

Groton Daily Independent

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OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.



Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling

New & Cleaning of
Stockdams with our
60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Sunday, December 9, 2018

(2:00pm- 6:00pm: Open Gym, GHS Arena
Grades JK-8 2pm - 4pm; Grades 6-12 4pm - 6pm)

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ALL FOR HUNT



HUNTING FOR A BIGGER REASON

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13



This is a Fundraiser for Hunter Schaller and his family organized by Peyton Johnson and family. Designed by Peyton Johnson.

Orders are due by December 19th and will be ready the week of January 7th.

[Click here to place an order](#)



#allforHunt Fundraiser
- Keychains \$10

All proceeds to go to the family. You can order at the Groton High School office, Professional Management Services, Lori's Pharmacy or BK Custom T's

Fund set up at First State Bank

An account has been set up at First State Bank in Groton for Hunter Schaller. Anyone wanting to donate can make checks to "Hunter Schaller Benefit" and mail or drop off at the First State Bank in Groton. Hunter was involved in a motor vehicle accident on November 21st and is in ICU in Sioux Falls. Schaller is a junior at GHS and is the son of Steve Schaller and Julie Schaller.

A GoFundMe page has been established for the Schaller family, started by Peyton Johnson. Thus far, in nine days, \$11,880 has been raised of the \$15,000 goal. To donate, [click here](#).

HUNTER SCHALLER BENEFIT

ALL-U-CAN-EAT CHISLIC & SHRIMP



Friday, December 14

starting @5:30pm - Ferney Bar

Includes steak chislic & multiple types of shrimp for just \$30 per person

100% of proceeds to benefit the Schaller Family!

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Stats from Boys Game with Leola/Frederick

Player	No.	2Pt	2PtA	2Pt%	3Pt	3PtA	3Pt%	FG	FGA	FG%	EFG%	FT	FTA	FT %	Pts	Layup	LayupA	Layup%
Geffre	34	5	10	50.0%	0	0	0.0%	5	10	50.0%	50.0%	8	16	50.0%	18	0	0	0.0%
Hoffman	20	1	4	25.0%	0	2	0.0%	1	6	16.7%	16.7%	0	1	0.0%	2	0	0	0.0%
Hoffman	3	0	0	0.0%	0	1	0.0%	0	1	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Kenser	41	0	2	0.0%	0	2	0.0%	0	4	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Morlock	10	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	2	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Mueller	4	1	3	33.3%	0	3	0.0%	1	6	16.7%	16.7%	1	1	100.0%	3	0	0	0.0%
Podoll	15	2	6	33.3%	2	7	28.6%	4	13	30.8%	38.5%	2	4	50.0%	12	0	0	0.0%
Sumption	1	1	3	33.3%	0	5	0.0%	1	8	12.5%	12.5%	6	10	60.0%	8	0	0	0.0%
Sumption	24	1	1	100.0%	1	2	50.0%	2	3	66.7%	83.3%	0	0	0.0%	5	0	0	0.0%
Unassigned		0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Leola/Frederick Totals		11	29	37.9%	3	22	13.6%	14	51	27.5%	30.4%	17	34	50.0%	48	0	0	0.0%
Groton Varsity Totals		10	26	38.5%	9	22	40.9%	19	48	39.6%	49.0%	24	30	80.0%	71	2	2	100.0%
DeHoet	42	4	7	57.1%	3	5	60.0%	7	12	58.3%	70.8%	10	10	100.0%	27	0	0	0.0%
DeHoet	32	0	1	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	1	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Diegel	55	0	2	0.0%	2	8	25.0%	2	10	20.0%	30.0%	2	4	50.0%	8	0	0	0.0%
Doeden	3	3	6	50.0%	0	2	0.0%	3	8	37.5%	37.5%	7	9	77.8%	13	2	2	100.0%
Guthmiller	11	0	2	0.0%	4	6	66.7%	4	8	50.0%	75.0%	0	0	0.0%	12	0	0	0.0%
Jones	34	3	5	60.0%	0	1	0.0%	3	6	50.0%	50.0%	0	0	0.0%	6	0	0	0.0%
Kurtz	20	0	1	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	1	0.0%	0.0%	5	7	71.4%	5	0	0	0.0%
Larson	24	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Traphagen	50	0	2	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	2	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%
Unassigned		0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%

We'll have game details and results from the girls game in tomorrow's edition. The girls won their game, 58-31, and the boys won their game, 71-48.

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Parker Fox drains a career high in the Wolves win over Minnesota Crookston

Crookston, Minn. – The Northern State University men's basketball team rolled to their third NSIC victory of the season, defeating Minnesota Crookston 88-75 on the road. The Wolves move to 7-2 overall and 3-0 in the league, while the Golden Eagles drop to 7-4 overall and 1-2 in the NSIC.

Northern led throughout the entire 40 minutes, holding their largest lead of 19-points in the second half. The Wolves tallied 47 points in the first and another 41 in the second, shooting 51.9 percent from the floor, 55.6 percent from the 3-point line, and 73.3 percent from the foul line. They out-rebounded the Golden Eagles 37-30, notching 22 assists, five steals, and two blocks. NSU recorded 35 points off the bench, 32 points in the paint, 17 second chance points, and 14 points off turnovers.

Parker Fox led the team with a career high 21 points off the bench. The freshman shot 50.0 percent from the floor, adding seven rebounds and one steal. Bo Fries followed with his second double double in as many games, notching 13 points and a team high ten rebounds. Fries went a perfect 6-for-6 from the free throw line and tallied two assists.

Ian Smith and Gabe King each knocked down 12 points for the Wolves, with Smith notching a double double of his own. The senior added a career high 11 assists, as well as three rebounds. King led the team, knocking down three of the Wolves ten made 3-pointers in the win. He shot 60.0 percent from beyond the arc, adding one block and three rebounds.

Andrew Kallman and Justin Decker tallied eight points apiece, as the final members of the Northern State starting five. Kallman was a perfect 3-for-3 from the floor with four rebounds, three assists, one block, and one steal. Decker shot 50.0 percent from the floor with two rebounds, two assists, and one steal.

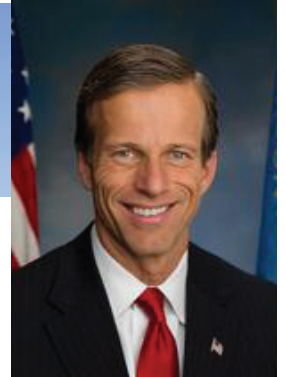
Cole Dahl notched six points, followed by Mason Stark and Jordan Belka with five and three points respectively. Dahl hit 2-of-2 from beyond the arc, adding two assists, one rebound, and one steal. Stark and Belka combined for three rebounds, and each drained a three.

The Wolves return to action next Friday and Saturday from Wachs Arena. NSU will face off against Minot State at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and UMary at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

Help Wanted

Looking for full-time and part-time labor in Hecla area. Pressure washing livestock trailers and hog barns. Also working in hog barns as needed, training is provided. Must be able to lift at least 50 lbs. Would require some evenings. Must have good work ethic and references. Full-time benefits of health insurance and 401K, part-time has 401K. Contact Cole at 994-2201.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Remembering 41

Like so many other young conservatives in the 1980s, I really came of age politically during the Reagan Revolution. I was deeply inspired by President Reagan's commitment to democracy and freedom and his compassionate, yet principled approach to governing, a model I've tried to embody throughout my service to the people of South Dakota.

President Reagan was a tremendous public figure, but he had help along the way and often leaned on George H.W. Bush, his trusted vice president who served alongside him for all eight years of his presidency. Reagan trusted him for the same reasons the American people trusted him when they later elected him to serve as our 41st president: He was smart, kind, a true public servant, and dedicated to making America a better place than when he found it.

By the time George H.W. Bush (or just "41" as he's known today) ascended to the presidency, he'd already spent a lifetime in public service. Barely an adult, he enlisted in the Navy and quickly became one of the youngest naval aviators ever to take to the sky. James Baker, Bush's long-time friend, White House chief of staff, and secretary of state, described him poignantly as a "charter member of the Greatest Generation."

War hero was only one chapter in Bush's long and tenured career in public service. He would later serve as a member of Congress, ambassador to the United Nations, diplomat in China, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and vice president of the United States – all jobs that most public servants would consider a pinnacle career achievement on their own, let alone collectively.

His resume for president was as good as it gets, a characterization he'd likely contend, as humble as he was in life. And while he'd been assigned many titles throughout his nine-plus decades on earth, I think it's safe to say that above all others, he was proudest to be called husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

On his marriage to Barbara, the longest marriage of any presidential couple in our nation's history, Bush once wrote, "I have climbed perhaps the highest mountain in the world, but even that cannot hold a candle to being Barbara's husband."

I was humbled and honored to attend President Bush's funeral in Washington, D.C. As I listened to everyone who spoke at the memorial service, it was almost as if they were puzzle pieces perfectly selected to illustrate each corner of Bush's life, giving all of us a full picture of what this man meant to the United States. They talked about his place in history and his role as a world leader and described him as a friend, family man, and son of God.

In an almost poetic way, presidential historian Jon Meacham said of Bush that he was "America's last great soldier-statesman, a 20th-century founding father." Meacham was able to read his full eulogy to the president before his passing, and the president responded in a way and with a sense of humility that only he could: "That's a lot about me, Jon." As if to say his own eulogy should focus more on the people he served rather than the man who so selflessly served them – humble to the very end.

When President George W. Bush spoke at the funeral, it was an emotional message from a son to his father, not one president simply eulogizing another. The 43rd president said of the 41st, "He taught us what it means to be a wonderful father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He was firm in his principles and supportive as we began to seek our own ways. He encouraged and comforted but never steered. We tested his patience. I know I did. But he always responded with the great gift of unconditional love." Unconditional love. What a profound and timeless lesson on what truly matters in life.

Rest in peace, Mr. President.

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Remembering a Great American

Across the country, Americans are mourning the loss of President George H. W. Bush, the 41st president of the United States, who passed away on Nov. 30, 2018, at age 94. President Bush was an extraordinary man who exemplified everyday American values: faith, family and country. He married Barbara Pierce after World War II and together they had six children: George, Robin, Jeb, Neil, Marvin and Dorothy. He and Barbara were married for 73 years when she passed away in April of this year.

President Bush was a warrior, diplomat, peacemaker, leader and public servant. He served in many different capacities during his more than 40 years in public service. He was a young naval aviator who fought in World War II, a two-term congressman from Texas, Ambassador to the United Nations, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, United States envoy to China, director of the Central Intelligence Agency and vice president under President Reagan before he was elected president. He valued public service and has said, "Any definition of a successful life must include serving others." He shared that sense of duty with others through his Points of Light Foundation which promotes volunteerism and giving back to our communities.

As a World War II veteran, President Bush was a member of the Greatest Generation. He was a man of integrity who governed during times of both war and peace. The decisions he made have had a lasting global impact. When the Soviet Union was collapsing, we were worried about the threat of war and what they would do with their nuclear weapons. President Bush decided to meet with Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev to find a solution where peace could prevail. That is a testament to President Bush's leadership, demeanor and diplomatic skills.

Leaders can and should learn from other leaders, and President Bush's leadership has inspired countless men and women to give back to their communities in a leadership capacity. I remember attending a speech that then-Vice President Bush gave in Pierre at T.F. Riggs High School when he was running for the presidency. He took dozens of questions from the audience, answered them thoughtfully and thoroughly and treated everyone at the event with respect. Rather than trying to highlight the divisions between himself and his opponent, he spoke with optimism about the future of our country. He reminded us that as Americans we have much more in common than what divides us. That message has had a real impact on me and the way in which I seek to lead.

While George H. W. Bush served as leader of the most powerful country in the world, at his core he was no different than many South Dakotans. He was a man of deep faith who put God and family first. He believed fiercely in serving others and giving back. He was also a man who loved the outdoors, like so many of us here in South Dakota. In fact, President Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush spent time in the beautiful Black Hills hiking, fishing and visiting Mount Rushmore. He loved spending time on the water, and often took friends, family and neighbors on boat rides even during the later years of his life. But most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his beloved wife Barbara and their kids, grandkids and great-grandkids.

George H.W. Bush is one of just 45 people throughout our 242 year history elected to serve as the leader of the United States of America. He leaves behind a lasting legacy and lifelong lessons which we can all strive to achieve. Jean and I continue to keep the Bush family in our prayers as the nation joins together to honor the incredible life of our 41st president.

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Today in Weather History

December 9, 1961: A snowstorm moved through the area and dropped 3 to 6 inches of snow east of the Missouri River and 1 to 3 inches to the west of the river from late afternoon on the 8th through late afternoon on the 9th. The storm was accompanied by high winds, blowing snow, icy highways, and temperatures falling to near zero. Three men were killed and one injured in a two-car crash near Watertown as snow and blowing snow sharply reduced visibilities. A skidding accident on a slippery highway near Winner resulted in an automobile fatality of one man. In a rural area near Vale, in Meade County, one man abandoned his stalled vehicle and was found the next day, frozen to death. 6 inches of snow fell at Sisseton and Wheaton, with 5 inches at Aberdeen and Watertown and 3 inches at Mobridge. Only an inch fell at Pierre.

December 9, 1917: A severe winter storm struck the Ohio Valley and the Great Lakes Region. It produced 25 inches of snow and wind gusts to 78 mph at Buffalo NY. The storm produced 26 inches of snow at Vevay Indiana, with drifts fourteen feet high.

December 9, 2003: Although it never threatened land, a subtropical storm became Tropical Storm Peter approx. 700 miles WNW of the Cape Verde Islands. Combined with Tropical Storm Odette from earlier in the month, this is the first time since 1887 that two tropical storms formed in the Atlantic Basin in December.

1786 - A second great snowstorm in just five days brought another 15 inches of snow to Morristown NJ, on top of the eight inches which fell on the 7th and 8th, and the 18 inches which fell on the 4th and 5th. The total snowfall for the week was thus 41 inches. New Haven CT received 17 inches of new snow in the storm. Up to four feet of snow covered the ground in eastern Massachusetts following the storms. (9th-10th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1917 - A severe winter storm struck the Ohio Valley and the Great Lakes Region. It produced 25 inches of snow and wind gusts to 78 mph at Buffalo NY. The storm produced 26 inches of snow at Vevay IND, with drifts fourteen feet high. By the 16th of the month people could walk across the frozen Ohio River from Vevay into Kentucky. (8th-9th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - The fifth storm in nine days kept the northwestern U.S. wet and windy. Winds along the coast of Washington gusted to 75 mph at Oceans Shores and at Hoquiam, and the northern and central coastal mountains of Oregon were drenched with three inches of rain in ten hours, flooding some rivers. Snowfall totals in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State ranged up to 36 inches in the Methow Valley. High winds in Oregon blew a tree onto a moving automobile killing three persons and injuring two others at Mill City. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A winter storm blanketed the Southern and Central Appalachians with up to ten inches of snow. Arctic air invaded the north central U.S. bringing subzero cold to Minnesota and North Dakota. (The Na-

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Today



Patchy Fog
then Sunny

Tonight



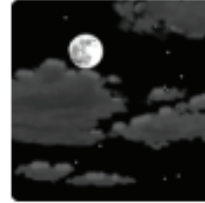
Mostly Clear

Monday



Sunny

Monday
Night



Partly Cloudy

Tuesday



Partly Sunny

High: 29 °F

Low: 8 °F

High: 33 °F

Low: 13 °F

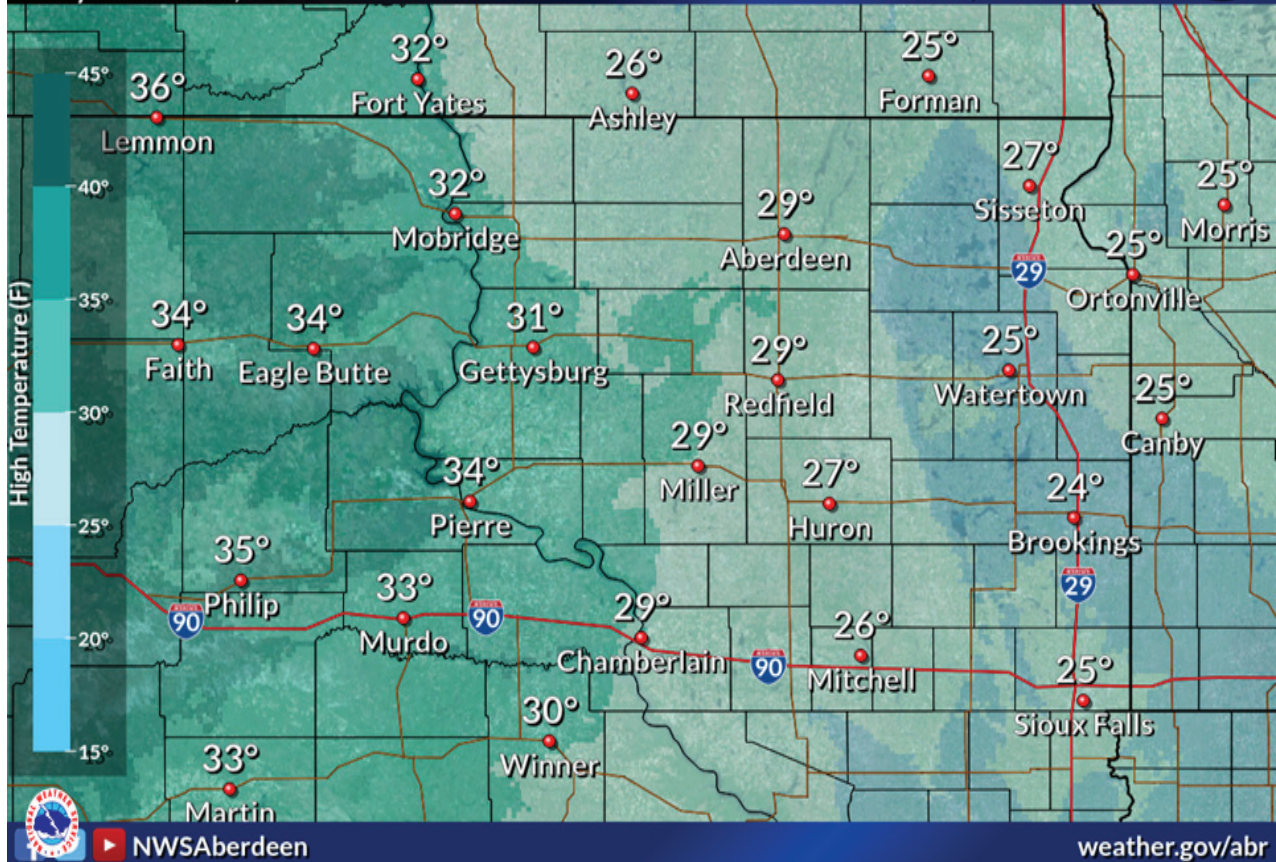
High: 31 °F

Today's High Temperatures

Plenty Of Sunshine, Too

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD

Issued Dec 09, 2018 4:42 AM CST



NWSAberdeen

weather.gov/abr

Published on: 12/09/2018 at 4:52AM

The region will experience dry conditions today and tonight with temperatures around normal or perhaps a little bit above normal for this time of year. The dry and warm weather is forecast to continue throughout the week.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 34 °F at 3:01 PM

Low Outside Temp: 6 °F at 1:36 AM

High Gust: 29 mph at 3:17 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 61° in 1939

Record Low: -27° in 1955

Average High: 27°F

Average Low: 8°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.14

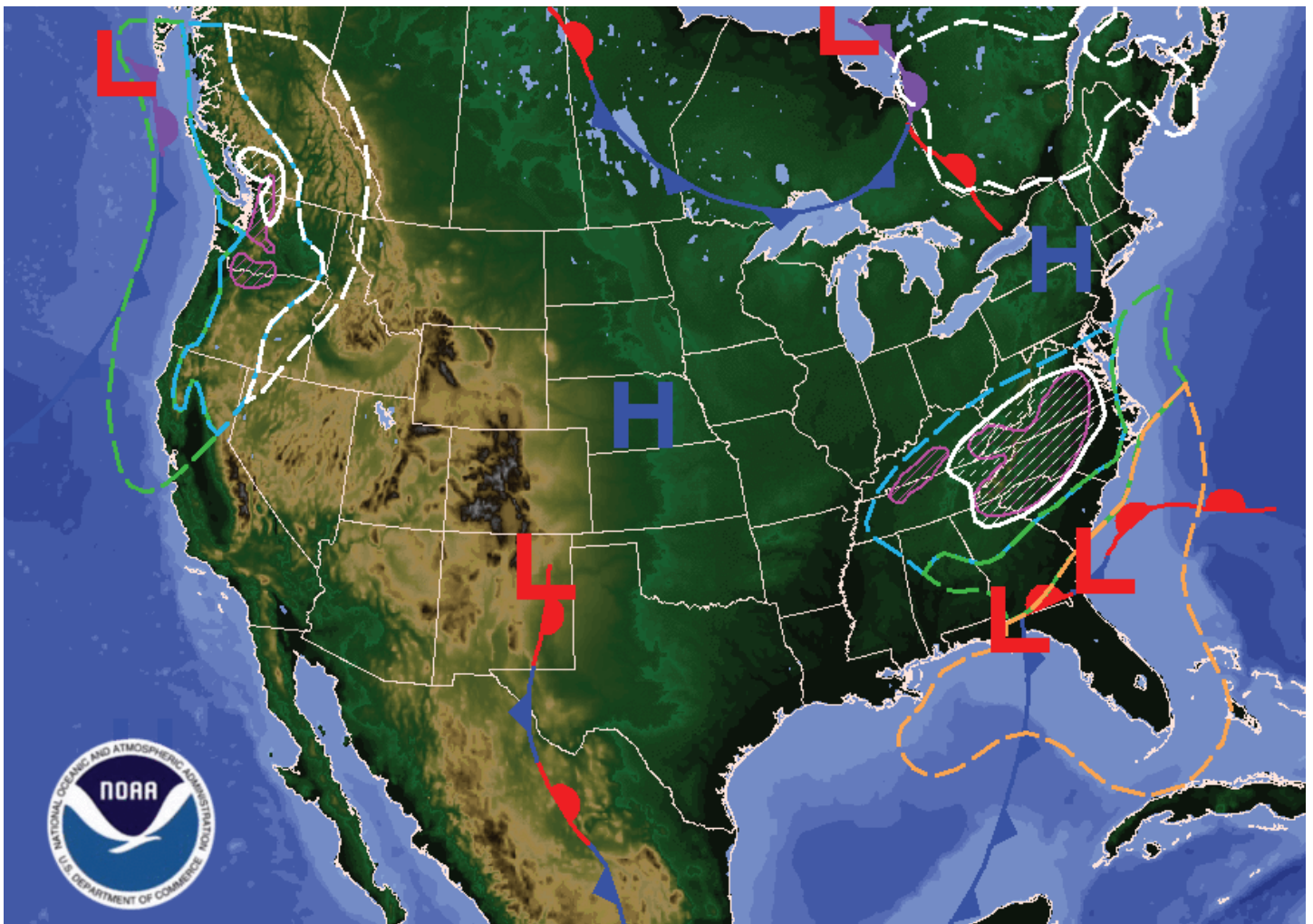
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.34

Precip Year to Date: 15.81

Sunset Tonight: 4:50 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:03 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Dec 09, 2018, issued 4:30 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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THE PROMISE OF PEACE

A professor stood before his class and boasted, "The Bible is false. It cannot be believed. It says, 'Peace and good will toward men.' History cannot account for a time when there were no wars!"

Disturbed, Arthur went to his pastor and related the incident. Calmly, his pastor said, "Art, that's not what the angels said. They said, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth among men with whom He is pleased.'"

Politicians speak of peace through treaties and boundaries, threats and sanctions, wars and rumors of wars. But that is not the peace that God speaks of in His Word. His Word speaks of a peace that comes through salvation and surrender to the Prince of Peace. It is a peace that comes from the new heart that He implants within us. It is a peace that Christians enjoy when we open the door to our hearts and allow Him to come in and rule our lives.

The peace that Scripture speaks of will never come from a non-peaceful source. It is a peace that comes through the risen Christ and has its source in God Himself.

We cannot find peace in a turbulent, war-torn world until we make peace with God through Jesus Christ. Only when we go to Him with humility and faith and ask for His forgiveness will He grant us His peace.

Prayer: We pray, Heavenly Father for Your peace a peace that comes from the God of all comfort Who gives us His peace that assures us of His presence and power. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Luke 2:13-14 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- Nov./Dec./Jan./Feb./Mar. Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 9/7/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching 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)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party
- 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

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News from the  Associated Press

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Christian 76, James Valley Christian 57
Bison 52, Newell 41
Brandon Valley 79, Spearfish 35
Canistota 59, Gayville-Volin 44
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 66, Miller 55
Clark/Willow Lake 80, Sioux Valley 62
Faulkton 52, Wessington Springs 47, OT
Garretson 53, Chester 36
Groton Area 71, Leola/Frederick 48
Harding County 60, Lead-Deadwood 57
Huron 49, Mitchell 48
Jones County 64, Highmore-Harrold 54
Lemmon 61, McLaughlin 43
Little Wound 75, Crow Creek 71
Madison 60, Elk Point-Jefferson 54
Marty Indian 68, Santee, Neb. 28
Milbank 63, Waubay/Summit 53
Omaha Nation, Neb. 74, Flandreau Indian 61
Parker 60, McCook Central/Montrose 49
Parkston 85, Avon 34
Potter County 74, Lyman 44
Red Cloud 69, Hill City 30
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 56, Sunshine Bible Academy 41
Sioux Falls Christian 71, West Central 45
St. Thomas More 81, Chamberlain 52
Tea Area 83, Dakota Valley 73
Todd County 84, Bennett County 46
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 54, Menno 47
Wall 59, Edgemont 51
West Sioux, Iowa 64, Alcester-Hudson 49
Yankton 56, Rapid City Stevens 42
Energy Classic(equals)
Thunder Basin, Wyo. 61, Rapid City Central 45
Lutheran Tip-Off Tournament
Third Place(equals)
Evergreen Lutheran, Wash. 60, Great Plains Lutheran 44

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Brandon Valley 80, Spearfish 29
Canistota 52, Gayville-Volin 20
Clark/Willow Lake 63, Sioux Valley 47
Corsica/Stickney 60, Colome 17
Elk Point-Jefferson 41, Madison 28
Ethan 70, Hanson 44

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Faith 75, Kadoka Area 44
Highmore-Harrold 60, Jones County 30
Hill City 61, Red Cloud 59
James Valley Christian 40, Aberdeen Christian 32
Lead-Deadwood 58, Harding County 21
Little Wound 81, Crow Creek 68
Lyman 57, Potter County 36
Marty Indian 56, Santee, Neb. 46
McCook Central/Montrose 52, Parker 34
Miller 57, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 53
Mitchell 78, Huron 66
New Underwood 56, Dupree 25
Newell 66, Bison 30
Pine Ridge 76, St. Francis Indian 67
Ponca, Neb. 29, Irene-Wakonda 19
Rapid City Stevens 44, Yankton 43
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 65, Sunshine Bible Academy 36
Sturgis Brown 46, Pierre 45
Tea Area 72, Dakota Valley 63
Todd County 87, Bennett County 20
Wall 54, Edgemont 35
West Sioux, Iowa 70, Alcester-Hudson 28
White River 72, Stanley County 16
Energy Classic(equals)
Rapid City Central 84, Scottsbluff, Neb. 33
Lutheran Tip-Off Tournament
Third Place(equals)
Great Plains Lutheran 59, Evergreen Lutheran, Wash. 37

Some high school basketball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
15-26-27-29-31
(fifteen, twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-nine, thirty-one)
Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America
08-19-24-31-41, Star Ball: 9, ASB: 3
(eight, nineteen, twenty-four, thirty-one, forty-one; Star Ball: nine; ASB: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$12.42 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$245 million

Powerball

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14-32-34-46-61, Powerball: 10, Power Play: 2

(fourteen, thirty-two, thirty-four, forty-six, sixty-one; Powerball: ten; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$217 million

South Dakota man obtains grant to research quick-frozen hops

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man received a grant to further research his alternative method of preserving beer.

Spearfish native Steve Polley obtained a \$15,000 grant from the U.S. Agriculture Department to examine the effect of quick-freezing hops as an alternative method to extend an ale's lifespan, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Brewers use hops, pale-green buds filled with amino acids, as a chief bittering agent to balance the sweetness of grain.

Most American hops come from the Northwest region and they are traditionally kiln-dried swiftly after harvest.

Polley has applied for specialty-crop grants to help keep his research going since launching Dakota Hops of Spearfish in 2008.

"We're looking at alternative methods of preserving the crop. That what this whole thing is about," Polley said. "And if you're using a different method to preserve the hop crop, how does that affect the quality of the beer?"

Polley plans to use the latest grant to pay for a local brewmaster to work part-time, testing different varieties of his frozen hops.

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

Retired marathoner addresses addiction and recovery in SD

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A retired world class long-distance runner shared his message of addiction and recovery in South Dakota.

Dick Beardsley, Minnesota native known for being runner-up in the 1982 Boston Marathon, spoke with students at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology about mental health and determination.

Many can recall the challenges Beardsley took on in trying to beat world record holder, Alberto Salazar, in the momentous race. But it was the subsequent trials he faced after the race that took him to task.

"As I was finishing that race, I told myself, 'I'll never face anything so difficult as this again.' But I was so wrong," Beardsley told the audience.

Beardsley endured three subsequent freak accidents post-retirement, according to the Rapid City Journal.

Two of the injuries include a truck striking him while on a run in Fargo, North Dakota, and his left leg being mangled by a tractor in his native Minnesota.

Beardsley became addicted to pain killers by the early 1990s, at times taking as many as 90 pills a day. It provided him with a front row view of the current opioid epidemic plaguing America.

"I was the same as someone in an alleyway shooting up on heroin," said an energetic Beardsley. "I was a narcotics addict."

He even became addicted to methadone while receiving treatment in a Fargo hospital.

It took a late-night bus ride to Minneapolis, spending a distressing week without sleep in a hospital bed and attending therapy sessions, before Beardsley reaching sobriety.

"A doctor told me, 'This will be the hardest thing you ever do. It will be hell.' And he was right," Beardsley said to the nearly 100 people on hand.

Now sober for 22 years, Beardsley impressed upon his audience to never forget their own hard work.

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

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Guebert, South Dakota St women upset No. 21 Drake 80-71

BROOKINS, S.D. (AP) — Madison Guebert scored 21 points and South Dakota State made 5 of 6 free throws in the final minute to upset No. 21 Drake 80-71 on Saturday.

The game ended at almost the exact same time as the SDSU football team won 27-17 in an FCS quarterfinal game at Kennesaw State.

The Jackrabbits (6-3), got off to a hot start and had a 14-point lead in the second quarter. The Bulldogs (8-2) cut the deficit to 62-58 after three quarters and three times got it within one in the fourth quarter.

Guebert hit a jumper in the paint and converted a turnover into a 3-pointer for a 71-65 lead with 2:52 to play. After two Drake free throws, Tylee Irwin answered with a 3-pointer to make it 74-67 at 1:49. That was enough as Drake was in the midst of 1-for-10 shooting.

Myah Selland added 16 points for SDSU.

Sara Rhine led Drake with 22 points on 9-of-12 shooting, while Sammie Bachrodt scored 18.

South Dakota State upends Kennesaw 27-17 in FCS quarters

KENNESAW, Ga. (AP) — Taryn Christian threw for one touchdown and ran for another — the clincher with 2:22 to play — and fifth-seeded South Dakota State held off fourth-seeded Kennesaw State 27-17 in the FCS quarterfinals on Saturday.

The Jackrabbits (10-2) play at top-seeded North Dakota State, the defending national champion, next weekend. SDSU lost 21-17 at NDSU on Sept. 29.

Christian scored on a 15-yard run to cap an eight-play, 65-yard drive after the Owls (11-2) had scored on consecutive possessions to close within 20-17.

The game ended at almost the exact same time as the SDSU women's basketball upset No. 21 Drake 80-71 at home.

South Dakota State scored on three straight possessions to take a 17-3 lead at halftime. Christian connected with Adam Anderson for a 5-yard score and Pierre Strong had a 9-yard run. Chase Vinatieri kicked his second short field goal to make it 20-3 entering the fourth quarter.

Daniel David, who took over for injured starter Chandler Burks, directed two scoring drives. His 19-yard pass to Jake McKenzie, capped a 73-yard drive, just the second passing TD of the season for Daniel. Then he scored on a 1-yard run to finish a 91-yard drive.

Christian was 12 of 18 for 147 yards and Strong ran for 112 yards on 18 carries as SDSU had 308 yards.

In relief of Burks, who set an FCS record of 29 quarterback rushing touchdowns, David was 5 of 11 for 93 yards and ran for 65. He was 3 for 3 passing entering the game.

Bishop's free throws give UMKC edge over South Dakota 65-63

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Xavier Bishop sank a pair of free throws with a second to play to give UMKC a 65-63 edge over South Dakota on Saturday.

The Kangaroos (3-7) trailed by 12 points early in the second half but battled back to take a 63-61 lead on a Bishop layup with 2:52 to play. South Dakota's Stanley Umude tied it 63-63 on a free throw with 15 seconds left but then fouled Bishop, sending him to the line where he sank two for the win.

Bishop finished with 15 points and seven assists for the Roos. Danny Dixon added 14 points and five rebounds, Rob Whitfield had 12 points, six rebounds and five steals and Jordan Giles chipped in with 10 points.

UMKC had a slim lead midway through the first half but South Dakota rallied late to take a 40-30 lead into the break.

Umude led the Coyotes (4-5) with 18 points and six rebounds.

Woman arrested in fatal Rapid City stabbing

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police say a 32-year-old woman has been arrested in a fatal stabbing on the city's west side.

Police say the suspect was arrested following the Saturday morning stabbing and is being held at the Pennington County Jail.

Police did not identify the victim, pending notification of relatives.

Authorities say it's the third homicide in the city this year.

Father, son sentenced to life in prison for manslaughter

MARTIN, S.D. (AP) — A father and his adult son who pleaded guilty to fatally shooting a man in Martin in two years ago have been sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole.

The Rapid City Journal reports 58-year-old Daniel Ceplecha and 24-year-old Rangler Ceplecha were sentenced Nov. 30 in federal court.

Both father and son pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter in February in the shooting death of Moses Red Bear.

Firefighters found Red Bear's body while extinguishing a grass fire in western Bennett County in November 2016.

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

White House chief of staff John Kelly to leave at year's end

By ZEKE MILLER and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Saturday that chief of staff John Kelly will leave his job by year's end amid an expected West Wing reshuffling reflecting a focus on the 2020 re-election campaign and the challenge of governing with Democrats reclaiming control of the House.

Nick Ayers, Vice President Mike Pence's chief of staff, is Trump's top choice to replace Kelly, and the two have held discussions for months about the job, a White House official said. An announcement was expected in the coming days, the president told reporters as he left the White House for the Army-Navy football game in Philadelphia.

Kelly had been credited with imposing order on a chaotic West Wing after his arrival in June 2017 from his post as homeland security secretary. But his iron fist also alienated some longtime Trump allies, and he grew increasingly isolated, with an increasingly diminished role.

Known through the West Wing as "the chief" or "the general," the retired Marine Corps four-star general was tapped by Trump via tweet in July 2017 from his perch atop the Homeland Security Department to try to normalize a White House riven by infighting and competing power bases.

"John Kelly will be leaving — I don't know if I can say retiring — but he's a great guy," Trump said. "John Kelly will be leaving at the end of the year. We'll be announcing who will be taking John's place — it might be on an interim basis. I'll be announcing that over the next day or two, but John will be leaving at the end of the year. ... I appreciate his service very much."

Kelly had early successes, including ending an open-door Oval Office policy that had been compared to New York's Grand Central Station and instituting a more rigorous policy process to try to prevent staffers from going directly to Trump.

But those efforts also miffed the president and some of his most influential outside allies, who had grown accustomed to unimpeded access. Kelly's handling of domestic violence accusations against the former White House staff secretary also caused consternation, especially among lower-level White House staffers, who believed Kelly had lied to them about when he found out about the allegations.

Lauding Kelly, House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said the country was "better for his duty at the White House." He called Kelly "a force for order, clarity and good sense."

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Trump and Ayers were working out terms under which Ayers would fill the role and the time commitment he would make, the White House official said. Trump wants his next chief of staff to agree to hold the job through the 2020 election. Ayers, who has young triplets, had long planned to leave the administration at the end of the year, but he has agreed to serve in an interim basis through the spring of 2019.

The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive personnel matters.

Word of Kelly's impending departure comes a day after Trump named his picks for attorney general and ambassador to the United Nations, and two senior aides shifted from the White House to Trump's campaign.

In any administration, the role of White House chief of staff is split between the responsibilities of supervising the White House and managing the man sitting in the Oval Office. Striking that balance in the turbulent times of Trump has bedeviled both Kelly and his predecessor, Reince Priebus.

White House aides say Trump has developed confidence in Ayers, in part by watching the effectiveness of Pence's largely independent political operation. Ayers also earned the backing of Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner, the president's daughter and son-in-law and senior advisers, for taking on the new role, White House officials said.

The Georgia native's meteoric rise in GOP politics included a successful stint at the Republican Governors Association, time as campaign manager for former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty's failed White House bid and consultant work for dozens of high-profile Republicans, including Pence.

Ayers, 36, would be the youngest chief of staff since 34-year-old Hamilton Jordan served under Jimmy Carter. Kelly is 68.

Trump had discussed replacing Kelly on multiple occasions, including following the negative publicity surrounding Kelly's handling of domestic violence accusations against then-White House staff secretary Rob Porter. Some lower-level White House staffers believed Kelly had lied to them about when he knew of the allegations and when he made clear to Porter that he'd have to leave.

Trump had often tossed around potential replacements, but sensitive to charges that his administration has been marked by record turnover, he said in July that he would keep Kelly in the job through 2020.

But inside the White House, it was viewed largely as an attempt to clamp down on speculation about Kelly's fate during the midterm elections, rather than a true vote of confidence.

Kelly, too, made no secret of the trials of his job, and often joked about how working for Trump was harder than anything he'd done before, including on the battlefield. In private, Kelly, whom friends said took the job out of a sense of duty to his country, cast himself as safeguarding the public from an impulsive and mercurial president. Reports of those conversations infuriated the president, who is especially sensitive of attacks on his competence and perceptions he is being managed.

At an event celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Department of Homeland Security, Kelly joked that he missed everyone in the department "every day," offering a deadpan eye roll and smile that drew laughs and applause.

"At six months, the last thing I wanted to do was walk away from one of the great honors of my life, being the secretary of Homeland Security, but I did something wrong and God punished me, I guess," he joked.

Kelly, who had threatened to quit on several occasions, told friends he would be happy if he lasted until his one-year anniversary: July 28.

Associated Press writers Michele Salcedo and Catherine Lucey contributed to this report.

Follow Miller on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ZekeJMiller> and Colvin at <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

Comey: FBI probe of Russia initially looked at 4 Americans

By ERIC TUCKER, CHAD DAY and MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI's counterintelligence investigation into potential ties between the Trump campaign and Russia initially focused on four Americans and whether they were connected to Russian efforts to interfere in the 2016 presidential election, former FBI Director James Comey told lawmakers

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during hours of closed-door questioning.

Comey did not identify the Americans but said President Donald Trump, then the Republican candidate, was not among them.

He also told the House Judiciary Committee that, contrary to Trump's claims, he was "not friends in any social sense" with special counsel Robert Mueller, who is now leading the Russia investigation. Trump has repeatedly portrayed the men as exceptionally close as part of a long-running effort to undermine the investigation and paint the lead figures in the probe as united against him.

"I admire the heck out of the man, but I don't know his phone number, I've never been to his house, I don't know his children's names," said Comey, who added that he had "never hugged or kissed the man" despite the president's insistence otherwise.

"A relief to my wife," he deadpanned.

The committee released a transcript of the interview on Saturday, just 24 hours after privately grilling the fired FBI chief about investigative decisions related to Hillary Clinton's email server and Trump's campaign and potential ties to Russia. Comey largely dodged questions connected to the current Mueller-led probe, including whether his May 2017 firing by Trump constituted obstruction of justice.

The Republican-led committee interviewed Comey as part of its investigation into FBI actions in 2016, a year when the bureau — in the heat of the presidential campaign — recommended against charges for Clinton and opened an investigation into Russian interference in the election.

The questioning largely centered on well-covered territory from a Justice Department inspector general report, Comey's own book and interviews and hours of public testimony on Capitol Hill. But the former FBI chief also used the occasion to take aim at Trump's frequent barbs at the criminal justice system, saying "we have become numb to lying and attacks on the rule of law by the president," as well as Trump's contention that it should be a crime for subjects to "flip" and cooperate with investigators.

"It's a shocking suggestion coming from any senior official, no less the president. It's a critical and legitimate part of the entire justice system in the United States," Comey said.

In offering some details of the investigation's origins, Comey said it started in July 2016 with a look at "four Americans who had some connection to Mr. Trump" during that summer and whether they were tied to "the Russian interference effort." The campaign itself, he said, was not investigation at that time.

He did not identify the Americans, though Mueller's investigation has made clear that by that time, there had already been outreach from Russian intermediaries to Trump associates — including a 2015 encounter revealed for the first time in a court filing Friday. Also by that time Democratic email accounts had been hacked by Russian intelligence and a Trump campaign foreign policy adviser, George Papadopoulos, had been told that Russians had "dirt" on Clinton in the form of stolen emails.

That October, the FBI obtained a secret search warrant to monitor the communications of a Trump campaign adviser, Carter Page, on suspicions he was acting as a foreign agent — something he has denied.

Multiple Trump associates, including Papadopoulos, former national security adviser Michael Flynn and Trump's former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, have pleaded guilty to lying about their interactions with Russians during the campaign and presidential transition period. Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort's foreign dealings, including to an associate the U.S. says has ties to Russian intelligence, has also attracted law enforcement scrutiny.

Comey reiterated to lawmakers that it was the 2016 Papadopoulos encounter with a Russian intermediary in London that ignited the Russia investigation, rather than — as some Republicans have maintained — Democratic-funded opposition research compiled by a former British spy.

"It was weeks or months later that the so-called Steele dossier came to our attention," Comey said.

He said that by the time of his firing, the FBI had not come to a conclusion about whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia's efforts to sway the election.

And he insisted that the FBI would recover from the president's attacks on the bureau.

"The FBI will be fine. It will snap back, as will the rest of our institutions," Comey said. "There will be short-term damage, which worries me a great deal, but in the long run, no politician, no president can, in

a lasting way, damage those institutions.”

Besides the questioning on Russia, Republicans lawmakers pressed Comey on the FBI’s handling of an investigation into whether Clinton mishandled classified information on her private email server. Comey’s July 2016 announcement that Clinton and her aides had been “extremely careless” but did not deserve criminal charges infuriated Republicans who contended that someone less powerful and well-connected would have faced prosecution.

Under questioning from Rep. Trey Gowdy, a South Carolina Republican, Comey reiterated that the FBI and Justice Department didn’t have a prosecutable case against Clinton because they couldn’t prove she willfully violated the law by setting up the server.

For Palestinian children in Gaza, an education in conflict

By TODD PITMAN, Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — When Mazen al-Dalo took two of his young sons to see the Palestinian protests against Israel’s decade-old blockade of Gaza, he knew it could be dangerous.

Rock-throwing demonstrators were being shot by Israeli soldiers, and armored Israeli jeeps were firing endless volleys of tear gas into the crowds.

But it was important to teach the boys about Palestinian history, he said, and give them a glimpse of the modern-day struggles their people face. “Seeing things with your own eyes is different than reading about them in books,” the 44-year-old father said, explaining his decision to take the children, aged 8 and 11, one day last April.

The family only ventured about 400 meters (yards) from the border — a spot al-Dalo believed was safe, away from the violent confrontations. But just as he pointed to a group of Israeli soldiers atop a berm on the other side of the Israeli fence, a single gunshot rang out.

The round ripped off al-Dalo’s thumb and struck his 8-year-old son, Mohamed, in the leg — two more casualties in a simmering conflict that began last spring and has seen a staggering 948 Palestinians under the age of 18 shot and wounded by Israeli forces, according to the United Nations.

In a statement, Israel’s military said it does “everything possible to avoid harming children.” But Hamas, the militant group that rules Gaza, “cynically uses Gaza residents, especially women and children, as human shields and places them at the forefront of the violent riots.”

Hamas, which has orchestrated the demonstrations, denies such allegations. Hazem Qassem, a Hamas spokesman in Gaza, said “there is no way to prevent the people from participating. There are entire families (who go) and there is no way to prevent them.”

Ever since the demonstrations began in March, children have been a constant presence among the surging crowds — some hurling stones with slingshots or burning tires, others merely watching from afar. While many are brought by parents who hold their hands and carry them on their shoulders, others make their way on their own.

Of the 175 Palestinians killed so far, at least 34 were 18 or under, according to an Associated Press count. Gaza’s Health Ministry says 2,295 minors have been hospitalized, 17 of whom have had a limb amputated; at least 5,124 have been injured in all.

Young victims are not a new phenomenon in the region. In the first Palestinian uprising that began in 1987, children and teens often threw stones at Israeli soldiers, who frequently responded with live rounds. According to the Israeli human rights group, B’Tselem, minors comprised about 21 percent of deaths back then. In the latest protests, that percentage is roughly the same.

The Israeli military, which deploys snipers atop pyramid-shaped bunkers positioned at regular intervals along the frontier, says it takes pains to avoid civilian casualties and only uses live fire as a last resort. But it also says it must defend against “terrorist” crowds hurling grenades and firebombs, and stop those who penetrate or damage the fence.

Amnesty International and other human rights groups argue that under international law, the use of live ammunition can only be justified in the face of imminent death or serious injury. Israel argues that is

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exactly what its forces face. One Israeli soldier was killed by a Hamas sniper during a demonstration last July, and at least six have been wounded.

Video images circulating on social media, however, have also shown unarmed protesters being shot, including some struck while running away or waving the Palestinian flag, Amnesty said. One incident in September showed a 16-year-old boy being shot in the chest while waving his hands in the air; he had just hurled a stone toward the fence, but it's unclear if it had even reached it.

After another teen was shot dead in April, U.N. envoy Nickolay Mladenov asked in a tweet: "How does the killing of a child in #Gaza today help #peace?" Mladenov answered his own question, saying "It doesn't! It fuels anger and breeds more killing."

The protests have been fueled by desperate living conditions in Gaza, a place most residents are prohibited from leaving. More than a decade since Israel and Egypt imposed the blockade on Gaza, unemployment is over 50 percent, tap water has become undrinkable and electricity is sporadic. Israel says the blockade is necessary to prevent Hamas from importing weapons.

When the demonstrations began, Raed Abu Khader told his 12-year-old son Mohammed to stay away, and the boy promised he would. But on Aug. 24, Khader received an urgent phone call from a friend: Mohammed had been shot in the leg at one of the demonstrations held that day.

"He shouldn't have been there," Abu Khader said of the boy, who has been unable to move his left leg since and fears it will be amputated. "But the Israelis should only be shooting to scare children off — not hit them."

It's unclear what Mohammed was doing when the shooting took place. Speaking in a wheelchair surrounded by friends on a Gaza street, he boasted that he had just hung a Palestinian flag on the fence when gunfire rang out. Later, lying in his darkened home with his distraught father looking on, the teen could not answer when asked where he was. Staring at the ground, his brown eyes welled with tears.

Abu Khader said the boy had been transported to the protest site via one of the Hamas-organized buses that park outside Gaza's mosques every Friday. At the end of the ride was a spectacle that is consistently part-war, part-festival: cultural shows, corn on the cob, balloons and Palestinian kites laden with trails of flaming embers meant for Israeli farms. Plus the weekly confrontation itself: Palestinians armed with stones and firebombs battling armed Israeli forces flying spider-like drones equipped with tear gas.

"They see their friends going, and they want to go," Abu Khader said. "They think it's a game. They think they're going to have fun. They don't know how dangerous it is."

The round that struck Mohammed Abu Khader severed the nerves in his leg so completely, he can neither feel nor move his limb at all. If he does not get out of Gaza, his 39-year-old father says, he will likely lose his leg.

Today, the boy often cries. He no longer goes to school. His father says the boy feels useless.

Mohammed al-Dalo, the boy whose father took him to the protest, has been similarly traumatized. His father said he is markedly quieter now.

And like Mohammed Abu Khader, his life may be changed forever.

At a clinic run by Doctors Without Borders, physiotherapist Eyad Abedelaal says Mohammed al-Dalo suffers from "foot drop." Nerve damage means he cannot move his toes up and down; the boy limps when he walks.

They will try to perform another surgery to fix the problem. "But unfortunately, this kind of nerve damage will likely last forever," Abedelaal said. "It means to walk correctly, he'll probably need special shoes for the rest of his life."

Mohammed's father, Mazen al-Dalo, says the boy asked to go back to the protests, but he refused because he doesn't want him to get hurt again.

Still, he has no regrets. "This is the tax you have to pay to achieve the right of return," he said, referencing a deep-held desire to take back land that hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were forced from seven decades ago after the war that created Israel. "Nothing is free. We all have to sacrifice."

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Associated Press writer Fares Akram contributed.

Oklahoma's Murray beats Alabama's Tagovailoa for Heisman

By RALPH D. RUSSO, AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Kyler Murray waited three years to fulfill the five-star potential he brought to college football. With one shot to deliver, Murray replaced a Heisman Trophy winner by becoming a Heisman Trophy winner.

The Oklahoma quarterback won college football's most prestigious individual award Saturday night, beating out Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa and setting up a College Football Playoff matchup of Heisman winner versus runner-up.

"This is crazy," Murray said in his acceptance speech. "This is an honor, something that I'll never forget. Something that I'll always cherish for the rest of my life."

The fourth-ranked Sooners play the top-ranked Crimson Tide in the Orange Bowl semifinal Dec. 29 in the seventh bowl matchup of Heisman winner and runner-up, and first since second-place finisher Vince Young and Texas beat Reggie Bush and Southern California in the 2006 Rose Bowl.

This season, Murray stepped into the starting job at Oklahoma held by last year's Heisman winner and first overall NFL draft pick, Baker Mayfield. Oklahoma is the first school to have Heisman-winning quarterbacks in consecutive seasons and the fifth overall with winners in back-to-back years. Mayfield was also a finalist in 2016.

"Luckily, we've been here three years in a row," Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley said. "We're going to have to start paying taxes here."

Unlike most seasons, the winner was no foregone conclusion, but Murray (517 first-place votes and 2,167 points) ended up with a fairly comfortable margin of 296 points over Tagovailoa. Ohio State quarterback Dwayne Haskins, the other finalist, was a distant third with 783 points. Three more quarterbacks followed: Will Grier of West Virginia, Gardner Minshew II of Washington State and McKenzie Milton of Central Florida.

Murray appeared on 92 percent of the Heisman ballots, third most all time. Tagovailoa's 1,871 points was the most for a runner-up in the 84-year history of the Heisman.

Murray, a pinpoint passer and explosive runner, surpassed the production of Mayfield. Murray has averaged 380 yards of offense per game and accounted for 51 touchdowns in leading the Sooners to the Big 12 title and the playoff. Mayfield averaged 353 yards of offense and accounted for 49 touchdowns as Oklahoma won the conference and lost a playoff semifinal to Georgia.

"This didn't just happen," Murray said later during a news conference. "I've put so much time and effort into this game."

Murray said he was in constant contact with Mayfield this week.

"It was just casual, bro-to-bro. He just told me to enjoy it. Have fun with it. It's a once in a lifetime deal," Murray said.

Tagovailoa was the Heisman front-runner for most of the season, but Murray surged late as the Sooners turned to him and their offense to bail out a leaky defense down the stretch. Meanwhile, Tagovailoa picked a bad time to have his worst game of the season, throwing two interceptions in the Southeastern Conference championship against Georgia and leaving early with a sprained ankle.

Murray's first season as a starting quarterback in college is set up to also be his last. The junior has already signed a \$4.66 million contract with the Oakland Athletics after he was selected in the first round of the Major League Baseball draft in June. Listed at 5-foot-10 and 195 pounds, Murray is small for an NFL quarterback but talented enough to be an intriguing prospect if he ever decided to give it a try.

For the next month, though, Murray is focused on capping his college career with a national championship. He took a circuitous route to get to a place most always expected him to be.

Playing for Texas powerhouse Allen High School, just outside of Dallas, Murray won three straight state championships at the state's highest level and his team went 42-0 with him starting.

"Kyler's journey, in particular, it's kind of the stuff of legends," Riley said. "But with all the high points

there's been a lot of tough moments."

Murray signed with Texas A&M in 2015, but transferred after one tumultuous season.

At Oklahoma, the plan was sit the 2016 season to fulfil NCAA transfer rules and then step in for Mayfield in 2016. But Mayfield was granted an extra year of eligibility and returned for 2017, relegating Murray to backing up the best quarterback in the country.

This season, as the focal point of Riley's creative offense, Murray developed into the dominant player he had seemed destined to become while at Allen.

"I trusted the process," Murray said.

Murray fought back tears while thanking Riley during his speech.

"You pushed me harder than any coach ever has and I just want to say thank you for believing in me and allowing me to be the quarterback of this team. The leader of this team," Murray said.

Murray is the fourth Oklahoma quarterback since 2003 to win the Heisman, joining Jason White, Sam Bradford and Mayfield, and the 16th quarterback overall to win the award in the last 19 years.

Oklahoma's seventh Heisman matches Ohio State, Southern California and Notre Dame for the most by any school. That means another statue in Heisman Park in Norman, next to Memorial Stadium.

"I just hope they put the Bandana on me," Murray said. "I hope they get the swag right."

Follow Ralph D. Russo at <https://twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP> and listen at <https://podcastone.com/AP-Top-25-College-Football-Podcast>

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/Collegefootball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Whether a president can be prosecuted remains in dispute

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the first time, prosecutors have tied President Donald Trump to a federal crime, accusing him of directing illegal hush-money payments to women during his presidential campaign in 2016.

The Justice Department stopped short of accusing Trump of directly committing a crime. Instead, they said in a court filing Friday night that Trump told his former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, to make illegal payments to buy the silence of two women — porn actress Stormy Daniels and former Playboy model Karen McDougal — who claimed to have had affairs with Trump and threatened his White House bid. Trump has denied having an affair.

Cohen has pleaded guilty to several charges, including campaign finance violations, and is awaiting sentencing.

Although Trump hasn't been charged with any crimes, the question of whether a president can even be prosecuted while in office is a matter of legal dispute.

A look at that long-running legal ambiguity and a few of the main issues at play:

DID THE PRESIDENT COMMIT A CRIME?

That isn't completely clear. But federal prosecutors didn't accuse Trump in Friday night's court filing of violating the law.

However, there was no ambiguity in the court documents that prosecutors believe Cohen's actions were criminal and Trump was directly involved. Prosecutors charged that Cohen arranged the secret payments at the height of the 2016 campaign "in coordination with and at the direction of" Trump. They also alleged Cohen made the payment in order to fend off potential damage to Trump's presidential bid.

Federal law requires that any payments that are made "for the purpose of influencing" an election must be reported in campaign finance disclosures.

"There is a plausible case against the president," said Rick Hasen, a professor who specializes in election and campaign finance law at the University of California at Irvine.

In order to bring charges, prosecutors would have to prove Trump had criminal intent and "willfully violated the law," said Josh Blackman, a professor at South Texas College of Law Houston. Something that

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would be perfectly legal to do as a businessman could take on a different standard as a candidate and campaign finance laws are “very open-ended,” he said.

Hasen said Trump’s lawyers could argue Trump didn’t have willfulness to break the law if the payments were completely personal and not connected to the campaign, despite their timing. Some legal experts have also argued that hush-money payments to keep people silent about their affairs are inherently personal, though Hasen said he didn’t agree with that argument.

CAN A SITTING PRESIDENT BE INDICTED?

Legal experts are divided on that question. The Supreme Court has never ruled on whether the president can be indicted or whether the president can be subpoenaed for testimony.

The Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel, which provides legal advice and guidance to executive branch agencies, has maintained that a sitting president cannot be indicted. Two Justice Department reports, one in 1973 and one in 2000, came to the same conclusion.

Those reports essentially concluded that the president’s responsibilities are so important that an indictment would pose too many risks for the government to function properly.

Trump’s lawyers have said that special counsel Robert Mueller plans to adhere to that guidance, though Mueller’s office has never independently confirmed that. Trump’s personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, has also said that a president cannot be indicted.

COULD TRUMP BE INDICTED ONCE HE LEAVES OFFICE?

There would presumably be no bar against charging a president after he leaves the White House.

Legal scholars have said that based on the Justice Department’s guidance, it would appear that Trump could be charged for wrongdoing during the campaign or as president once he leaves office, but likely not before that.

Blackman said the statute of limitations for a campaign finance law violation — like the one Cohen pleaded guilty to — would be five years. The payments to Daniels and McDougal were made in 2016, meaning the statute of limitations would run out in 2021.

COULD TRUMP PARDON HIMSELF?

Trump has already shown he’s not afraid to use his pardon power, particularly for those he has viewed as unfair victims of partisanship. He’s pardoned Joe Arpaio, the former Arizona sheriff who was convicted of criminal contempt for disobeying a judge’s order, and I. Lewis “Scooter” Libby, a Bush administration official convicted of perjury and obstruction of justice in a leak case.

Courts have never had to answer the question of whether the president can pardon himself. In June, Giuliani told NBC’s “Meet the Pres” that while Trump “probably does” have the power, “pardoning himself would be unthinkable and probably lead to immediate impeachment.”

Analysis: Russia probe threatens Trump, those in his orbit

By JULIE PACE, AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — The more that special counsel Robert Mueller and federal prosecutors reveal, the darker grow the legal clouds over President Donald Trump.

Trump’s own Justice Department has now implicated him in a crime, accusing him of directing illegal hush-money payments to women during his 2016 presidential campaign. Mueller keeps finding new instances of Trump associates lying about their contacts with Russia during an election the Kremlin worked to sway in the Republican’s favor.

The president hasn’t been charged with any crimes. He may never be. Whether a president can be prosecuted while in office remains a matter of legal dispute.

But Trump also hasn’t been cleared of wrongdoing. Each new legal filing underscores that the president is a central figure in investigations that already have brought down several people who worked closely

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with him and remain a threat to others in Trump's orbit.

Even if the president is never charged with illegal activity, the months of investigations and legal wrangling have cast a pall over his administration and exposed the culture of lying that has surrounded Trump, both in and out of office.

Trump's moniker in some of the filings: "Individual-1".

Trump allies argue that if Mueller had information that Trump broke the law, the special counsel would have made his case against him by now. To the president and his supporters, the fact that the special counsel has been working for well over a year without making a direct accusation against Trump means the investigation is simply an effort to damage the president politically.

"AFTER TWO YEARS AND MILLIONS OF PAGES OF DOCUMENTS (and a cost of over \$30,000,000), NO COLLUSION!" Trump tweeted early Saturday morning.

Despite Trump's declarations, Mueller hasn't ruled out that the prospect of election season coordination between Moscow and the Trump campaign, and only recently received written answers from the president about possible Russian interference. Mueller also is still pursuing whether Trump obstructed justice while in office.

Yet the most precarious legal situation for Trump appears to be separate from Mueller's inquiry: an assertion by federal prosecutors in New York that Trump directed his former lawyer, Michael Cohen, to make illegal payments during the campaign to silence women alleging extramarital affairs.

Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., who will oversee the House intelligence committee next year, said that a new court filing on Friday "implicates the president very directly" in a crime.

"It puts the issue squarely before the Justice Department whether a sitting president should be indicted or whether the Justice Department has to wait until he's out of office," Schiff said in an interview.

Federal law requires that any payments made "for the purposes of influencing" an election must be reported in campaign finance disclosures. The court filing Friday makes clear that the payments to porn actress Stormy Daniels and Playboy model Karen McDougal were made to benefit Trump politically.

Trump's only defense? Cohen, he says, is a liar.

The simultaneous investigations have infuriated Trump. Democrats, and some Republicans, fear Trump may ultimately try to silence Mueller or halt his investigation, though proposed legislation protecting the special counsel has stalled in Congress.

After going publicly silent in the run-up to the midterm elections, Mueller has roared back with a series of legal moves that suggest he is actively pursuing the central question of whether Trump's campaign illegally coordinated with Russia during the election.

In a filing released on Friday, Mueller revealed that a Russian national claiming close ties to the Kremlin reached out to Cohen to propose government-level "political synergy" during the election. The November 2015 outreach — which Mueller says Cohen did not pursue — appears to be the earliest known effort by Russia to build ties with the Trump campaign.

Cohen has admitted to lying to Congress about efforts by Trump's real estate company to build a project in Moscow as late as the summer of 2016, after Trump became the Republican nominee for president.

Mueller has not alleged that the president knew about these interactions with Russia.

Even so, some Trump supporters now believe the president is unlikely to emerge from the investigations unscathed.

Alan Dershowitz, a Harvard law professor and frequent defender of Trump, said Mueller appears poised to issue a report that will be highly critical of the president, though Dershowitz believes it will deal "more with political sin than a federal crime."

"It will be a very serious accusation of the president, but it will be more political," Dershowitz said.

Of course, political sin could still put Trump in a dangerous position, particularly now that Democrats are within weeks of taking over the House. The new Democratic majority will have broad subpoena power. Party leaders will be under pressure from some members to pursue impeachment, particularly if Mueller's report makes direct accusations of the president.

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Schiff, who will oversee some of the congressional probes into Trump, said the swirl of investigations "tests the proposition that no one is above the law."

EDITOR'S NOTE — Washington bureau chief Julie Pace has covered the White House and politics for the AP since 2007. Follow her at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

Rioting engulfs Paris as anger grows over high French taxes

By ELAINE GANLEY and JOHN LEICESTER, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The rumble of armored police trucks and the hiss of tear gas filled central Paris on Saturday, as French riot police fought to contain thousands of yellow-vested protesters venting their anger against the government in a movement that has grown more violent by the week.

A ring of steel surrounded the president's Elysee Palace — a key destination for the protesters — as police stationed trucks and reinforced metal barriers throughout the neighborhood.

Stores along the elegant Champs-Elysees Avenue and the posh Avenue Montaigne boarded up their windows as if bracing for a hurricane but the storm struck anyway Saturday, this time at the height of the holiday shopping season. Protesters ripped off the plywood protecting the windows and threw flares and other projectiles. French riot police repeatedly repelled them with tear gas and water cannon.

Saturday's yellow vest crowd was overwhelmingly male, a mix of those bringing their financial grievances to Paris — the center of France's government, economy and culture — along with groups of experienced vandals who tore steadily through some of the city's wealthiest neighborhoods, smashing and burning.

Police and protesters also clashed in other French cities, notably Marseille, Toulouse and Bordeaux, and in neighboring Belgium. Some protesters took aim at the French border with Italy, creating a huge traffic backup near the town of Ventimiglia.

The French government's plan was to prevent a repeat of the Dec. 2 rioting that damaged the Arc de Triomphe, devastated central Paris and tarnished the country's global image. It did not succeed, even though it was better prepared.

Although Saturday's protest in the French capital started out quietly, tear gas choked the Champs-Elysees Avenue by early evening.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said that 135 people had been injured and 974 taken into custody amid protests around the nation. Paris police headquarters counted 71 injuries in the capital, seven of them police officers.

An estimated 125,000 people demonstrated around France while 10,000 took their anger to the streets of Paris, double the number in the capital last week, the interior minister said. Toughening security tactics, French authorities deployed 8,000 security officers in the capital alone, among the 89,000 who fanned out around the country.

A Starbucks near the Champs-Elysees was smashed wide open and people were seen stepping over broken glass and serving themselves to beverages. The window of a nearby bank was smashed in with a wrought-iron decoration used to encircle city tree trunks.

All of the city's top tourist attractions — including the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre museum — shut down for the day, fearing the kind of damage that hit the Arc de Triomphe a week ago. Christmas markets and soccer matches were cancelled. Subway stations in the city center closed and the U.S. embassy warned citizens to avoid all protest areas.

Yet in a sign of the financial disconnect that infuriates many of the protesters, a few blocks from the famed boulevard, people were sitting in Paris cafes, drinking cocktails and chatting.

Amid the melee, President Emmanuel Macron remained invisible and silent, as he has for the four weeks of a movement that started as a protest against a gas tax hike and metamorphosed into a rebellion against high taxes and eroding living standards.

The mayor of the city of Saint-Etienne, a town in southeast France hit by violence Saturday, castigated Macron for failing to speak out, saying it "feeds the resentment."

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"This silence becomes contempt for the nation," the mayor, Gael Perdriau, of the opposition conservative party, said on BFMTV. "He has a direct responsibility in what is happening. He can't remain closed up in the Elysee."

France's yellow vest protesters have political stances ranging from the far right to the far left but the leaderless group is united in its sense that Macron and his government are out of touch.

"We are here to tell (Macron) our discontent. Me, I'm not here to break things because I have four children," said protester Myriam Diaz. "But I still want to be here to say 'Stop, that's enough.'"

Some protesters sang the French national anthem — "The Marseillaise" — as they confronted phalanxes of police in heavy riot gear. One protester in Paris showed an Associated Press reporter a fresh wound on his jaw, saying a rubber bullet fired by charging police had glanced his face.

"I was running with my hands up. They charged," said Ludovic, a 38-year-old cabinetmaker from the eastern city of Colmar. He only gave his first name, saying he feared being tracked by security authorities. He said he was fleeing the Champs-Elysees, choked with tear gas, when police moved in.

Even as blue armored trucks rumbled over cobblestone streets in Paris, a larger environmental march took place peacefully Saturday toward the city's Republique Plaza.

A scattering of yellow vests, as well as women, children and retirees, were among the 17,000 people marching to demand action against climate change. One sign read "No climate justice without fiscal and social justice."

Cyril, a 25-year-old garbage truck driver, came from Normandy with three others. He said he earns only 1,430 euros (\$1,625) a month despite working 45 hours a week and has decided not to have children because doesn't feel he can earn enough to raise them. This was his third weekend of protesting in Paris.

"I've come to defend myself," he said, adding that he thought Macron's mistake was trying to reform the French economy too quickly. "He's done more in 18 months than the others in 30 years."

Macron on Wednesday agreed to abandon the fuel tax hike, which aimed to wean France off fossil fuels and uphold the Paris climate agreement. Many economists and scientists say higher fuel taxes are essential to save the planet from worsening climate change, but that stance hasn't defused the anger among France's working class.

Late Saturday, after announcing that the violence in Paris had been "contained," Castaner, the interior minister, took a victory stroll down the Champs-Elysees.

Tear gas had dissipated and a standoff was over. It had pitted a line of security forces, backed by two armored vehicles, against protesters, some lobbing objects and cherry bombs to taunt police.

Protesters also blocked roads, traffic roundabouts and highway tollbooths elsewhere in France and offshoot movements emerged in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Belgian police fired tear gas and water cannon Saturday at yellow-vested protesters calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Charles Michel. The protesters in Brussels threw paving stones, road signs, fireworks, flares and other objects at police and about 100 were detained.

Across the ocean, U.S. President Donald Trump seized the moment to once again criticize the 2015 Paris climate accord that he is abandoning.

"People do not want to pay large sums of money ... in order to maybe protect the environment," he tweeted.

Angela Charlton, Lori Hinnant, Srdjan Nedeljkovic, Philippe Marion and Milos Krivokapic in Paris contributed.

Dog that survived California wildfire guarded home for weeks

By **DAISY NGUYEN, Associated Press**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A dog that survived the catastrophic wildfire in Northern California apparently protected the ruins of his home for almost a month until his owner returned.

Madison was there waiting when Andrea Gaylord was allowed back to check on her burned property in Paradise this week.

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Gaylord fled when the Nov. 8 fire broke out and decimated the town of 27,000. An animal rescuer who responded to Gaylord's request to check on Madison first spotted the male Anatolian shepherd mix several days later.

Shayla Sullivan said the outdoor guard dog was apprehensive and kept his distance. Sullivan left food and water for him regularly until Gaylord got back on Wednesday. She also helped locate Madison's brother Miguel, another Anatolian shepherd mix that was taken to a shelter 85 miles (135 kilometers) away in the confusing aftermath of the wildfire.

"If (the evacuees) can't be there I'm going to be and I'm not going to give up on their animal until they can get back in," Sullivan said.

The dogs reunited Friday when Gaylord came back to the property with Miguel and brought Madison his favorite treat: a box of Wheat Thin crackers.

Gaylord told news station ABC10 she couldn't ask for a better animal.

"Imagine the loyalty of hanging in in the worst of circumstances and being here waiting," she said.

"Their instinctual job is to watch the flocks and we're part of them," Gaylord said about her dogs. "It's a comforting feeling."

Rise up: Female voices take center stage at Grammys

By MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After being nearly muted at this year's ceremony, the 2019 Grammys are shaping up to be the year of the woman, with powerful female voices representing the majority in two of the top categories.

Kacey Musgraves, H.E.R. and Janelle Monae, performers who play instruments, write or co-write all of their songs and are also listed as producers on their projects, earned nominations for the coveted album of the year.

They are joined by singer-songwriter-instrumentalist Brandi Carlile, whose recent album is critically acclaimed and scored nominations in the big three categories, and Cardi B — a former stripper, social media darling and reality star who has become a pop culture sensation now competing for both album and record of the year.

Nominees for album of the year at the 2018 Grammys only included one woman — Lorde — and she was not given a performing slot on the show. The only woman to win a solo award during the televised broadcast was best new artist winner Alessia Cara. But this year nominees in the top four categories expanded from five to eight, and in album of the year, five are powerful female acts.

"I love being in the company of genius women and I think that every woman that is nominated has contributed so much excellent work and heartfelt work and truthful work this year, and it's just deserving," Monae said in an interview with The Associated Press after Friday's nominations were announced.

Six of the eight best new artist nominees are women, including H.E.R.

Monae gave a powerful speech at the 2018 Grammys ahead of Kesha's emotional and striking performance celebrating sisterhood and women's rights. Monae said back then she was hoping to see the upcoming Grammys make a change.

"This is what I envisioned. This is what I imagined. I imagined us having a stronger presence this year," she said. "I'm so proud of them and I can't wait to see them at the Grammys and celebrate them and let them know that they have my support, win or lose, we are stronger together and it's incredible to see women who are so in control of their narrative."

"Dirty Computer," Monae's third full-length album, features the singer and guitarist working behind-the-scenes to craft the right songs and style: "I did produce and engineer a lot of this record. I had a perspective and a vision that only I could sit down and execute."

Other women nominated this year have multiple roles on their own albums. Musgraves, also a guitarist, co-produced her entire album, "Golden Hour," which earned four nominations, including best country album, best country solo performance ("Butterflies") and best country song ("Space Cowboy").

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"I knew I wanted to do something different than what I had been doing. I was craving the time to explore and just find that creative center again. Like when I first moved to Nashville and I just wrote every day for years and stumbled across songs that really meant something to me," Musgraves, who worked on the album for a year and a half, told the AP on Friday. "I feel like I learned a lot about myself in making this record and I feel like I got to the heart of my own matter more so than I ever have."

This year's nominees mark a departure from the Grammys held earlier this year, where Recording Academy CEO Neil Portnow was criticized when he said women need to "step up" when asked about the lack of women in the top categories. He later acknowledged that it was a "poor choice of words," and it forced the academy to launch a new task force focused on inclusion and diversity.

Kendrick Lamar and Drake are the top Grammy contenders for the 2019 show, earning eight and seven nominations apiece, respectively. They both are nominated in the album, record and song of the year categories.

But they are in competition with some top-notch female acts, including Lady Gaga, SZA, Maren Morris, Ella Mai and Carlile, nominees in either song or record of the year, or in both.

The singer H.E.R., who earned five nominations, is the only best new artist contender to receive an album of the year nomination. In best new artist, she's one of six women nominated for the prize, along with Bebe Rexha, Dua Lipa, Margo Price, Chloe x Halle and Jorja Smith.

H.E.R. not only co-wrote and co-produced each song on her self-titled album, she also plays guitar and piano.

"That's inspirational for other young women. Like, 'You can do it. You can be a producer. You can play an instrument,'" she said on Friday. "I had to work twice as hard. I had to earn my respect as a musician growing up as a little girl because you don't expect a little black girl to pick up the electric guitar. So, to be in that position where I can tell other little girls, 'You can do this too' — it's special."

Monae, who scored a best music video nomination for "PYNK" — which she shares with director Emma Westenberg and producer Whitney Jackson — recalls filming the video for the song celebrating womanhood.

"There were so many women on set that day and it was magical. We were uplifting each other and telling each other how much we loved each other and just celebrating all that we are," she said. "I'll never forget that."

Online:

<http://www.grammy.com>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Dec. 9, the 343rd day of 2018. There are 22 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 9, 1987, the first Palestinian intefadeh, or uprising, began as riots broke out in Gaza and spread to the West Bank, triggering a strong Israeli response.

On this date:

In 1608, English poet John Milton was born in London.

In 1917, British forces captured Jerusalem from the Ottoman Turks.

In 1935, the Downtown Athletic Club of New York honored college football player Jay Berwanger of the University of Chicago with the DAC Trophy, which later became known as the Heisman Trophy.

In 1940, British troops opened their first major offensive in North Africa during World War II.

In 1958, the anti-communist John Birch Society was formed in Indianapolis.

In 1962, the Petrified Forest in Arizona was designated a national park.

In 1965, "A Charlie Brown Christmas," the first animated TV special featuring characters from the "Peanuts" comic strip by Charles M. Schulz, premiered on CBS.

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In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed a \$2.3 billion seasonal loan-authorization that officials of New York City and State said would prevent a city default.

In 1984, the five-day-old hijacking of a Kuwaiti jetliner that claimed the lives of two Americans ended as Iranian security men seized control of the plane, which was parked at Tehran airport.

In 1990, Solidarity founder Lech Walesa (lek vah-WEN'-sah) won Poland's presidential runoff by a landslide.

In 1992, Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana announced their separation. (The couple's divorce became final in Aug. 1996.)

In 2000, the U-S Supreme Court ordered a temporary halt in the Florida vote count on which Al Gore pinned his best hopes of winning the White House.

Ten years ago: Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich (blah-GOY'-uh-vich) was arrested after prosecutors said he was caught on wiretaps scheming to sell Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat for cash or a plum job for himself in the new administration. (Blagojevich was convicted of wide-ranging corruption in 2011 and sentenced to 14 years in prison.) NBC announced that "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno would be moving to prime time.

Five years ago: North Korea announced it had sacked leader Kim Jong Un's uncle, Jang Song Thaek, long considered the country's No. 2 power, for leading a "dissolute and depraved life" (Jang was reportedly executed three days later). Scientists revealed that NASA's Curiosity rover had uncovered signs of an ancient freshwater lake on Mars. Retired managers Joe Torre, Tony La Russa and Bobby Cox were unanimously elected to the baseball Hall of Fame by the expansion era committee. Actress Eleanor Parker, 91, who played a scheming baroness in "The Sound of Music," died in Palm Springs, California.

One year ago: After more than three years of combat operations, Iraq announced that the fight against the Islamic State group was over, and that Iraq's security forces had driven the extremists from all of the territory they once held. Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield became the sixth Sooner to win college football's Heisman Trophy.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Kirk Douglas is 102. Actor-writer Buck Henry is 88. Actress Dame Judi Dench is 84. Actor Beau Bridges is 77. Football Hall of Famer Dick Butkus is 76. Comedian-songwriter Neil Innes is 74. Actor Michael Nouri is 73. Former Sen. Thomas Daschle, D-S.D., is 71. World Golf Hall of Famer Tom Kite is 69. Singer Joan Armatrading is 68. Actor Michael Dorn is 66. Actor John Malkovich is 65. Country singer Sylvia is 62. Singer Donny Osmond is 61. Rock musician Nick Seymour (Crowded House) is 60. Comedian Mario Cantone is 59. Actor David Anthony Higgins is 57. Actor Joe Lando is 57. Actress Felicity Huffman is 56. Crown Princess Masako of Japan is 55. Country musician Jerry Hughes (Yankee Grey) is 53. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., is 52. Rock singer-musician Thomas Flowers (Oleander) is 51. Rock musician Brian Bell (Weezer) is 50. Rock singer-musician Jakob Dylan (Wallflowers) is 49. TV personality-businessperson Lori Greiner (TV: "Shark Tank") is 49. Country musician Brian Hayes (Cole Deggs and the Lonesome) is 49. Actress Allison Smith is 49. Songwriter and former "American Idol" judge Kara DioGuardi (dee-oh-GWAHR'-dee) is 48. Country singer David Kersh is 48. Actress Reiko (RAY'-koh) Aylesworth is 46. Rock musician Tre Cool (Green Day) is 46. Rapper Canibus is 44. Actor Kevin Daniels is 42. Actor-writer-director Mark Duplass is 42. Rock musician Eric Zamora (Save Ferris) is 42. Rock singer Imogen Heap is 41. Actor Jesse Metcalfe is 40. Actor Simon Helberg is 38. Actress Jolene Purdy is 35. Actor Joshua Sasse is 31. Actress Ashleigh Brewer is 28. Olympic gold and silver medal gymnast McKayla Maroney is 23.

Thought for Today: "In individuals, insanity is rare; but in groups, parties, nations and epochs, it is the rule." — Friedrich Nietzsche (NEE'-chuh), German philosopher (1844-1900).