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Groton Prairie Mixed

Team Standings: Jackelopes 14, Foxes 12, Chipmunks 11, Shih Tzus 10, Cheetahs 7, Coyotes 6

Men's High Games: Steve Giedt 227, Roger Spanier 219, Ron Belden 208

Women's High Games: Darci Spanier 202, Vicki Jorgensen 191, Lori Wiley 181

Men's High Series: Roger Spanier 568, Steve Giedt 559, Rick Carlson 557

Women's High Series: Vicki Jorgensen 469, Darci Spanier 461, Nicole Kassube 457

Apts for Rent

1 bedroom and HUGE 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments available NOW! All utilities included except A/C, 1 bedroom \$504 and HUGE 2 bedroom 2 bath \$674 Please call or text 239-849-7674

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Thursday, Dec. 1

Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, 3 bean salad, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, mixed vegetables, fruit, carrots and dip.

1:30 p.m.: St. John's Lutheran Nursery Circle

1:30 p.m.: St. John's Good Cheer Circle

Friday, Dec. 2

Senior Menu: Potato soup, ham salad sandwich, tomato spoon salad, pineapple tidbits.

School Breakfast: Cheese omelette, muffin, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Hamburgers, wedge fries, romaine salad, fruit.

NE Area Honor Band

State Oral Interp Festival at Harrisburg

8:30 a.m.: NCRC Test at Groton Area

Saturday, Dec. 3

NE Area Honor Band

State Oral Interp Festival at Harrisburg

10 a.m.: 7th/8th GBB Jamboree at Groton Area

10 a.m.: Wrestling at Clark

Sunday, Dec. 4

9 a.m.: St. John's Lutheran Worship with Communion

10:00 am: St. John's Lutheran Christmas Program practice

9 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

10 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Sunday School

10 a.m.: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church



Friends . . . Near and Far

Editor's Note: This is the 39th in a series featuring your friends, near and far.

Bonnie Cooper



Name: Bonnie Cooper

Jobwise, what are you doing today? Also list title if you have one. Freelance Editor: I edit documents for grammar, punctuation, and spelling. I help graduate students with theses and dissertations, professors with grant proposals and journal articles, and nonprofit organizations with a variety of publications.

How long have you been working at the current job? I have been a Freelance Editor for 7 years.

How did you get your current job? I have been working as an editor since I received my master's degree. I have been freelancing since 2004. In 2009, the part-time work evolved into a full-time job.

If you have previous employments, list them and how long you were there. During graduate school, I worked at North Dakota State University's Center for Writers as a Graduate Consultant. Upon graduation, I worked at NDSU for over 10 years as the Disquisition Editor. For several years, I also helped run the Center for Writers as an Assistant Director and the Interim Director.

What high school did you attend, and what year did you graduate? I graduated from Groton High School in 1992.

Where did you attend college, and what was your degree? I went to North Dakota State University. I received a Bachelor of Science

in 1996 and a Master of Arts in 1998.

What advice would you give the high school students today? Study hard. Make sure that you are involved with extracurricular activities in high school and college. The networks that you develop with these activities will open doors as you continue through life.

List your major accomplishments that you have had so far in life. As an undergraduate at NDSU, I was a member of the speech team. I received a variety of awards competing at speech tournaments around the country, qualifying for national tournaments for three years. I became a Pi Kappa Delta (forensics honor society) member of Highest Distinction in the order of Forensics and the order of Alumni. In 1996, I won the persuasive-speaking contest at North Dakota's state tournament, qualifying for InterState Oratory (ISO); each state may send two competitors to ISO. As an ISO competitor, my speech was published in Winning Orations.

In November 1995, I became a chartering officer of NDSU's chapter of Golden Key International Honour Society; I was an officer for 3 years, and I have been a chapter advisor for almost 18 years. I have presented a variety of workshops at numerous Golden Key regional and international summits; last summer, I presented a workshop at Golden Key's 2015 International Summit that was held in Gold Coast, Australia. The NDSU chapter has received numerous awards, including its continuous Gold Standing since the 2004-2005 academic year when the current Chapter Standards were introduced. I served as the Secretary of Golden Key's Council of Advisors from August 2004-August 7, 2007. I was the Secretary of Golden Key's

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International Leadership Council from August 12, 2006-July 31, 2013.

I have had two articles published in Concepts (Golden Key's award-winning magazine); one was published in 2005, and the other one was in the 2007 issue. An article based on my master's thesis was published in the 2001 issue of Speaker and Gavel.

I received two awards from the North Dakota Professional Communicators' 2013 Communication Contest. I received first place in the "Speeches" category and second place in the "Newsletters-nonprofit, government or educational" category.

Do you feel that your high school and college education prepared you adequately for post-education life? Yes. I had two of the best English teachers (Mrs. Karnopp in junior high and Mrs. Nelson in high school) when I was in Groton. I had a great teacher for freshman English at NDSU, too. That foundation, along with the opportunities that I had while I was a college student, gave me the tools that I needed to succeed.



House for Sale

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

GROTON
Chamber Of Commerce

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

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

Hey Kids! Come see Santa!



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

Downtown Groton
Cookies & Juice for the kids
Photographer Available

GROTON
Chamber Of Commerce

Made it possible for Santa to come to Groton!

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Today in Weather History

1831 - The coldest December of record in the northeastern U.S. commenced. Temperatures in New York City averaged 22 degrees, with just four days above freezing, and at Burlington VT the temperature never did get above freezing. The Erie Canal was closed the first day of December, and remained closed the entire month. (David Ludlum)

1896 - The temperature at Kipp, MT, rose 30 degrees in just seven minutes, and 80 degrees in a matter of a few hours. A thirty-inch snow cover was melted in half a day. (The Weather Channel)

1913 - A six day front range snowstorm began. It produced a record total of 46 inches at Denver CO. (David Ludlum)

1985 - A storm produced more than six inches of snow from the Northern and Central Plains to parts of Michigan, with 36.4 inches reported at Marquette MI. Many roads were blocked by snow. A family was stranded for 25 hours south of Colome SD. Drifts twelve feet high were reported in north central Nebraska. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A powerful storm hit the northwestern U.S. Winds gusted to 80 mph at Cape Disappointment WA, and reached 94 mph at Cape Blanco OR. Thunderstorms in western Washington State produced wind gusts to 60 mph, and dime size hail at Hoquiam. Stevens Pass, in the Cascade Mountains of Washington, received seven inches of snow during the morning hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Squalls in the Great Lakes Region produced up to a foot of snow in Ashtabula County OH, up to ten inches in Erie County PA, and up to a foot of snow in western New York State. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Heavy snow blanketed the mountains of New Mexico, with 12 inches reported at the Angel Fire Ski Basin. Strong northerly winds ushering cold air into the north central U.S. gusted to 55 mph at Devils Lake ND. Low pressure over the Gulf of Alaska produced wind gusts to 69 mph at Kodiak Island. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2002 - Heavy lake effect snow fell downwind of the U.S. Great Lakes. Buffalo, New York reported 16 inches of snow, with thundersnow reported late in the afternoon. While the eastern U.S. experienced much colder than normal temperatures on December 1, much of Alaska was basking in above average warmth. Many daily temperature records were set across this region through the beginning of the month.

2007 - During December 1-3, a powerful storm with hurricane force winds struck the Northwest U.S. The storm brought heavy rain and wind gusts over 100 mph, with the highest reading being 129 mph at Bay City, OR. The strong winds brought power lines down, and the heavy rain caused widespread flooding and triggered landslides (BBC News). According to reports, 8 fatalities were attributed to the storm and about 37,000 homes and businesses were left without power in Washington, Oregon, and northern California. President Bush declared a federal disaster in several counties in Washington and Oregon to provide recovery assistance (Associated Press).

2011 - Wind speeds as high as 102 MPH were measured in Centerville, Utah and surrounding cities. Damage was reported throughout Weber and Davis counties ranging from South Ogden down to Bountiful. More than 400 trees were down at the Davis Golf course alone due to the winds. Up to 54,000 residences were without power throughout the day and into the evening. Train service between Layton and Salt Lake City was suspended due to damaged train stations, debris on the train tracks, and power outages. Cleanup costs totaled \$8 million in Centerville alone. No injuries were reported from the wind, but a number of injuries were reported from those helping with the cleanup effort.

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

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

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

Homes on Tour

Travis & Angela Antonsen

JR & Paula Johnson

Roger & Darci Spanier

Bob & Val Wegner

Base Camp Lodge

Tickets can be purchased at

Lori's Pharmacy

Olde Bank Floral 'N More

Groton Ford

Hair & Company

423 Moccasin Creek Dr., Aberdeen (Terri Kjellsen)

or by calling

Vicki Walter: 380-0480

Brenda Waage: 397-8385

Patty Tastad: 397-7388

Holiday Party & Silent Auction at Clubhouse

4 p.m. - ????

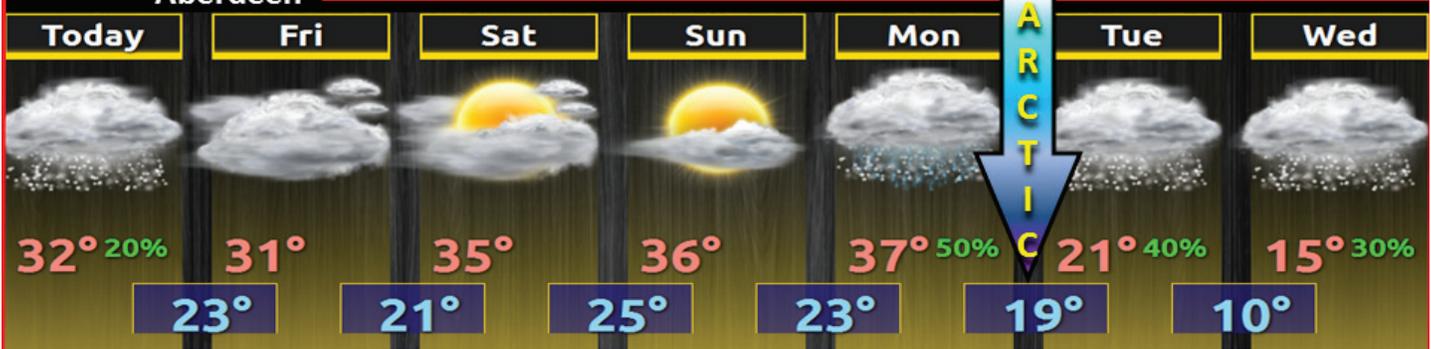
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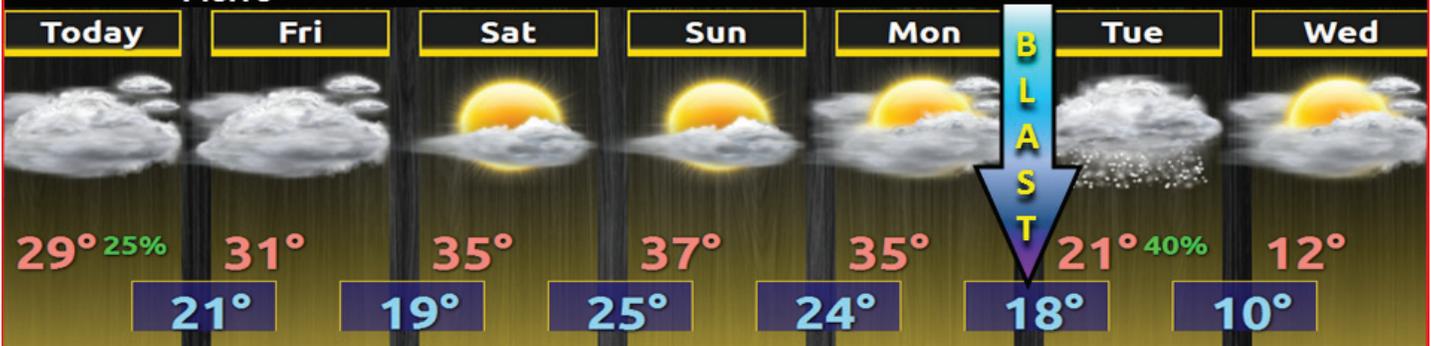
Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Slight Chance Snow then Cloudy	Chance Flurries	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 33 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 30 °F	Low: 21 °F	High: 34 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 36 °F

Pockets of Flurries/Light Snow & Sprinkles This Morning Mild This Weekend – Arctic Outbreak Next Week

Aberdeen



Pierre



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 12/1/2016 5:10 AM Central



Published on: 12/01/2016 at 5:16AM

Low clouds, flurries/light snow and sprinkles will stick around the area today and tonight, with a push of milder air for the weekend. The bottom drops out behind a cold front that will hit next week, bringing Arctic air to the region.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 32.4 F at 10:43 AM

Low Outside Temp: 30.8 F at 9:13 PM

High Gust: 22.0 Mph at 1:57 PM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 62° in 1969

Record Low: -24° in 1893

Average High: 31°F

Average Low: 11°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.02

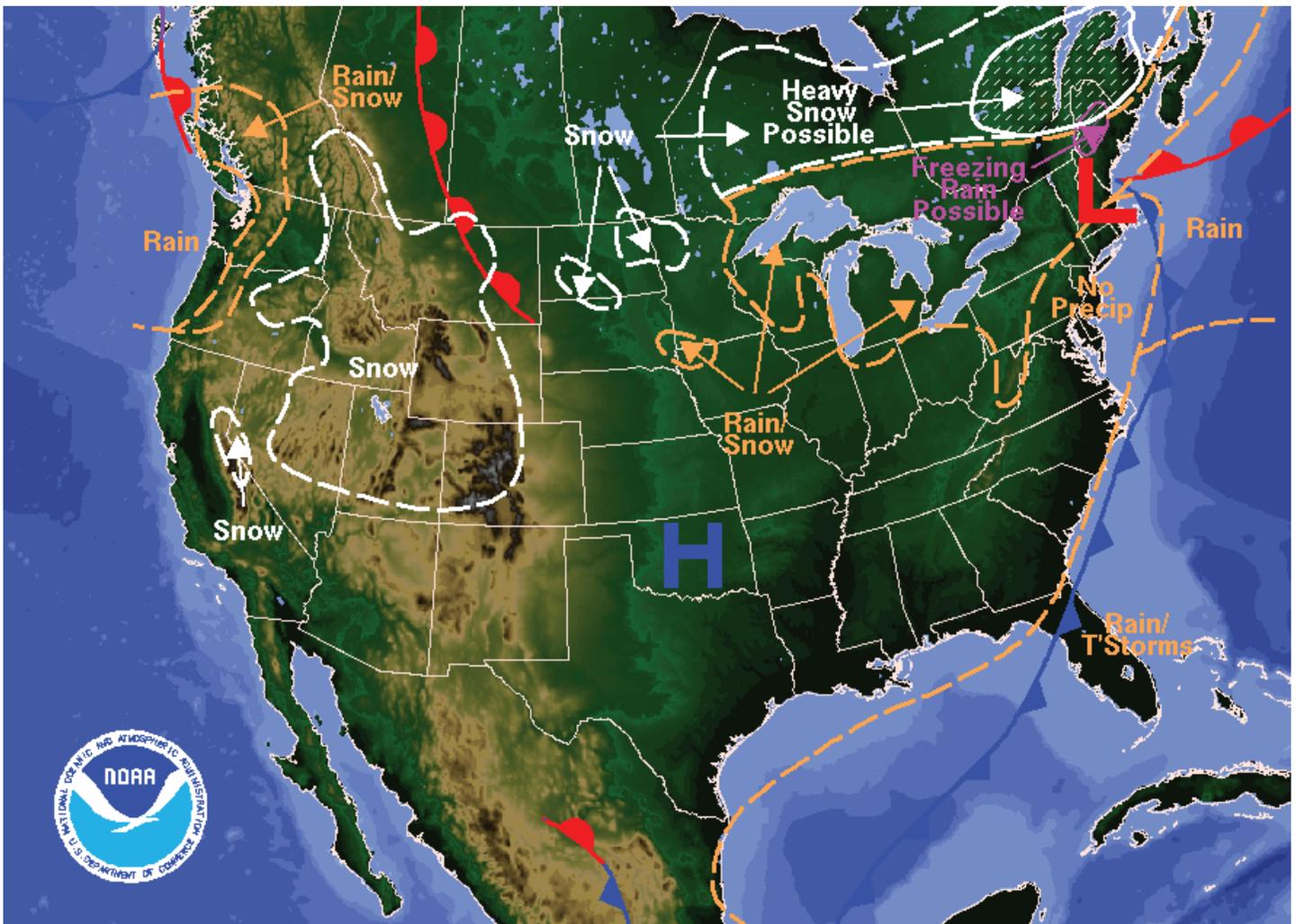
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.22

Precip Year to Date: 16.02

Sunset Tonight: 4:51 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:54 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Dec 01, 2016, issued 4:29 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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THE BEST MEDICINE IS LOVE

A country doctor said, "I've been practicing medicine for over 30 years. During all those years I have prescribed many different things. But in the long run, I've learned that for most of what ails the human condition, the best medicine is love!"

"But," asked a student, "what if it does not work?"

"Double the dose," came the quick reply.

Many have said that love is the greatest medicine in the world. It can do more to heal the sick than most medicines. But what is this "healing love?" It is holding someone's hand when they are lonely. It is shedding a tear with someone who is broken hearted. It is sitting quietly beside someone who is grieving. It is having a cup of coffee with someone who has been abandoned by a loved one. It is praying with someone who is overwhelmed with discouragement.

Love is not an emotion that is based on a passing feeling. It comes from a compassionate heart that has experienced the conversion that God has provided for us through His Son. Love is something that is born of God and given by God.

Love is a gift. Take it and let it grow.

Love is a sign. Wear it and let it show.

Love is an act. Do it and let it go.

Prayer: Fill our hearts, Father, with Your love. May we overcome selfishness by living lives of service as Your Son, our Savior did. In His name, Amen.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.



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605/397-2365**

News from the Associated Press

Midwest economic survey shows improvement in November

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A monthly survey of business supply managers shows improvement but still reflects relatively weak economic conditions in nine Midwest and Plains states.

The Mid-America Business Conditions Index report released Thursday says the overall economic index for the region rose to 46.5 in November from 43.8 in October.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey, and he says he expects the overall regional economy will continue to underperform the national economy because of the region's dependence on agriculture and energy.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth in that factor. A score below that suggests decline.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

South Dakota State beats Minnesota Crookston 90-58

Ian Theisen had 16 points, Mike Daum scored 14 and South Dakota State led the entire way in a 90-58 win over Minnesota Crookston on Wednesday night. The Jackrabbits (3-6) led by 10 at the half and expanded the margin with a 25-3 run in the second half capped at 87-52 with 2:26 left, their largest lead of the game.

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Ian Theisen had 16 points, Mike Daum scored 14 and South Dakota State led the entire way in a 90-58 win over Minnesota Crookston on Wednesday night.

The Jackrabbits (3-6) led by 10 at the half and expanded the margin with a 25-3 run in the second half capped at 87-52 with 2:26 left, their largest lead of the game.

South Dakota State had a 37-20 edge in rebounding, helped by making 32 of 49 shots from the field, including 12 of 21 from 3-point range.

Tevin King and Reed Tellinghuisen had 13 points each and A.J. Hess 10 for South Dakota State.

Minnesota Crookston, a Division II member, stayed close in the first half but made only 23.3 percent of its shots after the break. Connor Gamble had 21 points on 7-of-10 shooting from 3-point range, Chase Knickerbocker added 14 points and Harrison Cleary 10.

Boyd's late points help UMKC hold off South Dakota 84-82

LaVell Boyd hit back-to-back buckets late in the game — on a layup and a 3-pointer — as UMKC held off South Dakota 84-82 on Wednesday night. Boyd scored 19 points and had eight assists to lead the Kangaroos (6-2) while Isaiah Ross added 12 points and Broderick Robinson 10. UMKC led 45-33 at halftime but saw its field goal percentage fall from 56 percent to 40 after halftime.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — LaVell Boyd hit back-to-back buckets late in the game — a layup and a 3-pointer — as UMKC held off South Dakota 84-82 on Wednesday night.

Boyd scored 19 points and had eight assists to lead the Kangaroos (6-2) while Isaiah Ross added 12 points and Broderick Robinson 10.

UMKC led 45-33 at halftime but saw its field goal percentage fall from 56 percent to 40 after halftime.

Matt Mooney scored a career-best 23 points for South Dakota (6-3) including a 3-pointer that pulled the Coyotes to within 82-81 with 28 seconds left. He missed a 3-pointer as time expired.

Mooney, who scored 17 after halftime, gave the Coyotes a 78-77 lead with a free throw at 2:12 remaining. It was South Dakota's only lead of the second half after trailing by as many as 13 in the period.

Boyd's layup with 1:20 left gave UMKC the lead for good.

Federal judge orders disclosure of food stamp information

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture must disclose to the Argus Leader newspaper the annual food stamp revenues for stores nationwide participating in the federal program, a federal judge ruled Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier in Sioux Falls disagreed with the Agriculture Department's argument that such disclosure would inflict competitive harm on grocery stores participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program.

Witnesses for the Department of Agriculture during a 2016 bench trial said that the grocery industry is highly competitive because profit margins are low and that disclosing the food stamp information could be used against businesses by their competitors.

For example, Peter Larkin, president and CEO of the National Grocers Association, testified that making public the sales data could allow competitors to identify high-dollar SNAP locations and locate stores nearby.

Citing the "speculative nature" of the agency's claims and the Freedom of Information Act's preference for transparency, Schreier wrote that the release of the information wouldn't likely cause significant competitive harm to retailers participating in SNAP.

The ruling comes as part of a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit the Argus Leader filed against the agency for not releasing information requested by the newspaper. Cory Myers, interim news director for Argus Leader Media, said in a statement that the effort is about taxpayers' right to know where their money is spent.

"This is a federal program, financed by taxpayers, and the retailers who participate in the program do so voluntarily," he said. "Beyond that, this information we've sought for the last five years has importance in public policy discussions about food policy and food security in one of the nation's biggest safety net programs."

The program, which is administered by the Agriculture Department, served more than 46 million Americans and cost \$74 billion last year.

The U.S. attorney's office in South Dakota declined to comment, while the Department of Agriculture didn't immediately comment to The Associated Press. An attorney for the Argus Leader, Jon Arneson, said the department has 60 days to file notice of appeal to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Protesting woman arrested at Iowa Utilities Board building

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A woman has been arrested after protesting the Dakota Access oil pipeline at the Iowa Utilities Board building in Des Moines and demanding a meeting with the board's chairwoman.

The Des Moines Register reports (<http://dmreg.co/2gWjc2u>) that Jessica Reznicek was arrested Wednesday on a trespassing charge after refusing police orders to leave the building.

Reznicek and other supporters entered the building around 9 a.m. Wednesday. They want the board to revoke construction permits for the Dakota Access oil pipeline in Iowa. Reznicek and another man have been on a hunger strike outside the building.

The \$3.8 billion pipeline is designed to carry oil 1,200 miles from North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point at Patoka, Illinois. Protesters fear it will harm drinking water and cultural sites.

Information from: The Des Moines Register, <http://www.desmoinesregister.com>

Stanley County sues FEMA over 2011 flood project

FORT PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Stanley County has sued the Federal Emergency Management Agency over the agency's demands that the county give back money used on a project following record flooding on the Missouri River in 2011.

FEMA has demanded Stanley County pay back \$145,000 for a box culvert that the county installed on War Creek after the flooding, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2gy9X54>) reported. The agency argues

that the county exceeded the scope of work for the project and didn't determine if the property had any historical significance before starting the project.

Jerry DeFelice, a FEMA spokesman in Denver, said the agency must seek repayment because the project did not comply with historical environmental requirements.

"This is a legal requirement that FEMA faces whenever we work a project," he said.

The county's lawsuit states that a FEMA field representative visited the site before work began and approved the project, including that the work met historic preservation standards.

"In reliance upon FEMA's approval of the application submitted to it, the county proceeded with the construction project and incurred a substantial obligation," the lawsuit says.

Stanley County filed the lawsuit after losing two administrative appeals with FEMA.

The project was completed in November of 2011 and was paid for in December of 2011. FEMA's reimbursement payment to the county was approved in the spring of 2012, yet "Stanley County heard nothing further on this matter until late May, 2014," the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit also alleges that FEMA's decision to de-obligate the funding was made by an environmental specialist who never visited the site.

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

Attorney General forms group to look at Marsy's Law issues

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley is forming a task force to work on interpreting a new crime victims' rights constitutional amendment and address issues caused by its implementation, he said Wednesday.

The group will help offer guidance for putting the Marsy's Law amendment into effect, Jackley said. The measure establishes rights for victims, including privacy, protection from harassment or abuse and timely notice of trial, sentencing and post-judgment proceedings. The rights also extend to a victim's spouse and family members.

Sioux Falls defense attorneys say people are facing longer jail stays because of delays spurred by the measure. The Argus Leader reported that the Marsy's Law amendment is forcing court hearings to be rescheduled until victims can be notified under the measure's new requirements.

It has also caused some law enforcement agencies to limit information provided to the public about crimes in South Dakota, including Sioux Falls police, who said this week they won't give out the exact locations of crimes or identify the names of victimized businesses. Rapid City police say they'll be using generalized addresses for additional crimes in public logs, and state officials have said they won't release the names of people involved in car crashes that result in injury or death.

The task force will offer input about the amendment's implementation, and the group's work could result in proposed legislation or an opinion from his office to help give clarity, Jackley said. The group will be comprised of law enforcement, victim representatives, county and municipal officials, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judicial system members and the sponsors of Marsy's Law.

Such a task force perhaps should have been convened before the election, because amendment foes sounded the alarm over problems with the amendment during the campaign, said opponent Ryan Kolbeck, president of the South Dakota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

"There's no doubt that these issues were all raised among lawyers," Kolbeck said. "We knew about them. We did our best to educate the public, but obviously it wasn't enough."

Marsy's Law for South Dakota Chairman Jason Glodt said the task force is a good step toward resolving issues, noting that government agencies have been "very cautious" in interpreting the amendment.

Voters in Montana and the Dakotas approved Marsy's Law earlier this month, joining California and Illinois. 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.

Defense attorneys: Marsy's Law delays keeping people in jail

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls defense attorneys say people are facing longer jail stays because of delays caused by a constitutional amendment approved in November.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2gFOF8I>) reports that the Marsy's Law amendment is forcing court hearings to be rescheduled until victims can be notified under the measure's new requirements.

Marsy's Law establishes constitutional rights for crime victims including timely notice of criminal proceedings. The rights also extend to a victim's spouse and family members.

Minnehaha County Public Defender Traci Smith says that clients are sitting in jail while prosecutors request more time to reach out to victims as a result of the amendment.

The measure's sponsor Jason Glodt says Marsy's Law shouldn't be delaying court proceedings. He says the amendment has worked well in other states without burdening the judicial system.

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

Brazil team honored as experts study possible fuel problem

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

MEDELLIN, Colombia (AP) — Simultaneous tear-filled tributes were held at packed stadiums in Colombia and Brazil for the victims of this week's air tragedy that claimed 71 lives when a chartered plane crashed while ferrying a scrappy, small-town soccer team to the finals of a prestigious South American tournament.

The tributes took place Wednesday night as crash investigators aided by dramatic cockpit recordings were studying why the British-built jet apparently ran out of fuel before slamming into a muddy mountainside just a few miles from Medellin's international airport.

In the sometimes chaotic exchange with the air traffic tower, the pilot jet requested permission to land because of "fuel problems" without making a formal distress call. A female controller explained another plane that had been diverted with mechanical problems of its own was already approaching the runway and had priority, instructing the pilot to wait seven minutes.

As the jetliner circled in a holding pattern, the pilot grew more desperate. "Complete electrical failure, without fuel," he said in the tense final moments before the plane set off on a four-minute death spiral.

By then the controller had gauged the seriousness of the situation and told the other plane to abandon its approach to make way for the charter jet. It was too late. Just before going silent, the pilot said he was flying at an altitude of 9,000 feet and made a final plea to land: "Vectors, senorita. Landing vectors."

The recording, obtained by Colombian media, appeared to confirm the accounts of a surviving flight attendant and a pilot flying nearby who overheard the frantic exchange. These, along with the lack of an explosion upon impact, pointed to a rare case of fuel burnout as a cause of the crash of the jetliner, a BAE 146 Avro RJ85 that experts said was at its maximum range on the flight from Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

"The airplane was being flight-planned right to its maximum. Right there it says that even if everything goes well they are not going to have a large amount of fuel when they arrive," said John Cox, a retired airline pilot and CEO of Florida-based Safety Operating Systems. "I don't understand how they could do the flight nonstop with the fuel requirements that the regulations stipulate."

British aviation experts will investigate the black box and flight data recorder. The Air Accidents Investigation Branch said Thursday that the key instruments offering clues to what happened to the plane will be brought to Britain in the coming days for study.

While the experts worked, thousands of white-clad supporters of Medellin's Atletico Nacional club jammed the stands of the 40,000-seat stadium where the team had been scheduled to play a Copa Sudamericana finals match against Brazil's ill-fated Chapecoense. With the words "Eternal Champions" blazing on a big screen, the normally combative Atletico fans put sportsmanship first and paid tribute to the rival team, which they've urged be named the champion.

The names of each of the 71 victims of Monday night's crash was read aloud while a military band played taps and Black Hawk helicopters that helped in the rescue operations that pulled six people alive from the

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wreckage flew overhead. In the stands, mourners stood for a minute of silence holding candles and signs reading "We're all Chapecoense" and "Soccer has no borders."

The emotional high point of the tribute in Medellin was an address by Brazilian Foreign Minister Jose Serra, who traveled to the city along with a military cargo plane to help repatriate the bodies of the mostly Brazilian victims. He highlighted the fact that both teams shared the same green and white jersey colors, a sign to him of unity amid tragedy.

"We Brazilians will never forget the way Colombians lived as their own this terrible, terrible disaster that disrupted Chapecoense's dream," the normally stone-faced political veteran said while wiping away tears. "You offer us enormous comfort — a light in the darkness when all of us are trying to understand the unexplainable."

Across the continent, in Brazil, the mood was even more somber as residents of the small agricultural city of Chapeco gathered in the team's stadium for a Roman Catholic Mass with relatives of the victims and the players who didn't travel with the team to Medellin.

At the same time they had expected to be home watching their team on TV, more than 22,000 Chapecoense fans cried as they watched videos of tributes that poured in from all over the world. They then cheered the names of each of the dead players as well as the appearance of 5-year-old mascot Carlos Miguel, who usually appears on the sidelines of games in a Chapeco Indian headdress and who many had feared was on the doomed plane.

Chape, as the team is called locally, reached the top of South American soccer without any superstars or any players from Brazil's celebrated national team. It was in the fourth division just seven years ago and only reached the first division in 2014. Its run to the finals of the Copa Sudamericana impressed fans across the continent as it knocked out some of South America's legendary teams.

"We are the champions because we deserved this title," said goalkeeper Nivaldo, who was held back so he could prepare for his 300th game with the club Sunday in the last game of the Brazilian league season. "And we needed to be here with this crowd as much as they needed us here."

Three of the team's players are among the crash's survivors. Doctors said Wednesday that they remained in critical but stable condition. One player, Jakson Follmann, had his right leg amputated, while defender Alan Ruschel was recovering from surgery for a spinal fracture.

Associated Press photographer Fernando Vergara reported this story in Medellin and AP writer Joshua Goodman reported from Bogota. AP writers Mauricio Savarese in Chapeco, Brazil, Cesar Garcia in Bogota and Ben Fox in Miami contributed to this report.

Joshua Goodman is on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/apjoshgoodman> . His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/journalist/joshua-goodman> .

A previous version of this story has been corrected to show that the defender's surname is Ruschel, not Rushel.

Pakistan welcomes Trump's overtures to 'amazing' country

By **MUNIR AHMED**, Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's Foreign Ministry is saying that Islamabad welcomes U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's overtures, saying that Trump told Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that Pakistan is "amazing" and its citizens are "one of the most intelligent people."

Trump's transition team offered few details about the Wednesday conversation with Sharif. A three-sentence statement called the conversation "productive" and said Trump is "looking forward to a lasting and strong personal relationship with Prime Minister Sharif."

But a statement from the Pakistani government quoted Trump as saying that he would "love to come to a fantastic country, fantastic place of fantastic people."

It said Trump asked Sharif to convey his message to the Pakistani people that "they are amazing and all

Pakistanis I have known are exceptional people.”

Presidential election recount set to begin in Wisconsin

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — The first candidate-driven statewide recount of a presidential election in 16 years is set to begin Thursday in Wisconsin, a state that Donald Trump won by less than a percentage point over Hillary Clinton after polls long predicted a Clinton victory.

The recount requested by Green Party candidate Jill Stein carries none of the drama of the Florida presidential recount of 2000, when the outcome of the election between Al Gore and George W. Bush hung in the balance. Almost no one expects Stein’s push for recounts in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania to result in a Clinton victory over Trump.

“This is certainly not Bush v. Gore,” said Wisconsin’s chief elections administrator Mike Haas.

But still, county election officials across Wisconsin have hired temporary workers, expanded hours and dusted off recount manuals to prepare for the work of retabulating nearly 3 million ballots.

Most counties will manually recount the ballots, although Stein lost a court challenge this week to force hand recounts everywhere. The state’s largest county, Milwaukee, was planning to recount the ballots by feeding them through the same machines that counted them on election night. In Dane County, where Clinton won 71 percent of the vote, the ballots will be counted by hand.

Clinton lost to Trump by about 22,000 votes in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin election officials have less than two weeks to complete the recount. Dec. 13 is the federal deadline to certify the vote to avoid having the fate of Wisconsin’s 10 electoral votes decided by Congress. Even if that were to happen, the votes would almost certainly go to Trump, since Republicans control both chambers of Congress.

Stein has argued, without evidence, that irregularities in the votes in all three states suggest that there could have been tampering with the vote, perhaps through a well-coordinated, highly complex cyberattack.

Her critics, including the Wisconsin Republican Party, contend that she’s a little-known candidate who is merely trying to raise her profile while raising millions of dollars. Stein had raised nearly \$7 million, about twice as much as her longshot presidential campaign, to pay for the recounts.

The Wisconsin recount was estimated to cost about \$3.9 million, while Stein paid \$973,250 for the one in Michigan.

Stein filed a lawsuit Monday in Pennsylvania to force a recount there.

Follow Scott Bauer on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/sbauerAP> and find more of his work at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/scott-bauer>

Preparations set for Thai prince to succeed to throne

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand prepared Thursday to welcome a new king, with final arrangements scheduled to formalize the accession of Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn to the throne.

National Legislative Assembly President Pornpetch Wichitcholchai was to have an audience with the prince later Thursday to invite him to become king, a constitutional formality, according to the assembly Vice President Peerasak Porchit.

Pornpetch’s public announcement of Vajiralongkorn’s acceptance, expected Thursday night, will complete the succession process, making the 64-year-old prince King Rama X, the tenth monarch in the Chakri dynasty that was founded in 1782.

The prince on Thursday made his first public appearance in more than a week, attending a religious ceremony honoring his late father. He was accompanied by his three sisters, two adult daughters and 11-year-old son.

Vajiralongkorn’s father, the much-revered Bhumibol Adulyadej, who took the throne in 1946, died on Oct. 13 at age 88 after many years of ill health. In 1972, Bhumibol designated Vajiralongkorn — his second child and only son — as his successor.

Vajiralongkorn was originally expected to assume the throne the day his father died, but in a surprise announcement, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said the prince asked for the succession to be put off so he would have time to mourn. In the interim, royal affairs have been overseen by a regent, Prem Tinsulanonda, who along with Prayuth and Supreme Court Chief Justice Veerapol Tungsuwan were to accompany the assembly president at his audience to invite the prince to take the throne.

Thailand has been in a state of national mourning since Bhumibol's death, and huge crowds have been paying respects to the late king's remains at the Grand Palace in Bangkok. His body will be cremated in an elaborate ceremony that may take place a year or more after his death.

The coronation ceremony for Vajiralongkorn will take place only after the cremation.

Suspect in Tacoma officer's death believed cornered in house

By LISA BAUMANN, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Dozens of police held positions around a house early Thursday where a suspect accused of fatally shooting a Tacoma police officer hours earlier was believed still barricaded inside.

The officer was shot multiple times while responding to a domestic violence call Wednesday afternoon.

Tacoma Police spokeswoman Loretta Cool said the officer was pronounced dead at the hospital after nightfall.

"We've suffered a great loss and I think the community has suffered a great loss. I don't know how to put that into words," Cool said.

After the death of the officer, who still hasn't been publicly identified, a procession of law enforcement officers from around the region escorted the body from the hospital to the county medical examiner's office.

After 2 a.m. PST Thursday, the standoff was ongoing with many emergency vehicles with flashing lights and numerous officers posted outside the home where the suspect was thought to be. Cool said earlier that the neighborhood had been locked down while officers from multiple agencies were "working to bring it to a peaceful resolution."

She also said it's possible the suspect, who hasn't been identified, could have left while police were removing the wounded officer from the scene. She said that's why the large neighborhood perimeter had been set up.

Cool said police responded to the home Wednesday afternoon in the 400 block of East 52nd Street and that shortly after arriving, officers called for backup.

Reacting to shots fired, arriving officers entered the home and managed to get the wounded officer outside and to a hospital, Cool said. She had said the officer had been undergoing surgery before the death was announced.

It wasn't immediately clear what led up to the shooting.

In a statement, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said he and his wife Trudi were sending their thoughts and prayers to the family and loved ones of the officer.

"All of Washington grieves with Tacoma, which tonight lost one of their finest. Our hearts are with the men and women of the Tacoma Police Department, their families, and their brothers and sisters in law enforcement across Washington."

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 TRUMP'S EVENT WITH CARRIER EMBRACES

The Republican shows deftness for the way the theater of the presidency can be used to shape perceptions of those who occupy the Oval Office.

2. TRUMP WILL FACE TOUGH QUESTIONS ON NUKE FUTURE

Among them for the somewhat decrepit arms: Can the U.S. get by with fewer? Is it time to take some off hair-trigger alert?

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3. HOW SOUTH AMERICANS ARE REACTING TO COLOMBIAN PLANE CRASH

Emotional tributes are held at stadiums in Colombia and Brazil for the victims of a jetliner crash that claimed 71 lives while ferrying a scrappy, small-town soccer team.

4. CUBANS PUT OFF BY US CASTRO CELEBRATIONS

Cuban-Americans have been celebrating the death of a man they blame for ruining their homeland — a reaction that has offended even Cuban critics of the government.

5. WHERE TENNESSEE RESORT TOWN STANDS ON RECOVERY

After drenching rains help quench a series of devastating wildfires in Galtinburg, discussions are underway about reopening the city as early as Friday.

6. A YEAR AFTER SAN BERNARDINO ATTACK, FAITHFUL SEEK UNITY

Muslims and some victims' families have come together, engaging a dialogue about Islam, tolerance and community.

7. OPEC'S DECISION TO CUT PRODUCTION BOOSTS OIL PRICES

But the impact on consumers and the U.S. economy is likely to be more modest and gradual.

8. MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS SEEN IN 'MAGIC MUSHROOM'

Two studies find the psychedelic drug quickly and effectively helped treat anxiety and depression in cancer patients.

9. BLAME WAGES AND TURTLE DOVES: '12 DAYS' NOW COSTS \$34,363

The slow recovery of the U.S. economy continues to keep the cost of Christmas — or at least the gifts listed in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" — from spiraling out of control.

10. AP: ALL-STAR GAME NO LONGER DETERMINES SERIES START

The league that wins baseball's Midsummer Classic no longer will get home-field advantage in the World Series, which instead will go to the pennant winner with the better regular-season record.

Trump will face tough questions on future of nuclear arsenal

By **ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — For all the concerns raised in the presidential campaign about Donald Trump's fitness to command America's nuclear arsenal, the immediate questions he's likely to face as president aren't about launching these weapons, but modernizing them.

He'll have to make politically fraught decisions about a U.S. nuclear arsenal that in some ways has become decrepit. Among the open questions: Can the U.S. get by with fewer? Is it time to take some off hair-trigger alert?

Trump's transition website says he "recognizes the uniquely catastrophic threats posed by nuclear weapons and cyberattacks," adding that he will modernize the nuclear arsenal "to ensure it continues to be an effective deterrent."

The questions left unanswered: How much modernization is enough, and in a world of widening cyber threats, how vulnerable are U.S. nuclear weapons?

During the campaign, nuclear issues were discussed in sweeping terms. Trump caused stirs by suggesting that America's Asian allies should no longer be covered by the U.S. nuclear umbrella if they don't pay more for their defense — or that they should possibly obtain their own nuclear bombs. President Barack Obama and other critics questioned whether Trump could be counted on to avoid using nuclear weapons. Ten former nuclear missile launch operators wrote that Trump lacks the temperament, judgment and diplomatic skill to avoid nuclear war.

The state of the nuclear arsenal was rarely addressed. To the extent it was, Trump did not show a firm understanding of details. At a debate with Republican rivals, he appeared unfamiliar with the concept of a nuclear triad, the Cold War-era combination of submarines, land-based missiles and strategic bombers for launching nuclear attacks.

"I think, for me, nuclear is just the power, the devastation is very important to me," he said.

Trump may need to get up to speed quickly on nuclear weapon issues. He will soon be overseeing a

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Pentagon where there is internal competition between big-dollar plans for modernizing conventional and nuclear weapons, said Hans Kristensen, a nuclear weapons expert with the Federation of American Scientists, which favors reducing nuclear arsenals.

"He has made various vague statements that indicate that he believes in a strong military but doesn't seem to know much about nuclear forces and issues, is unconcerned about nuclear proliferation, yet also seems impressed by the 'hugeness' of nuclear weapons," Kristensen said in an email exchange.

He said Trump's comments and the views of his advisers make it seem likely his administration "will continue the full-scale (nuclear weapons) modernization plan that the Obama administration put in motion and Congress has largely supported."

Yet Trump's leading candidate for defense secretary, retired Marine Gen. James Mattis, is skeptical of the nuclear status quo.

"You should ask, 'Is it time to reduce the triad to a diad, removing the land-based missiles?'" he told the Senate Armed Services Committee in January 2015. He recommended a review of fundamental questions to "clearly establish the role of our nuclear weapons. Do they serve solely to deter nuclear war? If so, we should say so, and the resulting clarity will help to determine the number we need."

Had Hillary Clinton won the presidency she may have acted on her skepticism about the military's claim to require a complete rebuilding of the nuclear arsenal, particularly the need for a new air-launched nuclear cruise missile, which detractors say is a luxury the nation easily can do without.

Obama agreed to fully modernize the nuclear force as the political price for Senate approval of the 2010 New START arms control treaty negotiated with Russia during Clinton's tenure as secretary of state. The modernization entailed a commitment of hundreds of billions of dollars that critics say is unaffordable.

Non-government groups are studying the need for modernization and the vulnerability of the arsenal. The Nuclear Threat Initiative, a research and advocacy group whose co-chairman is Sam Nunn, the former Democratic chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is studying nuclear terrorism as well as the cyber threat to nuclear command-and-control systems.

"What if hackers spoofed a nuclear missile attack, forcing a miscalculated retaliatory strike that could kill millions?" the group asks in a description of its project.

Along with the cyber aspect of nuclear security is a parallel question: whether the U.S. should threaten the use of nuclear weapons in response to a catastrophic cyberattack.

New administrations often order up a broad and deep review of nuclear policy to lay the groundwork for decisions like some of those facing Trump. The Obama White House undertook a "nuclear posture review" in 2010 that concluded, for example, the U.S. should maintain all three legs of the nuclear triad.

In the years since that review, a growing number of people have questioned the wisdom of sticking to the same nuclear structure. William J. Perry, who served as secretary of defense in the administration of President Bill Clinton, has argued for eliminating the land-based missile "leg" of the triad.

Obama considered, but ultimately left for his successor, other sticky nuclear issues, including decisions on how to respond to what the Obama administration says are significant violations by Russia of a 1987 nuclear arms control agreement with implications for U.S. and European security.

MLB players, owners reach tentative labor deal

By STEPHEN HAWKINS and RONALD BLUM, AP Sports Writers

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Baseball players and owners reached a tentative agreement on a five-year labor contract Wednesday night, a deal that will extend the sport's industrial peace to 26 years since the ruinous fights in the first two decades of free agency.

After days of near round-the-clock talks, negotiators reached a verbal agreement about 3 1/2 hours before the expiration of the current pact. Then they worked to draft a memorandum of understanding, which must be ratified by both sides.

"It's great! Another five years of uninterrupted baseball," Oakland catcher Stephen Vogt said in a text message.

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In announcing the agreement, Major League Baseball and the players' association said they will make specific terms available when drafting is complete.

"Happy it's done, and baseball is back on," Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Brandon McCarthy said.

As part of the deal, the experiment of having the All-Star Game determine which league gets home-field advantage in the World Series will end after 14 years, a person familiar with the agreement told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal had not yet been signed.

Instead, the pennant winner with the better regular-season record will open the Series at home.

Another important change: The minimum time for a stint on the disabled list will be reduced from 15 days to 10.

The luxury tax threshold rises from \$189 million to \$195 million next year, \$197 million in 2018, \$206 million in 2019, \$209 million in 2020 and \$210 million in 2021.

Tax rates increase from 17.5 percent to 20 percent for first offenders, remain at 30 percent for second offenders and rise from 40 percent to 50 percent for third offenders. There is a new surtax of 12 percent for teams \$20 million to \$40 million above the threshold, 42.5 percent for first offenders more than \$40 million above the threshold and 45 percent for subsequent offenders more than \$40 million above.

Union head Tony Clark, presiding over a negotiation for the first time, said in a statement the deal "will benefit all involved in the game and leaves the game better for those who follow."

Key changes involve the qualifying offers clubs can make to their former players after they become free agents — the figure was \$17.2 million this year. If a player turns down the offer and signs elsewhere, his new team forfeits an amateur draft pick, which usually had been in the first round under the old deal.

Under the new rules, a player can receive a qualifying offer only once in his career and will have 10 days to consider it instead of seven. A club signing a player who declined a qualifying offer would lose its third-highest amateur draft pick if it is a revenue-sharing receiver, its second- and fifth-highest picks (plus a loss of \$1 million in its international draft pool) if it pays luxury tax for the just-ended season, and its second-highest pick (plus \$500,000 in the international draft pool) if it is any other team.

A club losing a free agent who passed up a qualifying offer would receive an extra selection after the first round of the next draft if the player signed a contract for \$50 million or more and after competitive balance round B if under \$50 million. However, if that team pays luxury tax, the extra draft pick would drop to after the fourth round.

Among other details:

—For a team \$40 million or more in excess of the luxury tax threshold, its highest selection in the next amateur draft will drop 10 places.

—While management failed to obtain an international draft of amateurs residing outside the U.S., Puerto Rico and Canada, it did get a hard cap on each team's annual bonus pool for those players starting at \$4.75 million for the signing period that begins next July 2.

—There is no change to limits on active rosters, which remain at 25 for most of the season and 40 from Sept. 1 on.

—Smokeless tobacco will be banned for all new players, those who currently do not have at least one day of major league service.

—The regular season will expand from 183 days to 187 starting in 2018, creating four more scheduled off days. There are additional limitations on the start times of night games on getaway days.

—The minimum salary rises from \$507,500 to \$535,000 next year, \$545,000 in 2018 and \$555,000 in 2019, with cost-of-living increases the following two years; the minor league minimum for a player appearing on the 40-man roster for at least the second time goes up from \$82,700 to \$86,500 next year, \$88,000 in 2018 and \$89,500 in 2019, followed by cost-of-living raises.

—The drop-off in slot values in the first round of the amateur draft will be lessened.

—Oakland's revenue-sharing funds will be cut to 75 percent next year, 50 percent in 2018, 25 percent in 2019 and then phased out.

—As part of the drug agreement, there will be increased testing, players will not be credited with major league service time during suspensions, and biomarker testing for HGH will begin next year.

Negotiators met through most of Tuesday night in an effort to increase momentum in the talks, which

began during spring training. This is the third straight time the sides reached a new agreement before the old contract expired, but a deal was struck eight weeks in advance in 2006 and three weeks ahead of expiration in 2011.

Talks took place at a hotel outside Dallas where the players' association held its annual executive board meeting.

Clark, the first former player to serve as executive director of the union, and others set up in a meeting room within earshot of a children's choir practicing Christmas carols. A man dressed as Santa Claus waited nearby.

Baseball had eight work stoppages from 1972-95, the last a 7 1/2-month strike in 1994-95 that led to the first cancellation of the World Series in 90 years. The 2002 agreement was reached after players authorized a strike and about 3 1/2 hours before the first game that would have been impacted by a walkout.

The peace in baseball is in contrast to the recent labor histories of other major sports. The NFL had a preseason lockout in 2011, the NBA lost 240 games to a lockout that same year and the NHL lost 510 games to a lockout in 2012-13.

AP Baseball Writer Janie McCauley in Oakland, California, contributed to this report.

A year after attack in San Bernardino, faithful seek unity

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO and AMY TAXIN, Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — Almost a year after her father was killed in the San Bernardino terror attack last December, Kate Bowman etched the word "love" in yellow chalk on the sidewalk outside a mosque.

It was just one of the messages of peace the 15-year-old Lutheran and her mother have left in an effort to unify Muslims and Christians in the hardscrabble city east of Los Angeles against the violence that many community members feared might divide them.

"What angered me most after Dec. 2 was the amount of hate speech going on," Bowman said, recalling the day her father, Harry Bowman, and 13 others were killed by husband-and-wife assailants at a lunch meeting for county health inspectors in San Bernardino.

"I just kind of didn't understand how people could be that ignorant about another religion to think that the acts of a few (.) make them blame the entire community," she said.

Her actions were among efforts in the city to counter what some feared would be a prolonged, hate-filled backlash. Victims' families, such as Bowman's, encouraged dialogue and tolerance. The Muslim community undertook its own campaign to educate neighbors about Islam. Clergy organized interfaith talks.

Nationwide, hate crimes against Muslims were up last year and President-elect Donald Trump frequently used heated rhetoric about Muslims on the campaign trail.

As San Bernardino prepares to mark the first anniversary of the onslaught, a Somali-born Muslim student carried out an attack at Ohio State University and police in Los Angeles met with Muslim leaders to condemn hateful letters sent to mosques in the city and elsewhere.

In San Bernardino, apart from some incidents, residents say their worst fears about a backlash in their own community never materialized.

"I think as a community it felt good not to be divided," said Brian Levin, a professor at California State University, San Bernardino who studies hate crimes. "And I think in other parts of the country they had the luxury of hating when we didn't."

Last December, San Bernardino County health inspector Syed Farook and his Pakistan-born wife Tashfeen Malik opened fire on a meeting of Farook's colleagues, and were killed in a shootout with police. Investigators said the assailants were inspired by the Islamic State group.

Afterward, residents of San Bernardino said they couldn't believe such an attack could happen in a struggling community with a rundown downtown that is only a drive away from well-known tourist destinations like Disneyland and Hollywood. Many feared it would only spur a rise in hate crimes in a city of 216,000

people already down on its luck.

In the days after the attack, some things changed. Muslim women wearing headscarves said they were stared at in public, and some even changed their attire out of fear. A Muslim university professor reported to police receiving threatening emails.

But the effects were short lived, experts believe, in part because community members took action. Muslim residents held vigils for the victims and developed an 11-point campaign rejecting terrorism that members of diverse faiths could agree on, starting with the local police chief.

Clergy formed an interfaith alliance. Christians invited Muslim community members to speak with them about their religion to promote greater understanding.

"There was an obvious worry. These are people who looked like us here in America committing these violent acts," said Amjad Khan, a member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in nearby Chino. "But it wasn't as pronounced as I thought it might be."

After the attack, a teacher in an adult education class at the First Presbyterian Church in San Bernardino asked Pastor Sandy Tice to do something to foster interfaith dialogue. Tice invited Khan to speak, and the crowd was standing-room only as congregants peppered him with questions.

"I think there are people who are afraid," she said. "But mostly I think there are people who have risked getting to know others that they didn't know before. There is a kind of urgency about getting to know one another, figuring out how to co-exist."

After a major event such as a terror attack, hate crimes tend to increase, Levin said. But while there were eight anti-Muslim crimes reported in the five days after the Dec. 2 shooting, none of them occurred in the city of San Bernardino, he said.

Last December, two mosques were sprayed with graffiti and one set on fire in other cities in Southern California.

Ojaala Ahmad, a spokeswoman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations in greater Los Angeles, said there was an initial spike in reports of hate incidents after the attack but it was short-lived. More recently, the election of Trump has sparked another increase, she said.

No specific incidents, however, were reported in San Bernardino, said the city's police chief, Jarrod Burguan.

Ayman Taleb, the director of a mosque in nearby Riverside, regularly holds "open mosque" nights and invites visitors to ask questions. He hopes to combat fear with knowledge, even though he hasn't heard of any uptick in hateful incidents since arriving in the community.

"I thank God every day that nothing does happen," he said.

Recovery begins as rains help put out Tennessee wildfires

By ADAM BEAM and JONATHAN MATTISE, Associated Press

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (AP) — After nearly 24 hours of drenching rain helped quench a series of devastating wildfires in eastern Tennessee, local officials turned to cleanup and recovery efforts even as they battled their own personal crises.

Gatlinburg Mayor Mike Werner said discussions were under way about re-opening the resort city as early as Friday, which would give business owners and residents their first look at the damage in a city that has been closed since Monday night.

Werner has spent the better part of two days standing in front of TV cameras saying "everything is going to be OK," all while he lost the home he built himself along with all seven buildings of the condominium business he owned.

"I really can't dwell on it that much. I think of others that have lost theirs, and it keeps my mind off of our problems," he said while fighting back tears. "It's really hard, it's really tough."

Werner was just one of several city officials confronting the crisis while dealing with losses of their own. Gatlinburg City Manager Cindy Cameron Ogle also lost her home in the fire. And Gatlinburg Fire Chief

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Greg Miller said the homes of several firefighters are among the estimated 300 plus buildings in the city that have been destroyed.

"They have not asked to be off," Miller said. "That's just a testament to the dedication of these responders who serve this community. They put their own personal needs aside to take care of everybody else."

Sevier County Mayor Larry Waters said officials plan to announce Thursday morning when local residents and business owners can return to the city. Authorities discovered three more bodies among the ruins Wednesday, raising the death toll to seven. But there were some happy moments, as three people who had been trapped since the fires started Monday night were rescued.

"That is some good, positive news for a change," he said.

The mayor said authorities are still working to identify the dead and did not release any details about how they were killed. State law enforcement set up a hotline for people to report missing friends and family. Officials have not said how many people they believe are missing.

Three brothers being treated at a Nashville hospital said they had not heard from their parents since they were separated while fleeing the fiery scene during their vacation.

Gatlinburg Police Chief Randall Brackins said they have searched about 30 percent or less of the city so far.

More than 14,000 people were evacuated from Gatlinburg on Monday night, and many of them are still nervously awaiting word of when they can get back in the city to see if they still have homes.

Buddy McLean said he watched Monday from a deserted Gatlinburg street as flames surrounded his 26-acre hotel nestled in the mountains.

"I have 35 employees," McLean said. "All of them lost their jobs overnight."

Storms moved through the area as part of a system ravaging the Southeast, spawning suspected tornadoes in parts of Alabama and Tennessee, killing at least five people and injuring more than a dozen.

Much remained uncertain for a region that serves as the gateway into the Great Smoky Mountains, the country's most visited national park.

The Rocky Top Sports World complex on the outskirts of town was serving as a shelter. Wolf McLellan stumbled into the facility after a day of wandering the streets. He was forced to evacuate a motel where he was staying. He grabbed his guitar, two computers and his social security card and tried to flee with his dog, Kylie.

"She was too scared to move with the smoke and sirens and she just stood there. I didn't want to drag her. I couldn't drag her," he said. "I figured the humane thing to do would be to just cut her loose."

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

Blame wages and turtle doves: '12 Days' now costs \$34,363

By JOE MANDAK, Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The slow recovery of the U.S. economy is continuing to keep the cost of Christmas — or at least the gifts listed in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" — from spiraling out of control.

The price of two turtle doves jumped from \$290 to \$375 this year, but nine of the other 12 gifts listed in the carol stayed the same price or became cheaper, including a partridge in a pear tree, according to the 33rd annual PNC Wealth Management Christmas Price Index released Thursday.

As a result, the overall cost of the gifts listed in the song increased 0.7 percent to \$34,363, up \$233 from last year's total of \$34,131.

PNC Financial Services Group releases the price index each year as a whimsical way of tracking inflation.

Besides the turtle doves, only the cost of 11 pipers piping and 12 drummers drumming — both up 2.8 percent — increased.

Thomas Melcher, chief investment officer for PNC Asset Management Group, said the increasing wages of drummers and pipers could signal a march toward higher wages for a broader range of workers in 2017. He said he wouldn't be surprised to see increases coming for the eight maids-a-milking, nine ladies

dancing and 10 lords-a-leaping.

"There are some underlying inflationary pressures that seem to be building," Melcher said.

The price of five gold rings, as tracked by PNC, hasn't gone up in three years, even though the price of gold as a commodity has.

"At a certain point, the end product should begin to reflect the price appreciation of the commodity," Melcher said.

PNC calculates the prices from sources including retailers, bird hatcheries and two Philadelphia dance groups, the Pennsylvania Ballet and Philadanco.

The cost of buying the same gifts online is \$44,603 this year, up 2.2 percent from \$43,627 last year. But Melcher cautioned that's largely because it costs more to transport animals and performers — 10 lords-a-leaping cost \$5,509 in-person, but \$13,373 online because of transportation costs — than the cost of the items themselves.

"In most instances, it's cheaper to shop online," Melcher said. "I've never personally shipped a swan, but I imagine it's not the cheapest endeavor in the world."

A buyer who purchased all the gifts each time they are mentioned in the song would spend \$156,507, up \$1,100 from last year.

The full set of prices for purchasing the gifts from a bricks-and-mortar business, not online, is:

- Partridge, \$20; last year: \$25
- Pear tree, \$190; last year: same
- Two turtle doves, \$375; last year: \$290
- Three French hens, \$182; last year: same
- Four calling birds (canaries), \$600; last year: same
- Five gold rings, \$750; last year: same
- Six geese-a-laying, \$360; last year: same
- Seven swans a-swimming, \$13,125; last year: same
- Eight maids a-milking, \$58; last year: same
- Nine ladies dancing (per performance), \$7,553; last year: same
- 10 lords a-leaping (per performance), \$5,509; last year: same
- 11 pipers piping (per performance), \$2,708; last year: \$2,635
- 12 drummers drumming (per performance), \$2,934; last year: \$2,855

Online: pnc.co/ChristmasPriceIndex

OPEC cuts will have a muted effect on consumers

By DAVID KOENIG, AP Business Writer

DALLAS (AP) — OPEC's decision to cut production gave an immediate boost to oil prices, but the impact on consumers and the U.S. economy is likely to be more modest and gradual.

The cartel agreed Wednesday to cut output by 1.2 million barrels a day, reversing a strategy that produced lower oil prices and pain for U.S. drillers but saved money for consumers.

Even if OPEC members carry through on their promises, global oil production would only fall by about 1 percent. There is still more supply than demand — the reason oil prices collapsed beginning in mid-2014.

The price of oil shot up 9 percent to near \$50 a barrel. If the price keeps rising, some of the slack from OPEC cuts will be picked up by producers in the United States — good news for drillers and oilfield workers in Texas and North Dakota. President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to increase drilling in the U.S., the world's third-largest producer after Saudi Arabia and Russia, which would help ensure there is plenty of oil.

In short, analysts say, consumers and businesses are not likely to see the return of \$100-a-barrel oil — and the high energy costs that came with it — anytime soon.

Still, there could be some short-term shocks even before OPEC's cuts take effect in January.

"The average Joe filling up his tank may notice in the next week or two that gas prices move higher by 5 to 15 cents a gallon just on the psyche of the deal," said Patrick DeHaan, an analyst for GasBuddy, a

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site used to comparison-shop for gasoline.

The U.S. Energy Department predicts that heating oil costs will rise about one-third this winter, but that prediction was issued more than a month ago and was based heavily on forecasts of much colder temperatures in the Northeast. If the weather forecast proves wrong, prices could sink because heating-oil inventories are running above their 5-year average and grew again last week.

A small increase in gasoline or even a bigger jump in heating oil, which is used in only 5 percent of American homes, won't affect shoppers if the economy does well, in the view of Michael Niemira, chief economist at The Retail Economist LLC, which does a weekly retail-sales report with Goldman Sachs.

"The consumer isn't really focused on gasoline since prices remain low. A better economy, a better labor market — those matter much more," Niemira said. But if gasoline spikes to \$4, "that could be bad."

Crude has traded between \$40 and \$50 a barrel the last several months. The national average for gasoline on Wednesday stood at \$2.15 a gallon, according to the AAA auto club.

Before the OPEC meeting, the U.S. Energy Department predicted that crude would rise to \$50 or \$51 a barrel next year.

Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said modestly higher oil prices will actually help the U.S. economy by spurring investment in the energy industry without draining consumers' purchasing power. He expects an average price of about \$53 a barrel next year as a result of the OPEC production cuts.

"The losers are Europe and Japan — oil-importing regions of the world," Guatieri said.

U.S. producers are likely to be winners. Drilling fell off after oil prices started to slide in mid-2014. The number of active U.S. drilling rigs bottomed out at 404 in May and has been rising since, to just below 600 last week. That's still down 20 percent from a year ago, however.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas recently surveyed producers and found that most believe crude must be \$55 or higher before drilling picks up significantly, said Michael Plante, an economist for the bank.

The Energy Department predicts that U.S. production will fall from 9.4 million barrels a day in 2015 to 8.8 million this year and 8.7 million next year — the forecast assumed oil at \$50 a barrel next year.

Research firm IHS Inc. estimates that if crude rises to \$55, U.S. production will instead grow by about 500,000 barrels a day — offsetting nearly half of OPEC's stated cut.

Much of that production is expected to come from the Permian Basin in Texas, where prices for acquiring oilfield acreage have skyrocketed in recent months. There are now almost as many drilling rigs running in the Permian as in the rest of the country combined, including offshore.

"A few months ago rigs were being stacked on the side of roads," said Avi Mirman, CEO of Lilis Energy Inc., a small producer that operates in the Permian and the Rockies. "Today it's almost impossible to get a hot rig" with a crew.

Mirman is facing higher costs for materials used for hydraulic-fracturing or fracking, a technique to boost well production. The specialty firms that do the fracking have raised prices because "they are booked out through June or July. It's pretty wild."

AP Economics Writer Paul Wiseman in Washington contributed to this report.

David Koenig can be reached at <http://twitter.com/airlinewriter>

AP Explains: What's behind persecution of Myanmar's Rohingya

By GRANT PECK, Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Abdul Razak Ali Artan, the Somali-born student accused of carrying out a car-and-knife attack at Ohio State University this week, reportedly protested on his Facebook page about the killing of minority Muslims in Myanmar. Muslim Rohingya face discrimination and violence from the Buddhist majority in the country, also called Burma. Their plight generally goes unnoticed by the world at large, even though some rights activists say their persecution amounts to ethnic cleansing. Here are several things to know about the group:

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"THE MOST FRIENDLESS PEOPLE IN THE WORLD"

Although Rohingya — a Muslim ethnic minority of about 1 million among Myanmar's predominantly Buddhist 52 million people — have lived in Myanmar for generations, most people view them as foreign intruders from neighboring Bangladesh. Bangladesh, which hosts many Rohingya refugees, also refuses to recognize them as citizens. "The Rohingya are probably the most friendless people in the world. They just have no one advocating for them at all," Kitty McKinsey, a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said in 2009.

BORDER ATTACKS LED TO LATEST OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE

Almost all Rohingya live in western Myanmar's Rakhine state, where the military has stepped up operations since November, when nine police officers were killed in attacks on posts along the border with Bangladesh. The identity of the perpetrators remains unclear. Rohingya villagers armed with homemade weapons resisted troops and an unknown number of villagers died, along with a handful of soldiers and officials. Rohingya solidarity groups say several hundred civilians have been killed since October. The New York-based group Human Rights Watch says satellite imagery shows 1,250 houses and other structures have been burned down. In 2012, violence between Rohingya and the Buddhist community killed hundreds and forced about 140,000 people — predominantly Rohingya — to flee their homes to camps for the internally displaced. About 100,000 remain in the squalid camps and dependent on charity.

DISAPPOINTMENT WITH SUU KYI

There has been great disappointment that Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, whose political party took power in Myanmar this year after decades of military rule, has failed to ease the plight of Rohingya despite her reputation as a fighter for human rights. Speaking out for Rohingya rights is an unpopular political position. However, Suu Kyi's government in August appointed former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to head an advisory panel aimed at finding lasting solutions to the conflict in Rakhine state. He is scheduled to visit Rakhine on Friday. The U.N. special adviser on the prevention of genocide, Adama Dieng, on Tuesday expressed concern about reports of excessive use of force and other serious human rights violations against civilians, particularly Rohingya, including allegations of extrajudicial executions, torture, rape and the destruction of religious property.

Fidel Castro ashes complete first leg of cross-country trip

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO** and **FABIOLA SANCHEZ**, Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Cuba (AP) — Fidel Castro's ashes are completing the first leg of a more than 500-mile (800-kilometer) journey across Cuba, traveling in a flag-draped cedar coffin through small towns and cities where his rebel army fought its way to power nearly 60 years ago.

Just after 7 a.m. on Wednesday, an honor guard placed the coffin under a glass box on a trailer behind a Russian jeep. Thousands of soldiers and state security agents saluted the remains as they rolled slowly out of Havana's Plaza of the Revolution and the cortege made its way to the Malecon seaside boulevard and east into the countryside.

Tens of thousands of people lined the route, which retraces in reverse the path of the triumphant march of Castro and his rebels across the island to enter Havana on Jan. 1, 1959. Many waved flags and shouted "Long may he live!"

Others filmed the procession with cellphones, a luxury prohibited in Cuba until an ailing Castro gave up power in 2006 to his younger brother, Raul, who began a series of slow reforms.

The ashes were to arrive late Wednesday in the central city of Santa Clara, where they would spend the night at a memorial to fellow revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara, whose remains are interred in Santa Clara.

An enormous Cuban flag hung outside the memorial to Guevara and hundreds of soldiers and city residents turned out for the arrival.

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"He is everything to me. He's the one who gave us everything," said Cristian Garcia, a 13-year-old who painted the words "I love you Fidel" on his face.

The second leg of the journey on Thursday is to take the ashes to the eastern city of Camaguey. They will be interred Sunday in the far-eastern city of Santiago, ending a nine-day period of mourning that saw Cuba fall silent as thousands paid tribute to photographs of Fidel Castro and sign oaths of loyalty to his socialist, single-party system across the country on Monday and Tuesday.

Wednesday's procession was the first moment in which ordinary Cubans saw the remains of the man who led a band of bearded young fighters out of the Sierra Maestra mountains, overthrew strongman Fulgencio Batista, faced off against the United States for decades and imposed Soviet-style communism on the largest island in the Caribbean.

For many Cubans, seeing the coffin of a man who dominated life here for a half-century made the idea of a Cuba without Fidel Castro real for the first time since his death Friday night at age 90.

Juan Carlos Gonzalez, 26, owner of a private restaurant that serves traditional Cuban food in Santa Clara, said there was a greater sense of uncertainty without Fidel and he couldn't say whether that was positive or negative.

"The one who ruled the country was Fidel, in my opinion," Gonzalez said. "Now I don't know how things are going to be."

The crowds along Wednesday's route were a mix of people attending on their own and those sent by the government in groups from their state workplaces.

Outside Havana, the caravan passed through rural communities transformed by Castro's social and economic reforms. Many residents now have access to health care and education. But many towns are also in a prolonged economic collapse, the country's once-dominant sugar industry decimated, the sugar mills and plantations gone.

Associated Press writer Christine Armario reported this story in Santa Clara and Fabiola Sanchez reported from Havana.

Colombian congress ratifies peace deal; critics boycott vote

By JOSHUA GOODMAN, Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Congress formally ratified a revised peace agreement with Colombia's biggest leftist rebel group, capping a torturous four years of negotiations, a stunning referendum rejection, last-minute compromises and two signing ceremonies.

The initial pact was narrowly rejected by voters last month, and President Juan Manuel Santos decided to skip a referendum on the new version and go directly to congress, where the deal's supporters hold a majority. Opponents, led by former President Alvaro Uribe, boycotted the legislative votes, which resulted in unanimous approval by the Senate on Tuesday and by the lower house late Wednesday.

The new 310-page accord with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia introduced 50 changes to the initial deal in an attempt to assuage opponents as the government seeks to end a 52-year conflict that has killed more than 220,000 people and driven almost 8 million from their homes.

The modifications include a prohibition on foreign magistrates judging alleged crimes by government or FARC troops, and a commitment from the rebels to forfeit assets, some amassed through drug trafficking, to help compensate victims. But the FARC rejected demands for jail sentences for rebel leaders responsible for atrocities and stricter limits on their future participation in politics.

The compromises weren't enough for some of the deal's opponents.

"There needs to be a balance between peace and justice, but in this agreement there's complete impunity," Uribe, now a senator, said during the Senate debate. Other senators accused him of standing in the way of a peace deal that he pursued with the FARC as president in 2002-10.

Santos said ratification will set in motion the start of a six-month process in which the FARC's 8,000-plus guerrillas will concentrate in some 20 rural areas and turn over their weapons to United Nations monitors. "Tomorrow a new era begins," he said Wednesday.

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But the rebels insist their troops won't start demobilizing until lawmakers pass an amnesty law freeing some 2,000 rebels in jail.

"D-Day starts after the first actions are implemented," the rebel leader Pastor Alape, part of the FARC's 10-member secretariat, said last week after the new accord was signed. "The president unfortunately has been demonstrating an attitude that creates confusion in the country."

The debate over amnesty highlights one of the peace deal's early challenges: the need for congress to pass legislation implementing the accord and setting up special peace tribunals.

Santos was initially counting on swift approval of the needed changes that in some cases require constitutional amendments. But the referendum loss has left the status of his fast-track authority in doubt, awaiting a ruling by the constitutional court. Experts say a solid pro-peace coalition could crumble if implementation drags on and butts against the political maneuvering for the 2018 presidential election.

Beyond the legal hurdles, there is also concern FARC fighters will wind up joining criminal gangs rampant across Colombia or the much-smaller rebel National Liberation Army, which for months has been playing cat and mouse with the government over opening a peace process of its own. On Wednesday, both sides said they would delay until January any decision about when to start talks.

Combating security threats will test the state's ability to make its presence felt in traditionally neglected rural areas at a time of financial stress triggered by low oil prices.

There is also a risk that peace could trigger more bloodshed, as it did following a previous peace process with the FARC in the 1980s. At that time, thousands of former guerrillas, labor activists and communist militants were killed by right-wing militias, sometimes in collaboration with state agents.

Worries about new bloodshed, although less prevalent than in the darker days of Colombia's half-century conflict, has become more urgent with more than a dozen human rights defenders and land activists in areas dominated by the FARC being killed by unknown assailants since the initial signing ceremony in September. So far this year, 70 have been killed, according to Bogota-based We Are Defenders, more than in all of 2015 and 2014.

Joshua Goodman is on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/apjoshgoodman>. His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/journalist/joshua-goodman>.

'Magic mushroom' psychedelic may ease anxiety, depression

By MALCOLM RITTER, AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The psychedelic drug in "magic mushrooms" can quickly and effectively help treat anxiety and depression in cancer patients, an effect that may last for months, two small studies show.

It worked for Dinah Bazer, who endured a terrifying hallucination that rid her of the fear that her ovarian cancer would return. And for Estalyn Walcoff, who says the drug experience led her to begin a comforting spiritual journey.

The work released Thursday is preliminary and experts say more definitive research must be done on the effects of the substance, called psilocybin (sih-loh-SY'-bihn).

But the record so far shows "very impressive results," said Dr. Craig Blinderman, who directs the adult palliative care service at the Columbia University Medical Center/New York-Presbyterian Hospital. He didn't participate in the work.

Psilocybin, also called shrooms, purple passion and little smoke, comes from certain kinds of mushrooms. It is illegal in the U.S., and if the federal government approves the treatment, it would be administered in clinics by specially trained staff, experts say.

Nobody should try it on their own, which would be risky, said the leaders of the two studies, Dr. Stephen Ross of New York University and Roland Griffiths of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Psychedelic drugs have looked promising in the past for treating distress in cancer patients. But studies of medical use of psychedelics stopped in the early 1970s after a regulatory crackdown on the drugs, following their widespread recreational use. It has slowly resumed in recent years.

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Griffiths said it's not clear whether psilocybin would work outside of cancer patients, although he suspects it might work in people facing other terminal conditions. Plans are also underway to study it in depression that resists standard treatment, he said.

The new studies, published in the *Journal of Psychotherapy*, are small. The NYU project, which also included psychotherapy, covered just 29 patients. The Hopkins study had 51.

Bazer, who lives in New York, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2010, when she was 63. Treatment was successful, but then she became anxious about it coming back.

"I just began to be filled with a terrible dread," she said in an interview. "You're waiting for the other shoe to drop. ... (The anxiety) was ruining my life."

She swallowed a capsule of psilocybin in 2012 in the company of two staff members trained to guide her through the several hours that the drug would affect her brain. As she listened to music through headphones, her eyes covered with a sleep mask, the drug went to work.

"Suddenly I was in a dark, terrifying place, lost in space, lost in time," she recalled. "I had no bearings and I was really, really terrified."

Then she saw her dread of a cancer recurrence as a black mass in her abdomen, and she furiously yelled at it to leave.

"As soon as that happened, the fear was gone," she said. "I was just floating in the music ... like being carried in a river."

Then she felt deep love for her family and friends, and sensed their love for her. "It felt like I was bathed in God's love ... I'm still an atheist, by the way, but that really seemed to be the only way to describe it."

Researchers said such mystical experiences appeared to play a role in the drug's therapeutic effect.

Walcoff, 69, a psychotherapist in Rochester, New York, also entered the NYU study because of her anxiety over a cancer recurrence, in her case, lymphoma. (Most participants had active cancer.)

Psilocybin "opened me up to pursue meditation and spiritual searching," Walcoff said, and as a result of that "I have become reassured and convinced that that phase of my life is over and it's not going to come back."

Most funding for the studies came from the Heffter Research Institute, a nonprofit organization that supports studies of psilocybin and other hallucinogens.

In both studies, psilocybin treatment had more effect on anxiety and depression than a placebo did. For example, by the day after treatment, about 80 percent of the treated NYU patients no longer qualified as clinically anxious or depressed by standard measures. That compares to about 30 percent for the placebo group. That's a remarkably fast response, experts said, and it endured for the seven weeks of the comparison.

The studies took different approaches for formulating a placebo. At NYU, patients were given niacin, which mimics some effects of psilocybin. At Hopkins, the placebo was a very low dose of psilocybin itself.

Researchers in both studies eventually gave full psilocybin treatment to the placebo groups and followed all the patients for about six months. The beneficial effects appeared to persist over that period. But the evidence for that is less strong than for the shorter term, because there was no longer any placebo comparison group.

No severe side effects arose from the treatment.

Dr. William Breitbart, chief of the psychiatry service at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, who didn't participate in the studies, said they were improvements over prior research on the topic. But there were still enough shortcomings to make him cautious about drawing conclusions, he said.

In any case, Bazer and Walcoff say the treatment affected more than their cancer anxieties. Walcoff said it has helped her work on being less judgmental and more self-accepting. Bazer said it made her a more patient driver and more active socially.

"It really changed everything for me," Bazer said. "And I still do not have anxiety about the cancer coming back."

Online:

Journal: <http://jop.sagepub.com>

NYU video: <http://bcove.me/tty4xtcl>

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Miami celebrations at Castro's death shock those in Havana

By GISELA SALOMON and JUAN ZAMORANO, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — For more than a decade, Maria Vazquez's store had a special gift basket to celebrate Fidel Castro's death.

For \$24.99, it includes a bottle of cider with the label "only open after Fidel's death," and toilet paper bearing the Cuban leader image. She's sold more than 250 since Castro's death at 90 was announced Friday night.

"It's a way to close the chapter," said Vazquez, who moved from Cuba to Miami when she was 8. Fifteen years ago she opened her store selling Cuban goods like domino tables and pleated guayabera shirts.

Some Cuban-Americans have been celebrating Castro's death with jubilation and vulgar humor, calling it a well-earned release after decades of exile and insults from the man they blame for ruining their homeland. In Cuba, the bawdy reaction to Castro's death has shocked and offended even critics of the government, who are taken aback by the celebration of any death with dirty jokes.

"It really seems pretty sick to me," said Ernesto Ortega, a 42-year-old souvenir salesman in Old Havana. "I can't understand one person celebrating the death of another."

Dissatisfaction with the socialist government and economy is widespread in Cuba. Many do not share the worshipful attitude toward Castro that has dominated state-run airwaves and rallies in recent days. However, the personal enmity toward Castro so widespread in Miami is largely missing even in private conversations on the island.

Many in Cuba are dumbfounded by the scenes in Miami, which they call deeply alien to a bicoastal Cuban culture that generally emphasizes friendliness, politeness and respect.

"Fidel was a human being with virtues and defects, that explains why they're crying here and raising glasses there," said Diuber Perez, 33. "But it's really ugly to go after someone who's dead, regardless of who they are."

The disparate reactions to Fidel's death have at least momentarily widened the cultural gap between Cubans and their friends and relatives overseas, after years of growing closer thanks to increased communications and travel between the U.S. and Cuba.

As Cuba silently bid farewell to Castro's ashes Wednesday, an ice cream shop in Miami's Little Havana district was selling "go to Hell Fidel," a mix of chocolate with red peppers.

Even some Cuban-Americans were put off by the jokes and vulgar celebration, particularly the more recently arrived who have maintained closer ties to the island than those who fled in the first years of Castro's revolution.

"I don't like it; it doesn't interest me," said Fernando Piedra, 41, who was a doctor in Cuba and moved to the U.S. six years ago. "I'm happy about what's happened, that's it."

Pedro Llanio, a 71-year-old who came to Miami when he was 14, said the sale of celebratory items was "ridiculous," but in the U.S. "everyone has the freedom to express themselves as they like."

Associated Press writer Gisela Salomon reported this story in Miami and AP writer Juan Zamorano reported from Havana. AP writer Michael Weissenstein in Havana contributed to this report.

As Trump claims to have saved Carrier jobs, details are hazy

By **JOSH BOAK, BRIAN SLODYSKO and JULIE PACE, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — In persuading Carrier to keep hundreds of jobs in Indiana, President-elect Donald Trump is claiming victory on behalf of factory workers whose positions were bound for Mexico. But the scant details that have emerged so far raise doubts about the extent of the victory.

By enabling Carrier's Indianapolis plant to stay open, the deal spares about 800 union workers whose jobs were going to be outsourced to Mexico, according to federal officials who were briefed by the heating and air conditioning company. This suggests that hundreds will still lose their jobs at the factory, where roughly 1,400 workers were slated to be laid off.

Also, neither Trump nor Carrier has yet to say what the workers might have to give up or precisely what threats or incentives were used to get the manufacturer to change its mind.

"There's excitement with most people, but there's a lot of skepticism and worry because we don't know the details," said TJ Bray, 32, who has worked for Carrier for 14 years and installs insulation in furnaces.

"There's a few that are worried. And there's still a few that don't even believe this is real. They think it's a play, a set-up or a scam."

Sen. Joe Donnelly, an Indiana Democrat, said he, too, has lingering questions about what the announcement could mean for the workers.

"Who is going to be retained? What is the structure there will be for the retention? What is going to be put in place?" Donnelly said. "Are these the same jobs at the same wage? I would sure like to know as soon as I can."

Fuller answers could emerge Thursday, when Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence, who is ending his tenure as Indiana governor, are to appear with Carrier officials in Indiana.

On the campaign trail, Trump threatened to impose sharp tariffs on any company that shifted its factories to Mexico. And his advisers have since promoted lower corporate tax rates as a means of keeping jobs in the U.S.

Trump may have had some leverage because United Technologies, Carrier's parent company, also owns Pratt & Whitney, a big supplier of fighter jet engines that relies in part on U.S. military contracts.

Carrier said in a statement that more than 1,000 jobs were saved, though that figure includes headquarters and engineering staff that were likely to stay in Indiana.

The company attributed its decision to the incoming Trump administration and financial incentives provided by Indiana, which is something of a reversal, since earlier offers from the state had failed to sway Carrier from decamping to Mexico.

"Today's announcement is possible because the incoming Trump-Pence administration has emphasized to us its commitment to support the business community and create an improved, more competitive U.S. business climate," the company said.

In February, United Technologies said it would close its Carrier air conditioning and heating plant in Indianapolis and move its manufacturing to Mexico. The plant's workers would have been laid off over three years starting in 2017.

Whatever deal Trump struck with Carrier does not appear to have salvaged jobs at a separate branch of United Technologies in Huntington, Indiana, that makes microprocessor-based controls for the heating, air conditioning and refrigeration industries. That branch will move manufacturing operations to a new plant in Mexico, costing the city 700 jobs by 2018.

Huntington Mayor Brooks Feters suggested that local officials lack the political clout to preserve those jobs.

"At a local level, there was not much that anybody was going to do to make global, publicly traded companies make a decision other than what they made for the benefit of their shareholders," Feters said.

Donnelly said he worries about other factory job losses threatening his state. Bearing maker Rexnord, which has a factory near the Carrier plant in Indianapolis, plans to lay off about 350 workers. And electronics manufacturer CTS plans to eliminate more than 200 jobs at its Elkhart plant, he said.

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Union leaders who represent the Carrier workers were not involved in the negotiations that the Trump team had with their employer.

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."

Trump's deal with Carrier may be a public relations success for the incoming president. It also suggests that he has unveiled a new presidential economic approach: actively choosing individual corporate winners and losers — or at least winners.

To critics who see other Indiana factories on the verge of closing, deals like the one at Carrier are unlikely to stem the job losses caused by automation and cheap foreign competition.

The prospect that the White House might directly intervene is also a concern to some economists. The incentives needed to keep jobs from moving often come at the public's expense. They note that Trump's activism might encourage companies to threaten to move jobs overseas in hopes of receiving tax breaks or contracts with the government.

"It sets up a race to the bottom," said Diane Lim, chief economist at the nonprofit Committee for Economic Development.

Carrier's parent company indicated that moving production to Mexico would save the company \$65 million annually. Because of pressures like that, states routinely give manufacturers incentives, and "economists who recoil at the thought of this are living in a dream world," said Scott Paul, president of the American Alliance for Manufacturing.

For Trump, a challenge will be trying to duplicate the Carrier feat many times over to retain and increase the nation's 12.3 million manufacturing jobs.

Since the start of 2015, the Labor Department has issued over 1,600 approvals for layoffs or plant closings as a result of shifts of production overseas or competition from imports, the American Alliance of Manufacturing noted.

But other forces, such as consumer demand and the value of the dollar, also determine whether assembly lines keep humming.

Payroll services provider ADP said Wednesday that manufacturers shed 10,000 jobs in November. U.S. manufacturers have struggled in the past year as a stronger dollar has cut into exports and domestic businesses have spent less on machinery and other equipment.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Wednesday that Trump would have to replicate the Carrier deal 804 times to meet President Barack Obama's record. He said that Obama created 805,000 jobs in manufacturing and that the figure is much higher if existing jobs that have been protected are included.

Trump acknowledged the extent of the problem on the campaign trail this year.

"So many hundreds and hundreds of companies are doing this," he 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.

Boak and Pace reported from Washington, Slodysko from Indianapolis. AP writers Christopher S. Rugaber in Washington and Tom Davies in Indianapolis also contributed to this report.

Prosecutor clears officer in man's death, says man was armed

By JEFFREY COLLINS and TOM FOREMAN Jr., Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — A prosecutor on Wednesday cleared a Charlotte police officer in the killing of a black man whose death touched off civil unrest, and he presented detailed evidence to rebut assertions that the slain man was unarmed.

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Officer Brentley Vinson was justified in opening fire on Keith Scott and won't face charges, Charlotte-Mecklenburg District Attorney Andrew Murray said.

In a 40-minute news presentation to news reporters, Murray produced evidence that Keith Scott was armed with a handgun and the officer who killed him feared Scott would shoot.

The announcement "profoundly disappointed" Scott's family, but they haven't decided whether to file a lawsuit, their lawyer said.

Scott, 43, was killed Sept. 20 in the parking lot of an apartment complex.

Much of Murray's presentation centered on the gun and debunking witnesses who said Scott wasn't armed.

Murray displayed a store's surveillance video taken shortly before the incident, showing the outline of what appeared to be a holstered gun on Scott's ankle. He said Scott's DNA was found on a Colt .380-caliber semi-automatic handgun recovered at the scene.

He shared a Facebook conversation from the man who said he sold the stolen gun to Scott and recognized him from TV coverage after the shooting, and police radio traffic where officers talked about the gun before confronting Scott.

He also released his report online and asked the public to review his findings before protesting again. Two nights of protests after the shooting resulted in looted stores near the scene and in downtown Charlotte, millions of dollars of damage, a fatal shooting and more than two dozen injuries to police officers and others.

"The community should read the report. Digest the report. Please do not act viscerally on news snippets," Murray said.

A group of nearly 100 people gathered at Charlotte police headquarters in the rain Wednesday night before marching around downtown Charlotte for about two hours.

They said they don't believe Scott had a gun. They said a white officer actually shot Scott and Murray and state investigators were using Vinson as a scapegoat despite body and dashboard camera footage only showing Vinson firing his weapon. The protests remained calm. Four people were arrested for refusing to get out of the street and on the sidewalk, police said.

Murray said his team of homicide prosecutors reviewed the evidence, along with other lawyers. He said the investigation relied on 63 State Bureau of Investigation agents working for 2,300 hours. Murray said every one of them agreed with his conclusion.

"All of the credible, available and believable evidence supports the conclusion that Scott was armed with a gun," Murray said.

Immediately after the shooting, a video of Scott's final moments recorded by his wife, Rakeyia, was posted on social media. In it, she shouted to police that her husband "doesn't have a gun." She pleaded with officers not to shoot before a burst of gunfire could be heard. She also told them he was suffering from TBI — a traumatic brain injury suffered in a motorcycle crash in November 2015.

Minutes after Murray spoke to reporters, Scott family attorney Justin Bamberg said at a news conference that there still isn't definitive proof Scott had a gun in his hand when he was shot.

Scott's family is profoundly disappointed at the decision not to charge Vinson, but thanked Murray for meeting with them for an hour to answer their questions, Bamberg said.

Anyone who's upset should not get violent but should work on changing a system that lets officers shoot people without taking more steps to prevent confrontations from becoming deadly, Bamberg said. He added that he understood why prosecutors decided not to file charges.

"That does not mean that this officer's killing of Keith Scott was right. All that means is that under the view of the DA's office, it wasn't criminal. And those are two completely different things," Bamberg said.

Rakeyia Scott stood behind the lawyers with her sister, Rachel Dotch. They didn't speak to reporters.

The shooting happened after plainclothes officers went to the complex looking for a suspect with an outstanding warrant when two undercover officers saw Scott — not the suspect they were looking for — inside a car with a gun and marijuana, Murray said.

The officers said they would have ignored the marijuana, but the gun made the situation dangerous to

others. They left to get backup, then returned to arrest Scott, Murray said.

Officers said Scott exited the SUV with a gun, ignored at least 10 orders to drop the weapon and appeared to be in a trance, Murray said.

Scott's wife told investigators her husband took medicine for his brain injury that made him "zone out" at times, the prosecutor said.

As Scott locked eyes with him, Vinson told investigators, "I felt like if I didn't do anything right then, at that point it's like he was going to shoot me or he's going to shoot one of my buddies, and it was going to happen right now," Vinson told investigators the next day.

Scott's wife had told reporters and investigators her husband had no gun. But in August, the couple had argued on text messages about the weapon, with Rakeyia Scott reminding her husband he could get 25 years in prison because he was a felon who wasn't supposed to have one.

The case was among a series across the country since mid-2014 that spurred a national debate over race and policing.

Follow Jeffrey Collins on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/JSCollinsAP>. His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/jeffrey-collins>

Pilot told Colombia controllers 'no fuel' before crash

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

MEDELLIN, Colombia (AP) — The pilot of the chartered plane carrying a Brazilian soccer team told air traffic controllers he had run out of fuel and desperately pleaded for permission to land before crashing into the Andes, according to a leaked recording of the final minutes of the doomed flight.

In the sometimes chaotic exchange with the air traffic tower, the pilot of the British-built jet requests permission to land because of "fuel problems" without making a formal distress call. A female controller explained another plane that had been diverted with mechanical problems was already approaching the runway and had priority, instructing the pilot to wait seven minutes.

As the jetliner circled in a holding pattern, the pilot grew more desperate. "Complete electrical failure, without fuel," he said in the tense final moments before the plane set off on a four-minute death spiral that ended with it slamming into a mountainside Monday night.

By then the controller had gauged the seriousness of the situation and told the other plane to abandon its approach to make way for the charter jet. It was too late. Just before going silent, the pilot said he was flying at an altitude of 9,000 feet and made a final plea to land: "Vectors, senorita. Landing vectors."

The recording, obtained Wednesday by Colombian media, appeared to confirm the accounts of a surviving flight attendant and a pilot flying nearby who overheard the frantic exchange. These, along with the lack of an explosion upon impact, point to a rare case of fuel running out as a cause of the crash of the jetliner, which experts said was flying at its maximum range.

For now, authorities are avoiding singling out any one cause of the crash, which killed all but six of the 77 people on board, including members of Brazil's Chapecoense soccer team traveling to Medellin for the Copa Sudamericana finals — the culmination of a fairy tale season that had electrified soccer-crazed Brazil.

A full investigation is expected to take months and will review everything from the 17-year-old aircraft's flight and maintenance history to the voice and instruments data in the black boxes recovered Tuesday at the crash site on a muddy hillside. The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board was taking part in the investigation because the plane's engines were made by an American manufacturer.

As the probe continued, mourning soccer fans in Medellin and the southern Brazilian town of Chapeco, where the team is from, held simultaneous stadium tributes to the victims. The six survivors were recovering in hospitals, with three in critical but stable condition, while forensic specialists worked to identify the victims so they could be transferred to a waiting cargo plane sent by the Brazilian air force to repatriate the bodies.

Alfredo Bocanegra, head of Colombia's aviation agency, said that while evidence initially pointed to an electrical problem, the possibility the crash was caused by lack of fuel has not been ruled out. Planes need

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to have enough extra fuel on board to fly at least 30 to 45 minutes to another airport in the case of an emergency, and rarely fly in a straight line because of turbulence or other reasons.

Before being taken offline, the website of LaMia, the Bolivian-based charter company, said the British Aerospace 146 Avro RJ85 jetliner's maximum range was 2,965 kilometers (1,600 nautical miles) — just under the distance between Medellin and Santa Cruz, Bolivia, where the flight originated carrying close to its full passenger capacity.

"If this is confirmed by the investigators it would be very painful because it stems from negligence," Bocanegra told Caracol Radio on Wednesday when asked whether the plane should not have attempted such a long haul.

One key piece to unlocking the mystery could come from Ximena Sanchez, a Bolivian flight attendant who survived the crash and told rescuers the plane had run out of fuel moments before the crash. Investigators were expected to interview her Wednesday at the clinic near Medellin where she is recovering.

"We ran out of fuel. The airplane turned off," rescuer Arquimedes Mejia quoted Sanchez as saying as he pulled her from the wreckage. "That was the only thing she told me," he told The Associated Press.

Investigators also want to speak to Juan Sebastian Upegui, the co-pilot of an Avianca commercial flight who was in contact with air traffic controllers near Medellin's Jose Maria Cordova airport at the time the chartered plane went down.

In a four-minute recording circulated on social media, Upegui described how he heard the flight's pilot request priority to land because he was out of fuel. Growing ever more desperate, the pilot eventually declared a "total electrical failure," Upegui said, before the plane quickly began to lose speed and altitude.

"I remember I was pulling really hard for them, saying 'Make it, make it, make it, make it,'" Upegui says in the recording. "Then it stopped. ... The controller's voice starts to break up and she sounds really sad. We're in the plane and start to cry."

No traces of fuel have been found at the crash site and the plane did not explode on impact, one of the reasons there were six survivors.

However, there could be other explanations for that: The pilot may have intentionally dumped fuel in the hopes of reducing the risk of a fireball in a crash, or the aircraft could have suffered a fuel leak or other unexplained reason for losing fuel.

John Cox, a retired airline pilot and CEO of Florida-based Safety Operating Systems, said the aircraft's amount of fuel deserves a careful look.

"The airplane was being flight-planned right to its maximum. Right there it says that even if everything goes well they are not going to have a large amount of fuel when they arrive," said Cox. "I don't understand how they could do the flight nonstop with the fuel requirements that the regulations stipulate."

Goodman reported from Bogota. Associated Press writers Alba Tobella in Bogota, Ben Fox in Miami, Peter Prengaman in Rio de Janeiro and Dave Koenig in Dallas contributed to this report

Joshua Goodman is on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/apjoshgoodman> . His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/journalist/joshua-goodman> .

NBC boss, 'Mary Tyler Moore Show' producer Tinker dies

By FRAZIER MOORE, AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Grant Tinker, who brought new polish to the TV world and beloved shows including "Hill Street Blues" to the audience as both a producer and a network boss, has died. He was 90.

Tinker died Monday at his Los Angeles home, according to his son, producer Mark Tinker.

Though he had three tours of duty with NBC, the last as its chairman, Tinker was perhaps best-known as the nurturing hand at MTM Enterprises, the production company he founded in 1970 and ran for a decade.

Nothing less than a creative salon, MTM scored with some of TV's most respected and best-loved programs, including "Lou Grant," "Rhoda," "The Bob Newhart Show" and, of course, the series that starred

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his business partner and then-wife, Mary Tyler Moore.

"I am deeply saddened to learn that my former husband and professional mentor Grant Tinker has passed away," Moore said in a statement. "Grant was a brilliant, driven executive who uniquely understood that the secret to great TV content was freedom for its creators and performing artists. This was manifest in his 'first be best and then be first' approach."

Tinker summed it up with typical self-effacement in a 1994 interview with The Associated Press: "I just had the good luck to be around people who did the kind of work that the audience appreciates. The success just rubbed off on me."

In 1981, Tinker flourished with that low-key approach in a last-ditch effort to save NBC, which was scraping bottom with its earnings, ratings, programs and morale. Five years later, when Tinker left to return to independent production, the network was flush thanks to hits such as "The Cosby Show" and "Hill Street Blues."

Tinker, who had come to NBC as a management trainee in 1949 with legendary founder David Sarnoff still in charge, left the company for the last time at the end of an era, as NBC, along with its parent RCA, was about to be swallowed by General Electric.

In 2005, he won a prestigious Peabody Award honoring his overall career. In receiving his medallion, he called himself "a guy of no distinct or specific skills (who) always needed a lot of help." He also had received the Governors Award from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

"Grant Tinker was a great man who made an indelible mark on NBC and the history of television that continues to this day," said Steve Burke, CEO of NBCUniversal, sole owner of the network since 2013. "He loved creative people and protected them, while still expertly managing the business. Very few people have been able to achieve such a balance."

"His level of class set him apart from everyone else in our business," said Bob Greenblatt, Chairman of NBC Entertainment, "and all of us at this company owe him a debt of gratitude. In fact, TV watchers everywhere do."

Bob Newhart said in a statement that MTM created "this magical place where creativity and individuality (were nurtured). I was one of the people who was lucky enough to enjoy that freedom for 14 years on television."

He "set the bar high both as a television executive and as a father," said Mark Tinker. "I'm proud to be his son, and especially proud of the legacy he leaves behind in business and as a gentleman."

Born in 1926, the son of a lumber supplier, Tinker had grown up in Stamford, Connecticut, and graduated from Dartmouth College before his first short stint at NBC.

Then he moved into advertising. At a time when ad agencies were heavily responsible for crafting programs its clients would sponsor, Tinker was a vice president at the Benton & Bowles agency when he helped develop "The Dick Van Dyke Show" for Procter & Gamble. There he met, and fell for, the young actress the whole country was about to fall in love with: Mary Tyler Moore.

Soon after the new CBS sitcom had begun its five-season run in fall 1961, Tinker returned to NBC, this time as vice president of West Coast programming.

Meanwhile, he and Moore became TV's golden couple and, in 1962, they wed. (His first marriage had ended in divorce.)

Tinker stayed at NBC until 1967, after which he had brief stays at Universal and Twentieth Century Fox.

Then, with an itch to run his own shop, Tinker founded MTM and began developing its first series: a comedy to revive the flagging career of his wife.

The pilot for "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" rated poorly with test audiences. The heroine was dismissed for being over 30 and unmarried. Neighbor Phyllis (Cloris Leachman) was deemed too annoying, best friend Rhoda (Valerie Harper) "too New Yorky and brassy (read: Jewish)," as Tinker wrote in his 1994 memoir, "Tinker in Television."

But the show, which premiered on CBS in fall 1970, was a critical and popular smash for seven seasons and became the flagship series of a studio whose mewing kitten (parodying the MGM lion) came to signify some of TV's best.

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Along the way, MTM became an incubator for some of TV's best writers and producers, many of whom — like Steven Bochco, James L. Brooks and Tom Fontana — continue to excel in TV and films.

By 1981, Tinker's stewardship of MTM had ended (as had his marriage to Moore) when he returned to NBC, where, he recalled in his book, "the company had lost its credibility with every important constituency — affiliates, advertisers, the press, the general public and its own employees."

Under Tinker's regime, NBC enjoyed a remarkable recovery. "The Cosby Show" was an overnight hit, but thanks to Tinker, slow starters such as "Hill Street Blues" (which was from MTM), "Family Ties" and "Cheers" were allowed to find their audience and became hits, too.

"Our practice was to make a judgment about a show," Tinker recalled, "and, if we deemed it worthwhile, to really stay with it until it succeeded."

Tinker left NBC in 1986, shortly after the announcement of its purchase by G.E.

He formed another independent studio, GTG Entertainment, in partnership with Gannett Newspaper Corporation, but its few series flopped and the company was dissolved.

Later, in somewhat of a reluctant retirement, Tinker spoke out against much of what he was seeing on television, particularly "reality" fare.

"These guys used to be corporate good citizens," he told The AP in 2003, referring to TV programmers, "and I don't see how they can close their eyes and turn their backs on things that air on their networks."

Tinker is survived by his wife, Brooke Knapp, sons Michael, Mark (an executive producer of NBC's "Chicago P.D.") and writer-producer John, and daughter Jodie DiLella.

Victoria's Secret rocks Paris with \$3M bra and Lady Gaga

By THOMAS ADAMSON, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The laciest, if not raciest, catwalk event of the year — aka, the Victoria's Secret fashion show — took place Wednesday night in the City of Light. Among the takeaways: performances by Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars, sisters Bella and Gigi Hadid joining forces, as well as a \$3 million Fantasy bra modelled by Jasmine Tookes. Here are the highlights of the Paris show:

ANGELS IN RED

Guests shuffled into the huge steel-and-glass atrium of Paris' Grand Palais to the sound of a string orchestra playing softly from a huge Arc de Triomphe decor.

The calm lasted only a few seconds, however, and was broken by the flash of red neon lights and bold rock music blasting out to announce the start of the 40-minute presentation, which infected the cheering guests.

Swedish model Elsa Hosk strutted out fittingly with electric energy in a cropped bustier — enveloped in a huge, three-dimensional red Chinese dragon; Kendall Jenner — in blood red — wore thigh-high boots, a long-line plunging bra and suede angel wing and Gigi Hadid looked like she would take off in flight, sporting a hand-painted cape with an Aztec-pattern that billowed as she walked.

The high-octane show was divided into six thematic sections, reflected in the colorful styles that bore inches of bare skin: Road Ahead, Mountain Romance, Pink Nation, Secret Angel, Dark Angel and Bright Night Angel.

The signature wings fluttered throughout — in feather, silk, gold gild, suede and Swarovski crystal.

"Not only do the wings get bigger but we tap into new artisans and people who do things with 3-D printing ... that's always the wonderful thing about working on the show," said Victoria's Secret Executive Producer Monica Mitro.

As the show ended, a million pieces of glittered ribbon fell on the angels and the adoring crowds.

GAGA, MARS, THE WEEKND

With a retro bleached hairstyle, Lady Gaga gave a rousing and gutsy live performance of "Million Reasons" to the crowd, and appeared again for "A-YO."

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At one point her microphone got stuck in the tassels of her dark cowboy hat, but this didn't stop the consummate professional, who continued singing "John Wayne" as Victoria's Secret models danced with her and crisscrossed the runway rhythmically to the beat.

As the 30-year-old popstar ended her set, she walked over to kiss Hadid's mother, reality TV star Yolanda Hadid, in her front row seat. (Before the show, Gaga treated her Instagram followers to a photo of herself in silver Victoria's Secret underwear).

Bruno Mars also performed several times, ramping up the energy and using the catwalk as his stage — in signature shades, with tuxedo-wearing backing dancers jiving behind him.

The American singer had guests jumping up and down for funky performances of "24K Magic" and "Chunky."

But it was perhaps The Weeknd that got the most cheers of the night. The singer serenaded Bella Hadid — with whom he has been romantically linked — with his hit song "Starboy," and almost followed her up the catwalk as she walked in a lace gown with silk organza corset.

§3 MILLION FANTASY BRA

The Victoria's Secret Fantasy bra the 25-year-old Jasmine Tookes was selected to wear is considered the piece de resistance of the brand's runway display.

The bra, glimmering with thousands of gemstones, was presented like crown jewels ahead of the show. An incredible work of art, it was designed by Eddie Borgo and hand-crafted over 700 hours with gems from jeweler AWMouzannar.

"It is so beautiful. It's covered in white diamonds and emeralds and it has about 9,000 gemstones. It cost \$3 million — so stunning," gushed Tookes backstage while she was having her hair done.

It's the third time a black model has been chosen to model the Fantasy Bra.

Tookes said the garment was constructed on a mold of her upper body, literally made to measure.

While the bra may be perfect for the runway presentation, Tookes joked she probably wouldn't want to go for a jog in it, given its weight.

"It's very heavy; it weighs more than 450 karats. It weighs down on my shoulders a little bit, but it's so worth it," she said, cheekily adding: "I might jog out of this show with it though."

A (HADID) FAMILY AFFAIR

Hadid, 52, was the proudest of mothers Wednesday night.

For the first time, the former model could boast that Bella was included in the Victoria's Secret model line-up as well as Gigi for 2016.

"Last year, Gigi got it and Bella didn't get it and I felt awkward being there having Bella at home. And this year, it's just so perfect because they're both here. We're celebrating, the sisters together," she told The AP.

The three posed for cameras and kissed on the pink carpet following the collection — in a show of family love.

"It's all surreal. I mean, I came here when I was 16, modeling. So many years have gone by and to be here with both my girls, it's emotional. I keep looking at them and pinching myself. Whoever thought that this would happen?" she added.

THE ORIGINAL ANGEL

She was one of the original Victoria's Secret models back in 1995.

Now at 51 years old — and just as youthful-looking — Veronica Webb spoke to the AP about the challenges and particularities of the famed fashion show that she began 21 years ago.

"I was in the first Victoria's Secret show and it was one of the most challenging bookings that I ever did because, obviously, if you're in a room and everyone else is dressed and you're in your underwear it's a little bit embarrassing," she said, laughing.

Webb, who made history as the first African-American to ever have a cosmetics contract, also recalled

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how important the experience boosted her professional life.

"It was one of the proudest moments of my career also because it took so much discipline and making so many fitness goals to get there," she said.

EVEN VICTORIA'S SECRET MODELS GET NERVOUS

Brazilian beauty Lais Ribeiro physically jumped when a loudspeaker bellowed there was just one hour until show time.

"Butterflies just came stronger in my stomach. I'm getting very, very excited," Ribeiro, 26, told The Associated Press.

Ribeiro knows more than most about the hidden dangers in a show such as this, where models in towering heels can injure themselves. She hurt her foot as a Victoria's Secret Angel three years ago.

"What am I scared of? I twisted my ankle and kind of broke my foot in the rehearsal three years ago. So I'm always scared of the high heels (that might make) me miss this amazing show," she said.

SECURITY TIGHT

Hours before Wednesday's show began, hundreds of meters in the area around Paris' Grand Palais and the Champs Elysées avenue were in near lock-down, barricaded with passing tourists and fashionistas alike getting frisked.

Bomb squad dogs sniffed out every single bag that entered the Grand Palais where the fashion show took place.

Paris remains in a state of emergency following last November's Paris attacks at a concert hall and various spots around the capital.

CITY OF ANGELS

The Angels, as Victoria's Secret top models are known, have taken Paris — and their Instagram accounts — by storm since flying into the City of Light on Sunday night.

Led by Alessandra Ambrosio, the troupe posed for photos outside the Eiffel Tower on Tuesday morning as gob-smacked tourists stopped to take in the incredible views, which included the monument.

Josephine Skriver, Adriana Lima, Lily Donaldson, Hosk, Lily Aldridge and Tookes wore assorted Angels T-shirts and skinny, figure-hugging black jeans.

But the fun continued online, with Lima posting a from-behind shot of her and Martha Hunt wearing thigh-high boots during the show's preparations.

Mere mortals may use a face mask ahead of a glamorous night out — but these are Angels, and terrestrial rules don't apply.

Trending online were photos of some of the models using 24-karat gold sheet masks to prepare for the 2016 show.

Thomas Adamson can be followed at [Twitter.com/ThomasAdamsonAP](https://twitter.com/ThomasAdamsonAP)

Southern plagues: Drought, flood, fire and now killer storms

By JAY REEVES, Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Tornadoes that dropped out of the night sky killed five people in two states and injured at least a dozen more early Wednesday, adding to a seemingly biblical onslaught of drought, flood and fire plaguing the South.

The storms tore through just as firefighters began to get control of wildfires that killed seven and damaged or wiped out more than 700 homes and businesses around the resort town of Gatlinburg, Tennessee. In Alabama, the weather system dumped more than 2 inches of rain in areas that had been parched by months of choking drought.

At least 13 confirmed twisters damaged homes, splintered barns and toppled trees in parts of Alabama,

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Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee, the National Weather Service said. Tombstones were even knocked over in the cemetery behind the badly damaged Rosalie Baptist Church, near where three people died in northeastern Alabama.

"It looks like the rapture happened up there," said church member Steve Hall, referring to the end-times belief of many Christians.

"Are we thinking the Lord is trying to get our attention?" said the pastor, Roger Little.

The National Weather Service was assessing damage from multiple possible tornadoes across the region. At least five hit Alabama, and three more struck southern Tennessee, and one confirmed in Louisiana and at least 4 in Mississippi, forecasters said.

A possible tornado was spotted on the ground Wednesday a few miles from Atlanta, and flights were briefly delayed at the city's main airport, but no major damage occurred.

Three people were killed and one person critically injured in a mobile home after an apparent twister hit tiny Rosalie, about 115 miles northeast of Birmingham, said Jackson County Chief Deputy Rocky Harnen.

A suspected tornado was responsible for the death of a husband and wife in southern Tennessee's Polk County, while an unknown number of others were injured, said Tennessee Emergency Management Agency spokesman Dean Flener. No details were immediately available.

The Daily Post-Athenian in Athens, Tennessee, reported the Meigs County sheriff's office said lightning is suspected as the cause of two deaths in a mobile home fire overnight.

Shirley Knight, whose family owns a small propane business in Rosalie, said the storm crashed in on them in the middle of the night. Daybreak revealed mangled sheets of metal, insulation and a ladder hanging in trees.

"We had a plaza, a service station and several buildings connected together, and it's all gone," said Knight, adding that the storm also destroyed a church and damaged buildings at a nearby Christmas tree farm.

The same storm apparently hit a closed day care center in the community of Ider, injuring seven people, including three children who had left their mobile home to seek shelter, said Anthony Clifton, DeKalb County emergency management director.

Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley issued a state of emergency because of the storms.

Meanwhile, thousands of people were without power, including up to 45,000 homes at one point in Alabama. Many schools dismissed early in Alabama and Georgia to avoid having students on the road in buses as storms continued to roll across the region Wednesday.

Teams from the National Weather Service confirmed that at least two weak tornadoes struck western Alabama, and meteorologist Kurt Weber from Huntsville said they were assessing damage tracks from at least four other possible tornadoes.

Tornadoes and hail also were reported Tuesday in Louisiana and Mississippi. The National Weather Service in Jackson, Mississippi, counted six confirmed tornadoes in areas of the state it monitors.

Despite dozens of tornado warnings, authorities said no one was injured in Mississippi, but six homes were reported destroyed in one southeastern county. Mississippi Public Service Commissioner Brandon Presley said he came upon a UPS truck that was blown onto its side and hit a pickup truck.

"I've never driven through something like this in my life," Presley said.

Torrential rains filled waterways and ponds that were drying up just days ago. Police in the northwest Alabama city of Florence put out barriers to block roads that flooded with as much as 2 feet of water when fallen leaves clogged drainage systems during torrential downpours. Streams were cresting in western Alabama after as much as 4 inches of rain.

All that water will only help snuff out wildfires that have burned thousands of acres across the region in recent weeks.

Rain provided some relief for the Gatlinburg area on Wednesday. All the wildfires in the city are now out, but some are still smoldering, according to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency. Firefighters are still checking for hotspots, said Gatlinburg Fire Chief Greg Miller.

Some people had to deal with more than one problem.

A six-person crew that spent all Tuesday night fighting fires in Gatlinburg left the fire scene only to help

respond to a tornado in McMinn County, Tennessee, said Fire Chief Bill Roach of Englewood, Tennessee. "They're wore out," Roach said. "They've had very little sleep, and I know I've had two hours since Monday morning. We're to our limits."

Associated Press writers Bernard McGhee in Atlanta; Bill Fuller in New Orleans; Rebecca Yonker in Louisville, Kentucky; Jeff Amy in Jackson, Mississippi; Seanna Adcox in Columbia, South Carolina; and Jonathan Mattise in Nashville, Tennessee, contributed to this report.

Conflict rules hardly the same for president, others

By **JULIE BYKOWICZ** and **MARK SHERMAN**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. David McKinley has sold his West Virginia engineering and architecture firm, but it still bears his name — and that earned the Republican congressman a rebuke from the House Ethics Committee.

President-elect Donald Trump has built an international property management, real estate and branding business around his name. There appears to be no consequence for that.

When it comes to ethics, not all government employees and elected officials are regulated equally. What's a serious matter for a second-term congressman with a small business has no equivalent for a president with a multibillion-dollar empire.

The government's legislative and judicial branches are governed by well-established rules, but there's far less clarity about what a president can and cannot do. Conflict of interest provisions are generally looser, though Democrat Jimmy Carter, Republican George W. Bush and many other recent presidents took care to separate themselves from their businesses.

Trump tweeted Wednesday that he would soon announce his plans to step back from his company while he is president. He wrote that "legal documents are being crafted which take me completely out of business operations."

Many serious questions remain: Will he retain an ownership stake? Will, as top aide Kellyanne Conway suggested, his adult children own and run the business? If they do take over the Trump Organization, will they continue to be involved in Trump's administration, as they have been?

Spokesmen for Trump's transition and the Trump Organization have not provided details.

While Trump develops his plan, ethics lawyers and good-government groups are reviewing laws, past cases and best practices — as well as issues of who would even have the standing to call out a president for possible conflict of interest violations.

As Danielle Brian, executive director of the nonprofit Project on Government Oversight, put it, "We're researching things that hadn't even been considered before."

"We have never had a president with these enormous business conflicts domestically and globally," said Norman Eisen, who served as President Barack Obama's first White House ethics czar. "What's more, we've never had a president who seems to insist on breaking the precedent set by every previous president for at least four decades of doing a true blind trust or its equivalent."

Eisen and Richard Painter, who held an equivalent position under Bush, wrote in a joint statement Wednesday that it's not enough for Trump to simply step away from company operations.

"Without an ethics firewall that is set up at once and continues into the administration, scandal is sure to follow," they wrote.

Self-policing has been common in recent presidencies, as well as in the legislative and judicial branches.

Congress' adherence to ethics rules stems from its ability to regulate itself. That was the case with McKinley, who violated a provision that a fiduciary business such as an architecture firm is barred from using the name of a government employee such as a congressman.

Lawmakers "are attuned to views of the voters and perception of undue conflicts," said Andrew Herman, a Washington attorney who specializes in congressional ethics. "That's why they've tended to have stringent ethics rules and committees to enforce them."

Trump has broadly asserted that he is not hemmed in by conflict of interest laws. "The law is totally on my side," Trump told The New York Times last week.

Herman and other attorneys say that while the president and vice president are exempt from the federal conflict of interest statute, the country's founders drew a bright line at accepting foreign gifts.

That ban is captured in an antique-sounding part of the Constitution called the emoluments clause.

It could pose a problem for Trump because he does business all over the world. Even his domestic operations, such as his new hotel at the Old Post Office building in Washington, could trip him.

Arthur Hellman, an ethicist at the University of Pittsburgh, said he does not believe any U.S. court, much less the Supreme Court, has ever interpreted the emoluments clause. "There is nothing that sheds much light on questions raised by foreign officials giving something or engaging in activities that could be construed as emoluments to Trump or his businesses."

However, a violation might be difficult to challenge in court, Hellman said. "It's hard to imagine anyone would have standing," he said. Other legal experts have said that perhaps a business competitor would have the right to litigate.

At Democrats' request, the Congressional Research Service recently put out brief guidance on what rules "might technically" apply to the president.

Among them is the emoluments clause, a prohibition on employing relatives, and bribery provisions.

Another sticky issue: Trump's potential conflicts haven't been fully illuminated.

As a candidate, he filed financial disclosures as required by federal law, including assets of more than \$1.4 billion and debt of at least \$265 million. He has separately boasted that his net worth is \$10 billion

But unlike all recent major party presidential candidates, he did not make public his tax returns, shielding from view the full scope of his business entanglements.

It's also uncertain whether Trump will file a new disclosure of his wealth within the first year after he takes office in January, as previous presidents have done, or wait until required by law, in May 2018.

Such quandaries thrust the Republican-led Congress into an important watchdog role.

Few Republicans have raised red flags. Rep. Justin Amash, a Michigan Republican and frequent Trump critic, tweeted last week that "it's certainly a big deal" if Trump has contracts with foreign governments.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz, chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, said he wants to give Trump a chance to work things out before taking office in January.

Associated Press writers Stephen Braun and Steve Peoples contributed to this report.

Trump's Cabinet: 'Draining the swamp' or diving right in?

By **JULIE PACE** and **JOSH BOAK**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump promised to "drain the swamp" in the nation's capital. Instead, he's diving right in.

So far, the president-elect is tapping people with deep ties to Washington and Wall Street as he fills out his Cabinet, turning to two power centers he vilified as greedy, corrupt and out of touch with Americans during his White House campaign. His choices have won praise from Republicans relieved by his more conventional choices, but could risk angering voters who rallied behind his calls for upending the political system.

Two of Trump's early picks are wealthy financial industry insiders with ties to the kinds of institutions he railed against as a candidate. Elaine Chao, his choice for transportation secretary and an accomplished political figure in her own right, is married to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell — blending family and political power in a way Trump fiercely criticized campaign rival Hillary Clinton for. Jeff Sessions, Trump's selection for attorney general, has spent two decades in the Senate, and Tom Price, his health and human services nominee, is a six-term congressman.

The gap between Trump's campaign rhetoric and his governing decisions is most striking regarding his emerging economic team. On Wednesday, he announced that he planned to nominate former Goldman Sachs executive Steven Mnuchin as his Treasury secretary and billionaire investor Wilbur Ross to lead the

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Commerce Department.

As a candidate, Trump said Wall Street had created "tremendous problems" for the country. He included the CEO of Goldman Sachs in a television advertisement that accused global financial powers of having "robbed our working class."

Mnuchin and Ross also have financial links to Trump's White House bid, with Mnuchin having led the campaign's fundraising efforts. Trump repeatedly bragged that his personal wealth — he mostly self-funded his campaign during the primaries — meant he would not be beholden to donors who might expect their financial contributions to be repaid with powerful jobs or insider access.

"I can't be bought," Trump said during the campaign. "I won't owe anybody anything."

Trump's transition team brushed aside questions about whether there are inconsistencies between the president-elect's campaign rhetoric and his Cabinet picks.

"These are experts who know how to win," spokesman Jason Miller said Wednesday.

By picking billionaires, as well as a smattering of millionaires, for his Cabinet, Trump is asking voters to trust that privileged insiders can help a stressed and dispirited middle class — even though he, like past presidential candidates, promised he would change that dynamic. Few of his choices have outwardly displayed much of a common touch. Many live surrounded by a level of wealth that most Americans struggle to fathom — and prospered in recent decades as many Americans coped with stagnant incomes.

Not only did Mnuchin once work at Goldman Sachs, but so did his father. After leaving the investment bank in 2002, the Yale graduate pivoted into hedge fund management and producing blockbuster movies such as "Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice." Mnuchin invested in the wreckage of the housing crisis, scooping up the troubled bank IndyMac and turning a \$1.6 billion profit in under a year as millions of Americans endured foreclosure.

Ross orbits a similar world as Trump, as both of them have luxurious homes in Manhattan and Palm Beach, Florida. The billionaire investor bought up many struggling steel, auto and coal firms in the industrial Midwest at a steep discount and sold them for steep profits, even as factory and mining jobs at the core of American identity disappeared.

Chao is the offspring of a Chinese shipping magnate, in addition to serving on the boards of Wells Fargo bank, Dole Food and News Corp., the parent of Fox News. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, the wealthiest of Trump's Cabinet nominees thus far, married into the family that started the sales company Amway.

Trump and other Republicans spent months warning voters that a possible Clinton administration would be lined with Wall Street insiders, campaign donors and other special interest hires. But GOP officials have raised no such concerns about Trump's picks.

If anything, some Republicans appear relieved. Many of Trump's picks are cut from a more traditional Republican mold and share the party's ideological preferences, in some cases more so than Trump himself.

"The picks so far have been fantastic and well-received by Republicans and conservatives of all stripes," said Cesar Conda, the former chief of staff for Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. "Trump is unifying the party, which is essential to getting his agenda enacted."

House Speaker Paul Ryan, a lukewarm Trump supporter for much of the campaign, praised the economic picks Wednesday, saying he was "excited to get to work with this strong team."

Trump is still weighing his choices for several Cabinet posts, including secretary of state. Among the leading contenders: millionaire businessman Mitt Romney, the 2012 GOP presidential nominee, and millionaire lawyer Rudy Giuliani, the former New York City mayor.

AP writer Chad Day contributed to this report.

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Creator of McDonald's flagship sandwich, the Big Mac, dies

By JOE MANDAK, Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — You probably don't know his name, but you've almost certainly devoured his creation: two all-beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions, on a sesame seed bun.

Michael James "Jim" Delligatti, the McDonald's franchisee who created the Big Mac nearly 50 years ago and saw it become perhaps the best-known fast-food sandwich in the world, died Monday at home in Pittsburgh. Delligatti, who according to his son ate at least one 540-calorie Big Mac a week for decades, was 98.

Delligatti's franchise was based in Uniontown, not far from Pittsburgh, when he invented the chain's signature burger in 1967 after deciding customers wanted a bigger sandwich. Demand exploded as Delligatti's sandwich spread to the rest of his 47 stores in Pennsylvania and was added to the chain's national menu in 1968.

"He was often asked why he named it the Big Mac, and he said because Big Mc sounded too funny," his son Michael Delligatti said.

However, McDonald's in 1985 honored Esther Glickstein Rose with coming up for a name for the burger and presented her with a plaque etched with a likeness of the best-selling sandwich and french fries between the Golden Arches. She was a 21-year-old secretary for the company's advertising department in 1967 when, the story goes, a harried executive dashing to a board meeting asked her for a name nomination.

Jim Delligatti's family disputes that Rose came up with the idea. The company didn't immediately clear up the dispute Wednesday.

Delligatti told The Associated Press in 2006 that McDonald's resisted the idea at first because its simple lineup of hamburgers, cheeseburgers, fries and shakes was selling well.

"They figured, why go to something else if (the original menu) was working so well?" Delligatti said then.

McDonald's has sold billions of Big Macs since then, in more than 100 countries. When the burger turned 40, McDonald's estimated it was selling 550 million Big Macs a year, or roughly 17 every second. Delligatti received no payment or royalties for coming up with the burger, the company said.

"Delligatti was a legendary franchisee within McDonald's system who made a lasting impression on our brand," the Oak Brook, Illinois-based company said Wednesday in a statement. The Big Mac "has become an iconic sandwich enjoyed by many around the world."

Ann Dugan, a former assistant dean of the University of Pittsburgh's Katz School of Business and an expert on business franchises, said Jim Delligatti's genius was simple: He listened to customers who wanted a bigger burger.

"In franchising, there's always this set playbook and you have to follow it. Jim saw an opportunity to go outside the playbook because he knew the customer," Dugan said. "He persevered and (McDonald's) listened, and the rest is history."

Delligatti headed M&J Management, a four-generation family business and McDonald's franchise organization, for more than 60 years. He opened his first McDonald's in Pittsburgh's North Hills suburbs in 1957. In 1979, he co-founded Pittsburgh's Ronald McDonald House, then the seventh such facility in the country, where families can stay when children travel to Pittsburgh for life-saving medical care, and he was involved in several other charities.

Delligatti also helped introduce breakfast service at McDonald's, developing the hotcakes and sausage meal to feed hungry steelworkers on their way home from overnight shifts in the mills, his family said.

In addition to his two sons, Jim Delligatti is survived by his wife, Ellie, five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

The Devlin Funeral Home near Pittsburgh is handling visitation Thursday and Friday. Delligatti's funeral will be held Saturday at St. Joseph's Parish in O'Hara Township.

Trump says he's leaving businesses to avoid conflicts

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump declared Wednesday he will leave his business empire behind to focus on his presidency. But the prospect that he could simply shift more control to three of his adult children looked too cozy to some business-ethics specialists who suggest the arrangement could bring unprecedented conflicts of interest into the Oval Office.

Trump announced in a series of early morning tweets that he would leave his "great business," adding: "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."

Trump provided no details, though he said legal documents were being prepared. He previously had said he'd leave his business operations to his three eldest children — Donald Jr., Eric and Ivanka.

Asked if the tweets indicated plans to move the businesses to the children, Trump senior adviser Kellyanne Conway said Wednesday, "it appears that way."

"The three adult children who do already work in the corporation are expected to continue in those roles and in fact increase their responsibilities in those roles," Conway said.

Ethics experts have pushed for Trump to fully exit the ownership of his businesses using a blind trust or equivalent arrangement.

"Otherwise he will have a personal financial interest in his businesses that will sometimes conflict with the public interest and constantly raise questions," Norman Eisen, President Barack Obama's chief ethics lawyer, and Richard Painter, who held the same post for President George W. Bush, said in a joint statement. The laws are generally loose for presidents regarding their businesses except when it comes to ties to or gifts from foreign governments.

All 16 Democratic members of House Judiciary Committee wrote to Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., to request hearings to examine conflicts-of-interest and ethics provisions that may apply to Trump.

Trump spent much of Wednesday conducting meetings in his Manhattan high-rise. His pick for secretary of state remains up in the air, though aides say he has narrowed his choices to four. One contender, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney dined with him Tuesday.

Trump has moved forward with other Cabinet selections, choosing former Goldman Sachs executive Steven Mnuchin as Treasury secretary and billionaire investor Wilbur Ross for Commerce.

Mnuchin, 53, led Trump's finance operations during the presidential campaign, but he has no government experience. If confirmed by the Senate, he 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 would follow in the tradition of two previous Treasury secretaries who worked at the Goldman Sachs investment firm. During the campaign, Trump repeatedly criticized Hillary Clinton's ties to Wall Street banks and hit her for paid speeches at Goldman Sachs.

Arriving at Trump Tower Wednesday, Mnuchin said the administration planned "the most significant middle income tax cut since Reagan." He also called for lowering corporate taxes to encourage companies to stay in the United States.

Meanwhile, Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence, the outgoing Indiana governor, planned an event Thursday in Indiana in connection with an announcement that the air conditioning giant Carrier Corp. planned to keep nearly 1,000 jobs in the state instead of moving them to Mexico.

Details of the agreement were unclear. Trump spent much of his campaign pledging to keep companies like Carrier from moving jobs out of the U.S., but he also dismissed tax incentives and favorable financing deals often used by state officials to keep major employers home.

Nationally, manufacturers shed 10,000 jobs in November, according to a report Wednesday by payroll services provider ADP. U.S. manufacturing firms have struggled as a stronger dollar has cut into exports and U.S. businesses have spent less on machinery and other equipment. They have cut 53,000 jobs in the past 12 months.

Trump's sprawling business empire is unprecedented for a modern sitting president, as is the complexity and opaqueness of his holdings. He refused to release his taxes during the campaign, citing an ongoing audit, and will be under no legal obligation to do so in the White House.

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

Eric Trump demurred Wednesday when asked for details on how his father would separate himself from his businesses, saying: "You'll hear soon enough."

AP writers Steve Peoples, Kathleen Hennessey, Julie Bykowicz and Christopher Rugaber in Washington in New York contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Laurie Kellman at <http://twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

House Democrats re-elect Pelosi as leader despite discontent

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats re-elected Nancy Pelosi as their leader Wednesday, ratifying the status quo in a changing Washington despite widespread frustration over the party's direction.

That disenchantment manifested itself in 63 lawmakers supporting Pelosi's opponent, Ohio Rep. Tim Ryan, in the secret-ballot vote. That was by far the largest defection Pelosi has suffered since she began leading House Democrats in 2002.

Still, the California lawmaker had declared ahead of time that more than two-thirds of the caucus was supporting her, and she won almost exactly two-thirds with 134 votes. It was a testament to her vote-counting skills and to her ability to hang onto power even in dark days for Democrats, as they confront a capital that will be fully controlled by the GOP next year.

"I have a special spring in my step today because this opportunity is a special one, to lead the House Democrats, bring everyone together as we go forward," Pelosi said after the vote, appearing elated in her victory.

She disputed the suggestion that she might be concerned about the defections she suffered. "They weren't defections, I had two-thirds of the vote," Pelosi said, repeating "two-thirds, two-thirds" to a group of assembled reporters.

And she insisted Democrats would rebound. "We know how to win elections. We've done it in the past, we will do it again."

Supporters said the 76-year-old Pelosi was their best bet to confront a President Donald Trump from the minority after Democrats picked up only a half-dozen seats in the House, far fewer than anticipated and well below Pelosi's predictions. Republicans are on track to hold at least 240 seats in the House next year, while Democrats will have 194.

"We need someone who is battle-tested," Rep. Debbie Dingell of Michigan told fellow Democrats in nominating Pelosi. "We need our leader to be seasoned, tough."

For their part, Ryan and his backers insisted that they had won a victory in sending a message to Pelosi about the significant desire for change among House Democrats.

"Somebody had to do something," said Ryan, a seven-term lawmaker who before now had been largely a back-bencher. "Our prospects have improved just because of this conversation."

Yet Democrats' marginalized status was evident as Ryan struggled to answer a question about who would lead the party forward, before concluding: "We're all going to participate in leading the party."

Leadership elections were originally scheduled to be held before Thanksgiving but were delayed to give Democrats more time to consider a path forward. Lawmakers expressed frustration over a range of issues, including stagnant leadership in their caucus, and Democrats' failures to connect with white working class voters.

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"I'm very concerned we just signed the Democratic party's death certificate ... unless we change what we are talking about, which is really the working man and woman's agenda," said Rep. Kurt Schrader of Oregon.

Pelosi has earned respect and loyalty from many Democrats over the years, including as a powerhouse fundraiser, raising over \$140 million for Democrats in the 2016 cycle, and as a skilled legislative tactician. As speaker in 2009 she steered Obama's health care law through the House and also pushed through a divisive bill to cap carbon emissions, but Democrats suffered massive losses in midterm elections the next year and lost their majority.

Pelosi's victory Wednesday came only after she promised some changes to assuage concerns in her caucus, including adding a member of the freshmen class to her leadership team and creating a handful of other titled positions. 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 the health care law and other initiatives dear to Democrats.

Some House Democrats did not hide their disappointment at the outcome.

"It is obvious the current strategy doesn't work," said Rep. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona. "Millions of Americans don't feel that our party represents them anymore and they've said so, loudly, in multiple elections."

Pelosi's top two lieutenants who've served by her side for years were also re-elected Wednesday, both by acclamation. Maryland Rep. Steny Hoyer, 77, will continue to serve as Democratic whip, and South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn, 76, will continue in the No. 3 spot as assistant leader.

Rep. Joe Crowley of New York became conference chairman, a term-limited post vacated by Rep. Xavier Becerra of California. The position of conference vice chairman was hotly contested between two Californians, Linda Sanchez and Barbara Lee. Sanchez prevailed narrowly with 98 votes to 96 for Lee, becoming the first minority woman in leadership.

Associated Press writers Matthew Daly and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

After new regulations, Oklahoma's shakes calm down a bit

By **SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The rate of earthquakes in Oklahoma has dropped dramatically since late May, when the state limited wastewater injections into energy wells, an Associated Press statistical analysis shows. And a new scientific study says the state is on its way back to calmer times that prevailed before a huge jump in man-made quakes.

For quake-prone parts of Oklahoma, the state ordered what is essentially a 40 percent reduction in injection of the saltwater that scientists generally blame for the massive increase in earthquakes. This year, before the new rules went into effect on May 28, Oklahoma averaged 2.3 quakes a day. Since then the average dropped to 1.3 a day, based on AP's analysis of U.S. Geological Survey data of earthquakes of magnitude 3.0 or larger. But some of those fewer post-regulatory quakes have been large and damaging.

"Definitely the rate of quakes have gone down," said USGS geophysicist Robert Williams. "At the same time we had more magnitude 5s this year than ever before historically in Oklahoma. It's good news on one hand. It's heading in the right direction, but troubling to see these large damaging quakes in Pawnee and Cushing."

Over the last couple years, scientists have linked a dramatic increase in earthquakes in Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas to the practice of injecting wastewater from hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, back underground after drilling for oil and gas. Higher volumes of wastewater injected are connected to more quakes with the fluids adding more pressure to tiny faults. After Kansas regulated wastewater volume in March 2015, a January AP analysis showed that Kansas felt fewer quakes, while less-regulated Oklahoma got more. In response, Oklahoma announced new regulations.

This November, Oklahoma had an average of less than a quake per day, though a 5.0 magnitude quake shook the vulnerable Cushing area where massive oil reserves are stored.

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"The trend is obvious," said Stanford University professor William Ellsworth. He said the AP numbers were similar, but not identical to a trend he calculated using a different database and different size earthquakes. He said the new regulations were partly responsible for the falloff in earthquakes, but he noted there also has been less drilling because of a crash in oil prices.

Williams of USGS said it is important to put even the reduced one-a-day quakes in context. Before 2009, Oklahoma averaged one magnitude 3.0 earthquake a year; now it is good news that the rate is down to one a day, he said. In 2015, Oklahoma averaged 2.3 magnitude 3.0 or larger quakes a day. In 2014, it was 1.6 per day.

A study published Wednesday in the journal Science Advances by a different Stanford seismologist, Mark Zoback, saw the reduction in Oklahoma quakes and used intricate computer simulations to show that the rate of earthquakes will continue to go down and eventually return to near pre-2009 levels. Williams and Ellsworth, who weren't part of the study, said Zoback's work made sense.

"We're not out of the woods yet. There is still a possibility for potentially damaging earthquakes," Zoback said. "It's going to take a few years for the situation to return to normal."

Oklahoma officials said they plan to continue the regulations and are expected to release a new directive in the next couple of weeks for the 15,000-square-mile area where strong quakes rattled Pawnee and Cushing.

"Obviously the goal is to bring seismicity down to what, for Oklahoma, would be considered a normal level. That's the goal," said Matt Skinner, a spokesman for the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, the agency that oversees oil and gas operations. "Things will take time, but we're going to move ahead with actions that will hopefully make that time sooner rather than later."

Oklahoma has had three quakes magnitude 5.0 or larger since 2014, and two of them occurred after the May regulations took effect: The September 5.8 in Pawnee and the November quake in Cushing.

Pent-up pressure may be partly to blame, Zoback said. And Williams noted some injecting continues. Mainly, though, "we don't understand the plumbing down there," Williams said.

Sean Murphy contributed to this report from Oklahoma City.

Online:

Science Advances: <http://advances.sciencemag.org/>

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Syrians fleeing government advances in Aleppo shelled

By PHILIP ISSA and SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A series of artillery rounds lobbed Wednesday on Syria's eastern Aleppo district killed 26 civilians, including seven children, as they fled a government ground offensive in the besieged enclave.

It was the second time the Jub al-Quba neighborhood, in the historic district of the rebel-held eastern side of the city, was struck in as many days.

An airstrike Tuesday blamed by activists on the government killed 25 civilians in the same area. They were also believed to be newly displaced from the government onslaught on the northern parts of eastern Aleppo.

Meanwhile, eight civilians, including two children, were killed in shelling on the government-held western side of the city, according to state media. The government blamed rebels for the attack.

The embattled opposition fighters clashed heavily on the southern edge of the enclave with government-allied troops, who made new gains in the government offensive that has cleaved the rebel-held part of the city.

The Syrian government pushed its way into the 45-square kilometer (17 square miles) rebel-held enclave

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over the weekend, making its first territorial gain in the area seized by the opposition fighters since 2012.

Government officials say they want to "liberate" the area, calling the opposition fighters "terrorists", and accusing them of holding civilians there hostage.

Despite opening a number of passageways to allow civilians to leave before the offensive, none of the residents took advantage of it, citing fears of being arrested or forcibly conscripted. The passageways were not U.N. supervised.

In New York on Wednesday, Syria's U.N. Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari accused the rebels of opening fire on the civilians as they tried to flee eastern Aleppo.

The bodies of the victims of the Jub al-Quba attack Wednesday lined the streets, as their bags and few belongings lied close by their sides, photos showed.

Jawad al-Rifai, who took the pictures for the Aleppo Media Center, said they were civilians — mostly women and children — fleeing shelling and air strikes on other parts of the city.

"They were fleeing on foot. They were coming to our side," said Ibrahim Al-Haj, a member of the Syrian Civil Defense teams, explaining that the displaced were heading to what they thought was safer ground. "There were children, baby bottles and bags all over."

The neighborhood and others around it in Aleppo's centrally-located old city have absorbed thousands of residents displaced by the advance of government troops in the east.

Abdulkafi Alhamdo, a teacher living in the Zabadieh neighborhood in eastern Aleppo, said refugees were filling up his building, most of its flats abandoned because of the war. They had close to nothing, he said, and have asked for the simplest things, including salt.

"They knock on my door all the time. They ask for a plate, or some sheets," Alhamdo said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the war in Syria through a network of local contacts, said tens more were wounded in Jub al-Quba.

Observatory chief Rami Abdurrahman said he predicts death tolls will rise in east Aleppo as the internal displacement creates more residential density.

The SCD in eastern Aleppo, also known as the White Helmets, put the toll at 45 killed. It blamed the government for the strikes.

Rescue efforts by the group were hampered by the lack of functioning machinery, said Rifai.

"Most of their equipment is out of service because of the targeting against their quarters," he added.

Tens of thousands of people have been displaced in Aleppo as pro-government Syrian forces press on with their campaign to reclaim the divided city.

The Observatory said more than 50,000 out of an estimated quarter-million inhabitants have been displaced by attacks on rebel-held eastern Aleppo over the past 4 days. Many of them fled to safer ground in areas under government or Kurdish control. The International Committee of the Red Cross says around 20,000 people have fled.

The Lebanese Al-Manar TV channel, operated by Hezbollah which has groups fighting on the government side in Syria, reported from the Aleppo countryside that pro-government forces were advancing in the southern portion of the city's rebel enclave.

Syrian state media announced midday Wednesday that its forces had retaken the southern Sheikh Saeed neighborhood, while the Observatory said rebels still held onto a third of the area. The Observatory added that Iraqi militia fighters were playing a central role in the government's advance from the south.

Yasser al-Youssef, a spokesman for rebel group Nour el-Din el-Zinki, said the pro-government fighters were repelled and the opposition had captured at least one of their soldiers. The group posted a video of the captured fighter.

"There is regime deployment on the southern edge of the city. They are likely to attempt an assault on the southern front," al-Youssef said.

Residents said meanwhile that after the killing in Jub al-Qubba, there was a respite in government bombing, most likely due to heavy rain.

"The rain stopped the bombing," al-Haj said.

Tallow tensions: Vegans want 'fat-free' UK 5-pound bank note

LONDON (AP) — The Bank of England's new plastic 5-pound note is stronger, cleaner and safer — but apparently not suitable for vegetarians.

Vegans and vegetarians are calling for the new bank notes, which have only been in circulation for two months, to be replaced because they are made with a substance derived from animal fat.

The Bank of England confirmed on Twitter that the notes contain "a trace of a substance known as tallow" — a rendered form of animal fat, processed from suet, which is sometimes used in soaps and candles.

An online petition against the notes has been getting attention Wednesday. The petition says the use of tallow is "unacceptable to millions of vegans, vegetarians, Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and others in the U.K."

The Bank of Canada says their bank notes also have tallow, according to a CBC 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, Stony Brook University's assistant chief of police. "We want you hiding and maintaining and doing some administration of first aid until we can get there."

Stony Brook University Hospital's trauma center is spearheading training for school districts and colleges across the country.

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.

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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.

Greece: 70 migrants found in a snowy northern forest

By COSTAS KANTOURIS, Associated Press

THESSALONIKI, Greece (AP) — Greek authorities picked up about 70 migrants, including children, in a snowy forest near the northern city of Thessaloniki on Wednesday, as smugglers turned to previously popular routes into the European Union rather than the sea crossing from Turkey.

Members of the group, who said they were from Syria, told Greek police they had crossed the Evros River on the Greek-Turkish border in dinghies and were then brought to Thessaloniki hidden in a truck.

The truck driver left them in the forest late Tuesday, and they spent the night there in the snow, authorities said. Police are searching for the driver.

Temperatures have plunged below freezing in the past two days across many parts of the country, with nighttime snowfall in the mountains and northern areas.

"We stayed all night in the forest. It was very cold and it was snowing," 22-year-old Syrian Omar Abdi Aziz told The Associated Press by telephone.

"We are very tired," he said, adding they had been walking for more than three days as part of their journey out of Turkey. Aziz was trying to get to Sweden, where other members of his family are living.

Under a European Union-Turkey deal reached in March, migrants and refugees arriving on Greek islands from Turkey face deportation back to Turkey. However, the deal doesn't extend to those crossing the two countries' land border.

The Evros region has seen a significant increase in people crossing illegally in recent months. Police figures show 11 smugglers and 291 migrants were detained in the area in September, while 22 smugglers and 655 migrants were caught in October.

More than 62,000 migrants and refugees are stranded in Greece, many living in overcrowded refugee camps set up across the country. Aid groups have long complained of the conditions in the camps — some of which still consist of tents, set up out in the open or inside warehouses and buildings.

Last week a woman and a child died and several others were injured in a fire that swept through a refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos. The fire apparently was started accidentally by a cooking gas canister being used in one of the tents.

Follow Costas Kantouris on Twitter on <https://twitter.com/CostasKantouris>

Trump's idea of 'presidential' diverges from past presidents

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

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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.

Trump said Wednesday he was drawing up plans to take himself "completely out" of his business operations. But it wasn't clear if he planned to put his businesses in a blind trust — as presidents have traditionally done — or leave them in his children's hands.

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. 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>

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

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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 shuttered 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.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 1, the 336th day of 2016. There are 30 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Dec. 1, 1941, Japan's Emperor Hirohito approved waging war against the United States, Britain and the Netherlands after his government rejected U.S. demands contained in the Hull Note. British-born journalist and broadcaster Alistair Cooke became a naturalized American citizen.

On this date:

In 1824, the presidential election was turned over to the U.S. House of Representatives when a deadlock developed between John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, William H. Crawford and Henry Clay. (Adams ended up the winner.)

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln sent his Second Annual Message to Congress, in which he called for the abolition of slavery, and went on to say, "Fellow-citizens, we can not escape history. We of this Congress and this Administration will be remembered in spite of ourselves."

In 1866, Welsh surveyor Sir George Everest (EEV'-rihst), 79, whose name had been conferred upon the mountain in Nepal by the Royal Geographical Society over his objections, died in London.

In 1921, the Navy flew the first non-rigid dirigible to use helium; the C-7 traveled from Hampton Roads, Virginia, to Washington, D.C.

In 1934, Soviet communist official Sergei M. Kirov, an associate of Josef Stalin, was assassinated in Leningrad, resulting in a massive purge.

In 1942, nationwide gasoline rationing went into effect in the United States.

In 1955, Rosa Parks, a black seamstress, was arrested after refusing to give up her seat to a white man

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on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus; the incident sparked a year-long boycott of the buses by blacks.

In 1965, an airlift of refugees from Cuba to the United States began in which thousands of Cubans were allowed to leave their homeland.

In 1969, the U.S. government held its first draft lottery since World War II.

In 1973, David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, died in Tel Aviv at age 87.

In 1989, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev met with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican.

In 1990, British and French workers digging the Channel Tunnel between their countries finally met after knocking out a passage in a service tunnel.

Ten years ago: Felipe Calderon (fay-LEE'-pay kahl-duh-ROHN') took the oath of office as Mexico's president amid catcalls and brawling lawmakers, a chaotic start to a term in which he pledged to heal a country divided by his narrow victory. Officials reported that Typhoon Durian had killed as many as 200 people when it tore through the eastern Philippines (the storm was eventually blamed for some 1,400 deaths).

Five years ago: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met with opposition leader and Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi (ahng sahn soo chee) during a visit to Myanmar. Bobby Valentine was named the 45th manager of the Boston Red Sox. (However, he was fired after one season.)

One year ago: President Barack Obama told a U.N. climate conference that parts of the global warming deal being negotiated in Paris should be legally binding on the countries that signed on, setting up a potential fight with Republicans at home. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said the United States was expanding its special operations forces in Iraq and Syria to help fight Islamic State militants. The Philadelphia 76ers ended the longest losing streak in the history of major professional sports in the United States, topping the Los Angeles Lakers 103-91 to snap a 28-game skid.

Today's Birthdays: Former CIA director Stansfield Turner is 93. Actor-director Woody Allen is 81. World Golf Hall of Famer Lee Trevino is 77. Singer Dianne Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 77. Country musician Casey Van Beek (The Tractors) is 74. Television producer David Salzman is 73. Rock singer-musician Eric Bloom (Blue Oyster Cult) is 72. Rock musician John Densmore (The Doors) is 72. Actress-singer Bette Midler is 71. Singer Gilbert O'Sullivan is 70. Former child actor Keith Thibodeaux (TV: "I Love Lucy") is 66. Actor Treat Williams is 65. Country singer Kim Richey is 60. Actress Charlene Tilton is 58. Actress-model Carol Alt is 56. Actor Jeremy Northam is 55. Actress Katherine LaNasa is 50. Producer-director Andrew Adamson is 50. Actor Nestor Carbonell is 49. Actress Golden Brooks is 46. Actress-comedian Sarah Silverman is 46. Actor Ron Melendez is 44. Contemporary Christian singer Bart Millard (MIL'-urd) is 44. Actor-writer-producer David Hornsby is 41. Singer Sarah Masen is 41. Rock musician Brad Delson (Linkin Park) is 39. Actor Nate Torrence is 39. Rock/Christian music singer-songwriter Mat Kearney is 38. Rock musician Mika Fineo (Filter) is 35. Actor Charles Michael Davis is 32. R&B singer Janelle Monae is 31. Actress Ashley Monique Clark is 28. Pop-rock-rap singer Tyler Joseph (Twenty One Pilots) is 28. Actress Zoe Kravitz is 28. Pop singer Nico Sereba (Nico & Vinz) is 26. Actor Jackson Nicoll is 13.

Thought for Today: "People, when they first come to America, whether as travelers or settlers, become aware of a new and agreeable feeling: that the whole country is their oyster." — Alistair Cooke (1908-2004).