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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

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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Groton Sales Tax Collections up 2% from last year

The Groton City sales tax collections for Jan-Nov 2016 are \$454,425.13 for the 2% general sales tax. This is \$7,356.13 (2%) above the 2015 collections to this point.

Groton Coffee Cup

Dec. 5 Team Standings: Ten Pins 27, James Valley 25 1/2, Jungle Lanes 25, Kens 18 1/2

High Games: Joyce Walter 192, Nancy Radke 176, Penny Stolle 167.

High Series: Joyce Walter 486, Penny Stolle 462, Vicki Walter 454.

Conde National

Dec. 5 Team Standings: Cubs 29 winners of first half, Pirates 26, Mets 26, Braves 25, Giants 25, Colts 25

Men's High Games: Lance Frohling 197, Butch Farmen 195, Topper Tastad 193

Men's High Series: Butch Farmen 535, Lance Frohling 533, Topper Tastad 510

Women's High Games: Renee Hanlon 222, Michelle Johnson 215, ickie Kramp 185

Women's High Series: Michelle Johnson 517, Renee Hanlon 478, Vickie Kramp 476

70th Wedding Anniversary

Bahr Family News

On November 24 Roxanne and Mike Fey, Ferney, had Thanksgiving dinner. Those in attendance were Marvin Bahr, Brookings, Alvin and Donna Bahr, Turton, and Nicole and Stevie Fey, Ferney, They also celebrated Marvin's birthday.



Open House 70th Wedding Anniversary for Robert and Ruth Pray Sr. on December 11, 2016 from 2-4 pm at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Groton. Hosted by their children Jeanette, Jill and Bobby. Anniversary wishes may be sent to them at 1502 N Broadway Groton, SD Lot 9



House for Sale

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



Congrats to our students in North Area Honor Band.



Left to right: Desiree Yeigh, Kylie Kassube-Clarinet, Emily Thompson-1st chair Percussion, KaSandra Pappas-Clarinet, Dylan Freeman-Tuba, Austin Fordham.

(Courtesy photo)

North Area Honor Band performed Saturday

ABERDEEN — Musicians from 26 northeast South Dakota high schools participated in the North Area Honor Band on Saturday at Northern State University's Johnson Fine Arts Center.

Dr. Jason Caslor, associate director of bands and orchestras at Arizona State University, was the guest conductor of this year's 100-member band.

Students who were nominated by their band director and auditioned for the 2016 South Dakota All-State Band are seated first in the ensemble. Additional students of high caliber complete the sections.

The band was created in 1991 when area band directors wanted to provide a regional opportunity for their experienced instrumental musicians.

Area schools and their directors who are participating include Kelly Weiser of Langford, Vicki Bjerke of Castlewood, Lola Bartels of Clark, Ariana Butterfield of Doland, Eric Martens of Great Plains Lutheran, Deanna Martens of Henry, Susan Karels of Milbank, Buffy Kemnitz of Rosholt and Patty Baule and Jill Spindler of Webster Area and Desiree Yeigh and Austin Fordham of Groton Area.

The Life of Hazel McKittrick



Funeral services for Hazel McKittrick, 89, of Groton will be 11 a.m., Saturday, December 10, 2016 at the United Methodist Church, Groton. The Rev. Thomas Carlson will officiate. Burial will follow in Groton Union Cemetery.

Visitation will be held at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel on Friday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

Hazel fell asleep December 5, 2016 at the Golden Living Center, Groton, surrounded by her family.

Hazel Catherine was born on May 30, 1927 in Day County to Mandius and Clara (Hoines) Holland. She was baptized and confirmed at Falness Lutheran Church, rural Langford. She attended Marshall Co. Country School. After school, Hazel moved to Torrance, California and worked for Docks Aircraft until the war was over. She returned to South Dakota in 1945 and was united in marriage with Robert Rix on March 26, 1946. She later married James McKittrick on July 19, 1975 in Groton. Hazel worked as a home health aide for 15 years.

Hazel was a member of the United Methodist Church in Groton. In earlier years, she was also active in the American Legion Auxiliary, Garden Club and Senior Citizens. Hazel enjoyed spending time with family, embroidery and summers at the cabin on Roy Lake.

Celebrating her life is her daughter, Diane (David) Feller of Sioux Falls, son-in-law, Douglas Bahr of Groton, three step-daughters; Roxanne, Melanie & Dawn, 6 grandchildren: Kristine (Eric) Smith, Kevin (Jane) Feller, Troy (Jennifer) Bahr, Brian Bahr (Elizabeth Dinger), Damian (Erin) Bahr, Dion (Samantha) Bahr, and 14 great-grandchildren

Preceding her in death were her parents, two husbands, her daughter, Pamela, five brothers; Clarence, Elmer, Alvin, Marvin and Leslie and her sister, Alice Jondahl.

Casketbearers will be her grandchildren: Kristine Smith, Troy Bahr, Brian Bahr, Kevin Feller, Damian Bahr and Dion Bahr.

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SPURS Thank You

Thank you to Groton and the surrounding communities for your generous support of the 18th annual fundraising Barn dance at SPURS. Every year we are sincerely humbled by all the support received from so many wonderful people, we are proud to be part of such caring communities. Thank you to all those that volunteered their time, donated items, bars, pies, smoked meats or monetarily. Each and everyone of you has touched the heart of the SPURS organization. God bless you all.

Barn dance chairperson
Lori Westby

Hey Kids! Come see Santa!



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

Downtown Groton
Cookies & Juice for the kids
Photographer Available

GROTON

Chamber Of Commerce

Made it possible for Santa to come to Groton!

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Today in Weather History

December 7, 1963: Winds of 50 to 60 mph resulted in blowing snow all day on the 7th, which reduced visibilities to near zero and produced snow drifts several feet deep in many areas. Snowfall in eastern South Dakota was generally from 3 to 7 inches with 1 to 2 inches in the western part of the state. Storm total snowfall included 8 inches at Sisseton, 5 inches at Watertown and Wheaton, 4 inches at Aberdeen, and 2 inches at Mobridge.

December 7, 1971: Heavy snow of 7 to 12 inches was reported in north-central South Dakota on the 7th. Timber Lake and Eagle Butte each reported 12 inches of snow. Strong winds accompanied the snow and caused extensive drifting. Drifts up to 15 feet were reported in sheltered areas near Lemmon. Seven inches fell at Mobridge, and 11 inches fell at Selby. McIntosh received 4 inches.

December 7, 1740: By all accounts, the Merrimack River in New Hampshire flooded on this day. The flood is likely the first recorded in New Hampshire. "The snow melted, and a freshet occurred in the Merrimack River, nothing like it having been experienced there for seventy years. At Haverhill, the stream rose fifteen feet, and many houses were floated off." (Perley, Sidney, 1891, *Historic storms of New England* p. 49-51).

1935 - Severe flooding hit parts of the Houston, TX, area. Eight persons were killed as one hundred city blocks were inundated. Satsuma reported 16.49 inches of rain. The Buffalo and White Oak Bayous crested on the 9th. (6th-8th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Heavy rain fell across eastern Puerto Rico, with 19.41 inches reported at Las Piedras. Flooding caused five million dollars damage. Another in a series of storms hit the northwestern U.S., with wind gusts above 100 mph reported at Cape Blanco OR. While snow and gusty winds accompanied a cold front crossing the Rockies, strong westerly winds, gusting to 93 mph at Boulder CO, helped temperatures in western Kansas reach the 60s for the sixth day in a row. Freezing drizzle in northeastern slowed traffic to 5 mph on some roads in Morrow County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - An outbreak of cold arctic air brought up to 18 inches of snow to the Colorado Rockies, with 14 inches at Boulder CO, and seven inches at Denver. Heavy snow blanketed New Mexico the following day, with 15 inches reported near Ruidoso. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

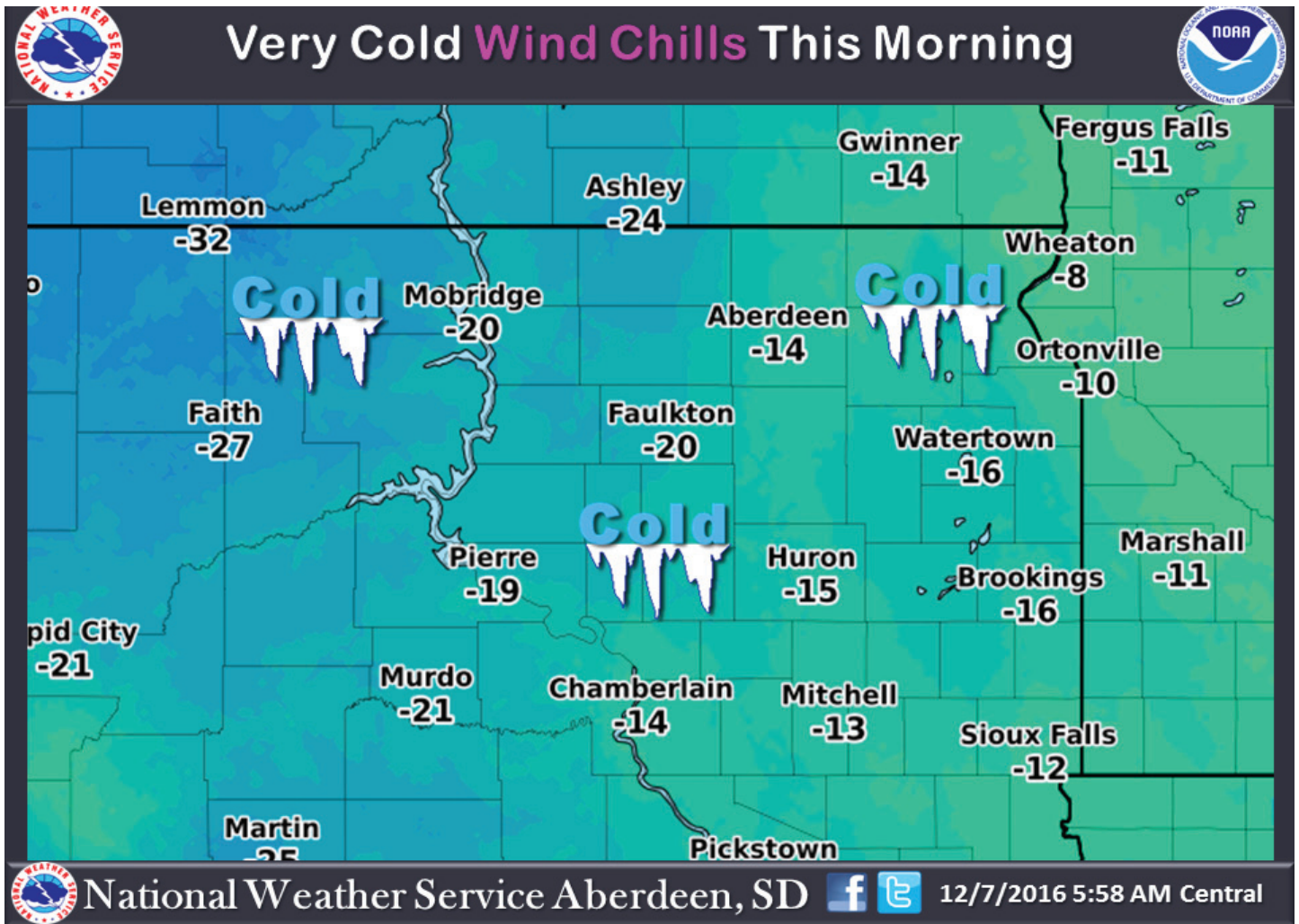
1989 - A storm moving out of the Central Rocky Mountain Region spread snow across Kansas and Oklahoma into Arkansas and Tennessee. Snowfall totals ranged up to 7.5 inches at Winfield KS. Freezing rain on trees and power lines cut off electricity to 24,000 homes in northeastern Arkansas, and 40,000 homes in the Nashville TN area were without electricity for several hours. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

December 7, 2006: A rare tornado tore through Kensal Rise in London. This T4 on the TORRO scale, equivalent to an F2 on the Fujita scale, injured six people and damaged 150 homes. According to the BBC, the last tornado which caused significant damage in London was in December 1954, in West London.

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Blustery. Scattered Flurries then Slight Chance Snow	Slight Chance Snow and Blustery	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Snow Likely
High: 15 °F	Low: 10 °F	High: 12 °F	Low: -5 °F	High: 13 °F	Low: 7 °F	High: 18 °F



Published on: 12/07/2016 at 6:01AM

Strong and gusty west to northwest winds will continue today, but are not expected to be quite as high as they were on Tuesday. These winds will bring bitterly cold wind chills to the region this morning, with readings in the teens below to even 20s below zero at times. The map shows the approximate coldest wind chill readings this morning, with the lowest values expected over central South Dakota.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 16.4 F at 12:00 AM

Low Outside Temp: 10.0 F at 11:35 PM

High Gust: 39.0 Mph at 12:20 PM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 60° in 1918

Record Low: -27° in 2013

Average High: 28°F

Average Low: 9°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.13

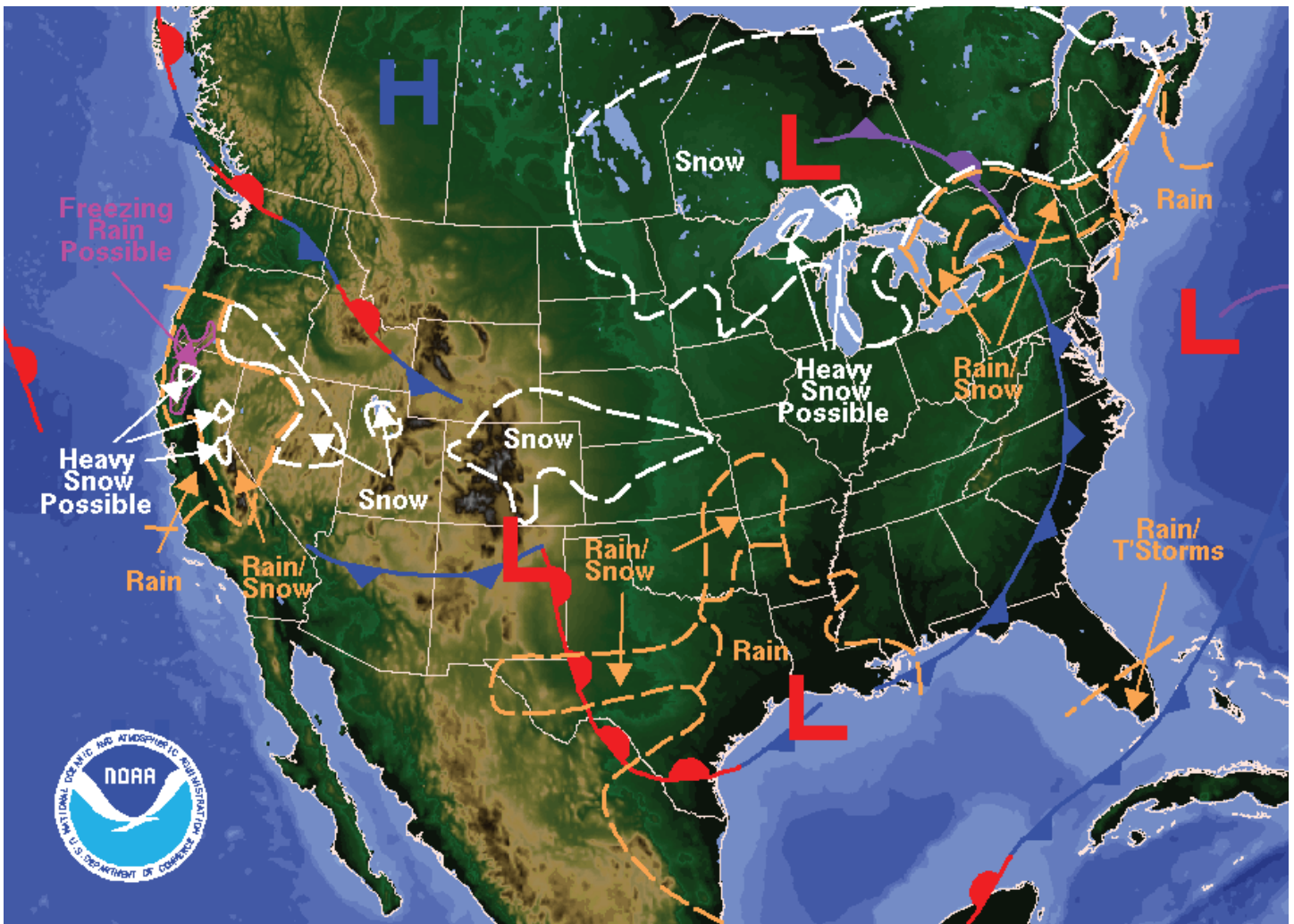
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.33

Precip Year to Date: 17.34

Sunset Tonight: 4:50 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:01 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Dec 07, 2016, issued 4:43 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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NOT GOOD ENOUGH!

His old bicycle was worn out. He begged his dad for a new one.

Finally it was his birthday. When he came home from school that afternoon, he discovered a beautiful new bicycle in the garage. With great excitement he rode down the street to show it to his best friend.

Soon he returned home and waited for his father. When his dad arrived, he began to cry, "George got a new bike, too. It has a light on the handlebar. It's better than mine."

Jealousy! It begins at birth, rages in most hearts, and for some, lasts a lifetime.

In the Bible "jealousy" is sometimes described as the opposite of love and thankfulness and the enemy of gratitude.

It is the "attitude of gratitude" that exposes our faith in God. Often we only feel secure in what we have, not Whom we have, Jesus Christ. When times are good, bank accounts growing, the economy flourishing, and jobs secure, we rarely notice what others have.

As Christians we need to look at our lives through God's eyes. Looking at our lives through His eyes may enable us to find joy in the smallest event, happiness in the smile of a child, satisfaction in a job well done.

Embracing our lives just as they are and being thankful for what we have will enable us to give up the struggle to acquire what we want but do not need. Where we are and what we have is exactly the way things are to be. Rejoice and be thankful!

Prayer: Help me, Lord to accept all that I have as gifts of Your goodness, especially my salvation. Remove jealousy from my heart and envy from my mind. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture: Philippians 4:11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

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News from the Associated Press

Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Alcester-Hudson 43, Dell Rapids St. Mary 38, OT
Andes Central/Dakota Christian 70, Gregory 54
Castlewood 66, Lake Preston 43
Corsica/Stickney 61, Colome 28
Dakota Valley 62, Tea Area 45
DeSmet 70, Sioux Valley 56
Deuel 61, Elkton-Lake Benton 55
Estelline 59, Flandreau Indian 45
Ethan 50, Hanson 28
Flandreau 58, Chester 24
Freeman 63, Parkston 49
Gayville-Volin 47, Menno 34
Howard 55, Arlington 18
Ipswich 48, Groton Area 45
Kimball/White Lake 45, James Valley Christian 28
Lemmon 50, Harding County 44
Lennox 45, Tri-Valley 37
Lyman 45, Burke/South Central 42
McCook Central/Montrose 63, Dell Rapids 45
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 39, Chamberlain 31
New Underwood 44, Jones County 9
Scotland 63, Viborg-Hurley 58
St. Thomas More 57, Hot Springs 5
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 58, Bon Homme 18
Vermillion 68, Garretson 23
Wall 47, Philip 37
Wolsey-Wessington 50, Mitchell Christian 33
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS
Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D. vs. Eureka/Bowdle, ppd.
Tri-State, N.D. vs. Waubay/Summit, ppd.
Waverly-South Shore vs. Wilmot, ppd. to Jan 20.

Report shows ranchers and farmers paid less and hired fewer

By Stephen Lee, Capital Journal

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Farmers and ranchers in the Northern Plains hired fewer workers this year than in 2015, and paid them less this October during the key harvest period than they did a year earlier.

That's the news from a farm labor report issued on Thursday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture agriculture statistics office in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The report said farmers and ranchers in South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas hired 34,000 workers this summer, down 8 percent from the same week in 2015.

They kept the same number of workers the week of Oct. 9-15, this year; but that was 15 percent below the 40,000 they hired the same week in 2015.

Comparing July 2016 to July 2015, farmer labor earned more this year and livestock workers earned less, and worked fewer hours.

But the October wages fell this year from last year's figures, the Capital Journal (<http://argusne.ws/2fieN4E>) reported.

It follows lower cattle and crop prices this year over 2015, for the most part.

USDA officials have said they expect net farm income to fall again this year for the second year in a row.

Cattle producers in the state said prices for the feeder calves coming off pastures this fall are about 50 percent of the record levels seen two years ago at sale barns.

USDA reported that farm operators in the Northern Plains Region paid their hired workers an average wage of \$14.49 per hour during the July 2016 reference week, up 4 percent from the July 2015 reference week.

Field workers received an average of \$15.17 per hour, up \$1.51. Livestock workers earned \$12.83 per hour, down 48 cents.

The field and livestock worker combined wage rate at \$14.10, was up 60 cents from the 2015 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 44.0 hours during the July 2016 reference week, compared with 39.6 hours worked during the July 2015 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$14.56 per hour during the October 2016 reference week, down 1 percent from the October 2015 reference week.

Field workers received an average of \$15.33 per hour, up 74 cents. Livestock workers earned \$12.50 per hour, compared with \$13.86 a year earlier.

The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at 14.15, was down 15 cents from the October 2015 reference week.

Hired laborers worked an average of 44.8 hours during the October 2016 reference week, compared with 41.0 hours worked during the October 2015 reference week.

Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

Good Samaritan wraps up two-year renovation project

By Jodi Schwan, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — It's a half-mile hike from one end of the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society campus to the other.

Most days, senior director of communications Mark Dickerson tracks that he has walked at least 10,000 steps.

It was only recently, though, that the entire trip could be made through a newly connected trio of buildings on the southwest Sioux Falls campus.

Good Samaritan is wrapping up a two-year, approximately \$30 million project to expand and renovate more than 200,000 square feet of space, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2fieN4E>) reported.

"We really were in construction pretty much everywhere on campus," said Greg Amble, director of construction and design. "Everyone relocated at least once."

The 607 people who work on the national campus now mostly have moved into their new office space. The project was designed to connect all the buildings but also modernize them, adding more energy efficiency and amenities including a larger cafeteria and fitness center.

There's more technology, too. Conference rooms include digital scheduling on small monitors outside the door that synch with employees' Microsoft Outlook calendars. Inside meeting rooms, laptops easily plug in and work with large monitoring for video conferencing.

Good Samaritan has 164 teleworkers and 21,000 employees nationwide. Its national campus used to serve as a training center with accommodations for overnight visitors. A shift to more video conferencing created the need for additional meeting rooms equipped to handle the demand.

It all ties to the organization's mission "to change the experience of aging in America," president and CEO David Horazdovsky said, adding that part of the vision is to create a place where thought leaders can gather and collaborate.

"We wanted to create a place in the Midwest where that type of meeting can occur and we can provide

leadership to those important developments as our population ages.”

The campus also houses growing areas for Good Samaritan including its foundation and a connections center that takes thousands of calls from people of all ages nationwide.

Horazdovsky describes them as people journeying through aging and in need of guidance on everything from how to handle the heat being turned off to issues of isolation.

While they aren't residents at Good Samaritan properties or sometimes even in geographic areas served by Good Samaritan, he says assisting is part of the organization's mission.

“We stay connected with the pulse of the country that way.”

While Good Samaritan traditionally has been associated with providing housing and care for seniors, the organization has been innovating around attempting to keep people in their homes. With that also has come a focus on isolation, which Horazdovsky said one in three members of the elderly experience.

“We can do better as a country to try and connect with them,” he said. “When we have people falling through the gaps of health care, we can do better and better collaborate to make sure a person has a full experience without falling through the gaps. When we think of ways technology can touch peoples' lives in different ways, we think we can do better.”

In designing the new space, Good Samaritan put thought into how the current and next generation in the workplace wants to work, he added.

“We have found that workforce today likes to be collaborative. They want to be face to face with one another. That's how they have gone through as education has changed,” Horazdovsky said.

The office buildings are designed with many collaborative areas, a lot of natural light and features designed to draw people into conversations.

“It's through relationships people feel a sense of community and through that relationship and meaningful work that engagement occurs,” he said. “When that happens, great things can happen to those we serve. Don't look at this as just a beautiful building. We've very proud of it, but we're mostly proud of the work being accomplished in it and what it represents.”

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

Hunters use cooler temperatures to their advantage

By Shannon Marvel, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — There are plenty of reasons hunters choose to hit the fields during the latter half of pheasant season.

It's a time when the weather conditions, habitat and pheasant behavior collaborate to make an entirely different experience than hunters see early in the season.

That's why Jon Ellerbusch, of Royalton, Minnesota, chose the day after Thanksgiving as the time to go on his annual pheasant excursion.

“Both seasons definitely have their parts that are fun. It's not just the dogs, but the hunter, too. Temperature-wise, I think it's a real benefit to hunt later in the season,” Ellerbusch said.

The cooler temperatures allow hunting dogs to work the fields without the threat of overheating, the Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/2hb1mJa>) reported.

Winter conditions and a lack of cover after harvest season affect pheasant behavior, thus the hunt as a whole.

Ellerbusch was part of a small group of hunters hosted by Casey Weismantel Friday on his land a couple miles west of Aberdeen.

During the earlier months of pheasant season, Weismantel said, it takes more hunters to comb the unharvested rows of corn or other crop coverage.

“The pheasants are spread out more when the crops are still up,” he said.

Once combines have made their rounds, the birds tend to gather in groups close to the nearest cover and food source.

“Having grown up in Aberdeen ... I think both (seasons are) enjoyable for different reasons,” Ellerbusch

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said. "More of the crops are down, so there are better chances of getting into the birds. When you do find the birds, they're grouped up so much more so you have a lot of birds that you're shooting at."

And that's exactly what happened Friday morning.

It didn't take long for Ellerbusch, his 12-year-old son Zach, Weismantel, Tom Ollman and his 11-year-old son Cal, to spook up a large group of birds hiding near some tall grass. The group steadily drove the pheasants farther down the field before taking any shots, hoping the strategy paid off with a better opportunity down the way.

Jon Ellerbusch said he prefers to fire when birds are a little farther away. During the earlier part of the season, he said, he's prone to missing closer shots.

This is the first season that his son can hunt.

"We did the early season hunt, and now he's going to have the experience to hunt later season and hopefully with the snow on the ground," Ellerbusch said.

He and his son made a holiday trip out of this weekend's hunt, making a point to see relatives in Aberdeen. It's a newfound tradition they intend to continue in the years to come.

"It just feels really like a festival. It fits in with the holiday season. It's a little bit different strategies and things like that. Right away in October, you're walking in cornfields, but later in the season you're getting into the cattails, so that's part of it," Ellerbusch said.

Getting outdoors when the temperatures dip and winter sets in is more difficult than during the milder, early fall conditions, he said.

But, "The late season is great because it gives you more things to do outdoors instead of being cooped up indoors at the house during the winter months," Ellerbusch said.

After taking a few shots at the birds Friday, the crack of the gunshots spooked up a flock of migrating geese a couple miles away.

"That's also a cool reason to hunt in the late season. You get to see the geese migrating. There's more nature to experience," Ellerbusch said.

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

Students band together to compete in NASA contest

By Mike Anderson, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — With their imaginations fixed on the stars, students at South Dakota School of Mines & Technology are building a robot that may someday rove across the sands of Mars for NASA.

The "Moonrockers" rover is the product of two years of labor by an interdisciplinary team of more than 20 engineering students, all cooperating in hopes of winning NASA's eighth annual Robotic Mining Competition. Last year, the School of Mines team placed second among about 50 entries for its creation of a bot capable of piloting itself. Now, team members Dakotah Rusley, 21, and Chas Hartman, 24, are setting their sights on improving their past success.

"That's what we're looking forward to this year, is spring-boarding off that," said Rusley, a computer engineering student at Mines. "If we did it last year, how can we make it better?"

Space travelers of the future will need a cheap and abundant source of water, oxygen and fuel to power their ships through the solar system, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2h7CuOJ>) reported. Based on findings by the Curiosity rover, scientists have come to believe that "icy regolith" found in the ancient clay of Mars is a plentiful source for all three.

"The water can be used for human consumption, hygiene, (to) make rocket propellant for the journey home, grow plants, provide radiation shielding and for use in various manufacturing processes," reads a description of the competition on NASA's website.

To get at and efficiently stockpile that icy regolith will require a fleet of sturdy, reliable, and autonomous robots sent to the red planet in advance of any manned spacecraft.

That's where young, innovative engineers like Rusley and Hartman come into the picture.

The \$7,000 prototype they've designed is equipped with a conveyor of metal scoops that feed into a

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hopper capable of hauling roughly 65 to 176 pounds of mined material at a time. Weighing in at about 130 pounds, the aluminum "Moonrockers" rover has an articulated frame that ensures that at least three of its four wheels will be in contact with the rough Martian terrain at all times.

Besides the motors and computer hardware, every piece of the rover has been designed and handcrafted or 3-D printed by the Mines students. The modular computer and electrical interface has been deliberately designed for maximum ease of use on the competition floor. If a system malfunctions, repairs could be conducted by simply unplugging the affected area and removing it to be tinkered with outside the robot's chassis.

"It's so even someone like me can use it," said Hartman, a mechanical engineering student at Mines.

Autonomy of motion is key, however, in circumventing the challenges of communicating with the rover over vast gulfs of space.

"If this thing is on Mars and it gets stuck in a hole or on a rock, the signal delay is such that by the time you send a signal to avoid the rock, the rover is already stuck," Rusley said.

Both Rusley and Hartman have enjoyed the challenge of solving that problem and many of the others that come with designing a rover for NASA. Before this project, neither of them had had much experience working in robotics.

"Now it's all I want to do," Hartman said.

This year's NASA competition will run May 22-26.

The Latest: Dangerous wind chills to follow ND blizzard

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Latest on the blizzard pushing across North Dakota (all times local):

6:30 p.m.

A blizzard is pushing eastward across North Dakota after dumping up to 7 inches of snow in Bismarck.

The National Weather Service says winds Tuesday evening were still gusting up to 45 mph near Jamestown, with visibility cut to a half-mile.

A wind chill advisory is out for western North Dakota until noon Central time Wednesday. Wind-chill readings could drop to 25 degrees below zero through Wednesday morning.

Parts of major highways, including Interstates 94 and 29, were closed in North Dakota because of the blowing and drifting snow.

2:10 p.m.

Transportation and highway safety officials continue to close major roads in North Dakota as December blizzard bears down on the state.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation and the Highway Patrol say Highway 2 from Lakota to the Grand Forks Airport is closing at 3 p.m. Tuesday due to strong winds, areas of zero visibility with blowing and drifting snow. That's about a 60-mile stretch. Portions of Interstate 94 and 29 closed earlier.

Officials say motorists who drive past a road closure barrier could be fined up to \$250.

The Minot International Airport canceled all flights because of low visibility.

12:30 p.m.

Schools, businesses, government offices and major interstates were closed Tuesday as a December blizzard bore down on North Dakota.

Law enforcement officials encouraged residents in many regions against venturing out in the dangerous storm that packed heavy snow and wind.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation and Highway Patrol extended the 230-mile closure of Interstate 94 further east to Fargo on Tuesday. Both lanes of I-94 were closed from Dickinson to Fargo. Northbound and southbound Interstate 29 was also closed between Fargo and the Canadian border due to zero visibility and blowing and drifting snow.

Residents were asked not to travel in Minot, Devils Lake, Bismarck, Valley City, Fargo, Grand Forks and surrounding areas.

10:43 a.m.

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.

1 duck hunter found dead, 1 still missing in South Dakota

ARLINGTON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say one duck hunter is dead and another missing after their boat capsized in eastern South Dakota.

Brookings County sheriff's authorities say the two brothers went hunting Monday afternoon on Brush Lake, southeast of Arlington, but did not return that evening.

Law officers began a search. Assistant Sheriff Scott Sebring says one of the men was found dead near the capsized boat just after 8 p.m. Monday. Authorities say he had drowned.

The search for the second hunter was suspended for the evening on Tuesday.

KSFY-TV (<http://bit.ly/2h4q65K>) reports the names of the brothers have not been released.

Information from: KSFY-TV, <http://www.ksfy.com>

Daugaard offers budget plan constrained by lower tax revenue

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard offered a budget plan on Tuesday constrained by lower-than-expected tax collections, forcing officials to address a shortfall this year and tamp down spending increases for the next budget cycle.

The \$1.62 billion general fund budget proposal, which the Republican governor outlined in his annual address to the Legislature, includes roughly \$20 million in general state spending increases for the upcoming budget year, or growth of about 1.2 percent.

The money would go to fund increases including 1 percent for education, Medicaid providers and state workers. The GOP-held Legislature will reshape the current budget and approve the next one during the legislative session that begins in January.

Senate Minority Leader Billie Sutton said he'd like to see larger hikes for education, providers and state employees and more emphasis on economic development.

State revenues for the current fiscal year, which began July 1, aren't meeting lawmakers' projections. Nearly the entire decline during the first four months of the year is from dipping sales tax collections. Officials have attributed the decline to cautious consumer spending, low commodity prices and e-commerce transactions that avoid state sales tax, which is the state's main revenue source.

The governor's plan anticipates that revenue for the current budget year will be about \$26.1 million lower than previously anticipated, a roughly 1.6 percent decline.

With current-year spending also coming in below projections, plus some new money, Daugaard proposed roughly \$22.7 million in one-time spending for the current budget year.

The one-time spending includes roughly \$2.4 million for the state's budget reserves, \$3.3 million for a fund for fighting wildfires and \$5 million for a new animal disease laboratory, among other expenses.

The governor's plan for next budget year calls for spending about \$1.65 billion in federal funds, roughly \$1.35 billion in other state money and about \$1.62 billion in general funds, totaling at \$4.6 billion.

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"South Dakota is working. Working better than many other states," Daugaard said. "We can proudly say that we balance our budget honestly every single year without gimmickry or overly borrowing."

Incoming House Majority Leader Lee Qualm said it doesn't look like budget cuts will be required.

But, Daugaard's proposal doesn't include millions of dollars of funding for a public campaign finance system established under a government ethics overhaul approved by voters last month. The roughly \$5 million cost next budget year would eat up significant revenue growth for other areas, he said, taking a detour in the speech to address the ballot measure.

It's not responsible to use taxpayer money to fund political campaigns at the expense of education, and voters wouldn't want that, Daugaard said.

Democratic legislative leaders criticized Daugaard for his stance on the initiative. Sutton said not funding the public campaign finance provision just because the governor doesn't like it is "a little bit dangerous."

A group of Republican lawmakers and others filed a lawsuit last month in state court challenging the constitutionality of the ballot measure. 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.

Daugaard said he'd support rolling back the measure if it isn't struck down in court. But the governor said he hopes to study the issues covered by the initiative this session and work to find solutions.

Right now, the measure voters enacted is "very unworkable," Qualm said.

"We are not just going to throw it out and get rid of it," he said. "We're going to come back and change it and make it workable."

Pipeline opponents ride out storm in shelters, casino

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON**, Associated Press

MANDAN, N.D. (AP) — Some protesters who have been fighting the Dakota Access pipeline retreated to a nearby casino and area shelters overnight as a blizzard blew through, but many remained at a camp in southern North Dakota, according to protest organizers who say they're committed to maintaining the camp through the winter.

The storm Monday and Tuesday brought more than half a foot of snow, wind gusts exceeding 50 mph and temperatures that felt as cold as 15 degrees below zero. For some not accustomed to often-harsh North Dakota winters, the weather was eye-opening.

"Scary," said Melissa Thorpe, 30, of St. Petersburg, Florida, who had been staying in a teepee with a dozen other people at the large encampment but headed to a shelter overnight.

Protesters are maintaining a presence even after scoring a victory when the Army on Sunday said it would not issue an easement for the \$3.8 billion pipeline to cross under a Missouri River reservoir near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. Tribal Chairman Dave Archambault reiterated his call Tuesday for protesters to leave, saying the Army's decision has delayed the pipeline for months and there's no reason for people to put their lives at risk.

Morton County set up emergency shelters at storm-closed school facilities in Mandan and Flasher after sheriff's deputies responded to numerous stranded vehicles in the protest camp area, according to spokeswoman Maxine Herr. Only one protester went to the Flasher school; about 30, including Thorpe, spent the night in a Mandan school gymnasium.

Thorpe and fellow pipeline opponents couldn't find a hotel room and "thought we were going to be sleeping in our car at Wal-Mart," she said. "We're so happy (the shelter) is here."

Many remained at the camp overnight, according to Jade Begay, of Tesuque, New Mexico, who said she stayed in a yurt heated by a wood stove and had to fix a roof panel that was blown off the tent-like structure.

"I was awake most of the night. It was pretty intense," Begay said.

Yet Begay and others said the weather wasn't putting a damper on pipeline opponents' enthusiasm.

"Of course it's difficult, but I think that this is the test that shows how strong we are and how determined we are to be here," said Michelle Cook, from Tucson, Arizona, who spent the night at the Standing Rock

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Sioux casino a few miles away.

The tribe and its supporters believe the pipeline threatens drinking water and cultural sites. Dallas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners has denied that and said the pipeline will be safe.

The camp is on federal land, and the Army Corps of Engineers had set a Monday deadline for people to leave, citing safety concerns. Officials didn't plan to forcibly remove anyone, but those who remain are considered to be trespassing.

Corps spokeswoman Moira Kelley said Tuesday that the agency had not issued any citations. She didn't respond to further questions.

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

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Dec. 5

Obamacare and the next chapter

It's quite clear that the Donald Trump era in the White House will likely begin with the effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), now known as Obamacare, high up on the to-do list.

What's far less known is what will happen after that.

According to The New York Times, it appears the "repeal and replace" mantra that's been used among many Republicans to target the ACA may be replaced by "appeal and delay," for no one has really coalesced around an actual alternate proposal.

If any alternative appears to be taking shape, it may come with the naming of Rep. Tom Price as secretary of Health and Human Services. Price is a fierce Obamacare critic and one of the very few lawmakers who has actually proposed any kind of alternative. According to Forbes.com, Price is seeking to implement a more consumer-driven system by offering tax credits to those without employer coverage, state block grants for high-risk pools that would include people with pre-existing conditions, and health savings accounts. It would also do away with Medicaid, which covers an estimated 12 million low-income Americans.

Trump's victory last month was a surprise in almost all quarters, including congressional Republicans, who suddenly have a promise to live up to with their vow to kill Obamacare. Now, reports suggest that several lawmakers want to drag out the repeal over two or three years, giving Republicans more time to come up with an acceptable alternative. Obamacare has insured more than 20 million people, and pulling that insurance from them would be impractical — not to mention devastating. Also, insurance companies have configured their businesses around the ACA, and scrapping that could be economically disastrous. Why ACA opponents haven't come up with something more concrete and universally embraced as an alternative after all this time — other than declaring "no" to health care reform — is frustrating and suggests some serious political shortsightedness. But the looming prospect now demands a commitment.

Also, there has been talk of tying the privatization of Medicare to the Obamacare repeal. That's not going to sit well with a lot of people, which may be another reason for the delay. Such an effort is going to be politically dicey, and a lot of GOP lawmakers know it. Medicare is very popular, and even suggesting that it should be put in private hands — that is, force senior citizens to purchase private health insurance from companies that won't be real eager to sell insurance to a high-risk demographic — is playing with fire. (In assessing the proposals and ramifications, Forbes contributor John Wasik noted Monday, "... Medicare needs a massive overhaul of its fee-for-service model and that is being done through Obamacare. But amputating all of the patient's extremities, then giving him a cane, is not a sound approach.")

All this comes in the face of apparent growing public uncertainty about repealing ACA. A Kaiser Family Foundation poll released last week showed that just 26 percent of Americans favor a full repeal of Obamacare, with 17 percent wanting to see it scaled back. Meanwhile, 30 percent want the law expanded and 19 percent want to see it remain as is. Also, the poll showed that just 52 percent of Republicans want to scrap the law, down from 69 percent in October when such an opportunity seemed realistically remote.

Obamacare has several problems and even its proponents say it needs fixing. Frankly, fixing the mecha-

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nism that's in place would be more efficient than tearing it all out and putting in something else, but that's not going to fly in the early days of the new administration.

However, this has to be about more than political agendas: It must be about the health and welfare of the American people. We could go back to the way it was before 2010 and before ACA was enacted, but there were painfully compelling reasons why universal health care (or something close to it) had been seen by some as a need for decades. We can repeal or change systems, but we can't escape that reality.

Rapid City Journal, Dec. 5

Lawmakers should fix, not fight, IM 22

If one didn't know better, you would think the state's legislative and executive branches are on the verge of collapse due to the passage of Initiated Measure 22, which 180,580 South Dakotans voted for on Nov. 8.

Almost immediately after voters approved the Anti-Corruption Act, the Republican Party considered calling a rare special session to invalidate it. But that idea was rejected in favor of lawsuit that has the potential to be costly for the state's taxpayers.

Twenty four members of the Legislature, including Sens. Terri Haverly and Phil Jensen of Rapid City, and the Family Heritage Alliance Action lobbying organization have filed suit in a bid to have the measure declared unconstitutional.

The new law is lengthy, complicated and certainly can be improved upon. Its intent, however, is clear: Voters want lobbyists and lawmakers held to a higher standard of accountability.

IM 22 aims to reform South Dakota's campaign finance and lobbying laws, which are considered among the weakest and least transparent in the nation. In 2015, the Center for Public Integrity rated the state 47th in the nation in government transparency and accountability.

In that report, South Dakota state government received failing grades in nine of 13 categories, including lobbying disclosure. In a story by Seth Tupper of the Rapid City Journal, it was reported that lobbyists are only required to disclose their name and employer. They do not have to report how much they spend on gifts, meals and entertainment for the lawmakers they court on behalf of their clients — and they don't.

In that story, Tony Venhuizen, chief of staff for Gov. Dennis Daugaard, dismissed the report by saying, "According to Gallup, South Dakotans' trust in their state government is among the highest in the nation. That's why our state hasn't enacted these measures."

Since then, state residents have continued to watch two scandals unfold involving millions of dollars — EB-5 and Gear-Up — that certainly played a role in the passage of IM 22.

Republicans who filed the lawsuit seem to be especially concerned about the \$100 annual limit on gifts that lawmakers and state officials can receive from those who hire lobbyists, even citing concerns about attending dinners or banquets they have went to in the past. Lawmakers like Senate Republican Leader Blake Curd of Sioux Falls who are employed by companies that hire lobbyists say they may have to resign from the Legislature since they are paid more than a \$100 a year by those same employers.

The measure also calls for an independent ethics commission and publicly-funded Democracy Credits, which voters can use to make campaign contributions to candidates who agree to eligibility requirements. The Republicans also oppose these parts of the measure.

But instead of taking this to court and putting the onus on a judge to resolve the matter, the Legislature should work on improving or adding clarity to the measure in the upcoming legislative session, which starts in January.

IM 22's proponents have said they are willing to work with the Legislature to improve the new state law. The GOP, however, appears intent on gutting the entire measure and as quickly as possible.

Challenging this measure in the courts will almost certainly be costly to taxpayers. While the lawmakers who have filed the lawsuit won't say who is paying their legal fees, it will be taxpayers paying to defend the measure as Attorney General Marty Jackley is required by law to represent the voters in a case that could languish in the courts for years.

A measure that requires lobbyists to report expenditures, caps gifts to lawmakers, puts limits on campaign

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contributions, dedicates a small amount of public funds to candidates, and creates an ethics commission will not topple state government or render the Legislature ineffective. It will, however, change the culture and how business is conducted.

If the Republican Party leadership ignores the will of the voters with its court case and dismisses the intent of Initiated Measure 22, it will resurrect the same questions that led to its passage in the first place.

Capital Journal, Dec. 2

Unintended consequence or not, Marsy's Law is dismantling the public's right to know about crime

The state's law enforcement community is using the recently passed Marsy's Law to deny access to what is and always has been, public information.

Marsy's Law was billed as a way to give crime victims a bigger say in the criminal justice system. Throughout the 2016 campaign season, South Dakotans were bombarded with advertisements filled with heart wrenching stories from those who first had suffered at the hands of criminals and then been failed by the criminal justice system.

Constitutional Amendment S, as Marsy's Law appeared on the South Dakota ballot, would enshrine crime victims' right to privacy, right to prevent the distribution of some information about them and the right to be informed of the disposition of their case.

Many other rights are included in the amendment but at issue today is paragraph 5. It reads; "The right to prevent disclosure of information or records that could be used to locate or harass the victim's family, or which could disclose confidential or privileged information about the victim, and to be notified of any request of such information or records."

Many, if not most, of the state's law enforcement agencies — including both the Pierre Police Department and the Stanley County Sheriff's Office — have so far interpreted paragraph 5 to mean they can't share even approximate locations of any of the crimes or traffic accidents they investigate.

Jason Glodt, who was the chief proponent of Marsy's Law in South Dakota, has been quoted numerous times in this newspaper and others as saying law enforcement is being a little conservative in their interpretation of the law.

Glodt says Marsy's Law doesn't bar law enforcement from releasing details on crimes unless a victim tells police not to release the information. It certainly doesn't bar police from releasing specific location information about traffic accidents or drug offenses, he says

Still, paragraph 5 is sowing confusion among the local law enforcers who are tasked with sharing information about the public's safety.

For example, a man by the name of Todd Jones was arrested in Pierre at about 5 a.m. Dec. 1 for false imprisonment. A police spokesman was able to tell reporters that alcohol was a factor in the incident but as to whether a weapon was involved, how many victims there were and whether it happened in your neighborhood, the spokesman wouldn't say. He didn't know what he could or could not say under Marsy's Law.

The ramifications the spokesman or the Pierre Police Department could face for releasing basic details about a case are unclear. But they're scary enough that the police aren't willing to risk sharing some of the most basic information about crime within our community. Even if it's information that anyone with a police scanner already has.

We don't blame our local police and sheriffs for being cautious. They are, after all, simply following the example set by state law enforcement and public safety officials who have closed access to state reportable accident reports and quit telling the public about who was killed in fatal highway accidents.

Local officials probably don't want to be sued for failing to uphold somebody's constitutional rights either. The definition of victim contained in Marsy's Law is broad enough that it might be hard to know just who police now have to inform that they have victim's rights now. All it takes is one lawyer who thinks they can make a case and taxpayers are potentially on the hook for thousands of dollars win or lose.

South Dakota's reaction to Marsy's Law is unique but only insofar as it is the first of three states in the region to be faced with it's effects. Voters in North Dakota and Montana passed versions of the law as well but it hasn't gone into effect yet.

Montana's canvassing board had, as of Dec. 1, failed to certify the Nov. 8 election results for their state's

version of Marsy's Law. Two members of the three-member board are concerned about the law taking effect immediately, according to multiple news reports.

North Dakota's version of Marsy's Law takes effect Dec. 8.

We're not exactly surprised at how South Dakota has reacted to Marsy's Law, however. Our state has, at best, a tepid relationship with openness. This is especially true when it comes to criminal justice. The public has never had guaranteed access to police reports, for example.

The state's repeated low ratings from government transparency organizations such as the Center for Public Integrity, also are evidence of South Dakota's resistance to openness.

That some South Dakota leaders would use Marsy's Law as an excuse to release less information than they already do is par for the course.

We find it hard to believe that Marsy's Law supporters didn't see at least some of this coming, given South Dakota's record on government transparency.

All laws are open to interpretation. So when a law extends new rights to everyone from a crime victim's first cousin to a multinational corporation, it makes sense that a state already unreasonably concerned with keeping things secret would err on the side of more secrecy given the chance.

Not sharing basic information about crime doesn't help anyone. Secrecy erodes the trust between communities and police. It prevents communities from recognizing dangerous trends and from holding their police officers accountable when mistakes are made.

We hope our state law enforcement community comes to their senses and goes back to releasing accident reports and the locations of crimes.

A task force convened by Attorney General Marty Jackley will be meeting today to try and figure out what to do about Marsy's Law going forward. The group will include supporters of the law, law enforcement officials and representatives of the South Dakota Newspaper Association

It's an excellent chance to provide some clarity and start rolling back some of the damage that's been done to the public's right to know. The sooner this happens the better.

Pipeline delays cost builder millions, risking contract loss

By DAVID PITT, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The completion of the Dakota Access oil pipeline has been delayed after the U.S. Army declined to grant an easement for the final few thousand feet under a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota pending further study. Pipeline company Energy Transfer Partners originally was expected to finish the pipeline before the end of this year, but the Army's move likely delays it by several months. That will be costly to the Dallas-based company, but industry experts say it's unlikely to kill the project completely. Here's a look at some of the ways the delay could impact the pipeline:

WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL IMPACT?

Delays have already cost Energy Transfer Partners more than \$450 million, the company said in court documents last month, and continued delays cost \$83.3 million per month. The Army Corps of Engineers isn't very sympathetic saying in court filings that the company knowingly began construction prior to receiving all necessary approvals "at its own risk."

HOW LONG OF A DELAY IS LIKELY?

The Army's decision likely halts progress on the project until after President-elect Donald Trump takes office on Jan. 20. Trump, who supports the pipeline and holds stock in Energy Transfer Partners, hasn't said whether he will try to overturn the Army's decision. Dakota Access has said tunneling under Lake Oahe is likely to take at least 60 days once digging begins and some industry experts say it could take as long as 90 days. So, if the Trump administration were to immediately reverse course and authorize construction, the pipeline likely wouldn't be completed until April or May.

COULD DELAYS DOOM THE PROJECT?

Dakota Access attorney William Scherman said in a Nov. 15 document filed in U.S. District Court in Washington that further delay could "threaten the very survival" of the \$3.8 billion privately funded project,

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which would carry North Dakota oil through the Dakotas and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois. He said the company has long-term transportation contracts with nine shippers indicating the pipeline will be in service by Jan. 1, 2017, and the shippers have the right to terminate those contracts if terms aren't met. Industry experts say the contracts likely have several target dates including project start date, in-service date and differing start dates for the nine shippers. It's difficult to say when they might walk, but shippers are unlikely to cancel the deal easily because most are probably shipping by rail now at a cost of \$8 or \$9 a barrel, while the pipeline is likely to cost much less, more like \$5 or \$6 a barrel, said Skip York, a vice president at energy industry consultant Wood Mackenzie.

COULDN'T SHIPPERS SEEK TO RENEGOTIATE IF CONTRACTS EXPIRE?

Yes. When Dakota Access signed on shippers in 2014, crude oil prices were at \$95 a barrel, but they've averaged around \$45 to \$50 a barrel recently, which could be an incentive for some to use the delay as a reason to want to open up the terms for renegotiation. Shippers say they're not concerned yet. Hess Corp. spokesman John Roper says the company can just continue using current transportation methods. Dennis Nuss, a spokesman for petroleum company Phillips 66, which owns a 25 percent stake in the pipeline, expressed confidence the project will be finished early next year.

ARE THERE OTHER OBSTACLES TO THE PIPELINE?

Yes. In Iowa, about a dozen landowners forced to allow the pipe on their farmland through a state eminent domain law are pressing forward on their own legal challenge. They contend, among other arguments, that a 2006 Iowa law prohibits an industry from using eminent domain to take agricultural land. They're asking a judge to throw out what they consider to be illegal easements granted by the Iowa Utilities Board. If they win, they want the pipeline dug up and removed. "Dakota Access knew how to put it in, so it must know how to take it out," they said in court documents.

A judge is set to hear arguments on Dec. 15

The Latest: Indonesia search efforts hampered as night falls

MEUREUDU, Indonesia (AP) — The Latest on a magnitude-6.5 earthquake in Indonesia's Aceh province (all times local):

8:00 p.m.

Search and rescue efforts after Indonesia's earthquake are being hampered by power blackouts and rain, but officials hope they can continue at night to some extent.

Aiyub Abbas, chief of Pidie Jaya district which took the brunt of the earthquake, says efforts are focusing on locations where victims are believed to be trapped. "The search this night depends on the location and the weather conditions," he says.

The army chief in Aceh province has said the quake killed 97 people and only four have been pulled from the rubble alive.

A disaster mitigation agency official says there are about 10 locations where searchers believe people are buried.

7:25 p.m.

The Indonesian Red Cross says it's mobilizing aid for earthquake survivors from Aceh's provincial capital, Banda Aceh, and the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, with an initial priority on clean water and sanitation.

The charity's head of disaster management, Arifin Hadi, says five water trucks have already been sent into areas worst hit by the quake, where it has 100 people on the ground. It has dispatched other aid from Banda Aceh such as hygiene kits, tarpaulins and jerry cans and has also sent body bags.

Arifin says it will send more from its Jakarta warehouse, including 500 family assistance kits, 1,000 blankets and 1,000 tarpaulins.

He says possible health risks in the quake area are still being assessed.

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5 p.m.

The director of the hospital in Pidie Jaya, the district that has taken the brunt of the quake damage, says the facility is overwhelmed with the numbers of injured.

Muhammad Reza Faisal says many people are being treated in tents pitched on the grounds of the hospital, which was damaged in Wednesday's shallow magnitude 6.5 quake.

He says five of the quake victims died at the hospital. The total death has risen to 97.

Faisal says: "We are cooperating with the local army and police who lent us stretchers for the victims."

The national disaster mitigation agency says several hundred people have been injured.

4 p.m.

The army chief in Indonesia's Aceh province says the death toll in Wednesday's earthquake has jumped to 97 from 54 as rescuers pull more bodies from the rubble.

Maj. Gen. Tatang Sulaiman says in a live television interview that four people were pulled from the rubble alive. Another four or five are known to be buried, but he didn't say if they are dead or alive.

He says: "Hopefully we would be able to finish the evacuation from the rubble before sunset."

2:30 p.m.

Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho says several thousand rescuers are being deployed to quake hit areas in Aceh including hundreds of soldiers.

He told a press conference that 148 million Indonesians, or more than half its population, live in quake-prone areas.

Separately, the International Organization for Migration says it has sent a two-person assessment team to quake hit areas of Aceh.

"They'll be our eyes and ears on the ground and be able to give us a much clearer picture of what the needs are," says IOM disaster preparedness project manager Peter Kern.

2 p.m.

Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho says the death toll from the Aceh earthquake, currently at 54, could continue to rise as people are believed trapped in the debris of collapsed buildings.

He tells a news conference there is extensive damage to buildings with more than 200 shop houses and dwellings either severely damaged or flattened. Some 14 mosques collapsed and one hospital was damaged.

He says classes for about 10,000 students are disrupted due to the quake which damaged Islamic boarding schools.

1:05 p.m.

The army chief in Indonesia's Aceh province says 54 people have died in the quake that struck early Wednesday, more than doubling the death toll.

Maj. Gen. Tatang Sulaiman says 52 have died in Pidie Jaya, the district closest to the epicenter of the undersea quake. Another two people died in neighboring Bireuen district.

The national disaster mitigation agency says 78 people have suffered serious injuries from the magnitude 6.5 quake.

12:10 p.m.

A woman in the worst-hit district near the epicenter of Indonesia's earthquake says she fled with her husband and children to a nearby hill after the quake jolted the family awake early Wednesday. They stayed there for several hours until authorities reassured them there was no tsunami risk.

Seaside resident Fitri Abidin in Pidie Jaya district says: "It terrified me. I was having difficulty breathing or walking."

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She says her husband grabbed hold of her and carried her out of the house as their children were crying. She says: "We ran to a nearby hill, because our house is near a beach. We were afraid a tsunami can come at any time."

The family's house didn't collapse but the homes of some neighbors did. Abidin is traumatized because she believes three friends were buried in building collapses.

10:50 a.m.

The chief of the district nearest the epicenter of a shallow 6.4-magnitude earthquake that struck Indonesia's Aceh province early Wednesday says 25 people have been killed in that district alone.

Pidie Jaya district chief Aiyub Abbas also says hundreds of people in the district have been injured and dozens of buildings collapsed.

Abbas says there is an urgent need for excavation equipment to move heavy debris and emergency supplies.

10:40 a.m.

A strong undersea earthquake that rocked Indonesia's Aceh province early Wednesday has killed at least 20 people and collapsed buildings.

Indonesia's TVOne station, citing the acting governor of Aceh, Soedarmo, says 20 people have died.

A frantic rescue effort is underway for survivors in districts nearest the epicenter.

The U.S. Geological Survey says the shallow 6.4-magnitude earthquake that struck at 5:03 a.m. Wednesday was centered about 10 kilometers (6 miles) north off Reuleut, a town in northern Aceh, at a depth of 17 kilometers (11 miles).

There was no risk of a tsunami, according to Indonesian authorities.

Trump is Time magazine's Person of the Year

By LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Time magazine on Wednesday named President-elect Donald Trump its Person of the Year.

"It's a great honor. It means a lot," Trump said in a telephone interview on NBC's "Today" show.

Time editor Nancy Gibbs said on the program that Democrat Hillary Clinton was the No. 2 finalist. Gibbs said the choice of Trump this year was "straightforward."

"When have we ever seen a single individual who has so defied expectations, broken the rules, violated norms, beaten not one but two political parties on the way to winning an election that he entered with 100-to-1 odds against him?" Gibbs said.

The Time cover reads, "Donald Trump: President of the Divided States of America" and the cover image features a photograph of the president-elect sitting in his private residence at Trump Tower.

In the NBC interview, Trump took issue with the "Divided States of America" description: "I didn't divide 'em," he said. "We're going to put it back together and we're going to have a country that's very well-healed."

Gibbs said Time gives the title to the person who has had the greatest influence on events "for better or worse."

Trump went from fiery underdog in the race for the GOP presidential nomination to defeating Clinton in the Nov. 8 election. Trump won 306 electoral votes, easily enough to make him president when the electors meet on Dec. 19. Clinton won the popular vote.

Gibbs said Clinton "came closer than any woman ever has to winning the White House, and in the process revealed, I think, both the opportunities and the obstacles that women face in the public square."

The No.3 finalized for the Person of the Year was "The Hackers," which Gibbs said referred to "a new cyber security threat we saw this year of state-sponsored hackers looking to delegitimize an American election." She said this was "something new this year and something very disturbing."

Trump promises to heal divisions, plans visit to Ohio State

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump promised to “heal our divisions and unify our country” as he prepares to meet with some of the victims of last week’s car-and-knife attack at Ohio State University.

“When Americans are unified there is nothing we cannot do — nothing!” Trump told the crowd at a rally Tuesday night in Fayetteville, North Carolina. “I’m asking you to dream big again as Americans. I’m asking you to believe in yourselves.”

The Republican businessman largely stuck to the script — even stopped the crowd when it started to boo the media — and avoided some of the score-settling and scorched-earth rhetoric that defined his campaign and was present last week in Cincinnati.

Meanwhile, Trump was named Time magazine’s Person of the Year on Wednesday, a choice the magazine’s managing editor said was “straightforward” given that Trump had upended politics-as-usual during the course of his extraordinary race for the White House.

“It’s a great honor. It means a lot,” Trump said in a telephone interview on NBC’s “Today” show.

Trump is expected to visit Columbus, Ohio, on Thursday, according to a person familiar with the plans but not authorized to discuss them before they are announced.

Authorities have said Ohio State University student Abdul Razak Ali Artan, 18, stabbed students before being fatally shot by police. He first rammed a campus crowd with his car before hopping out with a knife. They said Artan, a Somali immigrant, was inspired by Islamic State rhetoric. Trump has denounced the immigration policies that allowed Artan into the country.

In North Carolina, he repeated his vow to fortify the nation’s military and brought Marine Gen. James Mattis on stage, officially naming his choice to be defense secretary after teasing it last week.

Earlier Tuesday, Trump telegraphed that when he takes office in six weeks he’ll take an interventionist role in the nation’s economy — as well as play showman when he sees a chance. The celebrity businessman’s declaration about Air Force One caused manufacturer Boeing’s stock to drop temporarily and raised fresh questions about how his administration — not to mention his Twitter volleys — could affect the economy.

“The plane is totally out of control,” Trump told reporters in the lobby of Trump Tower. “I think Boeing is doing a little bit of a number. We want Boeing to make a lot of money, but not that much money.” Earlier he had tweeted that the deal’s costs were “out of control, more than \$4 billion. Cancel order!”

Not long after his first appearance, Trump returned to the lobby with Masayoshi Son, the CEO of SoftBank, a massive telecommunications company that counts Sprint among its holdings. Trump pointed proudly to Son’s commitment to invest \$50 billion in the United States, which Trump said could create 50,000 jobs.

Trump — who also tweeted the deal — shook Son’s hand and posed for photos. Details of the deal were scarce and it was unclear if the money was part of a fund of up to \$100 billion in global technology investments that SoftBank and the government of Saudi Arabia announced in October.

As for Air Force One, the government has agreed that Boeing will build two new planes, which would go into service around 2024. That means Trump might never fly on the aircraft, which carry U.S. presidents around the globe.

The overall deal for researching, developing and building new planes was to be about \$3 billion, but costs have been reported to be rising. The General Accountability Office estimated in March that about \$2 billion of the total — for work between 2010 and 2020 — was for research and development on complex systems, not for building the actual aircraft. The inflated \$4 billion figure Trump cited appears to include operation and maintenance as well.

Trump had tweeted in 2013 that he owned Boeing stock, but a spokesman said Tuesday he sold all of his stock holdings in June. That sale was not publicized by the campaign at the time, and aides did not reveal how much cash it might have generated.

ington contributed reporting.

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

Frantic rescue underway in Indonesia as quake kills scores

By **HERI JUANDA** and **ALI KOTARUMALOS**, Associated Press

MEUREUDU, Indonesia (AP) — A strong earthquake rocked Indonesia's Aceh province early Wednesday, killing nearly 100 people and sparking a frantic rescue effort in the rubble of dozens of collapsed and damaged buildings.

Maj. Gen. Tatang Sulaiman, chief of the army in Aceh province, said at least 97 died while four people were pulled from the rubble alive. Another four or five are known to be buried, but he didn't say if they were dead or alive. The Indonesian government declared a two-week emergency period in Aceh.

The rescue effort involving thousands of search officials, villagers, soldiers and police is concentrated on Meureudu, a severely affected town in Pidie Jaya district near the epicenter. Excavators were trying to remove debris from shop houses and other buildings where people were believed buried. TV footage showed rescuers in orange uniforms shining flashlights into the interiors of broken buildings as they searched for signs of life.

The province's disaster mitigation agency said more than 600 people were injured. The national disaster agency said some 245 buildings were seriously damaged or destroyed, mostly in Pidie Jaya, including 14 mosques. The rest were mainly dwellings and shop houses. Roads also cracked and power poles toppled over.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the 6.5-magnitude earthquake struck at 5:03 a.m. and was centered about 19 kilometers (12 miles) southeast of Sigli, a town near the northern tip of Aceh, at a depth of 17 kilometers (11 miles). The agency had initially placed the epicenter undersea. It did not generate a tsunami.

For Acehnese, the quake was a terrifying reminder of their region's vulnerability to natural disasters. More than 100,000 died in Aceh after a Dec. 26, 2004, earthquake triggered a devastating tsunami.

"It was very bad, the tremors felt even stronger than the 2004 earthquake," said Musman Aziz, a Meureudu resident. "I was so scared the tsunami was coming."

Aiyub Abbas, the chief of Pidie Jaya district, said there was urgent need for emergency supplies and excavation equipment to move heavy debris. Footage showed rescue personnel taking bodies in black bags away from the rubble.

Muhammad Reza Faisal, director of the general hospital in Pidie Jaya, said the facility was overwhelmed with the numbers of injured and many people were being treated in tents pitched on its grounds. He said five of the quake victims died at the hospital.

In the capital, Jakarta, President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo said he had ordered all government agencies to take part in the rescue efforts for Aceh, a conservative province that has considerable autonomy from the central government under a peace deal with separatists.

Indonesian Red Cross deployed emergency response teams and advertised bank accounts for donations. Its head of disaster management, Arifin Hadi, said five water trucks have been sent into the quake area. Aid, including hygiene kits, tarpaulins, jerry cans, blankets and family assistance kits, is being distributed, with more to be sent from Jakarta, he said. The International Organization for Migration said it sent an assessment team to Aceh.

Seaside resident Fitri Abidin in Pidie Jaya said she fled with her husband and wailing children to a nearby hill after the quake jolted the family awake. They stayed there for several hours until authorities reassured them there was no tsunami risk.

"It terrified me. I was having difficulty breathing or walking," Abidin said.

She said her husband grabbed hold of her and carried her out of the house.

The family's house didn't collapse but the homes of some neighbors did and Abidin is afraid three friends were buried in the rubble.

In Pidie Jaya's neighboring district of Bireuen, a teacher at an Islamic school died after being hit by falling debris, said health worker Achmad Taufiq.

The world's largest archipelago, Indonesia is prone to earthquakes due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin. The 2004 quake and tsunami killed a total of 230,000 people in a dozen countries, most of them in Aceh.

Kotarumalos reported from Jakarta, Indonesia. Associated Press journalists Niniek Karmini in Jakarta and Ayi Yufridar in Bireuen, Indonesia, contributed to this report.

As Syrian troops gain ground, Aleppo rebels propose truce

By SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Staring a punishing and brutal defeat in the face, several Syrian rebel factions on Wednesday proposed a five-day cease-fire in the eastern part of the city of Aleppo so the wounded, sick and other civilians can be evacuated.

The proposal came as Syrian government troops and allied militiamen declared they have seized control of three-quarters of the enclave that the opposition controlled since 2012.

The cease-fire proposal was signed by the Aleppo command center, apparently a reference to the collection of factions fighting inside the eastern enclave. A rebel spokesman said al-Qaida-linked group Fatah al-Sham Front, which has a limited presence in the enclave, will abide by the proposal.

The offer made no mention of a rebel pullout from Aleppo, though the proposal said the fate of the city is to be negotiated after the humanitarian crisis eases.

The Syrian government and its ally Russia had previously rejected a cease-fire for the war-torn city, keeping up the military offensive that has forced rebel retreats and massive displacement of Aleppo civilians. On Wednesday, U.S. Secretary State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov were meeting for talks on Syria in Germany.

Earlier Wednesday, Syrian government troops and allied militiamen seized more ground in Aleppo's ancient quarters, further widening their control over an enclave in the divided city, Syria's state media and an opposition monitoring group said.

With the latest gains, the endgame for Aleppo, which has been carved up between the government and the rebel side for the past four years, appears to draw even closer. If Aleppo — the country's former commercial hub — is captured by government troops, it would be a turning point in the conflict, putting the four largest cities in Syria and the coastal region back under state control.

Also Wednesday, the state SANA news agency said that Israel launched several surface-to-surface missiles that hit near a military airport west of Damascus, triggering a fire. Israel had no immediate comment.

SANA said the missiles fell within the perimeter of the Mezzeh military airport, the main air base in the Damascus area. It lies on the western edge of the capital and had previously come under rebel fire. No injuries were reported.

It was the second such Israeli strike into Syria recently, according to the Syrian government, following two missiles fired from Lebanese airspace toward the outskirts of Damascus last week.

But Wednesday's attack is believed to be the first from Israel into the vicinity of Damascus in years. Israel is widely believed to have carried out a number of airstrikes in Syria in the past few years that have targeted advanced weapons systems, including Russian-made anti-aircraft missiles and Iranian-made missiles.

The arms are believed to be destined for the Lebanese Shiite Hezbollah militant group, a close ally of the Syrian government and a fierce enemy of Israel.

Rebel defenses in eastern Aleppo have collapsed rapidly in the face of a massive government assault backed by Russia and thousands of Iranian-backed Shiite fighters.

On Tuesday, Syrian government forces captured Aleppo's centrally located al-Shaar neighborhood, securing about 45 square kilometers (17 square miles) of the besieged enclave less than two weeks after launching their ground offensive.

The offensive was preceded by an intensive bombing campaign that knocked out medical facilities and

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left the civilian population reeling from the violence. According to the Observatory, 369 civilians, including 45 children, were killed in eastern Aleppo since Nov. 15. The Observatory said 92 civilians, including 34 children, were killed in the government-controlled western Aleppo that came under rebel fire.

SANA said Syrian forces on Wednesday established control over two districts north of the Aleppo Citadel in the heart of the city — the Aghiour and Bab al-Hadid neighborhoods — after rebels abandoned positions and retreated further south.

The new gains have choked the rebels, forcing them to pull back to other parts of the Old City, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

A map provided by the Syria army showed a quickly shrinking opposition enclave — a pointed leaf-shaped territory in the center, abutting already government-controlled Aleppo districts.

In a statement, the Observatory said dozens of bodies littered streets stretching from al-Shaar to the southern part of eastern Aleppo, including the Old City, as a result of ongoing intense government bombardment.

Capt. Abdel-Salam Abdel-Razek of the rebel Nour el-Din el-Zinki faction — one of the largest operating inside Aleppo — said the cease-fire proposal was driven by humanitarian concerns because of the rising death toll and intensive destruction. He said currently there was no talk of rebels leaving the city.

The proposal calls for the immediate evacuation of 500 seriously wounded and for allowing civilians wishing to leave to head to northern rural Aleppo, where there is almost no government presence. It also calls for negotiations over the future of the city of Aleppo once the humanitarian crisis eases. Abdel-Razek said this humanitarian pause is to be monitored by the United Nations.

Wissam Zarqa, an English teacher in eastern Aleppo and an outspoken government opponent, said the rebel retreat from large parts of Old Aleppo was “concerning.”

“We are exhausted. There is a lot of death and unprecedented destruction,” he said.

Associated Press Writer Nataliya Vasilyeva contributed to this report from Moscow.

Charleston church shooting suspect's trial set to begin

By **BRUCE SMITH** and **JEFFREY COLLINS**, Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — The white man who authorities said wanted to start a race war by killing nine black people in a South Carolina church is getting ready to stand trial in a city already bruised by a former police officer's racially charged murder trial that ended in a hung jury.

Jury selection and opening statements are set for Wednesday in Dylann Roof's federal death penalty trial.

Roof sat with 12 people in Bible study and prayer for an hour at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston on June 17, 2015, before pulling a gun from his fanny pack, firing dozens of shots and reloading several times, police said.

He hurled racial insults, telling the parishioners he was killing them because he wanted a war between whites and blacks because blacks were raping white women and taking over the country, authorities said.

Roof left three people alive in the church basement so they could tell the world his reasons for the shooting, police said. Two others, who were in another room, also survived.

The shootings took place a little more than two months after a white North Charleston police officer was charged with murder for shooting an unarmed black driver running from a traffic stop, the stark killing unfolding millions of times across the country online and on TV after a bystander recorded it. The trial of Michael Slager ended Monday without a verdict, and though Charleston stayed calm, tensions rose even after the state prosecutor promised a retrial.

Although Slager's lawyers vigorously fought to prove he wasn't guilty, Roof's lawyers have offered several times to plead guilty if federal prosecutors agreed not to seek the death penalty. They refused.

When prosecutors said it would take six to seven days to make their case that Roof is guilty, defense attorney David Bruck said Roof's case would take little additional time.

The past week leading up to the trial had its own drama as Roof fired his lawyers to act as his own at-

torney, then hired them back Monday. But he said he will again be his own lawyer if he is found guilty and the second phase of the trial begins where prosecutors present evidence Roof deserves to be put to death.

Roof's attorneys said they don't know why he wants to be his own lawyer but said in other cases defendants have been trying to avoid having their lawyers introduce embarrassing evidence that could sway jurors.

Roof faces 33 charges in federal court, including hate crimes and obstruction of religion. State prosecutors plan a second death penalty trial on nine murder charges.

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. EARTHQUAKE ROCKS INDONESIA'S ACEH PROVINCE

The 6.5-magnitude temblor kills at least 97 people and sparks a frantic rescue effort in the rubble of dozens of collapsed and damaged buildings.

2. WHAT TRUMP IS PROMISING TO DO

The president-elect vows to "heal our divisions and unify our country" as he prepares to meet with some of the victims of last week's car-and-knife attack at Ohio State University.

3. SURVIVOR RECALLS FEAR, ANGER ON DAY OF PEARL HARBOR

Jim Downing, now 103, plans to return to Hawaii with other survivors to mark the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack that plunged the U.S. into World War II.

4. REBELS CORNERED FURTHER IN EASTERN ALEPPO

Syrian troops and their allies seize more ground in the city's ancient quarters, widening control over the besieged enclave that has been in rebel hands since 2012, state media and an activist group says.

5. HOW PARK'S TENURE IS VIEWED

Facing impeachment, the South Korean president has been marred by a standoff with North Korea, a deadly ferry disaster and claims that she tried to curb free speech and labor rights.

6. SPREAD BY TRADE AND CLIMATE, BUGS BUTCHER AMERICA'S FORESTS

An expanding army of speck-sized Hemlock woolly adelgid is draining the life out of trees nationwide.

7. FROM REFUGEE TO AIR FORCE PILOT

Transport plane Capt. Safia Ferozi is Afghanistan's second female pilot, a sign of the efforts to bring more women into the armed forces.

8. WHO WILL FACE SKEPTICAL LAWMAKERS

The CEOs of AT&T and Time Warner will try to convince senators that a merger will mean innovative new experiences for consumers.

9. TRAFFIC SIGNAL EXPERIENCE ABOUT TO CHANGE

Audi debuts a traffic technology that allows cars to "read" a how long it'll take for a red traffic light to turn green.

10. RASHAAN SALAAM REMEMBERED AS MORE THAN A GRIDIRON STAR

The former Colorado running back was found dead in a park less than 2 miles from the field where he carved out a Heisman Trophy winning career.

Official: Refrigerator potential source of deadly fire

By PAUL ELIAS and SUDHIN THANAWALA, Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Investigators honed in on a refrigerator and other electrical appliances as possible causes of the fire at a warehouse in Oakland that killed 36 people, as crews were set to finish their search for bodies.

The death toll in the most lethal building fire in the U.S. in more than a decade was not expected to go higher.

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A refrigerator was a potential source of the fire, but it was too soon to say for sure, said Jill Snyder, special agent in charge of the San Francisco office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Snyder said investigators were looking at "anything electrical" on the first floor of the warehouse near the origin of the blaze.

"We have no indication that this was intentionally set," she said.

Tearful family members visited the scene Tuesday and exchanged hugs hours after the founder of the arts collective that used the warehouse stood near the gutted building and said he was "incredibly sorry."

Derick Ion Almena said he was at the site to put his face and his body in front of the scene, but he deflected blame for the blaze, saying he signed a lease for the building that "was to city standards supposedly."

"Everything that I did was to make this a stronger and more beautiful community and to bring people together," Almena told the "Today Show" on NBC.

The fire broke out during a dance party Friday night in the cluttered warehouse. It 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.

Almena did not respond to emails or calls to phone numbers associated with him by The Associated Press. He told San Jose television station KNTV that he didn't attend the event Friday night and that he and his wife had decided to stay at a hotel because he was exhausted.

City and state officials fielded years of complaints about dangerous conditions, drugs, neglected children, trash, thefts and squabbles at the warehouse, raising questions about why it wasn't shut down. The district attorney warned of possible murder charges as she determines whether there were any crimes linked to the blaze.

A building inspector who went to an Oakland warehouse on Nov. 17 after receiving a complaint of illegal interior construction left after being unable to get inside.

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf said late Tuesday the inspector followed procedure and later sent a request to the owner to gain entry. She did not reveal the outcome of that request.

Under the Oakland city code, building officials and fire marshals need court permission to enter commercial lodgings if the owner or manager refuses access.

Building inspectors typically cannot force entry to a property unless there are pressing circumstances, Schaaf said.

Crews had searched 90 percent of the building known as the "Ghost Ship" for bodies as of Tuesday and were expecting to complete the rest of the search by midnight. Fire officials started knocking down parts of the building that they said were structurally unsound.

Alameda County sheriff's Sgt. J.D. Nelson said that of the 36 victims found, 35 have been identified and 20 of their families have been notified. Officials are still lacking any type of identity for one person.

Stories of the victims' last minutes, meanwhile, emerged.

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.

Thanawala reported from San Francisco. Associated Press writers Ellen Knickmeyer, Olga R. Rodriguez, Tim Reiterman, and Kristin J. Bender in San Francisco contributed to this report.

AP WAS THERE: 75 years ago, the AP reported on Pearl Harbor

By The Associated Press, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — EDITOR'S NOTE — On Dec. 7, 1941, as Japanese bombs rained down on Pearl Harbor, The Associated Press' chief of bureau in Honolulu, Eugene Burns, was unable to get out the urgent news of the historic attack that would draw the U.S. into World War II. The military had already taken control

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of all communication lines, so Burns was left without a line to the outside world. In Washington, AP editor William Peacock and staff got word of the attack from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's press secretary. In the language and style used by journalists of his era, including the use of a disparaging word to describe the Japanese that was in common use, Peacock dictated the details of the announcement. Seventy-five years after their original publication, the AP is making the dispatches available to its subscribers.

FLASH

WASHINGTON — White House says Japs attack Pearl Harbor.

BULLETIN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7 (AP) — President Roosevelt said in a statement today that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, from the air.

The attack of the Japanese also was made on all naval and military "activities" on the island of Oahu.

The president's brief statement was read to reporters by Stephen Early, presidential secretary. No further details were given immediately.

At the time of the White House announcement, the Japanese ambassadors, Kichisaburo Nomura and Saburo Kuru, were at the State Department.

FLASH

WASHINGTON — Second air attack reported on Army and Navy bases in Manila.

#

First lead Japanese

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7 — (AP) — Japanese air attacks on the American naval stronghold at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and on defense facilities at Manila were announced today by the White House.

-2-

Only this terse announcement came from President Roosevelt immediately, but with it there could be no doubt that the Far Eastern situation had at last exploded, that the United States was at war, and that the conflict which began in Europe was spreading over the entire world.

This disclosure had been accepted generally as an indication this country had all but given up hope that American-Japanese difficulties, arising from Japan's aggression in the Far East, could be resolved by ordinary diplomatic procedure.

#

BULLETIN

Second lead Japanese

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7 — (AP) — Japanese airplanes today attacked American defense bases at Hawaii and Manila, and President Roosevelt ordered the Army and Navy to carry out undisclosed orders prepared for the defense of the United States.

Announcing the president's action for the protection of American territory, Presidential Secretary Stephen Early declared that so far as is known now the attacks were made wholly without warning — when both nations were at peace — and were delivered within an hour or so of the time that the Japanese ambassador had gone to the State Department to hand to the secretary of state Japan's reply to the secretary's memo of the 26th.

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Car company offering red light-reading vehicles in Las Vegas

By KEN RITTER, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — On the theory that a driver who knows when a red light will turn green is more relaxed and aware, vehicle manufacturer Audi is unveiling this week in Las Vegas a technology that enables vehicles to "read" traffic signals ahead and tell the motorist how long the wait will be.

It's a simple display for the driver — a dashboard traffic signal icon and a timer next to the digital vehicle

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speed and area speed limit displays already common in newer cars.

The technology behind it is more complex. It uses 4G LTE cellular communication between the vehicle and a centralized traffic management control network— dubbed vehicle-to-infrastructure or “V2I.” Audi offers it through a subscription service not unlike commercial satellite radio. The company calls it “traffic light information.”

Company executive Pom Malhotra terms it “time to green.”

“You don’t have to constantly stare at the traffic light. You have that information right in front of you,” Malhotra told reporters who test-drove the system Tuesday in vehicles on and around Las Vegas Strip.

Can’t see the light because there’s a tour bus ahead? No problem. The icon says you have 37 seconds.

“A lot of behavior in the car changes,” Malhotra said. “You have time to relax your hands and shoulders ... time to hand a milk bottle to your child in the back seat ... while knowing you’re not taking attention away from the road.”

Audi and Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada officials said Tuesday that Las Vegas was picked for the first-in-the-nation debut because it has a single centralized traffic management center covering all jurisdictions in Clark County, a region nearly the size of New Jersey.

Malhotra said Audi hopes to expand the system soon to other big U.S. cities, including places like Los Angeles, which have patchwork traffic management systems run by varying jurisdictions in a sprawling urban landscape.

The Las Vegas-area program, dubbed the Freeway and Arterial System of Transportation, or FAST, collects data and synchronizes 1,300 traffic signals in a region home to more than 2 million people and host to more than 40 million tourists a year. It also has 508 cameras and freeway flow detectors, and controls 106 message signs and freeway on-ramp meters.

Tina Quigley, transportation commission general manager, said other car companies will be able to tap into the Las Vegas data, which she said should improve mobility and safety — particularly in the congested Las Vegas Strip tourist corridor and around McCarran International Airport.

About 150 Audi owners are using the system in Las Vegas, Malhotra said.

The car company official called the debut of the commercial service “a small step forward in V2I,” but a key demonstration of the kind of technology that will enable vehicle-to-vehicle communication and driverless cars.

Using cellular communication for smart car systems differs from vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-traffic signal programs using dedicated short-range communication.

DSRC has been tested since 2012 at the University of Michigan, said Debra Bezzina, senior program manager for the Ann Arbor Connected Vehicle Test Environment. The university Transportation Research Institute program is backed by several federal traffic safety, research, trucking and transit agencies, and pilot programs are slated for Wyoming, New York and Tampa, Florida.

Bezzina said properly equipped vehicles with DSRC are able to detect traffic signal phase signals at intersections.

“If the light has turned yellow, it can tell the driver, ‘You’re not going to make the light,’” Bezzina said.

Audi spokesman Mark Dahncke said his company expects other car companies will develop similar cellular-enabled technology, or could piggyback with its program contractor, Traffic Technology Services.

“We are blazing a trail that does not lock anyone else out,” Dahncke said.

Survivor recalls fear, anger on day of Pearl Harbor attack

By AUDREY McAVOY, Associated Press

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP) — Surprise, fear, anger and pride overcame Jim Downing as Japanese planes bombed Pearl Harbor.

Then a newlywed sailor, he recalled a Japanese plane flying low and slow in his direction as he rushed to his battleship from his home after hearing explosions and learning of the attack on the radio.

“When he got the right angle, he banked over, turned his machine guns loose,” Downing, now 103, said in

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an interview at a Waikiki hotel, "But fortunately he didn't bank far enough so it went right over my head."

The next aviator might have better aim, Downing remembers thinking. And with nowhere to hide, "I was afraid," he said.

Downing plans to return to Pearl Harbor Wednesday with a few dozen other survivors to mark the 75th anniversary of the attack that plunged the United States into World War II and left more than 2,300 service people dead.

Those who gather at the ceremony on a pier overlooking the harbor are expected to observe a moment of silence at 7:55 a.m. — the same moment Japanese planes began their assault.

Thousands of other servicemen and women and members of the public are expected to attend and watch via a livestream feed.

Downing said he comes back to Hawaii for the anniversary commemorations to be with his shipmates.

"We get together and have a great time and compare our stories," said Downing, a resident of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

His ship, the USS West Virginia, was hit by nine torpedoes.

"We were sinking and everything above the water line was on fire," he said.

Downing said he felt proud while watching sailors balance the capsizing ship by allowing water to seep in. The tactic let the giant battleship slide into mud below.

"They just instinctively did the right thing at the right time without any thought about their own lives or safety," he said.

The West Virginia lost 106 men. Downing spent two hours fighting fires and checking the name tags of the dead so he could write their families personal notes about how they died.

"I thought that would give them more closure than just a cold note, 'your son was killed in action,'" said Downing, who also served as the ship's postmaster.

Ray Chavez was out on a minesweeper, the USS Condor, in the early hours before the attack. He remembers noticing with his shipmates that a mysterious submarine was lurking off the harbor.

"At 3:45 a.m. on Dec. 7, I look out and spotted a submarine that wasn't supposed to be in that area," the 104-year-old Chavez said.

The sailors reported the sighting and Chavez went home to sleep. He told his wife not to wake him because he hadn't gotten any rest during the busy night.

"It seemed like I only slept about 10 minutes when she called me and said 'we're being attacked.' And I said 'who is going to attack us?' She said 'the Japanese are here and they're attacking everything,'" Chavez said.

These days, many people treat Chavez and other Pearl Harbor survivors like celebrities, asking them for autographs and photos. But Chavez said it's about the people who were lost.

"I'm honoring them, not myself," he said.

Friends remember Rashaan Salaam as more than a football star

By PAT GRAHAM and ARNIE STAPLETON, AP Sports Writers

Friends, ex-teammates and former coaches remembered 1994 Heisman Trophy winner Rashaan Salaam as much more than a football star upon hearing of his death in a park not far from the University of Colorado, where he stamped his name as one of the greatest players in the program's history.

"This is a great loss to the lives he had touched," said former Buffaloes assistant coach Brian Cabral, who recruited Salaam to Boulder.

Ex-teammate Kordell Stewart, who went on to achieve the kind of NFL success that eluded Salaam, said, "This is a tough one. He was our jewel." He said Salaam "never wanted to be celebrated, he just wanted to play football.

"He just wanted to be one of the guys, a big kid playing a child's game, and he won the biggest prize there is," Stewart said. "Football wasn't who he was; it was just what he did. He didn't care about his accomplishments. He cared about the people around him."

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Salaam was found dead Monday night in Eben B. Fine Park in Boulder, less than 2 miles from Folsom Field, where he carved his name into the school's record book from 1992-94. Police said foul play wasn't suspected.

Salaam's mother, Khalada, told USA TODAY Sports on Tuesday that police said they suspect he killed himself. "They said they found a note and would share that with us when we get there," Salaam's mother said.

Dave Plati, associate athletic director at Colorado and a close friend of Salaam's, said the former Buffaloes star never let on that he was hurting: "When you were around him he was just the same old Rashaan. You know, effervescent, jolly-go-lucky, smiling all the time, doing things for other people."

There was just no way to tell Salaam "had these kind of demons inside him," Plati added. "I was as close to him as anybody and loved the guy ... and wish I could have noticed or done something for him or wished that he would have called me."

Salaam's death stunned the Colorado football community, which this year celebrated a revival with the team's 10-3 record, an appearance in the Pac-12 championship game and the Buffaloes' first bowl bid in almost a decade.

"You talk about a young man who was smart, handsome, talented. He was very, very gifted. He was humble. He was a team guy," former Colorado coach Bill McCartney told The Associated Press.

Salaam rushed for 2,055 yards and 24 touchdowns as a junior in 1994, leading the Buffaloes to an 11-1 record, a win over Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl and a No. 3 finish in the final polls.

"We are all hurting tremendously today," said former teammate Blake Anderson, who lauded Salaam's work ethic, strength and dedication.

Salaam was one of the nation's most prized high-school recruits coming out of eight-man football at La Jolla Country Day, a private school in San Diego. His father played freshman football at CU in 1963 before transferring to San Diego State to be closer to home.

"When we recruited him and got him to commit, it was huge," McCartney said. "We knew that he was going to distinguish himself. He was very highly recruited. I can remember how happy we were. He lived up to all our expectations."

The Chicago Bears made Salaam a first-round draft pick in 1995, and he rushed for 1,074 yards and 10 touchdowns in winning NFC Rookie of the Year honors.

Injuries cut short his career. He rushed for only three TDs over the next two years in Chicago and played his last NFL game with the Cleveland Browns in 1999. Salaam played for the Memphis Maniax of the defunct XFL and attempted one last comeback with the NFL before retiring.

"He was the only Heisman Trophy winner in the state of Colorado," Plati said. "That could have been a burden in later years because he kind of felt he didn't have the great professional career that should have followed that. But that doesn't matter, it's what you did to win the Heisman, and he's an icon in college football."

Former teammate Matt Russell, now the Denver Broncos' director of player personnel, said Salaam was a "fiercely loyal friend," the "ultimate teammate" and the very "definition of a winner."

Rick Neuheisel, an assistant coach in Boulder when Salaam won the Heisman, said the play that epitomizes Salaam was the "Miracle at Michigan," when Stewart's 64-yard Hail Mary pass to Michael Westbrook on the final play beat the Wolverines 27-26 on Sept. 24, 1994.

"All he did was create time for Kordell Stewart to get that play off," Neuheisel said. "And if you ever see that play, Rashaan Salaam had one blocking assignment and then came back and got another blocking assignment, which allowed Kordell to kind of crow-hop up in the pocket and make the throw that we'll all remember for a lifetime."

"But there was the Heisman Trophy winner. He wasn't just about getting the ball or catching the ball. He was about, what do I need to do for my guys so that we can have the best possible chance for success? And whether he had the ball or didn't, it didn't matter, he was going to go all-out," Neuheisel said.

"And it's a very tough time because he's too young. ... I think all of us that had that special time with him all wish we would have known what was going on in his life. And I'm not sure we ever will. But we

will know that the time we spent with Salaam was really cool.”

AP College Football Writer Ralph Russo, Associated Press writer Sadie Gurman, Associated Press videographer Peter Banda and Associated Press photographer Brennan Linsey contributed to this story.

More AP college football: <http://collegefootball.ap.org>

Trump: Japanese mogul pledges \$50 billion US investment

By JOSH BOAK and TALI ARBEL, AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Winning praise from President-elect Donald Trump for being a “great man of industry,” Japanese tech billionaire Masayoshi Son promised to invest \$50 billion in new startups in the United States, committing to creating 50,000 new jobs.

Son is the founder and chief executive of Japanese technology and telecoms giant SoftBank, which owns the U.S. mobile carrier Sprint. Sprint shares initially spiked after the announcement. Son left Trump Tower after being escorted down the elevator by the president-elect, who touted the pledge before waiting investors.

“We are going to invest \$50 billion in the U.S. and commit to create 50,000 new jobs,” Son told reporters. “We (will) invest into the new startup companies in the United States.”

The announcement is the latest instance in which Trump appears to be conducting economic policy via ad-hoc deal-making — sometimes taking credit whether he deserves it or not. Last week, the president-elect spoke at the Carrier furnace plant in Indianapolis after the company announced plans to keep 800 jobs at the plant instead of outsourcing them to Mexico. Trump quickly claimed he had saved those positions, even though the company is still shifting more than 1,000 jobs from that factory and another Indiana plant to Mexico.

Similarly, the week after the election Trump tweeted that he had dissuaded Ford Motor Co. from moving a Kentucky factory to Mexico. The claim was a stretch; Ford had no plans to move the plant and had already agreed to keep producing one specific model there, although it did back away from a plan to shift production of the Lincoln MKC, a small SUV, from Louisville to Cuautitlan, Mexico.

Trump quickly took credit for Son’s commitment on Tuesday, writing on Twitter: “Masa said he would never do this had we (Trump) not won the election!”

“I just came to celebrate his new job,” Son said. “Because he said he would do a lot of deregulation, I said, ‘This is great, the U.S. will become great again.’”

Trump praised Son for being a “great man of industry,” and “one of the truly great men,” adding, “See you soon” as he headed back upstairs.

Trump plans to meet with leading tech executives next week, a group that will include venture capitalist Peter Thiel — one of Trump’s few supporters in Silicon Valley — and Cisco Systems CEO Chuck Robbins. The job commitments that Trump claims to have produced are symbolically resonant. Still, the economy has generated 2.25 million new jobs in the past 12 months and many economists say that accelerating this pace may be difficult in the long run because of the aging U.S. population.

Financial details about Son’s commitment and its timeframe remain unclear. T-Mobile did not answer emailed questions. Sprint spokesman Dave Tovar referred questions to Softbank.

As he spoke to reporters, Son held up a paper with the logos of Softbank and Foxconn, a tech manufacturer that makes iPhones for Apple in China. The paper listed the figures \$50 billion and \$7 billion and said “generate 50,000 new jobs and 50,000 new jobs over the next four years.

Foxconn Technology Group issued a statement saying it could “confirm that we are in preliminary discussions regarding a potential investment that would represent an expansion of our current US operations.”

The statement said the scope of any possible investment was undecided and details would be announced after discussions with “relevant U.S. officials.”

Sprint has struggled since its 2013 acquisition by Softbank. The carrier’s attempt to join with rival T-Mobile

failed in 2014 after regulators objected to combining two of the four largest mobile telecom companies in the United States. T-Mobile has surpassed Sprint to become the No. 3 carrier, while Sprint has struggled with cost cuts and layoffs. (AT&T and Verizon are the largest wireless carriers.)

Analysts have predicted, however, that a Trump-led Justice Department and Federal Communications Commission would be more likely to allow telecom mergers, including a deal between Sprint and T-Mobile. T-Mobile has 50,000 employees and a stock-market value of \$46 billion — but the similarities between those numbers and Son's commitment could just be a coincidence.

In October, SoftBank announced that it would establish a \$25 billion fund for technology investments that could grow to \$100 billion. SoftBank said it signed an agreement with a fund run by the government of Saudi Arabia and other investors. Japanese media said the planned \$50 billion investment would come from that fund. Softbank spokesman Matthew Nicholson declined to say if it would provide the money for the U.S. investments.

SoftBank also owns Britain's ARM Holdings. ARM is known as an innovator in the "internet of things," and in technology used in smartphones. It also sells the Pepper human-shaped companion robot for homes and businesses, and runs a solar energy business in Japan. The company, founded in 1981, also has within its investment empire financial technology and ride-booking services.

Arbel reported from New York. AP technology writer Michael Liedtke contributed to this report from San Francisco.

Time to reconcile: 2 cities overcome Pearl Harbor legacy

By MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Seventy-five years after a Japanese admiral led the attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, the mayor of his hometown is joining his Honolulu counterpart to mark the anniversary — as friends.

Tatsunobu Isoda, the mayor of Nagaoka, Japan, will lay flowers at the main memorial event on Wednesday and join a smaller ceremony a day later co-organized by Japan and the U.S. for the first time.

His presence is the fruit of nearly a decade of effort by his predecessor, Tamio Mori, who in 2014 became the first Japanese municipal leader invited to the commemoration in Hawaii.

"To many Americans, Pearl Harbor was a sacred place for the survivors and their animosity, and a place to glorify the war dead," said Nagaoka city official Yusuke Nishiyama, who has organized peace education and youth exchange programs with Honolulu for several years.

Nagaoka, a city of 270,000 people on the Japan Sea, is the hometown of Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, the naval commander who masterminded the surprise attack on Dec. 7, 1941, that killed 2,400 sailors, Marines and soldiers.

Mori reached out to then-Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann at an international conference in the Hawaiian capital in 2007.

Introducing himself as the head of Yamamoto's hometown, he proposed youth exchanges for peace education to restore friendship.

It took five years for Nagaoka and Honolulu to become sister cities, and even longer to build a deeper trust.

"We continued our exchanges, not just on milestone anniversaries but year after year, and it was last year when we finally heard the word 'reconciliation' mentioned (by the Americans) for the first time," said Nishiyama, the Nagaoka official.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced this week that he will visit Pearl Harbor with President Barack Obama in late December to pay respects to the war dead as a gesture of reconciliation.

Nagaoka is famed for its fireworks, and displays of them in Hawaii have become a symbolic part of the exchange, including one at the ceremony last year marking the 70th anniversary of the end World War II.

In Nagaoka, the fireworks have long served as a reminder of the more than 1,400 people who died in U.S. aerial firebombing attacks on the city during the final weeks of the war.

The city's residents can take some solace in knowing that although Yamamoto was behind the Pearl

Harbor attack, he initially opposed waging war on America, because he thought Japan had little chance of winning. He died in 1943 when his plane was shot down by U.S. forces.

Follow Mari Yamaguchi on Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/mariyamaguchi>
Find her work at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/mari-yamaguchi>

Did authorities miss opportunities to prevent tragic fire?

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and PAUL ELIAS, Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — City and state officials fielded years of complaints about dangerous conditions, drugs, neglected children, trash, thefts and squabbles at the illegally converted warehouse where 36 partygoers were killed in a weekend fire, with inspectors knocking on the door as recently as two weeks before the blaze.

With all the attention from police, child welfare authorities, building inspectors and others, some of those who saw what was going on at the underground artists' colony say they figured time and again that authorities would shut it all down.

But they never did.

"It makes me so sad that all this has been there this whole long time," said neighbor Phyllis Waukazoo. "This was an accident waiting to happen. That could have been prevented."

Mayor Libby Schaaf deflected questions about whether more aggressive action by authorities could have prevented the tragedy at the cluttered, ramshackle building known as the Ghost Ship.

Most recently, Oakland city inspectors received complaints on Nov. 13 about the warehouse being remodeled into residences and on Nov. 14 about an "illegal interior building structure," city records showed Tuesday.

City officials sent a violation notice for the first complaint and opened an investigation for the second one.

A building inspector who went to an Oakland warehouse on Nov. 17 after receiving a complaint of illegal interior construction left after being unable to get inside.

Schaaf said late Tuesday the inspector followed procedure and later sent a request to the owner to gain entry. She did not reveal the outcome of that request.

Under the Oakland city code, building officials and fire marshals need court permission to enter commercial lodgings if the owner or manager refuses access.

Building inspectors typically cannot force entry to a property unless there are pressing circumstances, Schaaf said.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, and prosecutors said they are looking into the possibility of criminal charges.

Alameda County sheriff's Sgt. J.D. Nelson said Tuesday night that of the 36 victims found, 35 have been identified and 20 of their families have been notified. Officials are still lacking any type of identity for one person.

Record searches and interviews by The Associated Press indicate that the couple who leased the warehouse and turned it into rented living spaces and artists' studios, Derick Ion Almena and Micah Allison, were already under scrutiny by several agencies.

Some of those agencies had been told or could have seen for themselves that the family of five and their dozens of artist tenants were living in a warehouse that had no permit to operate as a living space and allegedly had no proper kitchen, electricity, adequate fire exits or solid stairs.

Almena, 46, is on probation for receiving stolen property, an Airstream trailer he was accused of stealing and stashing at the warehouse. The terms of his probation allowed authorities to enter his home without a warrant, records show.

Child welfare workers had taken away the couple's three children in mid-2015 but returned them by this past summer, despite the illegal conditions at the warehouse and the children being hungry, infested with lice and frequently truant, Micah Allison's father and other acquaintances said.

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Almena confirmed in a 2015 document that child welfare workers visited the warehouse at least twice. Child welfare authorities refused to comment on the family, citing privacy laws.

In returning the children, the authorities set certain conditions, including that the youngsters be out of the warehouse during the many parties held there, according to those who knew the couple.

On the night of the fire, Allison and the three children had checked into an Oakland hotel, according to Almena. All of them survived. Almena said in a TV interview that he had little involvement in the party and had gone to the hotel as well.

Allison's father, Michael Allison, said he is left wondering why authorities failed to take quicker, tougher action.

"This whole thing, the city giving them warning after warning after warning, strikes me as bizarre. It's been going on for years," he said. "I knew something was going to happen ... but not this."

Under state and city law, commercial buildings must receive annual fire inspections. Sheriff's Sgt. Ray Kelly refused to say whether fire officials had visited the warehouse before the blaze.

Zac Unger, vice president of the Oakland firefighters union, said the city has about one-third of the fire inspectors of other cities of comparable size.

"It's a systematic underinvestment in the fire department and a roll of the dice, hoping they'll get away with it," he said.

Noel Gallo, a city councilman who lives a block away and recalled fruitless conversations with Almena over trash and other nuisances, said he will push for more building inspectors and fire marshals.

But Gallo noted the city has many occupied warehouses and has to be mindful of the "desperate" housing shortage in the San Francisco Bay area, where the tech boom has driven up prices and rents.

In an interview after the fire, Almena said police also had been in and out of the buildings for years, over thefts and other complaints from the people there.

"They would come in and they would walk through our space and they'd always say 'Wow, what an amazing space,'" Almena told San Jose TV station KNTV.

A video reportedly recorded in October and acquired by NBC shows two police officers walking through the warehouse with a young man in handcuffs.

Oakland Police Department spokeswoman Officer Jonna Watson said police officers are not trained on zoning laws but pointed out they document every call they respond to.

"The Alameda County District Attorney's office is the lead investigating agency and as the mayor has stated over the last five days, everything will be looked at," she said.

Associated Press writers Jonathan J. Cooper, Sudhin Thanawala and Olga R. Rodriguez contributed to this story.

Georgia executes ninth inmate this year, most in US

By KATE BRUMBACK, Associated Press

JACKSON, Ga. (AP) — With the execution Tuesday of a man convicted of killing his father-in-law, Georgia has put to death nine inmates this year — more than any other state.

William Sallie's time of death was 10:05 p.m., after an injection of compounded barbiturate pentobarbital at the state prison in Jackson, Warden Eric Sellers told witnesses. Sallie, 50, was convicted of murder in the March 1990 shooting death of John Lee Moore in rural south Georgia.

When asked if he wanted to make a final statement, Sallie lifted his head to face the witnesses.

"I just want to say I'm very, very sorry for my crimes. I really am sorry," he said, adding that he had prayed about it many times. "I'm just very sorry for everything. I do ask for forgiveness."

He accepted the offer of a prayer.

Records from past executions show that the lethal drug generally starts flowing within a couple of minutes of the warden exiting the execution chamber. About a minute after the warden left, Sallie lifted his head and looked out at the witnesses before putting his head back down, yawning and then closing his eyes and breathing deeply several times.

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About two minutes after the warden left, Sallie's body twitched five or six times, his shoulders lifting slightly off the gurney, but his eyes remained closed. Within another minute, he became still.

In addition to the nine executions in Georgia this year, habitual leader Texas executed seven inmates, and Alabama, Florida and Missouri have carried out one execution apiece, for a total of 19 executions this year. Alabama has one more scheduled Thursday.

This year's tally also marks the most executions Georgia has carried out in a calendar year since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976. The state executed five inmates last year and five in 1987.

Sallie had abused his wife during their marriage and she was living with her parents in rural Bacon County after having filed for divorce, according to a Georgia Supreme Court summary of the case. The two had fought bitterly over custody of their young son.

After cutting his in-laws' phone lines and breaking into their house about 12:45 a.m. on March 29, 1990, Sallie went to the master bedroom and shot John and Linda Moore, the summary says. John Moore died from his injuries.

Sallie took his wife and her sister to his mobile home, leaving his son behind, the summary says. Sallie released his wife and her sister that night and was arrested a short time later.

Sallie's lawyers have said the shooting happened during a botched attempt to take his son and leave.

The Georgia Supreme Court threw out Sallie's first conviction and death sentence in 1998 because his trial lawyer had a conflict of interest. At a second trial in 2001, he was again convicted and sentenced to die.

His lawyers argued that he should, once again, be granted a new trial because a woman who ultimately ended up on the jury during the second trial lied during jury selection and failed to disclose her own history of domestic violence, messy divorces and child custody fights — traumatic events that they said were "bizarrely similar" to Sallie's case.

But no court ever properly considered the alleged juror bias, his lawyers argued in a recent legal challenge, because the issue wasn't discovered until more than a decade later, and courts had ruled that Sallie's petitions raising that evidence were procedurally barred because he missed a filing deadline by eight days at a time when he didn't have a lawyer.

The defense team also made those arguments in a clemency petition to the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles, urging it to act as a "fail safe" against a miscarriage of justice. But the board, the only authority in Georgia with power to commute a death sentence, declined to spare Sallie's life after a clemency hearing Monday.

Follow Kate Brumback on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/katebrumback>

GOP adds measure to aid Mattis' confirmation to stopgap bill

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Republicans on Tuesday unveiled a stopgap spending bill that would also expedite the likely confirmation of President-elect Donald Trump's pick for defense secretary next year.

Word of the bill came around the same time that Trump formally announced he had selected retired Gen. James Mattis for the top Pentagon job. Congress needs to change the law so a former military man can serve in the civilian post.

The spending measure would keep the government running through April and also contains \$10 billion in supplemental war funding and \$4 billion more for disaster relief for Louisiana and other states as key additions.

Under current law, Congress would need to pass legislation next year to grant Mattis an exception from a law that requires a seven-year wait for former members of the military to serve in the post. Tuesday's provision would speed up action on the waiver though Democrats could still filibuster it.

The bill would also deliver \$170 million in long-delayed help for Flint, Michigan, to fix its lead-tainted water system.

The underlying spending bill would prevent the government from shutting down this weekend and buy

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several months for the new Congress and incoming Trump administration to wrap up more than \$1 trillion worth of unfinished agency budget bills. Republicans promise an immediate infusion next year of additional money for the Pentagon and may be eyeing the appropriations bills as vehicles to reverse a slew of Obama administration regulations.

Democrats complained the GOP measure shortchanged New York City by giving it just \$7 million for police overtime costs for protecting Trump, who lives in midtown Manhattan. And they complained that a provision to help retired Appalachian coal miners keep their health benefits for a few months was woefully inadequate.

The bill attracted attention as the final legislative locomotive to leave the station before Congress closes shop this year. Nothing else on Capitol Hill's agenda had the power to tow other unfinished legislation into law.

The White House and Main St. Republicans were denied in a bid to revive the Export-Import Bank's ability to approve export financing deals exceeding \$10 million. But the trucking lobby won permanent relief from recent Transportation Department rules mandating more rest and overnight breaks for long-haul drivers.

The \$4 billion disaster package contains \$1.8 billion for community development grants, much of which would go to rebuild homes damaged or destroyed by devastating summertime floods in Louisiana, Hurricane Matthew, and other disasters. Another \$1 billion would go to the Army Corps of Engineers for flood and coastal storm protection projects and another \$1 billion would repair damaged highways.

The \$10.1 billion provided for Pentagon and State Department anti-terror efforts gave the Obama administration most of its \$11.6 billion request.

One major dispute centered on protecting health care benefits for about 16,000 retired union coal miners facing the loss of coverage on Dec. 31. Both Democrats and Republicans from Appalachian coal states pressed for help for retired miners and their widows. House Republicans resisted offering help for the union members and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell offered only a short-term solution through April 28.

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., protested that McConnell's fix would only last for a few months vowed to push for a permanent solution. He's vowing to block any Senate effort to move quickly on unrelated legislation until the miners' fight was settled.

"Over two years ago, we promised the retired coal miners of America — we promised them and most of their families — and these are a lot of widows now — and we promise them that they would have their health care benefits, which were guaranteed to them, and their pensions," Manchin said.

At issue are health benefits for retirees whose companies declared bankruptcy in recent years.

The Obama White House had requested \$35 million to reimburse New York City for providing security for Trump and New York Democrats were upset when just \$7 million was made available.

"Republicans' failure to fully reimburse NYPD for its efforts to protect President-elect Trump is beyond disappointing," said Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., who called the \$7 million just a "down payment on the way to making New York City whole."

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

The legislation also officially funds the first, \$872 million installment of a \$6.3 billion measure — slated for a final vote in the Senate on Wednesday — to boost medical research and speed drug approvals. That measure also includes a \$1.8 billion cancer research "moonshot" strongly supported by Vice President Joe Biden, as well as \$1 billion over two years to prevent and treat abuse of opioids and other addictive drugs.

Lawmakers are again denying themselves a cost-of-living pay hike that's fallen out of favor.

Trump interjects himself in Air Force One, business deals

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump, a political newcomer who touts his corporate skills, turned businessman-in-chief Tuesday, first demanding the government cancel a multibillion-dollar order for new presidential planes and then hailing a Japanese company's commitment to invest billions in the U.S.

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"We will defend American jobs. We have to look at it almost like a war," Trump thundered in North Carolina, vowing to keep companies from moving overseas during the second stop of his "thank you" tour to salute his supporters. "We want the next generation of innovation and production to happen right here in America."

Trump was far less bombastic than during the tour's kickoff in Ohio last week, striking more of the healing notes traditionally delivered by a president-to-be in the weeks after a bruising election. He will travel to Ohio State University on Thursday to meet with some of the victims of the recent car-and-knife attack that left 11 people injured, according to a person familiar with the plans but not authorized to discuss them before they are announced.

"We will heal our divisions and unify our country. When Americans are unified there is nothing we cannot do — nothing!" Trump told the crowd in Fayetteville. "I'm asking you to dream big again as Americans. I'm asking you to believe in yourselves."

The Republican businessman largely stuck to the script Tuesday — and, in a change, even stopped the crowd when it started to boo the media — and avoided some of the score-settling and scorched-earth rhetoric that defined his campaign and was present again last week in Cincinnati. He also repeated his vow to fortify the nation's military and brought Marine Gen. James Mattis on stage, officially naming his choice to be Defense Secretary after teasing it last week.

Earlier in the day, Trump plainly telegraphed that when he takes office in six weeks he'll take an interventionist role in the nation's economy — as well as play showman when he sees a chance. The celebrity businessman's declaration about Air Force One caused manufacturer Boeing's stock to drop temporarily and raised fresh questions about how his administration — not to mention his Twitter volleys — could affect the economy.

"The plane is totally out of control," Trump told reporters in the lobby of Trump Tower. "I think Boeing is doing a little bit of a number. We want Boeing to make a lot of money, but not that much money." Earlier he had tweeted that the deal's costs were "out of control, more than \$4 billion. Cancel order!"

Not long after his first appearance, Trump returned to the lobby with Masayoshi Son, the CEO of SoftBank, a massive telecommunications company that counts Sprint among its holdings. Trump pointed proudly to Son's commitment to invest \$50 billion in the United States, which Trump said could create 50,000 jobs.

Trump — who also tweeted the deal — shook Son's hand and posed for photos, reveling as he had last week when he toured a Carrier plant in Indiana where he said he had instigated an agreement that will preserve about 1,000 jobs the appliance maker had planned to move to Mexico. Details of the deal were scarce and it was unclear if the money was part of a fund of up to \$100 billion in global technology investments that SoftBank and the government of Saudi Arabia announced in October.

As for Air Force One, the government has agreed that Boeing will build two new planes, which would go into service around 2024. That means Trump might never fly on the aircraft, which carry U.S. presidents around the globe.

The Air Force has pressed for a faster schedule, saying the aging current Boeing 747s are becoming too expensive to repair and keep in good flying shape. The overall deal for researching, developing and building new planes was to be about \$3 billion, but costs have been reported to be rising.

The General Accountability Office estimated in March that about \$2 billion of the total — for work between 2010 and 2020 — was for research and development on complex systems, not for building the actual aircraft. The inflated \$4 billion figure Trump cited appears to include operation and maintenance as well.

Boeing responded to Trump Tuesday in a statement: "We are currently under contract for \$170 million to help determine the capabilities of these complex military aircraft that serve the unique requirements of the president of the United States. We look forward to working with the U.S. Air Force on subsequent phases of the program allowing us to deliver the best planes for the president at the best value for the American taxpayer."

The \$170 million figure is just for a portion of the research and development efforts.

Trump began his onslaught against Boeing at 8:52 a.m., tweeting "Boeing is building a brand new 747

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Air Force One for future presidents, but costs are out of control, more than \$4 billion. Cancel order!"

That tweet came 22 minutes after The Chicago Tribune posted a story in which the Boeing CEO voiced concerns about Trump's views on trade.

The president-elect then descended to the lobby of the Manhattan skyscraper that bears his name to reiterate his case.

Trump had tweeted in 2013 that he owned Boeing stock, but a spokesman said Tuesday he sold all of his stock holdings in June. That sale was not publicized by the campaign at the time, and aides did not reveal how much cash it might have generated.

If Trump had held onto his stock portfolio, he would have been required to repeatedly file reports with the U.S. Office of Government Ethics. A 2012 update of the Ethics in Government Act obliges presidents and other senior government officials to report such transactions.

Trump now uses his own plane, a Boeing 757, which he has outfitted with white leather and gold, a large flat-screen television and a bedroom. But as president it is expected that he would travel aboard the Air Force jet, which is equipped with special safety, defensive and communications equipment. Air Force One also has seating for reporters; Trump generally does not allow the press on his own plane.

Later this week, Trump will use that plane to travel to rallies in Iowa and Michigan, and on Saturday, Trump will attend the 117th annual Army-Navy football game. The game between the two military academies often draws the commander in chief; both Barack Obama and George W. Bush have attended in recent years.

Associated Press Writers Joseph Pisani in New York and Stephen Braun and Richard Lardner in Washington contributed reporting.

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

Critics worry after Trump security chief fuels conspiracies

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — On issues of national security and intelligence, no one is likely to have more influence in Donald Trump's White House than retired Gen. Michael T. Flynn.

Yet Flynn, Trump's incoming national security adviser, has gained prominence in Republican politics by fueling conspiracy theories and Islamophobic rhetoric that critics warn could create serious distractions — or alienate allies and embolden enemies — if it continues.

"His job is to ensure that the White House is focused at all times on all of the threats that the United States faces abroad," said Julianne Smith, a former deputy national security adviser to Vice President Joe Biden. She said she was "deeply troubled" by a Flynn tendency to promote fake news stories on his Twitter feed.

"You don't want to have a distracted national security adviser," said Smith, who now directs the strategy and statecraft program at the Center for a New American Security.

She was among several national security experts who raised concerns Tuesday about Flynn's willingness to share bad intelligence on a social media feed as he prepares to move to the West Wing.

Flynn served until 2014 as the head of U.S. military intelligence. Although he left that job over disputes with the Obama administration over policy and his management of the Defense Intelligence Agency, he is widely regarded as a top intelligence officer, a job that requires an understanding of the power of disinformation.

The issue of sharing fake news was highlighted when Flynn's son, Michael G. Flynn, tweeted about the false idea that prompted a shooting at a Washington, D.C., pizza parlor. He had been promoting a conspiracy theory that Hillary Clinton's allies had been operating a secret pedophilia ring in the restaurant and noted it would remain a story until "proven to be false."

Vice President-elect Mike Pence acknowledged Tuesday that the younger Flynn was helping his father with scheduling and administrative items during the presidential transition but told CNN "that's no longer the case."

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Asked repeatedly whether a security clearance was requested, Pence refused to answer directly. "Whatever the appropriate paperwork was to assist him in that regard, Jake, I'm sure was taking place," he said.

Trump's team did not clarify whether Michael Flynn Jr.'s departure from Trump's transition team was related to the tweets.

Less than a week before the election, the elder Flynn tweeted a link to a story that falsely claimed Clinton emails contained proof of money laundering and sex crimes with children, among other illegal activities. The incoming national security adviser called the baseless story a "must read" and instructed his followers: "U decide."

Flynn also promoted conspiracy theorists, some of them white supremacists, throughout the campaign even as he emerged as Trump's highest profile national security adviser.

He encouraged his followers to read a book by Mike Cernovich, whose website has suggested Clinton's campaign chairman was part of a "sex cult with connections to human trafficking." Flynn also tagged white nationalist Jared Wyand, whose website is popular with "alt-right" followers.

Flynn's appointment is not subject to Senate confirmation.

Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee, said Tuesday that Flynn's willingness to promote fake news "raises profound questions about his suitability for this important position."

Trump's team did not respond to questions about Flynn's social media activity. Pence praised Flynn more broadly on Tuesday, even as he distanced the incoming administration from Flynn's son.

"We are so grateful and honored to have Gen. Flynn as our nominee for national security adviser. He brings an extraordinary wealth of experience," Pence said.

The role of national security adviser has varied by administration, but usually centers on coordinating the policy positions of the secretaries of state and defense, the attorney general and other members of a president's team.

It is an especially important position because of the national security adviser's access to the president in the West Wing of the White House. Flynn's office will be steps away from the Oval Office, proximity that allows him to act as a gatekeeper on a wide range of issues, including matters of war and peace as well as diplomacy and intelligence.

He is expected to have more direct access to the president than national security officials in the Cabinet. Aside from attending Trump's daily intelligence briefings and senior staff meetings, Flynn will also oversee the National Security Council, a White House department that has grown to about 400 people involved in making policy recommendations.

Flynn, who turns 58 in December, served for more than three decades in the Army.

"If the national security adviser is going to be the direct conduit between the president and the national security world, of course it's a concern that that adviser is being taken in by conspiracy theories and fake news," said Tom Nichols, a professor at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, where Flynn obtained a master's in national security and strategic studies in 2001.

Whoever has the president's ear on international affairs, Nichols said, should have "a firm grip on what's true and what's false."

AP writers Julie Pace and Lolita C. Baldor in Washington and Matt O'Brien in Providence, Rhode Island contributed to this report.

Obama defends counterterrorism plan before handover to Trump

By KEVIN FREKING and JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Closing out two terms as a president at war, Barack Obama staunchly defended his counterterrorism strategy as one that rejected torture, held to American values and avoided large-scale troop deployments, in an implicit effort to shape the strategy his successor might employ.

Obama came to MacDill Air Force Base, home to U.S. Special Operations Command and Central Command, to give his final speech on national security. He delivered a strident argument for his reliance on

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drone strikes and U.S. commandos rather than ground wars like those launched in Iraq and Afghanistan by his predecessor. Obama emphasized the need for the U.S. to uphold its values by respecting the rights of Muslims and trying terror suspects in civilian courts.

"We can get these terrorists and stay true to who we are," Obama said.

"Rather than offer false promises that we can eliminate terrorism by dropping more bombs, or deploying more and more troops, or by fencing ourselves off from the rest of the world, we have to take a long view of the terrorist threat," Obama told troops gathered in an airplane hangar. "We have to pursue a smart strategy that can be sustained."

In describing the nature of the threat after eight years of his leadership, Obama sought to strike a careful balance, arguing at once that "violent extremism will be with us for years to come" and that terrorists "don't pose an existential threat" to the U.S. He said unlike previous wars against other nations, it was unlikely this conflict would end with a "clearly defined victory."

Though White House officials said the speech was planned before Donald Trump was elected, Obama's remarks were clearly tailored to address some of Trump's proposals.

In a warning that appeared aimed at Trump, who has called for barring Muslim immigrants temporarily, Obama said the U.S. doesn't impose religious tests. He forcefully defended his decision to bar the use of torture against detainees while chastising Congress for refusing to let him shutter the Guantanamo Bay detention center, which Obama called a "blot on our national honor."

Amnesty International USA urged the incoming commander in chief to heed Obama's advice, arguing that the speech "offers lessons for Trump."

Obama acknowledged he wasn't entirely successful in what he has described as his push to take the U.S. off its wartime footing. He has been forced to rely on more than 15-year-old law, passed by Congress after 9/11, as the legal underpinning for his campaign against the Islamic State group, but pointed the finger at Congress for failing to update it.

"Democracies should not operate in a state of permanently authorized war," Obama said.

Trump has said little about how he intends to combat extremist groups, arguing that ambiguity and unpredictability are assets that deny the enemy a chance to plan ahead. Still, all signs suggest he'll pursue a more muscular, military-driven approach, including his selection of hawkish aides for his team such as retired Gen. Michael T. Flynn for national security adviser.

The president-elect has argued that Obama's decision to withdraw the bulk of troops from Iraq created a power vacuum that allowed IS to form and seize territory. Obama said that was because Baghdad refused to sign a pact granting legal protections to U.S. troops to stay, though officials have acknowledged privately over the years that Obama never forcefully pushed for such a deal.

Obama came into office telling a war-weary nation he would wind down two wars and prevent new ones. Obama said his use of drones, for example, had saved civilian lives, arguing that airstrikes would have been less precise and ground troops more deadly.

"You have to weigh the alternatives," Obama said.

But Obama's approach most notably came up short in Syria, where Obama long ago predicted that Syrian President Bashar Assad would lose his grip on power. But Assad's control appears stronger than it has in years while the brutal civil war rages on.

While U.S. troop casualties declined significantly under Obama's approach, the U.S. is now fighting in far more corners of the globe, which Obama attributed to a metastasizing extremist threat.

The U.S. is currently launching strikes in Syria, Somalia, Libya and Yemen, according to a report to Congress the White House released this week. Additional U.S. troops and assets are also in Jordan, Djibouti, Turkey, Egypt and Cameroon to support counterterrorism missions, while other overseas operations remain classified.

Much of the counterterrorism mission is being carried out not by traditional ground troops who have traditionally done most of the fighting in U.S. wars, but by commandos like the Army Delta Force and Navy SEALs. Their agility, advanced training and light footprint make them attractive for fighting in places where the U.S. doesn't want to get bogged down.

Before taking the stage for his speech, Obama met with top military leaders at the base, including Gen. Raymond Thomas, who heads U.S. Special Operations Command. He also told troops serving at the base that it had been the privilege of his lifetime to serve as their commander in chief.

Q&A: A look at Trump's call to cancel new Air Force One

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump suggested Tuesday that he would cancel Boeing's contract to build a new fleet of presidential aircraft to replace the aging models that shuttle the president around the world. He cited "out of control" costs of more than \$4 billion in a tweet that ended with "Cancel order!"

The New York businessman, who flies on his own Boeing plane, later told reporters the cost to the government was "ridiculous," though he appeared to be citing more than just the bare acquisition costs. Trump said he wanted the aircraft manufacturer to make money, "but not that much."

Here's a look at Trump's claims about Air Force One, one of the most recognized symbols of the American presidency.

HOW MUCH WILL THE PROJECT COST?

The Government Accountability Office, the government's auditing arm, in March of this year estimated total program costs at more than \$3.2 billion, much of it for research and development, through the 2020 federal budget year. Separately, Defense Department and Air Force officials put the cost for two new aircraft at around Trump's figure of \$4 billion. That estimate includes the cost of research and development, construction and future maintenance, according to the officials who were not authorized to comment publicly about the sensitive military project and spoke on condition of anonymity.

WHY DOES THE GOVERNMENT WANT NEW PLANES? DOESN'T THE CURRENT AIR FORCE ONE WORK JUST FINE?

That's true, but the two modified Boeing 747s the president uses for the bulk of his travels are getting older and breaking down more often, officials say. They were built in the 1980s and began flying in the early 1990s. One flew President Barack Obama to MacDill Air Force in Tampa, Florida, on Tuesday.

The distinctive blue-and-white plane with the U.S. flag on its tail and the presidential seal on its belly is basically a flying office for the president, complete with sophisticated communications, military and other capabilities. Safety of the president is paramount, and the government started the process to replace the aging aircraft with younger versions that incorporate updated capabilities and technological advances.

Air Force One is unlike most aircraft. It can be refueled in the air and, with an unlimited range, can take the president wherever he needs to go. Its electrical systems are hardened to protect against an electromagnetic pulse, and the plane has advanced, secure communications equipment that will allow it to function as mobile command center in the event of an attack on the United States, according to the White House.

The president and most of those who fly with him enjoy 4,000 square feet of floor space on three levels, including a suite for the president with an office and a conference room. A medical suite can function as an operating room in an emergency, and a doctor is always on board. The plane has quarters for those who regularly accompany the president on trips, including White House staff, Secret Service agents, traveling journalists and other guests.

WHAT IS BOEING'S ROLE?

The Air Force has spent about \$170 million on three contracts to begin to identify the types of military and specialized systems that would have to be added to a commercial plane to adapt it for use by the president. Boeing has that contract, and also would build the replacement Air Force One.

Under the deal, the Air Force would buy the 747-8 aircraft, a newer version of those currently in use as

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Air Force One. The new aircraft wouldn't be ready until around 2023 or 2024, the end of Trump's second term, should he seek and win re-election.

In a statement, Boeing said it looks forward to working with the Air Force "to deliver the best planes for the president at the best value for the American taxpayer."

COULD TRUMP ASK ANOTHER COMPANY TO BUILD THE NEW AIRCRAFT?

It's unclear. Trump did not elaborate, either on Twitter or during a brief appearance before reporters Tuesday. Presidents have flown on Boeing aircraft for more than seven decades and the Chicago-based company is the only American maker of these types of planes. Its closest rival would be French aircraft manufacturer Airbus.

DIDN'T OBAMA CANCEL THE CONTRACT FOR A NEW PRESIDENTIAL HELICOPTER?

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said Obama didn't scrap the project entirely, but ordered the military to restart it to bring the cost projections under control. The Marine One project was further along in the process than the Air Force One upgrade, and with costs much greater than originally expected.

CAN TRUMP CANCEL THE PROJECT?

Yes, but not before he is sworn in to office on Jan. 20.

Associated Press writers Lolita C. Baldor in Washington, David Koenig in Dallas and Joseph Pisani in New York contributed to this report.

Iraq launches new push in southeast Mosul

By **SUSANNAH GEORGE** and **SINAN SALAHEDDIN**, Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — After weeks of unchanging front lines, the Iraqi army rolled Tuesday into a southeastern Mosul neighborhood held by Islamic State militants, taking a hospital before meeting stiff resistance, the military said.

The push began just after 6 a.m. with a barrage of airstrikes that kicked up dark clouds of smoke in the modest al-Salam residential neighborhood. The bombardment by Iraqi air support and the U.S.-led coalition appeared heavier than previous operations in the area.

Coalition forces providing logistical support could be seen about 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) from the front.

Iraqi troops also reported fewer car bombs than in previous assaults. After one such attack, at least two military vehicles could be seen carrying wounded from the front.

By evening, Iraqi forces had only secured a few hundred meters (yards) and clashes continued.

Thick plumes of smoke billowed from the hospital after the commander of a joint operations center that oversees the Mosul campaign, Lt. Gen. Abdul-Amir Yarellah, pronounced the site retaken by the army's 9th Division.

"The hospital was a Daesh base," said Lt. Ahmed Abu Fadl, using the Arabic acronym for IS.

"They were treating their wounded there," he added, explaining that he hoped retaking the building would hurt their ability to launch counterattacks.

Units from the 9th Division slowly moved across the main road marking the front line in heavily armored personnel carriers. As the convoy rolled through narrow streets on Mosul's edge, children waved and shouted from the tops of garden walls.

As the soldiers pushed deeper into the city, however, only a handful of families peered out at them from garden gates.

In a neighborhood that was declared liberated weeks ago, sniper rounds sent advancing troops ducking for cover.

From the rooftop of Fathii Muhammad Yousef's two-story house, he pointed to a minaret where an IS sniper was firing.

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"Starting before dawn, we heard more than 20 airstrikes," said Yousef, who took cover with his family of 10 in their home just a block from the front.

For the past month, Iraqi forces have clashed with IS fighters on the streets outside his home. Mortars and tank rounds have scarred its walls and broken its windows. Four of his neighbors have been wounded by gunfire and shrapnel, he said.

Yousef hopes Iraqi forces will push past his neighborhood so his family will be able to have access to food and clean water. In the past week, he ran out of water and is now running low on food.

"All we have now is well water. It's not clean enough to drink, but what else can we do?" he said, adding that the water is making some of his children sick.

The campaign to retake Mosul began Oct. 17. Iraq's second-largest city, it is the last major IS urban bastion in the country.

While Iraqi forces on the eastern side of the city have made some of the largest gains, front lines on the south and southeast have barely moved for weeks as troops have struggled to reinforce their defensive lines.

In an audio recording published online, new IS spokesman Abu al-Hassan al-Muhajir urged the fighters in Mosul and in the Syrian city of Raqqa to keep up the fight and not retreat.

It was not clear when the nearly 30-minute recording was produced. It was distributed by the militant group's al-Furqan media arm late Monday night. Al-Muhajir replaced Abu Mohammed al-Adnani, who was killed in an August airstrike.

IS captured Mosul in 2014 along with nearly a third of Iraqi territory and large parts of neighboring Syria. In the past year, Iraqi troops, federal police and allied Shiite and Sunni militias have pushed the militants from most of the vast Sunni province of Anbar, west of Baghdad, and areas to the north and east of the capital.

Salaheddin reported from Baghdad. Associated Press writer Maamoun Youssef in Cairo contributed to this report.

Math a concern for US teens; science, reading flat on test

By JENNIFER C. KERR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — American students have a math problem.

The latest global snapshot of student performance for 15-year-olds shows declining math scores in the U.S. and stagnant performance in science and reading.

"We're losing ground — a troubling prospect when, in today's knowledge-based economy, the best jobs can go anywhere in the world," said Education Secretary John B. King Jr. "Students in Massachusetts, Maryland, and Minnesota aren't just vying for great jobs along with their neighbors or across state lines, they must be competitive with peers in Finland, Germany, and Japan."

Math was a stubborn concern. "This pattern that we're seeing in mathematics seems to be consistent with what we've seen in previous assessments ... everything is just going down," said Peggy Carr, acting commissioner at the National Center for Education Statistics.

The 2015 Program for International Student Assessment, or PISA, study is the latest to document that American students are underperforming their peers in several Asian nations. The U.S. was below the international average in math and about average in science and reading. Singapore was the top performer in all three subjects on the PISA test.

More than half a million 15-year-old students in about 70 nations and educational systems took part in the exam, which is coordinated by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, or OECD.

Here are the main things to know about PISA:

U.S. SCORES AND RANKINGS

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Not so encouraging.

The test is based on a 1,000-point scale. Among the findings:

-In math, the U.S. average score was 470, below the international average of 490. Average scores ranged from 564 in Singapore to 328 in the Dominican Republic.

-In science, the U.S. average score was 496, about the same as the international average of 493. Average scores ranged from 556 in Singapore to 332 in the Dominican Republic.

-In reading, the U.S. average score was 497, around the same as the international average of 493. Average scores ranged from 535 in Singapore to 347 in Lebanon.

Average scores in math have been on the decline since 2009. Scores in reading and science have been flat during that same time period. Across the globe, American students were outperformed by their counterparts in 36 countries in math; 18 countries in science and 14 countries in reading.

SO, WHAT IS GOING ON WITH MATH?

Andreas Schleicher, director for education and skills at OECD, says high-performing countries do really well in math in three things: rigor, focus, and coherence.

For example, he says, many high-performing countries will teach a lot less but focus at much greater depths, particularly when you look at East Asia, Japan and Singapore.

"Students are often good at answering the first layer of a problem in the United States," said Schleicher. "But as soon as students have to go deeper and answer the more complex part of a problem, they have difficulties."

THE BRIGHT SPOT IN THE U.S.

All eyes are on Massachusetts.

The Bay State participated as an international benchmark in PISA and received scores separate from the United States as a whole. Students in the state performed exceptionally well.

Massachusetts's average scores were higher than the U.S. and the international average scores in science, math and reading. And for reading, Massachusetts was a top-tier performer, just behind Singapore and tied with Hong Kong and Canada.

Mitchell Chester, commissioner of Massachusetts public schools, says the state has spent two decades implementing higher standards, tests of student performance and money to support poorer districts.

"We measure our progress against that standard," he said in an interview. "We hold people accountable for those results and we support them to reach the results financially."

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

—"What do the PISA high-performing nations do differently than the United States? They invest in their students. They fully fund all of their schools, regardless of the ZIP code or community they are in." — National Education Association President Lily Eskelsen García

—"It's a combination of high standards, useful assessments and investing in our educators with high-quality curricula and professional development that can make a really meaningful impact. When you look at countries, and states, and schools that have that blend ... you see real improvements." — Jon Schnur, executive chairman of America Achieves.

OTHER FINDINGS

Globally, gender differences in science tended to be smaller than in reading and math. But, on average, in 33 countries and economies, the share of top performers in science is larger among boys than among girls. Finland was the only country where girls were more likely to be top performers than boys.

Across OECD countries, on average, the gender gap in reading in favor of girls narrowed by 12 points between 2009 and 2015.

ABOUT THE TEST AND COMPARISONS

The PISA test is conducted every three years. Schools in each country are randomly selected. OECD says student samples are drawn from a broad range of backgrounds and abilities.

Another international test, known as the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study, or TIMSS, had similar international comparisons with Asian countries solidly outperforming American students. That test, though, administered to younger students had eighth graders in the United States improving their scores in math, up nine points. Scores for science, however, were flat. In fourth grade, scores were unchanged in math and science.

Trump son-in-law's family donated to Israeli settler groups

By DANIEL ESTRIN, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump's son-in-law co-directs a family foundation that has donated tens of thousands of dollars to Jewish settlement organizations in the West Bank, according to tax records.

Trump has said Jared Kushner, who serves as a close adviser, could help negotiate a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. The donations by Kushner's parents' foundation could complicate his ability to be an impartial broker.

The Israeli daily Haaretz on Monday first reported the donations by the family foundation, which Kushner and his siblings direct with their parents.

The U.S. and most of the international community consider settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem to be illegal or illegitimate and obstacles to peace. The Palestinians seek both territories, captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war, for their hoped-for state.

But Trump has signaled he may alter decades of U.S. policy. The Republican Party's platform rejected "the false notion" that Israel is an occupier, and an adviser to Trump on Israel affairs has said Trump does not perceive settlements, home to roughly 600,000 Israelis, to be an impediment to peace.

According to tax records, the Charles and Seryl Kushner Foundation donated at least \$38,000 between 2011 and 2013 to the American Friends of Bet El Yeshiva, the fundraising arm of a Jewish seminary in Beit El, a West Bank settlement.

The Beit El Yeshiva Center is associated with Arutz Sheva, also known as Israel National News, a news organization affiliated with the Jewish settler movement.

On Tuesday, a manager at the seminary declined to comment about the Kushner family's donations and asked a visiting team of Associated Press journalists to leave.

In 2012 and 2013, the Kushner family foundation donated a total of \$15,000 to the Etzion Foundation, which operates three Orthodox Jewish study institutions in West Bank settlements. In 2011, the family donated \$5,000 to Ohr Torah Stone, an Orthodox Jewish educational institution in the West Bank settlement of Efrat.

The family also donated at least \$298,600 to the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, an organization that runs educational and cultural programs for Israeli soldiers, between 2010 and 2012, according to the tax records.

The organizations are registered as non-profits in the U.S. and charitable contributions to them are both legal and tax exempt.

Risa Heller, a spokeswoman for the Kushner companies, declined to comment on the donations to West Bank settlement groups. "Charles and Seryl Kushner are extremely generous and have given away over \$100 million to charitable causes including hospitals, schools, non-profits and religious institutions," Heller said.

The donations are a small part of the Kushner's philanthropic activities. The family has also donated to Israeli hospitals, Israel's national Holocaust memorial, and cultural institutions like the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and a leading Israeli art school.

But to Palestinians, the donations have added to fears that the Trump administration will not be sym-

pathetic to their cause.

"If anyone was foolish enough to believe that a Trump administration might succeed in negotiating a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, this is further evidence of their delusions," said Diana Buttu, a Palestinian political analyst and former adviser to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Associated Press writers Rhonda Shafner in New York and Steve Peoples in Washington contributed to this report.

Merkel is last of Obama's key European allies still standing

By GEIR MOULSON, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Just a few months ago, German Chancellor Angela Merkel brought together the leaders of the U.S., Britain, France and Italy to discuss the world's crises, a moment captured in a photo of the five seated around a conference table. When she hosts a summit of 20 leading global powers in July, she will be the only one of them left — and many of the policies her partners worked for might be reversed.

Merkel, the last of President Barack Obama's key European allies still standing, appears well on course to extend her 11-year grip on power, though even she warned her conservative party Tuesday that she faces her most difficult campaign yet.

Many people "feel that the world is in disarray, and they're right," Merkel told a congress of her Christian Democratic Union in Essen. "2016 hasn't made the world stronger and more stable, but rather weaker and more unstable."

"No one, even with the greatest experience, can make things better in Germany, Europe and the world more or less alone — and certainly not a chancellor of Germany," she said. "Let us not be fooled into thinking that. That would be grotesque, absurd, condemned to failure. That's not how it works."

Tamping down expectations has served Merkel well in three terms of pragmatic and rarely flashy leadership. But given the exodus of like-minded leaders, she will struggle to avoid such hopes.

In April, Merkel welcomed Obama to Germany for a meeting at which the merits of a proposed European Union-U.S. trade pact were a prominent issue. They then met British Prime Minister David Cameron, French President Francois Hollande and Italian Premier Matteo Renzi.

But at July's Group of 20 summit in Hamburg, Merkel will be facing new leaders of the West's leading powers.

Obama, whose popularity has been rising in the U.S. in recent months, tried to use his stronger standing to ensure allies on both sides of the Atlantic were in office after he leaves in January. He was mostly unsuccessful.

Obama campaigned vigorously for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, casting her election as a safeguard on his agenda. She lost to Republican Donald Trump, who opposes the kind of multilateral trade deals Obama tried to pursue with Europe and has called for closer relations with Russia.

Cameron was replaced by Theresa May after failing to persuade British voters to stay in the EU in a June referendum. The deeply unpopular Hollande has decided not to seek re-election in April; both of the two top contenders to succeed him advocate a softer line on Russia, and one supports leaving the EU.

Renzi announced his resignation after losing a weekend referendum on constitutional reform in Italy, leaving unclear who will take on the task of steering the country's large but troubled economy.

Obama traveled to London in April to try to boost Cameron ahead of the Brexit vote. The president bluntly warned that Britain would find itself at the "back of the queue" in trans-Atlantic trade deals if it left the EU.

This fall, Obama threw his support behind Renzi, hosting him at the White House for a celebrity-filled state dinner. He praised Renzi's efforts to modernize Italy's political institutions, calling reform an important step toward a "more vibrant, dynamic economy."

The White House has dismissed questions about whether the referendums and Trump's victory signal a broad rejection of Obama's world views, though officials privately worry about the spread of isolationist tendencies.

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"I would warn against painting with an overly broad brush about the potential consequences of this outcome," Obama spokesman Josh Earnest said after the Italian vote. "There certainly is a not entirely unreasonable tendency to want to loop together the outcome in the U.K. and even the outcome of the U.S. presidential election with this outcome. But each of these is different."

Obama made no attempt to assist Hollande, and Merkel is now the last of the president's core European partners standing.

Obama has again tried to do his part to give her a boost, traveling to Germany last month to heap praise on his long-time partner.

"I value Angela's leadership," he said. "If I were German and I had a vote, I might support her."

He added: "But I don't know whether that hurts or helps."

Merkel acknowledges that she faces a tougher task this time after cruising to victory in 2013. While her conservative party is well ahead in polls, it faces new competition from the upstart nationalist Alternative for Germany party, which has thrived by attacking Merkel's migrant policies.

It also faces the possibility of three left-leaning parties linking up to put it out of government, if they can win enough votes and overcome deep policy divisions — although that currently looks like a long shot. And it must smooth over tensions with its Bavarian ally, the Christian Social Union, which has differed with Merkel over migrants.

Merkel's party re-elected her unopposed as chairwoman on Tuesday, with 89.5 percent of delegates supporting her. That was solid, but down from 96.7 percent in less-troubled times two years ago.

"The 2017 election will be more difficult than any election before, at least since German reunification," Merkel said, citing the "strong polarization of our society."

Associated Press writer Julie Pace in Washington contributed.

Grammy noms: 9 for Beyonce, 8 each for Drake, Rihanna, Kanye

By MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Grammy Awards are sipping all of Beyonce's lemonade.

The pop star leads the 2017 Grammys with nine nominations, including bids for album of the year with "Lemonade," and song and record of the year with "Formation." The singer, who already has 20 Grammys and is the most nominated woman in Grammy history with 62 nods over the course of her career, is also the first artist to earn nominations in the pop, rock, R&B and rap categories in the same year.

Behind Beyonce are Drake, Rihanna and Kanye West, who scored eight nominations each.

Like Beyonce, Adele is also nominated for album, record and song of the year. For album of the year, "Lemonade" and "25" — which has sold 10 million copies in a year — will compete against Drake's multi-hit "Views," Justin Bieber's redemption album "Purpose" and surprise nominee "A Sailor's Guide to Earth," the third album from respected and rebellious country singer Sturgill Simpson.

Beyonce's "Formation" and Adele's "Hello" are up against Rihanna and Drake's "Work," twenty one pilots' "Stressed Out" and Lukas Graham's "7 Years" for record of the year. "7 Years" is also up for song of the year — a songwriter's award — battling Bieber's "Love Yourself," co-written with Ed Sheeran, Mike Posner's "I Took a Pill In Ibiza," as well as Beyonce and Adele's songs.

Beyonce's nine nominations include best rock performance ("Don't Hurt Yourself" with Jack White), pop solo performance ("Hold Up"), rap/sung performance ("Freedom" with Kendrick Lamar) and urban contemporary album ("Lemonade").

"Artists are feeling emboldened and courageous and just wanting to step out of the predictable boundaries of what they have done. Of course, (Beyonce) is the poster child for that," Recording Academy CEO and President Neil Portnow said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Adele, who has five nominations, is up for best pop vocal album ("25") and pop solo performance ("Hello.") The Grammys will be presented in Los Angeles on Feb. 12, 2017.

David Bowie, who died from cancer in January, earned four nominations for his final album "Blackstar,"

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including best rock performance, rock song, alternative music album and engineered album, non-classical.

"I think this is beyond sort of the sympathy vote, because sometimes you'll see those kinds of things happen just 'cause people feel sorry about it. But listen to (his) album — it's quite extraordinary," Portnow said of Bowie.

This year the Recording Academy allowed streaming-only recordings — released on paid-subscription platforms like Spotify, Apple Music and Tidal but not for sale on iTunes — to be eligible for nominations, giving Chance the Rapper a fair chance. The breakout performer scored seven nominations including best new artist, pitting him against country singers Maren Morris and Kelsea Ballerini; singer-rapper Anderson Paak; and pop-EDM duo the Chainsmokers, whose recent hits include "Closer" and "Don't Let Me Down."

Chance the Rapper earned three nominations for best rap song: His hit, "No Problem," is nominated, and he has writing credit on the Kanye West songs "Famous" and "Ultralight Beam." West will compete with himself in three categories: best rap song, rap performance and rap/sung performance.

Chance's "Coloring Book" and West's "The Life of Pablo" are nominated for best rap album along with Drake's "Views," De La Soul's "And the Anonymous Nobody," DJ Khaled's "Major Key" and Schoolboy Q's "Blank Face LP."

Simpson, who had been nominated for best Americana album at the 2015 Grammys, also sees his nine-track album nominated for best country album. Simpson was in a bit of controversy this year when he posted on Facebook that the Academy of Country Music Awards should not have created an award named after Merle Haggard when he felt they never showed true love to the country outlaw, who died this year. He closed his long post saying: "(Expletive) this town. I'm moving."

Simpson's album is up against Loretta Lynn's "Full Circle," Keith Urban's "Ripcord," Morris' "Hero" and Brandy Clark's "Big Day In a Small Town."

Lori McKenna, who won a Grammy this year for co-writing Little Big Town's "Girl Crush," is nominated for best country song for penning Tim McGraw's "Humble and Kind." She also scored nominations for best Americana album, American Roots performance and American Roots song for her own work.

Acts tying McKenna and Bowie for four nominations include Bieber, Morris, Kirk Franklin, engineer Tom Coyne, and producer-songwriters Max Martin, Greg Kurstin, Benny Blanco and Mike Dean. Tyler Joseph, the lead vocalist of twenty one pilots and the duo's main songwriter, scored five nominations for "Stressed Out" (record of the year, pop duo/group performance) and "Heathens" (best rock song, rock performance and song written for visual media); twenty one pilots, which includes drummer Josh Dun, earned three nods.

Some well-known acts scored their first Grammy nominations Tuesday, including Solange, Blink-182 and Demi Lovato, who will compete against Adele, Bieber, Sia and Ariana Grande for best pop vocal album.

Amy Schumer earned two nominations, including best spoken word album and comedy album. Deceased nominees include Joey Feek of the duo Joey + Rory (best gospel roots album for "Hymns").

About 13,000 Recording Academy members voted in the 84 Grammy categories from 22,000 submissions. Songs and albums released from Oct. 1, 2015 through Sept. 30 were eligible for nomination.

Online: <http://www.grammy.com>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 7, the 342nd day of 2016. There are 24 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 7, 1941, Imperial Japan's navy launched a pre-emptive attack on the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, one of a series of raids in the Pacific. The United States declared war against Japan the next day.

On this date:

In 43 B.C., Roman statesman and scholar Marcus Tullius Cicero was slain at the order of the Second Triumvirate.

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In 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1842, the New York Philharmonic performed its first concert.

In 1909, chemist Leo H. Baekeland received a U.S. patent for Bakelite (BAY'-kuh-lyt), the first synthetic plastic.

In 1946, fire broke out at the Winecoff (WYN'-kahf) Hotel in Atlanta; the blaze killed 119 people, including hotel founder W. Frank Winecoff.

In 1965, Pope Paul VI and Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras I simultaneously lifted the mutual excommunications that had led to the split of their churches in 1054.

In 1972, America's last moon mission to date was launched as Apollo 17 blasted off from Cape Canaveral. Imelda Marcos, wife of Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos, was stabbed and seriously wounded by an assailant who was shot dead by her bodyguards.

In 1985, retired Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart died in Hanover, New Hampshire, at age 70.

In 1987, 43 people were killed after a gunman aboard a Pacific Southwest Airlines jetliner in California apparently opened fire on a fellow passenger, the pilots and himself, causing the plane to crash. Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev set foot on American soil for the first time, arriving for a Washington summit with President Ronald Reagan.

In 1993, gunman Colin Ferguson opened fire on a Long Island Rail Road commuter train, killing six people and wounding 19. (Ferguson was later sentenced to a minimum of 200 years in prison.)

In 1995, a 746-pound probe from the Galileo spacecraft hurtled into Jupiter's atmosphere, sending back data to the mothership before it was presumably destroyed.

In 2004, Hamid Karzai (HAH'-mihd KAHR'-zeze) was sworn in as Afghanistan's first popularly elected president.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush gave a chilly response to the Iraq Study Group's proposals for reshaping his policy, objecting to talks with Iran and Syria, refusing to endorse a major troop withdrawal and vowing no retreat from embattled U.S. goals in the Mideast. The U.S. military transferred the first group of Guantanamo Bay detainees to a new maximum-security prison on the naval base. Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, the first woman U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, died in Bethesda, Maryland, at age 80.

Five years ago: Rod Blagojevich, the ousted Illinois governor whose three-year battle against criminal charges became a national spectacle, was sentenced to 14 years in prison. Veterans from Pearl Harbor observed the 70th anniversary of Japan's attack with a solemn ceremony at the site of the bombing. Veteran character actor Harry Morgan, 96, died in Brentwood, California.

One year ago: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump called for a "total and complete shut-down of Muslims entering the United States," an idea swiftly condemned by his rival GOP candidates for president and other Republicans. The federal government opened an investigation into the Chicago Police Department, the same day authorities announced they would not charge an officer in the shooting death of 25-year-old Ronald Johnson, a black man who authorities said was armed with a gun as he ran away from officers.

Today's Birthdays: Linguist and political philosopher Noam Chomsky is 88. Bluegrass singer Bobby Osborne is 85. Actress Ellen Burstyn is 84. Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., is 79. Broadcast journalist Carole Simpson is 76. Baseball Hall of Famer Johnny Bench is 69. Actor-director-producer James Keach is 69. Country singer Gary Morris is 68. Singer-songwriter Tom Waits is 67. Sen. Susan M. Collins, R-Maine, is 64. Basketball Hall of Famer Larry Bird is 60. Actress Priscilla Barnes is 59. Former "Tonight Show" announcer Edd (cq) Hall is 58. Rock musician Tim Butler (The Psychedelic Furs) is 58. Actor Patrick Fabian is 52. Actor Jeffrey Wright is 51. Actor C. Thomas Howell is 50. Producer-director Jason Winer is 44. NFL player Terrell Owens is 43. Rapper-producer Kon Artis is 42. Pop singer Nicole Appleton (All Saints) is 41. Latin singer Frankie J is 40. Country singer Sunny Sweeney is 40. Actor Chris Chalk is 39. Actress Shiri Appleby is 38. Pop-rock singer/celebrity judge Sara Bareilles (bah-REHL'-es) is 37. Actress Jennifer Carpenter is 37. Actor Jack Huston is 34. Singer Aaron Carter is 29.

Thought for Today: "No nation ever had an army large enough to guarantee it against attack in time of peace or insure it victory in time of war." — President Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933).