

Groton Daily Independent

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“Stop trying to be less than you are. Let this time in your life cut you open and drain all of the things that are holding you back.”

-Jennifer Elisabeth

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Frost Construction Ad
- 1- SunDial Help Wanted Ad
- 2- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ad
- 2- World of Experience
- 3- Farmers Union PSA
- 3- #13 Northern State Notches 50 Points in Second Half Comeback over Minnesota State
- 4- #19 Wolves Complete Weekend Sweep Down- ing Mavericks by 24
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So close to a record low

We are so close to a record low this morning. The record is -30 set in 1919. This morning's temperature is -28.3 as we publish the paper. There are a couple of more hours to go, so we could still hit the record.

605.290.1535
custom homes | remodels | additions



Job Opening

Sun Dial Manor in Bristol is accepting applications for a Full or Part time Cook/Dietary Tech. Hours Vary. Sign-on Bonus available.

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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Happy New Year! It's the start of another great year. If I may, quoting from Philippians 3:13-14, the Apostle Paul writes, "13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

We reflect on what has happened to our lives in 2017. Some of it is sad. Some of it is happy. One thing is for certain, the past is in the past and it's time to look to the future. My ankle injury in 2017 will not be forgotten for a while as there is the healing process, but I must keep moving forward as we can't change the past. There are always those thoughts of, "If I would have only done" Perhaps it's a lesson learned. I thank God for my fall - not that it was a good one, but it could have been a lot worse - one that could have

killed me had I fallen differently. I thank God for cushioning my fall, just enough to cause some damage so that I may learn from it, but not bad enough where I could have been paralyzed or even worse.

I still have a future, and so do you, if it is the Lord's will. It is written in James 4:14, "Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

There is only one guarantee in life. We will die. It sounds like a sober thought to start off a brand new year. But it's important that we keep a perspective on our life. That is why we must be watchful. That has been a theme during the Advent season. Matthew 24:42 says, "Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."

Take every opportunity to be kind to everyone, friend or foe, but don't get caught in a black hole. In other words, don't let people bring you down. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:33, "Do not be deceived: Bad company ruins good morals," or as it is written in Proverbs 22:24: "Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man."

We have the freedom of choice. We can choose our friends. We can choose our path. There are lots of good sayings in Proverbs, but one that sticks out is 13:20: "Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble."

If it is the Lord's will, have a great 2018. Walk with the wise and down the path that leads us to heaven. And as always, "Be Watchful."

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

#13 Northern State Notches 50 Points in Second Half Comeback over Minnesota State

Mankato, Minn. – Things went down to the wire, as the No. 13 Northern State University Wolves defeated Minnesota State 87-84, remaining as the only unbeaten team in the NSIC. With their 13th consecutive win, NSU improves to 14-1 overall and 8-0 in the league.

Northern trailed 44-37 at the half, and battled back with 50 points in the final 20 minutes of play. NSU shot 59.3 percent from the floor in the second half and held the Mavericks to 40 points. It was all tied up at 71-all with under five minutes remaining in regulation.

Minnesota State took the lead on a made free throw, however Northern quickly answered back with a layup by Ian Smith. It was a 3-point contest and Minnesota State ball with just five seconds remaining. The NSU defense held strong as MSU was unable to get a shot off.

In total they shot 54.9 percent from the floor, 33.3 percent from the arc, and 77.1 percent from the foul line. Northern tallied 34 points in the paint, 14 second chance points, 11 bench points, and eight points off turnovers. The Wolves just edged out the Mavericks with 33 rebounds to Minnesota State's 32. Northern tallied nine assists, five steals, and three blocks as a team.

Logan Doyle led the team with a career high 26 points, shooting 61.5 percent from the floor. The senior also added a team leading eight rebounds, as well as one steal. Smith was second on the team with 18 points, shooting 75.0 percent from the floor. He added a team leading three assists, as well as four rebounds.

DJ Pollard and Darin Peterka tallied 13 and 12 points apiece, rounding out the double figure scorers. The pair each shot 50.0 percent or better from the floor, with Peterka notching two of the team's four made 3-pointers. Gabe King rounded out the starters with seven points, knocking down 2-of-2 from the floor and the foul line.

Carter Evans led the team off the bench with six points. He tallied five rebounds, two assists, two blocks, and one steal. Bo Fries added five points and five rebounds, as the final scorer in the game.

The Wolves will return to Wachs Arena next weekend, for two North Division contests against U-Mary and Minot State. Tip-off is scheduled for 8 p.m. on Friday against the Marauders and 6 p.m. on Saturday versus the Beavers.



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by choosing low carbon
Super Premium E30's
94 octane, more power,
same mileage, fewer
carbon deposits, lower
maintenance costs,
slashed benzene & related
genotoxic, carcinogenic
tailpipe emissions;
*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for
info, E30 prices\locations.

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

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#19 Wolves Complete Weekend Sweep Downing Mavericks by 24

Mankato, Minn. – The No. 19 Northern State University women rolled to a 73-49 New Year's Eve victory over Minnesota State on Sunday afternoon. With the win, NSU improves to 11-2 overall and 7-1 in the NSIC, notching a weekend sweep over the South Division.

The Wolves led from the first score of the game getting out to a quick 26-16 lead in the first. NSU added nine points in the second, as well as 19 points in both the third and fourth to seal the victory. As a team Northern shot 47.4 percent from the floor, 42.1 percent from the arc, and 73.3 percent from the foul line. They out-rebounded their opponents by 19 boards, with 45 total in the game.

NSU tallied 19 assists, four blocks, and nine steals as a unit and handily won the game despite 20 turnovers. They added 20 points in the paint, 16 points off turnovers, 14 points off the bench, three second chance points, and two fast break points. Finally, they combined for eight made 3-pointers as a team.

Jill Conrad and Jessi Marti led the Northern attack with 16 points apiece, each shooting above 50.0 percent from the floor. Marti was second on the team with seven rebounds, while adding a team leading three steals. The sophomore notch two made long range baskets and added two assists. Conrad tallied three rebounds, two assists, and one steal.

Brianna Kusler was a force for the Wolves with 11 points and a team leading nine rebounds. The sophomore added a team second best three assists, while shooting 4-of-7 from the floor with two made 3-pointers. Alexis Tappe and Miranda Ristau rounded out the NSU starters with eight points each. Ristau notched seven rebounds, while Tappe tallied six. Ristau led the team with four assists, while Tappe matched Marti's total of three steals.

Gabby Laimer led the team off the bench with nine points shooting 50.0 percent from the floor. She tallied three rebounds and three assists as well. Sara Tvedt and Brynn Flakus added the final scores of the game, three and two points respectively. Tvedt notched five rebounds, while Flakus tallied three assists.

The Wolves will return to Wachs Arena next Friday and Saturday, facing off against U-Mary and Minot State. Tip-off is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Friday against the Marauders and 4 p.m. on Saturday versus the Beavers.



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.

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It's hard to believe it's already the last day of 2017. It was a year that started with the inauguration of President Trump, a moment that has ushered in a new era focused on making America great.

Over the last year, the U.S. House has passed more than 460 bills - far surpassing recent averages. More than 90 made it through the Senate and earned President Trump's signature. This includes a once-in-a-generation tax reform package.

It also includes a series of bills that repealed costly Obama-era regulations. One empowered states to defund Planned Parenthood. Another strengthened 2nd Amendment protections for those with disabilities. Yet another expanded whistleblower protections within the VA.

In addition to what's already reached the President's desk, the House has passed a series of bills to crack down on sanctuary cities and illegal immigration as well as legislation to repeal and replace Obamacare.

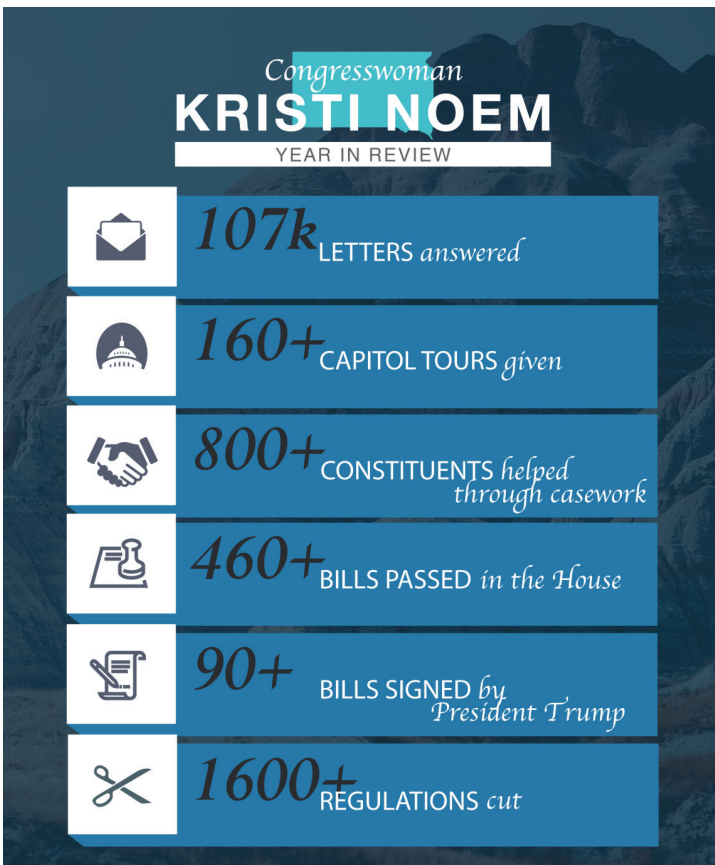
The House-passed Working Families Flexibility Act would allow employers to give workers more flexibility in choosing between overtime pay and additional time off - a choice that's difficult to offer under existing labor laws. The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act that we passed would ban abortion after 20 weeks. And the bipartisan Resilient Federal Forests Act would pair a responsible budget fix with forest management reforms to dramatically improve the health and resiliency of our forests.

We also passed the CUFF Act, which I introduced, that would make sure wanted felons and parole violators would no longer have access to certain Social Security benefits. Another bill I introduced that would expand the Black Hills National Cemetery outside Sturgis also passed the House.

More work remains, but I'm hopeful we'll be able to carry this momentum into 2018.

Have a very happy New Year!

-Kristi



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Today in Weather History

January 1, 1960: The winter storm began on New Year's Eve as a low-pressure center moved from Colorado northeast to the Great Lakes. Snowfall ranged from 5 to 10 inches across central and northeast South Dakota. High winds on the 1st and 2nd caused low visibilities and drifted highways over affecting holiday travel. There were scattered power and telephone outages due to breakage from wind and ice. The storm wined down in the afternoon of the 2nd.

1864: A historic cold blast of air charged southeast from the northern Plains to Ohio Valley. Chicago had a high temperature 16 degrees below zero. A farmer near Hometown, Indiana, reported the same high temperature as Chicago, with a low of 21 degrees below zero. In his weather diary, he made the remark "rough day." Minneapolis had a temperature of 25 degrees below zero at 2 PM. St. Louis Missouri saw an overnight low of 24 degrees below zero. The Mississippi was frozen solid with people able to cross it.

1917 - The temperature at Lewisburg, WV, plunged to 37 degrees below zero to set a state record. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1929 - Greenland Ranch, in Death Valley, California, went the entire year without measurable precipitation. (The Weather Channel)

1933 - A 24 hour rainfall of 7.36 inches set the stage for the worst flood in Los Angeles history. Flooding claimed 44 lives. (David Ludlum)

1935: The Associated Press Wire Photo Service made its debut, delivering the great weather maps, twice each day to newspapers across the country. The first photo transmitted was a plane crash in the Adirondack of New York on this day. The plane crashed during the evening hours on December 28, but the rescue did not occur until New Year's Day.

1941 - Snow which began on New Year's Eve became a major blizzard on New Year's Day, burying Des Moines, IA, under 19.8 inches of snow in 24 hours, an all-time record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1947 - A late afternoon tornado touched down 10 miles north of Shreveport LA, and dissipated south of El Dorado AR. The tornado, as much as 400 yards in width, killed 18 persons. It damaged or destroyed two thirds of the structures at Cotton Valley LA. (The Weather Channel)

1962 - Perhaps the worst blizzard in the history of the state of Maine finally came to an end. The storm produced 40 inches in 24 hours at Orono, and a total of 46 inches at Ripogenus Dam. Gale force winds produced snow drifts twenty feet high around Bangor. A disastrous icestorm was over Georgia and South Carolina. It ravaged the two states for days causing more than seven million dollars damage. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1963 - A snowstorm struck the Deep South. Meridian, MS, received 15 inches of snow, 10.5 inches blanketed Bay St Louis MS, and 4.5 inches fell at New Orleans LA. Freezing temperatures then prevailed for New Year's Day. (David Ludlum)

1988 - Warm and wet weather prevailed in the southeastern U.S. Six cities in Florida reported record high temperatures for the date. Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains from the Lower Mississippi Valley to the Southern Atlantic Coast. (The National Weather Summary)

1999: The start of 1999 was ushered in with snow, ice, and freezing weather across central and south central Nebraska. On New Year's Day, a steady snowfall along and north of Interstate 80 dumped from 1 to 5 inches of snow. By late morning, freezing drizzle developed southeast of Hastings and eventually coated area roads with a layer of ice. Light snow later that evening made travel even more treacherous. Several accidents occurred on the Interstates and Highway 30. Once the ice and snow ended, arctic air spilled across the area abroad 20 to 30 mph north winds. Blowing and drifting of the fallen snow caused reduced visibilities for a time on the 2nd. Temperatures dropped to 5 to 15 below zero through midday the 3rd.

1999: Sydney, Australia records a high of 111.6 degrees, the second hottest day on record here. Their highest maximum temperature on record is 113.5 degrees recorded in 1939. Records date back to 1859. Meanwhile, Sydney Airport recorded its hottest day on record reaching 113.4 degrees.

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Wind ...

New Year's Day



Cold

High: -1 °F

Tonight



Clear

Low: -21 °F

Tuesday



Sunny then
Chance Snow

High: 16 °F

Tuesday Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: -2 °F

Wednesday



Cold

High: 7 °F

Wednesday Night



Mostly Cloudy

Low: -7 °F

Thursday



Chance Snow

High: 9 °F

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Cold to continue into the New Year

MON
1st



Dangerously Cold Wind Chills in the morning

HI: -3 to 4°
LO: -17 to -30°

TUE
2nd



Breezy Aftn

Bitterly Cold Wind Chills in the morning

HI: 13 to 27°
LO: -11 to -21°

WED
3rd



HI: 2 to 19°
LO: -4 to 9°

THU
4th



HI: 5 to 21°
LO: 2 to -13°

FRI
5th



HI: 12 to 31°
LO: -7 to 5°

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 12/31/2017 3:07 PM Central

Published on: 12/31/2017 at 3:09PM

Cold weather will continue into the new year, but expect temperatures to warm towards more normal values for next weekend.

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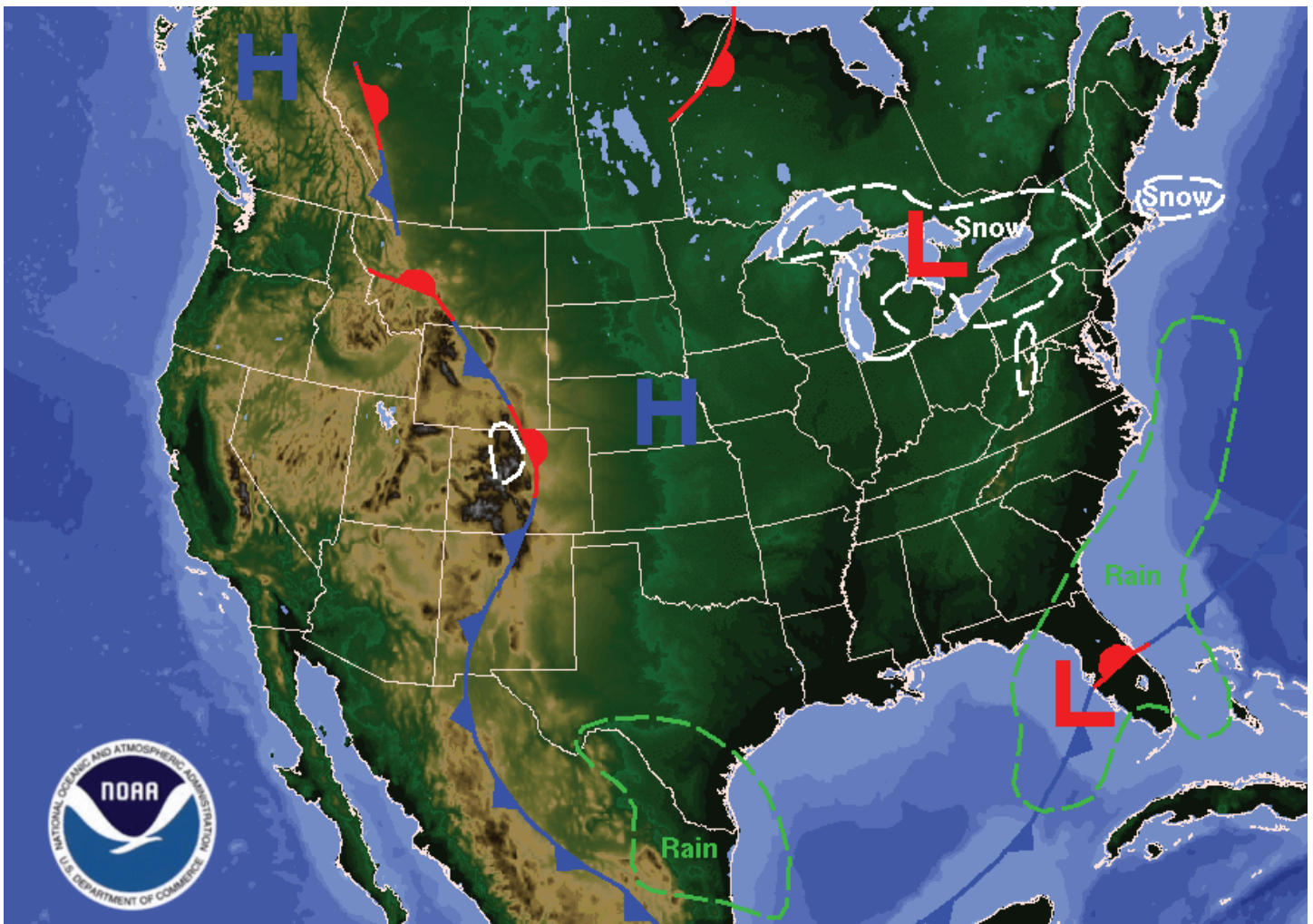
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: -9.9 at 3:47 PM
Low Outside Temp: -27.6 at 8:06 AM
Wind Chill: -34.0 at 8:01 AM
High Gust: 13 at 3:17 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 53° in 1998
Record Low: -30° in 1919
Average High: 22°F
Average Low: 2°F
Average Precip in Jan: 0.02
Precip to date in Jan: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.02
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:01 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:13 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Jan 01, 2018, issued 4:55 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds 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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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Everyone looks forward to a New Year and the hope it represents. "Well wishers" come at us from every direction wanting us to reap a harvest of joy and happiness, peace and prosperity. A "good new year" is a universal desire that everyone seeks. But how can we assure ourselves of having a Happy New Year? The answer comes from Isaiah 41:10.

First, we must honor the two "nots" – do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Fear and dismay will disturb our minds, trouble our souls and destroy our health. Only as we place our faith in the goodness and grace of God will our fears evaporate and our dismay vanish.

Second, add the two "I ams" – I am with you and I am your God. Our God is always with us and we are never beyond His reach. When problems arise He wants to solve them. When needs arise He will meet them. When foes would destroy us He will conquer them. When storms appear He will calm them.

Third, we need to mix them with the three "I wills." I will strengthen you. He has all the strength we need with some to spare. I will help you. Here is help that is seeking us and is sufficient for every situation. I will uphold you. With what? The very same hands that hold the universe together!

If we want 2018 to be a Happy New Year we must begin every day of every week of every month of the year reading God's Word and spending time in prayer.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to experience Your presence, enjoy Your peace, trust in Your power and know that You will provide for our every need. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Isaiah 41:10 Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

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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

Ice cream flavor part of South Dakota university legacy

By MEGAN RAPOSA, Argus Leader

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — There wasn't a patent, but there were witnesses.

In 1979, Joe Leedom was a dairy science student at South Dakota State University when he helped make the very first batch of cookies-and-cream ice cream.

The idea is credited to Shirley Seas, a manager at the campus dairy plant.

"He was an institution in the dairy science department," Leedom said.

Seas was also a regular dairy products judge, and Leedom recalled a story from Seas about a time in the mid-70s when he stopped at an ice cream shop after a day of judging products. His scoop was served with cookie crumbles on top.

Months later, Leedom recalls, he was working in the campus dairy plant with his friend and classmate Joe Van Treeck when Seas asked the two students to go buy some Oreos from a nearby grocery store.

"We're both kind of looking at him with puzzlement in our faces, and he says 'I have an idea for a new ice cream flavor, and I want you guys to make the first batch.'"

Leedom and Van Treeck left the lab in their dairy white uniforms, hopped into one of the plant's delivery vans and drove to the grocery store at 6th Street and Medary Avenue.

"We pretty much cleared them out of all of the Oreo cookies that they had," Leedom said.

Back at the plant, they crushed up the Oreos in a machine called a fruit feeder.

"We incorporated the cookies into the ice cream and a new flavor was born," Leedom said.

It didn't take long to see the three men had created something great.

The first batch of cookies and cream ice cream went to the campus Dairy Bar, and it was an instant hit.

"(Seas) used to say that it was like a wildfire going through dry grass once the word got out about this new flavor," Leedom said.

Today, that wildfire continues to spread.

The SDSU Davis Dairy Plant produces about 8,000 gallons of cookies and cream ice cream each year, about 16 percent of the total 50,000 gallons of ice cream produced.

The true origins of the famous flavor remain contested.

"We never patented it or trademarked it, but from the records that we have seen, we've not been able to find anything else (invented earlier)," said Vikram Mistry, head of the Dairy and Food Science Department at SDSU.

Texas Blue Bell advertises their cookies and cream flavor as the "original," and Edy's ice cream website claims they invented the flavor in 1982. But for SDSU students and alumni, there's no contest.

"I think we really were the first," Leedom said.

The SDSU Davis Dairy Plant processes approximately 18,000 pounds of milk each week.

In addition to cookies and cream ice cream, that milk forms the base for cheese, butter and more than 60 flavors of ice cream.

"We use real vanilla, sugar rather than high-fructose corn syrup. That forms the basis for a good, quality ice cream," Mistry said.

The Davis plant opened in 2011, about a century after SDSU made its first commercial ice cream.

Students continue to experiment with new flavors. For the 125th anniversary of SDSU, students developed a flavor called Campanile Crunch, which celebrated commodities produced in South Dakota including wheat, oats, soy and sunflower seeds, the Argus Leader reported.

A couple years back, students also developed a flavor honoring Barry Dunn, who at the time was director of the SDSU Extension program and dean of the College of Agriculture. "Barry Berry" is still served on campus today, and Dunn has since been promoted to president of the university.

"We have had over the course of time probably 100 different flavors," Mistry said.

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While cookies-and-cream ice cream is a legacy for SDSU's dairy and food science department, the work students do in the dairy plant has a farther reach.

About 35 students work in the plant each year, from areas of study including dairy manufacturing, dairy production and food science.

Students who graduate with those majors have a 100 percent job placement rate, Mistry said, and some students are seeing companies recruit them up to a year before they earn their degree.

Jobs in the dairy industry require a range of expertise, Mistry said. Students have to be able to apply parts of chemistry, engineering, microbiology, food safety and management principles in order to create a product like ice cream or cheese. And they can practice all of those skills in the SDSU dairy plant.

"It's just an outstanding pathway for developing a career," Mistry said.

Leedom, for one, started his 38 years in the dairy industry with an SDSU degree. He currently works as the plant superintendent for Dean Foods in Sioux Falls, and he still holds the invention of cookies and cream ice cream as a point of pride. He's also glad to see dairy students are still working to find new flavors.

"I'm glad to see that the fun is still there."

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

South Dakota man finds century-old wallet at yard sale

By DAVE ASKINS, Pierre Capital Journal

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Back in 1917 Ray Heston bought a year's subscription to the Kennebec Sun for \$1. Kennebec is about 10 miles east of Presho on I-90.

Heston apparently had been receiving a copy of the newspaper for a while, before the \$1 was paid. According to the receipt, dated Feb. 24, the subscription ran from May 15, 1916 to May 15, 1917. The editor of the paper at the time was Chester Rosencrance. He signed the receipt.

That peek into the past comes courtesy of Pierre resident James Pospisil.

But Pospisil is not an archivist or any kind of historian. He just likes yard sales.

And six months ago, in mid-June, Pospisil was at a yard sale in Kimball, about 50 miles east of Kennebec. That's where he spotted a kind of wallet. He and his family were in Kimball for a family reunion, held at the Red Barn Inn.

"I knew it was special. At first glance, I could tell it was old. It had a bunch of papers." Pospisil determined that the wallet needed to be "rescued" — returned to the family of the owner indicated in the papers.

So at the yard sale, Pospisil purchased the wallet — really a pocket-sized leather filing system of sorts. He paid an amount that would have bought a year's worth of copies of the Kennebec Sun back in 1917 — \$1. The papers pointed to a Ray Heston as the likely owner.

The legwork to track down the descendants of Ray Heston was started by Lynn Fredericksen, Pospisil's grandmother. She began with a call to the courthouse in the county where Kennebec is located — Lyman County. And County Deputy Auditor Deb Halverson put her in touch with Gloria Johnson, who is a board member of the Lyman County Historical Society.

Johnson told the Capital Journal that her first step was to look in the old settlers books. Ray Heston's name appears in one of them, along with some of his descendants. With the names of family in hand, Johnson contacted Bev Johnson (no relation) who Gloria Johnson described as her "go to" when it comes to piecing together old family connections.

Bev Johnson pointed Gloria Johnson and Fredericksen to Lorri Wagner. Wagner is the daughter of Betty Jean Martens. And Martens is the daughter of Jean Moore. Moore is Ray Heston's granddaughter, who lives in Kennebec. And the rest, as they say, is history.

For an already-scheduled trip to Pierre, Moore added an extra stop — so that Pospisil could present Moore with her grandfather's 100-year-old wallet, the Pierre Capital Journal reported .

The handoff of the wallet, and the documents it contained, took place in the Capital Journal building this week. The gathering included Fredericksen, Pospisil, Kathy Kleaveland (Pospisil's mother), Moore and her

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husband Ray Moore and Mertens.

Moore said she was not sure how her grandfather's wallet wound up at the yard sale in Kimball. But she said she would likely contact the Lyman County Historical Museum in Presho so the museum could add the wallet to its collection — along with the several papers it contains. Gloria Johnson told the Capital Journal that it's the kind of donation the museum is well-equipped to handle.

Johnson said the museum's collection already includes a wedding dress from the Heston family.

Besides the receipt for the Kennebec Sun subscription, the papers in the wallet include a promissory note to John Newell for payment for a buggy for \$41.50. The date on the note is March 4, 1905 and it's marked "PAID" — but it's not clear when the account was settled.

Based on a Sept. 2, 1907, letter contained in the wallet — which was typed out by an attorney, J.F. Kreycik, and sent to Heston — there was some question about the payment of the note. The letter states: "Newell claims that he has made a mistake as to the calculation when he last settled your account and that that sum is still due to him." The sum still owed was \$23.01, according to the letter.

Piecing together more of the history connected to all the papers in Heston's wallet would require some additional effort, starting with the cast of characters whose names are recorded somewhere among them — like newspaper editor Chester Rosencrance.

And old newspapers are a likely source for at least some of the work. Based on an account in the Sept 22, 1915 edition of The Daily Deadwood Pioneer-Times — two years before Rosencrance sold Ray Heston a subscription to the Kennebec Sun — Rosencrance was honeymooning in the western part of South Dakota.

According to the Pioneer Times: "Mr. and Mrs. Chester Rosencrance of Kennebec, S.D. were arrivals on the Northwestern. They are on their wedding trip, and will tour the Hills. Mrs. Rosencrance's name was Miss Ethel Holmes. Mr. Rosencrance is manager of the Kennebec Sun."

Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

2018 starts with record cold in parts of the Midwest

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Bone-chilling cold gripped the middle of the U.S. as 2018 began Monday, breaking a low temperature record, icing some New Year's celebrations and leading to at least two deaths attributed to exposure to the elements.

The National Weather Service issued wind chill advisories covering a vast area from South Texas all the way to Canada and from Montana and Wyoming in the west through New England to the northern tip of Maine.

Dangerously low temperatures enveloped eight Midwest states including parts of Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Nebraska along with nearly all of Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota.

The weather service said a temperature of 15 below zero (-9.44 Celsius) was recorded in Omaha before midnight Sunday, breaking a record low dating back to 1884, and the temperature was still dropping early New Year's Day. That reading did not include the wind chill effect. Last week, Omaha officials cited the forecast in postponing the 18th annual New Year's Eve Fireworks Spectacular that draws around 30,000 people.

It was even colder in Des Moines early Monday at 20 below zero (-29 Celsius) and wind chill dipping to 31 below zero (-35 Celsius). Des Moines city officials had closed a downtown outdoor ice skating plaza and said it won't reopen until the city emerges from sub-zero temperatures.

The wind chill dipped to 36 below zero (-38 Celsius) in Duluth, Minnesota, a city known for its bitter cold winters. Steam rose up from Lake Superior as a ship moved through the harbor where ice was forming from the bitter cold.

An Indianapolis woman was in critical condition after she became confused in the snow and ice and turned her vehicle the wrong direction, driving 150 feet on a retention pond before her vehicle fell through the ice, according to WISH TV. She managed to make an emergency call but the phone went dead when the ice cracked.

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The Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's office said two bodies found on Sunday showed signs of hypothermia. They included a man in his 50s found on the ground in an alley and a 34-year-old man. Autopsies are being performed on both men.

Milwaukee's annual Polar Bear Plunge at Bradford Beach on Lake Michigan Monday could be even more dangerous than usual, a city official told the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel. The wind chill was expected to be about 9 below zero (-13 Celsius) by the time of the event at noon.

"You're going to get hypothermic," said Milwaukee Fire Battalion Chief Erich Roden. "Everybody wants to do the polar plunge once in their life; it's a bucket list item. Unfortunately, it's something that can cause a lot of harm."

Missing dog found safe in Sioux Falls

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A dog missing for nearly a week in Sioux Falls is back with its owner.

Mandy Klinkhammer of Omaha, Nebraska, was visiting her parents in Sioux Falls on Christmas Eve when her boxer Lola ran out of the garage. That set off a frantic search to find the 1-year-old dog during a frigid South Dakota winter.

A Facebook group called "Looking for Lola" sprang up a few days later. By New Year's Eve it had over 6,000 members coordinating search parties and sharing sightings.

The Argus Leader reports Lola was found huddled under a tree on Sunday.

Klinkhammer says a veterinarian checked out Lola and despite being outside in the snow and cold, the dog looks great and showed no signs of frostbite.

5 escape house fire in Custer

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in southwestern South Dakota say five people managed to escape a house fire in Custer.

The Pennington County fire administrator says all five were treated and released from a Custer hospital.

The blaze broke out Saturday night. The fire caused extensive damage to the home, but firefighters were able to keep the fire from spreading to other structures.

Firefighters battled the blaze in temperatures as low as 13 degrees below zero (minus 25 Celsius).

No firefighters were hurt. The cause is under investigation.

Rapid City clinic may fill mental health care gap

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A medical clinic in Rapid City is trying to convert 3,000-square-foot (279-sq. meters) of its unused space into a mental health center for their 14,000 area patients.

The City Council authorized Mayor Steve Allender and the finance department director to sign an agreement to divert \$520,000 from a city fund toward the space in mid-December. The Community Health Center of the Black Hills first had their mental health center funding approved in 2016.

The center's impending construction could fill a gap in accessible mental health care in western South Dakota, the Rapid City Journal reported. The closest state-run mental health facility is about 350 miles (563 kilometers) away in Yankton.

In November, former state representative Al Scovel said that South Dakota has treated its mentally ill with "abject neglect."

CEO Tim Trithart said that about 20 percent of the center's patients have some mental health diagnoses.

The Community Health Center currently offers primary, pediatric, adult and dental care, as well as a pharmacy.

"It's just another step in terms of us taking care of the whole person," said Trithart.

Trithart said that funding is always a challenge, but finding staff will be difficult. The center was recently awarded a grant to hire an "integrated mental health social worker" who will work with residents with mental health diagnoses as well as opioid issues.

Trithart will need to find applicants qualified for that position, as well as four other employees to staff the new center.

After the center is built and staffed, Trithart said they'll be able to better treat their patients, rather than addressing symptoms that may be caused by an underlying mental health issue.

"Our goal is to basically get a little further upstream," Trithart said.

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

4 deputies wounded, 1 dead in Colorado attack

DENVER (AP) — Authorities in suburban Denver were investigating what led a 37-year-old man to fire more than 100 rounds in his apartment on sheriff's deputies, killing one and injuring four others. Two civilians were also injured.

The Douglas County coroner identified the suspect as Matthew Riehl.

A YouTube user named Matthew Riehl posted a YouTube video Dec. 13, saying he wanted to replace Douglas County Sheriff Tony Spurlock and railing against the sheriff and other officers in profane, highly personal terms.

The incident began around 5:15 a.m. at Copper Canyon Apartments, a landscaped apartment complex in Highland Ranch, 16 miles (28 kilometers) south of Denver.

Authorities had left the home barely an hour earlier in response to a complaint of a "verbal disturbance" involving two men, the sheriff's office said. One of the men told them the suspect "was acting bizarre and might be having a mental breakdown" but the deputies found no evidence of a crime.

When deputies were called back, a man who had left came by to give them a key and granted permission to enter the home, leaving again before shots were fired.

"The suspect was just making a ton of noise and annoying everyone around him," Spurlock said.

Spurlock said deputies came under fire almost immediately and were shot "very, very quickly" after entering the apartment and trying to talk with the suspect, who was holed up inside a bedroom.

"They all went down almost within seconds of each other, so it was more of an ambush-type of attack on our officers," Spurlock said. "He knew we were coming and we obviously let him know that we were there."

The wounded deputies tried to pull the fallen officer, Zackari Parrish, out of the line of further gunfire but were unable to because of their own injuries and only managed to "crawl to safety," Spurlock said.

Four officers, including Parrish, were shot from a bedroom around 6 a.m., forcing the retreat. A SWAT team entered the apartment at about 7:30 a.m. in an exchange of gunfire that left the gunman dead and another officer injured.

Vira Cover, who lives in a building about 50 yards away from the shooting, was woken up by a phone call from her fiance, Steve Silknitter, who warned her about what was happening and urged her to stay inside. Soon afterward she said she heard about 15 to 20 very loud shots fired over about 30 seconds or a minute. She sat on the couch with her cats and called Silknitter back before turning on the television to try to find out more about what was happening.

"I couldn't believe this was happening in our backyard," she said.

Silknitter heard the shots fired too but from about a half mile away, stopped at a police roadblock as he tried to get back home from work. Then he said he saw police in tactical gear speed past him in a pickup truck.

Silknitter said he lived 2 miles (3 kilometers) away from the movie theater in Aurora, Colorado where 12 people were killed in a shooting in 2012. He said he never would have expected anything like this in his apartment complex, where the only noise you might normally hear is children running around upstairs.

"Where do I move to where I don't have to worry about someone shooting us?" asked Silknitter, who is now considering getting a concealed weapons permit.

The suspect was well-known to authorities in the Denver area but had no criminal record, said Spurlock, who declined to name him until his identity was confirmed.

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Riehl said in his Dec. 13 YouTube video, called "Fire Sheriff Spurlock," that he would run as a libertarian, ending with holiday greetings and a vow to "fire all these bums come early next year."

Riehl is vague about his political beliefs and personal grievances, though his animosity clearly ran deep. He flashes the business card of an officer who, he says, shows up at homes after sunset with an attractive woman and "will then ambush you from behind the door."

A video posted on Nov. 28 shows a traffic stop by a police officer in the city of Lone Tree — apparently taken inside the officer's car — that Riehl said was done illegally. He alleges the officer clocked the wrong driver, identifying the officer by name in the video and calling him "dirty."

"Scumbag, dirtbag, liar," he says as the officer questions the driver. "He's the boss, huh? He's the Nazi in charge with the stripes on his shoulder and the fake badge."

The sheriff did not release any details about the weapons and ammunition used except to say the suspect had a rifle. He also did not know if law enforcement had any prior knowledge of firearms being in the home but the possibility always weighs on deputies' minds.

"We respond to every call anticipating that everyone has a gun. This is Colorado. Everybody has a gun," Spurlock said.

Parrish, the slain officer, was 29 and a married father of two young children. He came to the department seven months ago after working as an officer for the nearby Castle Rock Police Department. Spurlock called him a "good kid" who was eager to work.

"His wife told me today that he loved this job more than he had loved any job he ever had," the sheriff said.

Gov. John Hickenlooper ordered flags on all public buildings immediately lowered to half-staff until Tuesday evening in Parrish's honor.

The three deputies and one police officer injured were listed in stable condition. Authorities identified them as deputies Michael Doyle, 28; Taylor Davis, 30; Jeffrey Pelle, 32; and Castle Rock police officer Tom O'Donnell, 41.

The two civilian injuries were not life-threatening.

Pelle is the son of Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pelle. The sheriff shared a picture of him and two other family members by his son's hospital bed on his office Twitter account. All four, including Jeffrey Pelle, who underwent surgery, are smiling and giving a thumbs-up gesture.

President Donald Trump expressed sorrow, writing on Twitter, "My deepest condolences to the victims of the terrible shooting in Douglas County @dcsheriff, and their families. We love our police and law enforcement - God Bless them all!"

The shooting occurred on the final day of a year that saw the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history in Las Vegas.

Associated Press writers Sadie Gurman in Washington, Terry Tang in Phoenix and photographer David Zalubowski in Denver contributed to this report. Spagat reported from San Diego.

Fireworks, crystal ball help usher in 2018 around the world

By The Associated Press

From spectacular fireworks in Hong Kong and Australia to a huge LED lightshow at the world's tallest building in Dubai, a look at how revelers around the world are ringing in 2018:

CALIFORNIA

The Golden State went green when the calendar turned to 2018.

Starting at midnight, California joined the growing list of states to legalize recreational marijuana. The moment is significant but will not be met with a non-stop pot party.

California has allowed medical marijuana for two decades, and the state is generally tolerant of the drug, so major changes are not expected as the laws are further eased. At least not on New Year's Day.

More than 90 outlets received licenses to sell in time for Jan. 1. None of those outlets is holding a mid-

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night opening, but some in San Diego and the San Francisco Bay Area will be open for business starting at 6 a.m. Monday.

Some cities, including Los Angeles and San Francisco, will have to wait at least until later in the week before licensed outlets start selling there.

Still, some Californians ushered in the new year with marijuana.

Johnny Hernandez was celebrating legalization — which he described as “something we’ve all been waiting for” — by smoking “Happy New Year blunts” with his cousins in Modesto.

LAS VEGAS

Las Vegas police officers surrounded hundreds of thousands of tourists gathered to welcome the new year on the Strip, where just three months earlier 58 people died in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

Police cruisers, dump trucks and other large vehicles blocked key intersections to try to prevent anyone from plowing into crowds filled with people wearing glittery hats, tiaras and other 2018-themed paraphernalia.

The Nevada National Guard activated about 350 soldiers and airmen, while federal authorities also deployed additional personnel.

A roughly eight-minute fireworks display at the top of seven of the city’s world-famous casino-hotels started ten seconds before midnight Monday. Sprays of gold, red and green lightened the sky on time for 2018.

Tourism officials expected 330,000 people to come to Sin City for the festivities on the Las Vegas Strip and downtown’s Fremont Street.

Rosy-cheeked visitors took selfies and livestreamed the celebration amid temperatures in the mid-40s (4 Celsius), much warmer than most of the U.S.

NEW YORK

With a burst of confetti and fireworks, throngs of revelers ushered in 2018 in a frigid Times Square as the glittering crystal ball dropped.

It was the second-coldest on record, with the temperature only 10 degrees (minus 12 degrees Celsius) in New York at midnight.

Partygoers bundled up in extra layers, wearing warm hats and face masks, dancing and jogging in place to ward off the cold.

There was also tighter security than ever after two terrorist attacks and a rampaging SUV driver who plowed into a crowd on the very spot where the party takes place. The party went off with no major problems.

“Auld Lang Syne” and “New York, New York” played as the crowds cheered.

The coldest ball drop celebration was in 1917, when it was only 1 degree (minus 17 Celsius).

BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro’s main party was celebrated with fireworks erupting on Copacabana beach after the clock struck midnight to usher in the new year.

After 17 minutes of a multicolored show in the skies, singer Anitta led the party on stage with her single “Vai Malandra,” a song that scored 84 million views on YouTube in two weeks. Some of the city’s most traditional Carnival samba schools performed later.

New Mayor Marcelo Crivella said he believed the celebrations would bring 3 million people to the iconic beach, which would mean nearly half of Rio’s population. But locals said Brazil’s economic crisis is still impacting one of the city’s biggest parties. In 2017, 2 million people showed up at Copacabana beach, a number that hasn’t changed much over the years.

Almost 2,000 policemen patrolled the Copacabana region after yet another violent year on the streets. Rio’s hotel association said occupation is nearly total, but mostly by Brazilian tourists.

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GERMANY

Germans rang in 2018 under tight security from police mindful of widespread sexual abuse of women in Cologne two years ago and of a terrorist attack on a Christmas market about a year ago.

Police in Berlin added 1,600 officers on duty and said that large bags and knapsacks would not be allowed on the Party Mile leading from Brandenburg Gate, where thousands of people celebrated at midnight. Police in Frankfurt imposed similar restrictions in the celebration area along the Main River in the country's financial capital.

Two people died from fireworks injuries, but the country avoided a repeat of the mass groping in Cologne from 2016.

Two years ago, New Year's in Cologne was marred by groping and theft committed against hundreds of women, in most cases by migrants. On Dec. 19, 2016, Tunisian asylum seeker Anis Amri drove a stolen truck into a Christmas market in Berlin, killing 12 people.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Dubai's Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, has again served as the focal point of New Year's Eve celebrations — though this year authorities decided against fireworks and chose a massive LED lightshow on it.

That was in part due to safety in the city-state in the United Arab Emirates, which saw a massive skyscraper fire on New Year's Eve in 2015.

The display, running down the east side of the 828-meter-tall (2,716-foot-tall) tower, showed Arabic calligraphy, geometric designs and a portrait of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the UAE's first president.

But a display of neighboring nations' flags didn't show Qatar's flag. The UAE joined Bahrain, Egypt and Saudi Arabia in boycotting the tiny energy-rich nation in June over allegations Doha supports extremists and has too close ties to Iran. Qatar, which will host the 2022 FIFA World Cup, denies supporting extremists and shares a massive offshore natural gas field with Tehran.

VATICAN

Bidding 2017 farewell, Pope Francis has decried wars, injustices and environmental decay which he says have "ruined" the year.

Francis on Sunday presided at a New Year's Eve prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica, a traditional occasion to say thanks in each year's last hours.

He says God gave to us a 2017 "whole and sound," but that "we humans in many ways ruined and hurt it with works of death, lies and injustices."

But, he added, "gratitude prevails" thanks to those "cooperating silently for the common good."

In keeping with past practice, the pope on New Year's Day will celebrate Mass dedicated to the theme of world peace.

AUSTRALIA

Fireworks lit up the sky above Sydney Harbor, highlighting the city's New Year's celebrations.

The massive fireworks display included a rainbow waterfall cascade of lights and color flowing off the harbor's bridge to celebrate recently passed legislation legalizing gay marriage in Australia.

More than 1 million people were expected to gather to watch the festivities. Security was tight, but officials said there was no particular alert.

Sydney officials said the event would generate about \$170 million for the city and "priceless publicity." Nearly half the revelers were tourists.

NEW ZEALAND

Tens of thousands of New Zealanders took to streets and beaches, becoming among the first in the

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world to usher in 2018.

As the new year dawned in this southern hemisphere nation, fireworks boomed and crackled above city centers and harbors, and party-goers sang, hugged, danced and kissed.

In Auckland, New Zealand's biggest city, tens of thousands gathered around Sky Tower as five minutes of nonstop pyrotechnics exploded from the top of the structure.

But on nearby Waiheke Island, 30 kilometers (20 miles) away, authorities canceled the planned fireworks display because of drought conditions and low water supplies for firefighters.

UGANDA

Thousands of Ugandans gathered at churches across the country to mark the end of 2017.

The raucous events, during which some preachers are known to make dubious predictions, have become such a staple of New Year's Eve festivities that the country's longtime president, Yoweri Museveni, sometimes makes time to make an appearance at a church.

Still, many in this East African country prefer to celebrate at crowded beaches on the shores of Lake Victoria or in darkened halls listening to the music of pop stars who take turns offering crowd pleasers until midnight.

Police warned revelers not to burn car tires in celebration, citing safety reasons, to discourage a favorite activity of those, especially in the countryside, who cannot afford fireworks.

RUSSIA

As Russians counted down the last moments before 2018 ticked over into each of the country's 11 time zones, President Vladimir Putin called on them to be considerate and conciliatory with each other in the new year.

"Say the most cherished words to each other, forgive mistakes and resentment, admit love, warm up with care and attention," Putin said in a televised message broadcast on Sunday just before midnight.

Moscow had fireworks and outdoor gatherings despite weather that was less than festive. Usually festooned with snow at New Year's Eve, the Russian capital slogged through a long spell of intermittent rain and constant gray skies.

JAPAN

Many Japanese celebrated the arrival of the Year of the Dog in the traditional way of praying for peace and good fortune at neighborhood Shinto shrines and eating New Year's food such as noodles, shrimp and sweet black beans.

Barbecued beef and octopus dumpling stalls were out at Tokyo's Zojoji Temple, where people took turns striking the giant bell 108 times at midnight, an annual practice repeated at other Buddhist temples throughout Japan.

North Korea's nuclear and missile programs cast a shadow over Japan's hopes for peace, said cab driver Masaru Eguchi, who was ready to be busy all night shuttling shrine visitors.

"The world situation has grown so complex," Eguchi said, adding that he also worried about possible terrorism targeting Japan. "I feel this very abstracted sense of uncertainty, although I really have no idea what might happen."

INDIA

Security was tight in the southern Indian city of Bangalore to prevent a repeat of incidents of groping and molestation of several women during New Year's Eve celebrations a year ago.

Police Commissioner Sunil Kumar said at least 15,000 police officers were on duty and were being aided by drones and closed-circuit television cameras.

A year ago, police first denied that any sexual harassment had taken place during the celebrations in Bangalore, India's information technology hub. But later, police detained at least six men after several

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video clips of women being attacked by groups of men spread on social media.

PHILIPPINES

Scores of people were injured by celebratory firecrackers in the Philippines, which has some of the most raucous New Year's celebrations in Asia.

Although the number of injuries has tapered off in recent years, largely due to hard economic times and government scare campaigns, the figures remain alarming. President Rodrigo Duterte signed an order confining the use of firecrackers to community-designated areas, such as near shopping malls and parks.

Many Filipinos, largely influenced by Chinese tradition, believe that noisy New Year's celebrations drive away evil and misfortune. But they have carried that superstition to extremes, exploding dangerously large firecrackers and firing guns to welcome the new year despite threats of arrest.

TURKEY

Security measures were ramped up across Turkey, which a year ago was hit by a New Year's attack that killed dozens of people.

In Istanbul, 37,000 officers were on duty, with multiple streets closed to traffic and large vehicles barred from entering certain districts. Several New Year's Eve street parties were canceled for security reasons.

Early on Jan. 1, 2017, an assailant shot his way into Istanbul's Reina nightclub, where hundreds of people were celebrating New Year's. Thirty-nine people, mostly foreigners, were killed, and 79 were wounded. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility.

On Sunday, about 100 people gathered outside the nightclub to remember the victims of the attack.

LAS VEGAS

Tens of thousands of revelers will ring in the new year in Las Vegas under the close eye of law enforcement just three months after the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

Tourism officials expect about 330,000 people to visit Las Vegas for the festivities, which are anchored by a roughly eight-minute fireworks display at the top of seven casino-hotels.

Acts including Bruno Mars, Britney Spears, Celine Dion and the Foo Fighters will keep partiers entertained before and after midnight at properties across Sin City.

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department had every officer working Sunday, while the Nevada National Guard activated about 350 soldiers and airmen.

The federal government sent dozens of personnel to assist with intelligence and other efforts.

This version corrects the death toll in last year's Christmas market attack in Berlin to 12, not 19.

Roberts: Judiciary will review sexual misconduct policies

By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chief Justice John Roberts used his annual report on the federal judiciary Sunday to promise a careful evaluation of its sexual misconduct policies and to highlight the work of court employees following the year's destructive hurricanes.

Roberts touched only briefly on the issue of workplace sexual misconduct, which has in recent months brought down men in entertainment, politics and the media. In December, prominent federal appeals court judge Alex Kozinski retired following accusations by women that he had touched them inappropriately, made lewd comments and shown them pornography.

"Events in recent months have illuminated the depth of the problem of sexual harassment in the workplace, and events in the past few weeks have made clear that the judicial branch is not immune," Roberts wrote, without mentioning Kozinski by name.

Roberts had previously asked that a working group examine the judiciary's workplace conduct policies, with a report expected by May 1. Roberts wrote that the group will examine whether changes are needed

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in a number of areas, from codes of conduct to the handling of misconduct complaints.

"I have great confidence in the men and women who comprise our judiciary. I am sure that the overwhelming number have no tolerance for harassment and share the view that victims must have clear and immediate recourse to effective remedies," the chief justice wrote in the 16-page report.

Roberts spent most of the report talking about the judiciary's response to this year's devastating hurricanes, which affected Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and also mentioned wildfires in California

Roberts praised judges and court employees in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico in particular, saying that after hurricanes Irma and Maria, they "responded in dedicated and even heroic fashion," continuing to work "even in the face of personal emergencies."

He said the judiciary has also learned lessons from the storms and will develop better backup communications systems and do more to position emergency supplies in areas susceptible to hurricanes and flooding.

Roberts said the judiciary must be ready for a range of potential disasters, such as earthquakes, cyber-terrorism and terrorist attacks.

"The courts cannot provide food, shelter, or medical aid, but they must stand ready to perform their judicial functions as part of the recovery effort," he wrote.

10 US citizens, 2 locals killed in Costa Rica plane crash

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — A plane carrying 10 U.S. citizens and two local crewmembers crashed in a wooded area, killing all aboard Sunday, Costa Rica's government said.

The Public Safety Ministry posted photographs and video of the crash site showing burning wreckage of the plane in Guanacaste, northwest Costa Rica.

Authorities said Sunday evening that so far they had only a list of passengers provided by the airline and were awaiting official confirmation of their identities.

A family in the suburbs of New York City said five of the dead Americans were relatives on vacation. They identified them as Bruce and Irene Steinberg and their sons Matthew, William and Zachary, all of Scarsdale.

"We are in utter shock and disbelief right now," Bruce Steinberg's sister, Tamara Steinberg Jacobson, wrote on Facebook. She also confirmed the deaths in an interview with NBC News.

Rabbi Jonathan Blake of the Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale said in a statement posted on the Temple's Facebook page and sent in an e-mail to The AP that the Steinbergs were involved in philanthropy and local Jewish groups. "This tragedy hits our community very hard," Blake wrote.

At a news conference, Enio Cubillo, director of Costa Rica Civil Aviation, said the Nature Air charter flight took off just after noon Sunday from Punta Islita and was headed for the capital of San Jose when it crashed.

Cubillo said the cause was under investigation.

He identified the pilot as Juan Manuel Retana and described him as very experienced. Former Costa Rican President Laura Chinchilla said via Twitter that Retana was her cousin.

The same plane had arrived in Punta Islita on Sunday morning from San Jose and was delayed in landing by strong winds, Cubillo said.

Nature Air did not respond to phone and email messages.

Associated Press writer Colleen Long in New York contributed to this report.

Iran protests go on as social media apps blocked, 2 killed

By AMIR VAHDAT and JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The largest protests to strike Iran in nearly a decade continued unabated Sunday, despite a government move to block access to Instagram and a popular messaging app used by activists to organize, with even President Hassan Rouhani acknowledging the public's anger over the Islamic Republic's flagging economy.

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Rouhani and other leaders made a point to warn that the government wouldn't hesitate to crack down on those it considers lawbreakers amid the demonstrations, which began Thursday over the economic woes plaguing Iran.

"Those who misused cyberspace and spread violence are absolutely known to us and we will definitely confront them," Iranian Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli said on state television.

The outpouring of public discontent — the most widespread since protests following Iran's disputed 2009 presidential election — have been fanned by messages sent on the Telegram messaging app, which authorities blocked Sunday along with the photo-sharing app Instagram, which is owned by social media giant Facebook.

Many of the country's 80 million people are learning about the protests and sharing images of them through Telegram. On Saturday, Telegram shut down one channel of the service over Iranian government allegations that it encouraged violence, which its moderator denied.

On Sunday, Telegram CEO Pavel Durov wrote on Twitter that authorities had blocked all access to the app. "Iranian authorities are blocking access to Telegram for the majority of Iranians after our public refusal to shut down ... peacefully protesting channels," he wrote.

Iran's state TV news website, iribnews.ir, said social media in Iran was being temporarily limited as a safety measure.

"With a decision by the Supreme National Security Council, activities of Telegram and Instagram are temporarily limited," the report said, without elaborating.

Facebook, based in Menlo Park, California, declined to comment.

Facebook itself has been banned in Iran since the 2009 protests that followed the re-election of hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. However, some in Iran access it and other banned websites using virtual private networks.

Meanwhile, authorities acknowledged the first fatalities in the protests, during clashes late Saturday in Doroud, some 325 kilometers (200 miles) southwest of Tehran in Lorestan province, where protesters had gathered for an unauthorized rally, said Habibollah Khojastepour, the security deputy of Lorestan's governor.

"The gathering was to be ended peacefully, but due to the presence of the (agitators), unfortunately, this happened," Khojastepour said.

He did not offer a cause of death for the two protesters, but said "no bullets were shot from police and security forces at the people."

However, the reformist Etemad newspaper quoted Hamid Reza Kazemi, a Lorestan lawmaker, as saying police did open fire during the clashes.

"If someone comes to the street and acts like a norm breaker, what would you do?" the newspaper quoted Kazemi as saying.

Videos circulating on social media late Saturday also appeared to show fallen protesters in Doroud as gunshots sounded in the background. The Associated Press could not immediately verify the footage.

Thousands have taken to the streets of cities across Iran, beginning 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 President Donald Trump tweeting in support of them, raised the stakes. It also apparently forced state television to break its silence about the unrest, acknowledging Saturday that it hadn't reported on the protests on orders from security officials.

Trump, whose travel bans have blocked Iranians from getting U.S. visas, in his latest tweets on Sunday showed support for the protesters and for their ability to communicate.

"The people are finally getting wise as to how their money and wealth is being stolen and squandered on terrorism. Looks like they will not take it any longer," Trump wrote. "The USA is watching very closely for human rights violations!"

Rouhani criticized Trump in comments aired Sunday night.

"This guy in America who wants to sympathize with our people today has forgotten that he had called Iranian people 'terrorists' a few months ago," Rouhani said. "This person who is against Iran from head to toe does not have the right to be sympathetic to Iranian people."

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Several hundred protesters have been arrested so far, beginning with over 50 in Mashhad on Thursday. The semi-official ILNA news agency reported Sunday that authorities had arrested some 80 protesters in the city of Arak, some 280 kilometers (175 miles) south of Tehran, as well as another 200 in Tehran on Saturday night.

State TV also has reported that some protesters invoked the name of the U.S.-backed shah, who fled into exile just before Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution and later died.

Iran's economy has improved since its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which saw Iran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the end of some international sanctions. Tehran now sells its oil on the global market and has signed deals to purchase tens of billions of dollars' worth of Western aircraft.

That improvement has not reached the average Iranian, however. Unemployment remains high, and 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 the protests have sparked clashes, Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard and its affiliates have not intervened as they have in other unauthorized demonstrations since the 2009 election.

Some analysts outside of Iran have suggested that may be because the economic protests initially just put pressure on Rouhani, a relative moderate whose administration struck the nuclear deal.

While saying people should be allowed to protest, Rouhani also made a point Sunday of warning demonstrators.

"The government will definitely not tolerate those groups who are after the destruction of public property or disrupting the public order or spark riots in the society," he said.

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Anticipation high as California rolls out retail pot sales

By **BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Californians may awake on New Year's Day to a stronger-than-normal whiff of marijuana as America's cannabis king lights up to celebrate the state's first legal retail pot sales.

The historic day comes more than two decades after California paved the way for legal weed by passing the nation's first medical marijuana law, though other states were quicker to allow the drug's recreational use.

From the small town of Shasta Lake just south of Oregon to San Diego on the Mexican border, the first of about 90 shops licensed by the state will open Monday to customers who previously needed a medical reason or a dope dealer to score pot.

In November 2016, California voters legalized recreational marijuana for adults 21 and older, making it legal to grow six plants and possess an ounce of pot. The state was given a year to set retail market regulations that are still being formalized and will be phased in over the next year.

"We're thrilled," said Khalil Moutawakkil, founder of KindPeoples, which grows, manufactures and sells weed in Santa Cruz. "We can talk about the good, the bad and the ugly of the specific regulations, but at the end of the day it's a giant step forward, and we'll have to work out the kinks as we go."

The long, strange trip to get here has been a frustrating one for advocates of a drug that in the federal government's eyes remains illegal and in a class with heroin.

The state banned "loco-weed" in 1913, according to a history by the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, the pot advocacy group known as NORML. The first attempt to undo that by voter initiative in 1972 failed, but three years later felony possession of less than an ounce was downgraded to a misdemeanor.

In 1996, over objections of law enforcement, the drug czar under President Bill Clinton and three former presidents who warned it was an enormous threat to the public health of "all Americans," California voters approved marijuana for medicinal purposes.

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While the rollout of grassroots collectives of growers and dispensaries where marijuana could be sold to patients was at times messy, the law led to wider acceptance of the drug as medicine.

"The heavens didn't fall," said Dale Gieringer, director of California NORML. "We didn't see increased youth drug abuse or increased accidents or crazy things happening as our opponents predicted."

Today, 28 other states have adopted similar laws. In 2012, Colorado and Washington became the first states to legalize recreational marijuana. California is one of five states, plus Washington, D.C., that followed suit. Retail sales are scheduled to begin in Massachusetts in July.

With wider acceptance, the aroma of marijuana smoke has become more pervasive in parts of California, and use accelerated after the legalization vote.

Even with other states as models for what works and what can go wrong as marijuana strains known as Sweet Skunk, Trainwreck and Russian Assassin hit the street, the next year is expected to be a bumpy one as more shops open and more stringent regulations take effect.

Alex Traverso, a spokesman for the state's Bureau of Cannabis Control, said Sunday that the agency has been working throughout the weekend to process as many licenses as possible. He says licenses will also be issued on New Year's Day. The agency so far has issued more than 300 licenses statewide for marijuana distributors, retailers and cultivators, he said.

The California Police Chiefs Association, which opposed the ballot measure, remains concerned about stoned drivers, the appeal the drug will have for young people as it becomes more normalized, and the cost of policing the new rules in addition to an existing black market.

"There's going to be a public health cost and a public safety cost enforcing these new laws and regulations," said Jonathan Feldman, a legislative advocate for the chiefs. "It remains to be seen if this can balance itself out."

For consumers, the most surprising revelation may be the dearth of places to get ganja. In theory, buying a joint, loose weed or a hash brownie should be as easy as finding a craft beer, but options are few as some cities have rejected retail sales and others have taken a more mellow approach toward licensing operations.

Pot-friendly San Francisco, a counter-culture hub where marijuana smoke has been a fixture for half a century, was late to establish local regulations and won't have any retail outlets open for business until later in the week. It's a similar situation in Los Angeles.

Meantime, Fresno, Riverside, Anaheim, Bakersfield and all of surrounding Kern County have prohibited pot shops, and Long Beach has a temporary ban.

For shop owners lucky enough to receive temporary licenses from the state and clear local red tape, anticipation is high.

Will Senn, founder of Urbn Leaf in San Diego, said the shop's four phone lines have been ringing off the hook for three months, but he's not sure what to expect when doors open at 7 a.m. with extra security and more than 60 employees at the ready for sales and deliveries.

"We're preparing for the worst and hoping for the best," Senn said. "We never want lines out the door and around the block. That's not what we're trying to accomplish here."

Shops at first will be able to sell marijuana harvested without the regulatory controls that eventually will require extensive testing for potency, pesticides and other contaminants. A program to track all pot from seed to sales also will be phased in, along with other protections such as child-proof containers for pot products.

Pot shop founder Jamie Garzot said she's concerned that when the current crop dries up, she'll encounter a shortage of marijuana that meets state regulations. The irony is that her 530 Cannabis shop in Shasta Lake is close to some of California's most productive growing areas, yet most of the surrounding counties won't allow cultivation that could supply her.

"Playing in the gray market is not an option," Garzot said. "California produces more cannabis than any state in the nation, but going forward, if it's not from a state-licensed source, I can't put it on my shelf. If I choose to do so, I run the risk of losing my license."

In 2016, the state produced an estimated 13.5 million pounds of pot, and 80 percent was illegally shipped

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out of state, according to a report prepared for the state by ERA Economics, an environmental and agricultural consulting firm. Of the remaining 20 percent, only a quarter was sold legally for medicinal purposes.

That robust black market is expected to continue to thrive, particularly as taxes and fees raise the cost of retail pot by as much as 70 percent.

Matt Brancale, 47, a marijuana user since the 1980s and a connoisseur of the plant's flowery buds, said he welcomes regulations that will bring a higher-quality product because of required testing. But he fears the price could spike once the government takes its share, and worries that revenue will be misspent.

"I also don't want to get taxed to the teeth on it," he said. "Are they going to try to squeeze every last ounce of tax revenue out of it? I assume they will. There's people that are drooling in Sacramento with the potential resource money."

Follow AP's complete coverage of marijuana legalization in California here: <https://apnews.com/tag/CaliforniaMarijuana>

'Star Wars' passes 'Beauty and the Beast' as top 2017 earner

By LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — On the last day of the calendar year, "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" has surpassed "Beauty and the Beast" as the top grossing film in North America in 2017. It also topped the charts for the weekend for the third time, but just barely — Dwayne Johnson's "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" is close on its tail.

According to studio estimates on Sunday, "The Last Jedi" will add \$52.4 million over the weekend bringing its domestic total to \$517.1 million. "Beauty and the Beast," also a Disney release, netted out with \$504 million for the year.

With the weekend's earnings, "The Last Jedi" will also cross the \$1 billion mark globally — even before it opens in China on Jan. 5.

But "Star Wars" is facing some hefty competition still, from the likes of The Rock, Jack Black and Kevin Hart, whose "Jumanji" sequel took in \$50.6 million in its second weekend in theaters to take second place. The Columbia Pictures film has earned a stunning \$169.8 million to date and could even reach \$300 million domestically by the end of its run.

The acapella franchise "Pitch Perfect 3" took third place in weekend two, with \$17.8 million, bringing its total to \$64.3 million — still less than what "Pitch Perfect 2" earned on its opening weekend alone in May 2015 (\$69.2 million).

Another musical, "The Greatest Showman," with Hugh Jackman as P.T. Barnum, came in fourth place with \$15.3 million after adding 310 screens. The animated kids film "Ferdinand" took fifth with \$11.7 million.

In its first weekend in theaters after debuting on Christmas Day, Ridley Scott's "All the Money in the World" took in \$5.5 million, bringing its total to \$12.6 million. The film got some added recognition when Scott replaced Kevin Spacey with Christopher Plummer and reshot portions of the film only 6 weeks before it was set to hit theaters. But the hype of the impressive feat hasn't translated into big earnings.

Another adult-targeted film, Alexander Payne's "Downsizing," is struggling in theaters, taking in \$4.6 million in its second weekend in theaters. The Matt Damon-starrer has earned only \$17.1 million to date against a \$68 million production budget.

In limited release, Aaron Sorkin's "Molly's Game," starring Jessica Chastain, earned \$2.33 million. The film about the "poker princess" Molly Bloom expands on Jan. 5. And Paul Thomas Anderson's "Phantom Thread" earned \$220,000 from four theaters over the weekend after its Christmas opening. Starring Daniel Day-Lewis as a designer, "Phantom Thread" has grossed \$531,000 to date.

"As end of year marketplaces go, this is a great time to be a moviegoer," said Paul Dergarabedian, a senior media analyst for comScore. "There are so many movies out there, the only trick is how do you see all of them."

The year as a whole will surpass \$11 billion again, with comScore projecting \$11.12 billion, which is down

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2.3 percent from last year's record-breaking grosses (\$11.4 billion), and almost on par with 2015's \$11.14 billion.

"We actually had a really great end of year surge," Dergarabedian said. "'Star Wars' adding about a half billion dollars didn't hurt. But 'Star Wars' didn't do this alone. It's not just about the big movies at the top, it's also about the smaller movies that provided a really great foundation. Every dollar counts."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Tuesday.

1. "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," \$52.4 million (\$68 million international).
2. "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," \$50.6 million (\$67 million international).
3. "Pitch Perfect 3," \$17.8 million (\$13.1 million international).
4. "The Greatest Showman," \$15.3 million (\$28.5 million international).
5. "Ferdinand," \$11.7 million (\$23.1 million international).
6. "Coco," \$6.6 million (\$21.4 million international).
7. "All the Money in the World," \$5.5 million (\$1.4 million international).
8. "Darkest Hour," \$5.3 million.
9. "Downsizing," \$4.6 million (\$1.4 million international).
10. "Father Figures," \$3.7 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," \$68 million.
2. "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," \$67 million.
3. "Ex-File 3 (Quan Ren 3)," \$41.1 million.
4. "Goldbuster (Yao Ling Ling)," \$38.4 million.
5. "Youth," \$28 million.
6. "Hanson and the Beast," \$25.5 million.
7. "Ferdinand," \$23.1 million.
8. "Namiya," \$21.4 million.
9. "Coco," \$21.4 million.
10. "Along with the Gods: The Two Worlds," \$20.1 million.

Universal and Focus are owned by NBC Universal, a unit of Comcast Corp.; Sony, Columbia, Sony Screen Gems and Sony Pictures Classics are units of Sony Corp.; Paramount is owned by Viacom Inc.; Disney, Pixar and Marvel are owned by The Walt Disney Co.; Miramax is owned by Filmyard Holdings LLC; 20th Century Fox and Fox Searchlight are owned by 21st Century Fox; Warner Bros. and New Line are units of Time Warner Inc.; MGM is owned by a group of former creditors including Highland Capital, Anchorage Advisors and Carl Icahn; Lionsgate is owned by Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.; IFC is owned by AMC Networks Inc.; Rogue is owned by Relativity Media LLC.

Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/lbahr>

Words banned for the new year? 'Fake news' gets top vote

By JEFF KAROUB, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Let me ask you this: Would a story that unpacks a list of tiresome words and phrases be impactful or a nothingburger? Worse, could it just be fake news?

Northern Michigan's Lake Superior State University on Sunday released its 43rd annual List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Misuse, Overuse and General Uselessness. The tongue-in-cheek, non-binding list of 14 words or phrases comes from thousands of suggestions to the Sault Ste. Marie school.

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This year's list includes "let me ask you this," "unpack," "impactful," "nothingburger," "tons," "dish," "drill down," "let that sink in," and the top vote-getter, "fake news."

The others are "pre-owned," "onboarding/offboarding," "gig economy" and the redundant "hot water heater." Also on the list is the Trumpian Twitter typo "covfefe."

While the list contains a little political flavor, Lake Superior State spokesman John Shibley said he had expected more given the highly divisive 2016 election and a year of deepening divisions in government and the U.S. electorate.

"It wasn't as focused on politics in a very dirty sense," he said. "Most of the nominations were well thought through ... considering how the year was."

As evidence, he points to "fake news," which garnered between 500 and 600 votes. The phrase has been leveled against entirely fabricated reporting, stories that contain errors or inaccuracies, and those with a critical tone. It has even been wielded as a cudgel against entire news networks. It was also found to be the second most annoying word or phrase used by Americans in an annual Marist College poll, behind "whatever."

"I think a lot of people know fake news when they see it. It can be propaganda, it can be satire," Shibley said. "It's used deliberately to paint a certain story or notion as not being true."

While some words are perennial nominees, others really speak to a particular time and may soon lose relevance. "Covfefe" — which was contained in a fragmented Tweet sent from President Donald Trump's account on May 31 — became shorthand for a social media mistake, Shibley said.

"It's the 'pet rock' of this year's list," Shibley said, referring to the fad product born and banished in the 1970s.

Lake Superior State and Marist have company in tracking and trumpeting mass word usage.

"Youthquake," defined as "a significant cultural, political, or social change arising from the actions or influence of young people," is Oxford Dictionaries' word of the year. Oxford lexicographers said there was a fivefold increase in use of the term — coined a half-century ago by then-Vogue editor Diana Vreeland — between 2016 and 2017. The word has been used to describe youth support for Britain's Labour Party and the election of 30-something leaders in France and New Zealand.

Merriam-Webster's 2017 word of the year is "feminism." Lookups increased 70 percent over 2016 on Merriam-Webster.com and spiked several times after key events, such as the Women's March on Washington in January.

Another Michigan school takes the opposite approach: Detroit's Wayne State University attempts through its Word Warriors campaign to exhume worthy words that have fallen out of favor. This year's list included "blithering," "gauche" and "mugwump," which refers to a person who remains aloof or independent — especially from party politics.

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This Week: Fed minutes, Walgreens results, Nonfarm payrolls

By The Associated Press

A look at some of the key business events and economic indicators upcoming this week:

BETWEEN THE LINES

The Federal Reserve releases minutes from the recent two-day meeting of its policymakers on Wednesday. At the meeting last month, the panel agreed to raise the central bank's key interest rate for the third time in 2017. The Fed also signaled three additional hikes in 2018. The moves represent a vote of confidence that the U.S. economy remains on solid footing 8-and-a-half years after the end of the Great Recession.

HEALTHY GAINS?

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Wall Street expects Walgreens Boots Alliance's latest quarterly results improved from a year earlier. Financial analysts predict the nation's largest drugstore chain will report Thursday that its earnings and revenue increased in the September-November period. Beyond earnings, investors will be listening for updates on Walgreens' integration of stores it acquired from rival Rite Aid.

ALL ABOUT JOBS

The U.S. job market is benefiting from an unlikely source: other countries.

The global economy has strengthened, with Europe, Japan and many developing nations growing in tandem for the first time in a decade. That's helped drive up hiring in the U.S. In November, U.S. employers added 228,000 jobs. Did the trend continue in December? Find out Friday, when the Labor Department serves up its latest monthly hiring data.

Nonfarm payrolls, monthly change, seasonally adjusted:

July 138,000

Aug. 208,000

Sept. 38,000

Oct. 244,000

Nov. 228,000

Dec. (est.) 189,000

Source: FactSet

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."

US stocks mount milestone-shattering run in 2017

By ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writer

Taken a look at your stock portfolio lately? It's a good bet it's racked up solid gains for the year.

Wall Street has taken stock investors on a mostly smooth, record-shattering ride in 2017. The major stock indexes made double-digit gains for the year, led by Apple, Facebook and other technology stocks.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index, the broadest measure of the stock market, had its best year since 2013.

"This would go in the category of stellar year, with very little volatility in the market and pullbacks that were essentially minor," said Quincy Krosby, chief market strategist at Prudential Financial.

Several factors kept the market on an upward grind for most of the year and repeatedly drove stock indexes to all-time highs. The global economy rebounded, while the U.S. economy and job market continued to strengthen, which helped drive strong corporate earnings growth.

Investors also drew encouragement from the Trump administration's and Republican-led Congress' push to slash corporate taxes, roll back regulations and enact other pro-business policies. Congress passed the \$1.5 trillion tax overhaul bill, which reduces corporate taxes from 35 percent to 21 percent, last week.

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The S&P 500 index finished the year with a gain of 19.4 percent, more than double its increase in 2016. The index has notched 62 record highs so far this year.

Including dividends, the S&P 500's total return was 21.8 percent, as of late Friday.

That means if you invested \$1,000 in an S&P 500 index fund at the beginning of the year you'd wind up with about \$1,218 at the end of the year.

Other major market indexes also were on course to deliver solid gains. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 25.1 percent. The 30-company average set 71 all-time highs as it sped from just under 20,000 points to past the 24,000 mark.

The Nasdaq composite did even better and climbed 28.2 percent. The tech-heavy index blew past the 6,000-point mark for the first time in April.

Small-company stocks, which trounced the rest of the market in 2016, got a boost this year as investors bet that the companies would be big beneficiaries of a corporate tax cut bill. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gained 13.1 percent.

The market's gains have been broad, with seven of the 11 sectors in the S&P 500 closing in on double-digit gains, led by technology, which soared 36.9 percent. Only energy stocks and phone companies took losses for the year.

For the most part, markets overseas also fared better this year than in 2016.

In Europe, Britain's market closed the year with a gain of 7.6 percent. Indexes in Germany and France finished 2017 with gains of 12.5 percent and 9.3 percent, respectively. Japan's Nikkei and Hong Kong's benchmark index notched gains of 19.1 percent and 36 percent, respectively.

The gains in overseas markets reflect how economies in Japan, Europe, China and many developing nations began growing in tandem with the U.S. for the first time in a decade.

The U.S. lagged the rest of those economies early in the year, but caught up by summer and delivered GDP growth of 3.1 percent in the second quarter and a 3.3 percent gain in the third, its fastest rate in three years.

"We hadn't seen that kind of growth all together in a long time," said Paul Christopher, head of global market strategy for Wells Fargo Investment Institute. "We had a pretty strong third quarter and we're going to have a pretty strong fourth quarter, too."

In 2016, S&P 500 companies increased earnings by 0.4 percent. Through the first three quarters of 2017, earnings climbed about 11 percent from a year earlier, said Lindsey Bell, investment strategist at CFRA Research.

Those stronger earnings are a key reason why the S&P kept climbing, as stock prices tend to track corporate profits over the long term.

The market rode out many negative headlines in 2017.

North Korea tested a ballistic missile for the first time in July. Then, reportedly, a hydrogen bomb in August. Major hurricanes slammed into Texas, Louisiana and Florida. And Congressional Republicans' failed attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act fueled worries on Wall Street that the Trump administration's plans for a sweeping corporate tax cut and other pro-business policies would be delayed or derailed entirely.

Still, investors seemed determined to keep the market moving higher. On days when the market pulled back, stocks typically rebounded the next day.

"You had geopolitical risk with regard to North Korea and the saber-rattling on both sides caught the market's attention, but it became a buying opportunity," Crosby said.

The last time the S&P 500 had a correction, or a decline of 10 percent or more, was in February 2016. In 2017, the biggest single-day drop was less than 2 percent.

And the VIX, a measure of how much volatility investors expect in stocks, plunged 22 percent, near historic lows.

Traders repeatedly bought back in on bad news in 2017 because they, and corporations, have a lot of cash and don't see better places to get a return as long as the economy and company earnings continue to improve, Christopher said.

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"People have just been waiting for pullbacks to buy the dips," he said. "There's still a lot of cash on the balance sheets of businesses and households."

By some measures, the market is looking expensive. The S&P 500 is now trading around 18 times forward earnings. That's above the historical average of 16, which suggests stocks are expensive heading into 2018.

Even so, eight years into the bull market, many analysts expect stocks to keep climbing next year.

"We expect the bull market to continue in 2018, but at a more moderate pace," said Terry Sandven, chief equity strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Management.

US stocks slide on final trading day of 2017

By ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writer

Wall Street capped 2017 with a loss, weighed down by a broad slide in light trading ahead of the New Year's holiday.

Technology companies, banks and health care stocks accounted for much of the market's decline. Energy stocks also fell, even as the price of U.S. crude oil surged to its highest level in more than two years.

Despite the downbeat end to the week, the U.S. stock market finished 2017 with its strongest year since 2013.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index, the broadest measure of the stock market, gained 19.4 percent for the year, more than double its gain in 2016. Including dividends, the total return was 21.8 percent, as of late Friday.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended the year with a 25.1 percent gain, setting 71 all-time highs along the way.

The Nasdaq composite notched the biggest gain, an increase of 28.2 percent, while the Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks closed out 2017 with a gain of 13.1 percent.

"It's been the year that surprised everybody," said J.J. Kinahan, chief market strategist at TD Ameritrade. "It was truly buy-on-the-dip, and that paid off better than anyone possibly expected."

On Friday, many investors opted to pocket some of their gains, especially in technology stocks, which led the market with a gain of 36.9 percent. Chipmaker KLA-Tencor was among the sector's big decliners, dropping \$2.78, or 2.6 percent, to \$105.07.

Traders also sold off health care and financials stocks, both of which rose 20 percent this year. Health care management company Centene fell \$2.02, or 2 percent, to \$100.88, while SunTrust Banks gave up 85 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$64.59.

"We've seen a little bit of a rotation from growth back to some of the more defensive names, so it's not surprising to see some ... redistribution to areas that generally haven't participated," said Eric Wiegand, senior portfolio manager for Private Wealth Management at U.S. Bank.

Friday's slide pulled the market lower for the week.

All told, the S&P 500 ended the day down 13.93 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,673.61. The Dow dropped 118.29 points, or 0.5 percent, to 24,719.22. The Nasdaq fell 46.77 points, or 0.7 percent, to 6,903.39. The Russell 2000 index gave up 13.42 points, or 0.9 percent, to 1,535.51.

Oil and gas futures finished broadly higher Friday. Benchmark U.S. crude added 58 cents, or 1 percent, to settle at \$60.42 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. That's the highest closing price of the year and the first time U.S. crude has finished above \$60 a barrel since June 2015.

Brent crude, which is used to price international oils, gained 71 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$66.87 per barrel in London. The price of natural gas continued to rise in response to the harsh winter weather gripping a large swath of the U.S. It gained 4 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$2.95 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Despite the big gain in oil and gas prices, energy stocks were mixed. National Oilwell Varco rose 53 cents, or 1.5 percent, to \$36.02, while Range Resources slid 55 cents, or 3.1 percent, to \$17.06.

"Just like stocks right now, the futures have a pretty light volume," Kinahan said. "We need some real volumes for people to say, 'OK, this is real.'"

In other energy futures trading, wholesale gasoline rose a penny to \$1.80 a gallon, while heating oil

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added 2 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$2.08 a gallon.

Gold added \$12.10, or 0.9 percent, to \$1,309.30 an ounce. Silver gained 22 cents to \$17.15 an ounce. Copper slipped a penny to \$3.30 a pound.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 2.41 percent from 2.43 percent late Thursday.

The dollar finished the year weaker for the first time since 2012. The ICE U.S. Dollar Index, which compares the value of the dollar to a basket of major currencies, declined nearly 10 percent this year, its biggest drop since 2003.

On Friday, the U.S. currency fell to 112.64 yen from 112.87 yen on Thursday. The euro strengthened to \$1.2012 from \$1.1952.

The price of bitcoin was down 1.1 percent to \$14,263 as of 4:48 p.m. ET, according to the tracking site CoinDesk. Bitcoin futures on the Cboe Futures Exchange picked up 5.8 percent to \$14,550. The virtual currency has been highly volatile in recent weeks, hitting a record high before sliding sharply last week.

Major stock indexes in Europe finished mixed Friday. Britain's FTSE 100 climbed 0.9 percent, hitting a record on the close of a shortened trading day. Germany's DAX and France's CAC 40 each declined 0.5 percent.

For 2017, Britain's notched a gain of 7.6 percent, while indexes in Germany and France closed the year with gains of 12.5 percent and 9.3 percent, respectively.

In Asia, most markets ended the day with modest gains. Japan's Nikkei 225 closed 0.1 percent lower, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index gained 0.2 percent. For the year, the Nikkei posted a gain of 19.1 percent, while the Hang Seng finished with a gain of 36 percent.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Jan. 1, the first day of 2018. There are 364 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 1, 1818, the first edition of the Gothic novel "Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus" by English author Mary Shelley, 20, was published anonymously in London.

On this date:

In 1785, The Daily Universal Register — which later became the Times of London — published its first issue.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that slaves in rebel states shall be "forever free."

In 1913, the U.S. Parcel Post system went into operation.

In 1943, the Walt Disney wartime animated short "Der Fuehrer's Face," starring Donald Duck in a satire of Nazi Germany, was released.

In 1953, country singer Hank Williams Sr., 29, was discovered dead in the back seat of his car during a stop in Oak Hill, West Virginia, while he was being driven to a concert date in Canton, Ohio.

In 1959, Fidel Castro and his revolutionaries overthrew Cuban leader Fulgencio Batista, who fled to the Dominican Republic.

In 1975, a jury in Washington found Nixon administration officials John N. Mitchell, H.R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman and Robert C. Mardian guilty of charges related to the Watergate cover-up (Mardian's conviction for conspiracy was later overturned on appeal).

In 1979, the United States and China held celebrations in Washington and Beijing to mark the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In 1984, the breakup of AT&T took place as the telecommunications giant was divested of its 22 Bell System companies under terms of an antitrust agreement.

In 1993, Czechoslovakia peacefully split into two new countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

In 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect.

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In 2014, the nation's first legal recreational pot shops opened in Colorado at 8 a.m. Mountain time.

Ten years ago: Revelers celebrated New Year 2008 around the world; a ball dropped for the 100th year in New York's Times Square. U.S. diplomat John Granville and his driver were shot to death by Sudanese gunmen in Khartoum. (Four men were later convicted of the attack.) New no-smoking rules went into effect in France, prohibiting people from lighting up in cafes, bars and restaurants. The Georgia Bulldogs romped past Hawaii 41-10 at the Sugar Bowl, ending the Warriors' perfect season.

Five years ago: The Senate approved a compromise in the small hours to avert the "fiscal cliff" and sent it to the House, which approved it in a late-night vote; President Barack Obama announced he would sign the measure. In Maryland, same-sex marriage became legal in the first state south of the Mason-Dixon Line. No. 8 Stanford held off Wisconsin 20-14 in the 99th Rose Bowl. Singer Patti Page, 85, died in Encinitas, California.

One year ago: A gunman killed 39 New Year's revelers at a crowded nightclub in Istanbul, Turkey, in an attack claimed by Islamic State (a suspect is facing trial). At least 57 inmates were killed in a prison riot in the northern Brazilian state of Amazonas. Antonio Guterres took the reins of the United Nations as its new secretary-general.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., is 96. Documentary maker Frederick Wiseman is 88. Actor Frank Langella is 80. Rock singer-musician Country Joe McDonald is 76. Writer-comedian Don Novello is 75. Actor Rick Hurst is 72. Country singer Steve Ripley (The Tractors) is 68. Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., is 64. The head of the International Monetary Fund, Christine Lagarde, is 62. Rapper Grandmaster Flash is 60. Actress Renn Woods is 60. Actress Dedee Pfeiffer is 54. Country singer Brian Flynn (Flynnville Train) is 52. Actor Morris Chestnut is 49. Actor Verne Troyer is 49. Rhythm and blues singer Tank is 42. Model Elin Nordegren is 38. Actor Jonas Armstrong is 37. Actress Eden Riegel is 37. Olympic gold medal ice dancer Meryl Davis is 31. Rock musician Noah Sierota (Echosmith) is 22.

Thought for Today: "The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes." — G.K. Chesterton, English poet-essayist (1874-1936).