

Groton Daily Independent

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The Groton Area School District will open two hours late on Tuesday, January 10. There will be no morning ICU, no preschool, and no morning OST.

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.

Thursday, Jan. 12

Senior Menu: Scalloped potatoes with ham, green peas, mandarin orange salad, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: French toast sticks, links, fruit, juice, milk.

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

Closed: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

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605-225-3078 ~ 1-800-658-3463

Board gives okay to move forward with \$14 million middle/high school improvement project

District patrons to vote on referendum in April

Mike Hubbard from Foster, Jacobs & Johnson, Inc., told the board that his company will be working on the district's improvement projects for one year on Jan. 11. The first major project is the elementary school renovation project scheduled to be done this summer with a new lunch room being added on. Chuck Padfield will not be working in the new elementary school lunch room as he submitted his retirement notice after working for the district for 28 years, to be effective at the end of this school year. That project is being funded by Capitol Outlay Certificates.

Now the board has been grappling with the improvements needed at the middle/high school building. The board gave the okay to send the project to a public vote at the same time as the school board election on April 11. The cost of the middle/high school project will be \$14 million. It will take a 60 percent voter approval for the referendum to pass.

The 1934 addition will be torn down and a new addition will be added. Some of the bricks from the 1934 addition will be used for the new addition to preserve some history of the structure. There will also be improvements in the music department. The shop area will remain untouched, citing it would not be feasible to stick a bunch of money into the shop not knowing the future of the curriculum.

With the remodeling of the elementary school and the possible middle/high school project, the board reviewed the start of the 2017-18 school year and it is currently set to begin on September 5 with the final day, barring no snow days, would be May 24.

The board also agreed to petition to the South Dakota High School Activities Association to keep Groton Area at 11B football for the next cycle, even though the district would qualify for 9AA football. The enrollment numbers for the boys will be below the 11B threshold for just one cycle before going back above it the following two-year cycle. Coach Shaun Wanner said they knew this was coming, but numbers in the past have been low before and the low numbers are only for one cycle before the numbers will go back up again.

Dr. Anna Schwan, middle/high school principal, reported that there are 30 students enrolled for dual credits for the upcoming spring semester. Dr. Schwan also praised Kristen Gonsoir for her work with the Brown County 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl Team that won the national finals. "She put a lot of her own personal time into that team. She really wanted them to excel," Schwan said.

Dr. Schwan also reported on the Drama Club that now has 12 members, and that pre-registration for the 2017-18 school year will begin January 23.

Elementary Principal Brett Schwan reported that the Elementary PAC has hired Cody Swanson and Sannessa Lindermann to direct this year's children's play, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 30.

Superintendent Joe Schwan reported on a number of things from school law to the proposals for the South Dakota Retirement System and the upcoming legislative session.



Back row l-r: Jaedyn Penning, Emma Kutter, Mia Crank, Breslyn Jeschke, coach Tom Crank, middle row Jerica Locke, Callie Tollifson, Riley Dunker, Hannah Sandness, front row Carly Gilbert and Laila Roberts.

SDHSAA Executive Director Candidates

The South Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors has selected three candidates to interview for the position of Executive Director of the SDHSAA.

The current SDHSAA Executive Director, Wayne Carney, announced his retirement in June of 2016, to be effective at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. The SDHSAA Board of Directors began accepting applications for the position in October of 2016. The board selected three outstanding candidates from the applicant pool.

Tom Culver - Avon School District Superintendent, Daniel Swartos - McCook Central School District Superintendent, and Jason Uttermark - Aberdeen Central

Girls U10 Soccer Team Takes 2nd at PC Tournament

Groton had one team at the Presentation College Soccer Bowl held this past weekend under the dome on campus. Groton's U10 girls placed second.

Game 1
Groton 2
Watertown 0
Goals by Laila Roberts and Jerica Locke

Game 2
Groton 5
Minot, ND 0
Goals by Laila Roberts (2)
Hannah Sandness (1)
Jerica Locke (2)

Game 3
Groton 3
Brookings Black 0
Goals by Breslyn Jeschke (1)
Jerica Locke (2)

Game 4
Groton 6
Brookings Grey 0
Goals by Mia Crank (1)
Emma Kutter (2)
Jerica Locke (1)
Breslyn Jeschke (1)
Laila Roberts (1)

Championship game
Groton 1
Hub City Soccer Club 2
Goal by Jerica Locke

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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC BROADCASTING LAUNCHES SD.NET

South Dakota Public Broadcasting (SDPB) is pleased to announce the launch of The South Dakota Network at SD.net.

SD.net provides direct access to live webcasts, news, and information from the South Dakota Legislature, state boards and commissions, and the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

SD.net serves as a central hub for SDPB's coverage of the South Dakota Legislature, the 100+ South Dakota Boards and Commissions, the Legislative Research Council, and South Dakota high school activities. On SD.net, South Dakotans can easily access minutes, public documents, information on members, and agendas for scheduled meetings.

SD.net includes a mobile app so users can access legislative and other meetings through iPhones, iPads and Android devices.

"South Dakota citizens deserve the opportunity to know about and participate in their government," said Gov. Dennis Daugaard. "One of my top priorities as governor has been to make state government more open and accessible. I thank South Dakota Public Broadcasting for helping to further government transparency by creating SD.net."

"SDPB envisions The South Dakota Network as a robust digital repository of meetings and events happening across our state," said Julie Overgaard, SDPB Executive Director. "SD.net is a place where South Dakotans can watch and listen to their state government at work, participate in a celebration, watch their home team win a state championship, or attend a great speech without ever leaving home. Users will also have easy access to other resources and archival content."

Users can download the free South Dakota Channel app by visiting www.SD.net using their phone or tablet or by visiting the Apple App Store or Google Play. Meeting reminders and archive files can be sent to followers via Twitter @SDnet.

"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

2016-17 Fall SDHSAA

Academic Achievement Team Awards

Initiated during the 1996-97 school year, the SDHSAA ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT TEAM AWARD program is designed to recognize varsity athletic teams and fine arts groups for their academic excellence. The South Dakota High School Activities Association believes that high school students learn in two distinct ways; inside the classroom and outside the classroom – on the stage and/or athletic field.

This academic program creates a positive environment for school teams to have its members excel in the classroom. This program is also meant to motivate students toward academic excellence and to promote academic encouragement from teammates.

All varsity teams that participate in Association sponsored activities are eligible for this recognition program. Based on a duplicated count, as reported in the 2015-16 SDHSAA Participation Survey, over 30,400 students participate in interscholastic athletics and over 28,900 more are involved in fine arts activities. The Academic Achievement Team Award program provides high school students with the opportunity to prove they can be overwhelmingly successful in academics as well as in athletic and fine arts activities.

All varsity athletic teams and fine arts groups that achieve a combined grade point average of 3.0 or higher are eligible to receive the SDHSAA ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT TEAM AWARD. With the completion of all the SDHSAA fall activities, the SDHSAA announces the following schools and their teams that have received the "Academic Achievement Team Award" for the 2016-2017 Fall Season.

Groton Area

Oral Interpretation
Boys Golf Team
Girls Soccer Team
Volleyball Team
Girls Cross Country Team
Football Cheerleaders

Langford Area

All-State Chorus
Oral Interpretation
Volleyball Team
Football Cheerleaders
Football Team

Frederick

Boys Cross Country Team
Girls Cross Country Team
Football Team
Volleyball Team

Sanford
Underground
Research
Facility



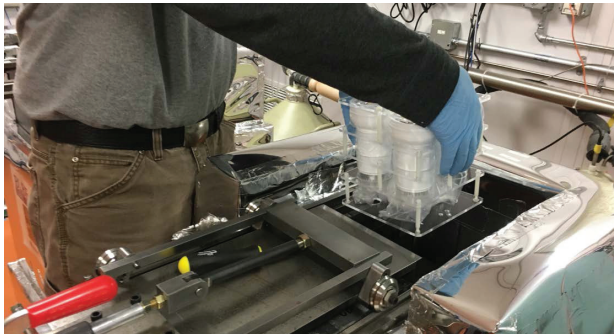
Subscribe at: Sanfordlab.org/newsletters

Deep Thoughts

Notes from the underground by Communications Director Constance Walter

Monday, January 9, 2017

Assaying critical to LZ success



Left: Photomultiplier tubes are placed into a low-background counter. Right: PMTs sit near a germanium crystal surrounded by copper and lead shielding.

Although it won't be operational for another three years, the LZ (LUX-ZEPLIN) dark matter experiment is keeping collaboration members very busy. They've decommissioned LUX (Large Underground Xenon Experiment), received CD-3 approval, and begun assaying materials that will be used in the detector.

The collaboration hopes to detect WIMPs, or weakly interacting massive particles, the leading contender for dark matter particles. LZ will be 30 times bigger and 100 times more sensitive than LUX and could be the best chance scientists have at discovering dark matter. But for that to happen, every component used to build the detector, including electronics, nuts and bolts, cables and PMTs, must be as radio-pure as possible.

"All materials contain trace radioactive contamination," said Dr. Kevin Lesko, a collaboration member who oversees material assaying for LZ. "We assay them to ensure we don't introduce high backgrounds into the experiment."

Recently, testing began on PMTs in the Black Hills State University Underground Campus (BHUC) low-background counting facility on the 4850 Level of Sanford Lab.

"We're looking for specific radioactive isotopes that could cause problems in the experiment," said Dr. Brianna Mount, a research assistant professor at BHSU and lab

director of the underground campus. "If backgrounds in any PMT are too high, it can't be used."

Altogether, more than 500 PMTs will be installed within the detector and the water tank that holds LZ. PMTs are critical in the search for dark matter because they can detect a single photon of light. So, if a tiny flash of light in the tank corresponds with a signal in the detector, researchers will know it was not caused by dark matter.

Approximately 350 PMTs will be tested at the BHUC. The PMTs are sent from Brown University to Sanford Lab. Each PMT is triple bagged, with the innermost bag filled with ultra clean nitrogen. Upon arrival at the BHUC, the outer two bags are removed and the PMTs, still inside the nitrogen-filled bag, are loaded into a jig, or holder, and positioned near a high-purity germanium crystal for up to two weeks. The data is accessed remotely and analyzed at Brown University and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL).

Lesko, an astrophysicist with LBNL, said the project is going very well. "It's a very busy time but we've seen significant progress."

Background testing on the PMTs is expected to be complete within a year.

Deep Talks Thursday 'From LUX to LZ : More than scaling up'

Late last year, LUX was decommissioned to make way for a second-generation dark matter experiment that will be 30 times bigger and 100 times more sensitive. Every aspect of LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ) faces challenges beyond just making things bigger.

At this week's Deep Talks, Dr. Markus Horn, research scientist at Sanford Lab, will discuss the plans to build LZ and the activities at Sanford Lab and other sites to achieve this ambitious goal. Deep Talks "From LUX to LZ" will be held Thursday,

Jan. 12, at the Visitor Center in Lead. The event begins at 5 p.m. with a social; the talks starts at 6 p.m. Deep Talks is co-sponsored by the Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center, First Interstate Bank and Crow Peak Brewing Company.

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Rounds Accepting Summer 2017 Internship Applications

WASHINGTON— U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) today announced that he is currently accepting internship applications for summer 2017. The deadline to apply for internships in his Washington, D.C., Pierre, Rapid City and Sioux Falls offices is February 17, 2017. College credit is available.

Duties in the Washington, D.C., office may include tracking legislation, researching bills, attending committee hearings and briefings, leading tours of the U.S. Capitol, handling constituent phone calls, sorting mail and providing legislative support. Duties in the South Dakota offices include researching constituent inquiries and requests, participation in outreach activities, assisting staff on special projects, handling phone calls and constituent requests and sorting mail. In all offices, students will work closely with constituents and staff, polish their research and writing skills and gain an in-depth understanding of a Senate office.

Interested college students should complete the online internship application and submit a resume no later than February 17, 2017. Resumes should be submitted to intern coordinator Erin Budmayr at erin_budmayr@rounds.senate.gov. Information about the internship program, along with the application, can be found online at www.rounds.senate.gov/internships.

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Pump Prices in South Dakota Still on the Rise

Jan. 9, 2017 – South Dakota's price average for regular gasoline rose three cents per gallon over the past week, AAA reports, with the state average seventeen cents higher than one month ago.

	Today	Last Week	Change	Dec. 12	Change	Last year
Aberdeen	\$2.325	\$2.299	\$0.026	\$2.14	\$0.186	\$1.998
Brookings	\$2.394	\$2.370	\$0.024	\$2.47	-\$0.073	\$1.989
Huron	\$2.255	\$2.321	-\$0.066	\$2.24	\$0.013	\$1.849
Mitchell	\$2.304	\$2.298	\$0.006	\$2.32	-\$0.013	\$1.894
Pierre	\$2.397	\$2.375	\$0.022	\$2.28	\$0.118	\$2.012
Rapid City	\$2.213	\$2.144	\$0.069	\$2.04	\$0.169	\$2.073
Sioux Falls	\$2.351	\$2.343	\$0.008	\$2.07	\$0.278	\$1.713
Vermillion	\$2.328	\$2.369	-\$0.041	\$2.04	\$0.286	\$1.772
Watertown	\$2.407	\$2.397	\$0.010	\$2.21	\$0.200	\$1.830
Yankton	\$2.355	\$2.332	\$0.023	\$2.18	\$0.172	\$2.000
South Dakota	\$2.338	\$2.309	\$0.029	\$2.15	\$0.191	\$1.946

The national average price of gas continues to increase, reaching today's average of \$2.37 per gallon, the most expensive average since June 2016. Gas prices have moved higher by three cents per gallon on the week and 17 cents per gallon on the month. Retail prices have increased for 40 of the past 42 days as a result of market reactions to the OPEC oil cut agreement. Traders and industry alike will keep a close eye on OPEC compliance as they await the release of the first output report, which is expected in mid-February.

Quick Stats

The nation's top ten least expensive markets are: South Carolina (\$2.14), Tennessee (\$2.14), Mississippi (\$2.15), Alabama (\$2.16), Arizona (\$2.16), Arkansas (\$2.16), Texas (\$2.17), Oklahoma (\$2.17), Louisiana (\$2.18) and Missouri (\$2.18).

The biggest weekly price increases were seen in Michigan (+9 cents), Pennsylvania (+8 cents), Delaware (+8 cents), Oregon (+7 cents), West Virginia (+6 cents), Washington (+6 cents), Alaska (+6 cents), Ohio (+5 cents), Virginia (+5 cents) and Maryland (+5 cents).

Midwest

According to the latest EIA report, regional Midwest inventories remain abundant and production from regional refineries is also high, however, pump prices in the region remain volatile. Monthly increases in Michigan (+34 cents), Wisconsin (+28 cents) Illinois (+27 cents), Ohio (+27 cents), Indiana (+26 cents) and Minnesota (+26 cents) rank in the nation's top 10 largest increases and every state in the region is posting double-digit increases over this same time period.

Oil Market Dynamics

Early Monday morning crude oil prices traded lower as a result of increased Iranian oil exports and reports of increased U.S. drilling. In an effort to capitalize on OPEC production cuts and gain market share, Iran has sold more than 13 million barrels of oil in the last three months. Also impacting markets are reports of increased U.S. rig counts.

According to a report from Baker Hughes, U.S. drillers added four more rigs, bringing the total U.S. rig count to 529. Increased oil production by the U.S. may keep a temporary cap on prices. At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI closed up 23 cents to settle at \$53.99 per barrel.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.



Upcoming Events

**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, 8 p.m.**

**Saturday, Jan. 14
Boys Basketball vs. Aberdeen Christian
at Redfield Classic, 2:30 p.m.**

gdilive.com

2017 Brings New Changes to Full Retirement Age

Every worker's dream is to enjoy a secure retirement. Social Security is here to secure today and tomorrow. Part of that commitment is ensuring you have the most up-to-date information when you make your retirement decisions.

As the bells ring in the New Year, they also bring changes for new Social Security retirement beneficiaries. Full retirement age is 66 and two months for people born 01/02/1955 through 01/01/1956. They are eligible to receive permanently reduced retirement benefits when they turn 62 in 2017.

Full retirement age is the age at which a person first becomes entitled to full (unreduced) retirement benefits. It had been 65 for many years. However, beginning with people born in 1938 that age has been gradually increasing until it reaches 67 for people born in 1960 and later.

As the full retirement age continues to increase, there are greater reductions in benefits if you claim them before you reach full retirement age. For example, if you apply for benefits in 2017 at age 62, your monthly benefit amount will be reduced nearly 26 percent.

You can find your full retirement age, along with other important information, on our website.

Some things you must remember when you're thinking about retirement:

1. You may start receiving Social Security benefits as early as age 62 or as late as age 70. The longer you wait, the higher your monthly benefit will be.
2. Your monthly benefits are reduced permanently if you start them any time before full retirement age.
3. If you die, your retirement date can affect the payment to your surviving widow or widower. If you started receiving retirement benefits before full retirement age, we cannot pay your surviving spouse their full retirement age benefit amount. We base their benefit on the amount of your reduced benefits.
4. If you elect to receive benefits before you reach full retirement age, you should understand how continuing to work affects your benefits.

You can learn more by reading our publication, When to Start Receiving Benefits, available by visiting <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10147.pdf>.

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Today in Weather History

January 10, 1911: The temperature at Rapid City, South Dakota plunged 47 degrees in just fifteen minutes.

January 10, 1975: An intense area of low pressure moved from eastern Iowa through eastern Minnesota. The storm center set many low pressure records as it moved across eastern Minnesota. New snow of 3 to 6 inches across much of Minnesota began to blow and drift on the morning of the 10th and then developed into a full blown blizzard with heavy snowfall developing. The blizzard continued over all of the state through the 11th with winds of 30 to 50 mph with gusts of 60 to 80 mph. Drifts up to 20 foot high developed in west central Minnesota paralyzing activity. Snowfall amounts from 1 to 2 feet occurred. Numerous roads were closed due to drifting and low visibility. Numerous sustained power outages occurred, particularly in rural sections. Thousands of people were stranded with 168 people trapped in a train in Willmar. Wind chills ranged from 50 below to 80 below behind the storm. Extensive losses to life and property occurred. There were 35 deaths during the storm and many injuries. Tens of thousands of livestock and poultry losses also occurred with 140 farm buildings damaged or destroyed. Losses to livestock and property were over 20 million. It took 11 days to clear some areas. Shelter was provided for nearly 17,000 people.

In South Dakota, snow began to fall on the 10th in the afternoon and then the winds increased and reached blizzard conditions by evening. These severe blizzard conditions continued on through the 11th and through the morning of the 12th. Wind chills fell to 50 below to 70 below zero. Many cars stalled on roads due to poor visibility, icy roads, and blowing and drifting snow. Eight people lost their lives. Thousands of livestock and poultry were lost. During the blizzard, a 2000 foot radio and TV antenna just east of Sioux Falls collapsed.

January 10, 2000: High winds gusting to over 60 mph caused some spotty damage across central and north central South Dakota. Near Mobridge, the high winds blew a semi-tractor-trailer off the road and tipped it over while it was heading westbound on Highway 12. The semi tractor-trailer sustained quite a bit of damage as a result. The high winds also damaged the windmill at the museum in Mobridge breaking off the tail and bending several of the blades. Some high wind reports include; 56 mph at McLaughlin, 58 mph at Onida and Mobridge, and 63 mph at Pierre.

1800 - Savannah, GA, received a foot and a half of snow, and ten inches blanketed Charleston SC. It was the heaviest snowfall of record for the immediate Coastal Plain of the southeastern U.S. (David Ludlum)

1911 - The temperature at Rapid City, SD, plunged 47 degrees in just fifteen minutes. (The Weather Channel)

1949 - Snow was reported at San Diego, CA, for the first and only time since 1882. Snow was noted even on some of the beaches in parts of the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Burbank reported 4.7 inches, and Long Beach and Laguna Beach received one inch of snow. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1975 - The "Storm of the Century" hit Minnesota. A severe blizzard moved northward across the state producing up to two feet of snow. High winds drove wind chill readings to 80 degrees below zero, and at Duluth MN the barometric pressure dipped to 28.55 inches. The storm, which claimed 35 lives, occurred on the 102nd anniversary of the infamous "Pioneer Blizzard" in Minnesota. (David Ludlum)


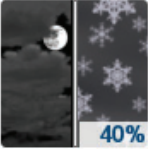





1982 - The temperature at O'Hare Airport in Chicago, IL, plunged to an all-time record of 26 degrees below zero, and high winds drove the wind chill reading to 77 degrees below zero. The temperature in Downtown Chicago reached 23 degrees below zero. A week later a second arctic surge sent the temperature plunging back down to 25 degrees below zero. (Weather Channel) (National Weather Summary)


1987 - Bitter cold air invaded the Rocky Mountain Region, with subzero readings reported as far south as Gallop NM. Pocatello ID reported a record low reading of 14 degrees below zero. (National Weather Summary)

1988 - A storm in the northwestern U.S. produced wind gusts to 97 mph at Netarts OR, and up to two feet of snow in the mountains of Oregon. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
80%	40%	20%				
Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow then Patchy Blowing Snow	Mostly Cloudy then Chance Snow	Slight Chance Snow then Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Cold	Mostly Clear	Cold
High: 12 °F↓	Low: -5 °F	High: 2 °F	Low: -10 °F	High: 4 °F	Low: -28 °F	High: 9 °F

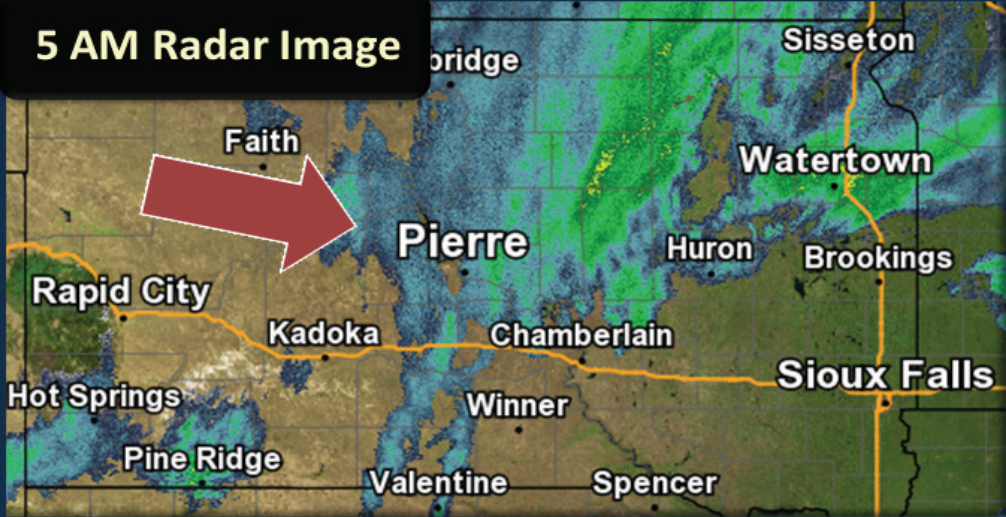


Snow ending this Morning exiting west to east



**Blowing/Drifting
Snow**

5 AM Radar Image



This Afternoon

Highs in the teens to around 20°

Wednesday

Highs in the single digits

National Weather Service, Aberdeen SD Issued: January 19, 2017 530am

Published on: 01/10/2017 at 5:35AM

Light to moderate snow will continue to exit east this morning. Breezy northwest winds will result in blowing and drifting snow that will remain through mid afternoon. Another area of low pressure is timed to work across the region early Wednesday morning, with another round of light snow expected. Much colder air will sink in behind that system, with highs on Wednesday topping out in the single digits above zero.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 14.5 F at 3:26 PM

Low Outside Temp: -1.5 F at 3:23 AM

High Gust: 18.0 Mph at 11:51 AM

Rain: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 56° in 2012

Record Low: -30° in 1978

Average High: 22°F

Average Low: 1°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.18

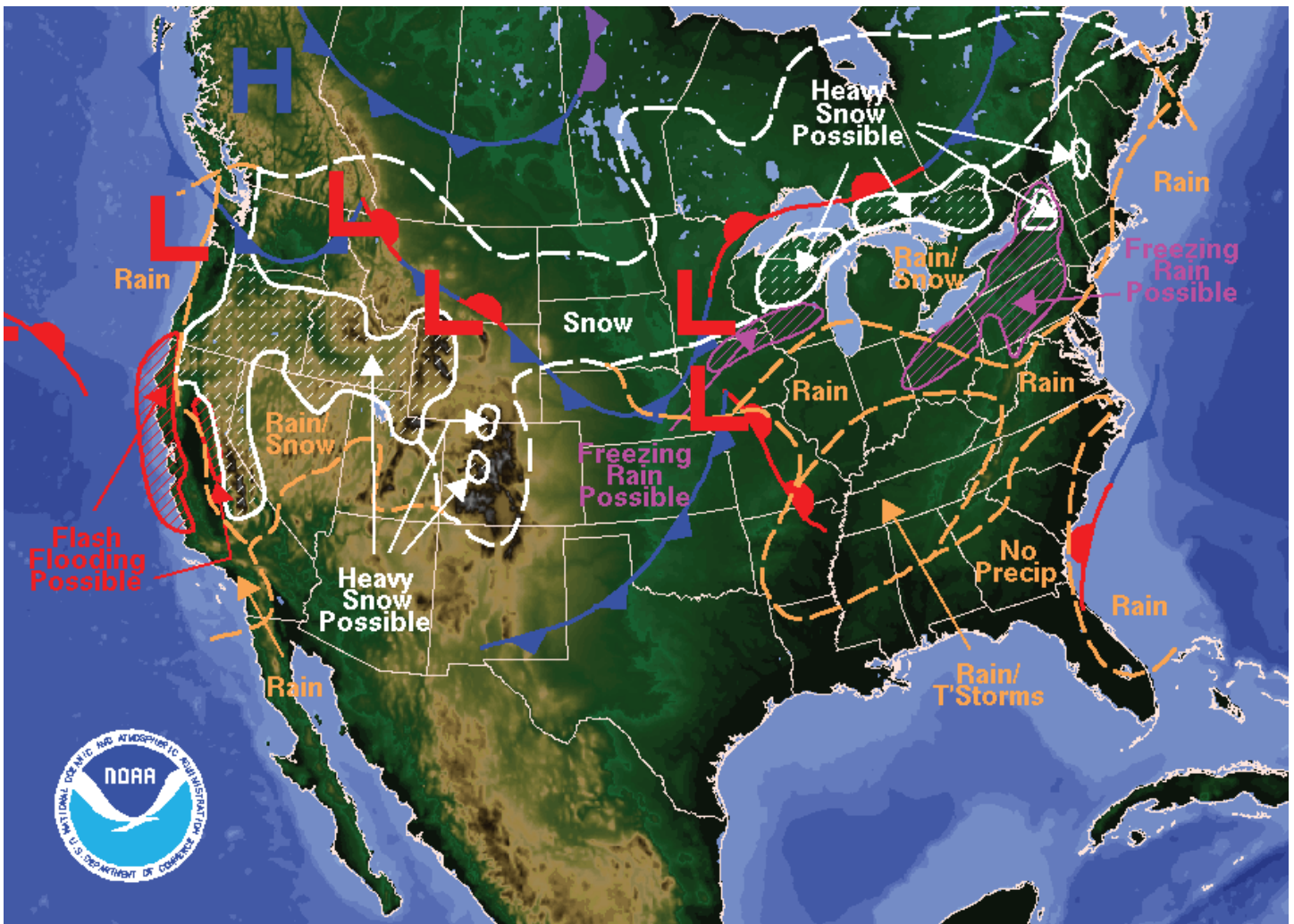
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.18

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:09 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:11 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Jan 10, 2017, issued 4:53 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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KEEP 'EM DOWN!

A group of tourists was strolling along the ocean front when they saw a group of young boys catching crabs.

They became curious when they saw that the basket they placed the captured crabs in had no top. As a crab was being placed into the basket one of the men said, "You'd better cover the basket or all of the crabs will climb out!"

"Oh no, sir," said one of the boys. "That'll never happen. If one of them tries to climb out the others will pull him down."

How like many who attend church each Sunday and call themselves "disciples." Whenever they hear of someone being promoted or another, who receives an unusual gift or special recognition or a reward for their performance at work, they are unable to rejoice with the one whom God has blessed. They look for reasons to pull that one down. How sad that gossip, jealousy and envy rules so many lives!

Paul wrote that "Love is not jealous!" In other words, if I truly love others as God wants me to love them, I do not become jealous when God blesses them. Instead, I rejoice at His goodness to them. Whatever we have or what others have comes from God. They are His blessings.

The love that Paul writes about is not a natural love. It is a God-love that comes from Christ dwelling in us. Only as we surrender our lives to Him will we live His love and so that others will see Him in the way we live.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to rejoice when You bless others and give sincere thanks when You honor us. Fill our hearts with so much love that we will rejoice and be glad. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It

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News from the Associated Press

Gov. Dennis Daugaard to give his State of the State address

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard is set to give his State of the State address to legislators at the South Dakota Capitol.

The Republican governor's speech kicks off the start of the 2017 legislative session Tuesday.

Daugaard is expected to discuss issues ranging from mentally ill people entering the criminal justice system to growing meth use and mounting drug arrests.

South Dakota Public Broadcasting will carry the 1 p.m. speech from the House of Representatives chamber live on TV, radio and the internet.

The session ends March 10, although lawmakers come back to consider any vetoes near the end of that month.

Republicans hold supermajorities in both the House and the Senate.

Online: Speech: <http://www.sd.net/home>

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Baltic 63, Centerville 28
Bridgewater-Emery 73, Ethan 36
Canistota 63, Gayville-Volin 55
Clark/Willow Lake 60, Deubrook 36
Crow Creek 53, Colome 49
Hanson 52, Parkston 41
Madison 66, West Central 48
Morrill, Neb. 51, Edgemont 36
Potter County 77, Northwestern 41

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Alcester-Hudson 61, Viborg-Hurley 41
Castlewood 54, Florence/Henry 42
Douglas 43, Lead-Deadwood 21
Ethan 68, Bridgewater-Emery 24
Highmore-Harrold 51, Wolsey-Wessington 49
Lake Preston 65, Iroquois 28
Lemmon 48, Flasher, N.D. 46
Lyman 56, White River 46
Mobridge-Pollock 45, Standing Rock, N.D. 38
Morrill, Neb. 53, Edgemont 18
New Underwood 43, Oelrichs 39
Parker 64, Irene-Wakonda 38
Platte-Geddes 40, Corsica/Stickney 28
Redfield/Doland 34, Great Plains Lutheran 28

Rapid City detective hopes DNA is key to solving homicides

By Tiffany Tan, Rapid City Journal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Investigators had several suspects, but no one has ever been arrested in Miller’s death. She was bur-

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ied in the eastern South Dakota town of Cresbard, where her sister lived.

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

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

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

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

Keefe's job, a part-time position that involves 20 hours of work a week, pays \$22.27 an hour. Before Keefe was hired, there was practically no one handling cold-case investigations, said Keefe's supervisor, Capt. James Johns, who heads the police department's criminal investigations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If the DNA test shows a match, Keefe will have solved a crime that happened when he was just a few

years old. If it comes back negative, he will continue looking at other possibilities. He has to: Keefe said only when he finally solves a case will the significance of having a cold-case detective become apparent.

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

Suspect in death of transgender woman charged with murder

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police say a man accused of fatally stabbing a transgender woman in Sioux Falls has been charged with murder and other counts.

Sioux Falls Police Capt. Blaine Larsen says the charges against 25-year-old Joshua Rayvan LeClaire include one count each of first- and second-degree murder and two counts of first-degree manslaughter. His bond has been set at \$2 million.

Larsen says it doesn't appear the slaying of 28-year-old Sioux Falls resident Jamie Lee Wounded Arrow was a hate crime. He says Wounded Arrow's body was found with multiple stab wounds Friday night, but the slaying happened Jan. 1.

Investigators are searching through texts and social media to determine the relationship between Wounded Arrow and LeClaire. Larsen described them as acquaintances.

Larsen says security video shows LeClaire entering the victim's apartment.

Daugaard: Debating a bathroom bill shouldn't be a priority

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard says that debate over restricting the bathrooms that transgender students can use at school shouldn't be a priority during the 2017 legislative session.

Daugaard tells (<http://argusne.ws/2jvw3Wf>) the Argus Leader that he views the debate at the Capitol as unnecessary because school districts are handling issues on a case-by-case basis.

The Republican governor vetoed a bill in 2016 that would have required transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms matching their gender at birth.

Daugaard tells the newspaper that it's a solution in search of a problem.

Dale Bartscher of conservative group Family Heritage Alliance Action says that such a measure remains a "high priority." Bartscher says the organization hopes Daugaard will recognize the merits of a revised bill and sign it.

The 2017 session starts Tuesday.

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

Polaris plans to drop unprofitable Victory Motorcycle brand

SPIRIT LAKE, Iowa (AP) — Polaris Industries will stop making its Victory motorcycles so it can focus on its Indian Motorcycle brand and other products.

Polaris announced Monday that it is shutting down the unprofitable Victory brand after 18 years. The motorcycles were produced at the Minneapolis-based company's Spirit Lake, Iowa, and Spearfish, South Dakota, plants.

The company decided that its Indian Motorcycle brand has better growth prospects, Polaris CEO Scott Wine said.

"This decision will improve the profitability of Polaris and our global motorcycle business, and will materially improve our competitive stance in the industry," he said.

Polaris said it lost money on Victory in three of the past five years after sales of the heavyweight motorcycles peaked in 2012. The brand represented only about 3 percent of Polaris' total sales.

Jefferies analyst Trevor Young said the move was a surprise, but it will likely help Indian Motorcycle sales. The Indian brand is second only to Harley-Davidson in the market.

"Over the medium-term, we think this is a positive, as it appears Polaris is doubling down on Indian," Young said in a research note.

The company will detail its profit outlook for the year when it releases its fourth-quarter earnings report on Jan. 24.

UBS analyst Robin Farley noted the move will eliminate an American motorcycle brand, but Harley-Davidson may not be able to take advantage of it because its customer base is aging and Indian Motorcycle has been gaining market share.

Polaris said it will help dealers liquidate their remaining Victory motorcycles, and it will continue producing parts for the bikes for 10 more years.

About 400 dealers nationwide sold Victory motorcycles, although about 150 of those also sell Indian motorcycles.

In addition to motorcycles, Polaris makes ATVs, snowmobiles, the three-wheeled Slingshot roadster and other vehicles.

Polaris' plants in Iowa and South Dakota will continue producing Indian motorcycles. It's not clear how many jobs will be lost at those plants with the end of Victory production.

The company's Slingshot roadsters are made in Huntsville, Alabama.

13 small wind projects proposed in southeastern South Dakota

AVON, S.D. (AP) — A company that proposed a 201-megawatt wind farm near Avon last year has a new plan for 13 smaller projects in southeastern South Dakota.

Last month, the Public Utilities Commission received paperwork that Prevailing Winds filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding the new project, Public Utilities Commission chairwoman Kristie Fiegen told the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan (<http://bit.ly/2iVtYX8>).

She said the size of the projects in Bon Homme and Charles Mix counties range from 6.8 megawatts to 20 megawatts.

Fiegen said investors are seeking qualifying facility status under the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act, which gives small wind power production facilities the right to sell their power and mandates utilities to buy the power at a certain point.

According to Ronnie Hornstra, Prevailing Winds chairman, the proposed projects won't harm rural-electric cooperatives or other energy providers.

"It only creates an opportunity for the cooperatives to purchase local renewable energy that would reduce cooperatives' energy costs and would be generated right here in South Dakota," Hornstra said.

Hornstra said the projects would provide energy at a cost savings. He added that Prevailing Winds' charter seeks the social and economic improvement of rural South Dakota.

"Our mission statement is the primary reason we are making these offers to the cooperatives," Hornstra said, "to extend our projects economic benefits to as many South Dakota residents as possible."

Prevailing Winds' board withdrew its previous application last August after a public hearing in Avon.

Krebs offers package to replace ethics initiative under fire

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Secretary of State Shantel Krebs is proposing a rewrite of South Dakota's campaign finance laws that she said could replace a voter-approved government ethics overhaul Republican lawmakers are expected to repeal during the legislative session that starts Tuesday.

The state's chief election officer outlined to The Associated Press the wide-ranging changes, which include creating a campaign finance ethics commission, adding financial disclosure requirements and allowing organizations to contribute directly to candidates, among other provisions.

"I don't feel that the Legislature can get a solid working product put together in two months," said Krebs, citing her office's level of experience and the months dedicated to crafting the proposed changes. "I just want to have a product ready to go for them."

Krebs, a Republican, convened a bipartisan task force to review of the state's campaign finance laws during the summer, before voters approved the Initiated Measure 22 ethics package. The ballot measure instituted a public campaign finance system, tightened campaign finance and lobbying laws and created an ethics commission.

The new law drew quick condemnation from Republican lawmakers and prompted a court challenge by two dozen GOP legislators and others. A state judge put it on hold while the legal challenge moves forward.

The governor has criticized the campaign to pass the measure as deceptive and said he'd be surprised if the initiative isn't swept away this year. Krebs said she supports repealing the ballot measure because of her "solid" replacement proposal.

Measure supporters South Dakotans for Integrity hired a lobbyist and have said they're prepared to fight for it at the Capitol and again at the ballot box, if necessary.

Doug Kronaizl, a spokesman for pro-Initiated Measure 22 group Represent South Dakota, said the organization is encouraging supporters to contact lawmakers and let them know that voters are watching and that they want the Legislature to respect their vote.

He said the group is a local chapter of Represent.Us, a Massachusetts-based organization working to reduce the influence of money in politics that helped fund the South Dakota ballot measure campaign.

Krebs intends to present the new package, which she described as a starting point, to legislative leaders.

Daugaard likes the "high-level concepts, but expects there to be a lot of discussion about the details," Chief of Staff Tony Venhuizen, who served on Krebs' task force, said in an email.

The ethics commission would be patterned after a disciplinary board and would evaluate and enforce complaints over reported campaign finance violations. There would be an appeals process.

The proposed changes would also require political committees to file reports for every campaign finance period. Currently, candidates without a primary challenge don't have to file a report until shortly before the general election, a significant gap in which donations and spending don't have to be disclosed.

"We're not letting anyone off the hook," Krebs said of the proposal. "Everyone has to report."

She said the overhaul would allow organizations to donate directly to candidates in an effort to improve transparency. Businesses and other organizations right now funnel donations into political action committees, which can obscure the original source of the money by the time it reaches a candidate.

Another suggested change would require more detail when reporting miscellaneous expenditures in campaign finance documents.

The secretary of state's office has sent the plan to the Legislative Research Council to be turned into

legislation. The language wasn't yet available Monday on the Legislature's website.

"I'm very confident that it's reasonable and fair, and it's exactly what the citizens, I think, are really wanting," Krebs said.

Lawmakers to weigh exempting some drones from registration

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers are set to consider whether some unmanned aircraft should be exempt from state registration requirements.

The 2017 legislative session begins Tuesday. A bill introduced at the request of the state Department of Transportation would excuse the owners of drones weighing less than 55 pounds from being required to register them as aircraft.

Department Secretary Darin Bergquist says the legislation raises the question of whether the state's registration laws were meant to cover drones and require redundant registration.

Bergquist says drones currently must be registered with the Federal Aviation Administration.

Corps, tribes to judge: Reject Dakota Access company request

By BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and two Native American tribes that oppose the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access oil pipeline have asked a federal judge to reject an effort by the four-state project's Texas-based developer to get permission to finish it.

It's the latest development in a saga that has played out over the past half-year, with months of protests in southern North Dakota and two separate but related court battles in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C.

Here's a look at the status of the pipeline dispute as the new year begins:

WHAT IS THE DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE AND WHAT'S THE FUSS ABOUT?

Being developed by Energy Transfer Partners, the project will transport North Dakota oil 1,200 miles through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois. Construction is nearly complete outside of a stretch under Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota, where the work is stalled.

The Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Sioux tribes are fighting the pipeline because the tribes believe it threatens drinking water — both use the lake for that — and cultural sites. ETP disputes that and maintains the pipeline will be safe.

Opponents have protested for months in southern North Dakota, with nearly 600 arrests since August.

SO, EXPLAIN THE COURT BATTLES ...

There are two cases.

In one, ETP asked U.S. District Judge James Boasberg in November to declare it has legal right to lay pipe under Lake Oahe. ETP subsidiary Dakota Access LLC argues that the Army Corps of Engineers gave permission in July through a permit granted under the federal Rivers and Harbors Act, which safeguards public works projects, such as the dam-created reservoir system.

The Corps said in its response filed Friday that provisions of the federal Mineral Leasing Act also must be satisfied for ETP to drill under the lake. Those provisions include approval of an easement to work on federal land and the notification of Congress, neither of which has been done, agency attorneys said.

The two tribes also are asking Boasberg to reject ETP's request.

In the other case, the tribes are challenging federal permits for the pipeline at more than 200 water

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crossings. Last month, the tribes said they were willing to put those claims on hold until the battle between ETP and the Corps is resolved, and Boasberg agreed.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

For ETP, it's money. The company had planned to finish the pipeline by the end of 2016. In November, it said delays already cost more than \$450 million and anything more would be "tens of millions of dollars each month."

The Sioux tribes maintain what's at stake is clean water for more than 8,000 tribal members and millions of people downstream — as well as Native American cultural sites.

For the Corps, it's the ability to do a more thorough environmental study of the project in the wake of the tribes' concerns. Assistant Army Secretary Jo-Ellen Darcy in a Dec. 4 statement said study is needed on alternative locations for the river crossing, the potential for a leak and tribal treaty rights.

WHEN WILL IT BE RESOLVED?

A resolution is at least several weeks away under a scheduling order from Boasberg. In the meantime, he's asked that "the government shall promptly notify the court should it change its position regarding the easement." Some pipeline opponents worry that pro-energy President-elect Donald Trump will overturn the Army's easement decision.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NORTH DAKOTA?

No construction work is being done while the court battles play out.

The once-large protest camp near the Standing Rock Reservation — and the pipeline route just to the north — has dwindled to a few hundred people due to the work stoppage and harsh winter weather.

Standing Rock Chairman Dave Archambault last month called for the camp to disband due to dangerous weather and because it's in an area that could flood in the spring, possibly leading to the river being contaminated with garbage and debris. He told The Associated Press late last week that he's unhappy people are still camped out and asked them to devise a plan for leaving the area and cleaning it up.

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

Jackley: State forensic lab finishes rape kit testing

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says that the state's forensic lab has finished testing all rape kits collected from South Dakota law enforcement agencies as part of a state project.

Jackley's office said Monday that the South Dakota Forensic Lab gathered more than 500 untested rape kits from authorities in South Dakota starting in 2013.

He says the lab has finished analysis on 504 cases since the project began. Jackley's office says untested sexual assault kits are a national concern.

Jackley says a rape victim who reports a sexual crime deserves to have all of the potential evidence tested.

State lawmakers passed a bill during the 2016 legislative session mandating that the complete analysis of rape kits must be done within 90 days after they're received by laboratories.

Inmate dies at state prison in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota corrections officials say an inmate has died at the state penitentiary in Sioux Falls.

Authorities said Monday 56-year-old Joseph Olson died Friday, Jan. 6 following an extended illness. He had been serving a 15-year sentence for sexual contact with a minor under 16 years of age in Yankton County.

Corrections spokesman Michael Winder says Olson was taken to the prison's Jameson Annex for the last days of his life. The annex houses medical services for inmates, among other things.

Lackluster finances, ethics initiative await state lawmakers

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A lackluster fiscal outlook will make for subdued state spending during the 2017 legislative session, but Republican plans to repeal an anti-corruption ballot measure just approved by voters are likely to prompt a racket at the statehouse.

Legislators return to Pierre on Tuesday for a double feature: The opening of session and Gov. Dennis Daugaard's State of the State address. Here's a look at what South Dakota lawmakers have on the agenda until they adjourn in March:

TIGHT FINANCES

Lawmakers aren't starting the session with gobs of cash to throw around. Daugaard offered a budget plan in December constrained by lower-than-expected tax collections, forcing officials to address a shortfall this year and rein in new spending for the next budget year. The governor has cautioned since that even the modest increases he's proposed may need to be pared.

GOVERNOR'S PRIORITIES

Daugaard this session plans pursue policies to address issues surrounding mentally ill people entering the criminal justice system. The governor is set to discuss a state workgroup's recommendations to fight growing meth use and mounting drug arrests in his State of the State. Daugaard is also supporting changes to the state's retirement system to make sure it's sustainable by tying cost-of-living adjustments more closely to inflation, among other proposals.

ETHICS OVERHAUL

Republican lawmakers are set to sweep away the high-profile ballot initiative that created an ethics commission, public campaign funding and limitations on lobbyist gifts to lawmakers. Daugaard said in December that he would be surprised if the overhaul survived the session.

A South Dakota judge put the law on hold while a court challenge from a group of GOP lawmakers and others moves forward.

The governor has suggested studying the issues covered by the initiative to find other solutions. Measure supporters say they're prepared to fight for it in the Legislature — they've hired a lobbyist — and again at the ballot box if necessary.

BILLS OF NOTE

After a bill failed last year that would have required transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms matching their gender at birth, conservative group Family Heritage Alliance Action has said it

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"will encourage" legislation in 2017 on the same topic. Daugaard has said a twin bill would face the same objections that made him veto it last year.

Attorney General Marty Jackley is proposing new criminal conflict-of-interest penalties for public officials, changing it to theft, which is a felony when the value exceeds \$1,000. That would be stiffer than the current misdemeanor self-dealing penalty.

A Republican House member plans to sponsor a bill that would allow people who can legally carry a concealed handgun in South Dakota to do so without a permit.

Other Republicans are weighing whether it should be more difficult for people to put initiatives before voters after a campaign season that brought in big money from out-of-state interests.

NEW LEADERS

A new set of Republicans are set to assume top legislative posts during the 2017 session. Blake Curd, a Sioux Falls orthopedic surgeon, will head up the Senate Republican caucus, while farmer Lee Qualm, of Platte, will serve as House majority leader.

Sioux Falls Rep. Mark Mickelson will serve as House speaker and Brock Greenfield, of Clark, will be Senate president pro tempore.

DEMOCRATS' DECLINE

How many Democrats does it take to fill the Capitol? A lot more than the 16 who will serve in the upcoming session. Republicans gained two seats each in the House and Senate in November, upping their ranks to 89 out of 105 lawmakers, or about 85 percent.

COME ON DOWN

South Dakota residents can find their representatives on the Legislature's website at <http://sdlegislature.gov>. Lawmakers' biography pages list contact information that constituents can use to show some love or heap on scorn.

The website also features a schedule of legislative hearings, where South Dakotans can testify on bills before lawmakers. If you can't make it to Pierre, many legislative hearings can be found live online courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting at <http://www.sdpb.org/statehouse>.

Follow James Nord on Twitter <http://www.twitter.com/jvnord>

Iranians mourn as former leader Rafsanjani interred

By **NASSER KARIMI** and **JON GAMBRELL**, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Hundreds of thousands mourned the late Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Tuesday, wailing in grief as his body was interred at a Tehran shrine alongside the leader of the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Rafsanjani's final resting place near the late Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, reflected his legacy as one of the pillars of Iran's clerically overseen democracy, as he served in later years as a go-between for hard-liners and reformists.

But even his hourslong funeral highlighted the divisions still at play. Parts of the crowd along his funeral procession at one point chanted in support of opposition leaders under house arrest. Other politicians did not attend the memorial.

Throngs filled main thoroughfares of the capital, with many chanting, beating their chests and wailing in the style of mourning common among Shiite Muslims.

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The funeral for Rafsanjani, who died Sunday at age 82 after a heart attack, drew both the elite and ordinary people. Shops and schools were closed in national mourning.

Top government and clerical officials first held a funeral service at Tehran University. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei prayed by Rafsanjani's casket, as other dignitaries knelt before the coffin on which his white cleric's turban was placed. Mourners reached out their hands toward the coffin.

Just behind Khamenei was President Hassan Rouhani, whose moderate administration reached the recent nuclear deal with world powers. Rouhani, who is all but certain to run for re-election in May, is viewed as embodying Rafsanjani's realist vision.

Hard-liners also took part in the ceremony Tuesday, like the head of Iran's judiciary, Sadeq Larijani, who stood near his moderate brother, parliament speaker Ali Larijani.

Also among them was Qassem Soleimani, a general who heads the Revolutionary Guard's elite Quds Force, which focuses on foreign operations like the war in Syria.

Both Soleimani and Rafsanjani are from Iran's southeastern province of Kerman and worked together during the war with Iraq in the 1980s.

"In my opinion, Mr. Hashemi remained the same person from the beginning until the end and held his line in all stages of his life," Soleimani told state television in a rare public interview. "Nevertheless, Mr. Hashemi sometimes used different tactics."

Apparently banned from the funeral was former Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, a reformist who remains popular among the young but is deeply disliked by hard-liners. State media have banned the broadcasting of any images of Khatami.

There was also no word of hard-line former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad attending the ceremony, though he offered condolences Monday. There was no love lost between the two as Ahmadinejad defeated Rafsanjani in Iran's 2005 presidential election and later drew his dismay over the crackdown following his contested re-election in 2009.

Outside, mourners carried posters bearing Rafsanjani's image as his casket slowly made his way through the crowds in the streets.

"I rarely attend religious ceremonies, but I am here as an Iranian who cannot forget Rafsanjani's contribution to developing the political sphere in favor of people in recent years," said Nima Sheikhi, a computer teacher at a private school.

"I am here to say goodbye to a man who dedicated his life to making Iran better," said Reza Babaei, a cleric from the eastern town of Birjand near the Afghan border. "He founded the university in my city and developed our region when he was in power."

Officials put the number of participants in the funeral at over 2 million, though that figure could not be independently verified.

Iran's internal politics also were on display. The semi-official ILNA news agency said that on the sidelines of the funeral, prominent moderate lawmaker Ali Motahari was asked by several mourners to free opposition leaders Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mahdi Karroubi from the house arrest the two have been under since 2011.

"Our message is clear: The house arrest should be lifted," some chanted. Police and security forces did not react to the chants, nor others that followed and could be heard in state television footage.

Rafsanjani's casket later arrived at the ornate, massive shrine to Khomeini, who led the revolution that toppled the American-backed shah.

Rafsanjani's interment there marked a rare privilege inside of Iran's theocratic system. Only Khomeini's son Ahmad, who died in 1995 and served as a close aide to his father, had been buried next to

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his tomb before Tuesday.

Rafsanjani, a close aide to both Khomeini and Khamenei, served as president from 1989 to 1997. He helped launch Iran's nuclear program and then pushed for reconciliation with the West.

Internally, however, his legacy remains mixed. He was massively wealthy and a veteran at maneuvering within Iran's opaque political system.

He was considered a protector of the moderates, but others distrusted him because he was such an insider and because of accusations he was involved in killing dissidents during his eight-year presidency, which he always denied. Hard-liners distrusted him because of his support of moderates and sought to sideline him, with little success.

His absence in balancing the competing powers, however, will affect Iran going forward, especially as the country edges closer to picking a new supreme leader.

"The unexpected death of Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani could be the first scene in Iran's nascent leadership transition theater, whose subsequent acts are probably yet to be written," said Mehdi Khalaji, a fellow at The Washington Institute.

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Investigators: 'Inside job' suspected in Kardashian robbery

By LORI HINNANT and SYLVIE CORBET, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Investigators focused Tuesday on a possible inside job in the theft of more than \$10 million worth of jewelry from Kim Kardashian West, after taking her chauffeur that night and his brother into custody.

Three Paris officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation, confirmed the arrest of the driver and his younger brother among 17 people taken into custody. Michael Madar, 40, and Gary Madar, 27, worked for the same livery company, according to two of the officials.

The suspects ranged in age from 23 to 72, and included several known for prior robberies and other crimes, according to a police document seen by The Associated Press.

The officials would not elaborate on how they believe the theft was planned. Kardashian West's bodyguard was gone for the night, and the robbers forced their way into the private apartment where she was staying, tied her up and made off with the jewelry.

Earlier this month, the starlet broke her silence on the robbery in a teaser for the Kardashian family's reality show, telling two of her sisters her thoughts at the time: "They're going to shoot me in the back. There's no way out."

A spokeswoman for the reality star said she had no comment after Monday's arrests.

What to watch in 2017: Clemson rebuild; Kelly's crossroads

By RALPH D. RUSSO, AP College Football Writer

Alabama will be great in 2017. That's a given.

The Crimson Tide came up just short of its fifth national championship in eight seasons under coach Nick Saban, losing to Clemson 35-31 in the College Football Playoff title game Monday night. But Alabama is likely start next season as the No. 1 team in the country as Dabo Swinney does some rebuilding of the Tigers.

The Tide contending for a national title is the one sure thing in college football. Nobody reloads better than Saban. Everything else is up for grabs, but college football fans will likely be keeping an eye

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on these developing stories.

REPLACING WATSON

The next test for Swinney is to keep Clemson in the upper-echelon of college football following the departure of the greatest quarterback in the history of the program.

There is no clear replacement for Deshaun Watson heading toward next season and the Tigers are also losing a boatload of other top players (Mike Williams, Wayne Gallman, Ben Boulware, Cordrea Tankersley, Carlos Watkins).

Can Clemson reload and still contend for a national championship?

TEXAS TOM

After a season of speculating whether Tom Herman would be the next Texas coach, he is now the Longhorns coach.

Considering all the hype about Herman, there will not be much of a grace period for him in Austin. Former coach Charlie Strong left behind a pretty good roster and told the world that the Longhorns would win 10 games in 2017 no matter who is coaching. Texas opens with Maryland and plays at Southern California in week three.

No pressure, Herm.

RISE OF TROY

USC's return to truly elite status has been trumpeted a few times in recent years so the cynicism many will have about the impending Trojans hype is justified.

Maybe it will temper expectations? Probably not. USC finished No. 3, has a quarterback in Sam Darnold who looks like a Heisman Trophy contender and will enter the season riding a nine-game winning streak.

Fight on, indeed.

AS THE BIG TEN EAST TURNS

The bowl season took the division down a peg, but there is still no more interesting group of programs and coaches in college football.

Urban Meyer is giving his offense a makeover at Ohio State that might include a legitimate quarterback competition for fifth-year senior J.T. Barrett.

Jim Harbaugh will enter year three at Michigan with an inexperienced team but lofty expectations.

Can James Franklin keep Penn State trending upward ?

Can Michigan State bounce back under Mark Dantonio?

KELLY'S LAST STAND?

Every Notre Dame game will be a referendum on Brian Kelly as he tries to bring the Fighting Irish back from a 4-8 season.

Kelly will have two new coordinators and a new quarterback in his eighth year at Notre Dame.

Another bad season and Kelly is probably gone. That's obvious. The real intrigue could come if Notre Dame has a big year. Would Kelly look to leave with his reputation restored?

So much drama. So pretty much business as usual in South Bend, Indiana.

HEISMAN REPEAT

Has a Heisman Trophy winner ever returned to school looking to rebuild his value?

Fair or not, the end of Lamar Jackson's season — three straight losses — is going to be remembered more by many outside Louisville than all the great stuff he did to win the Heisman.

Only one player has ever repeated as a Heisman winner so it is unlikely Jackson will do it. But he will enter next season, oddly, trying to re-establish his stardom instead of as the face of college football.

—

Follow Ralph D. Russo at www.Twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP

More AP college football at <http://collegefootball.ap.org/> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25 .

FIFA to expand World Cup to 48 teams in 2026

By GRAHAM DUNBAR, AP Sports Writer

ZURICH (AP) — FIFA will expand the World Cup to 48 teams, adding 16 extra nations to the 2026 tournament which is likely to be held in North America.

President Gianni Infantino's favored plan — for 16 three-team groups with the top two advancing to a round of 32 — was unanimously approved Tuesday by the FIFA Council.

It meets Infantino's election pledge of a bigger World Cup, and should help fund promised raises for FIFA's 211 member federations.

With 80 matches instead of 64, FIFA forecasts the equivalent of \$1 billion extra income at current rates from broadcasting and sponsor deals, plus ticket sales, compared to \$5.5 billion revenue forecast for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

FIFA projects an increased profit of \$640 million despite some extra operating costs and prize money for teams.

FIFA's six continents should find out by May how many extra places they will each get.

UEFA wants 16 European teams at the tournament, which is strongly favored to be played in North America. The CONCACAF region has not hosted the World Cup since the 1994 tournament in the United States.

American, Canadian and Mexican soccer leaders have had informal talks about a co-hosting bid.

Africa and Asia could be winners in a bigger World Cup with up to nine places each. They had only five and four teams, respectively, at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Still, FIFA said it expects the standard of soccer to drop compared to the 32-team format locked in for the next two World Cups in Russia and Qatar.

The "absolute quality" of play, defined by high-ranked teams facing each other most often, is achieved by 32 teams, FIFA acknowledged in a research document sent to members last month. It made 10,000 tournament simulations to reach that conclusion.

Instead, Infantino wants to create fervor and months of anticipation back home in the 16 extra nations which would qualify, some probably making their World Cup debut. FIFA has pointed to Costa Rica, Wales and Iceland as examples of teams which overachieved at recent tournaments.

FIFA must break with soccer tradition to make its new format work after an original 48-team plan — with an opening playoff round sending 16 "one-and-done" teams home early — was unpopular.

Instead, three-team groups will replace the usual groups of four to create simple progress to a knock-out bracket. However, it leaves one team idle for final group games and could risk collusion between the other two teams.

FIFA said it could guard against result-rigging by introducing penalty shootouts after group games that end in draws.

Despite the 16 extra games, FIFA believes the current maximum of stadiums needed will stay at the 12 used by Brazil and Russia. However, the demand for more training bases and hotels means developed countries would be better equipped to win future hosting contests.

North America is the strong favorite for 2026 because European and Asian countries are blocked by a FIFA rule excluding continents which hosted either of the two previous tournaments. Russia will host the World Cup next year and Qatar in 2022.

South America has been focused on a centenary tournament including original 1930 host Uruguay,

and African nations are seen as lacking existing capacity and unlikely to fund multi-billion dollar infrastructure spending.

Roof's fate soon will rest in hands of 12 federal jurors

By MEG KINNARD, Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — The assault on Emanuel AME Church left a total of 12 victims: Nine who were killed that June night and three who survived the hail of bullets in the basement of the beautiful, historic structure in downtown Charleston.

Now, after hearing testimony from relatives of those slain in the 2015 attack during a Wednesday night Bible study, the focus in Dylann Roof's trial again switches to a new set of 12 people: the jury.

On Tuesday, jurors are set to begin deliberating over whether Roof, 22, should get the death penalty or life in prison for his crimes. Their decision must be unanimous. If they are unable to agree, a life sentence is automatically imposed.

In a courtroom a mile from the slayings, the same jury last month convicted Roof of 33 federal crimes, including hate crimes and obstruction of religion. After a holiday break, jurors returned last week to court, where for four days prosecutors laid out their case for why Roof should be executed. The government called nearly two dozen friends and relatives who shared cherished memories and opined about a future without a mother, father, sister or brother.

They shed tears and their voices shook, but none of them said whether Roof should face the death penalty or life in prison for gunning down the church members. That will be left up to the jury, with nine white and three black members.

Jurors will get the case after closing arguments Tuesday morning from prosecutors and perhaps Roof, who has represented himself during sentencing but has put up no fight for his life. He didn't call any witnesses, present any evidence and so far has not asked for mercy.

He did try to limit the amount of heart-wrenching testimony the jurors heard, but with only little success.

Survivor Jennifer Pinckney talked about the life of her husband, church pastor and state Sen. Clementa Pinckney. She spoke about the harrowing minutes she spent huddled underneath a desk with her youngest daughter as shots rang out in the next room, unsure if the shooter was coming her way.

In the hours that followed, the mother had to somehow explain the death to her two daughters.

"I sat in front of the girls, and I basically told them that something had happened," she said. "I think that that's the hardest thing that I've ever had to do."

The Rev. Anthony Thompson cried as he described a conversation with his wife, Myra, about their future plans to move and pursue studies and careers in the church.

"She was my world, and she was gone," he said.

Survivor Felicia Sanders, who gave powerful testimony during the guilt phase of Roof's trial, wrapped up prosecutors' case last Wednesday, talking about her creative 26-year-old son, the youngest victim, and his commitment to his faith and Emanuel.

"That night they were getting basic instruction before leaving Earth," Sanders said. "I did not know that was going to be the life of them."

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

Northern California, Nevada brace for more storms

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and JOCELYN GECKER, Associated Press

FORESTVILLE, Calif. (AP) — Northern California and Nevada braced for another powerful storm after getting lashed by downpours that flooded roads, homes and vineyards and toppled a storied giant sequoia.

Parts of Northern California were soaked by more than a foot of rain over a 72-hour period that ended early Monday, forcing hundreds of people to evacuate and leaving thousands without power. The heavy rains forced rivers out of their banks and toppled trees, among them the famed "Pioneer Cabin" in Calaveras Big Trees State Park that had a drive-thru tunnel carved into its base more than a century ago.

Another strong storm was bearing down on the region and expected to hit Tuesday.

Emergency crews in rescue boats and helicopters took advantage of a one-day respite from the rains later Monday to rescue stranded people and assess damage after a weekend of stormy weather that authorities called the heaviest rain in a decade.

In the Sierra Nevada mountains, a winter storm warning was in effect until Thursday morning with the potential for blizzard and white-out conditions, said Scott McGuire, a forecaster for the National Weather Service based in Reno, Nevada.

Four to 8 feet of snow are forecast through Thursday above 7,000 feet, and the Lake Tahoe area could get between 2 to 5 feet of snow, he said.

"People need to avoid traveling if at all possible," said McGuire. Avalanche concerns kept some California ski areas closed for a second day Monday in the Sierra Nevada.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, a coastal flood advisory was in effect from Tuesday through Friday, with a forecast for up to 7-foot "king tides" that could pose a flooding risk for coastal roadways, said Steve Anderson, a National Weather Service forecaster in Monterey, California.

Flood warnings and a high-wind watch was also in effect Tuesday for the Russian River, which rose to its highest level since 2006 and spilled over its banks early Monday, flooding roads and vineyards and forcing schools to close across the area.

"It's been about 10 years since we've experienced this kind of rainfall," Anderson said Monday. He said the storm system arriving Tuesday was not as potent as over weekend but could still cause problems. "The big concern is flash flooding, rapid rises on creeks and the Russian River coming out of its banks again."

Parts of California's wine country in Sonoma County were among the hardest hit, with up to 13 inches of rain from Friday-early Monday. Rolling hills and vineyards along the scenic route known as River Road were submerged Monday with just the tips of the vines visible in completely flooded fields.

Melba Martinelli, who lives in the Russian River town of Guerneville, was wading through her yard Monday in knee-high rain boots, surrounded by flooded streets.

"I'm watching the water come up higher and higher, and my boots are almost going underwater now," Martinelli said. "The river is coming up the street now. It's pretty scary."

In nearby Forestville, rescuers launched rafts and used a helicopter to search for people cut off by rising water. Authorities said the mostly dry conditions Monday were a relief.

Such gaps between storms are "what saves us from the big water," Forestville Fire Chief Max Ming said. "People hunker down and wait for it to get past."

To the south near Los Angeles, commuters were warned of possible highway flooding and mudslides in hilly areas.

The back-to-back storms that hit California and Nevada since last week are part of an "atmospheric river" weather system that draws precipitation from the Pacific Ocean as far west as Hawaii. That kind

of system, also known as the "pineapple express," poses catastrophic risks for areas hit by the heaviest rain.

Despite the bad weather in some parts, Yosemite National Park was forecasting a return to normal. The park planned to reopen the valley floor to visitors Tuesday morning after it was closed through the weekend and Monday because of a storm-swollen river, park spokesman Scott Gediman said. He said guests will be allowed back in starting at 8 a.m. for day visitors. Park workers were checking the extent of damage from the storm to water and sewer systems, he said.

Sacramento River levels swelled so much that state officials planned to open the weir located upstream from Sacramento's Tower Bridge for the first time in more than a decade. The weir is a barrier of 48 gates that must be opened manually to protect the city of Sacramento from floodwaters.

Emergency workers in Nevada voluntarily evacuated about 1,300 people from 400 homes in a Reno neighborhood as the Truckee River overflowed and drainage ditches backed up.

Schools were canceled Monday in Reno and Sparks, and Gov. Brian Sandoval told all nonessential state government workers to stay home Monday after he declared a state of emergency.

After touring the two cities, Sandoval said no serious injuries were reported during the flooding, which authorities had feared might be the worst in a decade.

"It's bittersweet because it wasn't as bad as it could have been," Sandoval said. "But to those people affected, it was really hard on them."

Gecker reported from San Francisco. Associated Press writers Janie Har in San Francisco, Christopher Weber in Los Angeles, Scott Sonner in Reno, Colleen Slevin in Denver and Scott Smith in Fresno also contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. WHAT AG PICK SESSIONS FACES

Trump's pick for attorney general will be queried about civil rights and immigration at his Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing.

2. ROOF'S FATE SOON WILL REST IN HANDS OF JURORS

Prosecutors will deliver their closing arguments to persuade a jury to sentence the convicted Charleston church shooter to death.

3. WHO'S READY FOR FAREWELL

Days dwindling in his presidency, Obama is delivering a parting plea in Chicago to Americans not to lose faith in their future, no matter what they think about their next president.

4. HOW LEGAL JOURNEY BEGINS FOR SUSPECTED FLORIDA AIRPORT SHOOTER

Esteban Santiago, 26, an Iraq war veteran, will be appointed a public defender after he was accused of killing five people and wounding six more.

5. CLAPPER BACK ON THE HILL

The nation's top intelligence official will answer questions from another Senate panel about a declassified report that fingered the Kremlin in hacking during the presidential campaign.

6. IRANIANS MOURN RAFSANJANI

Hundreds of thousands of people flood the streets of Tehran, beating their chests and wailing in grief for the late Iranian leader.

7. NORWEGIAN MASS MURDERER BACK IN COURT

Anders Behring Breivik, who killed 77 people in 2011, returns to court as the government appeals a ruling that his isolation in prison breaches the European Convention on Human Rights.

8. POLICE: 'INSIDE JOB' AT HEART OF KARDASHIAN JEWELRY HEIST

One official says Kim Kardashian West's chauffeur that night and the chauffeur's brother were among 17 people arrested.

9. JOLIE PITT, BRAD PITT REACH DIVORCE PACT

The actors will handle their divorce in a private forum and work together to reunify their family, a joint statement to AP reveals.

10. CLEMSON DETHRONES TOP-RANKED 'BAMA

Deshaun Watson's 2-yard touchdown pass with 1 second remaining lifts the Tigers past Alabama 35-31 and gives them their first national championship since 1981.

Watson and Clemson dethrone top-ranked Tide, 35-31

By RALPH D. RUSSO, AP College Football Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Deshaun Watson took the snap, rolled right and with one of the easiest throws he had to make all night, completed Clemson's journey to the top of college football.

A frantic fourth quarter and a championship rematch between Clemson and Alabama was decided with 1 second left on a 2-yard touchdown toss to Hunter Renfrow.

"I couldn't hear the crowd," Watson said. "I just felt at peace."

Watson and the Tigers dethroned the defending champs and became the first team to beat Nick Saban's Alabama dynasty in a national title game, taking down the top-ranked Crimson Tide 35-31 Monday night in the College Football Playoff.

A 35-year title drought for Clemson is over. The Tigers are national champions for the first time since 1981.

A year after Alabama won its fourth title under Saban with a classic 45-40 win in Arizona, Clemson (14-1) denied the Tide (14-1) an unprecedented fifth championship in eight seasons.

"That has to be one of the greatest games of all time," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said.

Hard to argue.

The new champions have a process of their own that includes a loquacious coach who can turn a post-game interview into a fiery sermon, a spectacular quarterback who did not need a Heisman Trophy to show he was the best player in the country and a fun-loving team that plays with a chip on its shoulder.

"There was no upset tonight," Swinney said. "That's the last thing I told them when we left the locker room. I said, 'When we win the game tonight I don't want to hear one word about this being an upset. The only upset is going to be if we don't win the dadgum game.'"

The lead changed hands three times in the fourth quarter, but Watson got the ball last. Playing in his final college game, the junior quarterback threw for 420 yards and three touchdowns. In two games against Alabama and the most ferocious defense in college football, Watson has thrown for 825 yards and accounted for eight touchdowns. He was sacked four times Monday night and took some cringe-inducing shots from All-Americans Jonathan Allen and Reuben Foster.

"You know, I never got the sense that he was rattled," Allen said about Watson.

Swinney, the native Alabaman and former Crimson Tide walk-on receiver, has built an elite program at Clemson that was missing only one thing. Now the Tigers can check that box, too.

"Eight years ago we set out to put Clemson back on top," Swinney said. "We came up a little short last year, but today on top of the mountain, the Clemson flag is flying."

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After three quarters of body slams and tight defense, Tigers-Tide II ended up looking a lot like the first meeting when the teams combined for 40 points in the fourth quarter.

Watson found Mike Williams for a 4-yard touchdown a minute into the fourth quarter to make it 24-21 Alabama.

The Tigers took their first lead, 28-24, with 4:38 left in the fourth quarter when Wayne Gallman surged in from a yard out.

The Tide's offense, which had gone dormant for most of the second half, came to life with the help of a sweet call from newly promoted offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian. Receiver ArDarius Stewart took a backward pass from Jalen Hurts and fired a strike to O.J. Howard for 24 yards.

On the next play, Hurts broke free from a collapsing pocket and weaved through defenders for a 30-yard touchdown run to make it 31-28 with 2:07 left.

More than enough time for Watson.

"I was calm," Watson said. He said he thought about Vince Young's last-second touchdown for Texas that derailed the Southern California's championship run in the 2005 championship game at the Rose Bowl. He told his team: "Let's go be great."

Watson hooked up with Williams and Jordan Leggett, who made great catches for big gains to get to first-and-goal with 14 seconds left.

A pass interference on Alabama made it first-and-goal at the 2 with six seconds left. Time for one more play to avoid a game-tying kick and overtime. Renfrow slipped away from the defense at the goal line with the help of some traffic created by Artavis Scott — or maybe it was an illegal pick? — and was alone for an easy toss.

"If you watch the ending, the slot receiver actually cut Minkah," Alabama linebacker Tim Williams said. "Usually, on a pick route, you're not supposed to chop somebody. You're supposed to pick them. The guy there just chopped Minkah down, but it's football."

For the former walk-on Renfrow, it was his second TD catch of the game. He had two last season against Alabama.

Alabama was 4-0 in national championship games under Saban. It was 106-6 in games it led at half and 96-0 when entering the fourth quarter with a double-digit lead as the Tide did Monday night. Clemson overcame all those odds.

The Tide jumped out to a 14-0 lead behind two long touchdown runs by Bo Scarbrough in the first half. The 230-pound sophomore back was pretty much Alabama's whole offense for a while, running for 93 yards on 16 carries while Hurts and the passing game struggle. Scarbrough left in the third quarter with a leg injury, but the Tide finally found some other help. Hurts hooked up with O.J. Howard, one of last year's heroes for 'Bama, for a 68-yard touchdown pass to make it 24-14 late in the third quarter.

"Look, there's not one play in the game that makes a difference in a game," Saban said. "We could have done a lot of things a lot better."

When it ended, Clemson's 315-pound defensive lineman Christian Wilkins did a split and a cartwheel and Ben Boulware, one of the toughest linebackers in the country, was in tears.

The Tigers had snapped Alabama's 26-game winning streak and beaten a No. 1 team for the first time ever.

"It's been 35 long years!" Boulware screamed. "It's coming home baby! It's coming home!"

Last season Alabama met its match in Clemson, but prevailed. This time, Clemson made sure the sequel had a different ending.

Follow Ralph D. Russo at www.Twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP

More AP college football: www.collegefootball.ap.org and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Life or death legal journey for airport shooting suspect

By **CURT ANDERSON, AP Legal Affairs Writer**

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A legal journey that could mean life or death for the suspect in the Florida airport mass shooting has begun with appointment of a public defender to represent the Iraq war veteran blamed for killing five people and wounding six more.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Alicia Valle told Esteban Santiago, 26, at a hearing Monday that the three federal charges lodged against him could mean the death penalty if he is convicted.

"We are telling you the maximum penalty allowed by law so that you understand the seriousness of the charges," the judge said.

Shackled in a red jumpsuit in the heavily guarded federal courtroom, Santiago answered mostly yes or no to questions, and told the judge he understands the charges, which include committing violence against people at an international airport resulting in death, and two firearms offenses.

He said he had been in the Army, where he made about \$15,000 a year. He mentioned expenses including \$560 in monthly rent, plus phone and other utility bills. He said he owns no property and doesn't have a vehicle. He said he had worked for a security company, Signal 88, in Anchorage, Alaska, until November, making \$2,100 a month, but currently only had \$5 to \$10 in the bank.

Given his finances, the judge decided he's eligible for government lawyers at taxpayer expense.

Valle ordered Santiago held without bail and also set a detention hearing for Jan. 17, followed by an arraignment for entering a plea for Jan. 23.

More than a dozen officers kept watch outside the courthouse, carrying rifles and wearing bulletproof vests. There were also mounted police and K-9 units.

The charges don't specifically use the word murder, but the effects of one of the gun charges and the airport charge are the same because they cover actions that result in a person's death and can result in capital punishment, said former federal prosecutor David S. Weinstein.

"Under federal law, there are many statutes that cover the killing of another human being and unlike state statutes, they are not specifically titled murder. But the elements of the crime and the definition of murder are the same," he said.

State authorities could file first-degree murder charges against Santiago, but that's unnecessary for now, Weinstein added, because there is no statute of limitations on murder. If something were to go wrong in federal court, the state could then proceed against him, he said.

No links to international terrorism have been found, the FBI has said. But if they surface, federal prosecutors could obtain an updated grand jury indictment to add terror-related charges, Weinstein added.

"Their focus right now will be on the existing three charges and the continuing investigation," he said.

Santiago has been in custody since Friday's shooting at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. The FBI said Santiago flew on a one-way ticket aboard a Delta flight from Anchorage to Fort Lauderdale. The 11½-hour flight has a 2½-hour layover in Minneapolis, one of the longest itineraries within the U.S.

He checked a single piece of luggage: a gun box for his Walther 9 mm semi-automatic pistol and two magazines of ammunition, according to an FBI affidavit. Agents say he retrieved the box in baggage claim and loaded his weapon in a bathroom stall before opening fire on fellow passengers.

In November, Santiago walked into an FBI field office in Alaska with a handgun and his infant child, saying the U.S. government was controlling his mind and forcing him to watch Islamic State group videos, authorities said.

Officers seized the weapon and local officers took him to get a mental health evaluation. His girlfriend picked up the child. On Dec. 8, the gun was returned to Santiago. Authorities wouldn't say if it was the same gun used in the airport attack.

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

Democrats to press attorney general pick as hearing opens

By ERIC TUCKER and MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump's pick for attorney general, Sen. Jeff Sessions, is set to be questioned by his peers in a high-visibility Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing.

Sessions is likely to stress his conservative legal credentials even as he works to persuade Democrats on the panel that he can be fair and even-handed as the country's top law enforcement official.

A two-day hearing will feature testimony from the Alabama Republican on Tuesday, followed the next day by statements from witnesses who support and oppose his nomination.

Democrats are expected to challenge Sessions' commitment to civil rights, a chief priority of the Justice Department during the Obama administration. They also are likely to press him on his hard-line stance on immigration policy. But Republicans have expressed strong support and are expected to secure more than enough votes needed to confirm him, including from some Democrats in conservative-leaning states.

The Alabama lawmaker is known as one of the most staunchly conservative members of the Senate, and has already drawn opposition from at least two Democrats, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown.

In a dramatic turn, Booker — one of three black senators — said he will testify against Sessions on Wednesday, marking a rare instance in which a senator has testified against a colleague seeking a Cabinet post. In a statement, Booker accused Sessions of having a "concerning" record on civil rights and criminal justice reform and called his decision "a call to conscience."

If confirmed, the four-term senator would succeed outgoing Attorney General Loretta Lynch and would be in a position to dramatically reshape Justice Department priorities in the areas of civil rights, environmental enforcement and criminal justice.

Sessions was first elected to the Senate in 1996 and before that served as state attorney general and a United States attorney. He's been a reliably conservative voice in Congress, supporting government surveillance programs, objecting to the proposed closure of the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detention facility and opposing as too lenient a 2013 bipartisan immigration bill that included a pathway to citizenship for the estimated 11 million immigrants living in the U.S. illegally.

He will look to turn the page from a failed confirmation hearing in 1986, when his nomination for a federal judgeship was derailed by accusations he had made racially insensitive comments as a federal prosecutor.

Civil rights advocates have rallied against his nomination, with protesters staging a sit-in last week at a Sessions office in Alabama and circulating letters opposed to his nomination. Advocacy groups have drawn attention to positions from Sessions they fear could weaken legal protections for immigrants, minority voters and gays, lesbians and transgender people.

Sessions' supporters have pointed to bipartisan work in the Senate and to supportive statements from

some Democrats and even the son of a civil rights activist whom Sessions unsuccessfully prosecuted for voter fraud in Alabama. One of the two senators introducing him at Tuesday's hearing is a moderate Republican, Susan Collins of Maine, suggesting a concerted effort to try to cement his appeal beyond the more conservative members.

Sessions may be asked whether the Justice Department would investigate again Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while she was secretary of state. Trump said during the campaign that he would ask his attorney general to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Clinton, but suggested after he won that he had changed his mind.

Witnesses on Wednesday include former Attorney General Michael Mukasey, NAACP President Cornell Brooks and David Cole, the legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

In final speech, Obama must reconcile his hopes with Trump's

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Now an elder statesman, Barack Obama is returning to Chicago where he launched his unlikely political career to tell Americans not to lose faith in their future, no matter what they think about their next president.

Obama's final speech as president, before thousands who will gather at McCormick Place, is his last chance to try to define what his presidency meant for America. It's a fitting bookend to what he started eight years ago. It was in Chicago in 2008 that the nation's first black president declared victory, and where over the years he tried to cultivate his brand of optimism in American politics.

"I'll be thinking back to being a young community organizer, pretty much fresh out of school, and feeling as if my faith in America's ability to bring about change in our democracy has been vindicated," Obama said in a White House video previewing his speech.

Obama said he's leaving his eight years in office with two basic lessons: that Americans are fundamentally good, and that change can happen. "The system will respond to ordinary people coming together to try to move the country in a better direction," he said.

The system did respond, in November, to Americans who by and large rejected Obama's policies by electing Republican Donald Trump.

Obama and Democrats had warned against a Trump presidency in apocalyptic terms. So now Obama's daunting task — the closing act of his political career — is to explain how his vision of America remains relevant and achievable for Democrats in the Trump era.

No stranger to high-stakes speeches, Obama rose to national prominence on the power of his oratory. But this speech is different, White House officials said.

Determined not to simply recite a history of the last eight years, Obama directed his team to craft an address that would feel "bigger than politics" and speak to all Americans — including those who voted for Trump.

His chief speechwriter, Cody Keenan, started writing it last month while Obama was vacationing in Hawaii, handing him the first draft on the flight home. By late Monday Obama was immersed in a fourth draft, with Keenan expected to stay at the White House all night to help perfect Obama's final message.

In his weekly address Saturday, Obama acknowledged that the chaos of Washington makes it easy to lose sight of the role American citizens play in democracy. He said that while he leaves office with his work unfinished, he believes his administration made the U.S. "a stronger place for the generations that follow ours."

Seeking inspiration, Obama's speechwriters spent weeks poring over Obama's other momentous speeches, including his 2004 keynote at the Democratic National Convention and his 2008 speech after

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losing the New Hampshire primary to Hillary Clinton. They also revisited his 2015 address in Selma, Alabama, that both honored America's exceptionalism and acknowledged its painful history on civil rights.

Former aides were brought back to consult on the speech, including advisers David Axelrod and Robert Gibbs, and former speechwriter Jon Favreau, said the officials, who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the private discussions.

The president, first lady Michelle Obama and Vice President Joe Biden will all travel to Chicago for the speech at McCormick Place, a sprawling convention center along Lake Michigan. For Obama, it will be his final trip aboard Air Force One as president, though he'll use the plane to depart Washington for an unspecified destination next week just after Trump is inaugurated.

In his hometown of Chicago, the prospect of witnessing Obama's last presidential address brought thousands out in single-digit temperatures over the weekend in hopes of securing tickets. They showed up well before sunrise and waited in lines that stretched for blocks.

Though he and his party were dealt a devastating blow in November's elections, Obama leaves office as a relatively popular president viewed favorably by 57 percent of Americans, according to an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll released the day before his speech. That puts Obama on par with former President Bill Clinton's popularity as he left office.

Yet Americans remain deeply divided over Obama's legacy, with fewer than half saying they're better off eight years later — or that Obama brought the country together. Two in three Americans said he didn't keep his promises, though most of those Americans said he tried to, but could not.

"He acted very presidential, but he just couldn't get things done," said Dale Plath, 86, a retired sales manager from Mason City, Iowa. He said he voted for Obama the first time, voted against him the second, and this year, Plath said: "I voted for change, frankly" — in the form of Trump.

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

Congress to quiz US spy official on hacking report

By EILEEN SULLIVAN and DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's top intelligence official is set to be quizzed on a declassified report that fingered the Kremlin in hacking during the presidential campaign, just one day after the U.S. sanctioned five Russians.

Tuesday's appearance is second time in a week for National Intelligence Director James Clapper on Capitol Hill — this time before the Senate intelligence committee where lawmakers' questions will expose the underlying debate over the future of U.S.-Russian relations.

The report explicitly tied Russia President Vladimir Putin to hacking of email accounts of the Democratic National Committee and individual Democrats like Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta. Russia also used state-funded propaganda and paid "trolls" to make nasty comments on social media services, the report said, although there was no suggestion such operations affected the actual vote count.

The report lacked details about how the U.S. learned what it says it knows, such as any intercepted conversations or electronic messages from Russian leaders, including Putin. It also said nothing about specific hacker techniques or digital tools the U.S. may have traced back to Russia in its investigations.

The economic sanctions levied Monday against five Russians are not related to the U.S. intelligence agencies findings, officials said. Instead, they are connected to a 2012 U.S. law punishing Russian human rights violators. Americans are now banned from doing business with the men and any assets they

may have in the United States are now frozen.

The most prominent individual targeted by the U.S. is Alexander Bastrykin, head of Russia's main investigative agency. Bastrykin and Putin attended the same university together.

The Investigative Committee under Bastrykin investigated Russian whistleblower Sergei Magnitsky's death in prison in 2009. It determined that Magnitsky died in detention and closed the case after determining that there was no evidence of a crime.

Two of the Russians placed on the Treasury Department's list have been accused of trying to help cover up Magnitsky's death. Britain blames the two others for the London murder of a former Russian spy.

Forty-four Russians have now been subjected to U.S. sanctions under the so-called Magnitsky law, the State Department said.

Before the new penalties were announced, Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Monday that the Kremlin still believes the U.S. accusations of election hacking have no substance.

"They are amateurish and are hardly worthy of the high professional standards of top intelligence agencies," Peskov said. "We categorically rule out the possibility that Russian officials or official bodies could have been involved. We are tired of such accusations. This is beginning to remind us of a full-fledged witch hunt."

According to U.S. intelligence agencies, Russia provided the emails to WikiLeaks. The website's founder, Julian Assange, denies that is the case, but Democratic and Republican members of Congress have largely backed the accusation and many have demanded a sterner response.

On Monday, Assange called the report on hacking a politically motivated "press release" and said it provided no evidence that Russian actors gave WikiLeaks hacked material.

Associated Press writer Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow contributed to this report.

Homeland Security pick faces questions on wall, immigration

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators are expected to press retired Marine Gen. John Kelly, President-elect Donald Trump's choice to head the Homeland Security Department, about plans to build a border wall and other steps to boost immigration security.

Kelly's confirmation is almost assured, but members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will likely use Tuesday's hearing to debate the tough immigration and border security policies that were centerpieces of Trump's presidential campaign.

Kelly is one of several retired generals tapped for top positions by Trump. That has raised some concerns about undue military influence in his administration, weakening the American tradition of civilian control of government.

But Kelly is widely respected by Democrats and Republicans alike, and his military experience is applicable to his Homeland Security role. He's the former head of the military's Southern Command, based in South Florida, which routinely works with the Department of Homeland Security to combat human trafficking and drug smuggling. The military command has also partnered with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a part of Homeland Security, to help rescue unaccompanied child immigrants trying to make their way from Central America to the United States alone.

Kelly joined the Marine Corps in 1970. He is a battle-hardened, blunt-talking veteran who served three tours in Iraq. He was also the highest-ranking officer to lose a child in combat in Iraq or Afghanistan. His son, Marine 1st Lt. Robert Kelly, was killed in November 2010 in Afghanistan.

Kelly would be the fifth person to lead the department, which includes agencies that protect the president, respond to disasters, enforce immigration laws, protect the nation's coastlines, stop drug

smuggling and secure air travel.

Republicans have long complained that President Barack Obama has been too lax in his enforcement of immigration laws and have generally supported Trump's proposals. Trump has vowed to deport millions of immigrants living in the U.S. illegally, focusing first on criminals. Kelly is likely to be asked his views on how to accomplish that.

Trump pledged during the campaign to build a border wall — and have Mexico pay for it — though since winning the White House he has softened his stance on both the kind of barrier he wants and how it will be financed.

Last week, Republicans suggested the wall could be paid for from regular spending legislation authorized by Congress. Trump insists that Mexico would reimburse the United States for the costs, but Mexico says it will not do so.

Follow Alicia A. Caldwell on Twitter at www.twitter.com/acaldwellap

APNewsBreak: Jolie Pitt and Brad Pitt reach divorce pact

By ANTHONY McCARTNEY, AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Angelina Jolie Pitt and Brad Pitt have reached an agreement to handle their divorce in a private forum and will work together to reunify their family, the actors announced in a joint statement Monday.

Their statement released Monday night to The Associated Press said that they will keep future details of their divorce confidential by using a private judge.

"The parties and their counsel have signed agreements to preserve the privacy rights of their children and family by keeping all court documents confidential and engaging a private judge to make any necessary legal decisions and to facilitate the expeditious resolution of any remaining issues," their statement read. "The parents are committed to act as a united front to effectuate recovery and reunification."

The statement is the first joint comment from the actors on their divorce since Jolie Pitt filed to end their marriage in September. At the time, one of her attorneys stated the petition was filed "for the health of the family."

Authorities investigated allegations that Pitt was abusive toward his 15-year-old son on a private flight, but sources familiar with the cases said the actor was cleared of any wrongdoing.

Private judges are often used in high-profile divorce cases, keeping many details of a breakup out of the public eye while a final judgment is negotiated.

Custody of their six children has been the primary issue in the divorce, with Jolie Pitt initially seeking sole physical custody. California law favors joint custody in divorce cases, although final arrangements are often agreed to by parents and formalized in a written agreement.

Pitt and Jolie were married for two years and together for 12 years after becoming close while filming 2005's "Mr. & Mrs. Smith."

Their divorce, and every filing in it, has attracted international attention. Last month, Pitt sought to seal custody records in the case, and a hearing had been scheduled for next week on the issue.

Both actors have kept a relatively low profile since their breakup was announced, although Pitt made an appearance onstage at Sunday's Golden Globes to spirited applause.

Anthony McCartney can be reached at <http://twitter.com/mccartneyAP>

GOP hesitancy grows on health law repeal without substitute

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Growing numbers of Republicans showed discomfort Monday over obliterating President Barack Obama's health care overhaul without having a replacement to show voters. Hoping to capitalize on the jitters, Democrats staged an evening Senate talk-a-thon to condemn the GOP push.

With Donald Trump just 12 days from entering the White House, Republicans have positioned a repeal and replacement of Obama's 2010 health care statute atop their congressional agenda. But GOP lawmakers have never been able to rally behind an alternative, and Republican senators are increasingly voicing reluctance to vote to yank health coverage from millions of people without a substitute.

That hesitancy was fed as Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., among those who want to delay repeal until a substitute is ready, said Trump telephoned him Friday night and expressed support for doing both together. The president-elect expressed a similar sentiment shortly after his election, but his call to Paul came as GOP congressional leaders have pushed toward an early repeal vote, to be followed by work on alternative health care legislation that could take months or years to craft.

"There are gathering voices of people saying, 'Hmm, maybe we should have a replacement the same day as a repeal,'" Paul told reporters Monday.

Highlighting GOP indecision, Steve Bannon, who will be White House senior adviser, said, "We're still thinking that through" when asked by reporters after a meeting in the Capitol if repeal and replace should happen together.

The budding Republican divisions come as the GOP-led Senate pushed toward a final vote this week on a budget that would shield a future bill repealing Obama's law from a Democratic filibuster.

Once passed by the Senate and later the House, the budget would prevent Senate Democrats from using those delaying tactics against the later legislation repealing Obama's statute. Filibusters take 60 votes to halt in a chamber Republicans control by just 52-48.

Lawmakers were also focused on confirmation hearings for Trump's Cabinet.

In Tuesday's initial hearings, committees will examine Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., Trump's pick for attorney general, and retired Marine Gen. John Kelly, his choice for homeland security secretary. Seven others were also set for hearings this week.

Also Tuesday, the Senate Intelligence Committee planned a hearing on intelligence agencies' conclusion that Russia meddled in the U.S. election by hacking and distributing Democratic party emails to help Trump win the White House.

Among the witnesses will be FBI Director James Comey. It will be his first public appearance before Congress since he announced just before the election that the FBI was studying additional emails connected to Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, a revelation many Democrats say contributed to her defeat by Trump.

On the House side of the Capitol, Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., met in his office Monday evening with top Trump transition aides to discuss GOP plans to revamp the tax system.

"I need to make sure that we are all on the same page. We have a huge challenge here, it was better tonight," incoming White House chief of staff Reince Priebus was heard saying after the two-hour meeting.

Democrats looking to cast themselves as populist defenders of a law that's expanded health coverage to 20 million Americans used speeches to C-SPAN cameras and a nearly empty Senate chamber late Monday to attack Republicans for commencing a repeal effort with no alternative in hand.

"They hate it almost as much as the devil hates holy water," No. 2 Senate Democratic leader Richard Durbin of Illinois said of Republicans' attitude about the law. "They certainly have a plan to repeal it,

but when it comes to replacing it, they don't offer anything."

"This isn't a bumper sticker anymore, this isn't a rally anymore. This is real peoples' lives," said Sen. Angus King, I-Maine.

GOP senators saying repeal should wait until a Republican alternative is ready include Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, chairman of the Senate Health committee. Others include Republican Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Bob Corker of Tennessee.

The budget gives congressional committees until Jan. 27 to produce legislation annulling much of the health care law, though the consequences for missing that deadline are minor. Even so, Corker, Collins and three other GOP senators introduced a budget amendment Monday delaying that target date until March 3.

Citing Trump's support for a simultaneous repeal and replacement, Corker said allowing more time would provide "additional time to get the policy right" and create "a stable transition" between striking Obama's law and enacting a new one.

In a column posted Monday on FoxNews.com, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., wrote, "Once repeal is passed we will turn to replacement policies that cost less and work better than what we have now."

On CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday, McConnell said replacement would follow repeal "rapidly" but did not define the timetable.

AP Congressional Correspondent Erica Werner contributed to this report.

Trump unfiltered: Tweets reveal his interests, insecurities

By LISA LERER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — His message came at the start of one of the busiest weeks of Donald Trump's transition to the White House. It's a week when he and his team are preparing eight Cabinet picks for confirmation hearings, finalizing appointments and gearing up for his first news conference as president-elect.

But at 6:29 a.m. on Monday, Trump was focused on what seemed like a less presidential problem: a five-minute Golden Globes speech in which actress Meryl Streep had suggested he was a "bully."

"One of the most overrated actresses in Hollywood," Trump tweeted out to his 19.2 million followers.

For better or worse, the president-elect's social media feed is offering a daily glimpse into the interests, insecurities and insults that weigh on the next leader of the free world.

Many presidents have privately bristled at the attacks, criticism and mockery the office can bring. They've fumed behind the walls of the Oval Office and complained about slights to their aides and wives. But Trump's use of Twitter is giving Americans and the world something they've never seen before.

"This is unprecedented access to the president. The presidency usually has a firewall," said Timothy Naftali, a professor of history and public service at New York University. "By using Twitter, Mr. Trump has decided to remove the filter that has served so many of his predecessors so well."

From his gleaming Manhattan skyscraper, Trump fires off messages starting at dawn. In the past week, he's slammed the "dishonest" media, insulted Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer as his party's "head down," praised 16-year-old Inauguration singer Jackie Evancho and ripped Arnold Schwarzenegger for low ratings on "The Celebrity Apprentice."

The tweets, which frequently feature commentary about specific media reports, give a sense of what

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Trump is reading and watching.

They ricochet across the globe and news networks. The Streep tweet alone was reposted more than 27 million times, prompting dozens of news reports and hours of television commentary. Even his spelling errors have prompted news coverage: Last month, he was mocked for using the word “unpresidential” instead of “unprecedented.”

Unfettered, stream-of-consciousness commentary is not new for Trump, who began harnessing the social media network to further his brand long before running for president. But, as president, his misfires will now carry global ramifications.

Last week, Xinhua, the Chinese state run news agency, published a commentary begging Trump to stop commenting online, saying that foreign policy “isn’t child’s play.” The piece came after Trump repeatedly jabbed Beijing on Twitter.

“Indulging in ‘Twitter diplomacy’ is undesirable,” said the headline.

Trump is hardly the first president to take umbrage with what he views as unfair attacks. Behind closed doors, Richard Nixon was notoriously vengeful, Lyndon Johnson often thin-skinned and Dwight Eisenhower prone to rage, says Naftali. But past presidents went to great lengths to keep their personal emotions private, carefully channeling communications through staff.

“The White House staff has been designed to soften the hard edges of the boss,” says Naftali. “You’re representing the United States. Do you want the United States to look angry?”

President Barack Obama’s presidential Twitter account was carefully launched in May 2015, with a press release, official photo and benign online jokes with former President Bill Clinton. Messages are edited by aides and strategically timed.

Trump has taken the opposite approach. His messages blindsides his staff, who admit they wake up and check Twitter to see what’s been occupying their boss overnight.

“I do look there first, because that’s what’s going to drive the news,” incoming White House press secretary Sean Spicer said last week at the University of Chicago’s Institute of Politics.

Critics say he often uses the messages to distract attention from more damaging stories about his business interests, ethical questions trailing his incoming administration and his factual inaccuracies. Others argue that they’re evidence of “Donald being Donald” — a reflection of the New York real estate mogul’s long-running interest in celebrity culture and his own social stature.

In any case, his midnight missives regularly send aides scrambling to defend their boss. On Monday morning, incoming senior adviser Kellyanne Conway was on TV accusing Streep of “inciting people’s worst instincts” and wallowing in “self-pity.”

Trump has given little indication that his tweeting ways will change once he takes office.

Time to brace for a reality-television presidency?

“He’s going to be a somewhat different type of president,” said Stephen Hess, a policy analyst at Brookings who has advised presidents from both parties. “We’re soon going to learn what the pluses and minuses are of that.”

Democrats to challenge Sessions on immigration, civil rights

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats will challenge President-elect Donald Trump’s pick for attorney general, Sen. Jeff Sessions, when he appears before the Senate Judiciary Committee over his hard-line stand on immigration, past record on civil rights and whether he supports community policing.

The Alabama lawmaker is known as one of the most staunchly conservative members of the Senate, and has already drawn opposition from at least two Democrats, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and Ohio

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Sen. Sherrod Brown.

In a dramatic turn, Booker — one of three black senators — said he will testify against Sessions on Wednesday, marking a rare instance in which a senator has testified against a colleague seeking a Cabinet post. In a statement, Booker accused Sessions of having a “concerning” record on civil rights and criminal justice reform and called his decision “a call to conscience.”

Democrats don’t have the power to block Sessions’ nomination since Republicans control the Senate and only need a simple majority to confirm the four-term senator. However, they can use the two days of confirmation hearings beginning Tuesday to cast Sessions as out of the mainstream on issues critical to the party’s core voters — Hispanics, African Americans and women — ahead of the 2018 election cycle.

A look at some issues that are expected to come up at the Sessions hearing:

IMMIGRATION

Sessions has been a leading advocate not only for a cracking down on illegal immigration, but also for slowing all legal immigration, increasing mass deportations and giving more scrutiny to those entering the United States. He vehemently opposed the bipartisan immigration bill that the Senate passed in 2013 that included a pathway to citizenship for the estimated 11 million immigrants living in the U.S. illegally.

The bill died in the House.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, who worked with Republicans to craft the immigration legislation, indicated last week that he would have a hard time supporting Sessions, saying “he has been more anti-immigration than just about any other single member of Congress.”

CIVIL RIGHTS

This will be the second time Sessions has testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee, of which he is currently a member. Three decades ago, the panel rejected his nomination for a federal judgeship amid accusations that he had called a black attorney “boy” — which he denied — and the NAACP and ACLU “un-American.”

Democrats and civil liberties advocates have seized on his voting record and his appearances before groups that espouse harsh views on Muslims and immigrants. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said after his meeting with Sessions that “there are certainly elements in his background that raise questions.”

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INDEPENDENCE

Some Democrats say they are concerned that because Sessions was one of Trump’s earliest supporters, he could have a hard time separating himself from the administration. The attorney general is traditionally obligated to be independent of politics when making legal decisions.

“It will come down to his independence, which is an essential, absolute prerequisite for an attorney general,” said Connecticut Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Democrat on the Judiciary panel. Blumenthal said Sessions “has to be able to stand up to the president and say no.”

WOMEN’S RIGHTS

Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy, another Democrat on the Judiciary panel, voted against Sessions’ 1986 nomination. He noted in a Boston Globe editorial on Monday that as a senator, Sessions has opposed legislation that would curb domestic violence and sexual assault.

Leahy said that survivors of sexual assault, religious bigotry and other crimes deserve to know they

will be protected by the Justice Department. "Given the divisive rhetoric of the Republican nominee for president last year, many are worried," Leahy wrote.

VOTING RIGHTS

Sessions has alarmed civil liberties advocates with his criticism of the Voting Rights Act, which he has said placed an unfair burden on states such as Alabama. He's raised concerns about voting fraud, which experts and current Justice Department leaders say is rare in U.S. elections.

"In the past, Sen. Sessions has been no friend of the Voting Rights Act," Schumer said last week. "And the attorney general is the protector of the Voting Rights Act."

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Sessions was one of a handful of Republicans who opposed a bipartisan effort last year to overhaul the nation's criminal justice system. That put him at odds with some of his GOP colleagues on the committee, including Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa. Sessions warned that it could lead to the release of violent offenders.

As attorney general, he could undo a 2013 policy known as Smart on Crime that discouraged prosecutors from seeking harsh mandatory minimum prison sentences for low-level drug offenders.

COMMUNITY POLICING

Durbin and Rhode Island Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, another Democrat on the panel, have both said they are concerned that Sessions will undo grant programs that provide resources for police departments to improve community relations and civil rights. Brown, the Ohio Democrat, who is not on the committee, cited those programs as a reason he would oppose Sessions.

Durbin said he had asked Sessions if he would support maintaining and increasing those programs, and "he was not prepared to make that commitment."

HILLARY CLINTON

A frequent chant at Trump's campaign rallies was "lock her up," referring to Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and her use of a private email server. Trump said then he would have the attorney general appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Clinton, but immediately changed his tune after the campaign, saying it wasn't something he felt strongly about.

Trump predicts all Cabinet picks will win confirmation

By JILL COLVIN and STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Facing a week of high-profile tests for his administration-in-waiting, President-elect Donald Trump predicted Monday that all of his Cabinet picks would win Senate confirmation even as Democrats charged that Trump's team was ignoring standard vetting protocol.

"I think they'll all pass," Trump said of his would-be Cabinet, describing them as "all at the highest level" in between private meetings in his Manhattan sky rise.

Trump's confidence comes as lawmakers in both parties eagerly await the submission of background material from Cabinet picks, including billionaires whose extensive personal financial dealings have never faced public scrutiny. Senate Democrats urged GOP leaders to slow their aggressive hearing schedule, which includes Trump's picks for the nation's top diplomat, lead law enforcement officer and head of homeland security, among others.

"Bear in mind President-elect Trump's nominees pose particularly difficult ethics and conflict-of-inter-

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est challenges," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said. "They come from enormous wealth, many have vast holdings and stocks, and very few have experience in government."

One wealthy Trump pick official who won't require Senate confirmation: son-in-law Jared Kushner, who transition officials confirmed Monday would serve as a senior adviser in the new administration. Kushner, a New York real estate executive, is expected to exert broad sway over both domestic and foreign policy, particularly Middle East issues and trade negotiations.

While not subject to Senate approval, White House staff must publicly disclose personal financial information.

Addressing the Cabinet selections, Trump's incoming press secretary Sean Spicer insisted Monday, "Everyone who has a hearing this week has their paperwork in."

It's unclear, however, whether each had submitted the extensive list of requirements that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell requested of President Barack Obama's nominees eight years ago. Those include an FBI background check, detailed questionnaires and financial disclosure statements that include tax returns, according to a 2009 letter from McConnell that Schumer read Monday on the Senate floor.

"Everybody'll be properly vetted as they have been in the past," McConnell told reporters Monday after meeting privately with the president-elect in Trump Tower.

On Friday, however, Office of Government Ethics Director Walter Shaub said in a letter to congressional leaders that his office "has not received even initial draft financial disclosure reports for some of the nominees scheduled for hearings."

Among the committees that haven't yet received the forms was the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, which has scheduled a hearing this week for Betsy DeVos, Trump's pick to lead the Education Department. The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee said it had also not received the forms for Trump's pick for commerce secretary, Wilbur Ross, though a spokeswoman said they're expected soon.

Committee aides said they had received ethics forms for Sen. Jeff Sessions, Trump's pick for attorney general; Rex Tillerson, Trump's choice for secretary of state; former Marine Gen. John Kelly, his pick for homeland security secretary; James Mattis, his pick for defense secretary; Rep. Mike Pompeo, his choice for director of the Central Intelligence Agency; and Elaine Chao, his pick for transportation secretary.

The committee handling Ben Carson's nomination for housing secretary declined to comment on the record.

McConnell said he's hopeful that up to six or seven of Trump's picks, "particularly the national security team," will be "in place on Day One."

The Senate cannot vote on any Cabinet pick until after Trump is sworn in on Jan. 20.

Trump's selections, meanwhile, have been going through extensive preparation in the days leading up to the hearings.

Transition officials said the nominees have spent more than 70 hours participating in full-blown mock hearings, with volunteers playing the role of senators asking questions.

"They're listening, they're learning, they're preparing," Spicer said.

As his Cabinet prospects prepare to disclose their personal business dealings, Trump insisted Monday that there is a "very simple, very easy" way to disentangle himself from his global business empire before he takes office.

The details, he said, would have to wait until Wednesday, when he holds his first formal news conference in nearly six months.

Trump has pledged to step away from the Trump Organization during his time in office, but amid warnings from government watchdogs and officials in both parties, he has yet to say specifically how he would do that.

Trump continues to own or control some 500 companies that make up the Trump Organization and has said he intends for his two oldest sons and company executives to run the business while he's gone.

Peoples reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Julie Pace, Mary Clare Jalonick and Andrew Taylor 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.

Trump son-in-law Kushner to take senior White House role

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JULIE PACE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump appointed his influential son-in-law Jared Kushner as a White House senior adviser Monday, putting the young real estate executive in position to exert broad sway over both domestic and foreign policy, particularly Middle East issues and trade negotiations.

Trump has come to rely heavily on Kushner, who is married to the president-elect's daughter Ivanka. Since the election, the political novice has been one of the transition team's main liaisons to foreign governments, communicating with Israeli officials and meeting Sunday with Britain's foreign minister. He's also huddled with congressional leaders and helped interview Cabinet candidates.

Ivanka Trump, who also played a significant role advising her father during the presidential campaign, will not be taking a formal White House position. Transition officials said the mother of three young children wanted to focus on moving her family from New York to Washington.

Kushner's own eligibility for the White House could be challenged, given a 1967 law meant to bar government officials from hiring relatives. Kushner lawyer Jamie Gorelick argued Monday that the law does not apply to the West Wing. She cited a later congressional measure to allow the president "unfettered" and "sweeping" authority in hiring staff.

In a statement, Trump said Kushner will be an "invaluable member of my team as I set and execute an ambitious agenda."

Kushner will resign as CEO of his family's real estate company and as publisher of the New York Observer. He will also divest "substantial assets," Gorelick said. The lawyer said Kushner would not be taking a salary. Ivanka Trump will also be leaving her executive roles at the Trump Organization — her father's real estate company — and her own fashion brands.

Kushner, who turns 36 on Tuesday, emerged as one of Trump's most powerful campaign advisers during his father-in-law's often unorthodox presidential bid — a calming presence in an otherwise chaotic campaign. Soft-spoken and press-shy, he was deeply involved in the campaign's digital efforts and was usually at Trump's side during the election's closing weeks.

He has continued to be a commanding presence during the transition, working alongside incoming White House chief of staff Reince Priebus and senior adviser Steve Bannon. He's played a key role in coordinating Trump's contacts with foreign leaders and has been talking with foreign government officials himself, according to a person with knowledge of the conversations.

Last week, Kushner and Bannon — the controversial conservative media executive — met with British Foreign Minister Boris Johnson.

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Kushner and Bannon have also worked closely on issues related to Israel, including discussions over moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, which could inflame tensions in the Middle East, and on the Trump administration's response to a United Nations Security Council measure condemning Israeli settlements.

Kushner is also weighing in on domestic policy. He joined other Trump advisers Monday night for a meeting with House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., on tax reform. He championed the pick of his friend Gary Cohn, the president of Goldman Sachs, for a top White House economic post, and Cohn's influence within Trump's team is said to be growing. He's been a conduit between Trump's team and the private sector, a role transition officials said would continue in the White House.

Those with knowledge of Kushner's role spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss internal matters.

The anti-nepotism law had appeared to be the main obstacle to Kushner joining the White House. In arguing that the measure did not apply to the West Wing, Gorelick cited an opinion from two federal court judges in a 1993 case involving Hillary Clinton's work on her husband's health care law. She said Trump planned to seek an advisory opinion on the nepotism law from the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel.

Gorelick worked in the Clinton administration at both the Pentagon and Justice Department.

Norman Eisen, who served as President Barack Obama's government ethics lawyer, said there is a "murky legal landscape" regarding the anti-nepotism law. But he said Kushner appeared to be taking the proper steps regarding the ethics and disclosure requirements for federal employees.

Like his father-in-law, Kushner pushed a mid-sized real estate company into the high-stakes battlefield of Manhattan. Though he is often viewed as more moderate than Trump, people close to him say he fully bought into the Trump campaign's fiery populist message that resonated with white, working-class voters. He never publicly distanced himself from Trump's more provocative stances, including the candidate's call for a Muslim-immigration ban and his doubts about President Barack Obama's birthplace.

Kushner's place in Trump's orbit — vital but often discreet — was vividly on display last month, when the president-elect toured the Carrier plant in Indiana to tout the jobs he says he saved.

Trump marched around the plant with Vice President-elect Mike Pence, shaking hands with workers, posing for photos and flashing his thumbs-up to the traveling press. Kushner stayed away from the cameras, lingering a deferential 10 or 20 feet from Trump while marveling at the scene.

"Look at these people," Kushner was overheard saying as he watched dozens of workers cheer. "This is why he won."

Associated Press writer Steve Peoples contributed to this report.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 10, the 10th day of 2017. There are 355 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Jan. 10, 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson, in his State of the Union address, asked Congress to impose a surcharge on both corporate and individual income taxes to help pay for his "Great Society"

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programs as well as the war in Vietnam. That same day, Massachusetts Republican Edward W. Brooke, the first black elected to the U.S. Senate by popular vote, took his seat.

On this date:

In 1776, Thomas Paine anonymously published his influential pamphlet, "Common Sense," which argued for American independence from British rule.

In 1861, Florida became the third state to secede from the Union.

In 1870, John D. Rockefeller incorporated Standard Oil.

In 1917, legendary Western frontiersman and showman William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody died at his sister's home in Denver at age 70.

In 1920, the League of Nations was established as the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') went into effect.

In 1946, the first General Assembly of the United Nations convened in London. The first manmade contact with the moon was made as radar signals transmitted by the U.S. Army Signal Corps were bounced off the lunar surface.

In 1947, the musical fantasy "Finian's Rainbow," with music by Burton Lane and lyrics by E.Y. Harburg, opened on Broadway.

In 1957, Harold Macmillan became prime minister of Britain, following the resignation of Anthony Eden.

In 1971, "Masterpiece Theatre" premiered on PBS with host Alistair Cooke introducing the drama series "The First Churchills." French fashion designer Coco Chanel died in Paris at age 87.

In 1984, the United States and the Vatican established full diplomatic relations for the first time in more than a century.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton, attending a NATO summit meeting in Brussels, Belgium, announced completion of an agreement to remove all long-range nuclear missiles from the former Soviet republic of Ukraine.

In 2000, America Online announced it was buying Time Warner for \$162 billion (the merger, which proved disastrous, ended in Dec. 2009).

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush said he took responsibility for any mistakes in Iraq and announced an increase in U.S. troops there to quell violence. The Democratic-controlled House voted 315-116 to increase the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour.

Five years ago: Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney won the New Hampshire Republican primary; Ron Paul finished second, with Jon Huntsman, Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum trailing. Alabama was voted No. 1 in the final AP poll for the eighth time, tying Notre Dame for the most of any team in college football, after winning a rematch with LSU in the BCS championship.

One year ago: French President Francois Hollande (frahN-SWAH' oh-LAWN'D') and other dignitaries held a special ceremony to honor those killed in Islamic extremist attacks around Paris in 2015. David Bowie, the chameleon-like star who transformed the sound and the look of rock with his audacious creativity and his sexually ambiguous makeup and costumes, died in New York. At the Golden Globes, "The Revenant" won best motion picture drama while "The Martian" was recognized as best comedy film.

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Sherrill Milnes is 82. Blues artist Eddy Clearwater is 82. Rock singer-musician Ronnie Hawkins is 82. Baseball Hall of Famer Willie McCovey is 79. Movie director Walter Hill is 77. Actor William Sanderson is 73. Singer Rod Stewart is 72. Rock singer-musician Donald Fagen (Steely Dan) is 69. Boxing Hall of Famer and entrepreneur George Foreman is 68. Roots rock singer Alejandro Escovedo is 66. Rock musician Scott Thurston (Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers) is 65. Singer Pat Benatar is 64. Hall of Fame race car driver and team owner Bobby Rahal is 64. Rock musician Michael

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Schenker is 62. Singer Shawn Colvin is 61. Rock singer-musician Curt Kirkwood (Meat Puppets) is 58. Actor Evan Handler is 56. Rock singer Brad Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 53. Actress Trini Alvarado is 50. Rock singer Brent Smith (Shinedown) is 39. Rapper Chris Smith (Kris Kross) is 38. Actress Sarah Shahi is 37. American roots singer Valerie June is 35.

Thought for Today: "In order to go on living one must try to escape the death involved in perfectionism." — Hannah Arendt, American author and historian (1906-1975).