

Groton Daily Independent

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Friday, Jan. 20

Senior Menu: French dip sandwich, macaroni salad, seasoned cabbage, Waldorf salad.

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, Italian vegetables, fruit, broccoli and dip.

Debate at Watertown

Girls' Basketball hosts Roncalli. C game at 5:15 p.m., JV at 6:30 p.m. with varsity to follow.

Saturday, Jan. 21

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship at Rosewood Court at 10 a.m.

Debate at Watertown

Robotics at GHS Gym

Wrestling at Arlington Tourney at 9:30 a.m.

Basketball Doubleheader with Potter County in Groton. Girls JV at 2 p.m., Boys JV at 3 p.m., Girls Varsity at 4:30 p.m., Boys Varsity at 6 p.m.

Roncalli boys edge past Groton Area

Aberdeen Roncalli edged out Groton Area last night, 52-47. Groton Area had several opportunities to tie or take the lead when Roncalli held a 46-43 lead. Seric Shabazz led the Tigers with 16 points followed by Bennett Shabazz and Sean Schuring with 11 each, Brandon Keith had six and Peyton Johnson added two points.

Gus Reede led the Cavaliers with 20 points while Braden Sommers had 11, Conner Deutsch 10, Conner Fiedler six, Josh Hammerich three and Brady Morgan with two.

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

Closed: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

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Junior Varsity Stat Sheet

VISITOR: Groton ()

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
5 <u>Shabazz, Darien</u>	*	1	4	0	3	0	2	1	0	1	3	2	0	3	0	2	8:00
14 <u>Diegel, Treyton</u>	*	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	6	0	2	24:00
30 <u>Doeden, Jonny</u>	*	0	2	0	0	5	8	0	1	1	3	5	0	5	0	3	16:00
34 <u>Jones, Austin</u>	*	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	5	1	2	0	3	0	0	24:00
40 <u>Johnson, Peyton</u>	*	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	16:00
3 <u>Schinkel, Anthony</u>		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
4 <u>DeHoet, Cyrus</u>		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
10 <u>Lane, Marshall</u>		1	4	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	2	2	0	4	0	1	24:00
12 <u>Thurston, Riley</u>		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8:00
20 <u>Schaller, Hunter</u>		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	8:00
22 <u>Guthmiller, Cade</u>		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
32 <u>Thurston, Mitchell</u>		0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	8:00
42 <u>Morris, Alex</u>		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	8:00
50 <u>Thorson, Luke</u>		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								1	2	3				0			
Team Totals		5	19	0	7	5	12	5	10	15	13	15	0	27	0	9	160

Total FG% - 1st: 4/12 0.333 2nd: 1/7 0.143 Game: 0.263 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 0/4 0.000 2nd: 0/3 0.000 Game: 0.000 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 1/2 0.500 2nd: 4/10 0.400 Game: 0.417 (4,0)

HOME: Aberdeen Roncalli ()

NO PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
4 <u>Vanorman,</u>	*	5	6	0	1	3	5	0	2	2	2	13	1	2	0	2	16:00
13 <u>Goetz,</u>	*	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	2	2	0	2	0	2	24:00
23 <u>Reede,</u>	*	3	7	3	6	2	2	0	0	0	1	11	2	5	0	2	24:00
24 <u>Gunderson,</u>	*	3	5	0	0	1	4	3	1	4	2	7	0	4	0	2	16:00
42 <u>Chamberlain,</u>	*	2	4	0	0	2	4	1	3	4	3	6	0	1	0	1	16:00
22 <u>Beucher,</u>		2	5	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	1	4	0	0	0	1	8:00
33 <u>Jeme,</u>		3	4	1	1	0	0	0	4	4	1	7	0	0	0	3	32:00
42 <u>kokales,</u>		0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	24:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								0	0	0				0			
Team Totals		19	32	4	8	9	18	8	12	20	13	51	5	14	0	14	160

Total FG% - 1st: 9/17 0.529 2nd: 10/15 0.667 Game: 0.594 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 4/7 0.571 2nd: 0/1 0.000 Game: 0.500 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 6/10 0.600 2nd: 3/8 0.375 Game: 0.500 (4,0)

Technical Fouls: groto (0)
 : AbR (0)

OFFICIALS :
 ATTENDANCE : 0

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Groton	8	1	3	3	15
Aberdeen <u>Roncalli</u>	10	18	4	19	51

Last FG: Groton 4th-08:00, Aberdeen Roncalli 4th-08:00
 Largest lead: Groton by 3 1st-08:00, Aberdeen Roncalli by 36 4th-08:00
 Score tied: 2 times, Lead changed: 2 times

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VISITOR: Groton ()

Junior Varsity Stat Sheet

NO	PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
			FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
3	Sippel, Anthony	*	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	16:00
4	Shabazz, Bennett	*	4	11	1	4	2	4	1	1	2	5	11	1	4	0	1	8:00
12	Schuring, Sean	*	4	10	0	4	3	3	0	5	5	4	11	3	3	0	3	24:00
20	Keith, Brandon	*	2	4	2	4	0	0	0	4	4	0	6	1	3	0	2	24:00
42	Shabazz, Seric	*	5	13	3	8	4	4	1	2	3	2	17	1	3	0	1	32:00
10	Lane, Marshall		0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	8:00
14	Diegel, Treyton		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24:00
30	Doeden, Jonny		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	8:00
34	Jones, Austin		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
40	Johnson, Peyton		0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	16:00
50	Thorson, Luke		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
TEAM REBOUNDS									0	4	4				0			
Team Totals			15	42	6	21	11	14	4	20	24	15	47	8	13	0	9	160

Total FG% - 1st: 8/18 0.444 2nd: 7/24 0.292 Game: 0.357 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 3/10 0.300 2nd: 3/11 0.273 Game: 0.286 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 7/9 0.778 2nd: 4/5 0.800 Game: 0.786 (1,0)

HOME: Aberdeen Roncalli ()

NO	PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
			FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
3	Reede,	*	6	13	3	9	5	7	0	2	2	0	20	1	1	0	1	32:00
5	Fiedler,	*	3	4	0	0	0	0	1	4	5	4	6	1	1	1	1	8:00
20	Deutch,	*	5	8	0	0	1	3	2	2	4	4	11	3	2	0	0	0:00
32	Morgan,	*	1	6	0	2	0	0	0	3	3	1	2	2	2	0	1	24:00
44	Sommers,	*	3	7	1	2	4	5	1	5	6	3	11	3	4	0	2	16:00
10	Holzer,		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16:00
22	Cox,		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	3	0	1	5	0	2	32:00
23	Reede, Max		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
42	Chamberlain,		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
50	Hammrich,		1	3	0	0	1	2	1	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	24:00
TEAM REBOUNDS									3	2	5				0			
Team Totals			19	42	4	13	11	17	8	25	33	15	53	11	15	1	7	160

Total FG% - 1st: 11/25 0.440 2nd: 8/17 0.471 Game: 0.452 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 2/6 0.333 2nd: 2/7 0.286 Game: 0.308 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 3/5 0.600 2nd: 8/12 0.667 Game: 0.647 (1,0)

Technical Fouls: groto (0)
 : AbR (0)

OFFICIALS :
 ATTENDANCE : 0

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Groton	15	11	7	14	47
Aberdeen <u>Roncalli</u>	19	8	17	9	53

Last FG: Groton 4th-08:00, Aberdeen Roncalli 4th-08:00
 Largest lead: Groton by 1 1st-08:00, Aberdeen Roncalli by 13 3rd-08:00
 Score tied: 1 times, Lead changed: 8 times

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DI Schedule

February 19th - Dessert Theater, 3-5 p.m.

February 20th - Groton Instant Challenge Day, 1-3 p.m.

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting – Special Meeting January 23, 2017 – 5:30 PM
GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Reschedule the date and time for the bid opening for the Groton Area Elementary project from February 14, 2017 at 2:00 PM to February 21, 2017 at 2:00 PM.

ADJOURN



Wednesday, January 18th
thru
Saturday, January 21st

CRAZY *Lori's Pharmacy*

DAYS

And

SALE



Lori's -

* Buy one gift item at full price, get another (of equal value or less) at 1/2 price!
*Christmas is now 75% off!

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*Christmas is now 60% off!

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Deep Thoughts

Notes from the underground by Communications Director Constance Walter

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Ventilation critical to DUNE success

Air flows down the Yates and Ross shafts and is pulled through specific areas underground by two air shafts: Number 5 Shaft and the Oro Hondo. With the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE) just on the horizon, the reliability of the Oro Hondo ventilation system, in particular, is critical.

A direct drive, variable-frequency fan powered by a 3000 horsepower synchronous motor (it currently draws less than 400 hp), the Oro Hondo was built in 1986. Since then, it has undergone repairs and had parts replaced as needed and, in 2010, underwent a significant rebuild as Sanford Lab prepared to install the first physics experiments on the 4850 Level.

Deterioration of the shaft can inhibit airflow, so it was critical to understand the integrity of the wall rock, said Bryce Pietzyk, underground access director. However, because there is no conveyance in the shaft, Pietzyk turned to experts to find a way to get “eyes on” the rock from the surface to the current muck pile elevation. A special scanning method, developed by Professional Mapping Services, Firmatek and Mine Vision Systems, was lowered into the shaft to collect data on ground conditions.

“We learned a lot from the baseline scan, and



Above: The Oro Hondo shaft exhaust fan is essential to controlling airflow underground. Below: A laser scanner was lowered into the shaft to map its integrity.

things look good right now,” Pietzyk said. “But we’ll need to do more scans over time to really understand locations of zones where rock wall conditions have deteriorated.” Additional scans will help create a more complete picture of the conditions of the shaft.

Ventilation surveys helped Sanford Lab engineers determine that while the fan was operating well, the drive system is obsolete and unreliable, and the motor and bearings require preventive maintenance before Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility (LBNF) starts major construction. Tests also revealed minor corrosion in the ducting, which will be sandblasted and coated to slow further corrosion.

“But, overall, the entire system is much more efficient than we anticipated,” said Allan Stratman, engineering director.

Finally, to improve air flow, a borehole needs to be raised from the 4850 to the 3650 Level and improve-



Photo by Scott Thayer, Mine Vision Systems

ments made to 31 exhaust, an existing ventilation path. It’s all part of the plans for the LBNF, which will power DUNE.

Scientists working on DUNE hope to answer questions about the role neutrinos play in the universe, learn more about the formation of neutron stars and black holes and, quite possibly, figure out just how much mass these

elusive particles have.

A neutrino beam will be sent from Fermilab near Chicago, Ill., 800 miles through the earth to Sanford Lab in Lead, S.D. Although no tunnel is required for the neutrino beam, huge caverns must be excavated to house four massive liquid argon detectors on the 4850 Level of Sanford Lab. Nearly 800,000 tons of rock will be excavated. Proper ventilation is critical when doing construction underground. And that’s why the Oro Hondo is so important to the success of DUNE.

“This is the only shaft that can provide enough ventilation for the amount of excavation LBNF requires and to remove heat from the DUNE caverns during operations,” said Joshua Willhite, deputy project manager for the LBNF Far Site (Sanford Lab) Conventional Facilities. “The fan has to be highly reliable to reduce risk.”

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for membership information



livestream

Upcoming Events

Friday, Jan. 20

**Girls' Basketball hosts Aberdeen Roncalli
8 p.m.**

Saturday, Jan. 21

Boys JV at 3 p.m., Girls Varsity at 4:30 p.m., Boys Varsity at 6 p.m.

gdilive.com

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Lake Area President's List

WATERTOWN, SD... Michael Cartney, Lake Area Technical Institute President, announces the current President's List. The President's List is a list of outstanding students who, through their initiative and ability, have indicated a seriousness of purpose in their educational program. The President's List is limited to full-time students who have achieved a semester grade point average of 3.5 to 4.0. Students with a 4.0 have been noted by an *.

Local and area students so honored include:

Name	Hometown
Spencer Knecht	Groton SD
Wyatt Lone	Groton SD

Mitchell Technical Institute President's List

Mitchell—A total of 372 students at Mitchell Technical Institute have been placed on the Fall Semester 2016 President's List, according to MTI President Mark Wilson. To be named to the list, students must earn a term GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and complete at least 12 credit hours of academic work during the semester.

Included on the Fall 2016 President's List are:

Frederick: Jayden Mikkonen
Groton: Isaiah Cutler, Landon Johnson, Kyle Miller

Gun show set for Aberdeen

GUN SHOW: Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association 15th Annual Aberdeen Gun Show. Saturday, February 4, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, February 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aberdeen Ramkota Hotel on Highway 281 North. Roger Krumm 701-851-0129.

Groton Transit Thank You

The Groton Transit would like to thank everyone for their continual support. The transit December Open House was great with a great turn out of baked goods! We look forward to providing transportation as you need it. Thank You to everyone for helping us keep this program alive and well!



Annual Kiwanis Pancake Brunch Sunday, January 29th

Groton Community Center
Serving 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Adults \$6.00 - Children \$3.00 - Age 0-5 Free



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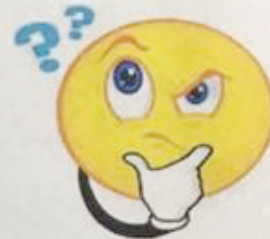
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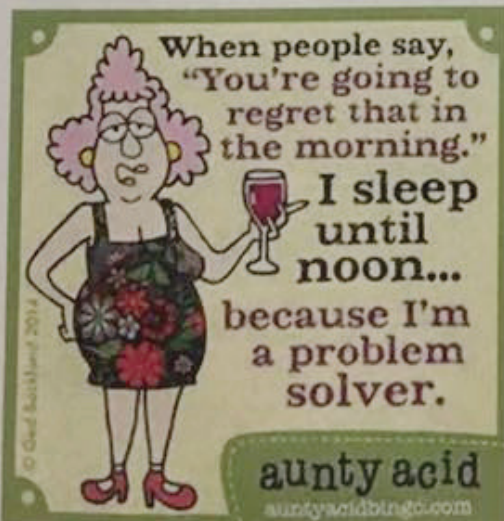
Leave all your money and worries at home as we have you covered unless you see something on the side of the road you just can't live without then your on your own. Pack your overnight bag and your ready to enjoy



Like Adventure and Fun? Then join Duenwald Transportation on our Two Day Mystery Tour, March 1st and 2nd. Cost is \$225 per person based on double occupancy \$290 for single. For information on how to get signed up for this exciting



trip call [Keri Kline](tel:605-233-0144) 605-233-0144 Seats are limited!! Bus will depart Clark at 8:30am and Watertown at 9:15am on Wednesday March 1st. It's going to be a trip of a lifetime and you will be doing things you have never done before???? So jump on the bus sit back and wonder where this bus will be taking me today and tomorrow.



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Today in Weather History

January 20, 1944: A late January warm up occurred on this date in weather history in 1944. Temperatures rose into the upper 50s to the mid-60s across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. Overnight lows in the 20s and lower 30s were above the normal highs for the year. Record highs were set at Aberdeen, Kennebec, Sisseton, and Watertown. Watertown rose to 56 degrees, Sisseton rose to 58 degrees, Aberdeen rose to 60 degrees, and Kennebec rose to 65 degrees. Also, Mobridge rose to 57 degrees, and Pierre rose to 61 degrees.

1937 - The wettest Inaugural Day of record with 1.77 inches of rain in 24 hours. Temperatures were only in the 30s as Franklin D. Roosevelt was sworn in for his second term. (David Ludlum)

1943 - Strange vertical antics took place in the Black Hills of South Dakota. While the temperature at Deadwood was a frigid 16 degrees below zero, the town of Lead, just a mile and a half away, but 600 feet higher in elevation, reported a balmy 52 degree reading. (David Ludlum)

1954 - The temperature at Rogers Pass, MT, plunged to 70 degrees below zero to establish a new record for the continental U.S. (David Ludlum)

1978 - A paralyzing "Nor'easter" produced a record 21 inches of snow at Boston, 15 to 20 inches in Rhode Island, and one to two feet of snow in Pennsylvania. Winds along the coast of Connecticut gusted to 70 mph. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Gale force winds lingered along the northern Atlantic coast in the wake of a holiday weekend storm. High winds along the eastern slopes of the Northern Rockies gusted to 67 mph at Livingston MT, and high winds in southern California gusted to 70 mph near San Bernardino. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


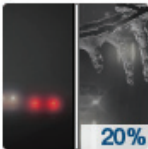





1988 - A storm in the Upper Midwest produced heavy snow and gale force winds. Up to 27.5 inches of snow was reported along the Lake Superior shoreline of Michigan, with 22 inches at Marquette. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - The temperature in the Washington D.C. area warmed into the lower 50s for the Presidential Inauguration during the late morning hours, before gusty northwest winds ushered in colder air that afternoon. (National Weather Summary)

1990 - While heavy thunderstorm rains drenched the Central Gulf Coast States, with 4.23 inches reported at Centreville AL in 24 hours, unseasonably warm weather continued across Florida. Five cities in Florida reported record high temperatures for the date. Tampa FL equalled their record high for January of 85 degrees. (National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Areas Fog	Slight Chance Drizzle/Freezing Drizzle and Patchy Fog	Slight Chance Drizzle/Freezing Drizzle	Chance Snow	Chance Snow	Slight Chance Snow	Cloudy then Slight Chance Snow
High: 36 °F	Low: 31 °F	High: 36 °F	Low: 26 °F	High: 34 °F	Low: 26 °F	High: 34 °F

While clearing skies are possible in south central South Dakota, most areas will see fog and drizzle



Highs today in the 20s to the mid 30s

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

 weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 1/20/2017 5:31 AM Central

Published on: 01/20/2017 at 5:36AM

Cloudy skies and fog will persist through at least the first half of the weekend. There will be periods of light precipitation, mainly in the form of drizzle or light snow, but with little accumulation.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 38.2
Low Outside Temp: 18.4 F
High Gust: 23.0 Mph

Rain: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 60° in 1921
Record Low: -36 in 1943
Average High: 22°F
Average Low: 1°F
Average Precip in Jan.: 0.31
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.31
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:22 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:06 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Jan 20, 2017, issued 4:51 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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WHERE IS YOUR FOCUS?

Karl Wallenda was one of the world's greatest tightrope performers. In 1978 he fell to his death.

Some time later his wife was speaking of the tragedy. "All Karl thought about for three straight months prior to his death was falling," she recalled. "It was the first time he had ever thought about that, and it seemed to me that he put all of his energies into not falling rather than in walking the tightrope."

Paul warned us about focusing on the wrong things. In his letter to the Philippians he advised them to "look forward to what lies ahead. I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God through Christ Jesus is calling us to heaven."

The future is in front of all of us. And often it is not the future that causes us problems, but the past. We can't feel sorry about what problems may happen in the future; we can't become discouraged about mistakes that might occur in the future; and we can't regret sins we may commit in the future. But we can become overwhelmed with problems and mistakes and sins that occurred in the past.

When we allow the past to interfere with our future we will take our eyes off the "prize" that God has waiting for us. We must never relax our efforts or lower our standards if we want to be all that we can be through Christ our Savior. If we do, we lose the prize.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to keep our eyes upon You and the prize that we have in Christ Jesus our Lord. May we allow no one or no thing to distract us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Philippians 3:13-14 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

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News from the  Associated Press

Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 52, Groton Area 47
Andes Central/Dakota Christian 73, Avon 40
Baltic 56, Freeman Academy/Marion 45
Bennett County 60, Rapid City Christian 47
Brandon Valley 61, Sioux Falls Lincoln 53
Bridgewater-Emery 68, Howard 20
Canistota 56, Hanson 52
Central Lyon, Rock Rapids, Iowa 62, Dakota Valley 60
Chamberlain 77, Miller 64
Corsica/Stickney 68, Ethan 39
Custer 61, Newell 49
Dell Rapids 58, Madison 57
Eureka/Bowdle 40, Waubay/Summit 39
Faulkton 56, Ipswich 51
Gregory 56, Kimball/White Lake 54
Herreid 56, Linton-HMB, N.D. 53
Lyman 46, Burke/South Central 36
Menno 57, Freeman 40
Milbank Area 60, Hamlin 51
Mitchell Christian 64, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 29
Parkston 63, Bon Homme 42
Pierre 61, Sturgis Brown 48
Pine Ridge 57, Winner 52
Potter County JV 64, Edmunds Central 38
Sioux Falls Christian 84, Vermillion 64
Watertown 45, Sioux Falls Washington 44
281 Conference Tournament
Seventh Place
Wessington Springs 53, Sunshine Bible Academy 46
Fifth Place
Hitchcock-Tulare 62, Iroquois 36
Third Place
James Valley Christian 68, Highmore-Harrold 54
Championship

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Avon 62, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 49
Baltic 36, Freeman Academy/Marion 23
Brandon Valley 63, Sioux Falls Lincoln 50
Chamberlain 45, Miller 41
Custer 62, Newell 16
Dakota Valley 63, Central Lyon, Rock Rapids, Iowa 33
DeSmet 65, Castlewood 33
Florence/Henry 48, Great Plains Lutheran 30

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Hartington-Newcastle, Neb. 53, Gayville-Volin 21
Hill City 49, Lead-Deadwood 32
Howard 55, Bridgewater-Emery 36
Ipswich 58, Faulkton 54
McLaughlin 56, Mobridge-Pollock 50
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 48, Kimball/White Lake 34
New Underwood 66, Oelrichs 37
Parkston 41, Bon Homme 32
Pierre 61, Sturgis Brown 49
Pine Ridge 71, Winner 65
Potter County JV 47, Edmunds Central 38
Sioux Falls Washington 56, Watertown 50
Tea Area 53, Garretson 41
Todd County 73, St. Francis Indian 43
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 67, Mitchell Christian 29
Viborg-Hurley 54, Chester 49
Warner 48, Wilmot 20
Waverly-South Shore 49, Hendricks, Minn. 32
281 Conference Tournament
Fifth Place
Wessington Springs 41, Sunshine Bible Academy 37
Third Place
Hitchcock-Tulare 48, Wolsey-Wessington 40
Championship
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 64, Highmore-Harrold 29
Dakota Valley Conference Tournament
Consolation Semifinal
Lake Preston 76, Arlington 48
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 42, Estelline 40
Semifinal
Deubrook 48, Dell Rapids St. Mary 29
Elkton-Lake Benton 54, Colman-Egan 45
Little Moreau Conference Tournament
First Round
Bison 56, Harding County 51, OT
Faith 80, Tiospaye Topa 38
McIntosh 56, Dupree 39
Timber Lake 60, Lemmon 39
Southern Plains Conference Tournament
First Round
Burke/South Central 60, Gregory 31
Kadoka Area 58, Jones County 50
Lyman 57, Colome 26
Stanley County 53, White River 52

North Dakota resets the debate over time zone disparity

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Residents of a largely rural corner of North Dakota are fiercely opposing a plan that would move them into the same time zone as the rest of the state.

Few subjects set off a parochial debate in North Dakota like a move to reset the clocks. A bill under

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consideration in the Legislature would not only move southwestern North Dakota from Mountain time to Central but also scrap daylight saving time altogether.

DAYLIGHT SAVING DO AWAY

Sen. Dave Oehlke of Devils Lake and three other Republican senators from Central time zones are pushing a bill that would put an end to daylight saving time and make Central time the state's official time zone.

Oehlke, the bill's primary sponsor, told the Senate Transportation Committee on Thursday that the idea came from his constituents, who complained about having to readjust their schedules on everything from sleep to taking medication.

"It's hard for people to get back on track," Oehlke said. "I just think's a good idea not to have to disrupt your life and change your clock every six months."

Should the Legislature reject daylight saving time, North Dakota would join Arizona and Hawaii as the only states that don't fall back or spring forward.

CENTRAL TIME SUPPORT

With more business conducted with Bismarck and Fargo — both Central time communities — backers say some people in Mountain time areas find it hard to order supplies or get technical support. Supporters also estimate four business hours are lost every day between the two time zones — one each in the morning and evening and the difference in lunch hours.

And backers of a switch to Central time say some children in the Mountain time zone must get up an hour earlier to attend classes at nearby schools in the Central time zone.

DOES ANYBODY REALLY KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?

In North Dakota, many refer to Central time as "fast time." Central time is one hour ahead of Mountain. A dozen of North Dakota's 53 counties, all of them west of the Missouri River, are either partially or wholly within the Mountain time zone.

Other states also are divided into differing time zones. South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Texas all have sections in both Central and Mountain times. Some states that straddle the Eastern-Central and Mountain-Pacific divides also share time zones, but perhaps none are as confusing as North Dakota.

The division between Central and Mountain time at one time in North Dakota roughly followed the Missouri River, but a few counties have switched solely to Central time beginning with Oliver County in 1992, after voter approval.

The switch to Central time by some counties and not others has made the current time-zone line appear as if it were drawn with a squirt gun.

Williston, which is nearly on the Montana-North Dakota border, is in Central time. Yet Dickinson, which is much farther east, is on Mountain time. Even odder are the neighboring cities of Watford City and Killdeer. Watford City is on Central time, while Killdeer, about 45 miles southeast, is on Mountain time.

DOES ANYONE REALLY CARE?

The idea of one time zone has been proposed in the Legislature several times over the years, but has not gotten enough support. All it did was pit bigger cities against those set in their ways in southwestern North Dakota, said Sen. Bill Bowman, a Republican from Bowman, a ranching community in the state's southwest corner.

Bowman, who has served 26 years in the Legislature, said he and others have likened time-zone legislation to stepping into "piranha-infested waters."

"It upsets people when we are wasting our time on this, and when we should be working on budget and the needs of our state," he said. "There are a lot of people, and a lot of cowboys in my district, who just want to be left alone and I represent those people."

Said one letter to Bowman from a constituent opposing the legislation: "Please don't cater to those city people. Central time has slowly crept to the west and it really needs to stop."

This story has been corrected to reflect that the time zone change is being considered for southwestern North Dakota, not southeastern North Dakota.

BNSF identifies 2 railroad workers killed in South Dakota

EDGEMONT, S.D. (AP) — BNSF Railway has released the names of two employees who were struck and killed by a train in South Dakota.

The railroad on Thursday identified the victims as 35-year-old gang foreman Richard Lessert and 58-year-old motor vehicle operator Douglas Schmitz. Lessert had 10 years of service with BNSF while Schmitz was employed by the railroad for 39 years.

BNSF says the two were headquartered at Edgemont, near where the accident happened Tuesday morning.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating.

Edgemont is about 60 miles southwest of Rapid City.

Ethics measure backers ask high court to let them join case

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Supporters of a voter-approved government ethics overhaul are asking the state Supreme Court to allow them to join a lawsuit challenging the initiative filed by Republican lawmakers.

South Dakotans for Integrity, a political committee that supported the initiative, is arguing that a lower court judge was wrong in denying their push to intervene in the case.

The judge in December issued an order blocking the entire law from taking effect while the court challenge moves forward.

The group can't appeal that order because they aren't intervenors. South Dakotans for Integrity says the majority of voters who enacted the measure have the right to be represented by advocates whose allegiance is "unquestionable."

Those bringing the lawsuit contend that provisions in the law are unconstitutional. The attorney general's office is defending it.

Report: South Dakota tourism draws record number of visitors

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Officials say South Dakota's tourism industry attracted a record number of visitors last year.

The South Dakota Department of Tourism said Thursday that 2016 marked the seventh consecutive year of economic growth for tourism in the state.

A new study by Tourism Economics finds 13.9 million people visited South Dakota in 2016, an increase of 1.4 percent from the previous year. Visitors spent \$3.8 billion last year — an increase of 1.5 percent — and generated more than \$279 million in state and local taxes.

The study also finds tourism supported more than 53,000 jobs in South Dakota last year.

South Dakota Tourism Secretary James Hagen credits effective, targeted marketing, low gas prices and landmark anniversaries for the increase.

Online:

To see the Tourism Economics report, go to <http://www.SDVisit.com>

Organized retail crime becomes an issue in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police are reporting a 25 percent increase in theft calls in the past five years.

Sgt. Paul Creviston told the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2iF4NsS>) that retail crimes are a big portion of those calls. A retail coalition spearheaded by Creviston, and made up of about a dozen retailers in

the city, meets monthly to discuss what can be done. The meetings serve to inform retailers of organized retail crimes that may be in the area and to share information, including surveillance images and videos.

"Obviously, just the whole education portion of the meetings is a big part of prevention," Creviston said.

Ted Haggar, owner of Franklin Food Market, is among the retailers who attended the meetings. He said he often brings photos of people he's caught in his stores and that he is surprised other businesses have had trouble with the same people.

"In my wildest day, I would never imagined a person would fill up a cart, push it out the door and start loading it in their cars," Haggar said.

South Dakota Retailers Association spokesman Shawn Lyons said he believes organized retail crime involving large-scale theft of merchandise will be more common in the state in years to come. He said retail losses may have long-term effects on the state's ability to collect taxes.

"I think there is no question that as we grow, all types of crimes have the propensity to grow," Lyons said. "In this particular case, this is one we are watching very closely."

This story has been corrected to show that the meetings serve to inform retailers of organized retail crime in the area, not of organized retail coming in the area.

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

Bankers: Weak farm prices biggest threat to rural economy

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Bankers across Middle America say depressed farm commodity prices are the biggest threat to the economy this year in rural parts of 10 Plains and Western states.

The overall economic index in a monthly survey of bankers for the region remained in negative territory at 42.8 in January, down slightly from December's 42.9. Survey officials say any score below 50 suggests an economic decline.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss says livestock commodity prices have tumbled by 7.3 percent and grain commodity prices by 11.7 percent in the last year.

Bankers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming were surveyed.

Goss says the rural economy is improving in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota, while all the other states are trending lower.

South Dakota Senate panel approves vehicular homicide bill

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota Senate panel approved Attorney General Marty Jackley's proposal to stiffen sentences for vehicular homicide on Thursday, sending it to the full Senate.

The proposal, which passed the Senate Judiciary Committee by a 6-1 vote, would classify vehicular homicide — in which a drunken driver causes the death of another person — as a crime of violence.

In South Dakota, the maximum sentence for vehicular homicide is 15 years in prison. The bill would not change the maximum sentence, but would require offenders to serve more of their prison time.

But because the crime is classified as nonviolent, Jackley said, many offenders have to serve only about four years of that before becoming eligible for parole, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2jt2E0B>) reported.

Six cases of vehicular homicide were reported in South Dakota in 2016, Jackley said. Serious vehicular homicide cases in the state make the crime a "continuing concern," he said.

"I think we ought to just call it what it is, a violent crime," Jackley said.

Paul Bachand, a lobbyist for the South Dakota State's Attorneys Association, supported the bill, while Lindsey Riter-Rapp of the South Dakota Criminal Defense Attorneys opposed it.

Other crimes designated as violent in South Dakota include murder, rape, aggravated assault and kidnapping, Riter-Rapp said, pointing out that someone driving while drunk would not have the same intention

of wrongdoing when they crash their car and contribute to another person's death.

The same bill failed last year after House and the Senate committees were unable to agree on amendments.

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

2 teenagers charged in Rapid City gas station clerk stabbing

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Two teenagers arrested in the stabbing of a Rapid City gas station clerk have been charged with murder and robbery.

The Pennington County State Attorney's Office says 17-year-old Carlos Quevedo, of Rapid City, was charged as an adult Thursday with first- and second-degree murder and first-degree robbery. Nineteen-year-old Cody Grady, of Rapid City, has been charged with first-degree murder and second-degree robbery.

Police say they went into a Loaf N' Jug in Rapid City early Wednesday and attempted to steal beer when 45-year-old clerk Kasie Lord followed them outside where she was stabbed several times.

Lord died at Rapid City Regional Hospital.

It wasn't immediately clear if the defendants had attorneys who could speak on their behalf.

White House denies clemency for Indian activist Peltier

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — President Barack Obama has denied a clemency request by American Indian activist Leonard Peltier, who has spent most of his life in prison in the killing of two FBI agents in South Dakota in 1975, Peltier's attorney said Thursday.

His attorney, Martin Garbus, said they received a letter from the White House on Wednesday night saying their application to commute his sentence to the 40 years he's already served has been denied.

"He understands that this is a death sentence," Garbus said. "He's in very bad physical condition. (President-elect Donald) Trump is not going to grant him clemency."

Peltier's supporters say he was wrongly convicted in the killings of FBI agents Jack Coler and Ronald Williams during a shootout on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. He has exhausted his appeals and his parole requests have been denied. Peltier's supporters consider their clemency request to Obama as their last chance for winning his freedom.

The FBI maintains he's guilty and was properly sentenced to two consecutive life terms.

Peltier, 72, is incarcerated at the federal prison in Coleman, Florida. He was active in the American Indian Movement, which grabbed headlines in 1973 when it took over the village of Wounded Knee on the reservation, leading to a 71-day standoff with federal agents. Tensions between AIM and the government remained high for years, providing the backdrop for the fatal confrontation in which both agents were shot in the head at close range.

Amnesty International, which considers Peltier a political prisoner, issued a statement saying Obama's decision means Peltier may die in prison.

"The families of the FBI agents who were killed during the 1975 confrontation between the FBI and American Indian Movement (AIM) members have a right to justice, but justice will not be served by Peltier's continued imprisonment," said Margaret Huang, executive director of Amnesty International USA.

But former FBI agent Ed Woods, who has long campaigned to keep Peltier imprisoned, issued a statement thanking the president.

"We are collectively grateful, and humbled, that you chose not to grant commutation to Leonard Peltier," Woods said. "His brutal attack and murder of two young FBI Agents and his remorseless public statements support that justice should continue as he serves the remainder of his lawful conviction and sentence."

North Dakota landowners sue over Dakota Access easements

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON**, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A group of about two dozen North Dakota landowners is suing the developer of the disputed Dakota Access oil pipeline for alleged deceit and fraud in acquiring land easements.

Already, landowners in Iowa await a state judge's ruling in another easement case regarding the \$3.8 billion, four-state pipeline. Other court battles are playing out in federal court in North Dakota and Washington, D.C.

The Morton County landowners in the lawsuit, filed this month in U.S. District Court, are seeking more than \$4 million in damages from Dakota Access LLC, a subsidiary of Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners. ETP contends the allegations "are without merit," company spokeswoman Vicki Granado told The Associated Press.

The landowners who are suing represent only about 3 percent of the 800 North Dakota landowners who provided easements to Dakota Access, according to Granado.

Those suing say Dakota Access engaged in unfair tactics and fraud while negotiating to lay pipeline on private land, resulting in compensation that was as much as nine times lower than what other landowners got. Landowners also allege they were told if they didn't agree to the offered amount, they faced losing money or getting nothing either because their land would be condemned through eminent domain or the pipeline would be moved elsewhere.

"Dakota Access's representations to the Morton County landowners were false representations and deceptive," the lawsuit states. The company has until about the end of the month to file its response in court.

The pipeline is to move North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois. It's nearly complete, but work is stalled in North Dakota while ETP battles the federal government in court in Washington for permission to lay pipe under the Missouri River. The Standing Rock Sioux and others fear any spill would contaminate drinking water.

ETP also faces a lawsuit from about a dozen landowners in Iowa, where a decision is pending. The lawsuit seeks to overturn the project permit, which was approved by the Iowa Utilities Board, claiming the board illegally took farmland through eminent domain because the pipeline provides no public service to state residents. The company argues the case is moot since the pipeline is already in the ground, but some landowners say if they win they want the pipe dug up.

In a separate federal lawsuit in North Dakota, pipeline opponents are suing law enforcement for what they claim is excessive force during a Nov. 20 clash over a blockaded bridge near the protest encampment and question the credibility of alleged threats detailed against police and public officials. U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland will rule later.

Associated Press writer David Pitt in Des Moines, Iowa, contributed to this report.

Hay Camp brewers hope to transform building into hot spot

By **Jim Holland**, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Like the original Hay Camp, a 1870s-era encampment along Rapid Creek, its pioneer founders probably would never have envisioned their fledgling settlement growing into present-day Rapid City.

Karl Koth and Sam Papendick are eyes-wide-open in expanding their Hay Camp Brewing Co. and are hoping their vision transforms the historic space into another expanding number of multipurpose social gathering spots downtown.

Like the recently completed rejuvenation of the former TMA building just a few blocks away at 323 Main St. into retail, office and residential space called the Dean Building, Koth and Papendick are turning a former automobile dealership at 601 Kansas City St. into what they hope becomes a downtown hot spot.

The plan is to complement their greatly expanded brewery and taproom with a restaurant, coffee shop, an event space, art gallery and even rentable storage space in the building's cavernous basement, the

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Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2iuaiKV>) reported.

After two years of searching, they purchased what used to be an Oldsmobile-Cadillac dealership dating to 1948 from Rapid City Regional Hospital, which had used the building for a laundry for several years.

Like their Old West eponymous settlement, Koth said Hay Camp Brewing Co. was primed to grow.

"We looked at other locations where we'd be just a brewery," Koth said. "But we wanted to have a collaborative space like this with a coffee shop and a restaurant, offices, storage and an event space.

"We want the sense of community. We want everyone to have a reason to come here and interact with each other."

According to county records, the purchase price was \$701,000. Building permits, for gutting most of the interior and adding new walls added \$24,000 in costs, according to records.

Koth and Papendick hope to complete the renovation of the total 38,000-square-foot space, including 18,000 square feet in the basement, for less than \$1 million.

They are cutting costs by serving as their own general contractors for the project, and working with their subcontractors. Another investor who desired office space in the building is also chipping in.

Koth declined to name the third-party investor.

"He decided to finance us instead of renting," Koth said.

The 19,000-square-foot main level will allow them to quadruple their beer production. Accordingly, the 35-foot-long bar, fashioned from wood salvaged from the old Homestake Gold Mine in Lead, will also be able to handle more than 30 patrons.

The full 3,200-square-foot taproom will seat about 130-140 people.

"We can fit as many people at the bar as we can pretty much fit in our entire tavern," Papendick said.

He and Koth are both Rapid City Stevens graduates who went their separate ways after high school.

Koth moved to Minneapolis to pursue a degree in physics, with Papendick earning a degree in chemical and biological engineering at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

They reconnected while going for their graduate degrees at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, sharing a mutual interest in home-brewing beer.

Koth lent his decade of experience to a space in Papendick's garage, where they began honing what would become Hay Camp Brewing Co. in August of 2012.

Hay Camp eventually settled in a renovated space at the Fairmont Creamery Mall in the 200 block of Main Street.

Their respective engineering careers limited their home brewing to part time. Karl worked as a physicist with the U.S. Geological Survey, and Papendick finished his PhD in chemical engineering by teaching at Mines.

Because of those commitments, their brew pub at the Creamery Mall was open only a few nights a week.

Both men, however, have left those careers behind to concentrate on the expansion of the new downtown social complex.

"We're full-time entrepreneurs now," Koth said.

They're aiming for a mid-February opening for the expanded brew pub and taproom, with the restaurant, coffee shop, office space, events center art gallery and rental storage space opening up as they are completed.

Koth anticipates some kind of party event for the opening of each facet, with a full grand opening planned for late summer, he said.

The 3,400-square-foot event space will feature an elevated stage and dance floor, can host live music, weddings, high school and family reunions.

A planned audio-visual system could allow the broadcast of pay-per-view sporting events, among its possible uses.

"We've had lots of different inquires here, a multipurpose events space for either alcohol service or non-alcohol service, whatever you want," Koth said.

The basement, where the old car dealership's inventory was stored, is tailor made for rental self-storage, with a drive-in car ramp and climate control.

Papendick said the basement could be configured for any size storage needs from 200 to 2,000 square

feet.

"There isn't any downtown storage right now, so we're hoping to serve the growing residential demand and also bring people in for the beer," Koth said.

The basement, with its constant temperature year-round, is a perfect aging environment for their beer, he said.

The eight-month renovation is being accomplished with local contractors and locally obtained materials, although some components for their expanded brewery are coming from elsewhere.

They feel the local emphasis will help them take ownership of the space as well as connect with their future patrons.

They compared Rapid City's growing specialty-beer community with other established brewing meccas, such as Minneapolis or Fort Collins.

"We want people to feel that we can do cool stuff here in Rapid City like anywhere else," Koth said.

Papendick added, "I think people want this."

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

Charges imminent in fatal gas station stabbing

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — State prosecutors are expected to issue charges against two teens arrested in the fatal stabbing of a convenience store clerk in Rapid City.

A police department statement says a decision on charges was expected Thursday from the state attorney in Pennington County.

A 19-year-old Rapid City man and a 17-year-old boy were arrested Wednesday following the death of 45-year-old Kasie Lord. Authorities say the suspects were trying to walk out of a Loaf N' Jug with stolen beer around 4:45 a.m. yesterday when Lord followed them out.

Police Chief Karl Jegeris says she was "brutally stabbed and left to die."

South Dakota combats spread of aquatic invasive species

By Nick Lowrey, Capital Journal

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) —

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department will take the lead role in coordinating a state government-wide effort aimed at slowing the spread of aquatic invasive species.

The move comes at the behest of the Commission, which after hearing a proposal calling for four additions and three amendments to the department's existing AIS rules Jan. 12, passed a resolution asking department staff to take the lead on statewide efforts to combat harmful aquatic invasive species.

Commissioner Gary Jensen called for the resolution, the Capital Journal (<http://bit.ly/2jXnAQw>) reported. He said Game, Fish and Parks was the only part of state government with the expertise to guide other departments in a wider response to the threat posed by invasive species such as zebra mussels.

"It sounds like a huge undertaking and it is," Jensen said. "But it sounds like someone needs to do it."

Game, Fish and Parks biologists have been struggling to contain an infestation of zebra mussels in Lewis and Clark lake since 2014. The first adult zebra mussels were found stuck to docks in that lake. They now have spread to McCook Lake near north Sioux City.

While there has been little in the way of proof of the invasive mussels' effect on fish populations in affected lakes, the effect they've had on infrastructure has been immense.

"What is not in dispute is their impact on agriculture," Jensen said.

Zebra mussels and their cousins, quagga mussels, have caused havoc in lakes throughout the country. Millions of dollars have been spent cleaning water intake pipes, docks and other structures in the Great Lakes, for example.

GFP Secretary Kelly Hepler said his counterparts in other states have been warning him about the scope

of the AIS problem.

"They've pleaded with us over and over that it's beyond what Game, Fish and Parks can do on its own," Hepler said.

That's part of why, Jensen said, GFP shouldn't be the only department of state government working to slow the spread of AIS. GFP does not have the authority to regulate who pumps what water out the Missouri River for agricultural purposes and can't control what happens to that water once it's been pumped.

That's a big problem because Zebra mussels spread primarily when their young, which are known as veligers, are sucked into ballast tanks, live wells or some other transportation tank and are accidentally dumped into an un-infested body of water.

That means irrigation has the potential to spread zebra mussels, for example.

"There's other players involved here," Hepler said.

Instead, said GFP AIS coordinator Mike Smith, the best that can be done is to slow the mussels. So far GFP has been able to tighten regulations regarding what anglers and boaters can do with their boats and bait. But that's not going to be enough, Hepler said.

"It's the proverbial finger in the dyke," he said.

It's a job that Game, Fish and Parks can't do on its own. The job is just too big, Jensen said.

"I would just like to see us get started," Jensen said.

Hepler said Jan. 13 that he has already begun speaking with other department secretaries about the effort.

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

Recreational vehicle offers health fair on wheels in Yankton

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF, Yankton Press and Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — For six hours on Jan. 7, Hy-Vee shoppers found a huge reminder of their New Year's resolutions sitting in the parking lot.

Then again, it was hard to miss the Healthy You Mobile, a converted recreational vehicle offering a health fair on wheels. The vehicle's painted exterior carried messages such as fruit, dumb bells and a measuring tape.

Hy-Vee dietitian Elizabeth Volzke greeted passers-by braving frosty temperatures.

"Would you like to come inside?" she asked. "We can take your height and weight, and I'll answer any questions."

The mobile represents the partnership of Hy-Vee and Avera Health in promoting wellness and preventative health, the Yankton Press and Dakotan (<http://bit.ly/2jQU22Q>) reported. Launched in 2013, the effort has become so popular that six vehicles now travel an eight-state region.

"It's all about keeping people healthy," Volzke said. "More and more, the focus is on wellness than illness."

She finds that's particularly true during January, filled with New Year's resolutions and good intentions. The store and mobile feature the theme "A New Year, A New You."

"But some people set totally unrealistic goals," she said. "I hear people say they're going to lose 15 pounds by the end of the month. That's just not going to happen in most cases, and people usually get discouraged and quit."

Two visitors to the mobile suggested not taking on a new health resolution alone, whether it's diet and exercise or efforts to stop smoking and curb drinking.

"I think it makes a big difference if you have a buddy," Avera Health media relations director Jay Gravholt.

Dr. Byron Nielsen of Yankton Medical Clinic agreed.

"There's something to be said about accountability and encouraging each other," he said. "Exercising with someone makes it more enjoyable, and the time passes more quickly."

A journey starts with a single step, Nielsen noted.

"It's better to start small and then build up," he said.

Sometimes, a person becomes too rigid with a resolution or lifestyle, Volzke said. She told of one person

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who severely limited caloric intake.

"At that point, your body thinks you're starving and starts storing up fat," she said. "You also have people working out and still gaining weight. It's because they're building muscle, which weighs more than fat."

The Healthy You Mobile can provide information to set people on the right path, Gravholt said. The mobile made its Yankton debut last August during Riverboat Days.

"It's a really great way for people to get quick health screenings," he said. "We want it out where people can see it and can take advantage of it. We give out free health information, and the tests are low cost or no cost."

This particular mobile makes stops in Yankton, Vermillion and LeMars, Iowa, Volzke said. In that way, the bus can make a tight loop among three closely located stores.

The Healthy You Mobile offers a wide variety of services, Volzke said. The list includes checks or tests for cholesterol, hemoglobin and blood sugar. The program also offers flu shots and samplings in the store's Health Market.

In addition, Volzke used a person's height, weight and age to determine the body mass index (BMI).

However, she warned against becoming too reliant on any one figure, such as the BMI or the scale. An individual needs a healthy, well-rounded lifestyle, she said.

"These numbers are good starting points, but they're not the gold standard. It may not take into account things like whether you have bigger bones," she said. "And some people become really bothered by the number on the scale."

Sometimes, it only takes a few tweaks, she noted. But those tweaks can loom large in today's society.

"Everything is built for convenience," she said. "We have escalators in stores and elevators to our apartments. We don't walk to school or work."

In turn, people often want instant gratification, she said.

"We want a pill, or we see these fad diets," she said. "All you may need to do is eat more fruits and vegetables. And every 30 minutes of TV has 11 minutes of commercials, so do simple exercises during the commercials."

When it comes to diet, more nutritious food can remain affordable, Volzke said.

"I had a four-ounce salmon filet and a half-bag of vegetables for \$2.76, and I still had the other half of the veggies for another meal," she said. "It's so easy to buy snacks and other food, but you can buy nutritious things on sale. And when you think about it, a poor diet costs you more in terms of your health down the line."

One woman who stopped at the mobile posed the classic holiday baking question. "What do I do about all those cookies that people bring and just lay around?" she asked.

Volzke smiled and answered in one word. "Willpower," she said.

After the woman departed, Volzke noted the importance of such lifestyle choices in preventing or slashing the risk of many diseases.

"When it comes to exercise, where you live makes a huge importance," she said. "It makes such a difference if you have lit sidewalks, green space and parks. Yankton is excellent in that regard."

Nielsen pointed to the abundance of Yankton's outdoor offerings.

"It's important to be active, even something like just walking around the community," he said. "We have all types of bike trails in Yankton, and we have so many outdoor activities that are cheap or free. There are all sorts of ways to get out and do (things)."

The current cold weather can lead to more sedentary lifestyles as people stay indoors, Nielsen said. Exercise can be as simple as light weights or moving arms and legs. Even people who work at desks all day need to stand up and move.

Family history can play a major role, particularly for diabetes, cancer and heart disease, Nielsen said. Early detection can catch diseases early and head off major problems,

Such care can also prove a good financial move, Gravholt said. "It can lower your health care costs overall," he said.

In addition, Volzke pointed to the importance of early and updated vaccinations.

"It's the craze right now of not vaccinating children because of fears it will cause ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) or autism. That just won't happen," she said. "And then, people don't vaccinated and we're seeing the return of diseases like polio, measles and certain childhood diseases."

Good habits can start at any age, with Hy-Vee's "Simple Fix" program teaching young people the basics of preparing healthy meals. Volzke also offers free grocery store tours, while other services are offered for a fee.

And for those who missed it, the Healthy You Mobile may be returning soon to a Hy-Vee store near you, Volzke said.

"I hope the mobile comes back for a follow-up visit in February, which is Healthy Heart Month, and then once a month after that," she said.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

Inauguration Day: Trump to become America's 45th president

By JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump, the real estate mogul and reality television star who upended American politics and energized voters angry with Washington, will be sworn in Friday as the 45th president of the United States, putting Republicans in control of the White House for the first time in eight years.

"It all begins today!" Trump tweeted at daybreak. "THE MOVEMENT CONTINUES - THE WORK BEGINS!"

Ebullient Trump supporters flocked to the nation's capital for the inaugural festivities, some wearing red hats emblazoned with his "Make America Great Again" campaign slogan. But in a sign of deep divisions Trump sowed during his combative campaign, dozens of Democratic lawmakers were boycotting the swearing-in ceremony on Capitol Hill.

While Trump came to power bucking convention, he was wrapping himself in the traditional pomp and pageantry that accompanies the peaceful transfer of power. The president-in-waiting will attend church with his family Friday morning, then meet President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama for tea at the White House. The Trumps and the Obamas will travel together in the presidential limousine for the short trip to the Capitol for the noon swearing-in ceremony.

Trump supporters started lining up at security checkpoints before dawn to take their places in the quadrennial rite of democracy.

"I'm here for history," said Kevin Puchalski, a 24-year-old construction worker who drove from Philadelphia to attend the swearing-in. "This is the first president that I voted for that won." His big hope: Trump builds that promised wall on the U.S.-Mexican border. "Keep the illegals out," he said.

Protesters, too, were out early, some trying to block inaugural visitors from passing through security checkpoints, some wearing orange jumpsuits with black hoods over their faces.

Eleanor Goldfield, who helped organize the Disrupt J20 protest, said demonstrators hope to show they will not be silent throughout Trump's presidency. She called Trump supporters "misguided, misinformed or just plain dangerous."

Trump aides said the president-elect had been personally invested in crafting his inaugural address, a relatively brief 20-minute speech that is expected to center on his vision for what it means to be an American. Spokesman Sean Spicer said the address would be "less of an agenda and more of a philosophical document."

Trump has pledged to upend Obama's major domestic and national security policies, including repealing his signature health care law and building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. But he's offered few details of how he plans to accomplish his agenda, often sending contradictory signals.

The three days of inaugural festivities kicked off Thursday. Trump left his Trump-branded jet in New York and flew to Washington in a government plane, saluting an Air Force officer as he descended the

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steps with his wife, Melania. He and the incoming vice president, Mike Pence, solemnly laid a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery before joining supporters for an evening concert at the Lincoln Memorial.

Trump's son, Don Jr., told MSNBC's "Morning Joe" that as the various festivities got underway, "the magnitude of it all" was at last sinking in. He pronounced his father "ready to take office."

"We're going to unify our country," Trump said at the close of the two-hour concert featuring country star Toby Keith, soul's Sam Moore and The Piano Guys. But not singer Jennifer Holliday: She backed out after an outcry from Trump critics.

With rain a possibility, the National Park Service announced that it was easing its "no umbrella" policy for Friday, allowing collapsible umbrellas along the parade route and on the National Mall.

The nation's soon-to-be president joked about the chance of a downpour. "That's OK," Trump told campaign donors at an event Thursday night, "because people will realize it's my real hair."

"Might be a mess, but they're going to see that it's my real hair," he said.

Whatever the weather, Trump supporters were looking ahead to the day.

Chris Lehmann, 55, a maintenance supervisor from Belmar, New Jersey, said: "I'm so excited, I'm like, on top of the world."

Eleanor Haven, 83, of Alexander City, Alabama, was attending the festivities with her son, Scott Haven. The pair said they had never been to a political event before attending a Trump "thank you" tour rally in Alabama after the election and were looking forward to Friday's celebration.

"We're excited for changes in the country," Scott Haven said.

On the eve of the inauguration, protesters and Trump supporters clashed outside a pro-Trump event Thursday night, with police using chemical spray to try control demonstrators outside the "DeploraBall." The name was a play on a campaign remark by Clinton, who once referred to some Trump's supporters as a "basket of deplorables."

All of the living American presidents were scheduled to attend the swearing in ceremony, except for 92-year-old George H.W. Bush, who was hospitalized this week with pneumonia. His wife, Barbara, was also admitted to the hospital after falling ill. Trump tweeted his well-wishes to the Bushes, saying he was "looking forward to a speedy recovery."

Hillary Clinton, Trump's vanquished campaign rival, also planned to join dignitaries at Capitol Hill.

While Trump revels in a celebratory lunch with lawmakers and parade down Pennsylvania Avenue — passing his newly opened Washington hotel — workers at the White House will set about the frantic process of moving out the Obamas and preparing the residence for its new occupants. Moving trucks were on standby Friday morning at the White House.

Obama, who will continue to live in Washington, was leaving town with his family after the inauguration for a vacation in Palm Springs, California. He planned to address a farewell gathering of staff at Joint Base Andrews before boarding his last flight on the military aircraft that ferries presidents on their travels.

Associated Press writers Nancy Benac, Ben Nuckols, Alanna Durkin Richer, Jessica Gresko, Jill Colvin and Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

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

Gambian leader told to cede power or be forced out

By CARLEY PETESCH and BABACAR DIONE, Associated Press

BANJUL, Gambia (AP) — The leaders of Guinea and Mauritania arrived in Gambia's capital Friday in a last-ditch diplomatic effort to get defeated President Yahya Jammeh to cede power, while a regional military force was awaiting orders to act.

The head of the regional force has said the troops will force Jammeh out if he doesn't step aside. A noon deadline set by the regional body passed as the Guinean and Mauritanian leaders arrived for talks.

On Thursday, Adama Barrow was inaugurated as Gambia's new president and the U.N. Security Council

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voted to approve the regional military intervention.

The West African regional force, including tanks, moved into Gambia Thursday evening and has met no resistance, said Marcel Alain de Souza, chairman of the West African regional bloc, ECOWAS. At least 20 military vehicles were seen poised at the border town of Karang on Friday morning.

The regional force, including troops from Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo and Mali, moved in after Barrow's inauguration and the unanimous Security Council vote.

Barrow, who won Gambia's presidential election in December, was sworn in at the Gambian embassy in neighboring Senegal, where he is for his safety.

Jammeh on Friday remained in the official residence, State House, in Gambia's capital, Banjul. Increasingly isolated, he dissolved his Cabinet on Thursday, said Malick Jones, the director of national television. Several ministers had already resigned in recent days, in some cases fleeing the country.

Guinean President Alpha Conde arrived in Banjul with Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz. Mauritania has been mentioned as a possible country where Jammeh could go into exile.

Conde will offer Jammeh the chance to step down peacefully, said de Souza.

Jammeh "has the choice of going with President Alpha Conde," said de Souza. If that fails, "we will bring him by force or by will. Our troops will advance on Banjul. Until the last minute, we still think there is a solution resulting from a dialogue."

Jammeh started negotiations with ECOWAS on Thursday and agreed to step down but demanded an amnesty for any crimes that he may have committed during his 22 years in power and that he be permitted to stay in Gambia, at his home village of Kanilai, said de Souza.

Those demands are not acceptable to ECOWAS, said de Souza.

Jammeh's continued presence in Gambia would "create disturbances to public order and terrorist movements," said de Souza. ECOWAS wants Barrow to take power in Gambia without any security threats, said de Souza.

Barrow, in his inaugural speech, which took place under heavy security, called on Jammeh to respect the will of the people and step aside. He also called on Gambia's armed forces to remain in their barracks.

The United States supports diplomatically the regional force's intervention and is in touch with officials in Senegal, State Department spokesman John Kirby told reporters. He said he didn't have tactical information but "obviously, it's very, very tense."

It is not certain that Gambia's army will fight to keep Jammeh in power. A soldier with close knowledge of the situation said three barracks had indicated they would support Barrow. The soldier spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters.

"I think the Gambian military would know it's outnumbered," said Maggie Dwyer, an expert on West African militaries at the University of Edinburgh. "Gambia's military has very little combat experience. This would be a very difficult situation for them." She estimated the military's size at 2,400 at most, plus paramilitary forces of less than 1,000.

"My guess is, a very small number would actually put their life on the line for Jammeh," though some might stand by him in the hope of getting any deal he might get to avoid prosecution, Dwyer said.

"People are confident that change will be affected and there will be a peaceful resolution," said Halifa Sallah, spokesman for the coalition supporting Barrow.

Barrow, now the commander in chief, has requested the support of the chiefs of the forces, he said.

In Banjul, soldiers at checkpoints were smiling and appeared relaxed, one even saying to visitors, "Welcome to the smiling coast."

African nations have begun stepping away from Jammeh, with Botswana announcing it no longer recognized him as Gambia's president. The African Union has said the continental body would no longer recognize Jammeh once his mandate expired.

About 45,000 people have fled Gambia to Senegal, fearing an outbreak of violence, according to the Senegalese government and the U.N. refugee agency. About 75 percent of those refugees are children accompanied by women, the U.N. said.

It is estimated that a few thousand international tourists are still in Gambia and efforts continued to evacuate them from the country.

Dione reported from Dakar, Senegal

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. INAUGURATION DAY: TRUMP TO BECOME AMERICA'S 45TH PRESIDENT

The real estate mogul and reality TV star who upended American politics and energized voters angry with Washington is set to be sworn in.

2. TRUMP TO TAKE OATH OF OFFICE AMID DEEP UNCERTAINTY

How the new U.S. president handles immigration, health care, foreign policy and trade will have the rapt attention of a global audience.

3. PROTESTERS PLANNING TO DISRUPT TRUMP'S BIG DAY

A coalition calling itself DisruptJ20 says people participating in its actions will attempt to shut down or cause delays at the inauguration's security checkpoints.

4. 8 PEOPLE FOUND ALIVE IN RUBBLE OF ITALY'S AVALANCHE-STRUCK HOTEL

The survivor total includes 2 children, Italian news reports say, citing carabinieri.

5. WHAT EXTRADITION OF 'EL CHAPO' SIGNIFIES

Joaquin Guzman's exit to face charges in the U.S. marks the end of an era in which he was Mexico's most notorious drug cartel boss and, for some, the stuff of folk legend.

6. SYRIA: IS DESTROYS PART OF ROMAN AMPHITHEATER IN PALMYRA

The extremists recaptured the ancient town in December from government troops — nine months after IS was expelled in a Russia-backed offensive — and have previously destroyed other relics there.

7. GAMBIAN LEADER FACING ULTIMATUM

Defeated President Yahya Jammeh must cede power in the coming hours or he will be dislodged by a regional force.

8. MARATHON BOMBING FILM PRODUCTIONS WON'T DETAIL TAX CREDITS

Hollywood productions portraying the attack in Boston aren't saying how much they've sought or received in government subsidies to film in the state, AP learns.

9. 'WE HAVE GONE AS LOW AS WE CAN GO'

Madonna says Trump has done the public a great service because she believes the nation has now hit rock bottom, and the only direction it can go is up.

10. WHO IS GOING TO BASKETBALL'S SHOWCASE EVENT

Stephen Curry joins Golden State teammate Kevin Durant in the lineup, while LeBron James and Kyrie Irving also gave Cleveland two starters in the NBA All-Star Game.

This story has been corrected to note that it was firefighter radio, not police radio, which reported survivors in the Italian avalanche.

Syria: IS destroys part of Roman theater in Palmyra

By SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Islamic State group militants destroyed the landmark ancient Tetracylon and parts of the 2nd century Roman theater in Syria's historic town of Palmyra, the government and opposition monitoring groups said Friday.

Maamoun Abdulkarim, the head of Syria's antiquities department, said the militants destroyed the facade of the second-century theater along with the Tetracylon, a cubic-shaped ancient Roman monument that sits in the middle of the colonnade road that leads to the theater.

Satellite imagery obtained by the Boston-based American Schools of Oriental Research show extensive

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damage to the Tetrapylon. DigitalGlobe satellite imagery also shows damage to the theater facade.

IS militants recaptured the ancient town in December from government troops — nine months after they were expelled in a Russia-backed offensive. During their first stay, IS destroyed ancient temples including the Temple of Bel, which dated back to A.D. 32, and the Temple of Baalshamin, a structure of stone blocks several stories high fronted by six towering columns. The group also used the theater for public killings and shared a chilling video of it.

The militants also blew up the Arch of Triumph built between A.D. 193 and A.D. 211.

Abdulkarim told The Associated Press he fears for what remains of the city's ancient relics.

"When Palmyra fell for the second time, we shed tears because we expected this terror," Abdulkarim said. "Now we are destined to see more terror if (IS control of Palmyra) continues."

Abdulkarim said reports of the destruction first trickled out of the IS-held town late in December. But satellite images of the damage only became available late Thursday, confirming the destruction.

The ASOR said the damage was likely caused by intentional destruction from IS but the organization was unable to verify the exact cause.

Abdulkarim said only two of the 16 columns of the Tetrapylon remain standing. The Palmyra Tetrapylon, characterized by its four plinths that are not connected overhead, had only one original ancient column, said Abdulkarim. The 15 other columns were modelled after the ancient one and installed by Palmyra's 81-year old distinguished antiquities scholar Khaled al-Asaad, who was killed by IS militants when they were in the town the last time. They hung his body from a Roman column.

It was not immediately clear if the original column survived the destruction, Abdulkarim said.

ASOR said new stone debris was scattered across the center stage from damage to the stage backdrop that is also the facade of the theater.

The extremists have destroyed ancient sites across their self-styled Islamic caliphate in Syria and Iraq, viewing them as monuments to idolatry.

State-run news agency SANA reported the damage Friday and Syrian opposition monitors also confirmed but gave no immediate details.

A UNESCO world heritage site, Palmyra boasts 2,000-year-old towering Roman-era colonnades and priceless artifacts. Syrians affectionately refer to it as the "Bride of the Desert."

A desert oasis surrounded by palm trees in central Syria, Palmyra is also a strategic crossroads linking the Syrian capital, Damascus, with the country's east and neighboring Iraq. Located 155 miles (215 kilometers) east of Damascus, the city was once home to 65,000 people before the Syrian civil war began. However, most Palmyra residents did not return after it was retaken by the government. Activists estimated the city is now home to a few hundred families.

Many residents tried to flee as IS recaptured the city in December.

On Thursday, reports emerged that the militant group killed 12 captives it held in Palmyra, some of them beheaded in the Roman theater.

5 reported alive in rubble of Italian hotel hit by avalanche

By **PAOLO SANTALUCIA** and **GREGORIO BORGIA**, Associated Press

FARINDOLA, Italy (AP) — Five people were found alive in the rubble of an Italian hotel Friday, two days after an avalanche tore through the mountain resort and trapped an estimated 30 people inside, rescue crews reported.

"We found five people alive. We're pulling them out. Send us a helicopter," a rescuer said over firefighters' radio, overheard by AP photographer Gregorio Borgia who was making his way on foot toward the disaster site.

The radio report, which first came in at around 11 a.m. (1000 GMT), was repeated three more times, with firefighters saying the survivors were still under the rubble and warning the helicopter might have to wait until they were extracted.

Three helicopters landed at the scene, including an air ambulance, said Borgia and AP Producer Paolo

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Santalucia, who were turned away by the rescue crews about a kilometer (half a mile) from the remains of the Hotel Rigopiano, located about 30 miles (45 kilometers) from the coastal city of Pescara, at an altitude of about 4,000 feet (1,200 meters).

The ANSA news agency said the number of possible new survivors was six.

About 30 people were trapped inside the luxury Hotel Rigopiano when the avalanche hit on Wednesday afternoon, with two people initially surviving the devastation and reporting the emergency.

Search and rescue teams had maintained the hope of finding survivors even though the avalanche dumped up to five meters (17 feet) of snow on the hotel.

"We are hoping that the ceiling collapsed partially in some places and that someone remained underneath," rescuer Lorenzo Gagliardi told SKY Tg24.

Two bodies were recovered on the first day of searching and RAI state TV reported two more had been located but not yet removed.

The operations have been hampered by difficulty in accessing the remote hotel. Workers have been clearing a seven-kilometer (5.5-mile) road to bring in heavier equipment but it can handle only one-way traffic.

Alpine corps rescuer Milan Walter told SKY that they were considering whether to ferry more personnel in by helicopter as was done Thursday.

A convoy of rescue vehicles made slow progress to the hotel, blocked by snow piled three meters (10 feet) high in some places, fallen trees and rocks. By late Thursday, only 25 vehicles had arrived, along with 135 rescue workers, and civil protection authorities said part of the night was spent trying to widen the road.

The first rescue teams had arrived on skis early Thursday, and firefighters were dropped in by helicopter. Snowmobiles were also being mobilized.

Days of heavy snowfall had knocked out electricity and phone lines in many central Italian towns and hamlets, and the hotel phones went down early Wednesday, just as the first of four powerful earthquakes struck the region.

It wasn't clear if the quakes triggered the avalanche. But emergency responders said the force of the massive snow slide collapsed a wing of the hotel that faced the mountain and rotated another off its foundation, pushing it downhill.

"The situation is catastrophic," said Gagliardi of the Alpine rescue service, who was among the first at the scene. "The mountain-facing side is completely destroyed and buried by snow: the kitchen, hotel rooms, hall."

One of the survivors reported that the guests had all checked out and were waiting for the road to be cleared to be able to leave. The snow plow scheduled for midafternoon never arrived, and the avalanche hit sometime around 5:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Prosecutors have opened a manslaughter investigation in the tragedy, and among the hypotheses being pursued is whether the avalanche threat wasn't taken seriously enough, according to Italian media.

Farindola Mayor Ilario Lacchetta said the hotel had 24 guests, four of them children, and 12 employees were onsite at the time of the avalanche.

An Alpine rescue team was the first to arrive on cross-country skis after a seven-kilometer, two-hour journey, finding Giampaolo Parete, a guest who escaped the avalanche when he went to his car to get something, and Fabio Salzetta, a hotel maintenance worker, in a car in the resort's parking lot.

Parete, whose wife and two children remain among the missing, was taken to a hospital while Salzetta stayed behind with rescuers to help identify where guests might be buried and how crews could enter the buildings, rescuers said.

The mountainous region of central Italy has been struck by a series of quakes since August that destroyed homes and historic centers in dozens of towns and hamlets. A deadly quake in August killed nearly 300. No one died in strong aftershocks in October, largely because population centers had already been evacuated.

Nicole Winfield in Rome, and Colleen Barry in Milan, contributed to this report.

Protesters planning to disrupt Donald Trump's big day

By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of people are expected to fill the nation's capital for the inauguration of Donald Trump, and while the majority of those expected in Washington on Friday will be there to celebrate, some protesters say their plan is to do their best to disrupt the day.

Late Thursday evening, protesters and supporters of Trump clashed outside a pro-Trump event in Washington. Police used chemical spray on some protesters in an effort to control the unruly crowd. Hundreds gathered outside the National Press Club in downtown Washington, where the "DeploraBall" was being held. The name is a play on a campaign remark by Hillary Clinton, who once referred to many of Trump's supporters as a "basket of deplorables."

In New York, actors Robert De Niro, Sally Field and Mark Ruffalo joined hundreds of other people outside a Donald Trump building on Thursday for a pre-inauguration demonstration.

More demonstrations are expected Friday. A coalition calling itself DisruptJ20, after the date of the inauguration, says people participating in its actions in Washington will attempt to shut down or cause delays at security checkpoints going in to the inauguration ceremony. They intend to block checkpoints and in some cases risk arrest.

"Our goals are to have to have massive protests and to shut down the inauguration if at all possible, and if not possible — if we can't shut the inauguration down — then make it as difficult as possible for Trump to act as if he has a mandate," organizer David Thurston told reporters last week.

But not everyone plans to be disruptive. One DisruptJ20 event is a march that will begin at Columbus Circle, outside Union Station. Participants are being asked to gather at noon, the same time Trump is being sworn in as the nation's 45th president. The march, which organizers are calling a "Festival of Resistance," will travel about 1.5 miles to McPherson Square, a park about three blocks from the White House, where a rally including filmmaker and liberal activist Michael Moore is planned.

"We're going to throw a party in the streets for our side," Thurston said, adding that drummers, musicians and a float of dancers were planned for the march.

Along the official parade route, Trump can expect demonstrations, too. The anti-war group the ANSWER Coalition will demonstrate at two locations there.

The demonstrations won't end when Trump takes up residence in the White House. A massive Women's March on Washington is planned for Saturday. Organizers have estimated 200,000 people will attend their event. Christopher Geldart, the District of Columbia's homeland security director, has said 1,800 buses have registered to park in the city Saturday, which would mean nearly 100,000 people coming in just by bus.

Jim Bendat, an expert on inaugural history, said significant protests surrounding Inauguration Day go back at least 100 years to 1913 when suffragettes marched down Pennsylvania Avenue. Bendat, the author of "Democracy's Big Day: The Inauguration of Our President, 1789-2013," said protests have been a constant, though there have been "small ones and there's some bigger ones."

Richard Nixon's first and second inaugurations drew memorable protests, he said, with demonstrators at the second inauguration angry about the Vietnam War. More recently, during President George W. Bush's 2001 inauguration, demonstrators along the parade route turned their backs as the president passed by and others held signs like "Hail to the thief," suggesting Bush had stolen the election from Democrat Al Gore. At least one egg thrown from the crowd hit the presidential limousine. In 2005, demonstrators disrupted Bush's inaugural address.

Bendat said that it's to be expected that after such a contentious election cycle, demonstrators will come to Washington to express their opinions.

"That's part of democracy, too," he said.

Mexican drug kingpin "El Chapo" to appear in US courtroom

By TOM HAYS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, one of the world's most notorious drug kingpins, is finally headed for a court date the United States sought for two decades while he made brazen prison escapes and spent years on the run in Mexico.

Extradited Thursday to face U.S. drug trafficking and other charges, Mexico's most wanted man was expected to appear in a federal court in New York Friday, the same day Donald Trump, who has lashed out at Mexico, is inaugurated as president.

The Drug Enforcement Administration flew Guzman to New York from Ciudad Juarez late Thursday, according to federal officials.

The U.S. has been trying to get Guzman in a U.S. court since he was first indicted in Southern California in the early 1990s. Now in his late 50s, he faces the possibility of life in a U.S. prison under indictments in six jurisdictions around the United States, including New York, San Diego, Chicago and Miami.

He's expected to be prosecuted in Brooklyn, where an indictment accuses him of overseeing a massive trafficking operation that sent billions of dollars in profits back to Mexico. It says Guzman and other members of the Sinaloa cartel, one of the world's largest drug trafficking organizations, employed hit men who carried out murders, kidnappings and acts of torture.

Guzman, the cartel's convicted boss, had been held most recently at a prison near Ciudad Juarez, a border town across from El Paso, Texas. He was recaptured a year ago after escaping from a maximum-security prison for a second time, an episode that was highly embarrassing for President Enrique Pena Nieto's government.

Mexican officials were seen as eager to hand him off to the United States. But Guzman's lawyers fought his extradition, and attorney Andres Granados accused the government of carrying it out Thursday to distract from nationwide gasoline protests.

"It was illegal. They didn't even notify us," Granados said. "It's totally political."

Mexico's Foreign Relations Department said a court had ruled against Guzman's appeal and found that his extradition would be constitutional.

The extradition came at a charged political moment in the U.S., on the eve of Trump's inauguration. As a candidate, the Republican criticized Mexico for sending the U.S. "criminals and rapists" and vowed to build a wall at the Mexican border and have Mexico pay for it. Mexican officials have said they wouldn't pay for such a structure.

Carl Pike, a former DEA agent who spent the last part of his career helping the drug agency chase Guzman, said Thursday he was always confident that the drug lord would be sent to the U.S., but the timing was "interesting."

"It's one way of thanking Obama and another way of saying, 'Mr. Trump, welcome to the arena,'" Pike said.

Derek Maltz, who headed the DEA's Special Operations Division until his retirement in mid-2014, said the extradition reaffirms Mexico's commitment to working with the United States and curbing the power of its drug cartels, and the timing could be seen as a good-faith effort by the Mexican government.

After breaking out of prison the first time in 2001, Guzman spent more than a decade at large, becoming something of a folk legend among some Mexicans for his defiance of authorities. He was immortalized in ballads known as "narco-corridos."

Captured in 2014, Guzman then made an even more audacious escape, coolly stepping into a hole in the floor of his prison cell shower and whizzing to freedom on a motorcycle modified to run on tracks laid the length of the tunnel.

While again on the run, he secretly met with actors Sean Penn and Kate del Castillo in a fall 2015 encounter that Penn later chronicled in Rolling Stone magazine.

Guzman was unapologetic about his criminal activities, saying he had turned to drug trafficking at age 15 to survive.

"The only way to have money to buy food, to survive, is to grow poppy, marijuana, and at that age, I began to grow it, to cultivate it and to sell it. That is what I can tell you," he was quoted as saying in Penn's article, published right after Mexican marines re-arrested Guzman last January.

Guzman was ultimately captured after a shootout that killed five of his associates, wounded one marine and added another dramatic chapter to a story even Guzman apparently thought sounded like a Hollywood movie: Authorities were able to track him down partly because he wanted to film a biopic and had representatives communicating with actors and producers, Mexican Attorney General Arely Gomez said at the time.

Maltz said Guzman's extradition is not likely to immediately curb the Sinaloa cartel's role in the drug trade, but it signals that the U.S. and Mexico are serious about fighting drug gangs.

"When they start seeing the extraditions of the cartel leadership and they see the unbelievable effort in Mexico, with the killing and capture of top cartel leaders, they are going to start feeling the heat like they've never seen it before," Maltz said.

The White House, which was down to a skeleton staff hours before Trump takes office, said it had no immediate comment.

Associated Press writers Peter Orsi and Mark Stevenson in Mexico City and Bradley Klapper, Alicia Caldwell and Eric Tucker in Washington and Mark Stevenson contributed to this report.

Rescuers searching for victims of Iran building collapse

By **NASSER KARIMI, Associated Press**

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Rescue teams worked through the night to try and reach trapped firefighters and other victims after a commercial building collapsed in Iran's capital and killed at least 30 firefighters.

Scores of workers and dozens of trucks were searching the ruins Friday, a day after a historic high-rise building in the heart of Tehran caught fire and later collapsed.

The building was home to more than 500 garment and clothing workshops, their offices and warehouses, and was full of chemical materials, authorities said. Thursday's disaster stunned the city and firefighters and others openly wept on the streets, holding each other for support. Dozens of people lined up to donate blood.

"The smoke is a sign of continuation of the fire under the rubble," said Saeed Sharifzadegan, head of Tehran's fire department.

Workers were digging several tunnels from buildings next door to reach the basement of the collapsed building. Teams of rescue dogs were at the site, too.

Meanwhile, reports said Behnam Mirzakhani, one of the hospitalized firemen, died from severe injuries in a Tehran hospital.

A total of 84 people were injured with only five of those were hospitalized, said Pirhossein Kolivand, head of the country's emergency department.

Amir Mohammadi, a retired teacher who lives in a nearby neighborhood, said he couldn't sleep the entire night out of worry.

"How can I go to bed, all those who trapped are like my sons," he said. "Maybe some of them were my students."

Ghasem Rahmani, 63, who owned a shop in the building, stood at Lalehzar junction, a nearby intersection.

"Until the collapse I was worrying about my belongings," he said. "Now I am worrying about our sons there. (I) feel guilty."

Authorities described the building as having a weak structure and it was built more than five decades ago. The fire was the worst in Tehran since a 2005 blaze at a historic mosque killed 59 worshipers and injured nearly 200 others.

The low-cost contributors on each of the NFL's final 4 teams

By **DAVE CAMPBELL, AP Pro Football Writer**

The construction of a Super Bowl team starts and stops with a championship-caliber quarterback. Don't discount the importance of those in-between ingredients, though, particularly the impact players on market-bargain contracts, toward winning a title.

The quartet of quarterbacks left in the NFL playoffs this weekend could hardly have produced any stronger pedigree, with Aaron Rodgers and Matt Ryan in the NFC spotlight and Ben Roethlisberger and Tom Brady on the AFC stage.

By Sunday, they'll have played in a combined 21 conference championship games. They've accounted for seven of the last 15 starting quarterbacks to hoist the Super Bowl trophy. They have 47 cumulative seasons as their team's starter.

Green Bay, Atlanta, Pittsburgh and New England don't get discounts on such prowess, though. Rodgers, Ryan, Roethlisberger and Brady are, naturally and deservedly, the most expensive player on each of their teams. On average, they use 13 percent of their team's salary cap, which makes the low-cost contributors in the supporting cast all the more meaningful and necessary.

Here's a closer look at those paid-with-a-coupon players, each occupying less than 1 percent of his team's salary cap, on the four conference championship game qualifiers who've made it possible for the Packers, Falcons, Steelers and Patriots to move within two victories of a title:

GREEN BAY

Packers general manager Ted Thompson has long relied on under-the-radar prospects to fill out the roster as much as any of his contemporaries around the league.

Left guard Lane Taylor, in his fourth year after going undrafted out of Oklahoma State, has stepped in capably following the surprise release of Josh Sitton right before the season began. Fullback Aaron Ripkowski, who has quietly and steadily made the fans in Wisconsin forget about former favorite John Kuhn, was a sixth-round pick last year from Oklahoma.

The performance of cornerback LaDarius Gunter might be the most critical of all the complementary pieces the Packers will rely on against Ryan, Julio Jones and a fearsome Falcons offense. Gunter, who went undrafted out of Miami in 2015, has been thrust into the starting lineup in light of a slew of injuries at his position.

ATLANTA

Another fullback, Patrick DiMarco, is one of a whopping 19 undrafted players currently on the active roster for the Falcons. His companions in the backfield are playing on championship-friendly cheap deals, too: Devonta Freeman (fourth round in 2014 from Florida State) and Tevin Coleman (third round in 2015 out of Indiana).

The significantly improved defense has had an influx of youth over the last two years under coach Dan Quinn, and rookie linebacker De'Vondre Campbell (fourth round from Minnesota) has been one of the catalysts.

PITTSBURGH

Left tackles are almost as difficult to obtain and develop as quarterbacks, but the Steelers found theirs in former U.S. Army Ranger Alejandro Villanueva, who was versatile enough in his college career to play wide receiver, too. After four years of military service, he landed on the practice squad in 2014 and has been a starter for one of the best offenses in the league since.

Running back Le'Veon Bell (second round out of Michigan State in 2013) is in the final season of his rookie contract. Roosevelt Nix (surprise, another fullback) went undrafted from Kent State in 2014. Then there's kicker Chris Boswell, who made all six of his field goal attempts last week in the 18-16 victory at Kansas City in the divisional round. He's on a \$525,000 salary, roughly half of what Roethlisberger makes per game.

NEW ENGLAND

Brady takes the snaps from center David Andrews, who's in his second year as the anchor of the of-

ensive line after going undrafted out of Georgia. Defensive end Trey Flowers, undrafted from Arkansas, had seven sacks in his first season as a starter.

Cornerback Malcolm Butler might be the best example of all, with his NCAA Division II college career at West Alabama and undrafted status that kept him under the radar until the Super Bowl two years ago when he intercepted the pass by Seattle at the goal line with 26 seconds left to preserve a 28-24 victory by the Patriots.

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Japan PM pledges 'unchanging' allegiance to US under Trump

By MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Friday that he plans to visit the U.S. as soon as possible to meet with incoming U.S. President Donald Trump.

Speaking on the eve of Trump's inauguration, he called the U.S.-Japan alliance an "unchanging principle" for his country's foreign and security policy.

His urgency to meet Trump reflects worries in Japan about how Trump's "America first" policy will affect U.S. commitments to the Asia region, as well as fallout from any heightened tensions with China and North Korea.

Abe was the first foreign leader to meet Trump after the U.S. election, making a stop in New York in November on his way to Latin America.

"The Japan-U.S. alliance is the cornerstone of our country's foreign and security policy, in the past, present and in the future," Abe told parliament in an annual policy address. "It's an unchanging principle."

Abe said he wants to meet Trump to deepen that relationship further. Trump will be sworn in as president Friday.

"I plan to further strengthen the bond with new President Trump," Abe said. He didn't give a specific date, but local media reports have mentioned late January as a possibility.

In the speech at the parliament, Abe also said the two allies, enemies in World War II, have a responsibility to show "the power of reconciliation" as they work together to contribute to global peace and prosperity.

Abe reiterated his concerns about "heightened tension" in the region amid China's increasingly assertive maritime activity, and pledged to step up cooperation with other countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including India, Australia and those in southeast Asia.

He said he wants to keep the U.S. troop presence on the southern island of Okinawa as "deterrence."

During his election campaign, Trump demanded that Tokyo pay more of the cost to keep the 50,000 U.S. troops stationed in the country under a bilateral security pact, threatening to pull them out otherwise.

He has not said that after being elected, presumably following repeated reminders by Japanese officials that Japan makes significant host-nation contributions.

Experts say Japan has benefited from its alliance with Washington largely because of the U.S.-led world order. With some worried about how that could change under a Trump administration, Japan should do its utmost to convince his administration that the alliance is important for both sides.

"I guess we took American internationalism too much for granted ... It has always been, at least after World War II, the bedrock of the international order. And I would say that Japan was the country that benefited from the existence of this world order the most," said Toshihiro Nakayama, a Keio University international politics professor.

He said Japan needs to get Trump to convince his people that America should remain committed to the region so they don't retreat into isolation.

"We have to convince the Americans to stay committed in this region," Nakayama said. "What we have to do is convince the Trump team that for you as well, Japan is the best choice."

Follow Mari Yamaguchi on Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/mariyamaguchi>

Find her work at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/mari-yamaguchi>

Timing of Mexico drug lord's extradition seen as political

By PETER ORSI, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman's abrupt exit to face charges in the U.S. marks the end of an era in which he was Mexico's most notorious drug cartel boss and, for some, the stuff of folk legend.

It's also seen by many in Mexico as a delicately timed maneuver aimed at limiting political fallout for President Enrique Pena Nieto, already deeply unpopular in part for his perceived mishandling of Donald Trump's tough rhetoric on Mexico.

Deputy Attorney General Alberto Elias Beltran, asked at a Thursday night news conference about the timing of Guzman's extradition, said the federal government cannot interfere in court decisions.

"It was resolved today, and we under terms of the international treaty had to make the handover immediately," he said.

But observers still considered the timing to have been carefully planned.

"It could be a coincidence, but I think that's unlikely," Mexican security analyst Alejandro Hope said, noting it came the last full day of Barack Obama's presidency and hours before Trump's inauguration.

"They could not send him after Trump was inaugurated because the interpretation would have been that of a tribute," Hope said. "But maybe they wanted to do it close enough so that both administrations — the outgoing and the incoming — could really make some political hay out of this."

Others saw it as a reward to Obama and a shot across the bow of Trump, who has called immigrants coming illegally from Mexico criminals and "rapists" and vowed to build a border wall and make Mexico pay for it.

"The Mexican government decided to move up the time frame because they didn't want Trump to be in the presidency when they sent him over," said Michael Vigil, the former head of international operations for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. "They wanted Obama to take credit. They wanted to send a message to Trump that they won't be bullied."

Guzman's departure came the same day Mexican officials announced high-level talks Jan. 25-26 in Washington. The discussions will include Mexico's newly installed top diplomat, Luis Videgaray, and key Trump administration officials such as chief of staff Reince Priebus, son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner and senior adviser Stephen Bannon.

Hope said the timing also sends a message that Mexico is serious about anti-drug cooperation regardless of who occupies the White House.

Sen. Miguel Barbosa of the leftist opposition Democratic Revolution Party seized on the extradition to take a swipe at Pena Nieto. He said it was apparently the only choice after Guzman twice pulled off embarrassing escapes from maximum-security lockups.

"We should not celebrate that the Mexican state was not capable of processing the greatest criminal that has ever existed in Mexico and was not capable of guaranteeing his incarceration," Barbosa said in a statement.

Pena Nieto currently has the lowest approval ratings for any Mexican leader in the polling era. Besides his handling of Trump, Mexicans are also angry about corruption, rising drug gang violence and a Jan. 1 deregulation that led gasoline prices to spike by as much as 20 percent.

Guzman lawyer Andres Granados accused the government of trying to distract the public.

"They handled it politically to obscure the situation of the gas price hike," Granados said. "It's totally political."

Some Mexicans feared Guzman's extradition to the United States, where he will surely be kept from communicating with underlings, could unleash a cartel power struggle and more bloodshed.

"All the different bands are going to start fighting among themselves, no? Drug traffickers, to see who ends up being No. 1," said Roberto Lascurain, an architect in Mexico City.

Guzman associate Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada is believed to be running the cartel following "El Chapo's"

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recapture last January. Some analysts believe Guzman's sons may have also taken on increased roles.

Raul Benitez, a security expert at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, said Guzman's offspring may try to challenge for control in what "could be a negotiation without violence, or a war with machine guns."

However, Vigil predicted that the operations of Guzman's Sinaloa cartel are unlikely to be affected.

"Most cartels have a vertical structure, but ... Sinaloa has a horizontal one with cells that operate in a semi-autonomous manner," Vigil said. "They have a strong bench. They have a respected leader in Ismael 'El Mayo' Zambada."

On Twitter, some saw humor in Guzman's extradition the day before Trump takes office.

"They're sending the worst, they're bringing drugs, they're criminals," tweeted Jorge Guajardo, Mexico's ambassador to China in 2007-2013, echoing Trump's comments about illegal immigration. "Ok, you won. Here's our very worst, El Chapo."

U.S. presidential transitions have been used by foreign countries before to send a political message. On Jan. 20, 1981, only minutes into the presidency of Republican Ronald Reagan, Iran freed 52 American hostages it held for 444 days after the storming of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

A deal between Iran and the U.S. to unfreeze billions of dollars in Iranian assets in exchange for the hostages had been largely reached under outgoing Democratic President Jimmy Carter. But while Carter greeted the hostages on their landing in West Germany, it was Reagan who announced their freedom to cheering Americans.

Associated Press writers Mark Stevenson and E. Eduardo Castillo and AP video journalist Lissette Romero in Mexico City and Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates contributed to this report.

Doctors consider removing George H.W. Bush's breathing tube

By MICHAEL GRACZYK, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Doctors treating former President George H.W. Bush for pneumonia considered whether to take out a breathing tube inserted two days ago to clear his airway.

His wife, Barbara, diagnosed with bronchitis, was feeling "1,000 percent better" on Thursday after a dose of antibiotics and rest.

The 92-year-old former president and the 91-year-old former first lady both were being cared for at Houston Methodist Hospital.

Family spokesman Jim McGrath said the 41st president remained in stable condition. Bush was hospitalized on Saturday and has been in the intensive care unit since Wednesday, relying on a ventilator to breathe. Removing the tube — a procedure known as extubation — would allow Bush to breathe on his own. He was struggling to breathe when he was admitted to the hospital Saturday.

"We are hopeful he will be discharged from the ICU in a few days," McGrath said.

Barbara Bush was admitted Wednesday after feeling fatigued and coughing for weeks.

"The couple received "an uplifting visit" from longtime friends former Secretary of State James Baker and his wife, Susan, who also live in Houston, McGrath said.

President-elect Donald Trump and President Barack Obama have sent their well wishes, via Twitter and a news conference, respectively. Former President Bill Clinton also tweeted: "41 and Barbara — thinking about you both and sending wishes for a speedy recovery. Love, 42."

Former President George W. Bush offered thanks on Instagram Thursday for messages "of love and support for Mother and Dad."

"Your prayers are working: 41 and Mom are doing much better today and fighting on," he said in his first public comments about their illnesses.

Bush said he and former first lady Laura Bush "look forward to representing them" at Trump's inauguration Friday in Washington "while they continue to recover in Houston."

The Bushes were married Jan. 6, 1945, and have had the longest marriage of any presidential couple in American history. At the time of their wedding, he was a young naval aviator. She had been a student

at Smith College.

After World War II, they moved to the Texas oil patch to seek their fortune and raise a family. It was there that George Bush began his political career, representing Houston for two terms in Congress in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

George Herbert Walker Bush, born June 12, 1924, in Milton, Massachusetts, also served as CIA director and Ronald Reagan's vice president.

Brazil judge dies in crash ahead of corruption probe ruling

By PETER PRENGAMAN and MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazilian Supreme Court Justice Teori Zavascki's died in a small-plane crash just weeks before he was to rule on a major corruption case that could implicate high-ranking politicians in several Latin American countries.

While the cause of the Thursday's crash off a popular Brazilian coastal town had not been determined, Zavascki held such an important role in the sprawling "Car Wash" investigation into a multibillion-dollar bribe scheme at the state oil company Petrobras that many Brazilians and even international groups like Transparency International immediately voiced fears of possible foul play and demanded a full investigation.

"Justice Teori Zavascki had been strongly driving the #Carwash investigation in the Supreme Court. It's hard to believe this was a mere accident," tweeted Alan Mansur, director of the National Association of Prosecutors.

Federal police said late Thursday that they were launching an investigation.

The plane, which officials said was carrying Zavascki and four others, crashed outside Paraty, a coastal town about 155 miles (250 kilometers) west of Rio de Janeiro. Witnesses speaking to Globo television said it was raining hard at the time, which is typical during the Southern Hemisphere summer.

Within an hour of the news of Zavascki's death, President Michel Temer, who has been implicated by some suspects caught up in the Petrobras investigation but has not been charged, addressed the nation.

Zavascki "was a good man, and a (symbol of) pride for all Brazilians," said Temer, who called for three days of national mourning.

Authorities said Thursday night that three bodies had been recovered so far. The other dead men were identified as businessman Carlos Alberto Filgueiras and pilot Osmar Rodrigues. The identities of the remaining two were not released.

While the largest corruption probe in Brazil's history has been led by a team of prosecutors and Judge Sergio Moro in the southern city of Curitiba, Zavascki handled cases involving politicians. Under Brazilian law, only the Supreme Court can decide to charge or jail federal politicians.

Most recently, Zavascki had been reviewing the dozens of plea bargains of former and current executives of the big Odebrecht construction company, which was one of the main players in the kickback scheme at Petrobras that investigators allege involved more than \$2 billion in bribes over a decade. Over the last two years, dozens of politicians and businessmen have been jailed in the sprawling probe.

Zavascki was expected to decide which of the Odebrecht plea bargains to validate by February. Validation would make them public, potentially implicating dozens of politicians in Brazil and several other countries where Odebrecht did business.

It's not clear what will happen to the "Car Wash" cases that Zavascki was overseeing. They could be split among other justices on the court or possibly assigned to just one justice.

The death will delay the probe "but is unlikely to represent much of a blow," wrote risk consultancy Eurasia late Thursday.

About 100 politicians and business executives have already been arrested or are under investigation in Brazil for allegedly overcharging contracts with Petrobras and other state-run companies to pay for bribes and election campaigns. In addition to Temer, senior Cabinet members and close aides and allies of the president have been implicated in testimony from some of those arrested.

Former Odebrecht director Claudio Melo Filho cited Temer 44 times, making accusations of illegal

campaign financing. If his allegations should be confirmed by Brazil's top electoral court, Temer would be removed from the presidency and Congress would pick a successor. Temer denies any wrongdoing.

Moro, the Curitiba judge, issued a statement after the crash saying he was "perplexed" and calling Zavascki a "Brazilian hero."

"Without him, we would not have had the Carwash operation," Moro wrote. "I hope that his legacy, of serenity and firmness in law enforcement, regardless of the powerful interests involved, is not forgotten."

Associated Press writer Peter Prengaman reported this story from Rio de Janeiro and AP writer Mauricio Savarese reported from Chapeco, Brazil.

Mexican drug lord El Chapo lands in New York to face charges

By TOM HAYS, PETER ORSI and BRADLEY KLAPPER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Infamous Mexican drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who twice escaped from maximum-security prisons in his country, was extradited at the request of the United States to face drug trafficking and other charges and arrived in New York late Thursday.

A plane carrying Guzman landed at a suburban airport, where a caravan of SUVs waited to take him away. Guzman, the convicted leader of the Sinaloa drug cartel, one of the world's largest drug trafficking organizations, was expected to spend the night in a New York jail before his first appearance in a federal courthouse in Brooklyn on Friday, officials said.

Mexico's Department of Foreign Relations announced Guzman was handed over to U.S. authorities for transportation to the U.S. earlier Thursday, the last full day of Democratic President Barack Obama's administration and a day before Republican Donald Trump's scheduled inauguration.

Guzman was taken into custody by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in Ciudad Juarez, a border town across from El Paso, Texas.

Guzman, who's in his late 50s, first escaped from prison in 2001 and then spent more than a decade on the run before he was recaptured, only to escape again in 2015 via a mile-long tunnel dug to the shower in his cell.

The 2015 escape was highly embarrassing for the government of Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto, and Mexican officials were seen as eager to hand the headache off to the United States afterward. A court denied Guzman's appeal and found his extradition was constitutional, the Mexican Department of Foreign Relations said.

In Mexico, Deputy Attorney General Alberto Elias Beltran told reporters late Thursday that Guzman still faces formal charges in 10 other cases.

"When he completes his sentence in ... the United States, he will return to Mexico to continue" the prosecutions, he said.

Guzman's lawyers had fought extradition since his 2016 recapture and said Thursday the Mexican government sent him to the United States to distract the public from nationwide protests over gasoline prices.

"It was illegal. They didn't even notify us," lawyer Andres Granados said. "They handled it politically to obscure the situation of the gas price hike. It's totally political."

Besides New York, Guzman faces charges in five other U.S. jurisdictions, including San Diego, Chicago and Miami. He could face the possibility of life in a U.S. prison if convicted.

An indictment in New York accuses him of running a massive drug operation that employed thousands of people, laundered billions of dollars in profits back to Mexico and used hit men to carry out murders, kidnappings and acts of torture.

After his recent escape, he became something of a folk legend for a segment of Mexico's population for his defiance of authorities. He was immortalized in songs known as narco-corridos, ballads about the drug trade and drug bosses.

It was while on the lam the second time, in fall 2015, that he held a secret meeting with actors Sean Penn and Kate del Castillo. The encounter was the subject of a lengthy article Penn published in Rolling Stone last January, right after Mexican marines re-arrested Guzman in the western state of Sinaloa.

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In the interview, Guzman was unapologetic about his criminal activities, saying he had turned to drug trafficking at age 15 simply to survive.

"The only way to have money to buy food, to survive, is to grow poppy, marijuana, and at that age, I began to grow it, to cultivate it and to sell it. That is what I can tell you," he was quoted as saying in Penn's article.

The decision by Mexico to extradite one of its most prized prisoners to the U.S. comes as Trump has taken a tough stand on illegal immigration from that country, vowing to build a border wall and make Mexico pay for it. Mexican officials have repeatedly said they will not pay for a wall.

Derek Maltz, who headed the DEA's Special Operations Division until his retirement in mid-2014, said the timing of Guzman's extradition less than 24 hours ahead of Trump's inauguration could be seen as a show of good faith by Mexico.

Associated Press writer Peter Orsi reported this story in Mexico City, and AP writer Bradley Klapper reported from Washington. AP writers Alicia Caldwell and Eric Tucker in Washington and Mark Stevenson in Mexico City contributed. Hays reported from New York.

Inaugural cheers, fireworks: Trump sweeps in for his big day

By NANCY BENAC, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With fireworks heralding his big moment, Donald Trump swept into Washington Thursday on the eve of his presidential inauguration and pledged to unify a nation sorely divided and clamoring for change. The capital braced for an onslaught of crowds and demonstrators — with all the attendant hoopla and hand-wringing.

"It's a movement like we've never seen anywhere in the world," the president-elect declared at a celebratory evening concert Thursday night with the majestic Lincoln Memorial for a backdrop. To the unwavering supporters who were with him from the start, he promised: "You're not forgotten any more. You're not forgotten any more."

"I'll see you tomorrow," he called out, and then fireworks exploded into the evening sky.

Trump began taking on more trappings of the presidency during the day, giving a salute to the Air Force officer who welcomed him as he stepped off a military jet with wife Melania at Joint Base Andrews just outside Washington. Later, he placed a ceremonial wreath at Arlington National Cemetery.

At a luncheon in a ballroom at his own hotel, he gave a shout-out to Republican congressional leaders, declaring: "I just want to let the world know we're doing very well together." House Speaker Paul Ryan, he said, will finally have someone to sign legislation into law. Then Trump veered into the territory of the unknowable to boast his Cabinet selections had "by far the highest IQ of any Cabinet ever."

Just blocks away, the White House was quickly emptying out. President Barack Obama had his final weekly lunch with Vice President Joe Biden and got in a few final official acts, cutting the sentences of 330 inmates and placing a call to German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Vice President-elect Mike Pence, in a tweet, called Inauguration Eve "a momentous day before a historic day," as security barricades and blockades went up around Washington in preparation for Friday's swearing-in at the Capitol.

"We are all ready to go to work," Pence said. "In fact, we can't wait to get to work for the American people to make it great again."

Outgoing Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said he'd be putting on his "favorite DHS jacket" and taking to the streets to inspect security preparations for the inaugural festivities.

He told MSNBC's "Morning Joe" that areas where inaugural crowds will congregate will be "extra fortified this year with dump trucks, heavily armored vehicles to prevent anybody who's not authorized from being in the area from driving something in there." He said there was "no specific credible threat" related to the inauguration.

Trump's public schedule for the inaugural celebration began at Arlington, where he and Pence stood at

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attention as a bugler played taps at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Trump's wife, children and grandchildren silently looked on.

From there, Trump shuttled to a celebratory welcome concert on the steps of Lincoln Memorial that ended with fireworks filling the sky.

The concert, open to the public, offered headliners including country star Toby Keith, soul's Sam Moore and rockers 3 Doors Down. But not singer Jennifer Holliday: She backed out after an outcry from Trump critics.

"This is some day, dear friends," actor Jon Voight told the crowd, casting Trump's impending inauguration as evidence of divine intervention after "a parade of propaganda that left us all breathless with anticipation, not knowing if God could reverse all the negative lies against Mr. Trump."

The crowd sent up a cheer when the giant screens flashed video of Trump singing along as Lee Greenwood delivered his signature "God Bless the U.S. A." Trump declared such a concert had a never been done before. In fact, a number of past presidents have staged inaugural concerts among the monuments.

Tom Barrack, the chief architect of Trump's inaugural festivities, said Trump would show the world that "we can argue, we can fight and we can debate," but then the nation unites behind one president.

Trump, though, still had an urge to rehearse particulars of the long, 18-month campaign, from its early days when he claimed "a lot of people didn't give us much of a chance" to the final weeks when his rallies took him to "state after state after state."

Spokesman Sean Spicer said the president-elect was still making "edits and additions" to the inaugural address he'll deliver at Friday's swearing-in.

Never mind about Trump's gilded private plane: He made his Washington entrance on a Boeing 757 that is part of the fleet of military planes that become Air Force One whenever the president is aboard. The president-elect, who came to Washington without any press on his plane, was joined on the trip by a gaggle of children, grandchildren and other members of his extended family. Also spotted: bags of dresses and formalwear for the coming days' festivities.

At the luncheon, Trump made sure to work in a plug for his hotel, saying, "This is a gorgeous room. A total genius must have built this place." Reporters covering Trump's remark were removed from the room before the president-elect finished speaking.

Ebullient Trump fans were ready for a three-day party.

"We're hoping for good weather and hoping for some unity," said Jon-Paul Oldham, a firefighter who came from Thomaston, Connecticut. He said everyone should want Trump to succeed.

"Wanting him to fail is like wanting the plane to crash but you're on the plane," Oldham said.

It does appear it may rain on Trump's parade.

With rain in the forecast, the National Park Service announced that it was easing its "no umbrella" policy for Friday, allowing collapsible umbrellas along the parade route and on the National Mall.

But Trump was unfazed, telling donors at an event Thursday night that if "it really pours that's OK, because people will realize it's my real hair. Might be a mess, but they're going to see that it's my real hair."

Associated Press Writers Julie Bykowicz, Jill Colvin and Jessica Gresko contributed to this report.

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

As Trump takes the oath, many voters still can't believe it

By ADAM GELLER, AP National Writer

On the morning 19 months ago when Donald Trump descended the escalator in his glitzy Manhattan tower, waving to onlookers who lined the rails, many Americans knew little about him beyond that he was very rich and had a thing for firing people on a reality television show.

No one can plausibly say they knew that the man who launched his candidacy that day would be elected the nation's 45th president. As Trump prepares to take the oath of office Friday, many Americans still can't quite believe that a presidency that still seems almost bizarrely improbable becomes a reality on Friday.

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"I thought it was a joke. He'd run, he'd lose early and he'd be out," said Christopher Thoms-Bauer, 20, a bookkeeper and college student from Bayonne, New Jersey, who originally backed Florida Sen. Marco Rubio's Republican candidacy.

Then, Thoms-Bauer recalled, came the night in November when he joined friends in a diner after a New Jersey Devils hockey game and watched, stunned, as Trump eked out wins in key states.

"Having this realization that he was really going to become president was really just a surreal moment," said Thoms-Bauer, who gave his write-in vote to Evan McMullin, a former CIA agent who ran as a conservative alternative to Trump. "It still doesn't make sense."

For all the country's political divisions, plenty of people on both sides of the aisle share that disbelief.

"I thought there was no way he could win," said Crissy Bayless, a Rhode Island photographer who on Thursday tweeted a picture of the Statue of Liberty holding her face in her hands, despairing over Trump's imminent inauguration.

"How am I feeling? Wow.. disgusted. nauseous and honestly like I'm in a nightmare," Bayless, 38, wrote in a conversation via email.

When Barack Obama won the White House in 2008, the election of the nation's first black president felt to many like one of the most improbable moments in the nation's political history. The idea of the election of a white billionaire born of privilege feels implausible to many in very different ways — and that may say as much about the country as it does about Trump.

When Trump announced his candidacy, Kayla Coursey recognized him as the developer who had tried and failed to build a golf course she'd opposed in her hometown of Charlottesville, Virginia. She recalled him as stubborn and resistant to pressure from local residents and officials. That, she said made his candidacy for president feel like a joke. Trump's election felt downright surreal, she said.

In the weeks since, "there was always the hope that things will somehow magically become better. However, now we know (Friday) at noon we're going to be welcoming President Trump, which is surreal in and of itself," said Coursey, a college student in Roanoke, Virginia.

David Sawyers, a 42-year-old truck unloader from Grindstone, Pennsylvania, who backed Sen. Bernie Sanders in the Democratic primary before voting for Trump, said the big crowds that turned out for the candidate's rallies convinced him the billionaire could win. But he never felt certain, not when he recalled how Al Gore had won the popular vote in 2000, but lost the presidency to George W. Bush.

"You follow history," said Sawyers, who's happy with the outcome, "and there are some points where you definitely know history is being made and tomorrow is one of those times."

Sawyers will be working during Friday's inauguration, so he plans to record it and watch it later. But others said they remain so stunned by Trump's election it will be best if they turn away.

Tyler Wilcox, a 23-year-old musician in Riverton, Utah, has been dreading inauguration day. He lists his location on Twitter as "Not My President" and is planning to avoid all coverage of the ceremonies.

"I just feel like it's, I guess you can say, the beginning of the end," he said.

And Coursey, who identifies as "queer" and is deeply worried by the threat she believes Trump's administration poses to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans, said she would avoid joining other students in the dorm television lounge to watch the inauguration.

"I'm concerned that I'd be just a crying mess in the corner, or that somebody would say something and I wouldn't hold my tongue or I'd end up getting in some kind of a physical argument," she said.

Instead, Coursey said, she plans to search for a recording of Trump's speech once it's over, when she can watch it in private. That way, she figures, she can pause it in uncomfortable moments when the presidency she never imagined becomes a little too real.

Associated Press writer Matt Sedensky in New York, Samantha Shotzbarger in Phoenix and Michael Sisak in Philadelphia contributed to this story. Geller reported from New York.

Scientists will live in a dome for 8 months to simulate Mars

By CALEB JONES, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Six carefully selected scientists have entered a man-made dome on a remote Hawaii volcano as part of a human-behavior study that could help NASA as it draws up plans for sending astronauts on long missions to Mars.

The four men and two women moved into their new simulated space home Thursday afternoon on Mauna Loa, settling into the vinyl-covered shelter of 1,200 square feet, or about the size of a small, two-bedroom home, for an eight-month stay.

They will have no physical contact with people in the outside world and will work with a 20-minute delay in communications with their support crew, or the time it would take for an email to reach Earth from Mars.

The NASA-funded project will study the psychological difficulties associated with living in isolated and confined conditions for an extended period.

"We're hoping to figure out how best to select individual astronauts, how to compose a crew and how to support that crew on long-duration space missions," said principal investigator Kim Binsted, a University of Hawaii science professor.

NASA hopes to send humans to an asteroid in the 2020s and Mars by the 2030s.

The team members on the dome project include engineers, a computer scientist, a doctoral candidate and a biomedical expert. They were selected from 700 applicants who were subjected to personality tests, background checks and extensive interviews.

"When I started, my biggest fear was that we were going to be that crew that turned out like Biosphere 2, which wasn't a very pretty picture," said mission commander James Bevington, a space scientist.

Biosphere 2 was a 1990s experimental greenhouse-like habitat in Arizona that became a debacle. It housed different ecosystems and a crew of four men and four women in an effort to understand what would be needed for humans to live on other planets. The participants were supposed to grow their own food and recycle their air inside the sealed glass space.

But the experiment soon spiraled out of control, with the carbon dioxide level rising dangerously and plants and animals dying. The crew members grew hungry and squabbled so badly during the two years they spent cooped up that by the time they emerged, some of them weren't speaking to each other.

The University of Hawaii operates the dome, called Hawaii Space Exploration Analog and Simulation, or HI-SEAS, and NASA has dedicated over \$2 million to the various studies at the facility.

Scientists previously lived in the dome for two other long-term NASA-funded stays — one of them lasting a year, the other eight months — to study food requirements and crew cohesion.

There are a number of other Mars simulation projects around the world, but one of the chief advantages of the one in Hawaii is the rugged, Mars-like landscape, on a rocky, red plain below the summit of the world's largest active volcano.

The dome has small sleeping quarters for each member as well as a kitchen, laboratory and bathroom. Unlike the Biosphere 2, it will be an opaque structure, not a see-through one, and it will not be airtight.

Also, the crew will eat mostly freeze-dried foods, with some canned goods and snacks brought in, including one of Hawaii's favorites, Spam. To maintain the crew's sense of isolation, bundles of food will be dropped off at a distance from the dome, and the team members will send out a robot to retrieve them.

The participants will not be confined to the dome but will wear spacesuits whenever they step outside for geological expeditions, mapping studies or other tasks.

They will also wear instruments around their necks that measure their moods and proximity to other team members, and will use virtual reality devices to simulate familiar and comforting surroundings and help them get through the mission.

Follow Hawaii correspondent Caleb Jones on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CalebAP> See more of his work here: <https://apnews.com/search/Caleb%20Jones%20Hawaii>

Italy crews work through night after avalanche hits hotel

By COLLEEN BARRY, NICOLE WINFIELD and PAOLO SANTALUCIA, Associated Press

FARINDOLA, Italy (AP) — Rescue crews who reached the four-star mountain resort on skis found only eerie silence Thursday after a huge avalanche flattened the hotel, trapping more than 30 people inside. Two bodies were recovered, but the search for survivors was hampered by heavy snowfall and fears the buildings would collapse.

Two people escaped the devastation at the Hotel Rigopiano in the mountains of central Italy and called for help. But it took hours for responders to verify their claims and arrive at the remote earthquake-stricken zone. They worked through the night, but hopes were dimming of finding survivors.

Days of heavy snowfall had knocked out electricity and phone lines in many central Italian towns and hamlets, and the hotel phones went down early Wednesday, just as the first of four powerful earthquakes struck the region.

It wasn't clear if the quakes triggered the avalanche. But emergency responders said the force of the massive snow slide collapsed a wing of the hotel that faced the mountain and rotated another off its foundation, pushing it downhill.

"The situation is catastrophic," said Marshall Lorenzo Gagliardi of the alpine rescue service, who was among the first at the scene. "The mountain-facing side is completely destroyed and buried by snow: the kitchen, hotel rooms, hall."

The hotel in the mountain town of Farindola in Italy's Abruzzo region, is about 30 miles (45 kilometers) from the coastal city of Pescara, at an altitude of about 3,940 feet (1,200 meters). The area, which has been buried under snowfall for days, is located in the broad swath of central Italy that was jolted by Wednesday's quakes, one of which had a 5.7 magnitude.

Farindola Mayor Ilario Lacchetta estimated that more than 30 people were unaccounted for: the hotel had 24 guests, four of them children, and 12 employees onsite.

Accounts emerged of guests messaging friends for help Wednesday, with at least one attempt at raising the alarm rebuffed for several hours.

Giampiero Parete, a chef vacationing at the hotel, called his boss when the avalanche struck and begged him to mobilize rescue crews. His wife Adriana and two children, Ludovica, 6, and Gianfilippo, 8, were trapped inside, restaurant owner Quintino Marcella told The Associated Press.

Parete had left the hotel briefly to get some medicine from the car for his wife, and survived as a result. "He said the hotel was submerged and to call rescue crews," Marcella said, adding that he phoned police and the Pescara prefect's office, but that no one believed him because the hotel had reported it was fine a few hours earlier.

"The prefect's office said it wasn't true, because everything was OK at the hotel."

Marcella said he insisted, and called other emergency numbers until a civil protection official finally took him seriously and mobilized a rescue at 8 p.m., more than two hours later.

Rescue teams had tried to reach the scene in a snowplow but were blocked by fallen trees and rocks. They used cross-country skis for the final seven-kilometer, two-hour journey and found Parete and Fabio Salzetta, a hotel maintenance worker, in a car in the resort's parking lot.

There were no other signs of life.

"Unfortunately we haven't had any positive signs since the morning," firefighter spokesman Luca Cari told state-run RAI television.

Parete was taken to a hospital and Salzetta stayed behind with rescuers to help identify where guests might be buried and how crews could enter the buildings, rescuers said.

Fabrizio Curcio, head of the civil protection, said the search was complicated because so much of the hotel structure was "imploded" by the force of the snow, creating partial collapses that rendered the whole structure unstable.

Crews were working through the night and were still hopeful of finding survivors, he said, though he acknowledged the prospects were dimming with the passage of time.

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Video shot by rescuers showed huge piles of filthy snow and debris piled inside hotel corridors, stairwells and the indoor pool area. There was no sound except for the steps of the cameraman. The largest wall of snow was in the pool area, where plastic lounge chairs were flipped over and Christmas decorations dangled from the ceiling.

The bar area appeared flooded, with nearby cracked skylights covered with snow outside.

Heavy equipment — snowplows and other earthmoving equipment — were struggling to reach the area and only 25 vehicles had arrived, along with 135 rescue workers, said Civil Protection operations chief Titi Postiglione. She said the risk of further avalanches was slowing the delicate work.

"It's an enormously complex situation, and we are very concerned," she said.

Premier Paolo Gentiloni, arriving in the area at midday Thursday, sought to deflect criticism of the rescue work and urged authorities to redouble efforts to reach people isolated by the quakes and snow, which had dumped as much as 10 feet (three meters) in some places.

House-bound residents had complained for days of being without electricity and phone service because of what Gentiloni called a "record snowfall."

"I ask everyone if possible to multiply their efforts," Gentiloni said. "I ask politicians to show sobriety respecting the difficulty of the situation and the commitment of civil and military crews who are responding."

The buried hotel was just one of several rescues underway as residents remained isolated in many small hamlets. Daiana Nguyen, a resident of a town in the province of Teramo, told SKY TG24 that people felt "abandoned."

"They talk about sending in the army: Thirty to 40 men came with shovels. We need heavy machinery!" she said.

Relatives and friends of hotel guests spent anxious hours waiting for word.

Alessandro Di Michelangelo posted a note on the hotel's Facebook page late Wednesday asking for news of his brother, sister-in-law and their 6-year-old son, Samuel. "We are worried. We haven't had news from them ... They were guests in the hotel."

Contacted Thursday night, he said he still had no news.

Gianluca Valensise, a seismologist at Italy's national vulcanology center, said it wasn't clear if the quakes triggered the avalanche, since so much snow had fallen in recent days. The closest monitors to the hotel didn't indicate strong ground acceleration even during the biggest quake, suggesting it wasn't felt particularly strongly in the mountains.

"At the most it was a trigger, but certainly not the reason," he said. "The avalanche certainly would have come down sooner or later, but the distance from the epicenter is quite substantial."

Marcella, the restaurant owner, said he received the call from Parete at around 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. The chef reported that all of the guests had checked out and were waiting in the front hall for the roads to be cleared when the avalanche struck.

Parete was being treated for hypothermia at a hospital in Pescara. The Romanian foreign ministry reported three Romanian citizens were among the missing in the hotel — an adult and two children believed to be Parete's family.

The mountainous region of central Italy has been struck by a series of quakes since August that destroyed homes and historic centers in dozens of towns and hamlets. A deadly quake in August killed nearly 300. No one died in strong aftershocks in October, largely because population centers had already been evacuated.

Barry reported from Milan and Winfield reported from Rome.

Energy pick vows to boost agency he had pledged to eliminate

By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, tapped by President-elect Donald Trump to head the Energy Department, vowed to be an advocate for an agency he once pledged to eliminate and promised to rely on federal scientists, including those who work on climate change.

Perry told a Senate committee on Thursday that he regrets his infamous statement about abolishing

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the department and insisted it performs critical functions, particularly in protecting and modernizing the nation's nuclear stockpile.

"My past statements made over five years ago about abolishing the Department of Energy do not reflect my current thinking," Perry said. "In fact, after being briefed on so many of the vital functions of the Department of Energy, I regret recommending its elimination."

In 2011, at a Republican presidential primary debate, Perry became a punchline who famously forgot the department was one of the agencies he wanted to eliminate.

At his confirmation hearing, Perry also pledged to promote and develop American energy in all forms, advance the department's science and technology mission and carefully dispose of nuclear waste. And he acknowledged that climate change is real.

"I believe some of it is naturally occurring, but some of it is also caused by man-made activity," Perry told the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. "The question is how do we address it in a thoughtful way that doesn't compromise economic growth, the affordability of energy or American jobs."

Perry, who served 14 years at Texas governor, said he was for "all of the above" on energy production — oil and gas to renewable sources like wind and solar power — before President Barack Obama embraced the strategy.

"We truly advocated an all-of-the-above strategy, reducing carbon emissions not just through development of cleaner fossil fuels, but through the development of renewable sources too," Perry said.

During Perry's tenure as governor, Texas maintained its traditional role as a top driller for oil and natural gas, while also emerging as the leading producer of wind power in the United States and a top 10 provider of solar power.

Democrats repeatedly reminded Perry of his pledge to abolish the department. Several expressed concern about news reports indicating that the Trump administration plans major cuts to the department's budget, including eliminating the offices of electricity, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, asked Perry if he agreed with those advocating such cuts.

"Maybe they'll have the same experience I had and forget that they said that," Perry said, drawing knowing laughter from the committee.

Perry also elicited laughs when he told Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., that he enjoyed meeting him at Franken's Senate office, adding, "I hope you are as much fun on that dais as you were on your couch."

Franken, a former comedian, paused for effect as Perry asked to rephrase. "Please," Franken said, "Please, oh my lord."

"I think we found our 'Saturday Night Live' soundbite," Perry joked. Franken was a writer and actor on the show in the 1970s and 1980s.

Under questioning from Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., Perry vowed to protect Energy Department scientists from political or budgetary attacks.

"I'm going to protect all of the science, whether it's related to the climate or to the other aspects of what we're going to be doing," Perry said.

Perry criticized a Trump transition team questionnaire that sought names of those who worked on Obama administration climate policy efforts, saying it went out before Trump picked him to oversee the department.

"I didn't approve it. I don't approve of it. I don't need that information. I don't want that information," Perry said.

Some Energy Department officials viewed the questionnaire as a bid to intimidate top scientists. Democrats called it a political witch hunt that could have a chilling effect on federal workers.

Democrats and environmental groups have derided Perry's nomination, calling him a steep drop-off from the two renowned physicists who preceded him as energy chief, Steven Chu and Ernest Moniz. Perry earned a bachelor's degree in animal science from Texas A&M University, where he was also a member of the Corps of Cadets and a Yell Leader.

Moniz said last week that he and Perry had discussed the "special role" of the Energy Department's 17 national laboratories and said he trusts that the labs — and scientists generally — will have Perry's "strong

support.”

On Obama’s last day, a low-key end to fast-paced presidency

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a few final moves and a round of goodbyes, President Barack Obama quietly closed out his presidency on Thursday and prepared for life as a private citizen, as the country readied itself for President-elect Donald Trump.

Eight years after he started his presidency with a burst of activity and executive orders, Obama wound it down in low-key fashion. He didn’t appear publicly during the day, and he didn’t leave the White House, though he was to accompany Trump at midday Friday to the Capitol for his successor’s swearing-in.

As the last remaining White House staffers packed up their belongings and cleared out, the president and first lady Michelle Obama placed a farewell call to German Chancellor Angela Merkel — his last presidential call to a foreign leader. Merkel, Obama’s closest international partner, is the only one of his key European allies still in power as he leaves office, though she faces a difficult re-election in September.

Hanging over Obama’s departure is the reality that he’s being replaced by a successor who has vowed to upend much of what he accomplished. Obama implored Americans not to vote for Trump, warning he was dangerous and unfit, but Americans elected him anyway.

In a letter to supporters, Obama said that “when the arc of progress seems slow,” Americans should remember that they are empowered as citizens to influence the nation’s future for the better. He added: “We shall overcome.”

“All that I’ve learned in my time in office, I’ve learned from you,” Obama said. “You made me a better president, and you made me a better man.”

Only a skeleton staff remained in the West Wing, creating an eerily quiet feeling in the normally bustling corridors. Photos of Obama and his family that for years have lined the walls were taken down, with some to be transferred to Obama’s personal office, leaving big white spaces on the walls.

Most desks and offices were empty, having been vacated by staffers who departed in recent weeks. Those staffers still left were packing up their desks, handing in their phones and saying teary farewells to their colleagues.

“It has truly been a pleasure,” one White House press staffer declared over the intercom.

Obama did save one major announcement for his final day: Commutations for 330 drug offenders who had appealed to him for clemency. The final round of grants brought to 1,715 the total number of inmates whose sentences Obama has commuted, more than any other president.

As his family packed up the living quarters where he and Mrs. Obama raised their two daughters, Obama received the president’s daily briefing for the final time and had lunch with Vice President Joe Biden. His administration also disclosed it had transferred four final detainees out of Guantanamo Bay, but conceded Obama had failed to fulfill his promise to close the prison.

Obama also staffed up for his life and work as former president, hiring a trio of former faces. Obama tapped his White House principle deputy press secretary to be his senior adviser and a former White House aide to be his spokesman, while first lady Michelle Obama selected her communications director to stay on in that role when she becomes the former first lady.

After Trump is inaugurated on Friday, ex-President Obama will fly by helicopter to Andrews Air Force Base, where he’ll speak to longtime aides to thank them for their work. Then he and his family will board the presidential aircraft for their final flight, to California, where they plan a quiet vacation in Palm Springs.

The Obamas will return later to Washington, where they have rented a home and plan to live until youngest daughter Sasha finishes high school.

Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>

Regional troops enter Gambia in effort to get Jammeh to go

By KRISTA LARSON and BABACAR DIONE, Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — A West African regional force charged into neighboring Gambia late Thursday to support the country's newly inaugurated president, while longtime ruler Yahya Jammeh showed no sign of stepping down.

The troops moved in shortly after Adama Barrow was inaugurated at Gambia's embassy in neighboring Senegal, after a final effort at diplomatic talks with Jammeh failed to secure his departure. His mandate expired at midnight.

Senegalese military spokesman Col. Abdoul Ndiaye confirmed to The Associated Press that the first regional troops had crossed into Gambia and were on their way to the capital, Banjul. AP journalists saw at least 20 military vehicles gathered at the border town of Karang.

In his inaugural speech, which took place under heavy security, Barrow called on Jammeh to respect the will of the people and step aside. The new president also called on Gambia's armed forces to remain in their barracks as the regional military intervention got underway.

Shortly after the inauguration, the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a resolution expressing "full support" to Barrow, calling on Jammeh to step down and condemning his attempts to usurp power. The resolution also backed the regional efforts to get Jammeh to respect the election results.

Outside Gambia's embassy in Dakar, Baal Jaabang held up a freshly framed portrait of Barrow, already printed with the words: "His Excellency Adama Barrow, President of the Republic of Gambia."

"I'm extremely delighted, so wonderfully happy today," he said. "But now the situation risks moving into fighting. No Gambian — in the diaspora or back home — wants our country to face fighting."

Barrow had come to Senegal last week at the urging of West African mediators, who had feared for his safety amid the political crisis.

He arrived at the embassy to cheers of joy from hundreds of Gambians who had gathered, with national flags, for a glimpse of the new president.

"Our national flag will now fly high among the most democratic nations of the world," Barrow said after the ceremony.

Barrow was declared the winner of the Dec. 1 election and at first was congratulated by Jammeh in a phone call aired on state television. But once it was suggested that Jammeh could face criminal charges linked to human rights abuses during his long rule, he backtracked and challenged the vote in court, alleging irregularities.

In recent days, Jammeh has tried to stay in power by declaring a state of emergency, while lawmakers voted to extend his mandate by three months.

Jammeh on Thursday remained at his official residence and intended to stay there, said an official close to the administration who was not authorized to speak to reporters. If the regional force is going to arrest Jammeh, it will have to be there, the official said.

Many of Jammeh's loyalists will resist, the official added.

But there were signs that some in Gambia's military might not put up a fight. One soldier with close knowledge of the situation said several barracks had indicated they would support Barrow. The soldiers spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters.

Gambia's army is estimated at well below 5,000 troops.

Jammeh may try to cling to power for a few more days but he is becoming increasingly isolated, said Alex Vines, head of the Africa program at Chatham House in London.

"After the inauguration of Adama Barrow, the trickle of power flowing to him will become more of a flood," Vines said. "Jammeh clearly believes leaving Gambia in a hurry is an option — his aircraft has been on standby at Banjul airport for two weeks," he added.

African nations began stepping away from Jammeh, with Botswana announcing it no longer recognized him as Gambia's president. The African Union earlier announced that the continental body would no longer recognize Jammeh once his mandate expired.

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Congratulations to Barrow began pouring in, including from British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, and the spokesman for U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the U.N. chief expressed his "full support" in a phone call with Barrow.

Thousands have fled Gambia in recent days, including a number of former cabinet ministers who resigned. But as news of Barrow's inauguration spread, many people hugged and cheered, chanting "New Gambia, new Gambia!"

"It's unbelievable! Today I can say anything. I am the happiest man on earth," said Lamin Sama, a 35-year-old in Banjul. "For 22 years we couldn't say anything, we were like slaves."

This version corrects spelling of Senegalese army spokesman's name to Abdoul.

Associated Press writers Robbie Corey-Boulet in Abidjan, Ivory Coast; Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations; Ahmed Mohamed in Nouakchott, Mauritania; and Bashir Adigun in Abuja, Nigeria and Carley Petesch contributed to this report.

Jackpot! Vegas looks to score big win by landing Raiders

By **TIM DAHLBERG, AP Sports Writer**

LAS VEGAS (AP) — First the NHL's Vegas Golden Knights. Soon, maybe, the Las Vegas Raiders.

Once looked on with disdain by major sports leagues, this gambling city is now just 24 votes away from cashing in on one of the biggest sports jackpots ever.

The Raiders made it official Thursday by filing for relocation from Oakland to Las Vegas, the culmination of a whirlwind romance to bring an NFL team to a city that the league had previously gone out of its way to shun because of sports betting fears.

League owners are expected to vote on the move in March, and it's hard to find anyone betting it won't happen.

"I don't know how you can put a price on this," said Steve Sisolak, a county commissioner who has been involved in the efforts to land the team. "There are only 32 cities that can say they have an NFL team and we will be one of them."

Actually, there is a price on it. Tourists will pay increased room taxes to fund \$750 million of the cost of a new \$1.9 billion stadium as part of a deal rammed through a special session of the Nevada Legislature by powerful casino owner Sheldon Adelson's family.

The stadium will be just off the glittering Las Vegas Strip, where the Golden Knights will begin play this fall in a new arena of their own. The expansion hockey team is the first major sports franchise to call the city home.

"Without the Golden Knights I don't know if the Raiders would have thought this was a viable market," Sisolak said. "They kind of broke the glass ceiling."

If approved, the move would be the third announced by an NFL team in a year as the league undergoes a geographic shift unlike any in recent history. The Rams returned to Los Angeles from St. Louis this season, while the San Diego Chargers will begin play in LA next season.

"(Raiders owner) Mark Davis is a man of his word and the filing of the Raiders' application for relocation of the franchise with the NFL is a significant step in bringing the team to Las Vegas," Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval said.

The NFL has long been opposed to any association with Las Vegas, to the point where just a few years ago it refused to allow the city to advertise on the Super Bowl telecast because it offered legal betting. But the league's opposition has softened, and so has the stance of Commissioner Roger Goodell.

"I think there are some real strengths to the Las Vegas market," Goodell said at an owners' meeting last month. "It's clear the Las Vegas market has become a more diversified market, more broadly involved with entertainment, hosting big events. And there's a growth to the market."

Las Vegas, which has about 2.5 million people in the metropolitan area, would be a smaller market than

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the Bay Area. But fans from other cities are expected to fill a third of the proposed 65,000-seat stadium, and the team will also be able to draw on Raiders fans from throughout California.

Influential owners like Jerry Jones of the Dallas Cowboys and Robert Kraft of the New England Patriots have spoken favorably about the prospects of a move, and Raiders owner Mark Davis has been lobbying behind the scenes to secure the votes of three-fourths of the 32 owners needed for relocation.

The vote is expected to take place during league meetings March 26-29 in Phoenix.

Davis did not comment Thursday on the relocation application, but has made no secret of his commitment to Las Vegas. At a stadium meeting last year in the city he brought along a program from a 1964 American Football League exhibition game in the city where the Raiders beat the Houston Oilers.

Davis has said the team will continue to play in Oakland until the Las Vegas stadium is finished, likely by the 2020 season. There are two sites currently being looked at for the stadium, both adjacent to the Strip.

One possible hang-up could be Adelson's participation in the project. He's the one who initiated conversations with Davis last January, and was instrumental in getting a tax increase passed by the state legislature in October.

Adelson's family has offered \$650 million toward the stadium, but has reached no deal with the Raiders yet. Team representatives say they have secured the funding to replace Adelson's investment in case a deal isn't reached. NFL rules prohibit casino operators from having ownership roles in teams.

Andy Abboud, the executive working on the project for Adelson, called the filing "one of those moments that makes it real" and vowed that necessary negotiations will be completed.

"The people of Las Vegas should be excited that the NFL is coming to town," Abboud told AP. "Business deals take time to work out, but everything will work out in the end."

The Raiders have two one-year options to play at the Oakland Coliseum in 2017 and 2018 and are already taking season ticket renewals for next season. But the Raiders have largely ignored a proposal by former player Ronnie Lott to build a new stadium in Oakland to keep the team permanently.

"We are in this game and we are playing to win," Lott's group said in a statement, vowing to push ahead.

Under Davis' father, Hall of Fame owner Al Davis, the Raiders moved from Oakland to Los Angeles in 1982 then returned to the East Bay in 1995.

Associated Press Writer Ken Ritter in Las Vegas and AP Sports Writer Josh Dubow in San Francisco contributed to this report.

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

The presidency is about to change _ as Trump remains Trump

By LISA LERER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump enters the White House on Friday just as he entered the race for president: defiant, unfiltered, unbound by tradition and utterly confident in his chosen course.

In the 10 weeks since his surprise election as the nation's 45th president, Trump has violated decades of established diplomatic protocol, sent shockwaves through business boardrooms, tested long-standing ethics rules and continued his combative style of replying to any slight with a personal attack — on Twitter and in person.

Past presidents have described walking into the Oval Office for the first time as a humbling experience, one that in an instant makes clear the weight of their new role as caretaker of American democracy. Trump spent much of his transition making clear he sees things differently: Rather than change for the office, he argues, the office will change for him.

"They say it's not presidential to call up these massive leaders of business," Trump told a crowd in Indianapolis in December. That was after he negotiated a deal with an air conditioning company to keep jobs in the state, a move many economists derided as unworkable national economic policy.

"I think it's very presidential," he declared. "And if it's not presidential, that's OK. That's OK. Because I

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actually like doing it.”

Even before he takes the oath of office, Trump has changed the very nature of presidency, breaking conventions and upending expectations for the leader of the free world.

Advisers who've spoken with Trump say the billionaire real estate mogul and reality TV star is aware of the historic nature of his new job. He's told friends that he's drawn to the ambition of Ronald Reagan, a Republican, and John F. Kennedy, a Democrat. He's thinking of spending his first night in the White House sleeping in the Lincoln Bedroom, according to some who dined with him recently in Florida.

But Trump also views himself as a kind of “sui generis” president, beholden to no one for his success and modeling himself after no leader who's come before. Trump has said he's read no biographies of former presidents. When asked to name his personal heroes in a recent interview, he mentioned his father before replying that he didn't “like the concept of heroes.”

“I don't think Trump has a great sense of the history of the White House. When you don't know your history, it's hard to fully respect the traditions,” said historian Douglas Brinkley, who recently dined with Trump and other guests at his South Florida club. “This is not somebody who brags about how many history biographies he's read.”

“He's somebody who brags about it as this is a big event and he's the maestro,” he said.

That's a shift that thrills his supporters, who elected Trump to shake up what they see as an unresponsive and corrupt federal government in the “swamp” of Washington.

“I don't want him to change” said Iowa state Sen. Brad Zaun, one of Trump's earliest backers. “One of the reasons that I supported him is that he told it the way it was. He didn't beat around the bush. He didn't do the standard political talking points.”

Trump won election with that approach, but he's yet to win over the country. His Electoral College victory was tempered by a loss in the popular vote to Democrat Hillary Clinton by nearly 3 million ballots. The protests planned for the day after his inauguration threaten to draw more people to the National Mall than his official events.

Polls over the past week show that Trump is poised to enter the White House as the least popular president in four decades. Democrats remain staunchly opposed to him, independents have not rallied behind him and even Republicans are less enthusiastic than might be expected, according to the surveys.

In his typical reaction to poll results he doesn't like, Trump dismissed them as “rigged” in a Tuesday tweet.

It's exactly that kind of tweet that worries governing experts, lawmakers and other critics, who argue that traditional practices of the presidency protect the health of the American democracy.

“With notable exceptions, we've had a political culture in which presidents largely respect a series of unwritten rules that help democracy and the rule of law flourish,” said Brendan Nyhan, a professor of government at Dartmouth College. “What's striking about Trump is he flouts norms that have previously been respected by both parties on a daily basis. He calls things into question that have never been questioned before.”

Since winning the election, Trump has attacked Hollywood celebrities, civil rights icons and political rivals alike. He's moved markets by going after some companies, while praising others.

He's questioned the legitimacy of American institutions — appearing to trust the word of Russian President Vladimir Putin over the intelligence agencies he'll soon oversee, engaging in personal fights with journalists as he assails the free press and questioning the results of the election, even though it put him in office.

And he's lambasted the leaders of longstanding allied nations as he questions the post-World War II international order that won the Cold War and maintained peace in Europe for generations.

For Trump supporters, that no-holds-barred style is the very reason he won their votes. But for others in the country, it's a type of leadership they've seen before and fear will spread.

They point to Maine, where a Trump-like governor has roiled the state's government with offensive statements, a combative style and little respect for the Legislature, as a warning of what the nation might expect during a Trump administration.

Gov. Paul LePage's confrontational brand of politics has made it harder to pass legislation, build political

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coalitions or even conduct the basic workings of state government, say legislators and political consultants in the traditionally centrist state. He's created rifts with would-be Republican allies, demonized the media and tightly controlled basic information. At times, he's banned the heads of state agencies from appearing before legislative committees, making state budgeting and oversight difficult.

"What I'm concerned about nationally is what we've seen up here — that the checks and balances we take for granted disappear," said Lance Dutson, a Republican political strategist who worked to get LePage elected before later speaking out against him. "There are things that are happening up here that I really thought just couldn't happen."

There are signs that Trump's actions are already changing the traditions of government in Washington, freeing lawmakers and other officials from long-respected practices of federal politics.

More than 50 House Democrats plan to boycott Trump's inauguration ceremony, an unprecedented break with the bipartisan tradition of celebrating the peaceful transfer of power. While many Democrats were furious with the outcome of the 2000 election in which Republican George W. Bush defeated Al Gore after recounts and a Supreme Court ruling, they generally attended Bush's inauguration ceremony.

"I will not celebrate a man who preaches a politics of division and hate," tweeted Keith Ellison, a Minnesota congressman who's bidding to head the Democratic National Committee.

Those who know Trump say the billionaire mogul delights in confounding establishment expectations, even as he craves approval from powerbrokers in New York and Washington.

"He was born with a chip on his shoulder, and he is very much the guy from Queens who looked across at Manhattan and envied but also to some degree hated the elites who occupied Manhattan," said Michael D'Antonio, author of "Never Enough," a Trump biography. "The way that he wants to disrupt institutions reflects this idea that the institutions haven't embraced him."

That's a style that may work better for a CEO of a family corporation — who has little oversight from corporate boards or shareholders — than a president constrained by a system of checks and balances. Former Cabinet officials say the layers of government bureaucracy, myriad regulations and intricacies of Congress will challenge Trump's style.

"A president doesn't have sweeping, universal authority. It is a very different operation than being a CEO who can fire people and hire people at will," said Kathleen Sebelius, a Democrat and former health and human services secretary. "He's never been part of any organization with a framework where institutional rules are in place."

President Barack Obama, who's offered Trump advice both publicly and privately, said he's urged the president-elect to hold onto some of the traditions of the office.

"The one thing I've said to him directly, and I would advise my Republican friends in Congress and supporters around the country, is just make sure that as we go forward certain norms, certain institutional traditions don't get eroded, because there's a reason they're in place," said Obama, in a recent interview with CBS' "60 Minutes."

But Trump's supporters say it's the institutions and Washington — and not the next president — that must change.

"Trump believes that he has a better understanding of how things work in the modern world than all of these so-called critics," said Newt Gingrich, a Trump adviser and former Republican House speaker, who has spoken with the president-elect about his presidency. "That's who he is."

"The rest of us are going to have to learn how to think through that."

Follow Lisa Lerer on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/llderer>

First day goal? Make White House feel like home for Trump

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's supposed to feel just like home when Donald Trump steps inside the White House residence for the first time as president on Inauguration Day.

His clothes will be hanging in the closet. The kitchen will be stocked with his favorite foods. Windows will have been washed, carpets vacuumed or replaced, and fresh linens and towels will be in all the bedrooms and baths. No packed or half-empty boxes will be lying around either, unlike a typical home move.

Trump and his wife, Melania, can thank the nearly 100 butlers, maids, plumbers, electricians and other staffers who maintain the private living areas of the White House. The crew will have just the hours between Trump's swearing-in and the end of the inaugural parade to remove all traces of President Barack Obama and his family and make the Trumps feel at home.

"I've called it, for years, organized chaos," says Gary Walters, a former White House chief usher who oversaw the move in-move out process for four presidents.

The "chaos" breaks out moments after the outgoing president and the president-elect depart the White House for the oath-taking ceremony at the Capitol. However, the process itself starts after the November election when the White House chief usher reaches out to the incoming president's team to begin coordinating the new First Family's big move.

Melania Trump toured the living quarters in November when she accompanied her husband to the White House for his postelection meeting with Obama.

Trump, the businessman and reality TV star, now lives primarily at his three-story penthouse at Trump Tower on New York's Fifth Avenue, and may continue to spend considerable time there because his wife and their 10-year-old son, Barron, plan to remain in New York until the school year ends.

The Obamas started packing up their belongings weeks ago. Crates and boxes lined hallways and filled the East Room last week. Mrs. Obama isn't doing a lot of packing herself, but she recently said in an interview with Oprah Winfrey that "I'm doing a lot of pointing" to indicate what needs to be boxed up.

Obama told CBS' "60 Minutes" that he's taking books, clothes, mementos and furniture bought since he became president. He and the first lady didn't bring many large items with them because they left their home in Chicago intact. They also won't be going far when they leave the White House.

After vacation in Palm Springs, California, the Obamas will settle into a rented mansion in Washington's upscale Kalorama neighborhood. In a break with tradition, they plan to stay in the capital for a few years so their 15-year-old daughter, Sasha, can graduate from her private high school.

One of their new neighbors will be Trump's eldest daughter, Ivanka Trump, and her husband, Jared, who will become a senior adviser to his father-in-law. The couple plan to move into a mansion in the same neighborhood with their three young children.

As the transition of power takes place at the Capitol on Friday, the White House residence staff oversees the transition from one family to another in a manner befitting an HGTV special.

Moving trucks for each family are positioned nearby and are directed through tight security to the White House when they get the all-clear.

Residence staff members are broken up into groups and given specific assignments. Some will pack the Obama family's remaining items, and another group will carry them out to the truck. Other staffers will bring the Trumps' things into the White House while still others unpack and put them in their designated places.

All the while, "you're changing sheets and you're changing towels and the housekeepers are working feverishly," said Anita McBride, who was chief of staff to first lady Laura Bush.

But, adds Walters, "the end product is that when the new president and first lady come through the North Portico door after the parade that they walk into their home. Everything is in place."

For Trump, a real estate mogul whose brand is flashy luxury, the move may mean bringing some of his flamboyant style to the White House. Trump's penthouse in Manhattan and his hotels are known for their marble columns, crystal chandeliers and gold.

Earlier, before welcoming the president-elect for a pre-inaugural reception, the outgoing president, the chief usher and the residence staff traditionally meet for what often is an emotional goodbye. Over the years, the staff often becomes attached and protective of the president and his family, particularly those who serve two terms. In Obama's case, many of those assigned to the residence are people of color and have been especially proud to serve America's first black president and his family.

Trump is expected to follow tradition and stay at Blair House, the government guest house across from the White House, before the inauguration.

But how might he spend his first night at the White House?

Trump is thinking about sleeping in the famed Lincoln Bedroom. He said so during a recent lunch with historian Douglas Brinkley and other guests at Trump's South Florida club. A guest at the lunch recalled the conversation and Brinkley confirmed its accuracy.

AP White House Correspondent Julie Pace contributed to this report.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

Obama commutes 330 drug sentences on last day as president

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a last major act as president, Barack Obama cut short the sentences of 330 federal inmates convicted of drug crimes on Thursday, bringing his bid to correct what he's called a systematic injustice to a climactic close.

With his final offer of clemency, Obama brought his total number of commutations granted to 1,715, more than any other president in U.S. history, the White House said. During his presidency Obama ordered free 568 inmates who had been sentenced to life in prison.

"He wanted to do it. He wanted the opportunity to look at as many as he could to provide relief," Neil Eggleston, Obama's White House counsel, said in an interview in his West Wing office. "He saw the injustice of the sentences that were imposed in many situations, and he has a strong view that people deserve a second chance."

For Obama, it was the last time he planned to exercise his presidential powers in any significant way. At noon on Friday, Obama will stand with President-elect Donald Trump as his successor is sworn in and Obama's chapter in history comes to an end.

Even as Obama issued the commutations, the White House had been mostly cleared out to make way for Trump. In between carrying out their last duties, the few remaining staffers were packing up belongings as photos of Obama were taken down from the walls of the West Wing corridors.

The final batch of commutations — more in a single day than on any other day in U.S. history — was the culmination of Obama's second-term effort to try to remedy the consequences of decades of onerous sentencing requirements that he said had imprisoned thousands of drug offenders for too long. Obama repeatedly called on Congress to pass a broader criminal justice fix, but lawmakers never acted.

For Bernard Smith, it's a long-awaited chance to start over after 13 years away from his wife and children.

Smith was working at a restaurant in Maryland in 2002 when his brother asked him to obtain marijuana for a drug deal. Though it was his brother who obtained the crack cocaine that the brothers then sold along with the marijuana to undercover officers, Smith was charged with the cocaine offense, too.

His 22-year sentence was far longer than his brother's, owing to what the court called Smith's "extensive criminal history" prior to the drug bust. Smith still had 10 years on his sentence when he was notified Thursday that the president, on his last day in office, was giving him another chance.

"He's looking to turn his life around," said Michelle Curth, his attorney. "He's a good person who, like so many people, got involved in something he's been punished for already."

Curth said that Smith had learned his lesson and owned up to his crime — he asked for a commutation, she noted, not a pardon, which would have erased the original conviction. She said Smith hopes to get

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licensed in heating and air conditioning maintenance and has lined up family members to help with his adjustment.

But freedom for Smith is still two years away. Rather than release him immediately, Obama directed that he be set free in January 2019 — two years after Obama has left office — and only if Smith enrolls in a residential drug treatment program.

To be eligible for a commutation under Obama's initiative, inmates had to have behaved well in prison and already served 10 years, although some exceptions to the 10-year rule were granted. They also had to be considered nonviolent offenders, although many were charged with firearms violations in relation to their drug crimes.

Obama personally reviewed the case of every inmate who received a commutation, often poring over case files in the evenings or calling his attorneys into his office to discuss specifics. Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates said the administration reviewed all applications that came in by an end-of-August deadline — more than 16,000 in total.

Eggleston said Obama had been particularly motivated to grant clemency to inmates who had turned themselves around in prison. He said one inmate had trained and obtained a commercial driver's license through a prison program, despite having a life sentence that all but assured he'd never get to use it.

"The ones who really stuck home for the president and me are the ones who got their GED, they worked, they took courses in anger management, they took courses in getting over drug abuse issues, they remained in contact with their families," Eggleston said.

Obama has long called for phasing out strict sentences for drug offenses, arguing they lead to excessive punishment and incarceration rates unseen in other developed countries. With Obama's support, the Justice Department in recent years directed prosecutors to rein in the use of harsh mandatory minimums.

Earlier in the week, Obama commuted most of the rest of convicted leaker Chelsea Manning's sentence, arguing the Army intelligence analyst had shown remorse and already served a long sentence.

Yet Obama will leave office without granting commutations or pardons to other prominent offenders who had sought clemency, including accused Army deserter Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl and former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich. He also declined to pardon former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden.

Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>

Democrats in sad shape: Power deficit as Trump era begins

By **BILL BARROW** and **MARY CLARE JALONICK**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats begin the Donald Trump presidency in sad shape. They lack a clear power base, they've got no distinct national leader, and party brokers are searching for a formula to counter the new Republican-dominated government and figure out how to win again.

It's a curious and dispiriting position for a party that has led the national popular vote six out of the past seven presidential elections. Yet Hillary Clinton lost the Electoral College count, while Republicans maintained their largest House majority since 1928 and kept control of the Senate — with 2018 advantages that offer the potential of a Senate supermajority in two years.

Outside Washington, Democrats now have just 16 governors and run 14 state legislatures, compared to 33 Republican governors and 32 GOP-run legislative bodies.

"We haven't been in this shape in a while ... but we will rebuild," insists interim Democratic Party Chairwoman Donna Brazile.

And Republicans have their own challenges.

Control means answering for everything from the economy to health care. Trump enters the Oval Office with the lowest approval ratings of any newly inaugurated president in more than a generation, and he's an unapologetic freelancer who sometimes flouts GOP orthodoxy.

That leaves elected Democrats to decide how they will treat the new president as they try to woo middle-class voters — particularly whites — who were lost in November from President Barack Obama's

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winning coalitions.

Party insiders will choose Brazile's DNC successor next month, a campaign that has revived fissures between the party's liberal and centrist factions. The next chairman will jockey with Congress' Democratic leaders and perhaps Obama as the party tries to settle on a national standard-bearer.

Around the country, Democrats are quietly looking to the 2018 midterm elections, with a focus on governor races that will give the party its first tangible shot at climbing out of the present crater. Republicans will be defending more than two dozen seats, including in Democratic-leaning states like Massachusetts and Maryland.

No clear consensus guides all those moving parts.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California says Democrats must "fight with more clarity" on issues affecting average Americans, such as health care and laws covering wages.

"We've done it before, we know how to do it," she says of winning.

Yet she adds that Democrats have a responsibility to work with Trump where there is common ground, such as infrastructure spending.

That's a divergence from Republicans' near-absolute, eight-year opposition to Obama. It's also a seeming contrast to the man many top Democrats have endorsed for party chairman: Rep. Keith Ellison of Minnesota.

"This question of whether we fight back right away or not, that question has been answered," Ellison said in a DNC chairmanship debate this week. "He has already started to institute a right-wing program, so of course we have to fight."

Outgoing Labor Secretary Tom Perez, viewed as Ellison's stiffest competitor, offered slightly more nuance. He dubbed Trump "a target-rich environment" and said Democrats can "hit him with a two-by-four." But, he added, "What we can't do is go after him every time. You can't meet him tweet for tweet. I think we've got to be surgical."

In Michigan, a key state in Trump's November victory, Obama campaign veteran Amy Chapman said the 2010 tea party movement gives Democrats a model.

"Fighting against something brings people together," she argued, adding that intense opposition doesn't have to conflict with some compromises that help Democrats avoid an "obstructionist" label.

Steve Israel, a former New York congressman now advising the Democratic Governors Association, noted political fortunes are never as solidified — for better or worse — as predicted in the wake of elections.

Republicans hailed the notion of a "permanent majority" after George W. Bush was re-elected in 2004. Eight years later, when Obama won a second term, Republicans fretted about their long-term prospects in an increasingly diverse country. And in November, Trump's Electoral College margin came by a cumulative margin of fewer than 100,000 votes in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Given that, Israel said Democrats' best measure on strategy and tactics is simple: "Does this win back Obama-Trump voters?"

Confirmation hearings for Trump Cabinet picks so far show that even Israel's standard isn't absolute.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., have sharply, even mockingly questioned multiple choices, whereas Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia introduced former Texas Gov. Rick Perry before his confirmation hearing for energy secretary. Manchin is one of 10 Democratic senators facing re-election in states where Trump won.

But the seeming conflicts in the theater of confirmations may actually preview the right approach, according to some Democrats.

Tessa Gould, chief of staff to North Dakota Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, said politicians like her boss, up for re-election in 2018, must be given the space to work in a bipartisan manner. "These 2018ers, they are really good about taking care of the politics back home," Gould said.

Another Obama campaign veteran, Florida Democrat Steve Schale, agreed that Democrats must avoid a one-size-fits-all idea, even if voters rewarded Republicans for their opposition to Obama.

"Both parties have gotten themselves so narrowly cast that literally everything has to go right to win elections," he said.

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Barrow reported from Atlanta. Thomas Beaumont contributed from Des Moines, Iowa. Follow the reporters on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP> and <https://twitter.com/MCJalonick>.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Jan. 20, the 20th day of 2017. There are 345 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 20, 1942, Nazi officials held the notorious Wannsee conference, during which they arrived at their "final solution" that called for exterminating Europe's Jews.

On this date:

In 1265, England's first representative Parliament met for the first time.

In 1649, King Charles I of England went on trial, accused of high treason (he was found guilty and executed by month's end).

In 1887, the U.S. Senate approved an agreement to lease Pearl Harbor in Hawaii as a naval base.

In 1936, Britain's King George V died after his physician injected the mortally ill monarch with morphine and cocaine to hasten his death; the king was succeeded by his eldest son, Edward VIII, who abdicated the throne 11 months later to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first chief executive to be inaugurated on Jan. 20 instead of March 4.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was sworn into office for an unprecedented fourth term.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Vice President Richard Nixon were sworn in for their second terms of office in a private Sunday ceremony (a public ceremony was held the next day).

In 1969, Richard M. Nixon was inaugurated as the 37th President of the United States.

In 1977, Jimmy Carter was inaugurated as the 39th President of the United States.

In 1981, Iran released 52 Americans it had held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

In 1992, an Air Inter Airbus A-320 crashed near Strasbourg, France, killing 87 of the 96 people on board.

In 2001, George Walker Bush became America's 43rd president after one of the most turbulent elections in U.S. history.

Ten years ago: Twenty-five U.S. troops were killed in Iraq, including 12 in a helicopter crash in Baghdad and five in a sophisticated sneak attack in Karbala. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., launched her first campaign for the White House, saying in a videotaped message on her website: "I'm in, and I'm in to win." Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas began a long-shot bid for the Republican presidential nomination (he withdrew in Oct. 2007).

Five years ago: France threatened to withdraw early from Afghanistan after an Afghan soldier killed four French troops and wounded 15 in a setback for the U.S.-led coalition's efforts to build a national army and allow foreign troops to go home. Singer Etta James, 73, died in Riverside, California.

One year ago: President Barack Obama hailed the revival of the nation's auto industry during a visit to Detroit while acknowledging the water crisis in nearby Flint, Michigan. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and NASA announced that 2015 was by far the hottest year in 136 years of record keeping. Kathryn Smith was promoted by the Buffalo Bills to take over as special teams quality control coach, making her the NFL's first full-time female coach.

(Stations: "uestlove" is correct)

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Arte Johnson is 88. Former astronaut Buzz Aldrin is 87. Olympic gold medal figure skater Carol Heiss is 77. Singer Eric Stewart is 72. Movie director David Lynch is 71. Country-rock musician George Grantham (Poco) is 70. Israeli activist Natan Sharansky is 69. Actor Daniel Benzali is 67. Rock musician Paul Stanley (KISS) is 65. Rock musician Ian Hill (Judas Priest) is 65. Comedian Bill Maher (MAR) is 61. Actor Lorenzo Lamas is 59. Actor James Denton is 54. Rock musician Greg K. (The Offspring) is 52. Country singer John Michael Montgomery is 52. Sophie, Countess of Wessex, is 52. Actor Rainn Wilson is 51. Actress Stacey Dash is 50. TV personality Melissa Rivers is 49. Singer Xavier is 49. Actor

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Reno Wilson is 48. Singer Edwin McCain is 47. Actor Skeet Ulrich is 47. Rap musician ?uestlove (questlove) (The Roots) is 46. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is 45. Rock musician Rob Bourdon (Linkin Park) is 38. Singer/songwriter Bonnie McKee is 33. Country singer Brantley Gilbert is 32. Rock singer Kevin Parker (Tame Impala) is 31. Actor Evan Peters is 30.

Thought for Today: "America is great because she is good. If America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great." — Alexis de Tocqueville, French author (1805-1859).