

Groton Daily Independent

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Museum looking for board directors

The Dacotah Prairie Museum is currently seeking people interested in serving on the museum board of directors.

The board meets monthly to oversee the operation of the museum and set policy.

Board members are appointed for a three-year term by the Brown County Commission upon recommendation by the museum board's executive committee. Potential members should have an interest in history and/or education and must be residents of Brown County. New members will begin their terms in January 2016.

For more information or to request an application please contact Sue Gates 605-626-7117 or sue.gates@browncounty.sd.gov

Friday, November 20

Debate and Oral Interp at Mitchell
State Volleyball Tourney in Sioux Falls

School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, 3-bean salad, blueberry cobbler, whole wheat bread.

School Menu: Wrap 'n Roll Joe Cheezer, tri tater, fruit, broccoli.

Birthdays: Shauna Schauer • Ashleigh Koehler

Saturday, November 21

Debate and Oral Interp at Mitchell
State Volleyball Tourney in Sioux Falls

Anniversaries: Larry & Sharon Wheeting • Gene & Robin Loeschke

Birthdays: Peggy Locke • Kelsea Heintzman • Bary Keith

9:00am: 7th/8th GBB Jamboree at Britton

10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran pastor at Rosewood Court

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

9:00pm: Robotics at Harrisburg

Sunday, November 22

Birthdays: Jim Gerdes • Boyd Barwin • Delores Krueger • Tevin Abeln • Nick Johnson • Grayson McCranie

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran worship (very brief election meeting after worship)

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Harry Implement
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



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Ferney

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Groton Area School District #06-6 School Board Meeting November 23, 2015 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.
- OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:
1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
 2. Program Overview Presentations Grades 2 and 3...A. Zoellner, J. Kroll, D. Winburn, K. Anderson K-12 Music...C. Swanson, D. Yeigh
 3. School Board Committee Reports:
 - a. Building, Grounds, & Transportation: Lars Hanson, Merle Harder, Marty Weismantel
 - b. Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum: Dorene Nelson, Grant Rix
 - c. Negotiations: Kelly Kjelden, Steve Smith
 4. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principals' Reports; (c) Business Manager Report
- NEW BUSINESS:
1. Other items, as may be appropriate or as deemed necessary.
- ADJOURN

a bridal SHOWER for Marah Smith



Come and Go Shower
Saturday, November 21, 2015 from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
Groton, South Dakota

Shane Van Diest and Marah are registered at
Bed, Bath and Beyond and Amazon

THINKING ABOUT HEALTH

Obamacare Policyholders Question Rising Deductibles

By Trudy Lieberman, Rural Health News Service

Is health insurance really affordable? That's the question thousands of Americans who signed up for policies under the Affordable Care Act are beginning to ask as third year open enrollment gets underway.

A few weeks ago a 63-year-old woman, a reader of these columns, contacted me about the health insurance policy she had bought through the Illinois exchange. She lost her coverage after her husband died and had been uninsured for nearly two years before Obamacare came along. She had some health problems and worried, she said, that she was "playing the odds." She was just the person the law was intended to help.

Realizing she could lose everything if she had a serious illness, she signed up for a Blue Cross Blue Shield bronze plan, the kind with the lowest premiums and highest deductibles. Her monthly premium for the first year was an affordable \$93 because her low income—about \$25,000 a year working part time at an insurance agency—qualified her for a tax subsidy of \$451.

The catch, of course, was the \$6,000 deductible. She also had to pay the full price of her drugs, which didn't count toward the deductible, although once other medical bills exceeded the deductible, drugs were covered in full. She didn't use the policy because she didn't "have \$6,000 lying around" for some recommended tests.

The second year the premium zoomed up to \$258—tougher to pay but she still managed to "squeak by." She needed knee surgery. But because of the large deductible, she had to pay the first \$6,000 out-of-pocket, and for most of the year she made monthly payments of \$240 to the hospital. Counting the premium and another \$100 or so for drugs, the monthly outlay for medical expenses totaled about \$600, more than a quarter of her monthly income.

This year when the premium increased to \$406, still with the same subsidy, she said no, and filed a new application hoping to find something cheaper that would also let her continue to see the doctors she liked. Luckily she discovered she had been paying smoker rates but was not a smoker. The new premium based on non-smoker rates is \$216, about the maximum she can afford.

A new study from the actuarial firm Milliman just confirmed what the Illinois woman and others already know. Next year's premiums have increased overall compared to 2015 for a variety of reasons such as higher costs for medical care, especially prescription drugs, and lower payments to insurers from the government to cushion the impact of covering lots of sick people.

Milliman compared the second lowest cost silver plans for a 27-year-old and found increases varied with some states like Mississippi and Indiana experiencing decreases and others like Illinois, South Dakota and Nebraska experiencing increases, some significant. In South Dakota, for example, the average increase was 25 percent.

States with fewer insurers tended to have higher increases. That's hardly surprising since competition in health insurance does seem to keep premiums somewhat lower.

No one buys exactly the average policy, of course, or pays exactly the average premium. But it's clear that large numbers of Obamacare policyholders will be paying more next year, and that worries researchers, government officials, and supporters of the health law.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Urban Institute recently reported that only 35 percent of people eligible for a subsidy—like the one the Illinois woman received—had signed up for a policy last year, and most of them were individuals and families with the lowest incomes. About 80 percent of those with low incomes had chosen policies while only 30 percent with middle incomes in the \$40,000 to \$60,000 range did not.

"People are looking at this and saying 'Man, I can't afford it,'" says Washington insurance consultant Robert Laszewski. He has long argued policies are too expensive and deductibles too high for all except those who get the highest subsidies—in other words, those with the lowest incomes.

Laszewski predicts even higher increases for next year along with higher deductibles and a smaller choice of doctors and hospitals. That's what the Illinois woman is afraid of.

"I didn't expect these kinds of increases year after year," she told me. "It was like the first year was a big come-on. Everybody gets in and the second year they sock it to you."

And for next year? "Who knows," she says. "Still counting down to Medicare."

What kind of rate increases are you seeing? Write to Trudy at trudy.lieberman@gmail.com

A Warm 2015-16 Winter Weather Forecast

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Based on the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center's outlook released this week, a strong El Niño continues to affect the U.S. as warmer than average temperatures are forecast for South Dakota and the northern states this coming winter season (December 2015 through February 2016).

"The current observations in the Pacific Ocean rank the current El Niño as the second or third strongest since 1950, and this is projected to have impacts on our wintertime climate in the U.S. El Niño is expected to reach its peak intensity in the next two to three months," said Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist.

Across northeastern South Dakota in December, Edwards said there is a 50 percent likelihood of above average temperatures, with 33 percent chance of near average and 17 percent chance of below average temperatures. "The rest of the state is favored to have warmer than average temperatures, with slightly less likelihood in the month ahead," she said.

The precipitation forecast for December is leaning towards drier than average for the northern tier counties. The remainder of the state has equal chances of above, below or near average precipitation for the month.

Looking further ahead - through February - there continues to be an increased chance of warmer than average temperatures across all of the northern states, from coast to coast. "This is consistent with a strong El Niño climate pattern that we have seen in the past, and many of the long-range computer climate models are forecasting that the same will hold true in winter of 2015-16," said Dennis Todey, South Dakota State Climatologist & SDSU Extension Climate Specialist.

The precipitation forecast for the three months ahead sets South Dakota in between an area that is favored to be drier to our north and west, and wetter to our south in Nebraska. "The last two winters with similar El Niño conditions were in 1982-83 and 1997-98. In both of those years, South Dakota wintertime precipitation was near to slightly below average," he said.

Todey added that it is possible that South Dakota could experience storm events which bring rain or snow to our state this winter. "Particularly if we get a surge of moisture from the south or southwest," he said. "But it is also possible that many areas could have an open winter, with little to no snowcover for much of the season."

The implications of an open winter are both good and bad, Edwards explained. "Less snow cover could make winter wheat more susceptible to frost and freeze damage," she said. "The same situation could be positive for cattle and livestock operations who prefer drier conditions."

Currently, the risk of major spring flooding is low.

This is due to the fact that soils are not saturated and there is some capacity to take in rain and snow-melt this winter. Also, drier than average conditions are favored upstream along the Missouri and James Rivers, and some western tributaries as well.

Edwards and Todey explained that this dry pattern in the northern Rockies and the surrounding area is also consistent with El Niño impacts in the U.S.

Standing with our French Allies **by Senator Mike Rounds**

South Dakotans – and all Americans – stand united with France after last week’s terror attacks in Paris. With 129 murdered and more than 350 wounded, they were the deadliest terror attacks in Europe in more than a decade. We continue to pray for those we lost and stand united with our friends in France as they recover from this terrible tragedy.

The attacks in Paris are a sobering reminder that we are at war with radical jihadists who seek to harm Americans and invoke terror throughout the world. These extremists, who propagate brutal violence and reject peace, must be destroyed. This starts with a coherent plan to completely defeat ISIS, the vicious terrorist group behind the November 13 Paris attacks.

The administration has been lackluster in its response to ISIS, with the President and Secretary of State downplaying its growing influence in the Middle East and our need to fully counter them, placing tight constraints on our military’s campaign against them. Meanwhile, ISIS has spread from Iraq and Syria to Northern Africa and Afghanistan and now to the restaurants and concert halls of Paris. It is clear that ISIS is not “contained,” as President Obama claimed just hours before the Paris attacks, nor is it merely a regional threat in the Middle East. We must act now to defeat them or risk a Paris-like attack on U.S. soil in the near future. I believe the best way to achieve this is to direct our military, the Department of Homeland Security and our nation’s intelligence leaders to put forth a clear and coherent plan to completely obliterate ISIS.

Because of ongoing war in Syria, as well as ISIS’s continued terror in the region, millions of Syrians are fleeing their homeland seeking refuge elsewhere in the world. While most are being relocated in Europe, many South Dakotans, including myself, are concerned about the prospect of a terrorist slipping into the United States, taking advantage of the refugee program. Refugees have been coming to America for generations seeking safety from war-torn regions of the world. I support efforts to help others seek shelter from persecution. However, we must not do so at the expense of our own national security.

I have joined a growing number of my colleagues – on both sides of the aisle – calling for the administration to put a pause on those coming to the U.S. from Syria until we are able to take a second look at the security of our current vetting processes. We need to remember that it only took 8 people to commit the carnage in Paris. While we continue to press the administration for answers as to our ability to protect Americans from these threats, we must not accelerate the Syrian refugee program as the President has requested.

As we continue to seek answers regarding last week’s horrific attacks in Paris, we must remember that we are at war with Islamic jihadists. Clearly defining a plan to defeat ISIS and keep Americans safe must be our primary goal. We have the best armed forces and intelligence agencies in the world. With resolve and determination, we can and will defeat ISIS and Islamic extremists, but this still requires leadership and a plan.



Tree from Baltic Selected as State Capitol Tree

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Agriculture’s (SDDA) Resource Conservation and Forestry Division has chosen a 29-foot tall Colorado blue spruce from Baltic to serve as the featured tree in the South Dakota State Capitol Christmas tree display.

“We’ve been looking for trees throughout the year,” says McKenzi Kohlnhofer, urban forestry coordinator for SDDA. “We’ve had multiple people contact us saying they had a tree they’d like to donate for the Capitol Christmas Tree. This one was 2,700 pounds. We’re looking for a good, all-around tree that’s equal on all sides and is strong enough to hold all the ornaments that we’re going to put on. And, height is always a good thing.”

The tree was donated by Willette Reichert.

The South Dakota State Capitol Christmas tree display opens November 25. It is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day through December 26.

Agriculture is a major contributor to South Dakota’s economy, generating \$25.6 billion in annual economic activity and employing over 115,000 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture’s mission is to promote, protect, preserve and improve this industry for today and tomorrow. Visit us online at <http://sdda.sd.gov> or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Christmas At The Capitol Tree-Lighting Ceremony

PIERRE, S.D. – The 2015 Grand Lighting Ceremony for Christmas at the South Dakota Capitol will take place in the rotunda on Tuesday, Nov. 24, at 7 p.m. CST.

The public is invited to join Gov. Dennis Daugaard, First Lady Linda Daugaard and Pierre Mayor Laurie Gill as they welcome guests and light the Capitol trees.

The Capitol Christmas display includes nearly 100 trees that are decorated by volunteers from communities, schools, churches, nonprofit organizations and state government offices. This year's theme for Christmas at the Capitol is "Christmas around the World."

The largest tree in the Capitol is being decorated by Zonta International. The 29-foot Colorado blue spruce was donated by Willette Reichert of Baltic. It was trimmed to fit in the Capitol Building.

Pre-event music for the tree-lighting ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m., featuring Kim Jacobs-Bowman.

The 2015 Grand Lighting Ceremony will feature musical performances by the Becker family, Debra Owen, Houdek and the Capitol City Children's Choir.

Immediately after the ceremony, kids of all ages can pose for pictures with Santa Claus in front of the South Dakota Christmas tree. Parents are reminded to bring their cameras. Refreshments, donated by Lynn's Dakotamart in Pierre, will be served on the first floor of the Capitol.

The holiday display will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily from Nov. 25 through Dec. 26.

You can follow the Christmas at the Capitol events on Facebook.

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Today in Weather History

November 20, 1975: A storm center located in Oklahoma on Tuesday, November 18th, moved northeastward across Kansas into Iowa and Wisconsin on Wednesday the 19th and Thursday the 20th. Light rain began in the eastern half South Dakota on the morning of the 19th. The rain changed to snow during the afternoon, and continued through the afternoon of the 20th. The winds increased and blizzard conditions were reached by 6pm CST on Wednesday the 19th. The snow was driven by sustained winds 40 to 50 miles per hour, gusting to 75 miles per hour on some occasions, which reduced visibility to less than one half mile. Heavy snow ranging from six to fifteen inches fell over an area southeast of a line from Todd to Aurora to Grant County. Traffic came to a standstill by Wednesday evening the 19th. The snow abruptly ended on the evening of the 20th, but winds diminished rather slowly that night. Storm total snowfalls included 9 inches at Clear Lake and 7 inches at Watertown.

November 20, 1977: The second blizzard of the month began very early on Saturday, November 19th and continued through most of Sunday, November 20th. Wind speeds exceeding 50 mph caused much blowing and drifting snow. Visibilities were frequently reduced to near zero. Most of the roads in the northern and western parts of the state were blocked. Snowfall amounts north of Milbank and Pierre to Ardmore exceeded five inches. Most of the counties in the northwest and a large portion of those in the north central parts of the state reported snowfall amounts exceeding ten inches. Some drifts reached 4 to 5 feet. The greatest reported snowfall was 20 inches in Eagle Butte. An eastbound train from Milbank had six freight cars derailed near Albee, in Grant County as a result of the storm. Snowfall totals from this blizzard included; 20 inches at Eagle Butte; 14 inches at Leola; 12 inches at Timber Lake and Britton; 11 inches 4NNE Victor and at Mobridge; 10 inches at 6SE McIntosh, 4W Mellette, Sand Lake, and Ipswich; 9.3 inches in Aberdeen; 9 inches 4NW Onida, at Sisseton, and 2N Onaka; 8 inches at Selby; 7 inches at McLaughlin and Waubay; 6 inches at Conde and Faulkton; 5 inches at Summit and Webster; 4 inches at Pierre, Wilmot and Highmore; and 3 inches at Watertown, Clear Lake, Miller, 3NE Raymond, Redfield, and Wheaton. The 9 inches at Sisseton helped to contribute to the snowiest November on record for Sisseton, which recorded 27.5 inches for the month of November 1977.

1869 - A second great windstorm in three days struck Vermont and New York blowing railroad trains off their tracks. (David Ludlum)

1900 - An unusual tornado outbreak in the Lower Mississippi Valley resulted in 73 deaths and extensive damage across Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee. (David Ludlum)

1914 - The high temperature of 28 degrees at Atlanta, GA, was their earliest daily high below the freezing mark. (The Weather Channel)

1979 - A blizzard struck Cheyenne, WY, producing a record 19.8 inches of snow in 24 hours, and a record total of 25.6 inches in forty hours. Strong winds created huge drifts stopping all transportation. (19th-21st) (The Weather Channel)








1987 - Blustery northwest winds created snow squalls in the Great Lakes Region and the Upper Ohio Valley. Snowfall totals in Upper Michigan ranged up to 18 inches at Paradise. Lake City MI received 9.5 inches of snow in four and a half hours. Up to a foot of snow blanketed Oswego County in western New York State. Strong winds produced wind chill readings as cold as 22 degrees below zero at Duluth MN. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a fast moving cold front produced severe weather in the Upper Ohio Valley and the Middle Atlantic Coast Region during the afternoon and early evening. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 69 mph at Kennedy Airport in New York City, and winds along the cold front itself gusted to 56 mph at Cincinnati OH. The same storm produced snow in Kansas, Missouri and Illinois, with eight inches reported at Rolla MO. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Low pressure brought thunderstorms and high winds to the northeastern U.S. There were 193 reports of damaging winds with thunderstorms in New York State, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Tornadoes touched down near Seaside Park NJ and McAlevys Port PA. Winds with thunderstorms gusted to 92 mph at Poughkeepsie NY, and reached 94 mph at Newburgh NY. High winds in the Washington D.C. area, gusting to 73 mph, resulted in one death. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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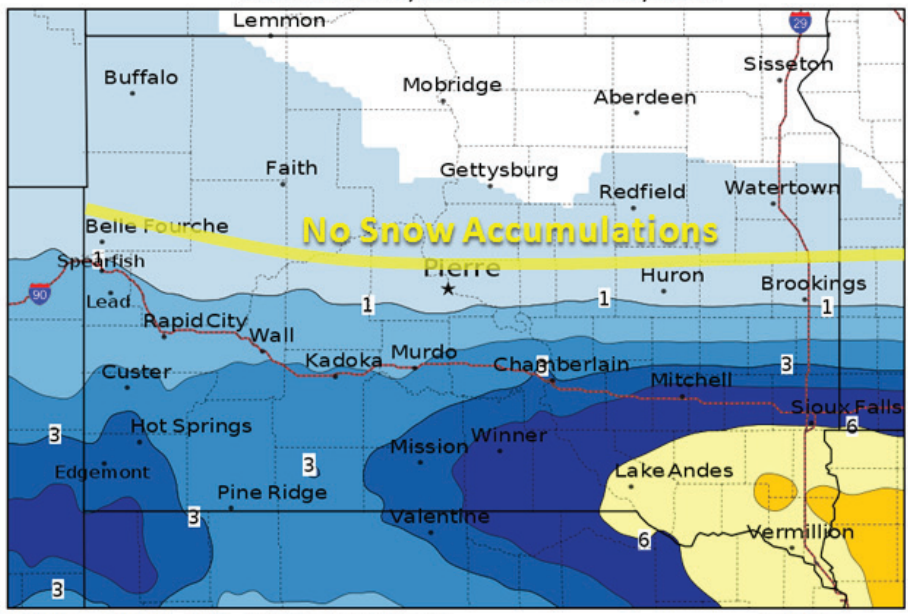
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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Increasing Clouds	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny
High: 34 °F	Low: 11 °F	High: 31 °F	Low: 16 °F	High: 47 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 42 °F

Friday Snowfall Forecast




Snow Forecast (in)


Valid: 4am CST Fri, Nov 20 to 6am CST Mon, Nov 23







National Weather Service
Aberdeen/Rapid City/Sioux Falls, SD
11/20/2015 4:05am CST

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National Weather Service Aberdeen


@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 11/20/2015 at 5:06AM

A clipper system will bring snow to the southern half of the state. Precipitation has already begun and will intensify through the remainder of the morning before pushing into the eastern side of the state this afternoon.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 36.0 at 3:25 PM

Low: 15.7 at 11:59 PM

High Gust: 37 at 9:41 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 69° in 1962

Record Low: -12° in 1978

Average High: 37°F

Average Low: 17°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.53

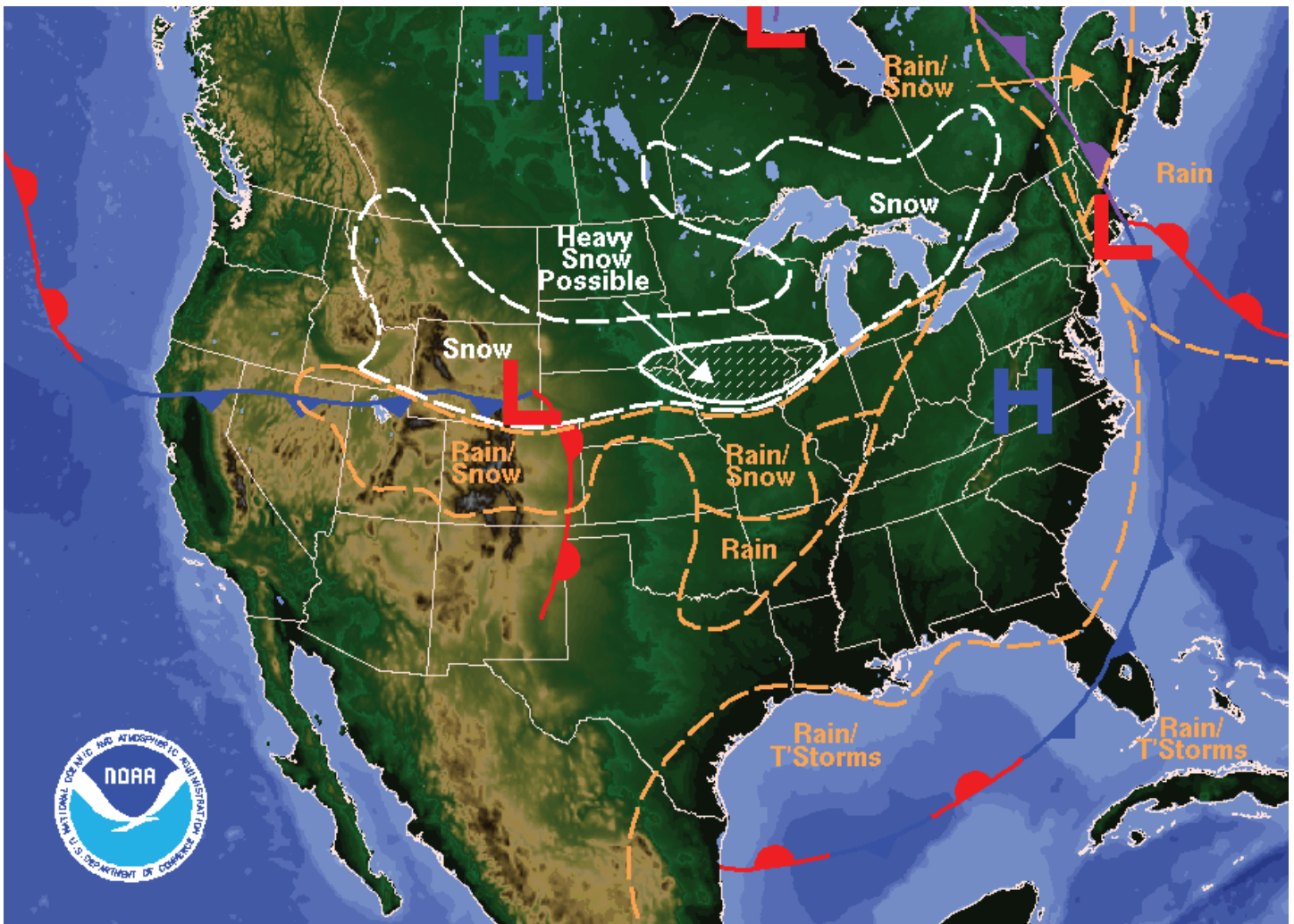
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.71

Average Precip to date: 21.00

Precip Year to Date: 19.82

Sunset Tonight: 4:59 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:40 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Nov 20, 2015, issued 4:07 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



“MAN NEEDS CHALLENGES”

James Whitaker was the first American to conquer Mount Everest. A reporter asked him, “Why did you risk your life in such an endeavor?”

“Because,” he said, “of the challenge. I wanted to see if I could stand on the top. You don’t conquer the mountain. You conquer yourself. You overcome your sickness, your pains and your fears to reach the summit. Man needs challenges.”

Life is full of challenges. Some we create to develop our strength or potential. Others come at us as a complete surprise with no warning in advance or means of escape. Many are short term while others may last a lifetime. While we can overcome most of them, there are some that overcome us.

There are times when God uses certain trying situations in our lives to prepare us for tasks that are in our future. There are times when He knows that we need to increase our faith and trust in His grace and mercy. And there are times when we face hardships because of our poor choices or not following His will for our lives.

The Bible tells us that we will encounter many trials in this life. But it also promises us that God will be with us, and that His presence, love, comfort and strength are ours for the asking.

Prayer: Father, when we go through the difficulties of life we ask for Your hand and the assurance of Your presence. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

News from the Associated Press

Jury deliberations continue in Sioux Falls murder trial

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Jurors are deliberating the fate of a man accused of murder, rape and burglary in the death of a Sioux Falls woman last year.

The jury in the trial of 42-year-old Christopher Kryger began deliberations Thursday afternoon after attorneys on both sides gave closing arguments. Jurors stopped after about five hours with plans to reconvene Friday.

Kryger is accused of killing 56-year-old Kari Anne Kirkegaard, who was found strangled in her bathtub on March 16, 2014.

Prosecutors say DNA and other evidence shows that Kryger raped and killed Kirkegaard. Kryger maintains the two had consensual sex and that he didn't kill her.

Prosecutors haven't said whether they intend to seek the death penalty should the jury convict Kryger.

1st widespread snowfall of season in southern South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Southern South Dakota is in store for significant snowfall and poor traveling conditions.

The National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning for the southeast, with up to 8 inches of snow expected by Friday evening. Winter weather advisories are posted for other areas south of Interstate 90, with up to 3 inches of snow expected.

Forecasters say winds gusting to 20 mph will blow the snow around and reduce visibilities in some areas to less than a mile.

It's the first widespread snowfall of the season in the region. Forecasters say the heaviest accumulations are expected from late morning into evening, meaning the evening commute will be affected more than the morning commute.

Colder temperatures will follow the snow, with highs Saturday only in the mid-20s.

29-foot blue spruce from Baltic selected as Capitol tree

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A 29-foot-tall Colorado blue spruce from Baltic has been selected to serve as the featured tree in the South Dakota State Capitol Christmas tree display.

The 2,700-pound tree was donated by Willette Reichert.

State Department of Agriculture urban forestry coordinator McKenzie Kohnhofer says multiple people contacted the department saying they had a tree they'd like to donate for the annual display. Kohnhofer says the department looks for a good, all-around tree that's equal on all sides and is strong enough to hold numerous ornaments. She says height is also important.

The South Dakota State Capitol Christmas tree display opens Nov. 25 and runs from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day through Dec. 26.

Let it snow and the wind blow for Packers-Vikings

BARRY WILNER, AP Pro Football Writer

Packers-Vikings. Outdoors, the way it always used to be and probably still should be. For the lead in the Black and Blue Division.

Sure would be appropriate if a little snow would fall in the Twin Cities, too. At least the forecasts have been for a high temperature in the mid-30s.

Minnesota (7-2) has won five in a row to surge past slumping Green Bay (6-3) in the NFC North. When the Packers come to TCF Bank Stadium on Sunday, they will be an underdog for the first time all season.

Could the Vikings actually get a bit overconfident? Coach Mike Zimmer doesn't see that happening.

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"Sometimes guys that try to do too much, they get caught up in all the hype," Zimmer says. "But usually guys that are focused and understanding the fundamentals of things, the things that got you to this spot are really what carries you through."

What has gotten Minnesota to this spot is the running of Adrian Peterson, whose 961 yards easily leads the league. And a defense ranked ninth overall that hasn't allowed more than 23 points in a game, giving up 154 overall, second stingiest in the NFL.

Green Bay went into its bye undefeated and hasn't won since. The offense has stagnated and the defense has regressed.

"We need a win man. We need a win, period," receiver James Jones says. "We need to get back to the type of football we were playing the first couple games of the season."

The Packers are 9-1-1 in the last 11 games against the Vikings, and coach Mike McCarthy is 14-4-1 in his career vs. Minnesota.

The action began Thursday night with Jacksonville's 19-13 home victory over Tennessee.

Rashad Greene returned a punt 63 yards, setting up Blake Bortles' 5-yard touchdown pass to Julius Thomas with 3:30 remaining to give the Jaguars (4-6) a 16-13 lead. Jacksonville won consecutive games for the first time in more than two years and gained ground in the muddled AFC South. The Titans (2-8) lost for the eighth time in nine games.

This is the last week with byes. Off are the Giants (5-5), Saints (4-6), Steelers (6-4) and Browns (2-8).

Washington (4-5) at Carolina (9-0)

The Redskins have turned around their season behind Kirk Cousins' passing, moving within a game of the NFC East lead. They will be tested by the Panthers, who have the best record in franchise history.

Cam Newton has matured into a force as the Panthers have won 13 straight regular-season games, scoring at least 27 points in seven consecutive games. Carolina's defense, paced by linebacker Luke Kuechly and cornerback Josh Norman, has helped it to a plus-8 turnover margin, tied for second best in the league.

"You definitely need to be aware of great players like that, understand where they are, try to study them the best you can through film as to what their style of play is," Cousins says.

Buffalo (5-4) at New England (9-0), Monday night

If Tom Brady is standing outside Gillette Stadium with a welcoming sign for both the Bills and the ESPN cameras, that's understandable. The Patriots have won 27 of the last 31 meetings dating back to 2000, Brady has 24 regular-season wins against the Bills — more than against any other opponent in his career — and has more touchdown passes (61) against Buffalo than any team. He also is 13-6 on Monday nights and has thrown three or more touchdowns in nine of those 19 games.

Both clubs come off emotional victories at the Meadowlands. Buffalo beat the Jets in coach Rex Ryan's return to where he worked for the previous six seasons. New England needed a 54-yard field goal by Stephen Gostkowski in the dying seconds to edge the Giants.

Cincinnati (8-1) at Arizona (7-2)

The Carson Palmer show.

Palmer was the top overall pick in the 2003 draft by the Bengals who had some success there, forced a trade in 2011 (to Oakland) and has revived his career in the Valley of the Sun. Palmer ranks second in the NFL in passer rating (108), with Cincinnati's Andy Dalton, who has started every game for the Bengals since Palmer left, ranking fourth (104.6).

Cincinnati tasted defeat for the first time last Monday night against Houston. The league flexed this to prime time and who can blame it? The Bengals play their third straight night game, the Cardinals their second.

Denver (7-2) at Chicago (4-5)

John Fox facing the team he led to four straight AFC West titles has taken a back seat to the Peyton Manning saga. Manning has been benched because of a slew of injuries that resulted in the worst game of his career last Sunday, with a 0.00 passer rating against the Chiefs.

Brock Osweiler gets his first NFL start in his fourth pro season. Manning promises not to "be in his ear" all the time, but rest assured he will have some input.

With Matt Forte out, Chicago has gotten breakout performances from rookie Jeremy Langford with 324

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scrimmage yards (145 rushing, 179 receiving) and three TDs in two games.

Dallas (2-7) at Miami (4-5)

Tony's back. And fans of America's Team expect Romo to save their season.

Dallas dropped all seven games he missed with a broken collarbone. Romo still believes 2015 is not a lost cause.

"I don't think that anyone in this locker room thinks by any means that this season is over," Romo said Wednesday. "You lose enough games, sometimes it can creep in where it feels that way, and I don't think our team has not ever given 100 percent commitment. That's exciting to see. That's how you can turn it around."

The Dolphins benefited from Eagles mistakes in last week's victory, and remain on the fringes of the AFC wild-card race.

Indianapolis (4-5) at Atlanta (6-3)

The Colts are 2-0 with Matt Hasselbeck at quarterback for Andrew Luck, who is out injured for this one. Few teams can rely on their backup QB the way the Colts can on the 40-year-old veteran.

What Indy must find is someone who can cover Julio Jones. Then again, no team has found that person this year.

Jones leads the league with 80 catches for 1,029 yards and six touchdowns and has a shot at beating Marvin Harrison's single-season receptions record of 143). Jones is coming off his fifth 100-yard receiving game of 2015.

Atlanta has lost three of its last four, while Indianapolis got its best win of the season by beating then-undefeated Denver. Then both teams had a bye week.

Oakland (4-5) at Detroit (2-7)

Coming off their stunning win in Green Bay, probably the biggest upset of the season, the Lions have been a .500 team since starting 0-5, even with the upheaval in the front office

The Raiders seemed to be a threat for the playoffs after three straight wins, but have dropped the last two and were manhandled by Minnesota last week. Their passing game, with budding stars at quarterback in Derek Carr and receiver in rookie Amari Cooper, will test the Lions' mediocre defense.

New York Jets (5-4) at Houston (4-5)

Two teams headed in opposite directions, with New York dropping three of four, Houston taking three of four.

Jets QB Ryan Fitzpatrick, who had surgery on thumb ligaments of his left hand on Nov. 13, started 12 games for Houston last season and is expected to start Sunday.

One key matchup could be Jets CB Darrelle Revis against emerging star receiver DeAndre Hopkins.

The Jets have won five of six in the series, but the Texans won the last meeting in 2012.

San Francisco (3-6) at Seattle (4-5)

The two powers of the NFC West in recent years, and neither has a winning record. Still, this is a nasty rivalry in which the Seahawks have won four in a row, including 20-3 win one month ago when they sacked Colin Kaepernick six times and held the 49ers to 142 total yards.

QB Blaine Gabbert will make his second start after Kaepernick was benched. Gabbert led the 49ers past Atlanta two weeks ago.

Crazy stat: CB Richard Sherman, a 2014 All-Pro, has gone 10 straight regular-season games without an interception, the longest drought of his career.

Kansas City (4-5) at San Diego (2-7)

While the Chiefs have turned around things with three consecutive wins based on a strong defense and Alex Smith avoiding picks, the Chargers have sunk into San Diego Bay with five straight defeats. In their last two games the Chiefs have 11 sacks, seven interceptions, and now face the injury-ravaged Chargers, who come off a bye and hope to get some of the wounded back.

Through it all, Chargers QB Philip Rivers has played well with 19 TD throws, seven interceptions and a 100.7 passer rating. He must watch out for linebacker Justin Houston, who has 7 1/2 sacks.

Tampa Bay (4-5) at Philadelphia (4-5)

Despite their similar records, these teams are in totally different situations. The Eagles will be tied for

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the NFC East lead if they win, while the Buccaneers can barely see Carolina at the top of the NFC South.

Tampa has shown significant improvement from last season's 2-14 mark, with top overall draft pick QB Jameis Winston progressing nicely. It might be the ground game that helps the Bucs the most at the Linc:

Philly has allowed a 100-yard rusher in its past three games.

St. Louis (4-5) at Baltimore (2-7)

Nothing goes right for the Ravens, who found yet another way to lose last week as an officiating error hurt them.

An interception by Lardarius Webb last week was Baltimore's first takeaway since Week 3. The Ravens have recovered one opponent's fumble all season and own a minus-10 turnover differential.

They'll face a new quarterback as Rams coach Jeff Fisher benched Nick Foles, who missed open receivers all over the field in a loss to Chicago, with Case Keenum. St. Louis leads the NFC with 29 sacks.

Thursday's Scores The Associated Press

Volleyball

Class AA

State Quarterfinal

Aberdeen Central def. Pierre, 25-13, 25-11, 25-19

Brandon Valley def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 18-25, 25-15, 25-19, 25-20

Harrisburg def. Huron, 16-25, 27-25, 25-21, 25-15

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Rapid City Stevens, 14-25, 25-21, 25-23, 20-25, 15-11

Class A

State Quarterfinal

Dakota Valley def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-14, 25-17, 25-16

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Red Cloud, 25-7, 25-17, 25-12

Sioux Falls Christian def. Milbank Area, 25-15, 25-18, 25-17

Spearfish def. Sioux Valley, 25-23, 26-24, 21-25, 26-24

Class B

State Quarterfinal

Chester def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-14, 25-17, 25-18

Parker def. Philip, 25-16, 23-25, 25-13, 25-16

Sully Buttes def. Platte-Geddes, 25-23, 25-14, 25-19

Warner def. Harding County, 25-14, 25-10, 25-16

Tellinghuisen leads South Dakota St. over Illinois St. 83-67

NORMAL, Ill. (AP) — Reed Tellinghuisen had 14 points and 10 rebounds to lead South Dakota State to an 83-67 victory over Illinois State on Thursday night.

Tellinghuisen made two 3-pointers, and was 3 of 11 from the floor for his first career double-double. George Marshall led all scorers with 18 points. Deondre Parks scored 15 points, Jake Bittle had 11 and Ian Theisen added 10 for South Dakota State (3-0).

DeVaughn Akoon-Purcell scored 15 points, Paris Lee 14 and MiKyle McIntosh 12 to lead Illinois State (1-2).

Akoon-Purcell made a 3-pointer to pull the Redbirds to 22-18 midway through the first half. But Mike Daum made a layup and Parks a 3-pointer to spark a 14-3 run that stretched the Jackrabbits lead to 36-21.

An 11-4 surge gave South Dakota State a 51-32 halftime lead. Tellinghuisen scored 7 points and Bittle added 5 points during the span.

South Dakota State, Montana State to play in 2017, 2018

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota State and Montana State have agreed to terms on a two-game football series to be played during the 2017 and 2018 seasons.

The series is scheduled to kick off on Sept. 2, 2017, with a season opener at Bobcat Stadium in Bozeman, Montana. Montana State returns to Brookings the next year for a Sept. 8 matchup.

South Dakota State Athletic Director Justin Sell he's pleased to be able to sign a home-and-home contract with a quality opponent out of the Big Sky Conference.

SDSU and Montana State have played 13 previous times dating back to 1956, and the Bobcats hold a 10-3 series lead.

The Jackrabbits won the last meeting, topping Montana State 47-40 in Bozeman in a first-round Football Championship Subdivision playoff game in 2014.

Packers look to get run game going and limit Vikes' Peterson

GENARO C. ARMAS, AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Run the ball on offense. Stop the run on defense.

Fundamental objectives for every NFL team could be especially crucial goals this weekend for the Green Bay Packers if they are to snap a three-game losing streak and beat the Minnesota Vikings.

Green Bay's running game has stalled with James Starks and Eddie Lacy. On the other side of the ball, coach Mike McCarthy's run defense is coming off its stingiest performance yet this season, holding Detroit to 45 yards rushing on 26 carries.

But stopping Minnesota's Adrian Peterson will be a much more difficult task than containing Detroit's Joique Bell and Ameer Abdullah.

"What is it that sets him apart? Everything," Packers linebacker Julius Peppers said about Peterson. "He's the best player in the league in my opinion."

At the very least, Peterson is the league's leading rusher, averaging 106.8 yards per game. He is coming off a season-high 203 yards rushing on 26 carries last week in a 30-14 victory at Oakland.

"So, we're up for the challenge and we know it's going to be a four-quarter challenge with Adrian. He's going to get his touches and we have to keep him contained," McCarthy said.

The Packers have had their moments this season in slowing down opposing running backs. Seattle's Marshawn Lynch and Kansas City's Jamaal Charles in particular were held to less than 50 yards in back-to-back games.

It hasn't been as easy since.

"It's not something we think about going into a game that we've played great run defense because each game's different, each running back's different," linebacker Clay Matthews said. "This is the type of game where you have to be sound."

Matthews, who plays outside and inside, could see a lot more time in the middle to help defend against Peterson.

The Packers could also play keep away when they have the ball to give Peterson fewer opportunities. To do that, Green Bay needs to do a better job of extending drives, and re-establishing the running game would help.

Lacy, who sat out the Lions game with a groin injury, was a full participant at practice for a second straight day Thursday. Lacy will remain the backup to Starks, who was held to 42 yards on 15 carries last week.

The hope is that a healthier Lacy can soon return to the form that allowed him to gain 1,100 yards each of the previous two seasons, and provide an effective one-two backfield punch again with Starks.

"I was able to make like cuts at the line, but when it came to opening up and bursting downfield, I didn't feel as comfortable with it," Lacy said Thursday. "But today I was able to do that, and like I said, was just moving in a positive direction."

Running the ball effectively on early downs, would help Green Bay have shorter third-down situations, which has been a season-long problem for the once-potent offense. Shorter third-down plays mean quar-

terback Aaron Rodgers can use more of the playbook and make defenses pay for blitzing.

Half of the 22 sacks allowed by the Packers this season have come during their three-game losing streak. While not all of those sacks are the sole responsibility of the offensive line, McCarthy has said Rodgers has been hit too much over the past three games.

Rodgers (right shoulder) was added to the injury report this week. He was a full participant at practice on Thursday after being limited for Wednesday's light practice.

McCarthy said he wasn't concerned about Rodgers' availability for Sunday.

"Defenses are kind of dictating us throwing the ball a little bit more, so we need to be efficient to kind of throw it to set up the run," Rodgers said. "If we can do that, we need James and Eddie to make the right cuts and gives yards after contact."

Notes: RT Bryan Bulaga (knee) and RG T.J. Lang (shoulder) returned to practice on a limited basis. ... WR Ty Montgomery (ankle) was limited at practice a day after participating fully.

Can Vikings stop Packers' recent control of rivalry?

DAVE CAMPBELL, AP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — For the last five years, Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers have had a firm grip on this border state rivalry with the Minnesota Vikings that has otherwise been remarkably close.

Well, here's a prime opportunity for the Vikings to pry themselves loose.

"We're going out there playing at a very high level. Guys know that this is the year for us," cornerback Captain Munnery said. "We've been putting in the hard work. We've been doing what we're supposed to do. It's the time. The time is now."

The Packers (6-3) will bring a sputtering offense, injured important players and a three-game losing streak to Minnesota (7-2) this weekend to face a well-rounded team that has won five games in a row to take over the NFC North lead.

"This has the potential to be the premier rivalry in the North if things keep going the way they are going," Rodgers said.

The Packers have won nine of the last 11 matchups, losing once in 2012 with one tie, to take a 58-49-2 lead in the intradivision series. Rodgers, who missed the tie in 2013 because of a broken collarbone, has been as responsible for this recent run as anyone.

Since taking over as the starter in 2008, Rodgers has a 71.1 completion percentage, 32 touchdown passes and only four interceptions in 15 games against the Vikings. His 117.9 passer rating is the highest by an opponent in Vikings history with at least 100 attempts.

Yes, Rodgers has an injury to his right shoulder that limited him in practice this week. Sure, he has slipped to 18th in the league with an average of 7.3 yards per attempt. There's no disputing that his impeccable accuracy has not quite been the same.

The Vikings, though, remain respectfully wary.

"We don't take lightly what they've done before they got on the three-game losing streak. They're going to come in ready to play," running back Adrian Peterson said. "They've got Aaron Rodgers, so they always have a chance."

Vikings coach Mike Zimmer ordered his team black T-shirts with "Beat Green Bay" printed on the back and the NFC North logo on the front, in case a reminder of the stakes was necessary.

"Their organization is one of the top organizations in sports," Zimmer said, "and honestly we're just trying to get in the mix with these guys. They're the top level, and we're just trying to get into the mix."

Here are some key angles to know about the game on Sunday:

PETERSON'S PACE: With his sixth career 200-yard game for Minnesota, matching O.J. Simpson for the most in NFL history, Adrian Peterson galloped away with the league rushing lead to reach 961 yards. Through the same nine-game mark in 2012, when he nearly broke Eric Dickerson's single-season record and ran off with the NFL MVP award, Peterson had 957 yards.

With two games left against the Packers, he's poised for another stellar second half. In 15 career games

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against Green Bay, Peterson has rushed for an average of 116.4 yards. Four times, he has topped 150 yards.

"I guess I just kind of get up for the rivalry," Peterson said.

GREEN, GOLD, GROUNDED: The Packers pulled out a 24-21 victory at Minnesota last season, behind 125 yards rushing by Eddie Lacy, who had two touchdowns that afternoon. This year, Lacy has been injured and ineffective. James Starks has taken over the team rushing lead. The ground game was nonexistent in last week's loss to Detroit, forcing Rodgers to attempt a career-most 61 passes. His previous high was 48.

"If you want to be good at anything, it takes a commitment," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said, referring of course to the running part, not the throwing part, of the offense.

FAMILIAR FOES: The Packers will play the second of four straight games against division teams, their most consecutive division contests since the NFC North was created in 2002. They played four in a row against the five-team NFC Central from Dec. 3-24, 2000.

BANGED-UP: Rodgers joined four of Green Bay's five starting offensive linemen on the injury report this week. Minnesota hopes to have middle linebacker Eric Kendricks (ribs) back from a two-game absence.

DOWN THE STRETCH: Green Bay, on the surface, has the more favorable schedule. The regular season finale is at home against the Vikings, and the Packers have a pair of games against 2-7 teams in Detroit and Dallas — despite that ugly loss to the Lions and the return of Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo. The combined record of Green Bay's remaining opponents, excluding Minnesota, is 19-26.

The current record of Minnesota's remaining foes, excluding the Packers, is 26-20.

Avera Health buying the Dakotacare health insurance company

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Regional health system Avera Health announced Thursday that it plans to buy the Dakotacare health insurance company, creating what it said would be the second-largest health insurer in South Dakota.

The two Sioux Falls-based companies said customers wouldn't experience any change in service or access to hospitals, pharmacies or doctors. Avera said the deal allows it to expand its insurance to cover not only its facilities, but to offer choice-based plans, which allow patients to choose any health care provider in the state.

No purchase price was disclosed, but the companies said the deal was expected to be finalized Nov. 30. Here are some details about the deal:

STATE'S SECOND LARGEST HEALTH INSURER

Avera, which owns 32 hospital and more than 200 clinics in a five-state region, has been in the insurance industry through its insurance arm, Avera Health Plans, since 1999. Dakotacare, created by doctors in 1986, is the health care plan of the South Dakota Medical Association.

Together, the companies will serve nearly 200,000 members, marking the state's second largest health insurance company behind Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota, according to Avera.

Avera plans to operate Avera Health Plans and Dakotacare as separate organizations, allowing it to offer South Dakota residents a variety of options and price points, said Rob Bates, senior vice president of Avera Health.

Kevin Bjordahl, Dakotacare's board chairman, added: "For Dakotacare subscribers, nothing will change."

South Dakota Department of Labor Secretary Marcia Hultman, whose agency oversees the Division of Insurance, said she doesn't anticipate any great impacts to health insurance competition.

"Avera has indicated it is committed to maintaining the Dakotacare brand, its network and agent relationships," she said.

HEALTH CARE ACT CHALLENGES

Dakotacare began discussions with Avera after its board realized it would be beneficial to partner with a larger health care system, especially after the federal health care law took effect.

The company announced in October that it could no longer afford to offer individual policies through the federal health insurance marketplace. Bjordahl said there have been instances in which people have walked into a hospital, signed up for insurance and used services for a major disease, and then stopped

paying their premiums after being discharged.

"These challenges of the Affordable Care Act have made it necessary to partner with somebody bigger," Bjordahl said.

COMPANY CHANGES?

Bates said there were no immediate plans for staffing changes within the two insurers, which each employ about 120 people. But he said Avera will look for efficiencies, saying: "We probably don't need two of everything."

Bates said he doesn't know how that may affect future staffing, but he said Avera is a large, diverse system that would have sufficient opportunities for anyone affected by structural changes.

Man gets life in prison in death of Adrian Peterson's son

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A man convicted in the death of the 2-year-old son of Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson has been sentenced to life in prison in South Dakota.

The child, Tyrese Robert Ruffin, died in October 2013. An autopsy concluded he sustained four blows to the head that doctors said couldn't have been accidental.

A jury in September convicted 29-year-old Joseph Patterson of second-degree murder, which carries a life sentence. He was sentenced Thursday.

Tyrese was the son of Patterson's girlfriend and Peterson, who has said he found out Tyrese was his son about two months earlier.

Peterson had been working with Tyrese's mother to arrange meeting the boy when he was told Tyrese was hospitalized. Peterson said he raced to South Dakota and saw Tyrese a day before he died.

Governor appoints Bureau Of Administration commissioner

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has appointed Jeff Holden as Commissioner of the South Dakota Bureau of Administration.

Holden, the bureau's deputy commissioner since 2011, will replace Paul Kinsman, who retired last summer. Holden has been serving since that time as interim commissioner.

Daugaard says Holden has been a strong leader, and the governor thanked him for accepting the role on a permanent basis.

Holden says he's looking forward to continuing to help state agencies work effectively and efficiently.

The Pierre native joined state government in 1985 and came to the Bureau of Administration in 1999 as the director of the Office of Procurement Management.

Aberdeen mayor: Once-shuttered beef plant processing cattle

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The new owners of an Aberdeen beef plant that closed in 2012 have fired up the equipment and are processing dozens of cattle a day, the city's mayor said.

That's welcome news for ranchers in the region who are tired of having to truck their animals hundreds of miles south to Nebraska.

Aberdeen Mayor Mike Levsen said he's not sure of exact production numbers, but that New Angus LLC is slaughtering somewhere between a couple dozen and 100 head a day during its initial phase of training employees and testing equipment. The 420,000-square-foot facility is capable of processing 1,500 head of cattle per day at full capacity.

"They contracted with a number of producers around the area some time ago anticipating this would be their startup time," Levsen said. "So they've got the cattle set to be delivered on a daily basis. They've got a fairly sizeable crew that's been hired that they are training."

New Angus is owned by San Francisco-based investment firm White Oak Global Advisors, which bought the shuttered Northern Beef Packers plant for \$44.3 million in a 2013 bankruptcy auction.

New Angus CEO Doug Cooper has told the Aberdeen American News that the plant was to open in mid-November, initially processing 25 head per day for packaging under the brand name DemKota Ranch Beef.

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He also told the newspaper that the plant wouldn't reach half capacity until the second quarter of 2016.

Several phone messages left for Cooper by The Associated Press for have not been returned.

Levsen said the new owners have spent millions of dollars in upgrades.

"This group is very, very methodical and has things very well planned out, and they are just determined not to get ahead of themselves," he said.

Rancher Todd Wilkinson spends at least \$1,300 to haul a truckload of cattle from his feedlot west of DeSmet to beef plants in the Nebraska towns of Dakota City, Grand Island or Schuyler. He said having a processing facility in nearby Aberdeen will help boost profits for him and other ranchers in the Dakotas and Minnesota, especially as diesel fuel costs rise.

"We're all looking for any closer market that we can get, just simply because it cuts down on the expense of having to ship them this far," said Wilkinson, who's also president of the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association.

The failed Northern Beef Packers plant had homegrown roots. In 2006, Aberdeen livestock businessman Dennis Hellwig became its largest investor in response to a state initiative that hoped to get ranchers premium prices by allowing consumers to track animals from birth to slaughter.

But when local financing tightened up, the plant opted to look for investors through the federal EB-5 immigration program, which exchanges green cards for investments. Hellwig was bought out, and Northern Beef became 41 percent owned by businessman Oshik Song and dozens of Korean investors.

The plant opened on a limited basis in 2012 but struggled to ramp up production and had to lay off its employees. Northern Beef had \$138.8 million in liabilities and just \$79.3 million in assets when it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Levsen said locals know the new owners have no affiliation with the old crew. "They basically were the lenders of last resort who ended up with the plant and now are going to try to make it work," he said.

South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard said he hopes the plant will be a resource for the state's ranchers.

"I'm hoping they'll get up and running and demonstrate that they will be a good resource for cattle feeders in the Aberdeen area within driving distance," Daugaard said.

Associated Press writer James Nord in Pierre contributed to this report.

Bankers predict weak economy in rural parts of 10 states

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Bankers continue to predict the economy will slow in the months ahead in rural parts of 10 Western and Plains states.

The economic index for the region slipped to 43.7 in November from last month's 44.4. The overall index is based on a monthly survey of rural bankers Creighton University conducts, and organizers say any score below 50 suggests that factor will decline.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss says low crop and commodity prices and manufacturing slowdowns are all weighing down the economy.

The confidence index fell to a weak 38.9 in November from October's 42.1. The strong U.S. dollar is also hurting exports.

Bankers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming were surveyed.

Powerball lottery ticket sold in Spearfish wins \$100,000

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Powerball ticket sold in Spearfish won \$100,000 and a Wild Card 2 ticket sold in Sioux Falls won \$6,000 in the latest drawings.

The odds of winning the \$50,000 third prize in Powerball are 1 in about 913,000. The prize was doubled for the Spearfish ticket because of an option purchased for an additional dollar.

The odds of winning \$6,000 in Wild Card 2 are 1 in about 127,000.

The winners have about six months to claim their prizes.

The Wild Card 2 jackpot is at \$210,000 and the Powerball jackpot is at \$80 million for the next drawings, on Saturday.

Army: 3 confirmed dead in attack on Mali hotel in capital

HAROUNA TRAORE, Associated Press

BABA AHMED, Associated Press

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — Islamic extremists armed with guns and throwing grenades stormed the Radisson Blu hotel in Mali's capital Friday morning, killing at least three people and initially taking numerous hostages, authorities said.

The Brussels-based Rezidor Hotel group that operates the hotel said the assailants had "locked in" 140 guests and 30 employees.

Malian troops reacted quickly. As people ran for their lives near the hotel along a dirt road, the soldiers in full combat gear pointed the way to safety. Within hours, local TV images showed heavily armed troops in what appeared to be a lobby area.

Malian special forces were freeing hostages "floor by floor," Malian army commander Modibo Nama Traore told The Associated Press. At least 30 had been freed and Malian security forces were trying to make contact with the assailants, he said.

Traore said at least one guest earlier reported that the attackers instructed him to recite verses from the Quran before he was allowed to leave the hotel.

It was not immediately clear which Muslim extremist groups might be behind the attack, which unfolded one week after the attacks on Paris that killed 129 people. A handful of jihadi groups seized the northern half of Mali — a former French colony — in 2012 and were ousted from cities and towns by a French military intervention.

French President Francois Hollande said: "We should yet again stand firm and show our solidarity with a friendly country, Mali."

Traore said 10 gunmen had stormed the hotel shouting "Allahu Akbar," or "God is great," in Arabic before firing on the guards. A staffer at the hotel who gave his name as Tamba Diarra said over the phone that the attackers used grenades in the assault.

The U.S. Embassy in Mali told citizens to shelter in place amid reports of an "ongoing active shooter operation" at the hotel in Bamako.

Monique Kouame Affoue Ekonde, from Ivory Coast, said she and six other people, including a Turkish woman, were escorted out by security forces as the gunmen rushed "toward the fifth or sixth floor."

"I think they are still there. I've left the hotel and I don't know where to go. I'm tired and in a state of shock," she said.

A top official at the French presidency said French citizens were in the hotel but could not give more. The official spoke anonymously in line with presidency policy.

Belgian foreign minister Didier Reynders said that four Belgians were registered at the hotel but their whereabouts were unknown.

Citing Chinese diplomats in Mali, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported that about 10 Chinese citizens were sheltering inside their hotel rooms. The embassy was in phone contact with them and all were reported safe, according to the report. All are employees of Chinese companies working in Mali.

Five Turkish Airlines personnel were among the freed hostages, Turkey's state-run news agency said.

The website of the official China Daily newspaper also cited an unidentified witness as saying one Chinese citizen had been rescued.

The U.N. mission said it was sending security reinforcements and medical aid to the scene. Ambulances were seen rushing to the hotel as a military helicopter flew overhead.

Even after the French-led military intervention in early 2013 that forced the extremists from northern towns and cities, the north remains insecure and militant attacks have extended farther south this year,

including the capital. In March masked gunmen shot up a restaurant in Bamako that is popular with foreigners, killing five people.

About 1,000 French troops remain in the country. The Netherlands also has troops working with the UN mission in Mali. According to the Dutch defense ministry, some 450 Dutch military personnel are taking part in the mission along with four Apache and three Chinook helicopters. Most of the Dutch force is based in Gao, but there are a few officers at the U.N. mission headquarters in Bamako.

The Latest: ASEAN ministers concerned over South China Sea

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Ten Southeast Asian heads of state and nine world leaders, including President Barack Obama, are meeting in Malaysia to discuss trade and economic issues. Terrorism and disputes over the South China Sea are also on the agenda. (All times local):

6:30 p.m.

ASEAN foreign ministers have expressed serious concern about the developments in the South China Sea, where China's construction of artificial islands has fueled tensions with other claimants.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman, who hosted the meeting Friday, said the ministers renewed their call for the "expeditious establishment of an effective Code of Conduct" that will govern behavior in the disputed area.

He says they reaffirmed the importance to maintain peace, security, stability and freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

He didn't mention any countries. However, China, which claims most of the South China Sea, has angered its neighbors with its recent island-building. Taiwan and ASEAN members Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam also have overlapping claims across the sea.

The U.S. has recently responded with military maneuvers near the islands to show it won't allow freedom of navigation to be compromised in seas that are crucial to political stability in Asia and global trade.

4 p.m.

President Barack Obama has landed in Malaysia for regional summits amid tight security.

The Malaysian army has deployed some 4,500 personnel, on top of about 4,000 police, amid unconfirmed reports of possible terrorist plots in Kuala Lumpur.

Obama flew in from the Philippine capital, where he attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit to push for a bigger U.S. economic role. He will attend a town hall meeting later Friday before holding bilateral talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak.

This weekend, the U.S. president will give a speech at a regional business conference.

He will also hold talks with 10 Southeast Asian leaders, before participating in an East Asia Summit that also includes seven other nations, including China. Obama is expected to repeat his message for China to halt construction activities on disputed islands in the South China Sea, apart from trade and economic issues.

3:45 p.m.

The ASEAN Business Advisory Council says the transformation of the diverse region into an ASEAN Economic Community by Dec. 31 is "not the finished article" and much work needs to be done.

Council Chairman Mohamad Munir Abdul Majid says trade in goods across the region is largely tariff-free, but significant non-tariff barriers and measures are hindering their seamless flow.

He told a regional business conference on the sidelines of ASEAN summits this weekend that progress in the liberalization of services, in free flow of investment and capital, and freer movement of skilled labor have also been slow.

Munir called for governments to work closely with the private sector to move the AEC further ahead and remove all impediments and non-compliance to make the Europe-like community a viable entity.

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3:20 p.m.

The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development says growth in China is expected to continue to slow to an average of 6 percent annually over the next five years, while India's expansion will pick up to 7.3 percent during the same period.

According to the OECD annual outlook launched at a regional business conference on the sidelines of ASEAN summits this weekend, China's slowdown means lower export demand and investment flows to Southeast Asia, which will see growth dip to an average 5.2 percent annually through to 2020.

The report cites China's slowdown, U.S. monetary tightening and slowing productivity growth as key challenges to maintain the region's growth momentum.

It says the transformation of the Southeast Asian region into an economic community modelled after the European Union by Dec. 31 is a major milestone, but actual integration activities such as in services sector have been slow. It calls for more efforts to help poorer members Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar to narrow development gaps in the region.

1 p.m.

The head of Southeast Asia's main grouping says the region needs a legally binding agreement to ensure that a maritime dispute with China is resolved peacefully, because an existing declaration of amity has proved to be useless.

The 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China signed the declaration, known by its acronym DOC, in 2002, promising in good faith to resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without "resorting to the threat or use of force."

ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh told The Associated Press Friday that "the DOC has never been fully and effectively implemented and that's why we need a new agreement which would be legally binding."

He says such an agreement should be capable of not only preventing but also managing incidents such as "the ones that have been taking place." He did not name China but was referring to Beijing's recent land reclamation and the construction of artificial islands in the South China Sea.

12:35 p.m.

Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia says Southeast Asia will be the fourth-largest market in the world by 2050, thanks to the formation of a regional economic community.

Najib was speaking at a business conference Friday, held on the sidelines of a series of summits this weekend, led by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN.

He says: "The coming into being of the ASEAN community marks a new beginning for more than 630 million people, the birth of an integrated region — an entity that is a global economic force."

ASEAN is scheduled to formally sign on Sunday a charter to announce the creation of the ASEAN Economic Community.

Najib says "as a single market ... ASEAN will be the fourth largest in the world by 2050, at the latest."

He says that last year, collective foreign investment in the region hit \$136 billion, more than in the U.S. or China. He says ASEAN is expected to post an average annual GDP growth of 5.6 percent through to 2019.

9 a.m.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak says the formation of the ASEAN Economic Community will benefit poor and unskilled workers.

He says strong economic growth and an inflow of foreign direct investments have created jobs, with the average ASEAN unemployment rate at a low of 3.3 percent. He said this in an interview with national news agency Bernama published Friday.

He said there are huge opportunities for skilled workers, as countries look to grow from higher value-

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added activities and knowledge-based sectors.

ASEAN is a grouping of 10 countries in Southeast Asia. It embarked on the creation of a Europe-like economic community a decade ago, and it will be formally declared as an entity at the grouping's summit this weekend.

Najib says there is still more work to be done, as creating an integrated economic community cannot be done overnight.

8 a.m.

Malaysian police say they have stepped up security significantly for a regional leaders' summit this weekend amid unconfirmed reports of the presence of Islamic State suicide bombers in Kuala Lumpur.

National police chief Khalid Abu Bakar says reports of imminent threats in Malaysia "have yet to be confirmed." An internal police memo that was leaked on social media this week warned the Islamic State has suicide bombers in Kuala Lumpur and in Sabah state on Borneo island.

Khalid said in a statement late Thursday that security has been tightened for the regional summit involving 18 world leaders, including U.S. President Barack Obama, in the wake of last week's deadly attacks in Paris.

Malaysia has detained about 150 suspects since 2013, some who were allegedly plotting attacks in the country.

World stocks drift as Fed-fueled rally fades

KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — World stock markets drifted Friday, as enthusiasm faded over the Federal Reserve's hint that interest rate increases will be gradual.

KEEPING SCORE: European markets were slightly higher in early trading. France's CAC 40 was up 0.1 percent to 4,918.88 and Germany's DAX climbed 0.2 percent to 11,113.05. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.1 percent to 6,335.05. U.S. stocks were poised to open higher. Dow futures added 0.3 percent to 17,755.00. Broader S&P 500 futures rose 0.2 percent to 2,083.30.

FED FOCUS: The euphoria in financial markets over the Federal Reserve's minutes that were released Wednesday is fading. The report showed that Fed officials agreed that a rate hike is firmly on the cards for next month and that the pace of rate increases after that will be gradual. The news gave a strong boost to stock markets around the world by easing uncertainty in the minds of investors who have been fixated on when the Fed would raise its policy rate. It has been at a record low since the 2008 global financial crisis.

QUOTABLE: "Equities globally have responded positively to this macro picture as it still collectively shows that central bank policy can and will alter markets and economies," said Evan Lucas, market strategist at IG. "However, what would be a dire market-mover would be if the Fed breaks its December mantra and holds off," Lucas wrote in a commentary. Such a move would result in a big sell-off as investors lose confidence in its statements, he said.

ASIAN SCORECARD: Japan's Nikkei 225 edged up 0.1 percent to 19,879.81. South Korea's Kospi was up less than 0.1 percent at 1,989.86. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was up 1.1 percent to 22,754.72. The Shanghai Composite Index in China rose 0.4 percent to 3,630.50. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.3 percent to 5,256.10.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 3 cents to \$41.77 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 23 cents to settle at \$41.72 a barrel in New York on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost 8 cents to \$44.10 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 122.91 yen from 122.89 yen on Thursday. The euro slipped to \$1.0670 from \$1.0723.

Health authorities: 1 confirmed Ebola case in Liberia

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Health authorities are reporting one confirmed Ebola case, a 10-year boy who is currently being attended to at the treatment center on the outskirts of Monrovia, the capital.

Liberia was first declared Ebola-free on May 9; but there was a resurgence of the disease in late June

affecting four people, two of whom died. The country was again declared Ebola-free on Sept. 3 by the World Health Organization.

Chief Medical Officer and acting head of the Ebola Case Management System, Dr. Francis Kateh, told The Associated Press on Friday the boy, a resident of the eastern Paynesville district of Monrovia, was taken to the Ebola treatment unit late Thursday.

"Yes, yes, you can say confirmed," he said, when asked if the case has been confirmed to be Ebola.

Film shows interracial pair's battle for the right to marry

ALANNA DURKIN, Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Vintage cars lined the Virginia drag racing track where men and women wearing high-waisted pants and long skirts waited eagerly for popcorn at the concession stand and children darted in and out of the crowd. But as soon as the movie director yelled "cut," the actors relaxed, chatted and pulled on coats to stay warm in between shots on a cold, rainy afternoon.

It was the final day of filming for "Loving," which transformed the Richmond Dragway and other locations across Virginia into scenes from the 1950s and '60s to tell the story of Richard and Mildred Loving — a couple with a bond so strong that it dismantled laws against interracial marriage, thrusting them into one of the most pivotal moments in American history.

Richard Loving, a white man, and Mildred Loving, a black woman, were thrown into a Virginia jail in 1958 for "unlawful cohabitation" a few weeks after getting married in Washington, D.C. They avoided a one-year jail sentence only by leaving the state. Although they never aspired to become political lightning rods, they wanted to come home. So they fought all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which struck down the Virginia law and those then in effect in roughly one-third of the states in 1967.

Filmmakers hope the Lovings' story will send a strong message about marriage at a time when debates over who should be allowed to wed still linger. The film comes on the heels of the Supreme Court victory for same-sex marriage advocates, who repeatedly invoked the story of the Lovings during their fight for legalization.

The Lovings "were kind of these perfect candidates to talk about an issue about marriage equality and marriage rights without ever really bringing it up," said writer and director Jeff Nichols, best known for his film "Mud."

"Instead of talking about who deserves to be married or the meaning of marriage, let's just talk about people that love each other in a really straightforward, really honest way. Let's show people that and hopefully that will do the heavy lifting for us in terms of the debate," he said.

Nichols' movie isn't a courtroom drama, but a story about a love that shines through actions more than words, said Joel Edgerton, an Australian-born actor who recently starred alongside Johnny Depp in "Black Mass" and plays mild-mannered Richard Loving. Ethiopian-born Ruth Negga, known for her role on the TV show Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D., plays his wife.

"They weren't waving a flag for civil rights change. They weren't looking beyond themselves, I don't think," Edgerton said. "What it really is to me and to Jeff is a love story, primarily, and all that other political stuff that surrounded it enriches the story and provides other meanings for people to take away," he said.

As filmmakers raced to shoot the final scenes before the sun set on a gray afternoon in Virginia last week, actors and crew members who had been putting in 12-and-14-hour days since September handed each other cards and reminisced about their time on the set.

They went silent when the camera started rolling and Edgerton as Richard Loving watched his car speed down the track.

The film is expected to be ready for theaters sometime this spring, but a release date has not yet been set.

Nichols said he invented some characters and scenes, but sought to stay as true to the Lovings' story as possible. He drew inspiration from an HBO documentary about the couple released in 2012. His film includes shots of the Virginia courthouse where the Lovings were sentenced and the jail in which they

were initially held.

Philip Hirschkop, who represented the Lovings before the Supreme Court and visited the set, said Edgerton and Negga captured the essence of the Lovings as well as he could remember. But the couple, who were averse to publicity, probably wouldn't be thrilled to see their lives played out on the big screen, he said.

Mildred Loving died at her home in rural Milford in 2008. Her husband was killed by a drunk driver in 1975. Their daughter didn't respond to a message seeking comment.

House OK of GOP Syrian refugee curbs is just start of fight

ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans embarrassed President Barack Obama by winning veto-proof House approval of legislation blocking Syrian and Iraqi refugees from the U.S., but from here the effort may take a different turn in Congress.

Six days after the Paris attacks, the House voted 289-137 Thursday to essentially bar refugees from the two war-ravaged countries while tighter entry restrictions are imposed. In a rebuke to Obama that even an eleventh-hour visit to the Capitol by top administration officials could not avert, 47 Democrats — including many facing tight 2016 re-elections — joined the GOP, yielding the two-thirds margin needed to override vetoes.

Though Republicans felt they'd found a soft spot for Democrats no longer constrained to back a lame-duck president, Congress prepared to leave town until after Thanksgiving and its next moves were uncertain.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., slotted the House bill for possible Senate consideration and said pausing the refugee process would be "the most reasonable and balanced thing for the administration to do." His top deputy, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said he'd like the Senate to ship the House measure to Obama — who has promised a veto.

Whether that bill could reach the White House remained unclear. At least six Democrats would have to join Republicans to push it through the Senate and 13 Democrats would be needed for a veto-proof tally — which the chamber's top Democrat painted as far-fetched.

"Don't worry, it won't get passed," Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., told reporters.

One top Senate GOP aide said it was unlikely that chamber would consider the House bill. The aide said senators were more concerned about potential weak spots in a program that lets foreigners enter the U.S. without visas from 38 countries for short stays.

Senate Democrats also expressed interest in tightening the so-called visa waiver program. One proposal by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and others included a bar against foreigners entering the U.S. without visas if they've visited Syria or Iraq in the past five years.

The Islamic State, the terrorist group that has claimed credit for the Paris attacks, controls parts of Iraq and Syria and has prompted people to flee both countries. With polls showing many Americans wary of admitting those refugees, members of both parties were using the issue for campaign purposes.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest, speaking to reporters accompanying Obama on a flight to Malaysia Friday, reaffirmed the veto threat the White House issued in advance of Thursday's House vote.

"Our position on this piece of legislation has not changed," Earnest said. He did say White House staff members are talking with members of Congress on reforms to the visa waiver program, calling those discussions "productive."

"This is an area where additional scrutiny and reform could be useful in enhancing the home security of the United States," he said.

The volatile issue is causing divisions on Capitol Hill, even among members of the same party.

Rep. Alan Grayson, D-Fla., attacked his rival for a Senate seat, Rep. Patrick Murphy, D-Fla., for supporting the GOP bill. His fundraising email accused Murphy of a "fear of orphans and widows with brown skin," a reference to the status and appearance of many Syrian and Iraqi refugees.

Sen. Mark Kirk, R-Ill., accused likely 2016 challenger Rep. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., of an "irresponsible and reckless decision" to oppose the "common-sense" House bill.

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Strict curbs like those the House approved could still complicate a congressional effort to prevent a pre-Christmas federal shutdown.

Conservatives remained eager to attach restrictions on Syrian and Iraqi refugees to a spending bill lawmakers must pass by Dec. 11 or face a partial government shutdown.

Rep. Brian Babin, R-Texas, had compiled signatures from 68 House Republicans on a letter asking House GOP leaders to use that spending bill to block federal funds for Middle Eastern or North African refugees unless screening ensures that such programs couldn't be "co-opted by would-be terrorists."

It wasn't clear, though, that the fight would grow into the kind of battle waged often between conservatives and former Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, who left Congress last month.

The letter couched the proposal as a request, not a demand. McConnell has said there will be no government shutdown as the 2016 elections approach. And though new House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., hasn't ruled out any approach, it seemed unlikely he would relish escalating the fight into a holiday-season shutdown battle with the president.

The House bill would require FBI background checks on Syrian and Iraqi refugees and require three top federal officials to certify that each refugee is safe.

Administration officials and many Democrats argued that the current vetting process was already tough, and accused Republicans of campaign-season fear-mongering. They said the screening involves multiple federal agencies and usually takes 18-to-24 months, making it an unlikely pathway for terrorists to use.

The administration plans to accept about 10,000 Syrian refugees in addition to the over 2,000 who have settled here in recent years.

The ultimate running game: a Tom Brady play for president

WILLIAM J. KOLE, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Never mind what Tom Brady says about making a play for the White House: Fans are clinging to 0.0001 odds he'll reconsider the ultimate running game someday.

For a cover story, GQ magazine asked its 2015 Man of the Year if he'd ever consider a run for the White House — or at least for governor of Massachusetts.

"There is a 0.000 chance of me ever wanting to do that," Brady said.

"I just think that no matter what you'd say or what you'd do, you'd be in a position where — you know, you're politicking. You know? ... I think in politics, half the people are gonna like you and half the people are not gonna like you, no matter what you do or what you say," he said.

None of which has stopped New England fans from daydreaming.

On talk radio and social media, Patriots Nation has been indulging in a little fantasy football, politics edition. Fans are imagining the dimple-chinned QB trading the oval ball for the Oval Office — with First Lady Gisele Bündchen as a bonus.

It's all part of a growing heap of hometown hubris surrounding the defending NFL champions and their three-time Super Bowl MVP, who've gone 9-0 so far this season.

"I'll appreciate it when Tom Brady is president of the entire world," said fan Andrew O'Donnell.

Others, who've been bringing "Brady for President" signs to games for years, point to a kind of precedence: If Ronald Reagan could turn his Hollywood celebrity into some formidable political capital, why not Tom Terrific?

Not for nothing, but Brady now shares GQ Man of the Year distinction with President Barack Obama.

If — and, admittedly, it's a huge if — Brady ever did change his mind about politics, it's a safe bet he'd run as a conservative. Asked in September if he thought Republican front-runner Donald Trump has what it takes to win the presidency, Brady told reporters: "I hope so. It would be great."

Brady says Trump is a longtime friend and golf partner, and Trump regularly crows about TB12 "the winner" at campaign stops around New England.

In past interviews, Brady has expressed disgust at partisan politics and gridlock.

"I haven't paid attention to politics in a long time," Brady said in September while clarifying his comments on Trump. "It's actually not something that I really even enjoy. It's way off my radar."

Detractors contend the Deflategate scandal disqualifies Brady. Some sarcastically suggest it makes him the perfect politician: evasive and sneaky.

And some Patriots fans — especially in liberal-leaning New England — think Brady's better off sticking to football.

"There's a big difference between being a good leader in sports and being a political leader," said Arianne Tidwell, 24, a technology consultant from Charlestown, Massachusetts.

Matthew Leathers, 41, of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, agrees.

"There's a far cry between being a quarterback on Sundays and being an executive branch leader. JFK was good at sports, but he was also good at government," Leathers said.

But he added: "That said, (Brady) would probably win."

Ex-Subway pitchman Fogle gets more than 15 years in prison

RICK CALLAHAN, Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Jared Fogle emerged from obscurity to become the unlikely face of one of the nation's biggest restaurant chains, earning a small fortune by touting the benefits of a healthy lifestyle that included Subway sandwiches.

But his wholesome public image was only that, and on Thursday he was sentenced to more than 15 years in prison for trading in child pornography and paying for sex with underage girls.

Fogle, 38, sought leniency, apologizing to his victims and telling the court in a tearful statement that he was raised with good values by a good family, but succumbed to self-centered "deception and lies." He said he wished he had realized long ago that he had a problem.

"I had become dependent on alcohol, pornography and prostitutes," he told the judge. "... I want to redeem my life. I want to become a good, decent person. I want to rebuild my life."

Judge Tanya Walton Pratt wasn't swayed, though, and gave him a harsher sentence than the 12½ years that prosecutors had sought. She also ordered him to submit to a lifetime of post-prison supervision and fined him \$175,000.

"What a gift, to have such a professional windfall fall in your lap," Pratt said, referring to the lucrative deal Subway gave Fogle after he lost more than 200 pounds in college, partly by eating its sandwiches. But she said Fogle blew the chance he'd been given by living a double life and pointed out that the crimes he committed weren't victimless.

"The level of perversion and lawlessness exhibited by Mr. Fogle is extreme," said Pratt. She recommended Fogle receive sex offender treatment in prison and said she'll recommend he serve his time at a federal lockup in Littleton, Colorado, that specializes in such treatment.

As he was being led from the courtroom in handcuffs, the father of two blew kisses to crying relatives.

Fogle pleaded guilty to one count each of traveling to engage in illicit sexual conduct with a minor and distribution and receipt of child pornography, per a deal he struck with prosecutors in August, a month after authorities raided his suburban Indianapolis home.

Fogle's lawyers and relatives left court without speaking to the media, and his attorney Ron Elberger did not respond to a question about whether Fogle will appeal his sentence.

In arguing for a five-year prison term, Fogle's attorney Jeremy Margolis told Pratt that Fogle is ready for prison and has "lost his wife, he's lost the children he loved and he's not going to see them for years and years and years."

"No one wants to be Jared Fogle. He is one of the most despised individuals in America," Margolis told the judge.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven DeBrotta, who handled Fogle's prosecution, said he was pleased with the sentence and said Pratt made "a thoughtful explanation of why she thought the right answer was 188 months."

DeBrotta said that while some speculated that Fogle's wealth and celebrity would help him get a shorter sentence, the judge rejected that suggestion, as well as arguments by Fogle's attorneys that his notoriety and wealth would place him under added stress in prison.

"She flat out rejected the argument that wealth helped him any way here," he said.

The hearing offered new details about Fogle's transgressions and his life in recent months.

John Bradford, a professor of forensic psychiatry at the University of Ottawa in Canada, testified by phone that he analyzed Fogle in August and concluded he suffers from hypersexuality, mild pedophilia, and alcohol abuse and dependency.

He said Fogle told him that he had "a fairly extensive history" of using prostitutes for sex and paid a minimum of about \$12,000 a year for sex. He also said Fogle's main interest was young females but that he also had some interest in adolescent males, and that Fogle told him he masturbated to fantasies about prepubescent girls but that there was no evidence he "actually engaged in sex" with such children.

Bradford said Fogle apparently had a compulsive eating disorder before he lost all of the weight that led to him becoming the face of Subway, and that his hypersexuality seemed to develop shortly after he shed the extra pounds.

Rick May, a psychologist from Aurora, Colorado, told the court he treated Fogle at his clinic over a four-week period and that Fogle had responded to those treatments. But he said Fogle needs much more therapy and he would be willing to continue to treat Fogle if he is sent to the prison in Littleton.

Under federal rules, Fogle must serve 85 percent of his sentence, which means he must serve more than 13 years in prison. Fogle can appeal his sentence, but not his conviction under his guilty plea.

In his plea deal, Fogle admitted that he had sex at New York City hotels with two girls under age 18 — one of whom was 16 at the time — and paid them for that sex. He also acknowledged receiving child pornography produced by Russell Taylor, the former executive director of The Jared Foundation, a nonprofit Fogle started to raise awareness and money to fight childhood obesity.

Authorities said Taylor secretly filmed 12 minors as they were nude, changing clothes, or engaged in other activities using hidden cameras in his Indianapolis-area residences to produce child pornography. Taylor has agreed to plead guilty to child exploitation and child pornography charges and faces a Dec. 10 plea hearing on those charges.

Fogle agreed to pay a total of \$1.4 million to his 14 victims, with each getting \$100,000. Before Fogle entered his guilty pleas Thursday, one of his attorneys told the judge that Fogle had paid 12 of the 14 victims and turned over the checks for the last two victims before the proceedings began.

What's for dinner? Genetically engineered salmon OK'd by FDA

MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — What's for dinner? Before long, it may well be genetically modified salmon, the first such altered animal cleared for human consumption in the United States.

Critics call it "frankenfish," but the Food and Drug Administration granted its approval on Thursday, saying the faster-growing salmon is safe to eat. It could be available in a couple of years.

"There are no biologically relevant differences in the nutritional profile of AquaAdvantage Salmon compared to that of other farm-raised Atlantic salmon," the agency said.

The Obama administration had stalled in approving the salmon for more than five years amid consumer concerns about genetically modified foods. The fish grows twice as fast as normal salmon, so it reaches market size more quickly.

AquaAdvantage Salmon is engineered by the Massachusetts-based company AquaBounty. Ron Stotish, the company's CEO, said in a statement that the fish is a "game changer that brings healthy and nutritious food to consumers in an environmentally responsible manner without damaging the ocean and other marine habitats."

AquaBounty said the fish could be on grocery store shelves in about two years, which is how long it takes the salmon to grow.

Once the salmon reach stores, consumers may not know they are eating them. Because there are no material differences between an engineered and a normal salmon, the FDA says the law does not require the fish to be labeled as engineered. AquaBounty says that genetically modified salmon have the same

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flavor, texture, color and odor as the conventional fish.

The FDA released separate wording that would set guidelines for retailers who do want to label the fish, along with additional guidance for voluntary labeling of genetically modified plant foods.

Some retailers have said they won't sell the fish at all — retailers Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, Target and Kroger have all said they are not planning to sell AquaAdvantage Salmon.

Critics have pressured retailers to reject the salmon, which they have labeled "Frankenfish." They worry it could cause human allergies and the eventual decimation of the natural salmon population if it escapes into the wild.

"There's no place on our dinner plates for genetically engineered fish," said Lisa Archer of the environmental advocacy group Friends of the Earth. "We will continue to work to ensure the market, from grocery retailers to restaurants, continues to listen to the majority of consumers that don't want to eat this poorly studied, unlabeled genetically engineered fish."

Just hours after the announcement, another advocacy group, The Center for Food Safety, said it would sue FDA to block the approval.

Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a Republican, has said the engineered salmon could harm her state's wild salmon industry. She took to the Senate floor to criticize the FDA shortly after the announcement, saying she was "spitting mad." She and other Alaska and Pacific Northwest lawmakers said they will swiftly push legislation to mandate labeling of the modified fish.

The FDA said the salmon will be allowed to be raised only in land-based, contained hatchery tanks at two facilities in Canada and Panama, and that other facilities in the U.S. or elsewhere cannot breed or raise the salmon for human consumption. Those restrictions limit the amount of food the company can produce.

The agency said that there are "multiple and redundant levels of physical barriers" in the facilities to prevent the escape of fish. The fish would be bred to be female and sterile, so if any did escape, they should not be able to breed.

The salmon has an added growth hormone from the Pacific Chinook salmon that allows that fish to produce growth hormone all year long. Engineers have been able to keep the hormone active by using another gene from an eel-like fish called an ocean pout that acts like an "on" switch. Typical Atlantic salmon produce the growth hormone for only part of the year.

Bernadette Dunham, director of the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine, said the agency "has thoroughly analyzed and evaluated the data and information" submitted by AquaBounty. To approve an engineered animal for human consumption, the agency reviews a company's data and must determine that the food is safe to eat, that the engineering is safe for the fish and that the company's claim — in this case, faster growth — is accurate.

AquaBounty's Stotish said he is hopeful the fish will gain consumer acceptance as people learn more about it.

"We think time and education and information may allow many of these folks to change their mind," he said of critics.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Nov. 20, the 324th day of 2015. There are 41 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 20, 1945, 22 former Nazi officials went on trial before an international war crimes tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany. (Almost a year later, the International Military Tribunal sentenced 12 of the defendants to death; seven received prison sentences ranging from 10 years to life; three were acquitted.)

On this date:

In 1620, Peregrine White was born aboard the Mayflower in Massachusetts Bay; he was the first child born of English parents in present-day New England.

In 1789, New Jersey became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

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In 1910, the Mexican Revolution of 1910 had its beginnings under the Plan of San Luis Potosi issued by Francisco I. Madero.

In 1925, Robert F. Kennedy was born in Brookline, Massachusetts.

In 1947, Britain's future queen, Princess Elizabeth, married Philip Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, at Westminster Abbey.

In 1959, the United Nations issued its Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

In 1967, the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Clock at the Commerce Department ticked past 200 million.

In 1969, the Nixon administration announced a halt to residential use of the pesticide DDT as part of a total phaseout. A group of American Indian activists began a 19-month occupation of Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay.

In 1975, after nearly four decades of absolute rule, Spain's Generalissimo Francisco Franco died, two weeks before his 83rd birthday.

In 1985, the first version of Microsoft's Windows operating system, Windows 1.0, was officially released.

In 1992, fire seriously damaged Windsor Castle.

In 1995, Olympic figure skating champion Sergei Grinkov died of a heart attack in Lake Placid, New York. BBC Television broadcast an interview with Princess Diana, who admitted being unfaithful to Prince Charles.

Ten years ago: Israel's dovish Labor Party voted to pull out of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government in the opening salvo of an election campaign. A gunman opened fire at a crowded shopping mall in Tacoma, Washington, wounding seven people and taking four hostages before surrendering. (Dominick Maldonado was later convicted of 15 charges, including attempted murder, assault and kidnapping; he was sentenced to just over 163 years in prison.)

Five years ago: In comments released by the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI opened the door on the previously taboo subject of condoms as a way to fight HIV, saying male prostitutes who used condoms might be beginning to assume moral responsibility. Notre Dame returned to the Bronx for the first time in 41 years and sent the subway alumni home happy as the Irish beat Army 27-3 in the first football game at the new Yankee Stadium. Former Milwaukee police officer and onetime Playboy Club bunny Laurie "Bambi" Bembenek, who escaped from prison after she was convicted of murder, died at a hospice in Portland, Oregon, at age 52.

One year ago: Spurning furious Republicans, President Barack Obama unveiled expansive executive actions on immigration during a televised address that would spare nearly 5 million people who were in the U.S. illegally from deportation and refocus enforcement efforts on "felons, not families." MLB Commissioner Bud Selig announced that baseball owners had unanimously approved a five-year term for his successor, Rob Manfred.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-comedian Kaye Ballard is 90. Actress Estelle Parsons is 88. Comedian Dick Smothers is 77. Singer Norman Greenbaum is 73. Vice President Joe Biden is 73. Actress Veronica Hamel is 72. Broadcast journalist Judy Woodruff is 69. Actor Samuel E. Wright is 69. Singer Joe Walsh is 68. Actor Richard Masur is 67. Opera singer Barbara Hendricks is 67. Former U.N. Ambassador John Bolton is 67. Actress Bo Derek is 59. Former NFL player Mark Gastineau is 59. Reggae musician Jim Brown (UB40) is 58. Actress Sean Young is 56. Pianist Jim Brickman is 54. Rock musician Todd Nance (Widespread Panic) is 53. Actress Ming-Na is 52. Actor Ned Vaughn is 51. Rapper Mike D (The Beastie Boys) is 50. Rapper Sen Dog (Cypress Hill) is 50. Actress Callie Thorne is 46. Actress Sabrina Lloyd is 45. Actor Joel McHale is 44. Actress Marisa Ryan is 41. Country singer Dierks (duhkr) Bentley is 40. Actor Joshua Gomez is 40. Actress Laura Harris is 39. Olympic gold medal gymnast Dominique Dawes is 39. Country singer Josh Turner is 38. Actress Nadine Velazquez is 37. Actress Andrea Riseborough is 34. Actor Jeremy Jordan (TV: "Supergirl") is 31. Actor Dan Byrd is 30. Actress Ashley Fink is 29. Rock musician Jared Followill (Kings of Leon) is 29. Actor Cody Linley is 26. Pop musician Michael Clifford (5 Seconds to Summer) is 20.

Thought for Today: "No man remains quite what he was when he recognizes himself." - Thomas Mann, German author (1875-1955).