

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 1 of 31

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1 - JVT Holiday Open House Ad
- 1- Treeline Tree Service Ad
- 2- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 3- Focus on credit factors, not credit scores
- 3- Sign up for Groton Bucks
- 3- House for Sale
- 4- Santa is coming to Groton
- 5- Today in Weather History
- 6 - Local Weather Forecast
- 7- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 7- Today's Weather Climate
- 7- National Weather map
- 8 - Daily Devotional
- 9 - AP News

## Monday, Dec. 5

Senior Menu: Tuna noodle casserole, beets, Swedish apple pie square, whole wheat bread.

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

School Lunch: Super nachos, refried beans, fruit, romaine salad.

Debate at Groton Area

6:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study  
JHGBB at Clark (7th at 5 p.m., 8th at 6 p.m.)

7 p.m.: City Council meeting at Groton Community Center

## Tuesday, Dec. 6

Senior Menu: Beef tips with gravy, mashed potatoes, lettuce salad with dressing, Jell-O cake, whole wheat bread.

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

School Lunch: chicken nuggets, smiley potato, broccoli and dip, fruit.

Debate at Milbank

10 a.m.: Groton United Methodist Bible Study

4 p.m.: GBB at Ipswich (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m., JV at 6:30 p.m., varsity at 8 p.m.)

7 p.m.: Groton United Methodist Bible Study

## Wednesday, Dec. 7

Senior Menu: Scalloped potatoes and ham, green peas, Mandarin orange salad, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Lasagna hotdish, corn, carrots and dip, fruit.

12:30 pm: MathCounts at Aberdeen Roncalli



**JVT Holiday Open House**  
Tuesday, December 6th  
10am - 4pm  
235 E 1st Ave Groton  
Specials - Door Prizes - Christmas Treats  
Register in store or online at [jamesvalley.com](http://jamesvalley.com) for the 12 Days of Christmas Giveaway!

## 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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**Sperry Stump Removal** Tyler: 605/216-8431  
**Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!**  
TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**

## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings lost to the Dallas Cowboys this past Thursday by a score of 17-15. Minnesota is now 6-6 for the year and tied with Green Bay for second in the NFC North (behind the Detroit Lions).

If you are into moral victories, this week definitely falls into that category. The Cowboys entered with a 10-game winning streak, but the Vikings were able to hold Dallas' high-powered offense to season lows in both points and yards. On the other hand, if you are into conspiracy theories this game was right up your alley. The refs appeared to do everything they could to hand the Cowboys the game, including a blatant miss of a blow to the head to Sam Bradford at the end of the game.

The Vikings offense wasn't able to get much going, but that shouldn't be a surprise. With the offensive line as banged up as it is, this team will continue to struggle to move the ball or put points on the board. Sam Bradford completed 32 of 45 passes (71%) for 247 yards and a touchdown. Jerick McKinnon and Matt Asiata combined for 71 yards on 15 carries (4.7 yards per carry), with McKinnon adding five catches for 14 yards and a touchdown through the air. All-in-all it was a good performance from the Vikings' offense, but it must be taken with a grain of salt because Dallas' defense is average at best.

The Vikings' defense rose to the challenge on Thursday, even without head coach Mike Zimmer calling the plays (Zimmer had emergency eye surgery the night before and was unable to attend the game). The Dallas Cowboys have the best offensive line in the NFL, but Minnesota's defensive line was up to the task, with the unit accumulating three sacks and seven quarterback hits. As mentioned above, the Vikings' defense held the Cowboys to their worst offensive game of the season. If the defense can play like that every week, the Vikings will continue to be a tough team to play.

The player of the game is Danielle Hunter this week. Once again, this second-year phenom continues to impress. Against the Cowboys and their vaunted offensive line, Hunter finished first on the team in sacks (2), tackles for a loss (2), and quarterback hits (3). What makes those stats even more impressive is that Hunter is a backup on the team, so he was only on the field for 32 snaps against Dallas, compared to 44 for Everson Griffen and 37 for Brian Robison. Hunter is also the second best run stopper on the defensive line, behind only Linval Joseph.

The player who needs the most improvement is Anthony Barr. The Vikings spent a top-10 draft pick on Barr, and that brings with it some lofty expectations. Through his first couple years in the league, Barr was looking like the next big thing at linebacker. However, this season has seen a significant drop off in his performance. According to Pro Football Focus, Anthony Barr's player grades were 80.1 his rookie year and 91.8 in year two (which is an elite player grade). In year three, unfortunately, Barr's player grade has fallen to 41.6 which ranks him as the 77th best linebacker in the NFL (there are only 87 who qualify for the ranking).

Looking ahead, the Vikings will travel to Jacksonville on Sunday. Both teams average about 19.5 points per game on offense, so it is on defense where the Vikings will have the advantage. The Jaguars are 2-10, most recently losing to the Broncos 20-10. Blake Bortles puts up a lot of garbage time stats, so he is a decent quarterback in fantasy football. When it comes to the actual game, however, Bortles is not very good and the Vikings' defense should have a field day against Jacksonville's offense. This should be a great game for the Vikings to recapture some confidence.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 3 of 31

## Focus on Credit Factors, Not Credit Scores

By Nathaniel Sillin

You should want to know your credit score. After all, your credit can be incredibly important to your financial future. It could impact your likelihood of getting approved for a loan and the interest rate you'll get on new financial products. However, understanding the factors that influence your credit score can be even more important than knowing the score itself.

There are five key factors that influence your credit scores. Fair Isaac Corporation's FICO credit scores are used for most lending decisions in the U.S., and the latest FICO base scoring model has a 300 to 850 range. The score depends on the information in a person's credit report, and the lower the score the more likely the person is to pay late.

Past credit mistakes can stay on your reports for seven to 10 years. While the impact of negative marks diminishes over time, the credit-building process can be slow. However, just as a rising tide lifts all boats, improving your core credit factors could help raise all your scores over time.

FICO shares the five key factors that you should focus on to build healthy credit and the approximate weighting of each.

1. Payment history – 35 percent. A history of on-time payments can help your credit, while late payments, collection accounts, bankruptcies or other negative payment-related items could hurt it.

Some types of accounts, such as utility or mobile phone contracts, don't generally report positive activity (on-time payments) to credit bureaus. But if the account gets sent to collections, that could still hurt your credit.

You might want to open an account that reports your payments to the credit bureaus if you don't already have one (you can call the issuer and ask). Some people start with a secured credit card or a credit-builder loan from a credit union, but consider what type of account best fits your situation.

2. Amounts owed – 30 percent. The amount you owe versus your available credit, known as your utilization rate, is another important factor. A lower utilization rate often leads to better credit.

If you're able to pay down credit card debt, that could quickly improve your utilization rate. Increasing your cards' credit limits and keeping credit cards open even when you don't regularly use them could also help.

3. Length of credit history – 15 percent. FICO looks at the age of your oldest account, newest account and average age of all your accounts. A longer history is usually better than a short one.



### House for Sale

3 bedroom house for sale. Groton S. D. Detached garage. 1/2 block from high school. Call (605) 397-8405.

**GROTON**  
Chamber Of Commerce

Sign Up for Groton Chamber Bucks at the Holiday Boxes Located This week at the James Valley Telco and Professional Mgt. Services

Week of Dec. 12: Olde Bank Floral 'n More and Subway

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 4 of 31

Keeping accounts open, and ideally in good standing, can help you increase your length of credit history. Even when you close an account it will remain on your reports and count towards your credit history for seven to 10 years.

4. New credit – 10 percent. The new credit section considers how many new accounts you have, what types of accounts they are and recent inquiries into your credit.

Hard inquiries generally occur when someone requests your credit report to make a lending decision or rental screening. A single inquiry will generally drop your score by a few points for several months, while multiple inquiries could have a larger negative impact.

However, credit-scoring agencies let you shop for a loan without a penalty. Multiple hard inquiries for some types of loans, such as auto loans, could count as a single inquiry for credit-scoring purposes if they occur within a 14- to 45-day period.

Soft inquiry, which can happen when you check your credit or a company pre-qualifies you for an offer, don't hurt your credit at all.

Try not to open new accounts unless you need them and avoid new hard inquiries in the months leading up to applying for an important loan.

5. Credit mix –10 percent. Your experience with different types of credit, such as revolving credit and installment loans, could impact your score, particularly if there isn't a lot of information in your credit report.

Having at least one credit card could help your credit mix, although that's not necessarily reason enough to apply for a card.

Bottom line: Learn which factors matter the most to your credit scores, and try to make a habit of practicing credit-building behavior. Creating a system that'll help you make on-time payments and only using a small portion of your available credit are good starts.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/Practical-Money](http://www.twitter.com/Practical-Money).

## 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

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 5 of 31

## Today in Weather History

December 5, 1960: A storm dropped snow on the entire region from the morning of the 4th to the late afternoon of the 5th, with the greatest amounts in the western, central and north central parts of South Dakota. Five to 10 inches of snow fell in these areas. The heaviest snowfall amounts occurred in the extreme southwest part of the state, as well as the triangular area in the north-central part of the state between Mobridge, Pierre, and Aberdeen. The snow, blown by winds of 30 to 40 mph, caused extensive drifting of streets and highways. A brief period of freezing rain preceded the snow and added to hazardous driving conditions on roads. Schools were closed for one to two days, with 27 towns reporting closed schools in the Aberdeen area alone. Telephone and power disruption was widespread in central and north central counties of the state, as poles and wires were broken by a combination of ice, snow, and the wind. The storm produced mostly rain in the extreme eastern counties of South Dakota into west central Minnesota, with a narrow band of freezing rain preceding light snow immediately to the west. No serious automobile accidents or property damage was reported in this area of freezing rain and light snow.

December 5, 1976: Cold Canadian air moved across South Dakota during the day on Sunday, December 5th. Strong winds gusted to 63 mph at Philip and to 55 mph at Rapid City. One to two inches of snow fell over all of South Dakota; however, many counties in the southeast, south central, and east-central parts of the state received amounts varying from three to five inches. After this storm, night time temperatures fell to below zero. Snowfall amounts included 2 inches at Pierre, Aberdeen, and Watertown; and 3 inches at Redfield and Clear Lake.

December 5, 1886: A southern storm dumped heavy snow up into far southwest Virginia. The storm dumped 11 inches in Montgomery Alabama and 22.5 inches in Knoxville, TN. It also dropped 25 inches in Rome, Georgia, and 26 inches in Asheville, North Carolina.

1941 - The temperature at Enosburg Falls soared to 72 degrees to establish a state record for Vermont for the month of December. (The Weather Channel)

December 5, 1953: A tornado outbreak occurred over northeastern Louisiana, southeastern Arkansas and western Mississippi on this day. At least four confirmed tornadoes touched down. The strongest tornado was rated F5 as it destroyed the town of Vicksburg, Mississippi. This tornado first touched down just west of the Mississippi River in East Madison Parish in Louisiana. The tornado crossed the Mississippi River and tore through the downtown area of Vicksburg. On the ground for seven miles, this tornado caused 38 deaths, 270 injuries, and cost an estimated \$25 million in damages in 1953. Estimated cost adjusted for inflation in 2013 Dollars would be over \$200 million. The NWS Office in Jackson, Mississippi has an interactive track map of this event which includes photos and personal accounts.




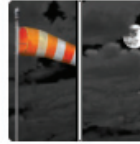



1987 - Heavy snow blanketed parts of the north central U.S., and freezing drizzle produced a coat of ice up to half an inch thick in northwestern Minnesota and eastern North Dakota. Snowfall totals ranged up to seven inches at Grand Rapids MN, and 12 inches at Seney MI. High winds in the north central U.S. gusted to 63 mph at Pellston MI, and reached 70 mph at Makinaw Bridge MI. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - There was only a "flurry" of activity, as for much of the nation winter remained on hold. The cold and snow of winter was primarily confined to the northeastern U.S. Five cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Norfolk NE with a reading of 65 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - A warm Pacific storm system brought high winds and heavy rain to western Washington and western Oregon. Up to ten inches of rain deluged the western slopes of the Cascade Mountain Range in Washington State over a three day period, and 500 persons had to be evacuated due to flooding along the Skagit River. Up to five inches of rain drenched northwest Oregon, and winds gusted to 71 mph at Netarts. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

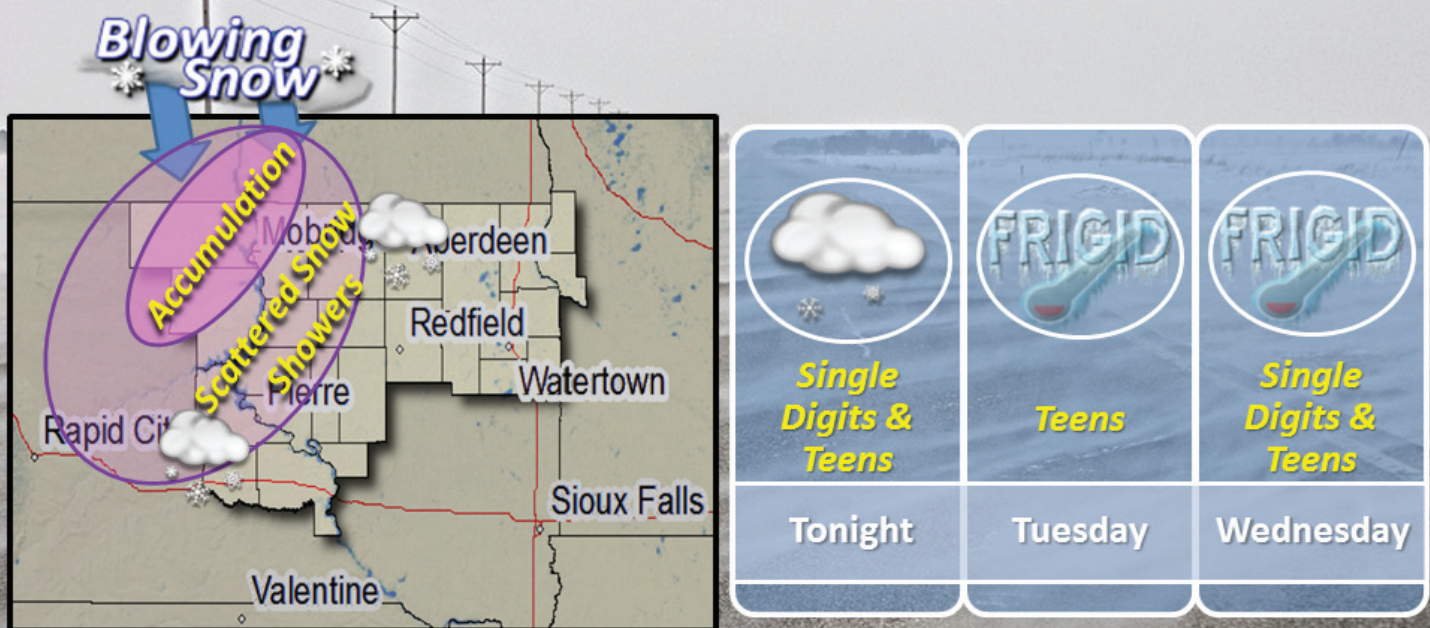
# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 6 of 31

Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
60%	40%	20%				
Mostly Cloudy then Snow Likely and Patchy Blowing Snow	Chance Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow	Blustery. Slight Chance Snow then Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy and Blustery then Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Flurries	Cold
High: 34 °F	Low: 16 °F	High: 17 °F↓	Low: 6 °F	High: 12 °F	Low: 6 °F	High: 10 °F

## Arctic Blast

Accumulations in North Central – Blowing Snow Possible



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

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



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 12/5/2016 5:22 AM Central

Published on: 12/05/2016 at 5:28AM

Arctic air is headed into the region today. Low pressure developing along the front will result in some light accumulation for north central South Dakota. Strong winds behind the front will result in blowing snow for this area. Farther south and east, accumulations are less likely but there is still the possibility for reduced visibility with the snow and strong winds. The cold air is here to stay, with temperatures below average going through the end of the work week.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 7 of 31

## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 40.1 F at 2:37 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 25.8 F at 8:21 AM**

**High Gust: 19.0 Mph at 1:05 AM**

Precip:

## Today's Info

**Record High: 57° in 1939**

**Record Low: -25° in 2005**

**Average High: 29°F**

**Average Low: 9°F**

**Average Precip in Dec.: 0.09**

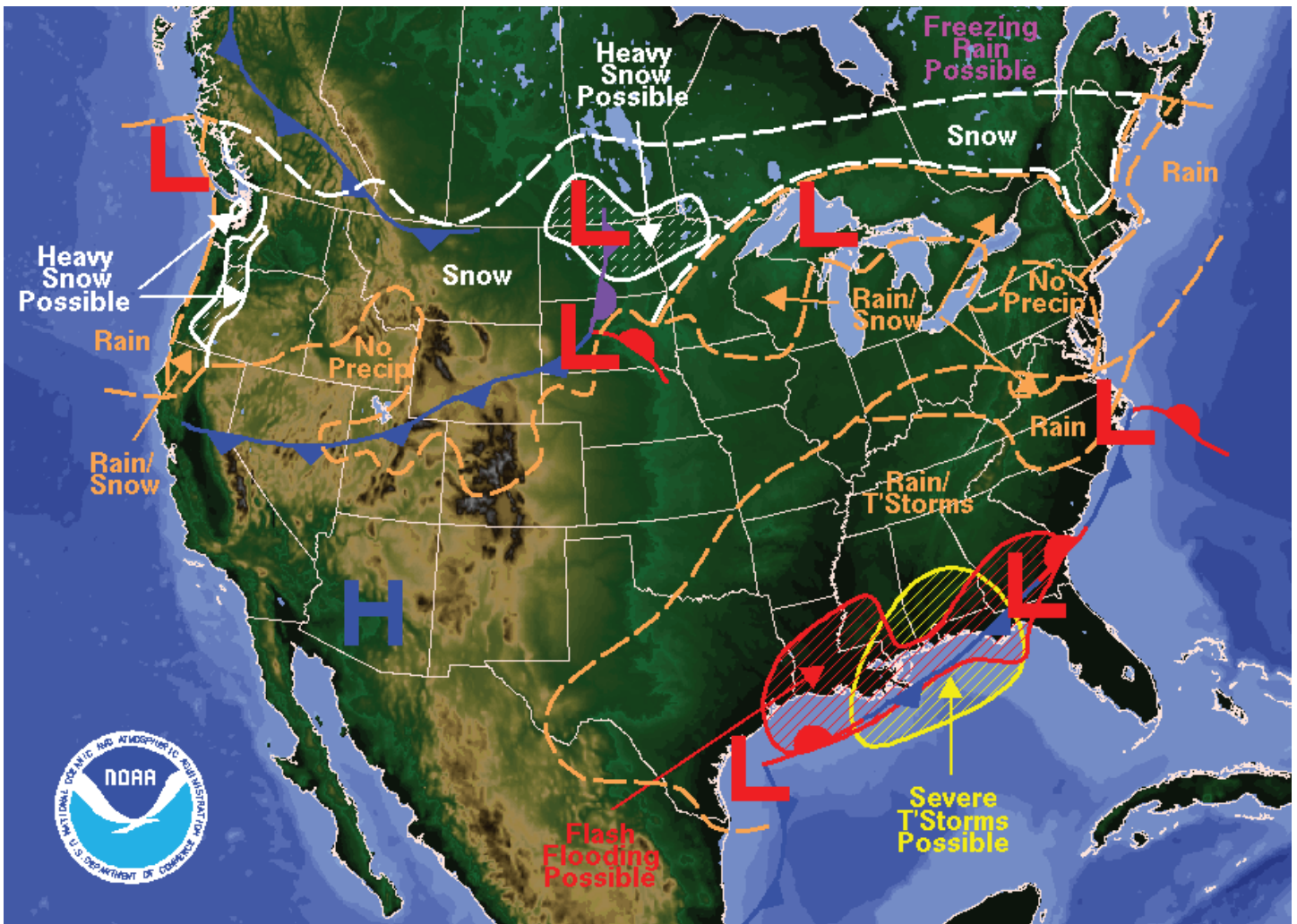
**Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00**

**Average Precip to date: 21.29**

**Precip Year to Date: 17.34**

**Sunset Tonight: 4:50 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:59 a.m.**



Weather Forecast for Mon, Dec 05, 2016, issued 4:46 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 8 of 31



## THE GOLDEN RULE

A second grade teacher asked her class, "Who can quote the golden rule?"

"Whoever has the gold," said Timothy, "makes the rules!"

That is the way most individuals understand the rules of life: Wealth makes might – but that will never make things right.

Jesus said, "Do for others what you would like them to do for you. This is a summary of all that is taught in the law and the prophets."

It is not always easy for us to put others in our place and treat them as we wish to be treated. It is easier for us to put ourselves first and expect others to serve us.

In this verse Jesus teaches that the way you and I wish to be treated must determine the way that we treat others. This is not always easy, but it is essential for the Christian. If we have been born again, we should love others the way He loves us – with all of our hearts, minds and souls. Jesus also said that we should love others as we love ourselves. So, here's the question: Do I care for and take care of others with the same dedication for them as I do for myself?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, it is never easy to put others ahead of ourselves. It seems so natural to put ourselves ahead of others. But in giving us Your Son, You set the example for us. We must always put the needs of others first. May we do this in Your Name, Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 7:12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.



## News from the Associated Press

### North Dakota pipeline protesters vow to stay despite victory

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — Protesters celebrated a major victory in their push to reroute the Dakota Access oil pipeline away from a tribal water source but pledged to remain camped on federal land in North Dakota anyway, despite Monday's government deadline to leave.

Hundreds of people at the Oceti Sakowin, or Seven Council Fires, encampment cheered and chanted "mni wichoni" — "water is life" in Lakota Sioux — after the Army Corps of Engineers refused Sunday to grant the company permission to extend the pipeline beneath a Missouri River reservoir.

The Standing Rock Sioux tribe and its supporters argue that extending the project beneath Lake Oahe would threaten the tribe's water source and cultural sites. The segment is the last major sticking point for the four-state, \$3.8 billion project.

"The whole world is watching," said Miles Allard, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux. "I'm telling all our people to stand up and not to leave until this is over."

Despite the deadline, authorities say they won't forcibly remove the protesters.

The company constructing the pipeline, Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners, released a statement Sunday night slamming the Army Corps' decision as politically motivated and alleging that President Barack Obama's administration was determined to delay the matter until he leaves office.

"The White House's directive today to the Corps for further delay is just the latest in a series of overt and transparent political actions by an administration which has abandoned the rule of law in favor of currying favor with a narrow and extreme political constituency," the company said.

President-elect Donald Trump, a pipeline supporter, will take office in January, although it wasn't immediately clear what steps his administration would be able to take to reverse the Army Corps' latest decision or how quickly that could happen.

That uncertainty, Allard said, is part of the reason the protesters won't leave.

"We don't know what Trump is going to do," Allard said.

Assistant Secretary for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy said in a news release that her decision was based on the need to consider alternative routes for the pipeline's crossing. Her full decision doesn't rule out that it could cross under the reservoir or north of Bismarck.

"Although we have had continuing discussion and exchanges of new information with the Standing Rock Sioux and Dakota Access, it's clear that there's more work to do," Darcy said. "The best way to complete that work responsibly and expeditiously is to explore alternate routes for the pipeline crossing."

North Dakota's leaders criticized the decision, with Gov. Jack Dalrymple calling it a "serious mistake" that "prolongs the dangerous situation" of having several hundred protesters who are camped out on federal land during cold, wintry weather. U.S. Rep. Kevin Cramer said it's a "very chilling signal" for the future of infrastructure in the United States.

Attorney General Loretta Lynch said Sunday that the Department of Justice will "continue to monitor the situation" and stands "ready to provide resources to help all those who can play a constructive role in easing tensions."

"The safety of everyone in the area — law enforcement officers, residents and protesters alike — continues to be our foremost concern," she added.

Carla Youngbear of the Meskwaki Potawatomi tribe made her third trip from central Kansas to be at the protest site.

"I have grandchildren, and I'm going to have great grandchildren," she said. "They need water. Water is why I'm here."

Standing Rock Sioux tribal chairman Dave Archambault didn't respond to messages seeking comment.

Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier, whose department has done much of the policing for the protests, said that "local law enforcement does not have an opinion" on the easement and that his department will

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 10 of 31

continue to "enforce the law."

U.S. Secretary for the Interior Sally Jewell said in a statement that the Corps' "thoughtful approach ... ensures that there will be an in-depth evaluation of alternative routes for the pipeline and a closer look at potential impacts."

Earlier Sunday, an organizer with Veterans Stand for Standing Rock said tribal elders had asked the military veterans not to have confrontations with law enforcement officials, adding the group is there to help out those who've dug in against the project.

About 250 veterans gathered about a mile from the main camp for a meeting with organizer Wes Clark Jr., the son of former Democratic presidential candidate Gen. Wesley Clark. The group had said about 2,000 veterans were coming, but it wasn't clear how many actually arrived.

"We have been asked by the elders not to do direct action," Wes Clark Jr. said. He added that the National Guard and law enforcement have armored vehicles and are armed, warning: "If we come forward, they will attack us."

Instead, he told the veterans, "If you see someone who needs help, help them out."

Some veterans will take part in a prayer ceremony Monday, during which they'll apologize for historical detrimental conduct by the military toward Native Americans and ask for forgiveness, Clark said. He also called the veterans' presence "about right and wrong and peace and love."

Authorities moved a blockade from the north end of the Backwater Bridge with the conditions that protesters stay south of it and come there only if there is a prearranged meeting. Authorities also asked protesters not to remove barriers on the bridge, which they have said was damaged in the late October conflict that led to several people being hurt, including a serious arm injury.

"That heavy presence is gone now and I really hope in this de-escalation they'll see that, and in good faith . the leadership in those camps will start squashing the violent factions," Cass County Sheriff Paul Laney said in a statement, reiterating that any violation will "will result in their arrest."

Steven Perry, a 66-year-old Vietnam veteran who's a member of the Little Traverse Bay band of Odawa Indians in Michigan, spoke of one of the protesters' main concerns: that the pipeline could pollute drinking water. "This is not just a native issue," he said, "This is an issue for everyone."

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Associated Press writers Jeff Baenen in Minneapolis and Jamie Stengle in Dallas contributed to this report.

## University makes history and signs first triplet sisters

By Jason Gross, Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Black Hills State University made history during the recent signing period by inking the first known set of triplets in NCAA women's softball.

The three — Breanne, Bryce, and Brittany Henricksen from Las Vegas, Nevada — started playing T-ball at age 4 and moved up the ladder, the Black Hills Pioneer (<http://bit.ly/2gvyWt5>) reported. They will graduate from Arbor View High School before officially coming to the Yellow Jacket program.

All three have earned three letters apiece in the sport along with numerous all-division, all-regional, and all-state honors. Breanne is a pitcher, with Brittany playing the outfield and Bryce able to play several positions.

How did all of this come about?

Black Hills State head coach Lane Leedy said her assistant went to Las Vegas for a tournament.

Leedy received a call from her assistant saying, "Coach, you have to come see these girls," Leedy said. "Oh, by the way: they're triplets. They're everything you're looking for in this class."

Leedy described Breanna as a control pitcher with an above-average changeup. Bryce can come in and start at any position except pitcher, according to Leedy.

"As with every recruit you have, you hope they contribute right away," Leedy said of the Henricksens. She added Brittany can also play the catcher position, and all three can hit well.

"Brittany competes well under pressure and is the kid who approaches the game with a calm confidence about her," Leedy said in a release. "In the outfield, she combines her vast range with a very strong and

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 11 of 31

accurate arm."

The Henricksens first came to Spearfish in January and returned two weeks ago for the official visit. All three said the area and small-school environment appealed to them, and Bryce pointed to the weather.

"It was a lot different than Las Vegas," Bryce said. "It was so green up there, and I felt like there's a lot more things you can do up there (Black Hills) compared to Vegas."

All three have really enjoyed playing together on teams.

"I think it's pretty cool since we've started playing together," Brittany said. "We're also going to finish playing softball together. You also know someone always has your back as well."

Breanne said of the sport, "To play it with my sisters all these years, it's just really fun."

The triple signing was not expected.

"It was really cool and surprising," Bryce said of all three signing with Black Hills State. "Just to get four more years playing with them is cool."

All three most look forward to entering the college environment, meeting new people, and gaining experience on the field.

The distance between Las Vegas and Spearfish poses the biggest challenge for the three. Breanne estimated the distance at 21 hours and said she would probably miss her family and pets initially.

"It can be hard, especially when they were there for all of us at our softball games," Bryce said.

Getting used to the college game will pose a challenge for Brittany. "There's going to be better players, bigger hitters, better pitchers," she said.

What do they enjoy most about the sport?

"I like playing on the field in general," Breanne said in describing the sport's appeal to her. "It takes your mind off things."

Bryce most enjoys the memories she has made through the sport. She cited team experiences, on-the-field accomplishments, and the feeling that comes with a big victory.

"All my best friends, I've met through softball," Brittany said when asked what she enjoys most. "You do travel a lot, and you meet a lot of new friends."

Team success is what Brittany enjoys the most because it means hard work pays off in a game situation.

Breanne said the biggest challenge comes when things do not go her way. "If you're having a bad day on the field, get over it, and things will get better," she added.

The biggest challenge for Bryce and Brittany comes in putting bad days behind her and getting ready for the next day.

"I think it'll be pretty good, but I think it's going to be a lot different," Bryce said of making the transition from high school softball to the college game. "We haven't really played at that level, so I'm not really knowing what to expect."

Brittany plans to study physical science at Black Hills State. Bryce will be an exercise science major, with Breanne set to major in business entrepreneurship.

What does it mean for Black Hills State to make history like this?

"Since I've gotten here, we've done some cool things, this being probably now at the top of the cool list," Leedy said. "Making history is something you may get to do once or twice in your coaching career."

Leedy said making history with solid players and kids is the way a person wants to make history. She added that prospect is second to getting three solid athletes.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported in March that only a few sets of triplets have played for the same college team in a variety of sports. They competed for Pomona-Pitzer (Calif.) from 2011-14 and Division III Presentation College (Aberdeen) in the mid-2000s.

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Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

## Animal shelters help hunters find lost dogs

By Shannon Marvel, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — There's not much that can stop a hunting dog from following a scent, and it's not uncommon for hunters to lose their dogs in the rural pastures and fields of northeast South Dakota.

Lost or abandoned hunting dogs are taken in by shelters or good Samaritans every year, especially during hunting season, the Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/2fG7QuI>) reported.

Watertown animal control officer Aaron Marotz works closely with the Glacial Lakes Humane Society and Shelter, which provides services to Codington County, Webster, Lake Norden, Milbank, and Estelline.

"We get a lot of labs and lab mixes up here. A lot of them are strays. People come and hunt and don't always take their dogs back," Marotz said.

Hunters who lose their dogs while out hunting may cover miles while searching for their companions, but many don't know who to call to report a dog as missing.

Candace Maychrzak works with the Dakota Animal Resource Coalition, an animal shelter based in Scranton, N.D., that serves northwest South Dakota and southwest North Dakota. She said there are many hunters who don't know where to look for their lost dogs.

"You would think if someone has a trained hunting dog they would tell the radio stations and authorities that they lost a hunting dog," Maychrzak said.

Hunters who lose dogs and people who find them should notify local law enforcement agencies and animal shelters, she said.

Maychrzak is trying to raise awareness of the problem so lost hunting dogs can be reunited with their owners.

"A hunting dog is a pretty intense breed, and not everyone is able to foster or care for that type and give them what they need. There have been some hunting dogs that have come through my rescue, and maybe one-third have gone out again as hunting dogs," she said.

Most dogs are lost unintentionally, but Maychrzak said there have been dogs that were likely intentionally abandoned in the country.

"I do believe that I've rescued a few hunting dogs that were trained, and they hunted and were just left behind," she said.

But most cases of intentional dog abandonment are not hunting-related, she said.

Microchipping a dog can be instrumental in it being found when lost, Maychrzak said.

She recalled an incident of a dog found in the country that was days away from dying of starvation.

"The dog had a microchip from another shelter. Apparently, a man had adopted the dog just a month or so before and dumped it after two weeks," she said.

Maychrzak called the shelter that had arranged the adoption to make sure it knew about the situation and make sure the man could not adopt any other animals.

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Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

## Federal government blocks Dakota Access oil pipeline route

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Sunday that it won't grant an easement for the Dakota Access oil pipeline in southern North Dakota, handing a victory to the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and its supporters, who argued the project would threaten the tribe's water source and cultural sites.

North Dakota's leaders criticized the decision, with Gov. Jack Dalrymple calling it a "serious mistake" that "prolongs the dangerous situation" of having several hundred protesters who are camped out on federal land during cold, wintry weather. U.S. Rep. Kevin Cramer said it's a "very chilling signal" for the future of infrastructure in the United States.

The four-state, \$3.8 billion project is largely complete except for the now-blocked segment underneath Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir. Assistant Secretary for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy said in a news

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 13 of 31

release that her decision was based on the need to “explore alternate routes” for the pipeline’s crossing. Her full decision doesn’t rule out that it could cross under the reservoir or north of Bismarck.

“Although we have had continuing discussion and exchanges of new information with the Standing Rock Sioux and Dakota Access, it’s clear that there’s more work to do,” Darcy said. “The best way to complete that work responsibly and expeditiously is to explore alternate routes for the pipeline crossing.”

The company constructing the pipeline, Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners, released a statement Sunday night slamming the decision as politically motivated and alleging that President Obama’s administration was determined to delay the matter until he leaves office.

“The White House’s directive today to the Corps for further delay is just the latest in a series of overt and transparent political actions by an administration which has abandoned the rule of law in favor of currying favor with a narrow and extreme political constituency,” the company said.

President-elect Donald Trump, a pipeline supporter, will take office in January, although it wasn’t immediately clear what steps his administration would be able to take to reverse the Army Corps’ latest decision or how quickly that could happen.

The decision came a day before the government’s deadline for the several hundred people at the Oceti Sakowin, or Seven Council Fires, encampment to leave the federal land. But demonstrators say they’re prepared to stay, and authorities say they won’t forcibly remove them.

As the news spread Sunday, cheers and cheers and chants of “mni wichoni” — “water is life” in Lakota Sioux — broke out among the protesters. Some in the crowd banged drums. Miles Allard, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux, said he was pleased but remained cautious, saying, “We don’t know what Trump is going to do.”

“The whole world is watching,” Allard added. “I’m telling all our people to stand up and not to leave until this is over.”

Attorney General Loretta Lynch said Sunday that the Department of Justice will “continue to monitor the situation” and stands “ready to provide resources to help all those who can play a constructive role in easing tensions.”

“The safety of everyone in the area - law enforcement officers, residents and protesters alike - continues to be our foremost concern,” she added.

Carla Youngbear of the Meskwaki Potawatomi tribe made her third trip from central Kansas to be at the protest site.

“I have grandchildren, and I’m going to have great grandchildren,” she said. “They need water. Water is why I’m here.”

Standing Rock Sioux tribal chairman Dave Archambault didn’t immediately respond to messages left seeking comment.

Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier, whose department has done much of the policing for the protests, said that “local law enforcement does not have an opinion” on the easement and that his department will continue to “enforce the law.”

U.S. Secretary for the Interior Sally Jewell said in a statement that the Corps’ “thoughtful approach ... ensures that there will be an in-depth evaluation of alternative routes for the pipeline and a closer look at potential impacts.”

Earlier Sunday, an organizer with Veterans Stand for Standing Rock said tribal elders had asked the military veterans not to have confrontations with law enforcement officials, adding the group is there to help out those who’ve dug in against the project.

About 250 veterans gathered about a mile from the main camp for a meeting with organizer Wes Clark Jr., the son of former Democratic presidential candidate Gen. Wesley Clark. The group had said about 2,000 veterans were coming, but it wasn’t clear how many actually arrived.

“We have been asked by the elders not to do direct action,” Wes Clark Jr. said. He added that the National Guard and law enforcement have armored vehicles and are armed, warning: “If we come forward, they will attack us.”

Instead, he told the veterans, “If you see someone who needs help, help them out.”

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 14 of 31

Authorities moved a blockade from the north end of the Backwater Bridge with the conditions that protesters stay south of it and come there only if there is a prearranged meeting. Authorities also asked protesters not to remove barriers on the bridge, which they have said was damaged in the late October conflict that led to several people being hurt, including a serious arm injury.

"That heavy presence is gone now and I really hope in this de-escalation they'll see that, and in good faith . the leadership in those camps will start squashing the violent factions," Cass County Sheriff Paul Laney said in a statement, reiterating that any violation will "will result in their arrest."

Veterans Stand for Standing Rock's GoFundMe.com page had raised more than \$1 million of its \$1.2 million goal by Sunday — money due to go toward food, transportation and supplies. Cars waiting to get into the camp Sunday afternoon were backed up for more than a half-mile.

"People are fighting for something, and I thought they could use my help," said Navy veteran and Harvard graduate student Art Grayson. The 29-year-old from Cambridge, Massachusetts, flew the first leg of the journey, then rode from Bismarck in the back of a pickup truck. He has finals this week, but told professors, "I'll see you when I get back."

Steven Perry, a 66-year-old Vietnam veteran who's a member of the Little Traverse Bay band of Odawa Indians in Michigan, spoke of one of the protesters' main concerns: that the pipeline could pollute drinking water. "This is not just a native issue," he said, "This is an issue for everyone."

Art Woodson and two other veterans drove 17 hours straight from Flint, Michigan, a city whose lead-tainted water crisis parallels with the tribe's fight over water, he said.

"We know in Flint that water is in dire need," the 49-year-old disabled Gulf War Army veteran said. "In North Dakota, they're trying to force pipes on people. We're trying to get pipes in Flint for safe water."

Some veterans will take part in a prayer ceremony Monday, during which they'll apologize for historical detrimental conduct by the military toward Native Americans and ask for forgiveness, Clark said. He also called the veterans' presence "about right and wrong and peace and love."

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Associated Press writers Jeff Baenen in Minneapolis and Jamie Stengle in Dallas contributed to this report.

## Quotes from some leading voices in the oil pipeline dispute

**By The Associated Press**

Quotes from some leading voices in the Dakota Access oil pipeline dispute. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Sunday that it won't grant an easement for the Dakota Access oil pipeline in southern North Dakota, handing a victory to the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and its supporters.

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"The decision today by the Obama Administration to further postpone any action on the easement for the Dakota Access Pipeline is a serious mistake. It does nothing to resolve the issue, and worst of all it prolongs the serious problems faced by North Dakota law enforcement as they try to maintain public safety." — Gov. Jack Dalrymple, R-N.D.

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"In light of today's decision by the Department of the Army regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline, the Department of Justice will continue to monitor the situation in North Dakota in the days ahead, and we stand ready to provide resources to help all those who can play a constructive role in easing tensions." — Attorney General Loretta Lynch.

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"The Obama administration's refusal to issue an easement for the Dakota Access Pipeline violates the rule of law and fails to resolve the issue. Instead, it passes the decision off to the next administration, which has already indicated it will approve the easement, and in the meantime perpetuates a difficult situation for North Dakotans." — Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D.

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"It's long past time that a decision is made on the easement going under Lake Oahe. This administra-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 15 of 31

tion's delay in taking action — after I've pushed the White House, Army Corps and other federal agencies for months to make a decision — means that today's move doesn't actually bring finality to the project. The pipeline still remains in limbo." — Sen. Heidi Heidtkamp, D-N.D.

"If a project that has involved all relevant stakeholders and followed both the letter and spirit of the law at every step of this approval process can be derailed, what signal does that send to others considering building new energy infrastructure in this country?" — Jay Timmons, president and CEO, National Association of Manufacturers (NAM).

"In the year 2016, we should not continue to trample on Native American sovereignty. We should not endanger the water supply of millions of people. We should not become more dependent on fossil fuel and accelerate the planetary crisis of climate change." — Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.

"I hoped even a lawless president wouldn't continue to ignore the rule of law. However, it was becoming increasingly clear he was punting this issue down the road. Today's unfortunate decision sends a very chilling signal to others who want to build infrastructure in this country." — Rep. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D.

## Christmas Store teaches children lesson of giving

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — An annual holiday event in Yankton has celebrated its fifth year teaching children that it's better to give than to receive.

A Christmas Store, founded by the late Ann Hudson, gives children in grades K-5 the chance to pick out free gifts for family members, the Yankton Press & Dakotan (<http://bit.ly/2fJqRMC>) reported. This year's was held Saturday.

The days before the store opens, the board rounds up monetary donations, stores gifts, sends out flyers and gets everything set up at the venue, board member Amy Bertsch said. On the day of the event, they wrap presents and help kids shop.

While the children decide what gifts they would like to take, adults who accompany them will wait in a separate room.

"When we think of Christmas, we think of toys and the little kids, but our goal is to show kids to give to everyone in their family," she said. "A lot of these kids haven't been on the end of giving, which is what Ann wanted kids to experience."

Monetary and gift donations can be dropped off at the church or given to a board member.

"I went to church with Ann and her husband, Dick, and they became like grandparents to my kids," Bertsch said, teary-eyed. "Her dying wish was to keep the Christmas Store going. Those who knew and loved her stepped up do to that."

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

## South Dakota trooper shoots man after chase in Yankton

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a South Dakota state trooper shot and wounded a man after a chase in Yankton.

The shooting happened just before 10:30 p.m. Saturday. The South Dakota attorney general's office says the Highway Patrol tried to make a vehicle stop that led to a chase that ended in Yankton. Authorities say the incident escalated and resulted in the trooper shooting the 58-year-old man.

The Yankton man was taken to a hospital where he was being treated for his injuries. His condition was not immediately known.

A spokesman for the South Dakota Department of Public Safety says the trooper is on standard paid administrative leave.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 16 of 31

The state Division of Criminal Investigation is investigating the shooting at the request of the Highway Patrol.

## Grain storage a concern in South Dakota heading into winter

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A combination of unseasonably warm, dry fall weather and low corn prices could mean more grain is stored on farms this winter.

Agriculture experts said that farmers will have to watch how they store their grain and wait for prices to rise, the Aberdeen News (<http://bit.ly/2gpydXa>) reported.

Cold weather is critical to preserving grains, such as corn, South Dakota State University Extension agronomy field specialist David Karki said.

"Heat and moisture are the two big factors to any kind of mold growth and any other pest," Karki said. "Try to keep the temperature below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, good aeration, good flow of air."

Wheat Growers senior vice president of operations John Husk said it's important to monitor grain regularly, no matter how it's stored.

"Look at the peaks — especially at the tops of those piles — and make sure you don't see any discoloration, for sure," he said. "And just make sure it isn't crusting over. If it does, you want to break that crust up, you want to get some kind of ventilation." Husk added that farmers will need to change their plans if weather turns unfavorable for storing grain.

Husk said the warm weather going into November might have bolstered Aberdeen-area producers. His company didn't have to dry some of its grain because it was already close to being dry enough.

"The less moisture, the longer you can store," Karki said.

Husk said the healthy crop yields due to the weather won't drive prices up very quickly.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

## Drought conditions persist in northeastern Wyoming

GILLETTE, Wyo. (AP) — Drought conditions are persisting in portions of northeastern Wyoming and western South Dakota.

The National Weather Service in Rapid City, South Dakota, issued a recent drought update saying that the region has seen months of warmer-than-average temperatures combined with dry conditions.

The Gillette News Record reported (<http://bit.ly/2h3FG1x>) that agency hydrologist Melissa Smith said some areas have seen ongoing drought conditions since May.

Smith said recent cold temperatures have caused the ground to freeze. That will make it difficult for any melting snow to soak in and improve soil moisture conditions. That means areas of drought likely will persist through much of the winter.

Severe drought conditions continue in portions of Harding and Butte counties in western South Dakota and portions of Weston and Crook counties in northeast Wyoming. Moderate drought conditions are reported in Weston and Crook counties and the northeast portion of Campbell County.

A storm that passed through the region last week brought some needed moisture. Snowfall of 14 inches was recorded a mile north-northeast of Sundance and 10 inches in the Four Corners area of Weston County. Some parts of South Dakota in the Black Hills recorded up to 36 inches of snow.

Long-term dryness has reduced forage with most pasture conditions in the area rating between poor and good, Smith said. Stock ponds and dugouts are low, continuing to limit water for cattle and other animals, she said.

Temperatures for most of 2016 have been above average, Smith said. The average maximum temperature in Gillette in November was 56.1 degrees, nearly 10 degrees above normal and the highest average warm temperature in November for the past 30 years.

The highest temperature at the weather station four miles southeast of Gillette at the city's wastewater treatment plant was 73 degrees Nov. 9. Temperatures of 65, 68, 62 and 67 also were recorded through Nov. 16, before the highs dropped to the mid-50s and 40s the rest of the month.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 17 of 31

The final two days of November, when temperatures fell to 36 and 33 degrees for daytime highs, were the coldest of the 30 days of the month.

Overall, the average temperature in November (including lows and highs) was 43.7 degrees. That's the second warmest average from the years 1981 to 2010.

Total precipitation in Gillette since July 1 stands at just over 13 inches, below the normal of 16.30 inches of moisture.

Information from: The Gillette (Wyo.) News Record, <http://www.gillettenewsrecord.com>

## Trump taps former campaign rival Carson as housing secretary

By JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump, moving to complete formation of his Cabinet and decide other key posts, chose former campaign rival Ben Carson on Monday to be secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Trump's decision, announced by his transition office, comes as the real estate mogul continues a series of interviews, meetings with aides and other deliberations aimed at forming his administration. He announced several Cabinet appointees last week.

In a statement, Trump said he was "thrilled to nominate" Carson, describing the retired neurosurgeon as having "a brilliant mind" and saying he "is passionate about strengthening communities and families within those communities."

Carson had been coy about joining the new administration, saying shortly after Trump's election victory that he wasn't certain he'd fit into a Cabinet-style role. The discussion at that time centered on speculation that Carson might be selected to head the sprawling Department of Health and Human Services.

"Ben shares my optimism about the future of our country," Trump said, "and is part of ensuring that this is a presidency representing all Americans."

Carson was among the 16 Republican candidates who challenged Trump for the Republican nomination. He was a favorite of religious conservatives and a strong fundraiser, but his team burned through money quickly and he failed to win any of the early primary contests.

Trump treated Carson harshly during the primary, saying he had a "pathological temper." Still, Carson quickly endorsed Trump after he dropped out of the contest.

As a Trump supporter, Carson was both loyal and critical. He conceded that Trump had "major defects" and said at one point that he would have preferred a scenario other than Trump winning the Republican primary.

Last week, Trump announced that he planned to nominate former Goldman Sachs executive Steven Mnuchin as his Treasury secretary and billionaire investor Wilbur Ross to lead the Commerce Department. He chose Betsy DeVos to be secretary of education and Elaine Chao, the wife of Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, to be transportation secretary. Trump also has turned to retired Marine Gen. James Mattis to be secretary of defense.

He now has expanded his pool of candidates for secretary of state, raising a question about whether former CIA Director David Petraeus' guilty plea for leaking classified information disqualifies him to serve as the nation's top diplomat.

Trump's aides had confirmed that the president-elect had settled on four finalists for the post. But over the weekend, two people close to the transition told The Associated Press that Trump is moving away from two of the four: former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican presidential nominee.

That would leave Petraeus as a top contender, along with Tennessee Republican Sen. Bob Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Both people close to the transition said Trump's prolonged decision-making process has left the door open to other options. Among other possibilities, one official says is Jon Huntsman, a former Republican Utah governor who also served as the ambassador to China

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 18 of 31

and speaks Mandarin.

The people close to the transition spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the private process publicly.

Carson has often recounted his childhood as the son of a single mother in inner-city Detroit in his books and motivational speeches. In his 1996 autobiography "Gifted Hands," Carson wrote of the humiliation he felt using food stamps from his mom to pay for bread and milk, and said how he began to excel at school only after receiving a free pair of glasses that allowed him to see the lessons written on chalk boards.

Carson has not said whether his family ever lived in federally funded housing or received Section 8 subsidies to help pay rent. But as a political figure he has criticized such public assistance programs for creating "dependency" on the government among low-income minorities.

With the help of financial aid and scholarships, Carson attended Yale University and the University of Michigan Medical School before being the first African-American named as the head of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Children's Center in Baltimore. There he garnered national acclaim for directing the first surgery to separate twins connected at the back of the head.

Carson's rise to political prominence began with a 2013 speech at the National Prayer Breakfast, where he gave a withering critique of the modern welfare state and the nation's overall direction while President Barack Obama was seated just feet away. During the 2016 Republican presidential primary, Carson's inspirational life story, Christian faith and anti-establishment message briefly catapulted him last year ahead of Trump and other rivals in opinion polls.

But his success on the campaign trail quickly crumbled amid questions about whether elements of his rags-to-riches autobiography were exaggerated or fabricated — including a purported childhood fit of rage in which he tried to stab his best friend in the belly only to be foiled by a belt buckle. Carson's business dealings also faced scrutiny, including his ties to a wealthy Pittsburgh dentist whom he helped avoid prison time for felony health care fraud.

The Associated Press first reported last year that Carson invested millions of dollars in real estate deals with Alfonso A. Costa, whose dentistry license was revoked following a felony conviction. According to required financial disclosure forms he filed in 2015, Carson and his wife made between \$200,000 and \$2 million a year from those real estate investments. Costa also served on the board of Carson's charity, the Carson Scholars Fund, which provides college scholarships to children in need.

## Russian field hospital hit in Syria's Aleppo, nurse killed

By ALBERT AJI, Associated Press

ALEPPO, Syria (AP) — Rebel shelling of Syrian government-held part of Aleppo killed a Russian nurse in a makeshift Russian hospital in the city on Monday while the Defense Ministry in Moscow said a Russian fighter jet crashed into the Mediterranean Sea after returning from a sortie over Syria.

The developments were a blow to Russia, which has been one of the staunchest supporters of Syrian President Bashar Assad in his country's bitter civil war, now in its sixth year.

The shelling in Aleppo that killed the female nurse also wounded two Russian doctors working in the field hospital, a Russian officer in Aleppo told reporters. He spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. The hospital equipment was part of aid that Moscow had sent into the Furqan neighborhood in the government part of Aleppo the previous day.

In Moscow, the Russian Defense Ministry said a Su-33 fighter jet, based on the aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov, crashed into the Mediterranean Sea after returning from a sortie over Syria. The ministry said that "because of the failure of the arrester system's cable, the Su-33 fighter rolled off the deck" on Monday.

The pilot successfully ejected and was unharmed in the incident, the ministry said, adding that Russian military operations over Syria will not be affected by the incident.

This is the second loss of an aircraft from Russia's only aircraft carrier since it arrived off Syria last month. A MiG-29 crashed into the sea on Nov. 15 while attempting to land on the Admiral Kuznetsov.

In Aleppo, rebel shelling on the government-held part of the contested city has intensified in recent weeks as Syrian government and allied troops push their way into parts of Aleppo controlled by the opposition.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 19 of 31

In an offensive that began last week, Syrian government forces seized large swaths of the Aleppo enclave that have been under rebel control since 2012. The fighting was most intense on Monday near the dividing line between east and west Aleppo as government and allied troops pushed their way from the eastern flank, reaching within less than 1 kilometer (half a mile) from the citadel in the center of the city.

Rebel fighters clashed with advancing troops and also lobbed mortars and shells into the government-controlled part of Aleppo to the west. Syrian State TV said four civilians were killed Monday in three different neighborhoods in western Aleppo.

The opposition-run Thiqa News agency and the Syrian Civil Defense in Aleppo city said four civilians were killed in rebel-held Zabadiyeh district when barrel bombs were dropped there.

In the nearby rebel-controlled Idlib province, Syrian opposition activists said Russian and Syrian aircraft stepped up assaults, a day after air raids killed more than 60 people.

The activist-run Local Coordination Committees said airstrikes on Monday hit the towns of Binnish, Maarat Nasaan, and Saraqib, as well as the provincial capital, Idlib. The network said three children were killed, blaming the attacks on Russian aircraft.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 288 civilians have been killed in the province since Oct. 20, when Syrian government and Russian aircraft intensified airstrikes. The Syrian Civil Defense in Idlib said 65 civilians were killed in Sunday's airstrikes across the province, including attacks on two rural marketplaces that killed dozens.

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Associated Press writer Howard Amos in Moscow contributed to this report.

## **Mourning, memorials amid probe into fatal warehouse fire**

**By KRISTIN J. BENDER and BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press**

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — As investigators searched for signs of a crime in the fire that killed at least 33 in an Oakland warehouse during a late-night dance party, survivors and teary-eyed friends of those who perished viewed the charred building from a distance, placed flowers on several small memorials and embraced each other to mourn their losses.

Bouquets of sunflowers, single white roses, lilies and carnations were stuck in chain-link fences, votive candles burned on sidewalks and post-it notes paid tribute to the missing and the dead in the most lethal building fire in the U.S. in more than a decade.

Kai Thomas and a group of red-eyed classmates from an arts high school in San Francisco pressed against police tape Sunday near the street corner where the "Ghost Ship," a warehouse converted to artist studios and illegal living spaces, rapidly went up in flames late Friday, taking the life of a friend.

Three of the boys had been in the cramped and dark building, Thomas said, but one got separated from them 30 seconds before someone yelled, "Fire."

"It was just really smoky and hard to see," said Thomas, a high school junior who wasn't there, but recounted what he had been told by two others who didn't want to speak. "They jumped off the second-floor balcony and ran out."

The boys waited for their 17-year-old friend for more than three hours, but he never emerged.

They wouldn't give his name, but the victims included a 17-year-old, as well as people from Europe and Asia and some over 30, said Alameda County Sheriff's Sgt. Ray Kelly said. Officials had identified eight of the dead — at least seven of them using fingerprints, but told family members of the missing that they may need to use DNA for more difficult identifications.

"When we started this investigation, if you had told us that you would have 33 victims, we wouldn't have believed you," Kelly said. "I don't know how many people are left in there."

Lists of the missing circulated and many of those who had been unable to reach friends in the past two days had given up hope when authorities said people either escaped without injury or died inside.

Jesse James Alexander, a DJ, who wasn't at the party, showed up at the scene of the fire Sunday to remember three friends who were killed, though he didn't want to give their names.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 20 of 31

Others were still holding out hope. Yuri Kundin said outside a sheriff's office where friends and family gathered for word of their loved ones that he was hoping for good news about his friends, Alex Ghassan and Hanna Henriikka Ruax, who was from Finland.

One of the many post-it notes left on a sidewalk around the corner from the remains of the warehouse said, "Praying for you. ... Hope you're still here."

Firefighters had searched less than half the building and expected more casualties as they worked around the clock to remove debris bucket by bucket.

The district attorney's sent a team to search for signs of a crime in the warehouse that was already under investigation by the city for possible code violations. The space was only permitted as a warehouse and neighbors had complained of trash piling up and people were illegally living there.

Authorities would not answer questions about the couple that operated the Satya Yuga collective, who were identified as Derick Ion Almena and Micah Allison and were believed to have been out of the building at the time of the blaze.

The couple had a troubled relationship, said Michael Allison of Portland, Oregon, the father of Micah. He and other family members persuaded his daughter to go to a drug rehabilitation center in 2015, but Almena talked his way into the clinic and convinced Micah to leave with him, Michael Allison said.

The family's three children had lice and needed new clothes, prompting family to call child-protective services, said Michael Allison, who wept as he talked. But Almena and his partner eventually were able to win custody of the children back and cut off all communication with Michael Allison, the father said.

"Whenever I could, I would to talk to (Micah) to get away from him because I knew he was dangerous from day one," he said. "All of that has now been proven."

A man identified as Derick Ion posted a Facebook message early Saturday, saying, "Everything I worked so hard for is gone. Blessed that my children and Micah were at a hotel safe and sound." He drew rebukes online from others who said he was warned the building was unsafe.

Almena did not immediately respond to emails or phone numbers associated with him. No one answered a call to a number for Micah Allison.

The building had been carved into artist studios and visitors and former denizens said it was a cluttered death trap, piled with scrap wood, a mess of snaking electric cords and only two exits.

Almena had leased the space from its owner and then rented five recreational vehicles and other nooks on the ground floor as living spaces, said Danielle Boudreaux, a former friend of Almena and Allison. They held regular concerts and dance parties, like the one Friday, to make money, Boudreaux said.

Shelley Mack was drawn there by the promise of living among artists and paying a reasonable rent in an area where the tech boom has created a housing shortage and exorbitant leases. She after a few months two years ago when the place failed to live up to its promises.

"Some people were happy to have a roof over their head even though there was no heat or no place to eat or that it was filthy and infested," Mack said. "You just get sucked in because it seems like it's this nice place and this artistic community and they talk a good game. There are people there that wanted to be there and believed in it. And I think I did too for a little bit. And then I afterward, I was like, um no."

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Associated Press writers Ellen Knickmeyer, Olga Rodriguez, Tim Reiterman and Sudhin Thanawala in San Francisco, and Jonathan J. Cooper, Terry Chea and Janie Har in Oakland contributed to this report.

## UK Supreme Court hears landmark challenge to Brexit plans

By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Supreme Court began hearing a landmark case Monday that will decide who has the power to trigger the U.K.'s exit from the European Union — the government or Parliament.

The legal battle has major constitutional implications for the balance of power between the legislature and the executive, and has inflamed Britain's already raw wound over how and whether to leave the EU.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 21 of 31

The court's most senior justice, David Neuberger, opened the four-day hearing by condemning the "threats of serious violence and unpleasant abuse" directed at Gina Miller, one of the claimants trying to ensure Parliament gets a say.

"Threatening and abusing people because they are exercising their fundamental right to go to court undermines the rule of law," Neuberger said, banning publication of the addresses of Miller and other parties in the case.

Neuberger and 10 other justices at the country's top court must decide whether Prime Minister Theresa May's government can invoke Article 50 of the EU's key treaty, the trigger for two years of divorce talks, without the approval of lawmakers.

May plans to trigger Article 50 by the end of March, using centuries-old government powers known as royal prerogative. The powers — traditionally held by the monarch but now used by politicians — enable decisions about joining or leaving international treaties to be made without a parliamentary vote.

Financial entrepreneur Miller and another claimant, hairdresser Deir Dos Santos, went to court to argue that leaving the EU would remove some of their rights, including free movement within the bloc, and that shouldn't be done without Parliament's approval.

Last month, three High Court judges agreed. But the government says they have misinterpreted the law.

Opening the government's arguments, Attorney General Jeremy Wright said the use of prerogative powers didn't undermine Parliament, because the legislature had been in the driver's seat throughout the referendum process.

He said lawmakers had passed the European Referendum Act of 2015, laying out the rules for a referendum on EU membership, in "universal expectation ... that the government would implement its result."

Wright said the government wasn't using prerogative powers "on a whim or out of a clear blue sky" but as the result of a process in which Parliament had been "fully and consciously involved."

Though the courtroom drama is unfolding in cool legal language, it has set public passions simmering.

November's ruling infuriated pro-Brexit campaigners, who saw the lawsuit as an attempt to block or delay Britain's EU exit. The anti-EU Daily Mail newspaper labeled the justices "enemies of the people" and suggested some held pro-EU views that compromised their impartiality.

Neuberger told a courtroom packed with scores of lawyers, journalists and members of the public that all sides in the case had been asked whether they wanted any of the justices to step down. He said that "without exception," none had any objections.

Miller — who has received a torrent of online abuse for her role in the case — arrived at court with her lawyers to cheers from pro-EU campaigners dressed as judges atop an open-topped double-decker bus.

"Nigel, where are you?" they sang mockingly, in reference to former UK Independence Party leader Nigel Farage, a prominent voice in the leave campaign.

He had vowed to lead a march on the Supreme Court to demand judges respect the will of the majority. It was canceled last week after organizers said there was a risk it could be hijacked by far-right extremists.

Two anti-EU protesters held placards, one calling the case an "establishment stitch-up."

In a reflection of the constitutional importance of the case, all 11 Supreme Court judges are hearing the appeal, the first time the full court has sat since it was founded in 2009. They are likely to give their ruling in January.

Complicating the picture are new participants including politicians in Northern Ireland, who also want a say, and the Scottish government, which argues the Edinburgh-based Scottish Parliament should get a vote too. Britons voted by 52 percent to 48 percent to leave the EU, but voters in Scotland strongly backed staying in, and the Scottish government says they shouldn't be dragged out of the 28-nation bloc against their will.

Many legal experts say the government will likely lose its appeal and be forced to give Parliament a vote.

"The arguments this time round are pretty much the same as in the last case — and I suspect the outcome will be the same," said Nick Barber, associate professor of constitutional law at Oxford University.

Even if the government loses, it is unlikely to stop Britain leaving the EU. A debate in Parliament could

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 22 of 31

delay the timetable, but most lawmakers have said they won't try to overturn the referendum result.

They could, however, seek to soften the divorce terms and have a greater say in the government's negotiating strategy — something May and other ministers have been unwilling to disclose for fear of tipping their hand.

Neuberger said the judges were "aware of the strong feelings" about Britain's EU membership.

"However, as will be apparent from the arguments before us, those wider political questions are not the subject of this appeal," he said. "This appeal is concerned with legal issues; and, as judges, our duty is to consider those issues impartially, and to decide the case according to the law.

"That is what we shall do."

Follow Jill Lawless on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/JillLawless>

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

### 1. DEATH TOLL EXPECTED TO RISE IN OAKLAND WAREHOUSE FIRE

A criminal investigation is underway in the blaze that killed at least 33 during a dance party. Neighbors had complained of trash piling up and that people were illegally living there.

### 2. TRUMP TAPS FORMER CAMPAIGN RIVAL FOR CABINET POST

The president-elect chooses Ben Carson to become secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

### 3. FEDS REFUSE TO LET COMPANY EXTEND DAKOTA ACCESS OIL PIPELINE

Protesters are pledging to remain camped on federal land in North Dakota, despite a favorable government ruling and an imminent deadline to leave.

### 4. BEIJING RANKLED BY TRUMP'S TWEETS

China must decide how to handle an incoming U.S. president who relishes confrontation and whose online statements appear to foreshadow shifts in foreign policy.

### 5. HOW ITALY, EUROPE ARE REACTING TO PENDING RENZI RESIGNATION

Political and economic uncertainty follows voters' resounding rebuke of the prime minister's proposed constitutional reforms.

### 6. JILL STEIN PRESSING ON IN RECOUNT BID

The Green Party candidate plans to ask a federal court in Pennsylvania for an emergency order, while a recount is underway in Wisconsin and slated to begin in Michigan.

### 7. 'WE HAVE LOST EVERYTHING'

Hundreds of Syrians return to east Aleppo after the government advance only to see areas devastated by years of war, and homes ransacked and looted.

### 8. RECALLING THE 'DATE THAT WOULD LIVE IN INFAMY'

Those who lived through the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor reflect on how the bombing suddenly broke apart the routines of adolescence.

### 9. WHO GOT BIGGEST OVATION AT KENNEDY CENTER

None of the celebrities more than Obama, attending his eighth and most likely his last honors presentation.

### 10. WHY WASHINGTON QUESTIONED IN PLAYOFF DEBATE

The Huskies' relatively weak schedule became an argument against their inclusion in the College Football Playoff.

## Italy faces political, economic uncertainty after referendum

By COLLEEN BARRY, Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Italian voters dealt Premier Matteo Renzi a resounding rebuke by rejecting his proposed constitutional reforms, plunging Europe's fourth-largest economy into political and economic uncertainty Monday.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 23 of 31

Renzi announced he would quit following Sunday's referendum vote, in which 60 percent of voters rejected his proposals and signaled they wanted a change in political direction. Renzi, who had boldly staked his political future on winning the referendum, was expected to hand in his resignation to President Sergio Mattarella later Monday.

The unexpectedly large margin of defeat with a robust voter turnout of 68.5 percent appeared to rule out any chance that Renzi would be offered another shot at forming a government. Analysts did, however, expect Mattarella to ask Renzi to stay on long enough to pass the new budget, with a target date of Dec. 23.

The vote energized the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement and the anti-immigrant Northern League, whose leader has allied himself with far-right figures in Europe including France's Marine Pen.

While Italy's opposition parties were united in antipathy for Renzi's policies and reform course, they have little else in common and have already begun vying to position themselves for a new election, although the timing of any vote remained unclear. Analysts expect that Mattarella will appoint a transition government to draft a new election law, with speculation centering on either Renzi's finance minister, Pier Carlo Padoan, or the president of the Senate, Pietro Grasso, to lead the effort.

But that course is already facing opposition.

Northern League leader Matteo Salvini called for an immediate election this winter "because real change happens only through electoral victory."

The current election law, which Renzi wanted to reform, would hand a huge bonus of seats to the lower house while maintaining a proportional system for the upper house, raising the potential for parliamentary gridlock.

With much wrangling ahead, the risk facing Italy is "a prolonged muddle-through period, the emergence of an ineffective, patched-up coalition government in the postelection phase and continuously poor economic performance," said Wolfgang Piccoli, a political analyst at the Teneo Intelligence consultancy.

European partners sought to downplay the risk for the common euro currency and European unity.

"This is a crisis of government, not a crisis of state, and it's not the end of the West. But it's certainly not a positive contribution against the backdrop of the crisis in Europe," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said in Athens.

The EU finance commissioner, Pierre Moscovici, told reporters in Brussels that "I'm very confident in the capacity of the eurozone to resist all kind of shocks."

The main stock index in Milan was volatile. It opened down 2 percent, with many bank shares suspended due to excessive volatility, but recovered to trade down only 0.9 percent.

Investors had been anticipating Renzi's defeat for several days, and had sold off Italian stocks and bonds. Monday's sanguine market reaction can also be attributed to the fact that Italy's markets indirectly enjoy a big backstop from the European Central Bank.

The central bank for the 19-country eurozone is buying 80 billion euros (\$85 billion) every month in bonds, including government debt, across the currency bloc. It is expected on Thursday to decide to extend that program beyond its current end date of March. The bond purchases aim to boost growth and inflation but also effectively help keep low government borrowing rates. That is crucial for Italy, which has a massive public debt load of 130 percent of GDP.

Italy's 10-year bond yield was stable at 2.03 percent on Monday. That's up from 1.65 percent last month but is still very low for a highly indebted country like Italy. It's also far short of the 7 percent rate that in 2012 had created fears that Italy might default and fall out of the euro.

Still, the result cast doubts on the ability of Italy's third-largest lender and the worst performer in last summer's EU stress test, Monte Paschi di Siena, to execute a rescue plan that includes a 5 billion euro market recapitalization. Advisers are meeting to discuss the vote's impact, according to Italian media. Italy's biggest bank, UniCredit, also is to present to analysts its new business plan next week in London.

Renzi swept into power 2½ years ago on a pledge to dismantle the system, claiming the moniker of demolisher. His brash ways divided his own party, however, and his confidence was widely perceived as arrogance, even in other European capitals and especially in Brussels, where he had grown increasingly

bold in pressing for flexibility on the budget.

"I lost and the post that gets eliminated is mine," Renzi said early Monday after the polls closed. "The government's experience is over."

Frances D'Emilio in Rome, Carlo Piovano in London and Frank Jordans in Berlin contributed to this report.

## Beijing faces decision on how to respond to Trump's tweets

By NOMAAN MERCHANT, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese leaders face a challenge: How to deal with Donald Trump.

Weeks before taking office, the incoming American president is riling Beijing with confrontation and online statements that appear to foreshadow a tougher foreign policy toward China.

China awoke Monday to sharp criticism posted by Trump on Twitter, days after Beijing responded to his telephone conversation with Taiwan's president by accusing the Taiwanese of playing a "small trick" on Trump.

Trump wrote, "Did China ask us if it was OK to devalue their currency (making it hard for our companies to compete), heavily tax our products going into their country (the U.S. doesn't tax them) or to build a massive military complex in the middle of the South China Sea? I don't think so!"

That was apparently prompted by China's response to Trump's talk Friday with Tsai Ing-wen, the first time an American president or president-elect is known to have spoken to a Taiwanese leader since the U.S. broke off formal diplomatic relations in 1979.

So far, China has avoided responding with open hostility. On Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said China would have "no comment on what motivated the Trump team" to make the tweets, but said he believed both sides would continue to support a "sound and a stable bilateral relationship."

"For us, for China, we do not comment on his personality," Lu said. "We focus on his policies, especially his policies toward China."

China's reaction to Trump's call with Tsai was relatively low-key given the sensitivity China places on Taiwan.

The U.S. and Taiwan retain strong unofficial ties, and the U.S. sells weapons to the self-governing island. But American leaders have for decades avoided any official recognition in deference to China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory, to be captured by force if necessary. Trump's reference in another tweet to Tsai as "the President of Taiwan" was sure to inflame China, which considers any reference to Taiwan having a president as a grave insult.

But China only said it would make a "solemn representation" in Washington, and Lu declined to expand on that statement Monday. Instead, China seemed to offer Trump a face-saving way out of an apparent blunder by blaming the Taiwanese. English-language commentaries then appeared in two state-run newspapers known to be used by China's ruling Communist Party leadership to send messages abroad.

"Trump might be looking for some opportunities by making waves," the Global Times said in a Monday editorial headlined, "Talk to Trump, punish Tsai administration."

"However, he has zero diplomatic experience and is unaware of the repercussions of shaking up Sino-U.S. relations," the newspaper said. "It is certain that Trump doesn't want a showdown with China, because it is not his ambition, and neither was it included in his promise to the electorate. He puts out feelers to sound China out and chalk up some petty benefits."

China's response was characteristically coded. But it now faces an incoming president who deals in outspoken tweets, not communiques.

Trump used a platform banned by censors in mainland China to renew several of his criticisms during the U.S. presidential campaign. Some of his arguments aren't true.

Taiwan's official Central News Agency, citing anonymous sources on Saturday, said Edwin Feulner, founder of the Washington-based Heritage Foundation, was a "crucial figure" in setting up communication channels between the sides.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 25 of 31

Vice President-elect Mike Pence said Sunday that the phone call shouldn't necessarily be interpreted as a shift in U.S. policy. He shrugged off the attention to the incident as media hype.

"It was a courtesy call," Pence told NBC's "Meet the Press."

Ned Price, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council, said Trump's conversation does not signal any change to long-standing U.S. policy — although some in Taiwan expressed hopes for strong U.S. support from the incoming administration.

In terms of Trump's criticisms, Chinese imports are taxed at standard U.S. rates, while Washington has recently slapped painful punitive tariffs on Chinese steel, solar panels and other goods.

And while China once kept a tight grip on the value of the yuan, also known as the renminbi, it now allows it to trade within a bandwidth 2 percent above or below a daily target set by the People's Bank of China.

The yuan is currently trading at around a six-year low against the dollar. But economists now conclude that the currency is more or less properly valued in relation to the dollar and other foreign currencies. And with economic growth slowing considerably and more Chinese trying to move money out of the country, the government is now spending massively to hold up the yuan's value rather than depressing it as Trump and other critics accuse it of doing. It has also imposed strict controls on Chinese moving money out of the country.

China has built up its military and constructed man-made islands in the South China Sea, and made sweeping territorial claims over almost the entire critical waterway. Those claims were broadly rejected in June by an international tribunal in The Hague.

Shi Yinhong, a professor of international relations at People's University in Beijing, predicted China would not lash out immediately, but calibrate its response over the next several months after Trump enters the White House.

"Trump's remarks will certainly raise the concerns of Chinese leaders," Shi said. "But at the moment, they will be restrained and watch his moves closely."

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Associated Press writer Christopher Bodeen and news researcher Liu Zheng contributed to this report.

## 'We have lost everything': Syrians return to ravaged Aleppo

By **BASSEM MROUE**, Associated Press

ALEPPO, Syria (AP) — Amina Hamawy burst into tears and then fainted when she returned to eastern Aleppo to find that looters had ransacked her home. "Where am I? What happened?" she asked after her husband and daughter revived her. "We have lost everything."

They were among a few hundred residents who fled fighting in the Hanano neighborhood last month and were able to return after government forces drove out Syrian rebels, whose besieged and bombed out enclave in eastern Aleppo has begun to collapse.

After registering with authorities, Hamawy's family was driven past blackened shells of buildings and mounds of rubble, devastation wrought by more than four years of near-daily airstrikes, including explosives-filled barrels dropped from helicopters.

Their single-story home was still intact, but the television, electrical cables and a large battery that supplied power for the home had been taken, either by retreating rebels, advancing forces or thieves exploiting the chaos.

The looters left the old refrigerator and the washing machine behind. "If it had been a new, fully automatic one they would have stolen it," said Hamid Malaji, Hamawy's husband. "The work of decades disappeared in a few hours."

It could be much worse. His family survived and was able to flee when government forces moved in. And their gray and white cat emerged when they returned, meowing from hunger but otherwise unharmed.

Few residents of eastern Aleppo have been as fortunate. The city became the epicenter of Syria's civil war when the rebels captured the eastern districts, starting with Hanano, in the summer of 2012.

The city has been fiercely contested since then, and earlier this year government forces fully besieged rebel-held eastern Aleppo, where nearly every hospital has been destroyed, and so many people have

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 26 of 31

been killed that there are few places left to bury them.

The rebels are finally buckling under the pressure. They have been retreating for more than a week, and while a prolonged battle is expected in the narrow streets of Aleppo's Old City, government forces are likely to prevail.

The loss of eastern Aleppo would mark the greatest victory for President Bashar Assad's forces and his Russian and Iranian allies since the conflict began in 2011 with peaceful protests against his family's four-decade rule.

More than 30,000 people have fled Aleppo since the latest government offensive began last month, joining the more than 10 million Syrians — nearly half the population — who have fled their homes since the conflict began.

Abdul-Ghani Kassab, a senior official in the Aleppo governorate, said 750 families have returned to Hanano, which was home to tens of thousands before the conflict began. He said 40 percent of the buildings will have to be demolished because they cannot be renovated.

The Syrian government and humanitarian agencies are providing aid to those who have returned, meeting them as they disembark from green government buses.

On Sunday, volunteers with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent distributed mattresses, blankets, food baskets and diapers. They also handed out large sheets of plastic that could be used to cover smashed windows or doors. Doctors standing outside ambulances diagnosed patients and prescribed medicine or vitamins.

One woman arrived with her husband, who was ill and could barely walk. He was forced to leave eastern Aleppo yet again, this time rushed away in an ambulance to a hospital in the government-held west.

## **Carter confident his successor will be ready to take command**

**By ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer**

TOKYO (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said Monday he believes his designated successor, if confirmed by the Senate as expected, will be a quick study regarding the responsibilities of the office.

Carter declined to offer his view of whether President-elect Donald Trump's choice of retired Marine Gen. James Mattis undermines the principle of civilian control of the military.

Because Mattis has been out of uniform for fewer than seven years, which is the minimum required by law, his nomination will require new legislation to override the prohibition. Mattis, 66, retired in 2013 as a four-star general. He is a combat veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and is a former head of U.S. Central Command.

In an interview with reporters flying with him to Tokyo, Carter declined to comment directly on questions about preserving the principle of civilian control of the military. Mattis would be the first retired military general to serve as defense secretary since George Marshall in 1950-51.

"I think that will be taken into account by the Congress," Carter said, adding that "they (the Congress) have made provision that this is possible, in the law, expecting that on occasion this may be a president's choice, and also an appropriate choice, as seen by Congress."

In fact it will take a separate act of Congress to make an exception allowing Mattis to serve as defense secretary.

Carter offered strong praise for Mattis.

"He's an extremely capable person," Carter said. "I've known him literally for decades."

"Not only am I committed to helping him to hit the ground running, but it will be an easy thing to do because I know him well enough, I'll help him every way I can."

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 27 of 31

## **BOWL STORIES: Finales, contrasts in style, coaching carousel**

By **RALPH D. RUSSO, AP College Football Writer**

The Alabama invitational, um, College Football Playoff is set, along with 38 other bowl games big and small.

From coaching intrigue to record-setting runs there should be plenty of story lines to follow.

### THE PLAYOFF

Top-ranked Alabama and Nick Saban are attempting to win an unprecedented fifth national title in eight seasons, including back-to-back for a second time, and add to what can already be considered the greatest run in the history of college football.

The Peach Bowl semifinal between the Tide and No. 4 Washington it will also be the first meeting of Saban and Washington coach Chris Petersen, who has an .826 winning percentage since he first became a head coach with Boise State in 2006.

Petersen's Boise teams were known for upsets. Alabama is a two-touchdown favorite.

The Fiesta Bowl semifinal between No. 2 Clemson and No. 3 Ohio State is a rematch of the 2014 Orange Bowl won by Clemson 40-35. That game completed a late-season meltdown of Ohio State's defense that led coach Urban Meyer to make staff and scheme changes that have helped the Buckeyes have one of the top defenses in the country three years running.

### RUSHING TOWARD A RECORD

San Diego State's Donnel Pumphrey needs 108 yards in his final college game against Houston in the Las Vegas Bowl on Dec. 17 to break the FBS career record held by former Wisconsin star and Heisman winner Ron Dayne.

The Cougars, led by star freshman defensive lineman Ed Oliver, have one of the best run defenses in the country, allowing 97 yards per game and 2.87 per carry.

Pumphrey is the nation's second-leading rusher at 155 yards per game.

### COACHING CAROUSEL

Houston will go into its bowl game with an interim coach after Tom Herman left for Texas and a few other schools could be in similar situations.

— No. 12 Western Michigan is on its way to the biggest bowl game in school history, a matchup with No. 8 Wisconsin in the Cotton Bowl, but coach P.J. Fleck has been the subject of much speculation with regards to openings at Purdue and Oregon.

— Western Kentucky coach Jeff Brohm has been tied to Purdue and Baylor openings. The Hilltoppers, who have won two straight Conference USA titles, face Memphis on Dec. 20 in the Boca Raton Bowl.

— Boise State and Baylor meet Dec. 27 at Cactus Bowl in Phoenix. It will be the last game for Jim Grobe, Baylor's acting head coach who took over on short notice after Art Briles was fired in the summer.

Broncos coach Bryan Harsin is being mentioned as candidate for Oregon.

### STYLE CLASH

The best bowls are often the ones between teams that take very different approaches to offense.

— Navy will bring its triple-option (averaging 327 yards rushing per game) to the Armed Forces Bowl to face Louisiana Tech, which averages 360 yards passing per game behind quarterback Ryan Higgins.

— Minnesota faces Washington State in the Holiday Bowl on Dec. 27, but only the Cougars have the pedigree to live up to the bowl's high-scoring tradition. Minnesota has thrown eight touchdown passes, tied for 124th in the nation. The Cougars have 39 touchdown passes.

— North Carolina's up-tempo offense matches Stanford's plodding, traditional pro-style in the Sun Bowl on Dec. 30.

### IN NEED OF A STRONG FINISH

The Music City Bowl in Nashville was definitely not what Tennessee (8-4) and coach Butch Jones had in mind this season after the Volunteers beat Florida in September. But here the Vols are facing No. 24 Nebraska (9-3).

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 28 of 31

Not only did the Vols blow a chance to win the SEC East by losing to South Carolina, but they blew a chance to back into the Sugar Bowl by losing to Vanderbilt.

On the other side, No. 24 Nebraska's second season under coach Mike Riley was a huge step forward from five wins to nine. But the Cornhuskers were a top-10 team in late October and their best victory of the season was against Minnesota. Getting to 10 wins against a big brand like Tennessee would make a huge difference to how this season is viewed.

## FINALES

A great group of junior running backs could all be playing their final college games.

— Christian McCaffrey at Stanford should find some room to run against a North Carolina defense that had trouble stopping teams on the ground late in the season.

— No. 19 LSU's Leonard Fournette faces No. 15 Louisville in the Citrus Bowl on Dec. 31. Fournette has been hampered by an ankle injury but it would be nice to get one more look at him running for the Tigers.

And, oh by the way, the Heisman Trophy winner might be on the other side of the field. Cardinal quarterback Lamar Jackson is still the front-runner and would be the first Heisman winner since Johnny Manziel in 2012 to not play in either the playoff or the BCS championship.

— No. 10 Florida State against No. 6 Michigan in the Orange Bowl is one of the best bowls outside the playoff and a big part of that is Seminoles star Dalvin Cook.

— Pitt's James Conner has been one of the best stories in college football, returning from cancer treatment to run for 1,060 yards and score 20 touchdowns. He and the 22nd-ranked Panthers face Northwestern in the Pinstripe Bowl at Yankee Stadium on Dec. 28.

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More AP college football: [www.collegefootball.ap.org](http://www.collegefootball.ap.org)

## Judge orders Michigan recount to begin at noon Monday

DETROIT (AP) — Michigan must begin its presidential recount at noon Monday, a federal judge ruled in a late-night order that could make it more likely the state will complete the count ahead of a Dec. 13 deadline.

In his ruling early Monday morning, Judge Mark Goldsmith rejected an effort by state officials to delay the hand-counting of about 4.8 million ballots.

Green Party presidential nominee Jill Stein argued that a law is unconstitutional that requires a break of at least two business days after the Board of Canvassers' final action on a recount request. Goldsmith found that Stein had "shown the likelihood of irreparable harm" if the count was delayed even by two days and rejected the state's arguments about the cost to taxpayers.

Republican Donald Trump defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton by 10,704 votes, or two-tenths of a percentage point, in Michigan. Stein received about 1 percent of the vote.

Republican Attorney General Bill Schuette, the Trump campaign and super PACs have filed separate lawsuits asking state courts to prevent the recount, arguing that Stein, as the fourth-place finisher, is not "aggrieved" because she has no chance of winning in a recount.

The Green Party also wants recounts in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Stein has argued, without evidence, that irregularities in the votes in all three states suggest that there could have been tampering with the vote, perhaps through a well-coordinated, highly complex cyberattack.

Elections officials in the three states, all narrowly won by Trump, have expressed confidence in their results. Even if all three recounts happen, none were expected to give Clinton enough votes to emerge as the winner.

## Obamas celebrated at their last Kennedy Center Honors

By BEN NUCKOLS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The longest, loudest standing ovation of the Kennedy Center Honors gala wasn't reserved for Al Pacino, Mavis Staples or the Eagles. Instead, it went to the man sitting to their left, attending his eighth and most likely his last honors presentation: President Barack Obama.

While politics were absent from the tributes to the performers who were recognized for influencing American culture on Sunday night, the arts community's affection for Obama — and its nervousness about President-elect Donald Trump — was palpable in the Kennedy Center Opera House.

The president and first lady Michelle Obama were introduced last, after Pacino and his fellow honorees: gospel singer Staples; pianist Martha Argerich; singer-songwriter James Taylor; and Don Henley, Timothy B. Schmidt and Joe Walsh, the surviving members of the Eagles.

After a sustained ovation, host Stephen Colbert greeted the crowd of Washington insiders as "endangered swamp-dwellers," referencing Trump's "drain the swamp" campaign pledge. He joked that Obama would need to receive the honor to attend again and that "unlike the Nobel Peace Prize, they don't just give these away."

The Kennedy Center Honors are in their 39th year, a period that has included six presidents — three Republicans, three Democrats — and all have taken time to welcome the recipients. But the 2016 election was noteworthy for the way A-list performers lined up behind Obama and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, while Trump had relatively few celebrity endorsements.

Although the president has no say in who receives the awards, Colbert joked that next year's honorees would include Scott Baio, Gary Busey and Meat Loaf.

"For the past eight years, the White House has given us a leader who's passionate, intelligent and dignified," Colbert said, and the crowd rose for another prolonged ovation, prompting Obama to stand and wave.

"Sir, I don't even know why you stood up. I was talking about Michelle," Colbert said.

Earlier, at the White House, Obama welcomed the honorees at a reception and said participating in the gala was "one of the perks of the job."

"The arts have always been part of life at the White House because the arts are always central to American life," Obama said. "That's why over the past eight years Michelle and I have invited some of the best writers, musicians, actors and dancers to share their gifts with the American people and to help tell the story of who we are."

Kennedy Center chairman David Rubenstein also thanked the Obamas, noting that the president isn't required to attend the honors or host a reception. He offered them a "golden ticket" good for free admission to any event at the center.

"Parking is extra," Rubenstein said.

Another standing ovation went to Bill Clinton, who made a surprise appearance on stage to talk about how Taylor's music resonated with him and the American public in times that tested the nation's resolve.

"Our nation was reeling from the pain of Vietnam," Clinton said. "James was there to satisfy our hunger for both intimacy and authenticity."

Politics aside, the honors proceeded as usual, with musicians and actors taking the stage to pay tribute to the honorees, who stood on a balcony, waving and applauding as they wore the event's signature rainbow-colored garlands. The ceremony will be broadcast Dec. 27 on CBS.

The tribute to Pacino included remarks by Sean Penn and recitations of Shakespeare by Laurence Fishburne and Lily Rabe. Chris O'Donnell and Gabrielle Anwar re-enacted the tango that Pacino danced with Anwar in "Scent of a Woman," the 1992 movie that won Pacino his long-overdue Oscar.

Kevin Spacey gave a virtuoso tutorial on how to impersonate the actor whose passionate delivery has helped create some of the most memorable lines in American cinema. The keys are to look surprised and exhale loudly, Spacey said.

"Al seems to have a lot of air," he said.

Garth Brooks, Sheryl Crow and Darius Rucker performed medleys of Taylor's music. Yitzhak Perlman

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 30 of 31

played violin and Yuja Wang played piano to honor the Argentine-born Argerich.

Staples' songs were performed by Elle King, Bonnie Raitt and Andra Day, and actor Don Cheadle spoke about the civil rights legacy of Staples and her family, who were close to Martin Luther King Jr. and performed at John F. Kennedy's inauguration.

"She's still fighting. She's still singing freedom songs," Cheadle said.

The Eagles were originally selected to be honored last year, but the band opted to delay participation because of founding member Glenn Frey's poor health. Frey died in January at age 67, making the event a bittersweet one for the surviving Eagles, who were joined by Frey's widow, Cindy Frey. Henley has said the band will never perform again. Bob Seger, Vince Gill and Kings of Leon performed the Eagles' music on Sunday.

"I want to dedicate this evening to our brother Glenn," Henley said as the band accepted its honors Saturday night at the State Department. "He was so much a part of our success. He was the driving force in this band. He believed in the American dream."

The band's longtime manager, Irving Azoff, sobbed as he raised a glass to Frey.

"For our Eagles family," he said, "2016 couldn't have had a harder beginning or a more appropriate ending."

Associated Press writer Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Dec. 5, the 340th day of 2016. There are 26 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 5, 1791, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died in Vienna, Austria, at age 35.

On this date:

In 1782, the eighth president of the United States, Martin Van Buren, was born in Kinderhook, New York; he was the first chief executive to be born after American independence.

In 1831, former President John Quincy Adams took his seat as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1916, British Prime Minister Herbert H. Asquith resigned (he was succeeded by David Lloyd George).

In 1933, national Prohibition came to an end as Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, repealing the 18th Amendment.

In 1945, five U.S. Navy torpedo bombers mysteriously disappeared after taking off from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on a training mission with the loss of all 14 crew members; "The Lost Squadron" contributed to the legend of the Bermuda Triangle.

In 1955, the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations merged to form the AFL-CIO under its first president, George Meany.

In 1962, the United States and the Soviet Union announced a bilateral space agreement on exchanging weather data from satellites, mapping Earth's geomagnetic field and cooperating in the experimental relay of communications.

In 1979, feminist Sonia Johnson was formally excommunicated by the Mormon Church because of her outspoken support for the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

In 1988, a federal grand jury in North Carolina indicted PTL founder Jim Bakker and former aide Richard Dortch on fraud and conspiracy charges. (Bakker was convicted on all counts; Dortch pleaded guilty to four counts and cooperated with prosecutors in exchange for a lighter sentence. Bakker was initially sentenced to 45 years in prison; the term was eventually reduced to eight years, and he served a total of about five.)

In 1991, Richard Speck, who'd murdered eight student nurses in Chicago in 1966, died in prison a day short of his 50th birthday.

In 1994, Republicans chose Newt Gingrich to be the first GOP speaker of the House in four decades.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 154 ~ 31 of 31**

In 2013, Nelson Mandela, the anti-apartheid leader who became South Africa's first black president, died at age 95.

Ten years ago: Robert Gates won speedy and unanimous approval from the Senate Armed Services Committee to be secretary of defense. New York became the first city in the nation to ban artery-clogging trans fats at restaurants.

Five years ago: The cash-strapped U.S. Postal Service announced \$3 billion in reductions, with cuts to first-class mail service by the spring of 2012 and elimination of more than 250 processing centers. Former Chicago Cubs third baseman Ron Santo was posthumously elected to the baseball Hall of Fame by the Veterans Committee. The NHL opted for a bold realignment plan giving the league four conferences instead of six divisions and guaranteeing home-and-home series among all teams. (The reshuffling was made necessary by Atlanta's move to Winnipeg.)

One year ago: In the wake of a commando-style shooting rampage by a Muslim extremist couple in Southern California that left 14 people dead, The New York Times called for more gun regulation in its first Page 1 editorial in 95 years; Liberty University President Jerry Falwell Jr. urged students, staff and faculty at his Christian school to get a permit to carry a concealed weapon on campus to counter any copycat attack. A rare pressing of the Beatles' White Album from Ringo Starr's record collection sold at auction in New York for \$790,000.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Little Richard is 84. Author Joan Didion is 82. Author Calvin Trillin is 81. Actor Jeroen Krabbe (yeh-ROHN' krah-BAY') is 72. Opera singer Jose Carreras is 70. Pop singer Jim Messina is 69. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL quarterback Jim Plunkett is 69. World Golf Hall of Famer Lanny Wadkins is 67. Actress Morgan Brittany is 65. Actor Brian Backer is 60. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Art Monk is 59. Country singer Ty England is 53. Rock singer-musician John Rzeznik (REZ'-nihk) (The Goo Goo Dolls) is 51. Country singer Gary Allan is 49. Comedian-actress Margaret Cho is 48. Writer-director Morgan J. Freeman is 47. Actress Alex Kapp Horner is 47. Rock musician Regina Zernay (Cowboy Mouth) is 44. Actress Paula Patton is 41. Actress Amy Acker is 40. Actor Nick Stahl is 37. Actor Adan Canto (TV: "Designated Survivor") is 35. Rhythm-and-blues singer Keri Hilson is 34. Actor Gabriel Luna is 34. Actor Frankie Muniz is 31. Actor Ross Bagley is 28.

Thought for Today: "As a rule, there is no surer way to the dislike of men than to behave well where they have behaved badly." — Lew Wallace, American author (1827-1905).