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Friday, Nov. 28, 2014

Anniversary: Bill and Jana Duncan

Birthdays: James Washnok • Amanda Geist • Brittany Raap • Sharon Zoellner • Sylvia Campbell



Jasmine Schinkel was one of the servers at the community Thanksgiving Dinner. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

**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.

Thank You For Thanksgiving!

Tom and Barb Paepke have coordinated the annual Groton Community Thanksgiving Dinner for four years now. There were 112 people who pre-registered for the community dinner this year. "We have been very blessed," said Barb Paepke. "Especially for those who helped serve and those who were gracious to make the food." The free will donation will go to the Groton Crisis Fund and Paepke said that if there was enough money left, they would buy two new tables for the Groton Community Center to replace a couple of tables that are falling apart.

Thank you to everyone who helped to serve, make the food and even delivered to shut-ins.



A good sized crowd showed up for the annual Groton Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner held at the Groton Community Center. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Those who helped to serve the food are pictured above. In back, left to right, are Rachel Blackmun, Barb Paepke, Katie Oliver, Marcy Blackmun and Danielle Schinkel; in front are Korbin Blackmun and Jasmine Schinkel. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The kitchen help included Lori Westby, Stan Knudsen, Kathy Knudsen, Chuck Knudsen, Tom Paepke, Dave Blackmun and Julie Fliehs. Not pictured are those who were making deliveries: John Lowary, Loren Fliehs and Ron Westby. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Anita Lowary was going over the menu with her mom, Winnie Fawcett. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Barb Paepke was going over the procedure with the menu slips that they provided this year. Each person could check what they wanted and the servers picked up the menu, got the food and delivered it to the table. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The greeters were Betty Pinkerton and Fern Westby. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Korbin Blackmun serves water with Marcy Blackmun making sure everything is okay at the table. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION

CITY OF GROTON

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

WHEREAS, Sylvia Campbell, has reached the milestone of her one hundredth birthday which only a few chosen people reach; and

WHEREAS, Sylvia Campbell, has made many contributions to the community of Groton; and

WHEREAS, Sylvia Campbell, has worked hard in various jobs throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, Sylvia Campbell, has remained active in her church; and

WHEREAS, Sylvia Campbell, has been an important part of her family in her role as wife, mother, and grandmother; and

WHEREAS, Sylvia Campbell, has spent all of her one hundred years in Groton, South Dakota;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Scott Hanlon, Mayor of the City of Groton, do hereby proclaim November 28, 2014 as

SYLVIA CAMPBELL DAY

in Groton, South Dakota in full recognition of her outstanding contributions to the community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and
caused to be affixed the seal
of the City of Groton on this
twenty fifth day of November, in the
Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Fourteen.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor

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Groton Prairie Mixed

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 234, Roger Colestock 209, Brad Larson 208, Roger Spanier 201

Women's High Games: Hayley Merkel 182, Brenda Waage 172, Sue Stanley 158

Men's High Series: Brad Larson 594, Brad Waage 568, Roger Spanier 547

Women's High Series: Vicki Walter 433, Dar Larson 433, Sue Stanley 421, Hayley Merkel 421, Brenda Waage 415

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.

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.

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 placed on a previously plowed public street, avenue or alley.

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

Today in Weather History

2000: Heavy snow of 6 to 9 inches fell across parts of northeast South Dakota, causing travel difficulties and school closings. Some snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Britton, Roy Lake, Webster, Waubay, Summit, and Wilmot; 8 inches at Columbia and south of Bristol; and 9 inches at Houghton.

2005: A significant winter storm visited the region on November 27-29, 2005, producing a wide range of wintry precipitation across the area. Snow and blizzard conditions occurred across central and north central South Dakota, while freezing rain and ice accumulations took front stage in northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Across most of central and north central South Dakota, snow began in the late afternoon and early evening hours of the 27th, with significant snowfall accumulations occurring by the time the snow ended later in the day on the 28th. Snowfall accumulations ranged from as little as two inches to as much as 20 inches. Strong northwest winds of 30 to 50 mph, with gusts to 70 mph, caused widespread blizzard conditions from the early morning until the late afternoon hours of the 28th. Visibilities were reduced to zero many times across the area with snowdrifts of 5 to 10 feet in some places. Some power lines were also brought down in the Pierre and Fort Pierre area due to snow accumulation and high winds. Many roads, including Interstate 90, were closed due to the treacherous travel conditions. Several accidents occurred during the storm, and many motorists were also stranded. Several people had to be rescued. Schools, businesses, government offices, and many other organizations were closed. FEMA, state officials, and the governor surveyed the storm damage. Some of the significant snowfall amounts included 7 inches at Eureka, 8 inches at Onaka, 10 inches at Onida and Fort Thompson, 11 inches near Presho, 16 inches at Highmore, and 21 inches at Kennebec. To the east of this heavy snow and blizzard area, widespread freezing rain began during the morning to early afternoon of the 27th, creating significant ice accumulations of 1 to over 2 inches. The freezing rain changed to snow on the 28th, and northwest winds increased to 30 to 40 mph, gusting to 60 mph. The high winds and heavy ice accumulations caused several thousand power poles (some steel), along with several thousand miles of power lines, to come down, resulting in widespread power outages. The ice and winds also damaged several hundred miles of high-voltage power lines and towers. Some power substations were also shut down by the ice and wind. Thousands of trees were also either damaged or downed due to the heavy ice accumulations and the wind. Many of the fallen trees and branches caused damage to homes and vehicles. The radio station in Milbank went off the air due to its collapsing radio tower. Tens of thousands of people in many communities and rural areas were without power for several days, with some people without power for as long as two weeks. Telephone and cellular phone service was also down for several days. Countless schools, businesses, government offices, and other organizations were closed for several days. FEMA, state officials, and the governor also toured this damaged area, resulting in a presidential disaster declaration. Hundreds of utility workers from South Dakota, Minnesota, and nine other surrounding states worked 14- to 18-hour days in cold conditions to bring power back to the area. The National Guard also helped with getting generators, cots, blankets, and meals to storm shelters. Generators supplied power to many communities and rural areas, while others continued without power. Shelters were set up for those who did not have generator power or another place to go. There were also problems with livestock with the water supplies cut off for some time. One electric cooperative stated that repairs to the infrastructure would continue for months and years to restore a system that took decades to build. Roads were treacherous with many accidents and rollovers, some resulting in injuries. Due to the icy road conditions, many roads were closed, including Interstate 29. Around noon on the 27th, on US Highway 212 two miles west of Zell in Faulk County, a 59-year old man was killed when his car spun out of control and hit an oncoming pickup truck. Around 1:30pm on the 28th, on Day County Road One about two miles south of Waubay,

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a 17-year old girl was killed and three others were injured when one vehicle spun out of control and struck a truck in the oncoming lane. Air traffic was also brought to a halt across much of the area. This was one of the largest ice storms in the region's history. One electric cooperative said it was the most damage they had in their 65 years of existence. After the icing came snowfall of 2 to 12 inches, which combined with the high winds to bring blizzard conditions and low wind chills to northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota from the morning of the 28th until the early morning of the 29th. Some of the significant snowfall amounts included 7 inches at Watertown, 8 inches at Waubay, 10 inches at Redfield, and 12 inches at Sisseton.

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 region 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.

1921 - New England was in the midst of a four day icestorm, their worst of record. Ice was more than three inches thick in many places following the storm, and property damage was in the millions of dollars. Northern New England received heavy snow with more than two feet reported in some areas. Overnight freezing rains continued through the day at Worcester MA while the wind increased to a gale. Streets become impassable even on foot, and whole towns were plunged into darkness without communication. The storm caused 20 million dollars damage to power lines, telephone lines and trees. (David Ludlum)

1960 - A severe storm produced waves 20 to 40 feet high on Lake Superior. Duluth, MN, was buried under a foot of snow, and clocked wind gusts to 73 mph. The northern shore of Lake Superior was flooded, and property along the shore was battered. Thousands of cords of pulpwood were washed into Lake Superior, and up to three feet of water flooded the main street of Grand Marais. Thunder accompanied the nor'easter. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Low pressure in the Middle Mississippi Valley produced a mixture of snow and sleet and freezing rain from the Central Plains to the Upper Mississippi Valley. Snowfall totals in Iowa ranged up to ten inches at Red Oak. Totals in Nebraska ranged up to 11 inches at Shickley. Freezing rain made roads treacherous in the Twin Cities area of southeastern Minnesota. Bitter cold arctic air invaded the Northern High Plains Region. Laramie WY was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 18 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms spawned five tornadoes in North Carolina during the early morning hours. A powerful tornado ripped through one of the most densely populated areas of Raleigh destroying hundreds of homes and damaging thousands more. The tornado killed four persons along its 83 mile track, and injured 154 others. Total damage was estimated at more than 77 million dollars. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Strong Santa Ana winds prevailed across southern California. Winds gusted to 70 mph at the Rialto Airport, and several tractor-trailer trucks were overturned east of Los Angeles. High winds also buffeted the northeastern U.S., ushering arctic air into the region. Winds gusted to 60 mph at Montpelier VT, and reached 66 mph at Saint Albans VT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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THANKSGIVING DAY



Chance Snow
High: 13 °F

TONIGHT



Wintry Mix
Low: 12 °F ↑

FRIDAY



Partly Sunny
High: 33 °F

FRIDAY NIGHT



Mostly Cloudy
Low: 19 °F

SATURDAY



Partly Sunny
High: 33 °F

SATURDAY NIGHT



Mostly Cloudy
Low: 4 °F

SUNDAY



Cold
High: 10 °F



Milder Today

Spotty Light Freezing Rain/Snow Showers This Morning
For The Northern Tier Of South Dakota

weather.gov/Aberdeen

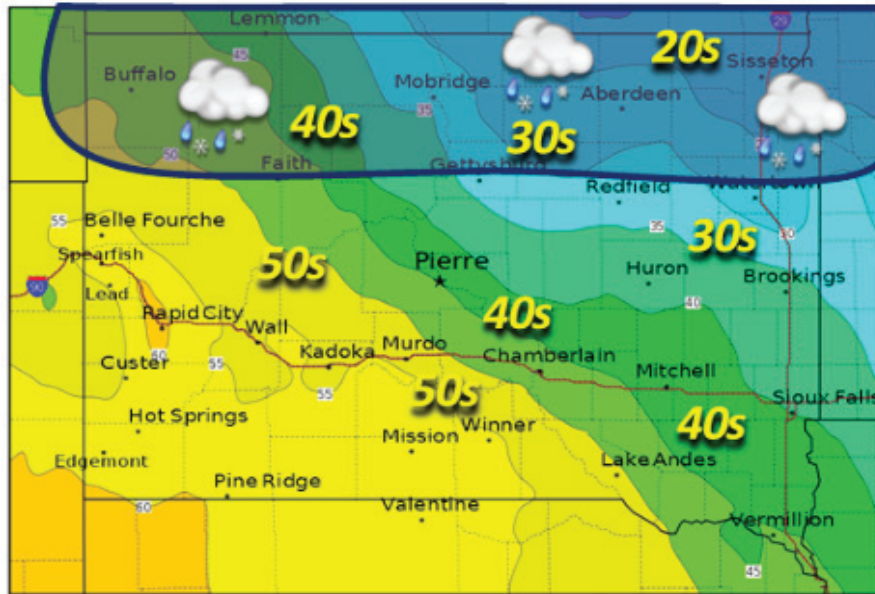


National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Highs Friday



Created 11/28/2014, 2:55am CST

Issued: 3:45am CDT Nov 28th

A surge of warmer air from the west will also support scattered light rain showers and sprinkles for the northern tier of South Dakota and western Minnesota this morning. With temperatures well below freezing, icy conditions may develop. Mild readings and a mix of sun and clouds will help melt any light ice accumulations this afternoon.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 16.4°F at 10:04 PM

Low: -13.7°F at 4:32 AM

Wind Chill: -17.0 at 2:25 AM

High Gust: 21 mph at 8:02 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 59° in 1949

Record Low: -21° in 1985

Average High: 32°F

Average Low: 13°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.68

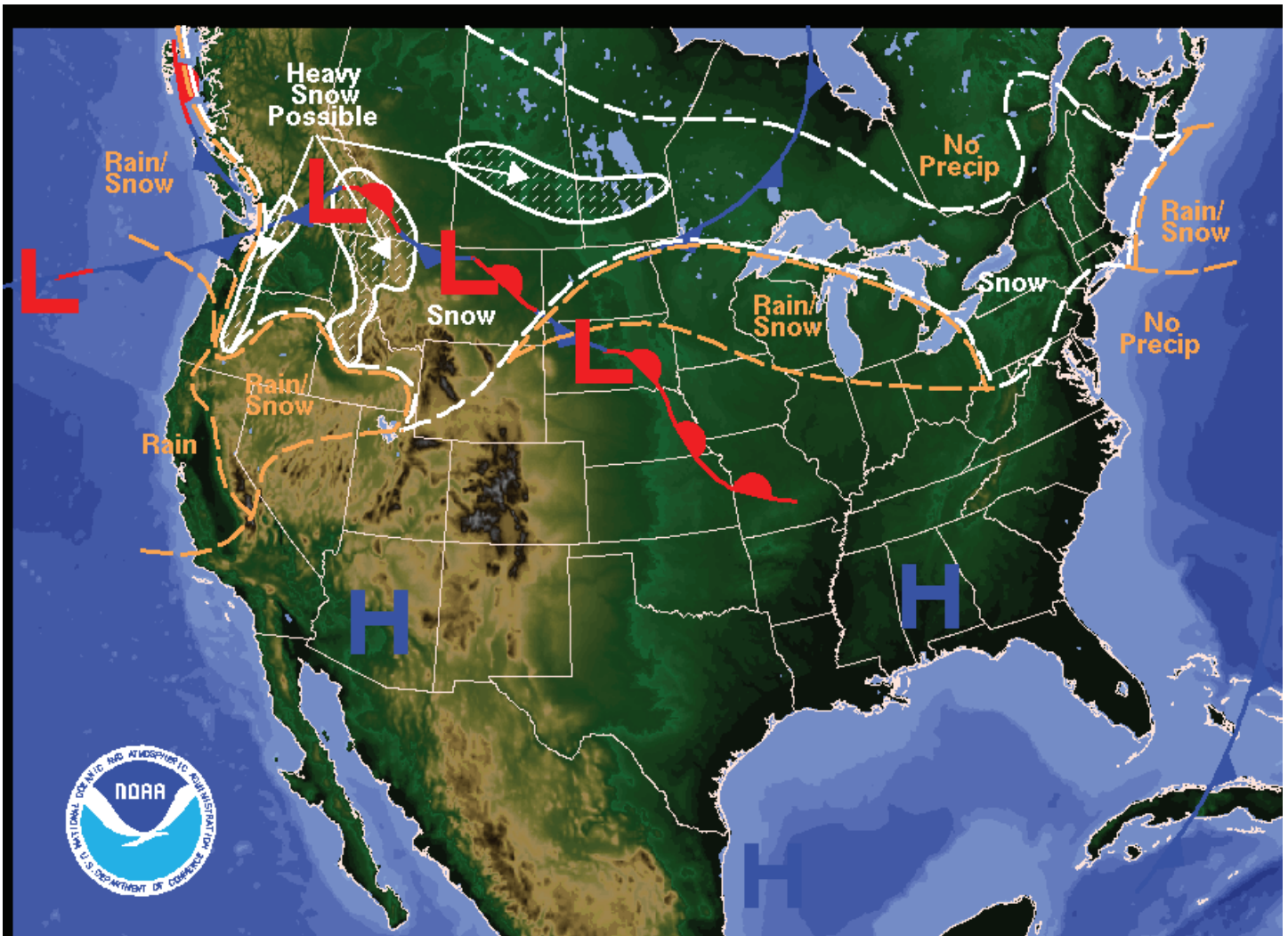
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.76

Average Precip to date: 21.15

Precip Year to Date: 13.99

Sunset Tonight: 4:53 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:51 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Nov 28, 2014, issued 3:04 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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IF AND WHEN

The Bible was not written to teach psychology. But, the Bible is psychologically sound and correct.

Consider Proverbs 12:25: "Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up." The writer does not profess to be a diagnostician but he certainly is insightful.

Recently a study on "anxiety disorders" concluded that 40 million Americans, or 18.1% of our population, are plagued with fears that, from time to time, trouble them. It is also a known fact that anxiety can lead to depression.

From wisdom that comes from God, Solomon made the same "diagnosis." Notice that he said, "Anxiety weighs down the heart." The words "weigh down" imply a state of depression. Our author, with God's guidance, described people whose anxiety is coupled with fear or worry - which can lead to depression.

All of us, at one time or another, have had those moments when we feared that something horrible was about to overtake or destroy us. When those feelings came to the "surface" it was natural to feel "weighted down" or depressed. It is normal to look for encouragement and support when that happens. How tragic if no one was there to help us or share a "kind word to cheer us up."

Notice, however, that Solomon was not talking to a behavioral health specialist. He was talking to people like us who have the ability to recognize the lonely, the sad, the worried, the anxious and depressed. Often people only need a "word" of grace, comfort, encouragement or...simply a smile to bring them hope, health and happiness.

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**

Prayer: We thank You, Father, for giving us Your love to share with others. May we be alert to those in need. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 12:25 Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up.

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

Man accused of having sex with minor sentenced

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A man accused of having sexual contact with a minor on an American Indian reservation in South Dakota has been sentenced.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says 20-year-old Francis Kills In Sight has been sentenced to more than 3 years in prison. He also was ordered to spend eight years on supervised release.

A federal grand jury indicted Kills In Sight in October 2012 for aggravated sexual abuse. He pleaded guilty in March to abusive sexual contact.

The conviction stems from a September 2012 incident in Rosebud, a town on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. Authorities say Kills In Sight engaged in sexual contact with a child younger than 12 years old.

Pierre, Fort Pierre grocery stores being sold

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City-based Lynn's Dakotamart is buying grocery stores in Pierre and Fort Pierre.

Lynn's Dakotamart General Manager Dave Johnson tells the Capital Journal that the Sutley's Super Savings Store in Pierre likely will be closed, and officials will look at "other options" for the site.

The Sutley's Town and Ranch Market in Fort Pierre will remain open, likely under the name of Lynn's Dakotamart, which already has a location in Pierre.

Sutley's co-owner DeWayne Strohfus tells KCCR radio that he's 72 years old and now is the right time to sell.

Good holiday shopping season expected in Dakotas

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Retailers in the Dakotas are expecting a strong holiday shopping season.

The day after Thanksgiving is generally considered the kickoff to the season, with stores offering

"Black Friday" deals that draw shoppers to stores in droves.

Nationally, holiday sales are forecast to grow 4.1 percent over last year, the highest increase since 2011.

South Dakota Retailers Association Executive Director Shawn Lyons says he expects a similar increase in South Dakota. He says better weather than last year is one reason. An early October blizzard put a damper on many families' Christmas budgets last year.

North Dakota Retail Association President Mike Rud (rood)

FRIDAY IS
FRIED CHICKEN DAY
Served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Serving 5-9 p.m.

WE'VE GOT WINGS!
Every Wednesday!

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

says holiday sales in North Dakota might be up 5-6 percent over last year. He cites not only the western oil boom but a strong overall economy.

Man accused of having sex with minor sentenced

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A man accused of having sexual contact with a minor in an Indian reservation in South Dakota has been sentenced.

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A federal grand jury indicted Kills In Sight on October 2012 for aggravated sexual abuse. He pleaded guilty in March to abusive sexual contact.

The conviction stems from a September 2012 incident that occurred in Rosebud, a town located on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. Authorities say Kills In Sight engaged in sexual contact with a child younger than 12 years old.

Producers: Pipeline not a cure-all for rail delays

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota farmers are nearing the end of a record corn harvest this week, but they have serious concerns about grain prices, storage options and rail congestion heading into spring. And they're looking for more options than the Keystone XL pipeline to help.

The proposed pipeline became emblematic during election season as a cure-all to the railway backups and delayed grain shipments that peaked this year thanks to trains transporting oil. But it remains on hold after being narrowly defeated this month in the U.S. Senate.

When producers run out of storage space and rail cars aren't available, they store certain grains on the ground — which can reduce the quality of the grain and affect the price, said Steve Domm, general manager of Central Farmers Cooperative in Marion, South Dakota.

"I'm looking out the window as the conveyor is piling corn on the ground as we speak," Domm said Wednesday.

The amount of rail capacity the Keystone XL would free up would be "a blip on the radar," added Keith Alverson, president of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association President.

Alverson said the pipeline would be helpful as part of a larger suite of solutions, including working with the railroads in the short term to prioritize grain shipments during harvest periods and pushing for more rail infrastructure investments.

The pipeline would cut through South Dakota and several other states to move Canadian oil to the Gulf Coast. The line is planned to transport as much as 100,000 barrels of North Dakota crude oil a day.

Advocates of the pipeline, including many Republican lawmakers, say the project will lessen congestion on the rail lines that South Dakota farmers use to ship crops. Railroad companies say the backup is part due to the sharp increase in oil production in North Dakota, now the country's second largest oil-producing state behind Texas.

Shortly before Election Day, U.S. Sen. John Thune and Sen.-elect Mike Rounds met with agricultural workers at the Central Farmers Cooperative. They were pressed for more solutions — not just building Keystone — to the rail delays.

Thune has put forward legislation that would give the Surface Transportation Board, which regulates freight rail prices, more power to address delays and other problems.

The Burlington, Northern & Santa Fe Railway Company has also pledged \$6 billion in capital improvements for their system wide infrastructure in 2015, spokeswoman Amy McBeth said in a statement. The railroad has been shipping record amounts of corn, wheat and soybeans.

"We clearly understand that for much of 2014 we did not meet the expectations for service of our agricultural customers," she said.

Updates: Black Friday from start to finish

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Before some people opened their eyes, Black Friday was already well underway. The traditional kickoff to the holiday shopping season has become a two-day affair, with more stores opening before people put down their turkey legs on Thanksgiving. There's good reason for the creep; businesses know shoppers will only spend so much, and they want the first crack at grabbing those holiday dollars.

Still, millions of Americans are expected to head out in search of steep discounts on Black Friday, the traditional start to the annual shopping binge. The National Retail Federation forecasts holiday sales will grow 4.1 percent to \$616.9 billion — the highest increase since 2011.

The holiday shopping season is a make-or-break time for many retailers, which can get as much as 20 percent of their annual sales during the time. Already, retailers have resorted to steep discounting to lure shoppers.

Here's a look at what's happening this Black Friday.

Early-bird special

The National Retail Federation expected 25.6 million shoppers to head to stores on Thanksgiving, which would be slightly down from last year. The numbers aren't in yet, there were crowds across the country.

In the Chicago suburb of Naperville, Illinois, the parking lot of a Wal-Mart store was full roughly 30 minutes before Thanksgiving deals started at 6 p.m., including \$199 iPad minis.

Macy's said more than 15,000 people were lined up outside its flagship location in New York City's Herald Square when the doors opened at 6 p.m.

And thousands of people were at Citadel Outlets in Los Angeles, which opened at 8 p.m. on Thanksgiving for a "Moonlight Madness" all-night sale. Hordes of cars inched past rows of palm trees wrapped in red and white lights.

Too Late Already?

Those waking early for some Black Friday shopping may have missed the boat.

It turns out the hottest deals of the season may be on Thanksgiving, according to an analysis of sales data and store circulars by two research firms.

Wendy Iskra was doing a little happy dance Thanksgiving night after she left the Wal-Mart in Naperville, Illinois, with her husband. They had just snagged one of the limited number of iPad minis on sale, as well as a Disney Infinity 2.0 toy box for their 6-year-old daughter. They saved about \$100 on the two items.

Buyer's remorse?

When stores first started opening on Thanksgiving a few years ago, the move was met with resistance

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by those who thought the holiday should remain sacred.

Some Thanksgiving shoppers still felt a tinge of guilt even as they snagged deals on the holiday. "I think it's ridiculous stores open on Thanksgiving," said Reggie Thomas, 44, a director who bought a Sony sound bar for \$349, about \$100 off, at Best Buy in New York on Thanksgiving.

Cathyliz Lopez, 20, who spent \$700 at Target on Thanksgiving, agrees. "It's ruining the spirit of Thanksgiving," she said Thursday. "But ... the best deals were today."

Ferguson protests at stores

Dozens of people interrupted holiday shopping at major retail stores around the St. Louis area to speak out about a grand jury's decision not to indict the officer who fatally shot Michael Brown.

The protests began Thanksgiving night and continued early Friday. Protesters spent a few minutes at each store, shouting inside as law enforcement stood watch. There was no immediate word of any arrests.

A New Tradition, For Workers

Walmart is expected to be the target of another round of protests calling on the company to pay its workers \$15 an hour. The union-backed group Our Walmart says demonstrations are planned at 1,600 stores around the country. Organizers say workers already started walking off the job on Wednesday and some staged a sit-down strike at a store in Washington, D.C.

Brooke Buchanan, a Wal-Mart spokeswoman, played down the impact of the protests. She said past protests have focused on a handful of locations with a handful of workers.

"Perception is not reality in this case. We've seen this story before," she said.

Black Friday, an American Export

Americans won't be the only ones searching for deals on Black Friday; the shopping derby is becoming a tradition in the United Kingdom as well.

Online retailer Amazon is believed to have introduced the concept to the U.K. four years ago, with more businesses joining every year since. In its online survey of 10,000 U.K. shoppers, Verdict Research found 47 percent of the U.K. shoppers plan to participate in the event.

The trend marks a shift for shopping habits in the U.K. Typically, the day after Christmas — known as Boxing Day — is when retailers offer their big deals.

Sales Bang

Black Friday is also one of the biggest days of the year for gun sales.

That puts pressure on the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which is run by a division of the FBI. NICS researchers have until the end of the third business day following an attempted firearm purchase to determine whether a buyer is eligible. After that, buyers have the right to get their guns even if the check wasn't completed.

Last year, the clock ran out more than 186,000 times.

The problem is the records submitted by states, which aren't always updated to reflect restraining orders or other reasons to deny a sale.

NICS did about 58,000 checks on a typical day last year, with the figure surging to 145,000 on Black Friday.

Candice Choi, Anne D'Innocenzio and Mae Anderson in New York, Sara Burnett in Chicago and Robert

Jablon in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Sherman's big night leads Seattle past 49ers again

JANIE McCAULEY, AP Sports Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — At midfield, Richard Sherman cradled a game ball in his right hand and took a chomp out of a turkey leg with his left.

Seattle's do-everything, unguarded cornerback certainly earned his postgame feast after a two-interception night that kept the defending Super Bowl champion Seahawks right in the NFC West race with a 19-3 win against the San Francisco 49ers on Thursday.

Just like 10 months earlier with that game-sealing deflection in the end zone during the NFC championship game, Sherman was in the middle of all the big plays. With Michael Crabtree the target again, too.

Sherman set up the only touchdown of the game with another key defensive play in this heated rivalry, then made a second interception with the 49ers driving late, and the Seahawks ended a five-game losing streak on San Francisco's home field.

"The second one was pretty entertaining. I was laughing the whole time," Sherman said. "They threw it. I said, 'Way to be, way to be.'"

Sherman and Crabtree were at the center of the decisive play in January's NFC title game, when Sherman tipped the ball to Malcolm Smith for an interception with less than a minute remaining in the Seahawks' 23-17 victory. Sherman later called Crabtree "mediocre."

Asked about Crabtree on Thursday, Sherman quipped: "History? What history?"

The Seahawks kept Crabtree and quarterback Colin Kaepernick off balance all night.

"He said he was throwing to the open man. He didn't care who was out there," Sherman said of Kaepernick. "I was the open man."

Russell Wilson threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Robert Turbin in the first quarter, and the Seahawks (8-4) won by the same score as their victory over first-place Arizona five days earlier.

"Big wins, division opponents, and these games count as two to me," safety Earl Thomas said. "We're playing together, man. That's what's so powerful. ... It felt good, it felt like we were alive."

Here are five things of note from the Seahawks' first visit to new \$1.3 billion Levi's Stadium:

BIG-GAME SHERMAN: It was 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh who turned Sherman into a defensive back during his days at Stanford. Now, he's one of the best.

Sherman had the fourth two-interception game of his career with his 22nd and 23rd picks since 2011, most in the NFL.

Might these games mean just a little more to Sherman?

"It could," Seahawks outside linebacker Bruce Irvin said. "That was his college coach, the Crabtree incident last year. I'm pretty sure beating the Niners means a lot more to him than the rest of us."

ANGRY OWNER: In the waning moments with thousands of red seats already empty, 49ers CEO Jed York posted on Twitter: "Thank you (hashtag)49ersfaithful for coming out strong tonight. This performance wasn't acceptable. I apologize for that."

Kaepernick, whose team has reached three straight NFC title games, couldn't argue. San Francisco (7-5) had a three-game winning streak snapped.

"It's not acceptable," he said. "We didn't perform well. We have a much higher standard for ourselves. ... We have to win out in order to have a shot to get into the playoffs."

Even general manager Trent Baalke's daughter, Cassie, apparently got into the Twitter discussion

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about the team's struggles, calling out offensive coordinator Greg Roman. The tweet was quickly removed.

"Greg Roman can take a hike..the 49ers don't want you no more," the tweet said.

NO-SHOW OFFENSE: Left tackle Joe Staley didn't mince words about how awful San Francisco's offense was.

"We had zero good plays. Zero," Staley said.

The 49ers were held to three points or fewer for the first time since a 29-3 Week 2 loss at Seattle last year. And they still must face the Seahawks in 17 days at CenturyLink Field.

Kaepernick had the second-lowest passer rating of his career at 36.7, with his only lower mark a 20.1 at Seattle last year. Kaepernick was 16 of 29 for 121 yards, and the 49ers were outgained 379-164.

"We've got to reboot, come back and win them all," Harbaugh said.

WHAT HOME FIELD? Much of the crowd went home early, so it hardly felt like much of an advantage for the 49ers with any kind of additional noise level.

Nothing like what Seattle is used to with its deafening "12th Man." Sherman not only criticized the home crowd for leaving early, but also for yelling "vulgar" insults throughout. He said someone tossed a bottle as the Seahawks left the field after the game.

"It didn't matter if we were on the road or not," Thomas said. "We silenced the crowd."

PENALTY FEST: This one could have been far more lopsided.

Seattle committed 14 penalties for 105 yards, including an offensive pass interference by Turbin that negated Paul Richardson's 7-yard touchdown catch midway through the third quarter.

"Other than this game being a penalty game we pretty much did what we're able to do, so it was really good," coach Pete Carroll said. "All I can tell you is we're working at it. We're playing really hard and really aggressive, so it's kind of like last year. We're pretty good at leading and last year, too, in penalties."

Energy shares slide after OPEC decision

KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Crude oil and energy shares tumbled Friday as OPEC's decision to keep production steady rippled across the globe. Japanese stocks rose after a slew of uninspiring economic data raised hopes that more stimulus was in the pipeline while other global indexes were mixed.

KEEPING SCORE: European shares opened lower, with France's CAC 40 down 0.6 percent to 4,356.26. Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.8 percent to 6,673.24 and Germany's DAX slipped 0.7 percent to 9,905.45. U.S. shares were poised to fall at the open, with Dow futures dipping 0.2 percent to 17,773. Broader S&P 500 futures lost 0.2 percent to 2,067.

ENERGY SLUMP: The oil cartel decided to maintain production at 30 million barrels a day despite global oversupply, as the Saudis and their Gulf allies hope to pressure rival producers in the U.S. That sent oil prices to four-year lows. Benchmark U.S. crude oil tumbled 6.8 percent, or \$4.99, to \$68.70 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, used to price oil sold on international markets, slipped 61 cents to \$71.97 after losing about \$5 in the previous session.

BIG MOVERS: Oil-related stocks were the big losers following the slide in crude prices. Chinese state owned oil giant CNOOC, the country's biggest crude producer, plunged 5.5 percent and PetroChina slid 3.3 percent. Shares of Anglo-Australian miner BHP Billiton, which has crude oil interests, slipped 3.4 percent in Sydney. BP dived 3.9 percent in London and Total sank 4.6 percent in Paris trading.

ASIA'S DAY: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index rose 1.2 percent to close at 17,459.85 while South Korea's Kospi slipped 0.1 percent to 1,980.78. Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged 0.1 percent lower to

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23,987.45 while in mainland China the Shanghai Composite Index gained 2 percent to 2,682.83. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 tumbled 1.6 percent to 5,313.00. Benchmarks in Taiwan, Singapore and the Philippines rose while in Thailand, Indonesia and New Zealand they fell.

JAPAN DATA: A raft of data releases gave mixed signs about the state of Asia's second biggest economy but the Nikkei surged nonetheless, a sign that investors thought that the initial reaction to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's renewed stimulus efforts wasn't enough and that more was in the pipeline. Inflation edged lower while industrial output edged up from the month before and unemployment eased slightly.

THE QUOTE: "If our forecasts are correct, the (Japanese) central bank is likely to come under pressure to deliver additional easing sooner than markets expect," with the announcement coming as early as the second quarter of 2015, HSBC economist Izumi Devalier said in a research report.

CURRENCIES: The euro slipped to \$1.2450 from \$1.2453 in late trading Thursday. The dollar eased to 118.10 yen from 118.12 yen.

Eagles top Cowboys 33-10, may have to do it again

SCHUYLER DIXON, AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — LeSean McCoy said beating Dallas with the NFC East lead on the line felt a lot like last year, when Philadelphia wrapped up a playoff berth in the Cowboys' \$1.2 billion stadium.

There's one big difference for the Eagles, though: They might have to do it again in a rematch on their home field next month to make sure they get back to the postseason.

McCoy ran for 159 yards and a touchdown, Mark Sanchez had his first scoring run in almost three years and the Philadelphia defense took advantage of a ragged Tony Romo in a 33-10 victory Thursday.

"This is only the first half," linebacker Connor Barwin said. "We have them again in two weeks and we need to back it up again. The same way we did today, if not even better."

The Eagles (9-3) opened with quick drives of 80 and 88 yards for touchdowns. They took sole possession of the division lead with four games remaining, including the Dec. 14 rematch.

"We're not into statements," Philadelphia coach Chip Kelly said. "We've given ourselves the opportunity to play meaningful football in December, and in this league, every week is a whole different deal, a whole different animal."

McCoy, who led the NFL with 1,604 yards rushing last season, had his fourth 100-yard game in the past seven after going without one through the first five weeks. He secured his fourth 1,000-yard season since 2010, and the Eagles improved to 6-0 on Thanksgiving.

Although his deficit to Dallas' DeMarco Murray in the rushing race is probably insurmountable, McCoy outgained Murray, who was held under 100 yards for just the second time this season.

Murray finished with 73 yards and Dallas' only touchdown on 20 carries, the last a 6-yard loss when he was dropped by Mychal Kendricks on fourth-and-1 early in the fourth quarter.

"I don't really compare myself," said McCoy, who had a season-high 25 carries. "I just try to be me. I don't really get into that whole, especially during the season, who's this, who's that thing. In the big picture, we're trying to win games."

Things to consider after Philadelphia won its first Thanksgiving meeting with Dallas since 1989, a 27-0 win for the Eagles in Jerry Jones' first season as owner of the Cowboys:

RAGGED ROMO: The 34-year-old Romo wasn't around for last year's playoffs-or-bust finale because he was two days removed from back surgery. This time he was trying to play in a quick turnaround for the first time — about 90 hours after a dramatic win at the New York Giants — and following yet another back injury.

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He threw two interceptions and didn't have a touchdown pass for the first time in 39 games as the Cowboys (8-4) dropped their third straight at home.

"It was definitely short just from the Sunday night coming to here," said Romo, who was 18 of 29 for 199 yards. "I don't really think that had much to do with the outcome of the game. I think they just played better than us."

SMOOTH SANCHEZ: Making his fourth start since Nick Foles was sidelined by a broken collarbone, Sanchez was 9 of 11 for 99 yards in the first quarter. That included a 27-yard scoring pass to Jordan Matthews when Sanchez hit the rookie in stride on a crossing route for a 14-0 lead.

Sanchez finished 20 of 29 for 217 yards with a touchdown and no interceptions two years after he was the starter for the New York Jets and infamously ran into the backside of one of his offensive linemen for a fumble that New England returned for a touchdown in a 49-19 Thanksgiving rout.

"It is like my favorite holiday, so that's not cool," Sanchez said. "It was a bummer. The game plan was to try not to do that. And we accomplished that."

This time, Sanchez had his first scoring run since Dec. 24, 2011, with the Jets — a 2-yarder after faking a handoff to McCoy on the zone read. McCoy set up the game's first touchdown with a 38-yard run.

HOME WOES: The Cowboys are 5-0 on the road, which means all four of their losses have come in Jones' spacious, retractable-roof showplace. "I'm disappointed because this was a great day ... we had a great Thanksgiving Day crowd, the stage was set," Jones said.

MACLIN'S MILESTONE: Eagles receiver Jeremy Maclin secured his first career 1,000-yard season with 108 yards, including a 58-yard catch to set up one of Cody Parkey's three second-quarter field goals. Parkey had four field goals total, the longest from 31 yards.

STILL WAITING: Cowboys defensive tackle Josh Brent was inactive for the second time since the end of a 10-game suspension for his intoxication manslaughter conviction. He hasn't played since Dec. 2, 2012, six days before the drunken-driving crash that killed teammate Jerry Brown.

Ferguson protests move to Target, Wal-Mart stores

MANCHESTER, Mo. (AP) — Dozens of people have interrupted holiday shopping at major retail stores around the St. Louis area to speak out about a grand jury's decision not to indict the officer who fatally shot Michael Brown.

The protests began Thanksgiving night and continued early Friday. Protesters spent a few minutes at each store, shouting inside. Officer in at least one store ordered them to leave. There was no immediate word of any arrests.

According to Johnetta Elzie, who had been tweeting and posting videos of the protests, demonstrations occurred at a Wal-Mart and Target in Brentwood, two Wal-Marts in St. Charles and one Wal-Mart in Manchester.

In the suburb of Ferguson, where Brown was shot on Aug. 9, there were no visible protests as the National Guard patrolled the area Thursday night.

Southern Democrats urge a return to party basics

BILL BARROW, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Southern Democrats are joining others in the party who say that a return to advocating to lift people out of economic hardship and emphasizing spending on education and public works will re-energize black voters and attract whites as well.

"It's time to draw a line in the sand and not surrender our brand," Rickey Cole, the party chairman

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in Mississippi, said. He believes candidates have distanced themselves from the past half-century of Democratic principles.

"We don't need a New Coke formula," Cole said. "The problem is we've been out there trying to peddle Tab and RC Cola."

Cole and other Southern Democrats acknowledge divisions with prominent populists such as Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is expected to run for president in 2016, and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren. Yet they see merit in pushing stronger voting rights laws, tighter bank regulation, labor-friendly policies such as a higher minimum wage and other familiar party themes.

Democratic politics have become a tough sell in the conservative South. A major challenge in the region is finding candidates who can win high-profile races now that Republicans, who scored well in midterm elections earlier this month, dominate the leadership in state legislatures and across statewide offices.

Georgia Democrats thought legacy candidates were the answer. But Senate hopeful Michelle Nunn, former Sen. Sam Nunn's daughter, and gubernatorial challenger Jason Carter, former President Jimmy Carter's grandson, each fell short by about 8 percentage points despite well-funded campaigns and ambitious voter-registration drives.

Arkansas Democrats lost an open governor's seat and two-term Sen. Mark Pryor. Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu led an eight-candidate primary but faces steep odds in a Dec. 6 runoff. Democrats' closest statewide loss in the South was North Carolina Sen. Kay Hagan's 1.7 percentage point margin of defeat.

Exit polling suggests Democrats did not get the black turnout they needed and lost badly among whites. Nunn and Carter got fewer than 1 in 4 white votes, while Pryor took 31 percent and Landrieu 18 percent.

Should Landrieu lose, Democrats will be left without a single governor, U.S. senator or legislative chamber under their control from the Carolinas westward to Texas.

J.P. Morrell, a state senator from New Orleans, faulted a muddled message that began with candidates avoiding President Barack Obama. "You have to articulate why the economic policies we advocate as Democrats actually benefit people on the ground," Morrell said.

In Georgia, Nunn supported a minimum-wage increase and gender-pay equity, but her television ads focused on ending partisan rancor. Carter mostly accused Republican Gov. Nathan Deal of shortchanging public education. Nunn and Carter supported Medicaid expansion under Obama's health overhaul, but neither emphasized that argument in television advertising.

"No real economic message got through," said Vincent Fort, a state senator from Atlanta.

Georgia's Democratic chairman, DuBose Porter, defended Carter and Nunn as "world-class candidates" who can run again. He said Democrats "proved Georgia can be competitive in 2016," but he cautioned against looking for a nominee other than Clinton. "She puts us in play," he said.

In an interview, Carter focused more on tactics than on broad messaging, saying the party must register minority voters and continue outreach to whites. "If 120,000 people change their mind in this election, it comes out differently," he said. "But it takes a lot of time to build those relationships. ... You can't expect it to happen in one year."

Gary Pearce, a Democratic strategist and commentator in North Carolina, said Hagan's margin in a GOP wave offers hope for 2016, when statewide executive offices will be on the ballot. Fresh arguments, he said, "will have to come from younger Democrats in the cities." He pointed to several young Democratic candidates who won county commission seats in Wake County, home to Raleigh.

Cole, the Mississippi chairman, acknowledged that any new approach won't close the party's gap in the South on abortion, same-sex marriage and guns, and said Democrats intensify that cultural discon-

nect with "identity politics."

While the party's positions on gay rights, minority voting access, women's rights and immigration are not wrong, Cole said, "those people who don't see themselves in those groups say, 'What have the Democrats got for me?'"

Unapologetic populism, he said, would "explain better that the Democratic Party is for justice and opportunity — with no qualifiers — for everyone."

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. ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, SHOP!

The official start of the holiday shopping season begins and with it, the first sign on whether it's going to be a happy holiday for retailers.

2. FERGUSON PROTESTS MOVE TO TARGET, WAL-MART STORES

Dozens of people interrupt holiday shopping at major retail stores around the St. Louis area to speak out about the fatal shooting of Michael Brown.

3. WHAT PONTIFF IS FACING ON VISIT

Pope Francis is visiting Turkey at a sensitive moment for the Muslim nation, as it cares for 1.6 million refugees and weighs how to deal with the Islamic State group.

4. IMMIGRANTS' CHANCES TIED TO THEIR STATE'S POLICES

They may be allowed to remain in the U.S., but it doesn't mean their state will let them drive a car, get an affordable education or obtain a certificate to teach school or practice law.

5. OIL PRICES DECLINE A MIXED BAG

Despite its effect on governments dependent on oil revenues, it's a boon for consumers as pump prices fall and lowers costs for businesses.

6. GROWERS GRATEFUL FOR HIGHER CHRISTMAS TREE PRICES

The holiday staple likely will cost a little more this year, and growers who survived the downturn say it's about time.

7. HOW THE LOSING PARTY PLANS TO COME BACK

Sore from a defeat by the GOP, Southern Democrats urge a return to familiar economic policies to re-energize black voters and attract whites as well.

8. CREED FRONTMAN SAYS HE'S BROKE, LIVING IN HOTEL

Rocker Scott Stapp, 41, says in a rambling video posted on his Facebook page he has no money, "not even for gas or food."

9. LAWYER LIGHTS UP DOWN UNDER

An attorney sets a world record by stringing up over 1 million Christmas lights along the national center mall in Canberra, Australia.

10. SEAHAWKS WIN KEY NFC WEST TILT

Richard Sherman gets two interceptions as Seattle beats the San Francisco 49ers 19-3 to take sole possession of second place in the division.

AP News in Brief

What's going on at various stores on the traditional start to the holiday shopping season

NEW YORK (AP) — Before some people opened their eyes, Black Friday was already well underway. The traditional kickoff to the holiday shopping season has become a two-day affair, with more stores opening before people put down their turkey legs on Thanksgiving. There's good reason for the creep; businesses know shoppers will only spend so much, and they want the first crack at grabbing those holiday dollars.

Still, millions of Americans are expected to head out in search of steep discounts on Black Friday, the traditional start to the annual shopping binge. The National Retail Federation forecasts holiday sales will grow 4.1 percent to \$616.9 billion — the highest increase since 2011.

The holiday shopping season is a make-or-break time for many retailers, which can get as much as 20 percent of their annual sales during the time. Already, retailers have resorted to steep discounting to lure shoppers.

Here's a look at what's happening this Black Friday.

Ease of immigrants lives depend on state policies that vary from tough to welcoming

PHOENIX (AP) — If Christian Avila lived a few hundred miles to the west, he would have a driver's license, qualify for in-state college tuition and a host of other opportunities available to young people granted legal status by President Barack Obama two years ago.

But Avila lives in Phoenix, and the 24-year-old immigrant who was brought here from Mexico by his parents at age 9 still has to navigate the sprawling city in fear as he drives to school or work.

"You get nervous, your legs start to tingle a little bit when there's a cop behind you, when you're doing nothing wrong by driving to work," said Avila, a community college student and immigration activist. "You're not breaking any rules, you're following the law. But unfortunately it's where we live."

With last week's action by Obama that expanded the deferred action program and added millions of other immigrants, Avila's plight highlights a harsh reality about the president's changes. The president may be allowing them to remain in the U.S., but it doesn't mean their state will let them drive a car, get an education at an affordable rate or obtain health insurance.

A patchwork of rules began to form in states — largely along political lines — after the president allowed some young immigrants to stay in the country. Conservative states like Nebraska and Arizona kept them from getting driver's licenses while liberal locations were much more welcoming in terms of state services and benefits.

US-backed Syrian rebels aided by al-Qaida militants push forward on southern front

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian rebels backed by the United States are making their biggest gains yet south of the capital Damascus, capturing a string of towns from government forces and aiming to carve out a swath of territory leading to the doorstep of President Bashar Assad's seat of power

The advances appear to be a rare visible success story from efforts by the U.S. and its allies to train

and arm moderate rebel fighters.

The rebel forces are believed to include fighters who graduated from a nearly 2-year-old CIA training program based in Syria's southern neighbor Jordan. The group known as the Friends of Syria, including Jordan, France the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, are backing the rebels with money and weapons, said Gen. Ibrahim Jbawi, the spokesman for the Free Syrian Army's southern front.

The gains are a contrast to northern Syria, where U.S.-backed rebels are collapsing in the face of an assault by Islamic militants. Notably, in the south, the rebels are working together with fighters from al-Qaida's Syria branch, whose battle-hardened militants have helped them gain the momentum against government forces. The cooperation points to the difficulty in American efforts to build up "moderate" factions while isolating militants.

"The goal is to reach the capital ... because there is no way to bring down the regime without reaching Damascus," said Ahmad al-Masalmeh, an opposition activist in Daraa.

Oil price plunge a panacea for crude-reliant Asia but negatives loom for some countries

A renewed plunge in oil prices is a worrying sign of weakness in the global economy that could shake governments dependent on oil revenues. It is also a panacea as pump prices fall, giving individuals more disposable income and lowering costs for many businesses.

Partly because of the shale oil boom in the U.S., the world is awash in oil but demand from major economies is weak so prices are falling.

The latest slide was triggered by OPEC's decision Thursday to leave its production target at 30 million barrels a day. Member nations of the cartel are worried they'll lose market share if they lower production.

Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, was at \$72.50 a barrel on Friday, down nearly 30 percent in the past three months and at its lowest in four years. U.S. crude oil slid 7.5 percent to near \$68 a barrel on Friday and is down 27 percent over three months.

OPEC countries and other major oil exporters will feel the biggest negative impact.

Pope wades into Islamic State turmoil with Turkish visit, and a flap over Erdogan's new home

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Pope Francis is visiting Turkey at a sensitive moment for the Muslim nation, as it cares for 1.6 million refugees and weighs how to deal with the Islamic State group as its fighters grab chunks of Syria and Iraq across Turkey's southern border.

Francis is expected to use his opening speeches Friday to denounce the violence being committed in God's name by the extremists, and to express solidarity with the Christians and other religious minorities who have been targeted by the onslaught, massacred or forced to leave their homes.

The three-day visit will also give Francis a chance to reach out to Turkey's tiny Christian community — less than 1 percent of Turks are Catholic — and visit with the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I.

Francis will tour two of Istanbul's most impressive sites, the Hagia Sofia complex — the Byzantine church-turned-mosque that is now a museum — and the nearby Sultan Ahmet mosque, Turkey's most important place of Muslim worship.

Security will be tight: Turkish media reports said some 2,700 police officers would be on duty during

the Ankara leg of the trip alone, and that a court had issued an order allowing police to stop and search cars and carry out random identity checks on people along routes used by the pope.

Doctors, patients rebel against Moscow health care reform, creating headache for Putin

MOSCOW (AP) — Dr. Semyon Galperin spent a decade in medical research in Russia and as much time in the United States, working at top hospitals and research companies. Despite his expertise, Galperin was recently given a stark ultimatum from the Moscow hospital where he works: Leave or stay on as a lowly hospital attendant.

Galperin's job is being eliminated as part of a sweeping reform in which at least 28 Moscow hospitals are to be closed and up to 10,000 medical staff fired, an overhaul that officials say is needed to modernize a decrepit Soviet-era health system. On Sunday, thousands of doctors and their patients are set to march against the reform as part of the first mass social protest in Russia in nearly a decade — a threat to President Vladimir Putin who faced down a wave of political protests launched in 2011 and is now struggling with a faltering economy.

The doctors' rebellion started early this month, when thousands took to the streets to protest the layoffs and hospital closures. Last time a similar protest happened in 2005, Putin became so alarmed that within a week he overturned the scrapping of social benefits for millions of pensioners and the disabled, and in fact doubled pensions instead.

Aware of the potential fall-out of this protest, Putin last week asked the Moscow government to reconsider the reform as his human rights council hosted a round table discussion with prominent doctors and trade unions that were not consulted when the reform was launched.

At Moscow's Hospital 11, Galperin is vowing to stay on even if that means working as an attendant: "I can't leave work because we decided to fight till the end," he said.

German energy revolution spells doom for village sitting on vast coal deposits

ATTERWASCH, Germany (AP) — Five days a week, a giant machine eats its way through soil at the Jaenschwalde open-cast mine in eastern Germany, exposing the brown coal buried beneath.

Lignite, as this form of compressed peat is known, is becoming an increasingly important part of Germany's effort to phase out nuclear energy. It's also the reason why Atterwasch, a village that survived the Thirty Years' War, a Soviet onslaught at the end of World War II and four hard decades of communist rule is slated to be razed.

The village, with its volunteer fire station and old brownstone church, is to make way for a strip mine in the next decade. Dozens of other villages have fallen victim to the same fate, as coal once again becomes king.

The plan has many of Atterwasch's 250 inhabitants up in arms.

"This is an ancient village," said long-time resident Monika Schulz-Hoepfner. Historical records first mention Atterwasch in 1294, and the house that she and her husband raised their three children in was built in 1740.

Sore from losing to GOP, Southern Democrats urge a return to familiar economic policies

ATLANTA (AP) — Southern Democrats are joining others in the party who say that a return to advocating to lift people out of economic hardship and emphasizing spending on education and public works will re-energize black voters and attract whites as well.

"It's time to draw a line in the sand and not surrender our brand," Rickey Cole, the party chairman in Mississippi, said. He believes candidates have distanced themselves from the past half-century of Democratic principles.

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Cole and other Southern Democrats acknowledge divisions with prominent populists such as Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is expected to run for president in 2016, and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren. Yet they see merit in pushing stronger voting rights laws, tighter bank regulation, labor-friendly policies such as a higher minimum wage and other familiar party themes.

Democratic politics have become a tough sell in the conservative South. A major challenge in the region is finding candidates who can win high-profile races now that Republicans, who scored well in midterm elections earlier this month, dominate the leadership in state legislatures and across statewide offices.

Richard Sherman makes 2 interceptions as Seahawks beat 49ers 19-3 in NFC West rivalry

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — At midfield, Richard Sherman cradled a game ball in his right hand and took a chomp out of a turkey leg with his left.

Seattle's do-everything, unguarded cornerback certainly earned his postgame feast after a two-interception night that kept the defending Super Bowl champion Seahawks right in the NFC West race with a 19-3 win against the San Francisco 49ers on Thursday.

Just like 10 months earlier with that game-sealing deflection in the end zone during the NFC championship game, Sherman was in the middle of all the big plays. With Michael Crabtree the target again, too.

Sherman set up the only touchdown of the game with another key defensive play in this heated rivalry, then made a second interception with the 49ers driving late, and the Seahawks ended a five-game losing streak on San Francisco's home field.

"The second one was pretty entertaining. I was laughing the whole time," Sherman said. "They threw it. I said, 'Way to be, way to be.'"

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Nov. 28, the 332nd day of 2014. There are 33 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 28, 1964, the United States launched the space probe Mariner 4 on a course toward Mars, which it flew past in July 1965, sending back pictures of the red planet.

On this date:

In 1520, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan reached the Pacific Ocean after passing through

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the South American strait that now bears his name.

In 1861, the Confederate Congress admitted Missouri as the 12th state of the Confederacy after Missouri's disputed secession from the Union.

In 1905, Sinn Fein (shin fayn) was founded in Dublin.

In 1922, Captain Cyril Turner of the Royal Air Force gave the first public skywriting exhibition, spelling out, "Hello USA. Call Vanderbilt 7200" over New York's Times Square; about 47,000 calls in less than three hours resulted.

In 1942, nearly 500 people died in a fire that destroyed the Coconut Grove nightclub in Boston.

In 1944, the MGM movie musical "Meet Me in St. Louis," starring Judy Garland, opened in New York, six days after its world premiere in St. Louis.

In 1958, Chad, Gabon and Middle Congo became autonomous republics within the French community.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy dedicated the original permanent headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency in Langley, Virginia. Ernie Davis of Syracuse University became the first African-American to be named winner of the Heisman Trophy.

In 1979, an Air New Zealand DC-10 en route to the South Pole crashed into a mountain in Antarctica, killing all 257 people aboard.

In 1987, a South African Airways Boeing 747 crashed into the Indian Ocean with the loss of all 159 people aboard.

In 1994, serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer was murdered in a Wisconsin prison by a fellow inmate. Sixties war protester Jerry Rubin died in Los Angeles, two weeks after being hit by a car; he was 56.

In 2001, Enron Corp., once the world's largest energy trader, collapsed after would-be rescuer Dynegy Inc. backed out of an \$8.4 billion takeover deal.

Ten years ago: NBC Sports chairman Dick Ebersol was injured, his 14-year-old son Teddy among three people killed, when a charter plane crashed during takeoff outside Montrose, Colorado. Al-Qaida in Iraq claimed responsibility for slaughtering members of Iraq's security forces in Mosul, where dozens of bodies had been found. A gas explosion in a central Chinese coal mine killed 166 people.

Five years ago: A conservative Iranian legislator warned his country might pull out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty after a U.N. resolution censuring Tehran. For a second straight day, Tiger Woods was unavailable to speak to the Florida Highway Patrol about an accident involving his SUV that sent him to the hospital with injuries.

One year ago: China said it had sent warplanes into its newly declared maritime air defense zone, days after the U.S., South Korea and Japan all sent flights through the airspace in defiance of rules Beijing said it had imposed in the East China Sea.

Today's Birthdays: Recording executive Berry Gordy Jr. is 85. Former Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., is 78. Singer-songwriter Bruce Channel is 74. Singer Randy Newman is 71. CBS News correspondent Susan Spencer is 68. Movie director Joe Dante is 67. "Late Show" orchestra leader Paul Shaffer is 65. Actor Ed Harris is 64. Former NASA teacher in space Barbara Morgan is 63. Actress S. Epatha (eh-PAY'-thah) Merkerson is 62. Former Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff is 61. Country singer Kristine Arnold (Sweethearts of the Rodeo) is 58. Actor Judd Nelson is 55. Movie director Alfonso Cuarón (kwahr-OHN') is 53. Rock musician Matt Cameron is 52. Actress Jane Sibbett is 52. Comedian Jon Stewart is 52. Actress Garcelle Beauvais (gar-SEHL' boh-VAY') is 48. Actor/comedian Stephnie (cq) Weir (TV: "The Comedians"; "MadTV") is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Dawn Robinson is 46. Hip-hop musician apl.de.ap (Black Eyed Peas) is 40. Actor Ryan Kwanten is 38. Actress Aimee Garcia is 36. Rapper Chamillionaire is 35. Actor Daniel Henney is 35. Rock musician Rostam Batmanglij (bot-man-GLEESH') (Vampire Weekend) is 31. Rock singer-keyboardist Tyler Glenn (Neon Trees) is 31. Actress Mary Eliza-

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beth Winstead is 30. R&B singer Trey Songz is 30. Actress Scarlett Pomers (TV: "Reba") is 26.

Thought for Today: "Happiness is a sort of atmosphere you can live in sometimes when you're lucky. Joy is a light that fills you with hope and faith and love." - Adela Rogers St. Johns, American journalist (1894-1988).