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Monday, Nov. 24

7:00 pm: School Board Meeting

Birthdays: Douglas Dobbins • Cory Rath

Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage roll hotdish, mixed vegetables, pears, cornmeal muffin.

School Breakfast: French toast, links, fruit, juice.

School Lunch: BBQ Chicken, flat bread, sweet tots, veg cups, fresh and canned fruit.

Tuesday, Nov. 25

5:00 pm: JH Wrestling at Milbank Tourney

Birthdays: Emery Sippel • Kari Hanson • Angela Falk • Penny Herther • Devan Howard • Arielle Schaller

Senior Menu: Turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, pumpkin bar with topping, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Long john, yogurt, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Pizza, green beans, tossed salad, fresh and canned fruit.

Wednesday, Nov. 26

No School

Birthday: Dawn Imrie

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken, boiled potato, green beans, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.

Thursday, Nov. 27

THANKSGIVING DAY

11:30am to 1:30pm: Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Groton Community Center

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is back at 10 East Railroad Ave. Don't forget, there is also a dumpster at the city shop for aluminum cans with the proceeds going to the pool.



Two bedroom apartment in the Rix Apartments (former city apartments) at 407 N Garfield

FOR RENT

Attached garage.

Major appliances included.

\$700 per month

Roger: 605/397-7118

SDDOT Awards Economic Development Grants

PIERRE, S.D. – At its Nov. 20, 2014 meeting, the South Dakota Transportation Commission awarded \$1.12 million in grants for road improvements in smaller communities in South Dakota.

The Community Access grant program funds were awarded to improve roads leading to schools, main business areas, hospitals, grain elevators and other economic areas in the communities. The grants pay for 60 percent of the construction costs, up to a maximum of \$200,000.

Those receiving the grant awards include:

- City of Arlington - \$200,000 for Main Street which serves the school.
- City of Burke - \$200,000 for Seventh Street which serves a business area.
- City of Groton - \$200,000 for Railroad Avenue which serves the elevator.
- City of Ipswich - \$183,500 for 2nd Avenue which serves the school.
- City of Menno - \$55,800 for Poplar Street which serves a business area.
- City of Wessington Springs - \$200,000 for Main Street and Dakota Avenue which serves the downtown area.
- Sully County - \$81,000 for Ash Avenue and 185th Street which serves a business area.



Practical Money Skills
for Life™

By Jason Alderman



Smart Financial Moves for Transitioning Vets

The latest generations of veterans face a particularly complicated financial picture, attributed to multiple deployments, a tough civilian economy, predatory lending threats at home and disability and health issues.

That's why the Veterans Financial Coalition (<http://www.veteransfinancialcoalition.org>) was formed in June 2014 by a diverse group of organizations including Visa's Practical Money Skills for Life, Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education (AFCPE), Consumer Action, and the Consumer Federation of America. The coalition welcomed three new members in November – Call For Action, the National Consumers League (NCL) and the National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC).

The organization aims to meet the needs of veterans reentering civilian life by executing three goals: Educate veterans and the community organizations that serve them.

Research consumer protections for veterans.

Raise awareness for veterans' financial needs.

Aside from the Veterans Financial Coalition, returning veterans and reservists can also use the following suggestions and resources to build their post-military financial and career path:

Get personalized advice: Throughout the military career lifecycle, active military, reservists and retired military personnel have access to specific savings, investing and spending resources. But nothing takes

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the place of personalized financial/tax advice and lifetime personal finance education. Veterans can view and download resources such as budgeting tips, tax break information and educational games from the Veterans Financial Coalition. As part of the Coalition's free resources, the AFCPE also provides an online database to locate a certified professional financial counselor to help with savings, spending, investing and tax issues. On the credit front, Wells Fargo has partnered with the National Foundation for Credit Counseling and its Sharpen Your Financial Focus initiative to deliver Wells Fargo's Hands on Banking (<http://www.handsonbanking.org/financial-education/hands-on-banking-for-military/>) education program specifically for servicemembers.

Take advantage of all transition assistance programs. The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) offered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is a first-step clearinghouse for information on VA career, educational, financial and vocational rehabilitation assistance. Workshop and video guides are available on the site in addition to links to the Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) program and other VA training and career success programs. The U.S. Department of Labor's Career One Stop site also offers additional information on military-specific career programs.

Avoid scams. Sadly, active and returning military personnel are often targets for a diverse range of financial fraud. Veterans Financial Coalition member Consumer Action offers an Economic Survival Guide for Servicemembers and Veterans.

Get tax help. The Internal Revenue Service website provides a variety of tax resources for active military and veterans. It is also worthwhile to work with a licensed tax professional with expertise in military transition issues. It's a good idea to rely on trusted friends and family for referrals to tax professionals who have experience working with active military and veterans, but you can also contact your state CPA (Certified Public Accountant) society to gather names of professionals in your area. Always remember to interview professionals before you hire them.

Go deeper on education breaks. Check the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website for its education benefits. The Post-9/11 GI Bill, for example, may cover the full cost of in-state tuition and fees for a public college for up to 36 months (four years) after release from active duty. A combination of VA tuition and training programs can offer more assistance. Student aid programs also exist for the children of deceased and disabled veterans. FinAid.org offers background on many of these programs.

Bottom line: If you're a veteran or know one, take advantage of the full range of financial, career and training resources to secure a bright, post-military future.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney.

FRIDAY IS
FRIED CHICKEN DAY
Served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Serving 5-9 p.m.

ANDOVER
BAR & GRILL

WE'VE GOT WINGS!
Every Wednesday!

120 S Main St. • 298-5252

The advertisement is a colorful graphic with a black border. At the top, it says 'FRIDAY IS' in black, followed by 'FRIED CHICKEN DAY' in large, bold, brown letters. A fried chicken drumstick is positioned between the words 'FRIED' and 'CHICKEN'. Below this, it says 'Served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy'. A red starburst shape contains the text 'Serving 5-9 p.m.'. To the right is the logo for 'ANDOVER BAR & GRILL', which includes a grill with flames, a burger, and a beer. At the bottom left, it says 'WE'VE GOT WINGS!' in yellow letters with wings, and 'Every Wednesday!' below it. At the bottom right, the address and phone number '120 S Main St. • 298-5252' are listed in red.

Dohman chosen for Good Citizen Award

Gabriel Dohman, a Groton High School senior, has been chosen as the 2014-2015 Groton DAR Good Citizen. The Groton faculty and the senior class selected him for this award.

The student selected as the school's DAR Good Citizen must show leadership and patriotism in home, school, and community to an outstanding degree. Gabriel competed in the DAR Good Citizen Scholarship Contest by completing an application and writing an essay. The DAR Good Citizen candidate from each school competes in a state-wide competition. State winners will compete in geographical and national competitions for scholarships ranging up to \$2000.

Gabriel is involved in many activities at Groton including basketball, track, class president, and Future Business Leaders of America. He has been selected for awards such as Student of the Month, 4.0 Honor Roll, National Honor Society, and the 2013 SD Governor's Leadership Luncheon.

Gabriel is the son of David and Tammy Dohman of Groton. He plans to attend a four-year college and major in either aviation, political science, or homeland security.



Gabriel Dohman



Luke Sternhagen and Courtney Kurtz

Sternhagen, Kurtz chosen for Wendy's High School Heisman

Lucas Sternhagen and Courtney Kurtz, both seniors at Groton High School, were nominated for the annual Wendy's High School Heisman Award and were named school winners. The national awards program, created by Wendy's, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and the Downtown Athletic Club in New York City, recognizes academic achievement, community service and athletic accomplishments. Courtney was also named state finalist for the Wendy's girls division.

Luke has been involved in many sports including soccer, basketball, and track and has participated in the Natural Helper group and FFA. He has been selected for the All-State Soccer Team for 2 years, Academic All-State, National Honor Society, the Principal's Honor Roll and placed at the State FFA Convention in the Farm and Business Management competition. Lucas has volunteered at his church and has been a referee and scorekeeper. Luke is the son of Craig and

Jodi Sternhagen of Groton. He plans to attend a four year college and major in information technology.

Courtney has been involved in basketball, volleyball, track, Future Business Leaders of America and the yearbook. She has won awards such as MVP in basketball, track and volleyball, has been selected as Student of the Month and is on the honor roll. Courtney volunteers her time as a YMCA youth volleyball coach, working at concessions stands, refereeing games, and with the Groton American Legion Auxiliary Unit 39. Courtney is the daughter of Ryan and Diane Kurtz of Groton. She plans to attend North Dakota State University and major in business administration.

Today in Weather History






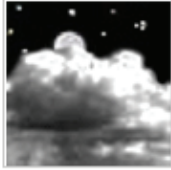

1993: A major slow-moving storm system traveled across the upper Midwest during the Thanksgiving holiday, dumping heavy snow across most of South Dakota and Minnesota from November 24 through the 27th. The heaviest amounts of two to three feet occurred in northeast South Dakota. Over a foot of snow accumulated in west central Minnesota, and needless to say, travel became extremely difficult across the entire area. Storm total snowfall amounts included 31.8 inches at Westport, 29.5 inches at Leola, 28 inches at Britton, 25.3 inches at Aberdeen, 24.3 inches at Mellette, 24.0 inches at McLaughlin, and 22.0 inches near Victor. The snowfall of 25.3 inches at Aberdeen was a single storm record (that still stands today), and it made November 1993 one of the snowiest months on record in Aberdeen with a total of 30.1 inches of snowfall (only three months have recorded more snow: November 1898, February 1915, and November 2000). The storm closed numerous schools and offices on November 24th across the area, resulting in an early start to the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Some freezing rain and freezing drizzle preceded the snowstorm in southeast South Dakota from late on the 23rd to the 24th, causing at least 60 vehicle accidents. The heavy snow also clogged roads, causing vehicles to become stuck and resulting in numerous accidents. As a result of the heavy snow, low wind chills, and low visibilities, a 23-year old man was stranded in his pickup truck in a snow bank north of Aberdeen for 18 hours on the 23rd and 24th. The weight of snow collapsed numerous structures in northeast South Dakota from the 25th to the 26th. The roof of a metal barn collapsed two miles northwest of Aberdeen, killing one dairy cow in the barn. In Castlewood, a 100-foot by 40-foot metal pole shed fell in, causing damage to a grain truck inside. A machine shed also caved in on a farm east of Bowdle. During the afternoon of the 26th, part of the roof and wall of the Roscoe Senior Center collapsed, causing a near-total loss to the building. Strong northwest winds followed the snowstorm in western and central South Dakota, causing considerable blowing and drifting snow and wind chills as low as 50 degrees below zero. In North Dakota, over two feet of snow fell over a large part of central and southeastern portions of the state. Most of North Dakota had over a foot of snow from this storm. The greatest snowfall amount was reported at Oakes, in Dickey County where 31 inches fell. At the National Weather Service office in Bismarck, 28.3 inches of snow were measured during the 108 hour snow event. This amount set a new single storm record for snow in Bismarck. The snow began the evening on the 22nd and did not end until the morning of the 27th. Except for about six hours during the day on the 26th, the snow was continuous through this period. Fortunately, the wind was only 10 to 25 mph during this storm, so it was well below blizzard conditions and blowing and drifting of snow was not a problem.

1863: The Battle Above the Clouds at Lookout Mountain was fought as part of a three day struggle near Chattanooga, TN. A fog descending into the valley could be seen from atop the mountain and obscured parts of the battlefield. Union forces, which outnumbered Southern troops, fought to a victory.

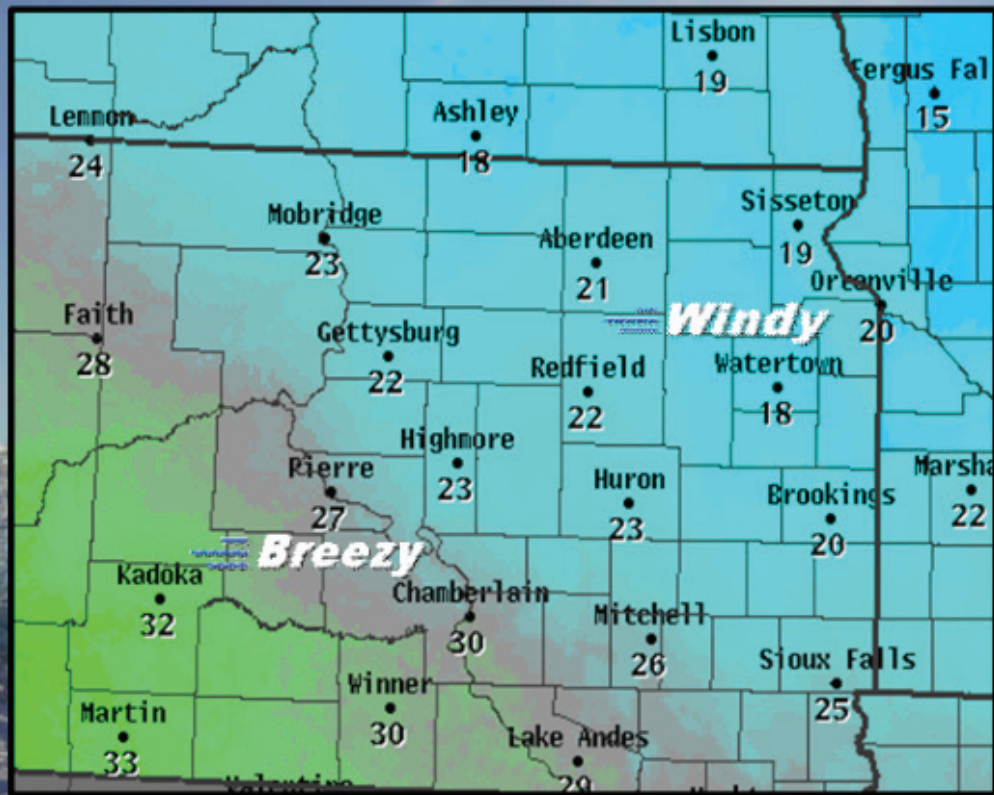
2001: At least two dozen tornadoes touched down in Alabama, setting a record for the number of tornadoes in a single November day for the Crimson State. An F4 destroyed homes in Altoona.

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TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	TUESDAY NIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	THANKSGIVING DAY
						
Chance Flurries High: 21 °F	Slight Chc Snow Low: 11 °F	Chance Snow High: 30 °F	Chance Snow Low: 17 °F	Mostly Cloudy High: 21 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: -2 °F	Partly Sunny High: 16 °F

Colder Today With Breezy Northwest Winds
Light Snow Possible Tuesday



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Gusty northwest winds will continue through most of the day. A clipper system will move across the region Tuesday with an inch or two of snow possible.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 39.7°F at 10:45 AM

Low: 17.1°F at 11:23 PM

High Gust: 34 mph at 7:12 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 65° in 1932

Record Low: -17° in 1996

Average High: 34°F

Average Low: 15°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.59

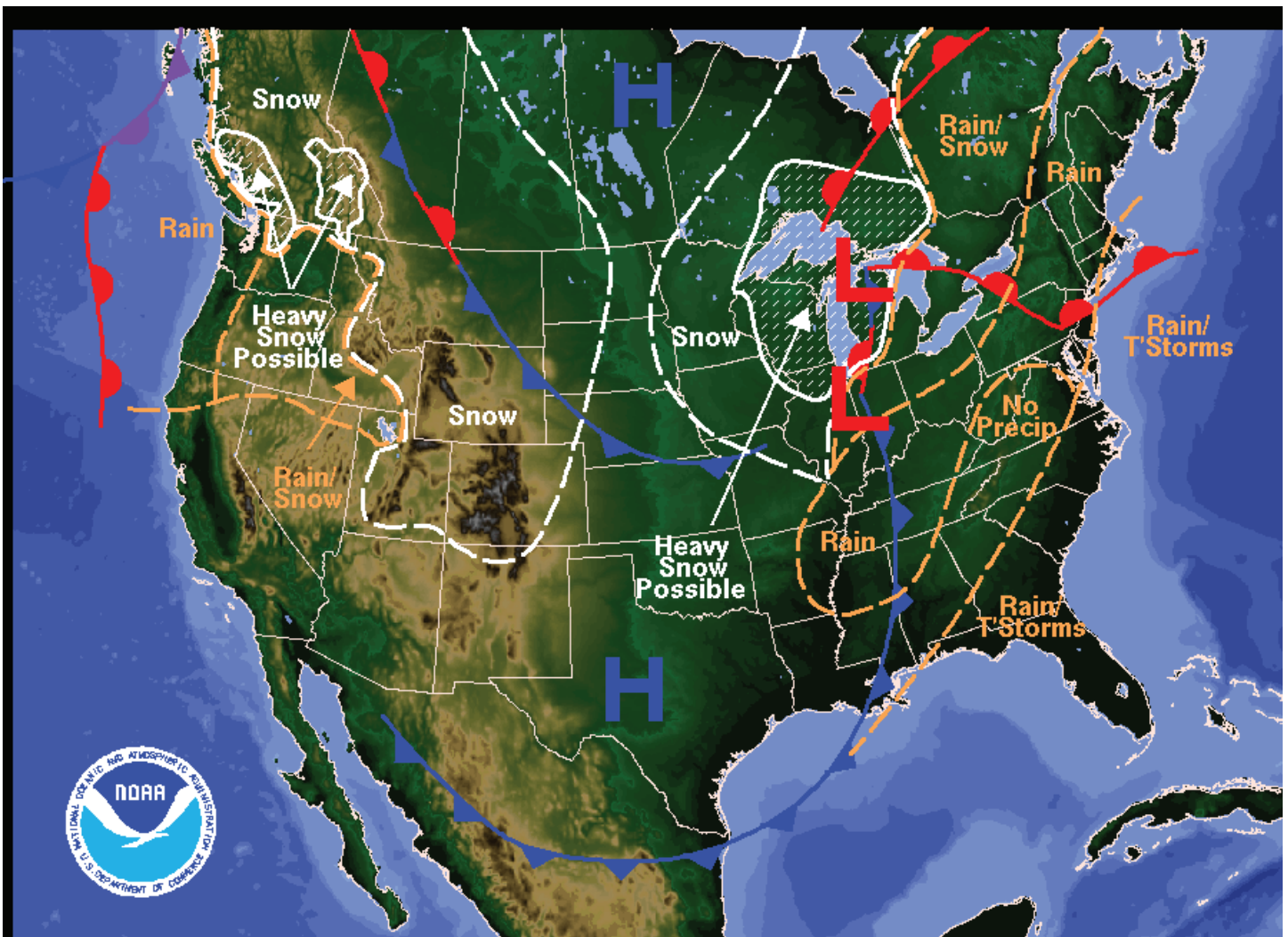
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.56

Average Precip to date: 21.06

Precip Year to Date: 13.79

Sunset Tonight: 4:56 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:46 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Nov 24, 2014, issued 4:59 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



CHOOSING A WIFE

"Clothes make the man!" at one time was a popular saying. Solomon, however, would strongly disagree. In fact, he would say that "A worthy woman enhances her husband's reputation and well-being and status in the community." He does not imply, even slightly, that a wife "exists" only to "serve" a husband but to do him "good."

This "worthy woman" is more thoroughly described in Proverbs 31, and it is no accident that in the Hebrew Bible, the Book of Ruth follows the book of Proverbs. This wife of "noble character" stands as a "model wife" for the young man who one day will become a husband. A wife of "noble character" is the "crown" of her husband because she brings him esteem, honor and worth in his community.

It stands in direct contrast to a wife who "shames her husband." The wife who "shames" her husband lowers his status and brings shame on him with her "lack of good judgment." Her influence on his reputation is like "decay in his bones" - the "rotting" away of his life because he is never able to "rise above her reputation" or influence in the community where they live. No matter how successful he may be, she "brings him down" because he can never rise above her reputation.

When we look deeply into the importance of this verse, we discover the importance of a "noble wife." We are warned about the seriousness and importance of choosing a partner for life. A partner is not to be chosen because of beauty or glamour or wealth. Godliness and character must come first. Then, other things will follow.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for this warning and the truth it contains. Thank You, also, that change is possible. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 12:4 A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones.

News from the Associated Press

Girl killed by dogs wanted to create a shelter

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — The mother of an 8-year-old girl killed by a pack of dogs on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation says Jayla Rodriguez dreamed of one day creating a shelter for the dogs that roam the reservation.

Mother Danielle Griffith tells KEVN-TV that she is starting the Jayla Marie Rodriguez Memorial Fund in honor of that dream. She thinks an animal shelter might help prevent another tragedy.

Jayla was killed while she was sledding last Tuesday. Oglala Sioux officials have since rounded up and killed dozens of dogs.

The Rapid City Journal reports that the Tribal Council also decided at a special meeting on Saturday to spend \$200,000 crafting and enforcing laws to address the problem of roaming dogs. Final approval could come at the council's regular meeting on Tuesday.

Lacy, Packers grind past Vikings 24-21

DAVE CAMPBELL, AP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Most of the chants from the crowd in Minnesota earlier this season went like this: "Teddy! Teddy! Teddy!"

This time the Green Bay fans took over: "Eddie! Eddie! Eddie!"

Eddie Lacy gave the Packers another big lift. Teddy Bridgewater and the Vikings couldn't quite keep up.

Lacy scored twice, on a run in the first quarter and a catch in the fourth quarter, and had season highs with 125 yards and 25 rushes to carry the Packers to a 24-21 victory over the Vikings on Sunday.

"He's a workhorse. We need him in the winter months," said Aaron Rodgers, who threw for two touchdowns and 209 yards on 19-for-29 passing while again avoiding a turnover for the Packers (8-3).

Those running plays between the tackles were working so well that Rodgers even surprised coach Mike McCarthy during a timeout by the Vikings with 2:31 left by lobbying for another one.

"I just kind of chuckled, because it's usually the other way around," McCarthy said.

Lacy and the offensive line delivered a 4-yard run on third-and-2 to take the clock to the 2-minute warning. One more first down sealed it for the Packers.

"One man can't tackle him, because he's just going to move his feet and he's going to fall forward every time," Vikings cornerback Xavier Rhodes said.

After Bridgewater's second touchdown pass of the afternoon, the Vikings were within three points with 3:23 remaining. Coach Mike Zimmer said he should've called for an onside kick from the 50-yard line, after a roughing-the-passer penalty on the Packers during the previous play.

"I figured they were going to run the ball three times, and I figured we could stop them," Zimmer said.

None of Lacy's carries was more demoralizing than those gains of 3, 5, 4, 5 and 10 yards when the Packers got the ball back late in this game. The 10-yard reception on a shovel pass from Rodgers earlier in the fourth quarter to finish an 11-play, 87-yard drive was a dagger, too.

"Bouncing off guys, spinning off guys and getting into the end zone. That's what Eddie does," right tackle Bryan Bulaga said.

Here are some key points from the game:

LACY'S ILLNESS

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Lacy wasn't around in the locker room to speak to reporters about his stellar performance because he wasn't feeling well, the Packers said. Three of his six career 100-yard games have come against the Vikings.

BRIDGEWATER COMEBACK

Bridgewater mostly played again like a rookie, misfiring several times with high throws. Micah Hyde intercepted his pass in the second quarter near midfield, setting up a touchdown drive for the Packers. Charles Johnson was wide open on third down inside the 20 twice. Both attempts were wide of the mark, forcing the Vikings to punt in the first quarter and kick a field goal in the third quarter. Bridgewater said he was too jumpy early in the game out of excitement about playing Rodgers and the Packers.

"I just have to settle down and remain poised and just let the game come to me," he said.

MCCARTHY MILESTONE

McCarthy raised his regular-season record to 90-48-1 to pass Vince Lombardi (89-29-4) for second place on Green Bay's regular season wins list, still trailing Curly Lambeau (209-104-21). McCarthy is 14-4-1 with five season sweeps against the Vikings since arriving in 2006, including 9-1-1 in the last 11 games.

JOHNSON EMERGES

For the second straight week, Johnson was Bridgewater's go-to receiver, targeting him 11 times. Greg Jennings was the next closest with six. Johnson hauled in his first career touchdown pass, a 22-yard completion that tied the game at 7 in the second quarter, and finished with 52 yards.

Johnson was a seventh-round draft pick by the Packers last year out of NCAA Division II Grand Valley State. He wound up with Cleveland during that injury-ruined rookie season and was on the practice squad this year with the Browns when the Vikings signed him two weeks in.

So this was the perfect time for that first NFL score.

"It was pretty exciting for me. I'm not going to lie," Johnson said. "I've got to give thanks to the offensive line and Teddy for getting the ball to me. I wish we would've won. I would've rather had that."

NO LETDOWN

The Packers, who beat Philadelphia 53-20 and Chicago 55-14 the last two games, avoided the trap against a struggling opponent with a game at home against surging New England next week. The Patriots beat Detroit 34-9, allowing the Packers to pass the Lions and take sole possession of first place in the NFC North.

Historians form group focused on Midwest history

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A group of historians has formed an organization whose goal is to increase the study of the Midwest.

The Midwestern History Association was launched recently at a conference in Sioux Falls with the stated mission of giving the region a stronger voice in the historical profession.

The group's first president is Jon Lauck, a South Dakota native and author of a new book entitled "The Lost Region: Toward a Revival of Midwestern History."

He says the association will lead to books, articles, conferences and dissertations focusing on the Midwest.

The Midwestern History Association is an outgrowth of the Midwestern History Working Group, which was created at a meeting of historians in October 2013 in Wisconsin. That group decided to transform itself into the Midwestern History Association.

Basin Electric power plant sets safety milestone

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Basin Electric Power Cooperative says one of its coal-fired plants has reached of milestone of 2.5 million work hours without a major injury.

Basin Electric is based in Bismarck. The company says its Leland Olds power plant in western North Dakota reached the milestone this month.

The plant has 166 workers. The company says the safety record dates back to 2006.

The plant began making electricity in 1966. The company has said that most of the electricity produced at the plant is sent to South Dakota.

Friend: Alleged SD shooter was 'no monster'

SISSESTON, S.D. (AP) — Autopsies are being performed on the bodies of four people, authorities said Sunday, after a shooting at a South Dakota home in which authorities say a man killed three people and wounded one before taking his own life.

The body of the suspected shooter, 22-year-old Colter Richard Arbach of Sisseton, was found among the dead after authorities initially thought he may have fled.

The Division of Criminal Investigation said interviews continue and the South Dakota Crime Lab is working on performing ballistic tests and a reconstruction of the shooting.

Dan Shinerock told KSFY-TV that he woke up to the gunshots around 3 AM.

"You'd expect you'd hear somebody screaming, but there was only that woman whimpering. The only sound was that woman whimpering and it was a hopeless whimper, it wasn't a cry for help," he told the station.

A Sisseton hospital official said a woman wounded in the attack was flown to a Fargo, North Dakota, hospital. Her condition was not available Sunday.

Names of the victims are expected to be released Monday.

William Ryan of Sisseton tells the Argus Leader he was friends with Arbach, and that the two had met while working at the Dakota Magic Casino and Resort near the North Dakota-South Dakota border.

"This is a nightmare of a situation, but he was no monster," Ryan told the newspaper. "His choice and actions were wrong, but ... it wasn't the Colter I grew to know and was loved by many. He will be missed by me and many others, along with the victims that were my friends, as well. My heart is heavy for all of them."

Bridgewater's rough start dooms Vikings

JON KRAWCZYNSKI, AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — With the poise of a veteran, Teddy Bridgewater drove the Minnesota Vikings 79 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter that put their game against Green Bay well within reach.

If only the rookie quarterback could have been that sharp in the first half.

Bridgewater got off to a jittery opening in his first game against the Vikings' biggest rivals, missing open receiver after open receiver, and it cost them dearly in a 24-21 loss to the Packers on Sunday.

"I think I was just very excited being able to play the Green Bay Packers for the first time," Bridgewater said. "I just have to settle down and remain poised and just let the game come to me."

On Minnesota's final drive of the game, Bridgewater completed eight of 10 passes for 69 yards with a touchdown and a 2-point conversion throw that brought the Vikings (4-7) back to within a field goal with 3:23 to play. On his previous eight drives, he was 13 for 27 for 141 yards with one touchdown and

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one interception that led to a Packers TD.

The performance followed what has become a pattern for the first-round draft pick: start slow while missing open receivers on deep throws, calm down and play much better in the fourth.

"I didn't think he was as accurate as he normally is early in the ballgame," coach Mike Zimmer said. "He had a couple of high throws. He had a couple of missed throws. He seems to settle down in the second half and kind of get more comfortable."

It started on the opening drive when receiver Charles Johnson was wide open down the field on third-and-7, but Bridgewater overshot him. His passes floated, fluttered and wobbled for most of the first half, particularly on one into double coverage down the Packers sideline in the second quarter that was intercepted by Micah Hyde near midfield.

Aaron Rodgers took advantage, quickly driving down the field before rolling right and throwing all the way back across the field to Richard Rodgers, who was all alone in the far corner of the end zone.

"With Aaron Rodgers at quarterback, you want to sustain drives," Bridgewater said. "You don't want to give them a short field. Their offense is a high-powered offense and they're capable of scoring and taking advantage of your turnovers."

And yet the Vikings' defense kept the team in the game while Bridgewater tried to find his bearings.

The Packers (8-3) entered having scored 108 points in the previous two games and having only punted five times in past three. But they punted four times Sunday and Rodgers was held to 209 yards passing with two touchdowns, pedestrian numbers for the high-octane Packers.

But when the Vikings needed their defense the most, they couldn't quite come through.

After Bridgewater's 5-yard TD strike to Greg Jennings and 2-point pass to Johnson in the fourth, Zimmer elected to kick the ball deep rather than try an onside kick.

"I figured they were going to run the ball three times and I figured we could stop them," Zimmer said.

Eddie Lacy churned out two first downs, and the Packers were able to run out the clock. Lacy finished with 125 yards and a touchdown on 25 carries.

Johnson had three catches for 52 yards and a touchdown. But he was targeted 11 times, with Bridgewater missing him on multiple occasions. One that Bridgewater wish he had back came on third-and-9 from the Packers 33, when the defensive back fell and Johnson was wide open on a corner route. Bridgewater's errant throw made Johnson make a difficult adjustment, and the pass slipped through his hands to force the Vikings to settle for a field goal.

"Charles ran a great route and all I had to do is lay it out there and give him a chance to make the catch," Bridgewater said. "It was one of those plays we hit throughout the week in practice and today we just didn't get it."

NOTES: Zimmer said RT Phil Loadholt will get an MRI on an injured left shoulder. KR Cordarrelle Patterson suffered knee and ankle injuries on a big hit near the sideline, but was able to keep playing. ... RB Ben Tate was active after being claimed off waivers from the Browns on Wednesday, but did not get a carry. Jerick McKinnon led the ground game with 54 yards on 15 carries. ... CBs Captain Munnerlyn, Josh Robinson and Xavier Rhodes covered the Packers well, holding Randall Cobb and Jordy Nelson each under 100 yards for the fourth time this season.

South Dakota workers 'hi-rail' for safety

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

CHAMBERLAIN, S.D. (AP) — Record crop yields and the North Dakota oil boom have led to a significant resurgence of rail transit in South Dakota, and it's Lynn Kennison's job to make sure the tracks are safe.

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Kennison, a transportation specialist at the state Department of Transportation, inspects the rail lines using a road-rail, or "hi-rail," vehicle, a specialized truck that can ride on the road and on the tracks. His job will only get more important as the state continues investing in rail infrastructure.

The latest is a \$28 million project — backed in part by federal grants — to repair a roughly 42-mile section of mostly derelict track from Chamberlain to Presho, which has spurred tens of millions of dollars in agricultural development.

Kennison and Bruce Lindholm, project manager for the department's Office of Air, Rail and Transit, showed off the project this month to Gov. Dennis Daugaard, U.S. Sen. John Thune and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx using hi-rail trucks. Kennison and Lindholm have been riding the tracks for at least a decade, searching for missing anchors, loose bolts and broken ties.

On occasion, the state's hi-rail truck shares the tracks with trains but more frequently with other road-rail vehicles owned by railroad companies doing their own inspections. The state currently has one of the trucks, but Lindholm hopes to get another for the rail rehab project.

The specialized vehicles, which look like modified pickup trucks, are necessary because large sections of the railroad aren't accessible by car, Lindholm said. They're also useful for transporting people who are walking down the tracks and inspecting them.

"They're very important. We have to have (hi-rail vehicles)," Lindholm said. "It doesn't sound like that much, but when you have to walk 40 miles, it's quite a ways."

On top of spotting degrading or broken segments of track, "hi-railing," as it's called, affords Kennison and Lindholm a view of South Dakota and its neighboring states typically only available by air.

"I get to see areas of those states that nobody else gets to see," Kennison said. "The thing that always amazes me is the wildlife that you see and the reaction they have."

Deer frequently bound alongside the trundling hi-rail truck, which can max out at about 40 mph but typically goes slower. Kennison said ranchers' herds often follow behind the vehicle because the cattle think they're about to get fed. Both men list seeing foxes as a gem of riding the rails that doesn't happen anywhere else.

Shortly before the state and federal officials viewed the rail project, Kennison took the hi-rail truck past a small lake as he headed toward Chamberlain.

"This is by far the best part of the job," Kennison said. "I don't care where I hi-rail, as long as I get to hi-rail."

Fairfield gets by South Dakota 80-72 in OT

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (AP) — Tyler Nelson hit four 3-pointers and had 24 points to lead Fairfield to an 80-72 overtime win over South Dakota in the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic on Sunday.

Nelson's basket with 4:34 left in regulation gave Fairfield a 68-57 lead, but the Stags went scoreless the rest of the way. Tyler Larson scored six of South Dakota's final 11 points, including a game-tying layup with 40 seconds left.

In overtime, Fairfield made 8 of 8 free throws and its defense held South Dakota to just two Brandon Bos field goals.

Mike Kirkland Jr. added 20 points, 10 coming from the free throw line, for Fairfield (2-3). Amadou Sidibe had 14 points and 12 rebounds, and Marcus Gilbert chipped in with 12 points.

South Dakota (0-5) was paced by Larson with 23 points and 12 rebounds. Bos added 20 points.

DOT awards \$1.1M in grants to small SD cities

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state's Department of Transportation has awarded \$1.1 million to six small South Dakota cities and one county for road improvements.

The funds were given through the Community Access grant program to improve roads leading to schools, main business areas, hospitals, grain elevators and other economic areas in the communities. The grants will pay for 60 percent of the construction costs.

The cities receiving the funds are: Arlington, Burke, Groton, Ipswich, Menno and Wessington Springs. Sully County was also given a grant

SD group sponsoring farming training for veterans

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A nonprofit organization that assists veterans and their families is sponsoring scholarships for a farmer and rancher training program.

The Farmer Veteran Coalition is offering the financial assistance for the 10-session training program that will take place during the winter in Rapid City. Participants will learn about low-cost, sustainable methods of farming and ranching, as well as ways to launch a profitable enterprise.

The grassroots group Dakota Rural Action will be hosting the seminar. Classes will be taught by local farmers, ranchers and agriculture professionals.

The group says more than 80 percent of graduates over the past five years are engaged in farming activities.

Minnesota research aims at mountain pine beetles

STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The mountain pine beetle has devastated huge swaths of forest in the Rockies, and scientists fear the insects could threaten the majestic pines of Minnesota and states farther east someday.

Initial results from a three-year, \$250,000 research project by the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture back up some fears about the risk. There's no evidence that the insects have gained a beachhead in the state yet, but the researchers caution that they can't be sure that some pests aren't already hiding someplace, waiting until conditions are ripe to launch an attack. They're already established in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

"This is one problem that we have to take very, very seriously," said Brian Aukema, a forest entomologist at the university.

The scientists wanted to confirm in the first phase of the study whether the beetles would find the most common species of pines in Minnesota delicious and nutritious. Experiments this summer in the Black Hills show that they do, Aukema said.

Some dead mountain pine beetles were found in a shipment of logs to Minnesota two years ago. The initial screening of pheromone-baited traps placed across the state this year didn't turn up any living specimens, but a more detailed analysis hasn't been completed, said Mark Abrahamson, an entomologist with the state agriculture department.

Mountain pine beetles are the most devastating forest insect in North America. They've damaged almost 125 million acres of mature pine forests in the West, including 45 million acres in a current outbreak in Canada. Minnesota has around 191 million red, white and jack pines that are large enough for the insects to attack.

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Cold winters historically have kept the beetles in check, but the trend toward warmer winters has fueled devastating outbreaks in the Rocky Mountains. So it's feared they could eventually reach the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes region, with serious damage to the Northwoods ecosystem, outdoor recreation and the forest products industry.

The researchers said there are two likely ways the beetles could reach Minnesota: via logs shipped from areas where the pest is established or by migrating along jack pines that stretch across Canada into northern Minnesota. There's little pine forest between Minnesota and the Black Hills, so the main threat from South Dakota would be imports of infested timber.

The insects kill by breeding in and tunneling through a tree's water-conducting tissues just under the bark. They can only breed in trees larger than 5 inches in diameter, and they're also unusual in that they actually need to kill a tree to reproduce. When the bugs are on the move in an outbreak they can travel 500 miles in a year if there's enough pine along the way. Their swarms can even turn up on Doppler radar.

Aukema and graduate student Derek Rosenberger did their research in the Black Hills this summer because they didn't want to risk bringing mountain pine beetles to Minnesota. So they sent freshly cut green logs from red, white, jack pine and Scotch pines from Minnesota to the Wheaton College Science Station near Rapid City, South Dakota, and exposed them to trap-caught live beetles. They found that the insects readily colonized the logs. They also confirmed that the male beetles were attracted to females that had tunneled into the logs.

The researchers will monitor the logs to see if the insects survive cold winters in Minnesota's pine species and how well they reproduce in them. Some logs will be returned to Minnesota over the winter for more study under secure conditions. They will also set out more traps in Minnesota to look for evidence beetles have arrived.

The beetles have some similarities with emerald ash borers in the way they kill trees. The borers have already devastated ash populations in the East and are becoming established in Minnesota. The researchers hope their work can help devise rapid response strategies for stopping its advance.

"Unlike emerald ash borer, there is an effective trap and lure. Management of isolated, endemic populations may not be impossible — if we know they are there first," the researchers wrote in their funding request.

Access restricted to Belle Fourche's Tequila Beach

BELLE FOURCHE, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Bureau of Reclamation officials are restricting camping and vehicle access to Belle Fourche Reservoir's Tequila Beach.

Joe Hall with the bureau's office overseeing the Dakotas says camping in recreational vehicles and motorized vehicles are no longer allowed at the beach. Pedestrian-only access and tent camping will be permitted.

Hall says the changes are out of public safety and resource damage concerns. Tequila Beach is located on Reclamation-managed lands in the Gadens Point area of Belle Fourche Reservoir.

Hall adds the bureau is planning a day-use-only graveled vehicle parking area near the beach. The area is used for swimming, fishing, camping and other activities.

US Sen. Johnson raises awareness about adoption

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson is raising awareness about the importance of foster care adoption.

Johnson says every child deserves to be raised in an “environment that allows them to flourish.” Johnson this month participated in the 10th annual Adoptive Family Portrait Project, which highlights the experiences and needs of families that have adopted children from foster care.

Johnson has worked to expand the adoption tax credit and was a founding member of the bipartisan Congressional Coalition on Adoption. He is also the grandfather of two adopted children.

More than 1,500 children live in foster homes in South Dakota. The state currently has more than 300 children in foster care waiting to be adopted.

Johnson will retire by the end of the year.

Rapid City residents protest Starbucks sign

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City residents are protesting a large Starbucks sign affixed to a historic downtown hotel, saying the sign makes a mockery of the building’s historical significance.

The 12-foot diameter lighted logo on the Hotel Alex Johnson has inspired an online petition urging its removal, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/1xYefGJ>) reported. More than 270 people have signed the petition.

“I have never started a petition, but as soon as I saw this, I was enraged for some reason,” Mark Wirtz said. “I just think it is over the top to be on this building and thought I couldn’t be the only one in town.”

One person who signed Wirtz’s petition said he or she was doing so because the sign “looks absolutely tacky.”

“Tons of money was just spent to make downtown look good and to slap a giant Starbucks logo on the side of such a historic building just makes it look horrendous,” the petitioner wrote.

The coffee shop in the hotel’s lobby was recently converted from a Seattle’s Best to a Starbucks. The city’s Historic Sign Review Committee approved the addition of the Starbucks logo in July. The committee denied a second 300-square-foot Starbucks sign proposal from the company that owns the hotel.

Representatives from the hospitality company declined to comment.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP’s earlier story is below.

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Wart Wirtz says he started the petition because he was “enraged” when he saw the sign, which he says is “over the top.”

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Representatives from the hospitality company declined to comment.

Sioux Fall surgeons' group stops selling implants

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A group of Sioux Falls surgeons has stopped selling surgical implants at a local hospital amid concerns over conflicts of interest and legality.

Great Plains Surgical Distributors is owned by nine Orthopedic Institute surgeons who work at the nearby Sioux Falls Specialty Hospital, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/1ywLI9G>) reported. The hospital management launched an inquiry into the distributor this summer and ordered a cease and desist.

The Sioux Falls surgeons who own Great Plains Surgical Distributors claim such physician-owned distributorships can lower health care costs because it cuts out the middle man. The doctors also say they have been closely following federal laws.

Critics allege the financial rewards for doctors who profit from the devices they use in surgeries gives them an incentive to do more procedures.

Physician-owned distributorships have been subject of increasing federal scrutiny after the Office of Inspector General issued a "special fraud alert" regarding the operations. Federal laws prohibit doctors from receiving kickbacks on products they use.

That's why some doctors at Sioux Falls Specialty Hospital reported suspicious that a physician-owned distributorship was operating at the facility. They said they were concerned about the quality of implants the owners were using on patients at the hospital.

Dr. Blake Curd, one of the Orthopedic Institute doctors who started Great Plains, said the hospital's review of the operation included three lawyers, who determined it was in compliance with federal law.

"They said, 'We think you did everything right,'" Curd said. "But, they said in this environment, you might want to reconsider."

Dr. Reuben Setliff, a partner at Sioux Falls Specialty Hospital, was among the doctors at the hospital who spoke out against the physician-owned distributorship, or POD.

"The people who did the POD studied the thing for a long time," Setliff said. "They got every legal opinion known to man. They were very careful in terms of being in compliance with every rule and regulation concerning the formation of a POD. Subsequent investigation has confirmed that they did indeed — quote — do it right."

Setliff said he agreed with the hospital's decision to order a cease and desist with Great Plains because "legal is not always prudent."

"I give them high marks for doing it right," he said. "But I question whether it should have been done at all. The risk-benefit ratio didn't sound good to me."

Great Plains is changing its business model to eliminate doubts about its legality, said Dr. Peter Looby, one of the owners.

"The outside legal review came back," Looby said. "What we are looking at right now is changing the model. It's important for the surgeons and the patients that the implants be as high a quality as possible."

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about Monday:

1. UNCERTAINTY OVER FERGUSON DECISION FEEDS ANXIETY

The grand jury weighing whether to charge Officer Darren Wilson in the killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown apparently didn't reach a decision Friday, and there has been no official confirmation on when it will reconvene.

2. GOP'S 2016 HOPEFULS AVOID SPECIFICS IN OPPOSING OBAMA

Many Republicans who may run for the nomination are using a lot of heated rhetoric, but most are not urging any specific steps to oppose the president's action on immigration.

3. HOURS LEFT TO REACH IRANIAN DEAL

Washington and Tehran have already begun discussions on continuing talks beyond Monday's deadline as they fail to break deadlock on reaching a nuclear agreement.

4. RIGHTS GROUPS FEAR FOR AFGHANISTAN'S FUTURE

The suicide attack on a prominent female lawmaker's motorcade last week is raising fears over the rollback of women's gains in the conservative country.

5. AUSTRALIAN MOM CHARGED WITH TRYING TO KILL BABY SHE LEFT IN A DRAIN

The week-old infant had survived five days in a gutter on the side of a highway when cyclists heard it crying.

6. SALES OF CHEAP SMARTPHONES RISING

While it may seem that everyone has an iPhone or shiny Galaxy device, many Americans are opting for cheaper handsets that do the job without the high price tag.

7. WHO IS RECRUITING CHILD SOLDIERS

Islamic State militants in Syria actively conscript children for battle and commit abuses against the most vulnerable, according to a growing body of evidence assembled from residents, activists, independent experts and human rights groups.

8. WHAT BUFFALO FACES IN WAKE OF RECORD SNOW

Residents in and around the western New York city are bracing for floods and evacuations as up to 7 feet of snow melts amid warmer weather.

9. HOW COLORADO'S MARIJUANA INDUSTRY IS COURTING HOLIDAY SHOPPERS

From doorbusters to free giftwrapping, the recently legalized pot shops are trying to ring in some extra dollars while selling such goods as grower gift sets.

10. PATRIOTS' 7TH STRAIGHT WIN

New England collects another blowout win in 34-9 rout of Lions.

AP News in Brief

Uncertainty fuels speculation on Ferguson case as weekend passes without grand jury decision

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) — The final weekend before the Thanksgiving holiday passed without a grand jury decision on whether to indict a Ferguson police officer, fueling new speculation about the timing as protesters demand justice for Michael Brown.

After meeting Friday but apparently not reaching a decision, the grand jury was widely expected to reconvene on Monday to consider possible charges against Darren Wilson, the white suburban St. Louis officer who fatally shot the black 18-year-old after a confrontation in August. There was no official confirmation about when the grand jury would meet again.

Protesting on Sunday night, Reggie Cunningham said he doubted Wilson will be indicted and it seemed authorities were delaying an announcement "to spin this in the most positive way possible."

"The more that they drag this out, the angrier people are going to be," said Cunningham, 30, of St. Louis.

The shooting triggered riots and looting, and police responded with armored vehicles and tear gas. Many in the area thought a grand jury decision on whether to charge Wilson with a crime would be announced Sunday, based partly on a stepped-up police presence in the preceding days, including the setting up of barricades around the building where the panel was meeting.

Israel police say Palestinian youth attacked by Jews in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (AP) — Three young Israelis attacked a Palestinian youth in Jerusalem on Monday, police say, the latest sectarian incident in the increasingly tense city.

Police spokeswoman Luba Samri said the unidentified youth is in good condition in a Jerusalem hospital, and that police are investigating the attack.

Tensions in Jerusalem are spiking, mostly over Palestinian claims that the Israeli government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wants to change the status quo at a sensitive holy site in the city by allowing Jews to pray there.

Netanyahu has repeatedly denied the claims but some members of his right-wing coalition favor letting the prayers go forward.

Known to Jews as the Temple Mount, and Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary, the site is the third holiest in Islam and the holiest in Judaism.

Chinese foreign minister holds out hope for Iran nuclear deal, even as talks turn to extension

VIENNA (AP) — Talks on Iran's nuclear program appear likely to run beyond their Monday midnight deadline, but China's foreign minister says negotiators are still working on elements of a deal.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif agreed Sunday to start discussion on continuing the talks past the target date. But Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi says negotiators are still having "consultations" on a final agreement that meets both U.S. demands for strict curbs on Tehran's nuclear program and Iran's push for sanctions relief.

Wang arrived Monday, joining the foreign ministers of the other countries negotiating with Iran — the U.S., Russia, Britain, France and Germany.

British banker can plea in trial for killings of Indonesian women, Hong Kong judge says

HONG KONG (AP) — A Hong Kong judge on Monday deemed a British banker charged with murdering two Indonesian women fit to enter a plea in his case based on the results of psychiatric reports.

The judge in Rurik Jutting's case also adjourned pre-trial court proceedings until July 6 to give the prosecution more time to analyze DNA and other forensic evidence.

Prosecutor Louise Wong told the judge that the government lab needed 28 weeks to examine more than 200 items of evidence collected from the crime scene, but she added that investigators requested the case be given priority.

Jutting's lawyers said he did not object to the request for the lengthy adjournment.

No trial date has been set yet and Jutting did not enter a plea. He spoke only once, calmly saying "I do" when the judge reminded him to continue giving instructions to his lawyers and asked him if he understood.

Attempted murder charge filed against mother of newborn left in Sydney storm drain for 5 days

SYDNEY (AP) — A 30-year-old Sydney mother has been charged with trying to kill her newborn son by abandoning him in a roadside drain for five days before passers-by heard his cries, police said Monday.

The week-old baby was in serious but stable condition in Westmead Children's Hospital a day after cyclists found him in a 2.5-meter (8-foot) deep drain beside the M7 Motorway in the suburb of Quakers Hill, police said in a statement.

His mother, Saifale Nai, did not appear in court to answer the attempted murder charge. Her lawyer did not enter a plea and the magistrate formally refused her bail.

Nai will remain in custody until her next court appearance on Friday. She would face a potential maximum sentence of 25 years in prison if convicted.

"Police will allege the baby, believed to have been born on Monday (Nov. 17), was placed into the drain on Tuesday," the police statement said.

12-year-old boy with fake gun at playground dies after being shot by Ohio police; probe begins

CLEVELAND (AP) — A 12-year-old boy was fatally shot by police in Cleveland after brandishing what turned out to be a replica gun, triggering an investigation into his death and a legislator's call for such weapons to be brightly colored or bear special markings.

The boy, identified by the Cuyahoga County medical examiner as Tamir Rice, died from his wounds Sunday, a day after officers responded to a 911 call about someone waving a "probably fake" gun at a playground.

Deputy Chief Ed Tomba said one officer fired twice after the boy pulled the fake weapon — which was lacking the orange safety indicator usually found on the muzzle — from his waistband but had not pointed it at police. The boy did not make any verbal threats but grabbed the replica handgun after

being told to raise his hands, Tomba said.

"That's when the officer fired," he said.

Police described the weapon as an "airsoft" type replica that resembled a semi-automatic handgun. The orange safety indicator had been removed, police said.

Desperation leads Chilean mothers to grow marijuana to help their seizure-stricken children

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Paulina Bobadilla was beyond desperate. The drugs no longer stopped her daughter's epileptic seizures and the little girl had become so numb to pain, she would tear off her own fingernails and leave her small fingers bleeding.

Bobadilla was driving on a mountain road with Javiera, intent on ending it all by steering their car off a cliff.

"All I wanted to do was to die along with her," the 34-year-old mother recalled of that day in April 2013. "I told her: 'This is it.' But then she said, 'Mommy, I love you.' I looked at her and I knew I had to continue fighting."

Bobadilla's desperation to ease her daughter's condition is an emotion familiar to other Chilean parents who say medical marijuana can help their children and who, rather than wait for Congress to act, have taken matters into their own hands.

Despite the risk of jail time, about 100 parents have formed a group, Mama Cultiva or "Mama Grows," to share knowledge about cultivating marijuana to extract cannabis oil for their seizure-stricken children.

AP Exclusive: Letter that inspired Kerouac's 'On The Road,' sparked Beat Generation to be sold

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's been called the letter that launched a literary genre — 16,000 amphetamine-fueled, stream-of-consciousness words written by Neal Cassady to his friend Jack Kerouac in 1950.

Upon reading them, Kerouac scrapped an early draft of "On The Road" and, during a three-week writing binge, revised his novel into a style similar to Cassady's, one that would become known as Beat literature.

The letter, Kerouac said shortly before his death, would have transformed his counterculture muse Cassady into a towering literary figure, if only it hadn't been lost.

Turns out it wasn't, says Joe Maddalena, whose Southern California auction house Profiles in History is putting the letter up for sale Dec. 17. It was just misplaced, for 60-some years.

It's being offered as part of a collection that includes papers by E.E. Cummings, Kenneth Rexroth, Robert Penn Warren and other prominent literary figures. But Maddalena believes the item bidders will want most is Cassady's 18-page, single-spaced screed describing a drunken, sexually charged, sometimes comical visit to his hometown of Denver.

One Direction, Katy Perry win 3 American Music Awards; Iggy Azalea, Sam Smith, Swift shine

One Direction won three honors at the American Music Awards, including artist of the year over powerhouse acts like Beyonce and Luke Bryan, while breakthrough newcomer Iggy Azalea beat out heavyweights Eminem and Drake in the rap categories.

Katy Perry, who was absent from Sunday's award show because of her world tour, matched One Direction for most wins with three.

The boy band won also won favorite band, duo or group — pop/rock and favorite album — pop/rock for "Midnight Memories" at the fan-voted show.

"This has been a real perfect day ... America feels like a second home to us," Liam Payne said onstage with his band mates when they won the night's first award. The group released its new album, "Four," last week.

They wore all black as they sang the groove "Night Changes" at the Nokia Theatre L.A. Live. Taylor Swift kicked off the AMAs as a mad woman and man eater by feeding a boy a poisonous apple, holding burning roses and giving crazy eyes during a performance of her song about her dating life according to the media.

Schools close, residents ready for evacuation in Buffalo region as snowmelt threatens flooding

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Families rushed to pack up their valuables and schools closed in advance — not of snow but possible flooding.

Temperatures were expected to hit nearly 60 degrees on Monday, causing Buffalo area residents to prepare for evacuations caused by runoff from melting snow, and overflowing creeks.

"Hopefully the rain won't be here until later and this will be a slow thaw, but flooding is our major, major concern here," said Michelle Pikula, whose house is along the Buffalo Creek.

The National Weather Service has issued a flood warning for Monday and cautioned that trees weakened by heavy snowfall and saturated soil could come crashing down. High wind gusts of up to 60 mph also could topple electrical wires and trigger power outages. Forecasts call for rain showers on Monday and a chance of rain and snow showers by early Tuesday.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo Sunday warned residents in flood-prone areas around Buffalo to move valuables up from the basement, pack a bag and prepare for the possibility of evacuation.

Today in History **The Associated Press**

Today is Monday, Nov. 24, the 328th day of 2014. There are 37 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 24, 1944, during World War II, U.S. bombers based on Saipan attacked Tokyo in the first raid against the Japanese capital by land-based planes.

On this date:

In 1784, Zachary Taylor, the 12th president of the United States, was born in Orange County, Virginia.

In 1859, British naturalist Charles Darwin published "On the Origin of Species," which explained his theory of evolution by means of natural selection.

In 1864, French artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec was born in Albi.

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In 1922, Irish nationalist and author Robert Erskine Childers was executed in Dublin by Free State forces.

In 1939, British Overseas Airways Corp. (BOAC) was formally established.

In 1950, the musical "Guys and Dolls," based on the writings of Damon Runyon and featuring songs by Frank Loesser (LEH'-suh), opened on Broadway.

In 1963, Jack Ruby shot and mortally wounded Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, in a scene captured on live television.

In 1969, Apollo 12 splashed down safely in the Pacific.

In 1971, a hijacker calling himself "Dan Cooper" (but who became popularly known as "D.B. Cooper") parachuted from a Northwest Orient Airlines 727 over the Pacific Northwest after receiving \$200,000 dollars in ransom - his fate remains unknown.

In 1974, the bone fragments of a 3.2 million-year-old hominid were discovered by scientists in Ethiopia; the skeletal remains were nicknamed "Lucy."

In 1989, Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHES'-koo) was unanimously re-elected Communist Party chief. (Within a month, he was overthrown in a popular uprising and executed along with his wife, Elena, on Christmas Day.)

In 1992, a China Southern Airlines Boeing 737 crashed in southern China, killing all 141 people on board.

Ten years ago: Ukraine's election officials declared that Kremlin-backed Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich (yah-noo-KOH'-vich) had won Ukraine's bitterly disputed presidential runoff balloting; thousands of opposition supporters demonstrated in Kiev. Popular author Arthur Hailey died in New Providence, Bahamas, at age 84.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama played host at the first state dinner of his presidency to visiting Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, an event marred by two gatecrashers, Tareq and Michael Salehi (mih-KEL' sah-LAH'-hee). Kentucky officials said census worker Bill Sparkman, found bound and hanging from a tree with the word "fed" scrawled across his chest, had in fact committed suicide. Albert Pujols won the National League MVP unanimously, becoming the first player to repeat since Barry Bonds won four in a row from 2001-04.

One year ago: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu harshly condemned the international community's nuclear deal with Iran, calling it a "historic mistake" and saying he was not bound by the agreement. The Vatican publicly unveiled a handful of bone fragments purportedly belonging to St. Peter, the first pope. Taylor Swift took home four American Music Awards, including top honor artist of the year for the third time.

Today's Birthdays: Basketball Hall of Famer Oscar Robertson is 76. Country singer Johnny Carver is 74. Former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue (TAG'-lee-uh-boo) is 74. Rock drummer Pete Best is 73. Actor-comedian Billy Connolly is 72. Former White House news secretary Marlin Fitzwater is 72. Former Motion Picture Association of America Chairman Dan Glickman is 70. Singer Lee Michaels is 69. Actor Dwight Schultz is 67. Actor Stanley Livingston is 64. Rock musician Clem Burke (Blondie; The Romantics) is 60. Record producer Terry Lewis is 58. Actor/director Ruben Santiago-Hudson is 58. Actress Denise Crosby is 57. Actress Shae D'Lyn is 52. Rock musician John Squire (The Stone Roses) is 52. Rock musician Gary Stonadge (Big Audio) is 52. Actor Conleth Hill is 50. Actor-comedian Brad Sherwood is 50. Actor Garret Dillahunt is 50. Actor-comedian Scott Krinsky is 46. Rock musician Chad Taylor (Live) is 44. Actress Lola Glaudini is 43. Actress Danielle Nicolet is 41. Actor/writer/director/producer Stephen Merchant is 40. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Chen Lu is 38. Actor Colin Hanks is 37. Actress Katherine Heigl (HY'-guh) is 36. Actress Sarah Hyland is 24.

Thought for Today: "I don't comment. I record." - Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (1864-1901).