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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

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2016-2017 Groton Area Girls Basketball Preview

School Name: Groton Area "Tigers"

Sport: Girls Basketball

Coach: Shaun Wanner 6th Year Groton Girls Coach 65-50

2016-2017: Record: 14-8

Conference: Northeast Conference

2016-2017: Conference Record: 6-3

Toughest Opponents And Why:

The teams in the Northeast Conference will all be very good this season along with our non-conference schedule. Looking at our conference schedule it will be very competitive from top to bottom. I look for Webster to be the team to beat in the conference and also the Region. They have very good players back from last season's state tournament team. Our non-conference teams will also be very competitive.

Returning Letter-Winners:

Audrey Wanner Sr. NEC All-Conference and Girls Basketball All-Area Team

Katie Koehler Sr.

Emily Locke Sr.

Jessica Bjerke Jr.

Gia Gengerke Jr.

Alex Stange Jr.

Harleigh Stange Jr.

Madison Sippel Jr.

Taylor Holm Soph.

Jenny Doeden Soph.

Miranda Hanson Soph.

Payton Maine Soph.

Sam Menzia Soph.

Portia Kettering Soph

Returning Starters:

Audrey Wanner Sr. 3-year starter

Katie Koehler Sr. 3-year starter

Jessica Bjerke Jr.

Harleigh Stange Jr.

Strengths: We return four starters from last season's team. Our strength should be our quickness and desire to compete hard every game. We have a good group of girls that can run the floor and put pressure on the ball. We have some taller girls that should become better as the season progresses.

Plans for improvement: We have to become better defensively, Our offense has to come from our defensive pressure. We have to keep the turnovers down and get better perimeter shooting as well as inside play. If we understand our roles by midseason we should be fairly competitive.

Season Outlook: We have four starters back from last season along with some girls that saw some significant playing time. Our younger girls will have to contribute right away. This group will continue to get better as the season goes on. We should be a competitive basketball team by the end of the year.

Thinking About Health

By Trudy Lieberman, Rural Health News Service

What You Need To Know About Choosing Health Insurance

Even though the election is over and Republicans are in a position to repeal and replace Obamacare as they've been vowing to do for several years, that doesn't mean you should avoid signing up for 2017 insurance coverage.

If you're eligible and need insurance, the state shopping exchanges are open for business even if options this year are limited in many counties, particularly in rural areas. More than 40 percent of the counties where residents can buy an Obamacare policy have just one insurer selling them. That's not a lot of choice, and policies that are offered are likely to have high premiums and limited options for doctors and hospitals.

Still, some careful shopping is in order to minimize any surprise bills. After the election, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest urged Americans to sign up and announced "the vast majority" of eligible consumers would be able to buy insurance for a monthly premium of \$75 or less, which has been the administration's sales pitch.

Assuming the White House math is correct, that doesn't mean the vast majority should automatically buy a policy with a \$75 premium. That strategy can mean expensive trouble later on. Reviewing the basics before wading into the Obamacare marketplace this year is essential.

For starters, recall that platinum policies, generally the most costly, cover 90 percent of someone's medical costs; gold plans cover 80 percent; silver plans pay 70 percent; and the bronze variety pays the least – only 60 percent of a patient's healthcare expenses. Silver plans have been the most popular, largely because those who buy them and have family incomes below \$60,750 get extra government subsidies to help pay their deductibles, copays and coinsurance.

Bronze policies are popular, too, because they have low premiums, but people buying those policies won't get the extra subsidies, a point that's worth remembering. Those subsidies can be a big help if you need a lot of medical services. Both bronze and silver policies generally come with lower monthly premiums, but that doesn't mean they are cheaper in the long run.

Here's where comparison-shopping gets tricky. It's possible a bronze policy and maybe a silver one could end up costing more than a gold one with a higher premium if you get sick. That's because of the relationship between the premium, copays, coinsurance and deductibles. Insurers mix and match these features to fit their marketing strategy.

In general, a lower premium means higher deductibles and higher other out-of-pocket expenses. A policy with a higher premium often means lower out-of-pocket costs.

For 2017 the maximum amount a family would have to pay out-of-pocket for copays, coinsurance and deductibles is \$14,300. That's a lot of money and enough to deter some people from signing up. Many people say paying that much before insurance pays isn't really insurance. It's also high enough to keep people from seeking medical care even when they need it. If people go to the doctor less, the country's national health expenditures will drop - at least that's the rationale for the high out-of-pocket limit.

An Indiana couple I've written about before in this column recently sent an email updating me on the family's insurance options for next year. Their carrier had increased their \$836 monthly premium to about \$1,300; their cost even after an Obamacare tax subsidy was applied. What's more, the reader said, the insurer had raised the amount of coinsurance for hospitalizations from 20 percent to 50 percent.

Given how much a hospital stay costs, they worried they'd be on the hook for a lot of money until they reached the \$14,300 out-of-pocket maximum. It was a risk they weren't willing to take, and they shopped until they found new coverage for only \$700 a month with their subsidy.

Choosing an Obamacare policy or any other insurance coverage comes down to how much risk you want to assume. If you are reasonably certain you won't need many medical services, you may want to take a chance and buy less expensive insurance that comes with high deductibles, copays, and coinsurance.

But if you're like the Indiana couple, and afraid of high expenses for unexpected medical care, buy the best policy you can afford that reduces that risk.

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Another thing to keep in mind! Beware of policies with really low premiums, prices that seem too good to be true. Consumers who bought insurance from the Obamacare co-ops learned that.

Almost all of the 23 co-ops authorized to compete with the big carriers have gone out of business. They priced their policies too low, and too many sick people signed up. Government regulators closed them down, sending thousands of people scrambling for new coverage – an unwelcome chore for anyone.

What have your experiences been shopping for insurance? Write to Trudy at trudy.lieberman@gmail.com.



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GROTON
Chamber Of Commerce

Made it possible for Santa to come to Groton!

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Groton Coffee Cup League

Nov. 28 Team Standings: Ten Pins 26, James Valley 24 1/2, Jungle Lanes 22, Kens 15 1/2

High Games: Vickie Kramp 210, 193; Sue Stanley 203, 173; Joyce Walter 173

High Series: Vickie Kramp 564, Sue Stanley 526, Joyce Walter 464

Conde National League

Team Standings: Cubs 29, Pirates 25, Giants 25, Mets 22, Braves 22, Colts 21

Men's High Games: Lance Frohling 213, 197, 191; ale Ringgenberg 188; Conner Hanson 165

Men's High Series: Lance Frohling 601, Justin Kesterson 452, Topper Tastad 441

Women's High Games: Joyce Walter 188; Michelle Johnson 180, 172; Amber East 158

Women's High Series: Michelle Johnson 470, Joyce Walter 459, Vickie Kramp 428



House for Sale

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Today in Weather History

November 30, 1981: A two-day winter storm, beginning as rain, changing to freezing rain and then to snow, completely paralyzed the eastern half of South Dakota, as well as west central Minnesota Monday, November 30 through Tuesday, December 1, 1981. Snow accumulations of between eight and twelve inches were common in South Dakota. Wind with gusts to near 50 mph whipped the snow into blizzard conditions. The Governor of South Dakota closed east-west Interstate 90 to all traffic. Hundreds of motorists were stranded. One person died during snow removal after the storm. Some storm total snowfall amounts included 8 inches at Kennebec, 7 inches at Pierre and Faulkton, 4 inches at Aberdeen, and 2 inches at Watertown. The winter precipitation was caused by a storm center that moved from Kansas Monday through Iowa Monday night and into Wisconsin Tuesday morning, December 1st. The same storm produced heavy snow and blizzard conditions over a large area of the central Plains. Travel was especially difficult because of the snow. Many roads were impassible and motorists were forced to find shelter.

November 30, 1991: The third major winter storm of the season moved from the central plains to eastern South Dakota. The storm generally dropped between 4 and 8 inches of snow over the eastern third of South Dakota from the 28th to the 30th. New snow accumulations of 2 to 5 inches occurred over most of the rest of the state. Some specific snow reports across the area included Aberdeen with 2 inches and Watertown with 3 inches. Five inches fell at Clear Lake and 3 inches fell near Summit. Strong winds developed after the snow fell, producing widespread blowing and drifting snow, especially across the northeast corner of South Dakota.

November 30, 2000: Heavy snow of 6 to 12 inches fell across a large part of northern South Dakota and into western Big Stone County in Minnesota, causing travel problems and school closings. Several accidents also occurred due to the slippery roads. Some snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Milbank and Ortonville; 8 inches at McLaughlin, Ipswich, Summit, and Mellette; 9 inches northwest of Britton, Clear Lake, and Pollock; 10 inches at Leola and Faulkton; 11 inches at Aberdeen and Webster; and 12 inches at Houghton.

1875 - A severe early season cold wave set November records in the northeastern U.S. The temperature dipped to 5 above zero at New York City, 2 below at Boston MA, and 13 below at Eastport ME. (David Ludlum)

1957 - Lee slope winds enhanced by Hurricane Nina gusted to 82 mph at Honolulu, Hawaii, a record wind gust for that location. Wainiha, on the island of Kauai, was deluged with 20.42 inches of rain, and 35 foot waves pounded some Kauai beaches, even though the eye of the hurricane was never within 120 miles of the islands. (30th-1st) (The Weather Channel)

1967 - A record November snowstorm struck the Washington D.C. area. It produced up to a foot of snow in a 12 hour period. (David Ludlum)

1976 - MacLeod Harbor, AK, reported a precipitation total for November of 70.99 inches, which established a state record for any month of the year. (The National Weather Summary)

1987 - Showers produced heavy rain in the northeastern U.S. Up to three inches of rain drenched the Brandywine Creek Basin of Pennsylvania, and rainfall totals in Vermont ranged up to two inches at Dorsett. Snow fell heavily across Upper Michigan as gale force winds prevailed over Lake Superior. A storm moving into the northwestern U.S. produced gale force winds along the northern and central Pacific coast. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Snow in the Upper Great Lakes Region pushed the precipitation total for the month at Marquette, MI, past their previous November record of 7.67 inches. Santa Anna winds in southern California gusted to 75 mph at Laguna Peak. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Squalls produced heavy snow in the Lower Great Lakes Region, with 15 inches reported at Chaffee, NY, and at Barnes Corners NY. Tropical Storm Karen drenched parts of Cuba with heavy rain. Punta Del Este reported fourteen inches of rain in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Holiday Party & Silent Auction at Clubhouse

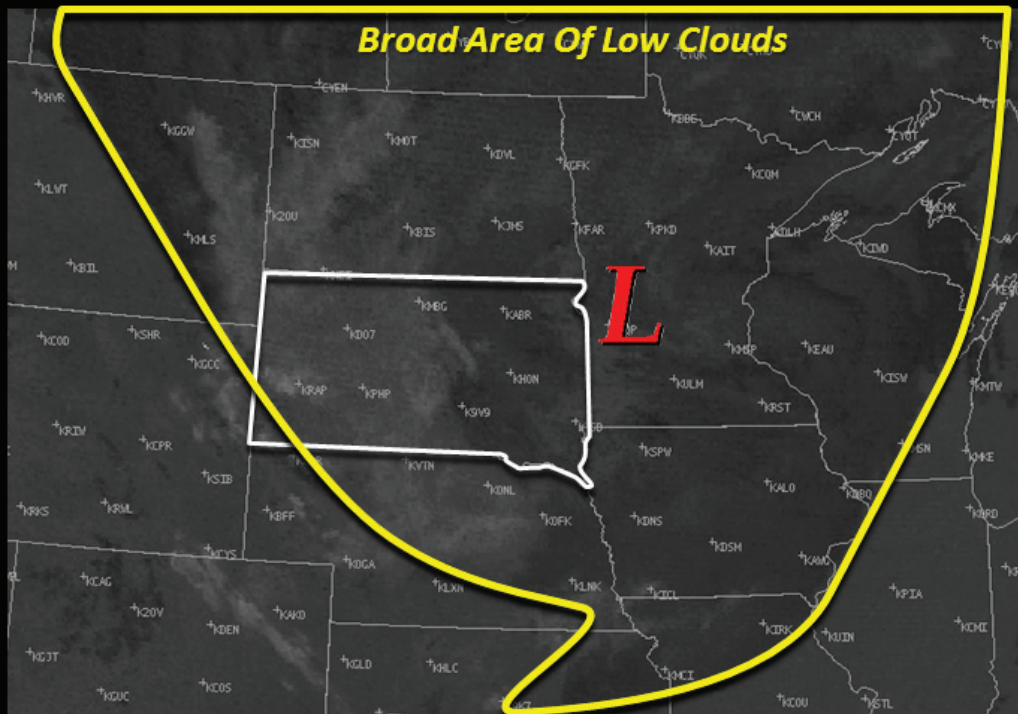
4 p.m. - ????

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Chance Snow	Slight Chance Snow then Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 34 °F	Low: 27 °F	High: 33 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 30 °F	Low: 20 °F	High: 32 °F

Clouds Persisting Through The Rest of The Week



Highs: 30s – Lows: Teens & 20s



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 11/30/2016 5:07 AM Central

Published on: 11/30/2016 at 5:11AM

As low pressure weakens, so will winds. Without anything to push out the clouds, expect them to persist for some time. This will keep temperatures within a fairly narrow range through the end of the work week.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 34.3 F at 1:51 PM

Low Outside Temp: 31.1 F at 1:08 AM

High Gust: 30.0 Mph at 2:11 PM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 66° in 1995

Record Low: -27° in 1964

Average High: 31°F

Average Low: 12°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.73

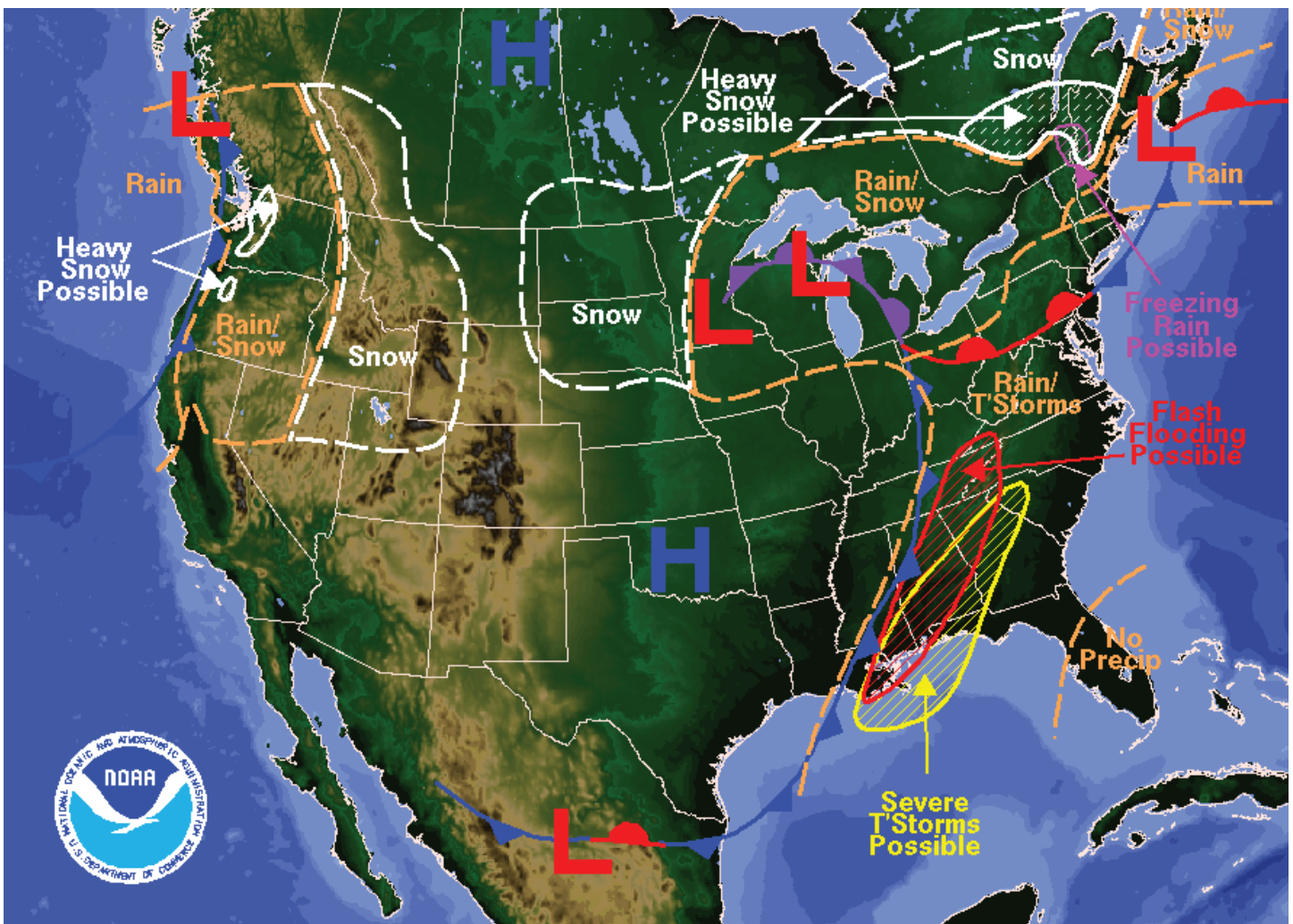
Precip to date in Nov.: 1.02

Average Precip to date: 21.20

Precip Year to Date: 16.02

Sunset Tonight: 4:52 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:53 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Nov 30, 2016, issued 4:36 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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AS BIG AS WE MAKE IT!

Herb had been dating Liz for about a year. He was deeply in love with her and finally decided that he would ask her to marry him. So, he went to a jewelry store and used all of his hard earned savings to purchase an engagement ring for her. Unfortunately, the rings were more expensive than he imagined and he had little money to spend and had to settle for one with a small diamond.

One evening he took her to dinner and after they ordered their meal, with a shy, trembling voice he asked, "Liz, will you marry me?"

"Oh yes, of course I will," said Liz.

With tears in his eyes he presented the ring to her and said, "Liz, I'm sorry, so sorry that the diamond is not as big as I wanted it to be or as large as my love."

"Oh my," said Liz, "that doesn't matter. The diamond is as big as we make it!"

How very true! Value is always in the eye of the beholder, isn't it?

We often substitute things rather than thoughtfulness or gifts rather than goodness. We even confuse large with lovely or big with beauty. Often we substitute spending time with someone by offering them a present instead of ourselves.

When we give something to someone, especially God, cost doesn't matter. What we keep for our self does.

Prayer: May we realize, Lord, that giving reflects the sincerity of our heart not the size of the gift. May we show our love more by what we do than what we give. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 2 Corinthians 9:7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.



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News from the Associated Press

University makes history and signs first triplet sisters

By Jason Gross, Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Black Hills State University made history during the recent signing period by inking the first known set of triplets in NCAA women's softball.

The three — Breanne, Bryce, and Brittany Henricksen from Las Vegas, Nevada — started playing T-ball at age 4 and moved up the ladder, the Black Hills Pioneer (<http://bit.ly/2gvyWt5>) reported. They will graduate from Arbor View High School before officially coming to the Yellow Jacket program.

All three have earned three letters apiece in the sport along with numerous all-division, all-regional, and all-state honors. Breanne is a pitcher, with Brittany playing the outfield and Bryce able to play several positions.

How did all of this come about?

Black Hills State head coach Lane Leedy said her assistant went to Las Vegas for a tournament.

Leedy received a call from her assistant saying, "Coach, you have to come see these girls," Leedy said. "Oh, by the way: they're triplets. They're everything you're looking for in this class."

Leedy described Breanna as a control pitcher with an above-average changeup. Bryce can come in and start at any position except pitcher, according to Leedy.

"As with every recruit you have, you hope they contribute right away," Leedy said of the Henricksens. She added Brittany can also play the catcher position, and all three can hit well.

"Brittany competes well under pressure and is the kid who approaches the game with a calm confidence about her," Leedy said in a release. "In the outfield, she combines her vast range with a very strong and accurate arm."

The Henricksens first came to Spearfish in January and returned two weeks ago for the official visit. All three said the area and small-school environment appealed to them, and Bryce pointed to the weather.

"It was a lot different than Las Vegas," Bryce said. "It was so green up there, and I felt like there's a lot more things you can do up there (Black Hills) compared to Vegas."

All three have really enjoyed playing together on teams.

"I think it's pretty cool since we've started playing together," Brittany said. "We're also going to finish playing softball together. You also know someone always has your back as well."

Breanne said of the sport, "To play it with my sisters all these years, it's just really fun."

The triple signing was not expected.

"It was really cool and surprising," Bryce said of all three signing with Black Hills State. "Just to get four more years playing with them is cool."

All three most look forward to entering the college environment, meeting new people, and gaining experience on the field.

The distance between Las Vegas and Spearfish poses the biggest challenge for the three. Breanne estimated the distance at 21 hours and said she would probably miss her family and pets initially.

"It can be hard, especially when they were there for all of us at our softball games," Bryce said.

Getting used to the college game will pose a challenge for Brittany. "There's going to be better players, bigger hitters, better pitchers," she said.

What do they enjoy most about the sport?

"I like playing on the field in general," Breanne said in describing the sport's appeal to her. "It takes your mind off things."

Bryce most enjoys the memories she has made through the sport. She cited team experiences, on-the-field accomplishments, and the feeling that comes with a big victory.

"All my best friends, I've met through softball," Brittany said when asked what she enjoys most. "You do travel a lot, and you meet a lot of new friends."

Team success is what Brittany enjoys the most because it means hard work pays off in a game situation.

Breanne said the biggest challenge comes when things do not go her way. "If you're having a bad day on the field, get over it, and things will get better," she added.

The biggest challenge for Bryce and Brittany comes in putting bad days behind her and getting ready for the next day.

"I think it'll be pretty good, but I think it's going to be a lot different," Bryce said of making the transition from high school softball to the college game. "We haven't really played at that level, so I'm not really knowing what to expect."

Brittany plans to study physical science at Black Hills State. Bryce will be an exercise science major, with Breanne set to major in business entrepreneurship.

What does it mean for Black Hills State to make history like this?

"Since I've gotten here, we've done some cool things, this being probably now at the top of the cool list," Leedy said. "Making history is something you may get to do once or twice in your coaching career."

Leedy said making history with solid players and kids is the way a person wants to make history. She added that prospect is second to getting three solid athletes.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported in March that only a few sets of triplets have played for the same college team in a variety of sports. They competed for Pomona-Pitzer (Calif.) from 2011-14 and Division III Presentation College (Aberdeen) in the mid-2000s.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

Meridian Bridge still serves a purpose in Yankton

By Rob Nielsen, Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Imagine the Yankton skyline without the Meridian Bridge.

Nearly a decade ago, that was a very real prospect as work began on the Discovery Bridge as a replacement.

However, the Meridian Bridge was ultimately saved thanks to a push by its citizens and a commitment by the City of Yankton for the bridge's upkeep.

Five years ago, it opened to the public as a walking bridge, the Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan (<http://bit.ly/2fvr7DJ>) reported.

Yankton resident Jim Means was a part of the effort to preserve the bridge as a pedestrian bridge.

"When they decided to build a new bridge, almost from day one, there were people in the community — me included — that thought, rather than tearing the thing down, it would make a great pedestrian bridge," Means said. "There was kind of a constant push from some of us in Yankton. There wasn't even a terribly organized group of people — it was just people who kind of came together and said, 'We shouldn't let this go. We need to save this bridge.'"

Means was part of an informal "committee" of residents who attended meetings of the City Commission and other meetings related to the building of the Discovery Bridge.

Yankton Parks & Recreation director Todd Larson told the Press & Dakotan that the Meridian Bridge came very close to demolition.

"There was money slated to demolish the Meridian Bridge," Larson said. "There were discussions where they said, 'Well, can't we find some other money to rehab it and put that money that we're going to use to demolish it in a bank so it's there someday down the road if and when it ever needs to be demolished?'"

Originally opened in 1924, the Meridian Bridge was built solely using private funds and operated as a toll bridge for 29 years. It remained open to traffic through 2008 when the Discovery Bridge dedicated.

Working with various state groups in South Dakota and Nebraska, the city eventually came up with a deal.

Means said one of the most important steps dealt with what happened after the transition.

"In the negotiations, of course, nobody wanted to be responsible for it," he said. "They said, 'Yeah, we'll save it, but then who's going to maintain it and take care of it?' One of the big things was when the City of Yankton's City Commission agreed that once it was vacated and fixed up the City of Yankton would

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take the bridge over and be responsible for it.”

Even before its closure, Larson said the bridge’s condition was already somewhat of a concern.

“In that year leading up to when it got closed down, they were having some issues with rust and the support structure on that bridge,” he said. “They had closed the bridge and done some repairs just to allow vehicles on it.”

This meant a lot of work would need to be done between closure to vehicles and opening to pedestrians, he said.

“If you have a pedestrian bridge and it’s heavily used, you could have a lot of bodies per square foot on that bridge and you can have more weight on that bridge than if you had big vehicles on it,” he said. “Even though they said, ‘Hey, this is going to be a pedestrian bridge,’ there was still going to have to be that work done to make sure all the joints and supports would handle weight when it was a traffic bridge.”

Additionally, railing and historic lighting were added along the bridge to make it safe for pedestrians.

The project cost around \$5 million with 70 percent paid for by Nebraska and the remainder by South Dakota.

When it opened to foot traffic in 2011, it didn’t take long for the newly opened walking bridge to catch on, Larson said.

“The first day it was open, I think it was kind of slow going, but as people got on it, walked on it and word spread, by Thanksgiving weekend, it was getting use,” he said. “It’s just so unique —you get out above the river. You can stand and take your time. . It was well received as soon as it was opened.”

Means said that while opinion of the revitalization may have been split in the community, he feels that residents overwhelmingly have come to accept the bridge in its new role.

“I’ve had different people tell me, ‘You know when they were talking about turning this bridge into a pedestrian bridge, I wasn’t too excited about it, but it really is a nice deal.’” he said. “At the time, I’d say the town was pretty evenly split on whether it should be saved or not saved. Friends of mine said, ‘I think it’s just a waste of money. I don’t think we need it. It’s just an old bridge.’ You don’t hear very many of those comments anymore.”

Since its opening, the Meridian Bridge has seen a number of changes. Benches have been added to the paths and Meridian Plaza has been built at the end of Walnut St. on the bridge’s north end. The city also purchased the former Stern Oil property to the west of the bridge and used it for Music at the Meridian this past summer. Larson said the city is still looking into potential development of the property.

Across the Missouri River, the Meridian Bridge RV Resort formally opened earlier this year immediately east of the bridge on the Nebraska side. The RV resort itself has even preserved some of the bridge’s history — developers bought large sections of the bridge’s original railings which had been removed in the 1970s and have lined pathways in the resort with the railings.

The bridge has also been utilized for a number of events, such as the Rock ‘N’ Rumble motorcycle parade, Yankton Community Library story tours, an annual Yankton Area Arts Association dinner and a viewing spot for Fourth of July and Riverboat Days Fireworks. In 2014, due to wet conditions across the river, fireworks were shot off from the bridge deck itself on Independence Day.

Larson said there’s nothing quite like the Meridian Bridge.

“I think it’s been great for the downtown, and it will only get better as we continue to develop those types of amenities,” he said. “It’s a beautiful amenity and it’s very unique.”

Means said he’s happy to see the bridge utilized so much.

“Every time I walk across it, I’m thrilled,” he said. “A lot of times when I’m leaving work and I go down Second St. on my way home, I’ll look up and it always pleases me when I see people walking on it. I think it’s a great addition to the community.”

Adult charges for juveniles who commit violent crimes

By Mark Walker, Argus Leader

HARRISBURG, S.D. (AP) — A judge will decide in the coming months whether a Harrisburg High School student accused of shooting his principal will be tried as an adult.

Attorneys for Mason Buhl, 17, filed a motion last month to have his attempted murder case transferred to juvenile court, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2gcNZak>) reported. The defense team's move isn't unprecedented in South Dakota, but the chances of its success in the state are about one in four, according to the data from the state's Unified Judicial System.

Only a quarter of the 206 criminal defendants younger than 18 charged as adults had their cases moved to juvenile court in fiscal year 2016.

Authorities say Buhl, a recent transfer to Harrisburg High School, drew a gun Sept. 30, 2015, and shot principal Kevin Lein in the arm. Assistant principal Ryan Rollinger heard the gunshot and tackled Buhl. He and activities director Joey Struwe held Buhl down until police arrived.

South Dakota law says that anyone 16 or older who commits violent crimes like manslaughter, murder, kidnapping and rape automatically faces charges in adult court. It's up to defense attorneys to argue to move the cases to juvenile court.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said he's been on both sides of a juvenile's transfer hearing — as a prosecutor and defense attorney.

He said there are a lot of factors to consider when deciding where to try a juvenile: the charges, the nature of the offense, the juvenile's history and the opportunity for rehabilitation. The emphasis is typically placed on history in juvenile proceedings, Jackley said, but he still looks to protect communities from violent offenders even if they are minors.

"If they are only going to be in jail for one or two years," he said, "that simply isn't sufficient for some offenses."

Wendy Hess, a law professor at the University of South Dakota, said the number of juveniles tried as adults could decrease if young offenders started in the juvenile system and prosecutors had to argue why adult sentences were appropriate.

Hess said juveniles have the greatest chance of rehabilitation and the adult criminal system doesn't offer them many opportunities.

"I think it's worth our time because we otherwise are investing resources into what actually isn't rehabilitative and keeping us safer," Hess said.

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

Animal shelters help hunters find lost dogs

By Shannon Marvel, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — There's not much that can stop a hunting dog from following a scent, and it's not uncommon for hunters to lose their dogs in the rural pastures and fields of northeast South Dakota.

Lost or abandoned hunting dogs are taken in by shelters or good Samaritans every year, especially during hunting season, the Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/2fG7QuI>) reported.

Watertown animal control officer Aaron Marotz works closely with the Glacial Lakes Humane Society and Shelter, which provides services to Codington County, Webster, Lake Norden, Milbank, and Estelline.

"We get a lot of labs and lab mixes up here. A lot of them are strays. People come and hunt and don't always take their dogs back," Marotz said.

Hunters who lose their dogs while out hunting may cover miles while searching for their companions, but many don't know who to call to report a dog as missing.

Candace Maychrzak works with the Dakota Animal Resource Coalition, an animal shelter based in Scranton, N.D., that serves northwest South Dakota and southwest North Dakota. She said there are many hunters

who don't know where to look for their lost dogs.

"You would think if someone has a trained hunting dog they would tell the radio stations and authorities that they lost a hunting dog," Maychrzak said.

Hunters who lose dogs and people who find them should notify local law enforcement agencies and animal shelters, she said.

Maychrzak is trying to raise awareness of the problem so lost hunting dogs can be reunited with their owners.

"A hunting dog is a pretty intense breed, and not everyone is able to foster or care for that type and give them what they need. There have been some hunting dogs that have come through my rescue, and maybe one-third have gone out again as hunting dogs," she said.

Most dogs are lost unintentionally, but Maychrzak said there have been dogs that were likely intentionally abandoned in the country.

"I do believe that I've rescued a few hunting dogs that were trained, and they hunted and were just left behind," she said.

But most cases of intentional dog abandonment are not hunting-related, she said.

Microchipping a dog can be instrumental in it being found when lost, Maychrzak said.

She recalled an incident of a dog found in the country that was days away from dying of starvation.

"The dog had a microchip from another shelter. Apparently, a man had adopted the dog just a month or so before and dumped it after two weeks," she said.

Maychrzak called the shelter that had arranged the adoption to make sure it knew about the situation and make sure the man could not adopt any other animals.

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

2 malnourished girls found on South Dakota reservation

By REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Seven people are facing federal charges after law enforcement authorities on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation discovered two children so severely malnourished that a pediatrician later compared them to prisoners of World War II concentration camps.

The 2- and 3-year-old girls weighing 13 pounds each were discovered on Nov. 11, when officers responded to a reported assault at a home on the reservation on the South Dakota-Nebraska border, according to court records. The officers found the children lying on the floor, hidden under blankets, and only wearing diapers.

Authorities are accusing three of the seven people of assaulting the girls. The five others are accused of not seeking medical intervention for or reporting the condition of the children to authorities.

An affidavit shows that the children were taken to a Rapid City hospital after they were found at the home. The 3-year-old girl was found to be suffering from a deep bed sore on her left hip that "was all the way to the bone and would likely require surgical repair," according to the affidavit.

A pediatrician dealing with the girls told an FBI agent that the children would have died had they not been discovered. Court records show the pediatrician told the agent that the children's "extreme level of starvation" could be described as how "persons from World War II Concentration Camps" looked.

The home where the girls were found has several residents, including Roberta Featherman and Harold Red Owl Sr., both of whom authorities say were the victims' primary care givers. Records show that about three months before the seven arrests, the girls' mother "dropped off" the 3-year-old child with her mother, Roberta Featherman, and the 2-year-old child with her sister, Darshan Featherman.

A 10-year-old girl who lived at the home told the FBI agent that Roberta Featherman and Red Owl "did not like to feed the girls too much and that many other people saw the victims and 'don't like it' but did nothing to help," according to the affidavit. The 10-year-old girl and the 17-year-old sister of the victims were later removed from the home.

A week after the girls were discovered, federal agents searched the home and found plenty of food in

bedrooms. Red Owl told the FBI agent that the food was hidden in the bedrooms because the victims would "steal" it.

Darshan Featherman, Roberta Featherman and Red Owl are charged with assault resulting in serious bodily injury. Terry Featherman, Rainbow Spoonhunter, Tressa Means Featherman and Jeff Shoulders are charged with concealing a felony. All pleaded not guilty on Nov. 22.

Red Owl's attorney declined to comment on the case. Shoulders's attorney, George Grassby, said he has requested copies of all police reports involved in the case. Attorneys for the other five did not immediately respond to requests for comment Tuesday.

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

South Dakota officials limit crime details under new measure

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Law enforcement agencies are limiting information provided to the public about crimes in South Dakota because of a newly passed constitutional amendment, decisions that transparency advocates say will lessen people's knowledge about crime and policing in their communities.

Sioux Falls police announced this week that the department will no longer provide the exact locations of crimes or identify the names of victimized businesses, while Rapid City police will be using generalized addresses for additional crimes in public logs. State officials won't release the names of people involved in car crashes that result in injury or death.

"If there's a significant crime or a pattern of crime happening within the neighborhood I live, I want to know about that," said Dave Bordewyk, general manager at the South Dakota Newspaper Association. "Not having that information certainly doesn't help me as a resident of the community feel any safer."

The changes come in response an amendment approved this month by voters that incorporates crime victims' rights into the state constitution. The measure includes a provision that gives victims "the right to prevent disclosure of information or records that could be used to locate or harass the victim or the victim's family."

The passage of Marsy's Law has spurred many discussions in law enforcement, but so far there are few answers, said Staci Ackerman, executive director of the South Dakota Sheriffs' Association. Agencies' reactions will vary across the state depending on the interpretations of their local city attorneys and state's attorneys, she said.

Minnehaha County Sheriff Mike Milstead said his office will also use less specific addresses when sharing information about crimes. Providing vague details about the location where misconduct occurred could significantly hinder the agency's ability to find witnesses or enlist the public to help solve a case, he said.

"We're hoping that it shakes out, but it's a constitutional amendment," Milstead said. "That isn't something a sheriff changes or necessarily even the Legislature changes."

Authorities are taking an "overly cautious" approach that will likely be rolled back as the amendment is better understood, Marsy's Law for South Dakota Chairman Jason Glodt said. The measure doesn't automatically prevent such details from being released, but allows victims to invoke their right to privacy if that's what they want, he said.

The amendment 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 more states.

Voters in Montana and the Dakotas approved Marsy's Law earlier this month, joining California and Illinois. North Dakota State's Attorneys' Association executive director Aaron Birst said he hasn't heard of North Dakota law enforcement agencies following the example of Sioux Falls.

Bismarck police have taken notice, though Sgt. Mark Buschena said the department hasn't taken such steps yet and is still evaluating how to comply with Marsy's Law.

In Montana, Billings police are still discussing with the city and county attorneys what changes will

have to be implemented as a result of Marsy's Law, including the release of crime scene locations. More information is expected next week, when officers are set to undergo training on the new requirements.

Associated Press writer Matt Volz in Helena, Montana, contributed to this report.

Pipeline protest arrests strain North Dakota's court system

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON**, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The hundreds of arrests during the months of protests against the Dakota Access oil pipeline in North Dakota have created an unprecedented burden for the state's court system, which faces huge cost overruns and doesn't have enough judges, lawyers and clerks to handle the workload.

Police have made nearly 575 arrests since August during clashes at the protesters' main camp along the pipeline route in southern North Dakota and at protests in and around the state capital, Bismarck, about 50 miles to the north. That's far more arrests than these areas typically deal with and it could lead to delays in bringing cases to trial, experts say.

"We don't have sufficient judges to get all of those cases heard in a timely fashion," said Sally Holewa, North Dakota's state court administrator.

The state judicial system will ask the Legislature next year for an additional \$1.5 million to cover protest-related costs. That amounts to about 1 ½ percent of its current two-year budget.

"This is a first," Holewa said. "The judicial branch has never had to ask for a deficiency appropriation in its history," which dates back more than a century.

The protest-related cases also are putting a pinch on the organization that provides public defenders in North Dakota. The Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents might seek an additional \$670,000 from the Legislature, which amounts to about 3 ½ percent of its current two-year budget, according to its executive director, H. Jean Delaney.

"It is highly unusual," Delaney said. "We did make a (similar) request once before, during the oil boom, in the 2013-15 biennium. It's kind of interesting — it was kind of a similar situation, where court cases really grew."

The commission has accepted more than 225 protest-related cases. They are being handled by 65 defense attorneys, and the commission is seeking seven more.

South Central District Court, where the cases are being handled, didn't immediately have data on the total number of cases or any backlogs. However, Holewa said the sheer volume of cases raises concerns about the defendants' right to a speedy trial and due process.

"Any time justice is unduly delayed, it causes issues," she said. "You have issues with people's memories, and (in this case) you also have people from out of state — not just those charged, but also police officers from out of state. All of that makes it essential that we try to get these cases heard timely."

The \$3.8 billion pipeline to carry North Dakota oil to a shipping point in Illinois is nearly complete, aside from a stretch beneath a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota. Pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners says the pipeline will be safe, but the Standing Rock Sioux tribe says the project threatens the drinking water on its nearby reservation as well as some American Indian cultural sites. People from around the country have taken up the tribe's cause, with thousands of them congregating at the protest camp.

Fewer than 8 percent of the protesters who have been arrested are from North Dakota, according to data from the Morton County Sheriff's Office. Nearly one-fourth are from the West Coast.

Most of the cases are being handled in state court. The federal court system apparently is feeling an impact, however. In court documents requesting a delay in an unconnected case, Assistant U.S. Attorney Gary Delorme told the judge that protests were "consuming significant time and attention."

U.S. Attorney Chris Myers declined to elaborate or say how many cases the federal court system is handling. However, one high-profile case involving a Denver woman accused of firing shots at officers during a protest clash recently was transferred from state court to federal court.

Meanwhile, several pipeline protesters are suing Morton County, the city of Mandan and North Dakota law enforcement officials in federal court in Bismarck, saying their civil rights were violated during a clash with authorities earlier this month. Authorities have said their use of tear gas, rubber bullets and water spray was necessary to maintain order. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages.

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

Drug-resistant salmonella linked to Wisconsin calves

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A multistate outbreak of salmonella bacteria that is resistant to several drugs has been linked to infected dairy bull calves purchased in Wisconsin, according to federal and state health officials.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 21 people were infected in eight states from Jan. 11 through Oct. 24. Eight of the 21 people sickened were hospitalized, but no deaths have been reported.

Those who were sickened ranged in age from 1 year to 72. Wisconsin has the most cases with 12 people infected in eight counties. Among the Wisconsin patients, more than 90 percent had direct or indirect contact with dairy bull calves and more than half the illnesses occurred in children under 10 years of age, according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

In Minnesota, health officials said a 16-year-old boy was sickened with the Salmonella Heidelberg strain in July shortly after purchasing calves from a Wisconsin dealer for a 4-H project. The boy recovered from his flu-like illness without hospitalization.

The CDC says its investigation identified dairy bull calves from livestock markets in Wisconsin as the likely source of infections. Federal and state health and agricultural officials are investigating where calves associated with the bacteria were sold or originated.

Minnesota and South Dakota each have two cases and California, Iowa, Idaho, Missouri and Oklahoma each have one.

Health officials say people should always wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water after touching livestock or anything in the area where the animals live. The agency has not issued any warning against eating beef or dairy products in relation to the outbreak.

South Dakota wildlife sanctuary hopes to regain license

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Officials of a western South Dakota wildlife sanctuary that lost its federal license and had most of its animals removed hopes to regain the license by spring.

Fred Erdman, president of the Spirit of the Hills board of directors, told the Black Hills Pioneer (<http://bit.ly/2gBUc0b>) that the sanctuary is creating a new board that will see if it can get its U.S. Department of Agriculture license back.

"One of our biggest features, we tour a lot of school-aged children (through the sanctuary) every spring," he said. "It would be nice to do that again. Granted, it won't have exotic animals, but we'd like to have some sort of educational program put together."

In the meantime, Erdman would like to host the Living Nativity this December, without any animals on display.

"To me, a lot of what the nativity is about, is getting families together and coming to experience what it may have been like," he said.

But Bobbi Brink, the director of California-based animal sanctuary Lions, Tigers, and Bears, has called for the South Dakota sanctuary to dissolve. Brink has been assisting Spirit of the Hills with the removal of animals to other facilities around the country.

"I was really hoping to get them (Spirit of the Hills) 100 more animals down so that there was a sustainable number. The animal care is just not there," she said.

Brink said she wants all of the sanctuary's animals to be removed and for it to sell off its assets to pay for animal care at facilities that took in the animals.

Erdman disagreed with Brink, saying animals at the South Dakota facility are well cared for.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

Fall fieldwork wraps up for most South Dakota farmers

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Fall fieldwork has ended for most South Dakota farmers.

The Agriculture Department in its final weekly crop report for the 2016 growing season says much of eastern South Dakota received precipitation over the past week, while drought conditions persisted across the west.

The report says about half of the state's winter wheat crop remains in good to excellent condition. Only 9 percent is rated poor or very poor.

Pasture and range conditions statewide are rated 34 percent good to excellent. Stock water supplies are 69 percent adequate to surplus.

Trump says he's stepping out of his business empire

By **JULIE PACE** and **LAURIE KELLMAN**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump said Wednesday that he's leaving his business empire to focus on being the nation's 45th president, bowing to pressure to avoid potential conflicts of interest between governing and profiting in the private sector.

"I will be leaving my great business in total in order to fully focus on running the country in order to make America great again," he tweeted in a series of missives sent before dawn. "While I am not mandated to do this under the law, I feel it is visually important, as president, to in no way have a conflict of interest with my various businesses."

He said legal documents are "being crafted which take me completely out of business operations," he added, saying the presidency is "a far more important task!"

Meanwhile, former Goldman Sachs executive Steven Mnuchin, Trump's former campaign finance director, confirmed that Trump has picked him as treasury secretary and that billionaire investor Wilbur Ross has been chosen for commerce secretary.

Mnuchin, 53, led Trump's finance operations during the presidential campaign. But he has no government experience, which could prove a hurdle in navigating the tricky politics of Washington. If confirmed by the Senate, Mnuchin would play a central role in shaping Trump's tax policies and infrastructure plans. He would also lead an agency tasked with implementing international economic sanctions.

Asked about Trump's announcement on separating himself from his business empire, Reince Priebus, Trump's incoming White House chief of staff, said "that'll all be worked out."

Priebus said Wednesday on MSNBC's "Morning Joe," that "he's got the best people in America working on it." Priebus demurred when asked if Trump planned to put his businesses in a blind trust or leave them in the hands of his adult children.

"I'm, not ready to reveal that really," he said.

Priebus added that Trump's business acumen and the many business interests he has as a result of it is "nothing to be ashamed about." He said Trump is "taking seriously" the issue of possible conflicts of interest.

"We're making sure that all those conflicts are taken care of," Priebus said. He said the applicable rules and regulations "are very vague" and that's Trump's people are "doing the best job we can."

Priebus said the country hasn't seen a president of such business acumen before and that the rules and regulations "don't contemplate this scenario."

Mnuchin, meanwhile, told CNBC on Wednesday that he and Ross are "thrilled to work for the president-elect and honored to have these positions." He said "sustained economic growth" is the chief priority of the incoming administration and that "we can absolutely get to sustained 3 to 4 percent" in the gross

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domestic product.

He also outlined what he called "the largest tax change" since President Ronald Reagan — cutting the corporate tax rate to 15 percent, a "big" middle-class income tax cut and simplifying taxes.

Indonesia protests awaken fears for minority Chinese

By STEPHEN WRIGHT, Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — The capital of Muslim-majority Indonesia is on edge ahead of what is expected to be a second massive protest by conservative Muslims against its Christian governor and no group more so than its Chinese minority.

They have reason to be concerned. The movement against the governor, who is being prosecuted for allegedly insulting the Quran, has overflowed with racial slurs against his Chinese ancestry, an unnerving sign in a country with a history of lashing out violently against the ethnic minority that makes up 1 percent of its 250 million people.

The first major protest against Gov. Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama on Nov. 4 drew more than 100,000 people to Jakarta's streets. Some held up banners calling for Ahok to be killed or decrying Chinese influence. It ended in violence, with one death and dozens injured after hard-liners attacked police. A separate mob tried to invade the apartment complex where Ahok lives in the north of the city and vandalized property in the area, which is home to many Chinese.

Hard-line organizers of the protest, who were unsatisfied by a police decision earlier this month to formally name Ahok as a suspect in the blasphemy case instead of arresting him, are promising another giant rally on Friday. After police pressure, they have agreed to concentrate the rally around a national monument in central Jakarta and insist it will be peaceful.

The furor over Ahok, sparked by his criticism of detractors who argued the Quran prohibits Muslims from having a non-Muslim leader, has highlighted religious and racial fault lines in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, and the growing challenge from proponents of Shariah law to its secular system of government.

For Chinese Indonesians, the controversy has awakened painful memories of the mass protests that ousted late dictator Suharto during the 1998 Asian financial crisis. Boiling resentment against immigrant Chinese tycoons who profited from ties to Suharto and his famously corrupt family spilled over into mob attacks on Chinese property and people, killing many. Nearly two decades later, Jakarta's Chinatown is still scarred by the burned out shells of buildings torched in the chaos.

"Certainly as Chinese descendants, we are still traumatized by the riots in 1998," said Clement Alexander, a grocery store owner in a narrow lane of the bustling Petak Sembilan market in Chinatown. "We heard that horrible event may happen again if the government fails to control the protests. It's scared us, but we cannot do anything except pray," he said.

"For rich ethnic Chinese, they could flee to Singapore or to other countries, but for lower-class people like me it is rather difficult, we just survive and depend on the government for protection."

When Ahok in 2012 became the first Chinese to be elected deputy governor of Jakarta, and the first Christian in half a century, it was seen as a sign of the pluralistic tolerance fostered by the moderate form of Islam practiced in Indonesia.

But his rise to governor in 2014 to replace political ally Joko "Jokowi" Widodo after his election as president was unpalatable to hard-liners. With the support of moderates that hope to gain from Ahok's fall, they have elevated their agenda to the national stage, and revealed that intolerant interpretations of Islam adapted from the Middle East have made greater inroads than believed.

Ahok is running for a second term as governor in elections due in February but since the blasphemy accusations erupted in September, his sky-high popularity in opinion polls has melted away. A pro-tolerance rally in Jakarta on Nov. 19 attracted less than 10,000 people. A military-organized event in the city on Wednesday meant to showcase respect for all of Indonesia's six officially recognized religions was mainly populated by soldiers, schoolchildren and police, who had no choice about attending.

For the Nov. 4 protest, the normally clogged streets of Jakarta were nearly emptied of cars, embassies closed, countries such as Australia issued advisories against travel to the city and many businesses shut-

tered for the day, particularly in Chinatown.

"We are afraid the riots in 1998 would be repeated. But I don't want to talk about that horrible event," said Jhony Tan, owner of a store selling Buddhist worship paraphernalia.

"I hope the government can handle this issue, so there's no negative impact to any other community, especially to ethnic Chinese here. If they fail, Indonesia will be ruined," he said. "I'm sure the majority of Indonesian people are willing to see that this problem has nothing to do with us."

Christianto Wibisono, an ethnic Chinese businessman and former government adviser whose home was burned in the 1998 riots, said that despite communal tensions, he is hopeful the government will maintain calm during Friday's protest and beyond.

The government's approach needs to sap the momentum of a vocal and highly motivated minority but faces challenges: the moderate, silent majority is intimidated by the hard-liners' tactics and months of campaigning for the Jakarta gubernatorial election as well as Ahok's blasphemy trial will keep divisive issues in the spotlight.

"Now is really the crucial test for Indonesia to maintain the country's secular philosophy rather than be run over by Shariah groups. That would affect the whole world, if Indonesia became like the Middle East," he said. "We should not import Middle East extremism. We should export our moderate Islamic philosophy and pluralism."

Associated Press writer Niniek Karmini contributed to this report.

Follow Stephen Wright: twitter.com/stephenwrightAP

Possible tornado kills 3 in Alabama as storms cross South

ROSALIE, Ala. (AP) — A suspected tornado killed three people in Alabama as a line of severe storms moved across the South overnight, authorities said.

The three who died were all in a mobile home in the northeastern Alabama community of Rosalie, Jackson County Chief Deputy Rocky Harnen told The Associated Press early Wednesday. Another person in the home was critically injured, Harnen said.

Harnen also said there were a number of other injuries and estimated that 16 to 20 structures in the county have been destroyed. He could not give an exact number of injuries. The suspected tornado affected an area of homes and businesses that covered nearly half a mile, Harnen said.

Harnen also said authorities were searching door to door before dawn Wednesday for any other damage.

Possible tornadoes were reported across several counties in northern Alabama and southern Tennessee, National Weather Service meteorologist Lauren Nash said.

Tornadoes and hail were also reported Tuesday in Louisiana and Mississippi. In Mississippi, the National Weather Service in Jackson said late Tuesday that it had counted six confirmed tornadoes so far in the areas of the state it monitors.

10 Things to Know for Today By The Associated Press

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

1. WHAT MAY DELIGHT SOME, DISMAY OTHERS

Two months out from Inauguration Day, there are growing signs that Trump's idea of what's presidential may never sync up with past norms.

2. JOB-SAVER IN INDIANA

Air conditioning company Carrier Corp. says it has reached a deal with Trump to keep nearly 1,000 jobs in the Hoosier State.

3. COLOMBIA'S WORST AIR CRASH IN TWO DECADES PROBED

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Authorities try to figure out why a chartered jetliner carrying a Brazilian soccer team crashed in the Andes, killing all but six of the 77 people aboard.

4. FIDEL'S ASHES SET FOR TOUR

Castro's remains depart Havana on a four-day caravan across the Caribbean island that will trace in reverse his victorious march from Santiago to the capital.

5. DEADLY STORMS HIT SOUTHEAST US

Authorities say three people have been killed as a line of storms and possible tornadoes moved across northern Alabama overnight.

6. ARTILLERY BARRAGE KILLS MANY DISPLACED IN ALEPPO

Syrian activists say at least 21 people have been killed in an attack on a housing area for those displaced in rebel-held eastern Aleppo and accused government forces of being behind it.

7. WHO IS FACING A CHALLENGE IN HOUSE LEADERSHIP

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi looks likely to prevail after promising some changes to give newer lawmakers a bigger voice.

8. PARK STILL FACES IMPEACHMENT

Opposition parties agree to stick to their plans to oust the South Korean president, dismissing her offer to resign if parliament arranges a safe transfer of power.

9. ORDINARY PEOPLE TRAINED TO SAVE LIVES IN SHOOTINGS, ATTACKS

A federal initiative seeks to train everyone at schools and other public places in how to treat injuries from a mass attack like the one at Ohio State until paramedics arrive.

10. HILLARY CLINTON MAKES SURPRISE APPEARANCE AT UNICEF GALA

Katy Perry was the night's big honoree, but the former presidential candidate gets the biggest ovation as she presented the pop star with an award at the Snowflake Ball.

Carrier says it has deal with Trump to keep jobs in Indiana

By **JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Air conditioning company Carrier Corp. says it has reached a deal with President-elect Donald Trump to keep nearly 1,000 jobs in Indiana. Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence plan to travel to the state Thursday to unveil the agreement alongside company officials.

Trump confirmed the meeting on Twitter late Tuesday, promising a "Great deal for workers!"

Trump spent much of his campaign pledging to keep companies like Carrier from moving jobs overseas. His focus on manufacturing jobs contributed to his unexpected appeal with working-class voters in states like Michigan, which has long voted for Democrats in presidential elections.

The details of the agreement were unclear. Carrier tweeted that the company was "pleased to have reached a deal" with Trump and Pence to keep the jobs in Indianapolis.

A transition official confirmed that the president-elect and Pence, who is ending his tenure as Indiana governor, would appear with Carrier officials Thursday. The official insisted on anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss the trip ahead of an official announcement.

Trump said last week that he was "making progress" on trying to get Carrier to stay in Indiana.

In February, Carrier said it would shutter its Indianapolis plant employing 1,400 workers and move its manufacturing to Mexico. The plant's workers would have been laid off over three years starting in 2017.

United Technologies Electronic Controls also announced then that it planned to move its Huntington manufacturing operations to a new plant in Mexico, costing the northeastern Indiana city 700 jobs by 2018. Those workers make microprocessor-based controls for the HVAC and refrigeration industries.

Carrier and UTEC are both units of Hartford, Connecticut-based United Technologies Corp. — which also owns Pratt & Whitney, a big supplier of fighter jet engines that relies in part on U.S. military contracts.

In a September debate against Democratic rival Hillary Clinton, Trump railed against Carrier's plans.

"So many hundreds and hundreds of companies are doing this," Trump said. "We have to stop our jobs from being stolen from us. We have to stop our companies from leaving the United States."

Carrier wasn't the only company Trump assailed during the campaign. He pledged to give up Oreos after Nabisco's parent, Mondelez International, said it would replace nine production lines in Chicago with four in Mexico. He criticized Ford after the company said it planned to invest \$2.5 billion in engine and transmission plants in Mexico.

Chuck Jones, president of United Steelworkers Local 1999, which represents Carrier workers, said of Tuesday's news: "I'm optimistic, but I don't know what the situation is. I guess it's a good sign. ... You would think they would keep us in the loop. But we know nothing."

The event Thursday in Indiana will be a rare public appearance for Trump, who has spent nearly his entire tenure as president-elect huddled with advisers and meeting with possible Cabinet secretaries. He plans to make other stops later this week as part of what advisers have billed as a "thank you" tour for voters who backed him in the presidential campaign.

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

Trump transition points toward presidency with new norms

By NANCY BENAC, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump, that most unconventional of presidential candidates, last spring pledged that he would act perfectly presidential when the time was right.

"I will be so presidential that you'll call me and you'll say, 'Donald, you have to stop that, it's too much,'" he promised during a March television interview.

Less than two months from Inauguration Day, there are growing signs that Trump's idea of what's presidential may never sync up with past norms — to the delight of some and dismay of others.

The president-elect has kept up his habit of sending unfiltered tweets, directly challenged the First Amendment right to burn the flag and selected a flame-throwing outsider for a top adviser. He's shown no hesitation to traffic in unsubstantiated rumors, has mixed dealings in business and government, and has flouted diplomatic conventions to make his own suggestion for who should be Britain's ambassador to the U.S., a job that happens to already be filled. He's picked numerous fights with individual journalists, disregarded past practices on press access and dabbled in the name-calling that was commonplace during his candidacy.

Trump's search for Cabinet nominees has played out like a reality TV show, with a number of candidates engaged in unabashed self-promotion while their assets and liabilities are publicly debated by members of the president-elect's own transition team. (It's normally a hush-hush process until the unveiling of an appointee). Trump's tweet that "Fidel Castro is dead!" had none of the diplomatic subtleties normally associated with such an international development.

Is all of this, then, the "new normal" for what to expect from a Trump administration or a reflection of the growing pains associated with any presidential transition?

President Barack Obama, who knows a thing or two about making the big leap to the Oval Office, has expressed hope that the weight of the office will ultimately have a sobering effect on Trump, cautioning people against assuming "the worst."

"How you campaign isn't always the same as how you govern," Obama said in one of a string of recent comments trying to provide some measure of reassurance to those concerned about the next president. "Sometimes when you're campaigning, you're trying to stir up passions. When you govern, you actually have reality in front of you, and you have to figure out, 'How do I make this work.'"

Republican Rep. Mark Meadows of North Carolina, a strong conservative and a Trump defender, said of the transition, "You gotta break a few eggs to make an omelet."

But Thomas Mann, a longtime scholar of government from the Brookings Institution, said that while people can hope for the best, "There's no reason to take what's going on with anything other than great

uneasiness and caution about the kind of government that is preparing to take control in the United States.”

“To call this the ‘new normal’ is to make light of the seriousness of what’s going on,” Mann said.

Trump has “got to get some discipline,” said New York University’s Paul Light, another scholar of government. “He’s just got to get on this.”

On the matter of Trump’s tweeting, Light said, “If he’s up at 3 a.m. about to tweet, he should start reading something about his agenda instead. He’s under-informed and so is his staff.”

The concerns extend well beyond matters of style.

—Trump’s out-of-the-blue tweet this week that people who burn the flag should face jail time or a loss of citizenship had Republicans stepping forward to defend First Amendment rights.

—His unfounded charges that millions of Americans voted illegally sow distrust in the integrity of the U.S. electoral system.

—On matters of press access, the idea that the whereabouts of the president or president-elect might be unknown in a time of national emergency has troubling implications beyond mere inconvenience for reporters.

And experts on government ethics say that if the president doesn’t sell off his vast business buildings, he’ll be subject to a never-ending string of conflict-of-interest questions that will cast a cloud over his policy actions.

For all of that, though, polls show Trump’s favorability ratings have ticked up since the election, even if they are still extremely low for an incoming president.

A CNN survey released last week found that Trump’s favorability rating had gone from 36 percent a few weeks before the election to 47 percent 10 days after the vote. A little less than half of Americans said Trump’s actions since the election had made them more confident in his ability to serve as president.

A Quinnipiac poll released last week found that nearly 6 in 10 Americans thought Trump should shut down his personal Twitter account. And more than half were concerned that Trump might veto legislation that’s good for the nation if it hurt his business interests.

Trump has offered post-election reassurances that he’ll be “very restrained” in his tweets and more going forward. His actions haven’t always confirmed that.

Follow Nancy Benac on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/nbenac>

Reckoning for Pelosi as House Democrats vote for leader

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi faces a challenge to her job as frustrated House Democrats meet to select a new slate of leaders.

Pelosi is likely to be re-elected easily Wednesday despite disenchantment among some in the Democratic caucus she has led since 2002. Ohio Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan is challenging her for the job, arguing that newer lawmakers need a bigger voice in a caucus that’s been led for years by the same aging slate of leaders and committee chairmen.

Leadership elections were originally scheduled to be held before Thanksgiving but were delayed to give Democrats more time to discuss and process the election results and consider a path forward. Many are discouraged after losing the White House and making smaller than expected gains in both chambers of Congress.

“I believe we must do more than simply paper over the cracks,” said Rep. Ruben Gallego of Arizona, one of a handful of House Democrats to endorse Ryan. “We can’t just say the right things — we must take concrete steps to move our party in the right direction.”

The 76-year-old Pelosi has been promising some changes to assuage concerns in her caucus, including adding a member of the freshmen class to her leadership team. But her proposals do little to ensure new blood at the very top or change the seniority system that has key committees led by lawmakers in their 80s at a moment when the party needs to be defending President Barack Obama’s health care law and

other initiatives.

Nonetheless Pelosi projected confidence heading into the vote. Known for her vote-counting skills, the Californian asserted she had support of two-thirds of Democrats locked up.

"Leader Pelosi is honored to receive the overwhelming support of her colleagues," said spokesman Drew Hammill. "That so many members are so enthusiastic and eager to take active roles in the caucus is music to her ears."

Other top leadership posts are uncontested, with Steny Hoyer of Maryland expected to stay in the No. 2 job of whip, and Jim Clyburn of South Carolina in the No. 3 position of assistant leader. The position of conference chairman is term-limited, and Xavier Becerra of California is expected to be replaced by Joe Crowley of New York.

There is a contest for the position of conference vice chair between two California Democrats, Linda Sanchez and Barbara Lee. Either would become the first minority woman in leadership.

On the eve of the House leadership elections, 85-year-old Rep. Sander Levin, the top Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee, said he will not seek re-election to the panel post, clearing the way for a younger lawmaker to move into the spot on the powerful committee. Becerra and Rep. Richard Neal of Massachusetts told House Democrats they are interested in the position.

Republicans are on track to hold at least 240 seats in the House next year. Democrats, who had high hopes of significant gains in the election, picked up just six seats on Election Day earlier this month and remain in the minority with 194 seats.

Deadly, destructive wildfires ravage Tennessee tourism town

By ADAM BEAM and JONATHAN MATTISE, Associated Press

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (AP) — In the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, a Tennessee tourist mecca emerged from the smoke, charred and vacant after a swift-moving wildfire. Many buildings were burned to their foundations. Hotel fire alarms echoed through empty streets lined with burned-out cars.

The fire picked its spots as it tore through the Gatlinburg area Monday: It destroyed at least 150 buildings but left others intact. Three people were killed and more than a dozen were hospitalized.

By Tuesday evening, almost nothing remained of the Castle, perhaps the largest and most iconic home overlooking Gatlinburg. Entire churches disappeared. So did the Cupid's Chapel of Love wedding venue, though its managers promised to move scheduled weddings to a sister venue, Chapel at the Park.

Officials surveying early damage said the Westgate Smoky Mountain Resort & Spa, with more than 100 buildings, is likely entirely gone.

"I'm just astonished this is my town," Marci Claude, a spokeswoman for the city and for Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, said as she saw the destruction for the first time on a media tour Tuesday.

Fanned by hurricane-force winds Monday night, the flames reached the doorstep of Dollywood, the theme park in nearby Pigeon Forge named after country music legend and local hero Dolly Parton. The park was spared any significant damage.

Local officials offered reassurance that the worst was over Tuesday. More rain was in the forecast overnight and through Wednesday, though high winds were expected Tuesday night.

Much remained uncertain for a region that serves as the gateway into the Great Smoky Mountains, the country's most visited national park. Search and rescue efforts continued through the night in areas that had been unreachable because of downed power lines and trees.

A somber reality set in for Gatlinburg, a city of just 3,944 residents that draws more than 11 million visitors a year. But even Gatlinburg Mayor Mike Werner, who lost his home in the fire, remained steadfast that his city will recover.

"It's a devastating time for us and for Gatlinburg," Werner said at a news conference Tuesday. "As I said earlier this morning, we're strong. We're resilient. And we're going to make it. We're going to pull it together and continue to make Gatlinburg the premier resort that it is."

In all, more than 14,000 residents and tourists were forced to evacuate the tourist city in the mountains,

where some hotspots persisted and a curfew was in effect overnight Tuesday.

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam, who flew in to see the damage caused by a fire he called the largest in the state in the past 100 years, said he was struck by how some buildings were burned to the ground while others — including most of the downtown entertainment cluster — were untouched.

“It just could have been so much worse,” he said.

The governor said work would begin quickly to repair the damage to what he called “a special place in the state of Tennessee.”

Though wildfires have been burning for several weeks across the drought-stricken South, Monday marked the first time any homes and businesses were destroyed on a large scale.

Rain forecast for Wednesday should help the area after weeks of punishing drought, but the bone-dry ground should soak up the moisture quickly, forecasters said. Rainfall amounts have been 10 to 15 inches below normal during the past three months in many parts of the South.

The Gatlinburg area wildfires spread when winds blew trees onto power lines, sparking new fires and shooting embers over long distances. Hundreds of homes and other buildings, including a 16-story hotel, were damaged or destroyed.

The fires spread quickly Monday night, when winds topping 87 mph whipped up the flames, catching residents and tourists in the area by surprise. Police banged on front doors and told people to get out immediately. Some trekked 20 minutes to catch lifesaving rides on trolleys usually reserved for tours and wedding parties.

“There was fire everywhere. It was like we were in hell,” said Linda Monholland, who was working at Park View Inn in Gatlinburg when she and five other people fled on foot. “Walking through hell, that’s what it was. I can’t believe it. I never want to see something like that again in my life, ever.”

Mattise reported from Nashville, Tennessee. Associated Press writers Steve Megargee, Kristin M. Hall and Erik Schelzig in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, contributed to this report.

Ordinary people trained to save lives in shootings, attacks

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

STONY BROOK, N.Y. (AP) — It’s become a hallmark of terror attacks and school shootings: the fateful minutes or hours when the wounded are hunkered down, waiting for the violence to play out and for help to arrive.

In Monday’s car-and-knife attack at Ohio State University, one of the 11 wounded victims hid in a campus building for nearly 90 minutes before police gave the all-clear and she could be treated. When a gunman opened fire at an Orlando, Florida, nightclub, in June, a woman sent a frantic text message to her mother saying she had been shot and couldn’t stop the bleeding. She later died.

Such incidents are the impetus behind a new federal initiative to train everyone at schools and other public places — custodians, security guards and administrators — on how to treat gunshots, gashes and other injuries until actual EMTs can get to the scene.

“We don’t want you to just hide and bleed to death like we saw in Orlando and other places,” said Lawrence Zaccarese, the assistant chief of police at Stony Brook University, which is spearheading training for school districts and colleges across the country. “We want you hiding and maintaining and doing some administration of first aid until we can get there.”

At a training session Tuesday, paramedics and doctors brought in fake body parts — blood spurting from the wounds — to show staffers of a Long Island school district how to tie tourniquets and pack open wounds with whatever they have.

“Seconds matter. It really can be minutes when you can lose your life,” said Dr. James Vosswinkel, the chief of trauma and emergency surgery at Stony Brook University Hospital, who led the training.

“Take yesterday at Ohio State, someone is hiding out and if they are hemorrhaging, what do they have available? Do they have shoe strings on? Do they have a tie on? Can they make a tourniquet?” Vosswinkel

said.

Doctors emphasized that in the critical seconds after an attack it's important for teachers and other school staff to stay calm and begin assessing injuries. Teachers learned to apply tourniquets in case a student is shot in the arms or legs — using T-shirts or belts, if necessary — and to stick anything they can to pack wounds in the torso.

"I don't care if you stick Kleenex in there, pack it up," Vosswinkel said. "We want the average person, even if they are injured themselves, to be able to perform these potentially life-saving medical skills."

They drew the line, however, on untrained people trying to do more invasive emergency procedures, such as trying to remove a bullet, which could end up making the bleeding worse or causing an infection.

Among the questions raised during the training: What do you do if a kindergartener is shot? How do you keep a class of kids quiet while holding down a 5-year-old child and try to stop them from bleeding to death?

"I always think of what happened in Columbine and the students saying 'We have a teacher up here. He's bleeding to death. Please get up here!'" said Cheryl Pedisich, the superintendent of the Three Village Central School District, whose staff was being trained Tuesday. "Had they had these strategies to be able to use, I think that teacher probably could have lived."

Stony Brook doctors have reached out to local schools to offer the training, but are looking to expand the program as part of a federal Department of Homeland Security initiative to other schools, colleges and police departments across the country.

"Nobody should die from preventable hemorrhage," Vosswinkel said.

Follow Michael Balsamo on Twitter @MikeBalsamo1.

Hillary Clinton makes surprise appearance at UNICEF gala

By **NEKESA MUMBI MOODY**, AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Katy Perry was the night's big honoree, but Hillary Clinton got the biggest ovation as the former presidential candidate presented the pop star with an award from UNICEF at Tuesday's Snowflake Ball.

Clinton, who lost the recent election to Donald Trump, gave Perry the Audrey Hepburn Humanitarian Award for her charitable efforts with the organization. Her appearance at the event was a surprise, and Clinton got a sustained standing ovation from the cheering crowd.

She described Perry as someone who has "the spirit and the energy and the compassion that Audrey Hepburn brought to her work from UNICEF."

She added that Perry had the most Twitter followers, then jokingly added that she "might have some competition" — an apparent reference to the ever-tweeting president-elect.

Clinton also said Perry's lyrics "remind us when you get knocked down to get back up" — causing more cheers to erupt in the audience.

Perry was a big supporter of the Democrat, who won the popular vote, and even campaigned for her. She broke into tears when Clinton surprised her with her appearance at the event.

In her acceptance speech, Perry credited Clinton for helping use her voice for more than just her hits.

"Hillary has lit that voice inside of me, and that light will never go out!" she shouted.

"It will get brighter and brighter and brighter. Thank you, Hillary. You motivate me and so many millions of people who appreciate you for your incredible work," Perry said as the crowd gave Clinton another ovation.

Clinton has made only one other public appearance at an event since conceding the race to Trump.

Hunt begins for cause of crash that wipes out Brazilian team

By **FERNANDO VERGARA** and **JOSHUA GOODMAN**, Associated Press

LA UNION, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's worst air crash in two decades snuffed out a storybook run by a Brazilian soccer team, and authorities are digging in trying to figure out why a chartered jetliner crashed

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in the Andes, killing all but six of the 77 people aboard.

The country's aviation agency said Tuesday that the British Aerospace 146's cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder had been found among the wreckage strewn over a mountainside and were already being studied by experts.

Initially, Colombian officials said the short-haul jet suffered an electrical failure, but there was also heavy rain when the crew declared an emergency and the plane disappeared from radar just before 10 p.m. Monday.

Authorities also said they were not ruling out the possibility the aircraft ran out of fuel minutes before it was to land at Jose Maria Cordova airport outside Medellin, a report given to rescuers by a surviving flight attendant. Officials said they hoped to interview her Wednesday.

Emotional pain resonated across the region over the loss of much of the Chapecoense soccer team from southern Brazil, which just two years after working its way into Brazil's top league for the first time in decades had fought its way into the championship of one of South America's most prestigious tournaments.

The aircraft, which departed from Santa Cruz, Bolivia, was carrying the team to Wednesday's first game in the two-game Copa Sudamericana final against Atletico Nacional of Medellin. Twenty-one Brazilian journalists were traveling with the team.

South America's soccer federation canceled all scheduled matches in a show of solidarity, while the Real Madrid and Barcelona clubs interrupted their training sessions for a minute of silence. Brazil's top teams offered to lend players to the small club for next season as it rebuilds, saying: "It is the minimum gesture of solidarity that is within our reach."

In a moving gesture, Atletico Nacional asked that the championship title be given to Chapecoense, whose upstart run in the tournament electrified soccer-crazed Brazil.

Three players were among the survivors. Alan Ruschel was reported in the most serious condition, facing surgery for a spinal fracture. Teammates Helio Zampier and Jakson Follmann also suffered multiple trauma injuries, and doctors had to amputate Follmann's right leg.

A journalist also underwent surgery and two Bolivian crew members were in stable condition, hospital officials said.

The aircraft is owned by LaMia, a charter company that started in Venezuela but later relocated to Bolivia, where it was certified to operate last January. Despite apparently limited experience, the airline has a close relationship with several premier South American soccer squads.

Earlier this month, the plane involved in the crash transported Barcelona forward Lionel Messi and Argentina's national team from Brazil following a World Cup qualifying match. The airliner also appeared to have transported the national squads of Brazil, Bolivia and Venezuela in the last three months, according to a log of recent activity provided by Flightradar24.com.

Before being taken offline, LaMia's website said it operated three 146 Avro short-haul jets made by British Aerospace, with a maximum range of around 2,965 kilometers (1,600 nautical miles) — about the distance between Santa Cruz and Medellin.

Hans Weber, a longtime adviser to U.S. aviation authorities, said the aircraft's range deserves careful investigation. He noted that air distance between cities is usually measured by the shortest route but planes rarely fly in a straight line, with pilots steering around turbulence or changing course for other reasons.

Given the model of the plane and the fact that it was flying close to capacity, "I would be concerned that the pilots may have been cutting it too close," Weber said.

A spokesman for Bolivia's civil aviation agency, Cesar Torrico, said the plane was inspected before departing for Colombia and no problems were reported.

Gustavo Vargas, a retired Bolivian air force general who is president of the airline, said: "We can't rule out anything. The investigation is ongoing and we're going to await the results."

Moments before the plane took off, the team's coaching staff gave an interview to a Bolivian television station in which they praised the airline, saying it brought them good fortune when it flew them to Colombia last month for the championship's quarterfinals, which they won.

"Now we're going to do this new trip and we hope they bring us good luck like they did the first time,"

athletic director Mauro Stumpf told Gigavision TV.

The team, from the small Brazilian city of Chapeco, was having a breakout season. It advanced to the Copa Sudamericana finals after defeating some of the region's top teams, including Argentina's San Lorenzo and Independiente.

The Chapecoense club is so modest that tournament organizers ruled its 22,000-seat stadium was too small to host the concluding match of the two-game final and moved it to a stadium 300 miles (480 kilometers) to the city of Curitiba. Some fans in soccer-mad Brazil were so enchanted with its magical run that they started a campaign online to move the final match to Rio de Janeiro's iconic Maracana stadium, where the 2014 World Cup final was played.

"This morning I said goodbye to them and they told me they were going after the dream, turning that dream into reality," Chapecoense board member Plinio De Nes told Brazil's TV Globo. "The dream was over early this morning."

Associated Press writer Fernando Vergara reported this story in La Union, Colombia, and AP writer Joshua Goodman reported from Bogota.

S. Korean opposition parties agree to impeach President Park

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's three main opposition parties agreed Wednesday to stick to their plans to impeach President Park Geun-hye, dismissing as a stalling tactic her offer to resign if parliament arranges a safe transfer of power.

Park's conditional resignation offer Tuesday came as she faces nosediving approval ratings and massive street rallies calling for her ouster amid a huge political scandal involving her and a longtime shadowy confidante.

"The people of South Korea do not want to enter the new year with Park Geun-hye as president," Choo Mi-ae, leader of the main opposition Democratic Party, said at the start of the meeting. "There is only one way under our constitution to halt a term of a president and that's an impeachment motion."

After the meeting, the three parties told a joint news conference that Park must step down immediately without setting any conditions and that their push for her impeachment remains unchanged.

The opposition parties agreed to put an impeachment motion to a vote as early as this Friday or meet again if this plan doesn't work, according to Yonhap news agency. The Democratic Party, formerly known by its Korean-language name, Minjoo, couldn't immediately confirm the report.

The opposition have previously said they would try to impeach Park either this Friday or on Dec. 9, when a parliamentary plenary session is scheduled.

Support from two-thirds of the 300-member parliament is needed to impeach Park. The three opposition parties and anti-Park independent lawmakers have a total of 172 seats, meaning they need help from dissenters in Park's ruling Saenuri Party.

It was unclear how much Park's overture could divide those who earlier supported her impeachment. But some in the Saenuri Party have already raised the need to review whether to try to impeach her or come up with other ways for her departure.

If impeached, Park's presidential powers are immediately suspended until the Constitutional Court makes a ruling on her fate. The court has 180 days of deliberation.

Park, in her Tuesday 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.

"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. Park refused to take any question from journalists after her comments.

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

Park, who has immunity from prosecution while in office, has refused to meet with prosecutors. Her lawyer says the prosecutors' accusations are groundless.

Park is the daughter of late dictator Park Chung-hee, whose 18-year rule ended after he was gunned down by his own intelligence chief in 1979.

Associated Press writer Kim Tong-hyung contributed to this report.

Ohio State attacker stewed over treatment of fellow Muslims

By **ERIC TUCKER, TAMI ABDOLLAH and ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS, Associated Press**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A Somali-born student who carried out a car-and-knife attack at Ohio State University stewed over the treatment of Muslims while apparently staying under the radar of federal law enforcement, underscoring the difficulty authorities face in identifying and stopping lone wolves bent on violence.

Abdul Razak Ali Artan was not known to FBI counterterrorism authorities before Monday's rampage, which ended with him shot to death by police and 11 people injured, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press.

That's in contrast to several other recent attacks, including those in New York City; Orlando, Florida; and Garland, Texas, in which those blamed for the violence had previously come to the attention of federal agents.

Law enforcement officials have not identified a motive for the Ohio State violence but have suggested terrorism as a possibility. FBI agents continued to search Artan's apartment for clues, but California U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said he had seen no evidence Artan was directed by or was in communication with any overseas terror organization.

The mode of attack — plowing a car into civilians, then slashing victims with a butcher knife — was in keeping with the recommended tactics of jihadist propaganda. And Facebook posts that were apparently written shortly before the attack and came to light afterward show Artan nursed grievances against the U.S.

He railed against U.S. intervention in Muslim lands and warned, "If you want us Muslims to stop carrying lone wolf attacks, then make peace" with the Islamic State group.

"America! Stop interfering with other countries, especially the Muslim Ummah. We are not weak. We are not weak, remember that," he wrote, using the Arabic term for the world's Muslim community.

He also warned that other Muslims are in sleeper cells, "waiting for a signal. I am warning you Oh America!"

The posts were recounted by a law enforcement official who was briefed on the investigation but wasn't authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

On Tuesday, a self-described Islamic State news agency called Artan "a soldier of the Islamic State" who "carried out the operation in response to calls to target citizens of international coalition countries." The Islamic State group has described other attackers around the world as its "soldiers" without specifically claiming to have organized the acts of violence.

Artan's social media rants seemed at odds with the portrait of the young man painted by neighbors and acquaintances.

Jack Ouham, owner of a market near the home on the outskirts of Columbus where Artan lived with his parents and siblings, saw him almost every day when he stopped in for snacks but never alcohol or cigarettes.

He was never angry, Ouham said.

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"Very nice guy," he said.

Artan graduated with honors from Columbus State Community College last May, earning an associate of arts degree. A video of his graduation ceremony shows him jumping and spinning on stage and smiling broadly, drawing laughs, cheers and smiles from graduates and faculty members.

The school said he had no behavioral or disciplinary problems while he was there from the fall of 2014 until this past summer.

He started at Ohio State in August as a business student studying logistics management.

A law enforcement official said Artan came to the U.S. in 2014 as the child of a refugee. Artan had been living in Pakistan from 2007 to 2014. It's not uncommon for refugees to go to a third-party country before being permanently resettled.

Federal and local authorities have been grappling with the pervasiveness of Islamic State group propaganda. FBI Director James Comey said in May that there were "north of 1,000" cases in which agents were trying to evaluate a subject's level of radicalization and potential for violence.

Authorities will no doubt look to see if they missed any red flags that could have placed Artan under investigation.

Several acts of jihadist-inspired violence in the past two years have involved people known to the FBI.

The FBI investigated Omar Mateen, the gunman in the Orlando nightclub attack in June, for 10 months in 2013 after he boasted of mutual acquaintances with the Boston Marathon bombers and said things to co-workers that suggested he had radical, violent intentions. Agents found nothing to justify continued scrutiny and closed the matter but looked into him again the next year as part of a separate investigation into a suicide bomber who attended the same Florida mosque.

Federal authorities in 2014 looked into Ahmad Khan Rahimi after he was accused of stabbing a relative and his father expressed concerns he might be a terrorist. The FBI said it found nothing tying Rahimi to terrorism and closed its review. Rahimi was charged with setting off bombs in New York and New Jersey in September; he has pleaded not guilty.

FBI counterterrorism authorities have a "number of trip wires" set up to spot would-be jihadists and have a generally good sense of people who are drawn to terrorist propaganda, which is why many who have gone on to commit violence had come under scrutiny, said Seamus Hughes, deputy director of the George Washington University's Program on Extremism.

"If you look at most quote-unquote successful terror attacks in the U.S. ... they've always had some touch point with law enforcement and been on law enforcement's radar in some point in their radical trajectory," Hughes said.

Classes for the 60,000 students at Ohio State were canceled after the attack but resumed Tuesday. Several hundred students gathered on campus Tuesday night for a vigil intended to help in the healing process.

Tucker and Abdollah reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Alicia A. Caldwell in Washington; Dan Sewell in Cincinnati; John Seewer in Toledo, Ohio; Collin Binkley in Boston; and Mark Gillispie in Cleveland contributed to this story, along with AP Dubai correspondent Jon Gambrell.

Trump tapping Washington, Wall Street veterans for top jobs

By **STEVE PEOPLES, RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR and JULIE PACE, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump is enlisting a trio of nominees with deep ties to Washington and Wall Street to fill out his Cabinet, including former Goldman Sachs executive Steven Mnuchin as secretary of the Treasury Department.

On Tuesday, Trump also chose Georgia Rep. Tom Price to oversee the nation's health care system, picking a fierce "Obamacare" critic who has championed efforts to privatize Medicare. And he selected another veteran Republican, Elaine Chao, a former labor secretary and the wife of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, to lead the Department of Transportation.

Mnuchin's official announcement was expected as early as Wednesday, according to a person familiar

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with the decision who insisted on anonymity in order to confirm the pick ahead of time.

Mnuchin, 53, led Trump's finance operations during the presidential campaign and became close with the president-elect and his family. But he has no government experience, which could prove a hurdle in navigating the tricky politics of Washington.

If confirmed by the Senate, Mnuchin would play a central role in shaping Trump's tax policies and infrastructure plans. He would also lead an agency tasked with implementing international economic sanctions.

Mnuchin is expected to be joined on Trump's senior economic team by another financier, Wilbur Ross. The billionaire investor is considered the "king of bankruptcy" for buying beaten-down companies with the potential to deliver profits.

Trump spent much of Tuesday in his Manhattan skyscraper, racing through meetings with prospective administration hires as high-profile vacancies remain — none bigger than secretary of state. He emerged in the evening for a private dinner with former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who is on the shortlist for the nation's chief diplomat.

Romney spoke briefly to reporters after the meal, saying he has "increasing hope" that Trump can lead the country to a "better future."

A transition official said the president-elect and Vice President-elect Mike Pence will travel to Indiana on Thursday for an event with Carrier, the air conditioning company. During the campaign, Trump repeatedly used the news of Carrier's plans to move some business to Mexico as criticism of Democratic trade policies. Carrier tweeted, "We are pleased to have reached a deal with President-elect Trump & VP-elect Pence to keep close to 1,000 jobs in Indy."

Price, picked to lead the Department of Health and Human Services after more than a decade in Congress, helped craft House Speaker Paul Ryan's plan to privatize Medicare — a position Trump opposed in the campaign.

Price's selection raised questions about the incoming president's commitment to Medicare, among other popular entitlement programs he repeatedly vowed to preserve before the election. The Georgia congressman led GOP efforts on Capitol Hill to transform Medicare into a voucher-like system, a change that if enacted, would likely dramatically reduce government spending on the health care program that serves an estimated 57 million people.

Trump did not address Price's position on Medicare in a statement released by his transition team. The team did not respond to subsequent questions about it.

"Chairman Price, a renowned physician, has earned a reputation for being a tireless problem solver and the go-to expert on health care policy, making him the ideal choice to serve in this capacity," Trump said. "He is exceptionally qualified to shepherd our commitment to repeal and replace Obamacare and bring affordable and accessible health care to every American."

Trump, in a 2015 interview promoted on his campaign website, pledged not to cut expensive entitlement programs that Republicans have fought for years to cut to help reduce the federal deficit.

"I'm not going to cut Social Security like every other Republican. And I'm not going to cut Medicare or Medicaid. Every other Republican's going to cut," Trump told the Daily Signal.

He later changed his mind on Medicaid, embracing the GOP concept of turning the program over to the states with a fixed amount of federal "block grant" funding.

Like any Cabinet official, Price would carry out the wishes of the president. And a sweeping Medicare initiative would have to go through Congress with some Democratic support, which would be unlikely.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders charged that Price "has a long history of wanting to do exactly the opposite of what Trump campaigned on."

Like Price, Elaine Chao is well-known in Washington. She was the first Asian-American woman to serve in a president's Cabinet, as labor secretary under George W. Bush.

Her record in that post suggests she would bring a light hand to safety enforcement as transportation secretary. Under Chao at Labor, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration didn't issue a single significant new safety regulation for four years. Mine safety inspectors were cut and inspections reduced.

Whether it's integrating drones into the national airspace, deploying self-driving cars or "some other

new technology, she's not going to be especially inclined to second guess the industry when they say that this will be safe," said Thomas McGarity, a University of Texas law professor and author of "Freedom to Harm," a book about the Labor Department that includes Chao's tenure.

Mnuchin, Price and Chao would require Senate confirmation.

The president-elect summoned Romney for dinner Tuesday night to discuss the secretary of state job for a second time. He also met with Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, having met with former CIA director David Petraeus the day before.

After his meeting, Corker told reporters, "The world needs to know that the secretary of state is someone who speaks fully for the president," a possible job at Romney, who aggressively opposed Trump's candidacy.

Transition aides said Trump was likely at least a few days away from a decision.

Even as he weighed crucial Cabinet decisions, Trump appeared distracted by outside issues — or eager to create distractions himself. He tweeted that "nobody should be allowed to burn the American flag." He warned that those who do should face "perhaps loss of citizenship or year in jail!"

Trump offered no context for his message. The Supreme Court has ruled that flag burning is protected by the First Amendment, and Republican House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said Tuesday he doesn't support Trump's approach.

"I support the First Amendment," he said.

AP writers Catherine Lucey and Jonathan Lemire in New York and Joan Lowry and Erica Werner in Washington contributed to this report.

Escaping wildfires meant fleeing through hell-like landscape

By **STEVE MEGARGEE** and **JONATHAN MATTISE**, Associated Press

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (AP) — With flames dripping from tree branches and the air filled with embers, thousands of people raced through a hellish landscape as they fled wildfires that killed three people and destroyed hundreds of homes and a resort in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Fanned by hurricane-force winds, the flames reached the doorstep of Dollywood, the theme park named after country music legend and local hero Dolly Parton. But the attraction was spared significant damage.

The fires spread quickly on Monday night, when winds topping 87 mph whipped up the flames, catching residents and tourists in the Gatlinburg area by surprise. Police banged on front doors and told people to get out immediately. Some trekked 20 minutes to catch lifesaving rides on trolleys usually reserved for tours and wedding parties.

"There was fire everywhere. It was like we were in hell," said Linda Monholland, who was working at Park View Inn in Gatlinburg when she and five other people fled on foot. "Walking through hell, that's what it was. I can't believe it. I never want to see something like that again in my life, ever."

"Hell opened up," her co-worker Sissy Stinnett said.

In all, more than 14,000 residents and tourists were forced to evacuate the tourist city in the mountains, where some hotspots persisted and a curfew in place Tuesday night.

No details on the deaths were immediately available. More than a dozen people were injured.

The extent of the damage began to emerge even as smoke from the wildfires lingered late Tuesday afternoon.

The Castle, perhaps the largest and most iconic home in Gatlinburg, was destroyed. So was Cupid's Chapel of Love, a wedding venue.

Entire churches were gone. Scorched cars parked outside set on their rims after their tires had melted away. The only sound came from the eerie screech of hotel fire alarms echoing through the empty streets.

Some Christmas decorations on lampposts and utility poles were on fire.

Marci Claude, a spokeswoman for both the city and the Gatlinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, choked up as she surveyed the damage for the first time on a media tour.

"I'm just astonished this is my town," she said.

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On an aerial and driving tour of the damage in and around Gatlinburg, Gov. Bill Haslam said he was struck by the seemingly random nature of the fire that destroyed some structures and left others untouched. Noting that much of the downtown entertainment district was undamaged, Haslam said "it just could have been so much worse."

As darkness fell on the area near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, open flames could still be seen burning near razed homes.

A line of strong to marginally severe storms was expected in east Tennessee on Tuesday night and into early Wednesday morning, with damaging straight-line winds of up to 60 mph and lightning possible.

Gatlinburg Fire Chief Greg Miller said officials were still conducting search-and-rescue missions.

"We have not been able to get in all of the areas," Miller said. "We pray that we don't experience any more fatalities, but there are still areas that we are trying to get to" because of downed trees and power lines.

Though wildfires have been burning for several weeks across the drought-stricken South, with rainfall 10 to 15 inches below normal over the past three months in many parts, Monday marked the first time any homes and businesses were destroyed on a large scale.

The fire that roared through Gatlinburg actually began last week in the national park, and fierce winds carried burning embers into the city, park officials said. That original fire is believed to have been caused by people, national fire managers said in a report. Whether it was intentionally set or an accident hasn't been explained by authorities.

After the fire escaped the park, flames spread further when winds blew trees onto power lines, sparking new fires and shooting embers over long distances. Hundreds of homes and other buildings, including a 16-story hotel, were damaged or destroyed.

Emergency officials ordered evacuations in downtown Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge and in other areas of Sevier County near the Great Smoky Mountains.

About 1,200 people took shelter at the Gatlinburg Community Center and the Rocky Top Sports Park, an 80-acre sports facility-turned-shelter.

Tammy Dillon had just come home from work when police banged on her door about 9:30 p.m. Monday. She said she drove through a fiery scene to get to Rocky Top Sports World, where she spent the night in a car.

"We drove through flames, over hot embers in the road. It was awful," Dillon said.

In downtown Gatlinburg, workers at Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies left behind more than 10,000 fish and other animals. Police escorted a team of marine biologists and life support experts back into the aquarium Tuesday, and the animals were doing fine, Ripley's said in a news release.

Based on preliminary surveys, the Westgate Smoky Mountain Resort & Spa in Gatlinburg "is likely entirely gone," the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency announced.

Although Dollywood was not damaged, more than a dozen cabins operated by the park were.

Dollywood suspended operations through at least Wednesday. Its DreamMore resort will be open on a limited basis as a shelter and for registered guests.

Parton said in a statement Tuesday that she was heartbroken.

"I am praying for all the families affected by the fire and the firefighters who are working so hard to keep everyone safe," Parton said.

Patrick Sours, who lived with his family in a Gatlinburg motel that was probably destroyed, said he doesn't think reality has set in for most people.

"It hasn't fully kicked in that, hey, we're homeless," he said. "We have no job. We have nothing."

Mattise reported from Nashville. Associated Press writers Erik Schelzig in Gatlinburg; Rebecca Yonker and Beth Campbell in Louisville, Kentucky; Jeff Amy in Jackson, Mississippi; Jack Jones in Columbia, South Carolina; Jeff Martin in Atlanta; and Bill Fuller in New Orleans contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to reflect that Gatlinburg is a city, not a town. It also corrected the attribution in the first quote.

World's oldest living person celebrates 117th birthday

By **BRIAN HENDRIE and ANTONIO CALANNI, Associated Press**

VERBANIA, Italy (AP) — Italy's Emma Morano, the world's oldest living person, marked her 117th birthday Tuesday, blowing out all the candles on her cake.

Beaming at the attention, Morano took in the festivities for her milestone celebration sitting in an armchair in her one-room apartment in the northern mountain town of Verbania, joined by her two elderly nieces, a pair of caregivers and her long-time physician.

She received a greeting from Italy's president, read by an official, wishing her "serenity and good health," and appeared for a brief live broadcast on state-run television. She happily accepted some gifts, including her favorite cookies, which she ate with some milk.

Then she blew out the candles on her cake — not one for every year, but three numerals to show her age, 117 — and quipped: "I hope I don't have to cut it!"

To the assembled well-wishers, Morano said, "I am happy to turn 117," and drew encouragement from her physician, Dr. Carlo Bava.

"Who would have said it?!" the doctor remarked. "When you were young everyone used to say you were weak and sick."

"Yes, yes," she responded.

Another party, including a visit from the mayor and another cake, was planned for the afternoon, after a nap.

Morano, who is believed to be the last surviving person in the world born in the 1800s, became the oldest living person in May.

Italy is known for its centenarians — many of whom live on the Mediterranean island of Sardinia — and gerontologists are studying Morano, along with a handful of Italians over 105, to try to figure out their longevity. Bava has credited Morano's long life to her genetic makeup and positive outlook.

Morano was born on Nov. 29, 1899 in Verbania.

She has lived on her own ever since she left her husband in 1938 because he beat her. In an interview last year, she attributed her longevity to her unusual diet: Three raw eggs a day (now two raw eggs and 150 grams of raw steak after a bout of anemia) — a diet she's been on for decades after a sickly childhood.

Morano's sister, whom Bava cared for as well, died at 97.

Treasury nominee Mnuchin was Trump's top fundraiser

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER, JULIE BYKOWICZ and JULIE PACE, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Steven Mnuchin, President-elect Donald Trump's expected choice to be the nation's 77th treasury secretary, has had a long history as a successful financial executive and a shorter but significant period in a job that ushered him into Trump's inner circle: head of Trump's campaign finance operation.

When Mnuchin, 53, was chosen by Trump as his national finance director in May, he told The Associated Press that the two men had been friends for 15 years. Through his work as finance chairman, Mnuchin grew close to Trump's children and son-in-law, Jared Kushner — a top adviser to Trump — and worked with them on fundraising events.

The campaign raised at least \$169 million, in addition to the \$66 million Trump spent out of his own pocket. Though that was far short of what Hillary Clinton raised, it represented an impressive haul given that Trump didn't begin fundraising in earnest until the end of May.

A person familiar with Trump's decision said Tuesday that the president-elect will nominate Mnuchin to the Treasury position. The person would only discuss the nomination on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to reveal it ahead of the official announcement.

If approved by the Senate, Mnuchin would follow in the tradition of two previous treasury secretaries — Robert Rubin in the Clinton administration and Henry Paulson in George W. Bush's. All had vast Wall

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Street experience gained from years spent working at powerhouse Goldman Sachs.

Yet unlike Rubin and Paulson and unlike President Barack Obama's two treasury secretaries, Timothy Geithner and Jacob Lew, Mnuchin would bring no government experience to Treasury, something that could prove a hurdle in navigating the tricky politics of Washington.

After graduating from Yale in 1985, Mnuchin worked for Goldman Sachs for 17 years. His father, Robert Mnuchin, had himself worked for Goldman for three decades, becoming a partner in charge of equity trading.

The younger Mnuchin amassed his own fortune at the firm and then left in 2002. He worked briefly for Soros Fund Management, a hedge fund led by George Soros, before starting his own investment firm, Dune Capital Management.

As head of this firm, Mnuchin and other investors participated in the purchase of failed mortgage lender IndyMac in 2009 and renamed it OneWest. The failure of IndyMac in 2008 with \$32 billion in assets was one of the biggest casualties of the housing bust.

Mnuchin became chairman of OneWest, which was sold to CIT Group in 2015. Before the sale, OneWest faced a string of lawsuits over its home foreclosure practices.

This month, housing advocates filed a complaint asking the Department of Housing and Urban Development to investigate OneWest for possible violations of the Fair Housing Act. The lender failed to place branches in minority communities, provided few mortgages to black homebuyers and preserved foreclosed properties in white neighborhoods while allowing similar homes in minority communities to fall into disrepair, according to the California Reinvestment Coalition and Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California.

CIT declined to respond directly to the complaint but stressed in a statement that it is "committed to fair lending and works hard to meet the credit needs of all communities and neighborhoods we serve."

Mnuchin also became a major investor in Hollywood, helping finance a number of movies, including the 2009 blockbuster "Avatar."

As treasury secretary, Mnuchin would be the administration's chief economic spokesman, serving as a liaison not only to Wall Street but also to global investors, a critical role given the trillions of dollars in treasury bonds owned by foreigners. In addition, it would be his job to sell the new administration's economic program to Congress.

Mnuchin will also oversee a sprawling bureaucracy that includes the Internal Revenue Service and the agency that issues millions of Social Security and other benefit checks each month. Treasury also runs the agency that wages the financial war on terrorism.

Even before his nomination was announced, he was being attacked for his ties to Wall Street.

"It's difficult to think of a nominee who better embodies the culture of Wall Street greed than the former Goldman Sachs partner," the Communications Workers of America, a labor union, said in a statement. "Naming Mnuchin as treasury secretary would be a slap in the face of millions of working families who will be victimized by this Wall Street-rigged economy."

During the campaign, Trump complained about the Dodd-Frank Act, passed in 2010 in response to the 2008 financial crisis and intended to prevent another crisis by tightening financial regulations. He called the increased regulations on banks a "disaster."

Mnuchin, in an interview with CNBC in July, said he thought Dodd-Frank "needs to be looked at." But he has not spelled out what changes he would like to see. Yet if Trump decides to back Republican attempts to rewrite the law, Mnuchin could be expected to lead the administration's effort.

Analysts said Mnuchin's years of experience on Wall Street and in managing an investment firm gave him real-world skills that likely appealed to Trump, a business executive who also has never served in government.

"Mr. Mnuchin is highly successful, and he's well-known in financial circles here," said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at California State University, Channel Islands.

Sohn and other economists, however, suggested that Mnuchin's lack of government experience could prove to be a drawback in selling the administration's economic policies to Congress.

"People who come from Wall Street quickly find that they can't just make a decision and have it happen," said Stanley Collender, a longtime staffer on House and Senate budget committees and now an execu-

tive vice president at Qorvis communications. "It's not like being a CEO. There is a lot more compromise involved."

The Latest: Father says God saved son in Colombia crash

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

6:10 p.m.

The father of one of the six people who survived the airplane crash in Colombia says his son is alive thanks to a "miracle of God."

Paulo Follmann made the comment during a phone conversation with The Associated Press about his son, goalkeeper Jakson Follmann of the Brazilian soccer club Chapecoense.

The father says, "The chances of surviving an airplane crash are practically zero. That my son is one of the survivors is a miracle of God."

Follmann adds: "We have not spoken to him or received any other information regarding how serious his condition is. That is making us feel anguished."

About the same time, the hospital where the player is being treated in Colombia reported that his right leg had to be amputated. It described him as being in stable condition.

The father says he hopes to travel to Colombia in one or two days.

5:20 p.m.

Doctors in Colombia have amputated the right leg of a goalkeeper for a Brazilian soccer club whose charter plane crashed in Colombia.

Jakson Follmann of the Chapecoense club was one of six people who survived the crash.

Doctors at the hospital where Follmann is being treated say the player is in an intensive care unit and in stable condition.

The hospital says in a statement that Follmann's family wanted to make public the news of his amputation.

5 p.m.

The United States is conveying condolences to the relatives and loved ones of the people who died in a plane crash in Colombia.

White House spokesman Ned Price says the U.S. is sending thoughts and prayers to the players and staff of the Chapecoense soccer team who survived and to others affected by the crash.

Price says the American people "stand with the people of Brazil and Colombia" during a difficult moment.

4:45 p.m.

Colombian aviation authorities have lowered the death toll from the charter plane crash to 71 from 75, saying that four fewer people were aboard the aircraft than originally reported.

Officials tell The Associated Press that Luciano Buligon, Gelson Luiz Merisio, Plinio de Nes Filho and Ivan Carlos Agnoletto didn't board the flight in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, but were listed on the plane's passenger list. None of the four were players for the Brazilian soccer team that was being carried to a game on the charter flight.

Six of the 77 people on the plane survived the crash.

3:55 p.m.

Some of Brazil's top clubs say they want to give players to Chapecoense on a free loan for the 2017 season. They also say the club should not be relegated to the second division for three years as it recovers from the disaster.

Details of how this would work financially were not immediately floated.

In further homage, Brazilian champion Palmeiras has made a request to the Brazilian Football Confedera-

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tion to wear Chapecoense's jersey in its last match of the season.

3:40 p.m.

An eerie video has surfaced showing the coaching staff of the Brazilian Chapecoense soccer team praising their charter airline before they headed off on a fatal flight.

Athletic director Mauro Stumpf was on the plane as he told the Gigavision TV network that the LaMia airline "treated us very well" during an earlier flight to Colombia when the team won a quarterfinal match in the South American Cup.

He added: "Now we're going to do this new trip and we hope they bring us good luck like they did the first time."

A few minutes later, the plane took off from Santa Cruz, Bolivia. It crashed short of its destination in Medellin, Colombia, killing 75 of the 81 aboard.

3:00 p.m.

Colombia's civil aeronautics agency says it has found the two flight recorders from the airplane that crashed Monday night with a Brazilian soccer team aboard.

The agency says in a Twitter message that both of the recorders have been recovered "in perfect condition." That could help determine what caused the British Aerospace 146 to crash. Only six of the 81 people aboard survived.

1:50 p.m.

France's top two soccer leagues will mark a minute's silence at games on Tuesday night for Brazil's Chapecoense soccer team, devastated by the airplane crash that killed 75 people in Colombia.

France's defending League One champion Paris Saint-Germain also tweeted a photo of its players and staff observing a minute's silence, standing in a circle with heads bowed and arms linked, at the club's training ground.

The small Brazilian team was flying to Colombia to play Atletico Nacional when its plane went down with the loss of 75 of the 81 people aboard.

12:00 p.m.

Brazilian President Michel Temer is declaring three days of official mourning for victims of the airplane crash that killed 75 people, including most of Brazil's Chapecoense soccer team.

He also says Brazilian Air Force planes have been made available for relatives of the victims to travel to Colombia and for the transfer of the bodies to Brazil.

11:50 a.m.

The Colombian team that was scheduled to play Brazil's ill-fated Chapecoense team in a South American championship says it's offering the title to the rivals whose plane has crashed.

Medellin-based Atletico Nacional says it's asked the South American soccer confederation to award the title in honor of the Brazilian team that was aboard a plane that went down with the loss of 75 of the 81 people aboard.

The small Brazilian team had been flying to Colombia to play Atletico in Wednesday's South American Cup finals.

Atletico Nacional says Chapecoense should receive the title in recognition of the team's great loss, and as a tribute to the players who died.

11:15 a.m.

Doctors at several hospitals are working to stabilize the six survivors of a plane crash that killed 75 people near Medellin, Colombia. All the injured suffered severe trauma injuries.

Hospital officials say Chapecoense player Alan Ruschel appears to be in the most delicate condition.

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He's suffered a spinal fracture. Ruschel was stabilized at the San Juan de Dios hospital and transferred by ambulance to the intensive care unit of better-equipped facility, where he's awaiting surgery.

San Juan de Dios medical director Guillermo Leon says defender Helio Zampier arrived shortly after dawn and is in stable condition with skull and chest injuries.

A third player, Jakson Follmann, is at another facility and being evaluated for multiple unspecified injuries. Journalist Rafael Valmorbida is recovering from surgery for chest injuries.

Bolivian crew members Ximena Suarez and Erwin Tumiri are listed in stable condition and recovering.

11:05 a.m.

The plane carrying a Brazilian soccer team that crashed in Colombia was also transporting many journalists covering the team.

Colombian aviation authorities say 21 journalists were among the 81 passengers. Only one of the journalists is listed as surviving.

The journalists came from several organizations, including Fox and Globo, a large Brazilian conglomerate, and a handful of FM and AM radio stations in South America.

The plane carrying the Chapecoense team departed from Santa Cruz, Bolivia, and crashed before arriving in Medellin on Monday.

8:40 a.m.

Colombia's civil aviation agency now says at least six people have survived the plane crash that killed more than 70 people, including many members of a Brazilian soccer team.

The agency statement says at least three Chapecoense players, two plane crew members and one journalist survived Monday's crash near the city of Medellin.

Reports about the number of survivors have varied overnight because of confusion amid the emergency.

8:20 a.m.

An injury sidelined Chapecoense soccer player Alejandro Martinuccio. It also likely saved his life.

The Argentine forward wasn't able to play in the scheduled match in Colombia, so he wasn't on the team plane that crashed Monday night in Colombia, killing most of those aboard. He told Argentina's La Red radio that "I was saved because I got injured."

"I feel profound sadness," he said. "The only thing I can ask is prayers for the companions who were on the flight."

The 28-year-old has played for Spain's Villarreal, Penarol of Uruguay and Brazilian clubs Coritiba, Ponte Preta, Cruzeiro and Fluminense.

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

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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 members 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.

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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.

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.

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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 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.