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Thursday, Nov. 17

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

Groton Prairie Mixed

- Team Standings:** Jackelopes 11, Foxes 7, Shih Tzus 6, Chipmunks 5, Cheetahs 5, Coyotes 2
- Men's High Games:** Brad Waage 254, Ron Belden 231, Roger Spanier 203
- Women's High Games:** Dar Larson 177, Lori Wiley 159, Darci Spanier 157
- Men's High Series:** Brad Waage 632, Ron Beldon 590, Randy Stanley 564
- Women's High Series:** Michelle Johnson 449, Lori Wiley 444, Darci Spanier 439

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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SOUTH DAKOTA FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION 2016 ACADEMIC ALL-STATE TEAM

The requirements for this award are the following: 1. Must be a Senior; 2. Must have a 3.5 GPA; and 3. Must have played or managed 3 years of football.

CLASS 11 AAA

Aberdeen Central-Jake Flakus, Kyle Allbee, Zeke Wills
SF Roosevelt-Alex Denevan
RC Stevens-George Johnson, Payton Oxner, Jesse Prestjohn
Brandon Valley-Matthew Eigenberg, Isaiah Galbavy, Chase Grode, Zachary Schloten, Alex Waltner, Alex Wickersham, Libby Klamm, Alexis Zoellner
SF O'Gorman-Jacob Vaca, Andrew Reuter, Erik Wuestewald, Dylan Kalhoff
SF Washington-Josh Garry, Jacob Wagner, Taylor Shimitz, Jaren Fountain, Remi Rice, Kadesia Jones
RC Central-Wanbli Rooks, Ira Murphey, Logan McGough, Marcus Davidson, Kobe Bradford
Watertown-Macen Andrus, Alex Gauer, Austin Stahlke,
Brent Schulte, Parker Schulz, Jarrod Osborn, Jeremy Brey, Micah Kauffman, Noah Spartz, Shane Gonnelly, Tyler Fairchild
SF Lincoln-Tucker Hall, Joe Sudbeck, Xavier Kolb, Jack Meyers

CLASS 11AA

Douglas-Jerod Boswell
Yankton-Devon Mines-Alver, Nate Stephenson, Chris Kinsley, Kade Larson, Brandon Shuey, Brock Goeden
Brookings-Jacob Devine, Cole Eiden, Tate Coon, Shawn Kurban, Hunter Neuman, Chris Lerdal, Kesmond Willert
Harrisburg-Connor McAllister, Adam Grady, Mason Tonsager
Sturgis-Justice West
Spearfish-Michael Chaffin, Boyce Harr, Corey Hoffman, Jaxon Rosencranz, Carson Sleep
Huron-Hyland Heinz, Sam Kretschmar, Ethan DeVries, Jacob Rieger, Tye Evers, Trent Francom
Mitchell-Spencer Mohr, Sam Michels, Reed Overweg, Spencer Neugebauer, Zeb Parsons, Alex Klingaman, Jed Schmidt, Conner Morgan, Chris Wahler
Pierre-Spencer Sarringar, Ty Paulsen, Haley Dorschner

CLASS 11A

Belle Fourche-Corey Hockenbary, Louis Budmayr
St Thomas More-Robert Ingraham, Kyle Maguire, John Maher, Jake Aanderud
Madison-Mason Leighton, Riley Janke, Marcus Vanden Bosch
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte-Wyatt Jewett
Dakota Valley-Steven Neff, Jacob Kenny, Connor Roper, Luke Schmitt
West Central-Grant Linneman, Nick Nagel, Joseph Hanisch, Aaron Mallinger, Tyndall Petterson, Brock Reese, Brendan Jensen
Dell Rapids- Ross Wiebenga, Alex Nordstrom, Justin Dorn, Jacob Wolles, Mason Peter, Grace Tischer
Hot Springs-Skyler Haden, Trey Nachtigall, Nile Frasier, Aaron Atchley, Amber Hulse
Milbank Area-Tanner Gauer, Nate Bien, Matt Lenards, Ben Nelson
Tea Area-Cole Barthel, Payton Conrad, Logan Hoon, Corey Knutson, Jeremiah Maka, Sawyer Schwebach
Lennox-Brock Stien, Matt Wolf
Canton-Alex DeJong, Scott Halverson, Dylan Hanisch, Jesse Lohan, Adam Miller, Grant Nelson, Jake Peterson
Vermillion-Billy Mount, Riley Peters

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CLASS 11 B

Tri-Valley-Will Steineke
Winner-Drew DeMers, Wyatt Ewing, Chase Kingsbury, Krockett Krolikowski, Cameron Kuil, Isaac Naasz, Jayden Schroeder
Red Cloud-Dareon Provost, Stevie Cross Dog, Kasey Miller
Groton Area-Patrick Gengerke, Nathan Fjeistad
Chamberlain-Dodge Knippling
Lead-Deadwood-Colt Bradley, Riley Stokes
Elk Point-Jefferson-Alex Norby
Parkston-Kyler Holzbauer, McKenzie McKean
Roncalli-Colton Cox, Braden Sommers, Sam Tucker, Alex Garvin, Eric Holzer
Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan-Colton Plagmann, Jacob Eddy, Cade Schmitt, Sam Arend, Peyton Bailey, Hannah Harberts, Kadra Kayser
Redfield-Doland-Alan Masat, Noel Utecht, Kevin Krumm
Sioux Valley-Chance Goodfellow, Matt Larsen, Nick Straskburg
McCook Central/Montrose-Caleb Krouse, Colin Sabers, Joey Eickman, Collin Cleveland, Nathan Krempges, Brenden Ecklein, Caleb Wobig, Trevor Wilkinson, Kendall Gassman
Flandreau-Kasen Grengs
Wagner-Ben Soukup, Cole Soulek
Beresford-Kaleb Peterson

CLASS 9AA

Florence/Henry-Alec Paulson, Jeff Wanner, Carter Hoffer, Kory Lane
Arlington/Lake Preston-Taylor Hillestad, Brock Bumann, Logan Brandriet
Canistota-Kasey Buse, Cole Anderson, Xavier Ward
Woonsocket/WessingtonSprings/Sanborn Central-Wyatt Stevens, Logun Feistner, Adam Paulson, Drew Olinger, Riley Schmiedt, Garrett Dean
Deubrook-Logan Jurrens, Ryan Berndt
Stanley County-Carson Wyly
Mt Vernon/Plankinton-Marcus Urban, Tanner Risseeuw,,Devin Rihanek, Jed Vissin, Eli Van Horn, Cody Muilenburg
Bon Homme-Sam Caba, Chase Kortan, Nathan Schenkel, Kade Hellmann, Clay Wittmeir
Great Plains Lutheran-Ethan Beyers, Philip Giovannatone
Wolsey-Wessington-Jayden Kahre, Austin Kemmtz,Darren Ogunjimibusi, Tanner Zemlicka, Dylon Hines, Jacob Seivens, Aaron Diekoff, Logan Schiltz, Riley Gohn, Bennett White
Herreid-Selby Area-Logan Schaeftbauer, Jordan Orth
Gregory-Joseph Veskna, Robert Vomacka, Triv Vosika
Dakota Hills(Wilmot-Waubay-Summit)-Andy Amdahl, Kyria Chalompke, Ethan Renelt
Ipswich/Edmunds Central-Benjamin Pond, Cody Blocker
Clark-Joe Streff
Webster Area-Kelby Hawkins, Tanner Valsvig, Levi Johnson, Marcus Block
Chester Area-Cole Anderson, Brent Anderson, Austin Tammen, Jesse Kreutefeldt
Kimball/White Lake-Randi Grussing, Nikki Realand
Garretson-Shay Gibson

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CLASS 9A

Menno-Jacob Hertz, Jordan Mehlhaf
Scotland-Chase Mogck, Tanner Skorepa, Shannon Fanning, Elyssa Walloch
Warner-Ryder Fuhrman, Micah Hoellein
Colman-Egan-Burgin Groos, Malik Poppenga
Rosholt(Tri-State)-Austin Fritz
Gayville-Volin-Grant Rice, Brook Van Osdel, Luke Hummel
Platte-Geddes-Riley Hoffman, Kade Johnson
Newell-Sam Orwick
Viborg-Hurley-Logan Hansen, Walker Kropnenske, Brady Pattersen
Parker-Landon Leberman, Kelby Peters
Philip-Riley Heltzel, Nick Donnelly
Waverly-South Shore-Alex Thyen, Ethan Comes
Irene-Wakonda-Anthony Nelson
Lemmon-McIntosh-Wyatt Huffman, Deull Tomac, Brandon Heil
New Underwood-Cody Scott
Sully Buttes-Kole Pickner, Clay Feller, Greer Hofer, Bridgette Fanger
Elkton-Lake Benton-Trevor Sik
Castlewood/Estelline-Costner Ching, Richard Fischer, Shelby Kerkvliet, Jack Sonnenburg
Kadoka Area-Jeremy Ring, Emma Stone
Potter County-Carl Cronin, Joseph Mangin, Jacob Rausch, Lucas Smith, Tanner Storer, Jesse Wheeler

CLASS 9B

DeSmet-Jon Todd
Dell Rapids St Mary-Kathryn Klien, Lexi Klien, Jackie Wolles, Zach Geraets, Dalton Houska, Carson Park,
Sam Schwebach, Jacob Eining, Garret Frost
Harding County-Jarett Jenson, Trig Olson
Colome-Isaac Kortan, Wiley Heath, Will Cahoy, Jordan Shippy
Corsica/Stickney-Clayton Menning, Colin Lagge, Hunter Johnson
Hitchcock-Tulare-Riley Binger
Faulkton-Tyler Cunningham, Maria Aesoph, Jack Aesoph
Hamlin-Darrell Bren, Kyle St Pierre
Centerville-Chris Wixon, Tyler Knutson
Avon-Hannah Reeves, Hanna Powers
Sunshine Bible Academy-Sterling Holland
Leola/Frederick-Frederick Lapka
Wall-Jacob Linn
Alcester-Hudson-Gavin Doering, Logan McConnell, Sam Jensen, Kassidy Walth
Langford Area-Chance Olson, James Erickson, Zac Fries, Lincoln Gibbs

DPS Urges Safety As Season's First Winter Storm Approaches

PIERRE, S.D – With the season's first major snowstorm expected to reach South Dakota this week, the state Department of Public Safety encourages people to make preparations now.

Various winter storm warnings, watches and advisories are in effect starting at different times today and extending through Friday for most of South Dakota. Most of northeast South Dakota is included in a blizzard watch on Friday. Rain and snow are expected in most areas of the state.

"This has been a difficult storm to predict as far as its direction and severity," says Tina Titze, director of the department's Office of Emergency Management. "That makes it even more important that people prepare now in case the storm comes their way."

Titze says it is important to stay informed about the storm. DPS officials also offer these other storm safety tips:

Traveling

- *** Check travel conditions before you begin your trip.
- *** Always wear your seatbelt.
- *** Travel during the day.
- *** Drive with your headlights on so motorists behind you can see you.
- *** Keep family and friends informed of your travel schedule and route.
- *** Call 511 or visit safetravelusa.com for road conditions. Change travel plans as conditions warrant.
- *** Keep a winter weather survival kit in your car. The kit should include blankets, warm clothing, water, energy bars, a flashlight, a distress flag, a shovel and matches.
- *** Travel with a charged cell phone, but don't rely on it to get you out of a bad situation.
- *** If you do get stranded, stay with your vehicle.

At Home

- *** Listen to local media for storm updates.
- *** Make sure to have enough food, medical supplies and other needed items on hand.
- *** Be prepared if the power goes out.
- *** Be careful with the use of electrical generators and candles so not to start a fire.
- *** Make sure pets and animals are cared for.
- *** Check on elderly neighbors.

For more storm preparation tips, check out the department's bReady SD site at <http://bready.sd.gov/>.

Roncalli MathCounts Competition Results

The Roncalli Invitational MathCounts Competition was held on Wednesday, November 2, 2016. Over 170 students from nine Aberdeen area schools (Britton-Hecla, Eureka, Holgate, Northwestern, Roncalli, Selby, Simmons, Warner, and Groton) participated in the event, which was sponsored by 3M of Aberdeen.

Trey Gengerke, Tanae Lipp, Samantha Pappas, and Grace Wambach were awarded the third place trophies in the eighth grade team competition.

Madeline Fliehs, Seth Johnson, Stella Meier, and Travis Townsend were awarded the second place trophies in the seventh grade team competition.

Four Groton students achieved placement in the individual/countdown rounds: Trey Gengerke and Grace Wambach (8th graders), and Seth Johnson and Travis Townsend (7th graders).

MathCounts is a nationwide coaching and competition program for middle school students that promotes excellence in mathematics. Area competitions consisting of several types of tests are held monthly. The next junior high competition will be the Roncalli Invitational MathCounts Countdown Competition on Wednesday, December 7.



8th Grade Teams: Front row from left: Simmons, 1st place, Micah Dohrer, Welsey Kayser, Rawlyer Moore, and Hong Wang; Middle row from left: Northwestern, 2nd place, Sam Groft, Seth Heidenreich, Megan Nash, and Mitchell VanderWal; Back row from left: Groton, 3rd Place, Trey Gengerke, Tanae Lipp, Samantha Pappas, Grace Wambach

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7th Grade Teams: Front row from left: Holgate, 1st place, Grant Aberle, Ian Ahlberg, Drew Comstock, and Drake Van Steenwky; Middle row from left: Groton, 2nd place, Madeline Flihs, Seth Johnson, Stella Meier, and Travis Townsend; Back row from left: Roncalli, 3rd Place, Rose Gutenkauf, Halle Kuck, Elizabeth Russell, Hayley Schmidt

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BLIZZARD WARNING

Issue Date:3:53 AM Thu, Nov 17, 2016

Expiration:6:00 PM Fri, Nov 18, 2016

...VERY STRONG WINDS AND SNOW TONIGHT THROUGH FRIDAY...

.A LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM ACROSS KANSAS AND NEBRASKA THROUGH THIS EVENING...WILL SHIFT NORTHEAST ACROSS IOWA OVERNIGHT...BEFORE EXITING ACROSS SOUTHERN MINNESOTA AND WISCONSIN ON FRIDAY. THE RESULT WILL BE A MIX OF RAIN AND SNOW OVER CENTRAL SOUTH DAKOTA TRANSITIONING TO MAINLY RAIN THIS AFTERNOON. AS COLDER AIR WORKS IN FROM THE NORTHWEST THIS EVENING...WINDS WILL INCREASE AND PRECIPITATION WILL TURN TO ALL SNOW. EXPECT MODERATE TO HEAVY SNOW...WITH SIGNIFICANT BLOWING SNOW AND DRAMATICALLY REDUCED VISIBILITIES OVERNIGHT INTO FRIDAY. HAZARDOUS TRAVEL CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED...ESPECIALLY ACROSS EASTERN SOUTH DAKOTA...AND WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA OVERNIGHT THROUGH MUCH OF THE DAY FRIDAY. SNOW AND BLOWING SNOW WILL SLOWLY END WEST TO EAST FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

...BLIZZARD WARNING IN EFFECT FROM MIDNIGHT TONIGHT TO 6 PM CST FRIDAY...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN ABERDEEN HAS ISSUED A BLIZZARD WARNING...WHICH IS IN EFFECT FROM MIDNIGHT TONIGHT TO 6 PM CST FRIDAY. THE BLIZZARD WATCH IS NO LONGER IN EFFECT.

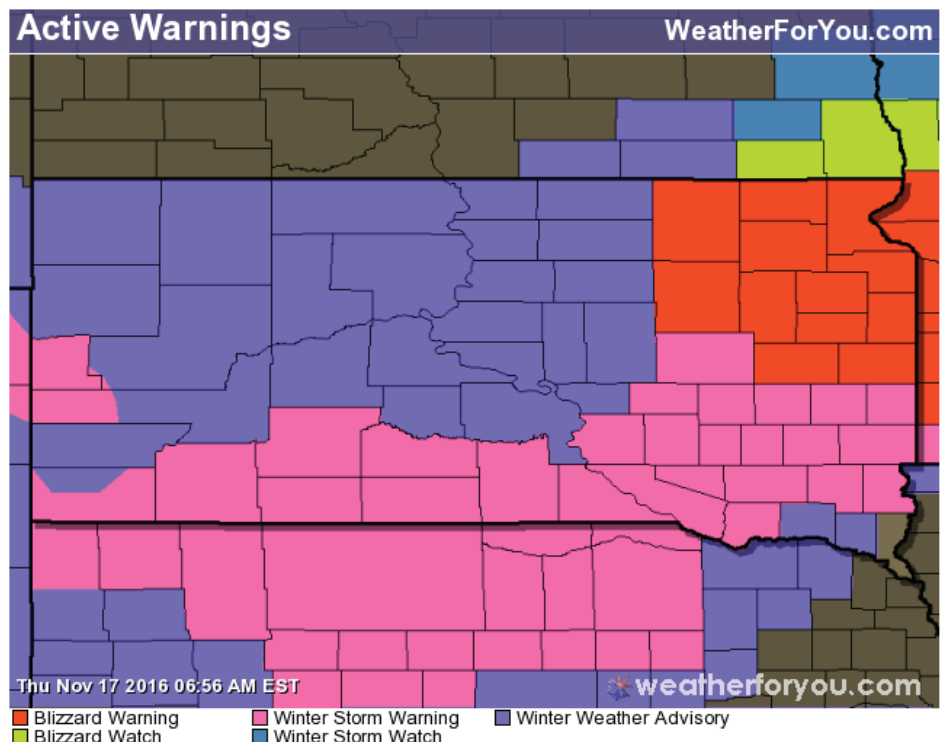
* EXPECT BLIZZARD CONDITIONS TO DEVELOP AROUND MIDNIGHT AND THEN DIMINISH AROUND 6 PM FRIDAY...AS PRECIPITATION ENDS WEST TO EAST.

* WINDS GUSTING AS HIGH AS 45 MPH WILL CAUSE WHITEOUT CONDITIONS IN BLOWING SNOW. SIGNIFICANT DRIFTING OF THE SNOW IS LIKELY.

* TOTAL SNOW ACCUMULATIONS OF 4 TO 7 INCHES ARE EXPECTED.

* TRAVEL WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO IMPOSSIBLE...INCLUDING DURING THE MORNING COMMUTE ON FRIDAY.

A BLIZZARD WARNING MEANS SEVERE WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED OR OCCURRING. FALLING AND BLOWING SNOW WITH STRONG WINDS AND POOR VISIBILITIES ARE LIKELY. THIS WILL LEAD TO WHITEOUT CONDITIONS...MAKING TRAVEL EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. DO NOT TRAVEL. IF YOU MUST TRAVEL...HAVE A WINTER SURVIVAL KIT WITH YOU. IF YOU GET STRANDED...STAY WITH YOUR VEHICLE. THE LATEST ROAD CONDITIONS FOR THE STATE YOU ARE CALLING FROM CAN BE OBTAINED BY CALLING 5 1 1.



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Today in Weather History

November 17, 1971: Snow fell off and on from the 16th through the 18th from west central Minnesota to north central Minnesota. A series of weak low-pressure waves moving northeast generally along a Sioux City to Rochester line caused heavy snow of more than 4 inches in a narrow band from Morris to Alexandria; then the snow band widened to 100 miles from Park Rapids northeast into Canada. Milbank, South Dakota received 3 inches of snow, while Wheaton, Minnesota went from zero snow on the 15th to reporting eight inches on the morning of the 17th.

November 17, 1986: Three to six inches of snow fell across eastern South Dakota on the 17th and 18th with the heaviest amount reported in Sisseton. The snow made many roads slippery. Numerous accidents occurred in the southeast part of the state. The slick roads were a factor in the vehicle death of a woman on Interstate 29, near Beresford in Lincoln County. Browns Valley reported four inches of snow, and Milbank reported 7 inches.

1869 - Southwest winds of hurricane force swept the Berkshire and Green Mountains of New England causing extensive forest and structural damage. (David Ludlum)

1927 - A tornado cut a seventeen mile path across Alexandria and southeastern Washington, DC, injuring 31 persons. The tornado struck the Naval Air Station where a wind gust of 93 mph was recorded. A waterspout was seen over the Potomac River ninety minutes later. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1953 - The temperature at Minneapolis, MN, reached 71 degrees, their warmest reading of record for so late in the autumn. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A storm in the Rockies produced 21 inches of snow at the Monarch ski resort in Colorado, with 14 inches reported at Steamboat Springs CO. Early morning thunderstorms in the southeastern U.S. drenched Mary Esther FL with 4.43 inches of rain. Gale force winds over the Great Lakes Region gusted to 49 mph at Johnstown PA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Another in a series of storms brought heavy snow to the mountains of the western U.S. Totals ranged up to 17 inches at Bob Scott Summit in Nevada. Winds around Reno NV gusted to 80 mph. The Alta and Sundance ski resorts in Utah received 14 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Freezing temperatures overspread the southeastern U.S. in the wake of the severe weather outbreak of the previous two days. Eight cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Gilbert AR with a reading of 8 degrees. A fast moving storm blanketed the Great Lakes Region and Upper Ohio Valley with snow during the night. Totals ranged up to 12 inches at Pellston MI and Little Valley NY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

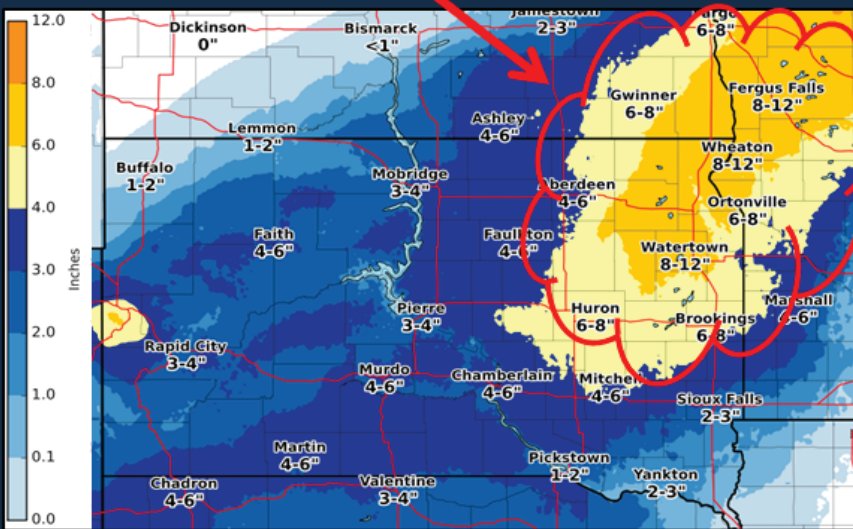
2013: An unusually powerful storm system spun up five dozen tornadoes from the Great Lakes to the Tennessee Valley. Two EF4 twisters struck Illinois, hitting the communities of Washington and New Minden.

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
20% → 70%	90%	50% → 20%				
Breezy. Slight Chance Rain then Rain/Snow Likely	Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow	Chance Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 40 °F	Low: 27 °F	High: 28 °F	Low: 13 °F	High: 27 °F	Low: 12 °F	High: 31 °F

Blizzard Headed for Northeast SD and western MN



Conditions to deteriorate quickly Thursday evening
 System starts out as rain, transitions to snow Thursday evening
 Heavy snow and wind gusts to 45+ mph Friday morning and afternoon
Travel Not Advised!



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD Updated: 11/16/2016 3:56 PM Central

Published on: 11/16/2016 at 4:02PM

A Blizzard and Winter Storm Watch remains in effect across much of the area as the season's first winter storm (and snowfall for many) continues on track towards the High Plains. While snowfall totals will be lesser across the rest of South Dakota, strong winds will still reduce visibility Thursday evening and Friday morning and road conditions will thus be impacted adversely. Take it slow if travel is a must, and keep up to date on the latest forecast at www.weather.gov/abr.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 59.5 F at 2:11 PM

Low Outside Temp: 37.4 F at 12:00 AM

High Gust: 36.0 Mph at 11:08 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 72° in 1953

Record Low: -8° in 1959

Average High: 39°F

Average Low: 18°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.46

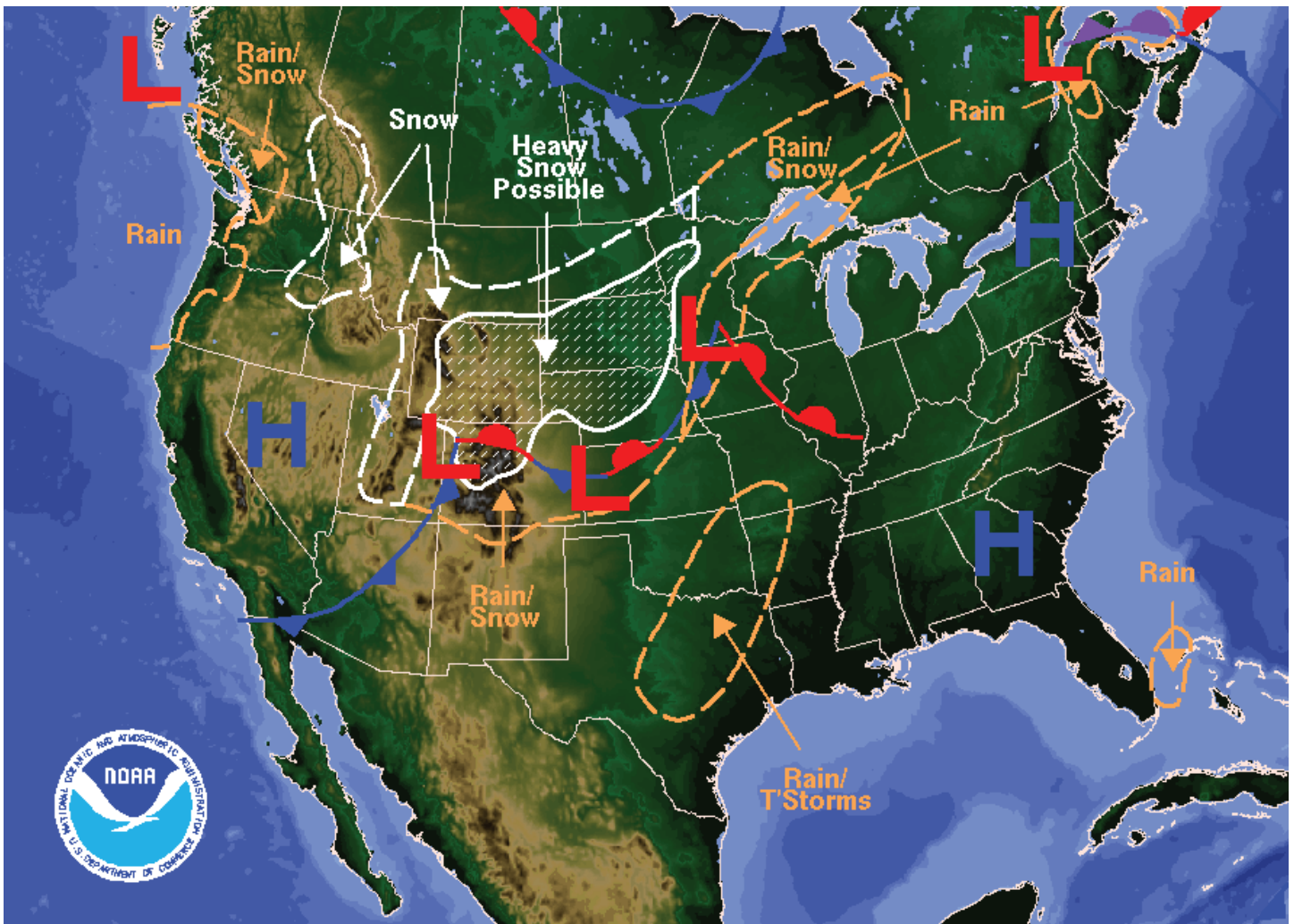
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.93

Precip Year to Date: 15.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:01 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:37 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Nov 17, 2016, issued 4:16 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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TAMING A TEMPER

Bobby Jones began playing golf at the age of five. At twelve he was able to defeat any golfer in his hometown. But he had a major problem: he had a hot temper that caused him some serious problems.

When he was fourteen, he entered the National Amateur Tournament. He had high expectations of winning but he lost this very prestigious event. After things settled down, his Grandpa Bart went to him and said, "You're good enough to win. But you'll never win until you control your temper."

Later in life, when Bobby Jones became a world famous golfer, Grandpa Bart said, "Bobby was fourteen when he mastered golf. But he was twenty-one when he mastered himself."

"Don't sin by letting anger gain control over you...for anger gives a mighty foothold to the devil."

We often become angry when someone does something that displeases us. It can be as simple as someone having too many items in a checkout line at the grocery or as large as a dear friend breaking an important promise or causing us embarrassment. The causes will vary but the result is always the same: the devil is given a "mighty" foothold in our lives. And that always opens the door to bitterness and faultfinding that can damage us and destroy others.

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to be aware of our emotions that so easily get out of control when we don't get our own way. Guard and guide us at all times. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Ephesians 4:26-27 "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

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News from the Associated Press

South Dakota beats NAIA D-II member Presentation College

Dan Jech, Trey Dickerson and Brandon Armstrong each scored 12 points and South Dakota beat NAIA Division II member Presentation College 99-60 on Wednesday night. South Dakota made its first six shots, quickly built a 20-3 lead and held a 47-23 advantage at halftime after holding Presentation to 6-of-26 shooting.

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Dan Jech, Trey Dickerson and Brandon Armstrong each scored 12 points and South Dakota beat NAIA Division II member Presentation College 99-60 on Wednesday night.

South Dakota made its first six shots, quickly built a 20-3 lead and held a 47-23 advantage at halftime after holding Presentation to 6-of-26 shooting.

Logan Power, who finished with eight points and a career-high 11 rebounds, hit a 3-pointer late in the second half to give South Dakota a 48-point lead.

Matt Mooney added 11 points for South Dakota (3-0), and Austin Sparks and Joshua Doss had 10 points apiece. The Coyotes made 53 percent of their shots and outrebounded Presentation 48-31.

It's the best start in the Division I era for South Dakota.

Aaron Samuels scored 17 points for Presentation, which was held to 33.3 percent shooting. Elijah Valdez added 13 points and Brad Branch 10 for the NAIA Division II school out of Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Daum leads South Dakota State over Wayne State 80-72

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mike Daum scored 24 points and had 12 rebounds to lead South Dakota State over Division II Wayne State 80-72 on Wednesday night.

Daum was 7 of 12 from the floor and made 9 of 11 free throws. Skyler Flatten added 15 points for South Dakota State (1-2).

Jordan Cornelius and Matt Thomas each scored 17 points on 6-of-11 shooting for Wayne State. Kendall Jacks had nine points, and Vance Janssen added seven points and five assists.

Wayne State had a 37-33 halftime lead, and it was tied 50-50 with 10:42 remaining. The Jackrabbits had a 20-10 run and led 70-60 with 4:22 to play. Chris Howell scored all seven of his points during the stretch.

It was South Dakota State coach T.J. Otzelberger's first win with the program. Otzelberger was an assistant coach at Iowa State last season.

New GFP app helps hunters determine where to hunt

By Andrew Johnson, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — When it comes to hunting pheasants, it's no secret that access to private land is getting harder to come by each year.

However, it's also no secret that the quality and quantity of South Dakota's public hunting options are two of the state's greatest assets, be it for pheasants, big game or waterfowl. According to GFP's website, there are more than 5 million acres open to public hunting in the state, with well more than 1 million of those acres available in the primary pheasant range.

To help hunters discover public land opportunities and navigate places to hunt, GFP has annually printed hard copies of the South Dakota Public Hunting Atlas for decades. The atlas contains maps and information on the state's walk-in areas, game production areas, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program areas, waterfowl production areas, school lands, national forests and grasslands, and some Bureau of Land Management lands.

"We start putting the atlas together in mid-July," said Shuree Mortinson, who helps assemble the atlas' layout. "It goes to print in August, and this year we printed 115,000 copies."

The atlas is free and can be found nearly everywhere licenses are sold. There is even an option to download a PDF of the atlas to your computer, or hunters can request that a copy be mailed to them, the

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Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/2gj0sem>) reported.

While the printed version of the hunting atlas is an old standby many hunters are familiar with, it remains a somewhat limited resource because it cannot be updated more than once a year.

"The second the atlas comes out each year it becomes out of date," said Chris Hull, communications and outreach specialist for GFP. "There's a deadline for it to print, and, inevitably, you'll get landowners who might add or subtract some of their land. The printed map doesn't reflect those changes."

In an effort to funnel the most accurate, updated information possible to hunters, GFP officials wanted to take things a step further in 2008 by making the atlas compatible with GPS technology that could be updated on the fly.

"One day our former secretary, Jeff Vonk, walked into my cube with the hunting atlas and a GPS unit," Hull said. "He held the atlas up with one hand and said he wanted it combined with the GPS, which he held up with his other hand."

Hull immediately turned to Chris Marsh, who at the time was employed by GFP but now is part of the development technology team with the state Bureau of Information and Telecommunications.

"The biggest concern with the atlas was our walk-in areas," he said. "If you go to North Dakota or Montana, their state access programs are more long-term contracts, around 10, 15 years. But the walk-in program in South Dakota is a year-to-year program, and the land enrolled in it is constantly changing. We didn't want people having bad data and getting into trouble."

Trying to pack all of the public land data into a GPS-compatible handheld unit was the first chore, but there was a question as to whether the state actually had the appropriate amount and kind of data necessary to do it.

"I was the curator of the map data, and we actually had been compiling that same data for years for staff," Marsh said. "The question was simply whether or not it was in a format that would work with GPS technology. We needed to find software that would convert our map data in a way that could be used on a GPS."

GFP had to work with several GPS companies to get the job done.

"I have some contacts in the outdoor gear world and got some names of for Magellan, Lowrance and Garmin," Hull said. "The vice president of Garmin called me and said they'd love to work with us and make this happen."

It didn't take long. By fall 2008, the first GPS-enabled public land maps were in the hands of hunters taking to the fields.

"I think in the first year we had somewhere around 10,000 downloads of the GPS maps," Marsh said. "It took off in a hurry."

With the advent of smartphone technology and increased Wi-Fi reception even in some of the most remote areas in the state, GFP decided to take its efforts a step further two years later when it introduced the inaugural version of the SDGFP Outdoors app.

"We built the Android app in fall 2010 and the app for iOS followed in spring 2011," Marsh said. "With the GPS software, people had to download updates. With the phone app the updates were seamless and made it that much easier to get updated information out to people."

"We had done surveys in the past of people who hunted things like big game and waterfowl, and the common themes were lack of time and not knowing where to hunt. We figured we couldn't give people more time, but we could help them out with not knowing where to go. I believe now there are roughly 60,000 downloads of the app between the two devices."

The app is free to download, and its hunting atlas is still enhanced by GPS capabilities, allowing hunters to know without reservation that they're hunting public land.

"The cool thing about the app is it's automatically fresh and new and accurate — it's always right," Hull said. "That probably gets overlooked more than you think, and confidence is huge when you're out hunting. The last thing you want to be thinking about is whether you can hunt on this piece of ground or not, and when you're not concentrating is when bad shots can happen."

In addition, Hull said landowners have embraced the app's accuracy.

"We've overwhelmingly heard from landowners who are happy with it," Hull said. "If they see someone

using a phone or GPS, they know that hunter isn't going to trespass accidentally, because it's helped hunters understand exactly where they're at."

Marsh said that the app's functionality isn't limited to GPS and locating public lands.

"We're always looking at how we can make it even better," he said. "We kept the symbology and colors the same for consistency, so the same colors in the printed atlas show up as the same colors on your phone's screen. Now you can even mark waypoints on the app's map, and new last year you could display your hunting license on it, too. The app also provides things for people who may not hunt or fish. There is also a ton of recreational stuff on it, like snowmobiling trails and state park and recreation area information. All of that information is all rolled up into one thing."

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

Museum in Aberdeen opens its doors to new sports exhibit

By Cuyler Meade, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — For longtime Brown County sports fans, the Dacotah Prairie Museum is rolling out a walk down memory lane.

For newcomers to the area, it's a chance to learn some history.

The Aberdeen Museum's newest exhibit, "Brown County on the Gridiron," had its grand opening to the newly remodeled second-floor gallery, the Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/2gOfORq>) reported.

The exhibit displays football artifacts from area high schools and colleges, including uniforms, coach's jackets, news stories, helmets and more. Groton, Aberdeen Roncalli, Aberdeen Central, Warner, Presentation College and more are represented.

It also has activities for children — or rambunctious adults — including ladder drills, a high jump marker and a working microphone for broadcasting football plays imagined or remembered.

Perhaps the crowning piece of the exhibit is a display with four mannequins modeling full Northern State football uniform — pads, helmets and all — through the years. It starts with an authentically produced facsimile of the uniform that would have been worn by Northern State players as early as 1909.

The effort to compile the exhibit started from scratch and has taken about six months.

"We have baseball artifacts, but we had nothing for basketball, we had nothing for football," Lora Schaunaman, Curator of Exhibits said Tuesday. "Our sports department is really slim. It came from the schools, from individuals who sent us stuff. We went on Facebook and Twitter. Lots of places."

Schaunaman, who was one of the chief assemblers of the exhibits, hopes it will be a chance for people to come together and remember the past both recent and less-so.

Living examples of Brown County football's most recent history were walking around the exhibit on Tuesday.

Northern State football players Brendon Hoellein and Matt Thorson, graduates of Aberdeen Roncalli and Groton, were respectively present for the grand opening. The players wore their own Wolves uniforms right alongside the mannequins. Taking a look at the pictures and artifacts on display, they fit right in with the exhibit, a part of history themselves.

"It's cool to see your teams back there, and with both of us playing around the area, and then the Northern exhibit too, seeing the Northern jerseys, we were part of both the high school and the college aspects of this," Thorson said.

Thorson pointed out photos of players he'd played with at Groton as a freshman. Hoellein identified the jacket with the name of his coach, Terry Dosch, embroidered on the breast.

"It makes you feel really special," Hoellein said. "Like, you always say you're a part of something. Well, now you can really see that you're a part of something bigger than yourself. Even just your team, how you're a part of the history of the team or a school."

Thorson laughed, thinking about it.

"It kind of makes you feel old," he said. "You're in a museum now."

Schaunaman sees the new exhibit being a big draw for the museum.

"I really hope that we'll have some community support that people will enjoy of all ages and bring back some memories. Talking about specific teams, specific games, towns, just memories of the sport," Schaunaman said. "And if it's successful that way I think we'll just keep doing one sport after another."

The plan is for the exhibit to last about two or three years before rotating to another sport, Schaunaman said. She hopes baseball will be next.

"It's probably the oldest in Brown County because the pioneers played baseball," Schaunaman said. "Well, and also horse racing."

Horse racing might be a harder exhibit to put together.

But for now, football is the name of the game.

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

Paleontologist discovers mosasaur fossil in South Dakota

By Chris Huber, Rapid City Journal

BLACK HILLS, S.D. (AP) — When Frank Garcia was only eight-years-old, when he remembers going to the library in West Tampa, Florida, and opening up a book about dinosaurs. The first page he saw featured a depiction of the massive ancient marine reptile called a mosasaur swimming in deep blue water.

"I saw that and I thought to myself, gosh that is so cool, I sure would like to find something like that someday," Garcia, now 70, said during a phone interview on Friday. "It fueled my passion for paleontology."

In October — more than 60 years since opening that book and after a long career as a world-renowned paleontologist — Garcia finally found what he had been looking for while on a dig in South Dakota, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2f7QFFt>) reported.

"It's a dream come true for a child who never grew up," Garcia said with a laugh.

Garcia, his wife, Debby and his friend Gary Brown uncovered an extremely well-preserved skull of an ancient marine reptile within the mosasaurus genus along with several other pieces of the skeleton.

Peter Larson, president of the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research, called the discovery "very significant." He said other mosasaurs have been found in South Dakota but nothing this complete.

"This looks to be the very nicest one from what I have seen," Larson said, adding that the Black Hills Institute has one partial fossil of a mosasaur. "It's definitely in the mosasaurus genus but it's unclear what the species is."

Larson said mosasaurs are closely related to the Komodo dragon of today but lived only in water. He said they would have been an air-breathing reptile that was carnivorous, could grow to more than 40 feet long and lived more than 60 million years ago.

"From the looks of this one, it's a nice big adult," Larson said.

Garcia moved to Edgemont two years ago after spending a career making significant discoveries in Florida, where he said it eventually got too crowded. Though he had a hand in the discovery of more than 30 previously unknown species of prehistoric animals and his work is featured in museums across the country, Garcia called last month's mosasaur discovery his "greatest thrill."

He wouldn't divulge exactly where the fossil was found but did say it was on private property near the Black Hills, in a Pierre Shale formation. He is afraid other fossil hunters may come bother the landowner if they knew its location.

He and his friend Gary Brown first found vertebra sticking out of the soil while on a fossil hunting mission in late October. They started clearing away the dirt to free the pieces of vertebra and hoping they would find more.

"I figured if I dug down just a little bit in the area, sure enough, we would start finding more," Garcia said.

After a day's work, he came back to the site with his wife the next morning. They sat down and started meticulously brushing away the small pieces of dirt in hope of uncovering more of the ancient reptile.

"As we started to dig, we found ribs and parts of its hand or flipper, all the time I kept thinking if we follow this spinal column, that head has to be here somewhere," Garcia said. "We uncovered more, and I was thinking 'This is the biggest thing I have ever seen.'"

Debby suggested digging under a small bush near where the rest of the fossils were found. Fourteen inches below the surface under that bush, they found exactly what they were working for. A beautifully preserved, 4-foot long mosasaur skull with two 4-foot long jaws. Garcia figures with a head that large, this specimen would have been more than 50 feet long — about the size of a humpback whale. The team was able to cast the fossils to protect them and remove them from the site. The skull alone weighed more than 300 pounds. Garcia said he plans on working with the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research to prep the specimen. "It's going to be gorgeous once it is done," he said. Garcia said Friday afternoon he plans on donating the find to the Museum at Black Hills Institute in Hill City. "It was found in South Dakota, so I think it should stay here," Garcia said. As for the name of the fossil, Garcia plans on calling it Debby, after his wife.

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

Indian Health Service outlines changes to boost quality care

By REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The federal agency responsible for providing health care to Native Americans unveiled a detailed outline on Wednesday to improve and then sustain the quality of care provided at its hospitals, some of which have faced longstanding deficiencies.

The efforts of the Indian Health Service's quality framework include hiring a deputy director of quality and cultivating an environment in which staff at all levels feel comfortable reporting medical errors and near misses. The outline was developed with input from tribal leaders, national health care experts and the Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the IHS.

"We recognize there are facilities in some areas that are facing significant challenges, and this framework will help to address those," said IHS's top leader, principal deputy director Mary Smith. "... This quality framework is a living, breathing document, and it will be reviewed and updated annually."

The facilities directly administered by the IHS have faced quality of care challenges for decades, but the agency has been under scrutiny this year after inspectors uncovered severe deficiencies at two facilities in South Dakota. The problems were so severe at the hospital on the Rosebud Indian Reservation that agency had to close its emergency room for seven months.

Inspectors there found that records for a patient with a history of untreated tuberculosis didn't show that infection-control measures were put in place while the person was treated, and a different patient having a heart attack didn't receive treatment until 90 minutes after she arrived. A patient who insisted on walking to the bathroom on two occasions did so without nursing staff and ended up delivering a premature baby there.

Smith, who took over the agency's helm in March, has repeatedly said that the deficiencies are unacceptable. The framework she announced Wednesday includes some of the strategies that she has implemented over the past eight months.

But years of unfulfilled promises of change have left at least one tribal leader wondering if the proposed efforts will lead to meaningful improvements.

"We are always going to be skeptical of anything that they have that evaluates their own program," said Willie Bear Shield, chairman of the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Health Board, citing instances when poorly performing employees were reported, and instead of been reprimanded or terminated by the agency, they were reassigned to another facility. "It might look good on paper, but sticking to it and or enforcing it, that's another issue."

The emergency room that the agency shuttered for months is on Bear Shield's community in South Dakota. By January, the agency plans to have in place a system-wide process for reporting and managing instances when the safety of patients was put at risk, including medical errors and "near misses." And by the end of next year, the agency intends to have its new office of quality fully operating.

The agency's proposed deputy director of quality is expected to assess the work and staffing of regional

offices and hospitals, according to the framework. A report from a government watchdog issued last month criticized the agency for the "minimal efforts" of some of its regional offices to evaluate the quality of the facilities they oversee.

Follow Regina Garcia Cano on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/reginagarciaKNO>

US cancels energy leases in Montana area sacred to Blackfeet

By **MATTHEW BROWN**, Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — U.S. officials cancelled 15 oil and gas leases on Wednesday in an area bordering Glacier National Park that's considered sacred to the Blackfoot tribes of the U.S. and Canada.

The cancellation was aimed at preserving the Badger-Two Medicine area, a largely-undeveloped, 130,000-acre wilderness that is the site of the creation story for members of Montana's Blackfeet Nation and the Blackfoot tribes of Canada.

"It should not have been leased to begin with," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in announcing the cancellations at her agency's headquarters in Washington, D.C. "This sets the right tone for how business should be done in the future."

Details on the cancellation were obtained by The Associated Press in advance of the announcement.

The move comes amid sometimes-violent protests over an oil pipeline being built in North Dakota near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. The Obama administration has been criticized by some American Indians over its handling of the matter, and federal officials have sought to reduce tensions by saying they would consider re-routing the pipeline.

Jewell said the leasing and pipeline disputes bear similarities: In both cases, she said, federal officials made decisions without sufficient input from tribal members who had cultural concerns.

Blackfeet Tribal Chairman Harry Barnes said the pipeline protests and his tribe's decades-long effort to block development in the Badger-Two Medicine reinforce the need for closer cooperation between the government and tribes.

"Hey, this ain't working. How do we find a better way to consult with the aboriginal people and inhabitants?" Barnes said as he stood beside Jewell on Wednesday. "The Blackfeet tribe has never been opposed to oil and gas exploration. We are opposed to oil and gas exploration on our sacred sites."

The 15 cancelled oil and gas leases on almost 23,000 acres were issued in the early 1980s and held by Oklahoma-based Devon Energy, according to Interior officials.

Interior officials said they were sold without proper consultations with tribal leaders. Another energy lease in the same area was canceled by federal officials earlier this year.

No drilling has occurred and the cancellation was made in cooperation with Devon executives.

Devon President David Hager said the cancellation "was the right thing to do." It entitles the company to a refund of \$206,000 for fees associated with the lease purchase.

Montana U.S. Sen. Jon Tester said the company deserved credit for its willingness to relinquish the leases in an area that's prime habitat for grizzly bears, bighorn sheep, elk and other wildlife.

In March, federal officials canceled a 6,200-acre lease in the Badger-Two-Medicine that was held by Solenex LLC. The Baton Rouge, Louisiana, company has been seeking to drill for gas in the area for the past several years. It has challenged the government's decision in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C.

Two oil and gas leases remain in the area.

Federal officials plan to address the remaining leases, but they have been unable to contact their owners, Interior spokeswoman Amanda DeGroff said.

Efforts to cancel those leases would continue, Barnes said.

Major South Dakota payday lenders stop offering new loans

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — At least three major payday lending chains in South Dakota with nearly 30 stores among them have stopped offering new loans to customers under an interest rate cap approved by voters that took effect Wednesday.

Lenders predicted during the ballot measure campaign that the initiative would kill the businesses in South Dakota because the rate cap would prevent them from recouping the costs of providing loans.

Dollar Loan Center, which has 10 locations in South Dakota, splashed a post across a page on its website, dontbroke.com, urging its customers to contact state officials and the media to help overturn the rate cap passed on Election Day.

"No short-term lender in the state of South Dakota will be able to help you with these restrictions," the post reads. "The only way to fix this travesty is to voice your opinion."

The company's offices will stay open to service existing customers but won't originate new loans, founder Chuck Brennan said.

Top payday lending chain Advance America, which put more than \$75,000 into the race against the ballot measure, is following the same template.

"Advance America centers in South Dakota remain open but have ceased offering new loans as we explore our options," said Jamie Fulmer, senior vice president of public affairs at the company, which has nearly a dozen locations in the state.

Check Into Cash has stopped loaning money at its eight South Dakota locations, which will likely close before the holidays, said Lisa Ferguson, director of government relations. The company has at least 30 employees in South Dakota, she said.

That's how a recent rate cap initiative played out in neighboring Montana. State figures show regulated short-term lenders plummeted from more than 100 to none within several years of its 2010 approval.

Public records analyzed by The Associated Press show that short-term lenders hold at least 138 state licenses for operations located in South Dakota. That includes 31 in Sioux Falls, 28 in Rapid City, 14 in Watertown and 11 in Aberdeen.

Georgia-based car title lender Select Management Resources LLC, which has at least nine locations in South Dakota, largely financed the opposition to the ballot measure. It also funded a failed constitutional amendment that would have let lenders charge any interest rate that a borrower agreed to in writing. Company CEO Rod Aycox didn't immediately respond to a request for comment from the AP.

Backers of the rate cap, which received nearly 76 percent support, have said that the measure protects consumers from predatory lending. A ballot measure campaign leader didn't immediately return a telephone message requesting comment.

The law limits interest rates charged by businesses such as payday, auto title and installment lenders to 36 percent annually.

"The consequences are tremendous in South Dakota," Brennan said. "A lot of people rely on short-term loan companies."

Dusty Johnson planning bid for South Dakota US House seat

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Dusty Johnson, a former South Dakota public utilities commissioner, said Wednesday that he's planning to run for Congress in 2018.

Johnson, a former chief of staff to Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard, said he'll seek GOP Rep. Kristi Noem's seat after her upcoming two-year term ends.

Noem said this week that she intends to run for governor to succeed Daugaard, who can't run again due to a term limit.

Johnson, 40, said in a statement that he isn't good at dropping political hints or being coy, so he's being open about his interest in running. There's currently no campaign plan or schedule, he said.

"I've always cared about helping people," he told The Associated Press.

Johnson was elected to the Public Utilities Commission in 2004 and re-elected in 2010. He later served as Daugaard's chief of staff until 2014, when he joined an engineering and consulting company.

Secretary of State Shantel Krebs is another possible candidate for the seat. Krebs said she intends to give a House bid "serious consideration," but that it's too soon after the 2016 election to make that decision.

"We just made the votes official yesterday," said Krebs, who was elected to the secretary of state's office in 2014.

Dakota Access pipeline decision unlikely until early 2017

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A federal judge likely won't decide until early next year whether to give the developer of the Dakota Access oil pipeline permission to finish the \$3.8 billion project, according to court documents.

That leaves open the possibility that a resolution to the matter might still come through federal regulators rather than the courts. But it also creates the potential for many more weeks of protests in southern North Dakota, where opponents have started digging in for winter, and millions more spent on law enforcement-related costs.

Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners asked U.S. District Judge James Boasberg on Tuesday to declare it has the legal right to lay pipe under a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota, the remaining unbuilt chunk of the 1,200-mile pipeline to move North Dakota oil to a shipping point in Illinois.

The company's move was spurred by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers calling Monday for more study and input from the Standing Rock Sioux before deciding whether to approve an easement for the pipeline to cross under Lake Oahe, the reservoir from which the tribe draws drinking water. The tribe believes the pipeline threatens water and cultural sites.

Company lawyers have proposed a schedule under which a hearing would be held "on or about" Jan. 3, and Boasberg would make a decision sometime after that.

When the tribe asked Boasberg in August to temporarily stop pipeline construction, he ruled 12 business days after a hearing. If he follows a similar timeline, a decision on ETP's request would come Jan. 19 — one day before Donald Trump, who has said he wants to rebuild energy infrastructure and owns stock in ETP, assumes the White House.

Attorney Jan Hasselman with environmental group Earthjustice, which is representing the tribe in its lawsuit, doesn't think the Obama administration will leave the matter to Trump.

"No. They know how that story ends," he said.

It's unclear, though, what kind of a timeline the corps will follow for further consultation with the tribe and a decision on an easement.

Army Assistant Secretary Jo-Ellen Darcy said Monday only that it would be done "expeditiously." Corps spokeswoman Moira Kelley said Wednesday that the agency is awaiting a response from the tribe, and "we will have more information on the timeline once the discussion begins."

"It would seem that it is in the best interest of all the parties involved to move quickly," she said.

Standing Rock tribal Chairman Dave Archambault didn't immediately comment Wednesday.

The delay frustrates North Dakota leaders. U.S. Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., this week said it "will only prolong the disruption in the region."

Since August, protests at pipeline work sites, near encampments and in the Bismarck-Mandan area have resulted in nearly 500 arrests. The state has approved up to \$10 million in emergency spending to cover law enforcement-related costs.

Gov. Jack Dalrymple said Tuesday that further delays "simply prolong the risks to public safety, prolong the hardships endured by area residents and increase costs."

Meanwhile, winter is imminent for the hundreds of people living in the protest camp. On Tuesday, people erected large tents and circular domed dwellings known as yurts, complete with stoves. A snowstorm is likely to miss the area Thursday.

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

John Thune re-elected to Senate GOP leadership post

WASHINGTON (AP) — South Dakota U.S. Sen. John Thune has been re-elected to serve as the third-ranking Senate Republican.

Thune was chosen Wednesday to be the chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, a post he first assumed in 2012.

The state's senior senator says the GOP-led Congress will work with President-elect Donald Trump and Democrats on improving Americans' economic security and protecting the country.

Thune was easily re-elected last week to a third term in the Senate. He narrowly defeated Democratic leader Tom Daschle in 2004 to take the seat and didn't face an opponent in 2010.

1 person dead in Dell Rapids shooting

DELL RAPIDS, S.D. (AP) — Sheriff's officials say one person has died in a shooting in southeast South Dakota.

Minnehaha County Sheriff's Capt. Mike Walsh tells the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2f3RU8n>) the shooting happened Tuesday about 8 p.m. in Dell Rapids. Someone was performing CPR on the victim when emergency responders arrived in the residential area.

Walsh says the victim was pronounced dead at the hospital. He says those involved in the incident have been detained and the public isn't in danger.

Mary Gannon lives on the block where the shooting occurred. Gannon says when something like this happens in a small community like Dell Rapids, "it really hits home."

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

Obama to meet Merkel in Germany, top trade partner and ally

By DAVID RISING and JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — President Barack Obama is stressing a message of solidarity and trans-Atlantic cooperation on his final visit Thursday to Germany — a top trade partner, key NATO ally and home to thousands of American troops, as well as a nation critical to solving Europe's migrant crisis and debt woes.

Obama arrived Wednesday night in Berlin from Greece, making his sixth and final visit as president to Germany, where he has been popular since even before he was elected. His eight years in office have helped erase much of the anti-American sentiment that had grown during the administration of George W. Bush over the Iraq war and other policies.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who worked well with Bush before Obama's election, dined with Obama Wednesday night at his hotel and was to hold talks with him Thursday afternoon. The downtown area around the Chancellery and hotel where Obama was staying was locked down tightly, with some 2,400 police officers on hand manning road blocks and checkpoints.

In a joint opinion piece published Thursday in Germany's weekly business magazine *Wirtschaftwoche*, which seemed directed as much at the incoming Trump administration in the U.S. as European nations, the two leaders stressed that the "underlying bedrock of our shared values is strong" even if the pursuit of common goals is sometimes gone about differently.

Obama and Merkel noted that European Union-US trade was the largest between any two partners worldwide, and emphasized that the trans-Atlantic friendship has helped forge a climate accord, provide help for refugees worldwide, form a collective defense under NATO, and strengthen the global fight against the Islamic State extremist group.

"That friendship is based on our shared commitment to personal freedom and dignity, which only a

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vibrant democracy under the rule of law can guarantee," the leaders wrote.

Merkel and Obama have enjoyed a close relationship over the years, and Obama seems to be counting on the German leader's strength to help counter isolationist tone voiced by president-elect Donald Trump during the election campaign. Although the relationship hit a bump in 2013 when it was revealed the U.S. National Security Agency had been monitoring the chancellor's cell phone, tensions were smoothed over after Obama acknowledged Germany's anger and promised new guidelines for monitoring.

When Obama first visited the German capital in 2008, some 200,000 exuberant fans packed the road between the landmark Brandenburg Gate and Victory Column to hear the then-candidate, in a speech that solidified his place on the world stage.

In a city where President John F. Kennedy in 1963 pledged steadfast American support for Germany against the Soviet bloc with his iconic "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech and President Ronald Reagan in 1987 challenged then-Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall," Obama told Berliners that true progress requires sacrifice and shared burdens among allies.

"That is why America cannot turn inward," Obama told the cheering crowd. "That is why Europe cannot turn inward."

Eight years later, his words seem to have foreshadowed the nationalist, isolationist forces gaining traction in some parts of Europe and punctuated by Trump's victory in the U.S. election.

In Germany, officials have been outspokenly hopeful that the change in presidents will not signal a significant shift in relations between the two nations or the NATO alliance.

"The Americans are among ... our most important partners and we want to continue this partnership economically, politically and through shared values," Peter Tauber, the general secretary of Merkel's Christian Democratic Party, told reporters in Berlin, ahead of Obama's visit.

"I think one will see that Mr. Trump will have his own political suggestions, but that the USA won't be a different country tomorrow."

White House aides had hoped Obama might be able to return to the Brandenburg Gate, where he spoke in 2013, for a symbolic visit on his last trip to Germany, but the visit didn't materialize. Overall, the celebratory nature of Obama's final world tour has been significantly tamped down in light of the U.S. election results.

In Berlin, Obama will also meet Friday with the leaders of France, Italy, Spain and Britain. He's expected to address Trump's election and the direction the U.S. might take in the next four years.

Merkel already talked with Trump by phone after his election, offering him Germany's "close cooperation," but emphasized it would be on the basis of what she said were shared values of "democracy, freedom, respect for the law and for the dignity of human beings, independently of origin, skin color, religion, gender, sexual orientation or political views."

In addition to the U.S. election, Obama and Merkel are expected to discuss a wide range of issues behind closed doors, including joint efforts to resolve the conflicts in Ukraine and Syria, the fight against the Islamic State extremist group and trans-Atlantic trade.

Obama traveled to Berlin from Greece, which has been at the center of Europe's debt crisis, and the president was also expected to encourage some sort of debt forgiveness for the country — something the International Monetary Fund has lobbied for but Germany and several other nations oppose.

The refugee issue is also at the top of the agenda on Obama's trip. Greece was the entry point to Europe for hundreds of thousands of migrants last year. Germany has taken in the vast majority with some 1.1 million arrivals since the start of 2015.

Reach David Rising at <https://twitter.com/davidrising> and Josh Lederman at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>

IOM: 340 dead or missing in 4 shipwrecks in recent days

MILAN (AP) — A migration organization says that about 340 migrants have died or gone missing in four Mediterranean Sea shipwrecks over the past two-and-a-half days.

Flavio Di Giacomo, Italy spokesman for the International Organization for Migration, says that brings to

over 4,500 the number of migrants who have died or disappeared so far this year making the risky sea voyage, the deadliest year on record.

Di Giacomo said Thursday that the recent toll includes a rescue overnight by Doctors without Borders of 27 migrants, who reported that more than 130 people had been on board their rubber dinghy when it sank. Seven bodies were recovered.

Di Giacomo said the toll is increasing this year as smugglers are forcing departures despite rough winter seas.

Officer charged in shooting that was streamed on Facebook

By KYLE POTTER and AMY FORLITI, Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Prosecutors say that when Philando Castile was pulled over in July, he calmly told the officer he had a gun and was licensed to carry it.

Moments later, the officer fired shots, and a bleeding Castile's last words were: "I wasn't reaching for it."

On Wednesday, that officer was charged with second-degree manslaughter following an investigation by prosecutors, who concluded that Jeronimo Yanez was wrong to use his weapon in the traffic stop. Castile's girlfriend streamed his final gruesome moments live on Facebook.

"No reasonable officer, knowing, seeing and hearing what officer Yanez did at the time, would've used deadly force under these circumstances," Ramsey County Attorney John Choi said.

Prosecutors believe Castile never tried to pull his handgun from his pocket, and Yanez's unreasonable fear did not justify the shooting, Choi said.

If convicted, the officer could face up to 10 years in prison.

Diamond Reynolds was sitting next to her boyfriend in the car. She said he was shot repeatedly as he reached for his ID after telling Yanez about the weapon and the gun permit.

The fatal shootings of black men and boys by police officers have come under heightened scrutiny since the 2014 death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. No charges were filed against the officer in that case, but Brown's death led to calls nationwide for officers to be held criminally responsible.

Yanez, who worked in the Minneapolis suburb of St. Anthony, is scheduled to make his first court appearance Friday.

His attorney, Tom Kelly, has said Yanez, who is Latino, was reacting to the presence of a gun. Kelly has also said that one reason Yanez made the stop was because he thought Castile looked like a possible match for an armed robbery suspect.

Choi said Wednesday that Castile was not a suspect in that robbery. Castile's relatives have said they believe the 32-year-old elementary school cafeteria worker was racially profiled.

Kelly did not immediately return phone messages seeking comment Wednesday. Castile's mother, Valerie Castile, said her family was pleased with the charge.

"It is necessary for everyone to understand that we want peace," she said. "We don't want any protests to get outrageous."

Castile's shooting prompted numerous protests, including a demonstration outside the governor's mansion that went on for weeks and one protest that shut down Interstate 94 in St. Paul for hours. The interstate protest resulted in about 50 arrests and injuries to more than 20 officers who were hit with cement chunks, bottles, rocks and other objects.

About 100 protesters gathered early Wednesday evening outside the JJ Hill Montessori School in St. Paul where Castile was a longtime cafeteria worker. Some carried signs that read "No Justice, No Peace" and "Black Lives Matter." The group said they would continue to advocate for justice until the case is resolved.

"We haven't won the war, but we won a battle," activist Loretta VanPelt told the crowd.

Choi resisted pressure to turn the case over to a special prosecutor, but he added one to his team to get an outside perspective. He said Wednesday that he reviewed the case himself instead of sending it to a grand jury in the interest of transparency.

He gave a detailed account of the shooting, describing a routine traffic stop that turned frantic after

Castile told the officer he was carrying a gun. He was not required to do so by law.

Yanez had his hand on his holster before Castile could finish his sentence and repeatedly shouted "Don't pull it out" as Castile insisted he wasn't, Choi said.

Within a minute of the initial stop, Yanez unholstered his gun and fired seven shots at Castile.

There was no sign Castile reached for a gun or posed any threat, Choi said.

Yanez's partner at the scene did not take out his own gun. Castile's weapon was later found deep in a front pocket of his shorts, with a loaded magazine but no bullet in the chamber.

"His dying words were in protest that he wasn't reaching for his gun," Choi said. "There simply was no objective threat posed to officer Yanez."

Squad car video captured the entire event, including audio and subsequent conversations Yanez had with other officers, Choi said. Prosecutors have no plans to release the video at this time because it is evidence in the case against Yanez.

Reynolds and her attorney recalled how quickly she pulled out her phone and began streaming, saying the video was a factor in Choi's decision.

"Without my recording," she said, "we wouldn't be here today."

Forliti reported from Minneapolis. AP reporter Jeff Baenen contributed from St. Paul.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. WHAT OBAMA IS STRESSING ON FINAL GERMAN VISIT

The U.S. president is emphasizing solidarity to a top trade partner, key NATO ally, and a nation critical to solving Europe's migrant crisis and debt woes.

2. TRUMP BATTLES BACK AGAINST CHARGES OF TRANSITION CHAOS

The incoming Republican administration gets an unlikely boost from outgoing Vice President Joe Biden, who says "no administration is ready on Day One."

3. IN PEP TALK, CLINTON URGES BACKERS TO 'NEVER, EVER GIVE UP'

The Democrat reflects on her devastating defeat, acknowledging the difficulty of her loss for her supporters and urging them to persevere through the Trump era.

4. TORTURE HAUNTS MEXICO DESPITE LAWS

Mexican government records show that relatively few allegations of torture by security forces lead to punishment — and there have been thousands of complaints over the past decade.

5. RUSSIA SAYS STRIKE IN SYRIA KILLED 30 AL-QAIDA FIGHTERS IN IDLIB

The statement comes amid a new wave of airstrikes in the war-torn country, namely in Aleppo, as 59 people have been killed in the past two days.

6. OFFICER CHARGED IN SHOOTING STREAMED ON FACEBOOK

Prosecutors say a Minnesota cop was not justified when he fatally shot Philando Castile during a traffic stop in July.

7. SOUTHERN WILDFIRES HAVE COMMUNITIES ON EDGE

Thousands of firefighters are battling blazes, which have spread from northern Georgia and eastern Tennessee into eastern Kentucky and the western Carolinas.

8. EXPANDED REINDEER CULL AROUSES SUSPICION IN SIBERIA

Russian officials plan to kill up to 250,000 of the animals this year, and activists and herders allege the slaughter is designed to make way for energy companies.

9. WHERE THERE'S A DEARTH OF WHITE STUFF

Autumn snow has been scarce in the Rocky Mountains, forcing some ski areas to push back opening day.

10. WHO WON NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS

Colson Whitehead's "The Underground Railroad" wins the prize for fiction and Georgia Democratic congressman John Lewis shares the prize for young people's literature for a novel about his civil rights activism.

Russia says its strike in Syria killed 30 al-Qaida fighters

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV and PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian airstrike in northern Syria this week killed at least 30 members of an al-Qaida-linked group, including some of its leaders, the Russian military said Thursday.

The statement comes amid a new wave of airstrikes in the war-torn country, with the besieged rebel-held part of the city of Aleppo facing its third consecutive day of heavy bombardment by Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces.

The Russians, who announced the new offensive in Syria this week, have denied bombing the rebel enclave. At least 59 people were killed across northern Syria in the first two days of the offensive, including besieged neighborhoods of Aleppo, as well as the surrounding countryside and the nearby rebel-held province of Idlib.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said the strike targeting al-Qaida took place in Idlib on Tuesday. It was launched from Russia's aircraft carrier, which has been deployed to the Mediterranean, and hit the al-Qaida-linked militant group now known as Fatah al-Sham Front, he said.

The strike marked the combat debut of the Admiral Kuznetsov, Russia's only aircraft carrier. According to Russian intelligence reports, it was confirmed that three prominent leaders of the al-Qaida-linked group — Muhammad Helala, Abu Jaber Harmuja and Abul Baha al-Asfari — were among those killed, Konashenkov added. He said al-Asfari had overseen the group's attempts to break the siege of Aleppo.

Russia has said its air raids and missile strikes have only been targeting Idlib province and the central province of Homs to root out militants of the Islamic State group and the al-Qaida-linked group.

Meanwhile, Syrian warplanes have been pounding rebel-held districts of Aleppo, home to nearly 275,000 people.

On Wednesday, bombs hit an Aleppo district that houses several medical facilities, including the central blood bank, and forced Syrian staff and patients in the only remaining pediatric hospital to cower in a basement as buildings collapsed around them.

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

Months of negotiations between Moscow and President Barack Obama's administration have failed to cement a long-term cease-fire in Aleppo, which has become the focus of the war between Assad and rebels fighting to topple him.

Al-Qaida's Syrian affiliate is fighting alongside the rebels, but the Islamic State group has no presence in Aleppo.

Issa reported from Beirut.

9 Trump Supreme Court prospects at conservative legal parley

By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two Supreme Court justices and nine judges on President-elect Donald Trump's list of potential high court picks are among more than 1,000 people expected at a gathering of conservative lawyers that has suddenly turned into an impromptu job fair for spots in the new administration.

The Federalist Society's national lawyers' convention begins Thursday in Washington as a tribute to the late Justice Antonin Scalia, an early supporter of the group and a hero to many of its 40,000 members.

But since Trump's surprising victory in last week's presidential race, the meeting has turned into a public audition of sorts for nearly half of the list of 21 people that Trump put forward earlier in the year as

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prospective Supreme Court nominees.

"The mood has changed. Everyone is going to be thinking, 'Maybe someone here is going to be filling Justice Scalia's shoes,'" said Abbe Gluck, a Yale Law professor who is not a member of the group but who will take part in the conference.

Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas, familiar figures at these annual meetings, also will speak on Thursday.

The Federalist Society got its start on college campuses when Ronald Reagan was in the White House as a way to counter what its members saw as liberal domination of the nation's law-school faculties. Its influence was pronounced during the presidency of George W. Bush, when its leaders helped rally support for Senate confirmation of Alito and Chief Justice John Roberts. The group was so successful that it spawned copycat liberal organizations.

Speaking at a Federalist Society event in the Bush years was akin to an out-of-town preview of a Broadway show for conservative lawyers who were looking for administration jobs or judgeships, author Mark Tushnet has written.

Over the past eight years, the group provided a forum for opponents of President Barack Obama's court choices and policies, although the Federalist Society itself does not endorse candidates or take policy positions. Some of its leaders backed Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's refusal to act on Obama's nomination of Judge Merrick Garland to fill Scalia's seat. That political strategy paid unexpected and huge dividends for conservatives with Trump's election.

The society's star again appears to be on the rise. "Anytime there's a major shift in the power of government, it's an enormous opportunity for what is probably the collection of the smartest, most talented and most publicly minded lawyers in the country to roll up their sleeves and help advance the cause of constitutional government," said Leonard Leo, the Federalist Society's executive vice president.

Leo met with Trump in New York on Wednesday and said afterward that Trump has yet to pare down his long list of names of Supreme Court hopefuls.

Among those candidates are nine who will take part in panel discussions in the next few days: state supreme court justices Allison Eid of Colorado, Joan Larsen of Michigan, David Stras of Minnesota and Don Willett of Texas, and federal appellate judges Steven Colloton, Thomas Hardiman, Raymond Kethledge, William Pryor and Diane Sykes.

The group says 90 percent of its money comes from individuals and foundations, the rest from corporations. Charles and David Koch, Google and Microsoft are among donors who gave \$100,000 or more, according to the society's annual report for 2015. Trump campaign manager Kellyanne Conway and her husband, George, gave between \$50,000 and \$100,000. George Conway is a New York lawyer and Federalist Society member.

When Scalia and Thomas were criticized for speaking at private dinners hosted by Charles Koch, the court said that travel and lodging expenses were paid not by Koch but by the Federalist Society.

The close ties between the group and federal judges have frustrated Democratic officials and liberal interest groups. During the Bush years, Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois complained that membership in the Federalist Society was "the secret handshake" of Bush court nominees.

Nan Aron, the president of Alliance for Justice, said the Federalist Society "promotes a way of looking at the law which upholds the rights of the powerful and the wealthy." Aron said it is "regrettable that so many nominees on Trump's list are going to attend Federalist Society events."

Yet a conservative legal scholar who has been critical of Trump said the group's involvement in identifying candidates for judgeships and other jobs in the new administration is not something to fear.

"In fact, if the Federalist Society does play a role in identifying the president-elect's nominees, that could be comforting to some who have reservations about Donald Trump's administration, because such a role would suggest, at least in this area, continuity with longstanding, mainstream Republican practice," University of Notre Dame law professor Richard Garnett said in an email.

In pep talk, Clinton urges backers to 'never, ever give up'

By LISA LERER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Clinton is acknowledging the difficulty of her loss in the presidential race for her supporters and urging them to persevere through the Donald Trump era.

In remarks that were equal parts pep talk and funeral dirge, Clinton encouraged her backers to "never, ever give up."

"I know this isn't easy. I know that over the past week a lot of people have asked themselves whether America is the country we thought it was," Clinton said Wednesday night at the annual gala of the Children's Defense Fund, the child advocacy organization where she started her legal career. "But please listen to me when I say this: America is worth it."

She added: "It's up to each and every one of us to keep working to make America better and stronger and fairer."

Clinton never cited the president-elect by name in her remarks, making only an oblique reference to the controversial policies that fueled his rise to the White House.

Instead, she focused on the future, asking her backers to "stay engaged on every level."

"We need you. America needs your energy," she said.

Clinton's surprising loss threw her party into a period of intense soul-searching, with an ascendant liberal wing blaming Clinton's campaign for failing to embrace a more populist economic message. In private calls with donors and Democratic officials, Clinton has largely attributed her defeat to the decision by the FBI to re-examine her use of a private server as secretary of state.

In her remarks, Clinton offered no accounting for any failures she may have made during her presidential campaign, though she admitted that the past week hasn't been easy.

"There have been a few times this past week when all I wanted to do was just to curl up with a good book or our dogs and never leave the house again," she ruefully admitted.

She chose friendly ground to make her first public appearance since her emotional concession speech in New York City last Wednesday. Her first job out of law school in the 1970s was for Children's Defense Fund founder Marian Wright Edelman. She later became a staff attorney and chairman of the group's board.

Throughout her campaign, she cited her work for the group as her "north star," sparking her interest in standing up against injustice toward children and families.

The group, which helps disadvantaged children, tried to return some of the affection on Wednesday night.

"We love her and we appreciate all the hard work she has done and say it's not going to be for naught," said Edelman, in her introductory remarks. "We're going to say that she is the people's president."

Still, in a sign of Clinton's new life as a private citizen, the event lacked many of the trappings of her presidential campaign. Security was light and she traveled with only a handful of aides.

Sprinkled throughout the small theater where she addressed donors and supporters were a handful of empty seats.

Trump battles back against charges of transition tumult

By JULIE PACE and KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump and his team are battling back against charges of chaos and infighting as they race to set up an administration. The incoming Republican administration got an unlikely boost from outgoing Vice President Joe Biden, who said "no administration is ready on Day One."

Trump stayed out of the public eye Wednesday, meeting with a stream of visitors at his New York skyscraper. But he took to Twitter to dispute reports of internal tension, declaring the transition operation was proceeding "so smoothly."

Trump's team said Wednesday night that it would be rolling out teams to interact with federal agencies during the transition, starting with national security advisers who would work with officials at the State, Justice, Defense and other national security departments.

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They also said transition and administration officials would be required to sever lobbying ties and pledge that they will not lobby the government for five years after departing the Trump administration.

Trump's team was essentially starting its transition planning from scratch after scrapping much of the preliminary work New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie conducted during the campaign. After winning the election, Trump demoted Christie and put Vice President-elect Mike Pence in charge.

The result has been a series of new additions to the transition team and several departures, mainly among those aligned with Christie.

Pence met Wednesday with Biden at the Naval Observatory, the vice presidential residence in leafy northwest Washington, D.C. Biden expressed confidence that by Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration, "everything will be in good hands."

Trump planned to meet Thursday in New York with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, his first get-together with a world leader as president-elect. The State Department has said it had yet to hear from Trump's transition team, raising the prospect of the Republican holding the meeting without any input from career diplomats with deep experience dealing with Japan.

Trump also plans to meet Thursday with an assortment of GOP officials, including former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Florida Gov. Rick Scott, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and Texas Rep. Jeb Hensarling.

Trump aides and allies suggested some of the commotion within the transition team was to be expected given the enormous task at hand.

"The beginning of any transition like this has turmoil because it's just the nature of the process," former House Speaker Newt Gingrich said as he left Trump's transition headquarters in Washington. He said the picture of Trump's administration would become clearer over the next two or three weeks.

Former Michigan Rep. Pete Hoekstra, who has informally advised members of Trump's national security team, blamed Trump's detractors for the reports of drama.

"When you're doing a transition that is trying to push the kind of change that Mr. Trump wants to be doing, it's going to be even harder," Hoekstra, a former House Intelligence Committee chairman, said.

But others close to the transition process described advisers "fighting for power." Trump has long stoked internal rivalries among his staff — both in his businesses and his campaign — and has created ambiguity in his transition about who has authority to make key decisions.

Eric Trump, the president-elect's son, raised expectations of imminent progress Wednesday, telling reporters in the morning that appointments were "likely" to come during the day. Then, other Trump aides suggested a slower pace.

"We're not going to rush to put names forward until we're absolutely sure," Trump spokesman Jason Miller said hours later. "We're going to make sure that they're people we're confident will pass confirmation and we think can implement the president-elect's vision."

Trump's team noted that President Barack Obama waited until a few weeks after the 2008 election to announce many of his Cabinet appointments.

Trump appeared to be weighing an eclectic mix of individuals for top Cabinet posts, including longtime loyalists, former rivals and even a Democrat. Transition officials said Trump met Wednesday with Eva Moskowitz, a former New York councilwoman and charter school founder who is being considered for education secretary.

Other meetings included Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga., a potential pick for Health and Human Services, Ray Washburne, a Dallas businessman and top GOP fundraiser in the mix for Commerce secretary, and Rep. Mike Pompeo, R-Kan. New England Patriots' owner Robert Kraft and New York Jets owner Woody Johnson were also spotted near the lobby's gilded elevators during the day.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who spent two hours at Trump Tower on Wednesday, has been angling for secretary of state, though his consulting work for foreign governments has emerged as a potential roadblock. Trump is also said to be seriously considering John Bolton, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, for the top diplomatic job.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who tangled ferociously with Trump during the Republican primary but ultimately endorsed the businessman, could get a top job such as attorney general. An official said, however, he is

not viewed as a top contender. The official, like others, wasn't authorized to speak publicly on the transition talks and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump aides have released few details about the president-elect's schedule or phone calls since the election. They tried to play catch-up Wednesday, releasing a list of 29 world leaders who have spoken with Trump or Pence in recent days. Most of the calls had previously only been confirmed by those leaders' governments.

Pace reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Jill Colvin, Jon Lemire and Matthew Pennington contributed to this report.

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

Southern wildfires have threatened communities on edge

By JEFF MARTIN, Associated Press

TIGER, Ga. (AP) — Thick smoke has settled over a wide area of the southern Appalachians, where dozens of uncontrolled wildfires are burning through decades of leaf litter and people breathe in tiny bits of the forest with every gulp of air.

It's a constant reminder of the threat to many small mountain communities, where relentless drought and now persistent fires and smoke have people under duress.

"A lot of the ladies just went to tears and said this happens in other places, it doesn't happen here," pastor Scott Cates said as townspeople donated water, cough drops and other supplies for the firefighters at the Liberty Baptist Church in Tiger, Georgia.

Here, these fires don't sleep. They burn through the night, through the now-desiccated tinder of deciduous forests accustomed to wet, humid summers and autumns.

"It doesn't die down after dark," said fire Capt. Ron Thalacker, who came from Carlsbad, New Mexico, with a fire engine that now draws water from streams and ponds to spray on hotspots in Georgia's Rabun County, near the epicenter of the southern fires.

Large, wind-driven fires that scorch pine forests in the West often burn in the tree tops and mellow out at night, but these fires are clinging to the ground and actively burning 24 hours a day, said firefighter Chad Cullum of Billings, Montana.

Cullum spoke briefly, as flames rolled down a mountainside behind him. Then he ordered everyone to get out. "We need to leave," he said sternly, ushering people to move down a rocky dirt road.

More than 5,000 firefighters and support personnel, including many veterans of wildfires in the arid West, and 24 helicopters are battling blazes in the fire zone, which has spread from northern Georgia and eastern Tennessee into eastern Kentucky, the western Carolinas and parts of surrounding states.

Nationally, "there's a pretty good ability to help out the South right now," said Jennifer Jones, a spokeswoman with the U.S. Forest Service. Reinforcements have arrived from at least 37 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, she said this week.

One man died Wednesday on eastern Kentucky's Mountain Parkway, where smoke decreased visibility. Kentucky State Police said about 14 others were injured in a series of wrecks on both sides of the road.

Trooper Scott Ferrell said a coal truck driver died when he got out of his truck to check on a driver whose vehicle had hit the truck and then was hit by a third vehicle. About 15 vehicles were involved in the chain reaction collisions that closed the highway for nearly 10 hours, Ferrell said.

More than 30 large fires remain uncontained, and overall, a total of 128,000 acres has burned, or about nine times the size of Manhattan.

Firefighters got a lucky break when a fire reversed direction, turning away from the Trail of Tears, which marks the route where the Cherokee and other Indians were forcibly removed from their lands in the 1800s. In national forests, following procedures approved by the tribes, heavy equipment isn't allowed within 750 feet of the trail bed unless life or property is threatened, U.S. Forest Service spokesman Terry

McDonald said.

Tim Free, a lifelong resident of Rabun County, broke down with emotion as he described how elderly neighbors are struggling with relentless smoke, so thick it blocks the sun. "What we're fortunate to have here is people who care about people," he said.

"Anybody that's outside of their homes is going to have to have something that will basically lubricate their throats — cough drops, lozenges or even a stick of peppermint," Free said. "Just to get a little lubricant in your eyes is something that's needed daily because of the smoke."

Just across the state line in North Carolina, three firefighters were battling the Party Rock fire near the town of Lake Lure after driving 23 hours from Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"There was a request for help. We have units available to assist," Edward Nieto said.

There hasn't been a fire in the Lake Lure area in a long time, so the forest floor is thick with flammable material, and falling autumn leaves are encouraging the flames to spread, said Victoria Tillotson, a spokeswoman with the North Carolina Forest Service.

A total of 850 people were fighting the Party Rock blaze, which grew to more than 5,700 acres on Tuesday and was still just 19 percent contained, she said.

Randle Montgomery recalled watching television coverage of wildfires in California and considering himself lucky. He never expected a 4,500-acre blaze to threaten Lake Lure, where he works, and Black Mountain, where he's lived for 16 years.

"The way this thing takes off, they'll get it contained, and it just depends on the wind, but it's turned so many times on us," said Montgomery, 47. "And it's got everybody pretty much on edge."

Tom Stokesberry, an emergency medical technician from Six Rivers National Forest in California, arrived in Georgia's Rabun County on Veterans Day.

"The goal is to keep this line intact," Stokesberry said, pointing to a narrow, winding dirt road between a burning mountainside and a pasture that, so far, has been untouched by the fire.

The smoke is hiding the sun in town, but out at the fire's edge, it appears blood red.

"We call that the red eye of the dragon," Cullum says.

Associated Press writers Tom Foreman Jr. in North Carolina and Jonathan Mattise in Tennessee contributed to this report.

Snow off to a slow start in Rockies, delaying some skiers

By DAN ELLIOTT, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Autumn snow has been scarce in the Rocky Mountains, forcing some ski areas to push back opening day and causing some nervousness about how much water will be available next spring for the Colorado River, the lifeblood of the Southwest.

But the first significant storm of the season is expected to blow into Colorado and Utah Thursday, bringing up to 10 inches of snow at higher elevations, forecasters said. Water managers and climate experts say it's too early in the season to predict a dry winter.

"This doesn't mean at all that the winter is going to be dry," said Klaus Wolter, a climate scientist with the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences in Boulder, Colorado.

"It's kind of a nervousness-inducing late onset," he said.

A lot can happen between the fall and spring, said Marlon Duke, a spokesman for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which manages multiple reservoirs on the Colorado River.

"We're hoping to see some good precipitation through the winter months," he said.

The Colorado snowpack is off to its worst start in more than 30 years, said Brian Domonkos, who supervises the U.S. Department of Agriculture snow survey in the state.

At least five Colorado ski resorts have postponed their opening day. Unusually warm temperatures have limited how much artificial snow the resorts can make, compounding the lack of natural snow.

Still, two Colorado resorts have opened with limited skiing and two more are scheduled to start this

weekend. Others plan to open before or during the Thanksgiving holiday, said Chris Linsmayer, a spokesman for Colorado Ski Country USA.

No matter how much or how little snow this week's storm brings, the colder weather should help with snow-making, Linsmayer said.

"We're hearing is that Thursday is going to be kind of a shift in the weather pattern to cooler weather," he said.

At least three ski resorts in New Mexico have delayed their opening. In Utah, five resorts that hope to open this weekend are waiting to see what Thursday's storm brings before deciding, said Paul Marshall, a spokesman for Ski Utah.

Water managers pay close attention to the snowfall in the Rocky Mountains because of its direct impact on the Colorado River, which supplies water to about 40 million people and 6,300 square miles of farmland. Seven states and 20 Indian reservations rely on the river.

After a yearslong Western drought, Lake Mead — a vital Colorado River reservoir in Arizona and Nevada — is barely able to supply all the users who depend on it. By 2018, some users might not get all they need, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation said last summer. The agency manages multiple reservoirs on the river.

About 90 percent of the river's water comes from the region known as the Upper Colorado River Basin, a large swath of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming and smaller sections of Arizona and New Mexico.

With their normally deep winter snows, the Colorado mountains are the heart of the Upper Basin.

The Colorado snowfall could catch up to normal, Domonkos said, but that's unlikely.

"I wouldn't call it likely, no. But it's not out of the realm of possibility," he said.

Follow Dan Elliott at <http://twitter.com/DanElliottAP>. His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/dan-elliott>.

College students protest Donald Trump's deportation plans

By CAROLYN THOMPSON, Associated Press

College students at campuses around the United States marched and rallied Wednesday, urging administrators to protect students and employees against immigration action under a Donald Trump presidency.

Rallying supporters on social media with the hashtag #SanctuaryCampus, organizers said actions were planned at more than 80 schools, including Vermont's Middlebury College, where about 400 people gathered, and Yale University, where demonstrators numbered about 600.

Students sought assurances that their schools would not share their personal information with immigration officials or allow Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents on campus.

"Can you imagine the fear that it would inflict on college campuses if having ICE agents walk into a campus becomes the status quo?" organizer Carlos Rojas of the group Movimiento Cosecha, said by phone from New Jersey. "It would be terrifying."

The actions continued days of demonstrations that have broken out in cities and high school campuses following Trump's election victory last week. The Republican's campaign promises included a vow to deport millions of people who are in the U.S. illegally.

"I'm very fearful," Miriam Zamudio, whose parents brought her to the U.S. from Mexico as a child, said by phone as she prepared to join a protest at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

She worries that the family information she provided on her application for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status will endanger her parents, who are living in the country without legal permission.

"We don't know what Trump is going to do," Zamudio said. "We don't know if he is going to demand this information, and we want our administration and our school to stand with us."

Several hundred people, mainly high school and college students, rallied at the federal building in downtown San Diego to protest Trump's election. Some held signs or banners saying "we are not criminals" and "make racists afraid again." An 18-year-old was arrested after he allegedly punched a police officer,

police said.

In one non-campus protest on Wednesday night, hundreds of people rallied on the steps of Los Angeles City Hall to protest Trump's appointment of Steve Bannon as a senior adviser.

Faculty and staff at several universities have signed petitions in support of making their campuses sanctuaries for people threatened with deportation — or anyone who faces discrimination.

"We are alarmed at the vitriol that students and community members are experiencing across the United States in the aftermath of the recent election," the petition to administrators at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign said. "Reports of gross imitations of disabled youth, threats to aid in the deportation of students and their families, renewed deployments of the 'N' word, sexual aggressions against young women, bullying of Muslim and LGBTQ+ youth, reappearances of swastikas, among other acts, point to hostilities that infiltrate our campus."

At the University of Memphis, students chanted "Say it loud, say it clear, refugees are welcome here" and "No racists, no KKK, no fascist USA," The Commercial Appeal reported.

Junior Luke Wilson stood nearby, holding a sign that said "You're all cry babies."

Similar sentiments appeared on Twitter and other social media platforms, along with messages of support.

"We know that there are going to be people on both sides of the issue," Rojas said. "But I think that what no one could argue with is that a university and a college campus have a moral responsibility to make the students that are paying tuition and just want to get an education feel safe."

Department of Homeland Security Press Secretary Gillian Christensen said existing ICE and Customs and Border Protection policies guide enforcement at "sensitive locations," which include colleges and universities.

"The ICE and CBP sensitive locations policies, which remain in effect, provide that enforcement actions at sensitive locations should generally be avoided, and require either prior approval from an appropriate supervisory official or exigent circumstances necessitating immediate action," Christensen said by email. "DHS is committed to ensuring that people seeking to participate in activities or utilize services provided at any sensitive location are free to do so without fear or hesitation."

Yale Ph.D. student Ramon Garibaldo told the crowd to remain hopeful.

"I fear for my existence every day," said Garibaldo, whose parents brought him from Mexico. "My mom, my dad they crossed borders for me to be here. So we aren't going to bow down to the orders of one man."

Thompson reported from Buffalo, New York. Associated Press writers Adrian Sainz in Memphis, Tennessee; David Mercer in Champaign, Illinois; Lisa Rathke in Montpelier, Vermont; and Emily Judd in New Haven, Connecticut, contributed to this report.

Trump's future role looms over Asia-Pacific summit in Peru

By **BEN FOX and JOSHUA GOODMAN, Associated Press**

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Donald Trump will be on the minds of world leaders as they gather for an Asia-Pacific trade summit.

The president-elect has made it clear that he is hostile to the kind of free trade deals that tend to be the focus of the annual Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, taking place this year in Peru's capital. He's also singled out group members China and Mexico in a populist campaign standing up for displaced American workers.

That has likely changed the tone and the agenda of a meeting that was expected to be part of a valedictory tour for U.S. President Barack Obama. It will be his last international summit before he leaves office Jan. 20 and those in attendance are to include Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Instead of promoting a now all-but dead trade deal known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, economic experts expect Obama will field uncomfortable questions about Trump's pledges to overhaul U.S. trade policy, crack down on illegal immigration from Mexico and withdraw from a global agreement to fight

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climate change.

"World leaders like everyone else are hoping he will be more moderate in office than he was on the campaign trail," Fred Bergsten, a senior fellow the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington. "But they are going to be worried."

APEC's 21 member-nations comprise more than a third of the world's population and half of global trade. It was established three decades ago to accelerate economic growth by removing trade barriers and helping integrate global supply chains.

The group's annual summits also deal with current international challenges such as security following the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, or in Paris last year or the global economic crisis of 2008. This year, the big issue is Trump.

"As you can imagine, the issue of the day will consume a lot of the energy," said Scott Miller, a senior adviser to the Center for Strategic and International Studies who previously advised the U.S. on APEC matters.

Manufacturing has been declining in the U.S. since the 1950s and today represents less than 10 percent of employment. Despite Trump's promises to revive industry, those jobs are unlikely to return in large enough numbers, said APEC executive director Alan Bollard. At the same time, developing nations — the biggest beneficiaries of globalization — are more upbeat about free trade.

"The pessimism about trade does seem to be more of a developed, affluent country phenomenon," Bollard said in an interview.

Bollard, a former central banker in New Zealand, said world leaders haven't done a good enough job selling the benefits of globalization and cited studies that credit trade for helping lift half a billion people out of poverty in the APEC region.

He said there has also been an overriding focus on manufacturing, what Bollard called the "old wave" of globalization, instead of helping companies in the services industry navigate complex, cross-border regulations.

"With the advantages of electronic commerce, it's possible for small, remote businesses to be world traders in a way they never could before," he said.

While Trump has threatened a trade war with China, vowing higher tariffs and declaring it a currency manipulator, the Asian giant has emerged as an unlikely champion of borderless buying and selling. The leaders gathering in Peru will be presented with a joint U.S.-China study ordered up in 2014 about the feasibility of a vast free trade area including all APEC members.

Beijing is also promoting a regional trade partnership grouping it with 10 southeast Asian economies as well as Japan, India, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. That proposed pact has become more relevant with Trump's victory all but killing the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership, which excludes China and was widely seen as an attempt by the Obama administration to keep Asian trading partners in the U.S. orbit.

When it comes to U.S. trade, said Miller, Trump's actions as president seem unlikely to be as dramatic as he sounded on the campaign trail. He said 48 of the 50 states have either Canada or Mexico as their leading trade partner, which means disruptions to business from tearing up NAFTA could be politically as well as economically devastating.

"He's a skeptic of trade agreements, and he's held that position for a long time as a private citizen," Miller said of Trump. "What he has not been in a position to do is consider and then represent the broader interests of the American people. That's usually how presidents become free traders."

AP Writers Joe McDonald in Beijing and Franklin Briceno and Nestor Ikeda in Lima contributed to this report.

Torture haunts Mexico despite laws meant to eliminate it

By **CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN** and **E. EDUARDO CASTILLO**, Associated Press

TANQUIAN DE ESCOBEDO, Mexico (AP) — When Juan Carlos Soni Bulos heard his front door being smashed in one November morning, he frantically scrolled through his phone to call for help.

Outside the human rights activist's bedroom window, a Mexican marine in a black mask and helmet trained a rifle on him. "Drop the phone or I'll shoot," he said.

The marines blindfolded him, bound him and took him with four relatives and friends to a dimly lit, windowless warehouse. Then hours of torture began, Soni says — beatings, electric shocks, asphyxiation, sexual abuse. He heard his teenage nephew scream as they applied electric shocks to the boy's ribs.

Soni's tormenter said, "This is going to make you not want to defend rights anymore."

In the face of strong international condemnation, Mexico says it is taking steps to stop the use of torture by its security forces. After the United States withheld \$5 million on account of Mexico's human rights record, the U.S. State Department in September recommended to Congress that full funding be restored. The nearly \$2.5 billion Merida Initiative pays to equip and train Mexican security forces and support justice system reforms.

However, there is still widespread impunity around the use of torture by security forces. From December 2006 through October 2014, the Attorney General's Office registered 4,055 complaints of torture, nearly one-third of them against the military. Yet over almost the same period, only 13 police and soldiers were sentenced for torture. Nobody has been charged in Soni's case.

Also, one in five reports on torture cases filed by Mexico's National Human Rights Commission between 1994 to 2014 were against marines, according to the nonprofit Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights. But none of those sentenced over roughly the past decade were marines. The marines and the defense department did not respond to requests for an interview.

Soni had far more resources than most victims of torture. He had a politically active family and connections in the human rights world. In the late 1990s, he worked as an international human rights observer for the United Nations in Guatemala. When he returned to Mexico, he continued to work in the indigenous communities of the Huasteca region.

November 9, 2013, was not the first time marines visited his home in central Mexico's San Luis Potosi state, a lush landscape of sugarcane fields, rolling hills and waterfalls. Almost five months earlier, on June 22, 2013, Soni was driving home from teaching in the early afternoon when his sister called to tell him to stay away; marines and federal police were at the house.

That day they grabbed Luis Enrique Biu Gonzalez, Soni's gardener, who also lived at his home. They beat him and asphyxiated him with a plastic bag, Biu says. A marine pointed a pistol at his head, asked if he was gay and threatened sexual violence, all the time demanding to know where Soni was.

The marines took Soni's computers, which held records of human rights cases he documented. They returned in the middle of the night. With the house empty, they grabbed whatever they had not carried off in the first raid.

Soni does not know exactly why the marines targeted him. It could have been the human rights complaints he helped people file against them and other security forces in the area. Or somebody with influence might have perceived him as a political threat.

Soon after the June raid, Soni sought advice from his contacts at the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. They told him to get help from the Mexican government's protection program.

Soni was enrolled in the program as of June 26, 2013, government records show. He had assurances from the Attorney General's Office there would be no more trouble. The government programmed an emergency "panic" number into his cell phone.

"It gave me some peace of mind," he recalls thinking.

On the morning he was taken, Soni was trying to find the panic number. It was too late.

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Even in its own assessment, the U.S. State Department notes that "there continue to be serious, ongoing challenges in Mexico, including reports of law enforcement and military involvement in forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, the reported use of torture, impunity and violence and threats against journalists and human rights defenders." In its recommendation to restore funding, the State Department cites several measures taken by the government, but Soni's case suggests they do not go far enough:

-- The U.S. mentions the Mexican government's program for protecting human rights defenders and journalists, known colloquially as "the mechanism." But Soni was enrolled in that program five months before the marines took him anyway.

-- The U.S. cites the autonomous National Human Rights Commission, which investigates and reports on human rights abuses. That body only issued its report on Soni's case in late September, nearly three years later. It concluded there was mistreatment, but not torture, without making any reference to the hours the victims spent in the warehouse. The victims' lawyers are now litigating those omissions.

-- The U.S. points to a new law against torture that passed the Mexican Senate in April and still needs to pass the lower chamber. But even though torture was already illegal in Mexico last year, the human rights commission still received 628 complaints of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and 49 of torture by government officials.

-- The U.S. pays special attention to a more transparent justice system Mexico has implemented in all 32 states and at the federal level. But a study released by two prominent Mexican think tanks in October found that even when injuries caused by abuse were documented, judges in one state did not order investigations or throw out evidence.

The U.S. Embassy offered comment in a statement.

"Mexico has launched an ambitious effort to modernize and reform its law enforcement and justice system," the statement said, noting that the recommendation was based on specific criteria established by Congress. "We are committed to supporting Mexico's own efforts to increase respect for human rights."

Mexico's Interior Department deputy secretary for human rights, Roberto Campa, said eradicating the use of torture is a top human rights priority for the government, and he expects to see a significant increase in sentences against those responsible. He also noted that under Mexico's new justice system, evidence obtained through torture is thrown out.

"For many years there were police forces that considered torture as an investigative method," he said.

At times through tears, Soni and the others recounted what happened to them in the garden of his home, now surrounded by a tall fence and numerous surveillance cameras paid for by the government.

As the marines led Soni away, he asked to pause before a wooden figure of Jesus outside his front door. Steered toward its base, Soni knelt, kissed its feet and prayed: "Lord, only you know where they are taking me. Help me return well."

Then a marine shouted, "Enough already, bastard!" and dragged him to his feet by a handful of his long hair.

Later, as marines drove him to the warehouse, Soni told them he was in the protection program. "I have government protection," Soni said to his captors. "You're making a mistake."

"Yes, you're very influential, you son of a bitch," came the response.

In the warehouse, they were forced to kneel on the concrete floor, he recalls. When their blindfolds were removed, they saw people dressed in black. One took their photographs with a tablet computer and blindfolded them again.

The marines rubbed a gel on their hands and told the men to touch some baggies and metal objects -- apparently setting them up to have their fingerprints on weapons and drugs. When the men resisted, they were punched and kicked.

Biu, who was also taken, recalls the Marines giving them electric shocks, especially when they got to Soni.

"Now we're going to give it to fatty to see if he can take it," one marine said in reference to Soni.

"No more! No more!" Biu heard him scream. "Tell the truth," the marine shouted back. They held the probes near Biu's ear so he could hear the humming current.

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Soni says the marines beat him, gave him electrical shocks and did things he does not want published. "Everything, everything," he says.

There has been no justice for Soni — and many others.

In April, a video circulated that showed soldiers and federal police torturing a young woman. In it, a female military police officer yanks on the woman's hair and pokes a rifle barrel against her head. A female federal police officer also pulls a clear plastic bag over the woman's head and holds it until she nearly passes out.

It led to an unprecedented public apology from Mexico's defense secretary, but the victim remains in prison on weapons charges.

Soni and the others were also held on weapons and drug charges. They spent more than a year in prison in the western state of Nayarit without trial until a judge in March 2015 threw out the case.

From the day of their arrest through the day when the judge finally ordered the charges be dropped and signed their release, the men never once saw the judge. Soni hopes that this will change under Mexico's new justice system, where both sides will have to present arguments and evidence in open court. His case is now being handled by a special unit created a year ago to investigate torture.

All the men bear scars from the experience, and some prefer not to speak about the details of their torture. Soni's older nephew, Evanibaldo Larraga Galvan, still has a lump on his neck where a marine grabbed and choked him that morning.

Luis Edgardo Charnichart Ortega, a teacher and childhood friend of Soni's who was sleeping over that night, asks, "Is there even sufficient punishment to pay for all the damage done?"

Charnichart has struggled to work since his release.

"My mind, the psychologists say, they still have it," he recounts. "After they take you, nothing of you can remain. That is their objective, make you disappear, plant death inside you and leave it to consume you until the end of your days."

Trump: No transition turmoil, efforts going 'so smoothly'

By JULIE PACE and KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump and his team on Wednesday vigorously rejected charges of turmoil and infighting roiling efforts to set up his White House, national security and economic teams. A week after his upset victory, Trump said the enormous endeavor was proceeding "so smoothly."

Trump dished out his rebuttal on Twitter, spending yet another day ensconced in his New York skyscraper, beyond the public eye. Aides and allies vouched for the transition efforts on his behalf, suggesting some commotion was to be expected.

"The beginning of any transition like this has turmoil because it's just the nature of the process," former House Speaker Newt Gingrich said as he left Trump's transition headquarters in Washington. He said the picture of Trump's administration would become clearer over the next two or three weeks.

Others close to the transition process described advisers "fighting for power." Trump has long stoked internal rivalries among his staff — both in his businesses and his campaign — and has created ambiguity in his transition about who has authority to make key decisions.

Eric Trump, one of the president-elect's sons, raised expectations of imminent progress Wednesday, telling reporters in the morning that appointments were "likely" to come during the day. Then, other Trump aides suggested a slower pace.

"We're not going to rush to put names forward until we're absolutely sure," Trump spokesman Jason Miller said hours later. "We're going to make sure that they're people we're confident will pass confirmation and we think can implement the president-elect's vision."

Trump's team noted that President Barack Obama waited until a few weeks after the 2008 election to announce many of his Cabinet appointments.

And former Michigan Rep. Pete Hoekstra, who has informally advised members of Trump's national security team, blamed Trump's detractors for the reports of drama.

"When you're doing a transition that is trying to push the kind of change that Mr. Trump wants to be

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doing, it's going to be even harder," said Hoekstra, a former House Intelligence Committee chairman.

The incoming Republican administration also got a boost of support from outgoing Vice President Joe Biden, who met with his successor, Mike Pence, continuing the Obama administration's show of public support for the transition.

"No administration is ready on Day One," Biden said following the meeting at the Naval Observatory, which serves as the vice presidential residence. He expressed confidence that by Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration, "everything will be in good hands."

Trump's team was essentially starting from scratch, scrapping much of the preliminary transition work New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie conducted during the campaign. After winning the election, Trump demoted Christie and put Pence in charge.

The result has been a series of new additions to the transition team and several departures, mainly among those aligned with Christie. Kevin O'Connor, a former senior Justice Department official, joined that group.

Trump appeared to be weighing an eclectic mix of individuals for top Cabinet posts, including longtime loyalists, former rivals and even a Democrat. Transition officials said Trump met Wednesday with Eva Moskowitz, a former New York councilwoman and charter school founder who is being considered for education secretary.

Others who passed through the marble lobby of Trump Tower included Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga., a potential pick for Health and Human Services, and Ray Washburne, a Dallas businessman and top GOP fundraiser in the mix for Commerce secretary. New England Patriots' owner Robert Kraft also entered the gilded elevators for meetings and Trump officials said later that the president-elect also met with Rep. Mike Pompeo, R-Kan., and Wall Street financier and economic adviser Steve Feinberg.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who arrived Wednesday afternoon, has been angling for secretary of state, though his consulting work for foreign governments has emerged as a potential roadblock. Trump is also said to be seriously considering John Bolton, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, for the top diplomatic job.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who tangled ferociously with Trump during the Republican primary but ultimately endorsed the businessman, could get a top job such as attorney general. An official said, however, Cruz is not viewed as a top contender. The official, like others, wasn't authorized to speak publicly on the transition talks and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Others mentioned for Cabinet posts: Rep. Tim Huelskamp, a Kansas Republican, said someone close to the transition contacted him about becoming agriculture secretary. South Carolina Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, a former U.S. attorney and state attorney general, said he was asked if he would be interested in being attorney general. McMaster also said he was told South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley was being considered for secretary of state.

Trump aides have released few details about the president-elect's schedule or phone calls since the election. They tried to play catch-up Wednesday, releasing a list of 29 world leaders who have spoken with Trump or Pence in recent days. Most of the calls had previously only been confirmed by those leaders' governments.

Trump planned to meet Thursday in New York with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, his first get-together with a world leader as president-elect. The State Department has said it had yet to hear from Trump's transition team, raising the prospect of the Republican holding the meeting without any input from career diplomats with deep experience dealing with Japan. Other scheduled meetings include Haley, the South Carolina governor, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Florida Gov. Rick Scott.

Pace reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Jill Colvin, Jon Lemire and Matthew Pennington contributed to this report.

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

The Latest: Trump to bar officials from lobbying for 5 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on Donald Trump's transition to the presidency. (All times EST):
8:50 p.m.

Donald Trump's transition team says the incoming president is planning to require officials to pledge that they won't lobby the government for five years after leaving the Trump administration.

Transition spokesman Sean Spicer says Trump will require new government officials to terminate their role as either state or federal lobbyists before joining the administration. And he says government officials will agree to a five-year lobbying ban after leaving.

Trump has vowed to "drain the swamp" when he begins his White House administration next year.

Spicer says people leaving government "won't be able to use that service to enrich themselves."

6:28 p.m.

Kansas congressman Tim Huelskamp says someone "close to the transition" of President-elect Donald Trump has contacted him about becoming agriculture secretary.

Huelskamp lost the GOP primary in his agriculture-heavy Kansas district this year after he was booted from the House Agriculture Committee amid fights with Republican leadership. He also opposed a five-year farm law enacted in 2014.

The Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Livestock Association and National Association of Wheat Growers endorsed Huelskamp's challenger, Roger Marshall.

Huelskamp said Wednesday that the USDA needs major reform, including stronger work requirements for food stamps.

Some other possible candidates for agriculture secretary include Charles Conner of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, a former Bush USDA official; former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue; Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller; and Nebraska cattle rancher Charles Herbster.

5:45 p.m.

South Carolina's lieutenant governor says a member of Donald Trump's transition team has asked if he's interested in being attorney general.

Henry McMaster also says he's been told that South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is being considered for secretary of state.

McMaster tells The Associated Press he was contacted Wednesday. The former U.S. attorney and two-term state attorney general declined to specify who on the team called him.

McMaster was an early backer of Trump.

Haley endorsed and campaigned with Sen. Marco Rubio for South Carolina's first-in-the-South presidential primary. When Rubio dropped out, she backed Ted Cruz and continued to criticize Trump.

5:15 p.m.

President-elect Donald Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence have received their first looks at the President's Daily Brief — the highest level intelligence document prepared in the United States.

Trump received his on Tuesday and Pence was briefed on Wednesday in Washington, according to an individual familiar with the briefings schedule. The individual, who was not authorized to discuss the briefings, spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Intelligence officials briefed Trump and Pence after the GOP convention, but the President's Daily Brief has more detail, including information about U.S. covert operations.

President Harry S. Truman started the practice because he first learned about the U.S. project to develop an atomic bomb only 12 days into his presidency. He pledged not to leave his successor in that position.

3:08 p.m.

Donald Trump is considering charter school advocate Eva Moskowitz to serve as education secretary, according to a senior Trump official.

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The official says Moskowitz, the founder of Success Academy Charter Schools, was at Trump Tower Wednesday meeting with the president-elect's team.

Moskowitz is a former New York City councilwoman and a Democrat. She's clashed with Mayor Bill de Blasio over the expansion of some of her charter schools.

De Blasio was also at Trump Tower Wednesday meeting with the president-elect.

The Trump official discussed Moskowitz on the condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to publicly discuss the internal transition process.

--By Julie Pace

2:40 p.m.

Vice President Joe Biden says he's not worried about the incoming administration's readiness to take over the White House.

Biden told reporters after meeting with Vice President-elect Mike Pence on Wednesday that he's "confident on day one everything will be in good hands."

Addressing reports of infighting within President-elect Donald Trump's transition team, Biden said that "no administration's ready on day one. We weren't really on day one."

Biden and his wife Jill spent nearly two hours with their successors Wednesday afternoon, sitting down for lunch with the Vice President-elect and his wife, Karen, and giving them a tour of the vice presidential residence and grounds.

Biden also said he's not worried about the new administration dismantling his legacy, despite the President-elect's very different policy agenda.

Biden said that he hopes the Pences enjoy the home at Washington's Naval Observatory as much as he did.

2:30 p.m.

The top Republican in the Senate says "it's time for the election to be over."

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell also declined to answer questions about President-elect Donald Trump's appointment of Steve Bannon as senior counselor, saying he wouldn't comment about White House staffing. Bannon's hiring has come under fire because of his Breitbart news site's derogatory comments about blacks, Muslims and women.

McConnell told reporters on Wednesday that he would not go back and re-litigate what was said during a hotly contested presidential race. He said the focus is on working with Trump to repeal and replace the health care law, overhaul the tax system and deal with other issues.

He also declined to comment on Trump's call for a ban on all executive-branch officials from lobbying for five years after leaving their government jobs.

1:55 p.m.

House Democrats have sent a letter to President-elect Donald Trump asking him to rescind the appointment of Breitbart News executive Steve Bannon as a senior White House adviser.

The letter, which has signatures from 169 out of the 188 Democrats in the House, says the appointment of conservative flame-thrower Bannon undermines Trump's ability to unite the country. It points out stories from the website that are derogatory toward Jews and Muslims, among other groups.

"Millions of Americans have expressed fear and concern about how they will be treated by the Trump Administration and your appointment of Mr. Bannon only exacerbates and validates their concerns," the letter reads.

Rep. David N. Cicilline, D-R.I., organized the effort. "Bigotry, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia should have no place in our society," he said.

1:10 p.m.

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New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio says he met with President-elect Donald Trump and "let him know that so many New Yorkers are fearful" of what his administration could bring.

De Blasio spoke to reporters after his hour-long meeting at Trump Tower Wednesday, which he categorized as "respectful" and "candid" with a real "give-and-take."

The mayor, a liberal Democrat, and Trump have previously clashed. He said concerns with Trump's support of aggressive policing tactics, his tax plans and any move to deport immigrants living in the United States illegally.

De Blasio said that Trump "loves this city" and added that he urged the Republican president-elect to send a "sign of unity" to his hometown, which overwhelmingly voted for Democrat Hillary Clinton.

11:50 a.m.

A spokesman for President-elect Donald Trump says the transition team is "not going to rush" to put forward potential Cabinet selections.

Jason Miller said Wednesday that Trump's team wants to feel confident their choices will be able to be confirmed by the Senate and can implement the president-elect's vision.

Miller told reporters at Trump Tower in New York City that President Barack Obama did not have "his entire Cabinet formed within the first week" after his election in 2008.

He said the transition team has a "very solid plan" and they're taking a "methodical approach" to filling Trump's Cabinet and White House.

11:35 a.m.

Over 300 U.S. businesses have signed a statement calling on President-elect Donald Trump to support the Paris Agreement on climate change — including General Mills, eBay, Intel, Unilever, and dozens of other Fortune 500 companies.

Their statement reads "implementing the Paris Agreement will enable and encourage businesses and investors to turn the billions of dollars in existing low-carbon investments into the trillions of dollars the world needs to bring clean energy and prosperity to all."

The statement is addressed to Trump, President Barack Obama and members of Congress. It calls on elected U.S. officials to maintain the country's policy and financial commitments to lower carbon emissions.

Lara Birkes, chief sustainability officer of Hewlett Packard Enterprise, says "the Paris Agreement was a vital step forward, but its power is in our collective action."

11:32 a.m.

Czech President Milos Zeman has called U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's former wife, Ivana, to thank her for her "courage" and interest to become the new U.S. ambassador to Prague.

In a Wednesday statement, Zeman said he's pleased with that because "the U.S. cannot send a better ambassador to Prague" than her.

Zeman said he would be delighted to meet her at the Prague Castle, the seat of presidency and is looking forward to introduce her to his wife, also named Ivana.

Ivana, Trump's first wife and the mother of his three oldest children, is of Czech origin.

Zeman was among several European leaders, including Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who endorsed Trump during the campaign.

Zeman said he shared Trump's views of migration and the fight against the Islamic terrorism.

Trump's presidential transition team provided no readout of the conversation between the Czech leader and his ex-wife.

9:15 a.m.

The White House Correspondents' Association says it is "unacceptable" that President-elect Donald Trump is traveling without a regular pool of journalists to inform the public of his whereabouts.

Trump left his residence Tuesday night for a family dinner after his transition team had told journalists he

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would not be in public the rest of the day. A protective pool of journalists is supposed to join the president or president-elect's motorcade to record their whereabouts and be on hand in the event of breaking news.

Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks has said the team plans to respect the traditions of press access at the White House. WHCA President Jeff Mason says "the time to act on that promise is now."

Mason says it is critical that journalists covering the president-elect "be allowed to do their job."

7:50 a.m.

Ohio congressman Tim Ryan says Democrats should get back to economic basics of manufacturing, not veer to its liberal wing in the wake of Republican Donald Trump's election victory.

Ryan is considering challenging Rep. Nancy Pelosi as House Democratic leader because he says the party risks sliding back into an ideological past rather than moving forward.

He told MSNBC's "Morning Joe" on Wednesday that Democrats "have to grab that idea of making things in America again."

"No one wants to hear about job retraining," he said. "They want jobs."

6:30 a.m.

President-elect Donald Trump is denying reports that efforts are underway to get security clearances for his adult children.

In a post on his verified Twitter account @realDonaldTrump early Wednesday, the billionaire businessman who's to be inaugurated as the nation's 45th president on Jan. 20, said, "I am not trying to get top security clearances for my children."

Trump, who has been immersed in transition planning at his office skyscraper in New York in recent days, added, "This was a typically false news story."

There had been rampant speculation in recent days that such an effort was being attempted. Asked about it earlier this week, Kellyanne Conway, who was Trump's campaign manager, said in a broadcast interview she wasn't "intimately" familiar with the issue and indicated she couldn't confirm it.

4:20 a.m.

Turkey's president has criticized protests in the United States against Donald Trump, saying the president-elect should be respected and given time to show how he will govern.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday before a visit to Pakistan, Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the protesters were "attacking" Trump because "the person they wanted wasn't elected president."

Erdogan said: "Hold on a second. The election process just ended, show some respect! How will he govern, let's see that first."

The Turkish leader added: This is important in terms of showing who respects democracy in the world."

3:30 a.m.

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 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.

Giuliani's foreign work complicates candidacy for top post

By **STEPHEN BRAUN and CHAD DAY, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rudy Giuliani, President-elect Donald Trump's top candidate for top diplomat, has advised foreign political figures and worked for lobbying and security firms whose clients have had

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complicated relationships with the U.S. government.

While not personally involved in lobbying, Giuliani spent years at firms which represented governments and multinational companies, some of which had interests that diverged from those of the United States. He also made speeches demanding the State Department remove an Iranian opposition group from a U.S. terror blacklist.

As the former New York mayor waits to discover if he is Trump's choice for secretary of state, Giuliani's extensive consulting and advising work for foreign and corporate clients could expose him to the same criticisms he raised about former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's ties to foreign governments and corporations that had donated to her family charity, the Clinton Foundation.

"What she did with the Clinton Foundation and all the favors the State Department did for hundreds of millions of dollars is, to me, clear violation of the conflict of interest law," Giuliani told CNN in August.

But when Clinton was secretary of state, she was the one concerned about Giuliani after he took a trip to Belgrade and met with leaders of a Serbian political party once allied with Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic.

"This is outrageous," Clinton wrote in an April 2012 email after her chief of staff, Cheryl Mills, forwarded a copy of an Associated Press story about Giuliani's meeting with Serbian Progressive Party officials. Milosevic, accused of war crimes for his conduct in the Balkan wars of the 1990s, died in prison a decade ago.

As Giuliani's visit became known, the U.S. embassy in Belgrade issued a statement saying it wasn't taking sides in Serbia's elections. The leader of the party that Giuliani met, Aleksandar Vucic, now heads Serbia's government.

A longtime associate defended Giuliani's extensive international work Wednesday, saying the former mayor currently has only one international security contract. It is with the government of Colombia, said the associate, who asked not to be identified because he wasn't authorized to speak officially for the former mayor. He said Giuliani would provide lengthy public disclosure of his business interests, if nominated.

Giuliani did not respond to requests, made through his associate, to speak to the AP. In an interview Tuesday with the New York Times, Giuliani said he never lobbied for any interests, foreign or otherwise. He defended his consulting firm's work in the Persian Gulf monarchy of Qatar and the money he received for supporting the Mujahedin-e Khalq, the Iranian dissident group, even as it was a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization.

Giuliani said that he did consulting work for TransCanada, the company pushing for the Keystone XL oil pipeline, which the State Department would have a role in approving. But Giuliani said he had no involvement in that effort. He said his work for TransCanada focused on a planned natural gas facility in New York that never materialized.

"I have friends all over the world," Giuliani said. "This is not a new thing for me. When you become the mayor, you become interested in foreign policy. When I left, my major work was legal and security around the world."

For most of 2016, Giuliani worked as a senior adviser and head of the cybersecurity and crisis management division at lobbying giant Greenberg Traurig. At the same time, he played a prominent role as Trump's television and political rally supporter. Giuliani took a leave of absence from the firm in October to work full-time for Trump.

During Giuliani's tenure, Greenberg Traurig's lawyers worked for a host of foreign clients, including Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government, which has been accused of eroding democracy. It also worked for a Belarusian potash firm suspected by several U.S. senators of evading Treasury Department sanctions. Other clients at the time included Mexico's agriculture agency, a Libyan think-tank, the governments of Panama and East Timor, and Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region, according to federal foreign agent filings with the Justice Department.

Giuliani's associate said he has not met any foreign officials for Greenberg Traurig and isn't involved with the firm's government lobbying practice.

Giuliani has never registered with the government as a lobbyist. Instead, he acted abroad as a security consultant and occasional political adviser, even though his actions sometimes sought to influence U.S.

policy.

Giuliani joined prominent politicians— Democrats and Republicans, many of them paid— in petitioning the State Department to delist Iran's MEK, which was linked to assassinations of at least six Americans in the 1970s and a string of attacks against the Iranian government. When the group was finally taken off the terror list in 2012, by Clinton's State Department, U.S. officials said it hadn't committed any acts of terrorism in at least a decade.

"My ties to them are very open," Giuliani told The Times.

His work included speeches in Washington and Berlin and signing a letter along with influential former government officials, including James Jones, President Barack Obama's onetime national security adviser. Another signature: Former U.N. ambassador John Bolton, another in contention to become Trump's secretary of state.

If nominated, Giuliani would have to describe his finances much like he did during his 2007 presidential campaign. The disclosure he filed for that campaign showed he was already a multimillionaire with assets between \$18 million and \$70 million.

Giuliani was a frequent critic of Clinton's paid speeches to special interests during her campaign against Trump. But Giuliani's own foray into the lecture circuit in the mid-2000s could pose similar potential ethics problems.

From late 2005 through early 2007, Giuliani made more than 100 paid speeches— most for \$100,000 each— to oil companies, investment banks and Wall Street firms, including Lehman Brothers, JP Morgan Chase & Co. and Merrill Lynch & Co. Giuliani earned \$9.2 million for the speeches over a 15-month period, according to his presidential financial disclosure.

Giuliani, who founded his global management firm, Giuliani Partners, in 2002, refused to divulge his firm's clients when he ran for president.

Follow Chad Day on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChadSDay>

Police: Airport shooting likely case of workplace revenge

By TIM TALLEY, Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A man who gunned down a Southwest Airlines employee outside of Oklahoma City's airport likely did so in retaliation for having lost his own job with the airline last year, police said Wednesday.

Lloyd Dean Buie, 45, killed 52-year-old Michael Winchester on Tuesday as Winchester was leaving work and walking to an employee parking lot, police Capt. Paco Balderrama said at a news conference. Buie fired the shot from the fourth floor of a parking garage when Winchester was about 50 yards away, he said. Buie was later found dead in his pickup truck in the garage.

"We know his intention was to go to the airport to hurt someone," Balderrama said. "The suspect knew where the employees parked and where they would be walking."

Winchester died from a single gunshot wound to the chest, the Oklahoma Medical Examiner's Office ruled Wednesday. Buie's death was ruled a suicide from a single gunshot wound to the head.

Buie quit his job as a ramp agent for Southwest in April 2015 after he refused to take an alcohol screening, airline spokeswoman Brandy King said Wednesday. She said co-workers had suspected Buie was under the influence at work, but she declined to say if Winchester, a ramp supervisor who had worked for Southwest for 29 years, was involved.

"Our Southwest family is grieving, as we are deeply saddened by the loss of our family member. Our focus remains on offering support to the Winchester family and Southwest employees during this difficult time," King said.

Police said Winchester wasn't Buie's immediate supervisor, but they believe the circumstances surrounding Buie's quitting were likely his motive for the attack.

The Associated Press tried calling four of Buie's family members, but the calls either rang unanswered

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or the numbers had been disconnected.

Winchester, who has a listed address in Washington, a community about 35 miles south of the airport, was a former University of Oklahoma football player whose son James is a long snapper for the Kansas City Chiefs.

Chiefs players and coaches expressed support for their teammate Wednesday, with head coach Andy Reid saying James Winchester had returned to Oklahoma to be with his family and that he didn't know if he'd return in time for Sunday's game against Tampa Bay. Punter Dustin Colquitt said he spoke to Winchester, who told him: "Obviously this is a tough time for my family, but I appreciate the thoughts and prayers."

The shooting set off a scramble at Will Rogers World Airport, with police immediately closing the sprawling complex and asking passengers to seek cover.

Police found Buie's pickup truck in the parking garage about three hours after the shooting. They used a robot to determine he was dead inside it before giving the all-clear.

Balderrama said Buie likely would have needed a scope on his rifle to shoot Winchester from that distance. "It would definitely require familiarity with a rifle," he said. "You don't have to be an expert marksman to hit a 50-yard shot, but it's not an easy shot either."

The attack led to the cancellation of 25 flights. Normal airport operations resumed Wednesday.

Associated Press sports writers Sean Murphy in Oklahoma City, Jim Vertuno in Austin, Texas, and Dave Skretta in Kansas City, Missouri, contributed to this report.

McConnell to lead Senate GOP, Schumer new Democratic leader

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans re-elected Mitch McConnell on Wednesday to be majority leader next year while Democrats picked Chuck Schumer to lead them, setting the chief actors as the chamber prepares for an agenda that will be dominated by Donald Trump and the GOP.

McConnell, 74, is a discreet but deadly master of the Senate's legislative chess game. His role will be to steer GOP bills to the desk of a president whose name he barely spoke during a tumultuous campaign in which many Republicans viewed Trump and his incendiary comments on Muslims, veterans and others as political poison.

"It's time to accept the results of the election, to lower the tone and to see what we can do together to make progress for the country," McConnell, from Kentucky, told reporters Wednesday.

As Senate minority leader, Schumer will assume his weakened party's most powerful remaining post as it struggles to define its role in a Republican-dominated government.

The New Yorker's ascension from his No. 3 spot has been a virtual lock since last year, when he quickly cemented votes for the top job after current Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., announced he'd retire. Most of each party's leaders will remain in their posts next year, an ironic stability following an election that seemed to show a demand by voters for change.

McConnell and Schumer faced no opposition at separate closed-door meetings. Later Wednesday, Schumer visited McConnell in his office, telling a reporter afterward: "First meeting. Working out things."

Republicans will control the White House, House and Senate but their potential Achilles' heel is the Senate, which they will dominate 52-48. Assuming Republicans don't eliminate the rule allowing filibusters, Schumer should be able to keep the GOP from the 60 votes they'd need on some issues to break the procedural delays, potential leverage for bargains.

"Where we can work together we will," Schumer told reporters about Trump, with whom he shares an affection for TV soundbites and sharp elbows. But Schumer said he's also told the president-elect, "On issues where we disagree, you can expect a strong and tough fight."

Schumer has mentioned infrastructure as an area of possible cooperation.

Many Democrats will feel pressure to back Republicans on other issues, too. Twenty-five of the 33 Senate seats up for 2018 re-election are held by Democrats and their two allied independents, including several from deeply Republican states like Montana and West Virginia, and they'll have to find ways to appeal to

constituents.

Underscoring Democrats' effort to understand why last week's election turned so sourly against them, Schumer announced a broad, 10-member leadership team. It ranged from liberals like Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts to moderates like West Virginia's Joe Manchin.

"We need to be a party that speaks to and works on behalf of all Americans," Schumer said.

The 65-year-old Brooklynite vaulted over No. 2 Senate Democratic leader Dick Durbin of Illinois, who will remain in that slot. Schumer has been a savvy partisan combatant willing to strike compromises, such as on a 2013 bipartisan immigration overhaul that eventually died.

McConnell has been a coolly effective leader, steering his party through a long battle over a Supreme Court vacancy and Trump's stormy presidential candidacy. McConnell distanced himself from Trump during the campaign, at times flatly refusing to discuss the race with reporters.

In what seemed like a show of independence, McConnell answered a question Wednesday about whether he backs Trump's call for a five-year lobbying ban by former executive branch officials by saying the Senate will address "the real concerns of the American people."

He cited overhauling the tax code and President Barack Obama's health care law and approving a new justice and said the Senate won't "relitigate what anybody on either side may have said during a very hotly contested presidential race."

McConnell, who's led Senate Republicans for a decade, has pushed a conservative agenda while cutting budget deals with President Barack Obama. And he enraged Democrats by refusing to let the Senate consider Obama's nomination of federal judge Merrick Garland to fill a Supreme Court vacancy that occurred last February, which paid dividends when Trump won.

In the House, Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., is on track to keep his job after Republicans endorsed him Wednesday by voice vote.

House Democrats postponed their leadership election until Nov. 30 after junior lawmakers demanded more time to digest the Election Day results, a warning shot at Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

In a letter seeking support, Pelosi told fellow Democrats they must be "a strong voice for hard-working families" and "unified, strategic and unwavering." She said she is already backed by two-thirds of Democrats — more than enough to win.

Associated Press writers Andrew Taylor, Matthew Daly, Erica Werner, Mary Clare Jalonick, Donna Cassata and Richard Lardner contributed to this report.

Bombs strike rebel-held Aleppo and northern Syria, 54 dead

By SARAH EL DEEB and PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Bombs rained down on rebel-held eastern Aleppo for a second straight day Wednesday, pounding a district that houses several medical facilities, including the central blood bank, and forcing Syrian staff and patients in the only remaining pediatric hospital to cower in a basement as buildings collapsed around them.

At least 54 people were killed in airstrikes and artillery shelling across northern Syria, part of a long-anticipated offensive against rebel-held areas announced by Russia, a key ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad. The bombardment hit in besieged neighborhoods of Aleppo, as well as the surrounding countryside and the nearby rebel-held province of Idlib.

Russia said its air raids were only targeting Idlib and the central province of Homs to root out militants of the Islamic State group and Syria's al-Qaida affiliate. But Syrian warplanes were pounding rebel-held districts of Aleppo, home to nearly 275,000 people.

Residents said the aerial campaign intensified Wednesday. Syria's Civil Defense, known as the White Helmets, recorded at least 150 raids, more than double the number of attacks on Aleppo on Tuesday.

Resident Modar Shekho said warplanes hadn't left the skies over his neighborhood since 9 a.m. "The helicopters would leave and the jets would arrive," he said by telephone, adding that the helicopters were

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dropping seven or eight "barrel bombs" at a time "causing a lot of destruction."

The head of the only pediatric hospital still in service in eastern Aleppo described taking shelter in a basement with some 50 young patients and staff for more than two hours as the crude unguided explosive- and shrapnel-laden bombs and other missiles fell around them.

"It was frightening," said Dr. Hatem, who gave only his first name out of fear for the security of family members living in government-controlled areas. He said he counted more than 20 missiles falling, and a number of nearby buildings were destroyed.

When he and the others emerged, he said they found missiles had landed in the hospital's courtyard, hit the main door and stairs. The hospital's operating rooms, incubators and other equipment were moved underground four months earlier because of repeated aerial bombings of the city.

"We have no other way to reinforce the hospital. We see barrel bombs bringing down whole buildings," he told The Associated Press by telephone. "We don't really have many options."

Adham Sahloul of the Syrian American Medical Society, which supports several hospitals in opposition areas in Syria, said it appeared the government was focusing its fire on Aleppo's medical infrastructure, including the central blood bank, which was also hit. There are only five functioning trauma facilities left in eastern Aleppo, he said.

The managing director of the blood bank, Ahmad Eid, said the damage was mainly to the facility's exterior and reception area. The driver was slightly injured, but the stored blood was not affected, he said.

"This was directly targeting the medical quarter. It is a very vital area," Eid said.

The Independent Doctors Association, a Syrian group which supports the children's hospital and the blood bank, decried the lack of protection of civilians as the conflict rages.

"Aleppo has been under siege since July and the escalating bombardment on the eastern part of the city has rendered the medical mission nearly impossible," the group said in a statement.

Medical facilities have repeatedly come under attack in the conflict. The World Health Organization said it has documented with its partners 126 attacks on medical facilities across the country this year, including five hospitals that were struck in Aleppo and Idlib between Sunday and Tuesday alone.

Months of negotiations between Moscow and the Obama administration have failed to cement a long-term cease-fire in Aleppo, which has become the focus of the war between Assad and rebels fighting to topple him. Al-Qaida's Syrian affiliate is fighting alongside the rebels, but the Islamic State group has no presence in Aleppo.

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

In an interview broadcast Tuesday with Portugal's state-run RTP television, Assad accused armed groups he called "terrorists" of occupying eastern Aleppo and refusing government offers to evacuate. He said his mission was to liberate civilians.

Assad also identified president-elect Trump as a possible "natural ally," if he turned out to be "genuine" about his commitment to fight terror in Syria. Trump has indicated he would prioritize defeating the Islamic State group in Syria over regime change, saying the rebels could be "worse" than the sitting president.

A strict blockade of rebel-held areas of Aleppo has been enforced since July, and talks to allow in food and medical supplies have failed. The U.N. warned last week that food rations inside Aleppo's rebel-held districts could be depleted by the end of this week.

In a sign of the rising desperation, a local Aleppo official said riots broke out outside a warehouse storing grain and other food on Tuesday and Wednesday, leading to clashes that left one person dead. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear for his safety, said the rioters stormed and emptied the warehouse. A resident of the area confirmed the warehouse was robbed.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said airstrikes in Aleppo killed at least 24 people, including six children. At least one paramedic was among the dead, according to the Syrian Civil Defense.

In northern Idlib province, airstrikes hit near a school in al-Habeet, killing two children from the same family, the Observatory said. Another seven were killed elsewhere in Idlib. Rami Abdurrahman, the Ob-

servatory's director, said the airstrikes in Idlib were believed to be Russian.

In rural Aleppo, airstrikes in the village of Batbo killed at least 21, including eight women and three children, many from the same families, when they hit traditional mud houses. It was not clear who was behind those airstrikes.

Vast shale oil field in Texas could yield 20 billion barrels

By DAVID WARREN, Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — A vast field of shale rock in West Texas could yield 20 billion barrels of oil, making it the largest source of shale oil the U.S. Geological Survey has ever assessed, agency officials said.

The Wolfcamp Shale geologic formation in the Midland area also contains an estimated 16 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 1.6 billion barrels of natural gas liquids, the agency said in a release.

The discovery is nearly three times larger than the shale oil found in 2013 in the Bakken and Three Forks formations in the Dakotas and Montana, said Chris Schenk, a Denver-based research geologist for the agency.

Geologists explain that oil recovered from shale rock is considered unconventional compared to other oil found in the ground because extracting it requires advanced drilling or recovery methods, such as hydraulic fracturing.

The Wolfcamp Shale is part of the sweeping and energy-rich Permian Basin, which includes a series of basins and other geologic formations in West Texas and southern New Mexico. It's one of the most productive oil and gas regions in the U.S.

Ken Medlock, director of an energy-studies program at Rice University in Houston, said it seems "likely that we're seeing the birth of a new Permian Basin." The advent of horizontal drilling, hydraulic fracturing and other advancements will allow for the removal of shale oil at a volume that will make the basin "the dominant onshore platform for oil production," he said.

Schenk said it's been known for years that the region could yield new bountiful oil production, but it took the U.S. Geological Survey time to assess the Wolfcamp Shale and estimate the volume of that production.

"We think the potential is there for the future, and it's not going to be realized overnight," he said.

The release issued by the Geological Survey on Tuesday hints at the resurgence the oil and gas industry likely will see in Texas in the coming years following a downturn during which energy prices tumbled and tens of thousands of jobs were lost.

"The fact that this is the largest assessment of (unconventional) oil we have ever done just goes to show that, even in areas that have produced billions of barrels of oil, there is still the potential to find billions more," Walter Guidroz, coordinator of the agency's energy resources program, said in the release.

Medlock explains that there are multiple shales that interlock, with Wolfcamp being just one, so it's expected that future drilling will unlock other oil fields that will be comparable to this week's assessment by the Geological Survey.

There are a number of factors that will determine how quickly oil is extracted from the Wolfcamp Shale, he said, but it will likely take years before any significant amount is gathered. The rate of production largely depends on technology, the cost to drill and oil prices, he said.

While the speed of production remains a question mark, what Medlock doesn't doubt is the economic benefit that will follow.

"The revival of the Permian Basin is going to last a couple of decades," he said.

Follow David Warren on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/WarrenJourno>

Extensive cultural damage found in historic Iraqi city

By SUSANNAH GEORGE and QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, Associated Press

NIMRUD, Iraq (AP) — Nearly a month into the fight to retake Mosul, government forces pushed Islamic State militants out of nearby Nimrud, home to some of Iraq's richest archaeological treasures. And when soldiers finally surveyed the extremists' destruction of the ancient sites, one said that those who carried it out "don't have a place in humanity."

Intricate reliefs that once stood at the gates to the magnificent Assyrian palace lay in pieces: stone carvings of a face, half of a claw, part of a wing, fragments of script.

In April 2015, the Islamic State extremists released a shocking video that showed how they had hammered, bulldozed and blew up parts of the 13th century B.C. Assyrian capital in the Tigris River valley south of Mosul.

Iraqi officers accompanied journalists to the site Wednesday, wandering through the piles of rubble and snapping photos of the damage that U.N. officials had once called "a war crime."

The Assyrian Ziggurat, nearly 3,000 years old and once one of the tallest surviving buildings of the ancient world, has been leveled. On palace walls, only small fragments of stone carvings remained. Two Assyrian winged-bull statues that once marked the palace entrance have been completely destroyed. In a palace doorway, four deep cracks defaced a large carving of an Assyrian guardian spirit.

"I didn't cry when Daesh destroyed my home, but I really cried when I saw the video of them destroying this site," said Sheikh Khaled al-Jabouri, a tribal fighter from the Nimrud area. "These ruins are not just important to the people of this area, but to all of Iraq."

Since they seized territory in Iraq and Syria in 2014, the IS militants, also known by the Arabic acronym Daesh, have destroyed other cultural treasures that they said promoted idolatry and violated their fundamentalist interpretation of Islamic law.

"This was done by people who don't have a place in humanity," said Maj. Gen. Dhiaa al-Saadi, the deputy commander of Iraqi ground forces, as he surveyed the ruins.

Shortly after portions of the site were excavated in 1845, some carved slabs and massive statues were removed and sent to the British Museum in London where they remain to this day. The Iraqi national museum in Baghdad also houses winged bulls from the Nimrud site.

Army Sgt. Maj. Marwan Abbas said he had last been at the site when he was a teenager during a school trip from Baghdad, and seeing its current state broke his heart.

"Before 2003, all Iraqis would come here for school picnics," Abbas said, describing how in the spring, the site was surrounded by green fields. Such trips were canceled, he added, after the security situation deteriorated following the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein.

Over a decade later, with Iraq more divided than ever, its cultural heritage remains one of the few unifying forces.

As Iraqi forces have clawed back territory from IS since the grinding operation to retake Mosul began Oct. 17, authorities have found evidence of mass graves, torture and brutal prisons. They fear they will also find even more destruction of ancient treasures marking the country's rich history.

"We have information that all of the archaeological places in Mosul have already been destroyed," al-Saadi said.

Archaeologists and government officials have yet to visit the site to conduct a proper assessment, according to Iraqi officers at the scene.

Al-Jabouri, the local tribal fighter, said he doesn't believe any amount of restoration can repair what's been lost.

"But we've heard that only 30 percent of this site has been (properly excavated)," he said, "so maybe there is more still beneath the ground."

Inside Mosul, meanwhile, heavy fighting raged in the eastern Tahrir neighborhood as Iraqi forces pushed deeper into the city. An IS suicide car bomber rammed an Abrams tank belonging to the Iraqi army, disabling it in a massive explosion. The crew was unharmed but the tank's turret and main gun were inoperable,

and the vehicle could only move slowly, an Associated Press reporter at the scene said.

Families fled their homes amid the fighting in the densely populated district, but some were caught up in the clashes. A 3-year-old girl was killed and five others were wounded from mortar shells fired by militants into the street.

In the same district, Iraqi forces arrested four people they described as militants — two Iraqis and two Arabs from another country. They were bound, blindfolded and locked inside a Humvee.

West of Mosul, a state-sanctioned Shiite militia taking part in the operation to retake the northern city advanced toward Tal Afar, a town on the road to Syria that had a Shiite majority population before it fell to predominantly Sunni Islamic State group militants in 2014.

Fierce clashes were underway outside the Tal Afar military airport, said Hezbollah Brigades spokesman Jaafar al-Husseini, without elaborating.

Later Wednesday, Youssef al-Kilabi, the spokesman for the Shiite militias' umbrella group, told Iraqi broadcaster al-Iraqiya in a telephone call that the militias had taken Tal Afar's airport. The claim could not be independently confirmed.

Abdul-Zahra reported from Mosul. Associated Press writer Brian Rohan and Sinan Salaheddin in Baghdad contributed.

'Tangled web': Trump's businesses could create conflicts

By BERNARD CONDON, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Asked on TV earlier this year whether a President Donald Trump would ever mix politics with business, his eldest son, Donald Jr., said there was no risk of that. The son, an executive in his father's company, insisted the two wouldn't discuss the business if Dad ever got to the White House.

Then Donald Jr. added two words: "Trust me."

The American people may have little choice.

The tradition stretching back to Jimmy Carter in the late 1970s is for presidents to put personal holdings such as stocks into a "blind trust" run by an independent trustee with no ties to the occupant of the Oval Office. But as with so many other areas of politics, Trump looks ready to upend this time-honored practice.

Trump's plans to hand control of his Trump Organization to three of his adult children and not a trustee cannot be considered a blind trust, said Kenneth Gross, head of political law at the firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom.

Even if the president-elect were to appoint a trustee with no family ties, that would probably not remove the potential for Trump to use his new power over policy to enrich himself. Liquidating Trump's holdings would be difficult, and so he would always be aware of what assets he holds.

Voters have long worried about elected officials using their power to line their pockets — or those of business partners — and shape policies to advance their private interests. But rarely has an incoming president represented such potential for conflicts of interest.

No previous commander in chief has brought with him such a sprawling business empire with so much complexity, opaqueness and opportunity for self-dealing.

Trump owns golf clubs, office towers and other properties in several countries. He holds ownership stakes in more than 500 companies. He has struck licensing deals for use of his name on hotels and other buildings around the world and has been landing new business in even more countries — in the Middle East, India and South America.

Gross calls Trump's holdings "unprecedented" in size and complexity for a president, a "tangled web" of potential conflicts that would be difficult to unravel.

As it turns out, Trump doesn't even have to try.

Presidents are not required to set up blind trusts. In fact, they can even run a business from the White House, though Trump has said he will not. Federal ethics rules put strict limits on nearly all government employees and elected officials to prevent self-dealing, but the rules do not apply to the president.

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One area where the public interest could clash with the personal involves Trump's influence over federal agencies whose decisions affect his businesses.

In turning the government-owned Old Post Office into his new Washington hotel, Trump struck a complex rental and management deal with the General Services Administration. As president, he will appoint the head of the GSA.

And one of Trump's lenders, Deutsche Bank, is in settlement talks with the Justice Department over its role in the mortgage blowup that sparked the 2008 financial crisis. Trump will appoint the head of that agency, too.

For his part, Trump has dismissed the idea that he is even interested in his business now. In an interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" on Sunday, he said he was fully engaged in efforts to "save our country."

"I don't care about hotel occupancy," he added. He called matters like that "peanuts."

The Trump Organization said in a statement that it is "vetting various structures" with the goal of transferring management to three of Trump's children, along with a "team of highly skilled executives."

Carter started the tradition of presidential blind trusts when he put his peanut farm in one. All the presidents who followed also set up one, according to Gross, save for Barack Obama, who mostly had holdings in plain-vanilla index funds.

With a blind trust, owners can't control their portfolio and may not even know what's in it. Trustees sometimes sell off holdings and invest the money elsewhere without the owner's knowledge.

"It's one thing to sell 1,500 shares of Procter & Gamble. You can do that easily," Gross said. "It's another thing to sell a golf course in a foreign country or extricate from a branding contract."

In the 2012 presidential election, Republican nominee Mitt Romney, who had vast holdings from working at buyout firm Bain Capital, pledged to put his wealth in a blind trust certified by the Office of Government Ethics.

On CNN on Sunday, Trump adviser Rudy Giuliani suggested the president-elect could set up a blind trust. Later he suggested a more flexible arrangement might be necessary given the role of Trump's children in his business. He called the situation "very unusual."

"There's no perfect way to do this," Giuliani said. "You have to have some confidence in the integrity of the president."

Bernard Condon can be reached at <http://twitter.com/BernardFCondon>.

Obama urges nations not to give in to isolationist impulses

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Standing in democracy's birthplace, President Barack Obama on Wednesday issued a parting plea to world leaders not to let the fear of globalization tugging at Europe and the U.S. pull them away from their core democratic values. He argued it wasn't too late for a course correction.

On his last foreign trip as president, Obama has repeatedly tried to draw lessons from Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election, hoping it can serve as wake-up call in the U.S. and abroad. Conceding that many feel left behind by globalization, Obama said there was an understandable impulse toward isolationism and that if people feel their futures are at risk, "they'll push back."

"People have to know that they're being heard," Obama said in a speech to the Greek people in Athens. But, he added, "We can't look backward for answers. We have to look forward."

While fewer people in the U.S. are looking to Obama for direction now that his successor has been chosen and his agenda largely rebuked, Obama has retained significant clout abroad. His message Wednesday appeared aimed at other world leaders facing pressures of nationalist movements and economic anxiety, exemplified by Britain's recent vote to leave the European Union.

From Greece, Obama took a short flight to Germany, which has emerged as one of the strongest voices for preserving a unified, inclusive Europe. Yet even German Chancellor Angela Merkel faces her own threat from a nationalist right-wing movement, fueled in part by anger over her generous policy toward resettling

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Syrian migrants pouring into Europe.

"We cannot sever the connections that have enabled so much progress," Obama said.

Obama's argument centered on the notion that economic inequality, while a growing problem, can be addressed without a full rejection of globalization. Rather, he said it demanded a "course correction."

"In the years and decades ahead, our countries have to make sure that the benefits of an integrated global economy are more broadly shared by more people and that the negative impacts are squarely addressed."

Obama argued nations must strengthen alliances and expressed his confidence that the U.S. would remain loyal to NATO despite Trump's suggestions to the contrary during the 2016 presidential campaign.

He elicited nervous chuckles as he acknowledged that he and the president-elect "could not be more different." But in a message of reassurance, Obama argued that democracy is bigger than any one person.

"As long as we retain our faith in democracy, as long as we retain our faith in the people, as long as we don't waver from those central principles that ensure a lively, open debate, then our future will be ok," Obama said.

And to listeners at home fearful about Trump, he offered a path out of the wilderness, albeit a long and winding one.

"Any action by a president, or any result of an election, or any legislation that is proven flawed can be corrected through the process of democracy," Obama said.

Though Obama's trip to Greece was planned before the election results were known, the White House hoped the setting would form a powerful reminder of the basic tenets of democracy: fair elections, a free press and tolerance for ethnic, religious and sexual minorities.

Before his speech, Obama climbed up the Acropolis, the ancient citadel that serves as a monument to free thought and artistic expression. He strolled through the Propylaea, the complex's monumental gateway, and gazed up at the famed Parthenon temple dating to the 5th century B.C.

The entire site was closed to the public for Obama's visit, which has played out amid stringent security measures. Demonstrations were banned in parts of Athens, and road and subway stations were shut down for the first official visit of a sitting U.S. president since Bill Clinton came in 1999.

Obama said concepts like minority rights and equality under the law "grew out of this rocky soil" in a democratic project not yet complete. He said inequality, on more vivid display due to widespread technology, now posed one of the biggest threats to democratic nations, their stability and prosperity.

Even in Greece, there were parallels to the deep divisions now on display in America. Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras won elections last year on what critics say was a populist platform, though one on the left of the spectrum. He pushed his formerly small party to the forefront by telling Greeks weary from six years of financial crisis that he would reject austerity measures imposed in return for bailouts.

But after the near-collapse of negotiations with Greece's creditors, Tsipras performed a political about-face: He signed up to a new bailout and more austerity to prevent his country being forced out of the euro.

Greece's government hoped Obama would help persuade some of Greece's more reluctant creditors to grant debt relief — a message they hoped he'd stress in Berlin — and also pressure other European countries to share more of the burden of the migrant crisis. Appearing receptive to Greece's woes, Obama repeated his belief that debt relief should be granted.

Associated Press writer Elena Becatoros contributed to this report.

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

Nobel no-show: Dylan not coming to Stockholm to get prize

By JAN M. OLSEN, Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Bob Dylan won't be coming to Stockholm to pick up his 2016 Nobel Prize for literature at the Dec. 10 prize ceremony.

The Swedish Academy said Wednesday that Dylan told them "he wishes he could receive the prize personally, but other commitments make it unfortunately impossible."

The 75-year-old American singer-songwriter was awarded the prize on Oct. 13 "for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition."

The literature prize and five other Nobel Prizes will be officially conferred upon winners in Stockholm next month on the anniversary of award founder Alfred Nobel's death in 1896.

Details about who would accept the award on Dylan's behalf were unclear — more information on that was expected Friday.

Permanent Secretary Sara Danius told Swedish news agency TT the academy received "a personal letter" from Dylan and that he "underlined that he feels extremely honored by the Nobel Prize."

The Academy said it "respects Bob Dylan's decision," adding that not travelling to the Swedish capital to personally pick up the prestigious award was "unusual, but not exceptional."

In 2004, Austrian playwright and novelist Elfriede Jelinek stayed home, citing a social phobia.

"The award is still theirs, as it now belongs to Bob Dylan," the Academy said. "We are looking forward to Bob Dylan's Nobel lecture, which he must hold, according to the requirements, within six months" from Dec. 10.

Dylan at first was silent after the Nobel announcement but eventually said getting the award left him "speechless."

Dylan has accepted numerous awards over the years, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which he picked up at a White House ceremony in 2012. A year later, he became the first rock star voted into the elite American Academy of Arts and Letters, which made him an honorary member.

In 2000, Dylan traveled to Stockholm to collect the Polar Music Prize from Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf.

This version corrects the spelling of Bob in the 7th paragraph.

DIY breast reconstruction: Device lets women do part at home

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE, AP Chief Medical Writer

This might be the ultimate do-it-yourself project: Doctors are testing a device that would let women do part of their own breast reconstruction at home.

It's aimed at not only making treatment more comfortable and convenient, but also giving women a sense of control — something cancer often takes away.

More than 100,000 women each year in the United States have surgery to remove a cancerous breast, and many of them choose reconstruction with an implant. To make room for a permanent one, many of them get a tissue expander, a temporary pouch that is gradually enlarged with saline to stretch the remaining skin and muscle. This means trips to the doctor every week or two for several months for injections of saline into the pouch, which can be a painful ordeal.

"We would put as much saline as we could until basically the patient would say, 'I can't stand it anymore,'" said Dr. Daniel Jacobs, a Kaiser Permanente plastic surgeon in San Jose, California.

While biking home one day, Jacobs had an idea: Why couldn't a tiny can of compressed gas, like the one he carries to fix a flat tire, be used to let women inflate their own tissue expanders, a little each day so there is less stretching at a time and less pain?

He helped found a company — AirXpanders Inc. of Palo Alto, California — to develop the device, called AeroForm. It's sold in Australia, approved in Europe and under review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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Its use requires no special training, wires or tubes — just a palm-sized remote control that activates a tiny cartridge inside the pouch to pump gas, up to three times a day according to how the woman feels.

In a company-sponsored study of 150 women, AeroForm patients finished tissue expansion in half the time and were able to get implants a month sooner than others who had the usual saline treatments, said the study leader, Dr. Jeffrey Ascherman, a plastic surgeon at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia Medical Center in New York.

"My patients love it," he said. When some women who agreed to be in the study learned they had been assigned to get the saline device for comparison, "I had one who started crying, and other women said, 'please Dr. Ascherman, can't you change it?'" he said.

There was no difference in rates of side-effects such as infections, but seven of the air expanders malfunctioned versus only one saline one, Ascherman said. The device was tweaked to fix the problem, he said.

"It's a really interesting concept," said one outside expert, Dr. Deanna Attai, a University of California, Los Angeles, surgeon who is a past president of the American Society of Breast Surgeons.

"Giving the patient a sense of control is very psychologically important," because many women feel robbed of that, Attai said. "To a patient that's going through cancer treatment that could be a big deal."

Dr. Susan E. Downey, a Los Angeles plastic surgeon who used the AeroForm on two patients in the study, said: "I think it will make life easier for a lot of people."

It did for 35-year-old Luincys Fernandez, a high school chemistry teacher who lives in Bogota, New Jersey, and teaches in New York. She was diagnosed with breast cancer a year ago, when pregnant with her second son, and used the AeroForm as part of the study.

"I really, really liked it," she said. She carried the remote control in her purse and completed the tissue expansion in just 18 days.

"It did not interrupt any of my daily activities. I could go back to normal. I could see the results right away and I could see where I wanted it to go" in terms of size and appearance, she said.

The device comes in three sizes. Women can choose the amount of inflation up to a point, limited by how much tissue is left and how far the device can expand. Once fully expanded, the device is removed and replaced with a breast implant.

In Australia, AeroForm costs more than saline expanders but requires fewer office visits, so costs are not directly comparable. In the U.S., tissue expansion generally is reimbursed at a flat rate that is part of breast reconstruction, and AeroForm's impact on this cost — if the device wins FDA approval — is not clear.

Online:

Breast reconstruction info: <http://tinyurl.com/jj98n9k>

Device: <http://www.airxpanders.com/>

Marilynn Marchione can be followed at <http://twitter.com/MMarchioneAP>

The Latest: EU: US will be in climate talks even under Trump

MARRAKECH, Morocco (AP) — The Latest on U.N. climate talks in Marrakech, Morocco (all times local): 6 p.m.

A European Union official says he believes the U.S. will continue to engage in international climate talks, even under President-elect Donald Trump.

Slovakian Environment Minister Laszlo Solymos, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency, says "it's not easy to jump off a fast moving train. If someone wants to deviate, it won't be easy."

Asked about Trump's campaign pledge to "cancel" U.S. involvement in the Paris Agreement on fighting climate change, Solymos was philosophical. He says "should something like that happen, then we shall address this issue, but we won't be alone in it. I'm sure we will be able to deal with it."

He said EU nations "are determined to implement the Paris Agreement fully."

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4:55 p.m.

An American climate change skeptic has shredded a copy of the Paris Agreement on global warming at the U.N. climate conference.

Marc Morano, who runs a climate skeptic website, was led away by security guards after the stunt outside the media center in Marrakech.

Morano put the document in a paper shredder and said that's what will happen to the Paris deal once Trump takes office.

Wearing a red Trump hat, he said "the delegates here seem to be in deep denial about President-elect Trump's policies."

As security guards led him away, he said "we will not be silenced."

Morano is a former aide to Oklahoma Sen. James Inhofe, one of the most vocal climate skeptics in U.S. Congress.

4:15 p.m.

Seemingly unfazed by President-elect Donald Trump's campaign promises to yank the U.S. out of the Paris pact on global warming, a Chinese delegate says he expects the new administration to stay committed to the deal.

"We have to expect they will take a right and smart decision," Liu Zhenmin, the deputy leader of China's delegation, told reporters at U.N. climate talks.

The U.S.-China partnership on climate change forged by Presidents Barack Obama and Xi Jinping paved the way for the Paris deal to come together after years of mutual distrust.

Liu said he expects that cooperation to continue under the next administration, even though Trump pledged during the campaign to "cancel" the Paris deal and withdraw U.S. contributions to U.N. global warming programs.

"I think we have to wait and see," Liu said. "We hope that the U.S. will continue to play a role in the climate change process."

3:25 p.m.

Over 300 U.S. businesses have signed a statement calling on President-elect Donald Trump to support the Paris Agreement on climate change — including General Mills, eBay, Intel, Unilever, and dozens of other Fortune 500 companies.

Their statement reads "implementing the Paris Agreement will enable and encourage businesses and investors to turn the billions of dollars in existing low-carbon investments into the trillions of dollars the world needs to bring clean energy and prosperity to all."

The statement is addressed to Trump, President Barack Obama and members of Congress. It calls on elected U.S. officials to maintain the country's policy and financial commitments to lower carbon emissions.

Lara Birkes, chief sustainability officer of Hewlett Packard Enterprise, says "the Paris Agreement was a vital step forward, but its power is in our collective action."

1:55 p.m.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry says failing to fight climate change would be a "moral failure, a betrayal of devastating consequences."

With 2016 on track to be the hottest year on record, Kerry said the impacts of global warming are so evident that "at some point, even the strongest skeptic has to acknowledge that something disturbing is happening."

Kerry was speaking Wednesday at a U.N. climate conference in Marrakech. He also says that he doesn't think U.S. emissions reduction pledges "can or will be reversed" because of the market mechanisms in play.

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has called global warming a "hoax."

1:30 p.m.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry says an "overwhelming majority" of Americans know that climate change is happening and want the U.S. to honor its commitments under the Paris climate agreement.

Speaking Wednesday at a U.N. climate conference in Marrakech, Kerry praised the Paris deal as a framework that is "built to last."

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has called global warming a "hoax" and pledged during the campaign to "cancel" the Paris deal aimed at fighting climate change.

Kerry, however, says he doesn't think U.S. emissions reduction pledges "can or will be reversed" because of the market mechanisms in play.

Kerry: Obama's climate change targets won't be reversed

By KARL RITTER, Associated Press

MARRAKECH, Morocco (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry made a stirring appeal Wednesday to all countries — including his own — to press ahead with the fight against climate change, saying a failure to do so would be a "betrayal of devastating consequences."

Without mentioning Donald Trump by name, Kerry's speech at the U.N. climate talks was partly aimed at the Republican president-elect who has called global warming a "hoax" and has pledged to "cancel" the Paris deal limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

"No one has the right to make decisions that affect billions of people based solely on ideology or without proper input," Kerry said.

With 2016 on track to be the hottest year on record, Kerry said the impacts of global warming are now evident across the world with record-breaking droughts, rising sea levels, unusual storms and millions of people displaced by weather events.

"At some point even the strongest skeptic has to acknowledge that something disturbing is happening," he said.

The U.S. election outcome has created deep uncertainty about the U.S. role in international climate talks — and about the Paris Agreement adopted last year by more than 190 countries. But Kerry said the U.S. was already in the midst of a clean energy transition that would continue regardless of policy-making.

"I can tell you with confidence that the United States is right now today on our way to meeting all of the international targets we have set," Kerry said. "Because of the market decisions that are being made, I do not believe that that can or will be reversed."

The Obama administration pledged during the Paris negotiations to reduce U.S. emissions by 26-28 percent from 2005 levels by 2025.

Bill Hare, director of the Climate Analytics research group, said the U.S. is on the right path toward meeting its target "but a bit more is needed to get there."

He said if Trump dismantles Obama policies such as the Climate Action Plan and Clean Power Plan, then U.S. emissions would stay at current levels instead of decrease.

Paul Bledsoe, a former Clinton White House climate adviser, said clean energy and efficiency investments by U.S. businesses and consumers are likely to keep American emissions falling overall.

However, he added that "most analysts believe it will take additional government policies that Trump is highly unlikely to pursue to meet the sharper emissions cuts the U.S. has pledged by 2025 under the Paris agreement."

Kerry said an "overwhelming majority" of Americans know that climate change is happening and support the U.S. commitments under the Paris deal.

Falling short in the fight against climate change would be a "moral failure, a betrayal of devastating consequences," he said.

Kerry said climate change shouldn't be a partisan issue and noted that military and intelligence leaders have recognized its potential as a "threat-multiplier."

He asked leaders in all parts of the world, "including my own," to inform themselves about climate change by talking to scientists, economists, business leaders and other experts.

"I ask you on behalf of billions of people around the world ... do your own diligence before making irrevocable choices," he said.

Brexit ambassador Boris Johnson frustrates EU leaders

By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson is Britain's top diplomat, tasked with winning international friends as the country prepares its exit from the European Union.

So far, that's turning into mission impossible, as EU leaders accuse him of offering insubstantial and unrealistic visions of the U.K.'s future outside the 28-nation bloc.

The latest critic is Dutch Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem, who told the BBC on Tuesday that Johnson "is offering to the British people options that are really not available."

"There is no win-win situation" with Brexit, Dijsselbloem said. "It is going to be a lose-lose situation."

Johnson is one of Britain's best-known politicians, famous at home and abroad for his tousled hair, rumpled appearance and florid speeches studded with Latin phrases. A leader of the victorious "leave" campaign in Britain's EU membership referendum, he was named foreign secretary when Prime Minister Theresa May took office in July.

For the last few months he has been touring EU capitals ahead of formal exit talks, expected to start next year.

British officials have been reluctant to provide details of what deal they hope to strike with the bloc. But Johnson was quoted this week by the Czech newspaper *Hospodarske Noviny* as saying the U.K. would likely have to leave the EU customs union, while retaining access to the bloc's single market in goods and services.

The customs union and the single market are both pillars of the EU's model of tariff-free trade within its bloc of 500 million people. Members of the customs union trade tariff-free, but impose common levies on imports from outside the union.

Dijsselbloem — who also heads the group of 19 countries who use the common euro currency — said Johnson "is saying things that are intellectually impossible, politically unavailable."

"To say, 'We could be inside the internal market, keep full access to the internal market, but be outside the customs union' — this is just impossible, it doesn't exist," Dijsselbloem told the BBC's "Newsnight" program.

"The U.K. will be outside the internal market and there will be some hindrances," he said. "The full free movement within the internal market can only be available if the U.K. also accepts the other freedoms of Europe, including migration within Europe."

Immigration was a major issue for many Britons who voted to leave the EU, and British officials insist they will end the free movement of people from the bloc into Britain — although few details of the plan have yet been provided.

Johnson is widely mistrusted in Brussels from his time as a journalist there, when he helped cement the EU's image in Britain as a bureaucratic behemoth obsessed with cumbersome regulation.

That friction has not abated.

Johnson declined to attend a special meeting Sunday of EU foreign ministers to discuss the win of U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, and told his EU counterparts to stop the "collective whinge-o-rama" over the U.S. election result.

He recently drew skepticism in Italy when he said the country should continue free trade with the U.K. because Britons consume a lot of prosecco. Similarly, in Germany, he stressed the large number of German cars bought in the U.K. — fostering a sense that Britain takes other EU countries for granted.

After Johnson said in September that it was "complete baloney" to suggest an automatic link between free movement and single-market membership, Germany Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said he'd be happy to send him a copy of the EU's central Lisbon Treaty and explain it "in good English."

Charlotte Galpin, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Copenhagen who studies Euroskepticism, said Johnson's diplomatic efforts are appearing counterproductive.

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"My sense ... is that they listen to him saying these things and think "What is he talking about? This is not how the EU works," she said.

Follow Jill Lawless on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/JillLawless>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Nov. 17, the 322nd day of 2016. There are 44 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 17, 1800, Congress held its first session in the partially completed U.S. Capitol building.

On this date:

In 1558, Elizabeth I acceded to the English throne upon the death of her half-sister, Queen Mary, beginning a 44-year reign.

In 1869, the Suez Canal opened in Egypt.

In 1889, the Union Pacific Railroad Co. began direct, daily railroad service between Chicago and Portland, Oregon, as well as Chicago and San Francisco.

In 1917, French sculptor Auguste Rodin (roh-DAN') died in Meudon at age 77.

In 1925, actor Rock Hudson was born Roy Harold Scherer Jr. in Winnetka, Illinois.

In 1934, Lyndon Baines Johnson married Claudia Alta Taylor, better known as Lady Bird, in San Antonio, Texas.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman, in an address to a special session of Congress, called for emergency aid to Austria, Italy and France. (The aid was approved the following month.)

In 1968, NBC outraged football fans by cutting away from the closing minutes of a New York Jets-Oakland Raiders game to begin the TV special "Heidi" on schedule. (After being taken off the air, the Raiders came from behind to beat the Jets, 43-32.)

In 1973, President Richard Nixon told Associated Press managing editors in Orlando, Florida: "People have got to know whether or not their president is a crook. Well, I'm not a crook."

In 1979, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini ordered the release of 13 black and/or female American hostages being held at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

In 1987, a federal jury in Denver convicted two white supremacists of civil rights violations in the 1984 slaying of radio talk show host Alan Berg. (Both men later died in prison.)

In 1991, the first national TV commercial for condoms (Trojan) aired during an episode of the Fox situation comedy "Herman's Head."

Ten years ago: Cast into the minority in midterm elections, House Republicans chose John Boehner (BAY'-nur) of Ohio to lead them. Ivan J. Hill was convicted in Los Angeles of being the "60 Freeway Slayer" of six women (Hill was later sentenced to death). The FDA ended a 14-year virtual ban on silicone-gel breast implants. College football coaching legend Bo Schembechler died in Southfield, Michigan, at age 77. Grammy- and Tony-winning singer Ruth Brown died in Henderson, Nevada, at age 78.

Five years ago: Occupy Wall Street protesters clogged streets and tied up traffic around the U.S. to mark two months since the movement's birth and signal they weren't ready to quit, despite the breakup of many of their encampments by police. Clayton Kershaw of the Los Angeles Dodgers won the NL Cy Young Award. Baseball owners unanimously approved the sale of the Houston Astros from Drayton McLane to Jim Crane, which would lead to the team moving from the NL Central to the AL West for the 2013 season. Demi Moore said she was ending her 6-year marriage to Ashton Kutcher.

One year ago: Republicans urged an immediate closure of America's borders to Syrian refugees, drawing angry denunciations from President Barack Obama and other Democrats and igniting an emotional debate about U.S. values in the wake of the deadly Paris terror attacks. Actor Charlie Sheen issued a statement in which he said he was HIV positive, but that thanks to a rigorous drug regimen, he was in good health. Joe Maddon won his third Manager of the Year award and Jeff Banister his first after each guided his team

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on a surprising run to the playoffs. (In his initial season with the Chicago Cubs, Maddon took the National League prize following the club's first postseason appearance since 2008. Banister led Texas to 88 wins for the season — 21 more than the previous year — in capturing the AL West title.)

Today's Birthdays: Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., is 82. Rock musician Gerry McGee (The Ventures) is 79. Singer Gordon Lightfoot is 78. Singer-songwriter Bob Gaudio is 75. Movie director Martin Scorsese (skor-SEH'-see) is 74. Actress Lauren Hutton is 73. Actor-director Danny DeVito is 72. "Saturday Night Live" producer Lorne Michaels is 72. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Tom Seaver is 72. Movie director Roland Joffe is 71. Former Democratic National Chairman Howard Dean is 68. Former House Speaker John Boehner (BAY'-nur) is 67. Actor Stephen Root is 65. Rock musician Jim Babjak (The Smithereens) is 59. Actress Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio is 58. Actor William Moses is 57. Entertainer RuPaul is 56. Actor Dylan Walsh is 53. National Security Adviser Susan Rice is 52. Actress Sophie Marceau is 50. Actress-model Daisy Fuentes is 50. Blues singer/musician Tab Benoit (behn-WAH') is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ronnie DeVoe (New Edition; Bell Biv DeVoe) is 49. Rock musician Ben Wilson (Blues Traveler) is 49. Actor David Ramsey is 45. Actor Leonard Roberts is 44. Actress Leslie Bibb is 43. Actor Brandon Call is 40. Country singer Aaron Lines is 39. Actress Rachel McAdams is 38. Rock musician Isaac Hanson (Hanson) is 36. Actor Justin Cooper is 28. Musician Reid Perry (The Band Perry) is 28. Actress Raquel Castro is 22.

Thought for Today: "Prejudice is a raft onto which the shipwrecked mind clammers and paddles to safety."
— Ben Hecht, American author and screenwriter (1893-1964).