

# Groton Daily Independent

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GBB at Sisseton. C game at 5:15 p.m., JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity game. Postponed to January 26th.

**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 at 9 a.m., coffee fellowship time at 10 a.m. and worship in Groton at 11 a.m.

**Heaven Bound Ministries in Pierpont:** Worship at 10 a.m.

**Open Gym** for JH-8 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and for grades 6-12 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**Monday, Jan. 16**

**Senior Menu:** Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes

## 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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**JOHNSON AGENCY**

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

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## Celebrating South Dakota's creative leaders

By Jim Speirs, Executive Director, Arts South Dakota

Every two years, South Dakotans are given the opportunity to shine a spotlight on those individuals and organizations that have achieved significant accomplishments in the arts. The Governor's Awards in the Arts dramatically illustrate the diversity, commitment and talent of South Dakota's creative community.

Take the case of Ward Whitwam, this year's awardee for Distinction in Creative Achievement. An architect and native of South Dakota, Whitwam designed the concrete tipis that mark our state's rest areas on the interstate highway—a landmark for travelers since 1958, a source of pride for residents and a respectful homage to the state's Native American heritage. His unique design and the engineering that made it come to life exemplify the artistic vision and Dakota pride shared by all the winners of the Governor's Awards.

Governor Daugaard will present five awards on February 15 in Pierre. In addition to Whitwam's creative achievement award, Steve Babbitt will be honored for Outstanding Service in Arts Education; Graham and Anna Marie Thatcher are this year's recipients for Outstanding Support of the Arts by Individuals; Mobridge City Government will receive the award for Outstanding Support of the Arts by an Organization, and recently retired South Dakota Arts Council director Michael Pangburn will be given an honorary award for Outstanding Service to the Arts Community. The event will also highlight the Living Indian Treasure Award presented to nationally renowned flutist Bryan Akipa.

These honorees are chosen from dozens of nominations made by community arts leaders in every part of South Dakota. Nominees are artists, local arts advocates, corporate citizens who believe in our state's creative future and educators who are ensuring that the legacy of arts education is part of every child's day. All are hard at work throughout South Dakota, and all are worthy of recognition. Every two years, Arts South Dakota chooses a handful to spotlight, knowing there are so many more building our state's cultural heritage.

These awards say as much about South Dakotans as they do about the quality of our creative environment. We honor our arts leaders and understand that their work makes our state a better place for all its citizens.

For more about the Governor's Awards or other Arts South Dakota programs, join us online at [www.ArtsSouthDakota.org](http://www.ArtsSouthDakota.org).



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## 2017-18 AND 2018-19 SDHSAA FOOTBALL CLASSIFICATIONS

FINALIZED: JANUARY 12, 2017

NOTE: REGIONAL ALIGNMENTS WILL BE RELEASED FOLLOWING THE MARCH 1, 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IN PIERRE

CLASS 11AAA	CLASS 11AA
Aberdeen Central	Brookings
Brandon Valley	Douglas
Rapid City Central	Harrisburg
Rapid City Stevens	Huron
Sioux Falls Lincoln	Mitchell
Sioux Falls O'Gorman	Pierre T.F. Riggs
Sioux Falls Roosevelt	Spearfish
Sioux Falls Washington	Sturgis Brown
Watertown	Yankton

CLASS 11A		
Belle Fourche	Little Wound	Tea Area
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte	Madison	Todd County
Dakota Valley	Milbank Area	Tri-Valley
Dell Rapids	Pine Ridge	Vermillion
Hot Springs	St. Francis	West Central
Lennox	St. Thomas More	

CLASS 11B		
Aberdeen Roncalli	Elk Point-Jefferson	Redfield/Doland
Bennett County	Flandreau	Sioux Falls Christian
Beresford	Groton Area	Sioux Valley
Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan	Lead-Deadwood	Sisseton
Canton	McCook Central/Montrose	Stanley County
Chamberlain	McLaughlin	Wagner
Crow Creek	Mobridge-Pollock	Winner
Custer	Mount Vernon/Plankinton	WWSSC
	Red Cloud	

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## CLASS 9AA

Arlington/Lake Preston	Gregory	Parker
Baltic	Hamlin	Parkston
Bon Homme	Hill City	Rapid City Christian
Dakota Hills	Irene-Wakonda	Tiospa Zina
Deuel	Jones County/White River	Tri-State
Dupree	Kimball/White Lake	Viborg-Hurley
Elkton-Lake Benton	Menno/Marion	Webster Area
Garretson	Miller/Highmore-Harold	Wolsey-Wessington
Great Plains Lutheran	North Border (Eureka/Bowdle/Leola/Frederick)	

\*Tiospa Zina is playing 9-Man football, but will remain ineligible for playoffs due to their enrollment

## CLASS 9A

Alcester-Hudson	De Smet	New Underwood
Andes Central/Dakota Christian	Deubrook Area	Newell
Avon	Hanson	Oldham-Ramona/Rutland
Britton-Hecla	Herreid/Selby Area	Philip
Canistota/Freeman	Howard	Platte - Geddes
Chester Area	Ipswich/Edmunds Central	Potter County
Clark/Willow Lake	Lemmon/McIntosh	Timber Lake
Corsica-Stickney	Lower Brule	Warner
	Lyman	

## CLASS 9B

Bison	Estelline	Kadoka Area
Burke/South Central	Faith	Langford Area
Castlewood	Faulkton Area	Northwestern
Centerville	Florence/Henry	Scotland
Colman-Egan	Gayville-Volin	Sully Buttes
Colome	Harding County	Sunshine Bible Academy
Crazy Horse	Hitchcock-Tulare	Tripp-Delmont/Armour
Dell Rapids St. Mary's	Iroquois	Wall
Edgemont		Waverly-South Shore

## GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

January 16, 2017 – 7pm  
Groton Community Center

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Bills
- 3) Gravel bids
- 4) Tire Quotes
- 5) Authorize Shawn Lambertz to Electric Supt Conference – Mar
- 6) Insurance Coverages
- 7) Airport Results
- 8) Copier/Printer quotes
- 9) Appoint P&Z member
- 10) Council Notice of Vacancy
- 11) 2nd meeting in Feb date – 20th or 21st
- 12) Executive Session Legal & Personnel 1-25-2 (1) &(3)

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## Service Notice:

### Sylvia Campbell

Services for Sylvia Campbell, 102, of Groton will be 11:00 a.m., Monday, January 16th at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Craig Grams will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the chapel on Sunday from 5-8 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Sylvia passed away January 11, 2017 at Golden Care Center, Groton.

*“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**

 **livestream**

## Upcoming Events

**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 13, 1913: The temperature at Rapid City, South Dakota, rose sixty-four degrees in just fourteen hours.

January 13, 1916: Extreme cold affected central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota on January 13th, 1916. Record low temperatures were set at Kennebec, Timber Lake, Wheaton, and Watertown. Timber Lake recorded a low temperature of 37 degrees below zero, Wheaton fell to 38 degrees below zero, Kennebec recorded a low of 39 degrees below zero, with 40 degrees below zero recorded at Watertown on this day in 1916. Aberdeen and Mobridge recorded 38 degrees below zero and 36 degrees below zero, respectively.

January 13, 2009: After a clipper system dropped from 1 to 4 inches of snow on the 13th, Arctic air and blustery north winds pushed into the area. The coldest air and the lowest wind chills of the season spread across much of central and northeast South Dakota. Wind chills fell to 35 to 50 degrees below zero late in the evening of the 13th and remained through the 14th and into the mid-morning hours of the 15th. Across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota, wind chills were as low as 60 degrees below zero by the morning of the 15th. Many vehicles did not start because of the extreme cold and several schools had delayed starts. The Arctic high pressure area settled in on the morning of the 15th bringing the coldest temperatures to the region in many years. The combination of a fresh and deep snow pack, clear skies, and light winds allowed temperatures to fall to record levels at many locations on the 15th. Daytime highs remained well below zero across the area. This was one of the coldest days that most areas experienced since the early 1970s. The records were broken by 1 to as much as 7 degrees. Some of the record lows included, -30 degrees at Kennebec; -31 degrees at Sisseton; -32 degrees at Milbank; -33 degrees at Mobridge; -35 degrees at Andover and near Summit; -38 degrees at Eureka; -39 degrees 8 miles north of Columbia and Castlewood; -42 degrees at Aberdeen; and -47 degrees at Pollock. Some near record low temperatures included, -24 degrees at Pierre; -29 degrees at Redfield and Victor; -32 degrees at Roscoe; and -34 degrees at Watertown. In Aberdeen, the low temperature of -42 degrees tied the third coldest temperature ever recorded.

1886 - A great blizzard struck the state of Kansas without warning. The storm claimed 50 to 100 lives, and eighty percent of the cattle in the state. (David Ludlum)

1888 - The mercury plunged to 65 degrees below zero at Fort Keough, located near Miles City MT. The reading stood as a record for the continental U.S. for sixty-six years. (David Ludlum)

1912 - The temperature at Oakland, MD, plunged to 40 degrees below zero to establish a state record. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - Dry and mild weather prevailed across the country. Nineteen cities in the Upper Midwest reported record high temperatures for the date, including Grand Island NE with a reading of 67 degrees. (National Weather Summary)








1988 - A fast moving cold front ushered arctic cold into the north central and northeastern U.S. Mason City IA reported a wind chill reading of 51 degrees below zero, and Greenville ME reported a wind chill of 63 degrees below zero. Winds along the cold front gusted to 63 mph at Rochester NY, and a thunderstorm along the cold front produced wind gusts to 62 mph at Buffalo NY, along with snow and sleet. (National Weather Summary)

1989 - Friday the 13th was bad luck primarily for the south central U.S. as an upper level weather disturbance spread a mixture of snow and sleet and freezing rain across Texas and Oklahoma. Snowfall totals in central Oklahoma ranged up to 8.5 inches at Norman. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - A winter storm in the southwestern U.S. produced more than a twelve inches of snow in the mountains of California and Nevada. In northern California, Huntington Lake was buried under 40 inches of snow, and up to 20 inches was reported in northeastern Nevada. Heavy rain soaked some of the lower elevations of California. Gibraltar Dam CA was drenched with 5.33 inches of rain in two days. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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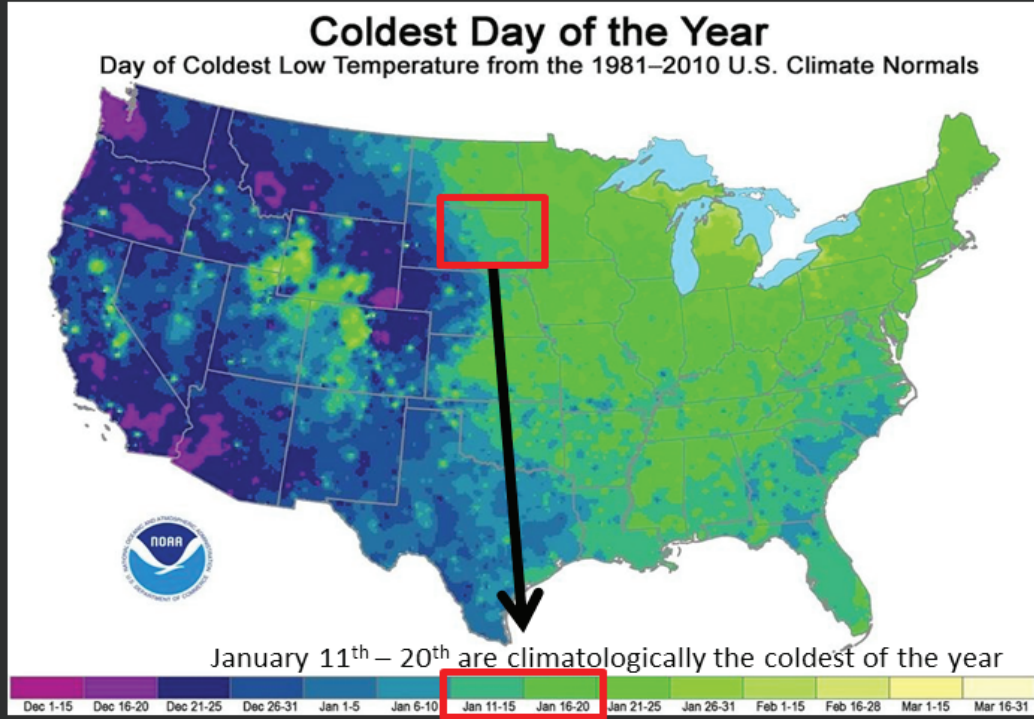
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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	M.L.King Day
						
60% → 10%						
Snow Likely then Patchy Blowing Snow	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 12 °F	Low: -5 °F	High: 15 °F	Low: -1 °F	High: 22 °F	Low: 7 °F	High: 22 °F

## Fitting End to Very Cold Temperatures



*Temperatures warming into the 20s by Sunday, and 30s on Wednesday!*



Published on: 01/13/2017 at 5:36AM

Updated: 1/13/2017 5 am CST

Ready for a warm up? It makes sense climatologically too. After lows well below zero and dangerously low wind chills, warmer air will be surging into the region through at least the next week. Highs Saturday and Sunday will be in the 20s, with 30s expected for the latter half of the work week. Otherwise, in the near-term, light snow will exit eastern South Dakota this morning. Dry weather will then remain through the weekend.

http://weather.gov/Aberdeen  
National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD  
@NWSAberdeen  
NWS Aberdeen



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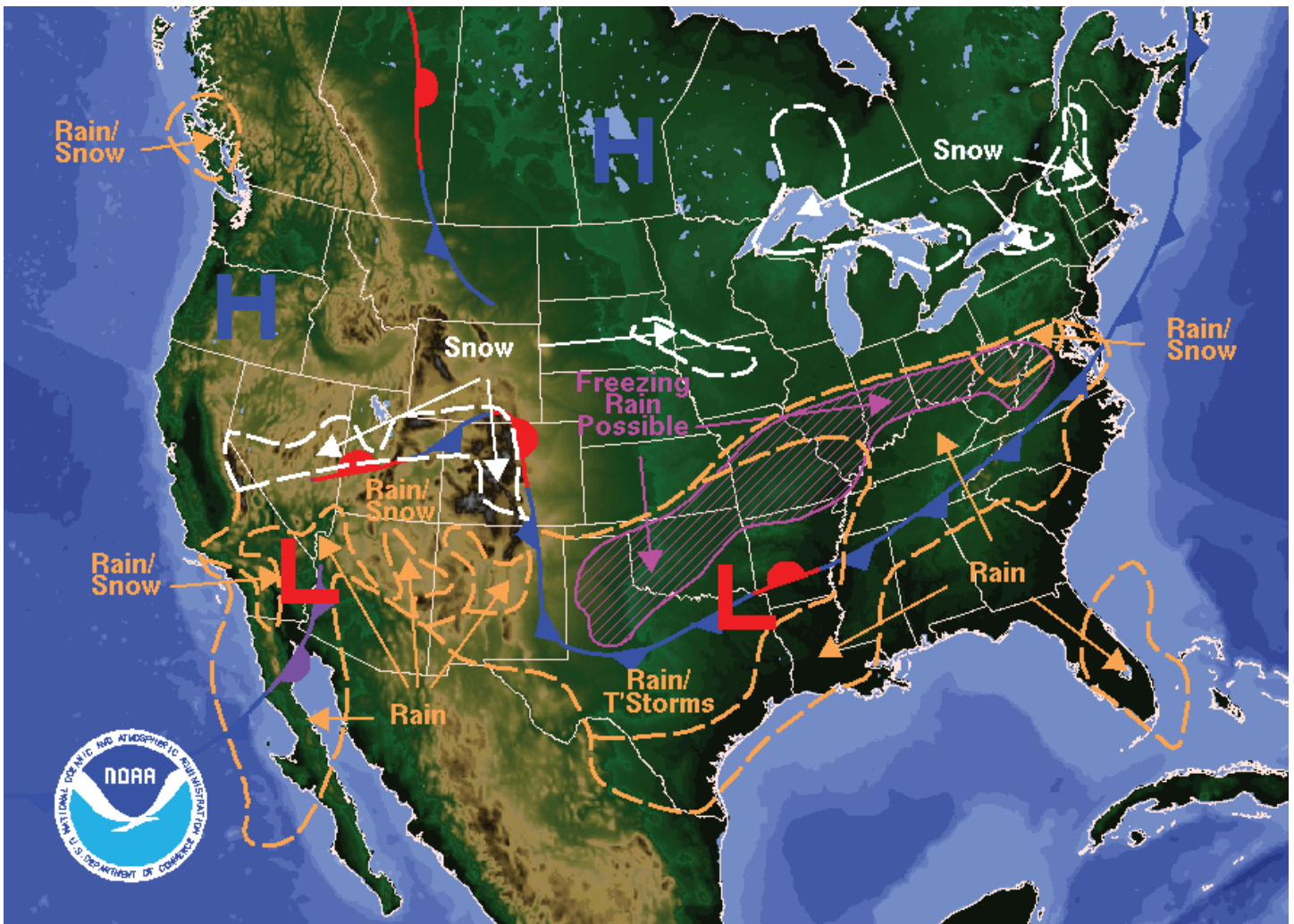
## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 4.1 F at 10:09 AM**  
**Low Outside Temp: -17.6 F at 11:53 PM**  
**High Gust: 28.0 Mph at 10:35 AM**

Rain: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High: 56° in 1987**  
**Record Low: -40 in 1912**  
**Average High: 22°F**  
**Average Low: 1°F**  
**Average Precip in Jan.: 0.23**  
**Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 0.23**  
**Precip Year to Date: 0.00**  
**Sunset Tonight: 5:14 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:10 a.m.**



Weather Forecast for Fri, Jan 13, 2017, issued 4:36 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## VICTORY AT SEA!

Lord Nelson was England's most famous naval officer. He was highly esteemed for his inspirational leadership and brilliant grasp of naval strategies and unconventional tactics. His supreme knowledge of warfare at sea enabled him to win many significant victories for England. In fact, in one battle, with only 27 small vessels he destroyed 33 large battleships of Napoleon.

In spite of his brilliant career as a naval officer, he suffered from seasickness all of his life. Yet, he refused to allow this serious condition to become an excuse from what he believed he was called to do.

This is a significant lesson for each of us. All of us can find excuses not to do something whenever we want to. Whether we "talk" ourselves into a headache or turn a small task into an overwhelming, mountain-sized, life-threatening project, we can always – if we want to – find a way out of doing what God calls us to do.

Imagine standing before our Lord someday and hearing Him ask: "Do you remember when I asked you to teach Sunday school and you said you were too busy?" Or: "Can you explain why you didn't have time to help with Vacation Bible School...sing in the choir...volunteer to work at the homeless shelter...feed the poor...go to camp with the youth...contribute more...or...?"

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to serve You as You deserve. May we not look for excuses to refuse Your call, but to look for opportunities to serve You constantly. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Romans 12:11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

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News from the  Associated Press

## Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

### BOYS' BASKETBALL

Alcester-Hudson 46, Akron-Westfield, Iowa 37  
Andes Central/Dakota Christian 63, Mitchell Christian 57  
Bison 54, McIntosh 14  
Canton 49, West Sioux, Hawarden, Iowa 45  
Castlewood 70, Great Plains Lutheran 22  
Chamberlain 64, Todd County 34  
Chester 68, Baltic 36  
Faulkton 76, Edmunds Central 39  
Florence/Henry 56, Waubay/Summit 45  
Freeman 62, Ethan 46  
Gayville-Volin 60, Viborg-Hurley 42  
Harding County 76, Rapid City Christian 67  
Herreid/Selby Area 60, Highmore-Harrold 47  
Iroquois 65, Sunshine Bible Academy 42  
Langford 45, Warner 42  
Lemmon 53, Dupree 39  
McLaughlin 57, Standing Rock, N.D. 50  
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 62, Tri-Valley 59  
Northwestern 75, Ipswich 60  
Parker 61, Hanson 30  
Parkston 59, Wagner 40  
Pierre 69, Mitchell 36  
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 64, James Valley Christian 56  
Scotland 57, Avon 42  
Sioux Falls Washington 61, Sioux Falls Lincoln 55  
St. Thomas More 70, Custer 38  
Sturgis Brown 69, Rapid City Central 50  
Sully Buttes 64, Miller 46  
Tea Area 66, Beresford 30  
West Central 60, Garretson 51  
Jones County Tournament  
First Round  
Colome 70, Bennett County 34  
Kadoka Area 60, Jones County 44  
Stanley County 62, Lyman 59  
White River 71, Philip 33  
West River Tournament  
First Round  
Faith 58, New Underwood 22  
Hot Springs 67, Edgemont 16

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Newell 44, Upton, Wyo. 41

Wall 64, Moorcroft, Wyo. 54

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Waverly-South Shore vs. Lake Preston, ppd. to Feb 7.

## **GIRLS' BASKETBALL**

Akron-Westfield, Iowa 52, Alcester-Hudson 39

Andes Central/Dakota Christian 50, Mitchell Christian 20

Baltic 42, Chester 30

Brandon Valley 43, Brookings 32

Burke/South Central 65, Colome 42

Colman-Egan 56, Estelline 20

Crofton, Neb. 52, West Central 49

Dakota Valley 76, Maple Valley-Anthon-Oto, Iowa 21

Dakota Valley 76, Maple Valley, N.D. 21

DeSmet 67, Elkton-Lake Benton 41

Deubrook 65, Arlington 19

Faulkton 60, Edmunds Central 30

Freeman Academy/Marion 43, Flandreau Indian 39

Hamlin 71, Clark/Willow Lake 36

Hanson 52, Parker 38

Harrisburg 50, Watertown 29

Kimball/White Lake 39, Gregory 28

Kingsley-Pierson, Iowa 68, Elk Point-Jefferson 53

Lennox 70, Vermillion 59

Little Wound 76, Pine Ridge 62

Madison 54, Flandreau 49

McCook Central/Montrose 72, Sioux Valley 54

Menno 55, Bridgewater-Emery 44

Milbank Area 48, Aberdeen Roncalli 40

Parkston 45, Wagner 22

Pierre 61, Mitchell 42

Potter County 48, Dupree 45

Rapid City Central 68, Sturgis Brown 32

Sully Buttes 84, Miller 44

Sundance, Wyo. 51, Harding County 45

Tea Area 57, Sioux Falls Christian 50

Webster 56, Britton-Hecla 37

West Sioux, Hawarden, Iowa 62, Canton 17

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Groton Area vs. Sisseton, ppd. to Jan 26.

## **Oral Roberts gets 1st Summit win, beats S. Dakota St. 94-88**

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Albert Owens scored 24 points and Kris Martin added 20 as Oral Roberts pulled away late to pick up its first Summit League win of the season, beating South Dakota State 94-88 on Thursday night.

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Owens was 10 of 16 from the floor with nine rebounds. Martin was 3 of 7 from long range while dish-ing out five assists. Jalen Bradley added 16 points, Emmanuel Nzekwesi had 14 and Aaron Anderson chipped in 11.

Oral Roberts (5-13, 1-3) had a 50-49 lead at the break after the teams swapped the lead 17 times in the first half.

South Dakota State's Mike Daum's layup with 1:54 left tied the score at 83. ORU scored seven straight to go up 90-83 with 38 seconds remaining. The Golden Eagles were 11 of 12 from the line in the final 1:26 to secure the win.

Daum led the Jackrabbits (8-12, 1-4) with 32 points.

## **Officials: Bridge damaged in pipeline protest is sound**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota transportation officials say tests of a bridge damaged during protests of the Dakota Access pipeline show the span is structurally sound.

The Backwater Bridge north of Cannon Ball has been the site of several clashes between protesters and police. It has been closed since October, when protesters blocked it with burning vehicles. In De-cember, core samples were taken to see if the fires caused damage.

State Department of Transportation Director Grant Levi says Thursday that the bridge is sound, but needs repairs. Authorities say they won't reopen the bridge until they are assured that "no criminal activity" will take place.

Protesters worry about the pipeline's effects on drinking water and on Native American artifacts. Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners says the pipeline will be safe.

## **Yankton Sioux tribe chairman encourages mutual understanding**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The Yankton Sioux tribal chairman used his address to South Dakota lawmakers Thursday to encourage mutual understanding between Native American people and non-tribal mem-bers.

Chairman Robert Flying Hawk gave the second State of the Tribes address, a speech from a leader from one of the nine Native American tribes in South Dakota similar to the governor's State of the State. Gov. Dennis Daugaard watched the speech from the state House gallery.

Flying Hawk said that the state's reservations are facing challenges including methamphetamine use, poor life expectancy and high educational dropout rates.

Life expectancy for Native Americans in South Dakota is 68.2 years compared to 80.4 years for whites, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

He said that there needs to be collaboration to combat meth. The tribe's headquarters is in Wagner on the Yankton Reservation in southern South Dakota.

"We have a very negative energy that is powerful, but it can be overcome if we can work together as a people," Flying Hawk said.

Republican Rep. Don Hagggar, who invited Flying Hawk to give the speech, said there will be "unity" between the tribes and the state on dealing with meth abuse.

Democratic Sen. Troy Heinert, a Rosebud Sioux member, said that Native Americans and non-tribal members need to find similarities and work together.

"We're not going to agree on everything, but that doesn't mean that everything is bad," Heinert said.

Last legislative session, Cheyenne River Sioux Chairman Harold Frazier gave the first address to a joint session of the Legislature from a South Dakota tribal leader.



## Lawsuit faults Bureau of Indian Education schools

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A small, remote American Indian village in the scenic base of one of the most visited places on earth is at the center of a lawsuit that seeks to dramatically reform the conditions of U.S. Bureau of Indian Education schools.

The bureau failed to protect students on the Havasupai Indian Reservation in the Grand Canyon by ignoring complaints about an understaffed school, a lack of special education and a deficient curriculum, according to a complaint filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Phoenix.

Havasupai Chairman Don E. Watahomigie said his Arizona village is accessible only by helicopter or an eight-mile hike on a horse through the Grand Canyon. But the 70 or so children who attend Havasupai Elementary School are entitled to the same education as other students across the country, he said.

"The Havasupai Tribal Council has approached the Bureau of Indian Education many times about its failures," Watahomigie said. "Each time we raise these issues we are given promises that are never delivered upon."

The lawsuit, submitted on behalf of nine students, said the school often sent students with special needs home early or called police to deal with bad behavior related to their conditions. In addition, the school taught only math and reading and failed to expose children to subjects like science, social studies and physical education, the lawsuit said.

"These circumstances are not unique to the Havasupai," Kathryn Eidmann, an attorney at Los Angeles-based firm Public Counsel. "This is a crisis across BIE schools that the federal government has acknowledged again and again."

Eidmann said the lawsuit seeks a "declaration" to force all Bureau of Indian Education schools to follow the law on providing special need services and a thorough curriculum.

The U.S. Department of Interior did not immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press.

Most of the Bureau of Indian Education schools are located on rural reservations that have been under the control of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs for decades.

The bureau oversees 183 schools in 23 states. The BIE also oversees the Haskell Indian Nations University in Kansas and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute in New Mexico.

The lawsuit is the latest in a series of problems for Bureau of Indian Education schools. For example, the bureau faced scrutiny after a government watchdog report said in March that officials had failed to ensure regular inspections were carried out at dozens of schools, where safety hazards ranged from exposed electrical wires and broken windows to a natural gas leak.

At one school, Government Accountability Office investigators found four aging dormitory boilers failed an inspection and were blamed for high carbon monoxide levels and a natural gas leak but weren't repaired until about eight months later.

Havasupai parents have complained that students are entering the eighth grade not having basic knowledge of subjects like geography and history.

Alexis DeLaCruz, an attorney for the Native American Disability Law Center, said half of the students who attend Havasupai Elementary are classified as students with special needs.

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Follow Russell Contreras on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ruscontreras> . His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/russell-contreras> .

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## Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

The Daily Republic, Mitchell, Jan. 9

SD needs harsher sentences to deter vehicular homicide

Vehicular homicide has hit south central South Dakota hard in recent years.

Young lives were lost in cases when vehicular homicide charges were filed in crashes in rural Davison County, the city of Mitchell, Wagner and rural Charles Mix County recently, forcing families to say goodbye to loved ones as young as 9, 22, 25 and 46 years old.

While some of those vehicular homicide charges were dismissed and others have yet to be tried by the courts, the current maximum sentence of 15 years in prison and a \$30,000 fine is nowhere near enough for the loss of life incurred in these tragic events.

With South Dakota's 2017 legislative session kicking off, we're hoping to finally see some changes made to deter this awful crime from occurring in the future.

That's why we commend state Attorney General Marty Jackley for making another attempt to classify vehicular homicide as a violent crime. Jackley's bill, called Senate Bill 24, would force those convicted of vehicular homicide to serve at least half of their sentence before becoming eligible for parole, instead of the 30 percent mandated currently for nonviolent crimes.

After Jackley announced his proposal, along with five other bills, the father of one vehicular homicide victim continued his call for more serious reform, and we agree something needs to be done.

Gregg Spindler — the father of Maegan Spindler, a 25-year-old who was one of two victims in a Charles Mix County crash in which Ronald Fischer was convicted of two counts of vehicular homicide — told The Daily Republic last week he was cynical Jackley's bill would pass after it failed to emerge from a legislative conference committee last year.

But we're hoping the 2017 Legislature, which includes several new faces, realizes the severity of this crime and the major impact it's had on our region and the families of vehicular homicide victims.

With 22 vehicular homicide convictions since 2012 and six others facing charges, this is no small problem in South Dakota. Innocent lives have been lost, and now's the time for the South Dakota Legislature to establish a stronger deterrent for what should absolutely be deemed a violent crime.

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Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, Jan. 12

Amusement park rides need regulation

South Dakota state government has decided that it would rather not be involved in regulating amusement park rides that are popular at county fairs and other events but at the same time can be deadly dangerous as we have seen in other parts of the nation.

This includes roller coasters, Tilt-A-Whirls, the Twister, Ferris wheels and all the other gravity-defying rides that children enjoy and parents trust are regulated and safe.

But now the Bureau of Administration has submitted House Bill 107, which removes the state from the list of entities that amusement-ride operators and carnival owners are required to send their affidavits to that certify their rides have been inspected properly.

The bill will be considered by the Legislature just four years after an industry-friendly measure pushed through by Sen. Al Novstrup, a Republican from Aberdeen, was overwhelmingly approved by lawmakers and signed into law by Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

The measure exempted fixed parks like Thunder Road, which Novstrup owns stock in and is managed by his son, David, also a lawmaker and the general manager and co-owner of the Thunder Road park in Aberdeen. The legislation does require minimal state reporting standards for the traveling amuse-

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ment parks but includes a ten-point list of rider prohibitions that makes it more difficult to successfully sue them.

In September 2015, Journal reporter Seth Tupper wrote an investigative piece that detailed how Novstrup, who had a clear conflict of interest, shepherded the bill through the Legislature.

The Bureau of Administration, which says in the logo on its website's home page that it is "serving the citizens and government agencies of South Dakota," said in an email to the Journal that "the intent of the bill is to streamline the process of filing inspection affidavits to ensure that these organizations who are involved in the event receive the affidavits."

What spokeswoman Leah Svendsen didn't say in her email is that the bill removes the state from doing any regulation of amusement park rides, something now done by 35 other states.

Instead, the state will in effect delegate that task to city and county governments that lack the expertise and resources of state government.

Some have wondered if the real intent is for the state to reduce its liability or responsibility if someone is injured or killed in an amusement park ride. Others wonder if this is the state's response to the Journal's in-depth look at how the measure sailed through the Legislature.

Whatever the reason, the Bureau of Administration's desire to not regulate an industry that derives its profits from children and their parents can only raise questions about its priorities.

Rather than do less when it comes to protecting children, the state should do more to insure that every precaution is taken to see that these rides are properly inspected. Lawmakers should reject this bill and instead craft legislation that demands more state oversight of amusement park rides.

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American News, Aberdeen, Jan. 12

Pruitt should concern SD delegation

For South Dakota's congressional delegation, Scott Pruitt should offer some concern.

On the one hand, Pruitt, President-elect Donald Trump's nominee as head of the Environmental Protection Agency, has been a critic of federal overreach. So much of a critic, in fact, that, "Pruitt has spent much of his energy as (Oklahoma) attorney general fighting the very agency he is being nominated to lead," according to a recent story in the Washington Post.

On the other hand, coming from an oil-dependent state such as Oklahoma, can Pruitt actually be a friend to Midwestern ethanol interests?

This is the central concern Republican Sens. Mike Rounds and John Thune should have through Pruitt's confirmation process.

What happens next with the EPA will undoubtedly affect South Dakotans and our way of life.

As EPA head, Pruitt would have an enormous influence over an EPA ethanol-blend mandate that has overall been good for the economy and citizens of South Dakota.

The mandate is part of the Renewable Fuel Standard — or RFS — program. According to the EPA, the RFS "requires a certain volume of renewable fuel to replace or reduce the quantity of petroleum-based transportation fuel, heating oil or jet fuel."

South Dakota groups — such as the South Dakota Corn Council and South Dakota Corn Growers Association — have been advocates of the RFS. They oppose reductions in the standards or further cuts to the program.

According to a 2012 study commissioned by the South Dakota Ethanol Producers Association, the ethanol industry had a \$3.8 billion economic impact on South Dakota that year. That was a 361 percent increase from a 2004 study.

In 2015, Thune joined other Midwest senators, including Iowa's Chuck Grassley, in calling for main-

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taining the RFS.

As Oklahoma AG in 2013, Pruitt offered rare praise to the EPA when it decided to reduce the ethanol mandate. At the time, it determined that only 15 billion gallons of ethanol needed to be blended into the nation's fuel supply, down from 18.15 billion gallons.

"The evidence is clear that the current ethanol fuel mandate is unworkable. The decision by the EPA to lower that standard is good news for Oklahoma consumers," Pruitt said in a statement. "It's good the Administration finally recognized the concerns of consumers and a variety of industries and took steps to correct this flawed program."

A flawed program or a necessary one?

In a media call last week, Rounds praised Pruitt based on their brief meeting.

"It was a very refreshing discussion," Rounds said. "He's one of the guys in line with South Dakota as we have sued the EPA about not following sound science. He will be a breath of fresh air for local and state administrators to work with."

True, Pruitt's anti-feds bluster will appeal to fellow GOP'ers.

But Rounds, Thune and other Midwestern state leaders should be absolutely concerned by Trump's 2016 promise to "get rid of (the EPA) in almost every form."

If that is the goal, Trump has picked the right man for the job.

And if he is sincere in this goal, can an oil-friendly EPA chief resist dismantling the RFS?

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## Dusty Johnson takes in over \$100K for 2018 congressional bid

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Dusty Johnson's congressional campaign says he's raised more than \$100,000 since entering the race to succeed U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem in 2018.

Johnson's campaign said Thursday that he raised the money during the fourth quarter of 2016.

Johnson, a former chief of staff to Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard, said in November that he'll seek Noem's seat after her upcoming two-year term ends.

Campaign treasurer Greg McCurry says people are excited Johnson is running.

Johnson was elected to the Public Utilities Commission in 2004 and re-elected in 2010. He later served as Daugaard's chief of staff until 2014.

Johnson lives in Mitchell and works at a telecommunications engineering and consulting company.

Secretary of State Shantel Krebs is another possible candidate for the Congressional seat.

Senate committee approves bill to make mug shots public

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A bill that would allow authorities to publicly release mug shot photos taken when a criminal suspect is booked passed its first committee test Thursday.

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted 6-1 to send the bill to the full chamber. Attorney General Marty Jackley proposed the measure and Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard said this week he supports it.

The legislation would make mug shots a public record, bringing South Dakota in line with 48 states that already allow booking photos to be provided to the public. Jackley said the proposal came out of a task force on open government.

"This is something that is important for transparency," he said. "I think it's important for bringing our state up to speed with the other 48 states."

The bill would be very helpful to the news media and could serve as a useful public safety tool, said Dave Bordewyk, general manager of the South Dakota Newspaper Association.

Republican Sen. Stace Nelson, of Fulton, said he hopes the attorney general's office is considering future revisions to state law to further open up state government. He called the mug shot bill a "baby

step.”

Democratic Sen. Craig Kennedy, of Yankton, was the sole member of the committee to vote against the measure. He said, in other states, the photos are posted on the internet and people have to pay to have them removed. People are innocent until proven guilty and have a right to privacy, Kennedy said.

## Vigil held in Sioux Falls for homicide victim

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Friends and acquaintances of a Sioux Falls homicide victim gathered outside the apartment where she was killed to remember her life and reclaim the spot as a place of peace.

Franklin Whiting was a neighbor and close friend of Jamie Lee Wounded Arrow. The 28-year-old woman was fatally stabbed in her apartment Jan. 1. Whiting was one of about 20 people who held a ceremony Wednesday night that included songs, prayer and cleansing with holy water.

He tells the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2jn9kqp>) his friend's death was senseless and the ceremony was meant to bring people together to take back the site.

Bond for Joshua Rayvon LeClaire, the man accused of killing Wounded Arrow, has been set in Minnehaha County at \$1 million cash.

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

## 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.

## Week 1: Cabinet picks contradict Trump stands on some issues

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The lack of fireworks surrounding Senate consideration of President-elect Donald Trump's Cabinet picks may reflect a slew of statements his choices have made contradicting the billionaire businessman's position on key issues.

Trump acknowledged the differences early Friday, posting a message on his Twitter account saying: "All my Cabinet nominee are looking good and doing a great job. I want them to be themselves and express their own thoughts, not mine!"

This week's confirmation hearings produced an odd political chemistry where, for instance, one of the harshest examinations of a Trump Cabinet choice came from one of Trump's fellow Republicans, presidential campaign rival Sen. Marco Rubio.

Despite Democrats' dismay over some of Trump's selections, the hearings were relatively tranquil, with Democrats generally restrained even in quizzing the more contentious picks. The reason, according to a few Democrats: The nominees are proving more palatable than Trump himself.

"As I meet members of the Cabinet I'm puzzled because many of them sound reasonable," said Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the No. 2 Senate Democrat. "Far more reasonable than their president."

That could change in weeks to come, because some of the most potentially explosive hearings are



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still pending, including the scrutiny of former Goldman Sachs partner Steven Mnuchin for Treasury secretary.

Several of Trump's Cabinet selections this week made statements this week contradicting policy stances espoused by their soon-to-be boss on issues ranging from Russia and NATO to climate change and Muslims.

Sen. Jeff Sessions, picked for attorney general, said he's against any outright ban on immigration by Muslims, in contrast to Trump's onetime call to suspend admittance of Muslims until U.S. officials could learn more about nature of the threat of extremism.

His secretary of state candidate, Rex Tillerson, took a relatively hard line on Washington's dealings with Russia, even though Trump has been talking about improving relations between Washington and Moscow and held out for days before saying he accepted the intelligence community's conclusion that Moscow meddled in the U.S. election process.

Tillerson demurred, however, when one senator tried to lure him into calling President Vladimir Putin, whom he knows, a "war criminal," although he emphasized support for NATO commitments that Trump had questioned. The secretary-of-state designate also said the United States should not back away from its efforts against nuclear proliferation, notwithstanding Trump's suggestion earlier this year that some key U.S. allies like Japan and South Korea provide their own defense.

Some of the toughest questioning of Tillerson came not from Democrats but from Rubio, who grilled the Exxon Mobil executive on human rights issues.

As Mnuchin's confirmation hearing approaches, Democrats have set up a website to solicit stories from the thousands of people whose homes were foreclosed on by OneWest Bank while he headed a group of investors who owned the bank. They hope to use Mnuchin's nomination hearing to attack Trump's populist appeal with working-class voters and cast themselves as defenders of the middle class.

Thus far, though, Republicans are congratulating themselves for generally smooth sailing. And overall, the lack of drama may also be due to the decision by Democrats while in the Senate majority to lower the vote threshold for Cabinet nominees and others from 60 votes to 50, allowing Republicans to ensure approval as long as they can hold their 52-seat majority together.

"The purpose of confirmation hearings is to examine the record and views of potential nominees and I think that's what these hearings are doing," said Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas. "I think it's likely that all of the Cabinet nominees are going to be confirmed, I think the hearings have gone quite well this week."

A hearing Thursday for neurosurgeon Ben Carson to head the Department of Housing and Urban Development featured some pointed questioning from Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, but also warm exchanges between Carson and other committee Democrats. Afterward Carson thanked the panel and said that it "was actually kind of fun."

Sessions was denied confirmation once before by the Senate, but that was three decades ago for a federal judgeship. This time around the Alabaman is a sitting senator and was treated gently, for the most part, by his colleagues, even when Democrats brought up the racial issues that brought him down him last time around. There was potential for drama as Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., broke with Senate tradition to testify against his colleague, but it came on the second day of the hearing after Sessions had finished testifying, so he was not even in the room.

Tillerson had the rockiest outing thus far, with Rubio pressing him on Russia and Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkley of Oregon confronting him about climate change and other issues. With Rubio and others undecided on supporting Tillerson, his ultimate confirmation is in question. But even with Tillerson, Democrats seemed to pull their punches at times.

"I don't want to argue with you," Sen. Tom Udall of New Mexico remarked at one point, seeming to

speak for several colleagues.

And it was practically bipartisan lovefests at the hearings for the choices for Central Intelligence Agency, Kansas Rep. Mike Pompeo; retired Gen. James Mattis for Defense; and retired Gen. John Kelly for Homeland Security.

"Pompeo's very popular, Mattis, Kelly — these are popular selections," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

The hearings seemed to underscore some emerging dynamics of Trump's relations with Capitol Hill. Despite his highly unconventional approach, and his lack of Capitol Hill experience, many of his appointees and aides could have been selected by any other Republican, and the Senate is responding accordingly.

And even where Trump's surprising approach raises the potential for problems, congressional Republicans are working overtime to paper them over, not highlight them.

"We are in complete sync," House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., insisted Thursday in a discussion about a different topic, health care.

That could change in weeks to come, as the Senate holds hearings on Mnuchin and other more divisive selections. These include conservative Rep. Tom Price for Health and Human Services; Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, a vocal denier of climate change science, to lead the Environmental Protection Agency; and fast-food executive Andrew Puzder to head the Labor Department.

Still, given that it's the Senate, not daytime TV, there may be a limit to the potential for conflict, said Ben Marter, Durbin's communications director. "You have to adjust your excite-o-meter down a little bit, because it's a Senate hearing. It's not Maury Povich."

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Associated Press writers Jennifer Kerr, Kevin Freking and Richard Lardner contributed.

## 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. DEMOCRATS FIND TRUMP'S PICKS MORE REASONABLE THAN TRUMP

If there are going to be fireworks in the Senate over Cabinet nominees, they're yet to come after nearly one week with various statements from some of the picks contradicting Trump's own oft-stated positions on issues.

### 2. DOJ TO RELEASE REPORT ON CHICAGO POLICE ABUSES

Mayor Rahm Emanuel has pushed through some reforms over the year, though the report is likely to call for additional, more sweeping change.

### 3. AL-QAIDA OPERATIVES UNDER SIEGE IN SYRIA

The U.S. is targeting senior commanders of the extremist group at an unprecedented rate, killing more than 50 members and its militant allies in the past two weeks.

### 4. WHAT'S TRIPPING APPLICANTS AT BORDER AGENCY

Only about one of every three job seekers pass U.S. Customs and Border Protection's lie detector, AP finds, raising questions about whether qualified candidates are being treated unfairly.

### 5. 'WET FOOT, DRY FOOT' POLICY OVER

Obama's decision ending automatic legal residency for any Cuban who touches U.S. soil means ordinary citizens have no easy pathway to a new life in America.

### 6. MILLENNIALS WORSE-OFF THAN BABY BOOMERS

With a median household income of \$40,581, they earn 20 percent less than boomers did at the same stage of life, an analysis by Young Invincibles finds.

## 7. NINTENDO SWITCH GAME CONSOLE TO LAUNCH IN MARCH

Players can detach the sides of the remote controller section, use the Switch as a regular handheld, put the display on a table, or use a TV screen as a monitor.

## 8. 'WAITER, I'LL HAVE THE FISH AND CHIRPS'

Farmers are raising alternative livestock that they say are more ecologically sound than meat but that are sure to bug some people out: crickets.

## 9. AVERSE TO TRUMP, POETS FIGHT BACK WITH WORDS

Some, like this weekend's "Writers Resist" rallies, are overtly in protest; others are merely an attempt to find a little solace and beauty in words.

## 10. SKI RESORTS HAVE AN UNUSUAL PROBLEM — TOO MUCH SNOW

Some have even had to close down as resorts in Colorado and elsewhere out West are blanketed in.

## Syria says Israeli strikes hit near airport west of Damascus

By ZEINA KARAM, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria accused Israel of firing rockets early on Friday that hit near a major military airport west of Damascus, triggering a fire, and warned Israel of repercussions without specifying whether it would retaliate for the attack.

The attack was the third such incident recently, according to the Syrian government.

In a statement carried on the official news agency SANA, the Syrian military said several missiles were launched just after midnight from an area near Lake Tiberias.

The rockets fell in the vicinity of the Mezzeh military airport on the western edge of the Syrian capital. The statement did not say whether there were any casualties.

Residents of Damascus reported hearing several explosions that shook the city. The Mezzeh airport compound, located on the southwestern edge of the capital, had been used to launch attacks on rebel-held areas near Damascus and has come previously under rebel fire.

The Syrian army said Israel, through its attacks, was assisting "terrorist groups" fighting the Syrian government.

"The Syrian army command and armed forces warn the Israeli enemy of the repercussions of this blatant attack and stress it will continue its war on terrorism," the statement said.

On Dec. 7, the Syrian government reported Israel fired surface-to-surface missiles that also struck near the Mezzeh airport. A week earlier, SANA said Israeli jets fired two missiles from Lebanese airspace toward the outskirts of Damascus, in the Sabboura area.

The Israeli military has declined to comment on those incidents, and there was no immediate comment on Friday's reported attack.

But Israel is widely believed to have carried out a number of airstrikes in Syria in the past few years that have targeted advanced weapons systems, including Russian-made anti-aircraft missiles and Iranian-made missiles, as well as positions of the Lebanese militant Hezbollah group in Syria.

The Shiite group has sent thousands of its fighters to Syria to support President Bashar Assad's forces in the country's civil war, now in its sixth year.

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman recently reiterated his government's position to not get involved in the Syrian war.

## **Iraqi forces enter Mosul University in battling IS for city**

**By SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press**

IRBIL, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi special forces entered the Mosul University on Friday, a tactical achievement and an incremental step in in battling Islamic State militants for control of the city, according to senior Iraqi officers.

The troops entered the university grounds in the morning hours and managed to secure parts of the compound, which is located in eastern half of Mosul, said two officers, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil confirmed the account and added that Iraqi forces were now fighting fierce battles with IS fighters inside the complex.

The development comes a day after Iraqi army forces north of the city linked up with troops pushing in from the city's eastern edge.

The sprawling university compound, a symbolic landmark in Iraq's second-largest city, was once used by IS militants as a base. Iraqi officials had said that the militants also used the school's chemistry labs to produce chemical weapons.

Iraqi special forces Lt. Gen. Abdul-Wahab al-Saadi told The Associated Press that it is unclear if the complex was still being used as an IS base.

Under heavy bombardment from US-led coalition airstrikes, IS has repeatedly moved bases under cover of civilians. Earlier this month Iraqi forces retook a hospital that had been converted into an IS base.

Meanwhile, south of Mosul, the United Nations warned of an oil spill, near the town of Qayara that was retaken from IS militants in August.

The fight against IS over the past two years in Iraq has left large swaths of destruction in its wake, destroying key buildings and infrastructure.

The warnings came in a report released this week on environmental damages caused by oil fires intentionally started by retreating IS militants.

U.N. satellite images published on Tuesday show environmental damage from the fires. The world body says 11 of the fires have been extinguished, but 29 continue to burn, sending thick black smoke into the air.

The report warns the spill, described as new, is close to a tributary of the Tigris River, which in turn could mean an oil leak into the key artery, and that parts of the spill are on fire.

As the Mosul operation enters its fourth month Iraqi forces have retaken about a third of the city that has been under tight IS control for more than two years. While Iraqi officials initially pledged the city would be "liberated" this year, the fight is likely last many more months.

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Associated Press writer Qassim Abdul-Zahra in Baghdad contributed to this report.

## **Watchdog probe to bring new scrutiny for FBI's Comey**

**By KEN THOMAS and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director James Comey, already under fierce public scrutiny for his handling of the election-year probe of Hillary Clinton, faces a new internal investigation into whether he and the Justice Department followed established protocol in the email server case.

The wide-ranging investigation from the Justice Department's inspector general will focus in part on Comey's decision to announce the findings of the FBI's probe and on two letters he sent to Congress

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in the days before the election that thrust the matter back to the forefront.

It's not clear how long the review will take, but there's no question the investigation will revisit intensely debated decisions the FBI made during the investigation and revive questions of whether the bureau took actions that might have influenced the outcome.

The inspector general's probe also is likely to bring unwanted new attention to Comey, whom some Democrats have partially blamed for Clinton's loss to Trump, at a time when the FBI has been trying to reassert its reputation as an independent and apolitical law enforcement agency.

Comey said he was pleased about the review, which comes in response to requests from members of Congress and the public, and added that the FBI would cooperate fully with the inspector general.

"I hope very much he is able to share his conclusions and observations with the public because everyone will benefit from thoughtful evaluation and transparency regarding this matter," he said in a statement.

Robby Mook, who served as Clinton's campaign manager, said concerns were raised when Comey commented on the investigation and that the release of his letters in the days before the election was "extremely destructive and ended up amounting to nothing whatsoever."

"It's a troubling pattern that the FBI seems to have chosen a horse in this election, and we welcome this investigation so this doesn't happen again," Mook said.

During a Senate Intelligence Committee briefing on Russian hacking, Comey was pressed by lawmakers on his handling of the investigation.

"He explained to us that he was faced with two decisions — one with very bad consequences and the other with disastrous consequences," said Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del. "He chose what he thought was the less harmful consequences to our country."

Inspector General Michael Horowitz's office is one of many independent investigative bodies designed to oversee the conduct of federal departments and agencies. They most commonly seek to ferret out misconduct and fraud in the department or among its contractors. Investigating an agency's top leadership is a rare, but not unheard of, occurrence.

The Justice Department's inspector general investigated Bush-era Attorney General Alberto Gonzales for potential mishandling of classified information and for a scandal involving the firing of U.S. attorneys. A separate probe of the Fast and Furious gun-walking scandal also looked into Obama-era Attorney General Eric Holder's knowledge.

One part of the new review will concern Comey's news conference last July in which he said the FBI would not recommend charges against Clinton for her use of a private email system during her tenure as secretary of state. Trump repeatedly criticized that practice, contending it put national security secrets at risk, and raised the investigation repeatedly at his raucous rallies.

Despite the recommendation, Comey publicly chastised Clinton and her aides as "extremely careless" in their email practices. It's highly unusual for federal law enforcement officials to discuss details of a criminal case that ends without charges being filed.

Comey reignited the email controversy on Oct. 28 when he informed Congress that agents would be reviewing a cache of emails between Clinton aide Huma Abedin and Clinton for any new evidence related to Clinton's handling of sensitive State Department material.

That move boiled in the campaign for nine days, before Comey announced on Nov. 6 — two days before Election Day — that the inquiry had found no new evidence of wrongdoing.

Clinton and her aides have said the disclosure of the "new" emails, found on a laptop belonging to former New York Rep. Anthony Weiner, Abedin's estranged husband, hurt the candidate in several battleground states. Trump won the election in part with narrow victories in Democratic-leaning states



like Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Comey's statements prompted outrage from Clinton and other Democrats who said they needlessly placed her under fresh suspicion when the FBI didn't even know whether the emails were relevant.

Weiner's laptop was initially seized by agents for an investigation into his online relationship with a teenage girl in North Carolina.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz, a Utah Republican who leads the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, wrote Thursday on Twitter that he supports the IG's review "of what happened at the (hashtag) DOJ and (hashtag)FBI during the Clinton investigation."

Horowitz's broad investigation will also look into allegations that the FBI's deputy director should have been recused from participating in certain investigative matters and allegations that department officials improperly disclosed non-public information to the Clinton campaign.

It will also delve into decision-making related to the timing of the FBI's release of Freedom of Information Act documents in the days before the election and the use of a Twitter account to publicize them.

Asked about the new investigation, Attorney General Loretta Lynch told The Associated Press in Baltimore that "we let them conduct their review before we make any statement about that." She added that "obviously everyone's going to await the results of that."

## **DOJ to release report on Chicago police abuses**

**By MICHAEL TARM and DON BABWIN, Associated Press**

CHICAGO (AP) — The Justice Department plans to release a major report Friday on the Chicago Police Department after a yearlong civil rights investigation, one that is expected to find a pattern and practice of violations over many years.

Officials from the DOJ in Washington, D.C., and from the U.S. attorney's office in Chicago were expected to make the report public on Friday. Based on similar reports on other cities, Chicago's is likely to run well over 100 pages.

The DOJ launched its investigation of the 12,000-officer force — one of the nation's largest — in 2015 the wake of a video showing a white officer fatally shooting black teenager Laquan McDonald 16 times. The video prompted protests and calls for radical reforms.

An official familiar with the report has told The Associated Press the report would find Chicago police violated constitutional rights over years, but declined to offer details. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel has pushed through some reforms since the investigation began, including an overhaul of a police oversight body and issuing body cameras to officers on patrol. But the report is expected to call for additional, more sweeping changes.

A report typically led during President Barack Obama's administration to reform plans negotiated with cities, then enforced by judges. How President-elect Donald Trump's administration handles Chicago's case will be an early test of its commitment to reforms.

The Obama DOJ has conducted 25 such investigations of police from Miami to Cleveland and Baltimore to Seattle.

Havana hails end to special US immigration policy for Cubans

By ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, ALICIA A. CALDWELL and JULIE PACE, Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The Cuban government hailed President Barack Obama's decision ending automatic legal residency for any Cuban who touches U.S. soil, while ordinary citizens mourned the end of an easy pathway to a new life in the United States.

Average Cubans and opponents of the island's communist leaders said they expected pressure for

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reform to increase with the elimination of a mechanism that siphoned off the island's most dissatisfied citizens and turned them into sources of remittances supporting relatives who remained on the island.

The repeal of the "wet foot, dry foot" policy went into effect immediately after a Thursday afternoon announcement. It followed months of negotiations focused in part on getting Cuba to agree to take back people who had arrived in the U.S.

Cubans fearful of an imminent end to a special immigration status bestowed during the Cold War had been flocking to the United States since the Dec. 17, 2014 announcement that the U.S. and Cuba would re-establish diplomatic relations and move toward normalization. About 100,000 left for the United States after the declaration of detente, many flooding overland through South and Central America and Mexico in an exodus that irritated U.S. allies and other immigrant groups and spawned bitter complaints from the Cuban government.

"It was creating serious problems for the security of Cuba, for the security of the United States and for the security of our citizens left vulnerable to human trafficking, migratory fraud and violence as a result of the incentives created by these preferential policies," said Josefina Vidal, Cuba's top diplomat for U.S. affairs.

Obama is using an administrative rule change to end the policy. Donald Trump could undo that rule after becoming president next week. He has criticized Obama's moves to improve relations with Cuba. But ending a policy that has allowed hundreds of thousands of people to come to the United States without a visa also aligns with Trump's commitment to tough immigration policies.

"This was bound to happen at some point," said Havana taxi driver Guillermo Britos, 35. "It could impose a more normal dynamic on emigration, so that not so many people die at sea, but it could also take an escape valve away from the government, which was getting hard currency from the emigrants."

President Bill Clinton created the "wet foot, dry foot" policy in 1995 as a revision of a more liberal immigration policy that allowed Cubans caught at sea to come to the United States become legal residents in a year.

The two governments have been negotiating an end to "wet foot, dry foot" for months and finalized an agreement Thursday.

"Effective immediately, Cuban nationals who attempt to enter the United States illegally and do not qualify for humanitarian relief will be subject to removal, consistent with U.S. law and enforcement priorities," Obama said in a statement. "By taking this step, we are treating Cuban migrants the same way we treat migrants from other countries. The Cuban government has agreed to accept the return of Cuban nationals who have been ordered removed, just as it has been accepting the return of migrants interdicted at sea."

A decades-old U.S. economic embargo, though, remains in place, as does the Cuban Adjustment Act, which lets Cubans become permanent residents a year after legally arriving in the U.S.

Under the terms of the agreement, Cuba has agreed to take back those turned away from the U.S., if the time between their departure from Cuba and the start of deportation hearings in the U.S. is four years or less. Officials said the timeframe is required under a Cuban law enacted after Congress passed the Cuban Adjustment Act.

Administration officials called on Congress to repeal the Cuban Adjustment Act.

Officials said the changes would not affect a lottery that allows 20,000 Cubans to come to the U.S. legally each year.

But Cubans who had left their homeland and were trying to reach U.S. soil when the decision was announced lamented the policy change.

"It has fallen on us like a bucket of water because we were never thought that at this point and with

so little time before Obama leaves office that his government would make this horrible decision," said Eugenia Diaz Hernandez, a 55-year-old Cuban in Panama whose voyage with her daughter and granddaughter had taken her through Guyana, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia. "We are adrift."

Relations between the United States and Cuba were stuck in a Cold War freeze for decades, but Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro established full diplomatic ties and opened embassies in their capitals in 2015. Obama visited Havana last March. Officials from both nations met Thursday in Washington to coordinate efforts to fight human trafficking.

Obama said the Cuban Medical Professional Parole Program, which was started by President George W. Bush in 2006, is also being rescinded. The measure allowed Cuban doctors, nurses and other medical professionals to seek parole in the U.S. while on assignments abroad. The president said those doctors can still apply for asylum at U.S. embassies around the world.

People already in the United States and in the pipeline under both "wet foot, dry foot" and the medical parole program will be able to continue the process toward getting legal status.

Anti-Castro Cubans in Miami were mixed in their responses, with some expressing anger at Obama for what they called another betrayal of ordinary Cubans. Others said they thought the measure would increase pressure for change in Cuba.

"People who can't leave, they could create internal problems for the regime," said Jorge Gutierrez, an 80-year-old veteran of the Bay of Pigs invasion. But he added, "From the humanitarian point of view, it's taking away the possibility of a better future from the people who are struggling in Cuba."

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a Florida Republican who emigrated from Cuba as a child, decried the elimination of the medical parole programs, calling it a "foolhardy concession to a regime that sends its doctors to foreign nations in a modern-day indentured servitude."

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Associated Press writers Matthew Lee and Kevin Freking in Washington, Gisela Salomon and Michael Weissenstein in Miami and Bill Barrow in Atlanta.

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## **Obama ends visa-free path for Cubans who make it to US soil**

**By ALICIA A. CALDWELL and JULIE PACE, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama announced Thursday he is ending a longstanding immigration policy that allows any Cuban who makes it to U.S. soil to stay and become a legal resident.

The repeal of the "wet foot, dry foot" policy is effective immediately. The decision follows months of negotiations focused in part on getting Cuba to agree to take back people who had arrived in the U.S.

"Effective immediately, Cuban nationals who attempt to enter the United States illegally and do not qualify for humanitarian relief will be subject to removal, consistent with U.S. law and enforcement priorities," Obama said in a statement. "By taking this step, we are treating Cuban migrants the same way we treat migrants from other countries. The Cuban government has agreed to accept the return of Cuban nationals who have been ordered removed, just as it has been accepting the return of migrants interdicted at sea."

The Cuban government praised the move. In a statement read on state television, it called the signing of the agreement "an important step in advancing relations" between the U.S. and Cuba that "aims to guarantee normal, safe and ordered migration."

Obama is using an administrative rule change to end the policy. Donald Trump could undo that rule

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after becoming president next week. He has criticized Obama's moves to improve relations with Cuba. But ending a policy that has allowed hundreds of thousands of people to come to the United States without a visa also aligns with Trump's commitment to tough immigration policies.

President Bill Clinton created "wet foot, dry foot" policy in 1995 as a revision of a more liberal immigration policy that allowed Cubans caught at sea to come to the United States become legal residents in a year.

The two governments have been negotiating an end to "wet foot, dry foot" for months and finalized an agreement Thursday. A decades-old U.S. economic embargo, though, remains in place, as does the Cuban Adjustment Act, which lets Cubans become permanent residents a year after legally arriving in the U.S.

Under the terms of the agreement, Cuba has agreed to take back those turned away from the U.S., if the time between their departure from Cuba and the start of deportation hearings in the U.S. is four years or less. Officials said the timeframe is required under a Cuban law enacted after Congress passed the Cuban Adjustment Act.

"For this to work, the Cubans had to agree to take people back," said Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser.

Administration officials called on Congress to repeal the Cuban Adjustment Act.

Officials said the changes would not affect a lottery that allows 20,000 Cubans to come to the U.S. legally each year. But Rhodes cast the shift as a necessary step toward Cuba's economic and political development.

"It's important that Cuba continue to have a young, dynamic population that are clearly serving as agents of change," he said.

Rhodes also cited an uptick in Cuban migration, particularly across the U.S.-Mexico border — an increase many have attributed to an expectation among Cubans that the Obama administration would soon move to end their special immigration status.

Since October 2012, more than 118,000 Cubans have presented themselves at ports of entry along the border, according to statistics published by the Homeland Security Department, including more than 48,000 people who arrived between October 2015 and November 2016.

Relations between the United States and Cuba were stuck in a Cold War freeze for decades, but Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro established full diplomatic ties and opened embassies in their capitals in 2015. Obama visited Havana last March. Officials from both nations met Thursday in Washington to coordinate efforts to fight human trafficking.

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"By providing preferential treatment to Cuban medical personnel, the medical parole program ... risks harming the Cuban people," Obama said.

People already in the United States and in the pipeline under both "wet foot, dry foot" and the medical parole program will be able to continue the process toward getting legal status.

Reaction to the announcement in Havana was muted Thursday afternoon.

"This was bound to happen at some point," said taxi driver Guillermo Britos, 35. "It could impose a more normal dynamic on emigration, so that not so many people die at sea, but it could also take an escape valve away from the government, which was getting hard currency from the emigrants."

Anti-Castro Cubans in Miami were mixed in their responses, with some expressing anger at Obama

for what they called another betrayal of ordinary Cubans. Others said they thought the measure would increase pressure for change in Cuba.

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Associated Press writers Matthew Lee and Kevin Freking in Washington, Gisela Salomon and Michael Weissenstein in Miami, Bill Barrow in Atlanta and correspondent Andrea Rodriguez in Havana contributed to this report.

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## Officials: More than 40 percent of California out of drought

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — More than 40 percent of California is out of drought, federal drought-watchers said Thursday at the tail end of powerful storms that sent thousands of people fleeing from flooding rivers in the north, unleashed burbling waterfalls in southern deserts, and doubled the vital snowpack in the Sierra Nevada in little more than a week.

Declaring California as a whole to be past its official three-year drought emergency will be up to Gov. Jerry Brown, who will probably wait until the end of the winter rain and snow season to make that decision.

But for people in northern cities such as Sacramento, where state workers opened flood gates to ease pressure on levees for the first time in a dozen years, releasing a two-mile-wide torrent of excess water from the surging Sacramento River, the call on declaring the dry spell over in Northern California looked much clearer.

"It's hard to say we have a drought here right now," said Jay Lund, director of the Center for Watershed Sciences at the University of California at Davis.

Lund spoke as he returned from taking students to see the wrenched-open, century-old flood gates in Sacramento, which got its heaviest rain in 20 years this week.

The weekly drought report by federal and academic water experts showed 42 percent of the state had emerged from drought. This time last year, only 3 percent of California was out of drought.

Southern California, which is also receiving welcome rain from the storms, remains in drought but experienced a dramatic reduction in severity.

Just 2 percent of the entire state, a swath between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, remains in the sharpest category of drought that includes drying wells, reservoirs and streams and widespread crop losses. Forty-three percent of the state was in that direst category this time a year ago.

The Cachuma reservoir near still-arid Santa Barbara was at just 8 percent of capacity, even as authorities at Northern California's Shasta Dam opened spillways for the first time in six years to make room for more water to come.

Like many people in Northern California, winery tasting-room supervisor Nate Hayes went out to mar-



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vel when this week's heavy rains started and enjoyed taking his canoe down the flooded streets of his town of Rohnert Park.

By Thursday, Hayes and others were tired of the rockslides and mudslides complicating commutes and the round-the-clock downpours keeping everyone inside.

"We're all really excited for the rain," Hayes said. "But at the same time we kind of want it to be over."

Forecasters said the heaviest of storms fueled by an "atmospheric river" weather phenomenon had passed after delivering the biggest downpours in a decade.

"Everything is on the way down," said Steve Anderson, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Monterey.

A rare Sierra blizzard at the start of the week brought the mountains their heaviest snowfall in six years. Runoff from the mountains provides Californians with much of their year-round water supply. Stations up and down the mountain chain were reporting twice the amount of normal rain and snow for this time of year.

Overall, reservoirs were brimming above average for the first time in six years.

"It's been so wet in some places this winter we would do pretty well even if it tapered off right now," said Daniel Swain, a fellow at the University of California at Los Angeles whose weather blog has been a closely watched chronicle of the drought.

Water experts look at factors including soil moisture, stream levels and snowpack in determining drought, said Claudia Faunt, a San Diego-based hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

At the peak of the drought in 2014 and 2015, urban Californians were under a mandatory 25 percent water conservation order from Brown. Threatened native species suffered as waterways shriveled. More than 100 million trees in the Sierra Nevada died.

Warming temperatures associated with climate change increasingly are eating away at the Sierra snowpack. California's underground water reserves have been so depleted by extra pumping that they would take decades, at a minimum, to replenish.

With nearly 40 million urban water users and a huge agricultural industry, drought in California is part nature and part human behavior, said Bill Patzert, a climatologist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"Are these storms giving us drought relief? No doubt, but it's a quick fix. In the long term, solving the drought problem in California will be a political problem," Patzert said.

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Associated Press writers Janie Har in San Francisco and John Antczak in Los Angeles, contributed to this report.

## Trump plan to donate foreign hotel profits can't be checked

By JULIE BYKOWICZ, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's a public relations win for the president-elect: Donald Trump's company says it will donate profits from any foreign governments that use his hotels. In practice, however, the public may never know if any money changes hands.

Trump says he is making the move to avoid the appearance that foreign governments can curry favor with him by using his hotels — including one that just opened a short walk from the White House.

"This way, it is the American people who will profit," said Sheri Dillion, a lawyer working with the Trump Organization, as she outlined Trump's plan for his global business empire while he's president. The hotel-profits money would be sent the U.S. Treasury.

Yet the unusual arrangement left many ethics experts with questions about how it would be imple-

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mented, disclosed and enforced. Several panned the idea as an unenforceable PR move.

One key question was about Trump's definitions.

The donations pledge only includes his hotels, meaning golf courses and other properties are exempt. The policy appears to apply only to "foreign governments," — a narrow description that seems to overlook governments that use a third-party vendor to do business with Trump. (It does not apply to domestic interests, including companies that may have regulatory business before the government, or domestic lobbyists.)

And then there is the focus on "profit." Steven Carvell, a Cornell University School of Hotel Administration professor, said it's not impossible — but is challenging and unusual — to try to calculate "profit" on an individual room or venue rental. Typically, that's assessed monthly or quarterly and for an entire category — such as the rooms or food and beverage department — within a property.

"It's a monumental task to constantly run this down," Carvell said. "Even if the company is trying its hardest and making its very best effort, it will be difficult to fulfill that goal."

Through a spokeswoman at her firm, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, Dillon declined to answer questions about the foreign donations pledge. Representatives of the Trump Organization did not return requests for comment, and a transition official answered select questions but requested anonymity to discuss the company's internal policies.

The official suggested profit from foreign governments "is already accounted for as standard practice for things like competitive analysis."

U.S. presidents are not subject to the conflict of interest laws that their own appointees must follow, but until now they have followed them anyway to set an example. Trump is blazing a different trail by refusing to give up a financial interest in his company while turning over the reins to his adult sons and a senior executive.

The policy is crafted to address the argument that Trump's business may not break conflict-of-interest law but does violate the U.S. Constitution.

Some ethics attorneys have argued that some of his international work and foreign government guests at his hotels will put him in violation of the emoluments clause of the Constitution. The clause prohibits presidents from accepting gifts and payments from foreign governments without congressional approval.

Trump's lawyer argues that fair-value exchanges, such as leasing venue space at a hotel, do not violate the clause.

"No one would have thought when the Constitution was written that paying your hotel bill was an emolument," Dillon said. Still, she said, Trump was taking this step "to put to rest any concerns."

Just since Election Day, the Embassy of Bahrain and the Kuwaiti Embassy have booked parties at Trump's Washington hotel. The transition official said the company had not yet determined if the donations rule will extend beyond foreign governments to include other foreign actors such as members of a royal family or government-controlled businesses.

Trump and his representatives didn't discuss how anyone might know if they're doing what they promise.

Like other aspects of the self-imposed arrangement, that's largely a matter of faith. And Trump hasn't followed through on previous charity pledges, including a failure to give a promised \$6 million to veterans' organizations last year until months later when reporters asked questions about what had happened to the money.

Trump did not commit to disclosing what money was being turned over to the government. The

transition official believes the donations will be made "on an annual basis." The Treasury Department doesn't typically report the details of donations, citing the privacy of its donors.

Andy Grewal, a University of Iowa law professor whose position that Trump's hotels do not violate the emoluments clause was cited in Dillon's briefing Wednesday, said the company should take steps to make clear what it's doing. Ideally, he said, one of the major accounting firms would calculate profit on the transactions that trigger the donations and report its findings publicly.

"Once you've promised to turn over the profits, you have to back that up with documentation, whether you're required to do that or not," he said.

The government first established an account to accept gifts and bequests in 1843. The Treasury Department will accept contributions via credit card, debit card, checks and even PayPal. In fiscal 2016, people donated \$2.7 million to reduce the debt, an impressive gesture but hardly a scratch on the \$14.1 trillion publicly held debt, according to Treasury Department figures.

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Associated Press writers Chad Day and Josh Boak in Washington contributed to this report. Follow Julie Bykowicz on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/bykowicz>

## **In tearful farewell, Obama awards Biden the Medal of Freedom**

**By JOSH LEDERMAN and VIVIAN SALAMA, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — At the dusk of both of their political careers, surrounded by teary friends and family, President Barack Obama on Thursday bestowed the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Joe Biden, the man he called "the finest vice president we have ever seen."

The vice president winced in shock as Obama announced he was conferring the nation's highest civil honor on his right-hand-man for eight years. Biden turned away from the cameras, wiped away some tears, then stood stoically as Obama draped the blue-and-white ribbon around his neck.

"I just hope that the asterisk in history that is attached to my name when they talk about this presidency is that I can say I was part of the journey of a remarkable man who did remarkable things for this country," Biden said.

There were standing ovations — several of them — at what had been billed as a modest farewell ceremony for Biden but evolved into a surprise bestowal of the Medal of Freedom, the last time Obama will present the honor.

"I had no idea," Biden said of the award, insisting he didn't deserve it.

It was the only time Obama has presented the medal "with distinction," also awarded only once by each of the previous three presidents.

One week out from the Obama administration's end, a deep sense of nostalgia set in at the White House as longtime staffers pack up their offices, send out their last emails and bid farewell to the president they've served. On Tuesday, Obama returned home to Chicago to deliver his valedictory address, and next week he'll depart Washington as ex-president just after President-elect Donald Trump is sworn in.

Obama, joined Thursday by his wife and daughters, was effusive in his praise for the man who ran against him in 2008, then agreed to be his running mate. He said Biden had made him a better president, calling him "a lion of American history."

"To know Joe Biden is to know love without pretense, service without self-regard and to live life fully," Obama said.

The famously plainspoken Biden has long said he only agreed to the job after Obama agreed he would be the last person in the room before major decisions were made. Over two terms, they developed a

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bond that both men said transcended the office, with their wives, children and Biden's grandchildren becoming close friends.

They disagreed, too, on occasion, including when Biden advocated against the high-stakes raid that killed Osama bin Laden. Biden's tendency to veer off-script caused occasional headaches for the White House, such as when he unexpectedly announced support for gay marriage in advance of the 2012 re-election, forcing Obama to do the same soon after.

Yet as they gathered for a final goodbye, none of that seemed on either man's mind.

Obama said there had been "no turf wars between our staffs," a departure from other recent administrations. And Biden told the story of how after his son Beau Biden died in 2015, leaving behind a wife and children, Obama was distraught when Biden said he might sell his house to help support them, and offered to give them money instead.

It was a reunion for the many staffers and colleagues who worked with Biden over the years. Joining Biden's wife, sister and children in the State Dining Room were former Sens. Chris Dodd and Ted Kaufman, former chief of staff Bruce Reed, and even Biden's White House physician.

Obama traced the history of Biden's nearly half-century-long political career, from chairing the Senate Judiciary and Foreign Relations committees to the "cancer moonshot" effort he started recently and plans to continue. Obama praised his vice president for his work on the economic stimulus, middle-class issues and curbing violence against women.

"I've not mentioned Amtrak yet, or aviators. 'Literally,'" Obama said, invoking a few of the more famous "Bidenisms."

Biden's career in Washington started in 1972 steeped in tragedy when his wife and infant daughter died in a car crash just before he was to be sworn in as U.S. senator. After exiting the national stage next week, he plans to stay active in Democratic politics and work on policy issues at a pair of institutes he's developing at the University of Delaware and the University of Pennsylvania.

His folksy demeanor lent itself to plenty of jokes and caricatures, like the series of photos of Biden eating ice cream that exploded on social media. But Obama seemed fonder of the internet meme based on photos of him and Biden buddying it up.

"This also gives the internet one last chance to talk about our bromance," the president said.

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## West Virginia faces questions about its own rich politician

By JONATHAN MATTISE and MICHAEL VIRTANEN, Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP) — Some of the conflict-of-interest issues swirling around President-elect Donald Trump in Washington are playing out on a smaller scale in West Virginia, where the richest man in the state — an Appalachian coal baron with real estate, resort and farm holdings, too — is about to be sworn in as governor.

Democratic Gov.-elect Jim Justice, like Trump, has refused to shed his holdings, giving assurances he can be trusted to act honorably. Like Trump, he has put his business empire in the hands of family members, though he said as recently as last month that he would put his holdings in a blind trust.

So far, his arm's-length management approach, like Trump's, has fallen short of what some ethics watchdogs would prefer to see.

"It sounds like he's taking a page out of President-elect Trump's book, which may try to remove the conflict of interest, but in actuality, it does not," said Scott Amey, general counsel for the nonprofit

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watchdog group Project on Government Oversight. "As long as he has an ownership interest in any of his business, he will always be conflicted and subject to controversy and litigation."

One difference in West Virginia, though, is that Justice, like some other governors around the country, is subject to more stringent conflict-of-interest rules than even the president of the United States, who is exempt from the provisions that apply to Cabinet members and other government employees.

West Virginia ethics law prohibits public officials, the governor included, from knowingly using their offices for their own private gain or that of someone else. State regulations also bar public officials from profiting from state contracts over which they may have control.

A number of states have seen similar controversies because so many have elected rich people as governor. Florida Republican Rick Scott, elected in 2010, put his assets in a blind trust and sold off a chain of urgent care clinics amid criticism that he could benefit from state Medicaid policies and his proposals to force state workers and welfare recipients to take drug tests.

Justice has almost 100 businesses in his name, raising ethical questions about how state agencies that answer to him will regulate the safety of his coal mines, consider the tourism tax breaks at his resort, or pursue millions of dollars in past-due state taxes owed by some of his entities. (He says he will pay everything back.)

"My businesses are wide-reaching," Justice, who is worth an estimated \$1.6 billion, told reporters in December. "I'm going to try to remove myself completely. In fact, I'm going to remove myself completely from the daily decisions, the decisions that they make."

A few months ago, his daughter, Jill Justice, was named president of the Greenbrier Resort, which her father bought out of bankruptcy in 2009. His son, Jay Justice, handles his coal and agriculture operations.

"But I want you to realize just this: What is the alternative?" Justice asked. "I mean, is it best to just close the businesses that I have? They generate tens and tens and tens of millions of dollars to our state. It would be frivolous to do that. It'd be absolutely the stupidest thing in the world to do."

He added: "I don't want a thing — and absolutely I want to underline that — you can't bring me anything to my business that's going to be beneficial to me in any way."

(Justice, in another echo of Trump, has refused the Charleston Gazette-Mail newspaper's request to release his tax returns.)

Justice said in mid-December that he would put his assets in a blind trust, as former Govs. Jay Rockefeller and Gaston Caperton did, an arrangement in which the investor is kept in the dark about his own holdings. But as of Thursday, the state Ethics Commission said it had not received a request to approve a blind trust for Justice.

The financial disclosure form he filed last January as a candidate in his first run for statewide office listed holdings in 50 investments, including Google and U.S. Steel.

Justice listed 22 state contracts with his Greenbrier and Glade Springs resorts and his charity, which operates a pro golf tournament at The Greenbrier. In May, Justice requested that the golf tournament no longer receive a \$1.75 million state sponsorship.

On Wednesday, a lawyer with the Trump Organization said Trump's businesses will keep pursuing deals in the U.S., but not abroad. Trump plans to put his business empire in a trust and turn control over to his two adult sons and a longtime business executive.

That's still short of selling his assets and putting his cash in a blind trust overseen by independent managers, as many recent presidents have done.

In Tennessee, Republican Gov. Bill Haslam, with a fortune estimated by Forbes magazine at \$2 billion, has announced he will create a blind trust for his private investments — except for his undisclosed



shares in a real estate holding outside Tennessee and his family-owned Pilot Flying J, the nation's largest diesel retailer.

Haslam was heavily criticized by rivals during his 2010 bid for refusing to release tax returns or disclose his earnings from Pilot. He argued that releasing his Pilot earnings would reveal personal information about family members not running for office as well as proprietary information about the privately held company.

On the day he was sworn into office, Haslam signed an executive order scuttling requirements for the governor and top aides to disclose how much they earn in outside income.

Mattise reported from Nashville, along with Associated Press writer Erik Schelzig.

## Watchdog to probe Comey's, FBI's actions before election

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In yet another aftershock from the chaotic presidential campaign, the Justice Department inspector general opened an investigation Thursday into department and FBI actions before the election, including whether FBI Director James Comey followed established policies in the email investigation of Hillary Clinton.

Democrats have blamed Comey's handling of the inquiry into Clinton's use of a private email server, and his late-October public letter about the case, in part for her loss to Republican Donald Trump.

Workers are now putting final touches on preparations for next week's Inauguration Day festivities, and the new probe will not change the election results. But it revives questions of whether the FBI took actions that might have influenced the outcome.

Inspector General Michael Horowitz, the department's internal watchdog, will direct the investigation, which comes in response to requests from members of Congress and the public.

Comey said he was pleased about the review and the FBI would cooperate fully with the inspector general.

"I hope very much he is able to share his conclusions and observations with the public because everyone will benefit from thoughtful evaluation and transparency regarding this matter," he said in a statement.

Robby Mook, who served as Clinton's campaign manager, said it had raised concerns when Comey commented on the investigation and said the release of his letters in the days before the election was "extremely destructive and ended up amounting to nothing whatsoever."

"It's a troubling pattern that the FBI seems to have chosen a horse in this election, and we welcome this investigation so this doesn't happen again," Mook said.

During a Senate Intelligence Committee briefing on Russian hacking, Comey was pressed by lawmakers of his handling of the investigation. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., said Comey "defended it very well ... he put the facts out there, and hindsight being 20/20, he said these are the facts I had to deal with, and these are the decisions I made, I'm sorry if someone takes offense."

"He explained to us that he was faced with two decisions — one with very bad consequences and the other with disastrous consequences," said Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del. "He chose what he thought was the less harmful consequences to our country."

Horowitz's office is one of many independent investigative bodies designed to oversee the conduct of federal departments and agencies. They most commonly seek to ferret out misconduct and fraud in the department or among its contractors. Investigating an agency's top leadership is a rare, but not unheard of, occurrence.

One part of the review will concern Comey's news conference last July in which he said the FBI would

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not recommend charges against Clinton for her use of a private email system during her tenure as secretary of state. Trump repeatedly criticized that practice, contending it put national security secrets at risk.

Trump also declared at raucous rallies during the campaign that he would seek a special prosecutor to investigate Clinton and that she would be in jail if he were elected. But he said after the election that he did not intend to seek a new investigation of her.

Comey, during his announcement in the summer, broke protocol when he chastised Clinton and her aides as "extremely careless" in their email practices. It's highly unusual for federal law enforcement officials to discuss a criminal case that ends without charges being filed.

Comey reignited the email controversy on Oct. 28 when he informed Congress that agents would be reviewing a cache of emails between Clinton aide Huma Abedin and Clinton for any new evidence related to Clinton's handling of sensitive State Department material.

That move boiled in the campaign for nine days, before Comey announced on Nov. 6 — two days before Election Day — that the inquiry had found no new evidence of wrongdoing.

Clinton and her aides have said the disclosure of the "new" emails, found on a laptop belonging to former New York Rep. Anthony Weiner, Abedin's estranged husband, hurt the candidate in several battleground states. Trump won the election in part with narrow victories in Democratic-leaning states like Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Comey's statements prompted outrage from Clinton and other Democrats who said they needlessly placed her under fresh suspicion when the FBI didn't even know whether the emails were relevant.

Court documents released last month said the FBI had been trying to get a look at thousands of Clinton's emails on the disgraced former congressman's computer to see if anyone had hacked in to steal classified information. Weiner's laptop was initially seized by agents for an investigation into his online relationship with a teenage girl in North Carolina.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz, a Utah Republican who leads the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, wrote Thursday on Twitter that he supports the IG's review "of what happened at the (hashtag) DOJ and (hashtag)FBI during the Clinton investigation."

Horowitz's broad investigation will also look into allegations that the FBI's deputy director should have been recused from participating in certain investigative matters and allegations that department officials improperly disclosed non-public information to the Clinton campaign.

It will also delve into decision-making related to the timing of the FBI's release of Freedom of Information Act documents in the days before the election and the use of a Twitter account to publicize them.

Asked about the new investigation, Attorney General Loretta Lynch told The Associated Press in Baltimore that "we let them conduct their review before we make any statement about that." She added that "obviously everyone's going to await the results of that."

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Associated Press writers Eric Tucker in Baltimore and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

## San Diego Chargers are no more after leaving for Los Angeles

By BERNIE WILSON, AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Chargers fans knew for several years that this dreaded day could be coming, that their beloved NFL team might move up the freeway to tap the perceived riches of Los Angeles.

That didn't make it any easier Thursday, when the San Diego Chargers ceased to exist after 56 seasons.

They're now the Los Angeles Chargers, set to join the recently relocated Rams to give the nation's

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second-largest media market two NFL teams for the first time since 1994.

Team chairman Dean Spanos, who tried to move to LA a year earlier, announced the move to his employees at a morning meeting at Chargers Park. At the same time, the team posted a letter on its Twitter account, which was rebranded as the Los Angeles Chargers.

Just like that, decades worth of Sunday afternoons spent cheering original AFL stars Lance Alworth and Keith Lincoln; Air Coryell guys like Dan Fouts, Kellen Winslow and Charlie Joiner; and on through to Junior Seau and LaDainian Tomlinson, became even more distant — and now bittersweet — memories.

The Chargers were born in Los Angeles in 1960 and were moved to San Diego the following year by Barron Hilton. They gave San Diego a unique identity, with the distinctive lightning bolt logo on their helmets and powder blue jerseys. Alworth, known as “Bambi,” and Keith Lincoln, the “Moose of the Palouse,” helped deliver the 1963 AFL title, the city’s only major championship.

In a statement, Spanos lauded the passion of the fans. “But today, we turn the page and begin an exciting new era as the Los Angeles Chargers,” he said.

In return, fans lashed out at the family that bought the team in 1984.

As Spanos was driven to the airport to fly to Los Angeles to meet with civic officials, Chuck Homenick got close to the SUV and yelled an obscenity.

Homenick said Spanos’ decision was “pretty horrible. Born and raised here in San Diego and been going to these games, and just can’t believe they’re leaving,” Homenick said. “I knew the decision was coming up soon and I was hoping they were going to stay. Business decision, but when it comes to money vs. fan support and loyalty, they’re not going to have much fan support up in L.A.”

Joseph MacRae held a sign that read, “Alex Spanos would never leave SD! You failed us Dean.” Chargers owner Alex Spanos turned over control to son Dean years ago.

“It’s really a dark day in San Diego sports history,” said MacRae, 30, who wore a Chargers jacket. He said he’d been going to Chargers games since he was 7. “That’s what it was all about, September through December, football on Sundays.”

Throughout the day, more fans gathered at Chargers Park. Many tossed jerseys, hats and shirts onto a growing pile in the parking lot. Someone tossed a helmet onto the pile and began smashing it with a piece of wood.

While many fans still supported the team despite several seasons of lackluster performances, they were angry at Spanos for his scorched-earth tactics the last two years.

The move had been in the works for years, as a long, bitter saga failed to result in a replacement for aging Qualcomm Stadium.

The Chargers’ decision to move comes less than three months after San Diego voters resoundingly rejected team-sponsored Measure C asking for \$1.15 billion in increased hotel occupancy taxes to help fund a \$1.8 billion downtown stadium and convention center annex.

The Chargers privately admitted they believed Measure C wouldn’t pass. Spanos had spent 2015 trying to get approval for a stadium in Carson near Los Angeles that the Chargers would share with the rival Oakland Raiders. That plan was voted down by fellow owners, but the Chargers were then granted the option to move to LA.

Civic leaders were angry at Spanos.

Mayor Kevin Faulconer said the Chargers could have worked out their differences on financing a new stadium but the team insisted on more taxpayer money than the city could ever agree to spend.

“In sports, teams win and individuals lose. The Chargers were ultimately never willing to work with us as a team so we could achieve shared success,” Faulconer said. “Dean Spanos made a bad decision, and he will regret it. San Diego didn’t lose the Chargers. The Chargers just lost San Diego.”

San Diego County Supervisor Ron Roberts said the Chargers quickly dismissed proposals by local

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leaders for a new stadium at the team's existing site and launched a "quixotic quest" for a downtown stadium without any public input. He said voters wisely rejected the Chargers' plans.

"We have a lot of great memories but, when it comes to the public treasury, there are limits to what you're willing to do to keep something like this here," Roberts said.

"I can't sugarcoat this. This is a very disappointing day for us. It's a day in infamy in sports history here in San Diego," said Roberts, who turned emotional at times and compared Spanos to Donald Sterling, who moved the NBA's Clippers from San Diego to Los Angeles in 1984.

Even San Diego State University President Elliot Hirshman expressed sympathy for Chargers fans. "I am truly sorry, and you do not deserve this," he said.

"We had countless good-faith discussions (with the Chargers). Unfortunately, we didn't have a good-faith partner," he said.

SDSU also plays football at Qualcomm Stadium. The school is interested in expanding onto the Qualcomm Stadium site, including a new stadium that could be shared with an MLS team.

Other pro sports teams piled on about a new logo the Chargers unveiled Thursday, an interlocking LA similar to the Dodgers logo.

It's unclear if the team will keep that logo, but the Dallas Stars and Tampa Bay Lightning were among teams poking fun at the logo change on Twitter.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a statement that the Chargers worked "tirelessly" to try to find a stadium solution. "That work — and the years of effort that preceded it — reflects our strongly held belief we always should do everything we can to keep a franchise in its community. That's why we have a deliberate and thoughtful process for making these decisions," Goodell said.

"Relocation is painful for teams and communities. It is especially painful for fans, and the fans in San Diego have given the Chargers strong and loyal support for more than 50 years, which makes it even more disappointing that we could not solve the stadium issue. As difficult as the news is for Charger fans, I know Dean Spanos and his family did everything they could to try to find a viable solution in San Diego."

The Chargers will become a tenant in the stadium being built in Inglewood for the Rams. Before then, the Chargers will make their temporary home at the 27,000-seat StubHub Center in Carson.

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Associated Press Writer Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed.

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## **GOP leaders look to early health care bill, details vague**

**By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Under mounting pressure from Donald Trump and rank-and-file Republicans, congressional leaders are talking increasingly about chiseling an early bill that dismantles President Barack Obama's health care law and begins to supplant it with their own vision of how the nation's \$3 trillion-a-year medical system should work.

Yet even as Republicans said they will pursue their paramount 2017 goal aggressively, leaders left plenty of wiggle room Thursday about exactly what they will do. Their caution underscored persistent divisions over how to recraft a law they've tried erasing since its 2010 enactment, plus their desire to

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avoid panicking the 20 million people who've gained coverage under Obama's overhaul or unsettling health insurance markets.

In an interview with conservative radio host Mike Gallagher, House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said the initial repeal and replace legislation will be "the primary part of our health care policy" and would be followed by other bills. Later, he told reporters at the Capitol that while Republicans will work quickly, "We're not holding hard deadlines, only because we want to get it right."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said the early repeal bill would "begin to make important progress." He said Republicans "plan to take on the replacement challenge in manageable pieces, with step-by-step reforms." He set no timetable.

"Repealing and replacing Obamacare is a big challenge. It isn't going to be easy," McConnell added.

The leaders spoke a day before the House plans to give final approval to a budget that would shield the forthcoming repeal-and-replace bill from a Democratic filibuster in the Senate.

Stripping Democrats of their ability to endlessly delay that bill — a tactic that takes 60 votes to thwart — is crucial for Republicans, who have just a 52-48 edge in the Senate. That chamber approved the budget early Thursday by a near party-line 51-48 vote, drawing a Twitter thumbs-up from Trump.

"Congrats to the Senate for taking the first step to #RepealObamacare — now it's onto the House!" the president-elect tweeted.

Trump, who enters the White House next Friday, has pressed Republicans in recent days to act quickly on annulling and reshaping Obama's law. GOP leaders seem to be taking his urgings to heart, though some have suggested his desire for speed doesn't match Congress' vintage lack of agility.

Asked how quickly lawmakers could send Trump a bill, No. 2 Senate Republican leader John Cornyn of Texas said, "The most important thing is when do you get 218 votes in the House and 51 votes in the Senate," the majorities needed for passage.

"He's not a creature of this place so there's always a bit of a learning curve," said the No. 3 Senate GOP leader, John Thune of South Dakota.

Obama's law, which he considers a trophy of his soon-to-end presidency, has provided health care subsidies and Medicaid coverage for millions who don't get insurance at work. It has required insurers to cover certain services like family planning and people who are already ill, and curbed rates the sick and elderly can be charged.

GOP leaders hope to use their first bill to void and rewrite as much of Obama's law as they can, but so far they've provided little detail. Cornyn said in a brief interview Wednesday that the early legislation will "push some of the responsibility and resources down to the states and give them more flexibility," such as for Medicaid.

Republicans want to end the fines that enforce the statute's requirements that many individuals buy coverage and that larger companies provide it to workers — mandates that experts say were needed to stabilize insurers' rates. They'd like to expand health savings accounts, erase the taxes Obama's statute imposed on higher-income people and the health care industry, eliminate its subsidies that help people buy policies and pare back its Medicaid expansion.

But they face internal disagreements over policy, such as how to pay for their new statute and how to protect consumers and insurers during what may be a two- or three-year phase-out of Obama's overhaul.

They also must heed Senate rules forbidding provisions that don't directly affect taxes and spending from being safeguarded from filibusters. That means repealing important parts of the law — like the requirement that insurers offer coverage to all customers including the most ill — would have to await later bills that would need Democratic support.

Democrats have so far solidly opposed the GOP effort. But one influential conservative health care



authority warned Republicans Thursday that it would be best to work with their rivals.

"Bipartisan support for whatever is assembled is the best way, and probably the only way, to ensure that what passes in 2017 is accepted by the public" in a way Obama's law was not, James Capretta, a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute who formerly worked for President George W. Bush, wrote Thursday in National Review Online.

AP Congressional Correspondent Erica Werner and reporter Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.

## **Suspected airport gunman's life unraveled over past year**

**By JASON DEAREN and RACHEL D'ORO, Associated Press**

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Esteban Santiago stood alone in the cold one day last month outside Mom & Pop's liquor store in Anchorage. He was waving his arms and having a terrible argument in the parking lot.

"He'd just be talking to himself ... screaming as if he was having a battle with himself," said Naomi Harden, a clerk at the store, situated across the street from the motel where Santiago lived.

Last week, Santiago got off a one-way flight from Anchorage at the airport in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, arriving with a single piece of checked luggage: a Walther 9 mm semi-automatic handgun in a case. He took the gun out in a bathroom, loaded it and opened fire in the baggage claim area, killing five people and wounding six, police say.

After emptying two clips, Santiago lay down on the floor and was arrested, authorities say. He now faces a possible death sentence if convicted. He has yet to enter a plea and is awaiting the assignment of a public defender to his case.

Investigators are trying to establish the motive for the attack.

The 26-year-old Iraq War veteran was usually a quiet and solitary figure, those who knew and worked with him said. But over the past year, he grew increasingly violent, interviews and records show. And in recent weeks Santiago was seen screaming into the night from his motel window, Harden said.

Santiago grew up in Penuelas, Puerto Rico, a once-thriving middle-class town of 20,000 where people worked in petrochemical plants that have since closed. Those who knew him described an intelligent and patriotic boy who joined the Puerto Rico Army National Guard in 2007.

A picture taken at a dance shows a beaming young man, his arms clasped around his date's waist. Neighbors would salute him as he walked down his neighborhood's narrow streets.

Still, he tended to feel more comfortable alone, his brother, Bryan Santiago, said in Spanish, standing outside the family's home in Penuelas. "He was a normal person. He liked to be inside the house. He didn't like to go out," he said.

Santiago served about a year in Iraq in 2010 as part of an engineering battalion, clearing roadside bombs and repairing bridges. While there, his family said, he witnessed a bomb explode near two friends.

Michelle Quinones, a former girlfriend, told ABC that Santiago wasn't feeling right when he returned from the war, and sought help in Puerto Rico.

"We had let Veterans know that he was having some mental problems," she said, without giving details. She said it didn't help, and they broke up.

In 2014, Santiago and his brother moved to Anchorage for a new start. Esteban joined the Alaska National Guard and started dating a new woman, Gina Peterson. Bryan eventually returned to Puerto Rico.

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In Anchorage, Esteban and Peterson's relationship grew, and they had a child. The couple shared a small, rear-facing apartment on an alley in a blue-collar neighborhood.

Neighbors said he was not chatty, but never impolite. There was nothing that stood out about him, said Mick Bradford, who lived in the same complex.

Santiago got a job as a guard at a security firm, Signal 88, making \$2,100 a month. James Foster sometimes worked with him on the overnight shift over three months in 2015. Foster said Santiago was mostly calm, friendly and soft-spoken, and the two were "great partners" when they had to patrol a place together.

Foster said he hadn't seen Santiago since leaving the firm but recognized his face immediately when he saw TV footage of Santiago's court appearance in Florida.

"What you see on that airport footage, it wasn't really the guy that I thought I was working with," he said Wednesday. "He didn't ever come off to me like a psychopath or a terrorist or anyone that we saw on the camera, on the videotape."

Over the year that followed, though, Santiago became more violent than his friends or family ever remembered him being.

In an argument with Peterson in February, he smashed through the locked bathroom door, breaking the doorframe and hinges, according to court documents. He yelled at her threateningly, and she told police he tried to strangle her. Police found no sign of injury, but he was charged with criminal mischief and assault.

Santiago was ordered to take a 12-week anger management class. He never submitted proof that he completed it, said Anchorage prosecutor Seneca Theno.

By August, his problems had multiplied. He was discharged from the Guard for unsatisfactory performance after going AWOL repeatedly, according to the Pentagon.

His brother came for a visit around then and was startled by what he found. "He was paranoid," Bryan said.

In October there were two domestic disturbance calls. He was again accused by his girlfriend of trying to strangle her, but police said there was no probable cause to arrest him in either instance.

After that, Santiago moved to the Qupqugiaq Inn, a hostel-like motel in a gritty neighborhood, even by Anchorage standards. Rasim Kadriu, who owns an auto repair shop directly behind the motel, said it "attracts the wrong type of people."

He stayed in one of the hotel's six narrow, wood-paneled "pods." The small rooms had only a bed.

In November, Bryan Santiago got a call from Peterson. Esteban had been having mental problems, she told him.

He had gone to the FBI office in Anchorage with a loaded magazine on him and a gun in his vehicle, authorities said. He bought his newborn child with him into the office.

Santiago told the agents that he believed he was being influenced by the Islamic State group. He said he was having terroristic thoughts and believed the U.S. government was trying to control his mind, according to authorities.

Agents seized the weapon, and police took him to get a mental health evaluation. The doctors did not think he needed to be committed, and after four days he was released.

Santiago was also given back his gun on Dec. 8. It is unclear whether it was the same weapon used in the airport shooting.

Nor is it clear why Santiago went to Florida. He had some family there, but they said they hadn't seen him in years. He had also booked, and canceled, another flight, an Alaska-to-Puerto Rico trip that would have included a layover in New York on New Year's Day, according to a law enforcement official

who wasn't authorized to discuss the investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Liz Flynn, an acquaintance of Santiago's girlfriend who recalled him a quiet guy, said: "We're trying to find out ... how this happened to him."

Mark Thiessen in Anchorage; Becky Bohrer in Juneau, Alaska; Danica Coto in Penuelas, Puerto Rico; Tom Hays in New York; and AP Researcher Rhonda Shafner in New York contributed to this report. Dearen reported from Gainesville, Florida.

## **CIA nominee agrees Russia tried to interfere in election**

**By EILEEN SULLIVAN and DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's pick to run the CIA told Congress on Thursday that he accepts the findings in an intelligence assessment that Russia interfered in the U.S. election with the goal of helping Trump win, even though the president-elect has been skeptical of some of the report's conclusions.

"Everything I've seen suggests to me that the report has an analytical product that is sound," said Mike Pompeo, a Kansas Republican congressman. His comments struck a different tone than those of his future boss, who called the focus on Russia and the election a "political witch hunt" before he was even briefed on the findings.

Trump, for the first time on Wednesday, acknowledged that Russia was behind the computer hacking that targeted Democrats during the 2016 campaign.

As head of the CIA, Pompeo would be responsible for bringing to Trump intelligence assessments the president may find politically unappealing, including additional information on Russia's interference with the American democratic process. Pompeo promised senators on the intelligence committee that he would do so.

"My obligation as director of CIA is to tell every policy maker the facts as best the intelligence agency has developed them," Pompeo said. He is currently a member of the House intelligence committee.

Trump has been critical of the intelligence assessment that Russia was behind the hacking of the Democratic National Committee and other political sites and that Moscow's aim was to get Trump elected. This week he said intelligence officials might be to blame for the leak of an addendum to the Russia assessment that was a summary of unverified claims that Russia had obtained compromising sexual and financial allegations about Trump.

The top U.S. intelligence official, James Clapper, said he did not think the disclosures came from intelligence agencies, and Clapper said late Wednesday that he told Trump the U.S. intelligence community "has not made any judgment that the information in this document is reliable, and we did not rely upon it in any way."

Sen. Angus King, a Maine independent, asked Pompeo to comment on what King said were "very serious allegations" about Trump's ties with Russia.

"I share your view that these are unsubstantiated media reports," Pompeo said, adding that he thought the leaks themselves were "intensely serious."

Pompeo's was one of seven confirmation hearings held this week for senior posts in the upcoming Trump administration. Senators separately questioned Pompeo about classified issues after the public hearing.

On other issues, Pompeo said he will uphold the law and not direct the CIA to revert to using torture tactics to interrogate suspected terrorists. He also said that while he has been critical of the Obama

administration's deal with Iran on nuclear weapons, he would carry out the policy as it stands.

Pompeo was a vocal member of the partisan House committee set up to investigate the deadly attack on a U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya, in 2012, which occurred while Hillary Clinton was secretary of state. He told the committee that he understands that as CIA director he would have to make the transition from a partisan, policymaking lawmaker to an objective intelligence collector.

Adding a little drama to the hearing, the lights went out when the top Democrat on the committee mentioned Russia. The hearing was moved to a different building.

## Testing wearable sensors as 'check engine' light for health

By LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A next step for smart watches and fitness trackers? Wearable gadgets gave a Stanford University professor an early warning that he was getting sick before he ever felt any symptoms of Lyme disease.

Geneticist Michael Snyder never had Lyme's characteristic bulls-eye rash. But a smart watch and other sensors charted changes in Snyder's heart rate and oxygen levels during a family vacation. Eventually a fever struck that led to his diagnosis.

Say "wearables," and step-counting fitness trackers spring to mind. It's not clear if they really make a difference in users' health. Now Snyder's team at Stanford is starting to find out, tracking the everyday lives of several dozen volunteers wearing devices that monitor more than mere activity.

He envisions one day having wearables that act as a sort of "check engine" light indicating it's time to see the doctor.

"One way to look at this is, these are the equivalent of oral thermometers but you're measuring yourself all the time," said Snyder, senior author of a report released Thursday on the project.

Among the earliest hints: Changes in people's day-to-day physiology may flag when certain ailments are brewing, from colds to Lyme to Type 2 diabetes, researchers reported in the journal PLOS Biology.

Interest in wearable sensors is growing along with efforts to personalize medicine, as scientists learn how to tailor treatments and preventive care to people's genes, environment and lifestyle. The sensors are expected to be a part of the National Institutes of Health's huge "precision medicine" study, planned to begin later this year.

But a first step is learning what's normal for different people under different conditions.

The Stanford team is collecting reams of data — as many as 250,000 daily measurements — from volunteers who wear up to eight activity monitors or other sensors of varying sizes that measure heart rate, blood oxygen, skin temperature, sleep, calories expended, exercise and even exposure to radiation. That's paired with occasional laboratory tests to measure blood chemistry and some genetic information.

An initial finding: Blood oxygen levels decrease with rising altitudes during plane flights, in turn triggering fatigue. But toward the end of long flights, oxygen begins rising again, possibly as bodies adapt, the researchers reported.

It was that phenomenon that alerted Snyder, the longest-tested participant, "that something wasn't quite right" on one of his frequent long flights.

Landing in Norway for a family vacation, Snyder noticed his oxygen levels didn't return to normal like they always had before. Plus his heart rate was much higher than normal, which sometimes signals infection.

Sure enough, soon a low-grade fever left him dragging. He feared Lyme because two weeks before going abroad, Snyder had helped his brother build a fence in a tick-infested rural area in Massachusetts.

He persuaded a Norwegian doctor to prescribe the appropriate antibiotic, and post-vacation testing back home confirmed the diagnosis.

Also during the study's first two years, Snyder and several other volunteers had minor cold-like illnesses that began with higher-than-normal readings for heart rate and skin temperature — and correlated with blood tests showing inflammation was on the rise before any sniffing.

In addition, the Stanford team detected variations in heart rate patterns that could tell the difference between study participants with what's called insulin resistance — a risk factor for Type 2 diabetes — and healthy people.

No, don't try to self-diagnose with your fitness tracker any time soon. The findings in Thursday's report are intriguing but the study is highly experimental, cautioned medical technology specialist Dr. Atul Butte of the University of California, San Francisco, who wasn't involved with the research.

"This kind of approach is going to help science more than the general public" until there's better data about what's normal or not, Butte said. "Remember, the baseline is always in motion. We're always getting older. We're always exposed to things. Just because there's a deviation doesn't mean it's abnormal."

## **Biden: Intel officials told us Trump allegations might leak**

**By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Joe Biden said Thursday that top intelligence leaders told him and President Barack Obama they felt obligated to inform them about uncorroborated allegations about President-elect Donald Trump out of concern the information would become public and catch them off-guard.

In an interview, Biden said neither he nor Obama asked U.S. intelligence agencies to try to corroborate the unverified claims that Russia had obtained compromising sexual and financial allegations about Trump.

"I think it's something that obviously the agency thinks they have to track down," Biden said. He added later, "It surprised me in that it made it to the point where the agency, the FBI thought they had to pursue it."

In the hourlong session with The Associated Press and other news outlets, the vice president was sharply critical of Trump for publicly disparaging intelligence officials, saying Trump was damaging U.S. standing and playing into Russia's hands. He also took umbrage at Trump's comments accusing intelligence agencies of allowing the information to leak publicly and drawing a comparison to "living in Nazi Germany."

"The one thing you never want to invoke is Nazi Germany, no matter what the circumstances," Biden said. "It's an overwhelming diversion from the point you're trying to make."

Biden said that in the briefing he and Obama received from Director of National Intelligence James Clapper and others, there were "no conclusions drawn" from the uncorroborated dossier, which was produced in August and then released publicly this week by the media. Biden said it was "totally ancillary" to the purpose of the meeting, which was to brief Obama on a report he ordered documenting Russian interference in the U.S. campaign.

"As a matter of fact, the president was like, 'What does this have anything to do with anything?'" Biden said. He said intelligence leaders responded by saying "Well, we feel obliged to tell you, Mr. President, because you may hear about it. We're going to tell him," referring to Trump.

Biden said intelligence leaders told him and Obama that they couldn't say whether or not the allegations were true or untrue. He said there was "hardly any discussion" about the allegations in the brief-



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ing.

"Neither the president nor I asked for any detail," Biden said. But he added of the dossier: "I've read everything."

Trump has vehemently denied the allegations included in a dossier about close coordination between Trump's inner circle and Russians. The dossier also included unsubstantiated claims about unusual sexual activities by Trump, attributed to anonymous sources. The Associated Press has not authenticated the claims. Trump has denied them.

The FBI has been working to corroborate the details in the dossier, although it's unclear how long that investigation has been running or how many resources are assigned. FBI Director James Comey has declined even to acknowledge the investigation publicly in line with FBI protocol.

The dossier was compiled by a former Western intelligence operative and had been circulating among news organizations and intelligence agencies in Washington for months. Its existence became known publicly following reports the intelligence community had briefed Trump on the dossier.

In the interview, Biden criticized Trump's rocky relationship with intelligence officials. The president-elect has publicly challenged their assessment about Russia's role in the election and suggested they have skewed evidence. Trump has received the President's Daily Brief, the highest-level intelligence document produced in the United States, a few times but has insisted he doesn't need it daily and suggested he knows more than intelligence leaders.

Biden said it would be a "genuine tragedy" if Trump refused the daily intelligence briefing presidents traditionally receive.

To illustrate his point, Biden took out the black tablet computer he uses to read his daily briefing and showed it to reporters as he sat next to a crackling fireplace in his office, just steps from the Oval Office. He said it is password-protected and includes a feature he uses to ask questions about the intelligence that are responded to the same day.

Biden said at least five foreign leaders have already contacted him expressing concern over Trump's second-guessing of U.S. intelligence agencies.

"It is really very damaging in my view to our standing in the world for a president to take one of the crown jewels of our national defense and denigrate it," Biden said. "It plays into, particularly now, the Russian narrative that America doesn't know what it's doing."

After nearly half a century in public office, Biden will exit the national stage next Friday, although he plans to stay active in Democratic politics and work on policy issues at a pair of institutes he's developing at the University of Delaware and the University of Pennsylvania. He also plans to continue with the cancer "moonshot" effort he launched after his son died.

Biden was full of praise for his successor, Vice President-elect Mike Pence. He said he's been sending Pence memos with his advice on how to handle certain relationships, such as with Iraqi and Ukrainian leaders, and on "the things that could explode most easily."

He said Pence had been receptive to his advice but had less time these days to speak to Biden due to the heavy role he's playing in setting up Trump's administration. Biden said he's made his national security adviser, Colin Kahl, available to Pence but hoped Pence would quickly name a national security adviser of his own.

"It would be better if they had been in a better position where he actually had somebody that Colin could sit down with every morning," Biden said.

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

## In eastern Mosul, small signs of progress amid the fighting

By MSTYSLAV CHERNOV, Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — Small stalls and carts have sprung up outside the bombed-out buildings in eastern Mosul, selling meat and vegetables, cigarettes and cellphones to the thousands of civilians still living in neighborhoods where the Iraqi military has driven out the Islamic State group.

As the grinding military operation enters its fourth month, about a third of the northern city is under government control. While more than 100,000 people have fled the fighting, many have remained despite no electricity or running water.

Zaid Khaled sells frozen chicken from a stall in the main traffic circle in the Zahour neighborhood. Every morning, he takes a bus to the easternmost edge of Mosul to buy the poultry in a market.

Because there's no power, he must sell his whole supply each day or lose money.

"Slowly, as people are able to go back to work, life will return to normal, step by step," he said.

On the edge of the neighborhood, hundreds of people must cross a makeshift bridge to buy food and water, or reach medical aid.

Isam Fathi Younis lives just a few blocks from the front line. He wheeled his elderly mother across the bridge Thursday in search of a doctor after she began to have trouble breathing.

His family waited in their home for days before fighting subsided enough to venture out on the streets, he said.

On Tuesday, Lt. Gen. Talib Shaghatai told The Associated Press the whole city could be recaptured from IS in another three months, or less. When the operation began in October, Iraqi leaders had predicted they would retake the city before 2017 began, but progress has been slow amid fierce counterattacks from the extremists.

Although buses, taxis and private cars have begun to clog the streets, armored military vehicles wind through the traffic in a reminder that the battle is not far away.

One group of soldiers carried a metal chair — a seemingly ordinary object until a closer look revealed that cuff-like restraints had been welded to its arms and legs. The soldiers said they said they recovered it from an IS prison.

"They used this for torture," said special forces Col. Ali Kenani.

"The clamp was used to hold a finger like this," he said, slipping his hand into the vice on the end of one of the arms. "Finding things like this in Mosul is normal."

Shoppers and merchants said the signs of life returning to some of the streets were precarious: Markets like this one still get hit by mortar rounds, and the entire city is without essential government services.

Khaled, the young man selling chicken, said that three days ago, a shell landed a block from where he was standing and killed three people.

The Iraqi military enforces a strict curfew at sundown. The uncertain security situation and the limited access to food and water in Mosul still forces thousands of people to flee each week.

Hundreds of people were massed Thursday in far eastern Mosul, undergoing a strict screening process before being shuttled to nearby displacement camps.

Anwar Ali Hussein initially fled to a nearby neighborhood after airstrikes and mortar rounds began hitting the streets outside her home. She tried to wait out the fighting, but the few safe districts quickly filled up.

"In each house, it was 20 people or more," she said, "and there was never enough food. Only people with lots of money can afford to buy from the markets inside Mosul now."

## Secret police file: Trump sure of presidential win \_ in 1996

By KAREL JANICEK, Associated Press

PRAGUE (AP) — Nearly 30 years ago, Donald Trump was confident he would win the U.S. presidential election — as an independent in 1996, according to recently uncovered files from Czechoslovakia's Communist-era secret police.

Czechoslovakia was the home nation of Trump's first wife, Ivana, a model, athlete and businesswoman who became the mother of his three oldest children: Donald Jr., Ivanka and Eric.

A year before the 1989 collapse of communism in many parts of Europe, details about Ivana Trump's 1988 visit back to her homeland were recorded in a classified police report. The Oct. 22, 1988 report claimed that Trump refused to run for president in 1988 — despite alleged pressure to do so — because he felt, at 42, he was too young. But the secret report said he intended to run in the 1996 U.S. presidential race as an independent, when he would be 50.

"Even though it looks like a utopia, D. TRUMP is confident he will succeed," the police report said, based on information from an unspecified source who talked to Ivana Trump's father, Milos Zelnicek, about her visit.

It was unclear where the alleged "pressure" was coming from.

The report is interesting because, in the United States, there was little public knowledge that Trump would consider a presidential run until a 1988 interview on "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

"I would never want to rule it out totally," he said then.

"I think I'd win," he added. "I wouldn't go in to lose."

But Trump didn't create an exploratory committee until about a decade later, when he launched a bid for the Reform Party nomination ahead of the 2000 presidential election. He dropped that effort about four months later.

Trump's first wife was born Ivana Zelnickova in 1949 in the Czechoslovak city of Gottwaldov, the former city of Zlin that just had been renamed by the Communists, who took over the country in 1948. She married Trump, her second husband, in 1977. As she kept traveling home across the Iron Curtain on a regular basis, Ivana became a tempting target for the powerful, deeply feared Czechoslovak secret police agency known as the StB.

"The State Security was constantly watching (Czechoslovak citizens living abroad)," said Libor Svoboda, a historian from the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes in Prague. "They were coming here, so they used agents to follow them. They wanted to know who they were meeting, what they talked about. It was a sort of paranoia. They were afraid that these people could work for foreign intelligence agencies. They used the same approach toward their relatives as well."

The StB's specific file on Ivana had a registry number but it is not available. Historians believed it was destroyed. But other documents from the Security Service Archive in Prague, especially a file on her father, who used to visit her in the United States, showed they were both closely watched by spies and informants.

Svoboda said there's no indication of a secret police file on Donald Trump. He didn't travel to Czechoslovakia under communism, unlike his children, who used to spend summer vacations there.

Due to such attention, the secret police reports contain detailed information about Ivana Trump's trips to Czechoslovakia, including dates, telephone numbers she called, people she met, what they discussed and other details about her life with her husband. One of the reports claims the couple had a wedding deal in which Trump allegedly stated he wanted to have at least three children with her.

The Associated Press visited the archive in Prague and obtained copies of all available documents

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about Ivana Trump. Some of the content has also been reported by Czech media and Germany's Bild newspaper.

The 1988 secret police report in particular suggested that Ivana Trump was nervous, "which is not common for her" after her father picked her up at Prague's international airport after traveling in from Paris, where she visited a fashion house. Trump did not join her on this trip.

Only after she and her father arrived in her hometown did Ivana Trump reveal that the U.S. ambassador to Prague at the time, Julian Martin Niemczyk, twice invited her to visit the embassy, which she declined to accept, according to a police source that met with her father on Oct. 11, 1988. Ivana Trump allegedly said she believed U.S. embassy staffers were following her. The fact that she was supposed to meet with a Czechoslovak security official during the trip added to her nervousness, the police file stated.

She didn't give any details about that meeting, the report said. But it added that she said "as a wife of D. TRUMP she receives constant attention because he is pressured to run for the office of U.S. president ... and any mistake she would make could have immense consequences for him."

Born in 1946, Trump planned to make history in 1996 as an independent candidate despite the fact that both the Democrats and the Republicans were allegedly wooing him to join them, the report said. A note at the end suggested that Ivana Trump's trips home could be possibly used to reveal agents among the U.S. embassy's staffers.

"The StB thought there was a chance that the U.S. intelligence agencies could use (Ivana Trump). And also they wanted to use Trump to gather information on U.S. high society," Svoboda said.

Trump did travel to Zlin in 1990 with his wife to attend the funeral of her father. The couple divorced in 1992.

A year later, Czechoslovakia peacefully split into two nations: the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

After Trump's presidential win in November, Ivana Trump expressed interest in becoming the new U.S. ambassador to Prague — a possibility heartily welcomed by Czech President Milos Zeman.

## Trump's pick for top diplomat breaks from him in many ways

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rex Tillerson's foreign policy isn't sounding much like Donald Trump's.

At his confirmation hearing Wednesday, the former Exxon Mobil CEO selected by Trump for secretary of state called Russia a "danger" and vowed to protect America's European allies. He rejected the idea of an immigration ban on Muslims. He treaded softly on the human rights records of key U.S. partners like Saudi Arabia.

In the words of Sen. Bob Corker, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's GOP chairman, Tillerson "demonstrated that he's very much in the mainstream of foreign policy thinking." But doing so forced Tillerson to break with several of the president-elect's most iconoclastic statements on diplomacy and international security.

Again and again, Tillerson hewed more closely to long-standing, bipartisan positions on America's role in the world, and who are its friends and foes.

That may help Tillerson win over senators who've expressed wariness about his extensive relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin. But it could leave him putting a Trump foreign policy in place that looks little like the vision he outlined Wednesday.

A look at where Tillerson's views didn't quite match those of his would-be boss:

### RUSSIA

Tillerson adopted a tough tone toward Moscow, apparently attempting to rebut the perception that

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he's too close to Putin.

The Russian leader previously awarded Tillerson his country's "Order of Friendship" following Exxon's deals with Russia's oil industry. But on Wednesday, Tillerson called Putin's Russia a threat to the United States.

Whereas Trump as a candidate played down Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, arguing the population there was pro-Russian anyway, Tillerson said the annexation was illegal and amounted to "a taking of territory that was not theirs."

Whereas Trump's campaign team last summer softened language in the GOP platform calling for arming Ukraine, Tillerson said he would have recommended providing U.S. and allied defensive weapons, plus aerial surveillance, so the Ukrainians could protect their Russian border.

"The taking of Crimea was an act of force," Tillerson said. When Russia flexes its muscles, he said the U.S. must mount "a proportional show of force."

Still, the Kremlin said Thursday the former Cold War foes can overcome their differences once Trump takes office.

Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said he hopes the two presidents will get along and they can normalize ties if they show "mutual respect."

## CAMPAIGN HACKING

Before Wednesday, Trump spent weeks ridiculing the U.S. intelligence agencies' accusations that Russia hacked and leaked emails, spread "fake news" and took other actions to interfere with the U.S. election.

Tillerson wasted no time in accepting the findings. He even went further than Trump, conceding it's a "fair assumption" the hacking couldn't have taken place without Putin's consent

Not Trump, who has repeatedly praised Putin's leadership. While he said at a news conference Wednesday that "I think it was Russia," Trump sidestepped the question of Putin's responsibility. Instead, he argued, "If Putin likes Donald Trump, guess what, folks? That's called an asset, not a liability."

## THE MUSLIM BAN

During the campaign, Trump called for a temporary ban on Muslims immigrating to the U.S. The proposal then evolved into halting immigration from countries linked to terrorism. Trump later suggested he was reconsidering the Muslim ban.

"I do not support a blanket type rejection of any particular group of people," Tillerson said categorically at his hearing. He said the U.S. should "support those Muslim voices" that reject extremism and insisted Americans shouldn't be scared of Muslims.

## RAPISTS AND CRIMINALS

Trump started his presidential bid by taking aim south of the border, accusing Mexico of sending "rapists" and criminals with drugs into the U.S.

Asked about those sentiments, Tillerson said he would "never characterize an entire population with any single term at all."

Mexico and other Latin American nations are anxious about Trump's campaign pledges to build a border wall and deport millions of immigrants illegally in the U.S.

Tillerson, by contrast, said he would engage closely with Mexico.

"Mexico is a long-standing neighbor and friend of this country," he said.

## DEFENDING ALLIES

Trump sent chills through much of Europe when he suggested the U.S. might not defend its NATO allies if they came under attack, unless they'd contributed enough to the alliance's collective defense costs.



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He later qualified his comments, while insisting NATO's future depended on members paying their fair share.

Tillerson offered ironclad support for NATO's Article 5, which obligates the allies to treat an attack on one as an attack on all. If a NATO member is invaded, the oil man said, the U.S. would join other members in coming to its defense.

"The Article 5 commitment is inviolable, and the U.S. is going to stand behind that commitment," Tillerson said.

## SAUDI ARABIA

Trump used Saudi Arabia's shoddy human rights record as a campaign cudgel against Hillary Clinton, pointedly asking why she wouldn't "give back the money" the kingdom gave her family foundation.

He called out Saudi Arabia and other Mideast countries for violence against gays and women, and other human rights violations.

Tillerson played it more conservatively with a country at the heart of the American security strategy for the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia doesn't share American values, he said.

But Tillerson said he needed "greater information" before declaring Saudi Arabia a human rights violator.

It was an answer that wasn't well received by all the senators present. But it was, to use a turn of phrase, diplomatic.

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AP writers Matthew Lee and Bradley Klapper 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.

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.

Christopher Burrows, co-director of Orbis Business Intelligence Ltd. declined comment when questioned by ITN. "... I don't think it would be appropriate for me to make any comments at the moment on what happened, whether Orbis has been involved or not, and we'll review that situation in the next couple of days," he told ITN.

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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." Clapper also said he does not believe that the leaks came from inside the intelligence community.

Trump hasn't said whether he believes Clapper's claim on the source of the leaks. He tweeted Thursday: "James Clapper called me yesterday to denounce the false and fictitious report that was illegally circulated. Made up, phony facts. Too bad!"

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."

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 Laurie Kellman and Deb Riechmann in Washington contributed to this report.

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

## **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 Wednesday 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> .

## **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, regretfully, 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

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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 Kunduz 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.

## **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.



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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 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)

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

**By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate early Thursday 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 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 Tuesday, 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.

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.

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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.

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."

## **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.

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

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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 manage-

ment 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-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.



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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>

## **Obama's legacy in science, technology and innovation**

**Jonathan Coopersmith, Texas A&M University**

As the old aphorism says, it's difficult to make predictions, especially about the future. Assessing the legacy of Barack Obama will be easier in a few decades when we can see the long-term consequences of his presidential decisions and initiatives.

An immediate analysis of his science and technology policies, however, reveals significant accomplishments in the promotion of science and technology, education, space exploitation, clean energy, climate change and the environment. While major endeavors like the Precision Medicine Initiative and Paris climate agreement received the headlines, they were part of a larger, mostly successful goal to "restore science to its rightful place and wield technology's wonders" in forming and implementing government policy.

The administration's shortcomings around science – some of which reflected Republican political pressures – included limited funding overall and travel restrictions for government workers, both of which reduced the effectiveness of positive science and tech policies.

Psyched about science in office Obama was fundamentally an optimist about the potential of science and technology to improve society and safely expand the economy. His most significant (and low profile) near-term initiatives elevated and institutionalized the foundations of scientific research – exploration, data-based experimentation and policy, openness, transparency, and access to information – into routine government activities. These steps should accelerate the commercialization and diffusion of research.

Many changes were small but improved the efficiency of programs. For example, modifications made based on the outcomes of behavioral science experiments increased military employees' participation in the Thrift Saving Plan while cutting program costs.

One visible sign of the importance the Obama administration placed on making sure research results made it out of labs and into practice was the expansion of the phrase "science and technology" (S&T) to "science, technology and innovation" (ST&I) by president Obama. The creation of the new positions of federal Chief Technology Officer, Chief Information Security Officer, and Chief Data Officer was another indication of this integration.

Obama strongly supported science, technology, engineering and math – STEM – education. Hosting science fairs at the White House garnered lots of media attention. But other initiatives within the administration's Educate to Innovate campaign will prove more consequential in improving K-12 education in America. For instance, the 100Kin10 effort aims to train 100,000 new science teachers by 2021, STEM for All encourages active learning for the increasingly diverse student population, and SkillCommons creates open-source online software for education.

Environmentally, Obama focused on slowing global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy and increasing the efficiency of energy use domestically and internationally. The incoming Trump administration with its climate deniers may try to reverse many of Obama's policies, but the last eight years have significantly reshaped the structure of energy production and consumption worldwide. In 2015, new electricity capacity from renewables exceeded new capacity from fossil fuels for the first time.

In space, the Obama administration strongly promoted commercialization, directing NASA to pay private firms to launch supplies and, in 2018, astronauts to the International Space Station. This should reduce the high cost of reaching earth orbit and thus the exploration and exploitation of space.

While attracting fewer headlines, initiatives on space weather and the asteroids and comets that might strike our planet may end up preserving civilization. In 1859, an extremely powerful solar storm

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disrupted Earth's magnetic field. A similar "Carrington event" today would destroy satellites and much of the world's electric power transmission grid. Worst-case scenarios (always good for pushing people to act) predict tens of millions of people dying because of the loss of electric power for years. A large asteroid striking Earth could devastate a large area, kill millions, and spark a new ice age.

Guarding against these rare but inevitable natural events will not excite voters, but demonstrates preventive stewardship. These initiatives coordinated government efforts across multiple departments to predict a dangerous event, provide warning, and equip satellites and terrestrial infrastructure to minimize harm and maximize resiliency.

On the other hand, restricted travelOne major negative effect on science from the Obama administration was its crippling of federal employees attending conferences.

In 2010, the General Services Administration, which supports federal agencies, held a lavish conference in Las Vegas. Congressional Republicans and Democrats attacked this very visible misuse of taxpayer dollars. In response, the Obama administration overreacted by sharply restricting federal spending on conferences and creating an elaborate, expensive bureaucratic process for government employees to get permission to attend a conference, workshop or other professional meetings. Reflecting these restrictions, the number of defense scientists attending the Defense Security and Scanning conference of the International Society for Optics and Photonics dropped from 648 in 2012 to 206 in 2013, for example.

The sharply curtailed government presence frustrated scientific societies and researchers, both federal employees and those in academia and the private sector. Despite the increasing ease of electronic communications, professional meetings remain one of the most productive ways for people to learn, exchange and debate ideas.

By decreasing opportunities for researchers to meet in person, the Obama administration hurt the creativity and productivity of the entire ST&I community, not just federal workers. This was an entirely self-inflicted wound.

No real progress on cybersecurityCybersecurity remains a weak area for the Obama administration. The White House released a policy review in 2009, voluntary guidelines for critical infrastructure in 2013 and its cybersecurity report last month.

But while Obama was in office, new cyber issues kept emerging. The theft of millions of records from the Office of Personnel Management by China, the manipulation of the presidential election by Russia, issues of privacy and surveillance, economic cyberespionage and the growing range of cybercrimes all illustrate the axiom, "Technology is neither good nor bad; nor is it neutral."

In fairness, cybersecurity was a fairly low priority throughout the country. There were seemingly few consequences to firms that fail to maintain adequate defenses. The burden of identity theft, for example, falls on the individual. The revelations of American cyberspying by Edward Snowden and the deployment of the American-Israeli computer Stuxnet virus to destroy Iranian uranium centrifuges put the Obama administration on the defensive. Congressional and business skepticism, some partisan but mostly motivated by disagreement about what to do, resulted in little legislative action.

And never enough fundingPerhaps the most important shortcoming of the Obama administration's science and technology agenda was its inability to increase S&T funding.

Partly this reflects the demographic trend of an aging U.S. population focused more on its retirement and medical costs than investing in research and development for the future. As more people retire and live longer, entitlements – like Social Security and Medicare – increasingly crowd out the discretionary part of the federal budget.

Coupled with budget battles with Congressional Republicans, including a costly government shutdown

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in 2013 and sequestration, the result has been near-stagnant ST&I budgets. That's in contrast to the long-term increases proposed by the president in 2009 to expand public and private spending on research and development from 2.8 to 3.0 percent of GDP.

Consequently, many opportunities went unfunded or underfunded. Success rates for grants from the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation and NASA all decreased. Indeed, President Obama in 2010 and again in 2016 called for sending astronauts to Mars but did not try to convince Congress to fund that undertaking, the latest of a series of presidents to do so.

Science's rightful place? Unsurprisingly, the Obama administration's rhetoric outpaced its resources and restrictions. Nonetheless, the 44th president left a strong legacy of supporting ST&I not just for the goals of discovery and economic growth but to strengthen democracy and improve the processes of government.

If its campaign tweets, transition staff, and cabinet appointments are any indication, the incoming Trump administration will provide a very strong contrast. With top officials at odds with the data-based, open scientific approach on many issues, science, technology, and innovation may take a beating.

This article was originally published on The Conversation. Read the original article.

## What are the odds? Mom, dad, son all share a birthday

By JANET McCONNAUGHEY, Associated Press

Luke and Hillary Gardner never have a problem remembering each other's birthday. After all, the husband and wife were born the same day. And so was their son, 27 years later this past December.

The odds of that happening are about one in 133,000, statisticians say. And that's a lot less likely than getting hit by lightning sometime in your lifetime, which some put at roughly one in 12,000.

They weren't aiming at a joint birthday when their son Cade Lee Gardner was conceived, said Luke Gardner, an assistant pastor at a Baptist church in northeast Mississippi and a student at a nearby campus of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

"I really didn't even put it together until we got pregnant," he said in a telephone interview Wednesday. "Then we realized, 'Oh, wow!'"

Using a smartphone app, he said, his wife calculated a due date of Dec. 15, three days before their joint birthday. Her obstetrician called it for Dec. 19.

So the couple from Baldwyn, Mississippi, got in some exercise to try to hurry the baby up a bit. The night of Dec. 17, Gardner said, "we went walking" around the parking lot at First Baptist Church of Baldwyn, where Gardner is outreach pastor.

Whether or not the exercise sped things up, Cade was born at 10:01 a.m. on Dec. 18 — exactly 27 years after his parents' birthdate.

"Hillary is exactly six hours older than me," Luke Gardner said. She was born at 8:10 a.m. and her husband at 2:10 p.m. on Dec. 18, 1989.

They learned about their shared birthday before they started dating, while just part of a group of friends who hung out together.

"I saw it on a Facebook page first and asked about it," Gardner said. "I couldn't really believe it when I saw it. I had to confirm it with her."

The chance of meeting someone born the same day as you is one in 365, explained Tumulesh Solanky, chair of the math department at the University of New Orleans. He said the chance of two people being born on the same day and having a baby on their birthday is about  $1/365$  times  $1/365$ .

"That comes out to .0000000751 — seven zeros and then 751," or about 7.5 in a million, he said, which comes to about one in 133,000. Statisticians note that this ignores such factors as leap years and

the fact that births are not evenly spaced throughout the year.

Gardner joked that if he and Hillary Gardner have more children, they may have to try for December.

"If we have any more kids, if we don't get pregnant in March, we'll have to wait till the next year," he said.

## 'Couldn't save them:' 6 kids die in Baltimore house fire

By BRIAN WITTE, Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Robert Spencer said he often saw children playing on the porch of the home across the street from his in their northeast Baltimore neighborhood. When he looked out the window early Thursday morning, the home was in flames.

Spencer ran toward the fire, but it was so big and hot he couldn't help them. Six of the family's nine children were killed, while their mother and three of her other children were able to escape but were injured, a fire official said.

"I heard the kids crying. My daughter heard them. They said: 'Help, help,' and you know, couldn't save them, couldn't save them," Spencer said. "There was just too much fire there."

All six bodies were recovered from the home Thursday, fire department spokesman Chief Roman Clark said.

Clark said the children killed were two boys, ages 9 months and 2 years; 3-year-old twin girls; and two girls, ages 10 and 11.

Investigators are searching for clues about what caused the fire.

Firefighters encountered heavy flames coming from all three floors of the home when they answered the call about 12:30 a.m. Thursday, and they attacked the blaze from outside, Clark said. The third floor collapsed and the second floor partially collapsed. The fire was so hot that it melted parts of a car that had been parked in front of the house.

The children's mother and two boys, ages 4 and 5, were in critical condition Thursday at a hospital. Clark said an 8-year-old girl who helped rescue her younger brothers was in "good shape."

William Malone said all nine are his children with Katie Malone, who's a staff member for Rep. Elijah Cummings' district office.

William Malone told The Associated Press he wasn't home at the time of the fire because he was at work for a restaurant. He said one of the three children taken to the hospital after the blaze has since been released.

"I'm still in shock to be honest," said Malone, who was reached by phone at a relative's home. He said he doesn't know what may have caused the fire. Clark said William Malone told him he had recently changed the batteries in a smoke detector in the house.

Cummings said Katie Malone has worked as a special assistant in his Catonsville office for nearly 11 years.

"My staff is a family and this unimaginable tragedy is shocking and heartbreaking to us all. I again ask for your prayers," Cummings said in a statement.

Michael Johnson, 55, who lives a block away and can see the house from his home, described it as a complete inferno.

"Fire was coming out of every window, and as they sprayed it, it seemed like the fire was fighting back or something. It just kept coming and coming and coming. Fire was actually coming out of the sides of the house. I've never seen anything like that in my life," Johnson said.

Johnson, who didn't know the family, added that he was praying for the people inside.



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"It was just so intense," he said. "I didn't think anyone would be able to survive it at all."

WJZ-TV showed two small children sitting up as they were wheeled away on a stretcher and a woman on a stretcher with an oxygen mask over her face. Images from the scene show firefighters dousing the charred shell of the first two stories of the home between two other large three story single-family homes.

Associated Press writers Sarah Brumfield in Washington and Alanna Durkin Richer in Richmond, Virginia, contributed to this report. Associated Press researcher Rhonda Shafner contributed from New York.

## Column: Greed wins out as Chargers abandon fans, flee to LA

By TIM DAHLBERG, AP Sports Columnist

For once, Roger Goodell was right. Dean Spanos did everything he could.

Everything he could to fleece the people of San Diego. Everything he could to alienate a fan base that remained far more loyal than he deserved until the bitter end.

Everything he could to pretend he cared about those fans when all he really wanted was a new stadium and the extra millions it would bring.

Yes, relocation is painful, as Goodell noted in his statement blessing the Chargers' move to Los Angeles. Fortunately for Spanos, the pain of leaving San Diego will be lessened by the opportunity to sell personal seat licenses some 100 miles north.

As for the pain felt by those left behind? So long suckers!

The Chargers are moving to Los Angeles, which greeted the news Thursday with a collective yawn. No dancing in the streets, no long lines to buy jerseys with that spiffy new LA logo.

No pep rally, either, though that was understandable. Might have been embarrassing if they held one and no one showed up.

They did show up at Chargers headquarters in San Diego, but there wasn't much cheering going on. Instead, fans gathered to toss their Chargers jerseys and other team paraphernalia into a growing pile of trash to show their disgust over having their team of 56 years taken from them.

Greed can be a funny thing. Blinded by it, Spanos and his minions were able to justify ripping a team from the fabric of a community for over a half-century

Blinded by it, they're taking the Chargers into a city where they have no following and to a new stadium where they will play second fiddle to the Rams.

A city that doesn't need — or seemingly want — a second NFL team.

Indeed, the Raiders moving to LA would have made a lot more sense. They played there for years and have a ready-made fan base that really would have been dancing in the streets had their team been returning.

The Chargers are, well, just the Chargers. They have no Super Bowl crowns, and no real pedigree to speak of.

Nothing to get excited about in laid-back LA, even if their new logo looks suspiciously like the one featured on Dodger hats.

The move is perplexing at best, especially if Spanos ends up having to pay his fellow owners a \$650 million relocation fee to move. That might have been money the team could have put toward a new stadium in San Diego — along with \$300 million from the NFL — had it not been so obsessed with getting taxpayers to fund it.

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But greed usually wins out. And the fact is the team Spanos owns will be far more valuable in Los Angeles than in the smaller market of San Diego.

Then again, maybe Spanos just felt he had no choice. After all, how could any self-respecting NFL owner even show his face among fellow owners if he failed at the same kind of extortion that has served the league so well in city after city around the country.

San Diego said no, with residents voting in November against a tax hike for a downtown stadium. City officials were never terribly eager to empty their wallets for the team, perhaps because the last time they bailed out the Chargers in the 1990s the deal required the city to buy any unsold tickets to games for 10 years.

The money isn't there in Oakland, either, to pay for a new stadium for the Raiders. It is in Las Vegas, though, where tourists will shoulder \$750 million in new taxes to lure the Raiders to a new stadium just off the glittering Strip.

The NFL is in the midst of its biggest relocation shift, with three teams possibly leaving their longtime homes within a few years of each other. The league is doing it with its typical arrogance, seemingly without fear of alienating entire cities to the product.

That kind of arrogance makes it easy to rationalize leaving a city of fans behind because they didn't cough up enough money for a glittering new stadium. The kind of arrogance displayed by announcing the move on Twitter, and unveiling a new logo surely in the works even as the Chargers left fans dangling on their intentions.

Just like that, the Chargers left town, heading up Interstate 5 without even saying goodbye. Leaving behind a stadium and fans who just weren't good enough for the NFL.

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Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at [tdahlberg@ap.org](mailto:tdahlberg@ap.org) or <http://twitter.com/timdahlberg>

## **Frozen fox extracted from upper reaches of Danube in Germany**

BERLIN (AP) — A hunter in Germany has put on show a block of ice containing a fox that he says fell into the chilly Danube and drowned, in what he calls a warning of the dangers of the icy river.

Franz Stehle told news agency dpa on Friday that the block containing the fox was extracted from the ice on Jan. 2 and put on display outside his family's hotel in Fridingen. The town is on the upper reaches of the Danube, close to its source in southwestern Germany.

Stehle says it's not unusual for animals to break through the frozen surface of the river in winter. He says he's seen a frozen deer and wild boar before.

## **Playoff history for Packers and Cowboys dates back decades**

**By GENARO C. ARMAS, AP Sports Writer**

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys and Green Bay Packers go way back, as in the 1967 NFL championship game played in such frigid conditions at Lambeau Field that it is known in league annals as the "Ice Bowl."

Cowboys receiver Dez Bryant has more recent memories, and they're painful for reasons other than the cold.

Two of the league's marquee franchises share a postseason history that dates back five decades. They have met seven previous times in the playoffs, with Dallas holding a 4-3 edge going into the divisional round game on Sunday against the Packers at AT&T Stadium.

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While the teams may not be heated divisional rivals, their postseason meetings often leave an impression.

"I hope the Cowboys don't spoil it, or I'll be really (angry) if they do," said former Packers offensive lineman Jerry Kramer.

He was one of the blockers for Hall of Famer Bart Starr's game-winning, 1-yard quarterback sneak with 13 seconds left in the fourth quarter of Green Bay's 21-17 win in the Ice Bowl.

Each team has made 32 postseason appearances, tied with the New York Giants for most in NFL history.

Dallas and Green Bay have unique owners. For the Cowboys, owner Jerry Jones is part-showman, part-personnel executive and part-spokesman. Dallas plays in a cavernous, modern stadium in a sprawling suburb.

Green Bay plays in the league's smallest market. Lambeau Field is the league's longest-tenured stadium, situated in the middle of a blue-collar neighborhood. It's the only publicly owned franchise in the NFL.

"Part of it is, I don't think the organizations could be more different. Their stadium and our stadium — ours is iconic, an older stadium. Their (stadium) is glitzy," Packers president Mark Murphy said. "But I have tremendous respect for the Dallas organization and Jerry."

A look back at some postseason highlights of postseason between the teams:

**NEW YEAR'S DAY:** Fifty years ago on Jan. 1, the teams met in the 1966 NFL championship game, which took on new meaning since the winner would represent the league in the first Super Bowl against the AFL winner. Starr was 19 of 28 for 304 yards and four touchdown passes in the 34-27 victory at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. The Packers went on to beat the Kansas City Chiefs in the Super Bowl.

After joining the NFL as an expansion franchise in 1960, Dallas started a streak of 20 straight winning seasons in 1966.

**ICE BOWL:** The temperature was minus-13 at kickoff on Dec. 31, 1967, when the Cowboys and Packers met at Lambeau in a classic NFL championship game. Cowboys equipment staff gave players a salve to rub on to keep warm, and put Saran Wrap around feet in an attempt to add another layer of warmth.

There wasn't much of a rivalry then because the Cowboys were still relatively new to the league, Kramer said, though the seeds of a rivalry were planted.

**DALLAS DOMINATION:** The Cowboys dominated in the mid-1990s with a star-studded lineup led by the Hall of Fame trio of Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin. Dallas hosted the Packers and another future Hall of Famer, quarterback Brett Favre, for three straight seasons, from 1993-95, all Cowboys victories.

Kramer remembers a weekend in which he attended one of those playoff games and got frustrated by the brash and confident Cowboys. His anger boiled over in a radio interview.

"There wasn't anything about any of them that I liked," Kramer recalled this week. He has become friends with former Dallas players, though his heart remains with the Packers.

The loss in the 1995 NFC title game served as a learning experience for Green Bay. The Packers went on to beat New England in the Super Bowl in the 1996 season.

"Every year, you got better, you learned from your mistakes," former center Frank Winters said. "From a motivational point ... you tried to overcome those adversities, tried to learn from them and move forward."

They didn't face the Cowboys in the playoffs that year after Dallas was knocked out by Carolina. The Packers returned to the Super Bowl the following season, losing to Denver.

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"I think the signature 'win' for the Packers was a loss, and that was the NFC championship in 1995 in Dallas," former Packers linebacker George Koonce said. "That really prepared us and got us focused to really get us ready to win a championship."

**OVERTURNED CATCH:** The Cowboys returned to Lambeau for a postseason game on Jan. 11, 2015. They left with a 26-21 loss after Bryant's leaping, 31-yard catch to the Packers 1 on fourth-and-2 with 4 1/2 minutes left was overturned by officials.

Cornerback Sam Shields had solid coverage. Coach Mike McCarthy saw otherwise and threw a challenge flag.

Replays showed that Bryant bobbled the ball as he rolled into the end zone, with part of it touching the field. After reviewing the play, officials overturned the call, saying Bryant didn't maintain control all the way to the ground.

"Still to this day," Bryant said when asked if fans still come up to him about the call. "Still to this day they (will) be like ... 'I just want the world to know that Dez Bryant still caught it.'"

As for Bryant, that call is history .

"It's already erased ... I'm just thinking about this game," Bryant said. "I can't wait. It's going to be a fun game Sunday."

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AP Sports Writer Schuyler Dixon in Frisco, Texas, contributed to this story.

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

## **CNN at war with Trump over what reporting unleashed**

**By DAVID BAUDER, AP Television Writer**

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — A week before the inauguration, CNN is at war with an incoming president, not necessarily for what it reported but for what its reporting unleashed.

For all the noise — accusations of "fake news," the confrontation between Donald Trump and CNN's Jim Acosta at a news conference, false claims about what CNN had reported or linked to — that realization emerged toward the end of a remarkable 25-minute televised confrontation between Anderson Cooper and Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway.

When it reported on Tuesday that national intelligence officials had informed the president-elect that the Russians had collected a dossier on his behavior, CNN did not specifically detail what that behavior was because it couldn't vouch for its veracity. But it was CNN that gave BuzzFeed the cover to do so, Conway said.

"You got the party started," she said.

The question is raised: if one person unlocks a box and walks away, is that person responsible when someone else opens the box and removes its unsavory contents?

The dossier was reportedly prepared by a former Western spy as part of a political opposition research effort, and detailed supposed efforts by Russian intelligence to compromise Trump during visits to Moscow. Its existence and contents became known by some Washington leaders last fall, while the presidential campaign was still going on.

CNN and other news organizations had been investigating the claims about Trump for several weeks but the report did not become public knowledge because those details could not be confirmed. Intelligence officials had presented the claims in a report to Trump but said that they, too, had not determined whether or not they were true.

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CNN would not have done a story about the dossier's existence if it hadn't learned that intelligence officials had considered it so important that it told Trump about it, the network's Wolf Blitzer said on Thursday. The CNN story was posted shortly after 5 p.m. EST on Tuesday.

Even though CNN did not reveal the specific details, the uncertainties surrounding the report and its origination as ammunition for political opponents should have sent up red flags, said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, a communications professor and the director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

"Had I been asked to make the call at CNN, I would not have aired it," she said.

CNN argued that if the material was significant enough to be in the briefing documents, it was news. And many other organizations, including The New York Times and The Associated Press, followed it up with similar reports — also not revealing the specific details. Even Fox News Channel, in a statement by Shepard Smith, backed CNN.

BuzzFeed published the full dossier of information less than 90 minutes after CNN's initial report.

BuzzFeed did not comment on Thursday, but its editor, Ben Smith, said in an MSNBC interview that reporters had been trying for weeks without success to confirm the veracity of the material. CNN's report changed the calculus.

"If there had not been a public conversation about secret documents that no one would be allowed to see, we would have continue to try to report this out," Smith said.

The BuzzFeed report quickly became the topic of a debate among journalists about whether it is proper to release material that has not been verified, indeed when there is real suspicion that some of it may be false, or if in a Wikileaks world all information is fair game. Smith told MSNBC that the media environment has changed "where you have to engage false statements," drawing a comparison to persistent questions raised about President Barack Obama's birthplace.

The timeline was the inverse of what has happened in the past with some news stories, like when the National Enquirer broke the story of former presidential candidate John Edwards' affair and mainstream news organizations hopped upon it.

Trump's anger toward CNN was apparent at his news conference Wednesday even before his tense confrontation with Acosta. He praised The New York Times for not reporting on the details included in the dossier, even though CNN had done the same thing. He tweeted Thursday that CNN "is in a total meltdown with their FAKE NEWS."

It hasn't escaped notice that Conway's argument — that CNN should be criticized because it "got the party started" — is similar to those his campaign rejected when critics said Trump's rhetoric gave implicit permission for supporters to be violent or abusive.

Cooper, in his confrontation with Conway, said CNN could not be held responsible if "shady organizations" like BuzzFeed put out their own material on the story. "We stand by our reporting 100 percent," he said.

"CNN is not in any way responsible for what other people do and report other information they have," said Frank Sesno, a former CNN Washington bureau chief and a journalism professor at George Washington University. "Their responsibility is to report what they have."

What BuzzFeed did following that report is not CNN's problem, he said.

But it's less than a week before inauguration and the president-elect in on the warpath against CNN. That is CNN's problem.



## Judge: Appeals holding up Prince estate determination

By STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

CHASKA, Minn. (AP) — The Minnesota judge overseeing Prince's estate will wait for appeals to be exhausted before making a final determination on who will inherit a fortune that could be worth around \$200 million, he said at a hearing Thursday.

But Carver County District Judge Kevin Eide also made it clear the late superstar's six confirmed siblings are the likely heirs. Prince left no known will when he died in April of a painkiller overdose. The judge already has rejected claims from several other people to be Prince's child, sibling or wife.

"The court cannot make a determination of who the heirs are until these appeals are exhausted," Eide said. That process typically takes several months or more.

Prince's sister, Tyka Nelson, and his five half-siblings also want Comerica Bank and Trust to take over running the estate from temporary special administrator Bremer Trust. Attorneys for the two institutions said they expect a handover at the end of the month.

Eide also heard testimony but did not immediately rule on whether he should appoint an individual as a "co-personal representative," or co-executor, to act in part as a go-between Prince's siblings and Comerica. Both candidates were Prince insiders.

Prince's four older half-siblings, Sharon, Norrine and John Nelson, and Alfred Jackson, want entertainment lawyer L. Londell McMillan, who served the musician for 13 years as his attorney, adviser and friend. He helped extricate Prince from his contract with Warner Bros. in the days when Prince was writing "slave" on his cheek and dropped his name in favor of an unpronounceable symbol. McMillan also has represented Michael Jackson and Stevie Wonder, and is currently overseeing Prince's entertainment assets.

Tyka Nelson and his younger half brother, Omarr Baker, want Van Jones, a former Bay Area civil rights lawyer and White House official who promoted green and tech jobs for inner-city youth. Jones, who also is a CNN commentator, told the court how he ran Prince's philanthropic endeavors for nine years, saying he has a talent for building teams and that overcoming distrust among the siblings would take hard work.

Noting those frictions, Eide said he'll name a co-personal representative only if he thinks that person will help resolve the case as soon as possible.

"The court is not looking for someone who is going to seek headlines for themselves," he said.

Court filings suggest the estate is worth around \$200 million. The estate faces a Jan. 21 tax filing deadline. Federal and state estate taxes are expected to gobble up about half the value, although the estate can pay over time.

## Robert De Niro says Meryl Streep's Globe speech was 'great'

By MARK KENNEDY, AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Hollywood heavyweight Robert De Niro has come to the defense of Meryl Streep, saying her speech at the Golden Globes was "great."

The multiple Oscar-winner wrote a letter of support to his "The Deer Hunter" co-star following fallout after her attack on President-elect Donald Trump on Sunday. Streep said that "when the powerful use their position to bully others, we all lose."

"What you said was great. It needed to be said, and you said it beautifully," De Niro wrote. "I have so much respect for you that you did it while the world was celebrating your achievements. I share your sentiments about punks and bullies. Enough is enough."

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A De Niro representative confirmed the letter was authentic.

De Niro and Streep have co-starred in four films: "The Deer Hunter," "Falling in Love," "Marvin's Room" and "First Man."

Besides endorsing Hillary Clinton for president, Streep has been aligned with President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama, and even impersonated Trump at a gala in Central Park. De Niro, for his part, made a splash during this campaign season in a viral video, calling Trump "a pig," "an idiot" and "a mutt, who doesn't know what he's talking about."

De Niro wasn't the only one to come to Streep's defense. Ben Affleck and Barbra Streisand have backed the Oscar winner, and Michael Keaton, who was also at the Globes on Sunday, said he had contacted her with his support.

"I emailed Meryl Streep," Keaton said in an interview Wednesday while promoting "The Founder." "And I just said two words — 'beautiful thing.' She emailed back real quick that she's getting a little beat up."

— Ryan Pearson in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## Asian stocks mixed after China data

By YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stock markets were mixed on Friday as disappointing Chinese trade data dented already bleak investor sentiment following U.S. President-elect's Donald Trump's news conference. The U.S. dollar rebounded.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 gained 0.7 percent to 19,275.44 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was up 0.5 percent to 22,936.98. China's Shanghai Composite Index added 0.1 percent to 3,122.87. But South Korea's Kospi fell 0.5 percent to 2,076.08 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 slumped 1 percent to 5,711.30. Stocks in Singapore were higher but in Indonesia and the Philippines, markets were lower.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "A correction may have been due following the exuberance of the market reaction to the election of Trump," said Alex Furber, a sales trader at CMC Markets. "Uncertainty lies ahead and market participants will want to see how the new administration takes shape."

CHINA TRADE: Customs data showed that Chinese exports sank 6.1 percent in December from a year earlier. In November, China's exports eked out a 0.1 percent expansion after shrinking for nine straight months. Imports rose 3.1 percent from a year earlier.

WALL STREET: U.S. stock markets finished moderately lower. The Dow Jones industrial average slid 63.28 points, or 0.3 percent, to 19,891. The average had briefly been down more than 183 points. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 4.88 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,270.44. The Nasdaq composite fell 16.16 points, or 0.3 percent, to 5,547.49.

OIL: Benchmark crude oil rose 10 cents at \$53.11 per barrel in New York. The contract gained 76 cents, or 1.5 percent, to close at \$53.01 a barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, which is used to price oil sold internationally, gained 8 cents to \$56.09 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar strengthened to 115.07 yen from 114.86 yen while the euro declined to \$1.0608 from \$1.0611.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Jan. 13, the 13th day of 2017. There are 352 days left in the year.

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Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 13, 1967, the Rolling Stones' double-A sided single "Let's Spend the Night Together" and "Ruby Tuesday" was released in the United Kingdom by Decca Records. (It was released the following day in the United States on the London label).

On this date:

In 1733, James Oglethorpe and some 120 English colonists arrived at Charleston, South Carolina, while en route to settle in present-day Georgia.

In 1794, President George Washington approved a measure adding two stars and two stripes to the American flag, following the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the Union. (The number of stripes was later reduced to the original 13.)

In 1898, Emile Zola's famous defense of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, "J'accuse," (zhah-KOOZ') was published in Paris.

In 1915, a magnitude-7 earthquake centered in Avezzano, Italy, claimed some 30,000 lives.

In 1941, a new law went into effect granting Puerto Ricans U.S. birthright citizenship. Novelist and poet James Joyce died in Zurich, Switzerland, less than a month before his 59th birthday.

In 1962, comedian Ernie Kovacs died in a car crash in west Los Angeles 10 days before his 43rd birthday.

In 1978, former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey died in Waverly, Minnesota, at age 66.

In 1982, an Air Florida 737 crashed into Washington, D.C.'s 14th Street Bridge and fell into the Potomac River while trying to take off during a snowstorm, killing a total of 78 people; four passengers and a flight attendant survived.

In 1987, West German police arrested Mohammed Ali Hamadi, a suspect in the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner. (Although convicted and sentenced to life, Hamadi was paroled by Germany in Dec. 2005; he is on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorists list.)

In 1990, L. Douglas Wilder of Virginia became the nation's first elected black governor as he took the oath of office in Richmond.

In 1997, seven black soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor for World War II valor; the lone survivor of the group, former Lt. Vernon Baker, received his medal from President Bill Clinton at the White House.

In 2014, a shooting at a Wesley Chapel, Florida, movie theater left Chad Oulson, 43, dead; retired Tampa police captain Curtis Reeves, 71, is accused of killing Oulson during what authorities said was an argument over Oulson's texting.

Ten years ago: Nine people were killed in an apartment building fire in Huntington, West Virginia. Two miners were killed when a roof collapsed inside the Brooks Run Mining Co.'s Cucumber coal mine in McDowell County, West Virginia. The North Carolina state attorney general's office agreed to take over the sexual assault case against three Duke University lacrosse players at the request of embattled Durham County District Attorney Mike Nifong (all three players were later exonerated).

Five years ago: The Italian luxury liner Costa Concordia ran aground off the Tuscan island of Giglio and flipped onto its side; 32 people were killed. Myanmar freed some of its most famous political prisoners, sparking jubilation among their supporters. Veteran TV newsman Richard Threlkeld, 74, was killed in a car crash on Long Island, New York.

One year ago: Less than a day after 10 U.S. Navy sailors were detained in Iran when their boats drifted into Iranian waters, they and their vessels were back safely with the American fleet. Defense Secretary Ash Carter laid out broad plans to defeat Islamic State militants and retake the group's key power centers in Iraq and Syria. The Al Jazeera America cable news network said it was shutting down

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two and a half years after its launch. Three winning tickets split a world-record \$1.6 billion Powerball jackpot.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Frances Sternhagen is 87. TV personality Nick Clooney is 83. Comedian Rip Taylor is 83. Comedian Charlie Brill is 79. Actor Billy Gray is 79. Actor Richard Moll is 74. Rock musician Trevor Rabin is 63. Rhythm-and-blues musician Fred White is 62. Rock musician James Lomenzo (Megadeth) is 58. Actor Kevin Anderson is 57. Actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus is 56. Rock singer Graham "Suggs" McPherson (Madness) is 56. Country singer Trace Adkins is 55. Actress Penelope Ann Miller is 53. Actor Patrick Dempsey is 51. Actress Traci Bingham is 49. Actor Keith Coogan is 47. TV producer-writer Shonda Rhimes is 47. Actress Nicole Eggert is 45. Actor Ross McCall is 41. Actor Michael Pena is 41. Actor Orlando Bloom is 40. Meteorologist Ginger Zee (TV: "Good Morning America") is 36. Actress Ruth Wilson is 35. Actor Julian Morris is 34. Actor Liam Hemsworth is 27.

Thought for Today: "Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrow, it only saps today of its joy." — Leo Buscaglia, American author (1924-1998).