, farmers and everyone else living in the region should not be threatened by protesters who are willing to commit acts of violence," Hoeven said in a statement Friday. He also called on the Obama administration to let work on the pipeline move forward, saying, "this difficult situation has gone on too long and we need to get it resolved."

Heitkamp said the Corps' order is "a needed step to support the safety of residents, workers, protesters and law enforcement."

Sioux Falls businesses grapple with new overtime rules

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls businesses are working to reclassify employees who will be eligible for overtime pay when the new federal rule takes effect next month.

The rule, which is expected to affect 4.2 million workers nationwide, will double the current Department of Labor salary threshold that requires most exempt employees be paid at least \$455 per week to \$913 a week. The annual salary requirement is moving from \$23,660 to \$47,476, and will increase every three years.

That means changes for employers such as DakotAbilities, which is reclassifying its 15 residential managers and department supervisors from exempt to nonexempt status.

Human resources director Tammy Loos told the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2g4zhiV>) that the agency is prepared for the change, though it'll significantly impact its budget.

It's a topic of conversation at the Sioux Empire chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, board president Rachell Henning said.

"Our employment law attorneys have seen clients working through this with all their employees, and the majority have been moving employees who were affected into hourly positions," she said. "Few if any have done any wage increases to be able to meet the new threshold."

She added that some businesses have done a complete review of their compensation structure.

"So it's definitely created a huge endeavor on the part of businesses large and small," said Henning. "And that's not necessarily a bad thing. It's just burdensome."

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

Formerly captive turkeys causing damage near Mitchell

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Domesticated turkeys surrounding northern Mitchell are causing problems on private property, in comparison to their wild counterparts.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department plans to increase the turkey population in most areas of the state, but have made an exception for an approximately 70 square-mile area in Davison and Hanson counties, the Mitchell Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2gqrWgJ>) reported.

Department Terrestrial Resources Supervisor Josh Delger said the turkeys wander onto private property, eating crops and chasing children.

"People buy these birds and they'll release them on their farm or wherever," Delger said. "They grow and they populate, and those are not the birds we want out there in the wild."

Andy Petersen, a conservation officer in the Davison County area, said the issue of domesticated turkeys outnumbering wild turkeys is not new. However, the number of domesticated turkeys has risen to the point that they now outnumber wild turkeys.

"It's steadily been getting worse since the population has been increasing right around the city limits there, specifically to the east and to the north," Petersen said. "I would say just from what I've been seeing the past few years, there's definitely getting to be more of these domestic release birds than the wild Eastern turkeys."

Petersen said while the formerly captive birds are not considered wild, they can still provide a high-quality

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 17 of 26

hunting experience.

"We really want to be able to push our actual, wild birds as much as we can," Delger said. "We probably can't get enough people on all these properties to make a difference on the short term, but anything to try to knock those numbers back would be a good thing."

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

Martin leads UC Irvin to 63-52 win over South Dakota State

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Jaron Martin had 17 points and Eyassu Worku added a career-high 15 points as UC Irvine beat South Dakota State 63-52 in the Pentagon Showcase on Friday night.

Martin was 4 of 7 from beyond the arc. Jonathan Galloway added nine points and grabbed 10 rebounds for UC Irvine (3-2), which also beat South Dakota State 73-58 in the second game of the season.

The Anteaters had a 25-6 run late in the first half to go ahead 30-18 and took a 33-20 lead into the break. They pushed that to 53-37 with 3:41 remaining and coasted to the victory.

UCI limited the Jackrabbits to 14-of-55 (25.5 percent) shooting. The Anteaters converted 15 offensive rebounds into 16 second-chance points.

Mike Daum, who made 11 of 12 free throws, led South Dakota State (1-5) with 23 points and a career-high 18 rebounds. Reed Tellinghuisen added 11 points and A.J. Hess scored 10.

Death penalty, the mentally disabled at issue for justices

By MICHAEL GRACZYK, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court is set to examine whether the nation's busiest state for capital punishment is trying to put to death a convicted killer who's intellectually disabled, which would make him ineligible for execution under the court's current guidance.

Lawyers for prisoner Bobby James Moore, 57, contend that the state's highest criminal court, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, ignored current medical standards and required use of outdated standards when it decided Moore isn't mentally disabled. That ruling removed a legal hurdle to Moore's execution for the shotgun slaying of a Houston grocery store clerk in 1980.

The Texas court is a "conspicuous outlier" among state courts and "defies both the Constitution and common sense," Clifford Sloan, Moore's lead lawyer, told the justices in written briefs submitted ahead of Tuesday's scheduled oral arguments. Such a "head-in-the-sand approach ... ignores advances in the medical community's understanding and assessment of intellectual disability over the past quarter century," he wrote.

Moore's lawyers want his death sentence set aside, contending his punishment would violate the Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment and the Supreme Court's 2002 ruling in a North Carolina case that prohibited execution of the mentally disabled.

The Texas attorney general's office says the state "fully complies" with Supreme Court precedents. The state points to its use of 1992 clinical definitions for intellectual disability as cited by the high court in its 2002 decision. And the office says it has consulted and considered more recent standards.

The question before the high court "rests on a false premise," Texas Solicitor General Scott Keller said, arguing that Moore's claim of intellectual disability is refuted "under any relevant standard."

Two years ago, the Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional a Florida law that barred any other evidence of intellectual disability if an inmate's IQ was over 70. Texas uses a three-pronged test to define intellectual disability: IQ scores, with 70 generally considered a threshold; an inmate's ability to interact with others and care for him or herself; and whether evidence of deficiencies in either of those areas occurred before age 18.

The state says Moore had a troubled childhood with little supervision and scored 57, 77 and 78 on IQ tests before dropping out of school in the ninth grade. He'd been convicted four times of felonies by age 17 but never was diagnosed with an intellectual disability as a youth, the state argues.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 18 of 26

It describes him as living on the streets, playing pool for money and mowing lawns. During the fatal robbery of 72-year-old Houston supermarket clerk James McCarble, Moore wore a wig and fled to Louisiana afterward, and had represented himself in legal actions, showing the required intellectual capabilities, the state contends.

Moore's lawyers argue the state "cherry-picked" specific higher IQ scores, and that at age 13 Moore had no basic understanding of the days of the week or seasons of the year, couldn't tell time and couldn't read or write or keep up in school.

Since the Supreme Court allowed capital punishment to resume in 1976, Texas has carried out 537 executions, far more than any other state. Moore arrived on death row in July 1980, and only five of the state's some 250 condemned inmates have been there longer.

In 1999, an appeals court threw out his death sentence, ruling that the legal help at his trial was deficient. At a new punishment hearing two years later, a Harris County jury again sentenced him to die.

In an appeal of that verdict, the Court of Criminal Appeals returned the case to the trial court for a hearing, where the judge decided Moore was mentally disabled and ineligible for execution. But the appeals court rejected that recommendation, saying the trial judge had disregarded case law. Eight of the appeals court's nine members participated in the case, and two of them disagreed with the majority.

Trump calls recount a 'scam' but effort moves forward

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — For months Donald Trump called the presidential election "rigged." The president-elect has a different word — "scam" — for the recount effort aimed at revisiting the vote in three pivotal battleground states.

"The people have spoken and the election is over," Trump declared Saturday in his first comments about the growing effort to force recounts in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. He added, "We must accept this result and then look to the future."

Green Party nominee Jill Stein's fight for a recount got a major boost Friday when Wisconsin officials announced they were moving forward with the first presidential recount in state history.

The incoming president had been paying little if any attention to Stein's recount push, but Democratic rival Hillary Clinton forced his hand on Saturday by formally joining the effort. Stein, who drew 1 percent of the vote nationally, is raising millions of dollars to fund the recounts.

"Because we had not uncovered any actionable evidence of hacking or outside attempts to alter the voting technology, we had not planned to exercise this option ourselves," Clinton campaign attorney Marc Elias wrote Saturday in a blog post. "But now that a recount has been initiated in Wisconsin, we intend to participate in order to ensure the process proceeds in a manner that is fair to all sides."

Elias said Clinton would take the same approach in Pennsylvania and Michigan if Stein were to follow through with recount requests those states, even though that was highly unlikely to change the election outcome.

Clinton leads the national popular vote by close to 2 million votes, but Trump won 290 electoral votes to Clinton's 232, with Michigan still too close to call. It takes 270 to win the presidency.

Trump, who repeatedly challenged the integrity of the U.S. election system before his win, called the recount push "a scam by the Green Party for an election that has already been conceded."

"The results of this election should be respected instead of being challenged and abused, which is exactly what Jill Stein is doing," he said in the statement, which didn't mention Clinton's involvement.

Trump was expected to return to New York on Sunday after spending the Thanksgiving holiday weekend at his West Palm beach estate. His transition team said the president-elect had scheduled a series of Monday meetings with prospective administration hires.

Trump offered a one-line tweet Saturday morning in reaction to the death of Cuban leader Fidel Castro — "Fidel Castro is dead!" — before issuing a more detailed statement.

"While Cuba remains a totalitarian island, it is my hope that today marks a move away from the horrors

endured for too long, and toward a future in which the wonderful Cuban people finally live in the freedom they so richly deserve," Trump said.

Trump's Cuba policy was inconsistent during the campaign. He first suggested he supported President Barack Obama's orders loosening the U.S. trade embargo on the island. He reversed himself less than a month before the election, however, vowing to overturn Obama's order unless Cuba meets demands including "religious and political freedom for the Cuban people and the freeing of political prisoners."

Miami's joyous Cubans hope for change with Castro's death

By **CURT ANDERSON, IAN MADER and TAMARA LUSH, Associated Press**

MIAMI (AP) — Wearing his "Bay of Pigs Veteran" shirt, 80-year-old Rafael Torre stood amid hundreds of Cuban-Americans celebrating the death of Fidel Castro and marveled that he remained in power for so long.

Cuban exiles such as Torre tried numerous ways to dislodge Castro after he took control in 1959, including the failed 1961 CIA-backed invasion memorialized on his shirt. Now, like many others, Torre is hopeful for Cuba's future with the bearded revolutionary leader finally gone.

"We tried for more than 50 years but couldn't do it. Now he's dead, and maybe things can change," Torre said. "It might take three or four years. Maybe the revolution will be on the streets in three or four months."

Thousands of people took to the streets of Miami and nearby cities Saturday shortly after the early morning announcement of Castro's death at age 90, and kept the party going all day. They banged pots with spoons, honked car horns, waved Cuban and U.S. flags in the air and whooped in jubilation on Calle Ocho — as Little Havana's 8th Street is universally known.

Police blocked off streets leading to Cafe Versailles, the quintessential Cuban-American hotspot where strong cafecitos — sweetened espresso — were as common as a harsh word about Castro, the nemesis of so many exiles for so long. Many said they recognize his death alone doesn't mean immediate democracy or freedom for the communist island.

"We need for the people of Cuba to have the freedom we have in the U.S., but this changes nothing. There won't be change until the people revolt," said Juan Cobas, 50, who came to the U.S. from Cuba at age 13.

Others saw Fidel's death as a sign that a generation that has ruled Cuba for decades is passing from the world stage, many noting that his brother, current President Raul Castro, is 85.

"I'm feeling this is the beginning of the end," said Alex Pineiro, 32. "Fidel was the architect of what's going on. It's a mix of emotions, I'm happy he's dead, but I'm celebrating hope."

There were no reports of violence or any arrests during the demonstrations, Miami police spokeswoman Kenia Fallat said Saturday. Miami-Dade County officials said there were no plans to activate the emergency operations center — another sign of the more subdued reaction to Castro's death than might have previously been expected.

"They are celebrating but in a very peaceful way," Fallat said of the demonstrators.

The U.S. Coast Guard was running regular patrols and not increasing staffing levels or taking other emergency steps, said Petty Officer Jonathan Lally. The Coast Guard has seen a sharp uptick recently in Cubans attempting to arrive in Florida by sea, with at least 7,411 Cubans attempting to migrate over the Florida Straits in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 compared with 4,473 in the same timeframe last year.

After Castro took power, Cubans fled the island to Miami, Tampa, New Jersey and elsewhere. Some were loyalists of Fulgencio Batista, the president prior to Castro, while others left with the hope they would be able to return soon, after Castro was toppled. He never was.

Many other exiles believed they would never be free under Castro and his communist regime. Thousands left behind their possessions, loved ones, and hard-earned educations and businesses, traveling to the U.S. by plane, boat or raft. Many Cubans died on the ocean trip to South Florida. Some had land and possessions taken by the Castro government.

The ones that made it to Miami took a largely, and vehemently, anti-Castro stance.

"He should not be revered. He should be reviled," said U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a Republican who was born in Cuba.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 20 of 26

Some people said the election of Donald Trump as president could lead to a tougher stance against the Havana government that might hasten change.

"I hope that Trump takes a hard line against the Castro regime," said Henry Marinello, 60, who left Cuba as a child in 1961,

On New Year's Eve every year, Cubans in Miami utter a toast in Spanish as they hoist glasses of liquor: "Next year in Cuba." But as the Cuban exiles aged, and as Castro outlived them, and as President Barack Obama eroded the embargo and younger Cubans returned to the island, the toast rang silent in many households.

News of Castro's death was long anticipated and had been the subject of countless rumors over the decades, so that it became something of a running joke. This time, though, it was real.

"We're all celebrating, this is like a carnival," said 72-year-old Jay Fernandez, who came to Miami when he was 18 in 1961 after he was jailed twice by the Cuban government. He and his wife and another woman held up a bilingual sign he'd made four years ago when Castro first became ill. "Satan, Fidel is now yours. Give him what he deserves. Don't let him rest in peace."

Lush reported from St. Petersburg, Florida, and Anderson from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Associated Press writers Adrian Sainz in Memphis, Tennessee and Josh Replogle in Miami contributed to this story.

AP TOP 25 TAKEAWAYS: A committee quandary and Heisman slip

By RALPH D. RUSSO, AP College Football Writer

Ohio State and Penn State are setting up for quite the potential problem for the College Football Playoff selection committee.

The second-ranked Buckeyes and No. 8 Nittany Lions each won Saturday, sending Penn State to the Big Ten championship game as East Division winners and Ohio State into wait-and-see mode. Both teams look playoff worthy for now.

The other race that changed on rivalry Saturday was the one for the Heisman Trophy.

And, oh, Texas and LSU hired new coaches, just like that.

Thoughts, takedowns and takeaways from week 13 of the college football season.

1. There were some debatable calls but Jim Harbaugh came across like a sore loser. And you have to wonder if the phone call Urban Meyer got from his wife during his postgame news conference, and his "bring a gallon of milk home on the way home" comment was not just a little bit of a shot at the whole-milk loving Michigan coach.

2. Shelley Meyer is a coach's wife who definitely pays attention.

3. How good was the Michigan-Ohio State game? How much was there to talk about? Well, Curtis Samuel made what might have been the greatest and most important 8-yard run in Ohio State football history and it became a sidebar in one of the best games the Buckeyes and Wolverines have ever played.

4. So now the tricky part. Penn State is 10-2 with a victory against Ohio State, heading to Indianapolis to play No. 5 Wisconsin. If Wisconsin wins, easy decision for the committee. The Buckeyes beat the Badgers in the regular season and the committee can justify overlooking the Big Ten champ for what looks like the Big Ten's best team.

5. If Penn State wins, the Nittany Lions will have both the conference championship and head-to-head against Ohio State. The Nittany Lions also have losses to Pitt and Michigan, but since getting blown out by the Wolverines they have won eight straight games.

6. The committee chairman made clear last week that it did not consider Ohio State and Penn State to have comparable resumes and it is hard to see that changing after the Buckeyes just added Michigan to its list of impressive wins that includes at Oklahoma and at Wisconsin.

7. Two Big Ten teams maybe? That might be a tough fit if Alabama, Washington and Clemson all win out. Their opponents in conference title games are as follows: Florida in the SEC for Alabama; Virginia Tech in the ACC for Clemson and Colorado, which clinched Saturday night, in the Pac-12 for Washington.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 21 of 26

8. Could be a very interesting last meeting in Grapevine, Texas, next weekend for the committee. The prediction: Ohio State gets in regardless of what else happens before selection Sunday.

9. LSU hired the defensive line coach to replace the winningest coach in the history of the program . If Ed Orgeron fails, it will fall on athletic director Joe Alleva.

10. Charlie Strong deserved to be fired by Texas. The results just were not good enough. And he leaves behind a well set table for Tom Herman .

11. And just like that, Texas and LSU slammed the brakes on the coaching carousel.

12. LSU is likely to be the only SEC school to change coaches — unless Texas A&M decides a \$15 million buyout is not too much to part ways with Kevin Sumlin.

13. There will likely be no movement among coaches in the ACC. North Carolina State came out Saturday and said Dave Doeren is sticking around after the Wolfpack beat North Carolina on Friday.

14. Purdue is likely to be the only Big Ten school to change coaches , but slow down on the P.J. Fleck to the Boilermakers . The Western Michigan coach could end up in West Lafayette, Indiana, but no deal is being struck before the unbeaten Broncos play the MAC title game. They are a victory away from the Cotton Bowl.

15. The next and maybe only other Power Five job to open could be Oregon after the Ducks ended their worst season in 25 years by losing to Oregon State for the first time since 2007 . Mark Helfrich probably won't survive 4-8.

16. If (when) Alabama beats Florida in the SEC championship game, every team in the SEC but the Crimson Tide will have at least four losses. The Sugar Bowl gets the highest ranked SEC team after Alabama and you can't make a good argument for any of them.

17. Texas A&M defensive coordinator John Chavis, Tennessee defensive coordinator Bob Shoop and Louisville defensive coordinator Todd Grantham are among the highest paid assistants in the country, making a total of \$4 million this season. Their defenses allowed 1,811 yards this weekend.

18. Don't feel so bad guys. Offense was out of control everywhere. Three FBS teams (Navy, Middle Tennessee and Pitt) scored in the 70s on Saturday and the Panthers and Syracuse set a record for the highest scoring regulation game.

19. So about that Heisman, Lamar Jackson? The Louisville quarterback was both spectacular and sloppy in a loss to Kentucky. He committed four turnovers, three when the Cardinals were on the verge of scoring. Still, Jackson has accounted for 51 touchdowns this season. If not him for Heisman, then who?

20. No. 7 Oklahoma's Baker Mayfield and Dede Westbrook get to make a last statement next week in the de facto Big 12 title game against No. 10 Oklahoma State. Credit the Sooners sports information for sensing a moment to seize the opportunity and creating a Heisman website for both.

21. Want to talk Clemson's Deshaun Watson ? He was great against South Carolina, but his game against Pitt was much like Jackson's against Kentucky.

22. J.T. Barrett has been clutch for Ohio State, but not Heisman worthy. Maybe Curtis Samuel? But neither Buckeye will play next weekend.

23. Washington's Jake Browning put himself back in the discussion on Friday against Washington State and has the Pac-12 title game to show off again.

24. USC's Adoree' Jackson certainly put on a show against Notre Dame . How about the best player on the best unit in college football: Alabama defensive lineman Jonathan Allen.

25. Prediction: Jackson still wins the Heisman.

Follow Ralph D. Russo on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP> .

Imagining Cuba's human rights situation after Fidel Castro

By ANITA SNOW, Associated Press

He overthrew a strongman, brought his country free health care and education, and enlisted Cubans in what he called fights for freedom from Central America to South Africa. Fidel Castro also maintained a steel grip at home, jailing dissidents and gays, controlling freedom of travel and expression and declaring

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 22 of 26

virtually any activity outside his control to be illegitimate.

In the wake of the revolutionary's death Friday night, human rights groups said they hoped that his brother and successor, Raul Castro, would move faster toward allowing Cubans more freedom of speech, assembly and other basic rights.

"The question now is what human rights will look like in a future Cuba," Erika Guevara-Rosas, the Americas director for Amnesty International, said Saturday. "The lives of many depend on it."

Under Raul Castro, Cuba has moved away from jailing political prisoners for extended sentences, instead making thousands of short-term arrests each year that Cuban dissidents say are designed to harass them and disrupt any attempt at political organizations. Cubans today feel freer to criticize their government in public, but any attempt at protest or demonstration is swiftly quashed. Independent journalists operate inside the country but find it nearly impossible to distribute printed material and they report repeated harassment from authorities.

Geoff Thale, director of programs at the Washington Office on Latin America, said Fidel Castro's death meant that hardliners opposed to his younger brother's modest reforms would be weakened, and "we are hopeful open political debate will pick up."

When discussing their country's human rights record, Cuban officials along with some rights advocates point out that the revolutionary government under Fidel Castro ran a massive literacy campaign, and dramatically improved the lives of millions of people by providing better access to housing and health care.

"For this, his leadership must be applauded," said Amnesty's Guevara-Rosas.

But she noted that Castro's nearly half-century in power was also characterized by what she termed "a ruthless suppression of freedom of expression," including sometimes long prison terms for people who spoke out strongly against the Cuban government.

In the early years after the 1959 revolution, hundreds of summary executions were carried out as the nation's new leaders called for what they described as revolutionary justice.

"To the wall!" they chanted as members of deposed President Fulgencio Batista's government were quickly tried and lined up before firing squads.

Cuba still retains the death penalty, with capital punishment carried out by firing squad, although its use has declined over the years.

Among the last known cases of firing squad executions included three men charged in the hijacking of a passenger ferry in 2003. The executions coincided with a crackdown and stiff prison sentences of up to 28 years for 75 of the government's most vocal critics charged with receiving money from and collaborating with U.S. diplomats to undermine Cuba's leadership.

Under Raul Castro, the years-long terms for non-violent acts of dissidence have grown rarer, replaced by frequent harassment and short-term arrests.

"The Orwellian laws that allowed for their imprisonment — and the imprisonment of thousands before them — remain on the books, and the Cuban government continues to repress individuals and groups who criticize the government or call for human rights," said Jose Miguel Vivanco, Americas director for Human Rights Watch.

Cubans look to future with hope, doubts after Fidel's death

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN and ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — His words and image had filled schoolbooks, airwaves and newspapers since before many of them were born. Now Cubans must face life without Fidel Castro, the leader who guided their island to both greater social equality and years of economic ruin.

Across a hushed capital, people wept in the streets on Saturday as news of the 90-year-old revolutionary's death spread. While many mourned, others privately expressed hope that Castro's passing will allow Cuba to move faster toward a more open, prosperous future under his younger brother President Raul Castro.

Both brothers led bands of bearded rebels out of the eastern Sierra Maestra mountains to create a communist government 90 miles from the United States. But since taking over from his ailing brother in

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 23 of 26

2006, the 85-year-old Raul Castro has allowed an explosion of private enterprise and, last year, restored diplomatic relations with Washington.

"Raul wants to do business, that's it. Fidel was still holed up in the Sierra Maestra," said Belkis Bejarano, a 65-year-old homemaker in central Havana.

In his twilight years Fidel Castro largely refrained from offering his opinions publicly on domestic issues, lending tacit backing to his brother's free-market reforms. But the older Castro surged back onto the public stage twice this year — critiquing President Barack Obama's historic March visit to Cuba and proclaiming in April that communism was "a great step forward in the fight against colonialism and its inseparable companion, imperialism."

Ailing and without any overt political power, the 90-year-old revolutionary icon became for some a symbol of resistance to his younger sibling's diplomatic and economic openings. For many other Cubans, however, Fidel Castro was fading into history, increasingly at a remove from the passions that long cast him as either messianic savior or maniacal strongman.

On Saturday, many Cubans on the island described Fidel Castro as a towering figure who brought Cuba free health care, education and true independence from the United States, while saddling the country with an ossified political and economic system that has left streets and buildings crumbling and young, educated elites fleeing in search of greater prosperity abroad.

"Fidel was a father for everyone in my generation," said Jorge Luis Hernandez, a 45-year-old electrician. "I hope that we keep moving forward because we are truly a great, strong, intelligent people. There are a lot of transformations, a lot of changes, but I think that the revolution will keep on in the same way and always keep moving forward."

In 2013, Raul Castro announced that he would step aside by the time his current presidential term ends in 2018, and for the first time named an heir-apparent not from the Castro's revolutionary generation — Miguel Diaz-Canel, 56.

Fidel Castro's death "puts a sharper focus on the mortality of the entire first generation of this revolution," said Philip Peters, a Cuba analyst and business consultant, "and brings into sharper focus the absence of a group of potential leaders that's ready to take over and politically connected to the public."

For Cubans off the island, Castro's death was cause for celebration. In Miami, the heart of the Cuban diaspora, thousands of people banged pots with spoons, waved Cuban and U.S. flags in the air and whooped in jubilation.

"We're not celebrating that someone died, but that this is finished," said 30-year-old Erick Martinez, who emigrated from Cuba four years ago.

The Cuban government declared nine days of mourning for Castro, whose ashes will be carried across the island from Havana to the eastern city of Santiago in a procession retracing his rebel army's victorious sweep from the Sierra Maestra to Havana. State radio and television were filled with non-stop tributes to Castro, playing hours of footage of his time in power and interviews with prominent Cubans affectionately remembering him.

Bars shut, baseball games and concerts were suspended and many restaurants stopped serving alcohol and planned to close early. Official newspapers were published Saturday with only black ink instead of the usual bright red or blue mastheads.

Many Cubans, however, were already imagining the coming years in a Cuba without Fidel Castro.

"Fidel's ideas are still valid," said Edgardo Casals, a 32-year-old sculptor. "But we can't look back even for a second. We have to find our own way. We have to look toward the future, which is ours, the younger generations'."

Michael Weissenstein on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mweissenstein>

Associated Press writers Peter Orsi and Jeanneth Valdivieso contributed to this report from Havana.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 24 of 26

With playoff spots at stake, Ohio St beats Michigan in 2OT

By RALPH D. RUSSO, AP College Football Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The play was 29 Lead, and it will go down in history as how Ohio State beat Michigan in one of the greatest games ever played by the Big Ten's most storied rivals.

That's pretty much all Buckeyes coach Urban Meyer wanted to talk about. Everything else about the second-ranked Buckeyes' 30-27 victory over the third-ranked Wolverines on Saturday was almost too overwhelming for Meyer to sort out so soon after what he called an instant classic.

Curtis Samuel swept in for a 15-yard touchdown on 29 Lead left after Ohio State barely converted a fourth-and-1 in the second overtime. The biggest crowd ever to watch a game in the Horseshoe then began spilling onto the field in a scarlet-covered celebration that included a stirring sing-a-long to "Sweet Caroline."

"I remember that Neil Diamond song," Meyer said about the crazy scene, but he couldn't recall much else. "Weird life, man."

Very much so because it was not quite clear what else Ohio State (11-1, 8-1 Big Ten, No. 2 CFP) has won. It won't be the Big Ten. No. 8 Penn State beat Michigan State 45-12 in State College, Pennsylvania, to clinch the East Division and a spot in the conference title game next week against No. 5 Wisconsin. Still, the Buckeyes added to a resume that already impressed the College Football Playoff selection committee.

Of course, beating "That team up North," as Michigan is called around here, is enough reason to party — and can be hard to put into perspective.

"I didn't do a lot of thinking, honestly," Ohio State quarterback J.T. Barrett said after the Buckeyes beat Michigan for a fifth straight time. "I just looked around and, man, that just happened."

The 113th meeting of Ohio State and Michigan became the first to go to overtime. It was filled with drama, thrills and controversy. Michigan went away feeling dejected and cheated.

Facing fourth-and-1 from the 16 in the second overtime and trailing by three, Meyer decided not to try a potential game-tying field goal with Tyler Durbin, who had already missed two short ones in regulation.

Barrett kept it on fourth down and slammed into the back of his blocker, A.J. Alexander, right at the line to gain. The first-down call stood on video review.

"That was not a first down," said Michigan's Jim Harbaugh. And then, as if channeling his former coach, Bo Schembechler, Harbaugh added: "I'm bitterly disappointed with the officiating today."

On the next play, Samuel, who had made a swerving, change-of-direction run to set up the fourth-and-1, raced through a lane and skipped into the end zone for the win.

"Been a part of some crazy football games here," Barrett said. "That one was No. 1."

Harbaugh drew an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty earlier in the game after an offside on Michigan (10-2, 7-2 Big Ten, No. 3 CFP). He also was angry about a pass interference on Michigan during Ohio State's tying drive late and a non-call on a would-be pass interference against the Buckeyes in OT.

The loss likely eliminated Michigan from the playoff race. The Wolverines could end up in the Rose Bowl, but the biggest prizes are still eluding them in their second year under Harbaugh, who dropped to 0-2 against Meyer and the Buckeyes. Michigan has not won the Big Ten since 2004.

A crowd of 110,045 watched what might just be the second act of a new Ten Year War between Michigan and Ohio State, with Meyer and Harbaugh playing the roles of Woody Hayes and Schembechler. If that's the case, there is much to look forward to for college football fans.

THE TAKEAWAY

Michigan: Quarterback Wilton Speight returned after missing last week's game with a left shoulder injury. In many ways, he was Michigan's best offensive player, going 23 for 35 for 219 yards and two touchdown passes. He also made three critical turnovers, one interception Malik Hooker returned for a touchdown in the first half and another pick by Jerome Baker that set up Ohio State's second touchdown to make it 17-14 with 1:06 left in the third quarter.

"It's a bummer, you know, knowing I let the defense down," Speight said.

Ohio State: Barrett will not go down as Ohio State's greatest player, but no one will ever doubt his abil-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 25 of 26

ity to come up big when the Buckeyes needed him most. He struggled throwing until the fourth quarter and finished 15 for 32 for 132 yards. He was sacked eight times. He also ran for 125 desperately needed yards against a Michigan defense that took almost everything else away.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

Michigan: A slight drop for the Wolverines, but still a critical one in the playoff rankings.

Ohio State: The Buckeyes looked locked in to No. 2.

UP NEXT

Michigan: The Wolverines will likely go to a New Year's Six bowl. The question is whether it's Rose or Orange. Maybe Cotton?

Ohio State: Maybe a playoff game on New Year's Eve? Maybe in the Rose Bowl if the Buckeyes get squeezed out of the playoff? Stay tuned.

More AP college football: www.collegefootball.ap.org and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25 .

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Nov. 27, the 332nd day of 2016. There are 34 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 27, 1978, San Francisco Mayor George Moscone (mahs-KOH'-nee) and City Supervisor Harvey Milk, a gay-rights activist, were shot to death inside City Hall by former supervisor Dan White. (White served five years for manslaughter; he committed suicide in Oct. 1985.)

On this date:

In 1815, the constitution for the Congress Kingdom of Poland was signed by Russian Czar Alexander I, who was also king of Poland.

In 1901, the U.S. Army War College was established in Washington, D.C.

In 1910, New York's Pennsylvania Station officially opened.

In 1924, Macy's first Thanksgiving Day parade — billed as a "Christmas Parade" — took place in New York.

In 1939, the play "Key Largo," by Maxwell Anderson, opened at the Ethel Barrymore Theater in New York.

In 1942, during World War II, the Vichy French navy scuttled its ships and submarines in Toulon (too-LOHN') to keep them out of the hands of German troops.

In 1945, General George C. Marshall was named special U.S. envoy to China by President Harry S. Truman to try to end hostilities between the Nationalists and the Communists.

In 1953, playwright Eugene O'Neill died in Boston at age 65.

In 1962, the first Boeing 727 was rolled out at the company's Renton Plant.

In 1973, the Senate voted 92-3 to confirm Gerald R. Ford as vice president, succeeding Spiro T. Agnew, who'd resigned.

In 1983, 181 people were killed when a Colombian Avianca Airlines Boeing 747 crashed near Madrid's Barajas airport.

In 1989, a bomb blamed on drug traffickers destroyed a Colombian Avianca Boeing 727, killing all 107 people on board and three people on the ground.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, stopping over in Estonia en route to a NATO summit in Latvia and meetings in Jordan, intensified diplomatic efforts to quell rising violence in Iraq and Afghanistan. An early morning fire burned down a group home for the elderly and mentally ill in Anderson, Missouri, killing 10 residents and a caretaker. (Faulty wiring was cited as the likely cause of the blaze.)

Five years ago: In an unprecedented move against an Arab nation, the Arab League approved economic sanctions against Syria to pressure Damascus to end its deadly suppression of an 8-month-old uprising against President Bashar Assad. British movie director Ken Russell, 84, died in Lymington, Hampshire, England.

One year ago: A gunman attacked a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs, Colorado, killing

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 146 ~ 26 of 26

three people and injuring nine. (Suspect Robert Dear has been undergoing treatment at a psychiatric hospital after being deemed incompetent for trial.) A subdued France paid homage to those killed in the Paris attacks two weeks earlier, honoring each of the 130 victims by name as President Francois Hollande (frahn-SWAH' oh-LAWND') pledged to "destroy the army of fanatics" who had claimed so many young lives.

Today's Birthdays: Author Gail Sheehy is 79. Footwear designer Manolo Blahnik is 74. Academy Award-winning director Kathryn Bigelow is 65. TV host Bill Nye ("Bill Nye, the Science Guy") is 61. Actor William Fichtner (FIHK'-nuhr) is 60. U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy is 59. Academy Award-winning screenwriter Callie Khouri is 59. Rock musician Charlie Burchill (Simple Minds) is 57. Jazz composer/big band leader Maria Schneider is 56. Former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty is 56. Rock musician Charlie Benante (Anthrax) is 54. Rock musician Mike Bordin (Faith No More) is 54. Actor Fisher Stevens is 53. Actress Robin Givens is 52. Actor Michael Vartan is 48. Rapper Skoob (DAS EFX) is 46. Actor Kirk Acevedo is 45. Rapper Twista is 44. Actor Jaleel White is 40. Actor Arjay Smith is 33. Actress Alison Pill is 31. Actress/singer Aubrey Peeples is 23.

Thought for Today: "In youth we feel richer for every new illusion; in maturer years, for every one we lose." — Anne Sophie Swetchine (sweht-CHEE'-nyah), Russian-French author (1782-1857).