

Groton Daily Independent

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Thursday, December 3

Emmanuel Lutheran WELCA Joint Bible Study Potluck Meal

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Menu: Pizza crunchers, sweet potato fries, carrots and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, tomato spoon salad, carrot bar, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Brook Anderson • Jeff Merkel • Dennis K Larson • Anthony Sippel • Jamie Rossow

6:00pm: 7th GBB at Redfield

7:00pm: 8th GBB at Redfield

7:00pm: Winter Sports Parent-Athlete Meeting at Arena

Friday, December 4

Oral Interp State Festival at Sturgis

School Breakfast: Egg and cheese omelet, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: BBQs, French fries, broccoli and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Tuna noodle casserole, peas, swedish apple pie square, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Brennan McMahon • Caitlyn Hoots • Samantha Larson • Darlys Kampa • Drew Johnson, Kella Tracy

7:00pm: BASE KAMP LODGE Open House, downtown

Saturday, December 5

Oral Interp State Festival at Sturgis

Birthdays: Ilse Cameron • Andy Jondahl • Angela Osterman • Corelea Wolter, Candence Feist

10:00am: 7th/8th GBB Jamboree in Groton

10:00am: Wrestling at Clark/Willow Lake Tourney

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

2015 Groton Area Elementary Preschool Developmental Screening for 3 year olds

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2015

Parents of children ages 3 in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to set up a screening time or to confirm their screening time.

The Developmental Screening will take place at the Groton Area High School Arena. Please park and use the east entrance to the gym.

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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Dakota Brush

Brooms, Brushes, Mops, Can Liners, Paper Products.

Get Ready for Spring With
Wash Brushes & Squeegees

397-9337

104 N. Main, Groton

South Dakota Gasoline Price 22% Less Than One Year Ago Nation has \$2 gas average squarely in its sights.

NEWS EDITORS: This is AAA South Dakota's weekly Tuesday press release detailing city-by-city regular self-serve gasoline prices. AAA has access to daily gasoline prices for 122 cities in South Dakota. Contact us for prices for any cities not on the list.

Dec. 1, 2015 – South Dakota's statewide average price for regular gasoline today is \$2.113, according to AAA South Dakota, 22 percent below the \$2.733 recorded one year ago.

"However, in some parts of South Dakota in recent days, pump prices have bucked the national trend and increased slightly," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "Nationally, the average has dropped for 25 consecutive days yet the Sioux Falls average, for example, is up almost four cents since one week ago."

	Today	Last Week	Change	Oct. 27	Change	Last year
Aberdeen	\$2.144	\$2.175	-\$0.031	\$2.370	-\$0.226	\$2.787
Brookings	\$2.124	\$2.037	\$0.087	\$2.424	-\$0.300	\$2.732
Huron	\$2.032	\$2.241	-\$0.209	\$2.299	-\$0.267	\$2.708
Mitchell	\$2.015	\$2.180	-\$0.165	\$2.395	-\$0.380	\$2.638
Pierre	\$2.279	\$2.291	-\$0.012	\$2.691	-\$0.412	\$2.858
Rapid City	\$2.275	\$2.317	-\$0.042	\$2.428	-\$0.153	\$2.956
Sioux Falls	\$1.878	\$1.841	\$0.037	\$2.124	-\$0.246	\$2.491
Vermillion	\$1.966	\$2.009	-\$0.043	\$2.254	-\$0.288	\$2.685
Watertown	\$2.049	\$2.147	-\$0.098	\$2.485	-\$0.436	\$2.820
Yankton	\$2.201	\$2.165	\$0.036	\$2.340	-\$0.139	\$2.764
South Dakota	\$2.113	\$2.131	-\$0.018	\$2.383	-\$0.270	\$2.733

"There are still many variables that could cause the nation's pump prices to change course, but it seems more and more likely the national average will break through the \$2 mark, maybe by this weekend," said Buskohl. "If that happens, it'll be the first time in almost seven years."

The national average is \$2.04 today, according to AAA, down more than 26 percent from a year ago, largely due to persistently low crude oil prices and the resolution of unplanned and planned refinery maintenance.

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration points to rising refinery runs and output reaching its highest rates since September. Demand for gasoline typically declines during the winter months and the gasoline market may become even more oversupplied in the near term, which should keep gas prices relatively low. Barring any unanticipated disruptions in supply, or swings in the price of crude oil, retail averages are expected to continue to fall leading into 2016.

Pump prices in nearly half (21) of the states are now below \$2 per gallon. Drivers in the Midwestern states of Michigan (\$1.79), Missouri and Ohio (both at \$1.81) are paying the nation's lowest averages at the pump.

Hawaii (\$2.81) leads the market and is joined by regional neighbors California (\$2.69), Nevada (\$2.52), Washington (\$2.46) and Alaska (\$2.38) as the top five most expensive markets for retail gasoline.

Oversupply and a strengthening U.S. dollar continue to impact global oil markets, keeping downward pressure on the price of crude oil. Geopolitical tensions between Russia and Turkey have yet to lead to any sustained increases in prices, and early reports indicate that tensions between the two countries will have little impact on production in the Middle East. OPEC is scheduled to meet this Friday, and analysts expect that the cartel is unlikely to reduce production despite the relatively low price of crude oil.

Domestic crude oil inventories remain elevated compared to previous years, and talks are now shifting toward the potential impacts of a surplus in gasoline inventories. West Texas Intermediate crude oil lost six cents Monday on the NYMEX, closing at \$41.65 per barrel.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.

Climate Update: Record Warm Fall season, December forecast to Bring More Heat, Sioux Falls Sets Daily Snowfall Records

BROOKINGS, S.D. - A record warm autumn ended in a winter storm across South Dakota on the last day of meteorological fall.

"The snow was a large transition with eight weather stations setting new records for warmest fall seasons (September through November) according to preliminary data from the S.D. State Climate Office and National Weather Service," said Dennis Today, South Dakota State Climatologist & SDSU Extension Climate Specialist. "A warmer than average fall season was predicted by the Climate Prediction Center, and that forecast certainly held true for South Dakota this year."

The eight stations recording their warmest fall season were Bison, De Smet, Edgemont, Lemmon, Maurine, Summit, Watertown and Waubay. Another 53 climate stations ranked fall 2015 among the top 10 warmest. Today said the remaining stations ranked this fall among the top 20 warmest.

November 2015 temperatures overall were not as remarkable. Fewer than 10 stations ranked the month among the top 10 warmest. "About 15 stations across the state ranked in the top 15 warmest on record. Temperatures were closer to average at the end of the month which kept the state away from establishing more records," explained Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist.

She explained that the significant snowstorms which hit mid-month and again on the last day of November punctuated the end to autumn.

Sioux Falls sets snowfall records

Sioux Falls set two, single-day snowfall records in the same month. A handful of weather station locations in the southeast, including Sioux Falls airport and Canton, ranked Nov. 2015 among the top five wettest in more than 100 years. Some other stations scattered across South Dakota also landed this November among the top 10 wettest; including Mt. Rushmore, Philip, Pickstown and DeSmet.

Some volunteer weather observers with the CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain Hail & Snow Network www.cocorahs.org) network reported more than 20 inches of snow for the month; including the November 30 to December 1 storm.

There were also some dry locations, which have been depicted in the U.S. Drought Monitor as Abnormally Dry (D0) for most of the month, primarily in the northeast and west - with Wasta and Ft. Meade (near Sturgis) ranking Nov. 2015 among the top 10 driest.

Climate forecast for December 2015

"The outlook for December shows relatively high probability of warmer than average conditions," Edwards said. "Beginning the week of Nov. 30, the newly fallen snow will quickly melt as warmer temperatures return."

The updated outlook, released Nov. 30, 2015 by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center, shows a 60 to 70 percent probability of warmer than average temperatures for December 2015 in northeastern South Dakota, with slightly lower probabilities over the rest of the state.

Northwestern counties are slightly more likely to be drier than average. "This area has had some events come through this fall with hit-or-miss storms," Edwards explained. "To our south, much of Nebraska is leaning towards wetter than average conditions in December. There remains some possibility of a more active storm pattern which could reach southern or southeastern South Dakota, as we saw with the snow storm a couple of weeks ago that brought several inches of snow to that area."

Dec. 15, 2015 Attend Climate and Agriculture Workshop in Mitchell

On December 15, 2015 a one-day workshop will bring climate and agriculture together. Edwards and Today are hosting the event in Mitchell at the Davison County 4-H building, at 3200 West Havens.

They will present climate trends, tools and resources for using climate information in row crop production, primarily focusing on corn and soybeans. Other presenters from South Dakota State University, SDSU Extension and USDA's Northern Plains Regional Climate Hub will show some best management practices for considering climate in agronomy, insects and plant diseases.

USDA Report Warns Climate Change Likely to Impede Progress on Global Food Security

PARIS, Dec. 2, 2015 — Climate change is likely to impede progress on reducing undernourishment around the world in the decades ahead, according to a major scientific assessment released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on global food security and its implications for the United States. The report, entitled *Climate Change, Global Food Security and the U.S. Food System*, identifies the risks that climate change poses to global food security and the challenges facing farmers and consumers in adapting to changing climate conditions. Secretary Vilsack released the report during the COP-21 Paris Climate Conference.

In the absence of response measures, climate change is likely to diminish continued progress on global food security through production disruption that lead to constraints on local availability and price increases, interrupted transport conduits, and diminished food safety, among other causes. The risks are greatest for the global poor and in tropical regions.

President Obama has pledged to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in the range of 26-28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025. U.S. agriculture is helping meet this goal, and American farmers, ranchers and foresters have demonstrated their leadership in recognition that their contributions send a strong message to the rest of the world.

"The past six years have been a success story in terms of global food security. Two hundred million fewer people are food insecure today than they were six years ago. The challenge we now face is whether we can maintain and even accelerate this progress despite the threats from climate change," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "The report we are releasing today highlights these challenges and offers pathways to avoid the most damaging effects of climate change."

"The report found that climate change is likely to cause disruptions in food production and a decrease in food safety, which in turn leads to local availability limitations and increases in food prices, with these risks greatest for the global poor and in tropical regions," said Dr. John Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. "Accurately identifying needs and vulnerabilities, and effectively targeting adaptive practices and technologies across the full scope of the food system, are central to improving global food security in a changing climate."

Food systems in the United States benefit from a large area of arable land, high agricultural yields, vast integrated transportation systems, and a high level of overall economic development. However, changes in climate are expected to affect U.S. consumers and producers by altering the type and price of food imports from other regions of the world, as well as by changing export demand, and transportation, processing, storage, infrastructure that enable global trade.

Climate risks to food security increase as the magnitude and rate of climate change increase. Higher emissions and concentrations of greenhouse gases are much more likely to have damaging effects than lower emissions and concentrations. The author team reviewed a range of scenarios. Under scenarios with continued increases in greenhouse gas emissions the number of people at risk of undernourishment would increase by as much as 175 million above today's level by 2080. Scenarios with lower population growth and more robust economic growth coupled with lower greenhouse gas emissions resulted in large reductions in the number of food insecure people compared to today. Even in these scenarios, higher greenhouse gas emissions resulted in more food insecurity than lower emissions.

Effective adaptation can reduce food system vulnerability to climate change and reduce detrimental climate change effects on food security, but socioeconomic conditions can impede the adoption of technically feasible adaptation options. The agricultural sector has a strong record of adapting to changing conditions. There are many opportunities to strengthen agricultural economies and bring more advanced methods of crop production to low-yielding agricultural regions. Other promising adaptations include reducing food waste through innovative packaging, expanding cold storage to lengthen shelf life, and improving transportation infrastructure to move food more rapidly to markets.

On April 23rd, 2015, Agriculture Secretary Vilsack announced USDA's 10 Building Blocks for Climate Smart

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Agriculture, a comprehensive set of voluntary programs and initiatives that is expected to reduce net emissions and enhance carbon sequestration by over 120 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent by 2025 - about 2 percent of economy-wide emissions. The ten "building blocks" span a range of technologies and practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon storage, and generate clean renewable energy. USDA also supports global food security through in-country capacity building, basic and applied research, and support for improved market information, statistics and analysis.

'Climate Change, Global Food Security and the U.S. Food System' was prepared as part of the United States National Climate Assessment and part of the President's Climate Action Plan. USDA led the production of the report on behalf of the thirteen Federal Agencies of the U.S. Global Change Research Program. Thirty-one authors and contributors prepared the report, representing nineteen federal, academic, non-governmental, and intergovernmental institutions in four countries.



Groton Chamber Holiday Boxes are out about in Groton!

This Week (thru 12/04) – Dairy Queen

Next Week (thru 12/13) – Lori's Pharmacy

Stop by each participating businesses 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

Today in Weather History

December 3, 1991: Strong northwesterly winds behind a departing surface low brought blizzard conditions and dangerously cold wind chill readings across west central and southwest Minnesota on the 3rd. A general 1 to 3 inch snowfall occurred across the area, and combined with winds gusting to 50 mph at times to generate whiteout conditions from the morning into the evening. Air temperatures combined with the strong wind to produce wind chill values ranging from 30 to 50 below zero. A number of schools and businesses were closed during the morning as the storm intensified. Several car accidents and jackknifed tractor-semitrailers littered roadways. Many roads were closed at the height of the storm. Power outages occurred over a small portion of the area due to the strong winds downing ice-covered power lines.

December 3, 1838: Cleveland Abbe, an American meteorologist and advocate of time zones was born on this day. He was trained as an astronomer and was appointed the director of the Cincinnati Observatory in 1868. He eventually turned to meteorology and inaugurated a public weather service that served as a model for today's National Weather Service.

1856 - A severe blizzard began to rage across Iowa and Kansas. It produced as much as 16 inches of snow in Iowa. (David Ludlum)

1926 - Yuma, AZ, was soaked with 1.10 inch of rain, and by the 10th of the month had received 4.43 inches, making it the wettest December of record. The average annual rainfall for Yuma is 3.38 inches. (3rd-10th) (The Weather Channel)

1983 - Birmingham, AL, was drenched with 9.22 inches of rain in 24 hours. The rains caused severe flash flooding which literally submerged traffic. (The Weather Channel)








1987 - Stormy weather in the northwestern U.S. finally began to abate, but not before Gold Beach OR was drenched with 7.94 inches of rain in 24 hours. Low pressure spread snow from the Upper Mississippi Valley to the Central Appalachians. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Gale force winds ushered cold air into the northeastern U.S., and produced snow squalls in the Lower Great Lakes Region. Winds gusted to 48 mph at Buffalo NY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Heavy snow and high winds created blizzard conditions in northern New England. Snowfall totals in Maine ranged up to 31 inches, at Limestone. Presque Isle ME reported a record 30 inches of snow in 24 hours, along with wind gusts to 46 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Patchy Fog then Sunny	Patchy Fog	Mostly Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy and Breezy then Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 34 °F	Low: 10 °F	High: 39 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 40 °F	Low: 21 °F	High: 40 °F



Gradual Warming As Snow Melts

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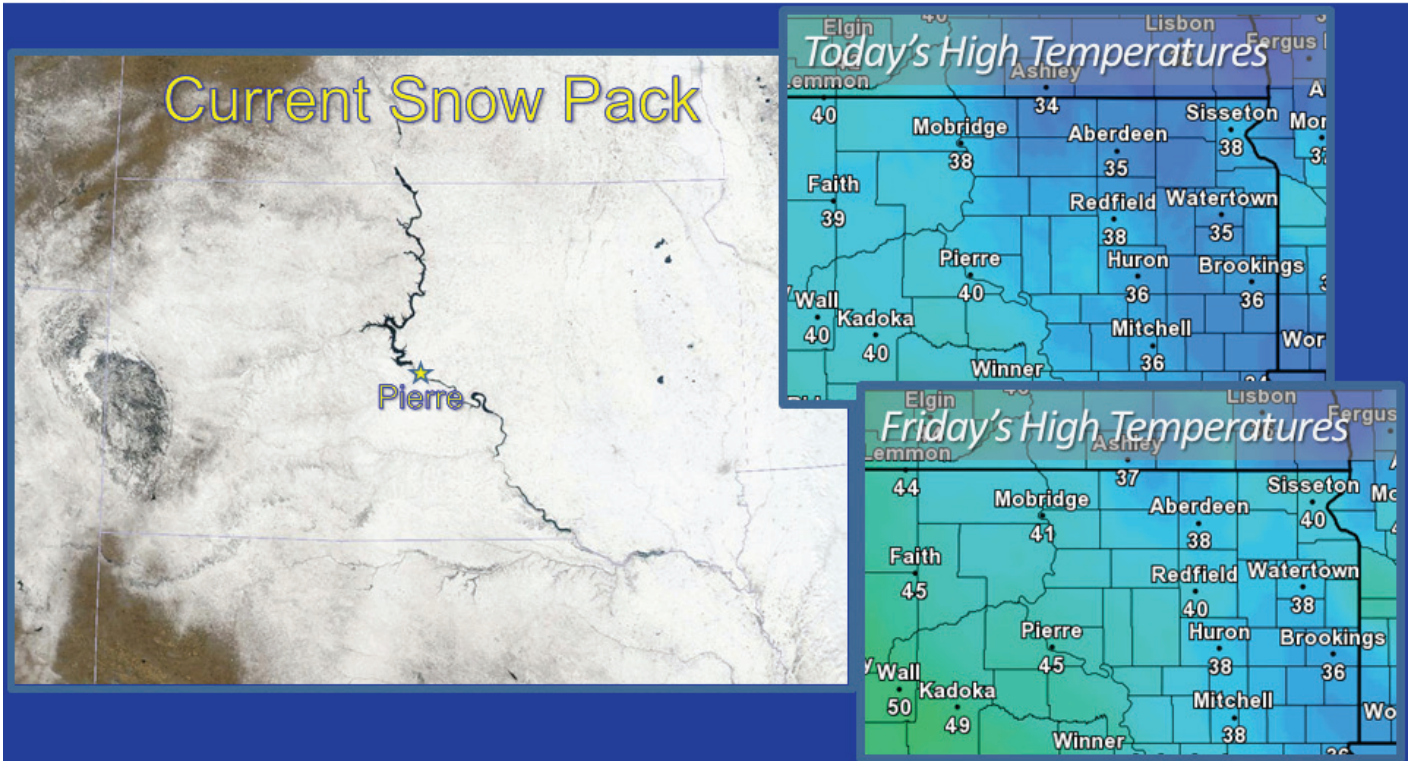
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 12/03/2015 at 4:46AM

Temperatures over the next several days will be highly dependent on how quickly the snowpack melts. But, overall, expect a gradual warming trend. No precipitation is forecast in the next week.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 32.4 at Midnight

Low: 8.5 at 8:29 PM

High Gust: 16 at 1:20 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 63° in 1941

Record Low: -18° in 1905

Average High: 30°F

Average Low: 10°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.05

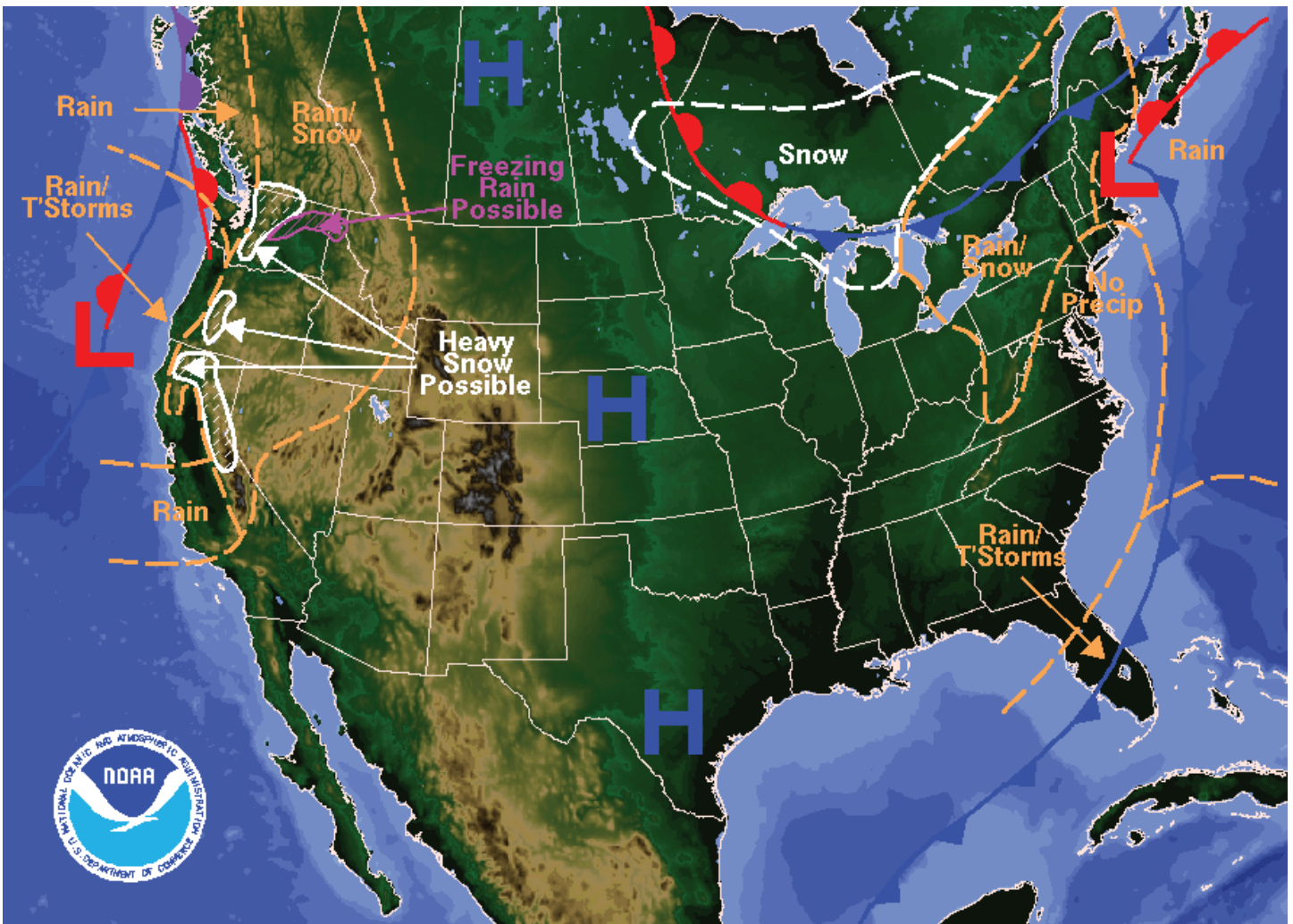
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.52

Average Precip to date: 21.25

Precip Year to Date: 20.34

Sunset Tonight: 4:51 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:56 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Dec 03, 2015, issued 3:55 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



THE WHISTLER AND HIS WIFE

A new preacher came to town. Each day as he passed one particular home on his walk to the post office, he heard a man whistling happily and loudly.

Day after day he heard the whistler. He became so fascinated with the sounds that he decided to discover where they came from. One morning the preacher opened the gate quietly and looked inside. Hearing the gate creak, "the whistler" approached the preacher asking him to come inside.

"Why do you whistle so loudly when you work?" asked the preacher.

"My wife's a cripple," he answered, "and she is also blind. I want her to know as she sits alone on the porch that I'm always close by and thinking about her. When she hears me whistling, she knows I'm not only nearby but available."

Our Lord is just like "the whistler" – always nearby and available. Although we may not hear Him or see Him, He is always present in our world. However, we must trust "Him with our worries and cares, for He is always thinking about us and watching everything that concerns us."

Prayer: Thank You, Heavenly Father, for always being nearby, for always watching over us and protecting us, and meeting our every need. May we always sense Your presence in our lives and Your love that surrounds us. In Your Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

News from the Associated Press

Highway bill in Congress would restore crop insurance cuts

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota's U.S. senators say a highway bill that Congress is poised to pass this week restores \$3 billion in cuts to crop insurance in the budget agreement completed in October.

Sens. John Hoeven and Heidi Heitkamp say the provision is important for farmers and ranchers across the country because it boosts their safety net.

South Dakota U.S. Sen. John Thune says the transportation bill also eases licensing requirements for people hauling smaller amounts of diesel fuel for ag-related uses.

The five-year, \$281 billion transportation bill is expected to pass by Friday.

Attorney General warns residents of phone scam

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley is warning residents about a scam resurfacing in the state that targets computer users.

The Consumer Protection Division has received multiple reports of residents receiving calls from someone claiming to be from the support center of Microsoft Windows wanting to gain access to the person's computer in order to make repairs.

The call begins with the scammer saying that the person's computer has an urgent problem or virus that must be fixed immediately.

Once the scammer is connected to the computer, they either obtain the person's financial information through a fraudulent "pay" website or install malicious software that combs the computer for personal information.

Jackley says people should never give remote access to their computer to any unsolicited caller for any reason.

AG warns SD residents about Windows technical support scam

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley is warning South Dakota residents about a scam targeting computer users.

Jackley says the state's Consumer Protection Division has been getting reports of residents receiving phone calls from someone claiming to be from the support center of Microsoft Windows wanting to gain access to the consumer's computer in order to make repairs.

The fraudulent call begins with the scammer telling consumers that their computers have a problem that must be repaired immediately through a remote connection. Jackley says the scammer then connects to the computers and obtains financial information and other data from consumers.

Jackley says Microsoft has issued warnings about the scam, noting that neither the company nor any of its partners make unsolicited calls to computer users.

South Dakota State beats D-II Wayne State 80-53

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Deondre Parks had 18 points and 10 rebounds, Mike Daum had a career-high 19 points in 12 minutes off the bench and South Dakota State beat Wayne State (Neb.) 80-53 on Wednesday night.

Parks scored 16 in the first half to help the Jackrabbits (7-1) build a 43-27 lead at the break. It was the 6-foot-1 senior's first career double-double.

South Dakota State extended its home winning streak to 20 and bounced back from its first loss of the season, a 64-57 defeat to Missouri-Kansas City on Saturday.

The Jackrabbits fell behind 6-2 to start the game but took control with a 22-2 run, capped by Parks on a steal and layup.

Ian Theisen and Tevin King added 10 points each for South Dakota State.
Adam Moon led the Division II Wildcats with 10 points.

Regents won't push alcohol sales on campus in 2016 session

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's higher education governing board won't push for a bill during the upcoming legislative session to allow alcohol sales on the state's six public university campuses.

The Board of Regents decided Wednesday to have a task force keep studying the issue.

State law doesn't ban serving alcohol, but on-campus sales are prohibited. Regents spokeswoman Janelle Toman says potential changes would likely be aimed at fundraising and limited special events.

Toman expects to develop a variety of proposals for consideration.

A report to the regents indicates that students at four of the six institutions support allowing alcohol sales on campus with proper safety precautions.

Opponents say allowing alcohol sales on campus could encourage binge drinking and create additional problems for the schools and the cities in which they're located.

Investors sue state over failed beef plant investment

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Thirty-five foreign investors who sunk a collective \$18.5 million into a failed South Dakota beef processing plant sued the state on Wednesday, alleging that officials misrepresented that the project was financially sound.

The investors' lawsuit claims that Northern Beef Packers in Aberdeen did not have adequate financing to generate revenue or support additional financing and was already plagued by years of delays. It seeks to recover the \$18.5 million invested into the plant.

"The project did not have any favorable or competitive position and did not have sufficient capital to commence operations and generate revenue," the lawsuit said.

Sioux Falls attorney Steven Sandven filed the suit in Hughes County circuit court against the state's economic development arm and SD Investment Fund LLC 6, the fund created for the investment. Also named are SDRC Inc., the private company that helped solicit foreign investors and its director Joop Bollen.

Bollen declined to speak to The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Tony Venhuizen, spokesman for Gov. Dennis Daugaard, said the state had not yet been served with the lawsuit but does not comment on pending litigation.

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

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

The new owners recruited another round of 70 EB-5 investors from China, but this investment fund provided loan money instead of equity shares in the company.

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

Wednesday's filing is similar to an October 2011 federal lawsuit filed by four Chinese investors who said the offering memo provided by SDRC was incomplete, inaccurate and failed to disclose risks and financing difficulties. That suit was dismissed in March 2012.

The new lawsuit representing 35 of the 70 Chinese investors claims that because the representations to potential investors were materially false, each was unlawfully solicited to invest \$530,000.

The suit attached the confidential offering sent to investors. It said the plant would be locally owned and led by a board comprised of recognized beef industry experts and that the abundance of cattle within a

150-mile radius of Aberdeen along with corn production outpacing usage would assure competitive production cost.

It also stated that the new round of financing would be mainly used to complete project construction and other operating expenses.

Authorities seek help in Clay County homicide investigation

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Authorities are asking for help in solving a 6-month old homicide case in Clay County. South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says officers continue to search for information to assist in the investigation into the death of 29-year-old Alicia Hummel of Sioux City, Iowa. Hummel was found in the late afternoon of June 1 near the boat dock at Myron Grove, also known as the Highline Area of Clay County.

An autopsy found the cause of death to be drowning, with contributing circumstances of an incised wound to the neck and blunt force injuries to the head.

An anonymous reward of up to \$5,000 has been offered for information leading to an arrest and conviction of a suspect.

Those with information should contact the Clay County Sheriff's Office at 605-677-7100.

Authorities ID Arlington woman killed in crash near Volga

VOLGA, S.D. (AP) — The Highway Patrol has identified an Arlington woman killed in a two-vehicle crash near Volga.

Thirty-four-year-old Krista O'Riley was a passenger in a car that went out of control on U.S. Highway 14 shortly after 6 a.m. Tuesday, crossed the centerline and collided with an oncoming pickup truck. She died at the scene.

The patrol says the car's driver was taken to a Sioux Falls hospital with serious injuries that are not life-threatening. The two men in the pickup were not hurt.

Fewer deer to be killed in Rapid City limits this year

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The combination of better habitat outside of Rapid City and ongoing efforts to control deer inside city limits likely will result in a significant reduction in the number of deer to be killed by city sharpshooters.

The Rapid City Council Public Works Committee has approved the killing of 100 deer, down from 150 each of the past two years. The City Council could give final approval on Monday.

State wildlife officials recommended the reduction after doing a deer survey that indicated the number of white-tailed and mule deer are down. One-hundred deer is the lowest number in a decade.

Rapid City's urban deer harvest began in 1996-97, when 192 deer were killed. Meat from the deer goes to food banks.

Suspects dead, motive sought after 14 killed in California

AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press

JUSTIN PRITCHARD, Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — A heavily armed man and woman dressed for battle opened fire on a holiday banquet for his co-workers, killing 14 people and seriously wounding more than a dozen others in a precision assault, authorities said. Hours later, they died in a shootout with police.

Authorities were trying to determine a motive, which could include workplace violence or terrorism.

Wednesday's shooting happened at a social services center for the disabled where the suspect's colleagues with the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health were renting space for a celebration. It was the nation's deadliest mass shooting since the attack at a school in Newtown, Connecticut, three

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years ago that left 26 children and adults dead.

San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan identified one dead suspect as Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, the other as Tashfeen Malik, 27, his wife or fiancée. Burguan said Farook was born in the United States; the chief said he did not know Malik's background.

The attackers invaded the Inland Regional Center about 60 miles east of Los Angeles around 11 a.m., opening fire in a conference area where county health officials were having an employee banquet, said Marybeth Feild, president and CEO of the nonprofit center.

"They came prepared to do what they did, as if they were on a mission," Burguan said.

Farook attended the event before leaving — and returning to kill.

Co-worker Patrick Baccari said he was sitting at the same table as Farook, who suddenly disappeared, leaving his coat on his chair. Baccari said when the shooting started, he sought refuge in a bathroom and suffered minor wounds from shrapnel slicing through the wall.

Baccari described Farook as reserved and said he showed no signs of unusual behavior. Earlier this year he traveled to Saudi Arabia and returned with a wife, later growing a beard, Baccari said.

The FBI is investigating several possible motives, including workplace violence and terrorism, according to David Bowdich, assistant director of the bureau's Los Angeles office. He did not elaborate.

Farook was a restaurant inspector for the health department, according to public records. Police chief Burguan said he had been a county employee for five years.

The couple dropped off their 6-month-old daughter with relatives Wednesday morning, saying they had a doctor's appointment, Hussam Ayloush, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said after talking with family. Farhan Khan, who is married to Farook's sister, told reporters he last spoke to his brother-in-law about a week ago. He said he was in shock, condemned the violence, and had "absolutely no idea why he would do this."

About four hours after the morning carnage, police hunting for the killers riddled a black SUV with gunfire in a shootout 2 miles from the social services center in this Southern California city of 214,000 people. Farook and Malik were found with assault rifles and semi-automatic handguns, and were wearing "assault-style clothing" with ammunition attached, authorities said.

Television news helicopters captured the aftermath, as officers slowly approached the mangled SUV.

In the morning, as the day's first bursts of gunfire echoed through the large three-building complex, some people locked themselves in offices, desperately waiting for police and texting or making hushed phone calls to loved ones.

"People shot. In the office waiting for cops. Pray for us. I am locked in an office," Terry Petit's daughter, who works at the center, texted him.

Petit choked back tears as he read his daughter's words for reporters outside the center, where social workers find jobs, housing and transportation and provide other services to people with disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy and epilepsy.

Olivia Navarro said her daughter, Jamile Navarro, a case manager at the social service center, called her and whispered that she was hiding in a locked room.

"I said, 'All right, I'll be there, turn off the lights, don't make a sound,'" Navarro said. "And that was it." Her daughter survived.

That the violence happened at a place dedicated to helping people with developmental disabilities — even if they were not targeted — made it even harder for some to comprehend.

"These are all disabled kids, very disabled," said Sherry Esquerra, who was searching for her daughter and son-in-law, both of whom work at the center. "She gets all the services she possibly could for these kids. So I just don't understand why somebody would come in and start shooting."

According to its web page, the center has a client base of more than 30,000 people and their families. It is a privately run nonprofit, the largest of its kind in California with about 670 employees.

FBI agents and other law enforcement authorities converged on the center and searched room to room for the attackers. Triage units were set up outside, and people were wheeled away on stretchers.

Seventeen people were wounded, according to authorities. Ten were hospitalized in critical condition,

and three were in serious condition, Fire Chief Tom Hannemann said.

Others were marched from the building, hands raised so police could search them and make sure the attackers weren't trying to slip out.

They had indeed escaped. One witness, Glenn Willwerth, who runs a business across the street, said he heard 10 to 15 shots and then saw an SUV with tinted windows pull out "very calmly, very slowly" and drive off.

As the manhunt dragged on, stores, office buildings and schools were locked down in the city, and roads blocked off.

With police looking for a dark SUV, officers staking out a home in the nearby city of Redlands saw a vehicle matching that description. Public records show the home is a possible residence of a family member of Farook.

Authorities pursued the SUV, and a gunbattle erupted around 3 p.m. One officer among nearly two dozen involved in the shootout suffered a minor injury.

A fake bomb — a metal pipe stuffed with cloth — was thrown from the SUV during the chase, said Agent Meredith Davis of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Three explosive devices — thought to be real and all connected to one another — were found at the social service center and later detonated by a bomb squad, police said.

A third person who was spotted running near the gunbattle was detained, but Burguan said it was unclear if that person had anything to do with the crime. At a late-night news conference, Burguan also said that early witness accounts of three shooters were probably wrong: "We are reasonably confident at this point that we have two shooters and we have two dead suspects."

President Barack Obama urged the country to take steps to reduce mass shootings, including stricter gun laws and stronger background checks.

"The one thing we do know is that we have a pattern now of mass shootings in this country that has no parallel anywhere else in the world," Obama told CBS.

Federal authorities said that the two assault rifles and two handguns used in the violence were purchased legally, but they haven't said how and when they got into the hands of the two shooters.

The social services center has two large buildings that require a badge to get in, said Sheela Stark, a member of its board of trustees. However, the conference room that hosts public events such as Wednesday's banquet is usually left open when visitors are expected.

Army: 2 pilots killed in helicopter crash in rural Tennessee

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Two Army pilots were killed when their helicopter crashed near Fort Campbell in rural Tennessee, the military said.

The two crewmembers were flying a two-seat AH-64D Apache during a routine training mission when the helicopter went down around 7 p.m. Wednesday, a news release from the Army's 101st Airborne Division said.

The helicopter was found in a river bottom and was on fire when first responders arrived, Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency Director Jerry Buchanan told Nashville newspaper The Tennessean.

The Army says the scene was secured by military police from Fort Campbell and Montgomery County law enforcement.

The cause of the crash has not been determined, the Army news release said. The crash was being investigated by the Army Combat Readiness Center. The names of the pilots were not immediately released, pending notification of next of kin.

Fort Campbell is located on the Kentucky-Tennessee border, about 60 miles northwest of Nashville.

Kerry: We can defeat IS within 'months' of Syrian transition

BRADLEY KLAPPER, Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — The Islamic State can be defeated within “months” of a ceasefire between Syria’s government and moderate rebels, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Thursday, urging the world to come together behind a peace strategy recently hashed out by the United States, Russia and other countries.

Kerry said air power alone won’t be enough. The campaign will require local Syrian and Arab ground forces, too, he said at a European security conference. He later specified those would be local Syrian and Arab boots on the ground, not Western troops.

Kerry has been spearheading international efforts to broker an end to fighting between Syrian President Bashar Assad’s government and non-terrorist opposition forces, and a political transition process involving elements of each side. The thinking is that peace between the government and moderates would allow the international community to focus military efforts exclusively on defeating IS, al-Qaida’s Syria affiliate and other extremist groups.

Iran and Saudi Arabia have endorsed the process. Iran, along with Russia, is Assad’s biggest backer. Saudi Arabia and other Sunni monarchies in the Persian Gulf have provided much of the assistance to the rebels.

Diplomats hope to start direct discussions between Syria’s government and the opposition in the next few weeks. December talks in New York have been mooted.

Kerry said a political transition would be a boon for everyone, allowing the Islamic State to be “eliminated within a matter of months.”

The U.S. has spoken generally of degrading and eventually destroying the group. It has tried to avoid timelines.

On the sidelines of the Organization for Security and Cooperation event in Belgrade, Serbia, Kerry met Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in a bid to smooth out tensions that have simmered since Turkey downed a Russian warplane last week. Turkey and the U.S. say the plane crossed into Turkish territory from Syria.

Lavrov was to meet later Thursday in Belgrade with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu. It will be the first such face-to-face conversation between high-ranking Russian and Turkish officials since the Nov. 24 incident.

Cooperation between Turkey and Russia is seen as critical for any international effort in Syria.

Underscoring the difficulty of restoring previously warm ties, Russian President Vladimir Putin accused Turkey of buying oil from the Islamic State group on Thursday. He said Turkey’s downing of the jet was a “treacherous war crime.”

'Clean coal' technology fails to capture world's attention

KARL RITTER, Associated Press

JEFF AMY, Associated Press

DEKALB, Miss. (AP) — The Kemper County power plant was supposed to be up and running by now, showing the world how to burn coal without spewing climate-warming carbon pollution into the air.

Instead, the coal plant towering over pine trees and pastures in rural Mississippi is looking like another monument to the unfulfilled promise of carbon capture technology.

Construction costs have ballooned to \$6.5 billion, at least three times the original estimate, making Kemper one of the most expensive power plants ever built and pushing up electric bills for Mississippi Power’s 186,000 customers. After repeated delays, the project now has a completion date of June 30, or two years behind schedule, and there are doubts even that deadline will be met.

Even some of those who supported the plant have turned against it, advising others to think long and hard before trying something similar.

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"I can't imagine that a regulator would approve this. I can't imagine that a company would approve this," said Cecil Brown, a Democrat recently elected to the Mississippi Public Service Commission. As a state legislator, he voted in ways that aided construction of the Kemper plant.

Carbon capture entails catching the carbon emissions from a power plant or cement or steel factory and injecting them underground for permanent storage. It's a proven technology that would allow the world to keep burning coal, oil and gas for energy while releasing little of the heat-trapping gas that scientists say is the main cause of global warming.

Despite decades of research and pilot projects, however, carbon capture is still waiting for its breakthrough, illustrating how hard it is for the world to do something about global warming even when the tools are there.

In 2013, Norway pulled the plug on a major carbon capture project it had likened to the moon landing, citing spiraling costs. Another big setback came on Nov. 25, just days ahead of the U.N. climate talks in Paris, when Britain abruptly canceled 1 billion pounds (\$1.5 billion) in funding for carbon capture technology, raising doubts about the fate of two projects competing for the money.

While high costs are the main problem, carbon capture also faces opposition from environmentalists. Groups like Greenpeace and WWF say climate action should be geared toward 100 percent renewable energy such as wind and solar power, not toward throwing a lifeline to fossil fuels.

But authoritative bodies like the International Energy Agency and the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change say that without deploying carbon capture technology on a large scale, the world may not be able to reach the U.N. goal of keeping man-made warming below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), which governments hope will stave off some of the worst floods, droughts and heat waves associated with rising temperatures.

Still, the costly technology is likely to get little attention in the Paris talks. Of the more than 170 countries that submitted action plans ahead of the conference, only eight explicitly mentioned carbon capture as a potential mitigation measure, according to an analysis by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany.

Bill Hare, who heads the Climate Analytics institute in Berlin, said carbon capture may have missed its moment when investments didn't take off despite a lot of "hype" a decade ago. Now, he said, the falling costs of renewable energy mean carbon capture has a lot of catching up to do.

"It's probably harder to get this moving now than 10 years ago," Hare said.

There are 13 large-scale carbon capture projects in the world, collecting 26 million tons of carbon dioxide a year, according to the International Energy Agency. But that's less than one one-thousandth of the world's carbon dioxide emissions.

"There's activity out there, but it's not what various organizations would have hoped for," said Juho Lipponen, who heads the IEA's carbon capture unit.

Like most carbon capture advocates, he called for stronger incentives, including a carbon price that makes it more expensive to release the pollutant into the atmosphere than to put it back in the ground.

The IEA says about \$12 billion has been invested in large-scale carbon capture projects in the past 10 years. About 80 percent of it came from the private sector, mostly oil and gas companies. The coal industry, however, is "still not going beyond the nice words," despite years of praising carbon capture as a promising clean coal technology, Lipponen said.

Benjamin Sporton, CEO of the World Coal Association, said the industry is investing in carbon-capture projects, including a power plant under construction in Tianjin, China. But he added that the technology will struggle unless it gets the same support from governments as renewable energy, which "has been driven by policy that provides \$100 billion in subsidies every year."

While the world's thousands of coal-fired power plants are the single biggest source of man-made carbon emissions, only one of them is equipped with carbon capture technology: the Boundary Dam power station in Saskatchewan, Canada. Kemper County could become the second.

Launched with fanfare last year, the Boundary Dam unit was designed to capture 1 million tons of carbon dioxide a year. However, plant operator SaskPower ran into a series of glitches and captured less than half

that amount in the first year of operation.

"These challenges are not uncommon in a large-scale industrial project during the early stages of operation, particularly a project that is the first of its kind in the world," SaskPower said in an email.

The project was initially estimated to cost 1.2 billion Canadian dollars (\$900 million), but the bill rose to 1.47 billion (\$1.10 billion), including a federal grant of 240 million (\$180 million).

For Kemper County, Mississippi Power initially estimated a price tag of \$1.8 billion when the plant was announced it in 2006. By the time construction began in 2010, the price had risen to \$2.9 billion, including improved carbon capture technology and an adjoining coal mine.

In a sprint to grab federal tax credits, Mississippi Power started construction with only 10 percent of the design completed. The company underestimated how much concrete, steel, pipe and cable and how many workers it would need to build the plant. Some parts had to be torn out and rebuilt because of design changes associated with constructing a first-of-its-kind plant.

Mississippi Power officials say they are wrapping up work now. But an engineer hired by state regulators testified in October that it is highly unlikely the utility will meet its June 30 deadline. The project is likely to forfeit \$372 million in tax credits because of delays, and shareholders of Southern Co., owner of Mississippi Power, have absorbed \$2.3 billion in losses.

Southern, the third-largest private electric utility in the U.S., stands by the project. It co-owns its key technology and would like to sell it to others.

"I know we're taking a long time, and I know we're taking some pain for taking the right amount of time," Southern Co. CEO Tom Fanning told investors on a Nov. 6 conference call. "But what you're getting out of Kemper, and you've seen it already, is that what we have built and tested is working beautifully."

Right now, though, Southern isn't planning any more such projects. Bruce Harrington, plant manager at Kemper County, said the price will come down as more are built. But he understands the concern.

"I think any thoughtful person would say you really have to look at the cost," he said.

AP Conversation: Trump calls Mideast peace 'toughest deal'

JULIE PACE, Associated Press

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

Editors Notes:

This AP Conversation is the latest in an occasional series of extended interviews with the presidential candidates on a topic of interest in the 2016 campaign

STERLING, Va. (AP) — Donald Trump says that if he's elected president, he'll know within six months whether he can achieve an elusive peace accord between Israelis and Palestinians, one of the world's most vexing challenges. But the Republican presidential candidate says he has doubts about each side's commitment to the peace process.

"I have a real question as to whether or not both sides want to make it," Trump said in an interview with The Associated Press.

The Republican presidential front-runner said his concerns are greater regarding "one side in particular." While Trump wouldn't say whether he was referring to the Israelis or the Palestinians, he said the chances for a lasting peace rest with Israel.

"A lot will have to do with Israel and whether or not Israel wants to make the deal — whether or not Israel's willing to sacrifice certain things," Trump said. "They may not be, and I understand that, and I'm OK with that. But then you're just not going to have a deal."

"If I win, I'll let you know six months from the time I take office," he added.

Trump was short on specifics about how he would tackle trying to broker peace in the Middle East, or even whether he supports the longstanding U.S. government goal of a two-state solution — saying he didn't want to show any bias in favor of one side or the other in case he does become president.

Still, the billionaire businessman who has made his skills as a dealmaker a key piece of his pitch to voters was visibly enthusiastic about the prospect of tackling the intractable foreign policy challenge.

"I think if I get elected, that would be something I'd really like to do," Trump said during the interview at his golf club in northern Virginia. "Because so much death, so much turmoil, so much hatred — that would be to me a great achievement. As a single achievement, that would be a really great achievement."

Trump said a key to peace negotiations would be meeting early in his presidency with top leaders in the region. He said he planned to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a trip to Israel "sometime after Christmas, probably."

"You know, I'm going to be probably going over there pretty soon and I want to see him, I want to see other people, I want to get some ideas on it," he said. He added that the trip had been in the works long before rival Ben Carson's recent trip to Jordan to visit Syrian refugees.

Trump said he was "big, big fan" of Israel. Yet his questioning of Israel's commitment to a lasting peace with its Palestinian neighbors could still raise eyebrows in some Republican corners.

Trump sat down and shared his views on Israel in an AP Conversation — a series of extended interviews with the 2016 candidates to become the nation's 45th president.

During his unexpected five-month run atop the Republican field, Trump's rivals for the GOP nomination have argued he lacks depth and fluency on foreign policy. At the heart of his campaign is Trump's argument that his experience in business and real estate would prepare him for negotiations with world leaders.

Trump took a similar approach in discussing Israeli-Palestinian peace, saying the only way to resolve the issue is "if you had a real dealmaker, somebody that knew what he or she is doing."

"I'll be able to tell in one sit-down meeting with the real leaders," he said.

Trump evaded specific questions about whether Palestinian demands in peace negotiations are legitimate and whether Israel should be allowed to build settlements in the West Bank without restrictions, though he said the Israeli housing projects were a "huge sticking point" in talks.

When asked whether his goal in peace talks would be a two-state solution, he said: "Well, I'm not going to even say that."

The two-state solution envisions an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel, with the boundaries negotiated in talks between the parties. The U.S. does not currently recognize the Palestinian territories as an independent state, though the U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly voted in 2012 to recognize Palestine as a "non-member observer state."

Numerous U.S. presidents in both parties have tried to broker a peace accord without success. The White House conceded this fall that an agreement won't come together during President Barack Obama's last year in office.

Perhaps just as notable: the supremely confident Trump suggesting that achieving peace in the Middle East may be the ultimate test of his capabilities as a dealmaker.

"If you can make that deal, you can make any deal," he said. "It's probably the toughest deal to make."

Trading jerseys: The latest trend in NFL fashion

DAVE CAMPBELL, AP Pro Football Writer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings had returned from a road trip, and their long-time equipment manager Dennis Ryan was bustling as usual in the back of the locker room preparing the team's gear for the next practices and game.

He pored over a clipboard, check-marking the piece of paper listing players and numbers to log the arrival of each white jersey used by the Vikings the day before.

"To make sure that we got 'em back," Ryan explained.

No, the charter airline didn't lose the luggage. This, rather, has become a weekly ritual for Ryan and his peers around the NFL. Post-game uniform trading among players has become quite the league trend.

"Most of the time, it's guys that you know really well. It's already kind of understood: 'If I don't have

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your jersey, I want it," Washington Redskins left tackle Trent Williams said. "And most times, they want yours. And so you just swap."

Whether a childhood friend, a college teammate or a challenging opponent, there's a simple guiding principle behind the exchanges: respect. The first uniform Williams snagged among the dozen-plus he's collected was Denver outside linebacker Von Miller's after a game against the Broncos two years ago. Some are framed at home. Others hang in his cubicle at the team facility.

That's where New York Jets cornerback Dexter McDougle has been keeping a jersey from Philadelphia Eagles cornerback Nolan Carroll, his former teammate and mentor at Maryland.

"I'm just collecting guys who mean something to me or impacted my life," McDougle said, adding: "I'll probably get them framed or something, one day when I have a man cave."

Tennessee Titans wide receiver Harry Douglas boasted more than 30 opponent uniforms procured over eight NFL seasons for his, uh, wardrobe. Third-year Vikings defensive tackle Sharrif Floyd is on track for an even higher total, a hobby he's so enamored with he thanked a reporter recently for asking him about it.

"I spend so much time away from my family and friends that I've got to have something to look back and say, 'Yeah, this is why and this is what it's been,'" Floyd said. "It's more of a remembrance thing for me."

Former Florida Gators are Floyd's priority, in honor of the alma mater, but Vikings star Adrian Peterson is also on his to-do list. One's own teammate ought to be the low-hanging fruit of this pastime, but Peterson is predictably a man in demand.

"It seems like every game someone is asking me for it," the NFL's rushing leader said. "Previous years, of course every now and then, but it seems like even more so this year people have been asking."

Floyd makes a preseason list of his trade targets and presents it to Ryan, as a planning courtesy for the equipment staff. The collection is not on display yet, just folded safely out of sight at home. That's to keep his family and friends, Floyd said, from greedily asking for giveaways.

These collections come at a cost.

Each player is issued one home and one road jersey per season, but they're on the hook for replacements that run, according to Ryan, around \$225 each. Vikings linebacker Chad Greenway, playing perhaps the final season of his career, decided ahead of time to buy all 16 so he could have plenty of keepsakes. Granted, these guys make a lot of money, but a jersey for the collection clearly trumps the cash in these cases.

"At least I'm putting it in something that I'm keeping forever," Floyd said.

Ryan tracks his inventory and sends replacement tallies to the team's finance department for billing. The team has a bunch of blank jerseys on hand from manufacturer Nike, and each week Ryan visits a local seamstress the Vikings work with to get the names and numbers put on. Usually there are a few per week, maybe five at the most.

Even a couple can cause a headache for the equipment staff, though.

"I was talking to a colleague on another team earlier in the season. He was out in the middle of the field watching it all go on and telling me how angry he gets just watching this," Ryan said. "I said, 'You should do what I do.' He said, 'What's that?' I said, 'Don't watch.' Just wait to check it off on Monday, and your blood pressure will be much lower."

Most of the Vikings players, like Floyd, give Ryan advance warning of their pending trades. But sometimes this is an impromptu act.

"I've had a number of guys come in on Monday apologizing," Ryan said. "I know the pressure they're under as well with some college teammate or somebody they grew up with and they want to make the switch."

Jersey swapping is common in soccer and rugby. Some date the tradition back to 1931, when France beat visiting England in soccer and the winning players were so happy they wanted a keepsake to remember the night. The ritual took off at the 1954 World Cup in Switzerland, according to FIFA, and has become routine practice since.

Like almost any trend in the world, it's fueled from attention originated on social media.

"Now you see every time someone jersey swaps," Seattle Seahawks linebacker Bobby Wagner said.

"Just like you see every time a quarterback handshakes with the other quarterback."

AP Pro Football Writers Howard Fendrich in Ashburn, Va., and Teresa M. Walker in Nashville, Tenn., and AP Sports Writers Tim Booth in Renton, Wash., Chris Lehourites in London and Dennis Waszak Jr. in Florham Park, N.J., contributed to this report.

Hawaii Supreme Court voids telescope construction permit

JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — A long-awaited Hawaii Supreme Court ruling Wednesday invalidating a construction permit for what would be one of the world's largest telescopes represents a major setback for the \$1.4 billion project on a mountain astronomers tout for having perfect star-gazing conditions.

The ruling is a victory for protesters who say they are fighting the project to curb development, preserve Native Hawaiian culture and protect the Big Island's Mauna Kea, a mountain many consider sacred.

The court ruled that the state Board of Land and Natural Resources should not have issued a permit for the telescope before a hearings officer reviewed a petition by a group challenging the project's approval.

"Quite simply, the board put the cart before the horse when it issued the permit before the request for a contested case hearing was resolved and the hearing was held," the court's 58-page opinion said. "Accordingly, the permit cannot stand."

The ruling sends the matter back for a new contested case hearing.

"Today's decision provides direction to a new land board and another opportunity for people to discuss Mauna Kea's future," state Attorney General Doug Chin said in a statement. "The attorney general's office will be advising the land board regarding next steps."

A group of universities in California and Canada plan to build the Thirty Meter Telescope with partners from China, India and Japan.

"We thank the Hawaii Supreme Court for the timely ruling and we respect their decision," TMT International Observatory Board of Directors Chairman Henry Yang said in a statement. "TMT will follow the process set forth by the state, as we always have. We are assessing our next steps on the way forward."

In 2013, the state Board of Land and Natural Resources issued a permit for the Thirty Meter Telescope, which allowed the project to proceed with construction on lands that are within the Mauna Kea conservation district. A group of opponents appealed, but a circuit court affirmed the land board's decision.

Attorneys for the state and the University of Hawaii, which manages the land, argue that the permit was approved after extensive public input.

The University of Hawaii Board of Regents unanimously approved the plan to build the telescope in 2010, which cleared the way for applying for the conservation permit. At that meeting, seven members of the public testified in favor of the telescope. No opponents spoke, though critics had been vocal about their arguments against the telescope.

While the permit appeal was before the Intermediate Court of Appeals, the opponents asked to bypass the court and have the case go directly to the Hawaii Supreme Court. The high court agreed to hear the case.

Kealoha Pisciotta, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit challenging the permit, said she hope the ruling leads to telescope officials dropping the project.

Opposition to the project became more vocal and visible when protesters blocked people from reaching an October 2014 groundbreaking ceremony. After that, the protests intensified.

Construction halted in April after 31 protesters were arrested for blocking construction. A second attempt to restart construction on June 24 ended with the arrests of 12 protesters and construction crews in vehicles retreating before reaching the site when they encountered large boulders in the road.

Protesters last month braced for another standoff when telescope officials said a crew would return for vehicle maintenance work sometime in November.

As protesters were gathering on Mauna Kea on Nov. 17, the state Supreme Court temporarily suspended the permit.

"I'm just very grateful to the heavens and the court and the people," Pisciotta said. "The people took a stand and that's significant. They did it without violence, peacefully. And that's a blessing."

Texas sues feds to block resettlement of 6 Syrian refugees

PAUL J. WEBER, Associated Press

JAMIE STENGLE, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas on Wednesday sued the U.S. government in an effort to block six Syrian refugees from resettling in Dallas this week.

The lawsuit comes after the nonprofit International Rescue Committee said it would place Syrian refugees in Texas over the objections of Republican Gov. Greg Abbott.

Texas, citing security concerns, is seeking to delay the arrival of the refugees for at least a week, until a federal judge can hear the challenge. The state says in the lawsuit that the IRC and the federal government have left Texas "uninformed about refugees that could well pose a security risk to Texans."

The Obama administration has said that states don't have the authority to block refugees. The IRC, which was also named in the lawsuit, has repeatedly noted that Syrian refugees are the most security-vetted group of people who come into the U.S. The Obama administration says that vetting is thorough and can take up to two years.

Abbott is among more than two dozen governors, mostly Republicans, who have vowed since the Paris attacks to keep new Syrian refugees from resettling in their states, expressing fears that militants planning a terror attack could enter the country under the guise of seeking refuge from war-torn Syria. About 200 Syrian refugees have settled in the U.S. since the attacks, including in states whose governors resisted, according to the U.S. State Department figures.

In Indiana, GOP Gov. Mike Pence said he met Wednesday with Indianapolis Archbishop Joseph Tobin to ask him not to bring into the state a Syrian refugee family who is expected to arrive later this month after a two-year vetting process. Tobin said he would "give serious consideration" to what Pence said.

Abbott earlier Wednesday said the resettlement agency offered "absolutely no guarantees" about safety ahead of the refugees' arrival.

"It is irresponsible for the refugee resettlement operations to put aside any type of security interest and continue to press on about this," Abbott said, speaking to reporters on a conference call from Cuba, where he was wrapping up a three-day visit.

Texas threatened the New York-based IRC with legal action last week. The group said Monday that it would continue to help all refugees in accordance with its obligations under federal guidelines. Texas responded Tuesday with demands for a moratorium on resettlements until the state received "all information" on Syrians scheduled to arrive in Texas during the next 90 days. Texas also sent a letter to the State Department seeking information on the expected refugees to "satisfy our concerns with the effectiveness of the screening procedures."

In a statement issued Wednesday night, the IRC said it "has worked in coordination with Texas officials for 40 years — to the benefit of Texas communities and the refugees we serve. Refugees are victims of terror, not terrorists, and the families we help have always been welcomed by the people of Texas. The IRC acts within the spirit and letter of the law, and we are hopeful that this matter is resolved soon."

The Justice Department said it would review the complaint after formally receiving it. The White House declined to comment.

IRC spokeswoman Lucy Carrigan has said that two Syrian families are expected to arrive in Texas in the next 10 days, including the six who are noted in the lawsuit.

Texas currently takes in more refugees than any other state, including about 240 Syrian refugees since 2011.

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The Refugee Act of 1980 dictates that refugee resettlement within the United States is managed by the federal government. State refugee coordinators are consulted by the federal government and the nine refugee resettlement agencies that have contracts with the government, but that consultation is largely to ensure refugees are settled in cities with adequate jobs, housing and social services.

Federal courts — including the U.S. Supreme Court — have upheld that immigration and admission of noncitizens to the United States is a federal responsibility and one managed wholly by the federal government.

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. SHOOTING LEAVES 14 DEAD AT CALIFORNIA SOCIAL SERVICES CENTER

The motive remains unclear for the carnage carried out by at least two attackers believed to be wearing military-style gear.

2. BRITISH LAWMAKERS VOTE TO LAUNCH AIRSTRIKES ON ISLAMIC STATE EXTREMISTS IN SYRIA

The decision to join the international military campaign comes after Prime Minister Cameron warns that Britain must strike the militants and not "sit back and wait for them to attack us."

3. WHY HEALTH CARE SPENDING IS GROWING IN US

Last year's increase — the most since Obama took office — is being attributed to expanded coverage under "Obamacare" and zooming prescription drug prices.

4. WHAT'S EMERGED AS MOST EFFECTIVE FIGHTING FORCE AGAINST ISLAMIC STATE GROUP

A U.S.-backed alliance called the Syrian Democratic Forces draws on thousands of combatants from Syria's mix of religious and ethnic groups.

5. TRIAL OPENS FOR BALTIMORE OFFICER IN FREDDIE GRAY CASE

William Porter was among officers riding in a police van when the suspect, who prosecutors say was not restrained by a seat belt, suffered a fatal broken neck.

6. HOUSE VOTES TO REWRITE 'NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND'

The bill, which now goes to the Senate, sharply scales back the federal role in American education.

7. WHY MOSCOW'S SPAT WITH ANKARA IS WORSENING

Russia's top military brass accuses Turkey's president and his family of personally profiting from oil trade with Islamic State militants.

8. TEXAS SUES FEDS TO BLOCK SYRIAN REFUGEES

The lawsuit comes after the announcement of a plan to place six refugees in Dallas over the objections of the state's Republican governor.

9. AFTER DELAYS, NASA RESUMING COMMERCIAL SHIPMENTS TO SPACE STATION

The last successful U.S. supply run was in April — and the 250-mile-high pantry isn't as full as it should be.

10. 'CYBER MONDAY' BIGGEST ONLINE SHOPPING DAY EVER

Shopping by phone, laptop or tablet jumped 21 percent to \$3.11 billion, fueled by a surge in spending via mobile devices.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 3, the 337th day of 2015. There are 28 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 3, 1965, The Beatles' sixth studio album, "Rubber Soul," was released in the United Kingdom

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by Parlophone (it was released in the U.S. by Capitol Records three days later).

On this date:

In 1810, British forces captured Mauritius from the French, who had renamed the island nation off southeast Africa "Ile de France."

In 1818, Illinois was admitted as the 21st state.

In 1828, Andrew Jackson was elected president of the United States by the Electoral College.

In 1833, Oberlin College in Ohio — the first truly coeducational school of higher learning in the United States — began holding classes.

In 1925, George Gershwin's Concerto in F had its world premiere at New York's Carnegie Hall, with Gershwin at the piano.

In 1947, the Tennessee Williams play "A Streetcar Named Desire" opened on Broadway.

In 1953, the musical "Kismet," featuring the song "Stranger in Paradise," opened on Broadway.

In 1960, the Lerner and Loewe musical "Camelot" opened on Broadway.

In 1967, surgeons in Cape Town, South Africa led by Dr. Christiaan Barnard performed the first human heart transplant on Louis Washkansky, who lived 18 days with the new heart. The 20th Century Limited, the famed luxury train, completed its final run from New York to Chicago.

In 1979, 11 people were killed in a crush of fans at Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum, where the British rock group The Who was performing.

In 1984, thousands of people died after a cloud of methyl isocyanate gas escaped from a pesticide plant operated by a Union Carbide subsidiary in Bhopal, India.

In 1991, radicals in Lebanon released American hostage Alann (cq) Steen, who'd been held captive nearly five years.

Ten years ago: Economic officials from the world's richest countries resumed their pressure on China to adopt a more flexible exchange rate as they concluded a meeting in London. Insurgents killed 19 Iraqi soldiers in a coordinated ambush northeast of Baghdad. Vice Adm. Frederick L. "Dick" Ashworth, USN (Ret.), the weaponeer aboard the B-29 that dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan, died in Phoenix, Arizona, at age 93.

Five years ago: During a surprise holiday-season visit to Afghanistan, President Barack Obama told cheering U.S. troops at Bagram Air Field they were succeeding in their mission to fight terrorism; however, foul weather prevented Obama from meeting with President Hamid Karzai in Kabul to address frayed relations. The Labor Department reported the U.S. unemployment rate had risen in November 2010 to 9.8 percent after three straight months at 9.6 percent.

One year ago: A Staten Island, New York, grand jury declined to indict police officer Daniel Pantaleo in the July 2014 chokehold death of Eric Garner, an unarmed black man stopped on suspicion of selling loose, untaxed cigarettes. Herman Badillo, a Bronx politician who was the first person born in Puerto Rico to become a U.S. congressman, died at age 85.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Jean-Luc Godard is 85. Singer Jaye P. Morgan is 84. Actor Nicolas Coster is 82. Actress Mary Alice is 74. Rock singer Ozzy Osbourne is 67. Actress Heather Menzies Urich is 66. Rock singer Mickey Thomas is 66. Country musician Paul Gregg (Restless Heart) is 61. Actor Steven Culp is 60. Actress Daryl Hannah is 55. Actress Julianne Moore is 55. Olympic gold medal figure skater Katarina Witt is 50. Actor Brendan Fraser is 47. Singer Montell Jordan is 47. Actor Royale Watkins is 46. Actor Bruno Campos is 42. Actress Holly Marie Combs is 42. Actress Liza Lapira is 40. Actress Lauren Roman is 40. Pop-rock singer Daniel Bedingfield is 36. Actress Anna Chlumsky (KLUHM'-skee) is 35. Actor Brian Bonsall is 34. Actress Dascha Polanco (TV: "Orange is the New Black") is 33. Pop/rock singer-songwriter Andy Grammer is 32. Actress Amanda Seyfried is 30. Actor Michael Angarano is 28. Actor Jake T. Austin is 21.

Thought for Today: "Facing it, always facing it, that's the way to get through. Face it." — Joseph Conrad, Polish-born English novelist (born this date in 1857, died 1924).