

# Groton Daily Independent

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## 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.

**School Lunch:** Tacos, refried beans, fruit, breadsticks.

GBB at Sisseton. C game at 5:15 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity game.

Wrestling with Britton-Hecla, Deuel and Tiospa Zina at Clear Lake starting at 6 p.m.

## Friday, Jan. 13

### NO SCHOOL - Inservice Day

**Senior Menu:** Sloppy Joe with whole wheat bun, oven roasted potatoes, broccoli, Waldorf salad, whole wheat bread.

**Wrestling** at Philip starting at 2 p.m. MT.

**Boys' Basketball** hosts Sisseton. C game at 5:15 p.m., JV at 6:30 p.m. with varsity to follow.

## Saturday, Jan. 14

**Wrestling** at Philip starting at 9 a.m. MT

**7th/8th Boys' Basketball Jamboree** starting at 10a .m.

**Boys' Basketball** vs. Aberdeen Christian at the Redfield Classic at 2:30 p.m.

**Elementary School Carnival** from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the GHS Gym.

## Sunday, Jan. 15

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church:** Worship with communion at 9 a.m. (Installation of WELCA), Sunday School at 10 a.m., MM Bible Study serves at Golden Living Center at 3 p.m.

**St. John's Lutheran:** Worship with communion at 9 a.m., Sunday School at 10 a.m.

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

**United Methodist Parish:** Worship in Conde

## 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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**Harry Implement**  
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421

Ferney

## Activities association chooses Swartos as next executive director

By Dana Hess

For the South Dakota Newspaper Association

PIERRE — McCook Central School District Superintendent Dan Swartos will be the next executive director of the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

The SDHSAA board of directors announced the decision after an executive session at the board's Wednesday meeting.

Board member Brian Maher, who led the search for a new executive director, said Swartos had a varied background as a successful coach, school administrator and member of the National Guard band.

"He rose to the top of a very good pool," Maher said. Other finalists for the position included Avon School District Superintendent Tom Culver and Aberdeen Central High School Principal Jason Uttermark. Uttermark is also a member of the SDHSAA board.

Swartos said he plans to work at McCook Central through June and start his SDHSAA contract on July 1. SDHSAA board chairman Steve Morford of Spearfish appointed three board members to work out the final details of Swartos' contract. Those board members include Maher, Sandy Klatt of Brandon Valley and Jim Aisenbrey of Baltic.

Swartos is in his fifth year as superintendent at McCook Central in Salem. Before that, he spent four years as superintendent of the Big Stone City School District. He has coached football and wrestling at Brookings and football at McCook Central.

A National Guard member for 17 years, Swartos was deployed as a truck driver in the first Iraq War. He currently plays trumpet in the National Guard Army Band based in Mitchell.

"I've always been interested in athletics and the arts," Swartos said. "This is a way to serve students of the state in a little different capacity."

As a school superintendent for nine years, Swartos said he has closely followed the actions of the SDHSAA and its board.

"I think they've been doing a very good job," Swartos said. "It's an association that handles things well."

The South Dakota High School Activities Association directs and coordinates interscholastic activities for member high schools. This includes the scheduling of athletic events, organizing state tournaments and deciding questions about student eligibility.

With the association's broad spectrum of duties, Swartos predicted his first goals would be to become familiar with its responsibilities, look over the budget, look at what's working and what needs to be improved.

"I'm really excited about the opportunity," Swartos said, characterizing his decision to leave McCook Central and Salem as "bittersweet."

Swartos will replace executive director Wayne Carney who will retire at the end of the current school year.

## Activities board considers absorbing student council group

By Dana Hess

For the South Dakota Newspaper Association

PIERRE — A proposal to give the South Dakota High School Activities Association complete responsibility for the state's student council association met with some skepticism from SDHSAA board members.

SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director Brooks Bowman made the suggestion at Wednesday's board meeting.

One board member questioned whether the South Dakota Student Council Association should be the activities group's responsibility. Others questioned the process for bringing the student council group into SDHSAA.

"Do we increase the responsibility that we have as an activities association?" asked board member Brian Maher of Sioux Falls.

According to Bowman, the student council association is already a responsibility of SDHSAA. Bowman

explained that he handles the finances for the group and pays its bills. He organizes the annual convention with help from the student council board and he arranges the speakers for the convention.

The student council association has been beset by budget problems due to its large convention. The convention, which attracts about 1,200 people, outgrew its traditional venue in Pierre. Costs for last year's convention in Sioux Falls were significantly higher. This year's convention will be held in Rapid City.

"When we're in Rapid City, we will be able to make a profit," Bowman said. "When we're in Sioux Falls, costs are going to be higher."

Bowman said he didn't know how attendance would fluctuate by moving the convention to Rapid City.

"There's a lot of unknowns right now," Bowman said, who noted that there are other activities that SDHSAA oversees that run at a deficit.

One of those unknowns was the process for moving the student council association under the auspices of the activities association.

SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director John Krogstrand said the staff would research the way the Jazz Band was handled when it moved from its sponsoring organization to the activities association.

Bowman said he would present a plan for moving the student council group to SDHSAA at the board's meeting in March for a first reading. In April he would take that plan to the S.D. Student Council Association's meeting. If it's approved at that meeting, he would bring it back to the SDHSAA board for a second reading and final approval in April.

Bowman said he has been explaining the move at student council association regional meetings.

"Every region came back and said, 'Absolutely, this has to happen,'" Bowman said.

At the activity association's March meeting, Bowman will offer the board information about how many activity associations have complete oversight of their state's student councils.

## **Pick a number: Football cooperative denied classification appeal**

**By Dana Hess**

**For the South Dakota Newspaper Association**

PIERRE — The number of students in any given school district can fluctuate often. However, at some point a concrete number must be used to determine a school's classification for varsity sports.

At its meeting Wednesday, the South Dakota High School Activities Association board of directors stuck with its numbers to deny an appeal from the Mount Vernon-Plankinton football cooperative which was seeking to play nine-man football.

Mount Vernon-Plankinton contended that an up-to-date count of the cooperative's male students would allow it to play nine-man football. SDHSAA rules specify that setting the two-year classifications for varsity sports will rely on numbers for students in grades nine through 11 that are reported in December. Numbers for students in grades seven through nine are reported in September.

SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director John Krogstrand said using those specific numbers was a policy agreed to by the football advisory board, the state's athletic directors and the SDHSAA board. The numbers, tallied by the S.D. Department of Education, are published on that state agency's website.

"Anybody can see those numbers," Krogstrand said, explaining that in the past some schools have manipulated numbers to remain in lower classifications.

Krogstrand said the staff recommended denial of the appeal to be fair to schools that may be facing similar student losses since the Department of Education numbers were released but are sticking with the classification they have been assigned.

Pat Mikkonen, superintendent at Mount Vernon, said the board was trying to "classify us to play 11-man on numbers that don't exist."

Mikkonen questioned the intent of the board when it set the policy and he got an answer from board member Brian Maher of Sioux Falls.

Maher said his intent was to find the best way to ensure that the playing field was as fair as possible.

"That was my intent," Maher said. "That's why I won't vote for your appeal."

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Earlier in the meeting, the board had granted appeals from Hamlin to play in lower classifications of football and golf because it has a large population of students whose religious beliefs don't allow them to compete. Board member Sandy Klatt of Brandon Valley said she couldn't understand why the board granted appeals when a school district has enough students to qualify for a higher classification but sought to deny the Mount Vernon-Plankinton appeal based on students who were no longer in the school district.

Maher said that in order to make decision that were fair for everyone, the board needed to pick one date for deciding a school's attendance number. Maher said that most schools now have enrollment numbers that are different from the ones reported in September and December by the Department of Education.

Mikkonen said the rule's wording was vague concerning the publication of student numbers.

"This is the first time this has come into question," Mikkonen said. "Maybe there's a flaw in the policy."

SDHSAA Board Chairman Steve Morford of Spearfish said school districts have to live with the fact that student numbers fluctuate. Morford said it would be unlikely for a school district that gained students to make an appeal to be placed in a higher classification.

A vote to approve the appeal failed on a 3-6 vote. Voting in favor of the appeal were Klatt, Moe Ruesink of Sioux Valley and Jim Aisenbery of Baltic.

The board unanimously approved an appeal from Hamlin to play in 9AA football and 9B golf.

Krogstrand explained that the school district has a large population of Apostolic Lutheran students whose religion does not allow them to compete in sports.

Krogstrand said that in the past, it has been the policy of the board to adjust a school's numbers "if it's a student you would never have access to, to participate in activities."

In a similar set of circumstances, the board approved an appeal from the Arlington-Lake Preston football cooperative to play in 9A football rather than 9AA. Three students would not compete because of religious beliefs and another was in a wheelchair and cared for outside of the school district.

The board also approved an appeal from Sisseton to compete in 11B football due to a clerical error that listed four seniors as juniors.

With four wins in the last two years in 11B, Sisseton Activities Director Jack Appel said the appeal wasn't based in an effort to chase a championship.

"We're just looking at what's best for our kids," Appel said.

An appeal from the Beresford, Alcester-Hudson wrestling cooperative to wrestle in Class B was tabled pending action by the athletic director's group to consider a 10 percent rule in wrestling.

The rule, used in some other South Dakota sports, counts the full membership from the larger school in a cooperative and just 10 percent of the roster of the smaller school. The rule helps encourage cooperatives by allowing students at smaller schools to compete while not forcing the co-op's larger school to move up in classification.

—30—

**"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**

## Vacancy Notices

### NOTICE OF VACANCY ON SCHOOL BOARD GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6

The following school board positions will become vacant July 1, 2017, due to the expiration of the present terms of office of the following school board members:

Grant P. Rix, 3-year term  
Steven R. Smith, 3-year term

Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on January 27, 2017, and petitions may be filed in the office of the business manager located at Groton Area High School between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., central standard time not later than February 24, 2017, at 5:00 p.m., or mailed by registered mail not later than February 24, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.

Michael J. Weber, Business Official  
Groton Area School District

### NOTICE OF VACANCY MUNICIPALITY OF GROTON

The following offices will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term of office of the elective officer:

Mayor (three year term)  
Councilman Ward I (two year term)  
Councilman Ward II (two year term)  
Councilman Ward III (two year term)

Circulation of nominating petitions may begin on January 27, 2017 and petitions may be filed in the office of the Finance Officer located at 209 N Main St., Groton, SD between the hours of 8am and 5pm central standard time not later than the 24th day of February, 2017 at 5pm.

Anita Lowary  
Finance Officer

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Groton City Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on January 23, 2017 at 7pm at City Hall, 209 N Main St, Groton, SD for the purpose of considering the proposed amendment to the City Zoning Map under the 2012 Revised City Ordinances. The area to be considered to be rezoned from Agriculture Fringe to Highway Commercial is 300 feet south of US Highway 12 on the Olive Grove Golf Course. Or the area to be considered to be rezoned from Agriculture Fringe to Commercial 2 is all of the Olive Grove Golf Course.

Any person, persons, or their representative may appear at said scheduled public hearing and present information for or against the modification of these zones within the City of Groton.

January 6, 2017

Anita Lowary, Zoning Administrator

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## Groton Prairie Mixed

**Team Standings:** Chipmunks 11, Coyotes 9, Foxes 9, Cheetahs 7, Shih Tzus 6, Jackelopes 6

**Men's High Games:** Roger Spanier 226, Brad Waage 222, 203, Mike Siegler 221, Brad Larson 215, Doug Jorgensen 212, Lance Frohling 202

**Women's High Games:** Nicole Kassube 181, Sue Stanley 174, Karen Spanier 172

**Men's High Series:** Roger Spanier 616, Brad Waage 586, Brad Larson 581

**Women's High Series:** Nicole Kassube 472, Sue Stanley 459, Vicki Walter 458



## Upcoming Events

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**

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## Today in Weather History

January 12, 1912: The all-time coldest temperature ever recorded at Aberdeen and Timber Lake was 46 degrees below zero on this date in 1912. On February 8th, 1895, 46 degrees below zero was also recorded in Aberdeen. The record low for this date was also set at Watertown with 38 degrees below zero.

January 12, 1997: On January 12th, 1997, some of the greatest snow depths were recorded across central and northeast South Dakota. Ipswich had 29 inches on the ground, Aberdeen had 30 inches, Timber Lake had 31 inches, Mobridge had 34 inches, and Waubay had 38 inches. Some of the highest snow depths were recorded at Summit, Sand Lake, and at Eureka. Summit had 42 inches of snow on the ground on January 12th, Sand Lake had 47 inches, and Eureka had a snow depth of 50 inches. The snow depth at Aberdeen was the all-time record snow depth and Mobridge was just an inch shy of their 35-inch record snow depth.

1886: With a reading of 26 degrees below zero, Bowling Green Kentucky recorded its coldest temperature on record.

1888 - A sharp cold front swept southward from the Dakotas to Texas in just 24 hours spawning a severe blizzard over the Great Plains. More than 200 pioneers perished in the storm. Subzero temperatures and mountainous snow drifts killed tens of thousands of cattle. (David Ludlum)

1890: A tornado touched down at St. Louis, MO and crossed the Mississippi River, ending just south of Venice. The worst damage from this tornado occurred in St. Louis. Further east and northeast, one tornado in McLean County passed through downtown Cooksville, destroying at least a dozen buildings, while a tornado in Richland County destroyed four homes northeast of Olney. In all, over 100 homes and other buildings were unroofed or damaged. The storm caused four deaths and 15 injuries.

1912 - The morning low of 47 degrees below zero at Washta IA established a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1985: A record snowstorm struck portions of western and south central Texas. All snowfall records dating back to 1885 were easily broken. Austin measured 3.6 inches, and Del Rio received 8.6 inches. San Antonio saw a record setting 13.5 inches from this event.

1987 - Twenty-seven cities in the Upper Midwest reported new record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 72 degrees at Valentine NE and 76 degrees at Rapid City SD set records for the month of January. (National Weather Summary)








1988 - Parts of North Dakota finally got their first snow of the winter season, and it came with a fury as a blizzard raged across the north central U.S. Snowfall totals ranged up to 14 inches at Fargo ND, winds gusted to 65 mph at Windom MN, and wind chill readings in North Dakota reached 60 degrees below zero. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A dozen cities in the southeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 70s and 80s. Fort Myers FL reported a record high of 86 degrees. (National Weather Summary)

1990 - Gale force winds produce squalls with heavy snow in the Great Lakes Region. Totals in northwest Pennsylvania ranged up to eleven inches at Conneautville and Meadville. Barnes Corners, in western New York State, was buried under 27 inches of snow in two days. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Patchy Blowing Snow and Blustery	Mostly Clear	Slight Chance Snow then Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny
High: 4 °F	Low: -24 °F	High: 13 °F	Low: -4 °F	High: 14 °F	Low: -1 °F	High: 19 °F

Today

**Winds 20 to 40 mph into early afternoon  
Blowing and Drifting Snow**

especially over northern SD



Tonight into Friday Morning

**Dangerously Low Wind Chills  
of -20° to -40°**



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 1/12/2017 5:22 AM Central

Published on: 01/12/2017 at 5:23AM

While no new snow is expected, blowing and drifting snow will increase on west-northwest winds of 20 to 40 mph into the early afternoon hours across much of northern South Dakota. Expect cold high pressure to build into the Northern Plains this afternoon and overnight, resulting in lighter winds and temperatures falling well below zero. Dangerously low wind chills of -20 to -40 will be possible tonight into Friday morning. The coldest temperatures and lowest wind chill values will be across and east of the James River Valley.



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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 3.5 F at 12:50 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: -5.1 F at 11:49 PM**

**High Gust: 27.0 Mph at 9:23 AM**

Rain: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High: 58° in 1987**

**Record Low: -46 in 1912**

**Average High: 22°F**

**Average Low: 1°F**

**Average Precip in Jan.: 0.21**

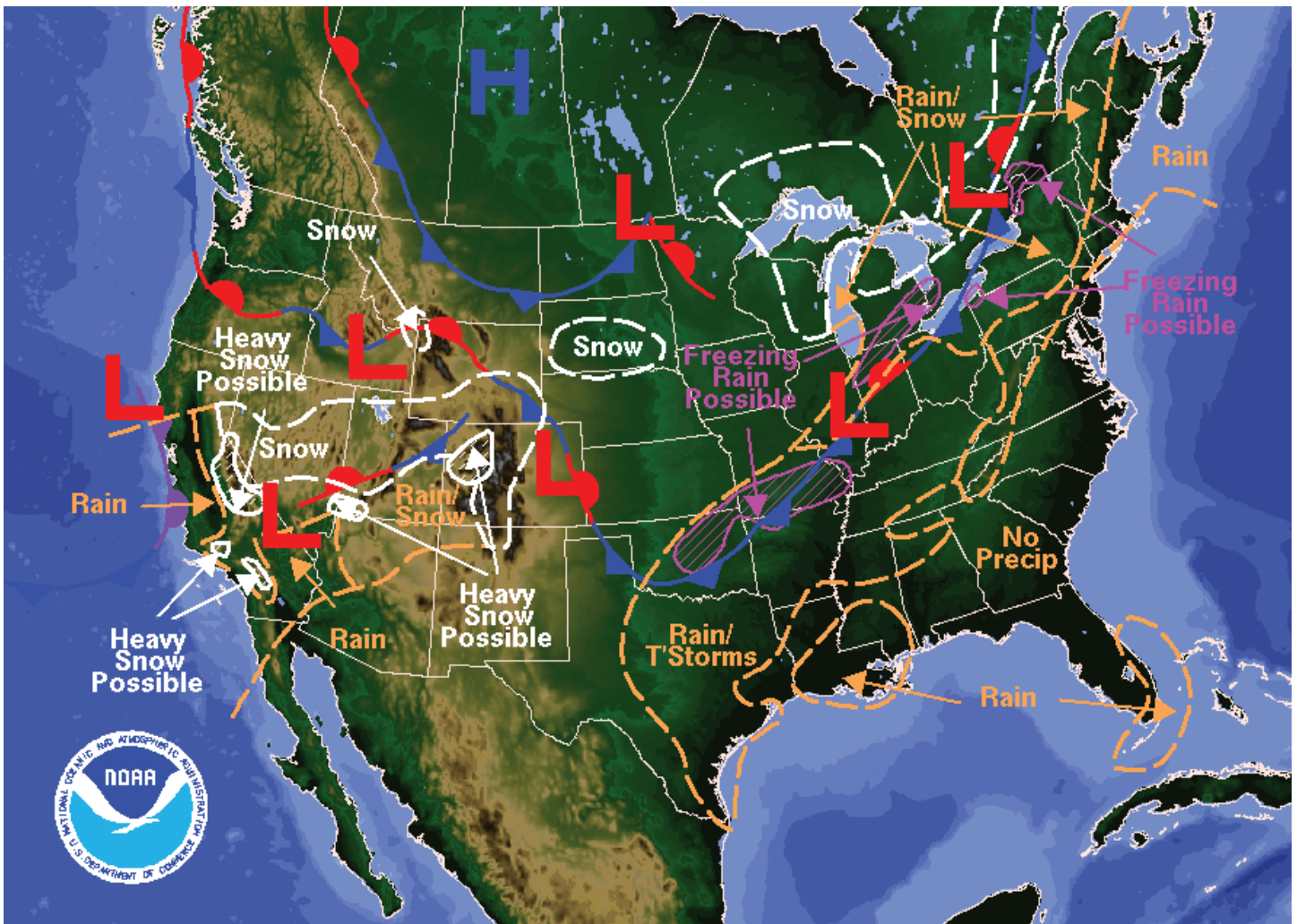
**Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00**

**Average Precip to date: 0.21**

**Precip Year to Date: 0.00**

**Sunset Tonight: 5:13 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:10 a.m.**



Weather Forecast for Thu, Jan 12, 2017, issued 4:50 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



## THE REWARDS OF HONESTY

One of the traits that made Harry S. Truman a great president was his honesty. In fact, honesty was more important to him than the presidency.

During the presidential campaign against Thomas Dewey, his staff notified him that his campaign funds were running low. When one of his supporters was given this information, he approached Truman and said, "I'll give you what you need if, when you become president, you will use your office to get policies in effect that will benefit me."

"Give your money or keep it," said Truman, "but I'm not making any deals."

His response electrified his staff and they began to work harder than ever. As a result, the money coming into his election committee increased dramatically and Truman went on to win the election.

We read in Proverbs that, "The Lord hates cheating, but he delights in honesty." That is about as straight forward as it gets. And there is no way to get around it.

Honesty is very easy to measure: We are either honest or we are not. We either tell the truth or we lie. There are no "degrees" in honesty. We can't be 99% honest or 1% honest or somewhere in between. It's 100% or nothing.

Honesty is basic to a Christian's integrity.

Prayer: It is so easy, Lord, to compromise the truth when we want to fulfill some worldly desire. Cleanse us from deceit and fill our minds and mouths with truth. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 11:1 The LORD detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him.

## News from the Associated Press

### **Miller's 26 points, Werner's free throws propel N. Dakota St**

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Paul Miller scored 26 points, Dexter Werner drilled the game-winning free throws with five seconds left, and North Dakota State survived South Dakota State's second-half comeback bid 70-69 on Wednesday night.

North Dakota State (12-5, 4-0 Summit League) led 41-28 at the half and 55-47 with 10 minutes to play. Trey Dickerson hit a free throw and Trey Burch-Manning added a jumper which sparked a 13-2 Coyotes' run for a 60-57 lead.

From there it was back-and-forth to the finish

Werner finished with 17 points and seven boards.

Burch-Manning scored 15 to lead the Coyotes (12-8, 3-2), who entered the game 8-0 at home.

### **Sioux Falls resident brings creativity to city**

**By Patrick Anderson, Argus Leader**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — He wanted a light above his daughter's desk.

Wes Eisenhower gestured to show where the light should go, just one of the list of instructions he gave to an electrician who walked with him through a partially built house.

Eisenhower is building his family a house — one he plans on staying in, in a neighborhood he loves, in the city he loves, Sioux Falls.

The lanky, blue-eyed 35-year-old entered the local scene as a rapper, one-third of the trailblazing hip-hop trio Soulcrate. Today, he's making himself known as an artist and entrepreneur, pursuing a cornucopia of creative projects from photography to coffee roasting.

In the last year he's returned to the recording studio for a solo album due later this year. Meanwhile, he and his wife welcomed a second daughter and broke ground on a two-story in the McKennan Park neighborhood.

Eisenhower's chaotic schedule, busy and varied as it is, might just be a perfect fit for the city that holds both his heart and future home. The mass of particle board and two-by-fours is more than the skeleton of a future residence.

The house represents a homecoming of sorts, to the core of Sioux Falls, where he developed his love for skateboarding and punk rock and the same do-it-yourself ethic that led to Soulcrate, the photography, The Breaks Coffee and the decision to purchase a lot and don the hat of general contractor instead of buying one of the thousands of homes in Sioux Falls that already come with four walls and a roof.

Once, he adopted a rap pseudonym to honor his attention deficit disorder. Now, he's putting down roots, and doing it in a city he once fled from and antagonized in lyrics.

Maybe Sioux Falls caught his attention at the right time, just before Soulcrate exploded and right after he met his future wife.

Maybe the city changed.

Maybe he changed.

Eisenhower's childhood was filled with stitches and broken bones.

There were bike ramps in the driveway and half pipes in the backyard. In first grade, Eisenhower flung himself from a swing and fractured both arms.

"Everything that he did as a kid was with all of his might," mother Deb Eisenhower said. "Nothing got him down."

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When the family moved from Massachusetts to a house on 14th Street, across from Sunshine Grocery, Eisenhower and his brother, Dan Eisenhower, fell in with the neighborhood kids, who listened to loud music and skateboarded at Meldrum Park.

After Wes left for culinary school in Portland, Oregon, Dan met future Soulcrate DJ Corey Gerlach at a skate park and started fiddling around with drum beats and lyrics.

"I bought a little four-track recorder and I was recording hip-hop songs in my room," Dan Eisenhower said. "And that's when Wes came back and he pressed play on it, and he's like, oh, you're writing rap music?"

Eisenhower had returned to Sioux Falls with a bag of possessions, planning to return to his life out west.

Instead, he stayed.

Eisenhower's decision had cultural implications for Sioux Falls, as did Soulcrate's decision to remain in South Dakota and develop a local scene instead of riding national attention to a bigger metro, said Robert Morast, who covered the group in the early 2000s for Argus Leader Media.

Their loyalty to the local music scene is one of the "biggest things to happen to Sioux Falls' culture," Morast said.

"It just spoke to this sense of local pride," Morast said.

Soulcrate helped create a hip-hop scene in Sioux Falls, said local rapper Deeno Babik. His first concert was a Soulcrate show, and Eisenhower is someone he knows he can call if he needs guidance.

"He's gone out of his way to help me find clarity," Babik said.

Packaging albums and performing on coast-to-coast tours gave Eisenhower a chance to hone his own do-it-yourself philosophy and learn how to use it to his advantage.

"Do it yourself, don't ask permission, if you have something in your head and you want to see it exist, make it exist," said Alex Hagen, a longtime friend who recently helped the group buy a former warehouse north of downtown that's become a roof for their more grown-up endeavors.

For every need, the band looked inward for solutions. They recorded in an apartment, running cable between rooms. They made album art. They organized shows.

Jake Anderson, a Minneapolis-based rapper who goes by Prof, found kinship with Soulcrate because both cultivated local followings in their respective cities by working hard and not relying on others for direction.

"At the drop of a hat he was ready to do something creative," Anderson said.

So when the band wanted photos and videos, they didn't hire a photographer. They bought a camera. The lens was a catalyst for Eisenhower.

The camera, a Canon 5D, came the year his oldest daughter, Jonah, was born.

"He had somebody to practice on," wife Becca Eisenhower said. "He wanted to capture these very beautiful pictures of her."

He dove into his new art form with abandon, with little else than the support of his wife and the belief he could make a life out of capturing something beautiful.

"It felt really powerful," Eisenhower said. "I wanted to learn everything I could about it, and I just got consumed."

He made videos for other music groups, including Phantom Balance, another Sioux Falls-based hip-hop group, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2jw61Xz>) reported. He made videos for Bush Foundation grant winners, including the First Peoples Fund and the Cheyenne River Youth Project for Passenger Productions, a Sioux Falls film company. He made a video of the "Welcome to Sioux Falls" mural painted across his buildings' roof, which went viral and led to other paying gigs.

That's how Eisenhower seems to operate. Get a shot the world will love, worry later about practicality.

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His photo of a buffalo reflected in a water basin was grabbed by National Geographic. A video of the night sky near Custer captured a rare astronomical explosion and went viral online.

Her husband is a big-picture thinker, who learned how to harness his ADD, Becca Eisenhower said. And he has a gift for making things beautiful.

In his rap lyrics, Eisenhower once slammed Sioux Falls as a "land of endless mini malls, Starbucks and Walgreens" and blasted the Washington Pavilion for refusing to host rap concerts.

But instead of complaining about what he doesn't see, like he did 10 years ago, Eisenhower now creates to fill the void. (He helped with the Pavilion's marketing materials this year.)

Thousands of fans gathered in the parking lot of the Eight and Railroad Center in September to watch Eisenhower, his brother and Gerlach headline the group's annual "That Sounds Decent." Soulcrate organizes everything, books the other bands, sets up the stage and then cleans up the mess.

"This was the life that we were always kind of looking after," said Isaac Show, a collaborator and friend. "You've got to be constantly hustling, man, to be that freelancer, to work for yourself."

Eisenhower shot 18 weddings this year in addition to the other photo and video work he does for his photography company. He helped design marketing and packaging for the Breaks.

"I think he's teaching the community some things," said Brienne Maner, communications and membership director for Downtown Sioux Falls Inc.

Eisenhower has brought national attention to the city with his social media following and his ability to be creative with photo and video. And he's serving as an example for young entrepreneurs and artists who will follow in his footsteps, Maner said.

Eisenhower refuses to be limited by a single interest, but at least one project seems to have captured his attention.

Sioux Falls is a blank slate, he said.

Perfect for a man who prefers to do things himself.

Even if it means building his own house.

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

## Army bunkers for lease in South Dakota

By Seth Tupper, Rapid City Journal

EDGEMONT, S.D. (AP) — An area where miners once dug for uranium to supply nuclear bombs may become a sanctuary in case nuclear bombs fall or some other disaster threatens humanity.

California businessman Robert Vicino's company, Vivos, is offering 575 former military bunkers in southwestern South Dakota for lease as doomsday shelters. The price is \$25,000 upfront and then \$1,000 per year. The costs to outfit the empty bunkers will be borne by the tenants.

Vicino, speaking Jan. 5 to the Journal by phone from San Diego, said interest has been high since he began accepting inquiries in October.

"We have an abundance of reservations, but we don't put out specific numbers," Vicino said. "Today alone, I think we've had 50 requests."

The bunkers are remnants of the former Black Hills Ordnance Depot, which was operated as ammunitions storage and maintenance facility by the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1967, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2jweCth>) reported. Its operation overlapped with a uranium-mining boom in the Edgemont area from the 1950s to the 1970s, when most of the uranium was used in Cold War nuclear weapons.

The bunkers sprawl across an 18-square-mile plain about 10 miles southwest of Edgemont and are

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covered with earth, making them look a bit like igloos and inspiring the name "Igloo" for the short-lived community that was built to house the depot's employees and their families.

The bunker complex is now privately owned, and much of it is controlled by a South Dakota-based corporation, S&S Land and Cattle Co., which has a partner corporation called Fort Igloo Bunkers LLC. Officers of those corporations referred the Journal's interview requests to Vicino, who said his company has obtained a lease agreement allowing it to sublet the bunkers.

Besides the 575 bunkers being offered up by Vivos, roughly 225 more are controlled by other private owners and are not part of the project.

The bunkers have been empty for decades while serving mostly as windbreaks for cattle that graze around them, but Vicino sees them as perfect places to endure the end times. His company already offers doomsday shelter communities in Indiana and Germany, according to the company website, and sells turnkey shelters for installation anywhere.

At the Igloo site, each bunker is 13 feet tall at its highest interior point, and nearly 27 feet wide at the floor and either 60 or 80 feet long, which means the floor space ranges from about 1,600 to 2,100 square feet.

Vicino calls the Igloo site Vivos xPoint and describes it as the largest survival community on Earth, with room for 5,000 inhabitants. The typical customer, he said, is likely to be concerned about electromagnetic pulse weapons that could wipe out the electrical grid, the outbreak of a third world war, catastrophic natural phenomena such as asteroid strikes, and other potential disasters. Customers are also likely to have modest financial resources, according to Vicino.

"Everybody thinks we're catering to the elite, but we're not," Vicino said. "The elite have their own shelters that cost tens of millions of dollars each."

Vicino said he was inspired to create doomsday shelters about 35 years ago.

"I had an inspiration, from God as far as I'm concerned, that I needed to build underground shelters for thousands of people to survive something that was coming our way."

Vicino said he was running a manufacturing company back then and did not act on the idea until decades later, when he was selling high-end villas to co-owners under arrangements described as fractional ownership.

In 2007, he finally got serious about the idea. Now, at "about 60" years of age, he is devoted full-time to providing what he calls "life assurance" against doomsday scenarios.

For those who might accuse him of preying on and profiting from the apocalyptic fears of paranoid people, Vicino has a response.

"We're just providing a solution to people who are looking for it," he said. "They can have better peace of mind knowing they have a solution if any of this happens."

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

## LEGO hobbyist rebuilds strength in Yankton

By Reilly Biel, Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — In unforeseen setbacks, untapped strength can be found. Tom Cihak has been building that strength one LEGO brick at a time.

In 2013, Cihak suffered a stroke that was caused by atrial fibrillation, an irregular heartbeat, a condition he wasn't aware of at the time. The irregular heartbeat created a blood clot that prevented blood from flowing to his brain.

The stroke affected the left hemisphere of Cihak's brain, which weakened the right side of his body,

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making it difficult for him to walk and grasp objects.

However, the worst effect of the stroke was the loss of his ability to speak. The condition, also known as aphasia, makes it difficult for a person to produce language, both written and verbal, the Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan (<http://bit.ly/2i78IhQ>) reported.

This impairment was all the harder on Cihak due to him working at and owning Cihak Insurance in Yankton at the time of the stroke.

According to his wife, Rogene, he led an active social life.

"He was golfing several times a week and we were planning a big trip to Europe," she said.

He also had had several hobbies, including photography and golf.

After the stroke, Cihak began working with speech, occupational and physical therapists at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, which he continues to do regularly.

During his early recovery, the question was raised of what he could do to occupy his time.

Fortunately, an answer was soon found.

The Christmas before his stroke, Cihak received a LEGO kit from his son, Mike, of a Frank Lloyd Wright model house. Tom enjoyed putting together. The following Christmas, he received another LEGO kit from Mike, this one of the Sydney Opera House in Australia, which contained 2,989 pieces.

Rogene was apprehensive that her husband would be able to complete it.

"After a stroke, there's a lot of emotional damage that occurs," she said. "It was a big question mark of whether he'd be able to figure out the instruction manual and not get frustrated."

To her surprise, Tom was indeed able to comprehend the thick, detailed instruction manual for not just the Sydney Opera House, but each of the LEGO kits he received afterward. He's completed models ranging from basic buildings to a ship to the Disney castle, which is his favorite project to date.

Tom doesn't seem too picky in selecting a kit to work on, as long as it is complex. He is currently working on a LEGO model of the Death Star from the "Star Wars" film franchise, which has 3,449 pieces.

According to Rogene, he works on the model 2-3 times a day at 20-minute intervals. Completing a full model typically takes him 2-3 months.

In addition, all the models contain pieces, like LEGO people and items, meant to go inside them — for example, a model of a bank may contain a banker at their desk and a safe.

This work has helped Cihak along with his physical therapy.

"It works his fingers and strengthens his hands, his hand-eye coordination and his dexterity," Rogene said. "It's really supplemental to the therapy he receives at Avera."

She estimates that he currently has more than 60,000 LEGO bricks and pieces.

This level of dedication makes Cihak an AFOL — Adult Fan of LEGO — an official term that refers to adult hobbyists who build or collect LEGOS.

He proudly displays his finished projects in his Yankton home.

"He finds it rewarding and a little challenging," Rogene said. "It's fun for him to show it off."

This activity has undoubtedly helped him cope with the aftereffects of his stroke.

"With a stroke, there is so much anxiety and a lot of frustration that comes from that," Rogene said. "Doing a hobby like this really helps with his recovery."

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Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

## Price of corn sets pace for local economy in South Dakota

By Patrick Anderson, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota roared out of the Great Recession.

In 2011, as the nation's economy slogged through a slow recovery, South Dakota's growth surged over 7 percent.

By 2014, the tables turned. South Dakota's economy limped along while the nation's picked up.

What makes South Dakota out of sync with the national economy?

In a word: corn.

Sioux Falls' status as growing retail, housing, and health care hub have pushed the state's economy forward, but none of those sectors carries as much weight as agriculture.

The price of corn has been a steady indicator of the state and metro area's economies in recent decades, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2iBk0Ky>) reported. When corn prices go up, the local economy outperforms the national economy. When corn prices go down, the local economy lags behind the national economy.

The latest dip in corn prices is among the biggest drags on the state's current budget. Gov. Dennis Daugaard said last month the state faces a \$26 million shortfall in the budget year that ends June 2017, and that agriculture and online sales are the biggest factors.

Slowing farm income is also being felt in the state's largest city, where City Hall is bracing for sales tax revenue to fall below projections.

The revenue dips come even as the state's employers hire more workers and builders start more homes. But farmers aren't making big-ticket purchases like they were a few years ago. That's in part because they're seeing less income but also because many bought new equipment ahead of schedule when income soared earlier this decade.

"Now we're seeing the hangover from that," Daugaard said.

Sioux Falls was riding high on economic success when Mayor Mike Huether gave his first state-of-the-city address in 2011, a year after taking office.

City Hall had come in under budget, bolstered its reserves to \$41.7 million and had less debt per capita than other, similarly sized cities. Sioux Falls' success was "rocket fuel" for the rest of the state's economy, Huether said at the time.

Actually, it was a different, less metaphorical fuel feeding the state's economy.

Most of South Dakota's corn crop goes to ethanol production. After Congress expanded standards in 2007 requiring fuel companies to blend their products with ethanol, corn prices started their march upward. The same year — the same month, in fact — Huether made his comment, corn topped \$6 per bushel for the first time.

Huether declined to be interviewed by phone but in an email said the city's economy is closely linked to the agriculture industry. Companies such as John Morrell and Co., Raven Industries and POET all connect the city to the surrounding acres of farmland, and so do the plethora of local dealers selling combines, tractors and other types of farm equipment, he wrote.

And the link between Sioux Falls and agriculture goes further, to entertainment and retail industries, said Slater Barr, president of the Sioux Falls Development Foundation. Unlike coastal cities, Sioux Falls doesn't have to compete with other metros when it comes to drawing in people from neighboring communities for concerts or shopping sprees.

"As discretionary income goes up, we are the destination," Barr said.

While politicians sometimes take the credit — or the blame — for up and down swings in the economy, Mike Allgrunn, a member of the governor's council of economic advisors, said the truth is, government



officials have little sway when it comes to the economy, whether they serve at the local, state or federal level.

"I picture the economy like this big ocean liner, right? It's moving along," said Allgrunn, who also heads the economics department at the University of South Dakota. "One person isn't going to make America great again all by himself, nor is he going to tank it all by himself."

South Dakota is more reliant on agriculture than other states, and the financial implications of corn prices go beyond farmers. Farming and the agriculture industry account for nearly a third of the state's economic output, according to the South Dakota Department of Agriculture.

An analysis of federal farming data by Slate.com shows South Dakota had the second highest crop value per-capita in the nation in 2012, at \$6,591 per resident.

It's no surprise, then, fluctuations in farming hold such a huge sway over state and local economies.

"It will show up on Main Street," state economist Jim Terwilliger said. "You'll see some of that impact."

A number of forces came together to create the surging crop prices, buoying South Dakota's economy as the rest of the United States was recovering from the Great Recession. Increased demand for ethanol, along with growing demand globally for protein and grain drove corn prices higher. Then, a 2012 drought in the Corn Belt damaged supply, and stoked demand.

Three years of record crops followed, creating a cooling effect on prices, said Keith Alverson, president of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association. Abundance eased the world's hunger for corn. Supply keeps soaring, and demand has yet to catch up.

Price fluctuations are part of farming. And South Dakota's low jobless rate continues to be a strong indicator of economic health, regardless of the price tag on a bushel of corn. The state's non-farm income increased in 2015 and was projected to grow in each of the next three years.

Ultimately, though, the price of corn sets the pace for the local economy, and no one knows when it will hit bottom or rebound.

Experts think the descent will continue, though nothing is certain.

"It's really hard to tell," Allgrunn said. "If we knew for sure, we'd all be placing bets."

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

## Harrisburg students to attend presidential inauguration

HARRISBURG, S.D. (AP) — More than five dozen middle school students from Harrisburg will get a firsthand civics lesson when they travel to Washington, D.C., to witness the presidential inauguration.

The group secured tickets to the inauguration through Republican U.S. Sen. John Thune, Harrisburg North Middle School teacher Tamra Huffman told the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2j7LMi9>).

Huffman said her students studied the presidential election and understand the significance of having a chance to see history in the making at the inauguration.

"It's kind of cool that the students can relate to the whole process of electing a president and the president being sworn in," Huffman said.

The students will fly into Washington on Jan. 18 and have some days of touring before President-elect Donald Trump is inaugurated Jan. 20. The students will tour all of the Smithsonian museums, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Mount Vernon, which was George Washington's home.

As a teacher, Huffman said her goal has always been to "make history come alive," and believes that goal will be accomplished with the upcoming trip with her students.

"I'm just excited that the things that they have studied or will study ... they're going to experience it firsthand, up close and personal," said Huffman.

## State Senate committee to consider making mug shots public

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A state Senate panel is set to consider a bill that would allow authorities to release criminal booking photos to the public.

The Senate Judiciary Committee is scheduled to take up the bill Thursday. Panel Chairman Lance Russell says he supports the measure, which was proposed by Attorney General Marty Jackley.

Jackley says the legislation would improve transparency. The bill would make mug shots a public record under South Dakota law.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard said this week that he supports the legislation.

## South Dakota's college readiness test getting little use

By HANNAH WEIKEL, Associated Press

Gov. Dennis Daugaard expressed frustration in his State of the State speech that few school districts are using a college readiness testing program that aims to help reduce the need for remedial classes. Some things to know about the problem, the program and why it matters:

### THE PROBLEM

Last year in South Dakota, 30 percent of university students required at least one remedial English or math class, Daugaard said. South Dakota college freshmen took 599 remedial courses last year — costing them about half a million dollars in tuition, Daugaard said.

Colleges and students already have a problem with affordability. When students need to take a remedial class, they're spending money without making any progress toward a degree — the courses don't count for college credit.

Besides the cost, students who come to college needing remedial classes are less likely to graduate on time or at all, said Paul Turman, South Dakota Board of Regents' vice president for academic affairs.

### THE ANTIDOTE

The Accuplacer College Placement Test is meant to reduce the need for college remedial classes. It got a funding boost four years ago as part of a state and national push to better prepare high school students for college.

Students with low ACT scores in math and English are required to take remedial classes when they reach college. But they can take the free Accuplacer test, which pinpoints course material they struggle with and creates custom curriculum to get them up to speed before they finish high school.

The student must take the course on top of other classes, either online or with a teacher in their district. At the end of the year the students take another test, and if they score high enough, they can go straight into credit-bearing college classes and avoid remedial courses and costs.

But the program hasn't caught on; less than one-third of the state's districts have offered it to students. Only 100 students statewide took the Accuplacer test last school year, Daugaard said.

### WHY THE STRUGGLE?

School districts have lots of college prep course options, and Accuplacer may simply be being overlooked, said Becky Nelson, South Dakota Department of Education director of learning and instruction.

Her department is trying to spread the word on Accuplacer. Daugaard said he also pushed it in August at a convention with school administrators.

Nelson said "senioritis" also may be a problem getting students to take the course.

School districts decide whether to administer the courses as an online-only option, leaving it up to students to complete the work, or have teacher-directed study. Most schools choose the online approach.

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about South Dakota's college readiness coursework and how to enroll, visit [doe.sd.gov/Assessment/accuplacer.aspx](http://doe.sd.gov/Assessment/accuplacer.aspx).

## State's chief justice pitches mental health recommendations

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Supreme Court's chief justice used his legislative address Wednesday to pitch proposals meant to improve public safety and the treatment of mentally ill people in the criminal justice system.

Lawmakers should broaden the pool of people authorized to perform mental competency evaluations and expand infrastructure to offer a telehealth option for the assessments, Chief Justice David Gilbertson said in his State of the Judiciary address.

Gilbertson convened a task force after the Argus Leader newspaper reported that the backlog of mental competency evaluations of criminal suspects is taxing county budgets and raising concerns about the rights of defendants. The number of court orders for competency evaluations tripled from fiscal year 2013 to 2015, he said.

With the state's limited mental health resources, the increase forced people to sit in jail for months before they could be evaluated, Gilbertson wrote in the task force's report.

"Having these people languish in a county jail awaiting competency evaluations is not the right way to treat them," he told lawmakers Wednesday. "It also clogs the criminal justice system and costs a lot of additional tax dollars."

Gilbertson said he believes many of them are veterans who get in trouble because of post-traumatic stress disorder or attempts to self-medicate through substance abuse.

Getting arrested and kept in jail would be a traumatic experience for anyone, said Wendy Giebink, executive director of National Alliance on Mental Illness South Dakota. But, for someone living with a mental health disorder, the situation may be even more distressing and could cause treatment for their illness to get disrupted.

"Just imagine how frustrating it would be to be waiting in jail for something you have no control over and someone to determine whether or not you're competent to stand trial, Giebink said.

The task force's recommendations include starting a pilot mental health court in Pennington County and promoting the expansion of crisis services to help rural law enforcement. The group also suggested training authorities, prosecutors, judges and probation officers on the signs of mental illness and how to better handle it.

House Majority Leader Lee Qualm, a Republican, said that lawmakers would examine the issue, adding that there's no reason that people should be stuck waiting in jail. GOP Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Tuesday during his State of the State address that he will support the group's recommendations.

## Patchwork of Dakota Access protests across US encouraged

By BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The front lines of the battle against the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline are shifting away from the dwindling encampment in North Dakota, with main opposing groups asking for activism to be spread around the U.S., a call heeded when a banner was unfurled during an NFL game on New Year's Day.

The message also has evolved from a struggle against a single four-state pipeline to an effort to advance the rights of Native Americans, the leader of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe says.

"The opportunity to build awareness started at Standing Rock, and it's spreading out to other communities, other areas of the United States," tribal Chairman Dave Archambault told The Associated Press. "It's something that the United States, corporate America, the government has taken for granted — the

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original occupation of Native lands, all the wrongs of the past.”

The protest actions that have popped up, other than the banner drop at a Minnesota Vikings game, include a demonstration at the Jan. 2 Rose Parade in California, bank protests from New York to California and protests of other pipelines in Texas, Florida and Louisiana.

It’s a strategy that sociology professors who study protest movements say is advantageous and possibly allows for innovative ways to draw attention to the issue. A decentralized effort also heeds Archambault’s and other protest groups’ requests for protesters to leave the once-sprawling campsite during the winter months for their safety.

“Those are all examples of what we’re calling for, and some of those things we coordinated,” said Dallas Goldtooth, an organizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network . “The fight isn’t over — it’s just the front line is transitioning to a new place, and that’s a national campaign.”

The demonstrations in other states are examples of how Dakota Access protests are helping highlight other regional issues and broader issues of concerns to Native Americans, such land rights under old treaties with the federal government and the need for state and federal governments to better consult with tribes when it comes to infrastructure projects that affect them, Goldtooth said. The Standing Rock tribe is even considering forming a tribal utilities commission to govern such projects.

Goldtooth’s group, as well as Honor the Earth and the International Indigenous Youth Council , issued a statement Dec. 9 urging people to stop traveling to the camp “and instead take bold action in your local communities.” Since then, the camp’s population has dwindled to between 500 and 800, according to the Morton County Sheriff’s Office, and clashes between protesters and police have dropped off; only 17 arrests since Dec. 9, compared to 568 in the preceding four months.

The pipeline that’s to carry North Dakota oil to a shipping point in Illinois skirts the Standing Rock reservation to the north, where Texas-based developer Energy Transfer Partners plans to lay pipe under a Missouri River reservoir. The tribe and its supporters believe the project threatens drinking water and cultural sites, which ETP denies. The crossing under Lake Oahe is the last remaining chunk of construction, but work is stalled while ETP battles the federal government in court. The Army Corps of Engineers wants more study of alternate routes, potential for a leak and tribal treaty rights.

An aggressive pipeline opposition group known as the Red Warrior Society left the camp last month but remains active orchestrating protests at banks they say have investments in the pipeline and other events in various states including Utah, California, Arizona, New Mexico and South Dakota.

“Energy Transfer Partners will push this pipe through unless there is a diversity of tactics,” the group said last month.

A centralized massive protest has its advantages, according to University of Wisconsin-Madison sociology professor Pamela Oliver.

“(Media) rarely get interested unless an action is either very, very large ... or disruptive, or especially, violent,” she said.

However, large encampments can’t be sustained indefinitely, and diversifying targets can be helpful, said Oliver, who has written extensively about social movements. She notes that “in a practical sense, it is reasonable to look for tactics people can use where they live, and that are consistent with also holding jobs.”

James Jasper, a sociology professor at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York who has written several books about social movements, says “you never know what might work,” including “innovative ones that take advantage of the media already present, as at football games.”

That protest involved two people climbing into the rafters of U.S. Bank Stadium during a Jan. 1 game between the Vikings and Chicago Bears and unfurling a protest banner. Charges are pending against three people, including Karl Zimmermann Mayo, who told the media “this pipeline is not ethical.”

Groups protesting the pipeline emphasize they're not backing down, saying in December that "this fight is escalating" — though for the time being, not in North Dakota.

"We really are seeing this message materialize, to nationalize this fight," Goldtooth said.

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

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This story has been corrected to show the Rose Parade was on Jan. 2, not Jan. 1.

## State high court hears Sioux Falls settlement records case

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The city of Sioux Falls has defended to the state Supreme Court its decision not to disclose details of a \$1 million settlement over faulty siding at the Denny Sanford Premier Center.

The high court heard arguments Wednesday in the case filed by Argus Leader Media (<http://argusnews/2jEx9Uh>) against the city.

The city in 2015 announced the settlement with contractors over the bulging panels but didn't provide details, citing in part a confidentiality agreement.

The newspaper sued after the city declined to give access to documents related to the settlement. A lower court sided with the city, and the newspaper appealed.

The city argues that the state's open records law lets governments keep contracts private if the parties involved agree. The newspaper says that argument runs counter to the Legislature's intent when it passed the law.

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

## Panel rejects change in rule on sexual contact with interns

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota legislative panel has voted down a proposed rules change that would have explicitly barred legislators from sexual contact with legislative interns and pages.

The Joint Legislative Procedure Committee voted 9-5 Wednesday against the change.

Republican Sen. Stace Nelson, of Fulton, argued the current rules aren't clear enough.

But Rep. David Lust, of Rapid City, countered that those rules plus the legislative code of conduct are sufficient.

The proposal also would have specifically blocked legislative employees from sexual contact with interns and pages.

## Secretary of state's campaign finance overhaul introduced

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Secretary of State Shantel Krebs has proposed a rewrite of state campaign finance laws that could replace an embattled voter-approved government ethics overhaul.

The two bills introduced this week would create a campaign finance ethics commission, tighten financial disclosure requirements and allow organizations to contribute directly to candidates, among other provisions.

Krebs, a Republican, convened a bipartisan task force to review the state's campaign finance laws over the summer, before voters approved the Initiated Measure 22 ethics package.

The ballot measure drew quick condemnation from Republican lawmakers and prompted a court challenge. GOP Gov. Dennis Daugaard says he will support efforts this session to repeal the initiative and

replace it.

Roughly a dozen Initiated Measure 22 supporters gathered Tuesday outside the Capitol to urge state lawmakers not to repeal the law.

## Church members join relatives in grief, anger at gunman

By JEFFREY COLLINS, Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Family members of the nine people Dylann Roof killed in a Charleston, South Carolina, church weren't the only ones who suffered. Their church family grieved, too.

Along with the 32 family members of victims, three people connected to Emanuel AME Church spoke as Roof was formally sentenced to death Wednesday in federal court.

"When you have attended nine wakes and nine funerals, it is heartbreaking," said Ruby Martin, the most senior member of the church who admitted it took her several weeks after the 2015 shootings before she could go back.

Emotions expressed at Wednesday's hearing included laughter and tears; love and hate; anger and forgiveness; despair and hope. Some people shouted at Roof, wishing him to be condemned to hell. Others offered forgiveness, and one said she would visit him in prison as he awaits execution for the slaughter.

A jury sentenced Roof to death Tuesday on hate crime and obstruction of religion charges. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel couldn't change it, but his words left little doubt he felt death was justified. "This hate, this viciousness, this moral depravity will not go unanswered," he said.

The 22-year-old avowed white supremacist didn't look at Gergel, just as he refused to meet the gaze of anyone who spoke Wednesday, including Janet Scott, an aunt of 26-year-old Tywanza Sanders, the youngest victim killed in the June 17, 2015, massacre.

"Dylann," Scott said quietly as she started speaking. "Dylann! DYLANN!" she said, shouting it the last time. Toward the end of her remarks, she said, "I wish you would look at me, boy."

Scott talked about her nephew's "great big heart," which could not be donated because of the police investigation.

Roof didn't take an opportunity to speak Wednesday. The day before, just before jurors deliberated his sentence, he didn't ask for mercy or apologize, instead saying he still "felt like I had to do it."

Some of the relatives looked directly at Roof. Others chose to look at jurors, who did not have to be in court Wednesday but told the judge they wanted to attend.

Sheila Capers, the sister-in-law of Cynthia Hurd, 54, who also was killed, said she prayed for Roof's soul to be saved.

"If at any point before you are sentenced and you're in prison and you want me to come and pray with you, I will do that," Capers said.

Felicia Sanders, who survived the attack, brought the bullet-torn, bloodstained Bible she had with her the night of the shooting. She told Roof he still lives in her head, and that when she hears a balloon pop or fireworks or even the soft thud of a falling acorn, she returns to that night.

"Most importantly, I can't shut my eyes to pray," Sanders said.

On the night of the shooting, Roof sat through a 45-minute Bible study session at the black church known as Mother Emanuel with 12 others. He opened fire as they stood and closed their eyes for a final prayer. In all, he fired 77 shots. Each victim was hit at least five times.

The Rev. Daniel Simmons Sr., 74, was among those killed. His daughter, Rose Simmons, said Wednes-

day that her father "in his final act on this earth ... extended that hand of friendship and love even to an enemy. And, it cost him his life. So in him dying facing an enemy, I'm sure we can live facing ours."

She added, "Love conquers all."

Three people survived the attack. Roof told one of them he was sparing her life so she could tell the world he was killing the worshippers there because he hated black people.

When he was arrested, Roof told FBI agents he wanted the shootings to bring back segregation or perhaps start a race war. Instead, the slayings had a unifying effect as South Carolina removed the Confederate flag from its Statehouse for the first time in more than 50 years. Other states followed suit, taking down Confederate banners and monuments. Roof had posed with the flag in photos.

The jury convicted Roof last month of all 33 federal charges he faced. He insisted he was not mentally ill and did not call any witnesses or present any evidence.

Roof, who also faces murder charges in state court, plans to appeal the federal case. Prosecutors say he will remain jailed in Charleston until the state charges are resolved. No trial date has been set.

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Associated Press writer Alex Sanz contributed to this report.

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Follow Jeffrey Collins on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/JSCollinsAP> . His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/jeffrey-collins> .

## **Republican-led Senate takes first step to repeal 'Obamacare'**

**By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate has passed a measure to take the first step forward on dismantling President Barack Obama's health care law, responding to pressure to move quickly even as Republicans and President-elect Trump grapple with what to replace it with.

The nearly party-line 51-48 vote early Thursday came on a nonbinding Republican-backed budget measure that eases the way for action on subsequent repeal legislation as soon as next month.

"We must act quickly to bring relief to the American people," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

The House is slated to vote on the measure on Friday, though some Republicans there have misgivings about setting the repeal effort in motion without a better idea of the replacement plan.

Trump oozed confidence at a news conference on Wednesday, promising his incoming administration would soon reveal a plan to both repeal so-called Obamacare and replace it with legislation to "get health care taken care of in this country."

"We're going to do repeal and replace, very complicated stuff," Trump told reporters, adding that both elements would pass virtually at the same time. That promise, however, will be almost impossible to achieve in the complicated web of Congress, where GOP leaders must navigate complex Senate rules, united Democratic opposition and substantive policy disagreements among Republicans.

Passage of Thursday's measure would permit follow-up legislation to escape the threat of a filibuster by Senate Democrats. Republicans are not close to agreement among themselves on what any "Obamacare" replacement would look like, however.

Republicans plan to get legislation voiding Obama's law and replacing parts of it to Trump by the end of February, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said Wednesday on "The Hugh Hewitt Show," a conservative radio program. Other Republicans have said they expect the process to take longer.

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The 2010 law extended health insurance to some 20 million Americans, prevented insurers from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions and steered billions of dollars to states for the Medicaid health program for the poor. Republicans fought the effort tooth and nail and voter opposition to Obamacare helped carry the party to impressive wins in 2010, 2014, and last year.

Thursday's Senate procedural vote will set up special budget rules that will allow the repeal vote to take place with a simple majority in the 100-member Senate, instead of the 60 votes required to move most legislation.

That means Republicans, who control 52 seats, can push through repeal legislation without Democratic cooperation. They're also discussing whether there are some elements of a replacement bill that could get through at the same time with a simple majority. But for many elements of a new health care law, Republicans are likely to need 60 votes and Democratic support, and at this point the two parties aren't even talking.

Most Democrats broke with Senate traditions to offer brief explanations of their votes as they cast them. "My conscious compels me to vote 'no,'" said Sen. Angus King, an Independent from Maine who sides with Democrats. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, unhappy that the measure endorsed huge budget deficits, was the sole Republican to vote against it.

Increasing numbers of Republicans have expressed anxiety over obliterating the law without a replacement to show voters.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said she wants to at least see "a detailed framework" of a GOP alternative health care plan before voting on repeal. She said Republicans would risk "people falling through the cracks or causing turmoil in insurance markets" if lawmakers voided Obama's statute without a replacement in hand.

Collins was among a handful of Republicans to occasionally break ranks to support some Democratic messaging amendments aimed at supporting such things as rural hospitals and a mandate to cover patients with pre-existing medical conditions. They were all shot down by majority Republicans anyway.

House leaders planned a Friday vote on the budget, though Republicans in that chamber also had misgivings.

Many members of the conservative House Freedom Caucus were insisting on first learning details about what a GOP substitute would look like — or putting some elements of the replacement measure in the repeal bill.

"We need to be voting for a replacement plan at the same time that we vote for repeal," said Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., an influential conservative.

Some GOP senators have discussed a phase-in of three years or longer to give lawmakers more time to replace Obama's overhaul and make sure people now covered by that law can adjust to a new program.

Some more moderate House Republicans were unhappy, too, including Rep. Tom MacArthur, R-N.J., a leader of GOP centrists in the House Tuesday Group. He said he would oppose the budget because there was too little information about the replacement, including whether people receiving expanded Medicaid coverage or health care subsidies under the existing law would be protected.

"We're loading a gun here," MacArthur said. "I want to know where it's pointed before we start the process."



## Newly leaked dossier on Trump circulated in DC for months

By JACK GILLUM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was a bombshell story, emerging on the eve of Donald Trump's first news conference as president-elect: U.S. intelligence officials had presented Trump with unsubstantiated claims that Russia had amassed compromising personal and financial allegations about him.

The purported Russian efforts were described in a newly released and uncorroborated dossier produced in August. But they had circulated more widely in Washington in October — following early reports and opaque warnings from elected officials that something was afoot involving the Kremlin and Trump.

In October, Mother Jones magazine described how a former Western spy — assigned to look into Trump's Russian ties for a private American firm — had presented his findings to the FBI in August. Those findings, the magazine said, were produced for political opposition research and said that Russian intelligence had compromised Trump during his visits to Moscow — information that, if true, could be used to blackmail him or undermine his presidency.

The Wall Street Journal on Wednesday identified the dossier's author as Christopher Steele, a director of London-based Orbis Business Intelligence Ltd., whom the Journal said declined repeated requests for interviews through an intermediary. Another Orbis director told the Journal he wouldn't "confirm or deny" that Orbis had produced the report.

Efforts to reach him by The Associated Press were not immediately successful.

There was no listed number for Steele's address in Runfold, outside Farnham, Surrey, about 35 miles southwest London.

Neighbor Mike Hopper said Steele had lived there for about 18 months with his wife and four children. Hopper is looking after the family's cats.

"He did not say where he was going or when he was coming back," he said.

CNN reported Tuesday night that Trump had been briefed in a classified setting about a summary of the investigator's findings.

Meanwhile, BuzzFeed published the 35-page dossier Tuesday night. The website defended publishing the report because it said Americans "can make up their own minds about allegations about the president-elect." Other news outlets withheld publishing most details about the unverified claims because they couldn't confirm them.

Shortly after reports were published late Tuesday about the dossier, Trump tweeted: "FAKE NEWS - A TOTAL POLITICAL WITCH HUNT!" The president-elect said at a combative news conference Wednesday that the allegations were "phony stuff" leaked by "sick people."

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said in a statement later that he had spoken with Trump Wednesday evening and told him the intelligence community "has not made any judgment that the information in this document is reliable."

The Kremlin, meantime, said that Russia and the United States can overcome the current diplomatic strain based on mutual respect once Trump takes office.

President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told reporters Thursday that "Moscow hopes that our presidents will get along well." He added that while Moscow and Washington can't agree on everything, they can normalize their strained ties if they show "mutual respect."

Peskov made the statement while commenting on Trump's news conference Wednesday, during which he voiced hope of getting along with Putin. Peskov welcomed Trump's readiness to conduct a dialogue with Russia, adding that "it will help us find a way from many difficult situations."

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The dossier contains unproven information about close coordination between Trump's inner circle and Russians about hacking into Democratic accounts as well as unproven claims about unusual sexual activities by Trump among other suggestions attributed to anonymous sources. The Associated Press has not authenticated any of the claims.

In October, then-Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid wrote to the FBI asking it to publicly disclose what it knew about any Trump campaign ties to Russia.

"It has become clear that you possess explosive information about close ties and coordination between Donald Trump, his top advisers, and the Russian government — a foreign interest openly hostile to the United States, which Trump praises at every opportunity. The public has a right to know this information," Reid wrote on Oct. 30.

He said he learned of the information from FBI Director James Comey and from other top U.S. national security officials. It wasn't immediately clear how much Reid knew specifically of the compromising information versus Russian hacking activity in general.

A few weeks later, in mid-November, Sen. John McCain became aware of the allegations but decided it was impossible to verify them without a proper investigation, according to a report Wednesday by The Guardian. The newspaper reported McCain was reluctant to get involved because it could be seen as payback for insults Trump made about the Arizona Republican during the campaign.

The summary of the dossier allegations was appended to a classified assessment of Russia's suspected attempts to meddle in the U.S. presidential election. Trump and President Barack Obama were briefed on the intelligence community's findings last week.

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Associated Press writers Raphael Satter in London and Deb Riechmann in Washington contributed to this report.

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Follow Jack Gillum on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/jackgillum>.

## 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. '180 DEGREES DIFFERENT'

Obama's farewell address and Trump's news conference give Americans a striking look at how dramatically the White House will change next week, an AP analysis finds.

2. WHAT POMPEO IS FACING

The Kansas lawmaker, Trump's pick to run the CIA, faces a Senate confirmation hearing amid a testy standoff between the president-elect and the spy community.

3. HOW MATTIS VIEWS IRAN

Trump's choice for defense secretary is an outspoken critic of the Islamic republic, calling it the biggest threat to stability in the Mideast.

4. US MILITARY: NOVEMBER FIGHT WITH TALIBAN KILLED 33 CIVILIANS

Residents at the time carried over a dozen corpses of the dead, including children and family members of the Taliban fighters, toward a local governor's office in a show of rage.

5. VW EXECS INDICTED

Six high-level Volkswagen employees from Germany are charged in the U.S. in the automaker's emissions-cheating scandal, but bringing them to trial is another matter.

6. FRENCH FAR-RIGHT LEADER SEES A 'GRAND RETURN' OF NATIONALISM

The vision of Marine Le Pen, a top candidate for president of France, is no European Union, no open borders and closer ties with Russia.

## 7. 'AFRO-PALESTINIANS' FORGE UNIQUE IDENTITY IN ISRAEL

Descended from Muslim pilgrims from Africa, they now consider themselves proud Palestinians, despite widespread poverty and occasional discrimination.

## 8. FREDDIE GRAY CASE LEADS TO CHANGE

The death of the young black man in Baltimore police custody exposed systemic failures, leading officials to agree on departmental reforms that can be enforced in court.

## 9. WHERE 'MAD MEN' ARCHIVE ENDED UP

Scripts, drafts, notes, props, costumes, digital video and research materials that went into creating the show's presentation of the American 1960s is donated to the University of Texas.

## 10. 360-DEGREE REPLAYS COMING TO SUPER BOWL

Thanks to "Be the Player," Fox broadcasters will be able to show a play from virtually any spot in the stadium — and the first time from the athletes' perspective.

## **US military: November fight with Taliban killed 33 civilians**

**By RAHIM FAIEZ, Associated Press**

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The U.S. military in Afghanistan said on Thursday that its investigation into a November firefight with the Taliban in northern Kunduz province has shown that 33 civilians died in the raid during which U.S. troops fired on Afghan homes.

The probe followed claims that civilian deaths resulted from airstrikes called in to support Afghan and U.S. forces who came under fire in the province's village of Buz-e Kandahari, which targeted two senior Taliban commanders.

The two Taliban figures, responsible for violence in Kunduz the previous month, were killed in the operation.

According to a U.S. military statement, the investigation "determined, regrettably, that 33 civilians were killed and 27 wounded" as troops responded to fire from "Taliban who were using civilian houses as firing positions."

After the raid, Kunduz residents carried over a dozen corpses of the dead, including children and family members of the Taliban fighters, toward a local governor's office in a show of rage.

"Regardless of the circumstances, I deeply regret the loss of innocent lives," the statement quoted Gen. John Nicholson, commander of U.S. Forces in Afghanistan. "On this occasion the Taliban chose to hide amongst civilians and then attacked Afghan and U.S. forces."

"I wish to assure President (Ashraf) Ghani and the people of Afghanistan that we will take all possible measures to protect Afghan civilians," Nicholson added. "We will continue to assist the Afghan security forces in their efforts to defend their country."

But a Kunduz official told The Associated Press that the Afghan civilian death toll in the U.S. military probe was less than what local authorities had.

"More than 50 people, including women and children, were killed in the Afghan and U.S. forces' attack in Buz-e Kandahari," said Toryalia Kakar, a deputy provincial council member.

Kakar urged the United States to compensate the victims' families who he said not only lost their loved ones but also saw their homes and property destroyed in the airstrikes.

The Taliban briefly overran the city of Kunduz, the provincial capital with the same name, in October 2015, in a show of strength by the insurgents that also highlighted the troubles facing local Afghan forces, 15 years after the U.S.-led invasion of the country. The Taliban captured and held parts of Kun-

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duz a year earlier as well, before the city was fully liberated weeks later with the help of U.S. airstrikes.

In the 2015 operation, a U.S. Air Force special operations AC-130 gunship attacked a Kunduz hospital run by the medical charity Doctors Without Borders, killing 42 people. Sixteen U.S. military personnel, including a two-star general, later were disciplined for what American officials described as mistakes that led the strike. Doctors Without Borders has called the attack a war crime and demanded an independent investigation.

After the firefight last November, Ghani criticized the Taliban for using women and children as "a shield" during the raid in Buz-e Kandahari. He also announced a local investigation had been started.

The U.S. military statement further added that its investigation "concluded that U.S. forces acted in self-defense" in the joint Afghan-American raid in the village.

"As an indication of the ferocity of the fire faced by friendly forces from the Taliban-occupied houses, two U.S. soldiers and three Afghan Army Commandos were killed," it said. "In addition, four U.S. soldiers and 11 commandos were wounded."

The raid also killed 26 Taliban fighters and wounded around 26 other insurgents, the U.S. military report said.

However, Kakar, the Kunduz official, disputed that death toll, saying not more than 10 Taliban fighters died.

The investigation concluded that U.S. air assets used the minimum amount of force required and that the civilians who were wounded or killed were likely inside the buildings from which the Taliban were firing. In addition, the U.S. military said a Taliban ammunition cache was struck and exploded, which also destroyed multiple civilian buildings and may also have killed civilians.

"It has been determined that no further action will be taken because U.S. forces acted in self-defense and followed all applicable law and policy," the statement concluded.

NATO's combat operations ended in Afghanistan at the end of 2014, a move that put Afghan forces in charge of the country's security. Since then, Afghan forces have suffered heavy casualties battling the Taliban, who have tried to expand their footprint across much of the country. NATO and U.S. casualties have been few.

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Associated Press writer Jon Gambrell in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

## Trump's CIA choice to be questioned amid Russia hacking fury

By EILEEN SULLIVAN and DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's pick to run the CIA faces a Senate confirmation hearing amid a testy standoff between the president-elect and the spy community.

Rep. Mike Pompeo, a four-term conservative Kansas Republican, is a member of the House intelligence committee and also served on the partisan committee to investigate the deadly attack on a U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya. He was expected to be on the receiving end of questions from a friendly group of fellow lawmakers Thursday.

If confirmed as CIA director, Pompeo could be caught in the role of mending relations between Trump and intelligence officials.

Trump has for the most part been dismissive of intelligence agencies' findings that Russia, specifically President Vladimir Putin, meddled in the 2016 U.S. election with the goal of electing Trump. The CIA is one of three main intelligence agencies that came to that conclusion. On Wednesday, Trump acknowledged Russia was responsible but speculated that intelligence agencies might have leaked to

news organizations details about a classified briefing with him that included unsubstantiated allegations about his ties to Russia.

Pompeo graduated first in the Class of 1986 at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He served in the Army at a time when the Soviet Union was America's No. 1 adversary.

Pompeo has been critical of the Obama administration's nuclear deal with Iran, which granted Tehran sanctions relief for rolling back its nuclear weapons program. And he has said that Muslim leaders are "potentially complicit" in terrorist attacks if they do not denounce those made in the name of Islam. He has also called for the government to increase surveillance to counter terrorists, not roll it back, and he wants Congress to play a larger role in overseeing intelligence agency activity.

The congressman also supports the use of waterboarding to elicit information from suspected terrorists.

Pompeo initially backed Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., for the Republican nomination for president in 2016, but then promoted Trump's bid for the White House. Rubio is a member of the Senate intelligence committee.

## **360-degree replays at Super Bowl a taste of what's next**

**By JIMMY GOLEN, AP Sports Writer**

BOSTON (AP) — Have you ever wanted to know what Tom Brady sees as he stares down a pass rush, scans the field for an open receiver ... or brushes his teeth in the morning?

This year's Super Bowl broadcast could be just what you're looking for.

Thanks to a 360-degree replay technology called "Be the Player," Fox TV broadcasters will be able to show a play from virtually any spot in the stadium within minutes of the action taking place. The spin around and zoom "freeD" system has been used at other sporting events — including the NBA and baseball All-Star Games and the Olympics — but this will be the first that goes the last step and shows things from the athlete's perspective .

"The difference here is you would be able to go in and see from his vantage point what the player actually saw," said Zac Fields, a senior vice president for graphic technology and integration at Fox Sports Group. "It's something that most of us have never been able to see before. The vantage point that most of us have on TV is really different than what the guys see on the field. That's what the promise of this technology is."

Intel is rolling out the new technology at this year's Super Bowl, and promoting it in an ad that will feature Brady in his everyday life — waking up, making breakfast, brushing his teeth — with the tagline: "Intel replay 360 makes anything look epic." As the Patriots quarterback snarfs down a pancake, the camera spins around to a new angle and shows the crumbs falling from his mouth.

And, if New England makes it to the Feb. 5 Super Bowl in Houston, there will be even more opportunities to see things from Brady's perspective.

"It's something that fans have always dreamed about: 'What did Tom see when he threw that pass?'" Jeff Hopper, the general manager of strategy and marketing for the Intel Sports Group, told The Associated Press in advance of the announcement. "Everyone wants to be the player, to see what it's like to see it from that point of view."

To make the "Be the Player" video possible, Intel has installed 38 separate 5K resolution cameras in a perimeter inside NRG Stadium, creating what Hopper calls "a volumetric capture of everything that's going on on the field." The cameras are connected by five miles of fiber optic cables to a special control room, where a half-dozen Intel producers, working with one from the Fox Sports broadcast, can pick

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out and package the replays that will be used in the broadcast.

The massive amount of data — about 1 terabyte per 15-30 second clip — allows producers to position a “virtual camera” anywhere it wants — including, virtually, inside a player’s helmet. (Early versions even toyed with superimposing a facemask on the screen, though that has apparently been dropped.) It will take about two minutes to produce the clips, meaning it’s not yet ready for instant replay but could, for example, be available to show a new view of a touchdown by the time the teams are done with the extra point or kickoff.

In an interview in Boston’s Back Bay this week, Hopper said there could be up to 20 “Be the Player” replays, though ultimately it is up to Fox to decide how to use it.

“It will depend upon the story you are trying to tell,” Fields said. “It’s not something we’re planning on using because it is a new bell and whistle. It is a storytelling tool, and that’s how we’re planning to utilize it.”

Right now, use of the system is limited to big events: It took about a month to retrofit the stadium in Houston with all of the equipment needed for the freeD data capture. Also, each 15-30 clip consists of about 1 terabyte of data.

But Hopper said new stadiums are already being built with the cameras in mind.

“Anyone who’s building a new stadium now is saying, ‘What do we need to do to make it freeD ready?’” he said. “Because everyone sees it as the future.”

Eventually, Hopper said, the technology will not be limited to storytelling.

Teams and leagues are hoping to mine the data to improve performance. In the X-Games, Hopper said, the athletes were eager to figure out how high they jumped and use that information to tune their techniques — or just brag about big air with the competition.

In time, coaches will be able to use the video to see what their player saw, instead of relying on overhead shots of the field. And, as the turnaround time quickens, the technology would also help replay reviews by giving officials the ability to freeze the action and zoom in at any angle to look, for example, to see whether a player’s knee was down before the ball popped out.

“We’re working with pretty much the entire sports world,” Hopper said. “All the leagues, all the teams. I don’t think there’s anyone that we’re not. We can’t do them all, but we’re talking with them all.”

And Hopper envisions a sports world where every fan will be able to immerse himself in the game on his phone or a virtual reality headset — not just view the shots curated by a TV producer sitting in a trailer next to the stadium.

“That’s good; I think it’s interesting. But the transformative nature of what we’re working on is: Everybody gets to do it themselves,” Hopper said. “Ultimately you’ll be able to be on the field, with the players — the best players in the world — whatever sport that is, whether it be soccer, football or cricket, whatever. You’ll be able to be part of the action. I don’t think you can get any more immersed.”

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For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and [http://www.twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## **In VW case, US takes aim at employees, not just corporation**

**By MICHAEL BIESECKER, TOM KRISHER and DEE-ANN DURBIN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Six high-level Volkswagen employees from Germany have been indicted in the U.S. in the automaker’s emissions-cheating scandal as prosecutors made good on efforts to charge individuals in a corporate corruption case.

But bringing them to trial in the U.S. is another matter.

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In announcing the federal charges and a corporate plea bargain by Volkswagen, Justice Department prosecutors on Wednesday detailed a large and elaborate scheme inside the German automaker to commit fraud and then cover it up, with at least 40 employees allegedly involved in destroying evidence.

The company agreed to plead guilty to criminal charges and pay \$4.3 billion — by far the biggest fine ever levied by the government against an automaker.

“Volkswagen obfuscated, they denied and they ultimately lied,” Attorney General Loretta Lynch said.

But prosecutors may have trouble bringing the executives to trial in the U.S. German law generally bars extradition of the country’s citizens except within the European Union. Privately, Justice officials expressed little optimism that the five VW executives still at large will be arrested, unless they surrender or travel outside Germany.

Still, the criminal charges are a major breakthrough for a Justice Department that been under pressure to hold individuals accountable for corporate misdeeds ever since the 2008 financial crisis.

U.S. authorities are still investigating just how high the scheme went, and held out the possibility of charges against more VW executives.

“We will continue to pursue the individuals responsible for orchestrating this damaging conspiracy,” Lynch said.

VW admitted installing software in diesel engines on nearly 600,000 VW, Porsche and Audi vehicles in the U.S. that activated pollution controls during government tests and switched them off in real-world driving. The software allowed the cars to spew harmful nitrogen oxide at up to 40 times above the legal limit.

U.S. regulators confronted VW about the software after university researchers discovered differences in testing and real-world emissions. Volkswagen at first denied the use of the so-called defeat device but finally admitted it in September 2015.

Even after that admission, prosecutors said, company employees were busy deleting computer files and other evidence.

The fines easily eclipse the \$1.2 billion penalty levied against Toyota in 2014 over unintended acceleration in its cars. VW also agreed to pay an additional \$154 million to California for violating its clean air laws.

The penalties bring the cost of the scandal to VW in the United States to nearly \$20 billion, not counting lost sales and damage to the automaker’s reputation. Volkswagen previously reached a \$15 billion civil settlement with U.S. environmental authorities and car owners under which it agreed to repair or buy back as many as a half-million of the affected vehicles.

Although the cost is staggering and would bankrupt many companies, VW has the money, with \$33 billion in cash on hand.

As for why the fine was so big, “the premeditation here was very significant and that was at a very high level in the company,” said Leslie Caldwell, an assistant U.S. attorney general.

“Lower-level people actually expressed concern along the way about the fact these defeat devices were being used and questioned whether they should be used. And higher-up people decided to use them,” Caldwell said. “Volkswagen also lied to the regulators and the Department of Justice once our investigation had started. That’s what distinguishes this.”

Volkswagen pleaded guilty to conspiracy, obstruction of justice and importing vehicles by using false statements. Under the agreement, VW must cooperate in the investigation and let an independent monitor oversee its compliance for three years.

The six supervisors indicted by a federal grand jury in Detroit were accused of lying to environmental regulators or destroying computer files containing evidence.

All six are German citizens, and five remained in Germany. The only one under arrest was Oliver Schmidt, who was seized over the weekend in Miami during a visit to the U.S.

Schmidt was in charge of VW's compliance with U.S. environmental regulations. Those indicted also included two former chiefs of Volkswagen engine development and the former head of quality management and product safety. Prosecutors said one supervised 10,000 employees.

All six were charged with conspiracy to defraud the U.S. by making false statements to regulators and the public. Three were also charged with fraud and clean-air violations.

VW also faces an investor lawsuit and a criminal investigation in Germany. In all, some 11 million vehicles worldwide were equipped with the software.

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Krisher and Durbin reported from Detroit. David McHugh in Frankfurt, Germany, contributed to this article.

## **Combative Trump concedes Russia's role in election hacking**

**By JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent**

NEW YORK (AP) — In a combative and freewheeling news conference, President-elect Donald Trump said for the first time Wednesday that he accepts Russia was behind the election year hacking of Democrats that roiled the White House race. Looking ahead, he urged Congress to move quickly to replace President Barack Obama's signature health care law and insisted anew that Mexico will pay the cost of a border wall.

The hour-long spectacle in the marbled lobby of Trump's Manhattan skyscraper was his first news conference since winning the election in early November, and the famously unconventional politician demonstrated he had not been changed by the weight of his victory.

He defiantly denied reports that Russia had collected compromising personal and financial information about him, lambasting the media for peddling "fake news" and shouting down a journalist from CNN, which reported on the matter. His family and advisers clapped and cheered him on throughout.

Trump's transition has been shadowed by U.S. intelligence assessments that Russia not only meddled in the election, but did so to help him defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton. After spending weeks challenging that idea, Trump finally accepted at least part of the intelligence conclusions.

"As far as hacking, I think it was Russia," Trump said, quickly adding that "other countries and other people" also hack U.S. interests. Still, he kept needling the intelligence agencies, saying it would be a "tremendous blot" on their record if officials were leaking information from his classified briefings.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said in a statement later that he had spoken with Trump Wednesday evening and told him he does not believe any leaks came from the intelligence community.

One U.S. official told The Associated Press Tuesday night that intelligence people had informed Trump last week about an unsubstantiated report that Russia had compromising personal and financial information about him. Some media outlets reported on the document, which contains unproven information alleging close coordination between Trump's inner circle and Russians, as well as unverified claims about unusual sexual activities by Trump. The AP has not authenticated any of the claims.

Clapper said Wednesday he had told Trump the intelligence community "has not made any judgment that the information in this document is reliable."

Wednesday's news conference was initially billed as a chance for Trump to answer questions about his plans for distancing himself from his sprawling, family-owned real estate and licensing business. Lawyer Sheri Dillon stepped to the lectern midway through the event to announce that the president-



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elect was relinquishing control of the Trump Organization to his adult sons and an executive, as well as putting his business assets in a trust. While new international business deals will be banned, the company will be allowed to start new projects in the U.S.

The move appears to contradict a previous pledge by the president-elect. In a tweet last month, Trump said that "no new deals" would be done while he was in office.

With dramatic flair, Trump aides piled stacks of manila folders on a table next to the lectern - in front of 10 American flags - before the news conference began. Trump said the folders contained documents he had signed formalizing the new business arrangements, though journalists were not able to view and independently verify the materials.

Some 250 journalists crammed into the Trump Tower lobby for the news conference, which was not only Trump's first since the election, but his first since July. Journalists shouted for his attention. At times, he skipped past questions he appeared to not want to answer, including an inquiry about whether he would keep in place sanctions Obama slapped on Russia in retaliation for the election-related hacking.

Until Wednesday, Trump had spent most of his two months as president-elect doling out policy pronouncements, attacks on critics and boasts about his victory in 140-character increments on Twitter. His preferred mode of communication has left some of his positions vague - an approach that is often by Trump's design.

The president-elect set some concrete policy markers Wednesday, though specifics continued to be in short supply on some of his major campaign promises.

He promised that a replacement for Obama's sweeping health care overhaul would be offered "essentially simultaneously" with a congressional vote to repeal the measure. The complexity of the policy changes makes quick passage of a new health care law virtually impossible, and Trump is yet to detail what he wants included. He said his team would send a plan to Congress after Rep. Tom Price, his pick to lead the Department of Health and Human Services, is confirmed.

Turning to his plans to build a wall along the nation's southern border, Trump vowed that Mexico would "reimburse" the cost of the project through an unspecified tax or payment. He said that while his administration would begin negotiating with Mexico after his Jan. 20 inauguration, he did not want to delay the work until an agreement was reached, raising the prospect that U.S. taxpayers could ultimately bear the costs.

"I want to get the wall started," he said. "Mexico will pay for the wall, but it will be reimbursed."

Following Trump's remarks, Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto said his country "of course will not pay" for a border wall.

Trump also moved to complete his Cabinet picks, announcing his intention to nominate David Shulkin to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs, elevating him from his current role as VA undersecretary. He suggested that Shulkin may work with major private hospitals to help address issues that have plagued veterans' health care.

Trump said he would move quickly to fill the Supreme Court vacancy left by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. He said he had been interviewing candidates and seeking input from conservative groups and planned to name someone about two weeks after the inauguration.

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Associated Press writers Ken Thomas in Washington, Jonathan Lemire in New York and Christopher Sherman in Mexico City contributed to this report.

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Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

## Trump says for first time: I think Russia hacked Dems

By EILEEN SULLIVAN and DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump speculated Wednesday that U.S. intelligence agencies might have leaked details about a classified briefing with him that included unsubstantiated allegations that Russia had collected compromising sexual and financial information about him.

He said any such information was not true: "It's all fake news. It's phony stuff. It didn't happen."

"I think it's pretty sad when intelligence reports get leaked out to the press," Trump said.

His comments marked his latest round of insults thrown at U.S. intelligence agencies, the same agencies he will have to rely on to help him make major national security directions once he takes the White House next week.

Trump was referring to a dossier that contained unproven information about close coordination between Trump's inner circle and Russians, including details about Russian hacking into Democratic accounts as well as unsubstantiated claims about unusual sexual activities by Trump, attributed to anonymous sources. The Associated Press has not authenticated any of the claims.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said later Wednesday that he had spoken with Trump about the dossier and told him the intelligence community "has not made any judgment that the information in this document is reliable."

Clapper also said in a statement released Wednesday night that he told Trump he does not believe any leaks from Friday's meeting between intelligence officials and the president-elect came from the intelligence community.

On Tuesday, FBI Director James Comey refused to say whether the FBI was investigating any possible ties between Russia and Trump's presidential campaign, citing a policy not to comment on what the FBI might or might not be doing.

There is nothing to suggest the intelligence agencies told news outlets that a summary of the dossier was included in Trump's classified briefing last week about Russian election meddling. President Barack Obama was also briefed on the dossier last Thursday.

A summary of the allegations was included as an add-on to a classified assessment of Russia's suspected election-interference efforts. That classified report tied Russian President Vladimir Putin to the hacking of email accounts of the Democratic National Committee and individual Democrats, including Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta.

Trump acknowledged Wednesday, for the first time, that he believed Russia was responsible for the hacking.

"As far as hacking, I think it was Russia," Trump said. "But I think we also get hacked by other countries and other people."

Trump condemned what he said was "maybe" leaks by U.S. intelligence agencies.

It would be a "tremendous blot on their record if they in fact did that. A tremendous blot, because a thing like that should have never been written, it should never have been had and it should certainly never been released," Trump said at a news conference.

He likened the release to Nazi Germany, saying it is "disgraceful that the intelligence agencies allowed any information — that turned out to be so false and fake — out."

The CIA and the office of the director of national intelligence declined to comment. Although they had not been able to verify details in the dossier, the belief in the intelligence community was that it needed to be shared with Trump, given how many media outlets were already aware of the file.

The briefing about the separate dossier was first reported Tuesday by CNN.

Shortly after news reports were published about the dossier, Trump tweeted: "FAKE NEWS - A TOTAL POLITICAL WITCH HUNT!"

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Before he was even briefed on the intelligence agencies' findings last week, Trump called the focus on the Russian hacking a political witch hunt, as well.

Similar denunciations came from Moscow. Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed the dossier as a "complete fabrication and utter nonsense." He insisted that the Kremlin "does not engage in collecting compromising material."

Collecting such material — known as kompromat in Russia — is standard operating procedure for the Kremlin.

"Kompromat is the life blood — one of the many life blood tactics of Russian intelligence agents," said Laura Galante, a Russia expert and director of intelligence analysis at cybersecurity firm FireEye Inc. "Needless to say, the Russians are not going to say that they have compromising information about Donald Trump."

The unsubstantiated dossier on Trump, which has been circulating in Washington for months, was compiled by a former Western intelligence operative, identified Wednesday by The Wall Street Journal as Christopher Steele of London-based Orbis Business Intelligence Ltd. Efforts to reach him or the company for comment were not immediately successful.

The dossier was part of an opposition research project originally financed by a Republican client who opposed Trump, and later funded by Democrats, according to Mother Jones, which published an article about the report in October and said the operative had turned over the report to the FBI. The New York Times reported the operative had previously worked for British intelligence.

Steven Hall, a retired chief of Russia operations at the CIA, said it was unlikely that intelligence agencies told Trump about the report as payback for his regular criticism.

"In my 30 years of briefing some pretty senior folks downtown in the national security structure, I've never seen politicization like that where you use the threat of some sort of retaliation, or some sort of, 'things are going to get very difficult for you in the future if you somehow mess with the intelligence community.' I've never seen that," Hall said.

Hall said senior intelligence officials were likely in a no-win situation.

If they decided not to share the information with Trump, the details still would likely get out, and they would be accused of withholding evidence, he said. "If you do brief it, then you of course put the imprimatur of some sort of believability, some sort of veracity to it."

Trump's attacks on the intelligence agencies have been "stinging" said former CIA counsel Jeffrey Smith.

"Most president-elects or presidential candidates are very suspicious to the CIA or hostile to it," Smith said. "Once they become president and discover that it's their CIA, the attitude changes."

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Associated Press writers Vivian Salama and Kathleen Hennessey contributed to this report.

## **The Latest: Clapper speaks with Trump about Russia report**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on President-elect Donald Trump (all times EST):

9:50 p.m.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper says he has spoken with Donald Trump about the unsubstantiated report claiming Russia had compromising personal and financial information about the president-elect.

Clapper says in a statement released Wednesday night that he told Trump the intelligence community "has not made any judgment that the information in this document is reliable."

The dossier contains unproven information about close coordination between Trump's inner circle and

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Russians about hacking into Democratic accounts as well as unproven claims about unusual sexual activities by Trump, among other suggestions attributed to anonymous sources. The Associated Press has not authenticated any of the claims.

Clapper also says he told Trump he does not believe any leaks from Friday's meeting between intelligence officials and Trump came from the intelligence community.

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6:45 p.m.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto (PAYN'-yuh nee-EH'-toh) says that "of course" his country will not pay for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. President-elect Donald Trump insists that Mexico will pay for the structure.

Pena Nieto said during a gathering of Mexico's ambassadors and consuls that it's evident his country has "some differences with the next government of the United States, like the topic of the wall that Mexico of course will not pay for."

He adds that "basic principles" like "our sovereignty" are "not negotiable."

Trump insisted at a press conference Wednesday that Mexico will indeed pay for the wall he wants to build along the southern border to stop illegal immigration.

Pena Nieto says that any negotiations with the U.S. must include a commitment to stop the flow of illegal arms and money from the U.S. into Mexico.

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4:20 p.m.

The head of the Office of Government Ethics is publicly slamming President-elect Donald Trump's plans to continue profiting from his international company while he is in the White House.

Walter Shaub took the extraordinary step of saying Trump's plan to retain a stake in the Trump Organization while his adult sons run the day-to-day operations falls short of what the OGE had advised him to do. The office counseled Trump to sell off his business assets and place the proceeds in a trust overseen by an independent manager.

Shaub says: "I wish circumstances were different and I didn't feel the need to make public remarks today. Of Trump's plan, he says: "It doesn't meet the standards that the best of his nominees are meeting" and that previous presidents have followed.

Shaub says he is happy to provide Trump "constructive feedback" on how to divest his business interests.

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3:35 p.m.

Ivanka Trump says she'll step aside from her executive roles at the Trump Organization and her lifestyle brand, but adds she is confident both businesses will continue to "thrive."

In a post on her Facebook page Wednesday, the future first daughter said that her company will be run by the current president and a board of trustees. Her two brothers will run the Trump Organization.

Ivanka Trump is not taking a role in her father's administration. Her husband Jared Kushner will serve as a senior White House adviser.

Ivanka Trump said she will be focus on her three children as they move to Washington. But she said she is passionate about issues affecting women and girls and will seek to determine the "most impactful and appropriate ways for me to serve our country."

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2:30 p.m.

The White House says President-elect Donald Trump is "deeply misguided" in his criticism of the intelligence community and its leaders.

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Trump has accused intelligence agencies of leaking a report claiming that top intelligence officials told him about an unsubstantiated report that Russia had about him. The president-elect likened it to the actions of Nazi Germany.

In response, White House spokesman Josh Earnest says it's "deeply misguided for anybody, at any level, to question the integrity and motives of the patriots" who supply the nation's intelligence.

A U.S. official says top intelligence officials told Trump about the unsubstantiated report last week. The dossier contains unproven information about close coordination between Trump's inner circle and Russians. It includes details about Russian hacking into Democratic accounts as well as unproven claims about unusual sexual activities by Trump, among other allegations attributed to anonymous sources.

The Associated Press has not authenticated any of the claims.

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1:15 p.m.

President-elect Donald Trump says he expects to nominate new Supreme Court justice within two weeks of inauguration.

Trump says at a news conference Wednesday: "We've met with numerous candidates. They're outstanding in every case."

The president-elect said voters supported him in part because he would nominate a conservative justice for the Supreme Court to replace Antonin Scalia. Scalia's death in early 2016 created a vacancy that was kept open as Senate Republicans blocked a hearing for Merrick Garland, President Barack Obama's nominee.

Trump said he had received recommendations for nominees from the conservative and libertarian Federalist Society and Jim DeMint, a former Republican senator from South Carolina who now leads the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank.

Trump said that he plans to start signing bills on the Monday after the January 20 inauguration.

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1:10 p.m.

President-elect Donald Trump lashed out at a reporter from CNN, refusing to take a question from him and calling his news organization and BuzzFeed "fake news."

CNN reporter Jim Acosta pushed back at Wednesday's news conference, demanding an opportunity to ask a question.

A U.S. official says top intelligence officials last week told Trump about an unsubstantiated report that Russia had compromising personal and financial information about him. The story was first reported by CNN Tuesday. BuzzFeed later published a summary of those allegations.

The summary of the allegations was separate from a classified assessment of Russia's suspected attempts to meddle in the U.S. presidential election.

Trump told Acosta, "Your organization is terrible, I'm not going to give you a question."

Acosta responded, "Mr. President-elect, that's not appropriate."

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1 p.m.

Dubai's DAMAC Properties tells The Associated Press it offered deals to President-elect Donald Trump's firm worth some \$2 billion, but the Trump Organization turned them down.

DAMAC spokesman Niall McLoughlin said Wednesday that it involved "a variety of different properties deals."

McLoughlin declined to be more specific, other than to say that "the discussions took place as stated in the media briefing."

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Trump said Wednesday at his first news conference since his election that he had turned down the deal, offering the decision as evidence of his commitment to avoiding conflicts of interest.

DAMAC has a deal with the Trump Organization to manage and run two golf courses.

One of the courses is the Trump International Golf Club in Dubai. It is due to open in February, just after Trump is inaugurated as America's 45th president.

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12:50 p.m.

President-elect Donald Trump says he'll begin negotiations with Mexico on funding his promised wall along the southern border immediately after he takes office.

Trump's team and Republicans in Congress have been discussing a plan in which American taxpayers would initially cover the costs of the wall.

Trump says that's because he wants to get it started fast.

He asks, "What's the difference? I want to get the wall started."

He adds that, "Mexico will pay for the wall, but it will be reimbursed."

Trump is also pushing back on reports that his wall could wind up becoming more of a fence.

He insists, "It's not a fence, it's a wall. We're going to build a wall."

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12:35 p.m.

President-elect Donald Trump says a replacement for "Obamacare" will be offered with the confirmation of his health secretary.

Trump says at a Wednesday news conference that his plan for President Barack Obama's health care law would be "repeal and replace," adding that it would be "essentially simultaneously."

Trump called the law "a complete and total disaster" and said it was "imploding." He argued that Republicans would do doing a "tremendous service" for Democrats by replacing the law.

Trump has repeatedly said that repealing and replacing "Obamacare" was a top priority, but he has never fully explained how he planned to do it. Speaker Paul Ryan has said that the House would seek to take both steps "concurrently."

But Trump's promise to repeal and replace the health care law "essentially simultaneously," even in the same day, week or hour, is almost certainly impossible to achieve.

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12:25 p.m.

Donald Trump is recommitting to plans to impose a border tax on manufacturers who shutter plants and move production abroad.

Trump says at a Wednesday news conference: "There will be a major border tax on these companies that are leaving and getting away with murder."

Border taxes may help retain jobs, but they carry the risk of increasing prices for consumers.

The president-elect has been meeting with chief executives and touting commitments by United Technologies and others to keep jobs in the United States. Such moves have done little so far to move the dial on job growth for the broader U.S. economy, although Trump stressed that he was using these deals to set a new tone that offshoring would be penalized.

Trump says: "What really is happening is the word is now out."

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12:20 p.m.

Trump's lawyer says the so-called emoluments clause of the U.S. Constitution does not apply to foreign payments to his company, as some ethics experts have said.

The lawyer, Sheri Dillon, says some have claimed that foreign leaders who pay for rooms and services

at his various hotels across the globe would put the president-elect in violation of the clause.

Dillon says: "These people are wrong. That is not what the Constitution says."

She argues that "fair-value exchange," such as paying for a hotel room, does not run afoul of the Constitutional ban of foreign gifts or payments to the president.

Dillon says nonetheless the Trump Organization will voluntarily donate all profits from foreign government payments to his hotels to the U.S. Treasury.

## Texas carries out first US execution of 2017

By MICHAEL GRACZYK, Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Texas on Wednesday put to death an inmate convicted of killing two men over a phony drug deal, the first U.S. execution of 2017.

Christopher Wilkins, 48, was declared dead at 6:29 p.m., 13 minutes after a lethal injection of pentobarbital.

Before the drug was administered, he twice mouthed "I'm sorry," to two relatives of one of the murder victims as they watched through a window. He gave no final statement.

Wilkins had explained to jurors at his capital murder trial in 2008 how and why he killed his friends in Fort Worth three years earlier, saying he didn't care if they sentenced him to death.

Wilkins shot Willie Freeman, 40 and Mike Silva, 33, after Freeman and an unidentified drug supplier duped Wilkins into paying \$20 for a piece of gravel he thought was crack cocaine, according to court records.

Freeman was killed on Oct. 28, 2005, after he laughed about the scam and Silva was shot because he was there, Wilkins said. Wilkins' fingerprints were found in Silva's wrecked SUV and a pentagram matching one of Wilkins' numerous tattoos had been carved into the hood.

Wilkins also testified that the day before the shootings, he shot and killed another man, Gilbert Vallejo, 47, outside a Fort Worth bar in a dispute over a pay phone, and about a week later used a stolen car to try to run down two people because he believed one of them had taken his sunglasses.

"I know they are bad decisions," Wilkins told jurors of his actions. "I make them anyway."

Wes Ball, one of Wilkins' trial lawyers, described him as "candid to a degree you don't see," and had hoped his appearance on the witness stand would have made jurors like him.

"It didn't work," Ball said.

While awaiting trial, authorities discovered he had swallowed a handcuff key and fashioned a knife to be used in an escape attempt.

"This guy is the classic outlaw in the model of Billy the Kid, an Old West-style outlaw," said Kevin Rousseau, the Tarrant County assistant district attorney who prosecuted Wilkins.

Twenty convicted killers were executed in the U.S. last year, the lowest number since the early 1980s. That tally includes seven executions in Texas — the fewest in the state since 1996. Wilkins is among nine Texas inmates already scheduled to die in the early months of 2017.

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This story has been corrected to show the total number of executions in US in 2016 was 20, not 30. Corrects that Freeman and his unidentified drug supplier duped Wilkins, not Freeman and Silva.

## Trump's pick for top diplomat takes tough line on Moscow

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Barraged by questions about Russia, Donald Trump's pick for secretary of state promised a far more muscular approach toward the Kremlin on Wednesday, abandoning much of the president-elect's emphasis on improving ties between the Cold War foes. Instead, Rex Tillerson suggested the outgoing Obama administration responded too softly to Moscow's takeover of Ukrainian territory.

The surprising shift in tone by Tillerson, a former Exxon Mobil CEO and Russian "Order of Friendship" recipient, reflected the difficulty Trump will have in persuading Democrats and Republicans to broach a broad rapprochement with President Vladimir Putin's government. Calling Russia a "danger" to the United States, Tillerson said he would keep U.S. sanctions in place and consider new penalties related to Russian meddling in the presidential election.

Although he said he hadn't read last week's classified assessment by the U.S. intelligence community, Tillerson said it was a "fair assumption" that Putin would have ordered the operation that purportedly included hacking, propaganda and internet trolls to harm Hillary Clinton's candidacy and advance Trump's. But in a puzzling revelation, Tillerson conceded he hadn't yet talked with Trump about a Russia policy.

"Russia today poses a danger, but it is not unpredictable in advancing its own interests," Tillerson told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He added that Trump's administration would be committed to the defense of America's NATO partners, an obligation the president-elect called into question during the campaign if allies failed to meet defense spending pledges.

While his prepared statement reflected some of Trump's desire for improved ties, Tillerson quickly pivoted under pressure from both sides of the aisle. On Russia's 2014 annexation of the Crimea region, he said, "That was a taking of territory that was not theirs."

Still, he criticized President Barack Obama's sanctions on Russia, which ended up costing Exxon hundreds of millions of dollars. And he declared that he would have responded by urging Ukraine to send all available military units to its eastern border with Russia and recommending U.S. and allied support through defensive weapons and air surveillance, to send a message to Moscow.

"That is the type of response that Russia expects," he said in a response to questions from Sen. Marco Rubio, Tillerson's toughest GOP inquisitor, who later lectured the oil man on human rights and hinted he might withhold his support. "If Russia acts with force," Tillerson said, "they require a proportional show of force."

Trump offered a sharply different account of Ukraine during the presidential campaign and never proposed a show of U.S. military force in Ukraine. In an August interview, he claimed Russia would not enter Ukraine, not seeming to know Russian troops were already there. He suggested Crimea didn't count because the peninsula's people preferred being part of Russia, restating Putin's reason for taking the territory in 2014.

Like Trump, Tillerson vowed complete support for Israel, which he called America's "most important ally" in the Middle East. He said the new administration would undertake a full review of the Iran nuclear deal to deny the Islamic republic the ability to acquire an atomic weapon. He said that might only be possible if Iran can no longer enrich uranium, which the accord permits under strict constraints and without which Tehran wouldn't have made the deal.

Some of the questioning reflected the traditional friction between a Congress that wants to prescribe foreign policy and an executive branch that traditionally seeks to maintain broad flexibility in its international affairs, tinted by Tillerson's vocal opposition to economic sanctions as a business leader.



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Addressing some of Congress' most experienced architects of U.S. economic pressure, Tillerson called sanctions "a powerful tool" in deterrence that could, however, also project weakness if applied poorly.

He said neither he nor Exxon had lobbied against sanctions. But the company did try to influence sanctions legislation on Russia two years ago, congressional records and data from the Center for Responsive Politics show, and Tillerson made numerous White House visits, to no avail. Given a second chance on the subject, Tillerson sought to clarify his answer by saying he had expressed concerns related to security in shutting down an Exxon operation newly prohibited under the sanctions.

Tillerson represents a break in a longstanding tradition of secretaries of state with extensive military, legislative, political or diplomatic experience. Yet his supporters point to Tillerson's lengthy career as a senior executive in a mammoth multinational company as proof he has the management and negotiating skills to succeed in the State Department's top post, particularly when facing tough foreign governments.

"It's brilliant what he's doing and what he's saying," Trump said of Tillerson during a news conference in New York that occurred as Tillerson was testifying. "He ran incredibly Exxon Mobil. When there was a find, he would get it."

His Exxon experience, however, has been criticized by Democrats for possible conflicts of interest because of the company's far-flung business dealings. Tillerson, who stepped down as CEO at the end of 2016, said he understood being secretary of state meant different responsibilities. He pledged to be a steward for U.S. national interests rather than corporate ones.

"He is not prepared to be our secretary of state," said Sen. Chris Murphy, a Connecticut Democrat.

If all 10 Democrats on the committee vote against Tillerson, and Rubio or any other Republican joins them, the nomination would then be referred to the full Senate with "no recommendation." That would be an embarrassment for such a high-profile Cabinet nominee and could signal a larger confirmation battle.

"He's got to convince me he sees Russia for who they are," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, another skeptical Republican. On Tillerson's proposed response to the election hacking charges, Graham said, "Real fuzzy answer."

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Associated Press writer Richard Lardner contributed to this report.

## **Newly leaked dossier on Trump circulated in DC for months**

**By JACK GILLUM, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was a bombshell story, emerging on the eve of Donald Trump's first news conference as president-elect: U.S. intelligence officials had presented Trump with unsubstantiated claims that Russia had amassed compromising personal and financial allegations about him.

The purported Russian efforts were described in a newly released and uncorroborated dossier produced in August. But they had circulated more widely in Washington in October — following early reports and opaque warnings from elected officials that something was afoot involving the Kremlin and Trump.

In October, Mother Jones magazine described how a former Western spy — assigned to look into Trump's Russian ties for a private American firm — had presented his findings to the FBI in August. Those findings, the magazine said, were produced for political opposition research and said that Russian intelligence had compromised Trump during his visits to Moscow — information that, if true, could be used to blackmail him or undermine his presidency.

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The Wall Street Journal on Wednesday identified the dossier's author as Christopher Steele, a director of London-based Orbis Business Intelligence Ltd., whom the Journal said declined repeated requests for interviews through an intermediary. Another Orbis director told the Journal he wouldn't "confirm or deny" that Orbis had produced the report.

Efforts to reach him by The Associated Press were not immediately successful. There was no answer after hours at Orbis Business Intelligence, at a five-story stone building across from London's Lower Grosvenor Gardens, about two blocks from Buckingham Palace. There was no listed number for Steele's address in Wokingham, about 30 miles west of London.

CNN reported Tuesday night that Trump had been briefed in a classified setting about a summary of the investigator's findings.

Meanwhile, BuzzFeed published the 35-page dossier Tuesday night. The website defended publishing the report because it said Americans "can make up their own minds about allegations about the president-elect." Other news outlets withheld publishing most details about the unverified claims because they couldn't confirm them.

Shortly after reports were published late Tuesday about the dossier, Trump tweeted: "FAKE NEWS - A TOTAL POLITICAL WITCH HUNT!" The president-elect said at a combative news conference Wednesday that the allegations were "phony stuff" leaked by "sick people."

In October, then-Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid wrote to the FBI asking it to publicly disclose what it knew about any Trump campaign ties to Russia.

"It has become clear that you possess explosive information about close ties and coordination between Donald Trump, his top advisers, and the Russian government — a foreign interest openly hostile to the United States, which Trump praises at every opportunity. The public has a right to know this information," Reid wrote on Oct. 30.

He said he learned of the information from FBI Director Jim Comey and from other top U.S. national security officials. It wasn't immediately clear how much Reid knew specifically of the compromising information versus Russian hacking activity in general.

A few weeks later, in mid-November, Sen. John McCain became aware of the allegations but decided it was impossible to verify them without a proper investigation, according to a report Wednesday by The Guardian. The newspaper reported McCain was reluctant to get involved because it could be seen as payback for insults Trump made about the Arizona Republican during the campaign.

The summary of the dossier allegations was appended to a classified assessment of Russia's suspected attempts to meddle in the U.S. presidential election. Trump and President Barack Obama were briefed on the intelligence community's findings last week.

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Associated Press writers Raphael Satter in London and Deb Riechmann in Washington contributed to this report.

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Follow Jack Gillum on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/jackgillum>.

## Trump's long-awaited news conference quickly turns combative

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A shouting match with a reporter. A long unexplained prop. An unexpected interlude from a lawyer.

Donald Trump's raucous first news conference as president-elect bore little resemblance to the usually staid and choreographed sessions with the occupant of the Oval Office. It was a 58-minute display of

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how some of the old rules of journalism will be tested in the Trump era.

More than 250 journalists packed Trump Tower for the celebrity businessman's first full-fledged news conference since July, which was billed as a forum to discuss his separation from his business but quickly turned into a loud, wide-ranging free-for-all about U.S. intelligence, Russian hacking and, eventually, some of Trump's policy plans after he takes office on Jan. 20.

Only one seat was saved by a Republican National Committee aide, a front-row spot for a reporter from Breitbart, the conservative news outlet until recently run by Trump senior adviser Steve Bannon. Other reporters scrambled to save their seats. Reporters shouted and waved their arms at Trump to get his attention, rather than the president calling on questioners from a list, as is often the practice.

Trump stood at a podium next to a pile of manila folders on a table. But only well into the press conference did he later explain the papers were documentation of his new business arrangement, details of which were explained only when Trump abruptly ceded the stage to his lawyer. Trump staffers blocked reporters from examining the folders.

The business announcement aside, Trump really came ready to do battle with press. Coming hours after news reports revealed intelligence officials had presented Trump with unsubstantiated and salacious allegations regarding his relationship to Russia, Trump and his team opened the news conference by condemning news organizations that disclosed details, calling out CNN and BuzzFeed as "disgraceful."

He later refused to let CNN reporter Jim Acosta ask a question, saying, "Your organization is terrible" and demanding that he be "quiet" and allow another reporter a turn.

"I am not going to give you a question," Trump said, ignoring Acosta's requests. "You are fake news."

Such exchanges became somewhat predictable during Trump's campaign, during which Trump used his combative relationship with the press to fire up his supporters. But there are few recent examples of a sitting-president and a journalist abandoning decorum to duke it out on live television. The episode — which was condemned by The New York Press Club — was a sign that Trump may not intend to change his demeanor when he takes office later this month.

Trump isn't the only one questioning BuzzFeed's decision to publish the material. The dossier contains unproven information largely attributed to anonymous sources. The Associated Press has not authenticated any of the claims and Trump has strongly denied all of the accusations.

A CNN spokesman said in a statement: "We are fully confident in our reporting. It represents the core of what the First Amendment protects, informing the people of the inner workings of their government."

BuzzFeed News' editor-in-chief said in a statement that the online outlet published the document because its mission is to be "transparent in our journalism."

In turn, Trump was transparent in how he plans to deal with this press corps.

When he called on the Breitbart reporter, he was asked his thoughts on media ethics and so-called "fake news."

"Some of the media outlets that I deal with are fake news more so than anybody. I could name them, but I won't bother, but you have a few sitting right in front of us. They're very, very dishonest people, but I think it's just something we're going to have to live with," he said. "I guess the advantage I have is that I can speak back."

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Reach Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

## Ethics official denounces Trump's plan for business

By BERNARD CONDON and JULIE BYKOWICZ, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump said Wednesday he will continue to profit from his global business empire after he enters the White House this month — a precedent-breaking decision that the director of the Office of Government Ethics swiftly condemned as unpatriotic.

At a news conference announcing a much-anticipated plan for dealing with his sprawling company, Trump and his lawyer said the Trump Organization would be run by the president-elect's adult sons and a longtime company executive, although the president-elect will retain an ownership stake in a trust that holds his business assets.

Sheri Dillon, an attorney with the firm Morgan Lewis & Bockius, said the company will pursue new deals in the U.S. but will not enter new foreign arrangements while Trump is in office.

The steps are to assure Americans that he is "not exploiting the office of the presidency for his personal benefit," she said.

The decision to stop new ventures abroad was one of Trump's few concessions to ethics experts who have warned that the real estate development and licensing company's international footprint could expose him to conflicts of interest. They have warned that foreign governments might try to curry favor with him or influence U.S. policy by cutting deals with his company and speeding approval for his projects.

The concerns have thrust a typically obscure office into the limelight. The Office of Government Ethics, which advises incoming presidents and their administration officials but is not an enforcement agency, on Wednesday urged Trump to go much further to distance himself. OGE Director Walter Shaub said Trump should sell off his businesses and put the proceeds in a blind trust overseen by an independent manager.

"I don't think divestiture is too high a price to pay to be the president of the United States of America," said Shaub, during a blistering 15-minute critique.

Explaining why presidential appointees, nominees and presidents themselves typically sever all business ties, Shaub said:

"Their basic patriotism usually prevails as they agree to set aside their personal interest to serve their country's interests."

Shaub praised some of Trump's Cabinet nominees for making a "clean break" from business entanglements, singling out Rex Tillerson, whose Senate confirmation hearing to become secretary of state was held Wednesday as Trump was speaking in New York.

The president-elect and his lawyer vigorously defended his plan, saying it would be impractical for Trump to sell off his company.

Doing so, Dillon said, would create its own ethical questions about whether he was receiving a fair price. And moving too quickly could create a "fire sale" environment that devalued the company to which he has dedicated his adult life.

"President-elect Trump should not be expected to destroy the company he built," Dillon said.

The business arrangements, announced at Trump Tower in New York during Trump's first news conference since July, appeared to walk back a broader promise he made last month in a Fox News interview and a tweet that the company would do "no new deals" while he is in office.

Along with Shaub — who was appointed to a five-year term by President Barack Obama in 2013 — Republican and Democratic government ethics counselors have urged Trump to take bigger steps.

"Firewalls work in businesses, not in families," said Danielle Brian, executive director of the Project on Government Oversight. "Trump's plan doesn't prevent his business interests from benefiting him or his

family while he's in office or interfering with his presidential duties."

Trump stressed that a president is not subject to the same conflict-of-interest provisions as Cabinet members and other government employees.

"I could actually run my business and run government at the same time," he said. "I don't like the way that looks, but I would be able to do that if I wanted to."

Yet presidents have typically followed the same rules as their Cabinet members as a best practice.

President Jimmy Carter sold his Georgia peanut farm when he took office. Soon after he was inaugurated, Ronald Reagan cashed out his personal holdings — worth about \$740,000 — and put the money in a blind trust.

Trump's dealings are far more complex; he has struck deals involving hotels, office buildings, golf resorts and residential towers in about 20 countries.

Dillon said the company will add an ethics adviser to its management team who must approve deals that could raise concerns about conflicts. Trump's transition team has not said whether he will appoint a White House ethics adviser as two previous presidents have done.

Trump's sons Eric and Donald Jr. will run the company along with Allen Weisselberg, the current chief financial officer. Weisselberg began work with the Trump family decades ago under the president-elect's father, Fred.

Dillon also addressed the "emoluments clause" of the U.S. Constitution. Some lawyers have claimed that foreign leaders who pay for rooms and services at his hotels across the globe would put the president-elect in violation.

She argued that "fair-value exchange," such as paying for a hotel room, does not run afoul of the ban on foreign gifts or payments to the president.

Nonetheless, she said, the company plans to donate money spent by foreign governments at his hotels to the U.S. Treasury.

The president-elect's new hotel in the nation's capital, has already hosted diplomats from Bahrain and Azerbaijan.

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Associated Press writers Jonathan Lemire in New York, Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Chad Day and Stephen Braun in Washington contributed to this report.

## Scientists: Moon over the hill at 4.51 billion years old

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — It turns out the moon is older than many scientists suspected: a ripe 4.51 billion years old.

That's the newest estimate, thanks to rocks and soil collected by the Apollo 14 moonwalkers in 1971.

A research team reported Wednesday that the moon formed within 60 million years of the birth of the solar system. Previous estimates ranged within 100 million years, all the way out to 200 million years after the solar system's creation, not quite 4.6 billion years ago.

The scientists conducted uranium-lead dating on fragments of the mineral zircon extracted from Apollo 14 lunar samples. The pieces of zircon were minuscule — no bigger than a grain of sand.

"Size doesn't matter, they record amazing information nonetheless!" lead author Melanie Barboni of the University of California, Los Angeles, said in an email.

She noted that the moon holds "so much magic ... the key to understand how our beautiful Earth formed and evolved."

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The moon was created from debris knocked off from Earth, which itself is thought to be roughly 4.54 billion years old.

Some of the eight zircon samples were used in a previous study, also conducted at UCLA, that utilized more limited techniques. Barboni said she is studying more zircons from Apollo 14 samples, but doesn't expect it to change her estimate of 4.51 billion years for the moon's age, possibly 4.52 billion years at the most.

"It would be more a double-checking than anything else," she explained. She and her colleagues — whose work appeared Wednesday in the journal *Science Advances* — are eager to learn more about the moon's history and, in turn, the evolution of early Earth and the entire solar system.

Apollo 14's Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell collected 92 pounds of rocks and used tubes to dig up soil while exploring the moon's Fra Mauro highlands in February 1971. They conducted two spacewalks, spending nine hours altogether out on the lunar surface.

It's the second major moon study this week.

On Monday, Israeli scientists suggested our Earth's constant companion may actually be a melting pot of many mini-moons. Rather than one giant impact that shaved off a chunk of Earth and formed the moon, a series of smaller collisions may have created multiple moonlets that eventually merged into one, according to the researchers.

Barboni said regardless of how the moon came to be — one big strike at Earth, many smaller ones or even none at all — "you still end up at the end solidifying the moon as we know it today."

The giant impact theory holds that the resulting energy formed a lunar lava ocean that later became solid. It's this solidification age that Barboni and her team have now ascertained.

"We finally pinned down a minimum age for the moon formation," she said, "regardless of how it formed."

Online:

Journal: <http://advances.sciencemag.org/>

## **6 VW employees indicted in emissions scandal; VW fined \$4.3B**

**By MICHAEL BIESECKER, TOM KRISHER and DEE-ANN DURBIN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Six high-level Volkswagen employees from Germany were indicted in the U.S. on Wednesday in the VW emissions-cheating scandal, while the company itself agreed to plead guilty to criminal charges and pay \$4.3 billion — by far the biggest fine ever levied by the government against an automaker.

In announcing the federal charges and the plea bargain, Justice Department prosecutors detailed a large and elaborate scheme inside the German automaker to commit fraud and then cover it up, with at least 40 employees allegedly involved in destroying evidence.

"Volkswagen obfuscated, they denied and they ultimately lied," Attorney General Loretta Lynch said.

Prosecutors may have trouble bringing the executives to trial in the U.S. German law generally bars extradition of the country's citizens except within the European Union. Privately, Justice Department officials expressed little optimism that the five VW executives still at large will be arrested, unless they surrender or travel outside Germany.

Still, the criminal charges are a major breakthrough for a Justice Department that been under pressure to hold individuals accountable for corporate misdeeds ever since the 2008 financial crisis.

U.S. authorities are still investigating just how high the scheme went, and held out the possibility of charges against more VW executives.

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"We will continue to pursue the individuals responsible for orchestrating this damaging conspiracy," Lynch said.

VW admitted installing software in diesel engines on nearly 600,000 VW, Porsche and Audi vehicles in the U.S. that activated pollution controls during government tests and switched them off in real-world driving. The software allowed the cars to spew harmful nitrogen oxide at up to 40 times above the legal limit.

U.S. regulators confronted VW about the software after university researchers discovered differences in testing and real-world emissions. Volkswagen at first denied the use of the so-called defeat device but finally admitted it in September 2015.

Even after that admission, prosecutors said, company employees were busy deleting computer files and other evidence.

The fines easily eclipse the \$1.2 billion penalty levied against Toyota in 2014 over unintended acceleration in its cars. VW also agreed to pay an additional \$154 million to California for violating its clean air laws.

The penalties bring the cost of the scandal to VW in the United States to nearly \$20 billion, not counting lost sales and damage to the automaker's reputation. Volkswagen previously reached a \$15 billion civil settlement with U.S. environmental authorities and car owners under which it agreed to repair or buy back as many as a half-million of the affected vehicles.

Although the cost is staggering and would bankrupt many companies, VW has the money, with \$33 billion in cash on hand.

As for why the fine was so big, "the premeditation here was very significant and that was at a very high level in the company," said Leslie Caldwell, an assistant U.S. attorney general.

"Lower-level people actually expressed concern along the way about the fact these defeat devices were being used and questioned whether they should be used. And higher-up people decided to use them," Caldwell said. "Volkswagen also lied to the regulators and the Department of Justice once our investigation had started. That's what distinguishes this."

Volkswagen pleaded guilty to conspiracy, obstruction of justice and importing vehicles by using false statements. Under the agreement, VW must cooperate in the investigation and let an independent monitor oversee its compliance for three years.

The six supervisors indicted by a federal grand jury in Detroit were accused of lying to environmental regulators or destroying computer files containing evidence.

All six are German citizens, and five remained in Germany. The only one under arrest was Oliver Schmidt, who was seized over the weekend in Miami during a visit to the U.S.

Schmidt was in charge of VW's compliance with U.S. environmental regulations. Those indicted also included two former chiefs of Volkswagen engine development and the former head of quality management and product safety. Prosecutors said one supervised 10,000 employees.

All six were charged with conspiracy to defraud the U.S. by making false statements to regulators and the public. Three were also charged with fraud and clean-air violations.

Government documents say one engine development supervisor asked an assistant to search another supervisor's office for a hard drive that contained emails between them. Then another assistant was asked to throw it away, prosecutors said.

Authorities said the scheme began when VW officials realized new diesel engines wouldn't meet U.S. 2007 emissions standards. Acting on instructions from their supervisors, VW employees borrowed the defeat device idea from VW's Audi luxury-car division, which was developing different engines with similar software.

In November 2006, some employees raised objections about the defeat device to the head of VW-brand engine development, prosecutors said. That official allegedly directed the employees to continue and warned them "not to get caught."

In 2014, VW employees learned about a West Virginia University study that found emissions discrepancies in VWs. Three of the supervisors and other employees decided not to disclose the defeat device to U.S. regulators, prosecutors said.

In August 2015, a VW employee ignored instructions from supervisors and told U.S. regulators about the device.

VW also faces an investor lawsuit and a criminal investigation in Germany. In all, some 11 million vehicles worldwide were equipped with the software.

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Krisher and Durbin reported from Detroit. David McHugh in Frankfurt, Germany, contributed to this article.

## **Trump's Treasury pick boosted an investment with TV talk**

**By JEFF HORWITZ, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump's choice to become Treasury secretary, Steven Mnuchin, will sell 43 assets to avoid conflicts of interest in office, according to new filings made public Wednesday by the U.S. Office of Government Ethics. Statements Mnuchin made in a November television interview may already have boosted the value of one of them.

Mnuchin, an investment banker and financier with a disclosed net worth of at least \$166 million, holds investments of between \$1 million and \$2 million in the Paulson Advantage Fund, a hedge fund managed by fellow Trump supporter John Paulson. Among the fund's most prominent bets is the common stock of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, government-backed housing guarantors that were effectively nationalized as part of a \$187 billion bailout during the financial crisis. Speculators such as Paulson have bet heavily that the mortgage giants will be reprivatized.

Mnuchin's exposure to the companies is small in the broader context of his net worth. But Mnuchin — who as Treasury secretary would play a large role in any such privatization process — sparked a rally in the stocks' price when he told Fox Business News on Nov. 30 that privatizing the companies would be a priority for the Trump administration.

"It's right up there in the top 10 list of things we're going to get done," he said.

The companies' respective stock prices rose more than 40 percent each that day. A Bloomberg article credited the companies' stocks for a 9 percent monthly gain in the value of Paulson's holdings.

The Associated Press asked Mnuchin spokesman Barney Keller whether Mnuchin had anticipated the effect of his comments on Fannie and Freddie stock. In response, Keller sent a link to Mnuchin's ethics agreement outlining his intended divestitures.

Mnuchin pledged to sell a lengthy list of assets, including Paulson's fund, within 90 days. He also submitted a declaration that he will not participate in any matter that would have "a direct and predictable effect" on the value of his holdings.

Aside from the Paulson funds, Mnuchin's holdings reflect his time in investment banking, the entertainment business and private equity. His single largest holding — worth at least \$50 million — is stock in CIT Group, which bought out OneWest Bank, a company he once led. Other investments include between \$25 million and \$50 million in a Goldman Sachs Treasury bond fund, an agreement with Warner Bros. worth at least \$1 million and a stake in a Willem de Kooning oil painting worth between \$5



million and \$25 million.

Despite Mnuchin's substantial fortune, he would be neither the richest Treasury secretary in recent history nor the wealthiest member of Trump's Cabinet. George W. Bush's choice, former Goldman Sachs chief executive Hank Paulson, sold more than \$500 million in Goldman stock following his confirmation. Trump's choices for the Education and Commerce departments, Betsy DeVos and Wilbur Ross, are each worth billions.

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Associated Press writer Chad Day contributed to this report.

## **Relatives of slain churchgoers confront gunman for last time**

**By JEFFREY COLLINS, Associated Press**

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — One by one, family members of nine slain black parishioners confronted Dylann Roof for the last time Wednesday, shouting at him, offering forgiveness and even offering to visit him in prison as he awaits execution for the slaughter.

The 22-year-old avowed white supremacist refused to meet their gaze and simply stared ahead, his head tilted down slightly as it had been for much of his trial.

"Dylann," Janet Scott said quietly as she started speaking. "Dylann! DYLANN!" she said, her voice rising. Toward the end of her remarks, she said, "I wish you would look at me, boy."

Scott, an aunt of 26-year-old Tywanza Sanders, the youngest victim killed in the massacre, demanded that Roof look at her as she talked about her nephew's "great big heart," which could not be donated because of the police investigation.

The final statements came a day after jurors sentenced an unrepentant Roof to death. The gunman had one final opportunity to ask for mercy but instead told jurors he still "felt like I had to do it."

On Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel formally confirmed the sentence, saying "This hate, this viciousness, this moral depravity will not go unanswered."

Some family members already testified at Roof's trial. The formal sentencing hearing gave 35 of them a chance to speak directly to him, without prosecutors or the judge interrupting or asking questions.

Roof also had an opportunity to speak but declined to say anything. He is the first person ordered executed for a federal hate crime.

Some of the relatives looked directly at Roof. Others chose to look at jurors, who did not have to be in court Wednesday but told the judge they wanted to attend.

Sheila Capers, the sister-in-law of Cynthia Hurd, said she prayed for Roof's soul to be saved.

"If at any point before you are sentenced and you're in prison and you want me to come and pray with you, I will do that," Capers said.

Felicia Sanders, who survived the attack, said she forgave Roof, repeating comments she made after the shooting. But, she noted, Roof did nothing to save himself.

He served as his own attorney during the sentencing phase and never explained the massacre, expressed remorse or asked for his life to be spared.

Sanders brought the bullet-torn, bloodstained Bible she had with her on the night of the June 17, 2015. She told Roof he still lives in her head, and that when she hears a balloon pop or fireworks, it returns her to that night.

"Most importantly, I can't shut my eyes to pray," Sanders said.

On the night of the shooting, Roof sat through a 45-minute Bible study session at the black church known as Mother Emanuel with 12 others. He opened fire as they stood and closed their eyes for a final

prayer. In all, he fired 77 shots. Each victim was hit at least five times.

Three people survived. Roof told one of them he was sparing her life so she could tell the world he was killing the worshippers at Emanuel AME because he hated black people.

The willingness of some of the relatives to forgive the gunman was widely discussed in the days after the killings. But that did not mean they felt his life should be spared. And there are others who said forgiveness is still a work in progress.

"You are Satan. Instead of a heart, you have a cold, dark space," Gracyn Doctor, the daughter of De-Payne Middleton-Doctor, said, expressing hope that Roof would "go straight to hell."

When he was arrested, Roof told FBI agents that he wanted the shootings to bring back segregation or perhaps start a race war. Instead, the slayings had a unifying effect as South Carolina removed the Confederate flag from its Statehouse for the first time in more than 50 years. Other states followed suit, taking down Confederate banners and monuments. Roof had posed with the flag in photos.

The jury convicted Roof last month of all 33 federal charges he faced. He insisted he was not mentally ill and did not call any witnesses or present any evidence.

Roof, who also faces murder charges in state court, plans to appeal the federal case. Prosecutors say he will remain jailed in Charleston until the state charges are resolved. No trial date has been set.

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This story has been corrected to show Felicia Sanders was not the survivor Roof spared to spread his message. It also corrects the spelling of Dylann in a headline.

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Associated Press writers Meg Kinnard and Alex Sanz contributed to this report.

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

Follow Jeffrey Collins on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/JSCollinsAP> . His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/jeffrey-collins> .

## **Black lawmakers say Sessions unfit to be attorney general**

**By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Black lawmakers said Wednesday that Sen. Jeff Sessions at times has shown hostility toward civil rights, making him unfit to be attorney general, as a 1986 letter from the widow of Martin Luther King Jr. surfaced strongly expressing opposition to the Alabama senator.

In the second day of confirmation hearings, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, Sessions' colleague, and Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., who was beaten when he marched for civil rights in the 1960s, warned that Sessions could move the country backward if confirmed as Donald Trump's top law enforcement official.

Booker said the "arc of the universe does not just naturally curve toward justice, we must bend it," and the country needs an attorney general who is determined to bend it.

"Senator Sessions' record does not speak to that desire, intention or will," Booker said, noting his opposition to overhauling the criminal justice system and his positions on other issues affecting minority groups.

Lewis told the Senate Judiciary Committee that the country needs "someone who's going to stand up, speak up and speak out for the people that need help, the people who have been discriminated against."

And Louisiana Rep. Cedric Richmond, the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, urged senators

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to reject Sessions' eventual nomination because he has "advanced an agenda that will do great harm" to African-Americans.

The lawmakers' criticism echoed Cornell Brooks, the head of the NAACP, who told the panel earlier in the day that the organization "firmly believes" Sessions is unfit to serve.

The Alabama Republican was rejected by the Judiciary panel in 1986 for a federal judgeship amid accusations that he had called a black attorney "boy" — which he denied — and the NAACP and ACLU "un-American."

Sessions on Tuesday called those accusations "damnably false" and said he is "totally committed to maintaining the freedom and equality that this country has to provide to every citizen."

The lawmakers' testimony brought two days of confirmation hearings for Sessions to a close. He has solid support from the Senate's Republican majority and from some Democrats in conservative-leaning states, and is expected to easily win confirmation. But Democrats are using the hearings to try to show that Sessions — and Trump's administration — won't be committed to civil rights, a chief priority of the Justice Department during the Obama administration.

On Tuesday, the NAACP released a 1986 letter from Coretta Scott King, widow of the civil rights leader, in which she said that Sessions' actions as a federal prosecutor were "reprehensible" and that he used his office "in a shabby attempt to intimidate and frighten elderly black voters."

"Mr. Sessions has used the awesome power of his office to chill the free exercise of the vote by black citizens in the district he now seeks to serve as a federal judge," Mrs. King wrote. Mrs. King died in 2006.

Richmond complained during his testimony that putting the all-black panel at the end of the hearings was akin to being made to go to the "back of the bus," a reference to 1960s segregation laws. During his testimony, many members of the Congressional Black Caucus sat in the audience.

Not everyone on the panel criticized Sessions. Three men who had worked with Sessions in Alabama and Washington, all black, testified in support.

Jesse Seroyer, a former U.S. marshal for the Middle District of Alabama, said Sessions is a "good honest person who is going to give all he has to make sure everyone is treated fairly under the law."

Earlier in the day, Attorney General Michael Mukasey also came to Sessions' defense at the hearing. He wrote in his testimony that "of all the insidious practices that have crept into our politics in recent times, I know of none more insidious than casual and unjustified accusations of racism, smears that once leveled are difficult to wipe clean."

## **Taco Bell is going national with fried chicken taco shell**

IRVINE, Calif. (AP) — Taco Bell plans to go nationwide this month with its latest concoction: a taco with a shell made entirely out of fried chicken.

Taco Bell says the shell of the Naked Chicken Chalupa is made up of all-white seasoned chicken. The rest of the taco is packed with lettuce, tomatoes, cheddar cheese and avocado ranch sauce.

The fast food chain says the taco tested well in markets in Bakersfield, California, and Kansas City, Missouri, over the past two years.

It will be available at Taco Bells across the country on Jan. 26.

## Compromising material appears frequently in Russian politics

By JIM HEINTZ, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Blurry video of highly placed men engaging in sexual acts, audio recordings of influential figures profanely insulting their nominal allies — in Russia these appear enough that a special word has evolved: “kompromat,” or “compromising material.”

In the wake of unsubstantiated allegations that Russia has gathered kompromat against President-elect Donald Trump, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov brushed them off as an attempt to undermine potentially improved U.S.-Russia ties once Trump takes office.

“The Kremlin does not engage in collecting compromising information,” he told reporters on Wednesday.

But such material has shown up in Russia for decades. Recent examples of kompromat often support Kremlin interests or appear via media believed to have close ties to President Vladimir Putin’s administration.

Some notable examples:

VICTORIA NULAND

As demonstrations against Ukraine’s Russia-friendly President Viktor Yanukovich spiraled in February 2014, an audio recording emerged apparently of Nuland, an assistant U.S. secretary of state, and U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt discussing which opposition leaders Washington would like to see as prime minister.

The recording’s initial release was presented as evidence of open American instigation in the turmoil. But what attracted much of the attention was Nuland’s obscene dismissal of the European Union, whose envoys the U.S. regarded as indecisive and slow-moving in the crisis.

The recording was widely believed to have been made by Russia. Nuland herself called it “impressive tradecraft.”

MIKHAIL KASYANOV

Kasyanov was Putin’s first prime minister before becoming one of the more prominent figures in Russia’s beleaguered and fragmented opposition. His party was running in last year’s parliamentary election and he also has been seen as a possible dark horse challenger to Putin in the 2018 presidential election.

In March 2016, grainy video was broadcast that appeared to show Kasyanov and a woman identified as an opposition activist having sex and speaking dismissively of other opposition figures. The video appeared on NTV, a state-controlled TV channel noted for especially vehement criticism of the opposition and support for Putin.

BORIS NEMTSOV

Before he was assassinated on a bridge near the Kremlin in 2015, Nemtsov was one of the most determined and charismatic of Putin’s opponents. He was a leading figure in the massive anti-Kremlin demonstrations in Moscow in late 2011 following parliamentary elections plagued by allegations of fraud.

The size and persistence of the demonstrations apparently caught officials by surprise and sent them scrambling for ways to tamp them down without mass arrests.

On the eve of one of the planned protests, the website Life News, closely connected with the Kremlin and Russian security services, released recordings of Nemtsov apparently insulting other notable opposition figures. The recordings reinforced the personal and tactical disagreements that have undermined the opposition.

Nemtsov said some of the recordings were manipulated or faked but acknowledged that some were

authentic.

YURI SKURATOV

In 1999, Boris Yeltsin was president while Putin headed the FSB security agency, apparently positioning himself to take over from Yeltsin.

Skuratov, at that time Russia's prosecutor-general, had been investigating corruption in the Yeltsin administration; Yeltsin tried to fire him, but the parliament refused.

A videotape appeared on state television of a man resembling Skuratov apparently having sex with prostitutes, prompting parliament to suspend him. Putin publicly identified the man as Skuratov.

Weeks after Putin became acting president on New Year's Eve 1999, the parliament dismissed Skuratov.

## Turkey bogged down in Syria as it realigns with Russia

By SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Nearly two months into the assault, Turkey has become bogged down in an unexpectedly bloody fight to retake the Islamic State group's last stronghold in northern Syria. It has been forced to pour in troops, take the lead in the battle from its Syrian allies and reach out to Russia for aerial support.

The fight for al-Bab underscores the precarious path Ankara is treading with its foray in to Syria, aimed against both IS militants and Syrian Kurdish fighters. The assault on the town had already driven a wedge between Turkey and the United States, and now the realignment toward Moscow — which supports the government in Syria's civil war — further tests Ankara's alliance both with Washington and with the Syrian opposition.

The battle itself has proven grueling.

Nearly 50 Turkish soldiers have been killed in its Syria operation, most of them since the al-Bab assault began in mid-November — including 14 killed in a single day. The militants have dug in, surrounding the town with trenches, lining streets with land mines and carrying out painful ambushes and car bombings against the besieging forces. Each time Turkish-backed Syrian opposition fighters have thrust into the city, they've been driven out. More than 200 civilians are believed to have been killed since the attack began Nov. 13. Mud and cold rain have only made it more of a slog.

"The battle for al-Bab has been mostly about killing civilians and destroying the city, whether by Daesh or the Turks," said Mustafa Sultan, a resident of al-Bab and a media activist who has been covering the fight. He used the Arabic acronym for IS.

"The town is almost half destroyed. Daesh takes cover in hospitals, schools and these end up getting targeted," he said. The Turkish military says it takes great care not to harm civilians, halting operations that could endanger non-combatants.

Capturing al-Bab is essential to Ankara's goals in Syria.

Turkey, which for years supported the Syrian opposition drive to oust President Bashar Assad, has recalibrated its priorities toward fighting Islamic State militants who turned their terror against the Turkish state and thwarting Kurdish aspirations for autonomous rule along Syria's border with Turkey.

If al-Bab is retaken, it would break the IS presence near the border and plant a Turkish-backed presence between Kurdish-held territory to the east and west, preventing them from linking.

For the U.S., the al-Bab assault risks causing direct confrontation between Turkish troops and Syrian Kurdish forces, which are leading a U.S.-backed offensive toward the de facto IS capital, Raqqa. Washington supports and relies on the Kurds in the fight against IS the past two years.

Last month, Ankara protested to Washington that its NATO ally was providing no help in al-Bab. A day

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later, Turkey said Russia carried out three airstrikes in the al-Bab area.

In the short term, Turkey is likely to sending a message to the United States before President-elect Donald Trump takes office that it has other options if Washington keeps backing the Syrian Kurds, considered by Ankara as terrorists linked to a Kurdish faction that has carried out bombings in Turkey.

In the long term, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan may be exploring his options with Russia, which currently holds the key to Syria militarily and diplomatically. Russia helped Assad's forces crush the opposition enclave in the northern city of Aleppo in December. Then Moscow and Ankara joined to broker a ceasefire, which is supposed to lead to negotiations later this month.

Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Tuesday the U.S. has seen no indication of Russian-Turkish coordination, only independent Russian airstrikes in al-Bab.

"I don't think the United States is very worried about Erdogan flipping from NATO to Moscow, but they are worried about Turkey's general drift into instability and rash decisions. Erdogan bungling his foreign policy to the point where he must turn to Putin for help is certainly part of that broader concern," said Aron Lund, a fellow at the New York-based Century Foundation.

Following Turkey's protest, U.S. officials said discussions with Ankara continue over al-Bab, an important effort against IS. Turkey said on Dec. 30 that the U.S.-led coalition carried out an airstrike in the al-Bab region.

The offensive has also revealed how unprepared Turkish-allied Syrian rebels are for a protracted fight against IS.

Ankara increased its initial deployment of 600 soldiers — which included special forces and mechanized battalions — to at least 4,000 today, according to Metin Gurcan, a former Turkish military adviser who served in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Iraq and is now an independent security analyst. Turkish troops now outnumber the Syrian opposition fighters who were supposed to be "the primary ground force," Gurcan wrote in Al-Monitor.

He said some Syrian fighters have withdrawn, "and because of their lack of discipline in the field, Turkish commandos are now engaged in front-line fighting against IS."

Unlike the IS-held town of Jarablus, which Turkey's allies entered almost without a fight in August, the militant group prepared to defend al-Bab. IS fighters have taken positions on hilltops, used drones and have repeatedly shown a capability in waging pitched battles.

After Turkish troops and Syrian fighters secured a strategic hilltop on the town's edge in late December, IS launched a surprise counteroffensive, killing 14 Turkish soldiers and over two dozen Syrians.

One Syrian opposition commander said there were three different battles around the hill. "We had to pull out more than once because they encircled us and we had many martyrs," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss battlefield details.

Another battle on the eastern side of al-Bab lasted 15 hours, starting from hilltops and ending in a valley at close range with dozens killed and many damaged armored vehicles. Sultan, who arrived afterward, was startled by the silence as bodies were cleared away.

The Turkish-backed fighters, who number around 2,000, have repeatedly entered al-Bab and each time are driven out by the militants, estimated to number around 3,000, said Sultan. "The fighters frankly are afraid of the mines, which cause most of the deaths," Sultan said.

Al-Bab had a prewar population of 60,000 and it's not known how many remain there. Despite the tight IS seal, some still try to escape.

A resident who goes by the name of Abul-Ful for fear for his safety said his sister and her family fled Monday after IS fighters took over their farmland north of the town to use as base. The family of seven moved from one farm to the next undetected until they reached shelter in a village north of al-Bab.

She was lucky, Abul-Ful said. He said his older sister was killed 10 days earlier as she tried to escape

with her family. While hiding in farmland, they were caught in crossfire: IS fired on Turkish-backed forces, then moved, and Turkish artillery responded, hitting the family and killing her.

Her family buried her at the spot where she died, then continued their escape, he said.

Associated Press writers Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey; Robert Burns in Washington and Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow contributed to this report.

## **UAE mourns 5 diplomats killed in mysterious Afghan bombing**

**By JON GAMBRELL and MIRWAIS KHAN, Associated Press**

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — The killing of five diplomats from the United Arab Emirates in a bombing in southern Afghanistan marks the deadliest attack ever for the young nation's diplomatic corps, though it's too soon to tell who was behind it or if the Gulf envoys were even the targets.

The federation of seven sheikhdoms, founded in 1971 on the Arabian Peninsula, said it would fly the nation's flag at half-staff for three days in honor of the dead from the attack Tuesday in Kandahar.

The Taliban denied planting the bomb, even as the insurgents claimed other blasts Tuesday that killed at least 45 people. No other group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack in Kandahar, a province in Afghanistan's Taliban heartland.

The bomb targeted a guesthouse of Kandahar Gov. Hodayun Azizi, who was wounded in the assault along with UAE Ambassador Juma Mohammed Abdullah al-Kaabi. The attack killed 11 people and wounded 18, said Gen. Abdul Razeq, Kandahar's police chief, who was praying nearby at the time of the blast.

Razeq said investigators believe someone hid the bomb inside a sofa at the guesthouse. He said an ongoing construction project there may have allowed militants to plant the bomb.

"Right now we cannot say anything about who is behind this attack," he told The Associated Press, while adding that several suspects had been arrested.

On Wednesday, broken glass from the powerful blast still littered the blood-stained ground outside of the guesthouse, with thick black soot still visible on the building. Some furniture sat outside, apparently moved as part of the construction.

Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who is also the UAE prime minister and vice president, offered condolences for the families of the dead and condemned the attack.

"There is no human, moral or religious justification for the bombing and killing of people trying to help" others, he wrote on Twitter.

On the Afghan side, authorities said the dead included two lawmakers, a deputy governor from Kandahar and an Afghan diplomat stationed at its embassy in Washington.

The attack inside the heavily guarded compound represents a major breach of security, even in Afghanistan, a country long torn by war. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday condemned the attack and ordered an investigation.

The Taliban is usually quick to take credit for attacks, particularly those targeting the government or security forces. They claimed attacks earlier on Tuesday in Kabul at a compound of government and legislative offices that killed at least 38 people and wounded dozens. Another Taliban-claimed suicide bombing on Tuesday killed seven people in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province.

But on Wednesday, the Taliban issued a short statement blaming an "internal local rivalry" for the Kandahar attack.

The Taliban have denied some attacks in the past that diplomats and security forces later attributed to the group. Other insurgent groups, including an Islamic State affiliate, also operate Afghanistan.

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A Taliban attack targeting Emirati officials would be surprising. The UAE was one of only three countries, along with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, to recognize the Taliban government during its five-year rule of Afghanistan.

Emirati combat troops deployed to Afghanistan after the 2001 U.S.-led invasion that toppled the Taliban, who had harbored al-Qaida before and after the Sept. 11 attacks. The UAE had troops there for years as part of the NATO-led mission, training members of the Afghan armed forces and often winning the support of locals by praying with them in community mosques and respecting their traditions as fellow Muslims.

Multiple daily commercial flights link the countries, with Dubai serving as an important commercial hub for Afghan businessmen. Over the years, Taliban and Afghan officials also have met in Dubai to try to start peace talks.

Although the UAE is only 45 years old, Emirati diplomats have come under attack in the past, some felled by assassins' bullets.

Saif Ghubash, the UAE's first minister of state for foreign affairs, died after being shot in an October 1977 attack at Abu Dhabi International Airport, an attack that apparently targeted Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul-Halim Khaddam. Khaddam later blamed the attack on Iraq.

In 1984, the UAE's ambassador to France was assassinated outside his Paris home by a gunman. A diplomatic club was named in honor of the slain envoy, Khalifa al-Mubarak, in the Emirati capital, Abu Dhabi, in 2015.

Another Emirati diplomat was wounded in a shooting in Rome in 1984. Reports at the time linked those two attacks to the Arab Revolutionary Brigades, a Palestinian militant group.

Abu Dhabi's powerful crown prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, said Tuesday's attack wouldn't stop the UAE's humanitarian efforts abroad.

He wrote on Twitter: "We will not be discouraged by despicable terrorist acts carried out by the forces of evil and darkness."

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Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Associated Press writers Rahim Faiez and Amir Shah in Kabul, Afghanistan, and Adam Schreck in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

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Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/jongambrellap](http://www.twitter.com/jongambrellap) . His work can be found at <http://apne.ws/2galNpz> .

## **Pew survey: Officers more reluctant to use force, make stops**

**By LISA MARIE PANE, Associated Press**

ATLANTA (AP) — The so-called "Ferguson effect" — officers backing off of policing out of fear that their actions will be questioned after the fact — has been talked about but never really quantified. A new study suggests the effect is a reality, with three-quarters of officers surveyed saying they are hesitant to use force, even when appropriate, and are less willing to stop and question suspicious people.

The nonpartisan Pew Research Center questioned at least 8,000 officers from departments with at least 100 officers between May 19 and Aug. 14 last year — most of it ahead of the fatal shootings of five officers in Dallas and three officers in Baton Rouge.

What it found was a significant fear among police about their safety and about carrying out some of the everyday acts of policing.



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It also shows a stark difference in how white and black officers view the protests that have taken place after some of the high-profile shootings of black suspects in the past several years, with black officers believing the protests are genuine acts of civil disobedience designed to hold police accountable, while white officers are more skeptical of the protesters' motives.

"White officers and black officers have very different views about where we are as a country in terms of achieving equal rights," said Kim Parker, the director of social trends research for the Pew Research Center.

Some of the key findings:

- 86 percent of officers said that fatal encounters between blacks and police have made policing more difficult
- 93 percent said they're more concerned about safety
- 76 percent said they're more reluctant to use force when appropriate
- 75 percent said interactions between police and blacks have become more tense
- 72 percent said they or their colleagues are more reluctant to stop and question people who seem suspicious

In 2014, a white officer in Ferguson, Missouri shot and killed black teen Michael Brown, setting off a movement drawing greater scrutiny of police use of force, particularly against black citizens. In the years since, other fatal encounters with police in such cities as Baltimore, Baton Rouge, Milwaukee, Chicago and New York have put officers under the microscope, especially as video has captured more of these events.

There has been a concern, largely shared in anecdotes, of officers holding back on stopping suspicious people or other policing out of concern that they'd be cast as racist. But the Pew survey provides the first national evidence that those concerns may be having a real impact on how officers do their jobs.

"Officers are concerned about being the next viral video and so that influences what they do and how they do it and how they think about it," said Darrel Stephens, executive director of the Major Cities Chiefs Association. He added that he doesn't believe it's rampant or that officers are turning a blind eye, "but I still have to believe it may be in a marginal-call situation where there's a reasonable suspicion on the bubble ... that those are the ones they pass up."

The survey also suggested a divide between police and the communities they serve on some social issues of the day.

For example, two-thirds of all officers say deadly encounters with blacks are isolated incidents, but 60 percent of the general public said they believe they are signs of a broader problem between police and blacks.

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A link to the report: <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2017/01/11/behind-the-badge>

Lisa Marie Pane can be followed on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/lisamariepane> .

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 12, the 12th day of 2017. There are 353 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 12, 1910, at a White House dinner hosted by President William Howard Taft, Baroness Rosen, wife of the Russian ambassador, caused a stir by requesting and smoking a cigarette — it was, appar-

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ently, the first time a woman had smoked openly during a public function in the executive mansion. (Some of the other women present who had brought their own cigarettes began lighting up in turn.)

On this date:

In 1773, the first public museum in America was organized in Charleston, South Carolina.

In 1828, the United States and Mexico signed a Treaty of Limits defining the boundary between the two countries to be the same as the one established by an 1819 treaty between the U.S. and Spain.

In 1915, the U.S. House of Representatives rejected, 204-174, a proposed constitutional amendment to give women nationwide the right to vote. The silent film drama "A Fool There Was," which propelled Theda Bara to stardom with her portrayal of a predatory vamp, premiered in New York.

In 1932, Hattie W. Caraway became the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate after initially being appointed to serve out the remainder of the term of her late husband, Thaddeus.

In 1945, during World War II, Soviet forces began a major, successful offensive against the Germans in Eastern Europe. Aircraft from U.S. Task Force 38 sank about 40 Japanese ships off Indochina.

In 1959, Berry Gordy Jr. founded Motown Records (originally Tamla Records) in Detroit.

In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson said in his State of the Union address that the U.S. military should stay in Vietnam until Communist aggression there was stopped. The TV series "Batman," starring Adam West and Burt Ward as the Dynamic Duo, premiered on ABC, airing twice a week on consecutive nights.

In 1971, the groundbreaking situation comedy "All in the Family" premiered on CBS television.

In 1976, mystery writer Dame Agatha Christie died in Wallingford, England, at age 85.

In 1986, the shuttle Columbia blasted off with a crew that included the first Hispanic-American in space, Dr. Franklin R. Chang-Diaz.

In 1987, Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite arrived in Lebanon on his latest mission to win the release of Western hostages; however, Waite ended up being taken captive himself, and wasn't released until 1991.

In 1998, Linda Tripp provided Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's office with taped conversations between herself and former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Ten years ago: Two kidnapped boys, Ben Ownby and Shawn Hornbeck, were found alive in the same suburban St. Louis apartment — four days after Ben vanished and 4 1/2 years after Shawn disappeared. (The boys' abductor, Michael Devlin, is serving multiple life terms for kidnapping and sexual assault.) Durham County, North Carolina, District Attorney Mike Nifong, facing ethics charges, asked to be removed from the Duke lacrosse rape investigation. (State prosecutors later exonerated three suspects; Nifong ended up being disbarred.) Larry Stewart, the anonymous Missouri philanthropist known as "Secret Santa," died at age 58.

Five years ago: Pentagon leaders scrambled to contain damage from an Internet video purporting to show four Marines urinating on Taliban corpses. (The Marine Corps announced in Aug. 2012 that three Marines had received administrative punishments in connection with this incident.) Former South Dakota Gov. Bill Janklow, a Republican who dominated the state's political landscape for more than 25 years, died in Sioux Falls at age 72.

One year ago: In his final State of the Union address, President Barack Obama urged Americans to rekindle their belief in the promise of change that first carried him to the White House, declaring that the country must not allow election-year fear and division to put economic and security progress at risk. Iran detained 10 American sailors and their two small Navy boats after the boats drifted into Iranian waters; the sailors and their vessels were released the following day. The St. Louis Rams' move back to Los Angeles was approved by 30 of 32 NFL owners. Media mogul Rupert Murdoch announced his

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engagement to ex-supermodel Jerry Hall (they married the following March).

Today's Birthdays: Actress Katherine MacGregor (TV: "Little House on the Prairie") is 92. The Amazing Kreskin is 82. Country singer William Lee Golden (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 78. Actor Anthony Andrews is 69. Movie director Wayne Wang is 68. Actress Kirstie Alley is 66. Radio commentator Rush Limbaugh is 66. Legal affairs blogger Ann Althouse is 66. Writer Walter Mosley is 65. Country singer Ricky Van Shelton is 65. Radio-TV personality Howard Stern is 63. Writer-producer-director John Lasseter is 60. Broadcast journalist Christiane Amanpour is 59. Rock musician Charlie Gillingham (Counting Crows) is 57. Actor Oliver Platt is 57. Basketball Hall of Famer Dominique Wilkins is 57. Entrepreneur Jeff Bezos is 53. Rock singer Rob Zombie is 52. Actor Olivier Martinez is 51. Rapper TBird (B-Rock and the Bizz) is 50. Model Vendela is 50. Actress Farrah Forke is 49. Actress Rachael Harris is 49. Rock singer Zack de la Rocha is 47. Rapper Raekwon (Wu Tang Clan) is 47. Singer Dan Haseltine (Jars of Clay) is 44. Rock musician Matt Wong (Reel Big Fish) is 44. Singer Melanie Chisholm (Spice Girls) is 43. Contemporary Christian singer Jeremy Camp is 39. Actress Cynthia Addai-Robinson is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer Amerie is 37. Actress Issa Rae is 32. Actress Naya Rivera is 30. Actor Will Rothhaar is 30. Actor Andrew Lawrence is 29. Rock singer ZAYN is 24. Pop/soul singer Ella Henderson (TV: "The X Factor") is 21.

Thought for Today: "Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts." — Daniel Patrick Moynihan, U.S. politician and diplomat (1927-2003).