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Thursday, Nov. 27 THANKSGIVING DAY

11:30am to 1:00pm: Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Groton Community Center **Anniversary:** Marty & Ellie Sippel **Birthday:** Christopher Loutsch



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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From Groton Area's **Junior Kindergarten Class**



Easton Weber, parents of Jeremy and parents of Jeremy of Jeremy and Mellis- daughter of Desiree Samantha Weber, Groton. Easton is thankful for family.







Chesney Weber, and Samantha Weber, Groton. Chesney Treyton is thankful for is thankful for turkey.

Treyton Smith, son sa Smith, Claremont. school.

Camille Gonsoir, Craig, Groton. Camille is thankful for Thanksgiving, healthy apples and a mouse in the house.

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Brayden Barrera, his family and friends. grandma.

Ella Kettner, daughson of Beltran and ter of Alex and Ken-Tasha Barrera, Groton. dra Kettner, Groton. Brayden is thankful for Ella is thankful for her



Quinn Cogley, son of Steven and Michele Cogley, Claremont. Quinn is thankful for mom and family.

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



Karson Frohling, son of Jesse and Krissi Frohling, Bath. Karson is thankful for God.

Taryn Thompson, daughter of Mark and June Thompson, Groton. Taryn is thankful for family and her guinea pig.

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Cameron Feist, son of Dannielle Pullan, Groton. Cameron is thankful for mom and dad.

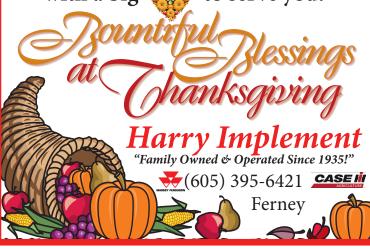
Rylie Rose, daughter of Ian and Karen Rose, Groton. Rylie is thankful for family, Dominios and books.



Sydney Locke, daughter of Matt and Tammy Locke, Groton. Sydney is thankful for family.



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 i to serve you!





Owen Sperry, son of Ryan and Amanda son of Andries and Sperry, Aberdeen. Judi Myburgh, Colum-Owen is thankful for bia. Damion is thankhis sister.

Damion Myburgh, ful for turkey.

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Baron Fischbach,



Wyatt Wambach, son of Jason and Ricahl Wambach, Groton. Wyatt is thankful for going to school.





Braeden Fliehs, son of Lance and JoAnn Fliehs, Groton. Braeden is thankful for the whole world.

Khali, Groton. Jaxon cy Marshall, Columbia. is thankful for cleaning George is thankful for up his house.

Jaxon Khali, son of George Marshall, Djamel and Kristen son of Dusty and Trahis sister.

son of Justin Fischbach and Amber Fischbach, Groton. Baron is thankful for dad.

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Joyce Walter has a relative from the First Thanksgiving

Joyce Walter found out that she has a relative that came over on The Anne, a sister ship of the Mayflower, and he was at the first Thanksgiving. Joyce's ancestry goes back to Thomas Clark who was born on March 31, 1599, in Westhrope, Suffolk, England. It was actually The Anne that carried goats and cattle and additional settlers, which gave the Pilgrims reason to celebrate the first Thanksgiving in July 1623. It is believed that Clarke was a "mate" on the original Mayflower, but stayed with the Mayflower on her return trip, only to permanently settle in America when he arrived on The Anne. The Anne journeyed across the Atlantic Ocean with a sister ship, the Little James. The people of the first ships are defined as all those who were once known as "Old Comers" or "First Comers" or "Old Planters" and are now known as "Pilgrims." Clarke died on March 24, 1967, in Plymouth, Mass., at the age of 98. The lineage of Thomas Clarke is: James Clarke, Thomas Clark, Anna Clark, Abigail Ellis, Jabex Max-

ham, Gideon Maxham, Leonard Maxham, George Maxham, Carrie Maxham, Agnes Thompson, Irene Waters, Joyce Wright and her children, Michelle and Holly Walter.

Any descendent of Irene Waters is eligible for possible membership in the Mayflower Society. Jabex Maxham was a soldier in the American Revolution.



The Anne with Little James in the background.

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.

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.

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Thanksgiving arrives in South Dakota this year fresh on the heels of a year-long celebration of the 125th anniversary of statehood.

As a state, we share our birthday with North Dakota, and leaders of the two states came together for several birthday moments during the year. It's natural enough, then, that I've been reflecting recently on a Thanksgiving thought from Lawrence Welk, the renowned band leader who was born in North Dakota and whose musical career began in the dance halls and ballrooms of the two Dakotas. Of Thanksgiving, Welk said this:

"Over and over I marvel at the blessings of my life: Each year has grown better than the last."

I have enjoyed Thanksgiving since I was just a young boy. Sure, in those days I spent more time giving thanks for the turkey and mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie than I did thinking about my blessings. Sometimes even then – although I hadn't heard the Welk quote as a youngster – it did seem as if each Thanksgiving feast grew better than the last, even when I was sitting at the "kids' table." Much as I loved the food, I also anticipated the approaching holiday for the gathering of family and friends.

As I grew older, I began to recognize that family and friends were more than just people with whom to share a meal. They were real blessings in my life, far more significant than the food that was the excuse for our gathering. Don't get me wrong. I still like a good piece of pie. But I appreciate the togetherness of family and the chance to count our shared blessings more and more each year.

In a 2004 Thanksgiving proclamation, former President George W. Bush recognized that Thanksgiving is a time to share good fortune.

"Americans this week will gather food and clothing for neighbors in need," he said. "Many young people will give part of their holiday to volunteer at homeless shelters and food pantries. On Thanksgiving, we remember that the true strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of the American people."

That is so true here in South Dakota. Our people always are willing to volunteer to help others, to step up to serve their country and its citizens in the military, to share the bounty we enjoy.

In that spirit, I wish you and your loved ones a Thanksgiving filled with blessings and good fortune. May we all be able to say, "Each year has grown better than the last."

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Today in Weather History 1960: An ice storm occurred from 40 miles on either side of a line from Pipestone to Brainard, Min-

1960: An ice storm occurred from 40 miles on either side of a line from Pipestone to Brainard, Minnesota. Power and communication lines were downed, leaving at least 22 communities isolated. Ice coasting reported ranged from one half to three fourth of an inch at Lake Benton. Heavy snow fell in eastern North Dakota with blizzard conditions throughout the state. In South Dakota, this storm began as freezing rain on the 27th and remained largely as such in the southeast quarter of the state. The remainder of the experienced blizzard conditions with 5 to 10 inches of snow and winds gusting to 30 to 60 mph. These horrible caused extensive closing of schools and businesses, blocked highways, and disrupted telephone and power services. Slippery highways caused many auto accidents. Some loss of livestock was reported, such as 1,000 turkeys in Gettysburg. Restoration of telephone service alone was estimated to have cost \$210,000 and required up to three days after the storm.

1983: A weekend storm that began with light snow on the 26th continued to gather strength, culminating in a blizzard that was accompanied by thunder and lightning during the evening hours on the 27th. The heaviest snowfall occurred from Marshall County SSE to Gregory County in South Dakota, with the heaviest snow falling as thunder snow showers. Snow amounts ranged from 4 to 18 inches. Strong winds up to 50 mph created near zero visibilities and difficult driving conditions as numerous roads drifted shut with up to eight-foot drifts. Numerous accidents ensued, with many people forced to stay overnight in their stranded vehicles. Airlines were forced to cancel all flights as airports were closed into midday on the 28th. Almost all schools and businesses were closed on the 28th and even on the 29th in many areas. Storm total snowfall amounts included 8 inches at Clark; 7 inches at Artichoke Lake, Bryant 1NE, Clear Lake, Victor 4 NNE, and Browns Valley; 6 inches at Wheaton, Wilmot, and Harrold 12 SSW; 5 inches at Kennebec, Sisseton, and Mellette 4W; 4 inches at Watertown, Highmore 1W, Murdo, Redfield, Waubay, Ashton 2S, and Britton; and 3 inches at Aberdeen, Castlewood, Columbia 8N, Onida 4NW, and Pierre.

1994: Low pressure developed over eastern Colorado late Saturday the 26th and strengthened over Kansas early on the 27th. By late in the day on the 27th, the low pressure system had developed into the first Winter storm for Minnesota. By the early morning hours of the 28th, a swath of snow in excess of 6 inches had blanketed much of southwest through central into northeast Minnesota. Snowfalls of 6 inches or more occurred south of a line from Gunflint Lake in Cook county to near Ortonville in Big Stone county and along and north of a line from near Blue Earth in Faribault county to Red Wing in Goodhue county. The snow closed the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport for a short time on the 27th, and contributed to hundreds of accidents and at least three fatalities. The greatest snowfall was 14.1 inches in Duluth. In addition, very strong east winds gusted over 50 mph in Duluth causing blizzard conditions. The high winds brought waves in excess of 16 feet crashing against the Lake Superior shoreline in Duluth, covering the Duluth Canal Park Lake Walk with extensive debris. A buildup of ice and snow in combination with strong winds resulted in numerous downed power lines in southeast Minnesota. Widespread heavy snow fell over mostly the eastern half of South Dakota on November 27-28. Peak accumulations were 10 inches at Sioux Falls and 9 inches at Howard and near Canton. Damage resulted mainly from numerous minor traffic accidents. Storm snowfall amounts in this area included 8 inches at Eureka; 7 inches at Victor 4NNE, Leola, Onaka 2N, Roscoe, Faulkton, Columbia 8N, Aberdeen, and Selby; 6 inches at Redfield, Mellette 4W, Bryant 1NE, Blunt, Wheaton, and Raymond 3NE; 5 inches at Pollock, Miller, Milbank 2SSW, Ipswich, Harrold 12SSW, Eagle Butte, Clark, Artichoke Lake, and Onida 4NW; 4 inches at Mobridge, Timber Lake, McIntosh 6SE, Conde, Clear Lake, Pierre, and Ashton 2S; 3 inches at Sisseton, Webster, Waubay, Summit 1W, Presho 7NW, Kennebec, Highmore 1W, Gann Valley 4NW, Castlewood, Browns Valley, Watertown, and Wilmot

1701: Anders Celsius, the astronomer who invented the Celsius thermometer scale, was born in Uppsala, Sweden.

1703: The Great Storm of 1703 devastated southern England. Though strong gales buffeted the re-

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gion from November 24 through December 2, the storm hit its peak on the morning of November 27. Winds to 120 mph blew down chimneys and church steeples, destroyed buildings, and felled countless thousands of trees. Four hundred windmills were shattered.

1898: The SS Portland passenger ship gave the name to the "Portland Gale" after the storm sunk the ship off the coast of Cape Cod, killing all 200 people aboard.

1912: Snow fell across northern Florida, marking one of the few times it has ever snowed there in November.

1883 - Fire engines were called out in New York City and New Haven, CT, as a result of the afterglow of the sunset due to vivid red ash from the Krakatoa Volcano explosion in August. (The Weather Channel)

1898 - The Portland storm raged across New England producing gale force winds along the coast and heavy snow inland. A foot of snow blanketed Boston MA, and 27 inches fell at New London CT. Winds at Boston gusted to 72 mph, and wind gusts to 98 mph were estimated at Block Island RI. A passenger ship, the S. S. Portland, sank off Cape Cod with the loss of all 191 persons aboard, and Boston Harbor was filled with wrecked ships. The storm wrecked 56 vessels resulting in a total of 456 casualties. (26th- 28th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Wet weather prevailed across much of the nation east of the Rockies. Sunny and cool weather prevailed in the western U.S. Snow fell in the central U.S., with totals in Kansas ranging up to six inches at Burr Oak. Much of the area from central Oklahoma to southwestern Minnesota experienced its first snow of the winter season. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Snow and high winds created blizzard conditions in Minnesota. Winds gusted to 63 mph at Windom, and snowfall totals ranged up to 14 inches at Aitkin. Snow drifts seven feet high closed many roads. Fargo ND reported a wind chill reading of 34 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A storm system crossing the north central U.S. spread snow across the Dakotas and Minnesota. Heavy snow fell in western South Dakota, with 18 inches reported at Galena. Strong winds associated with the storm gusted to 50 mph in the Great Lakes Region and the Great Plains, with blowing dust reported in Kansas. Thunderstorms associated with the same storm system produced damaging winds in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana during the evening, with gusts to 73 mph reported east of Ypsilante MI. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed ahead of the cold front. Twenty-three cities from the Gulf coast to the Ohio Valley and the Mid Mississippi Valley reported record high temperatures for the date, including Saint Louis MO with a reading of 76 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2005 - A major winter storm affected parts of Nebraska and the Dakotas during the 27th-28th. Snowfall accumulations of 16-20 inches were observed in parts of eastern South Dakota, while wind gusts exceeding 60 mph also accompanied the snow, creating blizzard conditions. Thousands of power outages were caused by the combination of strong winds and heavy snow. In South Dakota, about 8,000 utility poles and 10,000 miles of transmission line were brought down by the storm (Associated Press).

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An area of high pressure will push east today as a warm front moves in from the west. This warm front will bring in milder Pacific air mainly for Friday and Saturday across the region. This front will also bring snow from west to east today through tonight for locations along and north of highway 212. There could be some mixed precipitation for northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota tonight. Otherwise much of Friday and Saturday is expected to be dry.

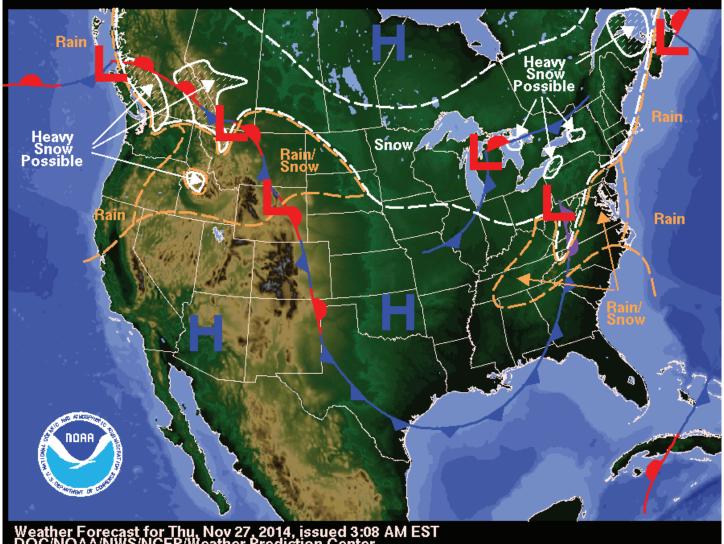
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Yesterday's Weather

High: 29.6°F at Noon Low: -9.0°F at 11:28 PM High Gust: 31 mph at 2:07 AM Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 59° in 1949

Record Low: -18° in 1985 Average High: 33°F Average Low: 13°F Average Precip in Nov.: 0.66 Precip to date in Nov.: 0.76 Average Precip to date: 21.13 Precip Year to Date: 13.99 Sunset Tonight: 4:54 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:50 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Nov 27, 2014, issued 3:08 AM EST DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center Prepared by Mcreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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RIGHT WAY - WRONG WAY

"I may not always be right," he said as though he believed it, "but I'm never wrong. Never!"

We sat there wondering if he knew what he was saying, trying to convince himself of such insanity, or wanting to create fear in our hearts about his power. It really did not matter. All of us, including him, realized the folly of his speech.

However, there are many who believe as he believed: they are incapable of being wrong. They refuse to accept the counsel of anyone and after making a decision become even more resolute and stubborn. Solomon had something to say to people who held that opinion of themselves: "The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice."

Ultimately and finally, those who have that attitude about themselves are on a path to self-destruction. When looked at from a biblical point of view, they refuse to accept the role of sin in their lives, their need for a Savior or the reality of God's judgment that awaits them. Their world view is completely distorted.

The wise, however, "listen to advice." Even though they may be embarrassed or disappointed when someone who loves them corrects them or points out a "flaw," they know that it is for their own good. Those who listen to the advice or counsel of someone with spiritual insight and wisdom, will be rewarded. Listening to and accepting the advice of our "elders in Christ" is the "wise" thing to do before making any decision.

Prayer: Lord, break the hardness of our hearts when we think we "know it all." Lead us to those who are wise. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 12:15 The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.

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News from the Associated Press

Teen arrested in connection to Sioux Falls robbery

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police have arrested a teenager in connection with an armed robbery at a Sioux Falls convenience store.

Police say the teen walked into the store at about 5 a.m. Wednesday and demanded money from the clerk. Officers reviewing video footage of the robbery recognized the suspect as one of two people who stole beer from another convenience store earlier Wednesday.

Detectives determined the suspect's identity and found him about 9 a.m. at a Sioux Falls restaurant, after he had allegedly stolen a car.

The teen is charged with first degree robbery, grand theft of a motor vehicle, aggravated assault, petty theft and underage consumption.

Police are searching for the second suspect in the beer theft.

AG: Eyes out for scams during holiday shopping

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley is urging consumers to exercise caution when shopping for deals this holiday season, especially on "Black Friday."

Jackley's office said on Wednesday that holiday shoppers should check refund and return policies; verify delivery dates; check over warranties; and research shipping and handling charges.

For consumers using computers or mobile devices to shop, the attorney general advises to ensure all software is current and to be wary about unknown Twitter and Facebook offers.

SD farmers report hike in per-bushel wheat prices

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota farmers have reported increases in per-bushel wheat prices in November.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says preliminary prices received by farmers for spring wheat for November averaged \$5.33 per bushel, an increase of 9 cents from the October price. Meanwhile, winter wheat has averaged \$5.55 per bushel, 4 cents higher compared to last month.

Farmers are also reporting hikes in oat, corn and soybean prices. Oat prices have averaged \$3.04, up 14 cents from October. The price of corn was recorded at \$3.18, up 9 cents from last month, while soybean prices have averaged \$9.55, up 31 cents.

The department says the price for all sunflower has seen a decrease this month. It has averaged \$17, down \$4.10 from last month.

Maker of Thanksgiving parade balloons hits record

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota company that makes balloons featured in Macy's Thanksgiving parade in New York will debut a record number of balloons this year.

Raven Aerostar made six balloons that will be part of Thursday's parade. The characters featured this year are: Pickachu with Snowden, Eruptor from Skylanders, Thomas the Tank Engine, Red Mighty Morphin Power Ranger and Paddington Bear. The Pillsbury Doughboy will repeat in the parade.

The Sioux Falls-based company has built more than 100 balloons for the parade since 1984. About 25 employees work on each balloon beginning in April.

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The first balloons that the company built for the parade were Raggedy Ann and Garfield.

Woman gets prison in involuntary manslaughter case

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota woman convicted of involuntary manslaughter has been sentenced to 30 months in prison.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says 37-year-old Valerie Good Voice Flute was also ordered to spend three years on supervised release. Good Voice Flute earlier pleaded guilty to the single charge.

Authorities say Valerie Good Voice Flute got into a motor vehicle crash on May 2013 near Loneman. Authorities say the woman had been driving under the influence, and the incident resulted in the death of Gillard Good Voice Flute.

The Oglala woman is under the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Hospital, SD settle over improper Medicaid claims

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota hospital and the state's attorney general have reached a settlement over improper Medicaid claims.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says Avera Gregory Hospital has paid the state nearly \$85,000 under the agreement. He adds that the Medicaid program will be fully reimbursed for the covered claims.

The state had contended that the hospital submitted improper claims to Medicaid involving coding errors between January 2005 and April 2014.

Avera Gregory Hospital admits no wrongdoing under the settlement, and the state makes no concession that its claims are not well founded.

Jackley says the hospital fully cooperated throughout the investigation. He adds that because the coding errors were mistakes and not made intentionally, the state worked with the provider to resolve the matter.

Supreme Court: DNA evidence lacks for new trial

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court has affirmed a judge's decision that an inconclusive DNA analysis precludes a man serving a life sentence for murder from getting a new trial.

Attorney General Marty Jackley on Wednesday said the high court found that Judge Bruce Anderson's decision not to grant Lewis Ashker a new trial on his 1986 murder conviction is sound.

Ashker and Kurt Novaock, both of Wayne, Nebraska, were sentenced to life in prison in South Dakota for killing Jerry Plihal while trying to steal his gun collection.

Ashker requested that hairs found on the victim be tested using DNA technology that became available years after his conviction. Results from some of the samples were inconclusive, and Anderson didn't grant a new trial. Ashker then appealed to the Supreme Court.

Man wielding butcher knife robs Sioux Falls store

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police are searching for a man who robbed a convenience store with a butcher knife.

Authorities say the man entered a Holiday gas station about 5 a.m. Wednesday, threatened the clerk with the knife and fled with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Police say the suspect made customers in the store lie on the floor during the robbery.

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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.

Americans mark Thanksgiving with parades, turkey LARRY NEUMEISTER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Turkey, stuffing and a helium-filled Thomas the Tank Engine are on the menu as friends and families gathered across the United States to celebrate Thanksgiving. Here's a look at how Americans are celebrating:

AND THE PARADE IS OFF

Oohing and ahhing spectators of all ages lined the route of the nationally televised Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, which counted Thomas the Tank Engine, Paddington bear and the Red Mighty Morphin Power Ranger among its six new giant balloons.

It was around 37 degrees with a hint of drizzle and light winds as clowns shot a burst of confetti from canisters to get the show rolling.

The honor of leading the parade went to the Pride of the Mountains Marching Band from Western Carolina University. Asked where that's located, drummer Will Walker said with a chuckle: "It's a dot on the map you will never hear from the rest of your life."

The musicians from Cullowhee, North Carolina, hoped to set two records Thursday: one for most cymbal players (55) and one for largest band (505 members).

Earlier, clown Steve Smith passed dozens of workers trapped under netting holding the big floats down.

"How long's your sentence behind bars?" he joked.

Smith, a clown for 12 years, loves to make children happy. "The kids, they are the ones who make the parade," he said.

STORIED HISTORY OF PARADE

The first Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade featured animals from the Central Park Zoo.

Back in 1924, the event was known as the Macy's Christmas Parade.

The giant balloons arrived on the scene in 1927. Felix the Cat was the first character balloon.

In 1929, helium balloons were released over New York City after the parade. They were equipped with return address labels, and those who found one received a special gift.

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TRAVEL TROUBLES

Power outages from the first major snowstorm of the season could force some residents of the Northeast to celebrate Thanksgiving much like the pilgrims and Native Americans did almost 400 years ago — in the dark.

The outages on Thursday were particularly bad in northern New England, where more than 200,000 customers were without power in New Hampshire and more than 100,000 were without electricity in Maine.

The rain and snow that fell Wednesday made getting around on one of the busiest travel days of the year a chaotic experience for some. The sloppy mixture grounded hundreds of flights in the Northeast.

The AAA estimated that 41.3 million travelers would be on the road between Wednesday and Sunday. That's up 4.3 percent from last year.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

To the delight of some and consternation of others, it's increasingly become commonplace to see stores open on Thanksgiving, as retailers try to entice shoppers inside and kick off the holiday shopping season a day earlier than the traditional Black Friday. Some of the stores open for at least part of the day on the holiday include Kmart, Target, Sears, Macy's and Wal-Mart. Other stores, like Neiman-Marcus, Nordstrom and Costco, are closed.

AP News in Brief

Throngs of Ferguson protesters dwindle to small groups as community seeks return to normal

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) — The throngs of protesters who overran Ferguson after the grand jury decision in the Michael Brown case dwindled to just a few small groups as people began cleaning up this battered community and seeking something closer to a normal routine.

Scattered demonstrations continued Wednesday, including protesters who rushed into St. Louis City Hall screaming "Shame, shame." But the tension that led to arson and looting earlier in the week seemed all but gone, two days after the announcement that a white police officer would not face charges in the fatal shooting of the black 18-year-old.

There were no reports of major confrontations or damage to property.

Meanwhile, business owners and residents covered up broken windows, cleared away debris and hoped that the relative calm would last into the Thanksgiving holiday.

In the St. Louis suburb's historic downtown, about a dozen people painted over boarded-up windows on businesses.

Third night of demonstrations over Ferguson shooting leaves dozens arrested in LA, Oakland

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Police in Oakland and Los Angeles arrested scores of demonstrators during a third night of unrest linked to the shooting protest in Ferguson, Missouri.

At least 130 demonstrators who refused to disperse during a Los Angeles protest were arrested Wednesday night, while 35 people were detained in Oakland following a march that deteriorated into unrest and vandalism, according to police officials.

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About 200 or 300 largely peaceful demonstrators crisscrossed the streets of downtown Los Angeles for several hours in the afternoon and evening over a decision not to bring criminal charges against a Ferguson policeman for killing a black man.

Later some of the protesters were stopped by a phalanx of riot-clad police near the Central Library.

Lt. Andy Neiman said an unlawful assembly was declared after some marchers began walking in the street and disrupting traffic. They were ordered to disperse but instead reformed, with police trying to corral them.

With incentives and force, Islamic State group subduing tribes in Syria and Iraq

BEIRUT (AP) — The Islamic State group is employing multiple tactics to subdue the Sunni Muslim tribes in Syria and Iraq under its rule, wooing some with gifts — everything from cars to feed for their animals — while brutally suppressing those that resist with mass killings.

The result is that the extremists face little immediate threat of an uprising by the tribes, which are traditionally the most powerful social institution in the large areas of eastern Syria and northern and western Iraq controlled by the group. Any U.S. drive to try to turn tribesmen against the militants, as the Americans did with Sunnis during the Iraq war, faces an uphill battle.

Some tribes in Syria and Iraq already oppose the Islamic State group. For example, the Shammar tribe, which spans the countries' border, has fought alongside Kurdish forces against the extremists in Iraq. The U.S. and Iraqi governments have proposed creating a national guard program that would arm and pay tribesmen to fight, though the effort has yet to get off the ground.

But in Syria in particular, tribes have no outside patron to bankroll or arm them to take on IS, leaving them with few options other than to bend to Islamic State domination or flee.

"There are people who want to go back and fight them," said Hassan Hassan, an analyst with the Delma Institute in Abu Dhabi. "But the circumstances now mean that you can't provoke ISIS because the strategy they've followed and tactics are to prevent any revolt from inside."

OPEC's unity tested as oil ministers seen unlikely to cut output amid oil glut, price plunge

VIENNA (AP) — OPEC oil ministers meeting in Vienna on Thursday are in a bind. Prices are plunging — and in the short term, the cartel may not be able to do much about it.

Expectations that the group would not cut output to support the market saw the global price of oil slump another \$1.89 on Thursday to \$75.86 a barrel, extending its losses since June, when it was as high as \$115.

That drop has been driven by a boom in shale production in the United States as well as weakness in some major world economies, causing supply to outpace demand.

OPEC powerhouse Saudi Arabia can weather such lower prices because its coffers are well-padded and its production costs are relatively low. But poorer OPEC members like Venezuela and Nigeria need levels close to \$100 or above to fund national budgets. Saudi rival Iran is suffering, too, with the price drop adding to huge revenue losses due to sanctions on its crude sales imposed over its nuclear program.

"The fair price for all OPEC members is different," said Iranian oil minister Bijan Namdar Zangeneh. "We hope that OPEC will arrive at a price that is acceptable for all OPEC countries to allow them to

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continue producing and to help support their economies."

Thanksgiving Day menu: Turkey, parades, shopping deals

NEW YORK (AP) — Turkey, stuffing and a helium-filled Thomas the Tank Engine were on the menu as friends and families gathered across the United States to celebrate Thanksgiving. Here's a look at how Americans prepared to celebrate Thanksgiving.

GIANTS IN THE SKY

The nationally televised Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade will include six new giant balloons including Thomas the Tank Engine, Paddington bear and the Red Mighty Morphin Power Ranger. The annual event brings out throngs of people along its midtown Manhattan parade route, ending in front of the store's flagship location.

No wizardry here: Scientists turn to Harry Potter to see what a healthy brain does as it reads

WASHINGTON (AP) — Harry Potter swoops around on his broom, faces the bully Malfoy and later runs into a three-headed dog. For scientists studying brain activity while reading, it's the perfect excerpt from the young wizard's many adventures to give their subjects.

Reading that section of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" activates some of the same regions in the brain that people use to perceive real people's actions and intentions. Scientists then map what a healthy brain does as it reads.

The research reported Wednesday has implications for studying reading disorders or recovery from a stroke. The team from Carnegie Mellon University was pleasantly surprised that the experiment actually worked.

Most neuroscientists painstakingly have tracked how the brain processes a single word or sentence, looking for clues to language development or dyslexia by focusing on one aspect of reading at a time. But reading a story requires multiple systems working at once: recognizing how letters form a word, knowing the definitions and grammar, keeping up with the characters' relationships and the plot twists.

Measuring all that activity is remarkable, said Georgetown University neuroscientist Guinevere Eden, who helped pioneer brain-scanning studies of dyslexia but wasn't involved in the new work.

With little faith in Latin American police, private firms rise to protect those who can pay

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A panic alert flashed across Alberto Herrera's computer screen. Men claiming to be with the notorious Gulf Cartel had stopped a convoy transporting chemicals through a lawless region of northeastern Mexico. They seized two drivers from an escort truck and demanded the valuable cargo in exchange for their release.

Giant flat-screen monitors blinked with the GPS locations of dozens of vehicles carrying cargo coveted by criminals: designer jeans, rare art and business executives ripe for kidnapping.

The phone chatter and chirping two-way radios sounded like a police dispatch, but this was the emergency response room of International Private Security, a Mexico-based company that helps clients like PepsiCo, Audi and BP do business in the unpredictable landscape of a country where organized crime

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rules entire swaths.

A direct line to Mexico's federal police sat on Herrera's desk, but he had orders from this client not to use it. Instead, the client's crisis team negotiated the release of the drivers and their cargo.

"They didn't want us to call the police," said the 32-year-old Herrera. "People don't necessarily trust the cops."

Family: 12-year-old boy would still be alive if police hadn't `reacted quickly' and shot him

CLEVELAND (AP) — The family of a 12-year-old boy fatally wounded by a Cleveland police officer said surveillance video of the shooting shows that if the officer had not acted so quickly the youngster would still be alive.

The video made public on Wednesday shows Tamir Rice being shot within 1¹/₂ to 2 seconds of a patrol car stopping near him at a park in Cleveland on Saturday. It shows the boy reaching in his waistband for what police discovered was a pellet gun that shoots non-lethal plastic projectiles. He died the next day.

Tamir's family said in a statement released by their attorneys that they hope Cleveland police and Cuyahoga County prosecutors "thoroughly examine" what happened at the park that day.

"It is our belief that this situation could have been avoided and that Tamir should still be here with us," said the family. "The video shows one thing distinctly: the police officers reacted quickly."

The patrol officer who shot Tamir was identified Wednesday as Timothy Loehmann, a 26-year-old rookie who began his career in Cleveland on March 3. He previously spent five months in 2012 with a department in suburban Independence, but four of those months were in that city's police academy.

Bill Cosby, under oath, says he gave tabloid exclusive in 2005, had accuser's story spiked

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Bill Cosby testified under oath in 2005 that he gave the National Enquirer an exclusive interview about looming sexual-assault accusations by a Canadian woman against him in exchange for the tabloid spiking a second accuser's story.

Excerpts released Wednesday of Cosby's deposition from a civil lawsuit filed by Andrea Constand quote Cosby as saying he feared the public would believe her sexual-assault accusations if the Enquirer published similar claims by Beth Ferrier. Both women accused Cosby of drugging and molesting them.

"Did you ever think that if Beth Ferrier's story was printed in the National Enquirer, that that would make the public believe that maybe Andrea was also telling the truth?" Cosby was asked.

"Exactly," Cosby replied, according to court motions initially filed under seal and made available from archived federal court records.

Cosby, in the deposition, said he had a contract with the Enquirer.

Phillip Hughes dies 2 days after being hit on the head by a cricket ball during a match

SYDNEY (AP) — Australian cricketer Phillip Hughes died Thursday from a "catastrophic" injury to his head, two days after being struck by a delivery during a match.

Australia captain Michael Clarke, trying to compose himself several times, read a brief statement on behalf of Hughes' parents, brother and sister at a news conference at St. Vincent's Hospital that was

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broadcast live around Australia.

"We're devastated by the loss of our much-loved son and brother Phillip. Cricket was Phillip's life, and we as a family shared that love of the game with him ... We love you," Clarke read, holding back tears before leaving the room.

Dr. Tony Grabs, a surgeon and director of trauma services at St. Vincent's, where Hughes was taken and was treated by Grabs, said the 25-year-old cricketer had died from a rare injury — there have been only 100 documented cases of vertebral artery dissection — which resulted in severe bleeding on his brain.

"We did a CAT scan of the head to determine what we could do," Grabs said. "This occurred very early and it was recognized we had to make an intervention to help get the pressure down in the brain. He had extensive surgery to remove some of the skull from around his brain to help allow the brain to expand so it wasn't compressed."

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Nov. 27, the 331st day of 2014. There are 34 days left in the year. This is Thanksgiving Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 27, 1924, Macy's first Thanksgiving Day parade - billed as a "Christmas Parade" - took place in New York.

On this date:

In 1839, the American Statistical Association was founded in Boston.

In 1901, the U.S. Army War College was established in Washington, D.C.

In 1910, New York's Pennsylvania Station officially opened.

In 1939, the play "Key Largo," by Maxwell Anderson, opened at the Ethel Barrymore Theater in New York.

In 1942, during World War II, the Vichy French navy at Toulon (too-LOHN') scuttled its ships and submarines to keep them out of the hands of German troops.

In 1953, playwright Eugene O'Neill died in Boston at age 65.

In 1962, the first Boeing 727 was rolled out at the company's Renton Plant.

In 1970, Pope Paul VI, visiting the Philippines, was slightly wounded at the Manila airport by a daggerwielding Bolivian painter disguised as a priest.

In 1973, the Senate voted 92-3 to confirm Gerald R. Ford as vice president, succeeding Spiro T. Agnew, who'd resigned.

In 1978, San Francisco Mayor George Moscone (mahs-KOH'-nee) and City Supervisor Harvey Milk, a gay-rights activist, were shot to death inside City Hall by former supervisor Dan White.

In 1983, 181 people were killed when a Colombian Avianca Airlines Boeing 747 crashed near Madrid's Barajas airport.

In 1989, a bomb blamed on drug traffickers destroyed a Colombian Avianca Boeing 727, killing all 107 people on board and three people on the ground.

Ten years ago: After four decades in North Korea and less than one month in a U.S. military jail near Tokyo, U.S. Army deserter Charles Jenkins became a free man. The Ukraine parliament declared the recently held presidential election invalid.

Five years ago: Tiger Woods crashed his SUV outside his Florida mansion, sparking widespread

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attention to reports of unfaithfulness to his wife, Elin Nordegren. (The couple divorced the following year.) Former President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced to their friends daughter Chelsea's engagement to longtime boyfriend Marc Mezvinsky. Space shuttle Atlantis and its seven astronauts returned from the International Space Station with a smooth touchdown.

One year ago: In a short ceremony inside their Chicago apartment, Vernita Gray and her partner of five years, Patricia Ewert, made Illinois history as they became the first gay couple to wed under the state's new law legalizing same-sex marriage. Rising anger over deadly drone attacks spurred a Paki-stani political party to reveal the identity of what it said was the top U.S. spy in the country and demand he be tried for murder. A crane collapsed at a Sao Paulo stadium being constructed for the 2014 World Cup, killing two workers.

Today's Birthdays: Author Gail Sheehy is 77. Academy Award-winning director Kathryn Bigelow (Film: "The Hurt Locker") is 63. TV host Bill Nye ("Bill Nye, the Science Guy") is 59. Actor William Fichtner (FIHK'-nuhr) is 58. Caroline Kennedy is 57. Academy Award-winning screenwriter Callie Khouri (Film: "Thelma and Louise") is 57. Rock musician Charlie Burchill (Simple Minds) is 55. Former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty is 54. Rock musician Charlie Benante (Anthrax) is 52. Rock musician Mike Bordin (Faith No More) is 52. Actor Fisher Stevens is 51. Actress Robin Givens is 50. Actor Michael Vartan is 46. Rapper Skoob (DAS EFX) is 44. Actor Kirk Acevedo is 43. Rapper Twista is 42. Actor Jaleel White is 38. Actor Arjay Smith (TV: "Perception") is 31. Actress Alison Pill is 29. Actress/singer Aubrey Peeples (TV: "Nashville"; "Sharknado") is 21.

Thought for Today: "Pioneers are seldom from the nobility. There were no Dukes on the Mayflower." - Mack Sennett, Canadian-born American movie producer (1880-1960).