

# Groton Daily Independent

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## 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.

**Double Header Basketball at Hamlin:** Girls JV and Boys C team at 4 p.m., Boys JV and Girls C game at 5:15 p.m., Varsity girls at 6:30 p.m., Boys Varsity at 8 p.m.

## Saturday, Jan. 7

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church:** Mass at 4:30 p.m.

**Wrestling** at Miller, 10 a.m.

**Girls' Basketball** team at Redfield Classic, playing St. Francis at 1:30 p.m.

## Sunday, Jan. 8

**Catholic Parish:** Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m., then at St. Joseph in Turton at 11 a.m.

## Apts for Rent

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

**Open:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

## The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

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## Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.  
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

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## Groton Prairie Mixed

**Team Standings:** Chipmunks 9, Coyotes 6, Foxes 6, Cheetahs 6, Jackelopes 5, Shih Tzus 4

**High game: Men** – Brad Waage 246, 235, Roger Spanier 223, Brad Larson 204  
**Women** – Vicki Jorgensen 190, Karen Spanier 185, Nicole Kassube 183

**High series: Men** – Brad Waage 659, Brad Larson 568, Tony Madsen 526  
**Women** – Sue Stanley 475, Vicki Walter 471, Vicki Jorgensen 451

## GROTON KIWANIS

Lee Schinkel had the program for the weekly Kiwanis Club dinner meeting on Jan 4. Lee introduced Tylan Glover and Anna Bisbee, winners in the Kiwanis sponsored Snow Queen talent contest., who sang their solos. Cody Swanson, GHS vocal director, was their accompanist. Eleven members and five guests attended the meeting. January 29 will be the next big Kiwanis project, the annual pancake brunch, at the community center. At the close of the meeting, Roger Rix led in the singing of Auld Lang Syne, with Code accompanying on the keyboard.

*“Angels We Have Heard On High”*

**Fill the Cooper house  
this year!**

*Open House*

**Sunday, Jan. 15, 2017**

**1 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**208 N. 2nd St., Groton**

**Refreshments Served**

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## Groton City Jan. 3 Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2017

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at the Groton Community Center for their regular first monthly meeting with the following members present: Flihs, McGannon, Opp, Peterson, Blackmun, Glover, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Assistant Finance Officer Abeln, Attorney Johnson, Tina Kosel, Julianna Kosel, Terry Herron, Dwight Zerr, and Shawn Lambertz.

The minutes were approved as read on a motion by Opp and seconded by Flihs. All members present voted aye.

The financial report was approved on a motion by Glover and seconded by Opp. All members present voted aye.

Moved by McGannon and seconded by Peterson to authorize the following bills for payment. All members present voted aye.

Executive Payroll 404.03 salaries; Administrative Payroll 8,230.38 salaries; Public Safety Payroll 12,978.06 salaries; Public Works Payroll 26,353.13 salaries; Culture & Recreation Payroll 43.47 salaries; First State Bank 7,845.73 ss & wh; Cons Fed Cr Union 1,125.00 emp savings; City of Groton 506.03 post, util, sav to pay, dep ref; Horsch LLC 137.03 dep ref; Julie Larson 314.57 dep ref & overpmt; US Post Office 199.36 postage; Dakota Press 32.00 adv; Farmer Union Coop 1,076.40 dsl; Groton Independent 37.10 subscription; Spencer Allman 250.00 dep ref; 1st National Bank 6,975.69 west sewer loan; 1st National Bank 4,344.69 rr crossing loan; April Abeln 227.48 med flex; Ameripride 31.70 rug rent; Chase Visa 1,353.15 lic, bks, post, comp, sign; Colonial Research 145.58 ice melt; Dakota Electronics 92.35 radio repairs; Demco 45.46 cards, jackets; Eaton/Cannon Technologies 1,050.60 receiver refits; Galls 62.40 bands, wedges; Groton Independent 53.37 publishing; Heartland Waste 6,548.84 garbage hauling; James Valley Tele 617.55 phone, internet; Drew Johnson 1,000.00 legal services; Locators & Supplies 190.54 hydrant markers; Nelson Sales & Service 46.00 repairs; NW Energy 11.11 nat gas; One Call Now 275.26 one call service; Runnings 149.99 converter; S&S Lumber 483.94 supplies; SD Board of Operators Cert 36.00 cert renewals; SD Dept of Env & Nat Res 1,500.00 annual fee; SD Dept of Health 30.00 testing; SD Retirement 10,058.98 retirement; SD Water & Wastewater Assoc 30.00 dues; US Postal Service 225.00 permit; Verizon Wireless 41.81 comm

Terry Herron, Dwight Zerr, and Shawn Lambertz gave department reports. Herron reported on snow plowing and advised the skating rink was open and ice was forming well. The Street department has utilized their new snow plow and it works well. Dwight Zerr reported that Dakota Pump & Control will be conducting routine maintenance on the city's pumps soon. Lambertz reported the Main Street Christmas lights will be taken down soon. There were two power outages reported because of fuses being blown from high usage. Lambertz will bring quotes to the next meeting for new tires for the bucket truck. Electric Lineman Sunne was sent to Langford and assisted in getting their power back up and running after damage from an ice storm. Herron and Zerr leave the meeting at this point and Stacy Mayou enters the meeting.

Electric insurance coverage was tabled to the Jan 16 meeting. Lambertz leaves the meeting at this point.

Stacy Mayou gave the police report and advised the accessories have been ordered for the new vehicle. Snow parking tickets were also discussed along with future repairs to the current vehicle after hitting a pheasant.

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Rubble site fees were discussed. Moved by McGannon and seconded by Opp to set Commercial Tree permits at \$175/year plus an additional \$20/load. Members voting aye were: McGannon, Opp, Peterson and Flihs. Glover and Blackmun voted nay. Motion carried.

A request from PAC to have a family swimming pool season ticket donated for their carnival fundraiser was granted on a motion by Glover and seconded by Blackmun. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Opp and seconded by Peterson to accept a donation from the Groton Lions Club for a Stand-Up Spinner to be placed in the park. All members present voted aye. Peterson requested a thank you be sent to the club.

The purchase of new copiers and printers for City Hall was tabled to the Jan 16 meeting.

Municipal League Legislative Day will be held February 7 in Pierre for any Council members who wish to attend.

Moved by Opp and seconded by Glover to recognize the following volunteers and employees and thank them for their service. All members present voted aye. Baseball volunteers: Lars Hanson, Justin Hanson, Matt Locke, Steve Giedt, Travis Antonson, Brenda Waage, David Blackmun, Mitchell Locke, Bary Keith, Jim Lane, Jerry Locke, Jarod Flihs, Doug Hamilton, Joe Foertsch and Steve Diegel; Planning and Zoning Commission members @ \$25/meeting or \$50/special meeting: Les Hinds, Gordon Nelson, Jeff Steen, Justin Olson, and Chris Khali; Elected Officials: Mayor Scott Hanlon @ \$625/mon; Council Members: David McGannon, David Blackmun, Ed Opp, Mary Flihs, Jay Peterson, and Burt Glover @ \$3,000/year; City Employees: Anita Lowary, Finance Officer @ 5,569.20/mon; Peggy Locke, Deputy Finance Officer @ 20.72/hr; April Abeln, Assistant Finance Officer & Police Secretary @ 20.29/hr; Stacy Mayou, Police Chief @ 4,963.14/mon; Jerry Bjerke, Asst Chief @ 4,460.82/mon; Justin Cleveland, Police Officer Level 1 @ 4,293.38/mon; David Hunter, Police Officer Level 2 @ 3798.34/mon; Terry Herron, Public Works Coordinator & Street & Water Supt @ 27.85/hr; Dwight Zerr, Wastewater Supt @ 24.64/hr; Shawn Lambertz, Electric Supt @ 36.45/hr; Dan Sunne, Electric Lineman @ 31.35/hr; Branden Abeln, Asst Street Supt @ 22.71/hr; Paul Kosel, Technology Specialist @ 24.05/hr; Jim Gerdes, Public Works Laborer @ 16.55/hr; Justin Olson, Warming House Manager @ \$9.25/hr; and Tady Glover, Shannon Wiedrick, Alexander Morris, Jennie Doeden, Taylor Holm, Landon Marzahn, and Joe Groeblichhoff, Warming House Attendants @ \$8.65/hr.

At 8:10pm the Council adjourned into executive session on a motion by Blackmun and seconded by Glover to discuss legal matters SDCL 1-25-2 (3). All members present voted aye. Council reconvened at 8:46pm.

Meeting adjourned.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor

April Abeln, Assistant Finance Officer

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## Today in Weather History

January 5, 1994: A low-pressure system traveled from the Dakotas, across southern Minnesota and to the Great Lakes Region, from the late morning of the 5th, through the early evening of the 7th. By the early evening hours on the 7th, up to three and one-half feet of snow had fell along the higher terrain of Lake Superior. The storm also produced heavy snow across parts of central Minnesota. Six inches or more occurred across much of central Minnesota. In west central Minnesota, Wheaton and Artichoke Lake received 5 inches, with 6 inches at Browns Valley.

January 5, 2012: Numerous record high temperatures were broken across central and northeast South Dakota along with west central Minnesota throughout the week. Some of the records were broken by as much as 12 to 17 degrees and had been held for 80 to 90 years. Aberdeen surpassed their all-time record high for January by 3 degrees with 63 degrees on Thursday, January 5th. Kennebec tied their all-time record high for January with 70 degrees on January 5th. [Click HERE](#) other records.

1835 - It was a record cold morning in the eastern U.S. The mercury at the Yale Campus in New Haven CT plunged to 23 degrees below zero, and reached 40 below in the Berkshire Hills of Connecticut. (David Ludlum)

1904 - Bitterly cold air gripped the northeastern U.S. Morning lows of -42 degrees at Smethport PA and -34 at River Vale NJ established state records. (The Weather Channel)

1913 - The temperature at the east portal to Strawberry Tunnel reached 50 degrees below zero to tie the record established at Woodruff on February 6, 1899. (David Ludlum)

1982 - A three day rainstorm in the San Francisco area finally came to an end. Marin County and Cruz County were drenched with up to 25 inches of rain, and the Sierra Nevada Range was buried under four to eight feet of snow. The storm claimed at least 36 lives, and caused more than 300 million dollars damage. (Storm Data)

1987 - A massive winter storm spread heavy snow from the southwestern U.S. into the Rockies. In Utah, the Alta ski resort reported a storm total of 42 inches of snow. Winds gusted to 64 mph at Albuquerque NM. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms helped produce heavy snow in the Lower Great Lakes Region. Snow fell at the rate of four to five inches per hour, and snowfall totals ranged up to 69 inches at Highmarket NY. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1989 - A strong Pacific cold front produced heavy snow and high winds in Nevada. Winds gusted to 80 mph north of Reno, while up to two feet of snow blanketed the Lake Tahoe ski area. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

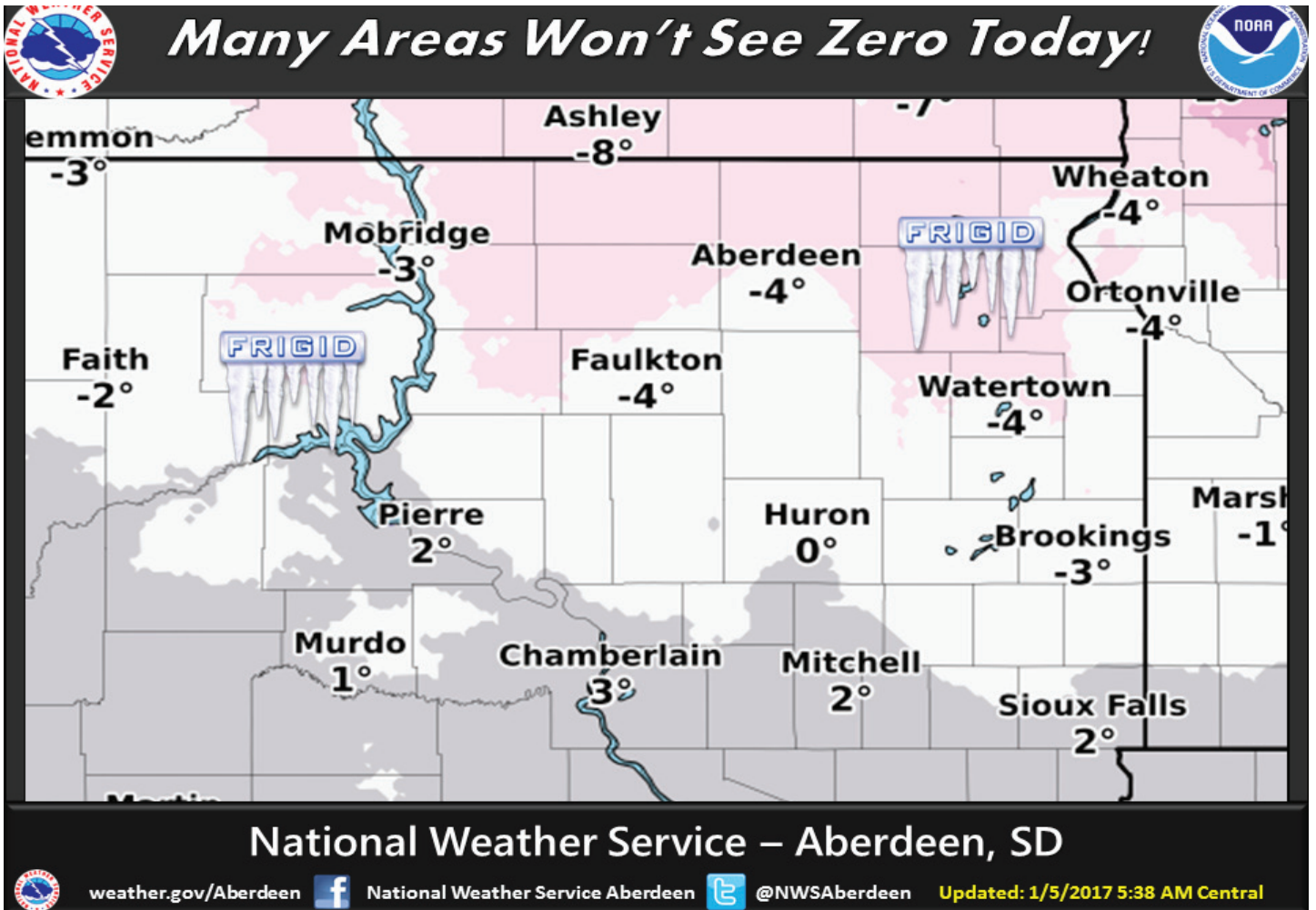
1990 - Thunderstorms produced heavy rain in the Central Gulf Coast Region. New Orleans, LA, was drenched with 4.05 inches of rain in 24 hours. An overnight storm blanketed the mountains of northern Utah with up to eleven inches of snow. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Scattered Flurries	Mostly Cloudy	Cold	Partly Cloudy	Cold	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny
High: -4 °F	Low: -15 °F	High: 5 °F	Low: -16 °F	High: 3 °F	Low: -13 °F	High: 14 °F



Arctic air remains entrenched over the Dakotas today, with temperatures even colder than yesterday for some areas! Highs will not even reach zero degrees for northern and eastern South Dakota, as well as west central Minnesota. Bitterly cold wind chills will once again range from 20 below zero to 35 below zero during the morning hours.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: -0.8 F at 4:15 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: -17.3 F at 8:34 AM**  
**High Gust: 14.0 Mph at 2:35 AM**

Rain: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High: 63° in 2012**  
**Record Low: -32° in 1924**  
**Average High: 22°F**  
**Average Low: 2°F**  
**Average Precip in Jan.: 0.09**  
**Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 0.09**  
**Precip Year to Date: 0.00**  
**Sunset Tonight: 5:05 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:13 a.m.**



Weather Forecast for Thu, Jan 05, 2017, issued 4:54 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## FREE FROM FEAR

The word "freedom" carries with it the idea of being free from any restraints or not being bound by any regulations, rules or requirements. Many long to live a life with no obligations, no opposition or no oppression.

Yet all of life is wrapped with boundaries of one nature or another. Highways are divided by traffic lanes, stop signs, caution signs, turning lanes and many other constraints. Every athletic contest or sporting event has specific lines, certain types of equipment or clothing and regulations to control the activities of the participants. Even something as simple as boiling water has specific criteria.

Rarely, if ever, do we pause to consider all of life's limits. We take for granted the ability to move about at will, make independent choices and manage our own affairs. But does moving and choosing and managing make us free? Not really. They still involve constraints in the final analysis. Where, then, do we find freedom?

Paul said, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." God, through Christ, offers us the priceless gift of living each day free from destroying ourselves and free to become who He wants us to be and doing what He has created us to do. But we must allow His Spirit to direct us along the path He has laid out for us. We can only be free if we have accepted the forgiveness of God through Christ and choose to live for Him.

Prayer: Lord, may we not fool ourselves into thinking we are free if we are enslaved by sin and have not been forgiven. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: 2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.



## News from the Associated Press

### **South Dakota ends Denver's win streak at 6 games, 75-69**

**Eds: APNewsNow. South Dakota 75, Denver 69.**

Trey Burch-Manning pulled down a rebound and scored to gain the lead for good and Matt Mooney led with 23 points as South Dakota held off Denver 75-69 on Wednesday night, ending the Pioneers six-game winning streak. Mooney sank five of six free throws in the last 19 seconds for South Dakota (11-7, 2-1 Summit League).

DENVER (AP) — Trey Burch-Manning pulled down a rebound and scored to gain the lead for good and Matt Mooney led with 23 points as South Dakota held off Denver 75-69 on Wednesday night, ending the Pioneers six-game winning streak.

Mooney sank five of six free throws in the last 19 seconds for South Dakota (11-7, 2-1 Summit League).

Denver (9-6, 1-1) had grabbed a 65-64 lead on a Daniel Amigo basket with 2:16 left, but after South Dakota's Carlton Hurst missed a 3-pointer, Burch-Manning grabbed the rebound; he had 12 boards, and scored to get the lead for good, 66-65. The game saw 14 lead changes and eight ties.

Hurst and Tyler Peterson each scored 11 for South Dakota and Trey Dickerson had 10.

Joe Rosga led Denver with 14 points, Amigo 13, C.J. Bobbitt 12, and Jake Pemberton 10. Amigo and Bobbitt each had 10 rebounds — Amigo's sixth double-double and Bobbitt's second.

### **W Illinois rallies to beat S Dakota St 82-74**

MACOMB, Ill. (AP) — Garret Covington scored 22 points with six 3-pointers and seven assists, Dalan Ancrum added 16 points with a career-high four 3s, and Western Illinois rallied for its first win over South Dakota State since 2009, 82-74 on Wednesday.

Brandon Gilbeck scored 12 points, grabbed a career-high 10 rebounds and blocked three shots, Delo Bruster added 10 points and Mike Miklusak had 11 boards for the Leathernecks (5-9, 2-1 Summit), who shot 16 of 40 from behind the arc (40 percent).

Trailing 39-33 at halftime, the Leathernecks tied it at 58 with 7:48 left on a Chris Snyder's jumper, which sparked a 13-2 run capped by 3s from Covington and Ancrum for a 72-63 Western Illinois lead. The Jackrabbits (8-10, 1-2) got no closer than five the rest of the way.

Michael Orris scored a career-best 17 with five 3s, Reed Tellinghuisen added 15, and Hess had 13 with a career-high 14 rebounds for South Dakota State (8-10, 1-2).

### **Rapid City detective hopes DNA is key to solving homicides**

**By Tiffany Tan, Rapid City Journal**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Two years ago, the Rapid City Police Department hired its first "cold-case" investigator to bring fresh eyes to old, unsolved homicides.

The investigator, a detective who came out of retirement to work on decades-old crimes, has largely focused on one case in the past half-year: the 1968 killing of 60-year-old Gwen Miller.

In some ways, the investigation seems to have little modern consequence. The detective's main suspect is already dead, and there's no indication that solving the case might lead to other victims.

And yet, Detective Wayne Keefe, 53, is committed to closing the case and others like it because he says the victims' families need closure.

He has gotten in touch with the Miller case's original investigators and the victim's relatives, as well as read volumes of old reports. Now he is waiting for the results of a DNA test that will show if his suspect

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was indeed Miller's killer.

The police department chose to focus on the Miller case because it offered promising leads, mainly old forensic evidence that can be tested using new technology.

Keefe started out by trying to understand what happened between the night of Feb. 28, 1968, and the early morning of Feb. 29, when authorities believe Miller was killed.

Miller, a hospital pharmacist, was found dead in bed as if she had died in her sleep. She was single, had no children and lived alone. A colleague of hers at the Bennett-Clarkson Memorial Hospital, now Rapid City Regional, discovered Miller's body at her 3901 Hall St. residence.

Miller was lying on her back, her hair neatly arranged. There was no blood on the bed or signs of a struggle. But a window in her back door had been smashed, prompting the Pennington County coroner to order an autopsy. It revealed the woman had been raped and strangled to death.

Authorities initially believed robbery was the motive for the murder, since Miller's billfold and checkbook could not be located. They later said robbery could have been just an afterthought since other valuables in the home were not taken.

Investigators came up with a theory involving a man with a history of "sexual perversion": that he had watched from the bushes as Miller took a bath, changed into nightclothes and got into bed. Miller's autopsy showed also that she suffered several broken ribs, attributed to the man kneeling on her chest while assaulting her.

He left fingerprints on Miller's headboard and body hair on the bed. Before fleeing, the attacker was believed to have straightened up her room, tidied the bed covers and rearranged her hair.

However, no one heard Miller scream or her backdoor window break.

What neighbors saw that night, according to a recent television report, was a taxi dropping off a man at Miller's home. Fingerprints found in her house matched prints later found in the taxi, the report said, but their owner could not be identified. The police department declined to verify this information, and other investigation details, citing Keefe's ongoing work.

After Miller's killing, investigators from the Pennington County Sheriff's Office and city police questioned dozens of people. Some underwent lie detector tests. Investigators canvassed Miller's neighborhood and sought help from colleagues nationwide, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2iqYTtU>) reported.

Information on the Rapid City government's page on "unsolved homicides" also says authorities followed a tip that Miller may have been killed by a former pharmacist in Lincoln, Nebraska, who was addicted to drugs, and that they checked out a watch engraved with Miller's name that turned up in Mitchell.

Investigators had several suspects, but no one has ever been arrested in Miller's death. She was buried in the eastern South Dakota town of Cresbard, where her sister lived.

Keefe began working on the Miller case spring of 2016. First, he read the original investigation reports, some of which he said were written on onionskin paper. He pored over old newspaper stories on the internet and in the Rapid City library's microfilm section.

He also talked to Miller's surviving relatives and the case's four original primary investigators.

Keefe started his job in November 2014, a couple of months after retiring as a local detective handling juvenile crimes. He had no plans for retirement, he said, so jumped at the chance to marry his investigative skills with his interest in genealogy.

"Over the past few years, I've gotten more interested in working on ancestry and my family tree and looking at old stuff," Keefe said in an interview at his office. "The thought of going back in an investigative capacity, looking at some of these old cases, was very intriguing."

Keefe's job, a part-time position that involves 20 hours of work a week, pays \$22.27 an hour. Before

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Keefe was hired, there was practically no one handling cold-case investigations, said Keefe's supervisor, Capt. James Johns, who heads the police department's criminal investigations.

Keefe's first task in his new position, he said, was to review the police department's homicide cases to come up with an accurate list of unsolved ones.

Rapid City's devastating flood of June 1972, in which 238 people died, also decimated police files. The department's record section was then located in the basement of what is now the Cornerstone Rescue Mission on Main Street, and silt from the flood destroyed much of the paperwork. Only two pages of police reports on the Miller case survived, Keefe said.

Fortunately, the sheriff's office, then located in the old county courthouse, had their Miller reports intact. While reviewing the police department's old files, Keefe said he also scanned the documents to make digital copies.

Keefe is currently investigating 11 cold cases that the police department believes offer the most promising leads. The advent of forensic DNA testing has opened up avenues that did not previously exist.

Forensic DNA testing, discovered by a British geneticist in 1984, started becoming more common in the U.S. after the establishment of the FBI Laboratory in December 1988, said John Butler, a fellow at the National Institute of Standards and Technology who has written books on forensic DNA profiling. The legal framework for the national DNA database maintained by the FBI Laboratory didn't come until a federal law was enacted in 1994.

Keefe sent DNA samples in the Miller case to the state laboratory in Pierre, the only lab in South Dakota accredited to conduct forensic DNA testing.

He said he also reached out to relatives of a man who had been among the five or so initial suspects in Miller's killing. Keefe said evidence he reviewed told him there was a strong chance the man was Miller's attacker, although the department declined to disclose the suspect's name.

The man is dead, but Keefe said that solving a case does not just mean putting the culprit behind bars; it is as much about providing answers to the victims' surviving relatives.

"The case needs to be closed for the family of the victim," he said. "One of the things that is important for the entire public to know is that we don't give up working on these. They don't go away."

The suspect's family, Keefe said, had no idea their relative was ever a murder suspect. The detective found them online, called them and explained his work. He asked the man's relatives for a DNA sample, and they obliged.

Now Keefe is just waiting to hear back from the state lab. Because the lab prioritizes active cases, it's difficult to know when the DNA test result will come back.

If the DNA test shows a match, Keefe will have solved a crime that happened when he was just a few years old. If it comes back negative, he will continue looking at other possibilities. He has to: Keefe said only when he finally solves a case will the significance of having a cold-case detective become apparent.

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

## High school sophomore competes solo on gymnastics team

By Eric Mayer, The (Mitchell) Daily Republic

MONTROSE, S.D. (AP) — It's already been an odd season for the state's Class A all-around runner-up gymnast.

Jocelyn Krouse, a sophomore at Montrose High School, has been competing on the school's gymnastics team as the lone member on the roster.

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It's very different from her freshman season.

Last year, Krouse practiced and competed as a member of Madison's gymnastics team, which won the Class A team title for the third year in a row and 19th time total, through a one-year co-op setup between the two schools.

In May, the Montrose School Board voted to dissolve the cooperative 5-0 and one month later, the Madison School Board followed suit.

That left one of the state's top gymnasts without a team to compete.

"We really liked it over there and the year went great," said Kristi Krouse, Jocelyn's mother, about the co-op with Madison. "We were kind of blindsided. We had no idea it was coming."

Kristi said she considered open-enrolling Jocelyn to Madison, but travel back-and-forth during winter months wasn't going to be worth it.

From Montrose to Madison is 28 miles and takes around 30 minutes, while Montrose to Mitchell is 46 miles along Interstate 90.

Jocelyn has two brothers that attend school in Montrose, and she is a cheerleader for the football team and competes for the McCook Central/Montrose track and field team. Jocelyn won the Class A long jump with a leap of 17 feet, 6.75 meters.

After weighing all the options, Kristi and Jocelyn decided to start a team for Montrose and compete under Montrose for the season, with Kristi acting as the team's head coach, the (Mitchell) Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2iI43jd>) reported.

"I think the biggest downfall is she doesn't have a team and that's really difficult," Kristi said. "I admire her a lot for (competing solo). It wasn't an option to quit. Once Madison fell through, we were going to find a way."

So far this season, both Kristi and Jocelyn have said the new experience has gone smoothly, considering all the adjustments that were made.

"There is less practice time and there isn't girls around to push you so you have to push yourself," Jocelyn said. "It's teaching me how to do things on my own. You have to learn how to do things on your own after high school and when it comes to starting your own life."

Currently, the Montrose team rents from MEGA gymnastics in Mitchell for practice time and space.

Jocelyn and Montrose have "piggybacked" on the schedule of the Parkston/Ethan/Hanson gymnastics team this season.

"It doesn't affect the time (of the meets) because they don't have enough (kids) for a full roster," Kristi said. "It doesn't add on any time so there's no reason why people wouldn't accept us."

Both Kristi and Jocelyn added working closely with MEGA gymnastics, Mitchell High School gymnastics and Audra Rew has been beneficial with Jocelyn saying she's motivated by many of the Mitchell gymnasts.

"Audra has been great. The other girls have been great. They welcome her and cheer for her," Kristi said. "I've learned how to be a parent and a coach. That's been huge. It's a learning experience and we'll continue to do that."

Jocelyn has been competing in gymnastics from a young age — starting at seven years old. She began in Sioux Falls at Power and Grace Gymnastics and then moved to All-American Gymnastics.

"I like how it teaches you how to conquer your fears," Jocelyn said about the sport. "Each skill has its own flaw that you have to overcome."

Last year, Jocelyn finished second in all-around at the state meet with a score of 36.250. She finished second on the vault (9.125) and bars (9.025), while taking third on the beam (8.900) and sixth in floor (9.2).



Kristi credited her daughter's strong background in the sport for her success, adding Jocelyn was "in the gym all the time" and is self-motivated. Kristi called the situation they found themselves in odd, but noted gymnastics is a unique sport that tends to only work for bigger towns.

"My coaching experience is you yell," said Kristi, who played collegiate basketball. "In gymnastics, you don't yell. You have to be quiet."

As far as goals for the season, the Krouses are happy to be competing and are looking to improve each meet.

"I'm excited to see where she can go this year," Kristi said. "Her goals are to get her personal best."

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

## South Dakota's first and only rescue dog makes a difference

By Christopher Dexter, Argus Leader

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — He makes it look so effortless, bounding over a makeshift rubble pile of wooden crates, plywood and tires, searching feverishly, tail wagging like crazy. He's trained to do something very serious, but he doesn't know that.

To him, it's the ultimate game.

When he's found what he's looking for, he barks to alert others he's found something.

Now he gets rewarded with a toy or a treat.

Cisco, South Dakota's first and only search and rescue dog, is on the clock, and this is just a normal day for him.

"He is a live search dog, which means his job is to find live people and is specifically trained in the area of structure collapse," Jim Bussell with the Rapid City Fire Department said.

The 2-year-old Belgian Malinois was sworn in to the Rapid City Fire Department in 2014 under the care of handler and 14-year firefighter Jeremy Gibbons.

Many of us on this side of the state didn't know about Cisco until the morning of Dec. 2, when the former Copper Lounge building collapsed.

In Rapid City, it was just a normal day for Gibbons and Cisco, until Gibbons received a call that South Dakota Task Force 1, a group of firefighters from Rapid City, Watertown, Aberdeen and Sioux Falls, had been requested to the scene. Task Force 1, which includes Gibbons and Cisco, is a part of the South Dakota Department of Homeland Security and is trained in specialized rescue techniques including land-based search, structural-collapse, swift-water, confined-space, high-angle and rope rescue.

"We were going to drive down (to Sioux Falls), and in the process they called us and said they were going to fly him," Gibbons said.

Moments later, the two were on an airplane, courtesy of Avera Health, and headed to Sioux Falls.

When they arrived on scene, those who had worked with Gibbons and Cisco before knew what they were there for.

"The nice thing was I had trained with a lot of the Sioux Falls, Aberdeen and Watertown guys, and they knew who I was and who Cisco was, so it was like, 'Hey, man, here we are.' And they were like, 'Let's get him up on the pile right away.'"

Cisco is South Dakota's only search and rescue dog. Here, he searches the rubble pile of the collapsed Copper Lounge building in Sioux Falls.

While Cisco and Jeremy were heading to Sioux Falls, Emily Fodness and one of the dogs were rescued from the rubble pile in the early afternoon. At around 5 p.m., it was Cisco's turn to search the scene.

Once on the pile, Cisco used his agility and training to maneuver over the rubble without hesitation.

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His body size made it easy to check areas where those on two legs couldn't go. It was a thorough search, with every command obeyed.

Cisco didn't bark that day, and the body of Ethan McMahon was recovered a short time after Cisco had finished his search.

But Cisco was instrumental in locating the two dogs that remained missing. Gibbons knows Cisco and his habits, and he could tell that the dog was on to something. He kept going back to two places. The first place was the area where Emily Fodness and the first dog were found. Gibbons thought that might be because a scent remained from earlier. But the second spot was farther away. Gibbons noted both spots where Cisco was paying most of his attention and told those rescuers on scene.

Later that night, the second of three dogs was found alive. The spot? The second location that Cisco kept returning to.

Two days later, those on scene with the Sioux Falls Fire Department thought they heard barking coming from the rubble pile. A short time later, the third dog was found alive. The spot? Near where Emily Fodness and the first dog were found, a spot that Cisco had been interested in.

"I just noted and let the right guys in charge know that he (Cisco) has an interest, and we kind of looked into it and decided that 'we need to get in there and look,' and that is where they found the second dog," Gibbons said. "They also told me that the other spot of interest was where the third dog came from."

"There's a lot of things that go into having search dogs," Fire Chief of Sioux Falls Fire Rescue Sideras said, regarding the fact that Rapid City has a search and rescue dog while Sioux Falls does not. "One is the amount of training that they have to have . and the need. It's not as simple as going out and buying a dog."

The dog and its handler must get acquainted with one another. The dog has to get used to the handler's voice and commands. It took about six months for Cisco and Gibbons to start to mesh and for Cisco's ability to really take off, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2hN9MGF>) reported.

Gibbons and Cisco have spent thousands of hours training — 20 hours a week — since he was sworn in. Gibbons built the Rapid City courses from scratch that Cisco trains on, all with donated materials.

The pair have trained all over the country. Where Gibbons goes, Cisco goes. When Gibbons is on the job, Cisco is at the station with him. He is a working dog, with working hours and mandated time off for rest.

When the members of South Dakota Task Force 1 get together for training, Cisco is right there as an equally important part of the team.

Sideras said the time it took Cisco and Gibbons to fly to the site from Rapid City was about the same length of time it would have taken a dog from Minneapolis to arrive.

"The delay in getting Cisco out here did not impact the operation in any way," Sideras said.

Now that Cisco has been seen in action, Gibbons hopes that they will be called in to help more often.

To spread the word of Cisco's availability, Gibbons has taken to social media.

"I started him a Facebook page, which sounds kind of silly in a way, but getting people to realize the state now has this resource available to them. I've tried to spread the word about, 'He is here; we have trained him with lots of hours. Please use him.'"

On the page, you can see photos and videos of him in action during training exercises.

In the meantime, Cisco continues to train and be prepared for when he'll be called on again. This pup has your back.

## Mitchell elementary teacher honored with national award

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota elementary school teacher has been honored with a national award.

Amanda Christensen teaches fourth grade at Longfellow Elementary School in Mitchell. She received a \$25,000 Milken Educator Award on Wednesday.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard, State Education Secretary Melody Schopp and Greg Gallagher, senior program administrator for the Milken Educator Awards, surprised Christensen with the award during a school assembly.

One example of Christensen's work with the community is the relationship she has developed with LifeQuest, an organization that helps adults with disabilities. LifeQuest clients have donated books to Christensen's classroom. She then invites the clients into her classroom, so her students can read the donated books to them.

The awards program was created by the Milken Family Foundation and is in its 30th year.

## Federal grand jury looks into violent pipeline protest clash

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A federal grand jury in North Dakota is looking into a violent November clash between Dakota Access pipeline opponents and officers in which a woman was seriously injured.

Steve Martinez, 42, a pipeline protester from Williston, has been ordered to testify regarding the arm injury of Sophia Wilansky, 21, of New York, according to his attorney, Ralph Hurvitz. Protesters maintain she was injured by a grenade thrown by police, while authorities say she was hurt by a small propane tank that protesters rigged to explode.

Grand jury proceedings are closed to the public, but Hurvitz confirmed the nature of Martinez's subpoena and supplied a copy of a motion he filed to quash it. The document states that "the subpoena further directs him (Martinez) to bring with him information related to the injury of Sophia Wilansky on Nov. 21, 2016, including, but not limited to: photos/SD cards; written statements; any other information within possession."

Hurvitz's request was denied Wednesday in a closed hearing. U.S. Attorney Chris Myers said he could not comment on the case because grand jury proceedings are secret.

Martinez had been scheduled to testify before the grand jury later Wednesday, but Hurvitz said the matter was delayed to Feb. 1. Martinez made a statement outside the courthouse, saying he would refuse to cooperate and was prepared to go to jail if found in contempt of court.

"Losing my freedom is a small price to pay for keeping my dignity and standing up for what's right," he said.

He declined to say what his role was in the clash that occurred late Nov. 20 and early Nov. 21, when protesters tried to push past a long-blocked bridge on a state highway near the protesters' main encampment along the pipeline route in southern North Dakota. They were turned back by authorities using tear gas, rubber bullets and water sprays. Police said protesters were throwing objects including rocks, asphalt and water bottles at officers. One officer was hit in the head.

About 40 protesters rallied outside the courthouse in support of Martinez, and court officials locked the courthouse doors.

Pipeline opponents worry the four-state, \$3.8 billion project will harm the environment. Texas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners disputes that and says the pipeline will be safe.

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

## Rapid City scientist examines future of nano solar cells

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A researcher at the South Dakota School of Mines is working to make nano solar cells more efficient and applicable to the commercial market.

Professor Phil Ahrenkiel's goal is to place the solar cells in aluminum, one of the cheapest and most common metals, in order to make them less expensive, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2hS1WKZ>) reported.

Ahrenkiel said the solar energy generated by the cells probably wouldn't be enough to power a home. But he said there could be other uses, such as in military applications or portable power sources for backpackers.

He said aluminum would make the perfect material for flexible, durable, highly efficient nano solar cells in the commercial market and beyond. He said the solar cells could be coated on a roll of tinfoil, sewn into clothes or painted on cars.

Ahrenkiel expects to spend the next six months trying to figure out the aluminum problem. Implementing solar crystals into the aluminum has proven difficult, and will keep him busy.

"We'll get by," Ahrenkiel said.

The U.S. Department of Energy has funded Ahrenkiel's work in photo voltaics with a set of grants. One of the grants for \$179,000 is set to expire in the spring.

"It's heartbreaking, to tell you the truth," he said. "We have the potential to make some cutting-edge materials. We have the ideas. It's finding the funding that's the issue."

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

## 6 defendants take plea deals in polygamous food stamp case

ST. GEORGE, Utah (AP) — Six additional members of a polygamous group based on the Utah-Arizona border took plea deals Wednesday to avoid jail time in a multimillion-dollar food-stamp fraud case.

The six pleaded guilty to fraud Wednesday in St. George, Utah, leaving only fugitive leader Lyle Jeffs and two others with charges still pending in the case filed February against 11 people. They faced up to 25 years in prison.

Prosecutors accused them of all of participating in a scheme to misuse \$12 million in food stamps, though defense attorneys argued they were following religious beliefs by donating benefits to their church.

The southern Utah hearing came after high-ranking leaders Seth Jeffs and John Wayman pleaded guilty in Salt Lake City and were released from jail after six months.

Like Seth Jeffs and Wayman, the six won't be required to pay any restitution as part of their deals, the Spectrum newspaper in St. George reported (<http://bit.ly/2hU4vMR>).

Federal prosecutor Robert Lund said the plea deals lay a foundation for future prosecution for similar offenses while allowing the suspects to be rehabilitated. They must all take a class on proper uses of food stamps.

Defense attorney Aric Cramer called the case religious persecution that should have never been filed. "It's like Vietnam - the government declared victory and got out, and everyone's benefited for it," Cramer said. "So I think (the plea agreement) is a wonderful deal."

The six who took the deals worked in different roles managing the two convenience stores where prosecutors say the fraudulent transactions occurred or the community storehouse where food bought



by food stamps was brought, with leaders deciding how to distribute it.

They were: Kimball Dee Barlow, 52; Kristal Dutson, 55; Winford Johnson Barlow, 51; Rulon Mormon Barlow, 46; Ruth Peine Barlow, 42; and Hyrum Bygnal Dutson, who turns 61 this month.

Lyle Jeffs, the accused ringleader of the scheme, remains on the run. He escaped home confinement this summer and has not been found. He is the brother of Warren Jeffs, the sect's leader who is serving a life sentence in Texas for sexually assaulting girls he considered wives.

Known as the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the group believes polygamy brings exaltation in heaven — a legacy of the early Mormon church. The mainstream Mormon church abandoned the practice in 1890 and strictly prohibits it today.

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Information from: The Spectrum, <http://www.thespectrum.com>

## **Jackley's priorities include anti-corruption, mug shot bills**

**By JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Top priorities for Attorney General Marty Jackley during the upcoming legislative session will be bills on topics ranging from expanding South Dakota's 24/7 sobriety program to targeting potential public corruption, he said Wednesday.

Jackley will propose new criminal conflict-of-interest penalties for public officials, changing it to theft, which is a felony when the value exceeds \$1,000, from the current misdemeanor self-dealing penalty.

"A public official is entrusted with taxpayer monies, and when a public official misapplies those monies for their own benefit or gain, they should be treated like anyone else," Jackley said.

He said the proposal was in part motivated by recent high-profile scandals that have resulted in deaths, including alleged theft and an attempted cover-up at a Platte-based educational cooperative and what authorities have called financial misconduct involving the EB-5 visa program.

Jackley plans also to ask lawmakers to add to a list of crimes that don't receive the presumption of probation at sentencing, wanting to include possession of a firearm by a felon, assault by a prisoner in a county jail and promoting the prostitution of a minor. A separate bill would stiffen sentences for vehicular homicide.

Jackley also wants to allow authorities to release criminal booking photos by making them a public record under state law, which he said would improve transparency and "further assist the media and the public in the proper identification of individuals in the criminal process."

South Dakota's 24/7 sobriety program started in 2005. Participants come to a site each morning and evening to take an alcohol breath test. Those who live farther away or who have difficulty remaining sober wear alcohol-monitoring bracelets or have ignition interlock systems in their vehicles.

Jackley is proposing to broaden sobriety testing methods to include a mobile device that provides immediate results, a GPS reading and facial recognition confirmation. He said the goal is to make sure officials are staying on top of advances in technology, calling mobile breath alcohol testing devices "a good tool for the toolbox."

Incoming Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lance Russell said Jackley is generally moving in the right direction and that most of the measures will receive favorable treatment during the session, which opens Tuesday at the state Capitol in Pierre.

"I think it's long overdue that the state of South Dakota takes a much stronger look at conflicts of interest and corruption," the Republican from Hot Springs said.

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Rapid City man charged with using bayonet in stabbing attack

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man is accused of using a bayonet attached to a firearm to kill one man and injure two others on New Year's Day.

Twenty-six-year-old Joseph David Rich was charged Tuesday with second-degree murder. Prosecutors say Rich used the gun and bayonet in the fatal stabbing of 20-year-old Juan Legarda Jr. of Rapid City.

Rich also faces two counts of aggravated assault for injuring Trevor Chief Bear and Bradley Randall in the same attack.

The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2ibn2C8> ) reports police found Legarda dead at a home in Rapid City early Sunday. Also found at the scene were Chief Bear and Randall, who were taken to a hospital. Rich was arrested later that day.

Bond was set at \$100,000 cash-only. Rich is due back in court Jan. 18.

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This story has been corrected to correct bond to \$100,000 cash-only instead of \$150,000 cash-only.

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

## Father pleads guilty in toddler's death

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — A Pine Ridge man accused of killing his young son has pleaded guilty in an agreement with federal prosecutors.

James Shangreaux accepted a plea deal and entered the plea to a reduced charge of felony child abuse and neglect Tuesday. The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2j9Lzvb> ) says the 34-year-old father had been charged with first-degree murder and felony child abuse which exposed him to a sentence of life in prison.

Shangreaux is accused of inflicting head and abdominal injuries on his 1-year-old son, causing brain damage and internal bleeding. A trial has been scheduled to begin Tuesday.

The child's mother, Emmy Rouillard, and her boyfriend, Robert Red Shirt, both pleaded guilty to felony child abuse and neglect in federal court.

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

## Worker critically injured while removing New Year's ball

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A man who was removing a giant ball used last weekend for a New Year's Eve event in Deadwood has been critically injured in a fall.

Police say 64-year-old Walter Ford suffered life-threatening injuries after slipping on a hotel veranda Sunday and falling about 30 feet while helping dismantle the ball.

The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2hRdNdT> ) says Ford was airlifted to Rapid City Regional Hospital.

A crew from Fire in the Sky Professional Indoor and Outdoor Fireworks Display Co., from Scottsbluff, Nebraska was removing the ball used in the New Year's Eve celebration in downtown Deadwood.

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

## **Turkey closing in on nightclub gunman, official says**

**By DUSAN STOJANOVIC, Associated Press**

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkish police are closing in on the gunman who killed 39 people at an Istanbul nightclub, a senior official said Thursday, insisting his possible whereabouts and contacts had been established.

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Veysi Kaynak told A Haber news channel in an interview that gunman who attacked Istanbul's upscale Reina nightclub during New Year's celebrations, is most probably from China's Muslim Uighur minority and was a "specially trained member of a (terror) cell."

"The security forces have determined his identify, his possible whereabouts have been determined... His contacts have also been determined," he told A Haber. "We can say that the circle is closing in on him."

Kaynak said authorities believe the man, whose name hasn't been revealed, is still inside Turkey, although they haven't completely ruled out the possibility that he may have escaped.

"Because we have taken utmost measures at our airports — even though we don't rule it out completely — we believe that we will get results from operations inside Turkey," he said.

His comments came hours after police conducted more raids in their hunt for the gunman, detaining several people at a housing complex on the city's outskirts, the state-run news agency reported.

Anadolu Agency said gendarmerie police and special operations teams conducted raids in the Silivri district, detaining an undisclosed number of Uighurs. The report said that those rounded up were suspected of "aiding and abetting" the gunman.

At least 39 other people — including 11 women — are already in custody over suspected links to the attack.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the massacre, saying it was in reprisal for Turkish military operations in northern Syria. Most of the victims of the attack were foreigners from the Middle East.

The gunman reportedly escaped in a taxi after the attack. Turkish media have widely published images of the suspect, including a selfie video filmed at Istanbul's Taksim Square.

Security has been tightened around Istanbul and at border crossings and airports to prevent him from fleeing Turkey.

Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus suggested in an interview with the Hurriyet Daily news newspaper and other sister publications that "foreign intelligence services" could be behind the attack, pointing at the "professional" manner in which it was carried out.

"I am of the opinion that it's not possible for the perpetrator to have carried out such an attack without

any support. It seems like a secret service thing. All these things are being assessed," Hurriyet Daily News quoted Kurtulmus as saying in the interview published on Thursday.

A group of about 20 suspects were also detained on Wednesday in a police operation in Izmir, western Turkey. Anadolu said the suspects are from the largely Muslim Russian republic of Dagestan, as well as members of China's Muslim Uighur minority and from Syria. They are thought to have lived with the gunman in an alleged IS cell house in the central Turkish city of Konya, the agency reported. About 20 children who were with the detainees were also taken to a police station.

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

## Fading French town offers hope of new life for Syrian family

By ELENA BECATOROS, Associated Press

GRAY, France (AP) — Gray is a dying town, its residents lament. Big businesses have moved away, taking jobs with them. Though it still lives up to its nickname "Gray la jolie," or "Gray the pretty," many stores now lie vacant, with fading "to rent" signs in their windows.

But for one Syrian family, the picturesque streets, red-tiled rooftops and quiet river walks offer hope of rebuilding their shattered lives, away from the fear of death lurking around every corner in their homeland.

"I will start to love life another time," said Abd Alwahab Alahamad, a 43-year-old Damascus oncologist. "Because sometimes (in the) last two years, I thought it will be very difficult to stay alive."

Like hundreds of thousands before them, the Alahamads risked everything to escape war and the dark brutality of the Islamic State group, embarking on a perilous and uncertain journey through checkpoints, bombs and a nightmarish sea crossing to Greece.

But after months of uncertainty and doubt, their luck began to change. Alahamad, his wife Iman Mshanati and their three children — 5-year-old Nora, 2-year-old Ahmed and baby Layan, born in Greece six months ago — were among the fortunate few accepted so far into an ambitious European relocation program.

Launched in late 2015, the program was designed to relieve pressure on Greece and Italy, the main entry points for more than a million people fleeing into the European Union. But it has come under fire for moving too slowly. Of the 66,400 people who should be relocated from Greece by this September, just 7,286 had been resettled by the end of December, according to figures from the International Organization for Migration, which organizes the transfers. France has taken in the most refugees from Greece, 2,420. The next highest-receiver is the Netherlands, which has taken 836.

Applicants cannot choose their destination. The Alahamads were assigned to France, a country neither the Russian-trained doctor nor his wife, a 33-year-old nutritionist and beautician, had ever visited.

"We are going into the unknown; We do not know the city, the people, nothing," said Mshanti in a small apartment in Athens the day before the family's flight to Paris, three small suitcases sitting neatly packed on the floor. "But we hear from people who had left before us that they are happy, and we felt relieved."

The family had never intended to leave Syria. They didn't expect the 2011 street protests against Syrian President Bashar Assad to turn into a full-blown civil war.

"At first everybody thought — not only me — that it will finish tomorrow, the day after tomorrow," Alahamad said of the early days of the rebellion.

The trials of their months-long journey are etched on their faces.



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In 2014, warned government forces were looking for him after he treated a man for gunshot wounds, Alahamad fled Damascus. He moved the family to an eastern town near the city of Deir-e-Zor, where his parents are from, and quickly found a job in a private clinic.

But the war followed.

The area was overrun by IS extremists who imposed strict Islamic rule. Mshanti had to wear the all-enveloping black abaya; Alahamad was questioned for treating female patients, and forced to watch a public killing. A family friend was beheaded, his body left on the street for three days. Relentless bombings claimed the lives of relatives and friends.

After a particularly close call, when rockets landed near their home, wounding relatives, Alahamad decided the time had come.

"I left. I left everything behind," he said.

With two young children and a pregnant wife, the journey was harrowing. The nighttime treks and border crossing, the smugglers, the ride jammed into the back of a truck with nearly 100 others. But nothing compared to the boat crossing from Turkey to Greece. Nora cried, clutching her father's hand. She was convinced they would die.

Their first try failed. The couple paid \$800 each, for four spots in an overcrowded dinghy that nobody on board knew how to drive. They went round in circles on the Aegean Sea until the Turkish coast guard intercepted the boat and took all its passengers to a detention center.

On their second attempt, a fellow passenger motored for hours through rough seas to the Greek island of Chios. The family reached mainland Greece 10 days later.

Alahamad spent months working as a volunteer doctor in refugee camps housing some of the more than 62,000 asylum seekers stranded in Greece by border closures and a deal between the EU and Turkey intended to stem the flow of migrants into Europe. He and Mshanti thought of staying, but Greece's asylum system was overwhelmed.

So they applied for relocation. Months of waiting ensued, punctuated by interviews with authorities for the relocation procedure and Layan's birth. Then in September, the news they had been waiting for: Their application was successful.

The Alahamads were assigned to Gray, a pretty, sleepy medieval town in eastern France of about 6,000 people on the River Saone just before it flows into Burgundy. They would be part of the second group of families sent there from Greece. The first arrived in March, with a maximum 29 people arriving each time.

Gray Mayor Christophe Laurencot stipulated the town would accept only families, and each would be assigned a social worker. The families are given housing while they apply for asylum, a process that normally takes about four months in the fast-track relocation procedure, said Guillaume Germain, regional director of the French Immigration and Integration Office. Once granted refugee status, they can stay in state housing for another six months while searching for jobs and living arrangements of their own, but are free to move elsewhere in France if they prefer. Of the first five families to arrive in Gray, four have moved elsewhere.

But small, close-knit towns do not always embrace outsiders. To facilitate integration, Laurencot decided the best tactic was full transparency and informed residents about the program before the first arrivals in March.

"We had reactions straight away," he said. "Good, less good or bad, I had them all." Some residents offered overwhelming generosity, while others questioned why the state should help foreigners.

But, Laurencot said, "France is after all a country of hosts, a country of reception, a welcoming country. And it's not enough to say it; we had to do it."

So far, the mayor's tactic appears to be working.

"It's very, very good, we see them pass by, there are no worries on that account, everything is going well," said Stephanie Vanhee, who runs an optical shop in Gray. Toddler Ahmed squealed with joy at being allowed to pet her puppy, Morito, during the family's first tour around town. "It must be done, you know. We must receive them."

Clothing store owner Roberte Fouillot said reactions were more or less positive, although there was some initial reticence to the idea, what with the recent terror attacks by Islamic extremists and demands on social services by needy French people. But images of the war in Syria in the media shocked her.

"These poor kids, these poor families who are suffering — it's unacceptable in our day and age," Fouillot said.

As for the issue of integration, Fouillot does not foresee problems.

"They are people like everyone else. We all have our religion," she said. "Today, if everyone reached out to each other, well, there might be less wars, less misery in the world."

The Alahamads arrived in Gray on a foggy mid-December night. Allocated a bare but warm apartment, Alahamad and Mshanti breathed a sigh of relief. They look forward to learning French, finding work and sending the children to school. Alahamad hopes France will recognize his Russian medical degree.

An exploratory walk, with Nora and Ahmed playing excitedly in a small playground near the river, cemented their impression: The town was perfect. The worst, they hoped, was finally behind them.

"It's difficult. We lost many things," Alahamad said. "I want to start a new life. Now, I think we have a chance."

## **Charges expected in Chicago beating broadcast on Facebook**

CHICAGO (AP) — Charges are expected against four people who police say beat a man in an assault that was broadcast live on Facebook, Chicago police said.

The victim is a suburban Chicago resident who Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson said has "mental health challenges."

In a news conference Wednesday, Johnson described the video as "sickening."

"It makes you wonder what would make individuals treat somebody like that," he said.

The investigation began Monday after Capt. Steven Sasso said officers found a man who "was in distress and was in crisis" walking on a street on the city's West Side. The man was taken to a hospital and it was later discovered that he had been reported missing from an unidentified suburb.

At about the same time, police took several people into custody at a nearby address where they found signs of a struggle and property damage. Investigators determined that the missing man had been at the same address.

Charges were expected to be filed within 24 hours, Cmdr. Kevin Duffin said Wednesday.

While police officials did not confirm the races of the suspects or victim, video from Chicago media outlets appeared to show someone off-camera using profanities about "white people" and President-elect Donald Trump.

A motive for the attack, racial or otherwise, has not been determined, police said.

When asked about the racial comments on the video, Duffin said the four in custody are "young adults and they make stupid decisions." Investigators will have to determine whether the racial remarks were "sincere or just stupid ranting and raving" when considering a potential hate crime charge, Duffin said.

The victim was with his attackers for 24 to 48 hours before police found him, and the episode has left him shaken, according to Duffin.

"He's traumatized by the incident and it's very tough to communicate with him at this point," he said.

The victim was a classmate of one of the attackers and initially went with that person voluntarily, Duffin said.

Police haven't identified the individuals in custody, but said three are Chicago residents and one is from suburban Carpentersville.

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A motive for the attack, racial or otherwise, has not been determined, police said.

When asked about the racial comments on the video, Duffin said the four in custody are "young adults and they make stupid decisions." Investigators will have to determine whether the racial remarks were "sincere or just stupid ranting and raving" when considering a potential hate crime charge, Duffin said.

The victim was with his attackers for 24 to 48 hours before police found him, and the episode has left him shaken, according to Duffin.

"He's traumatized by the incident and it's very tough to communicate with him at this point," he said.

The victim was a classmate of one of the attackers and initially went with that person voluntarily, Duffin said.

Police haven't identified the individuals in custody, but said three are Chicago residents and one is from suburban Carpentersville.

## **Giving peanut-based foods to babies early prevents allergies**

**By LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP Medical Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most babies should start eating peanut-containing foods well before their first birthday, say guidelines released Thursday that aim to protect high-risk tots and other youngsters, too, from developing the dangerous food allergy.

The new guidelines from the National Institutes of Health mark a shift in dietary advice, based on landmark research that found early exposure dramatically lowers a baby's chances of becoming allergic.

The recommendations spell out exactly how to introduce infants to peanut-based foods and when — for some, as early as 4 to 6 months of age — depending on whether they're at high, moderate or low risk of developing one of the most troublesome food allergies.

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"We're on the cusp of hopefully being able to prevent a large number of cases of peanut allergy," said Dr. Matthew Greenhawt of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, a member of the NIH-appointed panel that wrote the guidelines.

Babies at high risk — because they have a severe form of the skin rash eczema or egg allergies — need a check-up before any peanut exposure, and might get their first taste in the doctor's office.

For other tots, most parents can start adding peanut-containing foods to the diet much like they already introduced oatmeal or mashed peas.

No, babies don't get whole peanuts or a big glob of peanut butter — those are choking hazards. Instead, the guidelines include options like watered-down peanut butter or easy-to-gum peanut-flavored "puff" snacks.

"It's an important step forward," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which appointed experts to turn the research findings into user-friendly guidelines. "When you do desensitize them from an early age, you have a very positive effect."

Peanut allergy is a growing problem, affecting about 2 percent of U.S. children who must avoid the wide array of peanut-containing foods or risk severe, even life-threatening, reactions.

For years, pediatricians advised avoiding peanuts until age 3 for children thought to be at risk. But the delay didn't help, and that recommendation was dropped in 2008 — although parent wariness of peanuts persists.

"It's old news, wrong old news, to wait," said Dr. Scott Sicherer, who represented the American Academy of Pediatrics on the guidelines panel.

Thursday's guidelines make that clear, urging parents and doctors to proactively introduce peanut-based foods early.

"Just because your uncle, aunt and sibling have an allergy, that's even more reason to give your baby the food now" — even if they're already older than 6 months, added Sicherer, a pediatric allergist at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

In Columbus, Ohio, one doctor told Carrie Stevenson to avoid peanuts after her daughter was diagnosed with egg allergy. Then Stevenson found an allergy specialist who insisted that was the wrong advice — and offered baby Estelle a taste test of peanut butter in his office when she was 7 months old.

"I was really nervous," Stevenson recalled, unsure which doctor to believe. But, "we didn't want her to have any more allergies."

Now 18 months old, Estelle has eaten peanut butter or peanut-flavored puffs at least three times a week since then and so far seems healthy. Stevenson, pregnant again, plans early exposure for her next child, too.

The guidelines recommend:

—All babies should try other solid foods before peanut-containing ones, to be sure they're developmentally ready.

—High-risk babies should have peanut-containing foods introduced as early as 4 to 6 months after a check-up to tell if they should have the first taste in the doctor's office, or if it's OK to try at home with a parent watching for any reactions.

—Moderate risk babies have milder eczema, typically treated with over-the-counter creams. They should start peanut-based foods around 6 months, at home.

—Most babies are low risk, and parents can introduce peanut-based foods along with other solids, usually around 6 months.

—Building tolerance requires making peanut-based foods part of the regular diet, about three times a week.

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What's the evidence? First, researchers noticed a 10-fold higher rate of peanut allergy among Jewish children in Britain, who aren't fed peanut products during infancy, compared to those in Israel where peanut-based foods are common starting around age 7 months.

Then in 2015, an NIH-funded study of 600 babies put that theory to the test, assigning them either to avoid or regularly eat age-appropriate peanut products. By age 5, only 2 percent of peanut eaters — and 11 percent of those at highest risk — had become allergic. Among peanut avoiders, 14 percent had become allergic, and 35 percent of those at highest risk.

Whether the dietary change will spur a drop in U.S. peanut allergies depends on how many parents heed the new advice — and if a parent seems skeptical, the guidelines urge doctors to follow up.

## Wet, winter storms pummel West; headed for Rockies

By **SCOTT SONNER and KRISTIN J. BENDER, Associated Press**

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Much of Northern California and the Sierra Nevada braced for potential flooding into the weekend as a winter storm that dumped more than 2 feet of snow around Lake Tahoe made its way toward Utah and the Rockies.

Stiff winds toppled a towering evergreen tree into an Oregon home, killing an 8-year-old girl, while blizzard conditions closed major highways and triggered a small avalanche in the Sierra on Wednesday as wet, windy storms pummeled much of the West.

The child, Zaylee Schlect, was the daughter of a volunteer firefighter who was working during the storm that downed trees throughout the state on Tuesday night. She was killed in Otis, a town near the coast. Others inside the home were uninjured, authorities said.

Another foot of snow was expected early Thursday in the upper elevations around Lake Tahoe, where more than 2 feet fell Tuesday through Wednesday, snarling traffic.

Flash flood watches were issued for most of the Sierra along the Nevada-California line, where the National Weather Service said the potential for another 6 to 12 inches of rain would create serious flooding concerns into the weekend.

As much as 6 inches of rain was reported Wednesday in Doyle, California about 40 miles north of Reno, Nevada and more than an inch in Carson City and Sparks, the weather service said. Officials in Reno and Sparks and neighboring rural counties said they would start making sandbags available for residents and local residents on Thursday.

All major Sierra passes were closed Wednesday night, including a 50-mile stretch of U.S. Interstate 80 — from about 50 miles east of Sacramento, California, in the foothills near Colfax to Truckee, about 30 miles southwest of Reno, Nevada. The eastbound portion of I-80 was reopened early Thursday morning, the California Department of Transportation said on its website.

"We are looking at near white-out conditions," Nevada Department of Transportation spokeswoman Meg Ragonese said earlier Wednesday when they closed the only state highway connecting Reno to Lake Tahoe.

Nevada state trooper Dan Gordon said visibility was near zero at times, but there were no reports of major accidents.

"Just a lot of slide-offs and roadway conditions that are just horrendous — really treacherous," he said. Even cars with chains were getting stuck and sliding off the road, he said.

In Utah, snow that accumulated over several days caused the roof of a business to collapse in Provo. No injuries were reported.

Snow was also falling in Wyoming, where a winter storm warning was posted for much of the Interstate 80 corridor, including Cheyenne. Heavy snow was also expected in Colorado.



In New Mexico, forecasters said a blustery winter storm will produce significant snowfall and strong winds across much of the northern and eastern parts of the state beginning late Wednesday and peaking early Friday.

Some highways flooded Wednesday in the San Francisco Bay Area, and mud and rockslides were reported in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The San Lorenzo River was swollen and the Big Sur River was also above flood stage. Flood warnings and watches were issued for 11 counties in the region, and forecasters said heavy rains would last through Thursday.

The storm could be a boon for drought-plagued California by boosting the snowpack that provides about a third of the state's water in normal years when it melts in warm, dry months.

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Bender reported from San Francisco

## **At impeachment trial, Park accused of violating constitution**

**By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Prosecuting lawmakers accused South Korean President Park Geun-hye of "broadly and gravely" violating the constitution as the Constitutional Court began hearing oral arguments Thursday in her impeachment trial.

While the lawmakers, functioning as prosecutors in the trial, argued Park should be removed from the presidency, her lawyers said the accusations lacked evidence. Park is accused of colluding with a longtime friend to extort money and favors from companies and allowing her friend to interfere with government affairs.

As the impeachment hearing was taking place, Park's friend, Choi (pronounced Chwey) Soon-sil, appeared in another court in Seoul where she told the judge she denies the allegations against her. Also in the courtroom were former presidential secretaries Ahn Jong-beom, who allegedly pressured companies which gave tens of millions of dollars to foundations Choi controlled, and Jung Ho-sung, charged of passing government secrets to Choi, such as information on ministerial candidates.

The chief prosecutor in the impeachment trial, lawmaker Kweon Seong Dong, said Park (pronounced Bahk) abused her position by "broadly and gravely" violating the constitution to commit corruption and turn state affairs into a profit tool for her friend.

He said Park must be removed from office to repair the damage she had caused to the country's democracy.

Parliament voted on Dec. 9 to impeach Park, suspending her powers and making the prime minister the government caretaker. The Constitutional Court has less than six months to decide if Park should be removed or reinstated, and if it removes her, an election has to be held within 60 days.

Park's lawyer, Lee Joong-hwan, said the accusations stated in the impeachment bill "lack evidence and fail to make legal sense" because they were based on allegations and media reports, not criminal convictions.

The hearing proceeded without Park, who refused to testify for the second time and cannot be forced to do so. The court had planned to hear testimony from four of Park's former and current aides suspected of helping Choi, but only one appeared.

Besides the corruption allegations, the court will also hear accusations included in the impeachment bill that blamed Park for restrictions on media reporting and for government inaction during a 2014 ferry sinking that killed more than 300 passengers.

Yoon Jeon-chu, who has been Park's aide since 2013, did not answer directly most of the questions

asking about her interactions with Choi and what Park did on the day of the ferry disaster.

The court said it was not able to deliver subpoenas to former aides Ahn Bong-geun and Lee Jae-man, who both worked with Park for nearly 20 years since her days as a lawmaker, and said another current aide, Lee Yeong-seon, asked to appear later.

Briefing reporters, Kweon criticized the witnesses who he said deliberately avoided the hearing and also denied accusations by Park's lawyers that they were leaking investigation details to reporters.

Park has publicly apologized for putting trust in Choi, but denied accusations that she colluded with her friend in criminal activities. Prosecutors also indicted Choi's niece and several former government and presidential officials who allegedly assisted Choi in manipulating state affairs and exploiting her connections with Park to amass an illicit fortune.

Park's lawyers may prefer her not to testify because their chief argument is that the accusations against Park have not been fully proven, said Han Sang-hie, a law professor at Seoul's Konkuk University. Park rejected requests by state prosecutors to question her and has yet to be questioned by the special prosecution team that has taken over the inquiry.

During Thursday's hearings, Seo Seok-gu, another Park lawyer, argued that the investigation into Park was biased and suggested that the massive protests that pushed lawmakers to impeach her were influenced by groups sympathetic to North Korea.

Seo accused news organizations that reported on the scandal of demagoguery that he said threatens to make democracy "very dangerous," and compared Park's impeachment to the "unjust" deaths of Jesus Christ and ancient Greek philosopher Socrates.

## 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. US INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS TO TESTIFY ON HACKING

The congressional hearing comes a day before Trump is to be briefed by the heads of the CIA, FBI and Director of National Intelligence on the investigation into Russia's alleged efforts.

### 2. ANALYSIS: HEALTH CARE BATTLE COULD DECIDE BALANCE OF POWER

If Democrats get their way, the GOP will own every problem and complication from the re-work of Obama's health care law.

### 3. HOW ONE FARMER IS PREPARING FOR NEW PRESIDENCY

The Californian says Trump's vow to deport millions of immigrants who are in the country illegally has pushed him to buy more equipment and cut workers.

### 4. DAY 2 OF ROOF'S SENTENCING HEARING SET

Prosecutors may call dozens more witnesses to try to convince jurors that the convicted Charleston church killer should be sentenced to death.

### 5. WHAT'S IN STORE FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, SIERRA NEVADA

The region braces for potential flooding into the weekend as a winter storm that dumped more than 2 feet of snow around Lake Tahoe makes its way toward Utah and the Rockies.

### 6. PICTURESQUE FRENCH TOWN OFFERS HOPE OF NEW LIVES

A Syrian oncologist and his young family risked everything to escape the Islamic State group. Now they're among the lucky few accepted so far for relocation to another European country, AP finds.

### 7. PRESSURE ON OBAMA TO GRANT LAST-MINUTE PARDONS, COMMUTATIONS

But don't expect many famous offenders to make the list before the president leaves office in two

weeks.

## 8. CHICAGO POLICE INVESTIGATE VIDEO BEATING

A video circulating on social media shows several people beating a man with “mental health challenges” at a residence, officials say.

## 9. UPROOTED BY WAR, MYANMAR GIRLS LEARN KARATE

Young girls and women at a refugee camp in Kachin state are studying defense tactics to help protect themselves from a known threat: the country’s military, AP finds.

## 10. WHO’S IMPRESSED BY NHL WIN STREAK

Members of the 1992-93 Pittsburgh Penguins admire the Columbus Blue Jackets’ 16-game winning streak that has come in a very different era.

## Top US intelligence officials to testify on Russian hacking

By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senior U.S. intelligence officials face questions at a Senate hearing that will be dominated by the intelligence community’s assessment that Russia meddled in the presidential election to help Donald Trump win.

The Armed Services Committee’s cyber threats hearing on Thursday comes a day before the president-elect is to be briefed by the CIA and FBI directors — along with the director of national intelligence — on the investigation into Russia’s alleged hacking efforts. Trump has been deeply critical of their findings, even appearing to back controversial WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange’s contention that Russia did not provide him with hacked Democratic emails.

The committee’s session is the first in a series aimed at investigating purported Russian cyber-attacks against U.S. interests and developing defenses sturdy enough to blunt future intrusions.

“We will obviously be talking about the hacking, but the main thing is the whole issue of cybersecurity,” the committee’s Republican chairman, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, said ahead of the hearing. “Right now we have no policy, no strategy to counter cyberattacks.”

Slated to appear before the Armed Services Committee are James Clapper, the national intelligence director; Marcel Lettre, the undersecretary of defense for intelligence; and Adm. Michael Rogers, National Security Agency chief and the top officer at the U.S. Cyber Command.

Accusations Russia interfered in the 2016 election by hacking Democratic email accounts have roiled Washington for weeks. President Barack Obama struck back at Moscow in late December with a sweeping set of sanctions targeting Russia’s leading spy agencies — the GRU and FSB — that the U.S. said were involved. The GRU is Russia’s military intelligence agency. The FSB is the main successor to the Soviet-era KGB.

But the sanctions against both Russian intelligence agencies could easily be rescinded by Trump, who has so far publicly refused to accept the conclusion that Russia is responsible for the attacks. Trump earlier this week escalated his criticism of U.S. intelligence professionals, such as Clapper, by tweeting, without evidence, that an upcoming briefing on the suspected Russian hacking had been delayed until Friday, and said, “perhaps more time needed to build a case. Very strange!”

Intelligence officials said there had been no delay.

Trump also suggested Wednesday in a tweet that one of Russia’s primary targets, the Democratic National Committee, could be to blame for being “so careless.”

The sanctions imposed by Obama came after he pledged a “proportional” response to the hacking of the Democratic Party and Clinton’s campaign chairman. Emails stolen during the campaign were

released in the final weeks by WikiLeaks.

CIA Director John Brennan said in a Dec. 16 message to employees that the FBI agreed with the agency's conclusion that Russia's goal was to support Trump in the election. Brennan wrote that he also had spoken with Clapper and said "there is strong consensus among us on the scope, nature, and intent of Russian interference in our presidential election."

Moscow has denied the hacking allegations and dismissed Obama's sanctions as an attempt to "harm Russian-American ties." Although Russian President Vladimir Putin rebuked the Obama administration for trying to punish Russia, he said his country would not immediately retaliate and would instead wait for a new U.S. approach after Trump takes office.

Trump praised Putin's move and called him "very smart."

To buttress the case for sanctions imposed by Obama and expose Russia's cyber tactics, the Homeland Security Department released a report prepared with the FBI that for the first time officially tied cyberattacks into the email accounts of the Democratic National Committee to hackers affiliated with the GRU and FSB.

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

## 'Daddy's dead?' Chilling 911 call played in church case

By MEG KINNARD, Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — For about 20 harrowing minutes, Jennifer Pinckney huddled under a desk with her 6-year-old daughter, her hand clasped over the girl's mouth to keep her quiet as Dylann Roof opened fire. Not knowing for certain if the danger had passed, Pinckney dialed 911 and breathlessly told an operator she had heard shots inside Charleston's Emanuel AME Church.

"I think there's been a shooting. I'm in the closet, under a desk," Pinckney told the operator. "Please hurry."

The conversation was played in court Wednesday for jurors considering whether Roof should be sentenced to death or life in prison. Roof, who is representing himself, hasn't put up any fight for his life, saying he doesn't plan on calling witnesses, and he has not cross-examined anyone.

In the tape, Pinckney is heard trying to comfort her daughter Malana, a precocious child who had been watching cartoons in her father's office as he participated in Bible study in the room next door on the night of June 17, 2015.

"Daddy's dead?" Malana is heard asking her mother on the 911 call.

"No, baby, no," she said.

But at that moment, Pinckney said she knew her husband, church pastor Clementa Pinckney, was killed because otherwise he would have come to check on her and their daughter.

Jennifer Pinckney was the first witness called by prosecutors in the sentencing phase of Roof's trial. The same jury that last month found the 22-year-old white man guilty of 33 federal charges, including hate crimes and obstruction of religion, is hearing testimony this week in his sentencing trial.

Roof spoke directly to the jurors for the first time Wednesday, insisting that he is not mentally ill. In brief remarks, the soft-spoken defendant told the jury he was not trying to keep any secrets from them. He did not offer remorse or seek forgiveness or ask them to spare him from a lethal injection.

"My opening statement is going to seem a little bit out of place," Roof said calmly as he stood at a podium, occasionally glancing at notes. "I am not going to lie to you. ... Other than the fact that I trust people that I shouldn't and the fact that I'm probably better at constantly embarrassing myself than anyone who's ever existed, there's nothing wrong with me psychologically."

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Roof's attorneys have indicated that he chose to represent himself during the sentencing phase of his trial because he was worried his legal team might present embarrassing evidence about himself or his family. As early as last summer, they said they planned to introduce evidence that Roof suffers from mental illness and they hinted at that idea again during closing arguments of the trial's guilt stage.

"I would ask you to forget it," Roof told jurors, referring to what his lawyers said then.

Prosecutors said Roof deserves the death penalty because he painstakingly chose to target vulnerable people at Emanuel AME Church in the June 2015 attack. He sat with church members for about 45 minutes and waited until their eyes were closed in prayer before opening fire.

He told Polly Sheppard that he wanted to leave her alive to tell the world he attacked a historic black church because blacks were "raping our women and taking over the nation."

Two other people also survived.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathan Williams said the "horrific acts justify the death penalty."

"He killed them because of the color of their skin. He killed them because they were less than people," Williams said.

The panel has heard from Roof before in the form of his confession to the FBI and his racist manifesto. And on Wednesday, prosecutors read from a journal found in Roof's jail cell six weeks after his arrest, projecting a handwritten page on screens in the courtroom.

"I remember how I felt when I did these things and how I knew I had to do something and then I realize it was worth it," he wrote. "I would like to make it crystal clear. I do not regret what I did. I have not shed a tear for the innocent people I killed."

Prosecutors have said they plan to call up to 38 people related to the slain and the survivors, work that will continue in court Thursday. Friends of Clementa Pinckney, including Rev. Kylon Middleton and fellow state Sen. Gerald Malloy, also spoke about him in court Wednesday.

Before the 911 call was played, Jennifer Pinckney described her husband as an affable figure who was widely respected in his roles as a state legislator and preacher and who was a goofy family man in private with his two young daughters.

"He always made time for the family, and he always made time for the girls," said Pinckney, describing her husband's affinity for cartoonish neckties and socks. "He was the person I think that every mom would be happy that their daughter met and married. ... I know that he loved me. And he knew how much that I loved him."

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

## Israeli arrested for threatening convicted soldier's judges

JERUSALEM (AP) — Police have arrested an Israeli man for inciting against military judges who convicted a soldier for manslaughter over the fatal shooting of a badly wounded Palestinian attacker.

Police spokeswoman Luba Samri says Thursday the arrest came after a threatening Facebook post. She says police will act against those inciting to violence against public officials.

The rare conviction of a soldier for operational conduct has deeply divided Israel and led to an unprecedented campaign in support of Sgt. Elor Azaria and against the military establishment, long the country's most admired body.

In protests outside the courtroom, demonstrators chanted veiled death threats against military chief Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot, who supported charging the soldier. The trial's three military judges and the lead prosecutor have also faced threats and have been assigned bodyguards.



## Trump's deportation vow spurs California farmers into action

By SCOTT SMITH, Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — Days after Donald Trump won the White House vowing to deport millions of people in the country illegally and fortify the Mexican border, California farmer Kevin Herman ordered nearly \$600,000 in new equipment, cutting the number of workers he'll need starting with the next harvest.

Herman, who grows figs, persimmons and almonds in the nation's most productive farming state, said Trump's comments pushed him to make the purchase, larger than he would have otherwise.

"No doubt about it," Herman said. "I probably wouldn't have spent as much or bought as much machinery as I did."

Others in California's farming industry say Trump's tough campaign talk targeting immigrants in the country illegally — including a vast number of farmworkers — spurred them into action, too.

They're calling on congressional representatives to educate the incoming president on the workforce it takes to feed the country, and they're assuring workers they'll protect them.

San Joaquin Valley farmer Joe Del Bosque recently gathered about 20 year-round employees at a Los Banos steakhouse for their annual holiday lunch.

The festivities began in a serious tone. The topic of immigration took a bigger part of the conversation this year because of Trump, he said.

Del Bosque told his crew he'll make sure the new administration knows their vital role in the farming industry. It's a message Del Bosque wants his managers to spread to another 300 seasonal workers needed at the harvest's peak.

Leticia Alfaro, a food-safety supervisor at the farm, said in an interview that many of her friends who work in the fields don't have proper documentation like her, and they take Trump's threats seriously.

"They're terrified by his comments," Alfaro, 53, said in Spanish.

They fear being deported and torn from their children who were born here, she said. After Trump takes office, they wonder if it will be safe to make a simple trip to the grocery store, fearing checkpoints where they'll be pulled over and have to show their documentation.

Trump's remarks were felt sharply in California, which produces nearly half the country's fruits, vegetables and nuts valued of \$47 billion annually. Experts say his words resonate nationwide.

Texas, Florida and Georgia are examples of states with large migrant communities dominating home construction, health care, food service industries, said David Zonderman, a labor historian at North Carolina State University.

"California might be ground zero," he said of immigrant families living in the shadows. "But it's not a unique California issue."

The fear stems from Trump's campaign rallies, where he received a rousing response each time he vowed to deport people who are in the country illegally — up to 11 million. That position softened after Trump won the election, when he said he'd start with 3 million with criminal records.

Some farmers point to Trump's postelection shift as a sign his campaign bluster won't become reality. He is, after all, a businessman like them, they say. But others believe this shift underscores the president-elect's unpredictable nature.

"Our workers are scared," said Joe Garcia, a farm labor contractor who hires up to 4,000 people each year to pick grapes from Napa to Bakersfield and along the Central Coast. "If they're concerned, we're concerned."

Since Election Day, Garcia's crews throughout the state have been asking what will happen to them

when Trump takes office. Farmers also are calling to see if they'll need to pay more to attract people to prune the vines, he said.

Garcia tells farmers not to panic. They'll learn how many return from Mexico after the holidays. "We'll plan around what we have," he tells them. "That's all we can do."

Roughly 325,000 workers in California do the back-breaking jobs that farmers say nobody else will do, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Manuel Cunha Jr., president of the Nisei Farmers League farming association, estimates 85 percent of California farmworkers live in the United States illegally.

Farmers for years have scrambled under a shrinking labor pool.

Mexico's improving economy has slowed the flow of migrant workers. The dangerous border, controlled by drug cartels and human traffickers, keeps away others.

Herman, the farmer who bought three new almond sweepers, said Trump influenced him on top of California's rising minimum wage and a new law giving farm laborers overtime rights that are equal to workers in other industries.

Plus, Herman said, he's heard too many workers question whether they'll return from their holiday trips to Mexico. "It's stories like that that have motivated me to become efficient and upgrade my equipment," Herman said.

Tom Nassif, a Trump adviser and president of the powerful trade association Western Growers, said farmers shouldn't fear the president-elect. Trump isn't interested in deporting their workers, he said.

Nassif said he isn't privy to the details of Trump's immigration policy. He's recommended that Trump allow farmworkers to stay by putting immigrants in the country illegally who are otherwise law-abiding residents on a period of probation under conditions that they pay taxes, learn English and obey all laws.

"I think he's looking at people who have committed more serious crimes and start with them first — and rightly so," said Nassif, picked by Trump's campaign team to serve on an agriculture advisory committee. "I think there's less reason to worry than most people believe there is."

## **Official: Train derailment investigation could take days**

NEW YORK (AP) — It could take days before it is known why a Long Island Rail Road train crashed at the end of a platform as it pulled into a major transportation hub, injuring 100 people, federal transportation investigators said.

The packed, rush-hour train crashed as it entered Atlantic Terminal in Brooklyn on Wednesday morning, hurling passengers onto the floor and slamming them into each other. Many had been standing as they prepared to get off the train at the last stop.

National Transportation Safety Board investigator Jim Southworth said it will take three to seven days to investigate the accident scene before they determine what caused it.

He said event recorders have been recovered and the train's engineer has undergone drug testing. The results of that testing aren't known yet.

The front of the slow-moving train hit a bumping block as it pulled into the terminal, left the tracks and smashed into a small structure, apparently a work area. A rail pierced the floor of a train car, authorities said.

About 100 people were treated for minor injuries after the 8:30 a.m. crash. The most serious injury appeared to be a broken leg, Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

"The entire structure started shaking," said Steben Medina, who was having coffee at the terminal when he heard the crash and screams. "I thought a bomb had gone off or something."

Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo said: "Luckily ... all things considered, this was a relatively minor accident."

The terminal is beneath a shopping mall in downtown Brooklyn, next to the Barclays Center, home to Brooklyn Nets basketball, New York Islanders hockey and major concerts.

A similar accident in nearby Hoboken, New Jersey, in September was much worse. There, a New Jersey Transit commuter train plowed off the end of a track, killing a woman standing in the station. Federal investigators are examining whether a more modern bumper or other barriers could have made a difference.

The train in Wednesday's wreck originated in the Far Rockaway section of Queens and was carrying around 450 people, officials said.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority Chairman Thomas Prendergast said there is "a signal system that controls (trains) coming in at limited speeds. But when you're getting to the end it's the locomotive engineer's responsibility. And the train's brakes have to work. All those things have to be looked at in the investigation."

"People just went flying," passenger Donette Smith told The New York Times. "It was very scary."

## **Train crashes at end of platform; 100 people injured**

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Some people were removed on stretchers. Others sat, stunned, on the pavement outside, bleeding, holding ice packs on their heads, rising and limping away with help from rescuers.

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The National Transportation Safety Board dispatched investigators. NTSB investigator Jim Southworth said it will take three to seven days to investigate the accident scene before they determine what caused it.

He said event recorders have been recovered and the train's engineer has undergone drug testing. The results of that testing aren't known yet.

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that controls it coming in at limited speeds. But when you're getting to the end it's the locomotive engineer's responsibility. And the train's brakes have to work. All those things have to be looked at in the investigation."

## **Train crashes at end of platform; 100 people injured**

NEW YORK (AP) — A packed Long Island Rail Road rush hour train crashed at the end of a platform as it pulled into a major transportation hub on Wednesday, hurling passengers onto the floor and slamming them into each other.

The front of the slow-moving train hit a bumping block as it pulled into Atlantic Terminal in Brooklyn, left the tracks and smashed into a small structure, apparently a work area. A rail pierced the floor of a train car, authorities said.

About 100 people were treated for minor injuries after the 8:30 a.m. crash. Many had been standing as they prepared to get off the train at the last stop.

Some people were removed on stretchers. Others sat, stunned, on the pavement outside, bleeding, holding ice packs on their heads, rising and limping away with help from rescuers.

"The entire structure started shaking," said Steben Medina, who was having coffee at the terminal when he heard the crash and screams. "I thought a bomb had gone off or something."

The most serious injury, though, appeared to be a broken leg, Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo said: "Luckily ... all things considered, this was a relatively minor accident."

The terminal is beneath a shopping mall in downtown Brooklyn, next to the Barclays Center, home to Brooklyn Nets basketball, New York Islanders hockey and major concerts.

A similar accident in nearby Hoboken, New Jersey, in September was much worse. There, a New Jersey Transit commuter train plowed off the end of a track, killing a woman standing in the station. Federal investigators are examining whether a more modern bumper or other barriers could have made a difference.

The train in Wednesday's wreck originated in the Far Rockaway section of Queens and was carrying around 450 people, officials said.

"People just went flying," passenger Donette Smith told The New York Times. "It was very scary."

The National Transportation Safety Board dispatched investigators. NTSB investigator Jim Southworth said it will take three to seven days to investigate the accident scene before they determine what caused it.

He said event recorders have been recovered and the train's engineer has undergone drug testing. The results of that testing aren't known yet.

Metropolitan Transportation Authority Chairman Thomas Prendergast said there is "a signal system that controls it coming in at limited speeds. But when you're getting to the end it's the locomotive engineer's responsibility. And the train's brakes have to work. All those things have to be looked at in the investigation."

## **Chicago gang trial brings 6 convictions after deadly 2016**

**By MICHAEL TARM, Associated Press**

CHICAGO (AP) — Jurors who heard the biggest gang trial in recent Chicago history on Wednesday convicted the core leadership of the Hobos, a group described by prosecutors as an "all-star team" of criminals whose ruthlessness reflected the kind of violence that led to the city's alarming spike in homicides.

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To extend their power on the South Side, prosecutors said, the Hobos cultivated a reputation for brutality so terrifying to witnesses that some chose to go to jail rather than provide evidence against gang leaders.

The Hobos gang was "as bad as it gets," U.S. Attorney Zachary Fardon said after the verdicts, explaining that the six defendants led a gang that was integral to a cycle of violence that often begins with the recruitment of small boys seeking a sense of security and belonging.

The conspiracy allegedly involved the murders of at least nine people, including gang rivals and government witnesses. One victim was fatally shot in 2013 in front of his screaming stepchildren to stop him from testifying at the trial. Another incident involved the robbery of NBA player Bobby Simmons at gunpoint outside a nightclub for a \$200,000 diamond-and-gold chain.

After hearing three months of testimony, jurors deliberated for six days before returning with a decision against accused Hobos boss Gregory "Bowlegs" Chester, alleged gang hitman Paris Poe and four others. All now face the prospect of life in prison when sentenced on June 23.

Poe looked over his shoulder at spectators during the reading of the verdicts, and he smiled as the jury left the courtroom. Chester hugged his lawyer before being led away to jail with his co-defendants. Tight security included keeping jurors' names permanently sealed.

Some witnesses were visibly nervous as they took the stand. One refused outright to speak against the gang, telling the judge, "I choose not to testify for the sake of me and my family." The witness was held in contempt and given a 60-day sentence.

The convictions followed a bloody year on the streets of Chicago. The nation's third-largest city logged 762 homicides in 2016, the highest tally in 20 years and more than the combined total of the two largest cities — New York and Los Angeles.

Fardon said the verdicts should send a message to communities terrorized by gangs "that society cares" and "that somebody is here to punch back."

Defense attorneys did not speak to reporters.

Police have said repeatedly that most of the city's homicides involve gang connections, perhaps as many as 80 percent. There are more than 150,000 street-gang members in Chicago, though many are not active, according to the Chicago Crime Commission, a non-governmental group that advocates for law enforcement.

Racketeering laws used against the Hobos and other gangs enable prosecutors to go after individuals, not necessarily for specific crimes but for their leadership of groups that displayed patterns of illicit activity over years. The onus at the Hobos trial was on prosecutors to prove not only that the six men committed crimes, but that they coordinated their crimes.

Experts said an underlying cause of gang violence was the demolition of public housing starting in the 1990s that dispersed gang members into rival-gang neighborhoods. Others pointed to an unintended consequence of prosecuting gang leaders: Breaking up a gang's command structure leads to inter-gang rivalry that generates even more violence.

Other observers believe that the causes of violence are more varied, pointing to poverty and growing availability of high-caliber guns. And even when gang members are involved, deadly conflicts sometimes arise from insults or perceived slights rather than territorial disputes, gang expert John Hagedorn has argued.

The Hobos had fewer members than the Latin Kings, Vice Lords and other gangs. But they were well-organized, well-armed and quick to kill. Hits were often carried out in daylight, including one five-car drive-by shooting that killed two Black Disciple rivals outside a funeral home. Hours later, the Hobos celebrated the killings at a luxury hotel off Michigan Avenue, prosecutors said.



Poe was accused of killing a government witness named Keith Daniels, who was a gang associate-turned-informant, days after Chester's arrest and after Daniels testified to a grand jury in the racketeering case. According to prosecutors, he stood over Daniels and shot him more than a dozen times at close range as the man's 4-year-old stepdaughter and 6-year-old stepson looked on.

Chester, 39, was the only defendant to testify, insisting the Hobos gang did not even exist despite his full-arm tattoo emblazoned with the words: "Hobo: The Earth is Our Turf." And he said the supposed "Hobos horns" gang sign he flashed in photographs was merely a universal sign of celebration.

Born with badly deformed legs, Chester scoffed when asked if someone who struggled to walk could head a gang. "A crippled gang leader?" he answered. "No, sir."

Prosecutor Timothy Storino told jurors Chester led "not with his legs but with his head," calling him "smart as hell." Chester relied on others, sometimes children, to do the dirty work, authorities said.

Chester said he grew up poor in the now-demolished Robert Taylor projects where "only the strong survived" and faced ridicule because of his deformities. He described himself as a "hustler" who sold heroin, then invested in record labels and clubs. He said the other five defendants had nothing to do with his crimes and he had nothing to do with theirs.

Defense lawyer Beau Brindley told jurors that authorities manipulated evidence against Chester, likening the investigation to an archer who shoots an arrow and then draws a target around wherever it lands.

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Follow Michael Tarm on Twitter at @mtarm.

## **Tillerson leaving Exxon with \$180 million retirement package**

**By BERNARD CONDON and DAVID KOENIG, AP Business Writers**

NEW YORK (AP) — Rex Tillerson will get a \$180 million retirement package from Exxon Mobil Corp. if he is confirmed as President-elect Donald Trump's secretary of state.

Tillerson will give up more than 2 million Exxon shares he would have received over the next 10 years. In exchange, the company will make a cash payment equal to the value of those shares to a trust to be overseen by a third party.

Exxon said Wednesday that Tillerson has already promised the State Department that he will sell another 611,000 shares he currently owns, worth about \$55 million at Wednesday's price, if confirmed. His Senate confirmation hearing begins next week.

Tillerson's selection raised potential conflict-of-interest issues because Exxon has business interests around the globe, including Russia. Putting his retirement nest egg into a trust is intended to ease concerns that Tillerson could make decisions as secretary of state that would financially help himself or his former associates.

Federal ethics rules do not require government officials to sell off their investments but they must recuse themselves from matters that would affect those investments. Given Exxon's global operations, ownership of Exxon stock could severely limit Tillerson's actions as the nation's chief diplomat.

Tillerson's move comes as pressure mounts on Trump to make clear how he would separate himself from his company. Presidents are exempt from federal ethics rules, though most recent holders of the office have sold off their financial holdings and put them in trusts as if the rules did apply to them.

Trump has said he would hand management control of his business to his two adult sons, along with executives, but has given no indication he plans to sell his ownership interest in his company.

Tillerson has been CEO and chairman of the Irving, Texas, oil giant since 2006. Exxon spelled out the arrangement with Tillerson in a regulatory filing Wednesday with the Securities and Exchange Com-

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mission.

Edwin Williamson, a former State Department legal adviser who has reviewed the agreement, said that Tillerson agreed to put the cash he gets from Exxon in a trust that will invest only in Treasury securities and diversified mutual funds.

"They have eliminated anything that runs afoul of the conflicts-of-interest rule," said Williamson, a lawyer at Sullivan & Cromwell in Washington.

Democratic Sens. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, however, called Tillerson's payout egregious. Baldwin is proposing to ban corporate payments that are tied to an employee accepting a government job.

To avoid violating federal rules, business executives moving into top government jobs have often sold shares and created trusts as Tillerson is doing. This also gives them freedom to weigh in on policy without constantly consulting lawyers about the possible impact on their personal finances.

Henry Paulson, who was CEO of Goldman Sachs when President George W. Bush nominated him as Treasury secretary, sold about \$500 million worth of Goldman stock. His predecessor, former Alcoa chairman Paul O'Neill, sold his stock and options after first saying he should have been able to keep them.

Like presidents, vice presidents are exempt from federal ethics rules. After becoming vice president in 2001, Dick Cheney received payments and held stock options from his former oil-industry employer, Halliburton Co. The arrangement became a controversy because Halliburton was a major defense contractor.

Trump operates a sprawling global business with real estate holdings that aren't as easily divested as stock. In addition to handing over control to his adult son, he has said he won't make new deals while in the White House and will turn over his company to his adult sons and dissolve his charitable foundation.

Critics say that could leave Trump vulnerable to foreign governments that could try to influence him by rewarding or punishing his business interests in their countries. They say he should go much further and liquidate his assets and put the proceeds in a blind trust.

Because of the way Tillerson's compensation is being dispensed, he will give up about \$7 million compared with what he would have been paid if he retired in March as planned before Trump announced his cabinet nomination. Tillerson stepped down as CEO over the weekend.

Under the agreement, if Tillerson returns to the oil and gas industry within 10 years, the money in the trust will be paid out to a charity chosen by the controlling trustee.

Tillerson began his career at Exxon as a production engineer straight out of the University of Texas at Austin in 1975. He replaced longtime CEO Lee Raymond in 2006 and led the company during one of the most turbulent periods in its history, including its most profitable years but also the 2008 financial crisis and the slump in oil prices that began in mid-2014 that sharply cut into Exxon's earnings.

Darren Woods, a 25-year Exxon veteran who had served as the company's president, took over as CEO on Sunday.

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Koenig reported from Dallas.

## Who hacked? Trump challenges intel agencies he'll oversee

By JULIE PACE and EILEEN SULLIVAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump on Wednesday escalated his blunt public challenge to the U.S. intelligence agencies he will soon oversee, appearing to embrace WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's contention that Russia did not provide his group with the hacked Democratic emails that roiled the 2016 election.

Trump's defiance has increased the pressure on intelligence officials to provide decisive evidence of Russian election interference. A full report was ordered by President Barack Obama last month, and Obama will receive the report and be briefed on it Thursday, according to a White House official who wasn't authorized to speak to reporters and requested anonymity. High-level intelligence officials are heading to New York Friday to brief Trump on the classified findings.

The Obama administration also plans to make an unclassified version public before the president leaves office Jan. 20.

Russia not only meddled in the election, but did so to help Trump win, according to the intelligence agencies' assessment. But the administration has so far released only limited information to support that conclusion. And in the absence of such public evidence, the president-elect has seized on some Americans' skepticism of U.S. intelligence in general, citing high-profile missteps that led to the Iraq war.

But this Trump campaign has so far been a lonely one in Washington. His views put him at odds with Obama and leaders in his own party who see Moscow as a growing threat. And they put him in line with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Assange, whose organization has been under criminal investigation for its role in classified information leaks. Since 2012, Assange has been in the Embassy of Ecuador in London, unable to leave without being arrested for breaching his bail conditions.

Taking to Twitter on Wednesday, Trump noted that Assange "said Russians did not give him the info" — referring to the trove of emails stolen from the Democratic National Committee and John Podesta, a top aide to Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Vice President-elect Mike Pence commended Trump for his "very sincere and healthy American skepticism."

"Given some of the intelligence failures of recent years, the president-elect's made it clear to the American people that he's skeptical of conclusions from the bureaucracy, and I think the American people hear him loud and clear," Pence said after a meeting on Capitol Hill with Republican lawmakers.

Trump is to be briefed on the hacking report Friday by CIA Director John Brennan, FBI Director James Comey and Director of National Intelligence James Clapper. Brennan, in an interview Tuesday with PBS NewsHour, said the report will include "what was collected, what was disclosed and what the purpose and intent of that effort was."

Clapper is testifying on Capitol Hill Thursday. But he could be limited in what he can say about the report's conclusions given that Trump — and perhaps Obama — may not have been briefed by that time.

Indisputable evidence of responsibility for hacking is difficult to come by and often technical. The information the administration has released so far does not lend itself to firm conclusions.

The most recent information has come from a joint analysis by the Homeland Security Department and the FBI that ties Russian government activities to the hacks of the DNC and others. The analysis includes a list of internet addresses identified by the administration as potentially tied to Russian hackers.

Many other addresses are untraceable. The Associated Press found at least 20 percent of the addresses had traced back to computer servers that help users browse the web anonymously, often for legitimate purposes. That web service, called Tor, was initially funded by the U.S. government and is

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now used prominently by activists and journalists working in hostile countries who need to keep their identities secret.

Other internet addresses released by DHS trace back to servers at several American universities, as well as tech giant Yahoo Inc. The government cautioned that the addresses weren't automatically tied to Russian malicious activity, but instead were indicators that computer security experts should investigate further.

Trump aides say that while he has received "raw data" on the Russian hacking, he is skeptical of the conclusions being drawn.

Steven Hall, a retired chief of Russia operations at the CIA, set expectations low for the public hacking report, saying agencies typically lean toward protecting intelligence-gathering techniques.

"The more information that is revealed, the more likely it is that sources and methods could be compromised, thereby limiting our ability to collect in the future," Hall said.

At the White House, press secretary Josh Earnest noted that all 17 U.S. intelligence agencies had agreed on the assessment about Russia's activities and added of Trump: "Who are you going to believe?"

"The decision he makes about that I think will have long-term consequences for the way he chooses to govern the country," Earnest said.

Indeed, Trump's challenges to the intelligence community since winning the election have been striking. The nature of the presidency gives the commander in chief discretion to decide how to respond to intelligence assessments. But any skepticism about the agencies' conclusions usually plays out privately in the Situation Room and Oval Office, not on Twitter .

Trump's posture has appeared to be driven in part by concern that evidence of Russian meddling would raise questions about the legitimacy of his election.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., one of his party's fiercest Russia critics, said the issue was not about the validity of the election, but "the fact that a foreign entity hacked into a political party."

"When you compromise one political party, you compromise all political parties," Graham said.

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Associated Press writers Tami Abdollah, Jack Gillum Laurie Kellman, Deb Riechmann and Josh Lederman contributed to this report.

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Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Eileen Sullivan at <http://twitter.com/esullivanap>

## **Charles Manson's cult left 7 dead and killed a dream, too**

**By JOHN ROGERS and SCOTT SMITH, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The seven grisly murders carried out by Charles Manson's disciples during the summer of 1969 did more than turn the hippie cult leader into the leering face of evil on front pages across America.

To many, the bloodbath exposed the scary underside of the counterculture movement and seemed to mark the end of the peace-and-love era that burst upon the country just two years earlier during San Francisco's Summer of Love.

"The 'Summer of Love' was more a media event than anything else," Todd Gitlin, one of the nation's foremost historians of the 1960s, told The Associated Press in an email Wednesday. "But if hippie paradise was a myth, it was a myth that a lot of people believed in. Manson damaged it gravely."

On Wednesday, Manson, now a grizzled, shuffling 82-year-old, lay hospitalized with an undisclosed

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illness after being taken from California's Corcoran State Prison, where he was serving a life sentence, according to news reports that correction officials would not confirm, citing privacy laws.

His reappearance in the news conjured a turbulent period in U.S. history when the country seemed to be coming apart at the seams.

A petty criminal who had been in and out of jail since childhood, Manson reinvented himself during the Summer of Love as a long-haired, Christ-like guru spouting Bible verses and Beatles lyrics.

After attracting a few dozen followers from San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district, many of them young women, runaways or other lost souls, he took them to an old movie ranch on the edge of Los Angeles that he transformed into a commune of sex, drugs and music.

On Aug. 9 and 10, 1969, he sent some of his devotees out on a murderous mission to two of Los Angeles' wealthiest neighborhoods, where they killed pregnant actress Sharon Tate, several of her society friends and others. Most of the victims, including coffee heiress Abigail Folger, were stabbed.

Tate's husband, Oscar-winning director Roman Polanski, was out of the country at the time.

Authorities would learn that Manson had hoped the killings would touch off a race war. He had apparently gotten the idea from a twisted reading of the hard-rocking Beatles song "Helter Skelter."

The slayings shocked the country with their savagery. Messages like "Pigs" and a misspelled "Helter Skelter" were scrawled in the victims' blood on their walls and doors, and the city was paralyzed in fear. Residents of Los Angeles' nearby Laurel Canyon neighborhood, then a haven for musicians, began locking their doors.

The youngest member of the original Manson Family, Leslie Van Houten, a teenage runaway and former homecoming princess from a Los Angeles suburb, said he had brainwashed her and others with sex, LSD, constant readings from the Bible, repeated playings of the Beatles' "White Album" and rambling lectures about triggering a revolution.

Like other surviving followers who took part in the killings, Van Houten is serving a life sentence for murder. A parole board recommended her release last year but was overruled by Gov. Jerry Brown.

Another Manson Family member, Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, was never charged in the so-called Tate-La Bianca murders but went to prison later for trying to assassinate President Gerald Ford in 1975. Fromme, whose gun didn't fire, was paroled in 2009 after 34 years behind bars.

After Manson and his followers were caught, the nation got a front-page look at his piercing, demonic stare and the Nazi swastika he carved into his forehead during his trial.

The killings — along with a deadly stabbing in December 1969 at a free concert headlined by the Rolling Stones at the Altamont Speedway outside San Francisco — contributed to the sense that the era of peace and love that seemed to reach a high point at Woodstock in the summer of 1969 was over, the dream turned into a nightmare.

But in her book "The White Album," writer Joan Didion indicated people living in Los Angeles at that time shouldn't have been that surprised.

"This mystical flirtation with the idea of 'sin' — this sense that it was possible to go 'too far,' and that many people were doing it — was very much with us in Los Angeles in 1968 and 1969," she wrote. "A demented and seductive vortical tension was building in the community. The jitters were setting in."

During a 2013 Rolling Stone interview, Manson had seemingly lost none of his attitude — "If I can touch you, I can kill you," he told reporter Erik Hedegaard — but did not appear to be aging well.

"He's an old man with a nice head of gray hair but bad hearing, bad lungs, and chipped-and-fractured, prison-dispensed bad dentures," Hedegaard wrote, adding that Manson shuffled when he walked and used a cane.



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## Obama, Pence harden 'Obamacare' battle lines at Capitol

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hardening battle lines for the brawl to come, President Barack Obama urged congressional Democrats to "look out for the American people" in defending his legacy health care overhaul, while Vice President-elect Mike Pence stood firm Wednesday in telling Republicans that dismantling "Obamacare" is No. 1 on Donald Trump's list.

"We're going to be in the promise-keeping business," Pence declared at two separate Capitol news conferences. Just 16 days before Trump takes over the Oval Office, he said repealing and replacing Obama's law will be the president-elect's "first order of business."

"The American people voted decisively for a better future for health care in this country, and we are determined to give them that," Pence said.

Outnumbered in the new Congress, Democrats didn't sound confident in stopping the Republicans cold but signaled they wouldn't make the GOP's job any easier. New Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said that if the Republicans do scuttle the health care law, they will have to come up with a replacement plan before Democrats consider whether to help them revamp the system.

That adds pressure on Republicans, who for years have battled among themselves over what a new law would look like, including how to finance its programs and whether to keep Obama's expansion of Medicaid for more lower-income people.

"They're repealing, we're not. It's their obligation to come up with a replacement," Schumer said, a sentiment he said he believed Democrats shared unanimously.

Obama and Pence held dueling strategy sessions with lawmakers at the Capitol as the new Republican-led Congress commenced its drive to dissolve the health care statute. The 2010 overhaul, which has extended coverage to 20 million people and reshaped the nation's \$3 trillion-a-year health care system, has long stood as one of Obama's proudest triumphs and the ascendant GOP's top target for extinction.

"Despite the negativity you have a big chunk of the country that wants this thing to succeed," Obama told Democrats, according to an aide who attended Wednesday's session.

The two sides traded insults through the day.

"Don't let the Schumer clowns out of this web," Trump wrote on Twitter.

Said Schumer: "The Republican plan to cut health care wouldn't make America great again, it would make America sick again."

Previewing an attack line sure to be heard again in this year's debate, House Minority Leader Nancy

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Pelosi said the GOP is aiming to also scuttle Medicaid and Medicare, going after programs that are "very personal in the lives of the American people."

Even with White House and congressional control, annulling "Obamacare" and replacing it looms as a daunting task for the GOP.

Leaders hope to have legislation voiding much of the law on Trump's desk by late next month, Republicans said. But after six years of failing to unite behind an alternative, GOP leaders are discussing postponing when repeal would take effect for 18 months or longer, allowing more time to craft replacement legislation.

Underscoring the law's widespread constituency, the Obama administration said at least 8.8 million people signed up through Dec. 31 for coverage in 2017. Even so, outside experts doubt the administration will meet its nationwide target of 13.8 million signups.

Millions more have coverage under the statute's Medicaid expansion.

Trump has provided few details about how he would redesign the law, but has said he wants to retain popular provisions like ensuring coverage for people with pre-existing medical problems.

Republicans will also need to figure out how to protect health coverage for millions of Americans during a transition period and how to avoid market-place bedlam as nervous insurance companies stop selling policies or boost rates. Seemingly acknowledging that danger, Trump tweeted warnings to GOP lawmakers.

"Massive increases of ObamaCare will take place this year and Dems are to blame for the mess," he wrote. "It will fall of its own weight — be careful!"

Republicans said Pence told them in their private meeting to argue that Democrats broke the health care system and Republicans will fix it.

Trump's team is already working with GOP congressional leaders on plans to undo Obama's law with both legislation and executive action that the president and federal agencies would be able to take, Pence said. Lawmakers said that according to Pence, Trump would sign some orders the day he takes office.

Pence did not specify what those actions would be. But House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., told reporters they would involve "transition relief."

In the Democrats' meeting, Obama accepted some blame for not sufficiently promoting it.

"The president said, I guess we all could have done a better job of messaging to the American people," said Rep. Joe Crowley, D-N.Y.

Obama made his remark about looking out for the American people as he left the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Senate voted 51-48 Wednesday to begin debating a budget that, once approved, will prevent Democrats from using a filibuster to block future Republican legislation to void the health care law.

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

The Senate is expected to complete the budget by next week, with House approval to follow.

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Associated Press reporters Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Erica Werner, Mary Clare Jalonick, Richard Lardner, Stephen Ohlemacher, Kevin Freking and Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.

## Church gunman insists to jury that he is not mentally ill

By MEG KINNARD, Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Dylann Roof spoke Wednesday for the first time to the jurors who will decide whether he should be executed for fatally shooting nine black parishioners during a Bible study, insisting that he is not mentally ill and forgoing a chance to plead for his life.

The soft-spoken 22-year-old white man told the jury that he was not trying to keep any secrets from them. He did not offer remorse or seek forgiveness or ask them to spare him from a lethal injection.

"My opening statement is going to seem a little bit out of place," Roof said calmly as he delivered the brief remarks at a podium, occasionally glancing at notes. "I am not going to lie to you. ... Other than the fact that I trust people that I shouldn't and the fact that I'm probably better at constantly embarrassing myself than anyone who's ever existed, there's nothing wrong with me psychologically."

Shortly before Roof's statement, prosecutors presented a jailhouse journal in which he wrote that he did not regret the massacre or "shed a tear" for the dead.

Roof's attorneys have indicated that he chose to represent himself during the sentencing phase of his trial because he was worried his legal team might present embarrassing evidence about himself or his family. As early as last summer, they said they planned to introduce evidence that Roof suffers from mental illness, and they hinted at that idea again during closing arguments of the trial's guilt-or-innocence stage.

"I would ask you to forget it," Roof told jurors, referring to what his lawyers said then.

Prosecutors said Roof deserves the death penalty because he painstakingly chose to target vulnerable people at Emanuel AME Church in the June 2015 attack. He sat with church members for about 45 minutes and waited until their eyes were closed in prayer before opening fire. He told Polly Sheppard that he wanted to leave her alive to tell the world that he attacked a historic black church because blacks were "raping our women and taking over the nation."

Two other people also survived.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathan Williams said the "horrific acts justify the death penalty."

"He killed nine people. ... He killed them because of the color of their skin. He killed them because they were less than people," Williams said.

The panel has heard from Roof before in the form of his confession to the FBI and his racist manifesto. And on Wednesday, prosecutors read from the journal found in Roof's jail cell six weeks after his arrest. His handwritten words were projected on screens in the courtroom.

"I remember how I felt when I did these things and how I knew I had to do something and then I realize it was worth it," he wrote. "I would like to make it crystal clear. I do not regret what I did. I have not shed a tear for the innocent people I killed."

From his writings, it's clear that Roof does not believe in psychology. In one of his journals, he called the field "a Jewish invention" that "does nothing but invent diseases and tell people they have problems when they don't."

Prosecutors plan to call up to 38 people related to the slain and the survivors. The first witness to testify was Jennifer Pinckney, the widow of Clementa Pinckney, a state senator and pastor at Emanuel AME.

During more than two hours on the stand, Pinckney described her husband as an affable figure who was widely respected as a state legislator and preacher and who was a goofy family man in private with his two young daughters.

"He always made time for the family, and he always made time for the girls," said Pinckney, describing her husband's affinity for cartoonish neckties and socks. "He was the person I think that every mom

would be happy that their daughter met and married. ... I know that he loved me. And he knew how much that I loved him."

She talked about the night of the shootings, saying she and her then-6-year-old daughter, Malana, were in her husband's office when gunfire erupted. She locked the doors, shoved her daughter under a desk and put her hand over her daughter's mouth.

"She was like, 'Mama, is Daddy going to die?' And I told her, 'Malana, be quiet.'"

She said she believed she survived the shootings because she was meant to continue her husband's legacy, part of which involved fighting to get the Confederate flag removed entirely from the South Carolina Statehouse, which happened about a month after the attack.

"Yes the flag came down and so forth, but he just did so much," she said. "You can't please everyone. He tried to please as many people as he could."

Pinckney was not asked whether she thought Roof deserved the death penalty. Some family members of victims have offered forgiveness. Others have said they are undecided.

When it was Roof's turn to cross-examine Pinckney, he said, "No questions."

Roof has said he does not plan on calling any witnesses or introducing any evidence.

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

## Top Senate Dem warns Trump on Supreme Court pick

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The top Democrat in the Senate is warning President-elect Donald Trump about his eventual Supreme Court choice: Name a "mainstream" nominee or Democrats will oppose the individual "with everything we have."

"My worry is, with the hard right running the show, that the likelihood of the nominee being mainstream is decreasing every day," Sen. Chuck Schumer said Wednesday.

Asked to define mainstream, Schumer said, "You know it when you see it."

Schumer's comments foreshadow the fierce political fight over Trump's choice for a lifetime job on a court whose rulings have the most far-reaching implications. The president-elect has said he wants to appoint a nominee to help overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark 1973 decision that legalized abortion.

The New York Democrat made the comments a day after saying on MSNBC's "The Rachel Maddow Show" that Democrats will "absolutely" do their best to keep the Supreme Court seat open if Trump doesn't nominate someone whom Democrats could support.

The seat has been vacant for 11 months since the death of Justice Antonin Scalia last February. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., blocked consideration of President Barack Obama's nominee, Judge Merrick Garland, saying the next president should make the pick. The strategy paid off, and the Republican Senate will consider whomever Trump nominates.

With the prospect of a Republican president making the choice, McConnell pushed back on Schumer's comments about leaving the seat vacant.

"Apparently there's yet a new standard now, which is to not confirm a Supreme Court nominee at all," McConnell told reporters. "I think that's something the American people simply will not tolerate."

As minority leader, Schumer won't have the same power as McConnell to block a nominee. But his words signal that Democrats could filibuster and force Republicans to round up 60 votes to move ahead. That will be a challenge for the GOP since they only hold 52 seats.

If Republicans can't get enough Democratic votes, then they do have another option — change the



rules and curb the filibuster for Supreme Court nominees. Former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., did that for lower court nominees and other nominations in 2013.

Schumer said on Maddow's show that Garland, Obama's unsuccessful pick, was "a very moderate, mainstream nominee." Garland has been considered a liberal-leaning moderate in his years on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Democrats have spent much of the last year criticizing Republicans for blocking Garland, insisting there should be a full slate of nine judges on the court. Republicans declined to even hold hearings on Garland's nomination.

Schumer said his comments are "absolutely not" referring to the same type of obstruction tactics that Democrats blamed Republicans for in the last year.

"We have said that we will oppose nominees who are out of the mainstream, plain and simple," he said. "We haven't talked about hearings, we haven't talked about any of these other issues."

Schumer said he hadn't yet reviewed a list of potential nominees that Trump circulated during the campaign, and said he wouldn't comment on specific names.

In response to Schumer's comments, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said he thinks it's "all the more important" that Trump choose someone who has been previously confirmed by the Senate by a decent margin. He indicated he believes federal court of appeals judges — like Garland — will be among those who will be strongly considered.

"I think both opponents and proponents of filling the vacancy are going to want it filled as fast as they can," Grassley told Iowa reporters.

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Associated Press writer David Pitt in Des Moines, Iowa contributed to this report.

## **Hiding, feigning death: Surviving Turkish nightclub massacre**

**By DUSAN STOJANOVIC and CINAR KIPER, Associated Press**

ISTANBUL (AP) — The survivors huddled atop a giant industrial freezer in terrified silence as the Islamic State gunman entered the nightclub kitchen. Wiping his Kalashnikov free of fingerprints, he didn't see them as he changed clothes and put on a Santa hat.

Then smearing himself with the blood of New Year's revelers killed in the carnage minutes earlier, he left the kitchen and blended into the crowd of survivors being evacuated.

Inside one of Istanbul's most glamorous nightclubs, the attacker had just fired 180 rounds in seven minutes, killing 39 people.

A traffic jam had nearly thwarted his arrival an hour earlier and he jumped out to walk the last few hundred yards (meters) to the Reina club. His Kalashnikov concealed beneath his coat, he pulled the weapon out only when he was within easy range of the club's unarmed guards.

Ali Unal, the Reina co-owner, was having a smoke outside and talking on his cellphone. It was 1:20 a.m. and Unal thought the gunfire was just New Year's fireworks. Then bullets bounced off a heater in the entryway.

After killing a guard and a bystander, the attacker tossed a stun grenade and entered the club unopposed.

An hour of pure terror followed, according to the accounts of survivors interviewed by The Associated Press, as well as a review of surveillance video and reports in government-linked media.

Sprawling along the narrow strait that links Europe and Asia, the three-story Reina had five restaurants and curtained terraces cascading down to the edge of the Bosphorus Sea. When the assailant

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entered, it was packed with some 600 people.

Starting from the upper terraces, he opened fire as he crossed blue-lighted dance floors pulsating with rave music.

Some revelers fled to the seaside terraces and grabbed the long gray curtains to drop into the water below; others desperately sought hiding places. Many simply dropped to the ground as bodies fell over them, praying they wouldn't be seen.

"I caught a curtain," said Karim Nouredine, a 27-year-old Lebanese who was at the club with his girlfriend.

"I rappelled down and she followed me and I was able to escape," he said, speaking at the Beirut funeral of his friend, Elias Wardini, who was among those killed in the bloodbath. "I did not know what was going on inside, because I was out in the first 50 seconds and running toward the sea."

For Sabri Ozturk, one of the club's restaurant managers, time stretched agonizingly.

"The gunfire wouldn't cease," said Ozturk, whose wife and 19-year-old son had come to keep him company during the holiday shift. "They say seven minutes, but it felt like seven hours."

Ozturk dropped to the floor and shouted to his family to do the same.

"But it wasn't just them. It was everyone around them. Our feet and heads were on top of each other. My wife was beneath my arm. My hand was on my son's head because he is protesting. I'm closing his mouth, telling him to be silent."

They stayed that way for about an hour, Ozturk said. "Then the noise stopped, but is the terrorist inside? Is he going to detonate a bomb? You start thinking: He should just blow it up so it can be over. That's the state you are in."

Yunus Turk, a 25-year-old Frenchman at the Reina with his cousin, was hiding on the terrace as the gunman moved through the club. He grabbed a table and held it in front of him as a shield, hearing bullets ping off the metal.

"I was just trying to calm the people around me, so the shooters wouldn't notice us. Because I thought at the time that there had to be more than one. I would never have imagined that one person could do so much," 23-year-old Yussuf Kodat told France Television.

Security experts said the methodical attack was carried out by an experienced killer who emptied four machine gun cartridges in rapid succession, with magazines tied to each other for quicker action.

"I'm not just talking about a training camp, I'm talking he fought," said Michael Horowitz, a security analyst.

Most bullets hit upper torsos with deadly precision, and some people were shot point blank on the floor, according to witnesses and photos taken inside the club.

"I was shot when I was already on the ground. He was shooting people that he had already shot," William Raak, an American who was wounded, told NBC News.

Alaa Abd El Hai, a 30-year-old Arab Israeli dentist who had come to the club with three friends, was on the dance floor when the gunman opened fire. She thought the music stopped, but wasn't sure what happened to the DJs.

Sensing the shooter nearby, El Hai crawled 15 yards (meters) to the kitchen with one of her friends and other club-goers, desperately searching for a hiding place. They tried a storage room but it was locked. Then they saw the freezer. Big enough for all of them, but too high for everyone to reach.

The men climbed up first, then reached down for the women. El Hai wasn't sure exactly how many were crammed into the small space: Two Germans, two Iranians, two Turks, an Egyptian woman, she recalled.

Four rounds later, the gunman ran out of ammunition and went to the kitchen.

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"The Egyptian woman saw the attacker through small openings in a curtain coming to the kitchen with the weapon pointed at the head of another woman. Thank God he did not see us," El Hai said.

He spent 30 agonizing minutes wiping the Kalashnikov free of fingerprints then leaving it there along with his coat. He changed clothes, put on a Santa hat and blended into the panicked crowd — smearing himself with blood on his chest, and limping.

El Hai later learned that one of her friends, 18-year-old Layan Nasser, who became separated during the night's chaos, was among the dead.

When police stormed the building 40 minutes after the massacre began, they demanded that everyone put their hands up. The survivors, not sure they were really policemen and terrified of a second wave of shooting, did not immediately comply.

When the hundreds of people slowly evacuated into the street around 2:30 a.m., the shooter was among them. He hopped into a taxi unnoticed and remains at large.

The cab driver told investigators the man spoke on his cellphone in Turkish and had no money to pay for the ride, according to government-linked media.

Investigators later found 500 Turkish Lira (\$140) in the pocket of his coat back in the kitchen.

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Associated Press writers Neyran Elder in Istanbul, Areej Hazboun in Jerusalem and Lori Hinnant in Paris contributed to this report.

## 105-year-old Frenchman sets cycling record

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN, AP Sports Writer

SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES, France (AP) — Nearly a century ago, Robert Marchand was told by a coach that he should give up cycling because he would never achieve anything on a bike.

He proved that prediction wrong again on Wednesday.

In a skin-tight yellow and violet jersey, the 105-year-old Frenchman set a world record in the 105-plus age category -- created especially for the tireless veteran -- by riding 22.547 kilometers (14.010 miles) in one hour.

"I'm now waiting for a rival," he said.

Marchand had ridden faster in the past on the boards of the Velodrome National, a state of the art venue used to host the elite of track cycling. But he had warned before his latest attempt that his current form was not as good.

"I did not see the sign warning me I had 10 minutes left," Marchand said after his effort. "Otherwise I would have gone faster, I would have posted a better time. I'm not tired. I thought my legs would hurt, but they don't. My arms hurt, you have to hurt somewhere."

Three years ago at the same venue, Marchand covered 26.927 kilometers (16.731 miles) in one hour to better his own world record in the over-100s category.

Still, impressed fans and chanted "Robert, Robert" during the last minutes of his ride. Marchand received a standing ovation once he completed the last of his 92 laps and was then mobbed by dozens of cameramen and TV crews.

"He could have been faster but he made a big mistake. He has stopped eating meat over the past month after being shocked by recent reports on how animals are subjected to cruel treatment," Marchand's physiologist, Veronique Billat, told The Associated Press.

By way of comparison, the current overall world record for one hour is 54.526 kilometers (33.880 miles) set by British rider Bradley Wiggins in 2015. But Wiggins, who smashed the previous record us-

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ing the world's leading track cycling equipment, is now retired.

Marchand, who lives in a small flat in a Parisian suburb with a meager pension of about 900 euros (\$940), keeps pedaling and stretching every day. As if time had no effect on him.

"He's got two essential qualities. A big heart that pumps a lot of blood, and he can reach high heart beat values that are exceptional for his age," said Billat, a university professor. "If he starts eating meat again and builds more muscle, he can better this mark."

Marchand, a former firefighter who was born in 1911 in the northern town of Amiens, has lived through two world wars. He led an eventful life that took him to Venezuela, where he worked as a truck driver near the end of the 1940s. He then moved to Canada and became a lumberjack for a while.

Back in France in the 1960s, Marchand made a living through various jobs that left him with no time to practice sports.

He finally took up his bike again when he was 68 years old and began a series of cycling feats.

The diminutive Marchand — he is 1.52 meters (5-foot) tall and weighs 52 kilograms (115 pounds) — rode from Bordeaux to Paris, and Paris to Roubaix several times. He also cycled to Moscow from Paris in 1992 and set the record for someone over the age of 100 riding 100 kilometers (62 miles).

"If the president of his teenage club who told him he was not made for cycling because he was too small could see him today, he would kick himself," Marchand's coach and good friend Gerard Mistler told the AP.

According to Mistler, the secret behind Marchand's longevity relates to his healthy lifestyle: eating a lot of fruits and vegetables, no smoking, just the occasional glass of wine and exercising on a daily basis.

"He never pushed his limits, goes to bed at 9 p.m. and wakes up at 6 a.m., there's no other secret," Mistler said. "If had been doping, he would not be there anymore."

To stay fit, Marchand rides every day on his home trainer and puts himself through outdoor training sessions on the road when the weather is good enough.

"One needs to keep his muscles working," said Marchand, a faithful reader of communist newspaper L'Humanite.

"Reading a lot keeps his mind alert," Mistler said. "He does not watch much TV, apart from the Tour de France stages."

At 105, Marchand is not making plans for the future. His coach would not be surprised to see him back on the boards, though.

"Setting goals for himself is part of his personality," Mistler said. "If he tells me he wants to improve his record, I'll be game. Robert is a great example for all of us."

## Israeli soldier's manslaughter conviction divides country

By ARON HELLER, Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — The rare manslaughter conviction Wednesday of an Israeli soldier who fatally shot a badly wounded Palestinian attacker exposed a deepening rift between proponents of the rule of law and a burgeoning nationalist movement.

The military court verdict against Sgt. Elor Azaria marked a victory for commanders seeking to preserve a code of ethics, but it also brought calls for a pardon from prominent hard-line politicians, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who expressed sympathy for the soldier or depicted him as the victim of a detached elite.

In a statement on Facebook, Netanyahu urged the public to "act responsibly" toward the military, Israel's most respected institution.

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"We have one army that is the basis for our existence. IDF soldiers are our sons and daughters, and they must remain above all disputes," he said. But making no direct mention of the military court, he said: "I support granting a pardon to Elor Azaria."

With the statement, Netanyahu plunged into a visceral dispute that has deeply divided Israel, where military service is compulsory and support for young soldiers is widespread.

Since the March shooting, the military leadership has come under unprecedented criticism, as members of Netanyahu's coalition accused top generals of abandoning a serviceman on the battlefield. The uproar helped fuel the resignation of Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon, who staunchly defended the army from the assault from within.

It is rare for a military court to rule against a soldier over lethal action taken in the field, not only in Israel but also elsewhere in the world. But for a country that claims to have the "most moral army in the world," it had no choice but to come down hard on a soldier that the top brass was convinced had strayed, said Amichai Cohen, a senior fellow at the nonpartisan Israeli Democracy Institute think tank.

"If you want the justice system to be taken seriously, you have to punish something like this," he said. "The court can't be influenced by the changing political climate."

Azaria, an army medic, was caught on video by a human rights worker fatally shooting Abdel Fattah al-Sharif, a wounded Palestinian attacker who had stabbed a soldier in the West Bank city of Hebron. Al-Sharif was on the ground, unarmed and virtually motionless, when Azaria fired a single bullet in his head as other soldiers milled about.

The head of the three-judge panel, Col. Maya Heller, broke down Azaria's defense arguments in painstaking detail in delivering the verdict over nearly three hours.

She said there was no evidence to support his conflicting claims that the attacker was either already dead or had posed a threat. She called Azaria's testimony "unreliable," said he could not have "both sides of the stick," and concluded the shooting was "needless."

"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."

That made little difference to Azaria's many supporters.

Outside military headquarters in Tel Aviv, hundreds of his backers held large Israeli flags, banners supporting Donald Trump and others that said "the nation neglected a soldier on the battlefield."

They periodically scuffled with police, and some chanted veiled death threats against the Israeli military chief, Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot. The Ynet news site said the judges and prosecutor would receive bodyguards. The army declined to comment.

Netanyahu's evening announcement came hours after other members of his coalition called for Azaria to be pardoned immediately.

"Today, a soldier who killed a terrorist who deserved to die and who had tried to slaughter a soldier was put in handcuffs and convicted like a criminal," said Education Minister Naftali Bennett, head of the pro-settler Jewish Home Party.

The coalition has had disputes with the legal system, trying to delay an order to uproot an illegally built West Banks settlement outpost and seeking to retroactively legalize dozens of other illegal outposts.

Azaria is scheduled to be sentenced Jan. 15 and could face up to 20 years in prison, though he is expected to receive less than that. Netanyahu's call for a pardon fueled what will be a heated debate over whether Azaria deserves leniency.

Under the law, only Israel's largely ceremonial president can issue a pardon. President Reuven Rivlin's office said he would decide only after the legal process, including an expected appeal, runs its course.



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The heightened tensions were on display in the cramped, stuffy courtroom. The 20-year-old Azaria entered smiling and appeared confident as he was embraced by a few dozen relatives and friends. But his mood quickly dampened as the judge began tearing apart his defense. As the verdict was delivered, he stared gloomily ahead as his supporters clapped sarcastically with some shouting, "Our hero!"

A female relative was kicked out for screaming at the judges, while another 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 as she wailed. Another family member whipped his jacket at a reporter, missing his target and hitting another relative.

The shooting of al-Sharif occurred at the height of what has become a more than yearlong wave of Israeli-Palestinian violence and highlighted the difficulties facing young recruits operating in densely populated areas amid Jewish West Bank settlers, Palestinian civilians and potential attackers.

Azaria's supporters said he fired in self-defense. But his detractors, including senior military commanders, have said his actions were unbecoming of a soldier.

The uproar put the army in a delicate position. The military almost always defends the actions of its troops, but the strong video made the incident impossible to ignore. The army also is wary of becoming politicized, and in several cases, leading generals have feuded with hard-line political leaders.

One of Azaria's most vocal supporters, Cabinet minister Miri Regev, herself a former military spokeswoman, said the verdict could deter young Israelis from serving in combat units for fear of being abandoned.

Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman, who had visited Azaria in court in solidarity, tried to temper tensions by saying that while he disagreed with the "difficult" verdict, it must be respected.

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

Israeli rights groups have accused the army of failing to prosecute soldiers who commit unnecessary violence against Palestinians.

It was just the second such conviction "in recent years," the army said. The first involved a soldier convicted in the death of a pro-Palestinian British activist in 2004.

"I felt that the court picked up the knife from the ground and stabbed it in the back of all the soldiers," said former legislator Sharon Gal, who is now the Azaria family spokesman.

Palestinians and rights groups praised the verdict, but called it an anomaly, given the many other questionable shootings that have gone untried.

Yusuf Mahmoud, spokesman for the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, said the conviction "proved the sincerity of the Palestinian narrative and the lies of the Israeli narrative."

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Follow Aron Heller on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/aronhellerap](http://www.twitter.com/aronhellerap)

## Cruise ship operators bringing high tech to the high seas

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO, AP Retail Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — High technology is taking to the high seas.

Cruise ships are being outfitted with sensors and trackers, all to help crew members better anticipate passengers' needs and whims.

Carnival Corp., the operator of cruise lines including its namesake, Princess, and Holland America, unveiled the new concierge technology at the CES gadget show in Las Vegas on Wednesday. It's scheduled to debut on the Regal Princess cruise ship in November.

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With it, the door to your cabin will to unlock automatically as you approach wearing your personalized tracking medallion. The wait staff can bring your favorite cocktail before you even ask.

This type of personalization is important as cruise ships get bigger and come across as impersonal, says Mike Driscoll, editor-in-chief of Cruise Week, an industry publication.

It can also help cruise companies attract more first-timers, including tech-savvy millennials.

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.

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

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.

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."

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, it could make life on the ship "just easier."

Miami-based 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.

It 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 uses Assange to cast doubt on US intel case on hacking

By JULIE PACE and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump appeared to side with controversial WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange over U.S. intelligence officials Wednesday, citing the activist's assertion that Russia did not provide his organization with the hacked Democratic emails that roiled the 2016 election.

Trump's latest challenges to the intelligence community — which has assessed that Russia interfered in the election on the Republican's behalf — comes as the government rushes to finish a highly anticipated report on the hacking. The president-elect is expected to be briefed on the report Friday by CIA Director John Brennan, FBI Director James Comey and Director of National Intelligence James Clapper.

Clapper is also testifying on Capitol Hill Thursday. But he could be limited in what he can say about the report's conclusions given that Trump — and perhaps President Barack Obama, who ordered the report — will not have been briefed by the time he steps before lawmakers.

The gulf between the intelligence community's assessment and the public information available to support that assessment has given Trump an opening to question whether Russia was behind hacking of the Democratic National Committee and John Podesta, a top aide to campaign rival Hillary Clinton. Trump's resistance has put him at odds with Obama and lawmakers in both parties, raising questions about why an incoming American president appears to believe Russia's denials over the intelligence agencies he will soon oversee.

Trump's posture has appeared to stem in part from concerns that the allegations of Russian election interference delegitimized his victory. But Trump aides have argued Trump's position isn't personal, but based on what he sees as incomplete or inconclusive information.

Spokesman Sean Spicer said Wednesday that Trump has received "raw data" on the hacking during daily intelligence briefings. But he said the president-elect was "more skeptical of the conclusions that are drawn."

Vice President-elect Mike Pence, who met with lawmakers on Capitol Hill Wednesday, said Trump was expressing "his very sincere and healthy American skepticism" about intelligence conclusions.

"Given some of the intelligence failures of recent years the president-elect's made it clear to the American people that he's skeptical of conclusions from the bureaucracy and I think the American people hear him loud and clear," Pence said.

The nature of the presidency gives the commander in chief discretion to decide how to respond to intelligence assessments. But any skepticism about the agencies' conclusions usually plays out privately in the Situation Room and Oval Office, not on Twitter — Trump's main forum for challenging the intelligence community and others.

On Wednesday morning, Trump tweeted about a Fox News interview in which Assange denied Russia provided WikiLeaks with Podesta's emails. WikiLeaks released thousands of Podesta's files throughout the final weeks of the presidential election.

"Julian Assange said 'a 14 year old could have hacked Podesta' — why was DNC so careless? Also said Russians did not give him the info!" Trump wrote.

It was remarkable for the incoming president to give credibility to Assange, whose organization has been under criminal investigation for its role in classified information leaks. Assange has said his source

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for the hacked emails WikiLeaks published during the campaign was not a government, but his assertion has left open the possibility they came from a third party.

On Tuesday night, Trump cast more doubt on U.S. intelligence agencies by saying his briefing on the hacking report has been delayed. "Perhaps more time needed to build a case," he wrote.

Trump's tweets caused 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.

He announced that he wants Wall Street lawyer Jay Clayton to be chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, saying in a statement that his pick is "a highly talented expert on many aspects of financial and regulatory law."

Trump has repeatedly said he wants to undo many regulations that he says have "stifled investment" in Americans' businesses. Clayton, in a statement, said he'll "carefully monitor" the financial sector and set policies that encourages companies to create jobs.

Clayton is the latest Trump pick with deep ties to Wall Street — having represented Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Barclays Capital Inc.

On Capitol Hill, meanwhile, Pence told Republicans that Trump has signaled that "it's time to get to work" and plans to have a shorter-than-usual 90-minute Inaugural parade on Jan. 20 and then go straight to the Oval Office to begin signing executive orders repealing some of President Obama's actions. Pence did not specify the topics of the potential executive orders.

Trump also promised 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.

Transition officials said Wednesday that Trump would address his business during a wide-ranging press conference but it was not clear if he would fully outline how he plans to avoid potential conflicts of interest involving the Trump Organization after taking office.

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Associated Press writers Laurie Kellman, Julie Bykowicz, Erica Werner and Deb Riechmann in Washington contributed to this report.

## **Macy's to close stores, cut jobs amid weak sales**

**By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL, AP Business Writer**

Macy's says it is eliminating more than 10,000 jobs and plans to move forward with 68 store closures after a disappointing holiday shopping season. The department store chain also lowered its full-year earnings forecast.

The retailer said Wednesday that sales at its established stores fell 2.1 percent in November and December compared to the same period last year. Macy's Inc. pointed to changing consumer behavior and said its performance reflects the challenges that are facing much of the retail industry.

As if to underscore that point, Kohl's Corp. also reported disappointing holiday shopping numbers Wednesday.

Macy's said the 68 store closures, which span the nation, are part of the 100 closings it announced in August. Of the 68, three were closed by the middle of 2016, 63 will close in the spring and two will be closed by the middle of 2017.

Some employees may be offered positions at nearby stores, but Macy's estimates that 3,900 employ-

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ees will be affected by the closures.

Macy's also said it plans to restructure parts of its business and sell some properties. This will lead to the reduction of 6,200 jobs. The moves are estimated to save \$550 million annually.

The company, which has been under pressure from investors to sell some of its valuable real estate, is selling or has sold three locations. It is leasing the properties back and will keep operating those stores.

Overall, Macy's said, the job reductions represent about 7 percent of its workforce.

The company, which owns the Macy's and Bloomingdale's brands, has been struggling with declining traffic in its stores, where the bulk of its business is still conducted.

Longtime CEO Terry Lundgren, who is stepping down early this year and will be succeeded by Macy's President Jeff Gennette, said in a statement the company is closing stores that are "unproductive or are no longer robust shopping destinations" as well as selling those with highly valued real estate.

Macy's has seen sales growth slow as it and other traditional department store chains face competition from online and off-price rivals. It has tried new ways to attract shoppers, such as by offering more exclusive products, designating areas featuring "smart watches" and launching an Apple shop at its flagship New York store in Herald Square.

The company said Wednesday it plans to invest some of its savings in growing its digital business.

It said it now expects to earn between \$2.95 and \$3.10 per share on an adjusted basis for its 2016 fiscal year, versus its prior forecast of \$3.15 to \$3.40 per share. The company is scheduled to report full results in February.

Shares in Macy's fell more than 10 percent to \$32.20 in after-hours trading.

Kohl's shares fell almost 15 percent to \$44.15 after it cut its earnings guidance for fiscal 2016. It now expects \$3.60 to \$3.65 a share on an adjusted basis, down from its previous forecast of \$3.80 to \$4.00 per share.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 5, the fifth day of 2017. There are 360 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 5, 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed assistance to countries to help them resist Communist aggression in what became known as the Eisenhower Doctrine.

On this date:

In 1781, a British naval expedition led by Benedict Arnold burned Richmond, Virginia.

In 1895, French Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, convicted of treason, was publicly stripped of his rank. (He was ultimately vindicated.)

In 1905, the National Association of Audubon Societies for the Protection of Wild Birds and Animals was incorporated in New York State.

In 1925, Democrat Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming took office as America's first female governor, succeeding her late husband, William, following a special election.

In 1933, the 30th president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, died in Northampton, Massachusetts, at age 60. Construction began on the Golden Gate Bridge. (Work was completed four years later.)

In 1949, in his State of the Union address, President Harry S. Truman labeled his administration the Fair Deal.

In 1953, the Samuel Beckett play "Waiting for Godot" premiered in Paris.



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In 1964, during a visit to the Holy Land, Pope Paul VI met with Patriarch Athenagoras I of Constantinople in Jerusalem.

In 1970, Joseph A. Yablonski, an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency of the United Mine Workers of America, was found murdered with his wife and daughter at their Clarksville, Pennsylvania, home. (UMWA President Tony Boyle and seven others were convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, the killings.) "All My Children" premiered on ABC-TV.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon announced that he had ordered development of the space shuttle.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan announced he was nominating Elizabeth Dole to succeed Drew Lewis as secretary of transportation; Dole became the first woman to head a Cabinet department in Reagan's administration, and the first to head the DOT.

In 1994, Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, former speaker of the House of Representatives, died in Boston at age 81.

Ten years ago: The White House announced a shuffling of U.S. military leaders in the Iraq war. Adm. William Fallon ended up replacing Gen. John Abizaid (AB'-ih-zayd) as top U.S. commander in the Middle East; Army Lt. Gen. David Petraeus (peh-TRAY'-uhs) succeeded Gen. George Casey as top American general in Iraq; Casey replaced retiring Gen. Peter Schoomaker (SKOO'-may-kur) as Army chief of staff.

Five years ago: Speaking at the Pentagon, President Barack Obama launched a reshaping and shrinking of the military, vowing to preserve U.S. pre-eminence even as the Army and Marine Corps shed troops and the administration considered reducing its arsenal of nuclear weapons. A U.S. Navy destroyer rescued an Iranian fishing boat that had been commandeered by suspected pirates. Jessica Joy Rees, a Southern California girl who had become a nationally recognized face of child cancer with a blog that chronicled her fight against brain tumors, died at age 12.

One year ago: With tears streaking his cheeks, President Barack Obama launched a final-year push to tighten sales of firearms in the U.S., using his presidential powers in the absence of tougher gun restrictions that Congress refused to pass, coming out with plans for expanded background checks and other modest measures. French composer and conductor Pierre Boulez, 90, died in Baden-Baden, Germany.

Today's Birthdays: Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale is 89. Actor Robert Duvall is 86. Juan Carlos, former King of Spain, is 79. Singer-musician Athol Guy (The Seekers) is 77. Talk show host Charlie Rose is 75. Actress-director Diane Keaton is 71. Actor Ted Lange (lanj) is 69. Rhythm-and-blues musician George "Funky" Brown (Kool and the Gang) is 68. Rock musician Chris Stein (Blondie) is 67. Former CIA Director George Tenet is 64. Actress Pamela Sue Martin is 64. Actor Clancy Brown is 58. Singer Iris Dement is 56. Actress Suzy Amis is 55. Actor Ricky Paull (correct) Goldin is 52. Actor Vinnie Jones is 52. Rock musician Kate Schellenbach (Luscious Jackson) is 51. Actor Joe Flanigan is 50. Dancer-choreographer Carrie Ann Inaba is 49. Rock musician Troy Van Leeuwen (Queens of the Stone Age) is 49. Actress Heather Paige Kent is 48. Rock singer Marilyn Manson is 48. Actor Shea Whigham is 48. Actor Derek Cecil is 44. Actress-comedian Jessica Chaffin is 43. Actor Bradley Cooper is 42. Actress January Jones is 39. Actress Brooklyn Sudano is 36. Actor Franz Drameh (TV: "DC's Legends of Tomorrow") is 24.

Thought for Today: "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these." — George Washington Carver, American educator and scientist (born 1864, died this date in 1943).