

Groton Daily Independent

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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

Anniversary: Marty & Ellie Sippel

Birthday: Christopher Loutsch

Dakota Brush

Brooms, Brushes, Mops, Can Liners, Paper Products.

Get Ready for Spring With
Wash Brushes & Squeegees

397-9337

104 N. Main, Groton

**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

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.

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Holgate, 6th Grade Individual Awards

Holgate Middle School hosted a MA THCOUNTS competition on 11/19/2014. The 6th grade individual winners following the Countdown Round were, Front row, from left: Isaac Smith, Groton, 1st place; William Goscicki, Roncalli, 2nd place; Capri Hellwig, Roncalli, 3rd place. Back row, from left: Melanie Jacobs, Holgate, 4th place; Rolli Jark, Warner, 5th place; Mason Myers, Holgate, 6th place.



Holgate, 6th Grade Team Awards

Holgate Middle School hosted a MATHCOUNTS competition on 11/19/2014. The 6th grade team winners were, front row from left: Groton, 1st place, Tanae Lipp, Dragr Monson, Samantha Pappas, Isaac Smith. Middle row from left: Roncalli, 2nd place, William Goscicki, Capri Hellwig, Jackson Henrich, Sam Sather. Back row from left: Holgate, 3rd place, Greta Adolf, Melanie Jacobs, Braydon Jones, Gavin Peterson

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Groton Holiday Tour of Homes Set for Dec. 7

Groton's holiday Tour of Homes will be held Sunday, December 7. The annual event is the largest fundraiser for the Prismatic Sensations Show Choir of Groton Area High School. Funds raised help make it possible to purchase costumes and assist with travel costs to show choir competitions.

Home owners who have graciously agreed to open their homes for the tour are Dale & Sandy Carr, Glenn & Wendy Cooper, Jarod & Kristie Fliets and Nikki Kotzer all of Groton. This line-up of homes promises a fun variety of decorating styles and creative holiday touches.

The self-guided tour will be from 1 to 5 p.m., with refreshments served in the high school arena lobby. Tickets are \$8 each and are available now from any of the following show choir members: Korbin Blackmun, Rachel Blackmun, Michaela Cutler, Jenifer Fjelstad, Laura Garcia, Tylan Glover, Taylor Gustafson, Kari Hanson, Christine Herr, Alex Kern, Brittany Kjelden, Macy Knecht, Matt Knecht, Mitchell Koens, Kiana Kokales, Jamie Krueger, Heather Lone, Kaitlin O'Neill, Micah Poor, Devon Poppen, Emily Raap, Kaitlyn Ringgenberg, Truitt Rogers, Aaron Severson, Jasmine Schaller, Maggie Simon, Luke Smith, Garrett Stene,

Chance Strom, Sydney Thorson, Allison Weber, Danielle Schinkel, Erin Smith and Whitney Voss plus technical/pit crew members Erika Herr, Marlee Jones, Katie LaMee, Jaden Oliver, Jasmine Schinkel, Alyssa Sippel, Alec Voss and Kasey Waage.

Tickets are also available at these Groton businesses: First State Bank, Lori's Pharmacy and Olde Bank Floral 'N More

and will also be for sale at the Groton HS Arena on the day of the event. In case of inclement weather, the tour will not be re-scheduled; tickets are non-refundable. A map for the tour will be printed on the back side of the tickets.

GROTON CITY SNOW SEASON PARKING

Owners of vehicles, parked on streets or avenues that are plowed around after a snowfall, will have 24 hours to move them or they will be towed away at the owner's expense. Vehicles parked across public sidewalks, preventing snow plowing or pedestrian traffic, will be ticketed and fined.

SNOW REMOVAL

Public sidewalks in the business district must be kept clean of ice and snow at all times. Public sidewalks in the residential district should have snow removed within 24 hours after every fall of snow. Keep electric cords at least 8 feet above public sidewalks. No snow may be removed from private property or from a public sidewalk and be places on a previously plowed public street, avenue or alley.

**BY ORDER OF THE
GROTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
GROTON PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.**

Remove Snow From Commercial Zoned Sidewalks

All owners or persons in possession of property or premises in the commercial zoning district abutting on sidewalks in the City of Groton are required to keep the sidewalks free and clear from snow and ice, and remove the snow and ice immediately after every snow event. premises abut, free and clear from snow and ice.

2015 DOG LICENSES AVAILABLE NOW!!

Licenses due by Dec. 31, 2014

Fines start Jan. 2, 2015

Please bring proof of rabies shot information for each dog to
City Hall

Please contact City Hall as soon as possible if you no longer have any dogs

Spayed or neutered dogs are \$5 per dog, otherwise \$10 per dog

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Left to right: In front is Lily Cutler, Devon Poppen, and Keri Pappas. In the back is Katie Miller, Jenifer Fjelstad, and Erin Smith.

Several advance to State Oral Interp

The Groton Area Oral Interp team began its first post season competition at the region contest on Monday, November 17, 2014. Advancing to the State Oral Interp Festival are the following GHS students: Readers Theater- Devon Poppen, Lily Cutler, Katie Miller, Keri Pappas, Erin Smith, Jenifer Fjelstad; Poetry-Culter; Storytelling- Cutler. Smith was named alternate for Non-Original Oratory. Also competing for Groton were Fjelstad in Serious; Pappas and Miller in Duo; and Poppen in Humorous. The State Oral Interp Festival will be held in Huron, SD on December 5th and 6th.

Miller places sixth at Aberdeen

GHS began its debate season with the Golden Eagle Cup invitational at Aberdeen Central High School. Junior Katie Miller had a great showing placing sixth in Original Oratory. Also competing for Groton at the GEC were juniors Lily Cutler and Kelsey Iverson, Sophomore Keri Pappas, and eighth grader Caroline Graf.

PEO

Cheryl Wold was the speaker at the Groton PEO meeting held Oct. 27. Wold has a Doctorate in Special Education and is now teaching at Northern State University, ABBRDEEN.

Her husband and their family moved to Aberdeen from Carrington, N.D.. She is the daughter of LaVonne Helmer, Groton. The meeting was held at the home of Sharon Wheeting.

Adult

Birthday Club

The November meeting of the Adult Birthday Club was held with Lorraine Sippel as hostess. Prizes were awarded to Ella Johnson, Arlene Anderson and Marian Raines.

Arlene Anderson received the honor prize.

Guests were Arlene Anderson, Mel Eikamp and Arlowyn Spencer.

The next meeting will be held 1 p.m., December 2 at Rosewood Court with Amy Flemmer as hostess.

Hanson Family Thank You

Thank you for the thoughts and prayers that you gave are family during this difficult time. Thank you for all the cards, and the memorial you gave to the church. A special thank you to Jerry Bjerke and Damian Bahr for their professionalism in the grievance.

Thank you. Marc L, and Merle Hanson family

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Winter Weather Advisory

...Winter Weather Advisory in effect from 6 PM this evening to 9 am CST Wednesday...

The National Weather Service in Aberdeen has issued a Winter Weather Advisory for snow and blowing snow...which is in effect from 6 PM this evening to 9 am CST Wednesday.

* Timing...light snowfall will develop by mid afternoon and increase in intensity later this evening. Snow will gradually diminish from west to east during the morning hours on Wednesday.

* Winds/visibility...northerly winds of 20 to 30 mph will develop after midnight and continue through the mid morning hours on Wednesday. Visibility will be reduced at times below one mile.

* Snow/ice accumulations...2 to 4 inches with isolated higher amounts.

Precautionary/preparedness actions...

A Winter Weather Advisory for snow and blowing snow means that visibilities will be limited due to a combination of falling and blowing snow. Use caution when traveling...especially in open areas.

Classifieds

House for Rent

Two-bedroom house in Groton. Full basement, breezeway, attached garage, large yard. Wheelchair accessible. Furnished, appliances included. \$700/month. Less with lease. (941) 525-4515.

Apartment For Rent

One bedroom apartment for rent. Main street ground level. Washer dryer and dishwasher big walk in closet 550 utilities included 400 if you pay your own

Apartments For Rent

ONE AND TWO bedroom apartment for rent. HDS subsidized. Rent includes utilities and heat. No smoking. Pets okay. Contact Darlene Daly at 605/397-8131.

FRIDAY IS FRIED CHICKEN DAY
Served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Serving 5-9 p.m.

WE'VE GOT WINGS!
Every Wednesday!

ANDOVER BAR & GRILL
120 S Main St. • 298-5252

Today in Weather History

1896: A major blizzard occurred throughout South Dakota, beginning on the 25th and continuing until the 27th. The storm began in most locations as rain and sleet, which turned to snow, accompanied by strong northerly winds. The 26th was the peak of the storm, and the heaviest snow and strongest wind occurred throughout the north, northeast, west and southwest portions of the state. In eastern and southeastern South Dakota, sleet was extraordinarily heavy on the 26th. There were many reports received of large quantities of trees stripped of smaller branches and limbs due to the weight of the sleet. Across the state, telegraph lines were flattened in all directions, and the poles were broken off in many places. Although there was very little loss of livestock in areas with available shelter, there were heavy individual losses on the ranges of South Dakota. Several people also perished on the ranges west of the Missouri River when they became lost in the storm without livestock. Reports of snowfall totals from the storm are very limited, but included 17 inches at Aberdeen and 12 inches at Mellette. This blizzard was the most prominent individual feature in a November that was overall very cold, with a state mean temperature of 16.5 degrees, which was 17.2 degrees below normal at the time. The month still stands as the coldest November on record in Aberdeen, with an average temperature nearly 7 degrees Fahrenheit colder than the next coldest November (1985). The lowest reported temperature during the month was -29 F at Webster. Aberdeen recorded a low of -25 F on the 29th with a high temperature of -8 F that same day. The month currently stands as the snowiest November on record and second snowiest overall month on record for Aberdeen, with 32.8 inches, behind 38.5 inches recorded in February 1915.

1985: Heavy snow fell over the north central part of South Dakota, with the greatest amount of 13 inches reported at Eureka in McPherson County. In the west, snowfall amounts ranged from 2-3 inches. Strong winds, which gusted to 45 mph at times, combined with new snow to produce near blizzard conditions throughout the area. Many roads were drifted shut, resulting in accidents and school closures in the northwest and north central parts of the state. Other storm snowfall totals included 10 inches at Pollock, 8 inches at Leola and Timber Lake, 7 inches at Mobridge and McLaughlin, 6 inches at Aberdeen and eight miles north of Columbia, and 5 inches at Eagle Butte and Wilmot.

1926: A large tornado outbreak struck from Missouri to Alabama, including two F4's. In Heber Springs, AR 145 homes were damaged or destroyed and 17 people were killed.








1950: Michigan beat Ohio State 9-3 in the "Blizzard Bowl" in Columbus, OH. The morning temperature was 5 degrees with 40mph wind gusts. Driving snow shrouded the players on the field. The intense storm swept from the Great Lakes to the Appalachians.

1993: The Thanksgiving Day game between the Dallas Cowboys and Miami Dolphins was memorable because of the heavy sleet that covered the field at Texas Stadium during the game. Miami won the game with a score of 16 to 14.

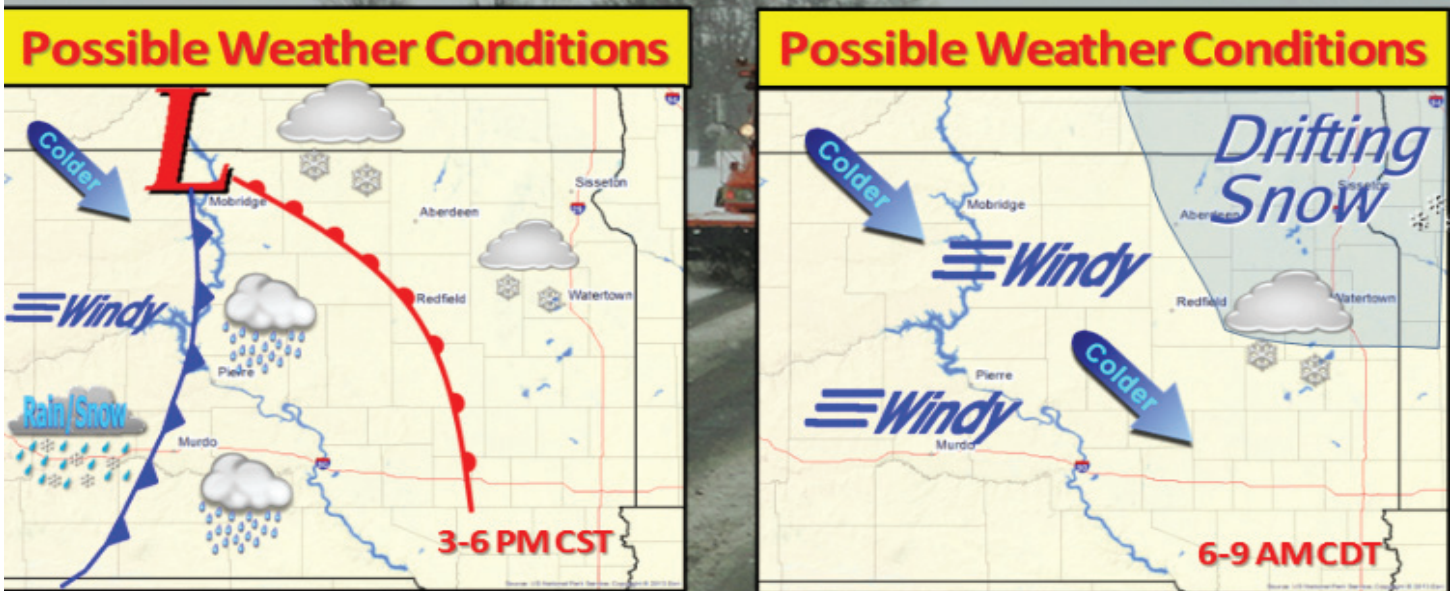
2003: A deadly accident happened on Lake Mai-Ndombe in the Congo when a ferry broke apart during a terrible storm, killing 163 of the nearly 400 on board.

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TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	THANKSGIVING DAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY
						
Snow Likely High: 31 °F	Snow Low: 15 °F	Blowing Snow High: 16 °F ↓	Mostly Cloudy Low: -5 °F	Mostly Cloudy High: 17 °F	Slight Chc Snow Low: 14 °F	Partly Sunny High: 35 °F

A Clipper System Impacting the Region This Evening Through Wednesday Morning



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

 weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 11/25/2014 5:44 AM Central

A clipper system will move southeastward across the area later this afternoon and tonight. This system will produce snow across northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota with generally 2 to 4 inches possible by Wednesday morning. Rain is expected over central and south central South Dakota where temperatures will be warmer. Rain will change over to all snow later tonight with snowfall amounts of an inch or two possible. Increasing northerly winds late tonight could cause some blowing and drifting snow, especially along I-29 for the morning commute on Wednesday. High temperatures today will warm into the 30s. Lows tonight will range in the teens for most locations. Highs on Wednesday will range in the upper teens and lower 20s with temperatures falling in the afternoon.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 24.4°F at 3:06 PM

Low: 5.9°F at 11:06 PM

High Gust: 35 mph at 7:43 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 64° in 1960

Record Low: -22° in 1996

Average High: 34°F

Average Low: 14°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.62

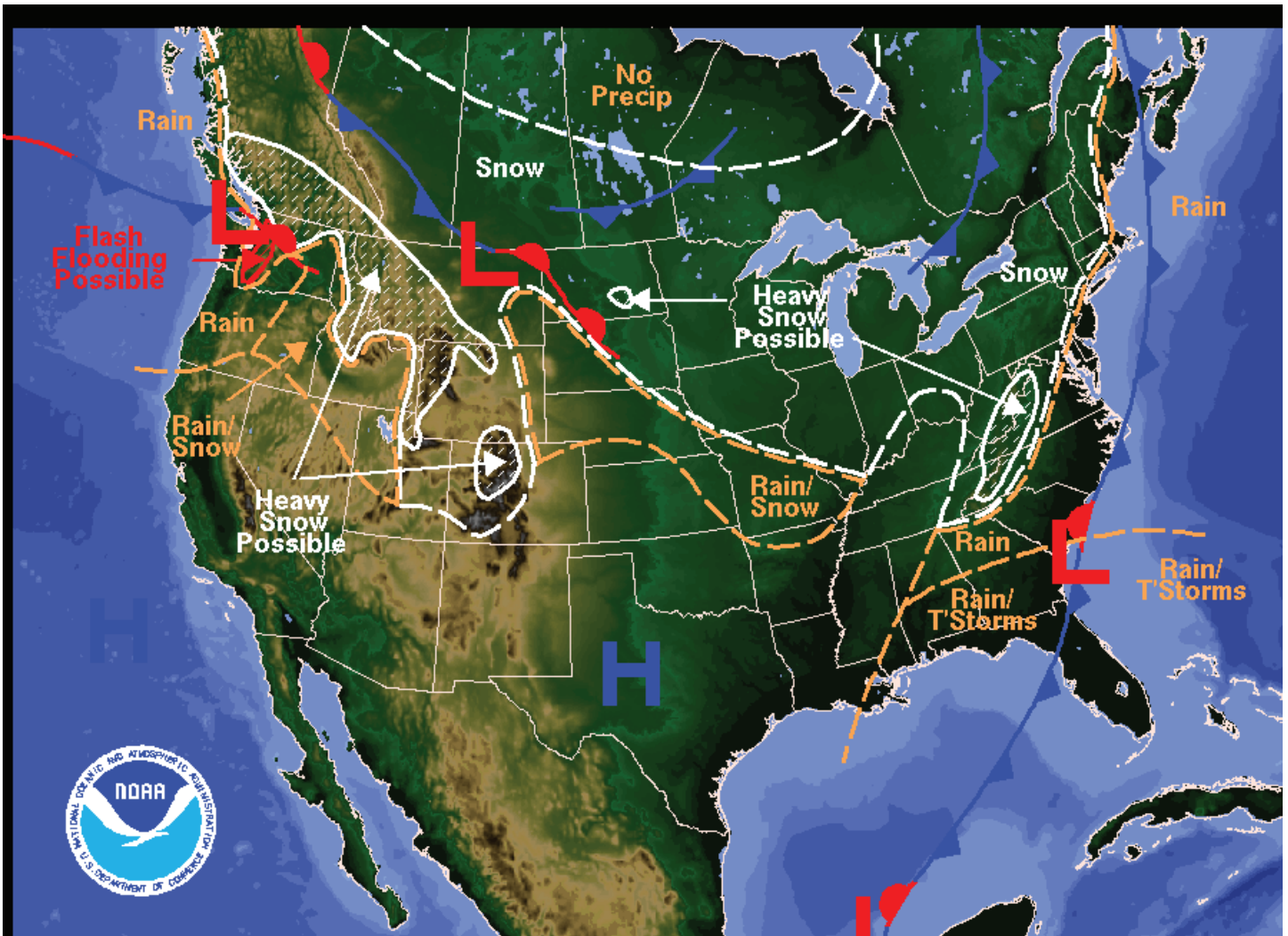
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.56

Average Precip to date: 21.09

Precip Year to Date: 13.79

Sunset Tonight: 4:55 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:47 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Nov 25, 2014, issued 3:29 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



WHY CHARACTER COUNTS

"Sticks and stones can break my bones, but names will never hurt me!"

That little phrase has been used by many parents and teachers to comfort children who have been harassed. Words used to describe another person are important because they are the foundation for one's reputation. And, like it or not, everyone has a reputation.

Age is almost irrelevant when we talk about another person. Opinions are formed, decisions made and often strengths or limitations are placed on another individual. Never mind "who said what," an opinion is formed. Even first impressions or a few words shared about another person can last a life time. What is said and heard about someone can build them up or tear them down.

If the words are praiseworthy, they can bring honor to that person. If they are mean spirited, they may result in a life of torment to the one defamed. Words stick and sometimes shatter hopes and dreams. What we do and what others say about what we do is important.

"A person is praised because of their prudence, and one with a warped mind is despised," wrote Solomon. This "warning" reminds us that we are responsible for what others come to believe about us. Prudence describes the moral choices we make and are observed by others. If our choices are "honorable" we will be praised. Otherwise, our reputation for having a "warped mind," or being a person "with a crooked heart" will come to light.

What a challenge this presents to Christians.

Prayer: Lord, You observe us and others do the same. May our lives always bring honor to Your Name. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 12:8 A person is praised according to their prudence, and one with a warped mind is despised.

News from the Associated Press

Police: Sturgis man charged with shooting roommate

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have charged a Sturgis man who they say shot his new roommate in the head during an argument.

Sturgis police say 62-year-old James McCrary is charged with aggravated assault and was being held in the Meade County Jail Monday. Police say he shot 44-year-old Marlyn Blackbonnet with a pistol at their residence Sunday night.

Police say Blackbonnet was alert and conscious when they responded to a 911 call from McCrary. He was taken to Rapid City Regional Hospital but his condition is unclear. A hospital representative tells the Rapid City Journal that Blackbonnet wasn't in the directory midday Monday.

Police say Blackbonnet had lived in the house with McCrary for about two weeks. It wasn't immediately available if McCrary has an attorney.

Bad weather could impact holiday travel in Dakotas

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Bad weather could snarl Thanksgiving travel plans for residents of the Dakotas.

The National Weather Service says parts of the two states could get up to 4 inches of snow from a clipper system sweeping in from the west.

The agency posted a winter weather advisory for most of North Dakota into Tuesday night, and for northeastern South Dakota into Wednesday morning. Forecasters said travelers should prepare for snow-packed and icy roads.

The good news for travelers is that gasoline is a lot cheaper than it was a year ago at this time.

GasBuddy.com reports the average retail gas price in North Dakota is about \$2.95 a gallon, more than 22 cents lower than last year. In South Dakota it's \$2.83 per gallon — more than 31 cents lower.

Vikings LT Matt Kalil: 'It wasn't my best day'

JON KRAWCZYNSKI, AP Sports Writer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — A rough day on the field for Minnesota Vikings left tackle Matt Kalil against Green Bay was only compounded once he left the stadium that night.

Video surfaced Monday of Kalil knocking the hat off a fan who was heckling him as he walked to his vehicle after Sunday's game, a relatively benign interaction that was more embarrassing than worrisome. But it only added fuel to the growing number of critics who say the embattled lineman has been one of the struggling offense's biggest problems.

"I usually shrug that stuff off," Kalil said Monday. "Fans like to talk and say some things. But it's just something, I could've been the bigger man and walked away. But it wasn't really that big of a deal."

The former No. 4 overall draft pick is getting used to dealing with disgruntled fans. After a Pro Bowl season as a rookie in 2012, Kalil took a step back last year while dealing with an injured left knee. He had surgery in the offseason and reported to training camp hopeful that it would help him return to form as one of the promising young tackles in the game.

But Kalil has struggled mightily this season, routinely being overwhelmed by the pass rushers he is facing and committing penalties that have made it difficult for rookie quarterback Teddy Bridgewater and the rest of the offense to establish a rhythm.

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In the 24-21 loss to the Packers, Kalil was flagged for two holding penalties and a 15-yard facemask. After the game he declined to address reporters before walking to his vehicle, where a fan caught him "when I had a short fuse."

"It was one of those things, when I walked away it was, 'What am I doing?'" Kalil said. "That guy's not really worth my time. But whatever happened, happened so I'll obviously learn from that and won't let him get the best of me. He just caught me at the right moment. Like I said, usually in one ear and out the other."

The line sustained another blow Sunday when right tackle Phil Loadholt was lost for the remaining five games of the season because of a torn pectoral muscle. Mike Harris, a third-year pro who started 12 games in San Diego over the last two years, is expected to fill in starting on Sunday against Carolina.

Kalil apologized to reporters Monday for not talking after the game, and coach Mike Zimmer said "he was wrong in what he did" with the fan.

"We appreciate 99.9 percent of the fans, they're great for us and he should have conducted himself in a better manner," Zimmer said. "It's a good lesson for all of us. I know that in the past there have been times when I've been upset with people, too, but they pay money to go watch us play and watch us perform, so they have a right to express their opinion. We just have to keep our composure and not let things get out of hand, I think."

Of greater concern is Kalil's performance on the field. He was drafted to be the cornerstone of the offensive line and is now charged with protecting Bridgewater, who is emerging as the new face of the franchise in the wake of Adrian Peterson's legal issues.

Kalil said he's dealing with a lack of confidence in addition to some discomfort in his left knee that is "off and on."

"It's about being a professional and taking coaching and not taking things personally when the coach is hard on you," Kalil said. "It's about knowing that they're trying to help you improve and me wanting to improve and coming out strong next week."

Zimmer said the key to building Kalil's confidence begins with him raising his performance.

"We can try and build his confidence, but you've got to go out and play good," Zimmer said. "That's part of it. That's how you get confident — you play good, really. You see teams that have that kind of swagger, because they're playing good. They have confidence; they have belief in what they can do. A lot of that's going to be up to him."

2015 mountain lion season applications available

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Applications are available for the 2015 South Dakota mountain lion hunting season.

The state's Game, Fish and Parks Department says there's no deadline to submit an application for the season. However, hunters who want an access permit to Custer State Park must submit their application by Dec. 10.

The season runs from Dec. 26 through March 31. The harvest limit has been set at 75 total lions or 50 female lions, whichever happens first. The season closes in the Black Hills Fire Protection Unit if either of the harvest limits is reached.

Wildlife officials say Custer State Park will have eight separate hunting intervals, four of which will allow the use of dogs. The access permits to the park are given through a lottery process.

South Dakota St coasts past Chadron State 87-42

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Jake Bittle scored 12 points to lead South Dakota State to an 87-42 win over lower-division Chadron State on Monday night.

South Dakota State (2-2) took control with a 12-0 run capped by a Reed Tellinghuisen layup that made it 22-5 with 6:20 to go in the first period. The Jackrabbits took a 36-12 advantage into the break and continued to pull away in the second half.

Tellinghuisen, Cody Larson and Skyler Flatten contributed 11 points apiece for South Dakota State, which shot 51.6 percent and was 18 of 25 from the free throw line in the first meeting between the programs.

Chadron State, an NCAA Division II team, hit just 15 of 59 from the floor and was out-rebounded 44-39.

Kendrick Holliman led the Eagles with 12 points and seven rebounds.

Packers encouraged by Lacy's performance

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Eddie Lacy got Green Bay's running game back on track by playing through a stomach illness.

And with the Wisconsin weather turning cold and snowy - and opposing defenses likely to follow Minnesota's blueprint in an effort to limit wide receivers Jordy Nelson and Randall Cobb - Lacy may be emerging at just the right time for the Packers.

Playing with what coach Mike McCarthy termed Monday as a gastrointestinal illness, Lacy carried a season-high 25 times for 125 yards in the Packers' 24-21 victory at TCF Bank Stadium on Sunday. Five of those carries for 27 yards came in the final 3:23, with Lacy running out the clock in the Packers' seventh victory in their last eight games.

After the game, Lacy's teammates said they knew he was sick but he insisted on playing through it. No. 2 running back James Starks had only one carry for minus-4 yards.

"I think it's really just a credit to Eddie. He's a heck of a football player," McCarthy said Monday, adding that the medical staff is "monitoring" Lacy. "Just for him to go out and have that performance in that situation I think speaks volumes to the type of person he is."

Lacy did not speak to reporters after the game Sunday, and players were off celebrating a "Victory Monday" and not available to reporters. But his teammates knew the second-year back was ill.

"You could see it on his face a little bit that he wasn't feeling too good," guard Josh Sitton said. "He's just tough, man."

Next up for Lacy and the Packers (8-3) is a possible Super Bowl preview against the New England Patriots (9-2) on Sunday at Lambeau Field.

Despite Aaron Rodgers' gaudy numbers - he has thrown for 2,957 yards with 30 touchdowns and only three interceptions for a league-high passer rating of 119.3 - most opponents this season had opted to play with one safety deep, bringing the other up into the box to help defend against Lacy.

On Sunday, Vikings coach Mike Zimmer made it Minnesota's top defensive priority to take away Cobb and Nelson, and it worked.

Although Nelson had eight receptions, they went for just 68 yards - enough to put him over the 1,000-yard mark for the third time in his career but the fourth-fewest receiving yards he's had in a game this season. Cobb had a pair of important third-down catches, but finished with only four grabs for 58 yards.

"Teams are going to take away what we do best, and what we've done best is get the ball to Jordy and Randall," Rodgers said after Sunday's game. "They've had big statistical seasons so (opponents)

try to take them out of the game.”

That was what made Lacy’s performance so vital, even though the Packers receivers were expecting that approach from the Vikings from the start.

“Like we’ve said for weeks, teams have been playing a lot of one-high,” Nelson said. “That’s why we’ve been throwing it and Eddie hasn’t had a lot of opportunities but still has been running great. (In this game), it kind of reversed. He got opportunities and he made the most of them and had a great game and had a lot of huge plays for us.”

The Patriots match up well with the Packers because of cornerbacks Darrelle Revis and Brandon Browner, meaning Lacy likely will be counted on again this week.

Before his 25-carry performance against the Vikings, his season high for carries had been 17 attempts at Chicago on Sept. 28. Last season, Lacy carried at least 17 times in 11 of the 15 full games he played.

One reason for the drop in Lacy’s attempts: Despite scoring 354 points this season - second only to the Patriots’ 357 - Green Bay has run just 663 offensive plays. The Patriots, by comparison, have run 757 plays.

“The only thing I’ve ever focused on with Eddie or any of the offensive perimeter players is how many times they touch the ball,” McCarthy said. “If you look at our season, it’s been different. To score this many points with the total number of plays (is unusual). So I don’t think statistics really reflect the whole picture of everything that we’ve done.”

NOTES: Despite a much-hyped game against a high-profile opponent, McCarthy said he is adjusting the schedule to make sure players and staff are out of the building by 1 p.m. to spend Thanksgiving with family and friends. . McCarthy said guard T.J. Lang (ankle) and linebacker Clay Matthews (groin) are “battling through” their injuries but both are expected to play against New England.

Authorities identify victims of Sisseton shooting

SISSETON, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley on Monday identified the victims of a fatal shooting over the weekend in Sisseton, an Indian reservation town in the northeast corner of the state.

Jackley said Vernon Renville Jr., 31; Candace Labelle, 29; and Angela Adams, 25, were killed. All three were from Sisseton. The surviving victim, 22-year-old Karissa Dogeagle, also of Sisseton, remains in a hospital in Fargo, North Dakota, where she is being treated for gunfire injuries.

Dogeagle’s family has asked that Sanford Health does not release any information about her condition. A Sisseton hospital where Dogeagle was initially treated described her condition on Saturday as stable.

The attack happened early Saturday in Sisseton, a town on the Lake Traverse Indian Reservation. Jackley has identified the suspected shooter as 22-year-old Colter Richard Arbach, who authorities believe then shot and killed himself. Authorities have not said whether Arbach knew the victims.

Arbach’s body was found among the dead after authorities initially thought he may have fled.

Jackley’s spokeswoman, Sara Rabern, on Monday said details of the shooting, including the motive, aren’t expected to be released soon. Autopsies are still being conducted.

“Investigators continue to work diligently to sort out all the remaining questions of this heartbreaking incident,” Jackley said in a statement.

The funeral arrangements for the victims have been scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday. Labell’s funeral will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Community Center. Wakes are scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at the same location.

The services for Renville and Adams are being held in conjunction at the auditorium of the Sisseton Wahpeton College. An all-night wake will begin at 6 p.m. Tuesday and will run through Thursday until the funeral for Adams takes place at 10 a.m. and Renville's at noon.

Researchers take on dark matter search again

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

LEAD, S.D. (AP) — Scientists working nearly a mile underground in an abandoned gold mine in Lead are trying again to find an elusive substance known as dark matter — and fill a hole in humanity's basic understanding of the universe.

A researcher said Friday that investigators expect to decide in the coming weeks the official start date of an expanded second-round experiment searching for dark matter. Their search is based at the Sanford Underground Research Facility, which was built in the former Homestake gold mine in South Dakota's Black Hills. Findings from the initial experiment — released in October 2013 — came up empty, but researchers vowed then to keep at one of the most important quests in physics.

Scientists are pretty sure dark matter exists, but they are not certain what it is made of or how it interacts with ordinary matter. It is considered vital to scientific theories explaining how the universe is expanding and how galaxies move and interact.

Simon Fiorucci is a Brown University scientist working on the Large Underground Xenon experiment, or LUX, which scientists have said is the most advanced Earth-based search for dark matter. He said the results of the new experiment would likely come in 2016.

With more than 4,800 feet of earth at the Homestake gold mine helping screen out background radiation, scientists attempt to trap dark matter, which they hope will be revealed in the form of weakly interacting massive particles, nicknamed WIMPS. The search, using the most sensitive equipment in the world, is looking for the light fingerprint of a WIMP bouncing off an atomic nucleus of xenon cooled to minus 150 degrees.

Researchers aim to increase the effectiveness of the experiment by stretching the exposure time. They want data collected over nearly a year for the next round of results. That's compared to roughly three months for the results released last year.

The scientists have been collecting data since the summer. In the next few weeks, they'll decide how much of that data to use, and with it, the official start date of the experiment, Fiorucci said.

After last year's experiment, LUX scientists spent several months taking additional calibration data and made technical improvements to the detector, Fiorucci said. He said the goal is to fill in humanity's fundamental understanding of the universe.

"We can't really even completely wrap our minds around what exactly it means at a fundamental level of collective knowledge to get to that point and actually figure out the nature of (dark matter)," Simon said, adding with a laugh, "But, that's what they make Nobel prizes for."

Zebra mussel found at Lewis and Clark Lake in SD

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota officials have classified Lewis and Clark Lake as "suspect" for contamination by zebra mussels.

The state's Game, Fish and Parks Department says a single adult zebra mussel has been found at the Midway boat ramp on the lake near Yankton.

John Lott is the department's chief administrator of aquatic resources. He says that inspections of 11 boat docks and shorelines did not yield additional zebra mussels in or near the lakes.

Lott says that the hulls of some boats stored for the winter were also inspected no mussels were found.

Zebra mussels are a small invasive mollusk that originated in Eastern Europe. It first arrived in the U.S. in the 1980s. They're usually less than an inch in size as adults but can rapidly spread under certain conditions.

21 states push to overturn Maryland gun law

DAVID DISHNEAU, Associated Press

HAGERSTOWN, Md. (AP) — Twenty-one states have asked a federal appeals court to overturn Maryland's tough gun-control law, contending that its provisions banning 45 assault weapons and limiting gun magazines to 10 rounds violate the Second Amendment right to keep firearms at home for self-protection.

A coalition led by West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey filed the friend-of-the-court brief last week in the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia. The document supports an appeal by groups whose challenge to the law was rejected in August by the U.S. District Court in Baltimore.

Morrisey, a Republican, said in a statement that the Maryland Firearms Safety Act of 2013, if upheld by the courts, would undermine a core part of the Second Amendment by banning popular firearms that can be used for self-defense.

"States must band together at times when they see citizens' rights being diminished or infringed upon," he said.

A spokeswoman for Democratic Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley criticized the action Monday.

"A federal judge has already affirmed the constitutionality of this law," Nina Smith wrote in an email. "This effort by other states won't do anything to reduce violent crime or save lives."

David Paulson, spokesman for the Maryland attorney general's office, declined to comment on the pending litigation, citing an agency policy. The state has until Dec. 31 to file its written response.

The other states involved are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wyoming. The group includes 18 Republicans and 3 Democrats.

Maryland's Republican Gov.-elect, Larry Hogan, has said he would uphold the laws of both Maryland and the United States, including the Second Amendment.

Maryland lawmakers passed the legislation in response to the December 2012 shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

Group needs toys to help 1,500 children in SD Rez

EAGLE BUTTE, S.D. (AP) — A nonprofit is looking for individuals willing to fulfill 'Dear Santa' letters from children living in the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota.

The group Cheyenne River Youth Project says it has letters from 1,500 children and still needs more than 400 Santa Clauses to step up.

The group will be transforming a community center in the reservation into a 24-hour Santa's Workshop in the upcoming days. The group will be sorting out the gifts it already has on hand and will be arranging trucks to bring gifts to the reservation.

The group's goal is to give children two to three gifts they asked for in their letter, as well as winter clothing and shoes.

Instructions on how to adopt a letter are available online at www.lakotayouth.org.

MDU to buy southwestern North Dakota wind farm

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. is buying a 43-turbine wind farm in southwestern North Dakota.

Allete Clean Energy will develop the project near Hettinger. The \$200 million wind farm is expected to be done in December 2015.

MDU, a division of MDU Resources Group Inc., about a year ago signed an agreement to buy the wind farm's power from Thunder Spirit Wind LLC, a subsidiary of Wind Works Power Corp.

MDU officials say they have now determined that owning and operating the wind farm is preferable for the company. The deal calls for Allete to acquire the Thunder Spirit Wind project, complete the development and sell the completed project to MDU. The sale is subject to regulatory approval.

MDU provides electricity to parts of the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming.

NDSU coach glad to be playing at home in playoffs

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Three-time defending FCS champion North Dakota State will have a big advantage when hosting playoff games in the Fargodome, coach Chris Klieman says.

"It's an electric atmosphere," he told WDAY-TV. "It's hard for (an opposing) quarterback to hear. Our fans are right on top of the opponent. It's a tough place, but we know that we have to have our 'A' game every week or we could get knocked off."

NDSU (11-1) lost earlier this season at Northern Iowa — ending an FCS-record 33-game winning streak — and is the No. 2 overall seed in the playoffs, behind New Hampshire (10-1). The Bison will play in the Fargodome on Dec. 6 against the winner of this Saturday's first-round matchup between South Dakota State (8-4) and Montana State (8-4) in Bozeman, Montana.

The Bison beat SDSU 37-17 earlier this season. NDSU's last meeting with Montana State was in 2010, when the Bison beat the Bobcats 42-17 in the playoffs.

SDSU is making its third consecutive appearance in the FCS playoffs.

"I'm really proud of our football program, and I'm really proud of our seniors with what they've accomplished in their careers here," coach John Stiegelmeier said in a statement.

This year's playoff field, announced Sunday, includes 11 conference champions who automatically qualified and 13 teams with at-large bids. The winner will be crowned Jan. 10, in Frisco, Texas.

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 today:

1. CHAOS FILLS FERGUSON STREETS

Looting and arson spread in the Missouri town after a grand jury declines to indict a white policeman for killing unarmed black 18-year-old Michael Brown.

2. FERGUSON NOT AN EXCEPTION WHEN IT COMES TO COP INDICTMENTS

States and police departments have their own policies that permit the use of force when officers fear imminent physical harm--and they are rarely indicted, let alone convicted, in most such cases.

3. WHY HAGEL'S RESIGNATION COMES AT A TOUGH TIME FOR PENTAGON

With the war in Afghanistan ending and the conflict with the Islamic State group just beginning, the defense secretary is stepping down in the middle of major policy shifts within the administration.

4. SUPREME LEADER: WEST FAILS TO BRING IRAN TO ITS KNEES

Ayatollah Khamenei remains defiant after Tehran and global powers agree to extend nuclear talks till July.

5. WHERE CALORIE COUNTS ARE SOON TO ARRIVE

Menus at chain restaurants with more than 20 outlets will soon tell Americans how much they are consuming in nutrients and fat.

6. INTENSE CAMPAIGN TO BOMB BAGHDAD RATTLES POLICE

The Islamic State terrorist group is targeting the Iraqi capital with fierce bombings. Iraq's security forces are trying to adapt after failing to protect its neighborhoods by reviving intelligence units left underfunded since Saddam's fall and by moving away from reliance on concrete blast walls and checkpoints of previous years.

7. WHAT COULD SNARL THANKSGIVING TRAVEL

A snowstorm forecast to hit Wednesday and Thursday could cause delays at Northeast airports and highways.

8. BOLLYWOOD ACTRESSES GET HIGH PROFILE ROLES, BUT NO PAY RAISE

The female stars of India's movie industry are reveling in lead parts in some of the year's biggest productions. But their paychecks still lag behind those of their male counterparts.

9. BILL COSBY'S PHILANTHROPIC WORK NOT IMMUNE TO ASSAULT CONTROVERSY

The groundbreaking comedian has made sizable contributions to charities and universities over the years. But now his past generosity is facing a cold shoulder from benefactors.

10. GIANTS RECEIVER CREDITS CATCH TO PRACTICE, INSTINCT

"Hold on to the ball," Odell Beckham said when asked what he was thinking when he hauled in a one-handed touchdown grab against the Cowboys.

AP News in Brief

Chaotic protests fill Ferguson streets after grand jury declines to indict police officer

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) — Chaos returned to the streets of Ferguson after a grand jury declined to indict a white police officer in the death of Michael Brown — a decision that enraged protesters who set fire to buildings and cars and looted businesses in the area where the unarmed, black 18-year-old was fatally shot.

Monday night's destruction appeared to be much worse than last summer's protests, with at least a dozen businesses badly damaged or destroyed. Authorities reported hearing hundreds of gunshots, which for a time prevented fire crews from fighting the flames.

Jon Belmar, chief of the St. Louis County police, said that unless his agency could bring in 10,000 officers, "I don't think we can prevent folks who really are intent on destroying a community."

The grand jury's decision means that officer Darren Wilson, who is white, will not face any state criminal charges for killing Brown, whose death inflamed deep racial tensions between many black Americans and police.

Prosecuting Attorney Bob McCulloch said the jury of nine whites and three blacks met on 25 separate days over three months, hearing more than 70 hours of testimony from about 60 witnesses, including three medical examiners and experts on blood, toxicology and firearms.

Fires and looting at businesses as violence overtakes protests over no indictment in Ferguson

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) — Flames engulfed at least a dozen businesses in Ferguson early Tuesday and gunfire kept firefighters at bay after protests over the decision not to indict a police officer in Michael Brown's death turned violent, despite pleas for peace from Brown's family and others.

Protesters smashed windows out of police cars and buildings, several of which were later looted and set ablaze, and officers lobbed tear gas from inside armored vehicles to disperse crowds in scenes reminiscent of the early days of unrest that followed the Aug. 9 shooting.

But the violence that followed Monday's decision to not indict Officer Darren Wilson, who is white, in the death of the unarmed black 18-year-old quickly took a more destructive turn — a storage facility, two auto parts stores, a beauty supply store and pizza shop were just some of the businesses that burned.

An Associated Press photographer saw firefighters arrive at one scene only to be turned back by gunfire.

St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar said during an early morning news conference that he "personally heard about 150 shots fired" during the course of the night, but said police did not fire a shot. He said most of at least a dozen burned businesses were "total losses" and noted two police cars were "basically melted."

People across US protest grand jury's decision of no charges in Ferguson police shooting

Thousands of people rallied late Monday in U.S. cities including Los Angeles and New York to passionately but peacefully protest a grand jury's decision not to indict a white police officer who killed a black 18-year-old in Ferguson, Missouri.

They led marches, waved signs and shouted chants of "hands up, don't shoot," the refrain that has become a rallying cry in protests over police killings across the country.

The most disruptive demonstrations were in St. Louis and Oakland, California, where protesters flooded the lanes of freeways, milling about stopped cars with their hands raised in the air.

Activists had been planning to protest even before the nighttime announcement that Officer Darren Wilson will not be charged in the shooting death of Michael Brown.

The racially charged case in Ferguson has inflamed tensions and reignited debates over police-community relations even in cities hundreds of miles from the predominantly black St. Louis suburb. For many staging protests Monday, the shooting was personal, calling to mind other galvanizing encounters with local law enforcement.

Ferguson case latest police shooting to not result in an indictment; officers have latitude

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Missouri grand jury's decision to spare police officer Darren Wilson from criminal charges makes his case the latest in a long line of police shootings that show the latitude that the law and the courts give law enforcement in using deadly force.

The question for the panel that decided the case was never whether Wilson fatally shot 18-year-old Michael Brown, but rather whether the Aug. 9 killing constituted a crime. In declining to indict Wilson,

the grand jury reached a conclusion that is far more the norm than the exception.

"For a cop to be indicted and especially to be convicted later of a crime in these kinds of situations is very, very unusual," said Chuck Drago, a police practices consultant and former police chief in Oviedo, Florida.

States and police departments have developed their own policies that generally permit officers to use force when they reasonably fear imminent physical harm. The Supreme Court shaped the national standard in a 1989 decision that said the use of force must be evaluated through the "perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene" rather than being judged after the fact. That means officers are often given the benefit of the doubt by prosecutors and grand jurors reluctant to second-guess their decisions.

Many of the cases that don't result in charges involve armed suspects shot during confrontations with police. But even an officer who repeatedly shoots an unarmed person, as was the case in Ferguson, may avoid prosecution in cases where he contends he felt at imminent risk.

Hagel departure reflects White House unease, raises prospect of 1st woman to lead Pentagon

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel is resigning at a particularly tough time for U.S. foreign and defense policy, with one war ending, another just beginning and the Pentagon struggling with the prospect of deeper budget cuts ahead.

It also raises the prospect of policy shifts as President Barack Obama seeks to sign up his fourth Pentagon chief in six years.

During a White House ceremony Monday after Hagel had submitted his resignation, Obama said he and Hagel agreed it was an "appropriate time for him to complete his service." Neither the president nor Hagel cited specific reasons for the change. Hagel aides said he had initiated private talks with the president in late October but was not leaving over policy conflicts.

Hagel, 68, never broke through the White House's notoriously insular national security team. Officials privately denigrated his ability to publicly communicate administration policy and more recently questioned his capacity to oversee new military campaigns against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

Hagel is the first high-level member of Obama's national security team to step down after both a disastrous midterm election for the president's party and persistent criticism about the administration's policies in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world. It's unclear whether Hagel's forced resignation signals the start of a broader shake-up of the president's team.

Negotiators fail to reach final deal on Iran's nuclear issues, talks extended until July

VIENNA (AP) — A yearlong effort to seal a nuclear deal with Iran fizzled Monday, leaving the U.S. and its allies little choice but to declare a seven-month extension in hopes that a new deadline will be enough to achieve what a decade of negotiations have failed to do — limit Tehran's ability to make a nuclear weapon.

Pushback from critics in Congress followed almost immediately, with powerful Republicans saying that Iran is merely trying to buy time.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and other Western foreign ministers defended the add-on time as the best way forward. "We would be fools to walk away," Kerry declared.

But a week of tough maneuvering appeared to have achieved little more than agreement to keep on talking. Negotiators will now strive to nail down by March 1 what Iran and the six world powers it is negotiating with must do, and by when. A final agreement is meant to follow four months later.

Members of the new Republican-controlled Congress to be sworn in early next year threatened to impose additional sanctions on Iran and may well have enough votes to overturn an expected veto by President Barack Obama.

Bollywood's female stars rise in stature and crank out hits, but ask: Where is the money?

NEW DELHI (AP) — This is Bollywood's year of the woman. Some of the biggest hits in India's prolific movie industry this year have female leads in female-oriented stories.

In this summer's surprise hit, "Queen," Kangana Ranaut is the spunky heroine who embarks on her honeymoon alone after she is jilted the day before her big fat Indian wedding. In "Mary Kom," Priyanka Chopra plays a female Olympic bronze medal-winning boxer. Previously, women were relegated to playing the male lead's girlfriend, sister or mother in subservient roles reflecting the traditional dominance of men in Indian society.

But for all their box-office success and newfound prominence, Bollywood actresses are asking: Where is the money?

Top male stars, such as the three Khans — Salman, Shah Rukh and Aamir — and action star Akshay Kumar, earn around 400 million rupees (\$6.7 million) per film on average, apart from a share of the profits, according to industry experts.

A-list actresses such as Deepika Padukone and Katrina Kaif get paid a tenth of that per film. When Padukone recently signed a movie deal for 70 million rupees (\$1.1 million), it generated a buzz since it was one of the highest amounts paid to a female lead.

Japan's young fret over uncertain future as herculean stimulus effort fails to halt recession

TOKYO (AP) — When Prime Minister Shinzo Abe responded to Japan's surprise recession by delaying a sales-tax increase, it was a cause for worry, not celebration, for many young Japanese. This generation, barely aware of their country's economic heyday, frets that putting off tough decisions now could make the future even worse.

Despite Abe's unprecedented stimulus efforts — almost everything short of dropping money from helicopters — Japan has slipped into recession less than two years after the last one. With the country's debt rising, population aging and job security fading, young people in particular wonder when, and if, Japan will bounce back.

"This is our children's future," said Mai Yamaguchi, a 29-year-old trading company employee heading into the gaudy Shibuya shopping area for an outing with her 4-month-old son and two other young moms and babies. "Child care, elder care, social welfare are all going to be even bigger burdens for us."

Under pressure to reduce the developed world's heaviest per-capita debt burden, at over a quadrillion yen (\$8.5 trillion), Abe raised the sales tax from 5 percent to 8 percent in April, and was supposed to increase it to 10 percent next year. But after the economy, already fragile after two decades of malaise, shrank for two quarters in a row, he put off the second increase until 2017.

Yamaguchi was unimpressed by that decision. "I'm grateful to Mr. Abe for his policies to improve child

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care, but putting off the tax increase, well, they say the pension system is on the verge of bankruptcy. I think it would have been better to go ahead and raise the tax as planned," she said.

Google acquires utensil device that eases mealtime for people whose hands shake

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP) — Just in time for the holidays, Google is throwing its money, brain power and technology at the humble spoon.

Of course these spoons (don't call them spooles) are a bit more than your basic utensil: Using hundreds of algorithms, they allow people with essential tremors and Parkinson's Disease to eat without spilling.

The technology senses how a hand is shaking and makes instant adjustments to stay balanced. In clinical trials, the Liftware spoons reduced shaking of the spoon bowl by an average of 76 percent.

"We want to help people in their daily lives today and hopefully increase understanding of disease in the long run," said Google spokesperson Katelin Jabbari.

Other adaptive devices have been developed to help people with tremors — rocker knives, weighted utensils, pen grips. But until now, experts say, technology has not been used in this way.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 25, the 329th day of 2014. There are 36 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Nov. 25, 1984, William Schroeder (SHRAY'-dur) of Jasper, Indiana, became the second man to receive a Jarvik-7 artificial heart, at Humana Hospital Audubon in Kentucky. (Schroeder lived 620 days on the device.) The Ethiopian famine relief song "Do They Know It's Christmas?" was recorded in London by the charity supergroup Band Aid.

On this date:

In 1783, the British evacuated New York, their last military position in the United States during the Revolutionary War.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Confederate agents set a series of arson fires in New York; the blazes were quickly extinguished.

In 1908, the first issue of The Christian Science Monitor was published.

In 1914, baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio was born in Martinez, California.

In 1920, radio station WTAW of College Station, Texas, broadcast the first play-by-play description of a football game, between Texas University and the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. (Texas won, 7-3.)

In 1944, baseball commissioner Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis died at age 78.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower suffered a slight stroke.

In 1963, the body of President John F. Kennedy was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery; his widow, Jacqueline, lighted an "eternal flame" at the gravesite.

In 1974, former U.N. Secretary-General U Thant (oo thahnt) died in New York at age 65.

In 1986, the Iran-Contra affair erupted as President Ronald Reagan and Attorney General Edwin Meese revealed that profits from secret arms sales to Iran had been diverted to Nicaraguan rebels.

In 1999, 5-year-old Elian Gonzalez was rescued by a pair of sport fishermen off the coast of Florida,

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setting off an international custody battle.

In 2002, President George W. Bush signed legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security, and appointed Tom Ridge to be its head.

Ten years ago: Leading Sunni Muslim politicians in Iraq urged postponement of the January 30, 2005 national elections (however, the elections ended up taking place as scheduled). A man with a knife broke into a high school dormitory in Ruzhou, China, killing nine boys as they slept. (Chinese authorities later executed a 21-year-old man who confessed to the attack.)

Five years ago: Toyota said it would replace the gas pedals on 4 million vehicles in the United States because the pedals could get stuck in the floor mats and cause sudden acceleration.

One year ago: Pushing back against critics, President Barack Obama forcefully defended the temporary agreement to freeze Iran's disputed nuclear program, declaring that the United States "cannot close the door on diplomacy." Prosecutors closed their yearlong investigation into the shooting rampage at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, that claimed the lives of 26 victims; their report said the motive of gunman Adam Lanza, who also killed his mother and himself, might never be known.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Noel Neill is 94. Playwright Murray Schisgal is 88. Actress Kathryn Crosby is 81. Actor Matt Clark is 78. Actor Christopher Riordan is 77. Singer Percy Sledge is 74. Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Joe Gibbs is 74. Singer Bob Lind is 72. Author, actor and economist Ben Stein is 70. Actor John Larroquette is 67. Actor Tracey Walter is 67. Movie director Jonathan Kaplan is 67. Author Charlaine Harris is 63. Retired MLB All-Star Bucky Dent is 63. Dance judge Bruno Tonioli (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 59. Singer Amy Grant is 54. Former NFL quarterback Bernie Kosar is 51. Rock musician Eric Grossman (K's Choice) is 50. Rock singer Mark Lanegan is 50. Rock singer-musician Tim Armstrong is 49. Actor Steve Harris is 49. Actor Billy Burke is 48. Singer Stacy Lattisaw is 48. Rock musician Rodney Sheppard (Sugar Ray) is 48. Rapper-producer Erick Sermon is 46. Actress Jill Hennessy is 45. Actress Christina Applegate is 43. Actor Eddie Steeples is 41. Actress Kristian Nairn is 39. Former NFL quarterback Donovan McNabb is 38. Actor Jerry Ferrara is 35. Actor Joel Kinnaman is 35. Actress Valerie Azlynn is 34. Former first daughter Jenna Bush Hager is 33. Former first daughter Barbara Pierce Bush is 33. Actress Katie Cassidy is 28. Contemporary Christian singer Jamie Grace is 23.

Thought for Today: "The great man is he who does not lose his child's heart." - Mencius, Chinese philosopher (371 B.C.-289 B.C.).