

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

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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Monday, November 23

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk.

School Menu: Hamburger, French fries, carrots, fruit.

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, broccoli, garlic toast, sherbet.

Birthdays: Kristine Barger • Charlene Telkamp • Francine Sippel • Jace Craig • Sarah Finnesand • Kandi Weismantel

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

7:00pm: School Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 24

Aberdeen Novice Debate at Aberdeen Central

School Breakfast: French toast, link, fruit, juice, milk.

School Menu: Stuff crust pizza, green beans, fruit, veggie tray

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, rice pilaf, California blend veggies, peach crisp, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Douglas Dobbins • Cory Rath

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, November 25

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

Senior Menu: Ham/ raisin sauce, sweet potato, California blend veggies, crazy cake.

Birthdays: Emery Sippel • Kari Hanson • Angela Falk • Penny Herther • Devan Howard • Arielle Schaller

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

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Thanksgiving Travel Due to Hit 8-Year Highs While Holiday Gasoline Prices Reach 7-Year Lows

AAA Travel forecasts 46.9 million Americans will journey 50 miles or more from home during the Thanksgiving holiday, a 0.6 percent increase over the 46.6 million who traveled last year and the most since 2007. This marks the seventh consecutive year of growth for Thanksgiving travel.

"There's no doubt a lot of us are guarding our dollars very closely these days," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "But the lowest Thanksgiving gasoline prices since 2008 are prying some of those dollars loose and driving what AAA expects will be near record numbers to hit the highways across the country."

AAA predicts more than 135,000 South Dakotans will take a holiday road trip this Thanksgiving, a decrease of 1.6 percent over last year. Air travel is expected to decrease by 1.2 percent, with 6,320 South Dakotans flying to their holiday destinations. Though fewer South Dakotans are expected to leave town this Thanksgiving, more Americans will be traveling nationwide, according to AAA's annual travel forecast.

Bargain-basement gasoline prices are driving travel

Motorists nationwide continue to experience significantly lower year-over-year gas prices. AAA estimates consumers are saving nearly \$265 million on gasoline every day compared to a year ago. This has helped boost disposable income, encouraging more Americans to travel over Thanksgiving.

South Dakota's statewide average price for regular self-serve gasoline stands at \$2.25 today, 69 cents below the price one year ago.

Today's nationwide price for a gallon of gasoline has dropped 74 cents to an average today of \$2.15 from the price on this same date one year ago.

Airfares fall, hotel and car rental rates rise modestly

According to AAA's Leisure Travel Index, airfares are projected to decrease 10 percent this Thanksgiving, landing at an average of \$169 per roundtrip across the top 40 domestic flight routes.

Rates for AAA Three Diamond-rated lodgings are expected to remain relatively flat, with travelers spending an average of \$155 per night. The average rate at a AAA Two Diamond-rated hotel has risen four percent with an average nightly cost of \$118.

Daily car rental rates will average \$60, eight percent higher than last Thanksgiving.

#AAAToTheRescue for thousands of motorists this Thanksgiving

AAA expects to rescue more than 360,000 motorists this Thanksgiving across the country, with the primary reasons being dead batteries, flat tires and lockouts.

AAA recommends motorists check the condition of their battery and tires before heading out on a holiday getaway. Also, this is a good time to have vehicles inspected by a trusted repair shop, such as one of the nearly 7,000 AAA Approved Auto Repair facilities across North America. Motorists can download the AAA Mobile app or visit AAA.com.

Download the AAA Mobile app before a Thanksgiving getaway

Before setting out on a Thanksgiving trip, download the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. Travelers can use the app to map a route, find lowest gas prices, access exclusive member discounts, make travel arrangements, request AAA roadside assistance and find AAA Approved Auto Repair facilities. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.

With the AAA Mobile app, travelers can also find more than 58,000 AAA Approved and Diamond-rated hotels and restaurants via the TripTik Travel Planner. AAA's is the only rating system that uses full-time, professionally-trained evaluators to inspect each property on an annual basis. Every AAA Approved establishment offers the assurance of acceptable cleanliness, comfort and hospitality, and ratings of One to Five Diamonds help travelers find the right match for amenities, price and services.

These holiday projections are based on economic forecasting and research by IHS Global Insight. The Colorado-based business information provider teamed with AAA in 2009 to jointly analyze travel trends during major holidays. AAA has been reporting on holiday travel trends for more than two decades. The complete AAA/IHS Global Insight 2015 Thanksgiving holiday travel forecast can be found here. The Thanksgiving holiday travel period is defined as Wed., November 25 to Sun., November 29.

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Today in Weather History

November 23, 1996: Heavy snow of 6 to 8 inches fell across most of northern South Dakota, adding to already-significant snow depth. Roads became snow-packed, which hampered travel, resulting in the postponement of many activities. Some snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Aberdeen, Isabel, Roscoe, and Mellette; 7 inches at Eagle Butte, Timber Lake, Selby, Faulkton, Leola, Frederick, Webster, and Sisseton; and 8 inches at Britton, Ipswich, Eureka, and McLaughlin.

1909 - Rattlesnake Creek was deluged with 7.17 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a record for the state of Idaho. (The Weather Channel)

1912: The Rouse Simmons was a three-masted schooner famous for sinking during a violent storm on Lake Michigan on this day. The ship was bound for Chicago with a cargo of Christmas trees when it foundered off the coast of Two Rivers, Wisconsin, killing all on board.

1943 - Northern New Hampshire was in the grips of a record snowstorm which left a total of 55 inches at Berlin, and 56 inches at Randolph. The 56 inch total at Randolph established a 24 hour snowfall record for the state. In Maine, Middle Dam received a record 35 inches of snow in 24 hours. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Rain and gale force winds prevailed along the Northern Pacific coast. Quillayute, WA, received 1.57 inches of rain in 24 hours, including nine tenths of an inch in six hours. Heavy snow fell over northern Oregon and the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. Temperatures began to moderate in the eastern U.S. following a bitterly cold weekend. (The National Weather Summary)

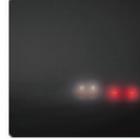
1988 - Low pressure crossing the Great Basin brought wintry weather to parts of the western U.S. Up to a foot of snow blanketed Yellowstone Park, and winds gusted to 70 mph at Casper WY, and reached 95 mph near Reno NV. Up to seven inches of rain was reported in the Grass Valley and Nevada City area of California. Paradise CA was soaked with 5.37 inches of rain in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Low pressure tracking across the Carolinas brought heavy rain to parts of the Southern Atlantic Coast Region for Thanksgiving Day, and blanketed the Middle Atlantic Coast States and southern New England with heavy snow. The storm produced up to nine inches of snow over Long Island NY, and up to 14 inches over Cape Cod MA, at Yarmouth. Totals of 4.7 inches at New York City and 6.0 inches at Newark NJ were records for Thanksgiving Day, the 8.0 inch total at Providence RI was a record for any given day in November, and the 6.5 inch total at Strasburg CT was a record for the month of November as a whole. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2004 - An outbreak of severe thunderstorms produced reports of 54 tornadoes across portions of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Alabama. In Texas's Hardin county, one person was killed with three injured when a tornado struck during the afternoon (Associated Press).

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thanksgiving Day
						
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Areas Fog	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Snow	Slight Chance Snow	Slight Chance Snow
High: 43 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 43 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 37 °F	Low: 18 °F	High: 27 °F

Thanksgiving Week Forecast

Today	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				
	<i>Breezy</i>	<i>Breezy</i>	<i>Breezy</i>	
46° 25° 0%	42° 26° 5%	37° 17° 40%	23° 10° 40%	25° 8° 15%
SE 14	SE 18	N 22	N 15	NW 10

5 Day Outlook - Mobridge, SD

Today	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				
	<i>Breezy</i>	<i>Breezy</i>	<i>Breezy</i>	
43° 23° 0%	43° 26° 5%	37° 18° 30%	24° 10° 35%	25° 9° 20%
NW 11	SE 18	N 23	N 17	NW 11

5 Day Outlook - Aberdeen, SD

Today	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				
	<i>Breezy</i>	<i>Breezy</i>	<i>Breezy</i>	
46° 24° 0%	44° 24° 5%	39° 20° 40%	25° 11° 45%	25° 8° 20%
SE 14	SE 15	N 23	N 15	NW 10

5 Day Outlook - Pierre, SD

Today	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				
	<i>Breezy</i>	<i>Breezy</i>	<i>Breezy</i>	
40° 26° 0%	41° 31° 5%	38° 21° 30%	23° 12° 40%	23° 10° 25%
NW 14	SE 20	N 20	N 17	N 13

5 Day Outlook - Watertown, SD

Light Snow Moving Through Wednesday/Thursday
Little If Any Accumulations



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 11/23/2015 4:15 AM Central

Published on: 11/23/2015 at 4:20AM

Seasonally mild temperatures will continue to dominate through the first half of the work week. A weak weather system will move through the region for the holiday, however little if any snowfall accumulation is expected.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 48.6 at 3:00 PM

Low: 14.4 at 3:03 AM

High Gust: 28 at 3:15 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 57° in 1905

Record Low: -17° in 1985

Average High: 35°F

Average Low: 15°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.59

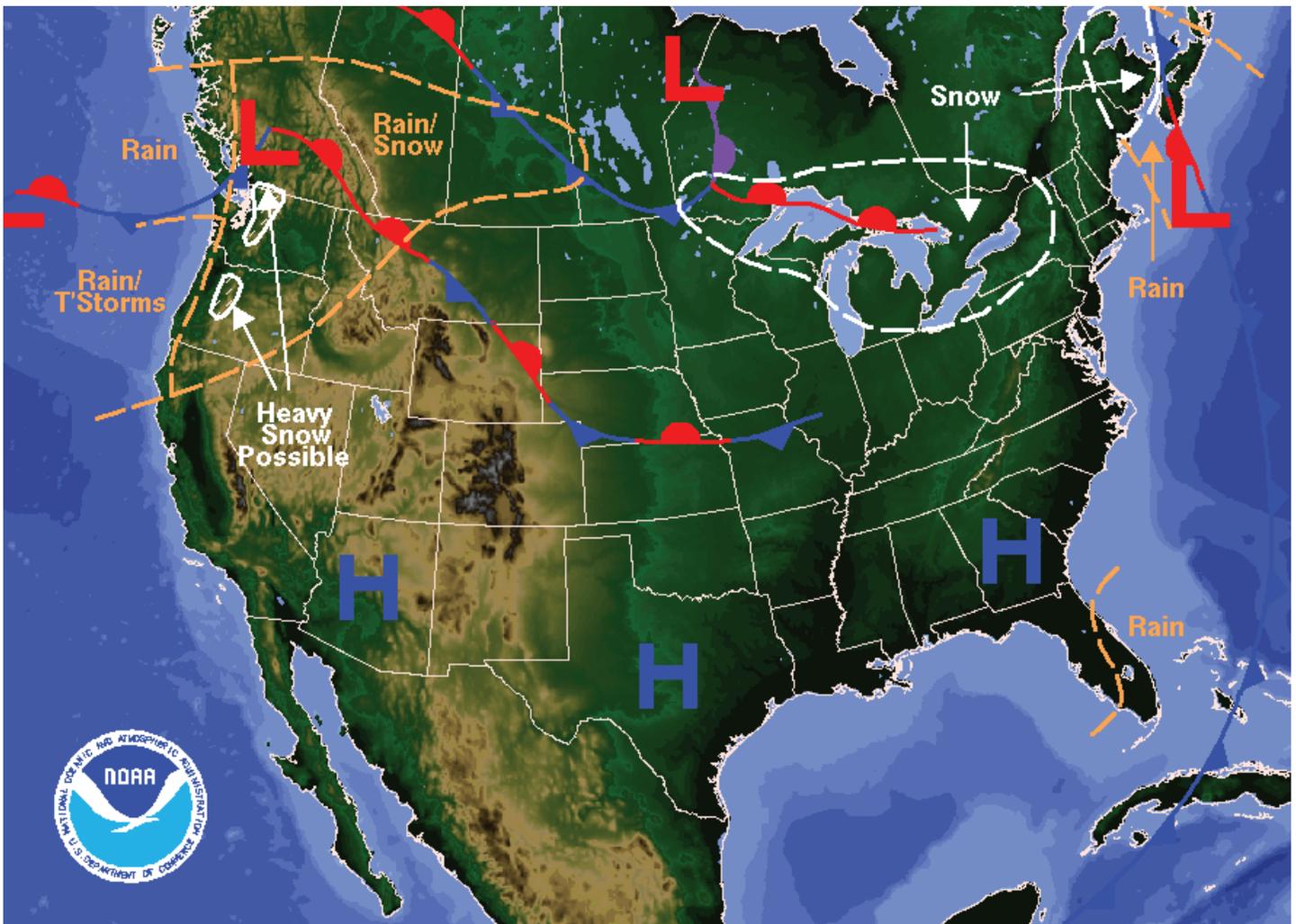
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.71

Average Precip to date: 21.06

Precip Year to Date: 19.82

Sunset Tonight: 4:56 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:44 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Nov 23, 2015, issued 4:33 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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WHO NEEDS US?

It was bedtime and Will was upstairs getting ready for his evening prayers. Dad was sitting in his favorite chair waiting to pray with his son.

"Hey Dad," said Will, "come up and help me undress and put my pajamas on."

"Come on, Will," said his Dad, "you know how to do all that. You've done it many times before."

"Yea," he admitted, "but sometimes people need people, even if they can do things by themselves."

How very true!

Life, at times, is a battle. The odds we face seem insurmountable, the challenges become almost more than we can bear and the clouds gather for a storm that could sink our little boat. Then what?

David said, "I look for someone to come and help me but no one gives me a passing thought...no one cares a bit what happens to me...then I pray to You, oh Lord."

Certainly we can call upon the Lord for protection, wisdom and strength. But many do not know our Lord and do not know what is available. So, He brings them into our life that we may reach out to them in love and mercy, care and compassion, giving them hope and help as He does us.

It's like Will said, "People need people!" We need to reach out to those who need our help wherever that are – whoever.

Prayer: Open our eyes, Father, to see those around us who are in need, begging for someone to give hope and help. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 142:4-5 I cried out to You, O Lord: I said, "You are my refuge, My portion in the land of the living.

News from the Associated Press

South Dakota head football coach Joe Glenn retiring

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — University of South Dakota football coach Joe Glenn is retiring.

The 66-year-old Nebraska native compiled a record of 200-134-1 in 28 seasons, and is one of 76 coaches in NCAA history to win 200 games. He was 12-34 in four seasons at USD, his alma mater.

His retirement was announced Sunday in a news release on the school's website.

Glenn led Northern Colorado to back-to-back NCAA Division II national championships in 1996 and 1997. He led Montana to a Football Championship Subdivision title in 2001. He was twice named the American Football Coaches Association's national coach of the year.

Glenn also coached at Doane College and Wyoming during his career.

Packers refuse to concede division race, top Vikings 30-13

DAVE CAMPBELL, AP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings took the ball at Green Bay's 42-yard line after a short punt by the Packers late in the second quarter, poised to forge a tie or take the lead before halftime of this pivotal NFC North game.

The first-down handoff went to Adrian Peterson, and Clay Matthews came to meet him for a 3-yard loss. Coolly climbing to his feet, Matthews waved his right index finger back and forth to signal the stymie, a symbolic gesture for the entire game.

The Packers clearly weren't ready to concede this division they've won four straight times. The Vikings squandered a prime opportunity to take control of the race.

Aaron Rodgers threw two touchdown passes without a turnover, Datone Jones had two of Green Bay's six sacks and Eddie Lacy contributed a season-high 100 yards in a 30-13 victory over Minnesota on Sunday that stopped a three-game losing streak.

"People wanted to throw us in the garbage after the last three weeks. Everybody knows what we have in this locker room," said James Jones, who had six catches for 109 yards as the Packers (7-3) got their 10th win over the Vikings in the last 11 games with Rodgers at quarterback.

From Lacy to Jones to the two-time NFL MVP Rodgers, the previously underperforming Packers bounced back in a big way to post the highest score against the Vikings this season.

"I think sometimes we play a little better when we start to get questioned," said Rodgers, who was a ho-hum 16 for 34 for 212 yards but brilliant when he needed to be on third-down scoring passes to Jones and Randall Cobb.

The Vikings (7-3) had a five-game winning streak shoved back in their face by this proud Packers team that was determined to re-establish a running game behind Lacy and James Starks after Rodgers attempted a career-high 61 passes last week in an ugly 18-16 loss at home to Detroit.

"I thank my teammates for believing in me even when I had those bad games and wasn't playing up to my standards," Lacy said.

Here are some key angles to know about the game:

PETERSON CONTAINED: Peterson was held to 45 yards on 13 carries with one touchdown. He lost a fumble at the Packers 21 early in the fourth quarter to punctuate an uncharacteristically quiet game against Green Bay.

"We were kind of pressing a little bit. The opportunities were slim, and we just couldn't get going for whatever reason," Peterson said.

MASON'S MAKES: After shanking a 52-yard try on the game's final play last week that would have given Green Bay the win, Mason Crosby bounced back by making all five of his field-goal attempts, all from 40-plus yards. Rodgers repeatedly praised Crosby during his postgame remarks to reporters, calling him the best kicker in the league.

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"I went back and watched film, cleared my mind, did what I do every week and worked really hard to make sure I could have a game like this and help us win," said Crosby, who is 24 for 24 on extra points and 17 for 19 on field goals this season.

BATTERED BRIDGEWATER: Teddy Bridgewater took quite a beating, leaving the game briefly with an injury to his left shoulder in the second quarter but still finishing 25 for 37 for 296 yards and a touchdown without any turnovers. The pass rush by the Packers was the story, though. The left side of the offensive line was called for four penalties in the first half, two holdings and a false start on tackle Matt Kalil and a holding on guard Brandon Fusco.

"They hadn't sacked the quarterback in the past three games that they've lost, so we knew that that was going to be one of the points of emphasis, that those guys are fired up," Bridgewater said. "And we know that when they're getting to the quarterback, that's when they're playing their best football."

COSTLY CALL: The Packers used a 50-yard pass interference penalty on Terence Newman, who was covering Jeff Janis on third-and-15 from the 15, to set up the 10-yard touchdown toss by Rodgers to Cobb with 10 seconds left in the first half. An illegal contact call on Anthony Barr during a third-down incompleteness gave Rodgers yet another opportunity on that defining drive.

BANGED UP: The Packers lost center Corey Linsley (ankle) and safety Micah Hyde (hip) to injuries.

SD man gets 30 months in prison in assault incident

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A 19-year-old man who admitted assaulting a man on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation has been sentenced to more than two years in prison.

U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange has ordered Dezmond Two Hearts, of Eagle Butte, to spend 30 months in prison, followed by two years of supervised release. Two Hearts pleaded guilty in August to assault with a dangerous weapon and aiding and abetting.

The office of U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says that on March 6, Two Hearts and his co-defendant took turns assaulting the man after he told them he did not have money to lend them. Authorities say Two Hearts kicked and stomped the victim in the face and head area with shod feet.

Two Hearts is under the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Author of book on Oglala chief Red Cloud to speak

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Author John McDermott will talk about his latest book "Red Cloud: Oglala Legend" in Rapid City on Monday night.

McDermott will speak at 7 p.m. from the public room of the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City. His program will also be broadcast to the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre via the Digital Dakota Network.

McDermott has served as a historian for the National Park Service and has written numerous articles and books about western history.

Red Cloud was an Oglala Lakota chief who fought the encroachment of European settlers onto lands guaranteed the American Indians through treaties. The book is published by the South Dakota Historical Society Press.

The talk is sponsored by the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation.

Vikings struggle on big stage again in 30-13 loss to Packers

JON KRAWCZYNSKI, AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings stormed into TCF Bank Stadium all alone in first place after five straight victories, determined to show the Green Bay Packers that there was a new king in the NFC North.

In their biggest test of the season, the Vikings looked nowhere near ready for prime time, collapsing under a hail of yellow penalty flags and Aaron Rodgers bullets.

The Vikings committed eight costly penalties and missed a golden chance to take a commanding lead in the NFC North in a demoralizing 30-13 loss to the Packers on Sunday.

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"This team you saw play today, it wasn't us," said Adrian Peterson, the NFL's leading rusher who was held to 45 yards on 13 carries. "We were out of sync, out of whack."

The Vikings (7-3) had 110 yards in penalties, allowed a season high in points and surrendered six sacks to a Green Bay defense that had not registered a sack in their three previous games. Worst of all, they gave a struggling rival a much-needed boost.

The Packers had lost three straight games, were ravaged by injuries to the offensive line and receiving corps and hardly resembled the team that has won four division titles in a row. But the mojo returned on a chilly day in Minnesota.

Rodgers threw for 212 yards and two touchdowns, James Jones had six catches for 109 yards and a score and Eddie Lacy had his best game of the season with 100 yards rushing for the Packers (7-3).

"We had to bounce back," Packers linebacker Clay Matthews said. "You lose tonight and you're 2 1/2 games back and you're lucky to have a wild-card spot. Now we're back on top of the division. Big victory for us, and a very big game that we haven't had in a while."

Teddy Bridgewater was 25 for 37 for 296 yards and a touchdown and Kyle Rudolph had six catches for 106 yards, including a 47-yard score, for the Vikings (7-3). But the offensive line gave Bridgewater precious little time to throw on most dropbacks and Peterson committed a costly fumble deep in Packers territory in the fourth quarter that helped stunt Minnesota's comeback attempt.

"You can't win playing the way we did," coach Mike Zimmer said. "Too many mistakes. You can't return a kickoff back and then get a 15-yard penalty. We can't have pass interferences. Those things will beat a good football team."

Optimism was sky-high in Minnesota this week as fans rallied around Zimmer, his hard-nosed defense, which had not allowed an opponent to score more than 23 points all season, and a rejuvenated Peterson. Zimmer printed up black shirts that read "Beat Green Bay" on the back to try to keep his team focused amid all the positive attention, but what he saw on Sunday was a sloppy, undisciplined performance in all phases.

On offense: Bridgewater was under siege all afternoon and Peterson was held under 100 yards for the first time in a month.

On defense: Rodgers sliced and diced an improved secondary, buying time with his legs and firing darts down the field, and Lacy rushed for more yards than he had in the previous four games combined.

And on special teams: Blair Walsh missed an extra point and Cordarrelle Patterson was flagged for unnecessary roughness when he head-butted kicker Mason Crosby after a big kick return.

The Vikings were committing an average of 6.3 penalties per game through the first nine, the lowest in the league. But they committed six in the first half, including holding penalties that had the offense facing a first-and-20 three times in the first half and a big pass interference penalty on Terence Newman that helped the Packers move into position for a touchdown just before halftime that put them up 16-6.

It all added up to another clunker on the big stage. The Vikings opened the season on Monday night in San Francisco and delivered an embarrassing performance in a 20-3 loss and cornerback Captain Munnerlyn also referenced a 42-10 wipeout in Lambeau Field on a Thursday night last year.

"We've got to fix this problem if we want to get to the next level, to the playoff round and to the Super Bowl," Munnerlyn said. "We've got to fix this. You've got to be able to win when the whole world is watching."

NOTES: Bridgewater left briefly in the second quarter with an injured left shoulder. But he was able to return and play the entire second half. ... Peterson surpassed the 1,000-yard mark for the season for the seventh time in his career. ... Mason Crosby kicked five field goals for the Packers.

2-vehicle crash west of Mina leaves 3 people dead

MINA, S.D. (AP) — Three people are dead following a two-vehicle crash west of Mina that forced the closure of U.S. Highway 12 for more than 2 hours.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says the crash happened around 2:45 p.m. Saturday, when a pickup truck traveling west on Highway 12 was struck by a car that was eastbound and crossed the center line.

Authorities say the pickup's driver, 59-year-old Michael Schlosser, and the car's two occupants, 42-year-

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old Kelly Pierce and 32-year-old Christopher McCoy, were pronounced dead at the scene.

The Aberdeen American News reports Schlosser, of Aberdeen, was an emergency room doctor at Avera St. Luke's Hospital.

Authorities say Pierce, of Mellete, was driving the car that struck the pickup. They say Schlosser and McCoy, of Ipswich, were wearing seatbelts.

The Highway Patrol says the crash remains under investigation.

SD man gets 27 months in prison for assault on Indian rez

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man has been sentenced to more than two years in prison for assaulting another man on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange has sentenced 40-year-old Jeryn Big Eagle to 27 months in federal prison, followed by two years of supervised release. The Eagle Butte man earlier pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon.

Federal authorities say Big Eagle assaulted the victim in February at the Veterans Center in Eagle Butte. They say Big Eagle struck the victim in the "face, head and body multiple times with a closed fist," and then struck the victim in the forehead with a red Razor scooter.

Big Eagle is now under the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

After the snow, Midwest gets deep freeze

RICK CALLAHAN, Associated Press

A deep freeze set in across the Midwest on Sunday with low temperatures forecast in the single digits and a few below zero, turning the season's first major snow into ice that made some roads treacherous to travel.

Temperatures plunged behind a cold front that brought snow across much of the region Friday and Saturday. The National Weather Service forecast 20 degrees or lower across six states from North Dakota to Illinois.

The weather service reported temperatures in the single- and low double-digits Sunday in northern Illinois, including Chicago, where residents were digging out of more than 11 inches of snow — the highest November total in 120 years in the city.

More than 130 flights were cancelled Sunday into and out of the O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, according to flight-tracking website FlightAware.com.

In Minneapolis, dozens of people huddled around fires to stay warm at an encampment outside a police station to protest the fatal shooting of a black man by officers there last week. Temperatures hit a low of 17 degrees overnight, and light snow was expected to move in by Sunday evening.

The first snowfall of the season also brought amounts ranging from a few inches to 20 inches of snow from South Dakota through Michigan earlier in the weekend.

In the southern Wisconsin town of Janesville, between 10 and 20 inches of snow had fallen by late Saturday afternoon, according to the National Weather Service.

Southside True Value Hardware manager Matt Krienke said business had been good in the days leading up to the storm in the Janesville, but that it had become "very, very, very, very slick."

"People who don't need to drive don't need to be out," he said.

Slick driving conditions were reported across the region. In western Michigan, two people were injured in a 15-car pileup late Saturday along Interstate 196 following heavy snow in the area. Local police said one woman was struck by a vehicle after getting out of her vehicle.

SD woman who studied at Minnesota college is Rhodes Scholar

HUMBOLDT, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota student who attended college in Minnesota has been named a Rhodes Scholar.

Rachel E. Mullin of Humboldt is among 32 American men and women chosen as Rhodes Scholars. The scholarship funds post-graduate studies at Oxford University.

Mullin received her undergraduate degree in political science and history from the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota.

Mullin is a Truman Scholar and is focused on understanding and combating the causes of genocide and forced migration. She spent a summer in Bosnia-Herzegovina interviewing Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats to support two undergraduate theses on the 1990s genocide in Bosnia.

Mullin is now teaching English in Malaysia. At Oxford she will pursue post-graduate degrees in refugee and forced migration studies and in global governance and diplomacy.

SD residents to benefit from for-profit college settlement

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says more than 120 South Dakota residents will get a share of a national settlement against a company that operates for-profit colleges.

Jackley says South Dakota joined with 38 other states in the settlement with Education Management Corporation.

The former students from South Dakota will get a combined \$107,502 in loan forgiveness from the company.

The Pittsburgh-based company runs 110 schools in 32 states and Canada for chefs, artists and others, including Argosy University, The Art Institutes, Brown Mackie College and South University.

The company was accused of misrepresenting job placement and graduation rates, using high pressure sales tactics, and misleading prospective students about costs.

The company denied wrongdoing, but said it is working to bring more transparency to its recruitment practices.

Scientists say feeding fish soy, not fish, more sustainable

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Research supported by the soybean industry is looking to convert some farm-raised fish into vegetarians.

A South Dakota State University fisheries scientist is developing a soy protein feed that's tasty and easily digestible to eventually reduce the industry's need for using wild-caught fish as food for farm-raised fish.

Much of the tilapia, Atlantic salmon and catfish that Americans toss into their shopping carts are raised in fish farms, where companies traditionally feed them pellets containing anchovy, menhaden and herring. The harvest of those small species has pretty much flat-lined, SDSU professor Mike Brown said, and humans' increased demand for fish has driven up the cost of creating the pellet feed.

"We've fully exploited that resource," he said, noting that the goal is to create a more sustainable — and cheaper — food source. Traditional fish feed is currently costing between \$1,450 and \$2,000 per ton, while soybean meal runs about \$425 per ton, Brown said.

But some environmentalists worry that feeding fish species an uncommon food source could produce excess waste that muddies up inland tanks or offshore waters where fish are raised.

Toying with soy also has the potential to open new markets to soybean farmers dealing with stockpiles that have driven down prices, said Jeremy Freking, executive director of the South Dakota Soybean Association. The South Dakota Soybean Research & Promotion Council has invested \$1.7 million into the ongoing work at South Dakota State, which is being commercialized at the site by Prairie AquaTech.

Researchers at the Brookings facility have been working with species including coho salmon, rainbow trout, barramundi, white leg shrimp, yellow perch and hybrid striped bass to see how much of the feed can be added to the species' diets without affecting physiology or reducing growth.

The goal in agriculture and aquaculture is to have 100 percent of an ingredient digested, absorbed, metabolized and incorporated into muscle tissue, Brown said. Through pre-treatments and microbial fermentation, his research team has been able to increase fish's ability to digest more than 95 percent of the protein and energy, he said.

"It's pretty darn efficient," said Brown, who's been setting up small commercial validation trials as researchers work toward putting their product into the marketplace.

But if soy protein-based food results in excess waste, aquaculture could become even more damaging to the environment, said Patty Lovera, assistant director of the Washington-based sustainability group Food & Water Watch.

"If it's not the food they're built to eat, how do they tolerate it?" she asked.

It's also important to look at the entire environmental footprint — and industrial fish farms already have a pretty large one, Lovera said. Plus, she added, the equation would have to include all the factors going into crop production.

"Nothing's free in terms of environmental impact," she said, "so you have to count the soy production system in whatever you're calculating there."

Russia's Putin in Iran for talks set to focus on Syria

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Russia's President Vladimir Putin was in Tehran on Monday for talks with Iranian leaders expected to focus on the Syrian crisis and an international peace plan intended to end the conflict.

The visit comes as Russia, the United States, France and others are talking about possible joint action against the Islamic State group following the terror attacks in Paris and the downing of a Russian passenger jet in Egypt. Putin's trip also comes on the heels of agreement on an incomplete peace plan that calls for talks between Assad and his foes.

Moscow and Tehran have been the key backers of Syrian President Bashar Assad throughout his nation's civil war, which has killed over 250,000 people and turned millions into refugees.

Russia has shielded Syria from international sanctions, and on Sept. 30 it launched an air campaign against the Islamic State group and other insurgents, while Tehran has sent military advisers to shore up Assad.

Putin, on a one-day visit to attend a gas exporting nations' summit, is set to meet with Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani. Assad's fate will likely dominate the agenda.

The peace plan put forward by 17 nations a day after the Paris terror attacks sets a Jan. 1 deadline for the start of negotiations between Assad and the opposition.

The proposal, which seems to draw heavily on a recently circulated Russian initiative, states that "free and fair elections" would be held according to a new constitution within 18 months. To clarify the timeline, the State Department said last week that the clock starts once Assad's representatives and opposition figures begin talks on a constitution. The vote would determine a new parliament, though not necessarily a new president.

The plan says nothing about Assad's fate, and does not say which of Syria's many opposition factions would take part in the negotiations.

Russia and Iran both have bristled at demands for Assad to step down, saying his future must be decided by the Syrians as part of the peace process. But some have speculated that Moscow could be prepared to see Assad phased out of power as part of a deal that would guarantee stability in Syria and protect Russia's interests there. Tehran is widely seen as taking a more rigid stance.

Shiite Iran has staunchly backed Assad, who belongs to Syria's Alawite minority, an offshoot of Shiite Islam, seeing him as a bulwark against its archrival, Saudi Arabia, and other Sunni monarchies of the Gulf. Tehran has sent more advisers to Syria in recent weeks, reportedly including Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who heads the elite Quds Force of the Revolutionary Guard. Iran says it has sent advisers but no combat forces.

Taking advantage of the Russian airstrikes, the Iranians and Hezbollah have spearheaded the ongoing Syrian offensive intended to win back some ground after a string of losses earlier this year. Moscow has

closely coordinated its air campaign with Tehran, with Russian warplanes flying over Iran and Iraq to avoid the airspace of Turkey and other NATO members.

Police arrest man in pregnant Indianapolis woman's slaying

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indianapolis police announced Monday they have arrested an 18-year-old man in the shooting death of a pastor's pregnant wife during an apparent home invasion.

Larry Taylor of Indianapolis was arrested on a preliminary charge of murder in this month's death of 28-year-old Amanda Blackburn. Officers from the department's gang and violent crime units arrested Taylor with help from U.S. Marshals, according to an Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department news release.

It wasn't immediately clear whether Taylor had an attorney. The Marion County Prosecutor's Office was expected to review the case.

"All victims of criminal homicides deserve closure, and as a community we must send a collective message that violence is not an option," Police Chief Rick Hite said in the statement. "Our detectives have worked tirelessly going days without sleep to solve murders in our city."

Authorities said investigators would continue to follow all leads, including talking with individuals who may have knowledge of the case.

Blackburn was shot in the head during the attack on Nov. 10 and died the next day. She was 13 weeks pregnant and the child did not survive, a family spokeswoman has said. The Blackburns also have a 15-month-old son, who was upstairs in a crib at the time of the attack.

Investigators believe the suspect, whom neighbors also reported seeing walking in the area, may have seen Blackburn's husband, Davey, leave early in the morning to go to a gym shortly after the suspect allegedly burglarized a nearby house. Police had sought the public's help by circulating images of a man caught on home surveillance cameras.

The Blackburns moved to Indianapolis from South Carolina to found the independent Resonate Church in 2012.

Police: Palestinian killed after stabbing man in Jerusalem

IAN DEITCH, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Two Palestinian teenage girls stabbed a 70-year-old Palestinian man with scissors outside a central Jerusalem market on Monday before they were shot by police — in a fresh burst of violence ahead of the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

Police said one of the attackers was killed, while the second was wounded. The man, apparently mistaken for an Israeli, suffered wounds to his head and back, while a 27-year-old bystander was lightly wounded, apparently from bullet shrapnel, police said.

The attack was the latest in a two-month spate of Israeli-Palestinian violence that erupted in Jerusalem in mid-September and quickly spread across Israel and into the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Kerry is expected to meet with Israeli and Palestinian leaders on Tuesday to help ease tensions, in what is to be his first visit to the area in a year.

The incident occurred near Mahane Yehuda, a popular outdoor market in downtown Jerusalem. It caused a panicked scene in the busy area.

A witness, Akram Ezyy, said the attackers looked like they were "about 12." He said they were chasing after two old women with scissors when they were shot.

Police spokeswoman Luba Samri said in a statement the police officer ordered the girls to halt their attack, and shot them when they came toward him. The statement did not say how close the girls got to the officer.

Soon after the stabbing, a Palestinian rammed his vehicle into a pedestrian near a settlement in the northern West Bank, the military said. It said the civilian was lightly wounded and evacuated to hospital while the attacker fled. There have been several instances of Palestinians using their cars as weapons by crashing them into Israelis in recent weeks.

The current wave of unrest began in mid-September over tensions surrounding a sensitive Jerusalem holy site. Eighteen Israelis have been killed, mostly in stabbings, while 88 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire. Of them, 56 are said by Israel to be attackers and the rest were killed in clashes with security forces.

Israel says the violence stems from Palestinian incitement and incendiary videos on social media. Most of the attackers have been young Palestinians in their teens and early 20s.

The Palestinians say the violence is rooted in frustration over nearly a half century of Israeli occupation and lack of hope for obtaining independence. Palestinians have also accused Israel of using excessive force, saying some attackers could be stopped without being killed.

Cheating accusations mar Zimbabwe's 'Mister Ugly' contest

FARAI MUTSAKA, Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Pageant judges have crowned a new winner of Zimbabwe's 4th annual "Mister Ugly" contest, upsetting supporters of the crowd favorite who called the winner too handsome and prompting rioting at the event.

Judges on Saturday chose 42-year-old Mison Sere, citing his numerous missing front teeth and a wide range of grotesque facial expressions, over William Masvinu, who had held the title since 2012.

Masvinu and his supporters mobbed the judges upon hearing their decision, claiming that Sere was "too handsome" to win and his ugliness wasn't natural since it was based on missing teeth.

"I am naturally ugly. He is not. He is ugly only when he opens his mouth," maintained Masvinu, gesturing at his rival.

"Do we have to lose our teeth to win? This is cheating," shouted another contestant, Patrick Mupereki. While no one was injured, there was a great deal of pushing and shoving as the results were announced and insults were hurled at the judges.

Beauty pageants are popular in this southern African country and even though they are typically for women, scandal is not unusual. Earlier this year, Miss Zimbabwe winner Emily Kachote faced a backlash on social media, with Zimbabweans calling her ugly and undeserving of the crown.

She was later forced to step down when just two weeks into her reign, images surfaced of her posing nude — which incidentally also brought down her predecessor.

Sere dismissed the critics as just "sore losers" as he pocketed the \$500 in winnings.

"They should just accept that I am uglier than them," he said. "I hope to get a TV contract. I already moved around schools performing and showcasing my ugliness so this is a chance to make it on TV."

The complaints of Masvinu and the other contestants may have a degree of validity. Organizers had previously announced that disabilities or enhancements would not be accepted in the competition which should focus on "natural ugliness."

Pageant organizer David Machowa originally told the Associated Press that he began the contest to remove the stigma of ugliness. "Looks are God given. We should all be proud of who we are."

The pageant involved three rounds of modelling, with individual and group struts down a catwalk of a Harare nightclub.

"Sere made tremendous effort to enhance his ugliness by pulling facial stunts," said judge Abigail Mataranyika, a university student. "Masvinu thought he is so ugly that he didn't need to try hard. That cost him the crown."

This year's competition attracted a record number of 36 entries, compared to just five in 2012 when Masvinu began his winning streak. The competition was suspended in 2014 due to a lack of sponsorship, but this year the owners of a string of Harare nightclubs donated \$1,000.

Cameron pledges to outline strategy against IS this week

DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister David Cameron will begin to lay out his case this week for the Royal Air Force to start hitting Islamic State targets in Syria, something he has been eager to do but feared being blocked by Parliament.

Speaking in Paris on Monday after meeting French President Francois Hollande, Cameron said the two leaders agreed to increase counterterrorism cooperation after the attacks. He called for greater European Union-wide efforts to share intelligence to stop extremists and offered the use of RAF Akrotiri on Cyprus for anti-Islamic State actions in Syria.

"The United Kingdom will do all in our power to support our friend and ally France to defeat this evil death cult," he said.

Cameron lost a vote in Parliament two years ago to allow attacks on Syria, and has been reluctant to even suggest a vote until he could be certain to win. The RAF is already participating in airstrikes in Iraq.

Cameron has argued that Britain's "precision missions" would allow better targeting and lead to fewer civilian casualties than American weapons. Britain's arsenal includes the Brimstone missile, whose technology enables it to ensure accuracy against moving targets, such as gun trucks used by Islamic State group militants.

Defense Secretary Michael Fallon told the BBC that Britain had capabilities to offer the coalition.

"We have a highly skilled air force. The Tornados that we have been deploying in Iraq have a high-precision missile, the Brimstone missile, that nobody else has, that reduces, eliminates, civilian casualties because it is so precise," he said. "The rest of the coalition would like to see the RAF engaged in Syria. It makes very little sense for the RAF to be able to fly as far as a border between Iraq and Syria that (the Islamic State group) itself does not recognize."

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. BELGIUM POLICE ARREST 16, PARIS FUGITIVE STILL AT LARGE

Meanwhile, David Cameron, who is meeting Francois Hollande in Paris, says he will ask for parliamentary approval for the U.K. to join airstrikes against Islamic State extremists in Syria.

2. TURKISH FOOTBALL FANS REFLECT AMBIVALENCE AFTER PARIS ATTACKS

The disruption last week of a minute's silence for victims reveals the dim view some Turks have of European nations they accuse of insensitivity toward attacks by Kurdish rebels and other groups that plague the country.

3. WHY MIDEAST CHAOS WON'T END WITH MILITANTS' DEFEAT

A final solution will require the resettlement of populations driven from their home territories by the Iraq war, the Syrian civil conflict and the expansion of Islamic extremists.

4. WHAT ARGENTINE PRESIDENT-ELECT PROMISES

Mauricio Macri says his presidency will not be about "revenge" or "settling scores," but rather helping the country progress.

5. SYRIAN ATHLETE-TURNED-REFUGEE IN IRAQ MULLS OPTIONS

Nosheen Hanaan, who was once picked as a goalkeeper on Syria's national soccer team, now works as a waiter in Irbil, fearing his dreams are over.

6. GROUND DELAYS AT U.S. AIRPORTS ON THE RISE

Commercial airplanes are spending more time than ever taxiing between gates and runways, according to an AP analysis of government data.

7. WHO IS SEEKING OPTIONS FOR REDUCING HOURS ON THE JOB

Many aging baby boomers are caught between a desire to work less and a labor market that just isn't

ready to let them go.

8. ONE WAY TO FLY FREE FOREVER

Chinese billionaire Liu Yiqian can now do that because he plans to pay for \$170.4 million painting with his credit card.

9. ONE DIRECTION WINS BIG AT AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS

"This is a testament to how incredible our fans are," Louis Tomlinson says onstage at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles in a ceremony that references Paris several times.

10. END OF RAINBOW

Jeff Gordon fails to add a fairytale ending to his storied career, finishing sixth in the NASCAR season finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

New statement said to identify gunmen in Mali attack

BABA AHMED, Associated Press

ROBBIE COREY-BOULET, Associated Press

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — Mali began a three-day mourning period with flags flying at half-staff on Monday for victims of the assault on a luxury hotel full of foreigners, a day after a dueling claim of responsibility emerged.

The Islamic extremist group, Al-Mourabitoun, that first claimed responsibility for Friday's assault issued a new audio recording identifying the two gunmen, according to a Mauritanian news site that often receives messages from Malian extremists.

The group said the two were the only assailants in the attack that killed 19 people. Initial reports from witnesses and officials suggested there could have been as many as 10 gunmen. The bodies of only two gunmen were recovered from the scene.

The recording from the Al-Mourabitoun (The Sentinels) group named the gunmen as Abdel Hakim Al-Ansari and Moadh Al-Ansari, Al-Akhbar said in an article posted online Sunday. No nationalities were given, though the name "Al-Ansari" suggests they were both Malian.

Meanwhile, a different extremist group that emerged only this year also issued a claim of responsibility for the attack. The claim, reported Sunday by French media, underscores the shifting alliances and memberships of the extremist groups operating in Mali and nearby countries.

The new group, the Macina Liberation Front, is active in central Mali and said it had worked with yet another militant group, Ansar Dine. The claim said the attack was in retaliation for Operation Barkhane, the regional French fight against Islamic extremists, according to Radio France Internationale.

Officials in this former French colony have said they are searching for more than three suspects who may have been involved in the attack on the Radisson Blu hotel in Mali's capital, though they have provided no other details on the possible leads.

In the absence of clear information, analysts have speculated on other possible motives, including a desire to disrupt Mali's fragile local peace process or a wish by al-Qaida to demonstrate its relevance amid high-profile attacks by its rival, the Islamic State group.

Al-Mourabitoun has links to al-Qaida and the group's first statement on Friday described collaboration with al-Qaida's "Sahara Emirate."

On Monday morning, the national flag outside Prime Minister Modibo Keita's office was lowered to half-staff just after sunrise.

"We are aware that the country is in crisis and we must stand with the victim's families," said Makan Kone, a spokesman for Keita, adding that the ceremony was "to show our pain for the death of 19 people."

Global stocks edge lower after series of gains

JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Global stocks were mostly lower Monday as momentum faded from a week of strong gains on Wall Street.

KEEPING SCORE: In early trading, France's CAC-40 shed 0.7 percent to 4,877.43 and Germany's DAX declined 0.3 percent to 11,089.22. Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.5 percent to 6,301.90. Futures pointed to losses on Wall Street. Dow futures fell 0.1 percent to 17,780.00 and S&P 500 futures shed 0.1 percent to 2,085.60. Last week, U.S. stocks recorded their best week this year on gains by retailers and technology companies as investors put jitters about the Paris attacks behind them.

FED EXPECTATIONS: Investors have gradually gotten used to the idea that the Federal Reserve is preparing to raise interest rates at its December meeting from record-low levels. They had been concerned, because higher rates can depress stock prices. But investors appear to have come around to seeing a possible hike as a positive sign that the Fed believes the economy is on solid footing.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "The market is looking beyond the first rate hike and focusing on Fed's reiteration that the pace of rate normalisation is going to be gradual, very very gradual," said IG analyst Bernard Aw in a report. Minutes from Fed meetings "have hinted that the pace will be much slower than that of previous rate hike cycles," he said. "In that regard, despite the Fed potentially raising rates in December, it will still be considered as dovish," said Aw.

ASIA'S DAY: The Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.6 percent to 3,610.31 while South Korea's Kospi rose 0.7 percent to 2,003.70. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was off 0.4 percent and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.4 percent to 5,276.40. Japanese markets were closed for a holiday. Benchmarks in Taiwan, Bangkok and Manila advanced. Singapore and Jakarta retreated.

EUROPE STIMULUS: Investors were encouraged by comments Friday from the head of the European Central Bank that it "will not hesitate" to expand stimulus if needed to support a recovery. Mario Draghi's speech at a banking forum in Frankfurt reinforced earlier statements taken by markets as a green light for the bank to take action at the Dec. 3 meeting of its governing council. The ECB could increase its 1.1 trillion euro (\$1.2 trillion) program of bond purchases or lower its rate on money deposited at the ECB by banks farther into negative territory.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude was down \$1.21 to \$40.69 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 18 cents on Friday to close at \$41.90. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 90 cents to \$43.76 per barrel in London. The contract rose 48 cents the previous session to \$44.60.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 123.21 yen from 122.79 yen. The euro fell to \$1.0610 from \$1.0649.

Police investigate New Orleans shooting that left 16 wounded

JANET MCCONNAUGHEY, Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Police have been trying to figure out what sparked a gun battle in a crowded New Orleans park that left 16 people wounded and the mayor is calling on witnesses to come forward.

Hundreds of people were gathered at a playground for a block party and music video shoot when two groups in the crowd opened fire on each other Sunday evening, police said.

Police were on their way to break up a big crowd at Bunny Friend Playground when gunfire erupted at the park in the city's 9th Ward, the police said in a statement.

New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, speaking in a news conference aired on WWL-TV, called on people who were in the park to come forward with information. The police have also asked people who might have any video of the shooting to bring it to police.

"At the end of the day, it's really hard to police against a bunch of guys who decide to pull out guns and settle their disputes with 300 people in between them. That's just not something you can tolerate in the city," Landrieu said.

"It's going to require the people who were in this park to basically say they've had enough and they're

not going to put themselves in harm's way and give us information so that the police can do their job," he said.

Police said 10 people were taken to the hospital in ambulances while another six were taken in private vehicles. Photos of the scene showed emergency workers wheeling some of the wounded to ambulances on gurneys while other people who appeared to be in pain lay on the ground.

Joseph Jordan was inside a house across the street from the park with his friend, who gave her first name as Raven, when they heard gunshots. Later someone called Raven and told her her niece had been shot. The two rushed to the hospital to check on the 14-year-old, who had been shot three times in the leg.

Speaking of the hospital, Jordan said: "It's still crowded back there."

Outside University Medical Center, Kawandra Hayney said she had been driving about two or three blocks from the playground with her daughter when people ran by shooting. Her 14-year-old daughter was hit once in the knee and five times in her backside. Hayney pulled her daughter out of the truck and under it to hide, then into a nearby ditch.

"I saw the police coming, and I ran over to them," she said. She said she later counted seven bullet holes in her truck.

Investigators don't know what started the shooting, police spokesman Tyler Gamble said. He said all the victims were listed in stable condition. He said the victims suffered either direct gunshot wounds or were grazed by bullets.

Large stadium lights lit up the park Sunday as police continued to work the crime scene. Witnesses told police the gunmen ran off after the shooting was over.

As many as 500 people could have been in the park when the shooting happened, said police chief Michael Harrison. Police earlier said the people were there for an impromptu music video but Gamble later told reporters that while a video was being filmed, the event was primarily a block party. Gamble said that neither the block party nor the music video had a permit.

Harrison told WDSU-TV that the shooting might have been gang-related. Police had been helping with a parade that had been taking place about a block away from the park and were able to quickly get to the park, Harrison told the TV station.

End of rainbow: Gordon fails to land 5th title in final race

MARK LONG, AP Sports Writer

HOMESTEAD, Fla. (AP) — Jeff Gordon ended up with a goodbye party instead of a championship celebration.

Gordon failed to add a fairytale ending to his storied career Sunday, finishing sixth in the NASCAR season finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

But it did little to dampen the four-time NASCAR champion's day, which was filled with family, friends and farewell tributes.

"There's no doubt that just being a part of this day, wrapping up this amazing career, there's no doubt in my mind that it didn't take the championship for me to come out of here feeling like I'm on top of the world, and I am," Gordon said. "I just can't help the competitor in me still is cutting into that slightly right now.

"But I'll loosen up and I'll be fine a little bit later."

Gordon had a huge party planned no matter the outcome, with about 400 people ready to throw down into the wee hours on South Beach.

"Well, we all know nothing would have been quite better than that and the win," Gordon said. "But I've learned a lot in life, and there's no such thing as a perfect day and a perfect life. Just like there's no such thing as a perfect race car. They're really close and good, and at times, better than the rest. But it doesn't mean that they're ever perfect.

"Had I won this race and this championship, it would have been perfect, and I don't think I could have accepted that. I wouldn't have known how to."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 23, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 122 ♦ 19 of 27

He handled the day as well as anyone could have expected. Gordon was the overwhelming sentimental favorite from the start, and it showed.

Hendrick Motorsports teammates Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jimmie Johnson and Kasey Kahne as well as fellow drivers Danica Patrick and Kyle Larson wore Gordon tribute hats before the finale. Patrick wore one with old-school "rainbow warriors" colors.

Joey Logano posted a picture of him and Gordon on Facebook that showed them sharing a moment when Logano was little.

"You were my idol growing up," Logano wrote. "Never did I think I'd race against you for wins. Congrats on a great career Jeff Gordon."

Harvick got a modern-day keepsake when he stopped by Gordon's No. 24 Chevrolet — which got a police escort to pit road — and posed for a photo.

NASCAR presented Gordon with a tribute video during the pre-race drivers' meeting and then everyone in the room, including drivers, sponsors and dignitaries, gave him a standing ovation.

"Jeff, congratulations on an outstanding career. We thank you for all you've done for NASCAR and will do," NASCAR vice chairman Mike Helton said. "You're a true champion and a top-shelf guy."

Fans lined a red carpet leading to the meeting and showered Gordon with praise. Gordon responded by high-fiving scores of them.

The 44-year-old Gordon announced in January that this would be his last season. He won 93 races in 23 full seasons. He wanted one more — which would have been bigger than the rest.

He hopes to remember all the details of his finale, including visits from racing legend Mario Andretti, three-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton and sports-car ace Scott Pruett. Gordon made sure his colleagues won't forget it.

To commemorate the race, Gordon gave each driver in the finale a carbon-fiber ring box inscribed with "Thanks For The Memories" and his or her starting position.

Richard Petty did something similar before the 1992 season finale in Atlanta. Petty gave each driver in that race, including Gordon, a "Petty blue" money clip. Gordon kept it in a drawer and then a safe all these years.

"I just wanted everybody to have something as an appreciation from me to them of what they meant to me racing against them over all the years," Gordon said. "Seemed like they appreciated it."

On Saturday, Petty gave Gordon \$93 to put in the money clip and told him he had one more dollar ready for him should he win the finale.

It didn't happen, mostly because Gordon fought an ill-handling race car all afternoon. When it was over, Gordon thanked his crew and team owner Rick Hendrick over the team radio and then made his final turn down pit road.

"It's like right now the racing doesn't matter as much as the relationship does," Hendrick said. "I'd have loved to have won it, loved to have seen him go out with a championship, but we went out in the top four and not many guys do better than that."

Gordon climbed out of his race car and stepped into Hendrick's waiting arms.

They shared a long embrace and some words of encouragement. Gordon handed Hendrick his one-off helmet, kissed his wife and hugged his two kids before getting mobbed by fans. Someone in the crowd screamed "You're still the man!"

Just not the champion.

"I'm a little disappointed we weren't more of a threat in the championship," said Gordon, who last won it all in 2001. "Beyond that, it's absolutely been a dream come true."

Older workers seeking options for reducing hours on the job

ADAM ALLINGTON, For The Associated Press

Roberton Williams' plan was to retire on his government pension and take a part-time job to make up the difference in salary. It didn't quite work out that way.

Williams, 68, did retire but then started another full-time job with the Tax Policy Center, a Washington think tank.

"The plan was to work full time just until I got my feet wet," Williams said. "But, I ended up working full time for the next nine years."

He's far from an aberration. Many aging baby boomers are caught between a desire to work less and a labor market that just isn't ready to let them go.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 17.7 percent of people 65 and older are still working in some capacity, compared with 11.7 percent in 1995.

Of course, part of this increase could be due to a growing fear felt by many Americans about financial insecurity during retirement. Survey data has shown that fears about outliving one's savings are factoring into retirement planning. That is even prompting 34 percent of workers age 60-plus to say they plan on working until they die, or are too sick to work, according to a recent Wells Fargo survey.

Some workers just want a gradual transition, whether for financial reasons or just to keep working jobs where they can still contribute and help train the next generation.

Slightly more than 40 percent of U.S. workers hope to cut back hours or transition to a less demanding position before retirement, according to a 2015 report from the Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies.

One option offered by a small number of employers is "phased retirement," which allows retiring workers to go part time while also mentoring their incoming replacement, providing for a smoother transition. The Society for Human Resource Management puts the number at 8 percent.

In other cases, employers are eschewing formal arrangements in favor of short-term contracts.

"One thing we see is that employers are increasingly able to tap into a more flexible labor market, rather than going through formal HR structures," says Jean Setzfand, AARP's senior vice president of programs. "So having hard-and-fast rules for this can be difficult."

For federal workers, Congress passed legislation in 2012 creating a phased-retirement program, and the Office of Personnel Management, or OPM, formalized the rules last year.

To date, OPM has only finalized 16 applications for phased retirement from workers at the Library of Congress, NASA, the Broadcasting Board of Governors and the Energy Department. It expects to soon receive 12 more from the Smithsonian Institution—that's from a federal workforce where 45 percent of employees are aged 50 or over.

OPM has stressed that it is up to individual federal agencies to decide when and if they will offer a phased-retirement option to their employees.

Tancred Lidderdale, 62, is one of the initial 16 who chose phased retirement. He works for the Energy Department as an economic forecaster, applying highly complex mathematical models to oil and gas markets. He's had an integral part in building these models over the past two decades.

"I know our agency would miss me," Lidderdale said. "They knew I was thinking about retirement and mentioned this option as a way to help pass on what I know before I leave."

Lidderdale will work part time for the next two years. But, after nearly three years of waiting, many other federal workers are wondering if the program will even arrive in time for them.

"We have people with over 35 years of experience waiting to retire here, and it's a shame that many of them could walk out the door without the ability to pass that knowledge," says David Maxwell, 64. Maxwell is an air quality specialist with the Bureau of Land Management. Maxwell says if the bureau does offer the program, he'd be interested.

In a statement BLM says the Interior Department recently issued guidance and "expects to complete a draft phased-retirement policy by the spring of 2016."

One explanation for the ongoing delays is that agreements must first be struck between management

and labor unions. Email and phone requests for comment to AFGE, the largest federal labor union, were not returned.

There are also just basic difficulties of scale. How do you offer the same option to all workers when not all jobs are created equal?

"A lot of these people who would qualify for phased retirement are senior staff and managers," Jessica Klement, legislative director for the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, said. "How do you allow someone who is managing a department to take two days off per week?"

Klement says union members are calling asking when phased retirement will come to their agency. "I just don't think there is a strong desire from federal agencies to do this," she said.

In the private sector, some older workers looking to spend less time in the office are simply leaving one job for another.

Sally Korth, 65, has spent almost 40 years in the health care industry, first as an emergency room nurse and later as an executive overseeing the transition to electronic medical records for large corporate accounts.

"I was working 60-70 hours per week, and one Christmas I was spending some time with my kids and grandchildren, and I just thought, 'What am I doing?'"

So, Korth took a new job, for significantly less pay, and recently scaled back her hours to four days per week. "That extra day off is huge," she says.

As for Robertson Williams, he hopes to cut back to four days a week next year and then finally retire at 70, "whether I like it or not."

Big premium increases foreseen for Medicare drug plan

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With time running out on open enrollment season, many seniors are facing sharply higher premiums for Medicare's popular prescription drug program. The reason: rising drug costs have overtaken a long stretch of stable premiums.

Beneficiaries have until Dec. 7 to see if there's a lower-cost plan that will cover their medications in 2016. Consumer advocates and experts say it will pay to shop around this sign-up season.

"Premiums are going up. Deductibles are going up," said Tricia Neuman, a Medicare expert with the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. "There is some potential to save a lot of money by switching plans."

Government spending on the program also has risen significantly, driven by pricey new drugs, notably for hepatitis C infection. The cost for the hepatitis drugs in the Medicare program is expected to be \$9.2 billion this year, nearly doubling from 2014. Because of the prescription program's financial structure, taxpayers cover most of the cost for expensive medications. Three out of four adults infected with hepatitis C are baby boomers, the group now entering Medicare.

Also known as "Part D," Medicare's prescription plan serves about 40 million older and disabled people. Benefits are provided through a variety of insurance arrangements. Stand-alone drug plans that work with traditional Medicare are the most popular, accounting for more than half of beneficiaries — about 24 million people.

Sal Natale, a retired dentist who lives near Tampa, Florida, said prescription premiums for him and his wife are going up about 30 percent next year, and he doesn't see a good alternative.

"I'm just going to grin and bear and hope it starts moderating," Natale said. The couple is signed up in the Humana Enhanced plan, one of the top 10. Nationally, premiums for that plan are going up by about \$13 a month, according to the Kaiser foundation.

Indicators signal rising costs across the program. Among them:

—independent estimates by Kaiser and the consulting firm Avalere Health show increasing premiums for stand-alone drug plans. The average premium will rise from \$36.68 to \$41.46 per month next year, or 13 percent, according to Kaiser. Even if many beneficiaries switch to lower-cost options, it's likely to be the biggest increase since 2009.

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—the maximum deductible for prescription coverage will rise by \$40, to \$360. That's the biggest increase in the deductible since the inception of Part D in 2006. The deductible is the amount of drug costs that beneficiaries must pay each year before their insurance kicks in.

—taxpayer expenditures for the "catastrophic" portion of the benefit — in which beneficiaries with high drug bills pay only 5 percent of the cost — will rise by \$4.5 billion in 2016, an increase of more than 14 percent. Spending for catastrophic coverage has doubled in just a short time, from \$15.5 billion in 2012 to an estimated \$31.2 billion this year.

The analyses from Kaiser and Avalere are seemingly at odds with the message coming from the Obama administration, which estimates that drug premiums will remain stable in 2016, averaging \$32.50 a month.

But the administration and the independent analysts measure differently. For example, the administration adjusts its number for the estimated impact of people assumed to be switching to lower-premium plans.

The outside analysts don't make similar assumptions. Instead, they focus on what's happening to premiums in the plans for which people are currently signed up.

Nationally, average premiums are going up by more than 15 percent in five of the top eight plans, according to the Kaiser study. Two plans will see single-digit increases. One plan — SilverScript Choice — will see a small reduction. The most popular plan — AARP MedicareRx Preferred — will go up from \$50.19 to \$60.79, a 21 percent increase.

Sean Cavanaugh, deputy administrator at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said the administration has a good track record with its estimates. "We do think ours is more illustrative of what beneficiaries actually experience," he said.

Cavanaugh did say the administration is concerned about the cost of new breakthrough drugs. The insurers who deliver Medicare's prescription benefit have limited options for bargaining down the prices of those medications, because usually there's no competing alternative.

"The challenge in the Part D program is around high-cost specialty drugs," said Cavanaugh. "We certainly have to be concerned about anything that's driving that much cost in our program."

With polls showing that drug costs are the top health care issue for the public, presidential candidates are weighing in. Options they propose range from giving Medicare direct authority to negotiate drug prices, backed by Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton, to speeding up approval of new drugs, advanced by Republican Jeb Bush.

Consumer advocates are skeptical that seniors shopping for better deals will be sufficient to blunt the cost increases.

Finding a new plan can be overwhelming, said Bonnie Burns, a longtime Medicare counselor with non-profit California Health Advocates. "People can't deal with the complexity of deductibles, coverage tiers, and prior approval," she said.

Natale, the Florida retiree, says he's not sure what the right answer is. He's wary of government controls on private industry, but the relentless growth of costs worries him.

"I really don't think I have much of an option for protecting me and my wife if I get some serious illness and I need big-time drugs," he said.

Cruz wants to convince voters he's 'electable conservative'

STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (AP) — Ted Cruz is among the most hated men in Washington, reviled by leaders of both parties as an ideological hard-liner loyal only to the far-right of the conservative movement.

But racing down an Iowa highway on a snowy weekend morning, a solemn Cruz suggested some of his Republican rivals for president have amped up their rhetoric too much — especially on policy toward people who are in the U.S. illegally.

"Tone matters," Cruz, the son of a Cuban immigrant, told The Associated Press in an interview between campaign stops. "Are there some in the Republican Party whose rhetoric is unhelpful with regard to immigration? Yes."

Donald Trump's call for a database to track Muslims in the U.S. is one example, Cruz says. But he re-

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fused to condemn the rhetoric of another Republican who could help him win Iowa's leadoff caucuses, Rep. Steve King, the influential conservative who has described immigrants living in the country illegally as disease-ridden — and spent the weekend campaigning at Cruz's side.

"I cannot help the language that others use," Cruz said in the interview. "I can only help the words that come out of my own mouth."

Taken together, they are remarkable statements for a conservative firebrand who rarely, if ever, shows signs of moderation. Yet in the crowded and unruly 2016 Republican primary, Cruz is trying to position himself as the grown-up alternative to Trump and Ben Carson, two inexperienced and undisciplined front-runners who have so far captivated their party's most passionate voters by riding a wave of anti-immigrant rhetoric.

As Carson's support appears to soften, and Trump struggles to say with precision what are his exact plans for increasing surveillance of potential threats in the wake of the Paris attacks, Cruz is ramping up his pitch and trying to cast himself not just as an outsider — but an electable outsider at a time of widespread mistrust of Washington.

"I do not believe either one of them is going to be the nominee," Cruz told the AP about Carson and Trump. "I am working very hard to win every one of their supporters."

Cruz spoke to AP at the end of a week in which Carson, who previously said he wouldn't support a Muslim president, likened dealing with Syrian refugees to the handling of "rabid dogs" and said he would support government monitoring of any group deemed radical and "anti-American."

Having described Mexican immigrants as rapists and criminals in his announcement speech, Trump this week said he would "absolutely" support a mandatory database to track Muslims in the U.S. He later said he wanted a "watch list" for Syrian refugees and "surveillance of certain mosques."

To be sure, Cruz has reacted aggressively to the Paris attacks and he is targeting the same slice of the Republican electorate as the two front-runners. He introduced legislation this week entitled the "Terrorist Refugee Infiltration Prevention Act" that would allow U.S. entry only to Christians fleeing war-torn Syria. That comes after Cruz, whose Cuban-born father first immigrated to Canada and then to the U.S., last week outlined an immigration policy that would dramatically increase deportations, add hundreds of miles to the wall on the Mexican border and suspend a program that grants work visas to high-skilled immigrants, a reversal of his previous position.

But the Harvard-educated attorney who served five years as the Texas solicitor general has done so while avoiding the explosive language employed by Trump and Carson, which critics say reeks of xenophobia — if not outright bigotry.

"I am the son of an immigrant who came from Cuba with nothing, came here legally," Cruz said. "And my view, which I think the vast majority of Americans share, is very simple: Legal good. Illegal bad."

And yet even while suggesting some Republicans have gone too far with their rhetoric, Cruz spent the weekend campaigning alongside Iowa Rep. King, a favorite of evangelical voters and one of his party's most outspoken hardliners on the issue.

King, who endorsed Cruz this week, has described immigrants living in the country illegally as disease-ridden and compared them to drug mules and livestock. He is perhaps best-known for a 2013 comment attacking children of such immigrants: "For everyone who's a valedictorian, there's another 100 out there who weigh 130 pounds — and they've got calves the size of cantaloupes because they've been hauling 75 pounds of marijuana across the desert."

With King riding in the second vehicle of Cruz's two-car caravan, Cruz refused to condemn such comments when pressed. He also declined to name any Republicans whose rhetoric on immigration has been "unhelpful."

"I am not going to approach this election like a theater critic — giving my reviews of every word uttered by every other Republican," Cruz said. "I'm going to focus on my message."

And while that message may be tempered compared to that of Trump and Carson, Cruz's efforts to paint himself as the electable outsider haven't won over some of his critics.

"I have serious reservations at this point about Ted Cruz," said Alfonso Aguilar, a Republican who served

in the George W. Bush administration and now leads the Latino Partnership for Conservative Principles. "He's allied himself with Steve King," Aguilar said, suggesting that Cruz has turned his back on his immigrant roots.

King, meanwhile, heaped praise on Cruz as they crisscrossed Iowa together. The congressman introduced the presidential contender as "the man I believe will restore America's soul."

AP FACT CHECK: On climate science, most GOP candidates fail **SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer**

EDITOR'S NOTE _ This story, assessing political claims that take shortcuts with the facts or don't tell the full story, is part of an occasional series focusing on the science, the costs and the challenges of climate change around the world ahead of a summit in Paris.

WASHINGTON (AP) — When it comes to climate science, two of the three Democratic presidential candidates are 'A' students, while most of the Republican contenders are flunking, according to a panel of scientists who reviewed candidates' comments.

At the request of The Associated Press, eight climate and biological scientists graded for scientific accuracy what a dozen top candidates said in debates, interviews and tweets, using a 0 to 100 scale.

To try to eliminate possible bias, the candidates' comments were stripped of names and given randomly generated numbers, so the professors would not know who made each statement they were grading. Also, the scientists who did the grading were chosen by professional scientific societies.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton had the highest average score at 94. Three scientists did not assign former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley a score, saying his statements mostly were about policy, which they could not grade, instead of checkable science.

Two used similar reasoning to skip grading New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and one did the same for businesswoman Carly Fiorina. Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas had the lowest score, an average of 6. All eight put Cruz at the bottom of the class.

"This individual understands less about science (and climate change) than the average kindergartner," Michael Mann, a Pennsylvania State University meteorology professor, wrote of Cruz's statements. "That sort of ignorance would be dangerous in a doorman, let alone a president."

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, with an 87, had the lowest score among the Democrats, dinged for an exaggeration when he said global warming could make Earth uninhabitable. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush scored the highest among Republicans, 64, but one grader gave him a perfect 100. Bush was the only Republican candidate who got a passing grade on climate in the exercise.

Below Clinton's 94 were O'Malley with 91; Sanders, 87; Bush, 64; Christie, 54; Ohio Gov. John Kasich, 47; Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, 38; Fiorina, 28; Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, 21; businessman Donald Trump, 15; retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, 13; and Cruz with 6.

For the Republicans, climate change came up more in interviews than in their four debates. But Rubio did confront the issue in the Sept. 16 debate in a way that earned him bad grades from some scientists.

"We are not going to make America a harder place to create jobs in order to pursue policies that will do absolutely nothing, nothing, to change our climate, to change our weather, because America is a lot of things, the greatest country in the world, absolutely," Rubio said. "But America is not a planet. And we are not even the largest carbon producer anymore. China is. And they're drilling a hole and digging anywhere in the world that they can get ahold of."

Scientists dispute Rubio's argument that because China is now the top emitter, the U.S. can do little to change the future climate. The U.S. spews about 17 percent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions, "so big cuts here would still make a big difference globally," said geochemist Louisa Bradtmiller at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Rubio's inference that China is not doing much about global warming "is out of date. The Chinese are implementing a cap-and-trade system in their country to reduce emissions," said Andrew Dessler, a climate scientist at Texas A&M University.

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At an August event in California's Orange County, Cruz told an interviewer, "If you look at satellite data for the last 18 years, there's been zero warming. ... The satellite says it ain't happening."

Florida State University's James Elsner said ground data show every decade has been warmer than the last since the middle of the 20th century and satellite data-based observations "show continued warming over the past several decades."

In fact, federal ground-based data, which scientists said is more reliable than satellites, show that 15 of the 17 years after 1997 have been warmer than 1997 and 2015 is on track to top 2014 as the warmest year on record.

Scientists singled out Sanders for overstatement in the first Democratic presidential debate.

"The scientific community is telling us that if we do not address the global crisis of climate change, transform our energy system away from fossil fuel to sustainable energy, the planet that we're going to be leaving our kids and our grandchildren may well not be habitable," Sanders said.

Dessler said, "I would not say that the planet will become uninhabitable. Regardless of what we do, some humans will survive." Harvard's Jim McCarthy also called the comment an overstatement, as did other scientists when Sanders said it. Recent research on the worst heat projections in the hottest area, the Persian Gulf, finds that toward the end of the century there will be a few days each decade or so when humans cannot survive outside, but can live with air conditioning indoors.

Trump brought out some of the more colorful and terse critiques.

"It could be warming and it's going to start to cool at some point," Trump said in a September radio interview. "And you know in the 1920s people talked about global cooling. I don't know if you know that or not. They thought the Earth was cooling. Now it's global warming. Actually, we've had times where the weather wasn't working out so they changed it to extreme weather and they have all different names, you know, so that it fits the bill."

McCarthy, a former president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, called Trump's comments "nonsense," while Emmanuel Vincent, a climate scientist at the University of California, Merced, said, "the candidate does not appear to have any commitment to accuracy."

The eight scientists are Mann, Dessler, Elsner, McCarthy, Bradtmiller, Vincent, William Easterling at Pennsylvania State University and Matthew Huber at the University of New Hampshire.

1D wins big at AMAs, Dion pays tribute to Paris victims

MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

One Direction might have debuted at No. 2 on the Billboard charts behind Justin Bieber, but they won the top award at Sunday's American Music Awards.

"This is a testament to how incredible our fans are," Louis Tomlinson said onstage at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

"We just want to thank everyone that's helped us in the last five years," Liam Payne added.

The band won the top award at last year's show — as a quintet with Zayn Malik. They also won favorite duo or group — pop/rock Sunday night.

Bieber, who won best collaboration with Diplo and Skrillex, closed the night with a medley of his hits, including "Sorry," "Where Are U Now" and "What Do You Mean." Purple laser lights beamed from the stage as the singer danced and sang for the loud audience. He ended it drenched after standing under a waterfall.

Billboard announced Sunday his new album, "Purpose," will debut at No. 1 on its charts Monday after selling 649,000 equivalent albums. It beat out One Direction's "Made In the A.M.," which sold 459,000 equivalent albums.

Bieber's performance wasn't the only well-received one: Celine Dion paid tribute to the victims of the recent Paris attacks by singing Edith Piaf's "Hymne à L'Amour" in French as some audience members cried.

Jared Leto, who introduced Dion, said his band 30 Seconds to Mars recently performed at the Bataclan,

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the Paris concert hall where 89 people were killed in the Nov. 13 attack.

Dion earned a rousing applause after her performance, which started with the Eiffel Tower projected behind her.

The Weeknd's performance was also a favorite, and he walked away with two awards, and presented the first one from Prince.

"Make some noise for Prince, ladies and gentlemen," the singer said after picking up favorite album — soul/R&B for "Beauty Behind the Madness."

Nicki Minaj was also a double winner, taking home favorite artist and album — rap/hip-hop. She encouraged her feverish fans to "find their voice."

"I want to just thank you, the fans, for allowing me to change and have a different voice every time I come back out (with a new album)," Minaj said. "And please find your voice and find your purpose before it's too late. Love you."

Other girls at the awards show encouraged their peers: Zendaya and Hailee Steinfeld danced excited as Selena Gomez performed onstage; Fifth Harmony and Rebel Wilson sang as Demi Lovato was in strong form with "Confident"; and Gomez sang as Grande performed "Focus" in a shimmery number.

Meghan Trainor and Charlie Puth's performance got additional attention after the singers made out onstage after singing their song, "Marvin Gaye," which features the lyrics: "Let's Marvin Gaye and get it on."

"I'm still laughing at Charlie and Meghan smooching," Bryan said onstage after winning favorite male artist — country.

Bryan beat out Jason Aldean and Sam Hunt, who won new artist of the year.

Host Jennifer Lopez kicked off the AMAs in a dance routine that highlighted some of the year's biggest hits like "Where Are U Now," "Anaconda," "Uptown Funk!" and "Hotline Bling." She also impressively sang in almost a cappella form.

Taylor Swift, who is out of the country shooting a music video, was the top nominee with six. She won song of the year for "Blank Space," favorite album — pop/rock for "1989" and favorite artist — adult contemporary

Swift lost favorite female artist — pop/rock to Grande, who was shocked when accepting the honor.

"I think I owe a lot of this to my nonna who made sure to remind me that she voted. She goes, 'Ariana, I went on the computer, I voted, so I think you'll win,'" Grande said in an Italian accent.

The three-hour show, which aired on ABC, also included a clip from the upcoming "Star Wars" film. Performers included Coldplay, Gwen Stefani, Alanis Morissette, 5 Seconds of Summer and Carrie Underwood, who won favorite female artist — country.

Today in History

Today is Monday, Nov. 23, the 327th day of 2015. There are 38 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 23, 1765, Frederick County, Maryland, became the first colonial American entity to repudiate the British Stamp Act.

On this date:

In 1804, the 14th president of the United States, Franklin Pierce (puhrs), was born in Hillsboro, New Hampshire.

In 1889, the first jukebox made its debut in San Francisco, at the Palais Royale Saloon. (The coin-operated device consisted of four listening tubes attached to an Edison phonograph.)

In 1890, William III, King of the Netherlands and Grand Duke of Luxembourg, died, ending 75 years of Dutch rule over Luxembourg.

In 1903, Enrico Caruso made his American debut at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, appearing in "Rigoletto."

In 1914, the seven-month U.S. military occupation of Veracruz, Mexico, ended.

In 1936, Life, the photojournalism magazine created by Henry R. Luce (loos), was first published.

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In 1945, most U.S. wartime rationing of foods, including meat and butter, was set to expire by day's end. In 1959, the musical "Fiorello!," starring Tom Bosley as legendary New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, opened on Broadway.

In 1963, President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed Nov. 25 a day of national mourning following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In 1971, the People's Republic of China was seated in the U.N. Security Council.

In 1980, some 2,600 people were killed by a series of earthquakes that devastated southern Italy.

In 1995, movie director Louis Malle ("Pretty Baby"; "Atlantic City"; "My Dinner with Andre") died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 63.

Ten years ago: In Iraq, gunmen broke into the home of a senior Sunni Arab leader and killed him, three of his sons and a son-in-law. A commuter train slammed into several vehicles caught in a traffic jam on a busy road in Elmwood Park, Illinois, starting a chain reaction that injured at least 10 people. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was confirmed as the winner of Liberia's presidential election. American-born actress Constance Cummings died in Oxfordshire, England, at age 95.

Five years ago: North Korea bombarded South Korea's Yeonpyeong (yuhn-pyuhng) Island with artillery fire, killing four people and raising tensions between the two countries. Texas outfielder Josh Hamilton was a runaway winner of the American League's Most Valuable Player award. Actress Ingrid Pitt, who'd survived a Nazi concentration camp and dodged Communist police to become one of Britain's best known horror stars, died in London at 73.

One year ago: Israel's Cabinet approved a bill to legally define the country as the nation-state of the Jewish people. Former Washington, D.C. mayor Marion Barry died at age 78. Roger Federer defeated Richard Gasquet (ree-SHARD' gas-KAY') 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 in the first reverse singles match as Switzerland won the Davis Cup final against France by taking an unassailable 3-1 lead. One Direction won three honors at the American Music Awards, including artist of the year; Katy Perry, absent because of her world tour, also won three awards.

Today's Birthdays: Former Labor Secretary William E. Brock is 85. Actress Elmarie Wendel is 87. Actor Franco Nero is 74. Actress Susan Anspach is 73. Screenwriter Joe Eszterhas is 71. Actor-comedy writer Bruce Vilanch is 68. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., is 65. Singer Bruce Hornsby is 61. Former Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., is 60. Actor Maxwell Caulfield is 56. Actor John Henton is 55. TV personality Robin Roberts ("Good Morning America") is 55. Rock singer-musician Ken Block (Sister Hazel) is 49. Rock musician Charlie Grover is 49. Actress Salli Richardson-Whitfield is 48. Actor Oded Fehr (OH'-dehd fayr) is 45. Rapper-actor Kurupt (Tha Dogg Pound) is 43. Actor Page Kennedy is 39. Actress Kelly Brook is 36. Actor Lucas Grabeel (GRAY'-beel) is 31. TV personality Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi is 28. Actress-singer Miley Cyrus is 23. Actor Austin Majors is 20.

Thought for Today: "It is better to debate an important matter without settling it than to settle it without debating it." - Author unknown.