

Groton Daily Independent

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Baby Shower for Eva Roy Olson, daughter of Nick and Stephanie Olson, will be held Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2015, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Eva was born October 7, 2015. They are registered at Target.

Thursday, November 26

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
Thanksgiving Day
Birthday: Dawn Imrie
11:30am: Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner at Groton Community Center

Friday, November 27

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
Anniversary: Marty & Ellie Sippel
Birthday: Christopher Loutsch

Saturday, November 28

Anniversary: Bill and Jana Duncan
Birthdays: James Washnok • Amanda Geist • Brittany Raap • Sharon Zoellner • Sylvia Campbell
4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, November 29

Anniversaries: Curtis & Janice Sombke • Chuck & Carrie Cole
Birthdays: Audrey Thurston • Melinda Eikamp • Travis Swisher • Aubray Harry • Gene Loeschke
9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School
9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass
9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship
10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church
10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran worship
11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship
7:00pm: Snow Queen Contest at GHS Gym

Monday, November 30

School Breakfast: Breakfast bagel, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Chili, corn bread, carrots and dip, fruit.
Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes and

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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November is Diabetes Awareness Month

By Senator Mike Rounds

Diabetes is a chronic disease that affects almost 30 million Americans. Many of us know a friend or family member living with diabetes. It is a metabolic disease that requires constant treatment and monitoring blood sugar to manage. If left untreated, diabetes can cause many complications, including cardiovascular disease, stroke, kidney failure and eye damage. But the good news is, the disease is entirely manageable, and – in most cases – preventable through a healthy diet and exercise regimen.

To raise awareness of this growing disease and highlight the importance of proper diabetes control, November has been designated as American Diabetes Month. It is an opportunity for all of us to learn more about those who suffer from the disease, how to prevent it and some of the issues surrounding it. I support the early detection and prevention of diabetes, and that's why I cosponsored a resolution that recently passed the Senate reflecting those ideals.

In South Dakota, approximately seven percent of adults currently suffer from diabetes today. While this is below the national average, the number continues to rise at an unacceptable rate. Even more concerning are the number of Native Americans in South Dakota suffering from diabetes. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 1 in 4 Native Americans in South Dakota have been diagnosed with the disease. While federal programs for Native Americans have helped South Dakota tribes set up diabetes prevention and awareness programs, more can and should be done to combat the disease.

The theme of American Diabetes Month this year is "Eat Well, America!" to highlight the importance a healthy diet plays in combatting diabetes. With the holiday season upon us, healthy eating can seem like an impossible task, but the American Diabetes Association (ADA) has outlined some simple dietary guidelines to follow. As a general rule, the ADA recommends a diet based on whole grains, lean meats, fruits and vegetables. It also recommends limiting one's intake of sugar and sodium.

Ninety-five percent of diabetes in the United States is type 2 diabetes, which is largely preventable by making healthy lifestyle choices. In addition, the ADA estimates that 86 million Americans have "prediabetes," which puts them at a higher risk for developing type 2 diabetes later in life. By following the ADA's healthy eating guidelines, getting regular exercise and maintaining a healthy weight, one's chances of developing type 2 diabetes is greatly reduced.

Diabetes is a growing disease that can have deadly consequences if left untreated. While there is not yet a cure, there is no shortage of organizations working to spread awareness and help others manage their diabetes. The ADA is celebrating 75 years of progress in diabetes treatment, management and quality of life. I thank them and others who have worked to raise awareness and combat the growing disease. Whether you are living with diabetes or want to take measures to prevent yourself from being diagnosed, recognizing November as American Diabetes Month is an opportunity for all of us to know more about the disease.

Death Notice: Robert Snyder

Robert Snyder, 86, of Groton passed away November 25, 2015 at the Stadter Center in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Growing in Agriculture

By Lucas Lentsch, Secretary of Agriculture

This time of year, especially, makes me reflect on the many things I have to be thankful for in my life, in particular family.

As we finish up harvest, we enter into the holiday season. We take a few hours out of our busy lives to come together with family for food, fellowship and fun. We slow down, if only for a short time, to enjoy each other's company and give thanks for all we have been given. In our state, agriculture means family. Most of South Dakota's farms and ranches are family owned and operated. These businesses often play a role in supporting two, three and sometimes more families.

In every family, there is always that one person that makes the holidays come together. My mother, Karen, was always that person. She has been gone for over five years now and the holiday time that I grew up with just isn't the same without her. Families change. It's important to keep in mind that the time with the people we love the most is never guaranteed.

We are all busy. It seems like there is never enough time in a day to get everything accomplished. In an effort to get as much out of our time and travel as possible, we might be tempted to use the holiday gatherings to talk about business. I encourage you to find a separate time for those conversations. There will be time for that family business meeting. In this high-tech world we live in, put the phones and gadgets down. Take the time to truly engage in real conversation around the dinner table and enjoy the company you are with. Hold that business meeting after you've had that quality family time. Don't short yourself that precious family time in exchange for business discussions. You never know how much time you may have left with family members.

Travel safely and cherish those who gather with you during the holidays. Take time to appreciate the hard work that's been accomplished, but most importantly, let's do everything we can to lift up our family time and treasure it. Thank you.



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September Students of the Month

The September Students of the Month are sixth grader Stella Meier, seventh grader Jack Achen, eighth grader Kaycie Hawkins, freshman Devan Howard, sophomore Madilyn Wright, junior Kate Helmer and senior Megan Unzen.



Back: Stella Meier (6th grade), Megan Unzen (12th grade), Kaycie Hawkins (8th grade), Devan Howard (9th grade)

Front: Madilyn Wright (10th grade), Jack Achen (7th grade), Kate Helmer (11th grade)

Stella Meier is a sixth grader and lives in Groton. Parents are Anna and Brett Schwan and Nicholas Meier. Siblings are Lydia Meier, Ryder Schwan and Ivan Schwan. Her activities include band, piano, MathCounts, basketball, volleyball and softball. Stella has placed first on a DARE report and MathCounts competition and has earned 1,000 AR points in her fourth grade. She is interested in music, reading and sports. Her favorite subject is math. She plans to be a doctor or vet some day and her role model is J.K. Rowling.

Jack Achen, seventh grade, from Aberdeen. His parents are Craig and Cindy Achen. Siblings are Jessica, Emily, Jacob, Rachel, Roxann, Annie, Christy, Nicholas, John and Joe, and one niece Penny. Jack plays football, basketball, track, is in church group and showed cows on the national level. His accomplishments are showing cattle and dairy, judging cattle and having all As and Bs in all his classes ... so far. His interests are sports, dairy cattle, making new friends and working on the dairy. Jack's favorite subject is Social Studies with Mrs. Johnson. His current future plans are to show cows all over the United States. His role model is his mom. She works so hard on the dairy farm and for making supper for a big family.

Kaycie Hawkins is an eighth grader from Groton. Parents are Lance and Kristie Hawkins. Siblings are Katelyn, Kylie and Kelby. Her activities include basketball, volleyball, softball and track. Her accomplishments are being on the honor roll and winning the state in softball. Kaycie's interests are playing sports, being outside and hanging out with friends and family. Her favorite subject is math and she plans to attend college after high school. Her role model is her mom.

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Devan Howard is a freshman from Groton and parents are Yves and Lauri Baka and Jesse Howard. Siblings are Maddie and Cameron Howard. Devan is involved in soccer she was the youngest varsity goalie. Her interests are soccer, cooking and animals. Her favorite subjects are art and English and plans to be a vet tech. Her role model is her sister.

Madilyn Wright is a sophomore from Houghton. Her parents are Lynn and Stephan Wright and her brother is Nathan Wright. Madilyn's activities are show choir, FFA, volleyball, track, and 4H. Her accomplishments are Reserve Champion Angus Steer at the State Fair, student of the month for multiple years and getting a 100% on the math Dakota Step test in the fifth grade. Her interests are hanging out with friends, reading, showing livestock and snowmobiling. Her favorite subject is English. Madilyn is not certain of her future plans, but whatever they are, she wants something to do with agriculture. Her role model is her brother, Nathan.

Kate Helmer is a junior from Andover. Her parents are Loren and Alicia and siblings are Josey and Riley. Her activities are FFA, high school rodeo, 4-H and showing cattle. Her accomplishments are being on the honor roll and being a national FFA Horse judge. Her interests are rodeo, agriculture, vet and animals. Kate's favorite subject is Ag and she plans to attend SDSU, Brookings, to be a vet. Her role model is her dad, Loren Helmer

Megan Unzen is a senior from Groton. Her parents are Tiffany and Jake Unzen. Siblings are Haley-19; Erin-13; and Nathan 8. Her activities are Future Business Leaders of America, yearbook staff, FCA, C&MA youth group, Adopt-A-Grandparent and tutoring. Megan's accomplishments are being on the 4.0 honor roll, selected as student of the month, being on the national honor society, honorable mention on national Spanish exam, vice president of FBLA and treasurer of Adopt-A-Grandparent. Her interests are reading, writing, painting, volunteering, watching movies and hanging out with friends. Her favorite subject is algebra and her future plans are still undecided, but she is currently leaning to Disaster Response. Her role model is her grandpa, Dale Kurth.

Groton Prairie Mixed

Team Standings: Shih Tzus 14, Coyotes 7, Foxes 7, Jackelopes 7, Pocket Gophers 7, Chipmunks 6

Men's High Games: Roger Spanier 225, 203, 202, Brad Larson 202, Rick Carlson 201

Women's High Games: Dar Larson 176, Vicki Walter 168, Sue Stanley 168, 163

Men's High Series: Roger Spanier 630, Brad Larson 584, Brad Waage 519

Women's High Series: Sue Stanley 473, Vicki Walter 462, Dar Larson 449

Adult Birthday Club

The Adult Birthday Club met at the Dairy Queen for the month of November with Lorraine Sippel as hostess. Prizes were awarded to Darlene Fisher, Grace Albrecht and Marian Raines. The honor was awarded to Audrey Padfield. The December 1st meeting will be held at the home of Marian Raines at 1 p.m. with Marian Raines, as hostess.

The Life of Alice Olson

Alice Olson, 85 of Aberdeen and formerly of Bristol died on Monday, November 23, 2015 at her home in Aberdeen.

Her funeral will be at 10 a.m., Friday, November 27, 2015 at Langford Lutheran Church in Langford. The Rev. Sara Sorensen officiating. Burial will be at Hillside Cemetery.

Alice Marie LaDue was born February 11, 1930 in Andover, SD to Frank and Hattie (Marske) LaDue of Langford, SD. She passed away peacefully on November 23, 2015. She grew up on a farm in Sisseton Township of Marshall County. She attended grade school in Sisseton Township and graduated from Langford High School. She then attended Northern State University. She graduated from NSU with a major in Elementary Education and minored in Music and Special Education.

While attending NSU she was active in the Lutheran Student Association and served as both Secretary and President during her time at NSU. She was selected as the NSU's delegate to



Boston, Massachusetts where she was on a panel of students from around the world. She worked with the LCR at the Bethlehem Lutheran church too.

Alice taught in Bristol, Pierpont, and Langford over a 38 year career. She taught Kindergarten and First Grade in Bristol, 3rd and 4th grade in Pierpont and 2nd grade in Langford. In the Langford School system Alice taught 2nd grade and then spent the last hour of each day teaching grade music. Alice taught music to all ages in all three schools along with her other teaching responsibilities. Alice played for the annual school Christmas Programs and many music concerts.

Alice was gifted with musical talent that allowed her to play by ear. She had a beautiful high soprano voice. She played and sang for many weddings, anniversaries and funerals over the years and gave piano lessons for more than 55 years.

She played for the Highlanda and Langford churches and has been the pianist at the Pierpont Church for the past 15 years. She did the children's Sunday School opening music at both Langford and Bristol churches. Her biggest thrill was playing piano for her family while her husband, Bernard, played his guitar and the entire family sang at churches and nursing homes.

On January 23, 1955, she married Bernard Olson in the Highlanda Lutheran Church of Langford. To this union six children were born, Tom (Mary) Olson of Langford, Tim Olson of Montana, Kathy Lindquist of Aberdeen, Lois (Brad) Monteith of Andover, Steven Olson of Sioux Falls, and Patty (Craig) Harms of Groton.

Alice was an active church member her entire life. She was a Bible Study leader, was active in ladies circle, served as WCLA President and Circle president and church organist. Alice shared her gift of music by playing and singing at many area nursing homes over the years. Her ability to play any song they requested made her a most welcome guest at any function! Since the death of her husband in 2012, she enjoyed playing games with her friends at Bi-Centennial, she enjoyed attending Tuesday and Thursday morning exercise classes at the Aberdeen Senior Center and being a member of "Penning the Past". She recently had an article published in the "Corncob Fuel and Cold Prairie Winters, Tales from the Good Old Days in Eastern and Northeastern South Dakota."

Bernard and Alice were active Square Dancers and even went to the International Square Dance Convention in Seattle, Washington with dear friends Lawrence and Shirley Willard. Another life highlight was winning a week's trip to Hawaii. They even went fishing in the Pacific Ocean!

Alice loved music, baking, reading, embroidering, babysitting at MOPS, and attending Christian Women's in Aberdeen. She loved doing things with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She brought her famous cinnamon rolls, Christmas wreaths, and homemade bread and buns to many teacher meetings, classrooms, church events, neighbors and family gatherings.

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Alice lived her life as a blessing to so many people. She lost the sight of one eye due to a detached retina while still teaching and wore hearing aids in both ears, yet she never felt anything but blessed because she knew her wonderful Savior, Jesus Christ. She lived with Jesus Christ by her side every day, knowing that He loved her and He had a plan for her life. Her greatest wish was that everyone would come to know Jesus personally as their Savior and friend. Let the joy of the Lord be your strength! Smile God Loves You!

Survivors include her children, Tom and Mary Olson of Langford, Tim Olson of Billings, MT, Kathy Lindquist of Aberdeen, Lois (Brad) Monteith of Andover, Steven Olson of Sioux Falls, and Patty (Craig) Harms of Groton; her grandchildren, James, Andrew, Phillip & Joshua Olson of Langford, Justin (Amy) Lindquist of Huron, Ben (Jen) Lindquist of Zumbrota, MN, Ross Lindquist of Yankton, Kevin (Sheila) Monteith of Laramie, WY, Aaron (Thia) Monteith of Rapid City, Kyle (Danielle) Monteith of Wallace, Colton Olson of Sioux Falls, Micah (Marissa) Harms, Groton, Jacob and Ellie Harms of Groton; her great grandchildren, Alyssa Olson of Langford, Andrew Jr. and JaKariya Olson of Langford, Peyton Small, Akron, IA, Annie Allerdings, Huron, Shelby Lindquist, Yankton, Jackson and Noah Lindquist of Zumbrota, MN, Sierra and Ainsley Monteith of Laramie, WY, Danille and Kloe Monteith of Rapid City, Asher, Easton & Evoleht Monteith of Wallace. Alice was preceded in death by her husband Bernard, parents Hattie and Frank LaDue, grandchild baby Harms, and great grandchild baby Harms.

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SMALL BUSINESS

SATURDAY[®]

NOV 28

Shop Local This Holiday Season!

Specials for Small Business Saturday -



Select Fashion Scarves - 50% OFF

Select Boot Toppers - 50% OFF

All Christmas - 20% OFF

Thank you for supporting your local small businesses!

Happy Thanksgiving!



From Groton Area's Junior Kindergarten Class



Adeline Kotzer is the daughter of Nicole Kotzer. She is thankful for eating dinner with her family.



Donavon Sealey is the son of Hope Block. He is thankful for his family because they give him food.



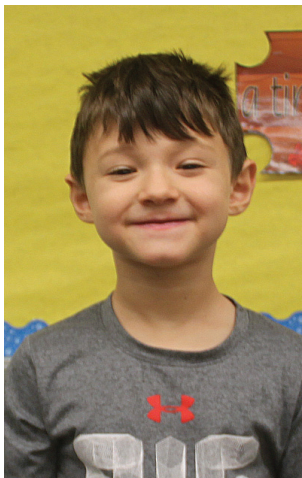
Abby Fjeldheim is the daughter of Ryan and Susan Fjeldheim. She is thankful for her mom because she lets her go on rides at the fair.



Novalea Warrington is the daughter of Neal and Amy Warrington. She is thankful for her grandma because she came to stay with them when mom and dad were gone.



Zachary Fliehs is the son of Jeff and Bridget Fliehs. He is thankful for his daddy because he plays toys with him.



Samuel Crank is the son of Thomas and Rachael Crank. He is thankful for his mom because she lets him go to the park.



Grant Cleveland is the son of Justin and Gretchen Cleveland. He is thankful for his stuffed wolf, Jingle, because he snuggles with him.



Jordan Schwan is the son of Joe and Jodi Schwan. He is thankful for his dad because he can fix the TV and clean the gutters.

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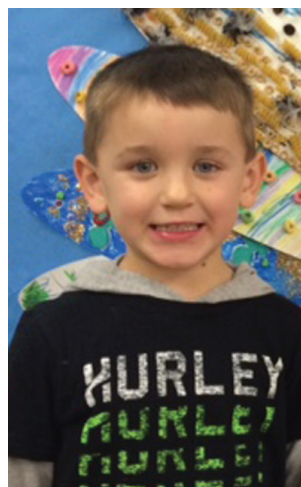
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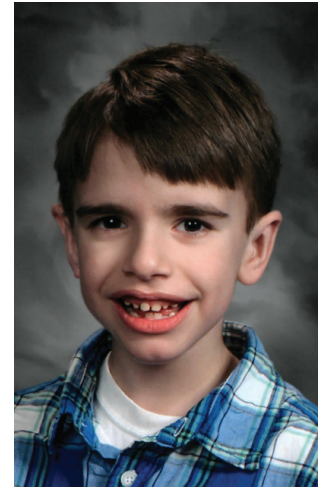
Ian Kutter is the son of Ryan and Carol Kutter. He is thankful for his dad because he plays football with me.



Brooklyn Spanier is the daughter of Roger and Darci Spanier. She is thankful for her mommy because she plays cards with her and she is thankful for her daddy because he takes her bowling.



Porter Jones is the son of Jarrett and Stacey Jones. He is thankful for his family and playing with them at his house.



Drake Dosch is the son of Jeremy Dosch and Kelsie Ehresmann. He says he is thankful for family, space and iPads.



Luke Gauer is the son of Will and Jordi Gauer. He is thankful for his semi because it's brand new and he plays with it at recess.



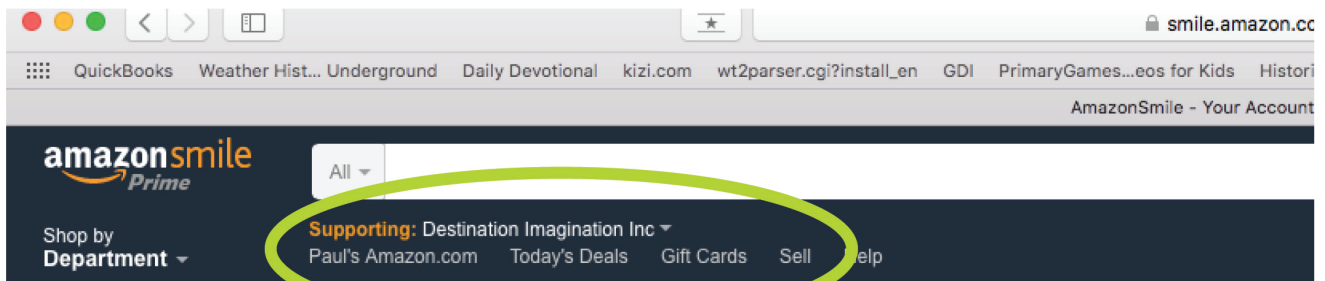
Bridger Bliese is the son of Kevin and Kristi Bliese. He is thankful for his friends because they color together.

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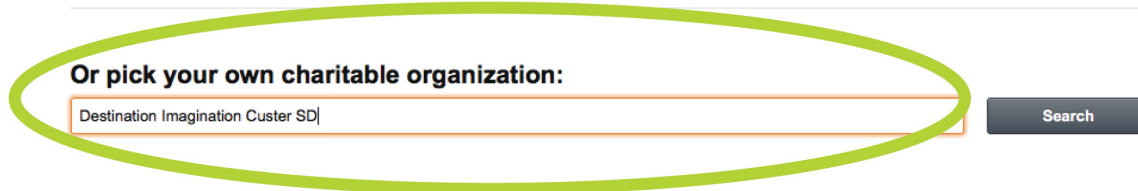
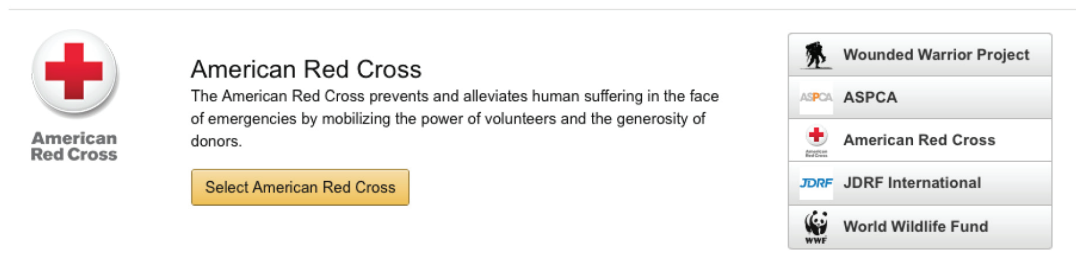
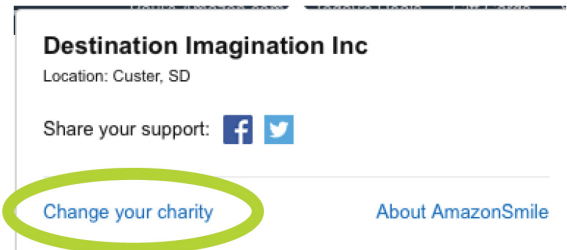
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Getting ready for your holiday shopping? Start at smile.amazon.com and select Destination Imagination of Custer, SD as your charity. A portion of your purchase will support South Dakota Destination Imagination. What could be easier?



When you go to smile.amazon.com, and you are logged in, there will be a SUPPORTING as circled above. Click on that and there will be a pop-up window as shown on the right. Click on Change your Charity. Then as shown below, type in Destination Imagination Custer SD, then click on Search. On the next screen, your selection will appear. Click Select.



REMEMBER - SHOP at SMILE.AMAZON.COM. If you shop at Amazon.com, we will not get anything. This is very important as most of us have Amazon.com as our bookmark.



Groton Chamber Holiday Boxes are out & about in Groton!

This Week (thru 11/27) – Groton Ford
\$25 Chamber Bucks OR Free Oil Change!

Next Week (thru 12/04) – Dairy Queen
\$25 Chamber Bucks OR 10" Ice Cream Cake!

Stop by each participating business and register for \$25
Groton Chamber Bucks – or a prize supplied by the business.
Prizes will be drawn weekly – starting over each week with
entries!



Merry
Christmas

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Today in Weather History

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

November 26, 2007: Lightning and heavy rain delay the start of the Monday Night Football game at Pittsburgh's Heinz Field between the Miami Dolphins and the Pittsburgh Steelers by 25 minutes. The muddy field conditions contribute to one of the lowest scoring NFL games won by the Steelers, 3-0. The teams combined 375 yards and the winning field goal occurred with 17 second left in the game.

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Thanksgiving Day



Mostly Sunny

High: 27 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 6 °F

Friday



Sunny

High: 30 °F

Friday Night



Clear

Low: 7 °F

Saturday



Sunny

High: 36 °F

Saturday Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 17 °F

Sunday



Slight Chance Snow

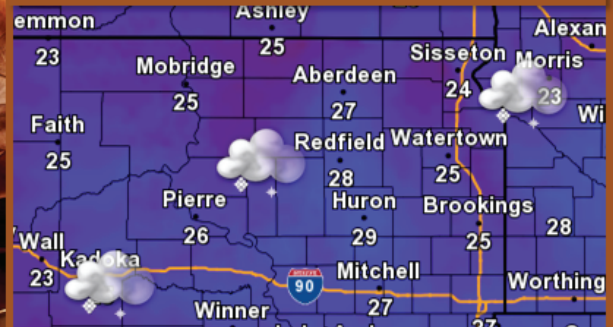
High: 35 °F

Thanksgiving Day Forecast

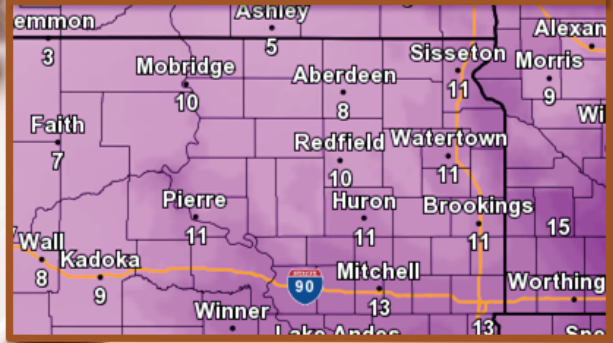
Cold * Breezy North Winds * Light Snow * Little To No Accumulation



High Temps



Low Temps



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 11/26/2015 4:30 AM Central

Published on: 11/26/2015 at 5:11AM

Light snow is expected through the morning hours, but will come to an end this afternoon. Very little if any snow accumulation is expected. Tonight, skies clear, winds become calm, and temperatures drop rapidly.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 36.0 at 12:12 PM

Low: 24.6 at 11:59 PM

High Gust: 23 at 2:27 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 70° in 1914

Record Low: -24° in 1996

Average High: 33°F

Average Low: 14°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.66

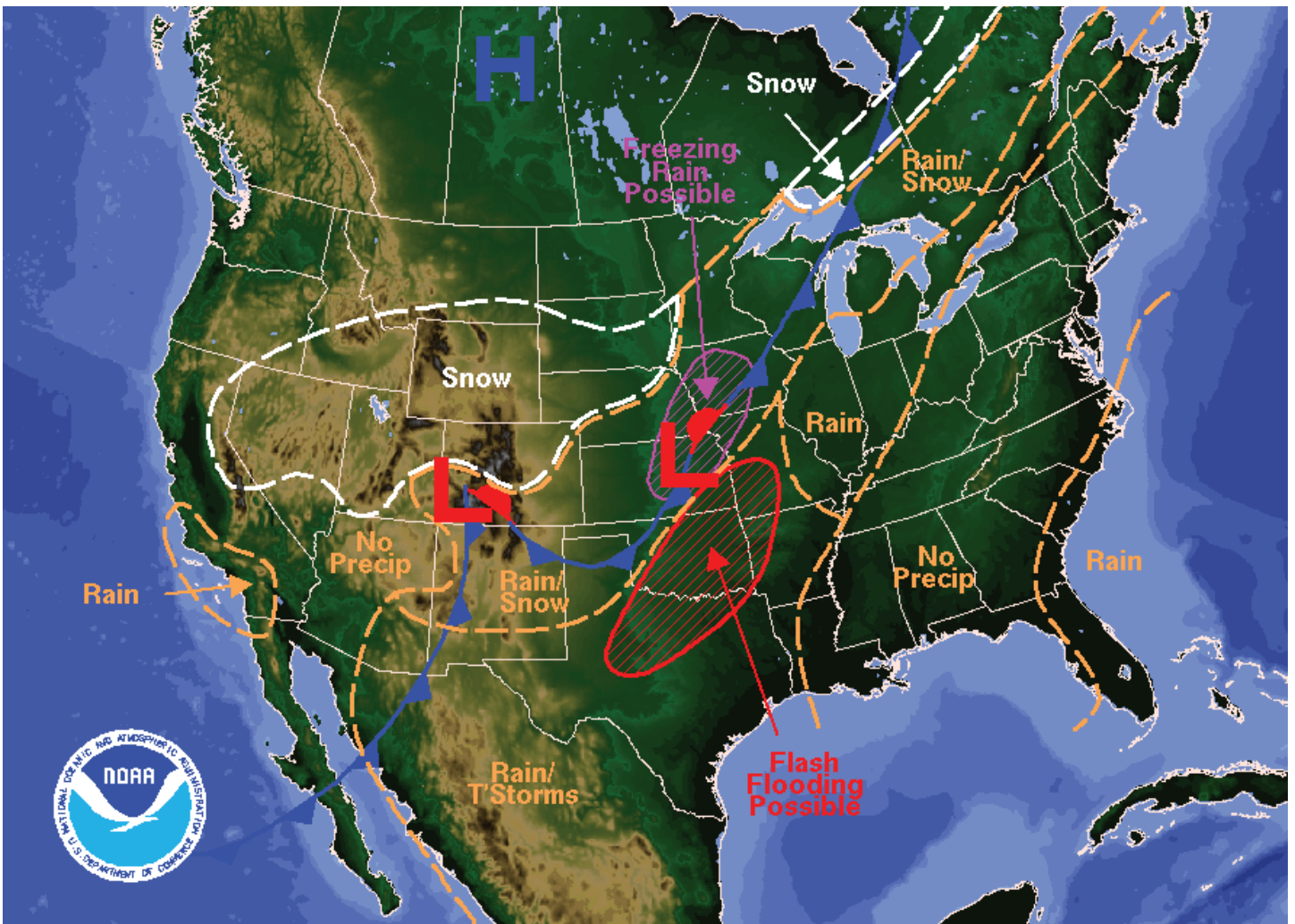
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.71

Average Precip to date: 21.13

Precip Year to Date: 19.82

Sunset Tonight: 4:54 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:48 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Nov 26, 2015, issued 4:20 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



STOP IT!

My sister, "Sis," was an outstanding piano player and could imitate many pianists with her skills and talents. She also authored many hymns and gospel courses and was well-known for her talents and love for the Lord. She was part of evangelist teams that were popular years ago. Everyone loved "Sis" for her sense of humor and keen insights.

Whenever she became bored with someone who talked too much she would ask politely, "What would you say if you could not talk?"

Her question would usually end the "talkers" talking and bring the conversation to an abrupt end. It would force the "talker" to realize what was being said and the conversation would soon end.

"Without wood a fire goes out, without gossip a quarrel dies down," said Solomon. All too often quarrels go on endlessly because those involved in the dispute are not listening to what the other person is saying. Beyond that, often they are not listening to what they are saying, either. Neither has any idea of what they are saying to the other. So, the best way to stop a quarrel is to stop the gossip.

James offers some great advice: "The tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person..."

Without gossip, quarrels end and sanity can return.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to control our tongues by filling our hearts with Your love and wisdom, grace and peace. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 26:20 Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down.

News from the Associated Press

Winning Wild Card 2 ticket worth \$215K sold in Sisseton

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Lottery says a single ticket sold in Sisseton hit the \$215,000 Wild Card 2 jackpot in Wednesday's drawing.

The odds of winning the Wild Card 2 jackpot are 1 in just under 1.9 million.

Wild Card 2 is played in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. The jackpot resets to \$200,000 for the next drawing on Saturday.

The winning numbers were 1, 5, 17, 27 and 32, and the Wild Card was the King of Clubs.

Lottery officials say the holder of the ticket should sign the back of it immediately and put it in a safe place before contacting lottery offices in Sioux Falls or Pierre.

Fargo attorneys say ruling on drug dogs shows flaws in law

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Defense attorneys in Fargo who have argued that unwarranted searches with drug-sniffing dogs are unconstitutional and unfair to lower-income people say this week's ruling from the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals backs their premise.

The court said in an opinion released Monday that it was wrong for police in Iowa to bring a drug dog within inches of a resident's apartment window without first obtaining a warrant.

To Fargo lawyers who have seen appeals on warrantless sniffs rejected by the North Dakota Supreme Court, it's a victory for protection against unreasonable searches and seizures. As the law stands now, drug dogs are allowed inside apartments and condos without warrants, but not in private homes.

"The ruling shows that contrary to conclusions of the North Dakota Supreme Court, Fourth Amendment protections equally extend to those who live in multi-family dwellings," Fargo attorney Mark Friese said.

He argued a case in front of the state Supreme Court involving a man who was busted for dealing marijuana after two plainclothes officers with entered his building with a drug-sniffing dog without a warrant or invitation when another resident walked through the locked outside door.

Another Fargo attorney, Scott Brand, defended a client who was arrested when police brought a drug dog into a common hallway that the client shared with another resident in a privately owned condominium. Brand said the hallway in the condo should be considered curtilage, or part of the home, and that gave his client an expectation of privacy.

In the Iowa case, federal judges said the space outside of a man's window was an uncommon area because there was no walkway to the window and there was a bush and grill in front of the window that prevented it from being used as a common area.

Asked about the ruling, Brand cited a U.S. Supreme Court opinion in 2013 overturning a dog sniff on the porch of a private home and said that should be applied equally to residents of all dwellings.

"Curtilage is curtilage and the Fourth Amendment should not bend based on the searched person's socio-economic status," Brand said.

Cass County State's Attorney Birch Burdick said Wednesday he hasn't had time to review the 8th Circuit's ruling and could not comment.

Fargo attorney Charlie Sheely, however, called it "outrageous to think that a dog sniffing an outside window area from 6 to 8 inches away is an unconstitutional trespass, yet a dog going inside a locked, secure building and sniffing under a door seam is OK.

"It is these types of issues that make the Fourth Amendment so fascinating, and makes being a criminal defense attorney the best job in the world," he said.

Sioux Falls urging residents to recycle cooking grease

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The city of Sioux Falls is urging residents to recycle the grease resulting from holiday cooking.

People are being asked to not throw used grease in the garbage and not pour it down the drain. Instead, residents are asked to take the cooking oil to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Sioux Falls.

Residents of Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha and Turner counties can dispose of the unwanted oil for free at the facility. The oil will be recycled as a renewable fuel.

Fire officials are also asking residents to be mindful of becoming distracted or even falling asleep while preparing a meal on the stove. The National Fire Prevention Association says 40 percent of home fires start in the kitchen, and the leading cause of kitchen fires is unattended cooking.

Teams that kicked off season with upset wins to battle

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two teams that opened their 2015 seasons with impressive upset victories are set to battle in Missoula, Montana, on Saturday in the first round of the Football Championship Sub-division playoffs.

Montana's season started with a bang. The Grizzlies took down four-time defending champion North Dakota State, but much of the season has been hampered by injuries, especially at the quarterback position, said coach Bob Stitt.

Montana (7-4, 6-2 Big Sky) found a way to keep pace through the middle of the schedule with the backup and third-string quarterbacks, then finally returned starter Brady Gustafson to finish out with wins against Idaho State, Eastern Washington and Montana State.

"We feel really good about where we're at, how we're playing, the health of our team," Stitt said. "We feel very fortunate to be in the playoffs. It does feel like we belong."

South Dakota State (8-3, 5-3 Missouri Valley Football Conference) opened the season by beating Kansas for its first ever win over an FBS squad. The Jackrabbits appeared on pace for a first-round bye heading into the regular season finale at Western Illinois but dropped a heartbreaker in double overtime.

Jackrabbits coach John Stiegelmeier said players quickly got over their disappointment and are ready for the challenge of taking the field in one of college football's loudest environments.

"We're excited to be in it and we're excited to have a game in Montana," he said. "We expect to play our best football of the year."

Key for South Dakota State will be getting the ball into the hands of wide receiver Jake Wieneke, a sophomore from Maple Grove, Minnesota, who has caught 66 balls for 1,344 yards and 11 touchdowns this season.

Stiegelmeier said Montana plays a ton of man-on-man schemes, and Wieneke always steps up in big games.

"If they go 1-on-1 coverage, he's got to have a good game," Stiegelmeier said.

Stitt said the Grizzlies will have to find a way to contain Wieneke, but Stitt has a lot of confidence in the way his corners are playing.

"We put them on an island every week and they're coming up big," he said.

Gustafson has put up solid numbers since returning from a lower leg injury suffered in the Grizzlies' Sept. 19 game at Liberty. He's thrown 120-205 for 1,460 yards in 2015 with 9 touchdowns and 5 interceptions.

But the Grizzlies will be facing a tough, experienced defense that has allowed just 16.7 points per game and really doesn't show any weakness, Stitt said.

"You don't look at their defense and go, 'Wow, we've got to stop this guy or that guy,'" he said. "They've got very good players in every position and are solid — all 11 of them."

The Jackrabbits on offense have an efficient quarterback, a solid offensive line and a tough running back, Stitt said.

But the O-line will have to contend with Grizzlies defensive end Tyrone Holmes, a senior from Eagle Point, Oregon, who leads the FCS with 14 sacks.

"He's a great player," Stiegelmeier said. "So tackles get ready, backs get ready, tight ends get ready. Know that you're facing one of best of the nation."

Saturday marks the eighth meeting of the two teams. Montana has won all seven games, including a 61-48 win over South Dakota State in the first round of the 2009 FCS playoffs.

The winner will face North Dakota State next Saturday in Fargo.

Frontier halting Denver-Sioux Falls flights for the winter

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Frontier Airlines is halting its flights between Denver and Sioux Falls during the winter.

Dan Letellier is the executive director of the Sioux Falls Regional Airport. He says the airline will suspend the flights Jan. 3 and service will resume April 15.

Frontier began flying out of Sioux Falls in 2011. Since then, Letellier says, the airline has been monitoring traffic to determine when there's a greater demand for flights and found out winter months are typically slow.

The airline has offered three trips a week to Denver, and it plans to offer four when flights resume in April. Travelers can still reach Denver directly from Sioux Falls through United Airlines.

Parks leads South Dakota State past Cleveland State 77-66

CANCUN, Mexico (AP) — Deondre Parks led a balanced attack with 18 points and South Dakota State won the Mayan Division of the Cancun Challenge with a 77-66 win over Cleveland State on Wednesday.

George Marshall added 14 points, Reed Tellinghuisen 13 and Mike Daum 12 for the Jackrabbits (6-0), who are off their best start in five years. Keaton Moffitt grabbed 10 rebounds.

Cleveland State trailed 40-31 at halftime but quickly cut the deficit to three as a run spanning the break reached 11-0. The Jackrabbits recovered and built it back up to 16 points midway through the second half as Marshall scored five straight points.

Kenny Carpenter led Cleveland State (2-3) with 17 points and seven rebounds.

South Dakota State made 23 of 46 shots and 24 of 32 free throws while the Vikings shot 39 percent (23 of 59) and were 13 of 19 from the foul line.

Bison ranch owned by Turner gets permit for feedlot addition

FORT PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Stanley County commissioners have approved a feedlot at a bison ranch owned by media mogul Ted Turner.

Bad River Ranch manager Dusty Hepper said in the permit request that the feeding facility will meet state and federal requirements. It will handle nearly 1,000 bison. It will be more than 2.5 miles from the nearest residence.

Commissioners approved the request after a public hearing on Monday.

Turner bought the ranch west of Fort Pierre about 15 years ago. It encompasses about 220 square miles and has more than 4,000 bison.

Meade County commissioners award contract for Sturgis bypass

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Meade County commissioners have awarded a \$1.3 million contract to a Rapid City company to build a highway bypass at Sturgis.

Tuesday's vote came a day after a judge removed a roadblock by declining the plea of opponents to mandate a public vote on the project, clearing the way for the Fort Meade Way.

The gravel bypass connecting Interstate 90 with S.D. Highway 34 east of Sturgis is scheduled to be ready next July. Officials say the goal is to spur growth east of Sturgis and ease traffic congestion during the annual motorcycle rally that draws hundreds of thousands of people to the area.

"We're not unaware that there is opposition to this road, but we do believe it is in the best interest of the county to move forward, and that's what we decided to do," Commissioner Galen Niederwerder said.

Opponents worry about the road's effect on Sturgis businesses, and about possible encroachment on homes and ranches along the route. But Judge Jerome Eckrich on Monday rejected their lawsuit, saying the Meade County Taxpayers for Responsible Government could not force the county to stop moving forward on developing the road. Opposition group spokesman Rod Baumberger said continuing to fight likely would be costly and fruitless.

The county awarded the construction contract to Zandstra Construction.

Pope says 'catastrophic' if interests derail climate talks

NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

TOM ODULA, Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Pope Francis warned Thursday that it would be "catastrophic" for world leaders to let special interest groups get in the way of a global agreement to curb fossil fuel emissions as he brought his environmental message to the heart of Africa on the eve of make-or-break climate change talks in Paris.

Francis issued the pointed warning in a speech to the U.N.'s regional office here after celebrating his first public Mass on the continent: A joyous, rain-soaked ceremony before 300,000 faithful that saw the Argentine pope being serenaded by ululating Swahili singers, swaying nuns, Maasai tribesmen and dancing children dressed in the colors of Kenya's flag.

Francis has made ecological concerns a hallmark of his nearly 3-year-old papacy, issuing a landmark encyclical earlier this year that paired the need to care for the environment with the need to care for humanity's most vulnerable. Francis argues the two are interconnected since the poor often suffer the most from the effects of global warming, and are largely excluded from today's fossil-fuel based global economy that is heating up the planet.

On Thursday, Francis repeated that message but took particular aim at those who reject the science behind global warming. In the United States, that includes some Republican presidential candidates and lawmakers, who have opposed steps President Barack Obama has taken on his own to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

"It would be sad, and dare I say even catastrophic, were special interests to prevail over the common good and lead to manipulating information in order to protect their own plans and interests," Francis said.

He didn't elaborate, but in the United States at least, there is a well-funded campaign that rejects the findings of 97 percent of climate scientists that global warming is likely man-made and insists that any heating of the Earth is natural. Politicians have cited these claims in their arguments that emissions cuts will hurt the economy.

Francis, who has said global warming is "mainly" man-made, said the world was faced with a stark choice: either improve or destroy the environment. He said he hoped the Paris talks would approve a "transformational" agreement to fight poverty and protect the environment by developing a new energy system that depends on minimal fossil fuel use.

"Many are the faces, the stories and the evident effects on the lives of thousands of people for whom the culture of deterioration and waste has allowed to be sacrificed before the idols of profits and consumption," he said. "We cannot remain indifferent in the face of this. We have no right."

His speech followed a similarly emphatic one before the U.N. General Assembly in New York in September, and in various speeches on his travels to South America and Asia.

Thursday was the second day in a row that Francis had touched on environmental concerns after he arrived in Kenya for a six-day pilgrimage that also takes him to Uganda on Friday and the conflict-ridden Central African Republic.

Francis' first full day in Africa began with a meeting with about 25 Kenyan Christian and Muslim leaders. He warned them that they had little choice but to engage in dialogue to guard against the "barbarous" Islamic extremist attacks that have struck the country.

"Dialogue is not a luxury. It is not something extra or optional, but essential," he said.

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He later celebrated Mass before about 300,000 people at the University of Nairobi, where he received a raucous welcome from the crowd as he zoomed around in his open-sided popemobile, some 10,000 police providing security. Some people had been at the university since 3 a.m., braving heavy showers that turned the grounds into enormous, slick mud puddles. Others waited in queues 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) deep to get close to the venue.

"I am a Catholic and I believe he is godsend," said Nelly Ndunge, 29, as she waited to see Francis at the Mass. She said Francis' visit to Kenya was a blessing because it would renew her faith — and had boosted her printing business: She said she had already sold nearly 3,000 copies of a 2016 calendar with the pope's portrait on it.

Still others turned back, fearing a stampede given the disorganized security.

"We were all disappointed," said Sarah Ondiso, a senior government official. "The organizers could have done better."

The size of the crowd — estimated by both police and the Vatican — was far smaller than the 1.4 million that Kenyan authorities had expected after declaring Thursday a national holiday. Vatican officials had predicted a maximum of a half-million people, and said the lower number was apparently due to accreditation and ticketing problems.

In his homily, Francis appealed for traditional family values, calling for Kenyans to "resist practices which foster arrogance in men, hurt or demean women, don't care for the elderly and threaten the life of the innocent unborn."

The African church is among the most conservative in the world, and African bishops have been at the forefront in insisting that traditional church teachings on marriage and sexuality, and its opposition to abortion, be strongly emphasized.

Francis obliged, but also stressed issues of his own concern: He called for Kenyans to shape a more just society that looks out for the poor and to "reject everything that leads to prejudice and discrimination, for these things are not of God."

It wasn't immediately clear what he was referring to. But in the crowd, there were Kenyans wearing t-shirts and toting umbrellas reading "Who Am I to Judge" - a reference to Francis' famous quip when asked about a purportedly gay priest. The citation has often been taken to embody Francis' insistence that gays must be welcomed in the church and not discriminated against.

With US off, global stocks buoyed by Europe stimulus hopes

PAN PYLAS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — With Wall Street closed for the Thanksgiving holiday and tensions between Russia and Turkey fading, European stock markets were buoyed Thursday by expectations that the European Central Bank will back further stimulus for the ailing 19-country eurozone economy next week.

There's increasing speculation that ECB President Mario Draghi will announce a bold package of measures as the bank tries to shore up the economic recovery across the region and get inflation back towards its target of just below 2 percent on an annual basis. Currently, inflation is standing at 0.1 percent. That prospect is keeping the euro currency at relative lows at \$1.06 as well as depressing the interest rates payable on a series of government bonds across Europe.

In Europe, the FTSE 100 index of leading British shares closed up 0.9 percent at 6,393.13 while Germany's DAX rose 1.4 percent to 11,320.77. The CAC-40 in France ended 1.1 percent higher at 4,946.02.

"In the event that the ECB fails to deliver what Mr. Market wants then one would expect to see a big drop in stock prices — an unlikely event, in our view," said Fawad Razaqzada, technical analyst at Forex.com.

Razaqzada said there's potential for stock markets, particularly in Europe, to post further strong gains over coming days before possibly retreating a little sometime after the ECB meeting on Thursday.

Earlier in Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.5 percent to 19,944.41 and South Korea's KOSPI gained 1.1 percent to 2,030.68. Hong Kong's Hang Seng erased earlier gains, finishing flat at 22,488.94. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 advanced 0.3 percent to 5,210.70.

Wall Street is set to reopen Friday for an abbreviated session and much of the interest will likely center on Black Friday, when millions of Americans venture to shops the day after Thanksgiving in search of bargains.

In the energy markets, Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, lost 75 cents to trade at \$45.42 a barrel in London.

Turkey-Russia spat over downed Russian warplane escalates

By SUZAN FRASER and VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, Associated Press

A tug-of-war over a Russian warplane shot down by a Turkish fighter jet at the border with Syria escalated Thursday, with Moscow drafting a slew of economic sanctions against Turkey and the Turkish president saying on a defiant note that his military is ready to do the same if another air intrusion happens.

The spat reflected a clash of ambitions of two strongman leaders, neither of whom appeared willing to back down and search for a compromise.

Turkey shot down the Russian Su-24 military jet on Tuesday, insisting it had violated its airspace despite repeated warnings. The incident marked the first time in half a century when a NATO member shot down a Russian plane, raising the threat of a military confrontation between the alliance and Moscow.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin denounced the Turkish action as a "treacherous stab in the back," and insisted that the plane was downed over the Syrian territory in violation of the international law.

"Until that moment, we haven't heard a clear apology from Turkey's top political leadership, or an offer to compensate for the damage or a promise to punish the criminals who committed that crime," he said in the Kremlin while receiving credentials from several ambassadors. "It gives an impression that the Turkish leadership is deliberately driving the Russian-Turkish relations into a deadlock, and we regret that."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was in no mood to apologize, and warned that Ankara would act in the same way in case of another intrusion.

"Faced with the same violation today, Turkey would give the same response," Erdogan said. "It's the country that carried out the violation which should question itself and take measures to prevent it from happening again, not the country that was subjected to a violation."

Erdogan said Turkey had not specifically targeted Russia when it shot down the plane, saying it was "an automatic response" in line with its rules of engagement.

Turkey has released audio recordings of what it says are the Turkish military's repeated warnings to the pilot of a Russian bomber before it was shot down at the border with Syria — audio that grows increasingly more agitated.

The recordings, made available to The Associated Press on Thursday, indicate the plane was warned several times Tuesday that it was approaching Turkey's airspace and asked to change course, but there is no indication of a Russian reply.

In the recordings, a voice is heard saying in broken English: "This is Turkish Air Force speaking on guard. You are approaching Turkish airspace. Change your heading south immediately."

Most of the audio is garbled and barely comprehensible but the tone of the voice gets more agitated as the warnings appear to go unnoticed.

The audio that was released only involved Turkish warnings, no replies by a Russian pilot. It was not clear if Turkey had received any replies from the Russian pilots but did not release them, if the Russian pilots never replied to the warnings or if the Russians never even heard the warnings.

A Russian airman who survived the shoot-down and was later rescued by the Syrian and Russian commando, denied veering into Turkey's airspace "even for a single second." Turkey insists the plane was in its airspace for 17 seconds.

Capt. Konstantin Murakhtin also said he and his crewmate, who was killed by ground fire after bailing out, heard any Turkish warnings. The Russian Foreign Ministry dismissed the audio recording released by Ankara as a fake.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova also urged Turkey to speak up about the rebels who killed the pilot. "Either confirm that these are the people that you defend, then we will finally see what

this moderate opposition is. Or say that you don't have anything to do with it and express your position about their actions," she said.

Erdogan accused Russia of using its declared goal to fight the Islamic State group in Syria as a pretext to target opposition groups including the Turkmen, in order to shore up Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Putin responded to the plane's downing by ordering the deployment of powerful long-range air defense missiles to a Russian air base in Syria. On Thursday, Russian state television stations ran report showing the S-400 missiles already deployed at the Hemeimeem air base in Syria's coastal province of Latakia, just 50 kilometers (30 miles) away from the border with Turkey.

The Russian military also moved the navy missile cruiser Moskva closer to the shore to help protect Russian warplanes with its long-range Fort air defense system and warned that it was prepared to destroy any target that may threaten its warplanes.

In addition to the military moves, the Kremlin also acted Thursday to inflict economic pain on Turkey.

Since the plane was shot down Tuesday in disputed circumstances on the Syria-Turkey border, Russia has already restricted tourism, left Turkish trucks stranded at the border and announced the confiscation of large quantities of Turkish food imports.

On Thursday, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev ordered to draft formal sanctions against Turkey within the next two days, which will include "restrictions and bans on Turkish economic structures operating in Russian territory, restrictions and bans on deliveries of products, including foodstuffs," as well as on labor and services.

Russia was the biggest source of Turkish imports last year, worth \$25 billion, which mostly accounted for Russian gas supplies. It also is the largest destination for Turkish exports, mostly textiles and food, and Turkish construction companies have won a sizable niche of the Russian market.

Erdogan lamented Russia's intention to halt economic cooperation with Turkey, saying political leaders should talk first. "We are strategic partners" with Russia, he said.

French president off to Moscow for talks on fighting terror

By SYLVIE CORBET, Associated Press

French President Francois Hollande on a visit to Moscow Thursday call for forming a broad international coalition against the Islamic State group, trying to unite France, the U.S. and Russia in the aftermath of the horrifying Paris attacks that killed 130 people.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Russia was mourning for the victims of the Paris attacks and those who died in the crash of a Russian passenger plane in Egypt. He praised Hollande's efforts to build an anti-terror coalition and said that Moscow was open for stronger cooperation.

Hollande's visit comes two days after he met with President Barack Obama in Washington, where both leaders vowed to escalate airstrikes against IS and bolster intelligence sharing.

"We need to take the lead so that there can be actions against terrorism that must be intensified," he told Putin at the start of their talks in the Kremlin.

IS has claimed responsibility for the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris, as well as deadly bombings in Beirut and the downing of a Russian airplane on Oct. 31 that killed all 224 people on board over Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

"Terrorism is our enemy," Hollande said. "We know it, it has a name: it's Daesh, the Islamic State."

Hollande's difficult task became even more arduous after Turkey shot down a Russian warplane near the Syrian border on Tuesday. The incident underscored the complex military landscape in Syria, where a sprawling cast of countries and rebel groups are engaged on the battlefield and in the skies overhead, sometimes with minimal coordination.

The French president hopes to make progress on three priority issues: to prevent Syrian President Bashar Assad from targeting civilians, to focus the airstrikes on IS militants _ not the moderate Syrian opposition _ and to move forward on a political transition in Syria.

France will also seek to "avoid an escalation" between Russia and Turkey, according to a French diplomatic official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

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In advance of Hollande's meeting with Putin, France sought to dismiss concerns that it might soften its stance on international sanctions against Russia over Ukraine in exchange for Russia's cooperation in the fight against IS. France's ambassador to the U.S., Gerard Araud, tweeted on Tuesday evening that "Hollande has confirmed the sanctions will be maintained as long as the Minsk agreements are not implemented."

Araud was referring to peace agreements for eastern Ukraine forged in the Belarusian capital in February.

Following his meeting with the French president, Obama said Russian cooperation in the fight against IS would be "enormously helpful." Both Obama and Hollande, however, insisted that a political transition in Syria must lead to Assad's departure. Russia, on the other hand, has been Assad's staunchest ally.

Last week, Hollande called for the U.S. and Russia to set aside their policy divisions over Syria and "fight this terrorist army in a broad, single coalition." But his office acknowledges that "coordination" sounds like a far more realistic goal.

With two suspects of the Paris attacks at large, tensions were still high in Belgium on Thursday with the capital, Brussels, on the highest-level threat alert.

Authorities launched a raid in southern Belgium Thursday afternoon linked to the Paris attacks, but didn't detain any suspects.

In Brussels, a civil protection squad decontaminated several people as a precaution at the main mosque after a suspicious parcel arrived. The person who opened the package discovered white powder and immediately contacted authorities. A specialized crew from the fire department was sent, witnesses at the scene said.

Thanksgiving parade features balloons, bands, heavy security

KAREN MATTHEWS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Giant balloons took to the clear, sunny sky over midtown Manhattan on Thursday for the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, with spectators lining up along the parade route and a heavy police presence keeping a watchful eye.

The parade, in its 89th year, included marching bands and floats to go along with Hello Kitty, Snoopy, Paddington and other giant balloons.

City officials have said there are no known, credible threats against New York following the recent attacks in Paris and a video purportedly produced by the Islamic State group that contained video clips of Times Square. But Police Commissioner William Bratton said more than 2,500 officers would be stationed along the parade route for the Thanksgiving Day festivities — the largest number of officers the department has ever assigned to the event.

As the parade made its way through midtown Manhattan, helicopters flew overhead and officers stood on top of mobile command center vans to watch the crowds. Police even stood on top of the marquee at Radio City Music Hall.

Pamela and Tom Popp of Ridgefield, New Jersey said they've come to the city every year for the parade for at least 20 years.

"It's just a very special part of our holiday," Pamela Popp said. "We're very proud of New York City and this wonderful tradition."

Her husband said security was heavier than in past years. "I see the cops on top of Radio City," Tom Popp said. "Never saw that before."

Kim Miller, of Boston, also said she noticed the heavy security. "It's a little scary but at least it's keeping us safe. We're having fun."

Speaking at a news conference Wednesday night, Mayor Bill de Blasio said, "I think people are coming here from all over the city, all over the metropolitan region, all over the country to be a part of this parade."

He added, "We cannot let the terrorists succeed at psychological warfare. ... They're doing what they do to try and create fear, to try and change us."

Terrorism fears didn't change plans for Jerry Noack of Wilmington, Delaware, who surveyed the police presence.

"There's a lot of security here," he said. "I feel pretty safe."

Russia strikes back at Turkey with economic sanctions

JAMES ELLINGWORTH, Associated Press

NATALIYA VASILYEVA, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia plans to retaliate against Turkey for the downing of a warplane by imposing sanctions, cutting economic ties and scrapping major investment projects.

Since the plane was shot down Tuesday on the Syria-Turkey border, Russia has already restricted tourism, left Turkish trucks stranded at the border and confiscated large quantities of Turkish food imports.

On Thursday, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev ordered his government to also draft sanctions against Turkey within two days in response to what he described as an “act of aggression against our country.”

The sanctions will include “restrictions and bans on Turkish economic structures operating in Russian territory, restrictions and bans on deliveries of products, including foodstuffs,” as well as on labor and services.

The steps threaten billions of dollars of trade, as well as further complicating the Syrian conflict.

Russia is the largest destination for Turkey’s exports, and the two countries are bound by plans for a new gas pipeline and strong trade in food and tourism.

As recently as in September, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin and predicted a tripling of bilateral trade to \$100 billion in the next eight years.

Some regional authorities appeared to be taking matters into their own hands.

In the Crimean peninsula, Deputy Prime Minister Ruslan Balbek told the Tass news agency that 30 Turkish investment projects worth a total \$500 million had been frozen. In the southern Krasnodar region, local TV reported that 39 Turkish delegates at an agricultural exhibition were to be deported for visa violations.

The growing clash could exacerbate both countries’ economic troubles. Russia’s economy is predicted to shrink about 3.8 percent this year, while the Turkish currency has slumped in value in 2015.

Here’s a look at what’s at stake.

ENERGY

One of Russia’s flagship energy projects, the proposed Turkish Stream pipeline, would allow Russia to export gas to the European Union through Turkey and reduce its reliance on transit through Ukraine.

Turkish Stream, which has yet to begin construction, was proposed last year after Putin ended plans for another pipeline to Bulgaria, South Stream, which had run into opposition from EU countries.

Turkey obtains most of its energy from Russia, and while ending those supplies would cause economic pain for Russia, scrapping plans for Turkish Stream could be more expedient, says Ozgur Unluhisarcikli, director of the German Marshall Fund in Ankara.

“Russia would not be able to turn away from its commitments such as providing gas, but if there is no commitment, then it could stop everything,” he said.

Also, Russian state company Rosatom was contracted in 2010 to build and operate Turkey’s first nuclear power plant in a \$20 billion project, though it is far from complete.

Both Turkish Stream and the nuclear plant could become part of a sanctions package, Russian Economic Development Minister Alexei Ulyukaev said Thursday.

TOURISM

The biggest immediate impact on Turkish business may be a plunge in the number of Russian tourists.

Turkey’s beach resorts are a big draw for Russians, but the Russian foreign ministry has warned against all travel there and leading Russian travel agencies have stopped selling tours to Turkey.

Restrictions on flights between Russia and Turkey are being considered, Ulyukaev said Thursday. In recent months, Russia has also ended flights to Ukraine and Egypt.

Nearly 4.5 million Russians visited Turkey last year, making them second only to German tourists among visitors to the country. Given that many Germans who travel to Turkey are ethnic Turks visiting relatives,

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Moscow-based analyst Tom Adshead of Macro Advisory said Russians may be the largest contributors to Turkish tourism.

An end to tour sales or restrictions on flights to Turkey could cost Turkey a couple billion dollars or more per year, Adshead estimates.

Turkey stands to lose out heavily if Russia ends visa-free travel between the countries, as that could redirect some Russian tourists to domestic destinations like Crimea.

FOOD

Since Tuesday, there has been a flurry of Russian restrictions on ostensibly unsafe Turkish food and calls to patriotic buyers to avoid Turkish produce.

The consumer safety agency said Thursday it had confiscated more than 800 kilograms of Turkish food this year for "non-compliance with quality and safety requirements." Clothing, furniture and cleaning products are also unsatisfactory, the agency said.

Separately, six shipments of Turkish chicken meat totaling 162 tonnes (178 tons) have been held up at a border crossing near Kaliningrad due to problems with their documentation, local authorities said Wednesday. In the past, Russian food safety authorities have often been accused of selectively blocking imports from various countries for political reasons.

Buying Turkish food is unpatriotic, according to Gennady Onishchenko, a former food safety chief who now advises the prime minister. "Every Turkish tomato bought in (supermarket chain) Auchan or at the market is a contribution toward the next rocket to be fired at our guys," Onishchenko was quoted saying by the RIA Novosti agency.

Turkish fruit and vegetables are commonplace in Russian stores, especially since Putin blocked all imports of EU produce last year in response to Western sanctions. Previous import restrictions have been followed by sharp rises in food prices in Russia.

BORDER RESTRICTIONS

Russian authorities have begun to turn away vehicles with Turkish license plates at a border crossing with the Caucasus nation of Georgia, the Georgian government said Thursday. Hundreds of Turkish trucks were reportedly stuck in the neutral zone between Russia and Georgia as a result.

The Verkhny Lars crossing is on a transit route for exports from eastern Turkey to Russia over land, with trucks carrying food and consumer goods.

Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, insisted Thursday there is no ban on Turkish goods but said customs officials were inspecting them carefully "due to various reasons" including a possible terrorist.

"This is only natural in the light of Turkey's unpredictable actions," Peskov said.

4 people meet for first time after 2 pairs of kidney swaps

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Four people have met for the first time since a pair of kidney swaps at a Connecticut hospital.

The Hartford Courant reports (<http://cour.at/1QJcXdv>) the family of 3-year-old Jeremy Orellana, as well as Fred Ferris, Beth Mix, and Julissa Canales, had an emotional meeting for the first time on Wednesday following the Nov. 10 surgeries.

Orellana, of Bridgeport, and Ferris, of Newtown, were both diagnosed with kidney disease and had been undergoing dialysis.

Canales, of West Haven, decided to help her friend Ferris. The two were incompatible for the transplant, though, so they entered into Yale-New Haven Hospital's kidney-pairing program. Ferris received Mix's kidney, while Canales donated hers to Orellana.

Mix volunteered to become an altruistic organ donor, meaning she donated without knowing any of the participants.

Study: Skin care drug prices up 401 percent since 2009

JOSH BOAK, AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The cost of prescription skin treatments has skyrocketed since 2009, as the burden of escalating drug prices increasingly weighs on family budgets.

Retail prices have surged 401 percent since 2009 for brand-name drugs for skin conditions, according to research published in JAMA Dermatology, a medical journal. That compares to an overall inflation rate of just 11 percent during the same period.

Of the 19 brand-name drugs analyzed in the study published Wednesday, price hikes have been most extreme for two drugs made by Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc., which has been subpoenaed by federal prosecutors for documents tied to its pricing and practices. It is also under investigation by several members of Congress. The Canada-based company has acquired smaller drug developers and then raised prices of their medicines.

Costs for Valeant's Targretin gel skin cancer treatment have shot up 18-fold over the past six years to \$30,320 per 60 gram tube. Prices for a separate Valeant skin cancer cream, Carac cream, also surged 18 times to \$2,865 for a 30 gram tube.

But the study found that dramatic price hikes are common across the pharmaceutical industry. Prices for generic skin treatment drugs climbed 279 percent between 2011 and 2014.

Health insurers increasingly pass those costs onto patients, as health plans have limited coverage options, the study noted.

The analysis by Dr. Steven Rosenberg, a dermatologist, and his daughter, Miranda Rosenberg, a third-year medical student at the University Pennsylvania, did not identify a source of the higher drug costs. But the expense of development and marketing of drugs, along with profit-taking and a dependent customer base all appear to have contributed to the broader increase in drug prices.

A report published in May by the pharmacy-benefits company Express Scripts found that 576,000 Americans spent at least \$50,000 on prescription drugs in 2014, a sum roughly equivalent to the U.S. median household income. The number of people paying in excess of \$50,000 a year had increased 63 percent from 2013.

Fargo attorneys say ruling on drug dogs shows flaws in law

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Defense attorneys in Fargo who have argued that unwarranted searches with drug-sniffing dogs are unconstitutional and unfair to lower-income people say this week's ruling from the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals backs their premise.

The court said in an opinion released Monday that it was wrong for police in Iowa to bring a drug dog within inches of a resident's apartment window without first obtaining a warrant.

To Fargo lawyers who have seen appeals on warrantless sniffs rejected by the North Dakota Supreme Court, it's a victory for protection against unreasonable searches and seizures. As the law stands now, drug dogs are allowed inside apartments and condos without warrants, but not in private homes.

"The ruling shows that contrary to conclusions of the North Dakota Supreme Court, Fourth Amendment protections equally extend to those who live in multi-family dwellings," Fargo attorney Mark Friese said.

He argued a case in front of the state Supreme Court involving a man who was busted for dealing marijuana after two plainclothes officers with entered his building with a drug-sniffing dog without a warrant or invitation when another resident walked through the locked outside door.

Another Fargo attorney, Scott Brand, defended a client who was arrested when police brought a drug dog into a common hallway that the client shared with another resident in a privately owned condominium. Brand said the hallway in the condo should be considered curtilage, or part of the home, and that gave his client an expectation of privacy.

In the Iowa case, federal judges said the space outside of a man's window was an uncommon area because there was no walkway to the window and there was a bush and grill in front of the window that

prevented it from being used as a common area.

Asked about the ruling, Brand cited a U.S. Supreme Court opinion in 2013 overturning a dog sniff on the porch of a private home and said that should be applied equally to residents of all dwellings.

"Curtilage is curtilage and the Fourth Amendment should not bend based on the searched person's socio-economic status," Brand said.

Cass County State's Attorney Birch Burdick said Wednesday he hasn't had time to review the 8th Circuit's ruling and could not comment.

Fargo attorney Charlie Sheely, however, called it "outrageous to think that a dog sniffing an outside window area from 6 to 8 inches away is an unconstitutional trespass, yet a dog going inside a locked, secure building and sniffing under a door seam is OK.

"It is these types of issues that make the Fourth Amendment so fascinating, and makes being a criminal defense attorney the best job in the world," he said.

Island nations seek tough deal against global warming

PARIS (AP) — France's president is seeking to reassure island populations that their concerns about rising seas and extreme weather will be taken into account in critical global climate talks starting Monday.

President Francois Hollande, hosting U.N. talks near Paris Nov. 30-Dec. 11, met leaders of southern Pacific island nations and territories Thursday.

He said he will push for "an ambitious accord, a binding accord, an accord that can be regularly revised" to limit global warming over the long term.

He said negotiators should pay special attention to concerns from island nations.

More than 140 world leaders are coming to Paris to launch the talks, which are aiming at the broadest global deal yet to slow man-made global warming.

Chinese gloat over Obama's turkey named Abe _ not Ah-bay

BEIJING (AP) — President Barack Obama's pardoning of a turkey named "Abe" this Thanksgiving has led some Chinese to gloat at the Japanese prime minister's expense.

As part of a peculiar annual tradition at the White House, Obama on Wednesday granted amnesty from the dinner table to two turkeys named "Honest" and "Abe" — from the nickname for President Abraham Lincoln. But a translation glitch in Chinese media replaced the character for single-syllable "Abe" with the surname of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (pronounced "Ah-bay").

Several commenters in Chinese social media focused on comparing the prime minister to an animal.

Many Chinese harbor animosity toward Japan because of its brutal occupation of much of China during World War II, and they specifically scorn Abe because of his visits to a war shrine that is seen as a symbol of Japan's past militarism.

The faulty translation of Abe was published by state-run China Radio International and picked up by other outlets. A man who answered the CRI news hotline said editorial staff there had used the Web to translate the name "Abe." Stories from Chinese media outlets that properly translated the name were circulating, but not as widely.

South Koreans mourn ex-President Kim in state funeral

HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Thousands of mourners gathered Thursday at the lawn outside South Korea's parliament to bid farewell to former President Kim Young-sam, whose landmark 1992 election victory ended decades of military rule and ushered in a series of reforms.

Kim, a towering figure in South Korea who fought against a succession of dictatorships from the 1960s through the '80s, died of a severe blood infection and acute heart failure on Sunday at age 87.

"We are here together to bid a final goodbye to former President Kim Young-sam, who was a huge

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mountain that oversaw our country's democratization," Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn said in a speech during a state funeral.

The televised funeral was held on the National Assembly lawn, where Kim was sworn in as president in early 1993 for a single five-year term. He was buried at the state cemetery in Seoul later Thursday.

Mourners, dressed in black and braving cold wind and flurries of snow, sat in silence below a flag at half-staff, many of them sobbing or wiping away tears with handkerchiefs.

There has been outpouring of mourning for Kim, whose achievements have been largely ignored since he left office in disgrace in early 1998, after accepting what many South Koreans still recall as a humiliating international bailout during the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis.

More than 180,000 people have paid respects for Kim at makeshift mourning sites across the country, while TV stations and newspapers have run feature stories every day since his death.

At age 25, Kim was the youngest lawmaker and spent most his career in the opposition. His courageous, outspoken criticism against back-to-back dictatorships led by President Park Chung-hee — the father of current President Park Geun-hye — and his successor Chun Doo-hwan, earned him a reputation as a pro-democracy fighter, but also made him the subject of repeated political suppression.

As president, Kim reshuffled top military generals loyal to past dictators, brought transparency to the country's murky financial system and took other reforms.

Kim's reputation was seriously undermined after his government accepted a \$58 billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund in late 1997 amid the Asian foreign exchange crisis. Thousands of companies collapsed, stripping millions of people of their jobs in South Korea.

In 2016 campaign, both parties want reform in justice system

ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the campaign trail, among candidates of both parties, the idea of locking up drug criminals for life is a lot less popular than it was a generation ago.

The 2016 presidential race has accelerated an evolution away from the traditional tough-on-crime candidate. A Republican Party that's long taken a law-and-order stance finds itself desperate to improve its standing among minority voters, and Democratic candidates are also being drawn into national conversations on policing, drug crimes and prison costs.

With criminal justice issues intruding into election season, the "Just Say No" message of the Reagan administration and the "three strikes" sentencing law developed a decade later under President Bill Clinton have given way to concerns over bloated prison costs, the racial inequities of harsh drug punishments and how police interact with their communities.

But even among those in both parties who support changing the criminal justice system, there's no consensus on how to do it and candidates are scrambling to differentiate themselves on what law and order means.

"You don't have everyone saying they're tough on crime," said Inimai Chettiar of the Brennan Center for Justice in New York, which advocates reducing prison populations. "Instead, you have people offering different policy solutions."

The Paris attacks have at least temporarily thrust national security to the forefront of the presidential race, but criminal justice issues have been periodically popping up, particularly among Democrats, in a year of tumult in U.S. cities. In the Republican field, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul has been out front in seeking to "break the cycle of incarceration for non-violent ex-offenders."

The push to rethink sentences for drug offenders is coinciding with the Black Lives Matter movement and its debate about police treatment of minorities, a heroin crisis that's brought renewed attention to addiction and a homicide spike in some big cities. Sometimes that mix of issues defies consistency.

Republican Chris Christie, the New Jersey governor and a former federal prosecutor, has preached treatment rather than prison for drug addicts and spoken sympathetically of a law school friend who died after getting hooked on painkillers. But when it comes to discussing policing, he accuses Democrats in

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Washington of "allowing lawlessness to reign" and tells law enforcement "I'll have your back," suggesting that the Obama administration doesn't.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, a fellow Republican, criticizes harsh mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenders. But last month he voted against legislation that would have made nonviolent drug offenders eligible for shorter prison sentences, saying he was concerned it could also benefit violent felons.

And while Florida Sen. Marco Rubio has endorsed a review of the criminal code and decried "selective enforcement" of the law, he wrote in an essay for a Brennan Center book this year that drug laws had helped restore "law and order to America's cities" and that shorter drug-crime sentences should be approached with caution.

Support for more lenient sentencing from Republican members of Congress and wealthy conservative backers such as the Koch brothers has made it easier for budget-minded presidential candidates to support sentencing policy changes. It's not clear, though, how much benefit candidates gain from pressing the issue with average voters, said Fergus Cullen, former chairman of the New Hampshire Republican Party.

Some leading candidates such as Donald Trump hardly mention the issue on the campaign trail, and Ben Carson, the sole Republican participant in a recent candidate forum on criminal justice, said he was still waiting to see evidence of racial bias by police.

"The Republican primary voters are not a soft-hearted bunch when it comes to criminal justice issues, and I don't think there are a lot of voters to be had," Cullen said.

Democratic candidates are more unified in their embrace of the Black Lives Matter movement and of overall change to the criminal justice system.

After Baltimore's riots in April, Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Democratic front-runner whose husband promoted a more conventional tough-on-crime stance, called the criminal justice system "out of balance" and urged an end to "mass incarceration." More recently, she proposed lifting restrictions on getting marijuana for medical studies and said it should be reclassified by the government to allow federally sponsored research into its effects.

Her rival, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, has called for accountability for police officers who "kill people who are unarmed" and suggested moving forward with marijuana legalization.

It's all a big change from a generation or two ago.

"The threat of someone waging a 'tough on crime' campaign as their calling card is, I think, very much diminished from what we might have seen 20 years ago," said Marc Mauer, executive director of the Sentencing Project, which advocates sentencing policy changes.

The "reform movement" has strong enough support, Mauer said, that it would be "difficult for a candidate to try to make hay out of it."

It's not clear how rising homicide rates in some cities will affect efforts to remake the criminal justice system, especially since there's no consensus about what's caused the trend or whether it will last. FBI Director James Comey said recently that if the trend were to continue, "we will be back to talking about how law enforcement needs to help rescue black neighborhoods from the grip of violence."

"All lives matter too much for us to let that happen," he said.

It also remains to be seen how campaign-trail rhetoric will translate into policy or how committed a future president will be in pushing for sentencing changes. But issues of criminal justice that in many ways were once considered local concerns are, at least for now, in play on the national level.

Sandra becomes Category 3 hurricane in eastern Pacific

MIAMI (AP) — Hurricane Sandra continues to strengthen as a powerful Category 3 hurricane off Mexico's Pacific coast, but there is no current threat to land.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center says it's the strongest hurricane in the eastern Pacific for this late in the year.

The hurricane's maximum sustained winds increased Wednesday night to 120 mph (195 kph). The Center says Sandra could grow even stronger later Wednesday, but should begin to lose steam steadily by

Thursday night.

Sandra is centered about 550 miles (885 kilometers) southwest of Manzanillo, Mexico, and 645 miles (1,035 kms) south of the southern tip of Baja California.

It is moving northwest at 8 mph (13 kph), and forecast to take a turn toward the north-northeast by Thursday night or Friday.

10 Things to Know for Thursday The Associated Press

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

1. HOW RUSSIA IS RESPONDING TO TURKEY'S DOWNING OF ITS MILITARY JET

Moscow says it will deploy long-range air-defense missiles to its base in Syria to destroy targets that threaten its planes.

2. "AVOIDABLE" ERRORS LED TO AIRSTRIKE ON AFGHAN HOSPITAL THAT KILLED 31 CIVILIANS

U.S. military officials say the warplane fired at the wrong building and continued the attack despite observing no hostile activity from the hospital.

3. PEOPLE PROTESTING TEEN'S KILLING BY CHICAGO POLICE PLAN TO FOCUS EFFORTS ON BLACK FRIDAY

Demonstrators are urging supporters to converge on the city's famous Michigan Avenue shopping district to disrupt the shopping bonanza.

4. OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ISSUES LETTER TO GOVERNORS ON REFUGEES

It reminds governors they do not have the authority to deny benefits and services to refugees based on their country of origin or religion and cannot refuse to accept them.

5. MILLIONS OF AMERICANS HEAD TO THANKSGIVING DESTINATIONS

Drivers are delighted by the lowest November gas prices in years, and flyers prepare for extra security in light of terror fears.

6. WHAT MAY HAVE CAUSED COSTCO E. COLI OUTBREAK

Tests point to a vegetable mix used in chicken salad sold at the store that later sickened 19 people in seven states.

7. MOURNERS VOW TO SEEK JUSTICE FOR MINNEAPOLIS MAN FATALLY SHOT BY POLICE

Hundreds attended the funeral for Jamar Clark, and protesters are demanding release of video showing the shooting.

8. CASEY KASEM RELATIVES FILE WRONGFUL DEATH LAWSUIT AGAINST HIS WIDOW

The suit filed by three of Kasem's children and his brother accuses Jean Kasem of elder abuse.

9. A MERRY MOBILE CHRISTMAS FOR SHOPPERS

For the first time, more people are expected to visit retailers' web sites using their smartphones than with desktop computers or tablets this holiday shopping weekend.

10. ST. LOUIS RAMS PLAYER HAS SURGERY AFTER BEING SHOT IN FLORIDA

Wide receiver Stedman Bailey was shot in the head as he and three others sat in a car outside a home, and is now in stable condition.

Oldest known seabird is back at Midway Atoll near Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP) — Federal wildlife officials say the world's oldest known seabird has returned to Midway Atoll.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Wednesday the Laysan Albatross named Wisdom was spotted at the remote island on Nov. 19.

An ornithologist first put an identification band on Wisdom in 1956. She's estimated to be at least 64 years old, but she could be older.

Laysan albatrosses typically mate for life, but Wisdom has likely had more than one mate. She has raised

as many as 36 chicks.

Breeding albatrosses and their mates will often spend about six months rearing and feeding their young. They forage hundreds of miles out at sea for squid or flying fish eggs.

Midway Atoll is about 1,200 miles northwest of Honolulu. It's part of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

Yahoo's CEO is running out of time to turn things around

MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Marissa Mayer's nearly four-year attempt to turn around Yahoo needs a turn-around itself, repeating a pattern of futility that has hobbled one of the Internet's best-known companies for the past decade.

Like her predecessors as Yahoo CEO, Mayer has been unable to snap the company out of a financial funk despite spending billions on acquisitions and new projects. Yahoo's stock has sunk by 35 percent so far this year as investors' frustration with the follies have mounted, spurring calls for her replacement.

"This is like an 'emperor has no clothes' situation," says Eric Jackson, a Yahoo shareholder and managing director of the New York hedge fund Ader Investment Management. "The company and the shareholders would be better served with her leaving."

Jackson, though perhaps Mayer's most outspoken critic, isn't alone.

After conferring with investors, SunTrust analyst Robert Peck recently wrote a letter to Yahoo's board recommending that the directors consider firing Mayer. Activist investor Jeffrey Smith of hedge fund Starboard Value is urging Mayer to abandon a spin-off of the Yahoo's most valuable asset — a \$30 billion stake in Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group — and sell the company's Internet business instead.

If Mayer continues down her current course, Smith is threatening to lead a shareholder mutiny aimed at overthrowing Yahoo's board next year — a rebellion that, if successful, could lead to her ouster.

Yahoo's own employees seem dispirited as well. Mayer's approval rating among those who posted on the employer-review website Glassdoor.com has fallen to 73 percent from 99 percent after her July 2012 hiring.

At least a dozen members of Yahoo's management team have left in the past year. The departures have included two of Mayer's top lieutenants, former marketing and media chief Kathy Savitt and former development and acquisitions chief Jacqueline Reses.

Yahoo Inc. declined to comment for this article.

Mayer has repeatedly expressed confidence that Yahoo is heading in the right direction, most recently during her October review of the company's disappointing quarterly performance. "I have very aggressive expectations for Yahoo's core business," she said. "We have the right talent, the right strategy, and the right assets to drive long-term sustainable growth for our investors."

Yahoo's revenue fell 8 percent from the previous year after subtracting the company's advertising commissions, its steepest decline since Mayer became CEO. It's likely to fare even worse in the October-December quarter, given that that company expects net revenue to drop by about 20 percent.

Now Mayer is drawing up plans for another major shake-up, one likely to eliminate hundreds of jobs as Yahoo sharpens its focus on "fewer products with higher quality," as she said in October. Mayer promised more details in January.

It wasn't supposed to get this bleak with Mayer at the helm. She came to Yahoo as a widely respected technology executive who had helped build Google into the Internet's most powerful company while repeatedly outmaneuvering Yahoo with products that attracted more traffic and advertising.

Mayer's arrival was supposed to herald a promising new era after the disheartening downfalls of the four CEOs that preceded her. Those executives — Terry Semel, Jerry Yang, Carol Bartz and Scott Thompson — either resigned or were dumped when it became apparent that they couldn't revive the growth that made Yahoo one of the Internet's biggest successes during the dot-com boom of the 1990s.

Things started well. Mayer bought dozens of startups to bring in more engineering expertise in mobile devices and overhauled Yahoo's apps for weather, sports, Flickr and email. She made big splashes by hiring former NBC News anchor Katie Couric to handle online video reports and acquired the trendy blogging

service Tumblr for \$1.1 billion.

The moves haven't really paid off, although Mayer continues to boast about Yahoo's progress in the important mobile and video markets. None of Yahoo's services rank among the top 50 free apps in Apple's store, and the company's expansion into original video programming resulted in a \$42 million charge to account for the duds.

Investors are still awaiting proof that that Tumblr or any other of Mayer's acquisitions will be worth what Yahoo paid.

"Across all dimensions, her efforts haven't delivered the results that people might have expected," says S&P Capital IQ analyst Scott Kessler.

At one point in Mayer's tenure, Yahoo's stock had more than tripled from where it stood when she took over. The gains, though, were almost entirely tied to Yahoo's large stake in Alibaba, which it acquired in a \$1 billion deal negotiated a decade ago. That holding — in retrospect, Yahoo's best investment ever — soared in value as Alibaba's e-commerce bazaar boomed, prompting investors to snap up Yahoo shares in order to profit while Alibaba was still privately held.

When Alibaba went public last year, Yahoo sold a portion of its holdings and then announced plans to spin off its remaining \$30 billion stake into a new holding company to avoid paying taxes on future gains. Now that strategy, too, is under a cloud; the Internal Revenue Service has declined say that the spin-off will qualify for the expected tax exemption.

Mayer plans to complete the spin-off by January anyway. Starboard's Smith thinks she has that exactly backward; he wants Yahoo to retain the Alibaba stake and sell its websites, mobile applications and advertising services. It's unclear who would buy them, given their malaise.

Kessler likens Mayer's plight to a star quarterback who signs with a National Football League franchise that's in the doldrums. "When the quarterback starts out, people get very excited about the potential and opportunities," he says. "But when the performance on the field turns out to be less than stellar, people are understandably going to blame the quarterback that came in with so much fanfare."

Signs of steady US economy: Rising pay and solid job market

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans' pay is up, fewer people need unemployment aid, more are buying new homes and business spending is rebounding.

A flurry of data released Wednesday signaled that the fundamentals of the U.S. economy remain solid, if unspectacular, three weeks before the Federal Reserve will likely begin raising interest rates.

Consumers appear relatively confident in the economy and may be poised to spend a decent chunk of their rising incomes during the holiday shopping season. In addition, businesses are stepping up their investment in machinery and equipment, removing a persistent drag on the economy.

The steady consumer and business demand in the United States is powering the economy through economic pressures from overseas, which jolted financial markets during August and September and raised doubts about global growth.

With the U.S. job market on solid footing and wages beginning to rise, the Fed is widely expected to raise short-term rates in mid-December for the first time in nine years.

Wages and salaries jumped 0.6 percent in October, the Commerce Department said Wednesday, and data for the spring and summer was revised substantially higher. U.S. paychecks were 4.9 percent higher in October than they were a year earlier, a sizable gain. By contrast, in the first four years after the Great Recession ended in 2009, paychecks typically rose only about 2 percent to 3 percent.

"The extra growth in wage income is good news for retailers hoping for a strong holiday shopping season," said Jim O'Sullivan, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics.

O'Sullivan forecasts that the economy's annual growth rate could reach 2.7 percent in the final three months of the year, from 2.1 percent in the third quarter.

Consumer spending rose only 0.1 percent in October, though that weak showing occurred partly because the month was unusually warm and Americans paid less for heat. In the second and third quarters,

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consumer spending topped 3 percent, a historically robust level.

With incomes revised higher, the savings rate jumped last month to 5.6 percent, the highest since 2012. "History tells us that a chunk of that savings will eventually get spent," said Stephen Stanley, chief economist at Amherst Pierpont.

Measures of consumer confidence have been mixed but generally paint an optimistic picture. According to Gallup, Americans plan to spend on average \$830 on holiday shopping this winter — the most since 2007, just before the recession officially began.

And consumer sentiment ticked up this month, according to a survey by the University of Michigan. Lower and middle-income Americans were more optimistic about their personal finances in the coming year than higher-income households were, the survey found.

Still, a separate measure of consumer confidence from the Conference Board, a business research group, fell in November to its lowest point in more than a year. It found that fewer Americans expected their incomes to rise.

Even so, Americans are unleashing pent-up demand for big-ticket items such as homes and cars. Sales of new homes jumped last month and have increased 15.7 percent through the first 10 months of 2015.

Home sales have been bolstered by strong hiring and low mortgage rates. Sales of existing homes are on track to reach their highest level since 2007, even though rising prices are sidelining many potential buyers.

Separately, U.S. factories in October received more orders for long-lasting goods, including steel, machinery and computers. The increase added to other evidence that manufacturing is recovering after a generally brutal year. A higher-valued dollar has made U.S. goods more expensive overseas.

And factory output has also been held back by low oil prices, which forced oil and gas drillers to slash orders for steel pipe and other equipment.

Now, though, those drags appear to be fading.

Consistent hiring has underpinned most of the improvement in the economy this year. Employers added 271,000 jobs in October, the most since last December, and the unemployment rate reached 5 percent, the lowest level since the spring of 2008.

Solid job gains are likely to continue, at least judging from how few people are losing jobs. The number of people seeking unemployment benefits, which generally mirrors the pace of layoffs, fell to nearly 40-year lows last week.

Year-over-year inflation, which had remained stubbornly below the Fed's target rate, has now reached 1.7 percent according to a measure compiled by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. That's not far from the Fed's 2 percent target.

And Americans expect slightly higher inflation in coming months, according to the University of Michigan's survey. That could bolster the case for the Fed to raise rates at its next meeting.