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**Subject:** Afternoon Clips – Friday, December 30, 2016

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## Afternoon Clips – Friday, December 30, 2016

### General Assembly News:

**Aiken Standard:** Director of Aiken County's domestic violence center calls for Rep. Chris Corley to resign

[http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/director-of-aiken-county-s-domestic-violence-center-calls-for/article\\_7f5d1a8c-ce2f-11e6-9262-0f63fd985be5.html](http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/director-of-aiken-county-s-domestic-violence-center-calls-for/article_7f5d1a8c-ce2f-11e6-9262-0f63fd985be5.html)

Maayan Schechter

One of Aiken County's most vocal advocates against domestic violence is calling for South Carolina Rep. Chris Corley to resign following his arrest this week on domestic violence and gun charges. Corley, 36, who represents Graniteville in the South Carolina House of Representatives, was arrested Tuesday after police say he hit his wife with a closed fist and pointed a gun at her while two of their three children were present. The Aiken County Sheriff's Office charged Corley with first-degree domestic violence and pointing and presenting a weapon at a person. Corley could face up to 10 years in prison on charge of first-degree domestic violence and up to five years on the gun charge. There are no minimum sentences for both charges. Susan Selden, director of the Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons, is now calling for Corley to resign from his elected position. "He should resign. It sets a bad example for him to remain as a legislator while he's being investigated for this," Selden said.

**Aiken Standard:** 911 tapes: Children plead, 'daddy, just stop' before Chris Corley's arrest on domestic violence, gun charges

[http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/tapes-children-plead-daddy-just-stop-before-chris-corley-s/article\\_15e6a95e-ceae-11e6-9298-276f41ea0f5f.html](http://www.aikenstandard.com/news/tapes-children-plead-daddy-just-stop-before-chris-corley-s/article_15e6a95e-ceae-11e6-9298-276f41ea0f5f.html)

Maayan Schechter

The piercing screams of children begging South Carolina lawmaker Chris Corley to "just stop" is the first 911 phone call Aiken City dispatch received on Monday night from Corley's red-brick Sugar Hill Drive home in Graniteville. "Please stop it. Just stop. Just stop. ... Dad, please stop" can be heard on the 911 audio recording released Friday by the Aiken County Sheriff's Office. "Please stop. Stop. Please stop, Chris. Just stop daddy, just stop. Chris, please stop. Daddy. Please help. Please Chris. Chris." After several attempts to get, presumably, Corley's wife on the phone, the dispatcher calls Aiken County dispatch, saying, "I had a caller, sounded like children screaming for help and begging for their father to stop." A second 911 phone is made to Aiken County dispatch, this time by what appears to be a female family member who lives across the street. "There's a man threatening to kill himself," the woman tells dispatch. "He hit his wife ... and he's threatening to kill himself. He has a weapon. Yes he does. It's a gun." In the background, Corley's wife is heard screaming, "Don't get in front of the window."

**Associated Press:** Children scream 'just stop' in 911 call from lawmaker's home

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Q2YxWWwT](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Q2YxWWwT)  
SC State Wire

Children can be heard screaming "just stop daddy" on a 911 call made from the home of a South Carolina legislature accused of beating his wife and pointing a gun at her. Media outlets reported details of 911 calls released Friday. Republican Rep. Chris Corley of Graniteville is charged with two felonies. Corley's wife told deputies he stopped hitting her late Monday only after noticing she was

bleeding. Corley said his wife tried to punch him after accusing him of cheating. In the first 911 call to Aiken city police, no one talks to the operator but "please stop" can be heard repeatedly. That prompted the dispatcher to call Aiken County 911, saying she heard "children screaming for help and begging for their father to stop."

**The State:** 'Just stop, daddy,' child pleads to lawmaker charged with domestic violence

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article123755894.html>

Cynthia Roldan

The 911 call from inside the home of Rep. Chris Corley is punctuated with screams of what the dispatcher believed were the Corleys' children "begging for their father to stop." The first call late Monday went to the Aiken Public Safety Department, the city's police agency. No one speaks during that call. All that can be heard are screams in the background. "Please stop," is screamed repeatedly. "Just stop, daddy. Just stop. Daddy, why are you doing this?" Pleas from Corley's wife of 12 years are also heard in the background. "Chris please stop," she said. "Please help." Then line then went dead. Audio of Monday night's call was released by the Aiken County Sheriff's Office on Friday, just days after the 36-year-old Aiken legislator's arrest on charges of domestic violence and pointing a gun at his wife. The operator in the initial call, clearly shaken, calls the Aiken County 911 operator, after the call was disconnected, in order to get deputies on the scene. Corley's home is in Graniteville, a few miles from the county seat.

**The State:** 911 call: Rep. Corley beat his wife and threatened to kill himself

<http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article123748694.html>

Officials released the 911 call made Tuesday stemming from the accusation a South Carolina representative assaulted his wife. Aiken County Rep. Chris Corley was arrested Tuesday on a domestic violence charge. The caller said Corley beat his wife and threatened to kill himself. She also mentioned Corley had a gun. Corley, 36, is accused of punching his wife in the face and pointing a 9mm pistol at her when she accused him of cheating, according to records from the Aiken County Sheriff's Office. The incident report stated this happened in front of their two children, ages 2 and 8. He was released Wednesday on a \$20,000 surety bond on the conditions he does not go near his wife, does not contact his wife or any domestic violence shelters and he only travel to his job as an attorney in Augusta, Ga. Corley, who has a pro-gun voting record, is also barred from having a firearm while out on bond. Corley faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted on first-degree criminal domestic violence charge.

**WBTB:** SC lawmakers to discuss gas tax hike again in 2017 to fix roads, bridges

<http://www.wbtv.com/story/34150099/sc-lawmakers-to-discuss-gas-tax-hike-again-in-2017-to-fix-roads-bridges>

Michael Clark

A proposed bill in South Carolina would allow county voters to choose whether to raise the gas tax to fund crumbling roads and bridges, but not everyone is in favor of the idea. The bill was pre-filed by lawmakers from the Charleston area. Funding to fix poor roads in the Palmetto State has been the center of debate for lawmakers in Columbia for years. Legislators were unable to come to a long-term solution to fund the needed infrastructure improvements. The issue is expected to be a top priority when they return in January. "Taking your children to school on roads that are inferior and trying to get safely routed to where you need to go, it becomes an issue," said Rep. Gary Simrill (R-Rock Hill). Simrill proposed raising the state gas tax in 2016. The measure passed the House but was stymied in the Senate.

**SC Agency News:**

**Associated Press:** Agency crafting new accountability system for public schools

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=nz156YMA](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=nz156YMA)

Seanna Adcox

While the South Carolina agency that oversees student testing hasn't officially recommended grading schools A through F on public report cards, the very suggestion has prompted a backlash from educators. District superintendents, state Department of Education officials and teachers' representatives were among opponents speaking against the idea at a Dec. 12 subcommittee meeting. "No matter the intent of letter grades, the result will be students labeled with the same grade as their schools," said David O'Shields, Laurens 56 superintendent. "I think such pronouncements inhibit economic growth and encourage apathy and hopelessness." The state has rated schools by the terms "excellent," "good," "average," "below average" or "at risk."

### **SC Political News:**

**McClatchy DC:** Citadel marching band among those in Trump's inaugural parade

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/white-house/article123743759.html>

Anita Kumar

More than 8,000 people representing 40 organizations including high school and university marching bands, equestrian corps, first responders and veterans groups are expected to participate in the inaugural parade Jan. 20, according to organizers. The Presidential Inaugural Committee on Friday released an initial list of groups that have accepted invitations to take part in the traditional parade down Pennsylvania Avenue following the swearing in of Donald Trump and Mike Pence as president and vice president. "People from every corner of the country have expressed great interest in President-elect Trump's inauguration and look forward to continuing a salute to our republic that spans more than two centuries," committee CEO Sara Armstrong said in a statement.

**NOTE:** The Citadel Regimental Band & Pipes and Summerall Guards – Charleston, South Carolina

**Post and Courier:** Citadel band and pipes, Summerall Guards to participate in Trump inauguration

[http://www.postandcourier.com/news/citadel-band-and-pipes-summerall-guards-to-participate-in-trump/article\\_47cdabae-c7a9-11e6-b2ef-cb734d61580d.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/news/citadel-band-and-pipes-summerall-guards-to-participate-in-trump/article_47cdabae-c7a9-11e6-b2ef-cb734d61580d.html)

Prentiss Findlay

The Citadel Regimental Band and Pipes and the Summerall Guards will participate in the parade that follows the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump and running mate Mike Pence, the school said Wednesday. "The Citadel is greatly honored to have been selected to participate in the presidential inaugural parade," said Col. Tim Smith, Citadel director of music. "We'll be practicing as soon as cadets return from winter furlough and look forward to heading to Washington, D.C." The Presidential Inaugural Committee sorted through 200 applications from parade hopefuls, according to The Associated Press. The Regimental Band has about 80 cadet musicians. The Pipe Band includes some 35 to 40 bagpipers and drummers.

### **Dylann Roof Case:**

**Associated Press:** Judge denies request to delay Dylann Roof hearing

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FxGzbt](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=FxGzbt)

Seanna Adcox

A federal judge quickly denied a request to delay a competency hearing for the white man facing a possible death sentence in the killing of nine black parishioners at a Charleston church. Federal Judge Richard Gergel on Thursday ordered a psychiatric evaluation of Dylann Roof to take place this weekend and a hearing for Monday. In response, attorneys acting as his standby counsel asked for a delay, suggesting one week. Gergel said no. In court documents filed later Thursday, the attorneys said they recognize the delay request could be viewed "as a 'tactic.' It is not." They argue the quick turn-around, over a holiday weekend, is "unreasonable and risks the reliability" of the competency hearing and the sentence. The documents also reveal why the attorneys sought another exam. Their original request, which again questioned Roof's mental state, was sealed.

**Associated Press:** The Latest: Attorney: Dylann Roof hearing should be open  
[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=wMPnrXKD](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=wMPnrXKD)

An attorney for media outlets including The Associated Press argues that Monday's competency hearing for convicted Charleston church shooter Dylann Roof should be open. Attorney Jay Bender filed an objection Friday to federal Judge Richard Gergel's proposal to close the hearing, arguing there's no compelling reason to exclude the public. Bender also represents The State, The Post and Courier, WCSC, WLTX and National Public Radio. On Thursday, Gergel ordered another psychiatric evaluation of Roof over the weekend. He expects to rule Monday on whether Roof is mentally competent to proceed with the penalty phase of his trial, which will determine whether he is sentenced to death or life in prison. A federal jury convicted him of more than 30 criminal counts earlier this month. Gergel will consider the objections from Bender and others 30 minutes before the hearing. Bender notes Gergel said he closed Roof's previous competency hearing to protect his right to a fair trial before jury selection. But the jury has long been empaneled.

**The State:** Judge denies latest effort to delay Roof's mental competency hearing  
<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article123743119.html>

Cynthia Roldan and John Monk

The trial judge has denied a request from attorneys for convicted Charleston church mass killer Dylann Roof to delay a competency hearing after the lawyers said Roof "may lack the mental capacity" to be his own attorney. Roof has told U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel that he wants to be his own lawyer in the punishment phase of his death penalty trial that is scheduled to begin Tuesday in Charleston. The jury will hear evidence and then decide if Roof is to be executed or gets life in prison without parole. But on Monday, Gergel is to hold a closed hearing to listen to new mental health evidence. The State newspaper and other media outlets have asked Gergel to hear arguments about why that hearing should be open to the public. The tangle of hearings became more knotted late Thursday when Roof attorney David Bruck and his legal team made the new assertion about Roof's mental competence. . They asked in a court filing for delays in next week's already scheduled crucial court proceedings.

**Post and Courier:** Dylann Roof's plan not to offer mitigating evidence suggests mental deficiency, his ex-attorney says

[http://www.postandcourier.com/church\\_shooting/dylann-roof-s-plan-not-to-offer-mitigating-evidence-suggests/article\\_cdc89614-ce94-11e6-aa1f-07f46ae41c79.html](http://www.postandcourier.com/church_shooting/dylann-roof-s-plan-not-to-offer-mitigating-evidence-suggests/article_cdc89614-ce94-11e6-aa1f-07f46ae41c79.html)

Andrew Knapp

Dylann Roof's plan not to offer evidence to save his own life "suggests that he may lack the mental capacity to assume the role of his own lawyer," said the leading death penalty attorney sidelined by Roof for his trial's sentencing phase. The lawyer, David Bruck, expressed those concerns while asking for a week-long delay of a hearing meant to determine whether Roof is competent to represent himself in the penalty phase next week. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel denied the request late Thursday. The judge said Monday's proceeding would be closed to the public, though an attorney for The Post and Courier and other news outlets is expected to argue that it should be open. Roof, 22, a self-avowed white supremacist, was convicted earlier this month of 33 federal charges, including hate crimes and religious rights violations, in the June 17, 2015, shooting that killed nine black worshippers at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

**WCSC:** Legal Analyst: Roof wants to be looked at as a hero, not mentally ill

<http://www.live5news.com/story/34150238/legal-analyst-roof-wants-to-looked-at-as-a-hero-not-mentally-ill>

Karina Bolster

Six weeks after Dylann Roof's first competency hearing, the convicted Mother Emanuel AME church shooter will once again undergo a mental health evaluation. A court order filed Thursday by Judge Richard Gergel states, "in an abundance of caution" the court will hold another competency hearing for the penalty phase of the trial. "The judge is trying to protect the record for appellate purposes to

make sure this is not done again," said Professor Miller Shealy, of the Charleston School of Law. Shealy said he's not surprised a motion like this was filed following the pre-sentencing conference Wednesday. In court Dylann Roof, once again, reiterated his intention to act as his own attorney. "The defense attorneys probably have a good idea of some of the things he's going to say and do and they're terrified of it," Shealy said. "They're terrified for Dylann Roof's sake."

## Local News:

**Island Packet:** Local organizations supporting crime victims receive \$1.4 in federal grants

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article123751729.html>

Stephen Fastenau

Three Beaufort County organizations supporting crime victims recently received \$1.4 million in federal grants. Hope Haven of the Lowcountry, a Beaufort nonprofit providing services to victims of child abuse and sexual assault, received \$635,398. Citizens Opposed to Domestic Abuse received \$604,671. Child Abuse Prevention Association, a Port Royal children's shelter, was given \$175,907. The money was approved by the S.C. Public Safety Coordinating Council and administered by the S. C. Department of Public Safety under the federal Victim of Crimes Act. State Rep. Shannon Erickson posted the news to her Facebook page this week via a note from Public Safety director Leroy Smith.

**The Herald:** Rock Hill police use nasal spray to save drug overdose victims amid rising problem

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article123758684.html>

Amanda Harris

Police responded to 22 overdose cases in 2016, compared to only three in 2015, which has spawned a successful effort to save the victims. Mark Bollinger, spokesman for the Rock Hill Police Department, said officers are having success using a spray that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose. Rock Hill police and school resource officers were trained in late September to use NARCAN, a nasal spray of the medicine naloxone, which reverses the effects of opioid drug overdose, Bollinger said. They were trained to recognize symptoms of opioid overdose, including slow breathing or not breathing, blue lips or nails and gurgling or gasping sounds. Of the 22 overdose cases, seven involved opioids, Bollinger said. Since September, officers have used the spray to revive three people.

**The Herald:** Drug overdose deaths may drop. But overdosing is still too common in York County.

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/community/fort-mill-times/article123808164.html>

John Marks

Bucking recent trends, York County may have seen fewer drug overdose deaths in 2016 than it did the year prior. And that would be a good start to 2017 for those involved in treatment and prevention, York County health experts said. According to the county coroner's office, there were 60 overdose deaths in 2015. As of Wednesday, there were 39 recorded in the system for 2016, with some still pending in the final three days of the year. If final statistics show a drop year-to-year, it would go against the grain of state and national trends, and perhaps show recent prevention efforts in York County are working. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, opioids are the main driver of drug overdose deaths. There were more than 33,000 nationally in 2015, quadrupling the total from 1999. South Carolina saw an increase of 9 percent from 2014 to 15. The state had an increase of almost 11 percent the year prior.

**The Herald:** Rock Hill school leaders say middle school student tuberculosis case is confirmed

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/education/article123736784.html>

Amanda Harris

A suspected case of tuberculosis, or TB, involving a student at Castle Heights Middle School in Rock Hill has been confirmed, school officials said. Leaders at Castle Heights warned parents in a letter on Dec. 23 that a student might have tuberculosis. Laboratory tests have now confirmed the case. Castle Heights Principal John Kirell said, in the letter to parents last week, that the suspected case involved

an eighth-grade student. The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control is investigating, according to a second letter sent to parents Thursday. Now that lab results have been confirmed, state health officials will conduct what is called a contact investigation, according to the letter.

### **President-elect Trump News:**

**Associated Press:** College in Canada? After Trump's win, more in US consider it

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/db827b0d7ea247788199032cebe18e23/college-canada-after-trumps-win-more-us-consider-it>

For some college-bound students distressed by the election of Donald Trump, Canada is calling. Colleges from Quebec to British Columbia say applications and website traffic from the United States have been surging since Trump's victory Nov. 8. Although many Canadian schools had also ramped up recruiting in the U.S. recently, some say dismay over the presidential election has fueled a spike in interest beyond their expectations. Lara Godoff, a 17-year-old from Napa, California, said she scrapped any notion of staying in the U.S. the day after the election. Among other concerns, Godoff, a Democrat, said she fears Trump's administration will ease enforcement of federal rules against sexual assault, making campuses less safe for women. Godoff had applied to one college in Canada but added three more as safety schools after the election. "If we live in a country where so many people could elect Donald Trump, then that's not a country I want to live in," she said.

### **National News:**

**Associated Press:** Mexican man charged with rape had 19 deportations, removals

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/0a51c183539c4e8e9f8737cd9f658f81/mexican-man-charged-rape-had-19-deportations-removals>

A Mexican man accused of raping a 13-year-old girl on a Greyhound bus that traveled through Kansas had been deported 10 times and voluntarily removed from the U.S. another nine times since 2003, records obtained by The Associated Press show. Three U.S. Republican senators — including Kansas' Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts — demanded this month that the Department of Homeland Security provide immigration records for 38-year-old Tomas Martinez-Maldonado, who is charged with a felony in the alleged Sept. 27 attack aboard a bus in Geary County. He is being held in the Geary County jail in Junction City, which is about 120 miles west of Kansas City. U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley, from Iowa and chairman of the judiciary committee, co-signed a Dec. 9 letter with Moran and Roberts to Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, calling it "an extremely disturbing case" and questioning how Martinez-Maldonado was able to re-enter and remain in the country.

**Associated Press:** Judge temporarily blocks law stripping N. Carolina governor-elect of control over elections just before he takes office

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ac097f71c4104d6686a0da93433cdb0e/judge-temporarily-blocks-law-stripping-n-carolina-governor>

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Judge temporarily blocks law stripping N. Carolina governor-elect of control over elections just before he takes office .

### **United Nations News:**

**Associated Press:** UN chief Ban Ki-moon bids colleagues, staff farewell

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/aa5988eb706a4e9fa8c161b3f093f417/un-chief-ban-ki-moon-bids-colleagues-staff-farewell>

Ban Ki-moon has joked to hundreds of diplomats and U.N. staff as he left United Nations headquarters for the last time as secretary-general that he feels like Cinderella because everything changes for him at midnight on New Year's Eve. Flanked by the presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council, the native South Korean thanked U.N. workers Friday for their hard work and commitment during his 10-year tenure that ends at midnight Dec. 31. He told his colleagues he

had two words for them: "Thank You."As the top U.N. official over the last decade, Ban fostered a global agreement to combat climate change and new U.N. goals to fight poverty and inequality. But he leaves amid continuing conflicts from Syria and Yemen to South Sudan and Libya.

**Associated Press:** Feds: Jury should hear UN bribe suspect being called 'boss'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/dcf131e9d3114a798973bd5f200f56e6/feds-jury-should-hear-un-bribe-suspect-being-called-boss>

Federal prosecutors want jurors to hear evidence they say shows a man at the center of a United Nations bribery case was referred to as the "boss" by co-conspirators. Lawyers for Chinese billionaire Ng (eng) Lap Seng have argued doing so could wrongly give the impression their client is a mobster. But prosecutors called that argument "far-fetched and speculative" in court papers filed in New York federal court Friday. Ng has pleaded not guilty. His trial is scheduled to start in May. He has been under 24-hour guard in a posh Manhattan apartment on \$50 million bail since several weeks after his September 2015 arrest. His lawyer didn't immediately return a request for comment. Ng's lawyers have sought to dismiss the charges. They say criminalizing political contributions raises constitutional concerns.

**Associated Press:** UN humanitarian chief urges Syria to let UN deliver aid

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/956c015f7e0a40a88d061e9369b16e84/un-humanitarian-chief-urges-syria-let-un-deliver-aid>

The U.N. humanitarian chief is urging the Syrian government to give a green light for the United Nations to deliver aid to thousands in need in the war-ravaged country and ensure the safety of aid workers. Stephen O'Brien said in an interview Friday with The Associated Press that there are "incessant and relentless contacts going on" with the government but so far has received no positive response. He says the cessation of hostilities is "extremely welcome" and urged Syria's government to allow the U.N. in with supplies to meet humanitarian needs. O'Brien says the U.N. has the materials and aid workers on the ground. He adds: "We simply need the assurances and the guarantees of safety in order to have the full access to everybody who has needs."

## **World News:**

**Associated Press:** Obama's spat with Moscow is latest in long line

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/a3119fbba496458fa2dbd6f225660c31/obamas-spat-moscow-latest-long-line>

U.S. relations with Moscow during and after the Cold War have been marred by diplomatic dustups ranging from espionage scandals to an Olympics boycott. Current tensions, highlighted by President Barack Obama's decision to impose sanctions and expel 35 Russia diplomats, is exceptional because it stems from U.S. allegations of Russian cyber meddling in the presidential election and because it is playing out during a White House transition. It also coincides with a collapse of military-to-military relations and nervousness in Europe over Russia's annexation of Crimea and aggression in eastern Ukraine. Some of the more significant episodes of the past three decades...

**Associated Press:** Putin says Russia won't expel diplomats; Trump offers praise

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/58baa91c5a204aac92167f227207e62d/us-levels-sanctions-against-russia-over-alleged-hacking>

President Vladimir Putin castigated the United States on Friday for trying to punish Russia but said his country will not immediately retaliate and instead will wait for a new U.S. approach by Donald Trump. The president-elect praised Putin's move and called him "very smart." Putin said no U.S. diplomats will be ousted in retaliation for President Barack Obama's decision to impose sanctions and expel Russian diplomats over allegations of Russian meddling in the American presidential election. The Russian leader said he reserves the right to hit back in the future, but suggested it will be unnecessary because he expects to work with Trump's administration to improve U.S.-Russia ties. Still, Putin called Obama's move a "provocation aimed at further undermining Russian-American

relations" less than a month before Trump takes office. In addition to sanctions targeting Russian spy agencies, the U.S. kicked 35 Russian diplomats out of the U.S. and said they were spies. Trump's reaction, as it often does, came via Twitter. "Great move on delay (by V. Putin)," Trump tweeted. "I always knew he was very smart!"

**Associated Press:** Tennis, sailing or spying? US shuts 2 Russian compounds

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/cd371332c4704bfcbdd2d3d2b3a9f903/tennis-sailing-or-spying-us-shuts-2-russian-compounds>

Two luxury retreats in New York and Maryland where Russian diplomats have gone for decades to play tennis, sail and swim were shut down by the Obama administration Friday in retaliation for Moscow's cyber-meddling in the presidential election. The U.S. said the two Cold War-era estates were being used for intelligence activities. About a half-hour before the noon deadline, caravans of diplomatic vehicles, some carrying boxes, left both Russian compounds under the watch of U.S. State Department agents. The 45-acre Maryland retreat boasts a brick mansion along the Corsica River in the bucolic Eastern Shore region. Reports indicate it was bought by the Soviet Union in 1972 and served as a getaway for its diplomats in nearby Washington. In New York, Russian diplomatic staff members were evicted from a mansion on Long Island's Gold Coast. The estate, once called Elmcroft, is in the town of Oyster Bay and was purchased by the Soviets in 1952. Russian U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin told reporters at U.N. headquarters that the Obama administration was destroying holiday fun for the children of Russian diplomats.

**Associated Press:** The Latest: Consulate's chef among expelled Russians

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/a5c0672fdcf846189fdf79140d073812/latest-medvedez-slams-anti-russian-death-throes>

An official says a chef is among the Russians being expelled from the U.S. Sergey Petrov is San Francisco consul general. He says the chef is among four diplomats being expelled from San Francisco, meaning this New Year's Eve, "we'll have to cook ourselves." Petrov says 31 of the Russian diplomats expelled from the U.S. are from the embassy in Washington. Petrov identified only the chef, without disclosing his name. He says seven family members of the diplomats will also be leaving, including three children. He says they "have to leave within hours, and it's just not human, frankly." Asked how the diplomats regarded the expulsion, he says: "They are bitter because they have to leave before their term expired." The Obama administration ordered the diplomats to leave as part of sanctions in retaliation for alleged cyber meddling in the U.S. election.

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