

Groton Daily Independent

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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



\$5 BUCK LUNCH

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H
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R
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C
E

- 2 Crispy Chicken Wraps
- Bacon Cheeseburger
- Chili Cheese Dog
- 3-Piece Chicken Strip

+ Fries + Drink + Dessert

US 12, Groton ~ 605-397-8627

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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A regular paper route delivery time was extended this morning as the Northern Lights were in their splendor. At first, there were just a couple of streaks in the sky, then all of a sudden, there were many streaks of lights showing the Northern Lights. I had to stop my paper route and go home to the girls. We had this discussion at one other time and I had asked them if they wanted me to wake them up if the Northern Lights were out.

So I got home and awoke the girls to, "Do you want to see the Northern Lights?" They quickly awoke and got into the Pathfinder. We went out on Fifth Avenue West to escape the city lights and watched the Northern Lights move from one part of the sky to another. Then they pretty much disappeared, so I went out to the Olson Development to deliver the paper

out there. Much to our surprise, the lights were shining in the southwestern sky, so we watched them for a bit. The light show then went into a pause and I took the girls back home so I could finish the paper route.

At one point I looked up and the northwest sky was filled with the Northern Lights. I met Dick Seurer at the door as his outdoor garage light came on. I told him if he turned the lights off, he could see the Northern Lights, which he did. They were quite visible even in town.

The only thing about the Northern Lights here is that they are not as glamorous as they would be in the further northern locations. You don't get to see the variety of colors unless they are super strong, which rarely happens. You would need a good solar storm for the Northern Lights to be amazing in this part of the world. I have seen one of them about five years ago.

I think the girls were pretty excited to see them this morning. Not many people get to see the Northern Lights. The last time we were supposed to have a great display we had a full moon that spoiled the fun.

I actually took the whole week off of city work. Today is the third day. I have a list of many things to get done, but don't seem to be progressing as fast as I would like. This morning I seem to be on a lazy spell, but once I get the GDI out, I should be able to get into full steam ahead. I have a toilet that needs to be fixed. I got my parts for my snowblower so I should be going. I spent most of yesterday getting my bills printed, organized and most of them sent out.

Our old router kept dropping my internet connection. I got an Apple Time Capsule that has storage and is a router. We got that going yesterday and it seems to be working great.

All in all, it's been a great week and it's a time to be thankful for everything you have in your life.

We had planned to go to Pierre today to see the Christmas trees and decorations in the Capital building, but the roads were not good this morning. We hope to make the journey on Friday.

Fire Marshal: Holidays Bring Higher Risk of Home Fires

PIERRE, S.D. – Thanksgiving Day begins a month-long holiday season, and Fire Marshal Paul Merriman urges South Dakotans to celebrate the season but be aware of the added potential for fires.

On Thanksgiving Day, the threat of fires in the kitchen triples. The holiday season means more cooking, Christmas trees in homes, holiday lighting and decorative candles, Merriman said. Each of those things is a potential fire risk.

“The holiday season creates many opportunities for families to spend time together,” he said. “The glow of candles and scent of live Christmas trees creates a wonderful holiday season. But if not handled properly, they can be fire hazards. We don’t want anyone’s family holiday ruined by a home fire.”

The National Fire Prevention Association’s theme this year was Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives. “It’s important to have working smoke alarms in your home,” Merriman said. “Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries.”

Additionally, the holiday season means more cooking which leads to increased fire risk in the kitchen.

The potential for a cooking fire can be reduced by:

Wearing clothing with tight-fitting sleeves when you cook.

Keeping potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels and anything else that can burn, away from your stovetop.

Turning off burners if you leave the kitchen.

Cleaning up food and grease from burners and stovetops.

Safety tips to reduce the risk of other holiday-related home fires include:

If you have a natural tree in your home, check the amount of water in the stand each day. A fresh tree can take in up to a quart of water a day.

Place the tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces and heaters, and don’t place it in an exit path.

Never use candles on or near a tree. Make sure the lights you use are UL listed and neither frayed nor damaged.

Don’t use outdoor lights indoors or indoor lights outdoors.

Don’t overload electrical circuits. Use approved circuit strips, and turn off all Christmas lights before leaving the home or retiring for the evening.

Put lit candles in glass safety globes, and keep lit candles away from drafty windows and doorways.

Avoid the temptation to burn cardboard boxes or holiday wrapping paper in a fireplace. Those materials burn at very high temperatures and not all fireplaces are suited to burn those materials.

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

Lazy Farmers 4-H Meetings

The October 5th meeting of the Lazy Farmers took place at the Granary Rural Cultural Center. This meeting was called to order by our former president, Hannah Webb. Jayla Jones led the 4-H pledge and Makayla Jones led the U.S. pledge. The secretary's report was read by Hannah Webb and the treasurer's report was read by Kari Hanson. We also elected new officers,. Our new officers are the following: President- Keri Hanson, Vice President- Brody Sombke, Secretary- Makayla Jones, Treasurer- Portia Kettering, and Reporter- Cassandra Townsend. This meeting host were the Jones family. There were no talks or demonstrations given. Prior to the meeting we toured the Granary Rural Cultural Center. The clubs next meeting will take place November 9th at 12:00 at the Ramada before the recognition event. Submitted by Cassandra Townsend

The November 9th meeting of the Lazy Farmers took place at the Ramada in Aberdeen. This meeting was called to order by the vice president, Brody Sombke. Brody Sombke led the U.S. pledge and Lane Kruger led the 4-h pledge. The secretary's report was read by Makayla Jones. The club photographer was also elected. Tessa Erdman is the new photographer. This meeting hosts was the club. The next meeting will take place on December 7th at 4:00 at the Jungle Lanes.

Submitted by Cassandra Townsend

A Harvest of Thanks



The crew of Harry Implement have been blessed by your patronage and we give a big THANKS to you all. We're a big company in a small town with a big  to serve you!

*Bountiful Blessings
at Thanksgiving*

Harry Implement
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421



Ferney



Blood Drive nets 44 units

Blood drive coordinator, Kathy Sundermeyer has sponsored an excellent blood drive that was held in Groton on November 20th. Forty-three people volunteered to donate blood and 34 were able to give.

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.**

Ten people gave blood on the automated 2RBC machine which collects two units of red blood cells during the donation, so a total of 44 products were collected.

According to Fern Elofson, Donor Recruitment Representative for United Blood Services, "Communities like Groton make a regional blood program work. People volunteer to donate when there has been a well organized campaign, informing the public of the need for blood."

Others who assisted were: Rose Locke and Sherry McKiver. Space to hold the drive was provided by the American Legion.

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

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

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! 120 S Main St. • 298-5252



Today in Weather History

1989: Snow began falling in western South Dakota during the early evening of the 26th and swept across the state and into west central Minnesota that night and through much of the 27th. Almost two feet of snow fell in parts of the Black Hills, while one to two inches fell in the southeast part of South Dakota. Icy roads caused by rain that preceded the snow in central and eastern parts of the state combined with strong northerly winds on the 27th to make for dangerous traveling conditions. Numerous accidents were reported, and many cars went into ditches. Some of the heavier snow amounts in central, north central, and northeast South Dakota were reported at Leola with 6 inches; Mellette and Onida with 5 inches; and Eureka, Faulkton and Aberdeen with 4 inches.

1989: Freezing rain was widespread across eastern South Dakota. The area receiving the most freezing rain was across the northeast corner of the state between Aberdeen and Sisseton. Ice-covered roads in Aberdeen caused at least one traffic accident with one report of an injury.

2001: Heavy snow of 6 to 12 inches, along with strong north winds of 20 to 40 mph, caused near-blizzard conditions and difficult travel conditions across most of central and northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Snowfall amounts were generally 6 to 12 inches in South Dakota and 10 to 14 inches in west central Minnesota. Most schools were closed or started late on both the 26th and 27th, and some businesses were also closed. Many flights were also delayed or canceled. Some snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Eagle Butte, Fort Thompson and Webster; 7 inches at Eureka, Onida, Doland, and Watertown; 8 inches at Highmore, Miller, Onaka, Castlewood, and Selby; 9 inches at Sisseton and Peever; 10 inches at Ortonville, Faulkton, Blunt, Murdo, Kennebec, and Stephan; 11 inches at Victor and Gettysburg; 12 inches at Milbank, White Rock, and Clear Lake; 13 inches at Wheaton; and 14 inches at Browns Valley.

2001: Hurricane Olga reached hurricane status and became the 3rd named storm in November; a record for the month.

2007: Today's football game between Pittsburgh and Miami was a low scoring game. The Steelers won 3 to 0 in the last 17 seconds. The low score was caused by muddy conditions brought on by a day-long rain and lightning delay.

1888 - A late season hurricane brushed the East Coast with heavy rain and gale force winds. The hurricane passed inside Nantucket and over Cape Cod, then crossed Nova Scotia. (David Ludlum)

1896 - Snow and high winds hit the Northern Plains and the Upper Mississippi Valley, with a Thanksgiving Day blizzard across North Dakota. The storm was followed by a severe cold wave in the Upper Midwest. The temperature at Pokegama Dam MI plunged to 45 degrees below zero. (David Ludlum)








1987 - A Thanksgiving Day storm in the northeastern U.S. produced heavy snow in northern New England and upstate New York. Snowfall totals in Maine ranged up to twenty inches at Flagstaff Lake. Totals in New Hampshire ranged up to 18 inches at Errol. Gales lashed the coast of Maine and New Hampshire. A second storm, over the Southern and Central Rockies, produced nine inches of snow at Kanosh UT, and 13 inches at Divide CO, with five inches reported at Denver CO. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Central Gulf Coast States during the late morning and afternoon hours. Five tornadoes were reported in Mississippi, with the tornadoes causing a million dollars damage at Ruleville, and in Warren County. In Utah, the town of Alta was blanketed with 15 inches of snow overnight, and during the day was buried under another 16.5 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A massive storm over the western U.S. produced heavy snow in Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. The storm produced more than two feet of snow in the higher elevations of northern and central Utah, bringing more than sixty inches of snow to the Alta Ski Resort in the Wasatch Mountains. Winds in Utah gusted to 60 mph at Bullfrog. The storm brought much needed snow to the ski resorts of Colorado, with 19 inches reported at Beaver Creek. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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TODAY	TONIGHT	THANKSGIVING DAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY
						
Cloudy High: 11 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: -8 °F	Slight Chc Snow High: 15 °F	Slight Chc Snow Low: 15 °F	Partly Sunny High: 32 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 18 °F	Partly Sunny High: 26 °F



Bitter Cold Today and Thanksgiving Day

weather.gov/Aberdeen



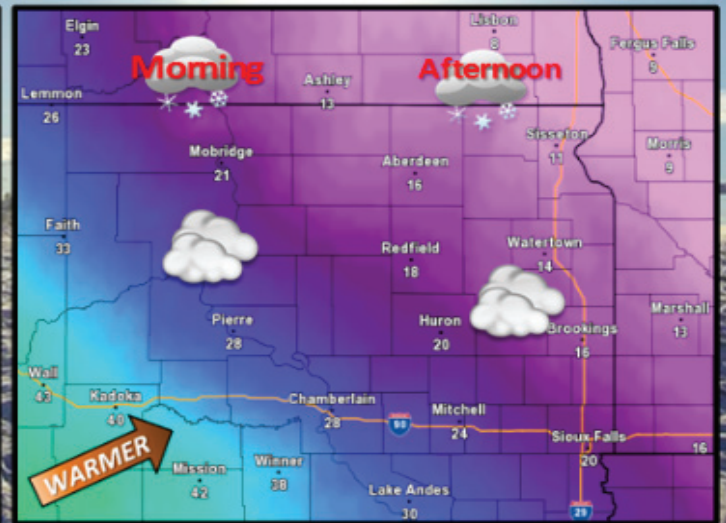
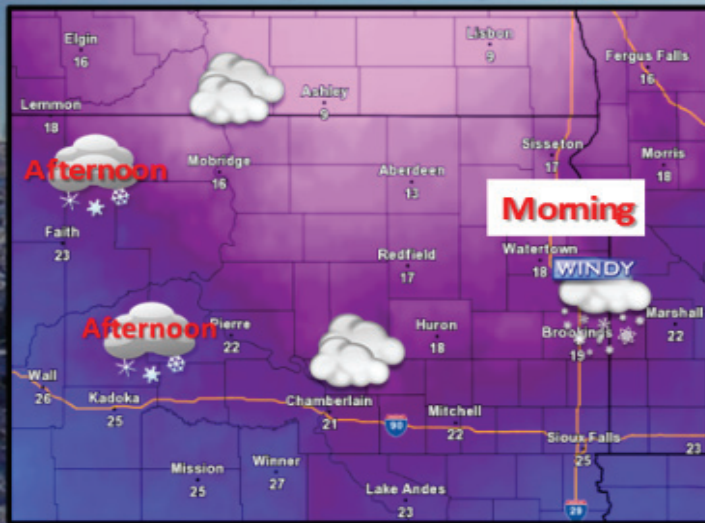
National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Highs Today

Thanksgiving Day



Areas of snow and blowing snow will continue through mid-morning across far eastern South Dakota. An area of high pressure will move across the region later this afternoon and tonight. This high pressure will bring light winds and much colder air to the region through Thanksgiving Day. Highs today will likely occur this morning with temperatures falling in the afternoon. Lows tonight will range from the teens below zero across north central North Dakota, to the lower 20s across southwestern South Dakota. Highs on Thanksgiving Day will range from the teens in northeastern South Dakota, to the 40s over southwestern South Dakota.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 33.1°F at 3:30 PM

Low: 5.3°F at 12:05 AM

High Gust: 16 mph at 11:27 AM

Precip: 2.5 inches of snow. 0.20 of moisture

Today's Info

Record High: 70° in 1914

Record Low: -24° in 1996

Average High: 33°F

Average Low: 14°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.64

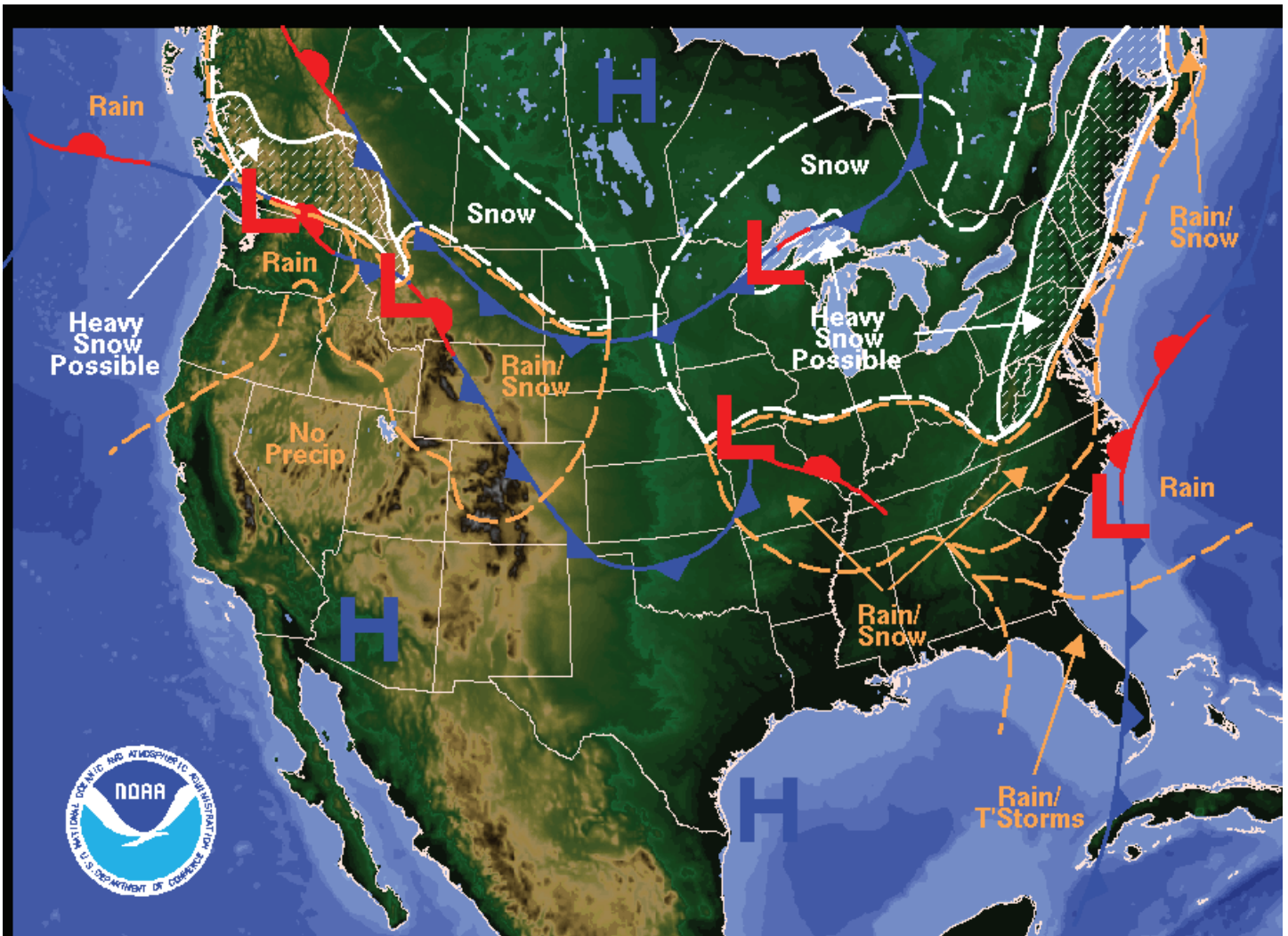
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.56

Average Precip to date: 21.11

Precip Year to Date: 13.79

Sunset Tonight: 4:55 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:48 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Nov 26, 2014, issued 3:38 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



"YOU NEED TO CHANGE HER NAME!"

"Larry," says Bruce every time he sees me with my dog, "you need to change her name to 'Lucky.' I can't imagine anyone who would take better care of that dog than you. It's plain to me she's not Bella. She's 'Lucky' - really lucky she found you." Here's what happened...

One dark, stormy, cold, foggy night I opened the door to our carport. Sensing something at my foot, I looked down. There, looking up at me, was a small dog wagging her tail and wiggling all over as if to say, "I'm home!"

For weeks Mary and I searched for her owners but were unsuccessful. Then, we tried to find her another home. That didn't work either. Every time we gave her away, she eventually came back. So, we decided to keep her and named her "Bella," which means "beautiful."

When reading through Proverbs several months ago, I noticed a verse that had never registered in my mind: "The righteous care for the needs of their animals." Please understand that I am not claiming to be righteous, nor elevating animals to the level of humans. But notice this:

A distinct contrast is made by the author between a person who is righteous and one who is not: the one who is righteous has a gentleness that the wicked do not have. And, if one is truly righteous, it becomes obvious: if we as believers willingly give our hearts completely to God, He will remove every trace of "cruelty." He will control us and bless us and enable us to demonstrate how much we value every gift He gives us - even animals. We expose who we truly are by the way we care for each gift God gives us.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, implant within us a gentle, gracious and loving heart. May we respect all of Your gifts. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 12:10 The righteous care for the needs of their animals, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.

News from the Associated Press

State Supreme Court rejects Taliaferro appeal

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court says a circuit court doesn't have the authority to expunge two dismissed charges against a former deputy state's attorney.

Justices say in an opinion released Wednesday that the circuit court was correct to conclude that it couldn't expunge the charges against Aberdeen attorney Brandon Taliaferro, who was accused in a case in which prosecutors said a sexual abuse victim was influenced to give false testimony. Two of the charges were dismissed, while Taliaferro was acquitted of the remaining five charges.

When Taliaferro attempted to expunge the seven charges, the court removed only the five for which he was acquitted, and Taliaferro appealed.

Justices say the law is clear and it would require legislative revision for the dismissed charges to be cleared from Taliaferro's record.

Many roads in Dakotas in poor driving condition

BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — An Alberta clipper that passed through the region left many highways in North Dakota and eastern South Dakota slick on Wednesday, but Thanksgiving holiday travelers were braving the poor conditions.

"We've got quite a few coming through, and truckers getting to their destination so they can stay home for the holiday," said Donna Schmidt, who works at Stone's Truck Stop in Watertown, South Dakota.

A winter weather advisory posted by the National Weather Service lingered into early Wednesday in the northeast part of the state, as an inch or two of new snow and strong winds combined to reduce visibilities for motorists.

"You're going to find some spots where it's a little blustery and you can't see very good," Schmidt said. "But then you go a little bit and it's OK."

A travel alert posted by state Transportation Department officials remained in effect for central North Dakota early Wednesday. Motorists could still travel but were cautioned to beware of the poor conditions.

The system that passed through Tuesday and early Wednesday dumped 2-5 inches of snow throughout the two states.

Authorities responded to more than 50 vehicle accidents in the Bismarck-Mandan area late Tuesday. One head-on collision involving a semitrailer and a car on an icy state Highway 6 led to the closure of the road south of Mandan, near St. Anthony, for nearly two hours. Two people from Meadow, South Dakota, were taken to a hospital with unspecified injuries, according to the Highway Patrol.

Also, several vehicles slid into the ditch late Tuesday off Interstate 94 in the Jamestown area in southeastern North Dakota.

More snow is possible on Thanksgiving throughout North Dakota and in northern South Dakota, as Pacific air pushes over the Rockies and into the region, according to National Weather Service meteorologist Adam Jones. No heavy amounts are expected.

Black Friday shoppers could see light snow and possibly some freezing rain in southwest North Dakota, but temperatures in both states should be relatively balmy for those snatching up holiday deals.

The forecast calls for high temperatures in the teens, 20s and 30s in North Dakota and in the 30s, 40s and 50s in South Dakota.

A blast of arctic air is expected over the weekend, but holiday travelers returning home Sunday should have good conditions.

"It will be cold, but we're not expecting any major snowstorm," Jones said.

Nearly 2 dozen Alco stores closing in the Dakotas

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The closing of Alco stores around the central U.S. affects nearly two dozen communities in the Dakotas.

The Texas-based small-town discount retailer is closing after a U.S. Bankruptcy court in Dallas recently approved an order by the company's creditors to shutter its stores.

The company was established in 1901 and grew to operate 198 stores in 23 states, selling home furnishings, outdoor products, electronics, sporting goods and clothing.

In the Dakotas, Alco stores have operated in smaller cities, many of which do not have other large retailers.

"It's a stinky deal," said Rachel Heezen, deputy finance officer for the South Dakota city of Miller, which has about 1,500 residents.

Store manager Cassie Olson told the Capital Journal that she's heard from disappointed customers.

"Customers have been coming in to ask me about it," Olson said. "Then they buy stuff and enjoy the sale we have going on. But a lot of people are sad that we are closing."

Lead Mayor Jerry Apa said the closing of the western South Dakota town's Alco store is a "tremendous blow."

"I think the biggest blow will be to the 14 employees who work there," he told the Rapid City Journal.

Alco has North Dakota stores in Bowman, Carrington, Grafton, Hazen, Hettinger, Langdon, Lisbon, Mayville, New Town, Oakes, Rolla, Tioga and Watford City. South Dakota stores are in Chamberlain, Flandreau, Lead, Milbank, Miller, Mobridge, Redfield, Sisseton, Wagner and Webster.

Bold shoplifters hit Best Buy store in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police are searching for three people they say walked into a Best Buy store and boldly shoplifted \$8,600 worth of cameras.

Authorities say the man and two women entered the store Monday afternoon, put the cameras in duffel bags and shouldered their way past an employee who tried to stop them from leaving the store. They fled in a vehicle.

Police spokeswoman Tarah Heupel (HY'-puhl) says the thieves might be part of a traveling ring passing through the area.

Authorities investigate Sioux Falls woman's death

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police in Sioux Falls are investigating the death of a woman who was found in her apartment.

Police said Tuesday they initially classified the 39-year-old woman's case as an unattended death after finding her body Monday. Police spokesman Sam Clemens says detectives called for the investigation after noticing that a few things were out of place. He didn't specify what seemed out of the ordinary.

The Minnehaha County Coroner is conducting an autopsy to determine if her death was a homicide.

The woman's name hasn't been released.

Pierre chooses Aerodynamics Inc. for air service

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A regional airline based in Ohio is the choice of city leaders in Pierre to provide air service to South Dakota's capital city.

The Pierre City Commission on Tuesday voted to recommend Aerodynamics Inc. of Beachwood, Ohio, to provide flights through the Essential Air Service federal subsidy program.

The federal Transportation Department will make the final decision. Mayor Laurie Gill expects it by the end of the year.

Airport Manager Mike Isaacs says Aerodynamics Inc. would offer 12 flights per week to and from Denver, with a stop in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

Aerodynamics Inc., Boutique Air of San Francisco and Great Lakes Aviation of Cheyenne, Wyoming, submitted proposals to serve Pierre. Great Lakes currently provides flights from Pierre to Minneapolis and Denver, but canceled and delayed flights have been a problem.

Deadwood October gambling revenue up over 2013

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Deadwood gambling officials say October revenue has hopped up significantly over last year, when the region was dealing with extreme snowfall.

Figures released on Tuesday show that gambling revenues have increased more than 20 percent over last October, and more than 10 percent over the same month in 2012.

Deadwood Gaming Association Executive Director Mike Rodman says he's pleased with the numbers — especially with the increase over 2012, when Deadwood wasn't dealing with heavy snowfall.

Rodman says table games also are enjoying increased popularity. The state gaming commission is now drafting a measure the Legislature will consider to add three new voter-backed games to Deadwood's offerings: keno, craps and roulette.

4 SD communities to see municipal tax changes

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Four South Dakota communities will soon be implementing municipal tax changes.

The state's Business Tax Division says the communities that will see changes starting Jan. 1 are Veblen, Colome, Hurley and Miller.

Veblen will increase its 1 percent general sales and use tax rate to 2 percent, while Miller is imposing a 1 percent municipal gross receipts tax rate on lodging, eating establishments and alcoholic beverages.

Colome and Hurley will impose a 1 percent municipal gross receipts tax rate on lodging, eating establishments, alcoholic beverages, and ticket sales or admissions to places of amusement, athletic and cultural events.

The changes in Miller, Colome and Hurley are in addition to the 2 percent general sales and use tax rate in each community.

Great Bear has earliest opening in 20-plus years

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

LEAD, S.D. (AP) — Skiers and snowboarders near Sioux Falls are enjoying Great Bear Recreation Park's earliest opening in more than 20 years, while other parks are scheduled to open on time thanks

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in part to cold weather that has helped man-made snow stick around.

Chairlifts at Great Bear started running up limited runs this weekend, and nearly 500 people showed up to ski in the rain on Sunday even though they were able to access only about 35 percent of the park's runs.

General manager Dan Grider said Tuesday that it was the earliest the park has opened since he started in 1992.

Ski Mystic Deer Mountain will start welcoming skiers on Dec. 5 for a short time, with a full opening near Christmas, said Alicia Salas, general manager of the Black Hills park. And nearby Terry Peak Ski Area will open for the weekend of Dec. 6, then open full time on Dec. 13, spokeswoman Linda Derosier said.

Terry Peak expects to see about 100,000 people pass through this season, while Great Bear anticipates about 45,000 people.

All three agreed that the weather has helped. Although this year's blustery November pales in comparison to last year's enormous snowfall, low temperatures have kept man-made snow stuck to the ground.

Salas said she's excited because Ski Mystic Deer Mountain is allowing skiers and snowboarders onto the back side of its mountain this season for about 200 acres of new skiing.

"It's snowing right now, and we're building a base," she said Tuesday. "We get some nice quality champagne snow."

Terry Peak and Great Bear have been able to get in about 10 days of snowmaking so far. Grider said if the cold weather continues, the park should be fully accessible to skiers and snowboarders by Christmas.

Grider acknowledged that he's welcoming the unseasonable early cold.

"Myself, and about a thousand kids in town," he said.

South Dakota man gets 30 years in daughter's death

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man convicted of killing his 2-year-old daughter by punching her in the head has been sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Thirty-six-year-old Mario Contreras was sentenced Tuesday. A jury earlier convicted the Waubay man of murder, manslaughter and assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

Contreras during his sentencing hearing maintained his innocence telling the courtroom that he "didn't do this." Contreras has said his daughter fell off a chair and onto the floor on Jan. 9, 2012, two days before her death at a hospital.

Medical evidence presented at trial showed the girl had 18 contusions to her head.

Judge Lawrence Piersol told Contreras he didn't believe him and called the killing "a horrific offense." Contreras has two weeks to appeal the sentence.

Gov. Dugaard appoints new Supreme Court justice

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Dugaard is set to appoint a new justice to the state's Supreme Court.

Dugaard on Tuesday announced the appointment of Circuit Judge Janine Kern. She will succeed Justice John Konenkamp, who will retire at the end of the year after 20 years on the high court.

Dugaard says Kern is a widely respected judge "known for her rigorous legal mind" and work ethic. Kern, of Rapid City, will be the 49th justice in the history of the South Dakota Supreme Court.

Gov. Bill Janklow appointed Kern in 1996 to the Seventh Judicial Circuit. She's been re-elected without opposition three times and has sat on the Supreme Court as a temporary justice on multiple occasions. The 53-year-old Lake Andes native has a law degree from the University of Minnesota.

Both sides want judge to rule on SD gay marriage

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge presiding over a challenge to South Dakota's gay marriage ban should bypass a trial and rule on the case, the state attorney general's office argued Tuesday.

The office joined six same-sex couples who are suing the state in petitioning for summary judgment in the case. The state also asked in its filing Tuesday that U.S. District Court Judge Karen Schreier reject the challengers' July motion that she rule in their favor.

Minneapolis attorney Josh Neville last May filed the federal lawsuit, which challenges a 1996 state law passed by the Legislature and a voter-approved 2006 constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. The lawsuit argues the state's ban violates equal protection and due process guaranteed in the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said lawmakers and the voters of South Dakota should have the authority to define marriage in the state, not the federal courts.

In mid-November, Schreier rejected the state's motion to dismiss the lawsuit entirely, allowing the case to proceed, though she threw out one piece of Neville's claims.

Neville said Tuesday that the state was late in filing the motion and response, which frustrated the same-sex couples challenging the ban.

"I had plaintiffs up last night that that were crying waiting for this filing," Neville said.

Jackley said confusion over a rule — which would have allowed more time — and the court's order that the response was due on Monday caused the slight delay, calling it "completely irrelevant."

Neville has two weeks to respond to the newest filings, and the case could be ready for consideration near the end of December.

Schreier could deny the motions and move the case to trial, grant either side's motion for summary judgment in whole or in part, or order a hearing.

Jackley said he ultimately believes the issue will be decided by the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals or the U.S. Supreme Court. Neville is confident that the ban will be overturned.

"There will be marriage equality in South Dakota within the next eight months," he said. "One way or the other, it's going to happen."

Correction: Fatal Dog Attack story

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — In a story Nov. 24 about a girl killed by a pack of dogs on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, The Associated Press erroneously identified the girl's uncle as her father. Jayla Rodriguez's father is Julian Rodriguez, not Lyle Pilcher.

SD Gov. Dugaard names interim secretary of health

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Dugaard has named an interim secretary of health. Dugaard on Tuesday announced he has chosen Kim Malsam-Rysdon to assume the position starting in mid-December and until a permanent secretary is named.

Current Secretary of Health Doneen Hollingsworth is scheduled to retire Dec. 12. She's led the Depart-

ment of Health since 1995 and is among the longest-serving cabinet secretaries in state history.

Daugaard's office says Malsam-Rysdon will continue to serve as senior adviser to the governor and as a member of the Governor's Executive Committee.

Malsam-Rysdon previously served as secretary of the Department of Social Services.

Budgeting help available in SD this holiday season

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota shoppers on a tight budget can receive help to better plan their expenses this holiday season.

Financial counselors with Lutheran Social Services in Sioux Falls are offering private sessions and classes on shopping-list planning. The counselors regularly assist residents with their daily budgets, but also offer the special sessions during the holiday season.

The nonprofit group says the lessons are meant to help shoppers prioritize their expenditures and avoid the stress of holiday shopping.

South Dakota corn, sunflower harvests wrapping up

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota farmers are wrapping up the corn and sunflower harvests.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that the sunflower harvest is 86 percent done, slightly behind the average pace. The corn harvest is 96 percent complete, ahead of the average.

Pasture and range conditions in the state are rated 56 percent good to excellent. Stock water supplies are rated 78 percent adequate to surplus.

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. SECURITY REINFORCEMENTS CONTAIN CHAOS IN FERGUSON

The deployment of hundreds of additional National Guardsmen prevented a second night of riots in the Missouri town.

2. PROSECUTOR FACING BLAME OVER FERGUSON CASE

St. Louis County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch is accused of rigging the grand jury process, discounting witness testimony and taking a defensive posture in the case that gained global attention.

3. WHAT SOME THANKSGIVING TRAVELERS WILL FACE

A nor'easter is complicating an already stressful travel day ahead of the holiday in the nation's busy northeast corridor between Boston and Washington.

4. HONG KONG POLICE ARREST KEY PROTEST LEADERS

The future of the pro-democracy movement in the financial hub is uncertain as the government continues to dismantle demonstration sites and detain organizers.

5. HILLARY CLINTON SHOWS LITTLE OF WHAT SHE AND OBAMA AGREE ON

Aside from supporting his immigration reforms, the Democrats' favored presidential hopeful has been mum on many policy issues the president has been vocal about.

6. IRAN'S JEWS APPLAUD ACCEPTING PRESIDENT

After years of facing discrimination, the country's Jewish population finds Rouhani's openness to them heartwarming.

7. NEW YORK'S URBAN JUNGLE OFFERS ONE MORE UNUSUAL PARK

The city's High Line draws tourists from all over the world. Developers are now looking at the Lowline --a project that would occupy a 116-year-old abandoned trolley terminal below the Lower East Side.

8. HOW TO SAVE SOME CASH WHILE HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Many apps like Retale and RedLaser will help you find the cheapest prices and clip some digital coupons this season.

9. WHO IS PLAYING OPEC'S GUESSING GAME

Trying to divine what the cartel's members are up to in the run-up to their Vienna meeting is a high stakes puzzle for analysts and armchair geo-politicians.

10. PRICE TAG KEY TO U.S. BIDS TO HOST 2024 GAMES

Four American cities would like to host the Olympics in 10 years--Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Washington. The main thing the IOC is looking for is a budget that's not too extravagant.

AP News in Brief

Guard reinforcements help contain damage from latest Ferguson protests; Wilson breaks silence

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) — National Guard reinforcements helped contain the latest protests in Ferguson, preventing a second night of the chaos that led to arson and looting after a grand jury decided not to indict the white police officer who killed Michael Brown.

Demonstrators returned Tuesday to the riot-scarred streets. But with hundreds of additional troops standing watch over neighborhoods and businesses, the protests had far less destructive power than the previous night. However, officers still used some tear gas and pepper spray, and demonstrators set a squad car on fire and broke windows at City Hall.

As the tension in Ferguson eased somewhat, officer Darren Wilson broke his long public silence, insisting on national television that he could not have done anything differently in the confrontation with Brown.

The toll from Monday's protests — 12 commercial buildings burned to the ground, plus eight other blazes and a dozen vehicles torched — prompted Missouri governor Jay Nixon to send a large contingent of extra National Guard troops.

The governor ordered the initial force of 700 to be increased to 2,200 in hopes that their presence would help local law enforcement keep order in the St. Louis suburb.

Prosecutor faces renewed criticism over decision to call grand jury in Ferguson shooting

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) — He criticized the media. He talked about witness testimony that didn't match physical evidence. And he did it at night, as a city already on edge waited to learn if a grand jury would indict a white Ferguson police officer in the shooting death of an unarmed black 18-year-old.

St. Louis County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch — whose impartiality has been questioned since soon after Michael Brown was killed by Officer Darren Wilson on Aug. 9 — has come under renewed scrutiny since he appeared before television cameras to announce that the grand jury would not indict Wilson. A defensive McCulloch repeatedly cited what he said were inconsistencies and erroneous witness accounts. He never mentioned that Brown was unarmed.

Attorneys for Brown's family and activists said Tuesday that everything from how evidence was pre-

sented to the grand jury to the way McCulloch delivered the news of its decision bolstered their belief that the outcome was predetermined by McCulloch, who has deep family roots and relationships with police.

"This grand jury decision, we feel, is a reflection of the sentiment of those that presented the evidence," Anthony Gray, an attorney for Brown's family, said at a news conference.

Gray questioned, for example, why prosecutors presented testimony of witnesses who clearly did not see the shootings, rather than make a case for some type of charges. He also said it was unclear how the evidence was presented.

Thousands take to streets across US for second day after Ferguson grand jury decision

People protesting the Ferguson, Missouri, grand jury decision took to the streets in cities across the U.S. for a second day Tuesday, showing that the racially charged case has inflamed tensions thousands of miles from the predominantly black St. Louis suburb.

For many, the shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown by Officer Darren Wilson recalled other troubling encounters with law enforcement. The refrain "hands up, don't shoot" became a rallying cry over police killings nationwide.

Snow, slush and rain in the Northeast could slow millions of Thanksgiving travelers

MINEOLA, N.Y. (AP) — Thanksgiving travelers scrambled to change their plans and beat a storm expected to bring snow, slush and rain to the crowded Washington-to-Boston corridor Wednesday on one of the busiest, most stressful days of the year.

Forecasters said major Northeast cities will probably see moderate to heavy rain most of the day, though New York and other places were also gearing up for several inches of snow.

Higher elevations west of the Interstate 95 corridor could see as much as 6 to 12 inches before the nor'easter exits Wednesday night, meteorologist Andrew Orrison said.

"I always go on Tuesday to try to avoid the Wednesday rush, but it seems like more people are leaving on Tuesday now," said Bill Fraser, a landscaper from Henniker, New Hampshire, who was taking a train from Boston to New Rochelle, New York, to visit his mother for Thanksgiving.

Jenna Bouffard, a New York City public relations executive headed in the opposite direction, changed her bus ticket from Wednesday to Tuesday.

Hong Kong police arrest student leaders, clear 1 of 3 pro-democracy protest sites

HONG KONG (AP) — Police arrested key student leaders of Hong Kong's pro-democracy protests on Wednesday as they cleared barricades in one volatile district, throwing into doubt the future of a 2-month-old movement seeking free elections in the former British colony.

In the second day of the operation to clear one of three protest zones, police in helmets swiftly removed metal barricades, tents, canopies and other obstructions in Mong Kok, a crowded, blue-collar neighborhood that has been the flash point of earlier clashes.

Many protesters scattered, but a handful faced off briefly against dozens of police on a side street,

determined to await supporters that they expected to join them in the evening after getting off school or work.

Mong Kok has been home to a more raucous and aggressive group of protesters than at the two other sites around the city. Previous efforts to clear the area have backfired, sending more people into the streets in the evening to confront police.

Police spokesman Steve Hui said a total of 148 people were arrested, including 55 for contempt of court and obstructing officers carrying out the court-ordered barricade removals over two days. In chaotic pepper spray-fueled clashes that ensued after Tuesday's barricade removal, police arrested 93 more for resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, unlawful assembly and possessing offensive weapons.

US scientist's rickshaw-borne research shows New Delhi commuters inhaling extreme pollution

NEW DELHI (AP) — The three-wheeled rickshaw lurched through New Delhi's commuter-clogged streets with an American scientist and several air pollution monitors in the back seat. Car horns blared. A scrappy scooter buzzed by belching black smoke from its tailpipe. One of the monitors spiked.

Joshua Apte has alarming findings for anyone who spends time on or near the roads in this city of 25 million. The numbers are far worse than the ones that have already led the World Health Organization to rank New Delhi as the world's most polluted city.

Average pollution levels, depending on the pollutant, were 50 percent to 8 times higher on the road than urban background readings, according to research by Apte and his partners at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Indian Institute of Technology in New Delhi.

"And you have to keep in mind that the concentrations at urban background sites, where these official monitors are, are already very high," he said. The measures "are actually some of the highest levels in air pollution made inside vehicles anywhere in the world."

The point is particularly important for New Delhi residents, about half of whom live within 300 meters (330 yards) of a major road. New Delhi, like most cities, places their air monitors far from primary pollution sources like highways or industrial plants so that no single source can affect ambient readings, which are meant to represent an average pollution exposure from all sources.

Return of the Pilgrims: British businesses make sure Americans gobble it up in style

LONDON (AP) — Plump turkeys in butcher shop windows. Harvest displays of pumpkin and corn. Sandwich boards describing groaning feasts.

Thanksgiving isn't a holiday in Britain, but you might be forgiven for being fooled. It's not hard to find someone to talk turkey, never mind sell you one. That's because there are so many Americans in Britain these days that dozens of businesses have started selling the goods they need to celebrate.

Greg Klaes, a Detroit native who used to teach science on U.S. military base schools, started growing pumpkins 30 years ago so his students could carve Halloween jack-o-lanterns. This year, his Oxfordshire farm is selling 600 kilograms (1,322 pounds) a week, filling harvest decorations and pumpkin pies.

"I believe firmly that there's a real integration of the societies," he said. "There's a lot of Americans and a lot of people want to share their cultures."

Klaes is one of some 200,000 U.K. residents who were born in the U.S., according to census data. That's 26 percent more than in 2001. In Kensington and Chelsea, an upscale London borough that is

home to many bankers and celebrities, U.S.-born residents make up 5 percent of the population.

In Iran, Mideast's largest Jewish population outside Israel finds new acceptance by officials

YAZD, Iran (AP) — More than a thousand people trekked across Iran this past week to visit a shrine in this ancient Persian city, a pilgrimage like many others in the Islamic Republic — until you notice men there wearing yarmulkes.

Iran, a home for Jews for more than 3,000 years, has the Middle East's largest Jewish population outside of Israel, a perennial foe of the country. But while Iran's Jews in recent years had their faith continually criticized by the country's previous governments, they've found new acceptance under moderate President Hassan Rouhani.

"The government has listened to our grievances and requests. That we are being consulted is an important step forward," said Homayoun Samiah, leader of the Tehran Jewish Association. "Under former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, nobody was listening to us. Our requests fell on deaf ears."

Most of Iran's 77 million people are Shiite Muslims and its ruling establishment is led by hard-line clerics who preach a strict version of Islam. Many Jews fled the country after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Jews linked to Israel afterward were targeted. Today, estimates suggest some 20,000 Jews remain in the country.

Tensions grew under Ahmadinejad, who repeatedly called the Holocaust "a myth" and even sponsored an international conference in 2006 to debate whether the World War II genocide of Jews took place. Vice President Mohammad Reza Rahimi once accused Jews as whole of being drug dealers.

Gun sales slip through as Black Friday shopping burdens the nation's background check system

BRIDGEPORT, W.Va. (AP) — Black Friday isn't just when shoppers rush to stores for holiday sales. It's also one of the busiest days of the year for gun purchases.

In the U.S., there are nine guns for every 10 people. Someone is killed with a firearm every 16 minutes. And every minute, gun shops make about 40 new requests for criminal background checks on people wanting weapons.

On Black Friday, the rush accelerates to nearly two checks a second, testing the limits of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

"We have a perfect storm coming," says Kimberly Del Greco, a manager in the FBI division that helps run the system, known as NICS.

Much of the responsibility for preventing criminals and the mentally ill from buying guns is shouldered by about 500 men and women who run the system from inside the FBI's criminal justice center, a gray office building with concrete walls and mirrored windows just outside Bridgeport, West Virginia.

How many calories in a tub of popcorn? New rules require calorie count for many prepared foods

WASHINGTON (AP) — Diners will soon know how many calories are in that bacon cheeseburger at a chain restaurant, the pasta salad in the supermarket salad bar and even that buttery tub of popcorn at the movie theater.

Groton Daily Independent

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The Food and Drug Administration announced long-delayed calorie labeling rules Tuesday, requiring establishments that sell prepared foods and have 20 or more locations to post the calorie content of food and beverages "clearly and conspicuously" on their menus, menu boards and displays. Companies have until a year from now to comply.

"Americans eat and drink about one-third of their calories away from home, and people today expect clear information about the products they consume," FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg said.

WHERE YOU'LL SEE THE LABELS

Calorie content will appear on menus and menu boards in chain restaurants, bakeries, coffee shops, pizza delivery stores, movie theaters, amusement parks and any other locations that are part of a larger chain and serve prepared foods. They will also apply to some prepared foods in supermarkets and convenience stores.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 26, the 330th day of 2014. There are 35 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 26, 1864, English mathematician and writer Charles Dodgson presented a handwritten and illustrated manuscript, "Alice's Adventures Under Ground," to his 12-year-old friend Alice Pleasance Liddell; the book was later revised and turned into "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland."

On this date:

In 1789, this was a day of thanksgiving set aside by President George Washington to observe the adoption of the Constitution of the United States.

In 1825, the first college social fraternity, the Kappa Alpha Society, was formed at Union College in Schenectady, New York.

In 1842, the founders of the University of Notre Dame arrived at the school's present-day site near South Bend, Indiana.

In 1933, a judge in New York ruled the James Joyce book "Ulysses" was not obscene and could be published in the United States.

In 1941, a Japanese naval task force consisting of six aircraft carriers left the Kuril Islands, headed toward Hawaii.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered nationwide gasoline rationing, beginning Dec. 1. The motion picture "Casablanca," starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, had its world premiere at the Hollywood Theater in New York.

In 1950, China entered the Korean War, launching a counteroffensive against soldiers from the United Nations, the U.S. and South Korea.

In 1965, France launched its first satellite, sending a 92-pound capsule into orbit.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon's personal secretary, Rose Mary Woods, told a federal court that she'd accidentally caused part of the 18-1/2-minute gap in a key Watergate tape.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan appointed a commission headed by former Senator John Tower to investigate his National Security Council staff in the wake of the Iran-Contra affair.

In 1989, "America's Funniest Home Videos" debuted as a special on ABC-TV; it later became a successful regular series.

In 1992, the British government announced that Queen Elizabeth II had volunteered to start paying taxes on her personal income, and would take her children off the public payroll.

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Ten years ago: Leading Iraqi politicians called for a six-month delay in the Jan. 30, 2005, election because of spiraling violence; President George W. Bush said, "The Iraqi Election Commission has scheduled elections in January, and I would hope they'd go forward in January." (The vote took place as scheduled.) French movie director Philippe de Broca ("King of Hearts") died at age 71.

Five years ago: An investigation ordered by Ireland's government found that Roman Catholic Church leaders in Dublin had spent decades sheltering child-abusing priests from the law and that most fellow clerics had turned a blind eye. John Jones, a 26-year-old medical student stuck upside-down in a cave in Utah for more than a day, died despite the efforts of dozens of rescuers to extract him.

One year ago: The U.S. flew two B-52 bombers over the East China Sea, defying Beijing's move to assert greater military control over the area's disputed islands. Pope Francis denounced the global financial system that excluded the poor as he issued the mission statement for his papacy. Actress-singer Jane Kean, 90, best known for playing Trixie in a musicalized revival of "The Honeymooners" on "The Jackie Gleason Show," died in Burbank, California. Actor Tony Musante, 77, who'd starred in the ABC series "Toma" in the 1970s, died in New York.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Ellen Albertini Dow is 101. Impressionist Rich Little is 76. Singer Tina Turner is 75. Singer Jean Terrell is 70. Pop musician John McVie is 69. Actress Marianne Muellerleile is 66. Actor Scott Jacoby is 58. Actress Jamie Rose is 55. Country singer Linda Davis is 52. Actor Scott Adsit is 49. Blues singer-musician Bernard Allison is 49. Country singer-musician Steve Grisaffe is 49. Actress Kristin Bauer is 41. Actor Peter Facinelli is 41. Actress Tammy Lynn Michaels Etheridge is 40. Actress Maia (MY'-ah) Campbell is 38. Country singer Joe Nichols is 38. Contemporary Christian musicians Anthony and Randy Armstrong (Red) are 36. Actress Jessica Bowman is 34. Pop singer Natasha Bedingfield is 33. Country singer-musician Mike Gossin (Gloriana Rock) is 30. Ben Wysocki (The Fray) is 30. Singer Lil Fizz is 29. Singer Aubrey Collins is 27.

Thought for Today: "Don't for heaven's sake, be afraid of talking nonsense! But you must pay attention to your nonsense." - Ludwig Wittgenstein, Austrian-born philosopher (1889-1951).