

# Groton Daily Independent

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Oven Fresh Sandwiches	Hot Desserts	Snack Melts	
11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627			

**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**

## Service Notice: Fern Westby

Services for Fern Westby, 87, of Groton will be 10:30 a.m., Saturday, December 30th at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Pastor Young Chung will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garress Funeral Chapel, Groton.

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

Fern passed away Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at Bethesda Home of Aberdeen.

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As I was reading my column from yesterday, I mentioned that Julianna game me her glasses. Apparently, my eyes had not yet adjusted to the great visibility as it should have been GAVE and not game.

My ankle deal was quiet on Facebook, until Anita posted something. Now I'm seeing how many times I can say Thanks to the responses!

The fitness center of my watch is sure taking a beating. It keeps telling me that it's time to stand and it's time to move. My times are all way down from what they normally are. I may have to get into the fitness center to at least get an upper body workout to burn a few calories or I may become the New Year Blimp!

It's hard to believe, but we got the car in the garage! Tina shuffled a bunch of stuff around to make room for the car. That will make it easier for me to

get into the car in the morning for the paper route and we will save on gas as we won't have to warm it up for half an hour.

One of my paper route subscribers gave us a basket of fruit for Christmas. That will really come in handy now as that is suppose to be part of my diet with the medication that I'm taking.

I just got a message that my ornaments for next year's GDI Lighting Festival awards are being shipped out tomorrow. Which reminds me that I have a couple of more awards that need to be presented. As soon as we can get ahold of them, we'll have to get their pictures taken with their awards.

One of my favorite movies is the "Battle of the Bulbs." It's one of the 111 movies I have on the Apple TV. I wish I had half of their decorations. I'm almost thinking about putting up a fence in the back yard, just to have a place to put up more lights. A fence would be easier than trying to put them on the trees. I know one thing is for sure, I'm getting a new ladder for getting on top of the house. The ladder I have is not exactly safe and I always have visions of it falling apart in half.

## NEW SIGN-ON BONUSES!

★ ★ ★ \$1,500 for CNAs ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ \$3,000 for LPNs ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ \$4,500 for RNs ★ ★ ★

### 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**

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## Groton Prairie Mixed

**Team Scores:** Shih Tzus 8, Chipmunks 6, Foxes 5, Cheetahs 4, Coyotes 1, Jackelopes 0

**Men's High Games:** Brad Waage 214, Doug Jorgensen 208, Mike Siegler 196

**Women's High Games:** Karen Spanier 188, Nicole Kassube 166, Sue Stanley 155

**Men's High Series:** Brad Waage 584, Doug Jorgensen 533, Roger Spanier 524

**Women's High Series:** Nicole Kassube 454, Karen Spanier 434, Sue Stanley 430



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")**

## October Students of the Month

The student council is sponsoring Student of the Month. Each month the faculty select students who show outstanding academic achievement. These students receive certificates and have an end of the year lunch with the principal. Students of the month of October are Kyleigh Englund, sixth grade; Andrew Marzahn, seventh grade; Alyssa Locke, eighth grade; Erin Unzen, freshman; Nicole Marzahn, sophomore; Emily Thompson, junior; and Hannah Lewandowski, senior.



**Kyleigh Englund**, sixth grader from Groton, is the daughter of Brenda Englund and Brandon and Tara Englund. Siblings are Gavin, Bailey and Kegan.

Kyleigh's activities are basketball, softball, dance and band. Her accomplishments are good grades and being able to play her instrument in band well. She is interested in friends, family, going to the lake, drawing, sewing, hanging out and swimming. Math is her favorite subject. She plans to become an orthodontist or an interior designer. Her mom and dad are her role models.



**Andrew Marzahn**, seventh grader, is the son of Wade and Renee Marzahn, Groton. Siblings are Breanna, Landon and Nicole.

Andrew's activities include football, baseball, basketball, 4-H and robotics. He has been named to the honor roll, selected for Northwestern Middle School Music Festival, Excellence award at Rapid City's Robotic's Tournament, and is interested in football. Science is his favorite subject and he plans to become a veterinarian. Landon Marzahn is his role model.



**Alyssa Locke**, eighth grader, is the daughter of Matt and Tammy Locke, Groton. Siblings are Jerica, Sydney and Mason Locke. Her activities include basketball, volleyball, soccer, track, piano, youth group and babysitting. She earned the Spirit of Okoboji Award, been named to the 4.0 honor roll and is a varsity soccer letterwinner.

Alyssa is interested in sports, Netflix, music and hanging with friends and family. English is her favorite subject and she plans to become an X-Ray tech, a physical therapist or a teacher. Her mom and her aunt, Jacque, are her role models.



**Erin Unzen**, freshman, is the daughter of Jake and Tiffany Unzen, Groton. Her siblings are Haley, Megan and Nathan.

Erin's activities include volleyball, basketball, band, FBLA and ice skating. She has been named to the 4.0 Honor Roll and as Student of the Month. She is interested in hanging out with friends, watching movies, playing sports and baking. English is her favorite subject and she plans to become a middle school teacher. Her mom is her role model.



**Nicole Marzahn**, sophomore, is the daughter of Wade and Renee Marzahn, Groton. Her siblings are Breanna, Landon and Andrew.

Nicole's activities include volleyball, basketball, FCCLA, 4-H, ice skating, track and field and being involved at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Her accomplishments include 4-H Fashion Revue top model, Rookie of the Year award in volleyball, starting varsity in volleyball and being on the honor roll. She is interested in volleyball, ice skating, crafts, baking, Netflix, and hanging out with friends and family. Science and FACS are her favorite subjects. Her future plans include nursing, dental hygiene or chiropractic. Her role model is Breanna Marzahn.



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**Emily Thompson**, junior, is the daughter of Lee and Jennifer Thompson, Groton. Her brother is James.

Emily's activities include cross country, track, FBLA, Jazz band and band. She was named to the High School All State Band, 4-0 Honor Roll, First Chair in North Area Honor Band for the last three years, and ran in the state cross country meet two years in a row. She is interested in cooking, piano and running. Math is her favorite subject. Her future plans include attending a university and to become a registered dietetic nutritionist. Her grandmother, Viv, is her role model.



**Hannah Lewandowski**, senior, is the daughter of Brad and Becky Lewandowski, Groton. Her siblings are Sarah, Nicole and Jacob.

Hannah's activities include cross country, cheer, track, FCCLA and show choir. Her accomplishments include FCCLA vice president, cross country most improved and lettered in cross country and cheerleading. She is interested in baking, sewing and skating. FACS is her favorite subject. She plans to attend Lake Area for nursing and while there, she will get her LPN and RN and then go on to get her Bachelor's degree. Brooklyn Rasmussen is her role model.

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## Today in Weather History

December 28, 2000: Northwest winds of 35 to 50 mph, gusting to around 65 mph, occurred across central and north central South Dakota in the morning. The high winds resulted in blizzard conditions at some locations just east of the Missouri River. Further east, in northeast South Dakota, northwest winds of 30 to 50 mph combined with newly fallen snow to generate blizzard conditions from the morning into the early afternoon hours. Travel was very difficult in many places and many motorists found themselves in ditches. There were also several non-injury accidents.

1839 - The third storm in two weeks hit the northeastern U.S. It brought two more feet of snow to Hartford, CT, and Worcester, MA. Whole gales swept the coast causing many wrecks. (David Ludlum)

December 28, 1879: Tay Bridge is the main-line railway across the Tay River in Scotland, between the city of Dundee and the suburb of Wormit in Fife. During the evening hours of December 28, 1879, strong winds were said to blow at right angles to the bridge. Witnesses said the storm was as bad as they had seen in 20 to 30 years. The winds at Glasgow and Aberdeen were measured at 71 mph. Winds were estimated to be 80 mph in Dundee. A passenger train departing at 7:13 pm was said to disappear three minutes later. The train was found at the bottom of the river, along with the high girders and much of the ironwork of their supporting piers. There were no survivors. The Court of Inquiry report concluded that, "The fall of the bridge was occasioned by the insufficiency of the cross bracing and its fastenings to sustain the force of the gale."

1897 - The temperature at Dayville, OR, hit 81 degrees to establish a state record for December. (The Weather Channel)

1924 - Iowa experienced its coldest December morning of record. Morning lows averaged 25 degrees below zero for the 104 weather stations across the state.

1955 - Anchorage, AK, was buried under 17.7 inches of snow in 24 hours, a record for that location. (28th-29th) (The Weather Channel)

1958 - Albuquerque, NM, received 14.2 inches of snow to establish a 24 hour record. (28th-29th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A winter storm produced heavy snow in the Upper Mississippi Valley and the Upper Great Lakes Region. Up to twenty inches of snow buried southern Minnesota, and 20 to 40 mph northwesterly winds produced snow drifts six feet high, and reduced visibilities to near zero at times in blowing snow. There were a thousand traffic accidents in Michigan during the storm, resulting in thirty-five injuries. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Strong winds behind a cold front claimed three lives in eastern Pennsylvania, and injured a dozen others in eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Maryland. Winds gusted to 87 mph at Hammononton NJ and in the Washington D.C. area. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Squalls continued to bring snow to the Great Lakes Region, with heavy snow reported near Lake Superior and Lake Ontario. Syracuse NY received 8.5 inches of snow to push the total for the month past their previous December record of 57 inches. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


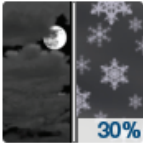





2003 - A severe snow storm hit northern California and southern Oregon. As much as 2 feet of snow fell along Interstate 5 closing a 150-mile stretch of the interstate, stranding hundreds of travelers. Winds from the storm caused power outages to more than 200,000 customers in California and Oregon. One man died of a heart attack after helping other drivers. (CNN)

2004 - Los Angeles (downtown) broke a daily rainfall record for the month of December (5.55 inches). This was the third wettest calendar day in Los Angeles since records began in 1877.

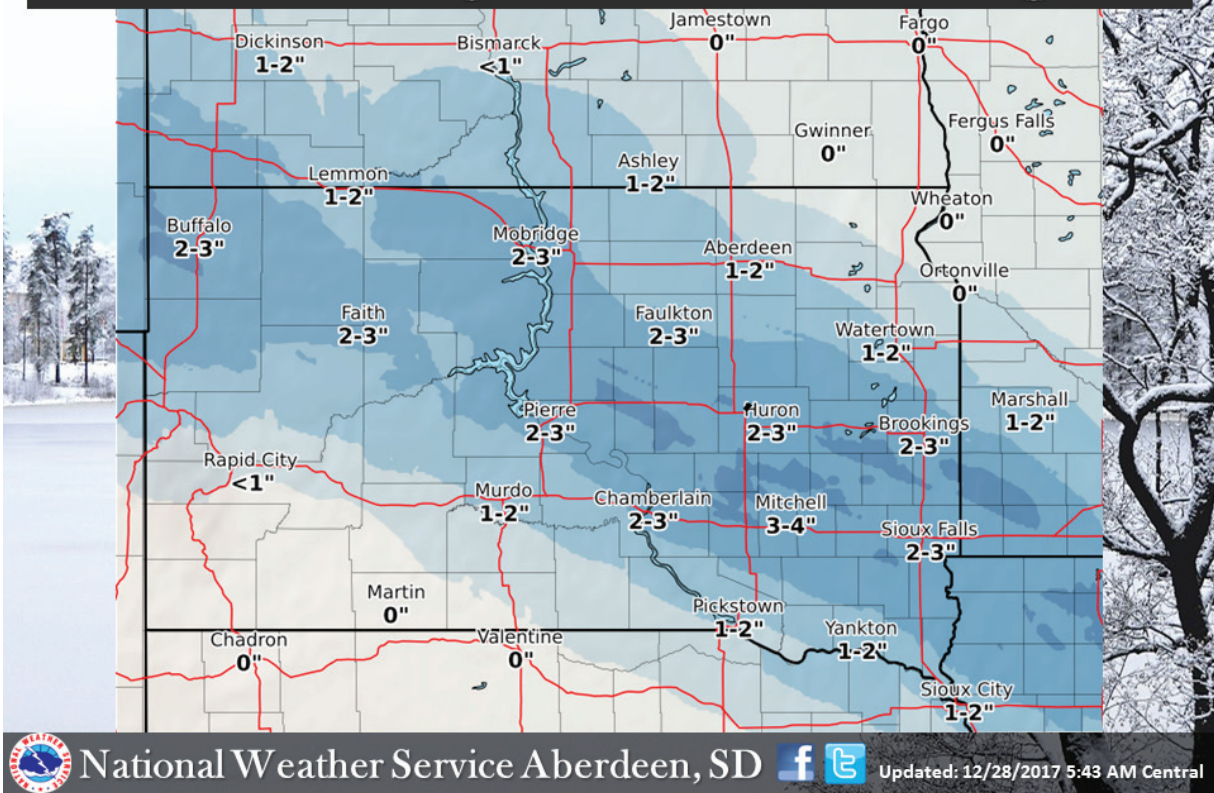
2005 - An outbreak of severe thunderstorms across portions of the southeast United States on the 28th produced hail, high winds and a few tornadoes. The states of Georgia and Tennessee were the most affected. (NCDC)

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Cold	Mostly Cloudy then Chance Snow	Chance Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Cold	Slight Chance Snow then Partly Cloudy	Cold
High: 9 °F	Low: -10 °F	High: 2 °F	Low: -17 °F	High: -9 °F	Low: -22 °F	High: -8 °F

## Most Likely Snowfall Tonight



Another round of light snow will cross the region this evening starting late tonight. A swath of 2-3 inches is possible across a large portion of the state. Any snow that falls will once again be very dry and fluffy. Winds will be breezy this morning and this afternoon, but will calm down and remain light by the time any snow does start to fall.



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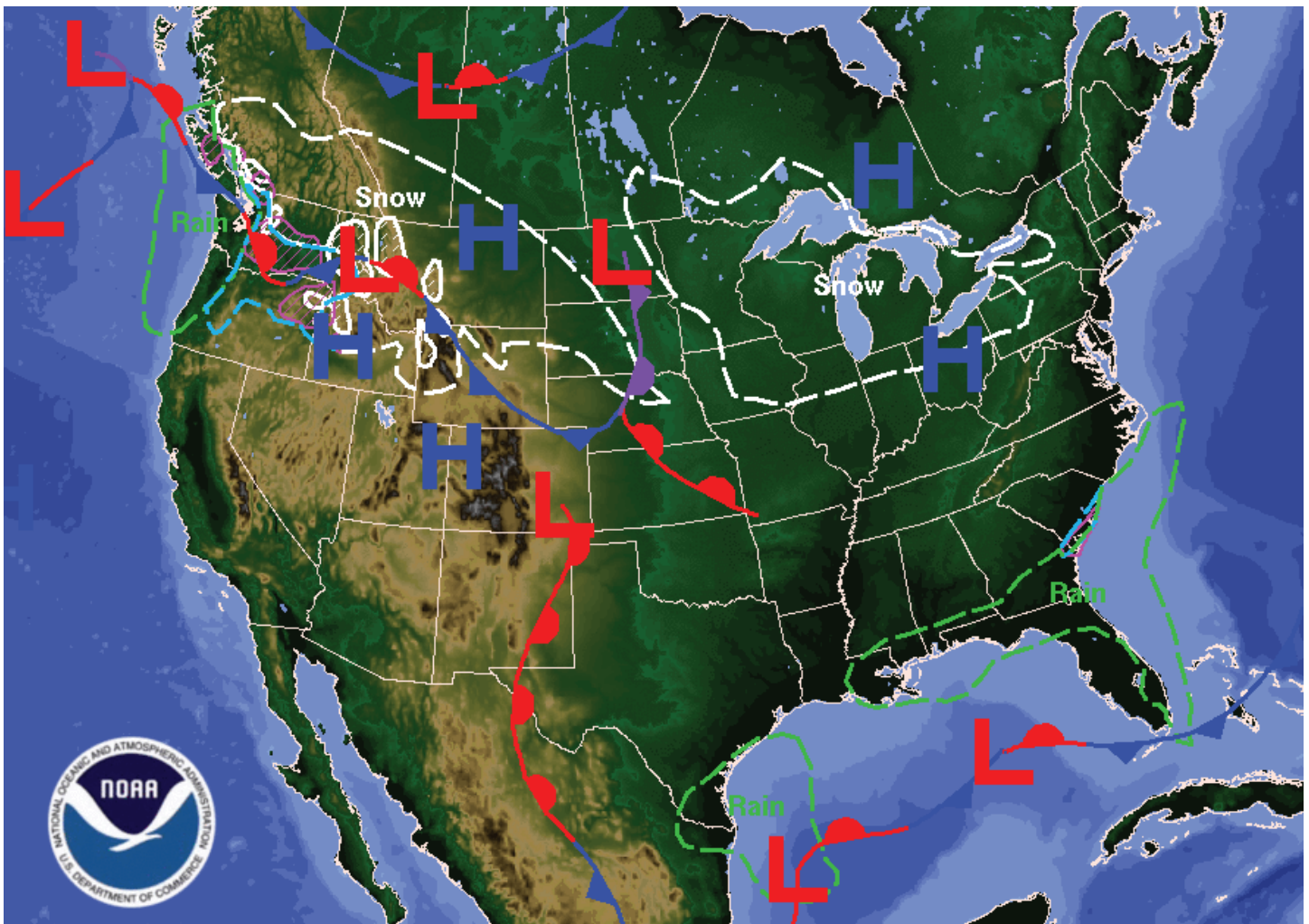
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 12.5 at 2:54 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: -14.4 at 12:33 AM**  
**Wind Chill: -26.0 at 6:49 AM**  
**High Gust: 29 at 9:29 PM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 57° in 1898**  
**Record Low: -24° in 1924**  
**Average High: 23°F**  
**Average Low: 3°F**  
**Average Precip in Dec: 0.46**  
**Precip to date in Dec: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 21.66**  
**Precip Year to Date: 13.47**  
**Sunset Tonight: 4:57 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:13 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Dec 28, 2017, issued 3:20 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Kong 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)**



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## PRACTICING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Lord Moynihan is recognized as one of the world's greatest surgeons. Physicians came from distant places to observe his techniques and procedures.

One day after he finished operating before a gallery of other surgeons a reporter asked, "How can you work so calmly with such a famous crowd present?"

After pausing for a moment, he calmly replied, "There are just three people in the operating room when I operate – the patient, myself and God."

In Joshua we read, "I will not fail you or abandon you." In Hebrews we read, "I will never fail you, I will never forsake you!"

One thing is certain: Wherever Christians find themselves they can know with certainty that God is with them, will never fail, abandon nor forsake them!

How marvelous is that.

When we learn to accept the reality of God's presence in our lives and come to depend on His strength and power rather than our own, we will begin to recognize the sufficiency of His grace and mercy. Once we make the transition from depending on ourselves to complete dependency upon God, our fears will be relieved, our anxieties overcome and our lives endowed with a "peace that passes all understanding."

God wants to do more than care for us, He wants to take care of us. And He will if we trust Him!

Prayer: We are grateful Lord, for Your promises and presence, Your power and protection and Your desire to give us whatever wisdom we need if we use it to honor You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Hebrews 13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

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## 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

### **Rapid City considers requirements for security cars**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City officials are considering requiring security companies to make sure their cars don't look too similar to law enforcement vehicles.

The proposed ordinance comes after Police Chief Karl Jegeris expressed concern that people were mistaking vehicles from Black Hills Patrol security for law enforcement cars. The Rapid City Journal reports the city's legal and finance committee discussed a measure Wednesday that would require security companies to clearly mark their cars with the word "Security" in all capital letters.

Jegeris says it's a minor issue "but it would be negligent to not correct it."

The owner of Black Hills Patrol told councilmembers this month his vehicle's markings were approved by the previous police chief and he doesn't want to change them.

The ordinance is scheduled for a vote in two weeks.

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

### **Bundle up: Bitter cold weather takes hold of northern US**

ERIE, Pa. (AP) — Bitter cold weather has taken hold of much of the northern United States and is expected to stay put for days to come as two Minnesota cities already have set record low temperatures and a city in Pennsylvania continues to dig out from a record snowfall.

Forecasters warned of hypothermia and frostbite from arctic air settling in over the central U.S. and spreading east.

The National Weather Service reported International Falls, Minnesota, the self-proclaimed Icebox of the Nation, plunged to 37 degrees below zero, breaking the old record of 32 below set in 1924. Hibbing, Minnesota, bottomed out at 28 below, breaking the old record of 27 below set in 1964.

Wind chill advisories or warnings were in effect for much of New England, northern Pennsylvania and New York. Those places and states in the northern Plains and Great Lakes were projected to see highs in the teens or single digits and lows below zero for the rest of the week and into the new year.

The National Weather Service said wind chills in many areas Thursday could make temperatures feel below zero.

People in Erie, Pennsylvania, continued to dig out from a storm that brought 34 inches of snow on Christmas Day, smashing the daily snowfall record for the Great Lakes city of 8 inches, and 26.5 more inches on Tuesday. More than 65 inches total fell on the city in just a few days.

Strong westerly winds over Lake Erie picked up moisture, developed into snow and converged with opposing winds, dumping snow in a band along the shore from Ohio to New York, said Zach Sefcovic, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Cleveland.

Sabrina Ram drove into Erie on Christmas Eve to visit her parents just as the snow began to fall. Ram, who lives in suburban Washington, D.C., and her father spent five hours on Christmas and two hours on Tuesday clearing the driveway.

"In D.C., we'd be out of commission for weeks," Ram said. "Things here are pretty much back to normal now."

In New York, communities near Lake Ontario's eastern end, including Redfield and Boylston, also saw around 5 feet of snow this week.

Officials said the storm's timing was good, since people were off the streets and staying home for Christmas, giving plows more space to clear streets.

By Wednesday, Erie's roads were relatively clear, emergency calls were relatively slow and the big task was digging out, County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper said.

"We're used to a lot of snow here in Erie, but this is unprecedented, the amount we got," Dahlkemper said.



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## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) \_ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Wednesday:

Dakota Cash

01-07-08-12-28

(one, seven, eight, twelve, twenty-eight)

Estimated jackpot: \$57,000

Lotto America

04-30-38-47-48, Star Ball: 3, ASB: 2

(four, thirty, thirty-eight, forty-seven, forty-eight; Star Ball: three; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$17.23 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$306 million

Powerball

03-09-16-56-60, Powerball: 3, Power Play: 3

(three, nine, sixteen, fifty-six, sixty; Powerball: three; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$337 million

## Wednesday's Scores

By The Associated Press

### BOYS' BASKETBALL

Sioux Valley 99, St. Francis Indian 65

Chamberlain East/West Classic

Elk Point-Jefferson 74, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 54

Sisseton 69, Douglas 65

Spearfish 73, Chamberlain 49

Viborg-Hurley 61, Faith 46

Hunkpapa Classic

Mandaree, N.D. 87, Crow Creek 82

Pine Ridge 69, McLaughlin 54

Standing Rock, N.D. 73, Little Wound 68

Swiftel Classic

Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 54, Alcester-Hudson 33

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Chamberlain East/West Classic

Chamberlain 52, Douglas 47

Ethan 70, Philip 39

Hunkpapa Classic

Crow Creek 86, Wakpala 20

Little Wound 64, McLaughlin 40

Pine Ridge 78, Standing Rock, N.D. 46

Swiftel Classic

Deuel 52, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 15

Hendricks, Minn. 30, Arlington 25

Waubay/Summit 55, Canby, Minn. 35

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## **The Latest: In Minnesota, temperature drops to 37 below zero**

ERIE, Pa. (AP) — The Latest on cold and snowy weather across the northern U.S. (all times local):  
5:15 p.m.

The "Nation's Icebox" is feeling the chill and setting a record.

The National Weather Service reports International Falls and Hibbing set record low temperatures on Wednesday morning. International Falls — the self-proclaimed "Nation's Icebox" — plunged to 37 degrees below zero, breaking the old record of 32 below set in 1924. Hibbing bottomed out at 28 below, breaking the old record of 27 below set in 1964.

Freezing temperatures and below-zero wind chills will stay put for days to come across much of the northern United States. Forecasters are warning of hypothermia and frostbite from arctic air settling in over the central U.S. on Wednesday and spreading east.

Meanwhile, the snow-hardened city of Erie, Pennsylvania, is digging out from a record snowfall of more than 5 feet this week.

4:25 p.m.

Freezing temperatures and below-zero wind chills will stay put for days to come across much of the northern United States.

Forecasters are warning of hypothermia and frostbite from arctic air settling in over the central U.S. on Wednesday and spreading east.

Wind chill advisories or warnings are in effect for much of New England, northern Pennsylvania and New York. Temperatures there and in the northern plains and Great Lakes states are projected to only reach as high as the teens or single-digits.

The National Weather Service says wind chills in some areas Thursday could make the temperature feel below zero. Lows are projected to be below zero for the rest of the week.

Meanwhile, the snow-hardened city of Erie, Pennsylvania, is digging out from a record snowfall of more than 5 feet this week. New York communities near Lake Ontario's eastern end also saw around 5 feet of snow this week.

1:30 a.m.

A white Christmas for much of the Northeast and Midwest has given way to bitter cold until the New Year. Chicago-area National Weather Service meteorologist Amy Seeley says to expect colder-than-normal temperatures the rest of the week. Temperatures hovered around zero degrees in Chicago on Tuesday.

The city of Erie, Pennsylvania, issued a snow emergency after forecasters say a Christmas storm dumped a record 34 inches of snow on the area. Another 19 inches fell before dawn Tuesday, bringing the total to 53 inches.

Meteorologists warn of sub-zero frigid arctic air and dangerously cold wind chills.

Wind chill advisories or warnings are in effect for parts of several states, including Wisconsin, Michigan, New York and Maine. Meteorologists say frostbite is possible with as little as 30 minutes of exposure.

## **APNewsBreak: Ex-Miss Americas asked to help find new leaders**

**By WAYNE PARRY, Associated Press**

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Trashed by emails sent by pageant officials, former Miss Americas may help choose the new leaders of the Miss America Organization.

The group told The Associated Press Wednesday night that it is seeking the help of former Miss Americas and state directors to recommend the next generation of leaders for the pageant.

In emails that were published last week by the Huffington Post, pageant officials ridiculed the appearance, intellect and sex lives of former Miss Americas. The emails included one that used a vulgar term for female genitalia to refer to past Miss America winners, one that wished that a particular former Miss America had died and others that speculated about how many sex partners former Miss America Mallory

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Hagan has had.

The ensuing uproar led to the group's executive director, Sam Haskell; its president, Josh Randle; board chairwoman Lynn Weidner, and one other board member to resign.

Dan Meyers, the group's interim board chairman, said the group wants former Miss Americas and state directors to recommend members for a search committee that would determine the organization's leadership structure, and choose individuals to fill those roles.

"The board wanted to have a process that was unprecedented in terms of openness, transparency and inclusion," he said. "Given the turbulent nature of leadership transitions, asking all the stakeholders to be a part of this process was the best way."

Some past winners reacted negatively to the board's statement, saying the board had not reached out to them about help in selecting new leaders. Others said they wanted no involvement whatsoever by any current board members in seeking new leadership.

"At this time all remaining members must step aside so we can take our beloved program back," Miss America 1977 Dorothy Benham told the AP. "They have underestimated the strength, intelligence, and determination of the women who have worn the Miss America crown, as well as every young woman who is currently wearing, or has worn the local and state crown. We stand united."

Jennifer Vaden Barth, a former Miss North Carolina, said the former winners want a completely new board to search for leaders, not one that supported Haskell.

"The board needs to accept responsibility for the damage they have caused," she told the AP late Wednesday. "They need to step aside quickly and allow new leadership to save the Miss America program."

Under the plan, former Miss Americas and state directors collectively would name four people to the search committee, and the board would name a former state title holder to the panel. These five individuals and two board members "will begin their exhaustive search in a matter of days," a statement from the board read.

There are currently two vacancies on the 14-member board, and there will be at least two more when the resignations of Randle and Weidner become effective in a matter of weeks.

The organization hopes to have the nominations in hand by Jan. 3. The board said it was notifying groups of its decision to seek their help late Wednesday night.

The emails already cost the pageant its television production partner and raised questions about the future of the nationally televised broadcast from Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall the week after Labor Day each year. Dick Clark Productions told the AP last Thursday that it cut ties with the Miss America Organization over the emails, calling them "appalling."

Meyers said the group has spoken with ABC, the television network scheduled to broadcast the September 2018 pageant, as well as with pageant sponsors. None has ended its relationship with the Miss America Organization, he said. Independent messages sent by the AP over the past two days seeking comment from ABC and pageant sponsors have gone unanswered.

Follow Wayne Parry at <http://twitter.com/WayneParryAC>

## Islamic State claims attack on Shiite center, 41 dead

By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A brutal attack claimed by the Islamic State group devastated a two-story Shiite Muslim cultural center in the Afghan capital on Thursday, killing at least 41 people and wounding another 84, many suffering severe burns from the intensity of the explosions.

The IS-linked Aamaq news agency said three bombs were used in the ferocious assault as well as a single suicide bomber who blew himself up inside the center, where scores of people had gathered to mark the 1979 invasion of Afghanistan by the former Soviet Union.

The claim reflects eyewitness reports that said one bomber sneaked into the center and exploded his device. Other explosions occurred outside the building, which also houses the pro-Iranian Afghan Voice



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news agency, which may also have been a target in the attack.

Earlier, Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said an unknown number of suicide attackers set off an explosion outside the center before carrying out an attack inside.

In its statement to Aamaq news agency, the IS said the center was being funded by Iran and used to propagate Shiite beliefs.

Ali Reza Ahmadi, a journalist with the Afghan Voice, told The Associated Press he had been in his office when the explosion shattered the building. He leapt from his second-story office to the roof of the building where he saw flames from the basement.

"I jumped from the roof toward the basement yelling at people to get water to put out the fire," he said.

Shiite leader Abdul Hussain Ramazandada said witnesses reported at least one suicide bomber sneaked into the event and was sitting among the participants. He exploded his device and as people fled more explosions occurred, he said.

At nearby Istiqlal Hospital, director Mohammed Sabir Nasib said the emergency room was overwhelmed with the dead and wounded. Additional doctors and nurses were called in to help and at the height of the tragedy more than 50 doctors and nurses were working to save the wounded, most of whom suffered severe burns.

The death toll rose as the day progressed. By late afternoon Wahid Mujro, spokesman for the public health ministry, said 41 were dead and 84 others were wounded.

The two-story cultural center is located in a poor area of the Shiite-dominated Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood in the west of the capital. The center is a simple structure surrounded by sun-dried mud homes where some of Kabul's poorest live.

In an interview with The Associated Press, a senior member of the Shiite cleric council, Mohammad Asif Mesbah, said the center may have been targeted because it houses the deeply pro-Iranian Afghan Voice news agency. Its owner Sayed Eissa Hussaini Mazari is a strong proponent of Iran and his publication is dominated by Iranian news. Iran is a majority Shiite Muslim nation.

The local Islamic State affiliate has carried out several attacks targeting Shiites in Afghanistan. The IS issued a warning earlier this year following an attack on the Iraqi Embassy in Kabul vowing to target Afghanistan's Shiites. Since then, the IS has taken credit for at least two attacks on Shiite mosques in Kabul and one in the western city of Herat, killing scores of worshippers.

In a telephone interview with The AP, Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid denied involvement in Thursday's attack on the cultural center.

The IS affiliate, made up of Sunni extremists, view Shiites as apostates. The IS in Afghanistan is a toxic mix of Uzbek militants belonging to the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan who broke with the Taliban, as well as disenchanting insurgents who left the much larger and more well-established Taliban.

As attacks targeting Shiites have increased in Kabul, residents of this area have grown increasingly afraid. Most schools have additional armed guards from among the local population. Still, Ramazandada said security at the cultural center was light.

Afghan president Ashraf Ghani called the attack a "crime against humanity."

In a statement released by the presidential palace, Ghani said: "The terrorist have killed our people. The terrorists have attacked our mosques, our holy places and now our cultural center." He called them attacks against Islam and "all human values."

In a statement, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, John R. Bass, called the attack "horrific" and said "we remain confident the Afghan government and people, supported by their friends and partners, will defeat those behind these terrible acts."

Separately, Dawlat Abad District Gov. Mohammad Karim said a powerful mine killed six shepherd children ranging in age from 8 to 10 on Wednesday.

Afghanistan has the highest number of mine victims in the world, which along with other roadside bombs, kill or wound an estimated 140 people every month.

Elsewhere, a Taliban attack on a security police post in central Ghazni province Wednesday night left three police dead and one other wounded, said Mohammad Zaman, provincial chief of police.

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## Trump, GOP congressional leaders to meet at Camp David

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Eager for more legislative achievements before Washington's focus shifts to the midterm elections, President Donald Trump plans to open the new year by meeting with Republican congressional leaders to map out the 2018 legislative agenda, the White House said.

After returning to Washington from Florida, where he is spending the holidays, Trump will quickly host Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin at the rustic Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland's Catoctin Mountains during the weekend of Jan. 6-7, the White House said.

Spokesmen for Ryan and McConnell have confirmed they will attend.

The pow-wow will follow the recent enactment of legislation to cut taxes, beginning next year, for corporations and individuals at an estimated cost of \$1.5 trillion added to the national debt over 10 years.

The bill marked the first major legislative achievement of 2017 for Trump and congressional Republicans, aside from confirmation of Trump's Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch. Trump and the GOP had made cutting taxes a must-do item this year after the Senate failed to close the deal on the party's promise to repeal and replace the Obama health care law.

The tax bill ends the requirement that all Americans buy health insurance or pay a fine, which is a key component of the Affordable Care Act, but leaves intact other features of the health care law. No Democrats voted for the tax bill, which Trump signed at the White House before he flew to Florida on Friday.

The agenda for next year is already lengthy, and 2018 is still a few days away.

Trump predicted in a tweet earlier this week that Democrats and Republicans will "eventually come together" to develop a new health care plan. The president is also forecasting unity between the parties on spending to upgrade aging roads, bridges and other transportation. The White House has said Trump will unveil his long-awaited infrastructure plan in January.

Ryan, meanwhile, has talked about overhauling Medicaid and Medicare and other safety-net programs, but McConnell has signaled an unwillingness to go that route unless there's Democratic support for any changes. Trump has also said he wants to pursue "welfare reform" next year because "people are taking advantage of the system."

Congress, meanwhile, will open the year needing to clear a backlog from 2017.

The list includes agreeing on a spending bill by Jan. 19 to avert a partial government shutdown and efforts to boost Pentagon spending. Lawmakers also need to agree on billions in additional aid to help hurricane victims, lifting the debt ceiling, extending a children's health insurance program and extending protections for immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children. Trump tweeted earlier in the year that he was ending the program for the immigrants. He gave lawmakers until Jan. 5 to come up with a legislative solution.

Much of the work will need to be done before Republicans shift their focus to the midterm elections that take place November 2018. The GOP wants to hang onto its House and Senate majorities.

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

## China: US should curb demand for opioids, not blame China

By GERRY SHIH, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The United States should look within to cut down demand for opioids which are fueling its deadly drug crisis rather than stressing unsubstantiated claims that China is the major source of these chemicals, a top Chinese drug enforcement official said Thursday.

China and the U.S. have worked to build a close working relationship to fight global flows of illicit synthetic drugs, but their collaboration remains fraught.

Yu Haibin of the China National Narcotics Control Commission told reporters there was little evidence showing China was the source of much of the chemicals used in the production of the powerful opioid fentanyl. President Donald Trump in November blamed a "flood of cheap and deadly" fentanyl made in

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China for the deadliest drug epidemic in U.S. history.

"China doesn't deny that shipments to the U.S. happen, but there isn't the proof to show how much — whether it's 20 percent or 80 percent," said Yu, adding that U.S. authorities have only sent him information about six shipments from China in the past year.

He urged the U.S. to share more data and police intelligence with Chinese authorities and said rampant over-prescription of pain medication and lax cultural attitudes toward drugs had fueled massive demand for opioids in the U.S.

Insufficient drug education and the trend in some states of legalizing marijuana have hurt drug enforcement efforts, he said.

"As many states decriminalize marijuana, the public's attitudes and trends of thinking toward drugs will also have a bad effect" on the fight against hard drugs, Yu said.

Chinese officials have been eager to tout their collaboration with American counterparts on drug enforcement as a bright spot in the occasionally rocky relationship.

Officials in Beijing said Thursday they busted a fentanyl factory in November and seized 4.7 kilograms (10.36 pounds) of the substance thanks to a tip-off from U.S. Immigration and Customs about a major online purveyor named "Diana" that turned out to be a front for a 19-person drug ring scattered across China.

China wanted to work more closely with U.S. law enforcement, as well as authorities in Mexico, a trans-shipment point, Yu said.

China has backed a successful U.S. proposal this year to add several fentanyl precursors to a U.N. list of controlled substances. China has listed the two chemicals, NPP and 44-ANPP, under domestic drug laws, officials said.

More than 66,000 people in America died of drug overdoses in the year ending May 2017, a jump of 17.4 percent from the year before, according to provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC reports most cases of fentanyl overdose are linked to illicitly produced batches of the substance.

## Roy Moore files lawsuit to block Alabama Senate result

By KIM CHANDLER, Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Republican Roy Moore filed a lawsuit to try to stop Alabama from certifying Democrat Doug Jones as the winner of the U.S. Senate race.

The court filing occurred about 14 hours ahead of Thursday's meeting of a state canvassing board to officially declare Jones the winner of the Dec. 12 special election. Jones defeated Moore by about 20,000 votes.

Moore's attorney wrote in the complaint filed late Wednesday that he believed there were irregularities during the election and said there should be a fraud investigation and eventually a new election.

"This is not a Republican or Democrat issue as election integrity should matter to everyone," Moore said in a statement released Wednesday announcing the complaint.

Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill told The Associated Press Wednesday evening that he has no intention of delaying the canvassing board meeting.

"It is not going to delay certification and Doug Jones will be certified (Thursday) at 1 p.m. and he will be sworn in by Vice President Pence on the third of January," Merrill said.

In the complaint, Moore's attorneys noted the higher than expected turnout in the race, particularly in Jefferson County, and said that Moore's numbers were suspiciously low in about 20 Jefferson County precincts.

Merrill said he has so far not found evidence of voter fraud, but that his office will investigate any complaint that Moore submits.

Moore has not conceded the race to Jones and has sent several fundraising emails to supporters asking for donations to investigate claims of voter fraud.

Jones and Moore were competing to fill the U.S. Senate seat that previously belonged to Attorney Gen-



eral Jeff Sessions. Moore's campaign was wounded by accusations against Moore of sexual misconduct involving teenage girls decades ago.

## S. Korean president calls sex slave deal with Japan flawed

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Thursday the country's 2015 agreement with Japan to settle a decades-long impasse over Korean women forced into wartime sexual slavery was seriously flawed.

Moon's statement in which he vows unspecified follow-up measures to meet the victims' demands potentially throws the future of the deal in doubt, two years after both countries declared it as "final and irreversible."

The statement came a day after a state-appointed panel concluded that Seoul's previous conservative government failed to properly communicate with the victims before reaching the deal.

The panel also said parts of the deal were not made public, including Japanese demands that the South Korean government avoid using the term "sexual slavery" and provide a specific plan to remove a bronze statue representing sex slaves in front of its Seoul embassy. South Korea in response said it would formally refer to the victims as "victims of Japanese military comfort stations" but didn't make any clear promise about the statue, according to the panel.

"It has been confirmed that the 2015 comfort women negotiation between South Korea had serious flaws, both in process and content," Moon said in a statement read out by his spokesman.

"Despite the burden of the past agreement being a formal promise between governments that was ratified by the leaders of both countries, I, as president and with the Korean people, once again firmly state that this agreement does not resolve the issue over comfort women."

While his comments seemed to suggest that Seoul may seek a renegotiation of the deal, which would surely anger Tokyo, Moon also said that the issues over history shouldn't affect the efforts to build "future-oriented" relations between the countries.

Some experts see it as unlikely that Moon's government will spark a full-blown diplomatic row with Japan by scrapping the deal when the allies face pressing needs to form a strong united front against North Korea's growing nuclear threat.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono on Wednesday said that Japan stands by the agreement, which he said was reached through a legitimate negotiation and that any possible attempt toward a revision would make the relations between the countries "unmanageable" and "unacceptable."

Asked whether Moon's attack on the deal means that a renegotiation may be inevitable, Seoul's Foreign Ministry spokesman Noh Kyu-duk didn't provide a straightforward answer, saying only that his government will pursue "sincere and practical" measures as soon as possible to restore the honor and dignity of the victims.

Under the deal, Japan agreed to provide 1 billion yen (\$8.8 million) in cash payments to the dwindling number of surviving victims, while South Korea said it will try to resolve Japanese grievance over the statue in front of the embassy.

The deal came under heavy criticism in South Korea where many thought the government settled for far too less. Japan has been angry that South Korea hasn't taken specific steps to remove the statue and similar monuments in other places in the country, insisting there has been a clear understanding to do so.

The deal had been negotiated under Moon's conservative predecessor Park Geun-hye, who was ousted from office and arrested in March over a corruption scandal. Moon vowed to redo the deal during his presidential campaign, but has so far avoided specific talk about any renegotiation since taking office in May.

The Foreign Ministry said government officials will hold extensive discussions with victims and experts before deciding whether to pursue changes to the deal.

Disputes over sex slaves are a legacy of Japan's 1910-45 colonial occupation of the Korean Peninsula. Many in both North and South Korea, divided at the end of the Japanese rule, still harbor bitter resent-

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ment against the Japanese occupation.

Historians say tens of thousands of women from around Asia, many of them Korean, were sent to front-line military brothels to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during World War II.

Associated Press writer Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed to this report.

## Vanity Fair: video mocking Hillary Clinton 'missed the mark'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Vanity Fair is trying to defuse criticism of a video mocking Hillary Clinton and her presidential aspirations.

In a statement Wednesday, the magazine said the online video was an attempt at humor that regrettably "missed the mark."

Posted last weekend, the video shows editors of Vanity Fair's Hive website offering toasts and New Year's resolutions to Clinton.

Among the suggestions: that Clinton take up knitting, volunteer work or any hobby that would keep her from running again for president.

The backlash included a tweet from actress Patricia Arquette with her own proposal — stop telling women what they should or can do.

## Ferry gets stuck on sandbar with 27 people aboard off NYC

By JENNIFER PELTZ, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A ferry carrying more than two dozen people hit a sandbar and got stuck for hours Wednesday, spurring an evacuation on a frigid night in the waters off New York City.

No injuries were reported in the second stranding in a month for the city's newly-expanded ferry service.

The city-sponsored, privately run ferry left the Rockaway peninsula in Queens with 27 people aboard at 5:15 p.m., bound for lower Manhattan on a 20-degree evening. About 10 minutes into the trip, "we just came to a screeching halt," passenger Jake Nicholson said.

"Everyone pretty much went flying," he later told The Associated Press by phone from the boat, stuck in the waters between Rockaway and Brooklyn. He said he was nearly tossed over the row of seats in front of him, and his phone ended up a few rows away.

Nicholson, a 21-year-old senior at Loyola University Maryland, said passengers initially were told that there was a mechanical error, then that the boat had hit a sandbar and that the captain tried to back the boat off it.

Four hours later, he, his brother and a friend were waiting their turn to get off the chilly ferry in the small, inflatable boats rescuers were using because of the shallow water. By then, passengers were "just sitting down, trying to stay warm," said Nicholson, who'd missed the Washington Capitals-New York Rangers game that was the reason for his ferry trip.

"It was difficult because they had to climb down a ladder, a 12-foot straight ladder, down the back of the ferry onto our boat and then transferred onto several different boats — so a very slow, tedious, time-consuming operation," said fire department Chief John Esposito.

The evacuation got underway around 7:30 p.m. Officials said 23 passengers and one crewmember were safely removed sometime before 11 p.m. The disabled boat was expected to be towed off the sandbar overnight.

Phone and email messages to the ferry company, Hornblower Inc., weren't immediately returned.

The ferry to and from Rockaway is part of a \$335 million effort, launched this summer, to use the waterways to ease strains on New York's public transportation system. The \$2.75-a-ride service is separate from the famous free ferry that has long traveled between Manhattan and Staten Island.

Last month, more than 100 passengers were rescued from a Rockaway-bound ferry that ran aground off lower Manhattan.

## Once busy Oklahoma death chamber stays quiet into 3rd year

By SEAN MURPHY, Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma, a state with one of the busiest death chambers in the country in recent decades, will enter its third year without an execution in 2018 while prison officials and state attorneys fine tune its procedure for putting condemned inmates to death.

Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter said last week he was planning to meet with top prison officials and that he expected more clarity on the state's new lethal injection protocols "in the next two or three weeks."

"We need to feel some urgency, but we also need to get it done right," Hunter said. "I'd say both of those things are equally important."

Republican Gov. Mary Fallin said she has confidence in Hunter and Department of Corrections Director Joe Allbaugh to develop new protocols, but acknowledged the challenge the state faces in acquiring the lethal drugs.

"The most solemn responsibility for a state is the taking of a life," Fallin said in a statement Friday. "The state needs to be certain that its protocols and procedures for executions work."

Of the 2,817 death row inmates awaiting execution in 32 states, 47 of them are in Oklahoma, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Death Penalty Information Center. Like many death penalty states, Oklahoma has struggled in the past decade to obtain the lethal drugs used in executions as manufacturers, including many in Europe, have said they don't want their products used to kill people.

Fallin reiterated her support of the death penalty for those who commit "heinous crimes" and said she's prepared for executions to resume under her watch once the new protocols have been approved by the court.

Oklahoma put all executions on hold two years ago after several mishaps, including a botched lethal injection in 2014 and drug mix-ups in 2015 that led to one inmate being executed with the wrong drug and another inmate just moments away from being led to the death chamber before prison officials realized the same wrong drug had been delivered for his execution.

Since then, several top officials connected to the bungled executions have resigned and the state's multicounty grand jury delivered a scathing report on Oklahoma's lethal injection process that accused a number of individuals involved in the process of sloppy and careless work.

Allbaugh, the state's new prisons director, has declined repeated requests by The Associated Press to discuss the new execution procedures, and a spokesman for the agency said only that they are continuing to work on the protocols. Oklahoma law also allows for the use of firing squad, electric chair or nitrogen hypoxia to perform executions, but Allbaugh has previously said he doesn't intend for Oklahoma to become the first state to use nitrogen gas to execute inmates.

Since executions halted, 16 Oklahoma death row inmates have exhausted their federal appeals and are awaiting dates to be sent to the death chamber inside the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester.

And, a federal lawsuit challenging Oklahoma's execution protocols as unconstitutional remains dormant in federal district court in Oklahoma City, but is expected to be reactivated once the new protocols are released, said Dale Baich, a federal public defender representing a group of Oklahoma death row inmates.

"We'll review the protocol and at some point, approach the court with our concerns," Baich said.

The attorney general's office has said in court filings that it will not request any execution dates until at least 150 days — or about five months — after the new protocols are released.

The death penalty has bipartisan support in the Oklahoma Legislature, and more than two-thirds of state voters supported a pro-death penalty question on the ballot in 2016.

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## Postcard from Pyongyang: The airport now has Wi-Fi, sort of

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korea is one of the least Wi-Fi-friendly countries in the world. Having a device that emits Wi-Fi signals can result in detention and a major fine. Worse, if you are a North Korean. Public use of the internet is a concept that just makes North Korean officials really nervous.

But here's a sign that might be changing.

North Korea's main internet provider appears to have put up a Wi-Fi trial balloon at the international departure area of Pyongyang's airport. It's a logical place to start. The service is only available, or even visible, to travelers who have already cleared customs, which included me last week. So, noticing the new sign with the familiar Wi-Fi logo in the internet corner of the departures lobby, I decided to give it a whirl.

My flight was fogged in, so I had some extra time. I didn't expect much. The internet corner, with a handful of terminals, opened in 2015, but I have yet to see anyone actually using it. The first time I tried, there were no attendants available and no keyboards for the desktops.

This experience was different. The young woman staffing the internet service area told me I could use the Wi-Fi for 30 minutes if I paid \$2. She took down my passport number and gave me a slip of paper with a username and password. The signal was strongest near the coffee shop, where the router is, so she suggested I log on there.

I tried. Several times. The login was incorrect, according to a screen message.

I went back to the internet corner and asked for help. The attendant apologetically came with me to the coffee shop and we tried it together. No luck. She asked me to wait, then came back with a new username. It didn't work. She called her supervisor on her cellphone. We tried again.

The final screen message we got before giving up was that the page could not be opened. The attendant took me back to the internet corner and refunded my \$2.

None of this came as a particular shock. Airport Wi-Fi can be more aspirational than functional in a lot of places. I've had essentially the same issues in Beijing, minus any helpful attendants. In a way, it was also a relief. Logging on to any unfamiliar Wi-Fi network, especially at an airport, opens a phone up to all kinds of hacking mischief.

Still, the Pyongyang airport Wi-Fi IP address that appeared on my phone would be logical for a private network. And I was getting three bars when I was at the coffee shop, meaning something was indeed out there.

Moreover, the attendant seemed genuinely helpful. She did pretty much what anyone would do in a similar situation with a customer and clearly expected we would be able to fix the problem and log on. She also offered to let me use the internet on one of the desktop terminals, suggesting that is now actually functional, too.

Maybe some kinks need to be worked out. Contrary to popular belief, not everything in North Korea is fake.

But then again, some things certainly are.

It could be the Wi-Fi is like the airport's still new ATMs — the lights are on, at least sometimes, but they have never completed a transaction as far as anyone I know can tell. Or they could be like the brand new coffee vending machine in the arrivals area. Despite its own instructions, for the life of me, I couldn't find a slot on the machine to insert my money or any indication of how much it would cost.

Alas, I had to catch my plane without checking my email.

I'll try again next time, if it's still there.

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Eric Talmadge, the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief since 2013, has flown in and out of the North Korean capital's airport dozens of times. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram: @erictalmadge



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## Roy Moore files lawsuit to block Alabama Senate result

By KIM CHANDLER, Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Failed candidate Roy Moore has doubled down on his claims of voter irregularities in Alabama's U.S. Senate race in a last-ditch effort to stop the certification of the Democratic opponent who pulled off a historic upset last month in a traditionally deep-red state.

Moore asked a judge late Wednesday to issue a restraining order to stop the state's canvassing board from certifying Doug Jones' victory on Thursday. But Secretary of State John Merrill told The Associated Press that Moore's action "is not going to delay certification and Doug Jones ... will be sworn in by Vice President Pence on the third of January."

A spokesman for Jones called Moore's action a "desperate attempt ... to subvert the will of the people," and said it "will not succeed."

"The election is over. It's time to move on," Sam Coleman wrote in an email.

Jones defeated Moore by about 20,000 votes in the Dec. 12 special election. Moore's campaign was deeply wounded by accusations of sexual misconduct involving teenage girls decades ago. Moore has denied the accusations and says he has taken and passed a polygraph test to prove they are false.

Moore's attorney wrote in the wide-ranging complaint that he believed there were irregularities during the election, including that voters may have been brought in from other states. He attached a statement from a poll worker that she had noticed licenses from Georgia and North Carolina as people signed in to vote.

The complaint also noted the higher-than-expected turnout in the race, particularly in Jefferson County, and said that Moore's numbers were lower than straight-ticket Republican voting in about 20 Jefferson County precincts. The complaint asks for a fraud investigation and eventually a new election.

"This is not a Republican or Democrat issue as election integrity should matter to everyone," Moore said in a statement released Wednesday announcing the complaint.

Merrill said he has so far not found any evidence of voter fraud, but he has said that his office will investigate any complaint Moore submits.

Moore has sent several fundraising emails to supporters asking for donations to investigate claims of voter fraud.

Jones and Moore were competing to fill the U.S. Senate seat that previously belonged to Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 28, the 362nd day of 2017. There are three days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 28, 1917, the New York Evening Mail published "A Neglected Anniversary," a facetious essay by H.L. Mencken supposedly recounting the history of bathtubs in America, starting with the "first" one in Cincinnati in 1842. Among the spoof's other straight-faced claims: that Millard Fillmore was the first president to have a bathtub installed in the White House. (Mencken was astonished when people took his "tissue of absurdities" seriously.)

On this date:

In 1612, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei observed the planet Neptune, but mistook it for a star. (Neptune wasn't officially discovered until 1846 by Johann Gottfried Galle.)

In 1832, John C. Calhoun became the first vice president of the United States to resign, stepping down because of differences with President Andrew Jackson.

In 1846, Iowa became the 29th state to be admitted to the Union.

In 1856, the 28th president of the United States, Thomas Woodrow Wilson, was born in Staunton (STAN'-tun), Virginia.

In 1895, the Lumiere brothers, Auguste and Louis, held the first public showing of their movies in Paris.

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In 1937, composer Maurice Ravel died in Paris at age 62.

In 1945, Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 1961, the Tennessee Williams play "Night of the Iguana" opened on Broadway. Former first lady Edith Bolling Galt Wilson, the second wife of President Woodrow Wilson, died in Washington at age 89.

In 1973, the book "Gulag Archipelago," Alexander Solzhenitsyn's expose (eks-poh-SAY) of the Soviet prison system, was first published in Paris.

In 1981, Elizabeth Jordan Carr, the first American "test-tube" baby, was born in Norfolk, Virginia.

In 1987, the bodies of 14 relatives of Ronald Gene Simmons were found at his home near Dover, Arkansas, after Simmons shot and killed two other people in Russellville. (Simmons, who never explained his motives, was executed in 1990.)

In 1997, one woman was killed when a United Airlines jumbo jet en route from Narita, Japan, to Honolulu encountered severe turbulence over the Pacific.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush used a "pocket veto" to reject a sweeping defense bill because he objected to a provision that would have exposed the Iraqi government to expensive lawsuits seeking damages from the Saddam Hussein era. Six French charity workers sentenced to eight years' forced labor in Chad for allegedly trying to kidnap 103 children were transferred to French custody. (The workers were later pardoned by Chad's president and set free.) David Letterman's production company, Worldwide Pants, reached an interim agreement with the Writers Guild allowing his talk show as well as Craig Ferguson's to return to the air with their full writing staffs during a Hollywood writers' strike.

Five years ago: Dockworkers along the East Coast and the Gulf of Mexico agreed to extend their contract for more than a month, averting a strike that could have crippled major ports from Boston to Houston and bottled up billions of dollars' worth of cargo. (A new contract was ratified in April 2013.) Russia's President Vladimir Putin signed a law banning Americans from adopting Russian children.

One year ago: Actress Debbie Reynolds, who lit up the screen in "Singin' in the Rain" and other Hollywood classics, died at age 84 a day after losing her daughter, Carrie Fisher, who was 60. Former world No. 1 Ana Ivanovic (ee-VAH'-noh-vich) said she was retiring from tennis after a series of injuries meant she could no longer play at the highest level.

Today's Birthdays: Comic book creator Stan Lee is 95. Former United Auto Workers union president Owen Bieber is 88. Actress Nichelle Nichols is 85. Actress Dame Maggie Smith is 83. Rock singer-musician Charles Neville is 79. Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., is 73. Former Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., is 71. Rock singer-musician Edgar Winter is 71. Funk musician Joseph "Zigaboo" Modeliste (The Meters) is 69. Actor Denzel Washington is 63. Country singer Joe Diffie is 59. Country musician Mike McGuire (Shenandoah) is 59. Actor Chad McQueen is 57. Country singer-musician Marty Roe (Diamond Rio) is 57. Actor Malcolm Gets is 54. Actor Mauricio Mendoza is 48. Actress Elaine Hendrix is 47. Talk show host Seth Meyers is 44. Actor Brendan Hines is 41. Actor Joe Manganiello is 41. Actress Vanessa Ferlito is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer John Legend is 39. Rapper-musician-producer Terrace Martin is 39. Actor Andre Holland is 38. Actress Sienna Miller is 36. Actress Beau Garrett (TV: "The Good Doctor") is 35. Pop singer Kasey Sheridan (Dream) is 31. Actor Thomas Dekker is 30. Actress Mackenzie Rosman is 28. Pop singer David Archuleta is 27. Actress Mary-Charles Jones (TV: "Kevin Can Wait") is 16. Actor Miles Brown is 13.

Thought for Today: "Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence." — Carl Sagan, American astronomer (1934-1996).