

Groton Daily Independent

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Please contact Mandy at 605-492-3615 or P.O. Box 337, Bristol, SD 57219 for more information.

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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It's a nice wintery day in Groton. Tina headed off to work at 9 a.m. at the Dairy Queen. Julianna took the car to work at the DQ as well at 11 a.m. Jeslyn will be heading to a birthday party. That will leave me all alone in the house with no means of transportation. What an odd feeling.

The living room felt a little cool, so I grabbed my phone and turned up the thermostat from the comfort of my chair. Isn't technology wonderful!

I have 112 movies on my Apple TV and I'm already getting tired of them. I've had to resort to watching Star Trek Voyager. I've watched a few shows and now as I'm trying to watch the next one, it says it will be ready to play in 3 hours and 51 minutes. Really! I'll be old and gray by then! Then my remote fell on the floor so I had to have Jeslyn fetch that for me. Good grief!

I am going to have to kick it into high gear pretty quick to get ready for

church. I have a 5:30 service tonight in Pierpont and a 10:30 a.m. service tomorrow at Buffalo Lake. I have the bulletins about done, just need to get them run off.

We finally got the keypad working at the fitness center yesterday. Since our computer has been down for a while, it has not been updated. Tina put a note on the door telling people to call me if they can't get in. I have access to the computer from home so I can monitor what's happening and update as needed.

We still have two Lighting Festival awards to present. We hope to get them presented tomorrow.

Before Christmas rolled around, I seed this neat stocking cap with Bluetooth headsets in it. I told Tina I wanted that for Christmas. She got one for me and the girls and I think it is the girl's favorite present. My idea was to wear it in the morning while I'm running around doing the paper route. Now that's a good one!

Stay warm! It's still 15 below outside. Burr!

NEW SIGN-ON BONUSES!

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★ ★ ★ **\$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

Gov. Daugaard To Appoint Michael Diedrich To District 34 House Seat

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced today that he will appoint Michael Diedrich of Rapid City to fill the District 34 vacancy in the State House of Representatives.

Diedrich will succeed the late Craig Tieszen, who passed away in November. He will serve during the 2018 Legislative Session and his term will continue through the end of 2018.

Diedrich previously served in the South Dakota State Senate from 1987-91 and from 1993-95. He is vice president of governmental relations for Regional Health in Rapid City. During his almost seven years at Regional Health, Diedrich has also worked as associate general counsel and as interim VP of the compliance, human resources, and development departments. Diedrich previously spent 11 years in the Rapid City city attorney's office, including seven years as city attorney, and also worked in private business.

"Mike Diedrich has extensive experience in the legislature, in private industry, and in the municipal and non-profit sectors," said Gov. Daugaard. "With Rep. Tieszen's sad passing, I appreciate that Mike is willing to step in and serve in the State House."

Diedrich is a graduate of Rapid City Central High School, and earned his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of South Dakota. He also holds a master's degree in public administration from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, and a master of laws in healthcare law from Loyola University School of Law.

"Craig Tieszen was dedicated to making a meaningful difference in the lives of others. I plan to serve with the same level of integrity, strong values and compassion that he displayed in all facets of life," Diedrich said. "As a lifelong resident of Rapid City, I am humbled to represent my neighbors and community to positively impact change now and for future generations."

Diedrich has served on many community and states board. He currently serves on the Rapid City Rushmore Plaza Civic Center board of directors, the Mt. Rushmore Society board of directors, the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce public policy and government affairs committees, the South Dakota Health Care Solutions Coalition, and the Boy Scouts of America district board. Diedrich is also a member of the board of directors of Black Hills Community Bank, N.A.

Diedrich and his wife, Connie, have two sons, Chris and Ross.

District 34 includes western Rapid City, generally including the areas west of Mt. Rushmore Road, Dinosaur Hill, and "the gap" on West Main Street, and including sites such as Camp Rapid, Canyon Lake, the Sioux San Hospital, West Middle School, and Southwest Middle School.



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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

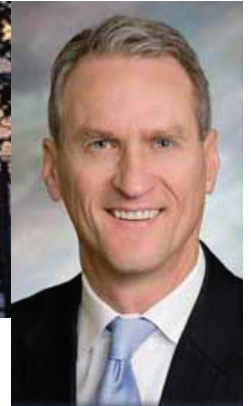
the right thing to do")

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South Dakota Governor
Dennis Daugaard



The Legion Lake Fire

There is no place like Custer State Park. Each year nearly 2 million people from all over the world come to see the buffalo, drive the wildlife loop, hike Lover's Leap, fish on Legion Lake, and swim and kayak at Sylvan. The 72,000-acre getaway destination is home to the State Game Lodge – the historic building that President Calvin Coolidge used as his summer White House – and it is a place where memories are made.

Custer State Park employees could not have anticipated the events of the week ahead when they came to work on Monday, Dec. 11. That morning a call went out on the radio to relay that a fire had started near Legion Lake. As one staff member put it, "I wasn't sure I wanted to go. Usually fires in December include a lot of mop up and just driving around." But after arriving at the scene, it was clear this was going to be something entirely different.

Over the next two days, the weather conditions and terrain made things difficult. High winds, unseasonably warm temperatures, and dry conditions led the fire to grow to 54,000 acres, becoming the third largest recorded fire in the Black Hills.

We were very fortunate to have our own Type II Incident Command Team based in the Black Hills to lead the response. We could not have responded as quickly or as effectively without South Dakota Wildland Fire.

Professional and volunteer firefighters from all over the state and region responded. Local ranchers and Custer State Park staff all contributed. When high winds caused the fire to jump containment lines, firefighters, emergency responders, law enforcement and park staff went door-to-door to help families evacuate as the fire pressed at their heels. More than 340 firefighters worked that night, and in the days after, to protect primary structures. Their efforts helped abate the further spread of the fire into Wind Cave National Park, and limited damages to livestock feed, wildlife and timber. After containing the fire, they acted to mop up hotspots around Custer State Park facilities and to cut fire-weakened trees near roadways.

Thanks to the efforts of all involved, no lives were lost, no one was injured, and no homes or primary structures were lost. All 175 houses in the area were protected and the farmers, ranchers and local residents all had a home to which they could return for Christmas.

A fire can be healthy if it clears grass and undergrowth, and in many areas of the park, that's what happened. Thankfully the buffalo herd and wildlife were largely unaffected. Custer State Park lost fencing, most of the winter pastures, and some stands of timber; but the recovery is well underway with fencing crews on site, hay purchases, and relocation of some of the buffalo to an unburned area.

The Legion Lake Fire could have been much, much worse, if not for the hard work and heroic efforts of our firefighters. It was South Dakota at its best – people from all across the state and region pulling together in a time of need. Thanks to the efforts of all involved, Custer State Park is open for business again. With good moisture, burned areas will turn emerald green next spring, as new grass emerges. By peak season, park staff will have the park in pristine condition, ready to give visitors the high-quality experience they have provided for decades.

The Life of Fern Westby



Services for Fern Westby, 87, of Groton was held Saturday, December 30, 2017 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Pastor Young Chung officiated. Burial followed in Union Cemetery.

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

Fern Mae (Bury) Westby was born to Nick and Josephine (Leegaard) Bury on March 23, 1930. She graduated from Webster High School in 1947, and then attended Sioux Valley Nursing school in Sioux Falls. She was married to John M. Westby on July 16, 1949 in Butler, South Dakota. From 1949-1960 they lived on the family farm west of Lily, ultimately making their home in Groton for fifty years. Fern was employed at St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen for over 30 years.

Celebrating her life are her four children Kathryn (Stan) Knudsen of Groton, James Westby of Los Angeles, Ronald (Lori) Westby of Groton and Charles Westby of Lake Tahoe; five grandchildren Susie (Adrian) Berg, Chuck Knudsen, Natalie DeVine (Jordan) Casanova, Heidi Westby, Heather Westby; and four great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, one brother, Marvin, sister, Marlys Peterson and an infant sister, Arlene.

Honorary Casketbearers were Natalie Casanova, Susan Berg, Heather Westby and Heidi Westby.

Casketbearers were Paul Peterson, Randy Bury, Chuck Knudsen, Jordan Casanova, Adrian Berg and Curtis Metz.

Memorials may be directed to SPURS, 1006 130th Street NE Aberdeen 57401

EARTHTALK ™

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: I always assumed the train was the greenest form of mass transit, but a friend told me I would be better off taking the bus. Could this be true? -- Jane McNeil, New York, NY

Most of us assume that train travel—whether for getting around town, commuting to work or for long hauls—is the most eco-friendly mass transit “mode.” Indeed, trains seem greener, with some relying exclusively on electricity while others utilize a single diesel-powered locomotive to pull dozens of passenger cars.

But even though trains are no slouch when it comes to fuel efficiency, buses, even though they spew diesel exhaust and get only about six miles per gallon, may be even better.

“The reason ... is that they are usually full of people, giving [buses] the highest miles per gallon per passenger, at 208,” reports CNN’s Steve Hargreaves based on his research digging into Department of Energy data. He adds that trains are the next best choice for the eco-conscious traveler, whether commuting or doing a longer haul. “A city train (think subway or light rail) gets 52 mpg per passenger (or the equivalent, if it’s electric), while a commuter train—usually used to connect the suburbs to a city—gets about 44 mpg per passenger.”

A landmark 2013 study in Environmental Science and Technology by researchers at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research (CICERO) backs up these findings. The researchers found that bus travel noses out rail travel in fuel efficiency and carbon impact on typical business or holiday trips ranging from 500-1000 kilometers (300-600 miles), generating only about 20 percent of the per passenger emissions as driving alone in a typical gas-powered car.

“Motor coaches leave carbon in the dust,” reports the non-profit Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), adding that a couple can cut their travel carbon emissions in half by boarding a motor coach instead of taking their Prius. “And if they take the motor coach rather than flying, they will cut their emissions by 55 to 75 percent, depending on the distance they travel.” And given that many bus companies have ditched their old buses in favor of new models replete with not only more efficient engines but also reclining seats, on-board entertainment and WIFI, the bus could become your new favorite way to travel.



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Though buses are the current green leader, trains are catching up fast. All of Amtrak's trains in its busiest Northeast Corridor now eschew the old diesel generators that used to power their locomotives, and run instead on an increasingly renewable supply of electricity. Some \$10 billion in investment in high-speed rail by the Obama administration means trains are getting more efficient across the country as well.

While Candidate Trump promised he would pour hundreds of millions of dollars into further boosting high-speed rail infrastructure, his 2018 budget does more to decimate Obama's progress on the issue than augment it. Whether he will follow through with a plan to further bolster U.S. rail travel remains to be seen. In the meantime, while trains remain a viable green choice, choosing Greyhound over Amtrak might be the better option for the time being.

CONTACTS: UCS, www.ucsusa.org; Amtrak, www.amtrak.com; IIASA, www.iiasa.ac.at; CICERO, www.cicero.uio.no; Greyhound, www.greyhound.com.

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The Carnival of Silver Skates theme for January 2018 is
"80 Years of Memories".

We would like to honor the former skaters who have
passed away.

Please contact Tina at the Groton Independent at 397-6397 or
email her at tina@grotonsd.net to share the name of someone you
would like remembered at this year's carnival.

Thank you for helping us to honor those who started this great
community tradition.



Can't Change the Weather, but Can Change Policy

In 1963, more than 200 of the nation's 435 congressional districts were defined as rural. Fifty years later, just over 30 districts carried that same distinction. It's a shift that has dramatically changed the context in which federal policies are debated – a shift that requires rural representatives to fight harder than ever to be heard.

I was proud that despite the representation gap, the recently passed tax reform package reflected many of the priorities producers have shared with me over the years. More specifically, the newly enacted legislation allows for immediate expensing and enhances cashflow management tools. While I will continue to fight to fully and permanently repeal the Death Tax, tax reform does double the exemption level and maintain a stepped-up basis. Most notably, we have created a 20 percent small business deduction that many farms, ranches and agricultural co-ops will benefit from.

With tax reform complete, the next big item for agriculture will be the Farm Bill. The 2014 Farm Bill, which I helped negotiate, strengthened crop insurance, enhanced commodity programs, and improved livestock disaster assistance, among other South Dakota priorities. But improvements can still be made.

Over the last year, I've worked closely with the House Agriculture Committee to begin setting our priorities and introduced a series of reforms I'll be fighting to include.

In July, I introduced the Donations in Rough Years (DRY) Act, which would permanently allow the hay harvested on certain CRP acres to be donated to farmers suffering from drought or fire. These natural disasters can leave thousands of acres bare, while farmers and ranchers elsewhere are forced to destroy good hay. We saw that happen too often last summer. With this commonsense provision, we could better use available resources.

At the same time, I'm pursuing reforms to the wetland determinations process. Waiting years before knowing whether a person can improve their land without jeopardizing a wetland or their participation in farm programs is a costly delay. My proposal would enact permanent reforms to make the determination process more efficient, accountable, and transparent.

Additionally, I've introduced the Fair CRP Payments Act, which would ensure CRP rental payments accurately reflect the current cost of renting farm ground. And after the success of the 2014 Farm Bill's sodsaver provisions in the Prairie Pothole Region, I've proposed expanding the program nationwide to better protect native grasslands.

Most recently, I offered legislation to improve the Farm Bill's Commodity Title. This Title is critical for many reasons. First, it provides an important safety net to producers. Additionally, by building programs like this into the budget rather than doing crisis-by-crisis emergency spending, we can better predict financial needs and avoid deficit spending.

The 2014 Farm Bill included two new commodity programs: Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC). During the implementation, USDA elected to prioritize county yield data from its National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), which has proven unreliable in many cases. My legislation would direct USDA to prioritize crop insurance data instead, which is a more dependable source.

Given the significant representation gap in the House, I'll also need to spend part of 2018 educating those from urban and suburban areas about the need for a strong Farm Bill. My main message? While not everyone farms, everyone eats. It seems rudimentary, but people forget.

Our farm has been in the family for more than a century. We've survived bad droughts, bad floods, and bad federal policies. While we can't change the weather, we can change policy. Tax reform did a lot to help producers, and I'm hopeful the work we do on the upcoming Farm Bill will complement those efforts and help more American farms and ranches last a century more.

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Today in Weather History

December 30, 1985: Winds gusted to 40 to 50 mph over northern South Dakota through the day and into the southern part of the state by late afternoon. The high winds lowered visibilities to near zero at times between Lemmon in Perkins County and Faith in Meade County. The strongest wind gusts were to 63 mph at Mitchell. At 9:33 pm CST, the strong winds blew a semi-tractor trailer off the highway one mile east of Aberdeen.

December 30, 2010: A strong upper-level low-pressure trough and associated surface low-pressure area moved across the region bringing the first of two consecutive blizzards to central and northeast South Dakota. Snowfall amounts of 3 to 6 inches combined with bitter cold north winds of 25 to 40 mph caused widespread blizzard conditions across central and northeast South Dakota from the late morning until the evening hours. Near zero visibilities caused dangerous travel conditions resulting in the closing of Interstates 29 and 90 along with several highways across the region. Several hundred people were stranded in the aftermath of the storm. A group of fishermen had to be rescued in Day County when they became stranded on the ice. The snowfall began across the area anywhere from 7 to 11 am CST and ended between 10 pm and 1 am CST.

1880 - The temperature at Charlotte, NC, plunged to an all-time record cold reading of 5 degrees below zero, a record which was equalled on the 21st of January in 1985. (The Weather Channel)

1917 - A great cold wave set many records in the northeastern U.S. The mercury plunged to 13 degrees below zero at New York City, and to 15 degrees below zero at Boston. Temperature readings dipped below zero at Boston five nights in a row. Berlin NH hit 44 degrees below zero in the "Great World War I Cold Wave," and Saint Johnsbury VT reached 43 degrees below zero. (David Ludlum)

1933 - The temperature reached 50 degrees below zero at Bloomfield, VT. It was the coldest reading in modern records for New England. The temperature at Pittsburgh NH reached 44 degrees below zero. (David Ludlum)

1955 - Anchorage, AK, reported an all-time record snow depth of 47 inches. (30th-1st) (The Weather Channel)

December 30, 1960: A massive accumulation of snow, 68.2 inches to be exact, buries the Japanese city of Tsukayama in 24 hours. Tsukayama is located in the coastal mountains inland from the Sea of Japan along Honshu's west coast and subject to significant sea-effect snowfalls.

1987 - A storm in the western U.S. produced heavy snow in Utah, with 28 inches reported in the Mount Holly and Elk Meadows area. Strong winds prevailed ahead of a cold front in the central U.S. Winds gusted to 46 mph at Dodge City KS, and reached 80 mph at Ruidoso NM. Strong northerly winds, ushering arctic cold into the north central U.S., created blizzard conditions in western Minnesota and central and eastern South Dakota. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Unseasonably cold weather prevailed in the southwestern U.S. A week of subfreezing temperatures in southern California claimed the lives of five people. Redding CA was blanketed with four inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

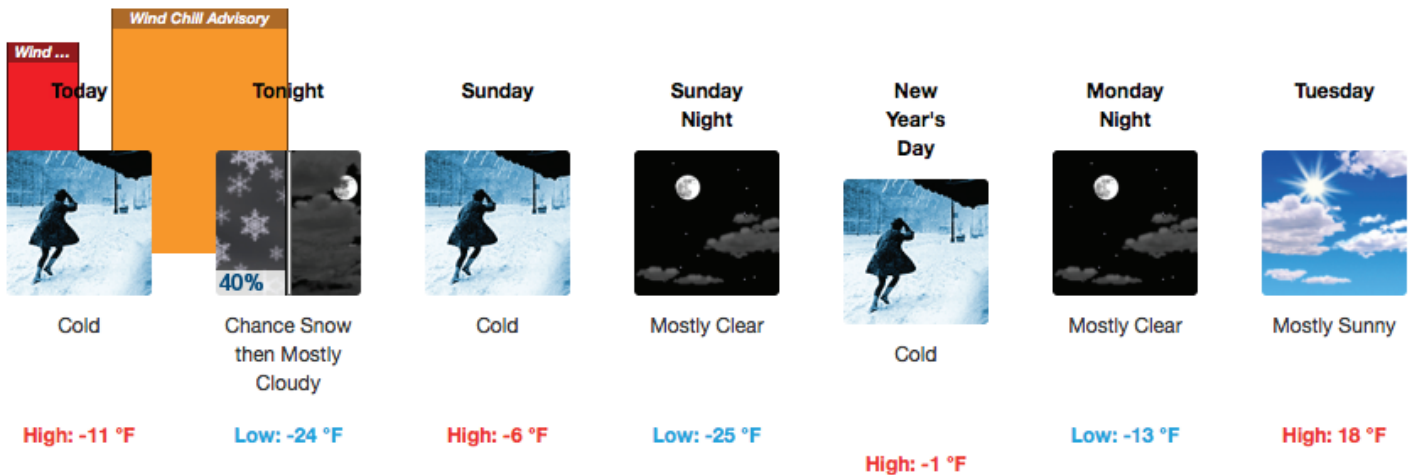
1989 - Extreme cold continued across northern Maine. Milo ME was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 38 degrees below zero, and the low of 31 degrees below zero at Caribou ME was a December record for that location. Freezing rain spread across much of Lower Michigan, knocking out electrical power to 1.9 million customers in southeastern Lower Michigan. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

December 30, 2003: For the first time in five years, sections of Las Vegas receive an inch or two of snow on cars, roads, sidewalks and trees, while snow flurries fell on downtown and the Strip.

2008 - Severe to extreme drought was observed across parts of the Hawaiian Islands, the western continental U.S., and parts of Georgia and South Carolina. Meanwhile, severe to exceptional drought conditions were present across southern Texas. (NCDC)

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Arctic Cold Through The Start Of Next Week

- **Highs Today: Single Digits & Teens Below Zero (-20 to -35 Wind Chill)**
- **Light Snow West River/Flurries East**
- **Tonight: Lows Around 20 Below (Wind Chills To -45)**
- **Highs: Below Zero Sunday & Monday**
- **Lows: Monday Morning -20 to -30 And Lower**



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Published on: 12/30/2017 at 5:38AM

I guess its no surprise to anyone that it is cold outside, and that is not likely to change over the next few days with Arctic high pressure over the region. A weak system will try to move across the region but will only bring light snow to western South Dakota with east river seeing mainly flurries. The coldest period looks to be Sunday night into early Monday with temperatures potentially to around 30 below. We do see some moderation in the models for next week - but anything is a step up from this level of cold!

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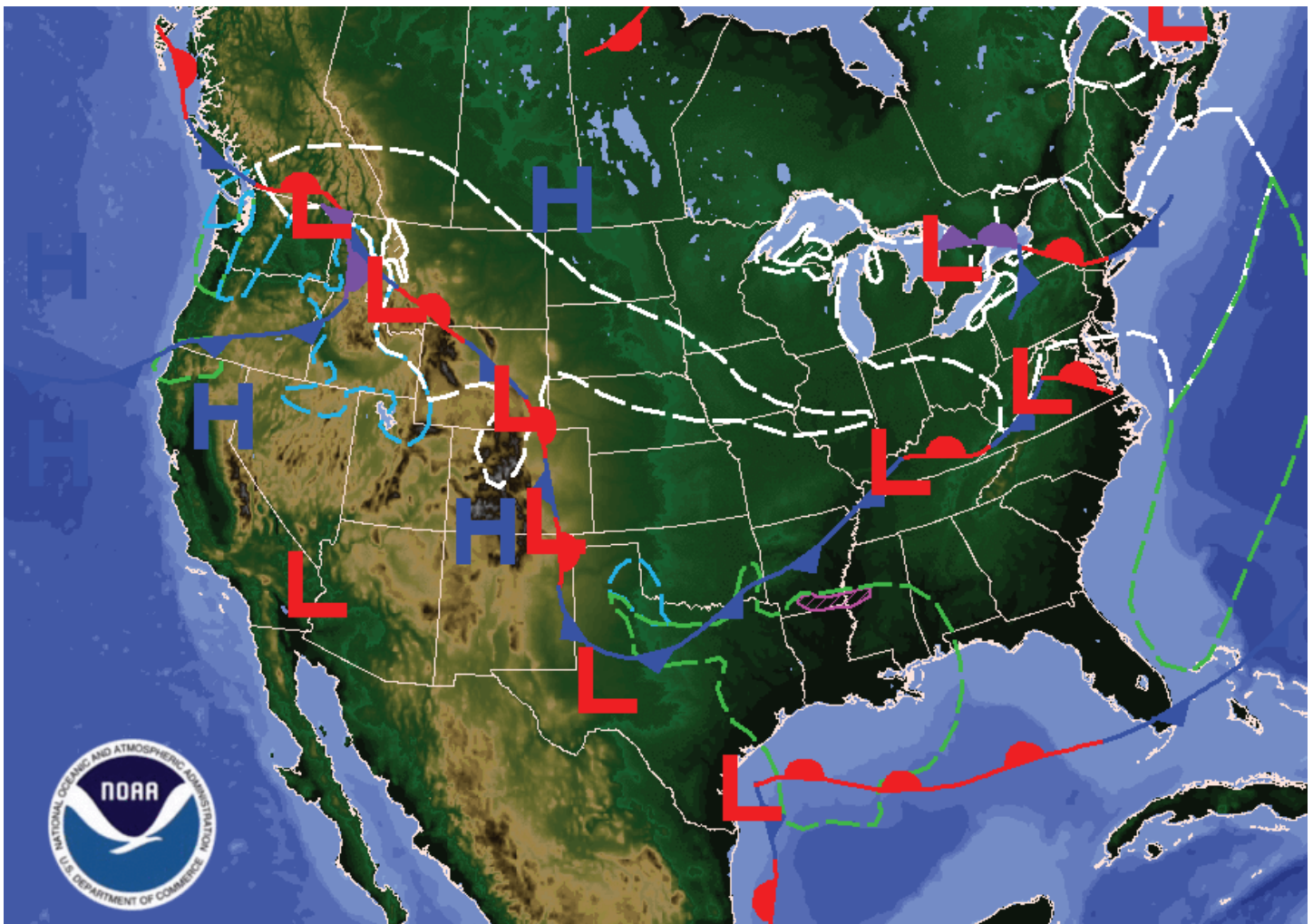
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 1.5 at 2:26 PM
Low Outside Temp: -10.6 at 8:56 PM
Windchill: -27 at 10:28 PM
High Gust: 22 at 10:45 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 52° in 1980
Record Low: -34° in 1917
Average High: 23°F
Average Low: 2°F
Average Precip in Dec: 0.50
Precip to date in Dec: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 21.70
Precip Year to Date: 13.47
Sunset Tonight: 4:59 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:13 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Dec 30, 2017, issued 3:45 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate 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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SOME FINAL WORDS

Often what we find depends on what we look for. Here are a few things to look for in the days we will face together:

Look for God's presence. When fear grips us or failure would defeat us, or if life's challenges seem to be larger than we are or the nights are longer than usual, remember, we are never alone if Jesus rules and reigns in our lives. He promised that "He will never leave us nor forsake us." When life turns to shambles, He will wrap His loving arms around us and protect us because He is with us.

Look for God's power. The psalmist said that "God is our refuge and strength." Often we look to people for insights and advice when we are faced with difficult problems. But their solutions are never as good as the solutions that come from God. God is the greatest asset any Christian has but we must go to Him and draw from His strength and power.

Look for God's provision. "My God shall supply all your needs." Though we may fail Him, He will not fail us. Though we may fail to claim His promises, it does not mean they are not available. If we look to and trust in Him, He will not let us down.

Prayer: Father, we look to You in faith believing that You will meet our every need if we trust You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 Kings 8:56-58; Psalm 46:1-3; Philippians 4:19

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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

Hunting violations frustrate South Dakota county sheriff

WESSINGTON SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — A sheriff in central South Dakota says big game violations in the county's popular hunting area are getting out of control.

Jerauld County Sheriff Jason Weber told the Mitchell Daily Republic that the influx of visitors looking to hunt big game has led to a number of the recent violations.

"Jerauld County has always had a lot of big game violations, so it's not anything new, but I'm getting very sick of people that come into Jerauld County thinking they can do whatever they want," Weber said. "It's not all people from out of the county but, man, it sure is a lot."

Over two days in November, three people were charged with hunting without licenses, and two were charged with hunting out of season.

One person is accused of shooting and abandoning a buck after realizing it had been shot before.

According to court documents, a couple was cited for allegedly shooting two bucks without proper licensing. A conservation officer had noticed a deer in the back of a truck with tags on the wrong leg, the documents showed.

In a third case, two men are alleged to have knowingly shot mule deer during closed season.

Andy Alban is an administrator for the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Law Enforcement Program. Alban said it's common to see a spike in violations during a weekend or opening day for hunting season because of more conservation officers on duty. Both factors apply to the cases recorded.

Alban said there have been about 100 big game violations statewide during this year's fall deer season, which is a normal amount.

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

South Dakota coalition offers support after suicide

BLACK HILLS, S.D. (AP) — A group in western South Dakota provides emotional support and resources to people who have lost a family member or a friend to suicide.

The Front Porch Coalition's loss team is dispatched by Black Hills law enforcement to offer resources, information and comfort after a suicide.

Office Manager Joan Muller-Lyons told the Rapid City Journal that team members are sent out during a crisis or to an emergency room to offer immediate support. She said that includes waiting with the family if the person was an organ donor and helping with the death notification.

Muller-Lyons said team members are effective because they have been affected by suicide in their lives. She said the team is able to provide relatable, caring advice and support.

Muller-Lyons's father died by suicide decades ago.

"When you lose someone, there's a stigma," she said. She said understanding mental illness is still difficult, but support groups like the coalition can help provide the right resources.

"Death is never easy, but suicide is unique to other forms of loss," Muller-Lyons said. "Our team is excellent. They understand a specific aspect of loss that no one else does. People will open up to (us) when they won't open up to anyone else."

Team Member Sheena Hannah lost her father to suicide six years ago. She said there's no wrong way to grieve.

"Sometimes you don't even take it a day at a time, it's a moment at a time," Hannah said. "It gets easier, but it doesn't ever go away. But it does get easier."

Muller-Lyons said the group hopes to expand to cover more counties in the Black Hills. New members have just started covering the Northern Hills.

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

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South Dakota woman opens antique mercantile store

By JOHN KUBAL, Brookings Register

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Growing up in Parkston, Lynette (Tiede) Kerlin enjoyed shopping for fabric and groceries with her mother, Verina Tiede, at “J & A Kayser, The Big Store, Parkston, South Dakota.”

It would later bring back the memories and a dream to own such a store herself.

And now she does: Antique Mercantile, 226 Main Ave., Brookings, is up and running.

“I’ve actually had this vision or dream for at least 40 years: to replicate an old mercantile-type store to sell antiques,” Kerlin said. And she knows antiques.

“I’ve been at this a long time,” she added. For 28 years she operated a store called Antique Treasure Company.

If there’s a single episode that was the driving force for her dream, it was a visit as a 4-year-old with her mother to buy clothing fabric at that old mercantile store in downtown Parkston.

Laughing heartily, Kerlin remembers the experience as replete with mind-etching, almost violent, sight and sound — and demonstrated how it was done.

“My mother would pick a bolt of cloth, and the clerk would measure it out on the counter. Then she’d take a scissors and snip into it about one inch. And then she would rip it and there’s that loud ripping sound!

“As a little girl, I couldn’t understand why she didn’t just cut it.”

Kerlin remembered also her mother purchasing meat, which the butcher would wrap in white paper and tie it with a string.

“I don’t remember paper bags.”

Kerlin lived in Parkston until moving to Brookings in 1970 to attend South Dakota State University. She graduated in 1974 with a degree in early childhood education; however, she had to attend classes at Black Hills State College (Spearfish) to complete “the elementary education block” that qualified her to teach elementary school.

She taught at Central Elementary in Brookings for 27 years, retiring in 2009 “when Central School transformed into (the Children’s Museum of South Dakota).”

Following retirement, she partnered with the owners of the store she has renamed, the Brookings Register reported .

Now she’s in it on her own, having opened a new business she stocked and decorated to fit the theme of its name.

On entering Kerlin’s store, the visitor’s eye is likely to be caught by several huge, ornate and canopied display cases that she had kept in a storage unit for the past 15 years.

“They were in pieces. They had to be taken apart to get them in and out through the doors,” she explained.

Before Kerlin acquired what had been “old general store shelving,” they were in Flandreau, “piles of wood in a barn.”

“It was like putting together a huge puzzle,” she said. “All I had was a photograph.”

She hired Harold Christianson, vice president of the Brookings County Historical Society, which operates the Brookings County Museum, to reassemble them.

She completely refinished the display cases once they were in place in the store.

“I have a general line like a general store would have,” the new proprietor explained as she pointed out the range of her merchandise.

There’s an area dedicated to music where there are instruments that include a ukulele, guitar, zither, clarinet, accordion and a working organ — that is not for sale.

“I love music,” Kerlin said. “My father sang in a choir for 60 years.”

Other items in her main floor inventory include: Red Wing crocks (“more rare pieces if I can find them”); Christmas collectibles year-round; vintage jewelry; and antique jewelry of all types.

Larger pieces include unique and unusual furniture, some of which are not for sale. She needs some of it to help “stage the old mercantile look” of the store.

And the big, old roll-top desk?

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"I need that to stay organized," Kerlin, said, laughing a bit.

The second floor, a loft-like area, she calls a "vintage closet, full of vintage clothing, hats and linens, which are like a lost art anymore. Women of the late 1800s did a lot of needlework. Anything cloth-related is up in that loft."

Finally there's the basement, which in a word Kerlin called "primitive." Think of it as a sort-of man cave, with old hand tools of all sizes and some collectible old pop bottles from the days when Coke came in a 6-ounce bottle.

Reflecting on her new enterprise, she sees finding the location an answer to her prayers.

"I prayed earnestly, because I'd been looking for two to three years for the right building," Kerlin said. "Within 48 hours (of the building becoming available), I received a phone call from the landlord asking me if I might be interested; so it's pretty emotional."

Kerlin is dedicated enough to the theme of "mercantile revival" that she almost used that as a name for her store. Because while she runs her store as a business, she wants to honor her parents, Elton and Verina Tiede. In doing so, she has become a bit of a historian and teacher.

"We need to know our roots, our beginning," she explained. "That was very important to them. They actively preserved their heritage and local history. They were actively involved. It was very important to know our roots, our beginning, our German heritage."

"I feel called to do this. It's the teacher in me doing this. It would be to teach the younger generation about the old ways, how people lived before electricity and cellphones. Also to show what early retail looked like, felt like."

Antique Mercantile: A 40-year Dream Unwrapped, located at 226 Main Avenue in downtown Brookings, is open Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Information from: Brookings Register, <http://www.brookingsregister.com/>

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

04-10-18-28-62, Mega Ball: 7, Megaplier: 2

(four, ten, eighteen, twenty-eight, sixty-two; Mega Ball: seven; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$306 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$384 million

Friday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Andes Central/Dakota Christian 54, Gregory 35

Britton-Hecla 53, Waubay/Summit 29

Canton 66, Hill City 64

Highmore-Harrold 53, Wessington Springs 21

Irene-Wakonda 48, Langford 40

Madison 67, Belle Fourche 44

Rapid City Central 67, Dickinson, N.D. 48

Tea Area 75, Vermillion 53

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Yankton 49, Mitchell 40
Chadron Tournament
Valentine, Neb. 66, Custer 38
Mike Miller Classic
Prairie Seeds Academy, Minn. 64, Mitchell Christian 55
Prior Lake, Minn. 72, Bridgewater-Emery 68
Sioux Falls Washington 62, Wauwatosa West, Wis. 59
Parkston Classic
Canistota 54, Corsica/Stickney 39
Dakota Valley 56, Sully Buttes 46
Menno 50, McCook Central/Montrose 39
Parkston 53, Rapid City Christian 50
Redfield/Doland 54, Platte-Geddes 42
Warner 69, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 64
Swiftel Classic
Bon Homme 70, Hot Springs 52
Tiospa Zina Tribal 63, Florence/Henry 50
GIRLS' BASKETBALL
Andes Central/Dakota Christian 64, Gregory 40
Avon 55, Alcester-Hudson 45
Belle Fourche 64, Madison 60, 20T
Corsica/Stickney 52, Scotland 40
Flandreau 55, Dell Rapids 35
Highmore-Harrold 53, Wessington Springs 33
Hill City 45, Canton 35
Rapid City Central 77, Dickinson, N.D. 48
Red Cloud 47, Spearfish 46
St. Thomas More 53, Aberdeen Roncalli 14
Vermillion 66, Tea Area 49
Watertown 51, Mitchell 40
Chadron Tournament (Invite)
Custer 55, Valentine, Neb. 40
Huron Holiday Classic
Faith 74, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 48
Faulkton 56, Chester 38
Ipswich 51, Jones County 40
James Valley Christian 30, Colman-Egan 26
Leola/Frederick 48, Hitchcock-Tulare 44
Lower Brule 68, Iroquois 15
Miller 49, Elk Point-Jefferson 34
Swiftel Classic
Sioux Valley 87, Estelline 35
Tiospa Zina Tribal 55, Centerville 20
Webster 53, Potter County 51
West Central 54, Florence/Henry 40

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Enduring cold snap creates headaches at home, on highways

By JOHN SEEWER, Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — Already winter-weary parts of the Midwest and East Coast are dealing with a mounting number of weather-related headaches, from highway pileups to frozen pipes and a rash of car thefts. And there's more to come.

Bitter temperatures and snow squalls have been blamed for a handful of deaths and canceled a long list of New Year's celebrations.

Icy roads in central Michigan caused more than 30 crashes Friday on highways near Flint while a chain-reaction crash involving about 40 vehicles in the southwestern part of the state left three hurt.

Coastal South Carolina saw a rare bout of freezing rain and drizzle on Friday that forced bridges from Charleston to Myrtle Beach to shut down for de-icing.

Police in the Cincinnati area say a half-dozen cars have been stolen in recent days after being left running unattended by owners trying to warm them up. Cincinnati police warned in a tweet that leaving your car running means "the only person who will be warm is the thief who stole your car."

More snow is on the way in Erie, Pennsylvania, where 65 inches have fallen since Christmas Eve. Now parts of the surrounding county could get up to 16 inches of more snow by Sunday.

A call center set up to help people dig out has been overwhelmed. "The phones have been ringing off the hook," said Josh Jaeger, a coordinator for the center told the Erie Times-News.

Cleanup continued inside Michigan State University's basketball arena after a frozen water pipe burst and flooded a hallway, but the mess wasn't expected to interrupt a game Friday.

Diann Wears, of Toledo, said she was already fed up with winter as she stood along a slush-covered sidewalk while waiting for a bus.

"And it's just the beginning," she said Friday. "I'm sure it will get worse."

Frigid conditions in Boston took their toll on the nation's fifth-largest transit system.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority has spent heavily to winterize what's known as the "T" since it was crippled by record-breaking snowfall in 2015. But the agency reported "severe delays" on one of its lines Friday, citing a broken piece of track and a disabled train, among other problems.

Several deaths have been linked to the wintry weather during the past week.

In South Dakota, an 83-year-old woman died from exposure to the cold after she crashed her car and then got out to look for help. Search crews found her body in a ditch on Sunday. Three people were found dead in a canal along Lake Erie earlier this week after their car slid off an icy road.

The National Weather Service predicts another blast of arctic air will chill much of the eastern two-thirds of the U.S. through the weekend and into 2018.

Temperatures could fall into the single digits as far south as Oklahoma and sink to zero or below Friday night in Nebraska and Iowa and remain there for at least three days.

"It's pretty unusual to get that long of a streak where it's completely below zero," said Iowa's State Climatologist Harry Hillaker. "Historically, that doesn't happen very often in Des Moines."

The Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies braced for storms forecasters warned could bring several feet of mountain snow and freezing rain.

With the bitter cold expected to stick around, many New Year's Eve plans are being scuttled.

Shore towns in New Jersey canceled plans for polar bear plunges in the Atlantic Ocean and organizers pulled the plug on the annual light bulb drop in Sunbury, Pennsylvania.

In Boston, organizers of the L Street Brownies plunge scoffed when asked if they were scared off by the weather.

"It's a go. It's always a go. We never give up," Dan Monahan told the Boston Herald about the event that attracts more than 600 swimmers each year and has gone on for more than a century. "We're stubborn people in Boston. We're about tradition."

Fireworks shows have been called off in Omaha and at Six Flags Great Adventure in New Jersey. And New York City's Coney Island says it will be too cold for free rides on the Wonder Wheel and Thunderbolt

roller coaster.

Animal advocates urged people to protect their pets from the cold. Wild animals weren't immune from the dangers of winter, either.

In Ohio, wildlife officers mulled how to rescue a deer stuck on an ice-covered river. They managed to lasso the deer with a rope and pull it to shore Friday, but they had to euthanize the injured animal.

Extreme cold to test New Year's revelers; some events iced

By MARY ESCH, Associated Press

Dress in layers, lay off the booze and bring some hand warmers. Those are some of the tips offered for the huge crowd of revelers expected in Times Square for what could be one of the coldest New Year's Eve ball drops on record.

Brutal weather has iced plans for scores of events in the Northeast from New Year's Eve through New Year's Day, but not in New York City, where people will start gathering in Times Square up to nine hours before the famous ball drop.

"Hundreds of thousands have withstood very cold weather over the years for a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and we expect this year to be no different," said Tim Tompkins, president of the Times Square Alliance which puts on the event.

The coldest New Year's Eve in Times Square came in 1917, when it was 1 degree at midnight. This year, the forecast is for 11 degrees with a wind chill around zero, which would tie for second with 1962.

City and state health officials are advising people to cover all exposed skin, and wear a hat, scarf and gloves. Drinking alcohol is discouraged because it causes the body to lose heat faster.

Extra New York Fire Department personnel are going to be on hand to provide medical support and a National Weather Service meteorologist will be on site with the city's emergency management officials to monitor weather conditions.

In other areas gripped by the cold, some events are being canceled or reconsidered. The annual Lobster Dip at Old Orchard Beach in Maine has been rescheduled for the first time in 30 years.

Organizers of the Penguin Plunge in Narragansett, Rhode Island, say it's still on for New Year's Day but advised the thousands of expected participants to "use their good judgment" and avoid taking the plunge if they have a medical condition or have been sick.

In Philadelphia, officials are taking a wait-and-see approach to whether they should hold the annual New Year's Day Mummers Parade, which features thousands of performers in colorful costumes adorned with sequins and feathers strutting through the streets.

With temperatures only expected to reach 9 degrees in Springfield, Illinois, on Sunday, the organizers of its annual New Year's Eve fireworks display have decided to cancel this year's show. Officials say they plan to reschedule it for a warmer date.

The village of Orchard Park near Buffalo, New York, has canceled its New Year's Eve event because subzero temperatures have been forecast. "With frigid weather, the chance of a water line break is higher, and I'd rather have my public works crew fixing it than hoisting a ball up to drop," said Mayor Jo Ann Litwin Clinton.

At Long Lake in the heart of New York state's Adirondack Park, intrepid souls in swimsuits or funny costumes will jump into frigid water through a hole cut by the fire department for the fifth annual Polar Plunge, a fundraiser for High Peaks Hospice. With temperatures expected to top out around 13 degrees, the rescue squad will be checking participants' blood pressure and buses will provide warm shelter, said Alexandra Roalsvig, the town's director of recreation and tourism.

"People get excited about the cold here; we grew up with it," Roalsvig said. "We're counting on a good cold winter and snow because we're so reliant on snowmobiling for the winter economy."

2 men arraigned on murder charges in quadruple homicide

TROY, N.Y. (AP) — Two men have been arrested on murder charges in the deaths of two women and two children in their upstate New York apartment.

Justin Mann and James White pleaded not guilty on Saturday in Troy. Both are from Schenectady (sheh-NEHK'-tuh-dee). Both men are being held in county jail.

According to the Times Union, Troy Police Chief John Tedesco says one of the defendants knew one of the victims. He declined to elaborate.

A property manager found 36-year-old Shanta Myers; her children, 11-year-old Jeremiah Myers and 5-year-old Shanise Myers; and 22-year-old Brandi Mells in a basement apartment along the Hudson River, just north of Albany on Tuesday. Police say the two women were in a relationship.

State Department releases emails from Clinton aide

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department has released emails from Huma Abedin, a top aide to Hillary Clinton, that were found by the FBI on her husband's laptop.

Some of the emails found on former Rep. Anthony Weiner's laptop were marked classified. It was unclear whether they were deemed classified at the time they were sent or when the State Department was preparing them for release.

The emails were released in response to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed by the conservative watchdog group Judicial Watch.

The State Department said it "carefully reviews the content of records requested through FOIA to determine whether any information is sensitive or classified," and some of the documents released Friday have "classified information that has been redacted."

The FBI found thousands of emails exchanged between Clinton and Abedin while searching Weiner's laptop as part of a criminal investigation into his sexting with a high school student. The discovery led then-FBI Director James Comey to announce in late October 2016, as Clinton's run for the White House was in its final stage, that he was reopening the probe of her use of a private computer server.

Then two days before Election Day, the FBI declared there was nothing new in the emails. Clinton has called Comey's intervention "the determining factor" in her defeat.

The FBI has since said that only a small number of the emails found on the laptop had been forwarded while most had simply been backed up from electronic devices, including most of the email chains containing classified information. Comey said the FBI had concluded that neither Weiner nor Abedin had committed a crime in their handling of the email.

New economic protests in Tehran challenge Iran's government

By AMIR VAHDAT and JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — A wave of spontaneous protests over Iran's weak economy swept into Tehran on Saturday, with college students and others chanting against the government just hours after hard-liners held their own rally in support of the Islamic Republic's clerical establishment.

The demonstrations appear to be the largest to strike the Islamic Republic since the protests that followed the country's disputed 2009 presidential election.

Thousands already have taken to the streets of cities across Iran, beginning at first on Thursday in Mashhad, the country's second-largest city and a holy site for Shiite pilgrims.

The protests in the Iranian capital, as well as U.S. President Donald Trump tweeting about them, raised the stakes. It also apparently forced state television to break its silence, acknowledging it hadn't reported on them on orders from security officials.

"Counterrevolution groups and foreign media are continuing their organized efforts to misuse the people's economic and livelihood problems and their legitimate demands to provide an opportunity for unlawful gatherings and possibly chaos," state TV said.

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The protests appear sparked by social media posts and a surge in prices of basic food supplies, like eggs and poultry. Officials and state media made a point Saturday of saying Iranians have the right to protest and have their voices heard on social issues.

However, protesters in Tehran on Saturday chanted against high-ranking government officials and made other political statements, according to the semi-official Fars news agency. Hundreds of students and others joined a new economic protest at Tehran University, with riot police massing at the school's gates as they shut down surrounding roads.

Fars also said protests on Friday also struck Qom, a city that is the world's foremost center for Shiite Islamic scholarship and home to a major Shiite shrine.

Social media videos purport to show clashes between protesters and police in several areas. At least 50 protesters have been arrested since Thursday, authorities said. State TV also said some protesters chanted the name of Iran's one-time shah, who fled into exile just before its 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Earlier Saturday, hard-liners rallied across the country to support Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and others. The rallies, scheduled weeks earlier, commemorated a mass 2009 pro-government rally challenging those who rejected the re-election of hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad amid fraud allegations.

State TV aired live the pro-government "9 Dey Epic" rallies, named for the date on the Iranian calendar the 2009 protests took place. The footage showed people waving flags and carrying banners bearing Khamenei's image.

In Tehran, some 4,000 people gathered at the Musalla prayer ground in central Tehran for the rally. They called for criminal trials for Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mahdi Karroubi, leaders in the 2009 protests who have been under house arrest since 2011. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, whose administration struck the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, campaigned on freeing the men, though they remain held.

Mohsen Araki, a Shiite cleric who serves in Iran's Assembly of Experts, praised Rouhani's efforts at improving the economy. However, he said Rouhani needed to do more to challenge "enemy pressures."

"We must go back to the pre-nuclear deal situation," Araki said. "The enemy has not kept with its commitments."

Ali Ahmadi, a pro-government demonstrator, blamed the U.S for all of Iran's economic problems.

"They always say that we are supporting Iranian people, but who should pay the costs?" Ahmadi asked.

Iran's economy has improved since the nuclear deal, which saw Iran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the end of some of the international sanctions that crippled its economy. Tehran now sells its oil on the global market and has signed deals for tens of billions of dollars of Western aircraft.

That improvement has not reached the average Iranian, however. Unemployment remains high. Official inflation has crept up to 10 percent again. A recent increase in egg and poultry prices by as much as 40 percent, which a government spokesman has blamed on a cull over avian flu fears, appears to have been the spark for the economic protests.

While police have arrested some protesters, the country's powerful Revolutionary Guard and its affiliates have not intervened as they have in other unauthorized demonstrations since the 2009 election. The economic protests initially just put pressure on Rouhani's administration.

Early on Saturday, Trump tweeted out his support for the protests.

"Many reports of peaceful protests by Iranian citizens fed up with regime's corruption & its squandering of the nation's wealth to fund terrorism abroad," he wrote. "Iranian govt should respect their people's rights, including right to express themselves. The world is watching! (hashtag) IranProtests."

It's unclear what effect Trump's support would have. Iranians already are largely skeptical of him over his refusal to re-certify the nuclear deal and Iran being included in his travel bans. Trump's insistence in an October speech on using the term "Arabian Gulf" in place of the Persian Gulf also has also riled the Iranian public.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's comments in June to Congress saying American is working toward "support of those elements inside of Iran that would lead to a peaceful transition of that government" has been used by Iran's government of a sign of foreign interference in its internal politics.

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The State Department issued a statement Friday supporting the protests, referencing Tillerson's earlier comments.

"Iran's leaders have turned a wealthy country with a rich history and culture into an economically depleted rogue state whose chief exports are violence, bloodshed and chaos," the statement said.

Iran's Foreign Ministry dismissed the comments.

"The noble Iranian nation never pays heed to the opportunist and hypocritical mottos chanted by the U.S. officials and their interfering allegations on domestic developments in the Islamic Republic of Iran," the state-run IRNA news agency quoted ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi as saying.

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Ringo Starr, Bee Gee Barry Gibb tapped as British knights

By GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A Beatle and a Bee Gee are among the celebrated citizens who have been selected for knighthood and other awards given in the name of Britain's monarch.

Britain's Cabinet Office publishes a list of the people receiving honors for merit, service or bravery twice a year: just before New Year's Eve, and on the Saturday in June when Queen Elizabeth II's birthday is officially observed.

The New Year's Honors List made public late Friday revealed that Beatles drummer Ringo Starr and Barry Gibb, the oldest and last surviving of the brothers who made up the pop group the Bee Gees, have been tapped as knights.

The process starts with nominations from the public, which first are reviewed by a specialist committee and then by a main honors committee. The nominations are then sent to the prime minister before the various honors are bestowed by the queen or senior royals.

The children's author celebrated for "War Horse," a politician who fought in vain to keep Britain in the European Union, and many others, including renowned researchers, volunteers and actors, also made the honors list.

These are four of the people picked to receive knighthoods in 2018:

A HARD DAY'S KNIGHT

The future knight is listed as Richard Starkey, a Liverpoolian being honored for services to music, but the world knows him as Ringo Starr, drummer for one of the most famous bands in the history of recorded music.

He missed the Beatles' hardscrabble years, when they had to scramble for a gig to get by, joining John Lennon, Paul McCartney and George Harrison just before they rocketed to stardom.

There were flashier drummers in the rock pantheon — Keith Moon and Ginger Baker come to mind — but Starr fit the band's approach perfectly, playing with uncanny style and imagination as the band's music branched out from its early American rock influences. The drum parts in "Ticket to Ride," "Rain," and "Strawberry Fields Forever" are all seen as masterful contributions to timeless songs.

Starr also had a way of mangling words that pleased Lennon, who used Starr's offhand quips to develop the songs "A Hard Day's Night" and "Tomorrow Never Knows."

"It's great!" Starr said of his knighthood in a brief message Friday. "It's an honor and a pleasure to be considered and acknowledged for my music and my charity work, both of which I love. Peace and love. Ringo."

He has enjoyed a successful solo recording career since the Beatles broke up in 1970 and continues to tour with a shifting ensemble known as Ringo Starr & His All Starr Band. Each show features a performance of "With a Little Help from My Friends," his signature song from the Sgt. Pepper album.

McCartney, who had lobbied publicly for Starr to receive a knighthood, tweeted his congratulations Saturday.

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"Huge congrats Sir Ringo! Sir Richard Starkey has a nice ring to it. Best drummer best pal! X Paul," the tweet read.

The two are the only surviving Beatles. Lennon was shot dead in 1980 and Harrison died in 2001.

The knighthood will allow Starr, 77, to join McCartney, Mick Jagger, Elton John and Van Morrison as 1960s rock royalty honored by the queen. Could Keith Richards be next?

DISCO KNIGHTS

Barry Gibb, the last surviving member of the Bee Gees, said he was dedicating his knighthood to his late bandmates, twin brothers Robin Gibb, who died in 2012, and Maurice Gibb, who died in 2003.

"I want to acknowledge how responsible my brothers are for this honor," said Gibb, 71. "It is as much theirs as it is mine."

He was recognized for services to music and charity.

"This is a moment in life to be treasured and never forgotten," he said.

The Bee Gees formed in the late 1950s and enjoyed two distinct periods of commercial success: first as a Beatles-influenced pop band and later as leading avatars of the disco movement, particularly on the "Saturday Night Fever" soundtrack that achieved global fame. The band enjoyed phenomenal success in the disco era of the 1970s, consistently topping the singles charts and racking up huge album sales.

MY KNIGHTHOOD FOR MY HORSE!

Author Michael Morpurgo says he is giving his knighthood to Joey, the fictional horse at the center of his book and play "War Horse."

Morpurgo, 74, has written many treasured children's books, but it is his 1982 book "War Horse" and the wildly successful play that followed that brought him worldwide fame.

The story, set at the start of World War I, chronicles the friendship between a young boy and his horse, Joey. It was staged using life-size horse puppets that enchanted audiences.

Morpurgo is being knighted for his charitable works as well as for his writing, but he says the honor is really about "War Horse" and the impact of the production staged by the National Theatre.

"There was never a knight that has owed so much to his horse as this one — and in fact, we will give the knighthood to Joey and call him Sir Joey," said Morpurgo.

Morpurgo, a former school teacher, said it was the "great good fortune" of his writing life to be associated with the play.

CLEGG'S CONSOLATION

He lost his seat in Parliament earlier this year. He campaigned hard to keep Britain in the European Union, only to see Britons turn the other way in the 2016 referendum. He resigned as leader of the Liberal Democrats after the party's poor performance in the 2015 election.

The past few years have been rough for former British Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, but he gets a handsome consolation prize in the form of a knighthood recognizing his service to politics.

At just 50 years old, Clegg is young enough to contemplate a return to electoral politics. He has remained a vocal opponent of the Brexit process, which is set to see Britain leave the European Union in 2019. But he has lost much of the luster he gained in 2010 when he seemed to offer a fresh alternative to Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Conservative challenger David Cameron. Many party faithful criticized his decision to have the Liberal Democrats become a junior party in the Cameron-led coalition that governed the U.K. for five years.

Motive sought in California law firm shooting with 2 dead

By ANDREW DALTON, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Police are trying to learn what motivated a man to walk into a law firm where he worked and shoot two of his colleagues before turning the gun on himself.

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Police arrived at the office building in Long Beach on Friday to find the gunman and one victim dead and learned that the second victim had driven himself to a hospital, police Sgt. Brad Johnson said at a news conference.

The injured man was in stable condition.

Police didn't fire any shots, Johnson said. A SWAT team searched the rest of the building and no other victims were found.

The gunman's motive had not yet been determined, but authorities emphasized it was not a case of an active shooter targeting as many people as possible.

"This incident was workplace violence," Johnson said.

Video showed people running from a two-story office building shouting about a shooting inside.

The building is in the well-to-do neighborhood of Bixby Knolls and sits across from a Trader Joe's market.

Three different law firms are listed among the occupants, but police did not reveal the office where the shooting occurred.

The office is about 20 miles south of downtown Los Angeles in Long Beach, a city of about 460,000 people.

— Associated Press writer Michael Balsamo contributed to this story.

Follow Andrew Dalton on Twitter at twitter.com/andyjamesdalton.

3+ months after Maria, barely half of Puerto Rico has power

By DANICA COTO, Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico authorities said Friday that nearly half of power customers in the U.S. territory still lack electricity more than three months after Hurricane Maria, sparking outrage among islanders who accuse the government of mismanaging its response to the Category 4 storm.

Officials said 55 percent of the nearly 1.5 million customers have power, marking the first time the government has provided that statistic since Maria hit on Sept. 20 with winds of up to 154 mph. Officials had previously reported only power generation, which stands at nearly 70 percent of pre-storm levels.

"It's just extraordinary that it is still so far away from being 100 percent recovered," said Susan Tierney, a senior adviser for Denver-based consulting company Analysis Group who testified before a U.S. Senate committee on efforts to restore power in Puerto Rico. "I'm not aware of any time in recent decades since the U.S. has electrified the entire economy that there has been an outage of this magnitude."

One of Puerto Rico's 78 municipalities remains entirely without power, and it's unclear when some electricity will be restored to the central mountain town of Ciales. Crews this week restored power for the first time to parts of the southeast coastal town of Yabucoa, which received the first hit from Maria.

Among those still in the dark is Christian Pagan, 58, who lives near the capital of San Juan and said it was the government's fault that a large number of people still don't have power.

"Everybody saw that the devastation was great, but I don't understand why they're trying to sell people something that's not real," he said of the explanations the government has provided as to why power has not been fully restored. "The first month was lost to bureaucracy and an uncoordinated reaction."

He especially criticized the power company's former director, Ricardo Ramos, who resigned in late October after signing a \$300 million contract for a Montana-based company that had only two full-time employees when the storm hit. Ramos also had said that he did not activate mutual-aid agreements with power companies in the U.S. mainland in part because there was no way to communicate with them.

"That's the kind of help you ask for three days before the hurricane," Pagan said.

It is not yet known what percentage of businesses and homes now have electricity. Power company spokesman Geraldo Quinones told The Associated Press that officials are still working to obtain that data, stressing that the optical fiber that helps provide the number of customers with power and other data was destroyed by the hurricane.

Gov. Ricardo Rossello had pledged 95 percent power generation by Dec. 15, while the U.S. Army Corps

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of Engineers has said the entire island will have power by May.

Fredyson Martinez, vice president of a union that represents workers with Puerto Rico's power company, told the AP on Friday that a recent study by local engineers found that 90 percent of industries and 75 percent of businesses already have power, meaning residential areas are disproportionately in the dark.

Martinez said the company should have provided the number of customers without power a while ago, adding that officials had other ways of obtaining the information despite the damaged fiber optic cable.

Martinez also said that a lack of supplies and equipment is slowing power restoration efforts, echoing an early concern by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which also has said that Puerto Rico's rough terrain presents another challenge.

Government officials said nearly 14,000 poles already have been shipped to Puerto Rico, and that another 7,000 will arrive in upcoming days. In addition, some 3,500 workers are trying to restore power across the island, with many working through the holidays and others even stripping down to their shorts to swim across a cold river with a strong current to reach damaged infrastructure.

"We know that the priority of our clients is to know when they will receive the power service again," said Justo Gonzalez, the power company's interim director. "Maria severely impacted most of our energy infrastructure."

Officials said Puerto Rico has 2,400 miles of transmission lines, 30,000 miles of distribution lines and 342 substations that suffered substantial damage during the hurricane. Gonzalez said crews are tackling projects that include installing new poles and building primary transmission towers and connection wiring.

Carlos Torres, who is overseeing power restoration efforts, said that crews are still finding unexpected damage including what he called severely impacted substations.

"We will not stop working until every person and business has their lights back on," he said.

Among those still waiting for power is Eileen Cheverez, a 48-year-old respiratory therapist who lives in Morovis, which borders Ciales. She said power was restored to homes around her, but that crews still need to set up a key cable so she can have lights.

"This truly consumes you mentally, emotionally," she said, adding that seeing homes lit up around her gives her some hope amid the frustration. "It's like a lack of respect. I know the damage was great, especially in the mountains, but I feel they've taken too long."

Puerto Rico's governor on Friday said that he has requested up to 1,500 additional workers from electric companies across the U.S. mainland to help restore power, and said he has asked the Army Corps of Engineers to increase its capacity to provide assistance.

"We understand how difficult it has been for the people of Puerto Rico who have been without power for so long," he said. "Our administration will continue working to ensure that there are the necessary resources to complete this restoration effort after an unprecedented devastation."

Police: Prank led to police shooting unarmed Kansas man

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH and JIM SALTER, Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Police and the FBI are investigating whether an argument over an online game prompted a hoax call that led to a house where an officer shot and killed a Kansas man who apparently wasn't involved in the dispute.

Wichita Deputy Police Chief Troy Livingston on Friday blamed a "prankster" who called 911 and made up a story about a shooting and kidnapping. He did not mention reports that an argument over online gaming was at the heart of the prank, although he said investigators had made good progress tracking online leads.

Police have not disclosed the name of the man who was killed Thursday evening, but relatives identified him as Andrew Finch, 28.

Livingston, speaking at a news conference, said the hoax call was a case of "swatting," in which a person makes up a false report to get a SWAT team to descend on an address.

"Due to the actions of a prankster we have an innocent victim," Livingston said. He said no one has

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been arrested in connection with the hoax.

Police played audio of the call to 911. A man said his father had been shot in the head. He said he was holding his mother and a sibling at gunpoint. The caller, speaking with relative calm, said he poured gasoline inside the home "and I might just set it on fire."

Several officers arrived and surrounded the home, braced for a hostage situation. When Finch went to the door police told him to put his hands up and move slowly.

But Livingston said the man moved a hand toward the area of his waistband — a common place where guns are concealed. An officer, fearing the man was reaching for a gun, fired a single shot. Finch died a few minutes later at a hospital. Livingston said Finch was unarmed.

The officer, a seven-year veteran of the department, is on paid leave pending the investigation.

The Finch family on Friday allowed reporters inside their home. Lisa Finch told them her son was not a gamer.

"What gives the cops the right to open fire?" she asked. "That cop murdered my son over a false report in the first place."

Lisa Finch said the family was forced outside barefoot in freezing cold and handcuffed after the shooting. She said her granddaughter was forced to step over her dying uncle and that no guns were found in the home.

Dexerto, an online news service focused on gaming, reported that the series of events began with an online argument over a \$1 or \$2 wager in a "Call of Duty" game on UMG Gaming, which operates online tournaments including one involving "Call of Duty."

"We woke this morning to horrible news about an innocent man losing his life," UMG spokeswoman Shannon Gerritzen said in an email to The Associated Press. "Our hearts go out to his loved ones. We are doing everything we can to assist the authorities in this matter." She declined to disclose other details.

In addition to the 911 call, police also released a brief video of body camera footage from another officer at the scene. It was difficult to see clearly what happened.

The FBI estimates that roughly 400 cases of swatting occur annually, with some using caller ID spoofing to disguise their number. An FBI supervisor in Kansas City, Missouri, which covers all of Kansas, said the agency joined in the investigation at the request of local police.

In other cases of apparent swatting, three families in Florida in January had to evacuate their homes after a detective received an anonymous email claiming bombs had been placed at the address.

A 20-year-old Maryland man was shot in the face with rubber bullets by police in 2015 after a fake hostage situation was reported at his home.

Rep. Katherine Clark, a Massachusetts Democrat, introduced an anti-swatting bill in 2015 — then was herself the victim of swatting. Armed officers in 2016 responded to an anonymous call claiming an active shooter was at Clark's home.

John Hanna in Topeka, Kansas, contributed to this report. Salter reported from St. Louis.

Officials: Deadly NYC fire lit by child playing with stove

By JENNIFER PELTZ and DAVID JEANS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A preschooler toying with the burners on his mother's stove accidentally sparked New York City's deadliest fire in decades, an inferno that quickly overtook an apartment building and blocked the main escape route, the fire commissioner said Friday.

A dozen people died, and four others were fighting for their lives a day after the flames broke out in the century-old building near the Bronx Zoo.

The 3½-year-old-boy, his mother and another child were able to flee their first-floor apartment. But they left the apartment door open behind them, and it acted like a chimney that drew smoke and flames into a stairwell. From there, the fire spread throughout the five-story building, authorities said.

The city housing department said investigators would look into why the door did not close automati-

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cally, though Mayor Bill de Blasio said there was "nothing problematic about the building that contributed to this tragedy."

At least 20 people scrambled out via fire escapes on a bitterly cold night, but others could not.

"People had very little time to react," Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said. Firefighters arrived in just over three minutes and saved some people, but "this loss is unprecedented."

Fernando Batiz said his 56-year-old sister, Maria Batiz, and her 8-month-old granddaughter also died, though the baby's mother survived.

"The smoke, I guess, overcame her. Everything happened so quick," Batiz said. He described his sister, a home care attendant, as a selfless person who helped him when he was homeless.

"I don't know what to think. I'm still in shock," he said.

One family lost four members: Karen Stewart-Francis, her daughters, 2-year-old Kiley Francis and 7-year-old Kelly Francis, and their cousin, 19-year-old Shawntay Young, relatives said. Stewart-Francis' husband, Holt Francis, was hospitalized, the family said.

"I don't know what to do, and I don't know how to feel," Stewart-Francis' mother, Ambrozia Stewart, told The New York Times. "Four at one time — what do I do?"

Young lived in the basement but had gone upstairs to visit Stewart-Francis in her fifth-floor apartment, said Young's boyfriend, Kenyon George.

"The first story I heard is that she was up top and she couldn't get down," said George, 19, fighting back tears. The two had dated for seven months, and Young had become a mother figure to his 1-year-old son, he said. She called him Thursday morning, but he was asleep and missed the call.

"If I had picked up the phone, she would have been over here all day," he told The Associated Press. "It feels so surreal."

The 26-unit apartment building was required to have self-closing doors, which swing shut on their own to keep fires from spreading, city Housing Preservation and Development Department spokesman Matthew Creegan said. Investigators will look at whether the door to the apartment was defective or if an obstruction prevented it from closing, he said.

No self-closing door violations were issued during an inspection in August, though the city would not have examined every apartment, Creegan said. Such violations are common: The city cited 7,752 of them last year.

While the doors are required in any apartment building with more than three units, they sometimes do not work properly because they get clogged or dirty, New York fire-safety consultant Jim Bullock said.

The management company for the building's owner, D&E Equities, said it was talking to city officials and was "shocked and saddened" by the deaths and injuries.

Excluding 9/11, Thursday's fire was the city's deadliest since 87 people were killed at a social club in the same Bronx neighborhood in 1990. A fire in a home in another part of the Bronx killed 10 people, including nine children, in 2007.

About 170 firefighters worked in 15-degree weather to rescue dozens of people. Fire Department video released Friday showed the building's charred halls and stairs, where icicles had formed from water poured on the blaze.

Residents described opening their front doors to see smoke too thick to walk through and descending icy fire escapes with children in hand. Some escaped barefoot or in their nightclothes.

Huddled in a deli on the block with her family, 10-year-old Crisbel Martinez cried Friday as she recalled escaping from her fifth-floor apartment with her three older brothers.

One brother's girlfriend was coming into the building when she saw smoke, called him and called police. With their mother at work, the siblings checked and saw the smoke.

"Then we got changed and went through the fire escape," Crisbel said. She spent the night at an aunt's house.

Twum Bredu still did not know Friday what had become of his brother, Emmanuel Mensah, 28. He was staying with a family that escaped the fire safely, but no one could find Mensah, despite checking four hospitals. Still, his family pounded the pavement, asking about him and hoping for good news.

"That's my prayer," Bredu said.

The building was too old to be required to have modern fireproofing such as sprinkler systems and interior steel construction.

Associated Press Writer Larry Neumeister contributed to this report.

NFL changes concussion protocol after Savage incident

By KRISTIE RIEKEN, AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — The NFL and the players' union announced a series of changes Friday to the way potential concussions are handled during games following an ugly incident in which Texans quarterback Tom Savage was allowed to return to the field after a hit left him on the ground, arms shaking.

Among the changes is the addition of an expert watching games from a central location with the authority to alert sideline medical teams to look into an incident. And if a player shows signs of a seizure or similar responses, as Savage did, they will be removed from the game and cannot return.

The NFL has been under increased scrutiny the past several years over player safety when it comes to head injuries. A \$1 billion settlement of concussion-related claims from more than 20,000 former players took effect earlier this year, resolving thousands of lawsuits that accused the NFL of hiding what it knew about the risks of repeated concussions.

The jarring injury to Savage prompted a joint review of concussion protocol by the NFL and the NFL Players Association. He was hurt in the second quarter of Houston's 26-16 loss to San Francisco on Dec. 10 when he was driven to the ground on a hit by Elvis Dumervil. Replays showed Savage looking dazed after his head hit the ground with both of his arms shaking and lifted upward. He was taken to the medical tent where he stayed for less than three minutes before returning to the bench and going back in for the next series.

Savage threw two incompletions on that drive, and Houston's team doctor approached him after he returned to the sideline at the end of that possession. He was evaluated again and taken to the locker room after it was determined that he did have a concussion.

The NFL said the Texans would not be fined for the incident. The review determined that the medical staff followed protocol but his return to the game was "unacceptable." Medical staff didn't see slow-motion video where Savage's "fencing posture," indicative of a concussion, until after they did their initial evaluation, the review found. Texans medical staff later identified symptoms that weren't present during the first evaluation.

"I think we handled it the way it was supposed to be handled," Texans coach Bill O'Brien said. "I think just speaking for us here at the Texans it's always about trying to do the right thing, doing the right thing by the player, doing the right thing by the rules. That's what we try to do."

O'Brien said he was glad to see that improvements to the protocol were made in the wake of Savage's injury.

"I think there's a lot of things that can be improved," he said. "I think anything where you can help — obviously the safety of the player in this game is the most important thing (and) I think anything like that helps when you try to improve that process."

The Seattle Seahawks were fined \$100,000 earlier this month for not properly following protocol with quarterback Russell Wilson during a game in November. Seattle was the first team to be fined for a violation of the protocol. In addition to the fine, Seattle's medical staff and coaches were required to attend training on the protocol.

Among the changes detailed by the NFL and NFLPA (all of them already implemented):

— Using a centralized, unaffiliated neurotrauma consultant at the league office to monitor feeds of all games and contact the team medical staff on the sidelines if they see anything that deserves further evaluation.

— If players show signs of a seizure or fencing responses, like Savage did, they will be removed from

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the game and cannot return.

— Players who stumble or fall when trying to stand will require a concussion evaluation in the locker room.
— Officials, teammates and coaches have been told to take injured players straight to the medical staff for evaluation if a concussion evaluation is warranted.

— All players who are evaluated for concussions on game day must have a follow-up evaluation the next day by a member of the medical staff.

— A third, unaffiliated neurotrauma consultant will be added to all playoff games including the Super Bowl to step in if one of the other two are away from the sideline tending to an injured player.

Dr. Hunt Batjer is a neurosurgeon and a former co-chairman of the NFL committee on head, neck and spine injuries who currently serves as the chair of the Department of Neurological Surgery at Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. He said that the addition of the consultant watching all games and the move to immediately take any players who show signs of seizures or fencing responses out of the game were positive steps.

He said he still believes more should be done to protect players.

"When a player has a suspicious either helmet-to-helmet or helmet-to-playing-surface hit and he's down on the field and play is stopped because of that play then that person should be escorted to the locker room for a full exam," Batjer said. "So that should be added to this."

Batjer believes that the game will eventually be made safer when parents decide that it's too dangerous for their children to play.

"The biggest lever that could be used is to say: 'We as American parents do not believe the safeguards are in place to protect our kids and therefore they're not playing,'" he said. "Those are the forces in my mind that will really push this forward."

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Dec. 30, the 364th day of 2017. There is one day left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 30, 1922, Vladimir Lenin proclaimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which lasted nearly seven decades before dissolving in December 1991.

On this date:

In 1853, the United States and Mexico signed a treaty under which the U.S. agreed to buy some 45,000 square miles of land from Mexico for \$10 million in a deal known as the Gadsden Purchase.

In 1905, the Franz Lehar operetta "The Merry Widow" premiered in Vienna.

In 1916, Grigory Rasputin, the so-called "Mad Monk" who wielded considerable influence with Czar Nicholas II, was killed by a group of Russian noblemen in St. Petersburg.

In 1936, the United Auto Workers union staged its first "sit-down" strike at the General Motors Fisher Body Plant No. 1 in Flint, Michigan. (The strike lasted until Feb. 11, 1937.)

In 1942, a near-riot of bobby-soxers greeted the opening of Frank Sinatra's singing engagement at the Paramount Theater in New York's Times Square.

In 1947, King Michael I of Romania agreed to abdicate, but charged he was being forced off the throne by Communists.

In 1954, Olympic gold medal runner Malvin G. Whitfield became the first black recipient of the James E. Sullivan Award for amateur athletes.

In 1965, Ferdinand Marcos was inaugurated for his first term as president of the Philippines.

In 1979, Broadway composer Richard Rodgers died in New York at age 77.

In 1989, a Northwest Airlines DC-10, which had been the target of a telephoned threat, flew safely from

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Paris to Detroit with 22 passengers amid extra-tight security.

In 1997, a deadly massacre in Algeria's insurgency began in four mountain villages as armed men killed women and children in an attack that lasted from dusk until dawn the following morning; up to 412 deaths were reported.

In 1999, former Beatle George Harrison fought off a knife-wielding intruder who'd broken into his mansion west of London and stabbed him in the chest. (The attacker was later acquitted of attempted murder by reason of insanity.)

Ten years ago: Kenya's President Mwai Kibaki (mwy kih-BAH'-kee) was declared winner of an election marred by widespread allegations of rigging; violence flared in Nairobi slums and coastal resort towns, killing scores in the following days. Three days after Benazir Bhutto was assassinated, her 19-year-old son, Bilawal Zardari, was named symbolic leader of her Pakistan Peoples Party, while her husband took effective control.

Five years ago: Recalling the shooting rampage that killed 20 first graders in Connecticut as the worst day of his presidency, President Barack Obama pledged on NBC's "Meet the Press" to put his "full weight" behind legislation aimed at preventing gun violence. A tour bus crashed on an icy Oregon highway, killing nine passengers and injuring almost 40 on Interstate 84 east of Pendleton.

One year ago: Two luxury retreats in New York and Maryland where Russian diplomats had gone for decades to play tennis, sail and swim were shut down by the Obama administration in retaliation for Moscow's cyber-meddling in the presidential election. China announced it would shut down its ivory trade at the end of 2017 in a move designed to curb the mass slaughter of African elephants. Ronda Rousey was stopped 48 seconds into her comeback fight, losing to bantamweight champion Amanda Nunes at UFC 207 in Las Vegas.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Russ Tamblyn is 83. Baseball Hall of Famer Sandy Koufax is 82. Folk singer Noel Paul Stookey is 80. TV director James Burrows is 77. Actor Fred Ward is 75. Singer-musician Michael Nesmith is 75. Actress Concetta Tomei (toh-MAY') is 72. Singer Patti Smith is 71. Rock singer-musician Jeff Lynne is 70. TV personality Meredith Vieira is 64. Actress Sheryl Lee Ralph is 62. Actress Patricia Kalember is 61. Country singer Suzy Bogguss is 61. Former "Today" show co-host Matt Lauer is 60. Actress-comedian Tracey Ullman is 58. Rock musician Rob Hotchkiss is 57. Radio-TV commentator Sean Hannity is 56. Sprinter Ben Johnson is 56. CIA Director Mike Pompeo is 54. Actor George Newbern is 54. Movie director Bennett Miller is 51. Singer Jay Kay (Jamiroquai) is 48. Rock musician Byron McMackin (Pennywise) is 48. Actress Meredith Monroe is 48. Actor Daniel Sunjata is 46. Actress Maureen Flannigan is 45. Actor Jason Behr is 44. Golfer Tiger Woods is 42. TV personality-boxer Laila Ali is 40. Actress Lucy Punch is 40. Singer-actor Tyrese Gibson is 39. Actress Eliza Dushku is 37. Rock musician Tim Lopez (Plain White T's) is 37. Actress Kristin Kreuk is 35. Folk-rock singer-musician Wesley Schultz (The Lumineers) is 35. NBA player LeBron James is 33. Rhythm-and-blues singer Andra Day is 33. Pop-rock singer Ellie Goulding (GOL'-ding) is 31. Actress Caity Lotz is 31. Pop-rock musician Jamie Follese (FAHL'-es-ay) (Hot Chelle (shel) Rae) is 26.

Thought for Today: "Work is a dull thing; you cannot get away from that. The only agreeable existence is one of idleness, and that is not, unfortunately, always compatible with continuing to exist at all." — Rose Macaulay, English poet and essayist (1881-1958).