

Groton Daily Independent

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Tuesday, Nov. 15

Debate at Watertown High School
Region Oral Interp at Aberdeen Central

Wednesday, Nov. 16

11:30 a.m.: MathCounts at Aberdeen Holgate Middle School
3:45 p.m.: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation
6:30 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran League
7 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation
7 p.m.: Groton Youth Rally at GHS Gym

Thursday, Nov. 17

9 a.m.: St. John's Lutheran Quilting
1:30 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran WELCA "Praise & Thanksgiving"
State Volleyball at Watertown

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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Dakota Brush

Brooms, Brushes, Mops, Can Liners, Paper Products.

Get Ready for Spring With
Wash Brushes & Squeegees

397-9337

104 N. Main, Groton

Outdoor Recreation Projects Funded

Groton gets \$24,900 for baseball complex playground equipment

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard has awarded a total of \$429,000 in Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) money to several communities. The federal assistance program provides up to 50 percent reimbursement for outdoor recreation projects.

The following communities were awarded LWCF grants for outdoor recreation projects:

Aberdeen – 12th Street multipurpose play court development, \$35,000

Dell Rapids – campground and comfort station development, \$75,000

Elk Point – playground equipment replacement, \$54,800

Emery – playground equipment replacement, \$22,800

Groton – playground equipment replacement at ball park, \$24,900

Hayti – playground equipment replacement, \$11,900

Hot Springs – tennis court resurfacing, \$11,000

Huron – Memorial Park playground equipment replacement, \$23,000

Lead – Manuel Park renovation, \$75,000

Onida – swimming pool renovation, \$50,000

Presho – outdoor basketball court development, \$49,000

“I commend these project sponsors for their strong commitment to improve their communities and make South Dakota a better place to live, work and play,” Gov. Daugaard said. “Their efforts will benefit future generations of South Dakotans.”

Land and Water Conservation Funds come from the National Park Service and are administered in South Dakota by the state Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

For more information on the LWCF program, contact grants coordinator Randy Kittle by calling 605.773.5490 or email at randy.kittle@state.sd.us.

Elections are run locally

A column by Secretary of State Shantel Krebs:

Nothing is more important to the future of our Republic than the right of each individual citizen to vote. In order for our rights to be preserved, they must be exercised. South Dakota voters did just that when they showed up to the polls with nearly 70% turnout.

Voters in South Dakota had important decisions this election cycle with a presidential election and ten ballot questions.

In South Dakota, our elections are run locally. I'd like to share with you the process, highlighting the countless hours our County Auditors, along with their staff and Election Day workers, dedicated in preparation for an incredible event that happens every four years in South Dakota and across the United States of America.

For a year and a half, County Auditors worked with the Secretary of State's office to prepare for the Presidential Election.

Auditors identify polling locations, train their staff, work with voter registrations, prepare ballots, prepare absentee ballots, prepare sample ballots, post notices of election, test vote tabulating equipment, publish the full text of ballot questions in local newspapers, draw for ballot order, manage and update the voter list, process campaign finance reports, train hundreds of Election Day workers, process absentee ballot applications, process voter registrations, conduct a county canvass of official results and make sure our Military men and women are able to cast their absentee ballot if they are serving overseas. In addition, they take rigorous steps to ensure voter fraud does not happen in South Dakota by completing voter registration background checks and checking photo ID's at the polls when ballots are cast.

Voter turnout in South Dakota on November 8th was 378,995 with 69.6%.

In 2016, South Dakota voters broke records. There were more absentee ballots cast than we've ever seen with 108,733 and a new high in voter registrations with 544,428. In keeping with South Dakota tradition, our County Auditors and their staff processed these record numbers professionally and efficiently.

Thank you for your participation in our election process. Shantel Krebs, South Dakota Secretary of State

Groton School given A+ rating

The Groton Area School District was granted an A+ rating from the Standard and Poor's Rating. This rating is used to secure the capital outlay certificates.

Thomas Grimmond from Dougherty & Company LLC reported on the capital outlay certificates not to exceed \$8,690,000 to complete the 2017 elementary school renovations and refinance the outstanding deb from the 2010 Eastside Addition. The refinance is to pay off Wells Fargo's loan in the amount of \$1.108 million. The interest rate on the certificates would be 2.78 percent for 20 years. The board approved the resolution. The closing date for the certificates is December 15.

Lorrie Weber, wife of business manager Mike Weber, serves as a line judge for volleyball. As compensation, she is given a Northeast Conference pass for the 2016-17 school year. It is considered a potential conflict and was reviewed by the board. The board acknowledged Lorrie's position and approved it.

Superintendent Joe Schwan reviewed the design of the elementary school remodeling project.

The new sound system in the high school gym is now being installed.

Elementary Principal Brett Schwan reported that 96.8 percent of the parents participated in parent-teacher conferences.

The fourth grade students have gone to the Golden Living Center in Groton where they read to the residents. Some of the students will go on their own time to read the residents in the Bristol Nursing Home. The kindergarten students will present a Thanksgiving Day play and read stories to the residents of the Golden Living Center on Nov. 18.

Dr. Anna Schwan, middle/high school principal, reported on the ICU program. She reported that ineligibility continues to be down and the program is not as consistent as she would like it to be. She is asking for feedback from the teachers with regard to the program's usefulness.

Coming up for the middle/high school is the Snow Queen Contest set for November 27 at 7 p.m., and the winter concert December 8. Thanksgiving break is November 23 through November 27.

The board approved a promissory note from the Capital Outlay Fund to the Capital Project Fund for \$225,000 until December 15th when the district gets the outlay certificates.

Mike Hubbard from Foster, Jacobs and Johnson, Inc., talked about the potential middle/high school project. The board agreed to approve the contract with FJJ to continue with the plan development.

The board grappled with a proposed change to the student handbook in reference to alcohol infractions. "We want the kids to be safe and we want them to participate," Dr. Schwan said. There will be a rewrite.

A November 30 meeting with the middle/high school steering committee. The steering committee is Jan Seibel, Brooke Lingbeck, Mike Nehls, Marty Weismantel, Grant Rix, Steve Smith, Superintendent Joe Schwan and middle/high school principal Dr. Anna Schwan.

The food service inspection from the Groton Area High School was conducted November 7 with a score of 96 out of 100.

Dylan Krueger was approved as a volunteer assistant boys' basketball coach for the 2016-17 school year.

Board member Merle Harder suggested that the road between the football field and the elementary school be blocked off during the football games. He said a child almost got run over. "I think it should be blocked off before someone gets hurt or killed."

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Special Weather Statement
SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ABERDEEN SD
522 AM CST TUE NOV 15 2016

MNZ039-046-SDZ003>011-015>023-033>037-045-048-051-152230-
TRAVERSE-BIG STONE-CORSON-CAMPBELL-MCPHERSON-BROWN-MARSHALL-
ROBERTS-WALWORTH-EDMUNDS-DAY-DEWEY-POTTER-FAULK-SPINK-CLARK-
CODINGTON-GRANT-HAMLIN-DEUEL-STANLEY-SULLY-HUGHES-HYDE-HAND-JONES-
LYMAN-BUFFALO-
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...WHEATON...ORTONVILLE...MCINTOSH...
HERREID...EUREKA...ABERDEEN...BRITTON...SISSETON...MOBRIDGE...
IPSWICH...WEBSTER...ISABEL...GETTYSBURG...FAULKTON...REDFIELD...
CLARK...WATERTOWN...MILBANK...HAYTI...CLEAR LAKE...
MISSION RIDGE...ONIDA...PIERRE...HIGHMORE...MILLER...MURDO...
KENNEBEC...FORT THOMPSON
522 AM CST TUE NOV 15 2016 /422 AM MST TUE NOV 15 2016/

...ACCUMULATING SNOWFALL EXPECTED ALONG WITH INCREASING WINDS FOR
LATER THIS WEEK...

A POTENT STORM SYSTEM IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY LIKELY ACROSS THE
REGION THURSDAY NIGHT INTO FRIDAY NIGHT. THIS SYSTEM HAS THE
POTENTIAL TO BRING MODERATE AMOUNTS OF SNOW...ALTHOUGH THE EXACT
LOCATION OF HEAVIER SNOW IS STILL UNCERTAIN. STRONG NORTHERLY
WINDS WILL DEVELOP FRIDAY...WHICH COULD LEAD TO AREAS OF BLOWING
SNOW AND REDUCED VISIBILITIES. THE POTENTIAL EXISTS FOR
WIDESPREAD 4 INCH SNOWFALL AMOUNTS OR HIGHER WITH THIS STORM.

CHANGES TO THE SNOWFALL AMOUNTS ARE EXPECTED AS THIS SYSTEM MOVES
CLOSER TO THE REGION. STAY TUNED FOR ADDITIONAL FORECAST UPDATES.

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Today in Weather History

November 15, 1988: A mixture of sleet, freezing rain and snow fell from north central South Dakota into west central Minnesota before changing over to all snow by the afternoon of the 15th. Snow continued across Minnesota during the morning hours on the 16th, along with increasing winds. The winds and snow created near zero visibilities due to blowing snow in northwest and west central Minnesota. A 60 mph wind gust was recorded in Morris, MN. Snow and blowing snow blocked roads, caused power outages and closed schools. Snow in many locations accumulated over a sheet of ice that coated roads from preceding rainfall.

1900 - A record lake-effect snowstorm at Watertown, NY, produced 45 inches in 24 hours. The storm total was 49 inches. (14th-15th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1967 - A surprise snow and ice coating paralyzed Boston during the evening rush hour. (David Ludlum)

1987: On November 15th and 16th, intense thunderstorms rumbled through the South-Central US producing 49 tornadoes in Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi during a 34 hour period. Of the 49 tornadoes, four were F3, 12 were F2, 27 were F1, and 6 were F0. These severe storms caused 11 deaths, 303 injuries, and caused at least 70 million dollars in damages. This storm system also brought heavy rain to central Louisiana where five stations recorded over 10 inches in 24 hours. The highest amount was 14.22 inches at Olla on the 16th.

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Oklahoma and northeastern Texas to northern Indiana and southern Wisconsin from mid morning through the pre-dawn hours of the following day. Thunderstorms spawned forty-four tornadoes, including thirteen in Missouri, and there were more than two hundred reports of large hail or damaging winds. A tornado in central Arkansas hit Scott and Lonoke killing five people, injuring sixty others, and causing fifteen million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - A tornado hit Southside, AR, killing one person, injuring ten others, and causing more than two million dollars damage, and a tornado near Clarksville AR injured nine persons and caused more than two million dollars damage. A tornado moving through the southwest part of Topeka KS injured twenty-two persons and caused nearly four million dollars damage. A tornado near Jane MO killed one person and injured twelve others, and a tornado moving across the southwest part of O'Fallon MO injured ten persons. Severe thunderstorms also produced hail three and a half inches in diameter east of Denison TX, and wind gusts to 85 mph at Kirksville MO. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a powerful cold front began to produce severe weather in the Middle Mississippi Valley before sunrise, and by early the next morning thunderstorms had spawned seventeen tornadoes east of the Mississippi River, with a total of 350 reports of severe weather. There were one hundred reports of damaging winds in Georgia, and five tornadoes, and there were another four tornadoes in Alabama. Hardest hit was Huntsville AL where a violent tornado killed 21 persons, injured 463 others, and caused one hundred million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms in Kentucky produced hail three inches in diameter in Grayson County, and wind gusts to 110 mph at Flaherty. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the eastern U.S. through the morning and afternoon hours. Severe thunderstorms spawned 23 tornadoes, and there were 164 reports of damaging winds. There were fourteen tornadoes in New Jersey, central and eastern New York, and eastern Pennsylvania, and 122 reports of damaging winds. A tornado at Coldenham NY killed nine school children and injured eighteen others, and thunderstorm winds gusted to 100 mph at Malvern PA. Thunderstorms spawned a total of thirty-nine tornadoes east of Great Plains in two days, and there 499 reports of large hail and damaging winds. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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| Today | Tonight | Tuesday | Tuesday Night | Wednesday | Wednesday Night | Thursday |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Patchy Fog then Mostly Sunny | Partly Cloudy | Mostly Sunny | Partly Cloudy | Mostly Sunny | Partly Cloudy | Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Rain |
| High: 60 °F | Low: 38 °F | High: 59 °F | Low: 32 °F | High: 60 °F | Low: 36 °F | High: 47 °F |



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Today and Wednesday:
Warm & Dry, highs in the mid 50s to mid 60s

First Snow of the season Thursday - Friday

* Stay up to date on the latest with this storm system*

Main Impacts:

Moderate Snow

Gusty Winds

Issued: November 15, 2016 6am

Published on: 11/15/2016 at 6:00AM

Warm and dry conditions will continue through Wednesday, with highs in the mid 50s to mid 60s. Our weather will take a dramatic turn back to mid November-like conditions for the end of the week. A storm will approach from the southwest on Thursday. Although it will start as rain on Thursday, precipitation will mix with and change over to all snow Thursday night. If you have travel plans, stay up to date on the latest on this storm.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 53.2 F at 3:32 PM

Low Outside Temp: 23.9 F at 7:49 AM

High Gust: 19.0 Mph at 11:43 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 72° in 1953

Record Low: -8° in 1900

Average High: 40°F

Average Low: 19°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.41

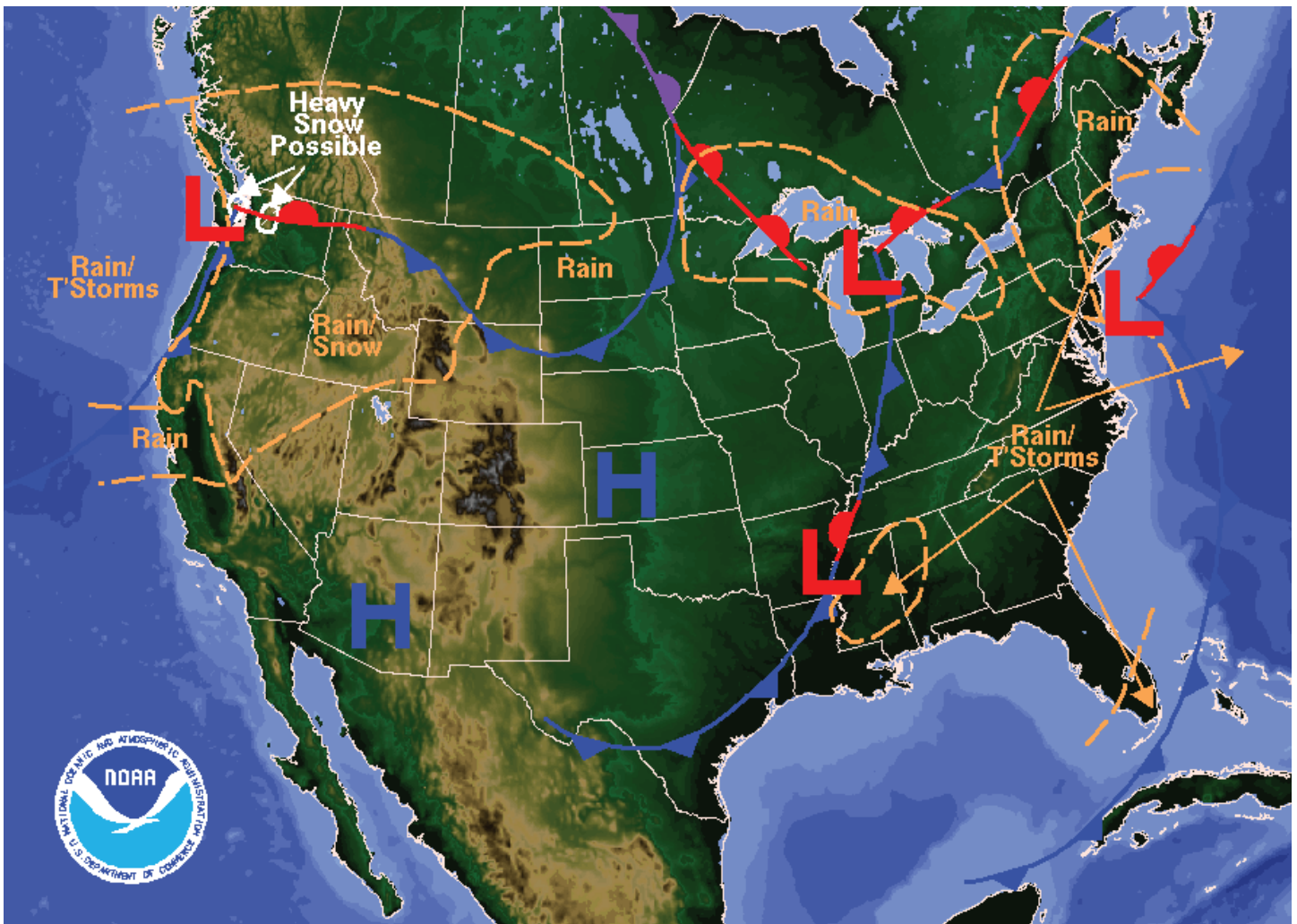
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.88

Precip Year to Date: 15.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:02 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:34 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Nov 15, 2016, issued 4:44 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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OUT OF SERVICE

Recently, while waiting for an airport bus to take me to the parking lot, I noticed that several of them had signs that read OUT OF SERVICE! There I was – standing alone and helpless at the curb – inhaling the exhaust and listening to the noise of empty buses. I waited for quite some time wondering when one would come by and take me to my vehicle.

Then I thought of those standing around me. No doubt they, too, were anxious to be helped to their destination. Perhaps they had been on a long, lonely journey and were discouraged with the results of their efforts. Maybe they were fearful of what might be awaiting them. And of course, there were also those who were filled with joy and the expectations of a happy homecoming to a welcoming family, friends or business associates.

As I waited with them, I thought of all the people that God brings into our lives each and every day who need His grace. They face the same issues in life that we do and their experiences are no different than ours. Often they face their problems alone because there is no one to give them His help or hope. Unfortunately, too often we are like the bus: OUT OF SERVICE!

Jesus said, "Look around you! Vast fields are ready right now for the harvest."

Prayer: Help us, Father, to get involved in serving You by serving others. Open our eyes to see their needs and our ears to hear their cries and then share Your love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: John 4:34-38 ..."I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest..."

The logo for Golden Living, featuring the words "golden" in orange and "living" in blue, with a stylized orange and blue wave graphic below.

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.

for out patient therapy.

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

News from the Associated Press

Robert Kennedy Jr. to join Dakota Access pipeline protests

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is slated to join protesters of the Dakota Access pipeline in North Dakota.

Also Tuesday, demonstrators across the county are expected to converge on Army Corps of Engineers offices and offices of banks that are financing the pipeline project. The protesters want President Barack Obama to permanently halt the construction of the \$3.8 billion pipeline.

Kennedy is an environmental attorney and president of the New York-based Waterkeeper Alliance, which seeks to protect watersheds worldwide.

The pipeline is to run beneath a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota that provides drinking water to the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, which says the pipeline threatens drinking water and cultural sites.

The pipeline would deliver oil from North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois.

AP News Guide: Oil pipeline protests planned nationwide

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Some 200 rallies protesting the Dakota Access oil pipeline are slated Tuesday across the United States, at such locations as Army Corps of Engineers offices, federal buildings and banks that have helped finance the project.

Pipeline opponents are seeking to draw the attention of President Barack Obama and get his administration to reject a crossing at a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota. On Monday, the Army Corps said it had completed its review of the disputed pipeline but wanted more study and input from tribes before announcing its support for the crossing.

Here's a guide to the latest developments and key background about the protest:

HOW WE GOT HERE

Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners obtained federal permits for the \$3.8 billion pipeline in July, two years after it was first announced.

The pipeline would carry a half-million barrels of crude oil daily from western North Dakota's oil fields through South Dakota and Iowa to an existing pipeline in Patoka, Illinois, where shippers can access Midwest and Gulf Coast markets.

Supporters say the pipeline would create more markets and reduce truck and oil train traffic.

But the Standing Rock Sioux, other tribes and environmental groups say that the pipeline could threaten water supplies for millions, since it will cross the Missouri River, as well as harm sacred sites and artifacts.

Since April, tribal protests have grown considerably at the confluence of the Cannonball and Missouri rivers. Nearly 500 have been arrested, including Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman David Archambault II, as the protest has grown in size.

IN THE COURTROOM

The Standing Rock Sioux, whose reservation straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border, are suing federal regulators for approving the oil pipeline. They have challenged the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' decision to grant permits at more than 200 water crossings and argue that the pipeline would be placed less than a mile upstream of the reservation, potentially affecting drinking water for more than 8,000 tribal members and millions downstream.

The tribe hasn't fared well in court so far. A federal judge in September denied its request to block construction of the entire pipeline and an appeal is pending in federal court.

WHAT'S THE TIMETABLE?

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The Army Corps of Engineers on Monday said it has finished a review of the disputed Dakota Access pipeline but wants more study and tribal input before deciding whether to allow it to cross under a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota. Energy Transfer Partners said it will finish the pipeline by Dec. 1 except for a small disputed section in North Dakota, and expects it to begin moving crude in the first quarter next year if the government clears the final obstacle.

The company still needs permission to construct the pipeline adjacent to and underneath Lake Oahe — one of six reservoirs on the Missouri River. It said it would finish the pipeline within 120 days of getting approval for the easement.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

A United Nations group that represents indigenous people around the world says the U.S. government appears to be ignoring the treaty rights and human rights of American Indians opposing the pipeline.

The statement is from the U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. It came after forum member Edward John spent three days at a camp in North Dakota that's drawn hundreds of protesters. John said he met with both protesters and law officers, and that he found a "war zone" atmosphere.

Martin, UC Irvine beat South Dakota State 73-58

Jaron Martin had four 3-pointers and a career-high 24 points and UC Irvine beat South Dakota State 73-58 in the opening game of the Sanford Pentagon Showcase on Monday night. The Anteaters scored the first eight points, never trailed and maintained a double-digit lead throughout the second half.

IRVINE, Calif. (AP) — Jaron Martin had four 3-pointers and a career-high 24 points and UC Irvine beat South Dakota State 73-58 in the opening game of the Sanford Pentagon Showcase on Monday night.

The Anteaters (1-1) scored the first eight points, never trailed and maintained a double-digit lead throughout the second half.

Martin finished 4 of 9 from 3-point range and 10 of 19 overall from the field. Jonathan Galloway grabbed 14 boards and blocked four shots — both career highs.

After the Jackrabbits (0-2) closed to 52-40, UC Irvine had a 17-5 run to build its largest lead at 69-45.

South Dakota tied it twice in the first half but the Anteaters had a 10-0 run to pull away.

Skyler Flatten had 12 points and Reed Tellinghuisen scored 11. South Dakota State shot 28.8 percent (17 of 59) from the field and 16.7 percent (5 of 30) on 3-point attempts.

US Rep. Kristi Noem plans to run for SD governor in 2018

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Rep. Kristy Noem (nohm) says she won't seek a fifth term in Congress because she's running instead to become the first female governor in South Dakota history.

Noem said in a video Monday she's keeping a promise not to make Congress a career, and instead will return home to run for governor. In the meantime, she says she's looking forward to helping enact tax reform, replace Obamacare, enact a new farm bill and reduce government.

Although she didn't say it, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader reports (<http://argusne.ws/2fAkCvT>) Noem's announcement was forced by a campaign finance ballot issue approved last week.

Once effective, the measure will prevent Noem from transferring her substantial leftover congressional campaign cash to an account for a governor's run, which would mean forfeiting a huge advantage.

South Dakota senator-elect charged with sex offense

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota senator-elect Reynold Nesiba (NESS'-ih-buh) has been charged with sexual conduct without consent.

Nesiba is an Augustana University economics professor who helped lead a ballot campaign to cap payday lending rates. The Sioux Falls Argus Leader reports (<http://argusne.ws/2faRqed>) he was considered one of the most prominent Democrats heading into the Legislature before his arrest Monday.

Court papers say a 51-year-old woman told police in September that Nesiba made repeated, unwanted

sexual advances and refused to leave her home. She alleged that he was naked as he repeatedly tried to undress her. She told police he stopped only because she said she needed to go to work.

It wasn't immediately clear if Nesiba has an attorney. Calls and emails left for him by The Associated Press were not immediately returned.

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

South Dakota ranchers discuss future of cattle industry

FORT PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A national cattlemen's organization told South Dakota ranchers that unfair free-trade deals and the consolidation of the packing plant industry are to blame for plunging prices in their industry over the past two years.

Ranchers from across western South Dakota gathered in Fort Pierre on Sunday to listen to a presentation by Bill Bullard, chief executive of R-CALF USA, or the Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America, according to the Capital Journal (<http://bit.ly/2fRDnM>). The meeting was among several being held statewide by the Montana-based organization, which promotes the interests of cattle producers and has members in 46 states.

Bullard noted that U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and other federal officials have touted the fact that U.S. agriculture exports, including beef, have set records the past seven years. But he said that's deceptive. Bullard said imports of foreign beef have far outstripped U.S. beef exports, pushing prices down for South Dakota ranchers selling their calves in the fall.

He said Donald Trump's election to the White House provides "a window of opportunity" to bring about changes in federal policies that affect the cattle industry. Bryan Hanson, president of R-CALF USA, echoed those sentiments, saying Trump's criticism of free-trade agreements aligns with the group's concerns.

"We definitely think that it's the free-trade agreements that killed us," Hanson told the newspaper. "They basically opened up our market to imports of beef from third-world countries where they can operate on shoestring budgets."

Even though cattle prices have drastically declined over the past two years, retail beef prices in supermarkets haven't really dropped, said Delia Johnson, who raises grass-fed calves with her husband.

"Why have our prices fallen 50 percent the past two years?" she said. "Beef should be cheaper at the food counter than it is."

Johnson said consumers want more information on where their food is coming from, which fits R-CALF's push to restore a strict "country of origin labeling" law. She said such a law would give U.S. cattle producers an advantage to selling beef because a lot of the beef sold in the U.S. comes from other countries.

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

Intoxication charge against SkyWest pilot is dismissed

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota has dismissed a criminal charge against a SkyWest Airlines pilot accused of being under the influence of alcohol before a flight at an airport in the state.

Pennington County Chief Deputy State's Attorney Lara Roetzel said Monday that the state filed for dismissal because a blood draw taken hours after a preliminary breath test showed no measurable alcohol in his system.

The 39-year-old pilot was arrested Oct. 26 at Rapid City Regional Airport after a security worker said the pilot smelled like alcohol and notified authorities. The pilot was arrested before passengers had boarded the 50-seat jet.

Although the breath test showed a level above the legal limit of 0.04 percent, that level had dissipated by the time his blood was drawn four hours later, Roetzel said. Breath test results are not admissible in court.

The flight to Salt Lake City, Utah, with a passenger list of 45, was delayed for two hours until a new crew arrived. The airline based in St. George, Utah, issued a statement Monday saying the pilot was immediately

grounded and remains on unpaid leave while the investigation continues.

Following his arrest, the pilot posted \$300 bail and was released from jail.

Army Corps wants more study on Dakota Access oil pipeline

By JAMES MacPHERSON and BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Army Corps of Engineers on Monday said it has finished a review of the disputed Dakota Access pipeline but wants more study and tribal input before deciding whether to allow it to cross under a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota.

The announcement, which came amid speculation that federal officials were on the brink of green-lighting the crossing, spells further delay for the project. Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners, the company developing the pipeline, said earlier Monday that it expected to be moving oil through the pipeline by early next year if it got permission.

The corps in July granted ETP the permits needed for the project, but in September said more analysis was warranted in the wake of American Indian concerns. The Standing Rock Sioux, whose reservation will be skirted by the \$3.8 billion, four-state pipeline, says it threatens its drinking water and cultural sites.

ETP disputes that and said last week it is preparing to bore under the river.

Army Assistant Secretary Jo-Ellen Darcy said in a letter to company officials and tribal Chairman Dave Archambault that "additional discussion with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and analysis are warranted." That discussion is to include potential conditions on an easement for the pipeline crossing that would reduce the risk of a spill.

Darcy said the Army will work with the tribe on a timeline "that allows for robust discussion and analysis to be completed expeditiously." Army spokeswoman Moira Kelley would not elaborate to The Associated Press on whether a decision would be done by the time President Barack Obama leaves office. Donald Trump, a pipeline supporter, is set to take office in January.

Archambault and ETP spokeswoman Vicki Granado did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Attorney Jan Hasselman with environmental group Earthjustice, which filed the lawsuit in July on behalf of the tribe, said he believes the Obama administration will make a decision on the easement.

The 1,700-mile pipeline is to carry North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois.

The company building the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access oil pipeline said before the Army announcement Monday that it expects to finish construction by Dec. 1, except for the small disputed section in North Dakota, and could begin moving crude early next year if the government gives final approval.

In an email to The Associated Press, ETP said it would finish the pipeline within 120 days of getting approval for the easement beneath Lake Oahe, the Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota.

Also Monday, officials locked down the North Dakota Capitol after pipeline opponents gathered there, one day before groups planned more than 200 protests at Army Corps of Engineers offices and other sites across the country.

Nearly 470 protesters have been arrested since August supporting the Standing Rock Sioux.

ETP said it has suffered losses "in the millions" to vandalized equipment along the pipeline route in North Dakota. The company said it was taking steps to protect the pipeline from vandalism, but declined to disclose details.

The rallies set for Tuesday at such places as state Army Corps offices, federal buildings and offices of banks that have helped finance the project are seeking to draw Obama's attention.

The groups, including the Indigenous Environmental Network, Honor the Earth and Greenpeace USA, want Obama to permanently halt the construction of the pipeline, the focus of confrontations between police and protesters in North Dakota for months.

A United Nations group that represents indigenous people around the world said the U.S. government appears to be ignoring the treaty rights and human rights of American Indians opposing the pipeline.

The Nov. 4 statement from the U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues called on the government to "protect the traditional lands and sacred sites of the Standing Rock Sioux and uphold their human rights

commitments.”

Forum member Edward John in late October visited a camp in North Dakota that’s drawn hundreds of protesters from around the globe. He said he found a “war zone” atmosphere and that “I felt as though I was in an armed conflict zone on foreign soil.”

Justice Department spokesman Wyn Horbuckle said the agency has been in communication with law officers, tribal officials and protesters “to facilitate communication, defuse tensions, support peaceful protests, and maintain public safety.”

Mental health, criminal justice task force proposes changes

By REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A group that for months studied issues surrounding mentally ill people entering the criminal justice system in South Dakota released a final report Monday with a series of proposed changes in an effort to improve the treatment of those individuals.

The recommendations of the state-appointed task force include the use of telehealth for competency evaluations and the requirement that such exams be completed within 21 days of a court order. The group, which met for the first time in March, studied how individuals with a mental illness encounter law enforcement and move through the court system, jails and probation.

State Supreme Court Chief Justice David Gilbertson announced the formation of the 22-member task force last year after The Argus Leader newspaper in Sioux Falls reported that a backlog of mental competency evaluations of criminal suspects is taxing county budgets and raising concerns about the rights of defendants. The task force found the number of court orders regarding competency evaluations increased from 48 in the fiscal year 2013 to 147 in 2015.

“Given South Dakota’s limited mental health resources, this increase resulted in people sitting in jail for months before they could be evaluated by those authorized to do mental competency evaluations,” Gilbertson wrote. “Our existing system became unmanageable and enlarged taxpayer expense since people were housed in jail for longer periods of time at public expense.”

The group identified that the cost of the evaluations also contributed to the delays faced by some defendants. Counties have a “fiscal incentive” to rely on the state-run Human Services Center for the evaluations because they only have to pay a \$600 admission fee, leaving the state to pick up the cost of the exam, according to the report. But the center can only conduct three evaluations per month, and the cost of an evaluation by a private psychiatrist is about \$3,500.

One of the task force’s suggestions is to make available to counties funds from the Human Services Center to contract for the completion of the competency evaluations.

“The intent is that the Human Services Center will no longer conduct competency evaluations,” according to the report.

The suggestions from the task force to Gov. Dennis Daugaard and the Legislature also include the need to expand the list of mental health professionals allowed to conduct competency evaluations and not limit it to psychiatrists and psychologists. The panel recommended that some social workers, nurses and counselors be allowed to conduct the evaluations.

Daugaard in a statement said he will review the recommendations, which the task force acknowledged would take several years to implement.

“I’m sure we’ll find ways we can more humanely treat those with mental illness who come into contact with our criminal justice system, and at the same time, preserve public safety as we must,” he said.

Actress Woodley’s pipeline protest trial is delayed 1 month

MANDAN, N.D. (AP) — Trial has been delayed by a month for actress Shailene Woodley, who faces charges in North Dakota related to her protest against the Dakota Access pipeline.

The “Divergent” star was among 27 activists arrested Oct. 10. She livestreamed her arrest on Facebook. She’s pleaded not guilty to criminal trespass and engaging in a riot, both misdemeanors that carry

a maximum punishment of a month in jail and a \$1,500 fine.

Woodley was to stand trial on Jan. 25. Court documents show trial has been rescheduled for Feb. 22 because her attorney had a conflict.

The Standing Rock Sioux want construction of the \$3.8 billion pipeline halted, saying it threatens drinking water and cultural sites. Nearly 470 people have been arrested in months of protests supporting the tribe.

300 rally in support of officers policing pipeline protests

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Several hundred people gathered at the state Capitol to show support for law enforcement officers working the Dakota Access Pipeline protests.

Republican Sen. John Hoeven told the crowd Sunday afternoon that exercising First Amendment rights should be done peacefully. Hoeven says the officers are working to protect the right to protest, as well as the farmers, ranchers and others in the area.

The Bismarck Tribune reports Lt. Gov. Drew Wrigley and Rep. Kevin Cramer joined Hoeven at the rally. Hoeven cited the law enforcement agencies involved since August, including federal agents, the National Guard, Bureau of Criminal Investigations, highway patrol, sheriff's departments and police.

Tribal leaders, civil liberties groups and protesters have criticized law enforcement for being too heavy handed in their approach to demonstrators.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

More discoveries of 1883 US-minted coin found in Deadwood

By Tom Griffith, Rapid City Journal

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — In what is being described as a "Eureka!" moment, numismatists examining a treasure trove of coins unearthed during four years of archaeological digs in this Black Hills community have discovered what may be one of the most unusual coins on earth.

Dubbed the "Racketeer Nickel," the 1883 U.S.-minted coin was uncovered July 31, 2001, during one of four archaeological digs in Deadwood's famed Chinatown district, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2f2h08b>) reported.

Found 59 centimeters below the surface of the soil in an area known as Trench 2, the coin's location was recorded into a geographical information system for future reference. It was then transported to the South Dakota Archaeological Research Center in Rapid City with 226 other coins found in the digs for cataloging and assessment.

In 2009, the coin joined a quarter-million other historical artifacts in a new archaeological lab and storage facility housed in the bowels of Deadwood City Hall, where it sat for seven years until California coin experts Kevin and Margie Akin re-discovered it late last month and realized what they had.

In 1883, the U.S. Mint issued a new 5-cent nickel (though it was not yet consistently called a nickel, as the 3-cent nickel coin was still occasionally used). At the time, it was an innovation in that for the first time, a non-precious metal coin carried a Liberty-head design, Kevin Akin told the Journal.

"This design was similar to that on gold coins of the time," he explained. "So when the early 1883 V nickels came out with no 'cents' inscription below the Roman numeral 'V' for 5, it was new to everyone, and grifters immediately began gold-plating them to pass as \$5 gold coins."

U.S. Treasury officials denied there was a problem. But a local newspaper story at the time told a different tale.

"The new nickel five-cent piece is the subject of much discussion in the treasury department," the Feb. 22, 1883, Black Hills Daily Times reported. "Treasurer Gilfillan carries one in his vest pocket. One of these coins is plated with gold, and its resemblance on one side to a five-dollar gold piece is quite striking. The broad 'V' on the opposite side is unlike the device on any other coin, and of course should be an effectual barrier to its fraudulent use."

The same newspaper article stated that Mint Director Horatio Burchard, "ridicules the idea of any suc-

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successful counterfeit of gold being made from the new nickel. He said that a proposition to suspend coinage of the new piece has not been made, and so far as he knows none is contemplated."

Three months later, the Daily Times reported that well-heeled merchants and miners of Deadwood had found a new use for the Racketeer Nickel.

"A number of the toney young men about town are wearing cuff buttons made of the new nickels," the newspaper reported. "They are highly plated with gold, and to the uninitiated look for all the world like genuine five-dollar gold pieces."

Last year, the city of Deadwood and its Historic Preservation Commission hired the Akins, authors of the recently published 300-page field guide, "Numismatic Archaeology of North America," to examine 202 Asian coins unearthed during the Chinatown Digs.

Using photographs of the coins supplied by the city, their task was to identify each with the intention of tracing the origins of the coins and tokens discovered in the Wild West town in an effort to shed light on the former gold camp's frontier days. While visiting Deadwood in late September, historic preservation officials asked them to examine 16 of the Asian coins that could not be identified through the photos.

"It's a common joke among archaeologists that the best thing you find, the most important discoveries, are made in the last hour of the last day," Margie Akin said recently from California. "I've seen many cases where that has been true."

Their efforts with the Asian coins complete, the Akins asked City Archivist Mike Runge what else he'd like examined, and he presented them with a small collection of U.S. coins uncovered during the archaeological digs.

"When we found it, I held it up and said, 'Margie, look at this. A Racketeer Nickel, oh my God!'" Kevin recalled. "It was a bit of a Eureka moment."

In researching the Racketeer Nickel, Kevin Akin said he had found more than 1,000 of them on sale on eBay as well as a number of well-worn stories tied to their use by scam artists on unsuspecting, easily deceived individuals.

The most interesting vignette involved a deaf-mute named Josh Tatum who noticed the nickel was the same size and had a similar look to \$5 gold pieces, Akin noted. So Tatum began plating them in gold and passing them off on small purchases. After he was arrested, his attorney argued in court that Tatum could not have asked for change because he could not speak and thus, no crime had been committed. The court agreed and released the young man.

The problem with that tall tale, and the vast majority of the hundreds of purported Racketeer Nickels available for purchase online, is that they are all unproved, according to Akin.

"It's pretty easy to plate a nickel," he said. "It makes such a great story, but they're fakes. None of them has the provenance of this particular coin, the Deadwood Racketeer Nickel."

Other examples of such tall tales abound in the world of coin collecting.

"It's sort of like the brothel tokens that people sell online that they say are from the Wild West, but most were made in the 1960s," Margie Akin added. "They still make a good story. And that's what people really want; the magic of an article that came out of the ground. They're a connection to the past."

Worried that the Deadwood discovery would set off a flood of metal detector-wielding fortune seekers, the Akins stressed the monetary value of the Racketeer Nickel is negligible. But its historical significance, they said, cannot be understated.

"Actually, the current market value of the nickel is less than 10 cents because of its abysmal condition," Kevin Akin said. "But for archaeologists, the value is another matter. As far as we know, this is the first discovered in the excavation of a 19th century site. We don't know of any that has been archaeologically discovered."

He said the coin's scholarly value rests in the stories it conveys about how it was used and where it came to rest.

"But even an archaeologist wouldn't pay a dime for it. Scholarly value and market value are entirely different concepts," Kevin Akin said.

For Runge, the man charged with overseeing Deadwood's massive municipal collections of archival and

archaeological materials, discovery of the Racketeer Nickel is another in a series of great finds that make reporting to work each day a joy rather than a job.

"This community's collection constitutes every facet of the human experience in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as related to frontier life in Deadwood, South Dakota," he said. "The discovery of the coin is wonderful."

Runge said there is much more to learn.

"The discovery is wonderful. But what is important about this is we have professionals in numismatic archaeology who are using this collection to help us understand our past," he said. "This assemblage the city owns is in its infancy in terms of research. There will be discoveries in the future that will rival or exceed what has been discovered."

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

Russia launches offensive in Syria, airstrikes hit Aleppo

By **BASSEM MROUE**, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Russia announced a major air offensive in Syria on Tuesday as Syrian opposition activists reported the first airstrikes in three weeks in the besieged, rebel-held part of the northern city of Aleppo.

The offensive began hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President-elect Donald Trump discussed Syria over the phone and agreed on the need to combine efforts in the fight against what the Kremlin called their No. 1 enemy — "international terrorism and extremism."

U.S. President Barack Obama's administration has been trying for months to negotiate a cease-fire in Aleppo, the epicenter of the war between President Bashar Assad and rebels fighting to topple him, some of whom receive U.S. aid. Al-Qaida's local affiliate fights alongside the rebels, but the Islamic State group has no presence in Aleppo.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said in a meeting with Putin on Tuesday that the operation involves aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov, which made a much-publicized trip to Syria's shores last month. He said Russian warplanes will target ammunition depots, training camps and armaments factories in the rebel-held province of Idlib and the central province of Homs. He did not immediately mention Aleppo.

The activists reported strikes in all three places. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said missiles fired from Russian warships in the Mediterranean have struck areas in Aleppo and Idlib provinces. The Observatory said airstrikes also struck three neighborhoods in Aleppo city, but had no immediate word on casualties.

Activist Baraa al-Halaby, who is based in eastern Aleppo, said via text messages that warplanes are firing missiles and helicopters are dropping barrel bombs on the eastern part of Syria's largest city.

"People are scared. The bombardment is intense," al-Halaby wrote.

In mid-October, Russia said it would halt weeks of deadly airstrikes to allow rebels and supporters to leave eastern Aleppo. The rebels refused to take up the offer and the United Nations failed to negotiate the delivery of aid into the besieged area.

On Saturday, government troops repelled a rebel offensive on western parts of Aleppo that was designed to break the siege on the opposition-held east. Aleppo has been contested since 2012.

The government siege has left an estimated 275,000 people trapped, with no aid allowed in since July, amid a punishing bombing campaign.

In Geneva, meanwhile, two U.N. agencies said food production in Syria has shrunk to "an all-time low," threatening to drive more people from their homes after 5-1/2 years of war.

The World Food Program and the Food and Agricultural Organization say factors like rising prices, poor weather, general instability and the lack of fertilizer and seeds could force some farmers to stop producing.

A joint report released Tuesday says the planting area in the 2015-2016 season was the smallest ever in zones controlled by the government, ethnic Kurds and the armed opposition. WFP spokeswoman Bettina Luescher said information was lacking about areas controlled by IS.

FAO regional representative Abdessalam Ould Ahmed said 80 percent of households lack food or money

to buy it.

Associated Press writer Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow contributed.

US warship diverts to help New Zealand quake evacuation

By NICK PERRY, Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — The first U.S. warship to visit New Zealand in more than 30 years was changing course Tuesday to help evacuate people stranded in a coastal town following a powerful earthquake.

Hundreds of tourists and residents remained stranded in the town of Kaikoura and faced a third disrupted night after a powerful quake early Monday cut off train and vehicle access.

New Zealand military officials said they were on target to evacuate about 200 people by helicopter on Tuesday as a major rescue operation unfolded.

New Zealand Defense Minister Gerry Brownlee said that the USS Sampson was heading south to Kaikoura and would be able to deploy two helicopters to help in the evacuation.

The destroyer had been due to sail into Auckland on Wednesday as part of 75th anniversary celebrations for the New Zealand navy.

The visit by the U.S. ship is significant because it ends a 30-year-old military stalemate between the countries that was triggered when New Zealand banned nuclear warships.

Brownlee said Australia was also diverting the HMAS Darwin to Kaikoura.

"Despite the changes to the planned celebrations, it's poignant to see the anniversary marked with such cooperation and camaraderie," Brownlee said in a statement.

The operation comes as several buildings in Wellington, New Zealand's capital, were evacuated and streets cordoned off Tuesday after engineers determined that a nine-story office building was in danger of collapsing.

The magnitude-7.8 quake that struck New Zealand's South Island left two people dead and triggered a small tsunami. It also brought down rocks and mud that swept across highways and cracked apart roads.

The defense force said it had started ferrying people out by military helicopter and that a navy ship from Auckland was due to arrive in the area Wednesday morning.

Home to about 2,000 residents, Kaikoura is a popular destination for travelers taking part in whale-watching expeditions or wanting a stopover with mountain views. But the quake knocked out water supplies and sewer systems and left people with no easy way out.

"From all directions, Kaikoura has essentially been isolated," Air Commodore Darryn Webb, acting commander of New Zealand's Joint Forces, told The Associated Press. "There's a real imperative to support the town because it can't support itself."

Webb said the military was using four NH90 helicopters that could each transport about 18 people at a time out of the town. He said the navy ship could pick up hundreds of people if weather conditions allowed.

"We're going to get as many people and belongings out as quickly as we can," Webb said.

He said the operation could take several days.

Air Force Wing Commander Scott McKenzie said in a statement that military personnel were delivering food, water, diesel fuel and other basic necessities by helicopter. Authorities have prepared about 5 metric tons (5.5 tons) of supplies in the city of Christchurch.

Sarah Stuart-Black, director of the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, said the priority was transporting out those people with health issues or bookings on international flights.

She said the community was rallying to help the tourists.

"It's fantastic that some of the locals in Kaikoura have taken in tourists into their own homes," she said.

In Wellington, Brendan Nally, the regional commander for the New Zealand Fire Service, said engineers were completing an inspection of the nine-story downtown office building on Tuesday when they found that a major vertical beam had failed above the fifth floor.

"It looks somewhat like a broken bone in the leg. It's fractured through," Nally said. "So the building is at significant risk of collapse."

Nally said the building was being renovated and was empty when the quake struck.

He said the buildings evacuated included the national headquarters for the Red Cross, the Thai Embassy, the headquarters for New Zealand Rugby and an Anglican cathedral.

Elsewhere in the capital, many people returned to work after the quake shut down much of the city's center on Monday. But some buildings remained closed, and heavy rain and flooding compounded the difficulties.

Strong aftershocks continued to shake New Zealand, rattling the nerves of exhausted residents.

Police said one person died from the quake in Kaikoura and another in Mt. Lyford, a nearby ski resort.

Several other people suffered minor injuries in Kaikoura.

Prime Minister John Key flew over Kaikoura by helicopter Monday as aftershocks kicked up dust from the landslides below. Cars could be seen lying on their sides and parts of the road were clearly impassable.

"It's just utter devastation," Key said.

Three cows whose predicament captured the interest of people around the world after they became stranded on a small island of grass in an area ripped apart by the quake were rescued. The Newshub news service reported that a farmer and some helpers dug a track to them and brought them out.

New Zealand, a country of 4.7 million, sits on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean where earthquakes are common. An earthquake in Christchurch five years ago killed 185 people and destroyed thousands of homes and other buildings.

Associated Press writer Kristen Gelineau in Sydney contributed to this report.



In this image made from video, three cows are stranded on an island of grass in a paddock that had been ripped apart following an earthquake near Kaikoura, New Zealand Monday, Nov. 14, 2016. A powerful earthquake that rocked New Zealand on Monday triggered landslides and a small tsunami, cracked apart roads and homes, but largely spared the country the devastation it saw five years ago when a deadly earthquake struck the same region. (Newshub via AP)

Obama arrives in Greece at start of his final foreign tour

By ELENA BECATOROS and JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — President Barack Obama arrived in Greece Tuesday morning on the first stop of his final foreign tour as president, the first visit to Greece by a sitting U.S. president since Bill Clinton in 1999.

Air Force One touched down midmorning in Athens after an overnight flight from Washington. Security was tight, with major roads shut down along Obama's motorcade route and a ban on public gatherings and demonstrations in swathes of central Athens and a southern suburb near a seaside luxury hotel where Obama was staying. Boats were also banned from sailing near the coastline at the hotel's location.

More than 5,000 police were deployed in the capital's streets for the two-day visit. Left-wing and anarchist groups have planned protest demonstrations for Tuesday afternoon, while an armed anarchist group has

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called for "attacks and clashes" to disrupt Obama's visit. Clinton's visit, which came during the height of U.S. intervention in the wars ensuing from the breakup of Yugoslavia, was marked with extensive violent demonstrations.

While anti-American sentiment has been muted over the past few years in Greece, many in the country regard the U.S. with misgivings, a sentiment stemming mostly from America's backing of the military dictatorship that governed the country from 1967 to 1974. Obama's visit comes two days before the Nov. 17 anniversary of the junta's 1973 bloody crackdown on a student uprising, which is marked each year by a protest march to the U.S. Embassy that frequently turns violent.

Defense Minister Panos Kammenos and the US Ambassador to Greece, Geoffrey Pyatt, were on the tarmac at the airport to greet Obama, who stepped off Air Force One onto a red carpet. About 100 members of a military honor guard were waiting, in navy and green uniforms, some with bayonets.

Obama then headed to his hotel ahead of his first meeting with President Prokopis Pavlopoulos. He was then to hold talks with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, followed by a joint news conference. Pavlopoulos will host an official dinner for Obama at the presidential mansion in the evening.

On Wednesday, Obama is scheduled to tour the Acropolis and give a major speech about democracy and globalization before flying on to Berlin. From Germany, Obama will travel to Peru for an Asian economic summit before returning to Washington on Saturday.

Obama's trip will be dominated by questions and concerns about President-elect Donald Trump. Obama has been working to reassure foreign leaders the U.S. won't abandon its partnerships and alliance obligations despite Trump's tough campaign rhetoric.

Greece's government has hailed Obama's visit as being of "huge importance" for both Greece and Europe. The country's left-led coalition government has been struggling to pull Greece out of six years of a vicious financial crisis that has devastated its economy and left more than a quarter of the workforce unemployed. Despite the U.S. election, the government has pinned its hopes on the U.S. president to help persuade some of the country's more reluctant international creditors, such as Germany, to grant it significant debt relief.

Without a cut in its debt, Athens says, it cannot hope to recover economically — an argument also supported by the International Monetary Fund.

Greece has been relying on emergency loans from three consecutive multi-billion euro bailouts from other European Union countries using the euro currency, and the IMF, since 2010. While the United States has not been involved in Greece's bailout, Athens has long seen it as an ally that could apply pressure on creditors.

"The visit of President Obama is a clear message to all of us and to the rest of the world that we need to keep pursuing policies that create growth, employment and social cohesion," Nikos Pappas, a close associate of Tsipras who was named digital policy minister in a recent reshuffle, told the AP ahead of the visit. "We are very happy to see that in the recent years the U.S. administration has been on the same page as we are in terms of these policies and this direction. We expect this message is going to be reiterated."

The U.S. has praised Greek efforts to overhaul its economy but has repeatedly stressed the country must continue with painful reforms. The country's bailout funds are disbursed following reviews by international debt inspectors of mandated reforms.

The government will also be looking for recognition of the country's role in Europe's refugee crisis, which saw hundreds of thousands of refugees pass through Greece from Turkey on their way to the more prosperous countries of the European north, and for U.S. pressure on the rest of Europe to help shoulder the burden. Following the closure of Balkan land borders and the reluctance of some European countries to host refugees, more than 60,000 people are stranded in Greece, most living in often poor conditions in overcrowded camps dotted around the country.

Rights organizations have urged Obama to use his visit to highlight these people's plight and Europe's response to the crisis.

Obama should "shine the spotlight not only on abysmal conditions for the tens of thousands of refugees

stranded in Greece, but also on the failure of world leaders to adequately address the wider global refugee crisis," John Dalhuisen, Amnesty International's Europe director, said in a statement.

Follow Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP> and Elena Becatoros on <https://twitter.com/ElenaBec>

Giuliani the favorite as Trump weighs secretary of state

By STEVE PEOPLES, JILL COLVIN and KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Sequestered in his Manhattan high-rise, President-elect Donald Trump is preparing to fill key foreign policy posts. Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani has emerged as the favorite to serve as secretary of state, a senior Trump official said.

Although Giuliani has little foreign policy experience, the official said there was no real competition for the job as the nation's top diplomat. However, a second official cautioned that John Bolton, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, remained in contention for the key post. Both officials requested anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the process by name.

The New York billionaire also was considering tapping Richard Grenell as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, a move that would bring some experience and diversity to his nascent administration. Grenell, who served as U.S. spokesman at the U.N. under President George W. Bush, would be the first openly gay person to fill a Cabinet-level foreign policy post.

The personnel moves under consideration were confirmed by people with direct knowledge of Trump's thinking who were not authorized to publicly disclose private discussions.

Giuliani, 72, would be an out-of-box choice to lead the State Department. A former mayor, federal prosecutor and top Trump adviser, Giuliani is known for his hard-line law-and-order views. Bolton has years of federal government experience, but he has also raised eyebrows with some of his hawkish stances, including a 2015 New York Times op-ed in which he advocated bombing Iran to halt the country's development of nuclear weapons.

A spokeswoman for Giuliani did not immediately respond to a request for comment about his interest in the job. But during an appearance in Washington late Monday, Giuliani said that Bolton would be a "very good choice" to serve as Trump's secretary of state. Asked if there was anyone better, Giuliani replied: "Maybe me, I don't know."

Vice President-elect Mike Pence was expected to join the incoming president at Trump Tower on Tuesday to review "a number of names" for the incoming administration, according to spokesman Jason Miller.

"If the vice president-elect is getting together with the president elect to discuss names, I would say it's getting serious," Miller said.

The transition planning comes amid an intense and extended backlash from Trump's decision on Sunday to appoint Steve Bannon, a man celebrated by the white nationalist movement, to serve as his chief strategist and senior adviser.

"After winning the presidency but losing the popular vote, President-elect Trump must try to bring Americans together — not continue to fan the flames of division and bigotry," said House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi. Echoing concerns from officials in both parties, she called Bannon's appointment "an alarming signal" that Trump "remains committed to the hateful and divisive vision that defined his campaign."

Until joining Trump's campaign this summer, Bannon led a website that appealed to the so-called "alt-right" — a movement often associated with efforts on the far right to preserve "white identity," oppose multiculturalism and defend "Western values."

President Barack Obama avoided any direct criticism of Trump's personnel moves during a Monday news conference, suggesting that the new president deserves "room to staff up." The outgoing president encouraged Trump, however, to embrace a unifying tone.

"It's really important to try to send some signals of unity and to reach out to minority groups or women

or others that were concerned about the tenor of the campaign," Obama said. "And I think that's something he will — he will want to do."

Meanwhile, Trump, who has little foreign policy experience of his own, spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin on the phone on Monday.

His transition office said in a readout that Trump "is very much looking forward to having a strong and enduring relationship with Russia and the people of Russia." Trump has spoken in recent days with the leaders of China, Mexico, South Korea and Canada.

Trump is also weighing whether to select Michigan GOP chairwoman Ronna Romney McDaniel, a niece of chief Trump critic and 2012 presidential nominee Mitt Romney. She would be the second woman ever to lead the Republican National Committee — and the first in four decades.

"I'll be interested in whatever Mr. Trump wants," McDaniel told The Associated Press.

Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO and national director of the Anti-Defamation League, called Bannon's selection "a sad day."

Bannon "presided over the rise of Breitbart as a haven online" for the "alt-right," Greenblatt said. The website under Bannon's leadership, he said, "trafficked in the some of the worst tropes, not just only against Jews — but the anti-Semitism is real — but also against other minorities, particularly Mexicans and Muslims."

Peoples and Colvin reported from Washington.

Trump victory could imperil Roe v. Wade abortion ruling

By DAVID CRARY, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion nationwide, could be in jeopardy under Donald Trump's presidency. If a reconfigured high court did overturn it, the likely outcome would be a patchwork map: some states protecting abortion access, others enacting tough bans, and many struggling over what new limits they might impose.

Trump, who will have at least one Supreme Court vacancy to fill, has pledged to appoint "pro-life" justices who potentially would be open to weakening or reversing Roe. With one seat vacant, the high court now has a 5-3 majority supporting abortion rights, and thus one of those five would need to vacate his or her seat to give the court an anti-abortion majority.

Trump broached that possibility in an interview aired Sunday night on CBS' "60 Minutes," suggesting that a reversal of Roe would return the matter to the states, leaving it up to their legislatures to decide the future of abortion access.

Asked about the likelihood that some women would face abortion bans in their states, Trump replied, "Well, they'll perhaps have to go, they'll have to go to another state."

Supporters of abortion rights concurred with that analysis.

"If Roe were overturned, we would likely return to a patchwork quilt of laws, which would force women onto the road even more than at present," said Dr. David Grimes, a North Carolina obstetrician-gynecologist.

Grimes was alluding to the fact that many states under Republican control already have forced closure of some abortion clinics, confronting some women with the need for long-distance travel in order to obtain an abortion. While affluent women might be able to afford such travel, it can be an insurmountable burden for some low-income women.

"Is that the world we want, where women's ability to get the care she needs depends on her ability to go to another state?" asked Jennifer Dalven, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Reproductive Freedom Project.

Anti-abortion leader Clark Forsythe, acting president and senior counsel for Americans United For Life, predicted that the states would break into three basic categories if Roe were overturned: Perhaps a dozen states would continue to make abortion widely accessible, another dozen or so would ban virtually all abortions unless the mother's life were at stake, and roughly two-dozen more states would thrash out their

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response with debate among the public and in the legislatures. Forsythe suggested that some of those states might allow abortions in the first trimester of pregnancy, while restricting or banning later abortions.

Among the states likely to maintain full access to abortion are those on the Pacific Coast and in the Northeast. South-central and southeastern states would be among those likely to impose bans, potentially leaving women in a huge, contiguous chunk of the United States with no nearby access to abortion providers.

"For many women, it's not possible to traverse across multiple state lines," said Nancy Northup, president of the Center for Reproductive Rights. "This could have tragic consequences."

She said one consequence might be an increase in the number of women seeking to self-induce an abortion.

Florida, compared to other Southern states, has a large number of abortion clinics — more than 70, according to the most recent count by the Guttmacher Institute, a research group which supports abortion rights.

Laura Goodhue, executive director of the Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates, said the state legislature has been increasingly hostile to abortion rights, yet she was uncertain what would happen if Roe were overturned.

"A majority of Floridians support access to abortion, and don't want to see it go away," she said.

In the decades since the Roe decision, several states have kept or added anti-abortion laws that could take effect immediately if the ruling were overturned.

Among them is Wisconsin. Nicole Safar, director of government relations for the state's Planned Parenthood affiliate, said a statute has been on the books since 1849 making it a felony for a doctor to perform an abortion in Wisconsin. Abortion is likely to remain legal in neighboring Illinois, but Safar said even that trip might be out of reach for many low-income women in Wisconsin.

"Illinois is and should remain an oasis for abortion care, but we can't be complacent about that," said Brigid Leahy, director of public policy for Planned Parenthood in Illinois. "I don't think our legislature is poised to pass a ban should Roe be overturned. But things can always change."

Vicki Saporta, president of the National Abortion Federation, said a reconfigured Supreme Court might address an abortion case by leaving some aspects of Roe in place, but chipping away at it to allow a broader range of restrictions.

"It's not so easy to overturn Roe," she said. "Women in this country would not stand for it."

Anti-abortion leader Marjorie Dannenfelser of the Susan B. Anthony List also predicted that a "chipping away" of Roe might be more likely than its total reversal. She said Congress was likely to pass a ban on most abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, and states would feel more emboldened in passing tough anti-abortion laws.

"Roe is already in shambles," she said.

Carol Tobias, president of the National Right to Life Committee, said Roe's eventual demise would mean even brighter prospects for state anti-abortion legislation.

"Our state affiliates have been working to pass laws, but they run up against Roe," she said. "If Roe were overturned, it would allow us to fight in each state."

Professor Michael New, an abortion opponent who teaches economics at Ave Maria University in Florida, said he would welcome a reversal of Roe even if abortion policy in many states remained unchanged.

"It would restart a serious debate about sanctity of life issues in the United States," he wrote in an email. "This is a debate that pro-lifers welcome."

Lyft lifts off with new look, light-up beacons

NEW YORK (AP) — Ride-hailing service Lyft, the underdog rival to Uber, is getting rid of its iconic pink moustache logo and replacing it with something more useful — beacons.

The light-up beacons, which Lyft calls "amps," will be on the dashboard of Lyft drivers' cars beginning Jan. 1 in New York, Las Vegas, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Beacons can communicate with people's smartphones using Bluetooth technology. In retail stores, this

means guiding you to a certain shoe display, for example.

With Lyft, it means having your driver's beacon light up a specific color once he or she is near. You can have your phone light up in that same color, too, then hold it up so the driver can see you.

Lyft says this will make it easier and safer for drivers and riders to find each other. This can be especially helpful at night, or in crowded areas where multiple people might be hailing a ride.

San Francisco-based says it won't use the beacons for ads, though the passenger-facing side might be devoted to sponsored campaigns, such as a beer company warning against drinking and driving.

Lyft's first symbol was a giant, bright pink, fuzzy moustache attached to the front of drivers' cars. But it soon became cumbersome (it could get quite dirty, for example), and maybe a little too whimsical for a company working to expand. Next came the "glowstache," a compact, pink, glowing plastic moustache. The amp, while still bright pink, is a clean, oval shape.

Lyft held a retirement party for the 'stache, said Melissa Waters, vice president of marketing. But the pink stays.

"It's loud, proud, quirky, fun," she said. In upcoming TV ads, Lyft paints itself as just that, in deep contrast to a menacing, slick ride-hailing company called "Ride Corp."

ICC prosecutors: US forces may have committed war crimes

By MIKE CORDER, Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — U.S. armed forces and the CIA may have committed war crimes by torturing detainees in Afghanistan, the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor said in a report Monday, raising the possibility that American citizens could be indicted even though Washington has not joined the global court.

"Members of US armed forces appear to have subjected at least 61 detained persons to torture, cruel treatment, outrages upon personal dignity on the territory of Afghanistan between 1 May 2003 and 31 December 2014," according to the report issued by Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda's office.

The report added that CIA operatives may have subjected at least 27 detainees in Afghanistan, Poland, Romania and Lithuania to "torture, cruel treatment, outrages upon personal dignity and/or rape" between December 2002 and March 2008.

Most of the alleged abuse happened in 2003-2004, the report said.

Prosecutors said they will decide "imminently" whether to seek authorization to open a full-scale investigation in Afghanistan that could lead to war crimes charges.

State Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau said the U.S. does not believe an ICC investigation is "warranted or appropriate."

"The United States is deeply committed to complying with the law of war, and we have a robust national system of investigation and accountability that more than meets international standards," Trudeau said.

A Pentagon spokesman, Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, said officials were awaiting more details about the ICC findings before commenting.

Established in 2002, the International Criminal Court is the world's first permanent court set up to prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. More than 120 countries around the world are members, but superpowers including the United States, Russia and China have not signed up.

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton signed the Rome treaty that established the court on Dec. 31, 2000, but President George W. Bush renounced the signature, citing fears that Americans would be unfairly prosecuted for political reasons.

Even though the United States is not a member of the court, Americans could still face prosecution at its headquarters in The Hague if they commit crimes within its jurisdiction in a country that is a member, such as Afghanistan, and are not prosecuted at home.

So far, all of the ICC's trials have dealt with crimes committed in Africa.

Prosecutors say investigations also are reportedly under way in Poland, Romania and Lithuania — all signatories to the Rome Statute — into possible crimes at CIA detention facilities in those countries.

The abuse allegations came in a wide-ranging annual report into the prosecution office's so-called preliminary examinations, which involve studying reports of possible crimes to establish if they fall under the court's jurisdiction.

The same report said that Taliban and Afghan government forces also may have used torture and committed other atrocities in that country's long and bitter conflict. The report says that the Taliban and its affiliates killed thousands of people and are suspected of committing war crimes including murder, recruiting and conscripting child soldiers and attacking civilians and humanitarian workers.

Referring to the alleged U.S. war crimes, the report said they "were not the abuses of a few isolated individuals. Rather, they appear to have been committed as part of approved interrogation techniques in an attempt to extract 'actionable intelligence' from detainees."

The report adds that, "The information available suggests that victims were deliberately subjected to physical and psychological violence, and that crimes were allegedly committed with particular cruelty and in a manner that debased the basic human dignity of the victims."

Before deciding to open a full-scale investigation, ICC prosecutors have to establish whether they have jurisdiction and whether the alleged crimes are being investigated and prosecuted in the countries involved. The ICC is a court of last resort that takes on cases only when other countries are unable or unwilling to prosecute.

The report noted that U.S. authorities have conducted dozens of investigations and court-martial cases and says ICC prosecutors are seeking further clarifications on their scope before deciding whether any American cases would be admissible at the ICC.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the administration of President George W. Bush allowed the use of waterboarding, which simulates drowning, and other so-called enhanced interrogation techniques against suspected terrorists. President Barack Obama banned such practices after taking office in 2009.

During the presidential campaign, Republican nominee Donald Trump suggested that as president he would push to change laws that prohibit waterboarding and other harsh interrogation techniques, arguing that banning them puts the U.S. at a strategic disadvantage against Islamic State militants.

AP Diplomatic Writer Matthew Lee and AP National Security Writer Robert Burns in Washington contributed to this report.

PBS journalist Gwen Ifill dies of cancer

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Gwen Ifill, co-anchor of PBS' "NewsHour" with Judy Woodruff and a veteran journalist who moderated two vice presidential debates, died Monday of cancer, the network said.

She was 61.

A former reporter for The New York Times and The Washington Post, Ifill switched to television in the 1990s and covered politics and Congress for NBC News. She moved to PBS in 1999 as host of "Washington Week" and also worked for the nightly "NewsHour" program. She and Woodruff were named co-anchors in 2013.

She moderated vice presidential debates in 2004 and 2008 and authored the book, "The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama."

The president on Monday praised Ifill for informing today's citizens while also inspiring a young generation of journalists.

"I always appreciated Gwen's reporting, even when I was on the receiving end of one of her tough" interviews, Obama said.

Ifill took a leave from "NewsHour" for a month this spring for health reasons, keeping details of her illness private. Her health failing, she left "NewsHour" again shortly before an election night that she and Woodruff would have covered together.

"Gwen was a standard bearer for courage, fairness and integrity in an industry going through seismic

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change," said Sara Just, PBS "NewsHour" executive producer. "She was a mentor to so many across the industry and her professionalism was respected across the political spectrum. She was a journalist's journalist and set an example for all around her."

NBC News' Pete Williams, a former colleague, struggled to keep his composure Monday when announcing Ifill's death on MSNBC.

"She had so many awards in her office you could barely see out the window," Williams said.

U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings, a Maryland Democrat, said he was a member of the Maryland state legislature when Ifill worked for the Baltimore Evening Sun.

"She always demonstrated thoughtful intelligence, determination to uncover the facts, and an innate talent for knowing what truly interested the public," Cummings said.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., called Ifill "a legend."

"Her dignity and grace, intellect and insight set the standard in American media and public life," Pelosi said.

Shortly before moderating the debate between Joe Biden and Sarah Palin in 2008, Ifill brushed aside concerns that she might not be fair because she was writing a book about Obama.

"I've got a pretty long track record covering politics and news, so I'm not particularly worried that one-day blog chatter is going to destroy my reputation," she told The Associated Press then.

Ifill, who was black, also questioned why people would assume her book would be favorable toward Obama. "Do you think they made the same assumptions about Lou Cannon (who is white) when he wrote his book about Reagan?" she said.

In a 2007 opinion piece published in The New York Times, Ifill condemned radio host Don Imus' "nappy-headed hos" reference to Rutgers University female basketball players.

"To his credit, Mr. Imus told the Rev. Al Sharpton yesterday he realizes that, this time, he went way too far," Ifill wrote.

"Yes, he did. Every time a young black girl shyly approaches me for an autograph or writes or calls or stops me on the street to ask how she can become a journalist, I feel an enormous responsibility," she said. "It's more than simply being a role model. I know I have to be a voice for them as well."

New Zealand begins rescue of tourists stranded by earthquake

By NICK PERRY, Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — New Zealand on Tuesday began a rescue operation involving hundreds of tourists and residents who remain stranded in the coastal town of Kaikoura after a powerful earthquake cut off train and vehicle access.

The defense force said it had started ferrying people out by military helicopter and that a navy ship from Auckland was due to arrive in the area Wednesday morning.

The magnitude 7.8 quake that struck the South Island early Monday left two people dead and triggered a small tsunami. It also brought down rocks and mud that swept across highways and cracked apart roads.

Home to about 2,000 residents, Kaikoura is a popular destination for travelers taking part in whale-watching expeditions or wanting a stopover with mountain views. But the quake knocked out water supplies and sewer systems and left people with no easy way out.

"From all directions, Kaikoura has essentially been isolated," Air Commodore Darryn Webb, acting commander of New Zealand's Joint Forces, told The Associated Press. "There's a real imperative to support the town because it can't support itself."

Webb said the military was using four NH90 helicopters that could each transport about 18 people at a time out of the town. He said the ship could pick up hundreds of people if weather conditions allowed.

"We're going to get as many people and belongings out as quickly as we can," Webb said.

He said the operation could take several days and that if needed, a C-130 military transport plane could drop fuel, water, food and other supplies to the town. He said about five metric tons of supplies were ready to be delivered from Christchurch.

Sarah Stuart-Black, director of the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, said the priority was transporting out those people with health issues or international flights booked. She said 34 people

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had been airlifted out by noon Tuesday.

She said the community was rallying to help the tourists.

"It's fantastic that some of the locals in Kaikoura have taken in tourists into their own homes," she said.

Elsewhere, many people returned to work in the capital, Wellington, after the quake shut down much of the central city on Monday. But some buildings remained closed and heavy rain and flooding compounded the difficulties for others.

And strong aftershocks continued to shake New Zealand, rattling the nerves of exhausted residents.

Police said one person died in Kaikoura and another in Mt. Lyford, a nearby ski resort. Several other people suffered minor injuries in Kaikoura, police spokeswoman Rachel Purdom said.

Prime Minister John Key flew over Kaikoura by helicopter Monday as aftershocks kicked up dust from the landslides below. Cars could be seen lying on their sides and parts of the road were clearly impassable.

"It's just utter devastation," Key said.

Police stepped up their patrols after receiving several reports of burglaries in homes and businesses that had been evacuated due to the quake. Police said six guns, some of them antiques, were stolen from a home near the town of Nelson.

Three cows whose predicament captured the interest of people around the world after they became stranded on a small island of grass in an area ripped apart by the quake were rescued. The Newshub news service reported a farmer and some helpers dug a track to them and brought them out.

New Zealand, with a population of 4.7 million, sits on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean where earthquakes are common. An earthquake in Christchurch five years ago destroyed thousands of homes and buildings and killed 185 people.

Associated Press writer Kristen Gelineau in Sydney contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Tuesday

By The Associated Press

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

1. OBAMA BREAKS WITH DEMOCRATIC ALLIES ON TRUMP

The president abandons his dire warnings about his newly elected successor, saying he believes Trump will do his best to unite the nation.

2. FRONT-RUNNER EMERGES FOR SECRETARY OF STATE

Ex-New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani is the favorite for the key cabinet post in Trump's administration, an AP source says.

3. WHAT LESSON BRITISH PM DRAWS FROM RECENT EVENTS

Theresa May says the Brexit vote and Trump's triumph show governments must heed people's concerns about the impact of globalization on jobs and communities.

4. PROBLEMS PERSIST AFTER ISLAMIC STATE MILITANTS DEPART

Extremists have been driven from the Iraqi town of Qayara. But the government has failed to restore lost services, violent revenge attacks persist, and some residents are bitter and angry.

5. FRESH FALLOUT FROM HARSH INTERROGATIONS

The International Criminal Court says that U.S. forces and the CIA may have committed war crimes by torturing detainees in Afghanistan.

6. WHERE LARGE-SCALE RESCUE OPERATION HAS BEGUN

About 1,000 tourists and hundreds of residents remain stranded in the coastal town of Kaikoura in New Zealand after a powerful earthquake cut off train and vehicle access.

7. JURY: FATHER LEFT CHILD TO PERISH ON PURPOSE

A Georgia man whose toddler son died after being left for hours in a hot car is convicted of murder.

8. WHY OPPONENTS OF 'BIG SODA' ARE TAKING HEART

The approval by a number of U.S. municipalities last week of special taxes on sugary drinks could be

the beginning of a movement.

9. GWEN IFILL DIES OF CANCER AT 61

The veteran journalist was the co-anchor of PBS' "NewsHour" with Judy Woodruff and moderated two vice presidential debates.

10. BASEBALL PICKS TOP ROOKIES

Shortstop Corey Seager is the unanimous choice for NL Rookie of the Year, while pitcher Michael Fulmer wins the AL honor.

In complete reversal, Obama refuses to criticize Trump

By KATHLEEN HENNESSEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Monday abandoned his dire warnings and dark predictions about his newly elected successor and urged Americans to give President-elect Donald Trump time to rise to the daunting responsibilities of the office, breaking sharply from his Democratic allies who have quickly condemned Trump's first major decisions.

In his first extended remarks on the election that pounded his party and his legacy, Obama sought to reassure an anxious world and nation about his successor's commitments to alliances, at times appearing almost sanguine about a future Trump administration.

Although he would not explicitly say Trump was qualified for the office, he said he believed the first-time officeholder would do his best to unite the nation, calling him pragmatic. He refused to wade into a political firestorm over Trump's decision to name a far-right conservative media mogul as a top adviser. And he expressed hope that the weight of the presidency will force Trump to overcome his shortcomings.

"He has won. He's going to be the next president and regardless of what experience or assumptions he brought to the office, this office has a way of waking you up," Obama said. "And some of his gifts that obviously allowed him to execute one of the biggest political upsets in history, those are ones that hopefully he will put to good use on behalf of all the American people."

Obama's refusal to criticize his successor was a 180-degree reversal from the rhetoric of his campaign takedowns. Only a week ago, as he campaigned for Hillary Clinton, Obama said Trump was "woefully unprepared for the job" and couldn't "handle the nuclear codes."

Obama's latest remarks bore little resemblance to the calls for resistance coming from other Democrats and many of Obama's supporters. As they come to grips with Trump's surprising win, many Democrats have seized on a call not to accept or "normalize" the actions of a man who ran a divisive campaign that included charges of racism, sexism and other offensive rhetoric and actions.

But Obama, who was the target of some of that rhetoric, has embraced the role of national hand-holder. Both in private and in a brief statement last week, Obama has suggested that Democrats should buck up and move on. He's cast Trump's election as in line with the usual zig and zag of politics.

On Monday, as he prepared to embark on a three-nation trip abroad, Obama went so far as to vouch for Trump and his foreign policies. Although Trump campaigned as a harsh critic of NATO, Obama said Trump sounded a different note when they met in the Oval Office last week.

Obama said the Republican "expressed a great interest in maintaining our core strategic relationships," including "strong and robust NATO" partnerships.

"There is enormous continuity ... that makes us that indispensable nation when it comes to maintaining order around the world," Obama said. Relationships and policies go beyond presidents, he said, adding that military officials, diplomats and intelligence officers would cooperate with their foreign counterparts as before.

Obama acknowledged he had offered advice to Trump, saying he emphasized the need to shift from campaigning to governing, and the importance of resetting the tone after a contentious election.

"I don't think he is ideological," Obama said. "And that can serve him well as long as he has got good people around him and he has a clear sense of direction."

Obama suggested he would continue to offer his advice. He said he would urge Trump "to think long and hard" before making good on his promise to upend Obama's program that deferred deportation for hundreds of thousands of young immigrants who came to the country illegally as children.

Asked about one of Trump's most contentious moves since his triumph, appointing Steve Bannon as chief strategist and senior adviser, Obama said it was up to the president-elect to appoint a team.

"It's important for us to let him make his decisions," Obama said of the choice of Bannon, a man celebrated as a force for the far right. But adding a hint of worry, Obama said he counseled Trump: "It's really important to send some signals of unity."

Whereas Obama hailed Trump's "impressive" ability to speak to voters, he also delivered a subtle critique of Clinton's campaign. He said Democrats must broaden their focus beyond just swing states after an election that left the Senate and House in Republican hands, as well as most of the nation's governor's mansions. He rejected the idea that demographic advantages would lead to all-but-assured victories for the party, saying it must rebuild at the local, state and national levels.

"We're going to have to compete everywhere," he said, reflecting on his own 2008 win in Iowa, a state that went for Trump this time. "We're going to have to show up everywhere."

Clinton kept a relatively light campaign schedule until the final weeks of her campaign, mostly attending smaller events in battleground states. Her campaign focused heavily on motivating the Democratic base of female and minority voters, rather than swaying independents. "Good ideas don't matter if people don't hear them," Obama said.

While Obama is in Germany, Greece and Peru, he said his team would accelerate efforts to ensure a smooth transition to the Trump administration.

He stressed that he would try to strengthen the American economy over his final two months, and all but acknowledged he would not take any dramatic action to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in his final weeks in office.

"One of the things you discover about being president is that there are all these rules and norms and laws and you got to pay attention to them. And the people who work for you are also subject to those rules and norms, and that's a piece of advice that I gave to the incoming president," he said.

Obama, Clinton tell Democrats not to despair

By LISA LERER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic leaders delivered pep talks to demoralized supporters on Monday, promising to reassess their strategy, message and organization in the wake of last week's devastating defeat.

"You're allowed to mope for a week and half maybe two," President Barack Obama told Democratic National Committee members on a conference call. "But after that we've got to brush ourselves off and get to work."

The party has entered a period of soul-searching, as Democrats try to chart their direction in the Donald Trump era. An ascendant liberal wing is pushing for a serious shift toward an economic populist message that could win back white working-class voters who backed Trump.

Party activists, donors and politicians are also advocating for significant changes in leadership, with a group of younger House members trying to postpone leadership elections in an effort to force a discussion about the direction of the party.

"There's a general feeling that the Democratic Party itself needs some serious reform and has grown very distant from the kind of communities it represents," said Gara LaMarche, president of the Democracy Alliance, a group of wealthy Democratic donors who gathered in Washington for a three-day strategy session this week.

The DNC, the last bastion of party power in Washington, is emerging as another battleground.

Minnesota Rep. Keith Ellison announced his candidacy to be chairman of the organization on Monday

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afternoon, joining a crowded field of candidates that includes former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, who was party chairman during the administration of then-President George W. Bush.

After losing the White House and Congress — and likely the ideological tilt of the Supreme Court — the Democrats' new chief will be one of the party's most visible faces in politics, making the role a far more influential post than it was during the Obama administration.

Around a dozen Democrats' names have been publicly floated to succeed interim chairwoman Donna Brazile.

Ellison, a prominent progressive and the first Muslim elected to Congress, has emerged as an early leader, attracting support from Senate leaders and liberal activists.

DNC National Finance Chairman Henry Muñoz III said he's "seriously considering jumping into the race," arguing that the conversation about the party's future must include representation for Latinos, a growing demographic group.

Former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley, and South Carolina Democratic Party Chairman Jaime Harrison have also said they're considering bids.

The contest comes at a time of deep unrest for the party. Anti-Trump protests continued this weekend and post-election polls showed a significant minority of Clinton backers question the legitimacy of Trump's win.

The future looks even grimmer. In two years, Democrats will be defending about two dozen Senate seats, including at least five in deep-red states. That election could hand Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell a filibuster-proof majority, further clearing the way for a conservative policy agenda.

Obama's call followed a press conference where Obama delivered a subtle critique of Clinton's campaign, pushing back on the idea that demographic advantages would lead to all-but-assured victories for the party and stressing that Democrats must rebuild on every level. Clinton kept a relatively light campaign schedule until the final weeks of her campaign, focusing heavily on motivating the Democratic base of women and minority voters, rather than swaying independents.

"We're going to have to show up everywhere," he said, reflecting on his own 2008 win in Iowa, a state that went for Trump.

Clinton, meanwhile, held her own call with House Democrats on Monday afternoon. She urged the members not to be "discouraged or divided," according to a Democrat on the call.

"Heartbreaks don't heal overnight and this one won't," she said.

Associated Press Congressional Correspondent Erica Werner contributed to this report.

The next stage: Will anti-Trump marches become a movement?

By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Demonstrators upset over the election of Donald Trump have marched in cities around the country over the past week, and some are making plans to be in Washington for his inauguration Jan. 20. But whether marches will become a movement is an open question.

At this early stage, the protesters who have taken to the streets to brand Trump a bigot and a sexist and chant "Not my president!" appear to be mostly venting their frustrations and do not seem to have coalesced behind overall leaders or a common set of demands.

Columbia University professor Todd Gitlin, who as an early leader of Students for a Democratic Society helped organize an anti-Vietnam War demonstration that brought thousands to Washington in 1965, said the anti-Trump protests by themselves "are not the makings of a movement."

"A movement requires that clusters of people take responsibility for creating vehicles that can carry through, focus energy, develop priorities, strategize, recruit, figure out how to govern themselves," Gitlin said.

For that to happen, a critical mass of protesters has to "transform their mindset from protest into successful politics, which is much less exciting," he said. Gitlin said that means "dirtying our hands in winning local and state battles which are instrumental to changing the national balance."

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On Monday, hundreds of students decrying Trump's election walked out of schools in Denver, Los Angeles and Silver Spring, Maryland, after a weekend in which thousands of people demonstrated around the country and scores were arrested. Protesters threw rocks at police in Indianapolis and hurled bottles and other objects in Portland, Oregon. Marchers have also converged on Trump Tower in New York, the president-elect's transition headquarters.

Among other things, the demonstrators have condemned Trump's behavior toward women and his stand on immigration and civil liberties.

Ralph Young, a history professor at Temple University in Philadelphia who teaches a course on dissent in America and has written two books on the topic, said it is too early to predict what the marches might become.

Once Trump becomes president and starts making policy decisions, that could crystalize opposition and focus people's attention on certain issues, he said. If the anti-Trump demonstrations are going to become a movement, they also need leaders who can articulate their grievances, he said.

That's one thing the Occupy Wall Street movement against economic inequality never really achieved — a proper organization, Young said.

Jamie Henn of the group 350, which organizes protests to fight climate change, said liberal activist groups are still scrambling to figure out how they will push back against a Trump presidency.

"There is definitely stuff coming together and being planned that looks like the messy process of everyone and their mother throwing up something on their Facebook page," Henn said.

Henn said liberals haven't seen the need for this level of mobilization since the run-up to the Iraq War. But activists remember glumly how little a dent their big marches against the invasion made then, and may use different tactics this time.

Some groups are already trying to come together, though there are differences of opinion, said Greg McKelvey, a protest organizer in Portland, Oregon. McKelvey said demonstrators are trying to organize with counterparts in New York; Washington; Austin, Texas; Oakland, California; Boston; and a few other cities.

Some activists want to prevent Trump somehow from becoming president, while others feel that's inevitable and instead want to insulate their communities from his policies, McKelvey said. He said his group, Portland's Resistance, aims to make sure city and state governments are working on issues such as limiting climate change, pushing for better health care and dealing with racial disparities in policing.

Trump's election has made activists out of people who haven't been part of any organized demonstrations before.

Olivia Antezana, a 19-year-old sophomore at the University of Maryland at College Park, had never been to a demonstration before creating and promoting a "Not My President" event on Facebook. By Monday afternoon, 18,000 people had indicated on Facebook that they would be going to the event in Washington on Inauguration Day.

"I will say I certainly underestimated it," Antezana said.

Still, Antezana said she is not sure what she will do after the demonstration she is planning is over. She doesn't plan to join a political campaign, she said, though she would like to keep up with activism. Right now, she said, she has another priority: school.

Associated Press writers Sarah Brumfield in Washington; Nicholas Riccardi in Denver; and Andrew Selsky in Portland, Oregon, contributed to this report.

Follow Jessica Gresko on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/jessicagresko>.

EU ministers move on regional security, reaffirm Iran deal

By LORNE COOK and ANGELA CHARLTON, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Top EU diplomats called Monday for more robust European defense and a greater European voice in world affairs as Donald Trump — whose isolationist, protectionist promises have worried

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many in Europe — prepares to assume the U.S. presidency.

With many question marks around Trump's foreign policy plans, EU foreign ministers agreed at talks in Brussels on the need to strengthen Europe's role in world affairs until the future of trans-Atlantic relations becomes clearer.

In a first concrete step a day after the anniversary of the deadly Paris attacks in which 130 people died last year, the ministers signed off on a sprawling new security and defense plan. But the plan is a far cry from the idea of an "EU army" with a military headquarters that was annoying some EU partners at NATO. It identifies Europe's main tasks as responding to external threats, building the security resilience of partners outside the EU and protecting the 28-nation bloc and its citizens.

"This is a qualitative leap in the European Union's security and defense," EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini told reporters after the meeting. She said that work on taking it forward would begin within weeks.

Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders said, "I think there is a realization this is a strategic moment for Europe right now. We are surrounded by autocratic, assertive or fragile countries. That means we have to take to take more our own responsibilities."

"We are in an uncertain world, and it has not started with the election of Mr. Trump," said French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault. "But Europe must not wait for others' decisions, it must defend its own interests — that is to say the interest of Europeans — and at the same time reaffirming its strategic role on the global level."

His Belgian counterpart, Didier Reynders, said Trump's election was "a possibility for the EU to go further. We need to enhance our capacity in defense and security."

"The EU needs to find a way to have its voice heard in the search for political solutions ... and ensure that it's not simply a conversation between Washington and Moscow, so that we can have the EU really at the table," he said.

In another move Monday, the ministers reaffirmed their support for the Iran nuclear agreement, which Trump has branded the "worst deal in the world" and vowed to renegotiate. They said "the European Union reiterates its resolute commitment" to the part of the action plan that EU heavyweights Britain, France and Germany agreed upon with Iran.

The plan includes lifting "nuclear-related economic and financial sanctions and engaging with the private sector and economic operators, especially banks, to promote growth in trade and investment."

While campaigning, Trump called the pact agreed last year a "lopsided disgrace" and railed against its time-limited restrictions on Iran's enrichment of uranium and other nuclear activity. Trump's exact plans are vague, though, and renegotiating a deal Iran and other partners are happy with would be difficult.

But perhaps Europe's most pressing problem is to understand how Trump wants to deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The EU has imposed sanctions on Russia over its 2014 annexation of Crimea and destabilizing role elsewhere in Ukraine. Any signal from Trump about a warming of U.S. relations with Russia is likely to embolden already-reluctant countries like Germany, Italy and others to push for an end to the sanctions regime.

Trump and Putin spoke on Monday. In a statement issued after the call, the Kremlin said that Putin expressed readiness to establish a "partner-like" dialogue with Trump's incoming administration.

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson insisted Monday that Trump's presidency could be a "moment of opportunity" for Europe.

Johnson, who championed Britain's exit from the EU and skipped Sunday night's foreign ministers meeting, said Trump "is a dealmaker and I think that could be a good thing for Britain, but it can also be a good thing for Europe. I think that's what we need to focus on today."

Other EU diplomats said they should focus instead on problems closer to home, such as the refugee emergency and economic issues.

Speaking at a conference at Harvard University Pierre Moscovici, European commissioner for economic and financial affairs, said Trump's win was a "political wake-up call" that demonstrates a decline of demo-

cratic values and a rise of populist ideas in both the U.S. and Europe.

"I am a politician, as you recall, also a Social Democrat and I want to share with you my worries when I see democrats and our shared values losing ground on both sides of the Atlantic," Moscovici said.

Charlton reported from Paris. Sylvain Plazy in Brussels and Maria Danilova in Washington contributed to this report.

Julian Assange questioned at Ecuadorean Embassy in London

By GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prosecutors were finally able to question WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange Monday about a possible sex crime in Sweden six years ago.

They did not comment on the closed-door proceedings at the Ecuadorean Embassy in London where Assange has lived for more than four years to avoid extradition to Sweden and possibly to the United States.

The long-delayed interview is expected to continue Tuesday and possibly extend beyond that. Assange's version of events, and a possible DNA sample, will shape Swedish prosecutors' decision on whether to charge him.

The questioning was being led by an Ecuadorean prosecutor in the presence of Swedish prosecutor Ingrid Isgren and a Swedish police investigator.

The Swedish investigation into possible sexual crimes began when two women Assange met in Sweden in 2010 complained to authorities. Some of the alleged misconduct is no longer being investigated by police because of the statute of limitations.

Assange is, however, being questioned about the possible rape of one of the women who complained. He has not been indicted or charged but is the subject of an international arrest warrant.

Prosecutors say no immediate decision on the future of Assange's case will be made on Monday. They also said no public statements will be made after the questioning.

Assange's Swedish defense lawyer, Per Samuelsson, complained that he had been barred from the hearing.

"I'm not on the list of persons that Ecuador has drawn up and allowed to be present," Samuelsson told the Swedish national broadcaster SVT. "An Ecuadorean lawyer has taken up this question as a formal issue in the introduction of the hearing."

WikiLeaks released a statement also complaining about the Swedish lawyer being excluded and said Assange cooperated "fully" with investigators.

Assange has denied wrongdoing and says he fears being extradited to the U.S. because of his WikiLeaks work. It isn't known if he faces a secret grand jury indictment in the U.S.

The sex crime allegations were made shortly after Assange and WikiLeaks became well-known worldwide for releasing hundreds of thousands of pages of classified U.S. government documents.

One Swedish woman said Assange intentionally damaged a condom and pinned her down while having sex. A second woman said Assange had sex with her without a condom while she was asleep. In Sweden, having sex with an unconscious, drunk or sleeping person can lead to a rape conviction punishable by up to six years in prison.

A Swedish investigation into the crimes was launched, then dropped for lack of evidence, and then started again as prosecutors sought to question Assange about possible molestation and rape.

By then Assange was in Britain, making it harder for Swedish prosecutors to question him. They sought an international arrest warrant for him that was issued in November 2010.

Assange surrendered to police in London and was freed on bail, receiving support from a wide range of celebrities including filmmakers Oliver Stone and Michael Moore.

He then moved into the Ecuadorean Embassy in London in June 2012, putting him out of reach of British authorities.

He has remained in control of WikiLeaks, which released hacked emails relating to the Hillary Clinton campaign in the final weeks of her failed White House run.

Civil rights activist Peter Tatchell said outside the embassy that he and others had gathered to show

solidarity with Assange and WikiLeaks. He said Assange was being "hounded" because of WikiLeaks' work in shedding light on the "terrible things" done by the U.S. government and others.

Some supporters hoisted pro-Assange banners outside the embassy.

Jonathan Shenfield in London and Jari Tanner in Helsinki, Finland, contributed to this report.

Ouster of extremists from Iraqi town leaves bitter divisions

By SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

QAYARA, Iraq (AP) — On the main shopping street of the town of Qayara, murals put up by the Islamic State group that told people how to dress and behave have been hastily painted over. New signs touting nationalism and unity now line a main highway since Iraqi forces drove the extremists from the Tigris River Valley town in August.

Deeper inside Qayara, however, fresh graffiti has appeared on some streets, revealing bitterness, anger and lasting fissures among the population.

"Blood for blood," reads the Arabic script spray-painted outside a destroyed home on the town's northern edge. Neighbors said the house belonged to a man who joined IS when the group first rose to power in 2014. Slang and obscenities against the owner also are written on a partially destroyed garden wall.

When Qayara was retaken by Iraqi security forces, it was hailed as an early triumph over the extremists as the country prepared for the long-awaited offensive to liberate the second-largest city Mosul that began Oct. 17.

But for some residents, the ouster of IS doesn't feel like victory.

Government services have failed to return. Oil wells set ablaze by the militants continue to burn uncontrollably. Violence persists, with residents carrying out revenge attacks in the wake of the brutal reign by the militants.

Mahmoud Shaker, who lives down the street from the destroyed house, said a group of local tribal fighters and policemen reduced it to rubble a few weeks after IS militants were pushed out of Qayara.

"We know this wasn't done legally, but for us, this is justice," the 25-year-old Shaker said. It was "common knowledge" that the man who lived there was a senior IS leader, he added, although he said he personally never saw the man commit a crime.

"Before the town was retaken, he fled with his family to Mosul," Shaker said.

On the edge of Qayara, Ala Hussein has lived under darkened skies for months. A short distance from her home, several oil wells have been burning uncontrollably since June.

The IS fighters first torched some of the wells as Iraqi forces began the operation to retake Qayara, hoping the thick, black smoke would obscure the town from warplanes of the U.S.-led coalition. In late August, as it became clear they were losing the town, the militants lit the rest of the wells before fleeing north toward Mosul.

Hussein's garden is covered with sticky, black droplets of oil that fall like light rain from the clouds of smoke. One of her fruit trees has died, and another is covered with a plastic tarp to try to save it. Her children's hands and feet are stained black by the pollution.

In the fields around the town, grazing sheep and cows all have turned a dark gray from the soot.

Firefighters show up every few days, spraying the flames with water and occasionally trucking in sand to try to snuff out the blaze, Hussein said, but it never improves.

"This is not liberation. We haven't yet had the taste of freedom," she said. "Where is our government? We don't have a government."

In central Qayara, doctors at a small clinic that serves as the only working hospital treat patients by the light of mobile phones. Dr. Abdul Salam Ali Ahmed said he can only afford enough fuel to turn on his generators for three hours a day.

When the hospital receives casualties from the ongoing Mosul operation 40 kilometers (25 miles) to the north, those who can't be saved must be buried within hours because there is no refrigeration to preserve

the bodies.

A sign in the hospital's front hallway says that newborns cannot be issued birth certificates.

"The Ministry of Health hasn't sent us the required paperwork yet," Ahmed said. "We just keep our own records for now."

The central government in Baghdad has sent intelligence officials to Qayara to screen civilians for any ties to IS. A detention center has been set up in a mosque and an adjacent office houses an interrogation room.

Unlike the destruction of homes, their work is achieving justice through legal methods, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

"It's better than tribal revenge," one of the intelligence officers said. "When we arrest someone it's safer for him. It protects him."

Since the operation to retake Mosul began last month, they have detained thousands of people, with hundreds formally arrested and sent to Baghdad, the officials said.

At a cluster of homes near the oil fires, a young man flaunted a video on his phone that he said was taken in Qayara after its liberation. The video showed the corpses of IS fighters being abused by residents. It also showed a group of children punching and kicking one of the bodies.

Hussein, the woman whose house was covered by oil, believes that the Iraqi security forces were complicit when Islamic State militants overran northern and central parts of the country more than two years ago.

Many of the security forces fled in the face of the militants' advance, and some blame Iraq's political leadership with facilitating the fall of Mosul by ignoring months of warnings that the group was growing in power.

"The government sold us to Daesh in the first place," Hussein said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

"And now they want to accuse us of being terrorists!" she said, cursing both the militants and the government with an obscenity.

Associated Press writers Salar Salim and Mstyslav Chernov in Qayara, Iraq, contributed.

Prisons fight opioids with \$1,000 injection: Does it work?

By CARLA K. JOHNSON, AP Medical Writer

SHERIDAN, Ill. (AP) — U.S. prisons are experimenting with a high-priced monthly injection that could help addicted inmates stay off opioids after they are released, but skeptics question its effectiveness and say the manufacturer has aggressively marketed an unproven drug to corrections officials.

A single shot of Vivitrol, given in the buttocks, lasts for four weeks and eliminates the need for the daily doses common with alternatives such as methadone. But each shot costs as much as \$1,000, and because the drug has a limited track record, experts do not agree on how well it works.

Proponents say Vivitrol could save money compared with the cost of locking up a drug offender — about \$25,000 a year for each inmate at the Sheridan Correctional Center, 70 miles southwest of Chicago.

Dr. Joshua Lee, of New York University's medical school, said more evidence is needed to determine whether the medication can help substantial numbers of people and whether it's worth paying for, but the early results are encouraging.

"It sounds good, and for some of us, it feels like the right thing to do," said Lee, a leading researcher on the treatment.

Vivitrol is emerging as the nation searches for ways to ease an opioid epidemic that affects more than 2 million Americans and an estimated 15 percent of the U.S. prison population. Many experts view prisons — where addiction's human toll can be seen most clearly — as a natural place to discover what works.

Christopher Wolf had already served prison time for nonviolent crimes when he was ordered into treatment for a heroin addiction by a judge who suggested Vivitrol. Three months later, the 36-year-old from Centerville, Ohio, is clean and working full time as a cook.

He now suggests the medication to other addicts.

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"I don't have cravings," Wolf said. "I see how much better life is. It gets better really fast."

Vivitrol targets receptors in the brain's reward system, blocking the high and extinguishing urges. In some programs, prisoners get an injection before release, then follow-up shots from any clinic.

For decades, researchers have recognized addiction as a relapsing brain disease with medication an important part of therapy. But most jails and prisons reject methadone and buprenorphine, the other government-approved medications for opioid addiction, because they are habit-forming and can be abused.

Just ask Joshua Meador, 28, an inmate at Sheridan who hopes to get into the Vivitrol program before his release in January. Before incarceration, he abused both older treatment drugs. When given take-home doses of methadone for the weekend, he would sell them for heroin.

"When I'm on Vivitrol, I can't get high," he said. The drug has no street value or abuse potential.

"You couldn't design something better for the criminal justice system," said David Farabee of the University of California at Los Angeles, who leads a Vivitrol study in a New Mexico jail. "There's been pushback with other medications, people saying, 'We're just changing one drug for another.' That argument goes out the window when you're talking about a blocker" like Vivitrol.

Prison systems in Illinois, Vermont, Wyoming and Wisconsin are trying the drug on a small scale. Michigan is offering Vivitrol to parolees who commit small crimes, if addiction is the reason for their new offense. The federal Bureau of Prisons ran a field trial in Texas and plans to expand the program to the Northeast next year. The drug's manufacturer hopes prisons will be the gateway to a larger market.

Also known as extended-release naltrexone, the medication won Food and Drug Administration approval for alcohol dependence in 2006 and in 2010 to prevent relapse in post-detox opioid users.

The evidence for giving Vivitrol to inmates is thin but promising.

In the biggest study, sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, about 300 offenders — most of them heroin users on probation or parole — were randomly assigned to receive either Vivitrol or brief counseling and referral to a treatment program.

After six months, the Vivitrol group had a lower rate of relapse, 43 percent compared with 64 percent. A year after treatment stopped, there had been no overdoses in the Vivitrol group and seven overdoses, including three deaths, in the other group. The results, published in March in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, have been promoted by the drugmaker, Ireland-based Alkermes, as it markets Vivitrol to U.S. correctional systems.

Yet addiction is stubborn. When the injections stopped, many in the study relapsed. A year later, relapse rates looked the same in the two groups.

"It does suggest six months wasn't enough," said Lee, the lead author.

T.J. Voller was a Vivitrol success story — until he wasn't. After Vivitrol was approved by the FDA, Voller talked about getting the shot with *The Associated Press* and Dr. Sanjay Gupta in a CNN segment. The 30-year-old was back at work and seemed proud of his recovery. But after 10 months on Vivitrol, he died of a heroin overdose.

"He was alone for the weekend and picked up that needle one last time," said his mother, Kathi Voller of Raynham, Massachusetts.

Advocates argue that inmates have a constitutional right to all FDA-approved addiction medications throughout their incarceration.

"Treatment should be offered from the moment they are brought into the system," said Sally Friedman, legal director of the New York-based Legal Action Center, which is looking for a test case to bring to court.

Physicians have learned to be cautious about pharmaceutical company marketing, said Andrew Kolodny, senior scientist at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University.

Not so for criminal justice officials, who may be too trusting, Kolodny said.

"When the drug company sends someone in to give them a talk and buy them pizza, they think they're getting a scientific lecture," he said.

Alkermes spokeswoman Jennifer Snyder said the company's sales team helps educate corrections staff and community care providers only after they have shown interest in Vivitrol.

There's widespread agreement that counseling, support groups and treatment for underlying problems such as depression are crucial for Vivitrol patients, said Dr. Joseph Garbely of Pennsylvania-based Caron Treatment Centers, which supports medication-assisted treatment and prefers Vivitrol.

"The disease of addiction is a cunning, baffling and powerful one," Garbely said. "And you need all hands on deck."

Follow AP Medical Writer Carla K. Johnson at <https://twitter.com/CarlaKJohnson>.

Trump starting to sound like Obama on immigration

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump is starting to sound an awful lot like President Barack Obama on immigration.

In his first postelection interview, Trump said he will focus on deporting criminal immigrants and not everyone living in the United States illegally. Two million or 3 million people could be immediate targets for deportation under this approach, Trump said, providing a likely inflated figure.

And that "big, beautiful wall" at the Mexican border? Trump said he may be amenable to a fence along some parts of the roughly 2,000-mile border.

The softened stance contrasts sharply with Trump's campaign rhetoric. As a candidate, he called for everyone living in the country illegally to return to their home countries and for Mexico to pay billions of dollars for the wall.

A look at Trump's shifting immigration stance:

FOCUS ON CRIMINALS

Trump said in an interview with "60 Minutes" broadcast Sunday that immigration enforcement will concentrate on criminals.

"What we are going to do is get the people that are criminal and have criminal records, gang members, drug dealers," he said. "We have a lot of these people, probably 2 million, it could be even 3 million; we are getting them out of our country or we're going to incarcerate."

Trump added: "We're getting them out of our country; they're here illegally."

Obama's Homeland Security Department has operated similarly. Since 2010, criminals comprised more than half of those deported from the U.S. Over his presidency, Obama has overseen the deportation of more than 2.5 million people.

Trump didn't say Sunday how he will target criminals. He previously has spoken about reviving programs that gave immigration agents access to jails so they could identify people living in the country illegally.

But if Trump does so, local jurisdictions likely will object. Local laws in some places bar cooperation with immigration authorities. And some federal court rulings make it difficult for local jails to hold immigrants beyond their criminal sentences or strictly for immigration violations.

It is even harder to deport criminal immigrants who aren't incarcerated. Many live in the shadows. Tracking them down would take a lot of time and government money.

Deportation costs average about \$12,500 per person, according to a 2011 government estimate.

2 MILLION OR 3 MILLION CRIMINAL IMMIGRANTS

Trump's estimate of criminals who are in the country illegally is probably much too high.

In 2012, Homeland Security officials estimated some 1.9 million criminal immigrants in the United States who could be deported. But the government didn't break down how many of those people were in the country legally and how many were here illegally.

A subsequent analysis by the Migration Policy Institute, a Washington think tank, concluded that only about 820,000 of those people were in the country illegally. The other million or so people had some sort of legal status, including green cards or visas.

Deporting green card holders is possible, though the process can involve lengthy court proceedings.

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FENCE vs. WALL

"I will build a great, great wall on our southern border," Trump said as he launched his presidential campaign in June 2015. "And I will have Mexico pay for that wall."

He repeated the pledge at almost every rally.

But in his weekend interview, Trump took a more nuanced approach.

In certain areas, Trump said, "it could be some fencing." Elsewhere, he added, the border wall was still appropriate.

The president-elect didn't outline where a fence or a wall might fit better. But his willingness to consider fencing marked a considerable concession from his campaign stance.

Border fencing is nothing new. There is fencing along about 650 miles in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California, encompassing almost a third of the border.

Under President George W. Bush, Congress authorized \$1.2 billion to build hundreds of miles of double-layered fencing. The Congressional Research Service and the Army Corps of Engineers have estimated that the fencing already in place cost the United States about \$7 billion.

Any new construction along the border would be a costly and complicated endeavor. Cost estimates of a wall have ranged from \$10 billion to \$20 billion.

Trump would also face myriad environmental regulations, objections from private land owners and a legally binding 1970 treaty with Mexico that governs structures along the Rio Grande and Colorado River at the Mexican border.

Follow Alicia A. Caldwell on Twitter at www.twitter.com/acaldwellap

2016 set to break heat record despite slowdown in emissions

By **KARL RITTER, Associated Press**

MARRAKECH, Morocco (AP) — Global temperatures are soaring toward a record high this year, the U.N. weather agency said Monday, while another report showed emissions of a key global warming gas have flattened out in the past three years.

The reports injected a mix of gloom and hope at U.N. climate talks in Marrakech this week.

"Another year. Another record. The high temperatures we saw in 2015 are set to be beaten in 2016," said Petteri Taalas, the head of the World Meteorological Organization.

WMO's preliminary data through October showed world temperatures, boosted by the El Nino phenomenon, are 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.2 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

That's getting close to the limit set by the global climate agreement adopted in Paris last year. It calls for limiting the temperature rise since the industrial revolution to 2 degrees C or even 1.5 degrees C.

WMO said 16 of the 17 hottest years have occurred this century. The only exception was 1998, which was also an El Nino year.

Taalas said parts of Arctic Russia saw temperatures soaring 6-7 degrees C above average. "We are used to measuring temperature records in fractions of a degree, and so this is different," he said.

Environmental groups and climate scientists said the report underscores the need to quickly reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases blamed for warming the planet.

Another report released Monday delivered some positive news, showing global CO2 emissions have flattened out in the past three years. However, the authors of the study cautioned it's unclear whether the slowdown, mainly caused by declining coal use in China, is a permanent trend.

"It is far too early to proclaim we have reached a peak," said co-author Glen Peters, a senior researcher at the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research in Oslo.

The study, published in the journal *Earth System Science Data*, says global CO2 emissions from fossil fuels and industry are projected to grow just 0.2 percent this year.

That would mean emissions have leveled off at about 36 billion metric tons in the past three years even though the world economy has expanded, suggesting the historical bonds between economic gains and

emissions growth may have been severed.

"This could be the turning point we have hoped for," said David Ray, a professor of carbon management at the University of Edinburgh, who was not involved with the study. "To tackle climate change those bonds must be broken and here we have the first signs that they are at least starting to loosen."

Chinese emissions were down 0.7 percent in 2015 and are projected to fall 0.5 percent in 2016, the researchers said, though noting that Chinese energy statistics have been plagued by inconsistencies.

Peters said it's unclear whether the Chinese slowdown was due to a restructuring of its economy or a sign of economic instability, but the unexpected emissions reduction "give us hope that the world's biggest emitter can deliver much more ambitious emission reductions."

China, which accounts for almost 30 percent of global carbon pollution, pledged to peak its emissions around 2030 as part of the climate pact adopted in Paris last year. Many analysts say China's peak is likely to come much earlier — and may already have occurred.

"A few more years of data is needed to confirm this," said Bill Hare of Climate Analytics.

Even if China's emissions have stabilized, growth in India and other developing countries could push global CO2 levels higher again. India's emissions rose 5 percent in 2015, the study said.

The election of Donald Trump as president of the United States — the world's No. 2 carbon polluter — could also have an impact.

U.S. emissions fell 2.6 percent last year and are projected to drop 1.7 percent this year, as natural gas and renewables displace coal in power generation, the study showed. But it's unclear whether those reductions will continue under Trump, who has pledged to roll back the Obama administration's environmental policies, including the Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon pollution from power plants.

Obama's climate envoy, Jonathan Pershing, said Monday that China and other countries would move forward on climate action even if the U.S. reverses course under Trump.

"I'm hearing the same from the Europeans," he said. "I'm hearing the same from the Brazilians. I'm hearing the same from Mexico, and from Canada, and from smaller nations like Costa Rica and from Colombia."

Some researchers stressed that it's not enough for global emissions to stabilize, saying they need to drop toward zero for the world to meet the goals of the Paris deal.

"Worryingly, the reductions pledged by the nations under the Paris Agreement are not sufficient to achieve this," said climate scientist Chris Rapley of University College London.

Associated Press writer Samia Errazouki in Marrakech contributed to this report.

Brightest moon in almost 69 years lights up sky around globe

BEIJING (AP) — The brightest moon in almost 69 years is lighting up the sky in a treat for star watchers around the globe.

The phenomenon known as the supermoon reached its peak luminescence in North America before dawn on Monday. Its zenith in Asia and the South Pacific was Monday night. Across the international dateline in New Zealand, it was to reach its brightest after midnight Tuesday local time.

The moon orbits the Earth in an oval shape. The moon will be at its brightest this week because it is coming closer to the Earth along its elliptical orbit than at any time since January 1948. The supermoon will also bring stronger than usual high tides, followed by plunging low tides the next morning.

Viewers can expect to see a moon about 14 percent larger in diameter and about 30 percent brighter than when it's at its furthest distance from the earth. It won't be as big and bright again for another 18 years.

NASA says its closest approach will occur at 6:21 a.m. EST (1121 GMT) Monday when the moon comes within 221,523 miles (356,508 kilometers). That's from the center of the Earth to the center of the moon. Full moon will occur at 8:52 a.m. EST (1352 GMT).

According to the astronomy website earthsky.org, the term supermoon entered usage five years ago when the closest full moon fell on March 19, 2011. The scientific term is perigee full moon.

In 2034, the moon will come even closer, within 221,485 miles (356,456 kilometers). That, too, will be a supermoon.

Trump names Priebus, Bannon to senior White House roles

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump made his first two key personnel appointments on Sunday, one an overture to Republican circles by naming GOP chief Reince Priebus as his White House chief of staff, the other a shot across the bow of the Washington establishment by tabbing Breitbart news executive Stephen Bannon as chief strategist and senior counselor.

The two men had made up the president-elect's chief of staff shortlist, and while Priebus received that job, Bannon's post also is expected to wield significant clout. The media executive with ties to the alt-right and white nationalist movement was given top billing in the press release announcing their appointments.

Trump's hires were, at first glance, contradictory, though they fit a pattern of the celebrity businessman creating a veritable Rorschach test that allowed his supporters to see what they wanted. Priebus, who lashed the RNC to Trump this summer despite some intraparty objections, is a GOP operative with deep expertise of the Washington establishment that Trump has vowed to shake up. He has close ties to House Speaker Paul Ryan, a fellow Wisconsinite.

"I am very grateful to the president-elect for this opportunity to serve him and this nation as we work to create an economy that works for everyone, secure our borders, repeal and replace Obamacare and destroy radical Islamic terrorism," Priebus said in the statement announcing his appointment.

Bannon, meanwhile, helped transform the Breitbart news site into the leading mouthpiece of the party's anti-establishment wing, which helped fuel the businessman's political rise. Ryan has been one of his most frequent targets.

"Steve and Reince are highly qualified leaders who worked well together on our campaign and led us to a historic victory," Trump said. "Now I will have them both with me in the White House as we work to make America great again."

Neither Priebus nor Bannon bring policy experience to their new White House roles. Chiefs of staff in particular play a significant role in policy making, serving as a liaison to Cabinet agencies and deciding what information makes it to the president's desk. They're often one of the last people in the room with the president as major decisions are made.

Trump's adult children, who serve as influential advisers to the president-elect, are said to have been concerned about having a controversial figure in the chief of staff role and backed Priebus for the job.

In announcing the appointments, Trump said Priebus and Bannon would work as "equal partners" — effectively creating two power centers in the West Wing. The arrangement is risky and could leave ambiguity over who makes final decisions.

Trump has long encouraged rivalries, both in business and in his presidential campaign. He cycled through three campaign managers during his White House run, creating a web of competing alliances among staffers.

Priebus is a traditional choice, one meant as an olive branch to the Republicans who control both houses of Congress as Trump looks to pass his legislative agenda.

Ryan tweeted, "I'm very proud and excited for my friend @Reince. Congrats!" Ryan made no mention of Bannon in that tweet, but earlier told CNN that he didn't know Bannon but "I trust Donald's judgment."

The Bannon pick, however, is anything but safe.

Under Bannon's tenure, Breitbart pushed a nationalist agenda and became one of the leading outlets of the so-called alt-right — a movement often associated with white supremacist ideas that oppose multiculturalism and defend "Western values."

"It is easy to see why the KKK views Trump as their champion when Trump appoints one of the foremost peddlers of white supremacist themes and rhetoric as his top aide," Adam Jentleson, spokesman for top Senate Democrat, Harry Reid, said in a statement late Sunday. He was referring to the Ku Klux Klan.

Bannon, who became campaign CEO in August, pushed Trump to adopt more populist rhetoric and paint rival Hillary Clinton as part of a global conspiracy made up of the political, financial and media elite, bankers bent on oppressing the country's working people — a message that carried Trump to the White

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House but to some, carried anti-Semitic undertones.

An ex-wife of Bannon said he expressed fear of Jews when the two battled over sending their daughters to private school nearly a decade ago, according to court papers reviewed this summer by The Associated Press. In a sworn court declaration following their divorce, Mary Louise Piccard said her ex-husband had objected to sending their twin daughters to an elite Los Angeles academy because he "didn't want the girls going to school with Jews."

A spokeswoman for Bannon denied he made those statements.

The appointments came after a day in which Trump's tough-talking plan to rein in illegal immigration showed signs Sunday of cracking, with the president-elect seemingly backing off his vow to build a solid wall along the southern U.S. border and Ryan rejecting any "deportation force" targeting people in the country illegally.

Though Trump told CBS' "60 Minutes" in an interview airing Sunday night that his border wall might look more like a fence in spots, one thing didn't change from his primary: the combative billionaire took to Twitter to settle some scores.

During a four-hour spree, Trump gloated about establishment Republicans congratulating him and savaged The New York Times for being "dishonest" and "highly inaccurate."

"The @nytimes states today that DJT believes 'more countries should acquire nuclear weapons.' How dishonest are they. I never said this!" Trump tweeted late Sunday morning.

But in a March interview with the Times, Trump was asked whether he would object to Japan acquiring its own nuclear arsenal, which it does not now have. He replied, "Would I rather have North Korea have them with Japan sitting there having them also? You may very well be better off if that's the case."

Trump also told "60 Minutes" he would eschew the \$400,000 annual salary for the president, taking only \$1 a year.

Lemire reported from New York. AP White House Correspondent Julie Pace contributed to this report.

Reach Lemire and Kellman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire> and <http://twitter.com/@LaurieKellman>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 15, the 320th day of 2016. There are 46 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 15, 1966, the flight of Gemini 12, the final mission of the Gemini program, ended successfully as astronauts James A. Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. splashed down safely in the Atlantic after spending four days in orbit.

On this date:

In 1777, the Second Continental Congress approved the Articles of Confederation.

In 1806, explorer Zebulon Pike sighted the mountaintop now known as Pikes (cq) Peak in present-day Colorado.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union forces led by Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman began their "March to the Sea" from Atlanta; the campaign ended with the capture of Savannah on Dec. 21.

In 1889, Brazil was proclaimed a republic as its emperor, Dom Pedro II, was overthrown.

In 1926, the National Broadcasting Company began operating its radio network.

In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt laid the cornerstone of the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C.

In 1942, the naval Battle of Guadalcanal ended during World War II with a decisive U.S. victory over Japanese forces.

In 1956, "Li'l Abner," a musical comedy based on the Al Capp comic strip, opened on Broadway.

In 1959, four members of the Clutter family of Holcomb, Kansas, were found murdered in their home.

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(Ex-convicts Richard Hickock and Perry Smith were later convicted of the killings and hanged.)

In 1979, the British government publicly identified Sir Anthony Blunt as the "fourth man" of a Soviet spy ring.

In 1986, a government tribunal in Nicaragua convicted American Eugene Hasenfus of charges related to his role in delivering arms to Contra rebels, and sentenced him to 30 years in prison. (Hasenfus was pardoned a month later.)

In 1996, former State Department official Alger Hiss, who fell from grace in a Communist spy scandal, died in New York just four days after his 92nd birthday.

Ten years ago: O.J. Simpson caused an uproar with plans for a TV interview and book titled "If I Did It," in which Simpson described how he would have committed the 1994 slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman. (The project was scrapped after an outcry condemning it as revolting and exploitive.) One of four U.S. soldiers accused of raping a 14-year-old Iraqi girl and killing her and her family pleaded guilty at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. (Spc. James P. Barker, who agreed to testify against the others, was later sentenced to 90 years in prison.) Emmitt Smith was named winner of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" with his professional dance partner, Cheryl Burke.

Five years ago: Hundreds of police officers in riot gear raided the Occupy Wall Street encampment in New York City in the pre-dawn darkness, evicting hundreds of protesters and then demolishing the tent city. The U.S. Postal Service said it had lost \$5.1 billion in the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2011. The state of Ohio executed Reginald Brooks, who had shot his three sons as they slept, shortly after his wife filed for divorce. Justin Verlander of the Detroit Tigers breezed to the AL Cy Young Award in a unanimous vote. Karl Slover, 93, one of the last surviving actors who played Munchkins in the 1939 classic film "The Wizard of Oz," died in Dublin, Georgia.

One year ago: World leaders vowed a vigorous response to the Islamic State group's terror rampage in Paris as they opened a two-day meeting in Turkey, with President Barack Obama calling the violence an "attack on the civilized world" and Russian President Vladimir Putin urging "global efforts" to confront the threat. Authorities found six people shot to death at a campsite in Anderson County, Texas; William Hudson is charged with capital murder. P.F. Sloan, 70, the troubled songwriter behind such classic 1960s tunes as Johnny Rivers' "Secret Agent Man" and Barry McGuire's "Eve of Destruction," died in Los Angeles.

Today's Birthdays: Judge Joseph Wapner is 97. Actor Ed Asner is 87. Singer Petula Clark is 84. Comedian Jack Burns is 83. Actress Joanna Barnes is 82. Actor Yaphet Kotto is 77. Actor Sam Waterston is 76. Classical conductor Daniel Barenboim is 74. Pop singer Frida (ABBA) is 71. Actor Bob Gunton is 71. Former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson is 69. Actress Beverly D'Angelo is 65. Director-actor James Widdoes is 63. Rock singer-producer Mitch Easter is 62. News correspondent John Roberts is 60. Former "Jay Leno Show" bandleader Kevin Eubanks is 59. Comedian Judy Gold is 54. Actress Rachel True is 50. Rapper E-40 is 49. Country singer Jack Ingram is 46. Actor Jay Harrington is 45. Actor Jonny Lee Miller is 44. Actress Sydney Tamiia (tuh-MY'-yuh) Poitier is 43. Christian rock musician David Carr (Third Day) is 42. Rock singer-musician Chad Kroeger is 42. Rock musician Jesse Sandoval is 42. Actress Virginie Ledoyen is 40. Actor Sean Murray is 39. Pop singer Ace Young (TV: "American Idol") is 36. Golfer Lorena Ochoa is 35. Hip-hop artist B.o.B is 28. Actress Shailene Woodley is 25. Actress-dancer Emma Dumont is 22.

Thought for Today: "News reports don't change the world. Only facts change it, and those have already happened when we get the news." — Friedrich Durrenmatt, Swiss author and playwright (1921-1990).