

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 1 of 75

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Treeline Tree Service Ad
- 2- Olde Bank Floral Open House
- 3- Brown County 4-H Celebrates 82 years
- 5- Lori's Pharmacy Ad
- 6- Groton School Board Agenda
- 7- West Central beats Groton Area in Sweet 16
- 9- Legion Turkey Party Ad
- 10- Dairy Queen Free blizzard for Veterans
- 11- Today in Weather History
- 12- Local Weather Forecast
- 13- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 13- Today's Weather Climate
- 13- National Weather map
- 14- Golden Living Ad
- 14- Daily Devotional
- 15 - AP News

Friday, Nov. 11

VETERAN'S DAY

NO SCHOOL

1 p.m.: Groton Area vs. Winner in Class 11B Final football game

Senior Menu: Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, chocolate cake, whole wheat bread.

Saturday, Nov. 12

Debate and Oral Interp at Aberdeen Central
Show Choir Choreography Workshop #2

Sunday, Nov. 13

9 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

9 a.m.: St. John's Lutheran Worship

10 .m.: St. John's Lutheran Sunday School

10 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Sunday School

10 a.m.: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at the Pierpont Church

Show Choir Choreography Workshop #2

7 p.m.: Welcome Home for the football team at GHS Arena

Monday, Nov., 14

6:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

7th/8th GBB hosts Webster (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.)

5:30 p.m.: Financial Aid Information Night

7 p.m.: School Board Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 15

Debate at Watertown High School

Region Oral Interp at Aberdeen Central

Apts for Rent

1 bedroom and HUGE 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments available NOW! All utilities included except A/C, 1 bedroom \$504 and HUGE 2 bedroom 2 bath \$674 Please call or text 239-849-7674

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Sperry Stump Removal Tyler: 605/216-8431
Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!
TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**

Holiday open house

November 10-12

Thursday 9am-5pm

Friday 9am - 5pm

Saturday 10am-4pm

Discounts through
out the store

Daily door prize
drawings

Wine Sampling each
day

Shop Local!



101 N Main St, Groton SD
605-397-8650

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www.oldebankfloralsd.com

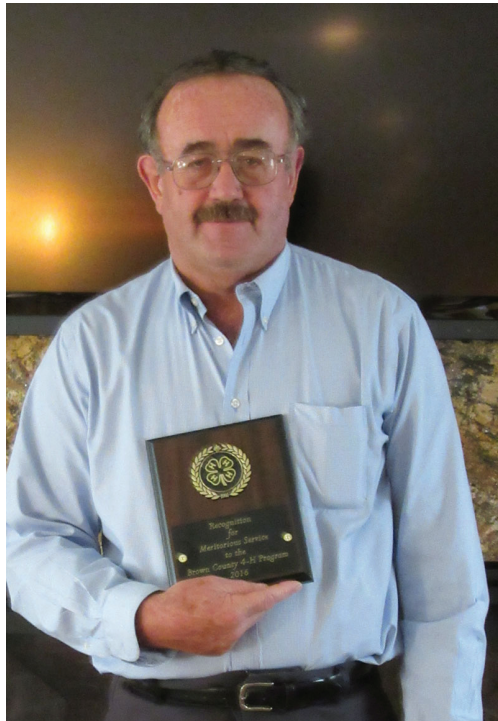
Brown County 4-H Celebrates 82 Years

Brown County 4-H celebrated 82 years of "Making the Best Better" on Sunday, November 6 at the annual 4-H Recognition Event held at the Schriver's Memorial Fellowship Center.

Aberdeen residents Don and Hazel Schaunaman and Meyers Tractor Salvage of Aberdeen were recognized for their 2016 "Meritorious Service to 4-H".

For more than a half century, the Schaunaman couple have been involved in livestock shows, whether watching or helping. In the early days of their children's 4-H life, Don was involved in the beef project, as an assistant superintendent and with the former "penlot" project. Hazel was a leader of the Aberdeen Future Ranchers 4-H Club for a few years. The couple has had children, grandchildren and great grandchildren in the beef project in South Dakota and North Dakota for all these years. Don has been a regular at the Livestock Premium Sale for decades, often making sure everyone gets a boost in their premium. Hazel helped with Brown County entries at the State Fair for a few years, enjoying being around younger people (the other leaders)! Don and Hazel were generous with Brown County's pledge for the Norby Exhibit Hall at the South Dakota State Fair.

Meyers Tractor Salvage has been a major supporter of the Brown County 4-H program for many years. Paul Meyers was first invited to the Brown County 4-H Premium sale by Don and Craig Schaunaman.



Paul Meyers – Meyers Tractor Salvage – Meritorious Service Award Recipient

Paul enjoys being able to see

the many different projects Brown County 4-H Youth have each year and likes to be able to reward them for all their hard work.

Brown County leaders were honored for their years of service to the 4-H Program. Recognized for five years of service were Brian Sharp of Dakota Sharpshooters, Gretchen Sharp of Dakota Sharpshooters, Lory Bretsch of Dream Reachers, Lynn Heupel of Dream Reachers, Jeff Hanson of Livestock Leaders, Jamie Simon of Putney Putovers, Sandy Dinger of Stateline Feeders, and Teri Johnson of Dream Reachers. Renee Marzahn and Stephan Wright, both part of Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H Club received a 10-year gold pins. Barb Miller, Friendly Fellows & Daisies received a 15-year Pearl Inset clover and Linda Huettl of Three River Ranchers 4-H Club received a 20-year Diamond Peal Inset Clover. Brenda Artz of the Rural Lads and Lassies 4-H Club received a 25-year Emerald Insert Clover.

Graduating from the Brown County 4-H program were: McKenzie Bierman, Logan Ellington,



Don and Hazel Schaunaman – Meritorious Service Award Recipient

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 4 of 75

MiKayla Forsting, Kaitlyn Ringgenberg, Brody Sombke, Jonathan Sumption, Brody Sombke, Kayla Bailly, Tyler Goldade, Hailey Hanson, Kari Hanson, Carly Wheeting, and Bradyn Wieker.

Several 4-H members were recognized for selection and participation in various Regional and National 4-H Conferences and Events: Daniel Sharp, Travis Sharp, Matthew Sperry, Madelyn Wright, Adrienne Schaunaman, Cassandra Townsend, and Trey Wright were recognized for the 4-H National Western Round-Up in Denver. Matthew Sperry was honored for his participation in the Teen Leadership Conference. Sperry was also recognized for State 4-H Youth Council. Brown County had two participants that attended Citizen Washington Focus, held in Washington D.C. and that was Dylan Frey and Landon Marzahn.

Many Brown County 4-H members, teams and clubs were recognized or awarded certificates, medals, plaques, trophies and other awards for their participation and accomplishments in 4-H projects, events and activities throughout the past 4-H year. A complete list of awards can be found at the Brown County 4-H Facebook page.

Over three hundred young people participate in the Brown County 4-H Program. Seventy-five volunteers assist club members in a variety of project areas.

For more information about becoming a part of 4-H contact the Brown County 4-H office at 605-626-7120 or visit Brown County 4-H on Facebook.



Part of the Brown County Leaders Association Exec Committee – left to right – Ellen Schlosser, Brenda Artz, Brad Sharp, Kathy Sperry, and Sandy Osterman. Missing from photo, Vicci Stange

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 5 of 75



Part of the Brown County 4-H Leaders that were recognized for the years of service – left to right – Gretchen Sharp, Brian Sharp, Teri Johnson, and Brenda Artz

**Lori's Pharmacy
Holiday Open House
November 10-11-12
Goodies, door prizes
and draw for your discount on gift items.**

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 6 of 75

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting

November 14, 2016 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of October 11, 2016 school board meeting.

2. Approval of October 2016 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.

3. Approval of October 2016 School Transportation Report.

4. Approval of October 2016 School Lunch Report.

5. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...as fiscal agent.

6. Approval of October District bills for payment.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.

2. Update on Groton Area Elementary project progress.

3. Continued discussion on ASBSD Protective Trust assessment.

4. School Board Committee Reports:

a. Building, Grounds, & Transportation: Clint Fjelstad, Merle Harder, Marty Weismantel

b. Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum: Deb Gengerke, Grant Rix

c. Negotiations: Kelly Kjelden, Steve Smith

5. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Adopt resolution authorizing the issuance of capital outlay certificates not to exceed \$8,690,000 to complete the 2017 Elementary School renovations and refinance the outstanding debt from the 2010 Eastside Addition.

2. Approve transfer of funds not to exceed \$225,000 from Capital Outlay fund to Capital Project fund.

3. Approve contract amendment with FJJ to continue development of plans of potential MS/HS project.

4. 1st Reading on proposed amendments to MS/HS Student Handbook.

5. Appoint steering committee for potential MS/HS building project.

6. Review Food Service Inspection from Groton Area High School conducted on 11/07/16.

7. Approve Dylan Krueger as Volunteer Assistant Boys Basketball Coach for 2016-17 season.

8. Acknowledge receipt of public school exemption #17-08 (Grade 10).

ADJOURN

Lady Tigers end season at Sweet 16

The Sweet 16 was not quite a sweet as what the Lady Tigers had hoped in the volleyball match played Thursday in Madison. West Central defeated Groton Area 3-0, to advance to the state tournament in Watertown next weekend.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM with a volleyball record of over 750 viewers. The sponsors were Allied Climate Professionals - Kevin Nehls, Bahr Spray Foam & Construction, Blocker Construction, Cheri's on Main, Cutting Edge Lawn Care - Travis Kurth, First State Bank of Groton, Golden Living Center of Groton, Greg Johnson Construction of Bristol, Groton Dairy Queen, Groton Ford, Hanlon Brothers, Harry Implement of Ferney, Hefty Seed - Justin Hanson, James Valley Seed - Doug Jorgenson, James Valley Telecommunications, John Sieh Agency, Ken's Food Fair of Groton, KR Body Shop - Andover, Lori's Pharmacy, McKiver Collision, Milbrandt Enterprises, POET Biorefining, Producer's Hybrids - John Wheeting, Professional Management Services, Sanford Health of Aberdeen, Schultz Construction LLC, Subway of Groton, Weber Landscaping.

Groton Area struggled to find the mark and the Trojans were able to get some key kills to stop any Groton momentum. In the first game, it was tied at one before West Central went on a rally take a 4-1 lead. From there, West Central took control the game and went on to win, 25-15.



Jessica Bjerke goes for the serve. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

The Trojans jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the second game and soon had it built to 9-1. Groton Area closed to within four, 12-8, but West Central rallied to take a 17-8 lead en route to the 25-16 win.

Groton Area showed signs strength in the third match that actually forced West Central to use one of their time outs. The game was tied at four and five before the Trojans took a 12-6 lead. Groton rallied to tie the game at 13 when West Central called time out. Tie Tigers took the lead for the first time in the match at 14-13. West Central tied it a 14, but Groton area still held the lead and opened it up to 18-15. West Central came back to tie the game at 18 and 19 and retook the lead, 20-19. Groton tied it at 20 but the Trojans would go on to win, 25-22.

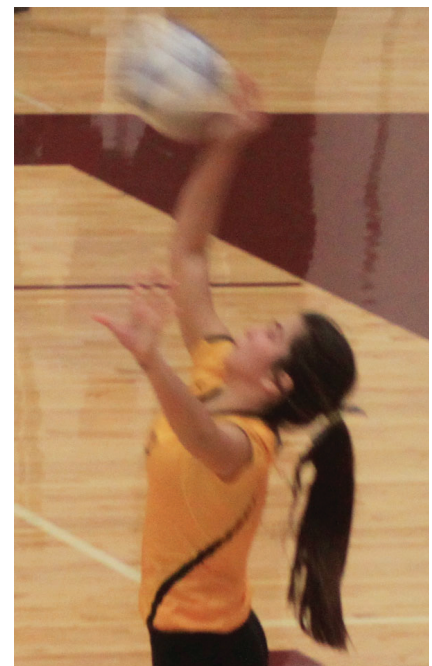
Groton Area ends its season record at 15-8 while West Central goes to 21-6.

- Paul Kosel



Audrey Wanner kept the ball in play for the Tigers. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Julianna Kosel)



Payton Maines goes for the serve. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 8 of 75



Left Photo: Taylor Holm and Katie Koehler battle it out at the net with West Central's Ashlyn Macdonald. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Right Photo: Katie Koehler makes a set for one of her teammates. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



The Groton Area football team stopped in Madison to cheer on the Lady Tigers in the Volleyball Sweet 16. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 9 of 75

Groton Post No. 39 American Legion



Annual



Turkey Party

Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016

Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Groton Legion Post Home, 10 N. Main.

Turkey, Ham and Bacon
to be given away

FREE ADMISSION

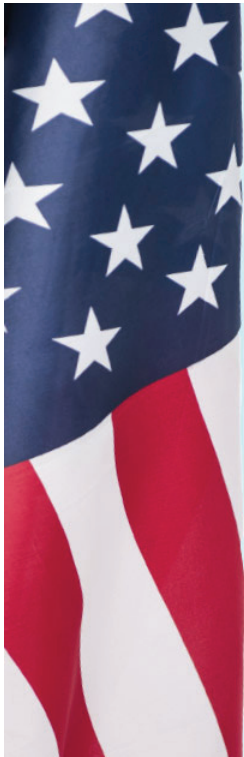
**DOOR
PRIZE!**

Lunch served
by Auxiliary



Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 10 of 75



***Veterans & Active
Duty Military****

Enjoy a **FREE**
Medium **Blizzard**[®] Treat

on Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11th
at the **Groton Dairy Queen**

* Active duty and retired members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard or Reserves. This is a local store marketing offer and is only available at participating locations. Must either be in uniform or show valid proof of service (military ID, veterans designation on driver's license or DD214 paperwork).

Limit one per customer, per visit. Not valid with other offers, promotions, or discounts. No cash value. Plus tax if applicable.



Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 11 of 75

Today in Weather History

November 11, 1982: Wet snow and winds gusting to over 50 mph snapped almost a thousand power lines and poles. Snowfall amounts were 4 to 6 inches but ranged to nearly a foot or more in Brookings County. Wind Gusts of 75 mph were recorded in McCook County. Several semi-trucks jackknifed on ice covered roads, and numerous other automobile accidents were also reported.

November 11, 2000: Heavy snow of 6 to 14 inches fell across central and northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota on November 11th and 12th, causing driving difficulties throughout the region. Many vehicles became stuck in the snow or slid into ditches. There were also several accidents and many events were canceled. Some snowfall amounts include, 14.0 inches in Miller; 13.8 inches near Mellette; 12.5 inches in Highmore; 11.5 inches near Iona; 11 inches in Wilmot; 10 inches in Aberdeen, near Bryant, and Artichoke Lake MN; 9.5 inches in Clark; and 9.0 inches in Clear Lake, near Onida, and Webster.

1911: A powerful cold front, known as the Great Blue Norther of 1911, produced some the most extreme temperature changes to the Nation's midsection. Ahead of the cold front, a warm and moist environment caused a severe weather outbreak with several strong tornadoes reported in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Michigan. The most powerful tornado occurred from Janesville to Milton, Wisconsin, where an estimated F4 tornado caused extensive damage to several farms and killed nine people. The citizens of Janesville, Wisconsin, reported blizzard conditions with a temperature near zero within an hour of the tornado.

1940: An Armistice Day storm raged across the Great Lakes Region and the Upper Midwest. A blizzard left 49 dead in Minnesota, and gales on Lake Michigan caused shipwrecks resulting in another 59 deaths. Up to seventeen inches of snow fell in Iowa, and at Duluth MN the barometric pressure reached 28.66 inches. The blizzard claimed a total of 154 lives and killed thousands of cattle in Iowa. Huge snowdrifts isolated whole towns.

1955 - An early arctic outbreak set many November temperature records across Oregon and Washington. The severe cold damaged shrubs and fruit trees. Readings plunged to near zero in western Washington, and dipped to 19 degrees below zero in the eastern part of the state. (David Ludlum)








1987 - A deepening low pressure system brought heavy snow to the east central U.S. The Veteran's Day storm produced up to 17 inches of snow in the Washington D.C. area snarling traffic and closing schools and airports. Afternoon thunderstorms produced five inches of snow in three hours. Gale force winds lashed the Middle and Northern Atlantic Coast. Norfolk VA reported their earliest measurable snow in 99 years of records. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Low pressure brought snow to parts of the Rocky Mountain Region. Totals in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado ranged up to 10 inches at Summitville. Evening thunderstorms produced large hail in central Oklahoma and north central Texas. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Veteran's Day was an unseasonably warm one across much of the nation east of the Rockies. Temperatures warmed into the 70s and 80s from the Southern and Central Plains to the southern half of the Atlantic coast. Thirty-four cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Saint Louis MO with a reading of 85 degrees. Calico AR and Gilbert AR reported record highs of 87 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 12 of 75

Veterans Day	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Sunny	Clear	Sunny and Breezy	Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 51 °F	Low: 30 °F	High: 63 °F	Low: 33 °F	High: 63 °F	Low: 36 °F	High: 56 °F



Cooler Today, But Still Above Normal!

Follow us on *Social Media*

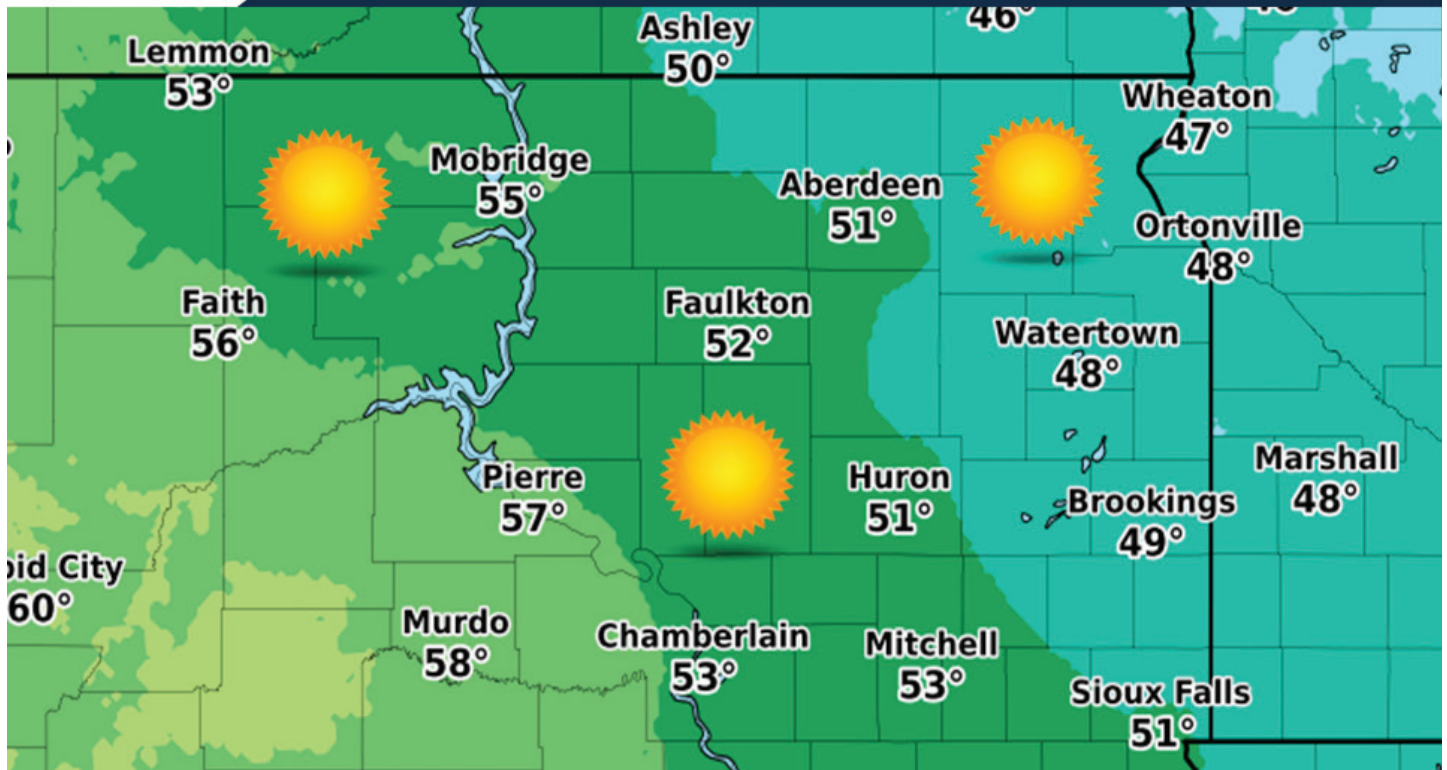
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 11/11/2016 at 5:57AM

High pressure will move over the region today, bringing cooler temperatures along with sunny skies and light winds. Although, highs today will still be above normal for this time of year!

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 13 of 75

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 61.5 F at 2:10 PM

Low Outside Temp: 33.6 F at 7:47 AM

High Gust: 27.0 Mph at 11:15 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 68° in 1937

Record Low: -8° in 1966

Average High: 42°F

Average Low: 21°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.32

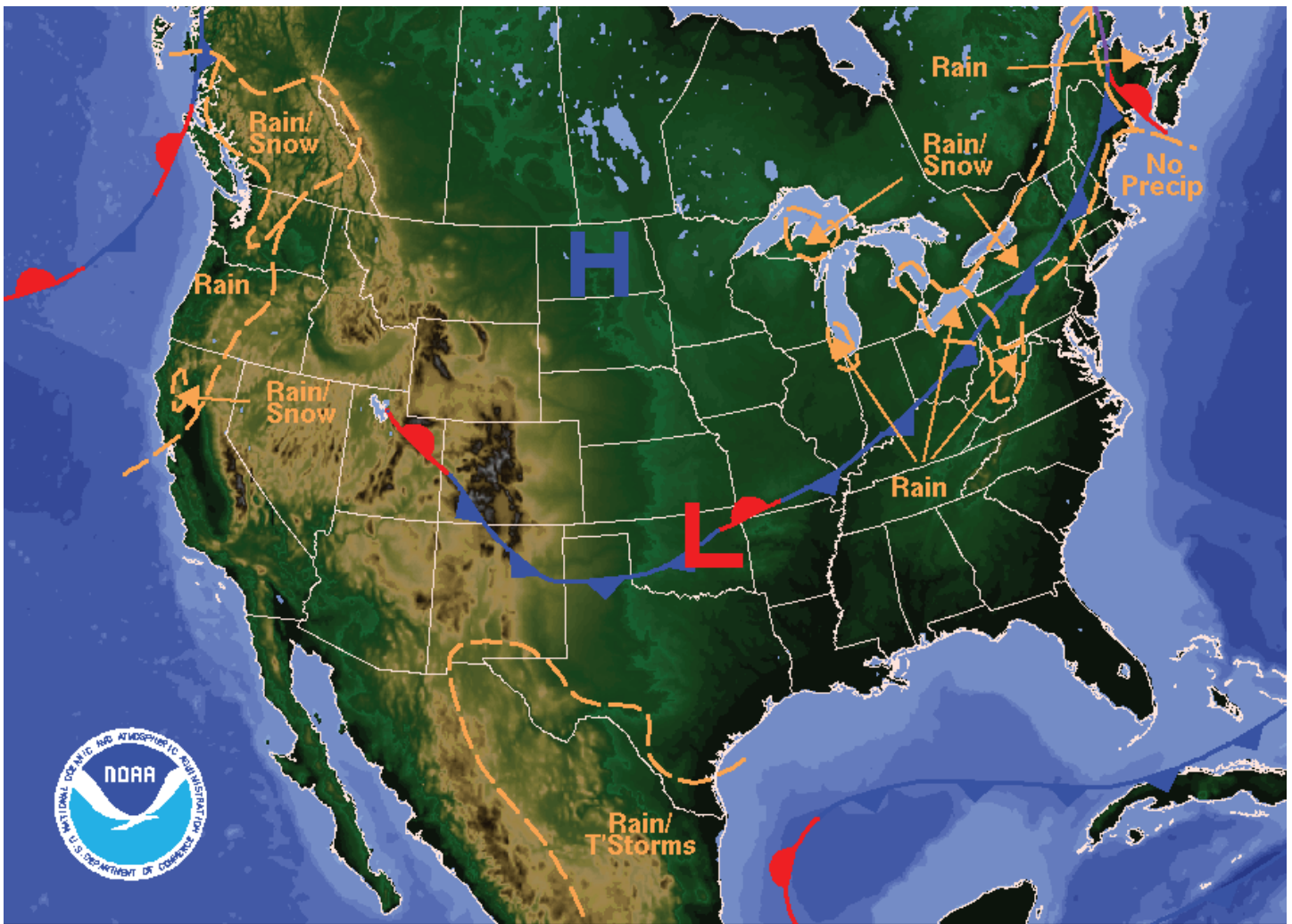
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.79

Precip Year to Date: 15.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:07 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:29 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Nov 11, 2016, issued 4:36 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 14 of 75



MOTION WITHOUT MOVEMENT

Charlie Brown was sitting behind his desk counseling Lucy one sunny afternoon. Looking at her sternly he said, "Try to accomplish something!"

"Accomplish something," she responded quickly, "I thought we were just supposed to be busy."

Peter had some good advice in one of his most powerful sermons. He reminded his audience that "Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." Peter was reminding his listeners that Jesus lived a life of perfect Servanthood – always looking for and finding ways to accomplish God's work in His world. What is interesting about this sermon is its brevity: within a few sentences he was able to present the life, death on the cross and resurrection of Christ as well as His fulfillment of all that had been written about Him in Scripture.

The effectiveness of our preaching or witnessing for Christ does not depend on the length of time we take to present His message. Rather, the source of the Christians' effectiveness is found in another statement in this sermon. Peter said that "God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power."

Our Lord will bless our labors for Him when we become Spirit-filled and Spirit-led. Only then will our witness have His power and accomplish His will.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to surrender our lives to You and be available to do Your work. May we realize the blessings that may be ours as we serve You today. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

The logo for Golden Living, featuring the words "golden" in orange and "living" in blue, with a curved orange line underneath.

We now accept

The logo for Avera Health Plans, featuring the word "Avera" in white on a blue background, with a white cross symbol to the right, and "Health Plans" in white below it.

for out patient therapy.

**1106 N 2nd St., Groton
605/397-2365**

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 15 of 75

News from the  Associated Press

California man pleads not guilty to North Dakota bank scams

MINOT, N.D. (AP) — A California man has pleaded not guilty to scamming three banks in North Dakota and trying to scam a fourth.

Twenty-three-year-old Patrick Griffith, of Stockton, California, faces felony charges in North Dakota that could land him in prison for up to 60 years if he's convicted.

The Minot Daily News reports (<http://bit.ly/2fHRRwf>) that Griffith is accused of scamming two banks in Minot, one in Dickinson, and trying to scam another in Rolla last summer to get cash advances on a credit card.

Griffith also is accused of scamming banks in the South Dakota cities of Rapid City and Custer.

Information from: Minot Daily News, <http://www.minotdailynews.com>

Rapid City man injured in Oct. 31 crash dies in hospital

NEW UNDERWOOD, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man who was injured in a vehicle crash late last month has died.

The Highway Patrol says 22-year-old Douglas Wilson died Thursday in a Colorado hospital.

Authorities say Wilson was driving a sport utility vehicle that rolled in the ditch off Interstate 90 west of New Underwood the morning of Oct. 31. Three passengers in the SUV suffered injuries that were not life-threatening.

Thursday's Football Scores By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Class 9AA Championship: Gregory 48, Webster 20

Class 9A Championship: Colman-Egan 32, Warner 28

Class 9B Championship: Colome 42, Langford 23

Volleyball

Region 1AA State Qualifier

Harrisburg def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman, 25-16, 25-21, 19-25, 19-25, 15-13

Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Watertown, 25-14, 19-25, 25-14, 18-25, 15-8

Region 2AA State Qualifier

Aberdeen Central def. Rapid City Central, 25-13, 25-20, 25-21

Pierre def. Douglas, 25-11, 19-25, 25-16, 25-23

District 3AA Third Place: Aberdeen Central def. Mitchell, 26-24, 21-25, 25-13, 25-16

Class A Sweet 16

Bon Homme def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 23-25, 25-10, 25-18, 25-14

Dakota Valley def. Winner, 25-10, 25-14, 25-11

Madison def. St. Thomas More, 25-23, 25-20, 25-23

Milbank Area def. Miller, 25-21, 25-22, 19-25, 25-16

Mobridge-Pollock def. Pine Ridge, 25-17, 25-18, 18-25, 25-13

Sioux Falls Christian def. Redfield/Doland, 25-18, 25-12, 25-13

Sioux Valley def. Custer, 25-23, 25-21, 25-16

West Central def. Groton Area, 25-15, 25-16, 25-22

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 16 of 75

Colome rolls to state 9B football championship

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Colome outscored Langford Area 20-0 in the fourth quarter to beat the defending state champion 42-23 in the state 9B title game on Thursday.

Jackson Kinzer, Will Cahoy and Chase Dufek had touchdowns for the Cowboys (11-1), who last won a title in 2007.

Kinzer caught two of Layton Thieman's three touchdown passes. His 11-yard catch and PAT run with 9:56 left put the Cowboys ahead for good 30-23.

Thieman was 11-for-18 for 189 yards.

Kelly O'Bryan led Colome in rushing with 133 yards on 24 carries. Cahoy ran for two touchdowns.

Langford Area (10-2) went up 2-0 when a low snap led to the punter being tackled in the end zone with 8:11 left in the first quarter.

Peter Fazekas caught a 38-yard TD pass from Chance Olson, and Harley Gibbs hauled in a TD pass. Olson led the Lions in rushing with 61 yards and passed for 180. He finished the year with 31 rushing and 16 passing TDs.

Colman-Egan beats Warner 32-28 for SD 9A football title

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Quarterback Bodee Groos ran for 198 yards and three touchdowns to lead Colman-Egan to a 32-28 win over Warner Thursday in the South Dakota 9A championship game.

Groos carried 20 times and scored on runs of 26, 62 and 2 yards for the Hawks (11-1). He also completed eight of 11 passes for 185 yards, including a 59-yard TD pass to Cole Kriech.

Groos' 2-yard run with 3:39 left was the last score in a seesaw game that saw the teams exchange touchdowns throughout. Kade Groos' interception at the 4-yard line with 2:14 remaining clinched it.

Walker Olivier had 56 yards rushing and a TD for Colman-Egan.

Warner (11-1) got TD runs from Jack Braun and Micah Hoellein. Tyler Rozell threw a 51-yard TD pass to Hollein.

McCance throws 6 TDs, leads Gregory to SD 9AA football title

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Gregory's Andy McCance threw six touchdown passes as the Gorillas pulled away to a 48-20 win over Webster Area Thursday in the South Dakota 9AA championship game.

The score was tied 20-20 when Gregory (12-0) scored twice in the last minute of the first half to take a 36-20 lead into halftime. The Gorillas extended their lead to 42-20 by the end of the third.

McCance completed 13 of 16 passes for 258 yards and rushed for a team-high 95 yards. He tossed two touchdowns each to Jayd VanDerWerff and Joseph Veskrna. Each had 92 receiving yards.

Gregory had 452 yards despite running 21 fewer plays than Webster Area (11-1), which had 320 yards.

Riley Reetz led the Bearcats with 111 yards. Hunter Gaikowski scored a rushing touchdown but missed the last half with an injury.

Army Corps wants more cooperation from Dakota Access company

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says it's trying to defuse tensions between Dakota Access pipeline protesters and law enforcement in southern North Dakota, but the pipeline's developer isn't cooperating.

The agency released a statement late Wednesday imploring Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners to voluntarily stop work in the area where protests against the \$3.8 billion pipeline have resulted in more than 400 arrests. The Corps made a similar plea last week, but was also rebuffed.

"Their absence will help reduce these tensions," wrote Col. John Henderson, commander of the Corps district covering the region.

ETP spokeswoman Vicki Granado told The Associated Press in an email Thursday that the company was

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 17 of 75

still mobilizing equipment in preparation for tunneling under Lake Oahe. The reservoir is at the center of the Standing Rock Sioux's fight against the pipeline, which the tribe and its supporters fear could harm cultural sites and drinking water sources at the tribe's nearby reservation.

"We have always said (safety) is our top priority: The safety of our workers and our assets, the safety of those who live and work in the area and the safety of the environment," Granado said.

Granado said construction won't start until the company gets permission to work on Corps-owned land near the reservoir in a permitting process that has been stalled for months.

The nearly 1,200-mile pipeline is slated to carry oil from North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois. The Standing Rock Sioux is fighting the project through a federal lawsuit, and the tribe's chairman, Dave Archambault, called on President Barack Obama on Wednesday to stop the project before he leaves office. Obama has said his administration is monitoring the situation.

"As long as that pipe isn't under the lake, I have hope," Archambault told the AP.

Corp officials didn't respond to email and phone messages sent by the AP outside of supplying Henderson's statement. The Corps has given no timetable for a decision on allowing ETP to work on the land near Lake Oahe.

In the meantime, ETP has continued construction on private land nearby. The company has said all of the equipment needed to tunnel under the reservoir will be in place in two weeks, and it's confident the matter of Corps permission will be resolved without causing significant delays.

Experts said the Corps has few options outside of asking ETP to voluntarily stop work on private property.

"If they're lawfully on private land, they can essentially do whatever they want there," said Brian Jorde, an attorney with Nebraska-based Domina Law Group who has represented hundreds of landowners against pipeline companies.

"It's kind of a sneaky way to do the preparation, to do it on land essentially that the Corps doesn't have jurisdiction on. (But) when it comes to private land, I don't see what recourse the Corps would have," he said Thursday.

Mark Barteau, director of the University of Michigan Energy Institute, concurred, but added that "obviously the company is working at its own risk that the (federal permit) case could be reopened. Any realistic threat to do so might change their risk calculus."

Corp officials last week met with leaders from several tribes in the Missouri River Basin in an attempt to ease tension between protesters and law officers, according to Henderson, the Corps district commander.

The company didn't mince words in response to the Corps' initial request to halt work, releasing a statement Tuesday saying: "To be clear, Dakota Access Pipeline has not voluntarily agreed to halt construction of the pipeline in North Dakota."

Henderson said stopping work would help "defuse tensions surrounding their operations near Corps-managed federal land until we have a clear path forward."

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

South Dakota agency looks to improve lake access, research

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department draft management plans for Lakes Oahe and Sharpe hold potential for improvements to both access and research.

Angler access to the lakes is a big issue for the popular fisheries, the Capital Journal (<http://bit.ly/2fG3Hav>) reported. Both of the draft plans aim to find areas that need more lake access, identify projects and finish them by the end of 2021.

The Lake Oahe draft fisheries management plan says the lake's vast shoreline is mostly inaccessible to vehicles, which makes shore fishing tough in most places.

The Lake Sharpe plan calls for an increase in shore fishing opportunities by improving boat access at two locations and dredging out the channel between Hipple Lake and Lake Sharpe's main channel.

Another priority for management is habitat on both lakes. Trees and other vegetation that were completed 50 years ago have decomposed since being flooded.

Both plans also call for better communication between anglers, boaters and government. The plans are now open for public on the department's website.

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

Rep. Mark Mickelson opts out of running for governor in 2018

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Republican state Rep. Mark Mickelson says he won't run for governor in 2018.

The lawmaker from Sioux Falls said Thursday that he was seriously looking at a bid, but decided that the sacrifice was too high.

Mickelson was elected Tuesday to serve a third term in the state House, where he hopes to be chosen to be speaker.

He says it's difficult to raise his sons if he's out campaigning. In a letter sent this week to supporters, Mickelson says he expects to refund contributions to his political action committee, which has raised nearly \$1 million.

Mickelson's decision could buoy other Republicans thought to be eyeing a bid, including Attorney General Marty Jackley and U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem. Term limits bar Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard from entering the race.

Montana to talk to tribes before sending police to protests

By MATT VOLZ, Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Montana Gov. Steve Bullock said Thursday that he will consult with the state's Native American leaders before fulfilling any future requests for law-enforcement assistance at the site of an oil pipeline protest near a reservation in North Dakota.

Conditions near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation have changed since he approved the last request from North Dakota in October as part of a compact between states to assist in emergencies, Bullock said in a statement. Then, the state sent 10 highway patrol troopers to help police the protest, and those troopers are due to return home on Sunday.

The governor added that he supports President Barack Obama's call for pausing construction of the \$3.8 billion pipeline through North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois.

"My thoughts are with the thousands of people, including Montanans, gathered around Standing Rock in North Dakota," Bullock said. "Working government to government, we look forward to a quick and peaceful resolution"

Bullock spokeswoman Ronja Abel said Bullock released the statement to quell rumors circulating on social media that Montana planned to send additional law-enforcement personnel. "The governor wants to make sure that all parties involved have accurate and appropriate information about the facts regarding the situation at Standing Rock in North Dakota," she said.

Officials from Montana's Native American tribes contacted the governor's office after the state sent its troopers to North Dakota last month. "Our discussions have been varied, and we have appreciated all of them," Abel said.

Clashes between police and protesters trying to stop construction of the pipeline have resulted in more than 400 arrests since August. Last week, police used pepper spray on dozens of protesters trying to cross a stream to property owned by the pipeline developer and where officers previously cleared a protester encampment.

Gallatin County Sheriff Brian Gootkin had announced plans to take four deputies to the protest, but then canceled them after receiving numerous calls and emails by people urging him not to do so. "I serve the people, and the people have spoken" Gootkin told the Bozeman Daily Chronicle.

Wyoming also has drawn fire from tribal leaders for sending six troopers to the protests last month. Gov. Matt Mead previously said sending the troopers represented only a desire to extend emergency help to another state and didn't signal that Wyoming had taken a position on the pipeline controversy.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 19 of 75

Those troopers returned home on Wednesday.

Capt. Shawn Dickerson, co-commander of the Special Services Squad at the Wyoming Highway Patrol, said the troopers did not use any force against the protesters "beyond normal crowd control movements."

Wyoming officials said there are no plans to send more troopers.

Associated Press writer Ben Neary in Cheyenne, Wyoming, contributed to this report.

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, Nov. 10, 2016

Will Trump really change our politics?

While it might be true that any Republican nominee could have beaten Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election, it wasn't just any Republican who prevailed Tuesday night.

It was Donald Trump, who took no prisoners while trampling the competition in the Republican presidential primaries and then cruising to a stunning win over an opponent who fits the definition of a career politician.

Trump will be in a unique position when he takes the oath of office on Jan. 20 — a president who is not beholden to either of the major political parties.

He is to a large degree an independent. He never sought the support of the party he now leads. Not only did Trump decline to court the leaders of the Republican Party, he publicly scorned them, including House Speaker Paul Ryan, former presidential candidate and Sen. John McCain, and Jeb and George W. Bush. Trump also rejected calls by leading Republicans that included our own Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Sen. John Thune to leave the race after tapes he would later dismiss as locker room talk made headlines nationwide.

Unlike every president-elect since perhaps George Washington, Trump has an opportunity to lead the country on his own terms as he has demonstrated the ability to appeal directly to voters rather than working through the labyrinth of party politics.

But when Trump walks into the Oval Office as his own man, he will be confronted by the same challenges that his recent predecessors faced — a divided and angry nation, which he exploited while making his improbable run to the White House.

His comments about Hispanics, Muslims, women, the military, Russian hackers and Vladimir Putin and threats to imprison Hillary Clinton have left many people fearful of what might happen when a man who is not afraid to savage an opponent is the president.

Trump also has not laid out a clear agenda beyond cutting taxes, stopping Syrian refugees from entering the U.S., building a wall along the Mexican border, defeating ISIS and "making America great again," a slogan that some have interpreted as a call to a less-tolerant era.

Trump's unpredictability and absence of a public policy track record have left others fearing the unknown.

Nonetheless, he is going to become president at a time when someone is needed to lead us out of a partisan divide that has turned America against itself. Already, anti-Trump protests are erupting and people are threatening to leave the country as a result of the election.

There has to be a better way to move forward as Hillary Clinton said when she addressed the nation on Wednesday: "Donald Trump is going to be our president. We owe him an open mind and the chance to lead."

The voters have spoken. Trump has earned the opportunity to show us he will stand above partisan politics and lead a government that really does work for the people rather than special interests and career politicians.

Maybe expecting real change is far-fetched, but to do otherwise means accepting a status quo that clearly is not working.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 20 of 75

American News, Aberdeen, Nov. 9, 2016

Time to move on from divisive election

The sun rose.

Just like President Barack Obama promised when it became clear Tuesday night that Republican Donald Trump would be his successor, the sun rose Wednesday morning.

And now the sun sets — thankfully, mercifully — on what was likely the most contentious political race in the history of our nation.

Like it or not, it's over.

Now the bickering and vitriol and cruel, thoughtless words between friends and neighbors, between Republicans and Democrats and independents, must also end.

This election brought out the worst in the United States and its citizens. We've been ugly. We've been mean.

That's no way to make America great again.

It appears that Democrat Hillary Clinton will win the popular vote.

While that's bound to be discouraging to Democrats, that's not how one becomes president. Trump won the Electoral College vote.

The process, as set out in federal election law, worked. The election was not rigged.

Trump said many awful, hateful things during (and before) his campaign. It's understandable why so many people were offended and refused to vote for him, and why his election is hard to stomach. The hurt and fear felt by women and racial minorities, especially, is valid.

It would be wrong for either side of the political aisle to dismiss those very real feelings.

Even so, when people say, "He's not MY president," it doesn't sound any better coming from the left today than it did coming from the right eight years ago when Obama was elected.

For some, those are emotional words, made in the very early moments of this new reality.

In Wednesday's wee hours, Trump was gracious in victory. He complimented Clinton, and claimed he would be a president for all people, work to unite a deeply divided country.

It's up to all of us to give him an opportunity to do that. And it's up to him to follow through.

None of us really know what a Trump presidency will be like. If his actions match his nasty words, the nation is in trouble. If much of what he said was election bluster, there's hope, though there's simply no excusing some of his comments.

For now, we can only hope that his inclusive words in accepting victory prove to be true.

Many people who voted for Trump weren't happy about doing so. The same is true of Clinton supporters. Good people voted for both flawed candidates. Perhaps in 2020, the electorate will make better choices in the primary, though the money it takes to be a legitimate presidential candidate makes populist options hard to come by.

As a nation, we are no good when we're divided and at each other's throats. That's no way to live.

Somehow this tired, tumultuous country has to move on.

Trump deserves a chance. If he fails — if his actions correspond with his awful words — he'll be replaced in four years. That's how it works in the United States.

The Daily Republic, Mitchell, Nov. 8, 2016

Kudos, Veterans Park committee

Election Day has come and gone and there's no way everyone is going to be pleased with last night's results.

But something all Mitchell residents should be pleased with is a project under construction at the corner of First Avenue and Main Street.

The Mitchell Veterans Park project has received approximately \$225,000 in pledges and in-kind donations, with \$130,000 in cash already accepted, according to Monday night's Mitchell City Council meeting.

Those figures are outstanding. And even more impressive is the fact it's all private funds, meaning the city will likely avoid paying the \$35,000 it committed to the project. We tip our caps to many people for

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 21 of 75

their efforts on this, including and Mayor Jerry Toomey and Chief of Public Safety Lyndon Overweg for heading a committee that helped drive donations.

We've heard great compliments toward the Veterans Park committee and the work it put forth to ensure the project would come to fruition.

In August, Mayor Toomey urged Mitchell citizens to get behind the project with support and donations.

"I fail to understand the lack of interest in this park and the priority it should inspire in our two service club organizations as this park will be a wonderful tribute to our veterans and a tremendous asset to our Main Street revitalization efforts," Toomey said at the time.

Following Toomey's comments, Overweg and his committee pounded the pavement seeking donations. Core members of the committee for fundraising are City Councilman Dan Allen, former South Dakota Rep. Lance Carson and Overweg. Also on the committee are Mayor Toomey retired Fire Captain Dean Strand, Mitchell Garden Club member Darlene Pearson, Mitchell Police Patrol Sgt. Joel Reinesch and representatives from the local American Legion and VFW, including Dr. Martin Christensen, Lyle Sutherland, Norm Schoenfelder, Bill Jackson and Hugh Holmes.

We've been supportive of the Veterans Park project since the idea sparked, but the strong support through donations is because of Overweg and the committee.

On Tuesday, more work was happening at the site.

It just goes to show that when a group digs in and properly plans a fundraising effort, it doesn't take months to get work rolling. That, in turn, helps draw city-wide support.

Scientists try bacteria to halt invading cheatgrass in West

By KEITH RIDLER, Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — It sounds like science fiction: An unstoppable invader is taking over the West and the best hope to stop its relentless advance is a small team of anonymous scientists.

But that's what is happening in southwest Idaho, where experiments are underway to determine if soil bacteria can halt the century-long assault of non-native cheatgrass, which sends out roots that cheat other plants of water in the spring.

"We hope that we can identify the effectiveness of the bacteria on annual grasses and to identify non-target risk effects," said Matt Germino, a research ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey running the experiments at three scattered sites of about an acre each.

Cheatgrass dries out in the summer, transforming into extraordinarily effective tinder for wildfires. The fires then kill competing native plants and destroy habitat needed by cattle ranchers and more than 300 species of wildlife, including the imperiled sage grouse bird.

The results are huge, cheatgrass-filled landscapes that serve as fuel for frequent wildfires, some reaching hundreds of square miles.

Ann Kennedy, a soil microbiologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service in Washington state, has sorted through 25,000 strains of naturally occurring soil bacteria to find a handful that can stop cheatgrass root growth.

The bacteria strains she found are active in the spring at the same time as cheatgrass.

"In the spring they come up great guns, which then doesn't let that plant grow very well in the spring, or even over winter very well," she said. "You can draw down the seed bank of these annual weeds to where basically they're gone."

The strategy is to use the bacteria, possibly with some combination of herbicide, to eliminate cheatgrass long enough so that native plants can get established and fend off cheatgrass themselves.

The experiments in Idaho are part of a much larger plan following Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's five-page secretarial order in early 2015 calling for a "science-based" approach to safeguard the greater sage grouse bird while contending with fires that have been especially destructive in the Great Basin area that includes Idaho, Nevada, California, Utah and Oregon.

The ground-dwelling, chicken-sized birds are found in 11 Western states, where between 200,000 to

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 22 of 75

500,000 remain, down from a peak population of about 16 million. The males are known for their strutting courtship ritual on breeding grounds called leks, and produce a bubble-type sound from a pair of inflated air sacks on their necks.

They depend on sagebrush for food year round, and hens nest underneath the sagebrush plants. Tall native grasses help screen the hens and their eggs and chicks from predators.

Late last month the Interior Department released a 139-page plan which serves as a how-to guide for the order. It identifies knowledge gaps as scientists try to find the best approach to restore and protect some 500,000 square miles of sagebrush steppe crucial for sage grouse.

The federal government has been working to protect key habitat to avoid an Endangered Species Act listing for the greater sage grouse. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will review the bird's status within five years.

The Interior Department plan released last month identifies cheatgrass as one of the toughest problems. If Germino succeeds in finding the right combination of bacteria treatments, that could change. Some results are expected within a year but more will be known in five years.

But even if successful, he said, cheatgrass is only a symptom of a much larger problem facing Western rangelands.

"It's unlikely that any one technology will be the magic bullet," he said. "Cheatgrass has come to dominate our lands. Chances are there are fundamental problems in the health of the land, or how we are treating the land."

The invasive weed arrived in North America in straw packing material and packages of grain seed from Europe and Asia in the mid-1800s.

Webster man dies in construction site trench collapse

WEBSTER, S.D. (AP) — Authorities are investigating the death of a Webster man in a trench collapse at a home construction site as an accidental death.

Day County Sheriff Barry Hillestad says 42-year-old James Stern died Tuesday near Webster when a 10-foot-deep water line trench caved in. A co-worker was unable to free Stern, and he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Stern's funeral is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday at the Webster armory.

Members of the Oglala Sioux tribe elect a new leader

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — Members of the Oglala Sioux tribe have elected a new leader.

Unofficial returns from Tuesday's election show challenger Troy "Scott" Weston easily defeating incumbent President John Yellow Bird Steele. Weston received 66 percent of the nearly 3,600 votes cast.

Official results are to be released Wednesday.

Gregory man accused of killing infant son found not guilty

BURKE, S.D. (AP) — A Gregory man accused of killing his infant son by shaking him and causing severe brain damage has been found not guilty on all charges.

The Daily Republic reports (<http://bit.ly/2fF5EYb>) that a Gregory County jury deliberated for about seven hours Wednesday before acquitting 24-year-old Adam Bruns on charges including second-degree murder in the March 2014 death of 3-month-old Levi Bruns.

Adam Bruns had been on trial since Oct. 24. Defense attorney Tim Rensch said the acquittal "is a long time coming." Bruns declined comment.

Bruns could have faced life in prison had he been convicted. He testified in his own defense during the trial, saying he had held his son upside down to clear his airway because he thought the boy was choking.

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

Harvard, Stanford play basketball, see sights in China

By JIMMY GOLEN, AP Sports Writer

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Harvard center Zena Edosomwan pulls out his cellphone and scrolls back to the photos from his last trip to China. There, he finds a picture of himself at a Chinese market with a small boy of about 6 years old sitting high on his shoulders.

"There's so much love and positive energy there," Edosomwan said last week as he prepared to return to China — this time with the Crimson basketball team for its game against Stanford on Friday night. "A lot of Stanford and Harvard players are going to be surprised. They're going to be like rock stars there."

Two of the top academic universities in the United States, Harvard and Stanford are visiting Shanghai this week to open their men's basketball seasons — and do a little brand-building while they're at it. The schools are already well-known internationally — Harvard has 1,802 students and scholars from China, according to its website — but few there think of basketball when they think of the two prestigious institutions.

"It's an amazing chance, and we're proud to be a part of it, proud to represent this great brand, this great school in China," Harvard coach Tommy Amaker said last week as he prepared to visit the country for the first time. "We're not just thinking just for us; we're representing Harvard. We try to do that wherever we go."

For Stanford, it's the third in-season international trip in the program's 102-year history (Mexico, 2009; Bahamas, 2012), though the team visited Rome, Florence, Venice and Como during a summer tour of Italy in 2015. This year's visit by the Pac-12 follows one last year, when Washington beat Texas, and completes a two-year deal. Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott said he is working on extending the commitment.

Visiting Harvard last week, NBA Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar said the trip reminded him of the "ping pong diplomacy" of President Richard Nixon's administration and hoped it would help break down barriers between the nations.

"College sports diplomacy is a great trend," he said. "It's a great game, and I think it's a great entrée for people to interact."

For sure, it won't just be basketball on this trip.

The Crimson arrived in Hangzhou on Sunday night and — after sleeping off the 30-hour trip — had a meet-and-greet at the online commerce company Alibaba. They visited some ancient temples on Tuesday and a museum on Wednesday before playing Jiao Tong University in an exhibition. On Thursday, they were scheduled to appear in the Shanghai Disney parade and make an appearance with students from a school funded by the Yao Ming Foundation. Friday is back to work to prepare for the game, which is scheduled for noon Saturday local time, or 11 p.m. back on campus.

The Cardinal had a shorter flight — a mere 14 hours — with many of the same activities planned, adding a Huangpu River Cruise and an exhibition against Tsinghua.

All the while, players will have to keep up with their school work. Amaker said a half-dozen players have exams they will need to take on the trip — scheduled to coincide with the time their classmates are taking the tests back home. A handful of China scholars and other Harvard officials made the trip with the team.

"Studying is part of the travel," Amaker said. "It's going to be a lot that's put into it, but we're hoping we're going to gain a lot from it."

Asked if there was anything special he was looking forward to on his first trip to China, Amaker said, "Other than beating Stanford?"

Amaker arrived at Harvard in 2007 to find a basketball program with no past and not much of a future. The Crimson had never won an Ivy League championship in men's basketball before winning five straight, starting in 2011. Twice they have advanced in the NCAA Tournament by beating a higher-seeded first-round opponent.

With that success has come a highly regarded recruiting class and new opportunities, like trips to the Battle for Atlantis in the Bahamas and the Great Alaska Shootout and now China.

"This is another layer that we can add to the growth of our program. The success that we've had in the past allows us to be invited and thought of for moments like this. And we're proud of that," Amaker said.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 24 of 75

"How lucky are we to have this opportunity in front of us, and to be able to thank basketball for something like this? This is where sports and athletics can provide opportunities that most people won't have."

Edosomwan has been to China twice before, running an educational conference there last summer. He has taken six semesters of Mandarin and six other classes on China at Harvard, making him a bit of an expert among his teammates.

"I guess in a way I know a little bit more," Edosomwan said.

And what did his teammates want to know?

"Mostly," he said, "what's the deal with the internet?"

AP Sports Writer Janie McCauley contributed to this story from Stanford, California.

The Latest: Merkel calls Trump to congratulate on victory

LONDON (AP) — The latest on world reaction to the U.S. presidential election (all times local):

12:00 p.m.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has called President-elect Donald Trump to congratulate him on winning the U.S. election and offer her country's cooperation.

Merkel's spokesman says the German leader spoke to Trump by telephone late Thursday.

Spokesman Georg Streiter told reporters in Berlin that Merkel stressed the common values of Germany and the United States.

Immediately following Trump's election victory, Merkel had offered the new U.S. administration "a close partnership" on the basis of "democracy, freedom, respect for the law and the dignity of human beings regardless of their origin, skin color, religion, gender, sexual orientation and political opinion."

Her comments were widely seen in Germany as a rebuke to Trump's rhetoric during the election campaign.

11:25 a.m.

A powerful Iraqi cleric whose followers once fought U.S. troops says Donald Trump's election victory is a sign of American decline.

Muqtada al-Sadr, a Shiite who brought thousands of anti-government protesters into the streets of Baghdad earlier this year, urged Americans in a Friday statement to resist Trump's intolerant views.

He says: "We advise the American people not to be affected by the radicalism of their president, and they should not allow him to impose his influence."

Al-Sadr's militia, known as the Peace Brigades, is among the largest of several government-sanctioned Shiite armed groups battling Islamic State forces. He says his group considers America "as the founder of terrorism, by its acts and behavior."

He added: "Peace be upon the American people, those who like moderation and who want peace and peaceful coexistence between religions and ethnicities."

10:30 a.m.

Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami says that President-elect Donald Trump should apologize to the Iranian people for calling them terrorists during his campaign.

The senior religious scholar, in a Friday sermon broadcast live on state radio, said Trump should "respectfully apologize to the nation."

Khatami warned Trump about confronting Iran, saying he should know better than to play with "the tail of the lion."

The cleric said that Tehran had successfully foiled and frustrated several of Trump's White House predecessors.

He said Iran's stance on the U.S. election is to avoid intervention or involvement in another country's internal affairs.

He said, "We respect the people of other countries and we respect their elections."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 25 of 75

6:30 a.m.

Japan's defense minister says his country already pays enough for U.S. troops based there, a response to repeated demands by President-elect Donald Trump that countries hosting American forces should pay more.

Trump's remarks during the election campaign have raised concern in Japan about a possibility his administration may seek Japan's increased spending for American forces.

Defense Minister Tomomi Inada stressed that the presence of U.S. troops in Japan serves as a key deterrence in the Asia-Pacific region and they should stay.

Japan pays about 200 billion yen (\$1.9 billion) a year — or about 70 percent — in so-called host-nation support for 50,000 U.S. troops.

Inada said Friday: "I believe it's enough. We pay what we are supposed to cover."

Iran deal endangered if Trump seeks to renegotiate its terms

By BRADLEY KLAPPER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump isn't going to rip up the Iran nuclear deal on day one as president, but his vows to renegotiate the terms and increase enforcement could imperil an agreement that has put off the threat of Tehran developing atomic weapons. Emboldened Republican lawmakers are already considering ways to test Iran's resolve to live up to the deal.

As a candidate, Trump issued a variety of statements about last year's pact. He called it "stupid," a "lopsided disgrace" and the "worst deal ever negotiated," railing against its time-limited restrictions on Iran's enrichment of uranium and other nuclear activity, and exaggerating the scale of U.S. concessions.

Trump said that he doesn't want to simply tear up the agreement. Instead, he spoke of reopening the diplomacy and declared that unlike President Barack Obama's diplomats, he would have been prepared to walk away from talks.

Trump's exact plans are vague, however, and a renegotiation would be difficult. Iran has little incentive to open talks over a deal it is satisfied with. And none of the other countries in the seven-nation accord has expressed interest in picking apart an understanding that took more than a decade of stop-and-go diplomacy and almost two full years of negotiation to complete.

As Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has said: If the U.S. tears up the agreement, "we will light it on fire." President Hassan Rouhani said this week no country could simply change what was agreed, pointing to a U.N. Security Council resolution that endorsed the package.

The deal, which went into effect in January, forced Iran to pull back from the brink of nuclear weapons capacity in exchange for an end to many of the U.S. and European sanctions that devastated Iran's economy. It has been largely respected despite undiminished U.S.-Iranian tensions throughout the Middle East, including their support for rival sides in Syria and Yemen's civil wars.

Each side has leverage: Iran doesn't want a new onslaught of U.S.-led economic pressure and America would be alarmed by any Iranian escalation of its nuclear program. But the accord rests on fragile ground, with powerful contingencies in Washington and Tehran vehemently opposed and looking for any excuse to break it apart. In such a climate, it's unclear what Trump's demands for a renegotiation might mean.

"The agreement is valid only as long as all parties uphold it," State Department spokesman Mark Toner acknowledged Wednesday in the agency's first briefing since Trump's stunning election victory over Hillary Clinton to become the 45th president.

Last summer, Walid Phares, a Trump adviser on the Middle East, said Trump wouldn't pull out of an agreement with America's "institutional signature," but rather revise elements through one-on-one negotiations with Iran or with a larger grouping of allies.

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the pro-deal Arms Control Association, said that re-litigating the deal would unsettle American allies, with no clear picture of what Trump would be trying to accomplish.

Trump could also send the deal to Congress, whose Republican majority has opposed it.

GOP lawmakers are examining a slew of possible actions. Among the likeliest pieces of legislation is one

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 26 of 75

targeting sectors of Iran's economy supporting ballistic missile work, including those specifically exempted from sanctions under the nuclear deal. Another goes after Iran's Revolutionary Guard for its military activity in Syria and support of terrorism.

Iran could use either as an excuse to push past the limits of the nuclear deal, which may partly explain Republican motivations.

Trump has largely avoided talk of killing the agreement, but has said he would police the deal "so tough they don't have a chance."

The U.N. nuclear agency has confirmed minor Iranian violations, specifically on its stockpiling of heavy water that can be used in plutonium production. It has faced no punishment. Iran also has repeatedly breached a ballistic missile ban that was extended for eight years under the nuclear deal, prompting some limited sanctions from Washington.

The Obama administration has been hamstrung. Determined to protect the president's foreign policy legacy, it has gone above and beyond the agreement's stipulation that no new nuclear-related sanctions be introduced.

When Yemen's Iran-backed Shiite rebels fired missiles at U.S. Navy vessels, the retaliatory action didn't extend to Tehran. Nor has Iran faced repercussions for joining Syria and Russia's offensive in Aleppo, which has drawn U.S. charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

And whenever top Iranian officials have complained about the speed and scope of their post-deal economic recovery, top Obama officials like Secretary of State John Kerry have served as pitchmen to international banks and companies hesitant about investing in Iran.

"It is a whole new reality," said Mark Dubowitz, an Iran sanctions proponent at the hawkish Foundation for Defense of Democracies. What does he expect from Trump? "No more free lunches for the Iranians, no more unilateral concessions, no more excuses."

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. PROTESTS PERSIST AFTER TRUMP'S ELECTION

The epicenter was in Portland, Oregon, where thousands marched and some smashed store windows, lit firecrackers and started a dumpster fire in what police declared a riot.

2. TRUMP-CONGRESS ALLIANCE FACES TOUGH REALITY

Even with unified GOP control of Washington, the president-elect's priorities may have trouble getting through on Capitol Hill.

3. HOW IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL COULD BE JEOPARDY

Trump's vows to renegotiate the terms and increase enforcement could imperil an agreement that has put off the threat of Tehran developing atomic weapons.

4. WITH TRUMP, A MAJOR US SHIFT IN MIDEAST

Besides Iran, he vowed to ramp up the war on IS jihadis, could make the Palestinians desperate by siding with Israel, and seems set to end Obama's cold-shoulder to authoritarians in the region.

5. AFTER DEADLY POLICE ENCOUNTERS, VOTERS BACK CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT

The trend reflects growing demand for independent reviews of misconduct after deadly police encounters in cities like Ferguson, Baltimore and New York.

6. RARE CANCER MAY BE LINKED TO VIETNAM SOLDIERS

The government acknowledges hundreds of patients with cholangiocarcinoma, a disease linked to parasites in raw or undercooked fish, have passed through the VA in the past 15 years.

7. WHAT CHINA HAS IN STORE FOR RESTIVE MYANMAR REGION

Beijing's plan for its foothold on the Bay of Bengal includes an industrial zone, oil refinery and deep-water port that could transform sleepy Kyaukpyu into a thriving business hub.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 27 of 75

8. MEET THE 'McQUINTS'

The 18-year-old Curtis quintuplets all work at a McDonald's restaurant in Potterville, Michigan.

9. FAMED SINGER-SONGWRITER LEONARD COHEN DIES

The baritone-voiced Canadian who blended spirituality and sexuality in songs like "Hallelujah," "Suzanne" and "Bird on a Wire" is dead at 82.

10. RAVENS, BROWN GOING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS

Baltimore gains sole possession of first in the AFC North with a 28-7 win over Cleveland, which has opened a season with 10 consecutive losses for the first time since joining the NFL in 1950.

John Kerry lands in Antarctica, highest US official to visit

MCMURDO STATION, Antarctica (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry became the highest-ranking American official to visit Antarctica on Friday when he landed for a two-day trip during which he'll hear from scientists about the impact of climate change on the frozen continent.

Kerry left from New Zealand after being held up for about a day by bad weather. Kerry and his entourage left the Christchurch airport at 6 a.m. aboard a C-17 Globemaster military cargo plane and landed in Antarctica about 11 a.m.

Kerry, an experienced pilot, spent much of the flight in the cockpit of the huge jet, chatting with the pilots. After a smooth trip of about five hours, the group landed on the Pegasus Ice Runway, the strip of ice that serves McMurdo. The large base is the hub for U.S. operations.

Kerry made no public remarks on the initial leg of the trip. In Christchurch a day earlier, he congratulated President-elect Donald Trump for winning a "momentous election" and said he had reminded State Department staff of the "time-honored tradition of a very peaceful and constructive transfer of power."

In Antarctica, Kerry's plans called for his entourage to transfer immediately at the airstrip to a smaller military transport plane for a three-hour flight to the research station the U.S. government operates near the South Pole. Kerry planned to visit that station for about two hours before returning to McMurdo for the night.

Kerry's aides described the trip as a learning opportunity for the secretary of state. He planned to receive briefings from scientists working to understand the effects of climate change on Antarctica. Kerry has made climate change an intensive focus of American diplomacy during his term, and had previously spent decades working on the issue as a U.S. senator.

He planned to return to New Zealand on Saturday for meetings with Prime Minister John Key. He plans to fly next week to the Middle East for talks, and then onward to a global climate conference in Morocco, where he will give a major speech.

Behind the smiles, tough reality for Trump and GOP Congress

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The budding new alliance between Donald Trump and congressional Republicans hides a tougher reality: Even with unified GOP control of Washington, the president-elect's priorities may have trouble getting through Congress.

And in some cases Republicans themselves might be the barrier.

Building a border wall and restricting immigration from terror-stricken nations? Don't count on Senate Democrats to go along, and they will effectively wield veto power in many cases.

Repealing President Barack Obama's health care law? That looks likely to happen in some way, shape or form, but a number of states that accepted that law's expansion of the Medicaid health program for the poor are represented by Republicans. It will take painstaking and potentially lengthy negotiations to come up with a solution.

And then there are Trump's protectionist views on trade, skepticism about international treaty organizations and promises to protect Social Security and Medicare. All that flies in the face of Republican Party

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 28 of 75

orthodoxy — and the list goes on.

Still, all that seemed like a problem for another day as Trump paid a triumphant visit to Capitol Hill on Thursday after a cordial White House meeting with President Barack Obama.

He sat down with House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, whom he derided as “very weak and ineffective” just last month after Ryan distanced himself over audio of Trump talking about groping women. Ryan was all smiles as he escorted Trump, wife Melania and Vice President-elect Mike Pence onto the Capitol Balcony to give them a view of the inauguration platform being constructed for Trump to take the oath of office Jan. 20.

From there Trump strolled through the Capitol’s stately Ohio Clock Corridor with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who’d been quick to endorse him but critical of his rhetoric and undisciplined campaign style. But it was McConnell’s strategy of refusing to act after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia in February that now hands Trump a Supreme Court vacancy to fill.

And on Thursday there was no sign of strain. The normally reserved McConnell even seemed to adopt Trump’s hyperbolic rhetorical style, declaring their encounter “a first-class meeting.”

Ryan, for his part, picked up Trump’s campaign slogan, telling reporters: “We are now talking about how to hit the ground running, and make sure we get this country turned around, and make America great again.”

As he left the Capitol, Trump was asked about his legislative priorities.

“A lot of really great priorities. People will be very, very happy,” he said. “We’re going to move very strongly on immigration. We will move very strongly on health care. And we’re looking at jobs. Big-league jobs.”

As for specifics, there were none. But Trump’s ability to deliver on his extravagant campaign promises to change Washington and rebuild the nation will require passing laws, a tedious process not built for instant gratification.

He will be able to take some steps through unilateral, executive actions, a method Republicans repeatedly accused Obama of overusing. But big-ticket items like tax cuts and infrastructure spending, and most major policy changes on immigration, health care, energy or trade, would require Congress’ say-so. And although Republicans control the House, they will have only 52 seats in the 100-member Senate next year, well short of the 60 votes needed to advance most legislation.

“Many of his proposals would face a certain filibuster in the Senate,” predicted Jim Manley, a Democratic consultant and former top Senate aide.

So the gatekeeper on much of Trump’s agenda may end up being New York Sen. Chuck Schumer, who will take over as the Democrats’ Senate leader in the new Congress. Schumer has had little to say since the election, beyond issuing a short statement congratulating Trump, though the two have spoken on the phone. But few expect Schumer and his Democrats to sign on to too many of Trump’s plans.

And the areas where Democrats see most initial agreement with Trump — on infrastructure spending, for instance, or his proposal for paid family leave — may run into problems from congressional conservatives reluctant to go along with big government spending.

Even as GOP leaders pledged to work together with Trump, there were signs of policy differences.

At a post-election news conference, McConnell declined to endorse Trump’s signature border wall with Mexico.

And on trade, Trump has denounced the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiated by the Obama administration, and both McConnell and Ryan have indicated it won’t come to a vote before Obama leaves office. Yet some establishment Republicans remain convinced that some kind of deal is sorely needed.

“The big question is trade. Gotta have trade,” said GOP Sen. Pat Roberts of Kansas, who chairs the Agriculture Committee. Roberts said “mounds of grain” are sitting on the ground in Kansas, waiting for customers.

“Gotta export. And with that, it’s preferable to have a trade bill,” Roberts said, adding of Trump: “I don’t think he’s opposed to trade bills. He just wants trade bills where he feels we get an equal shake. So, we’ll work on it.”

Associated Press writers Andrew Taylor and Matthew Daly contributed to this report.

Follow Erica Werner at <http://twitter.com/ericawerner>

'Hallelujah' Singer-Songwriter Leonard Cohen dead at age 82

By **ANDREW DALTON** and **ROBERT JABLON**, Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Leonard Cohen, the baritone-voiced Canadian singer-songwriter who seamlessly blended spirituality and sexuality in songs like "Hallelujah," "Suzanne" and "Bird on a Wire," has died at age 82, his son said Thursday.

"My father passed away peacefully at his home in Los Angeles," Adam Cohen said in a statement. "He was writing up until his last moments with his unique brand of humor."

Cohen, also renowned as a poet, novelist and aspiring Zen monk, blended folk music with a darker, sexual edge that won him fans around the world and among fellow musicians like Bob Dylan and R.E.M.

He remained wildly popular into his 80s, when his deep voice plunged to seriously gravelly depths. He toured as recently as earlier this year and released a new album, "You Want it Darker," just last month. Adam Cohen said his father died with the knowledge that he'd made one of his greatest records.

Cohen's "Hallelujah" went from cult hit to modern standard, now an unending staple on movies, TV shows, YouTube videos, reality shows and high school choir concerts.

Cohen, who once said he got into music because he couldn't make a living as a poet, rose to prominence during the folk music revival of the 1960s. During those years, he traveled the folk circuit with younger artists like Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Joan Baez and others.

His contemporary Kris Kristofferson once said that he wanted the opening lines to Cohen's "Bird on a Wire," on his tombstone.

They would be a perfect epitaph for Cohen himself: "Like a bird on a wire, like a drunk in a midnight choir, I have tried in my way to be free."

"Hamilton" star and creator Lin-Manuel Miranda quoted those lines on Twitter Thursday night as one of many paying tribute to Cohen.

Mourners gathered and created a candle-lit shrine outside a home in Montreal, the city where Cohen was born.

Cohen never seemed quite as comfortable on stage as he did writing and recording, chalking it up to being a late starter among his folk cohort. "I was at least 10 years older than the rest of them," he told *Magazine*, a supplement to the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo*, in 2001.

Judy Collins, who had a hit with Cohen's song "Suzanne," once recalled he was so shy that he quit halfway through his first public performance of it and she had to coax him back onstage.

Like Dylan, his voice lacked polish but rang with emotion.

In 2016, Dylan told *The New Yorker* that Cohen's best work was "deep and truthful, "multidimensional" and "surprisingly melodic."

"When people talk about Leonard, they fail to mention his melodies, which to me, along with his lyrics, are his greatest genius," Dylan said. "Even the counterpoint lines — they give a celestial character and melodic lift to every one of his songs. As far as I know, no one else comes close to this in modern music."

It was Dylan who first recognized the potential of 1984's "Hallelujah," performing it twice in concert during the mid-1980s, once in Cohen's native Canada.

It had gone unnoticed when it came out on an independent-label album that had been rejected by Cohen's label. He had filled a notebook with some 80 verses before recording the song, which he said despite its religious references to David, Bathsheba and Samson was an attempt to give a nonreligious context to hallelujah, an expression of praise.

Cohen recorded four verses, but he sent several more to John Cale, a founding Velvet Underground member who recorded "Hallelujah" for a 1991 tribute album.

It's the Cale version that has become the standard and was used by its most celebrated singer, the late Jeff Buckley, whose 1994 recording really began the launch of the song as cultural phenomenon.

Cohen was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2008, telling the audience: "This is a very

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 30 of 75

unlikely occasion for me. It is not a distinction that I coveted or even dared dream about."

In songs such as "Sisters of Mercy," Cohen melded romantic imagery with minimal orchestration to produce music that rang with the authenticity of traditional folk songs. Many had a dark mood, featuring black humor or sardonic social commentary.

"Destroy another fetus now, We don't like children anyhow," was one of the lines from his song "The Future."

Once asked if he was a pessimist, he responded with typical dark humor.

"I don't consider myself a pessimist at all," he told the London Daily Telegraph in 1993. "I think of a pessimist as someone who is waiting for it to rain. And I feel completely soaked to the skin."

Cohen suffered bouts of depression throughout his life that he sometimes tried to mitigate with alcohol and drugs.

When he gave his first U.S. concert in 15 years in early 2009, the 74-year-old received countless standing ovations from the sold-out crowd at New York's Beacon Theatre.

"It's been a long time since I stood up on this stage in New York City," Cohen said. "I was 60 years old, just a kid with a crazy dream. Since then I've taken a lot of Prozac."

Born Sept. 21, 1934, he formed a country music group called the Buckskin Boys while still in his teens.

He was attending McGill University when his poetry book, "Let Us Compare Mythologies," was published in 1956 to critical acclaim. It was followed by "The Spice-Box of Earth" in 1961. His first novel, "The Favourite Game," came out in 1963.

He published several more poetry collections while living on the Greek island of Hydra in the 1960s and began to get wide notice with his experimental novel "Beautiful Losers" in 1966 and his first album, "Songs of Leonard Cohen," in 1968.

"Leonard Cohen seems on the verge of becoming a major spokesman for the aging pilgrims of his generation," The New York Times wrote in 1968. He told the Times interviewer: "I don't even think of myself as a writer, singer or whatever. The occupation of being a man is so much more."

In all, he published more than a dozen novels and books of poetry and recorded nearly two dozen albums.

Born to a Jewish family, Cohen considered himself both a Jew and a Buddhist.

For decades, Cohen was a student and friend of Joshu Sasaki Roshi, a Zen Buddhist monk, and from 1994 to 1999 he lived as a disciple of Roshi's at the Mount Baldy Zen Center in Los Angeles.

He claimed not to fully understand Buddhist concepts, but he said the retreat and its hard work gave him a better sense of himself.

"I was the cook up there," he told Magazine. "My life was filled with great disorder, with chaos, and I achieved a little discipline there. So I decided to return to music."

He continued to write and produce albums and books.

Cohen never married but he had two children, Adam and Lorca, with artist Suzanne Elrod.

He never won a Grammy, but he won countless other awards, including being named a companion of the Order of Canada in 1991, his native country's highest civilian honor.

"No other artist's music felt or sounded like Leonard Cohen's," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a statement Thursday. "Yet his work resonated across generations. Canada and the world will miss him."

One of Cohen's most beloved hits was 1967's "So Long Marianne," written for former girlfriend and longtime friend Marianne Ihlen, who also inspired his song "Hey, That's No Way to Say Goodbye."

In late July of this year, Cohen received an email from a friend of Ihlen's that she was suffering from cancer, the New Yorker reported last month. Cohen wrote her a letter that read:

"Well Marianne, it's come to this time when we are really so old and our bodies are falling apart and I think I will follow you very soon. Know that I am so close behind you that if you stretch out your hand, I think you can reach mine."

Ihlen received the letter two days before her death.

Associated Press music writer Mesfin Fekadu contributed to this report from New York.

Michigan quintuplets work at same McDonald's restaurant

By **MIKE HOUSEHOLDER, Associated Press**

POTTERVILLE, Mich. (AP) — Nearly everywhere you look inside one Michigan McDonald's, there's an 18-year-old Curtis.

Leith, Logan and Lucas Curtis work in the kitchen; Lauren Curtis is responsible for the front counter; and Lindsey Curtis handles the lobby and dining area of the restaurant where the quintuplets work in Potterville. Their mother calls the arrangement "McCurtis."

It started about a year ago when boss Renee Draves asked Lucas Curtis a question she often poses to her younger workers: Did he and his co-worker/sister have any siblings looking for a job? She was floored by Lucas' answer.

"She wondered if we had any other siblings, and, funny enough, we did," Lucas said, smiling.

Lucas is the youngest of the quintuplets, born three minutes after older brother Leith. Lucas and his sister Lauren started working at the McDonald's last fall, and their three siblings followed suit earlier this year.

Yet few customers are aware that the non-identical fivesome, who make up 11 percent of their senior class at Potterville High School, are related. They represent about half the restaurant's staff on a typical Sunday, but only recently has word spread about their unique relationship.

"Up until this point, nobody knew," said their father, Leith Curtis, a police officer in nearby Lansing who himself is a twin.

Lucas noted that he and his siblings get along well, so working together has been easy.

Draves, who owns four McDonald's restaurants in the area, said she couldn't be happier.

"Being a quintuplet, they know teamwork probably better than anyone else," she said. "To have quintuplets working collectively, all at the same time, I would go out on a limb and say we are the only McDonald's that's ever had quintuplets."

Plus, Draves noted, she has a mathematical advantage.

"If I have a shift that I need covered, I can call their house, and it's a one-in-five shot that I'm going to get one of them in," she said.

Follow Mike Householder on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/mikehouseholder>

Trump bucks protocol on press access

By **KATHLEEN HENNESSEY, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump is keeping Americans in the dark about his earliest conversations and decisions as president-elect, bucking a long-standing practice intended to ensure the public has a watchful eye on its new leader.

Trump on Thursday refused to allow journalists to travel with him to Washington for his historic first meetings with President Barack Obama and congressional leaders. The Republican's top advisers rebuffed news organizations' requests for a small "pool" of journalists to trail him as he attended the meetings.

The decision was part of an opaque pattern in Trump's moves since his victory Tuesday. He was entirely out of sight on Wednesday. His aides said he was huddled with advisers at his offices in New York. His team has not put out a daily schedule, or offered any detailed updates on how he has spent his time. They have not acknowledged phone calls or other contact with world leaders.

When Russian President Vladimir Putin sent a congratulatory telegram to Trump on Wednesday, Moscow spread the word. A phone call with British Prime Minister Theresa May was announced in London. The pattern was repeated for calls with leaders of Israel, Egypt, South Korea and Australia.

The White House typically releases statements on the president's phone calls with foreign leaders, providing some details about the conversation. Past presidents-elect have had early briefings with journalists, even in confusing first hours after Election Day.

But early signs suggest Trump is willing to break protocol when it comes to press access and transparency. As a candidate, Trump railed against the press as "disgusting" and "dishonest." He refused to allow a

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 32 of 75

pool of campaign reporters and photographers to fly on his plane to events, sometimes starting his rallies before his press corps had arrived. The practice did not extend to his running mate, Mike Pence, who was followed by a traditional pool of journalists.

News organizations had tried for weeks to coordinate a pool of journalists to travel with Trump immediately after Election Day if he won. The Associated Press is among those reaching out to Trump advisers about press access.

Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks said the president-elect's team expects "to operate a traditional pool and look forward to implementing our plans in the near future."

The White House Correspondents' Association, which coordinates press pools and advocates for transparency at the White House, urged Trump to allow journalists to cover his meetings and other movements.

"This decision could leave Americans blind about his whereabouts and well-being in the event of a national crisis," said Jeff Mason, White House correspondent for Reuters and the group's president. "Not allowing a pool of journalists to travel with and cover the next president of the United States is unacceptable."

Trump's meeting with Obama in the Oval Office was recorded by the pool of White House reporters, photographers and TV journalists who cover the president.

Every president and president-elect in recent memory has traveled with a pool of journalists when leaving the White House grounds.

A pool of reporters and photographers was in the motorcade when President John F. Kennedy was shot and killed in Dallas. The pool was just steps away from President Ronald Reagan when he was shot outside a hotel in the District of Columbia, and was stationed outside his hospital as he recovered. The pool also travels on vacation and foreign trips and at times captures personal, historic moments of the presidency.

The practice makes journalists eyewitnesses to how the president conducts business, rather than relying on secondhand accounts. They often capture more intimate moments between the president and people he greets. The White House, meanwhile, depends on having journalists nearby at all times to relay the president's first comments on breaking news.

News organizations take turns serving in the small group, paying their way and sharing the material collected in the pool with the larger press corps. The pool also covers official events at the White House when space doesn't allow for the full press corps.

Because of safety concerns, presidents and presidents-elect travel in a bubble of security, with the exact timing of their travel kept secret and streets often blocked off around their events. That leaves news organizations dependent on the White House to facilitate the pool coverage by arranging security clearances and transportation.

Obama also has looked for new ways to limit White House press access.

On Thursday, photographers were not allowed to shoot a meeting between first lady Michelle Obama and Melania Trump, who joined her husband on the White House visit.

The White House released a photo taken by a staff photographer and circulated it on social media. The AP does not distribute such photos.

White House photographers were allowed to shoot a similar meeting between Mrs. Obama and then-first lady Laura Bush eight years ago.

Mr. Trump comes to Washington: Triumphant tour for the victor

By JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump took a triumphant tour of the nation's capital Thursday, holding a cordial White House meeting with President Barack Obama, sketching out priorities with Republican congressional leaders and taking in the majestic view from where he'll be sworn in to office.

Trump's meeting with Obama spanned 90 minutes, longer than originally scheduled. Obama said he was "encouraged" by Trump's willingness to work with his team during the transition of power, and the Republican called the president a "very good man."

"I very much look forward to dealing with the president in the future, including his counsel," Trump said

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 33 of 75

from the Oval Office. He'll begin occupying the office on Jan. 20.

While Trump noted that he and Obama had never met before, their political histories will forever be linked. Trump spent years perpetrating the lie that Obama was born outside the United States. The president campaigned aggressively against Trump during the 2016 campaign, warning that his election would put the republic at risk.

But at least publicly, the two men appeared to put aside their animosity. As the meeting concluded and journalists scrambled out of the Oval Office, Obama smiled at his successor and explained the unfolding scene.

"We now are going to want to do everything we can to help you succeed because if you succeed the country succeeds," Obama said.

From the White House, Trump headed to Capitol Hill for meetings with House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky to discuss the GOP legislative agenda. Ryan, who holds the most powerful post in Congress, was a sometime critic of Trump and never campaigned with the nominee.

Emerging from the meetings, Trump sketched out priorities for his presidency.

"We're going to move very strongly on immigration," he said. "We will move very strongly on health care. And we're looking at jobs. Big league jobs."

Ryan took Trump on a tour of the Speaker's Balcony overlooking the National Mall, the scene of Trump's upcoming inauguration. The view, Trump said, was "really, really beautiful."

Trump was also beginning the process of putting together his White House team. Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus, who worked his way into Trump's inner circle during the election, and top campaign official Kellyanne Conway were emerging as possible picks for White House chief of staff, according to two people familiar with the transition planning.

A third person said conservative media executive Steve Bannon was also in the mix, though others insisted Bannon would not have a White House role. Those involved in the process insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the planning publicly. A decision on chief of staff is expected in the coming days.

First lady Michelle Obama met privately in the White House residence with Trump's wife, Melania, while Vice President Joe Biden saw Vice President-elect Mike Pence late Thursday. Trump's team was said to be sketching a robust role for Pence, an experienced Washington hand, that would include both domestic and foreign policy responsibilities.

Obama and Trump met alone, with no staff present, White House press secretary Josh Earnest told reporters following the discussion.

"The two men did not relitigate their differences in the Oval Office," Earnest said. "We're on to the next phase."

Trump traveled to Washington from New York on his private jet, breaking with protocol by not bringing journalists in his motorcade or on his plane to document his historic visit to the White House. Trump was harshly critical of the media during his campaign and for a time banned news organizations whose coverage he disliked from his events.

At the White House, Obama chief of staff Denis McDonough was seen walking along the South Lawn driveway with Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law. A handful of Trump aides trailed them.

The show of civility at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue contrasted with postelection scenes of protests across a politically divided country. Demonstrators from New England to the heartland and the West Coast vented against the election winner on Wednesday, chanting "Not my president," burning a papier-mache Trump head, beating a Trump pinata and carrying signs that said "Impeach Trump."

More than 100 protesters held a sit-in outside Trump International Hotel just blocks from the White House. The mostly student protesters held signs saying "Love Trumps Hate," a phrase Democrat Hillary Clinton often used during the campaign.

The demonstrations drove the president-elect back to Twitter Thursday night. "Now professional protest-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 34 of 75

ers, incited by the media, are protesting," Trump tweeted. "Very unfair!"

Trump's advisers, many of whom were stunned by his unexpected victory, plunged into the huge task of staffing government agencies. A transition website, GreatAgain.gov, referenced 4,000 political appointee openings.

Officials at the Pentagon and State Department said they had not yet been contacted.

State Department spokesman Mark Toner said the agency stood ready "to work with the incoming team once that team is designated and arrives here. But we don't have any firm word as to when that will be."

As president-elect, Trump is entitled to the same daily intelligence briefing as Obama — including information on U.S. covert operations, information gleaned about world leaders and other data gathered by America's 17 intelligence agencies. The White House said it would organize two exercises involving multiple agencies to help Trump's team learn how to respond to major domestic incidents.

AP writers Erica Werner, Andrew Taylor, Julie Bykowicz, Steve Peoples, Matthew Lee and Robert Burns in Washington, and Jonathan Lemire in New York contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

The Latest: Trump on Twitter taking on protesters

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on the U.S. presidential transition (all times EST):

9:45 p.m.

President-elect Donald Trump is back on Twitter, taking on the protesters who have gathered in cities across the nation since his election.

Trump tweets: "Just had a very open and successful presidential election. Now professional protesters, incited by the media, are protesting. Very unfair!"

Thousands have been gathering in cities from New York to Dallas to San Francisco to voice opposition to Trump's election.

Trump's complaint Thursday about the media echoes the rhetoric of his campaign, when he railed against the press as "disgusting" and "dishonest."

A few minutes earlier, Trump was more positive about his trip to Washington, tweeting: "A fantastic day in D.C. Met with President Obama for first time. Really good meeting, great chemistry. Melania liked Mrs. O a lot!"

9:40 p.m.

Billionaire conservative donor Charles Koch (kohk) says the election shows America is "more deeply divided than at any point in my lifetime."

Koch and his brother, David, oversaw policy and politics groups that spent about \$250 million in the two years ahead of the election, much of it on a successful drive to keep the Senate in Republican hands. However, the brothers did not support Donald Trump and withheld their money from the presidential race.

In an email Thursday to his groups' donors and employees, obtained by AP, Koch does not specifically mention Trump but says his group would work to find common ground with any elected official.

Koch says the election "made clear that Americans are angry about a rigged economy and political system that's driving our country toward a two-tiered society," he wrote.

7:37 p.m.

Donald Trump has won Arizona's presidential contest and its 11 electoral votes.

The Republican president-elect had a solid lead over Hillary Clinton on election night, but a winner wasn't declared because there were so many uncounted votes. The latest batch of returns tabulated Thursday made him the clear winner.

It extends a 20-year winning streak for Republican presidential candidates in Arizona. Bill Clinton was

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 35 of 75

the last Democrat to take the state, winning in 1996.

Hillary Clinton was closer to gaining Arizona than Barack Obama, who lost by more than 9 percentage points during his two runs for president. She is losing by 4 points.

Arizona was one of three races that had yet to be determined from the Tuesday election. Michigan and New Hampshire remain too close to call.

7:16 p.m.

Several hundred well-wishers and a high school band greeted Vice President-elect Mike Pence when he landed in Indiana for the first time since Tuesday's election.

Fire trucks sprayed streams of water in the air over the Republican governor's plane Thursday night and the marching band played, "My Indiana Home."

Pence told the crowd he was humbled to be Donald Trump's vice president. And he choked up when he said that his heart will always be in the state no matter where his new duties take him.

Pence also asked the crowd to support President-elect Donald Trump and to pray that the starkly divided country to be reunified.

He said he was grateful for Republican majorities in Congress and looks forward to getting the country back on track.

6:38 p.m.

Former President Bill Clinton has spoken to President-elect Donald Trump by phone. That's according to a spokesman for the former president and husband of Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

The spokesman says the former president congratulated Trump during the brief call on Thursday and wished him well.

6:17 p.m.

The White House says Vice President Joe Biden talked to Mike Pence Thursday about the key duties of vice president and well as specific policy portfolios he has worked on, including the NATO alliance, eastern Europe and expanding access to the middle class.

The White House says in describing the meeting that the two men spoke in the vice president's office in the West Wing and that they reminisced about their friendship dating back to when they served in Congress.

The White House says Biden offered his full support to the vice president-elect to ensure a seamless transition to power and that he invited the Pence family to join him and his wife for dinner on the grounds of the Naval Observatory, which is where the vice president traditionally resides.

5:13 p.m.

Donald Trump has picked a longtime friend and private equity executive to lead his inauguration efforts.

Tom Barrack, who founded California-based firm Colony Capital, has been selected to serve as chairman of the President-elect's inaugural committee. That's according to two sources with direct knowledge of the decision who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share internal discussions.

Barrack has been an aggressive public supporter of Trump throughout the campaign. He was among the primetime speakers at Trump's nominating convention this summer.

The inaugural chairman is responsible for raising millions of dollars to fund the inauguration, which includes several major parties and an extensive entertainment program.

Barrack's office declined a request for comment.

He told CBS "This Morning" on Thursday that Trump was like an ultimate fighter during the campaign who used "whatever tools necessary to convey a really disruptive message." He said America would see "a softer, kinder" Trump now that he's won the presidency.

-- By Steve Peoples and Julie Bykowicz

5:12 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 36 of 75

The president of the United Auto Workers says the union's views on trade align with Donald Trump's, and he'd like a meeting with the president-elect to talk about it.

Dennis Williams says he agrees with Trump's call for scrapping the North American Free Trade Agreement, which has sent auto jobs to Mexico. He also backs Trump's proposal for a 35 percent tariff on vehicles imported from Mexico.

The UAW has historically supported Democratic candidates and endorsed Hillary Clinton this year. But Michigan, which has the most auto workers of any state, narrowly voted for Trump in unofficial results. Internal polling of union members prior to the election showed 28 percent going for Trump with 6 percent undecided. Williams says Trump's total may actually have been slightly higher than the 31 percent who voted for Mitt Romney and 33 percent who went for John McCain.

5 p.m.

As President-elect Donald Trump puts together his White House, Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus and top campaign aide Kellyanne Conway are emerging as possible picks for chief of staff.

That's according to two people familiar with the transition planning.

Conway, a prominent Republican pollster, served as Trump's third campaign chief of staff and developed a strong rapport with the candidate. Priebus embraced Trump after his nomination, despite concerns among other Republicans, and worked his way into his inner circle.

A third person with knowledge of the transition process says conservative media executive Steve Bannon is also in the mix for chief of staff. However, others insist Bannon would not have a White House role.

Those involved in the process insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the planning publicly. A decision on chief of staff is expected in the coming days.

— By Julie Pace, Julie Bykowicz and Steve Peoples

3:35 p.m.

President-elect Donald Trump says his top three priorities are immigration, health care and jobs.

"Big-league jobs," he says.

Trump spoke briefly with reporters Thursday after meeting with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell at the Capitol.

Trump is wrapping up his first trip to Washington since winning Tuesday's election. He's been meeting with President Barack Obama and House Speaker Paul Ryan.

When a reporter asked if he would ask Congress to ban Muslims, Trump said "Thank you everybody," and walked away.

2:29 p.m.

More than 100 protesters are holding a sit-in outside Trump International Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue as the president-elect meets with Republican leaders a few blocks away on Capitol Hill.

The mostly student protesters are holding signs that say #stillwithher and Love Trumps Hate, a phrase that Hillary Clinton often used during her campaign against Trump.

The demonstrators sat on the sidewalk outside Trump's new hotel, chanting "Black Lives Matter" and "Stronger Together," a slogan of Clinton's campaign.

Trump met earlier with President Barack Obama in the Oval Office near the hotel.

2:15 p.m.

House Speaker Paul Ryan says he and President-elect Donald Trump had a "fantastic, productive meeting" at the Capitol.

Trump called the meeting "an honor." He added that, "I think we're going to do some absolutely spectacular things for the American people."

Trump may have signaled early agenda items where the Republicans agree. He said: "We can't get started fast enough, whether it's health care or immigration."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 37 of 75

Ryan then took Trump, Melania Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence out onto his balcony overlooking the Mall. Ryan pointed to where the inaugural platform being is built. That's where Trump will be sworn in.

Trump at one point gestured toward the tower of his new hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and the Capitol.

2:10 p.m.

First lady Michelle Obama and incoming first lady Melania Trump have spoken about the challenges of raising children in the White House.

Mrs. Trump's 10-year-old son Barron Trump will become a teenager during President-elect Donald Trump's first term. White House spokesman Josh Earnest says that's "a rather unique childhood."

He pointed out that Mrs. Obama and President Barack Obama also had the experience of raising children in the White House.

Earnest said Mrs. Obama and Mrs. Trump spoke about the experience of being a good parent under those unique circumstances. He said the two women then walked to the Oval Office to visit with the president and the president-elect.

2:05 p.m.

Federal officials have imposed temporary flight restrictions over Vice President-elect Mike Pence's current home at the Indiana governor's residence.

A Federal Aviation Administration notice dated Wednesday prohibits most aircraft from flying below 1,500 feet within a one-mile radius of the governor's residence in Indianapolis. It says military aircraft supporting the Secret Service are exempt, along with police and emergency aircraft.

The FAA generally issues temporary restrictions when there's a special event or hazardous condition. Similar limits have been issued for around Trump Tower in New York City.

The notice says the Indianapolis air space restrictions are needed because of "VIP movement." They expire Jan. 21, the day after Pence becomes vice president.

1:50 p.m.

Donald Trump's first wife, Ivana, says she voted for her ex. She says he'll "make big changes" in the United States.

Ivana Trump offered the comment when reached by phone by her fourth husband, Rossano Rubicondi, while he appeared on an Italian TV talk show.

Ivana Trump is the mother of the president-elect's three oldest children. She married Rubicondi in 2008 and legally separated from him later that year.

According to a news release from the "Maurizio Costanzo Show," Ivana Trump said: "Naturally I voted for Donald. He's a businessman who will make big changes."

The show is scheduled to air Sunday.

1:10 p.m.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi has spoken with Vice President-elect Mike Pence, her former House colleague.

Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill said that Pelosi congratulated Pence on his win in their conversation Thursday.

Hammill said: "The two agreed on the need to find common ground and that they would meet in person in the weeks ahead."

Pence served in the House of Representatives before becoming governor of Indiana.

1 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 38 of 75

President-elect Donald Trump has left the White House after his first meeting with President Barack Obama.

Trump says it was the first time the two had ever met. For almost 90 minutes, they discussed the coming changeover of government. Trump said they had planned to meet for a much shorter period of time.

While in Washington, Trump also plans to meet with House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

As Trump and Obama met in the Oval Office, first lady Michelle Obama welcomed Trump's wife, Melania, to the White House residence.

Russia eyes better ties with Trump; says contacts underway

By JIM HEINTZ and MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A top Russian diplomat and Vladimir Putin's spokesman said Thursday that Russian experts were in contact with some members of President-elect Donald Trump's staff during the presidential campaign, a period in which the United States accused Russia of hacking into Democratic Party emails systems.

A spokeswoman for Trump denied the assertion, but it raised the ongoing suspicions about the president-elect's relationship with Putin's government that had dogged his campaign with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Russia is hopeful that a Trump presidency will herald improved relations with the United States. But, in a sign of the cold realism that Putin is known for, Moscow is not betting on an immediate drastic turnaround in the strained relationship.

And while Trump himself has said he wants to be friends with Russia and join forces in the fight against terrorism, he has outlined few specifics as to how he would go about it. President Barack Obama began his presidency with a similar goal, only to see progress unravel over the conflicts in Ukraine and Syria.

Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told The Associated Press in an interview in New York that Russian experts had contacts with people in both the Trump and Clinton campaigns. He said such contacts are "quite natural, quite normal."

"And our experts, our specialists on the U.S., on international affairs ... Of course they are constantly speaking to their counterparts here, including those from Mr. Trump's group," Peskov said.

"Of course, it's quite natural that Russian experts are trying to maintain the dialogue with people from different camps. It's very important to understand the main streams, and understand the main tendencies, nuances and the positioning of different parties, different camps here in the United States," he said.

Peskov said Russia has "a very good relationship" with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and relationships with some academics and U.S.-Russia experts involved in foreign policy, which he also called "normal."

Earlier, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov was quoted as telling the Interfax news agency that "there were contacts" with influential people in Trump's circle. "I don't say that all of them, but a whole array of them supported contacts with Russian representatives."

Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks denied such contacts.

"It never happened," she said. "There was no communication between the campaign and any foreign entity during the campaign."

Hicks also said there are no meetings planned between Peskov and Trump or anyone with the campaign.

Among Trump's inner circle was Paul Manafort, a longtime Republican operative who'd advised a pro-Russian Ukrainian political party before its ouster over alleged corruption. Manafort left the campaign after those contacts were made public.

The U.S. government believes Putin might have interfered in the presidential election. The intelligence community has concluded that Russia was responsible for hacking into the emails of the Democratic National Committee and Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta and gave them to WikiLeaks, which released them. Some embarrassed and damaged the Clinton campaign.

In his comments, Ryabkov was careful not to overpromise.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 39 of 75

"We do not feel any euphoria," he said, recalling ups and downs in the Washington-Moscow relationship under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

"We wouldn't like our public ... to have an impression that we are full of some rosy expectations. I have to say that the judgments about Russia aired by members of the Trump campaign and people from his entourage were quite tough. And we didn't see any reason to revise our view that the election campaign in the U.S. in fact saw a bipartisan anti-Russian consensus."

Still, speaking with the careful phrasing befitting the spy he once was, Putin has made it clear he expects a great deal from Trump. And, Trump has suggested he wants a far more transactional relationship with Putin than Obama has had.

Trump's rise to the White House puts two men into seats of global power who are paradoxically both remarkably similar and wildly different.

Trump's praise of the Russian president as a strong leader, his suggestion that the U.S. could abandon its NATO commitments and his vehement complaints about allegedly biased news media all appear to parallel Putin's view of the world.

Trump has repeatedly called for better relations with Russia, frequently musing about a rosy world in which Russia and the U.S. get along. On Wednesday, Putin did the same, hoping that the "degraded" relations between the two countries would improve once Trump takes over. Putin noted, however, that the tension "is not our fault."

Trump made no specific mention of Russia in his first post-election comments but made clear that he wants good relations with all nations "willing to get along with us."

Putin would be pleased if the U.S. dropped the sanctions imposed for Russia's annexation of Crimea and its involvement in the continuing war in eastern Ukraine. That could appeal to Trump's sense that he is the master of the deal.

"I believe that Trump is a practical man; he will lift sanctions on Russia that are harmful to U.S. business," Putin aide Sergei Glazyev told the state news agency Tass.

The U.S. sanctions have been a strong factor in Russia's economic decline over the past two years, along with a plunge in prices for oil, its major export.

Lee reported from Washington. Associated Press writers James Ellingworth and Kate de Pury in Moscow and Jonathan Lemire and Edith M. Lederer in New York contributed to this report.

The Latest: British FM: Time to snap out of doom and gloom

LONDON (AP) — The latest on world reaction to the U.S. presidential election (all times local):

9:45 p.m.

British Foreign Minister Boris Johnson says that "it's time that we snapped out of the general doom and gloom" about the outcome of the U.S. presidential election.

Johnson said Thursday in the Serbian capital of Belgrade that "people should focus on the opportunities ... and not the problems."

Johnson added that U.S. President-elect Donald Trump had a "very, very good conversation" Prime Minister Theresa May earlier in the day.

He says Trump has spoken of a "spectacular relationship" with the U.K. and "wants to sign a free trade deal."

Johnson says Trump's election "is a great opportunity for us in the U.K. to build a better relationship with America that is of fundamental economic importance for us, but also of great importance for the stability and prosperity of the world."

9:30 p.m.

Zimbabwe's state-owned Herald newspaper is rejoicing in Donald Trump's defeat of "the warmonger" Hillary Clinton.

In an editorial published Thursday, the newspaper attacked the United States as a "blundering global

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 40 of 75

bully" for backing sanctions against Zimbabwe's longtime President Robert Mugabe and his allies.

The editorial says: "We hope Trump, who was considered an outsider and who was attacked no end for all of 18 months by the U.S. and Western media that sought to cast him as an unstable, unelectable ogre, will — with the benefit of experience — understand the Western characterization of Zimbabwe."

6:00 p.m.

Germany's foreign minister says it's urgent for the incoming U.S. administration to set out its positions quickly since "very many questions are open" on its foreign policy.

Frank-Walter Steinmeier told German weekly Der Spiegel in comments published Thursday that he's spoken several times with former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger about what President-elect Donald Trump's foreign policies might look like.

Steinmeier says even Kissinger had no insights to offer.

He said: "Many have already tried to read a foreign policy doctrine, or at least clear and coherent positions, out of Donald Trump's comments. Without much success."

Steinmeier says he can't predict whether there will more or less U.S. military activity, or additional or fewer commitments in crises such as the ones in Syria and Yemen.

3:25 p.m.

Argentina's president says he's hopeful that his nation's accords with the United States will remain in place under Republican President-elect Donald Trump.

President Mauricio Macri says he hopes Argentina will continue the "constructive, mature" relationship with the U.S. that was built under President Barack Obama. He spoke Thursday after inaugurating infrastructure projects in Buenos Aires.

Obama, a Democrat, visited Argentina in March and brokered several trade and investment deals with Macri. The meeting was seen as a fence-mending mission after years of tensions between the two countries under former President Cristina Fernandez.

Macri openly supported Hillary Clinton in the U.S. presidential election and has been forced to shift gears after Trump's victory.

1:50 p.m.

The left-leaning contender in Austria's presidential election runoff says he hopes Donald Trump's victory in the United States will motivate people to support him against a right-wing rival.

Alexander Van der Bellen faces Norbert Hofer of the anti-establishment and anti-immigration Freedom Party in a Dec. 4 rerun of the runoff. Van der Bellen narrowly beat Hofer in May, but a court ordered a rerun after the Freedom Party successfully argued that irregularities had marred the results.

Van der Bellen said at a news conference Thursday that he hopes Trump's victory will be "seen as extra motivation to go vote, and vote for (Van der Bellen)," according to the Austria Press Agency.

He said: "I don't want Austria to be the first western European country in which right-wing demagogues take power."

Austria's president has mostly ceremonial responsibilities, but a Hofer win would likely be viewed as a boost for other nationalist parties in Europe.

1:25 p.m.

Silvio Berlusconi is congratulating his fellow billionaire businessman-turned-politician, saying he is convinced President-elect Donald Trump will guarantee U.S. leadership in the free world "with authority and equilibrium."

Berlusconi's parallels to Trump are well known: A showman with a reputation as a womanizer who charmed Italians by speaking his mind, Berlusconi had a Trump-like improbable rise from cruise ship crooner to media mogul to three-time premier. He calls Vladimir Putin a friend.

A tax fraud conviction knocked Berlusconi out of parliament in 2013 and seriously hobbled his Forza

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 41 of 75

Italia party. But Berlusconi, 80 and recovering from heart surgery, is still a political force in Italy and sent his "best wishes" to the president-elect in a Facebook message.

"I have always been and will always be the most loyal ally of the United States in Europe, recognizing the country that guaranteed our freedom for the 20th century," he wrote. "I'm convinced that the president chosen by the American people will, with authority and equilibrium, guarantee the difficult role of the United States as the leader of the free world in today's complex and delicate global balance."

1 p.m.

U.K. Independence Party leader Nigel Farage, Britain's most prominent ally of Donald Trump, has claimed he is the "catalyst" for the president-elect's success.

In a radio interview, Farage also called President Barack Obama "loathsome" and joked about sexual assault allegations against Trump.

Farage, who was key in pushing Britain to vote to leave the European Union, claimed credit in Wednesday's Talk Radio interview for the rise of Trump and populist movements that are sweeping Europe.

The right-wing politician said "that Obama creature" was a "loathsome individual" who disliked Britain, while Trump, whose mother was Scottish, was friendly to the U.K.

Asked about Trump potentially meeting Prime Minister Theresa May, Farage said: "Come and schmooze Theresa — don't touch her, for goodness sake," before offering to attend "as the responsible adult role, to make sure everything's OK."

Several women have accused Trump of sexual assaults, which he denies.

12:55 p.m.

A top U.N. humanitarian aid official for Syria says he expects continued U.S. help in efforts to support beleaguered Syrian civilians under Donald Trump's presidency.

Jan Egeland also cited reports Thursday from Syria that "the last food rations are being distributed as we speak" in besieged eastern parts of the city of Aleppo.

Speaking to reporters in Geneva, Egeland said the U.N. needs "continued, uninterrupted U.S. help and engagement in the coming months," and noted that progress is made only when the United States and Russia, a backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad, are leading the diplomatic efforts.

Egeland, the aid chief in U.N. envoy Staffan de Mistura's office, said he could not speculate about whether the prospect of improved U.S.-Russia relations under Trump would have an impact.

12:50 p.m.

France's president says European nations need strong, clear strategies on security and the economy as Donald Trump takes over the U.S. presidency, amid concerns that his victory will fortify populists who want to dismantle the EU.

Francois Hollande said Thursday that Trump's election "obliges Europeans to be clear and lucid and capable of facing the challenges that concern them."

Hollande, who had endorsed Hillary Clinton, also suggested European countries should be ready to stand up to Trump if necessary. "Europe wishes to be together with the U.S. but has to be in a position to decide for itself, too."

A leading contender in France's presidential elections in April and May is far right leader Marine Le Pen, who wants to quit the EU and who hailed Trump's victory, saying it "buried the old order."

Danish Prime Minister Lars Loekke Rasmussen, after meeting Hollande in Paris, urged a more decisive European Union following Britain's decision to leave. He called for clearer policies on security and migration, amid criticism that Europe is too lax on both, saying "this is where the European Union needs to deliver."

11:45 a.m.

An Israeli Cabinet minister has called for a renewed wave of settlement construction now that President-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 42 of 75

elect Donald Trump is signaling an end to longstanding White House opposition to the settlements.

Science Minister Ofir Akunis told Army Radio Thursday that, "We need to think how we move forward now when the administration in Washington, the Trump administration and his advisers, are saying that there is no place for a Palestinian state."

Earlier, Jason Greenblatt, one of Trump's advisers on Israel, told Army Radio that Trump doesn't believe settlement activity should be condemned and doesn't view the settlements as an obstacle to peace with the Palestinians.

Multiple U.S. administrations have condemned any construction on land captured by Israel in the 1967 war — land that Palestinians want for a future state.

11:40 a.m.

About two dozen Filipino left-wing students have burned a portrait of President-elect Donald Trump along with a mock American flag at the U.S. Embassy in Manila, warning of worse times under his upcoming leadership.

Left-wing protests by students, labor and human rights groups are a common sight at the heavily-fortified embassy, often staged to oppose the presence of visiting U.S. forces in the former American colony. But activists say they are bracing for more intense rallies against Trump.

Protest leader JP Rosos says: "We are not expecting that it (U.S.) will remove its control on the Philippines and in the Asia Pacific."

He says under Trump, "we expect it to worsen with his anti-Muslim, anti-black and anti-immigrants declarations."

More than 100 riot police kept watch, but the small group of protesters dispersed without any incidents or arrests.

11:20 a.m.

Hungary's prime minister says Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election will allow Western civilization to return to "true democracy and straight, honest talk" as it is freed from the "paralyzing constraint of political correctness."

Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who said in July that Trump's migration policies made him the better choice for Europe, said Thursday that the results of the U.S. elections also meant that the West had rid itself of "liberal non-democracy," which had held it in "ideological captivity" for the past 20 years.

Orban said the world is living in "great times" thanks to Trump's victory and the British decision to leave the European Union, which he described as "not a tragedy" but an attempt by Britain to find its own road to success. Orban met with British Prime Minister Theresa May on Wednesday in London.

10 a.m.

Iran's semi-official Fars news agency is reporting that the armed forces chief of staff has criticized Donald Trump for his past harsh words about confronting Iranian boats in the Persian Gulf.

The report quotes Gen. Mohammad Hossein Bagheri as saying, "The person who has recently achieved power, has talked off the top of his head! Threatening Iran in the Persian Gulf is just a joke."

He said American presidential candidates during their campaigns "eat too much sugar," a reference to a Farsi proverb about those who talk nonsense.

In September, Trump said Iranian ships trying to provoke the U.S. "will be shot out of the water."

In January, Iran took 10 American sailors prisoner ship veered off course into Iranian waters; they were released a day later.

9:30 a.m.

A top adviser to President-elect Donald Trump says his boss doesn't think Israeli settlements should be condemned and they don't pose an "obstacle to peace."

Jason Greenblatt's comments to Israel's Army Radio Thursday would mark a stark departure from the

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 43 of 75

long-time American stance that Israeli construction in areas captured in the 1967 war makes it more difficult to reach a peace agreement with the Palestinians.

Greenblatt is the chief legal officer and executive vice president at the Trump Organization. He has been tapped by Trump as his top adviser on Israel.

Israel and the U.S. are close allies but relations were often tense between President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, mainly over Israel's policies toward the Palestinians. Netanyahu and Trump are friendly and ties are expected to improve.

8:55 a.m.

Pakistani foreign affairs adviser Sartaj Aziz says his country would like to work with U.S. President-elect Donald Trump on the common interest of combatting terrorism.

In an interview with Pakistan's Geo News channel Thursday, he says that helping negotiate a political settlement in Afghanistan is another area where the two countries could work together.

The U.S. president-elect has publicly criticized Pakistan in the past for battling some Islamic militant groups while tolerating others.

Aziz acknowledged that perception, but said such policies were "in the past."

Local and al-Qaida linked Islamic militants who have had long used Pakistan's lawless tribal regions along the Afghan border as safe havens. The Afghan government frequently accuses Islamabad of sheltering the senior leadership of the Taliban.

8:20 a.m.

South Korea says President-elect Donald Trump has promised to maintain the countries' strong alliance to guard against what he describes as "the instability in North Korea."

President Park Geun-hye's office says Trump made the comments while saying he believes North Korea is very unstable during a 10-minute telephone conversation with Park on Thursday.

Park's office quotes Trump as saying the United States "will be steadfast and strong with respect to working with (South Korea) to protect against the instability in North Korea."

A statement from Park's office says Trump told Park "we are going to be with you 100 percent" when Park proposed strengthening the alliance to make the North Korean leadership change its way of thinking.

There have been worries in South Korea that a Trump presidency could bring a major shift in U.S. economic and diplomatic ties with Seoul. Trump has questioned the value of the U.S.-South Korea security alliance.

6:30 a.m.

A Japanese official says Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will meet with U.S. President-elect Donald Trump next week.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters Thursday that Abe and Trump had talked by telephone and confirmed the importance of the Japan-U.S. alliance and their commitment for cooperation.

Their meeting "marks a very good start for building trust," Suga said. Their talks are being arranged for Nov. 17 in New York.

Officials said Abe and Trump also confirmed their resolve to cooperate in ensuring peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, but did not discuss the trans-Pacific trade pact and other contentious issues such as the cost of American troops in Japan.

Kyodo News agency additionally reported that Trump praised the Japanese premier's "Abenomics" economic measures.

President-elect Trump means angst for 'Obamacare' consumers

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's election ushers in a time of high anxiety for people with health insurance under President Barack Obama's law, which expanded coverage to millions but has struggled to find widespread public acceptance.

While repeal now seems likely, that may take Congress months. A replacement for the 2010 health care law could take even longer, and may retain some of its features. Republicans are saying they want to protect people who now are covered from losing health care in the shift. While Congress labors, look for the Trump administration to use its regulatory powers to make changes.

Voters "don't want Washington to fix Obamacare, they want to make health care affordable," said House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady, R-Texas, whose committee oversees much of health care. "I'm confident we will have more truly affordable health care for just as many Americans."

"It's our goal to dismantle Obamacare and actually focus on lowering the cost of coverage for people," said Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., a member of the Republican leadership. "It's a commitment on behalf of Congress and the president-elect to get this done."

The rhetoric may sound familiar, but the circumstances couldn't be more different. Up until now, repeated Republican attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act have been practice runs. This will be real, and so will the consequences. Trump will have a four-year term in the White House, but Congress faces the voters again in two years.

With HealthCare.gov's sign-up season underway, there's little chance the program will come to a crashing halt. Still, that's not very reassuring for people like Lodiza LePore of Bennington, Vermont, a photographer who pays about \$80 a month for her policy. The coverage is skimpy, she says, but it's there if she has a health problem.

"I think they are just going to destroy everything Obama has done, and that's going to leave a lot of people with no health care," said LePore. "It's going to turn this country into a Third World country."

As many as 30 million people could be affected. Most directly hit would be some 10 million who like LePore have private coverage through the law's subsidized markets, and about 9 million covered under its Medicaid expansion. Another 5 million to 9 million people who buy individual policies outside the health law markets are exposed to its ups and downs.

Republicans don't want to make millions uninsured, said Mike Leavitt, Health and Human Services secretary for former President George W. Bush. "There is a widely held aspiration that people have health insurance, and that the solution isn't simply to say that it's OK if some people don't," he said.

Can they deliver? There's no final GOP plan and no decisions have been made. But here's a look at some of the major pieces in a complex puzzle:

REPEAL: THE 'EASY' PART?

Republicans don't have 60 votes in the Senate, so to pass a repeal bill they would have to use special budget-related procedures that allow a simple majority to work its will. There's a template for that in the GOP repeal bill that Obama vetoed this year. Trump would sign it.

But using the special procedures means Congress must first pass a budget, which can take several months. Going that route also would leave in place parts of the health care law that are not related to the budget.

Congress may delay the effective date of a repeal law to give it time to pass a replacement for the ACA.

REPLACE: A CHANCE FOR BIPARTISANSHIP?

"Obamacare's" requirement that individuals get insurance or face fines doesn't stand a chance, but other provisions would likely survive in a replacement bill. That includes keeping young adults on parental plans until age 26 and doing away with lifetime dollar limits on coverage.

Republicans also want to avoid a return to the days when people were denied coverage because of medical problems. They would protect those who maintain "continuous" coverage and fund "high-risk"

insurance pools for patients who fall through the cracks.

House Speaker Paul Ryan has proposed tax credits to help people buy health insurance.

Republicans and Democrats may also be able to find common ground on dealing with the health law's Medicaid expansion, which a number of GOP-led states have adopted. "Medicaid is going to be the crucial issue," said GOP economist Douglas Holtz-Eakin. "There is a practical political reality there."

Democrats are going to be striving to keep as many people covered as possible.

A replacement bill could take a couple of years to hash out.

TRUMP UNILATERAL

While Congress labors away, expect the Trump administration to take administrative and regulatory actions to chip away at his predecessor's signature law, or reshape it.

Those could include making it harder for people to sign up for coverage outside of open-enrollment season, supporting legislation that would waive tax penalties for uninsured people in communities with no choice of insurers, or even supporting a lawsuit by GOP lawmakers that challenges some of the law's subsidies.

'POTTERY BARN' RULE

The old retail store rule is "if you break it, you buy it." The same applies to health care. Obama and the Democrats have paid a political price for trying to fix the problems of the uninsured and having some of those fixes generate their own complications.

The same could happen to Republicans if they're not careful.

"If people get mad at you, they will find a way to get you," said GOP economist Gail Wilensky, a former Medicare administrator. "If you really miss the mark of where the people are, they will get you."

This story has been corrected to say that Rep. Kevin Brady is from Texas, not California.

New Israeli machine to standardize diamond grading

By AUDREY HOROWITZ, Associated Press

RAMAT GAN, Israel (AP) — An Israeli high-tech company has invented a machine that it says can instantly grade the clarity of polished diamonds — a development the company said Thursday will bring new standards to a painstaking process that has long been susceptible to the subjectivity of appraisers.

Sarine Technologies Ltd. said its system, currently in advanced large-scale testing in India and expected to be marketed toward mid-2017, will revolutionize the global diamond industry by enhancing consumer trust in each diamond's valuation.

The system will simplify the clarity grading process and provide accurate and objective mapping of the polished diamond, said chief executive and executive director Uzi Levami.

"Instead of a human looking at the diamond from various angles, maybe the light is not so good, maybe he drank too much coffee, so he is making a mistake," he said. The machine can "make the final decision for the grade of the diamond," he said.

He said diamond dealers still need to provide other services, such as determining a diamond's authenticity. "So this will help people but not replace people," he said.

Israel does not produce diamonds itself but is a leading polishing and trading center and was among the founders of the Kimberley Process — the global body responsible for ending the trade of "blood diamonds" that fund fighting across Africa. The Israel Diamond Institute claims to have the world's largest diamond trading floor.

Roland Lorie, chief executive of the International Gemological Institute, a global diamond certification body, inspected the new machine on Thursday.

He said it could help the industry as a time saver, but expressed doubt that it could give an accurate grading because there are so many tiny details to analyze.

"You need the brain of a person to identify what is more, what is better to see, what do you prefer to see," he said. "I think it will take a long, long time for a machine to be able to replace a human being."

Sarine's technologies are well known in the diamond industry and the company spends \$10 million a year on research and development. Its "Galaxy" machine is widely used by manufacturers to measure the inclusions in rough diamonds.

Kurdish-led fighters marching against IS near Syria's Raqqa

By BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A Syrian Kurdish-led force fighting the Islamic State group north of the country is on the verge of surrounding a wide area north of the IS stronghold of Raqqa, a spokeswoman for the group said Thursday.

Cihan Ehmed of the U.S.-backed Syria Democratic Forces told The Associated Press that its fighters are advancing on two fronts north of Raqqa, the de facto capital of IS' self-declared caliphate. The push from Ein Issa and Suluk north of Raqqa has been ongoing for days under the cover of airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition.

The SDF, which includes Kurdish, Arab, Syriac and Turkmen fighters, say they have committed 30,000 fighters to the offensive aiming to eventual recapture the city of Raqqa, which was announced on Sunday. Iraq is meanwhile waging a major offensive to drive IS from the northern city of Mosul.

Ehmed said once the forces coming from the two directions meet north of Raqqa, they will surround 550 square kilometers (212 square miles) of territory controlled by the extremists.

"The operations are ongoing according to the plan," she said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said many people are fleeing areas of fighting north of Raqqa. It added that SDF fighters have advanced north of Raqqa, capturing new areas and raising to 17 the number of villages and farms taken from IS since the offensive began.

Later on Thursday, the SDF said on social media that its fighters have captured three farms, a village, and have approached the village of Hayes where intense clashes are ongoing.

The operation to recapture Raqqa has been dubbed "Euphrates Rage" and a joint operations command has been set up to coordinate various factions taking part in the battles.

Elsewhere in Syria, a rocket fired by rebels struck a school in the capital Damascus' central al-Mohajireen neighborhood wounding three children, state media said without providing further details. In the rebel-held Damascus suburbs of Douma and Saqba, government airstrikes killed at least 11 civilians, including four children and three women, according to the Syrian Civil Defense in Damascus suburbs. The Observatory also said 11 were killed, but said they included four women.

In the northern city of Aleppo, seven people were wounded, some critically, when rebels shelled two government-held neighborhoods, state news agency SANA said. Later on Thursday, pro-government media also said allied troops moved in on new rebel advances in the western part of the city, regaining control of parts of the strategic Al-Assad district amid intense clashes.

The rebels had seized a couple of strategic areas in western Aleppo since they launched an offensive on government-held parts of Aleppo on Oct. 28 in an attempt to break the siege imposed on areas they have controlled since July. The siege on eastern Aleppo was coupled with a punishing bombing campaign by Syrian aircraft and supported by Russia, which has been backing the government of President Bashar Assad. Since late October, Russia said it would halt the airstrikes, amid rising civilian casualties, urging rebels to leave the territory.

A statement by Russian Defense Ministry Thursday said such halts would continue. Russia had earlier bristled at extending the breaks in the fighting in Aleppo, saying it would play into the hands of the insurgents.

"The humanitarian pauses are undoubtedly needed," said Spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov. "But we believe that simply extending their duration without offering real assistance to civilians, and allow the terrorists to restore their capabilities, would be unproductive and defy common sense." Russia and Syria's government refer to all armed opposition as "terrorists."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 47 of 75

Insurgents have refused to leave, saying the halts are not supervised by the U.N. and lack safety guarantees for evacuation. The U.N. has failed to secure humanitarian aid to the besieged Aleppo districts during the halts. During the last Russian-declared "pause" on Friday, rebels fired at one of the corridors, wounding two Russian servicemen and a Syrian journalist.

Iran holds funeral for 10 soldiers killed in Syria

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's official IRNA news agency is reporting that a funeral ceremony has been held for 10 soldiers who were killed in Syria.

The Thursday report said the families and relatives of the deceased soldiers, as well as authorities and local citizens, attended the funeral in holy city of Qom, some 80 miles (130 kilometers) south of the capital Tehran.

It called the soldiers "defenders of shrine," but did not identify them or provide additional details on their deaths.

In August, Iran said that the families of at least 400 fighters killed fighting in Iranian brigades in Syria had been referred to the Martyr Foundation to receive financial support.

Iran has provided military and political backing to President Bashar Assad in Syria's civil war, saying it is defending Shiite shrines.

US stock indexes mostly lower in morning trading; oil slumps

By ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writer

The major U.S. stock indexes were mostly lower in morning trading Thursday as an early surge faded. Utilities, technology and consumer-focused stocks were among the biggest decliners. Banks and other financial companies were up the most. The market was coming off a big rally following the election of Donald Trump as the next U.S. president.

KEEPING SCORE: The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 118 points, or 0.6 percent, to 18,708 as of 11:40 a.m. Eastern time. The Standard & Poor's 500 index slid 4 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,159. The Nasdaq composite index lost 68 points, or 1.3 percent, to 5,183.

TRUMP BOUNCE: The upcoming Trump presidency, which will commence on Jan. 20, triggered a strong rally on Wednesday that carried into early trading on Thursday. Traders were focusing on Trump's promises to boost U.S. economic growth through infrastructure spending and by cutting red tape, rather than uncertainties such as what he might do with trade agreements. Before the election, markets had been worried about a Trump presidency because his campaign promises carried few policy details, making him an unknown quantity compared with rival Hillary Clinton.

THE QUOTE: "We had a gangbuster day yesterday; call it a Trump rally," said Doug Cote, chief market strategist for Voya Investment Management. "Today we're having a little breather, a little rest, but the key thing that will also keep the market going is the S&P 500 corporate earnings for the third quarter are positive for the first time in six quarters."

NO DIAL TONE: Phone companies were trading lower, part of a sell-off in telecom and other safe-haven stocks. AT&T lost 64 cents, or 1.7 percent, to \$36.80, while Verizon slid \$1.49, or 1.8 percent, to \$81.75. T-Mobile US slid \$1.31, or 2.5 percent, to \$51.70.

MIXED RESULTS: Novavax slumped 20 percent after the biopharmaceutical company reported third-quarter revenue that fell short of financial analysts' forecasts. The stock slid 34 cents to \$1.36.

BANKS SURGE: Several big banks were moving higher amid speculation that a Trump presidency could result in higher interest rates and less government regulation, which tend to benefit banks and other financial stocks. JPMorgan Chase climbed \$2.16, or 2.9 percent, to \$75.40. Goldman Sachs rose \$4.01, or 2.1 percent, to \$196.64.

BETTER QUARTER: Macy's rose 8.5 percent after the department store chain raised its sale outlook for the year, citing improved business in the third quarter. The stock gained \$3.28 to \$41.66.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 48 of 75

BRIGHT OUTLOOK: Kohl's surged 15.5 percent after the retailer said it sees positive trends heading into the upcoming holiday shopping season. The stock added \$7.08 to \$52.78.

BONDS: The sell-off in bonds continued, sending bond prices lower and kicking up the yield on the 10-year Treasury note to 2.09 percent from 2.06 percent late Wednesday. That yield is a benchmark used to set interest rates on many kinds of loans including home mortgages. Traders have been selling bonds more aggressively to hedge against the possibility that interest rates, which have been ultra-low for years, could rise steadily again under Trump's administration.

MARKETS OVERSEAS: In Europe, Germany's DAX was up 0.2 percent, while the CAC-40 in France was 0.3 percent higher. Britain's FTSE 100 was down 0.7 percent. Russia was one of the biggest gainers in Europe amid optimism there that Trump's election will improve relations. The Micex index in Moscow was up 3.4 percent.

In Asia, shares posted hefty gains as they responded to the optimism recorded in Europe and the U.S. the day before. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index was the standout performer, rocketing 6.7 percent after sliding more than 5 percent the day before. South Korea's Kospi advanced 2.3 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 1.9 percent. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 surged 3.3 percent.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude was down 63 cents, or 1.4 percent, at \$44.64 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, was down 51 cents, or 1.1 percent, at \$45.86 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar has been fairly solid since Trump's victory. The U.S. currency rose to 106.80 yen from 105.84 on Wednesday. The euro was down to \$1.0870 from \$1.0930. The Mexican peso recouped some losses after plunging against the dollar Wednesday. The dollar weakened to 20.46 Mexican pesos from 19.87 pesos, which was still near its lowest level in decades. The Mexican currency has been in a slump as traders look ahead to potential problems under a Trump presidency. He has repeatedly said he wants a wall built to keep illegal Mexican immigrants out of the United States and has threatened to tear up a North American trade agreement.

Rockefeller Center Christmas tree cut in upstate New York

ONEONTA, N.Y. (AP) — This year's Rockefeller Center Christmas tree is beginning its journey from upstate New York to Manhattan.

The 94-foot Norway spruce in Oneonta (oh-nee-AHN'-tuh) was cut down Thursday morning and loaded on a truck. The spruce will make the 140-mile trip to Manhattan and is expected to arrive Saturday.

The tree's 50,000 lights will be switched on during a live television broadcast Nov. 30.

The tree was on the property of Angie and Graig Eichler (EYE'-kluhr).

Thousands protest Trump win around US

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The raw divisions exposed by the presidential race were on full display across America on Wednesday, as protesters flooded city streets to condemn Donald Trump's election in demonstrations that police said were mostly peaceful.

From New England to heartland cities like Kansas City and along the West Coast, many thousands of demonstrators carried flags and anti-Trump signs, disrupting traffic and declaring that they refused to accept Trump's triumph.

In Chicago, where thousands had recently poured into the streets to celebrate the Chicago Cubs' first World Series victory in over a century, several thousand people marched through the Loop. They gathered outside Trump Tower, chanting "Not my president!"

Chicago resident Michael Burke said he believes the president-elect will "divide the country and stir up hatred." He added there was a constitutional duty not to accept that outcome.

A similar protest in Manhattan drew about 1,000 people. Outside Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue in midtown, police installed barricades to keep the demonstrators at bay.

Hundreds of protesters gathered near Philadelphia's City Hall despite chilly, wet weather. Participants

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 49 of 75

— who included both supporters of Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and independent Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who lost to Clinton in the primary — expressed anger at both Republicans and Democrats over the election's outcome.

In Boston, thousands of anti-Trump protesters streamed through downtown, chanting "Trump's a racist" and carrying signs that said "Impeach Trump" and "Abolish Electoral College." Clinton appears to be on pace to win the popular vote, despite losing the electoral count that decides the presidential race.

The protesters gathered on Boston Common before marching toward the Massachusetts Statehouse, with beefed-up security including extra police officers.

A protest that began at the Minnesota State Capitol Tuesday night with about 100 people swelled at is moved into downtown St. Paul, the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported. Protesters blocked downtown streets and traveled west on University Avenue where they shouted expletives about Trump in English and Spanish.

There were other Midwest protest marches in Omaha, Nebraska, and Kansas City, Missouri.

In Des Moines, Iowa, hundreds of students walked out of area high schools at 10:30 a.m. to protest Trump's victory, the Des Moines Register reported. The protests, which were coordinated on social media, lasted 15 to 45 minutes.

Marchers protesting Trump's election chanted and carried signs in front of the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Media outlets broadcast video Wednesday night showing a peaceful crowd in front of the new downtown hotel. Many chanted "No racist USA, no Trump, no KKK."

Another group stood outside the White House. They held candles, listened to speeches and sang songs.

Dallas activists gathered by the dozens outside the city's sports arena, the American Airlines Center.

In Oregon, dozens of people blocked traffic in downtown Portland, burned American flags and forced a delay for trains on two light-rail lines. Earlier, the protest in downtown drew several Trump supporters, who taunted the demonstrators with signs. A lone Trump supporter was chased across Pioneer Courthouse Square and hit in the back with a skateboard before others intervened.

Several thousand chanting, sign-waving people gathered in Frank Ogawa Plaza in Oakland, California. A night earlier, in the hours after Trump won the election, Oakland demonstrators broke windows and did other damage.

In San Francisco, hundreds are marching along Market Avenue, one of the city's main avenues, to join a vigil in the Castro District, a predominantly gay neighborhood.

In Los Angeles, protesters on the steps of City Hall burned a giant papier mache Trump head in protest, later, in the streets they whacked a Trump piñata.

Hundreds massed in downtown Seattle streets.

Many held anti-Trump and Black Lives Matter signs and chanted slogans, including "Misogyny has to go," and "The people united, will never be defeated."

Five people were shot and injured in an area near the protest, but police said the shootings and the demonstration were unrelated.

Back in New York, several groups of protesters caused massive gridlock as police mobilized to contain them under a light rain.

They held signs that read "Trump Makes America Hate" and chanted "hey, hey, ho, ho Donald Trump has got to go." and "Impeach Trump."

The Latest: Biden sees no change in US-Israel relations

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on the U.S. election. (All times EST):

11 p.m.

Vice President Joe Biden says Donald Trump's election victory should have little effect on U.S.-Israel relations.

Biden was receiving an award from the World Jewish Congress at New York's Pierre Hotel on Wednesday

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 50 of 75

night.

He says he has "no doubt, none whatsoever, that in a Trump administration there will be no diminution of support" for Israel.

Biden says that even if the new administration was inclined to reduce support, "Congress would never let it happen, the American people would never let it happen."

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who presented Biden's award, admitted he expected the outcome of Tuesday's election "to be the opposite of what happened."

6:50 p.m.

Bernie Sanders says he's prepared to work with Donald Trump to help the working class, but will "vigorously oppose" other policies promised by the president-elect.

The independent Vermont senator has released a statement noting Trump "tapped into the anger of a declining middle class that is sick and tired of establishment economics, establishment politics and the establishment media."

He says that if Trump "is serious about pursuing policies that improve the lives of working families in this country, I and other progressives are prepared to work with him."

But Sanders adds that if Trump "pursues racist, sexist, xenophobic and anti-environment policies, we will vigorously oppose him."

Sanders ran against Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination, and supported her candidacy after she won that race.

6:40 p.m.

The White House says Melania Trump will meet with first lady Michelle Obama on Thursday morning.

President Barack Obama has invited Donald Trump to the White House as the two leaders prepare for the transition of power following a bruising, often nasty presidential election.

Obama's meeting with the president-elect will take place in the Oval Office, while the first lady and Mrs. Trump will meet in the residence of the White House.

Obama says former President George W. Bush could not have been more gracious after his 2008 election victory and he has instructed his team to follow that example in preparing the way for Trump.

6:30 p.m.

Kansas' secretary of state says he's serving on President-elect Donald Trump's transition team.

Kris Kobach, a conservative Republican, told various Kansas media outlets Wednesday he has no expectation of a role in Trump's eventual administration. But he says he's open to working for Trump, if offered.

Kobach will help advise Trump on policy matters leading up to his January inauguration.

He advised Trump on immigration policy during the campaign, adding to the Republican Party's platform Trump's plan to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Kobach also served as counsel to Attorney General John Ashcroft during the President George W. Bush's administration.

5:31 p.m.

Democratic Gov. Maggie Hassan has captured a New Hampshire Senate seat, defeating first-term Republican Sen. Kelly Ayotte.

The Associated Press called the race for Hassan on Wednesday.

Ayotte says in a statement that she has contacted Hassan to concede the close race and offer her congratulations. She is thanking the people of New Hampshire for their support.

Democrats have picked up two Republican-held Senate seats — one in Illinois, the other in New Hampshire. They had been far more optimistic about capturing GOP seats on Election Day, but lost in Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri and North Carolina.

Republicans are expected to hold the Senate seat in Louisiana in next month's contest after a Republican

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 51 of 75

and Democrat advanced to the runoff.

5:25 p.m.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell says he has no interest in at least one agenda item preferred by President-elect Donald Trump: term limits for members of Congress.

Trump praised the idea during the campaign, but McConnell said Wednesday the issue is going nowhere in the Senate.

The Kentucky Republican tells reporters: "I would say we have term limits now. They're called elections. And it will not be on the agenda in the Senate."

McConnell also says he hopes Vice President-elect Mike Pence follows former Vice President Dick Cheney in attending the Senate GOP's weekly luncheons.

McConnell says Cheney, a former congressman, served almost as Senate liaison for President George W. Bush. He says he hopes Pence, a former Indiana congressman, will do the same for Trump.

5:09 p.m.

Republican Sen. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire has conceded and congratulated her Democratic rival Gov. Maggie Hassan.

In a statement late Wednesday, Ayotte said the voters have spoken and "now it's time for all of us to come together to get things done" for the people of New Hampshire.

Ayotte, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and leader on defense issues, said it was a tremendous privilege to serve one term. She thanked her family and supporters.

The Associated Press had not called the race because Hassan had a lead of just 0.1 percent.

5:05 p.m.

Organizers of a comedy benefit featuring performances by John Oliver, George Lopez and others have canceled Wednesday's red carpet arrivals.

A spokeswoman for the Natural Resources Defense Council's "Night of Comedy" benefit in New York said Wednesday afternoon that "in light of current events, we will no longer be having the red carpet."

Seth Meyers is hosting the comedy benefit, where Mike Birbiglia and Hasan Minhaj are also performing. The event was originally billed as "the place to be the night after the presidential election."

4:38 p.m.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi has spoken to President-elect Trump and congratulated him on his upset victory over Hillary Clinton Tuesday night.

A spokesman says the California Democrat told Trump that she hoped to "find common ground where possible," including an infrastructure bill that could create jobs.

Each of the top four leaders in Congress — the top Democrat and Republicans in both House and Senate — has spoken with Trump since the election.

4:20 p.m.

The FAA has imposed temporary flight restrictions over Donald Trump's high-rise home as a safety measure in response to his presidential victory.

A notice dated Wednesday bars aircraft from flying below 2,999 feet in midtown Manhattan, where Trump Tower is located, and in parts of Brooklyn and Queens. It says military aircraft supporting the Secret Service are exempt, along with police and emergency aircraft.

The FAA generally issues temporary restrictions when there's a special event or hazardous condition.

The notice says the New York City air space restrictions are needed because of "VIP movement." They expire Jan. 21.

3:25 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 52 of 75

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren is proposing that she and President-elect Donald Trump “put aside our differences” and work together to rebuild the American economy for working people.

A favorite of liberals, Warren has waged a bitter war of words with Trump. She’s called him a “pathetic coward” and worse on Twitter. He’s nicknamed her “Pocahontas” — a reference to claims she made about being part Native American.

As recently as Monday, Trump called Warren a “terrible person,” “a terrible human being” and a “terrible senator.”

In a statement Wednesday, Warren said the integrity of U.S. democracy is more important than an individual election. She said she hopes Trump will fulfill the role of president “with respect and concern for every single person in this country, no matter who they are.”

3:15 p.m.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest says President Barack Obama has congratulated the Senate’s top Republican about his party’s success in maintaining its majority in the Senate.

Earnest said Obama and Mitch McConnell discussed priorities that should be taken up as lawmakers meet before a new Congress takes office. They spoke Wednesday, the day after the election.

While he did not have details about the issues discussed, Earnest said Obama will continue to encourage Republican leaders to take up a massive trade agreement called the Trans-Pacific Partnership. He said the president believes the trade pact will benefit the U.S. economy. President-elect Donald Trump strongly opposes the deal.

Earnest says the president also hopes to talk with House Speaker Paul Ryan.

3:05 p.m.

The White House says the President’s Daily Brief and other intelligence materials are now being made available to President-elect Donald Trump, Vice President-elect Mike Pence and other members of Trump’s transition team.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said it’s a courtesy that former President George W. Bush extended to President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and a few aides as they were preparing to take office.

The President’s Daily Brief is a classified document delivered to the president each morning. Until his victory Tuesday, Trump had received some classified briefings but not as extensive as what he’ll now be receiving.

Earnest says it’s part of Obama’s efforts to ensure a smooth transition.

3 p.m.

The Senate’s top Republican isn’t interested in rehashing contentious comments President-elect Donald Trump made about Hispanics during the campaign.

Speaking to reporters Wednesday, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky wouldn’t say whether he thought Trump’s remarks have caused lasting damage to the Republican Party with an important demographic group. Trump has called some Mexicans rapists and criminals and had claimed that a judge might be biased against him because of the judge’s Mexican heritage.

Several months ago, McConnell publicly worried that Trump could push Hispanics from the party as Arizona Sen. Barry Goldwater had done with blacks in the 1964 election.

McConnell said: “We should look forward and not backward and rehash and re-litigate the various debates we had both internally and with the Democrats over the past year.”

2:45 p.m.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest is disputing the notion that Thursday’s meeting between President Barack Obama and President-elect Donald Trump will have an air of insincerity about it given the harsh things they’ve said about each other.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 53 of 75

Earnest said "I'm not saying it's going to be an easy meeting." But he said the president is sincere about fulfilling a basic responsibility he has to ensure a smooth transition of power.

Earnest said the success of America's democracy depends on all citizens setting aside their partisan affiliations and political preferences, and rooting for the success of the American president.

During the campaign, Obama had called Trump unfit and unqualified.

2:25 p.m.

Donald Trump is spending the day after winning the presidency holed up in Trump Tower, where sleep-deprived aides appear jubilant as they come and go.

The usually buzzing lobby of Trump's residence and campaign headquarters is currently closed to the general public, though an impersonator of the famous "Naked Cowboy" —wearing a robe — was at one point spotted strolling through.

The scene outside is chaotic, with protesters and a mass of press gathered in penned-off area. Curious onlookers are clogging foot traffic as they pause to take in the scene.

The east side of Manhattan's busy Fifth Avenue between 56th and 57th is also closed to the public with dump trucks filled with dirt forming a protective barrier outside the building's lobby.

1:58 p.m.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest says President Barack Obama's top priority following Tuesday's election is not his legacy.

Earnest says the president is focused on the 20 million people who gained health insurance after the Affordable Care Act went into effect.

Earnest is taking questions from reporters about how the election results will affect Obama's legacy on issues such as health care and climate change.

Earnest says the president is also concerned about the prospect of protections being stripped from millions of Americans who benefit because health insurers are not allowed to discriminate based on pre-existing health conditions or impose a lifetime cap on expenses.

Earnest says the tearing away those protections would negatively affect a lot of people, and "that's something Republicans will have to consider moving forward."

Asian shares join Wall Street rally as Trump fears ease

By KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian shares rallied Thursday, extending a surprising global recovery as Donald Trump's conciliatory acceptance speech comments helped soothe world financial markets spooked by his unexpected U.S. election victory.

The rebound in Asia took its lead from Wall Street, where stocks initially wavered before advancing the rest of the day. Major U.S. benchmarks all finished more than 1 percent higher, with the Dow Jones industrial average near a record high close.

Japan's share benchmark, the Nikkei 225 index, which was among the biggest losers on Wednesday, jumped 6 percent at the open. By midday it was up 5.7 percent at 17,178.87.

The dollar also recovered in currency trading. It was at 105.33 yen after dropping to near 101 yen the day before.

In other Asian trading, South Korea's Kospi advanced 1.9 percent to 1,996.31 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 2 percent to 22,865.45. The Shanghai Composite index in mainland China rose 1 percent to 3,158.34 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 surged 2.7 percent to 5,297.10.

Benchmarks in Taiwan, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand also advanced.

Trump pledged in his speech Wednesday to unify a deeply divided nation, helping to calm jitters in global financial markets. Investors had worried because his campaign promises carried few policy details, making him an unknown quantity compared with his rival, Hillary Clinton, seen as a safe choice.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 54 of 75

"The stunning turn in sentiment suggests there is now a consensus building that much of the policy announced during the campaign was a sales pitch rather than a commitment to act," said Michael McCarthy, chief strategist at CMC Markets.

"Investors ignored the potential for damage to international trade and growth prospects and focused on Republican control of both houses of Congress as well as the White House. This offers the prospect of reform that could stimulate the U.S. economy," he added.

Investors hope Trump plans for infrastructure spending, tax cuts and lighter regulation will benefit the U.S. economy, the world's biggest.

On Wall Street, Dow climbed 1.4 percent to close at 18,589.69. The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 1.1 percent to 2,163.26. The Nasdaq composite index 1.1 percent, to 5,251.07.

In other currencies, the Mexican peso was steady after declining 8 percent versus the dollar on fears Trump would cancel favorable trade deals with Mexico. The dollar weakened 0.4 percent to 19.78 Mexican pesos. The euro edged up to \$1.0945 from \$1.0930.

Oil prices stabilized. Benchmark U.S. crude futures slipped 15 cents to \$45.12 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 29 cents to close at \$45.27 a barrel Wednesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, edged up 1 cent to \$46.37 a barrel in London.

The Latest: SKorea media say Trump promises military support

LONDON (AP) — The latest on world reaction to the U.S. presidential election (all times local):

3:30 a.m.

South Korean media say U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has promised to maintain a strong U.S. military readiness to help guard against any aggression from North Korea.

Yonhap news agency cites unidentified diplomatic officials in reporting discussions Trump had in a 10--minute telephone conversation with South Korean President Park Geun-hye. Yonhap says Trump told her that he agrees "100 percent" in hoping the two allies will further bolster their ties.

Park's office confirms Park and Trump talked by phone but hasn't provided specifics on their conversation.

There have been worries in South Korea that a Trump presidency could bring a major shift in U.S. economic and diplomatic ties with Seoul. Trump has questioned the value of the U.S.-South Korea security alliance.

3 a.m.

Hong Kong's leader has congratulated Donald Trump on his U.S. election victory.

In a statement, Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying says the government of the semiautonomous southern Chinese financial hub "looks forward to further deepening our links with the U.S."

In Leung's words, "Hong Kong and the U.S. enjoy close economic and trade ties, the two places have also established close connections in various areas such as education, innovation, culture and tourism."

Both Trump and Leung are wealthy businessmen with backgrounds in real estate.

2:40 a.m.

Australia's prime minister says he spoke with Donald Trump over the telephone and the U.S. president-elect agrees on the importance of the U.S. military alliance with Australia and the importance of the U.S. military presence to the security of the Asia-Pacific region.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull says Trump "appreciates, honors" and "admires" the 65-year-old bilateral defense pact that requires the security partners to consult if either comes under attack but does not commit them to come to the other's defense.

Turnbull would not say whether Trump plans to continue to increase the U.S. military buildup in Australia. He described their talk as "warm" and "very frank."

11:30 p.m.

Cuban President Raul Castro has congratulated Donald Trump on the election victory, in what appears

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 55 of 75

to have been a terse message to the man who could roll back two years of detente.

In a single-sentence statement, Cuba's foreign ministry says Castro "sent a message of congratulations to Mr. Donald J. Trump for his election as president of the United States."

10:40 p.m.

A militant group responsible for attacks on oil installations says Donald Trump's election victory gives hope to minorities in the West African nation.

The Niger Delta Avengers group said on its website Wednesday that Trump's "hard fought victory against world establishments" is hope for more than 30 million members of minority communities in the Niger Delta region who have fought over resources with the government and Islamic forces.

9:40 p.m.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto says he has spoken with U.S. President-elect Donald Trump to congratulate him and his family.

Pena Nieto says they agreed to meet during the transition period to discuss the U.S.-Mexico relationship. He adds that it was a "cordial, friendly and respectful conversation."

Pena Nieto said Wednesday in a brief televised address that when Mexico does well, so does the United States, and vice versa. He spoke of opening "new paths of cooperation and prosperity," while promising to protect the rights and well-being of Mexicans everywhere.

Trump has vowed on the campaign trail to build a wall along the United States' southern border and force Mexico to pay for it. He has also described migrants crossing the border illegally as criminals and rapists.

Trump met with Pena Nieto in late August in a surprise visit to Mexico City. Pena Nieto was widely criticized at the time for holding the meeting and for not confronting Trump more directly on the wall proposal and the candidate's comments about Mexico.

9:10 p.m.

Africa's first elected female president is calling Hillary Clinton's electoral defeat a "missed opportunity" to advance women's rights.

In an interview with the BBC, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia said Wednesday she is "extremely saddened" by Clinton's loss to Donald Trump, though she expects her West African nation to maintain good relations with the U.S.

Sirleaf was elected in 2005 as Liberia was emerging from 14 years of deadly civil conflict. As secretary of state, Clinton attended Sirleaf's inauguration for a second term in 2012.

Liberia was founded by freed American slaves and is one of the U.S.'s closest allies on the continent.

7:15 p.m.

Nicaragua's leftist President Daniel Ortega has sent a congratulatory greeting to Donald Trump, saying he and his people "believe it is possible to work with the United States" on the world's problems, "giving priority to peace."

Ortega on Sunday celebrated an electoral victory of his own, winning a third consecutive term as leader of the Central American country.

7 p.m.

Venezuela's foreign ministry is congratulating Donald Trump on his win and saying it hopes he can advance "respectful bilateral political and diplomatic relations."

It also expresses hopes that the new chapter will be marked by "respect for non-intervention in internal affairs."

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has repeatedly accused Washington of trying to overthrow the South American country's government, a charge that has been rejected by State Department representatives

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 56 of 75

The two countries continue to engage in trade despite not having embassies in their respective capitals since 2010.

6:30 p.m.

Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway don't expect Donald Trump's election win to affect their key relations with the United States.

Finnish Prime Minister Juha Sipila, a self-made millionaire, says he was surprised by the U.S. election result, saying the polls "got it pretty badly wrong about Brexit as well."

Sipila said that U.S. relations for Finland, which shares a 1,300-kilometer (800-mile) border with Russia, are of "paramount" importance and that Trump's victory wouldn't mean a change in the non-aligned country's defense policy, its close ties to NATO or Finnish-Russian relations.

In Sweden, Prime Minister Stefan Lofven said many people felt concerned about the U.S. election result, but that they had been "prepared" for it. He said Sweden has a long tradition of cooperation with U.S. governments "regardless of party political affiliations."

Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg congratulated Donald Trump, saying "the United States is our closest ally. It is decisive that we continue the cooperation."

In Denmark, Prime Minister Lars Loekke Rasmussen "let's give Donald Trump the benefit of the doubt."

6:20 p.m.

Iran's president says the historic nuclear deal between Iran and world powers "cannot be overturned by a single government."

President Hassan Rouhani spoke Wednesday following the election of Donald Trump, a harsh critic of the deal, as U.S. president. Trump has suggested he would try to renegotiate the agreement under which Iran curbs its nuclear program in exchange for a gradual lifting of international sanctions.

In remarks on Iranian state TV, Rouhani says the international position of the United States has been weakened "due to its recent wrong policies." He says the U.S. election results show that America's "sickness and civil instability will persist for a long time."

6:15 p.m.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has congratulated Donald Trump, saying he is looking forward to continued support in his country's fight against the extremist Islamic State group.

In a statement on his website, al-Abadi said Wednesday that he hopes the "world and the United States will continue support Iraq in fighting terrorism." He says terrorism doesn't threaten Iraq alone, but the whole world.

6:10 p.m.

Mexico's treasury chief says the country has been working to solidify its finances in preparation for external shocks such as the election of Donald Trump.

Treasury Secretary Jose Antonio Meade says Britain's Brexit vote was one shock, the U.S. election result another and the Fed's decision on interest rates in December is yet another possibility.

Meade told journalists that officials don't plan any immediate moves to prop up the peso, which plunged about 9.5 percent after the U.S. election result due to fears Trump's policies would slam the Mexican economy.

Meade says the state-owned oil company announced its new five-year plan the week before the election to send the message that it was not linked to the vote.

5:55 p.m.

A German government spokesman says Chancellor Angela Merkel could meet Donald Trump before the G7 meeting in Italy in May.

Asked about the impact of Trump's election win on ending the war in Ukraine, Steffen Seibert says Ger-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 57 of 75

many "will certainly stand by its policy on Russia." The U.S. and the EU have slapped sanctions on Russia for backing separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Martin Schaefer, German foreign ministry spokesman, said the mood in Berlin ranges "from consternation to beyond."

Stefanie Huppman, who works in Berlin, calls the U.S. election result "terrible. But every country gets the president it deserves."

5:35 p.m.

Czech President Milos Zeman has welcomed Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election, saying that proves Americans did not succumb to what he called "media manipulation."

He says he appreciated Trump's campaign because his message was "clear" though sometimes "rough." Zeman, known for his strong anti-migrant rhetoric, said he shared Trump's views on migration and the fight against the Islamic terrorism.

Zeman was among the several leaders in Central Europe, including Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who endorsed Trump during the campaign.

5:25 p.m.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida says Japan is working on building ties with Trump and his advisers so Tokyo is well-prepared in case of any policy changes under his presidency.

Kishida says on TV it's still unclear how Trump's policy and his political leadership will affect Japan, and it may "require our flexible response." Trump has said Japan should pay more for American troops stationed in Japan under the bilateral security pact or pull them out.

Kishida says Japan is still trying to understand how important the Asia-Pacific region is to Trump.

5:15 p.m.

Poland's former president and Solidarity founder Lech Walesa says Donald Trump has good intentions and sees the people's discontent but has no policy plan.

Asked if Trump as U.S. president poses any threat, Walesa said the "threat lies in the fact that he is really unprepared. He has good intentions. He sees that people are dissatisfied. But, in my opinion he has no solutions."

He said Trump won because people are "tired of old structures, of old politicians" and said that capitalism and democracy still need improvement.

5:10 p.m.

Poland's President Andrzej Duda has congratulated Donald Trump and reminded him of the important "strategic partnership" shared by their two nations, including the pledge to send troops to NATO's eastern flank.

Poland's populist leadership shares a number of ideological similarities with Trump. Yet there is anxiety in Poland that a Trump presidency could leave the region more vulnerable to a resurgent Russia given Trump's repeated praise for Russian President Vladimir Putin and suggestions by Trump that the U.S. might not protect its NATO allies if they are attacked.

5:05 p.m.

An analyst says U.S. foreign policy will now depend on Donald Trump's key appointments and the extent to which the U.S. foreign policy establishment can exert a restraining influence on them.

Evan Laksmana at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta, Indonesia, says "even if he did only half of what he promised in foreign affairs, he could do a serious amount of damage in a short time."

Within Asia, Japan and South Korea won't accept Chinese predominance, he said, and would become

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 58 of 75

independently more assertive if their alliances with the U.S. weakened. Also weaker states in Southeast Asia might slip further within China's orbit if the U.S. is not involved in the region.

4:55 p.m.

The Philippines' foul-mouthed president has welcomed Donald Trump's election victory, calling him a fellow curser.

Rodrigo Duterte, during a visit to Malaysia on Wednesday, says "Long live Mr. Trump! We both curse at the slightest reason. We are alike."

Duterte has previously told President Barack Obama in the past to "go to hell" and criticized U.S. officials for expressing concern about his brutal crackdown on illegal drug sellers and users.

Philippine officials said Wednesday that Duterte has decided to reduce the number of joint military exercises with the United States.

4:40 p.m.

Macedonia's president has congratulated Donald Trump on his election, saying the small Balkan country counts on U.S. help in joining NATO and the 28-nation European Union.

President Gjorge Ivanov says U.S. support is of "vital importance" for Macedonian and other Balkan countries to join the international organizations.

Macedonia's bid for EU accession has been frozen pending calls from Brussels for police and judiciary reforms, and for greater press freedom. Its hopes of becoming a NATO member have been blocked by neighboring Greece, due to a festering dispute over Macedonia's name.

4:30 p.m.

European Council President Donald Tusk says the election of Donald Trump has brought uncertainty and poses new challenges for trans-Atlantic ties.

Tusk told reporters in Brussels on Wednesday that "while respecting the democratic choice of the American people, we are the same time aware of the new challenges that these results bring."

He spoke of a "moment of uncertainty over the future of our trans-Atlantic relations"

Tusk added "the EU is a strong and reliable partner and will remain so. We expect the same from America and its new president."

4:25 p.m.

The favorite in Moldova's presidential election has praised Donald Trump for winning the U.S. presidential race as a victory over "the Liberal orgy."

Igor Dodon, who paints himself as a traditional Moldovan family man and wants closer relations with Russia, said Wednesday he liked Trump because "he is a supporter of Christian values."

Trump has been divorced twice and has children from three different wives.

4:15 p.m.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has vowed to work with President-elect Donald Trump "in a positive way."

Trudeau told students in Ottawa that he will work with Trump not just for Canadians and Americans "but for the whole world."

The prospect of Americans moving to Canada after Trump's win drew so much online interest it temporarily knocked out Canada's immigration website. Internet searches for "move to Canada" spiked Tuesday night as election returns favored Trump. "Canada" was a leading U.S. trend on Twitter.

The website for Citizenship and Immigration Canada went down due to a surge in traffic. Andree-Lyne Halle, a spokeswoman for Trudeau, said staff worked throughout the night to resolve the issue.

4 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 59 of 75

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says the United Nations will count on Donald Trump's administration to strengthen international cooperation to meet today's global challenges.

Ban said the U.N. hopes to work with his U.S. government "to uphold shared ideals, combat climate change, advance human rights, promote mutual understanding" and implement U.N. goals for 2030.

Ban says after "a hard-fought and often divisive campaign, it is worth recalling and reaffirming that the unity in diversity of the United States is one of the country's greatest strengths."

Ban also praised Hillary Clinton "for a lifetime commitment to peace, the advancement of women and the well-being of children."

3:50 p.m.

Donald Trump's victory has given moral support to anti-establishment movements in Italy riding a wave of discontent over the migrant crisis and the stodgy economic recovery.

The head of Italy's anti-migrant anti-EU Northern League, Matteo Salvini, said Trump's victory "signaled epochal changes," and he set his sights immediately on leader Matteo Renzi, who faces a critical test in a referendum on constitutional reforms next month.

The Northern League has been keen to form alliances with far-right parties across Europe. Salvini, who is meeting with Russian lawmakers next week in Moscow, says Trump "has taught us that who has courage wins."

The head of the anti-establishment 5-Star movement, Beppe Grillo, says "Trump represents the point of no return of a world that is changing."

3:35 p.m.

European Union foreign ministers will hold a special meeting on Sunday to assess the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president and what it means for trans-Atlantic relations.

The 28 EU foreign ministers are set to meet with foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini for a dinner in Brussels. European leaders have been fearful that Trump would lead an isolationist and protectionist course, undermining the cornerstones of trans-Atlantic cooperation.

3:20 p.m.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has congratulated U.S. President-elect Donald Trump on his victory and the American people for their democracy.

Lagos-based SBM Intelligence risk analysts say the uncertainty generated by Trump's win should be good for Nigeria, the African oil giant, since it will weaken the U.S. dollar.

Not everyone in Nigeria embraced Trump. At an election watch party organized by the U.S. Embassy in Lagos, Nigerian artist Nike Davies-Okundaye called Hillary Clinton "my hero." As Clinton's loss became apparent, people pulled down the red, blue and white balloons and began popping them in disappointment.

2:55 p.m.

The residents of Melania Trump's home town in Slovenia are hoping the future U.S. First Lady will come to visit together with her husband.

U.S. flags could be seen in the industrial town of Sevnica on Wednesday as the news came in of Donald Trump winning the U.S. presidency.

Sevnica mayor Srecko Ocvirk says he doesn't expect Melania Trump to come any time soon but "I expect her to visit Sevnica later."

Melania Trump's childhood neighbor, Mirjana Jelancic, says she is happy for her friend. She says "it was part of her dreams and we are happy if she succeeds."

Melania Trump, 46, was born Melanija Knavs in Sevnica. She left Slovenia in her 20s' to pursue an international modelling career.

2:45 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 60 of 75

Bosnia is divided over Donald Trump's presidential victory in the U.S., with the country's Serbs welcoming it while Muslim Bosniaks and Bosnian Croats are disappointed with Hillary Clinton's defeat.

The division is mainly based on the role former U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration had in ending Bosnia's devastating 1992-95 war, which took over 100,000 lives and included a four-year siege of Sarajevo.

Vitomir Blagojevic, a Bosnian Serb from Pale, said "I am really glad that he won."

But in Sarajevo, Kemal Hadzibegic, a Muslim Bosniak, described Trump as "raw."

"We were in favor of Clinton," he said. "We trusted her more. This is a real surprise for us, but also for everyone else."

2:30 p.m.

Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders says, in a reaction to Donald Trump's U.S. presidential win, "we will judge him on his actions."

Koenders, of the center-left Labor Party, says during the U.S. campaign "Trump made statements that were at odds with how we like to see our society and world order," citing Trump comments about U.S. relationships with NATO, Russia and the European Union.

But the Dutch minister says it's important for the Netherlands' close relationship with the United States to continue since "we are facing global challenges such as climate change and the fight against terrorism."

2:20 p.m.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto is congratulating the U.S. on its election — though not directly winner Donald Trump, who alarmed many by describing Mexican migrants as murderers and rapists.

Pena Nieto has sent a series of tweets repeating his readiness to work with Trump "in favor of the bilateral relationship." He says Mexico and the U.S. "are friends, partners and allies who should continue collaborating for the competitiveness and development of North America."

The value of Mexico's peso currency plunged sharply after the election of Trump, who has denounced the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Mexican Treasury Secretary Jose Antonio Meade urged against "premature reactions." He said the election result won't immediately affect trade and said Mexico "is in a position of strength" to face whatever may come. ____

2:15 p.m.

Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev says the election of Republican Donald Trump as U.S. president offers an opportunity to repair ties between Moscow and Washington.

The Interfax news agency reported Gorbachev as saying "under a new president of the U.S. the Russian-American relationship could get significantly better. I am convinced it is essential now to go straight into a two-way dialogue at the highest level."

The 85-year-old Gorbachev was admitted to a hospital Wednesday for what Russian media reported was a planned pacemaker.

2:05 p.m.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has congratulated businessman Donald Trump on being elected U.S. president, calling his win "historic."

The Pakistani leader says Wednesday that Trump's election "is indeed the triumph of the American people and their enduring faith in the ideals of democracy, freedom, human rights and free enterprise."

2 p.m.

Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka says Americans have voted for a change in a democratic ballot and says in a tweet that "we respect that and take it pragmatically."

Sobotka noted one thing about President-elect Donald Trump's election, saying "unlike some of his predecessors, Trump at least knows where the Czech Republic is located."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 61 of 75

Trump's first wife, Ivana, is of Czech origin.

1:50 p.m.

Despite being worried about an increased Russian military presence, the Baltic nations are still congratulating America's new leader, Donald Trump.

Tensions grew during the U.S. presidential election campaign when Trump floated the idea that NATO members' defense spending targets would be a prerequisite for the U.S. to defend a NATO ally.

Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė says "the people of the U.S. have made a decision, we will respect their choice."

In Latvia, President Raimonds Vejonis is looking forward "to close relations with the new U.S. administration" while the new Estonian president, Kersti Kaljulaid, said the United States "will also continue to be one of Estonia's most important allies."

1:40 p.m.

The leaders of the nationalist Alternative for Germany party, which campaigns against Chancellor Angela Merkel's refugee policy, have welcomed Donald Trump's presidential victory.

Party co-leader Frauke Petry says "it was high time that people disenfranchised by the political establishment get their voice back" in the U.S. Petry said Trump's victory offered the chance to "readjust the trans-Atlantic relationship and end the big conflicts in Ukraine and Syria jointly with Russia."

Fellow party leader Joerg Meuthen says "the establishment now has to recognize that you can't rule past the population for long ... Trump has rightly been rewarded for his bravery in standing up against the system and speaking uncomfortable truths."

1:30 p.m.

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach is offering his congratulations to Donald Trump after his victory in the U.S. presidential election and wishes him "all the best" for his term in office.

Trump's victory over Hillary Clinton comes as Los Angeles is bidding to host the 2024 Olympics. Trump's statements during the campaign about Mexicans, Muslims and building a wall along the Mexican border may not help the California city's Olympic case with some IOC members.

Los Angeles is competing against Paris and Budapest, Hungary. The IOC will select the host city in September 2017.

1:20 p.m.

Italy's premier has offered his congratulations to Donald Trump, brushing aside political differences, following his repeated public endorsements of Hillary Clinton.

Premier Matteo Renzi says Wednesday "in the name of Italy, I congratulate the president of the United States and wish him well in his work, convinced that the Italian-American friendship remains strong and solid."

Renzi faces his own political reckoning next month with a constitutional referendum that has mobilized opposition as well as party dissidents against him. A no vote is likely to force at least a government shuffling, if not a new election.

1:10 p.m.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says he hopes Donald Trump's election as president marks a new era in the United States that he hopes will lead to "beneficial" steps for fundamental rights, liberties and democracy in the world.

12:50 p.m.

Environmentalists and climate scientists are alarmed over the election of a U.S. president who has called

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 62 of 75

global warming a "hoax."

Donald Trump's win has raised questions about whether America, once again, would pull out of an international climate deal. Many said it's now up to the rest of the world to lead efforts to rein in greenhouse gas emissions, while others held out hope that Trump would change his stance on climate change and honor U.S. commitments under last year's landmark Paris Agreement.

Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine says Wednesday that as "I expect he will realize that climate change is a threat to his people and to whole countries which share seas with the U.S."

12:45 p.m.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull says his country will work "as closely as ever" with the United States under Donald Trump's new administration.

He says "politicians and governments, congressmen, senators, prime ministers, presidents come and go according to the will of the people of Australia and the United States, but the bond between our two nations, our shared common interests, our shared national interests are so strong, are so committed."

12:40 p.m.

French President Francois Hollande says the election of Donald Trump "opens a period of uncertainty. It must be faced with lucidity and clarity."

In brief remarks, Hollande congratulated Trump "as is natural between two heads of state," but showed little enthusiasm. Hollande had openly endorsed Hillary Clinton.

Hollande said "certain positions taken by Donald Trump during the American campaign must be confronted." He says "what is at stake is peace, the fight against terrorism, the situation in the Middle East. It is economic relations and the preservation of the planet."

12:30 p.m.

The Taliban have called on Donald Trump to withdraw all U.S. forces from Afghanistan once he takes office as president.

In a statement sent to The Associated Press, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said Wednesday that a Trump administration "should allow Afghans to become a free nation and have relationships with other countries based on non-interference in each other's affairs."

The Afghan conflict is in its 16th year. The Taliban have spread their footprint across Afghanistan in the two years since most international combat troops withdrew.

12:25 p.m.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has conveyed his congratulations to U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, saying he looked forward to working with Trump on promoting ties in a "constructive" way that avoids conflict and confrontation.

During his campaign, Trump accused China of illegally subsidizing exports, manipulating its currency and stealing intellectual property.

State broadcaster CCTV reported Wednesday that Xi said the two biggest economies in the world shouldered a "special and important responsibility in upholding world peace."

Xi says: "I highly value China-U.S. relations and am looking forward to working with you to expand co-operation in all fields." He says he expects they would "manage differences in a constructive way."

12:15 p.m.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta has sent a message of congratulations to U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, saying "the American people have spoken, and they have spoken clearly."

Kenyatta says Wednesday "the ties that bind Kenya and the United States of America are close and strong. They are old, and based in the values that we hold dear: in democracy, in the rule of law, and in

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 63 of 75

the equality of peoples.”

12:05 p.m.

The president of Slovenia — small Alpine nation that is the home country of future U.S. First Lady Melania Trump — says he hopes relations with the U.S. will further improve during Donald Trump’s presidency.

President Boris Pahor says Wednesday “we are allied as part of NATO and I will strive for the friendship and the alliance to deepen further.”

Melania Trump was born as Melanija Knavs in the industrial Slovenian town of Sevnica before working internationally as a model.

12:01 p.m.

The Vatican’s first reaction to the election of Donald Trump has focused on its wish for global peace.

Pope Francis pope did not mention the U.S. elections during his Wednesday audience, but secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, offered Trump congratulations in a statement to Vatican Radio that “his government can be truly fruitful.”

11:55 a.m.

Russian President Vladimir Putin says Moscow is ready to try to restore good relations with the United States in the wake of the election of Donald Trump.

Putin said Wednesday at a ceremony accepting the credentials of new ambassadors that “we aware that it is a difficult path, in view of the unfortunate degradation of relations between the Russian Federation and the United States.”

Putin says “it is not our fault that Russian-American relations are in such a state.”

Earlier, the Kremlin said Putin sent Trump a telegram of congratulation, expressing “his hope to work together for removing Russian-American relations from their crisis state.”

11:45 a.m.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has congratulated Donald Trump, calling him a “true friend of the State of Israel.”

Netanyahu said Wednesday he believes the two leaders “will continue to strengthen the unique alliance between our two countries and bring it to ever greater heights.”

Earlier, Education Minister Naftali Bennett, said Tump’s victory means that “the era of a Palestinian state is over.” The Palestinians want a state in lands Israel captured in 1967.

Netanyahu has said he is willing to negotiate a border deal, but has pressed ahead with Jewish settlement expansion on war-won land.

11:40 a.m.

Without commenting directly on Donald Trump’s election, China’s government says Beijing hopes to work with the new U.S. administration to build sustainable ties and expressed confidence the two countries can handle trade disputes maturely.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told reporters in Beijing on Wednesday that China is “looking forward to making concerted efforts with the new U.S. government to ensure the sustainable, steady and sound development of bilateral relations” to benefit both countries’ people and the world.

Asked about U.S. voters’ anger about economic losses blamed on Chinese exports, Lu said only that the two countries had established ways to deal with trade disputes.

11:20 a.m.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has offered President-elect Donald Trump “close cooperation” on the basis of shared trans-Atlantic values that she says include respect for human dignity regardless of people’s origin, gender or religion.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 64 of 75

Merkel told reporters in Berlin on Wednesday that the campaign which ended in Trump's victory featured "confrontations that were difficult to bear."

Merkel stressed Germany's close historical connection with the United States. She said: "Germany and America are connected by values: democracy, freedom, respect for the law and for the dignity of human beings, independently of origin, skin color, religion, gender, sexual orientation or political views."

11:15 a.m.

A top official in South Sudan has welcomed the election victory of Donald Trump.

South Sudan's Minister of Information and government spokesman Michael Makuei says Trump "will be better after all" for his nation. Makeui says "I really doubt President Obama had any clear policy to South Sudan other than to destroy it."

11:10 a.m.

Cambodia's long-serving authoritarian prime minister Hun Sen has congratulated Donald Trump on his U.S. presidential election victory.

Hun Sen has kept a tight grip on Cambodian politics for three decades by silencing critics with lawsuits, intimidation and other tactics.

11:05 a.m.

European Union leaders have invited U.S. President-elect Donald Trump to come visit the 28-nation bloc as possible to assess trans-Atlantic ties.

With "sincere congratulations," EU Council President Donald Tusk and his Commission counterpart Jean-Claude Juncker said that, despite Trump's campaign talk of protectionism and isolationism, both sides "should consolidate the bridges we have been building across the Atlantic."

10:50 a.m.

Indonesia's president Joko "Jokowi" Widodo says the world's most populous Muslim nation will work with Donald Trump's new U.S. administration.

He says "we will keep good relations, especially in trade and investment as we know the U.S. is one of Indonesia's major investors.

But, Komaruddin Hidayat, a noted Indonesian Islamic scholar, says Trump's election as U.S. president is "shocking" for many people in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation. Hidayat says Trump has signaled backing for ultra-nationalist, isolationist and protectionist policies that could be harmful.

4:35 a.m.

Donald Trump's surprise triumph dealt a blow to online betting sites, some of which had paid out winnings prematurely to gamblers backing Hillary Clinton.

Irish bookmaker Paddy Power says it lost about 5 million euros (\$5.5 million) in what the Dublin-based business called its "biggest political payout ever."

Company spokesman Feilim Mac An Iomaire said Wednesday: "we decided to put our neck on the line by paying out early on Hillary Clinton, but boy did we get it wrong. We've been well and truly thumped by Trump."

4:30 a.m.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has congratulated U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, saying the two countries will remain "strong and close partners on trade, security and defense."

May said Trump had won after "a hard-fought campaign."

May, who took office after British voters delivered a shock to the establishment by deciding to leave the European Union, declined to comment on rival candidates Trump and Hillary Clinton while the U.S. race was on.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 65 of 75

On Wednesday, she stressed the enduring trans-Atlantic "special relationship, based on the values of freedom, democracy and enterprise."

4:25 a.m.

Egypt's president has congratulated Donald Trump on winning the U.S. presidential election, saying Cairo wants to see more "cooperation and coordination" between the two nations to bolster stability and peace in the Middle East.

President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi telephoned Trump to offer his congratulations and invited him to visit Egypt. Cairo receives more than \$1 billion dollars annually in U.S. military and economic aid.

4:15 a.m.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg says he's looking forward to working with U.S. president-elect Donald Trump and that U.S. leadership is vital to the world's biggest military alliance.

Stoltenberg said Wednesday that "it is important that the Trans-Atlantic bond remains strong" and that "U.S. leadership is as important as ever."

Trump has criticized many allies for not paying their fair share of the NATO budget.

Stoltenberg said he looks forward to welcoming Trump at next Spring's NATO summit in Brussels.

4 a.m.

Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. election is being viewed with shock and revulsion in Ireland.

The country is close to the Clintons and fearful of Trump's campaign pledge to confront U.S. companies using Ireland as a tax shelter.

The Irish Times branded the New York businessman a "misogynistic racist liar" who would fan instability overseas and intolerance at home.

Irish Times columnist Fintan O'Toole wrote Wednesday: "The republic of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt is now the United Hates of America."

"President Trump is the creation of the same demographic that gave Europe its far-right authoritarian movements with such disastrous consequences for the world," he wrote.

3:50 a.m.

Turkey's prime minister has called on Donald Trump to extradite a U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen — blamed by Ankara for the failed coup in July — as soon as he is sworn in.

Binali Yildirim also said Wednesday that he hoped that the new leadership in the United States would take into consideration Turkey's "sensitivities concerning the fight against terrorism," give priority to policies that would bring peace and stability to the region.

Ties between the two allies have been strained over perceptions in Turkey that the United States is reluctant to arrest and extradite Gulen.

3:40 a.m.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Donald Trump in a message posted on Twitter. Modi tweeted that "we appreciate the friendship you have articulated toward India."

Trump had reached out to Indian-American voters at a rally in New Jersey in mid-October, praising Modi and vowing to defeat terrorism.

In the Indian capital, some right-wing Hindu nationalists from the group Hindu Sena celebrated Trump's victory.

3:20 a.m.

Hungary's prime minister says Donald Trump's victory is "great news" and shows "democracy is still alive."

Prime Minister Viktor Orban has been often criticized by the United States, including by Hillary Clinton, for weakening the democratic system of checks and balances. Orban last year built fences on Hungary's

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 66 of 75

southern borders to stop the flow of migrants heading toward Western Europe.

3:15 a.m.

The European Union's foreign policy chief says that the trans-Atlantic ties with the United States go beyond the election of Donald Trump.

Federica Mogherini said Wednesday in a Twitter message that "EU-US ties are deeper than any change in politics. We'll continue to work together, rediscovering the strength of Europe."

3 a.m.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas says he "congratulates the elected American president, Donald Trump, and hopes that peace will be achieved during his term."

An Abbas aide, Saeb Erekat, said Wednesday he doesn't expect U.S. positions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to change under Trump. Erekat said the Republican and Democratic parties are both committed to a two-state solution of the conflict.

The Palestinians want to establish a state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, lands Israel captured in 1967.

2:35 a.m.

Russia's lower house of parliament is applauding the election of Donald Trump as the next U.S. president.

2:15 a.m.

Dutch anti-Islam populist lawmaker Geert Wilders has tweeted his congratulations to Donald Trump.

Wilders, whose Freedom Party is riding high in opinion polls ahead of Dutch elections due in March, calls Trump's win in the presidential election "A historic victory! A revolution." Looking ahead to the Dutch vote, Wilders finished his tweet: "We also will give our country back to the people of the Netherlands."

Wilders is known for his strident anti-Islam rhetoric and opposition to the Netherlands' European Union membership.

1:10 a.m.

The first French presidential candidate to comment on the U.S. election was populist, anti-immigrant politician Marine Le Pen, congratulating Trump even before the final results were known.

Le Pen, hoping to ride anti-establishment sentiment to victory in April-May French presidential elections, tweeted her support to the "American people, free!"

French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said France would continue to work with the new president whoever wins but warned "We don't want a world where egoism triumphs." France's Socialist government had openly endorsed Clinton.

Trump begins to play catch up on transition to White House

By **STEVE PEOPLES** and **JONATHAN LEMIRE**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The true test now begins for Donald Trump.

The Republican president-elect paid little attention to transition planning leading up to his stunning victory. With 72 days before he takes control of the executive branch, Trump and his senior team on Wednesday immediately began the herculean task of picking a Cabinet and tapping hundreds of appointees to senior roles in key departments — State, Defense, Homeland Security, Commerce and Treasury among them — many requiring multiple security reviews or Senate confirmation.

"They have a long way to go," said Max Stier, president and CEO of the Partnership for Public Service, an outside group that was working with both campaigns on transition planning since the summer. "It's imperative to have the right people brought in fast and they're prepared."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 67 of 75

Stier described the transition as “a point of maximum vulnerability” for the nation.

As president-elect, Trump is entitled to get the same daily intelligence briefing as President Barack Obama — one that includes information on U.S. covert operations, information gleaned about world leaders and other data gathered by America’s 17 intelligence agencies.

Trump’s senior team huddled privately to being a more focused period of transition planning. The group included the transition chairman, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus, Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, Vice President-elect Mike Pence and daughter Ivanka Trump’s husband, Jared Kushner, among others.

The team is putting a premium on quickly filling key national security posts, according to people familiar with the conversations but not authorized to discuss them publicly.

“We had a great meeting and I thought it was valuable. And lots of work has been done,” said Sessions, a top Trump adviser. “So it’s the beginning, really a solid beginning. First phase of the beginning.”

Bill Hagerty, Trump’s director of presidential appointments, declined to detail a timeline for Trump’s first personnel moves. A chief of staff is traditionally appointed in the initial weeks after an election.

“It’s something that’s got to be pretty close held until the president-elect is ready to begin to announce appointments,” he said.

A small transition team has been meeting since early August to discuss legislative priorities and plans for taking over agencies. While Christie provided Trump with weekly updates, until now, the campaign and transition operations functioned as relatively distinct entities and in different cities — Trump’s campaign in New York and the transition team in Washington.

An organizational chart for the transition team obtained by The Associated Press confirms that some familiar names are playing senior roles shaping a Trump administration.

National security planning was being led by former Michigan Rep. Mike Rogers, who previously worked for the FBI. Joseph “Keith” Kellogg, a retired Army lieutenant general, was heading defense planning. For domestic issues, the Trump transition team was relying on the leadership of Ken Blackwell, a former Cincinnati mayor and Ohio secretary of state.

A Trump spokesman did not respond to questions about the team, but key allies rejected the notion he was behind where he should be in transition planning.

“Donald Trump is taking this very seriously,” Priebus said, suggesting that Trump’s deal-making skills would enable him to quickly “make things happen for the American people.”

“He will get things done,” Priebus declared.

It’s far from clear who would occupy Trump’s Cabinet and senior staff. His inner circle is famously small, defined by loyalty to the president-elect and largely devoid of establishment leaders.

Trump offered a roadmap for prospective administration figures while on stage during his victory speech early Wednesday.

The president-elect praised Christie, who joined Trump on stage as he declared victory, despite Christie’s abysmal poll numbers at home and continued scrutiny for the so-called Bridgegate scandal.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani emerged as one of Trump’s closest advisers and regular traveling partners in the campaign’s final stretch. The former federal prosecutor is a possible fit for a post like attorney general or national security adviser.

Sessions was the first major Capitol Hill lawmaker to back Trump. His hard-line immigration views became a centerpiece of the insurgent campaign. Sessions’ chief of staff, Rick Dearborn, has also emerged as a key figure in transition planning.

While many Republican national security leaders shunned Trump, retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn was the Republican nominee’s most experienced national security voice. Flynn accompanied Trump when he received his first classified intelligence briefing.

Steven Mnuchin, a Goldman Sachs veteran and CEO of a private investment firm, served as Trump’s finance chairman and instantly becomes a contender for Treasury secretary. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich could emerge as a possible secretary of state. Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker, who was considered

for Trump's running mate and chairs the Foreign Relations Committee, may also be in line for a job.

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin in New York and Eric Schelzig in Nashville, Tennessee, contributed to this report.

The Latest: 'Heartbroken' voter runs into Clinton on hike

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on the U.S. presidential transition (all times EST):

7:30 a.m.

A Hillary Clinton supporter who was "heartbroken" over Tuesday's election says she decided to go on a hike in the woods — and ran into the former presidential candidate herself.

Margot Gerster said in a Facebook post that she was heading home following her hike Thursday in Clintons' hometown of Chappaqua, New York, when she saw Clinton and former President Bill Clinton walking their dogs.

Gerster said she hugged the former Democratic nominee and told her that one of her "proudest moments as a mother" was taking her daughter with her to vote for Clinton. She posted a picture with Clinton that she says was snapped by the former president.

7:10 a.m.

President-elect Donald Trump seems to be having a change of heart about those protesting the election results.

Trump had denounced the protesters in a tweet late Thursday. He wrote that "professional protesters, incited by the media, are protesting. Very unfair!"

But early Friday, he tweeted: "Love the fact that the small groups of protesters last night have passion for our great country. We will all come together and be proud!"

Thousands have been gathering in cities across the United States to protest Trump's victory in Tuesday's election.

3:05 a.m.

The budding new alliance between Donald Trump and congressional Republicans hides a tougher reality: Even with unified GOP control of Washington, the president-elect's priorities may have trouble getting through Congress.

And in some cases Republicans themselves might be the barrier.

Among the issues are Trump's promises to build a border wall and restricting immigration from terror-stricken nations. Don't count on Senate Democrats to go along, and they will effectively wield veto power in many cases.

And there's repealing the nation's health care law, which will take painstaking and potentially lengthy negotiations to come up with a solution.

Still, all that and more seemed like a problem for another day as Trump paid a triumphant visit Thursday to Capitol Hill after a cordial White House meeting with President Barack Obama.

2016 results put new focus on Electoral College

By NANCY BENAC, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The fact that Hillary Clinton most likely won the U.S. popular vote but won't be president has some people wondering, "Wait, why do we do it this way?"

Thank — or blame — the Founding Fathers for creating the possibility of a so-called "divergent election" when they set up the Electoral College.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 69 of 75

A look at how and why the U.S. selects its presidents this way:

ORIGINS

The Electoral College was devised at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. It was a compromise meant to strike a balance between those who wanted popular elections for president and those who wanted no public input. Alexander Hamilton wrote, "If the manner of it be not perfect, it is at least excellent."

At the time, the country had just 13 states, and the founders were worried about one state exercising outsized influence, according to a white paper from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. Small states were worried that states with large populations would have extra sway. Southern states with slaves who couldn't vote worried that Northern states would have a louder voice. There were concerns that people in one state wouldn't know much about candidates from other states. The logistics of a national election were daunting. The thinking was that if candidates had to win multiple states rather than just the popular vote, they would have to attract broader support.

HOW IT WORKS

The electoral system has been tweaked over the years, but the gist endures. The president is selected by a "college" of 538 electors from the states. Each state gets as many electoral votes as it has members of Congress, and the District of Columbia gets three. To be elected president, the winner must get at least half the total plus one — or 270 electoral votes. Most states give all their electoral votes to whichever candidate wins the state's popular vote. So while Clinton is leading Trump in votes nationwide 47.7 percent to 47.5 percent, Trump's total in the Electoral College stands at 290, with races in Michigan and New Hampshire yet to be called. In 2000, Democrat Al Gore narrowly won the popular vote but lost to Republican George W. Bush in the Electoral College 271-266. Overall, there have been four such cases of divergent elections.

THE PROS

A lot has changed since the Electoral College system was established, making many of the original reasons for its existence outdated: The U.S. now manages to run national elections quite well. Voters nationwide have no shortage of information about candidates. Slavery no longer exists. But there are still concerns that small states and rural areas would be ignored in favor of those with bigger populations if the race hinged strictly on the popular vote.

THE CONS

In 1967, a commission of the American Bar Association recommended that the Electoral College system be scrapped, finding it to be "archaic, undemocratic, complex, ambiguous and dangerous." Fifty years later, critics are still complaining, arguing that the system results in huge swaths of the country being ignored while candidates focus on a dozen or so battleground states.

"It's a terrible system," says George C. Edwards III, a Texas A&M professor who's written a book on the subject. Edwards tracks every campaign stop by the major candidates, and he says big states that are sure to vote for one candidate or another — say, California for the Democrats or Texas for the Republicans — now get completely ignored, and small states largely get overlooked, too.

IS CHANGE AFOOT?

Don't count on it. Republicans have benefited the most from the system in recent years, and they're in control of Congress. However, there is an effort underway to get around the winner-take-all aspects of the system without abolishing the Electoral College.

A group called National Popular Vote is pushing an interstate compact under which states would pledge to deliver all their electoral votes to the nationwide winner of the popular vote. Over the past decade, 11 states have approved such a bill.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 70 of 75

John Koza, chairman of the group, is quick to point out that both Trump and Clinton are on record in recent years saying the system is flawed. He's hopeful Trump's election won't make Republicans less amenable to changing it.

"We're talking about a policy change that's largely dictated by the need to create a 50-state campaign for president instead of a 12-state campaign for president," says Koza.

Follow Nancy Benac on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/nbenac>

Editorial Roundup: Excerpts from recent editorials

By The Associated Press

Excerpts from recent editorials in the United States and abroad:

Nov. 9

The Washington Post on Internet censorship in China:

CHINA'S INTERNET is a universe of contradictions. It has brought hundreds of millions of people online and has become a vast marketplace for digital commerce, yet it is also heavily policed by censors to snuff out any challenge to the ruling Communist Party. Under President Xi Jinping, the censors are working overtime to keep 721 million Internet users under control.

The latest effort came Monday. China's national parliament approved a cybersecurity law that can be used to restrict free speech and force foreign Internet companies to heed the demands of China's security services. Censorship is not new in China; a huge phalanx of officials are devoted to it, harsh punishments are meted out, and the country is ringed by a content-blocking Great Firewall. But now censorship will be more fully enshrined in the legal code.

Article 12 of the new law prohibits use of the Internet for "inciting subversion of the national regime" or "the overthrow of the Socialist system." Also banned is inciting separatism or ethnic hatred, "endangering national unity," or "fabricating" or disseminating false information about the economy. These are all touchstones of Chinese authoritarianism, vague enough to be deployed in many circumstances to smother dissent. Article 37 of the new law requires "critical information infrastructure operators" to store users' data, including that of foreign companies, on Chinese territory, making it easier for the security services to snoop. Article 24 requires Internet providers to demand the real identity of those they provide services to — making it easier for security services to track down those who would like to speak their mind. Many foreign businesses are also alarmed that the new law may give the Chinese authorities access to their technology and data.

Offering a glimpse of how censorship actually works in China, Ronald Deibert, director of the Citizen Lab at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs, released a report recently on digital streaming services. Similar to Periscope (which is banned in China), these apps, such as YY, 9158 and Sina Show, have become a craze. Mr. Deibert's researchers downloaded these three, and between February 2015 and October 2016 extracted 19,464 keywords that trigger censorship on chats associated with each application. Rather than monolithic control, they found censorship is decentralized and somewhat chaotic; the platforms are often expected to adhere to a kind of "self-discipline" rather than direct orders. Mr. Deibert's group discovered that the most popular app, YY, with 844 million registered users, automatically sends a report back when a user types a banned keyword; the report includes not only the user's name but also who the message was sent to and the message itself.

In law and in practice, China is creating the world's largest online thought prison. It turns the idea of the Internet as a force for freedom on its head, and as China goes, so go other tyrants. From Vietnam to Saudi Arabia, from Russia to Turkey, the age of Internet repression has blossomed.

Online:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com>

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 71 of 75

Nov. 10

The New York Times on Afghan refugees:

Pakistan is turning them back. Thousands who spent their life savings on a bid to resettle in Europe are being told it's time to head home. Inside Afghanistan, tens of thousands have become internally displaced in recent months as fighting between the Taliban and government security forces rages in several provinces. The refugee crisis could reach unprecedented numbers, with as many as 1.5 million returning home, many involuntarily, by the end of the year, according to humanitarian organizations.

Yet, there is no plan to adequately address this humanitarian emergency. Its scale and the international community's dismissive attitude toward the plight of vulnerable Afghans is shameful. Pakistan, home to 1.3 million registered Afghan refugees and some 700,000 undocumented Afghans, has begun to crack down on those refugees living in the country without permission. By the end of this year, as many as 360,000 could be forced to return to Afghanistan, if current rates hold, according to the United Nations refugee agency. This year's number of returnees is about four times higher than last year's.

Among those caught in Pakistan's toughening stance is Sharbat Gula, the subject of a famous photo that was published on a cover of National Geographic magazine in 1985. That photo was taken at a refugee camp in Pakistan when she was about 12. Ms. Gula, now in her 40s, was recently arrested and deported back to Afghanistan because she had been living in Pakistan without legitimate papers.

As Afghans become ever more hopeless about the future of their country, a rising number have set out on long and perilous journeys to Europe. Last year, 213,000 Afghans made it to Europe, where leaders have been grappling with the even larger influx of Syrians. While Syrians are not being forced to return home, European leaders last month struck a deal with the government of Afghanistan to establish a mechanism for the return of tens of thousands of Afghans who have failed to get asylum or legal residency in Europe. Under the deal, the Afghan government agreed to accept even citizens who fear for their safety if they were to return home.

Those who go back home, often having spent all their money on smugglers, face grinding poverty and violence. Within the country, about 221,000 Afghans fled their homes between January and August, according to the United Nations. For many, the only option is to pitch a tent in one of the country's bulging and poorly serviced refugee camps.

The United Nations refugee agency has been making desperate pleas to donors for more assistance as winter approaches. Last month, it said it needed \$181 million to cover basic operations in the months ahead. Fulfilling that need immediately is the least the international community can do. Beyond that, it will need to rethink its long-term approach to Afghan refugees and how to resettle more abroad in the years ahead.

Online:

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Nov. 9

China Daily on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan:

As Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi starts his three-day official visit to Japan on Thursday, he will be expecting to see the already close bilateral relationship rise to a new height, with several major deals set to be inked.

Among them will be a civil nuclear cooperation agreement, which allows Japan to export its nuclear plant technologies to India, and one on India's purchase of 12 amphibious rescue aircraft from a Japanese manufacturer worth up to \$1.6 billion.

These deals are especially significant given that India has yet to ratify the international Non-Proliferation Treaty, and that the aircraft deal will be one of Japan's first sales of military equipment since it lifted a 50-year ban on arms exports.

The very good personal chemistry between Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is said to have played a part in deepening relations between the two nations. It is reported that Modi is one of the few people Abe follows on Twitter. Modi, on his part, first visited Japan back when he was chief minister

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 72 of 75

of India's Gujarat province.

It would be just another diplomatic anecdote if it stopped there.

Yet some have tried to describe the visit as a mutual effort by New Delhi and Tokyo to "counter an assertive China", or "to keep a rising China in check". They hope that an anti-China alliance could be forged between the world's second most populous nation and third-largest economy, because of China's long-standing territorial dispute with India and its spat with Japan over the Diaoyu Islands in the East China Sea.

People with such thinking have too simplistic an idea of international relations that are not a zero-sum game.

Modi has always sought "to lead India's foreign policy with its economic interests in mind". And Japan's trade with India is still less than a quarter of that between India and China.

China, as the top trade partner of both, is more than happy to see deepened economic, trade and political relations between its neighbors if they contribute to peace and stability in the region.

While some in Japan may continue to trumpet "the rule of law in the South China Sea" or "freedom and openness in the Indian and Pacific Oceans", as Abe did with Modi in September on the sidelines of a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Laos, Sino-Indian relations are strong enough to withstand differences and external interferences.

Online:

<https://usa.chinadaily.com.cn>

Nov. 9

The Dallas Morning News on why Donald Trump should be a statesman:

Congratulations, Mr. Trump. You're hired.

The presidency is the biggest job America has to offer, and come Jan. 20, it's yours. We wish you every success. All of us who live in this great nation depend on strong leadership from you now.

In winning the election you have proved many millions of your supporters right. They said you heard their concerns, while Hillary Clinton and establishment figures in government, media and pop culture did not.

We've questioned whether your temperament, experience and values are right for this office. We'd like nothing better than to be proved wrong.

You made a strong start with your elegant victory speech early Wednesday. You pledged "to bind the wounds of division" and to be "president for all Americans." Those are noble goals, ones we share.

As you build your Cabinet, we hope its members reflect those aspirations, that they indeed work with you in building a government that works for everyone.

We, too, will use this time to consider anew what lessons we take from this long campaign and the results it produced on Election Day.

Will establishment figures, from both the Democratic and Republican parties, who dismissed the concerns of Trump supporters re-examine their hostility, and look for ways to bridge cultural chasms?

Now that the election is over, it's imperative that all Americans, including Republican leaders, broad-minded Democrats and Trump supporters alike, seek out their "better angels" and recommit to what's best for America.

We exhort them to chart a way forward that truly will make Americans safe and secure, that will more equitably distribute economic prosperity, that will inspire free enterprise, personal liberty and a stronger sense of shared community.

Mr. Trump, we call on you to show the way, to lead the country toward these broadly shared goals in ways consistent with the constitutional ideals that have served the United States for more than two centuries. That will take selflessness and leadership by example to build unity and equal opportunity.

We are going to be hopeful. We are going to be aspirational for you and for our country. This election gives you the opportunity to prove yourself a statesman. We very much hope you do.

Online:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/>

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 73 of 75

Nov. 10

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch on Trump and Obama's Thursday meeting:

President Barack Obama and President-elect Donald Trump met face-to-face and shook hands for the first time Thursday. First time ever. A worried American public needed badly to witness this moment and be reassured that a peaceful, respectful transfer of power will happen.

The meeting had high potential to be tense and uncomfortable, given their years of animosity. Perhaps because of the possibility of confrontation, schedulers had initially planned for a light, 10-minute get-together. Instead, it turned into a 90-minute discussion delving into substantive national and international issues.

Thursday's meeting was perhaps the most sobering one of Trump's life. No one can enter the Oval Office without being struck by the awesome responsibility of the president's job. Trump now receives the same daily, top-secret briefings that Obama receives from CIA and National Security Agency officials.

This newspaper, like every major metropolitan daily in the country, had strongly opposed the notion of a Trump presidency. When Tuesday's election results came in, our initial reaction was that the nation was headed for disaster. Protesters have taken to the streets threatening violence and insisting that Trump is "not my president."

To them we say: Get over it. The nation cannot continue the kinds of destructive sniping that dominated the campaign — sniping that, yes, this newspaper participated in. Thursday's meeting provided some very necessary reassurance that the world around us isn't going to collapse. Trump can, if he works at it, be presidential.

It truly is time for Americans to set aside the rancor and harsh words. For Obama, the meeting was a chance to show his human face to Trump, an opponent who spent many years treating the president as an object of ridicule and illegitimacy.

It was because of Trump's sustained public campaign challenging Obama's status as an American-born Christian that the president felt compelled to fight back hard, starting with a lengthy roasting of Trump at the 2011 White House Correspondents dinner. It endured up to the last day of campaigning this week. Some say it was the humiliation of Obama's roasting that motivated Trump to run for president.

They never had a chance to clear the air until Thursday. And because of Trump's penchant for off-the-cuff, abrasive comments during the campaign, there was little reason for Obama or the American public to see him in any light other than one of callous abrasiveness.

We stand by our criticism of his offensive campaign rhetoric and believe he must repudiate it. He should make certain that his followers don't assume his election signals an open season on insulting and demeaning their fellow citizens, and noncitizens, with reckless abandon.

Now, as president-elect, Trump has shown some recognition that it's time to assume a more dignified and statesmanlike demeanor. We sincerely hope what was on display Thursday marks Trump's new beginning.

Online:

<http://www.stltoday.com/>

Nov. 9

The Philadelphia Inquirer on division in America:

At press time Tuesday night, the presidential election was going into extra innings, in a nail-biter that makes the seventh game of the World Series game feel like a nap.

While we don't at this point know who won, what we do know is that many expectations were turned on their heads: mainly, that a bombastic, unqualified candidate with no record of public service with a disorganized, undisciplined organization and little support from his party was still able to attract votes at the same rate as a seasoned, experienced candidate who has prepared for this job much of her life.

Throughout this campaign, much of the debate focused on the undecided voter, but in this case "undecided" meant that neither candidate held much appeal.

Still, the high voting turnout numbers from Tuesday for two "unpopular" candidates suggests that people

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 74 of 75

were indeed engaged in this election. Maybe that's not so surprising, and we suspect that one big motivator for the crowds at the polls was fear: Clearly, those who voted for Donald Trump bought into the fear that their candidate instilled in rally after rally: that America is no longer great, that we are a laughingstock, that immigrants are going to take over, and if they don't, the terrorists will.

While Hillary Clinton's campaign reacted with a message of "love trumps hate," and sold unity with "Stronger Together," the fact is that Democrats also capitalized on fear to galvanize voters: the fear of a Trump presidency.

With no clear winner apparent late Tuesday night, we don't know which fear was the bigger motivator.

So we'll talk about our fear: that the United States of America is less united than we'd like to believe. We fear that there are two Americas: one America that is inclusive, progressive, and looks to the future, and another America that is suspicious of outsiders, wants to return to a simpler time that no longer exists (if it ever did) and that is restrictive of human, civil, and reproductive rights.

A companion fear: that this country could be forfeiting the leadership role it has held in the world since World War II, with an unstable leader at its head.

As Tuesday night's electoral map was filled in with results, what was striking was how the nation's divisions appear to be equal in size.

And among the jobs faced by whoever is the final winner of this strange, painfully long election, this will be the most important: finding and building more bridges between these two separate countries.

Forget the actual problems of our roads, highways and bridges - the infrastructure of our democracy needs the most work of all.

Unfortunately, we believe that only one of the candidates is open to that task.

Online:

<http://www.philly.com/>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Nov. 11, the 316th day of 2016. There are 50 days left in the year. This is Veterans Day in the U.S., Remembrance Day in Canada.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 11, 1918, fighting in World War I ended as the Allies and Germany signed an armistice in the Forest of Compiègne (kohm-PYEHN'-yeh).

On this date:

In 1620, 41 Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower, anchored off Massachusetts, signed a compact calling for a "body politick."

In 1778, British redcoats, Tory rangers and Seneca Indians in central New York killed more than 40 people in the Cherry Valley Massacre.

In 1831, former slave Nat Turner, who'd led a violent insurrection, was executed in Jerusalem, Virginia.

In 1889, Washington became the 42nd state.

In 1916, "Mountain Interval," a collection of Robert Frost poems, including "The Road Not Taken" and "Out, Out" was published by Henry Holt and Co.

In 1921, the remains of an unidentified American service member were interred in a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in a ceremony presided over by President Warren G. Harding.

In 1938, Irish-born cook Mary Mallon, who'd gained notoriety as the disease-carrying "Typhoid Mary" blamed for the deaths of three people, died on North Brother Island in New York's East River at age 69 after 23 years of mandatory quarantine.

In 1942, during World War II, Germany completed its occupation of France.

In 1966, Gemini 12 blasted off on a four-day mission with astronauts James A. Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. aboard; it was the tenth and final flight of NASA's Gemini program.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 131 ~ 75 of 75

In 1972, the U.S. Army turned over its base at Long Binh to the South Vietnamese, symbolizing the end of direct U.S. military involvement in the Vietnam War.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan became the first U.S. chief executive to address the Diet, Japan's national legislature.

In 1996, Phan Thi Kim Phuc (fahn thee kihm fook), who as a 9-year-old girl was captured in a famous Associated Press photograph running naked and severely burned down a Vietnamese highway while fleeing a napalm attack, laid a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush marked Veterans Day at Arlington National Cemetery by praising U.S. troops who had fought oppression around the world, yet spoke only briefly about Iraq, where U.S. commanders were re-evaluating strategy. The United States vetoed a U.N. Security Council draft resolution seeking to condemn an Israeli military offensive in the Gaza Strip.

Five years ago: Heralding the end of one war and the drawdown of another, President Barack Obama observed Veterans Day at Arlington National Cemetery by urging Americans to hire the thousands of servicemen and women coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan. In the evening, President Obama and his wife, Michelle, watched from midcourt as No. 1 North Carolina beat Michigan State 67-55 in the Carrier Classic on the flight deck of the USS Carl Vinson, anchored off the coast of San Diego. A gunman armed with an assault rifle fired a series of shots at the White House from long range (Oscar Ramiro Ortega-Hernandez from Idaho was sentenced to 25 years in prison under a plea bargain with prosecutors.)

One year ago: The world's two biggest beer makers, AB InBev and SABMiller, announced they would join forces in a \$107 billion merger to create a company that would produce almost a third of the world's beer. Phil Taylor, 61, a former drummer with the heavy metal band Motorhead nicknamed "Philthy Animal," died in London.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz singer-musician Mose Allison is 89. Actress Bibi Andersson is 81. Country singer Narvel Felts is 78. Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., is 76. Americana roots singer/songwriter Chris Smither is 72. Rock singer-musician Vince Martell (Vanilla Fudge) is 71. The president of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, is 71. Rock singer Jim Peterik (PEE'-ter-ihk) (Ides of March, Survivor) is 66. Golfer Fuzzy Zoeller is 65. Pop singer-musician Paul Cowsill (The Cowsills) is 65. Rock singer-musician Andy Partridge (XTC) is 63. Singer Marshall Crenshaw is 63. Rock singer Dave Alvin is 61. Rock musician Ian Craig Marsh (Human League; Heaven 17) is 60. Actor Stanley Tucci is 56. Actress Demi Moore is 54. Actress Calista Flockhart is 52. Actor Philip McKeon is 52. Rock musician Scott Mercado is 52. Actor Frank John Hughes is 49. TV personality Carson Kressley is 47. Actor David DeLuise is 45. Actor Adam Beach is 44. Actor Tyler Christopher is 44. Actor Leonardo DiCaprio is 42. Actor Scoot McNairy is 39. Rock musician Jonathan Pretus (Cowboy Mouth) is 35. NFL quarterback Mark Sanchez is 30. Actress Christa B. Allen is 25. Actor Tye Sheridan is 20. Actor Ian Patrick is 14.

Thought for Today: "Old myths, old gods, old heroes have never died. They are only sleeping at the bottom of our mind, waiting for our call. We have need for them. They represent the wisdom of our race."
— Stanley Kunitz, American poet laureate (1905-2006).