

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 1 of 52

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Hanlon Brothers Ad
- 2- Sunrise Sundogs
- 2- Groton Police Report
- 3- Dr. Holm's Column
- 4- Hot Springs VA Facility
- 4- Cooper's Open House Ad
- 5- Thune's Weekly Column
- 6- Noem's Weekly Column
- 7- State traffic deaths down
- 8- Daugaard's Weekly Column
- 9- Upcoming GDI Events
- 10- Local Horse Quiz Bowl are national champions
- 11- World of Experience
- 12- Weekly Viking Roundup
- 13- Today in Weather History
- 14 - Local Weather Forecast
- 15- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 15- Today's Weather Climate
- 15- National Weather map
- 16 - Daily Devotional
- 17 - AP News

Monday, Jan. 9

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study at 6:30 a.m.
School Board Meeting at 7 p.m.
Senior Menu: Beef stew, buttermilk biscuits, fruit, sherbet.
School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Submarine, potato chips, fruit.

Tuesday, Jan. 10

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council potluck for newly elected and outgoing at 6:15 p.m. followed by meeting.
Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, 3-bean salad, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Quesadilla, mixed vegetable, fruit, romaine salad.
GBB vs. Waubay-Summit at Waubay

Wed., Jan. 11

Emmanuel Lutheran: League at 6:30 p.m., Confirmation at 7 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation at 3:45 p.m.
United Methodist Parish: Kid Zone at 3:30 p.m. and Confirmation at 6 p.m. in Groton.
Senior Menu: Hot roast beef combination, carrots, fruit, peanut butter cookie.
School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Tomato soup, grilled cheese, fruit, carrots and dip.
MathCounts at Aberdeen Simmons Middle School from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Apts for Rent

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

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

© 2017 Groton Daily Independent



Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling

New & Cleaning of
Stockdams with our
60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 2 of 52



It was a beautiful sunrise on the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 3 with the Sundogs flagging the Sun on its rise.

Groton Police Report

December 12-18, 2016

City miles driven 532, county miles driven 4.

1 warning issued, 20 summons issued, 1 parking violation, 19 snow parking tickets, 1 equipment ticket.

December 19-25, 2016

City miles driven 382, county miles driven 67.

1 assist other law enforcement agencies, 5 citizen assistance, 1 dog complaint, 1 fire assistance, 6 motorist assist, 2 911 misdials, 1 gas drive-off, 1 vandalism/intentional damage, 2 county vehicle accidents, 1 traffic warning, 3 summons issued, 1 speeding ticket, 1 parking violation, 1 overdriving road conditions, 1 underage consumption.



By Richard P. Holm M.D.



Prejudice and hate

The first day I met Amiel Redfish, a physician assistant, we discussed the overuse and over-reliance on medicine in modern society, how great changes in longevity, through the years, came instead with proper sanitation, clean water, and the discovery of antibiotics. Although there have been great strides in health care throughout the years, none have resulted in such significant drops in the overall death rate as those. Redfish also expressed

the value of the vigorous lifestyle of traditional American Indians and a diet closer to what was found in a hunter/gatherer's world like roots, vegetables, berries and fruit, eggs, and wild game.

My colleague is a true Sioux Indian medicine man, a class act, and a dear friend. But despite the sagacity, insight, and traditional perspective he represents, I dare say there are those who, not knowing him, would look at his original American Indian features and prejudge him.

Prejudice is a word that means judging or making an opinion about an individual using preconceived notions, coming to an opinion before one has the facts. Typical prejudices arise out of attitudes, mostly parentally taught, about perceived differences in race, gender, gender identity, nationality, social status, sexual orientation, religious affiliation or non-affiliation, age, disability, height, and weight.

Anthropologists speculate that, at one time, stereotyping and acting on prejudice provided a survival advantage. In unpoliced societies, people are safer trusting their family and their community while being wary of outsiders. Ten-thousand years ago, those looking different than our tribe had a higher chance of causing us harm. On some level, this is hard wired into our middle brain. But distrust and hating others who are different from ourselves can also come out of self-doubt, jealousy, and is destructive to those hated and even more so to the hater. As they say, "If you want to destroy your enemy, make him hate."

Other research suggests that treating people with respect, not prejudging them on appearance, allows an openness to operate which in turn churns the wheels of communication, commerce, and community. Recall what Martin Luther King Jr. said: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

It is accurate to say that those who can break free of prejudicial stereotyping are better able to make new friends and find success. It is a great joy and to my great advantage to have friends like Amiel Redfish.

Delegation Statement on VA Decision to Close Hot Springs Facility Secretary McDonald's Decision Comes Weeks After Hearing Concerns From Hot Springs Community

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sens. John Thune (R-S.D.) and Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, and U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem (R-S.D.) today issued the following joint statement after U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Robert McDonald announced that the VA would close a large portion of the Hot Springs facility:

"We are deeply concerned by the Obama VA's decision, which is the direct result of a flawed process and continued data discrepancies," said Thune, Rounds, and Noem. "The Hot Springs campus, supported by a dedicated medical staff and compassionate community, is critical to the veterans it serves. We are committed, as we have always been, to finding a solution that puts our veterans in the best possible position to receive the high-quality health care and support they deserve. The delegation will continue to work together and with veterans and community stakeholders to determine next steps."

On November 10, 2016, the VA issued its final environmental impact statement on the Black Hills Health Care system, which was the last formal procedural step prior to VA Secretary McDonald's decision to shutter the facility.

In a November 23, 2016, letter to Secretary McDonald, Thune, Rounds, and Noem expressed their disappointment after McDonald declined their request to meet in person at the Hot Springs VA to discuss the future of the facility. On December 6, 2016, during a meeting in Washington, D.C., the delegation encouraged McDonald to thoroughly consider the input he received from veterans, staff, and other community stakeholders.

Existing law prohibits the VA from reducing services in South Dakota in fiscal year 2017 unless the VA meets a series of requirements, including a national realignment strategy, which have yet to be initiated.

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

**Fill the Cooper house
this year!**

Open House

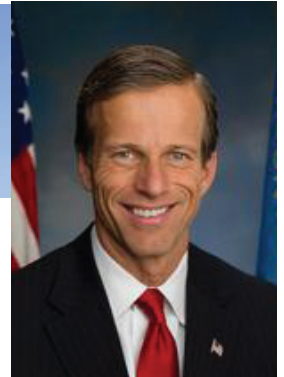
Sunday, Jan. 15, 2017

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

208 N. 2nd St., Groton

Refreshments Served

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Off to a Great Start

This month not only marks the beginning of a new year, but also the start of a new Congress. With new beginnings come new opportunities, and the 115th Congress is already off to a great start. On day one, I reintroduced legislation that would help advance rural broadband services in South Dakota and around the country. Expanding access to these necessities of modern life is key for states like South Dakota, and by passing my MOBILE NOW bill, Congress could take a big step toward laying the groundwork for the future of the nationwide 5G network.

Also during the first week of the new Congress, I joined Sen. Rounds and Rep. Noem in reintroducing our bill that would expand the boundary of the Black Hills National Cemetery just outside of Sturgis. The bill was near the finish line in December, which is why we quickly reintroduced it this month. I'm confident we'll soon be able to send it to the president for his signature, which will ensure our military heroes have a place to rest in peace for generations to come.

While a great deal of attention is often paid to what happens on the Senate floor or in front of TV cameras and reporters, a lot of our most important work takes place behind the scenes in the various committees on which we serve. I'm glad that for the 115th Congress, I'll again serve on the Commerce, Finance, and Agriculture Committees – three important committees that will help deliver positive results for South Dakotans.

The current farm bill expires in September 2018, but in my opinion, it's never too early to start working on the next one. My role on the Senate Agriculture Committee means the countless suggestions I've received from South Dakota farmers and ranchers will also have the attention of my colleagues on the committee. I will continue to fight for South Dakota's top industry and make sure our stakeholders' voices are heard. This isn't my first rodeo either. The 2018 farm bill will be the fourth farm bill I've helped draft during my time in Congress.

Comprehensive tax reform is another major agenda item we intend to tackle this year, and it's long overdue. The federal tax code is too large, too complicated, and too outdated. So outdated that neither of my daughters had yet been born when Congress last took a serious look at reforming our tax code more than thirty years ago. For perspective, I'm now a grandfather. As a member of the Finance Committee, I look forward to playing a key role in our fight to simplify and modernize the tax code so that it helps, instead of hinders, economic growth and job creation in this country. I also hope this provides me with an opportunity to finally kill the death tax, something I've spent years trying to do.

This year I'll be returning to the top spot on the powerful Senate Commerce Committee. The committee has already made some significant security and accountability reforms to our air, rail, and highway transportation systems, but we've got more work to do in 2017. I'll also be working with committee members this year to develop forward-looking technology proposals – like my MOBILE NOW bill, for example – that will hopefully help make life safer and more efficient for the American people.



Ending the Reign of Regulators

Expectations are high for the 115th Congress, which was sworn in the first week of January, but I'm optimistic that we've matched those expectations with an aggressive, commonsense agenda. More importantly, there has been no hesitation in getting to work on that agenda.

Less than 100 hours from the time I took the Oath of Office for the fourth time, the House of Representatives passed the REINS Act, a bill I cosponsored to stop the overreach of federal regulators.

Under the Obama administration, regulatory agencies have grown at a considerable rate. Their budgets alone have spiked 16 percent since 2008 while their staffs have increased in size by 13 percent. The impact of this expansion has rippled throughout our economy, crashing into each of our wallets like a tidal wave.

Almost 25 percent of a new home's cost is due to regulatory bureaucracy, and by 2025, Obama-era vehicle standards are expected to raise the cost of a new car by almost \$3,000. The prices of microwaves, light bulbs, air conditioners, and dishwashers have also gone up significantly because of federal regulators.

From a broader perspective, all these regulations drain much-needed resources from our economy. In 2015, regulations cost the American economy nearly \$2 trillion in lost productivity and growth. To put it another way: if our regulatory system were a country, it would have the world's ninth largest economy – right behind India.

For years, we have battled the Obama administration on the issue of red tape. After putting pressure on the Department of Labor, we were able to get them to back down from regulating small family farms. I also introduced legislation to prohibit the EPA from proposing or finalizing new farm dust standards, which helped prompt the agency to abandon efforts to further regulate the type of dust farmers and ranchers kicked up. And when OSHA proposed to ban kids from doing certain farm activities when they were hired to work on relatives' farms, we pushed back and they backed down.

With proposals like the controversial "Waters of the U.S." – or WOTUS – rule coming down, it is clear we need a stricter way to hold regulators accountable. That's where the REINS Act comes into play.

If enacted, any regulation with an economic impact of over \$100 million would have to be approved by Congress through an up-or-down vote. If this law would have been in effect under Obama, more than 500 regulations would have been subject to a vote in Congress.

More than two-thirds of the House, including me, has never had the opportunity to serve under a Republican president. I understand the expectations are high, but so are mine. While it's just one checkmark on a long list of reforms I'd like to see made, passing the REINS Act in the opening hours of this new Congress gives me optimism for what we can accomplish.

2016 Traffic Fatalities Near Record Low; Lack of Seatbelt Use Significant Cause in Most Deaths

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota’s 115 traffic fatalities in 2016 are expected to be the lowest since 2011 and second lowest since 1960.

Official numbers are not expected for several weeks, but the final number is not expected to dramatically change. The 2016 total represents a noteworthy 14.2 percent decrease from the 134 fatalities reported in 2015.

“South Dakota is a national leader in the reduction of traffic fatalities,” says state Office of Highway Safety director Lee Axdahl, “which is particularly encouraging in a year when so many of our other states have been seeing significant increases. Obviously, this is the direction that we want to go every year but we cannot do it without the help of our friends and family members who drive.”

The number of fatal crashes also was down – 102 in 2016 compared to 116 in 2015.

Authorities stress there is more work that needs to be done. Fatalities related to both speed and alcohol were up slightly while almost 70 percent of those who died were not wearing seatbelts.

The Highway Patrol also has been involved in that safety effort. Along with the normal enforcement and education, troopers were instructed last month to start issuing citations for any vehicle occupant not wearing a seatbelt.

“Seatbelts save lives and many people understand that,” says Col. Craig Price, superintendent of the Highway Patrol. “But we want to make sure more people buckle up all the time. That is not just drivers, but passengers as well.”

Axdahl says the Office of Highway Safety’s safe driving messages in 2017 will be directed towards high risk drivers, including teens, young adults, and rural motorists. The office also is sponsoring two safe driving commercials to air during this year’s Super Bowl.

“We are going to keep reminding the public every way we can to wear their seatbelts,” Axdahl says. “It is a very sad and heartbreaking fact that many of those who died in 2016 would still be alive today if they had just buckled up.”

The Office of Highway Safety and the Highway Patrol are part of the Department of Public Safety.

Broton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 8 of 52



Good News from the State's Financial Report

This past week the state budget office issued South Dakota's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, or what those of us within state government sometimes refer to as "the CAFR." The Bureau of Finance and Management made the report public on the Friday before New Year's Day.

Just like a business, each year South Dakota prepares audited financial statements. These statements are required by law, and are used to qualify us to receive federal funds. The report is also reviewed by agencies which evaluate our state's credit worthiness.

The annual report includes our state government's complete financial statements. Also contained in the report is information about the state's economic conditions and outlook, the profile of the government, major initiatives, and a financial analysis of the state's funds. The report is then submitted to the Department of Legislative Audit for review.

The report for Fiscal Year 2016 shows that the state is in a strong financial position. For the 30th consecutive year, Legislative Audit issued an unqualified "clean" audit opinion, meaning the CAFR is materially accurate.

This marks the earliest CAFR release in 20 years. When I first came into office, we were finishing this report in June – almost a full year after the close of a fiscal year. The hardworking staff at Finance and Management made it their goal to do better, and each year since then, they've been issuing the CAFR more quickly. They've now cut the timing in half. By moving the date up six months, this marks the earliest CAFR release in 20 years.

It's important to complete this report promptly. The report helps inform budgetary decisions and is one way our state is meeting rating agencies' expectations. It is also a tool for the citizens who must hold state government accountable for its management of taxpayer dollars.

Improving our state's financial practices is one of my highest priorities, and I am proud of the progress we have made in the last six years. South Dakota has obtained AAA ratings from all three major rating agencies. We have built and maintained a rainy-day fund that is ten percent of our general fund budget. We have been conservative in estimating revenues and expenses. When we have one-time money to spend, we have used it to repay debt early, secure an existing asset, endow an ongoing expense or create a new asset.

South Dakotans must responsibly manage their money in order to stay in business and take care of their families. They expect their government to do the same. Our just-issued CAFR validates that South Dakota's state finances are in solid condition.



Upcoming Events

**Monday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.
School Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, Jan. 10, 8 p.m.
Girls' Basketball at Waubay**

**Thursday, Jan. 12, 8 p.m.
Girls' Basketball at Sisseton**

**Friday, Jan. 13. 8 p.m.
Boys' Basketball hosts Sisseton:**

gdilive.com



Brown County Horse Quiz Bowl National Champions

The National Western Roundup Horse Classic Quiz Bowl was held Saturday, Jan. 7, in Denver. The Brown County Horse Bowl, pictured above, took first place at the national level. Pictured left to right are Trey Wright (Groton), Cassandra Townsend (Groton), Coach Kristen Gonsoir, Marissa Woodring (Redfield) and Adrienne Schaubman (Aberdeen).

Brown County was named the champion team. Iowa was the second place team and Colorado placed third. It was a double elimination contest. South Dakota took a loss in round 2 to Colorado. South Dakota then moved through the loser bracket defeating Colorado in their second match up. South Dakota took on Iowa in the final round. Iowa was undefeated going into the final round, so South Dakota had to defeat them in two rounds of competition before being declared national champions. This team earned the right to compete at Denver by winning the state horse quiz bowl contest in July in Huron.

Woodring earned the seventh place individual award, Townsend earned the eighth place individual award and Wright earned the 10th place individual award.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 11 of 52



The challenges of GDILIVE.COM seem to be never ending. We would like to thank our viewers for having patience through the trials and tribulations that we have from site to site.

This past weekend was a double challenge. We were in Hamlin and they did have an open Wifi access that we could use. I ran a test and the upload speed was unbelievably fast. I was real excited about it. Not long into the girls' game, however, we started to encounter turbulence. Soon our signal got dropped. We got back on line, but it still was creating issues for us. We fought with it during the girls game.

In between games, I grabbed my hotspot and thought I would give that try. Even though there were only 2 bars, I was expecting it not to work. I tried it out and it soon dropped signal as well. I then lowered the quality and tried that. It seemed to work. In fact, it lasted the whole game without dropping.

I was surprised and pleased.

After the game I talked with the AD and he was surprised at our dilemma, but with it being open, everyone in the gym could use it and that probably caused a shortage of signal data stream. He then pointed to the device just five feet away from us. Here we could have hooked on with a hard wire which I'm sure would have worked. We'll have to remember that in two years!

Then it was back to Redfield. They have basically no cell phone signal in the gym. I even lowered the quality and we kept getting knocked off several times during the game. We recorded the game and uploaded a better version when I got home.

This year we get to go Langford and I know there is no signal in the gym up there - in fact, it says "No Signal" right on the phone. They do have wifi up there and I've been chatting with Mr. Nipp about it and he's referring me to the IT person. The issue we have with Livestream is that it requires certain ports to be opened up for it to work correctly. Waubay should be no problem - we hope, but I have an email over to their superintendent to find out the signal strength in the gym. I know Sisseton is no problem. We can either use their hardwire or my hotspot - either one works great there.

When things don't work according to plan, my stress level goes up. Just ask Justin and girls. You don't even want to ask me anything during this time. I'm so frustrated with because I know we have hundreds of viewers depending on us to watch the game.

I even bought a signal booster to try, but that really doesn't work. You basically have to mount the antenna on the roof and I don't think you're going to see me climbing on top of a school to mount an antenna! It would be nice to have a dedicated line. I researched the internet provider for Langford and it's not that expensive. I may research that if the school option doesn't work. It helps that both games are in Langford so we can spread the cost over two games instead of one within one month.

A new feature we have this year is a donate button with our broadcasts on GDILIVE.COM. When you donate during a specific event, we'll donate have of it back to that group. So far, the music department is going to get \$25, the girls basketball program will get \$15 and the boys' basketball program will get \$10. If you're one of those people who come to the home games but watch us when we're on the road, you can personally give me a donation which will be counted to an event. We're also simulcasting on Facebook Live at the same time, which means we're getting more viewers and that's also good for the advertisers. Please, do make sure you thank the advertisers and support them as well. It is their support that is making these broadcasts possible. While it is fun to do the broadcasts, it comes with its share of expenses.

I can't tell you how many people have told us that they love the broadcasts, especially from Groton people who can't make it to a road game, or from grandparents, friends and relatives from outside the area. It's quite amazing, actually! I also know that Justin Olson just LOVES doing the play-by-play commentary. My girls are also getting better at running the camera, which frees up my time to keep better stats during the game.

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Wildcard weekend has come and gone, with four more teams headed home to get ready for next season. Before we get into the game recaps, let's take a look at some Vikings news and notes.

Head coach Mike Zimmer says Sam Bradford has earned the right to be the starting quarterback. If Teddy Bridgewater can come back healthy, he will now have to earn the job back.

Pat Shurmur has been named the Vikings' offensive coordinator for 2017. Shurmur took over the position after Norv Turner left in the middle of the season, and is one of the main reasons for Sam Bradford's success this year.

Cordarrelle Patterson is the only Minnesota Viking to appear on the Associated Press All-Pro team. Patterson appears as a kick returner, after leading the league in yards per return (for the third time in the past four seasons).



Wildcard weekend

The wildcard weekend kicked off on Saturday with the Oakland Raiders traveling to Houston to play the Texans. This game should have favored the Raiders, but an injury to quarterback Derek Carr in week 16 derailed any chances the team had. The Texans won 27-14.

The second game on Saturday featured the Detroit Lions on the road in Seattle. The Lions' offense was on fire this season, but the Seahawks' defense was up to the task. Russell Wilson had a phenomenal game and Thomas Rawls ran for 161 yards as the Seahawks demolished the Lions 26-6.

The first of the two games on Sunday was the Miami Dolphins traveling to Pittsburgh. Like the Raiders, the Dolphins were without their starting quarterback and the offense was unable to do much against the Steelers' defense. Pittsburgh's offense was nearly unstoppable, leading to a 30-12 blowout.

The final game of wildcard weekend was supposed to be the best matchup of the four. The Giants traveled to Green Bay, where Eli Manning had as many postseason wins as Aaron Rodgers. The Giants' defense, which had improved greatly as the season progressed, was no match for Rodgers and the rest of the Packers' offense. The Packers won 38-13.

Looking ahead

The first game next week will be the Seattle Seahawks traveling to Atlanta to take on the Falcons. This has the potential to be a great game, with Atlanta's high-powered offense against the Seahawks' vaunted defense. Saturday will conclude with the New England Patriots hosting the Houston Texans. This game could be the biggest blowout of the playoffs.

On Sunday, the Pittsburgh Steelers will be in Kansas City to take on the Chiefs. Ben Roethlisberger was seen in a walking boot after their wildcard victory, but the quarterback says he will play against the Chiefs. The Steelers have won eight games in a row, and it will take a herculean effort by the Chiefs to stop that streak.

The Divisional round concludes with the Dallas Cowboys welcoming the Green Bay Packers to AT&T Stadium. The Cowboys defeated the Packers earlier this season in Green Bay, but this Packers team is better than the one from week five. Luckily for the Cowboys, most of their starters have had weeks of rest and will be ready to go. This game should be a great matchup, and it could truly go either way.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 13 of 52

Today in Weather History

January 9, 1982: Winds of 20 to 40 mph accompanied by 1 to 3 inches of snow created ground blizzard conditions and extreme wind chills from the 9th through mid-afternoon on the 12th. There were two deaths from exposure that were attributed to the storm including a 69-year old Scotland woman and a woman from Veblen in Marshall County. Both tried to walk after their vehicles stalled. Near zero visibilities and snow drifts to 5 feet high forced closures of numerous highways. Also, minor power outages were reported.

January 9, 1997: A powerful Alberta Clipper and a deep Arctic High brought widespread and prolonged blizzard conditions, heavy drifting snow, and dangerous wind chills of 40 to 80 below to central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. North winds were from 30 to 50 mph gusting to 60 mph. The clipper dropped from 2 to 7 inches of snowfall on top of an already solid 2 to 5-foot snowpack. As with previous storms, most roads again became blocked by huge snowdrifts. As a result of the blockage and the blizzard conditions, both Interstates 29 and 90 closed along with all state highways leaving hundreds of people stranded to wait out the storm. This winter has been the worst for road closings. Many people became stuck in snow drifts or went off the road because of low visibility, and had to be rescued. One dramatic rescue near Webster, involving tens of rescue workers, occurred after a woman was stranded in her vehicle for nearly 40 hours. A couple with a one-year-old was rescued after spending a night in their car and they were unharmed. A Wakpala woman died from carbon monoxide poisoning in her stalled pickup on Highway 1806 near Wakpala. Emergency personnel had a very difficult time responding to emergencies. Some emergencies took up to several hours to go short distances. A rural Leola man died, when emergency workers could not get to him in time. In McLaughlin, seven people had to be taken by air ambulance, because there was no way out.

All area schools were closed the 9th and 10th with most schools at this point in the winter season missing over 7 days. A state record was set when Faulkton School had closed for its 13th day. Mail was delayed and area airports had flight delays or were closed. Many businesses were also closed and were suffering economic losses as a result of this storm and previous storms because customers could not get to them. Many grocery stores ran low or out of bread, milk, and other food necessities. There were some power outages across the area, but were not widespread. The power was out at Isabel, Timber Lake, and Firesteel, for as much as 8 hours. The power outage in Isabel resulted in extensive water pipe breaks at the Isabel School. Willow Lake was without power for over 2 days. Some homes across the area were also without heat for several days in the bitter cold. The majority of ranchers was running out of or was unable to access feed for cattle, sheep, and hogs. As a result of the extreme conditions and lack of food, over fifty thousand livestock died. In addition, many livestock suffered frostbite and were significantly weakened. There was also a lot of wildlife and pheasants killed. As a result, the Emergency Feed Grain Donation Program was activated for the ranchers. One rancher said that he had been ranching in this area for 34 years and had never lost cattle before. Also, some dairy farmers had to dump their milk because trucks could not get them in time.








Some people were trapped in their homes up to several days as snowdrifts buried their homes and blocked the roads with some people having to crawl out their windows. In Wilmot, a 12 foot drift covered the community home, where residents had to turn the lights on during the day. As a result of snow removal budget depletions and other storm damages, President Clinton declared all of the counties a disaster area. Snowplows from Iowa, Nebraska, and plows and manpower from the South Dakota National Guard helped to break through hundreds of roads. The snowdrifts in some places were packed so hard and were measured at 300 pounds per square inch. Some longtime residents said this has been the worst winter they had seen in their lifetimes. The total damage estimate for this January blizzard and for the previous January winter storm is 50 million dollars. This includes the added snow removal costs, livestock losses, building damages, and other economic losses.

1880: A rapidly deepening low pressure system produced extremely strong winds along the Pacific Northwest coast. While wind measurements were limited, there were widespread reports of wind damage.

2006: With cold air sweeping in from the Himalayas, New Delhi reports frost for the first time in 70 years with a low temperature of 0.2°C (32.3°F). The cold prompted officials to order all schools to close for three days.

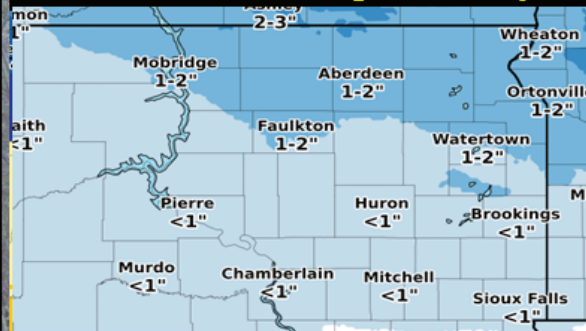
Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 14 of 52

Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
100% → 20%	60%		20%		30%	
Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow	Cloudy then Snow Likely	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Snow	Cold	Chance Snow	Cold
High: 16 °F	Low: 15 °F	High: 13 °F	Low: -5 °F	High: 0 °F	Low: -6 °F	High: -1 °F

Snow Today, Then Bitter Cold Returns

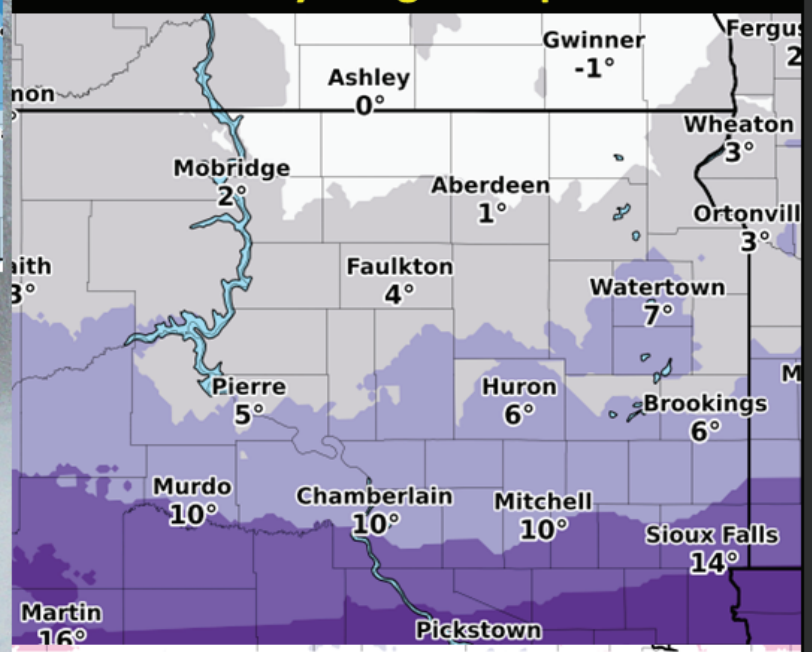
Total Snow Through Tuesday



Light snow events today through mid-week

Extreme cold returning to the region for Wednesday and especially Thursday. Dangerously cold wind chills as well, likely colder than 30 below zero!

Wednesday's High Temperatures



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 1/9/2017 5:37 AM Central

Published on: 01/09/2017 at 5:41AM

Snow will move east across the area this morning into the early afternoon. In general, around an inch can be expected across northern and eastern portions of the area, with some locations perhaps receiving up to 2 inches. Another upper level disturbance will move across the region tonight, bringing additional light accumulations to mainly northern South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Be ready for bitterly cold arctic air returning on Wednesday and Thursday! Highs will only be in the single digits on Wednesday, and may struggle to reach zero across northern areas on Thursday. Wind chill values will be dangerously cold as well!

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 15 of 52

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 20.6 F at 4:39 PM
Low Outside Temp: -13.1 F at Midnight
High Gust: 35.0 Mph at 12:03 PM

Rain: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 53° in 2012
Record Low: -31° in 1977
Average High: 22°F
Average Low: 1°F
Average Precip in Jan.: 0.16
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.16
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:09 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:11 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Jan 09, 2017, issued 4:45 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 16 of 52



PLANNING AND FAITH

Once upon a time a snail began his difficult climb up the trunk of an apple tree. He saw the small buds and tiny leaves and knew that he was going in the right direction. As he made his way upward, he came to a worm who stuck his head out of his comfortable hole.

"Where are you going?" asked the worm.

"I'm going to get an apple," came the reply.

"How foolish," said the worm. "There are no apples up there!"

"There will be when I get there," said the snail. That snail's determination is a good reminder of the faith of Noah. God gave him instructions to build an ark in the middle of dry land. In obedience to God's instructions, he did what God asked him to do. Although he did not know what a "flood" could possibly be nor did he understand what God was going to do, he followed His instructions without question. He was ridiculed and condemned by most people but he did as he was told to do without knowing where he would eventually be.

In the life of every Christian there are times when we have difficulty acting in faith. We would rather use our God-given minds to think logically, plan carefully and work earnestly on our own. That's not what God wants!

God wants us to believe that when He asks us to do something He will always provide the strength and resources to do it for His glory and our good.

Prayer: Give us faith, Lord, to trust You in all things for all things. May we believe with all of our hearts that what You call us to do we can do if we trust You completely. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

News from the Associated Press

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.

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."

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

Mines honors program helps community and teaches leadership

By Jim Holland, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Jim Bussell couldn't say enough about the help provided by a pair of South Dakota School of Mines & Technology students in the Rushmore Little League's quest to improve its baseball fields and the east Rapid City neighborhood that it has called home for decades.

Two civil engineering seniors, Cameron Luna and Nicholas Kasanke, provided help with improving safety for the low- to middle-income central Rapid City neighborhood that has seen more than its share of crime issues, including drug use, vandalism, vagrancy and even prostitution, in and around the Roosevelt Park baseball field.

Luna and Kasanke looked at drainage and building material issues with the aging baseball field and provided information that proved vital to the league's getting city Vision Funds for a new lighting system.

The \$25,000 to improve lighting in and around the Rushmore Little League complex was one of 10 Vision Fund requests approved along with grants for nine other projects by the Rapid City Common Council at its meeting on Dec. 5.

"They wrote a comprehensive document outlining the steps that needed to be taken, and we provided that information to the Vision Fund committee to help them make a decision," said Bussell, a Rapid City firefighter and volunteer league leader.

"It's fair to say that without their help, we wouldn't have come this far in the Vision Fund request," Bussell said.

The Rushmore Little League project is one of many community improvement projects performed by School of Mines senior engineering and science students over the years, but now a new undergraduate honors program will provide younger students with learning and leadership experience, while helping to solve community problems.

The new SDSM&T Honors Program, announced by the university on Dec. 5, will accept about 30 students, or roughly 5 percent of each incoming freshman class, along with a few sophomore students,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 19 of 52

each year, starting in the fall of 2017, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2hjxxCF>) reported.

Students accepted into the Mines program starting next fall will tackle one or more community projects during the course of studying for their degrees.

"It's a tremendous opportunity for young engineers and scientists to engage with each other and solve problems that matter to someone else," said Mines president Heather Wilson.

Mines senior students from the gamut of engineering and science disciplines have long tackled community projects, among them developing adaptive equipment for people with disabilities; assessing and fixing the drainage around the Black Hills Playhouse; and designing and building a greenhouse.

"It's very common for us to do projects like this," Wilson said. "We wanted to build on this and get more students engaged, starting from their freshman year on."

Wilson said the Mines honors program is unique in engaging the community to provide projects to be completed and problems to be addressed and connecting those projects with students who show potential for leadership.

"It's easier to do an honors program that just has a harder freshman seminar course or something," Wilson said. "We're doing something very different that requires very close participation with the community to identify problems that young engineers and scientists might be able to help solve."

Among projects senior students have recently helped or are currently helping with are design facilities and developing a site plan that focuses on problem areas such as drainage issues, road/trail access and maintenance of a fruit tree orchard for Youth and Family Services Fullerton Farm in Box Elder.

Mines graduate student Kristen O'Connor of Gillette, Wyoming, took on the YFS farm project as part of her senior-year project. O'Connor worked on assessing water quality for a fruit tree orchard project at the YFS facility in Box Elder.

O'Connor helped identify water quality issues, such as high iron content in water obtained from a well, and suggested possible solutions.

"I actually really enjoyed the project and thought it was really well associated with my major," O'Connor said.

Luna, a scholarship athlete with the Hardrockers' football team, said he and Kasanke became caught up in helping the league improve not only its facilities but also the overall atmosphere of the neighborhood northwest of the campus.

"It's been a very engaging thing and something that has enhanced my education, because you have to get in touch with groups outside of engineering for that engineering purpose, whether it be environmental groups or safety groups," Luna said. "This project really has all of that tied into it."

Honors program graduates will be required to complete four semesters of community-based project experiences and participate in four honors experiences intended to help student understand difficult current problems.

The graduates must also serve at least two semesters in an elected or appointed leadership position in a campus club, team, organization, professional society, fraternity or sorority, or hold a more significant leadership position as determined by the dean of students.

Wilson said the university has established a community advisory board, which will meet for the first time on Dec. 20, to help identify suitable problems for Mines students to tackle.

"We have to have enough of those projects to engage students year after year," she said.

All students applying as freshmen for the fall semester in 2017 will have an opportunity to apply for the honors program.

Those students will have the option of living in the honors section of the university dormitories and will also receive a preference for on-campus housing as upperclassmen.

Wilson said selection to the honors program will be competitive and based on academic excellence, commitment to service and leadership potential.

"It has a lot to do with their potential for leadership, their passion for service and their desire to be with other students who are like-minded who care about the world around them," she said. "We're not just looking for bookworms."

Bussell said the nonprofit Rushmore Little League could not have budgeted for the professional engineering help provided by the School of Mines, along with off-season and spring training camps hosted by Mines baseball players.

"I don't know where we would be without their help and the help of the Mines organization," Bussell said.

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

Sioux Falls transgender woman's death an apparent homicide

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Friends are remembering a Sioux Falls transgender woman, whose death police are calling an apparent homicide, for her energy and compassion.

The body of Jamie Lee Wounded Arrow, 28, of Sioux Falls, was discovered Friday night when police responded to a call for a welfare check. A neighbor had called to report a strong odor coming from the apartment.

Police said Sunday a 25-year-old Sioux Falls man was taken into custody in connection with the death and was being held on narcotics and parole-related charges. Additional charges are pending, police said.

Friends say Wounded Arrow, a native of Pine Ridge, identified as a transgender woman, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2i68KBD>) reported.

At a vigil outside her apartment Saturday evening, friends asked anyone with information about her death to come forward.

"We need justice and we will get it," said Franklin Whiting, Jr., a friend and neighbor of Wounded Arrow.

While Wounded Arrow had struggles in her life, friends said people were drawn to her.

"She is the type of person that when she talks people stop to listen," said Reina Parker, youth outreach director for the Center of Equality, a Sioux Falls-based nonprofit that advocates for LGBT rights. "The impact she leaves on people after meeting her once is something nobody forgets."

Whiting described Wounded Arrow as an honest person who showed compassion for others.

"I'm still in shock," Whiting said. "I keep thinking she's going to text me or come up here."

Wounded Arrow grew up and graduated on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and moved to Sioux Falls about a year ago, friends said.

The Center of Equality issued a statement condemning violence against transgender people.

Police have not said how Wounded Arrow was killed or how the person taken into custody was located.

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

Organization helping South Dakota teens to expand with grant

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The only provider of residential group care and residential addiction recovery treatment for adolescents in western South Dakota has gotten a big boost.

Wellfully's Life Above and Beyond program was granted more than \$1.1 million in Rapid City Vision

Funds, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2hjzn6B>) reported.

The approved proposal includes a new building to house the organization, which helps about 300 teens a year overcome addiction and mental health issues.

The Premier Adolescent Care Center is planned for construction to begin sometime this year, and is expected to be located across from the Roosevelt Park Ice Arena and Swim Center. Officials hope to include a free place for teens to gather and learn how to start a business, make a movie or start a band.

Wellfully Executive Director Jessica Olson said the organization, which is 26 years old, has needed a new building for a while and that this grant will allow it to expand its services. Olson said the LAB program was called for by citizens' feedback on Rapid City's Comprehensive Plan.

Youth that want to enroll in the LAB program will have to earn their place in the classes by volunteering at Wellfully.

"They come and volunteer and earn their badge to sign up for classes," Olson said. "That way they have ownership by volunteering in our coffee shop and gift shop to prove that they're engaged and committed, and that also makes it socioeconomically fair."

Project sessions in the program will last three to four weeks and include a small-business model for students to plan and create a budget.

With the new grant, Wellfully has raised about \$1.5 million to construct the building. Olson said the total budget is about \$5.6 million.

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

Europe's deep freeze causes deaths, disrupts traffic

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Heavy snow and frigid temperatures have gripped large parts of Europe, leading to dozens of deaths, freezing rivers, the grounding of planes and traffic accidents:

POLAND

The government says that 10 people died Sunday of cold as the country has been gripped by low temperatures. The deaths bring to 65 the number of fatalities since Nov. 1 when temperatures, especially at night, started falling to freezing levels.

The spokeswoman for the Government Center for Security, Anna Adamkiewicz, said Monday that the deaths occurred across the country, outdoors or in unheated summer cottages or abandoned houses. The victims were nine men, aged between 32 and 69, and one woman, aged 52.

RUSSIA

In Moscow, two people have died and 190 people with hypothermia have sought medical help in the Russian capital between New Year's Eve and Jan. 8, the last day of the holiday period in Russia, according to Russian news agencies quoting emergency medical official Sergei Gumenyuk.

The Russian Meteorological Service said the Orthodox Christmas Eve on Jan. 6 was the coldest in Moscow since 1987 when temperatures plunged below -31 C (-24 F). Moscow schools, however, opened on Monday after the holiday recess. In Russia's Urals, schools remained closed in the Tyumen, Khanty-Mansiysky, Sverdlovsk and Yamalo-Nenets regions where temperatures of -35 C (-31 F) were recorded.

BELARUS

The emergency situations ministry reported five people dead over the past nine days.

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 22 of 52

According to Czech public radio on Monday, six people are believed to have died of exposure during the latest cold snap, including in the capital, Prague. Meteorologists forecast freezing temperatures to continue in the coming days.

SERBIA

Serbian authorities have declared emergency measures in 10 municipalities in central and southern parts of the country as fresh snow and extremely low temperatures have blocked roads and cut off villages. Despite -28 C (-18 F), residents in remote villages on the rough Golija mountain have refused offers from authorities to evacuate their homes during the deep freeze because they won't abandon their animals.

The mostly elderly villagers said they'd rather freeze than abandon their sheep, goats, cows and chickens.

"We have wood and food for the animals," says Dragomir, one elderly resident. "We'll wait."

CROATIA

Freezing temperatures and strong winds have created havoc along Croatia's Adriatic coast, which isn't used to such cold winters.

Even the sea froze in shallow bays, trapping fishermen's boats to the amazement of locals who haven't seen anything like this in decades. The temperatures in Croatia's tourist centers of Dubrovnik and Split dropped to -7 C (19 F) and strong winds blew off ancient pine and olive trees on the coast.

Ferries and planes were grounded, and traffic over bridges banned. Water pipes, which are dug just below the surface as is the case in warm climates, have frozen, leaving thousands without running water as authorities tried to figure out ways to cope.

SWITZERLAND

Police in the southern Swiss region of Valais say a Russian couple were killed and their two children aged 11 and 15 were gravely injured over the weekend after the vehicle they were travelling in tumbled about 225 meters (740 feet) along a snow-covered Alpine road.

Officials said the driver had been trying to park on the roadside, and snowy conditions appeared to have led to the deadly plunge into a pile of rocks. The two children were taken to a local hospital before being flown by helicopter to another in the capital, Bern. They were expected to survive, officials said.

TURKEY

Turkish Airlines on Monday canceled 277 domestic and international flights to and from Istanbul's two airports due to heavy snow. Schools around Istanbul were declared closed on Monday and the Istanbul governor's office said civil servants in the city would be able to go home at 3:30 p.m. local time.

GREECE

Swathes of Greece have been covered by snow, including several islands, some of which have seen more than a meter (more than three feet) of snow.

Temperatures in some parts of northern Greece have plunged to as low as -18 C (0 F). A state of emergency was declared in the municipality of Kymi on the island of Evia, Greece's second largest island after Crete, where the snow in some areas reached two meters (6.5 feet), leading to cuts to electricity and water supplies.

The small eastern Aegean island of Oinousses reported severe problems from the heavy snowfall, with

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 23 of 52

the local mayor telling Greek media the island had been without landline telephone connections for four days. On the island of Lesbos, drivers needed snow chains to drive just outside the main port town of Mytilene, while heavy snowfall also hit Chios and parts of the southern island of Crete, from where some flights to Athens were cancelled.

Chios and Lesbos are home to thousands of refugees, many living in precarious conditions in severely overcrowded camps. Many are still living in tents despite the severe weather. Rights groups have slammed the conditions and called on the Greek government to act quickly to reduce overcrowding.

Hope, Trump upstage 'La La Land's' moment in the sun

By LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — The sunny musical "La La Land" may have danced its way to a Golden Globes record Sunday night, but the film's seven accolades were a mere sideshow to the eloquence of honoree Meryl Streep, whose speech encapsulated the evening's prevailing themes of hope, inclusivity and action over anger about the imminent presidency of Donald Trump.

"You and all of us in this room really belong to the most vilified segments in American society right now," Streep said. "Think about it, Hollywood, foreigners, and the press."

Without even mentioning Trump by name, Streep, in accepting the year's Cecil B. DeMille Award, eviscerated the President-elect's use of his power and rank in the mocking of a disabled New York Times reporter on the campaign trail this year.

"When the powerful use their position to bully others, we all lose," Streep said, imploring those in the room to remember "the privilege and the responsibility of the act of empathy" and also the vital role of the press in holding "power to account."

On Twitter early Monday, Trump again denied mocking the reporter and took shots of his own at Streep, calling her "one of the most over-rated actresses in Hollywood" and "a Hillary flunky who lost big."

Streep's speech was the kind of show-stopping moment that could make an audience forget that they're watching what is generally a booze-soaked, star-studded party of irreverence and a few inevitable left-field winners in the annual Awards season stop on the way to the Oscars. The only true shocker there was Aaron Taylor-Johnson's supporting actor win for his performance in Tom Ford's "Nocturnal Animals" over favorites Mahershala Ali from "Moonlight" and Jeff Bridges from "Hell or High Water."

As expected the joyous Los Angeles-set musical "La La Land" swept the awards, winning all of its leading seven nominations including

Emma Stone, Ryan Gosling and Damien Chazelle all spoke of the film's hopeful message of pursuing dreams despite obstacles. The escapism of "La La Land" was contrasted with the realism of Barry Jenkins' coming-of-age drama "Moonlight," which won its only award of the night for best motion picture drama, possibly foreshadowing an ideological showdown between the two very different films at the Oscars, whose nominations are announced on Jan. 24.

While "Moonlight" didn't shine as brightly as expected at the Globes, just one year after a second-straight season of OscarsSoWhite protests, the night was notable for the widespread diversity of its winners, in film and TV. Donald Glover's "Atlanta" won best comedy series over heavyweights like "Veep" and "Transparent" and later added best actor in a comedy.

"I really want to thank Atlanta and all the black folks in Atlanta," said a stunned-looking Glover.

Tracee Ellis Ross, accepting the award for best actress in a TV comedy for "Black-ish," dedicated her award to "all of the women of color and colorful people whose stories, ideas, thoughts are not always considered worthy and valid and important."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 24 of 52

"I want you to know that I see you, we see you," said Ross, who was the first black woman to win in the category since Debbie Allen in 1982.

Viola Davis, who won the best supporting actress award for Denzel Washington's adaptation of August Wilson's "Fences," said that Wilson's words and subjects were so important to her because "very seldom does the average person get their due, especially people of color."

Davis continued what appears to be a certain path to the Oscar. Another favorite, Casey Affleck, also padded his favorite status. The "Manchester by the Sea" star took best actor.

While there were milestones and progress to be celebrated, Trump loomed nonetheless, even if explicit remarks during the show were kept somewhat to a minimum, save for host Jimmy Fallon, who was criticized for his allegedly softball interview of Trump on "The Tonight Show," and Hugh Laurie. Fallon, in his opening monologue, compared the president elect to the belligerent teenage king Joffrey of "Games of Thrones." Laurie, accepting for "The Night Manager," said "I accept this award on behalf of psychopathic billionaires everywhere."

Backstage, however was a different story. Davis, for one, wondered what Trump's Presidency says about Americans.

"There is no way that we can have anyone in office who is not an extension of our own belief system," Davis said. "What does that say about us? I think if you can answer that question, it says it all."

Dutch director Paul Verhoeven, whose controversial "Elle" won best foreign language film and a best actress in a drama award for star Isabelle Huppert, said that he's very scared for the presidency.

Janelle Monae, who co-stars in "Moonlight" and "Hidden Figures" also said that while "anybody who is representing hate is part of the problem" she hoped that "at the end of the day, we can all remember that we all bleed the same color."

In an evening of such inclusiveness, there was a glaring flub made twice on Sunday that had nothing to do with a malfunctioning teleprompter. Both red carpet reporter Jenna Bush Hager and then Michael Keaton during the show both mistakenly called the NASA film "Hidden Figures," "Hidden Fences." It quickly became a popular, if dismaying, joke on social media.

In television, as expected, "The People v. O.J. Simpson" took best miniseries, as well as an award for Sarah Paulson. And Netflix's Elizabeth II series "The Crown" won both best drama series and best actress in a drama series for Claire Foy.

The ceremony included a memorial reel, which was added following the recent deaths of Debbie Reynolds and Carrie Fisher, who were laid to rest Friday in Los Angeles. Streep quoted the latter to end her speech.

Quoting Fisher, Streep said: "Take your broken heart, make it into art."

AP Film Writer Jake Coyle in New York and Associated Press writer Patrick Mairs in Philadelphia contributed to this report.

Streep takes on Trump while accepting lifetime award Globe

By DAVID BAUDER, Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Actress Meryl Streep earned a lifetime achievement award at the Golden Globes on Sunday and in accepting turned the spotlight away from herself and took shots at President-elect Donald Trump, without mentioning his name.

Streep said a performance from the past year that stunned her came from the campaign trail, noting the incident where "the person asking to sit in the most respected seat in our country" imitated a disabled reporter from The New York Times, an incident replayed frequently in campaign advertising.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 25 of 52

"It kind of broke my heart when I saw it," she said. "I still can't get it out of my head, because it wasn't in a movie. It was real life."

Streep said that "when the powerful use their position to bully others, we all lose."

Trump responded in a series of early morning tweets, calling Streep "one of the most over-rated actresses in Hollywood" and "a Hillary flunky who lost big." He also defended himself from claims that he was mocking the Times reporter, Serge Kovalski.

Streep's comments on Trump also drew a backlash among conservatives on social media, including Senator John McCain's daughter, Meghan McCain, a Fox News host who has been critical of Trump.

"This Meryl Streep speech is why Trump won. And if people in Hollywood don't start recognizing why and how — you will help him get re-elected," McCain tweeted.

Streep used the Globes, which are handed out by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, to highlight the diverse background of several of her colleagues and defend journalists.

Streep noted that "Hollywood" is a reviled place. But she said that it's really a community filled with people from other places united in the mission to show different people and make audiences feel what they feel.

"Hollywood is crawling with outsiders and foreigners, and if we kick them all out, you'll have nothing to watch but football and mixed martial arts, which are not the arts," she said.

Streep put in a plug for vigorous journalism, urging that contributions be made to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

While Streep won the annual Cecil B. DeMille Award and can boast of 48 Oscar and Golden Globe nominations, her career is still current. She was nominated this year for her portrayal of a bad opera singer in "Florence Foster Jenkins."

She mentioned Fisher, who died just after Christmas, and how the actress and writer urged others to "take your broken heart and make it into art."

She was introduced by fellow actress Viola Davis, who said her husband urged her every day when she worked with her to tell Streep how much she meant to her. She was too bashful then, but not on stage Sunday.

"You make me proud to be an artist," Davis said. "You make me feel that what I have in me — my body, my face, my age — is enough."

Trump and his Cabinet picks prepare for grilling

By JILL COLVIN and LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump and his Cabinet picks are preparing to face public questioning over their business conflicts, their approach to Russia and other issues during a crucial week that will include a slew of confirmation hearings and Trump's first news conference in nearly six months.

Trump is less than two weeks away from taking office, but has yet to lay out how he intends to disengage himself from his global business interests. Questions also remain about whether the president-elect will accept the conclusion of U.S. intelligence officials that Russia meddled in the U.S. election to help him win the White House. Aides say he'll decide how to respond to their efforts after his inauguration.

Trump's incoming chief of staff, Reince Priebus, said Sunday that Trump indeed has accepted that Russia was responsible for the hacking, which targeted the Democratic National Committee and a top aide to former rival Hillary Clinton.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 26 of 52

"He's not denying that entities in Russia were behind this particular campaign," Priebus said in an appearance on a Sunday television news show.

Intelligence officials allege that Moscow directed a series of hacks in order to help Trump win the White House in the race against Clinton. Trump has expressed skepticism about Russia's role and declined to say whether he agrees that the meddling was done on his behalf. He's also said improving relations with Russia would be a good thing and that only "stupid" people would disagree.

"My suspicion is these hopes will be dashed pretty quickly," said Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. "The Russians are clearly a big adversary. And they demonstrated it by trying to mess around in our election."

An unclassified version of a report presented to Trump last week directly tied Russian President Vladimir Putin to election meddling and said that Moscow had a "clear preference" for Trump over Clinton. Trump and his allies have bristled at any implication that the meddling helped him win the election. He won the Electoral College vote with 306 votes, well over the 270 votes required to become president.

The comments come ahead of a consequential week for Trump and his Cabinet picks.

Beginning Tuesday, the Senate will hold its first confirmation hearings. Senators will scrutinize one of their own, Alabama's Jeff Sessions, who's been nominated to be attorney general, and also will have a hearing on Gen. John Kelly, Trump's choice for homeland security secretary.

But Democrats complain the schedule is rushed. The government ethics office says it hasn't received even draft financial disclosure reports for some of the nominees set to appear before Congress this week. Many are wealthy businessmen who have never held public office.

Trump's nominees, meanwhile, have been going through extensive preparation in the days leading up to the hearings. Transition officials said Sunday they've spent more than 70 hours participating in full-blown mock hearings, with volunteers playing the role of senators asking questions.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Trump is scheduled to hold a long-delayed news conference in New York — his first since July. Among the topic he's expected to address: what will happen to his global business empire while he serves as president.

Trump has pledged to step away from the Trump Organization during his time in office, but has yet to say specifically how he will do that.

Kellman reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Vivian Salama in Washington contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that news conference will be Trump's first in six months, not three.

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. MERYL STREEP JABS PRESIDENT-ELECT

The actress, accepting a lifetime achievement award at the Golden Globes, uses the occasion to chastise Donald Trump, without using his name.

2. WHERE BAD WEATHER IS ROLLING IN

Hundreds of homes are evacuated in Nevada as thunderstorms arrive as part of a massive winter storm that could be the biggest to slam the region in more than a decade.

3. 'LA LA LAND' DOMINATES GOLDEN GLOBES

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 27 of 52

Damien Chazelle's bright-hued Los Angeles musical takes home seven awards — a Golden Globes' record.

4. AP POLL: OBAMA FELL SHORT AS NATION'S LEADER

Less than half of Americans say they're better off or that Obama brought the country together in his eight years in office.

5. WHY CHINA'S COAL HABIT WILL BE TOUGH TO BREAK

Many Chinese still burn coal for warmth — a dependence that points to the challenges Beijing faces in trying to curb the nation's choking smog.

6. NO LET-UP IN TENSION WITH PYONGYANG

With Trump getting ready to become president, North Korea is talking about launching an ICBM. Washington officials say they'll shoot down anything that threatens the territory of the U.S. or its allies.

7. IN TEHRAN, GRIEF AT DEATH OF EX-LEADER

Iranians pay respect to former Iranian President Rafsanjani as the nation observes three days of mourning.

8. WHAT'S THREATENING TOYOTA'S BIG MONEY-MAKER

The Camry has ruled as the top-selling car in the U.S. for 15 years, but now it's under siege from the SUV craze.

9. SIXTEEN ARRESTED IN KARDASHIAN THEFT

Police in Paris link the suspects to the October theft of more than \$10 million worth of jewelry from Kim Kardashian West.

10. TIDE ROLLS BEHIND 'SABAN WAY'

Coach Nick Saban's system has carried Alabama to the brink of yet another national football championship.

APNewsBreak: US energy boss lauds opening of nuke repository

By **SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN, Associated Press**

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — It was the determination of workers over nearly three years and pure ingenuity that allowed the nation's only underground repository for low-level nuclear waste to recover from a radiation release, the head of the U.S. Energy Department said.

Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz told The Associated Press that resuming work at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in southern New Mexico means the nation's multibillion-dollar cleanup of waste from decades of bomb-making and nuclear research is one step closer to getting back on track.

"We are very, very excited about getting at least a resumption of operations," he said during an interview late Sunday. "I do want to caution we will not be at full speed yet for a few years."

Moniz, Gov. Susana Martinez, members of the state's congressional delegation and others were gathering Monday to mark the reopening of the site.

The repository was shuttered in February 2014 after a chemical reaction inside a drum of inappropriately packed waste caused the lid to burst, contaminating some of the disposal vaults, corridors and air shafts that make up the facility.

The facility is carved out of an ancient salt formation about a half-mile below the desert surface, with the idea that eventually the shifting salt will entomb the waste.

Moniz acknowledged that the closure has caused a backlog of radioactive waste to build up at sites around the country — from northern New Mexico's Los Alamos National Laboratory, the birthplace of the atomic bomb, to the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, where the basic materials used to fab-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 28 of 52

ricate nuclear weapons were produced.

The secretary said he's hopeful shipments from some of the sites can resume later this year.

Aside from stalling shipments for nearly three years, the radiation release at the repository prompted an intense investigation that revealed the incident could have been avoided had existing policies been followed. Investigators highlighted lapses in management and oversight, and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and Los Alamos lab — where the drum was packed — were cited for numerous permit violations.

Negotiations eventually led to the largest settlement ever between the Energy Department and a state.

"Bottom-line: We moved quickly to hold the federal government accountable," Martinez said in a statement. She also thanked Moniz and the department for taking responsibility, noting the importance of the repository to the nation and the state's economy.

The incident has been costly, with recovery at the repository expected to approach a half-billion dollars once a new, permanent ventilation system is installed.

Moniz said much has been learned since 2014: the criteria for characterizing, treating and packaging waste has been overhauled and numerous technological advancements have been made.

"The workers had some really challenging environments to deal with because of the contamination," he said. "That really made for a tough period, but again ingenuity came to the fore. It was ingenuity that had to be supported by local, state and federal policymakers and regulators all working together."

Following a series of readiness reviews and an inspection by New Mexico state regulators, workers at the repository last Wednesday moved the first two pallets of waste from an above-ground storage building into the underground

Airport shooting suspect due for Florida court appearance

By CURT ANDERSON, AP Legal Affairs Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — The Iraq war veteran accused of fatally shooting five people and wounding six at a crowded Florida airport baggage claim is due for his first court appearance.

Esteban Santiago is scheduled to be in Fort Lauderdale federal court Monday morning. The 26-year-old from Anchorage, Alaska, faces airport violence and firearms charges that could mean the death penalty if he's convicted.

The initial hearing Monday is likely to focus on ensuring Santiago has a lawyer and setting future dates. Santiago has been held without bail since his arrest after Friday's shooting at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

The FBI has says Santiago flew on a one-way ticket from Alaska to Florida with a handgun in his checked bag. Agents say he retrieved the gun and emerged from an airport bathroom firing.

Castle attack exposes Jordan's vulnerability to IS threat

By KARIN LAUB and MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH, Associated Press

KARAK, Jordan (AP) — Bullet marks on the thick walls of a Crusader fortress and shattered windows of nearby tourist restaurants — damage from a recent shooting rampage — bear witness to Jordan's vulnerability to attacks by Islamic extremists.

Some say the assault on Karak Castle by Jordanian followers of the Islamic State group could signal a more aggressive campaign to destabilize the pro-Western kingdom. A senior security official said the Karak attackers had planned multiple attacks in Jordan on New Year's Eve.

The government dismisses IS as a fringe phenomenon and says Jordan's security forces can contain

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 29 of 52

any threat — but the Dec. 18 shooting set disconcerting precedents.

It marked the first time IS claimed an attack on a civilian site in Jordan, a spot popular with tourists. A Canadian woman and two local residents were among 10 people killed.

The four shooters were sons of Jordanian tribes, traditionally a pillar of support for the monarchy. Local media said they were college-educated men in their late 20s and early 30s, underscoring the appeal of IS ideology among some Jordanians.

The security establishment, meanwhile, faced rare criticism over its failure to prevent the attack, with more than one-third of parliament members calling for a vote of no-confidence in the interior minister.

Marwan Shehadeh, an expert on militants, said the Karak shooting signaled “a remarkable change” in IS tactics. “The year 2017 will be the year of great security challenges in Jordan,” he said.

Government spokesman Mohammed Momani said Jordan, a member of the U.S.-led military coalition against IS, is a target, but has countered threats because of social cohesion and what he said are well-trained security forces.

“We know we have been successful in stopping them on many other occasions,” he said. “If you look at what is happening in countries around us ... you see our ability to preserve our stability and security.”

Jordan’s confrontation with IS goes back to 2014, when the kingdom began carrying out air strikes as part of an international campaign to dislodge IS from neighboring Syria and Iraq where the militants captured large areas.

But Jordan’s military strikes have not kept the militants from its borders, and have made the kingdom a target.

Last year, seven IS supporters and a Jordanian officer were killed in a shootout during an arrest raid. In June, IS sent a car bomb from Syria that killed seven Jordanian troops. Lone gunmen carried out three separate attacks at Jordanian security installations, with five Americans among the dead. Jordanian officials have remained silent about the attackers’ motives.

As IS comes under growing pressure in Syria and Iraq, a gradual retreat there might generate an even stronger incentive for the group to carry out mass attacks elsewhere to affirm its relevance.

Jordan is a logical target because of the visible presence of Western installations and foreigners, said David Schenker of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

The U.S. is providing \$1.6 billion in economic and military support to its beleaguered ally in 2017.

Still, any U.S. concerns about Jordan may be overshadowed by the turmoil next door, said Schenker. “The narrative here in Washington is that the threat is pretty large, but that Jordan can handle it,” he said.

Jordan has clamped down on suspected IS sympathizers since 2014, with several hundred serving prison terms and five recently sentenced to death.

After the Karak shooting, security forces detained dozens more people. Twenty-two hard-line preachers who refused to pray for the Karak victims will be punished, said Religious Affairs Minister Wael Arabiyat.

Critics say Jordan fails to address the wider causes of the militants’ appeal among Jordanians, hundreds of whom have been fighting in the ranks of IS in Iraq and Syria.

Musleh Tarawneh, a Karak legislator who led the recent push in parliament to dismiss the interior minister, noted that unemployment in his district has risen to 25 percent and that university graduates can’t find jobs. “Islamic State found a way to enter the Jordanian tribes through poverty and unemployment,” he said.

The rise in unemployment is a result of long-term trends that could take years to reverse, including an economic slump caused in part by regional instability. The Karak shooting dealt another setback to

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 30 of 52

an already struggling tourism industry, once a vital sector of Jordan's economy.

Last week, damage inflicted by the gunmen in Karak was still visible.

Glass shards from a window shattered by gunfire covered the floor of the Shehab Restaurant at the castle gate. Linda Vatcher, a retired Canadian teacher, had stood in front of the restaurant when the white pickup carrying the four assailants screeched to a halt near her and assailants opened fire, killing her, said Jamal Saoub, a witness.

At nearby King's Castle restaurant, four tourists from France and Italy were eating lunch when the shots rang out, with at least two bullets piercing the glass door of the dining room, said waiter Abdel-Al Ibrahim, 52.

The attackers held off the security forces for hours, firing from slits in the castle walls before they were killed.

There has been speculation that the Karak cell targeted the castle spontaneously, after its hideout was discovered earlier that day. Atef al-Saoud, the head of the Public Security Directorate, said last week that the cell had planned to carry out New Year's Eve attacks with five explosives belts.

Individual tourists from the United States, Italy and Switzerland seemed undeterred, walking outside the castle last week, a day before it reopened.

They said they felt safe since the probability of a second attack in the same spot is low. They also said that attacks by militants can happen anywhere, pointing to recent incidents in Berlin and Istanbul.

Emily Clymer, 31, a U.S. academic from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, said she feels safer in the Jordanian capital, Amman, where she works, than in the United States. Jordanian security forces "take precautions, they react quickly," she said.

Daraghmeh reported from Ramallah, West Bank.

Florida airport shooting suspect appears in new video

By KELLI KENNEDY, Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A day before the suspect in the Fort Lauderdale airport rampage was to appear in court, a website released footage that appears to show him calmly drawing a pistol and opening fire in the baggage claim area.

The video recording posted on TMZ's website <http://www.tMZ.com/2017/01/08/ft-lauderdale-shooting-first-shots-video/> appears to show Esteban Santiago walking through baggage claim of the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport on Friday, pulling a handgun from his waistband and then firing several times before running.

Santiago, 26, is accused of killing five travelers and wounding six others in the attack. He was charged Saturday with an act of violence at an international airport resulting in death — which carries a maximum punishment of execution — and weapons charges. His first court hearing is Monday.

The FBI said in an email that it was aware of the video but would not comment on its authenticity. TMZ does not say where it obtained the video, although it appears to be from a surveillance camera.

Santiago told investigators that he planned the attack, buying a one-way ticket to the Fort Lauderdale airport, a federal complaint said. Authorities don't know why he chose his target and have not ruled out terrorism.

Authorities said Saturday during a news conference that they had interviewed roughly 175 people, including a lengthy interrogation with a cooperative Santiago, who is a former National Guard soldier from Alaska.

FBI Agent George Piro said Santiago spoke to investigators for several hours after he opened fire with a 9mm semi-automatic handgun that he appears to have legally checked on a flight from Alaska.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 31 of 52

"Indications are that he came here to carry out this horrific attack," Piro said. "We have not identified any triggers that would have caused this attack. We're pursuing all angles on what prompted him to carry out this horrific attack."

Investigators are combing through social media and other information to determine Santiago's motive, and it's too early to say whether terrorism played a role, Piro said. In November, Santiago had walked into an FBI field office in Alaska saying the U.S. government was controlling his mind and forcing him to watch Islamic State group videos, authorities said.

Santiago had been discharged from the National Guard last year after being demoted for unsatisfactory performance.

Bryan Santiago said Saturday that his brother had requested psychological help but received little assistance. Esteban Santiago said in August that he was hearing voices.

"How is it possible that the federal government knows, they hospitalize him for only four days, and then give him his weapon back?" Bryan Santiago said.

His mother declined to comment as she stood inside the screen door of the family home in Puerto Rico, wiping tears from her eyes. The only thing she said was that Esteban Santiago had been tremendously affected by seeing a bomb explode next to two of his friends when he was around 18 years old while serving in Iraq.

Rafsanjani, Iran leader whose life mirrored nation's, dies

By NASSER KARIMI, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani died Sunday after a decades-long career in the ruling elite, where his moderate views were not always welcome but his cunning guided him through revolution, war and the country's turbulent politics.

The political survivor's life spanned the trials of Iran's modern history, from serving as a close aide to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini during the 1979 Islamic Revolution to acting as a go-between in the Iran-Contra deal. He helped found Iran's contested nuclear program, but later backed the accord with world powers to limit it in exchange for sanctions relief.

Rafsanjani, who showed ruthlessness while in power but later pushed for reforms, died Sunday after suffering a heart attack, state media reported. He was 82.

Iranian media said he was hospitalized north of Tehran earlier Sunday, where doctors performed CPR in vain for nearly an hour and a half before declaring him dead.

A female state newscaster's voice quivered as she read the news. Rafsanjani, "after a life full of restless efforts in the path of Islam and revolution, had departed for lofty heaven," she said.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called Rafsanjani an "old friend and comrade" and said his loss is "difficult and life-decreasing." The government announced three days of mourning, and a funeral was expected to be held on Tuesday.

Rafsanjani served as president from 1989 to 1997, during a period of significant changes in Iran. At the time, the country was struggling to rebuild its economy after a devastating 1980s war with Iraq, while also cautiously allowing some wider freedoms, as seen in Iran's highly regarded film and media industry.

He also oversaw key developments in Iran's nuclear program by negotiating deals with Russia to build an energy-producing reactor in Bushehr, which finally went into service in 2011 after long delays. Behind the scenes, he directed the secret purchase of technology and equipment from Pakistan and elsewhere.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 32 of 52

In an interview published in October, Rafsanjani acknowledged the 1980-1988 war with Iraq, which killed some 1 million people, led Iran to consider seeking nuclear weapons.

"Our basic doctrine was always for a peaceful nuclear application, but it never left our mind that if one day we should be threatened and it was imperative, we should be able to go down the other path," he said. "But we never went."

The cleric managed to remain within Iran's ruling theocracy after leaving office, but an attempt to return to the presidency in 2005 was dashed by the electoral victory of the more hard-line Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Rafsanjani was later branded a dissenter by many conservatives for his harsh criticism of the crackdown that followed Ahmadinejad's re-election in 2009.

But after years of waning influence, Rafsanjani was handed an unexpected political resurgence with the 2013 victory of a fellow moderate, Hassan Rouhani, giving him an insider role in efforts that would culminate in the 2015 nuclear agreement.

Some analysts believe Rafsanjani was kept within the ruling fold as a potential mediator with America and its allies in the standoff over Iran's nuclear program. His past stature as a trusted Khomeini ally also offered him political protection. Rafsanjani was a top commander in the war with Iraq and played a key role in convincing Khomeini to accept a cease-fire after years of crippling stalemate.

His image, however, also had darker undertones. He was named by prosecutors in Argentina among Iranian officials suspected of links to a 1994 bombing of a Jewish center in Buenos Aires that killed 85 people. Some Iranian reformers accused him of involvement in the slaying of liberals and dissidents during his presidency — charges that he denied and that were never pursued by Iranian authorities.

"The title of Islamic Republic is not just a formality," he said in 2009 in the chaos after Ahmadinejad's re-election.

"Rest assured, if one of those two aspects is damaged we will lose our revolution. If it loses its Islamic aspect, we will go astray. If it loses its republican aspect, (the Islamic Republic) will not be realized. Based on the reasons that I have offered, without people and their vote there would be no Islamic system."

Rafsanjani — a portly man with only sparse and wispy chin hairs in contrast to the full beards worn by most Islamic clerics in Iran — first met Khomeini in the Shiite seminaries of Qom in the 1950s and later became a key figure in the Islamic uprising that toppled the U.S.-backed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi in 1979.

He was elected as head of Iran's parliament in 1980 and served until 1989, when he was elected for the first of two four-year terms as president.

Here, Rafsanjani began to build his multilayered — and sometimes contradictory — political nature: A supporter of free enterprise, a relative pragmatist toward foreign affairs and an unforgiving leader who showed no mercy to any challenges to his authority.

Rafsanjani took a dim view of state control of the economy, even in the turbulent years after the Islamic Revolution, and he encouraged private businesses, development of Tehran's stock market and ways to boost Iranian exports.

He built roads and connected villages to electrical, telephone and water networks for the first time, earning the title of Commander of Reconstruction by his supporters.

There were certain self-interests at play as well.

Rafsanjani was assumed to be the head of a family-run pistachio business, which grew to become one of Iran's largest exporters and provided the financial foundation for a business empire that would eventually include construction companies, an auto assembly plant, vast real estate holdings and a private airline. In 2003, he was listed among Iran's "millionaire mullahs" by Forbes magazine.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 33 of 52

His economic policies won him praise from Iran's elite and merchant classes, but brought bitterness from struggling workers seeking greater state handouts. Rafsanjani also faced warnings from the ruling theocracy about pushing too far. None of his reforms dared to undercut the vast power of the Revolutionary Guard — which Rafsanjani briefly commanded, and which controls every key defense and strategic program.

Rafsanjani's complex legacy also was shaped by the times.

He took over the presidency in a critical time of transition just after the death of Khomeini. He tried to make overtures for better ties with the U.S. after the American-led invasion of Kuwait in 1991 to drive out Iraqi forces, arguing that Iran paid too high a price for its diplomatic freeze with Washington.

But he could not overcome opposition from Iranian hard-liners and failed to win the backing of Khomeini's successor as supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, for bold foreign policy moves. He also angered the West by strengthening Iran's ties to armed groups such as Lebanon's Hezbollah.

"One of the wrong things we did, in the revolutionary atmosphere, was constantly to make enemies," he said in a 1987 interview. "We pushed those who could have been neutral into hostility."

Rafsanjani was born in 1934 in the village of Bahraman in southeastern Iran's pistachio-growing region of Rafsanjan.

He was jailed for several years under the shah. He then helped organize the network of mullahs that became Khomeini's revolutionary underground. In 1965, he is reputed to have provided the handgun for the assassination of Iran's prime minister, Hassan Ali Mansoor.

Only months after the revolution, Rafsanjani was shot once in the stomach by gunmen from one of the groups vying for power amid the political turmoil. He was not seriously wounded — and neither was his wife, who jumped in front to shield him from the attack.

"Great men of history do not die," Khomeini said in announcing that Rafsanjani had survived.

During the 1980s, he used his links with Lebanese Shiite extremists to help secure the release of Western hostages in Lebanon and was a key middleman — identified as "Raf" in Pentagon documents — in the secret Iran-Contra dealings to funnel U.S. arms to Iran in exchange for money used to fund Nicaraguan rebels.

Although Rafsanjani was seen by Washington as a potential ice breaker, his views were far from solidly pro-Western and displayed conflicted positions.

Shortly after becoming president in 1989, he hinted that Palestinians should kill Westerners to retaliate for Israeli actions in the occupied territories.

"It is not hard to kill Americans or Frenchmen," he said.

In February 1994, Rafsanjani survived a second assassination attempt. A lone gunman fired at him as he was speaking to mark the 15th anniversary of the revolution. Unhurt and unshaken, Rafsanjani calmed a crowd of thousands and continued his speech.

The Iran-Contra fallout is an often-told tale about the dangers of crossing Rafsanjani.

After word was leaked to a Beirut magazine about Rafsanjani's involvement, he ordered the arrest of the source, a senior adviser to the ruling clerics named Mehdi Hashemi, for treason and other charges. Hashemi and others were executed in September 1987.

Later, however, he was dismayed at the brutal crackdown against opposition groups and others claiming Ahmadinejad won re-election in June 2009 through vote rigging sanctioned by the ruling theocracy.

Khamenei decided to throw his backing behind Ahmadinejad, effectively snubbing Rafsanjani and his complaints. Later, Rafsanjani fell short on efforts to mobilize enough moderate clerics in the Assembly of Experts — the only group with the power to dismiss the supreme leader — to force possible concessions from Khamenei on the postelection clampdowns.

Rafsanjani was forced out of the post in 2011, but remained as head of the Expediency Council, an advisory body that mediates disputes between the parliament and the Guardian Council, a watchdog group controlled by hard-line clerics.

However, his family did not escape so easily. In January 2012, a court sentenced Rafsanjani's daughter, Faezeh Hashemi, to six months in prison on charges of criticizing the ruling system. A court in 2015 sentenced his younger son, Mahdi, to a 10-year prison term over embezzlement and security charges.

Rafsanjani is survived by his wife, Effat Marashi, and five children.

On Sunday night, Rouhani and others visited the hospital to see Rafsanjani one final time before his body was taken to a mosque ahead of burial.

"He was a revolutionary and freedom-seeking cleric who stuck up for the peoples' votes," said Saeed Karimi, a supporter outside the hospital. "It is such a pity that the nation has lost a political leader and guide."

Associated Press writers Jon Gambrell and Adam Schreck in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report. Biographical material in this story was written by former AP staffer Brian Murphy.

Rodgers works Hail Mary magic, Packers beat Giants 38-13

By GENARO C. ARMAS, AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Aaron Rodgers, master of the Hail Mary pass, struck again in another big moment.

Rodgers overcame a sluggish start and finished with four touchdown passes, including a momentum-swinging 42-yard heave to Randall Cobb at the end of the second quarter, to lead the Green Bay Packers to a 38-13 win Sunday over the New York Giants in an NFC wild-card game.

The Packers move on to face the Dallas Cowboys in the divisional round next week.

Rodgers was 25 of 40 for 362 yards, continuing a remarkable run of quarterback play that helped the Packers win their final six games of the regular season to take the NFC North. Cobb finished with five receptions for 116 yards and three scores.

For much of the first half, the Giants' defense flustered the two-time NFL MVP. They got pressure on Rodgers and the secondary blanketed the Packers' talented receiving corps, and a few boos even rained down from the stands after New York built a 6-0 lead on two field goals by Robbie Gould.

As it turned out, Rodgers was just getting started.

"We hit a Hail Mary. That got us going," Rodgers said.

Green Bay scored two touchdowns in the final 2:20 of the second quarter, punctuated by another remarkable desperation pass by Rodgers.

With the ball on the Giants 42, Rodgers took the snap with 6 seconds left. He rolled to his right before heaving a throw from about the Packers 47. Cobb somehow got behind three defensive backs near the back of the end zone to haul in the pass, getting both feet down before falling out of bounds.

"They boxed us out better than we played it," Giants coach Ben McAdoo said. "It was a heck of a throw, heck of a catch."

The Giants looked stunned, just like how the Detroit Lions and Arizona Cardinals looked last season after Rodgers pulled off similar feats.

"Davante (Adams) made a bunch of plays," Rodgers said. "And Randall Cobb, who this offense has been missing for a long time. We're better with 18 on the field and he showed it tonight."

Rodgers and Cobb weren't done.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 35 of 52

They connected again on a 30-yard touchdown pass late in the third quarter for a 21-13 lead. That score answered a Giants scoring drive that briefly cut the deficit to one.

"Second half we got back to some rhythm throws and I was getting better on my timing, getting the ball out of my hand quickly," Rodgers said. "No negative-yard plays, the offensive line blocked really well, regardless of the stats."

A Packers defense ranked 21st in points allowed (24.3) coming into the game limited the production of Odell Beckham Jr., and the Giants' receiving corps in spite of a battered secondary.

Beckham finished with four catches for 28 yards. Eli Manning was 23 of 44 for 299 yards, including the 41-yard touchdown pass to Tavarres King in the third quarter.

But the Giants were plagued by a series of drops by their receivers .

"It's a game inches, and we were just inches short on some of these plays, inches away from big plays," Beckham said.

Rodgers began dissecting the secondary after coach Mike McCarthy had his quarterback roll more outside the pocket, and the Packers started working the middle of the field.

Cobb had a big night after missing the last two games of the regular season with an ankle injury. Adams had eight receptions for 125 yards and a score.

Top receiver Jordy Nelson was knocked out of the game with 11 minutes left in the second quarter with a rib injury.

QUOTABLE

"It's unbelievable ... (Rodgers) makes the throw guys are misjudging it and one of us is able to come up with it," — Cobb on his Hail Mary catch.

STAT SHEET

Giants: Manning was 7 of 11 for 85 yards in the first quarter, when New York had a 105-7 edge in total yardage. ... RB Paul Perkins finished with just 30 yards on 10 carries.

Packers: Rodgers was 3 of 7 for 19 yards in the first quarter. He was sacked five times in the game ... Damarious Randall had an interception late in the fourth quarter.

INJURIES

Giants: CB Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie limped off after the first defensive series with a thigh injury. He returned in the second half, but appeared to play mostly on special teams.

Packers: Nelson looked stunned as he rode back to the locker room on the front seat of a cart after getting hurt, hunched forward with his hands on his face. ... RB Ty Montgomery limped off the field early in the fourth quarter with an apparent left leg injury, but returned. He finished with 27 yards on 11 carries, and 41 yards on three receptions. ... LB Blake Martinez departed in the second half with a knee injury.

UP NEXT

Giants: New York will try to build on its first postseason trip since 2011.

Packers: Green Bay will play at Dallas on Jan. 15 in a rematch of a Week 6 game at Lambeau Field. The Cowboys won 30-16. The divisional round will feature four rematches from the regular season for the first time in six years.

For more NFL coverage: www.pro32.ap.org and http://twitter.com/AP_NFL

New storm hits West as South, New England slow to thaw

By JEFFREY COLLINS, Associated Press

A winter storm that spread ice and snow from Mississippi to Maine is leaving behind cold so bitter that businesses and schools are closing in the South because the region still hasn't thawed.

Four deaths have been blamed on the storm, which dropped more than a foot of snow in southern New England, caused a former governor to fall on his icy driveway in Mississippi and could bring the first below-zero weather to parts of North Carolina in more than 20 years.

Meanwhile, the West Coast is dealing with the next storm, which brought the potential of a crippling ice storm to western Oregon and heavy rain to California mountains used to seeing snow this time of year. Forecasters warned of possible mudslides and the worst flooding in more than a decade.

In the East, the worst, lingering problems were expected in North Carolina where up to 10 inches of snow and sleet fell in places Saturday. The deep freeze followed. Forecasters predict temperatures won't get above freezing in much of the state before Tuesday afternoon, a big problem in a place where officials depend on usually mild weather to melt away the ice and snow on less traveled routes. One person died in Montgomery County when a car slid off icy Interstate 73/74 into a tree Sunday morning, Gov. Roy Cooper said.

There were some happy endings. Two hikers missing for more than a day in the frigid North Carolina mountains without food and water and only a small fire for warmth were rescued from waist-high snow. A helicopter using a tool that can detect heat found the hikers around 5 p.m. Saturday in the Shining Rock Wilderness area about 25 miles southwest of Asheville. Cooper said rescuers got to the men about two hours later, just in the nick of time.

And in east Tennessee a woman was found suffering from hypothermia a day after she was reported missing.

Teresa Burton, 58, was taken to a hospital Sunday afternoon after a police dog located her in woods, the Knox County Sheriff's Office said in a news release. Burton was reported missing Saturday from her Knox County home.

School systems across North Carolina went ahead early Sunday and canceled Monday's classes in part because of icy roads, but also because of bitter cold temperatures making it dangerous for children without proper clothes to wait for buses and difficult to keep buildings warm.

The National Weather Service predicted lows around zero or below on Monday morning in Greensboro, North Carolina, — marking only the 15th time in 113 years of records it has gotten to zero or negative numbers. Forecasters said the snow cover would lead to the unusually cold readings.

But when the thaw comes, it will be quick. Highs in the South are forecast in the 70s on Friday.

In the West, forecasters said flooding from the storm moving onshore and a second predicted bout of heavy rain Tuesday could cause flooding in northern California and Nevada similar to problems in 2005 and 2006 that sent 5 feet of water into warehouses in Sparks, Nevada, and hazardous waste barrels floating away.

The icy weather also prompted an increase in emergency room visits from falls. In Mississippi, a family spokesman said 93-year-old former Gov. William Winter was expected to recover, but remained in serious condition after suffering a concussion when he fell on the steep, icy driveway of his Jackson home.

Associated Press journalists Ben Finley in Virginia Beach, Virginia; Martha Waggoner in Raleigh, North Carolina; Jonathan Drew in Durham, North Carolina; Tom Foreman Jr. in Winston-Salem, North Caro-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 37 of 52

lina; Olga R. Rodriguez in San Francisco; Emily Wagster Pettus in Jackson, Mississippi; Bob Salsberg in Boston and John Nicholson in New York contributed to this report.

"Big Three" power Steelers by Dolphins 30-12

By WILL GRAVES, AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Le'Veon Bell spent the last two Januarys watching helplessly while the Pittsburgh Steelers tried to make a deep postseason run without him. The ever fluid running back made up for lost time Sunday against the Miami Dolphins.

So did Ben Roethlisberger and Antonio Brown, the other members of Pittsburgh's "Big Three" together in the playoffs for the first time.

Pounding away relentless at a defense that hardly seemed interested in stopping him at frigid Heinz Field, Bell ran for a franchise postseason record 167 yards and two scores. The Steelers overwhelmed the beaten-up and mistake-prone Miami Dolphins 30-12 on Sunday.

"We wanted to go out there and make a statement," Bell said.

Bell, Brown and Roethlisberger, who wore a walking boot on his right foot afterward, more than wiped away the bitter aftertaste of a 30-15 whipping at the hands of the Dolphins in mid-October. Given a shot at redemption, Pittsburgh didn't let it go to waste. The Steelers (12-5) led by two touchdowns before the game was 10 minutes old on long touchdown passes from Roethlisberger to Brown. Miami never got closer than 11.

"Le'Veon was beastly," said Brown, who finished with five receptions for 124 yards and the two scores. "All day, controlling the line of scrimmage, just running guys over and finding a way to put the ball in the end zone. Any time he's playing like that, we're going to be a hard team to beat."

Certainly, at least, teams like the Dolphins (10-7). Given a chance to prove their first playoff berth in eight years wasn't a fluke despite being outgained and outscored during the regular season, Miami never found a rhythm. The problem wasn't the single digit wind chill or a vicious hit absorbed by quarterback Matt Moore in the second quarter as much as it was the Steelers.

Pittsburgh sacked Moore five times, forced turnovers on three consecutive possessions in the middle of the game, and never really let the Dolphins up off the deck.

"It's hard to win when you turn the ball over," said Moore, completed 29 of 36 passes for 289 yards with a touchdown and an interception. "In the playoffs, you can't make mistakes and that's on me."

Pittsburgh (12-5) ran off its eighth straight victory to set up a visit to AFC West champion Kansas City (12-4) next Sunday. The Steelers rolled by the Chiefs 43-14 on Oct. 2.

"We have to understand the same passion and dedication that we put in this week to beat Miami, that's how Kansas City is going to try to beat us," Bell said.

At least Bell will be around for the challenge. He missed the playoffs each of the last two seasons with knee injuries. All he did in his postseason debut was break Hall of Famer Franco Harris' team mark for yards rushing in a playoff game. Harris ran for 158 yards in a Super Bowl win over Minnesota 42 years ago. Bell reached that total by the end of the third quarter.

The Dolphins tried to hype themselves up by running around in shirt sleeves in the single-digit wind chill during warmups. Steelers linebacker Ryan Shazier did them one better, racing around shirtless — as if to send a message that his team is plenty comfortable playing this time of year.

It sure looked like it.

The Steelers scored on their first three possessions, and Miami's playoff victory drought was well on its way to 17 years and counting. Miami running back Jay Ajayi managed just 33 yards on 16 carries, or 171 yards less than he piled up against Pittsburgh in October.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 38 of 52

UH-OH

Roethlisberger completed his first 10 passes and finished 13 of 18 for 189 yards with two scores and two interceptions. He also sported a walking boot on his right foot while talking to the media after the game as a preventative measure. Roethlisberger tweaked the ankle while throwing an interception on Pittsburgh's penultimate drive. He sprinted off the field afterward and said he will be ready to go against the Chiefs.

GRITTY MOORE

Moore appeared to be out of it when Pittsburgh linebacker Bud Dupree launched into him midway through the second quarter just after Moore released a pass. Moore lay on his back for several moments before slowly getting up and making his way to the sideline. Amazingly, he missed only one play after getting cleared by an independent neurologist as well as a team doctor. The 32-year-old stressed it looked worse than it felt. Dupree was hit with a 15-yard penalty for unnecessary roughness.

"I just really needed a second," Moore said. "With all the protocols now with the NFL, I had to do all that. It was fine. I had to gather myself for a second there. I was able to do that and went back in."

INJURIES

The Dolphins badly missed cornerback Byron Maxwell (ankle), out a third straight game. Miami held Brown to four receptions for 39 yards in October, but he topped that total before the game was three minutes old.

Pittsburgh avoided any major concerns heading to the divisional round, though tight end Ladarius Green (concussion) was inactive for a third straight week.

UP NEXT

Miami: The Dolphins showed signs of progress in coach Adam Gase's first season and may be the AFC East team best positioned to challenge New England in 2017.

Steelers: Pittsburgh's only playoff visit to Kansas City came in 1993, a loss to the Joe Montana-led Chiefs 27-24 in overtime.

For more NFL coverage: www.pro32.ap.org and http://twitter.com/AP_NFL

Has Saban already surpassed the man in the houndstooth hat?

By PAUL NEWBERRY, AP National Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Nick Saban is one away from the Bear.

At least that's what the record book shows.

Actually, an argument can be made that Saban already surpassed the man in the houndstooth hat.

Saban has five national titles — four as Alabama's coach, plus a BCS crown at LSU — going into Monday night's championship game against Clemson.

Paul "Bear" Bryant is the only coach to win six championships during the poll era, but his mark comes with a very big asterisk.

Two of them, actually.

In 1964, with Joe Namath at quarterback, the Crimson Tide finished 10-0 during the regular season and was voted No. 1 in The Associated Press media poll as well as the coaches' poll, both of which conducted their final tally before the bowls.

Alabama closed the season with a 21-17 loss to Texas in the Orange Bowl. If another poll has been conducted, Arkansas undoubtedly would have finished No. 1 with an 11-0 record that included a regular-season victory over Texas — the Longhorns' only loss — and a Cotton Bowl triumph over Nebraska.

The real soft spot in Bryant's record came nine years later.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 39 of 52

While the AP began awarding its title after the bowls in 1965, largely because of what happened the season before, the coaches poll continued to be based strictly on the regular season.

Alabama was No. 1 in both polls after a perfect regular season in 1973, but the Crimson Tide lost to No. 2 Notre Dame 24-23 in a Sugar Bowl still remembered as one of college football's landmark games. The Fighting Irish claimed the AP title, prompting the coaches poll to change its format the following year.

"Hey, any time you win a national championship, regardless of who puts you in there, you count it," quipped Gene Stallings, who played for Bryant and is the only other Alabama coach to win a national championship in the modern era. "I'm sure he counted it."

Records aside, Saban said he'll never surpass Bryant's total body of work.

"I think Bear Bryant is probably the greatest coach that ever coached college football," Saban said. "That would be my vote, and it would stay that way for a long time, because he had success over a long, long period of time."

Indeed, Bryant captured his first three national titles with an all-white team during the turbulent civil rights era of the 1960s, then three more after integration and a switch to the revolutionary wishbone offense in the early 1970s.

"The environment of college football changed dramatically during his time," Saban said. "He won championships running the wishbone, he won championships passing the ball. He effectively changed with whatever his players could do and whatever was required at the time."

While hardly a driving force when it came to breaking down racial barriers, Bryant supposedly scheduled the 1970 season opener against Southern Cal — which featured African-American running back Sam Cunningham — to show the value of having black players.

"He had a great impact on integration of college football in the South, which may be his most significant accomplishment," Saban said. "A lot of those things that he accomplished, I don't know that anyone else could provide the leadership that could match that."

Bryant retired after the 1982 season with a then-record 323 wins. He died about a month later at the age of 69.

"I think coach Saban could've won back in coach Bryant's era, and coach Bryant could've won in coach Saban's era," Stallings said. "But to compare them? I don't think you can do that."

More than three decades after his death, Bryant's presence still looms large over the Alabama program. The stadium in Tuscaloosa bears his name. Many fans continue wear Bear-style hats and other houndstooth attire to games. Most of the coaches that succeeded him struggled to deal with his enormous legacy.

Not Saban.

He has embraced Alabama's history while carving out a dynasty that surpasses any of Bryant's sustained runs of greatness .

Since the beginning of the 2008 season, Alabama has won 112 of 124 games. Of Saban's four national titles, the only one that stirred any debate was in 2011, when the Crimson Tide lost to LSU at home during the regular season but got another shot at the Tigers in the Sugar Bowl.

A dominating 21-0 victory left little doubt about who was the best team in the country, but there are still some who think Alabama didn't deserve a spot in the title game after failing to win its own conference.

Saban said he's merely carrying on what Bryant started.

"If you want to talk about the success that he had, that's rivaled by no one," Saban said. "He does loom large, and we're happy for that because the things that he did created our opportunity to be suc-

successful because of the tradition he established at the University of Alabama.”

When it comes to who’s No. 1 at Alabama, Saban still goes with the Bear.

Follow Paul Newberry on Twitter at www.twitter.com/pnewberry1963 . His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/paul-newberry> .

For more AP college football coverage: www.collegefootball.ap.org

Questions about hacking swirl as Trump enters critical week

By JILL COLVIN and LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump and his aides are entering a crucial week in his presidential transition as he and his Cabinet nominees undergo public questioning about their approach to Russia and potential conflicts of interests.

Most pressing during the upcoming days of confirmation hearings and Trump’s first press conference in six months likely will be whether he accepts the conclusion of U.S. intelligence officials that Russia meddled in the U.S. election to help him win the White House.

Trump’s incoming chief of staff, Reince Priebus, said Sunday that Trump indeed has accepted that Russia was responsible for the hacking, which targeted the Democratic National Committee and a top aide to former rival Hillary Clinton.

“He’s not denying that entities in Russia were behind this particular campaign,” Priebus said in a Sunday television interview.

That’s more than Trump himself has said. As for potential retaliation, aides said those are decisions that Trump will make after he becomes president on Jan. 20.

Intelligence officials allege that Moscow directed a series of hacks in order to help Trump win the White House in the race against Clinton. Trump has expressed skepticism about Russia’s role and declined to say whether he agrees that the meddling was done on his behalf.

In an interview with The Associated Press after a briefing on the findings, Trump said he “learned a lot” from his discussions with intelligence officials, but he declined to say whether he accepted their assertion about Russia’s motives. Trump has said that improving relations with Russia would be a good thing and that only “stupid” people would disagree.

“My suspicion is these hopes will be dashed pretty quickly,” said Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. “The Russians are clearly a big adversary. And they demonstrated it by trying to mess around in our election.

An unclassified version of the report directly tied Russian President Vladimir Putin to election meddling and said that Moscow had a “clear preference” for Trump over Clinton. Trump and his allies have bristled at any implication that the meddling helped him win the election. He won the Electoral College vote with 306 votes, well over the 270 votes required to become president.

Accepting those findings would be a positive step, but not enough, said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who is calling for more penalties against Russia.

“He’s going to be the defender of the free world here pretty soon,” said Graham, a frequent Trump critic. “All I’m asking him is to acknowledge that Russia interfered, and push back. It could be Iran next time. It could be China.”

The developments come during a consequential week for Trump, who will become the nation’s 45th president on Jan. 20.

Beginning Tuesday, the Senate is to hold the first of at least nine hearings this week on Trump’s Cabinet picks. But Democrats have voiced objections to the pace set by the Republican majority. The

government ethics office says it hasn't received even draft financial disclosure reports for some of the nominees set to appear before Congress this week.

And on Wednesday, Trump is scheduled to hold a long-delayed news conference to describe his plans for his global business empire to avoid conflicts of interest while he's president. While Trump has taken sporadic questions from reporters, it will be his first full-fledged news conference since July 27.

Kellman reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Jim Heintz in Moscow contributed to this report.

Truck attack kills 4 Israeli soldiers in Jerusalem

By JOSEF FEDERMAN, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian truck driver rammed his vehicle into a crowd of Israeli soldiers at a popular Jerusalem tourist spot Sunday, killing four people and wounding 17 others in the deadliest single attack of more than a year of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

The attack came at a time of heightened tensions in Jerusalem, where Palestinians have warned of dire consequences if incoming President Donald Trump follows through on his promise to move the U.S. Embassy to the city. The atmosphere among Israelis is also charged following last week's manslaughter conviction of an Israeli soldier who fatally shot a wounded Palestinian attacker.

Visiting the attack site, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said there was strong evidence the attacker was a supporter of the Islamic State group and suggested a link to previous vehicle attacks in Europe.

"We know that there is a sequence of terror attacks. There definitely could be a connection between them, from France to Berlin and now Jerusalem," he said.

Netanyahu offered no evidence to support the claim. While Israel has arrested several Palestinians who allegedly traveled to Syria to join IS, the group is not known to have any serious presence in Israel or the Palestinian areas. Israel has said that two gunmen who carried out a deadly attack in Tel Aviv last June were also inspired by IS.

The attacker, identified as 28-year-old Fadi Qunbar, came from the Palestinian neighborhood of Jabel Mukaber in east Jerusalem — located near the attack site.

The neighborhood, home to many other past attackers, has sporadically experienced violent clashes between residents and Israeli security forces. Netanyahu ordered a closure of the neighborhood. Israeli media said his Security Cabinet decided to destroy the attacker's home and withhold the release of his body.

Relatives and neighbors said Qunbar, a father of four, espoused an ultra-conservative version of Islam, known as Salafism, and had no known ties to militant groups. Salafism is split into peaceful and violent streams, with the latter promoting ideas that are close to those of IS.

Neither IS nor any other group claimed Sunday's attack. The vast majority of attacks in the current wave of violence were carried out by individuals without links to militant groups.

A woman who identified herself as Qunbar's sister told journalists that his wife had asked him to come home for lunch, but that he turned her down because he "had work to do." She said police had arrested the attacker's parents, wife and two brothers.

The attack occurred along a popular overlook in the Armon Hanatziv neighborhood that provides a sweeping vista of the city.

The Israeli military said the soldiers had been participating in an educational trip. It said three cadets and an officer were killed, and 17 others were wounded. Three of the dead, including the officer, were

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 42 of 52

female.

Security camera footage broadcast on Israeli TV stations showed the truck barreling at a high speed into a crowd of soldiers gathered next to a bus. The truck then quickly backed up before the driver was shot dead.

"He drove backward to crush more people. That was really clear," Leah Schreiber, a witness, told reporters.

The U.S. State Department condemned the attack "in the strongest possible terms." The European Union also condemned the attack and "any praise or incitement for terrorist attacks."

The White House issued its own condemnation. National Security Council spokesman Ned Price said American officials "offer our full support to our Israeli partners" in determining those responsible.

"Such cowardly acts can never be justified, and we call on all to send a clear and unequivocal message that terrorism must never be tolerated," said Price.

Tensions have been rising in the combustible city following a series of statements by people close to Trump that he is determined to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. The U.S., like other countries, keeps its embassy in Tel Aviv, saying the fate of Jerusalem must be decided in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

Israel claims the entire city as its capital. The Palestinians seek east Jerusalem, captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war, as the capital of a future state. Israel has annexed the eastern sector, home to the Old City and sensitive holy sites, and says it will never allow the city to be divided.

On Friday, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, invited Trump to visit the West Bank and urged him not to move the embassy.

Abbas said that doing so would mark a "red line that we don't accept." He promised to use all "diplomatic and political tools" to fight any such move, but ruled out a violent response, saying "we renounce terrorism."

The White House also condemned the attack. National Security Council spokesman Ned Price said American officials "offer our full support to our Israeli partners" in determining those responsible.

"Such cowardly acts can never be justified, and we call on all to send a clear and unequivocal message that terrorism must never be tolerated," said Price. "We extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims and our hopes for quick and full recovery for those who were wounded."

Since September 2015, Palestinian attackers have killed 40 Israelis and two visiting Americans in knifings, shootings and car rammings. During that time, 230 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire.

The toll from Sunday's attack matched that of the deadliest previous assault—the Tel Aviv shooting last June carried out by a pair of gunmen at a popular tourist spot.

Israel says most of the Palestinians killed over the past 16 months were attackers. The Palestinians and rights groups say Israel has at times used excessive force.

Israel says the violence is driven by Palestinian incitement, while Palestinians say it's the result of nearly 50 years of Israeli occupation and dwindling hopes for an independent state. The violence has slowed in recent months.

Israel, meanwhile, has been divided by last week's manslaughter conviction in a military court of a soldier who killed a badly wounded Palestinian assailant last March as he lay on the ground.

Extremists have threatened the military chief and the judges who convicted the soldier, while other critics have accused the army of abandoning a soldier on the battlefield and said the decision would make soldiers think twice before pulling the trigger in combat situations.

Eytan Rund, a tour guide who said he shot Sunday's attacker, said the many soldiers in the area were slow to respond, blaming their "hesitation" on last week's verdict.

The army later released a video of an unidentified soldier who said that he had rushed to the truck,

loaded his gun and opened fire as soon as it was clear the incident was an attack.

Associated Press writers Raf Casert in Brussels and Thomas Strong in Washington contributed to this report.

FBI agent who interrogated Saddam Hussein leads airport case

By CURT ANDERSON, Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — The FBI agent who interrogated Saddam Hussein alone for months after the former Iraqi leader's capture is now leading the investigation into the Florida airport shooting rampage blamed on an Iraq war veteran.

George Piro, special agent in charge of the FBI's Miami field office, was Saddam's sole interrogator beginning in January 2004. In previous interviews, Piro has said Saddam did not know his true identity — the Iraqi leader called him "Mr. George" — and that he posed as a high-level envoy who answered directly to then-President George W. Bush.

Now the 49-year-old Piro, a native of Beirut, Lebanon, fluent in Arabic and Assyrian, is in charge of the FBI investigation into the shooting at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport that left five people dead and six wounded. Federal prosecutors have charged Esteban Santiago, 26, with airport violence and firearms offenses that could bring the death penalty if he is convicted.

In announcing the charges filed Saturday, Piro said his thoughts are with the victims and their families. "I want to ensure these families that law enforcement is working tirelessly in order to ensure justice is served," he said.

Piro, an FBI agent since 1999, moved with his family from Lebanon to California's San Joaquin Valley as a teenager. After high school he enlisted in the Air Force, then became a police officer for a decade in Ceres, California, followed by a job as an investigator in the local prosecutor's office.

Once he joined the FBI in Phoenix, Piro was one of only a handful of Arabic-speaking agents — a group that suddenly was in great demand after the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks and the subsequent U.S. invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. In 2003, Piro was promoted to the FBI's Counterterrorism Division at headquarters in Washington, leading to his work as Saddam's interrogator.

In later interviews, including a 2008 appearance on CBS's "60 Minutes" program, Piro said he met daily with Saddam in a windowless room and worked to gain his trust by becoming his only provider of necessities and such things as paper for Saddam to write poetry.

Eventually, Piro said Saddam confirmed that Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction prior to the U.S. invasion but might seek them in future to deter Iran and other threats. Saddam also denied any links to al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden, Piro has said.

Saddam also liked to brag about how he escaped U.S. airstrikes and capture, according to Piro.

"What he wanted to really illustrate is . . . how he was able to outsmart us," Piro told "60 Minutes." "He got rid of his normal vehicles. He got rid of the protective detail that he traveled with, really just to change his signature."

Saddam was later tried and executed by hanging in December 2006.

Santiago, the airport shooting suspect, also served in Iraq in 2010 with the Puerto Rico National Guard as part of an engineering battalion, guard officials said. Santiago later served in the Army Reserves and Alaska National Guard.

After Iraq, Piro moved on to top FBI counterterrorism jobs in Washington, including a White House position involving high-value detainee interrogation that works with various intelligence agencies.

Since taking the top Miami FBI job, Piro has overseen work in more domestic areas such as health care fraud, identity theft and tax fraud, Ponzi schemes and mortgage fraud — all areas where South Florida is among the nation's leaders. Bank robberies, violent street gangs, public corruption and smuggling of humans and drugs round out much of the work for the Miami office's roughly 1,000 agents and employees.

Since Friday's shooting, Piro has been careful to say no evidence linking Santiago to terrorism has been found but such connections have also not been ruled out.

"It's way too early in the investigation. We're looking over all of his social media, things like that. It's giving us a picture of the individual, but it's way too early for us to rule out anything," Piro said Saturday. "We're pursuing all angles on what prompted him to carry out this horrific attack."

Follow Curt Anderson on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/miamicurt>

China warns after Cruz, Abbot, meet Taiwan's president

BEIJING (AP) — China has reiterated its opposition to any contacts between U.S. officials and Taiwan's government following a meeting between Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Gov. Greg Abbott and the self-governing island's President Tsai Ing-wen.

Cruz and Abbot met with Tsai on Sunday while she was passing through Houston on her way to a visit to Taiwan's Central American allies.

At a news briefing in Beijing on Monday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said China was firmly opposed to any contact between Taiwan's leader and "anyone from the U.S. government." Such contacts threaten to disturb and undermine relations between Washington and Beijing, Lu said.

China claims Taiwan as its own territory and has been ratcheting up the diplomatic pressure on the independence-leaning Tsai since her election last year.

Cruz said in a news release that during his meeting with Tsai, they "discussed our mutual opportunity to upgrade the stature of our bilateral relations" in a talk that addressed arms sales, diplomatic exchanges and economic relations.

An official with Republican President elect-Donald Trump's transition team said neither Trump nor transition officials would meet with Tsai. Her stop in the U.S. was scrutinized by Beijing for any signs that Trump's team would risk its ire by further engaging with the self-ruled island that China considers its territory.

Trump last month breached diplomatic protocol by speaking by phone with the Taiwanese leader. Trump raised further concerns in Beijing when he questioned a U.S. policy that since 1979 has recognized Beijing as China's government and maintains only unofficial relations with Taiwan.

U.S. lawmakers often meet with Taiwanese presidents when they transit through the U.S. — most recently in June, when Tsai met in Miami with Republican Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida.

China's nationalistic tabloid Global Times said Beijing would take a hard line toward any contacts between Taiwan's government and the incoming Trump administration. China "should also impose military pressure on Taiwan and push it to the edge of being reunified by force," the ruling Communist Party-published paper said in an editorial Sunday.

China has "seized the initiative. The U.S. and Taiwan now should restrain, or be forced to restrain, themselves," the paper said.

"Tsai needs to face the consequences for every provocative step she takes," it said.

Turkey's parliament to debate greater powers for Erdogan

By SUZAN FRASER, Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's parliament is kicking off a debate Monday on a set of draft constitutional amendments that would hand Recep Tayyip Erdogan's largely ceremonial presidency sweeping executive powers, and the possibility of serving two more five-year terms.

Erdogan, who has dominated Turkish politics for 14 years, has long been pushing for greater political powers to the presidency, arguing that a strong leadership will help Turkey grow.

The main opposition party fears that if approved, the reforms will concentrate too much power in Erdogan's hands, turn the country into a system akin to a dictatorship and move Turkey away from democracy and its anchor in the West.

"They are trying to turn the democratic parliamentary regime into a totalitarian regime," said main opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu.

Debate on the proposals is expected to last two weeks. The reforms must clear two rounds of balloting in the general assembly, gaining at least 330 of the 550 votes. If passed, the government will submit the package to a referendum for a final approval — possibly in the spring.

The ruling party, founded by Erdogan, is 14 votes short of the required 330 but has secured the backing of the country's nationalist party.

The changes would make the president the head of the executive, allow him to appoint the government, retain ties with his party, propose budgets and declare states of emergency. They would also allow Erdogan to serve a further two terms, ending in 2029.

Other proposed amendments would increase the number of seats in the 550-member parliament to 600, reduce the minimum age of legislators from 25 to 18 and set parliamentary and presidential elections on the same day.

The debate comes at a difficult time for the country which has been rocked by a wave of bombings, renewed conflict with Kurdish rebels in the southeast, a military offensive in Syria and a failed coup attempt.

The botched July 15 coup set the stage for a sweeping purge of state institutions that has alarmed rights groups and Western governments.

The government says the strong presidential system will reduce instability.

"They ask, why are you keeping yourselves occupied with constitutional amendments (when) there is terrorism?" Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said last week. "Look, it's today that we have the greatest need for a constitutional reform."

Critics say the changes would allow Erdogan to rule with limited checks and balances. Erdogan is already accused overstepping the limits of presidential powers as set by the constitution, ruling behind the scenes and ignoring laws that require him to be neutral.

Erdogan argues that the fact that he was elected by the people directly — and not through parliament as previous presidents were — gives him greater authority.

The draft amendments were approved following 10 days of tense debate that at times resulted in altercations between the ruling party and main opposition party members on the committee. Debate in the general assembly is expected to be equally tense.

GOP lawmakers vow quick action to enact new health care law

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top Republicans said Sunday they'll move quickly to enact a new health care law, but they won't say how long that might take or what might replace President Barack Obama's version.

Questions surrounding the future GOP plan have unnerved key parts of the health care industry, including hospitals and insurers that have warned Congress against uncertainty.

"We will be replacing it rapidly after repealing it," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. He declined to provide a more specific timeline.

The 2010 health law, which passed without Republican votes, became a lightning rod in U.S. politics. President-elect Donald Trump campaigned on a promise to repeal it. Congressional Republicans are in agreement it should be replaced. But they're at odds over how to do it, particularly over how to pay for popular provisions, including coverage for pre-existing conditions and the ability for parents to keep children on their plans until age 26.

A key GOP focus has been to do away with the individual mandate requirement that all Americans have insurance or pay a fine. But absent that requirement, insurers have warned it's not financially viable to force them to accept people with existing medical problems.

Another concern for some GOP lawmakers is scrapping a law that's covered 20 million people without offering them an alternative.

GOP Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky tweeted late Friday that he spoke with Trump and that the president-elect "fully supports" a repeal only when there's a viable substitute.

McConnell said the first step will come this week, when the Senate will vote to repeal the law. With GOP majorities in both the House and Senate after the November election, the repeal bill is expected to pass both chambers before reaching Trump, who takes office Jan. 20.

Trump's incoming chief of staff, Reince Priebus, said he doesn't want to get into specifics other than to say the goal is to act quickly.

"I will tell you that it would be ideal if we could do it all in one big action," Priebus said. "But look, it may take time to get all the elements of the replace in place."

When asked about Paul's tweet, Trump aide Kellyanne Conway said: "I can confirm that he is committed to replacing Obamacare with something that actually is affordable and accessible and allows you to buy health insurance over state lines and allows people to have health savings accounts," she said.

McConnell and Priebus were on CBS' "Face the Nation." Conway spoke on CNN's "State of the Union."

Trump has taken few steps to disentangle from private empire

By JULIE BYKOWICZ and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump pledged to step away from his family-owned international real estate development, property management and licensing business before taking office Jan. 20. With less than two weeks until his inauguration, he hasn't stepped very far.

Trump has canceled a handful of international deals and dissolved a few shell companies created for prospective investments. Still, he continues to own or control some 500 companies that make up the Trump Organization, creating a tangle of potential conflicts of interest without precedent in modern U.S. history.

The president-elect is expected to give an update on his effort to distance himself from his business at a Wednesday news conference. He told The Associated Press on Friday that he would be announcing a "very simple solution."

Ethics experts have called for Trump to sell off his assets and place his investments in a blind trust,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 47 of 52

which means something his family would not control. That's what previous presidents have done.

Trump has given no indication he will go that far. He has said he will not be involved in day-to-day company operations and will leave that duty to his adult sons, Eric and Donald Trump Jr. The president-elect has not addressed the ethical minefield of whether he would retain a financial interest in his Trump Organization.

A look at what's known about what Trump has and hasn't tried to resolve his business entanglement before his swearing-in:

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

Trump has abandoned planned business ventures in Azerbaijan, Brazil, Georgia, India and Argentina. The Associated Press found he has dissolved shell companies tied to a possible business venture in Saudi Arabia.

It's unclear whether those moves are signs that Trump is dismantling the web of companies that make up his business. Trump Organization general counsel Alan Garten has insisted none of the closures is related to Trump's election. He calls them "normal housecleaning."

The Trump Organization still has an expanding reach across the globe: The Trump International Golf Club in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, is set to open next month.

Trump has said there will be "no new deals" while he's in office. But Eric Trump, an executive vice president at the Trump Organization, told Argentinian newspapers last week that the company was open to another business venture in the country.

"We would like to find something," Eric Trump told Clarin, as he toured a Trump building construction site. "We'll find a project."

The younger Trump did rule out expansion in Russia, at least any time soon.

"Is there a possibility sometime in the next 20, 30 years we end up in Russia? Absolutely. Is it right for us right now? Probably not," Eric Trump said, in a video interview with La Nacion posted on the newspaper's website.

Asked about the potential for conflicts of interest if the business continues to operate, Eric Trump compared the separation between the Trump-led government and Trump-led company to the separation between church and state. "These two things will be unfailingly separate," he said, adding, "we will not share functions."

DOMESTIC BUSINESSES

Of Trump's U.S. portfolio, no venture has become more emblematic of the potential conflicts of interest facing Trump than his hotel at the Old Post Office in the nation's capital. The federal government, which he soon will oversee, holds the lease on the building he turned into a sparkling luxury hotel that opened shortly before Election Day.

The terms of Trump's contract with the government expressly prohibit elected officials from having a financial interest in the property. Democratic senators said the General Services Administration told them that the moment Trump takes office, he would violate the terms of his contract.

Neither GSA nor Trump transition officials responded to inquiries about what steps, if any, Trump has taken with regard to that contract provision.

Trump is still listed as a producer for the reality TV show, "Celebrity Apprentice." He has said he will not spend time working on the show. Financial disclosures he filed during the campaign show his company, Trump Productions, earned about \$5.9 million from "The Apprentice" shows in 2015.

Trump has a considerable amount of business debt that could put creditors in the position of having leverage over an enterprise with close ties to the U.S. president and his family. Last May, Trump

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 48 of 52

reported on his financial disclosure that he had at least \$315 million in debt related to his companies. The disclosed debt, mostly mortgages for his properties, is held by banks, including Deutsche Bank and investors who bought chunks of the debt from the original creditors.

CHARITIES

Last month, Trump announced that he would shutter his charity, the Donald J. Trump Foundation, to avoid conflicts of interest.

The decision came after the foundation admitted in a tax filing that in 2015 and an unspecified number of previous years it violated IRS prohibitions against self-dealing, broadly defined as using charity money or assets to benefit Trump, his family, his companies or substantial contributors to the foundation.

The New York attorney general's office has said the foundation cannot dissolve until it completes its investigation into whether Trump used the foundation for personal gain. The attorney general's office has not said whether the investigation will be wrapped up by Trump inauguration.

Eric Trump has decided to shut down his charity, which primarily raised money for St. Jude's children's hospital, to pre-empt conflicts of interest. That move came after the younger Trump was found to be offering in a charity auction a coffee date with his sister, Ivanka Trump, who is expected to take a position in the White House.

FAMILY

Questions remain about how Ivanka Trump and husband Jared Kushner, who is planning to advise the president, will separate from their own businesses.

On Saturday, representatives for Kushner told the AP that he has been talking with the Office of Government Ethics and is exploring taking steps to disentangle himself from his business, The Kushner Companies, in preparation for taking a White House role.

Under those plans, Kushner representatives say he would resign as CEO of the real-estate development business, which has been involved in some \$7 billion in acquisitions in the past 10 years.

Kushner would divest "substantial" assets including his stake in a New York City skyscraper that has been the subject of months of negotiations between Kushner and Anbang Insurance Group, a real estate giant with close ties to the Chinese government. Kushner's negotiations with the company were first reported by The New York Times.

Ivanka Trump, in addition to serving as an executive at her father's company, has developed a lifestyle brand selling shoes, jewelry and other products. She caught heat after her fine jewelry company marketed the \$10,800 bracelet she wore during a postelection "60 Minutes" interview with her father.

Representatives for Ivanka Trump and her companies did not respond to requests for comment about her business plans. In order to take posts in the administration, both Kushner and Ivanka Trump would need to argue that a federal anti-nepotism law that bars officials from appointing relatives to government positions does not apply to them.

LAWSUITS

Trump also is set to take office while battling a number of lawsuits. The president-elect sat for a videotaped deposition on Thursday involving a dispute with a celebrity chef who pulled out of a deal to open a restaurant at his new hotel in the Old Post Office building. When Jose Andres scuttled his plans for the restaurant citing Trump's campaign comments about some Mexican immigrants being rapists and criminals, The Trump Organization sued him for breach of contract.

Trump also sued another celebrity chef, Geoffrey Zakarian, for similar reasons.

Trump did act to close out one of the highest-profile disputes, over his now-defunct Trump University real estate school. After his election in November, he agreed to pay \$25 million to settle two class-action suits and one by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman that alleged the school misled and defrauded students. Trump admitted no wrongdoing and has yet to pay the fine, according to court records.

AP Business Writer Bernard Condon and Associated Press writer Jonathan Lemire in New York, and AP White House Correspondent Julie Pace contributed to this report.

List of winners at the Golden Globe Awards

By The Associated Press

List of winners at the 74th annual Golden Globe Awards, announced Sunday in Beverly Hills, California:

MOTION PICTURES:

- Motion Picture, Drama: "Moonlight."
- Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy: "La La Land."
- Actor, Motion Picture, Drama: Casey Affleck, "Manchester by the Sea."
- Actress, Motion Picture, Drama: Isabelle Huppert, "Elle."
- Director, Motion Picture: Damien Chazelle, "La La Land."
- Actor, Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy: Ryan Gosling, "La La Land."
- Actress, Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy: Emma Stone, "La La Land."
- Supporting Actor, Motion Picture: Aaron Taylor-Johnson, "Nocturnal Animals."
- Supporting Actress, Motion Picture: Viola Davis, "Fences."
- Foreign Language Film: "Elle."
- Animated Film: "Zootopia."
- Screenplay, Motion Picture: Damien Chazelle, "La La Land."
- Original Score, Motion Picture: Justin Hurwitz, "La La Land."
- Original Song, Motion Picture: "City of Stars," "La La Land."

TELEVISION:

- TV Series, Drama: "The Crown."
- Actor, TV Series, Drama: Billy Bob Thornton, "Goliath."
- Actress, TV Series, Drama: Claire Foy, "The Crown."
- TV Series, Musical or Comedy: "Atlanta."
- Actor, TV Series, Musical or Comedy: Donald Glover, "Atlanta."
- Actress, TV Series, Musical or Comedy: Tracee Ellis Ross, "black-ish."
- Limited Series or TV Movie: "The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story."
- Actor, Limited Series or TV Movie: Tom Hiddleston, "The Night Manager."
- Actress, Limited Series or TV Movie: Sarah Paulson, "The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story."
- Supporting Actor, Series or TV Movie: Hugh Laurie, "The Night Manager."
- Supporting Actress, Series or TV Movie: Olivia Colman, "The Night Manager."

Cecil B. DeMille Award: Meryl Streep.

'Rogue One' tops box office for 4th straight week

By SANDY COHEN, AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Star Wars" is still dominating the movie universe, with "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" leading the box office for a fourth straight week.

The intergalactic adventure edged out the NASA drama "Hidden Figures" for the top spot this weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. "Rogue One" brought in \$21.97 million. "Hidden Figures" — which expanded by more than 2,000 theaters Friday after opening in limited release — collected \$21.8 million.

"It's a great weekend for space movies," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box office tracker comScore, noting that the Jennifer Lawrence-Chris Pratt space story "Passengers" also remains among the top 10.

"Rogue One," though, has been unstoppable, Dergarabedian said, and is expected to top "Finding Dory" as the biggest box-office success of 2016.

The animated animal musical "Sing" was in third place this weekend, taking in another \$19.5 million for a three-week haul of \$213.3 million. "Underworld: Blood Wars" debuted in fourth place with \$13.1 million, followed by the celebrated musical "La La Land" with \$10 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," \$21.97 million (\$56.6 million international).
2. "Hidden Figures," \$21.8 million.
3. "Sing," 19.5 million (\$26.4 million international).
4. "Underworld: Blood Wars," \$13.1 million.
5. "La La Land," \$10 million. (\$3.8 million international)
6. "Passengers," \$8.8 million (\$32.7 million international).
7. "Why Him?" \$6.5 million (\$6.1 million international).
8. "Moana," \$6.4 million (\$20 million international).
9. "Fences," \$4.7 million.
10. "Assassin's Creed," \$3.8 million (\$45 million international).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," \$56.6 million.
2. "Assassin's Creed," \$45 million.
3. "Passengers," \$32.7 million.
4. "Sing," \$26.4 million.
5. "Moana," \$20 million.
6. "The Great Wall," \$12 million.
7. "Some Like it Hot (Qing Sheng)," \$11.3 million.
8. "Your Name," \$6.9 million.
9. "Collateral Beauty," \$6.6 million.
10. "Why Him?" \$6.1 million.

Universal and Focus are owned by NBC Universal, a unit of Comcast Corp.; Sony, Columbia, Sony Screen Gems and Sony Pictures Classics are units of Sony Corp.; Paramount is owned by Viacom Inc.;

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 51 of 52

Disney, Pixar and Marvel are owned by The Walt Disney Co.; Miramax is owned by Filmyard Holdings LLC; 20th Century Fox and Fox Searchlight are owned by 21st Century Fox; Warner Bros. and New Line are units of Time Warner Inc.; MGM is owned by a group of former creditors including Highland Capital, Anchorage Advisors and Carl Icahn; Lionsgate is owned by Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.; IFC is owned by AMC Networks Inc.; Rogue is owned by Relativity Media LLC.

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Sandy Cohen at www.twitter.com/APSandy .

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Jan. 9, the ninth day of 2017. There are 356 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 9, 1788, Connecticut became the fifth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

On this date:

In 1793, Frenchman Jean Pierre Blanchard, using a hot-air balloon, flew between Philadelphia and Woodbury, New Jersey.

In 1861, Mississippi became the second state to secede from the Union, the same day the Star of the West, a merchant vessel bringing reinforcements and supplies to Federal troops at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, retreated because of artillery fire.

In 1913, Richard Milhous Nixon, the 37th president of the United States, was born in Yorba Linda, California.

In 1914, the County of Los Angeles opened the country's first public defender's office. The fraternity Phi Beta Sigma was founded at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

In 1916, the World War I Battle of Gallipoli ended after eight months with an Ottoman Empire victory as Allied forces withdrew.

In 1931, Bobbi Trout and Edna May Cooper broke an endurance record for female aviators as they returned to Mines Field in Los Angeles after flying a Curtiss Robin monoplane continuously for 122 hours and 50 minutes.

In 1945, during World War II, American forces began landing on the shores of Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines as the Battle of Luzon got underway, resulting in an Allied victory over Imperial Japanese forces.

In 1957, Anthony Eden resigned as British prime minister for health reasons; he was succeeded by Harold Macmillan.

In 1968, the Surveyor 7 space probe made a soft landing on the moon, marking the end of the American series of unmanned explorations of the lunar surface.

In 1972, reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes, speaking by telephone from the Bahamas to reporters in Hollywood, said a purported autobiography of him by Clifford Irving was a fake.

In 1987, the White House released a Jan. 1986 memorandum prepared for President Ronald Reagan by Lt. Col. Oliver L. North showing a link between U.S. arms sales to Iran and the release of American hostages in Lebanon.

In 1997, a Comair commuter plane crashed 18 miles short of the Detroit Metropolitan Airport, killing all 29 people on board.

Ten years ago: U.S. forces continued to stage airstrikes against suspected al-Qaida fighters in Somalia

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Jan. 09, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 187 ~ 52 of 52

in the first offensive there since 18 American soldiers were killed in 1993. Apple Computer CEO Steve Jobs unveiled the iPhone, which went on sale the following June. Tony Gwynn and Cal Ripken Jr. were elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Carlo Ponti, the Italian movie producer who discovered — and married — actress Sophia Loren, died in Geneva at age 94.

Five years ago: Iranian state radio reported that a court had convicted former U.S. Marine Amir Mirzaei Hekmati of working for the CIA and sentenced him to death. (The Obama administration and his family denied Hekmati was a CIA spy; Hekmati was released in Jan. 2016 as part of a prisoner swap.) President Barack Obama announced that chief of staff William Daley was quitting; he was succeeded by Obama budget chief Jack Lew. Former Cincinnati Reds shortstop Barry Larkin was elected to baseball's Hall of Fame. No. 2 Alabama beat No. 1 LSU 21-0 for the first shutout in BCS title game history.

One year ago: French Jewish leaders and the nation's prime minister, Manuel Valls, held a memorial ceremony for four people killed in a kosher market a year earlier by an attacker claiming ties to the Islamic State group. Actor Angus Scrimm, 89, the "Tall Man" in the "Phantasm" horror films, died in Tarzana, California.

Today's Birthdays: Author Judith Krantz is 89. Football Hall-of-Famer Bart Starr is 83. Sportscaster Dick Enberg is 82. Actress K. Callan is 81. Folk singer Joan Baez is 76. Rockabilly singer Roy Head is 76. Rock musician Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin) is 73. Actor John Doman is 72. Singer David Johansen (aka Buster Poindexter) is 67. Singer Crystal Gayle is 66. Actor J.K. Simmons is 62. Actress Imelda Staunton is 61. Nobel Peace laureate Rigoberto Menchu is 58. Rock musician Eric Erlandson is 54. Actress Joely Richardson is 52. Rock musician Carl Bell (Fuel) is 50. Rock singer Steve Harwell (Smash Mouth) is 50. Rock singer-musician Dave Matthews is 50. Actress-director Joey Lauren Adams is 49. Actress Angela Bettis is 44. Actor Omari Hardwick is 43. Roots singer-songwriter Hayes Carll is 41. Singer A.J. McLean (Backstreet Boys) is 39. Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, is 35. Pop-rock musician Drew Brown (OneRepublic) is 33. Rock-soul singer Paolo Nutini is 30. Actress Nina Dobrev is 28. Actor Tyree Brown is 13.

Thought for Today: "Defeat doesn't finish a man, quit does. A man is not finished when he's defeated. He's finished when he quits." — President Richard Nixon (1913-1994).