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Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!
TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

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

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The Christmas season is a wonderful time of the year. In years past, we have usually overextended our spending limit. I have often talked about in church that Christmas is not about presents and we shouldn't go in debt to try and fill the Christmas tree with a ton of presents. After all, for most of the presents, the children will play with them for a couple of weeks, and then the next time they are touched is when they are placed on the rummage sale. This year, we kept our spending under control. That makes for a great start to 2018.

I know we have gotten a lot of comments this year about our lack of outdoor Christmas lights. We had a number of issues this year. We were busy with the downtown businesses in making the move. In addition, we have had some very windy days that would have raised havoc with the ornaments.

This summer, we are going to go through all of our holiday stuff (yes, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas) and get them organized for 2018. So yes, we are planning a big lighting year next year. We're also trying to come up an image of Jesus riding a white horse to reflect the second Advent. I have been unable to come up with anything yet. I may have to come up with an alternate plan. I am actually looking forward to next year already.

As I'm watching a Charlie Brown Christmas, I think about the Angel Tree that my wife runs. She puts her whole heart and soul into the project and tries to make Christmas a little better for those who don't have much. I also know that people are home alone for the Christmas season and I hope that people invite those who are home alone to their Christmas dinner or supper. We always make it a point to invite people who we know are home alone to our dinner when we host it. Even with a whole house of company, we always make room for extra people. Nothing like practicing what I preach.



Tina Kosel getting things finalized for the Angel Tree presents.

NEW SIGN-ON BONUSES!

★ ★ ★ **\$1,500 for CNAs** ★ ★ ★

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Alzheimer's Care Unit Director Medication Aid

Contact Brynn Pickrel or Nellie Hatfield at 605-397-2365 or apply in person.



GROTON
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

On Saturday, December 23, the Minnesota Vikings were in Green Bay, Wisconsin – braving the brutally cold temperatures and rival fans – attempting to sweep the Packers this season and win their 12th game of 2017. Not only did the Vikings leave the land of lactose with a victory, but they also held the Packers scoreless, the first shutout by Minnesota since 1993. The Vikings are now 12-3 this season, and if the season ended today they would hold the second seed in the NFC which comes with a very important bye in the first round in the playoffs.

Case Keenum had one of the worst games of his Vikings career, but he has an excuse because of the horrible weather and even worse field conditions. Keenum only completed 14 of 25 passes for 139 yards, but he did have a touchdown and zero interceptions. For the most part neither team could get much going through the air, which was to be expected because cold weather can severely impact a receiver's timing and makes the football much more difficult to catch.

Latavius Murray got the majority of the carries in the run game (21 carries, 69 yards, 3.3 yards per carry), but Jerick McKinnon was by far the most effective running back when he had his chances (7 carries, 42 yards, 6.0 ypc). Stefon Diggs led the receivers in targets (8), catches (5) and receiving yards (60), and he also caught the game's only touchdown. Adam Thielen and Kyle Rudolph were non-factors in this game – catching only two passes for 24 yards and one pass for 6 yards respectively. After reviewing the film, there were plenty of opportunities for the Vikings to move the ball through the air, but Keenum was unable to hit the deep shot – both because of the weather and the offensive line not affording him as much time to throw as he has become accustomed to.

Harrison Smith led the Vikings defense and was the main reason they held the shutout. Smith finished the game with 8 tackles, 1 tackle for a loss, 2 pass deflections, and 2 interceptions. He was playing like a man possessed, which was likely due to him being snubbed from the Pro Bowl. The Packers were without Aaron Rodgers, who was placed on the Injured reserve list again after coming back for only one game, so their offense surely didn't pose much of a threat to Minnesota's excellent defense. However, it was nice to see the Vikings tighten up and not give up a single point – especially against the rival Green Bay Packers.

Mentioned earlier, the Pro Bowl rosters were announced this past week and four Minnesota Vikings made the list. Adam Thielen was the only Viking to make it on offense, but there were a few others who could have made it. Kyle Rudolph is second in the NFL with 8 touchdown catches for a tight end, while any of the Vikings' offensive linemen could have made it, considering



All auto owners!
Save \$2-\$4 /tank
& grow your local economy
by choosing low carbon
Super Premium E30's
94 octane, more power,
same mileage, fewer
carbon deposits, lower
maintenance costs,
slashed benzene & related
genotoxic, carcinogenic
tailpipe emissions;
*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for
info, E30 prices/locations.

***Farmers Union's
PSA: Courtesy Merle
Anderson (Merle is 94
year old founder of Ace
and legendary ethanol
supporter... "because it is
the right thing to do")**

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only three quarterbacks (with at least 300 pass attempts) have taken less sacks than Keenum's 20. On defense, three Vikings made the Pro Bowl list: Xavier Rhodes, Anthony Barr, and Everson Griffen. Harrison Smith is clearly the biggest snub from the Vikings' defense (he is the highest rated safety in the NFL according to Pro Football Focus), but Linval Joseph is also more than deserving and is criminally underrated across the nation. At the end of the day, however, it shouldn't be an issue, as I fully expect zero Vikings to be playing in the Pro Bowl because they'll be too busy getting ready for another game – the Super Bowl.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will close out their season with a week 17 matchup against the Chicago Bears. The game will be at U.S. Bank Stadium on New Year's Eve, and it will start at noon on Fox. The Bears are 5-10 and will just be praying to make it out of the contest without any lasting injuries. The Vikings will be unable to move up to the #1 seed in the NFC because Philadelphia has already secured it, but the Vikings will still be able to lock up the #2 seed and a bye week with a win on Sunday. I would expect the starters to play some, but once the game is firmly in hand the backups should come in and get some valuable playing time. ESPN gives the Vikings an 88% chance to win, and unless something crazy happens (knock on wood), the Vikings should finish the season 13-3 and firing on all cylinders entering the playoffs. Skol!

Have any questions or comments? Reach out to me on Facebook ([facebook.com/SkolJWright](https://www.facebook.com/SkolJWright)) or on Twitter (@SkolJWright)

Strom receives third place in GDI Lighting Contest



The Alan Strom home at 402 E 16th Ave. in Groton took third place in the second annual GDI Lighting Contest sponsored by the Groton Daily Independent. Strom received a tree ornament reflecting the third place and also a \$15 gift certificate from the Groton Dairy Queen and Subway of Groton. Pictured left to right are Julianna Kosel, Alan Strom, granddaughter from Tripp, Addiyn Albertson, Shelly Lerew and Jeslyn Kosel.



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Today in Weather History

December 26, 1988: Moderate to heavy snow fell across western and northern South Dakota, as well as across most of Minnesota, from the evening of the 25th through the morning of the 27th. Much of the northern one-half to two-thirds of Minnesota and the western and northern sections of South Dakota were blanketed with 6-12 inches of new snow. Numerous accidents and minor injuries were indirectly related to the snowy conditions. Several snowfall amounts in South Dakota included 12 inches at Timber Lake; 10 to 12 inches at Seneca and Hoven; 11 inches at Aberdeen; 8 inches at Pierre, Eureka and Blunt; 7 inches at Chelsea, Redfield, Cottonwood, and Rapid City; and 6 inches at Ferney, Huron, and Eden. In Minnesota, 8 inches fell in Browns Valley, 6 inches fell at Wheaton, and 5 inches accumulated at Artichoke Lake.

December 26, 1776: George Washington crossed the ice-clogged Delaware River. He marched on Trenton in the midst of snow and sleet thus surprising and captured many of the British garrisons.

1947 - New York City received a record 26.4 inches of snow in 24 hours, with as much as 32 inches reported in the suburbs. The heavy snow brought traffic to a standstill, and snow removal cost eight million dollars. Thirty thousand persons were called upon to remove the 100 million tons of snow. The storm claimed 27 lives. (26th-27th) (David Ludlum)

1983 - Miami, FL, established a December record with a morning low of 33 degrees. Just three days earlier, and again three days later, record warm temperatures were reported in Florida, with daytime highs in the 80s. (The National Weather Summary)

1987 - Freezing rain plagued parts of the south central U.S., from northwest Texas to southwestern Missouri. Southwestern Missouri was turned into a huge skating rink as roads became sheets of ice. Damage to tree limbs and power lines compared to a hundred tornadoes, and half of the city of Springfield was left without electricity for 24 hours. Snow, sleet and ice covered the northwest two thirds of Oklahoma. 75,000 homes were left without electricity as ice accumulated one to two inches in a 40-mile band from Duncan to Norman to Tulsa to Miami. 25,000 of those homes were still without power a week later. The storm claimed the lives of seven persons. (24th-27th) (The Weather Channel) (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Low pressure produced heavy snow from North Dakota to western sections of the Great Lakes Region, with up to fourteen inches reported in the Chicago area. Cold arctic air hovered over the Plateau Region. Temperatures in the Big Smokey Valley of Nevada plunged to 31 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary)

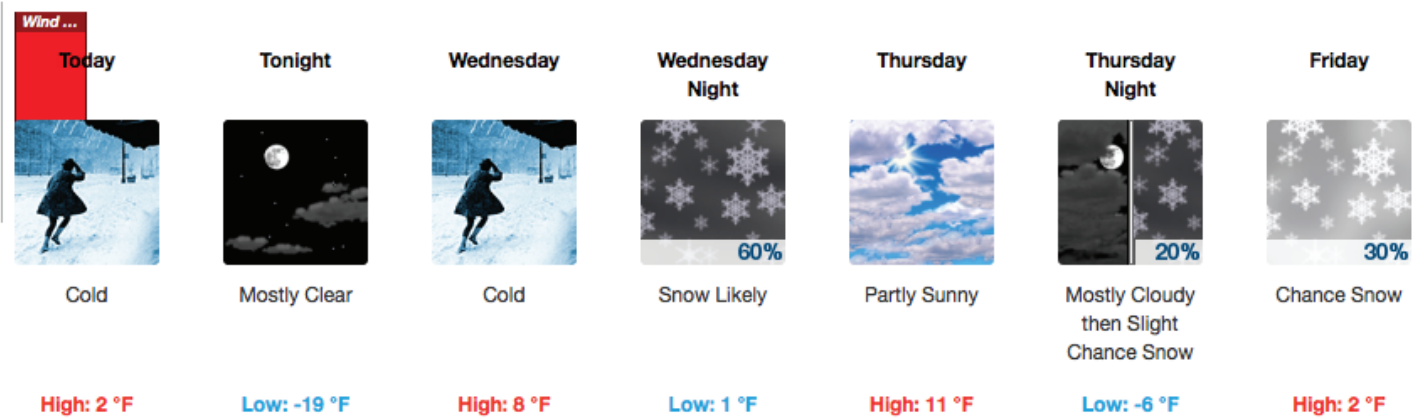
1989 - Strong northerly winds behind an arctic cold front produced snow squalls in the Great Lakes Region and dangerous wind chill temperatures in the northeastern U.S. Wind chill readings as cold as 40 degrees below zero were reported in New York State. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2003 - A major snow storm in Utah caused several fatalities due to avalanches. As much as 2 ft of snow fell in parts of the state, particularly south of Salt Lake City. Three people that were seen snowboarding in the Aspen Grove recreational area have been presumed dead, all others managed to escape or be rescued (Reuters).

December 26, 2004: A magnitude 9.1 earthquake near Sumatra, Indonesia generated a tsunami that caused tremendous devastation throughout the Indian Ocean. The quake, which is the third largest in the world since 1900, caused severe damage and casualties in northern Sumatra, Indonesia, and in the Nicobar Islands, India. The tsunami that followed killed more people than any other tsunami in recorded history, with 227,898 dead or missing. The total estimated material losses in the Indian Ocean region were \$10 billion, and insured losses were \$2 billion.

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Cold Temperatures Continue



Today/Tonight

Highs: Single Digits Above

Lows: Teens & 20s Below



Wednesday

Highs: Single Digits/Teens Above

Light Snow East Of The James Valley Developing Late



Thursday

Highs: Single Digits/Teens Above

Light Snow ending - an inch or two accumulation



National Weather Service - Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

Updated: 12/26/2017 5:23 AM Central

Published on: 12/26/2017 at 5:35AM

A very cold airmass will remain in place with temperatures struggling to get above zero today and falling well below zero overnight. As the high moves off to the east we will see a moderation in temperatures to some extent, as well as some moisture moving in. With the cold temperatures in place, that means we could see some large flakes across eastern South Dakota but not with much moisture, to the tune of an inch or two late Wednesday into early Thursday.

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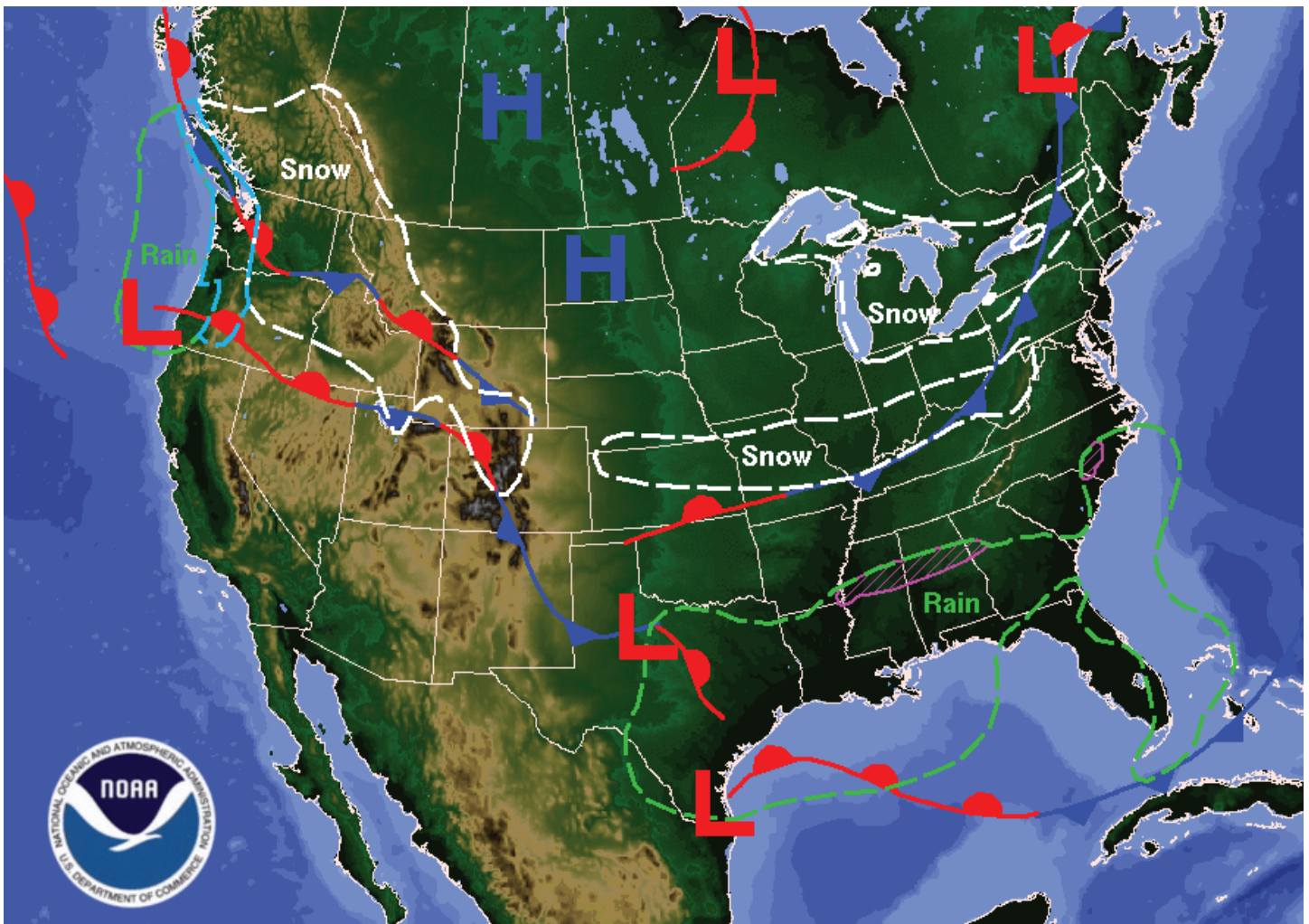
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 6.7
Low Outside Temp: -14.0
High Gust: 27
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 53° in 2011
Record Low: -29° in 1990
Average High: 23°F
Average Low: 3°F
Average Precip in Dec: 0.43
Precip to date in Dec: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 21.63
Precip Year to Date: 13.47
Sunset Tonight: 4:56 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:12 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Dec 26, 2017, issued 5:00 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds/Hurley with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



WHY MOTHERS MATTER

One of the most beautiful passages in Scripture is found in Luke's Gospel. It is called "The Magnificat." We have Mary proclaiming, "My soul magnifies the Lord." The word soul is a special word and in Hebrew is used to reveal or describe a person's entire identity. It is the very essence – or being or character – of a person. In this one word, Mary reveals that all of her is committed to the Lord. The sum and substance of her life was to worship God in all of His Majesty!

If we want to study the smallest particle of God's creation we put it under a microscope to magnify it. This enlarges, or expands, every detail of the particle so we can discover its intricacies, its subtleties and its structure. Mary was determined to put God under her "microscope" so she could understand Him personally, intimately and completely.

In her "song" she magnified her Lord – not her Son. Often we become overly concerned about the way our children look rather than what they look at. Not so Mary. She recognized her responsibility as a mother and knew that if God were first in her life, He would be first in her child's life. She had her priorities right.

God entrusted Mary with the Messiah because He was at the center of her life and knew that her Son would be nurtured in what matters most in the life of a child: knowing, understanding and following His will.

Prayer: We ask, Lord, that all mothers everywhere will recognize the importance of being a mother and the trust You place in them to raise children to know You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Luke 1:46-55 "My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/28/2018 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 3/24/2018 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/5/2018 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/28/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

News from the Associated Press

Man killed when van hit bus in South Dakota identified

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a man killed when his van rear-ended a stalled charter bus on the interstate in Rapid City was a 31-year-old from Iowa.

The South Dakota State Patrol says Cade Stensland of Larchwood, Iowa was driving on Interstate 90 about 20 miles east of Rapid City when he hit the charter bus. The Daily Republic reports the bus had stalled in the middle of the highway with no lights because it had lost power Thursday night.

No one was injured on the bus, which carried 56 passengers.

The South Dakota State Patrol is investigating the accident.

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

Christmas brings Northeast blizzard, bitter cold in Midwest

CHICAGO (AP) — The good news for many in the Northeast and Midwest was that it has been a white Christmas. The bad news was that a blizzard swept into parts of New England and bitter cold enveloped much of the Midwest.

Even the usually rainy Pacific Northwest got the white stuff. The National Weather Service says it's only the sixth time since 1884 that downtown Portland had measurable snow — only an inch or two — on a Dec. 25.

A blizzard warning was issued Monday for portions of Maine and New Hampshire, with forecasters saying snow of up to 10 inches (25 centimeters) and wind gusts up to 50 mph (80 kph) could make travel "dangerous to impossible."

Most businesses were already shuttered on Christmas Day in New England. One of the few open was The Tobacconist cigar shop in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, where area-resident Dwayne Doherty said he welcomed the fresh blanket of snow.

"I'm actually happy," he said, chuckling as he made his way to his pick-up. "We haven't had snow on Christmas at all in the last few years. It's actually perfect."

States from Montana and the Dakotas to Wisconsin expected wind chill temperatures in places at 40 below zero (40 below Celsius), the National Weather Service said. The upper half of Iowa and northern Illinois also braced for subzero temperatures.

Minnesota was experiencing its most frigid Christmas Day since 1996, with wind chills as cold as 35 degrees below zero, KSTP-TV reported. The National Weather Service warned that those whose skin was exposed in such conditions could get frostbite in as little as 15 minutes.

Snow amounts in the Midwest were not large for this time of year. A storm system that swept from Nebraska through Iowa dropped around 2 inches of snow on Chicago, the weather service said.

That was just enough to provide a picturesque backdrop for those gathering for Christmas dinners in the Chicago area. But it wasn't enough to cause havoc either on roadway or airport runaways.

Chicago's O'Hare International Airport was reporting just six cancellations and average delays of only 15 minutes around noon Monday. There were no cancellations at the city's other major airport, Midway, and delays were less than 15 minutes on average.

The nation's third largest city had comparatively little snow for the season until the weekend — just over 2 inches (5 centimeters) in all, the National Weather Service said.

The city of Milwaukee had 103 salt trucks treating slick spots Monday, according to WITI-TV. The trucks were using treated salt that's deployed when temperatures drop below 15 degrees.

In addition to slowing travel in New England, the storm was responsible for some power outages. Ever-source reported more than 20,000 customers in eastern Massachusetts without electricity, the bulk on Cape Cod which was feeling the brunt of strong winds.

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Most of Indiana had been under winter weather advisory with officials urging motorists to stay put unless they absolutely had to travel. Northern Indiana had been expecting up to 5 inches (13 centimeters) with slightly less in the southern part of the state.

New England was expected to get up to 8 inches (20 centimeters) of snow. Strong winds were predicted for Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island with gusts up to 65 mph (105 kph).

Mountain areas in parts of Colorado, Montana and Wyoming received more than 1 foot (30 centimeters) of snow, which started Saturday. It was good news for holiday skiers and resorts which have struggled with a slow start this season.

But it meant a heightened warning of avalanches in higher elevations outside of ski areas.

Kremlin: Russia election boycott campaign may be illegal

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian officials should review opposition leader Alexei Navalny's calls for an election boycott to see if they might be breaking the law, the Kremlin said Tuesday, hinting at possible legal repercussions.

In a widely anticipated decision, Russia's top election body ruled Monday to formally bar anti-corruption crusader Navalny from running in the presidential election next March. Navalny promptly put out a video statement, saying that the ban shows that President Vladimir "Putin is terribly scared and is afraid of running against me," and called on his supporters to stay away from the vote in protest.

Putin, who has been in power for 18 years, announced his bid for re-election earlier this month, but so far has refrained from canvassing. In contrast, his most prominent rival, anti-corruption crusader Navalny has been campaigning aggressively all year, reaching out to the most remote parts of the country.

Opinion polls say that Putin should easily win the March vote.

Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Tuesday wouldn't comment on the Election Commission's decision to bar Navalny but said the "calls for boycott ought to be carefully studied to see if they are breaking the law."

Peskov also rejected suggestions that Navalny's absence on the ballot could dent the legitimacy of Putin's possible re-election.

The Russian law doesn't say calls for an election boycott are illegal, but authorities last year blocked access to several web-sites calling for the boycott.

Navalny rose to prominence in 2009 with investigations into official corruption and became a protest leader when hundreds of thousands took to the streets across Russia in 2011 to protest electoral fraud. A few years later and after several short-term spells in jail, Navalny faced two separate sets of charges of fraud which were viewed as political retribution aimed to bar him from running for office. In his only official campaign before his first conviction took effect, Navalny garnered 30 percent of the vote in the race for Moscow mayor in 2013.

The European Union said in a statement on Tuesday the decision to keep Navalny off the ballot "casts a serious doubt on political pluralism in Russia and the prospect of democratic elections next year."

The EU's spokeswoman for foreign affairs, Maja Kocijancic, pointed to a European Court of Human Rights ruling that Navalny was denied the right to a fair trial when he was convicted in 2013.

"Politically-motivated charges shouldn't be used against political participation," Kocijancic said.

Lorne Cook contributed to this report from Brussels.

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Russian officials bar Navalny from running for president

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian election officials on Monday formally barred Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny from running for president, prompting calls from him for a boycott of next year's vote.

The Central Election Commission decided unanimously that the anti-corruption crusader isn't eligible to run.

Navalny is implicitly barred from running for office because of a conviction in a fraud case which has been viewed as political retribution. He could have run if he was given a special dispensation or if his conviction was cancelled.

Incumbent Vladimir Putin is set to easily win a fourth term in office in the March 18 election, with his approval ratings topping 80 percent.

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Over the past year, Navalny has mounted a grassroots campaign which reached out to the most remote corners of Putin's heartland.

Navalny, 41 is the most serious challenger that Putin has faced in all his years in power, and the court cases against him have been widely seen as a tool to keep him from running for office.

In a pre-recorded video message that was released minutes after the Election Commission handed down the decision, Navalny called on his supporters to boycott the vote.

"The procedure that we're invited to take part is not an election," he said. "Only Putin and the candidates he has hand-picked are taking part in it."

"Going to the polls right now is to vote for lies and corruption."

Central Election Commission chief Ella Pamfilova told Navalny ahead of its vote to bar him that "maybe we would be interested if you were running," but said the conviction doesn't allow the commission to put him on the ballot.

Speaking before the vote, Navalny told the commission that their decision to bar him would be a vote "not against me, but against 16,000 people who have nominated me, against 200,000 volunteers who have been canvassing for me."

While Putin is all but certain to win an easy victory, the Kremlin wants his performance to be as strong as possible and has been concerned by growing voter apathy.

Navalny's call for a boycott could hurt the Kremlin's hopes for boosting turnout.

The involvement of Ksenia Sobchak, a 36-year-old star TV host, could raise public interest in the race. While Sobchak has denied colluding with the Kremlin, she could attract some of Navalny's supporters and help boost attendance.

Sobchak criticized Navalny's call for boycotting the vote, saying Monday that the "election is the only way to change something, and boycotting them is inefficient and harmful."

She proposed that Navalny join her campaign if she gets registered for the race.

Other veterans of past elections — liberal Grigory Yavlinsky and ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy — are also running. Communists nominated a new face, Pavel Grudinin, director of a big strawberry farm just outside Moscow.

Vladimir Isachenkov contributed to this report.

Trump celebrates Christmas like most of America, with family

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump is celebrating Christmas the way millions of Americans do: surrounded by family, the White House said.

But unlike most Americans, he released a brief video in which his wife, Melania, joined him to "wish America and the entire world a very Merry Christmas."

The first lady says that at this time of year "we see the best of America and the soul of the American people" in children packing boxes to help brighten Christmas for service members and communities coming together to help one another.

"In this season of joy, we spend time with our families, we renew our bonds of love and goodwill between our citizens and, most importantly, we celebrate the miracle of Christmas," Trump said, noting the story of Jesus' birth.

"This good news is the greatest Christmas gift of all, the reason for our joy and the true source of our hope," the president said.

Trump is spending his first Christmas in office at his estate and private club in Palm Beach, Florida. The White House did not say which family members are with him at Mar-a-Lago, but the first lady and their son, Barron, arrived days before he joined them last Friday.

Trump's daughter, Tiffany Trump, was seen getting off of Air Force One in Florida on Friday, and Donald Trump Jr. shared on social media photos of some of his five children at Christmas Eve dinner with their

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grandfather.

For Christmas Day dinner, the family had five desserts to choose from: Piña Colada Crème Brulée, Brilliant Cheesecake, Black Forest Trifle Martini, Bread Pudding and, of course, Trump Chocolate Cake.

The holiday menu began with another signature dish, Mr. Trump's Wedge Salad, the first of four salad or soup options. For an entree, there was Turkey, Char Crusted Filet Mignon and Seared Foie Gras, Braised Short Ribs, Pan Seared Seabass or Diver Scallops.

But the day was not without work. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the president had been briefed on Monday's suicide bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, which killed at least six people.

Heading into the holiday, Trump took note of those he considers naughty (a top FBI official, the news media) and nice (U.S. troops stationed overseas and their families, kids eagerly awaiting Santa's arrival). He also squeezed in time for golf, time with family and time for church.

"Merry Christmas," Trump said Sunday night as he and the first lady arrived for a Christmas Eve service at the Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea in Palm Beach, where congregants welcomed them with a standing ovation. The Trumps wed at the church in 2005.

Trump also sought to cheer U.S. troops who are spending the holiday away from their own families.

"Every American heart is thankful to you and we're asking God to watch over you and to watch over your families," he told Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard members via video hook-up from his estate.

Trump complimented each military branch, but heaped his most effusive praise on the Coast Guard, which impressed him with its rescue operations during a devastating hurricane season.

"You've done such an incredible job in Texas and Florida and Puerto Rico," Trump said.

Trump opened Christmas Eve by tweeting against those he feels don't support him, including FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe and the news media.

After playing golf at his private club in neighboring West Palm Beach, the president joined his wife to field calls from children eager to know when Santa Claus would come to town. The calls came by way of a Santa tracking program run for more than 60 years by NORAD, the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

Trump ate Christmas Eve dinner with family before heading to church.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

10 Things to Know for Tuesday

By The Associated Press

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

1. BLIZZARD, BITTER COLD HIT PARTS OF US ON CHRISTMAS

Heavy, wind-whipped snow falls on parts of New England, while subzero temperatures sweep from the Rockies to the Plains and Great Lakes.

2. TRUMP, FIRST LADY SEND HOLIDAY GREETINGS

In a brief video, the president and his wife, Melania, "wish America and the entire world a very Merry Christmas."

3. WHERE DEMOCRATS EYE ANOTHER SENATE SEAT

Coming off an unlikely win in Alabama, the party looks to take the seat of retiring Sen. Bob Corker in Tennessee.

4. 'WHEN NIGHT FALLS, YOU START GROWING ANXIOUS, DEPRESSED'

Maria Rivera, whose home in Puerto Rico was destroyed by Hurricane Maria three months ago, is among millions of the island's residents who remain without electricity.

5. ACTRESS WHO PLAYED LOUISA VON TRAPP DIES

Heather Menzies-Urich, who was cast as the third-oldest of the seven von Trapp kids in the 1965 musical

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"The Sound of Music," was 68.

6. STRONG HOLIDAY SALES CHEER RETAILERS

People spending more than expected on items like kitchen gadgets, toys and coats could make this the best Christmas shopping season in several years.

7. WHY WASHINGTON'S CROSSING RE-ENACTMENT IS SCUTTLED

High winds force re-enactors to cancel the historic Delaware River passage.

8. WHAT REAL HOUSEWIVES OF NYC STAR SAYS ABOUT ARREST

Luann de Lesseps apologizes after being charged in Florida for drunk and disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

9. POLICE: IT WASN'T SANTA WHO ATTEMPTED PRISON DELIVERY

Ohio state troopers say someone tried to throw packages of tobacco, cellphones and marijuana over the fence at the Richland Correctional Institution on Christmas Eve.

10. YEAR'S BIGGEST SPORTS STORY: KNEELING FOR ANTHEM

The NFL players — many motivated by ex-49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick — say they kneel to call attention to social injustices, but critics say it disrespects the flag.

Cities, volunteers clash over feeding homeless in public

By KATE BRUMBACK, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — When Adele MacLean joined others in an Atlanta park to feed the hungry the Sunday before Thanksgiving, she left with a citation and a summons to appear in court.

The case was dropped when she showed up in court earlier this month, but she and her lawyers say the citation for serving food without a permit was improper and demonstrates callousness toward the homeless. The city and some advocates say feeding people on the streets can hinder long-term solutions and raises sanitation concerns.

"I'm still outraged this is happening," MacLean said after her court appearance Dec. 14. "I'm concerned that the city, whenever they want to crack down on the homeless, they're going to go after anyone that tries to help them."

About 40 cities nationwide had active laws to restrict food sharing as of November 2014, and a few dozen more had attempted such restrictions, according to the National Coalition for the Homeless. Interim Director Megan Hustings said she doesn't have updated numbers but that she's heard about more cities considering such regulations.

MacLean, a volunteer with a movement called Food Not Bombs, was cited Nov. 19 by a Georgia State University police officer after her group refused to stop feeding the homeless in a downtown park, and her lawyers say city officers have been distributing a "misleading pamphlet" bearing the city seal that says a permit is required to feed people in public places.

That's simply not true, said Southern Center for Human Rights attorney Gerry Weber, who's representing MacLean. Permits are required for restaurants, food trucks and festival food vendors, not for people sharing food at no charge, he said.

Even though MacLean's case was dropped, it doesn't mean officers will stop telling people they can't feed the homeless, and doesn't eliminate the possibility of future citations, Weber said. The Southern Center is pushing for a clear statement from the city that people have a right to feed the homeless in public places, he said.

Conflict between city government and groups feeding the homeless in public isn't unique to Atlanta.

A Fort Lauderdale, Florida, ordinance requiring permits to feed the homeless in a park is being challenged in federal court by another Food Not Bombs group. The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments in that case in August but has not ruled yet.

The lawyers in that case argue the ordinances violate the group's right to free speech because group members share food "as an expression of their political message that hunger and poverty can be ended if society's resources are redirected from the military and war."

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"I salute genuinely the good will and good nature of all these people. There is no bad guy in this," said Georgia State University police Sgt. Joseph Corrigan, a chaplain who also leads the department's homeless outreach program.

But instead of having feedings that pop up in different places all the time, it's better to connect people with shelters or other established organizations that provide consistent help and services, he said.

Food safety, garbage and the human waste left behind when people are fed in a place with no bathrooms are also concerns, Corrigan said.

Additionally, many homeless people struggle with serious mental illness or addiction, which can make them wary of help, said George Chidi, social impact director for Central Atlanta Progress, a nonprofit community development organization that serves downtown Atlanta. The city has teams whose mission is to reach out, develop trusting relationships and, ultimately, connect the homeless with housing and treatment services. Public feedings can disrupt those efforts, Chidi said.

"We don't want anybody to stop feeding people," he said. "We just want it done in a way that's connected to social services providers ... and not on the street corner because we can't make sure those connections are being made in these street corner feedings."

MacLean doesn't buy those arguments.

"Food is a human right, and you don't force people to do what you want them to do by withholding food," she said.

Some avoid shelters because of strict rules, safety and health concerns or because they aren't able to be in the same place as family or friends, she said.

Hustings said restrictions on public feedings are most commonly enacted or enforced when the homeless population becomes more visible. In Atlanta, advocates say, more people have ended up on the streets after the recent closure of the city's shelter of last resort.

"Even though the rhetoric will be around providing access to safe food or something that purports to be considering the folks who are homeless and need the food, a lot of times our communities across the country know it's because citizens don't like seeing large gatherings of people who look homeless," Hustings said.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 26, the 360th day of 2017. There are five days left in the year. The seven-day African-American holiday Kwanzaa begins today. This is Boxing Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 26, 1947, heavy snow blanketed the Northeast, burying New York City under 26.4 inches of snow in 16 hours; the severe weather was blamed for some 80 deaths.

On this date:

In 1776, British forces suffered a major defeat in the Battle of Trenton during the Revolutionary War.

In 1799, former President George Washington was eulogized by Col. Henry Lee as "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

In 1865, James H. Nason of Franklin, Massachusetts, received a patent for "an improved coffee percolator."

In 1908, Jack Johnson became the first African-American boxer to win the world heavyweight championship as he defeated Canadian Tommy Burns in Sydney, Australia.

In 1917, during World War I, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation authorizing the government to take over operation of the nation's railroads.

In 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, the embattled U.S. 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne, Belgium, was relieved by units of the 4th Armored Division. Tennessee Williams' play "The Glass Menagerie" was first performed at the Civic Theatre in Chicago.

In 1967, "Magical Mystery Tour," the Beatles' poorly received TV special, was broadcast (in black and

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white) on BBC1.

In 1972, the 33rd president of the United States, Harry S. Truman, died in Kansas City, Missouri, at age 88.

In 1980, Iranian television footage was broadcast in the United States, showing a dozen of the American hostages sending messages to their families.

In 1996, 6-year-old beauty queen JonBenet Ramsey was found beaten and strangled in the basement of her family's home in Boulder, Colorado. (To date, the slaying remains unsolved.)

In 2004, more than 230,000 people, mostly in southern Asia, were killed by a 100-foot-high tsunami triggered by a 9.1-magnitude earthquake beneath the Indian Ocean.

In 2006, former President Gerald R. Ford died in Rancho Mirage, California, at age 93.

Ten years ago: Six people were found dead at a rural property east of Seattle; the property owners' daughter and her boyfriend were arrested. (Michele Anderson and Joseph McEnroe were convicted of killing Anderson's parents, her brother, her sister-in-law and her niece and nephew on Christmas Eve; both received life prison terms.) Francesca Lewis, the sole survivor of a plane crash in Panama two days earlier that claimed three lives, was reunited with her family after rescue workers brought the 12-year-old American out of a remote mountain area. Joe Dolan, one of Ireland's first pop music stars, died in suburban Dublin at age 68.

Five years ago: Toyota Motor Corp. said it had reached a settlement worth more than \$1 billion in a case involving unintended acceleration problems in its vehicles. Old-guard veteran Shinzo Abe took office as Japan's prime minister. Gerry Anderson, 83, British puppetry pioneer and creator of the sci-fi TV show "Thunderbirds," died near Oxfordshire, England. Soul singer Fontella Bass, 72, died in St. Louis.

One year ago: President-elect Donald Trump and President Barack Obama traded competing claims about who would have won had the presidential election been a contest between the two of them; Obama suggested in a podcast he still held enough sway over the coalition of voters that elected him twice to get them to vote for him once again while Trump tweeted: "He should say that but I say NO WAY!" Star gymnast Simone Biles was voted AP Female Athlete of the Year after her golden run at Rio Olympics.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Donald Moffat is 87. Actor Caroll Spinney (Big Bird on TV's "Sesame Street") is 84. Rhythm-and-blues singer Abdul "Duke" Fakir (The Four Tops) is 82. Record producer (and convicted murderer) Phil Spector is 78. "America's Most Wanted" host John Walsh is 72. Country musician Bob Carpenter (The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 71. Funk musician George Porter Jr. (The Meters) is 70. Baseball Hall of Fame catcher Carlton Fisk is 70. Retired MLB All-Star Chris Chambliss is 69. Baseball Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith is 63. Former Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., is 62. Humorist David Sedaris is 61. Rock musician James Kottak (The Scorpions) is 55. Country musician Brian Westrum (Sons of the Desert) is 55. Rock musician Lars Ulrich (Metallica) is 54. Actress Nadia Dajani is 52. Rock musician J is 50. Country singer Audrey Wiggins is 50. Rock musician Peter Klett (Candlebox) is 48. Rock singer James Mercer (The Shins; Flake) is 47. Actor-singer Jared Leto is 46. Actress Kendra C. Johnson is 41. Rock singer Chris Daughtry is 38. Actress Beth Behrs is 32. Actor Kit Harington is 31. Actress Eden Sher is 26. Pop singer Jade Thirlwall (Little Mix Actor) is 25. Actor Zach Mills is 22.

Thought for Today: "Christmas has come and gone, and I — to speak selfishly — am glad of it. The season always gives me the blues in spite of myself, though I manage to get a good deal of pleasure from thinking of the multitudes of happy kids in various parts of the world." — Edwin Arlington Robinson, American poet (1869-1935).