

Groton Daily Independent

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City Council raises Tree Dumping Fee

It was a very lengthy discussion last night as the Groton City Council changed its fee for commercial tree haulers. The council voted to charge the \$175 commercial fee, but then added a \$20 per load fee. The fee will go into effect this year.

The council meeting was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM.

Apts for Rent

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

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper recycling trailer at the school is Closed

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Wednesday, Jan. 4

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, pineapple/mandarin orange sauce, peanut butter cookie.

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

School Lunch: Hamburgers, wedge fries, fruit, carrots and dip.

United Methodist Church, Groton: Kid Zone at 3:30 p.m., Evening Bible Study at 7 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton: Sarah Circle at 5 p.m., League at 6:30 p.m., Confirmation at 7 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church: Ladies Aid/LWML at 1:30 p.m., Confirmation at 3:45 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 5

Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff noodles, mixed vegetables, fruited Jell-O salad, whole wheat bread.

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

School Lunch: Turkey gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, tea bun, fruit.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church: Nigeria Circle at 2 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church: Nursery Circle at 1:30 p.m., Good Cheer Circle at 1:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 6

Senior Menu: Ranch Chicken breast, boiled potatoes, green beans, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.

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

School Lunch: Pizza, green beans, fruit, romaine salad.

United Methodist Church, Groton: MOMS Group at 9:30 a.m.

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Schuring had double-double in win over Webster Area



Sean Schuring made this three-pointer as he had a double-double night for the Tigers, having 18 points and 12 rebounds. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Area's defense put the pressure on Webster Area Tuesday night as the boys' basketball team defeated the Bearcats in Webster, 61-33.

Groton Area led at the quarterstops at 19-12, 38-21 and 45-25.

The game was broadcast on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Northern Plains Psychological Associates, Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass, Hefty Seed with Justin Hanson and Kalen Kjellsen, Groton Ford, James Valley Seed with Doug Jorgenson, Greg Johnson Construction, Ken's Food Fair and Basekamp Lodge of Groton.

Sean Schuring made four of eight three-pointers to lead the Tigers with 18 points and had a double-double on the night with 12 rebounds. Seric Shabazz was also four of eight in three-pointers and finished the night with 17 points. Bennett Shabazz added 11 points while Brandon Keith had five, Peyton Johnson four and Anthony Sippel, Jonny Doeden and Austin Jones each had two points.

Groton made 35 percent of its field goals while the Bearcats made 25 percent. Groton Area was 12 of 19 from the line for 63 percent off of Webster Area's 19 team fouls. Webster Area was 11 of 24 from the line for 45 percent off of Groton Area's 22 team fouls. Groton Area had 10 turnovers, five of which were steals. Webster Area had 16 turnovers, seven of which were steals with Bennett Shabazz having four. Bennett Shabazz had four of the team's 12 assists for Groton Area. Both teams had 41 rebounds.

Webster Area won the junior varsity game, 27-24. Groton had five opportunities to tie the game in the last two minutes, but was unable to get the job done. Treyton Deigel led the Tigers with seven points followed by Cade Guthmiller with five, Darien Shabazz and Peyton Johnson each had four, Jonny Doeden and Alex Morris each had two points.

Webster Area also won the C game, 35-28. Cade Guthmiller led Groton Area with 11 points followed by Darrien Shabazz with seven, Alex Morris five, Riley Thurston had three and Hunter Schaller added two points.

Groton Area will travel to Hayti in Friday with a double header with the Hamlin County Chargers.

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VISITOR: Groton ()

NO	PLAYER	TOT-FG					3-PT					REBOUNDS					PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	OFF	DEF	TOT									
4	Shabazz, Bennett	*	3	9	2	6	3	5	1	2	3	5	11	4	2	0	4	16:00					
11	Tuggles, Tre'von	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00						
12	Schuring, Sean	*	6	11	4	8	2	2	2	10	12	3	18	2	1	0	1	16:00					
20	Keith, Brandon	*	2	7	1	6	0	2	0	3	3	4	5	2	1	0	0	8:00					
40	Johnson, Peyton	*	0	3	0	1	4	5	3	1	4	4	4	0	3	0	0	8:00					
3	Sippel, Anthony		0	2	0	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	16:00					
14	Diegel, Treyton		0	3	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	16:00					
22	Guthmiller, Cade		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00					
24	Wuestewald, Frankie		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	24:00					
30	Doeden, Jonny		1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	16:00					
32	Jones, Austin		1	5	0	1	0	0	1	3	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	16:00					
34	Thurston, Mitch		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8:00					
42	Shabazz, Seric		6	11	4	8	1	2	0	3	3	0	17	1	1	0	0	16:00					
TEAM REBOUNDS									4	4	8												
Team Totals			19	54	11	34	12	19	13	28	41	22	61	12	10	0	7	160					

Total FG% - 1st: 12/27 0.444 2nd: 7/27 0.259 Game: 0.352 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 8/19 0.421 2nd: 3/15 0.200 Game: 0.324 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 6/8 0.750 2nd: 6/11 0.545 Game: 0.632 (1,0)

HOME: Webster ()

NO	PLAYER	TOT-FG					3-PT					REBOUNDS					PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	OFF	DEF	TOT									
2	Roerig,	*	1	4	0	0	4	8	1	7	8	5	6	1	3	0	1	24:00					
4	Amdahl,	*	0	5	0	4	2	2	2	4	6	2	2	0	1	0	0	16:00					
20	Reetz,	*	6	10	0	1	1	5	1	2	3	2	13	0	1	0	1	32:00					
22	Rithmiller,	*	1	10	0	6	2	4	3	3	6	4	4	0	2	0	0	16:00					
31	Day,	*	0	3	0	1	0	2	1	1	2	3	0	0	1	0	2	24:00					
10	Hortness,		1	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	16:00					
14	Case,		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00					
25	Traylor,		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	8:00					
34	Dunse,		1	4	0	1	1	2	2	5	7	1	3	0	2	0	1	16:00					
35	Premus,		0	2	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	8:00					
TEAM REBOUNDS									3	4	7												
Team Totals			11	44	0	18	11	24	14	27	41	19	33	1	16	0	5	160					

Total FG% - 1st: 7/25 0.280 2nd: 4/19 0.211 Game: 0.250 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 0/11 0.000 2nd: 0/7 0.000 Game: 0.000 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 7/12 0.583 2nd: 4/12 0.333 Game: 0.458 (4,0)

Technical Fouls: groto (0)
 : Web (0)

OFFICIALS :
 ATTENDANCE : 0

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Groton	19	19	7	16	61
Webster	12	9	4	8	33

Last FG: Groton 4th-08:00, Webster 4th-08:00
 Largest lead: Groton by 29 4th-08:00, Webster by 2 1st-08:00
 Score tied: 2 times, Lead changed: 1 times



From Left to Right: Diane Ohnstad, Speaker Paul Ryan, Corinne Arnold, Rep. Kristi Noem, Cassidy Noem, Kennedy Noem

Noem Takes Oath of Office

Today, with my mom and daughters by my side, I was sworn in to serve South Dakota in the U.S. House of Representatives for another two years.

The weight of this responsibility has never been lost on me. South Dakota has but one voice in the House – one voice of 435. And yet that voice represents a considerable portion of our nation's ag production; it speaks for the thousands of families living in rural America. That voice must reflect the priorities of tribal communities, defend the goals of job creators and the ambitions of families. Perhaps most importantly, it must always fight for the values we aspire to in South Dakota and the principles that are enshrined in our Constitution. This is not a small job, but one that I am honored beyond belief to undertake.

So today, I wanted to take just a quick moment to say thank you for offering up your prayers and putting your trust in me.

- Kristi

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Deep Thoughts

Notes from the underground by Communications Director Constance Walter

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

The year in particle physics

By Jim Siegrist,
U.S. DOE Office of High Energy Physics
This is an excerpt from "2016 year in particle physics" from the Dec. 20 *Symmetry Magazine*.
This excerpt focuses on neutrino and dark matter research. The full article includes the Higgs boson, cosmic acceleration and potential new particles.
<https://goo.gl/vyypsPe>

Working together, particle physicists from the United States and around the globe made exciting advances this year in understanding the universe at the smallest and largest scales.

The LIGO experiment made the first detection of gravitational waves, originally predicted by Albert Einstein in 1916 in his general theory of relativity. And scientists have pushed closer to the next big discovery at experiments such as those at the Large Hadron Collider and at ultra-sensitive underground neutrino and dark matter detectors.

The pursuit of particle physics is a truly international effort. It takes the combined resources and expertise of partnering nations to develop and use unique world-class facilities and advanced technology detectors.

Physics associated with neutrino mass

In 2016, several experiments studied ghostly neutrinos—particles so pervasive and aloof that 100 trillion of them pass through you each second. A global program of experiments aims to address remaining questions about neutrinos, to discern a neutrino's mass and to understand whether there are differences between

the transformations of neutrinos and their antimatter partners, antineutrinos.

In July, the T2K experiment in Japan announced a possible difference between the rate at which certain neutrinos turn into other neutrinos. This hints at a combination of neutrino properties that would give the NOvA experiment in the U.S. its most favorable chance of making a discovery in the next few years.

Also in July, MAJORANA presented preliminary background results based on data collected from Module 1, which began operating in July 2015, to good reviews.

In the longer term, particle physicists aim to definitively determine these answers by hosting the world-class Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility, which would send a high-intensity neutrino beam 800 miles from Illinois to South Dakota. There, the international Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment a mile beneath the surface would enable precision neutrino science.

New physics of dark matter

Indirect evidence indicates that more than a quarter of the mass and energy in the observable universe is made up of dark matter. But little is known about it other than that it interacts through gravity.

To guide the experimental search for dark matter, theorists have studied the possible interactions that known

particles might have with a variety of dark matter candidates.

Sensitive detectors, such as the Large Underground Xenon, or LUX, experiment located in Lead, S.D., directly search for the dark matter particles that may be continually passing through Earth. This year, LUX completed the world's most sensitive search for direct evidence of dark matter, improving upon its own previous world's best search by a factor of four.

In addition, data from the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope and other facilities continued to tighten constraints on dark matter through indirect searches.

This sets the stage for a suite of complementary next-generation experiments—including LZ—that aim to significantly improve sensitivity and reveal the nature of dark matter.

Future of discovery science

The world-class facilities and experiments that enable the global program of particle physics are built on a foundation of advanced technology. Ongoing research and development of particle accelerator and detector technology seed prospects for future discovery.

In 2016, researchers continued to make advances in particle accelerator technology in preparation for next-generation machines and possible far-future facilities. At Sanford Lab, for example, CASPAR (Compact Accelerator System for Performing Astrophysical Research) is studying stellar burning in stars to understand the production of elements heavier than iron.

These topics reflect only a small portion of the total scientific output of the particle physics community. But they set the stage for exciting discoveries that will advance our understanding of the universe.

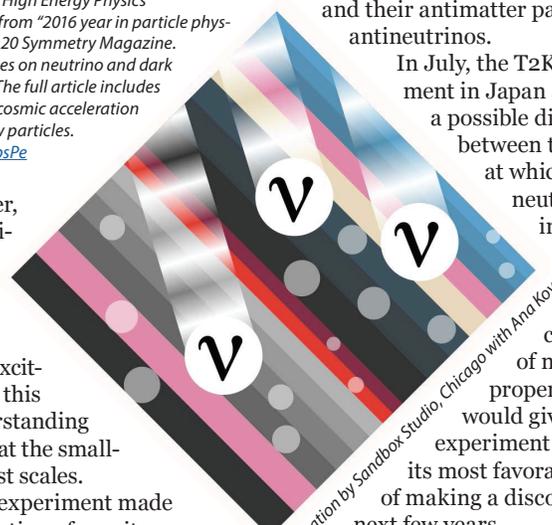


Illustration by Sandbox Studio, Chicago with Ana Kova



Chris Nelson is sworn into his second term as a South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioner on Jan. 3, 2017. South Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice David Gilbertson administered the oath of office. Nelson's wife, Penny, joined him for the swearing-in ceremony held at the State Capitol in Pierre.

Nelson sworn in to second term as South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioner

PIERRE, S.D. – Recently re-elected South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioner Chris Nelson took the oath of office today to officially begin his new term. The oath was administered by South Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice David Gilbertson on Jan. 3, 2017, at the State Capitol in Pierre, South Dakota.

Nelson has served on the PUC since January 2011, when he was appointed by Gov. Dennis Daugaard to fill a vacancy on the commission. He was elected in November 2012 to complete the remaining four years of the term and re-elected in November 2016 for a full, six-year term. Nelson presided as chairman of the PUC in 2012, 2015 and 2016.

"I am grateful to the people of South Dakota for the trust they have placed in me to serve as their commissioner for the next six years. Taking the oath of office today formalizes my commitment to upholding the law and the constitution as I carry out my duties on the commission," he said.

Nelson has a long history of serving the public. Prior to joining the PUC, he served two terms as South Dakota secretary of state. His career also included 13 years as the state election supervisor in the secretary of state's office and two years as the uniform commercial code supervisor.

Nelson is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, where he is the chairman of the association's Committee on Telecommunications. He has also been appointed by the Federal Communications Commission to the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, representing the interests of NARUC.



The above photo was taken during the reenactment ceremony in the Old Senate Chamber, which followed Thune's formal swearing in ceremony on the Senate floor. Thune is pictured with his wife Kimberley and Vice President Joe Biden.

Thune Takes Oath of Office

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) issued the following statement after he took the oath of office for his third term in the U.S. Senate. Thune was first elected to the Senate in 2004 after defeating a sitting Senate party leader for the first time in 52 years. Thune ran unopposed in 2010 and was reelected in November 2016.

"It is an unbelievably humbling experience to continue to serve the people of South Dakota in the U.S. Senate," said Thune. "I want to thank all South Dakotans for this opportunity, and I look forward to hitting the ground running in 2017."

Inspect Fire Place Before Use to Avoid Fire or Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Cold weather and power outages often result in South Dakotans turning to their neglected fireplace as a means of providing heat. However, if the fireplace has not been used for many years it may be dangerous, said John Ball, Professor & SDSU Extension Forestry Specialist.

"While a properly maintained fireplace can be an excellent means of supplementing home heating, or serve as a substitute during power outages, never start a fire in a fireplace that has gone unused or not been inspected," Ball said.

To ensure it is safe, Ball encouraged homeowners to have the chimney inspected by a professional chimney sweep.

"Older fireplaces may lack a liner, a requirement in newer homes and without one, the homeowners risk the chance that carbon monoxide and other fumes will enter the home rather than being vented," Ball said.

He added that without a liner, a house fire can also result.

"Any gaps in the brick can expose combustible material to the fire's heat and start a house fire," Ball said.

Another concern is buildup of creosote on the inside of the flue. This material can ignite a very hot fire.

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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.

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125,000 BTU Heater- \$349.00

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Drivers Paying Highest New Year's Gas Prices Since 2014

Jan. 3, 2017 – The new year has ushered in higher gasoline prices with the South Dakota average for regular now standing at \$2.309 per gallon, AAA reports. Last week the statewide average was eight cents less.

“We expect gasoline prices to increase leading into the summer driving season as seasonal refinery maintenance gets underway this spring,” said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. “Beyond that, prices will largely be dependent on how committed the oil cartel countries are to implement their stated production cuts of 1.8 million barrels per day. In the past, reality hasn’t matched their rhetoric but early reports indicate Oman and Kuwait are reducing oil production.”

	Today	Last Week	Change	Dec.5	Change	Last year
Aberdeen	\$2.299	\$2.196	\$0.103	\$2.20	\$0.101	\$2.018
Brookings	\$2.370	\$2.300	\$0.070	\$2.14	\$0.235	\$1.966
Huron	\$2.321	\$2.322	-\$0.001	\$2.32	\$0.005	\$2.049
Mitchell	\$2.298	\$2.233	\$0.065	\$2.23	\$0.066	\$1.939
Pierre	\$2.375	\$2.279	\$0.096	\$2.28	\$0.096	\$2.128
Rapid City	\$2.144	\$2.112	\$0.032	\$2.04	\$0.101	\$2.069
Sioux Falls	\$2.343	\$2.219	\$0.124	\$2.04	\$0.308	\$1.734
Vermillion	\$2.369	\$2.124	\$0.245	\$1.98	\$0.390	\$1.909
Watertown	\$2.397	\$2.302	\$0.095	\$2.23	\$0.168	\$1.804
Yankton	\$2.332	\$2.317	\$0.015	\$2.22	\$0.116	\$1.909
South Dakota	\$2.309	\$2.233	\$0.076	\$2.13	\$0.175	\$1.926

Nationwide, today's average for regular gasoline is \$2.35 per gallon, up six cents on the week, up 18 cents per gallon on the month, and up 36 cents year-over-year. The national average has moved higher for 35 of the past 36 days, largely due to market reactions to last fall's OPEC deal.

Quick Stats

· The nation's top ten least expensive markets are: South Carolina (\$2.11), Arizona (\$2.12), Alabama (\$2.13), Tennessee (\$2.13), Mississippi (\$2.14), Texas (\$2.15), Arkansas (\$2.15), Louisiana (\$2.15), Oklahoma (\$2.16) and Missouri (\$2.18).

· The nation's top ten most expensive markets are: Hawaii (\$3.02), California (\$2.76), Alaska (\$2.68), Washington (\$2.67), Pennsylvania (\$2.60), District of Columbia (\$2.59), New York (\$2.53), Illinois (\$2.49), Oregon (\$2.49) and Connecticut (\$2.47).

Central States

Gasoline inventories in the region dropped nearly 1 million barrels last week according to the latest Energy Information Administration report. The decline can likely be attributed to lingering refinery issues, and as a result, drivers in some parts of the region are paying some of the nation's highest averages at the pump. Three of the nation's top 15 most expensive markets are located in the Great Lakes region: Illinois (\$2.49), Michigan (\$2.42) and Indiana (\$2.40).

Meanwhile, drivers in Missouri (+9 cents), South Dakota (+8 cents) and Minnesota (+7 cents) have seen prices jump seven cents or more per gallon on the week. The largest monthly increases in gas prices are seen in Wisconsin (+29 cents), Illinois (+28 cents), Minnesota (+27 cents), Iowa (+27 cents), Missouri (+25 cents), Nebraska (+25 cents) and Indiana (+23 cents).

Global Market Dynamics

Both crude oil benchmarks closed out the year posting the largest annual gains since 2009, with Brent gaining 52 percent and West Texas Intermediate up 45 percent.

As 2016 came to a close, U.S. gasoline production reached a record high of 10.537 million barrels for the last week in December. Typically, domestic demand falls in January so higher gasoline production may lead to a stock build in the coming weeks and could have a bearish market impact on gasoline. At the close of formal trading session on December 30 on the NYMEX, WTI closed out the year down five cents to settle at \$53.72 per barrel. Markets were closed yesterday but the news early today indicates WTI crude oil prices are rising.

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Today in Weather History

January 4, 1986: Snowfall amounts of 1 to 3 inches along with winds gusting to around 40 mph produced ground blizzard conditions in western South Dakota. Visibility was near zero in many locations with blowing and drifting snow blocking some roads. Some roads were closed in western South Dakota. Several accidents occurred with many cars ended up in the ditch.

1888 - Sacramento, CA, received 3.5 inches of snow, an all-time record for that location. The heaviest snow in recent history was two inches on February 5th in 1976. (4th-5th) (The Weather Channel)

1971 - A blizzard raged from Kansas to Wisconsin, claiming 27 lives in Iowa. Winds reached 50 mph, and the storm produced up to 20 inches of snow. (David Ludlum)

1982 - Milwaukee, WI, was shut down completely as a storm buried the city under 16 inches of snow in 24 hours. It was the worst storm in thirty-five years. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A storm moving off the Pacific Ocean spread wintery weather across the southwestern U.S., with heavy snow extending from southern California to western Wyoming. Up to 15 inches of snow blanketed the mountains of southern California, and rainfall totals in California ranged up to 2.20 inches in the Chino area. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Frigid arctic air invading the central and eastern U.S. left Florida about the only safe refuge from the cold and snow. A storm in the western U.S. soaked Bodega Bay in central California with 3.12 inches of rain. (National Weather Summary)

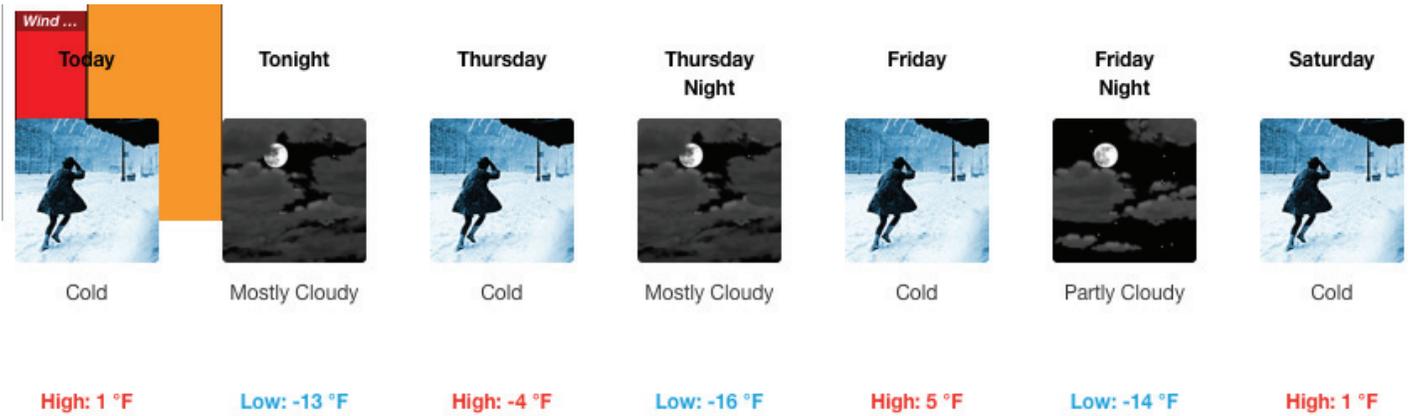
1989 - Up to a foot of snow blanketed the mountains of West Virginia, and strong winds in the northeastern U.S. produced wind chill readings as cold as 60 degrees below zero in Maine. Mount Washington NH reported wind gusts to 136 mph along with a temperature of 30 below zero! (National Weather Summary)

1990 - A winter storm moving out of the southwestern U.S. spread heavy snow across Nebraska and Iowa into Wisconsin. Snowfall totals in Nebraska ranged up to 7 inches at Auburn and Tecumseh. Totals in Iowa ranged up to 11 inches at Carlisle. In Iowa, most of the snow fell between midnight and 4 AM. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1994 - A major winter storm blanketed much of the northeastern U.S. with heavy snow. More than two feet was reported in northwestern Pennsylvania, with 33 inches at Waynesburg. There were ten heart attacks, and 185 injuries, related to the heavy snow in northwest Pennsylvania. Whiteout conditions were reported in Vermont and northeastern New York State. A wind gusts to 75 mph was clocked at Shaftsbury VT. In the Adirondacks of eastern New York State, the town of Tupper reported five inches of snow between 1 PM and 2 PM. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Very Cold Temps Today

Follow us on *Social Media*

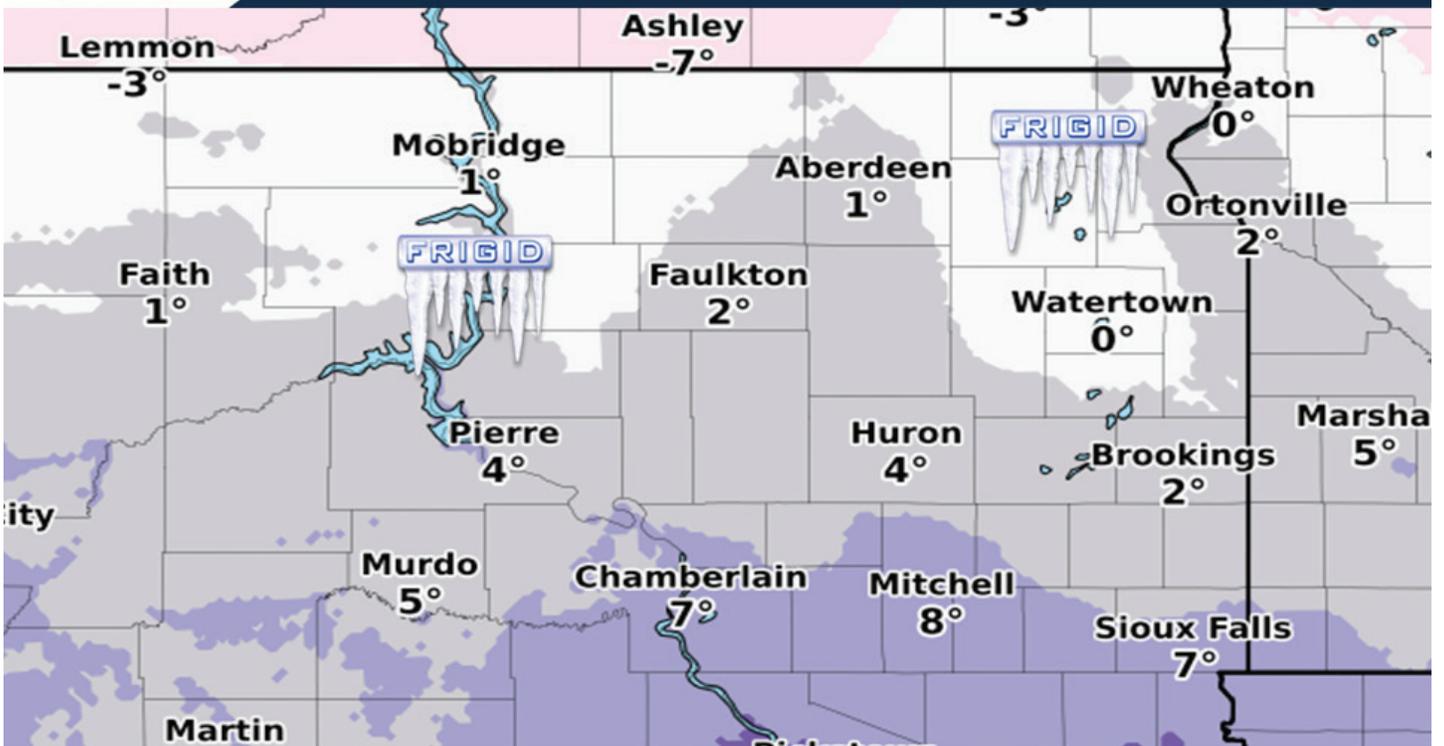
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 01/04/2017 at 5:54AM

The bitterly cold temperatures will continue today with highs struggling to get much above zero for many areas. Dangerously cold wind chills this morning will range from 25 below zero to 45 below zero, and Wind Chill Advisories and Warnings are in place. It appears this arctic air mass will stick with us all the way into the weekend.

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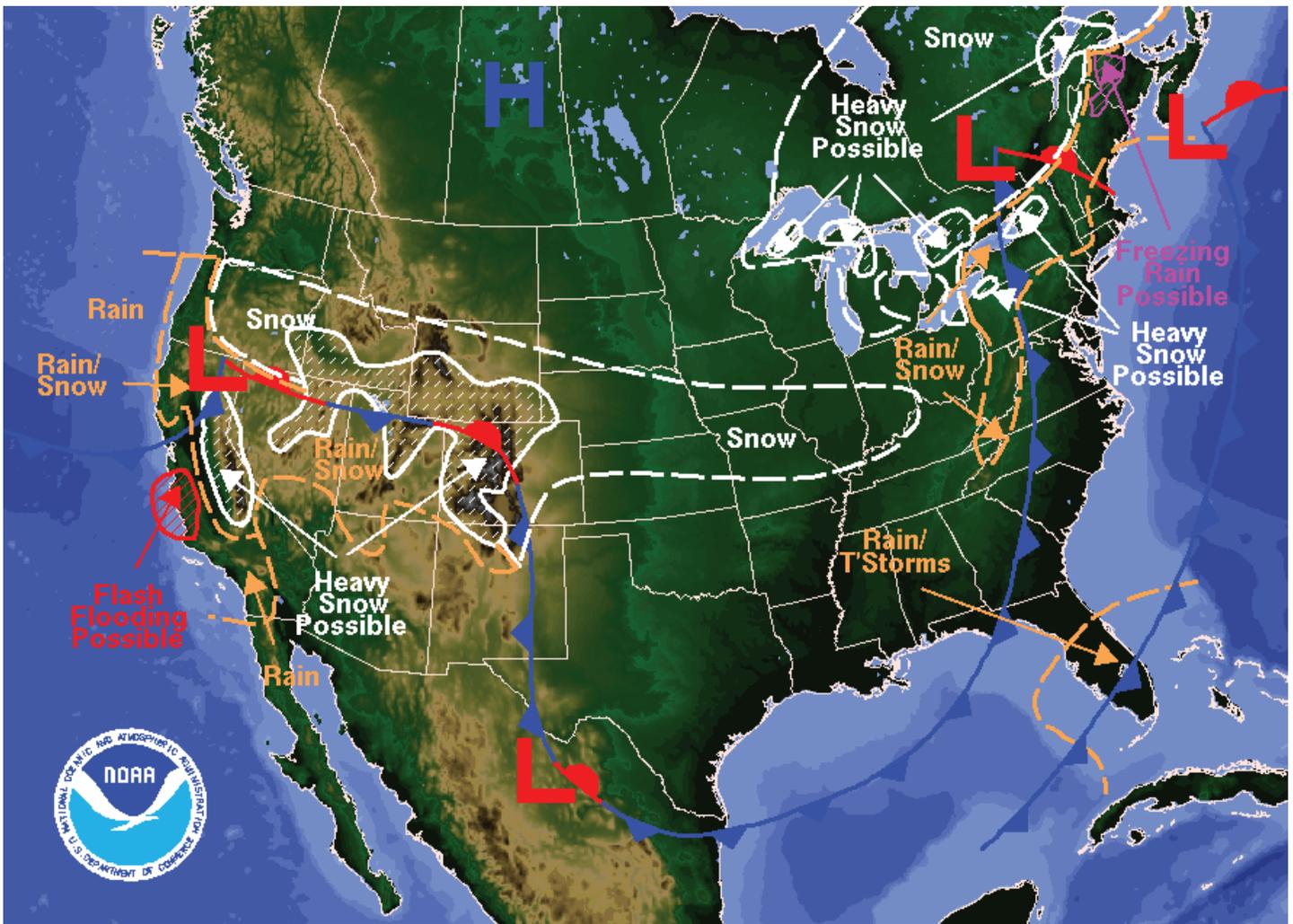
Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 9.1 F at 12:00 AM
Low Outside Temp: -8.9 F at 11:58 PM
High Gust: 25.0 Mph at 4:25 AM

Rain: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 54° in 2012
Record Low: -34° in 1912
Average High: 22°F
Average Low: 2°F
Average Precip in Jan.: 0.07
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.07
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:04 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:13 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Jan 04, 2017, issued 4:49 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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STRAIGHT FROM AZALEA AVENUE

Jane was very specific in each prayer she offered to God. Her "This Is What I'm Asking You For, Jesus" list contained detailed information about each person or item that she had written on her list.

One night following her "In Jesus' Name, Amen", she paused for a moment and then added the message: "Lord, these requests come directly to You from 417 Azalea Avenue, Savannah, Georgia!"

It would be interesting to know exactly what was on Jane's prayer list. But it really does not matter. What we do know is that whatever was on her list was asked for "In Jesus' Name."

When Jesus said that we could "ask for anything in my name" we must never forget that our "asking" must be consistent with the character of God and will of God. We cannot expect God to grant our requests if they are contrary to who we know He is.

We know without any doubt that our God is a holy God and a righteous God and a loving God and a giving God who cared so much that He sent His only Son into the world to die for us and become our Savior and Lord. Certainly when we consider these four basic characteristics of God, we realize that they lead to a significant fact about our God: He is unselfish. A simple way to evaluate each of our requests is to ask: Is this prayer to glorify me or God?

Prayer: Father, we know that You want us to have the desires of our hearts. Help us understand Your will so that our requests will be consistent with Your Name. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: John 14:13-14 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

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News from the Associated Press

Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 67, Huron 46
Alcester-Hudson 70, Freeman 59
Avon 55, Ethan 51
Bon Homme 75, Tri-Valley 63
Brandon Valley 41, Watertown 26
Bridgewater-Emery 54, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 46
Brookings 53, Harrisburg 50
Canistota 54, Mitchell Christian 47
Castlewood 54, Lake Preston 43
Chamberlain 58, Winner 47
Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley, Minn. 58, Waubay/Summit 52
Colman-Egan 61, Baltic 40
Colome 51, Lyman 45
Dell Rapids 72, Pipestone, Minn. 46
Deuel 64, Milbank Area 56
Douglas 77, Hot Springs 48
Faulkton 68, Northwestern 59
Groton Area 61, Webster 33
Hamlin 52, Florence/Henry 50
Hanson 46, Wagner 38
Highmore-Harrold 56, Stanley County 50
Irene-Wakonda 51, Menno 40
Langford 62, Britton-Hecla 31
Miller 60, DeSmet 44
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 67, Platte-Geddes 61
Rapid City Stevens 72, Spearfish 43
Scotland 55, Gayville-Volin 50
Sergeant Bluff-Luton, Iowa 69, Dakota Valley 62
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 73, Sioux Falls Christian 50
St. Francis Indian 83, Bennett County 41
Sturgis Brown 75, Lead-Deadwood 48
Viborg-Hurley 59, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 29
Wall 73, Jones County 61

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 64, Huron 42
Brandon Valley 52, Watertown 32
Breckenridge, Minn. 44, Sisseton 40
Chester 39, Dell Rapids St. Mary 34
Colman-Egan 41, Baltic 30
Dell Rapids 61, Garretson 32

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DeSmet 61, Miller 43
Deubrook 68, Clark/Willow Lake 45
Ethan 60, Avon 20
Faith 62, Lemmon 20
Hamlin 51, Florence 40
Hanson 60, Wagner 34
Harrisburg 47, Brookings 23
Hay Springs, Neb. 39, Bennett County 35
Howard 59, Flandreau 58
Irene-Wakonda 57, Menno 50
Kadoka Area 68, Lyman 49
McCook Central/Montrose 63, Beresford 42
Milbank Area 64, Deuel 54
New Underwood 61, Rapid City Christian 9
Newell 47, Harding County 44
Northwestern 62, Faulkton 49
Parkston 44, Corsica/Stickney 39
Pine Ridge 59, Red Cloud 57
Pipestone, Minn. 50, Madison 40
Platte-Geddes 45, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 36
Rapid City Stevens 71, Spearfish 43
Redfield/Doland 53, Aberdeen Roncalli 33
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 67, Bridgewater-Emery 34
Scotland 51, Gayville-Volin 47
Sergeant Bluff-Luton, Iowa 77, Dakota Valley 69
Sioux Falls Lincoln 58, Sioux Falls Washington 49
Sturgis Brown 51, Lead-Deadwood 13
Sully Buttes 68, Mobridge-Pollock 20
Tri-Valley 57, Bon Homme 27
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 60, Viborg-Hurley 35
Wall 44, Jones County 17
Warner 56, Ipswich 38
Waverly-South Shore 44, Wilmot 29
West Central 55, Tea Area 44
Winner 58, Chamberlain 41

Stadium manager says protesters had tickets to Vikings game

Two protesters arrested after climbing to the rafters of U.S. Bank Stadium during a Vikings game had entered the stadium with tickets. The Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority and stadium manager SMG say protesters went through security with nylon rope, carabiners and a lightweight banner under winter clothing. Thirty-two-year-old Karl Zimmermann Mayo and 26-year-old Sen Holiday want U.S. Bank to divest from the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access oil pipeline. They haven't been formally charged.

By **AMY FORLITI**

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A man and a woman who hung from the rafters during a Vikings game and

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unfurled a banner in protest of the Dakota Access oil pipeline entered U.S. Bank Stadium with tickets, and stadium officials said Tuesday that protesters hid their climbing equipment under winter clothing.

Three people were arrested Sunday after two protesters rappelled from the roof of the Minnesota Vikings' stadium during their season finale against the Chicago Bears. The game was not interrupted, but eight rows of fans seated below the protesters were evacuated.

The two climbers — who identified themselves as Sen Holiday, 26, of St. Paul, and Karl Zimmermann Mayo, 32, of Minneapolis — met with reporters Tuesday but refused to answer questions about how they entered the building. Authorities haven't said how the third person was involved. None of the people have been formally charged and police are still investigating.

Security at the stadium is designed to detect items such as weapons and explosives. A statement from the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority and stadium manager SMG says individuals concealed nylon rope, carabiners and a lightweight banner, and the items were distributed among protesters after they got inside. The statement did not make clear who carried in the equipment or say whether more people may be involved.

"They had nothing visible in their possession that violated U.S. Bank Stadium policies and had nothing that prevented them from clearing the security screening upon entry," the statement said.

Security photos included with the statement show Holiday and Zimmermann Mayo entering the stadium. In one image from inside the stadium, Holiday appears to be carrying a backpack that was not visible in images showing her entering.

Once inside, the protesters went onto the ridge truss by scaling barriers that blocked off the area, the statement says. Officials said they've taken steps to make design changes to prevent something similar from happening in the future.

"We expect to make additional changes, as we continue to evaluate protocols to strengthen security here, and share our findings with other stadiums across the country," the officials said.

The banner the protesters unfurled urged Minneapolis-based U.S. Bank to divest from the four-state, \$3.8 billion pipeline. Opponents contend the pipeline could affect drinking water and Native American artifacts. Texas-based developer Energy Transfer Partners says the pipeline will be safe.

After hanging the banner, the pair hung in a seated position about 100 feet above the seats that were evacuated. They watched the rest of the game, occasionally shifting positions or waving at spectators. Zimmermann Mayo wore a purple Brett Favre Vikings jersey.

Vikings spokesman Jeff Anderson said 185 ticketholders were moved because of the protesters' stunt above. Anderson said all of those fans will receive a full refund.

Protesters say U.S. Bank has extended a large credit line to pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners.

"This pipeline is not ethical," Zimmermann Mayo said Tuesday.

U.S. Bank spokesman Dana Ripley declined to comment.

The pipeline, which is currently on hold, would carry oil from western North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois. Protesters camped in North Dakota for months to try to stop completion of the project.

During a similar incident in November 2015, two people rappelled from the upper deck and hung a banner during a Carolina Panthers game to protest a planned liquefied natural gas export facility in Maryland.

AP Pro Football Writer Dave Campbell contributed to this report from Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Follow Amy Forliti on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/amyforliti>. More of her work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/amy-forliti>

SD man pleads guilty to manslaughter in woman's death

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man accused of killing a woman last year has pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter.

Thirty-three-year-old Matthew Novak of Woonsocket entered his plea as part of a plea deal. Novak was accused in the death last August of 25-year-old Jennifer Gibson at their home.

KELO-TV (<http://bit.ly/2hNnpBu>) reports in court Tuesday, Novak said he killed the mother of four by cutting her throat.

Authorities arrested Novak at the home after the incident prompted a nearby school to go on lock-down.

First-degree manslaughter is a felony carrying a maximum penalty of life in prison and a \$50,000 fine. A sentencing date has not been set.

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

Girl's Basketball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school girl's preseason poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points and last week's ranking.

Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs		
1. Sioux Falls Washington	(7)	5-1	35	1		
2. Aberdeen Central	-	4-1	24	2		
3. Harrisburg	-	2-1	22	3		
4. Brandon Valley	-	5-1	17	4		
5. Rapid City Central	-	4-1	3	NR		

Others receiving votes: Rapid City Stevens 2, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 2.

Class A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs		
1. St. Thomas More	(7)	5-0	35	1		
2. Hamlin	-	3-0	22	T3		
3. Lennox	-	4-0	20	T3		
4. McCook Central-Montrose	-	3-1	15	2		
5. Little Wound	-	8-0	7	NR		

Others receiving votes: Madison 6.

Class B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs		
1. Sully Buttes	(4)	4-0	32	1		

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2. Ethan	(3)	4-0	30	2		
3. Sanborn Central-Woonsocket	-	4-0	21	3		
4. Warner	-	4-0	12	4		
5. Freeman	-	4-0	5	5		

Others receiving votes: De Smet 3, Hanson 1.

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Boy's Basketball Polls By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school boy's poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points and last week's ranking.

Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs		
1. Sioux Falls O'Gorman	(6)	3-0	34	1		
2. Sioux Falls Washington	(1)	5-2	27	3		
3. Brandon Valley	-	4-1	15	5		
4. Huron	-	2-2	12	NR		
5. Sioux Falls Lincoln	-	2-2	7	4		

Others receiving votes: Brookings 6, Sturgis 4.

Class A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs		
1. Sioux Falls Christian	(6)	2-1	34	1		
2. St. Thomas More	(1)	4-0	29	2		
3. Sioux Valley	-	6-1	17	3		
4. Chamberlain	-	3-0	9	4		
5. Vermillion	-	7-0	7	RV		

Others receiving votes: Aberdeen Roncalli 6, Mount Vernon/Plankinton 2, Flandreau 1.

Class B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs		
1. Langford Area	(5)	5-0	31	2		
2. Warner	(2)	3-1	24	1		
3. Bridgewater-Emery	-	4-0	22	5		
4. Parker	-	4-1	15	4		
5. Corsica-Stickney	-	3-1	7	NR		

Others receiving votes: Potter County 2, Chester Area 2, Scotland 1, Colman-Egan 1, Sully Buttes 1.

Nonprofit: Westerhuis took \$21K for college savings accounts

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A nonprofit aimed at helping Native American students says a former employee took roughly \$21,000 from the organization for college savings accounts before his death.

The American Indian Institute for Innovation says in court documents that the organization believes it will unearth “many more” instances of Scott Westerhuis acquiring property with the nonprofit’s money.

The documents are part of proceedings over Westerhuis’ estate.

The nonprofit had previously identified “inappropriate” purchases in a separate civil case, including payments into an education savings account for Westerhuis’ children. An attorney for the nonprofit didn’t immediately return a request for comment.

Westerhuis shot his wife, Nicole Westerhuis, and their four children, then set fire to their home and killed himself in 2015. Authorities believe the couple stole more than \$1 million before their deaths.

Cap on payday loans collapses business ventures

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota businessman is closing an entertainment complex he built last year for \$20 million following passage of an interest cap that will also shutter his 11 payday lending stores.

Chuck Brennan is selling off millions of dollars in business property after South Dakota voters recently decided to cap payday loan interest rates at 36 percent, KELO-TV (<http://bit.ly/2hNUPn2>) reported. Brennan is not only closing his Dollar Loan Centers across the state, he will sell the sprawling 70,000-square-foot Badlands Pawn complex in Sioux Falls, Badlands Motor Speedway in Brandon and Brennan Rock and Roll Academy.

In a previous interview with the Argus Leader, Brennan said having to close and sell his property took him by surprise.

“We were blindsided because we really didn’t think we had anything to worry about, but we’ve reacted as quickly as we could,” Brennan told the newspaper. “The plain fact is that our main source of revenue in South Dakota is gone.”

Brennan said he used revenue from the lending stores to fund his other businesses.

The Badlands Motor Speedway asking price is nearly \$10 million. Still, Brennan is hopeful the race track will open in May. He said he has captured local and national interest for the track and currently has two deals on the table.

As for the Badlands Pawn complex in Sioux Falls, Brennan said he hasn’t decided on a selling price for the property. He invested nearly \$20 million into the complex last year.

He said he would like to see the complex converted into a concert venue, the largest sport’s bar in the state or a sporting goods store.

More than 400 employees will lose their jobs when the businesses are all closed.

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

Schools closed or delay classes due to heavy snow

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — Record snowfall in parts of North Dakota is making travel difficult in the region.

As much as 10 inches of new snow fell in the Red River Valley with Fargo setting a Jan. 2 record of 9.2 inches.

Students in some North Dakota school districts have an extended winter break Tuesday because of the dangerous travel conditions. Dozens of other school districts delayed the start of classes. Grand Forks County offices, including the courthouse, as well as city offices in Grand Forks are closed Tuesday.

A winter storm warning remains in effect for northcentral and northeastern Minnesota until 6 p.m. Tuesday. Forecasters say snow in eastern North Dakota will diminish later Tuesday.

The National Weather Service says wind chill readings in South Dakota will drop to 30 below through Wednesday morning.

Midwest economic survey suggests big improvement in December

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Soaring numbers in a monthly survey of business supply managers suggest that economic conditions are improving in nine Midwest and Plains states, according to a report issued Tuesday.

The Mid-America Business Conditions Index report shows that the overall economic index for the region jumped to 53.1 in December from 46.5 in November. The October figure was 43.8.

"This is the second straight increase in the overall index and points to an improving regional manufacturing economy," said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey. "I expect this to generate even healthier growth for both manufacturing and nonmanufacturing for the first half of 2017."

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers said any score above 50 suggests growth in that factor, while a score below that suggests decline. The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

After six consecutive months of below-growth survey readings, the regional employment gauge for December rose to its highest level since May 2016, climbing to 50.9 from 41.9 in November.

"The growth gap between regional manufacturing and nonmanufacturing appears to be closing. The key for regional manufacturing will be any changes in sales abroad driven by the value of the U.S. dollar and global economic improvements," Goss said.

Looking ahead six months, economic optimism, as reflected by the December business confidence index, rose to 63.3 from 61.6 in November.

Supply managers bolstered their inventories in December, which survey organizers said was another sign of growing confidence in the regional economy. The inventory index, which tracks the change in the level of raw materials and supplies, jumped to 52.8 from November's 42.8.

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. BUSY DAY SLATED FOR CAPITOL

Obama and Vice President-elect Mike Pence have dueling agendas in meetings with lawmakers as the president's health care law faces repeal and replace by Republicans.

2. WHAT IS TRUMP'S UNIQUE LEGISLATIVE WHIP

Every president taps a legislative affairs director to work with Congress, but the president-elect's use of Twitter is like nothing ever seen before.

3. ERDOGAN: ATTACK WON'T DIVIDE TURKS

In his first public comments since a gunman mowed down 39 people at an Istanbul nightclub, Turkey's president says the country won't surrender to terrorists.

4. SOLDIER CONVICTED IN CASE THAT POLARIZED ISRAEL

An Israeli military court finds a soldier guilty of manslaughter in the fatal shooting of an incapacitated Palestinian attacker.

5. CHARLES MANSON HOSPITALIZED

Officials will only say that the 82-year-old cult leader, convicted of orchestrating the 1969 murders of pregnant actress Sharon Tate and six others, is still alive.

6. SENTENCING BEGINS WITH ROOF ACTING AS OWN LAWYER

The same jury that convicted the Charleston church gunman returns to court to begin considering if he should receive the death penalty.

7. CRUISE COMPANY GETS PERSONAL WITH CONCIERGE TECH

Carnival Corp. launches a wearable tracking medallion the size of a quarter that will allow guests to feel everything is personalized for them.

8. WHY HOMEBUYERS SHOULD BE WARY

On top of bidding wars and rising prices, you'll now have higher mortgage rates to contend with.

9. MARIAH CAREY DISCUSSES 'HORRIBLE NEW YEAR'S EVE'

The five-time Grammy winner says she was "mortified" in "real time" during her disastrous live performance just before the ball dropped on ABC's "Dick Clark's Rockin' New Year's Eve."

10. WHO ARE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME FINALISTS

LaDainian Tomlinson, Jason Taylor and Brian Dawkins are among 15 modern-era finalists for enshrinement in Canton.

Turkey identifies club gunman; Erdogan speaks to nation

By **DUSAN STOJANOVIC, Associated Press**

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkey has identified the gunman in the Istanbul nightclub massacre, the foreign minister said Wednesday as the president vowed that the country won't surrender to terrorists or become divided.

The gunman, who killed 39 people during New Year's celebrations at the Reina club, is still at large. But Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said authorities had identified the man, without providing details.

"The identity of the person who carried out the attack on the Reina nightclub has been established," Cavusoglu told Anadolu in a live televised interview.

Turkish police, meanwhile, detained 20 suspected Islamic State group militants, including 11 women, believed to be linked to the attack, the state-run news agency reported. The operation was launched in the Aegean port city of Izmir.

Anadolu said the suspects were from the largely Muslim Russian republic of Dagestan, from China's Muslim Uighur minority and from Syria. It said they are thought to have lived with the nightclub attacker.

IS has claimed responsibility for the attack, which also wounded nearly 70 people. Of those killed 27 were foreigners, many from the Middle East. Islamic State said a "soldier of the caliphate" had carried out the mass shooting to avenge Turkish military operations against IS in northern Syria.

The private Dogan news agency said that Wednesday's police operation targeted three families who had arrived in Izmir about 20 days ago from Konya — a city in central Turkey where the gunman is thought to have been based before carrying out the nightclub attack. It said 27 people, including women and children, were taken into custody.

At least 16 people were previously detained in connection with the attack, including two foreigners stopped Tuesday at the international terminal of Istanbul's Ataturk Airport after police checked their

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cellphones and luggage, according to Anadolu.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that the attack aimed to set Turks against each other and deepen fault lines, but that the country would not fall "for this game."

Erdogan made the comments in a live speech from Ankara, the first time he has publicly addressed the nation since the attack.

Responding to accusations in the past that Turkey had given support to the Islamic State group, Erdogan said that "to present the country — which is leading the greatest struggle against Daesh — as one that is supporting terrorism is what the terror organization wants."

Erdogan said that "to say Turkey has surrendered to terrorism is to take sides with the terrorists and terror organizations."

Erdogan also said that "in Turkey, no one's way of life is under any threat. Those who claim this have to prove it. It is my duty to protect everyone's rights."

It was in response to a campaign before the attack by some government supporters who warned against New Year's celebrations they depicted as a Western or Christian tradition, as well as some social media postings that seemed to support the attack. The campaign and social media postings caused uproar amid secular Turks who said their lifestyles were being threatened. The government has said authorities were taking measures on social media accounts that allegedly "support terrorism and foster divisiveness in society."

Police in Istanbul have set up checkpoints and are checking vehicles across the city as security levels remained high. Police were stopping cars and Istanbul's ubiquitous yellow taxis, with passengers and drivers holding up their identifications while officers inspected inside the vehicles. Istanbul has been on high alert since the attack, with the gunman still at large.

Hurriyet newspaper said the gunman had previously entered Turkey twice, in 2014 and in 2015. He is believed to have slipped into Syria illegally, where he received training in the use of guns and bombs and fought.

Pro-government Sabah newspaper said the gunman had been in contact believed to be a chief IS operative in Istanbul as well as his aide — a Tajik man who reportedly was among those detained.

According to Sabah, the gunman was born in 1988 and is believed to be a Kyrgyz national. It said he speaks Russian, Uzbek, Arabic and Turkish.

Haber Turk newspaper reported meanwhile, that after the attack, the gunman walked some 400 meters and then took a taxi but was forced to get off because he didn't have any money on him. He later got on another taxi and woke up some Uighurs working at a restaurant in Istanbul's Zeytinburnu district to get some money and pay the driver. The newspaper said seven Uighurs either working or sheltering at the restaurant have since been taken into custody.

The newspaper interviewed the owner of the restaurant, Semsettin Dursun, a Uighur who said he didn't know the gunman. He also condemned the attack on Turkey which "had opened its arms to those who escaped" China.

Turkey's European Union affairs Omer Celik minister said the attack was carried out in an "extremely professional way" and that the assailant appeared to have received training "in the Middle East."

He said the attacker was using methods "that avoid all modern intelligence techniques" of tracking, including acting alone, not contacting anyone and "not using technology."

Turkish media reports claimed Tuesday that the gunman's wife was in custody and had told police she didn't know her husband was linked to IS. An eerie selfie video emerged of the alleged gunman on Tuesday, showing him silently touring Istanbul's most famous square.

Funerals were held in Jordan, Lebanon, Israel and Turkey for the dead and on Wednesday, a Turkish

Airlines jet carrying the bodies of two Indian citizens killed in the shooting landed in Mumbai. The bodies were received by a governing party lawmaker, and the victims' relatives and friends.

Bollywood film producer-realtor Abis Rizvi's body was taken to his home in suburban Bandra for burial later Wednesday. The 49-year-old Rizvi wrote, produced and directed a Bollywood movie "Roar: The Tigers of Sunderbans," in 2014 aimed at spreading awareness about tigers.

The other Indian victim of the Istanbul attack was Khushi Shah, a 39-year-old fashion designer from Vadodara, a city in the western Indian state of Gujarat. Shah's body was flown to her hometown for cremation later Wednesday, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

Associated Press writer Suzan Fraser contributed to this report from Ankara.

Israeli soldier convicted in death of Palestinian assailant

By ARON HELLER, Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — An Israeli soldier was convicted of manslaughter on Wednesday in the deadly shooting of an incapacitated Palestinian attacker, capping a nine-month saga that has deeply divided the country.

The verdict, which marks an extremely rare instance of an Israeli military court siding against a soldier over lethal action taken in the field, threatened to deepen the rift. Military commanders have condemned the soldier's conduct, while much of the public, along with leading members of the nationalist ruling coalition, have rallied behind him.

Sgt. Elor Azaria, an army medic, was caught on a cellphone video fatally shooting a wounded Palestinian attacker who had stabbed a soldier in the West Bank city of Hebron in March. The Palestinian was lying motionless on the ground when Azaria shot him in the head.

In a verdict that stretched nearly three hours, Col. Maya Heller, head of the three-judge panel, painstakingly rejected all of Azaria's defense arguments. She said there was no evidence to support his claim that the attacker was already dead or that the man posed any threat at the time.

She said that Azaria was an "unreliable" witness and had "needlessly" shot the assailant. She also said his defense witnesses were problematic.

"We found there was no room to accept his arguments," she said. "His motive for shooting was that he felt the terrorist deserved to die."

The defense team said it would appeal the verdict. The sentencing is expected in the coming weeks.

The 20-year-old Azaria entered the court smiling and appearing confident, joined by a contingent of relatives. A young man wore a T-shirt that said "the nation is with you." But as the verdict was delivered, Azaria stared gloomily ahead, and tensions quickly boiled over in the cramped, crowded courtroom.

Members of Azaria's family clapped as the decision was delivered, screaming "Our hero!" A female relative was kicked out of the courtroom for screaming at the judges and calling the decision a disgrace. A second woman stormed out, shouting, "Disgusting leftists."

After the judges walked out, Azaria's mother, Oshra, screamed, "You should be ashamed of yourselves." Azaria tried to comfort her and calm her down as she wailed. Another family member turned toward the media and whipped his jacket at a female reporter. He missed the reporter and instead hit another relative.

Israeli lawmaker Oren Hazan approached Azaria and gave him a hug before police ordered him to stop.

Hundreds of the soldier's supporters, many of them young religious men wearing skullcaps, gathered outside the military court in Tel Aviv ahead of the verdict. The crowd, holding large Israeli flags and

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banners that said "the nation neglected a soldier on the battlefield" periodically scuffled with police. After the verdict, however, there were no further clashes.

The shooting occurred at the height of what has become more than a yearlong wave of violence between Israelis and Palestinians.

Azaria's defenders said he shot the assailant in an act of self-defense, and hard-line politicians have said he should be either cleared or released with a light penalty. But his detractors, including senior military commanders, have said his actions violated the army's code of ethics and procedures.

The uproar has put the army in a delicate position. Military service is compulsory for Israel's Jewish majority, and there is widespread sympathy for soldiers, since virtually every family has a member who is serving or has served in the past.

The dispute helped fuel the resignation of Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon, who sided with the military, earlier this year. His successor, Avigdor Lieberman, visited Azaria in court. Education Minister Naftali Bennett, leader of the pro-settler Jewish Home Party, has also sided with Azaria.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who initially defended the military, later softened his position and called Azaria's parents to console them.

After the verdict, Lieberman, who heads a hard-line nationalist party, said he disagreed with the "difficult" verdict, but he urged the public to respect the court's decision. He said the defense establishment would do "everything it can" to help Azaria and his family.

"We must keep the army outside every political argument...and keep it in the widest consensus in Israeli society," he said.

Israeli human rights groups have accused the army of failing to prosecute soldiers who commit unnecessary violence against Palestinians, and trying a soldier for a crime as serious as manslaughter is virtually unheard of.

The rights group Yesh Din said it was just the second manslaughter case of a soldier since the second Palestinian uprising erupted in 2000. The first case involved the death of a British activist.

Sharon Gal, a spokesman for the Azaria family, accused the court of siding with human rights groups over a soldier on a battlefield.

"It was like the court was detached from the fact that this was the area of an attack. I felt that the court picked up the knife from the ground and stabbed it in the back of all the soldiers," he said.

Lt. Col. Nadav Weissman, a military prosecutor, said this was "not a happy day."

"We would have preferred that this didn't happen. But the deed was done, and the offense was severe," he said.

Official: Charles Manson alive amid report he's hospitalized

By SCOTT SMITH, Associated Press

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP) — Amid reports that Charles Manson has been taken from his California prison cell to a hospital, a state corrections official would confirm only that the 82-year-old killer and cult leader was still alive.

Both TMZ and the Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday that Manson had been hospitalized. TMZ said he had been taken to a medical center in Bakersfield, about 60 miles south of Corcoran State Prison where Manson was being held.

Late Tuesday night, three vans from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation were parked outside Bakersfield's Mercy Hospital Downtown, where state prisoners have been treated before.

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But CDCR spokeswoman Terry Thornton said only that Manson is still alive and still assigned to the prison in Corcoran. She declined to say whether he was at the hospital in Bakersfield, citing safety privacy laws prohibit her from discussing an inmate's medical situation.

Manson was convicted of orchestrating the 1969 murders of pregnant actress Sharon Tate and six others.

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All were spared execution when a U.S. Supreme Court ruling temporarily banned the death penalty in 1972.

Sarah Ardalani of the Los Angeles County district attorney's office said in an email that the agency had no information on Manson. The office prosecuted Manson and has objected to his release. He was most recently up for parole in 2012 — his 12th bid for freedom.

The California State Prison, Corcoran, has medical facilities to treat inmates requiring urgent or emergency care as well as in-patient hospital stays.

"In general, inmates are sent to outside hospitals if they need surgical services, emergency care, or diagnostic services of an acute nature," said Joyce Hayhoe, a spokeswoman for the federal receiver who controls prison medical care. "These services are not provided in state prison facilities."

In November, the state inspector general, which monitors the corrections system, characterized care at Corcoran as "inadequate."

This story has been corrected to show the spelling of the former Manson follower's name is "Krenwinkel," not "Krenwinkle."

Associated Press Writer Olga Rodriguez contributed to this story from San Francisco.

Trump questions US intelligence as governing challenges loom

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — His inauguration less than three weeks away, President-elect Donald Trump is raising new doubts about the nation's intelligence community, tweeting fresh criticism at the same people who will help inform his most sensitive decisions once he takes office.

Trump charged Tuesday on Twitter, without evidence, that the timing of an upcoming intelligence briefing on suspected Russian interference in the 2016 election had been delayed. "Perhaps more time needed to build a case. Very strange!" he wrote, using quote marks around the word "intelligence."

Trump's tweet, in line with repeated criticism of his nation's intelligence leaders, caused confusion among intelligence officials, who said there was no delay in the briefing schedule.

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The fresh clash came as Trump took further steps to fill his Cabinet and key White House positions, with his attention shifting toward the challenges of governing.

Trump's plans for repealing President Barack Obama's signature health care law are expected to be the focus as Vice President-elect Mike Pence and secretary of state choice Rex Tillerson meet with top Republicans on Capitol Hill on Wednesday.

Pence issued a direct challenge to Washington Republicans Tuesday: "The president-elect has a very clear message to Capitol Hill. And that is, it's time to get to work."

Trump signaled he would not bless all of the GOP's priorities on Capitol Hill, openly questioning the timing of the House Republican push to gut an independent ethics board just as the new Congress gathered.

"Do they really have to make the weakening of the Independent Ethics Watchdog, as unfair as it may be, their number one act and priority"? Trump tweeted. The House GOP later dropped the effort.

The president-elect promised late Tuesday to hold his first formal news conference since his Nov. 8 election victory next week in New York. He has already waited longer than any other president-elect in the modern era to hold his first exchange with journalists. Most have held such events within days of their elections.

It was unclear if the news conference would be the venue for his delayed announcement on how he plans to avoid potential conflicts of interest involving his businesses after taking office. Transition officials said multiple topics could be covered, but would not specifically say whether they included Trump's businesses. Trump was supposed to detail the arrangements at a mid-December news conference, but postponed the event.

Earlier Tuesday, Trump tapped as U.S. trade representative a former Reagan official who has condemned Republicans' commitment to free trade. Trump indicated that Robert Lighthizer, who is expected to take a hard line against China, would represent "the United States as we fight for good trade deals that put the American worker first."

His Cabinet nearly full, Trump also picked a handful of new White House aides.

Omarosa Manigault, a contestant from the first season of "The Apprentice," is expected to focus on public engagement in the White House.

Trump also hired Rick Dearborn as a deputy chief of staff and Marc Short as White House legislative director. Both previously served in chief of staff positions on Capitol Hill. The new hires were confirmed by two people familiar with the decision, who insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the hiring process publicly.

Trump spent time interviewing prospects for the Department of Veterans Affairs as well, including Leo MacKay, a senior executive at a military contractor who previously served in the VA under President George W. Bush.

Associated Press writers Julie Pace, Julie Bykowicz and Deb Riechmann in Washington contributed to this report.

Obama, Pence to Capitol as health care overhaul fight begins

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is traveling to the Capitol to give congressional Democrats advice on how to combat the Republican drive to dismantle his health care overhaul. Vice President-elect Mike Pence is meeting with GOP lawmakers to discuss the best way to send Obama's

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cherished law to its graveyard and replace it with — well, something.

The separate strategy sessions were coming on the second day of the new, GOP-led Congress. In 16 days, Republican Donald Trump replaces Obama at the White House, putting the party's longtime goal of annulling much of the 2010 health care overhaul within reach.

Plenty of questions remain, including the repeal bill's details, costs and when it would take effect. Republicans also face divisions over the next step — replacement legislation — that will likely take months or years to resolve.

While they can hardly prevent the GOP repeal effort from proceeding, the president and House and Senate Democrats were meeting Wednesday to discuss how to best defend a law that's extended health insurance coverage to 20 million Americans and which Obama considers one of the proudest pillars of his legacy.

"The more the people understand what's included in the Affordable Care Act and how they benefit from it, the more popular the program is, and the harder it is for Republicans to have political support for tearing it down," White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters Tuesday, using the law's formal name.

"The president's message to them is that they should be out there telling the stories of their constituents who are benefiting from this law," Earnest said. "I think that's certainly the most important thing they can do."

Pence was meeting Wednesday morning with House Republicans to discuss their health care drive and planned to attend a lunch with Senate Republicans.

Republicans eager to show quick action against Obama's health care law took an initial procedural step Tuesday, introducing a budget bill that would have to be considered under a parliamentary procedure that would prevent Democrats from using a Senate filibuster to protect the health care law.

Republicans control the Senate by a 52-48 margin, but it takes 60 votes to end a filibuster, a procedural roadblock that can kill legislation.

The Senate was expected to complete the budget by next week. House approval would follow.

"This is the first step toward relief for Americans struggling under Obamacare," said House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

The budget legislation gives congressional committees until Jan. 27 — a blink of an eye for lawmakers — to write legislation repealing major parts of the health care law. Likely targets include the law's tax penalties for people who don't obtain insurance, its requirement that many companies cover workers and tax increases on higher-earning individuals and many health care firms.

Aware they have no chance of quickly agreeing on replacement legislation, Republicans plan to delay when their repeal would actually take effect. A range of 18 months to three years — perhaps longer — has been under discussion.

Trump has provided few specifics about how he would revamp the nation's \$3 trillion-a-year health care system. Steps he and congressional Republicans have mentioned include greater reliance on tax credits to help people afford coverage.

Republicans don't want to abruptly end health care coverage for millions of voters who live in GOP-represented districts and states, or cause chaos in health care markets and prompt insurance companies to stop selling policies. So they are considering including provisions in their repeal bill to protect consumers and insurers during the transition period.

Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., a member of the GOP Senate leadership, said that could include money to temporarily continue helping people afford to buy coverage and language letting the Department of Health and Human Services help stabilize insurance markets.

"Everyone realizes there's going to have to be a phase-in, phase-out period," Thune said Tuesday.

Underscoring one challenge facing Republicans, a report Wednesday from a nonpartisan anti-deficit group estimated that repealing the health care law entirely would add to federal deficits, and that replacement legislation would require significant funding.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget analysis found that complete repeal would add up to \$350 billion to federal deficits over a decade. That's because the Medicare cuts and tax increases used to finance Obama's law exceed the amount of money spent to expand the breadth of coverage.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated in December 2015 that an earlier bill repealing much but not all of Obama's law would save around \$300 billion over 10 years. Obama vetoed that bill.

Associated Press writer Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar contributed to this report.

What's up next in the federal trial of Dylann Roof?

By MEG KINNARD, Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Jurors return to court Wednesday to begin considering whether Dylann Roof will receive the death penalty or life in prison for the 2015 massacre at a historic black church in South Carolina that left nine Bible study participants dead.

Last month, the same jury took less than two hours to find Roof guilty of all 33 federal counts against him, including hate crimes and obstruction of religion. After a three-week break over the holidays, jurors are now tasked with the ultimate fate of the 22-year-old who confessed his role in the shootings to FBI agents hours after his arrest.

Here's what has happened in his trial and what to expect.

LIFE OR DEATH

Prosecutors have said they might call as many as three dozen witnesses to make their case for why Roof, 22, should get the death penalty for the June 2015 slaughter at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston.

The defense put up no witnesses during the seven-day trial. The defense team repeatedly tried to work in evidence about Roof's mental state, but U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel ruled that had nothing to do with Roof's guilt or innocence.

Roof has been adamant on representing himself during the sentencing phase of trial, with his defense team staying on as legal advisers. The capital defense experts who represented Roof during the guilt phase have said they fear he won't put up evidence that could potentially spare his life out of fear of embarrassing himself or his family.

ROOF'S COMPETENCY

Roof's whole trial was put on hold for several weeks so Judge Gergel could hold a first competency hearing. During that proceeding, which was closed to the public over media objections, Gergel heard two days of testimony, after which he determined Roof was mentally competent to face trial.

After he was found guilty, a day before the scheduled start of the sentencing phase, Gergel held another hearing on Roof's mental status, saying serious enough issues had been raised in filings made under seal that the judge needed to address them in court.

In deeming him competent both to stand trial for sentencing and to represent himself, Gergel gave Roof an extra day to prepare his case. Jurors now will return to court Wednesday.

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WHY IS HE REPRESENTING HIMSELF?

Roof hasn't ever said definitively why he wants to act as his own lawyer, but he's left some clues along the way.

As early as last summer, Roof's legal team filed a notice with the court that they planned to introduce evidence that their client suffers from a mental illness. Many subsequent motions have been filed under seal, purportedly to conceal sensitive information, but it's likely further details on what lawyers planned to present are contained within.

It's clear, from his own writings, Roof doesn't believe in psychology. In a journal read in court during his trial, Roof called the specialty "a Jewish invention" that "does nothing but invent diseases and tell people they have problems when they don't."

As the jury selection process began last year, Roof said he wanted to fire his legal team and represent himself, ultimately keeping his lawyers for the trial phase but ditching them when it came time for sentencing. During discussions in court about Roof's representation, his lawyers have said they feared their client wouldn't introduce evidence that could potentially spare his life out of concern it might embarrass himself or his family.

Roof, who asked a judge at a hearing last week if he could file a motion limiting what prosecutors can introduce, also has been adamant a transcript of his competency hearing could not be released to the public.

"I know this is not a legal argument, but the unsealing of the competency hearing defeats the purpose of me representing myself," Roof said.

RACIAL HATRED

Prosecutors say Roof wanted to start a race war. His two-hour confession to the FBI seemed key to jurors' deliberation. One hour in, they asked to rehear the videotaped confession.

Roof also documented his hate in his journal, found in his car when he was arrested.

Roof believed segregation needed to return to keep white people from falling to the level of blacks. It had other bogus claims that whites were naturally the superior race and that blacks liked slavery.

Testimony in the case opened and closed with two of the massacre's survivors.

Polly Sheppard said Roof told her he wanted to leave her alive to tell the world why he attacked a historic African-American church.

"I have to. I have to," Sheppard recalled Roof telling her. "You're raping our women and taking over the nation."

Her 911 call was the final evidence jurors heard.

VICTIMS' PERSPECTIVES

Some relatives of the nine shooting victims attracted copious amounts of attention for showing Roof mercy during his initial court appearance after his arrest, saying they'd pray for him. In the run-up to the federal death penalty trial, other victims' family members have said they favored the death penalty for Roof, sentiments echoed by some in media interviews after the guilty verdict.

Others, including shooting survivor Felicia Sanders, have been more coy, saying their preferences would become known during the sentencing proceedings. Many family members are expected to testify and give what are known as victim impact statements to the court, and, if he wants to do so, Roof himself would be asking them questions on cross-examination.

ANOTHER TRIAL THIS YEAR

Roof faces a second death-penalty trial early this year in state court, where he's charged with nine counts of murder. A state judge is ordering 600 prospective jurors to report to the Charleston County Courthouse on Jan. 17 for initial screening. His order says the trial will begin on or after Jan. 30. It's not clear when the federal case will wrap up. For now, Roof has attorneys representing him in the state case.

Kinnard can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MegKinnardAP> . Read more of her work at <http://big-story.ap.org/content/meg-kinnard/> .

AP writers examine where each NFL team needs to upgrade most

By HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Pro Football Writer

For most NFL teams, the process of figuring out how to get better starts this week.

And every club — even the one that winds up winning the Super Bowl next month — will try to make upgrades during the offseason via free agency, the draft or trades.

"Teams are self-evaluating right now," said Ted Sundquist, the former general manager of the Denver Broncos, "letting the owner know, 'This is where we think we're at. This is the direction that we're going to go. This is where we think we need to improve in order to get to the playoffs next year.' You have a firm understanding, having come out of Week 17, where your holes are."

Some teams need more help than others, of course. And some moves will work out better than others.

"Sometimes, the chips just fall the way they do," Sundquist said, "and your plan just gets blown up."

What's known is that there will be change.

"When you finish the season in the National Football League, you're probably dreaming if you think you're going to have the same exact roster back as you had a year ago," Washington Redskins coach Jay Gruden said. "We're going to have a draft with new players. We're going to have free agents. We're going to lose some of our free agents."

Reporters from The Associated Press who cover the NFL look at what each team's most pressing needs are:

NFC EAST:

COWBOYS : DE, CB — Suspensions and injuries cast doubt over whether Randy Gregory and DeMarcus Lawrence are long-term answers as pass rushers. CBs Morris Claiborne and Brandon Carr might not be back, so Dallas could revisit 2012, when it signed Carr in free agency and moved up in the draft to take Claiborne.

GIANTS : OL, QB — The running game has been bad for years and the offensive line could use plenty of help, especially at tackle. Eli Manning just turned 36, so it's time to find a real QB of the future.

REDSKINS : DL, LB — Didn't do much last offseason to upgrade their defensive line, which needs a run-stopper or two; only eight teams allowed more rushing yards. A starting linebacker, plus depth there, is also a must.

EAGLES : WR, CB — A topflight wideout, particularly a deep threat, is the most pressing need, because Philadelphia only had one with 500 yards receiving. A starting cornerback is another priority.

NFC SOUTH:

FALCONS : DT — Atlanta's biggest remaining hole is the interior defensive line, where Jonathan Babineaux is 35.

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BUCCANEERS : RB, WR — Running back became a priority when Doug Martin was suspended for violating the NFL's policy on performance-enhancing substances. Also needed: a receiver to take attention off Mike Evans.

SAINTS : DE, CB, LB — Need another edge rusher to make teams pay for using multiple blockers on DE Cameron Jordan. New Orleans struggled with CB depth, while an upgrade over journeyman MLB Craig Robertson would help a struggling defense, too.

PANTHERS : WR, OL — Cam Newton's numbers went from MVP-worthy to mediocre and part of the problem was a lack of help. Carolina had just one receiver among the top 50 in catches. Offensive tackle is an area of need, with Michael Oher's uncertain future and Mike Remmers' inconsistent play.

NFC NORTH:

PACKERS : CB, OLB, RB — After a series of injuries at cornerback, stunting the development of Damarius Randall and Quinten Rollins, Green Bay needs someone at that position, along with help for the pass rush. Also must figure out a plan at running back.

LIONS : OL, LB — Detroit must do a better job of protecting QB Matthew Stafford and improving the running game, so a veteran to join an offensive line that started two rookies in 2016 would be a good start. Could replace oft-injured LB DeAndre Levy.

VIKINGS : OL — The line failed to protect QB Sam Bradford at times and largely was responsible for the league's worst rushing offense (75.3 yards per game, 3.2 per carry). Left guard Alex Boone and center Joe Berger are probably the only keepers.

BEARS : QB — Whether or not Jay Cutler stays, Chicago clearly needs its quarterback of the future.

NFC WEST:

SEAHAWKS : OL, RB — Despite an overhaul last offseason, offensive line is still an issue. Wouldn't hurt to add a running back to ease Thomas Rawls' load.

CARDINALS : CB, OL — The most glaring need is a DB to play opposite Patrick Peterson. Arizona needs help along the interior and depth for its offensive line.

RAMS : OL, WR — To help Jared Goff and Todd Gurley, improvement is needed along the mediocre line and throughout an unimpressive receiving corps.

49ERS : QB — San Francisco has plenty of needs, but none more important than quarterback after neither Blaine Gabbert nor Colin Kaepernick impressed this season. The only other QB on the roster is journeyman Christian Ponder, so the Niners might add a couple.

AFC EAST:

PATRIOTS : DE — After trading Chandler Jones in the offseason, then Jamie Collins in October, and with Chris Long a free agent, New England likely will want young talent to replenish the front seven.

DOLPHINS : LB — Kiko Alonso was solid when healthy, but Miami could use at least two linebackers after having trouble stopping the run and defending short passes over the middle. Plus, injuries exposed a lack of depth.

BILLS : WR, S, QB — Big holes at receiver, where Buffalo needs someone opposite Sammy Watkins, and safety, where Aaron Williams' neck injury created problems. QB has been unsettled since Jim Kelly retired two decades ago.

JETS : QB, CB, S — A roster overhaul starts at quarterback, where Ryan Fitzpatrick was a bust, Geno Smith got hurt, Bryce Petty was uninspiring before getting hurt, and Christian Hackenberg is a real project. With Darrelle Revis a shell of his shutdown self, New York's secondary could end up with four

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new starters.

AFC SOUTH:

TEXANS : OT, QB — LT Derek Newton tore both patellar tendons on one play in October and it's unlikely he'll be ready for the start of next season, while Duane Brown is an unrestricted free agent after next season. Houston could draft a QB after Brock Osweiler's poor season.

TITANS : CB, WR — Cornerback is a glaring need, with Jason McCourty finishing up his eighth season and Perrish Cox gone. Tennessee could use a speedy wide receiver to stretch the field.

COLTS : Pass rusher, CB — Indianapolis needs someone to chase down QBs, thanks to Robert Mathis' retirement and Trent Cole's contract expiring. Adding a cornerback to start opposite Vontae Davis also would help.

JAGUARS : OL — Made strides along their offensive line, going from allowing 71 sacks in 2014, to 51 in 2015, to 34 this season. But if QB Blake Bortles is going to develop further, he needs more protection, so Jacksonville should add at least one tackle and maybe two interior linemen.

AFC NORTH:

STEELERS : LB — James Harrison is 38 and isn't going to play forever. Pittsburgh needs to develop a consistent pass rusher opposite Bud Dupree. Lawrence Timmons is set to become a free agent and former first-round pick Jarvis Jones not in the team's 2017 plans.

RAVENS : CB — A season-ending injury to Jimmy Smith left the Ravens with journeyman Shareece Wright and rookie Tavon Young at the corners for the final three weeks.

BENGALS : OL, DE — Only six teams allowed more sacks. Cincinnati expected first-round pick Cedric Ogbuehi to move into the right tackle spot, but he struggled, had his role reduced, and was benched. The defense is old, and the line struggled to generate pressure at times.

BROWNS : QB — Robert Griffin III got hurt in the opener, missed 11 games, returned, showed rust, then got hurt again. After skipping the chance to draft a top college quarterback last year, Cleveland must get it right with one of its two top-10 picks.

AFC WEST:

CHIEFS : LB, WR — Derrick Johnson ruptured his Achilles tendon; he already was in the twilight of his career. So finding a middle linebacker is crucial. And Kansas City's seemingly endless search for offensive help means it'll eye a wideout to support Jeremy Maclin and Tyreek Hill.

RAIDERS : LB — Oakland could use a more dominant inside linebacker than Perry Riley Jr. or Malcolm Smith to complement edge rushers Khalil Mack and Bruce Irvin.

BRONCOS : OL — Denver must refurbish its line for the second consecutive offseason. Two free agents, Russell Okung and Donald Stephenson, didn't fare well. Guards Max Garcia and Ty Sambrailo regressed. Center Matt Paradis was bothered all season by bad hips.

CHARGERS : Owner — It won't happen, but fans have been clamoring for it as Dean Spanos appears to be leaning toward moving the team to Los Angeles. The Chargers missed the playoffs for the sixth time in seven seasons — and were the only team to lose to the 1-15 Browns.

AP Sports Writers Genaro Armas, Bob Baum, Greg Beacham, Tim Booth, Dave Campbell, Tom Canavan, Schuyler Dixon, Josh Dubow, David Ginsburg, Fred Goodall, Will Graves, Kyle Hightower, Joe Kay, Larry Lage, Mark Long, Rob Maaddi, Michael Marot, Brett Martel, Charles Odum, Steve Reed, Kristie

Rieken, Andrew Seligman, David Skretta, Arnie Stapleton, Teresa M. Walker, Dennis Waszak Jr., John Wawrow, Steven Wine, Bernie Wilson and Tom Withers contributed.

AP NFL website: www.pro32.ap.org and AP NFL Twitter feed: http://twitter.com/AP_NFL

Official: Manson alive amid reports he was hospitalized.

By SCOTT SMITH, Associated Press

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP) — A California prison official says cult leader Charles Manson is alive following reports that he was hospitalized.

TMZ reported Tuesday that Manson was taken to a hospital in Bakersfield, about 60 miles south of the California prison where he has been incarcerated.

Late Tuesday night, three vans from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation were parked outside Bakersfield's Mercy Hospital Downtown, where prisoners have been treated before.

But officials from the agency declined to say whether Manson had been hospitalized.

CDCR spokeswoman Terry Thornton said Manson, 82, is still assigned to the prison in Corcoran, but she declined to say whether he's there, citing safety and security protocols.

Privacy laws prohibit her from discussing an inmate's medical situation, Thornton said.

The Los Angeles Times also reported the hospitalization.

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This story has been corrected to show the spelling of the former Manson follower's name is "Krenwinkel," not "Krenwinkle."

Associated Press Writer Olga Rodriguez contributed to this story from San Francisco.

Police end NAACP sit-in against attorney general nominee

By KIM CHANDLER, Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — The national president of the NAACP and five others were arrested after staging a sit-in Tuesday at the Alabama office of Sen. Jeff Sessions, the nominee for U.S. attorney general, the civil rights group said.

The organization held the demonstration to protest Sessions' nomination by President-elect Donald Trump, criticizing Sessions' record and views on civil rights, immigration, criminal justice reform, and voting rights enforcement.

"We have an attorney general nominee who does not acknowledge the reality of voter suppression while mouthing faith in the myth of voter fraud," NAACP President Cornell William Brooks said by phone earlier in Tuesday's protest. Brooks called Sessions a poor choice to lead the U.S. Justice Department.

The sit-in at Sessions' office in Mobile, Alabama — the city the Republican senator calls home — began around 11 a.m. Tuesday. Demonstrators refused a request by the manager of the building— which includes several other tenants in addition to Sessions— to leave when the building closed for the day at 6 p.m. Police could be seen on video footage coming and handcuffing the six protesters and escorted them to a police van.

"We all are aware of the laws of trespass. We are engaging in a voluntary act of civil disobedience," Brooks told the officers who arrived at the scene.

The NAACP broadcast the events live on the organization's Facebook page. WKRG of Mobile reported that the six, which included Brooks and the president of the Alabama NAACP, were charged with misdemeanor criminal trespass and released on bond.

The all-day protest ended in handcuffs but without confrontation. Brooks shook the hands of the officers and the officers allowed the protesters to kneel and pray before they were led away.

Brooks criticized Sessions' prosecution of African-American voting rights activists on voter fraud charges when he was a U.S. attorney in Alabama. The group also raised concerns about immigration policies under Trump, the future of the Voting Rights Act and noted allegations — raised decades ago in Sessions unsuccessful 1986 confirmation hearing for a federal judgeship — that Sessions made racially insensitive remarks when he was a U.S. attorney.

Sarah Isgur Flores, a spokeswoman for Sessions, said in a statement that the nominee has dedicated his career to upholding the rule of law, ensuring public safety and prosecuting government corruption.

"Many African-American leaders who've known him for decades attest to this and have welcomed his nomination to be the next Attorney General. These false portrayals of Senator Sessions will fail as tired, recycled, hyperbolic charges that have been thoroughly rebuked and discredited," the statement added.

Sessions was in Washington D.C. and not in his Mobile office at the time of the protests.

In testimony at the 1986 confirmation hearing, Sessions was accused by some hearing witnesses of saying the NAACP was "un-American" and saying he thought Ku Klux Klan members were "OK until I found out they smoke pot,"

Sessions said during the hearing that the Klan remark was a joke and that other remarks were mischaracterized. What he had said, Sessions said, was that civil rights groups hurt themselves when "they

take positions that people think are un-American they hurt themselves." He then praised the work of the NAACP.

The demonstration marked the latest criticism of Trump's pick for attorney general. Sessions' confirmation hearings are expected to begin next week, highlighted by a vigorous push both by those favoring the nomination and those opposed to it.

Former Democratic Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, who was part of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund team representing the black civil rights activists in the voter fraud prosecution, on Tuesday urged U.S. senators to reject Sessions' nomination.

Cruise company Carnival gets personal with concierge tech

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO, AP Retail Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — What if your room on a cruise ship were to unlock automatically as you approach, or if the wait staff could bring your favorite cocktail before you even ask?

Carnival Corp., the operator of such cruise lines as Princess, Holland America and Carnival, wants to make that happen so it can get cozier with its guests and make cruises even more personalized.

Carnival is using the CES gadget show in Las Vegas on Wednesday to unveil new concierge technology designed to help crew members anticipate and respond to passengers' needs. It will rely on sensors and wearable trackers, and is scheduled to debut on the Regal Princess cruise ship in November.

The leisure-cruise industry is playing catch-up with travel peers like hotels and airlines, which now let you unlock rooms with a smartwatch or fly with a boarding pass on your phone.

Personalization is important as cruise ships get bigger and come across as impersonal, said Mike Driscoll, editor-in-chief of Cruise Week, an industry publication. Personalization can also help cruise companies attract more first-timers, including tech-savvy millennials.

"It's catching up to what life is like on the land," Driscoll said.

Whether anticipating guests' needs will feel useful or creepy remains to be seen. Those who might be spooked don't have to use the medallion or can limit how much they want to participate, Carnival CEO Arnold Donald said.

"In the end, the guests will tell us," Donald told The Associated Press. "If it doesn't (resonate), it's back to the drawing board."

The linchpin of the system is a tracking medallion the size of a quarter. Cruise passengers wear it as a pendant, throw it into a purse or place it in a pocket. The medallion uses wireless technologies to communicate with sensors placed around the ship, cruise terminals and even airports, where staff can provide personalized greetings as passengers fly in.

Crew members armed with tablets can respond to any needs nearby. For example, a guest could be having a drink when a crew member comes by to remind him that a yoga class starts in five minutes. Or a waiter working poolside can ask whether a guest wants her usual gin and tonic.

In addition, interactive displays can offer personalized directions to guests' rooms. And the medallion ties into a payment system, so no one has to swipe or sign anything when buying souvenirs or drinks.

Donald said he hopes the service will encourage customers to sign up for repeat cruises while spending more on incidentals.

Different passengers might react quite differently to the service. "With your 83-year-old aunt in Saskatchewan, it might be too much," Driscoll said. But for a passenger in his 50s, such as Driscoll, it could make life on the ship "just easier."

Carnival plans to expand the setup to all other Princess ships in the next several years and eventually to other vessels. Carnival, the world's largest leisure travel company, owns more than 100 ships across

10 brands.

Personalization isn't new to the travel industry. Walt Disney World in Florida has a MagicBand wristband device that doubles as a room key and "FastPass" reservations to popular rides. The MagicBand is also linked to a credit card for speedier payments at restaurants and gift shops.

John Padgett, who was one of the chief architects of the MagicBand before joining Carnival in 2014, said the cruise ship's system goes further in eliminating the need to touch or tap a terminal. Sensors pick up signals automatically.

"There are no wires. There is no charging," Padgett said. "It doesn't require a guest or consumer to do anything specific."

Carnival officials say there will be safeguards against someone walking away with another guest's medallion. Each guest's profile is tied to a security picture, so a crew member can compare a passenger's photo on a portable device. Carnival also says the medallion doesn't contain sensitive information such as the stateroom number, much like a hotel room key. The company added that the system features additional authentication, although it declined to elaborate.

Donald said the technology could be adapted for other industries, too. Imagine a patient entering the hospital and being recognized immediately by a nurse without having to check in or fill out forms.

AP Technology Writer Barbara Ortutay in New York contributed to this report.

Follow Anne D'Innocenzio: <http://twitter.com/ADInnocenzio>

Trump questions US intelligence as governing challenges loom

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — His inauguration less than three weeks away, President-elect Donald Trump on Tuesday raised new doubts about the nation's intelligence community, tweeting fresh criticism at the same officials who will help inform his most sensitive decisions once he takes office.

Trump charged on Twitter without evidence that the timing of an upcoming intelligence briefing on Russian interference in the 2016 election had been delayed. "Perhaps more time needed to build a case. Very strange!" he wrote, using quote marks around the word "intelligence."

Trump's jab, in line with repeated criticism of his nation's intelligence leaders, sparked confusion among intelligence officials, who said there was no delay in the briefing schedule.

The fresh clash came as Trump took further steps to fill his Cabinet and key White House positions, with his attention shifting toward the challenges of governing.

Earlier Tuesday, he tapped as U.S. trade representative a former Reagan official who has condemned Republicans' commitment to free trade. Trump indicated that Robert Lighthizer, who is expected to take a hard line against China, would represent "the United States as we fight for good trade deals that put the American worker first."

The new administration's specific plans for crafting new trade deals, spokesman Sean Spicer said, "will come in time."

There were also questions about Trump's plans for repealing President Barack Obama's signature health care law, a move that could strip health insurance from millions of Americans. The issue was expected to be the focus as Vice President-elect Mike Pence and secretary of state pick Rex Tillerson meet with top Republicans on Capitol Hill on Wednesday.

Pence issued a direct challenge to Washington Republicans Tuesday: "The president-elect has a very

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clear message to Capitol Hill. And that is, it's time to get to work."

Trump signaled he would not bless all of the GOP's priorities on Capitol Hill, openly questioning the timing of the House Republican push to gut an independent ethics board just as the new Congress gathered.

"Do they really have to make the weakening of the Independent Ethics Watchdog, as unfair as it may be, their number one act and priority"? Trump tweeted. The House GOP later dropped the push.

The president-elect has spent much of the last two months huddled privately with advisers and communicating with the public through Twitter, as he did Tuesday. He promised late in the day, however, to hold his first formal news conference as the since winning the election next week in New York.

The Republican businessman has already waited longer than any other president-elect in the modern era to hold his first news conference. Most have held such events within days of their elections.

It was unclear if the news conference would be the venue for his delayed announcement on how he plans to avoid potential conflicts of interest involving his businesses after taking office. Transition officials said multiple topics could be covered, but would not specifically say whether they included Trump's businesses. Trump was supposed to detail the arrangements at a December news conference, but postponed the announcement.

His Cabinet nearly full, Trump also picked a handful of new White House aides on Tuesday as he worked to fill several hundred high-level administration posts.

Omarosa Manigault, a contestant from the first season of "The Apprentice," is expected to focus on public engagement in the White House.

Trump also took steps to fill out a more traditional congressional outreach team, hiring Rick Dearborn as a deputy chief of staff and Marc Short as the White House legislative director. Both previously served in chief of staff positions on Capitol Hill. The new hires were confirmed by two people familiar with the decision, who insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the hiring process publicly.

Trump spent time Tuesday interviewing prospects for the Department of Veterans Affairs as well, including Leo MacKay, a senior executive at a military contractor who previously served in the VA under President George W. Bush.

"The president-elect is up on the issues," said MacKay, a senior vice president at Lockheed Martin Corp., as he left Trump Tower.

Associated Press writers Julie Pace, Julie Bykowicz and Deb Riechmann in Washington contributed to this report.

Janet Jackson, husband welcome son Eissa Al Mana

NEW YORK (AP) — Janet Jackson's latest escapade: motherhood.

The 50-year-old pop superstar and husband Wissam Al Mana welcomed their son, Eissa Al Mana, on Tuesday, a representative for the singer said.

"Janet had a stress-free healthy delivery and is resting comfortably. No further details are available at this time," the statement read.

Last year Jackson postponed her tour to plan a family. Eissa Al Mana is the singer's first child. Jackson and Al Mana were married in 2012.

Megyn Kelly leaving Fox News, will host 2 shows on NBC

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Megyn Kelly, the Fox News star who's had a contentious relationship with President-elect Donald Trump, said Tuesday that she's leaving the network for NBC News, where she will host a daytime talk show and a weekend newsmagazine, as well as contribute to breaking news coverage.

NBC News made the announcement Tuesday, ending months of speculation over whether she would re-up with Fox, where she has flourished while suffering bruised feelings in recent months, or start a new chapter in her career. Her contract with Fox expires this summer. Her last show on Fox will be Friday night.

Kelly's departure deprives Fox News of its second-most-watched host, behind only Bill O'Reilly, and a hole at 9 p.m. in its prime-time lineup.

"While I will greatly miss my colleagues at Fox, I am delighted to be joining the NBC News family and taking on a new challenge," Kelly said in a message on Twitter on Tuesday.

Rupert Murdoch, executive chairman of Fox, said that "we thank Megyn Kelly for her 12 years of contributions to Fox News. We hope she enjoys tremendous success in her career and wish her and her family all the best."

Kelly's star power grew after she became a flashpoint in the presidential campaign after Trump objected to her questioning in the first Republican presidential debate a year and a half ago. He tweeted angry messages about her and boycotted another Fox debate after the network refused to replace her as one of the debate moderators.

She also became a central figure in the downfall of former Fox News chief Roger Ailes, telling in-house investigators of inappropriate conduct by Ailes that supported women who had made similar accusations.

Details about Kelly's new jobs at NBC will be revealed in upcoming months, said Andrew Lack, chairman of the NBC Universal News Group.

"Megyn is an exceptional journalist and news anchor, who has had an extraordinary career" Lack said. "She's demonstrated tremendous skill and poise, and we're lucky to have her."

Kelly wasn't immediately available for comment about what made her choose to leave Fox. But she said in an interview with The Associated Press in November that the factors she was weighing "mostly involve a 7-, 5- and 3-year-old," her children. Her Fox show airs live at 9 p.m., giving her no time at home with her children in the evenings.

She stressed that point in closing remarks on her program Tuesday, which she addressed to the audience.

Kelly said she valued the "human connection" the show gave her with viewers, but said she needed more of that connection with her children.

She expressed gratitude to her next employer, NBC, and current one.

"I am deeply thankful to Fox News for the wonderful 12 years I have had here. I've grown up here, and been given every chance a young reporter could ever ask for," Kelly said.

As a star in demand, Kelly was no doubt able to seek a schedule that would give her more time at home in the evening.

A former lawyer who was raised in upstate New York, Kelly turned to television and got a job in Fox's Washington office. She was noticed by Ailes, and given a daytime show. Her poise and sharpness, and willingness to ask tough questions of all political sides, made her a star and led Ailes to give her a coveted prime-time slot on cable news' most-watched network.

Her contentious relationship with Trump began when she asked the Republican businessman about statements he had made about women, infuriating him. He tweeted his disdain for her and although they made peace when Kelly interviewed Trump for a prime-time special last May, the relationship never became warm. Trump made Kelly's prime-time colleague, Sean Hannity, his preferred stopping place for interviews during the campaign and didn't come on her Fox News Channel show.

"I really had to choose — am I going to be an honest journalist ... or am I going to suck up to Trump?" she told the AP. "I chose the former, and it's worked out fine for me."

It put Kelly in an awkward position with Fox News Channel viewers who favored Trump, however. At one point during a Hannity interview with Trump, a live audience at a Trump rally booed the mention of her name.

Kelly's immediate silence after Gretchen Carlson's lawsuit last summer alleging unwanted advances from Ailes, at a time other Fox News personalities were supporting their boss, was telling. She told investigators that Ailes had made sexually suggestive comments to her and tried to kiss her, then made an angry reference to her contract when she rebuffed him. Ailes has denied any untoward advances involving Kelly.

Her move was a big boost for broadcast network news divisions, which had struggled somewhat during the presidential campaign given the non-stop coverage provided by the cable news outlets.

NBC News had recently been experimenting with a new Sunday night newsmagazine, "Dateline NBC: On Assignment," hosted by Lester Holt in a traditional format with a mix of news and feature stories, a template Kelly is expected to use. Weekday "Dateline" editions focus on criminal justice stories.

The move was a blow to Fox and its parent company, 21st Century Fox, whose leaders James and Lachlan Murdoch had made re-signing Kelly a priority and were believed in the industry to be offering her more money to stay. In her tweet on Tuesday, Kelly said she was deeply grateful to Fox News, its leaders and Fox's viewers, "who have taught me so much about what really matters."

Kelly gave a signal of her future direction with last May's interview special on the Fox broadcasting network. It wasn't a critical or commercial success, however.

Fox News does make in-house talent development a priority, however, and recently installed Tucker Carlson as a 7 p.m. host following the abrupt departure of Greta Van Susteren last summer. With Kelly taking a break over the holidays, Fox used Sandra Smith, Shannon Bream, Martha MacCallum and Trish Regan as substitutes.

AP television writers Frazier Moore in New York and Lynn Elber in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Quick decisions meant life or death in Southeastern storms

By JAY REEVES, Associated Press

As an apparent tornado bore down on them, seven people in a mobile home in southeast Alabama made a life-or-death decision: Three ran into one bathroom for shelter and four ran in the opposite direction to another room seeking safety.

The three, including Lawana Henrich, survived without a scratch, according to Coroner Robert Byrd. But a big hardwood tree that slammed into the mobile home killed the four others, including Henrich's daughter and sister, Byrd said.

The tree toppled over during a wave of severe weather that brought heavy rain and strong winds to the Southeast, and it couldn't have hit in a worse spot when it fell Monday night near Rehobeth, Alabama.

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"It was dead center," Byrd said. "You think, 'What's the chance of four people being so close in one area?' But they were."

Those four, a woman in Georgia, and a man who drowned in the Florida Panhandle died as a line of severe thunderstorms moved across the Southeastern United States from Texas.

Teams of surveyors were headed out Tuesday to assess apparent tornado damage at three sites in southeastern Alabama and southwestern Georgia, said Mark Wool, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Tallahassee, Florida.

Wool said authorities believe a tornado is responsible for damage that left the four people dead in Alabama, but he said the weather service won't be able to say for sure until experts visit the site.

Byrd, coroner in Houston County, Alabama, said Michelle Lewis, 53, died along with her niece, 27-year-old Amanda Blair. Lewis was Henrich's sister and Blair was Henrich's daughter, Byrd said; both victims lived in the trailer where they died, he said.

Byrd said the storm also killed two family friends, Terina Brookshire, 51, of Hartford, Alabama, and Carla Lambert, 53, who was originally from Opp, Alabama.

Byrd said Henrich, her husband and another man survived without injuries. Lawana Henrich saw a weather alert on television and heard the roar of a storm, and then told the others to seek shelter, he said.

"She said it was just a matter of seconds when that tree fell," Byrd said.

In Florida, the Walton County Sheriff's Office said the body of William Patrick Corley, 70, was found Monday afternoon following flooding near the Shoal River in Mossy Head. Authorities said Corley's car was partially submerged and his body was floating face-down nearby.

The sheriff's office said Corley's death was under investigation, but no foul play was suspected.

In Georgia, Albany Fire Chief Ron Rowe said one woman died as the result of an approximately 1-mile-wide "violent" storm that swept through the area about 11 p.m. Monday, 30 minutes or so after a tornado warning had been issued. Rowe said he did not have details on her death, and her identity has not been released.

In addition to the death, Rowe said more than 1,000 homes were damaged, including four that caught fire. He says the storm also knocked down multiple trees and that it may take four or five days to remove all of the debris.

It was the second episode of heavy rain within days for some areas. An area stretching from coastal Mississippi through eastern Georgia received more than 4 inches of rain Monday, according to radar estimates. Parts of southern Mississippi and southwest Alabama have received more than 8 inches of rain since Saturday.

Though rivers along the Gulf Coast were rising rapidly Monday, only minor flooding was predicted.

Rains in recent weeks have eased drought conditions across parts of the Southeast, according to reports from the National Drought Mitigation Center in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Despite the rain and storms, large parts of north Alabama and north Georgia remain in "exceptional drought" — the most severe category — according to the center's most recent report on the drought issued last week. A new report is due out Thursday.

Retreating after Trump tweet, GOP won't gut ethics office

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The new GOP era in Washington got off to a messy start Tuesday as House Republicans, under pressure from President-elect Donald Trump, abruptly dropped plans to gut an independent congressional ethics board.

The dizzying about-face came as lawmakers convened for the first day of the 115th Congress, an occasion normally reserved for pomp and ceremony under the Capitol Dome. Instead, House Republicans found themselves under attack not only from Democrats but from their new president, over their secretive move Monday to neuter the independent Office of Congressional Ethics and place it under lawmakers' control.

GOP leaders scrambled to contain the damage, and within hours of Trump registering his criticism on Twitter, they called an emergency meeting where House Republicans voted without opposition to undo the change.

The episode, coming even before the new Congress was convened and lawmakers were sworn in, was a powerful illustration of the sway Trump may hold over his party in a Washington that will be fully under Republican control for the first time in a decade. GOP lawmakers who've felt unfairly targeted by the ethics office had defied their own leaders with their initial vote to neuter the body, but once Trump weighed in they backpedaled immediately.

"With all that Congress has to work on, do they really have to make the weakening of the Independent Ethics Watchdog, as unfair as it may be, their number one act and priority," Trump had asked over Twitter Tuesday morning, in an objection that appeared focused more on timing than on substance. Trump, who will take office in a little over two weeks, said the focus should be on tax reform and health care, and he included the hash-tag #DTS, for "Drain the Swamp," his oft-repeated campaign promise to bring change to Washington.

Democrats and even many Republicans were quick to point out that the lawmakers' plans for their ethics watchdog flew in the face of that notion. The measure was part of a GOP-written rules package that looked like it could fail after Trump registered his objections amid a public outcry from good government activists. The stripped-down package was approved late Tuesday by the House, 234-193.

"We were elected on a promise to drain the swamp, and starting the session by relaxing ethics rules is a very bad start," said GOP Rep. Tom McClintock of California.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy mentioned Trump's opposition in the emergency meeting, and some lawmakers said it had a powerful effect.

"I do believe when President-elect Trump tweeted out...members got calls," said Rep. Lou Barletta, R-Pa. Trump spoke by phone with House Speaker Paul Ryan on Tuesday after the ethics change was dropped.

The Office of Congressional Ethics was created in 2008 after several bribery and corruption cases in the House, but lawmakers of both parties have groused about the way it operates.

Lawmakers were especially incensed by an investigation of members of Congress from both parties who went on a 2013 trip to Azerbaijan paid for by that country's government. Lawmakers said after the investigation was made public in 2015 that they had no idea the trip was paid for by the government, and the House Ethics Committee ultimately cleared them.

Once the ethics controversy was dispensed with, Congress returned to the ceremonial business. As set out in the Constitution, both chambers gavelled in at noon, and as storm clouds threatened outside, the halls of the Capitol filled with lawmakers' children, friends and spouses on hand to witness the procedures. The day had a festive feel of the first day back at school, as new arrivals roamed the halls

with old hands, exchanging greetings and taking in the day.

In the Senate, seven new members joined those who won re-election, taking the oath of office administered by Vice President Joe Biden. The Senate will be controlled 52-48 by the GOP and includes two new Republicans and five new Democrats. They include Illinois' Tammy Duckworth, a double-amputee Iraq war vet, who walked to the dais and stood for the oath.

Biden remains president of the Senate until Trump becomes president Jan. 20; then Vice President-elect Mike Pence will take over.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York set battle lines, saying Democrats will hold Trump to his promises to create jobs, raise incomes and protect Americans but will "fight him tooth and nail when he appeals to the baser instincts that diminish America and its greatness."

Issues confronting America are complex, he said, and "we cannot tweet them away."

In the House, lawmakers easily re-elected Ryan, of Wisconsin, as their speaker. The House will number 241 Republicans and 194 Democrats; among the members are 52 freshmen.

Behind the ceremony was a sense of anticipation, as Republicans prepare an ambitious agenda, beginning with dismantling President Barack Obama's health care law. The GOP directed Senate committees to produce repeal legislation by Jan. 27 while debate begins this week.

But there was uncertainty, too, as Republicans confront an untested new president who has opposed fundamental elements of GOP orthodoxy and may exercise his influence in unpredictable ways, as illustrated with the ethics kerfuffle.

"The people have given us unified government, and it wasn't because they were feeling generous, it's because they wanted results," Ryan said. "How could we live with ourselves if we let them down?"

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Associated Press writers Matthew Daly, Mary Clare Jalonick, Richard Lardner, Andrew Taylor, Alan Fram and Kenneth Thomas contributed to this report.

Water crisis in Syrian capital as government attacks valley

By PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Residents of Damascus are scrambling for clean water after the government attacked rebels holding the city's main source in a nearby valley, leading to an accidental outage that has stretched on for nearly two weeks.

The cut-off is a major challenge to the government's effort throughout the nearly 6-year-old civil war to keep the capital as insulated as possible from the effects of the conflict tearing apart much of the country.

"I have stopped cleaning the house, washing dishes or clothes. We no longer take showers," said Mona Maqssoud, a 50-year-old resident of Damascus. She said residents have relied on water tankers that come by occasionally and give 20 liters (5 gallons) of water to each house, but that hasn't been enough.

"We begged the drivers (to return) to our neighborhood, but they refused."

The cut-off, since Dec. 22, is the longest Damascus has seen, say residents, who are accustomed to intermittent outages.

The opposition has long controlled Wadi Barada, the valley northwest of Damascus through which the river of the same name flows to the capital. The Barada River and its source, the Ain al-Fijeh spring, supply 70 percent of the water for Damascus and its environs.

The government and the opposition had previously had an understanding to keep water services run-

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ning. But that modus vivendi ended when forces of President Bashar Assad and his allies, the Lebanon Hezbollah guerrilla force, attacked the valley, home to some 100,000 people.

The two sides blame each other for the cut-off.

An activist-run media collective in the Barada Valley said government and Russian aircraft had bombed the Ain el-Fijeh water processing facility, puncturing its fuel depots and contaminating the water stream. The collective said the plant's electrical control systems had been destroyed as well. Images showed the roof of the facility collapsed into its main water basin. An activist with the group, Abu Mohammed al-Bardawi, said it would take at least two months to get the facilities working again.

Damascus officials said they were forced to shut off the water after opposition forces poured gasoline into the river. The government denied attacking the water processing facility, saying it would not set out to harm its own population. Still, it would not be the first time it strikes its own facilities: government strikes hit pumping stations in the northern city of Aleppo in April, September, and November.

The battle for resources has always been an undercurrent to the war. The government, in particular, has advertised its efforts to keep electricity and water flowing to areas under its control, while it blocks the U.N. and other relief agencies from supplying opposition zones.

But rarely has that struggle been so starkly felt inside the capital.

Damascus, the seat of Assad's power, has been spared from the widespread destruction in other parts of the country, though rebels on the outskirts occasionally fire mortar rounds into the city. Hundreds of thousands of Syrians have flocked to the capital seeking its relative security, swelling its population to 4 million from 2 million, according to the UN.

For its residents, the water cuts are a grueling reminder of the war beyond.

"If this goes on, I will rent a room at a hotel just to take a shower," said a 60-year-old woman carrying a pair of buckets back to her apartment on the sixth-floor of a walk-up building. Like many others in the capital, she was filling her basins from distribution points at a parks and mosques. The local press is reporting soaring prices for unregulated private water.

Residents are making adjustments to cope. Some are now flushing their toilets with bottled water. Others are dining on disposable tableware as an alternative to doing the dishes.

Ground wells around Damascus, even at maximum capacity, can only cover about a third of the minimum water demand of around 600,000 cubic meters a day, according to UNICEF spokeswoman Juliette Touma.

The agency has rehabilitated some 200 wells around the capital since 2011, partially insuring the government against the effects of its own Barada Valley campaign. This year, UNICEF funded \$50 million in water projects in Syria.

The Barada Valley is surrounded by all sides by the Syrian army and Hezbollah forces, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the conflict.

Pro-government forces have kept up their assault with airstrikes, artillery and infantry pushes, despite a Russia and Turkey-brokered cease-fire that went into effect Friday. The government and the Observatory say fighters loyal to al-Qaida are present in the valley, and the militant are not included in the cease-fire. Local residents say there are no al-Qaida fighters in the valley.

"Most of the food depots have now been struck and burned," said al-Bardawi. "They are striking the schools we are using for shelters."

In early December, pro-government media reported efforts by officials to reach a so-called "reconciliation agreement" with the towns and villages of Barada Valley, under which thousands of dissidents, military defectors and draft-dodgers would leave in exchange for the valley submitting to government control.

The opposition and the U.N. have likened these sorts of agreements to forced displacement. Such deals were reached in other areas around the capital under the pressure of years of government bombardment and siege.

Barada opposition fighters and councils have held out against any settlement. Activists say they believe that prompted the renewed government assault.

Opposition forces have retaliated by choking a natural gas pipeline to Damascus to pressure the government to stop its offensive, compounding the woes of the resource starved capital. A group of rebels calling themselves the Coalition for the Joint Defense of Syria filmed themselves cutting the gas to the capital at an isolated station outside the capital Thursday.

Video shows man believed to be nightclub attacker in Turkey

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC and LORI HINNANT, Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — An eerie video emerged Tuesday of a man believed to be the attacker who killed 39 people in a mass shooting at a nightclub, showing him taking a selfie as he silently toured Istanbul's most famous square.

The camera never leaves the man's unsmiling face as he walked through Taksim Square during the 44-second clip that was broadcast on state-run Anadolu television and other Turkish media.

It wasn't immediately clear if the video was made before or after the New Year's massacre at the Reina nightclub, or how it was obtained. The gunman, who hasn't been publicly identified, is still at large.

On Monday, the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, which also wounded nearly 70 people. The extremists said a "soldier of the caliphate" had carried out the mass shooting to avenge Turkish military operations against IS in northern Syria.

Funerals began Tuesday in Jordan, Lebanon, Israel and Turkey for the dead, most of them tourists. Mourners wept for the lives that were cut short in the early hours of 2017 at the popular and glamorous club.

Thousands attended the funeral of Layan Nasser, an 18-year-old Arab Israeli dental assistant who was buried in the Israeli city of Tira.

"She had dreams to work, to progress, to study, to raise a family, but unfortunately the terror put an end to her dreams," said Tira Mayor Mamoun Abd El Hai.

Hundreds of people attended funerals for two of three Lebanese victims. One of them, 26-year-old fitness instructor Elias Wardini, was recently engaged to be married. His family and friends set off fireworks as his white coffin arrived at a church in Beirut.

At least 14 people have been detained in connection with the attack, including two foreigners stopped Tuesday at the international terminal of Istanbul's Ataturk Airport after police checked their cellphones and luggage, according to Anadolu.

The Hurriyet newspaper said a woman identified by Turkish media as the wife of the suspect has told police she didn't know her husband was a member of the Islamic State group.

The woman was detained in the central town of Konya as part of the investigation. Neither she nor her husband has been identified. Hurriyet reported in its online edition that the woman said she learned about the attack on TV and told police she didn't know her husband harbored "sympathies" toward IS.

Media reports said the gunman flew to Istanbul from Kyrgyzstan with his wife and children on Nov. 20. From there, they drove to the Turkish capital, Ankara, before arriving two days later in Konya.

The family rented a studio there, paying three months of rent in advance. The gunman told the real

estate agent he was looking for work, according to the report.

Hurriyet said the gunman returned to Istanbul Dec. 29.

Several media outlets, citing unidentified security sources, reported Monday that the man was believed to be from Central Asia and may have been part of the cell that attacked Ataturk Airport in June, killing 45 people.

On Tuesday, Haber Turk newspaper said the man is thought to be a member of China's Muslim Uighur minority. Turkish media showed photos of a Kyrgyz passport, but police said it did not belong to the gunman.

The assailant, armed with a long-barreled weapon, killed a policeman and a civilian early Sunday outside the Reina nightclub before opening fire on the estimated 600 revelers inside. The club is frequented by local celebrities, including singers, actors and athletes.

Turkey has been rocked by violence in the past year, carried out by IS as well as by Kurdish militants. The government survived a failed coup in the summer and is fighting Kurdish insurgents.

Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu told parliament that authorities thwarted 339 possible attacks in 2016, including 313 by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, and 22 by the Islamic State group. Lawmakers were to decide later whether to extend the state of emergency that was declared after the coup attempt.

Turkey, a NATO member, launched an offensive to northern Syria in August in hopes of clearing a strategic border area of IS militants and stemming the gains of Kurdish fighters. Turkish jets regularly bomb IS targets in the Syrian town of al-Bab in support of Syrian opposition forces try to re-capture it from the extremists.

Hinnant reported from Paris. Associated Press writer Suzan Fraser in Ankara contributed.

Annotated version of Hitler's 'Mein Kampf' a hit in Germany

By GEIR MOULSON, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — An annotated edition of "Mein Kampf," Adolf Hitler's notorious manifesto, has become a non-fiction best-seller in Germany. The publisher said Tuesday that a sixth print run will go on sale later this month.

Some 85,000 copies of the book have been sold since it was first published a year ago, according to the Munich-based Institute for Contemporary History. The publisher spent years adding comments to Hitler's original text in an effort to highlight his propaganda and mistakes.

The institute said in late 2015 that it planned an initial print run of up to 4,000 copies and wasn't sure whether more would be printed. In April, however, the book topped the weekly Der Spiegel's non-fiction best-seller list.

The bulky two-volume edition, titled "Hitler, Mein Kampf: A Critical Edition," weighs in at 1,948 pages and costs a hefty 59 euros (\$62). It was the first version to be published in Germany since the end of World War II.

Before the copyright on "Mein Kampf" held by Bavaria's state finance ministry expired at the end of 2015, the ministry had used it to prevent the publication of new editions in the country.

Despite its incendiary and anti-Semitic content, the book wasn't actually banned in Germany and could be found online, in secondhand bookshops and in libraries.

The Institute for Contemporary History said fears that the new publication might help make Hitler's ideology socially acceptable had proven unfounded.

"On the contrary, the discussion about Hitler's world view and how to deal with his propaganda offered

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the opportunity to look at the disastrous roots and consequences at a time when authoritarian political ideas and right-wing slogans are again gaining followers," Andreas Wirsching, the institute's director, said.

German authorities have made clear they won't tolerate new versions without annotations.

A far-right publisher announced last year that it planned to produce an edition "without annoying commentary," prompting an investigation of suspected incitement. Prosecutors say there's no indication that the book actually went on sale.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 4, the fourth day of 2017. There are 361 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 4, 1967, "The Doors," the self-titled debut album of the rock group featuring the song "Light My Fire," was released by Elektra Records.

On this date:

In 1717, France, Britain and Holland formed a Triple Alliance against Spain.

In 1896, Utah was admitted as the 45th state.

In 1904, the Supreme Court, in *Gonzalez v. Williams*, ruled that Puerto Ricans were not aliens and could enter the United States freely; however, the court stopped short of declaring them U.S. citizens. (Puerto Ricans received U.S. citizenship in March 1917.)

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, called for legislation to provide assistance for the jobless, elderly, impoverished children and the handicapped.

In 1943, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin made the cover of *TIME* as the magazine's 1942 "Man of the Year."

In 1951, during the Korean War, North Korean and Communist Chinese forces recaptured the city of Seoul (sohl).

In 1960, author and philosopher Albert Camus (al-BEHR' kah-MOO') died in an automobile accident in Villeblevin, France, at age 46.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson delivered his State of the Union address in which he outlined the goals of his "Great Society."

In 1974, President Richard Nixon refused to hand over tape recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee.

In 1987, 16 people were killed when an Amtrak train bound from Washington, D.C., to Boston collided with Conrail locomotives that had crossed into its path from a side track in Chase, Maryland.

In 1990, Charles Stuart, who claimed that he'd been wounded and his pregnant wife fatally shot by a robber, leapt to his death off a Massachusetts bridge after he himself came under suspicion.

In 1995, the 104th Congress convened, the first entirely under Republican control since the Eisenhower era.

Ten years ago: Nancy Pelosi was elected the first female speaker of the House as Democrats took control of Congress. Harriet Miers resigned as White House counsel. Vincent Sardi Jr., owner of Sardi's restaurant, the legendary Broadway watering hole, died in Berlin, Vermont, at age 91.

Five years ago: Defying Republican lawmakers, President Barack Obama barreled past the Senate by using a recess appointment to name Richard Cordray the first director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

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One year ago: Workers returned to their offices at the San Bernardino, California campus where 14 people were killed the previous month in a terror attack carried out by a county restaurant inspector Sayed Farook and his wife. The Justice Department sued Volkswagen over emissions-cheating software found in nearly 600,000 vehicles sold in the United States.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Barbara Rush is 90. Football Hall of Fame coach Don Shula is 87. Opera singer Grace Bumbry is 80. Actress Dyan Cannon is 78. Author-historian Doris Kearns Goodwin is 74. Country singer Kathy Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 62. Actress Ann Magnuson is 61. Rock musician Bernard Sumner (New Order, Joy Division) is 61. Country singer Patty Loveless is 60. Actor Julian Sands is 59. Rock singer Michael Stipe is 57. Actor Patrick Cassidy is 55. Actor Dave Foley is 54. Actress Dot Jones is 53. Actor Rick Hearst is 52. Singer-musician Cait O'Riordan is 52. Actress Julia Ormond is 52. Tennis player Guy Forget (ghee fohr-ZHAY') is 52. Country singer Deana Carter is 51. Rock musician Benjamin Darvill (Crash Test Dummies) is 50. Actor Josh Stamberg is 47. Actor Jeremy Licht is 46. Actor Damon Gupton is 44. Actress-singer Jill Marie Jones is 42. Alt-country singer Justin Townes Earle is 35. Christian rock singer Spencer Chamberlain (Underoath) is 34. Actress Lenora Crichlow is 32. Comedian-actress Charlyne Yi is 31. Actress-singer Coco Jones is 19.

Thought for Today: "Sometimes history takes things into its own hands." — Thurgood Marshall, U.S. Supreme Court justice (1908-1993).