

# Groton Daily Independent

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## 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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### Saturday, Nov. 19

Robotics at Harrisburg  
10 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran worship at Rosewood Court

### Sunday, Nov. 20

9 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran worship with communion, baptism, and brief congregational meeting.  
9 a.m.: St. John's Lutheran worship with Communion  
10 a.m.: St. John's Lutheran Sunday School  
10 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Sunday School  
10 a.m.: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church  
3 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran young adults serve at Golden Living Center

### Monday, Nov. 21

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, broccoli, garlic toast, sherbet.  
School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.  
School Lunch: Super nachos, tater tots, romaine salad, fruit.  
5 p.m.: Junior High GBB at Frederick (7th at 5 p.m., 8th at 6 p.m.)  
6:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study  
7 p.m.: City Council meeting at the Groton Community Center  
7:30 p.m.: St. John's Lutheran Christian Literature Circle

### Tuesday, Nov. 22

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, rice pilaf, California Blend Veggies, peach crisp, whole



Put our experienced team to work for you!

**GROTON**  
Ford  
GROTONFORD.COM 605-397-2311

## Benefit for Doug Sippel Nov. 26 @ 4 pm Groton Legion

Doug has encountered health issues  
and is not able to work.

Please come and show your support  
as well as having a great afternoon  
with friends and family of Doug.

Silent Auction  
Live Auction

Food served  
at 5 pm  
Free will offering

Fund set up at First State Bank in Groton  
in the name of "Doug Sippel Benefit"

Event sponsored by Friends of Doug Sippel

## The Life of Richard "Dick" Ruden



Memorial services for Richard "Dick" Ruden, 97, of Groton will be 11 a.m., Monday, Nov. 21, 2016 at the United Methodist Church, Groton. Rev. Thomas Carlson will officiate. Private burial will take place in Union Cemetery.

Visitation will be held at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel on Sunday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

Dick fell asleep Thursday, November 17, 2016 at Golden Living Center, surrounded by his family.

Richard Otto Ruden was born on May 6, 1919 in Hettinger, North Dakota to Oscar Edward and Clara Louise "Lill" (Thielke) Ruden. He attended country school in Henry Township and graduated from Groton High School. He later attended Mechanic school in Chicago, Illinois. On February 1, 1943, Richard united in marriage with Gertrude Larson in Groton. Together they made their home on a farm near Groton.

Dick was an active member of the Groton United Methodist Church. He enjoyed woodworking, traveling, stain glass and many projects at the church. Dick loved playing cards with family and friends. He and Gert spent many wonderful years traveling the states in their motor home.

Celebrating his life through memories are his three daughters, Nancy (Morris) Mueller of Rosemount, Minnesota, Char (Berle) Meyers of Hecla, Patricia (John) Larson of Apple Valley, Minnesota; six grandchildren, William (Nicole)

Mueller, Teresa (Derek) Danielson, Chad (Heidi) Meyers, Corey (Tara) Meyers, Michelle (Jay) Skog, Nicolle (Eric) Hanson; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his parents, his wife of 68 years, and two siblings, Clara (Merrill) Rix, Earl (Twila) Ruden.

Honorary Urnbearers will be all of Richard's Grandchildren.

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## GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

November 21, 2016 - 7pm  
Groton Community Center

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Bills
- 3) Fire Pit Regulations
- 4) Baseball Playground Grant
- 5) Skating Operation
- 6) Credit Card Acceptance
- 7) Christmas Gathering or Gift
- 8) Group Health Insurance Coverage
- 9) Executive Session – Personnel 1-25-2 (3)
- 10) 1st Reading Ordinance 707 - 2017 Salary Ordinance

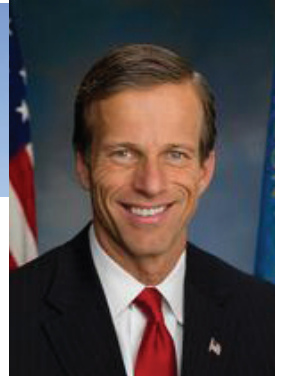
### Per Capita Debt in Brown County Among Lowest in South Dakota

SmartAsset, a financial technology company, recently released their second annual study on the counties across America with the lowest per capita debt and Brown County is one of the best in South Dakota. Counties were analyzed by the amount of debt residents held across three categories: credit cards, auto, and mortgage, compared to local income.

In the table below you can see where Brown County stacked up against the leaders in South Dakota

Rank	County	Income	Credit Card Debt as % of Income	Auto Debt as % of Income	Mortgage Debt as % of Income	Lowest Debt Index
1	Yankton, SD	\$26,831	7.8%	10.4%	60.1%	81.46
2	Union, SD	\$37,326	6.9%	13.9%	75.6%	75.35
3	Beadle, SD	\$24,265	6.7%	18.7%	67.2%	73.52
4	Codington, SD	\$25,624	7.8%	12.7%	78.2%	72.93
5	Brown, SD	\$27,958	8.7%	13.3%	69.5%	72.56
6	Lawrence, SD	\$28,120	8.2%	14.8%	72.3%	71.61
7	Hughes, SD	\$29,501	8.5%	13.7%	74.0%	71.02
8	Davison, SD	\$25,544	9.3%	12.9%	69.5%	71.00
9	Brookings, SD	\$24,694	8.5%	11.7%	86.7%	69.19
10	Pennington, SD	\$26,906	9.2%	16.5%	82.9%	63.06

**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## Celebrating the Generosity of Our Native People

When Thanksgiving approaches each year, I'm reminded of the kindness and generosity Native Americans extended to the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock nearly 400 years ago. With the help of Native Americans, Pilgrims learned how to cultivate corn, where to hunt and fish, how to extract sap from maple trees, and many other skills that helped these early settlers survive and prosper.

While each tribe has its own unique set of customs, traditions, and language, it seems like the common thread among tribes is an enormous sense of generosity. In South Dakota, the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota people have taught us that family should be at the center of life, relationships are more precious than any material gain, and standing up for what we believe in is an important quality in life.

While South Dakota is one of the few states that celebrates Native American Day rather than Columbus Day, I don't think one day is enough to honor their contributions to our state and nation. That's why I'm a proud cosponsor of a recently passed congressional resolution recognizing November as National Native American Heritage Month. November is designated each year as the month to reflect on Native American sacrifices, contributions, history, and shaping of America. And as South Dakotans know, we have plenty of that to celebrate across the state.

As South Dakotans, we have the unique opportunity to witness and learn firsthand about the authentic and rich cultures of the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota ways. Attending a powwow or visiting a tribal community are great examples. Some of the earliest tribal traditions of song and dance are displayed throughout the state, and memorials like the Crazy Horse monument will forever remind us of the legacy of the courageous Lakota warrior.

Just recently, Dignity, a breathtaking statue of a Native American woman with a starquilt draped over her shoulders, was unveiled, and according to the sculptor, it's a tribute to "the pride and strength and durability of the native cultures." And the Lakota Nation Invitational — where sports fans have gathered to see some of our best Native youth display their incredible athletic talent for more than 40 years — is a favorite event of mine.

I hope all South Dakotans take time this November to reflect on the numerous contributions Native Americans have made to the rich heritage of our state. We have a lot to celebrate, so be sure to get out there and take advantage of these opportunities.





**By Richard P. Holm M.D.**



## **On Giving** **By Richard P. Holm MD**

We're right on the heels of the Holiday season, and all that goes with it: the decorations, the marketing, the catalogs, and all the busy shoppers. Indeed, it is the retailers profit time. And kids love it too, as it is a time to get, get, get... What's more it's also the end of the year when every fundraiser is calling for another donation. Everyone seems on the take.

But for every "take" there is a give, which is what truly makes this season such a special time. For it is giving which causes most of the warm feelings, fond memories, and spiritual meaning. Kids grow up to be parents who love the season even more than their children, because it is give, give, give.

In a book entitled *Who Really Cares?* Arthur Brooks writes, "Tangible evidence suggests that charitable giving makes people prosperous, healthy, and happy." He tells us that giving (and that means donating time or money) seems to be the ultimate source of our greatest wealth and happiness, and that we simply do best, as a nation, when people are free and they freely give.

Brooks states that four characteristics generally define the most generous. The biggest givers are family oriented, churchgoers, hard workers, and skeptical of the government. He compares giving in areas of our country, and it's interesting to note that the people of South Dakota give more time or money as a percentage of wealth than any other region of the country. Somehow that doesn't surprise me.

In that spirit, I would like to point out that without a lot of giving, our TV show "On Call with the Prairie Doc" would not be possible. Our sponsors have given funding, SDSU has given personnel and vision, many patients have been willing to be on camera, and the doctors of the state have given unselfishly of their time and expertise.

'Tis the season to be thankful for all the giving that's been goin' on 'round here.

Take home message:

1. You get what you give, and then some;
2. Prairie people are some of the biggest givers in the country;
3. This is to say thank you to all who have given to On Call with the Prairie Doc, which makes it possible.



## Active Gratitude

On Veterans Day this year, I attended the activation ceremony for the 153rd Engineer Battalion of the South Dakota National Guard, as more than 150 soldiers from Huron and Parkston prepared to deploy to Kuwait for the next year. The work they will be doing is critical, but it's still sobering to think of the empty chair that will be at the Thanksgiving table this year and the slightly more solemn Christmas to come soon after. The simple act of saying "thank you for you and your family's service" hardly seems to capture the depth of gratitude a person feels.

I have always believed, and have always tried to teach my kids, that gratitude is more than a series of words. Gratitude is active; something you show; something you share with others. I know I'm not alone in this belief. It's a value most South Dakotans share.

Just this month, a new federal report found that South Dakota ranks fourth in the nation for volunteering – one way we can perhaps measure gratitude in action. While around 25 percent of Americans volunteer, more than 1 in 3 South Dakotans do – and that number is actually on the rise even as volunteering becomes less popular nationwide. All in all, South Dakotans offered 23.26 million hours of service in 2015.

Of course, there are countless informal ways to practice active gratitude as well. Sit down and play cards with someone who might be having a tough time this holiday season. Drop dinner off at the home of a military family in your community. Be a little more patient with your children or a little more helpful to your parents.

They say it takes 21 days to make a habit, which is just about the same length as the holiday season. I encourage you to use this Thanksgiving as the start of a 21-day challenge to make active gratitude an even bigger part of your life. Just imagine how much could change if we all committed ourselves to showing our appreciation a little bit more.

On behalf of my entire family, I wish you a safe – and filling – Thanksgiving.

## **New Aerial Survey Identifies More Than 100 Million Dead Trees in California**

VALLEJO, Calif., Nov. 18, 2016 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today that the U.S. Forest Service has identified an additional 36 million dead trees across California since its last aerial survey in May 2016. This brings the total number of dead trees since 2010 to over 102 million on 7.7 million acres of California's drought stricken forests. In 2016 alone, 62 million trees have died, representing more than a 100 percent increase in dead trees across the state from 2015. Millions of additional trees are weakened and expected to die in the coming months and years.

With public safety as its most pressing concern, the U.S. Forest Service has committed significant resources to help impacted forests, including reprioritizing \$43 million in California in fiscal year 2016 to conduct safety-focused restoration along roads, trails and recreation sites. However, limited resources and a changing climate hamper the Forest Service's ability to address tree mortality in California. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Forest Service officials are seriously hampered not only by short-term budgets passed by Congress, but also a broken budget for the Forest Service that sees an increasing amount of resources going to firefighting while less is invested in restoration and forest health, said Vilsack.

"These dead and dying trees continue to elevate the risk of wildfire, complicate our efforts to respond safely and effectively to fires when they do occur, and pose a host of threats to life and property across California," said Vilsack. "USDA has made restoration work and the removal of excess fuels a top priority, but until Congress passes a permanent fix to the fire budget, we can't break this cycle of diverting funds away from restoration work to fight the immediate threat of the large unpredictable fires caused by the fuel buildups themselves."

The majority of the 102 million dead trees are located in ten counties in the southern and central Sierra Nevada region. The Forest Service also identified increasing mortality in the northern part of the state, including Siskiyou, Modoc, Plumas and Lassen counties. Five consecutive years of severe drought in California, a dramatic rise in bark beetle infestation and warmer temperatures are leading to these historic levels of tree die-off. As a result, in October 2015 California Governor Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency on the unprecedented tree die-off and formed a Tree Mortality Task Force to help mobilize additional resources for the safe removal of dead and dying trees.

This year, California had a record setting wildfire season, with the Blue Cut fire alone scorching over 30,000 acres and triggering the evacuation of 80,000 people. In the southeastern United States wildfires have burned more than 120,000 acres this fall. The southeast region of the Forest Service is operating at the highest preparedness level, PL 5, reflecting the high level of physical resources and funding devoted to the region. Extreme drought conditions persist, and many areas have not seen rain for as many as 95 days.

Longer, hotter fire seasons where extreme fire behavior has become the new norm, as well as increased development in forested areas, is dramatically driving up the cost of fighting fires and squeezing funding for the very efforts that would protect watersheds and restore forests to make them more resilient to fire. Last year fire management alone consumed 56 percent of the Forest Service's budget and is anticipated to rise to 67 percent in by 2025.

As the situation in the southeast demonstrates, the problem of shrinking budget capacity is felt across the U.S., not only in the western states. The health of our forests and landscapes are at risk across the nation, and the tree mortality crisis could be better addressed if not for the increasing percentage of the Forest Service budget going to fight wildfire. "We must fund wildfire suppression like other natural disasters in the country," says Vilsack.

Forest Service scientists expect to see continued elevated levels of tree mortality during 2017 in dense forest stands, stands impacted by root diseases or other stress agents and in areas with higher levels of bark beetle activity. Photos and video of the surveys are available on the Forest Service multimedia webpage.



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## Today in Weather History

November 19, 1981: A storm system moved from southeast Nebraska through Iowa on the 18th and spread rain and sleet as well as a few thunderstorms into southern Minnesota. Rain and sleet began changing over to snow during the afternoon on the 18th and continued through the 19th. The heaviest snowfall was in the Minneapolis area. The 10.4 inches of snow reported from the National Weather Service office in the Twin Cities was the heaviest snowfall recorded at the office since March 22nd, to the 23rd, 1965 when 13.6 inches fell. The storm knocked out power and phones to many in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Damage was also done to the Humber H. Humphrey Metrodome, where the weight of the heavy snow caused the newly inflated, fabric dome collapsed and ripped.

November 19, 1996: Widespread freezing rain spread a layer of ice across a large area before changing over to snow during November 19-20. Snowfall amounts were 1 to 3 inches in central South Dakota, 3 to 7 inches across north central South Dakota, 5 to 6 inches in west central Minnesota, and 4 to 12 inches across northeast South Dakota. Travel was difficult, and several schools were closed or delayed. Mail delivery was also slowed or delayed for a day or two. Several, mainly minor accidents, resulting in several minor injuries, occurred as a result of the ice and snow covered roads. Two Milbank buses slid into ditches. Strong north winds led to near-blizzard conditions across northeast South Dakota on the 20th. Some snowfall totals included; 12.0 inches in Clear Lake and near Milbank; 10.1 inches near Mellette; 9.0 inches in Browns Valley; 8.3 inches near Big Stone City; 8.0 inches in Faulkton; and 7.0 inches in Britton and Conde.

1921: The Columbia Gorge ice storm finally came to an end. In Oregon, 54 inches of snow, sleet and glaze blocked the Columbia River Highway at The Dalles. Apart from traffic on the river itself, all transportation between Walla Walla WA and Portland OR came to a halt. Nine trains were stopped as railroads were blocked for several days.

1930: A rare estimated F4 tornado struck the town of Bethany, Oklahoma. This storm is one of only three violent tornadoes to have been documented to have occurred during the month of November in Oklahoma since 1900. Between 9:30 am and 9:58 am CST, it moved north-northeast from 3 miles west of the Oklahoma City limits, and hit the eastern part of Bethany. About 110 homes and 700 other buildings, or about a fourth of the town, were damaged or destroyed. Near the end of the damage path, 3.5 miles northeast of Wiley Post Airfield, the tornado hit the Camel Creek School. Buildings blew apart just as the students were falling to the floor and looking for shelter, and five students and a teacher were killed. A total of 23 people were killed and another 150 injured, with 77 being seriously injured. Damage estimates were listed at \$500,000.

1957 - Nineteen inches of snow covered the ground at Cresco, IA, a record November snow depth for the state. (The Weather Channel)








1981 - An unusually early snowstorm struck the Twin Cities of Minnesota, with as much as a foot of snow reported. The weight of the heavy snow caused the newly inflated fabric dome of the Hubert Humphrey Metrodome in downtown Minneapolis to collapse and rip. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A sharp cold front pushed across the Great Lakes Region and the Mississippi Valley. Northwest winds gusting to 50 mph in Iowa caused some property damage around Ottumwa, and wind chill readings reached 16 degrees below zero at Hibbing MN. Showers and thunderstorms over Florida produced 5.80 inches of rain in six hours at Cocoa Beach. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Strong thunderstorms developed during the mid morning hours and produced severe weather across eastern Texas and the Lower Mississippi Valley into the wee hours of the night. Thunderstorms spawned twenty-one tornadoes, including thirteen in Mississippi. One tornado killed two persons and injured eleven others at Nettleton MS, and another tornado injured eight persons at Tuscaloosa AL. Thunderstorms produced baseball size hail in east Texas and northern Louisiana, and Summit MS was deluged with six inches of rain in four hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Slight Chance Snow then Snow/Sleet Likely	Snow/Sleet Likely then Chance Snow
High: 27 °F	Low: 18 °F	High: 30 °F	Low: 19 °F	High: 33 °F	Low: 27 °F	High: 34 °F

Weather Mode has been switched:

Spring

Summer

Fall

**Winter**

**Today: Highs in the 20s to mid 30s**

**Monday Night – Tuesday:**

A mixed bag of precipitation possible as another storm system approaches the region



**National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD**

[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)

Updated: 11/19/2016 4:50 AM Central



Published on: 11/19/2016 at 4:53AM

Winter weather has arrived! Don't expect a return to 60s and 70s anytime soon, as temperatures today top out in the 20s to mid 30s. Dry, but cold conditions will remain through the weekend. A mixed bag of precipitation is expected Monday night into Tuesday, as another storm system approaches the region. Light snow accumulations look possible on Tuesday.



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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 32.5 F at 1:42 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 21.6 F at 11:54 PM**

**High Gust: 36.0 Mph at 5:02 AM**

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High: 72° in 1897**

**Record Low: -11° in 1914**

**Average High: 37°F**

**Average Low: 17°F**

**Average Precip in Nov.: 0.50**

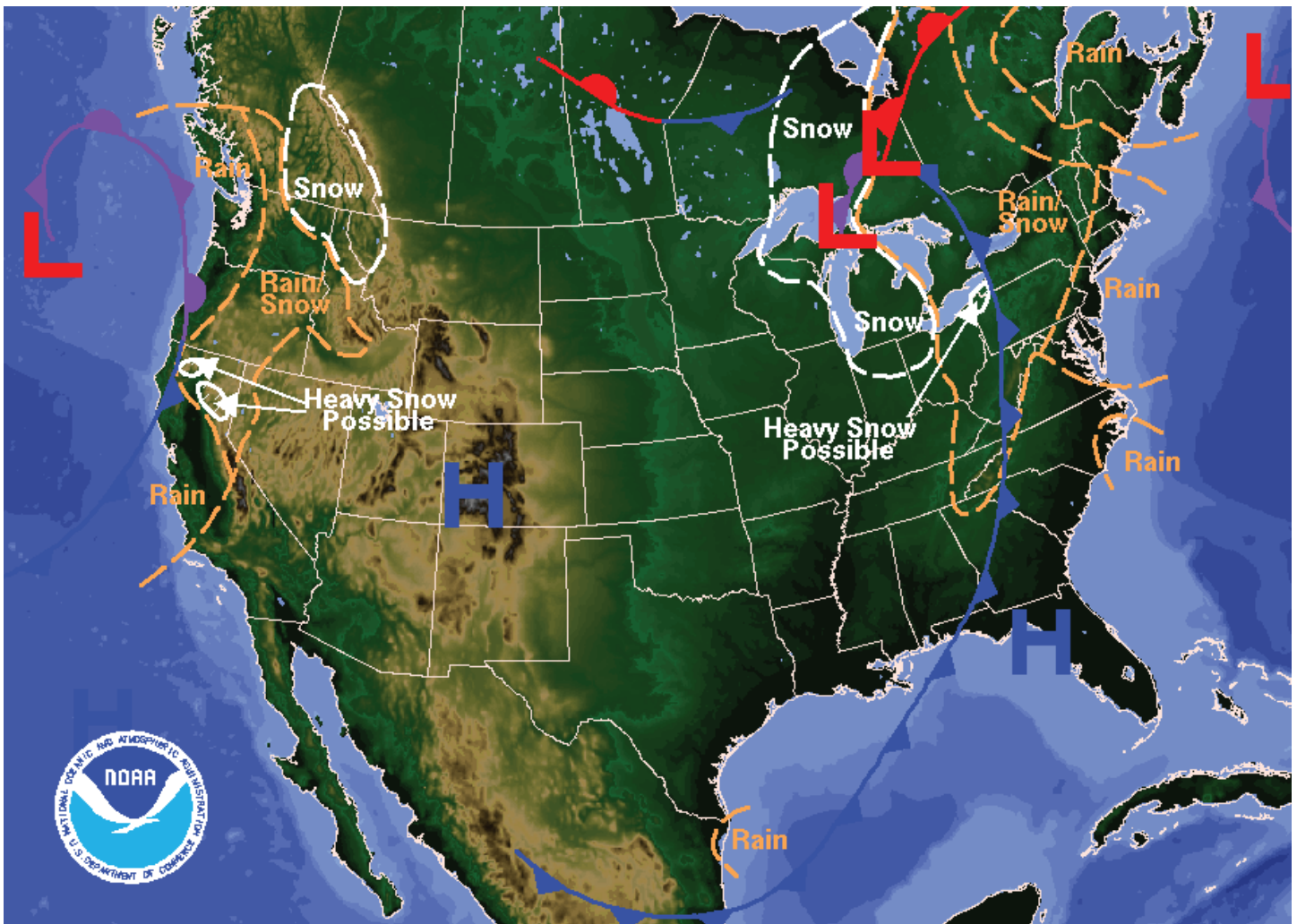
**Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00**

**Average Precip to date: 20.97**

**Precip Year to Date: 15.00**

**Sunset Tonight: 4:59 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:40 a.m.**



Weather Forecast for Sat, Nov 19, 2016, issued 3:45 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Fanning based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## TAKE CARE, GOD!

Little Margie was saying her prayers before getting into bed. Her mother stood at her door and listened as she honestly expressed her faith and dependence on God:

"Dear Lord, You know I really had a bad day. Thanks for getting me through everything OK. I don't know what I would have done without You. So I really want You to take care of Yourself - cause if anything happens to You, I don't know what I'd do!"

Being dependent is sometimes difficult. It is normal and natural to want to be self-reliant, believing that we can do all things in our own strength and with our wisdom and insight. We take great time and go to great lengths to prepare ourselves to meet and overcome the demands of life. But in the end, when facing life's difficult challenges, we know that sooner or later, we'll need God's help.

How fortunate for those who know they can be mighty because God is mighty. Our God who created the universe has arms that can reach us wherever we are or whatever our situation may be. Nothing is beyond Him, nothing escapes Him, nothing overwhelms Him, and nothing frightens Him. If it concerns us, it concerned Him first.

God will make us equal to every challenge He brings into our life. Remember the words of the Apostle Paul: "Our sufficiency is from God!"

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You know when we need to be convinced that we can't make it without You. Help us to see You at work in our lives to make us depend on You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 2 Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything to ourselves, but our competence comes from God.

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

**We now accept**

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

**for out patient therapy.**

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

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News from the  Associated Press

## Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

State Tournament Class AA

Consolation Semifinal

Huron def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-14, 25-15, 25-22

Sioux Falls Washington def. Pierre, 25-16, 25-22, 25-21

Semifinal

Harrisburg def. Aberdeen Central, 25-23, 25-21, 25-21

Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-18, 28-26, 17-25, 25-23

State Tournament Class A

Consolation Semifinal

Sioux Falls Christian def. Milbank Area, 25-13, 25-8, 25-16

Sioux Valley def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-14, 25-23, 19-25, 25-16

Semifinal

Dakota Valley def. West Central, 25-11, 25-15, 27-25

Madison def. Bon Homme, 25-20, 25-14, 25-11

State Tournament Class B

Consolation Semifinal

Platte-Geddes def. Lyman, 29-27, 21-25, 18-25, 26-24, 15-13

Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Harding County, 11-25, 26-24, 20-25, 25-21, 15-11

Semifinal

Chester def. Sully Buttes, 25-17, 22-25, 25-23, 25-21

Northwestern def. Parker, 25-21, 25-13, 25-14

## System drops heavy snow, zaps mild temps in northern Plains

By MARGERY A. BECK, Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A wintry blast dropped heavy snow Friday in northern Plains states, including more than a foot in one northern Minnesota county, and sent cars and semitrailers into roadside ditches.

A spotter for the National Weather Service reported nearly 14 inches of snow fell at a location in Cass County by early Friday afternoon. In Itasca County, a foot of snow fell near Coleraine, with 5 inches falling in less than two hours, another observer reported.

Along with heavy snow, the storm also ushered in howling winds that made driving dangerous and erased what had been almost summer-like temperatures.

The Minnesota State Patrol reported 340 crashes and more than 550 spinouts statewide since Thursday night. At least one person died on icy roads. The patrol says a 42-year-old man from Fulda died in a two-vehicle crash on Highway 59 early Friday. Transportation officials recommended no travel in parts of southwestern Minnesota due to whiteout conditions and roads covered with blowing snow.

Whiteout conditions were reported Friday morning in Brookings, South Dakota, and surrounding areas, and officials warned against trying to drive in the worst-hit areas. By late Friday morning, the South Dakota Highway Patrol had warned that Interstate 29 north was blocked in the southern part of the state because of an overturned semitrailer lying across the roadway.

Only two days earlier, much of the region had seen high temperatures hovering around 70 degrees, said National Weather Service meteorologist Cody Moldan, in North Platte, Nebraska. By Friday, temperatures had dipped about 40 degrees and were expected to fall into the single digits and teens in the area by



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early Saturday morning, he said.

An upper level system that hit the Rocky Mountains region to the west had moved into western and northern Nebraska by late Thursday, Moldan said, bringing half a foot of snow to some parts of Nebraska.

"It didn't reach the level of blizzard in Nebraska, but there has certainly been hazardous travel," he said.

Moldan said 6 inches of snow fell in Newport, Nebraska, overnight, while amounts from 3 inches to more than 5 inches fell in other parts of northern Nebraska before the storm moved northeast Friday morning into the Dakotas and Minnesota.

The National Weather Service had said up to a foot of snow could fall in parts of Minnesota, with 3 to 8 inches elsewhere by Saturday morning. But meteorologist Amanda Graning of the National Weather Service in Duluth, Minnesota, said Friday afternoon that some areas in northern Minnesota could see up to 2 feet of snow.

Dozens of schools in Minnesota and South Dakota canceled classes Friday in anticipation of the storm.

Todd Heitkamp, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, said the northeastern part of South Dakota was receiving the heaviest snowfall, with up to 10 inches expected.

High winds swept a wider area, with the weather service warning of gusts higher than 55 mph as far south as Iowa.

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Associated Press writer Jeff Baenen contributed to this report from Minneapolis.

## The Latest: Storm causes hundreds of crashes in Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Latest on a wintry storm blowing across the upper Midwest (all times local): 6:30 p.m.

Authorities report hundreds of crashes in Minnesota as a snowstorm sweeps across the state.

The Minnesota State Patrol reports 340 crashes, including 37 with injuries, and more than 550 spinouts statewide since Thursday night. At least one person died on icy roads. The patrol says a 42-year-old man from Fulda died in a two-vehicle crash on Highway 59 early Friday.

Heavy, wet snow also was causing power outages. Officials of Crow Wing Power reported 4,000 customers lost power Friday. The Minneapolis Star Tribune reports that the power cooperative, which serves counties in central and north-central Minnesota, pulled crews off the roads and shut its offices down.

Transportation officials recommended no travel in parts of southwestern Minnesota due to whiteout conditions and roads covered with blowing snow.

Snow was also reported in parts of Nebraska and the Dakotas.

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2:45 p.m.

Snow is falling rapidly in northern Minnesota, where more than a foot has fallen in the first major wintry blast of the season.

A spotter for the National Weather Service reports nearly 14 inches of snow fell at a location in Cass County by early Friday afternoon. In Itasca (eye-TAS'-kuh) County, an observer reports a foot of snow near Coleraine, with 5 inches falling in less than two hours.

Meteorologist Amanda Graning of the National Weather Service in Duluth says some areas in northern Minnesota could see up to 2 feet of snow before the heavy band starts dissipating Friday evening.

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1:40 p.m.

Transportation officials say a wintry storm that swept the northern Plains states Friday has sent cars and semitrailers into ditches along Interstate 94 in western Minnesota.

Jerimiah Moerke with the Minnesota Department of Transportation told the Fergus Falls Daily Journal that snow and high winds have made it difficult for vehicles — especially big rigs — to get up hills on the interstate around Dalton. Officials say at least one semitrailer jackknifed on I-94 between Fergus Falls and Evansville.

Minnesota State Patrol trooper Jesse Grabow says low visibility, ice, snow and slush are the main causes

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for crashes and spin outs on the interstate.

This item has been corrected to reflect that Dalton is in western Minnesota.

12:05 p.m.

Northern Nebraska residents are digging out after half a foot of snow fell in some areas, as a wintry blast moved from the Rocky Mountain region into northern Plains states.

National Weather Service meteorologist Cody Moldan in North Platte, Nebraska, says 6 inches of snow fell in Newport overnight Thursday. He says from 3 inches to more than 5 inches of snow fell in other parts of northern Nebraska before the storm moved northeast Friday morning.

Temperatures have dipped into the lower 30s, with high winds making conditions feel colder. Moldan says temperatures in the area will drop into the single digits and teens late Friday and early Saturday morning.

That's a big change from earlier in the week. Temperatures hovered around 70 degrees in the area on Wednesday.

12:58 a.m.

The unseasonably mild conditions of recent days will be ushered out by a jolt of wintry weather that's expected to bring blizzards, freezing temperatures and high winds to northern Plains states.

The National Weather Service has issued a blizzard warning for Friday in eastern parts of North and South Dakota and western Minnesota, as well as winter storm warnings for other parts of those states and Nebraska.

The service says up to a foot of snow could fall in parts of Minnesota, and 3 to 8 inches elsewhere.

Gusts of up to 60 mph are expected to cause whiteout conditions.

Low temperatures are expected to drop into the mid and lower 20s, with wind chills even lower.

## Groups ease off events for lawmakers under new lobbying law

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota interest groups are hesitant to hold events for state lawmakers because of new limits on lobbyist gifts included in an anti-corruption initiative that took effect this week.

The incoming Senate Republican leader sent an email to caucus members Tuesday saying top Republicans aren't attending any events until they get more guidance.

The ballot measure approved by voters on Election Day limits gifts from lobbyists to \$100 annually for lawmakers — a major change given there were previously no caps.

The new law has spurred uncertainty among lobbyists and lawmakers. Secretary of State Shantel Krebs said her office has received hundreds of calls about the wide-ranging initiative, while groups such as the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce have canceled upcoming events — or are weighing whether they'll still be held.

Last session alone, lawmakers were invited to dozens of breakfasts, dinners and gatherings held by groups ranging from trade associations to local chambers of commerce. It's likely the number of shelved events will grow because organizations are reacting to the law change with caution, South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry President David Owen said.

The Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce decided to cancel its gathering to welcome legislators, though it could come back in a different form.

"We would like to be able to have the event, but we don't want to put anyone in jeopardy of breaking campaign finance or election laws," CEO Laura Schoen Carbonneau said.

Some of the concerns were first reported in the conservative blog South Dakota War College.

Under the new law, a gift includes compensation, employment, beverages, food and things of value. Lobbyists and their employers are subject to the limitations when giving gifts to lawmakers, state officials and legislative and executive department staff.

Foes argue that the gift provisions are poorly written to the point of confusion and attempt to fix a

conjured-up crisis of corruption in Pierre.

"I've never seen a legislator driving a vehicle they can't explain," Owen said with a laugh. "They all don't come back tanned at 'Veto Day' because they've been on vacation someplace."

The \$100 limit is too low when coupled with the fact that gifts given to an official's immediate family members count toward the cap, he said.

Supporters say the goal is to restrict the financial relationship between lobbyists or interest groups and lawmakers. The law makes people show "modest restraint," said Don Frankenfeld, a former GOP senator who helped pass the measure.

"I hope it doesn't discourage people from meeting," he said. "It just will hopefully discourage people from spending a lot of money to influence legislators."

Many states have placed restrictions on lobbyist gifts to lawmakers. In Kansas, the limit is \$40 a year, but that doesn't include hospitality such as food, drinks and recreation. Minnesota law bans lobbyists from giving public officials gifts, with exceptions for some small-value gifts and food and beverages at certain events.

It's unclear whether lawmakers will attempt to revise or repeal the South Dakota initiative during the 2017 session.

An aide to Gov. Dennis Daugaard said the governor is reviewing the measure and getting legal advice on its potential effects. Chief of Staff Tony Venhuizen said it's a "very poorly-drafted statute" that could have many unintended consequences.

The initiative also creates an ethics commission, tightens campaign finance laws and set up a system to publicly fund campaigns.

## Dakota Access oil pipeline developer won't consider reroute

By JOHN MONE and BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — The head of the company building the Dakota Access oil pipeline said Friday that it won't be rerouted but that he'd like to meet with the head of an American Indian tribe to try to ease the tribe's concerns about the project.

Kelcy Warren, the CEO of Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners, told The Associated Press that the company has no alternative than to stick to its plan for the \$3.8 billion pipeline, which would ship oil from North Dakota to Illinois and which is nearly completed.

"There's not another way. We're building at that location," Warren said.

Warren said he would welcome the chance to meet with Dave Archambault, the chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux, to address the tribe's concerns that the pipeline skirting its reservation would endanger drinking water and cultural sites.

Archambault, who was with celebrity sympathizers who toured the tribe's protest encampment Friday, including the actors Shailene Woodley and Ezra Miller, said he'd be willing to meet with Warren but that he doesn't think it would make a difference.

"We already know what he's going to say — that this is the cleanest, safest pipeline ever," the chairman said. "What he doesn't know is that this is still an issue for Standing Rock and all indigenous people."

The 1,200-mile, four-state pipeline is largely complete except for a section that would pump oil under Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota. The Standing Rock tribe fears that a leak could contaminate the drinking water on its nearby reservation and says the project also threatens sacred sites, which Warren disputes.

President Barack Obama earlier this month raised the possibility of rerouting the pipeline, and Archambault has told the AP that would be acceptable to the tribe as long as the new route wouldn't take it near the reservation.

Warren noted that the Dakota Access route parallels the existing Northern Border Pipeline, which crosses the Dakotas as it carries natural gas from Canada and the U.S. to the Chicago area.

"We're going to cross the river at that location," he said, calling it the "least impactful" site.

The Army Corps of Engineers in July granted ETP the permits needed for the crossing, but the agency

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decided in September that further analysis was warranted given the tribe's concerns. On Monday, the Corps called for even more study and tribal input.

ETP responded the next day by asking U.S. District Judge James Boasberg to declare that it has the right to lay pipe under Lake Oahe. The judge isn't likely to issue a decision until January, at the earliest.

The matter might linger until after President-Elect Donald Trump takes office. Trump, who owns stock in ETP, has said he wants to rebuild energy infrastructure.

"Do I think it's going to get easier? Of course," Warren said of the incoming administration. "If you're in the infrastructure business ... you need consistency, and you need rules and (regulations). And we need to follow those — everybody needs to follow them, including our own government. That's where this process has gotten off track."

In the meantime, the months of protests against the pipeline continue. There have been demonstrations at the protest encampment near the site of the proposed reservoir crossing and elsewhere, including at the state Capitol and state-owned Bank of North Dakota. About 500 people have been arrested, in total.

Protester Kendrick Eagle, who was with the actors on Friday, said he was part of a group that met with Obama when the president visited the reservation in June 2014 and that Obama promised to stand with the tribe.

"Now is the time. We need him more than ever for this pipeline," Eagle said.

Gov. Jack Dalrymple held a news conference Friday to reiterate his frustration with what he considers undue delays by the Army Corps of Engineers and with increasingly frequent protests in and around the state capital, Bismarck. He called it "a tremendously challenging, tremendously difficult situation."

Warren called protests that became violent "repulsive," but he also said the company could have done some things differently.

"I think we could have had communication with state government before we did," he said. "That dialogue wasn't started until after we had a problem."

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Nicholson reported from Bismarck, North Dakota. Associated Press writer James MacPherson contributed to this story from Cannon Ball, North Dakota.

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Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake> and follow John Mone at <https://twitter.com/JohnMone> .

## The Latest: Governor calls pipeline protests 'challenging'

DALLAS (AP) — The Latest on the Dakota Access pipeline protest (all times local):

2:10 p.m.

North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple has asked the Army Corps of Engineers to speed up its decision on whether to allow a company to proceed with laying a section of the Dakota Access pipeline under a Missouri River reservoir.

Dalrymple said at a news conference Friday that increasingly frequent protests against the pipeline in and around the state capital, Bismarck, have created "a tremendously challenging, tremendously difficult situation."

Demonstrators have protested in several locations this week, including at the state Capitol building and the state-owned Bank of North Dakota, among others.

Bismarck Mayor Mike Seminary credited residents for being patient with protesters and thanked residents for displaying "North Dakota nice."

Protesters say the pipeline would threaten the drinking water on a Standing Rock Sioux reservation.

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1:40 p.m.

Several celebrities, including the actors Shailene Woodley and Ezra Miller, are meeting with Standing Rock Sioux officials and youth in North Dakota to discuss efforts to halt construction of the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

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Woodley, who starred in "The Fault in our Stars" and the "Divergent" series, has been to the protest site before. She was arrested last month on charges of trespassing and engaging in a riot.

On Friday, she suggested that people should consider pulling their money out of the banks funding the pipeline and putting it instead in federal credit unions.

Protester Kendrick Eagle says he was part of a group that met with President Barack Obama when the president visited the reservation in June 2014. He says the president promised to stand with the tribe and that he is needed "more than ever" to help in the pipeline fight.

12 p.m.

The head of the company building the Dakota Access oil pipeline says the company won't consider re-routing it to address American Indian concerns.

The \$3.8 billion pipeline to carry North Dakota oil to Illinois is largely complete except for a stretch under a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota. The Standing Rock Sioux fears a leak could contaminate drinking water on its nearby reservation.

President Barack Obama has raised the possibility of rerouting the pipeline. Kelcy Warren, the CEO of Energy Transfer Partners, told The Associated Press on Friday that the company won't change the route.

The Army Corps of Engineers has delayed approving the river crossing, calling for more tribal input. ETP has asked a federal judge to declare that it has the right to drill under the river.

Additional guard members called to assist at protest site

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The North Dakota National Guard is requesting more soldiers and airmen to assist law enforcement officers dealing with Dakota Access Pipeline protesters in Morton County.

Maj. Amber Balken says about 90 guard members are on duty currently in Morton County. KFGO (<http://bit.ly/2fbYA4x>) reports Balken says that number is expected to increase to about 130 personnel in the next few days. She says the guard members will come from units "across the board."

Maj. Gen. Alan Dohrmann, the leader of the state's National Guard, has said about \$8 million has been spent to date on law enforcement and other costs related to the protests, centered in south-central North Dakota.

Information from: KFGO-AM, <http://www.kfgo.com>

## Custom wood business destroyed by fire

UNION CENTER, S.D. (AP) — Fire has destroyed a custom cabinet and furniture business in the western South Dakota ranching town of Union Center.

All that remains of CR Dreamworks Custom Wood Interiors is a pile of twisted metal. But owner Reed Cammack says he's not giving up and has plans to rebuild.

The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2g5208k>) says a South Dakota Highway Patrol trooper spotted some smoke late Wednesday. Cammack says because of all the flammable materials inside, the fire just took off and burned through Thursday morning.

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

## Iraqi troops face stiff resistance from IS in eastern Mosul

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA and BRIAN ROHAN, Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi troops faced stiff resistance Saturday from Islamic State militants as they pushed deeper into eastern Mosul, backed by aerial support from the U.S.-led international coalition, a senior military commander said.

At dawn, troops moved into the Muharabeen and Ulama neighborhoods after fully liberating the adja-



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cent Tahrir neighborhood on Friday, said Maj. Gen. Sami al-Aridi of the Iraqi special forces. Al-Aridi said IS militants were fighting back with snipers, rocket-propelled grenades and mortar rounds.

Thick black columns of smoke were seen billowing from the two areas, while dozens of civilians were seen fleeing to government-controlled areas. Shortly before noon, a suicide bomber emerged from a house in the Tahrir neighborhood and attacked security forces, wounding four troops.

Late on Friday, a group of IS militants attacked the village of Imam Gharbi south of Mosul, controlling most of it for hours before airstrikes from the U.S.-led international coalition were called in, an officer said. The clashes and multiple suicide bombings left three policemen dead, including an officer, and four others wounded, he said. Nine IS fighters were killed, he added. The officer spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to brief media.

To the west of Mosul, government-sanctioned Shiite militias took full control of the Tal Afar military airfield Friday night, said Jaafar al-Husseini, spokesman for the influential Hezbollah Brigades. Al-Husseini said the clashes almost destroyed the airport and that it will be an important launching pad for the troops in their advance.

The extremist group captured Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, in the summer of 2014.

The offensive to retake the city, which was launched on Oct. 17, is the biggest military operation in Iraq since American troops left in 2011. If successful, the retaking of Mosul would be the strongest blow dealt to IS' self-styled caliphate stretching into Syria. The Shiite militias are leading an assault to drive IS from Tal Afar, which had a majority Shiite population before it fell to the militants in the summer of 2014, and to cut IS supply lines linking Mosul to Syria.

According to the United Nations, more than 56,000 civilians have been forced from their homes since the operation began out of nearly 1.5 million civilians living in and around Mosul.

In the heavily damaged town of Bashiqa, about 13 kilometers (8 miles) northeast of Mosul's outskirts, Christians rang the bells of Saint George's church for the first time to celebrate its liberation from IS, which was driven out earlier this month. Much of the town has been reduced to rubble from artillery strikes and air raids.

Parishioners, peshmerga fighters and Kurdish officials sang hymns and played band music as they walked in procession into the church, which was heavily vandalized by IS fighters. Men prepared a large cross to mount on the rooftop, replacing one destroyed by the extremists.

"The first thing they did was break the cross, we want to replace it and tell Daesh that the cross is still here and we are not leaving at all," said Rev. Afram al-Khoury Benyamen, using the Arabic acronym to refer to the group.

Bullet holes marked the walls inside the church courtyard, strewn with garbage and graffiti left by the extremists, including some of their names. Much of the church's inside had been smashed, with rubble strewn across the ground and holy inscriptions covered with black paint. In an upper level, pews had been pushed back to make room for cushions and carpet beneath a broken window that had been used as a sniper's nest, marked out by scattered spent bullet casings.

Broken brass instruments and a torn bagpipe from the church's boy scout band lay scattered across the site, with pills and syringes on the floor in one area. The church graveyard was desecrated, with graves broken into and tombstones smashed and painted over.

"It's good they're gone but how happy can we be — look at this mess," said 22-year old Youssef Ra-gheed, a drummer from the band who had fled the town when IS controlled it, but returned for Saturday's ceremony.

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Rohan reported from Bashiqa, Iraq.

## Obama to reassure leaders in Peru on successor's presidency

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — President Barack Obama will close a three-nation, post-U.S. election tour the same way he opened it: by reassuring leaders from around the world that U.S. democracy isn't broken and that everything will be fine when Republican Donald Trump succeeds him next year.

Obama is spending the weekend in Lima, Peru, to make a final appearance at an annual Asian-Pacific summit.

But global concerns about Trump's pending ascension to the world's most powerful office after a surprise win in last week's U.S. presidential election will be a key topic of discussion during Obama's meetings. The Trump issue overshadowed the president's interactions with world leaders earlier this week in Athens, Greece, and Berlin.

Trump opened what was an unlikely presidential bid by blasting Mexicans as criminals and rapists, and vowing to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border to keep them and other Latinos from entering the U.S. illegally. During the campaign, the New York businessman rattled U.S. allies by questioning the value of multinational organizations like NATO, and he opposed international trade deals, including a pending Pacific trade pact that Obama negotiated with 11 other countries, calling such agreements harmful to U.S. workers.

Since Obama opened the final foreign trip of his presidency with a stop in Greece on Tuesday, he has tried to reassure his counterparts that the U.S. will uphold its partnerships and obligations despite the divisive rhetoric of a campaign that ended with the election of a real estate mogul and reality TV star with no prior political or government experience.

Obama was likely to offer additional reassurance during a one-on-one meeting Saturday with Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, who took office as Peru's president earlier this year.

On Friday, before Obama's late-night arrival in Peru's oceanfront capital, Kuczynski warned that the U.S. presidential election is a sign of growing hostility toward free trade that threatens the global economy. He told delegates gathering for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum that global trade had stopped growing in the past two years, and would only worsen if nations wall off their economies — as Trump has pledged to do with an agenda that calls for putting America's interests above all else.

"It is fundamental that world trade grow again and that protectionism be defeated," said Kuczynski, who did not mention Trump by name.

Obama has argued for some time that globalization is here to stay, and that governments must address people's fears about what the changing economics mean for them.

Obama was also meeting Saturday with leaders of 11 APEC countries that joined the U.S. to negotiate the sweeping Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal, which Trump opposes. The agreement appears all but dead in the U.S., given that top Republican and Democratic congressional leaders have said lawmakers will not vote on it before they adjourn for the year.

Obama supports international trade deals as a way both to boost U.S. exports and create jobs domestically, and the TPP deal was a key component of his strategy to "pivot" U.S. policy toward Asia to take advantage of the region's fast-growing marketplaces and, at the same time, to create a counterweight to China's growing influence in the region.

Trump leveled harsh criticism at China during the election, threatening the Asian powerhouse with hefty import tariffs over alleged trade and currency violations. Obama was also holding talks Saturday with Chinese President Xi Jinping, one of many world leaders who spoke with President-elect Trump this week.

Trump's team said he told Xi during their telephone conversation that he believes they will have one of the "strongest relationships for both countries moving forward." Xi told Trump that cooperation between the world's two biggest economies was necessary.

The White House said Obama wants to review progress the two presidents have made on a range of issues.

Obama has carved out time in between meetings for one of the staples of his overseas travels: a town hall-style forum with the region's future leaders.

He also was attending a dinner welcoming leaders from APEC's 21-member countries.

Associated Press writer Ben Fox contributed to this report.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

## Trump shifts to right by tapping Sessions, Pompeo, Flynn

By JULIE PACE and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump has picked Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions for attorney general and Kansas Rep. Mike Pompeo to head the CIA, signaling a sharp rightward shift in U.S. security policy as he begins to form his Cabinet.

Trump on Friday also named retired Lt. Gen Michael Flynn as his national security adviser. A former military intelligence chief, Flynn has accused the Obama administration of being too soft on terrorism and has cast Islam as a “political ideology” and driver of extremism.

The selections form the first outlines of Trump’s Cabinet and national security teams. Given his lack of governing experience and vague policy proposals during the campaign, his selection of advisers is being scrutinized both in the U.S. and abroad.

Trump’s initial decisions suggest a more aggressive military involvement in counterterror strategy and a greater emphasis on Islam’s role in stoking extremism. Sessions, who is best known for his hard-line immigration views, has questioned whether terror suspects should benefit from the rights available in U.S. courts. Pompeo has said Muslim leaders are “potentially complicit” in attacks if they do not denounce violence carried out in the name of Islam.

Pompeo’s nomination to lead the CIA also opens the prospect of the U.S. resuming torture of detainees. Trump has backed harsh interrogation techniques that President Barack Obama and Congress have banned, saying the U.S. “should go tougher than waterboarding,” which simulates drowning. In 2014, Pompeo criticized Obama for “ending our interrogation program” and said intelligence officials “are not torturers, they are patriots.”

Sessions and Pompeo would both require Senate confirmation before assuming their designated roles; Flynn would not.

In a separate matter Friday, it was announced that Trump had agreed to a \$25 million settlement to resolve three lawsuits over Trump University, his former school for real estate investors. The lawsuits alleged the school misled students and failed to deliver on its promises in programs that cost up to \$35,000.

Trump has denied the allegations and has said repeatedly he would not settle. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who announced the settlement, called it “a stunning reversal by Donald Trump and a major victory for the over 6,000 victims of his fraudulent university.”

Messages seeking comment from Trump attorneys and a spokeswoman were not immediately returned.

On Friday night, Vice President-elect Mike Pence became the latest celebrity to attend the Broadway hit show “Hamilton” — but he was the first to get a direct message from a cast member from the stage.

Actor Brandon Victor Dixon, who plays Aaron Burr, the nation’s third vice president, recited a message from the stage for his political descendant after the curtain call: “We, sir, are the diverse America who are alarmed and anxious that your new administration will not protect us, our planet, our children, our parents, or defend us and uphold our inalienable rights,” he said. “We truly hope this show has inspired you to uphold our American values, and work on behalf of all of us.”

Pence’s appearance at the show drew both cheers and boos. Pence ducked out before Dixon finished the unprecedented message. But a show spokesman said Pence stood in the hallway outside the entrance to the auditorium and heard the full remarks.

The president-elect did not announce his Cabinet choices in person, instead releasing a statement. He has made no public appearances this week, holing up in his New York skyscraper for meetings. He is spending the weekend at his New Jersey golf club.

Trump is still weighing a range of candidates for other leading national security posts. Possibilities for

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secretary of state are said to include former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton, Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who met with Trump Thursday.

On Saturday, Trump was to meet with retired Gen. James Mattis, a contender to lead the Pentagon. He was also meeting with 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, who lambasted Trump as a "con man" and a "fraud" in a stinging speech in March. Trump responded by repeatedly referring to Romney as a "loser."

Members of minority groups have voiced alarm at Trump's staff appointments so far, saying his choices threaten national unity and promise to turn back the clock on progress for racial, religious and sexual minorities. They say comments attributed to Trump's picks could embolden some Americans to lash out at members of minority groups

Most of Trump's nominees are expected to be confirmed relatively easily given the GOP majority in the Senate. However, potential roadblocks exist, particularly for Sessions, the first senator to endorse Trump and one of the chamber's most conservative members.

His last Senate confirmation hearing, in 1986 for a federal judgeship, was derailed over allegations that he made racist comments, including calling a black assistant U.S. attorney "boy" in conversation. Sessions denied the accusation, but withdrew from consideration.

Republicans were supportive on Friday. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell called his Senate colleague "principled, forthright, and hardworking."

Pace reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Mark Kennedy, Errin Whack, Catherine Lucey, Jill Colvin, Stephen Braun, Robert Burns and Jack Gillum and Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Jonathan Lemire at <http://twitter.com/JonLemire>

## Mike Pence sees 'Hamilton;' cast member gives him an earful

By MARK KENNEDY, AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Vice President-elect Mike Pence on Friday was the latest high-profile person to attend the Broadway hit "Hamilton," but he became the first to get a sharp message from a cast member from the stage.

Actor Brandon Victor Dixon, who plays Aaron Burr, the nation's third vice president, gave a speech Friday for his political descendant after the curtain call, telling Pence the multiracial and multicultural cast is worried about the Donald Trump administration.

"We, sir, are the diverse America who are alarmed and anxious that your new administration will not protect us, our planet, our children, our parents, or defend us and uphold our inalienable rights," Dixon said. "We truly hope this show has inspired you to uphold our American values and work on behalf of all of us. All of us."

Pence ducked out before Dixon finished the unprecedented message. But a show spokesman said the Republican stood in the hallway outside the entrance to the auditorium and heard the full remarks.

The vice president-elect's appearance at the Richard Rodgers Theatre triggered both cheers and boos when he slipped into row F in the prime orchestra seats.

"Vice President-elect Pence, I see you walking out, but I hope you will hear us, just a few more moments. There's nothing to boo here, ladies and gentlemen," Dixon said from the stage. "We're all here sharing a story about love."

Outside, many protesters jeered, including one woman who held up a sign with a line from the musical that always gets a cheer: "Immigrants, we get the job done." Dixon's speech, which ended with a plea to donate to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, brought down the house.

"Hamilton," which won 11 Tony Awards, has been praised by politicians and rap stars alike, influenced the debate over the nation's currency and burst through the Broadway bubble like none other.



The first family has been big boosters of the show. President Barack Obama took daughters Sasha and Malia to see it last year after first lady Michelle Obama caught it last spring. Pence's predecessor, Vice President Joe Biden, also has seen it.

The show is by Lin-Manuel Miranda, who wrote the musical's book, music and lyrics. It stresses the orphan, immigrant roots of Hamilton and has a terrifically varied score, ranging from pop ballads to gospel to sexy R&B. It has been cheered for reclaiming the nation's founding story by a multicultural cast.

The Alexander Hamilton that Pence saw was Javier Munoz, an openly gay actor. Pence supported numerous efforts to ban gay marriage as governor of Indiana and opposed unfettered federal funding for HIV and AIDS treatment.

After Pence left, Jeffrey Seller, the show's lead producer, said he hopes the politician would share the show's message of empathy: "I hope that maybe it inspires him to feel for those not like him."

Seller, a Tony Award winner who has produced such shows as "Rent" and "Avenue Q," said such notable Republicans as former Vice President Dick Cheney and presidential speechwriter Peggy Noonan have come to "Hamilton."

"This show is absolutely for Republicans as well as Democrats, and we would like to host any Republican who would like to see the show," he said.

Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

## Shifting US policy to right, Trump taps Sessions, Flynn

By JULIE PACE and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump signaled a sharp rightward shift in U.S. national security policy Friday with his announcement that he will nominate Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions as attorney general and Kansas Rep. Mike Pompeo to head the CIA, turning to a pair of staunch conservatives as he begins to fill out his Cabinet.

Trump also named retired Lt. Gen Michael Flynn as his national security adviser. A former military intelligence chief, Flynn has accused the Obama administration of being too soft on terrorism and has cast Islam as a "political ideology" and driver of extremism.

Sessions and Flynn were ardent Trump supporters during the campaign, and their promotions were seen in part as a reward for their loyalty.

The selections form the first outlines of Trump's Cabinet and national security teams. Given his lack of governing experience and vague policy proposals during the campaign, his selection of advisers is being scrutinized both in the U.S. and abroad.

Trump's initial decisions suggest a more aggressive military involvement in counterterror strategy and a greater emphasis on Islam's role in stoking extremism. Sessions, who is best known for his hard-line immigration views, has questioned whether terror suspects should benefit from the rights available in U.S. courts. Pompeo has said Muslim leaders are "potentially complicit" in attacks if they do not denounce violence carried out in the name of Islam.

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Trump did not announce his Cabinet choices in person, instead releasing a statement. He has made no public appearances this week, holing up in his New York skyscraper for meetings. He is spending the weekend at his New Jersey golf club.

Sessions and Pompeo would both require Senate confirmation before assuming their designated roles; Flynn would not.

Members of minority groups have voiced alarm at Trump's staff appointments so far, saying his choices threaten national unity and promise to turn back the clock on progress for racial, religious and sexual minorities. They say comments attributed to Trump's picks could embolden some Americans to lash out at members of minority groups

Most of Trump's nominees are expected to be confirmed relatively easily given the GOP majority in the Senate. However, potential roadblocks exist, particularly for Sessions, the first senator to endorse Trump and one of the chamber's most conservative members.

His last Senate confirmation hearing, in 1986 for a federal judgeship, was derailed over allegations that he made racist comments, including calling a black assistant U.S. attorney "boy" in conversation. Sessions denied the accusation, but withdrew from consideration.

Republicans were supportive on Friday. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell called his Senate colleague "principled, forthright, and hardworking."

Sessions would bring to the Justice Department a consistently conservative voice. He has objected to the planned closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility and has given prominence to the specter of voting fraud, a problem that current Justice Department leaders believe is negligible.

Pompeo, who graduated first in his class at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, is a conservative Republican and a strong critic of Obama's nuclear deal with Iran. He has said former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden should enjoy due process and then be sentenced to death for taking and releasing secret documents about surveillance programs in which the U.S. government collected the phone records of millions of Americans.

Anthony Romero, the director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said Pompeo's views raise concerns about "privacy and due process."

The president-elect is still weighing a range of candidates for other leading national security posts. Possibilities for secretary of state are said to include former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton, Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who met with Trump Thursday.

On Saturday, Trump was to meet with retired Gen. James Mattis, a contender to lead the Pentagon. He was also meeting with 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, who lambasted Trump as a "con man" and a "fraud" in a stinging speech in March. Trump responded by repeatedly referring to Romney as a "loser."

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Pace reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Mark Kennedy, Errin Whack, Catherine Lucey, Jill Colvin, Stephen Braun, Robert Burns and Jack Gillum and Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to

this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Jonathan Lemire at <http://twitter.com/JonLemire>

## **The Latest: VP-elect Mike Pence gets a message at 'Hamilton'**

NEW YORK (AP) — The Latest on President-elect Donald Trump's transition activities (all times EST):  
12:00

Vice President-elect Mike Pence is the latest high-profile person to attend the Broadway hit show "Hamilton" — but the first to get a sharp message from a cast member from the stage.

Actor Brandon Victor Dixon, who plays Aaron Burr, the nation's third vice president, had this message Friday from the stage for his political descendant after the curtain call:

"We, sir, are the diverse America who are alarmed and anxious that your new administration will not protect us, our planet, our children, our parents, or defend us and uphold our inalienable rights," he said. "We truly hope this show has inspired you to uphold our American values, and work on behalf of all of us."

Pence's appearance at the show drew both cheers and boos.

Pence ducked out before Dixon finished the unprecedented message. But a show spokesman said Pence stood in the hallway outside the entrance to the auditorium and heard the full remarks.

2:15 p.m.

NATO says its secretary general, Jens Stoltenberg (yehnz STOHL'tehn-burg) spoke with President-elect Donald Trump for the first time to congratulate the businessman on his election victory.

The military alliance says both leaders agreed during a telephone call on Friday that progress has been made on making sure member countries are sharing the defense burden, but that there is more to do.

NATO became a debated part of the presidential election after Trump suggested that the U.S. might abandon its NATO treaty commitments and pull out of the alliance if other countries don't contribute more.

The alliance statement says Stoltenberg looks forward to welcoming Trump to Brussels for next year's NATO summit.

1:20 p.m.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz says last week's election could be called "the revenge of flyover country."

In his speech at the conservative Federalist Society Friday, the Republican senator said the "utter astonishment" of Democrats is a result of not listening to the American people. He said voices were crying, "leave us alone."

Cruz lost the GOP primary to President-elect Donald Trump, and didn't endorse him until late in the race. Without mentioning Trump by name, Cruz said Republicans should move forward by being honest and trustworthy and remembering they serve a cause greater than themselves.

When asked if he might be a candidate for the Supreme Court's open seat, Cruz said "history is long and can take unexpected paths," but he looks forward to continuing his time in the Senate.

12:40 p.m.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley says Donald Trump won election as president by running against both political parties.

Haley is telling conservative lawyers who are meeting in Washington Friday that Trump's victory offers Republicans a chance to regain the public's trust, but only if the party restrains spending and returns power to the states.

Haley says voters rejected "the political class of all stripes, Republicans included."

She says now Republican control of the White House and Congress offers the party a rare opportunity, and that it's important that Trump and Republican leaders in Congress take action quickly and "we don't stop."

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Haley acknowledges that she was not Trump's "biggest cheerleader." But she said she voted for him and was thrilled that he won.

12:30 p.m.

Among the people meeting with the president-elect this weekend: the man who marshalled more outside money than anyone else to help Donald Trump win the White House.

Todd Ricketts, a co-owner of the Chicago Cubs, helped raise at least \$66 million for outside groups called Future 45 and the 45 Committee — a nod to the incoming 45th president. Ricketts is emblematic of what a topsy-turvy election it has been. Before helping Trump, Ricketts was part of a super PAC that spent more than any other trying to stop him from winning the Republican nomination.

Ricketts lives in Chicago and is a small business owner and board member of TD Ameritrade, which his billionaire father founded. Trump's team is turning its attention to economic positions in the administration, including the Department of Commerce.

11:55 a.m.

Donald Trump is stoking speculation about his future cabinet picks as he continues holding meetings behind closed doors.

Trump aides say the president-elect will be meeting Saturday with retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis. Mattis is a potential contender to serve as Trump's defense secretary.

Trump is also meeting with Michelle Rhee and Betsy DeVos, two well-known education activists.

Trump aides have cautioned that not everyone meeting with the president-elect is under consideration for an administration position. They say Trump is meeting with experts to hear their thoughts and advice.

Also expected to sit down with Trump on Saturday are 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney, Chicago Cubs co-owner Todd Ricketts, anti-poverty advocate Bob Woodson, and restaurant executive Andy Puzder.

11:20 a.m.

A Democratic House member says attorney general nominee Jeff Sessions is the right pick "if you have nostalgia for the days when blacks kept quiet, gays were in the closet, immigrants were invisible and women stayed in the kitchen."

Rep. Luis Gutiérrez, D-Ill., says no senator has fought harder "against the hopes and aspirations" of Latinos, immigrants and people of color.

Gutiérrez is a member of the House Judiciary Committee. While the Senate, not the House, will decide if Sessions should be confirmed, the comments by Gutiérrez suggest the process will likely be contentious.

Sen. Sessions, R-Ala., is one of the more conservative members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and has said the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division should not be used as a "sword" to promote political agendas. The Senate denied him a federal judgeship in 1986 after he was accused of making racially charged remarks while U.S. attorney in Alabama.

10:50 a.m.

Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley says he is confident his panel would approve the nomination of Sen. Jeff Sessions as attorney general.

Sessions would still face a vote by the full Senate, but a committee endorsement would be a critical first step.

Grassley, a Republican from Iowa, says Sessions is a respected colleague who "has worked across the aisle on major legislation."

Grassley added that as a former U.S. attorney, Sessions has the right background.

10:40 a.m.

Mike Pompeo, a conservative Republican congressman from Kansas, says he accepts President-elect Donald Trump's decision to nominate him to lead the CIA.

In a statement on Friday, he said that while he has loved representing Kansans in Congress, the op-

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portunity to lead a top U.S. intelligence agency is a call to service he can't ignore.

Pompeo still must be confirmed by the Senate.

The 52-year-old was elected to Congress during the tea party wave of 2010.

Pompeo has been a harsh critic of the Obama administration. He denounced the Iran deal, which granted Tehran sanctions relief for rolling back its nuclear weapons program, and was a member of the congressional committee that blasted Hillary Clinton over the attack on a U.S. diplomatic outpost in Libya.

8:15 a.m.

President-elect Donald Trump has picked Mike Pompeo (pahm-PAY'-oh) — a Kansas congressman — to be CIA director.

That's according to a Trump transition official.

Pompeo is a conservative Republican and a fierce critic of President Barack Obama's nuclear deal with Iran.

Trump is beginning to fill out his governing team, and the transition official says Trump will make the Pompeo announcement on Friday morning, along with his nomination of Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions to be attorney general and his selection of retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn to be national security adviser.

The official wasn't authorized to disclose the decisions ahead of Trump's announcement and insisted on anonymity.

—By Julie Pace

8 a.m.

President-elect Donald Trump is offering the post of attorney general to Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, one of the Trump's closest and most consistent allies.

That's according to a senior Trump official, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the conversation.

The official on Friday wouldn't say whether Sessions had accepted the job, which left open the possibility that the arrangement was not finalized.

Sessions was the first senator to endorse Trump and was a close adviser throughout the campaign.

Trump released a statement Thursday after a meeting with the senator saying he was "unbelievably impressed" with Sessions.

The Alabama Republican previously struggled with a Senate confirmation hearing when he was nominated for a federal judgeship in 1986. He was dogged by racist comments he was accused of making while serving as U.S. attorney in Alabama.

He later withdrew from consideration for the post.

—By Jonathan Lemire.

6:50 a.m.

A Republican Party spokesman says President-elect Donald Trump is searching among "the best and brightest in the country" to set up his administration.

RNC communications director Sean Spicer tells Fox News Channel's "Fox and Friends" the billionaire businessman isn't "looking at someone's political affiliation, whether they supported him or not."

He was asked the question in the context of Trump's scheduled meeting this weekend with 2012 Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who earlier this year was a harsh critic of the real estate mogul.

Spicer wouldn't comment on whether Trump was set to offer Romney a position in the administration now being formed.

But when asked what the pair was expected to discuss, the Republican strategist said only that "they're going to have a conversation."

Spicer called Trump the "new sheriff in town" and said he's determined to bring qualified people into his administration.



3:35 a.m.

President-elect Donald Trump is offering former military intelligence chief Michael Flynn the position of national security adviser, elevating a fierce critic of current U.S. foreign policy into a crucial White House role.

Flynn's selection amounts to Trump's first signal to allies and adversaries about the course he could take in office. It's unclear whether Flynn, a retired Army general, has accepted the job, though a senior transition official confirmed Thursday that the president-elect has made the offer. The official was not authorized to discuss the offer publicly and insisted on anonymity.

Flynn was a fierce critic of President Barack Obama's military and foreign policy long before he began advising Trump on national security issues during the presidential campaign. While the position of national security adviser doesn't require Senate confirmation, Flynn would work in the West Wing and have frequent access to the president.

## Trump agrees to \$25M settlement to resolve Trump U. lawsuits

By DAVID KLEPPER and ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump agreed Friday to pay \$25 million to settle lawsuits against his now-defunct Trump University for real estate investors, averting a trial in a potentially embarrassing case that he had vowed during the campaign to keep fighting.

The agreement came 10 days before jury selection was scheduled to begin in one of three cases. The complaints accused Trump University, which wasn't an accredited school, of defrauding students who paid up to \$35,000 a year to enroll in programs that promised to share Trump's real estate secrets.

About 7,000 students would be eligible for refunds if U.S. District Judge Gonzalo Curiel approves the proposed settlement. Under the terms, Trump admitted no wrongdoing in two class-action lawsuits in San Diego and a civil suit brought by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman.

The settlement lifts what would probably have been a major headache for Trump as he works to fill key executive branch positions and get acquainted with foreign leaders. The San Diego trial, on a case filed in 2010, was expected to last several weeks, guaranteeing daily news coverage of a controversy that dogged him during the campaign.

Trump's political rivals seized on the lawsuits to try to portray him as dishonest and deceitful. Trump brought more attention to them by repeatedly assailing Curiel, who oversaw the San Diego cases. Trump suggested the Indiana-born judge's Mexican heritage exposed a bias.

The thousands of former students covered by the San Diego lawsuits will be eligible to receive at least half and possibly all their money back, as much as \$35,000, said Jason Forge, an attorney for the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs' attorneys waived their fees.

Trump has denied the allegations and said during the campaign that he would not settle. He told supporters at a May rally that he would come to San Diego to testify after winning the presidency.

"I could have settled this case numerous times but I don't want to settle cases when we're right. I don't believe in it. And when you start settling cases, you know what happens? Everybody sues you because you get known as a settler. One thing about me, I am not known as a settler," Trump said at the time.

Two days after the election, Trump's lead attorney in the San Diego cases, Daniel Petrocelli, said he was "all ears" to settlement talks and accepted an offer to have U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Miller of San Diego broker negotiations.

Forge said the agreement was reached an hour before a hearing for Curiel to weigh Trump's latest request to delay the trial until after the Jan. 20 inauguration. The plaintiffs' attorney said he "definitely detected a change of tone and change of approach" from Trump's camp after the election.

"We were at each other's throat for 6 1/2 years and were able to find the common ground with them and do something good there," Forge told reporters.

Schneiderman called the agreement a "stunning reversal" for the president-elect, saying Trump "fought us every step of the way, filing baseless charges and fruitless appeals and refusing to settle for even mod-

est amounts of compensation for the victims of his phony university. Today, that all changes.”

Trump’s attorneys said the settlement allows the president-elect to focus full attention on his transition to the White House.

“He was willing to sacrifice his personal interests, put this behind him, and move forward,” Petrocelli said.

Alan Garten, the Trump Organization’s general counsel, said he had “no doubt” Trump would have prevailed at trial.

The lawsuits allege that Trump University gave nationwide seminars that were like infomercials, constantly pressuring people to spend more and, in the end, failing to deliver on its promises. The San Diego trial would have been pinned on whether a nine-member jury believed Trump misled customers by calling the business a university and by advertising that he hand-picked instructors.

Court documents unsealed in May revealed strategies for enticing people to enroll even if they couldn’t afford it. The documents outlined how employees should guide people through “the roller coaster of emotions” after they express interest and tells employees to be “very aggressive during these conversations to in order to push them out of their comfort zones.”

Transcripts of about 10 hours of Trump depositions provided additional material to rivals, though Curiel denied a request to release video of Trump’s testimony that would have likely been used in campaign attack ads. Trump acknowledged in the depositions that he played on people’s fantasies, and he could not recall names of his employees despite his advertising pitch that he “hand-picked” them.

Trump has repeatedly claimed a 98 percent customer satisfaction rate on internal surveys. Plaintiffs countered that students were asked to rate the product when they believed they still had more instruction to come and were reluctant to openly criticize their teachers on surveys that were not anonymous.

The settlement comes a day after watchdog groups and ethics experts who served in both Republican and Democratic administrations sent a letter to Trump urging him to make a clean break from his business to avoid “embroiling the presidency in litigation.”

One of the authors, Richard Painter, an ethics lawyer at the White House under President George W. Bush, said the Trump University settlement might backfire if lawyers think Trump is eager to settle to avoid court cases while president.

“The plaintiffs’ lawyers,” he said, “are going to smell blood in the water.”

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Klepper contributed from Albany, New York. Associated Press Business Writer Bernard Condon in New York contributed to this report.

## That’s no snow: Sea of foam cascades from airport hangar

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Much of the foam that spewed out of a Northern California airport hangar and flooded a city street appears to be gone.

Television news footage late Friday afternoon showed little of the foam from Mineta San Jose International Airport that was several feet deep in spots and had taken up a city block earlier in the day.

The bobbing sea of white foam covered cars and blocked businesses as it cascaded onto a nearby street.

The foam was a chemical used as a fire retardant and was coming from the hangar’s fire prevention system, San Jose fire Capt. Mitch Matlow told The Mercury News (<http://bayareane.ws/2g51sig>). Matlow said the retardant discharged accidentally and began spilling out in the morning. All of the foam is released when the fire system goes off.

“The purpose is to prevent a flammable liquid fire inside the hangar from spreading ...,” he said. “If there had been a fire, this system would’ve worked very well.”

By the afternoon, the pulsating flow had surrounded two tanker trucks, reached to the bottom of a stop sign and filled a block-long stretch of the street. But much of it was gone several hours later as crews arrived at the scene to clean up.

They were trying to keep the foam in the storm drain, Matlow said. They blocked the drains and tried to break up the bubbles and vacuum the mess.

Crews were asking people to stay out of the foam, but a man on a bicycle pedaled through the fluffy

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mass, emerging covered in foam to laughing onlookers. The rider, Blake Harrington, said he could not see through it even when he stood up on his bike.

"Someone had to do it," Harrington told San Francisco Bay Area station KTVU-TV, saying the foam felt and smelled like soap.

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## UN climate talks end with pleas for Trump to join fight

By **KARL RITTER** and **SAMIA ERRAZZOUKI**, Associated Press

MARRAKECH, Morocco (AP) — The first U.N. climate conference after the landmark Paris Agreement closed Friday with delegates appealing to Donald Trump to join the battle against global warming and inviting him to see its impacts in Pacific islands.

Suddenly faced with the possibility that the U.S. could withdraw from the emissions pact adopted in Paris last year, countries rallied in support of the deal and said they would forge ahead no matter what.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Salaheddine Mezouar, the host of the two-week talks in Marrakech, said the conference's "message to the new American president is simply to say, 'We count on your pragmatism and your spirit of commitment.'"

Trump said during his campaign that he would "cancel" the Paris Agreement and withdraw American tax dollars from U.N. global warming programs.

More than 190 countries, including the United States, pledged in the deal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions blamed for rising temperatures and sea levels, worsening droughts and heat waves.

In Marrakech, delegates from China to Brazil expressed hope that Trump didn't mean what he said during his campaign. Some appealed to him directly to change his mind about the issue.

"I renew my offer to President-elect Trump to come to Fiji and see the effects of climate change," said the island nation's prime minister, Frank Bainimarama, drawing applause from the conference.

Small island nations are among the strongest advocates for sharp cuts in greenhouse gas emissions because they fear their survival depends on it. Many are already experiencing the effects of climate change,

with rising seas eroding their coastlines and intruding into their freshwater supply.

As the conference drew to a close, German Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks said it "has demonstrated that the spirit of Paris is alive and stronger than ever."

With mostly procedural issues under negotiation, countries announced various partnerships and initiatives to show their commitment to a clean-energy transition.

In a symbolic move, more than 40 vulnerable countries including small island nations and drought-hit African countries, declared they would pursue 100 percent renewable energy "as rapidly as possible."

Many of them would require support from richer countries to switch to renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Some, including the Philippines and Bangladesh, plan to expand coal power, a key source of global warming emissions, to meet their growing energy needs.

Still, the declaration signaled support from even poor countries that previously had said it was up to the West, which historically has polluted the most, to reduce emissions.

"This is a group of countries that are the most vulnerable to climate change, but they are not sitting back and complaining about being vulnerable," Jennifer Morgan of Greenpeace said. "They are acting and they are setting the pace for the type of change that we need to see in our world."

## Trump's staff picks alarm minorities: 'Injustice to America'

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, Associated Press

Republican President-elect Donald Trump's choices for leadership posts threaten national unity and promise to turn back the clock on progress for racial, religious and sexual minorities, civil rights leaders and others said Friday after his nomination of Alabama U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions for attorney general.

Comments attributed to Trump's picks, also including Stephen Bannon as senior adviser and chief strategist and former Army Lt. Michael Flynn as national security adviser, serve to embolden everyday Americans to lash out at members of minority groups, they said.

Sessions, a Republican, was denied a federal judgeship in 1986 after hearings in which he was accused of making racially charged remarks as a U.S. attorney. According to transcripts, Sessions was accused, among other things, of joking that he thought the Ku Klux Klan "was OK" until he learned its members smoked marijuana and of calling a black assistant U.S. attorney "boy." During the hearing, Sessions denied making some of the comments and said others were jokes taken out of context.

Black Lives Matter activist and Campaign Zero co-founder DeRay Mckesson said Sessions' "documented racism and previous ineligibility for public office make him unfit to be the standard-bearer for the nation's justice system."

"If Sessions were to become the attorney general, the freedom and liberty of the historically marginalized would be severely threatened," said Mckesson, who has protested in several cities demanding police reform to address bias against communities of color. "Sessions' nomination would also confirm that Trump plans to govern as he campaigned — as a proponent of bigotry, racism and xenophobia."

Bannon led the Breitbart website, which has been widely condemned as racist, sexist and anti-Semitic. In a 2011 radio interview, Bannon said conservative women infuriated liberals because they "would be pro-family, they would have husbands, they would love their children," contrasting that against a slur for lesbians.

Trump campaign manager Kellyanne Conway has called the accusations against Bannon "very unfair."

Lennie Gerber, an 80-year-old resident of High Point, North Carolina, who led the fight against her state's ban on same-sex marriage, said she worried Trump's appointments will further incite such sentiments among the public.

"Saying that kind of thing incites the racism and the anti-gay feelings in everybody else and says you're free to express these things," Gerber said. "These people who've been suppressed by the positive transformation that has gone on over the last few years are now feeling free to express themselves."

Civil rights leaders are calling on Trump to rescind Sessions' nomination or for the Senate to reject him.



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Sessions requires Senate confirmation as attorney general, as does Republican Kansas U.S. Rep. Mike Pompeo for CIA director, but Bannon and Flynn do not.

In August, Flynn spoke at an event in Dallas for the anti-Islamist group Act for America, calling Islam, a religion with 1.6 billion adherents, "a political ideology" and "a cancer."

Ibrahim Hooper, a spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said, "Unfortunately, these very important picks in his administration send a troubling message indicating that the bigotry we saw expressed in the campaign will continue."

Aside from comments and actions attributed to the nominees, their lack of diversity worries civil rights leaders.

Washington attorney A. Scott Bolden said Trump is "0 for 4" on diversity: All his picks are white men.

"The scariest part of his potential administration will be how his political debts to the alt-right will manifest itself in his administration and policies," Bolden said. "Jeff Sessions is one of those manifestations ... to be in control not only of justice in America, but really to bring injustice to America."

Trump had said he planned to reward loyalty, and he demonstrated such with his nomination of Sessions, who was the first senator to endorse him.

Daniela Lapidous, a 22-year-old Jewish woman who works to fight climate change, called Bannon a "misogynist and anti-Semite and an anti-climate extremist." She said she never before felt the need to fight anti-Semitism but now thinks that she must.

"I've been somewhat convinced that anti-Semitism isn't a thing in the United States anymore, but this past year, with Trump and Bannon, it's made me scared about that for the first time in my life," said Lapidous, who lives in San Francisco.

The Rev. Jeffrey Brown, associate pastor of the Twelfth Baptist Church in Boston, said he's unhappy with Trump's choices, particularly Sessions.

"I hear people complaining that we should give the Trump administration a chance," Brown said. "It's very clear by his appointments that he's not going to give a lot of communities in the United States that same chance."

Elaine Walton, a black resident of New Orleans, said she had deep concerns. Her most visceral reaction to Trump's picks? "Fear. How is he going to be the top watchdog for the country when he's so biased?"

"I think those people cannot lead him, advise him on how to lead this country forward," she said. "They are going to advise him on how to lead the country backwards."

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Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Alanna Durkin in Richmond, Virginia; Rebecca Santana in New Orleans; Rachel Zoll in New York; and Denise Lavoie in Boston.

## 2 moose found frozen mid-fight near remote Alaska village

By RACHEL D'ORO and ALINA HARTOUNIAN, Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Two moose were recently discovered frozen in battle and encased in ice near a remote village on Alaska's unforgiving western coast.

Brad Webster, a middle school social studies and science teacher in Unalakleet, captured images of the massive animals poking through the ice as they lay on their sides with antlers apparently locked together.

He had taken a friend who recently moved to the village for a walk on Nov. 2 near a frozen slough at Covenant Bible Camp, where Webster volunteers as a camp steward.

"That's when we saw it," he said in a phone interview Friday. He initially thought it was just one moose that had been shot but when he got a closer look, he saw the second moose.

It took him a moment to realize what he was seeing, he said.

It was the end of moose rutting season, and the animals likely were fighting over a female moose. Webster speculates that one of the animals was wounded by the other animal's antlers, and perhaps died as their antlers were caught together, dragging the rival down with it.

"It was a very interesting experience," Webster said of the discovery.

On the way back to Unalakleet, he and his friend kept thinking about it and saying, "We really saw that," in amazement, Webster recalled.

Jeff Erickson, student activities director of Bering Strait School District in Unalakleet, also captured the images when he went to check out the scene a couple days later with Webster.

Erickson grew up in the area and has hunted for 50 years but has never seen anything like this, "frozen in time," he said in an email to The Associated Press.

"It was such a surreal sight — so serene and quiet, but a stark vision of how brutally harsh life can be," he wrote.

Webster, Erickson and a few others went back later and removed the animals from about 8 inches of ice covering open water, recovering some of the spoiled meat for dog food and trapping bait. Webster said the meat was left at the site for anyone wanting it.

They took the heads, which are still frozen and being kept for now in Webster's yard. The plan is to clean them out for mounting as bleached skulls at the Bible camp.

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Associated Press writer Alina Hartounian contributed to this story from Phoenix.

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Follow Rachel D'Oro at <https://twitter.com/rdoro>

## Senate hearing for Sessions likely to revisit racial issue

By ERIC TUCKER and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate confirmation hearing of Sen. Jeff Sessions, President-elect Donald Trump's pick for attorney general, is likely to rehash racially charged allegations that derailed his efforts to become a federal judge and made him a symbol of black-voter intimidation under the Reagan administration.

The expected focus on Sessions' record on race, policing and immigration comes as the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division has surged in prominence under the Obama administration. If confirmed, Sessions would have broad latitude to define how federal prosecutors across the country wield their powers and make changes to the Justice Department's priorities.

Lawmakers and advocates expressed concern Friday that Sessions could sideline or undo the Obama administration's civil rights efforts, which have included investigations of police departments for unconstitutional practices and lawsuits meant to protect the rights of transgender individuals and black voters.

"Given some of his past statements and his staunch opposition to immigration reform, I am very concerned about what he would do with the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice and want to hear what he has to say," incoming Democratic Minority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York said in a statement.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, said he strongly supported Sessions, who he said "has worked tirelessly to safeguard the public and to improve the lives of Americans from all walks of life."

Sessions' peers on the Senate Judiciary Committee will almost certainly delve into the Alabama senator's past statements on race. The panel's top Democrat, Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, hinted as much on Friday, saying the "American people deserve to learn about Senator Sessions' record."

Leahy voted against Sessions for a district judgeship when he last came before the Judiciary Committee in 1986.

During that hearing, Sessions was criticized for joking in the presence of a Civil Rights Division attorney that the Ku Klux Klan was "OK" until he learned they smoked marijuana. He was also said to have called a black assistant U.S. attorney "boy" and the NAACP "un-American" and "communist-inspired."

Gerry Hebert, a former Justice Department lawyer who worked with Sessions in the early 1980s, said he remembered Sessions making racially offensive remarks.

"I filed all these things away thinking, 'God, what a racist this guy is,'" Hebert said.

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Sessions, a former prosecutor, has said the racially charged allegations against him have been painful to him and an unfair stain on his reputation. He called the matter "heartbreaking" in a 2009 CNN interview and described the allegations as "false charges."

In defending his record, Sessions is likely to point to his vote to confirm Eric Holder as the country's first black attorney general and to his co-sponsorship of the Fair Sentencing Act, which sought to reduce racial disparities in how black and white drug offenders are treated.

When he was U.S. attorney in Alabama, his office investigated the 1981 murder of Michael Donald, a black man who was kidnapped, beaten and killed by two Klansmen who hanged his body in a tree. The two men were later arrested and convicted.

"He couldn't have been more supportive of making sure we got convicted the murderers of the last black man who was lynched by the Klan," said former Justice Department attorney Barry Kowalski, who worked with Sessions.

But "those incidents don't obliterate the well-established record of hostility to civil rights enforcement in other areas," said Wade Henderson, the president of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

Sessions' civil rights record matters because, if confirmed, he would have oversight of a division that Holder has described as the Justice Department's "crown jewel."

Sessions himself has said a "properly exercised" Civil Rights Division "provides tremendous benefit to American citizens" but should not be used as "a sword to assert inappropriate claims that have the effect of promoting political agendas."

As attorney general, he'd have the power to depart significantly from the priorities of his Democratic-nominated predecessors.

The Obama administration Justice Department, for instance, has opened 23 investigations of law enforcement agencies, including police departments in Baltimore, Chicago and Ferguson, Missouri, for unconstitutional practices and has reached court-enforceable consent decrees with many of them. It sued North Carolina over a bathroom bill it said discriminated against transgender individuals, and has challenged state voting laws that it said disenfranchised minority voters.

As a supporter of Trump, who campaigned on law and order, Sessions is likely to pursue fewer civil rights investigations of troubled police departments. He may also elevate voter fraud as a priority, something the current Justice Department leaders see as negligible.

In the mid-1980s, Sessions was criticized over the prosecution of three civil rights activists on charges of vote tampering in Perry County, Alabama. The activists, who included Albert Turner, a former adviser to Martin Luther King Jr., were acquitted.

During his confirmation hearing Sessions defended the case, citing evidence of absentee-ballot tampering. Democrats and civil rights groups called it an example of the Reagan administration intimidating black voters.

As a senator, Sessions criticized the Justice Department in 2009 for dismissing three defendants from a voting rights lawsuit against the New Black Panther Party after allegations of voter intimidation outside a Philadelphia polling place. The department's Office of Professional Responsibility found no evidence politics played a role in that decision.

He's also defended the lawfulness of state voter identification laws.

Policy differences aside, the Civil Rights Division is expected to continue enforcing civil rights laws, such as prosecuting police officers for egregious acts of violence.

"The challenge for an incoming administration is always to make those policy changes without making law enforcement look like a purely political undertaking," said William Yeomans, who worked in the division for more than two decades. Otherwise, "it hurts the legitimacy of the institution."

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Associated Press writer Eileen Sullivan in Washington and Kim Chandler in Montgomery, Alabama contributed to this report.

## Democrat's lead widens in North Carolina governor's race

By GARY D. ROBERTSON, Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Hardly anyone in North Carolina is willing to guess when their excruciatingly close governor's race will be resolved. A Friday deadline came and went with Democratic Attorney General Roy Cooper's unofficial advantage growing to about 6,600 votes over Republican Gov. Pat McCrory, from nearly 4.7 million cast.

McCrory is fighting for his political life in a battleground state that Donald Trump and Republican Sen. Richard Burr won by relatively comfortable margins.

After endless legal battles over how, when and where people can vote, they're fighting now over whether to count 60,000 provisional ballots and thousands more absentee ballots that have remained sealed since Election Day.

Still more delays are in store as McCrory's campaign supports allegations of hard-knuckled fraud lodged by voters in more than half the state's 100 counties.

If Cooper's margin remains below 10,000 votes, McCrory can call for a statewide recount, and with the possibility of other legal challenges and conceivably even legislative intervention to decide a contested result, few outside Cooper's campaign are ready to put a date on the naming of the next governor.

"This is unprecedented," said Brad Crone, a longtime Democratic consultant and North Carolina history buff. "This is new waters that we're sailing into."

The two Republicans and one Democrat on each county's elections board have been meeting this week deciding whether to toss out or unseal and count each of the remaining ballots.

The largest challenge was unanimously dismissed Friday by the board in heavily Democratic Durham County, where a handful of computer cards got overloaded with ballots cast by early voters, forcing officials to hand-count 94,000 votes from the paper record. A Republican lawyer questioned the tally's accuracy, but the board's Republican chairman, William Brian Jr., said all evidence points to a true count.

The state also must comply with a federal judge's order to count the votes of people who said they registered since last year at Division of Motor Vehicles offices, even though their names didn't appear on the voting rolls, unless the agency can prove they declared in writing that they did not want to register. The DMV said Friday that it has delivered information connected to about 8,100 driver's license numbers. The information will be used to decide whether ballots should be counted or thrown out.

McCrory, a former Charlotte mayor, won his first race for governor by more than 500,000 votes four years ago, but he's been pilloried by Democrats and urban voters for signing a law that limits LGBT rights and tells transgender people which bathrooms to use.

The state's electorate also witnessed McCrory's defense of the GOP's 2013 law that required voters to have photo identification to vote in person, reduced the number of days of early voting Democrats favor and eliminated same-day registration for early voters. The law was struck down in July by the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

McCrory's campaign said, without offering detailed proof, that the fraud being challenged in more than 50 counties includes people voting more than once and ballots cast by dead people and convicted felons.

And in rural Bladen County, a winning candidate claimed hundreds of mail-in ballots were forged by get-out-the-vote workers for an organization that received contributions from Democrats. The Bladen challenge, however, doesn't involve enough votes by itself to decide the governor's race.

McCrory has said little about the race since election night, when he told Republicans "the election is not over" and said "we're going to make sure every vote counts in North Carolina."

Instead, he's held news conferences on wildfires in North Carolina's western mountains and attended a meeting Friday on the recovery after Hurricane Matthew. McCrory's campaign was significantly outspent, but he benefited from his frequent television appearances discussing the hurricane's destruction.

Cooper declared himself the winner on election night but has kept a low profile since then, but his staff and legal team said McCrory's fraud allegations are a sign of desperation.

"Voters chose a new governor; it's time for the McCrory campaign to accept it," said Cooper's campaign



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spokesman Ford Porter, who didn't respond to the AP's request to speak with Cooper on Friday.

McCrory's campaign also declined an interview, offering instead his top campaign strategist, Chris LaCivita, who defended the campaign's effort to challenge any irregularities.

"You just can't dream this up," LaCivita said. "Of course, we're going to pursue challenges and pursue leads."

Marc Elias, a Washington-based attorney helping Cooper's campaign, said the number of allegedly fraudulent ballots McCrory's side has challenged isn't enough to change the lead, even if they were thrown out, so it's just a matter of time before Cooper's victory is confirmed.

"There is nothing that Gov. McCrory or his legal team will be able to do to undo what is just basic math," Elias told reporters on Friday. "The fact is, more North Carolinians voted for Roy Cooper than voted for Pat McCrory, and did so by a close but a significant margin."

McCrory campaign spokesman Ricky Diaz countered that Cooper's side is making "presumptuous statements" at a time when counties have postponed their final tabulations.

Cooper is relying on "piecemeal results from a handful of Democrat-leaning counties in order to deflect attention away from serious voter fraud concerns that are emerging across the state," Diaz said in a statement.

## Daily fantasy sports rivals DraftKings and FanDuel to merge

By PHILIP MARCELO, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Daily fantasy sports rivals DraftKings and FanDuel have agreed to merge after months of speculation and increasing regulatory scrutiny.

The two companies made the announcement Friday, saying the combined organization would be able to reduce costs as they work to become profitable and battle with regulators across the country to remain legal.

In a matter of a few short years, the two have raised millions of dollars through investors and sponsorship deals, drawing the attention of policymakers across the country.

Some view the online games — in which players pick teams of real life athletes and vie for cash and other prizes based on how those athletes do in actual games — as amounting to illegal sports betting.

Financial terms were not disclosed Friday and the companies have remained vague about their long-term plans while the deal is being finalized.

But in the short term, the merger appears to change little about how daily fantasy sports players use the sites and play the game. The companies have assured players they won't be making major changes in their operations at least through the next NFL season.

For now, they'll retain their respective headquarters — DraftKings in Boston and FanDuel in New York -- and keep separate brand names, operations and game platforms.

Whether the deal can clear regulatory approval, though, remains an open question. The merger, which has been rumored for months, pairs two companies that represent about 90 percent of the daily fantasy sports market.

Company executives Friday played down concerns about whether the merger might run afoul of federal antitrust laws.

They argued that their companies remain relatively small players in the broader fantasy sports industry, where the likes of ESPN, Yahoo and other larger companies dominate.

"We're a company that collectively has a little over 5 million customers in a fantasy sports base with almost 60 million total," said DraftKings CEO Jason Robins, who will take over as chief executive of the combined company. "For us to ever hope to compete for those customers, we really felt this was something that was necessary."

FanDuel CEO Nigel Eccles, who will serve as board chairman, also suggested the merger could actually foster competition by fighting more effectively for regulatory clarity, efforts that could help bring back investor confidence in the industry.

"This is actually very good for all operators," he said.

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Spokespersons for the Federal Trade Commission, which would oversee the deal, didn't comment Friday. Reaction among daily fantasy sports companies, players and industry watchers was mixed Friday.

"In terms of competition, I'm not sure it makes any difference. There are still plenty of opportunities for growth," said Peter Schoenke, chairman of the Fantasy Sports Trade Association. "A lot of people are still trying to figure out what it means."

Shergul Arshad, founder of Mondogol, a smaller fantasy sports operator focused on soccer, suggested the proposed merger will likely make it tougher for new companies to gain a foothold, at least in the United States.

On the international front, where daily fantasy sports is trying to compete against well-established and lucrative sports betting gambling operations, a stronger, unified company could be a boon, Arshad said.

Brian Quinn, a Boston College law professor with expertise in mergers and acquisitions, expects the deal likely won't go forward without some conditions imposed by regulators. Others, though, suggest it might not face as tough a road.

"We're not talking about insurance companies, healthcare providers or drug makers here," said Daniel Etna, a New York attorney who has represented smaller daily fantasy sports operators. "It's a leisure activity. At end of day, this is something you do or you don't do. So it will be viewed from a different prism."

A more pressing question is whether the companies, both still unprofitable, can remain viable, said Dustin Hecker, a Boston lawyer.

The merge doesn't appear to bring any immediate cost savings since both are maintaining separate headquarters and separate operations for now, he said.

Robins and Eccles said the merger would allow the companies to free up resources to develop better products — like offering more varied contests, developing loyalty programs and improving their website features — though they declined to elaborate on those plans.

In the meantime, some of the game's top competitors say they're waiting to see how the merger impacts their livelihood.

Saahil Sud, a 27-year-old Bostonian widely considered the game's leading player, says he's concerned the newly formed company could substantially raise player fees, a concern the companies have tried to assuage with promises to keep fees "competitive."

"The main thing is that, in the near future, things are not going to change much or at all," Sud said. "Given turmoil over past year, having business as usual is somewhat reassuring. But it's too early to tell. I'm definitely not going to overreact. I'm just going to continue doing what I'm doing."

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Follow Philip Marcelo at [twitter.com/philmarcelo](https://twitter.com/philmarcelo). His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/journalist/philip-marcelo>

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Nov. 19, the 324th day of 2016. There are 42 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 19, 1969, Apollo 12 astronauts Charles Conrad and Alan Bean made the second manned landing on the moon.

On this date:

In 1794, the United States and Britain signed Jay's Treaty, which resolved some issues left over from the Revolutionary War.

In 1831, the 20th president of the United States, James Garfield, was born in Orange Township, Ohio.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln dedicated a national cemetery at the site of the Civil War battlefield of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania.

In 1915, labor activist Joe Hill was executed by firing squad in Utah for the murders of Salt Lake City

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grocer John Morrison and his son, Arling.

In 1919, the Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') by a vote of 55 in favor, 39 against, short of the two-thirds majority needed for ratification.

In 1924, movie producer Thomas H. Ince died after celebrating his 42nd birthday aboard the yacht of newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst. (The exact circumstances of Ince's death remain a mystery.)

In 1942, during World War II, Russian forces launched their winter offensive against the Germans along the Don front.

In 1959, Ford Motor Co. announced it was halting production of the unpopular Edsel.

In 1977, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat became the first Arab leader to visit Israel.

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev met for the first time as they began their summit in Geneva.

In 1996, 14 people were killed when a commuter plane collided with a private plane at an airport in Quincy, Illinois. The United States vetoed U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's bid for a second term. The space shuttle Columbia lifted off with the oldest crew member to that time, 61-year-old mission specialist Story Musgrave.

In 2005, two dozen Iraqi men, women and children in Haditha (hah-DEE'-thuh) were slain by U.S. Marines after a Marine was killed by a roadside bomb. (Eight Marines were initially charged; one was acquitted and six others had their cases dropped. The squad leader, Staff Sgt. Frank Wuterich, received a general discharge under honorable conditions after pleading guilty to negligent dereliction of duty.)

Ten years ago: British authorities said they were investigating the apparent poisoning of Alexander Litvinenko, a former KGB agent who had been critical of the Russian government (Litvinenko died in London four days later of polonium poisoning). Actor Jeremy Slate died in Los Angeles at age 80.

Five years ago: Moammar Gadhafi's former heir apparent, Seif al-Islam, was captured by revolutionary fighters in the southern desert just over a month after his father was killed, setting off joyous celebrations across Libya. British-born Canadian actor John Neville, who'd appeared in the TV series "The X-Files," died in Toronto at age 86.

One year ago: A study by the Pew Research Center found that more Mexicans were leaving than moving into the United States, reversing the flow of a half-century of mass migration. Marcus Ray Johnson, convicted of killing Angela Sizemore, a woman he'd met at a Georgia nightclub, was put to death after losing a last-minute round of appeals. Bryce Harper, 23, became the youngest unanimous MVP winner in baseball history, capturing the NL award despite his Washington Nationals missing the playoffs; Josh Donaldson took the AL MVP, earning the honor after helping boost the Toronto Blue Jays back into the postseason for the first time since 1993. Actor Rex Reason, 86, died in Walnut, California.

Today's Birthdays: Talk show host Larry King is 83. Former General Electric chief executive Jack Welch is 81. Talk show host Dick Cavett is 80. Broadcasting and sports mogul Ted Turner is 78. Singer Pete Moore (Smokey Robinson and the Miracles) is 77. Former Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, is 77. Former Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson is 75. Fashion designer Calvin Klein is 74. Sports-caster Ahmad Rashad is 67. Actor Robert Beltran is 63. Actress Kathleen Quinlan is 62. Actress Glynnis O'Connor is 61. Broadcast journalist Ann Curry is 60. Former NASA astronaut Eileen Collins is 60. Actress Allison Janney is 57. Rock musician Matt Sorum (Guns N' Roses, Velvet Revolver) is 56. Actress Meg Ryan is 55. Actress-director Jodie Foster is 54. Actress Terry Farrell is 53. TV chef Rocco DiSpirito is 50. Actor Jason Scott Lee is 50. Olympic gold medal runner Gail Devers is 50. Actress Erika Alexander is 47. Rock musician Travis McNabb is 47. Singer Tony Rich is 45. Actress Sandrine Holt is 44. Country singer Jason Albert (Heartland) is 43. Country singer Billy Currington is 43. Dancer-choreographer Savion Glover is 43. Country musician Chad Jeffers is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tamika Scott (Xscape) is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lil' Mo is 39. Olympic gold medal gymnast Kerri Strug is 39. Actor Reid Scott is 39. Actress Katherine Kelly is 37. Neo-soul musician Browan Lollar is 34. Actor Adam Driver is 33. Country singer Cam is 32. Actress Samantha Futerma is 29. Rapper Tyga is 27.

Thought for Today: "The facts are always less than what really happened." — Nadine Gordimer, South African Nobel Prize-winning author (1923-2014).