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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

2016 All Northeast Conference Football Team

Groton – Bennett Shabazz, Trevor Pray, McClain Lone, Trevon Tuggles, Patrick Gengerke, Brandon Keith, Seric Shabazz. Honorable Mention-Shane Simon, Luke Thorson

Roncalli – Braden Sommers, Colton Cox, Conner Deutsch, Conner Chamberlain, Alex Garvin, Conner Fiedler. Honorable Mention – Austin Job, Bronson Heier

Milbank – Jake Anderson, Tanner Gauer, Cole Dockter, Jonathan Ash, Jacob Karges, Taran Mogard. Honorable Mention – Tanner Kettwig, Ethan Paysen, Riley Wollschlager

Redfield/Doland – Alan Masat, Noel Utecht, Cooper Baloun. Honorable Mention - Kevin Krumm, Drew Masat

Sisseton - Hunter Medenwald, Justin Brockel

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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Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



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Anne Marie Smith playing "Taps" during the Veterans Day program. (Photo by Jan Seibel)



Ed Stauch, color guard, Robert Wegner, guest speaker, and Jake McKiver, color guard took part in the Veterans Day program. All three Veterans are members of Groton's American Legion. (Photo by Jan Seibel)

Veteran's Day Program

The Veteran's Day program was held Thursday. The event was originally scheduled for Veteran's Day on Friday, but school was called off due to the football state championship game in Vermillion.



Elementary school children singing during the Veterans Day program (Photo by Jan Seibel)



This is a close up view of the puzzle pieces. (Photo by Jan Seibel)

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Some pieces of puzzles were made into two hearts that were linked together by a chain. (Photo by Jan Seibel)



Mrs. Seibel had students in grades 3-12 honor a Veteran by putting a Veteran's name on a puzzle piece. The puzzle pieces were put together to create the US flag and then it was outlined in the state of South Dakota. Over 400 Veterans were honored. (Photo by Jan Seibel)



There was a good turnout for the Veteran's Day Breakfast held Thursday at the elementary school. (Photo by Tina Kosel)

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Erin Smith, Kelly Pappas, Annie Marie Smith, guest speaker Bob Wagner, Ryder Daly, and Whitney Voss. (Photo by Tina Kosel)



The Chamber Choir sang the "Star Spangled Banner." (Photo by Tina Kosel)

Blizzard Watch

URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ABERDEEN SD
339 AM CST WED NOV 16 2016

...VERY STRONG WINDS AND SNOW LATE THURSDAY NIGHT THROUGH FRIDAY...

.A LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM ACROSS KANSAS THURSDAY MORNING WILL SHIFT NORTHEAST ACROSS IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA FRIDAY MORNING. THIS WILL BRING RAIN TO THE AREA THURSDAY AFTERNOON...THAT WILL MIX WITH AND CHANGE OVER TO SNOW THURSDAY EVENING. MODERATE TO HEAVY SNOW...AND VERY STRONG WINDS WILL BE POSSIBLE...ESPECIALLY ACROSS EASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA AND PORTIONS OF WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA. EXPECT THE SNOW TO END WEST TO EAST FRIDAY AFTERNOON...AS THE LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM EXITS ACROSS WISCONSIN.

SDZ006-018-161900-
/O.NEW.KABR.BZ.A.0002.161118T0600Z-161119T0000Z/
BROWN-SPINK-
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...ABERDEEN...REDFIELD
339 AM CST WED NOV 16 2016

...BLIZZARD WATCH IN EFFECT FROM LATE THURSDAY NIGHT THROUGH FRIDAY AFTERNOON...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN ABERDEEN HAS ISSUED A BLIZZARD WATCH...WHICH IS IN EFFECT FROM LATE THURSDAY NIGHT THROUGH FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

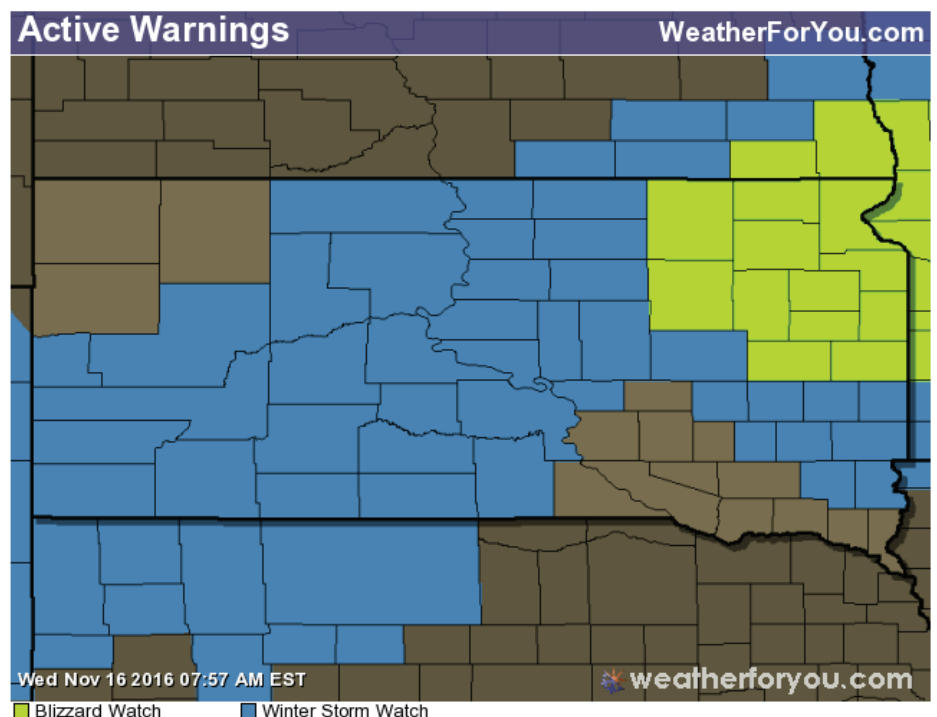
* TIMING...LATE THURSDAY NIGHT THROUGH FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

* WINDS/VISIBILITY...NORTH TO NORTHWEST WINDS OF 25 TO 30 MPH WITH GUST OF 35 TO 45 MPH MAY PRODUCE VISIBILITIES OF ONE QUARTER MILE OR LESS IN FALLING AND BLOWING SNOW.

* SNOW ACCUMULATIONS...3 TO 6 INCHES OF SNOW POSSIBLE.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A BLIZZARD WATCH MEANS THERE IS A POTENTIAL FOR FALLING AND/OR BLOWING SNOW WITH STRONG WINDS AND EXTREMELY POOR VISIBILITIES. THIS CAN LEAD TO WHITEOUT CONDITIONS AND MAKE TRAVEL VERY DANGEROUS.



Today in Weather History

November 16, 1996: A strong area of low pressure brought 6 to 9 inches of snowfall to most of central and parts of north central South Dakota on the 16th, while widespread freezing rain associated with the warm front of the system, along with 4 to 10 inches of snow, fell in northeast South Dakota. Travel was significantly affected, and a few minor accidents occurred during the storm. Several sporting events and activities were also postponed or canceled. Strong north winds late on the 16th into early the 17th resulted in near-blizzard conditions across northeast South Dakota. Some storm total snowfall amounts include, 9.0 inches 12SSW of Harrold; 8.5 inches near Highmore; 8.2 inches in Roscoe; 8.0 in Eureka; 7.9 inches near Mellette; 7.0 inches in Waubay; 6.5 inches in Murdo and Redfield; 6.0 inches in Kennebec and Miller; 5.5 inches near Victor; and 5.3 inches in Sisseton.

1958 - More than six inches of snow fell at Tucson, AZ. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1959 - The most severe November cold wave in U.S. history was in progress. A weather observing station located 14 miles northeast of Lincoln MT reported a reading of 53 degrees below zero, which established an all-time record low temperature for the nation for the month of November. Their high that day was one degree above zero. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - High winds and heavy snow created blizzard conditions across parts of eastern Colorado. Wind gusts reached 68 mph at Pueblo, and snowfall totals ranged up to 37 inches at Echo Lake. In Wyoming, the temperature dipped to 14 degrees below zero at Laramie. Strong thunderstorms in Louisiana drenched Alexandria with 16.65 inches of rain in thirty hours, with an unofficial total of 21.21 inches north of Olla. Flash flooding in Louisiana caused five to six million dollars damage. (15th-16th) (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)




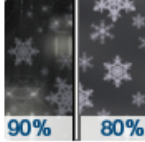



1988 - A powerful low pressure system in the north central U.S. produced high winds across the Great Lakes Region, with wind gusts to 60 mph reported at Chicago IL. Heavy snow blanketed much of Minnesota, with eleven inches reported at International Falls. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Snow and gusty winds invaded the north central U.S. Winds gusting to 40 mph produced wind chill readings as cold as 25 degrees below zero, and blizzard conditions were reported in Nebraska during the late morning hours. High winds around a powerful low pressure system produced squalls in the Great Lakes Region. Winds gusted to 63 mph at Whitefish Point MI, and snowfall totals in Michigan ranged up to 19 inches at Hart, north of Muskegon. (15th-16th) (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2006: An early morning F3 tornado killed eight people, injured 20 others and left 100 people homeless in Riegelwood, North Carolina. Damage estimates in the Riegelwood area were at \$500,000. This storm was the second deadliest tornado in the state in the past 50 years.

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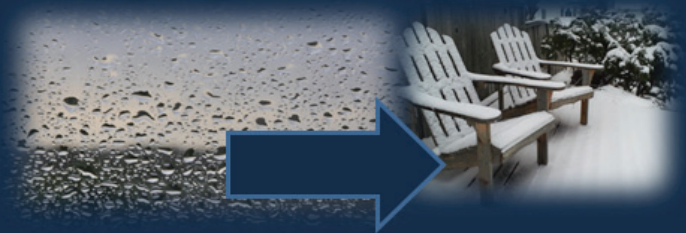
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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Slight Chance Rain then Chance Rain and Breezy	Rain/Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow	Chance Snow and Areas Blowing Snow	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 60 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 42 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 32 °F	Low: 15 °F	High: 31 °F

Blizzard Watch



One Last Warm Day Today: Highs 59 - 67°!
Rain Changing to Snow Thursday Night



Blizzard Watches & Winter Storm Watches

Thursday night – Friday afternoon

Snowy Commute
Friday morning



Blowing Snow
N - NW winds
20 - 35 mph, gusts
35 to near 50 mph



Snow Amounts

Uncertainty remains
3 - 8" or more possible

*check forecast for latest information
www.weather.gov/abr

National Weather Service, Aberdeen SD Issued: November 16, 2016 6am

Published on: 11/16/2016 at 5:59AM

One last day of tranquil and mild weather is expected, before a storm system nears from the southwest. Rain will transition to snow Thursday night. Moderate snow and strong north to northwesterly winds will result in blowing snow with reduced visibilities late Thursday night through at least mid afternoon Friday. The strongest winds, gusting 40 to near 50 mph, will be across eastern SD and west central MN. Uncertainty remains on exact snow amounts, although a widespread 3 to 8 inches or more will be possible through Friday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 57.5 F at 2:14 PM

Low Outside Temp: 34.0 F at 10:14 PM

High Gust: 22.0 Mph at 12:41 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 71° in 2001

Record Low: -12° in 1955

Average High: 39°F

Average Low: 19°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.43

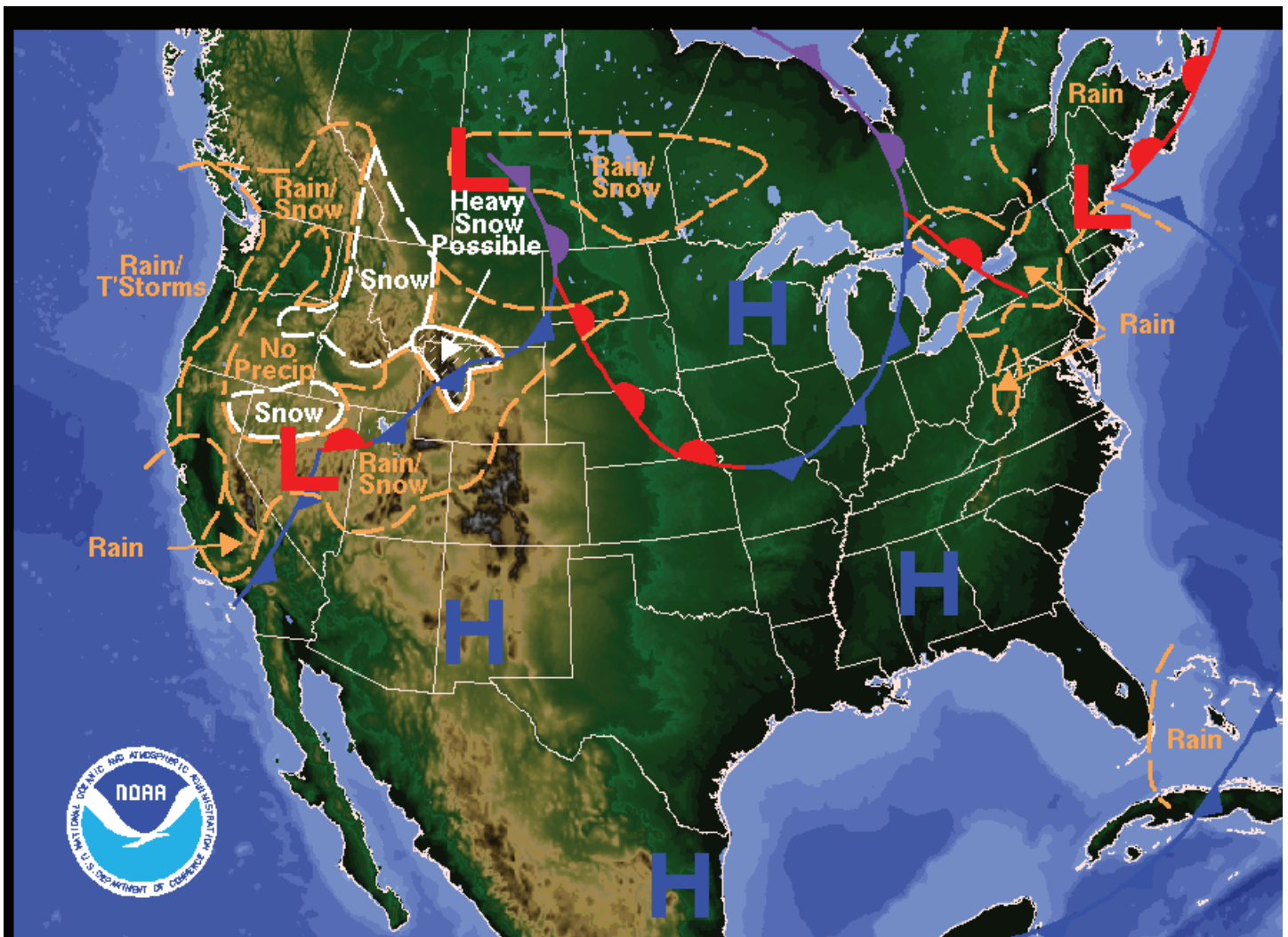
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.90

Precip Year to Date: 15.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:01 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:36 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Nov 16, 2016, issued 4:43 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



SLIPPERY ROADS

Driving through a fierce snow storm Greg lost control of his car and it slipped into a deep ditch. A truck stopped and the driver got out and surveyed the situation. After a few moments he yelled at Greg and said, "Hey, you, let me tell you how to drive on slippery roads."

"Forget it!" said Greg. "I don't need advice, I need help."

David knew what it was to need help. On one occasion he cried out, "I entrust my spirit into your hand. Rescue me, Lord, for You are a faithful God."

David demonstrated his complete faith in God when he proclaimed these words. And Jesus, when He was dying on the cross, showed His absolute confidence in God when He uttered this same phrase. And Stephen repeated these identical words when he was being stoned to death, confidently expressing his Hope in God as he was passing into eternity.

How blest we are to be able to join David, Jesus and Stephen in knowing that we can say with no hesitation, "I entrust my spirit into your hand, Lord." It does not matter what we have or what we do, whether we live alone or have large families, whether we manage great corporations or work alone and unnoticed. We have the same opportunity as they did to entrust ourselves and all that we have or ever will have to Him.

Prayer: How grateful we are, Heavenly Father, to know that we can – if we choose – trust You to care for and be with us in and through all the dangers of life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 31 ...Into your hand I entrust my life; you will rescue me, O LORD, the faithful God...



We now accept



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

News from the Associated Press

Pipeline company seeks federal court OK to proceed with plan

By JAMES MacPHERSON and BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — The company building the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access oil pipeline has asked a federal judge's permission to circumvent President Barack Obama's administration and move ahead with a disputed section of the project in North Dakota, as opponents held protests across the country against the pipeline.

Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners and a subsidiary asked the court on Tuesday to let them lay pipe under a Missouri River reservoir, a plan the Standing Rock Sioux tribe says threatens its drinking water and cultural sites. The Army Corps of Engineers said Monday it needs more time to study the impact of the plan.

While President-elect Donald Trump, a pipeline supporter, likely would greenlight the project when he takes office in January, the company is trying to win federal approval — or a court order — to allow it to go forward sooner. The delay has already cost nearly \$100 million, the company said in court documents, "and further delay in the consideration of this case would add millions of dollars more each month in costs which cannot be recovered."

In a statement Tuesday, the company blamed the Obama administration for "political interference" in the pipeline review process.

The Army Corps referred a request for comment to the Justice Department, which declined comment.

Protests were being held Tuesday across the country, from California to Vermont. Activists called for demonstrations at Army Corps of Engineers offices and at banks financing the pipeline construction.

More than two dozen people were arrested near Mandan, North Dakota, after a group of about 400 protesters put a truck and tree branches on BNSF Railway tracks near a pipeline work staging area and tried to set it on fire, Morton County sheriff's spokesman Rob Keller said.

"They had a rope soaked with kerosene," he said. "A (Highway Patrol) trooper with an extinguisher doused it so it wouldn't light."

Trains were delayed three hours, railroad spokeswoman Amy McBeth said. Officers in riot gear used pepper spray and in one instance a stun gun against protesters who refused to leave.

Mandan is about 50 miles north of a camp where hundreds of protesters have gathered in recent months to oppose the pipeline. Robert F. Kennedy Jr., an environmental attorney and president of the New York-based Waterkeeper Alliance, which seeks to protect watersheds worldwide, visited the camp Tuesday, speaking out against the arrests of protesters and a project he says will benefit billionaires and not the American people.

"What they are doing here is a crime, an environmental crime, and there are real victims," he said.

In Columbus, Ohio, police reported an activist blocked traffic by handcuffing himself under a vehicle at a downtown intersection. In Montpelier, Vermont, more than 100 people gathered outside a bank, chanting, singing songs and holding signs saying "Water is Life" and "Standing With Standing Rock."

"It may seem hopeless, like David against Goliath, but we believe that if we're persistent and we recruit, that this movement will grow and hopefully these kinds of projects will stop," said protester Lee Shen of Thetford Center, Vermont.

The Corps on Monday called for more study and input from the Standing Rock Sioux before it decides whether to allow the pipeline to cross under Lake Oahe. The 1,200-mile pipeline that's to carry North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois is largely complete except for that stretch, which will skirt the tribe's reservation.

Gov. Jack Dalrymple said Tuesday that an additional delay "does nothing but prolong and intensify the public safety issues imposed on Morton County and the state of North Dakota since the beginning of August," when protests against the pipeline broke out. In his statement, Dalrymple said a decision on the project easement "is long overdue" and that the pipeline would be safe.

The Corps in July granted Energy Transfer Partners the permits needed for the project, but it said in

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September that further analysis was warranted, given the tribe's concerns. Its announcement Monday came amid speculation that federal officials were on the brink of approving the crossing. ETP last week began preparing equipment to bore under the river.

ETP disputes that the pipeline would endanger the tribe, and CEO Kelcy Warren noted earlier that Army Assistant Secretary Jo-Ellen Darcy had informed company officials and Tribal Chairman Dave Archambault that the Corps' previous permit decisions "comported with legal requirements." ETP contends that the Corps has no legal justification for the delay.

Associated Press writer Dave Kolpack contributed to this story from Fargo, North Dakota. Associated Press writer Dave Gram contributed from Montpelier, Vermont.

The Latest: ND gov. criticizes delay in oil pipeline

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — The Latest on protests against the Dakota Access oil pipeline. (all times local): 4:50 p.m.

North Dakota's governor is criticizing a potential delay in completion of the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

Gov. Jack Dalrymple said Tuesday that an additional delay "does nothing but prolong and intensify the public safety issues imposed on Morton County and the state of North Dakota since the beginning of August," when protests against the pipeline broke out.

On Monday, the Army Corps of Engineers called for more study and input from the Standing Rock Sioux before it decides whether to allow the pipeline to cross under Lake Oahe. The tribe says the pipeline threatens drinking water and cultural sites.

In his statement, Dalrymple says a decision on the project easement "is long overdue." He says the pipeline would be safe.

3:40 p.m.

Environmental attorney and Waterkeeper Alliance President Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is joining the protest against the Dakota Access oil pipeline, saying it's important to "the future of humanity."

The alliance seeks to protect watersheds worldwide. The Standing Rock Sioux believes the 1,200-mile pipeline that's to carry North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to Illinois could harm drinking water.

Kennedy on Tuesday visited the main protest camp, which is near the Missouri River in southern North Dakota. The pipeline route goes under the river, which is the source of the tribe's drinking water.

Kennedy's visit came on a day when pipeline demonstrations were held across the country.

Kennedy says the \$3.8 billion pipeline will benefit billionaires, not the American people.

Pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners says the pipeline is safe.

2:10 p.m.

More than two dozen protesters against the Dakota Access oil pipeline were arrested west of Mandan, North Dakota, during a day in which activists held demonstrations nationwide.

Morton County sheriff's spokesman Rob Keller says about 400 protesters put a pickup truck and tree branches on BNSF Railway tracks Tuesday near a pipeline work staging area. The railroad says trains were delayed three hours.

Officers in riot gear used pepper spray and in one instance a stun gun against protesters who refused to leave.

Activists called for demonstrations at Army Corps of Engineers offices and at banks financing the pipeline construction. Protests were reported across the country, from California to Vermont.

The \$3.8 billion pipeline is to carry North Dakota oil to a shipping point in Illinois. Opponents worry it will harm the environment.

This item has been corrected to correct number of protesters arrested to more than two dozen instead of 28 based on updated figures from sheriff's department.

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11:45 a.m.

Hundreds of protesters against the Dakota Access oil pipeline gathered outside a work staging area west of Mandan, North Dakota, and disrupted freight train traffic.

Morton County sheriff's spokesman Rob Keller says protesters on Tuesday morning put a pickup truck and tree branches on BNSF Railway tracks. It wasn't immediately clear how many trains were affected.

Officers in riot gear responded. There were no immediate reports of arrests.

Mandan is about 50 miles north of a camp where hundreds of protesters have gathered in recent months to oppose the \$3.8 billion pipeline that's to carry North Dakota oil to a shipping point in Illinois.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was slated to visit the camp later Tuesday. He's an environmental attorney and president of Waterkeeper Alliance, which seeks to protect watersheds worldwide.

10:55 a.m.

The company building the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline is seeking a federal court's permission to lay pipe under a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota and finish the four-state project.

The Army Corps of Engineers called Monday for more study and input from the Standing Rock Sioux before it decides whether to allow the pipeline to cross under Lake Oahe. The tribe says the pipeline threatens drinking water and cultural sites.

Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners and a subsidiary are asking U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., to confirm the company has the legal right to proceed.

The Corps in July granted ETP the permits needed for the crossing, but it said in September that further analysis was warranted given tribal concerns.

ETP says additional delay amounts to politic interference.

8:40 a.m.

The company building the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access oil pipeline is denouncing a decision by the Army Corps of Engineers to delay an easement to cross a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota.

Energy Transfer Partners CEO Kelcy Warren said in a statement Monday that the decision is "motivated purely by politics at the expense of a company that has done nothing but play by the rules."

The Corps wants more studies and tribal input before it decides whether to allow the pipeline to cross under Lake Oahe. The Standing Rock Sioux says the pipeline threatens drinking water and cultural sites. Protests have been ongoing for months.

ETP says it will "vigorously pursue its legal rights."

The 1,200-mile pipeline from North Dakota to Illinois is largely complete outside of the river crossing.

8 a.m.

The Standing Rock Sioux chairman says the decision by the Army Corps of Engineers to delay an easement for the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline indicates protests against the project are succeeding.

The Corps said Monday it needs more studies and tribal input before it can decide whether to allow the oil pipeline to cross under a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota. The tribe says the pipeline would threaten drinking water and cultural sites. Protests against its construction have been ongoing for months.

Chairman Dave Archambault said in a statement that the Corps' decision is encouraging and shows the demonstrations are bringing the tribe's concerns to light.

An industry group supporting the pipeline criticized the Corps' decision. The MAIN Coalition called it an attempt at "death by delay."

6:15 a.m.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is slated to join protesters of the Dakota Access pipeline in North Dakota.

Also Tuesday, activists have called for demonstrators to protest at 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.

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.

Pipeline company seeks federal court OK to proceed with plan

By JAMES MacPHERSON and BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

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While President-elect Donald Trump, a pipeline supporter, likely would greenlight the project when he takes office in January, the company is trying to win federal approval — or a court order — to allow it to go forward sooner. The delay has already cost nearly \$100 million, the company said in court documents, "and further delay in the consideration of this case would add millions of dollars more each month in costs which cannot be recovered."

In a statement Tuesday, the company blamed the Obama administration for "political interference" in the pipeline review process.

The Army Corps referred a request for comment to the Justice Department, which declined comment.

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American people.

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Associated Press writer Dave Kolpack contributed to this story from Fargo, North Dakota. Associated Press writer Dave Gram contributed from Montpelier, Vermont.

US Rep. Kristi Noem to run for South Dakota governor in 2018

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Republican Kristi Noem plans to leave her South Dakota congressional seat after her next term to run for governor.

Noem, the state's only member of the U.S. House, easily won a fourth term last week. She announced the move in a video posted Monday by her gubernatorial campaign, saying she believes in the spirit of "citizen legislators whose temporary service helped found our nation."

But Noem's future plans were likely hastened by a ballot measure South Dakota voters passed in the same election that will soon sharply limit how much money can be transferred from campaign accounts when running for a new office. On Monday, she moved \$1.6 million from her House account to her gubernatorial campaign.

"We just got through one campaign season, and we all need a break from politics, so while my campaign won't kick off officially until next year, I want you to know that I'm all in," she said in the video.

Noem said she's ready to work with Republican President-elect Donald Trump during her final term on a new farm bill, tax reform and repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act.

Noem will likely face off against South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley, who has said he's preparing to run for governor.

Governor ditches Medicaid expansion after Mike Pence meeting

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Tuesday that he won't pursue an expansion of Medicaid in 2017 after a discussion with Vice President-elect Mike Pence.

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The South Dakota governor said in a statement that his decision is based on a Monday meeting in which he and Pence talked about the Trump administration's plans for repealing or overhauling the Affordable Care Act.

The move comes after Dugaard's administration had worked during Democrat Barack Obama's presidency to open the program to roughly 50,000 more low-income South Dakota residents.

The governor had said he might propose an expansion during the 2017 legislative session, a prospect that his announcement shut down.

Dugaard had previously floated the idea of a summer special session, but decided against it after hearing from lawmakers who wanted more time to study the proposal and to wait until after the presidential election to consider it.

He had supported broadening eligibility for the health coverage program for low-income and disabled people, as long as the state's share of the cost was covered by savings. Dugaard had said that a federal move to take on more Medicaid costs for Native American enrollees would allow South Dakota to cut spending enough to offset expansion.

Foes were "thrilled" with Dugaard's announcement, Americans for Prosperity South Dakota State Director Ben Lee said. Other states that have expanded Medicaid have experienced cost overruns, he said.

But the decision comes as a blow to state Democrats, who have repeatedly called for an expansion of the program. It would help save people's lives and have a positive economic impact on the state, said Democratic Senate leader Billie Sutton.

"It's obviously disappointing," Sutton said. "We felt like we were pretty close to getting this done."

Dugaard said Tuesday that the national election results mean the prospect of overhauling the Medicaid program is real.

He intends to work with President-elect Donald Trump's administration and South Dakota's congressional delegation to leverage the federal policy change "to improve access to health care through Medicaid reform," Dugaard said.

AP NewsBreak: Jackley has \$730K preparing for governor run

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley said Tuesday that he's forming a new political committee and has about \$730,000 on hand as he prepares to run for governor in 2018.

Jackley told The Associated Press that the money is in a new governor committee and a separate political action committee.

Jackley's disclosure came a day after U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem declared a run for governor, first reported by the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

Both Republicans were moving ahead of a change in state law that limits how much money they can transfer from existing campaign accounts into committees for new political office.

The law that goes into effect Wednesday prohibits governor candidates or their campaign committees from accepting more than \$4,000 in contributions from a single person or political committee in a calendar year.

The ballot measure, which passed last week, likely caused the governor's race to firm up more quickly than it otherwise would have.

Noem's decision means that she won't pursue a fifth term in Congress in 2018. A spokesman for Noem said she transferred \$1.6 million from her U.S. House account to her governor account on Monday.

Jackley, who is barred by term limits from another stint as the state's top prosecutor, said that right now he's "focused on serving as attorney general and making South Dakota safe."

Jackley said people will see him addressing public corruption and violent crime and fighting against methamphetamine, pointing to issues that could become central to a governor campaign as election season approaches.

Jackley was U.S. attorney for South Dakota before he was appointed attorney general in 2009, then elected and re-elected in 2010 and 2014.

State Rep. Mark Mickelson of Sioux Falls, a third prominent Republican frequently mentioned as a candidate for governor, last week decided against running, saying he wasn't ready for the commitment a statewide campaign requires.

US finalizes rule to limit gas 'flaring' at drilling sites

By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With two months left in President Barack Obama's term, his administration issued a rule Tuesday intended to clamp down on oil companies that burn off natural gas on public lands.

The new rule seeks to reduce waste and harmful methane emissions as part of a strategy to address climate change. But a new Republican administration under President-elect Donald Trump could reconsider the rule or even scrap it, although any effort to do so would likely take months.

Trump has said he will seek to sharply increase oil and gas drilling on federal lands and said on the campaign trail that restrictions supported by Obama and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton would hurt energy-producing states such as Colorado.

Energy companies frequently "flare" or burn off vast supplies of natural gas at drilling sites because it makes less money than oil. A government report said an estimated 40 percent of the gas being flared or vented could be captured economically and sold.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said the new rule updates 30-year-old drilling regulations to meet modern standards and ensure that natural gas is used to power the economy — not wasted by being burned into the atmosphere. The rule is set to take effect in mid-January — days before Obama leaves office.

"This rule to prevent waste of our nation's natural gas supplies is good government, plain and simple," Jewell said in a statement. "We are proving that we can cut harmful methane emissions that contribute to climate change, while putting in place standards that make good economic sense for the nation."

Congressional Republicans vowed to overturn the rule, calling it a "midnight regulation" that will drive away jobs from federal land in the West.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said in a letter to Obama that lawmakers will review all regulations issued in the next two months and overturn them if appropriate.

Under the new rule, energy companies that drill on 245 million acres of public land, mostly in the West, will be required to capture natural gas that can be used to generate power for millions of homes and businesses. Between 2009 and 2014, enough natural gas was lost through venting, flaring and leaks to power more than 5 million homes for a year, Jewell said.

The new rule also should generate tens of millions of dollars a year that can be returned to taxpayers, tribes and states while reducing pollution, Jewell said.

The rule, developed by Interior's Bureau of Land Management, will require oil and gas producers to limit the rate of flaring at oil wells on public and tribal lands, periodically inspect their operations for leaks and replace outdated equipment that vents large quantities of gas into the air.

Most of the gas being burned at drilling sites is methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that is about 25 times more potent at trapping heat than carbon dioxide, although it does not stay in the air as long. Methane emissions make up about 9 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, according to government estimates.

The oil industry has argued that new regulations are not needed for methane because the industry already has a financial incentive to capture and sell natural gas. Methane emissions have been reduced by 21 percent since 1990 even as production has boomed, according to the Western Energy Alliance, an industry group.

The energy alliance, along with a group representing independent petroleum producers, challenged the rule in federal court in Wyoming Tuesday, saying the rule goes beyond authority granted by Congress.

"We support the goals of capturing greater quantities of associated gas and reducing waste gas, but overreaching regulation that fails to acknowledge industry success is not the most effective way to meet those goals," said Kathleen Sgamma, a spokeswoman at the Denver-based energy alliance.

Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, said the new rule "will conserve an important

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domestic resource, improve air quality, lower asthma attacks and slow climate change," all while protecting taxpayers.

Follow Matthew Daly: <http://twitter.com/MatthewDalyWDC>

Des Moines Register names Hunter as new executive editor

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The Des Moines Register has named a 12-year veteran of the newspaper as its new executive editor.

The Register announced Tuesday (<http://dmreg.co/2eCIwKf>) that Carol Hunter has been named its executive editor and a regional editor for seven other newspapers in Gannett's plains region. The Register is owned by Gannett, a media company based in McLean, Virginia.

The other newspapers in Hunter's region are the Iowa City Press-Citizen, Springfield News-Leader in Missouri, Fort Collins Coloradoan, Sioux Falls Argus Leader in South Dakota, St. Cloud Times in Minnesota, Great Falls Tribune in Montana and Baxter Bulletin in Arkansas.

The 59-year-old Hunter is a graduate of the University of Kansas school of journalism and served as executive editor of the Press-Gazette in Green Bay, Wisconsin, for eight years before joining the Register.

Annah Backstrom will succeed Hunter as news director, and Kelli Brown is being promoted from multi-media strategist to audience and multimedia director.

Information from: The Des Moines Register, <http://www.desmoinesregister.com>

Trump ditches media _ the public's eyes and ears _ again

By JULIE PACE and KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump emerged from his New York skyscraper Tuesday night for the first time in days, moving about the nation's largest city without a pool of journalists on hand to ensure the public has knowledge of his whereabouts.

The president-elect spent about two hours dining with family at the 21 Club, a restaurant a few blocks from his Trump Tower residence. Journalists were only aware that Trump was leaving home when they spotted a large motorcade pulling away from the building, including an ambulance with lights flashing.

The movement was a surprise given that Trump's campaign had already called a "lid" — a signal to journalists that he would not be venturing out for the rest of the day. The practice is meant to ensure that journalists are on hand to witness, on behalf of the public, the activities of the president or president-elect, rather than relying on secondhand accounts.

Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks issued the lid at 6:14 p.m. But just over an hour later, Trump's motorcade left his residence. His whereabouts became clear only after a fellow diner tweeted a picture of the president-elect arriving at the restaurant.

Hicks said she was unaware that Trump planned to leave his home and had not intended to leave the press in the dark. She said the Trump team was working toward setting up a protective pool in the near future.

Trump traveled from New York to Washington last week without a pool of journalists. He has since spent most of his time inside his New York building, with his transition team offering few details about his schedule.

Every president and president-elect in recent memory has traveled with a pool of journalists when leaving the White House grounds. News organizations take turns serving in the small group, paying their way and sharing the material collected in the pool with the larger press corps.

The White House depends on having journalists nearby at all times to relay the president's first comments on breaking news.

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

Trump departed the 21 Club around 9:30 p.m. His daughter Ivanka and her husband, Jared Kushner, were seen getting into a vehicle in the motorcade.

Pace reported from Washington.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Ken Thomas at <http://twitter.com/kthomasdc>

10 Things to Know for Wednesday

By The Associated Press

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

1. DAYS AFTER ELECTION, BUMPS IN ROAD TO WHITE HOUSE

Trump's transition team appears to be straining under the enormous challenge of setting up an administration.

2. REPUBLICANS EMBRACE PAUL RYAN

The speaker unanimously wins his GOP colleagues' backing for another term at the helm of the House. A floor vote will be held in January.

3. RUSSIA ESCALATES STRIKES ON OPPOSITION TARGETS IN SYRIA

Missiles pound rebel-held northern Idlib province and parts of the central province of Homs, the start of a much-anticipated offensive.

4. CLOSE FIGHTING MARKS BATTLE FOR MOSUL

Iraqi special forces wage fierce urban combat with Islamic State militants in the country's second-largest city.

5. WHO'S RELAXING RULES ON POT USE

Denver approves a first-in-the-nation law allowing people to use — but not smoke — marijuana in bars, restaurants and other public spaces.

6. AIRLINES WORKER SLAIN AS NEARBY HUNDREDS WAIT FOR FLIGHTS

A gunman lies in wait outside the Oklahoma City airport before shooting and killing a Southwest Airlines employee in a premeditated attack, police say.

7. WHAT OBAMA FACES ON FINAL OVERSEAS TRIP

At each stop, the president expects to confront apprehension from world leaders who fear Trump could bring about seismic changes in U.S. foreign policy.

8. TWO SLAIN IN LATEST VIGILANTE-STYLE SHOOTING IN MEXICO

A passenger rises from his seat and shoots two thieves to death as they tried to rob people aboard a bus on the outskirts of Mexico City.

9. HOW EFFORT TO COMBAT HEART DISEASE IS ADVANCING

For the first time, a new drug given along with a cholesterol-lowering statin medicine proves able to shrink artery-clogging plaque.

10. MEGYN KELLY IN NEW BIOGRAPHY DETAILS TREATMENT BY TRUMP

The Fox News' personality says she didn't want to reveal much about the president-elect's actions toward her before the election, but now wants to lay them out.

The 'Trump effect' weighs on France's presidential election

By SYLVIE CORBET

PARIS (AP) — Donald Trump's election in the U.S. has given a new boost to conservative leaders in what may be the next major populist battleground, France, where far-right leader Marine Le Pen is convinced that her anti-immigration, anti-Islam views can lead her to the presidency in five months.

Former President Nicolas Sarkozy, running to get his job back, says that Trump's election shows that politicians must listen to "the wrath of the people."

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"Mr. Trump wants to defend American interests? Fine, I want to defend French interests and those of Europe. What Americans allow themselves, why should we refuse that for France?" Sarkozy said in a rally in the southern city of Nice on Tuesday night.

Sarkozy is facing tough competition in his party's two-round primary that starts Sunday. Polls have repeatedly placed him behind ex-Prime Minister Alain Juppe.

Another major contender, former Prime Minister Francois Fillon, is gaining popularity as he also presents himself as an alternative to Sarkozy.

Lucas Moulin, a 19-year-old supporter of Sarkozy who attended his Nice rally, told The Associated Press that Trump's victory can give his preferred candidate "strength and credit in public opinion.

"He presents himself as an anti-system candidate, with an anti-elite speech, like Trump, who won," Moulin said.

Sarkozy is campaigning on some of Le Pen's favorite issues, including strong anti-immigration and security measures, in the hope to attract votes from the far-right.

Le Pen, who doesn't face a primary, opened her campaign headquarters for the April-May election in an upper-class Paris neighborhood on Wednesday.

She said that Trump "makes possible what was presented as completely impossible," in an interview with BBC on Sunday.

All recent polls suggest that she could reach the final run of the two-round presidential election next year. The same polls also indicate that in the end, she would lose to any major contender from the right or from the left.

Asked about Le Pen's chance to win the election next year, French political analyst Dominique Moisi told the AP that "I would be, and I think most people are becoming now, much, much more prudent than before. I mean: we were wrong twice," referring to the unexpected Brexit vote and Trump's election. "We don't want to be wrong a third time".

Moisi said an "anti-Trump effect" might also have an impact on the conservative primary. If so, Juppe could benefit from votes from people who fear Le Pen and consider him as in best position to defeat her.

"Obviously we don't know what's going to happen next Sunday" at the conservative primary, Moisi said.

"It's difficult for Sarkozy to claim that he is the candidate of the anti-establishment," Moisi said. "For five years, he was the president of France, he was sitting at the Elysee Palace. He had all power in his hands. But that's what he's trying to achieve."

Juppe is trying to play this card, saying that he is banking on truth, gravity and a sense of responsibility rather than populism. He says he wants to bring together voters from the right and the center instead of chasing after those who have chosen the far-right.

"I don't want to pit one part of France against another, the elites against the people ... It's a dangerous political game," Juppe told thousands of supporters at a Paris rally on Monday.

On the left, the situation remains unclear. Unpopular President Francois Hollande hasn't said yet if he will run for re-election as his Socialist party organizes its primary in January. Other far-left, green and independent candidates are also planning to run.

Hollande's ex-economy minister, Emmanuel Macron, announced his candidacy on Wednesday.

Macron, a former investment banker who has never held elected office, promotes free-market views and denounces the "vacuity" of France's political system as preventing the country to reform itself.

In other European countries, populist parties are expected to do well as votes are due in the coming year in the Netherlands and Germany. A repeat runoff election for president of Austria on Dec. 4 could bring right-wing populist Norbert Hofer of the Freedom Party into office.

Milos Krivokapic and Margaid Quioc in Nice and Oleg Celtinic in Paris contributed to this story

Syrian President: Trump could be a 'natural ally'

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian and Russian forces pushed on with their bombardment of Aleppo Wednesday, one day after the two militaries announced a full-scale offensive to retake the contested Syrian city.

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The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group says 20 civilians have been killed in the city's rebel-held eastern districts under the fierce bombardment that resumed Tuesday after a three-week hiatus, while local activists counted at least 50 artillery and air strikes since the morning.

The U.N. estimates that pro-government forces have trapped some 275,000 people in Aleppo's eastern quarters in a strict blockade enforced since August, as ground and air forces meanwhile pound the area's hospitals. The U.N. warned last week that food rations inside Aleppo's rebel-held districts could be depleted this week.

Syrian President Bashar Assad said in an interview published Tuesday with Portugal's state-run RTP television channel that his forces were fighting to liberate civilians from "terrorists," while most of the rebels in Aleppo, numbering around 8,000, according to the U.N., are Syrians who have been fighting to overthrow Assad.

Assad also identified U.S. President-elect Donald Trump as a possible "natural ally," if he turned out to be "genuine" about his commitment to fighting terror in Syria.

Trump said he was ready to work with Assad to fight against the Islamic State group in Syria, in the run-up to last week's American presidential election.

Elsewhere in Syria's north, Turkish-backed Syrian opposition forces are close to taking the town of al-Bab, about 35 kilometers (22 miles) northeast of Aleppo, from the Islamic State group, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told reporters on Wednesday.

He said the opposition fighters were about 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) from al-Bab.

"The siege is going according to plan," Erdogan said. "There is a resistance there at the moment but I don't think it will last long."

Ankara sent ground forces into northern Syria in August, vowing to clear the border area of both IS and Syrian Kurdish militias.

The president also predicted U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish fighters — which Turkey views as terrorists because of their affiliation to Kurdish rebels in Turkey — would soon leave the town of Manbij, in keeping with a U.S. promise to Turkey.

More than 300,000 people have been killed in the 5-1/2 year-long Syrian civil war.

Obama tours ancient Greek Acropolis

By **ELENA BECATOROS** and **JOSH LEDERMAN**, Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — President Barack Obama toured Greece's most famous ancient monument, the Acropolis citadel, and was due to deliver a speech to the Greek people later Wednesday as he winds up the first leg of his final foreign tour as president and heads from Greece to Germany.

Obama entered the complex through the Propylaea, the monumental gateway that serves as an entrance to the site, and walked along the Parthenon temple, which was dedicated to the goddess Athena, considered the patron god of the city of Athens. The U.S. president lingered at the base of the Parthenon, gazing up at the columns and glancing around at the panoramic view of Athens as he chatted with his guide, Eleni Banou of the Culture Ministry's antiquities division.

The 5th Century B.C. Parthenon temple is surrounded these days by scaffolding as part of maintenance works. The entire site was closed to the public for the day for Obama's visit, which has taken place amid draconian security measures that have also banned demonstrations in parts of Athens, and shut down roads and subway stations.

Greece's government has hailed Obama's visit — the first official visit of a sitting U.S. president since a 1999 trip here by Bill Clinton — as being of massive importance. It has pinned its hopes on him persuading some of the financially stricken country's more reluctant international creditors to grant debt relief, as well as pressuring other European countries to share more of the burden of the continent's refugee crisis.

Obama was receptive to Greece's woes and repeated his belief that debt relief is necessary. He also stressed Greece must continue implementing painful reforms it signed up to in return for successive international bailouts. It is questionable how much of this stance will also be adopted by his successor, Donald

Trump, following the latter's election victory.

Speaking during a joint news conference with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras on the first day of his visit Tuesday, Obama explained Trump's victory as a reaction against economic uncertainty, suspicion of elites and a desire to reign in the excesses of globalization, and said world leaders should pay attention to their citizens' very real fears of inequality and economic dislocation.

"The more aggressively and effectively we deal with those issues, the less those fears may channel themselves into counterproductive approaches that can pit people against each other," Obama said.

Obama's words are being watched closely by world leaders who see parallels between Trump's election and the rise of far-right and populist movements in their own countries amid continued economic anxiety.

Tsipras himself won elections last year on what critics say was a populist platform, though one on the left of the political spectrum. He pushed his formerly small radical left party onto the forefront of Greece's tumultuous political scene by telling Greeks weary from six years of financial crisis and falling living standards that he would reject austerity measures imposed in return for the country's bailouts.

But after the near collapse of negotiations with Greece's creditors — other European countries using the euro currency, and the International Monetary Fund — Tsipras performed a political about-face, signing up to a new bailout and more austerity to prevent his country being forced out of the euro.

After his cultural tour, Obama was to deliver a speech to the people of Greece that is expected to touch on both the country's efforts to emerge from its financial crisis, and on its role in dealing with hundreds of thousands of refugees who have crossed Greece's borders on their way to more prosperous European countries. A reluctance by many other EU countries to host refugees has left more than 60,000 people stranded in Greece, many living in poor conditions in massively overcrowded camps dotted across the country.

On Tuesday, Obama acknowledged the impact of the financial crisis on Greece, which has wiped out a quarter of its economy and led to unemployment rates above 25 percent.

"I know this has been a painful and difficult time, especially for Greek workers and families, pensioners and young people. This crisis is not an abstraction, but has had a very concrete and devastating impact on the lives and livelihoods of millions of people across this country," Obama said.

Security has been tight, with more than 5,000 police deployed, a ban on public gatherings and demonstrations in swathes of central Athens and near his seaside resort hotel, along with shutdowns of roads and subway stations when he has been on the move.

Despite the restrictions, riot police used tear gas and stun grenades Tuesday evening to disperse about 3,000 left-wing demonstrators protesting the visit after they tried to enter an area off-limits to gatherings. Police made at least four arrests and said one woman was slightly injured in the clashes, which took place far from Obama's meetings.

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

Police search for motive in killing of airport worker

By SEAN MURPHY, Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma City police investigators worked to piece together why a man waited to gun down an airline employee outside Will Rogers World Airport on Tuesday in an ambush that forced hundreds of travelers to take shelter and prompted authorities to shut down the state's busiest airport for hours.

Police later discovered the suspected shooter dead from an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound inside a pickup truck in a parking garage near where they believe he waited, watching airport employees come and go before shooting and killing Michael Winchester, 52, a Southwest Airlines employee.

"We do believe this was a premeditated act against the victim," said Oklahoma City Police Capt. Paco

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Balderrama. "This was not random, and obviously the investigation is ongoing in reference to the other details."

Balderrama said late Tuesday that investigators hadn't positively identified the shooter, but said the man apparently knew Winchester's schedule and routine and that the two men likely knew one another.

"It's too early in the investigation to figure out the exact motive," Balderrama said.

The 1 p.m. shooting set off a scramble at the airport, with police immediately closing the sprawling complex and asking passengers inside to seek cover.

They diverted incoming flights and refused to give already-loaded aircraft permission to leave. There were concerns the gunman might have entered the terminal and mingled among passengers or employees.

"We have a heightened level of security all the time. These people have access to aircraft so we're very concerned about that," airport spokeswoman Karen Carney said.

Winchester — whose address is listed as Washington, Oklahoma, about 35 miles south of the airport — was a former University of Oklahoma football player whose son James is a player for the Kansas City Chiefs.

Southwest Airlines canceled flights out of the city for the remainder of the day even though the rest of the terminal reopened.

Hundreds of people were stranded inside the terminal for more than three hours before officers began letting them leave slowly. Carney said about 300 people were held on aircraft away from the terminal after their planes landed ahead of a ground stop.

Once police determined that a suspect found in a red pickup truck on the second floor of a public parking garage was dead, officers gave an all-clear.

The airport handles between 7,000 and 8,000 passengers daily for Alaska, Delta, Southwest and United airlines and has a separate terminal that serves as a transfer center for federal inmates. A jet carrying inmates to the transfer site was allowed to land while the rest of the airport was shuttered.

Video from a television station helicopter showed what appeared to be a pool of blood about 100 feet from the airport's employee parking area — and about 100 yards from the airport's ticket counters and departure area.

While airports have high security, it wasn't immediately known whether surveillance cameras might show the shooting, Balderrama said.

Balderrama initially said police had received reports of a possible second victim, but no one was found.

Police found the suspect's truck in the garage about three hours after the shooting and determined that someone was inside. They were not sure whether he was dead or alive. After about 75 minutes, using a robot, officers determined the suspect was dead.

A number of inbound flights were diverted to other airports after Will Rogers suspended operations. Southwest redirected one flight back to Dallas while a Las Vegas to Houston flight that stops in Oklahoma City went to Amarillo, Texas, instead. Two commercial flights from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport were directed to Tulsa, about 100 miles away.

Michael Winchester was a punter on the University of Oklahoma's 1985 national championship team.

"Our hearts are truly heavy for the entire Winchester Family. Mike was a former Sooner student athlete as was his son James/daughter Carolyn," the school's athletic director, Joe Castiglione, tweeted Tuesday afternoon. He added "daughter Becca was also a student athlete. Please keep this beautiful family in your prayers" in a later tweet.

Associated Press reporters Ken A. Miller and Tim Talley contributed to this report.

Amid strains, Trump says only he knows finalists for Cabinet

By KEN THOMAS and JULIE PACE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump hadn't been seen in public for days when he walked into New York's 21 Club to applause from fellow diners. The unannounced evening out with family was a contrast to the behind-the-scenes machinations that suggested a struggling transition as names surfaced

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and sank for top administration positions.

Not to worry, Trump suggested in a Tuesday night tweet: "Very organized process taking place as I decide on Cabinet and many other positions. I am the only one who knows who the finalists are!"

Before dinner at the midtown Manhattan restaurant— he broke with protocol and left his press contingent behind — Trump met with the head of his transition team, Vice President-elect Mike Pence, but another day passed without a Cabinet announcement.

Strains were showing within the process. Trump's allies engaged in an unusual round of public speculation about his potential appointments. Former Rep. Mike Rogers, a respected Republican voice on national security issues, quit the transition effort. And an apparent clerical oversight effectively halted the Trump team's ability to coordinate with President Barack Obama's White House.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani seemed to be angling for secretary of state. But Trump's transition team was reviewing Giuliani's paid consulting work for foreign governments, which could delay a nomination or bump Giuliani to a different position, according to a person briefed on the matter but not authorized to speak publicly about it.

Giuliani founded his own firm, Giuliani Partners, in 2001, and helped businesses on behalf of foreign governments, including Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. He also advised TransCanada, which sought to build the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, and helped the maker of the painkiller drug OxyContin settle a dispute with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

A Trump official said John Bolton, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, remained in contention for secretary of state. Bolton has years of foreign policy experience, but he has 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 nuclear program.

Businessman Carl Icahn disclosed on Twitter, based on conversations with the president-elect, that Trump was considering Steve Mnuchin, a former Goldman Sachs banker, and Wilbur Ross, a billionaire investor, to lead the Treasury and Commerce departments.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie had spent months running transition operations before his demotion last week. The switch to Pence, however, slowed Trump's ability to coordinate with the White House. Not until Tuesday evening had Pence signed a memorandum of understanding facilitating interactions between his team and Obama administration officials. Christie had signed the document, but Pence's promotion made it invalid.

White House spokeswoman Brandi Hoffine said the administration was waiting on more documents required by law before agencies could begin sharing information with the transition team.

A person familiar with the transition efforts said different factions in Trump's team "are fighting for power."

Indeed, Trump effectively created two power centers in his White House even before taking office. He named Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus as his chief of staff and flame-throwing media mogul Steve Bannon as his chief strategist, but called them "equal partners." Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner is also deeply involved in the transition, creating another layer of uncertainty about who is making decisions.

"That organization right now is not designed to work," according to the person close to the efforts, who like others involved in the transition, insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the internal process.

Former GOP national security official Eliot Cohen blasted Trump's team on Twitter, calling them "angry, arrogant." Cohen opposed Trump during the campaign, but in recent days, he said those who feel duty-bound to work in a Trump administration should do so. But he said Tuesday that after an exchange with Trump's team, he had "changed my recommendation."

With Trump's team divided, emboldened Republicans on Capitol Hill moved forward with a united front. House Speaker Paul Ryan, a lukewarm Trump supporter during the campaign, unanimously won his GOP colleagues' votes for another term at the helm of the House. He told fellow Republicans he had Trump's support, and heralded "the dawn of a new, unified Republican government."

Robert Burns and Erica Werner contributed to this report.

Follow Ken Thomas and Julie Pace on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/kthomasdc> and <http://twitter.com/jpacedc>

Syrian President: Trump could be a 'natural ally'

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian and Russian forces pushed on with their bombardment of Aleppo Wednesday, one day after the two militaries announced a full-scale offensive to retake the contested Syrian city.

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He said the opposition fighters were about 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) from al-Bab.

"The siege is going according to plan," Erdogan said. "There is a resistance there at the moment but I don't think it will last long."

Ankara sent ground forces into northern Syria in August, vowing to clear the border area of both IS and Syrian Kurdish militias.

The president also predicted U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish fighters — which Turkey views as terrorists because of their affiliation to Kurdish rebels in Turkey — would soon leave the town of Manbij, in keeping with a U.S. promise to Turkey.

More than 300,000 people have been killed in the 5-1/2 year-long Syrian civil war.

Kelly says it's important people learn of Trump's actions

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Megyn Kelly said Tuesday she didn't want to reveal much about President-elect Donald Trump's treatment of her the past year so as to not be accused of trying to tip the election, but now believes it's important for people to know the story in case the new administration is hostile to the press.

In her new biography, "Settle For More," the Fox News Channel personality lays out the private stories behind what happened after her debate question on Trump's treatment of women caused the Republican candidate to bitterly go after her on social media and in interviews.

One low point, Kelly writes, was when one of her children asked her to define "bimbo" — part of the name-calling against her — and also said she was afraid Trump would hurt her.

Even before that summer 2015 debate, Kelly writes that Trump threatened her with a Twitter storm because he'd heard she was going to ask him a particularly tough question. It raises the question of whether

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Kelly was sabotaged from within, but Kelly said in an interview that it may have been a bluff because Trump was concerned she would ask him about his treatment of an ex-wife.

Throughout the siege, Kelly said she was convinced Trump was trying to bait her into saying something that would disqualify her from covering the campaign, and she didn't want to be accused of favoring Hillary Clinton.

Now she believes — she hopes — there's peace between them and he has bigger things to worry about. "Every time I thought it was over he would prove me wrong, so I'm a little reluctant to say on the record the word 'over,'" she said. "But I have several months to back that up and I feel that there's a warm front that's been going through."

She knows she'll never be his favorite journalist.

"That's OK with me," she said. "I'd rather be in that place where I'm not his favorite and I'm not Hillary's favorite than be his favorite so I can have access, but sell my soul. That's really what I felt my choice was the past year. There are other journalists who could cover Trump skeptically and he wouldn't hold it against them, but there was something about me.

"I really had to choose — am I going to be an honest journalist and do that, or am I going to suck up to Trump?" she said. "I chose the former, and it's worked out fine for me."

It was far from the only big story Kelly was involved in during the past year. Following former colleague Gretchen Carlson's lawsuit, Kelly's private testimony about former Fox News chief executive Roger Ailes' unwanted advances over a six-month period a decade ago helped lead to Ailes' firing this past summer. She alleges in the books that Ailes made sexually suggestive comments to her and tried to kiss her, then made an angry reference to her contract when she rebuffed him. Ailes has denied any untoward advances involving Kelly.

Until Carlson's lawsuit, Kelly said she knew of only one other woman at Fox with a similar experience. Since it was around the same time, she chalked it up to Ailes wanting an extramarital affair then, rather than the actions of a predator.

With Ailes under assault following the lawsuit, he reached out to Kelly through emissaries hoping she'd defend him, in essence asking her to lie for him, she said.

After the incidents and before Ailes' fall, Kelly said they had a fine professional relationship. He was generous to her family and helped advance her career.

"I'm sure he does feel betrayed by me," she said. "But I feel betrayed by him."

Kelly said she felt an obligation to women who had been in similar circumstances to tell her story, and she wants companies to have strong measures in place to prevent such abuses.

"I want the other women out there suffering to know it can happen to anybody — even somebody like me, who had been a lawyer for nine years," she said, "because I do think women tend to blame themselves."

She acknowledged her actions led to some tensions with other people within Fox, because Ailes had engendered much loyalty. But she said a more current alleged victim came forward — although not publicly — with a story that "was deeply disturbing" and that plus the volume of accusations seemed to settle debate within the company.

Kelly said these experiences will have little to do with her deliberations over her future. Her contract with Fox expires next July and keeping her in the network's prime-time lineup is a key priority of the Murdoch family that runs 21st Century Fox.

"I do feel very grateful that I have options," she said. "So far I've had a really great experience working with the Murdochs and really would love to continue working with them. I've been nothing but impressed by them."

The factors she's weighing "mostly involve a 7-, 5- and 3-year-old," she said, and her desire for more family time.

Mayor in West Virginia resigns after racist Obama post

By JOHN RABY, Associated Press

CLAY, W.Va. (AP) — A West Virginia mayor resigned Tuesday following a backlash after she posted a response to a racist comment about first lady Michelle Obama on Facebook.

The Clay Town Council accepted Mayor Beverly Whaling's resignation in a meeting late Tuesday afternoon and said it would act quickly to name a replacement for the remaining three years of her term.

The resignation came after another woman whose racist post Whaling responded to was placed on leave as director of the Clay County Development Corp.

Council member Jason Hubbard issued a brief statement condemning the "horrible and indecent" post and said racism and intolerance "isn't what this community is about." He apologized on behalf of the town to Michelle Obama and anyone who was offended.

"This community is a helpful, hopeful, empathetic and God-loving community," Hubbard said. "Please don't judge the entire community for one or two individual acts."

Clay County Development director Pamela Ramsey Taylor made the post following Republican Donald Trump's election as president, saying of incoming first lady Melania Trump: "It will be refreshing to have a classy, beautiful, dignified First Lady in the White House. I'm tired of seeing a Ape in heels."

Whaling responded: "Just made my day Pam."

Town council member Joyce Gibson said that after news of the post circled the globe, the small office's voicemail system quickly filled to capacity with irate callers.

An online campaign calling for Taylor and Whaling to resign drew tens of thousands responses.

Gibson wants anyone who judges the town to "come see us. Spend a day with us."

The nonpartisan town council has five members, plus the town recorder and mayor. Whaling's seat was empty during the meeting in a small office attended by a few local residents along with several journalists and some people from outside the area who wanted to see justice served.

Annie Thacker of Barrackville drove 117 miles to the meeting.

"I saw what was happening in small town West Virginia," she said. "I'm from small town West Virginia. I wanted to see hate put down in West Virginia, especially after this election cycle. Everyone's watching."

Lish Greiner of Belpre, Ohio, said she had volunteered during flood cleanup in West Virginia over the summer and returned for the town council meeting because "I will not tolerate hate in my home and in my area."

Whaling earlier issued a written apology to news media outlets saying her comment wasn't intended to be racist.

"I was referring to my day being made for change in the White House! I am truly sorry for any hard feeling this may have caused! Those who know me know that I'm not in any way racist!"

Taylor, who told WCHS-TV on Monday night that she was put on leave, did not return a call seeking comment.

The nonprofit Clay County Development Corp. provides services to elderly and low-income residents in Clay County. It is funded through state and federal grants and local fees. It is not affiliated with the town of Clay, which is about 50 miles east of Charleston.

The uproar occurred as the town of about 500 residents is still trying to recover from severe flooding in late June along the nearby Elk River. Clay County also has been hit by hundreds of layoffs in the coal industry this decade.

Gibson was asked what was worse, the flood or the backlash from the Facebook post.

"I'll have to think about that," she said. "This (backlash) will go away."

Last week in Kentucky, Republican Dan Johnson won state House of Representatives seat from Bullitt County despite a series of posts he put on Facebook depicting President Barack Obama and his wife as monkeys.

And last month in West York, Pennsylvania, the town council accepted the resignation of Republican Mayor Charles Wasko after an uproar over racist posts on his Facebook page, including two depicting apes with captions referring to Barack Obama and his family.

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This story has been corrected to show that Hubbard called the racist post "horrible," not horrific.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 16, the 321st day of 2016. There are 45 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 16, 1966, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard was acquitted in his second trial of murdering his pregnant wife, Marilyn, in 1954.

On this date:

In 1776, British troops captured Fort Washington in New York during the American Revolution.

In 1885, Canadian rebel leader Louis Riel was executed for high treason.

In 1907, Oklahoma became the 46th state of the union.

In 1914, the newly created Federal Reserve Banks opened in 12 cities.

In 1933, the United States and the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations.

In 1939, mob boss Al Capone, ill with syphilis, was released from prison after serving 7 1/2 years for tax evasion and failure to file tax returns.

In 1945, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was founded at the conclusion of a conference in London.

In 1959, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The Sound of Music" opened on Broadway.

In 1973, Skylab 4, carrying a crew of three astronauts, was launched from Cape Canaveral on an 84-day mission.

In 1981, the Senate confirmed Dr. C. Everett Koop to be surgeon general. Oscar-winning actor William Holden, 63, was found dead in his Santa Monica, California, apartment.

In 1991, former Louisiana governor Edwin Edwards won a landslide victory in his bid to return to office, defeating State Rep. David Duke, a former Ku Klux Klan leader.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, making it harder for government to interfere with religious practices.

Ten years ago: Democrats embraced Nancy Pelosi as the first woman House speaker in history, but then selected Steny Hoyer as majority leader against her wishes. African, Arab, European and U.N. leaders agreed in principle to a joint African Union-United Nations peacekeeping force for Sudan's Darfur region. Gunmen abducted a private security team of four Americans and an Austrian in southern Iraq. (All five were later slain.) Minnesota Twins' ace Johan Santana won the AL Cy Young Award. Nobel Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman died in San Francisco at age 94.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, visiting Canberra, said he would send military aircraft and up to 2,500 Marines to northern Australia for a training hub to help allies and protect American interests across Asia.

One year ago: President Barack Obama, in Turkey for a meeting of world leaders, conceded that the Paris terror attacks were a "terrible and sickening setback" in the fight against the Islamic State, but forcefully dismissed critics who were calling for the U.S. to change or expand its military campaign against the extremists. Chicago Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant was a unanimous pick as NL Rookie of the Year, and Houston Astros shortstop Carlos Correa was voted the AL honor. Actor David Canary, 77, died in Wilton, Connecticut.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Clu Gulager is 88. Journalist Elizabeth Drew is 81. Blues musician W.C. Clark is 77. Actress Joanna Pettet is 74. Actor Steve Railsback is 71. Actor David Leisure is 66. Actor Miguel Sandoval is 65. Actress Marg Helgenberger is 58. Rock musician Mani is 54. Country singer-musician Keith Burns (Trick Pony) is 53. Tennis player Zina Garrison is 53. Former MLB All-Star pitcher Dwight Gooden is 52. Jazz singer Diana Krall is 52. Actor Harry Lennix is 52. Rock musician Dave Kushner (Velvet Revolver)

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is 50. Actress Lisa Bonet (boh-NAY') is 49. Actress Tammy Lauren is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bryan Abrams (Color Me Badd) is 47. Actress Martha Plimpton is 46. Actor Michael Irby is 44. Actress Missi Pyle is 44. Olympic gold medal figure skater Oksana Baiul (ahk-SAH'-nah by-OOL') is 39. Actress Maggie Gyllenhaal (JIHL'-ehn-hahl) is 39. Pop singer Trevor Penick is 37. NBA player Amare Stoudemire is 34. Actress Kimberly J. Brown is 32. Rock singer Siva Kaneswaran (The Wanted) is 28. Actor Casey Moss is 23. Actor Noah Gray-Cabey is 21.

Thought for Today: "I think the government solution to a problem is usually as bad as the problem and very often makes the problem worse." — Milton Friedman (1912-2006).