

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Former President George H.W. Bush, Barbara, in hospital

HOUSTON — Former President George H.W. Bush and his wife, Barbara, remain hospitalized at Houston's Methodist Hospital. Bush spokesman Jim McGrath says physicians initially believed the 92-year-old former president would be released later this week following several days of treatment for respiratory issues related to pneumonia, but his stay has been extended after doctors performed a procedure Wednesday to help clear his airway. He then was moved to intensive care. There is no timetable for his release. He was taken to the hospital over the weekend.

Barbara Bush decided to go to the hospital Wednesday after not feeling well in recent weeks. McGrath says doctors want to see how the former first lady responds to treatment before allowing her to return home.

30 missing in central Italy avalanche that buries hotel

MILAN — An avalanche buried a four-star spa hotel in a mountainous earthquake-hit region of central Italy, leaving at least 30 people missing, authorities said Thursday.

The civil protection agency said that they were working to get rescue vehicles to the Hotel Rigopiano through roads covered in snow, joining initial rescue efforts overnight by alpine rescue teams. The ANSA news agency quoted a rescuer as saying that there were fatalities, but details weren't immediately available.

Italian media said that the avalanche covered the three-story hotel in the central region of Abruzzo on Wednesday. The hotel is about 45 kilometers (30 miles) from the coastal city of Pescara. Earthquakes hit the region on Wednesday, including one with a 5.7 magnitude, but it wasn't immediately clear if the tremors triggered the avalanche.

Mountain rescue teams reached the hotel by skis around 4 a.m. (0300 GMT), SKY TG24 reported. The station said that one victim had been removed so far.

Video footage showed rescuers with shovels digging through a wall of snow, and at least one man being led through the cleared path.

Collapse of Tehran high-rise on fire kills 30 firefighters

TEHRAN, Iran — A high-rise building in Tehran engulfed by a fire collapsed on Thursday, killing at least 30 firefighters and injuring some 75 people, state media reported.



The National Alpine Cliff and Cave Rescue Corps. A rescue worker clears snow in front of the Rigopiano Hotel following an avalanche in Farindola, Italy, early Thursday. Rescue workers were met with an eerie silence Thursday when they reached a four-star spa hotel struck by an avalanche in a mountainous earthquake-stricken region of central Italy. At least 30 people were missing, including at least two children, authorities said.

The disaster struck the Plasco building, an iconic structure in central Tehran just north of the capital's sprawling bazaar.

Iran's state-run Press TV announced the firefighters' deaths, without giving a source for the information. Local Iranian state television said 30 civilians were injured in the disaster, while the state-run IRNA news agency said 45 firefighters had been injured.

Firefighters battled the blaze for several hours before the collapse. Police tried to keep out shopkeepers and others wanting to rush back in to collect their valuables.

The building came down in a matter of seconds, shown live on state television, which had begun an interview with a journalist at the scene. A side of the building came down first, tumbling perilously close to a firefighter perched on a ladder and spraying water on the blaze.

Trump plans for Scottish resort spark new conflicts concern

NEW YORK — Donald Trump has vowed his company will do "no new foreign deals" while he is president. But he's left "new" and "deals" open to interpretation.

Now those words are drawing scrutiny as his company confirms plans to expand its golf resort near Aberdeen, Scotland, raising concerns about conflicts of interest.

A spokeswoman for the resort says the expansion is not a new deal, but just another construction phase that was included in the broad plan approved by the local government in 2008.

Some lawyers who specialize in government ethics aren't convinced.

Richard Painter, who served as chief ethics lawyer for President George W. Bush, said there are so many pending issues before local governments at each stage of a real estate project, it's like a new deal every time.

Even before taking office, Trump has changed the presidency

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump enters the White House on Friday just as he entered the race for president: defiant, unfettered, unbound by tradition and utterly confident in his chosen course.

In the 10 weeks since his surprise election as the nation's 45th president, Trump has violated decades of established diplomatic protocol, sent shockwaves through business boardrooms, tested long-standing ethics rules and continued his combative style of replying to any slight with a personal attack — on Twitter and in person.

Past presidents have described walking into the Oval Office for the first time as a humbling experience, one that in an instant makes clear the weight of their new role as caretaker of American democracy. Trump spent much of his transition making clear he sees things differently: Rather than change for the office, he argues, the office will change for him.

"They say it's not presidential to call up these massive leaders of business," Trump told a crowd in Indianapolis in December. That was after he negotiated a deal with an air conditioning company to keep jobs in the state, a move many economists derided as unworkable national economic policy.

"I think it's very presidential," he declared. "And if it's not presidential, that's OK. That's OK. Because I actually like doing it."

Middle East expects big changes under Trump

CAIRO — Donald Trump's all-but-dismissal of human rights as a foreign policy principle could hit like an earthquake across a Middle East landscape beset by warring factions and beleaguered governments, with some players eyeing the prospect of once unimaginable new alliances.

Syria is the foremost test of Trump's promise of a return to a hard-headed realpolitik and could quickly show whether America is truly abandoning promotion of democracy and the rule of law in a way that could reshape much of the region's post-Cold War, post-9/11 order.

Trump has raised the possibility of a broad new U.S. partnership with Vladimir Putin's increasingly authoritarian Russia and has even hinted at aligning with Syrian President Bashar Assad, which would amount to a dramatic reversal from years of the Obama administration calls for Assad's ouster.

Skeleton: Seattle Police are still investigating the disappearance

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Washington, woman who was last seen alive on March 14, 2012. Kelso Police are still investigating her death.

It was also surprising that Arneson, a west Seattle resident, turned up in Wahkiakum County, because he had no known ties to the area, and no known plans to visit.

"Without DNA, nobody would have been looking in this direction, and nobody would have found this guy," Bigelow said.

All out of luck

Arneson's family mem-

bers in the Pacific Northwest had been searching for him, and provided the DNA samples that made it possible to identify him. When told of the news, Bigelow said, "They were grateful for what closure we could offer."

Bigelow still hasn't had time to do much research on Arneson, and he can't share some of what he does know, because Seattle Police are still investigating the disappearance. In hopes of generating new leads, Bigelow did reveal earlier this month that his John Doe's dental records suggested he had fallen on hard times near the end of his life, and that

he carried a woman's ring and a keychain with a drawing of a little girl, and the name "DEBBIE" in his pocket.

"The best I can tell you without revealing other investigatory stuff is that I had heard he was well-to-do, and recently reduced in circumstances," Bigelow said. "He did have a Debbie who was known to him, and dear to him, and predeceased him."

According to an online missing persons database and several Seattle media accounts, Arneson was last seen at a Bank of America ATM in the Westwood shopping center in west Seattle on

Feb. 4. Arneson's friends and family got worried after he failed to show up for his job in Kent on Feb. 5. That day, a friend went to check on him at his west Seattle apartment, and discovered that he was gone, and the door was open. There were no signs of foul play, but police did open a missing persons case. Later that day, the same friend received the troubling text message.

According to court records, his landlord appears to have filed an eviction notice on Arneson at the end of February. But it's not clear whether that was because Arneson was

already behind on rent at the time of his disappearance, or if he hadn't paid rent because he had vanished.

The investigation continues

Arneson did apparently have an interest in hiking, and he was dressed for an outdoor adventure when he died. Bigelow said he probably went out into the woods voluntarily, and there are no signs of foul play at this point.

"It seems to me that if you are going to murder somebody, dressing them up in rain pants and throwing them in a river from west Seattle would

be an overly complicated way of going about things," Bigelow said. "You'd have to be an elaborate thinker to do things that way."

Now, Bigelow will sign a death certificate, saying the place, time and manner of death are uncertain, and the Seattle detective who recently took over the case will continue trying to determine what caused Arneson to send that eerie message, and then to disappear.

"My luck has run out" is a weird last set of words to say," Bigelow reflected. "It sounds to me more like despair than fear."

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

TV LISTINGS

Evening listings THURSDAY

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30) and rows for various TV channels (KATU, KOMO, KOIN, KIRO, KGW, KRCW, KOPB, KPVT, KPDX, KCPQ, TBS, KZJO, ESPN, ESPN2, NICK, DISN, FAM, FMC, LIFE, RST, FOOT, SPIKE, COM, HIST, A&E, TLC, DISC, NGE0, TMC, ANT, AAT, USA, FOD, HGTV, FX, CNN, FNC, CNBC, BRAV, TCM, SYFY, RFD) listing their respective programs.

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