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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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Midwest Masonry & concrete Pumping

Greg Heilman, owner

405 E 1st Ave., Groton

Greg: 253/929-9137

Mike: 605/492-7041

midwestmasonry1@yahoo.com



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Underground
Research
Facility



Subscribe at: Sanfordlab.org/newsletters

Deep Thoughts

Notes from the underground by Communications Director Constance Walter

Monday, November 28, 2016

Unique project reaches new depth

It's a pattern that's been repeated hundreds of times over four years during the Ross Shaft rehabilitation project: remove old steel and lacing, clean out decades of debris, add ground control, install new steel...and repeat. With every new set of steel, the crews working in the Ross Shaft inch closer to the finish line—the 5,000 Level.

This week, crews installed set 255, reaching 4,268 feet. The shaft is 5,171 feet deep, leaving just over 900 feet to go. With the current schedule, the project is expected to be completed in September 2017.

"We've had some challenges, but the crews have done a fantastic job," said George Vandine, Ross Shaft foreman.

Among the challenges was the stretch of shaft between sets 250 and 256.

"That part of the shaft had some bad ground, old lacing and loose debris," Vandine said. "We removed up to a ton of debris with every old set." To compensate for the ground conditions, crews increased the number and length of rock bolts used in ground control.

In just the past few months, crews reached several milestones. They installed nine new sets in both September and October, which has never been done back-to-back; completed the 4100 Level station; and have less than 1,000 feet to go.

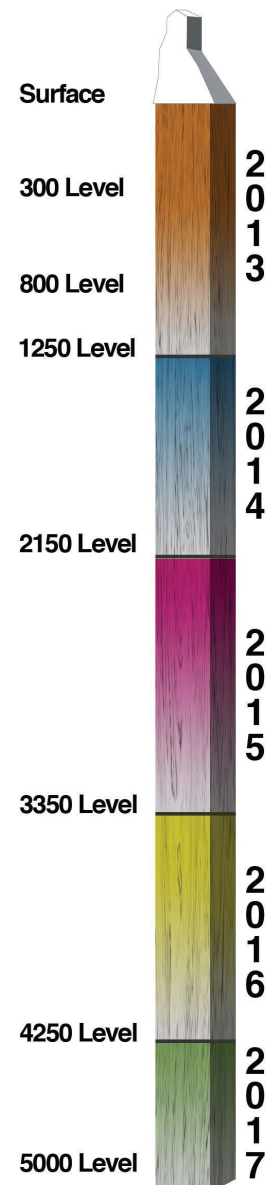
Vandine is pleased with the progress made on the Ross Shaft rehab project, but he's even more proud of the quality of the work done by the crews.

"You know, we've been at this for four years now

and the guys have gotten so good at what they do," Vandine said. "They're professionals. That's the only way to put it. They've taken on this massive, very complicated project that has a lot of moving parts. They make sure they have the right tools, the right equipment and they do the job the right way."

And they do it safely, carefully planning each shift and looking at potential hazards and how to mitigate them. That's a big deal, Vandine said, because this is a very unique project.

"We're doing something that's never been done before on this scale, so we are the experts. We've done this more than anyone else and, over all, we've done it the right way and we've done it safely. We're all really proud of how this project is going."



Internships/scholars deadlines in January

Every year, Sanford Lab offers up to six students internships in science; engineering; environment, safety and health; and communications. The deadline to apply is Jan. 13.

For more information about the Dave Bozied and Chris Bauer Engineering internships at Sanford Lab, go to <http://sanfordlab.org/careers/dave-bozied-and-chris-bauer-internships>.

Up to 10 students will be chosen to participate in the Davis-Bahcall Scholars Program. Scholars spend five weeks during the summer at leading national and international laboratories and universities. The deadline to apply is Jan. 6. For more information: <http://doe.sd.gov/secretary/DAVIS-BAHCALL.aspx>.

By the numbers

4,268.9—feet of shaft rehabilitated

900—feet to completion

710—sets of old steel removed and recycled

255—new sets installed

49,700 (over 47 miles)—rock bolts used to date

6,000,000—pounds of new steel upon completion

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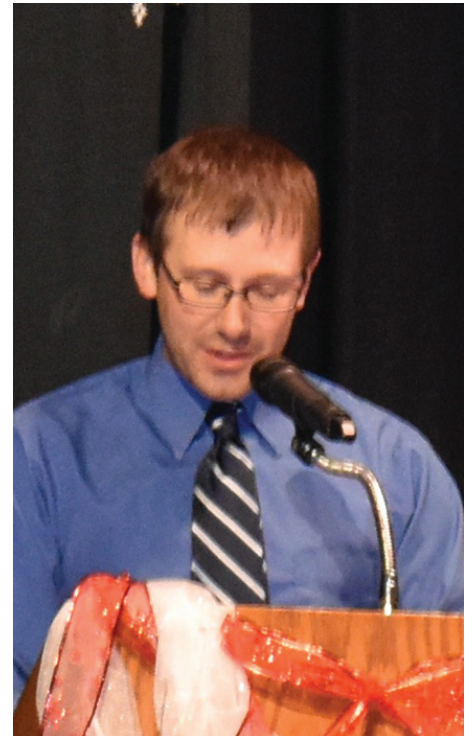
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The 2016 Junior Snow Queen Alexis Simon came to hand over her crown to the new Junior Snow Queen. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



The 2016 Senior Snow Queen Jasmine Schaller came to hand over her crown to the new Snow Queen. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Adam Franken was the Master of Ceremonies. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

More Snow Queen Festival Pictures



Robert Wegner was this year's Frosty as he was unveiled by his guard, Steve Giedt. Three people guessed Frosty this year and the lucky winner of \$25 was Marjae Schinkel. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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Anna Bisbee took first place in the junior division of the talent contest. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Tylan Glover took first place in the senior division of the talent contest. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Emerlee Jones competed in the junior division of the talent contest. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Mike Ehresmann was helping to take the ramp down after the Snow Queen Contest. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Audrey Wanner was not only the senior division talent contest winner last year, but she also took first place in the state competition. Because of the rules of the Snow Queen Festival, Wanner was unable to compete this year; however, she did sing for the audience. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Shane Simon and McClain Lone were the pages this year. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Friendly Fellows and Daisies

The Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H club met on October 2nd at the Claremont United Methodist Church. The meeting was called to order by Nicole Marzahn. The American pledge was led by Clay Crawford and the 4-H pledge by Dylan Frey. The roll call topic was favorite monster. The Treasurer's report and secretaries' reports were approved as given. For old business members discussed the Brown County Leaders Meeting. Old business was closed by Ethan Clark and 2nd by Clay Crawford. For new business members discussed the Newshound, the Recognition Event and election of new officers for the upcoming year. The new officers for the 2016-2017 year are President-Trey Wright, Vice president- Nicole Marzahn, Secretary-Colin Frey, Treasurer- Dylan Frey, Reporter- Hanna Miller, Communications- Kamyryn Fliehs, Photographer- Mallory Miller and Emily Clark, scrapbook- Ethan Clark. New business was closed by Hanna Miller and 2nd by Mallory Miller. The club members also participated in the Adopt-A- Highway program and cleaned up ditches before the meeting along HWY 37. The meeting was adjourned by Dylan Frey and 2nd by Andrew Marzahn. Talks and demonstrations were given by Emily Clark on Piano and Ethan Clark on a PowerPoint. Lunch was served by Blake and Hailey Pauli.

Submitted by Colin Frey-club reporter



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.

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!

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

Groton Garden Club

The November 21st meeting of the Garden Club was held at the Golden Living Center with Eunice McCollister and Elda Stange hosting. Pledges were recited and roll call was answered by 11 members with the Thanksgiving plans. Smokey Bear -Woodsy Owl Poster rules will be delivered to the Elementary School next week, while the checks for the 3 top posters from last year contest will be delivered. The December meeting will be a Christmas party with a potluck supper at Linda Gengerke at 5:30 p.m. on December 19. Christmas readings will be the program. Following the meeting Ruby Donovan gave the program "Columbines."

Adult Birthday Club

The Adult Birthday Club met in November with Lorraine Sippel as hostess. Prizes were awarded to Darlene Fischer, Mary Blackmun and Grace Albrecht. The honor was awarded to Mary Blackmun.

The December 6 meeting will be held at the Groton Dairy Queen at 10 a.m. with Grace Albrecht as hostess.



House for Sale

3 bedroom house for sale. Groton S. D. Detached garage.
1/2 block from high school. Call (605) 397-8405.

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Today in Weather History

November 29, 1896: The mercury plunged to 51 degrees below zero at Havre Montana. It marked the culmination of a two week long cold wave. A stagnate high-pressure area similar to those over Siberia during the winter was the cause. During the month of November temperatures across Montana and the Dakotas averaged 15 to 25 degrees below normal. Aberdeen's low temperature on this day was 25 degrees below zero. The average temperature for the month was 9.7 degrees, or 19.6 degrees below normal.

November 29, 1996: Widespread freezing rain laid down a thick layer of ice across a large part of northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota on the 29th and 30th, making driving on area highways and Interstate 29 treacherous. Later on the 29th, the freezing rain changed over to snow. Snowfall amounts ranged from 2 to 4 inches across the area. Numerous accidents occurred throughout the weekend with mainly minor injuries. Many cars and trucks also went into ditches. The South Dakota Highway Patrol reported in, one three hour period that along I-29, from the Clear Lake exit to the Codington County line 40 to 45 vehicles were in the ditch. Many activities and sporting events were also postponed or cancelled.

November 29, 2002: High winds of 30 to 50 mph, gusting to near 70 mph, occurred much of the afternoon across central and north central South Dakota. A tractor-trailer, carrying a load of livestock, was overturned on Highway 12 about three miles east of Mobridge. The tractor was totaled, four cattle were killed, and the driver suffered minor injuries. High winds of 30 to 50 mph, with gusts to near 60 mph, also occurred across Roberts and Grant counties in the late afternoon hours.

1896 - The mercury plunged to 51 degrees below zero at Havre, MT. It marked the culmination of a two week long cold wave caused by a stagnate high pressure area similar to those over Siberia during the winter. During the month of November temperatures across Montana and the Dakotas averaged 15 to 25 degrees below normal. (David Ludlum)

1969 - Dense fog along the Jersey Turnpike resulted in a chain reaction of vehicle collisions during the morning rush hour. A propane truck jackknifed and was struck by a trailer truck, and other vehicles piled into the fiery mass. (David Ludlum)

1975 - Red River was buried under 34 inches of snow in 24 hours, establishing a record for the state of New Mexico. (The Weather Channel)

1985 - The temperature at Bismarck, ND, plunged to 30 degrees below zero to establish their record low for the month of November. The high that day was 4 degrees below zero. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Snow blanketed the Upper Mississippi Valley, with heavy snow reported near Lake Superior. Up to ten inches of snow was reported in Douglas County and Bayfield County of Wisconsin. Brule WI received nine inches of snow. Heavy rain soaked the Middle Atlantic Coast States, while gale force winds lashed the coastline. Flooding was reported in Maryland and Virginia. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Nine inches of snow at Alta UT brought their total for the month to 164 inches, surpassing their previous November record of 144 inches. Snowbird UT, also in the Little Cottonwood Valley, surpassed their November record of 118 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

November 29, 1991: A tornado struck southeast Springfield, Missouri, causing F4 damage. Shortly after touchdown, the tornado reached F3 intensity, approximately 3 miles north of the town of Nixa. While crossing Highway 65, the tornado picked up a truck and dropped it onto a frontage road, killing one passenger and injuring ten others. The tornado intensified to F4 strength as it moved through the Woodbridge and Natural Bridge Estates subdivisions where 15 homes were destroyed. Altogether, two people were killed and 64 others were injured.

**Olive Grove Golf Course
Holiday Party
includes Tour of Homes &
Silent Auction**

Saturday, Dec. 3, 4-8 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvres, coffee & Cider at Clubhouse
\$12/Person

Homes on Tour

Travis & Angela Antonsen

JR & Paula Johnson

Roger & Darci Spanier

Bob & Val Wegner

Base Camp Lodge

Tickets can be purchased at

Lori's Pharmacy

Olde Bank Floral 'N More

Groton Ford

Hair & Company

423 Moccasin Creek Dr., Aberdeen (Terri Kjellsen)

or by calling

Vicki Walter: 380-0480

Brenda Waage: 397-8385

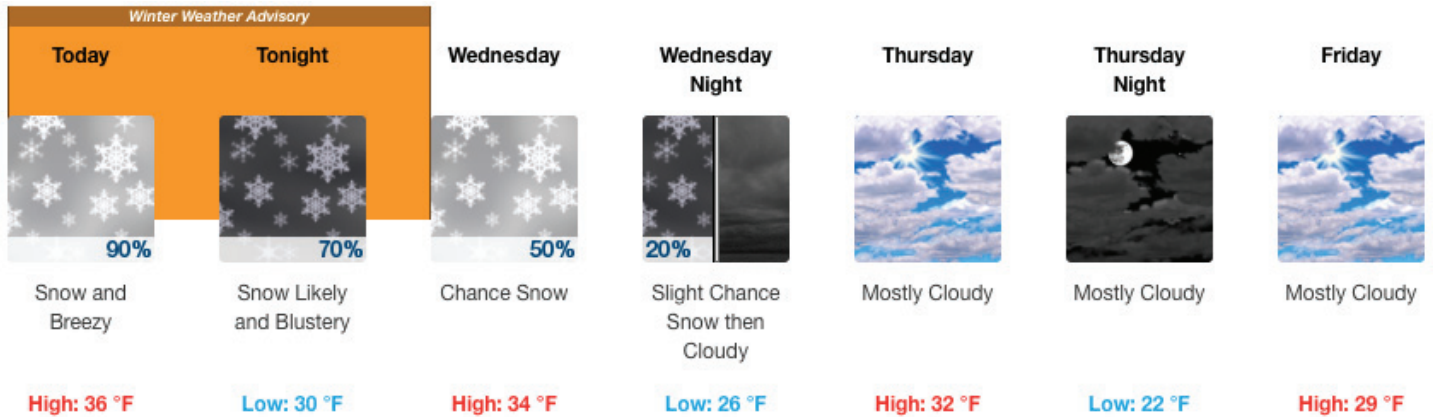
Patty Tastad: 397-7388

Holiday Party & Silent Auction at Clubhouse

4 p.m. - ????

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Conditions This Morning Windy – Snow – Icy Roads

Bands Of Snow Pivoting Around Slow Moving System
Additional Snow Accumulations Expected Today
Gusty Winds & Reduced Visibility



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 11/29/2016 5:37 AM Central

Published on: 11/29/2016 at 5:39AM

Webcams for locations west of the James Valley show icy and snow packed roads. Winds are strong, particularly in the Missouri Valley as well. A band of heavier snow is expected to pivot around low pressure today, back into the forecast area, which will continue to produce hazardous travel conditions across the forecast area. Additional snowfall amounts range from 1 to 5 inches though expect much of the snow to compact as temperatures flirt with the freezing mark through the course of the day.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 40.4 F at 3:41 AM

Low Outside Temp: 31.2 F at 11:32 PM

High Gust: 25.0 Mph at 12:35 AM

Precip: Snowing

Today's Info

Record High: 55° in 1951

Record Low: -26° in 1964

Average High: 32°F

Average Low: 12°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.71

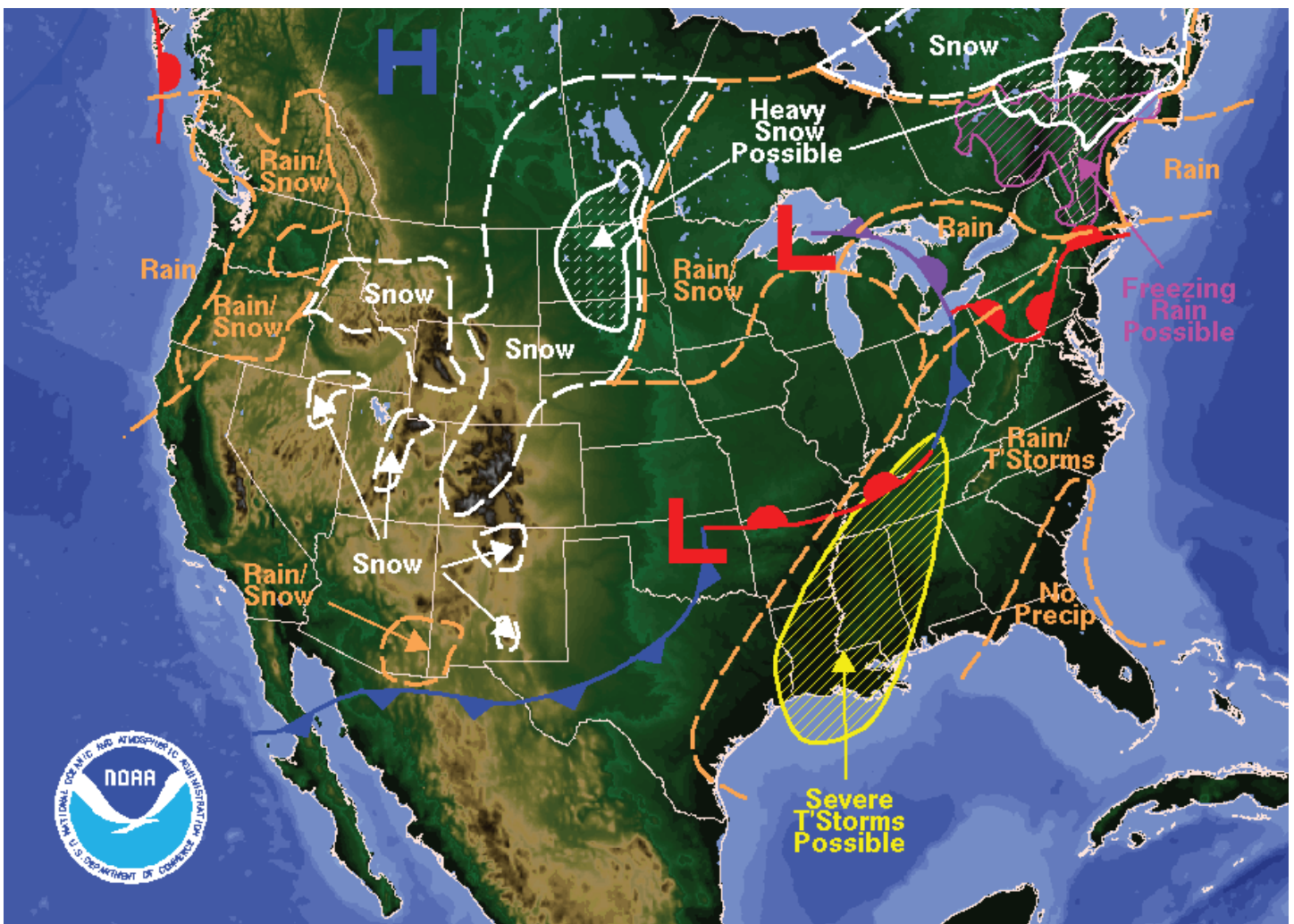
Precip to date in Nov.: 1.02

Average Precip to date: 21.18

Precip Year to Date: 16.02

Sunset Tonight: 4:52 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:52 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Nov 29, 2016, issued 4:09 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



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.

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

News from the Associated Press

Orders could have little effect on pipeline protest camp

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Government orders for protesters of the Dakota Access pipeline to leave federal land could have little immediate effect on the encampment where scores of people have been gathered for months to oppose the \$3.8 billion project.

A North Dakota sheriff on Monday dismissed a deadline from the Army Corps of Engineers as a meaningless move aimed only at reducing the government's legal responsibility for hundreds of demonstrators.

The Corps "is basically kicking the can down the road, and all it is doing is taking the liability from the Corps and putting it on" the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier said.

The Corps said last week in a letter that all federal lands north of the Cannonball River will be closed to the public for "safety concerns" starting Dec. 5. The order includes the encampment called Oceti Sakowin, or Seven Council Fires camp.

The agency cited North Dakota's oncoming winter and increasingly contentious clashes between protesters and police.

But in a statement issued late Sunday, the Corps said it "has no plans for forcible removal." Anyone on land north of the river, including the main protest camp, after the deadline may be prosecuted for trespassing.

Gov. Jack Dalrymple called the Corps' position "very puzzling."

"When you put out a pronouncement that people must leave your land by a certain date, I think you take on a responsibility to somehow bring that about," Dalrymple said. "Clearly the responsibility of clearing that land now lies primarily with the Corps."

But later on Monday, Dalrymple issued his own "mandatory evacuation" for the camp "to safeguard against harsh winter conditions." But the order didn't specify any action to be taken against protesters who don't comply, and state Emergency Services spokeswoman Cecily Fong later said no action would be taken to enforce it.

In a statement released Monday night, Standing Rock Sioux tribal leader Dave Archambault called Dalrymple's order "a menacing action meant to cause fear, and is a blatant attempt by the state and local officials to usurp and circumvent federal authority."

The 1,172-mile pipeline is nearly complete except for a small section beneath a Missouri River reservoir near the encampment, which is about 50 miles south of Bismarck.

Opponents, who call themselves "water protectors," worry about potential effects on drinking water on the Standing Rock Sioux reservation and farther downstream on the Missouri River, as well as destruction of cultural artifacts, including burial sites. They also believe the land near the confluence of the Missouri and Cannonball rivers is still rightfully owned by the Standing Rock Sioux under a nearly 150-year-old treaty.

County and state officials have been seeking federal law enforcement help for months and were initially buoyed by the Corps' order for protesters to move off the land. The agency's later announcement that it would not forcibly evict any demonstrators dampened hopes that the issue would soon be resolved, Morton County Commission Chairman Cody Schulz said.

"It's useless for local and state law enforcement, and the order from the Corps is self-serving and amounts to them limiting their liability," Schulz said.

The sheriff said state and local officials lack jurisdiction to remove the protesters.

"This is a federal problem and needs to be dealt with by them," Kirchmeier said.

During a news conference Saturday at the camp, protest organizers said they will not leave or stop their acts of civil disobedience.

North Dakota's notoriously brutal winters may help empty the camp of protesters, many of them who are from out of state, Kirchmeier said.

"That's what I'm hoping, or at least cut the number of them," he added.

Much of the state, including the encampment, was getting hit with the first big winter storm of the year

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Monday, as heavy snow and strong winds pounded the area.

The sheriff said snowplow crews were working to clear roads throughout the county, but about a mile of a state highway leading to the encampment was being left unplowed.

"Workers do not feel safe there," he said.

The Latest: Crowd fills library for public forum on pipeline

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Latest on the protest against the Dakota Access oil pipeline (all times local): 10:30 p.m.

A standing-room only crowd has filled a library in Bismarck, North Dakota, during a public forum about tribal opposition to the Dakota Access pipeline.

The Bismarck Tribune (<http://bit.ly/2gQD8E0>) reports that Standing Rock Sioux Chairman Dave Archambault joined tribal youth during the meeting sponsored by the Dakota Resource Council.

He said officials didn't listen to tribal concerns about a plan to drill under the Missouri River near the reservation boundary for a section of the four-state, \$3.8 billion pipeline. Archambault called it "history repeating itself," a reference to other clashes between the federal government and tribes involving various treaties.

Dakota Resource Council Executive Director Don Morrison said the speakers at the meeting represent "critically important voices that aren't being heard."

6 p.m.

Authorities say no action will be taken to enforce North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple's emergency evacuation order for protesters of the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

Dalrymple signed the order Monday for protesters who are camping on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land. Dalrymple cited "harsh winter conditions," and his order said the unpermitted camp sites are not zoned for suitable housing.

Emergency Services spokeswoman Cecily Fong told The Associated Press that authorities will not be using law enforcement or the National Guard to enforce the governor's order.

Earlier, the Corps ordered the protesters to leave federal land but said it has no plans to forcibly remove anyone. Hundreds of people have been gathered at the encampment for months to oppose the four-state, \$3.8 billion project, which they contend could affect drinking water and damage cultural sites.

5:30 p.m.

North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple is ordering an emergency evacuation of Dakota Access pipeline protesters who are camping on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land.

The Republican governor signed the order Monday because of what he calls "harsh winter conditions." The order didn't say what action would be taken for protesters who don't comply, and a spokesman for Dalrymple didn't immediately respond to calls and an email from The Associated Press.

The governor's order says the unpermitted camp sites are not zoned for housing suitable for living in winter conditions.

Hundreds of people have been gathered at the encampment for months to oppose the four-state, \$3.8 billion project, which they contend could affect drinking water and damage cultural sites. The Corps has ordered the protesters to leave federal land, but the Corps says it has no plans to forcibly remove anyone.

2:10 p.m.

A government order for protesters of the Dakota Access pipeline to leave federal land could have little immediate effect on the encampment where hundreds of people have been gathered for months to oppose the \$3.8 billion project.

A North Dakota sheriff says the deadline is meaningless and serves only to reduce the government's legal responsibility for demonstrators.

The Corps says all federal lands north of the Cannonball River will be closed for "safety concerns" start-

ing Dec. 5. The order includes the large encampment known as the Seven Council Fires camp.

The agency cited the approach of winter and increasingly contentious clashes between protesters and police.

But the Corps says it has no plans to forcibly remove anyone. Violators could be prosecuted for trespassing.

Sioux Falls Police won't tell public crime locations

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police in Sioux Falls will no longer tell the public the exact location of a crime because doing so could violate a constitutional amendment voters approved earlier this month.

The Sioux Falls Police Department on Monday announced it will now note crime locations by districts, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2fYBnRa>) reported. So, if a business is burglarized, the department won't identify it by name. Or if a homicide occurs at the victim's residence, the exact location won't be released.

The department's move is in response to the passage of Constitutional Amendment S, also known as Marsy's Law, which incorporated into the state constitution a victim's right to privacy, protection from harassment or abuse, and timely notice of trial, sentencing and post-judgment proceedings.

The amendment includes a provision that gives victims "the right to prevent the disclosure of information or records that could be used to locate or harass the victim or the victim's family, or which could disclose confidential or privileged information about the victim, and to be notified of any request for such information or records."

State law allows the public to have access to crime information, but Police Chief Matt Burns said Amendment S overrides state law on the issue of disclosure.

"Our job is to look at the new Marsy's Law and where the conflicts are, because constitutional amendments trump state law," Burns said.

Under the change, the police department will only identify the zone where a crime occurred. Addresses of all criminal incidents involving victims will be removed from daily and 30-day call logs.

Sioux Falls Police and the state's Department of Public Safety have also stopped releasing information about vehicle crashes because those reports typically include the addresses of the parties involved.

Marsy's Law is named for California college student Marsalee "Marsy" Nicholas, who was stalked and killed in 1983 by an ex-boyfriend. Her brother, Henry Nicholas, bankrolled the effort to expand it to South Dakota.

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

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 reducing visibility. The Bismarck area already had 9 inches by late Monday afternoon while Hannover had 13 inches.

North Dakota's Transportation Department issued a travel alert for the central and northwest, urging motorists to beware of dangerous conditions.

Some schools started late Monday. The annual North Dakota Dairy Convention in Mandan on Tuesday was postponed.

As much as 3 inches of snow had fallen in north central South Dakota by late morning. Up to 5 inches of snow was expected in the northern Black Hills, along with wind gusts exceeding 50 mph.

After years without rabbi, South Dakota is about to get one

By REGIN GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's small, tight-knit Jewish community has made do without a rabbi for several years, but the state's status as the only one with no rabbi will change this winter when a family arrives from New York to open a Jewish community center.

Rabbi Mendel Alperowitz and his wife, Mussie, will open a Chabad House in the coming weeks in Sioux Falls that will offer religious education, worship services and other programs. Alperowitz will also travel across the sparsely populated prairie state to reach as many Jews — observant and nonobservant — as possible.

"This is really a great time for us," said Alperowitz, who previously traveled to South Dakota as a visiting rabbi. "It will be an open home. ... Our primary goal is to help ensure that there isn't one Jew in the entire state of South Dakota that feels lonely and disconnected and that every individual feels at home and inspired by our traditions."

The house will host social and cultural activities for children and adults, including events for women only. Alperowitz will lead Hanukkah activities in the state when the holiday is observed next month.

The first Jews to settle in what is now South Dakota established themselves in Deadwood during the gold rush more than 150 years ago, finding a niche selling hardware, groceries, dry goods and more. By 1920, the state was home to some 1,300 Jews. But that community is estimated to have shrunk to about 400 people — less than a tenth of 1 percent of South Dakota's population. Alperowitz, however, estimates the number is closer to 1,000.

South Dakota's last rabbi, Stephen Forstein, arrived in the late 1970s after the rabbi at the Sioux Falls synagogue died. Forstein was a part-time rabbi who also operated a lighting supply business that took him around the state.

"I'm out to sell a product, be it like light bulbs or Judaism, and I make no bones about it — I'm selling Judaism," he told The Associated Press in November 1980. Forstein moved to Michigan in 1998, and since then the community has been served by lay leaders and student rabbis who travel to the state on a monthly or bimonthly basis.

In addition, Chabad-Lubavitch rabbinical students who are part of a global community-outreach training program known as "The Roving Rabbis" also come to the state at different times during the year.

Chabad-Lubavitch, which runs the houses like the one that the Alperowitzes will lead in Sioux Falls, is a movement within Orthodox Judaism. It also operates schools and other institutions and reaches out to nonobservant Jews to encourage them to embrace their heritage and religious traditions. It is active on college campuses and in cities around the globe.

Alperowitz, 27, will encounter few Orthodox Jews in South Dakota, as the majority of the Jews in the state are Reform Jews. Theological differences exist between the two groups, and while he will be based in Sioux Falls, Alperowitz will not be the rabbi of the congregation at the city's synagogue.

"I think it's really positive for him to come to our community; there's no rabbi in the state and he brings great resources," said Stephen Rosenthal, a member of the board of the Sioux Falls synagogue. "However, he is an Orthodox rabbi, and Mount Zion here in Sioux Falls is a Reform congregation. ... Like in Christianity, there's the Catholics and the Protestants and the Evangelicals. Everybody doesn't agree on exactly the same theology."

Alperowitz acknowledged that he won't be a traditional pulpit rabbi and expects to spend lots of hours on the road.

"I'll be visiting people at their homes really all across the state whenever possible," Alperowitz said. "I'm going there viewing that each Jew is really unique and precious to us, just like our own brother and sister really, and we look forward to celebrating our traditions with them."

South Dakota loses more than 2,000 deer in disease outbreak

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks issued more deer licenses this year, but the animals may be hard to find.

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease, a viral disease that killed more than 3,700 deer in 2012, has impacted the population this year, with more than 2,000 deer found dead in 23 counties, The Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2go0hdm>) reported. The heaviest losses have been in Brule, Aurora and Beadle counties.

The state issued about 29,000 resident licenses this year. It also issued about 42,000 individual tags, a 33 percent increase from last year.

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks senior big game biologist Andy Lindbloom said about 1,500 licenses were returned as of noon Friday. They had to be postmarked by Friday to be refunded.

Lindbloom said the disease can lead to different hunting opportunities from one piece of land to another nearby.

According to Conservation Officer Andy Peterson the disease hit his county of Davison and the county of Hanson hard, but he's still seen some healthy population of deer in some areas. He said it all depends on how EHD spreads.

"I think some people will still have deer and be able to have decent hunts," said Peterson. "Other areas, it's going to be kind of tough to find some deer."

Davison County was just recovering from the last outbreak it suffered when the EHD epidemic began to spread, said Peterson.

Licenses issued for the new year will be dependent on factors which include fawn-to-doe ratios, aerial surveys, survival rates and harvest success.

Lindbloom said GF&P is currently working to put together a statewide deer management plan.

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

Capitol flags to be at half-staff in memory of late lawmaker

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has ordered state Capitol flags to be flown at half-staff Wednesday in memory of former state Sen. Jacob Krull.

Krull, of Watertown, died Friday at age 77. His funeral is Wednesday.

Krull represented the Codington County area in the state Senate for five terms, from 1973 to 1982. He served as minority leader during his last two terms.

The Latest: Schumer criticizes Trump's health secretary pick

NEW YORK (AP) — The Latest on President-elect Donald Trump and his administration (all times EST): 7:45 a.m.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, the incoming Senate Democratic leader, is strongly criticizing Donald Trump's pick of Rep. Tom Price to lead the Department of Health and Human Services.

Schumer said in a statement early Tuesday that the Georgia congressman "has proven to be far out of the mainstream of what Americans want when it comes to Medicare, the Affordable Care Act, and Planned Parenthood."

Schumer said those programs have helped millions of Americans, including "seniors, families, people with disabilities and women have access to quality, affordable health care."

Having Price as HHS secretary, Schumer said, "is akin to asking the fox to guard the hen house."

7:38 a.m.

A Trump spokesman says Rep. Tom Price, Donald Trump's nominee for Health and Human Services secretary, will have as his top mission replacing the so-called "Obamacare" health care law.

Jason Miller said Tuesday in a CNN interview that Price, an orthopedic surgeon and current Georgia congressman, will "lead the charge" on repealing and replacing President Barack Obama's signature health

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care law, which Trump targeted during his presidential campaign.

Miller says the law "is imploding" because of increasing premiums and other costs.

The law has extended health care coverage to millions of previously uninsured people, and Trump has said he plans to keep some of its provisions, including allowing people up to age 26 to stay on their parents' health insurance.

7:30 a.m.

Donald Trump's choice to head the Department of Health and Human Services says he'll work to ensure a health care system based on "sensible rules."

Georgia congressman Tom Price, an orthopedic surgeon, says the system should work for patients, families and doctors. But he adds in a statement that it should be balanced to "protect the well-being of the country while embracing its innovative spirit."

The president-elect nominated Price on Monday to head the agency. If Price is confirmed by the Senate, he'll play a central role in repealing and replacing President Barack Obama's health care law.

Trump is expected to name more members of his administration this week.

3:20 a.m.

Donald Trump's hunt for a secretary of state is veering into dramatic terrain, with the president-elect summoning Mitt Romney back for a second look as a top aide leads a public pressure campaign against the pick.

Trump has a follow-up meeting Tuesday with the 2012 GOP presidential nominee, who has become a symbol of the internal divisions agitating the transition team. He also plans to sit with Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. On Monday, Trump spent an hour with retired Gen. David Petraeus, a new contender.

Aides were divided over Trump's choices. Senior adviser Kellyanne Conway has warned that Trump's supporters would feel "betrayed" if he tapped Romney.

Vice President-elect Mike Pence has teased "a number of very important announcements" on Tuesday.

The Latest: Real Madrid, Barcelona honor crash victims

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The Latest on the Colombia plane crash involving members of a Brazilian soccer team (all times local):

7:45 a.m.

Barcelona and Real Madrid have held a minute of silence before their practice sessions in honor of the victims of the plane crash involving Brazilian club Chapecoense.

Real Madrid also released a statement expressing its "condolences to relatives and friends of the victims" and "wishing an early recovery for the survivors."

Atletico Madrid used Twitter to send its condolences to the victims' relatives. One of Chapecoense's players on the plane was midfielder Cleber Santana, who played for Atletico from 2007-10.

7:25 a.m.

A spokesman for Brazilian soccer club Chapecoense has confirmed the death of goalkeeper Danilo who had initially been rescued alive from a plane crash in Colombia and was being treated at a hospital.

Team spokesman Andrei Copetti announced the death to The Associated Press. Another goalkeeper was reported to be among several survivors.

Chapecoense was traveling on a chartered flight to play Colombian club Atletico Nacional in the Copa Sudamericana final when the plane crashed near Medellin.

7:10 a.m.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino says it is a "very, very sad day for football" after a plane carrying mem-

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bers of a Brazilian soccer team crashed in Colombia.

Chapecoense was traveling on a chartered plane to play Colombian club Atletico Nacional in the Copa Sudamericana final. Police in Colombia said there were some survivors among the 81 passengers.

In a statement, Infantino says "we are so sorry to hear about the airplane crash in Colombia, it is shocking and tragic news. At this difficult time our thoughts are with the victims, their families and friends."

6:55 a.m.

Bolivian authorities say that the plane carrying a Brazilian first division soccer team that took off from Santa Cruz before crashing in Colombia was owned by a Venezuelan company.

Cesar Torrico, a spokesman for Bolivia's civil aviation agency, said the aircraft had arrived earlier in the day from the city of Cochabamba and picked up the Brazilian team at Santa Cruz's Viru Viru airport. Torrico said that the plane underwent an inspection before departing for Colombia and reported no problems.

He said that the LaMia airline hails from the Venezuelan city of Merida but later re-established itself in Santa Cruz. He said the airline had been used in the past to shuttle several Bolivian teams as well as Medellin's Atletico Nacional for matches around South America.

Brazilian aviation authorities said they had denied LaMia's request for a charter flight directly from Sao Paulo, saying only a Brazilian or Colombian company was allowed to operate the requested route.

6:20 a.m.

Brazil's president says that authorities are mobilizing to help the team and families of victims in the plane crash in Colombia that killed members of a Brazilian first division soccer team.

In a series of tweets Tuesday morning, Michel Temer says officials from the foreign ministry and aviation officials have been called to help.

He said that "the government will do everything possible to alleviate the pain" of family members of the players and journalists who died in the crash.

A chartered aircraft with 81 people on board, including the Chapecoense soccer team which was heading to Colombia for a regional tournament final, crashed on its way to Medellin's international airport.

5:30 a.m.

The head of Colombia's civil aviation agency says that authorities aren't ruling out the possibility the chartered flight carrying a Brazilian soccer team ran out of fuel before crashing. But for now, the main line of investigation is a possible electrical failure aboard the aircraft.

Alfredo Bocanegra, speaking from the rescue command center, said that communication with Bolivian aviation officials suggested the plane was experiencing electrical problems.

At the same time, investigators will have to evaluate reported testimony from a female flight attendant who said the plane had run out of fuel.

5:20 a.m.

The Brazilian soccer confederation has released a statement saying it would wait for more information about the plane crash in Colombia before taking any action regarding local competitions in Brazil.

There is one round left in the Brazilian league, which was won by Palmeiras last weekend. The final round will decide which teams will avoid relegation and which teams will secure spots in international competitions next season.

The second leg of the Brazilian Cup final is scheduled be played Wednesday in the southern city of Porto Alegre. Local club Gremio defeated Atletico Mineiro 3-1 in Belo Horizonte.

4:40 a.m.

A civilian aviation database website says that the British Aerospace 146 plane that crashed on its way to an airport in the Colombian city of Medellin made its first flight on March 1999.

Statistics from planespotters.net show that the regional plane has had several owners since.

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From 1999 to 2007, it was owned by Mesaba Aviation in the U.S. before it was transferred. The plane has been in the hands of Bolivian airline LaMia since October 2013.

British Aerospace, which is now known as BAE Systems, says that the first 146 plane took off in 1981 and that just under 400 — including its successor Avro RJ — were built in total in the U.K. through November 2003.

It says around 220 of are still in service in a variety of roles, including aerial firefighting and overnight freight services.

4:25 a.m.

Colombian police say that five people have survived a plane crash near Medellin's international airport and the rest of the passengers have been killed.

Gen. Jose Acevedo, head of police in the area surrounding Medellin, provided the information.

A chartered aircraft with 81 people on board, including the Brazilian first division Chapecoense soccer team which was heading to Colombia for a regional tournament final, crashed on its way to Medellin's international airport.

3:55 a.m.

The vice president of the Brazilian first division soccer team Chapecoense, whose plane crashed in Colombia, says that the Brazilian city where the team is from is in tears.

Ivan Tozzo said that Chapeco, a city of 200,000 residents in southern Brazil, is already in tears after the crash in Colombia, which occurred before Wednesday's final of Copa Sudamericana.

Tozzo told cable channel SporTV that "we are very sad, gathered here in the locker room of our stadium. We are still waiting for news. All our board is there, our players. We have nothing concrete on their state."

He said that "There are a lot of people crying in our city, we could never imagine this. Chapecoense is the biggest reason for joy here. We hope there are many survivors, at least that most of them are OK."

2:55 a.m.

Brazilian first division soccer club Chapecoense has issued a brief statement after the plane carrying the team crashed in Colombia.

In a statement on its Facebook page, Chapecoense said "may God accompany our athletes, officials, journalists and other guests traveling with our delegation."

The team said it would refrain from any further statements until it had fully evaluated the extent of the crash.

A chartered aircraft with 81 people on board, including the Chapecoense team which was heading to Colombia for a regional tournament final, crashed on its way to Medellin's international airport.

2:40 a.m.

A local mayor in Colombia says that at least three passengers have been rescued alive from the crash site after a plane carrying a Brazilian soccer team went down near Medellin.

Elkin Ospina, mayor of the La Ceja municipality outside Medellin, told Blu Radio that there may be more survivors but that access to the crash site is complicated.

The chartered aircraft with 81 people on board, including Brazilian first division soccer team Chapecoense which was heading to Colombia for a regional tournament final, crashed on its way to Medellin's international airport.

2:30 a.m.

The South American soccer federation has canceled all activities until further notice as a result of Monday's crash in Colombia of a plane carrying Brazilian first division team Chapecoense.

The CONMEBOL federation said in a statement that its president, Alejandro Dominguez, is on his way to Medellin.

The first of the two-game Copa Sudamericana final was scheduled to be played Wednesday in Medellin

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between Chapecoense and Atletico Nacional.

The chartered aircraft with 81 people on board, including a Brazilian first division soccer team heading to Colombia for a regional tournament final, crashed on its way to Medellin's international airport.

2:10 a.m.

Local media in Colombia are reporting that a male passenger going by the name of Alan has arrived in an ambulance to a hospital near Medellin after the plane crash involving a Brazilian first division soccer team.

Blu Radio said the passenger arrived on a stretcher with an oxygen mask and covered in a blanket. He appeared to be alive.

The chartered plane was carrying 81 people, including the Chapecoense soccer team from southern Brazil. The aircraft had made a stop in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, and was on its way to Medellin's international airport. The crash site is in a mountainous area outside Medellin.

The team was scheduled to play Wednesday in the first of a two-game Copa Sudamericana final against Atletico Nacional of Medellin.

12:50 a.m.

Medellin's mayor says that it is possible there are survivors in the plane crash in Colombia carrying players from a Brazilian soccer team.

Federico Gutierrez told Blu Radio that "it's a tragedy of huge proportions." The mayor on his way to the site in a mountainous area outside the city where the chartered aircraft is believed to have crashed shortly before midnight local time.

He said ambulances and rescuers were on their way. It is not clear what caused the crash.

Medellin's airport confirmed that the aircraft, which departed from Bolivia, was transporting the Chapecoense soccer team from southern Brazil, which was scheduled to play the Copa Sudamericana finals against Atletico Nacional on Wednesday in Medellin.

12:25 a.m.

Authorities are responding to an emergency after an airplane with 72 people on board has crashed on its way to Medellin's international airport.

Medellin's international airport said on its Twitter account that the aircraft had departed from Bolivia.

It's not clear if there are any survivors. But local media reported that the charter aircraft was carrying members of the soccer team Chapecoense from Brazil, which is scheduled to play Copa Sudamericana finals against Atletico Nacional on Wednesday in Medellin.

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. CHARTERED AIRCRAFT CRASHES IN COLOMBIA; 5 SURVIVE

The British Aerospace 146 jet operated by LaMia crashes outside Medellin, killing 76 people, including members of a Brazilian first division soccer team heading to a tournament. COLOMBIA-AIR CRASH

2. SUSPENSE, INFIGHTING OVER TRUMP'S SECRETARY OF STATE

The president-elect is summoning Mitt Romney for a second look as a top aide leads a public pressure campaign against the pick. TRUMP

3. YOUNG IMMIGRANTS NOW WORRIED ABOUT FUTURE

Trump promises to scrap a program that protected hundreds of thousands of young immigrants living in the country illegally from deportation. TRUMP-YOUNG IMMIGRANTS

4. AP INTERVIEW: IRAQI LEADER PREDICTS IS COLLAPSE IN MOSUL

Haider al-Abadi says IS group fighters lack the courage to put up long-term resistance in Mosul and also says he expects more logistical support from the Trump administration. IRAQ-AL-ABADI INTERVIEW

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5. WHAT PARK IS SAYING ABOUT HER POLITICAL FATE

The South Korean president says she will resign her office once parliament develops a plan for a safe transfer of power, but the opposition calls the move a ploy to delay impeachment. SKOREA-POLITICS

6. TREK TO CASTRO'S FINAL RESTING SPOT TRACES REVOLUTION'S PAST

After his rebels took power in 1959, Fidel Castro went on a Cuban victory tour from Santiago to Havana — and his ashes will retrace that journey. CUBA-CASTRO-FUNERAL ROUTE

7. TERRORISM EYED AS MOTIVE IN OHIO STATE ATTACK

Investigators are looking into whether a car-and-knife attack at the university that injured 11 people was an act of terror by a Somali-born student who once criticized the media for its portrayal of Muslims. OHIO STATE ATTACK

8. SHOPPERS PUT IN A STRONG HOLIDAY SHOWING

Holiday spending rose 9 percent Thanksgiving Day and Black Friday combined, fueled by online deals. THANKSGIVING WEEKEND-SHOPPING DATA

9. WHO SHINED BRIGHTEST AT INDIE FILM GATHERING

Barry Jenkins' "Moonlight," a celebrated movie about a boy growing up gay, black and poor in Miami, virtually sweeps the night at the Gotham Independent Film Awards. FILM-GOTHAM AWARDS

10. PACKERS FINALLY GET BACK IN WIN COLUMN

Aaron Rodgers throws two touchdown passes to Davante Adams and Green Bay beats the Philadelphia Eagles 27-13 to snap a four-game losing streak. PACKERS-EAGLES

Trump summons Romney for 2nd look as staffers squabble

By **JULIE PACE** and **CATHERINE LUCEY**, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump's hunt for a secretary of state is veering into dramatic terrain, with the president-elect summoning Mitt Romney back for a second look as a top aide leads a public pressure campaign against the pick.

Trump has a follow-up meeting Tuesday with the 2012 GOP presidential nominee, who has become a symbol of the internal divisions agitating the transition team. He also plans to sit with Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. On Monday, Trump spent an hour with retired Gen. David Petraeus, a new contender.

Aides were divided over Trump's choices, particularly the prospect that Trump could tap Romney for the top-tier diplomatic post. In an unusual public airing of internal machinations, Trump senior adviser Kellyanne Conway on Sunday warned that the president-elect's supporters would feel "betrayed" if he tapped Romney as secretary of state.

Exiting Trump Tower on Monday night, Vice President-elect Mike Pence simply teased "a number of very important announcements tomorrow."

On Tuesday morning, the Trump transition team announced the selection of Georgia Rep. Tom Price to lead the Department of Health and Human Services. It also announced that Seema Verma has been chosen to be administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

While other staffing decisions were being made, the search for secretary of state was still underway. Petraeus said he spent about an hour with the president-elect and praised him for showing a "great grasp of a variety of the challenges that are out there."

The former CIA chief pleaded guilty last year to a misdemeanor charge of mishandling classified information relating to documents he had provided to his biographer, with whom he was having an affair.

Pence, who is heading the transition effort, is said to be among those backing Romney for secretary of state. Romney was fiercely critical of Trump throughout the campaign but is interested in the Cabinet position, and they discussed it during a lengthy meeting earlier this month.

Other top Trump allies, notably Conway, have launched a highly unusual public campaign against a Romney nomination. Conway's comments stirred speculation that she is seeking either to force Trump's hand or give him cover for ultimately passing over Romney.

Three people close to the transition team said Trump had been aware that Conway planned to voice her

opinion, both on Twitter and in television interviews. They disputed reports that Trump was furious at her and suggested his decision to consider additional candidates instead highlighted her influence.

Trump is said to have offered Conway a choice of White House jobs — either press secretary or communications director. But people with knowledge of Conway's plans say she is more interested in serving as an outside political adviser, akin to the role President Barack Obama's campaign manager David Plouffe played following the 2008 election.

Trump was considering former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani to head the Homeland Security Department, according to those close to the transition process. Giuliani was initially the front-runner for secretary of state and is still in the mix. But questions about his overseas business dealings, as well as his public campaigning for the job, have given Trump pause.

Those close to the transition insisted on anonymity in commenting because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the private process.

In addition to the public staffing spat, the campaign was forced Monday to defend Trump's baseless assertions of illegal voting, made in angry response to a recount effort.

That effort, led by Green Party candidate Jill Stein and joined by Hillary Clinton's campaign, marched on in three states, based partly on the Stein campaign's unsubstantiated assertion that cyber-hacking could have interfered with electronic voting machines. Wisconsin officials approved plans to begin a recount as early as Thursday. Stein also asked for a recount in Pennsylvania and was expected to do the same in Michigan, where officials certified Trump's victory Monday.

Trump has denounced the recounts and now claims without evidence that he, not Clinton, would have won the popular vote if it hadn't been for "millions of people who voted illegally." On Twitter, he singled out Virginia, California and New Hampshire.

There has been no indication of widespread election tampering or voter fraud in those states or any others. Trump aides struggled Monday to back up their boss' claim.

Pace reported from Washington. AP writer Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

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

A list of sports teams involved in fatal plane crashes

By The Associated Press

Members of Brazilian soccer team Chapecoense were among 81 people on board a chartered aircraft that crashed late Monday in Medellin, Colombia. It was not immediately clear how many players were among the casualties.

A list of other sports teams involved in fatal plane crashes:

Nov. 8, 1948 — Czechoslovak national team, five members including IIHF Hall of Famer, Ladislav Trojak, in the English Channel.

May 4, 1949 — Italian soccer club Turin. The four-time league champions lost 22 members, including 18 players, in Turin, Italy.

Jan. 7, 1950 — Moscow VVS ice hockey team, 11 players, near Sverdlovsk.

Feb. 6, 1958 — English soccer champion Manchester United, eight members, in Munich.

Aug. 14, 1958 — Egyptian fencing team, six members, in the Atlantic Ocean.

Oct. 10, 1960 — Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo football team, 16 members, in Toledo, Ohio.

Feb. 16, 1961 — U.S. figure skating team, 18 members and 10 coaches and officials, in Belgium.

April 3, 1961 — Green Cross, eight members of the first-division Chilean soccer team plus two members of the coaching staff, in the Las Lastimas Mountains.

April 28, 1968 — Lamar Tech track team, five members and the coach, in Beaumont, Texas.

Sept. 26, 1969 — Bolivian soccer team "The Strongest," coach Eustaquio Ortuno, 16 players and two staff members, near Viloco, Bolivia.

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Oct. 2, 1970 — Wichita State football team, 14 players, in Colorado.
Nov. 14, 1970 — Marshall University football team, 36 players, in Huntington, West Virginia
Oct. 13, 1972 — Uruguayan rugby club, among the 29 casualties, in the Andes, Chile.
Dec. 13, 1977 — University of Evansville men's basketball coach Bobby Watson and 14 players, in Evansville, Indiana
March 14, 1980 — U.S. amateur boxing team, 14 members, in Warsaw, Poland.
Nov. 25, 1985 — Iowa State women's cross country team, coach Ron Renko, assistant coach Pat Moynihan, and team members Julie Rose, Susan Baxter and Sheryl Maahs, in Des Moines, Iowa.
Dec. 8, 1987 — Peruvian first-division soccer team Alianza Lima, coach Marcos Calderon and 16 players, in Lima, Peru.
April 28, 1993 — Zambia's national soccer team, 18 players and five team officials, in Libreville, Gabon.
Jan. 27, 2001 — Oklahoma State basketball players Dan Lawson and Nate Fleming, and six team staffers and broadcasters, in Byers, Colorado.
Sept. 7, 2011 — Russian hockey team Lokomotiv, 27 players, two coaches and seven club officials, in Tunoshna, Russia.

'Moonlight' shines brightest at Trump-focused Gotham Awards

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — At a Gotham Independent Film Awards overshadowed by the election of Donald Trump, Barry Jenkins' coming-of-age drama "Moonlight" shined brightest.

A celebrated film about a boy growing up gay, black and poor in Miami, "Moonlight," virtually swept the night, taking best feature, best screenplay, a special jury award for best ensemble and the audience award. The Gothams, which honor independent film, are essentially the kick-off to Hollywood's long awards season.

Monday night's ceremony, hosted in Manhattan by Keegan-Michael Key, also served as the first opportunity for the film industry — or at least a sizable chunk of its more East Coast, indie contingent — to formally gather since the election. It gave much of Hollywood (which overwhelmingly backed Hilary Clinton) a chance to commiserate over drinks, try out punchlines and make a rallying cry for art's political power.

Key, half of the former Comedy Central duo "Key and Peele," opened, with deadpan sarcasm, with what he said was a 4-week-old monologue.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we are so grateful that we live in a country that celebrates diversity," said Key. Later, he gave up the guise and spoke earnestly. "Our voices need to be heard now," he said.

It was fitting then that "Moonlight" dominated the evening. The string of awards had the cast — which features newcomers Trevante Rhodes, Ashton Sanders and Alex R. Hibbert playing the young protagonist in three chapters — frequently dancing arm-in-arm while the Gotham crowd stood to applaud.

Though "Moonlight," based on Tarell Alvin McCraney's play, has some big-name backers (Brad Pitt's Plan B produced it), Jenkins played the role of the underdog.

"When I made this film, I thought five people would watch it," Jenkins said. In limited release, the low-budget "Moonlight" has already made \$8.5 million, making it one of the year's biggest indie hits.

Other top awards went to Casey Affleck, who won best actor for his performance in Kenneth Lonergan's "Manchester by the Sea," and Isabelle Huppert, whose turn in Paul Verhoeven's "Elle" took best actress over favorites such as Natalie Portman ("Jackie") and Annette Bening ("20th Century Women"). The French actress, visibly shocked, said she had been told the Gothams were very American in outlook, and so her chances were slim.

"I feel so American tonight," chuckled Huppert. "I feel good. I feel really good."

Others sounded less enthused about their country and the president-elect who resides about 70 blocks to the north of Monday's awards. Oliver Stone, one of the night's four tribute honorees (the others were Amy Adams, Ethan Hawke and producer Arnon Milchan), gave a relatively muted speech, but told filmmakers in attendance: "You can be critical of your government. We've forgotten that."

Damian Lewis, the British actor, presented the audience award with a tweak for the electoral college. "The film that receives the most votes ... is the winner," said Lewis with arch emphasis. "It's a brilliant idea."

A number of expected Oscar contenders weren't nominated by the Gothams, which select their indie-centric nominees from small panels of industry figures and critics. Absent were late arriving studio releases like Denzel Washington's "Fences" and, most conspicuous of all, Damien Chazelle's Los Angeles musical "La La Land." That \$30 million production (perhaps a bit too pricey for indie qualification), is seen by many as the best picture front-runner.

But Oscar season is just getting started. A string of critics groups will announce their picks this week. And the biggest jolt to the race may have already come via the election. How Trump's victory will affect the mood of Hollywood — will academy members lean toward sunny escapism or more timely social dramas? — has already been one of the season's biggest questions.

The Gothams, presented by the Independent Filmmaker Project, aren't historically a good Oscar predictor. But their last two top film picks, "Spotlight" and "Birdman," did go on to triumph at the Academy Awards.

Online: <https://gotham.ifp.org/>

Follow AP Film Writer Jake Coyle on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jakecoyleAP>

S. Korean leader offers conditional resignation amid scandal

By FOSTER KLUG and KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean President Park Geun-hye said Tuesday that she'll resign — if parliament arranges the technical details — in her latest attempt to fend off impeachment efforts and massive street protests amid prosecution claims that a corrupt confidante wielded government power from the shadows.

Opponents immediately called Park's conditional resignation offer a stalling tactic, and analysts said her steadfast denial that she has done anything wrong could embolden her enemies. The country's largest opposition party, the Minjoo Party, said it would not let Park's "ploy to avoid impeachment" interfere with a planned vote on impeachment that could take place this Friday or the next.

Park, who did not take questions from reporters after her live address to the nation, said she will "leave the matters about my fate, including the shortening of my presidential term, to be decided by the National Assembly," referring to parliament.

"If the ruling and opposition parties discuss and come up with a plan to reduce the confusion in state affairs and ensure a safe transfer of governments, I will step down from the presidential position under that schedule and by processes stated in law," she said.

How exactly this might play out is still unclear. But some saw Park's speech as a clear effort to avoid leaving office, despite the resignation language.

One clue that she was trying to buy time, said Yul Shin, a politics professor at Seoul's Myongji University, was her comment on "shortening" the presidential term, which he said would require a time-consuming constitutional amendment. Park is to end her single five-year term in early 2018.

"There is no possibility that the opposition parties will accept her offer; not when the public is this angry," Shin said. "She apparently wanted to buy more time, but in the end she might have hastened the end of her presidency."

Others said lawmakers could shorten Park's term just by securing a vote of two-thirds of the 300-member parliament — the same number of ballots needed to get Park's impeachment motion passed.

Park's speech came as opposition parties were closing in on an impeachment motion. Even some of her allies have called on her to "honorably" step down rather than face impeachment. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of people have rallied in Seoul each Saturday to demand her ouster.

The country's two largest opposition parties said they will propose to the presidential office two former

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senior prosecutors as candidates for a special prosecutor to independently investigate the scandal. Under a law passed by parliament earlier this month, Park has three days to pick a special prosecutor among the two candidates.

Park, in her speech, continued to deny accusations by prosecutors that she colluded in the criminal activities of her longtime friend Choi Soon-sil, who, despite having no official role in government, allegedly had a say in policy decisions and exploited her presidential ties to bully companies into giving large sums of money to businesses and foundations that Choi controlled.

"Not for one moment did I pursue my private gains, and I have so far lived without ever harboring the smallest selfish motive," Park said. "The problems that have emerged are from projects that I thought were serving the public interest and benefiting the country. But since I failed to properly manage those around me, (everything that happened) is my large wrongdoing."

Instead of buying her more time, Park's conditional resignation offer may embolden street protesters and further fan the anger of her critics because she continues to deny wrongdoing over the scandal, said Choi Chang Ryul, a politics professor at South Korea's Yongin University.

Chung Jinsuk, floor leader of Park's Saenuri Party, defended her speech as showing a "determination to avoid confusion in state affairs," and said that parliament should "overcome factions" to agree on the process and timeline for Park's exit.

Opposition parties had first planned to put the impeachment motion to a vote on Friday, but it could be moved to Dec. 9 so that the parties can solidify a strategy.

South Korea's first president, Syngman Rhee, quit and fled to Hawaii amid a popular uprising in 1960. The succeeding government was overthrown by a coup by Park's late father, the military dictator Park Chung-hee, whose rule also abruptly ended after he was assassinated by his spy chief in 1979. Choi Kyuhah then became acting president, but was forced out of office eight months later after a military coup led by Chun Doo-hwan, who would eventually become president.

At the heart of the scandal is Choi Soon-sil, the daughter of a late cult leader and mentor who became close to Park after her mother's assassination in 1974.

Prosecutors have so far indicted Choi, two ex-presidential officials and a music video director known as a Choi associate for extortion, leakage of confidential documents and other charges.

Park, who has immunity from prosecution while in office, has refused to meet with prosecutors. Her lawyer, Yoo Yeong-ha, has described prosecutors' accusations as groundless.

Young immigrants who came forward now worried about future

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of young immigrants living in the country illegally willingly came out of the shadows and identified themselves to the Obama administration on the promise that they'd be safe from deportation and allowed to work.

Some may now regret that decision.

President-elect Donald Trump has promised to immediately scrap the program that protected these immigrants. If he does, it's not clear whether he would take action against the more than 741,000 participants. But if he decides to pursue them, the government now has their addresses, photographs and fingerprints.

Twenty-year-old Nancy Villas was among the first to apply for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in the summer of 2012, waiting in line hours at a sign-up site at Chicago's Navy Pier. Since then she's been working part time at a child care center to pay for college classes. Now she's worried she may eventually be forced to return to Mexico, a country she left when she was 9.

"I knew it was the only way to have better opportunities," Villas said. "I took the risk without thinking that somebody would want to take it away."

Trump made illegal immigration the cornerstone of his campaign, promising to build a massive wall along the Mexican border and deport millions of people living in the country illegally. Once he takes office, Trump can almost immediately rescind the promised protection and, with it, likely void the accompanying work permits.

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But there is little to suggest that he would move swiftly to deport program participants. In a post-election interview with CBS' "60 Minutes," Trump said he would focus initially on criminal immigrants living illegally in the U.S. He said that could be about 2 million to 3 million people, though that figure is likely inflated.

Mark Krikorian, executive director for Center For Immigration Studies, said the fears of program participants may be overblown.

"Unless there's a crime issue or something specific that's going to draw attention to an individual, I can't see how they'd be a priority," said Krikorian, whose think tank describes itself as low-immigration, pro-immigrant.

President Barack Obama initiated the program to shield from deportation young immigrants, some of whom don't even remember their native countries. It didn't give the immigrants legal status, only "deferred action" — meaning they wouldn't face deportation while they participated.

There was never a guarantee that it would last beyond Obama's term as president. A former immigration official who helped craft the program, John Sandweg, said the White House and the Homeland Security Department considered the reality that a future president could end it. But at the time, he said, it appeared that revoking already-approved protections would be politically difficult.

"These are the kinds of kids you should bring out of the shadows," said Sandweg, a former acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "I don't think anyone envisioned a President Trump when this was created."

Trump wasn't subtle about his opposition to the program. He called it an "illegal amnesty" and promised to "immediately terminate" the program. And since winning office, Trump has said he will nominate immigration hardliner Sen. Jeff Sessions as attorney general. As he considers other Cabinet vacancies, Trump has met with Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who led his state's court fight to prevent an expansion of the deportation protection plan.

When the program started, the Obama administration suggested that application files would not generally be used for enforcement efforts. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services addressed the concern in its published "frequently asked questions," saying information would be shared with enforcement officials only if someone "meets the criteria" for deportation proceedings.

But revoking the deportation protection would make those young immigrants almost immediately eligible to face deportation.

Sandweg said going after participants would be a massive logistical undertaking that would only worsen backlogs in an already overburdened immigration court system where many people wait years for a final decision.

Adding about 750,000 to the court system "would do nothing for public safety," Sandweg said.

Nonetheless, the mere prospect of that has prompted some Democratic lawmakers to ask Obama to protect these immigrants with pardons before he leaves office.

And advocates for the young immigrants have pledged to keep up their fight to win public and political support for overhauling immigration laws.

"We organized across the country, we shared our stories publicly and we came together. We took direct actions and held politicians accountable," said Cristina Jimenez, executive director and co-founder of United We Dream.

Under a Trump administration, Jimenez said, that won't change.

Associated Press writer Sophia Tareen in Chicago contributed to this report.

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Rodgers tosses 2 TD passes, Packers beat Eagles 27-13

By ROB MAADDI, AP Pro Football Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Aaron Rodgers showed Carson Wentz what an elite quarterback can do for his team.

The two-time NFL MVP had a dazzling performance in a game the Green Bay Packers desperately needed to win. The rookie QB was inconsistent and made a costly mistake for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Rodgers had 313 yards passing and threw two touchdown passes to Davante Adams to help the Packers beat the Eagles 27-13 Monday night, snapping a four-game losing streak.

Wentz was 24 of 36 for 254 yards and threw an interception in Green Bay territory. He also was sacked four times.

Wentz didn't have starting running back Ryan Mathews the entire game, and No. 1 receiver Jordan Matthews missed most of the second half.

"The way he started the game was exceptional," Eagles coach Doug Pederson said. "After that, playing with so many guys out, I thought he managed it extremely well. He stayed calm. He stayed on point."

The Eagles and their fans hope Wentz can someday be on Rodgers' level.

"I think his ceiling is extremely high and Eagles fans should be very excited for the future," Rodgers said.

Rodgers was outstanding from the start, leading Green Bay to consecutive TD drives. He made perfect passes to Adams on both TDs and another on a 50-yard gain in the third quarter.

"There's a big difference between 4-7 and 5-6 for sure, but I hope there's not a ton of relief because we still have a lot of things in front of us we'd like to accomplish," Rodgers said. "This is a step in the right direction, a game we needed to take care of business, but we have a short week with Houston coming in and we have to have a similar performance."

Here's some things we learned from Green Bay's win over Philadelphia:

NO MORE DOMINANCE AT HOME: The Eagles were 4-0 and outscored opponents 108-38 at home before Rodgers and the Packers came to town. The Browns, Steelers, Vikings and Falcons combined for the same amount of TDs (three) as the Packers had against the Eagles.

DEFENSE RISES UP: The Packers had allowed 89 points in the past two games and at least 30 in each of the previous four, but they overcame injuries and shut down Philadelphia. Clay Matthews returned to inside linebacker because Jake Ryan and Blake Martinez were sidelined. Matthews briefly left with a shoulder injury on the Eagles' only TD drive.

"I felt natural going back in there," he said.

BALL CONTROL: The Packers went 10 for 14 on third downs, 1 for 1 on fourth and dominated time of possession by an 11-minute advantage. They sealed the game with a drive that lasted 8:21 in the fourth quarter.

"We have to get off the field on third down," Eagles cornerback Jalen Mills said.

WENTZ CAN RUN: After managing only 48 yards rushing in the first 10 games, Wentz scrambled four times for 33 yards. He had a 17-yard run on third-and-6 and got a positive gain after eluding a rusher who grabbed his facemask for a penalty on another third down.

DYNAMIC DAVANTE: Adams caught five passes for 113 yards and two TDs. He made excellent catches in difficult spots when Rodgers made perfect throws.

"He's a playmaker. He's grown each and every week and it's fun to watch," said teammate Jordy Nelson, who had eight receptions for 91 yards. "The more guys we have out there to make plays, the better."

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Follow Rob Maaddi on Twitter: https://twitter.com/AP_RobMaaddi

Ohio State attack: Terrorism eyed as police seek more info

By **JULIE CARR SMYTH** and **ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS**, Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Investigators are looking into whether a car-and-knife attack at Ohio State University that injured 11 people was an act of terror by a Somali-born student who had once criticized the media for its portrayal of Muslims.

The attacker, identified as Abdul Razak Ali Artan, plowed his car into a group of pedestrians on campus shortly before 10 a.m. Monday, and then got out and began stabbing people with a butcher knife before he was shot to death by a campus police officer, authorities said.

A motive was not immediately known, but police said they were investigating whether it was a terrorist attack.

Artan was born in Somalia and was a legal permanent U.S. resident, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to discuss the case and spoke on the condition of anonymity. The FBI joined the investigation.

Ohio State University police Chief Craig Stone said Artan deliberately drove his small gray Honda over a curb outside an engineering classroom building and then began knifing people. Officer Alan Horujko, 28, who was nearby because of a gas leak arrived on the scene and shot the driver in less than a minute, Stone said.

Angshuman Kapil, a graduate student, was outside Watts Hall when the car barreled onto the sidewalk. "It just hit everybody who was in front," he said. "After that everybody was shouting, 'Run! Run! Run!'"

Eleven victims were taken to three Columbus hospitals. Most had been hurt by the car, and two had been stabbed, officials said. One had a fractured skull.

Several prayer vigils were held Monday night to support the victims and the community.

Classes at OSU were canceled after the attack, but were scheduled to resume Tuesday.

Students said they were nervous about returning and planned to take precautions such as not walking alone.

"It's kind of nerve-wracking going back to class right after it," said Kaitlin Conner, 18, of Cleveland, who said she had a midterm exam to take Tuesday.

Rep. Adam Schiff, of California, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said the act bore the hallmarks of an attack carried out by someone who may have been self-radicalized.

Ohio State's student newspaper, The Lantern, ran an interview in August with a student named Abdul Razak Artan, who identified himself as a Muslim and a third-year logistics management student who had just transferred from Columbus State in the fall.

He said he was looking for a place to pray openly and worried about how he would be received.

"I was kind of scared with everything going on in the media. I'm a Muslim, it's not what media portrays me to be," he told the newspaper. "If people look at me, a Muslim praying, I don't know what they're going to think, what's going to happen. But I don't blame them. It's the media that put that picture in their heads."

In recent months, federal law enforcement officials have raised concerns about online extremist propaganda that encourages knife and car attacks, which are easier to pull off than bombings.

The Islamic State group has urged sympathizers online to carry out lone-wolf attacks in their home countries with whatever weapons are available to them.

Artan was not known to the FBI prior to Monday's attack, according to a law enforcement official who was not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Dozens of FBI agents began searching Artan's apartment Monday night.

Neighbors said he was always polite and attended daily prayer services at a mosque on the city's west side.

Leaders of Muslim organizations and mosques in the Columbus area condemned the attacks while cautioning people against jumping to conclusions or blaming a religion or an ethnicity.

Surveillance photos showed Artan in the car by himself just before the attack, but investigators are looking into whether anyone else was involved, the campus police chief said.

Mark Gillispie in Cleveland contributed to this story.

AP Interview: Iraqi leader predicts IS collapse in Mosul

By IAN PHILLIPS and QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi says Islamic State group fighters lack the courage to put up long-term resistance in Mosul, despite unleashing hundreds of car bombs that have killed and maimed Iraqi soldiers and civilians as the fight for Iraq's second-largest city appears set to extend well into next year.

"We have seen the whole organization collapsing in terms of standing in the face of our own armed forces," al-Abadi said. "The success of liberating a huge area indicates that Daesh does not have the gut now or the motivation to fight as they were doing before," he added, using the Arabic acronym for the extremist group.

In an interview Monday with The Associated Press, al-Abadi said Mosul was now completely encircled and that the speed with which the area was secured surpassed his expectations. He declined to say how many Iraqi troops have been killed since the operation began six weeks ago but said the rate of battlefield losses was "sustainable."

The prime minister said he expects the incoming Trump administration to grant Iraq a greater degree of logistical support in its war on terror, and dismissed suggestions by Donald Trump in the election campaign that he would seize some of Iraq's oil production as a kind of "reimbursement" for U.S. efforts in Iraq.

Trump said in September that he would "take the oil" from Iraq, claiming that the Iranians would step in otherwise.

"I am not going to judge the man by his election statements," al-Abadi said with a smile. "I am going to judge him by what he does later."

He called Trump, who he spoke with by phone soon after his election victory, a "pragmatic man" who would reassess the situation once in office. But Iraqi oil, he said, belongs to Iraqis. "The Iraqi people will not allow any country to take possession of their own resources," he said in the interview held at one of Saddam Hussein's palaces inside the heavily-fortified Green Zone in the Iraqi capital.

Al-Abadi stood by previous pledges that Mosul would be retaken this year, despite increasingly slow progress on the ground. Iraqi forces control roughly a tenth of the city proper.

Iraqi commanders in eastern Mosul say IS resistance there has been fiercer than anything they have seen previously in the fight against the militants, who have targeted Iraqi troops with hundreds of car bombs.

Heavily armored and often packed with enough explosives to disable tanks, car bombs have long been the deadliest weapon the militants use against Iraqi forces. In past operations, U.S.-led coalition airstrikes were often called in to take out the bombs, but in the cramped fighting conditions in Mosul's residential neighborhoods, the explosive-laden vehicles often appear with little warning and the presence of civilians thwarts the use of airstrikes.

Since al-Abadi took office two years ago, Iraqi forces have retaken more than half of the territory IS held at the height of its power, when the militants' controlled a third of the country.

Pressing north from Baghdad, mostly Shiite militia fighters first pushed IS out of large parts of Diyala and Salaeddin provinces, including Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit.

In the north, Kurdish and Iraqi forces recaptured the strategic mountain town of Sinjar, blocking a road that was once a common transit point for militants and weapons. To the west, Iraqi forces under cover of coalition airstrikes retook the cities of Ramadi and Fallujah in Anbar province.

Today Mosul is the last urban stronghold IS holds in Iraq and liberating it will lead to the extremist group's eventual demise as its ability to recruit foreign fighters and attract financing dries up, al-Abadi said.

"This is like a snake, if you hit it in the middle or the tail, it's no use. I have to hit it on the head," he said. "And the head of this terrorist organization is Mosul. If I remove Mosul from them, this is a huge blow ... to its efforts to recruit young people from different countries of the world."

Unlike past operations, in the Mosul fight al-Abadi's government has called on residents to stay inside

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their homes — a strategy that has slowed the military's advance. But he said it was necessary to avoid creating a humanitarian disaster by fleeing residents overwhelming camps as winter approaches.

"This is the first time where we are liberating a city or a place where civilians are staying at home," he said. "It's tough, it's difficult because the security forces tell me they are being fired at from places where there are civilians and they cannot reply in kind. So, this is a very tough thing."

Al-Abadi said he expects to see even greater U.S. support for Iraq under a Trump administration.

"I think it is in the interest of the United States and Iraq to keep this relationship," he said. "In my telephone call with President-elect Trump, he assured me that the U.S. support will not only continue, but it is going to be increased. So, I think I am going to be looking forward to more U.S. support."

While the presence of U.S. troops has at times been controversial in the eyes of al-Abadi's political opponents, U.S. involvement in Iraq has steadily increased on his watch. There are now some 6,000 U.S. troops in the country, including 100 special operations forces embedded with Iraqi troops for the Mosul operation, according to the Pentagon. Iraqi commanders have said U.S.-led coalition airstrikes have been essential in retaking territory.

But while Iraq has witnessed an impressive string of territorial victories against IS under al-Abadi, the country is in many ways more divided politically than ever. Iraq's Kurds are laying claim to additional territory inside Nineveh province on the sidelines of the Mosul offensive and the country's parliament continues to be dominated by powerful political blocs capable of gridlocking government.

"We have moved quite far in terms of reaching out to our own population," al-Abadi said of progress toward greater reconciliation between the country's religious and ethnic groups.

He said there had been "a huge reversal" in terms of communities now welcoming the Iraqi military in a way that would once have been inconceivable.

In the wake of the fall of Mosul to IS more than two years ago, Shiite militia forces have grown increasingly powerful under al-Abadi, a Shiite. The groups have proven to be some of the most capable ground forces against IS, but have also been accused of abuses against civilians. In the Mosul fight, Human Rights Watch accused the militia groups of beating and detaining villagers southeast of the city where they are operating.

Al-Abadi acknowledged that some militia fighters have been found guilty of committing abuses against civilians. He said many had been sentenced to death for crimes they have committed and that he would investigate any further reports of misconduct.

"Any time I hear there is a violation or abuse, I immediately start an investigation into it. My role is not to cover up for the crimes of others," the Iraqi leader said. The Shiite militiamen "are mainly volunteers, Iraqi nationalists who rise up to defend their own country. They are prepared to sacrifice their own lives, their own families for the defense of Iraq."

Associated Press writer Susannah George contributed to this report.

Trek to Castro's final resting spot traces revolution's past

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO, Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — After his band of bearded rebels won power in 1959, Fidel Castro embarked on a victory tour delivering speeches to cheering crowds stretching from the eastern Cuban city of Santiago to Havana. Starting Wednesday, his ashes will retrace that journey in a solemn procession to his final resting spot.

The trip is fraught with symbolism as the island nation prepares to bury the only leader it has known in 57 years besides his younger brother, Raul Castro. The six-day Caravan of Freedom that Fidel Castro led in 1959 was among his most triumphant moments. As Castro's remains are prepared for the return to Santiago, the state is rekindling images of a younger Castro whose legacy they vow to keep alive.

"Fidel will always be that restless youth and tireless revolutionary, who attacked the Moncada, arrived aboard the Granma yacht to forge the path to freedom, fought like a lion in the Sierra Maestra and crossed

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the country in the Caravan of Victory," proclaimed an article in Granma, the official Communist Party newspaper, a day after Castro's death.

The caravan carrying Castro's ashes will pass through a countryside dramatically different from the one he rode through more than five decades ago.

"It's a kind of symbolic closure to his rule," said William LeoGrande, an American University professor of Latin American politics. "The Castro era began with the triumph of the revolution and Fidel's march across the country. Now he's gone and they retrace that route, and the Cubans of this era have a chance to say goodbye."

Castro's victory march snaked from Santiago, where the revolution was launched, through rural towns and cities. For many Cubans, it was their first chance to get a glimpse of the man clad in olive green who seized power from dictator Fulgencio Batista's corrupt government. In cities such as Jiguani and Santa Rita, people lined the streets to greet the rebels passing by in jeeps.

Grainy black-and-white images of Castro waving to the crowds are some of the most enduring images of the revolution.

"Here were these young, bearded mythical revolutionaries, sort of messiah figures, descending from the mountains to liberate the people," said Richard Feinberg, a professor at the University of California, San Diego. "Fidel, a great master of theater, recognized the moment and he wanted to draw it out."

The tour was also an opportunity for Castro to articulate some of the revolution's guiding principles. Addressing a crowd at a plaza in the central city of Camaguey, Castro said that behind each joyous face he saw while walking the streets he wondered how many people had jobs and stable incomes, or a way to buy medicine if a sibling or child fell ill.

"I'm sure that behind the faces of those humble men and women, after the moment has passed and they return home, their minds return to the immense heap of worries each of them carries," he said.

The final caravan transporting Castro's ashes will pass through rural communities significantly changed by social and economic reforms he adopted. Many residents now have access to health care and education. But many of those towns are also in a prolonged economic collapse, the country's once dominant sugar industry decimated, the sugar mills and plantations gone.

Castro and his revolutionary government believed the island's reliance on sugar exports to the United States was the root of many of the country's ills but struggled to diversify the island's economy.

"A lot of these areas are probably poorer today than they were then," LeoGrande said.

The procession west begins Wednesday after two days of mourning in Havana, where thousands waited in lines for hours Monday to pay tribute before images of Castro as a young guerrilla displayed at the Plaza of the Revolution, the expansive square where he once delivered hours-long speeches. There and across Cuba people signed condolence books and an oath of loyalty to Castro's May 1, 2000, proclamation defining the Cuban revolution as an unending battle for socialism and national autonomy.

In state broadcast programs and Cuba's official newspapers, the government has urged Cubans to unite behind the socialist, single-party system installed by Castro but which has struggled to maintain the widespread fervor it gained more than five decades ago.

Hundreds of thousands are expected to line the streets as his ashes are transported over the course of three days to Santiago.

Some Cubans said the caravan symbolizes the island's continued loyalty to the revolution. Julexis Hernandez, a bank auditor, recalled watching yearly events commemorating Castro's jubilant march into Havana since she was a child.

"It has always been the caravan of victory," Hernandez said Monday as she and a colleague waited to pay respects at the public memorial site in Havana. "Now, it will be a caravan of sadness."

Others said Castro's final journey held no weight for them.

"For me, it doesn't symbolize anything," said house painter Alejandro Gomez Garcia. "He's already dead."

First Data: Thanksgiving, Black Friday sales up 9 percent

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Shoppers put in a strong showing on Thanksgiving Day and Black Friday. Holiday spending rose 9 percent Thursday and Friday combined, compared with the same two-day period last year, according to First Data.

The bump was fueled by shoppers turning to online deals.

E-commerce sales rose 10.8 percent for the two-day period, while sales at physical stores grew 8.6 percent, according to First Data, which analyzed online and in-store payments across different forms of payment cards from nearly one million merchants Thanksgiving and Friday. The data captures about 40 percent of all card transactions in the U.S. but excludes cash.

The Thanksgiving weekend kicks off the holiday shopping season though stores have increasingly started their sales earlier in October. The Friday after Thanksgiving — known as Black Friday — used to unofficially mark the kickoff to door-buster sales, but now retailers are opening earlier on Thanksgiving. But while the holiday weekend has lost some of its punch, it still sets the tone for the season.

"It was strong shopping," said Rishi Chhabra, vice president, information and analytics products, at First Data. "But people are shopping online more. And that trend keeps going up and up."

According to First Data, almost 25 percent of the holiday dollars spent over the two-day period came from e-commerce, up from 18 percent last year and nearly 16 percent in 2014. Electronics and appliances were by far the big attractions, with the category enjoying a 26.5 percent increase in sales, fueled by shoppers' interest in TVs and other new gadgets. That compared to just a 2.3 percent increase in the year-ago period.

Four of the seven categories — which also include furniture and personal-care items — that First Data tracks showed slower sales growth in stores compared with online. But when it came to electronics, shoppers preferred to buy the products in the stores for the holiday start. Electronics and appliance stores saw a nearly 28 percent sales growth, while for online, that growth was a little over 11 percent.

Overall, the average dollar amount spent per person for the two-day period rose to \$75.06, up from \$72.84 a year ago. That figure for electronics and appliances grew by 34 percent to \$163.76. But clothing and accessories stores saw shoppers on average spend \$80.55, down from \$81.63 a year ago amid heavy discounting. And sporting goods, hobby, books and music took more of a hit, with the average ticket size falling to \$78.74 from \$90.15.

Cyber Monday transforms as shoppers are more connected

By MAE ANDERSON, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Monday after Thanksgiving is still a time when millions of Americans pause to check out online deals and check off items from their gift list — but a one-day Cyber Monday frenzy appears to be going the way of the dial-up modem.

Shoppers who have high-speed connections at home and on their phones are pouncing on deals that stores are spreading out over several days, leaving the so-called Cyber Monday online shopping bonanza in danger of losing its title as the top online sales day.

"Because Cyber Monday is no longer about the connection, it's just another sales day that I can plan for, like a Labor Day sale or Fourth of July sale," said Gartner analyst Gene Alvarez. "I know it's coming: Does it fit into my schedule, and will I do my holiday shopping that day, Black Friday or wait to see what comes up later?"

So 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.

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 on Friday for the first time as it aimed to grab customers ahead of its competitors.

"It's really this weeklong flow of deals," said Shawn DuBravac, chief economist at the Consumer Tech-

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nology Association.

Lea Bishop from Carmel, Indiana, picked up tickets to the Texas Tenors at her local performing arts center because they had a rare buy-two-get-two-free deal.

"It's those once-a-year deals that I'm looking for today," she said. Otherwise, she noticed retailers have been spreading out deals.

"It seems like they should rename Black Friday to Black Friday Week and rename Cyber Monday to Cyber Monday weekend," she said.

Matthew Cannata of New Britain, Connecticut, said he and his wife meticulously map out their shopping weekend. They hit the stores Thursday night and Friday morning and started browsing online Saturday. They saw more discounts early this year and use services like buying items online and picking them up in the store, Cannata said.

"We are casting a wide net on any and all types of gifts," he said.

On Monday, he bought an Amazon Tap smart speaker for \$40 off at \$90 on Amazon.com and Bluetooth stereo headphones for \$30, \$100 off the original price.

The Monday after Thanksgiving has been the busiest day of the year for online shopping since 2010, and "Cyber Monday" referred to the day when people returned after the holiday weekend to offices where they had high-speed internet connections.

Cyber Monday still packs the biggest punch in terms of a single online shopping day — for now. As of 7:30 p.m. EST on Monday, shoppers were on track to hit a record of \$3.39 billion, up 10.2 percent from a year ago, according to a tally by Adobe Digital Insights, which tracks online retail transactions.

But other days are catching up. On Black Friday, consumers spent \$3.34 billion, a 21.6 percent jump from last year, according to Adobe.

"Because of technology, the shopping process has been deconstructed, and the consumer constructs their own flow," said Alvarez.

Joseph Jaconi, whose company TechArmor sells smartphone accessories through Amazon, other outlets and his e-commerce site, said Black Friday was his biggest sales day of the year. He said he expected Cyber Monday to outpace that, with sales about double or triple that of a normal day. Amazon kicking off its deals on Nov. 16 helped give the whole month a sales lift.

"Cyber Monday has kind of become Cyber Month," he said.

Research firm comScore predicted that online spending on Cyber Monday will jump to \$3.5 billion from \$3.12 billion last year, and will release its tally for the day on Wednesday. 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.

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