

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 1 of 42

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Dairy Queen Ad
- 2- SD Arts Council Funding
- 3- Day 5: Christmas Storm Outages Update
- 4- New Year's Day ranks among deadliest
- 5- DI Help Wanted
- 5- Harry Implement Ad
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7 - Local Weather Forecast
- 8- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 8- Today's Weather Climate
- 8- National Weather map
- 9 - Daily Devotional
- 10 - AP News

## Friday, Dec. 30

**Senior Menu:** Turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, ice cream sundae, whole wheat bread.

## Saturday, Dec. 31

**Catholic Parish:** Worship at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 4 p.m., worship at St. Joseph in Turton at 6 p.m.

## Sunday, Jan. 1

**United Methodist Church Parish:** 9 a.m. service in Conde, 10 a.m. coffee fellowship time, 11 a.m., worship at Groton (No Sunday School)

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church:** Worship at 9 a.m. (No Sunday School)

**Catholic Parish:** Worship at St. Anthony in Bristol at 9 a.m.

**Heaven Bound Ministries in Pierpont:** Worship at 10 a.m.

**St. John's Lutheran Church:** Worship with Communion at 9 a.m.

## Monday, Jan. 2

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church:** Bible Study at 6:30 a.m.

## Tuesday, Jan. 3

**Senior Menu:** Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.

**Boys' Basketball** at Webster Area (C game at 5:15 p.m., JV at 6:30 p.m. with varsity game to follow)

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

## 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**

## Wednesday, Jan. 4

**Senior Menu:** Creamed chicken, buttermilk

			
Oven Fresh Sandwiches	Hot Desserts	Snack Melts	
11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627			

## Applications open for SDAC funding opportunities

PIERRE, S.D. - South Dakota artists, arts organizations and other nonprofit groups are invited to seek grant support from the South Dakota Arts Council to assist in funding arts projects and programs throughout the state. The application deadline is March 1.

### **South Dakota artists may apply for funding through five grant programs:**

- ➔ Artist Fellowships of \$5,000 are awarded to South Dakota artists of exceptional talent in any discipline or medium to recognize past artistic achievement and encourage future artistic growth.
- ➔ Artist Project Grants between \$1,000 and \$2,000 are matching grants for talented South Dakota artists in any discipline or medium to fund specific arts-related projects that not only further the artist's career but also benefit the public in some way.
- ➔ Artist Collaboration Grants encourage South Dakota artists to collaborate among themselves or with an out-of-state artist in the creation of a joint project or activity that will significantly benefit the artists and the state. A maximum of \$6,000 may be requested.
- ➔ Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grants promote the continuation of folk and traditional arts and culture by providing up to \$4,000 in support of a master folk artist to teach qualified apprentices.
- ➔ Artist Career Development Grants of \$2,000 are designed to provide financial support to emerging artists committed to advancing their work and careers as artists.

South Dakota nonprofit organizations can seek funding support in the following categories this year:

- ➔ Project Grants assist non-profit organizations in the presentation of a single arts event or a series of similar and related arts activities that benefit the general public.
- ➔ Importation of Musicians Grants enable small South Dakota orchestras that do not receive funding in another grant category to improve the quality of their performance seasons by importing musicians from outside their local communities to supplement local orchestra personnel.

Applicants have until March 1 to apply for grant support for projects and activities that will occur July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018. Applications are available at [www.arts council.sd.gov](http://www.arts council.sd.gov) and must be submitted online through the South Dakota Arts Council's e-grant system. Hard-copy applications submitted through the mail will not be accepted, with the exception of Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grants.

Applicants should review the eligibility requirements, granting criteria and the application procedure on the website before beginning the application process.

SDAC staff will be available to help assess specific needs and assist in the development of grant proposals for artists and nonprofit organizations. Contact the South Dakota Arts Council by calling 605-773-3301 or by emailing [sdac@state.sd.us](mailto:sdac@state.sd.us) with any questions.

The mission of the Arts Council, an office of the South Dakota Department of Tourism, is to provide grants and services to artists, arts institutions, schools and other nonprofit organizations throughout the state with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the State of South Dakota.

The South Dakota Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism and the South Dakota Arts Council. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen.

## Day 5: Christmas Storm Outages Update

Electric cooperatives across South Dakota continued to make progress on restoring power to some thousands South Dakotans who remain without electricity after a Dec. 25 storm hit the state.

As power is restored, cooperatives are urging people to stay away from downed or low-hanging power lines as they may be energized.

On Thursday, three cooperatives were able to completely restore power to all their members. And, as Thursday drew to a close, cooperatives were striving to restore electricity to about 1,000 co-op members before calling crews in for the night. About 5,000 households are expected to remain without power into Friday and beyond.

Repairs to the lines – which are spread out among counties across the state from the Montana border to the Minnesota border – are slow going as crews encounter deep snow in the west and thick ice in the east. Ice continues to cling to lines, poles and other apparatus, raising concerns that additional winds or storms could cause new problems.

On transmission lines in the northeast, ice up to seven inches in diameter has been reported on the lines.

Seven distribution cooperatives and one transmission cooperative continue to have outages related to the storm. Employees at those cooperatives have been working since Sunday to make repairs. More than 74 workers from 16 South Dakota electric cooperatives are assisting with repairs, as are 52 workers from 13 cooperatives in Minnesota and Iowa. Private contractors add approximately 100 more workers to the force.

The Christmas Day storms brought blizzard, strong winds, freezing rains and even lightning strikes to the state.

A majority of the state's electric cooperatives had also experienced outages in the storm but were able to make repairs by Monday afternoon.

The storm has also affected cooperatives' transmission suppliers, which bring electricity to local substations.

East River Electric Power Cooperative, headquartered in Madison, S.D., has damage in northeastern South Dakota from the Watertown and Clear Lake area north to the Sisseton area. Western Area Power Administration lines are also affected in the Summit area. EREPC is aware of nearly 500 transmission structures damaged in the storm, which affect the cooperative's ability to deliver power to substations serving some of the affected distribution cooperatives. East River crews have made significant progress and have repaired or replaced over 10 percent of the broken structures so far and expect to be able to make even more progress Friday.

For information on outages at electric cooperatives in the state, go to <https://outages.sdrea.coop/outages/maps>

Cooperatives urge people to stay away from downed power lines and to not drive over downed lines.

South Dakota's 28 distribution cooperatives provide electricity in each of the state's 66 counties and serve more than 120,000 South Dakota homes, farms/ranches and businesses. South Dakota's electric cooperatives maintain more than 68,000 miles of distribution and transmission line and employ more than 960 people.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 4 of 42

## **New Year's Day Ranks Among Deadliest on Roadways**

### **New Year's Fatality Crash Rate Tops all Major Holidays**

Dec. 28, 2016 – As South Dakotans prepare for New Year's celebrations, AAA South Dakota is reminding drivers and passengers alike of the dangers on the roads this New Year's Day, which consistently ranks among the year's deadliest days for traffic fatalities.

Over the 30 hours of New Year's last year – from 6 p.m. Dec. 31 to midnight, Jan. 1, 2015 – The South Dakota Department of Public Safety reported 18 crashes resulted in injuries on South Dakota roadways.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 10,265 people died in drunk driving crashes in 2015 nationwide, an average of one alcohol-impaired-driving fatality every 51 minutes. These alcohol-related deaths accounted for 29 percent of all highway fatalities in 2015.

### **Sobering Drunk Driving Facts**

- ♦ During the New Year's holiday period, defined by NHTSA as 6 p.m. December 31, 2014 to 5:59 a.m. January 5, 2015, the nation lost 31 lives per day in drunk driving crashes—a total of 139 deaths over 4.5 days, according to NHTSA.

- ♦ Of the traffic fatalities among children 14 and younger in 2015, 16 percent occurred in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes. (NHTSA)

- ♦ In 2015, the 21- to 24-year-old age group had the highest percentage (28%) of drivers with BACs of .08 or higher in fatal crashes compared to other age groups. (NHTSA)

"AAA South Dakota urges motorists to be aware of how they can improve their own safety and the safety of everyone sharing our roadways," said Buskohl. "A recent AAA survey showed that 97 percent of licensed drivers consider it unacceptable to drive when they may have had too much to drink, yet the carnage on the highway continues simply because drivers make poor choices."

### **Be Your Own Life-Saver**

Reduce alcohol-related traffic deaths by following AAA's advice over New Year's:

- ♦ Always plan ahead to designate a non-drinking driver before any party or celebration.
- ♦ Never get behind the wheel of a car when you've been drinking alcohol – even after just one drink. Sometimes one drink can be too many.
- ♦ Never ride as a passenger in a car driven by someone who has been drinking alcohol – even after just one drink.
- ♦ Do not hesitate to take the keys from friends or family members who may be impaired.
- ♦ Call a taxi or take advantage of AAA South Dakota's free Topsy Tow program and get a free ride home for you and your car. Open to AAA members and non-members alike, Topsy Tow is available in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Mitchell and Yankton through New Year's Day. If you feel unsafe behind the wheel after partying, call 1-800-AAA-HELP and request a Topsy Tow.
- ♦ Be a responsible host by reminding guests to stay safe and by offering alcohol-free beverages, such as mocktails (new recipes at [www.AAA.com/Mocktail](http://www.AAA.com/Mocktail)).
- ♦ If you encounter an impaired driver on the road, keep a safe distance and ask a passenger to call 911 (or pull over to a safe location to make the call yourself).
- ♦ Remember: prescription, over-the-counter medications and illegal drugs also can impair your ability to drive safely.

Visit [PreventDUI.AAA.com](http://PreventDUI.AAA.com) for impaired driving facts, transportation alternatives and expert advice. AAA encourages visitors to Take the Pledge to drive drug and alcohol-free.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 5 of 42

## Help Wanted!

The South Dakota Creativity Association board (SD DI) is currently looking for people interested in filling open Affiliate and Regional Challenge Master positions for the upcoming tournament season. These positions involve studying a current Destination Imagination Challenge and being involved in insuring that consistency in appraising is maintained from tournament to tournament throughout our state. Many of these positions are open this year due to retiring long-time dedicated volunteers. This is a volunteer position, but the board helps defray some travel costs. The tournaments run from the end of February to the end of March, but we'd like these positions filled within the next month. Please pass this on to anyone that you think might be interested in a position. If interested yourself, or if you want more details as to what the position entails, please contact the SD Affiliate Director, Dean Fenenga at di.soda.ad@gmail.com. The board and hundreds of students across our state thank you for your support of South Dakota Destination Imagination.

### Case IH Heaters

70,000 BTU Heater- \$249.00

125,000 BTU Heater- \$349.00

215,000 BTU Heater-\$449.00

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# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 6 of 42

## Today in Weather History

December 30, 1985: Winds gusted to 40 to 50 mph over northern South Dakota through the day and into the southern part of the state by late afternoon. The high winds lowered visibilities to near zero at times between Lemmon in Perkins County and Faith in Meade County. The strongest wind gusts were to 63 mph at Mitchell. At 9:33 pm CST, the strong winds blew a semi-tractor trailer off the highway one mile east of Aberdeen.

December 30, 2010: A strong upper-level low-pressure trough and associated surface low-pressure area moved across the region bringing the first of two consecutive blizzards to central and northeast South Dakota. Snowfall amounts of 3 to 6 inches combined with bitter cold north winds of 25 to 40 mph caused widespread blizzard conditions across central and northeast South Dakota from the late morning until the evening hours. Near zero visibilities caused dangerous travel conditions resulting in the closing of Interstates 29 and 90 along with several highways across the region. Several hundred people were stranded in the aftermath of the storm. A group of fishermen had to be rescued in Day County when they became stranded on the ice. The snowfall began across the area anywhere from 7 to 11 am CST and ended between 10 pm and 1 am CST.

December 30, 1960: A massive accumulation of snow, 68.2 inches to be exact, buries the Japanese city of Tsukayama in 24 hours. Tsukayama is located in the coastal mountains inland from the Sea of Japan along Honshu's west coast and subject to significant sea-effect snowfalls.

December 30, 2003: For the first time in five years, sections of Las Vegas receive an inch or two of snow on cars, roads, sidewalks and trees, while snow flurries fell on downtown and the Strip.

1880 - The temperature at Charlotte, NC, plunged to an all-time record cold reading of 5 degrees below zero, a record which was equalled on the 21st of January in 1985. (The Weather Channel)

1917 - A great cold wave set many records in the northeastern U.S. The mercury plunged to 13 degrees below zero at New York City, and to 15 degrees below zero at Boston. Temperature readings dipped below zero at Boston five nights in a row. Berlin NH hit 44 degrees below zero in the "Great World War I Cold Wave," and Saint Johnsbury VT reached 43 degrees below zero. (David Ludlum)

1933 - The temperature reached 50 degrees below zero at Bloomfield, VT. It was the coldest reading in modern records for New England. The temperature at Pittsburgh NH reached 44 degrees below zero. (David Ludlum)

1955 - Anchorage, AK, reported an all-time record snow depth of 47 inches. (30th-1st) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A storm in the western U.S. produced heavy snow in Utah, with 28 inches reported in the Mount Holly and Elk Meadows area. Strong winds prevailed ahead of a cold front in the central U.S. Winds gusted to 46 mph at Dodge City KS, and reached 80 mph at Ruidoso NM. Strong northerly winds, ushering arctic cold into the north central U.S., created blizzard conditions in western Minnesota and central and eastern South Dakota. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)





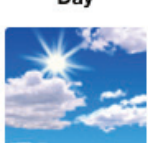


1988 - Unseasonably cold weather prevailed in the southwestern U.S. A week of subfreezing temperatures in southern California claimed the lives of five people. Redding CA was blanketed with four inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Extreme cold continued across northern Maine. Milo ME was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 38 degrees below zero, and the low of 31 degrees below zero at Caribou ME was a December record for that location. Freezing rain spread across much of Lower Michigan, knocking out electrical power to 1.9 million customers in southeastern Lower Michigan. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

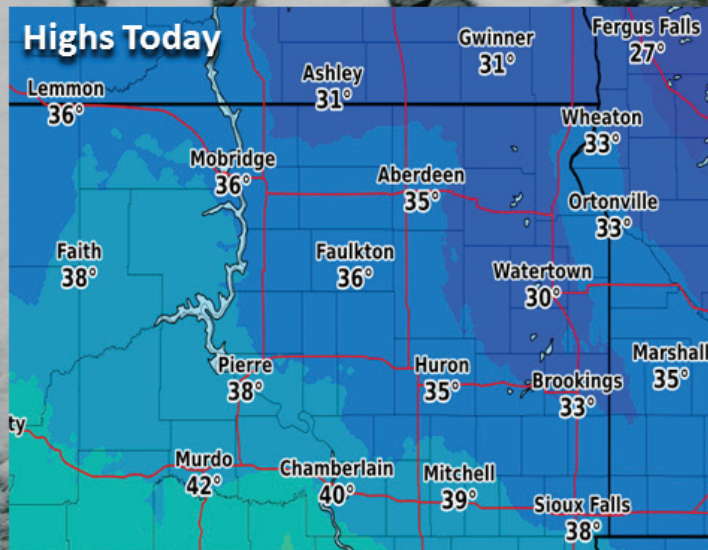
2008 - Severe to extreme drought was observed across parts of the Hawaiian Islands, the western continental U.S., and parts of Georgia and South Carolina. Meanwhile, severe to exceptional drought conditions were present across southern Texas. (NCDC)




# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 7 of 42

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	New Year's Day	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Cloudy	Slight Chance Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Snow	Chance Snow
High: 34 °F	Low: 13 °F	High: 23 °F	Low: 12 °F	High: 23 °F	Low: 8 °F	High: 13 °F

**Mild Today – Windy Tonight**  
**A Few Inches Of Snow Monday**  
**Arctic Air Returns For Next Week**



 <b>Single Digits &amp; Teens</b>	 <b>Highs: 20s</b> <b>Lows: Single Digits &amp; Teens</b>	 <b>Highs: 20s</b> <b>Lows: Single Digits &amp; Teens</b>
<b>Tonight</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

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



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 12/30/2016 4:10 AM Central

Published on: 12/30/2016 at 4:16AM

Mild conditions are expected today despite the clouds. A front will pass through the forecast area over-night with gusty northwest winds and pockets of light snow and blowing snow. Temperatures will be about average for the weekend. Take advantage of these mild readings - as the return of Arctic air is expected for next week. As the colder air moves in, we will see the potential for a few inches of snow on Monday.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 8 of 42

## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 29.2 F at 3:07 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 11.1 F at 11:58 PM**

**High Gust: 32.0 Mph at 12:49 PM**

Rain: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High: 52° in 1980**

**Record Low: -34° in 1917**

**Average High: 23°F**

**Average Low: 2°F**

**Average Precip in Dec.: 0.50**

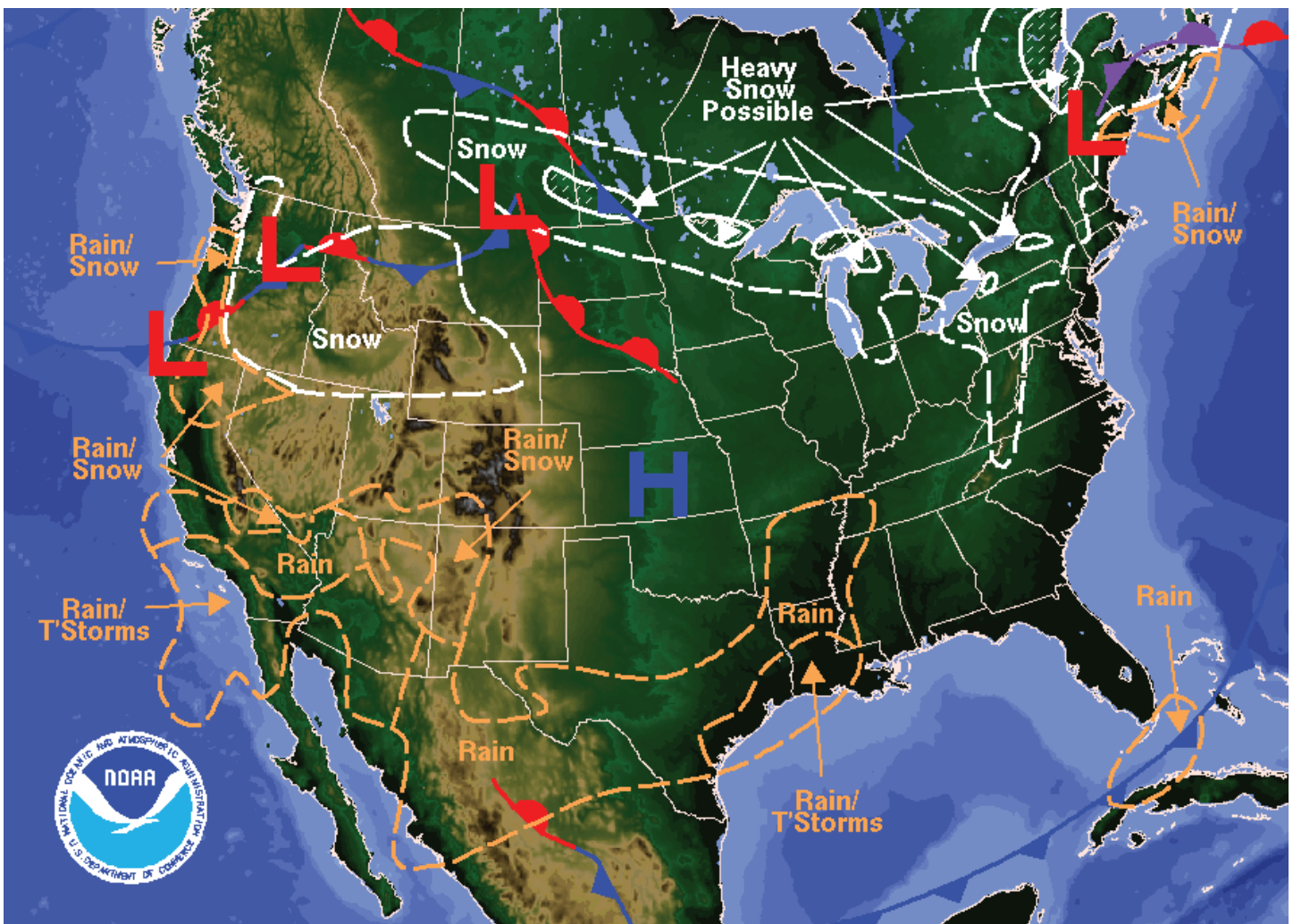
**Precip to date in Dec.: 1.74**

**Average Precip to date: 21.70**

**Precip Year to Date: 19.08**

**Sunset Tonight: 4:59 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:13 a.m.**



Weather Forecast for Fri, Dec 30, 2016, issued 4:46 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 9 of 42



## STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY

"Why are you sitting there just staring off into space?" one friend asked another.

"Well, this year has been awful. It's the worst year that I can ever remember. Nothing's gone right, so that means everything has gone wrong. So, right now I'm trying to figure out what was the worst thing that happened. But there's too much competition for first place."

Call them what you will: Misfortunes or mishaps, troubles or trials, adversities or afflictions. They are part of all of our lives and no one is immune to them.

But some seem to get through them, over them or around them better than others. Does their strength come from a superior source? Do they have a resource to call upon that is unavailable to the rest of us?

There is a story of the men of Judah standing before the Lord with their little ones. Suddenly, the spirit of the Lord came on one of the men. The message that came to him to give to the others was simple: "Do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged. Go out there tomorrow, for the Lord is with you!"

All Christians have God's Spirit in them, Who goes before them and can – if allowed – work through them. If we stand firm in our faith and ask for God's help, He will fight our battles for us and give us victory.

Prayer: Lord, when adversity tries to stare us down, may we look up to you to save and sustain us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 20:13-17 ...Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 10 of 42

## News from the Associated Press

### Thursday's Scores

By The Associated Press

#### BOYS' BASKETBALL

Bennett County 52, Lyman 49  
Bison 59, Sunshine Bible Academy 34  
Brandon Valley 48, Yankton 46  
Canton 58, Hill City 31  
Crawford, Neb. 71, Oelrichs 48  
Highmore-Harrold 70, Wessington Springs 30  
Minneapolis Henry, Minn. 78, Mitchell Christian 40  
New England, N.D. 50, Lemmon 47  
Pierre 51, Watertown 37  
Rapid City Stevens 63, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 54  
Sioux Valley 73, Custer 49  
Stanley County 63, Kadoka Area 39  
Vermillion 71, Tea Area 56

#### Chadron Tournament

First Round

Spearfish 47, Hemingford, Neb. 26

#### Hunkpapa Classic

Crow Creek 72, Standing Rock, N.D. 48  
Pine Ridge 59, McLaughlin 44

#### Lance Buseman Classic

Sully Buttes 64, Canistota 48

#### Marshall Tournament (SMSU)

Marshall, Minn. 73, Sioux Falls Lincoln 62

#### Mike Miller Classic

Bridgewater-Emery 88, Chester 69  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 76, Mitchell 42

#### Milbank Shootout

Dawson-Boyd, Minn. 58, Milbank Area 43  
Langford 60, Ortonville, Minn. 41

#### Parkston Classic

Bon Homme 65, McCook Central/Montrose 52  
Corsica/Stickney 60, Warner 51  
Flandreau 72, Dakota Valley 67, OT  
Hanson 77, Wakpala 35  
West Central 71, Parkston 42

#### St. Thomas More Tournament

Aberdeen Roncalli 41, Elk Point-Jefferson 38  
St. Thomas More 54, Sisseton 48

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 11 of 42

## **Swiftel Classic**

Florence/Henry 62, Tiospa Zina Tribal 54  
Lake Preston 58, Menno 51

## **Wolsey Big Bo Classic**

Kimball/White Lake 55, Iroquois 22

## **GIRLS' BASKETBALL**

Brandon Valley 66, Yankton 52  
Canton 72, Hill City 51  
Crow Creek 53, Wakpala 30  
Custer 52, Sioux Valley 49  
DeSmet 55, Milbank Area 24  
Edgeley-Kulm-Montpelier, N.D. 66, Britton-Hecla 35  
Elk Point-Jefferson 49, Viborg-Hurley 22  
Highmore-Harrold 67, Wessington Springs 64  
Kadoka Area 63, Stanley County 30  
Lyman 56, Bennett County 22  
Oelrichs 64, Crawford, Neb. 17  
Pierre 67, Watertown 56, OT  
Rapid City Stevens 50, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 48  
Sioux Falls Washington 59, Crofton, Neb. 51  
Tea Area 57, Vermillion 52, OT  
Waubay/Summit 55, Ortonville, Minn. 54  
White River 59, St. Francis Indian 55

## **Aberdeen Classic**

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 37, Aberdeen Roncalli 34  
St. Thomas More 51, Webster 30

## **Chadron Tournament**

First Round  
Spearfish 56, Hemingford, Neb. 35

## **Hunkpapa Classic**

Little Wound 60, Standing Rock, N.D. 42  
McLaughlin 71, Pine Ridge 47

## **Mike Miller Classic**

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 57, Waconia, Minn. 22

## **Swiftel Classic**

Dell Rapids St. Mary 42, Tiospa Zina Tribal 41  
Lake Preston 33, Hendricks, Minn. 25

## **Wolsey Big Bo Classic**

Kimball/White Lake 39, Herreid/Selby Area 32

## **South Dakota dumps Nebraska-Omaha 86-69**

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Trey Dickerson scored 17 points while Matt Mooney and Tyler Flack each added 16 points as South Dakota controlled Nebraska-Omaha 86-69 in a Summit League opener for the two teams Thursday night.

Mooney also collected seven steals, five boards, and four assists and Flack had six boards. Trey Burch-



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 12 of 42

Manning had 11 rebounds — five on the offensive end — for South Dakota (10-6).

Zach Jackson led Nebraska-Omaha (7-7) with 14 points on 6-for-8 shooting.

The Coyotes led 8-0 after two minutes and the lead grew to 20-6 on a 3 by Tyler Peterson. A Mooney layup later made it 34-14 with 5:09 to go and South Dakota went to intermission with a 45-23 lead and was never threatened in the second half.

Omaha swept the season series last year. South Dakota leads the all-time series between the two teams 54-47.

## **Town houses may serve as model for Rapid City housing market**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City's block of new tiny town houses may serve as a model in the housing market.

Mayor Steve Allender, a private developer and the nonprofit Neighborworks Dakota Home Resources have been working together on plans to build a block of five small town homes just north of Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2hwo6Te>) reported.

The mayor said he has an advisory role in the project and will help to overcome planning and zoning hurdles for the construction of new homes.

The homes will range in size from 360 square feet to 968 square feet, and they will have attached garages.

Allender said the homes are expected to be move-in ready by the summer of 2017. The town homes will only be up for sale to people who plan to live in them.

"They will be nice-looking homes that will be a boost to the neighborhood," Allender said.

He added that the city needs to build homes that are "well below the market standard for rentals, but the living standard and upkeep are above the market standard."

Developers are looking into using Community Development Block Grants or tax increment financing to lower the cost to the homeowners, Allender said.

According to the mayor, market price could range from a little more than \$100,000 to as high as \$142,000

Developers are hoping the new homes can serve as a model for hundreds more.

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

## **Pay to rise for millions as 19 states increase minimum wage**

**By DAVID KLEPPER, Associated Press**

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — It will be a happy New Year indeed for millions of the lowest-paid U.S. workers. Nineteen states, including New York and California, will ring in the year with an increase in the minimum wage.

Massachusetts and Washington state will have the highest new minimum wages in the country, at \$11 per hour.

California will raise its wage to \$10.50 for businesses with 26 or more employees. New York state is taking a regional approach, with the wage rising to \$11 in New York City, to \$10.50 for small businesses in the city, \$10 in its downstate suburbs and \$9.70 elsewhere. Some specific businesses — fast-food restaurants and the smallest New York City businesses — will have slightly different wage requirements.

"This \$1.50 increase, I cannot even comprehend or tell you how important this will be," said Alvin Major, a New York City fast-food worker. The 51-year-old father of four helped lead the fight for the increase in his state, one of several successful efforts by fast-food workers and other low wage workers

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 13 of 42

around the country. "The price of food has gone up. Rent has gone up. Everything has gone up. ... This will make a difference for so many people."

Voters in Arizona, Maine, Colorado and Washington approved increases in this year's election. Seven other states, Alaska, Florida, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio and South Dakota, are automatically raising the wage based on indexing. The other states seeing increases are Arkansas, Connecticut, Hawaii, Michigan and Vermont.

Additional increases are slated for later in the year in Oregon, Washington, D.C., and Maryland.

In Arizona, the state Chamber of Commerce and Industry filed a lawsuit challenging the increase, which will raise the minimum wage from \$8.05 to \$10. On Thursday, the Arizona Supreme Court refused to temporarily block the raise.

Workers and labor advocates argue the increases will help low-wage workers now barely making ends meet and boost the economy by giving some consumers more money to spend. But many business owners opposed the higher wages, saying they would lead to higher prices and greater automation.

Some restaurant owners may consider reducing portion sizes or charging for side dishes that were once included in the price of a meal to absorb the increase, according to Melissa Fleischut, president of the New York State Restaurant Association.

"I'm sure prices will go up where they can, but restaurants want to avoid sticker shock," she said. "They're going to have to get creative."

The adjustments in New York, California and several other states are part of a series of gradual increases to a \$12 or \$15 hourly wage.

The minimum wage will also go up this weekend in 22 cities and counties, including San Diego, San Jose and Seattle.

The high number of states and localities raising the wage this year reflects the successful work of fast-food workers and organized labor, according to Tsedeye Gebreselassie, senior staff attorney at the National Employment Law Project, as well as federal inaction on the wage. The national minimum was last raised, to \$7.25, in 2009.

"These aren't only teens trying to make some pocket money," she said. "Increasingly it's adults who are using this money to support their families."

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This story has been corrected to indicate California's minimum wage will rise to \$10.50 for larger companies, instead of \$10 overall.

## Officer shoots, kills man in Kyle; FBI investigation ongoing

KYLE, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say an Oglala Sioux tribe police officer has shot and killed a man who drew a firearm.

U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says that an FBI investigation into the Tuesday shooting in Kyle is ongoing. Authorities didn't immediately identify those involved.

Authorities say the officer with the Oglala Sioux Tribe Department of Public Safety was on patrol when he encountered the man. After a brief conversation, officials say the man drew a gun on the officer, who took out his own gun and fired at least three rounds.

Authorities say the man had two firearms, methamphetamine and between 200 and 300 rounds of ammunition.

The officer has been put on paid administrative leave while the FBI investigation continues.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 14 of 42

## Attorney general clears highway trooper who shot Yankton man

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says a Highway Patrol trooper who shot and wounded a suspect was justified in firing his weapon.

A report released Thursday says Trooper Kayne Weaver shot 58-year-old Curtis Adams Sr., of Yankton, on Dec. 3 after a car chase that ended in a Yankton lawn.

The report says Weaver shot 10 rounds into the vehicle after Adams fired from inside. Authorities say one of Weaver's shots hit Adams, who also shot himself in the neck.

Adams survived and faces charges of attempted murder, aggravated assault against an officer and aggravated eluding. His attorney declined to comment.

The report says the chase started after Adams made an illegal U-turn. Authorities say Adams' urine tested positive for methamphetamines, amphetamines, cannabinoids and opiates.

## Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

Capital Journal, Dec. 21

Gill's presence on federal air service working group is good news for Pierre

The federal government is finally taking some action on air service for smaller cities in the middle of the country.

To those folks living out on the coasts or living near the country's larger cities, whether or not a town like Pierre has a reliable air carrier may seem like small potatoes. That, undoubtedly is why congress forced the FAA to make the rules that effectively doomed unsubsidized air service in small cities across the Great Plains and mountain west regions of America.

The rules were passed quickly and, it seems, without much thought about what they would mean for communities like Pierre. The rules were certainly well intended but have, in the end, contributed to a growing shortage in the number of commercial pilots.

Rural areas were the first to be hit by the pilot shortage. In Pierre we watched once reliable service degenerate to the point that buying a ticket to fly out of our airport was like spinning a roulette wheel. Your chances of a late or cancelled flight were so good many people quit trying.

Thankfully, our new airline, Aerodynamics Inc., seems to have the reliability problem solved. It only took a multi-million dollar subsidy.

So now, US Department of Transportation is assembling its Small Community Air Service Working Group. The group's creation was mandated by the most recent Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act. Its purpose will be to make recommendations about how to improve rural air service. The group has until July 15, 2017, to do that.

Thanks in no small part to our Senior U.S. Sen. John Thune's position on the Senate's Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, South Dakota landed two people in the 25-member working group.

Our own mayor, Laurie Gill, is one of them. The other is Jack Dokken, the South Dakota Department of Transportation's Air, Rail and Transit program director. For a small state like ours, landing two people on this group is a big deal.

Hopefully Gill's and Dokken's membership in the group will help to push for some positive changes in rural air service. To Gill and Dokken we say good luck and fight hard.

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The Daily Republic, Dec. 21

This sentence sent a message



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 15 of 42

Don't deal drugs.

That seemed to be the loud-and-clear message Judge Glen Eng sent when earlier this week he sentenced a Mitchell woman to four years in prison and fined her the maximum \$14,000 for charges of possessing and distributing marijuana.

For many, this was a surprising sentence, and there's no doubt it was meant to send a message to anyone dealing drugs. And while we're not standing up for or against Eng's opinion, it's worth speculating his intentions when issuing what many perceived as a harsh sentence.

The woman, 23-year-old Kaitlin Minder, lived on West Elm Street, where court documents state police found several drugs, including a quarter-pound of marijuana, cocaine, molly — also known as ecstasy — and drug paraphernalia.

During an August search of the house, the Mitchell Police Division also found \$33,212 in cash, of which \$31,000 was found in a hidden safe mounted inside a wall that was disguised as a furnace vent. Police also found numerous empty pill bottles, two digital scales, a vacuum bag sealer and several plastic bags.

Important to remember in this sentencing is the criminal justice reform enacted by the state legislature in 2013. Touted as the "Public Safety Improvement Act," the law was to roll out drug courts to help rehabilitate users but severely punish the dealers to get them off the street.

Since the law was signed by Gov. Dennis Daugaard, we don't remember a case in our area in which a dealer has landed significant time in prison. In fact, we've seen some dealers get a light prison sentence, only to be released and arrested soon again.

The law was supposed to go after the people who were dealing strictly for profit, which in Minder's case, seems to be likely. During sentencing, Judge Eng used words like "conspiracy" and "major distribution" and assumed the money would be laundered through a new business.

Jordan Muntefering, who was arrested at the same time as Minder, also lived at the residence, but has pleaded not guilty to several felony charges.

While we'll keep a close eye on his case and report its outcome, we can't help but wonder what all the people who deal drugs in Mitchell are thinking following this sentencing.

Was Minder made an example of so others think twice before dealing? Perhaps.

But that's one of the major purposes of the Public Safety Improvement Act, to significantly slow the distribution of drugs in our state.

Judge Eng had a purpose with his sentence, and that was to send a message that distribution won't be tolerated.

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Rapid City Journal, Dec. 29

Tiny houses a step in right direction

Mayor Steve Allender is thinking big and out of the box these days as he begins to tackle Rapid City's affordable housing shortage.

Allender is looking at tiny houses as part of the solution in a community where jobs that pay even \$14 an hour are difficult to find.

But now, the mayor is going from the talking to the doing stage in an unprecedented effort to open more doors for those working-class residents who want to call Rapid City home.

The Journal reported last week that Allender is working with a private developer and Neighborworks Dakota Home Resources to build five tiny town homes near the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center.

They would be from 360 to 968 square feet with attached garages. The prices are expected to range from \$100,000 to \$142,000. Those who seek to purchase a unit could receive help with the down pay-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 16 of 42

ment and closing costs, assistance that likely would come from Neighborworks, an established non-profit that helps local residents buy, repair and keep their homes.

If all goes as planned, work could begin in February or March on the town homes. Mayor Allender hopes the project eventually will pave the way for 100 or more tiny homes in Rapid City, which would be a remarkable achievement.

It also is important to note that the town homes will not be public housing nor require any investment of city funds. Allender describes his role as advisory and is helping the developer navigate the city's planning process.

Certainly and predictably, the critics will dismiss the project as a waste of time that is beyond the city's mission and obligation to taxpayers.

But what does the city have to lose by working with a nonprofit and private developer to help meet a clear and growing need in our community? Housing prices and rent are climbing at a much faster rate than wages in Rapid City. Most of the residential building, which includes apartment complexes, are now considered high-end projects where the profit margins are typically larger.

If the city continues, meanwhile, to wait for market forces to bring down housing prices it would be a long wait indeed, which means more and more young people will be candidates to leave and pursue work in a community where they can earn enough money to achieve the dream of owning a home.

While details still need to be worked out, questions answered and obstacles including public opinion confronted, Allender deserves credit for tackling one of any community's thorniest problems — providing affordable housing for those who want to live, work and pay taxes in a place they call home.

## Some SD residents without power since Christmas

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Some South Dakota residents who lost power in a Christmas Day snow-storm are still waiting for their service to be restored.

KELO-TV (<http://bit.ly/2hQINXG>) reports the work to restore power back in towns across northern South Dakota is taking longer than expected. The Montana-Dakota Utilities says it may take until Saturday before all service is repaired.

Nearly 80 power poles between Hoven, Tolstoy and Onaka were knocked down, leaving hundreds without power for a few more days. Extra crews have been sent to the region.

About 900 people in Eureka, Hillsvew and Hosmer had power restored Wednesday.

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Information from: KELO-TV, <http://www.keloland.com>

## Putin says Russia won't expel US diplomats in hacking flap

By JOSH LEDERMAN and TAMI ABDOLLAH, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — The United States unleashed a string of sanctions and ordered expulsion of 35 Russians in retaliation for alleged cyber-meddling against the U.S. election, but President Vladimir Putin ruled out any move to kick out American diplomats in retaliation for Washington's move.

In a statement on the Kremlin's web site Friday, Putin referred to the sanctions as a "provocation aimed to further undermine Russian-American relations." But he also said Moscow would not be expelling American diplomats, as the Obama administration had ordered against Moscow.

"The Russian diplomats returning home will spend the New Year Holidays with their relatives and dear ones," Putin said. "At home. We will not create problems for U.S. diplomats. We will not expel anybody."

The diplomatic showdown between Washington and Moscow, which had been festering even before the Nov. 8 presidential election elevated Donald Trump to the presidency, puts pressure on the billion-

# Groton Daily Independent

**Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 17 of 42**

aire businessman not to let Russia off the hook after he takes office on Jan. 20.

Russia's government had threatened retaliation, and it continues to deny U.S. accusations that it hacked and stole emails to try to help Trump win. Trump said the U.S. should move on, but in a sign he was no longer totally brushing off the allegations, he planned to meet with U.S. intelligence leaders next week to learn more.

Putin's statement came hours after Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov suggested a tit-for-tat expulsion in televised remarks. He said early Friday that Russia's foreign ministry and other agencies have suggested that Putin order expulsion of 31 employees of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and four diplomats from the U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg. Another suggestion is to bar American diplomats from using their summer retreat on the outskirts of Moscow and a warehouse south of Moscow.

But in the web site remarks, Putin said, Russia would not prevent the families and children (of diplomats) from using the customary rest and leisure facilities and sites during the New Year holidays. "Moreover, I am inviting all children of US diplomats accredited in Russia to the New Year and Christmas parties in the Kremlin," he said.

President Barack Obama on Thursday ordered sanctions against the GRU and FSB, leading Russian intelligence agencies the U.S. said were involved. In an elaborately coordinated response by at least five federal agencies, the Obama administration also sought to expose Russia's cyber tactics with a detailed technical report and hinted it might still launch a covert counterattack.

"All Americans should be alarmed by Russia's actions," said Obama, who was vacationing in Hawaii. He added, "Such activities have consequences."

He said the response wasn't over and the U.S. could take further, covert action — a thinly veiled reference to a counterstrike in cyberspace the U.S. has been considering.

Yet the sanctions could easily be pulled back by Trump, who has insisted that Obama and Democrats are merely attempting to delegitimize his election.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev charged earlier Friday that Washington has become immersed in "anti-Russian death throes."

Medvedev, who focused on improving U.S.-Russia ties when he was president from 2008-2012, called the latest diplomatic breach "sad" in a Twitter post.

As part of the punishment leveled against Moscow, the U.S. kicked out 35 Russian diplomats, in response to Russia's harassment of U.S. diplomats. They also shut down Russian recreational compounds in New York and Maryland that U.S. officials said were being used for intelligence.

It was the strongest action the Obama administration has taken to date to retaliate for a cyberattack, and more comprehensive than last year's sanctions on North Korea after it hacked Sony Pictures Entertainment. The new penalties add to existing U.S. sanctions over Russia's actions in Ukraine, which have impaired Russia's economy but had limited impact on Putin's behavior.

Russia called the penalties a clumsy yet aggressive attempt to "harm Russian-American ties." Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia would take into account the fact that Trump will soon replace Obama as it drafts retaliatory measures.

U.S. relations with Russia have suffered during Obama's years in office as he and Putin tussled over Ukraine, Edward Snowden and Russia's support for Syrian President Bashar Assad. Maria Zakharova, a Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman, took to Facebook to call the Obama administration "a group of foreign policy losers, angry and ignorant."

It was unlikely the new sanctions, while symbolically significant, would have a major impact on Russian spy operations. The sanctions freeze any U.S. assets and block Americans from doing business with them. But Russian law bars the spy agencies from having assets in the U.S., and any activities they undertake would likely be covert and hard to identify.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 18 of 42

"On its face, this is more than a slap on the wrists, but hardly an appropriate response to an unprecedented attack on our electoral system," said Stewart Baker, a cybersecurity lawyer and former National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security official.

Indeed, senior Obama administration officials said that even with the penalties, the U.S. had reason to believe Russia would keep hacking other nations' elections and might well try to hack American elections again in 2018 or 2020. The officials briefed reporters on a conference call on condition of anonymity.

Though the FBI and Department of Homeland Security issued a joint report on "Russian malicious cyber activity" — replete with examples of malware code used by the Russians — it still has not released a broader report Obama has promised detailing Russia's efforts to interfere with U.S. elections.

The report has been eagerly anticipated by those hoping to make it politically untenable for Trump to continue questioning whether Russia was really involved. But U.S. officials said those seeking more detail about who the U.S. has determined did the hacking need look only to the list of sanctions targets, which includes the GRU head, his three deputies, and two Russian nationals wanted by the FBI for cybercrimes.

The move puts Trump in the position of having to decide whether to roll back the measures once in office, and U.S. officials acknowledged that Trump could use his executive authorities to do so. Still, they suggested that building the case against Russia now would make it harder for Trump to justify easing up.

U.S. allegations of hacking have ignited a heated debate over Trump's approach to Russia and his refusal to accept the assessment of U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia's government was responsible and wanted to help him win. Though U.S. lawmakers have long called for Obama to be tougher on Russia, some Republicans have found that position less tenable now that Trump is floating the possibility of closer ties to Moscow.

"While today's action by the administration is overdue, it is an appropriate way to end eight years of failed policy with Russia," said House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

U.S. intelligence agencies concluded that Russia was trying to help Trump when hackers connected to the government breached Democratic Party computers and stole tens of thousands of emails that were then posted on WikiLeaks, some containing embarrassing information about Democrats. Clinton aide John Podesta's emails were also stolen and released publicly in the final weeks of the campaign.

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Abdollah reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow contributed to this report.

## 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. OBAMA HITS RUSSIANS FOR HACKING

The administration unleashes sanctions against Russia for cyber-meddling in the U.S. presidential campaign — and puts pressure on Donald Trump not to let Moscow off the hook.

### 2. GLIMMER OF HOPE IN SYRIA

A cease-fire brokered by Russia and Turkey appears to be holding, with reports of only minor clashes, marking a potential breakthrough after six years of war.

### 3. UP AND DOWN IN LIFE, TOGETHER IN DEATH

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 19 of 42

Debbie Reynolds and Carrie Fisher had one of the more complicated, thoroughly documented and, ultimately, tender mother-daughter relationships in Hollywood.

#### 4. IN PAKISTAN, BARTERED BRIDES

A young Pakistani girl is given as a bride to an older man by her father so he can marry the groom's sister. It's an example of a practice of exchanging girls that is entrenched in conservative regions of Pakistan.

#### 5. WHAT'S PREOCCUPYING EUROPEAN VOTERS

In the coming year, vital elections in France, Germany and the Netherlands will determine whether the march of right-wing populism speeds or hits a wall.

#### 6. TURKISH COMMISSION APPROVES CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION

Critics fear the proposed amendments would allow President Erdogan to rule unchecked. If approved, the amendments would also extend Erdogan's mandate.

#### 7. WHY BILL COSBY COULD SEEK PLEA DEAL

The entertainer is starting 2017 in a legal dragnet that has only tightened around him since his stunning arrest a year ago.

#### 8. BENEFITS OF INDIA'S CASH OVERHAUL ELUSIVE

Empty ATMs and ever-changing rules in the government's demonetization drive are preventing people from withdrawing money.

#### 9. WHICH NYC INSTITUTION IS SAYING GOODBYE

After nearly eight decades in business, the Carnegie Deli, known for its mountainous, \$20 pastrami sandwiches, is closing for good on New Year's eve.

#### 10. SERENA WILLIAMS WINS AT LOVE

The tennis superstar announces her engagement to Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian.

## Benefits of Indian cash overhaul elusive as deadline passes

By KATY DAIGLE and NIRMALA GEORGE, Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Fifty days ago, India yanked most of its currency from circulation without warning, jolting the economy and leaving most citizens scrambling for cash. As the deadline for exchanging the devalued 500- and 1,000-rupee notes for new ones hit on Friday, many Indians were still stuck waiting in long bank lines.

Empty ATMs and ever-changing rules prevented people from withdrawing money, and many small, cash-reliant businesses from cinemas to neighborhood grocery stores suffered huge losses or went under.

Despite those problems, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his Nov. 8 demonetization decree succeeded in uncovering tax evasion and cracking down on graft. The Indian government is urging patience, insisting it's playing a long game that will eventually modernize Indian society and benefit the poor.

So far, despite the widespread inconvenience and costs, most of the country's 1.25 billion citizens appear to be taking Modi's word for it.

Here are a few things to know about India's massive cash overhaul:

#### HARDSHIP FOR THE POOR

Modi's announcement that 500 and 1,000 rupee bills — making up 86 percent of India's currency — were no longer legal tender has posed an enormous hardship for millions of people who use cash for everything from salaries to cellphone charges.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 20 of 42

Almost immediately, serpentine lines appeared at banks and ATMs as people waited hours to deposit or exchange old currency notes for new bills. Since authorities only began printing the new bills after the policy was announced, demand vastly exceeds supply and cash machines often run dry. Daily commerce in essentials including food, medicine and transportation screeched almost to a halt.

Worst affected were the country's hundreds of millions of farmers, produce vendors, small shop owners and daily-wage laborers who usually are paid in cash at the end of a day's work. Many lost their jobs as small businesses shut down, compounding their poverty.

Pankaj Aggarwal, owner of a clothing shop in the Old Delhi neighborhood of Chandni Chowk, says his sales crashed by 70 percent.

"You can imagine what our business is like now. It will be some time before our sales normalize," he said.

Modi appears to have succeeded in promoting the cash overhaul as a "pro-poor" policy, tapping into deep anger among the have-nots toward wealthy elites.

"The first two months have been so bad for us, we don't even have enough money to buy food," said daily wage laborer Neeraj Mishra, 35. "Overall, I think Modi has done some good. People with a lot of money are the ones who have been troubled. I don't have enough cash for it to bother me much."

Political scientist Sreeram Chaulia, dean of the Jindal School of International Affairs in New Delhi, describes the strategy as "classic populism."

"Some people are outraged, but are hesitant to come out and say it because they don't want to be branded as anti-national or self-centered," he said.

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## A BRUISED ECONOMY

The wide impact of the demonetization won't be known until the government issues its next quarterly GDP figures in February, but the Reserve Bank of India already has shaved half a percent from this year's GDP growth forecast, to 7.1 percent.

Since domestic commerce drives most economic activity, analysts have expressed alarm over the scale of economic and social disruption and are warning a contraction is likely in coming quarters.

"The countless unpredictable consequences that will continue to show in the coming weeks and months mean that it is, in effect, a huge gamble," said Jan Zalewski, an Asia expert with the Britain-based risk assessment firm Verisk Maplecroft. "Inflicting such huge costs for what is an uncertain outcome is problematic."

Real estate, tourism, transportation and gold and gems have been hit the hardest, along with informal sectors that rely mostly on cash.

Prices are forecast to rise since the cash crunch is pinching supplies of all sorts of goods.

The country's banks, however, are seeing banner business. The central bank said old notes worth 13 trillion rupees (\$191 billion) had been deposited as of Dec. 10, with many more expected by Friday's deadline.

That should improve bank liquidity and in turn encourage more lending to boost economic growth.

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## MIXED MESSAGES, CHAOTIC RULES

The Finance Ministry and central bank have issued at least 60 different directives, some of them contradictory, about such issues as how much money can be withdrawn from bank accounts and which documents are needed for depositing old cash. The mixed messages have compounded the overall chaos and shaken investors' confidence.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 21 of 42**

"There appears to be less trust in many institutions, including the Reserve Bank and other banks. That is one important behavioral change that has been ushered in," said Mihir Sharma, senior fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, a New Delhi-based think tank.

Financial experts are baffled about how to evaluate the move.

"One of the major problems with the demonetization move is that success is so difficult to measure," Zalewski said. "In and of itself, it can't end black money, stop terrorism funding and the counterfeiting of notes."

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## NEW BILLS, OLD HABITS

The idea that swapping old currency notes for new ones would wipe out tax evasion has already been proven naive. Over the last seven weeks, Indian income tax authorities uncovered more than 32 billion rupees (\$477 million) in undeclared wealth held in new notes, foreign currency, gold and other commodities.

The Finance Ministry found enormous stashes of new currency bills secreted away by corrupt bank managers. Axis Bank's CEO Shikha Sharma said she was "embarrassed and upset" after it was found managers at the bank had used the stolen funds to fake accounts and launder customers' untaxed savings for a premium.

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## A GLOBAL TREND?

A month after Modi scrapped the high-denomination notes, Venezuela's president announced that the 100-bolivar notes that account for more than three-quarters of the country's cash would be taken out of circulation.

Skyrocketing inflation had taken the value of the Venezuelan notes to 2 U.S. cents from 10 cents in the past year.

But while India's cash overhaul has been relatively peaceful, Venezuela's was not.

When no new bolivar notes appeared to replace the old ones, riots and looting erupted in towns across Venezuela, whose economy was already in shambles. Hundreds of grocery stores were damaged or destroyed. Ultimately, the government extended use of the old 100-bolivar notes until Jan. 2.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro declared the abrupt cash overhaul an economic triumph, claiming people were racing to deposit the old notes into banks. He did not say how much was deposited.

In Pakistan, opposition lawmakers passed a resolution last week calling for the withdrawal of the country's highest-denomination note from circulation. The government rejected that move, saying there was no need to discontinue the country's 5,000-rupee note, worth about \$48.

"The very notion of cancellation of such convenience in transactions is preposterous and unequivocally denied," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

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Associated Press writers Fabiola Sanchez in Caracas and Munir Ahmed in Islamabad contributed to this report.

Follow Katy Daigle and Nirmala George at [www.twitter.com/katydaigle](http://www.twitter.com/katydaigle) and [www.twitter.com/NirmalaGeorge1](http://www.twitter.com/NirmalaGeorge1)

## Crews search for missing plane in Lake Erie near Cleveland

CLEVELAND (AP) — The U.S. Coast Guard says crews are searching Lake Erie for a plane that went missing overnight shortly after takeoff from a small Cleveland airport along the shore.

The Columbus-bound Cessna Citation 525 departed Burke Lakefront Airport late Thursday night with six people aboard and disappeared from radar about 2 miles over the lake.

The Coast Guard says there's been no sign of debris or passengers. Coast Guard official James Cox in Buffalo, New York, says no emergency beacon has been detected.

Weather prevented a boat search overnight, but aircraft were being used. A ship was headed from Detroit to help. The agency says waters in the area are about 50 feet deep.

Cox says the plane is kept at Ohio State University's airfield, but the travelers aren't affiliated with OSU.

## Syria's cease-fire holding despite minor violations

By BASSEM MROUE and SUZAN FRASER, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A nationwide Syrian cease-fire brokered by Russia and Turkey that went into effect at midnight was holding Friday despite minor violations, marking a potential breakthrough in a conflict that has been shredding high-level peace initiatives for over five years.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported clashes early Friday between troops and rebels in the central province of Hama and near the capital, Damascus, but said there have been no reports of civilian casualties since the truce began. The group also reported an aerial attack on the rebel-held Barda Valley near Damascus.

Opposition activist Mazen al-Shami, who is based in the Damascus suburb of Douma, said minor clashes nearby left one rebel wounded. Activist Ahmad al-Masalmeh, in the southern Daraa province, said government forces had opened fire on rebel-held areas.

Several past attempts at halting the fighting have failed. As with previous agreements, the current cease-fire excludes both the al-Qaida-affiliated Fatah al-Sham Front, which fights alongside other rebel factions, and the Islamic State group.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that the cease-fire will be guaranteed by both Moscow and Turkey, and the agreement has been welcomed by Iran. Moscow and Tehran provide crucial military support to Syrian President Bashar Assad, while Turkey has long served as a rear base and source of supplies for the rebels.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called the cease-fire a "major achievement" in a tweet Friday. "Let's build on it by tackling the roots of extremist terror," he added.

Russia said the deal was signed by seven of Syria's major rebel factions, though none of them immediately confirmed it, and one denied signing it.

The truce came on the heels of a Russian-Turkish agreement earlier this month to evacuate the last rebels from eastern Aleppo after they were confined to a tiny enclave by a government offensive. The retaking of all of Aleppo marked Assad's greatest victory since the start of the 2011 uprising against his family's four-decade rule.

"The defeat of the terrorists in Aleppo is an important step toward ending the war," Assad said in an interview with TG5, an Italian TV station, adding that the capture of the city does not mean that the war has ended because "terrorists" are still in Syria.

The United States was left out of both agreements, reflecting the deterioration of relations between Moscow and Washington after the failure of previous diplomatic efforts on Syria.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 23 of 42

Assad told TG5 "we are more optimistic, with caution," about the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump, who has suggested greater cooperation with Russia against extremist groups.

"We can say part of the optimism could be related to better relation between the United States and Russia," Assad said, speaking in English.

"Mr. Trump, during his campaign - (said) that his priority is fighting terrorism, and we believe that this is the beginning of the solution, if he can implement what he announced," Assad said in the interview, which was apparently filmed before the cease-fire was announced.

Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency meanwhile quoted the military as saying Russia carried out three airstrikes against Islamic State targets near the northern town of al-Bab, where Turkish troops and allied Syrian opposition forces have been battling the extremist group. The strikes indicated that Russia and Turkey may work together to combat IS once the fighting elsewhere in Syria has been halted.

The Turkish military statement quoted by Anadolu did not say when the Russian air strikes took place, but said they killed 12 IS militants.

Separately, 26 IS militants, including some senior commanders, were killed in Turkish airstrikes on al-Bab and the Daglabash region, and some 17 IS targets were destroyed, Anadolu reported. It said a Turkish soldier was killed in a IS attack on troops south of the al-Azrak area.

Turkey sent troops and tanks into northern Syria in August to help opposition forces clear a border area of IS militants and curb the advances of U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish fighters, who are also battling the extremist group.

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Fraser reported from Ankara, Turkey.

## Shootings drive up number of police killed in line of duty

By **LISA MARIE PANE, Associated Press**

Ambushes in Dallas and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and other shootings around the country led to a sharp increase in the number of police killed in the line of duty this year.

From Jan. 1 through Wednesday, 135 officers lost their lives. Some died in traffic accidents, but nearly half were shot to death. That's a 56 percent increase in shooting deaths over the previous year.

Of the 64 who were fatally shot, 21 were killed in ambush attacks often fueled by anger over police use of force involving minorities.

"We've never seen a year in my memory when we've had an increase of this magnitude in officer shooting deaths," said Craig Floyd, president and chief executive of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. "These officers were killed simply because of the uniform they wear and the job they do. This is unacceptable to the humane society that we are."

In Dallas, a sniper on July 7 attacked at the end of what had been a peaceful rally against police brutality. He killed five law enforcement officers and wounded nine others — the largest death toll among law enforcement from a single event since the 9/11 attacks, which killed 72 officers. Months later, Dallas businesses and residents still display blue ribbons and banners declaring, "We support our Dallas police officers."

But even amid community support, the police department remains unsettled. Hundreds of officers have retired or left the force over the past six months as the city struggles to find a way to increase pay and save a failing police and fire pension system. Former Chief David Brown, who became a national figure in the aftermath, was among those who opted to retire. And interim Dallas Police Association president Frederick Frazier said that morale is "almost nonexistent."

"A lot of us are going through the motions at work. We're hoping things will get better with our struggle," he said. Frazier added that the attack was a "game changer. It changed the perception of law

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 24 of 42

enforcement. It reversed the role after Ferguson. We were the pursuer and now, we're being pursued."

Less than two weeks after the Dallas attack, a lone gunman in Baton Rouge shot and killed three officers and wounded three others outside a convenience store in the weeks after a black man, 37-year-old Alton Sterling, was shot and killed by police during a struggle.

Baton Rouge Police Cpl. Lester Mitchell was partners with Matthew Gerald, one of the three slain officers, and was among the officers who raced to the scene of the shooting that also killed sheriff's deputy Brad Garafola and officer Montrell Jackson. Mitchell has daily reminders of the deadly shootout, driving past the scene on his way to police headquarters.

"Just passing there, you can't help but replay it over and over again," he said.

Mitchell said the shooting has made him more alert and aware of potential dangers on patrol, sometimes in situations that wouldn't have alarmed him before, like a hand in a pocket. "You learn to cope with it, because if you don't, you can drive yourself crazy," he said.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund's Floyd said the impact of this year has been profound on law enforcement. Agencies are struggling to recruit officers to their ranks and those who continue to serve "talk about how their head is now on a swivel."

"They're always looking over their shoulder, always worrying about the next attack that could come at any time from any direction," Floyd said.

That was underscored by the slaying in November of a San Antonio detective who was fatally shot and killed outside police headquarters as he was writing a traffic ticket. The man accused of shooting him said he was angry about a child-custody battle and simply "lashed out at somebody who didn't deserve it."

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Pane reported from Atlanta. Associated Press writers Claudia Lauer in Dallas and Mike Kunzelman in Baton Rouge contributed to this report.

Pane can be followed on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/lisamarietpane> .

## Serena wins at love again; says 'yes' to engagement in poem

**By The Associated Press**

Court and spark: Serena Williams is tying the knot.

The tennis great announced her engagement to Alexis Ohanian on Thursday, posting a poem on Reddit that she accepted the proposal of the social news website's co-founder.

Williams' agent, Jill Smoller, confirmed the engagement in an email to The Associated Press.

Ohanian wrote on his Facebook page, "She said yes."

Williams, 35, has been dating Ohanian, 33, for over a year.

Her poem:

"I came home/A little late/Someone had a bag packed for me/And a carriage awaited/Destination: Rome/To escort me to my very own "charming"/Back to where our stars first collided/And now it was full circle/At the same table we first met by chance/This time he made it not by chance/But by choice/Down on one knee/He said 4 words/And I said yes."

Williams in July won Wimbledon for the seventh time to tie Steffi Graf's record of 22 Grand Slam titles. In September she passed Roger Federer for most all-time Grand Slam match victories, winning her 308th in the U.S. Open.

No wedding date has been announced.



## Panel delays decision on whether to release Manson follower

By DON THOMPSON, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A two-member parole panel delayed making a decision Thursday on whether to release an accomplice of cult killer Charles Manson who is the longest-serving female inmate in California.

After a daylong hearing, the panel from the Board of Parole Hearings postponed a decision on whether to recommend freeing Patricia Krenwinkel "because they felt information discussed at the hearing was cause for an investigation," spokeswoman Vicky Waters said in an email.

The hearing will be continued once the investigation is concluded, she said.

Sharon Tate's sister, Debra Tate, said the parole officials told her the hearing was likely to be postponed about six months while they research to see if Krenwinkel meets the criteria for having battered women's syndrome.

Krenwinkel's attorney, Keith Wattley, confirmed that account but did not comment on the postponement.

"She totally minimized her actions and blamed everything on other people the whole hearing," Tate said.

Tate said she didn't buy the concept that Krenwinkel was a victim because she was free to leave at any time and participated in murders two nights in a row.

"We all have to be accountable for our actions. I don't buy any of this stuff. She was there because she wanted to be there. Nobody held a gun to her head," Tate said.

Anthony DiMaria, the nephew of victim Thomas Jay Sebring, said a Los Angeles County prosecutor who attended the hearing told him that the parole officials want to research whether Krenwinkel was a victim of intimate partner battery.

"For this investigation to be initiated at this point is mindboggling," said DiMaria, who attended the hearing but left before a decision was postponed. "I don't understand where we go from a murder, the killing of eight people (including Tate's unborn child) to an intimate partner battery victim. It's absurd .... It seems like the world is turned upside down. How do you kill eight people and now you're the victim?"

Jean Guccione, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, said prosecutors would not comment until the parole panel makes its recommendation after the investigation.

The decision to delay by the panel came after the 69-year-old Krenwinkel was previously denied parole 13 times, most recently in 2011.

Krenwinkel acknowledged during her trial that she chased down and repeatedly stabbed Abigail Ann Folger, the 26-year-old heiress of a coffee fortune, at Tate's home and helped kill grocer Leno LaBianca and his wife, Rosemary, the following night.

Los Angeles County prosecutors say Krenwinkel carved the word "war" into Leno LaBianca's stomach then wrote "Helter Skelter" in blood on the couple's refrigerator.

Wattley successfully petitioned the state to hold the parole hearing a year early at the California Institution for Women, about 40 miles east of Los Angeles, where Krenwinkel is imprisoned.

Krenwinkel contended at her previous parole hearing in 2011 that she is a changed woman. She has a clean disciplinary record, earned a bachelor's degree behind bars, taught illiterate inmates to read and trained service dogs for disabled people.

Krenwinkel was a 19-year-old secretary when she met Manson at a party. She testified at her previous hearing that she left everything behind three days later to pursue what she believed was a budding romance with him.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 26 of 42

She wept and apologized, saying she became a “monster” after she met Manson.

“I committed myself fully to him. I committed myself to the act of murder,” she said then. “I was willing to sacrifice others’ lives for my own.”

Prosecutors say the slayings were an attempt to ignite a race war after which Manson and his followers would rise from the rubble to rule the world.

Krenwinkel was initially sentenced to death, but the California Supreme Court invalidated the death penalty in 1972.

Gov. Jerry Brown has the power to block the release of inmates if parole is granted. He previously stopped the parole of Manson followers Leslie Van Houten, 67, and Bruce Davis, 74.

Krenwinkel became the state’s longest-serving female inmate when fellow Manson follower Susan Atkins died of cancer in prison in 2009.

## US punishes Russia for hacking presidential campaign

By JOSH LEDERMAN and TAMI ABDOLLAH, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — The United States struck back Thursday at Russia for hacking the U.S. presidential campaign with a sweeping set of punishments targeting Russia’s spy agencies and diplomats. The U.S. said Russia must bear costs for its actions, but Moscow called the Obama administration “losers” and threatened retaliation.

A month after an election the U.S. says Russia tried to sway for Donald Trump, President Barack Obama sanctioned the GRU and FSB, leading Russian intelligence agencies the U.S. said were involved. Those sanctions could easily be pulled back by Trump, who has insisted that Obama and Democrats are merely attempting to delegitimize his election.

In an elaborately coordinated response by at least five federal agencies, the Obama administration also sought to expose Russia’s cyber tactics with a detailed technical report and hinted it might still launch a covert counterattack.

“All Americans should be alarmed by Russia’s actions,” Obama said, adding, “Such activities have consequences.”

He said the response wasn’t over and the U.S. could take further, covert action — a thinly veiled reference to a counterstrike in cyberspace the U.S. has been considering.

Trump issued a statement saying it was “time for our country to move on to bigger and better things.” Yet in the face of newly public evidence, he suggested he was keeping an open mind.

“In the interest of our country and its great people, I will meet with leaders of the intelligence community next week in order to be updated on the facts of this situation,” Trump said.

As part of the punishment, the U.S. also kicked out 35 Russian diplomats who the U.S. said were actually intelligence operatives, and shut down a pair of Russian compounds, in New York and Maryland. The U.S. said those actions were in response to Russia’s harassment of U.S. diplomats, calling it part of a pattern of aggression that included the cyberattacks on the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton’s campaign chairman.

It was the strongest action the Obama administration has taken to date to retaliate for a cyberattack, and more comprehensive than last year’s sanctions on North Korea after it hacked Sony Pictures Entertainment. The new penalties add to existing U.S. sanctions over Russia’s actions in Ukraine, which have impaired Russia’s economy but had limited impact on President Vladimir Putin’s behavior.

Russia, which denied the hacking allegations, called the penalties a clumsy yet aggressive attempt to “harm Russian-American ties.” Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia would take into account the fact that Trump will soon replace Obama as it drafts retaliatory measures.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 27 of 42**

The day marked a low point for U.S. relations with Russia, which have suffered during Obama's years as he and Putin tussled over Ukraine, Edward Snowden and Russia's support for Syrian President Bashar Assad. Maria Zakharova, a Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman, took to Facebook to call the Obama administration "a group of foreign policy losers, angry and ignorant."

It was unlikely the new sanctions, while symbolically significant, would have a major impact on Russian spy operations. The sanctions freeze any U.S. assets and block Americans from doing business with them. But Russian law bars the spy agencies from having assets in the U.S., and any activities they undertake would likely be covert and hard to identify.

"On its face, this is more than a slap on the wrists, but hardly an appropriate response to an unprecedented attack on our electoral system," said Stewart Baker, a cybersecurity lawyer and former National Security Agency and Homeland Security Department official.

Indeed, senior Obama administration officials said that even with the penalties, the U.S. had reason to believe Russia would keep hacking other nations' elections and might well try to hack American elections again in 2018 or 2020. The officials briefed reporters on a conference call on condition of anonymity.

Though the FBI and Homeland Security Department issued a joint report on "Russian malicious cyber activity" — replete with examples of malware code used by the Russians — it still has not released a broader report Obama has promised detailing Russia's efforts to interfere with U.S. elections.

The report has been eagerly anticipated by those hoping to make it politically untenable for Trump to continue questioning whether Russia was really involved. But U.S. officials said those seeking more detail about who the U.S. has determined did the hacking need look only to the list of sanctions targets, which includes the GRU head, his three deputies, and two Russian nationals wanted by the FBI for cybercrimes.

The move puts Trump in the position of having to decide whether to roll back the measures once in office, and U.S. officials acknowledged that Trump could use his executive authorities to do so. Still, they suggested that building the case against Russia now would make it harder for Trump to justify easing up.

U.S. allegations of hacking have ignited a heated debate over Trump's approach to Russia and his refusal to accept the assessment of U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia's government was responsible and wanted to help him win. Though U.S. lawmakers have long called for Obama to be tougher on Russia, some Republicans have found that position less tenable now that Trump is floating the possibility of closer ties to Moscow.

"While today's action by the administration is overdue, it is an appropriate way to end eight years of failed policy with Russia," said House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

U.S. intelligence agencies concluded that Russia was trying to help Trump win when hackers connected to the government breached Democratic Party computers and stole tens of thousands of emails that were then posted on WikiLeaks, some containing embarrassing information for Democrats. Clinton aide John Podesta's emails were also stolen and released publicly in the final weeks of the campaign.

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Abdollah reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow contributed to this report.

## **Magnitude 6.2 earthquake hits region in eastern Indonesia**

**By The Associated Press**

TOLOTANGGA, Indonesia (AP) — A magnitude 6.2 earthquake on Friday hit a region in the eastern part of Indonesia, the U.S. Geological Survey reported.

The earthquake hit about 6:30 a.m. in the Sumbawa region, the agency said. The epicenter was about 33 kilometers south of the village of Tolotangga, which is 1,350 kilometers east of the nation's capital, Jakarta.

The earthquake was about 72 kilometers deep, the agency said.

In a statement, Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency said the earthquake was also felt in the neighboring province of East Nusa Tenggara and the tourist island of Bali.

The earthquake caused many residents in the areas hit to pour out from their houses, the agency said. But it added that there were no immediate reports of damages or casualties.

No tsunami warning has been issued, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

On Dec. 7, Indonesia's Aceh province was hit by a magnitude 6.5 quake that killed more than 100 people.

The world's largest archipelago, Indonesia is prone to earthquakes due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin. A 2004 quake and tsunami killed a total of 230,000 people in a dozen countries, most of them in Aceh.

## **Cease-fire goes into force in war-ravaged Syria**

**By BASSEM MROUE and VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, Associated Press**

BEIRUT (AP) — A cease-fire brokered by Russia and Turkey went into effect in war-ravaged Syria at midnight Thursday, a potential breakthrough in the six years of fighting that have left more than a quarter-million people dead and triggered a refugee crisis across Europe.

If it holds, the truce between the Syrian government and the country's mainstream rebel forces will be followed by peace talks next month in Kazakhstan, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in announcing the agreement. He described it, however, as "quite fragile" and requiring "special attention and patience."

The first half-hour of the cease-fire was one of "comprehensive calm," said Rami Abdurrahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. He said that before the truce came into force, the government was bombing several areas, including the province of Aleppo and suburbs of the capital, Damascus.

The truce had the backing of both Russia, Syria's chief battlefield ally, and Turkey, which has been supporting the rebels. Russia said the deal was signed by seven of Syria's major rebel factions, though none of them immediately confirmed it, and one of them denied signing.

Several previous cease-fires in the Syrian civil war all collapsed, some of them in a matter of days. And this latest agreement, like previous ones, does not include extremist factions such as the Islamic State group and al-Qaida's branch in Syria.

Still, the deal raised hopes for a political settlement to the ruinous war, in part because the landscape has significantly shifted recently.

For one thing, the tide has turned in Syrian President Bashar Assad's favor militarily over the past year, with the government retaking the city of Aleppo from the rebels just days ago. Also, Turkey, which is fighting Kurdish and Islamic militants at home, appears more willing to strike a bargain with Russia if it means protecting its borders.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 29 of 42**

"This is a different political scene, and one would expect some outcomes to emerge," said Hilal Khashan, political science professor at the American University of Beirut. He cautioned, however, against expecting immediate results from the first round of talks.

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem welcomed the cease-fire agreement said there is a "real chance" for a political settlement.

In comments made to Syrian TV, he said the Syrian government will attend the peace talks "with an open mind," but he suggested it would not be willing to compromise on Assad's fate. Assad's remaining in power has been a major sticking point in the crisis.

"Everything is negotiable except national sovereignty and the people's right to choose its leadership," al-Moallem said.

Putin said the cease-fire will be guaranteed by both Moscow and Turkey. Turkey has been allowing opposition forces to use its long border with Syria to cross back and forth. The agreement was also praised by Iran, another of Assad's strongest backers.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said that the truce will include 62,000 opposition fighters across Syria and that the Russian military has established a hotline with its Turkish counterpart to monitor compliance. Sergey Lavrov, Russia's foreign minister, said President-elect Donald Trump's administration will be welcome to join the peace process once he takes office.

Putin said he ordered the Russian military to scale back its presence in Syria, where it has provided crucial support to Assad's forces. Putin didn't say how many troops and weapons will be withdrawn. He said Russia will continue "fighting international terrorism in Syria" and supporting Assad's military.

The U.N. special envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, welcomed the cease-fire announcement, saying he hopes the agreement will save civilian lives, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and pave the way for productive peace talks.

Earlier Thursday, Turkey called on Hezbollah to withdraw its fighters from Syria. The Iranian-backed extremist group has sent thousands of fighters to support Assad and has been playing an instrumental role in the civil war since 2013.

Foreign fighters from around the world have joined both sides of the Syrian conflict, which has displaced half the country's population and produced more than 4 million refugees. Many of those refugees have been streaming into Europe, fueling anti-immigration sentiment and terrorist fears that are reshaping the continent's political landscape.

Syria's military noted that the cease-fire comes after the "successes achieved by the armed forces," an apparent reference to the fierce fighting in Aleppo.

Osama Abo Zayd, a spokesman for mainstream Syrian opposition groups, told reporters in the Turkish capital of Ankara that 13 armed opposition factions have signed the agreement.

He said the peace talks will be based on the Geneva 2012 declaration that calls for a governing body with full executive powers to run Syria during a transition period. "This means that there will be no presence for Assad in the future," he said.

However, Khashan, the political analyst, said Assad's exit is "out of the question." "Neither the Russians nor the Iranians would allow it to happen," he said.

Saeed Sadek, a professor of political sociology at Cairo's Future University, said Assad has no power to accept or reject any deals.

"He is now under the control of Moscow, Tehran and Ankara. All these countries will decide his future," he said.

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Isachenkov reported from Moscow. Associated Press writers Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Najib Jobain in Cairo and Zeina Karam in Beirut contributed to this report.

## States face off over future of Obama global warming plan

By MARY ESCH and JASON DEAREN, Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Two weeks after officials in two dozen states asked Republican President-elect Donald Trump to kill one of Democratic President Barack Obama's signature plans to curb global warming, another group of state officials is urging Trump to save it.

Democratic attorneys general in 15 states plus four cities and counties sent a letter to Trump asking him to preserve Obama's Clean Power Plan, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, the lead author, announced Thursday.

The letter was a rebuttal to one sent this month by Republican officials from West Virginia and 21 other states and Democrats from the coal-producing states of Kentucky and Missouri urging Trump to issue a Day 1 executive order declaring the Clean Power Plan unlawful and prohibiting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from enforcing it.

The Clean Power Plan aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions at existing power plants, the nation's largest source of the pollution, by about one-third by 2030. Opponents say the Environmental Protection Agency lacks authority to implement the rules. The plan is already the subject of a legal fight.

Trump has called the science showing climate change a hoax. His choice to head the EPA, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, has sued the EPA repeatedly to stop its climate agenda including Obama's sweeping power plant rules. And his nominee to run the Department of Energy, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, has questioned climate science while working to promote coal-fired power in Texas. But in a television interview this month Trump said he was "still open-minded" about the science of climate change.

Schneiderman said states like New York are "on the front lines of climate change" and have demonstrated how to cut pollution and emissions while protecting affordable and reliable electricity, creating jobs and growing the economy.

"The Clean Power Plan builds on that successful work and is a blueprint for the critical action needed to fight climate change's devastating environmental, economic and public health impacts," he said.

Under Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Clean Energy Standard, established this year, 50 percent of New York state's electricity must come from renewable energy sources like wind and solar by 2030. New York and eight other states are part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a cap-and-trade program that has reduced carbon dioxide emissions from electrical generation in the region by 40 percent from 2005 levels.

In California, the nation's most populous state, which also signed the letter, the goal is also to have half of its energy from renewable sources by 2030 and a 40 percent reduction of greenhouse gases.

The letter to Trump lists local impacts of climate change from fossil fuel emissions, including drought in California, catastrophic storm surge in New York City, a record deluge on Colorado's Front Range, high-tide flooding in Virginia and South Florida and diminished shellfish harvest in Oregon and Washington state.

The legal challenge, filed by 27 states that oppose the Clean Power Plan, is before a federal appeals court in Washington, D.C. A decision on the plan could come at any time, but the U.S. Supreme Court has temporarily blocked implementation of the rule until the court challenge is resolved.

Still, even if Trump wants to scrap the plan, it would be a large, time-consuming task.

David Doniger, a climate policy expert with the Natural Resources Defense Council who served on Democratic President Bill Clinton's White House Council of Environmental Quality, said the Trump ad-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 31 of 42

ministration "can't make it go away unless they go through rulemaking process and unwind it."

"And that's a public process, so they'll have to hear from supporters of the plan," he said.

If Trump were to issue the executive order being asked for by the plan's opponents, since the plan has gone through a formal process to become a regulation it would still require a long, public process to undo, Doniger said.

Besides New York and California, the letter is signed by attorneys general from the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and Washington as well as officials from Broward County and South Miami, Florida, Boulder, Colorado, and New York City.

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Dearen reported from St. Augustine, Florida.

## **Trey Songz charged with assault after concert outburst**

DETROIT (AP) — Singer Trey Songz has been charged with aggravated assault and assaulting a police officer after authorities said he threw microphones and speakers from the stage during a performance at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena.

The Wayne County prosecutor's office says 32-year-old Songz, whose real name is Tremaine Neverson, was arraigned Thursday.

Songz, of Virginia, was arrested after the incident Wednesday night.

Police spokesman Officer Dan Donakowski says Songz became "upset and belligerent" after he was told to end his concert and leave the stage at 11:30 p.m.

Prosecutors say someone was struck in the head by an object and an officer was punched.

Songz' next court date is Jan. 5. He was released Thursday after posting bond.

The Detroit News reports Chris Brown and Lil Yachty also performed at the concert.

## **Officers killed in the line of duty rose in 2016**

**By LISA MARIE PANE, Associated Press**

The number of police killed in the line of duty rose sharply in 2016, driven by shootings of police around the country, most notably ambushes in Dallas and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

From Jan. 1 through Wednesday, 135 officers lost their lives. Some died in traffic accidents, but nearly half were shot to death.

That's a 56 percent increase in shooting deaths over the previous year. Of the 64 who were fatally shot, 21 were killed in ambush attacks often fueled by anger over police use of force involving minorities.

"We've never seen a year in my memory when we've had an increase of this magnitude in officer shooting deaths," said Craig Floyd, president and chief executive of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. "These officers were killed simply because of the uniform they wear and the job they do. This is unacceptable to the humane society that we are."

In Dallas, a sniper on July 7 attacked at the end of what had been a peaceful rally against police brutality. He killed five law enforcement officers and wounded nine others — the largest death toll among law enforcement from a single event since the 9/11 attacks, which killed 72 officers. Months later, Dallas businesses and residents still display blue ribbons and banners declaring, "We support our Dallas police officers."

But even amid community support, the police department remains unsettled. Hundreds of officers

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 32 of 42

have retired or left the force over the past six months as the city struggles to find a way to increase pay and save a failing police and fire pension. Former Chief David Brown, who became a national figure in the aftermath, was among those who opted to retire. And interim Dallas Police Association president Frederick Frazier said that morale is "almost nonexistent."

"A lot of us are going through the motions at work. We're hoping things will get better with our struggle," he said. Frazier added that the attack was a "game changer. It changed the perception of law enforcement. It reversed the roll after Ferguson. We were the pursuer and now, we're being pursued."

Less than two weeks after the Dallas attack, a lone gunman in Baton Rouge shot and killed three officers and wounded three others outside a convenience store in the weeks after a black man, 37-year-old Alton Sterling, was shot and killed by police during a struggle.

Baton Rouge Police Cpl. Lester Mitchell was partners with Matthew Gerald, one of the three slain officers, and was among the officers who raced to the scene of the shooting that also killed sheriff's deputy Brad Garafola and officer Montrell Jackson. Mitchell has daily reminders of the deadly shootout, driving past the scene on his way to police headquarters.

"Just passing there, you can't help but replay it over and over again," he said.

Mitchell said the shooting has made him more alert and aware of potential dangers on patrol, sometimes in situations that wouldn't have alarmed him before, like a hand in a pocket. "You learn to cope with it, because if you don't, you can drive yourself crazy," he said.

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund's Floyd said the impact of this year has been profound on law enforcement. Agencies are struggling to recruit officers to their ranks and those who continue to serve "talk about how their head is now on a swivel."

"They're always looking over their shoulder, always worrying about the next attack that could come at any time from any direction," Floyd said.

That was underscored by the slaying in November of a San Antonio detective who was fatally shot and killed outside police headquarters as he was writing a traffic ticket. The man accused of shooting him said he was angry about a child-custody battle and simply "lashed out at somebody who didn't deserve it."

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Associated Press reporters Claudia Lauer in Dallas and Mike Kunzelman in Baton Rouge contributed to this report. Pane reported from Atlanta. She can be followed on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/lisa-mariepane>.

## Relations between Obama, Netanyahu camps hit rock bottom

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — It took eight years of backbiting and pretending they got along for relations between President Barack Obama's administration and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government to finally hit rock bottom.

Though they've clashed bitterly before, mostly notably over Iran, the two governments seemed further apart than ever after a speech Wednesday by Secretary of State John Kerry and last week's United Nations resolution.

The key question for the Obama administration, newly willing to air grievances with Israel on live television, is why now?

"We cannot, in good conscience, do nothing and say nothing when we see the hope of peace slipping away," Kerry said in a speech that ran more than an hour.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 33 of 42**

Yet in just over three weeks, Obama will no longer be president, Kerry will no longer be secretary of state, and the U.S. will have a new leader under no obligation to embrace any of what Kerry said. President-elect Donald Trump has assured Israel that things will be different after Jan. 20, when he's to be inaugurated, and lamented how the Jewish state was "being treated very, very unfairly."

Kerry took pains to voice America's staunch commitment to Israel's security and support for its future, and to detail U.S. complaints about Palestinian leadership and its failure to sufficiently deter violence against Israelis. He laid out a six-point framework for a potential peace deal that it will be up to the next U.S. government to try to enact, if it chooses to do so.

The White House has portrayed Obama's decision to break with tradition by abstaining from — rather than vetoing — a U.N. Security Council resolution declaring Israeli settlements illegal as a reaction forced by other countries that brought it up for a vote. Obama didn't seek this out, his aides have argued.

Yet the White House has also acknowledged that Obama had long considered the possibility of taking some symbolic step before leaving office to leave his imprint on the debate. For much of the year, his staff pored over options that included a U.N. resolution outlining principles for a peace deal and a presidential speech much like the one Kerry gave Wednesday. Yet there was reluctance to act before the U.S. election, given the way it would have thrust the Israeli-Palestinian issue into the campaign.

Kerry acknowledged Trump appears to favor a different approach. Yet, frustrated by years of Israeli actions he deemed counterproductive for peace, Obama appeared to have decided it was better to make his administration's views known while still in office, even if it risked a blockbuster clash with America's closest ally.

In his speech, Kerry tore into Israel for settlement-building, accusing Netanyahu of dragging Israel away from democracy. He defended the move to allow the U.N. vote, the spark that set off an extraordinary and deepening diplomatic spat between the U.S. and its closest Mideast ally.

"If the choice is one state, Israel can either be Jewish or democratic, it cannot be both, and it won't ever really be at peace," Kerry said

Shortly afterward, Netanyahu appeared on camera in Jerusalem and suggested he was done with the Obama administration and ready to deal with Trump. The Israeli leader faulted Kerry for obsessing over settlements while paying mere "lip service" to Palestinian attacks and incitement of violence.

"Israelis do not need to be lectured about the importance of peace by foreign leaders," Netanyahu said.

Trump wouldn't say whether settlements should be reined in. But he told reporters Israel was being "treated very, very unfairly by a lot of different people."

In a nod to Netanyahu's concerns that Obama would take more parting shots, Kerry seemed to rule out the possibility Obama would support more U.N. action or, even more controversially, recognize statehood.

A day after the speech, the European Union seemed to rally behind Kerry's message. EU spokeswoman Maja Kocijancic says his speech showed "the international community does not give up on peace in the Middle East."

The U.S., the Palestinians and most of the world oppose Israeli settlement construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, territories captured by Israel in 1967 and claimed by the Palestinians for an independent state. But Israel's government argues previous construction freezes didn't advance peace and that the settlements — now home to 600,000 Israelis — must be resolved in direct Israeli-Palestinian talks.

While Israel's Arab population has citizenship rights, the roughly 2.5 million Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank do not, and most in annexed east Jerusalem have residency rights but not citizen-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 34 of 42

ship.

Kerry said a future deal would have to ensure secure borders for Israel and a Palestinian state formed in territories Israel captured in 1967, with "mutually agreed, equivalent swaps." He said both countries must fully recognize each other, ensure access to religious sites and relinquish other existing claims. Kerry also called for assistance for Palestinian refugees.

Lederman reported from Honolulu. Associated Press writers Josef Federman in Jerusalem and Vivian Salama in Palm Beach, Florida, contributed to this report.

Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>

## What it means if Trump names China a currency manipulator

By PAUL WISEMAN, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to name China a currency manipulator on his first day in the White House.

There's only one problem - it's not true anymore. China, the world's second-biggest economy behind the United States, hasn't been pushing down its currency to benefit Chinese exporters in years. And even if it were, the law targeting manipulators requires the U.S. spend a year negotiating a solution before it can retaliate.

Trump spent much of the campaign blaming China for America's economic woes. And it's true that the U.S-China trade relationship is lopsided. China sells a lot more to the United States than it buys. The resulting trade deficit in goods amounted to a staggering \$289 billion through the first 10 months of 2016.

But in fact, for the past couple of years China has been intervening in markets to prop up its currency, the yuan, not push it lower.

It went a step further on Thursday, watering down the significance of the dollar and adding 11 additional currencies in a foreign-exchange basket, according to a document released by the China Foreign Exchange Trading System.

### WHAT DOES CURRENCY HAVE TO DO WITH THE TRADE GAP?

When China's yuan falls against the U.S. dollar, Chinese products become cheaper in the U.S. market and American products become more costly in China.

So the U.S. Treasury Department monitors China for signs it is manipulating the yuan lower. Treasury has guidelines for putting countries on its currency blacklist. They must, for example, have spent the equivalent of 2 percent of their economic output over a year buying foreign currencies in an attempt to drive those currencies up and their own currencies down.

Treasury hasn't declared China a currency manipulator since 1994.

### WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE US DECLARED CHINA A CURRENCY MANIPULATOR?

Probably not much, at least initially.

If Treasury designates China a currency manipulator under a 2015 law, it is supposed to spend a year trying to resolve the problem through negotiations.

Should those talks fail, the U.S. can take a number of small steps in retaliation, including stopping the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corp., a government development agency, from financing any programs in China. Trouble is, the United States already suspended OPIC operations in China years ago — to punish Beijing in the aftermath of the bloody 1989 crackdown in Tiananmen Square.

So naming China a currency manipulator is mostly "just a jaw-boning exercise," said Amanda DeBusk,

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 35 of 42

chair of the international trade department at the law firm of Hughes Hubbard & Reed and a former Commerce Department official. "There's no immediate consequence."

## IS CHINA GUILTY OF USING CURRENCY TO HELP ITS EXPORTERS?

For years, China pretty clearly manipulated its currency to gain an advantage over global competitors. It bought foreign currencies, the U.S. dollar in particular, to push them higher against the yuan. As it did, it accumulated vast foreign currency reserves — nearly \$4 trillion worth by mid-2014.

But now the Chinese economy is slowing, and Chinese companies and individuals have begun to invest more heavily outside the country. As their money leaves China, it puts downward pressure on the yuan.

The yuan has dropped nearly 7 percent against the dollar so far this year. The Chinese government has responded by draining its foreign exchange reserves to buy yuan, hoping to slow the currency's fall. China's reserves have dropped by \$279 billion this year to \$3.05 trillion.

If Beijing stepped back and let market forces determine the yuan's level, it likely would fall even faster, giving Chinese exporters even more of a competitive edge.

So Beijing is doing the opposite of what Trump says it's doing. Cornell University economist Eswar Prasad earlier this month called Trump's plans to name China a currency manipulator "unmoored from reality."

"The whole discussion is ironic," said David Dollar, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a former official at the World Bank and U.S. Treasury Department. "It's out of date."

## COULD TRUMP DO ANYTHING ON HIS OWN?

Gary Hufbauer, an expert on trade law at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, notes that as president, Trump could nonetheless escalate any dispute over the currency on his own. Over the years, Congress has ceded the president broad authority to impose trade sanctions. Trump has threatened to slap a 45 percent tax, or tariff, on Chinese imports to punish it for unfair trade practices, including alleged currency manipulation.

Brookings' Dollar said China likely would bring a case to the World Trade Organization "against any protectionist measures that are a violation of U.S. commitments to the WTO," which oversees the rules of global commerce and rules on trade disputes.

Some trade analysts wonder if Trump is using the tariff threat as a negotiating tool to win concessions from China.

Whatever the U.S. motive, China has a consistent record of retaliating against trade sanctions. When the Obama administration slapped tariffs on Chinese tire imports in 2009, for instance, China lashed back by imposing a tax on U.S. chicken parts.

China's Global Times newspaper, published by the ruling Communist Party's People's Daily, has already speculated that "China will take a tit-for-tat approach" if Trump's tariffs are enacted. The paper suggested that Beijing might limit sales of Apple iPhones and Boeing jetliners in China.

"The Chinese are predictable and reliable," DeBusk said. "If they get punched, they punch back."

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Follow Paul Wiseman on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/PaulWisemanAP>

## With Trump's victory, GOP hopes to overhaul Medicaid

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — When President-elect Donald Trump takes office in January, Republicans will have the opportunity to pull off something they have wanted to do for years — overhaul Medicaid, the program that provides health care to tens of millions of lower-income and disabled Americans.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 36 of 42**

Any changes to the \$500 billion-plus program hold enormous consequences not only for recipients but also for the states, which share in the cost.

Trump initially said during the presidential campaign that he would not cut Medicaid, but later expressed support for an idea pushed for years by Republicans in Congress — sending a fixed amount of money each year to the states in the form of block grants. Backers say such a change in the Medicaid formula is one of the best ways to rein in spending, but critics say big cuts would follow.

Currently, the federal government pays an agreed-upon percentage of each state's Medicaid costs, no matter how much they rise in any given year.

Republicans have argued that states have little incentive to keep expenses under control, because no state pays more than half the total cost. Both House Speaker Paul Ryan and Trump's pick for secretary of health and human services, Georgia Rep. Tom Price, want to switch to block grants.

Key questions facing Republicans will be how the funding is structured and how much flexibility will be given to the states.

"It's exciting because you know it's not going to be the same as it was, and it's nerve-wracking because you know it's not going to be the same as it was," said Terry England, a Republican state lawmaker who chairs the House budget committee in Georgia.

Republican control of Congress and the presidency means the GOP can act on its long-held priorities of reining in entitlement programs and repealing President Barack Obama's health care law, which allowed states to expand the number of people eligible for Medicaid. Thirty-one states have opted for the expansion.

It is not clear what the GOP's replacement plan will look like. Democrats have warned of dire consequences, and any proposed changes are likely to trigger a fight in Congress.

Last week, the Democratic Governors Association warned that repealing the Affordable Care Act would end health coverage for millions of people and shift the financial burden onto the states, costing them \$68.5 billion in uncompensated care over the next decade. The group said the Medicaid expansion alone has provided coverage for millions of Americans who lacked insurance and that it had been a critical tool for states in combating the opioid epidemic.

In 2012, a plan by Ryan to reduce the federal deficit included a proposal to convert Medicaid funding into block grants with a cap on the amount the federal government would provide. Advocacy groups warned that that approach would ultimately lead to fewer people receiving coverage.

The Congressional Budget Office concluded that under Ryan's proposal, "states would need to increase their spending on these programs, make considerable cutbacks in them, or both."

Earlier this year, Ryan and Republican leaders offered another, more flexible option: States would receive a fixed amount from Washington for each person enrolled. That approach would allow federal payments to grow if, for example, a recession forced more people onto Medicaid.

More than 70 million are on Medicaid, nearly 10 million of them covered as a result of the expansion. GOP budget documents say federal spending on Medicaid has increased 200 percent in the past 15 years, and the Congressional Budget Office projects it will climb 68 percent over the next decade to \$642 billion. In addition, total state spending on Medicaid is expected to rise from about \$216 billion in fiscal year 2015 to more than \$337 billion in 2023.

How the GOP overhaul is ultimately structured will be critical, said Matt Salo, executive director of the National Association of Medicaid Directors.

"Some of my members are looking at this and saying if this isn't done right, if the money doesn't match what needs to be done, this is potentially the greatest intergovernmental transfer of financial risk in the country's history," he said.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 37 of 42

States, many of them struggling with budget shortfalls, could end up covering fewer procedures or medications, instituting work requirements or requiring co-pays or premiums. Those that opted to expand Medicaid could decide it's no longer sustainable.

Among those now covered because of the expansion is 59-year-old Alan Purser of Wynne, Arkansas, who tapped into the program after losing his job in 2014 when the pawnshop where he worked was sold.

A few weeks after signing up, he went to the doctor because of a bad cough. He was diagnosed with blood clots in both lungs and ended up in the hospital for 10 days.

"Honestly, I would be dead without this coverage," said Purser, who is on disability. "I never would have gone to the doctor without insurance."

Purser said he fears having his benefits reduced.

"When you live on \$730 a month," he said, "you have to watch where everything goes, and you just can't start paying more and more for your medicines."

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Follow Christina Almeida Cassidy on Twitter: [http://twitter.com/AP\\_Christina](http://twitter.com/AP_Christina).

## Trump holds Q&A, discussing jobs, Russia, Israel

By VIVIAN SALAMA and JOSH BOAK, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump applauded the return of 8,000 jobs to the U.S. and hailed his transition discussions with President Barack Obama in a series of comments that amounted to his most detailed interaction with journalists since before the election.

In one of his cameos Wednesday on the front steps of his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida, Trump praised plans by a Japanese mogul to bring jobs to the United States. They could be the first of the 50,000 jobs that tech billionaire Masayoshi Son promised to create after meeting with the president-elect earlier in December.

In the grand scheme of the economy, the jobs announcement is unlikely to have a major impact. Still, it's another example of how Trump is trying to stoke voters' belief that he is actively fighting for their well-being.

Son is the founder and chief executive of SoftBank, one of Japan's largest technology outfits. He owns the U.S. mobile carrier Sprint, which Trump said Wednesday would be moving 5,000 jobs "back" to the United States. Son also controls OneWeb, which Trump said would hire 3,000 workers.

It was unclear whether the president-elect was referencing the Dec. 6 commitment by Son to invest \$50 billion in the United States and create 50,000 jobs.

Trump said the addition of 8,000 jobs was "because of what's happening and the spirit and the hope."

Still, the U.S. job market has been robust for much of 2016. Employers have added more than 2.2 million jobs over the past 12 months — a sign of economic health that predates Trump's presidential victory.

Sprint has struggled since its 2013 acquisition by SoftBank. The carrier shed roughly 9,000 workers between 2012 and 2016, reducing its staff to 30,000, according to annual reports.

Sprint Chief Executive Marcelo Claure said in a statement that the company is "excited" to work with Trump.

"We believe it is critical for business and government to partner together to create more job opportunities in the U.S. and ensure prosperity for all Americans," Claure said.

The Sprint jobs announcement came after tensions rose and fell Wednesday between Trump and Obama. Trump has made it clear that it didn't sit well with him when Obama recently boasted that he

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 38 of 42

would have won the election if he'd been running.

Trump appeared again later Wednesday night on the Mar-a-Lago steps, this time alongside legendary boxing entrepreneur Don King, who appeared to be one of several guests attending a dinner party. King carried about a dozen flags, including those of the U.S. and Israel; wore two big diamond necklaces, one with a pendant with the Star of David and another with the American flag; and sported a large pin featuring a picture of Trump.

With King by his side, Trump dismissed days of tense remarks by the outgoing and incoming presidents about who would win if they were to hypothetically run against each other, saying he and Obama had "a very, very good talk."

"We talked about it and smiled about it and nobody is ever going to know because we are never going to be going against each other," Trump said.

Earlier, he had accused Obama of throwing up "inflammatory" roadblocks during the transition of power and said his administration was treating Israel with "total disdain."

White House spokesman Eric Schultz said Obama phoned Trump. "Today's call, like the others since the election, was positive and focused on continuing a smooth and effective transition," Schultz said. "The president and president-elect committed to staying in touch over the next several weeks."

Trump also took issue with the Obama administration's decision not to block a United Nations Security Council resolution critical of Israeli settlements.

He told reporters that Israel is being treated "very, very unfairly," maintaining that countries that are "horrible places" never get reprimanded. He refused to directly answer a question about whether Israel should stop building settlements, saying he is "very, very strong on Israel."

He also dodged a direct response when asked about accusations that Russia hacked the U.S. election, saying computers have "complicated lives very greatly."

"We don't have the kind of security we need," Trump said, adding, "Nobody knows what's going on." He said he believes "we have to get on with our lives."

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Boak reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Cal Woodward in Washington, Josh Lederman in Honolulu and Julie Pace in Buffalo, New York, contributed to this report.

## Debbie Reynolds and daughter Carrie Fisher linked by death

By **ANDREW DALTON, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Debbie Reynolds embodied the sunshine of postwar America on the screen as she matched steps with Gene Kelly in "Singin' in the Rain."

Carrie Fisher brought the sarcasm and cynicism of the Baby Boomers to her movies, books and stage shows, even when she was playing a princess in "Star Wars."

The mother and daughter, separated by so many differences both personal and generational, are likely drawn closer in the public memory after their deaths on successive days.

Reynolds died on Wednesday at age 84, just as she and the rest of the world were starting to mourn her daughter Fisher, who died on Tuesday at 60, days after falling ill on a flight.

Even after a year of shocking and constant celebrity deaths, the one-two punch of Fisher and Reynolds brought a staggering finale to 2016.

Reynolds' son Todd Fisher said his sister's death was "just too much" for his mother.

"She said, 'I want to be with Carrie,'" Fisher told The Associated Press by phone from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where Reynolds had just died after being rushed there earlier in the day. "And then she

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 39 of 42

was gone."

No cause of death has been revealed for either woman.

Both mother and daughter enjoyed the heights of show business success and endured the depths of personal troubles. Their relationship for years ranged from strained to non-existent, a theme frequently explored in Fisher's writing, but late in life they became allies and close confidantes in their struggles.

Reynolds lost one husband to Elizabeth Taylor and two other husbands plundered her for millions.

Fisher struggled from early in life with addiction and mental illness.

"There have been a few times when I thought I was going to lose Carrie," Reynolds said when Oprah Winfrey interviewed both mother and daughter in 2011. "I've had to walk through a lot of my tears. But she's worth it."

As Fisher tried to distance herself from Reynolds, she barely spoke to her mother for nearly a decade.

"It's very hard when your child doesn't want to talk to you and you want to talk to them, and you want to touch them, you want to hold them," Reynolds told Winfrey. "It was a total estrangement."

Reaction to Reynolds' death was swift and emotional.

"Debbie Reynolds, a legend and my movie mom. I can't believe this happened one day after Carrie," Albert Brooks, who played opposite Reynolds in "Mother," said on Twitter.

"I can't imagine what Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds' family are going through this week. I send all of my love," Ellen DeGeneres tweeted.

Born Mary Frances Reynolds, she spent the first eight years of her life in Depression-era poverty in El Paso, Texas. Her father, a carpenter for the Southern Pacific Railroad, was transferred to California and the family settled in Burbank, near Warner Bros. studio.

The girl flourished, excelling as a girl scout and athlete, and playing French horn and bass viola in the Burbank Youth Symphony. Girlfriends persuaded her to enter the beauty contest for Miss Burbank, and she won over the judges.

She found superstardom quickly. After a handful of minor roles, MGM studio boss Louis B. Mayer cast her in "Singin' in the Rain," despite Kelly's objections.

But at 19 with little dance experience, she managed to match Kelly and Donald O'Connor, two of the screens most masterful dancers, step-for-step.

"Gene Kelly was hard on me, but I think he had to be," Reynolds, who more than held her own in the movie, said in a 1999 Associated Press interview. "I had to learn everything in three to six months. Donald O'Connor had been dancing since he was three months old, Gene Kelly since he was 2 years old."

After her transition from starlet to star, Reynolds became popular with teenage girls and even more so when in 1955 she married Eddie Fisher, the pop singer whose fans were equally devoted.

The couple made a movie together, "Bundle of Joy," which seemed to mirror the 1956 birth of Carrie. The Fishers' next child was Todd, named for Eddie's close friend and Taylor's husband, showman Mike Todd.

During this period, Reynolds had a No. 1 hit on the pop charts in 1957 with "Tammy," the Oscar-nominated song from her film "Tammy and the Bachelor." But the Cinderella story ended after Mike Todd died in a 1958 airplane crash. Fisher consoled the widow and soon announced he was leaving his wife and two children to marry Taylor.

The celebrity world seemed to lose its mind. Taylor was assailed as a husband stealer, Fisher as a deserter. Reynolds won sympathy as the innocent victim. A cover headline in Photoplay magazine in late 1958 blared: "Smiling through her tears, Debbie says: I'm still very much in love with Eddie."

Fisher's singing career never recovered, but Reynolds' film career flourished.

The 1964 Meredith Willson musical "The Unsinkable Molly Brown," with Molly's defiant song "I Ain't

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 40 of 42

Down Yet," brought Reynolds her only Academy Award nomination.

She also starred with Glenn Ford in "The Gazebo," Tony Curtis in "The Rat Race," Fred Astaire in "The Pleasure of His Company," Andy Griffith in "The Second Time Around," with the all-star cast in "How the West Was Won" and Ricardo Montalban in "The Singing Nun."

And she provided the voice of Charlotte in the 1973 animated "Charlotte's Web," the same year she received a Tony nomination for her starring role in the Broadway revival of "Irene," in which her Fisher also appeared.

But marital woes made life outside entertainment difficult.

In 1960 Reynolds married shoe magnate Harry Karl. The marriage ended in 1973 when she discovered that Karl, a compulsive gambler, had devastated her assets.

Reynolds' third marriage, to Virginia businessman Richard Hamlett in 1984, proved equally disastrous. In 1992, against friends' advice, she paid \$10 million to buy and convert a faded Las Vegas hotel into the Debbie Reynolds Hotel and Casino, where she performed nightly.

Reynolds ended up filing for bankruptcy in 1997 and accusing Hamlett of making off with her money. "All of my husbands have robbed me blind," she said in 1999.

In her later years, Reynolds continued performing her show, traveling 40 weeks a year. She also appeared regularly on television, appearing as John Goodman's mother on "Roseanne" and a mom on "Will & Grace."

In 1996 she won critical acclaim in the title role of Albert Brooks' movie "Mother." Reynolds and her daughter were featured together in the HBO documentary "Bright Lights," scheduled for release in 2017.

Eventually, she reconciled and teamed up with Taylor — long since divorced from Fisher — and two other veterans, Joan Collins and MacLaine, for the 2001 TV movie "These Old Broads." The script, co-written by Carrie Fisher, was about aging, feuding actresses who get together for a reunion show. Reynolds would look back wryly on the Taylor affair, acknowledging that no man could have resisted Taylor, who died in 2011.

Reynolds received an honorary Oscar in 2015, the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award, but was too ill to attend the ceremony. Her granddaughter, actress Billie Lourd, accepted the statuette in her honor.

Reynolds took solace and strength in her last years from her renewed closeness with her daughter.

"I would say that Carrie and I have finally found happiness," Reynolds told Winfrey in 2011. "I admire her strength and survival."

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AP entertainment reporters Hillel Italie in New York and Lynn Elber, Sandy Cohen and Anthony McCartney in Los Angeles contributed to this report. The late Associated Press writer Bob Thomas contributed biographical material.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Dec. 30, the 365th day of 2016. There is one day left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 30, 1916, Grigory Rasputin, the so-called "Mad Monk" who wielded considerable influence with Czar Nicholas II, was killed by a group of Russian noblemen in St. Petersburg.

On this date:



# Groton Daily Independent

**Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 41 of 42**

In 1853, the United States and Mexico signed a treaty under which the U.S. agreed to buy some 45,000 square miles of land from Mexico for \$10 million in a deal known as the Gadsden Purchase.

In 1865, author Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay, India.

In 1905, the Franz Lehar operetta "The Merry Widow" premiered in Vienna.

In 1922, Vladimir I. Lenin proclaimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which lasted nearly seven decades before dissolving in Dec. 1991.

In 1936, the United Auto Workers union staged its first "sit-down" strike at the General Motors Fisher Body Plant No. 1 in Flint, Michigan. (The strike lasted until Feb. 11, 1937.)

In 1940, California's first freeway, the Arroyo Seco Parkway connecting Los Angeles and Pasadena, was officially opened.

In 1954, Olympic gold medal runner Malvin G. Whitfield became the first black recipient of the James E. Sullivan Award for amateur athletes.

In 1965, Ferdinand Marcos was inaugurated for his first term as president of the Philippines.

In 1979, Broadway composer Richard Rodgers died in New York at age 77.

In 1989, a Northwest Airlines DC-10, which had been the target of a telephoned threat, flew safely from Paris to Detroit with 22 passengers amid extra-tight security.

In 1994, a gunman walked into a pair of suburban Boston abortion clinics and opened fire, killing two employees. (John C. Salvi III was later convicted of murder; he died in prison, an apparent suicide.)

In 1999, former Beatle George Harrison fought off a knife-wielding intruder who'd broken into his mansion west of London and stabbed him in the chest. (Michael Abram was later acquitted of attempted murder by reason of insanity.)

Ten years ago: Iraqis awoke to news that Saddam Hussein had been hanged earlier that morning; victims of his three decades of autocratic rule took to the streets to celebrate. A state funeral service was held in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda for former President Gerald R. Ford. More than 8,500 James Brown fans filled an arena in Augusta, Georgia, for a final, joyful farewell to the "Godfather of Soul." Gerald "Wash" Washington, the first black mayor-elect of Westlake, Louisiana, was found shot to death in a parking lot; authorities ruled his death a suicide, a conclusion disputed by his family.

Five years ago: North Korea warned the world there would be no softening of its position toward South Korea's government following Kim Jong Il's death as Pyongyang strengthened his son and heir's authority with a new title: "Great Leader." Russell Brand announced that he and Katy Perry were divorcing after 14 months of what appeared to be a storybook marriage. British cartoonist Ronald Searle, 91, died in Draguignan, France.

One year ago: Bill Cosby was charged with drugging and sexually assaulting a woman at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004; it was the first criminal case brought against the comedian out of the torrent of allegations that destroyed his good-guy image as "America's Dad."

Today's Birthdays: Actor Joseph Bologna is 82. Actor Russ Tamblyn is 82. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Sandy Koufax is 81. Folk singer Noel Paul Stookey is 79. TV director James Burrows is 76. Actor Fred Ward is 74. Singer-musician Michael Nesmith is 74. Actress Concetta Tomei (toh-MAY') is 71. Singer Patti Smith is 70. Rock singer-musician Jeff Lynne is 69. TV personality Meredith Vieira is 63. Actress Sheryl Lee Ralph is 61. Actress Patricia Kalember is 60. Country singer Suzy Bogguss is 60. "Today" show co-host Matt Lauer is 59. Actress-comedian Tracey Ullman is 57. Rock musician Rob Hotchkiss is 56. Radio-TV commentator Sean Hannity is 55. Sprinter Ben Johnson is 55. Actor George Newbern is 53. Movie director Bennett Miller is 50. Singer Jay Kay (Jamiroquai) is 47. Rock musician Byron McMackin (Pennywise) is 47. Actress Meredith Monroe is 47. Actor Daniel Sunjata is 45. Actress Maureen Flannigan is 44. Actor Jason Behr is 43. Golfer Tiger Woods is 41. TV personality-boxer Laila Ali is 39. Actress Lucy Punch is

# Groton Daily Independent

**Friday, Dec. 30, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 178 ~ 42 of 42**

39. Singer-actor Tyrese Gibson is 38. Actress Eliza Dushku is 36. Rock musician Tim Lopez (Plain White T's) is 36. Actress Kristin Kreuk is 34. Folk-rock singer-musician Wesley Schultz (The Lumineers) is 34. NBA player LeBron James is 32. Rhythm-and-blues singer Andra Day is 32. Pop-rock singer Ellie Goulding (GOL'-ding) is 30. Actress Caity Lotz (TV: "DC's Legends of Tomorrow") is 30. Pop-rock musician Jamie Follese (FAHL'-es-ay) (Hot Chelle (shel) Rae) is 25.

Thought for Today: "Addresses are given to us to conceal our whereabouts." — H.H. Munro ("Saki"), British author (1870-1916).