

Groton Daily Independent

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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, ro-maine 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

4 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Olive Grove Holiday Party and Tour of Homes

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

Open Gym (2:30-4:30 for JK-8, 4:30-6:30 for 6-12)

Monday, Dec. 5

JHGGB at Clark (7th at 5 p.m., 8th at 6 p.m.)

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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November was incredibly mild

November 2016 was incredibly mild, enough so to break a number of records. The warmest stretch occurred from the 3rd through the 5th as temperatures soared into the 70s and even lower 80s for some. For example Aberdeen broke a record high on the 5th of 76 degrees and Pierre tied their record of 80 degrees. Over the course of the month, the following records for number of days at or above 70 degrees were set: 7 in Pierre (7 in 1999), 2 in Watertown (2 in 2001, etc), 6 in Timber Lake (4 in 1999), 4 in Sisseton (3 in 2001, etc), and 5 in Mobridge (5 in 1914). As a result of the widespread and prolonged warmth, many locations recorded a top 3 warmest November on record: 3rd place at Kennebec, Wheaton, MN, and Pierre, 2nd place at Aberdeen, Watertown, and Timber Lake, and 1st place at Mobridge and Sisseton. Not surprisingly, flowers were still in bloom well into November this year, and many locations still have frost-free ground as of the 1st of December.

The area was generally at or above average in terms of precipitation, with the bulk of the moisture having fallen across northeastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Snowfall amounts generally ended up around normal, with two major systems of note

The first major storm system to affect our region in November occurred on the 18th with the second prolonged event from November 26th-30th. Northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota received the brunt of the 18th storm with 3 to 9 inches of snow along with 50 to 70 mph wind gusts creating blizzard conditions. From November 26-30th, a record breaking low pressure area affected mainly central South Dakota where 4 to 10 inches of snow fell and the strongest winds occurred. With warm air wrapping into the east, rain was the predominant precipitation with only 1 to 3 inches of snowfall. If this low pressure area had tracked farther east along with colder temperatures, our region could have received

NOVEMBER 2016				
Temperature Data	Aberdeen	Sisseton	Wheaton	Watertown
Warmest Temperature / Date	76 / 5th	76 / 4th	72 / 6th	72 / 5th
Coldest Temperature / Date	13 / 19th	14 / 19th, 21st	16 / 20th	17 / 19th
Average High / Departure from Normal	51.9 / +12.3	51.5 / +11.3	50.3 / +11.7	49.3 / +10.3
Average Low / Departure from Normal	29.1 / +10.2	33.4 / +11.9	32.1 / +11.7	30.1 / +9.5
Monthly Average / Departure from Normal	40.5 / +11.2	42.4 / +11.6	41.2 / +11.7	39.7 / +9.9
Precipitation Data				
Monthly Precipitation / Departure from Normal	1.71 / +0.98	1.82 / +1.24	1.94 / +0.81	1.25 / +0.49
Monthly Snowfall / Departure from Normal	5.2 / -1.8	2.5 / -4.8	3.9 / -0.7	4.1 / -2.5
Most Precipitation in 24 hours / Date	0.91 / 27-28th	0.95 / 27-28th	0.52 / 18th	0.48 / 27-28th
Most Snow in 24 hours / Date	2.9 / 17-18th	2.0 / 18th	2.1 / 18th	2.9 / 17-18th

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what occurred across central and western North Dakota where 12 to 18 inches of snow fell. For example, Sisseton received a total of 1.22 inches of precipitation with only two tenths of inch of snow. This could have easily been a foot or more of snow with colder temperatures.

The record breaking low pressure area on November 28th had a minimum value of 975.9 millibars or 28.82 inches of mercury at Aberdeen. This broke the old record low November pressure of 982.7 millibars or 29.02 inches of mercury, set on November 1st, 1961. In addition, this tied for the second lowest pressure of all time in Aberdeen, South Dakota. The all-time lowest pressure recorded in Aberdeen is 973.2 millibars or 28.74 inches of mercury, set on October 10, 1949.



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

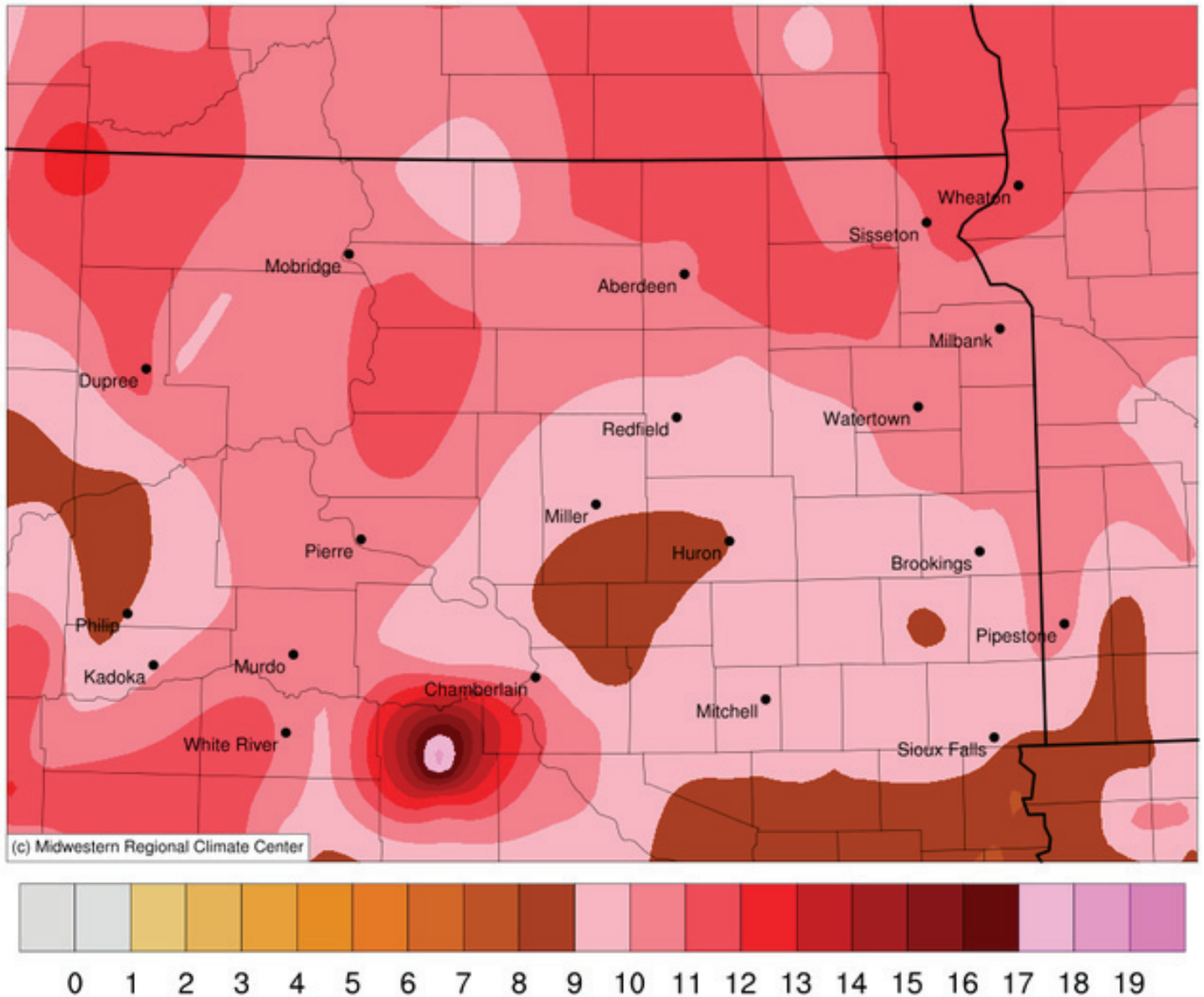
Made it possible for Santa to come to Groton!

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Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals

November 01, 2016 to November 30, 2016

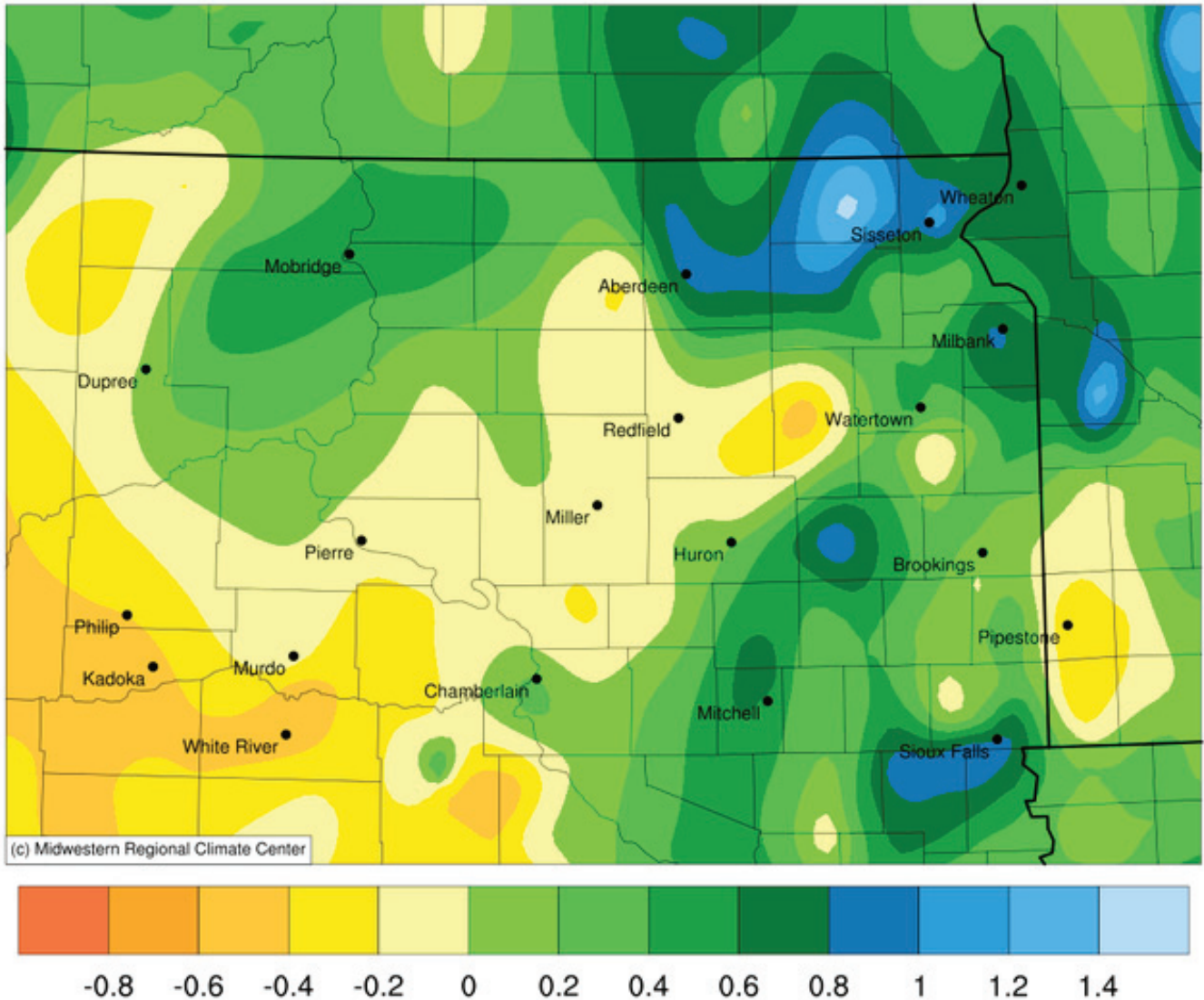


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Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals

November 01, 2016 to November 30, 2016

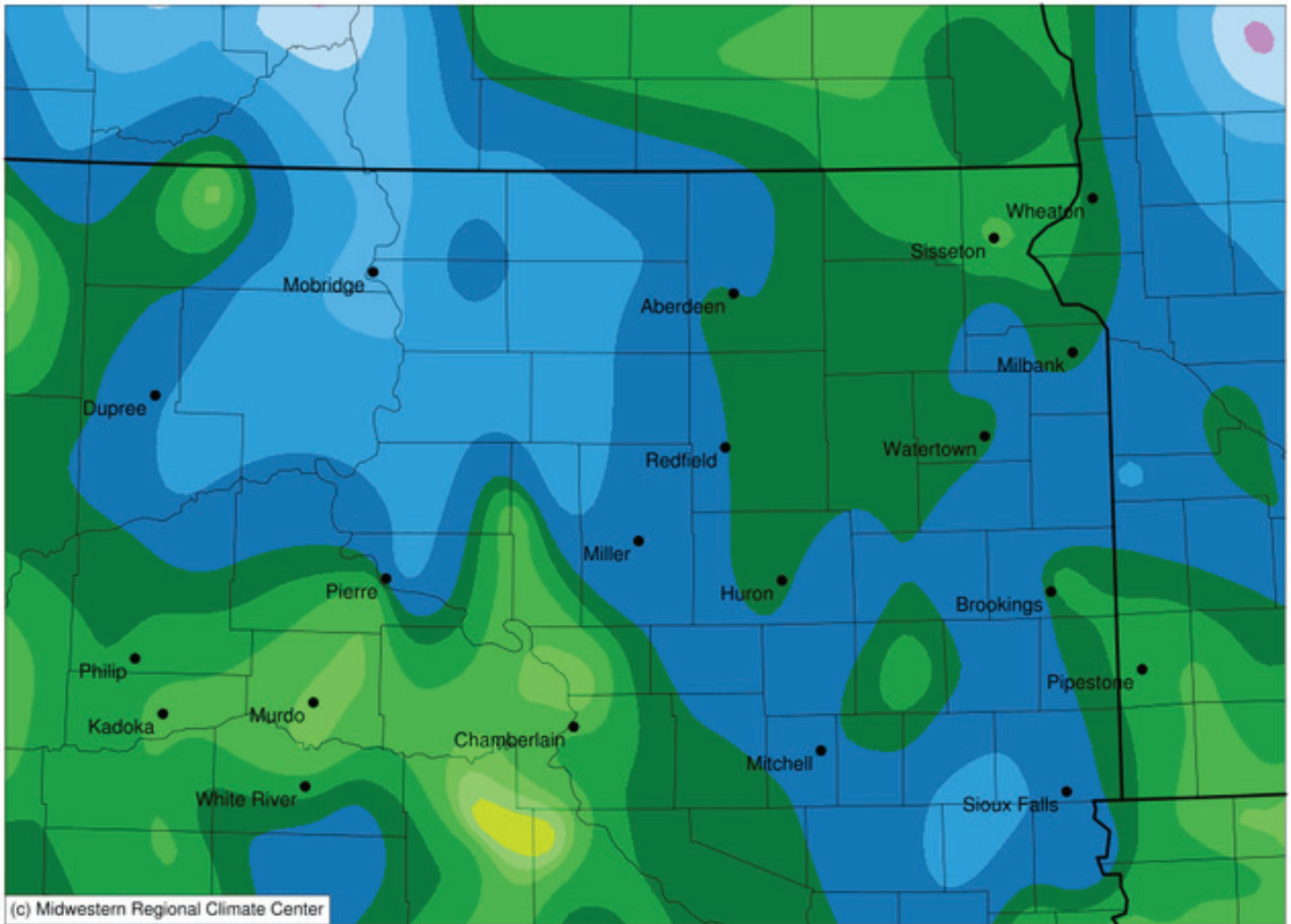


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Accumulated Snowfall (in)

November 01, 2016 to November 30, 2016

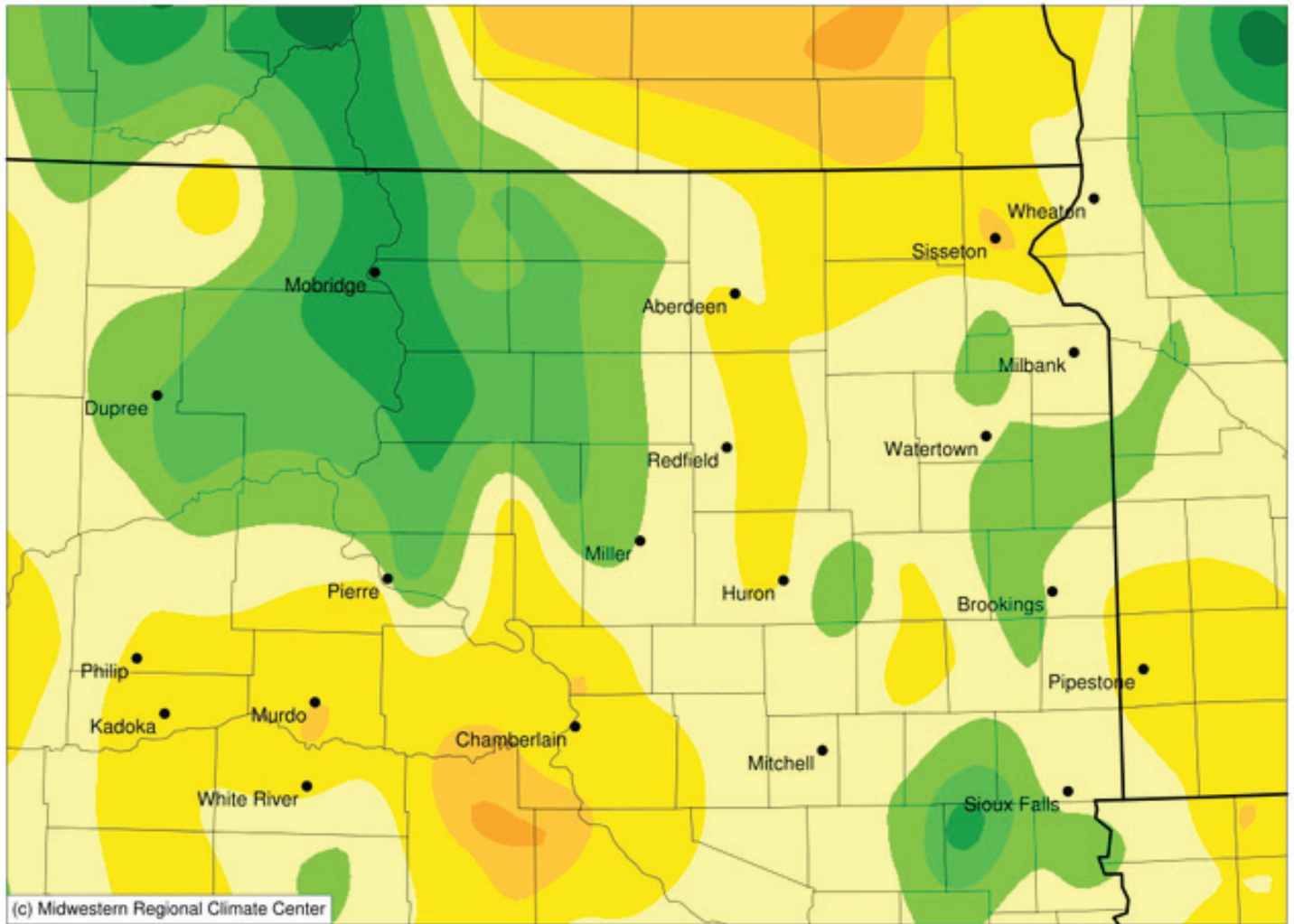


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Accumulated Snowfall (in): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals

November 01, 2016 to November 30, 2016



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center

2016 All-Conference NEC Volleyball Team

Aberdeen Roncalli: MEGAN STREIER

Britton/Hecla: LAKEN OLSON

Clark/Willow Lake: ABBIE BRATLAND

Groton Area: AUDREY WANNER, GIA GENGERKE

Hamlin: LEXI WADSWORTH

Milbank Area: MIKAELA HOEKE, CARYSSA MIELITZ, MOLLY RICK

Redfield-Doland: RYLIE GALL, AUTUMN TURCK

Sisseton: MaKenzy FREDERICK

Webster: SHAE SICHMELLER, MOLLIE RAUSCH

CERT Course to be offered in January

Brown County Emergency Management will be offering the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Course starting in February 2017.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a training program that prepares you to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors in that event of a disaster. During an incident, emergency service personnel may not be able to reach everyone right away. By getting the training in CERT, you will have the skills to help emergency responders save lives and protect property. While people will respond to others in need without the training, one goal of the CERT program is to help them do so effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger.

In the CERT training, citizens learn to:

- Manage utilities and put out small fires.

- Treat the three medical killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock.

- Provide basic medical aid.

- Search for and rescue victims safely.

- Organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.

- Collect disaster intelligence to support first responder efforts.

More information including the entire schedule and registration sheet can be found at brown.sd.us/cert or by calling the Brown County Emergency Management office at 605-626-7122.

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Today in Weather History

December 2, 1978: A low-pressure system moved northeast from Kansas, causing snow to fall over all of southern Minnesota south of a line from Alexandria to Duluth on the 2nd and 3rd, with the heaviest snow falling from west central and southwest Minnesota to west central Wisconsin. Snow depths of six inches or more fell in southwestern Minnesota with 10 inches or more at Marshall, MN. Winds averaged near 20 mph, and temperatures ranged from 5 to 15 degrees above zero while the snow fell, but the snow did not cause extensive problems for the area. Wheaton had 2 inches, Artichoke Lake and Browns Valley had 3 inches.

December 2, 1984: Snow fell in the central and northeast parts of South Dakota from the late afternoon of the 1st to the morning of the 2nd, with amounts ranging from 3 to 10 inches. The heaviest amounts were in the northeast part of the state with Day County reporting 8 to 10 inches. Five inches of snow fell at Clear Lake, six inches fell at Waubay, Clark, Miller, and 12 miles southwest of Harrold with 7 inches at Redfield.

1896 - An early season snow and ice storm struck the southeastern U.S. It produced 11 inches of snow at Charlotte NC, and six inches at Atlanta GA. (David Ludlum)

1925 - A late season hurricane caused extensive damage across the Florida peninsula, then moved off the Georgia coast crossing Cape Hatteras as a tropical storm. The storm produced whole gales along the Middle Atlantic and Southern New England coast. Winds gusted to 60 mph at Block Island RI, and reached 64 mph at Atlantic City NJ. (David Ludlum)

December 2, 1950: A rare tornado event occurred when a storm system produces three tornadoes in Illinois, and one in Arkansas. The three tornadoes in Illinois are relatively rare in December with a total of only three days with tornadoes from 1835 to 1950. The other years are 1876 and 1949.

December 2, 1959: Between November 19 and December 2, an estimated 20 inches of rain fell near the town of Frejus on the French Riviera. This rain caused the Malpasset Dam to collapse which sent a 130-foot high wall of water into the towns of Malpasset and Bozon. The wall of water 10 feet high reached Frejus, flooding the western half of the city. The dam breach killed 423 people and caused \$68 million in damages.

1970 - A tornado, 400 yards in width, touched down about one mile below the summit of Timpanogos Divide. Trees up to 18 inches in diameter were snapped, and some of the 38 inch snow cover was carried 1000 feet above the ground as the tornado traveled one mile. (The Weather Channel)

1982 - A tornado destroyed a home four miles south of Eastwood MO. The owners were not injured in that tornado, but ironically one was killed Christmas Eve when another tornado hit the replacement mobile home on the same site. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A powerful storm over the Gulf of Alaska continued to produced high winds and heavy rain along the northern and central Pacific coast. Winds gusted to 80 mph south of Port Orford OR, Stevens Pass WA was blanketed with sixteen inches of snow, and Blue Canyon CA was soaked with 1.63 inches of rain. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Squalls in the Great Lakes Region produced ten inches of snow at Union City, PA. Gale force winds gusted to 55 mph at Buffalo NY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Squalls produced heavy snow in the Great Lakes Region. Totals in Upper Michigan ranged up to 20 inches at Ironwood. Heavy snow and high winds caused 150 auto accidents in Michigan, resulting in sixteen deaths and 22 injuries. Strong northwesterly winds gusted to 73 mph at Johnstown PA, and Lowville PA received 20 inches of snow in 36 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

**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

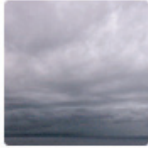






Patty Tastad: 397-7388

Holiday Party & Silent Auction at Clubhouse

4 p.m. - ????

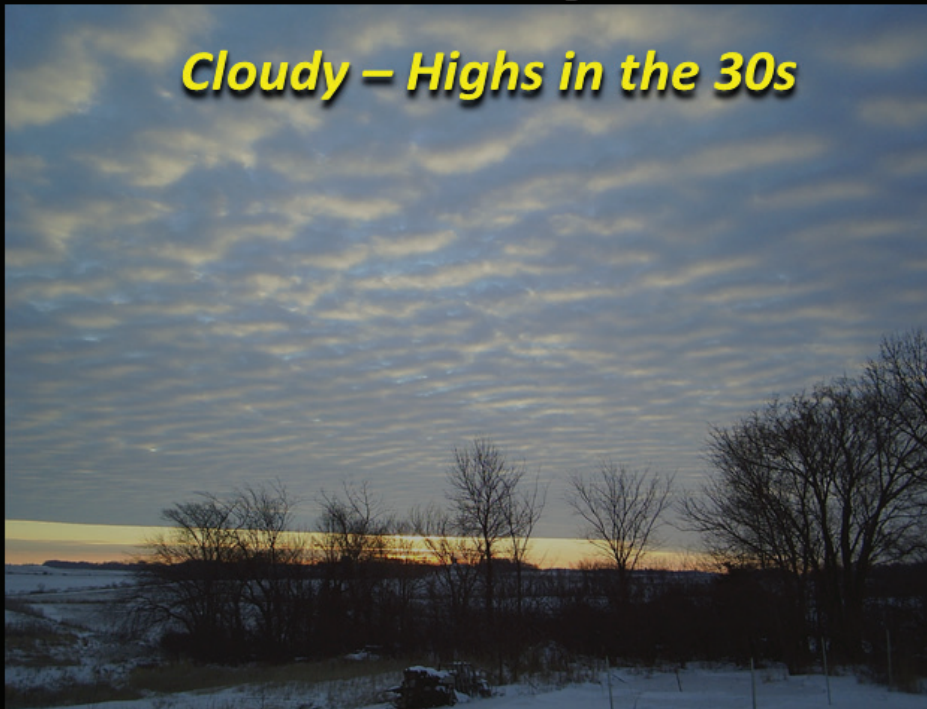
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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Isolated Flurries	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Slight Chance Snow then Partly Sunny
High: 30 °F	Low: 21 °F	High: 34 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 40 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 35 °F

Today

Cloudy – Highs in the 30s



This Weekend

Sunny & Seasonally Mild Highs: 30s



Next Week

Arctic Chill! Single Digit Temps Late Tues – Friday

Wind Chills Teens & 20s Below



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 12/02/2016 at 4:58AM

Clouds will linger across the area today, but milder air will move in from the west tonight resulting in clearing and a short lived thaw for the weekend and start of next week. A blast of Arctic air is headed this way however, with cold temperatures through the end of the work week.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 32.4 F at 12:15 PM

Low Outside Temp: 28.8 F at 10:33 PM

High Gust: 15.0 Mph at 12:22 AM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 56° in 2012

Record Low: -20° in 1896

Average High: 30°F

Average Low: 11°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.04

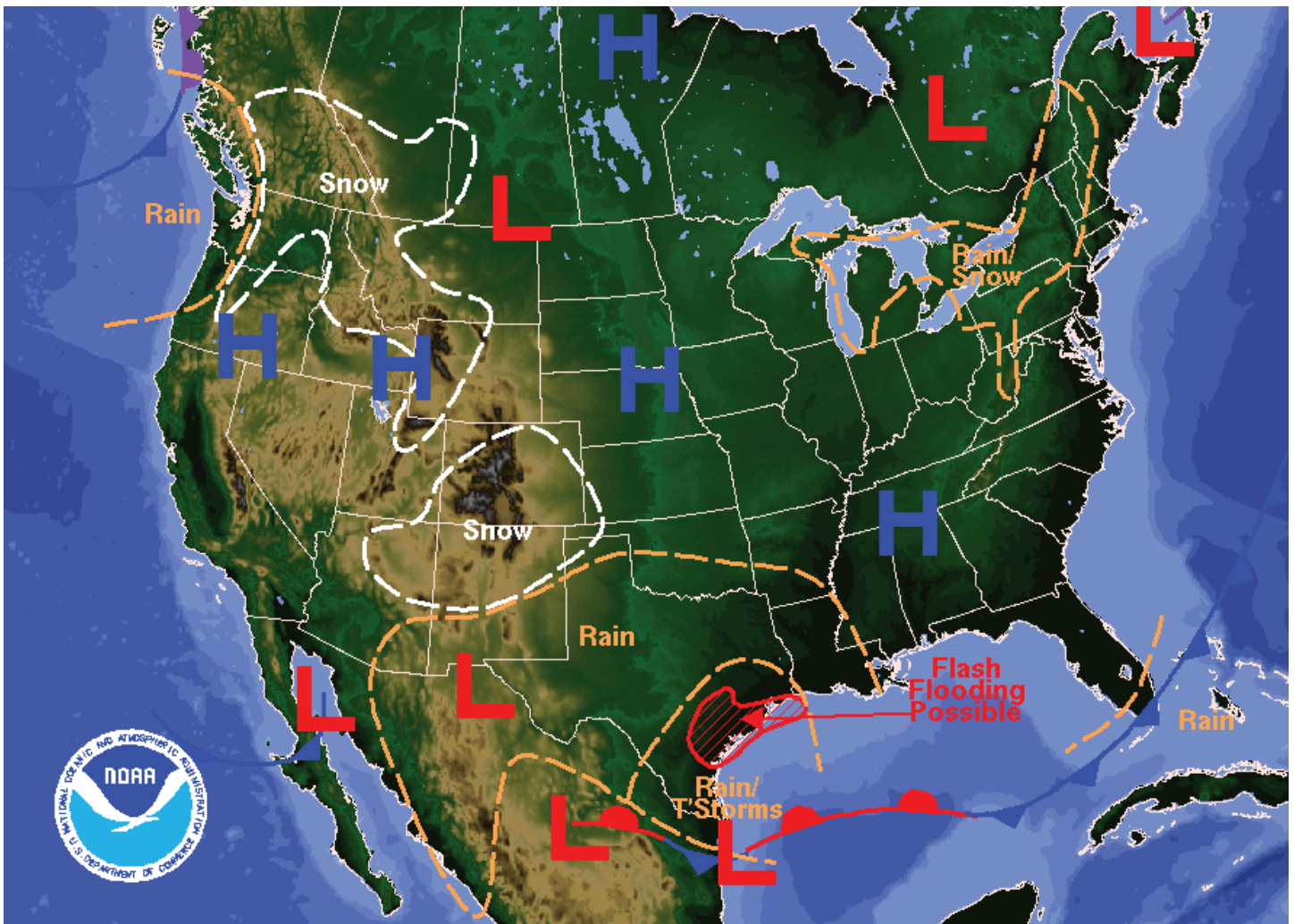
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.24

Precip Year to Date: 16.02

Sunset Tonight: 4:51 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:56 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Dec 02, 2016, issued 3:50 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Krekeler based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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WHAT TO LIVE WITHOUT

A young lady was bragging to her girlfriends about her good fortune. "I have two handsome men who want to marry me, and I can't decide which one to choose. I can live with either of them!"

One of her friends wisely said, "Your job is to determine which one of them you can live without."

Everyone has a decision to make: Will we accept or reject Christ as our Savior.

When we choose to accept Him and the life He has to offer, we settle our eternal destiny. Once we have accepted Him as our Savior our life will be different. When we turn from sin to the Savior, we are given the power to live an abundant life – a life that is satisfying and fulfilling and one that pleases and honors God.

Sin is not a defect in our personality but a disease that destroys us. Sin is not an attitude or an accident, but a decision to turn against God. Sin is not a mistake but a willing rebellion against God's laws. God's Word says that "the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life."

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we are eternally grateful to You for giving us the opportunity to choose life through Your Son, Jesus Christ. We ask that You will become the Master in our lives and keep us from sin. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture: Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

News from the Associated Press

Next test for pipeline protesters: the North Dakota winter

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — So far, the hundreds of protesters fighting the Dakota Access pipeline have shrugged off the heavy snow, icy winds and frigid temperatures that have swirled around their large encampment on the North Dakota grasslands.

But if they defy next week's government deadline to abandon the camp, demonstrators know the real deep freeze lies ahead, when the full weight of the Great Plains winter descends on their community of nylon tents and teepees. Life-threatening wind chills and towering snow drifts could mean the greatest challenge is simple survival.

"I'm scared. I'm a California girl, you know?" said Loretta Reddog of Placerville, California, a protester who said she arrived several months ago with her two dogs and has yet to adjust to the harsher climate.

The government has ordered protesters to leave federal land by Monday, although it's not clear what, if anything, authorities will do to enforce that mandate. Demonstrators insist they will stay for as long as it takes to divert the \$3.8 billion pipeline, which the Standing Rock Sioux tribe believes threatens sacred sites and a river that provides drinking water for millions of people.

The pipeline is largely complete except for a short segment that is planned to pass beneath a Missouri River reservoir. The company doing the building says it is unwilling to reroute the project.

For several months, the government permitted the gathering, allowing its population to swell. The Seven Council Fires camp began growing in August as it took in the overflow crowd from smaller protest sites nearby. It now covers a half square mile, with living quarters that include old school buses, fancy motorhomes and domelike yurts. Hale bales are piled around some teepees to keep out the wind. There's even a crude corral for horses.

The number of inhabitants has ranged from several hundred to several thousand. It has been called the largest gathering of Native American tribes in a century.

Increasingly, more permanent wooden structures are being erected, even though the Army Corps of Engineers considers them illegal on government property. The Standing Rock Sioux insist the land still belongs to their tribe under a nearly 150-year-old treaty.

Nate Bison, a member of South Dakota's Cheyenne River Sioux, came to the camp after quitting his job in Las Vegas a week ago. He said he intends to stay indefinitely, a prospect that may cause him to lose his house in Nevada.

"But since I've lived in these conditions before, to me it's not all that bad," he said.

Camp morale is high, he added, despite the onset of winter.

"Everybody I've talked to, you hear laughter and people just having a good time, enjoying the camaraderie and the support from each other," Bison said. "And the love. People are taking the shirts off their own backs for other people. No one is left out that I've seen."

On Thursday, the camp near the confluence of the Missouri and Cannonball rivers was shrouded in snow, much of it compacted by foot and vehicle traffic. Temperatures hovered in the 20s. Next week's forecast calls for single digits and subzero wind chills.

Camp dwellers are getting ready for the hardships of a long stay. Mountains of donated food and water are being stockpiled, as is firewood, much of which has come from outside of North Dakota, the least-forested state in the nation. A collection of Army surplus tents with heating stoves serve as kitchen, dining hall, medical clinic and a camp-run school. Many of the smaller tents have become tattered by the wind.

Thane Maxwell, a 32-year-old Minneapolis native who has been living at the camp since July, said North Dakota's bitter cold will not deter protesters committed to fighting the pipeline, or "black snake" as they call it.

Tribes from the Great Plains states are adept at surviving brutal winters, he said. Others from warmer climates are being taught how to endure the frostbite-inducing temperatures that are sure to come.

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"A lot of these people have been living in this climate for hundreds of years," said Maxwell a member of Minnesota-based Honor the Earth Foundation. "It's a skill set that can be learned. The danger is escalating from law enforcement, not the weather."

Reddog said she has confidence in the camp community. "Everybody's really stepping up and taking care of each other," she said.

Maxwell put out a call on social media for more donations, seeking four-wheel drive trucks and foul-weather clothing. He also asked for gas masks and protective baseball and hockey gear to shield protesters from any future skirmishes with police.

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

North Dakota has often conjured images of a wind-swept, treeless wasteland. The perception was so great that it led to a short-lived proposal to change the state's name by dropping "North" and leaving just "Dakota," to dispel the image of inhospitable winter weather.

Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier, who is heading the law enforcement effort around the pipeline, said he hopes the harsh conditions force people to leave the encampment, something the state and federal governments have so far been unable to do.

In addition to the federal order, North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple issued a "mandatory evacuation" for the camp "to safeguard against harsh winter conditions." But he said Wednesday that the state has no intention of blocking food and supplies from coming into the camp.

Doing so would be a "huge mistake from a humanitarian viewpoint," the Republican said.

The federal deadline probably will not have any immediate effect on the camp either. Soon after it was set, the Army Corps of Engineers explained that the agency had no plans to forcibly remove anyone, although violators could be charged with trespassing.

Back at the camp, about 75 people lined up Thursday to draw propane for heating and cooking from a fuel truck. The driver, Rodney Grant, said it was his seventh trip in a week. The propane was free to campers. Grant said he did not know who was paying for it.

Dani Jo McKing, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux, was among those in line. She and her husband have been sharing cold-weather tips with people who are not from North Dakota. She said people with out-of-state license plates, including California and Nevada, have been seen driving away from the camp. The cruel winter is bound to induce others to head home, she said.

The cold weather has never bothered her.

"This is where I live. I'll stay until the end. This is God's country," she said.

Summer Moore arrived last week from Paintsville, Kentucky, and quickly learned the power of the whipping North Dakota wind. When a snowstorm rolled in Monday, it ripped her tent to shreds.

"It wasn't that cold, but the wind was so bad it knocked me down three times," Moore said.

She hitched a ride to the casino on the Standing Rock reservation and rode out the storm in a hotel room.

A carpenter named Joel Maurer came from California last month. He's been building small shed-like bunkhouses that will sleep seven people each with room for a stove.

"I know things are going to get real here real quick," he said.

Veteran school crossing guard in Rapid City retires

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A veteran school crossing guard in Rapid City is hanging up his fluorescent vest for the last time as he retires with pride that no child was ever injured while he protected them from traffic.

Wilson Elementary School crossing guard Paul Priest, 90, has helped children cross the street countless of times over the past 25 years, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2gNlbU3>) reported.

"Right now, it's just about as big a battle getting those kids across the busiest roadway in Rapid City as it was getting those soldiers across that bridge in Germany so many years ago," Priest said, chuckling. "But you've got to know when it's time to go."

Priest fell while on the job three weeks ago, hitting his head against the curb and injuring a hand. The incident made him decide it was time to let someone younger take the job.

"In a way, I feel I'm letting these kids down," he said, "but hey, I don't have to get up at 5 in the morning to get over there at 7:30 to stand in weather like I did this morning."

Priest said that during his tenure, he's been sworn at and hit by bumpers of passing cars. He has also thrown his stop sign at speeders who failed to yield.

"It's not big money being a crossing guard, but it's a job if you like to do it," he said. "For me, it was about the kids and having some extra money, and it paid for a few meals out."

Priest was drafted to into the U.S. Army at age 17 during World War II.

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

Ace Hardware denies ban on sales to pipeline protesters

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Ace Hardware chain is denying widely circulated reports that it was refusing to sell camping supplies to protesters demonstrating against the Dakota Access oil pipeline in North Dakota.

Protest advocates started a #BoycottAceHardware hashtag after some supporters tweeted what was said to be a statement from Ace that said stores near the area were asked by law enforcement officials to "refrain from selling material that could be used at the camps." The largest encampment set up in opposition to the four-state, \$3.8 billion pipeline has been called the largest gathering of Native American tribes in a century.

The purported statement, signed by "Camillia H./Ace Care Center," included a toll-free telephone number, which was answered by a recording directing it to the company website.

Ace spokeswoman Anna Wyrwas said in a statement Thursday that the chain has not banned the sale of products at any Ace store, and North Dakota Department of Emergency Services spokeswoman Cecily Fong denies law enforcement ever ordered Ace to halt sales to demonstrators. A spokesperson for a large protesters' group also said the reports, which trended widely on social media Thursday, were not true.

An employee who answered the phone at the Ace Hardware in nearby Bismarck said Thursday that the store had not received anything from corporate headquarters suggesting a ban on selling to demonstrators. The employee, who declined to give a name, said protesters had been in buying supplies all day.

Authorities would consider proposals in wild horses case

By REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The prosecutor handling the case of a troubled wild-horse sanctuary in north-central South Dakota whose impounded animals are headed for auction said Thursday that authorities would "consider" proposals from other sanctuaries or organizations before the horses are sold.

The remarks from Dewey County state's attorney Steven Aberle came on the deadline day given to the embattled sanctuary's president to repay the public funds that have been used in caring for 810 horses and to prove that she has enough funding to feed and care for each animal for the next 18 months. A date has not been set to auction off the hundreds of horses at the sanctuary.

"If an organization or organizations came in and made a proposal, we would consider it at that time," Aberle said. "At this point, they are going to auction. We have not been given any proposals. I know there are groups out there that want to do anything they can to keep them from going to auction."

At least 150 horses have been adopted.

The 810 animals of the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros ranch in Lantry were impounded through a judge's order in October after a state veterinarian found the horses were being neglected and a former ranch employee said the horses were being starved to death. Since then, Dewey County Sheriff Les Mayer has been overseeing the care of the animals.

"I never figured as a sheriff I would be taking care of 800 horses," Mayer said. "It's part of the job I guess."

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Authorities put at roughly \$100,000 the cost of caring for the 810 horses since they were impounded. Aberle said a grant and donations have brought down the amount to \$76,000.

The sanctuary's president, Karen Sussman, was given a Thursday deadline to repay local authorities the \$46,000 still owed after paying \$30,000.

Thursday was also the last day Sussman had to come up with 18 months' worth of funding to feed and care for each horse she would like to keep. Authorities estimated Sussman would need \$1,100 for each. In addition, authorities also required her to have on hand a little over \$100,000 for fixed costs.

"Before they can keep a horse, it's a pile of money," Aberle said.

Sussman on Thursday denied all wrongdoing allegations, which she said were fabricated by a "disgruntled employee."

"Thirty horses did not starve to death," she said. "Yes, we did lose some, but they were 25 or 30 years old."

Sussman said the only way to "save" the horses is to donate to the society. No regulated horse-slaughter plants operate in the U.S. Mayer said the horses sold at auction may not necessarily end up at slaughterhouses in Canada and Mexico, but acknowledged that some might.

"I had one horse buyer call me, and he buys hundreds of horses a month," Mayer said. "He trains them, and those he can't train go to a slaughterhouse."

US overhauls public land use planning; senator vows reversal

By **MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press**

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — U.S. government officials on Thursday finalized an overhaul of how they plan for oil and gas drilling, mining, grazing and other activities across public lands in the West.

The move by the Bureau of Land Management aims to address longstanding criticism of an often-cumbersome process that dictates development across almost 250 million acres of federal lands, primarily in 12 Western states and the Dakotas.

Administration officials said the changes would improve public involvement and government transparency by adding additional steps to land-use planning.

Members of Congress, industry groups and local officials have raised concerns about the overhaul's practical effects. They've said it will elevate wildlife and environmental preservation above other uses such as energy development and shift decision-making from agency field offices to Washington, D.C.

It updates regulations adopted in 1979.

The Associated Press obtained details prior to Thursday's public announcement.

The timing of the new rule in the Obama administration's last days drew a rebuke from U.S. Sen. John Barrasso, who predicted it would take authority away from local land managers. The Wyoming Republican pledged to work to reverse the action once President-elect Donald Trump takes office.

About 28 percent of Wyoming's land and 65 percent of the minerals beneath its surface are administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

"We need better coordination among state, local and federal land management agencies. Massive landscape-scale plans directed from Washington, D.C., are not the answer," said Barrasso, chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining.

The changes were backed by conservation and sporting groups including Trout Unlimited and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. Joel Webster, the partnership's Western lands director, said the rule would ensure decisions affecting wildlife such as mule deer weren't hobbled by artificial boundaries that separate bureau field offices.

Opponents were "seeing ghosts" with concerns that public involvement would be hurt, he added.

Among other changes, alternatives for development would be offered at the front-end of planning instead of well into the process.

Bureau Deputy Director Linda Lance said the intent is to frontload the process so that thorny issues are revealed early. That will reduce the likelihood of lawsuits or the need for substantial revisions down the road, she said.

The federal agency has 160 management plans for the lands and mineral reserves that it oversees. Crafting those plans currently takes eight years on average.

"The hope is we are going to shave years off the process, not days," Lance said.

Follow Matthew Brown on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/matthewbrownap>

Veterans' group criticizes vets joining pipeline protest

By DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Some military veterans in North Dakota disagree with the 2,000 veterans planning to join a protest opposing the four-state, \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline.

The North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council has sent a letter to the "Veterans Stand for Standing Rock" group asking them not go to the southern part of the state where hundreds are camped out because it'll create more tension and increase the burden on law enforcement, council president Russ Stabler said Thursday.

The council doesn't have an opinion about the pipeline, which is mostly complete aside from a portion on federal land under a Missouri River reservoir that's been held up, and supports anyone who wants to protest peacefully. But, he said, the demonstrations have not been conducted in "the military manner in which our veterans behave."

He believes the veterans coming to Standing Rock have been misinformed and should not be supporting a movement that has "broken laws, destroyed property and attacked law enforcement."

But, he said, "They intend on coming anyhow."

There are a "lot of different emotions and opinions" about the protest, and the veterans from across the country aren't going to be swayed by the letter from Stabler, Veterans Stand for Standing Rock spokeswoman Ashleigh Jennifer Parker said.

"Our mission is to go and ask and offer if we can help and support the tribes that are already there," the Coast Guard veteran said. "Obviously there could be groups that say some negative things, but we're going to march forward without them."

Veterans Stand for Standing Rock plans to arrive at the reservation Sunday and stay for four days. Much of the trip will be funded through a GoFundMe.com page that as of Thursday afternoon had raised nearly \$780,000 of its \$1 million goal.

The main protest camp, Oceti Sakowin, has grown significantly since the summer and is on federal land. Citing cold and wintry weather, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has said all federal lands north of the Cannonball River — the camp included — will be closed to public access on Monday and Gov. Jack Dalrymple issued a mandatory evacuation of the camp, though both have said that protesters will not be forcibly removed.

Police have made about 575 arrests since August during clashes along the pipeline route and in a couple of North Dakota cities. Protesters have complained about excessive force by law enforcement, including the use of water hoses during last month's confrontation in 30-degree weather. Another protester suffered a serious arm injury during that altercation, although it's not clear what caused the blast.

Stabler is especially upset that the vets' protest is slated to culminate on the anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor.

"It is an insult to the remaining World War II veterans from North Dakota," said Stabler, whose group represents more than 55,000 North Dakota veterans who are members of the American Legion, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Veteran of Foreign Wars, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

Also Thursday, the Morton County Sheriff's Department, which has been in charge of much of the law enforcement's response to protesters, released a video of a veteran who is critical of the Veterans Stand for Standing Rock.

Raymond Morrell, a U.S. Marine veteran, wants to know why veterans who have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution would participate in what he considers an unlawful protest.

"Veterans within the state North Dakota, we really question that as to where their cause truly is," he said.

The Latest: Republican vows to reverse land planning change

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — The Latest on an overhaul of federal land-use planning for almost 250 million acres in the U.S. West (all times local):

1:35 p.m.

A U.S. Senator from Wyoming says he'll seek to reverse changes in how government officials plan for development across almost 250 million acres of public lands.

The Obama administration announced Thursday an overhaul to an often-cumbersome process that dictates oil and gas drilling, grazing and other activities on lands administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

The administration says its new rule will increase public involvement and government transparency.

But Sen. John Barrasso predicted it will take away authority from locally based government workers and increase the influence of officials in Washington, D.C.

The Republican lawmaker said he would work with President-elect Donald Trump to reverse the regulation.

11:30 a.m.

U.S. government officials have overhauled how they plan for oil and gas drilling, mining, grazing and other activities across public lands in the West.

Bureau of Land Management Deputy Director Linda Lance told The Associated Press that the move announced Thursday increases public involvement in land-use plans that dictate development across almost 250 million acres in 12 Western states and the Dakotas.

Some members of Congress, industry groups and local officials have criticized the overhaul. They say it prioritizes preservation above energy development and other uses and shifts decision-making to Washington.

Among the changes, alternatives for development would be offered at the front-end of planning instead of well into the process.

Lance says the changes could shave years off a process that currently averages eight years.

The overhaul updates regulations adopted in 1979.

One woman stabbed in Minot, another in custody

MINOT, N.D. (AP) — Police in Minot are investigating a stabbing at an apartment.

Officers say they were called to the apartment about 6 p.m. Wednesday and found a female victim on the ground next to the apartment. Authorities say the woman was able to tell officers that she had been stabbed. The woman had a wound to her torso.

Officers went into the apartment and arrested a 41-year-old woman on a possible charge of aggravated assault-domestic violence.

WDAY-TV (<http://bit.ly/2gpCIUf>) says the woman was taken to Trinity Hospital and is expected to survive.

Trump voter lost her home to new Treasury secretary

By JOSH BOAK and JEFF HORWITZ, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Donald Trump named his Treasury secretary, Teena Colebrook felt her heart sink.

She had voted for the president-elect on the belief that he would knock the moneyed elites from their perch in Washington, D.C. And she knew Trump's pick for Treasury, Steven Mnuchin, all too well.

OneWest, a bank formerly owned by a group of investors headed by Mnuchin, had foreclosed on her Los Angeles-area home in the aftermath of the Great Recession, stripping her of the two units she rented as a primary source of income.

"I just wish that I had not voted," said Colebrook, 59. "I have no faith in our government anymore at all. They all promise you the world at the end of a stick and take it away once they get in."

Less than a month after his presidential win, Trump's populist appeal has started to clash with a Cabinet of billionaires and millionaires that he believes can energize economic growth.

The prospect of Mnuchin leading the Treasury Department drew plaudits from many in the financial sec-

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tor. A former Goldman Sachs executive who pivoted in the early 2000s to hedge fund management and movie production, he seemed an ideal emissary to Wall Street.

When asked on Wednesday about his credentials to be Treasury secretary, Mnuchin emphasized his time running OneWest—which not only foreclosed on Colebrook but also thousands of others in the aftermath of the housing crisis caused by sub-prime mortgages.

“What I’ve really been focused on is being a regional banker for the last eight years,” Mnuchin said. “I know what it takes to make sure that we can make loans to small and mid-market companies and that’s going to be our big focus, making sure we scale back regulation so that we make sure the banks are lending.”

But the prospect of Mnuchin leading the Treasury Department prompted Colebrook and other OneWest borrowers who say they unfairly faced foreclosure to contact The Associated Press. Colebrook wishes she could meet with Trump to explain why she feels betrayed by his Cabinet selection after believing that his presidency could restore the balance of power to everyday people.

“He doesn’t want the truth,” she said. “He’s now backing his buddies.”

The Trump transition team has been sensitive to preserving trust with its voters. Senior adviser Kellyanne Conway publicly warned that supporters would feel “betrayed” if former critic Mitt Romney was named secretary of state, for instance.

For Mnuchin, the fundamental problem stems from the Great Recession. His investor group was the sole bidder to take control of the troubled bank IndyMac in 2009. The group struck a deal that left the Federal Deposit Insurance Commission responsible for taking as much as 80 percent of the losses on former IndyMac assets and rebranded the troubled bank as OneWest.

The combination of OneWest’s profitability, government guarantees and foreclosure activities drew the ire of activist groups like the California Reinvestment Coalition. It found the bank to be consistently one of the most difficult to work out loan modifications with even though OneWest never drew a major response from government regulators.

By June of 2014, five years after taking over OneWest, Mnuchin sold the bank for \$3.4 billion at a tremendous profit.

Colebrook said she learned the hard way about OneWest’s tactics, after the regional bank acquired her home lender, First Federal Bank of California, in late 2009.

In 1998, she bought a triplex for \$248,000 in Hawthorne, California, not too far from Los Angeles International Airport.

She rented out two of the units and lived in the third. Colebrook refinanced her mortgage in order to renovate the property and help buy additional homes to generate rental income.

By the time the financial crisis struck in 2008, she had an interest-only mortgage on the triplex known as a “pick-a-payment” loan. Her monthly payments ran as high as \$2,000 and only covered the interest on the debt. Then she got ensnared in the economic downturn.

“All my tenants lost their jobs in the crash,” Colebrook said. “They couldn’t pay. It was a knock-on effect.”

Over five years, she tried unsuccessfully to adjust her loan with OneWest through the Treasury Department’s Home Affordable Modification Program. But she said that One West Bank lost paperwork, provided conflicting statements about ownership of the loan and fees and submitted charges that were unverified and caused her loan balance to balloon. By the time she lost her home in foreclosure in April 2015, the payoff balance totaled \$517,662.

Colebrook said she is still challenging the foreclosure in court.

She now lives with her boyfriend in the small California city of San Luis Obispo. She volunteers at a homeless shelter, knowing that she could just as easily have ended up there.

“I cook at the homeless shelter because there but the grace of God go I.”

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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. WHO TRUMP SELECTS FOR DEFENSE SECRETARY

The president-elect nominates retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis, former chief of U.S. Central Command.

2. GATLINBURG, TENN. WORKS TO RECOVER AFTER WILDFIRES

The resort city and other communities across the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains are welcoming back residents and visitors.

3. GOP-LED HOUSE PUSHES \$611B DEFENSE BILL FORWARD

A vote is scheduled today on the legislation, which would prohibit closing the prison at Guantanamo Bay, and give U.S. troops their largest pay raise in six years.

4. WHAT NEW THREAT CONFRONTS OIL PIPELINE PROTESTERS

Encamped demonstrators fighting the Dakota Access pipeline will soon face the full weight of a Great Plains winter, with its frigid wind chills and deep snow drifts.

5. BODIES OF PLANE CRASH VICTIMS TO ARRIVE BACK HOME IN BRAZIL, BOLIVIA

Families prepare to receive the bodies of 71 victims of this week's air tragedy in Colombia involving a charter plane that apparently ran out of fuel before it crashed.

6. ADULATION OF FIDEL CASTRO RUNS DEEPEST IN RURAL EASTERN CUBA

Castro was born in eastern Cuba, his revolution started there, and it's there where his campaigns for literacy, social welfare and land redistribution had their deepest impact.

7. SOME 200,000 TAKE PART IN INDONESIA BLASPHEMY PROTEST

The conservative Muslims rally in the Indonesian capital against its minority Christian governor who is being prosecuted for alleged blasphemy.

8. PALESTINIANS COMPLAIN OF LOST JOBS AMID W BANK PLANT CLOSINGS

Israel's military shuts down more than a dozen factories and confiscates equipment and 160 tons of wood used or charcoal production.

9. WHERE A FULL-SIZE TITANIC REPLICA IS BEING BUILT

A shipbuilding company in China is constructing the 300-meter (984 foot) vessel as a tourist attraction complete with dining hall, theater, luxury first-class cabins and swimming pool.

10. COWBOYS HOLD OFF VIKES FOR 11TH-STRAIGHT WIN

Dez Bryant scores the go-ahead touchdown in the fourth quarter as Dallas drops Minnesota 17-15.

Trump the campaign trail showman returns on 'Thank you' tour

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — The pugnacious, brawling Donald Trump voters got to know during the presidential campaign is back.

The president-elect returned to his campaign roots Thursday in his first major public appearance since Election Day, holding court in front of thousands of adoring fans — and even announcing a Cabinet pick from the stage.

Trump's first stop on this "Thank you" tour to salute his supporters was in Ohio and, ever the showman, he made the surprise announcement that he will be offering the post of defense secretary to retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis. Trump said he was supposed to unveil that Monday, so he jokingly warned the Cincinnati crowd to "not tell anyone."

The raucous rallies during the Trump campaign road show often had the feel of a rock concert, and Thursday night in Cincinnati had all the hallmarks of a reunion tour: Trump took a veiled swipe at fellow Republicans. He remembered his general election foe by joking, "We had fun fighting Hillary, didn't we?" He boasted about the size of his victory and repeatedly bashed the media. Protesters briefly interrupted the proceedings. And the crowd chanted "Build the Wall" and "Lock Her Up."

The president-elect had eased up on those campaign promises recently, suggesting the U.S.-Mexico

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border wall could be part-fence and indicating no willingness to pursue criminal charges against Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton.

Perhaps befitting an encore presentation, the downtown arena that Trump packed in October — drawing a crowd that was one of the loudest of the campaign — was only about half-full Thursday night. But the thousands who were there cheered Trump as he vowed to restore America to greatness, saying, “Now is not the time to downsize our dreams.”

Trump did nothing to downplay expectations before he takes office, declaring that “America will start winning again, big league.” Much like he did during the stretch run of the campaign, he read from teleprompters, but he was bombastic as ever, spending more than a dozen minutes bragging about his victory before outlining his economic plan.

He boasted about his wins in Midwest states that normally vote Democratic, declaring he didn’t just “break the blue wall, we shattered it.” He veered off-script to make fun of a protester, saying she was being ejected from the arena so “she could go back to Mommy.” He repeated his recent threat that, despite constitutional protections, “if people burn the American flag, there should be consequences.”

And he stunned his own aides when he announced the Mattis pick from the stage. Mattis, nicknamed “Mad Dog,” is considered one of the foremost strategic thinkers of his generation, but to gain confirmation as Pentagon chief, he would need Congress to waive a requirement that a defense secretary be a civilian for at least seven years before taking up the post.

Mattis retired as chief of the U.S. Central Command in 2013 after serving more than four decades in the Marine Corps. There is no sense of strong opposition to his nomination in Congress.

Trump supporters were thrilled that he had hit the road again.

“That he wants to do this, to take time out of his schedule to fly out here and personally thank the people ... shows what kind of man he is,” said Josh Kanowitz, 43. “He’s one of us.”

But while Kanowitz largely praised Trump’s initial moves as president-elect, he visibly recoiled at the suggestion that he might pick Mitt Romney as secretary of state, saying the 2012 Republican presidential nominee was “someone we should leave behind as we move forward.”

Others at the rally also expressed some hesitancy at Trump’s picks, with a few suggesting that choosing former Goldman Sachs partner Steven Mnuchin as treasury secretary was not exactly fulfilling Trump’s campaign promise to “Drain the Swamp” and eliminate corruption and elitism from Washington.

The rally in Cincinnati was the second stop on a victory lap through the Midwest on Thursday, coming hours after Trump saluted workers, owners and himself at a Carrier plant in Indiana. There he declared that a deal to keep a local plant open instead of moving operations to Mexico was only the first of many business victories to come.

Some questions remain about the extent of the victory at Carrier, which announced this week that it will keep an Indianapolis plant open. In February, the heating and air conditioning company said it would shut the plant and send jobs to Mexico, and video of angry workers being informed about the decision soon went viral.

“Companies are not going to leave the United States anymore without consequences. It’s not going to happen. It’s simply not going to happen,” Trump said to workers at the Indianapolis plant.

Officials said this week that Carrier had agreed to keep some 800 union jobs at the plant. Seth Martin, a spokesman for Carrier, said Indiana offered the air conditioning and furnace manufacturer \$7 million in tax incentives after negotiations with Trump’s team to keep some jobs in the state.

Associated Press writers Julie Pace in Washington, Lisa Cornwell from Cincinnati and Brian Slodysko from Indianapolis contributed reporting.

Reach Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

Trump to nominate retired Gen. James Mattis to lead Pentagon

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump says he will nominate retired Gen. James Mattis to be his defense secretary.

Mattis, 66, is a Marine Corps general who retired in 2013 after serving as the commander of the U.S. Central Command.

Trump made the announcement Thursday night at a post-election victory rally in Cincinnati.

Mattis' selection raises questions about increased military influence in a job designed to insure civilian control of the armed forces. The concerns revolve around whether a recently retired service member would rely more on military solutions to international problems, rather than take a broader, more diplomatic approach.

For Mattis to be confirmed, Congress would first have to approve legislation bypassing a law that bars retired military officers from becoming defense secretary within seven years of leaving active duty.

Mattis has a reputation as a battle-hardened, tough-talking Marine who was entrusted with some of the most challenging commands in the U.S. military. In a tweet last month, Trump referred to Mattis by his nickname "Mad Dog" and described him as "A true General's General!"

Mattis would be only the second retired general to serve as defense secretary, the first being George C. Marshall in 1950-51 during the Korean War. Marshall was a much different figure, having previously served as U.S. secretary of state and playing a key role in creating closer ties with Western Europe after World War II.

The only previous exception to the law requiring a gap after military service was for Marshall.

Although his record in combat and his credentials as a senior commander are widely admired, Mattis has little experience in the diplomatic aspects of the job of secretary of defense.

Richard Fontaine, president of the Center for a New American Security, described Mattis as a defense intellectual and as a military leader who distinguished himself in combat.

"He knows the Middle East, South Asia, NATO and other areas and has evinced both a nuanced approach to the wars we're in and an appreciation for the importance of allies," Fontaine said in an email exchange. "If he were to get the nomination, I suspect that he could attract a number of very talented people to work with him."

But Mattis hasn't been immune to controversy. He was criticized for remarking in 2005 that he enjoyed shooting people. He also drew more recent scrutiny for his involvement with the embattled biotech company Theranos, where he serves on the board.

Born in Pullman, Washington, Mattis enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1969, later earning a history degree from Central Washington University. He was commissioned as an officer in 1972. As a lieutenant colonel, Mattis led an assault battalion into Kuwait during the first U.S. war with Iraq in 1991.

As head of the Central Command from 2010 until his retirement in 2013, he was in charge of both the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, Mattis commanded the Marines who launched an early amphibious assault into Afghanistan and established a U.S. foothold in the Taliban heartland.

As the first wave of Marines moved toward Kandahar, Mattis declared that, "The Marines have landed, and now we own a piece of Afghanistan."

Two years later, he helped lead the invasion into Iraq in 2003 as the two-star commander of the 1st Marine Division.

In 2005, he raised eyebrows when he told a San Diego forum that it was "fun to shoot some people."

According to a recording of his remarks, Mattis said, "Actually, it's a lot of fun to fight. You know, it's a hell of a hoot. ... It's fun to shoot some people. I'll be right up front with you, I like brawling."

He added, "You go into Afghanistan, you got guys who slap women around for five years because they didn't wear a veil," Mattis continued. "You know, guys like that ain't got no manhood left anyway. So it's a hell of a lot of fun to shoot them."

Mattis was counseled to choose his words more carefully.

A year later, Mattis came under scrutiny during one of the more high-profile criminal investigations of the Iraq war, the shooting deaths of 24 Iraqis by Marines.

The Iraqis, who included unarmed women and children, were killed by Marines in the town of Haditha after one of their comrades was killed by a roadside bomb. Eight Marines were charged in connection with the killings — four enlisted men were charged with unpremeditated murder and four officers who weren't there at the time were accused of failures in investigating and reporting the deaths.

As commander of the accused Marines' parent unit, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Mattis ultimately dismissed charges against most of the Marines.

As a top Marine general, Mattis pushed for the military to adopt blood-testing technology developed by Theranos.

As reported by The Washington Post, Mattis first met Theranos founder Elizabeth A. Holmes in 2011. A year later, according to emails obtained by The Post, Holmes used her connection to Mattis to pressure him to intervene after a Pentagon official raised concerns that the company was distributing its technology without approval by the Food and Drug Administration.

The emails show within hours after Holmes asked Mattis for help, he forwarded her email to other military officials asking them, "how do we overcome this new obstacle."

Mattis joined the Theranos board the same year he retired. The company, which raised hundreds of millions of dollars on the promise of breakthrough blood-testing technology, was forced to invalidate two years of patients' test results after the reliability of its proprietary blood-testing machinery was questioned by internal and government whistleblowers and investigative reporting by The Wall Street Journal.

Associated Press writers Chad Day and Robert Burns contributed to this report.

AP EXPLAINS: Why officers can't easily become Pentagon heads

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Retired Marine Gen. James Mattis, President-elect Donald Trump's pick for defense secretary, will need more than the usual Senate confirmation before being able to take office.

U.S. law states that a nominee for defense secretary must have been out of the active-duty military for seven years.

Mattis, 66, retired in 2013 after serving as the commander of the U.S. Central Command.

The requirement was originally set by law in 1947, when Congress established a minimum of 10 years out of active duty. It was changed to seven years in 2008.

But there's a way around that restriction: Congress can approve a law bypassing it. That's what will have to be done for Mattis.

A look at why the limitation exists:

WHY CIVILIAN CONTROL OF THE MILITARY?

Civilian control of the military is ingrained in American history and was set in stone in the U.S. Constitution, which decrees that the president "shall be the commander in chief." It grants Congress the power to raise and support armies. Congress also has the authority to declare war, but as recent conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria have shown, the U.S. military can wage combat without a formal declaration of war.

The principle of civilian control of the military is anchored in the belief in a balance of power. It sets the U.S. and other democracies apart from countries where militaries plot coups to overturn governments.

It ensures, said Spencer Meredith, an associate professor at the National Defense University, that the military is just one tool an administration can use in conflict so it isn't fighting constant and even needless wars.

Presidents have rebuked military commanders who were seen as wading into political waters. Most famously, President Harry S. Truman fired Gen. Douglas MacArthur in 1951, during the Korean War, for

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publicly proposing wider action against the Chinese army than Truman considered wise or safe.

As recently as 2010, President Barack Obama cited the tenet when he fired Gen. Stanley McChrystal after a Rolling Stone magazine profile anonymously quoted people around him criticizing members of Obama's national security team. A Pentagon inquiry later cleared McChrystal of wrongdoing.

MILITARY SERVICE

Of the 25 men who have served as secretary of the modern Defense Department, only seven never served in the military, including the current Pentagon chief, Ash Carter. One served only as an enlisted military member: Chuck Hagel, who received two Purple Hearts for his service in Vietnam.

Only one exception to the law requiring a gap after military service has been approved. Gen. George Marshall was appointed defense secretary in 1950 by Truman, who was looking for a highly respected leader to take over as the Korean war ramped up. Marshall needed a special law passed because he had not been out of the military for 10 years, as then required.

A Pentagon history says Marshall's appointment was quickly approved, but questions were raised by some senators about a military leader holding a job intended for a civilian.

POLITICS AND THE MILITARY

Military leaders today still take their political neutrality seriously. During the recent tumultuous presidential campaign, both Carter and Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, steadfastly steered clear of politics.

The concern is that the candidate they criticize may one day be their commander in chief, whose orders they would have to follow. And leaders must maintain their credibility with the public and lawmakers from both parties so that they can provide their best advice without raising questions of political motives.

Loren DeJonge Schulman, a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, a Washington think tank, said the preservation of independent military advice and civilian control of the military are grounding principles for how the U.S. was set up and any move to make exceptions to the regulations should be weighed carefully.

Granting exceptions, she said, could lead people to question in the future whether a military leader is giving particular advice to curry favor with a particular party or administration in order to get an appointment down the road.

GOP chairman who targeted Clinton in no rush on Trump

By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican chairman of the House Oversight Committee, who promised before the election to investigate Democrat Hillary Clinton for years, says he will wait until President-elect Donald Trump takes office before "poking around" the businessman's financial affairs and possible conflicts of interest.

While Rep. Jason Chaffetz is holding off on Trump, the four-term Utah lawmaker pledges to continue investigating Clinton's use of a private email server while she was secretary of state.

"There are some outstanding issues floating out there that will still take some time," Chaffetz said in an interview on Thursday.

Chaffetz said it's only fair to wait until Trump becomes president before looking at potential conflicts involving his global business empire.

Democrats have called for investigations into Trump's financial ties with foreign businesses and governments, as well as his lease with the U.S. government for a luxury hotel near the White House.

But Chaffetz said Thursday that Trump "needs time to get his affairs in order. When he becomes the president we'll start providing some oversight of that."

The comments were in stark contrast to a remark Chaffetz made before the election that he had "two

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years' worth of material already lined up" to investigate Clinton, the Democratic nominee for president who lost to Trump in last month's election.

Democrats took notice.

"For Republicans, there was no allegation too small to investigate with respect to Secretary Clinton, but now there is no scandal too big to ignore for Donald Trump," said Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the senior Democrat on the oversight panel.

"Donald Trump's global entanglements are unprecedented," Cummings said, and the oversight committee should "address these conflicts of interest now instead of waiting until after he is sworn in as president."

Trump's business dealings, his charitable foundation and his campaign's ties to pro-Kremlin elements in Russia and Ukraine are all areas ripe for examination by the oversight panel, Cummings and other Democrats said.

At a minimum, Trump should divest his wide-ranging assets or put them in a blind trust not operated by his children, Democrats on the committee said in a letter to Chaffetz seeking an immediate review of Trump's financial holdings.

The letter cited media reports indicating that at least 111 Trump companies have done business in 18 countries.

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

Chaffetz echoed that view and said he was encouraged by Trump's announcement this week that he would soon announce plans to step back from his company while he is president.

"He's moving in the right direction," Chaffetz said of Trump.

Chaffetz has a complicated relationship with the president-elect. He denounced Trump after the GOP nominee was caught on videotape making crude, predatory comments about grabbing women. But Chaffetz later said he would vote for Trump, calling Clinton "bad for the USA."

Still Chaffetz said that Trump, like any president, will not be able to avoid scrutiny by the oversight committee.

"His obligation is to abide by the law," Chaffetz said of Trump. "Our obligation is not to be a cheerleader but to actually provide oversight, and we intend to fulfill that."

No presidential administration "likes to have Congress poking around," Chaffetz added, "but it's what we do."

At least one Republican on the oversight panel agrees that Trump's business interests deserve scrutiny.

Rep. Justin Amash, R-Mich., said Trump "rightly criticized Hillary" over possible conflicts of interest related to the Clinton family foundation.

"If you have contracts w/foreign govts, it's certainly a big deal, too," Amash wrote on Twitter, addressing Trump.

"DrainTheSwamp," Amash added in a hashtag, referring to Trump's campaign vow to "drain the swamp" of moneyed interests in the nation's capital.

Follow Matthew Daly: <http://twitter.com/MatthewDalyWDC>

House pushes ahead with \$611 billion defense policy bill

By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican-led House is pushing ahead with a \$611 billion defense policy bill that prohibits closing the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, forbids the Pentagon from trimming the number of military bases and awards U.S. troops their largest pay raise in six years.

Lawmakers are scheduled to vote Friday on the legislation, which authorizes military spending for the fiscal year that started Oct. 1. The defense bill includes an agreement that prevents the Defense Department from forcing thousands of California National Guard troops to repay enlistment bonuses and benefits they received a decade after they signed up to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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During his 2008 bid for president, Barack Obama pledged to close the detention facility at Guantanamo, which he called a recruiting tool for extremist groups. But Republicans and a number of Democrats repeatedly thwarted his goal over the ensuing years, arguing the prison was badly needed for housing suspected terrorists. The ban on closing the prison also includes a prohibition on moving Guantanamo detainees to secure facilities in the U.S.

President-elect Donald Trump has not only pledged to keep Guantanamo open, he said during the campaign that he wants to "load it up with some bad dudes."

The defense legislation also authorizes a 2.1 percent pay raise for the troops — a half-percentage point higher than the Pentagon requested in its budget presentation. The Republican chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, said it's the largest military pay increase since 2010.

The White House Office of Management and Budget objected to the larger raise, telling lawmakers earlier this year that the lower amount would save \$336 million this fiscal year and \$2.2 billion through 2021. A bigger raise, it said, would upset the needed balance between competitive pay and acquiring cutting-edge equipment and training.

The defense bill blocks the Pentagon's planned reductions in the number of active-duty troops by prohibiting the Army from falling below 476,000 active-duty soldiers — 16,000 more than Obama's defense budget had proposed. The bill also adds 7,000 service members to the Air Force and Marine Corps.

House and Senate negotiators who crafted the defense bill dropped a House plan to shift \$18 billion from the emergency wartime spending account to pay for additional weapons and combat gear the Pentagon didn't request.

The negotiators elected instead to boost the wartime account, which isn't constrained by mandatory budget limits, by \$3.2 billion to help halt a decline in the military's ability to respond to global threats. The decision may have been motivated by Trump's assurances that he would increase defense spending dramatically, allowing the armed forces to add tens of thousands more troops and acquire new weapons.

Lawmakers also inserted into the defense bill the \$5.8 billion in additional war-related funding Obama requested last month. The so-called supplemental includes \$2.5 billion to maintain elevated U.S. troop levels of 8,400 in Afghanistan as announced over the summer. About \$383 million would pay for air strikes against Islamic State militants.

Lawmakers avoided wading more deeply into social policy issues by stripping two contentious provisions from the bill. One, opposed by Democrats, would have allowed federal contractors to discriminate against workers on the basis of sexual or gender orientation. Another, opposed by Republicans, would have required for the first time in U.S. history that young women sign up for a potential military draft.

Follow Richard Lardner on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/rplardner>

Michigan board to hear Trump's challenge to recount effort

By DAVID EGGERT and SCOTT BAUER, Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Michigan's elections board on Friday will consider President-elect Donald Trump's request to block a hand recount of all 4.8 million ballots cast in the state he won by about 10,700 votes over Hillary Clinton.

Lawyers for the Trump campaign argued Thursday that Green Party nominee Jill Stein, a "bottom-dwelling candidate," cannot seek the expensive, time-consuming recount because she was not "aggrieved" to the point where potential miscounting of votes could have cost her the election. She garnered just 1 percent in Michigan.

They also said in their objection that Stein waited until the last minute to file her recount petition Wednesday, making it impossible to finish by a Dec. 13 deadline.

Stein countered that Trump's "cynical efforts to delay the recount and create unnecessary costs for taxpayers are shameful and outrageous." His objections suspended the planned Friday start of the recount until next week.

A recount is already underway in Wisconsin, which Trump won by roughly 22,000 votes and where the

first reporting of numbers was expected Friday. In Pennsylvania, a hearing was scheduled for Monday on Stein's push to secure a court-ordered statewide recount, a legal maneuver that has never been tried, according to one of the attorneys who filed it.

Recounts were not expected to flip nearly enough votes to change the outcome in any of the states.

The Wisconsin recount doesn't carry nearly the same drama as the Florida recount in 2000, when the outcome of the presidential race between Al Gore and George W. Bush hung in the balance.

"This is certainly not Bush v. Gore," said Mike Haas, Wisconsin's chief elections administrator.

Even so, the campaigns for Trump, Clinton and Stein all had observers spread throughout the state to watch the process.

The recount will have to move quickly. The federal deadline to certify the vote to avoid having the fate of Wisconsin's 10 electoral votes decided by Congress is Dec. 13. 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.

"Verifying the vote through this recount is the only way to confirm that every vote has been counted securely and accurately and is not compromised by machine or human error, or by tampering or hacking," Stein said.

Stein's critics, including the Wisconsin Republican Party, contend that she is a little-known candidate who is merely trying to raise her profile while raising millions of dollars.

The Wisconsin recount was estimated to cost about \$3.9 million. Stein paid \$973,250 for the requested recount in Michigan. Michigan's Republican secretary of state, Ruth Johnson, has said a recount could cost \$5 million total.

Associated Press writer Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, contributed to this report.

Families prepare to receive the dead from Colombia crash

By FERNANDO VERGARA and HANNAH DREIER, Associated Press

MEDELLIN, Colombia (AP) — Families are preparing to receive the bodies of the victims of this week's air tragedy in Colombia as experts develop a clearer picture of how things went so terribly wrong with a charter flight that slammed into a mountainside.

Many of the 71 killed were players and coaches from a small-town Brazilian soccer team that was headed to the finals of one of South America's most prestigious tournaments after a fairy-tale season that had captivated their soccer-crazed nation.

On Thursday, white sheets printed with the logo of the Chapocoense soccer club lay over row upon row of caskets at a Medellin funeral home. Most of the remains had been identified and were expected to be flown home Friday.

Bolivian aviation officials announced they were indefinitely suspending the charter company that operated the flight after a recording of conversations between a pilot of the doomed flight and air traffic controllers, as well as the account of a surviving flight attendant, indicated the plane ran out of fuel. The jet, which took off from Santa Cruz, Bolivia, was flying at its maximum range when it crashed late Monday, killing all but six of the 77 people on board.

In Brazil, grieving relatives of the dead spoke out in disbelief.

Osmar Machado, whose son, Filipe, a defender on the Chapecoense team, died on his father's 66th birthday, questioned why the plane was transporting the team.

"Profit brings greed," Machado said, speaking in the team's hometown of Chapeco. "This plane ended (the lives of) 71 people."

Williams Brasiliano, uncle of midfielder Arthur Maia, said the crash could have been avoided if the team had chosen a commercial flight and not a charter.

"Look how complicated that flight was going to be even if it had arrived," Brasiliano said tearfully of the

team's itinerary, which included a flight from Sao Paulo to Bolivia on a commercial airliner before the ill-fated flight to Medellin.

"I doubt that a bigger club would have done the same," he added.

Chapecoense spokesman Andrei Copetti defended the decision, saying more than 30 teams had used the Bolivia-based company, LaMia airlines, including the national teams of Argentina and Bolivia. He added that the team itself had flown on its flights before.

"They had a good service then. It was the airline that got in touch with us because they have experience in doing these long flights in South America," he said.

A recording of the flight's final minutes showed the pilot repeatedly requested permission to land because of "fuel problems," although he never made a formal distress call. He was told another plane with mechanical problems had priority for the airport's single runway and was instructed to wait seven minutes.

As the jetliner circled, the pilot grew more desperate. "Complete electrical failure, without fuel," he said. 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.

The lack of an explosion upon impact also pointed to a rare case of fuel burnout as a cause of the crash of the British Aerospace 146 Avro RJ85.

The air traffic controller said in an email sent to her colleagues and released to local media Thursday that she had done everything humanly and technically possible to save the plane.

The Bolivian Civil Aviation Authority announced it had indefinitely halted all flights operated by LaMia and also was suspending some aviation officials during the investigation.

British aviation authorities said the flight data and cockpit voice recorders recovered from the accident site were being taken to Britain for study.

Associated Press photographer Fernando Vergara reported this story in Medellin and AP writer Hannah Dreier reported from Caracas, Venezuela. AP writer Cesar Garcia in Bogota, Colombia, contributed to this report.

'A clear shot' - police kill suspect, rescue children

By **MARTHA BELLISLE** and **LISA BAUMANN**, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A Washington state police officer responding to a domestic violence call was fatally shot and his fellow officers were still "taking fire" as they removed him from a home, beginning an 11-hour standoff during which authorities say the gunman used two young children as human shields.

The fallen officer, Reginald "Jake" Gutierrez, had served with the department since 1999 and was highly respected and experienced, Tacoma Police Chief Donald Ramsdell told reporters Thursday.

Dozens of officers had surrounded the home in Tacoma on Wednesday night, urging nearby residents of the working class neighborhood of single-family homes to shelter in place.

Early Thursday, authorities say a deputy got "a clear shot" and killed the suspect as officers rescued an 8-year-old girl and a 6-year-old boy.

Pierce County sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer said the gunman had refused to surrender during negotiations. His name was not released.

"We were able to get the suspect cornered and trapped, even though he had two kids," Troyer said. "We had a SWAT member who had a clear shot. We fired one round, which struck him."

Ramsdell said the incident began Wednesday afternoon when animal control officers working near the house were approached by a woman who said her husband had locked her out and taken her phone. The officers called police.

Gutierrez and his female partner went into the home, and Gutierrez was shot as he reached the top of the stairs to speak with the suspect, Ramsdell said.

The female officer shot back and ran from the house, taking the wife to safety.

Tacoma police spokeswoman Loretta Cool described the hectic scene that led to the standoff.

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"We had an officer down and shots still firing at the time," Cool said. Police managed to get the officer out "but they were still taking fire," she said.

Officers didn't immediately know there were children in the house and became aware of their presence during the standoff, she said.

"When they were able to rescue the boy, there was an opening to rescue the girl," Cool said. "That provoked the shot to take the suspect out."

Authorities discovered multiple weapons inside the house but did not describe them in detail. Few details were released about the treatment of the children by the suspect.

Ramsdell said the suspect did not have a "serious background in regards to criminal history" but there may have been issues with mental illness.

Kristi Croskey, who rented the house to the suspect and his wife, was inside the home at the time and barricaded herself in the bathroom before she was able to escape, KOMO-TV (<http://bit.ly/2gYPKJb>) reported.

She said police came to the residence because the suspect was fighting with his wife and refused to let her back inside.

"They said they just wanted to talk to him and then gunfire started, they didn't start it," Croskey told the station.

Reacting to the shots fired, officers entered the home and managed to get the wounded officer outside and to a hospital, Cool said.

Gutierrez died Wednesday night after undergoing surgery.

"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.

The shooting sparked an outpouring of support from the community and public officials, who left flowers at the front of the police department, under a large police badge carried a black ribbon across the center.

A procession of law enforcement officers escorted the officer's body from the hospital to the county medical examiner's office.

Hundreds of people attended the first of two vigils in Tacoma Thursday, lighting candles, singing songs and sharing memories.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said "all of Washington grieves with Tacoma."

The shooting remains under investigation by multiple agencies, including the FBI and the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office, which will review material to be sure that the police followed their policies in responding to the incident.

The Latest: Trump narrows Supreme Court picks to '3 or 4'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on President-elect Donald Trump (all times EST):

10:20 p.m.

President-elect Donald Trump says he has narrowed his choice for a Supreme Court nominee "down to probably three or four candidates."

One of Trump's first decisions after his inauguration will be to nominate a replacement for Justice Antonin Scalia, who died in February. The high court has been functioning with just eight justices since then, with the Republican-led Senate refusing to hold hearings on President Barack Obama's nominee, Judge Merrick Garland.

Trump tells Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity, in an interview that aired Thursday night, that his Supreme Court candidates are "terrific people. Highly respected, brilliant people."

He says he will announce his nominee "pretty soon."

8:20 p.m.

President-elect Donald Trump says he will nominate retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis to lead the Defense Department.

Trump made the announcement during a post-election victory rally Thursday in Cincinnati.

Mattis retired in 2013 after serving as the commander of the U.S. Central Command.

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In a recent tweet, Trump referred to Mattis by his nickname "Mad Dog" and described him as "A true General's General!"

7 p.m.

House Speaker Paul Ryan says he and Donald Trump have moved beyond their disagreements during the presidential campaign.

Ryan tells CBS in an interview excerpt that aired Thursday that he and Trump "speak about every day. And it's not about looking ... back in the past. That's behind us. We're way beyond that."

Before the election, the Wisconsin Republican criticized some of Trump's more incendiary remarks, and Trump called Ryan "weak and ineffective."

Ryan now calls Trump a "get-things-done kinda guy," but he insists Congress won't simply give the incoming president a blank check.

The speaker says Trump believes President Barack Obama "stripped a lot of power away" from Congress, and wants to "reset the balance of power, so that people and the Constitution are rightfully restored."

6 p.m.

Workers at an Indianapolis factory say they're hopeful the deal President-elect Donald Trump brokered to reverse some job cuts there can be repeated elsewhere.

Carrier plant forklift driver Robert James says he's happy about Thursday's announcement but disappointed that perhaps 400 jobs at the 1,400-worker factory will still be lost to Mexico.

James says he wants to give Trump a chance to stop other factory closings even as he worries the Carrier decision might be one-shot deal.

Jeffery Blackford is a 25-year employee of Carrier and wore a red Trump baseball cap to Trump's announcement. Blackford says he believes Trump is letting corporations know they can't leave America.

A Carrier spokesman says the company received \$7 million in state tax incentives to keep the factory running.

3:45 p.m.

President-elect Donald Trump is renewing his pledge to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border during his first extensive public remarks since winning election.

He addressed border security briefly in a Thursday speech at an Indiana air conditioning company.

Trump says: "People are saying, 'Do you think Trump's going to build the wall?' Trust me, we're going to build the wall."

The incoming president seemed to pull back on his plan to build a wall in an interview soon after the election. He said at the time he would consider a fence in certain areas along the border.

Trump also said Thursday the wall would "have doors" allowing legal immigration.

There are currently several hundred miles of border barrier separating the United States and Mexico. Trump promised during the campaign to extend a concrete barrier across the entire 1,954-mile border.

3:35 p.m.

President-elect Donald Trump is warning that companies are not going to leave the United States anymore "without consequences. It's not going to happen." He says that companies leaving will be "taxed very heavily" at the U.S. border.

Trump spoke at an Indianapolis factory where he says he helped prevent hundreds of jobs from moving to Mexico.

Trump said at the Carrier plant that more than 1,100 jobs will be maintained there. But he didn't talking about hundreds of workers who are still set to lose their jobs.

The incoming president is vowing to lower the country's business tax rate from 35 percent "hopefully down to 15 percent" and eliminate regulations.

Any changes to the tax code would need to be approved by Congress.

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3:25 p.m.

President-elect Donald Trump says he didn't mean it when he first vowed to stop an Indiana air conditioning company from shipping jobs to Mexico.

Trump said Thursday that the campaign-trail promise to save Carrier was initially only a symbol for the other manufacturing jobs he would save if elected. He said he thought it was too late to change the company's plans.

He says it wasn't until a week ago that he took his promise seriously, after watching a report about the Indiana company on the nightly news.

Trump says he called a company executive and helped negotiate a deal that would involve keeping about 800 union positions in Indianapolis that were initially set to be outsourced.

Indiana officials offered Carrier \$7 million in incentives as part of the deal.

2:45 p.m.

President-elect Donald Trump is touring the Indiana factory where he says he saved hundreds of jobs from moving to Mexico.

Trump, joined by his running mate Mike Pence, walked through a portion of the Carrier plant in Indianapolis.

He waved at some cheering workers, spoke with Carrier executives and inspected an assembly line.

Trump made saving the plant a central promise of his campaign.

A deal was reached this week to keep 800 jobs at the Indiana plant. But hundreds more are still set to lose their jobs.

A Carrier spokesman said earlier Thursday that the company received \$7 million in tax incentives from Indiana to keep the factory running.

1:30 p.m.

The chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee says he'll wait until Donald Trump becomes president before looking at potential conflicts of interest involving Trump's business empire.

Republican Rep. Jason Chaffetz (CHAY'-fits) of Utah says it's too early for lawmakers to look into Trump's financial ties with foreign businesses and governments, or to deal with other questions.

Democrats have called for investigations into Trump's vast holdings, as well as his lease with the federal government for a luxury hotel near the White House.

Chaffetz says Trump "needs time to get his affairs in order. When he becomes the president we'll start providing some oversight of that."

1:15 p.m.

Indiana is offering Carrier \$7 million in incentives to keep some jobs in Indiana that the company had planned to shift to Mexico.

A company spokesman, Seth Martin, says the offer was made to the air conditioning and furnace maker after negotiations with President-elect Donald Trump.

Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence plan to announce the deal in Indianapolis later Thursday.

State economic development officials could not immediately be reached for comment to confirm the figure.

The Associated Press previously reported the deal will involve keeping about 800 union positions in Indianapolis that were to be outsourced.

Trump made Carrier's plans to shutter the Indianapolis plant a central issue of his campaign. He repeatedly railed against the company for its plans to move production to Mexico.

12:50 p.m.

The congressman named by Donald Trump to oversee the country's health care system would also have

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an impact on another major issue — immigration.

It's an area where Georgia Republican Tom Price has been at odds with the Obama administration.

If Price is confirmed by the Senate to lead the Department of Health and Human Services, he would head an office responsible for both resettling refugees in the United States and caring for immigrant children caught trying to cross the border on their own.

The five-term lawmaker has joined his Republican colleagues in objecting to Obama's immigration enforcement policies, including those at the border. Price co-sponsored a bill that sought to let states block Syrian refugees from settling in their communities.

10:45 a.m.

Donald Trump's transition team says the incoming president will meet on Friday with North Dakota Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (HYT'-kamp), a Democrat up for re-election in 2018.

Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence plan to talk with Heitkamp at Trump Tower in New York. Trump won Heitkamp's home state with an overwhelming majority in the presidential election.

Trump spokesman Jason Miller says Heitkamp "comes very highly recommended, very highly qualified as a proven leader and would be an asset in any role or capacity."

Heitkamp says in a statement she's appreciative of the meeting and says that "whatever job I do, I hope to work with the president-elect" and her colleagues in Congress to help North Dakota.

Trump's 'Thank you' tour gets off to raucous start

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — Donald Trump returned to his campaign roots Thursday in his first major public appearance since Election Day, resembling the pugnacious, brawling campaigner more than the traditional president-to-be as he held court in front of thousands of adoring fans — and even announced a Cabinet pick from the stage.

Trump's first stop on this "Thank you" tour to salute his supporters was in Ohio and, ever the showman, he made the surprise announcement that he will be offering the post of Defense Secretary to retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis. Trump said he was supposed to unveil that Monday, so he jokingly warned the Cincinnati crowd to "not tell anyone."

The raucous rallies during the Trump campaign road show often had the feel of a rock concert, and Thursday night in Cincinnati had all the hallmarks of a reunion tour: Trump took a veiled swipe at fellow Republicans. He remembered his general election foe by joking, "We had fun fighting Hillary, didn't we?" He boasted about size of his victory and repeatedly bashed the media. Protesters briefly interrupted the proceedings. And the crowd chanted "Build the Wall" and "Lock Her Up."

The president-elect had eased up on those campaign promises recently, suggesting the U.S.-Mexico border wall could be part-fence and indicating no willingness to pursue criminal charges against Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton.

Perhaps befitting an encore presentation, the downtown arena that Trump packed in October — drawing a crowd that was one of the loudest of the campaign — was only about half-full Thursday night. But the thousands who were there cheered Trump as he declared to restore American to greatness, saying, "Now is not the time to downsize our dreams."

"Never again will anyone's interests come before the interests of the American people. It's not going to happen," Trump thundered. "The old rules no longer apply. Anything we want for our country is now possible."

Trump did nothing to downplay expectations before he takes office, declaring that "America will start winning again, big league." Much like he did during the stretch run of the campaign, he read from teleprompters, but he was bombastic as ever, spending more than a dozen minutes bragging about his victory before outlining his economic plan.

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He boasted about his wins in Midwest states that normally vote Democratic, declaring he didn't just "break the blue wall, we shattered it." He veered off-script to make fun of a protester, saying she was being ejected from the arena so "she could go back to Mommy." He repeated his recent threat that, despite Constitutional protections, "if people burn the American flag, there should be consequences." And he repeated many of his signature campaign promises, including a pledge to "construct a great wall at the border."

And he stunned his own aides when he announced the Mattis pick from the stage. Mattis, nicknamed "Mad Dog," is considered one of the foremost strategic thinkers of his generation but to gain confirmation as Pentagon chief, he would need Congress to waive a requirement that a defense secretary be a civilian for at least seven years before taking up the post.

Mattis retired as chief of U.S. Central Command in 2013 after serving more than four decades in the Marine Corps. There is no sense of strong opposition to his nomination in Congress.

Trump, who has long spoken of feeding off the energy of his raucous crowds, first floated the idea of a victory tour just days after winning the election but has instead prioritized filling Cabinet positions. He is also expected to hold rallies in Pennsylvania, Florida, North Carolina and Michigan in the coming weeks, though details have yet to be announced. His supporters were thrilled that he had hit the road again.

"That he wants to do this, to take time out of his schedule to fly out here and personally thank the people ... shows what kind of man he is," said Josh Kanowitz, 43. "He's one of us."

But while Kanowitz largely praised Trump's initial moves as president-elect, he visibly recoiled at the suggestion that he might pick Mitt Romney as secretary of state, saying the 2012 Republican presidential nominee was "someone we should leave behind as we move forward."

Others at the rally also expressed some hesitancy at Trump's picks, with a few suggesting that choosing former Goldman Sachs partner Steven Mnuchin as Treasury Secretary was not exactly fulfilling Trump's campaign promise to "Drain the Swamp" and eliminate corruption and elitism from Washington.

But most were inclined to give the president-elect the benefit of the doubt.

"He's a businessman. He'll pick talented people to work for him and then keep them in line," said Jaime Bollmer, a 28-year-old teacher from Lockland, Ohio. "He's a leader. That's what leaders do."

The rally in Cincinnati was the second stop on a victory lap through the Midwest on Thursday, coming hours after Trump saluted workers, owners and himself at a Carrier plant in Indiana. There he declared that a deal to keep a local plant open instead of moving operations to Mexico was only the first of many business victories to come.

Some questions remain about the extent of the victory at Carrier, which announced this week that it will keep an Indianapolis plant open. In February, the heating and air conditioning company said it would shut the plant and send jobs to Mexico, and video of angry workers being informed about the decision soon went viral.

"Companies are not going to leave the United States anymore without consequences. It's not going to happen. It's simply not going to happen," Trump said to workers at the Indianapolis plant.

During the campaign, Trump had often pointed to the Indiana plant's moving plans as a result of poor Obama administration policies, and he pledged to revive U.S. manufacturing. Officials said this week that Carrier had agreed to keep some 800 union jobs at the plant.

Seth Martin, a spokesman for Carrier, said Indiana offered the air conditioning and furnace manufacturer \$7 million in tax incentives after negotiations with Trump's team to keep some jobs in the state.

Associated Press writers Julie Pace in Washington, Lisa Cornwell from Cincinnati and Brian Slodysko from Indianapolis contributed reporting.

Reach Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

Death toll from Tennessee wildfires increases to 11

By ADAM BEAM and JONATHAN MATTISE, Associated Press

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (AP) — Crews discovered the remains of more people as they searched the rubble of wildfires that torched hundreds of homes and businesses near the Great Smoky Mountains, bringing the death toll to 11, officials said Thursday.

Authorities set up a hotline for people to report missing friends and relatives, and after following up on dozens of leads, they said many of those people had been accounted for. They did not say whether they believe anyone else is still missing or may have died.

"I think it's fair to say that the search is winding down," Sevier County Mayor Larry Waters said. "And hopefully we will not find any more."

He said the searches would likely be completed Friday.

Nearly 24 hours of rain on Wednesday helped dampen the wildfires, but fire officials struck a cautious tone, saying people shouldn't have a false sense of security because months of drought have left the ground bone-dry and wildfires can rekindle.

The trouble began Monday when a wildfire, likely caused by a person, spread from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park into the tourist city of Gatlinburg as hurricane-force winds toppled trees and power lines, blowing embers in all directions.

"We had trees going down everywhere, power lines, all those power lines were just like lighting a match because of the extreme drought conditions. So we went from nothing to over 20-plus structure fires in a matter of minutes. And that grew and that grew and that grew," Gatlinburg Fire Chief Greg Miller said.

More than 14,000 residents and visitors in Gatlinburg were forced to evacuate, and the typically bustling tourist city has been shuttered ever since. At least 700 buildings in the county have been damaged.

"Gatlinburg is the people; that's what Gatlinburg is. It's not the buildings, it's not the stuff in the buildings," Mayor Mike Werner said. "We're gonna be back better than ever. Just be patient."

Starting Friday, homeowners, business owners, renters and lease holders will be allowed to go see most of their Gatlinburg properties, said City Manager Cindy Cameron Ogle. The city is hoping to open main roads to the general public Wednesday.

There were other signs of recovery. Waters declared that Sevier County was "open for business." In nearby Pigeon Forge, the Comedy House rented an electronic billboard message that said it was open for laughs, and a flyer at a hotel urged guests to check out the scenic Cades Cove loop. "Take a drive and remember what you love about the Smokies!" the flyer said.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park Superintendent Cassius Cash has said the fires were "likely to be human-caused" but he has refused to elaborate, saying only that the investigation continues. Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are helping investigate the cause.

About 10,000 acres, or 15 square miles, burned inside the country's most visited national park. Another 6,000 acres were scorched outside of the park.

One of the victims was identified as Alice Hagler. Her son Lyle Wood said his mother and brother lived in a home at Chalet Village in Gatlinburg and she frantically called his brother Monday night because the house had caught fire. The call dropped as Wood's brother raced up the fiery mountain trying to get to his mother. He didn't make it in time.

"My mom was a very warm, loving, personable person. She never met a stranger. She would talk to anybody," Wood said.

Authorities said they were still working to identify the dead and did not release any details about how they were killed.

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.

A number of funds have been established to help victims of the wildfires, including one set up by the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee and another by country music legend and native Dolly Parton.

The flames reached the doorstep of Dollywood, the theme park named after Parton, but the park was

spared any significant damage and will reopen Friday.

About 240 people stayed overnight in shelters, including Mark Howard, who was flat on his back in the hospital with pneumonia when the wildfires started. He called 911 when he heard his house was consumed.

"I had no insurance. It's a total loss," the 57-year-old owner of a handyman business said.

Mattise reported from Nashville, Tennessee. Associated Press writers Rebecca Yonker in Louisville, Kentucky, and Kristin M. Hall in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, contributed to this report.

Malibu mountain lion gets reprieve after alpacas killed

By AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — A California mountain lion placed under a death sentence for killing nearly a dozen alpacas owned by a Malibu woman was granted a reprieve Thursday when the woman announced she wouldn't act on a state-issued permit giving her the right to kill the animal.

A neighbor had offered to shoot the big cat known as P-45 for Victoria Vaughn-Perling, but she told reporters it was never her intention to have the cougar killed. Instead, she said, she hoped game officials would capture it and get it away from her ranch.

She also indicated public outrage might have played a role in her decision, adding she was "surprised by the vitriol."

Vaughn-Perling had planned to attend a community meeting Wednesday to discuss the lion problem until she feared she would begin to get death threats. Pro-lion people shouted over park rangers, booed speakers and challenged one rancher to a fight.

"Remember those movies where they showed the mobs and it's all the townspeople and they're carrying torches and pitchforks and hoes and shovels and the person behind is bringing the rope with the hangman's noose? That's what it was like," area resident Mary Dee Rickards said. "She buckled under the pressure and frankly, I can't blame her."

It's not uncommon for ranchers to kill wild animals that threaten their livestock in rural areas, but the densely populated Los Angeles area's relationship with them is more complicated.

Much of the sprawling Santa Mountain range provides habitat and wild game for the free-ranging predators, but it also takes in such densely populated areas as Malibu, the Hollywood Hills and parts of the San Fernando Valley.

Another cougar known as P-22 became a celebrity of sorts after it was photographed standing by the Hollywood Sign in 2012 and more recently was coaxed safely out a homeowner's basement in the Hollywood Hills, where it had briefly taken up residence. The cougar, which has its own Facebook page, saw its image tarnished somewhat earlier this year, however, when it was blamed for killing a koala at the Los Angeles Zoo.

Another cougar wandered onto a high school campus in the San Fernando Valley in April before it was tranquilized and returned to the wild.

Animal lovers flooded the Facebook page of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area after the kill permit for P-45 was issued.

"It's sickening that this animal is going to be executed," one person wrote. Another wrote: "So they're going to kill a lion for being a lion. Ridiculous and shameful."

Malibu ranchers, including Rickard's husband, Wendell Phillips, don't think P-45's reprieve is indefinite. Phillips said he grazed the 150-pound animal in the head with a bullet in March after it attacked some of his alpacas.

"Any apex predator that comes on my property and attacks my animals or my family — I don't usually miss and I'm not going to miss twice," he said Thursday. "P-45 is going to kill and keep killing and we're going to have about one more multiple fatality and I think the ranchers are going to switch to a shoot-on-site policy."

It was last weekend that Vaughn-Perling said she found the cougar had killed 10 of her alpacas and

eaten only one.

"It seems to enjoy the slaughter," she said. "This animal will attack a child or a bicyclist or a hiker because it's so comfortable with the slaughter."

Seth Riley, a wildlife ecologist for the National Park Service, said the alpaca slaughter isn't unusual behavior for a cougar.

"An animal gets into an enclosed space with a bunch of vulnerable prey animals that aren't that smart or good at escape and they keep going after them until they aren't moving around anymore," he said.

He added that P-45, one of just three breeding males found during the 14 years the animals have been studied in the region, plays an important role in maintaining the species.

He said livestock can be kept safe if they're in a roofed enclosure. Vaughn-Perling said she installed a roof on her alpaca enclosure after last weekend's attack and is planning to sell all but five of the 15 remaining pets.

Her attorney, Reid Breitman, told Wednesday's community meeting that Vaughn-Perling wanted to modify her kill permit to allow the animal to be captured and removed, but Fish and Wildlife spokeswoman Jordan Traverso said California law doesn't allow for the permit to be altered.

Neither capturing and incarcerating the animals or releasing them somewhere else is considered a solution, she said.

That being the case, Rickards said, P-45's days are likely numbered.

"Ultimately, I think P-45 is going to get shot by somebody," she said.

Follow Amanda Lee Myers on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/AmandaLeeAP>. Her work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/amanda-lee-myers>.

Grief turns to anger amid reports of lack of fuel in crash

By **FERNANDO VERGARA** and **HANNAH DREIER**, Associated Press

MEDELLIN, Colombia (AP) — Authorities prepared Thursday to transport home the bodies of dozens of victims of this week's air tragedy in Colombia as grief turned to anger amid indications the airliner ran out of fuel before slamming into the Andes. Bolivian aviation officials announced they were indefinitely suspending the charter company that operated the flight.

Many of the victims were players and coaches from a small-town Brazilian soccer team that was headed to the finals of one of South America's most prestigious tournaments after a fairy-tale season that had captivated their soccer-crazed nation.

On Thursday, row upon row of caskets, many covered with white sheets printed with the logo of the Chapocoense soccer team, filled a Medellin funeral home in preparation for being flown home, as family members of some victims gathered there to say their final goodbyes.

Grieving relatives of the dead spoke out in disbelief after a recording of conversations between a pilot of the doomed flight and air traffic controllers, as well as the account of a surviving flight attendant, indicated the plane ran out of fuel before crashing late Monday, killing all but six of the 77 people on board.

Osmar Machado, whose son, Filipe, a defender on the Chapecoense team, died on his father's 66th birthday, questioned why the plane, which was flying at its maximum range on the flight from Santa Cruz, Bolivia, was transporting the team.

"Profit brings greed," Machado said, speaking in the Brazilian team's hometown of Chapeco. "This plane ended (the lives of) 71 people."

Williams Brasiliano, uncle of midfielder Arthur Maia, said the crash was avoidable if the team had chosen a commercial airline to travel to Colombia — not a charter.

"Look how complicated that flight was going to be even if it had arrived," Brasiliano said tearfully of the team's itinerary, which included a flight from Sao Paulo to Bolivia on a commercial airliner before the ill-fated flight to Medellin.

"Even if they had arrived, it is clear that they would be tired from the trip to play a final. This can't be right. I doubt that a bigger club would have done the same," he said.

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Chapecoense spokesman Andrei Copetti defended the team's decision, saying that more than 30 clubs had used the Bolivia-based company, LaMia airlines, including Argentina and Bolivia, and that the team itself had flown on its flights before.

"They had a good service then. It was the airline that got in touch with us because they have experience in doing these long flights in South America," he said.

A recording of the flight's final minutes showed the pilot repeatedly requested permission to land because of "fuel problems," although he never made a formal distress call. He was told another plane had been diverted with mechanical problems and had priority for the airport's single runway, and was instructed to wait seven minutes.

As the jetliner circled in a holding pattern, the pilot grew more desperate. "Complete electrical failure, without fuel," he said 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. But it was too late.

The recording 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 British Aerospace 146 Avro RJ85, which experts said was flying at its maximum range.

The air traffic controller said in an email sent to her colleagues and released to local media Thursday that she had done everything humanly and technically possible to save the lives of the plane's passengers.

The Bolivian Civil Aviation Authority announced Thursday it was indefinitely suspending all flights operated by LaMia, and also suspending some aviation officials for the duration of the investigation. British aviation authorities said the flight data and cockpit voice recorders recovered from the accident site were being brought to Britain for study.

Meanwhile, authorities prepared to repatriate the victims' remains, most of which had been identified by Thursday. Relatives of some of the victims gathered at a Medellin funeral home, and a Brazilian air force transport plane was on stand-by to take the bodies home Friday. The remains of the Bolivian crew members were also expected to be flown home Friday.

Associated Press photographer Fernando Vergara reported this story in Medellin and AP writer Hannah Dreier reported from Caracas, Venezuela. AP writer Cesar Garcia in Bogota, Colombia, contributed to this report.

Sheriff: Suspect in credit union hostage-taking charged

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — After an armed robbery suspect put a gun to the back of one hostage's head, SWAT team members resolved at the first chance they had Thursday to storm a north Florida credit union where nearly a dozen people were being held, authorities say.

That moment came, they say, when two people hiding inside the Jacksonville building, unbeknown to the suspect, made a run for it, distracting the man. SWAT team members stormed the credit union and put themselves between the gunman and the 11 hostages, ending a two-hour standoff, said Jacksonville Sheriff Mike Williams.

"We were able to take him into custody and save the lives of those hostages," Williams said Thursday, about an hour after the hostage ordeal had ended. "We were not only able to resolve it, but resolve it peacefully."

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office identified the suspect on social media as 23-year-old Nicholas Daquan Humphrey, of Tampa. He was charged Thursday evening with one count of armed robbery and 13 counts of kidnapping. Jail records didn't list an attorney for Humphrey.

Shortly after 9 a.m., an initial 911 call reporting a robbery at the credit union in a northwest Jacksonville commercial district came in. Patrol officers responded quickly, and then SWAT team negotiators were summoned.

Williams described a tense scene as threats escalated and SWAT team members positioned outside. He

also said none of those held hostage were shot and that initial reports saying otherwise were erroneous.

SWAT team members were able to talk to the suspect, who asked for money and made demands for some family members to come to the bank, Williams said. A couple of hostages were released through negotiations, Williams added.

But Humphrey also continued to threaten other hostages several times, according to the sheriff.

"We have verifiable information that he was putting a gun to the back of a hostage's head," Williams said.

At that point a decision was made.

"Based on that, those threats and that activity escalated, it became more and more intense, reviewing that, the SWAT command made the determination to, at the next opportunity, they would make entry into the bank," he added.

Televised news coverage showed a group of freed hostages being taken out by heavily armed and helmeted SWAT team members. Williams described the hostages afterward as "shaken up."

The credit union's chief said the SWAT team did "a fine job" ending the hostage situation.

"We're just so very thankful this hostage situation resolved itself in a safe way for everybody," said John Hirabayashi, president and CEO of Community First Credit Union.

In an unusual touch, the suspect came into the Community First Credit Union with a dog, according to the sheriff. The dog was unharmed and in the care of animal control services, said Williams, who offered no further explanation.

White House announces support for women in military draft

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration declared its support Thursday for requiring women to register for the military draft, a symbolic but significant shift that reflects the U.S. military's evolution from a male-dominated force to one seeking to incorporate women at all levels.

President Barack Obama has been considering whether to adopt the position since last December, when Defense Secretary Ash Carter ordered the military to open all jobs to women, including the most arduous combat posts. Ned Price, a spokesman for the White House's National Security Council, said Obama believes women have "proven their mettle," including in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"As old barriers for military service are being removed, the administration supports — as a logical next step — women registering for the Selective Service," Price said, using the formal name for the military draft.

The White House emphasized that the administration remains committed to an all-volunteer military — meaning women, like men, wouldn't be forced to serve unless there were a national emergency like a major world war. Changing the policy would require an act of Congress, and there are no signs that lawmakers plan to move swiftly to alter the law.

Obama, who will leave office in less than two months, has less leverage over Congress and the broader Washington agenda than he did earlier in his presidency. Like his embrace of gay marriage in 2012, Obama's announcement appeared aimed more at influencing the public debate about women in the military in the coming years than at forcing an immediate policy change.

The Defense Department echoed Obama's position, first reported by USA Today. Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said that Carter believes the inclusion of women throughout the military's echelons has strengthened the military's might.

"He thinks it makes sense for women to register for Selective Service, just as men must," Cook said.

Late last year, the Pentagon ordered all military jobs opened to women, including about 220,000 jobs previously restricted to men, including in special operations forces. Carter and other military leaders insisted that the military wouldn't lower the physical standards for those jobs to enable more women to qualify.

Integrating women has not been fast or easy. Earlier this year the top Army and Marine Corps generals told senators it would take up to three years to fully integrate women into all combat jobs. The military services have started recruiting women for those jobs and making necessary changes to bathrooms and other facilities. But some of the services, such as the Marine Corps, have predicted or experienced challenges identifying large numbers of candidates who want to serve in combat and meet the physical

requirements.

Under current law, women can volunteer to serve in the military, but aren't required to register for the draft. All adult men must register within 30 days of their 18th birthday, and risk losing eligibility for student aid, job training and government jobs if they fail to comply.

Signing up for the draft entails registering with the U.S. Selective Service, an independent agency aimed at ensuring a fair distribution of military duties if the president and Congress had to enact a draft. The U.S. hasn't had a military draft since 1973, during the Vietnam War era.

The new posture from the Obama administration came at an unusual time, just two days after House and Senate negotiators agreed to strip a provision from the annual defense policy bill that would have required young women to register.

The measure had roiled social conservatives, who decried it as another step toward the blurring of gender lines akin to allowing transgender people to use public lavatories and locker rooms. Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Texas, spoke for a number of Republicans when he described the provision as "coercing America's daughters" into draft registration.

But proponents of including women in the draft pool viewed the requirement as a sensible step toward gender equality. They pointed to the Pentagon's decision last year to open all front-line combat jobs to women as removing any justification for gender restrictions on registration.

Associated Press writer Richard Lardner contributed to this report.

French president rules out 2017 run to help boost Socialists

By THOMAS ADAMSON and SYLVIE CORBET

PARIS (AP) — France's President Francois Hollande announced in a surprise televised address Thursday that he would not seek a second term in next year's presidential election, acknowledging that his personal unpopularity might cost his Socialist party the Elysee.

"I have decided not to be a candidate in the presidential election," Hollande said in the prime time slot, adding that he hoped by stepping aside to give the Socialists a chance to win "against conservatism and, worse still, extremism."

The 62-year-old president — the country's least popular leader since World War II — said he was "conscious of the risks" his lack of support posed to a successful candidacy.

"What's at stake is not a person, it's the country's future," he said.

The announcement Thursday came just a few days after Hollande's No. 2, Prime Minister Manuel Valls, said he was "ready" to compete in next month's Socialist primary.

In a written statement on Thursday night, Valls praised Hollande's "tough, mature, serious choice."

"That's the choice of a statesman," he said, without confirming if he plans to seek the presidency himself.

In his address Hollande avoided saying if he would support Valls — or any other candidate.

Hollande's popularity plunged soon after he took power in 2012, and polls show most voters don't want to see him stay in office.

Voters expressed disappointment over the lagging economy, higher taxes and the pro-business shift Hollande adopted midterm after first claiming as a candidate his "real adversary" would be the "world of finance".

His image also suffered from personal scandals. He broke up with ex-partner Valerie Trierweiler amid reports that he was having an affair with French actress Julie Gayet, an episode later exposed in a stinging book by the former first lady.

Not only did Trierweiler reveal intimate details of Hollande's infidelities, but she also depicted the Socialist leader as someone who dislikes the poor — a grave political sin for a left-wing leader.

The Socialist party has also been deeply divided over Hollande's leadership from within, with rebels within the party openly criticizing his pro-business strategy and calling for more left-leaning policies.

Two of his ex-colleagues, former Economy Minister Arnaud Montebourg and former Education Minister

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Benoit Hamon, have already announced they will run next month.

Hollande faced the Dec. 15 party deadline for entering the primary contest — and was expected to say in the coming weeks whether he would run again.

His announcement nevertheless came as a shock to political commentators, many of whom had thought the one-term Socialist leader was posturing to seek re-election despite being low in the polls.

French network TF1 only said late in the day that the embattled leader would be speaking on its popular 8 p.m. news broadcast, throwing French media into a frenzy of second-guessing as to what he might have to say.

In a September speech, he repeatedly suggested he was eyeing a re-election bid.

"I will not let the image of France be spoiled ... in the coming months or the coming years," Hollande said at the time.

Hollande said he would seek re-election if he were able to curb the unemployment rate in France, which for years has hovered around 10 percent. The latest figures showed a slight decrease in the jobless numbers, but this didn't seem to quell the criticism.

Valls may launch his bid on Saturday, when he expected to speak at a political rally in Paris hosted by a group linked to the Socialist party.

Whichever candidate Socialist voters choose in January will face former Prime Minister Francois Fillon, among other rivals, in the two-round presidential election in April and May.

Fillon, 62, who won France's conservative presidential primary on Sunday, has promised drastic free-market reforms, along with a crackdown on immigration and Islamic extremism.

Polls suggest the sober, authoritative Fillon would have a strong chance of winning the general election amid the widespread frustration with France's current leadership.

He did not waste time in hammering Hollande and the Socialists in a statement sent out minutes after Thursday's televised address.

"Tonight, the president of the republic is admitting, with lucidity, that his patent failure is stopping him carrying on," Fillon said.

"This term ends in political mess and in the decay of power," Fillon added, promising "action" and "results."

Fillon, who was prime minister from 2007-2012 under ex-President Nicolas Sarkozy, enjoyed a surprise surge in popularity in recent weeks. A rise in nationalist sentiment across Europe may have favored his strict conservative positions.

However, it's expected he'll face a strong challenge from Marine Le Pen, leader of the far-right National Front party, Le Pen is running an anti-establishment campaign that particularly targets immigrants, France's Muslim minority, and the European Union.

The series of terror attacks on French soil by Islamic extremists that have left hundreds dead over the last two years has energized the country's political right, which has vowed to take a tougher stance against immigration.

Centrist Emmanuel Macron, the former economy minister under Hollande, also is seeking the presidency in the general election scheduled for April-May, but has decided not to take part into the Socialist primary.

Wisconsin election recount begins; Michigan's is challenged

By SCOTT BAUER, Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — The tedious task of recounting Wisconsin's nearly 3 million votes for president began Thursday with scores of hastily hired temporary workers flipping through stacks of ballots as observers watched their every move.

The action in Wisconsin could soon be duplicated in Michigan and Pennsylvania, where Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein was pushing for recounts. Donald Trump narrowly beat Hillary Clinton in all three states, but recounts were not expected to flip nearly enough votes to change the outcome in any of the states.

The Wisconsin recount marked the first time in 16 years there was a candidate-driven recount of a presidential recount. But it does not carry the same drama as the Florida presidential recount of 2000, when

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the outcome of the election between Al Gore and George W. Bush hung in the balance.

"This is certainly not Bush v. Gore," said Wisconsin's chief elections administrator, Mike Haas.

Even so, the campaigns for Trump, Clinton and Stein all had observers spread throughout the state to watch the process. The recount will have to move quickly. The federal deadline to certify the vote to avoid having the fate of Wisconsin's 10 electoral votes decided by Congress is Dec. 13. Even if that were to happen, the votes would almost certainly go to Trump, since Republicans control both chambers of Congress.

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 recounting 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 were being counted by hand.

Workers in Dane County are being paid \$20 an hour and will work two shifts over about 12 hours a day to get the recount done by the deadline, said County Clerk Scott McDonell. He didn't expect much change in the results.

"I think we will be very close to what was reported on election night," McDonell said Thursday.

Clinton lost to Trump by about 22,000 votes in Wisconsin, or less than a percentage point.

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.

"Verifying the vote through this recount is the only way to confirm that every vote has been counted securely and accurately and is not compromised by machine or human error, or by tampering or hacking," Stein said in a statement Thursday.

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

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

Trump on Thursday objected to a recount of Michigan's presidential votes, at least delaying the planned Friday start of the recount there until next week.

The Board of State Canvassers will meet Friday to hear arguments. The Michigan Bureau of Elections said the recount cannot proceed until two business days after the four-member, bipartisan board resolves the objection.

Trump's attorneys said Stein, who finished fourth in Michigan, is not "aggrieved" by any alleged election fraud or mistake, that a recount could not be finished on time and that her petition was not properly signed. They said Stein is asking for an expensive, time-consuming recount "on the basis of nothing more than speculation."

Stein countered that Trump's "cynical efforts to delay the recount and create unnecessary costs for taxpayers are shameful and outrageous."

In Pennsylvania, a hearing is scheduled for Monday on Stein's push to secure a court-ordered statewide recount, a legal maneuver that has never been tried, according to one of the lawyers who filed it.

Stein's attorneys want a forensic analysis of electronic voting machines in Pennsylvania to see if there any evidence that their software was hacked. But counties where Green Party-backed voters have sought a recount are refusing to do such forensic examinations.

Associated Press writer David Eggert in Lansing, Michigan, and Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, contributed to this report.

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

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 one of many messages of peace the 15-year-old and her mother have left in an effort to unify Muslims and Christians in the hardscrabble city east of Los Angeles against the violence many community members feared might divide them but hasn't.

“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” and blame all those who follow it, said Bowman, a Lutheran.

Bowman's actions were among the efforts in the city of 216,000 to counter what some feared would be a prolonged, hate-filled backlash. Some victims' families 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 prepared this week to mark Friday's anniversary of the attack, a Somali-born Muslim student carried out an attack at Ohio State University and police in Los Angeles met with Muslim leaders to condemn threatening, hateful letters sent to mosques in the city and elsewhere.

In San Bernardino, apart from some relatively minor 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 terror group.

Residents said they couldn't believe such an attack could happen in their city, an hour's drive from tourist destinations like Disneyland and Hollywood but a place struggling economically.

In the days after the attack, area Muslim women wearing headscarves said they were stared at in public, and some changed their attire out of fear. A Muslim university professor told police he received threatening emails.

But there were no violent incidents as community members worked to calm fears and limit hate. Muslim residents held vigils for the victims and developed an 11-point campaign rejecting terrorism that members of diverse faiths could agree on.

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.

Taxin reported from Santa Ana, California

Neil Diamond to celebrate career with world tour

By JOHN CARUCCI, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Neil Diamond took "Song Sung Blue" to the top of the charts, and now he promises to leave "no song unsung" when he takes the stage next year for a world tour.

The 75-year-old singer-songwriter promises to play the highlights of his discography on his upcoming "50 Year Anniversary World Tour" — including songs he wrote for the 1960s TV rock band The Monkees.

"Especially stuff from The Monkees," Diamond told The Associated Press before taking the stage at the annual lighting of the Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center on Wednesday night. Diamond wrote several songs for the band, including "I'm a Believer," which has sold more than 10 million copies.

The first leg of the tour kicks off in Fresno, California, on April 7, and goes through August, including a stop in New York in June. Other stops include Atlanta, Dallas and Los Angeles.

"We play all over the United States, North America, and then we will find other places to go," he said.

The Grammy winner's hits also include "Cracklin' Rosie," "Sweet Caroline" and "Love on the Rocks." He has sold over 125 million albums and has been inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Diamond said he feels energized when he performs for his fans. "People have been loyal and listening to you for years, so you just want to give them everything. Let it all wash over them, and make sure everybody has a great time."

He said performing at the tree lighting ceremony was like "coming home."

"I walked these streets. I went hungry in these streets, and I'm happy to be back and to be welcomed by the New Yorkers."

Diamond promises to pull out all the stops on his tour.

"They can expect me to give everything I possibly can. I will leave no stone unturned, and no song unsung."

Online:

<http://www.neildiamond.com>

Follow AP Entertainment producer John Carucci at <http://www.twitter.com/jacarucci>

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. A few hours later they signed 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.

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. And special transition rates will be used for 2017.

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 starting in 2018.

—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. The pool rises to \$5.25 million for teams with competitive balance round A draft picks and \$5.75 million for clubs with round B selections.

—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

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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.

—Cubans under 25 will be considered amateurs, up from 23.

—Each team must hire a chef for its players.

—Every player must be provided two bus seats during spring training bus trips.

—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.

Crown prince formally becomes Thailand's new king

By GRANT PECK, Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand has a new king, with the country's crown prince formally taking the throne to succeed his much-revered late father, who reigned for 70 years.

The new monarch, who received the title "His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun," assumed his new position Thursday, according to an announcement broadcast on all TV channels. He will also be known as Rama X, the tenth king in the Chakri dynasty that was founded in 1782.

A videotaped broadcast showed senior officials presenting the formal invitation to the prince to become king, and then his acceptance. It then showed the officials prostrate themselves at the feet of the new king, who was wearing a formal white uniform with decorations.

Vajiralongkorn's father, Bhumibol Adulyadej, 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.

"I would like to accept in order to fulfill his majesty's wishes and for the benefit of all Thais," Vajiralongkorn said in the videotape.

Vajiralongkorn, 64, 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

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so he would have time to mourn.

Prayuth said Thursday night that because of tradition that the throne should not remain vacant, the new king's reign will be considered as beginning on the day Bhumibol died.

"His majesty the new king, the beloved son of the late king, will carry forward his leadership and legacy," he said.

Thailand is a constitutional monarchy — although currently under military rule — but Bhumibol played an important role in stabilizing his country through a time of enormous change which saw neighboring monarchies collapse under the pressures of the Vietnam War. He was especially known for his energy in development activities, doing hands-on inspections in remote rural areas. He calmed the country through several political crises.

Vajiralongkorn faces the challenges of a country that has become fractured over the past decade, as contending political forces engaged in bitter battles that sometimes turned violent, leaving a residue of bad feeling and shaking faith in the democratic system.

The new king, with a less intense interest in state affairs and a reputation as a playboy, does not command the same level of respect as Bhumibol. He has gone through divorces with three women who have borne him seven children, and in recent years has spent much of his time residing in Germany. Although most Thais are devoted to the royal institution, it is hard to gauge how they feel privately about Vajiralongkorn because of harsh laws that mandate a prison term of three to 15 years for anyone found guilty of insulting the monarchy.

Information about the succession has been tightly controlled, and international news broadcasts about Thailand have been blocked in recent days.

The United States, whose diplomatic relations with Thailand date back more than 180 years, congratulated Vajiralongkorn on his ascension to the throne. State Department spokesman Mark Toner told reporters in Washington that Bhumibol had been a great friend of U.S. and it looked forward to deepening the relationship between the two countries going forward.

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

Shortly afterward, he granted an audience to National Legislative Assembly President Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, Prime Minister Prayuth, Supreme Court Chief Justice Veerapol Tungsuwan and former Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda, who had been one of his father's closest advisers and served as regent in the period since Bhumibol's death.

The Cabinet, proceeding according to a 1924 law on succession and the constitution, on Tuesday had forwarded to the National Legislative Assembly the late king's appointment of his son to succeed him. The assembly in turn acknowledged the appointment, and its president then issued an invitation to Vajiralongkorn to become king.

Huge crowds have been paying respects to the late king's remains at the ceremonial Grand Palace. His remains will be cremated in an elaborate ceremony that may take place a year or more after his death. The official coronation of Vajiralongkorn will occur only after the cremation. Bhumibol's coronation was in 1950, four years after succeeding his brother King Ananda Mahidol, who died of gunshot wounds in unclear circumstances.

Associated Press journalists Tassanee Vejpongsa and Kawewit Kaewjinda in Bangkok and Matthew Pennington in Washington contributed to this report.

APNewsBreak: All-Star Game no longer determines Series start

By RONALD BLUM, AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The league that wins baseball's All-Star Game 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.

The change was included in Major League Baseball's tentative new collective bargaining agreement and disclosed early Thursday to The Associated Press by a person familiar with the agreement. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because details of the deal, reached Wednesday evening in Irving, Texas, had not been announced.

In addition, players and management agreed the minimum stay on the disabled list will be reduced from 15 days to 10.

Home-field advantage in the World Series generally rotated between the leagues through 2002. Baseball, led by then-Commissioner Bud Selig, and Fox television promoted the "This Time It Counts" innovation after the 2002 All-Star Game in Milwaukee ended in a 7-7, 11-inning tie when both teams ran out of pitchers. Selig was booed in his own Milwaukee backyard.

"This energizes it. This gives them something to really play for," Selig said after owners approved the change by a 30-0 vote in January 2003. "People pay a lot of money to see that game. They deserve to see the same intensity they see all year long. Television people pay a lot of money for the game. It was not and should not be a meaningless exhibition game."

What began as a two-year experiment was extended. The American League won 11 of 14 All-Star Games played under the rule, and the AL representative won eight World Series in those years.

"It will put back a little of the sizzle," San Francisco Giants executive Larry Baer said in 2003.

Under the new rule, a wild-card team could have home-field advantage against a division winner.

As part of the changes for next year, players in the All-Star Game will have the incentive to play for a pool of money.

The DL change will allow teams to make quicker decisions on whether to bring up a roster replacement rather than wait to see whether the injured player would be ready to return to action in less than two weeks.

An international play plan is part of the new agreement that includes a payment schedule for potential games in Asia, Mexico (and elsewhere in Latin America) and Britain, plus U.S.-based special events such as this year's July 3 game between Atlanta and Miami in a specially built ballpark on a military base in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Study: Biggest tornado outbreaks are spawning more twisters

By SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The most extreme tornado outbreaks are mysteriously spawning many more twisters than they did decades ago, a new study claimed.

The once-every-five-years-or-so outbreak that might have involved 12 tornadoes 50 years ago now has on average about 20, said Columbia University applied physics professor Michael Tippett, lead author of the study in Thursday's journal *Science*.

The study comes in the end of a year that has been on track to have the fewest tornadoes on record, but is also on the heels of the outbreak Tuesday night and Wednesday morning that killed five people and injured at least 46 in Alabama and Tennessee — precisely the kind of outbreak Tippett studied.

As of now, there were 36 tornado reports Tuesday in Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana, half of them were the stronger type Tippett studied, said meteorologist Patrick Marsh of the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma.

Tippett and colleagues looked at just the most extreme outbreaks and tornadoes that are above the minimal wind rating and found a steady uptick in the biggest outbreaks since the mid-1960s.

"Something's up," Tippett said. "The tornadoes that do occur are occurring in clusters. It's not any increase in the (total) number of tornadoes."

Marsh said until Tuesday's outbreak, there had been 830 tornadoes all year, which was below the pre-

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vious low for that date of 920. The normal number through late November is closer to 1,300. While 2011 was one of the busiest tornado years for the size of twisters that Tippet studied, 2012 was one of the quietest, he said.

Unlike other spikes of extreme weather in recent years, Tippet and colleagues could not find the fingerprints of man-made global warming in the change.

"It's not what we expected," Tippet said. "Either it's not climate change because not everything is, or it is some aspect of climate change we don't understand yet."

Eight outside experts were split about whether the study made sense.

"This is really important step forward in the detection in the change of frequency of occurrence of these events," Stanford University professor Noah Diffenbaugh said.

But some of the other scientists said improved reporting and urban sprawl increases the number of recent tornadoes and negates some of the trend Tippet found. They also disagree with the particular type of measurements that Tippet used and some of his definitions.

"It's a useful exercise," said Oklahoma University meteorology professor Howard Bluestein, "but I would be very, very careful in accepting it."

Online:

Science: <http://www.sciencemag.org>

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Dec. 2, the 337th day of 2016. There are 29 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 2, 1816, the first savings bank in the United States, the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society, opened for business.

On this date:

In 1804, Napoleon crowned himself Emperor of the French.

In 1823, President James Monroe outlined his doctrine opposing European expansion in the Western Hemisphere.

In 1859, militant abolitionist John Brown was hanged for his raid on Harpers Ferry the previous October. Artist Georges-Pierre Seurat was born in Paris.

In 1927, Ford Motor Co. unveiled its Model A automobile that replaced its Model T.

In 1939, New York Municipal Airport-LaGuardia Field (later LaGuardia Airport) went into operation as an airliner from Chicago landed at one minute past midnight.

In 1942, an artificially created, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was demonstrated for the first time at the University of Chicago.

In 1954, the U.S. Senate passed, 67-22, a resolution condemning Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., saying he had "acted contrary to senatorial ethics and tended to bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute."

In 1961, Cuban leader Fidel Castro declared himself a Marxist-Leninist who would eventually lead Cuba to Communism.

In 1970, the newly created Environmental Protection Agency opened its doors under its first director, William D. Ruckelshaus.

In 1980, four American churchwomen were raped and killed outside San Salvador. (Five El Salvador national guardsmen were later convicted of murdering nuns Ita Ford, Maura Clarke and Dorothy Kazel and lay worker Jean Donovan.)

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In 1982, in the first operation of its kind, doctors at the University of Utah Medical Center implanted a permanent artificial heart in the chest of retired dentist Dr. Barney Clark, who lived 112 days with the device.

In 1991, American hostage Joseph Cicippio (sih-SIHP'-ee-oh), held captive in Lebanon for more than five years, was released.

Ten years ago: Fidel Castro failed to attend a military parade marking the 50th anniversary of the formation of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces, raising questions about his ability to return to power. A triple car bombing in a predominantly Shiite district of Baghdad killed dozens of people. A sport utility vehicle driven by actor Lane Garrison hit a tree in Beverly Hills, killing a 17-year-old passenger; Garrison was later sentenced to three years and four months in prison for drunken driving (he was paroled in April 2009).

Five years ago: U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi (ahng sahn soo chee) vowed to work together to promote democratic reforms in Suu Kyi's long-isolated and authoritarian homeland. The Labor Department announced the unemployment rate had fallen to 8.6 percent in Nov. 2011, the lowest since March 2009.

One year ago: A couple who had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State opened fire at a holiday banquet for public employees in San Bernardino, California, killing 14 people and wounding 21 others before dying in a shootout with police. Former national security adviser Sandy Berger, 70, died in Washington.

Today's Birthdays: Former Attorney General Edwin Meese III is 85. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., is 77. Actress Cathy Lee Crosby is 72. Movie director Penelope Spheeris is 71. Actor Ron Raines is 67. Country singer John Wesley Ryles is 66. Actor Keith Szarabajka is 64. Actor Dan Butler is 62. Broadcast journalist Stone Phillips is 62. Actor Dennis Christopher is 61. Actor Steven Bauer is 60. Country singer Joe Henry is 56. Rock musician Rick Savage (Def Leppard) is 56. Actor Brendan Coyle is 53. Rock musician Nate Mendel (Foo Fighters) is 48. Actress Suzy Nakamura is 48. Actress Rena Sofer is 48. Rock singer Jimi (cq) HaHa (Jimmie's Chicken Shack) is 48. Actress Lucy Liu (loo) is 48. Rapper Treach (Naughty By Nature) is 46. Actor Joe Lo Truglio is 46. International Tennis Hall of Famer Monica Seles is 43. Singer Nelly Furtado is 38. Pop singer Britney Spears is 35. Actress-singer Jana Kramer is 33. Actress Yvonne Orji (TV: "Insecure") is 33. Actress Daniela Ruah (roo-ah) is 33. NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers is 33. Actor Alfred Enoch is 28. Pop singer/songwriter Charlie Puth is 25. Actresses Daniella and Deanna Canterman are 24.

Thought for Today: "Great minds have purposes; little minds have wishes. Little minds are subdued by misfortunes; great minds rise above them." — Washington Irving, American author (1783-1859).