

# Groton Daily Independent

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**Missing North of Groton, a black 600 lb. Heifer Calf. Yellow Ear Tag #955. If found or seen, call 605/290-1019.**

## 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 **Closed**

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## Tuesday, Dec. 13

**Senior Menu:** Lemon baked fish, rice blend, California blend veggies, peaches, whole wheat bread.

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

**School Lunch:** Chili, corn bread, broccoli and dip, fruit.

Debate at Watertown High School

10 a.m.: United Methodist Bible Study

6:30 p.m.: Boys Basketball at Tulare

7 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Council

7 p.m.: United Methodist Evening Bible Study

## Wednesday, Dec. 14

**Senior Menu:** Goulash, peas, apple crisp, whole wheat bread.

**School Breakfast:** Cheese omelette, muffin, fruit, juice, milk.

**School Lunch:** Hot dogs, baked beans, romaine salad, fruit.

3:30 p.m.: United Methodist Sunday School Christmas Program practice

3:45 p.m.: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation

6 p.m.: United Methodist Confirmation

6:30 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran League

7 p.m.: St. John's Lutheran Advent Service

7 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

7:30 p.m.: United Methodist Evening Bible Study with Pastor Thomas

## Thursday, Dec. 15

**Senior Menu:** Christmas dinner: Ham with raisin sauce, baked sweet potatoes, Malibu blend vegetables, Christmas cookie, dinner roll.

**School Breakfast:** Mini pancakes, fruit, juice,



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**GROTON**  
Ford  
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## Lots of perfect attendance at elementary school

Groton Ford and S & S Lumber teamed together to offer to buy a bicycle for all students who have missed 4 or less periods. Elementary Principal Brett Schwan reported that so far, there are 104 students who would qualify for a bicycle. Of course, it's only nearing midterm, but Schwan said that number is higher than normal.

Merle Harder questioned why tires were purchased out of town when tires are available in town. "I know they might have saved a little money, but we should buy in town," Harder said.

There were updates on the elementary construction project and the middle/high school proposed project.

Some of the concerns for the middle/high school project were discussed. The most favorable was to keep the 1957 and 1979 additions and to remove the 1934 addition. A plan will also be put into place for the placement of the school class pictures that are currently hanging in the 1934 addition. Roger Rix was at the meeting he asked about space for band and vocal practices which has not been addressed. There will be more discussion on the middle/high school project. Make sure you watch the first part of the school board story at GDILIVE.COM where detailed reports were made on both projects.

Superintendent Joe Schwan reported on the Average Daily Membership. The combined 9-11 ADM was 117.143 which would qualify Groton Area for Class B golf; however, the request will be made to keep Groton Class A as Class A golf is in the fall and Class B golf is in the spring. In addition, the ADM male count is 51 with the cutoff off at 56 for Class 9AA football. The administration recommended that Groton Area remain Class 11B because in the next cycle, the enrollment would push Groton Area back to Class 11B. Board member Deb Gengerke questioned the safety of the players. There will be more discussion on this at the next school board meeting.

The Associated School Board Protective Trust, which is where the school district gets health insurance for its faculty members, has undercharged its premiums for 20 years. As a result, the trust has incurred a large debt. The trust reorganized its debt and assessed it back to the school districts based on the number of health care plans at the end of FY2015. Groton's share of this debt is \$307,000. The board decided to pay for this debt over four years at an interest rate of 1.5 percent.

There was a request for the district to sponsor a Trapshooting Club. Bowdle, Miller and Platte-Geddes are currently participating.

The boilers in the Arena have been fixed. The burners were worn out. A new burner was installed in one of the boiler and the parts from the two boilers were put together to fix the second boiler. The repair cost was \$7,500. The replace both boilers would have been \$40,000.

Becca Tullar from the Brown County 4-H extension office came to Groton for four days last week. She had a presentation on robotics to the fifth graders.

Mary Locken from the Dacotah Prairie Museum will come to the elementary school once a month to offer a class to the junior kindergarten students.

Groton Area's oral interp team earned a team excellence award at the state level. Middle/High School Principal Dr. Anna Schwan reported that Groton's Oral Interp team has done very well this year. Groton picked up three superior ratings at state and Schwan said, "They don't hand out very many superior ratings at state." Keri Pappas got a composite superior in non original oratory and Thane Henschel received a composite superior in poetry. Erin Smith and Jenifer Fjelstad received a duo superior and two excellent ratings.

Dr. Schwan reported that the Parent Advisory Council meal was held December 9 and they sold out. Much of the proceeds will go to the junior class prom. The after-prom will be "Glow Bowling" at the bowling alley in Aberdeen.

Dr. Anna Schwan has been chosen as the Region 4 Principal of the Year once again. She will be making a presentation on motivation at the annual principal's conference in April.

## Remington, Geary married

Hannah Remington, daughter of Larry and Glenna (Geary) Remington of Groton and granddaughter of the late Dolores Geary, Conde, was married to Simon Vale of Palmerston North, New Zealand, Sept. 10, 2016. Hannah and Simon were married in an outdoor ceremony at Chapel Hills Rapid City, SD and their reception was at Canyon Lake Park. As part of the wedding were some family, bridesmaids- Christy Remington and Jessica Remington, sister in laws of Hannah, and all of the grandchildren, Wyatt and Maela Remington, children of Philip and Jessica Remington from Hutchinson, Mn. and Jemma and Jaxon Remington, children of Ryan and Christy Remington of Rapid City. Hannah and Simon are making their home in Palmerston North, New Zealand. Simon just completed his Doctorate in Geography in Sept. and is currently working as a geomorphology and earth scientist in a government environmental research organization at Massey University in New Zealand. Hannah and Simon Vale also had a wedding reception in New Zealand after their honeymoon.



## 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  
Olde Bank Floral 'N More  
and Subway

Week of Dec. 19: Lori's Pharmacy and Groton Ford

## Marzahn chosen as DAR Good Citizen Award



**Landon Marzahn**

Landon Marzahn, a Groton High School senior, has been chosen as the Groton DAR Good Citizen. The Groton faculty and the senior class selected him for this award.

The student selected as the school's DAR Good Citizen must show leadership and patriotism in home, school, and community to an outstanding degree. Landon competed in the DAR Good Citizen Scholarship Contest by completing an application and writing an essay. The DAR Good Citizen candidate from each school competes in a state-wide competition. State winners will compete in geographical and national competitions for scholarships ranging up to \$2000.

Landon Marzahn has been involved in both the golf and robotics programs at Groton High School. He has been chosen for many awards including National Honors Society, Student of the Month, Most Improved in Golf, 2016 Medalist Golf Award, and the 2015 Excellence Award at the State Robotics Tournament. Landon volunteers his time through his 4-H club, the Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H Club, and through programs at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Landon plans to attend the SD School of Mines and Technology and to major in mechanical engineering. He is the son of Wade and Renee Marzahn of Groton.

### Groton Lions Club

The Groton Lions Club had Christmas dinner, before their monthly meeting, Dec. 8. Dave Pigors, president; led the short business session. Five members have resigned their membership. Dave has received his 30 year Chevron, for 30 years of continuous membership in the Groton Club. Reports were given by Lee Scjinkel, Snow Queen and talent contest; Topper Tastad, wheel of Meat at the Legion, and five eyeglasses requests.

The club voted to provide eyeglasses to two children' and to hold the Easter egg hunt in the park again, next April.

A discussion was held on a possible car show again this summer.

Karen Babcock and Lee served dessert after the meeting.

## Marzahn and Smith nominated for Wendy's High School Heisman



**Landon Marzahn and Erin Smith**

Erin Smith and Landon Marzahn, both seniors at Groton High School, were nominated for the annual Wendy's High School Heisman Award and were named school winners. The national awards program, created by Wendy's, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and the Downtown Athletic Club in New York City, recognizes academic achievement, community service and athletic accomplishments.

Erin Smith has been involved in many activities while at Groton High School including cross country, show choir, oral interpretation, the all-school play and the fellowship of Christian Athletes. She has won been chosen for many awards including the Principal's Honor Roll, National Honor Society, Student of the Month, superior awards at music contest and superior plus at oral interpretation contests. Erin volunteers her time as a Sunday school teacher, with the Adopt-A-Grandparent program, as a Discipleship camp counselor, as a piano accompanist, and with Totus Tuus. Erin plans to major in English and secondary education. She is the daughter of Steve and Carol Smith of Groton.

Landon Marzahn has been involved in both the golf and robotics programs at Groton High School. He has been chosen for many awards including National Honors Society, Student of the Month, Most Improved in Golf, 2016 Medalist Golf Award, and the 2015 Excellence Award at the State Robotics Tournament. Landon volunteers his time through his 4-H club, the Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H Club, and through programs at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Landon plans to attend the SD School of Mines and Technology and to major in mechanical engineering. He is the son of Wade and Renee Marzahn of Groton.

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## Deep Thoughts

Notes from the underground by Communications Director Constance Walter

Monday, December 12, 2016

# Pushing the scientific limits

When we think of NASA, we think about space exploration and, quite often, the search for extraterrestrial life. But researchers with the NASA Astrobiology Institute (NAI) Life Underground Project are more concerned with exploring subterrrestrial life: the communities of microorganisms that thrive deep below the surface, in the water within rock.

Brittany Kruger, a staff scientist with the Desert Research Institute, is the field manager for the Deep Mine Microbial Observatory (DeMMO) at SURF, established by the NAI group. Along with others from the NAI, she monitors six stations located on four levels at Sanford Lab—two each on the 800 and 4850 levels and one each on the 2000 and 4100 levels. Each hole is outfitted with a different system that isolates the water coming from rock fractures from the mine atmosphere.

“We’re trying to better understand the interaction between subsurface microbial communities and their native environment. We’re asking questions about whether certain microbial groups are associated with certain geologic mineral types, and how the geochemistry of the waters affect microbial community composition,” said Kruger, who is part of the NAI Life Underground research collaboration.

Last Friday, Kruger and Annie Rowe, a post-doc at the University of Southern California, traveled to the far reaches of the 4100 Level to check on an OsmoPump-controlled colonization experiment, a setup that collects fluid from an old mining drill hole into three columns. Different substrates, or nutrients, are slowly added to the columns to feed the microbes, encouraging them to grow.

“We want to mimic the environment of the rock fracture in which these

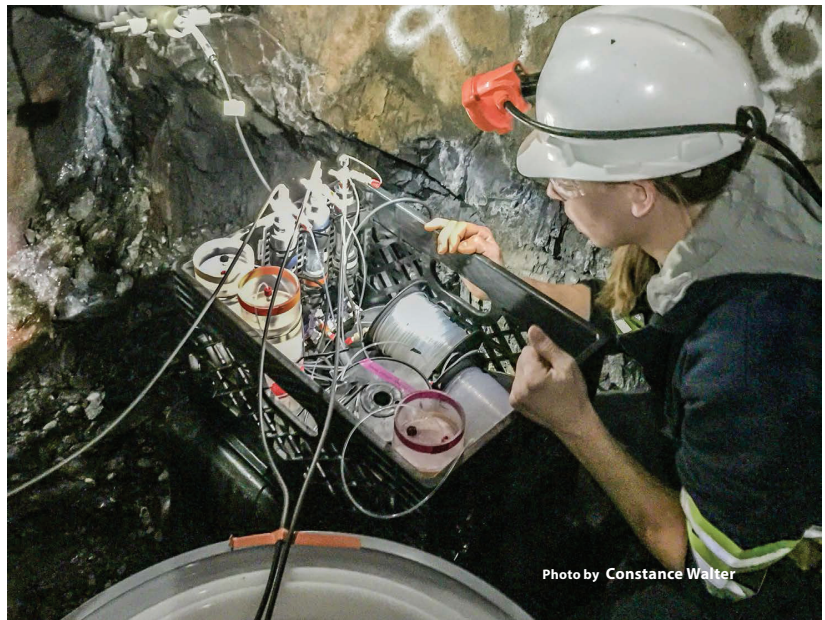


Photo by Constance Walter

*Brittany Kruger is equilibrating an OsmoPump station on the 4100 Level.*

microbes live naturally,” Kruger said. “We can then see how the colonies shift, or evolve, depending on which substrates they are fed.”

The NAI also wants to learn more about how these life forms use energy to perform metabolisms they need to survive.

“Most of the life we know and understand depends on sunlight through photosynthesis,” Rowe said. “We’re looking at life-giving processes that don’t rely on the sun.” That’s where electrochemistry comes in.

“When we breathe, we metabolize oxygen by depositing electrons on the oxygen. That’s how we live,” Kruger said. “But most of the microbes who live in this water use other minerals or metals for the same process, not oxygen.” Because those minerals and metals are often in solid form, the microbes often need to contact these surfaces in order to use them for

metabolism.

Rowe hopes to set up a bioreactor that would use electrodes instead of minerals to “feed” microbes. “We hope this will attract microbes and allow them to grow in a controlled environment. Then we can figure out who they are,” Rowe said.

Although there are other groups looking for life underground, Kruger said the three-dimensional DeMMO is a novel experiment because it uses cutting-edge technology and experiments that haven’t been deployed in any other subsurface environments.

As the experiment progresses, it is becoming more sophisticated, Kruger said. “We’re pushing the scientific limits in the study of life underground, and using what we learn to understand how life might be functioning in other parts of the solar system. It’s very exciting.”

## Fueling the growth of the arts in South Dakota

By Jim Speirs, Executive Director, Arts South Dakota

During the past 50 years, South Dakota residents have been active partners with the South Dakota Arts Council in strengthening our state's creative diversity through membership in the arts advocacy organization. Organized to fuel the growth of the arts through citizen participation, Arts South Dakota is giving YOU a voice in our cultural future.

This year was a busy one for Arts South Dakota. Nearly one hundred art instructors from across South Dakota attended the summer Arts Education Institute, returning to their classrooms with renewed creative passion and ideas to share with their students. The weekly Arts Events Email includes fantastic opportunities to experience local and international arts events throughout the state. Arts South Dakota members share in the celebration of South Dakota's creative culture three times a year in the only statewide arts-focused publication, Arts Alive.

Throughout this past summer and fall, Arts South Dakota and the South Dakota Arts Council have jointly visited many of you in your hometowns. Arts Council Executive Director Patrick Baker and I have been warmly welcomed and experienced shining examples of the power of the arts to bring us together, to link cultures and to share common experiences. Connecting with you on a personal level is what Arts South Dakota is all about.

In 2017, Arts South Dakota will host the Governor's Awards in the Arts. Join us in Pierre on February 15 to honor individuals and organizations for creative achievement, outstanding service to arts education and exemplary support of the arts. Also awarded at the Governor's Awards is the Living Indian Treasure Award, created to continue the Native American tradition of honoring elders. Arts South Dakota is also celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the South Dakota Arts Council with an anniversary edition of Arts Alive, along with a special 50th anniversary video posted to our website.

You can be part of all this creative excitement by becoming a member of Arts South Dakota. You create, you volunteer, you attend and you support. YOU are the reason the arts happen in our communities. Learn more about becoming a member or join us online at [www.ArtsSouthDakota.org](http://www.ArtsSouthDakota.org).



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## Today in Weather History

December 13, 2008: An intense low-pressure area moved out of the Rockies and across the Central Plains bringing widespread snow, blizzard conditions, and extreme winds chills to central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota into the early morning hours of the 15th. Snowfall amounts of 1 to as much as 12 inches along with winds gusting to 50 mph caused widespread near zero visibilities and dangerous travel conditions. Winds chills fell into the 35 below to 45 below zero range. Many vehicles became stuck or stranded along several highways and along Interstates 29 and 90. Interstate 90 was closed from the Wyoming line to Murdo from late on the 13th until the morning of the 14th. Interstate 29 was also closed for much of the 14th. The Onida, Agar, and Gettysburg Volunteer Fire Department found it difficult to respond to a structure fire south of Gettysburg. Due to whiteout conditions, the structure was lost to the fire by the time the fire departments arrived. Most area schools were closed on Monday due to the road conditions along with the bitter cold wind chills. Some of the heaviest snowfall amounts included: 6 inches at Watertown, Browns Valley, Sisseton, Waubay, and Castlewood; 7 inches at Ortonville, Webster, Clear Lake, Faulkton, and Aberdeen; 8 inches at Milbank, 9 inches at Britton and Wheaton; 10 inches at Clear Lake, and 12 inches at Roscoe. Mobridge received 2 inches and Pierre received 4 inches of snowfall with this storm

December 13, 1997: A freak cold snap and snowstorm struck parts of northern Mexico left 12 people dead, and the area paralyzed. It snowed in the city of Guadalajara for the first time since 1881, leaving amazed residents to gawk at the white stuff and make snowmen. The temperature plunged to 5 degrees in Chihuahua.

1915 - A heavy snowstorm kicked off the snowiest winter in modern records for western New England. (The Weather Channel)

1962 - A severe Florida freeze occurred. Morning lows reached 35 degrees at Miami, 18 degrees at Tampa, and 12 degrees at Jacksonville. It was the coldest December weather of the 20th century and caused millions of dollars damage to crops and foliage. In Georgia, the morning low of 9 degrees below zero at Blairsville established a state record for the month of December. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A major winter storm produced high winds and heavy snow in the Southern Rockies and the Southern High Plains. Snowfall totals in New Mexico ranged up to 25 inches at Cedar Crest, with up to three feet of snow reported in the higher elevations. Winds of 75 mph, with gusts to 124 mph, were reported northeast of Albuquerque NM. El Paso TX was buried under 22.4 inches of snow, including a single storm record of 16.8 inches in 24 hours. The snowfall total surpassed their previous record for an entire winter season of 18.4 inches. Record cold was experienced the next three nights as readings dipped into the single numbers. High winds ushering unseasonably cold air into the southwestern U.S. gusted to 100 mph at Grapevine CA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Low pressure off the Atlantic coast produced up to a foot of snow in eastern Nassau County and western Suffolk County of southeastern New York State. Mild weather prevailed across the western half of the country. Nine cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Goodland KS with a reading of 74 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1989 - Strong northwesterly winds, ushering bitterly cold arctic air into the central U.S., produced squalls with heavy snow in the Great Lakes Region. Snowfall totals in Upper Michigan ranged up to 24 inches at Manistique. Nine cities in Arkansas and Texas reported record low temperatures for the date, including Calico Rock AR with a reading of 4 degrees above zero. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2002 - A powerful Pacific storm system plowed into the western United States during the 13th-16th, producing high winds, heavy rains, significant mountain snowfall and causing 9 deaths (Associated Press). Rainfall amounts exceeding 10 inches occurred in parts of California, and wind gusts over 45 mph produced up to 1.9 million power outages during the period (Pacific Gas & Electric).

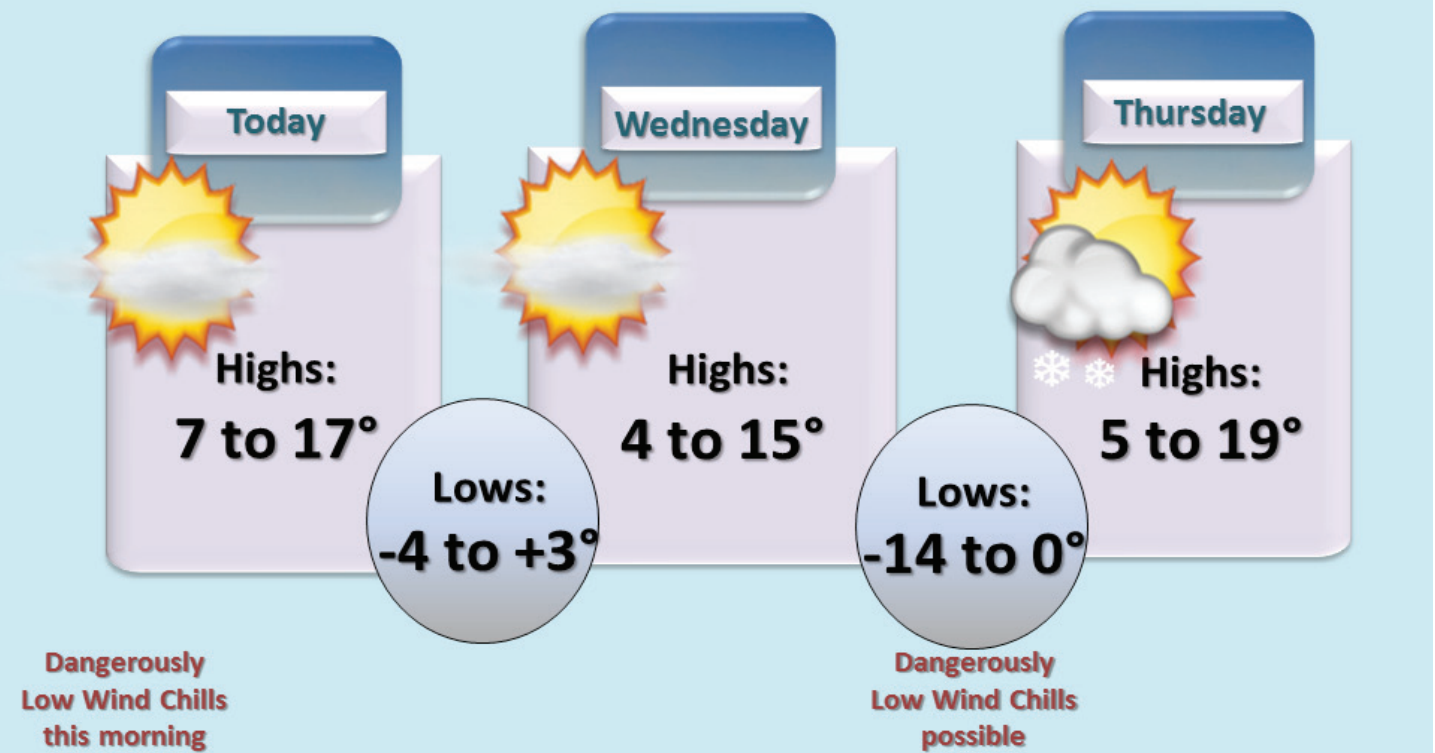


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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Mostly Sunny then Patchy Blowing Snow	Partly Cloudy	Cold	Mostly Clear	Cold	Chance Snow 40%	Snow Likely 70%
High: 9 °F	Low: -4 °F	High: 6 °F	Low: -14 °F	High: 8 °F	Low: 4 °F	High: 14 °F

## Bitter Arctic Air Remains!



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

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



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 12/13/2016 5:51 AM Central

Published on: 12/13/2016 at 5:59AM

Bitterly cold Arctic air will remain in place across the region into the weekend. Dangerously low wind chills will remain possible across much of the area this morning, and again Wednesday night into Thursday morning. Otherwise, dry weather will remain until light snow returns on Thursday across central South Dakota.

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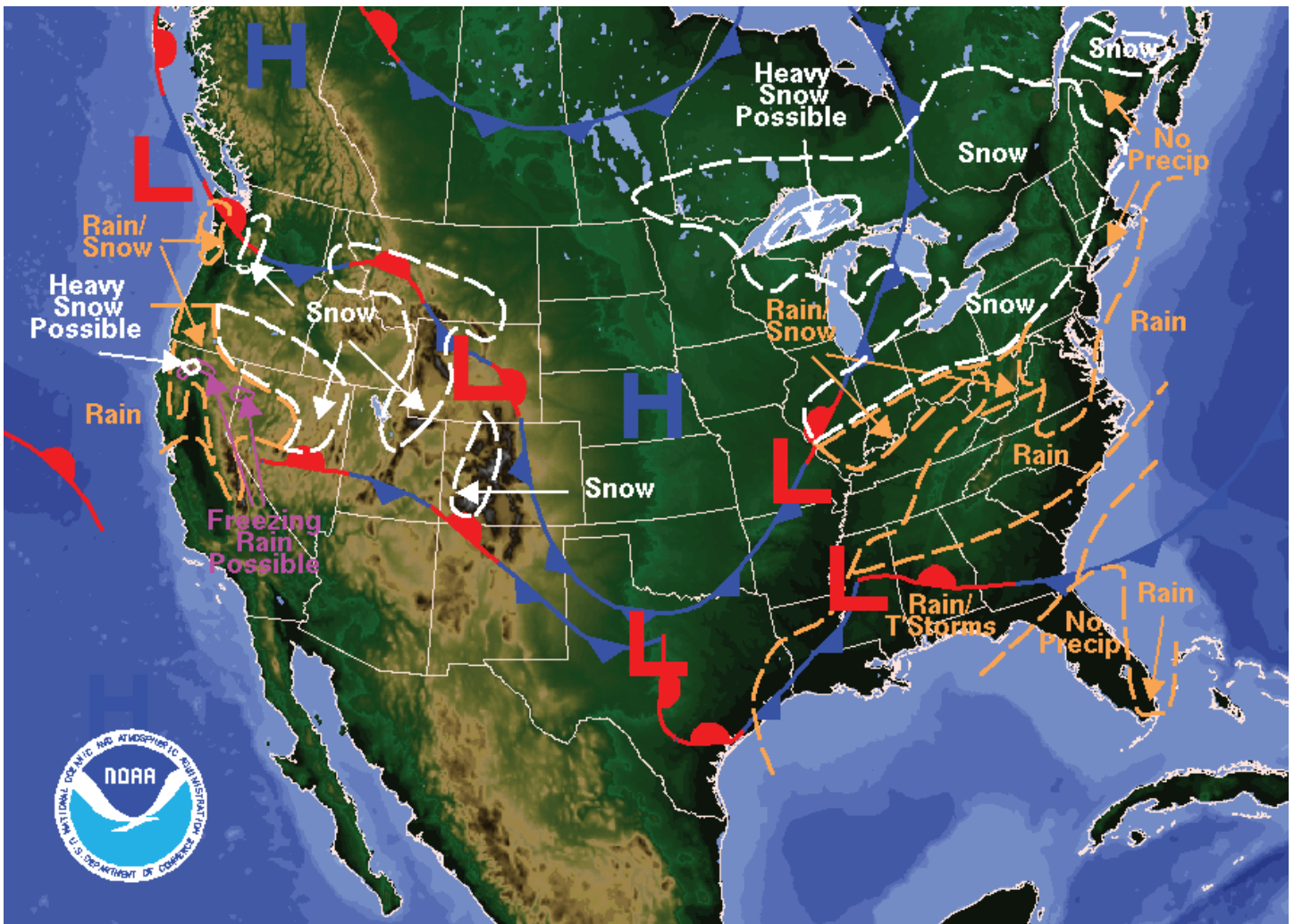
## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 7.3 F at 1:39 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: -17.9 F at 1:11 AM**  
**Wind Chill: -29 at 2:35 AM**  
**High Gust: 20.0 Mph at 2:12 AM**

Snow: 1"

## Today's Info

**Record High: 57° in 1921**  
**Record Low: -34° in 1917**  
**Average High: 26°F**  
**Average Low: 6°F**  
**Average Precip in Dec.: 0.23**  
**Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 21.43**  
**Precip Year to Date: 17.34**  
**Sunset Tonight: 4:50 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:06 a.m.**



Weather Forecast for Tue, Dec 13, 2016, issued 4:20 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## I'D GIVE MY RIGHT ARM

Haven't you heard the expression, "I'd give my right arm for that?" A thief did. He broke the window of a store to steal a television. As he reached his arm through the broken glass, a falling section of glass severed it above the elbow.

If we had the chance to ask that thief if he would chose to give up his arm for a television, there is little doubt that he would not agree to do so. Yet, each day we trade what is eternally valuable for temporary treasures and pleasures.

We work hard and invest ourselves – our time, talents and treasures – for "things" that are temporal and soon become worthless. "Things" that once had significance and meaning become worthless and outdated. We make sacrifices for what we deem important at that moment. Ask yourself this question: What sacrifices am I making for Christ? He has called us to take up our cross and follow Him. What are you willing to give up in order to be a follower of Christ? He wants us to give up everything for Him.

Prayer: Lord, help me to see my life the way that You see it. I am sure that there are some things I need to be doing that I am not doing and some things that I need to stop doing. Give me insight and courage to make the necessary corrections for Your sake. In Your Name. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

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## News from the Associated Press

### **Inmates at state women's prison face drug, assault charges**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Nine women face charges in state court this week related to using or dealing illegal drugs and assaulting guards at the state women's prison in Pierre.

The Capital Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/2hovkjm> ) that the charges are related to a bust at the facility.

Six inmates face drug charges, two are accused of assault and another woman who was released from the prison a year ago is charged with failing to report a felony.

Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

### **Monday's Scores** By The Associated Press

#### BOYS' BASKETBALL

Bridgewater-Emery 57, Dell Rapids St. Mary 18  
Castlewood 58, Elkton-Lake Benton 39  
Chadron, Neb. 64, Hot Springs 34  
Chamberlain 61, Gregory 39  
Elk Point-Jefferson 66, Akron-Westfield, Iowa 50  
Florence/Henry 55, Waverly-South Shore 49  
Great Plains Lutheran 66, Tri-State, N.D. 60  
Hamlin 45, Flandreau Indian 43  
Redfield/Doland 55, Wessington Springs 26  
Scotland 63, Viborg-Hurley 45

#### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Castlewood 72, Elkton-Lake Benton 49  
Chadron, Neb. 48, Hot Springs 13  
DeSmet 62, Wolsey-Wessington 25  
Elk Point-Jefferson 44, Akron-Westfield, Iowa 42  
Redfield/Doland 68, Wessington Springs 42  
Sully Buttes 71, Timber Lake 42

### **Noem says she won't be in Donald Trump's administration**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Republican U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem says she won't be serving in President-elect Donald Trump's administration.

Noem issued a statement Monday after at least one news outlet reported she was being vetted for agriculture secretary. Noem called it an honor to be considered for a job in the administration but said she is committed to finishing her two-year term in the House.

Noem didn't specify what job she was supposedly up for, and Trump's transition team didn't immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press.

Noem was elected to a fourth term in the November election. She has said that she intends to run for governor of South Dakota in 2018 rather than pursue another term in the House.

### **Dakota Access protesters say they'll take lessons home**

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — Activists who joined the Dakota Access pipeline protest in North Dakota say they'll take what they learned to their fights back home.

Activists told The Bismarck Tribune (<http://bit.ly/2gsmBBs> ) that the experience is giving the environmental movement a new method of fighting and has fomented opposition to other projects.

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Washington resident Rob Lewis said he was drawn to the Native Americans' argument that nature is sacred as its case for preserving the environment. He said environmentalists' scientific approach has turned off others in the past, and has made people feel detached or objectified.

"It's always been a scientific kind of approach, and I was drawn to the approach of the Native Americans, which is to treat nature as sacred," Lewis said during his second visit to the protesters' camp in southern North Dakota.

North Carolina resident Tara Cook joined a veterans group that came to the main camp last weekend. She's involved with the Black Lives Matter movement back home. She said her community could learn from the protests, which she thought were peaceful, prayerful and disciplined.

Thousands of Native Americans and other people have camped near the Standing Rock Indian Reservation since August to protest at construction sites in Morton County as a way of stopping the crude oil pipeline. They fear the pipeline could contaminate the water and disturb sacred grounds. The Dallas-based company building the pipeline, Energy Transfer Partners, has denied those assertions and insists the pipeline will be safe.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

## Company working in building that collapsed issues statement

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The construction company that was working in a downtown Sioux Falls building when it collapsed and killed one worker this month is asking the community to "keep an open mind" until the cause is determined.

In the company's first comments since the collapse, Aaron Hultgren of Hultgren Construction said in a statement that the company is cooperating with investigators and asked for patience from the public, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2gDBc0t>) reported.

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating the incident. Hultgren said the company "will accept responsibility if it is determined we are responsible."

The building housed apartments and a bar that was being remodeled into a drug store when it collapsed on Dec. 2.

On Monday, all investigative agencies gathered at the site of the collapse for one last look, the city of Sioux Falls said in a statement. The site should be cleared of debris by the end of the week, and the investigations continue, the city said.

Construction worker Ethan McMahan, a 24-year-old Marine, was killed in the incident. McMahan and his brother, who made it out of the wreckage, were working when the 100-year-old building collapsed around them. McMahan's funeral was Friday.

"Neither the McMahan family, nor the Hultgren Construction team, will ever completely recover from this tragedy," Hultgren said.

Emily Fodness, 22, was trapped for three hours under the debris before she was saved by first responders. Fodness was lying in her bed in her parents' apartment when the floor fell in. Her parents said the day of the incident that she was in good condition and asked for privacy.

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

## School of Mines says president meeting with Trump team

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota university says its president is meeting with Donald Trump's transition team about a potential senior national security position.

The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology says that President Heather Wilson traveled to New York for a Monday meeting with Trump's team to discuss the position. The school's statement said Wilson wouldn't comment.

Wilson was a Republican U.S. representative for New Mexico from 1998 to 2009 and became president of the South Dakota university in 2013.

She served on the National Security Council staff under President George H.W. Bush. Wilson earned a degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy and went on to be a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University.

## Attorney general says ethics commission should be embraced

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Republican Attorney General Marty Jackley said Monday that South Dakota should embrace a government ethics commission that is part of a voter-approved anti-corruption package under fire from top GOP lawmakers and tied up in court.

Jackley encouraged support for an ethics commission at a Rotary Club meeting in Sioux Falls, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2gz4uiq>) reported.

"The voters of South Dakota spoke and they said there needs to be some level of change, and I think that change ought to focus on an ethics commission," he said. "I don't think we should necessarily be scared of that; we should embrace it."

Jackley has taken a different stance than other GOP officials on the ethics panel. Gov. Dennis Daugaard proposed a budget last week that doesn't include millions of dollars for the public campaign finance system and has been critical of the overhaul. He has said he would support rolling back the measure if it isn't struck down in court.

The attorney general's office is defending the law against a court challenge filed by Republican lawmakers and others.

They contend that provisions including the ethics commission, public campaign funding and limitations on lobbyist gifts to lawmakers are unconstitutional. A state court judge last week issued a preliminary injunction putting the law on hold, though that decision could be appealed to the state Supreme Court.

Jackley has said that he's preparing to run for governor in 2018.

## Law officers ask Obama for help policing pipeline protests

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON**, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A dozen law enforcement officials in North Dakota are imploring President Barack Obama in a letter to send federal officers to help local police during protests against the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access oil pipeline, citing costs, fatigue and a growing fear of vigilante justice.

The officials asked Obama for 100 Border Patrol agents and members of the U.S. Marshals Service Special Operations Group, along with an unspecified amount of financial assistance, saying they've been "completely and utterly abandoned" by the federal government. The letter was dated Friday, and officials released details Monday.

"If we do not receive federal assistance, the safety and well-being of law enforcement officers, citizens of the community, and the protesters themselves are at grave risk," stated the letter spearheaded by Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier.

Obama last month said his administration is monitoring the dispute surrounding the nearly finished four-state pipeline that's intended to carry North Dakota oil to a shipping point in Illinois. The White House didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Monday.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection did provide 11 Border Patrol agents to help with protest policing last month, according to the agency.

Nearly 575 pipeline opponents have been arrested since August in the Bismarck area and in the camp area on federal land along the pipeline route where thousands have been staying to oppose a project they believe threatens American Indian cultural sites and drinking water for the Standing Rock Sioux.

The camp has begun to thin out due to harsh weather and because the pipeline is stalled while developer Energy Transfer Partners and the Army battle in court over permission to cross under the Missouri River in North Dakota, but many vow to stay through the winter. The most recent arrest came Monday morning, when a protester crossed a barricade that law enforcement has set up on a closed bridge in the camp area, Morton County sheriff's spokesman Rob Keller said. Three others were arrested at the barricade last Thursday.

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Law enforcement officials said they're also concerned that "community sentiment has turned volatile" after months of disruptions by protesters and they're worried that area residents will "take matters into their own hands." Bismarck police last Thursday arrested one of two men who were captured on video wearing masks and threatening protesters outside of a hotel on Dec. 5.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

## **Gilbertson re-elected head of South Dakota Supreme Court**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Supreme Court justices have re-elected David Gilbertson to be the chief justice of the state's high court.

The court announced Monday that Gilbertson would serve a fifth term in the role. He first became chief justice in 2001.

Gilbertson says he's looking forward to serving the residents of South Dakota for another four years. Gilbertson's position makes him the administrative head of the state court system.

He also works with the governor and state lawmakers on policy. Gilbertson in recent years has worked to pass juvenile and adult criminal justice overhauls and on laws to protect senior citizens.

Gilbertson is set to deliver his annual State of the Judiciary address on Jan. 11 after lawmakers return to Pierre for the 2017 legislative session.

## **Federal authorities seeking suspect in reservation slaying**

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — Federal authorities are searching for a suspect in a slaying on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Twenty-six-year-old Thomas Brewer is wanted on a warrant for second-degree murder in the shooting death of Shawn Stevens in the town of Pine Ridge.

Stevens was shot in the abdomen on Nov. 30 and died at a Rapid City hospital.

Authorities say Brewer is known to have ties in Spokane, Washington.

## **Broken rail blamed in South Dakota fiery train derailment**

SCOTLAND, S.D. (AP) — Investigators say a broken rail was probably the cause of a fiery South Dakota train derailment in September 2015 that resulted in more than \$1 million in damage.

Seven cars of a BNSF Railway train derailed near the town of Scotland and three leaked nearly 50,000 gallons of ethanol onto a pasture, causing a fire that spread along a creek bed. No one was hurt.

In its final report on the incident, the Federal Railroad Administration says investigators discovered several deficiencies in the track in the area of the derailment.

The Daily Republic reports (<http://bit.ly/2hveSrn>) that BNSF spokeswoman Amy McBeth says the railroad came to the same conclusion.

Scotland is about 70 miles southwest of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

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

## **Donald Trump picks Rex Tillerson to lead State Department**

**By JULIE PACE and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump announced Tuesday he has picked ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson to be secretary of state, saying that he's "among the most accomplished business leaders and international deal makers in the world."

"Rex Tillerson's career is the embodiment of the American dream. Through hard work, dedication and smart deal making, Rex rose through the ranks to become CEO of ExxonMobil, one of the world's largest and most respected companies," the billionaire real estate mogul said in a pre-dawn news release from

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Trump Tower in New York.

Tillerson "knows how to manage a global enterprise, which is crucial to running a successful State Department," Trump said of his latest — and much-discussed — Cabinet pick.

In an accompanying statement, Tillerson said he was "honored" by his selection and shares Trump's "vision for restoring the credibility of the United States' foreign relations and advancing our country's national security."

But Tillerson has close ties to Russia and President Vladimir Putin, and his selection sets up a potential Senate confirmation fight. On Capitol Hill, leading Republicans have already expressed anxieties about him as they contend with intelligence assessments saying Russia interfered with the U.S. presidential election to help Trump.

Still, Sen. Bob Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that will hold confirmation hearings in January, called Tillerson "a very impressive individual" with "an extraordinary working knowledge of the world." Corker, who had been in the mix for the secretary of state job, said Trump called him Monday to inform him of the pick.

Trump said he saw Tillerson's deep relations with Moscow as a selling point. As ExxonMobil's head, Tillerson maintained close ties with Russia and was awarded by President Vladimir Putin with the Order of Friendship in 2013, an honor for a foreign citizen. Trump called Tillerson a "world class player" in an interview on "Fox News Sunday."

For weeks, Trump has teased out the decision process publicly, often exposing rifts in his organization. He also considered former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, a one-time vocal Trump critic, and Corker of Tennessee. Romney wrote on Facebook Monday that it "was an honor to have been considered" for the job.

Trump's unconventional Cabinet vetting procedures are in keeping with his presidential style thus far, unconcerned with tradition or business as usual. In recent weeks, he's attacked CIA intelligence, spoken to the leader of Taiwan — irritating China — and has continued his late-night Twitter tirades.

Beijing is looking forward to working with the new secretary of state "to push forward greater progress of the bilateral relationship on a new starting point," China's foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, said Tuesday.

Trump heads out Tuesday for another week of travel, starting with a rally in Wisconsin.

In Washington, a congressional investigation is in the works over a CIA assessment that Russia interfered in the November election on his behalf. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Monday that Congress will investigate the agency's conclusion, which the incoming commander in chief has called "ridiculous."

The CIA recently concluded with "high confidence" that Russia sought to influence the U.S. election on behalf of Trump, raising red flags among lawmakers concerned about the sanctity of the U.S. voting system and potentially straining relations at the start of Trump's administration.

On Twitter Monday, Trump pushed back, saying: "Can you imagine if the election results were the opposite and WE tried to play the Russia/CIA card. It would be called conspiracy theory!"

But McConnell said flatly, "The Russians are not our friends." And House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said in statement that a House Intelligence Committee probe of cyberthreats by other countries and terrorist groups "will continue and has my support." The White House has also embraced the congressional inquiry, saying that it "is certainly warranted when you consider the stakes and the consequences."

Putin, meanwhile, said he was ready to meet with Trump "at any moment."

In the transcript of his interview with journalists which was released Tuesday in Moscow, Putin said "it's widely known that the elected president of the United States has publicly called for the normalization of the Russian-American relationship. We cannot but support this." Putin added that he thought a meeting with Trump would be more likely after Trump's January inauguration.

"We understand it will not be a simple task considering the extent of degradation of the Russian-American relationship," he said. "But we are prepared to do our bit."

If confirmed by the Senate, Tillerson's test will be whether his corporate deal-making skills translate into the delicate world of international diplomacy. He would face immediate challenges in Syria, where a



civil war rages on, and in China, given Trump's recent suggestions that he could take a more aggressive approach to dealing with Beijing.

A native of Wichita Falls, Texas, Tillerson came to ExxonMobil Corp. as a production engineer straight out of the University of Texas at Austin in 1975 and never left. Groomed for an executive position, Tillerson came up in the rough-and-tumble world of oil production, holding posts in the company's central United States, Yemen and Russian operations.

Early in the company's efforts to gain access to the Russian market, Tillerson cut a deal with state-owned Rosneft. The neglected post-Soviet company didn't have a tremendous amount to offer, but Exxon partnered with it "to be on the same side of the table," Tillerson said, according to "Private Empire," an investigative history of Exxon by Steve Coll.

Tillerson, who became CEO on Jan. 1, 2006, is expected to retire in 2017. Tillerson's heir apparent, Darren Woods, was put in place a year ago, so there would be virtually no additional disruption to Exxon's succession plans if Tillerson were to become secretary of state.

Associated Press writers Laurie Kellman in Washington and Alex Sanz in Atlanta contributed to this report.

## 2 Yazidi women accept EU's Sakharov Prize for human rights

BRUSSELS (AP) — Two Yazidi women who escaped sexual enslavement by the Islamic State group have accepted the European Union's Sakharov Prize for human rights and said they would continue to be a voice for others suffering a similar fate.

Lamiya Aji Bashar says Tuesday that the EU's top human rights prize was one "for every woman and girl who has been sexually enslaved" by IS.

With poignant testimony that silenced EU lawmakers, they spoke of their personal fate and escape but centered their calls on the international community to protect their people, a minority of 500,000 living primarily in northern Iraq.

Hundreds of Yazidi women and girls are still captives of IS militants in Iraq and Syria. The Yazidi follow an ancient religion that IS and other Muslim hard-liners consider heretical.

## Dramatic appeals as Syrian forces poised to take Aleppo

By **BASSEM MROUE** and **JAMEY KEATEN**, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — As Syrian forces poised for the final sweep to take the last rebel holdouts in eastern Aleppo on Tuesday, world leaders and aid agencies issued dramatic appeals that the lives of thousands of civilians who have "nowhere safe to run" be spared and that government troops fighting to capture what's left of the rebel enclave refrain from atrocities.

The U.N.'s human rights office said it has received reports of pro-government forces killing at least 82 civilians in four neighborhoods of the increasingly-shrinking rebel enclave, including 11 women and 13 children.

Spokesman Rupert Colville said the reports recount pro-government forces entering homes and killing some civilians "on the spot" in the former rebel enclave. Speaking to reporters in Geneva, he said the reports came in late the previous evening and that he doesn't know exactly when the killings took place.

The reports, which could not be independently confirmed, reinforce concerns of mass casualties in eastern Aleppo in the final hours of the battle for the city, which has been split into a rebel and government-held part since 2012.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a statement late Monday that he is alarmed over reports of "atrocities" against a large number of civilians, including women and children, in the past hours in Aleppo. While stressing that the United Nations is not able to independently verify these reports, the U.N. chief said he conveyed his grave concern to the relevant parties.

Several residents and opposition activists have told The Associated Press that government forces were carrying out summary killings of rebels in the streets in neighborhoods captured on Monday, but the

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Syrian military flatly denied the claims, saying such allegations were "a desperate attempt" to try gain international sympathy.

Mohammed Abu Rajab, the administrator of the last remaining clinic in rebel-held parts of the city, said people killed and wounded are left on the streets.

Rami Abdurrahman of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said hundreds of bodies are still under the rubble.

A press release by the U.N. human rights office in Geneva said that multiple sources have reports that tens of civilians were shot dead on Monday in al-Ahrar Square in Kallaseh neighborhood, and also in Bustan al-Qasr, by government forces and their allies, including allegedly the Iraqi Shiite militia known as al-Nujabaa.

The dramatic appeals for sparing civilian lives came a day after the Syrian military announced it now holds 99 percent of the former rebel neighborhoods of Aleppo, signaling an impending end to the rebels' four-year hold over parts of the city.

Retaking Aleppo would be President Bashar Assad's biggest victory yet in the country's civil war. Aleppo has long been regarded as a major gateway between Turkey and Syria.

But a government win in Aleppo does not end the conflict — significant parts of Syria are still outside government control and huge swaths of the country are a devastated waste-land. More than a quarter of a million people have been killed.

The International Committee of the Red Cross also on Tuesday urged all fighting in Aleppo to spare civilian lives. It said that thousands of people in eastern Aleppo with no part in the violence "have literally nowhere safe to run."

"In order for this to happen, we appeal to the parties to put humanity ahead of military objectives", said ICRC's head of delegation in Syria, Marianne Gasser, who is currently in Aleppo. "We stand ready to oversee the implementation of any mutual agreement that puts civilians first. We cannot urge this strongly enough: this must happen."

In Moscow, which has been Assad's major ally in the war, the Defense Ministry said Tuesday that rebels are holding out a neighborhood roughly the size of 3 square kilometers (1.16 square miles).

Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus' called for an immediate cease-fire and if that is too late, he called on the international community, European countries, regional countries and Turkey to organize an international aid convoy to people in need in Aleppo.

French President Francois Hollande pressed for Russia to facilitate humanitarian aid to civilians trapped in rebel-held parts of the city, saying the Aleppo "humanitarian situation ... is unacceptable."

The French leader said 120,000 people were being "held hostage, there is no other word for it — who are victims of bombing, who are victims of repression" in Aleppo and that everything must be done to allow the population's evacuation.

"Without the Russians, there is no Syrian regime that can carry out operations" on the scale of what is happening in Aleppo, Hollande added, saying that the Russians "will be responsible for a situation that they helped create if they do nothing to allow access for humanitarian aid."

Keaten reported from Geneva.

## 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. WHO TRUMP TAPPED FOR TOP DIPLOMAT

ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson is picked to lead the State Department, dismissing concerns about the businessman's close ties with Russia.

### 2. UN CITES REPORTS OF 82 CIVILIANS KILLED IN EASTERN ALEPPO

The U.N. human rights office says the reports recount Syria's pro-government forces entering homes and killing civilians, including women and children, "on the spot."

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3. UNDER ISLAMIC STATE GROUP, MOSUL'S PEOPLE FACED DARKNESS, DREAD, BRUTALITY  
Paychecks stopped, food supplies dwindled, and a life of poverty for those who refused to join the extremist group, AP finds. Lashings, stonings and beheadings were commonplace.

#### 4. WHAT GORBACHEV SAYS ABOUT SOVIET COLLAPSE

The former Russian president tells AP the U.S. and its allies wasted a chance to build a safer world by gloating rather than offering aid when the Soviet Union fell 25 years ago.

#### 5. RECOVERY STILL DISTANT 7 YEARS AFTER HAITI QUAKE

At least 50,000 people remain in some of the settlement camps that emerged after a 7.0 magnitude temblor devastated the impoverished Caribbean nation.

#### 6. COSBY JUDGE TO WEIGH POTENTIAL TESTIMONY OF 13 OTHER WOMEN

Lawyers will battle in court to try to limit the number of other accusers who can testify at the comedian's sexual assault trial.

#### 7. ORCA-FREE THEME PARK COMING TO MIDEAST

The first SeaWorld park outside the United States is coming to Abu Dhabi by 2022 and it will be featured without orcas.

#### 8. HOW A LAWMAKER WANTS TO OVERHAUL SOCIAL SECURITY

Rep. Sam Johnson, R-Texas, is proposing to gradually increase the retirement age and slow the growth of benefits for higher-income workers.

#### 9. TRUMP'S 'SHOOT SOMEONE' TOPS QUOTES OF YEAR

The president-elect's boast on the campaign trail that he could shoot somebody and not lose any voters tops Yale's most notable quotes list.

#### 10. MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CREATES ANTI-HAZING, ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

That baseball hazing ritual of dressing up rookies as Wonder Woman, Hooters Girls and Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders is now banned, AP learns.

## 1st SeaWorld park without orcas opening in Abu Dhabi in 2022

By MIKE SCHNEIDER, Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Months after SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment ended its orca-breeding program amid pressure from animal rights activists, company officials announced Tuesday that they will help develop in Abu Dhabi the first new SeaWorld park without orcas — and the first outside the United States.

SeaWorld CEO Joel Manby told The Associated Press that the Abu Dhabi park is an important step for the theme park company's move away from orcas, which long were company icons. The captive orcas have been the focus of blistering campaigns against SeaWorld by animal rights activists.

Officials with SeaWorld and Abu Dhabi-government-backed Miral Asset Management said the SeaWorld park will open in 2022 in Abu Dhabi's Yas Island, a man-made island that is fast becoming a tourism and entertainment hub near the southeast tip of the Arabian peninsula.

The Abu Dhabi location will have a research, animal rescue and rehabilitation center, which will open ahead of the park, and the theme park will focus on educating visitors about ocean conservation, officials said. The two companies had been in talks since 2011 about a park in Abu Dhabi, part of the United Arab Emirates.

SeaWorld ended its innovative orca-breeding program in March after years of declining attendance and pressure from activists following the 2013 release of the critical documentary "Blackfish." The documentary chronicled the life of Tilikum, an orca that killed a SeaWorld trainer during a performance in Orlando in 2010, and the movie implied that killer whales become more aggressive in captivity.

"This gives us a chance to position the new SeaWorld in a very strong way, repositioning it from a company that's only about certain species to a company that is focused on ocean health," Manby said.

The project is to be built and operated by the Abu Dhabi-government-backed developer, and SeaWorld will license its brand and provide expertise in animal care. The project is in the early stages of design, and company officials weren't releasing details about its size, costs or types of attractions.

The Abu Dhabi location will have thrill rides and aquariums but it also will use 3-D mapping and virtual-

reality technologies that immerse visitors in virtual scientific expeditions or deep-sea dives, said Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, Miral's chairman.

"We are going to be investing all the capital but the expertise and the insight that SeaWorld is putting in this project from day one is going to be critical," he said.

Miral is betting that visitors from the Middle East, Asia and eastern Europe will come to Yas Island for the new attraction, said Khalifa Al Mubarak.

The island is already home to the emirate's Formula 1 track and the Ferrari World theme park. Miral earlier this year agreed to develop a Warner Bros. branded theme park on Yas Island. Abu Dhabi's pursuit of theme park projects follows efforts by nearby Dubai, the UAE's biggest city and commercial hub, to build multiple theme parks of its own in as it prepares to host the World Expo in 2020.

"Abu Dhabi is going to be a major tourist destination, not just in the Arab world, but the world," Khalifa Al Mubarak said.

Since the release of "Blackfish," SeaWorld has undergone a management shakeup and currently is in the middle of cost-cutting efforts. Last week, the company announced it was eliminating 320 jobs across its 12 parks.

Manby said the vast majority of positions were behind-the-scenes jobs.

"It really positions SeaWorld for the future in the right way," Manby said. "This is the right time to do it as we are pivoting the brand in a new direction."

Adam Schreck in Dubai contributed to this report.

Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/mikeschneiderap> . His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/Mike-Schneider> .

## Chubby babies on the decline in aid program serving millions

By LINDSEY TANNER, AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Chubby babies and toddlers at risk for later obesity are on the decline in a government food program serving millions of kids, a glimmer of good news in the nation's fight to slim down.

The trend was found in a study on children up to age 3 enrolled in the WIC nutrition assistance program for low-income women and children. Half of all U.S. infants up to 12 months old are enrolled in the program.

The portion of youngsters at risk for obesity fell during the study, from almost 15 percent in 2010 to 12 percent overall in 2014, researchers from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported. The rate declined in all ages studied. It was lowest — about 8 percent in 2014 — for the youngest infants, aged 3- to 5 months, versus almost 15 percent among toddlers.

The results echo a reported decline in older WIC children and were unexpected, given rising rates earlier in the decade, said CDC researcher David Freedman, the lead author.

"People are thrilled," he said.

Previous CDC data showed a similar decline in all U.S. youngsters aged 2- to 5 years old, from about 14 percent in 2004 to 9 percent in 2014, coinciding with national campaigns targeting childhood obesity. Obesity rates tend to be higher in children from low-income families including WIC participants.

Freedman said reasons are uncertain for the decline in heavy WIC babies, but it came amid changes designed to improve nutrition and health in WIC food packages, including more whole grains, fruits and vegetables. Also, breastfeeding among participating women increased in 2009 and that can protect against obesity.

The study was published Tuesday in Pediatrics.

Dr. David Ludwig, director of obesity prevention at Boston Children's Hospital, called the results encouraging but said, "It's too soon to tell whether these new data represent a statistical fluke or evidence of real progress with the pediatric obesity epidemic."

The researchers analyzed WIC survey data from 2000 to 2014 involving almost 17 million infants and

young children. Rates increased early on, then remained stable from 2004 to 2010 until the decline.

Doctors don't usually describe babies as obese, but measure their risk using a weight-for-length ratio. Those with a high ratio, generally heavier than 95 percent of their peers, face an increased chance of becoming obese later on.

Whether the decline has continued is uncertain and the study didn't track infants to see if they became overweight or obese later on.

According to the CDC, U.S. obesity rates total almost 18 percent among all 6- to 11-year-olds and nearly 21 percent among 12- to 19-year-olds

Online:

CDC: <http://tinyurl.com/h5d27sv>

Follow AP Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner at <http://www.twitter.com/LindseyTanner>. Her work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/lindsey-tanner>

This story corrects the name of the federal agency to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## Cosby judge to weigh potential testimony of 13 other women

By MARYCLAIRE DALE, Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Lawyers for Bill Cosby will battle in court starting Tuesday as they try to limit the number of other accusers who can testify at his sexual assault trial.

Prosecutors hope to call 13 other women to show that the comedian and actor had a pattern of drugging and molesting women. The defense will attack their credibility and relevance as they try to keep them off the witness stand at the trial, scheduled for the spring.

"To come up with the required showing of a 'signature,' the commonwealth reaches for a cliché: a giant in the entertainment industry using his power to take advantage of young aspiring actresses. Even if proven ... the age-old 'casting couch' is not unique to Mr. Cosby," defense lawyer Brian McMonagle wrote in an October defense brief opposing the testimony.

That "prior bad act" evidence could make or break the case, which began a decade ago when Temple University employee Andrea Constand filed a police complaint against her friend and mentor over a 2004 encounter at Cosby's home near Philadelphia. A prosecutor at the time declined to file charges.

But authorities reopened the case last year after scores of women raised similar accusations and after Cosby's damaging deposition testimony from Constand's lawsuit became public. The trial judge last week said the deposition was fair game at trial, arming prosecutors with Cosby's own testimony about his affairs with young women, his use of quaaludes as a seduction tool and his version of the sexual encounter with Constand the night in question.

Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill must now rule on the testimony from the 13 other accusers in the hearing, set for Tuesday and Wednesday.

Cosby's lawyers had hoped to question the women in person, but O'Neill rejected the idea. He will instead hear what are sure to be strenuous arguments from both sides about their accounts.

Some of the women had ongoing friendships or romantic relationships with Cosby, while others knew him for only a few days after meeting him on a plane or at a casino. Some, like Constand, took pills knowingly — she thought it was an herbal drug; he later said it was Benadryl — while others believe he slipped something stronger in their drinks.

McMonagle has petitioned to ask each accuser one as many as 80 questions as he tries to defend what he calls decades-old, vague accusations that were never vetted at the time. The defense has also questioned the women's motivation, noting many are clients of celebrity lawyer Gloria Allred, who has suggested Cosby should put up a \$100 million settlement fund for potential sexual assault and defamation claims.

Allred told The Associated Press last week that her clients have a duty to testify if the court wants to hear from them. She called the defense's dismissal of their accounts "out of context or just plain wrong."

O'Neill must walk a fine line in weighing their testimony, given a 2015 state Supreme Court ruling that threw out a Roman Catholic Church official's child-endangerment conviction because the Philadelphia trial judge let too many priest-abuse victims testify about the alleged church cover-up.

## **Governor of Indonesia capital sobs as blasphemy trial begins**

**By TATAN SYUFLANA and STEPHEN WRIGHT, Associated Press**

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — The minority Christian governor of Indonesia's capital sobbed in court Tuesday on the first day of his blasphemy trial as he recalled the role of Muslim godparents in his childhood and said he would never intentionally insult Islam.

The national upheaval over the governor's alleged blasphemy has challenged Indonesia's reputation for practicing a moderate form of Islam, shaken the government and exposed religious and racial fault lines in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Protests against Gov. Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama, led by hard-liners and which drew hundreds of thousands of people, have kept Jakarta, the capital, on edge in the past six weeks. A Nov. 4 protest there turned violent, with one death and dozens of police and protesters injured.

Ahok, an ally of President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, faces up to five years in prison if found guilty. He is the first ethnic Chinese governor of Jakarta and the first Christian in more than half a century.

"As a person who grew up among Muslims, it is not possible for me to intentionally insult Islam because that is the same as disrespecting the people I appreciate and love," Ahok said.

He broke down in tears twice while making his statement, in which he talked about the affection of his godparents and remembered how he helped poor Indonesians perform the Hajj pilgrimage when he was a district chief a decade ago.

The blasphemy controversy erupted in September when a video circulated online in which Ahok light-heartedly said that people were being deceived if they believed his detractors who asserted that the Quran prohibits Muslims from having a non-Muslim leader. He is seeking a second term as governor in elections due in February.

State Prosecutor Ali Mukartono told the court that Ahok insulted Islam and desecrated the Quran by using one of its verses to fool people and boost his chances of winning the Jakarta election.

In his statement, Ahok said that his comments were not an interpretation of the Quran and that he was only referring to certain politicians "who exploited the verses incorrectly because they do not want to compete fairly in the election competition."

Several hundred members of anti- and pro-Ahok groups gathered outside the court, but were kept apart by police. The trial, which is being broadcast live, could take two to three months.

Ahok's lawyers asked the five-judge panel to throw the case out and the trial was then adjourned until Dec. 20.

Police investigators and religious experts were divided about whether Ahok should be prosecuted, but the case proceeded as political pressure on the government mounted.

## **Top GOP leaders back congressional probes of Russia hacking**

**By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress' top Republicans on Monday endorsed investigations into the CIA's belief that Russia meddled in last month's election to help Donald Trump win, suggesting potential battles ahead with the incoming commander in chief over Moscow and U.S. intelligence.

Meanwhile, Trump said he would announce his choice for secretary of state Tuesday morning. He has chosen Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson, two people close to Trump's transition said Monday night, insisting on anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the decision ahead of that announcement.

Congressional GOP leaders steered toward a path contrasting starkly with the president-elect's belittling dismissal of the CIA and his past praise for Russian President Vladimir Putin. "The Russians are not our

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friends," declared Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

The Senate's intelligence panel, led by Richard Burr, R-N.C., will conduct a bipartisan inquiry, according to McConnell, who also expressed support for a related probe by the Armed Services Committee, chaired by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. Though declining to say whether he believes Russia tried tilting the election toward Trump, McConnell said, "I hope that those who are going to be in positions of responsibility in the new administration share my view" about Moscow.

Shortly afterward, House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., released a statement backing an investigation the House Intelligence Committee has already started on cyber threats posed by foreign countries and extremist groups. He called any Russian intervention "especially problematic because under President Putin, Russia has been an aggressor that consistently undermines American interests."

Underscoring the possible collisions ahead between Trump and the men leading his party in Congress, McConnell and Ryan struck tones markedly more confrontational toward Russia than he has.

Trump on Sunday called the CIA's contention "ridiculous" and blamed the disclosures concerning its assessment on Democrats who he said were embarrassed over losing last month's election.

The chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., released a letter Monday to National Intelligence Director James Clapper complaining that recent reports of the CIA's conclusion clashed with Clapper's prior statement that he lacked "good insight" about the connection between Russian hacking of Democratic campaign documents and their release by WikiLeaks. Nunes requested a briefing on the subject for this week.

The GOP leaders expressed their views after a weekend in which Trump also said he would not need daily intelligence briefings, a staple of presidents' days for decades and a flouting of a convention common for presidential transitions.

The president-elect continued his cavalcade of meetings in his Trump Tower offices in New York on Monday with potential appointees for his new administration and other leading GOP, congressional and corporate figures. Among them was Carly Fiorina, who unsuccessfully vied with Trump this year for their party's nomination.

Fiorina, the former Hewlett-Packard CEO, was there to discuss national security issues and is seen by some Trump advisers as a candidate to be director of national intelligence, overseeing the government's 17 intelligence agencies. She chaired an external CIA advisory board under President George W. Bush but has not worked for the federal government.

Fiorina said her conversation with Trump included "hacking, whether it's Chinese hacking or purported Russian hacking."

Others meeting with Trump included moderate Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, No. 3 House GOP leader Steve Scalise of Louisiana and former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, another GOP presidential contender whom Trump defeated.

The campaign chairman for defeated Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton urged the Obama administration Monday to reveal what it knows about any Russian efforts to help Trump win. John Podesta, whose emails were stolen and posted online, said the administration "owes it to the American people" to release details of the intrusions, which included the hacking of Democratic Party files.

Podesta said the Clinton campaigns also supports a call by 10 of the 538 members of the Electoral College for Clapper to provide information that intelligence agencies have gathered on the subject.

All 10 are unlikely to vote for Trump when the Electoral College meets next Monday. Nine are Democrats, and Texas Republican Chris Suprun has said he won't vote for Trump.

Other Democrats calling for congressional investigations of Russia's role in the elections include House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California.

"There must be no equivocation or ignoring the seriousness of the intelligence community's conclusion about Russia's actions," she said.

McConnell said he has "the highest confidence" in U.S. intelligence agencies and said it "defies belief" that Senate Republicans would be reluctant to scrutinize Russian tactics. He recounted Russia's annexation

tion of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014, said Baltic nation leaders are nervous about Moscow and pointedly praised NATO, the alliance that Trump criticized repeatedly during his campaign.

"I think we ought to approach all of these issues on the assumption that the Russians do not wish us well," McConnell said.

In a nod to the Trump assertion about Democrats' motives, Ryan said the congressional inquiries "should not cast doubt on the clear and decisive outcome of this election."

As expected, Trump's transition team formally announced he would name Goldman Sachs president Gary Cohn, 56, to head the White House National Economic Council. The council provides policy advice to the president.

Trump's team also said he'd picked Gen. John Kelly to head the Department of Homeland Security. Kelly is a former commander of U.S. Southern Command.

AP White House Correspondent Julie Pace and reporter Catherine Lucey contributed to this report.

## **AP Exclusive: MLB rookie hazing rules ban dressing as women**

**By RONALD BLUM, AP Baseball Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — That baseball hazing ritual of dressing up rookies as Wonder Woman, Hooters Girls and Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders is now banned.

Major League Baseball created an Anti-Hazing and Anti-Bullying Policy that covers the practice. As part of the sport's new labor deal, set to be ratified by both sides Tuesday, the players' union agreed not to contest it.

The policy, obtained by The Associated Press, prohibits "requiring, coercing or encouraging" players from "dressing up as women or wearing costumes that may be offensive to individuals based on their race, sex, nationality, age, sexual orientation, gender identify or other characteristic."

MLB Vice President Paul Mifsud said Monday the new rules resulted partly "in light of social media, which in our view sort of unfortunately publicized a lot of the dressing up of the players ... those kind of things which in our view were insensitive and potentially offensive to a number of groups."

"There's lots of pictures of baseball players dressed up as Disney princesses," he said.

Or even more outlandish, often for late-season plane trips.

Bryce Harper as a member of the U.S. Olympic women's gymnastics team, Mike Trout as Lady Gaga. Manny Machado in a ballet tutu, Carlos Correa as Wonder Woman.

All out starting next season.

"Although it hasn't happened, you could sort of see how like someone might even dress up in black face and say, 'Oh, no, we were just dressing up,'" Mifsud said. "We've also understood that a number of players have complained about it."

Exactly when the annual dress-up day began around the majors isn't quite clear. Players often considered it a form of bonding, and it's become more of a production in recent years.

Chase Headley and San Diego Padres newcomers wore the skimpy, shiny orange shorts and tight, white tops of Hooters servers for a September 2008 flight from Denver to Washington.

"Times have changed. There is certain conduct that we have to be conscious of," union general counsel Dave Prouty said.

"The important thing for us was to recognize there was a policy but to preserve the players' rights to challenge the level of discipline and the imposition of discipline," he said.

Not all outfits are banned — superheroes such as Batman and Spider-Man are OK.

Other past costumes that would be allowed include San Francisco ace Madison Bumgarner as a giant ketchup bottle, Miami slugger Giancarlo Stanton on the U.S. Olympic men's water polo team and Dodgers outfielder Yasiel Puig as Gumby.

The issue of locker room bullying erupted a few years ago when an NFL investigation found Richie Incognito and two other Miami Dolphins engaged in persistent harassment toward teammate Jonathan Martin.



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MLB looked at several college anti-hazing policies while developing these new rules, and they are already being criticized by some current and former players.

"Seriously?!" former Red Sox star Kevin Youkilis wrote on Twitter. "Had to wear a Hooters outfit going through customs in Toronto and wore it proudly (because) I was in the Show."

Dodgers pitcher Ross Stripling tweeted a photo of the right-hander and teammates sporting cheerleading uniforms, saying "honored to be one of the last players ever to be dressed up as a woman."

Last September, the New York Mets posted photos and video of players going to Starbucks in Philadelphia wearing uniforms from the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, as portrayed in the 1992 movie "A League of Their Own." Several other teams engaged in similar behavior.

In 2012, Harper and Nationals newcomers wore red leotards in the style of Gabby Douglas and the U.S. women's gymnastics team for a train ride to New York — veteran Washington pitcher Gio Gonzalez tweeted a photo.

In 2007, the Yankees' theme was "The Wizard of Oz." Ian Kennedy wore Dorothy's ruby red slippers for a flight from New York to Tampa, Florida.

"I'd rather be here dressing up than anywhere else," Kennedy said at the time. "It makes you feel like one of the guys."

The new policy states "a player's actual or perceived willingness to participate in prohibited conduct does not excuse the activity from being considered a violation of the policy."

Not everyone saw these things as fun.

After he was traded to the Mets in 1992, Jeff Kent threw his pimp's costume to the floor in the visitors' clubhouse in Montreal and demanded his regular clothes — which contained the ID he needed to go through customs — be returned.

"I paid my rookie dues in Toronto," he said then. "I feel I have endured my embarrassments, my punishment. I felt I was being taken advantage of. They wanted to go overboard. I stuck up for myself. I won't be pushed around."

Some common rookie rituals are permitted.

Last year, the Cardinals and Dodgers made their newcomers walk across the street from Wrigley Field — in their full uniforms — to bring back coffee before a game against the Cubs.

And rookie relievers still might find themselves lugging snacks across the diamond to the bullpen for the veterans.

But requiring players "to consume alcoholic beverages or any other kind of drug, or requiring the ingestion of an undesirable or unwanted substance (food, drink, concoction)" is banned under the new collective bargaining agreement.

The policy is in addition to the workplace code of conduct adopted by MLB and the union in 2013 after the office of New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman asked to meet with baseball officials and inquired what rules the sport had in place against bullying with respect to sexual orientation.

"The purpose of this policy is not to prohibit all traditions regarding rookies or players," the new policy states, "but rather to prohibit conduct that may cause players physical anguish or harm, may be offensive to some players, club staff or fans, or are distracting to the operation of the club or MLB."

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AP Baseball Writer Ben Walker contributed to this report.

## Donald Trump's avoidance of formal news conference continues

By CATHERINE LUCEY and JULIE BYKOWICZ, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump on Monday canceled the only news conference he has scheduled since his election, continuing to communicate with the public via Twitter and carefully curated, one-on-one interviews.

Trump aides said Monday that an announcement planned for Thursday on the future of Trump's business empire had been rescheduled. Spokesman Sean Spicer said in an email that moving the announcement "ensures the legal team has ample time to ensure the proper protocols are put in place so his sole focus

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will remain on the country and achieving his ambitious agenda with the help of the world-class cabinet he has built.”

Trump promised on Twitter late Monday: “I will hold a press conference in the near future to discuss the business, Cabinet picks and all other topics of interest. Busy times!”

He has kept up an active Twitter profile and has done a handful of television interviews, including a lengthy sit-down that aired Sunday on Fox News. But for decades most presidents-elect have held a news conference within days of the election. Those events differ from one-on-one interviews, because the president-elect must field questions from a broader range of journalists.

Trump has also lagged his predecessors in setting up a pool of journalists to provide the public with information about his whereabouts. Last month, he left Trump Tower and went out for dinner without notifying journalists stationed in the lobby. But since then his team has started traveling more regularly with a pool, though the journalists still do not fly on the same plane as Trump.

Every president and president-elect in recent memory has traveled with a pool of journalists when leaving the White House grounds. News organizations take turns serving in the small group, paying their way and sharing the material collected in the pool with the larger press corps. The White House depends on having journalists nearby at all times to relay the president’s first comments on breaking news.

## Recount efforts end: Trump wins in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania

By **MARC LEVY** and **SCOTT BAUER**, Associated Press

Presidential election recount efforts came to an end Monday in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, with both states certifying Republican Donald Trump as the winner in contests that helped put him over the top in the Electoral College stakes.

Trump’s victory in Wisconsin was reaffirmed following a statewide vote recount that showed him defeating Democrat Hillary Clinton by nearly 23,000 votes. Meanwhile, a federal judge issued a stinging rejection of a Green Party-backed request for a presidential recount in Pennsylvania that complained the state’s reliance on aging electronic voting machines made it highly vulnerable to hacking.

Green Party candidate Jill Stein successfully requested and paid for the Wisconsin recount while her attempts for similar statewide recounts in Pennsylvania and Michigan were blocked by the courts.

Stein got only about 1 percent of the vote in each of the three states, which Trump narrowly won over Clinton. Stein argued, without evidence, that voting machines in all three states were susceptible to hacking. All three states were crucial to Trump’s victory, having last voted for a Republican for president in the 1980s.

The numbers barely budged in Wisconsin after nearly 3 million votes were recounted. Trump, a billionaire New York real estate mogul, picked up 131 votes and won by 22,748 votes. The final results changed just 0.06 percent.

Trump took to Twitter to celebrate the recount result.

“The final Wisconsin vote is in and guess what - we just picked up an additional 131 votes,” he tweeted. “The Dems and Green Party can now rest. Scam!”

Stein said she was disappointed not all Wisconsin counties did hand recounts, although most did. She said the goal of the recount was never to change the outcome but to validate the vote and restore confidence in the system.

“The recount in Wisconsin raised a number of important election integrity issues that bear further assessment and serious action to ensure we have integrity and confidence in our electoral system,” she said, without naming what they were.

Wisconsin Elections Commission Chairman Mark Thomsen said before certifying the recount results there was no evidence of a hack.

In Pennsylvania, state officials certified the results of the election in the hours following the decision by U.S. District Judge Paul S. Diamond.

Trump beat Clinton in the state by about 44,000 votes out of 6 million cast, or less than 1 percent, ac-

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ording to the final tally after weeks of counting provisional and overseas ballots. Green Party voters had petitioned some counties to do partial recounts, affecting few votes, county officials said.

Diamond said there were at least six grounds that required him to reject the Green Party's lawsuit, which had been opposed by Trump, the Pennsylvania Republican Party and the Pennsylvania attorney general's office.

Suspicion of a hacked Pennsylvania election "borders on the irrational" while granting the Green Party's recount bid could "ensure that no Pennsylvania vote counts" given Tuesday's federal deadline to certify the vote for the Electoral College, wrote Diamond, an appointee of Republican former President George W. Bush.

"Most importantly, there is no credible evidence that any 'hack' occurred, and compelling evidence that Pennsylvania's voting system was not in any way compromised," Diamond wrote.

He said the lawsuit suffered from a lack of standing, potentially the lack of federal jurisdiction and an "unexplained, highly prejudicial" wait before filing last week's lawsuit, four weeks after the Nov. 8 election.

The decision was the Green Party's latest roadblock in Pennsylvania after hitting numerous walls in county and state courts. Green Party-backed lawyers argue it was possible that computer hackers changed the election outcome and that Pennsylvania's heavy use of paperless machines makes it a prime target. Stein also contended Pennsylvania has erected unconstitutional barriers to voters seeking a recount.

A lawyer for the Green Party members said Monday they were disappointed and unable to immediately say whether they would appeal.

"But one thing is clear," said the lawyer, Ilann Maazel. "The Pennsylvania election system is not fair to voters and voters don't know if their votes counted, and that's a very large problem."

A federal judge halted Michigan's recount last week after three days. Trump won Michigan by fewer than 11,000 votes out of nearly 4.8 million votes cast.

Levy reported from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Bauer reported from Madison, Wisconsin.

## China says Trump's Taiwan comments cause 'serious concern'

By NOMAAN MERCHANT, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's foreign minister warned that any moves to damage Beijing's core interests would be self-detrimental after U.S. President-elect Donald Trump said he could use the way in which America deals with Taiwan as a bargaining chip.

Wang Yi's comments late Monday came a day after Trump said in a television interview that he didn't feel "bound by a one-China policy." Washington, however, reaffirmed the U.S. government's commitment to the policy that means it maintains only unofficial relations with Taiwan, a self-governing island that Beijing considers its territory.

Since recognizing the People's Republic of China in 1979, the U.S. has adhered to the one-China policy, recognizing Beijing as the capital of China and maintaining only unofficial relations with Taiwan. American law, however, requires the U.S. to ensure that Taiwan has the means to defend itself and to treat all threats to the island as matters of serious concern.

China split from Taiwan amid civil war in 1949 and continues to regard the island as a breakaway province to be reunified with the mainland, by force if necessary.

"I can clearly say, whether it is the authorities of Tsai Ing-wen, or anyone else or any power in the world, if they attempt to harm this principle or China's core interests, the only result will be that they will smash their own foot while trying to lift a stone," Wang said after meeting with his Swiss counterpart Didier Burkhalter in Switzerland.

Earlier Monday, Geng Shuang, a spokesman for China's foreign ministry, said in Beijing that established policy is the "political foundation" of any diplomatic relationship between China and the U.S., and that any damage to it could render cooperation "out of the question."

"We urge the new U.S. leader and government to fully understand the seriousness of the Taiwan issue,

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and to continue to stick to the one-China policy," Geng said.

The comments by Wang and Geng are the strongest public condemnation China has made of Trump's criticisms of current American policy toward Taiwan.

Beijing was already angered by Trump's Dec. 2 phone call with Taiwanese President Tsai, the first time an American president or president-elect has publicly spoken to a Taiwanese leader in nearly four decades. China considers any reference to a separate Taiwanese head of state to be a grave insult.

Over the weekend, Trump told "Fox News Sunday" that he wouldn't feel "bound by a one-China policy unless we make a deal with China having to do with other things, including trade."

"Why should some other nation be able to say I can't take a call?" he said. "I think it actually would've been very disrespectful, to be honest with you, not taking it."

In Washington, the White House and State Department both reaffirmed the U.S. government's commitment to a one-China policy.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said "the United States government, under the leadership of President Obama, has been and remains firmly committed to our one-China policy." He added that "the Obama administration does not view Taiwan and our relationship with Taiwan as a bargaining chip."

State Department spokesman John Kirby the department had "continued what has been a bipartisan approach for the past 40 years with respect to a one-China policy."

Chinese officials have been restrained in their responses so far. They may be still trying to learn how to make their positions clear to Trump without feeding a vicious circle of insults and heightened tensions, said Dali Yang, a political science professor at the University of Chicago.

However, Trump's suggestion that he could negotiate on Taiwan likely went too far for China, Yang said.

"He expected for China to bargain again for the one-China position, perhaps by giving up something on trade or something of that nature," Yang said. "This is actually the foundation of the U.S.-China relationship, rather than something to be bargained over."

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Associated Press writers Louise Watt in Beijing and Matthew Pennington in Washington and AP researchers Yu Bing and Liu Zheng contributed to this report.

## AP Interview: Gorbachev says US was short-sighted on Soviets

By KATE DE PURY and VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — As the Soviet Union was breaking up 25 years ago, Mikhail Gorbachev expected the United States and its Western allies to provide vital aid. The former Soviet president thinks their failure to offer significant help wasted a chance to build a safer world and resulted from short-sighted gloating at a Cold War rival's demise.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press, the 85-year-old Gorbachev voiced hope that Russia and the United States would do better and ease current tensions during Donald Trump's presidency.

"The relations between us are so important and concern everyone else, so we must take the interests of others into account," said the leader credited with helping to end the Cold War.

Gorbachev said he had expected Hillary Clinton to win the U.S. presidential race and was surprised by Trump's victory. He declined to offer an assessment of Trump, saying it remains to be seen what policies the new U.S. administration will pursue.

"He has little political experience, but, maybe, it's good," he said.

Gorbachev walked slowly with a cane, but his smile was as captivating as always, his wits as sharp as usual and his reactions quick during the rare, hour-long interview at his foundation's office in Moscow.

Gorbachev, who helped end the Cold War by launching sweeping liberal reforms, cutting nuclear stockpiles and allowing Soviet bloc nations in Central and Eastern Europe to break free from Moscow's diktat, spoke bitterly about the West's failure to embrace a new era of friendly cooperation he said his policy of "perestroika" offered.

"They were rubbing their hands, saying, 'How nice! We had been trying to do something about the Soviet Union for decades, and it ate itself up!'" Gorbachev said.

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He blasted what he described as Western "triumphalism," saying it remains a key factor in tensions between Russia and the West.

Ties between Russia and the West are worse than they have been at any time since the Cold War following Moscow's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula in March 2014 and its support for a pro-Russian separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine. The U.S. and the European Union responded with several rounds of economic sanctions, which along with low oil prices have driven Russia's economy into recession.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has accused the U.S. of trying to isolate and weaken the nation, pointing to the deployment of NATO forces near Russia's borders as a sign of hostile intentions. The war in Syria, where Russia has waged an air campaign in support of the President Bashar Assad, has added to the tensions.

Gorbachev said Russian and U.S. leaders must sit down for talks and "stay at the table until they reach agreement."

"The world needs Russia and the United States to cooperate," Gorbachev said. "Together, they could lead the world ... to a new path."

He defended Russia's action to annex Crimea, pointing out that Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev arbitrarily transferred Crimea from Russian to Ukrainian administrative control in 1954, a decision that mattered little until the Soviet collapse.

He also noted that the annexation followed a popular vote in which the residents of the Black Sea peninsula overwhelmingly backed joining Russia.

"When people say yes, a decision must be made," he said.

The Crimean referendum was held after Russian troops flooded the peninsula, and the West has rejected the vote's outcome due to the troops' presence.

While he squarely backs Putin on the Ukrainian crisis, Gorbachev, who was born in southern Russia, is full of admiration for Ukrainian culture. After an interview, he sang a Ukrainian song he learned from his mother, who was Ukrainian.

Gorbachev also praised outgoing U.S. President Barack Obama. But he deplored what he described as a misguided policy toward Russia pursued by the U.S. and its allies both during his presidency and now.

"They have been badgering Russia with accusations and blaming it for everything," Gorbachev said. "And now, there is a backlash to that in Russia. Russia wants to have friendly ties with America, but it's difficult to do that when Russia sees that it's being cheated."

Gorbachev pointed to the productive relationship he built with U.S. President Ronald Reagan during the 1980s and the arms control agreements they reached despite sharp ideological differences.

"We accomplished a lot," he said. "We could talk openly, in a real partner-like way. It's necessary to take that approach again."

Asked his opinion of Putin's leadership, Gorbachev said he sees him as a "worthy president," even though he has criticized some of his policies.

In the past, Gorbachev assailed the Kremlin for a crackdown on freedom of speech and rigid political controls. He also was critical of Putin's return to the presidency in 2012 after term limits forced him to switch to the premier's seat for four years.

"I almost fully supported him first, and then I began to voice criticism," Gorbachev said of Putin. "I can't renounce my views."

He added, however, that he approved of Putin's recent state-of-the-nation address. The speech sent a conciliatory message to the West, and some observers also saw signs that the Kremlin may ease some of its rigid domestic policies.

"It was different from his previous speeches," Gorbachev said. "The speech showed that he's strongly worried."

Gorbachev has received global accolades for his policy of "perestroika," which eased government economic controls, and his role in ending the Cold War. At home, he has faced stinging criticism. Many held him responsible, and still do, for economic hardships, political turmoil and the loss of superpower status resulting from the Soviet Union's collapse.

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Gorbachev's voice trembled with emotion as he recalled the waning days of the Soviet Union, when his arch-foe, Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, and leaders of other Soviet republics plotted his ouster while pretending to support his efforts to negotiate a treaty that would give the republics broader powers.

"Yeltsin took part in that and supported it, but he was conspiring behind my back how to get rid of Gorbachev," he said, alleging that a hunger for power motivated the Russian leader. "Russia was spearheading the Soviet breakup."

Leaders of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, meeting secretly at a government residence in a forest in Belarus, signed an agreement on Dec. 8, 1991, pronouncing the Soviet Union dead and setting up the Commonwealth of Independent States. The move caught both Gorbachev and the West by surprise. Two weeks later, other ex-Soviet nations joined the newly-created CIS.

Driven into a corner, Gorbachev stepped down on Christmas Day 1991. Hours later, Yeltsin and his lieutenants took over his office in the Kremlin, giving him no time to pack his personal belongings in a calculated gesture of humiliation.

Amid the Soviet meltdown, loyalties of the 4 million-strong Soviet army and the massive KGB apparatus were split between the central authorities and the newly-assertive governments of Russia and other republics who were proclaiming their independence.

Asked if he considered using force to prevent the Soviet breakup, Gorbachev said launching a violent domestic conflict in a nuclear superpower was never an option for him.

"The country was loaded to the brim with weapons," he said. "And it would immediately have pushed the country into a civil war."

## Trump's criticism of Russia hacking claim could haunt him

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump held firm Monday to his skepticism of the huge intelligence apparatus he's about to inherit, doubting anew the CIA conclusion that Russia tried to hack its way into tipping the U.S. election his way.

Trump emphasized that he does not accept the conclusion that the Kremlin tried to disrupt the election in his favor, an idea he dismissed as "ridiculous" over the weekend. He also demanded to know why the subject hadn't been raised before Election Day — which it was, repeatedly.

The focus of reporting by leading news organizations, the issue has been in the headlines since at least June — after hackers broke into computers at the Democratic National Committee, after WikiLeaks began publishing Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman's hacked emails in October and after the Obama administration publicly blamed Russia's government, also in October.

"Unless you catch 'hackers' in the act, it is very hard to determine who was doing the hacking," Trump tweeted Monday. "Why wasn't this brought up before election?"

Trump himself had raised questions during a presidential debate in September about whose hackers were responsible, after Clinton blamed Russia. "She keeps saying 'Russia, Russia, Russia,' and maybe it was. It could be Russia, but it could be China, could also be lots of other people," Trump said then. "It could be someone sitting on their bed that weighs 400 pounds."

Attempting to deflect blame from Russia, Trump has embraced one of the truisms about cybersecurity. After a hacking, it remains a lingering challenge to identify whose hands were on the keyboard: foreign spies, cybercriminals, disgruntled insiders or bored teenagers. Skilled hackers can cover their tracks, use software tools traceable to others and feign their locations across borders or continents.

In the hacks against the Democrats, two U.S. cybersecurity firms found detailed evidence that the intrusions were linked to Russian hackers. The internet domains and registrants traced back to a hacking group, "Fancy Bear," linked to Russia's intelligence services. It's unclear whether there is other, classified evidence uncovered by the administration. The Defense Department is widely known to monitor international internet traffic that might be used in such attacks.

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Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Monday that he had “the highest confidence in the intelligence community and especially the Central Intelligence Agency,” signaling that he disagreed with Trump. “Obviously, any foreign breach of our cybersecurity measures is disturbing. And I strongly condemn any such efforts.”

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Monday it was the “consensus view” of the intelligence community that the Russians sought to meddle in the election.

“You didn’t need a security clearance to figure out who benefited from malicious Russian cyber activity,” Earnest said

Trump’s skepticism might be boxing him in as president. Openly questioning the U.S. intelligence assessment about what could be a historically important hacking will make it harder for him to persuade the public the next time the government looks to place blame for a cyberattack. Such official accusations effectively require the public to trust the government’s findings since the blamed nation invariably denies involvement and intelligence officials are loath to reveal much about how they reached their conclusion.

Such a high-level accusation “only works if the president has credibility,” said Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee. “That only works if the country is going to believe and our friends and allies are going to believe and indeed our adversaries are going to believe that the president means what he says.”

It’s not yet clear how aggressive a President Trump will be in pointing fingers at foreign governments for hacking. Trump, who is rarely seen using a computer and has said he never personally uses email, has proposed a buildup of U.S. military offensive and defensive cyber capabilities that he said will deter foreign hackers.

Over time, the Obama administration embraced a “name and shame” strategy to respond to serious hacking. It openly blamed North Korea for the 2014 hack of Sony Pictures Entertainment. It also brought indictments against Chinese military officials for stealing business secrets from American corporations and against Iranian hackers for digital breaches at banks and a New York dam.

Blame is meant to put foreign governments on notice that their hackers are being watched and deter them from future attacks. When the government chooses to go public, credibility is its most important asset, said John Bambenek, manager of threat systems at Fidelis Cybersecurity.

It’s not uncommon for skeptics, particularly within the hacking community, to second-guess the government’s conclusion. Even after the FBI fingered North Korea as the culprit for the Sony hack, some computer scientists challenged the assessment. The FBI subsequently disclosed even more information to be more convincing.

Ideally, a president concludes that the need to protect sensitive sources and methods outweighs the need to silence skeptics, said James Lewis, a senior vice president and program director at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

“Do I need to persuade them?” he said of skeptics. “No, I need to persuade the key allies, congressional leaders, and the American public needs to at least be comfortable with what I’m doing.”

The U.S. has not imposed sanctions on the Russians for the election-related hacks and, in other instances, has opted against public accusations, including following a disastrous Office of Personnel Management hack widely suspected to be the work of the Chinese.

## Next on Michelle Obama’s journey: Figuring out next steps

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After eight years as first lady, what Michelle Obama does next will be one of the most talked-about questions when the Obamas leave the White House.

She’ll have a variety of options after being a high-profile advocate against childhood obesity, a sought-after talk-show guest, a Democratic power player and a fashion maven.

Just as the first lady’s role is undefined, with each woman molding it to her personality, interests and

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comfort level, there is no script for what comes after the first lady finishes the job.

The widowed Jacqueline Kennedy remarried and became a New York book editor. Laura Bush continues her advocacy for literacy and women in Afghanistan. Hillary Clinton launched her political career with her bid for the U.S. Senate, even before her family left the White House.

Here's a look at what Mrs. Obama is likely to do, or not do, when at 53 years old she returns to "private" life on Jan. 20.

## LIKELY TO DO:

### R&R

President Barack Obama says he's taking his wife on a "really nice vacation, because she deserves it. She's been putting up with me for quite some time." (Twenty-four years of marriage, to be exact.)

### WRITE A MEMOIR

Practically all first ladies do. Book publishers would offer millions for the rights to Mrs. Obama's insider account as the first black woman in the role and as someone who has said little publicly about her private life in the White House. Clinton got an \$8 million advance for her 2003 memoir, "Living History."

### SET UP HER FAMILY'S NEW HOME

Breaking from post-presidential tradition, the Obamas plan to stay in Washington so their 15-year-old daughter, Sasha, can finish high school. Presidents usually leave Washington when they leave office, but the Obamas are renting a home in the wealthy Kalorama neighborhood, near what will be the official residence of Vice President-elect Mike Pence. The Obamas also still own a home in Chicago.

### STICK WITH HER INITIATIVES

Mrs. Obama has said she'll stay engaged in public service and will keep working on the issues she focused on during her tenure. They included childhood obesity and education for girls around the world.

"I've always felt very alive using my gifts and talents to help other people. I sleep better at night. I'm happier," she told Vogue for an interview in the fashion magazine's December issue. "So we'll look back at the issues that I've been working on. The question is: How do I engage in those issues from a new platform? I can't say right now, because we can't spend that much time really doing the hard work of vetting offers or ideas or options because we're still closing things out here."

## COULD DO:

### JOIN SPEAKER'S CIRCUIT

Mrs. Obama put her oratory on display with a well-received speech on opening night of the Democratic National Convention. She followed with a series of campaign speeches criticizing Republican Donald Trump, now the president-elect, as unsuitable for the nation's highest office. Her friend, media mogul Oprah Winfrey, said the first lady will be "one of the most in-demand speakers" as a result of her convention performance. "That speaking fee just quadrupled," Winfrey said during an interview with The Associated Press.

Clinton earned millions of dollars giving paid speeches after she stepped down as secretary of state in 2013. Laura Bush also keeps a robust public speaking schedule.

### HOST A TELEVISION TALK SHOW

Mrs. Obama has demonstrated a knack for talk-show banter, and an ease in front of TV cameras. She co-hosted "The View" before the 2008 election and recently co-hosted Ellen DeGeneres' hourlong gabfest. Roy Ashton, head of television at the Gersh Agency in Los Angeles, says Mrs. Obama would be a "no-brainer" to have a show of her own.

"She could pick up where Oprah left off, or something else," Ashton said. "I think Michelle Obama has a ton to say."

### SERVE ON CORPORATE BOARDS

She has some experience with corporate America, but she'll want to choose carefully. Mrs. Obama resigned from the board of a food supplier for Wal-Mart Stores Inc. in 2007, shortly after her husband announced his presidential bid. He had been a critic of the retail giant. Mrs. Obama cited the increased demands of the campaign for leaving the board of Illinois-based TreeHouse Foods Inc.

"It will be fun to see what she actually does," said Kimberly Archer, head of the Washington office of Russell Reynolds Associates, an executive search and assessment firm. "Wherever she does decide to



focus, I would say, 'Lucky them.'"

LIKELY WON'T DO:

RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

Both Obamas repeatedly have said she will not run for president — despite pressure from Democrats wowed by her campaign speeches against Trump.

Obama has said she doesn't have "the patience or the inclination" to be a candidate and is "too sensible to want to be in politics." Mrs. Obama said: "No, no. Not going to do it," when asked earlier this year about following in her husband's footsteps.

RESUME PRACTICING LAW

Mrs. Obama, a Harvard law school graduate, practiced at a Chicago firm but abandoned a legal career after the deaths of her father and a close friend. She entered public service, working for the city of Chicago and running an AmeriCorps service program before she joined the University of Chicago Medical Center as a vice president for community and external affairs. It was the last paid position she held before become first lady.

Dr. Kurt Newman, president and CEO of Children's National Health System in Washington, noted the first lady's past hospital experience during her annual Christmastime appearance at the facility and said he looked forward to having her back.

"I can always put her to work," Newman said.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

## Trump invites trouble if he keeps businesses: ethics experts

By **BERNARD CONDON** and **JULIE BYKOWICZ**, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump says he will step away from managing his business empire while he's in office — but he's not going to sell it off. If he follows through, he will shatter a presidential precedent on conflicts, and ethics experts say he will open the door to investigations and lawsuits that could hobble his administration.

"My executives will run it with my children," he said in a Fox News interview that aired Sunday. He added that he will not have "anything to do with management" and won't "do deals" for his business while he's president.

That's "a step in the right direction, but he can't have people doing deals on his behalf," said Richard Painter, the chief White House ethics lawyer under President George W. Bush. "He can't have ownership."

Indeed, for decades, presidents have sold their stocks and other personal holdings and put the cash into a blind trust overseen by an investment manager. For example, to stay on the right side of ethics, President Jimmy Carter sold his Georgia peanut farm.

That was one business. In one state.

The Trump Organization presents a far more complex situation. He has ownership stakes in residential towers, hotels, resorts and golf clubs in the U.S., and has struck licensing and property management deals for similar properties around the world. In a financial disclosure he was required to file during the campaign, he listed stakes in about 500 companies in at least 25 countries.

Only by selling to an uninterested third party can Trump assuage critics who suggest that otherwise he could shape regulatory, tax or foreign policies to enrich himself. A sale would also prevent people from trying to influence policies by helping — or threatening to hurt — his business.

Trump was expected to offer more details at a news conference Thursday, but has postponed that until next month. Few are expecting a clean break from all his ventures.

Newt Gingrich, a vice chairman of Trump's transition team, said voters knew Trump was a billionaire businessman when they elected him and he shouldn't have to sell. Instead, Gingrich said he recommended to transition officials that Trump appoint a panel of five ethics "jurists" to vet potential conflicts.

The government agency charged with monitoring ethics is pushing for far more. The Office of Govern-

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ment Ethics tweeted recently about Trump, "We can't repeat enough how good this total divesture will be." The office clarified later that it did not know if that was indeed his plan.

Here are three ways possible conflicts could impact the 45th president:

## LEGAL TROUBLE

Trump will generally be exempt from federal rules on conflicts of interest, but there is one document that ethics experts say could trip him up: the U.S. Constitution. In what is often referred to as the "emoluments clause," the Constitution bans public officials from accepting gifts or payments from foreign governments and companies controlled by them without the consent of Congress.

Would a foreign official buying a condo in a Trump building put the president in violation? What if a foreign government official greenlighted one of Trump's projects in his country?

There is disagreement on the issue because the language in the clause is vague and hasn't been subject to court rulings.

Painter, Bush's ethics lawyer, thinks the clause is likely to be a big problem for Trump given his far-flung real estate holdings.

"He's going to have to get all the foreign governments out," Painter said, or he risks "getting impeached."

Selling would also help lessen another threat to the presidency: private lawsuits.

Scott Amey, general counsel of the Washington watchdog group Project on Government Oversight, said Trump could be named in all sorts of routine business lawsuits that will eat up his time if he doesn't disentangle himself from his holdings. "It's not in the country's best interest to have the president under constant fire," he said.

## POLITICAL FALLOUT

Congress poses another potential problem.

Republicans control both the House and Senate and have shown little interest in raising sticky issues as the new president takes office. But the Democrats have already called for investigations.

Separately, American Bridge, an outside group that backed Hillary Clinton in the campaign, has amassed 20,000 hours of Trump footage and audio and compiled reams of opposition research that it will turn to throughout his administration.

Founder David Brock promises to file lawsuits in the style of Judicial Watch, a conservative nonprofit that successfully sued to obtain Clinton's emails from her tenure as President Barack Obama's secretary of state.

## INVITING QUESTIONS

Even if Trump does nothing to enrich himself while in office, government ethicists and others say the appearance of conflicts could be damaging.

David Drabkin, an expert in government contracting law, said the reason recent presidents have sold their holdings despite no requirement to do so is to set a standard for other officials.

"If you're secretary of defense, one of things you have to do is divest yourself of your stock holdings in defense companies. The president isn't subject to that rule, but he has to lead all these people," Drabkin said.

Drabkin noted the president will appoint the head of the government agency that negotiates Trump's annual lease payments for the use of the taxpayer-owned Washington building that houses his new hotel.

Others have pointed out that Trump will name members of the National Labor Relations Board, which rules on labor disputes, such as one at a Trump hotel in Las Vegas that went against the president-elect recently.

Foreign officials using his business interests to seek a better relationship with the U.S. could add to the air of impropriety.

Soon after the election, Trump's partner in a residential tower in the Philippines was named a "special envoy" to the U.S.

Bykowitz reported from Washington

Condon can be reached at <http://twitter.com/BernardFCondon> and Bykowitz at <http://twitter.com/bykowitz>.

## Surge in drug-affected newborns driven by rural opioid use

By LINDSEY TANNER, AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — A surge in U.S. infants born with symptoms of withdrawal from heroin or strong prescription painkillers is driven largely by rising drug use among women in rural areas, a new study found. The problem in urban and rural areas was about the same in 2004 — about 1 in 1,000 births were affected. But by 2013, the rural rate had climbed to almost 8 in 1,000. In urban areas, it reached 5 per 1,000 births.

The rates correspond with women's use of opioid drugs during pregnancy. This includes use or misuse of oxycodone and other prescription opioid painkillers, and use of illegal narcotics.

Newborns whose mothers use these drugs during pregnancy are at risk for seizures, excessive crying, problems with breathing, sleeping and feeding and other withdrawal symptoms. Treatment sometimes includes methadone and babies may need to be hospitalized for weeks or months.

The study, led by University of Michigan researchers, found that about 21 percent of U.S. newborns with withdrawal symptoms in 2013 were from rural counties, up from 13 percent in 2004.

To come up with their estimate, the researchers analyzed a dataset of U.S. hospital discharges compiled by the government's Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The results were published Monday in JAMA Pediatrics.

Earlier studies also found an increase nationwide, and other data show rural areas have been hard hit by the U.S. opioid epidemic.

The new study shows there's an urgent need for more programs to make it easier for women in rural areas to obtain prevention services and treatment for addiction, the researchers said.

Online:

Newborn abstinence syndrome: <http://tinyurl.com/j8ulul6>

Follow AP Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner at <http://www.twitter.com/LindseyTanner>. Her work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/lindsey-tanner>

## Trump targets F-35, but aircraft means jobs in 45 states

By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump is vowing to corral the "out of control" cost of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. But congressional Republicans and Democrats, aware of the tens of thousands of jobs the aircraft generates in 45 states, will be wary of any plans by Trump to cut the program.

A Monday morning tweet from Trump targeting the F-35 doesn't explain exactly how he'll save billions of dollars in military purchases while also honoring a campaign vow to rebuild the armed forces. Once Trump is in office, he can propose deep cuts to the F-35 or even elect to cancel the program altogether. But Congress, not the president, controls the government's purse strings and makes the final decisions about the budget.

Built by defense giant Lockheed Martin, the nearly \$400 billion price tag for the F-35 makes the program the Pentagon's most expensive weapons acquisition ever. Despite the huge cost, the program has strong bipartisan support in Congress, where lawmakers view the aircraft as essential to national security.

Lockheed Martin's stock tumbled after Trump's tweet, wiping out nearly \$2 billion of the company's market value. The company's shares fell \$6.42, or 2.5 percent, to close at \$253.11 Monday.

The F-35 program made up 20 percent of Lockheed's total 2015 revenue of \$46.1 billion. U.S. govern-

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ment orders made up 78 percent of its revenue last year.

"Whoever has this airplane will have the most advanced air force in the world. That's why we're building the F35. That's why it's important to not only the U.S., our partners and our partners like the Israeli Air force to have this airplane," said Jeff Babione, general manager of the F-35 program, at a base in Israel.

Israel and several other U.S. allies are also buying the F-35, expanding the program's international footprint. Defense Secretary Ash Carter visited Israel on Monday as Tel Aviv received the first two next-generation F-35 fighter jets that will help preserve the country's military edge in the volatile Mideast.

The F-35, which uses stealth technology to avoid being detected by radar, is being built in different configurations to be used by the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps. The Navy's version, for example, is designed to take off and land on an aircraft carrier.

Current plans call for the United States to buy nearly 2,500 F-35s. Close to \$13 billion will be needed annually between 2016 and 2038 to hit that procurement number, according to the Government Accountability Office.

While the F-35 had massive budget overruns early on, the cost has stabilized and even dropped a bit following tough negotiations between the Pentagon and Lockheed Martin, according to Todd Harrison, a defense budget expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"Trump is unlikely to squeeze more blood out of this rock," Harrison said.

Lockheed said that it has worked to lower the price of the F-35 by 60 percent and expected the aircraft to cost \$85 million each in 2019 and 2020. But the company's estimate appears to omit the price of the engine and the cost of development. When those elements are added in, the cost per F-35 in current-year dollars is closer to \$138 million, according to Harrison.

Companies from 45 states are involved in the F-35's production, with Texas, Georgia, California, Arizona and Florida playing the leading roles in testing and manufacturing the jet fighter. The company is teamed with more than 1,250 domestic suppliers to produce thousands of components ranging from highly sophisticated radar sensors to parts of the aircraft's fuselage, according to Lockheed Martin.

Overall, the F-35 program is responsible for more than 146,000 U.S. jobs, the company said.

The Lockheed Martin plant where the F-35 is being built is located in Texas Republican Rep. Kay Granger's district. She's vice chair of the defense appropriations subcommittee. Rep. Mac Thornberry, the Republican chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, represents the district next door to Granger's.

In a statement Monday, Granger hailed the F-35 delivery to Israel, calling the aircraft "what we need to keep our two countries safe in these dangerous times."

Thornberry's committee has supported buying more F-35s than the Obama administration had asked for in its budget request. The F-35 will replace an aging inventory of U.S. aircraft that many lawmakers believe are becoming increasingly unsafe to fly.

Claude Chafin, a committee spokesman, said Thornberry "shares the president-elect's determination to have the Pentagon get weapons in the hands of our troops faster, while being better stewards of the taxpayer dollar."

The tweet on the F-35 marks the second time in a week Trump has blasted U.S. aircraft spending. Last week, he tweeted that costs to build new presidential planes by Boeing Corp. were "out of control" and ended the tweet with "Cancel order!"

Follow Richard Lardner on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/rplardner>

## 'La La Land' waltzes off with most Golden Globe nominations

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

The Golden Globes nominations had their usual quirks. "Deadpool," really? But the nominees did little to disrupt the dominant trends of this year's award season: that "La La Land" and "Moonlight" have separated themselves from a pack of richly diverse contenders.

"La La Land," Damien Chazelle's infectious Los Angeles musical, sang and danced its way to a lead-

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ing seven Golden Globes nominations, including best picture musical or comedy, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced Monday in Los Angeles. Barry Jenkins' lyrical three-part coming-of-age tale "Moonlight" trailed closely with six nods, including best drama.

Those two films have taken just about everyone top honor so far in Hollywood's awards season, with Kenneth Lonergan's tender, grief-filled New England drama "Manchester by the Sea" — which scored five nominations Monday, including best drama and best actor for Casey Affleck — consistently in the running, too.

But "La La Land," with its show-stopping musical numbers and love affair with old Hollywood musicals, remains widely seen as the Academy Awards favorite. After setting records in its limited release over the weekend and winning a leading eight Critics' Choice Awards on Sunday, it may be just beginning to flex its musical muscle.

"What a way to start a Monday," said "La La Land" star Emma Stone.

Stone and her co-star, Ryan Gosling, were nominated for their lead performances, as was the film's directing, screenplay, score and original song. "Moonlight," spread across three chapters of a young man's life in Miami, earned nods for Jenkins' directing and script, supporting actor favorite Mahershala Ali and supporting actress Naomie Harris.

"When you see that the HFPA comes back with six nominations you know they saw the work and the love put into the film," Jenkins said by phone. "It fills my heart."

There were, as usual, eyebrow-raising picks by the HFPA, a group of mostly freelance journalists known for playing favorites and packing its lively banquet with stars. While Martin Scorsese's "Silence" and Clint Eastwood's "Sully" both went emptyhanded, the R-rated superhero romp "Deadpool" scored two nominations, including best film, comedy or musical.

"As we speak, the entire 'Deadpool' team is engaged in a grotesque, early morning tickle-fight," tweeted the film's star, Ryan Reynolds, who was also nominated.

Also out of leftfield were the supporting actor nod for Jonah Hill in the poorly reviewed "War Dogs" and the unexpected nomination for the unheralded Aaron Taylor-Johnson in Tom Ford's "Nocturnal Animals."

But those choices did nothing to dislodge the season's front-runners, nor did it alter another maxim gaining steam: this year's awards season won't be nearly so white as last year's.

Along with "Moonlight," nominations were heaped on Denzel Washington's August Wilson adaptation "Fences" (including acting nods for Washington and Viola Davis), the interracial marriage drama "Loving" (leads Ruth Negga and Joel Edgerton were each nominated) and the inspirational NASA drama about African-American mathematicians "Hidden Figures" (for which Octavia Spencer was nominated).

Those nominations, all of them expected, confirm what has already solidified as a notably more diverse Oscar field. The same was true on the television side, where a rush of newcomers joined mainstays like "Transparent" and "Veep."

"The People v. O.J. Simpson" continued its awards success with five nominations, including best limited series and nods for stars Sarah Paulson, Courtney B. Vance, Sterling K. Brown and John Travolta. But the TV categories were also populated by more recent acclaimed shows not eligible for September's Emmy Awards, including "The Night Of," "Westworld," "Atlanta," "This Is Us" and "Insecure." HBO led the networks with 14 nominations.

Whether the typically carefree Globes, to be hosted by Jimmy Fallon, will be as bubbly as usual will be a question going into the ceremony. The Jan. 8 show comes less than two weeks before president-elect Donald Trump's inauguration, and some were already conflating the two.

"Huge thanks to the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and the Russian hackers that made our nominations possible," joked "Veep" star Julia Louis-Dreyfus on her eighth Globe nod.

The Weinstein Co.'s "Lion," about an Indian boy separated from his family, had an especially good morning. The film earned four nods, including best drama and acting nominations for Dev Patel and Nicole Kidman.

Mel Gibson, long a divisive, controversial figure in Hollywood, also had reason to celebrate. His World War II drama "Hacksaw Ridge" landed three nominations, including best drama, best director and best actor in a drama for Andrew Garfield.

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David Mackenzie's West Texas heist thriller "Hell or High Water," with Jeff Bridges, earned three nods including best drama.

The best actress race is one of the year's most competitive, though it's so far been dominated by "Elle" star Isabelle Huppert. In drama, she was nominated along with Amy Adams ("Arrival"), Natalie Portman ("Jackie"), Jessica Chastain ("Miss Sloane") and Megha.

Along with "La La Land," the best picture, comedy or musical, nominees were the Annette Bening-led family drama "20th Century Women," the 1980s Dublin music-laced coming-of-age comedy "Sing Street" and "Florence Foster Jenkins."

For the latter, Meryl Streep landed her 30th nomination. The film, about a Manhattan heiress' quixotic dreams of singing opera, was one of the morning's most unlikely winners, scoring four nominations including nods for Hugh Grant and Simon Helberg. Streep, an eight-time winner, will also be the recipient of the Cecil B. DeMille Award for career achievement.

The best actress, comedy or musical, nominees also contained a pair of Globes rookies: Hailee Steinfeld for the teen comedy "The Edge of Seventeen" and Lily Collins for Warren Beatty's Howard Hughes tale "Rules Don't Apply."

In a sign of Hollywood's increasing division between mega blockbusters and smaller independent films, the lead nominee-getters were overwhelmingly independent. Lionsgate led the way with 13 nods, thanks largely to "La La Land." The indie outfit A24, producer of "Moonlight," followed with nine.

Associated Press writers Jocelyn Noveck in New York, and Lindsey Bahr and Lynn Elber in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## Trump ups US ante on Taiwan, but China has leverage too

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump sounds ready to use U.S. policy toward Taiwan as a bargaining chip to extract concessions from China, but both of the world powers could play at that game.

China's rising economic and military clout means its communist leadership has leverage over Washington too. Beijing could erect more obstacles for U.S. companies working in China. It could ramp up tensions in the seas of East Asia. And if differences spike over Taiwan, the Trump administration could face tough choices on whether to send U.S. forces to defend the island that China regards as part of its territory.

There's been a delicate diplomatic balance since 1979 when the U.S. shifted formal recognition to China from Taiwan. Under the so-called "one China" policy, Washington acknowledges China's claim to Taiwan but retains close informal ties and supplies the self-governing island with weapons. Trump said Sunday that he didn't feel "bound by a one-China policy," drawing Chinese condemnation.

"This was the agreement that underpinned the normalization of U.S.-China relations. If you throw that out the window then China may very well see this as opening up every other issue," said Michael Fuchs, a former U.S. senior diplomat on East Asia.

A look at some of the areas in which China could make life difficult for the United States:

### TAIWAN

If China saw its national interests were threatened by a Trump administration it could squeeze the U.S. ally economically, politically and militarily. China has far superior air and naval power to Taiwan and has hundreds of missiles arrayed against the island. China could ramp up military exercises in the 110-mile-wide Taiwan Strait to demonstrate its resolve to retake Taiwan by force if necessary.

The U.S. has no legal obligation to defend Taiwan but has previously flexed its muscles when the island was under threat. In 1996, the Bill Clinton administration permitted Taiwan's then-leader Lee Teng-hui, who was seen as challenging the one-China policy, to address his alma mater Cornell University. China reacted with missile tests in waters near Taiwan. The U.S. responded by sending two aircraft carrier battle groups and China backed down.

Twenty years on, and China is now much stronger and challenges American military pre-eminence. Pat-

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rick Cronin at the Center for a New American Security said it would seriously hurt U.S. credibility with its other allies if it failed to stand up for Taiwan after Trump encouraged its current leader Tsai Ing-wen to directly engage with him. It would also risk angering a strongly pro-Taiwan U.S. Congress.

## TRADE AND INVESTMENT

U.S.-China trade in goods and services reached nearly \$660 billion last year, heavily in China's favor. Trump has suggested imposing 45 percent tariffs on Chinese products to correct the imbalance. China, suffering a slowdown in its growth, could retaliate in kind, setting off a trade war that would also hurt the U.S. economy. The Chinese state has heavy involvement in the economy and has previously used trade to punish Japan and the Philippines over territorial disputes.

Bonnie Glaser, senior adviser for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said China could choose to buy big-ticket products like airplanes from France-based Airbus instead of U.S.-based Boeing. It could also restrict imports of U.S. goods that it can obtain elsewhere and dial back growing Chinese investment in America.

## MILITARIZATION IN EAST ASIA

Trump on Sunday accused China of building "a massive fortress" in the South China Sea — a reference to artificial islands Beijing has built in disputed waters there. China could expedite militarization of the islands over U.S. objections. Further north in the East China Sea, Beijing could step up operations by its boats and aircraft challenging Japan's control of other islands which are covered by a U.S.-Japan mutual defense treaty.

## COOPERATING ON NORTH KOREA

Trump also said China was "not helping us at all with North Korea." That's a familiar refrain in Washington. Pyongyang depends on its trade with China for its economic survival. While China has supported stiffer U.N. sanctions and won't endorse a nuclear North Korea, it remains reluctant to impose economic costs that could threaten the survival of Kim Jong Un's government.

Mark Fitzpatrick of the International Institute of Strategic Studies said Beijing still holds the key to applying the kind of pressure that might get Kim to scale back his nuclear and missile programs. "Persuading Beijing to cooperate will be all the more difficult if Trump causes problems over Taiwan," he said.

China won't necessarily change tack on other global issues like climate change because of a rift with Washington. But Glaser said there could be a deeper Chinese alignment with Russia in international affairs. She said that would depend upon the evolution of U.S.-Russia relations under Trump, who appears to want warmer ties with Moscow.

## CYBERSECURITY

The U.S. has long complained that China steals U.S. corporate information to help its own companies. Fuchs said that's "another pressure point" with Washington. Tensions on this issue have ebbed since President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed in September 2015 that neither government will support commercial cyber-theft, although U.S. officials have not conclusively determined that it has led to a decline in hacks against U.S. companies.

## After health-care repeal vote, some in GOP fear a cliff

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans are eagerly planning initial votes next month on dismantling President Barack Obama's health care law, a cherished GOP goal. But many worry that while Congress tries to replace it, the party will face ever-angrier voters, spooked health insurers and the possibility of tumbling off a political cliff.

Republicans have said they first want to vote to unwind as much of the health care law as they can, though it wouldn't take effect for perhaps three years. That's to give them and new President Donald Trump time to write legislation constructing a new health care system — a technically and politically daunting task that has frustrated GOP attempts for unity for years.

Underscoring the GOP's many decisions ahead, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., told reporters Monday that the phase-in period "is yet to be determined." He said Republicans "will work ex-

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peditiously to come up with a better proposal than current law.”

Many congressional Republicans worry they'd be vulnerable during the transition period between a repeal vote and actually replacing Obama's law with a new system. Twenty million people now covered would face uncertainty about their future benefits, while unsettled health insurers might quickly start boosting premiums or stop selling policies in some areas to protect themselves.

In both cases, public wrath could be aimed at the party controlling the White House and Capitol — the GOP.

“It's going to be a difficult challenge to pass a replacement” for Obama's law and make sure some people don't lose coverage, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said. Health insurers will need time to adjust to a new system and if Congress waits until the last minute to enact a new law, “It's not going to work,” she said.

A related fear: Congress and Trump enact legislation dismantling Obama's law but as the clock ticks down to its expiration, the GOP remains divided over replacing it. The political imperative for Republicans to pass something would be overwhelming but with Congress being Congress, there are no guarantees.

“When you set up a cliff, you can go over it,” Rep. Charlie Dent, R-Pa., said.

Many Republicans insist that won't happen. They view setting an end date on Obama's law as a way to force congressional action on replacing it without hurting consumers.

“There needs to be a reasonable transition period so people don't have the rug pulled out from under them,” House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., told reporters last week.

But in one of many questions dividing Republicans, they differ over what a reasonable transition period means.

No. 2 Senate Republican, John Cornyn of Texas, said there will likely be a three-year gap between Congress' votes to repeal Obama's law and when that would actually kick in.

“We're not going to let anybody fall through the cracks,” Cornyn said.

Other Republicans, particularly in the House, worry that three years is too long to leave voters, insurers and health care providers in suspense. Eager to prevent a drawn-out effort to pass new health care legislation from spinning into a damaging issue for the 2018 campaigns, many want the process to take a year or less.

“I hope it's not years with no replacement,” said Rep. Steve Stivers, R-Ohio, who next year will head the National Republican Congressional Committee, the House GOP's political organization. “Quality matters more than speed, but speed can't be ignored. You don't want the American people to feel too uncomfortable for too long.”

Republicans have yet to decide what their replacement will look like.

Though details are scant, Trump and Ryan have proposed tax breaks to help people pay insurance premiums. Both want to eliminate Obama's mandate that most individuals get coverage and most employers cover workers, but that could be replaced with a requirement that people maintain “continuous” coverage or face higher premiums.

Democrats, who enacted Obama's law in 2010 over solid GOP opposition, have signaled they won't help Republicans demolish it.

“Bring it on,” Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., next year's minority leader, said of GOP repeal efforts. “They have nothing to put in its place.”

Ryan and McConnell say the GOP-controlled Congress plans to pass a procedural measure in January that will let Republicans push repeal legislation through the Senate later with just a simple majority.

That's important because with the Senate GOP holding a 52-48 majority next year, Democrats would otherwise be able to block a repeal bill unless it gets 60 votes.

The early procedural vote could also signal that the GOP is intent on repealing Obama's law, while saving the more difficult details for later.

They are still deciding what that part of the process will look like — and what their replacement will be.



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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 13, the 348th day of 2016. There are 18 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 13, 1981, authorities in Poland imposed martial law in a crackdown on the Solidarity labor movement. (Martial law formally ended in 1983.)

On this date:

In 1642, Dutch navigator Abel Tasman sighted present-day New Zealand.

In 1769, Dartmouth College in New Hampshire received its charter.

In 1862, Union forces led by Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside launched futile attacks against entrenched Confederate soldiers during the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg; the soundly defeated Northern troops withdrew two days later.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson arrived in France, becoming the first chief executive to visit Europe while in office.

In 1928, George Gershwin's "An American in Paris" had its premiere at Carnegie Hall in New York.

In 1937, the Chinese city of Nanjing fell to Japanese forces; what followed was a massacre of war prisoners, soldiers and citizens. (China maintains as many as 300,000 people were killed; Japan says the toll was far less.)

In 1944, during World War II, the light cruiser USS Nashville was badly damaged in a Japanese kamikaze attack off Negros Island in the Philippines that claimed 133 lives.

In 1962, the United States launched Relay 1, a communications satellite which retransmitted television, telephone and digital signals.

In 1974, Malta became a republic. George Harrison visited the White House, where he met President Gerald R. Ford.

In 1994, an American Eagle commuter plane crashed short of Raleigh-Durham International Airport in North Carolina, killing 15 of the 20 people on board.

In 1996, the U.N. Security Council chose Kofi Annan (KOH'-fee AN'-nan) of Ghana to become the world body's seventh secretary-general.

In 2003, Saddam Hussein was captured by U.S. forces while hiding in a hole under a farmhouse in Adwar, Iraq, near his hometown of Tikrit.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush held high-level talks at the Pentagon, after which he said he would "not be rushed" into a decision on a strategy change for Iraq. Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., underwent emergency surgery after suffering bleeding in his brain. (Johnson later resumed his Senate duties.) Lamar Hunt, 74, the owner of football's Kansas City Chiefs who coined the term "Super Bowl," died in Dallas.

Five years ago: Early sound recordings by Alexander Graham Bell that were packed away at the Smithsonian Institution for more than a century were played publicly for the first time using new technology that read the sound with light and a 3D camera. (In one recording, a man recites part of Hamlet's Soliloquy; on another, a voice recites the numbers 1 through 6.) In the Penn State child sex abuse scandal, ex-assistant coach Jerry Sandusky waived a preliminary hearing on the charges, which he denied. (Sandusky was later convicted of abusing several boys, some on campus.) In Liege, Belgium, six people were killed when a 33-year-old man threw grenades and fired on a crowd of people in the city's main square before committing suicide. In Florence, Italy, a man opened fire in an outdoor market, killing two vendors from Senegal, then critically wounding three other Senegalese immigrants before killing himself.

One year ago: Marine Le Pen's far-right National Front collapsed in French regional elections, failing to take a single region after dominating the first round of voting. A bomb in a market killed at least 22 Shiites in Pakistan's Kurram tribal region. Pope Francis called on humanity not to let sadness prevail because of the many forms of violence afflicting the world.

Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz is 96. Actor-comedian Dick Van Dyke is 91. Actor Christopher Plummer is 87. Country singer Buck White is 86. Music/film producer Lou Adler is

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83. Singer John Davidson is 75. Actress Kathy Garver (TV: "Family Affair") is 71. Singer Ted Nugent is 68. Rock musician Jeff "Skunk" Baxter is 68. Country musician Ron Getman is 68. Actor Robert Lindsay is 67. Country singer-musician Randy Owen is 67. Actress Wendie Malick is 66. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is 66. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is 63. Country singer John Anderson is 62. Singer-songwriter Steve Forbert is 62. Singer-actor Morris Day is 60. Actor Steve Buscemi (boo-SEH'-mee) is 59. Actor Johnny Whitaker (TV: "Family Affair") is 57. Rock musician John Munson (Semisonic; Twilight Hours) is 54. Actress-reality TV star NeNe Leakes is 50. Actor-comedian Jamie Foxx is 49. Actor Bart Johnson is 46. Actor Jeffrey Pierce is 45. TV personality Debbie Matenopoulos is 42. Rock singer-musician Thomas Delonge is 41. Actor James Kyson Lee is 41. Actress Chelsea Hertford is 35. Rock singer Amy Lee (Evanescence) is 35. Actor Michael Socha is 29. Neo-soul musician Wesley Watkins (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 29. Country singer Taylor Swift is 27. Actress Maisey Stella is 13.

Thought for Today: "My theory is to enjoy life, but the practice is against it." — Charles Lamb, English essayist (1775-1834).