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Monday, Nov. 28

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: French toast sticks, links, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: BBQ, sweet potato tots, broccoli and dip, fruit.

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

Tuesday, Nov. 29

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, Mandarin Oranges.

School Breakfast: Egg sandwich, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken strips, smiley potatoes, carrots and dip, fruit, muffin.

5 p.m.: JH GBB at Clark (7th grade at 5 p.m., 8th grade at 6 p.m.)

Wednesday, Nov. 30

Senior Menu: French dip sandwich, macaroni salad, seasoned cabbage, Waldorf Salad.

School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Taco salad, refried beans, fruit, breadstick.

3:45 p.m.: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation

6:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran League

7 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

7 p.m.: St. John's Lutheran Advent Service

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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Lifetime Warranty on all Collision Work!

13556 400th Ave., Groton SD 57445
Allen McKiver, Owner ~ 605/397-4404



Lone, Kucker are new Snow Queens

The 2017 Snow Queen Royalty Court are pictured above. In back, left to right, are senior snow queen candidates Keri Pappas, daughter of Valerie and Kelly Pappas; Erin Smith, daughter of Carol and Steve Smith; Miss Congeniality Jessica Adler, daughter of Lisa Adler, first runner-up Alexis Harder, daughter of Brenda and Corey Harder, pages Shane Simon and McClain Lone, junior Snow Queen runner-up Kaycie Hawkins, daughter of Kristie and Lance Hawkins, Nicole Marzahn, daughter of Renee and Wade Marzahn, Payton Colestock, daughter of Michelle and Craig Muilenburg and Roger Colestock; and Caitlynn Barse, daughter of Pam and Chris Barse. In front is Snow Princesses Abby Fjeldheim, daughter of Susan and Ryan Fjeldheim, Senior Snow Queen Heather Lone, daughter of Barbara and Michael Lone; Junior Snow Queen Kaylin Kucker, daughter of Amy and Chris Kucker; and Snow Prince Korbin McKane, daughter of Ashley and JB McKane. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Talent Show Winners

The talent show winners were Tylan Glover in the senior division and Anna Bisbee in the junior division.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Hey Kids! Come see Santa!



Saturday, Dec. 10, 9-11 a.m.
**Professional Management
Services**

Downtown Groton
Cookies & Juice for the kids
Photographer Available

GROTON

Chamber Of Commerce

Made it possible for Santa to come to Groton!

GROTON

Chamber Of Commerce

Sign Up for Groton Chamber
Bucks at the Holiday Boxes
Located This week at the
Groton Vet Clinic
and Ken's Food Fair

Week of Dec. 5: JVT and Professional Management Ser.

2017 DOG LICENSES AVAILABLE NOW!!

Licenses due by Dec. 30, 2016
Fines start after Dec. 30, 2016

Dogs CAN NOT be licensed without providing updated rabies shot information, please bring records for each dog to City Hall

Please contact City Hall as soon as possible if you no longer have any dogs

Spayed or neutered dogs are \$5 per dog, otherwise \$10 per dog

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Today in Weather History

November 28, 2000: Heavy snow of 6 to 9 inches fell across parts of northeast South Dakota, causing travel difficulties and school closings. Some snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Britton, Roy Lake, Webster, Waubay, Summit, and Wilmot; 8 inches at Columbia and south of Bristol; and 9 inches at Houghton.

November 28, 2005: A significant winter storm visited the region on November 27-29, 2005, producing a wide range of wintry precipitation across the area. Snow and blizzard conditions occurred across central and north central South Dakota, while freezing rain and ice accumulations took front stage in northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Across most of central and north central South Dakota, snow began in the late afternoon and early evening hours of the 27th, with significant snowfall accumulations occurring by the time the snow ended later in the day on the 28th. Snowfall accumulations ranged from as little as two inches to as much as 20 inches. Strong northwest winds of 30 to 50 mph, with gusts to 70 mph, caused widespread blizzard conditions from the early morning until the late afternoon hours of the 28th. Visibilities were reduced to zero many times across the area with snowdrifts of 5 to 10 feet in some places. Some power lines were also brought down in the Pierre and Fort Pierre area due to snow accumulation and high winds. Many roads, including Interstate 90, were closed due to the treacherous travel conditions. Several accidents occurred during the storm, and many motorists were also stranded. Several people had to be rescued. Schools, businesses, government offices, and many other organizations were closed. FEMA, state officials, and the governor surveyed the storm damage. Some of the significant snowfall amounts included 7 inches at Eureka, 8 inches at Onaka, 10 inches at Onida and Fort Thompson, 11 inches near Presho, 16 inches at Highmore, and 21 inches at Kennebec. To the east of this heavy snow and blizzard area, widespread freezing rain began during the morning to early afternoon of the 27th, creating significant ice accumulations of 1 to over 2 inches. The freezing rain changed to snow on the 28th, and northwest winds increased to 30 to 40 mph, gusting to 60 mph. The high winds and heavy ice accumulations caused several thousand power poles (some steel), along with several thousand miles of power lines, to come down, resulting in widespread power outages. The ice and winds also damaged several hundred miles of high-voltage power lines and towers. Some power substations were also shut down by the ice and wind. Thousands of trees were also either damaged or downed due to the heavy ice accumulations and the wind. Many of the fallen trees and branches caused damage to homes and vehicles. The radio station in Milbank went off the air due to its collapsing radio tower. Tens of thousands of people in many communities and rural areas were without power for several days, with some people without power for as long as two weeks. Telephone and cellular phone service was also down for several days. Countless schools, businesses, government offices, and other organizations were closed for several days. FEMA, state officials, and the governor also toured this damaged area, resulting in a presidential disaster declaration. Hundreds of utility workers from South Dakota, Minnesota, and nine other surrounding states worked 14- to 18-hour days in cold conditions to bring power back to the area. The National Guard also helped with getting generators, cots, blankets, and meals to storm shelters. Generators supplied power to many communities and rural areas, while others continued without power. Shelters were set up for those who did not have generator power or another place to go. There were also problems with livestock with the water supplies cut off for some time. One electric cooperative stated that repairs to the infrastructure would continue for months and years to restore a system that took decades to build. Roads were treacherous with many accidents and rollovers, some resulting in injuries. Due to the icy road conditions, many roads were closed, including Interstate 29. Around noon on the 27th, on US Highway 212 two miles west of Zell in Faulk County, a 59-year old man was killed when his car spun out of control and hit an oncoming pickup truck. Around 1:30pm on the 28th, on Day County Road One about two miles south of Waubay, a 17-year old girl was killed and three others were injured when one vehicle spun out of control and struck a truck in the oncoming lane. Air traffic was also brought to a halt across much of the area. This was one of the largest ice storms in the region's history. One electric cooperative said it

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was the most damage they had in their 65 years of existence. After the icing came snowfall of 2 to 12 inches, which combined with the high winds to bring blizzard conditions and low wind chills to northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota from the morning of the 28th until the early morning of the 29th. Some of the significant snowfall amounts included 7 inches at Watertown, 8 inches at Waubay, 10 inches at Redfield, and 12 inches at Sisseton.

1921 - New England was in the midst of a four day icestorm, their worst of record. Ice was more than three inches thick in many places following the storm, and property damage was in the millions of dollars. Northern New England received heavy snow with more than two feet reported in some areas. Overnight freezing rains continued through the day at Worcester MA while the wind increased to a gale. Streets become impassable even on foot, and whole towns were plunged into darkness without communication. The storm caused 20 million dollars damage to power lines, telephone lines and trees. (David Ludlum)

1960 - A severe storm produced waves 20 to 40 feet high on Lake Superior. Duluth, MN, was buried under a foot of snow, and clocked wind gusts to 73 mph. The northern shore of Lake Superior was flooded, and property along the shore was battered. Thousands of cords of pulpwood were washed into Lake Superior, and up to three feet of water flooded the main street of Grand Marais. Thunder accompanied the nor'easter. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Low pressure in the Middle Mississippi Valley produced a mixture of snow and sleet and freezing rain from the Central Plains to the Upper Mississippi Valley. Snowfall totals in Iowa ranged up to ten inches at Red Oak. Totals in Nebraska ranged up to 11 inches at Shickley. Freezing rain made roads treacherous in the Twin Cities area of southeastern Minnesota. Bitter cold arctic air invaded the Northern High Plains Region. Laramie WY was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 18 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms spawned five tornadoes in North Carolina during the early morning hours. A powerful tornado ripped through one of the most densely populated areas of Raleigh destroying hundreds of homes and damaging thousands more. The tornado killed four persons along its 83 mile track, and injured 154 others. Total damage was estimated at more than 77 million dollars. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Strong Santa Ana winds prevailed across southern California. Winds gusted to 70 mph at the Rialto Airport, and several tractor-trailer trucks were overturned east of Los Angeles. High winds also buffeted the northeastern U.S., ushering arctic air into the region. Winds gusted to 60 mph at Montpelier VT, and reached 66 mph at Saint Albans VT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
80% 80%	80% 90%	100%	70%	50%	30%	
Rain/Snow and Patchy Fog then Rain	Rain/Snow then Snow	Rain/Snow	Snow Likely	Chance Snow	Chance Snow	Mostly Cloudy
High: 40 °F	Low: 31 °F	High: 37 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 33 °F	Low: 26 °F	High: 31 °F



Persistent Light Snow Through Wednesday



North Central SD:

Mainly Snow with slippery roads this morning

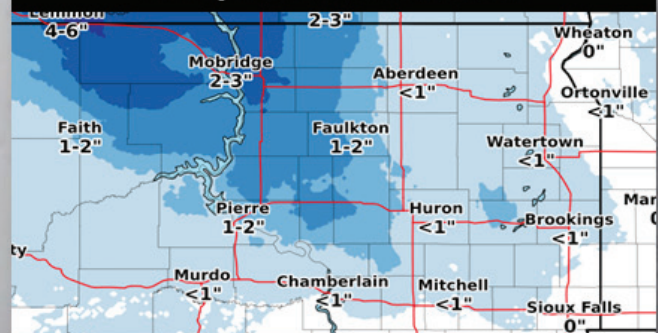
Gusty northwest winds this afternoon through Tuesday.

Gusts up to 40 mph possible

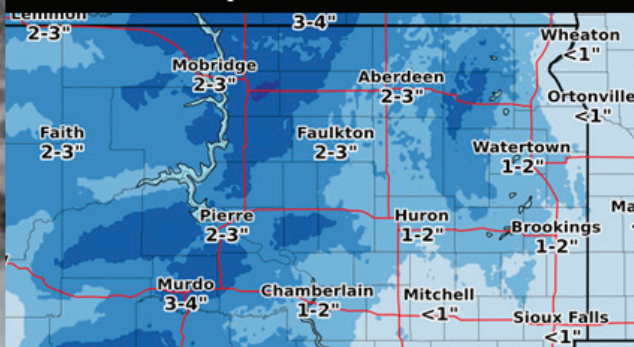
Elsewhere:

Rain changing to snow (mix possible Tues)

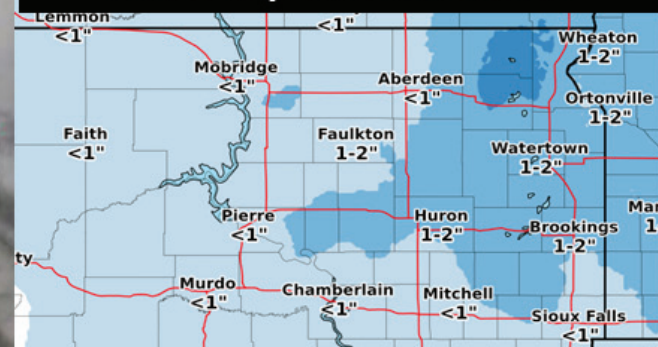
Today's Snowfall Forecast



Tuesday's Snowfall Forecast



Wednesday's Snowfall Forecast



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 11/28/2016 4:37 AM Central

Published on: 11/28/2016 at 4:40AM

Snow will continue over north central South Dakota today, while rain will gradually change over to snow for the rest central and eastern South Dakota by midnight. Expect a persistent light snow through the middle of the week, with a couple of inches of snow expected each day. In addition, the snow may mix with rain at times over eastern SD on Tuesday afternoon.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 39.5

Low Outside Temp: 26.7

High Gust: 25

Precip: 0.52

Today's Info

Record High: 59° in 1949

Record Low: -21° in 1985

Average High: 32°F

Average Low: 13°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.69

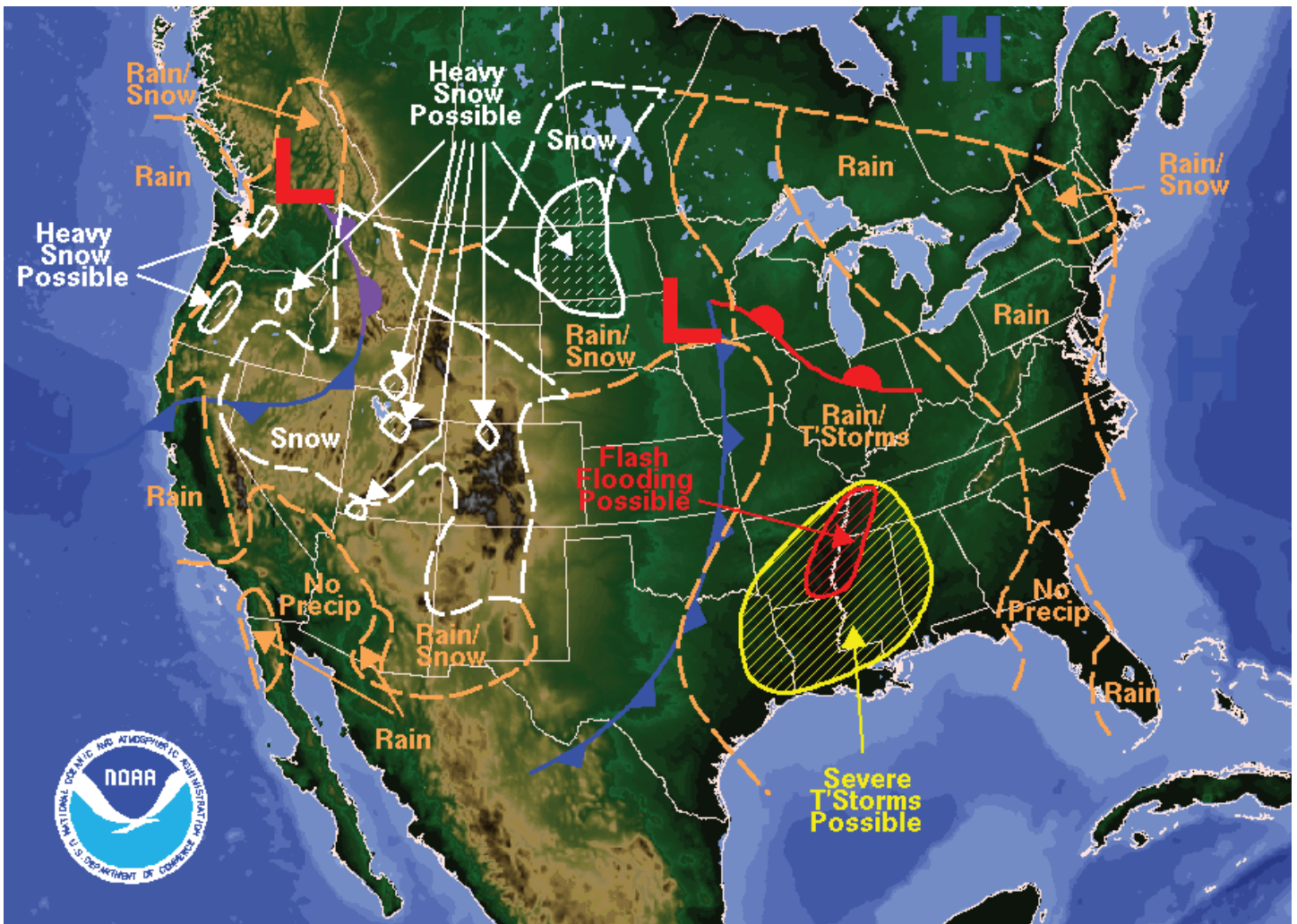
Precip to date in Nov.: 1.02

Average Precip to date: 21.16

Precip Year to Date: 16.02

Sunset Tonight: 4:53 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:51 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Nov 28, 2016, issued 4:25 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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WHERE'S GOD WHEN I NEED HIM?

Danny was kneeling next to his bed saying his prayers. Hands folded, eyes shut, his mother heard him praying: "Lord, my brother still doesn't have a job and he sure needs one. And my sister, Ruth, she hasn't had a date for a long time and she's getting pretty old. And you know about Mon – she's no better and may have to go back to the hospital. And Dad hasn't gotten the promotion his boss promised him. You know, God, I'm really getting tired of praying for my family and not getting any results. Have you quit listening to me?"

Ever feel like Danny? No doubt most of us have.

Thank God for John's insight: "And we can be confident that He will listen to us whenever we ask Him for anything in line with His will. And if we know He is listening when we make our requests, we can be sure that He will give us what we ask for."

John's emphasis here is on God's will – not our wants. And there is a dramatic difference between the two. Too often when we take our requests to the Lord they do not fit His will for our lives. We ask selfishly and do not take into consideration how what we want may differ from what we need to be and what He has designed for us to do. We need to align our requests with His will. The ultimate test of any prayer is: Lord, give me this for Your sake in Your name for Your will.

Prayer: Lord, help us to understand how to pray and what to pray for. May we accept the delays knowing that Your will is much better than our wants. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 2 Corinthians 9:7 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.



We now accept



for out patient therapy.

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

News from the Associated Press

Western Dakotas hit with heavy snow and strong winds

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Much of the western Dakotas is under a winter storm warning, as heavy snow and strong winds pound the area.

The National Weather Service says central North Dakota could get up to a foot of snow by Wednesday night, with strong winds blowing the snow around and reducing visibility.

North Dakota's Transportation Department issued a travel alert for the central part of the state, urging motorists to be aware of dangerous driving conditions. Some schools in the region were starting late Monday.

Up to 5 inches of snow is expected in the northern Black Hills of South Dakota, along with wind gusts exceeding 50 mph. North central South Dakota also could get similar snow amounts.

Weekend rollover crash in Hyde County kills 2 people

HIGHMORE, S.D. (AP) — A one-vehicle crash in Hyde County over the weekend killed two people.

The Highway Patrol says a 30-year-old woman and a 39-year-old man were in a sport utility vehicle that went out of control and rolled multiple times on state Highway 47 shortly before 10 a.m. Saturday.

Both of the vehicle's occupants died at the scene south of Highmore. They weren't immediately identified.

Dakota Access pipeline protesters told to leave by Dec. 5

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has set an early December deadline for American Indians and others to leave an encampment in North Dakota where they've been entrenched for months protesting the Dakota Access pipeline. Tribes including the Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Sioux are fighting the Dakota Access project because they fear it will harm drinking water and cultural sites. Texas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners says the 1,200-mile pipeline through the Dakotas, Iowa and Illinois will be safe.

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

EVICTON NOTICE

The Corps said last week in a letter to Standing Rock Sioux tribal leader Dave Archambault that all federal lands north of the Cannonball River will be closed to public access Dec. 5 for "safety concerns." The order includes the sprawling encampment called Oceti Sakowin, or Seven Council Fires camp, that's a living protest against the four-state \$3.8 billion pipeline.

The Corps cited North Dakota's oncoming winter and increasingly contentious clashes between protesters and police. The agency says "it has no plans for forcible removal," but anyone on land north of the river after the deadline will be trespassing and may be prosecuted.

The Corps acknowledged that "more dangerous groups have joined this protest and are provoking conflict in spite of the public pleas from tribal leaders."

The agency previously had said it would not evict protesters due to free speech reasons.

The Corps' letter came after residents in the area expressed feeling unsafe and frustrated with how the protest has swelled to scores of self-described "water protectors." North Dakota officials contend the Corps should not allow people to be on the land without a permit.

More than 525 people from across the country have been arrested since August. In a recent clash between police and protesters near the path of the pipeline, officers used tear gas, rubber bullets and large water hoses in freezing weather. Organizers said at least 17 protesters were taken to the hospital, some for hypothermia and one for a serious arm injury. One officer was injured.

North Dakota officials say the protest has cost the state about \$20 million in extra law enforcement costs.

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The Oceti Sakowin camp is the overflow from smaller private and permitted protest sites nearby and began growing in August. It's been called the largest gathering of Native American tribes in a century.

Standing Rock tribal members and other Native Americans believe the land with the encampment is rightly owned by the Sioux through a more than century-old treaty with the U.S. government.

Protest organizers said they don't intend to leave or stop their acts of civil disobedience. Archambault and others don't believe the Corps will forcibly evict people from the camp.

THE ORIGINS

Energy Transfer Partners got federal permits for the pipeline in July, about two years after it was announced. The pipeline is projected to move a half-million barrels of crude oil daily to an existing pipeline in Patoka, Illinois, for shipment to Midwest and Gulf Coast markets.

Supporters say the pipeline will have safeguards against leaks, and is a safer way to move oil than trucks and trains, especially after a handful of fiery — and sometimes deadly — derailments of trains carrying North Dakota crude.

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

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

MISSING LINK

The nearly 1,200-mile pipeline is largely complete except for a section that would pump oil under Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota.

The Corps of Engineers in July granted Energy Transfer Partners the permits needed for the crossing, but the agency decided in September that further analysis was warranted given the tribe's concerns. Since then, the Corps has called for even more study and tribal input.

The company responded 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.

President Barack Obama earlier this month raised the possibility of rerouting the pipeline, and Archambault has said that would be acceptable to the tribe provided the new route isn't near the reservation.

Archambault and others have called on Obama to stop the pipeline altogether.

Energy Transfer Partners CEO Kelcy Warren told The Associated Press that the pipeline won't be rerouted and the company has no alternative than to stick to its plan.

President-elect Donald Trump holds stock in Energy Transfer Partners. Pipeline opponents worry that Trump's investments could affect any decision he makes on the project as president.

Physician takes over for deceased brother at Mitchell Clinic

By Caitlynn Peetz, The Daily Republic

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Walking through the halls of the Mitchell Clinic, Peter Reynen can't help but feel a connection with his late brother, Mark.

Mark, a former physician at Mitchell Clinic, Ltd., died unexpectedly in June, and this week, his older brother Peter filled the vacancy he left at the medical center.

Prior to moving back to Mitchell Peter and his wife, Camille, lived in West Burlington, Iowa, where he ran a private practice. But, when Mark died, there was a need in Mitchell, both professionally and personally to help care for family matters, and Peter was ready to make the leap.

Since returning, he's realized that Mark and the rest of the Reynens have built a respected reputation throughout the region — one he hopes to carry on, the Mitchell Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2gItrZb>) reported.

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"Because of my associations with Mark and my family, I've already got this positive cred and I haven't done a thing here yet," Peter said Wednesday. "We have a family reputation to live up to, not one to live down."

And most of Peter's family lives in or around Mitchell, aside from a daughter who lives in Texas, making the decision easier, he said. Paired with the ability to bring his talents to Mitchell and fill a void in the medical community, Peter felt like the move home "made sense."

"I didn't come to Mitchell to take Mark's place, I came to Mitchell to take my place," Peter said. "Nobody replaces Mark, but I hope I have similarities with Mark. Really, the things that are most important to us in the world are all here, so why not be here?"

Since starting work at the clinic Monday, Peter said roaming the same halls his brother did fewer than six months ago has helped him feel closer to Mark, but it has at times been difficult for others.

Some people who were Mark's patients have teared up at the sound of Peter's voice, claiming it sounds like Mark's did. Others have flinched at the rebirthing of the title "Dr. Reynen" and "sized him up" when meeting for the first time.

"It's kind of fair, in the cosmic sense of justice or balance if there is such a thing," Peter said. "Going through school after me, Mark was always 'Peter's brother,' and now I'm 'Mark's brother.' It's another reputation he left me to live up to, which is nice."

Peter said the plan is to accept and embrace Mark's legacy, rather than pretend it doesn't exist. Instead of looking at Mark's memory in the public's eye as something that "needs to be overcome," Peter said Mark is person who should be celebrated.

"It's there and it's real and it's powerful, but I don't mind it at all. It's not something evil or bad, it's just something that is," Peter said. "I feel closer to Mark being in that space. It's not like some ghost thing, it just was his place and his space and I like that."

Similarly, Peter said since his brother's death — and especially since arriving in Mitchell — he's learned a lot about who his brother was "in his own world."

At family gatherings, Mark and Peter didn't talk about medicine, so Peter knew Mark only as his brother, not the widely respected doctor he had come to be.

But, for those who didn't know Mark, Peter said he was funny but polite, kind and caring, athletic, strong and even-tempered, even from a young age.

"That's one of the fun things about being at the clinic. As the youngest brother, growing up, his opinion was the last anybody wanted to hear," Peter said. "When we wanted to play kickball, we didn't ask Mark what he wanted to do, we said, 'We're playing kickball, Mark, come on.' Now, I've gotten to learn what he was like when he was out in his own world, as more of his own person."

Peter graduated from the Mitchell school system in 1981, and then he attended the University of South Dakota. From there, he attended seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, then medical school at USD and finally went to Lincoln, Nebraska to participate in a residency program.

At the completion of his residency in 1997, Peter moved to Milbank where he stayed for 15 years. In 2012, he moved to West Burlington, Iowa, where he went into private practice with a partner, and remained there until moving back to Mitchell this month.

The 53-year-old is equipped to handle a wide variety of ailments at Mitchell Clinic, Ltd., including health care maintenance, routine physicals, acute problems, colds and flues, sprains and broken bones. But his real passion lies in keeping people healthy and out of the clinic in the first place, which is a unique talent Peter believes he brings to Mitchell residents.

"I didn't come here because the Mitchell Clinic is the best clinic in America, but it is great," Peter said. "There's opportunities to get better, and all of us have those opportunities. I have experiences I can bring to that, there's a hospital I can work in, people to take care of and I have family here that we can be around."

And, through all of his travels, Peter has always called South Dakota "home."

Everywhere he's lived has been more than satisfactory, Peter said, but the culture varies from place-to-place and every new city was unfamiliar. There's a Greek word Peter associates with this feeling: storge, which means "the love of the familiar."

"Mitchell is 'storge,'" Peter said. "It's familiar and you love what is familiar — what's good about it and what's not good about it, it's still familiar and it's comfortable."

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

US Government sued by Crow Creek tribe for \$200 million

By Seth Tupper, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — About 270 river-miles downstream from the Dakota Access pipeline protest camp, a South Dakota Native American tribe is quietly fighting for \$200 million in compensation over alleged water-rights violations.

The Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, which resides on a reservation on the eastern banks of the Missouri River in central South Dakota north of Chamberlain, is locked in a legal showdown with the federal government in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2ghEvuR>) reported.

The tribe contends its reservation of land includes rights to Missouri River water that the government has long allowed others to use illegally. Now, the tribe wants \$200 million as compensation and also wants its water rights measured, or "quantified," in the language of the tribe's formal complaint. The government disputes the tribe's claims and has filed a motion to dismiss them.

The tribe filed its case in June, about two months after Native American-led protesters began to gather at the site of the planned route of the Dakota Access pipeline under the Missouri River near Cannon Ball, N.D. The Crow Creek complaint and the pipeline protest are not formally related, but they are both grounded in Native American assertions of water rights.

The Crow Creek complaint is based on the Winters Doctrine, established by a 1908 U.S. Supreme Court decision. In that decision, the court determined that the establishment of a land reservation for a Native American tribe includes an implied reservation of water rights for the tribe.

Some tribes in other parts of the country have since forced the U.S. government to determine the amount of water they are entitled to use, but apparently no tribe in the Northern Great Plains has done so.

David Ganje, a Rapid City lawyer who handles water-rights cases but is not involved in the Crow Creek case, said tribes have been hesitant to sue for water rights. That is partly because of a 1952 federal law known as the McCarran Amendment, which pushed many water-rights disputes from federal courts down to state courts, where Native Americans often fear they will not receive fair treatment.

Why then is the Crow Creek tribe suddenly pressing its case in the federal Court of Claims?

When the Journal emailed the question to the tribe's lawyer, Austin Tighe, of the Nix, Patterson & Roach firm in Austin, Texas, he mentioned the firm's success in similar cases.

Tighe said the firm helped win a \$186 million payment from the U.S. government for the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes in August 2015. The payment settled 100-year-old claims that the government failed to protect tribal timber interests.

In a separate and ongoing case, the firm is representing the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation in its \$600 million lawsuit against the state of Connecticut over its claims of illegal taking of tribal land.

The Crow Creek complaint is similar to those cases because it claims the U.S. government has a responsibility to hold tribal water in trust — like tribal land — and manage it for the good of the tribe.

The government, in its motion to dismiss, calls the tribe's position "novel and legally unsupportable."

"A Winters doctrine right 'gives the United States the power to exclude others from subsequently diverting waters that feed the reservation,'" the government's motion says, quoting a 2015 court ruling. "It does not give Plaintiff ownership of any particular molecules of water, either on the reservation or up or downstream of the reservation."

Ganje, the local water-rights expert, said he foresees a number of legal issues that could thwart the tribe's effort in the Court of Claims, and he thinks negotiation would have been a better initial tactic than litigation. But he said tribes should generally do more to assert their water rights.

"Our society has such a great need for water," Ganje said, "and good-quality water is becoming a commodity that in the future could be as valuable as oil and gold."

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

Governor predicts 'lean' state budget for upcoming cycle

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard says his upcoming budget proposal will have no major new spending because of dipping tax collections.

The Republican governor wants to use one-time money this year to plug an expected budget shortfall. Daugaard is set to make his budget address next month, and lawmakers will make revisions to the current budget and shape the next one during the legislative session.

State revenues are about 3.6 percent below lawmakers' projections — about \$20 million from July through October. Nearly all of that is from lower-than-expected sales tax collections. Cautious consumer spending, low commodity prices and e-commerce transactions that avoid state sales taxes have hindered growth in the state's main revenue source, State Economist Jim Terwilliger said.

Some state expenses are also coming in under budget this year, but not enough to fully offset the short revenues, Daugaard said. Current collections help set the base for spending next fiscal year, which spells a "pretty lean" budget in budget year 2018, the governor said.

"We're still seeing revenue growth, it's just not as robust as we had projected," Daugaard said.

It will likely mean small funding increases for public schools, state employees and health care providers including nursing homes, community mental health centers and other facilities that rely heavily on the Medicaid program.

It also signals not enough money to freeze tuition at the state's public universities or create expansive new programs.

Collections aren't coming in at levels necessary to pay for substantial increases in government, said Republican Sen. Deb Peters, who has served as chairwoman of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Appropriations.

"We really have a lack of resources to do a lot of the fun stuff," Peters said. "The fun stuff is going to have to go away."

Incoming Senate Majority Leader Blake Curd, a Republican, said balancing the state budget is "top of the ticket" for the upcoming session, which is set to start in January and close in late March.

Corps won't forcibly remove protesters from federal land

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says it has "no plans for forcible removal" of protesters who have been camping in North Dakota to protest the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

The Corps says in a statement Sunday that it "is seeking a peaceful and orderly transition to a safer location."

The Corps notified tribal leaders Friday that all federal lands north of the Cannonball River will be closed to public access Dec. 5 for "safety concerns." The agency says those who choose to stay do so at their own risk. The Corps says anyone on the property north of the Cannonball River after that date will be trespassing and subject to prosecution.

The land to be closed includes the main protest camp, about 50 miles south of Bismarck.

Sheriff on pipeline protests: 'My job is to enforce the law'

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

MANDAN, N.D. (AP) — Don't look for apologies from the North Dakota sheriff leading the response to the Dakota Access oil pipeline protests, especially for the recent — and, in some circles, controversial — action against demonstrators who he believes have become increasingly aggressive.

"We are just not going to allow people to become unlawful," said Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier, a veteran of the North Dakota Highway Patrol and National Guard who was elected to his first term as

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sheriff about two years ago. "It's just not going to happen."

More than 525 people from across the country have been arrested during months of protests over the four-state, \$3.8 billion pipeline, all here in support of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe that's fighting the project because it believes it threatens drinking water and cultural sites on their nearby reservation.

His department's job of policing the protesters — the vast majority who've been camping on federal land that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says it will close in December for safety concerns — has cost the county more than \$8 million, even with help from the state Highway Patrol and officers from various states. Their tactics, however, have drawn criticism from Standing Rock's tribal leader as well as protest organizers and celebrities.

Standing Rock Sioux Chairman Dave Archambault said he and Kirchmeier have met many times and each meeting has been tense and unproductive. "I don't think aggressive force is necessary and he thinks it's necessary," Archambault said.

In the most recent clash between police and protesters, which was near the path of the pipeline and happened last week, officers used tear gas, rubber bullets and large water hoses in freezing weather. Organizers said at least 17 protesters were taken to the hospital, some for hypothermia and one for a serious arm injury, and one officer was injured.

Archambault called the confrontation an act of terror against unarmed protesters that was sanctioned by Kirchmeier.

"His job is to protect and serve, not to inflict harm and hurt," Archambault said.

But Kirchmeier, who has the backing of the state's Republican governor and attorney general, defended officers' actions. He and other authorities said officers were assaulted with rocks, bottles and burning logs.

Kirchmeier, a 53-year-old married father, grew up in this county, which has a population of fewer than 30,000 people — about 15 residents per square mile. He retired from the North Dakota Highway Patrol as a captain after 29 years, and had served in the National Guard for four years.

The protests are demanding: Kirchmeier hasn't had a day off since August, routinely working more than 12 hours a day. The 34 deputies in his department are pulling similar shifts, he said, even with help from more than 1,200 officers from North Dakota and nine other states.

Some officers have been targeted online by protesters, Kirchmeier included. He said someone recently posted the location of his father's grave, which he took as an effort to intimidate.

"Social media has been very bad and it has turned out like law enforcement is building the pipeline," he said. "I can't stop the pipeline. My job is to enforce the law."

President Barack Obama raised the possibility of rerouting the pipeline earlier this month, and construction on the last remaining large chunk, which is on federal land near the reservation, was halted by the Corps for the time being. But Kelcy Warren, CEO of pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners, told The Associated Press the company won't do any rerouting.

Kirchmeier, like many other of the state's elected officials, blame the Obama administration for not stepping in.

"The issue of the pipeline is not going to get solved with protesters and cops looking at each other," Kirchmeier said. "This is bigger and takes way more political clout than what the county has to offer."

Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem said Kirchmeier is in "an incredibly difficult position."

"He has the responsibility to allow people to lawfully exercise their First Amendment rights and he has the obligation to stop it when there is violence contrary to the law," Stenehjem said. "And now there are a significant number of lawless people and the citizens are worried."

Gov. Jack Dalrymple said Kirchmeier "has done a remarkable job dealing with all the issues brought about by these protests. He has been totally professional in what is not a typical law enforcement challenge in North Dakota."

With winter looming, the Corps has decided to close the land north of the Cannonball River where the Oceti Sakowin protest encampment have flourished on Dec. 5, also citing the confrontations between protesters and authorities, according to a letter Archambault said he received.

"To be clear, this means that no member of the general public, to include Dakota Access pipeline pro-

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testers, can be on these Corps lands," the letter provided by the tribe said.

The Corps said in a statement Sunday that has "no plans for forcible removal" of protesters and that it "is seeking a peaceful and orderly transition to a safer location." The agency says anyone on the property north of the Cannonball River after Dec. 5 will be trespassing and subject to prosecution.

Protest organizers said Saturday that they don't intend to leave or stop their acts of civil disobedience.

Kirchmeier said before the Corps' move that North Dakota residents who have grown tired — and increasingly afraid — of the protests are backing law enforcement.

"People don't want their livelihoods disrupted," he said. "They are not taking this lightly."

Cuban-American millennials anticipate role in evolving Cuba

By TAMARA LUSH, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Isabella Prio was born in Miami, is 20 now and a junior at Boston College who fully expects to return to Cuba someday and help shape the island's future. But she's never been to the country where her grandfather was once president and refuses to visit until it's a democracy.

Cherie Cancio, 29, also was born in Miami and runs tours to the island for young Cuban-Americans eager to explore their heritage.

Two daughters of exile. Both passionate in wanting to effect change in a country that has been in the grasp of the Castro brothers' authoritarian rule for decades, but very different in their approaches.

For the hundreds of thousands of children like Prio and Cancio born of Cuban exiles — some two and three generations removed from the island — Fidel Castro's death potentially opens a door to a world long off-limits. Or at the least, it seems to bring it within closer reach.

Millennial Cuban-Americans say Castro's death at the age of 90 symbolically offers hope for improved dialogue between the countries. Some thought the dialogue had begun under President Barack Obama, who visited Cuba in March. But with President-elect Donald Trump, the future of diplomacy between the two countries is uncertain.

"It's definitely in the hands of the young people to take it over," Prio said. "We just have to be careful about how we go about it."

How that dialogue will unfold is anyone's guess, and while attitudes are shifting, the community is still divided on the best way to chart a new course for the island — or whether Miami's exiles even should play a role.

Prio, a finance and marketing student, still won't visit until the Castro regime steps down, and democracy is restored. For now, she's disappointed when she sees friends' photos of Cuba on Instagram and Facebook. Her views are more in line with people her parents' and grandparents' age.

"Young Cuban-Americans really want engagement on the island," said Guillermo Grenier, a professor of sociology at Florida International University in Miami and a lead investigator of the FIU Cuba Poll, an annual poll of Cuban-Americans co-sponsored by the Cuban Research Institute.

Still, said Grenier, "how younger Cuban-Americans feel about Fidel Castro dying is kind of independent" of their interest in engaging with the island.

The most recent Cuba Poll was taken in August. It showed that Cuban-Americans ages 18 to 39 are disenchanted with the embargo, desire expanded business opportunities and favor the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"There's been a shift of millennial Cuban-Americans, who are more open to President Obama's policies," says Cancio, whose father reached Florida on the Mariel Boatlift in the 1980s.

She admits that the children of exiles grapple with wanting to learn about their heritage while being respectful of their parents' struggles. Many millennials want to go to Cuba but are hesitant to do so out of respect for their parents' position that the Castro regime must relinquish power and democracy installed before any substantial engagement.

"We all respect the sacrifices and the history of our parents, especially those of us from Miami," she said.

That's why she believes in educating Cuban-Americans, while building bridges with folks in Cuba.

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"We want Cuban Americans to visit Cuba, experience it, talk about it, and think about what an emerging Cuba means for them and their communities in the U.S.," reads the website of CubaOne, Cancio's nonprofit.

Still, Cancio doesn't believe that she, or the Miami-born children of exiles, has a role to play in reshaping Cuba. That's up to the people on the island, she says.

"I have the freedom here to support whatever policies I want. I don't know I should have that freedom in another country, even if my father was born there."

Javier Gonzalez, a 21-year-old University of Miami junior, feels that Cuba is his birthright. His father came from Cuba and hasn't returned. Gonzalez also hasn't visited.

"A free Cuba or nothing," said Gonzalez, who is majoring in political science, economics and aquaculture.

Gonzalez attended Belen Jesuit Preparatory School in Miami — a private school that was once in Havana, only to be seized after Castro took power and expelled from the island.

Castro himself was a 1944 graduate of the school. Gonzalez says many of his teachers knew Castro or studied with him, and the exile experience permeated daily high school life, as it did for him at home.

Each day while walking to his Latin American studies class, Gonzalez would pass the wall of martyrs, a photographic journey of all the alumni who died fighting "for a higher cause," including attempting to oust Castro. Many were political prisoners under the Castro regime.

Gonzalez thinks of Cuba as his home, and someday, of returning to what he calls "paradise lost."

Castro's death "isn't equivalent to liberty, but it's a step toward liberty," says Gonzalez.

When news of Castro's death broke, he texted Prio, his friend. They and their high school friends who were home for the Thanksgiving break knew where to meet up: Cafe Versailles in Little Havana, with its signs that say "La Casa del Exilio," or, "house of the exiles."

Prio, who has friends at her school in Boston who questioned her jubilation over Castro's death, tried to explain her feelings.

"He's not a human being, he's a monster," she said. "It's perfectly acceptable to celebrate his death."

Said Gonzales: "it's not celebrating death, it's celebrating the life that could be."

Prio's grandfather, Carlos Prio Socarras, was president of Cuba from 1948 until 1952, when Fulgencio Batista organized a coup and overthrew the government. Socarras fled the country and backed Castro financially; it was the worst decision of his life, he later said.

Like Gonzalez, Prio believes she will someday go to Cuba and hopes to play a part in its rebuilding.

Follow Tamara Lush on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/tamaralush> .

An earlier version of this story had an incorrect spelling for the name of former Cuban president Carlos Prio Socarras.

Iraq hospital brimming with Mosul civilian, army casualties

By MYSTYSLAV CHERNOV, Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq (AP) — The main hospital treating trauma victims from the battle for Mosul is overflowing with civilian and military casualties, according to a doctor there.

Dr. Marwan Ghafuri of the West Irbil Hospital, the main triage center for trauma cases from the Mosul battle, said his facility is admitting up to 150 new patients per day

"The problem here is we have not enough beds in the emergency (room)," he said. "We have a lack of medications and the operating rooms are full. We cannot operate immediately on all the patients."

Ghafuri said he expects the influx of wounded to continue at the same level for the next three months as the Mosul operation continues.

The offensive to free Mosul of Islamic State militants is now in its second month, and progress has slowed as troops try to avoid mass civilian casualties. The military officially bans reporting on its numbers of killed and injured, although field medics have noted at least dozens of soldiers have died.

Syrian troops capture northern parts of rebel-held Aleppo

By **BASSEM MROUE**, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian government forces and their allies captured another major eastern Aleppo neighborhood and several smaller areas Monday, putting much of the northern part of Aleppo's besieged rebel-held areas under government control for the first time in four years, state media reported.

Russia's Defense Ministry said the areas captured by Syrian government troops include 10 neighborhoods and over 3,000 buildings in the past few days. The ministry added in a statement that more than 100 rebels have laid down their arms and exited the Syrian city's eastern suburbs.

Aleppo, Syria's largest city and former commercial center, has been contested since the summer of 2012 and a rebel defeat in the city would be a turning point in the five-year conflict. If Syrian forces capture all of east Aleppo, President Bashar Assad's government will be in control of the country's four largest cities as well as the coastal region.

The government's push, backed by thousands of Shiite militia fighters from Lebanon, Iraq, and Iran, and under the cover of the Russian air force, has laid waste to Aleppo's eastern neighborhoods. Medical and food supplies have run short in recent weeks as Syrian warplanes pounded the besieged enclave, rendering all remaining functioning hospitals out of service.

Simultaneous advances by Syrian government and Kurdish-led forces on Sunday set off a tide of displacement inside the divided city, with thousands of residents evacuating their premises to safety in government and Kurdish-controlled areas of the city since Saturday.

Rebel defenses swiftly collapsed as government forces pushed into the Hanano district on Saturday, the first time they had pushed this far into eastern Aleppo since 2012.

With Monday's capture of Sakhour, the rebels are now left boxed in mostly in central and southeastern Aleppo, encircled by government territory on all sides.

Rami Abdurrahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said Syrian government forces have captured some 10 neighborhoods over the past few days, putting nearly 30 percent of Aleppo's formerly rebel-held neighborhoods under state control.

State TV said 3,000 people, half of them children, have fled over the past few hours. It showed men, women and children in green buses being taken to government-controlled areas.

"It is stinging cold, food is scarce and people are shaken in the streets," Mohammad Zein Khandaqani, a member of the Medical Council in Aleppo, told The Associated Press in a voice text message from east Aleppo.

He added that some residents are taking refuge in mosques while others moved to homes of displaced people in safer areas.

He said although thousands of people have fled to government or Kurdish-controlled areas in Aleppo, many stayed because they are wanted by the state.

Ahmad Araj, senior official with the Syrian National Democratic Coalition that consists of Arab and Kurdish groups, said 8,000 people have fled to the Kurdish-control Sheikh Maqsoud district so far, calling on international aid organizations to help those who are now displaced.

The Russian Defense Ministry also said Syrian government troops had pushed the rebels from Qadisias which it described as the "key neighborhood of eastern Aleppo."

Associated Press writers Sarah El Deeb in Beirut, Albert Aji in Damascus, Syria and Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By **The Associated Press**

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

1. BUSY SLATE FOR TRUMP IN NEW YORK

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The president-elect has more top posts to fill while trying to tamp down a distraction over his own Twitter offensive about widespread voter fraud.

2. WHAT IS MOBILIZING A CARIBBEAN NATION

Cuba finds itself riveted one final time by Fidel Castro, whose funeral rites are dominating the island like no event in decades.

3. HOW MILLENNIAL CUBAN-AMERICANS FEEL

For the hundreds of thousands of children born of Cuban exiles, Castro's death potentially opens a door to a world long off-limits.

4. SYRIAN TROOPS CAPTURE MAJOR ALEPPO NEIGHBORHOOD IN BESIEGED EAST

Aleppo, Syria's largest city and former commercial center, has been contested since 2012 and a rebel defeat in the city would be a turning point in the five-year conflict.

5. CYBER MONDAY MAY BE IN DANGER OF LOSING TITLE

The Monday after Thanksgiving is traditionally the busiest online shopping day of the year, but stores released internet deals earlier than ever this year.

6. KASHMIR VIOLENCE NOT USUAL TIT FOR TAT

India and Pakistan start using heavy artillery and targeting each other's infrastructure instead of just military outposts and convoys — with no diplomacy in sight.

7. 'I REALLY LOVE THE SCENT OF YOUR PERFUME'

Germany's "Mr Flirt" is teaching workshops for young refugees on how to pick up women as cultural gaps have made for awkward moments.

8. TRUMP, SESSIONS WILL HAVE SAY-SO ON POT

The incoming Trump administration will have an array of powerful tools that could stymie the burgeoning marijuana industry.

9. INTRODUCING DIRECTV NOW

The new streaming service from AT&T's satellite TV division has the size to get better deals from entertainment companies.

10. WHO SPARKED CHIEFS OVER BRONCOS IN OVERTIME

Tyreek Hill scores on a run, a pass reception and a kick return to become the first player since former Bears great Gale Sayers in 1965 to pull off the feat.

Taliban fighter case stirs question on law of armed conflict

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two years after being brought to the U.S. to face charges in an attempted attack on American forces in Afghanistan, Irek Hamidullin is arguing he should never have been prosecuted at all.

A federal court appeal from Hamidullin, a former Russian army officer who defected to fight alongside Taliban-affiliated forces, raises anew the question of how the U.S. government should handle people captured overseas for acts of violence they commit against the American military. At issue is whether Hamidullin should be regarded as an ordinary criminal or, as he contends, a lawful combatant entitled to be treated as a prisoner of war and immune from the U.S. court system.

The question is an exceedingly rare one for the courts, even in a post-Sept. 11 legal landscape in which judges have tackled cases concerning indefinite detention, treatment of foreign detainees and the constitutionality of military tribunals. There's been only one criminal prosecution in the last 15 years in which a court considered whether a Taliban fighter enjoyed combatant immunity. The judge in that case ruled for the government.

"I would be very surprised if he could get any traction on this legal argument at all," said Jens David Ohlin, a Cornell University international law professor. But "that isn't to say that it's a simple issue," he added.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit in Richmond, Virginia, is scheduled to hear arguments Dec. 9. A federal judge rejected Hamidullin's position before he was convicted last year and sentenced him to life in prison.

Hamidullin, who fought with the Haqqani network, was captured in 2009 after leading a band of insurgents

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in an attack on an Afghan border police compound, then trying to shoot down U.S. military helicopters that responded. He was brought to the U.S. in 2014 for trial on charges including conspiring and attempting to kill members of the U.S. military.

The U.S. and other nations have long recognized a distinction between acts committed by soldiers during war and violence done outside an international conflict.

Yet the government and Hamidullin's lawyers are at odds on what category Hamidullin falls into.

His attorneys say his acts were carried out in an armed conflict that began with the 2001 U.S. invasion of Afghanistan and were therefore both "lawful and commonplace." Though the Taliban government was ousted from power, it has continued to fight against U.S. and Afghan forces, the lawyers note. Instead of being prosecuted in a civilian court, Hamidullin should have been held as a prisoner of war like other enemy soldiers, they contend.

"You know what this guy was accused of?" asked Jordan Paust, an international law expert at the University of Houston who was a defense witness in the case. "Things that soldiers do in war."

Combatants granted POW status are historically exempt from civilian court prosecution and are typically detained by the military until the end of hostilities. They can theoretically face prosecution before a military tribunal, but the Justice Department has not alleged war crimes of the sort that a tribunal would hear. And the Obama administration has been loath to use the military detention system for newly captured detainees, relying instead on the civilian court system. That means it's unlikely Hamidullin would face further prosecution if the ruling went his way.

Prosecutors, though, cite a 2002 federal government declaration that fighters aligned with the Taliban did not qualify for lawful combatant status. No circumstances in the "ensuing years have undermined the reasonableness of the President's determination," they wrote in court filings.

They say Hamidullin fought not with a recognized army but with a "rogue band of insurgents" that lacked a leadership hierarchy, distinctive uniform or insignia and respect for the laws and customs of war — criteria under the Geneva Convention for claiming lawful combatant status.

The issue emerged in the 2001 case of John Walker Lindh, an American captured in Afghanistan while fighting with the Taliban. A judge denied him lawful combatant status, but he pleaded guilty before the issue could be resolved by an appeals court.

From the Justice Department's perspective, it is not a close call.

"War and armed conflict have doubtlessly yielded cases over the years where it was unclear on what side of that line a given fighter ought to fall," prosecutors said. "This is not one of those cases."

Not everyone's so sure.

"More than any other criminal prosecution that we have seen since 9/11, this case really gets at some of the awkward legal problems that arise from applying ordinary criminal law on a battlefield," said Stephen Vladeck, a national security law professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

Trump to fill more vacancies; recount distraction looms

By **STEVE PEOPLES** and **CALVIN WOODWARD**, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — With his return to New York, President-elect Donald Trump faces a pressing need to set more of the foundation blocks of his presidency in place by filling vacancies for secretary of state and other top posts.

Distraction looms, however, much of it created by the president-elect himself, whose extraordinary claims of widespread voter fraud during a 12-hour Twitter offensive on Sunday cast a shadow over the legitimacy of an election that he actually won.

"I won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally," Trump tweeted in the afternoon before alleging in an evening tweet "serious voter fraud in Virginia, New Hampshire and California."

Trump's transition team did not respond to questions seeking evidence of the claims.

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The charges come amid a recount of presidential votes in up to three battleground states, an effort joined by Hillary Clinton despite decidedly tamped-down expectations that the election's outcome will not change. Wisconsin election officials are expected to meet Monday to discuss a possible timeline for a recount of that state's presidential votes; recounts are possible in Pennsylvania and Michigan as well.

There's been no evidence of widespread tampering or hacking that would change the results; indeed, Clinton's team said it had been looking for abnormalities and found nothing that would alter the results.

Trump narrowly won Wisconsin and Pennsylvania and, as of Wednesday, held a lead of almost 11,000 votes in Michigan, with the results awaiting state certification Monday. All three would need to flip to Clinton to upend the Republican's victory, and Clinton's team says Trump has a larger edge in all three states than has ever been overcome in a presidential recount.

Still, Trump and his lieutenants assailed the effort led by the Green Party's Jill Stein, calling it fraudulent, the work of "crybabies" and, in Trump's view, tweeted from Florida, "sad." Clinton leads the national popular vote by close to 2 million votes, but Trump won 290 electoral votes to Clinton's 232, not counting Michigan.

Trump scheduled a series of meetings in New York on Monday with prospective administration hires, after spending Thanksgiving weekend at his Palm Beach, Florida, estate. But in an unusual public airing of internal machinations, Trump senior adviser Kellyanne Conway warned Sunday that the president-elect's supporters would feel "betrayed" if he tapped former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney as secretary of state. Romney, until recently a fierce Trump critic, was "nothing but awful" to him for a year, she said.

The spectacle of close aides who speak frequently with Trump in private being so explicit about their views in public raised the possibility, at least, that Conway was acting at Trump's behest by suggesting the president-elect was being generous by considering his former political rival. Romney denounced Trump in scathing terms during the campaign, prompting Trump to call him a "choker" who "walks like a penguin."

People involved in the transition process said Trump's decision on his secretary of state did not appear to be imminent. Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker and John Bolton, a former ambassador to the U.N., have also been under consideration.

Trump was mostly silent on the brewing recount effort until it became known that Clinton would join it, at least in Wisconsin. On Saturday, a day after Wisconsin officials said they would conduct the first presidential recount in the state's history, Clinton campaign attorney Marc Elias said: "We intend to participate in order to ensure the process proceeds in a manner that is fair to all sides."

Elias said Clinton would take the same approach in Pennsylvania and Michigan if Stein were to follow through with recount requests in those states.

That launched Trump's Twitter storm.

"Hillary Clinton conceded the election when she called me just prior to the victory speech and after the results were in," Trump tweeted Sunday. "Nothing will change."

He quoted from her concession speech — "We owe him an open mind and the chance to lead" — and he concluded: "So much time and money will be spent - same result! Sad."

On NBC's "Meet the Press," Conway said Stein, "the Hillary people" and others supporting recounts have to decide whether they are going to back a peaceful transition "or if they're going to be a bunch of crybabies and sore losers about an election that they can't turn around."

Clinton's lawyer said her team has been combing through the results since the election in search of anomalies that would suggest hacking by Russians or others and found "no actionable evidence." But "we feel it is important, on principle, to ensure our campaign is legally represented in any court proceedings and represented on the ground in order to monitor the recount process itself," he said.

Trump beat Clinton in Wisconsin by fewer than 22,200 votes, less than 1 percent of votes cast. He won Pennsylvania by some 70,600 votes, just more than 1 percentage point over Clinton.

Woodward reported from Washington.

With deals offered early, will shoppers buy on Cyber Monday?

By MAE ANDERSON, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Cyber Monday may be in danger of losing its online sales title.

The Monday after Thanksgiving is traditionally the busiest online shopping day of the year, but stores are releasing internet deals earlier, stretching them through the week, as well as making them available in stores. Shoppers looking for discounts spurred online sales on Black Friday to a new high.

During the holiday shopping weekend that kicks off on Thanksgiving and the day afterward known as Black Friday, more and more shoppers decide to skip the mayhem in stores and buy online. Consumers spent \$3.34 billion shopping online on Friday, a 21.6 percent increase from the same day last year, according to Adobe Digital Insights, which tracks online retail transactions.

Online sales have also been stretching out more and more. Cartwheel, Target's digital app, started offering holiday deals including 50 percent off one toy per day on Nov. 1. Amazon started offering 35 days of Black Friday deals on Nov. 16. And Walmart kicked off its Cyber Monday deals at 12:01 a.m. EST Friday for the first time as it aimed to grab customers ahead of its competitors.

Lea Bishop shops online starting on Thanksgiving Day through Cyber Monday, but this year found many retailers had extensive pre-Black Friday deals. She found an iPad at Bestbuy.com for \$625, at \$150 off during the week before Thanksgiving. To Bishop, the convenience of online shopping is worth more than finding the best deal.

"It may not be the exact lowest price but it was a really good deal," she said. "You kind of have to weigh the 'get up early, stand in line and hope to be the first person there' with the 'Oh I can go buy it now,' even though it may be a little bit more expensive," she said.

Cyber Monday, which is the Monday after Thanksgiving, has typically been the busiest day of the year for online shopping. The phrase was coined in 2005 to encourage online buying when people returned to offices where they had high-speed internet connections.

The term is still used to promote heavy discounts online, even though most people now have constant access to the web via their phones and computers. ComScore expects mobile sales to make up 20 percent of online sales for the first time this year, and Adobe said mobile purchases surged 33 percent on Black Friday to \$1.2 billion.

"Thanksgiving has become the new Cyber Monday," said Shawn DuBravac, chief economist at the Consumer Technology Association. Out of the estimated 135.9 million U.S. adults who shopped this past week, 35 percent did so by phone and tablet, an increase from a 28 percent share last year, according to the trade group's survey.

Promotions have changed in response to buying patterns. Instead of door-buster markdowns on a select few products, retailers are shifting to a stream of discounts and alerts during the entire week via email and social media.

"It's really this weeklong flow of deals," DuBravac said.

Research firm comScore had predicted online spending on Cyber Monday will jump to \$3.5 billion from \$3.12 billion last year. The firm's preliminary holiday shopping forecast, which includes November and December, is for online sales to rise as much as 19 percent to \$81 billion.

Overall, the National Retail Federation trade group is forecasting holiday sales for the November and December period to rise 3.6 percent to \$655.8 billion, better than the 3 percent growth seen in the year-ago period.

"Instead of fighting the lines, there are even better deals online," said Madison Agnello, who plans to do 90 percent of her shopping online. The week before Cyber Monday she bought a 43-inch LG 4K Smart TV at half of its original \$600 price tag.

"I'm shopping soon rather than later, to get it over with and not having to worry about things being sold out," Agnello said.

Associated Press writer Josh Boak in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

Cuba bids farewell to Fidel Castro, ruler for half-century

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN, Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — A nine-story portrait of a young Fidel Castro has joined the towering images of fallen guerrillas overlooking Havana's Plaza of the Revolution, the massive square where Cuba on Monday begins bidding farewell to the man who ruled the island for nearly half a century.

After 10 years of leadership by Castro's younger brother Raul, a relatively camera-shy and low-key successor, Cuba finds itself riveted once again by the words and images of the leader who dominated the lives of generations. Since his death on Friday night, state-run newspapers, television and radio have been running wall-to-wall tributes to Fidel, broadcasting non-stop footage of his speeches, interviews and foreign trips, interspersed with adulatory remembrances by prominent Cubans.

"There's a genuine feeling of mourning, that's not a formality, that's not showy, that's not outward-focused, but rather completely intimate," former National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon said on state television Sunday.

Ordinary people have largely been staying at home, off streets hushed by a prohibition on music and celebration during the nine days of official mourning for Castro. For some, particularly younger Cubans, Castro's death barely registered.

Yankemell Barrera, a 20-year-old student, said Castro wasn't a strong presence in his life and that he wasn't much affected by his death or planning to go to any of the memorial events. He said studying for finals would be a better use of his time.

"Even if I'm obligated to go, I'm not doing it," he said.

Tens of thousands of others, though, were expected to return to the streets Monday after 9 a.m., when simultaneous 21-gun salutes will sound in the capital and in the eastern city of Santiago, where Castro launched his revolution in 1953. At the same moment, Cubans are expected to begin filing through the monument to national hero Jose Marti in the center of the plaza, where the government said they would "render homage and sign a solemn oath to carry out the concept of revolution expressed by the revolutionary leader."

The "concept of revolution" is a section of a 2000 speech in which Castro calls Cubans to believe in "the profound conviction that no force in the world is capable of crushing the force of truth and ideas."

The government did not say if the ashes of the 90-year-old former president would be on display inside the monument. Virtually all schools and government offices were closing during the homage to Castro, which will stretch for 13 hours on Monday and take place again on Tuesday, ending in a rally echoing those that Castro addressed on the plaza for most of his time in power.

"It's a terrible sadness. Everyone's feeling it here," said Orlando Alvarez, a 55-year-old jeweler. "Everyone will be there."

On Wednesday, Castro's ashes will begin a three-day procession east across Cuba, retracing the march of his bearded rebel army from the Sierra Maestra mountains to the capital. Castro's ashes will be interred on Sunday in Santa Ifigenia cemetery in Santiago, Cuba's second-largest city.

Juan Zamorano, Andrea Rodriguez and Christine Armario contributed.

Michael Weissenstein on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mweissenstein>

Trump assails recount push, claims millions voted illegally

By STEVE PEOPLES and CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump claimed without evidence Sunday that "millions" voted illegally in the national election, scoffing at Hillary Clinton's nearly 2 million edge in the popular vote and returning to his campaign mantra of a rigged race even as he prepares to enter the White House in less than two months.

Trump and his lieutenants assailed an effort — now joined by Clinton — to recount votes in up to three battleground states, calling the push fraudulent, the work of "crybabies" and, in Trump's estimation, "sad."

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The president-elect himself launched a Twitter offensive that spanned more than 12 hours on Sunday, casting a shadow over the legitimacy of an election that he actually won.

"I won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally," he tweeted in the afternoon before alleging in an evening tweet "serious voter fraud in Virginia, New Hampshire and California." Trump's transition team did not respond to questions seeking evidence of the unfounded claims.

There's been no indication of widespread vote manipulation, illegal voting or hacking that materially affected the outcome one way or the other. It's that very lack of evidence that suggests Trump is likely to prevail in recounts.

Trump on Sunday tweeted part of Clinton's concession speech, when she told supporters they must accept that "Donald Trump is going to be our president," and snippets from her debate remarks, when she denounced the Republican nominee for refusing to say in advance that he would accept the Election Day verdict.

This came on top of his saying it was a "scam" that Green Party nominee Jill Stein was revisiting the vote count in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Trump won Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, and as of Wednesday, held a lead of almost 11,000 votes in Michigan, with the results awaiting state certification Monday. His Michigan margin was a hair's breadth 0.22 percent of the state's votes.

Clinton leads the national popular vote by close to 2 million votes, but Trump won 290 electoral votes to Clinton's 232, not counting Michigan. She could conceivably tip the electoral balance in the remote event that all flipped to her in recounts.

Trump returned to New York Sunday evening after spending Thanksgiving weekend at his West Palm Beach estate. His transition team said the president-elect had scheduled a series of meetings Monday with prospective administration hires.

Among the jobs Trump has still yet to fill: secretary of state. Internal division over the position again spilled out into the open on Sunday as Trump senior adviser Kellyanne Conway voiced her concerns with the possibility of Romney landing such a significant position.

Trump supporters "feel a bit betrayed that you can get a Romney back in there after everything he did," Conway said. "We don't even know if he voted for Donald Trump. He and his consultants were nothing but awful to Donald Trump for a year." She added that she was "reflecting what the grassroots are saying."

Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker are among other prospects to serve as the country's top diplomat.

"I'm all for party unity, but I'm not sure we have to pay for that with the secretary of state position," Conway said.

Trump's incoming chief of staff, national party Chairman Reince Priebus, acknowledged that Romney would represent "a team of rivals concept."

Trump was mostly silent on the brewing recount effort until it became known that Clinton would join it, at least in Wisconsin. On Saturday, a day after Wisconsin officials said they would conduct the first presidential recount in the state's history, Clinton campaign attorney Marc Elias said: "We intend to participate in order to ensure the process proceeds in a manner that is fair to all sides."

Elias said Clinton would take the same approach in Pennsylvania and Michigan if Stein were to follow through with recount requests in those states.

That loosened Trump's tongue.

"Hillary Clinton conceded the election when she called me just prior to the victory speech and after the results were in," Trump tweeted Sunday. "Nothing will change."

He quoted from her concession speech — "We owe him an open mind and the chance to lead" — and he concluded: "So much time and money will be spent - same result! Sad."

On NBC's "Meet the Press," Conway said Stein, "the Hillary people" and others supporting recounts have to decide whether they are going to back a peaceful transition "or if they're going to be a bunch of crybabies and sore losers about an election that they can't turn around."

Priebus, on "Fox News Sunday," called the effort a "total and complete distraction and a fraud and

something that they should drop.”

Clinton’s lawyer said her team has been combing through the results since the election in search of anomalies that would suggest hacking by Russians or others and found “no actionable evidence” of an altered outcome. Moreover, Elias said, Trump has a vote lead even in the closest states that well exceeds the largest margin ever overcome in a recount.

But “we feel it is important, on principle, to ensure our campaign is legally represented in any court proceedings and represented on the ground in order to monitor the recount process itself,” he said.

Trump beat Clinton in Wisconsin by fewer than 22,200 votes, less than 1 percent of votes cast. He won Pennsylvania by some 70,600 votes, just more than 1 percentage point over Clinton.

Woodward reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Anne Flaherty also contributed to this report.

Trump aide steps up bid to block possible Romney nomination

By JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top Donald Trump adviser warned Sunday that the president-elect’s supporters would feel “betrayed” if he tapped former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney as secretary of state, a move that would put a once-fierce Trump critic in a powerful Cabinet post.

The comments from Kellyanne Conway deepened a highly unusual push by some Trump allies to stop the president-elect from nominating Romney. The extraordinary public nature of the effort has also stirred speculation that it could be a Trump-approved attempt to humiliate a prominent Republican who staunchly opposed him throughout the presidential campaign.

Conway, who served as Trump’s campaign manager and is part of his transition team, said her opposition to Romney reflected what she’s been hearing from Trump voters.

“People feel betrayed to think that Gov. Romney, who went out of his way to question the character and the intellect and the integrity of Donald Trump, now our president-elect, would be given the most significant cabinet post of all,” Conway said in one of several television interviews Sunday. She said Romney was “nothing but awful” to Trump for a year.

Conway’s opposition to Romney is also said to be supported by Steve Bannon, the controversial conservative media executive who will serve as Trump’s White House senior adviser.

Trump is an avid consumer of television news and his advisers and allies often use their appearances to send messages to Trump or the Republican establishment. Still, it’s rare for Conway and other close aides who speak frequently with Trump in private to be so explicit about their personal opinions in public.

Romney, the 2012 GOP nominee, vigorously challenged Trump’s fitness for the presidency, including his foreign policy credentials. In a wide-ranging condemnation of Trump in March, Romney said the businessman’s bombast was “alarming the allies and fueling the enmity of our enemies.”

Trump responded by mocking Romney, calling him a “choker” and saying he “walks like a penguin.”

The freeze between two men appeared to thaw after they spoke by phone following the election. Romney then traveled to Trump’s New Jersey golf club for a private meeting to discuss the possibility of joining the administration.

After the meeting, Trump was said to be taken by the way Romney “looks the part” of a globe-trotting diplomat, according to people close to the transition process.

In nominating Romney, Trump would be signaling his willingness to heal campaign wounds and reach out to traditional Republicans who were deeply skeptical of his experience and temperament. Romney is well-liked by GOP lawmakers and was supported by numerous Republican national security experts during his failed White House bid.

But Conway suggested those weren’t reasons enough to nominate Romney as the nation’s top diplomat.

“I’m all for party unity, but I’m not sure that we have to pay for that with the secretary of state position,” Conway said.

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Despite the effort to discredit him, Romney is said to remain interested in serving in Trump's Cabinet, though those close to him acknowledge his opposition to Trump during the campaign hurt his chances.

Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who was fiercely loyal to Trump throughout the campaign, quickly emerged as a front-runner for the secretary of state post and is still in contention. However, questions about his overseas business ties — as well as his own public campaigning for the job — are said to have given Trump pause.

Giuliani is said to be frustrated by the way the process has unfolded, having originally been led to believe he would have his pick of jobs, according to those close to the transition. They insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the private deliberations.

Trump's decision on his secretary of state did not appear to be imminent. And the wrangling over Romney and Giuliani has raised the possibility that Trump may go with a third option. His transition team has also considered Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton for the job.

People with knowledge of the transition process say Trump is also considering retired Marine Gen. John Kelly for the post. Kelly met with the president-elect last week.

Conway appeared Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press," ABC's "This Week," and CNN's "State of the Union."

Associated Press writers Jonathan Lemire in New York and Steve Peoples in West Palm Beach, Florida, contributed to this report.

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

Syrian army Aleppo advance displaces thousands

PHILIP ISSA, The Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Simultaneous advances by Syrian government and Kurdish-led forces into eastern Aleppo on Sunday set off a tide of displacement inside the divided city, with thousands of residents evacuating their premises, and threatened to cleave the opposition's enclave.

Rebel defenses collapsed as government forces pushed into the city's Sakhour neighborhood, coming within one kilometer (0.6 miles) of commanding a corridor in eastern Aleppo for the first time since rebels swept into the city in 2012, according to Syrian state media and the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group.

Kurdish-led forces operating autonomously of the rebels and the government meanwhile seized the Bustan al-Basha neighborhood, allowing thousands of civilians to flee the decimated district to the predominantly Kurdish Sheikh Maqsoud, in the city's north, according to Ahmad Hiso Araj, an official with the Syrian Democratic Forces.

The government's push, backed by thousands of Shiite militia fighters from Lebanon, Iraq, and Iran, and under the occasional cover of the Russian air force, has laid waste to Aleppo's eastern neighborhoods.

An estimated quarter-million people are trapped in wretched conditions in the city's rebel-held eastern districts since the government sealed its siege of the enclave in late August. Food supplies are running perilously low, the U.N. warned Thursday, and a relentless air assault by government forces has damaged or destroyed every hospital in the area.

Residents in east Aleppo said in distressed messages on social media that thousands of people were fleeing to the city's government-controlled western neighborhoods, away from the government's merciless assault, or deeper into opposition-held eastern Aleppo.

"The situation in besieged Aleppo (is) very very bad, thousands of eastern residents are moving to the western side of the city," said Khaled Khatib, a photographer for the Syrian Civil Defense search-and-rescue group, also known as the White Helmets.

"Aleppo is going to die," he posted on Twitter.

The Britain-based Observatory, which monitors the conflict through a network of local contacts, said around 1,700 civilians had escaped to government-controlled areas and another 2,500 to Kurdish authorities.

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More than 250 civilians have been killed in the government's bombardment of eastern Aleppo over past 13 days, according to the Observatory.

Locals reported thousands more were moving within the eastern neighborhoods, away from the front lines, but staying inside areas of opposition control.

"The conditions are terrifying" said 28-year-old Modar Sakho, a nurse in eastern Aleppo.

Wissam Zarqa, an English teacher in eastern Aleppo and outspoken government opponent, said some families would stay put in the face of advancing government forces.

Syrian state media reported government forces had seized the Jabal Badro neighborhood and entered Sakhour Sunday after it took control of the Masaken Hanano neighborhood Saturday.

Syrian state TV broadcast a video Saturday showing a teary reunion between a soldier and his family after nearly five years apart, according to the report. It said the family had been trapped in Masaken Hanano.

The Lebanese Al-Manar TV channel reported from the neighborhood Sunday morning, showing workers and soldiers clearing debris against a backdrop of bombed-out buildings on both sides of a wide thoroughfare. Al-Manar is operated by Hezbollah, the Lebanese militant group aligned with the Syrian government.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces' advance into Bustan al-Basha dealt the opposition a further blow.

Rebels and opposition figures have long accused the SDF and its predecessor groups of conspiring with the government to quash a nationwide revolt.

Araj denied there was any coordination between government and Kurdish-led forces.

"We were responding to calls from residents in Bustan al-Basha to secure the neighborhood," he said. He added the SDF had entered the area handily as rebel militants fled.

Aleppo used to be Syria's largest city and commerce capital before its neighborhoods were devastated by the country's more than five-year-long civil war.

The U.N.'s child agency warned Sunday that nearly 500,000 children were now living under siege in Syria, cut off from food and medical aid, mostly in areas under government control. That figure has doubled in less than a year.

Many are now spending their days underground, as hospitals, schools and homes remain vulnerable to aerial bombardment.

"Children are being killed and injured, too afraid to go to school or even play, surviving with little food and hardly any medicine," said UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake. "This is no way to live — and too many are dying."

Activists also reported Sunday tens of civilian casualties from a presumed government or Russian airstrike on a village outside Aleppo.

The Local Coordination Committees activist network in Syria reported 15 civilians killed in a Russian airstrike on the village of Anjara, controlled by the opposition in the western Aleppo countryside, and tens of others wounded. Activists usually identify planes by their silhouettes and home base.

The Observatory said the strike was accompanied by raids on other opposition-held villages in the Aleppo countryside.

Meanwhile, Anadolu also reported Sunday that the Islamic State group had used chemical weapons against Turkish-backed Syrian opposition fighters in northern Syria, wounding 22. The report cited a statement by the chief of general staff's office. The report could not be immediately verified independently.

Later Sunday, Turkey's emergency relief directorate, which investigated the claim, said it found no trace of chemical warfare. The military was not available for further comment.

Elsewhere in Syria, Israeli aircraft struck a machine gun-mounted vehicle inside the country Sunday, killing four Islamic State-affiliated militants on board after they opened fire on a military patrol on the Israeli side of the Golan Heights, according to the Israeli military.

Associated Press writer Cinar Kiper in Istanbul contributed to this report.

Brown water, beaver battle among early signs of water woes

By JEFF MARTIN, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Beaver dams have been demolished, burbling fountains silenced, and the drinking water in one southern town has taken on the light brownish color of sweet tea.

Though water shortages have yet to drastically change most people's lifestyles, southerners are beginning to realize that they'll need to save their drinking supplies with no end in sight to an eight-month drought.

Already, watering lawns and washing cars is restricted in some parts of the South, and more severe water limits loom if long-range forecasts of below-normal rain hold true through the rest of 2016.

The drought arrived without warning in Chris Benson's bathroom last week in Griffin, Georgia.

"My son noticed it when he went to take his bath for the evening," said Benson, 43. "The water was kind of a light brown color and after we ran it for a while, it actually looked like a light-colored tea. A little disturbing."

The problem was that Griffin's reservoir is nearly 8 feet below normal, leaving "a high level of manganese" in the remaining water, but not making it unsafe, city officials told residents in a Nov. 16 "water discoloration update."

Benson watched that water turn from brown to "kind of a light green tint" before clearing up, he said.

It's no better in Tennessee, where about 300 of the state's 480 water systems serve areas suffering moderate to exceptional drought, the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency said.

Across the South, communities relying on depleted watersheds can't afford to waste what they've got left, said Denise Gutzmer at the National Drought Mitigation Center in Lincoln, Nebraska.

"For some of these small communities, they are in trouble and they will need to be very careful about their water use to conserve," Gutzmer said. "Just like when a bank account gets low, you become much more conscientious about how you spend the remaining dollars you have to spend."

Gutzmer collects the most granular consequences of the nation's weather for the Drought Impact Reporter. She logged the complaints of a hay producer in Winchester, Tennessee, whose spring has run dry "for the first time in over a hundred years," and the rescue of 64 endangered Barrens Topminnows, one of the world's last remaining wild populations, from a drying stream in Coffee County, Tennessee.

She also tracked a mass mussel die-off due to low water in southwestern Virginia, and described how hundreds of volunteers removed beer bottles and car parts from the bottom of Alabama's Lake Purdy, which has 20 feet of water, three-fourths of its capacity. She even heard how workers dismantled beaver dams to increase water flow in west Georgia's Tallapoosa River.

"That really underscores the desperation of the situation, like 'Ok, we've got to clear the beaver dams,'" Gutzmer said.

In Beech Mountain, North Carolina, some 10,000 skiers take over the town on winter weekends when the slopes are open. But there's been no snow this year and the drought has drained the town's sole water source, Buckeye Lake. The surface is now about 6 feet below what town manager Ed Evans calls "full pond," meaning he's about 45 to 60 days from buying water from somewhere else.

Evans said the town's 340 residents are being encouraged to conserve and car-washing is banned.

Similar rules are in effect in Georgia, on a much larger scale. Gov. Nathan Deal recently announced "level 2" water restrictions for about a third of the state's 159 counties, limiting outdoor water uses to two days a week.

There's no "doomsday clock" that could count down the days until taps run dry, says Kevin Chambers of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

"Stream flows are getting very low. Reservoirs are dropping," Chambers said. "So we're hoping our level 2 response will be sufficient to get us through the winter."

Some water sources are more drought-resilient than others, said Jac Capp, chief of watershed protection for the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. "These systems almost always have interconnections with neighbors," he said, "so they're getting some of their water from their neighbors while their source is strained."

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The 15,000 residents of the west Georgia town of Villa Rica might soon have to pay a surcharge to cover the cost of purchased water.

Villa Rica's public works director, Peter Zorbanos, has been working mightily to keep water flowing through the system after the surface of Lake Fashion dropped below an intake pipe. The town may soon have to rely on its lowest intake pipe, near the lake's murky depths. That pipe is thought to be a half-century old and is surrounded by silt. No one has tried to open its valve yet, and they're not sure what will happen if they do.

"Those things can get rusted shut over the years," Zorbanos said. "We're kind of in uncharted territory."

Tim Rogers contributed from North Carolina.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Nov. 28, the 333rd day of 2016. There are 33 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 28, 2001, Enron Corp., once the world's largest energy trader, collapsed after would-be rescuer Dynegy Inc. backed out of an \$8.4 billion takeover deal. (Enron filed for bankruptcy protection four days later.)

On this date:

In 1520, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan reached the Pacific Ocean after passing through the South American strait that now bears his name.

In 1861, the Confederate Congress admitted Missouri as the 12th state of the Confederacy after Missouri's disputed secession from the Union.

In 1905, Sinn Fein (shin fayn) was founded in Dublin.

In 1922, Captain Cyril Turner of the Royal Air Force gave the first public skywriting exhibition, spelling out, "Hello USA. Call Vanderbilt 7200" over New York's Times Square; about 47,000 calls in less than three hours resulted.

In 1942, nearly 500 people died in a fire that destroyed the Cocomanut Grove nightclub in Boston.

In 1958, Chad, Gabon and Middle Congo became autonomous republics within the French community.

In 1964, the United States launched the space probe Mariner 4 on a course toward Mars, which it flew past in July 1965, sending back pictures of the red planet.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford nominated federal judge John Paul Stevens to the U.S. Supreme Court seat vacated by William O. Douglas.

In 1979, an Air New Zealand DC-10 en route to the South Pole crashed into a mountain in Antarctica, killing all 257 people aboard.

In 1987, a South African Airways Boeing 747 crashed into the Indian Ocean with the loss of all 159 people aboard.

In 1990, Margaret Thatcher resigned as British prime minister during an audience with Queen Elizabeth II, who then conferred the premiership on John Major.

In 1994, serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer was slain in a Wisconsin prison by a fellow inmate. Sixties war protester Jerry Rubin died in Los Angeles, two weeks after being hit by a car; he was 56.

Ten years ago: At the opening of a NATO summit in Latvia, President George W. Bush rejected suggestions Iraq had fallen into civil war and vowed not to pull U.S. troops out "until the mission is complete." The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to extend for a year the mandate of the 160,000-strong multinational force in Iraq. Pope Benedict XVI, in Turkey on his first visit to a Muslim country, urged all religious leaders to "utterly refuse" to support any violence in the name of faith.

Five years ago: Egyptians, despite a recent wave of unrest, waited peacefully in long lines to vote in

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the first parliamentary elections since the ouster of Hosni Mubarak (HOHS'-nee moo-BAH'-rahk); Islamist parties were the big winners. Occupy Wall Street protesters defied a deadline to remove their weeks-old encampment on the Los Angeles City Hall lawn.

One year ago: President Barack Obama kept up his holiday tradition of supporting small businesses, taking his daughters, Malia and Sasha, to a bookstore in Washington's Petworth neighborhood, where he bought nine books. Victor Mooney, a New Yorker who rowed across the Atlantic Ocean for AIDS awareness, arrived home in Brooklyn, ending a 21-month journey. Tyson Fury defeated Wladimir Klitschko (VLAD'-uh-meer KLICH'-koh) by unanimous decision in Duesseldorf, Germany, to end the Ukrainian's nine-and-a-half-year reign as heavyweight champion and take his WBA, IBF, and WBO heavyweight titles. Marjorie Lord, 97, the Broadway and film actress who became a TV star on the sitcom "Make Room for Daddy," died in Beverly Hills, California.

Today's Birthdays: Recording executive Berry Gordy Jr. is 87. Former Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., is 80. Singer-songwriter Bruce Channel is 76. Singer Randy Newman is 73. CBS News correspondent Susan Spencer is 70. Movie director Joe Dante is 69. Former "Late Show" orchestra leader Paul Shaffer is 67. Actor Ed Harris is 66. Former NASA teacher in space Barbara Morgan is 65. Actress S. Epatha (eh-PAY'-thah) Merkerson is 64. Former Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff is 63. Country singer Kristine Arnold (Sweethearts of the Rodeo) is 60. Actor Judd Nelson is 57. Movie director Alfonso Cuarón (kwahr-OHN') is 55. Rock musician Matt Cameron is 54. Actress Jane Sibbett is 54. Comedian Jon Stewart is 54. Actress Garcelle Beauvais (gar-SEHL' boh-VAY') is 50. Actor/comedian Stephnie (cq) Weir is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Dawn Robinson is 48. Actress Gina Tognoni is 43. Hip-hop musician apl.de.ap (Black Eyed Peas) is 42. Actor Malcolm Goodwin is 41. Actor Ryan Kwanten is 40. Actress Aimee Garcia is 38. Rapper Chamillionaire is 37. Actor Daniel Henney is 37. Rock musician Rostam Batmanglij (bot-man-GLEESH') is 33. Rock singer-keyboardist Tyler Glenn (Neon Trees) is 33. Actress Mary Elizabeth Winstead is 32. R&B singer Trey Songz is 32. Actress Scarlett Pomers is 28. Actor/rapper Bryshere Gray (TV: "Empire") is 23.

Thought for Today: "We are not all born at once, but by bits. The body first, and the spirit later." — Mary Hunter Austin, American novelist and playwright (1868-1934).