

Groton Daily Independent

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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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Tuesday, Dec. 6

Senior Menu: Beef tips with gravy, mashed potatoes, lettuce salad with dressing, Jell-O cake, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: chicken nuggets, smiley potato, broccoli and dip, fruit.

Debate at Milbank

10 a.m.: Groton United Methodist Bible Study

4 p.m.: GBB at Ipswich (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m., JV at 6:30 p.m., varsity at 8 p.m.)

7 p.m.: Groton United Methodist Bible Study

Wednesday, Dec. 7

Senior Menu: Scalloped potatoes and ham, green peas, Mandarin orange salad, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Lasagna hotdish, corn, carrots and dip, fruit.

12:30 pm: MathCounts at Aberdeen Roncalli Middle School

Noon: St. John's Ladies Aid Christmas party.

3:30 p.m.: Groton United Methodist Sunday School Christmas Program practice

3:45 pm: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation

6 p.m.: Conde United Methodist UMW Christmas Event

6 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran WECLA potluck supper with joint Bible study.

6:30 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran League

7 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

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

7:30 p.m.: Groton United Methodist Bible Study - Christmas with Pastor Thomas



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Impending cold weather should help make ice

Terry Herron said they might try to flood the skating pond next week, if the temperature gets cold enough and the frost goes in the ground.

The trees at the rubble site were burned last week. The city is allowed to burn at the rubble site twice a year. The rubble site was inspected by the state early last week and the inspector was happy with Groton's rubble site. Terry Herron said the inspector said that Groton goes way beyond what other rubble sites do with the camera and gate. This year, the rubble site has shown a \$6,397.07 profit.

Dan Sunne was authorized to attend the Joint Utility Training School in Sioux Falls.

The city has sponsored the holiday lighting contest for the past 15 years. They will do it again this with a credit on the city utility bill of \$25 for first place, \$15 for second and \$10 for third.

The water rates from WEB will not go up this year. WEB made about \$2 million profit this year, according to Councilman David Blackmun who attended the WEB water meeting.

Stacy Mayou, police chief, talked about the new police vehicle. The cage for the vehicle will be \$1,998. The pricing of the decals will be \$65 an hour and will take about two hours. The in-car camera needs to be worked on. Mayou said the police department has gotten a new desktop computer. Two body cameras have been purchased and should be here in 2017.

A Joint Powers Agreement with NECOG was approved.

SDSU is sponsoring an architectural program at virtually no cost to the city. The council agreed to put Groton's name in the hat stating Groton is interested in the study.

The January meeting dates will be January 3 and January 16.

After an executive session, the council hired Justin Olson at \$9.25 an hour as the skating house manager. The helpers, at \$8.65 an hour, are Joe Groeblichhoff, Taylor Holm, Landon Marzahn and Alex Morris.

Death Notice: Hazel McKittrick

Hazel McKittrick, 89, of Groton passed away Monday, December 5, 2016 at Golden Living Center, Groton surrounded by her family. Services are pending for Saturday with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel. Groton.



House for Sale

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

A promotional graphic for the Groton Chamber of Commerce. It features a Christmas tree background with red and gold ornaments. A sign in the center reads "GROTON Chamber Of Commerce". Below the sign, it says "Sign Up for Groton Chamber Bucks at the Holiday Boxes Located This week at the James Valley Telco and Professional Mgt. Services". At the bottom, it says "Week of Dec. 12: Olde Bank Floral 'n More and Subway".

Sanford
Underground
Research
Facility



Subscribe at: Sanfordlab.org/newsletters

Deep Thoughts

Notes from the underground by Communications Director Constance Walter

Monday, December 5, 2016

Listening to the motions of the earth

Since 2015, the Deep Underground Gravity Laboratory (DUGL) has been collecting seismic data at Sanford Lab. Last week, the team packed up its equipment and instruments and returned them to the PASSCAL Instrument Center. Now, begins the work of analyzing the data.

"We're really just beginning our discovery phase," said Victor Tsai, assistant professor of geophysics at Caltech and co-principal investigator with DUGL. A comprehensive analysis of the data set is underway, with the goal of publishing the results within two years.

DUGL is a multifaceted, multidisciplinary project that intersects physics and geophysics. At the heart of the project is an array of 25 highly sensitive seismometers located on different levels underground and on the surface. Placed in a grid that probes approximately one cubic mile—to velocities less than a micron per second—the array creates a three-dimensional picture of seismic activity.

"This is a very unique aspect. No other experiment has this type of array in an underground environment," said Vuk Mandic, associate professor of physics at the University of Minnesota and a co-principal investigator with DUGL.

On the physics side, scientists hope to gain a better understanding of Newtonian noise, or

gravitational field fluctuations, which are caused by variations in topography and geology. "We want to understand seismic waves in an underground environment so we'll know what to expect at different depths," Mandic said.

The experiment could improve understanding of gravitational waves, which were first observed last year by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO). A LIGO-related project, DUGL could inform the next generation of gravitational wave detectors—what they will look like and how and where they will be built.

"More sensitive detectors will allow us to learn so much more about the universe," Mandic said.

DUGL collaborators also hope to answer fundamental questions about how seismic waves propagate. Because the surface layer of rock typically is not well defined, different seismic waves reach the surface and scatter, often changing from one mode of wave to another.

"We know that the scattering of seismic waves is stronger near the surface," Tsai said. "Understanding this complexity could help us create better seismic wave models that can improve our measurements of earthquakes and the way ground motions change depending on the conditions of the site."



photo By Tom Regan

Gary Pavlis, professor of geology at Indiana University, is pictured with Caltech graduate students Daniel Bowden and Vooch Lai as they prepare to decommission one of the surface seismometers used in the DUGL array.

Preliminary results look promising, Mandic said. "The indication is that the structure of the seismic wave field is very complex, far more complex

than initially anticipated," Mandic said. "But further analysis is required before we can make any definitive statements."

Coming home

John Keefner really likes being back at Sanford Lab. The underground operations engineer grew up near Rapid City and had his first experience at Sanford Lab several years ago while a student at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. After graduating, he left the area for a job, got married and is now the father of two boys.

"We've always wanted to come back to the Black Hills," Keefner said. "This was an amazing opportunity."

That's not only because he's back home, but because he loves what he's doing: helping with the logistics of decommissioning LUX, preparing for LZ and finding his way around underground.

"It's great to be here," he said. "The people are amazing and interesting. I've learned a lot from everyone."

When he's not at the lab, Keefner works on the family's home, does photography and spends as much time as he can outside with his boys.



Winter Weather Advisory

...STRONG WEST TO NORTHWEST WINDS AND BLOWING SNOW WILL REDUCE VISIBILITY AND CAUSE HAZARDOUS TRAVEL TODAY...

MNZ039-046-SDZ006>008-011-021-061830-
/O.EXB.KABR.WW.Y.0013.161206T1200Z-161207T0000Z/
TRAVERSE-BIG STONE-BROWN-MARSHALL-ROBERTS-DAY-GRANT-
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...WHEATON...ORTONVILLE...ABERDEEN...
BRITTON...SISSETON...WEBSTER...MILBANK
421 AM CST TUE DEC 6 2016

...WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 PM CST THIS EVENING...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN ABERDEEN HAS ISSUED A WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY FOR BLOWING SNOW...WHICH IS IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 PM CST THIS EVENING.

- * TIMING...LIGHT SNOW AND AREAS OF BLOWING SNOW BEGINNING THIS MORNING AND PERSISTING UNTIL THIS EVENING.
- * SNOW ACCUMULATIONS...TOTAL SNOW ACCUMULATIONS OF ONE-HALF INCH UP TO 2 INCHES ARE EXPECTED.
- * WINDS / VISIBILITY...WINDS GUSTING FROM 40 TO 50 MPH WILL CAUSE AREAS OF BLOWING AND DRIFTING SNOW. IN ADDITION...AREAS OF POOR VISIBILITY BELOW ONE-HALF MILE ARE EXPECTED. TREE BRANCHES COULD FALL AS WELL.
- * IMPACTS...REDUCED VISIBILITY AND HAZARDOUS ROAD CONDITIONS...INCLUDING DURING THE MORNING COMMUTE.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY FOR BLOWING SNOW MEANS THAT VISIBILITIES WILL BE LIMITED DUE TO STRONG WINDS BLOWING SNOW AROUND. USE CAUTION WHEN TRAVELING...ESPECIALLY IN OPEN AREAS.

Marsy's Law For South Dakota Applauds AG Opinion On New Law

Pierre, SD – Marsy's Law for South Dakota issued the following statement regarding the conclusions set forth in the Attorney General Opinion which concludes state and local governments may release auto accident reports, street addresses where crimes have occurred, the names of victims in crime report logs, and law enforcement radio traffic without violating the law.

"We are extremely pleased with the Attorney General's Opinion on Marsy's Law implementation," said Jason Glodt, state director for Marsy's Law for South Dakota. "The Opinion is consistent with what we have argued since the beginning of our campaign, that Marsy's Law affords right and gives victims the choice of asserting them. It is also consistent with our argument that Marsy's Law does not prevent the automatic release of public information like accident reports and crime report logs.

"We are grateful for the work of the Attorney General and the Task Force for their efforts to provide guidance for the implementation of Marsy's Law for South Dakota so that crime victims and all citizens understand the new law," Glodt concluded.

Marsy's Law is a bipartisan cause. Providing crime victims with constitutional protections is one of the rare political causes that both Republicans and Democrats have been unified in supporting. Marsy's Law has already been passed and already become law in both California and Illinois. In Illinois, Marsy's Law passed by an overwhelming 78%, the largest margin of victory for any constitutional amendment since Illinois' inception as a state.

In November 2016, voters in North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana overwhelmingly passed Marsy's Law in their states.

Marsy's Law is a constitutional amendment for victims' rights that would guarantee equal rights to crime victims. Under Marsy's Law, victims and their families receive information about their rights and the services available to them. They have the right to receive notification of proceedings and major developments in the criminal case. They have the right to receive timely notifications of changes to the offender's custodial status. Victims and their families have the right to be present at court proceedings and to provide input to the prosecutor before a plea agreement is finalized. They have the right to be heard at plea or sentencing proceedings or any process that may result in the offender's release. Finally, they have the right to restitution.

For more information on Marsy's Law, please visit: www.marsyslaw.us.

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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National Prices Climb as Market Reacts to OPEC Deal

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 - The national average price of regular unleaded gasoline has increased for seven consecutive days, reaching today's price of \$2.18 per gallon. Today's average price represents an increase of five cents per gallon compared to one week ago, four cents less than one month ago and 14 cents more than the same date last year.

South Dakota's statewide average price for regular gasoline has dropped 10 cents over the past month to today's average of \$2.134 per gallon, according to AAA South Dakota and GasPrices.AAA.com.

"The boost in national pump prices reflects the increase in crude oil prices," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "And crude oil prices are clearly responding to OPEC's announced intention to cut production. But there is still a lot of skepticism regarding OPEC's ability to obey those new lower production quotas."

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) elected to cut its collective production when the group met last Wednesday in Vienna, Austria, in an effort to rebalance the global oil supply and raise prices. Markets reacted quickly to the production agreement with crude oil gaining 12% and leading to increased retail prices. The deal is set to take effect in January 2017.

Traditionally this time of year gives way to lower gas prices as a result of cheaper to produce winter-blend fuel and less demand. However, due to the agreement from OPEC it is still unclear if prices will retreat considerably ahead of the upcoming holidays.

	Today	Last Week	Change	Nov. 7	Change	Last year
Aberdeen	\$2.198	\$2.170	\$0.028	\$2.23	-\$0.031	\$2.168
Brookings	\$2.135	\$2.156	-\$0.021	\$2.28	-\$0.147	\$2.089
Huron	\$2.316	\$2.314	\$0.002	\$2.40	-\$0.079	\$1.999
Mitchell	\$2.232	\$2.244	-\$0.012	\$2.26	-\$0.030	\$2.000
Pierre	\$2.279	\$2.367	-\$0.088	\$2.34	-\$0.056	\$2.243
Rapid City	\$2.043	\$2.167	-\$0.124	\$2.25	-\$0.209	\$2.253
Sioux Falls	\$2.035	\$1.950	\$0.085	\$2.01	\$0.021	\$1.863
Vermillion	\$1.979	\$1.953	\$0.026	\$2.28	-\$0.303	\$1.899
Watertown	\$2.229	\$2.205	\$0.024	\$2.24	-\$0.013	\$2.059
Yankton	\$2.216	\$2.245	-\$0.029	\$2.23	-\$0.011	\$2.175
South Dakota	\$2.134	\$2.146	-\$0.012	\$2.22	-\$0.086	\$2.097

Quick Stats

-Average gas prices are below \$2 per gallon in eight states today including: Arkansas (\$1.95), Texas (\$1.96), Missouri (\$1.97), Oklahoma (\$1.97), Kansas (\$1.98), Mississippi (\$1.98), South Carolina (\$1.98) and Alabama (\$1.98).

-The biggest weekly price increases are reflected in Kentucky (+14), Ohio (+14), Michigan (+12), Indiana (+11), Delaware (+11), Illinois (+10), West Virginia (+10), Florida (+9), Maryland (+9) and New Jersey (+9).

Midwest and Central States

Drivers in Ohio (+14 cents), Michigan (+12 cents), Indiana (+11 cents), Illinois (+10 cents) and Missouri (+8 cents) have seen prices jump more than a nickel per gallon on the week, landing all five states on the country's top-10 list of largest weekly increases. That is despite adequate supply in the region which is likely to get a boost this week. OPIS reports that BP's 430,000-b/d Whiting refinery in Indiana has completed planned maintenance work and should now be producing at full production rates. A lack of refinery issues in the region has created ample supply which should help pressure pump prices back down in the coming weeks.

Oil Market Dynamics

Following last week's announcement of OPEC's production agreement, markets continued to react to the news as oil sold for more than \$50 a barrel. This agreement aims to rebalance an oversupplied market and calls for a production cut of 1.2 million barrels per day by the cartel. The organization and non-OPEC members such as Russia are set to meet again in Vienna on December 10 to focus on additional production limits. Russia stated last week that it would participate, but they have failed to follow through on similar agreements in the past. As a result, traders will continue to watch how OPEC members move forward with the terms of the agreement and will keep an eye on Russia and other non-OPEC countries for indications of additional cuts in output. At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI was up 62 cents to settle at \$51.68 per barrel.



Wanner plays in Volleyball All-Star Match

Audrey Wanner played in the South Dakota Volleyball All-Star games this past weekend in Harrisburg. Here's some pictures. She also played with Darby Duncan of Northwestern, granddaughter of Bill and Jana Duncan. They both played for the North Volleyball All-Stars.

Blood Drive nets 36 units

A total of 34 people volunteered to donate blood, and 29 able to give during Groton's November 17th blood drive. Seven people gave blood on the automated 2RBC machine that collects two units of red blood cells which resulted in 36 total products. There was one person who volunteered for their first time.

Kathy Sundermeyer coordinated the drive and assisted with recruiting donors, publicity, providing refreshments, and registering donors. Others who assisted with the drive include: Rose Locke. Space to hold the drive was provided at the American Legion.

The availability of blood is dependent on the success of blood drive held in many communities. The citizens of the Groton area can be assured that their community is a good example of a well-run blood program.

On behalf of the patients who benefited, United Blood Services appreciates all the thoughtful people who volunteered to help others by giving of themselves.

Blood is for sharing; you have truly given the "Gift of Life".

JVT Holiday Open House

Tuesday, December 6th
10am - 4pm
235 E 1st Ave Groton

Specials - Door Prizes - Christmas Treats

Register in store or online at jamesvalley.com for the 12 Days of Christmas Giveaway!

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Today in Weather History

December 6, 1969: An unusual period of almost continuous snow began in southern Minnesota and eastern South Dakota on the afternoon of the 5th and continued until late on the 10th. The Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport reported 88 ²/₃ consecutive hours of snowfall, which amounted to 14.2 inches total. The snowfall was 3-9 inches in the western half of Minnesota, with slightly lesser amounts in eastern South Dakota. Two inches snow fell at Summit and Sisseton; 2.5 inches at Watertown and Waubay; 3.0 inches at Clear Lake; 3.1 inches at Aberdeen; and 4.0 inches at Artichoke Lake, Webster, and Milbank.

December 6, 1913: A snowstorm from December 1st through the 6th dumps a record total of 45.7 inches in Denver, Colorado. This storm produced the most snow ever recorded in a single Denver snowstorm.

December 6, 1970: The National Christmas tree in 1970 was a 78 foot spruce from South Dakota. On the way to Washington, the train carrying the tree derailed twice in Nebraska. On the weekend before the lighting event, the tree toppled in gusty winds and required new branches to fill it out.

1886 - A great snowstorm hit the southern Appalachian Mountains. The three day storm produced 25 inches at Rome GA, 33 inches at Asheville NC, and 42 inches in the mountains. Montgomery AL received a record eleven inches of snow. Columbia SC received one to two inches of sleet. (4th-6th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1970 - A windstorm toppled the National Christmas Tree at the White House. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)








1987 - Another in a series of storms brought high winds and heavy rain to the northwestern U.S., with heavy snow in some of the higher elevations. In northern California, Crescent City was drenched with 2.58 inches of rain, and winds gusted to 90 mph. Up to fourteen inches of snow blanketed the mountains of northern California, and snow and high winds created blizzard conditions around Lake Tahoe NV. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - The morning low at Bismarck, ND, was eleven degrees warmer than the record low of 25 degrees at Meridian MS, and during the afternoon half a dozen cities in the north central and northwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Alpena MI with a reading of 57 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Heavy snow blanketed the Central Rocky Mountain Region. Totals in the southern foothills of Colorado ranged up to 17 inches at Rye. Arctic air invaded the north central U.S. Lincoln NE, which reported a record high of 69 degrees the previous afternoon, was 35 degrees colder. International Falls MN was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 9 degrees below zero, and temperatures in northern Minnesota hovered near zero through the daylight hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

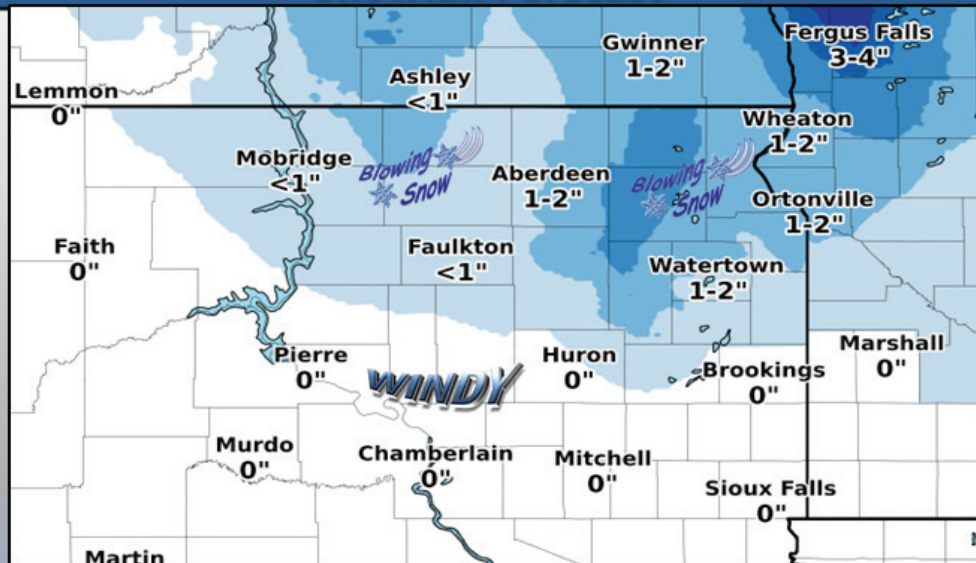
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Winter Weather Advisory		Today		Tonight		Wednesday		Wednesday Night		Thursday		Thursday Night		Friday	
															
70%		10%		20%		20%									
Snow Likely and Areas Blowing Snow		Patchy Blowing Snow and Blustery then Mostly Cloudy		Blustery. Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Snow		Slight Chance Snow and Blustery		Mostly Cloudy		Partly Cloudy		Partly Sunny			
High: 19 °F		Low: 7 °F		High: 13 °F		Low: 5 °F		High: 12 °F		Low: 1 °F		High: 13 °F			

Light Snow/Blowing Snow & Strong Winds

Snowfall Forecast



- Light snow & blowing snow north/east areas
- Reduced visibility below one mile at times
- Morning commute affected – worst in open areas

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen |

Updated: 12/6/2016 5:41 AM Central

Published on: 12/06/2016 at 5:47AM

Strong low pressure over northern Minnesota today will bring strong winds to the region, along with light snow and blowing snow for northern and eastern portions of the area. Total snow accumulations will remain light, with most areas around one-half to 2 inches. The bigger story will be the periods of low visibility when falling snow combines with strong winds. Visibility may be reduced to below 1 mile at times, with the morning commute affected as well. The worst conditions are expected in rural areas. Wind chills will be below zero through the day as well as the blast of arctic air has also arrived.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 38.8 F at 1:56 PM

Low Outside Temp: 16.2 F at 11:51 PM

High Gust: 30.0 Mph at 6:50 PM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 69° in 1939

Record Low: -30° in 1972

Average High: 28°F

Average Low: 9°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.11

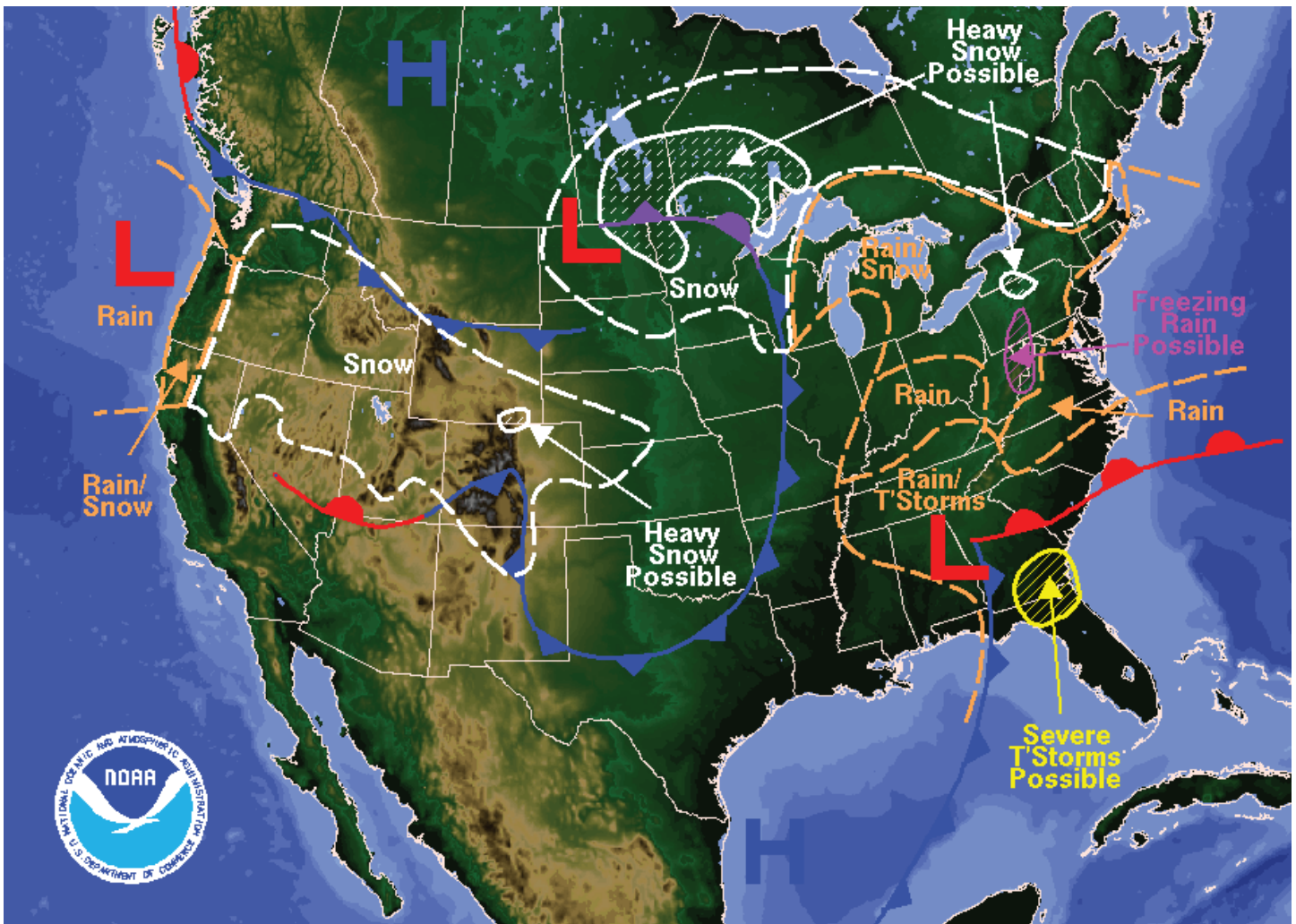
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.31

Precip Year to Date: 17.34

Sunset Tonight: 4:50 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:00 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Dec 06, 2016, issued 4:37 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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STRETCH!

Rubber bands appear worthless until they are stretched. They remain quiet but ready. They come in different sizes and shapes waiting for various types of assignments. Some are thick, some are thin, some are small and some are large. But, all are designed for specific uses. However, a rubber band is worthless until it is stretched to its limit. Then it will hold things together, keep things orderly and bring chaos under control.

We cannot accomplish God's purpose without stretching. When we bear one another's burdens, help someone solve a problem that is beyond their capabilities, wipe away a tear from a saddened eye, give a cup of cold water to a thirsty traveler, we are showing the kindness and grace of God.

Each day we need to stretch our minds and learn something new about our Lord, His Word, His world and His ways. If we remain as we are, we fail to grow into His likeness and the future He has for us.

We also need to stretch our bodies and bring them under God's control. The stronger we are physically, the more we can do spiritually. An out-of-control body reflects an out-of-control life. God expects us to do the best we can with what He gives us.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to take what You have given us and stretch it to the limits of our potential. May we never be satisfied with who we are until we become who You have intended us to become in worship and service. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:14-17 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

News from the Associated Press

Major interstate closed across North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A December blizzard has shut down a major interstate across North Dakota. The state Department of Transportation and Highway Patrol have closed both eastbound and westbound lanes of Interstate 94 between Dickinson and Valley City. That's more than 200 miles of interstate that cuts across North Dakota.

The National Weather Service issued a blizzard warning for much of western and central North Dakota through Tuesday afternoon. Schools across the region closed as officials advised against travel. And, some government offices, including Bismarck and Burleigh County won't open Tuesday.

Falling snow and wind gusts of up to 50 mph have created near zero visibility on some roads.

Spokesman offers few clues on Trump's pipeline stance

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A spokesman for President-elect Donald Trump isn't offering many clues about how the incoming administration will act regarding the disputed Dakota Access oil pipeline.

Spokesman Jason Miller told The Associated Press on Monday that Trump supports construction of the pipeline. But Miller wouldn't say whether Trump would reverse the Army's decision on Sunday to decline to issue a permit for the \$3.8 billion pipeline to cross under a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

Miller said the Trump administration will review the situation "and make the appropriate determination."

Protesters, who describe themselves as "water protectors," say they have no plans to leave despite the Army's decision and recent wintry storms.

The pipeline is largely complete except for the section under Lake Oahe.

Oil industry urges Trump to approve Dakota Access pipeline

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Industry leaders are urging President-elect Donald Trump to make approval of the disputed Dakota Access oil pipeline a priority when he takes office next month, but a spokesman for Trump isn't offering many clues about how the incoming president might act.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Standing Rock Sioux is calling on pipeline opponents to leave a camp in southern North Dakota where they've been protesting for months, as dangerous winter weather sets in. Many are vowing to stay, however.

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

THE TRUMP FACTOR

Two industry groups are calling on Trump to pave the way for the pipeline's completion when he enters the White House in January. The requests come after the Army declined to issue a permit for the \$3.8 billion pipeline to cross under a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

The American Petroleum Institute represents the U.S. oil and natural gas industry, and the MAIN Coalition is made up of agriculture, business and labor entities that benefit from Midwest infrastructure projects.

Trump supports construction of the pipeline, spokesman Jason Miller told The Associated Press on Monday, but Miller wouldn't say whether Trump would reverse the Army's decision. Miller said the Trump administration will review the situation "and make the appropriate determination."

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

EASEMENT DENIAL

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The Army on Sunday said it would not approve an easement for a pipeline crossing beneath Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir and the source of drinking water for the nearby Standing Rock Reservation. The Standing Rock tribe says the pipeline threatens its water and cultural sites.

Assistant Army Secretary for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy said her decision was based on the need to consider alternative routes.

Dallas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners said the decision is politically motivated and that President Barack Obama's administration is just delaying the matter until he leaves office.

Protesters, who describe themselves as "water protectors," say they have no plans to leave despite the Army's decision and recent wintry storms. Standing Rock Chairman Dave Archambault said Monday that he doesn't think there will be any developments for months and that people should go home.

THE ORIGINS

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

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

The Standing Rock Sioux, whose reservation straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border, have challenged the Army Corps of Engineers' decision to grant permits at more than 200 water crossings. A federal judge in September denied the tribe's request to block construction of the entire pipeline.

MISSING LINK

The pipeline is largely complete except for the section under Lake Oahe, about a mile upstream of the reservation.

The tribe argues putting the pipeline there could affect drinking water for more than 8,000 tribal members and millions downstream. The Corps of Engineers granted Energy Transfer Partners the permits needed for the crossing in July, but the federal government decided in September that further analysis was warranted given the tribe's concerns. Then came Sunday's decision from the Army, which oversees the Corps.

The company responded by asking U.S. District Judge James Boasberg to declare that it has the right to lay pipe under Lake Oahe. The judge isn't likely to issue a decision until January at the earliest.

Obama raised the possibility of rerouting the pipeline in early November, and Archambault has said that would be acceptable to the tribe provided the new route isn't near the reservation and doesn't cross the Missouri River. But Energy Transfer Partners CEO Kelcy Warren told The Associated Press that the pipeline won't be rerouted and the company has no alternative than to stick to its plan.

This story has been corrected to reflect that the decision not to approve the easement came from the Army instead of the Corps of Engineers. It has also been corrected to reflect that the federal government, not the Corps, decided in September that further analysis was warranted.

Could Dakota Access pipeline move after permit is denied?

By JOSH FUNK, Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Army's refusal to grant a permit for the Dakota Access oil pipeline to cross beneath the Missouri River has focused more attention on alternative routes, but several other options already have been considered and rejected as being more risky and expensive.

Some questions and answers about the Dakota Access pipeline and its route:

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE PIPELINE?

Nearly all of the 1,172-mile, \$3.8 billion pipeline has been built by Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners except for a mile-long section across federal land and beneath Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir. But the project is in limbo because the Army suggested Sunday that it now needs a more detailed environ-

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mental review than it received initially.

The pipeline is designed to carry oil from North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Patoka, Illinois. State regulators in all four states approved the route through their territory. The proposed route skirts the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation that straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border, and the tribe objects to the project, saying it could threaten drinking water and destroy sacred sites.

ARE THERE OTHER ROUTES AVAILABLE?

The company examined other routes when federal regulators conducted their initial environmental review. Energy Transfer Partners and the Army Corps of Engineers agreed initially that the proposed route appeared to be the safest and most cost-effective path. The initial review looked at factors including the number of water crossings, how close the route came to homes and whether it crossed wetlands.

In North Dakota, the Dakota Access route parallels the existing Northern Border Pipeline, which carries natural gas from Canada across the Dakotas to the Chicago area. The Dakota Access pipeline would use a nearly identical route to cross Lake Oahe near the Standing Rock reservation.

One alternative the company considered called for the pipeline to cross the Missouri River north of Bismarck, about 50 miles upstream of the current path. That option was rejected because it was 10 miles longer and required more water and road crossings. It was also estimated to cost \$22.6 million more than the current route.

DOES ANOTHER ROUTE HAVE SUPPORT?

Energy Transfer Partners doesn't want to reroute the pipeline, which was originally expected to be completed before the end of this year. The company says delaying the project a year would cost it \$1.4 billion in lost revenue. CEO Kelcy Warren told The Associated Press last month that the company doesn't see another way to complete the project besides the current route.

Standing Rock Sioux Chairman Dave Archambault has said the tribe does not oppose oil pipelines if they do not threaten water sources, environmentally sensitive areas or sacred sites. He said a route that would follow existing west-east and north-south oil pipeline corridors that avoid Missouri River crossings would be acceptable to him.

HOW WILL THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AFFECT THE PROJECT?

President-elect Donald Trump wouldn't say Monday whether he will try to overturn the permit decision that has delayed the pipeline. Trump has said he supports the pipeline, and he holds stock in Energy Transfer Partners. Trump spokesman Jason Miller said the new administration would review the Army's decision after it takes office in January.

WHAT ARE THE PIPELINE'S PROSPECTS?

Energy analyst Afolabi Ogunnaike with the Wood Mackenzie consulting firm said it appears to be a question of how long it takes for the project to regain approval and whether the route will have to be adjusted.

"Our expectation is that the Dakota Access pipeline will go forward. I think what's unclear is the path it will take and when it will start up," he said.

Associated Press writer James MacPherson contributed to this report from North Dakota.

Jackley: Government agencies can release crime information

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Government entities aren't automatically blocked from releasing information such as the exact location of a crime to the public under a new victims' rights constitutional amendment, Attorney General Marty Jackley said in a legal opinion released Monday.

Instead, victims must opt into privacy protections offered by the amendment, Jackley wrote in the attorney general's opinion. Confusion has swirled since voters in November approved the amendment, better known as Marsy's Law.

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It establishes rights for victims, including privacy, protection from harassment or abuse, and timely notice of trial, sentencing and post-judgment proceedings.

Jackley said in the opinion that the amendment requires victims to actively invoke their right to prevent the disclosure of information or records.

The amendment had caused law enforcement agencies, including Sioux Falls police, to stop providing details such as the addresses where crimes occurred or the names of victimized businesses.

Rapid City police have been using generalized addresses for additional types of crimes in public logs, and state officials have said they won't release the names of people involved in car crashes that result in injury or death.

"While there is more work being done, this opinion is intended to help victims and those assisting victims in carrying out our new law," Jackley said in a statement.

Attorney general opinions offer guidance on legal issues until the Legislature changes the law or a court rules on them.

Jackley has also convened a task force to work on interpreting Marsy's Law and to address issues caused by its implementation.

The victims' rights amendment is named for California college student Marsalee "Marsy" Nicholas, who was stalked and killed in 1983 by an ex-boyfriend. Her brother, Henry Nicholas, bankrolled the effort to expand it to more states.

Trump not saying what he'll do about Dakota Access pipeline

By JAMES MacPHERSON and BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — Industry leaders are urging President-elect Donald Trump to make approval of the disputed Dakota Access oil pipeline a "top priority" when he takes office next month, while opponents who have protested the project for months are vowing to stay put on their sprawling North Dakota encampment despite harsh winter weather and a tribal leaders' call to leave.

The moves come after the Army declined to issue a permit for the \$3.8 billion pipeline to cross under a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. While the Army's decision doesn't end the debate over the pipeline, industry analysts and the chairman of the Native American tribe that's led the protests said Monday they don't expect any developments for months.

Standing Rock Chairman Dave Archambault lauded the Army's decision as taking "tremendous courage," and National Congress of American Indians President Brian Cladoosby said it showed "respect for tribal sovereignty."

The Standing Rock tribe believes the 1,200-mile pipeline to transport North Dakota oil through the Dakotas and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois threatens drinking water and cultural sites. Dallas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners has denied that and said the pipeline will be safe. The segment under Lake Oahe is the only remaining big chunk of construction.

"I am hopeful President-elect Trump will reject the Obama administration's shameful actions to deny this vital energy project," American Petroleum Institute President and CEO Jack Gerard said in a statement late Sunday. The institute represents the U.S. oil and natural gas industry.

Trump supports construction of the pipeline, spokesman Jason Miller told The Associated Press on Monday, but Miller wouldn't say whether Trump would reverse the Army's decision.

"We will review the full situation when we're in the White House and make the appropriate determination at that time," Miller said.

The Sunday announcement by Assistant Army Secretary Jo-Ellen Darcy does not actually deny an easement for the project, but says additional review is needed. That means the pipeline company cannot file an appeal because the project was not formally rejected.

Energy Transfer Partners slammed the decision as politically motivated and alleged that President Barack Obama's administration was determined to delay the matter until he leaves office. The company is awaiting a decision from a federal judge it asked earlier to give it permission to drill under the lake.

A full environmental review, including alternate routes and spill risks, could take as long as a year, though

that is considered unlikely under the Trump administration.

Once in office, Trump could move to cancel the full review and greenlight the project, but court cases remain pending and any move by the new administration is sure to face a legal challenge from one side or another.

The Army's announcement likely delays the pipeline by at least several months but does not kill it, energy analysts said. While the company had hoped to begin piping oil next spring, the project is now likely to be delayed until summer or fall at the earliest, said Christi Tezak, managing director of ClearView Energy Partners, a Washington-based research firm.

The MAIN Coalition, made up of agriculture, business and labor entities that benefit from Midwest infrastructure projects, hopes Trump will pave the way for completion of the project. The industry group said the Army's decision is "arrogance that working class Americans soundly rejected" when they elected Trump.

Hundreds of people describing themselves as "water protectors" have been staying in the Oceti Sakowin, or Seven Council Fires, protest encampment along the pipeline route in southern North Dakota. Archambault, anticipating no changes for months, on Monday urged them to go home as dangerous wintry weather sets in.

"Their purpose has been served," he said. "I'm thankful for all the people who have come, all the people who have stood by us, but there's no need ... to put people's lives at risk."

Monday was a federal government-set deadline for the people to leave the camp that's on federal land, though authorities have said they won't forcibly remove anyone. Gov. Jack Dalrymple last week also issued a "mandatory evacuation" but said no one would be removed by force.

A storm on Monday was bringing snow, strong winds and bitter cold temperatures to the area, but people in camp were busy shoring up housing and stockpiling firewood rather than getting in their vehicles and leaving.

"I plan on staying until it's over," said Andy Shute, 30, of St. Louis.

Associated Press writers Steve Peoples and Matthew Daly contributed to this story from Washington, D.C. Blake Nicholson contributed from Bismarck, N.D.

This story has been corrected to reflect that the decision not to approve the easement came from the Army instead of the Corps of Engineers.

Sioux Falls officials won't investigate building collapse

By REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The city of Sioux Falls will not investigate the case of a building collapse that killed a construction worker and injured a woman Friday, relying instead on federal safety inspectors to find out the cause of the incident, officials said Monday.

Emergency manager Regan Smith said the building in downtown Sioux Falls has been classified as destroyed, and an adjacent building that houses a nightclub has major structural damage as a result of the collapse. Another building has shown signs of minor damage.

"The city is not conducting any investigation in this matter," Smith said during a press conference Monday. "The investigations will be done by the property owner, their representatives or their insurance. I understand (the Occupational Safety and Health Administration) will probably be here. ... The city really just doesn't have any interest in the investigation."

The three-story brick building, built in 1916, had housed a bar and was being remodeled into a drugstore when it collapsed Friday morning. Construction worker Ethan McMahan was killed and 22-year-old Emily Fodness was trapped under rubble for three hours before being rescued. Emergency personnel also rescued three dogs.

The city issued a limited permit authorizing Hultgren Construction to remove furnishings, floor coverings, ceiling tiles and the existing bar area. The permit did not give the company approval to do any structural changes.

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"If they thought that they were going to take 70, 80 feet of wall out without structural support, they were crazy," the city's chief building officer, Ron Bell, told the Argus Leader newspaper.

The attorney for Aaron Hultgren, Hultgren Construction's owner, did not immediately return a call seeking comment on the incident Monday.

Scott Allen, a spokesman for the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, said agency inspectors will determine what caused the building to crumble and whether Hultgren Construction was following accepted safety standards. The agency's investigation could take weeks and will involve interviews of potential witnesses, company executives, and employees who worked at the site, as well as inspections of the scene and company records.

OSHA could fine the company if it is found to have been in violation of regulations.

Sioux Falls officials on Monday said the building and its remains have been turned over to the contractor and that the city would maintain security of the site.

Friday's collapse required the participation of more than 120 first responders. A dog trained to assist in emergencies was transported by helicopter to Sioux Falls from Rapid City to help in the search operation.

"Our hearts are breaking for the family of Ethan McMahon, and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with them," Fodness's family said in a statement. "We thank everyone for their ongoing support during this time. Our sincere gratitude goes out to all the emergency responders for the safe rescue of our daughter and our three dogs. Emily is now with us and resting. We ask that you continue to respect our privacy in the coming days."

Winter menaces N. Dakota camp as pipeline protesters dig in

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 as they defy government orders to abandon the camp and vow to stay put even after a surprise federal decision to further delay and review the project, demonstrators know the real deep freeze comes when the full force 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 had ordered protesters to leave federal land by Monday, though authorities made no noticeable effort to enforce that mandate as the deadline passed. Many demonstrators insist they will stay for as long as it takes to permanently 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 planned to pass beneath a Missouri River reservoir, and opponents scored a victory during the weekend when the Army said it would not approve a permit for the crossing while further assessing potential changes. 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.

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Nate Bison, a member of South Dakota's Cheyenne River Sioux, came to the camp after quitting his job in Las Vegas. He said last week that 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."

In the last week, the camp near the confluence of the Missouri and Cannonball rivers has been shrouded in snow, much of it compacted by foot and vehicle traffic. Temperatures hovered in the 20s. This 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 climes are being taught how to endure the frostbite-inducing temperatures that are sure to come.

"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 says 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.

At the camp last week, about 75 people lined up 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.

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"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.

Associated Press photographer David Goldman contributed to this story.

360-degree photo: <http://bit.ly/2ght9ns>

This story has been corrected to reflect that the decision not to approve the easement came from the Army instead of the Corps of Engineers.

Governor to offer modest spending hikes in state budget plan

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard says his budget plan to be released Tuesday won't include cuts, but lower-than-anticipated tax collections will only allow for modest spending increases during the 2017 legislative session.

The governor is to outline his spending priorities in a budget address to lawmakers at the Capitol on Tuesday. He told The Associated Press that his plan for the upcoming budget cycle is "leaner" compared with some other years, but won't require the spending cuts that the state faced early in his first term.

"People can see weakness in revenue, and then they can understand that translates into an inability to spend," he said. "That happens in people's personal lives and in their businesses."

The House Republican leader didn't answer a telephone call requesting comment, while the Senate GOP leader didn't immediately return a telephone message from The AP.

State revenues for the first four months of the current fiscal year, which began July 1, were down roughly \$20 million — or about 3.6 percent — from lawmakers' projections.

Nearly all of that decline is from lower-than-expected sales tax collections, which officials have attributed to cautious consumer spending, low commodity prices and e-commerce transactions that avoid state sales taxes. Sales tax is the state's main revenue source.

Daugaard said some of the revenue issues are also due to anomalies including a state sales tax increase that prompted people to make big purchases before it went into effect.

GOP Sen. Larry Tidemann, incoming chairman of the Joint Committee on Appropriations, said there won't be a significant amount of money available for a lot of new programs unless lawmakers make cuts and shift funding around.

The Republican-held Legislature will reshape the current budget and approve the next one during the legislative session that begins in January. For the current year, the Republican governor has said that he wants to use one-time money to plug an expected budget shortfall.

Senate Democratic leader Billie Sutton said he anticipates Daugaard will take a very cautious approach with revenues. Democrats hope to find funding for priorities including pre-K education, he said.

The governor also has said that he doesn't plan to include millions of dollars of funding in his budget proposal for a public campaign finance system established under a government ethics overhaul approved by voters last month. South Dakota doesn't have the money to fund it, he said.

A group of Republican lawmakers and others filed a lawsuit last month in state court challenging the constitutionality of the ballot measure. Daugaard has said he'd support rolling back the measure if it isn't struck down in court.

Those bringing the lawsuit are set to argue in a court hearing Thursday that the law should be put on

hold while the case proceeds.

Klay's 60, Westbrook's triple-double run and a big NBA night

By BRIAN MAHONEY, AP Basketball Writer

Plenty of points for Klay Thompson. Plenty of everything, as usual, for Russell Westbrook.

On a momentous night in the NBA, Thompson had the biggest game with a career-high 60 points and Westbrook continued his sensational season with a sixth straight triple-double.

An 11-game schedule stole the show Monday on a night that's long belonged to the NFL. There were so many mesmerizing performances that even otherwise great ones weren't good enough to get much notice.

Thompson's topped them all, with a 40-point first half in under 19 minutes of Golden State's 142-106 victory over Indiana.

"That's a feat that I put money on will probably never be touched ever again in the history of basketball," teammate Stephen Curry said.

Marc Gasol had a triple-double and James Harden wasn't far off, but Westbrook does that every night. He had 32 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists in Oklahoma City's 102-99 victory at Atlanta, giving him the NBA's longest streak of triple-doubles since Michael Jordan had seven in a row in 1989.

"Obviously, the league hasn't seen something like this in a long, long time," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said.

A look at some other noteworthy developments around the league:

KLAY'S PLAY: Thompson, who already owns the NBA record with 37 points in a quarter, might have scored many more in this one if the Warriors weren't so explosive. He checked out after just 29 minutes and less than three quarters and thought something like 80 could've been in play if he could've stayed on the floor.

"Maybe. I think I could have, maybe one day I'll have the opportunity," he said. "But 60 in 29 minutes is not too bad."

BEST IN THE WEST: Westbrook, who is averaging a triple-double, was chosen Western Conference player of the week Monday and is probably the leader in the race for the NBA's biggest individual prize, the MVP. He has 11 triple-doubles in 22 games, has led the Thunder to six straight wins and has been so good that he's overshadowing guys like Harden and Kevin Durant, who are having MVP-caliber seasons themselves.

"Just think about what Russell is doing and then there's two, three other guys who are playing great but because of what Russell is doing ... the other guys, you really haven't paid attention to," Hall of Famer Magic Johnson said earlier Monday.

LEBRON LEADS: Cleveland had lost three straight and then lost guard J.R. Smith to injury early in its game at Toronto, which had won six in a row and would have overtaken the Cavaliers for the top spot in the Eastern Conference with a victory.

Instead, LeBron James scored a season-high 34 points as the defending champions got back on track with a 116-112 victory.

"I just came out and played the game and the game was flowing very well for me," James said. "The shot was feeling very well."

MEN IN THE MIDDLE: Gasol had 28 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists for his second career triple-double, and Memphis needed all of it to overcome NBA scoring leader Anthony Davis in a 110-108, double-overtime victory over New Orleans. Davis finished with 28 points and 17 rebounds.

THIRTYSOMETHING: Damian Lillard and Dwyane Wade staged a duel in Chicago, with Lillard's 30 points helping Portland overcome Wade's 34 in a 112-110 victory. The Lakers' Lou Williams went for 38 points in a 107-101 loss to Utah, following his 40-point game in Memphis two nights earlier for the first back-to-back 30-point games of his 12-year NBA career.

INJURY ISSUES: Two of the NBA's best teams lost guards to knee injuries Monday. Smith will return to Cleveland for further examination after getting hurt when he landed after a jumper in the first quarter in Toronto, while Tony Parker left a victory in Milwaukee that kept San Antonio undefeated on the road. Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said the veteran could be out a while.

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. WHERE TRUMP'S 'THANK YOU' TOUR IS HEADED NEXT

The president-elect's appearance in Fayetteville, North Carolina, will be followed by rallies in Iowa and Michigan later this week.

2. US LAWMAKERS FACE WEEKEND DEADLINE

Congress marches toward a final vote on legislation boosting medical research and speeding drug approvals while readying a separate stopgap spending bill.

3. SAD, FINAL WORDS FOR OAKLAND VICTIMS

Some people were able to text loved ones goodbye and "I love you" before they died in a warehouse fire that claimed three dozen lives.

4. AP: THE FREEING OF 226 CHRISTIANS FROM IS IN SYRIA

It took more than a year, three videotaped killings and millions in ransom money from across the Assyrian diaspora and ended up in extremists' pockets before the final captive was freed.

5. PUTIN SEEKS TO PROJECT POWER WITH MODERN MILITARY

With an aircraft carrier off Syria's shores and hundreds of new jets, missiles and tanks entering service each year, Russia can project military power on a scale unseen since Soviet times.

6. FRENCH PREMIER STEPS DOWN

Manuel Valls resigns to focus on running for president next year and is replaced by Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve.

7. 9 DAYS OF MOURNING FOR CASTRO ENDS

Cuba is slowly returning to normality, with music playing in the streets again, tourists sipping mojitos at sidewalk cafes and flags flapping at full staff.

8. WORLD LEADERS FACE RISKS IN RECONCILING WITH PAST ENEMIES

From Hiroshima to Srebrenica, visits by world leaders to important sites of former enemies have been sometimes rewarding, sometimes tricky.

9. WHAT WERE TOP TWITTER TRENDS FOR '16

Rio2016, Election2016, PokemonGo were the most-tweeted about topics on the social media site.

10. 'I THOUGHT THEY KICKED OUR ASS'

Jets coach Todd Bowles was blunt about his team's performance after New York got thumped by Indianapolis 41-10 on national TV.

Recovery of fire victims winds down; investigation looms

By PAUL ELIAS and JANIE HAR, Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Some people managed to text loved ones goodbye and "I love you" before they died in an Oakland warehouse fire that claimed three dozen lives, officials said, as heart-rending reports of victims' last moments emerged from the most lethal building fire in the U.S. in more than a decade.

Also Monday, the painful and exhaustive search for those killed in the fire appeared to be coming to a close. Alameda County Sheriff Gregory Ahern told The Associated Press that he didn't believe there would be additional bodies found.

But he cautioned that it was "impossible to be absolutely positive" about the number killed until the entire recovery effort is complete. Authorities had gone through about three-quarters of the building by Monday afternoon.

Officials said they would turn next to investigating the fire, which erupted late Friday during a dance party. It's unclear how it started. The district attorney warned of possible murder charges as she determines whether there were any crimes linked to the blaze.

"We owe it to the community and those who perished in this fire, and those who survived the fire to be

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methodical, to be thorough, and to take the amount of time it takes to be able to look at every piece of potential evidence," Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley said.

Alameda County sheriff's spokesman Sgt. Ray Kelly said that some of the victims texted relatives, "I'm going to die," and "I love you."

Rescue crews found bodies of people "protecting each other, holding each other," Kelly said.

Monday night, hundreds of people holding candles and flowers honored those who died in the fire at a vigil at Oakland's Lake Merritt.

Those in the crowd embraced each other or held up candles as they said aloud the names of people they lost in the blaze.

Several people in the crowd held signs offering "free hugs."

Terry Ewing learned Monday what he already knew in his heart: His girlfriend, Ara Jo, was among the dead in the fire that broke out during an underground dance party at a building known as the "Ghost Ship."

Earlier, Ewing said Jo's friends and family had already started talking about the vibrant 29-year-old Oakland artist in the past tense, but needed confirmation. He went through photographs as he waited. Friends remembered her as someone who could fit in anywhere, he said.

"If you take her somewhere, she'll make friends with the surly punks in the corner as well as the elderly grandparents," he said.

The cluttered warehouse had been converted to artists' studios and illegal living spaces, and former denizens said it was a death trap of piled wood, furniture, snaking electrical cords and only two exits.

Oakland city councilman Noel Gallo, who lives a block from the warehouse, said he confronted the property's manager — Derick Ion Almena — several times about neighbors' concerns about trash in the street and in front of the warehouse. Gallo said Almena essentially told authorities to "mind their own business" and appeared resistant to addressing complaints and complying with city codes.

Almena and his partner, Micah Allison, ran the building's arts colony, called the Satya Yuga collective. Relatives, friends and former colleagues said Almena loved to surround himself with followers, but he seemed to care little for their well-being.

Almena told San Jose television station KNTV he didn't know the event was taking place, and he wasn't at the warehouse Friday night because he and his wife had decided to stay at a hotel because he was exhausted and their children had school.

"We're sorry to the families and all the friends that have lost loved ones," he said. "I gladly would give my entire life of fortune, of wealth of experience again and again and again, and I say this to you and I say this to the camera and to whoever is watching me that I surrender everything."

Almena did not respond to emails or calls to phone numbers associated with him by The Associated Press. No one answered a call to a number for Allison.

The warehouse is owned by Chor N. Ng, her daughter Eva Ng told the Los Angeles Times. She said the warehouse was leased as studio space for an art collective and was not being used as a dwelling.

"We are also trying to figure out what's going on like everybody else," the family wrote in a statement to KNTV. "Our condolences go out to the families and friends of those injured and those who lost their lives."

Eva Ng did not immediately return phone calls from The Associated Press.

Gallo said Chor N. Ng put Almena in charge of cleaning up the Ghost Ship, and nothing was done.

"I hold the owner of the property responsible," Gallo said. "I hold the manager responsible."

But questions persisted about whether city officials could have done more to prevent the fire. Oakland planning officials opened an investigation last month after repeated complaints about the warehouse. An inspector who went to the premises couldn't get inside, said Darin Ranelletti of the Oakland Planning Department.

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf said city officials are putting together a record of what they knew about the property.

Authorities have identified 22 victims and notified their families, city officials said. An additional 11 victims have been tentatively identified, and three victims need "scientific identification," they said.

Most of the victims' names, including the name of a 17-year-old, were not released.

Investigators said they believe they have located the section of the building where the fire started, but the cause remains unknown.

Har reported from San Francisco. Associated Press writers Ellen Knickmeyer, Olga R. Rodriguez, Tim Reiterman and Sudhin Thanawala in San Francisco, and Jonathan J. Cooper and Terry Chea in Oakland contributed to this report.

Stopgap spending bill to be unveiled as Congress finishes up

By **ANDREW TAYLOR and ALAN FRAM, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress is quickening its pace toward adjourning late this week, marching toward a final vote on legislation boosting medical research and speeding drug approvals and readying a separate stopgap spending bill to prevent the government from shutting down this weekend.

The temporary budget bill, scheduled to be unveiled Tuesday, would keep federal agencies functioning into next spring, giving the new Congress and the incoming Trump administration time to approve more than \$1 trillion to fund federal agencies through the Sept. 30 end of the current government budget year.

Current spending expires at midnight on Friday. Since the measure is the only absolute must-do bill before Congress adjourns, it's likely to carry several add-ons, including flood relief, money for overseas military operations, and help for Flint, Mich., to fix its lead-tainted water system.

Other possibilities include language to help speed a congressional waiver required next year to confirm retired Gen. James Mattis as secretary of defense and temporary help to maintain health benefits for retired members of the United Mine Workers. Lawmakers will again deny themselves a cost-of-living pay hike that's fallen out of favor.

The overall measure would keep the government running through April 28.

The Senate, meanwhile, appears on track Tuesday to pass the \$6.3 billion biomedical bill, which includes a \$1.8 billion cancer research "moonshot" strongly supported by Vice President Joe Biden, whose son Beau died of the disease, as well as \$1 billion over two years to prevent and treat abuse of opioids and other addictive drugs like heroin. The nearly 1,000-page package cleared the House overwhelmingly last week, with strong backing from President Barack Obama. It contains a long-overdue overhaul of federal mental health programs.

Biden presided over the Senate during an 85-13 procedural tally on Monday and a final vote is expected Tuesday despite opposition from liberals like Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., who complained that the bill would make it easier for politically well-connected pharmaceutical and medical device industries to win federal approval for their products while raising risks to consumers.

Also Monday, negotiators wrapped up talks on a massive water projects bill that also contains a controversial package of provisions that wades into a complex, longstanding battle over allocating California's water resources. House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., and Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein brokered the accord, which, among other steps, aims to offer relief to farmers and farm communities suffering from the state's longstanding drought.

But California's other Democratic senator, Barbara Boxer, ripped the accord, charging that it would harm drinking water quality and severely weaken the Endangered Species Act, threatening salmon and other species. Boxer is retiring and vowed to filibuster the legislation as her last major act in office.

The stopgap spending measure is needed because of a deadlock between Republicans controlling Congress and the Obama administration over spending levels for the Pentagon and a number of other issues, including opposition from conservatives to advancing a huge "omnibus" spending package in the post-election lame-duck session.

The incoming Trump administration and House GOP leaders are also hopeful of winning increases to the Pentagon budget for the ongoing fiscal year in the early months of calendar 2017.

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For now, the stopgap measure is serving as an engine to tow \$170 million to help Flint, Michigan, repair its aging water system to prevent its water from being poisoned with lead. Other items include about \$4 billion to help Louisiana and other states rebuild from floods and other natural disasters, and money to partially meet the Obama administration's \$11.6 billion request last month for war-related money.

Trump heads back out on road for 'thank you' tour

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump is taking his show back on the road.

Trump is slated to hold the second stop of this "thank you" tour Tuesday in North Carolina, less than a week after his bombastic return to rallies at an Ohio appearance that felt more like a raucous campaign stop than a traditional speech by a president-to-be.

At that Cincinnati stop, Trump disparaged the media as "dishonest," inspired loud "Build the wall" chants, took swipes at fellow Republicans and stunned his own aides with his surprise announcement from the stage that he was appointing retired Gen. James Mattis as secretary of defense.

The Tuesday appearance in Fayetteville will be followed by rallies in Iowa and Michigan later this week as Trump barnstorms the country to salute his supporters who delivered the victories in the battleground states he needed to capture the White House.

The North Carolina rally will come a day after Trump chose retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson to be secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, raising fresh concerns about the lack of experience some of Trump's Cabinet picks have with agencies they're now being chosen to lead.

Carson, who opposed Trump in the Republican primaries, has no background in government or running a large bureaucracy.

In addition, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, Trump's choice to be ambassador to the United Nations, has no foreign policy experience. Steve Mnuchin, a former Goldman Sachs partner and Hollywood executive, is Trump's man to lead the Treasury Department but has never worked in government. And Mattis, a widely praised battlefield commander, spent decades in the Marines but now is tapped to run the nation's largest government agency, the Defense Department, with 740,000 civilian employees in addition to 1.3 million service personnel.

Democrats swiftly criticized Carson's qualifications for his job. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi called him a "disconcerting and disturbingly unqualified choice." And New York Sen. Charles Schumer said he had "serious concerns about Dr. Carson's lack of expertise and experience in dealing with housing issues. Someone who is as anti-government as him is a strange fit for housing secretary, to say the least."

Carson would oversee a budget of nearly \$50 billion that provides rental assistance for more than 5 million households. Demand for that assistance is high in part because housing costs are rising faster than incomes. HUD also promotes home ownership with the Federal Housing Administration underwriting about 1 in 6 mortgages issued in the U.S. The agency is charged with enforcing federal fair housing laws, too.

In a statement, Trump said he was "thrilled to nominate" Carson, citing his "brilliant mind" and his passion "about strengthening communities and families within those communities."

Carson, who grew up poor, quickly endorsed Trump after ending his own presidential bid despite Trump noting what he called Carson's "pathological temper." Carson has been coy about joining the new administration, saying shortly after Trump's election victory that he wasn't certain he'd fit into a Cabinet-style role in a job like Health and Human Services secretary.

Trump's selections also highlight a frequent divide between the two major political parties in their strategies in filling out a Cabinet: In early 2009, Republicans criticized incoming President Barack Obama for not making enough selections with private-sector experience.

On Monday, Trump received a fresh stream of visitors to the New York skyscraper that bears his name. His most surprising guest was Democratic former Vice President Al Gore. Transition officials said early Monday that Gore would meet with Trump's daughter, Ivanka, about climate change, which is Gore's signature issue.

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But Gore said he also met with Trump directly and the two had a "very productive conversation." "It was a sincere search for areas of common ground," said Gore, who did not detail what the men discussed. The president-elect has called man-made climate change a hoax and has pledged to undo a number of regulations designed to protect the environment.

Trump's running mate, Mike Pence, told reporters that staffing decisions were made Monday that would be announced in the coming days.

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

Officials: Potential for violence from fake news troubling

By **MATTHEW BARAKAT** and **JESSICA GRESKO**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The bizarre rumors began with a leaked email referencing Hillary Clinton and sinister interpretations of references to pizza parties. It morphed into fake online news stories about a child sex trafficking ring run by prominent Democrats operating out of a Washington, D.C., pizza joint.

On Sunday, it culminated in violence when police say a North Carolina man fired an assault rifle inside the Comet Ping Pong restaurant as he attempted to "self-investigate" the conspiracy theory known in the Twitterverse as "Pizzagate."

No one was hurt and the man was arrested. But the shooting alarmed those from neighboring businesses all the way to the White House about the real life dangers of fake news on the internet. One of those people posting on the conspiracy theory is the son of President-elect Donald Trump's proposed national security adviser.

On Monday, White House Spokesman Josh Earnest, asked about the shooting, said, "There's no denying the corrosive effect that some of these false reports have had on our political debate, and that's concerning in a political context. It's deeply troubling that some of those false reports could lead to violence."

Edgar Maddison Welch, 28 of Salisbury, North Carolina, was arrested Sunday afternoon outside the popular eatery in an affluent neighborhood of the nation's capital, police said. At his initial appearance Monday in D.C. Superior Court, Welch was ordered held pending a hearing scheduled for Thursday. The public defender he was assigned didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Court records made public Monday state Welch fired an AR-15 assault rifle multiple times inside the restaurant but later walked out with his hands up and unarmed, leaving his weapons inside. He told police "he had read online that the Comet restaurant was harboring child sex slaves and that he wanted to see for himself if they were there." He said he "was armed to help rescue them" and "surrendered peacefully when he found no evidence that underage children were being harbored in the restaurant."

Welch was charged on multiple counts, including assault with a dangerous weapon. Authorities recovered the AR-15 assault rifle and a handgun from the restaurant, court paperwork said. Police said an additional weapon was recovered from his vehicle.

The precise origins of the conspiracy theory Welch said he went to investigate are murky, though it seems to have started gaining momentum in the week before the election. Some elements trace back to hacked emails from Clinton Chief of Staff John Podesta that were released by Wikileaks that refer to pizza parties, with online commentators speculating that "pizza party" is a code word for something more nefarious. By Nov. 3, Comet Ping Pong — so named because patrons can play ping pong on tables in the back of restaurant — had been pulled into the conspiracy.

"Let me state unequivocally: These stories are completely and entirely false, and there is no basis in fact to any of them. What happened today demonstrates that promoting false and reckless conspiracy theories comes with consequences," Comet's owner, James Alefantis, said in a statement Sunday night.

At least one person who isn't ready to give up on the conspiracy theory is prominently connected to Trump's transition team. Michael Flynn Jr. is an adviser to his father, Michael Flynn, whom Trump selected to serve as national security adviser. Flynn Jr. has sent numerous posts on Twitter about the Pizzagate conspiracy theories. Flynn Jr., who has accompanied his father to presidential transition meetings inside Trump Tower and lists the presidential transition website as part of his Twitter bio, tweeted Sunday night

that, "Until #Pizzagate proven to be false, it'll remain a story."

Trump's team had no immediate response to questions about the conspiracy theory or the younger Flynn's role in the presidential transition.

On Monday, at an address listed for Welch in Salisbury, a woman drove out as a reporter was approaching and asked him to leave. She then hammered a "no trespassing" sign on a stand by the private driveway.

Comet Ping Pong was closed Monday, but neighbors brought flowers and cards to the storefront saying "We support Comet" and "we love you and stand by you."

Wiktorija Skrzypinska lives a few blocks from Comet. She said she had heard the rumors about Comet but was shocked to learn that somebody had become so enmeshed in the conspiracy theory to enter the restaurant with an assault rifle.

"I guess we all knew it was fake. It was so obvious I didn't even bother with it," she said.

Associated Press writers Jonathan Drew in Salisbury, North Carolina, and Martha Waggoner in Raleigh, North Carolina, contributed to this report.

After mistrial, slain SC motorist's family still confident

By **BRUCE SMITH and SEANNA ADCOX, Associated Press**

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Relatives of Walter Scott, the black motorist fatally shot while fleeing a traffic stop, say they are confident justice will prevail even though a South Carolina jury could not reach a verdict in the murder trial of a white former police officer charged in his death.

Circuit Judge Clifton Newman on Monday declared a mistrial in the case of Michael Slager after the jury of 11 whites and one black deadlocked. The panel, considering verdicts of murder or voluntary manslaughter, deliberated more than 22 hours over four days and heard testimony from 55 witnesses during the five-week trial.

"God is my strength, and I know without doubt he is a just God and injustice will not prevail," Scott's mother, Judy, told reporters later. "We have a federal trial and another trial to go. I'm going to rest in the Lord."

Immediately after the mistrial was declared, Solicitor Scarlett Wilson said she would retry the case. Slager goes on trial in federal court early next year on charges of depriving Scott of his civil rights.

Scott's brother, Anthony, said Slager, who is free on bond, will be able to spend Christmas with his family and his young child.

"Me and my family will never see Walter again. We have to live with the fact that Walter got gunned down, shot in the back," Anthony Scott said. He said he could eventually "find the peace" to forgive the ex-officer but not before justice is served.

The April 2015 shooting of the 50-year-old Scott was captured on widely distributed cellphone video that renewed a national debate about how blacks are treated by law officers. Taken by a barber on his way to work, the footage showed Scott being shot five times in the back as he ran from Slager.

After the video became public, Slager was fired and charged with murder. Scott's family called for calm at the time, which is thought to have helped prevent the kind of violence that erupted elsewhere when blacks were killed by police.

Wilson praised the Scott family and said "they have not received the credit they deserve in their calm leadership for the community."

Slager's mistrial is the second time in recent weeks a jury has deadlocked in an officer-involved shooting. A mistrial was declared Nov. 12 when a Cincinnati jury couldn't reach a verdict in the case of a former campus police officer who was also charged with shooting a black motorist.

Slager's wife, Jamie, cried after the jurors were dismissed. She said "thank you for everything" to the defense lawyers as they left the courtroom. She did not respond when asked to comment. Slager's attorney, Andy Savage, also did not comment.

"I don't think there is a soul or a person with a soul that thinks what Walter Scott did is OK or is not

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wrong," said Justin Bamberg, an attorney for the Scott family. "I don't think questions of fact were the issues for this jury. I think there were issues of their interpretation of the law."

The video dominated the trial. The jurors saw it numerous times, sometimes frame by frame.

Scott was pulled over in North Charleston for having a broken taillight on his 1990 Mercedes and then fled the car, running into a vacant lot. Family members have said he may have run because he was worried about going to jail because he was \$18,000 behind on child support.

The defense maintained that the men wrestled on the ground, Scott got control of Slager's stun gun and then pointed the weapon at the officer before the shooting.

Last year, North Charleston reached a \$6.5 million civil settlement with Scott's family. The city also asked the U.S. Justice Department conduct a review of its police department policies to see how it could improve its relationship with residents.

Dunham and Coates, mutual admirers, talk writing and Trump

By HILLEL ITALIE, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Girls" creator Lena Dunham and author-essayist Ta-Nehisi Coates, strangers until Monday night, found they had a lot in common.

Especially when the subject was the upcoming presidency of Donald Trump.

"If what has to happen is that I get metaphorically strung up by my toes because I think we were all born equal and beautiful, then that's just what's going to happen," Dunham said.

"As terrified and as horrible as I think the events of the election were, I live for this moment. I think this is a great time," said Coates, adding that Trump's victory had filled him with determination and a sense of purpose. "I make books and I make articles, and now I have a formidable opponent."

The event was organized by the Peterborough, New Hampshire-based MacDowell artist colony and was held before more than 150 MacDowell supporters at the New Museum in downtown Manhattan. Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and MacDowell board chairman Michael Chabon, who moderated the discussion, says the idea was to have a "sparky" conversation between artists of different fields and backgrounds, an approach similar to last year's MacDowell gathering that featured Martin Scorsese and Lin-Manuel Miranda of "Hamilton" fame.

Dunham, author of the best-selling essay collection "Not That Kind of Girl" and at work on a novel, is a self-described "rich white girl" from New York City. Coates grew up in a rough neighborhood in Baltimore and went on to become one of the country's leading voices on race through his commentary for The Atlantic Magazine and his best-selling "Between the World and Me."

But Dunham says that she has long admired Coates' work, and Coates has written warmly about "Girls," which has been criticized for its scarcity of black actors. In 2013, he reviewed the show in The Atlantic, calling it "really, really funny" and praising it for its candid and liberating depictions of sex.

"The show ain't perfect," he concluded. "I found the occasional elements of black culture more jarring and unfortunate ('Hey, we're white. Look how lame we are. And look how lame we are when we act black.') than any lack thereof. But in general I came away genuinely impressed with the artistry."

On Monday, the two shared thoughts about the writing process (she called her work habits "deplorable," a word made famous by her friend Hillary Clinton, and joked that she writes in bed amidst spilled food and a heating pad) and their mutual gratitude to the late author and New York Times journalist David Carr.

Both remembered him as a mentor who was volatile and demanding, but profoundly honest and supportive. Coates recalled applying years ago for an internship at an alternative newspaper in Washington, D.C. and his shock at being accepted by Carr, the then-editor, despite submitting a chapbook of "Hate Whitey" poetry. Dunham credited Carr with launching her career when in the Times he praised her short film "Tiny Furniture" at the 2010 South by Southwest festival.

Carr, who died in 2015 at age 58, was "brash and vaguely inappropriate," Dunham said of him. But he was also "pure love."

Discussing how they saw their roles during a Trump presidency, Coates and Dunham agreed that they

had no way of knowing if they could make a difference, but saw no alternative to trying. Coates noted that blacks have spent more time enslaved in North America than emancipated and vowed to continue the struggle his ancestors had waged for centuries.

Dunham added that she would fight even though "Most people go into conversations having already decided what they're going to say and what they're going to hear.

"Which is why it's so fun to talk to people," she added.

Music therapist, teacher, teens among warehouse fire victims

By The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — A therapist who used music to help kids cope with trauma. A woman who taught at a Montessori school. An energetic artist who could make friends with anyone.

These were some of the people killed when flames ripped through a converted Oakland warehouse during a dance party Friday night.

The death toll from the fire climbed to 36 on Monday. Alameda County Sheriff Gregory Ahern told The Associated Press he didn't believe more bodies would be found.

The victims also included teens and people from Europe and Asia, Sheriff's Sgt. Ray Kelly said. Here's a closer look at who they were:

PASSIONATE MUSIC THERAPIST

Travis Hough, 35, believed music healed people, including himself.

Hough was an experimental electronic artist behind Ghost of Lightning, a project in which he created music to explore and understand his own psyche, said Michelle Campbell, founder of Mixtape, an artist management company based in Oakland.

Hough worked by day as a therapist in schools in the Bay area, using music to help children cope with trauma, Campbell said.

"Really his passion was his work in helping find ways to use music as a means of healing," Campbell said.

Hough played bass and keyboard and was a performance artist who was inspired by Prince and other male performers "who wear ruffles, glitter and makeup," she said. His shows included orbs of rhythmically pulsating light.

He enjoyed a good meal with family and friends and hiking through northern California's Redwood forests.

"He was definitely a radiant light," Campbell said.

EXTRAORDINARY CO-WORKER

Nick Gomez-Hall, 25, made a warm impression on friends and colleagues in California and Rhode Island as a musician, mentor and community advocate who most recently worked for an independent publisher.

Berkeley, California-based publisher Counterpoint Press said Monday it was devastated by the loss of an "extraordinary co-worker and a true friend."

"Whether he was recommending new music to listen to (and it was always so good), regaling us with tales of the bowling alley, offering his beloved truck for a ride if anyone needed it or sharing his much-appreciated opinions about a jacket or manuscript, he made everyone feel like they were his friend," the company wrote in a social media post. "He was kind, considerate, hilarious."

Gomez-Hall was a 2013 graduate of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, where he concentrated in American Studies. The university on Monday said he "played an integral role" in the school's Swearer Center for Public Service. He volunteered to teach at an elementary school while an undergraduate and later helped run an after-school program.

He also became well-known in Providence's music scene for playing guitar and singing in the two-man band Nightmom.

Gomez-Hall recently moved to the San Francisco Bay Area. He was originally from Southern California and graduated from Coronado High School.

'TOTAL GOOFBALL'

Cash Askew, a 22-year-old musician from Oakland, was kind, gentle and a "total goofball," said her girlfriend, Anya Taylor.

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The couple met about a year ago at a concert in Oakland and connected through their love of music. Taylor told the Washington Post (<http://wapo.st/2gZc0Qu>) she rushed to the scene after hearing about the blaze, but "all we could do was stand there."

Leisa Baird Askew said her daughter grew up in a musical and artistic family.

Cash was one of two members of the band Them Are Us Too. She had been performing with bandmate Kennedy Ashlyn since 2013. The duo met while studying at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Ashlyn said Askew recently started becoming "her best self" after she came out as transgender about two years ago.

TEACHER, GARDENER

Sara Hoda, 30, of Walnut Creek, was a "sweet person" who gardened and taught at a Montessori school, friend Carol Crewdson told the Los Angeles Times (<http://lat.ms/2g3oOTH>)

Crewdson, 33, met Hoda in 2010 when they started a collective where artists and creatives could stay, avoiding the San Francisco Bay Area's high rent.

They lost touch after the collective shut down. But Crewdson said while it was operating, Hoda was very active in the collective process.

THE HEART OF OAKLAND

Friends called Ara Jo a vibrant artist and community organizer who could make friends with anyone, anywhere.

Jo, 29, grew up in Los Angeles and was living in Oakland. Authorities notified her family of her death Monday. Her parents flew in from South Korea.

"She's a typical artist. She's got more causes than she has energy, even though she has a lot of energy," said her boyfriend, Terry Ewing.

Ewing said one of her latest causes was to raise money and awareness for American Indians and others protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline Project in North Dakota.

Friends mourned Jo on social media, calling her the heart of Oakland.

UNIQUE SENSE OF STYLE

Donna Kellogg, 32, of Oakland, was described as energetic and intelligent by friends and co-workers.

Josh Howes, an ex-boyfriend, said Kellogg wanted to be a healer, the East Bay Times reported (<http://bit.ly/2h0AbAI>). He said she was studying nutrition.

Kellogg worked at Highwire Coffee Roasters, where founder Robert Myers said she had just cut her hair and was on the brink of changes. He said all her co-workers enjoyed connecting with her through their shared interests in coffee and her quirky sense of style.

"I loved that she had a belt with her name on it and would wear it to work," Myer said.

LIKE A BROTHER

Peter Wadsworth was thoughtful, caring and always willing to lend a hand, his friend Tammy Tasoff said.

Tasoff, 29, said Wadsworth looked out for her, doing little things that made her life easier. He would organize her messy files, give her advice and fix her computer if she needed help, said Tasoff, a dental student.

He bought video games because he knew she loved them, and he would often watch her play, she said.

"Usually he'd say, 'Let's play video games,' and then he'd say, 'No, I just want to watch you play,'" she said, sobbing. "He'd make me food. He took really good care of me. He was like my big brother."

OTHER VICTIMS

The city of Oakland also identified David Clines, 35, of Oakland, and Brandon Chase Wittenauer, 32, of Hayward, as victims.

Another victim has been identified, but officials said they were withholding the name because the person was 17 years old.

One of the people killed was the son of a local deputy, Kelly said Sunday. He did not release the name.

Many friends and family members were still awaiting word of their missing loved ones as crews searched for remains. Some gathered outside a sheriff's office for official confirmation on their status.

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LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP

Among the missing were Alex Ghassan and his fiancée, Hanna Henrikka Ruax.

Ghassan is a director and producer who worked with Spike Lee and Talib Kweli. He also is the father of twin toddlers.

Ruax is a yoga instructor, entrepreneur and activist visiting from Helsinki, Finland. She arrived in Oakland in late November.

The pair had been dating long-distance, and Ghassan was preparing to move to Europe, said his roommate Vikram Babu. "He was fed up with the U.S.," Babu said.

Ghassan previously resided in Orange, New Jersey. He has lived in Oakland on and off for about a year, Babu said.

Ghassan's mother, Emilie Grandchamps, told WABC-TV (<https://goo.gl/HFH3eN>), that Ghassan often went out of his way to help other artists.

Before the fire, Ghassan posted video of the warehouse party on Instagram. "Oakland reminds me of #JerseyCity so much at times," he wrote.

Ruax, meanwhile, is a social justice activist who organized a large protest in Finland after a neo-Nazi rally in that European country, Babu said. "She is very gentle," he said.

Ruax's Instagram account is filled with playful photos of her and Ghassan. Last week, she posted a selfie with Ghassan where both made funny faces into the camera.

"Sent this pic to my mumz after arriving home to my boo," she wrote. "Home sweet home!"

ATTORNEY WITH A DESIRE TO HELP

Nick Walrath, 31, of Oakland texted his girlfriend, Alexis Abrams-Bourke, from inside the burning structure, saying there was a fire and that he loved her.

Abrams-Bourke said Monday that Walrath was among the missing. She spoke between sobs as she described him as a wonderful person who was open and vulnerable and goofy and generous.

"I feel like my future has been ripped from me," she said.

The two moved together from New York City several years ago after Walrath got a job as a clerk for the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. He spent a year working as a judicial law clerk for the federal district court in San Francisco, and recently was hired as an attorney with the San Francisco law firm Durie Tangri.

But his ultimate goal was to work for the American Civil Liberties Union, according to Abrams-Bourke.

Helping people is what drove him.

"He could really step outside of himself and care and listen to other people and feel their struggles, and want to help," Abrams-Bourke said. "Not everyone is equipped to help in that way, and he knew he was, you know, and that was his gift."

District Judge Jon Tigar said in a statement that Walrath was an "exceptional" law clerk in his chambers.

"Nick brought his brilliant intellect, cogent writing skills, curiosity and relentless work ethic to everything he did," Tigar wrote.

'SO SUPPORTIVE TO US'

Barrett Clark, 35, was a popular sound engineer at the San Francisco club The Bottom of the Hill. And his friends say he appeared to be everywhere.

Parker T. Gibbs, chief operating officer at Magnolia Media Productions, said when he'd walk into a rave full of strangers, he'd always spot Clark. "I knew where I'd be for the rest of the night," Gibbs said. "Right next to him."

Authorities have listed Clark among the missing.

Friends say the Santa Rosa native was a sound engineer and DJ who was a "standup guy" and appeared always ready to help musicians and fellow DJs.

"Mourning Barrett Clark -- so supportive to us," composer and musician Holly Herndon tweeted Monday. "Played mesmerizing live techno. Best sound engineer. Always laughing & making things work for ppl."

Lynn Schwarz, co-owner of The Bottom of the Hill, said Clark was the engineer she hired to impress

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popular bands.

"You couldn't shock the guy," Schwarz said. "He had all kinds of friends."

PHOTOGRAPHER WHO LOVED MUSIC

Friends and family were holding out hope that photographer Amanda Allen, 34, would be found safe.

The Chelmsford, Massachusetts, native is a dancer with a passion for music, loved ones told The Lowell Sun (<http://bit.ly/2gISHNd>).

"We are all praying for a miracle and coming together as a family," said her mother, Linda Smith Regan.

Allen's husband, Andy Kershaw, a DJ, called her vibrant and magnetic.

Allen graduated from Bridgewater State University in 2004. She and Kershaw moved to San Francisco from Boston in 2008.

Chelmsford native Shannon Fisher said Allen took ballet as a child and later embraced "that underground musical life." Fisher described Allen as smart and funny, with a laugh that comes easily.

A photography website belonging to Allen says she shoots portraits and events.

A BEAUTIFUL SOUL

Kershaw said his friend and fellow DJ Johnny Igaz also was unaccounted for.

Igaz reportedly was playing a set when the fire broke out. He was listed on Facebook as a record buyer at Green Apple Books and Music in San Francisco.

His Facebook page was littered with tearful posts from friends who called him a beautiful soul and a true friend.

HER TRUE SELF

Riley Fritz, 29, a musician and artist from Connecticut, recently moved to San Francisco to be with friends, according to her brother, Ben Fritz.

"She was a kind and beautiful person who had the strength to be her true self even when she knew that was not an easy path," Ben Fritz, 39, told The Associated Press. He said she appeared to be the "happiest she had been in a few years."

Ben Fritz said the family was notified Sunday night that Riley, also known as Feral Pines, likely was killed in the fire.

Their father, Bruce Fritz, told the San Francisco Chronicle (<http://bit.ly/2haW54C>) he was flying to Oakland on Monday to identify the body. He said he would be joined by Ben Fritz, who lives in Los Angeles.

Riley Fritz graduated from Staples High School in Westport in 2005 and the School for the Visual Arts in Manhattan in 2010. She lived in several places before moving to the Bay Area, according to her family.

FINDING THEIR PLACE THROUGH MUSIC

Ben Runnels and Nicole Renae Siegrist, known as "Denalda," named their last album "Temporary Heaven" to describe the fleeting nature of life and the moments of happiness when you feel completely comfortable with who you are, no matter how different from others you may be, said Brendan Dreaper, who helps operate Mixtape, the Oakland-based company that managed their band.

That's also the message the two friends, who formed the group Introfliirt, would want the world to remember about their music, Dreaper said. They dubbed their sound "croonwave" and made it their mission to create a "soundtrack for the insecure," according to Mixtape.

Runnels, who played guitar and sang, was introverted but connected to people through his music, Dreaper said. Siegrist, who played the synthesizer, was an outgoing "free spirit" who used herself as a canvas, painting black streaks or bold marks on her face to contrast with outfits like a veil, halo of flowers and white dress.

Runnels was from the East Coast, and Siegrist the Midwest. They met in the Bay Area a few years ago and wanted to send a message to people who feel out of place.

"You may feel like an outsider, but that's your advantage in life," Dreaper said. "They were completely comfortable with being themselves. I think they did achieve that. I know people connected to them. The music did that for them, as well. It made them feel happy about themselves."

The two went to the warehouse show with friends, including musician Hough, who also worked with

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Mixtape. They went to see Runnels' roommate, Igaz, who is listed among the missing.

Siegrist's cousin, Rhonda Ford, said the musician grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska, and described her as caring and outgoing, someone who could talk to anybody and lived life to the fullest.

She said the family is awaiting formal notification of her death. Runnels' family could not be reached. He was listed by the city as missing.

Associated Press writers Julie Watson in San Diego, Janie Har in Oakland, Russell Contreras in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Matt O'Brien in Providence, Rhode Island, and Rachel D'Oro in Anchorage, Alaska, contributed to this report.

Cuba starts return to normal as mourning for Castro ends

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN, Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Music is playing in the streets again. Tourists are sipping mojitos at sidewalk cafes. Flags are flapping at full staff. After nine days of national mourning for Fidel Castro, Cuba is slowly returning to noisy, boisterous normality.

Cuba is a country where sidewalks serve as living rooms and social clubs, but during the mourning period people mostly stayed indoors, watching television and avoiding any appearance of joviality.

With a government ban on selling alcohol and on playing live or recorded music after Castro's death, Cubans paid tribute to their longtime leader in near silence. They filed by the hundreds of thousands through special sites equipped with photos of Castro as a young guerrilla and books where people could separately sign both their condolences and an oath of loyalty to Castro's socialist, single-party system.

"It was very quiet. In a bar, restaurant, you could hear the air conditioning," Janine Jenner, a German tourist, said Monday as she had a glass of sangria in Old Havana. "Today it's like someone turned the noise on everywhere. It's like the pulse of the city is back. People smile more."

Clamor is a constant in Cuba. Music of all types — salsa, reggaeton, pop — blares at top volume at all hours of the day. People rev motorcycle engines for hours under their neighbors' windows, or flatten hundreds of soda cans for recycling at 7 a.m. on a Saturday.

All that noise suddenly hushed the morning after Castro's Nov. 25 death was announced. Even the incidental noise of Cuban life — children laughing while playing in the streets, neighbors shouting to each other — seemed to fall away.

Life started creeping back on Monday.

Bars and cafe were selling alcohol again and Cubans could be seen discretely sipping beers on stoops or drinking from little boxes of cheap white rum. The crowds of foreigners wandering through Old Havana were more overt, chugging beers on the street and dancing with drinks in hand as bands played for the first time in more than a week in tourist cafes.

People were once again greeting each with a "good day" after more than a week of only somber "hellos."

President Raul Castro, who on Sunday personally interred his older brother's ashes in a tomb fashioned from a granite boulder, has declared that Cuba will soon pass a law barring other memorials to Fidel, in keeping with his wishes to avoid a cult of personality developing after his death.

There has been no indication of how Raul's rule might be affected by his brother's death. He has been breaking slowly but steadily from Fidel's legacy during his 10 years in power, implementing a series of free-market reforms and restarting diplomatic relations with the U.S. Fidel publicly inveighed against the United States and capitalism in his final months, but it wasn't clear if his objections had any concrete effect on Raul's decision-making.

In neighborhoods across Havana, street vendors hawked their goods again after more than a week of silence. A piercing tune on a pan flute alerted people that the knife-sharpener was passing by. A man selling bricks of sweet pastry for \$2 shouted, "Cappuccino cake, 50 pesos!"

Ordinary music was the slowest to return. On a two-hour walk across three Havana neighborhoods in the afternoon, an Associated Press reporter heard music only four times, all at low volume — twice from

idling cars and twice from open apartment windows.

Music student Maikel Ramirez Ortega normally plays his trumpet on the Malecon seafront for three to four hours every afternoon. After stopping during the mourning period, he returned Monday afternoon and blew a few tentative notes under a footbridge, out of the public eye. It didn't feel quite right, even though it was now allowed, he said.

"It still feels like we're in mourning," he said.

The mood was still somber across the island. In the eastern city of Santiago, where Castro's ashes were interred on Sunday, hotel bartender Mailen Fuentes said things didn't feel normal yet.

"It's going to take time to get used to the idea that Fidel is no longer here," she said. "We feel sad. It's too soon."

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

Associated Press writer Christine Armario in Santiago contributed to this report.

Sheriff: 'Don't believe' more bodies in warehouse fire

By PAUL ELIAS and JANIE HAR, Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Terry Ewing was among the anxious family and friends who received confirmation Monday of what he already knew in his heart: His girlfriend was among the three dozen killed in the Oakland warehouse fire.

Authorities confirmed the death of Ara Jo as the death toll rose to 36. Prosecutors also said Monday that murder charges could result from their investigation into the fire that broke out during an underground dance party at a building known as the "Ghost Ship."

Alameda County Sheriff Gregory Ahern told The Associated Press he didn't believe there would be additional bodies found in what is the most lethal building fire in the U.S. in more than a decade.

But he cautioned that it was "impossible to be absolutely positive" until the entire recovery effort is complete. Authorities had gone through about three-quarters of the building by Monday afternoon.

The laborious job of digging with shovels and buckets through the debris was suspended overnight because of a dangerously unstable wall. It resumed in the morning, though a rainstorm Tuesday could complicate the effort. The cluttered warehouse had been converted to artists' studios and illegal living spaces, and former denizens said it was a death trap of piled wood, furniture, snaking electrical cords and only two exits.

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley said Monday her office has sent a team to search for evidence of a crime in the warehouse, but has not yet determined whether a crime even occurred. She said potential charges could range from involuntary manslaughter to murder. She declined to say who her team has interviewed.

"It's too early to speculate on anything," O'Malley said. "We just started our investigation, and we owe it to the community and those who perished in this fire, and those who survived the fire to be methodical, to be thorough, and to take the amount of time it takes to be able to look at every piece of potential evidence."

Oakland city councilman Noel Gallo, who lives a block from the warehouse, said he confronted the property's manager — Derick Ion Almerna — several times about neighbors' concerns about trash in the street and in front of the warehouse. Gallo said Almerna essentially told authorities to "mind their own business" and appeared resistant to addressing complaints and complying with city codes.

Almerna and his partner, Micah Allison, ran the building's arts colony called the Satya Yuga collective.

Almerna told San Jose television station KNTV in an interview Monday that about 20 people lived there. He said he had gone to a hotel Friday night with his wife and children because he was exhausted.

"We're sorry to the families and all the friends that have lost loved ones," he said, with Allison by his side holding his hand. "I gladly would give my entire life of fortune, of wealth of experience again and

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again and again, and I say this to you and I say this to the camera and to whoever is watching me that I surrender everything."

He denied knowing about the Friday night party, but acquaintances said the couple threw frequent parties open to the public, for fees collected at the door.

Almena said police have been in and out of the building in the last few years to respond to break-ins and other concerns of people who lived there and that they never pointed out any safety concerns.

"They would come in and they would walk through our space and they'd always say, 'Wow, what an amazing space,'" Almena said.

Relatives, friends and former colleagues said Almena loved to surround himself with followers, but seemed to care little for their well-being.

Asked late Sunday by San Francisco television station KGO about his thoughts on those killed in the fire, Almena said, "They're my children. They're my friends, they're my family, they're my loves, they're my future. What else do I have to say?"

Almena did not respond to emails or calls to phone numbers associated with him by The Associated Press. No one answered a call to a number for Allison.

The warehouse is owned by Chor N. Ng, her daughter Eva Ng told the Los Angeles Times. She said the warehouse was leased as studio space for an art collective and was not being used as a dwelling.

"We are also trying to figure out what's going on like everybody else," the family wrote in a statement to NBC Bay Area. "Our condolences go out to the families and friends of those injured and those who lost their lives."

Eva Ng did not immediately return phone calls from The Associated Press.

Gallo said Chor N. Ng put Almena in charge of cleaning up the Ghost Ship, and nothing was done.

"I hold the owner of the property responsible," Gallo said. "I hold the manager responsible."

But questions persisted about whether city officials could have done more to prevent the fire. Oakland planning officials opened an investigation last month after repeated complaints about the warehouse. An inspector who went to the premises couldn't get inside, said Darin Ranelletti, of the Oakland Planning Department.

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf said city officials are putting together a record of what they knew about the property.

Gallo said the neighborhood was once an industrial zone and that many warehouses and vacant commercial buildings unfit for habitation remain. He said he's concerned that many of them are being used as illegal dwellings given the dearth of affordable housing in the area. He said he will push for the city to hire more fire marshals and building inspectors to investigate.

Authorities have identified 22 victims and notified their families, city officials said. An additional 11 victims have been tentatively identified, and three victims need "scientific identification," they said.

Most of the victims' names, including the name of a 17-year-old, were not released.

Investigators said they believe they have located the section of the building where the fire started, but the cause remains unknown.

Har reported from San Francisco. Associated Press writers Ellen Knickmeyer, Olga R. Rodriguez, Tim Reiterman and Sudhin Thanawala in San Francisco, and Jonathan J. Cooper and Terry Chea in Oakland contributed to this report.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 6, the 341st day of 2016. There are 25 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Dec. 6, 1889, Jefferson Davis, the first and only president of the Confederate States of America, died in New Orleans. The Mark Twain novel "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" was first published in England under the title "A Yankee at the Court of King Arthur" (it was published in the U.S. under its more familiar name four days later).

On this date:

In 1790, Congress moved to Philadelphia from New York.

In 1865, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, abolishing slavery, was ratified as Georgia became the 27th state to endorse it.

In 1907, the worst mining disaster in U.S. history occurred as 362 men and boys died in a coal mine explosion in Monongah (muh-NAHN'-guh), West Virginia.

In 1916, the musical "Her Soldier Boy," featuring the song "Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit-Bag," opened on Broadway.

In 1917, some 2,000 people died when an explosives-laden French cargo ship collided with a Norwegian vessel at the harbor in Halifax, Nova Scotia, setting off a blast that devastated the city.

In 1922, the Anglo-Irish Treaty, which established the Irish Free State, came into force one year to the day after it was signed in London.

In 1939, the Cole Porter musical comedy "Du Barry Was a Lady" opened on Broadway.

In 1947, Everglades National Park in Florida was dedicated by President Harry S. Truman.

In 1957, America's first attempt at putting a satellite into orbit failed as Vanguard TV3 rose about four feet off a Cape Canaveral launch pad before crashing down and exploding.

In 1969, a free concert by The Rolling Stones at the Altamont Speedway in Alameda County, California, was marred by the deaths of four people, including one who was stabbed by a Hell's Angel.

In 1973, House minority leader Gerald R. Ford was sworn in as vice president, succeeding Spiro T. Agnew.

In 1989, 14 women were shot to death at the University of Montreal's school of engineering by a man who then took his own life.

Ten years ago: The bipartisan Iraq Study Group concluded that President George W. Bush's war policies had failed in almost every regard, and said the situation in Iraq was "grave and deteriorating." The Senate voted, 95-2, to confirm Robert Gates as defense secretary.

Five years ago: Declaring the American middle class in jeopardy, President Barack Obama, speaking in Osawatimie, Kansas, outlined a populist economic vision that would drive his re-election bid, insisting the United States had to reclaim its standing as a country in which everyone could prosper if provided "a fair shot and a fair share." A suicide bomber slaughtered 56 Shiite worshippers and wounded more than 160 others outside a shrine in Afghanistan's capital. Balladeer Dobie Gray, 69, who recorded the hit "Drift Away" in 1973, died in Nashville, Tennessee.

One year ago: In an Oval Office address, President Barack Obama vowed the U.S. would overcome a new phase of the terror threat that sought to "poison the minds" of people here and around the world, as he tried to reassure Americans shaken by recent attacks in Paris and California. Former President Jimmy Carter said his most recent brain scan showed no sign of cancer, four months after he was diagnosed with melanoma. A U.S. shipment of much-needed supplies rocketed toward the International Space Station. Venezuela's opposition won an upset in legislative elections against the ruling socialists. The Kennedy Center Honors recognized "Star Wars" creator George Lucas, singer-songwriter Carole King, actress-singer Rita Moreno, conductor Seiji Ozawa (SAY'-zhee oh-ZAH'-wah) and actress Cicely Tyson.

Today's Birthdays: Comedy performer David Ossman is 80. Actor Patrick Bauchau is 78. Country singer Helen Cornelius is 75. Actor James Naughton is 71. Former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood is 71. Rhythm-and-blues singer Frankie Beverly (Maze) is 70. Former Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., is 68. Actress

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JoBeth Williams is 68. Actor Tom Hulce is 63. Actor Wil Shriner is 63. Actor Kin Shriner is 63. Actor Miles Chapin is 62. Rock musician Rick Buckler (The Jam) is 61. Comedian Steven Wright is 61. Country singer Bill Lloyd is 61. Singer Tish Hinojosa is 61. Rock musician Peter Buck (R.E.M.) is 60. Rock musician David Lovering (Pixies) is 55. Actress Janine Turner is 54. Rock musician Ben Watt (Everything But The Girl) is 54. Writer-director Judd Apatow is 49. Rock musician Ulf "Buddha" Ekberg (Ace of Base) is 46. Writer-director Craig Brewer is 45. Actress Colleen Haskell is 40. Actress Lindsay Price is 40. Actress Ashley Madekwe is 35. Actress Nora Kirkpatrick is 32. Christian rock musician Jacob Chesnut (Rush of Fools) is 27.

Thought for Today: "Do not wait to strike till the iron is hot; but make it hot by striking." — William Butler Yeats, Irish Nobel Prize-winning poet (1865-1939).