

# Groton Daily Independent

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## 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

## Sunday, December 6

State FFA Leadership CDE in Pierre

**Birthdays:** Maddie Howard • Nancy Sundstrom

• Karen Wolter

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

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

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship with Communion

9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

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

10:00am: St. John's Lutheran Christmas Program practice

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship with Communion

## 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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Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

**605-725-WOOD**

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



**DAKOTA TREE  
COMPANY**

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## **C&MA Church Christmas Program is Dec. 13**

The Groton Christian and Missionary Alliance Church will once again host their very special 18th Christmas celebration on Sunday, December 13th, beginning at 5:30 pm when they present their Christmas pageant, "Fact or Fiction; The CHRISTMAS Edition" created and arranged by Celeste and David T. Clydesdale. The pageant, featuring the church choir members and youth will be preceded by the Children's Nativity and Caroling program, and followed by the congregation sharing in serving their complete turkey/ham with all the trimmings Christmas dinner to everyone who attends as their gift to the community. The public is invited.

The pageant centers around a Game Show, "Fact or Fiction" and is very humorous, but has three important teachings that the composer couple wanted to emphasize in the presentation. Number One is stressing the importance of knowing God's Word in this day and age because "You can't stand on promises if you don't know what they are!" Secondly, in addition to KNOWING God's Word, we have to know how to APPLY it to our lives. As Dwight L. Moody, the famous 19th century evangelist used to say "The Bible was not given to INCREASE knowledge, but to change our lives!" Thirdly, the whole reason Jesus came to earth was to restore humanity to the LORD through forgiveness. During the performance the contestants on 'Fact or Fiction' find that "Nothing says Christmas like forgiveness!"

Celebrate 'forgiving as the LORD has forgiven us' this Christmas season with the congregation of the Groton C&MA Church on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at its church, located at 706 N. Main Street in Groton, across from the city park, and then return on Thursday, December 24th at 5 pm for its Candlelight/Carol service and welcome into your hearts once again the Reason for this Season, Jesus the Christ, our LORD and Savior.

Pastor Doug Duncan and the congregation of the Groton Church welcome you in love.

## Comment period open on power line to cross Wetlands

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) have been working with Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. on the proposed construction of the Big Stone to Ellendale 345 kV transmission line where it impacts FWS protected easement interests. This line crosses portions of Grant, Day, and Brown Counties in South Dakota and Dickey County in North Dakota.

There will be a total of thirty-three pole structures placed on Grassland Easements and three pole structures in wetlands on Wetland Easements over the approximately 170 miles of transmission line. The thirty-six structures will result in a permanent loss of 0.005 of wetland acres and 0.475 of grassland acres for a total loss of 0.48 acres. Project owners have agreed to replace the lost acres as specified by the FWS.

An Environmental Assessment and Compatibility Determination are now available for this project. These documents are available online at:

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/waubay/>

Public comment is being taken from December 1 – 31, 2015 at:

BSSE Comments

Waubay NWR

44401 134A Street

Waubay SD 57273

Waubay@fws.gov

Please contact the above address to request a paper copy.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

## BASE KAMP LODGE

### Open House

(formerly Thursty's)

Main Street, Groton

Friday, Dec. 4th

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Stop in for Hors d'oeuvres

## Thune Statement on Passage of Bipartisan, Five-Year Transportation Bill

"Passing a bipartisan, multi-year transportation bill is a big win for America, especially for states like South Dakota that depend on a reliable and effective transportation system."

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.), chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, issued the following statement on the Senate's bipartisan passage of the five-year Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act conference report. The FAST Act contains several Thune-led transportation and safety initiatives that benefit South Dakota, including provisions that were included in the Senate's multi-year transportation bill that passed earlier this summer. Following a 359-65 vote in the House of Representatives, the Senate approved the measure by a vote of 83-16. The bill will now be sent to the president for his signature.

"Passing a bipartisan, multi-year transportation bill is a big win for America, especially for states like South Dakota that depend on a reliable and effective transportation system," said Thune. "This bill, which will soon reverse the trend of passing one short-term patch after another, will end uncertainty for our transportation system and make important investments in infrastructure projects in our state and around the country. These necessary investments will spur much-needed job creation and sustained economic growth in communities across our region.

"I am proud of the work the Commerce Committee contributed to this effort and was humbled to have been selected to serve on the conference committee that negotiated the final version of this bill that is now headed to President Obama for his signature. The Republican-led Senate has worked hard this year to pass meaningful legislation that helps our economy and puts America in a better, more competitive position. The FAST Act is one more legislative achievement we can add to that list."

Last month, Thune was named to the highway bill conference committee, which ensured South Dakota's interests would be represented at the negotiating table.

### FAST Act highlights:

- Increased highway investment levels: South Dakota is estimated to receive a \$133 million increase in overall highway spending over the next five years. South Dakota's apportioned highway funding will grow from \$272 million in 2015 to an estimated \$286 million in 2016 – and ultimately \$312 million in 2020.
- Increased transit investment levels: Funding for transit in South Dakota will grow from \$15.5 million in 2015 to an estimated \$16.6 million in 2016, and approximately \$17.8 million in 2020.
- Increased tribal transportation investment levels: The existing Tribal Transportation Program that addresses tribal road and bridge infrastructure needs will be funded at \$465 million in 2016, an increase of \$15 million from current levels, and will grow to \$505 million in 2020.
- Covered Farm Vehicles: Protects states from losing federal funding for granting additional regulatory relief to specially designated farm vehicles and drivers.
- Agriculture hours of service (HOS) relief: Provides HOS relief for truck drivers transporting bees or livestock by making permanent the temporary rest break flexibility option.

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- Construction HOS relief: Drivers transporting construction materials will have a larger radius they can operate in before additional paperwork requirements, including logging and hours of service rules, apply.

- Custom harvesters relief: Allows states to waive special hazmat licenses for custom harvesters operating diesel tanks (less than 1,000 gallons).

- Freight formula program: Creates a freight formula funding program in which South Dakota would receive over \$8 million annually.

- Port metrics: Requires the Department of Transportation to issue yearly reports on port metrics allowing for more transparency and better planning to those that utilize our nation's ports for import or export.

- Dedicated funding for states without passenger rail: Adds freight rail eligibility to passenger rail grant programs, requires a 25 percent rural set-aside, and guarantees to states like South Dakota, which have no passenger rail, no less than 1.3 percent of appropriated funds from the programs. The total amount will depend on appropriations; if the program is fully funded, it dedicates to South Dakota no less than \$3 million per year.

- 24-7 sobriety: Rewards states for providing a 24-7 sobriety program, which started in South Dakota, by creating a new incentive grant under 23 USC 405 for states with a 24-7 sobriety program and by amending the penalty transfer section of 23 USC 164 to allow states to qualify for meeting the repeat intoxicated driver law with a 24-7 sobriety program.

- Testing of electronically-controlled pneumatic brakes: Requires a National Academies test on a new rail braking technology for unit trains carrying flammable liquids to ensure it would deliver the intended results and would not lead to network slowdowns.

For a list of FAST Act provisions that benefit South Dakota, [click here](#), and for a summary of the Commerce Committee's role in over half of the 1,300-page legislative measure, [click here](#).



## 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

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## Today in Weather History

December 4, 1993: Winds gusting to 40 to 60 mph combined with snow cover along with new snow to cause blizzard conditions making travel hazardous across north central and northeast South Dakota. Several vehicles were stranded or slid into ditches. The strong winds toppled a private building under construction at Selby in Walworth County. New snowfall amounts were generally from one to three inches.

December 4, 1952: The month of December started off with chilly temperatures in London. This resulted in Londoners to burn more coal to heat up their homes. Then on December 5, a high pressure settled over the Thames River causing a dense layer of smog to develop. The smog became so thick and dense by December 7 that virtually no sunlight was seen in London. Most conservative estimated place the death toll at 4,000, with some estimating the smog killed as many as 8,0000 individuals.

December 4, 2002: A total solar eclipse was experienced by millions of people from Africa to Australia, and from space.

1786 - The first of two great early December storms began. The storm produced 18 inches of snow at Morristown NJ, and twenty inches of snow at New Haven CT. It also resulted in high tides at Nantucket which did great damage. (David Ludlum)

1972 - Winds gusting to 70 mph sent the temperature at Livingston, MT, plunging from 52 degrees to 18 degrees in just twenty minutes. (The Weather Channel)

1982 - The temperature in New York City's Central Park reached 72 degrees to establish a record high for December. The month as a whole was also the warmest of record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A cold front crossing the Pacific Coast Region brought high winds and heavy rain to California. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 55 mph at Newport Beach CA, and Mount Wilson CA was drenched with 2.17 inches of rain in six hours. Gale force winds prevailed along the Northern Pacific Coast, and winds in the Tehachapis Mountains of southern California gusted to 60 mph. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)








1988 - Gale force winds continued to usher cold arctic air into the northeastern U.S. Winds gusted to 65 mph at Windsor Locks CT. Up to a foot of snow blanketed the higher elevations of Vermont. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Seventeen cities in the eastern U.S., including nine in Florida, reported record low temperatures for the date. Lakeland FL reported a record low of 31 degrees, and Watertown NY was the cold spot in the nation with a low of 20 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2002 - An early season winter storm brought an expansive shield of snow and ice through much of the eastern U.S., from the lower Ohio Valley, southern Appalachians and into the Northeast. Snow accumulations of 4-8 inches were common along the northern edge of the precipitation shield, while a significant accrual of glaze occurred in the Carolinas. The storm caused at least 17 fatalities, mostly from traffic accidents (CNN). In the Carolinas, electric utilities provider Duke Power characterized the ice storm as the worst in the company's history, with 1.2 million customers or nearly half its entire customer base without power on the morning of the 5th. This surpassed electrical outages inflicted by Hurricane Hugo as it swept through the central Carolinas in September 1989.

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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy and Breezy then Mostly Cloudy	Pachy Fog then Partly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 34 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 41 °F	Low: 17 °F	High: 40 °F	Low: 22 °F	High: 41 °F



## Mild, Strong Winds Northeast SD

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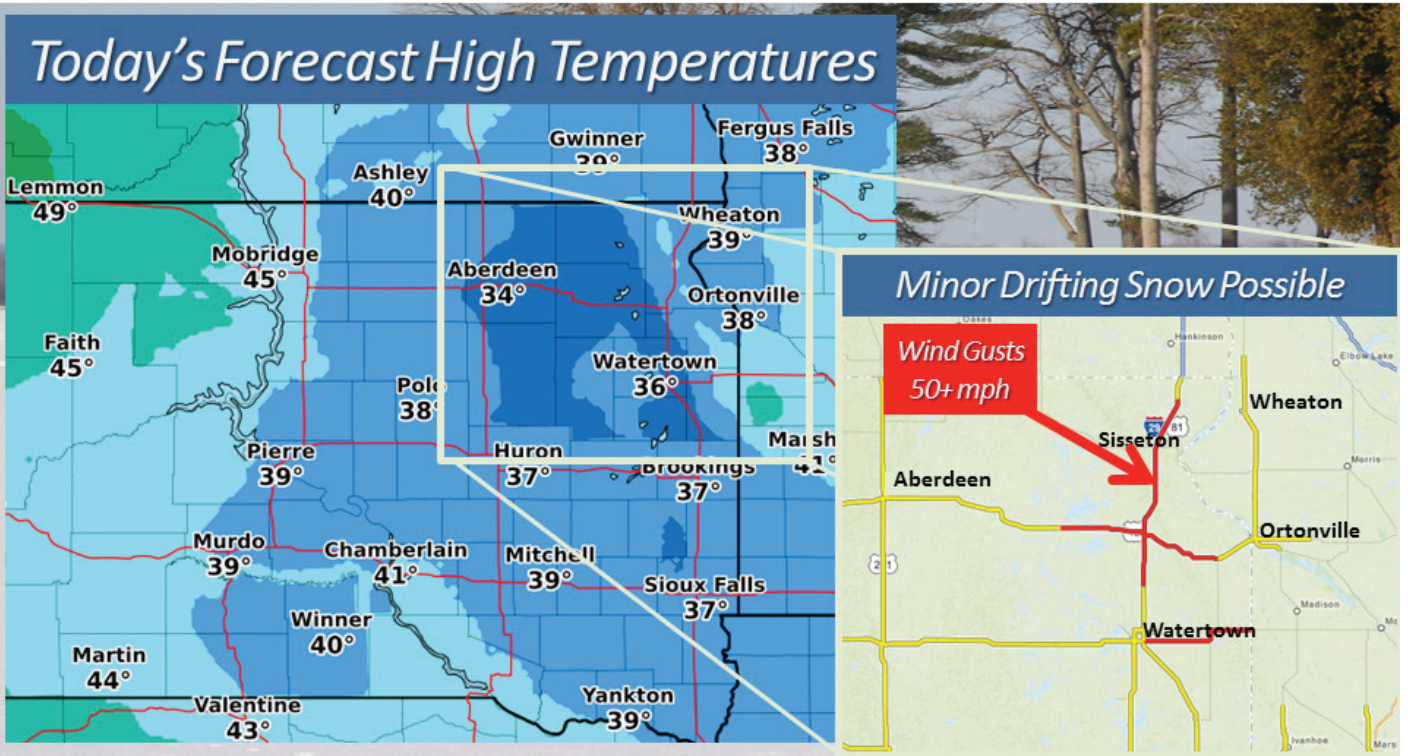
[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 12/04/2015 at 5:30AM

Breezy southerly winds are expected across the region, but especially east of the Sisseton Hills where 50+ mph wind gusts are expected to develop later tonight through Saturday morning. This may result in minor drifting snow along I-29 between Watertown and Sisseton. Otherwise, expect mild temperatures through the weekend.



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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 27.9 at 2:04 PM

**Low:** 9.4 at 12:16 AM

**High Gust:** 17 at 5:40 PM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 56° in 1979

**Record Low:** -18° in 1927

**Average High:** 29°F

**Average Low:** 10°F

**Average Precip in Dec.:** 0.07

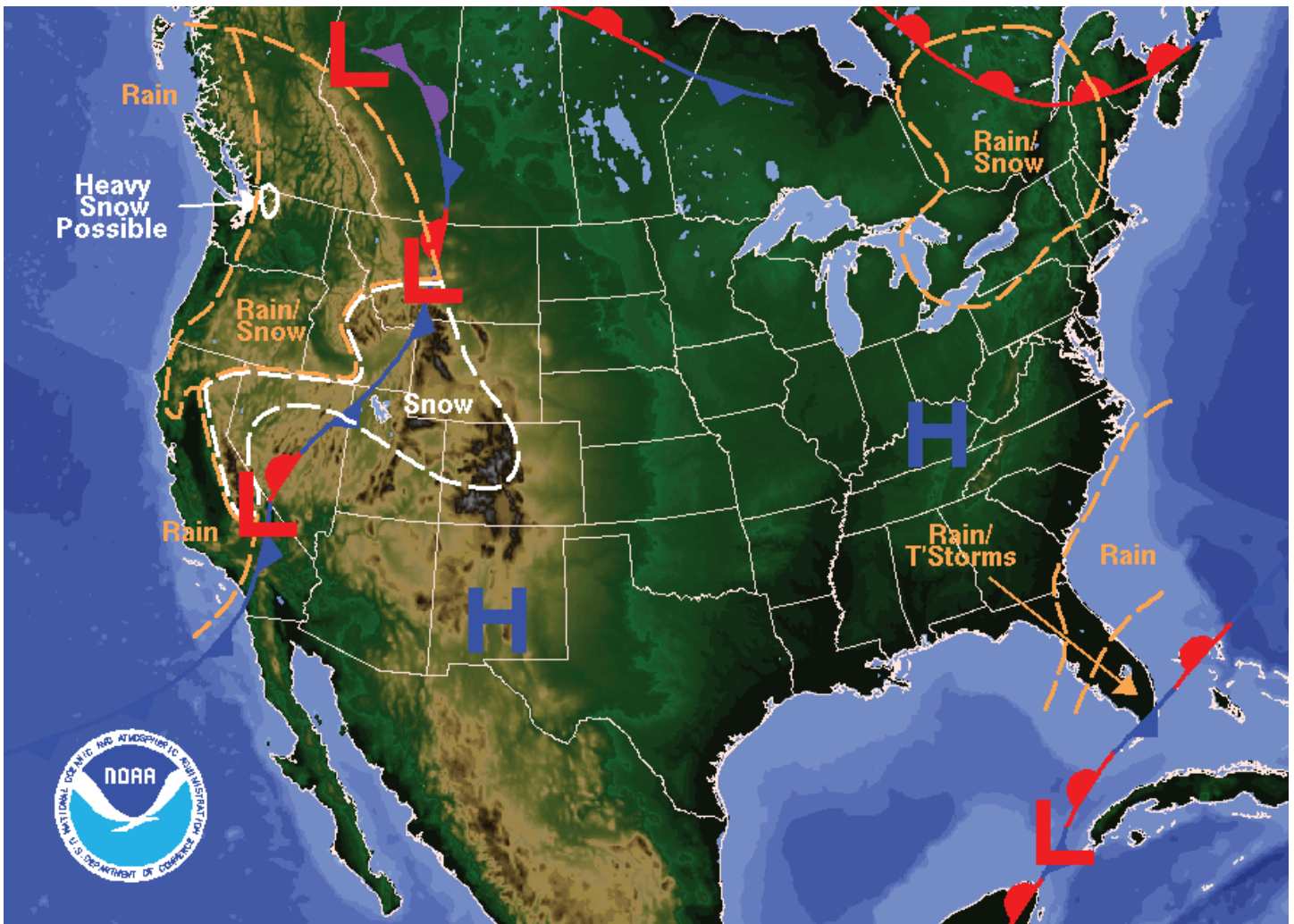
**Precip to date in Dec.:** 0.52

**Average Precip to date:** 21.27

**Precip Year to Date:** 20.34

**Sunset Tonight:** 4:51 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 7:57 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Dec 04, 2015, issued 4:06 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## THE BEST MEDICINE IS LOVE

A country doctor said, "I've been practicing medicine for over 30 years. During all those years I have prescribed many different things. But in the long run, I've learned that for most of what ails the human condition, the best medicine is love!"

"But," asked a student, "what if it does not work?"

"Double the dose," came the quick reply.

Many have said that love is the greatest medicine in the world. It can do more to heal the sick than most medicines. It is holding someone's hand, shedding a tear with a broken heart, sitting quietly beside someone who is grieving.

Love is not an emotion that is based on a passing feeling. It comes from a compassionate heart that has experienced the conversion that God has provided for us through His Son. Love is something that is born of God and given by God.

Love is a gift. Take it and let it grow.

Love is a sign. Wear it and let it show.

Love is an act. Do it and let it go.

**Prayer:** Fill our hearts, Father, with Your love. May we overcome selfishness by living lives of service as Your Son, our Savior did. In His name, Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

## News from the Associated Press

### **Rapid City police make drug busts on buses passing through**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police say they've made two large drug busts on buses traveling through the city, thanks to alert drivers.

Authorities say drivers on Wednesday and on Nov. 25 contacted them after smelling marijuana.

Officers on Wednesday seized a pound of pot along with methamphetamine, and a passenger from Missouri was arrested later in the day in Mitchell.

In the earlier incident, officers uncovered more than 7 pounds of marijuana in an overhead compartment. Police are still trying to determine who it belonged to. They arrested a passenger from Minnesota after finding a smaller amount of pot in his suitcase.

### **Man shot at Sioux Falls apartment complex; expected to live**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police are investigating the shooting of a man at an apartment complex in Sioux Falls.

Authorities say a 21-year-old man was taken to a hospital about 11:30 p.m. Thursday with a gunshot wound that is not believed to be life-threatening.

No arrests were immediately made, though police say it is a crime scene and they are interviewing witnesses.

### **Flags flying at half-staff to honor Calif. shooting victims**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Flags on public buildings across South Dakota are flying at half-staff as a sign of respect for the victims of the shooting at a social service facility in San Bernardino, California.

President Barack Obama has called for American flags to be lowered through Monday.

The U.S. flag is also being lowered to half-staff at the White House, federal buildings across the country, military installations, U.S. Navy ships, embassies and diplomatic missions.

The attack at the social service center for the disabled on Wednesday left 14 people dead. The rampage was the nation's deadliest mass shooting since 2012, when 26 children and adults were slain in Newtown, Connecticut.

### **Brazile wins first round of National Finals Rodeo**

**KEITH FREEMAN, Associated Press**

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Two-time tie-down roping champion Trevor Brazile won the first round of the National Finals Rodeo on Thursday night in 6.80 seconds to move into third place in the season standings.

Brazile, from Decatur, Texas, broke the first-round record of 6.90 set by Cody Ohl in 2004 and matched by second-place finisher Matt Schiozawa of Chubbuck, Idaho, earlier Thursday.

"That's sweet," said Brazile, the nine-time all-around champion who has 21 world titles. "I had no idea. That's a great set of calves."

Brazile pushed his season total to \$128,209. He leads the all-around at \$328,473.

Defending three-time champion Tuf Cooper of Decatur, Texas, remained the standings leader with \$140,803 after failing to finish among the top six with a time of 12.00.

In bull riding, defending champion Sage Kimzey of Strong City, Oklahoma, stayed on top of the standings with \$184,601 despite being bucked off of Psycho Patch. Parker Breeding of Edgar, Montana, won with an 86.5 on Magic Bullet. He's second in the standings with \$158,477.

In team roping, the defending championship team of header Clay Tryan of Billings, Montana, and heeler Jade Corkill, of Fallon, Nevada, finished fourth in 4.40 to maintain their leads with \$151,497 each. Header Aaron Tsinigine of Tuba City, Arizona, and Ryan Motes of Weatherford, Texas, won in 4.10.

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"It's got to be the toughest first round we've ever had," Motes said. "Right through the beginning, it was fast. Normally in the first round there are several misses, a lot of legs and stuff. Tonight, people were on point and sharp. It's a lot easier to get going when it is semi-tough."

In bareback riding, Kaycee Feild of Spanish Fork, Utah, who has won four consecutive championships and four straight NFR aggregate crowns, finished in a four-way tie for third with an 81 on Miss Dunny. Field leads the standings with \$137,559. Tim O'Connell of Zwingle, Iowa, won with an 84.5 on Dilly Bar.

In steer wrestling, K.C. Jones of Decatur, Texas, won with a 3.40 to move into third place with \$107,216. "That was a red steer that I didn't think we would be that fast on," Jones said, "but that little black mare (Smoker) I rode, she is just so fast and it worked out."

Ty Erickson of Helena, Montana, was third in 3.60, and leads the standings with \$115,433.

In saddle bronc, standings leader Cody DeMoss of Heflin, Louisiana, was fifth with an 82 on Manhattan Moon, to raise his total to \$136,166. Wade Sundell of Coleman, Oklahoma, won with an 86.5 on Fire Lane and is second in the standings with \$130,910.

In barrel racing, Callie DuPerier of Boerne, Texas, stayed on top with \$183,692 by finishing fifth in 14.08. Cassidy Kruse of Gillette, Wyoming, won with a 13.84.

## Highway bill Congress passed restores crop insurance cuts

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — U.S. senators from the Dakotas say a transportation bill Congress passed on Thursday restores \$3 billion in cuts to crop insurance made in the budget agreement completed in October, and also helps some agricultural fuel haulers.

The Senate and House overwhelmingly approved the five-year, \$305 billion bill, sending it to the White House for President Barack Obama's signature.

Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., said in a statement that crop insurance "is a lifeline for jobs and families across rural America," and Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., said it gives farmers "the certainty of knowing there is a safety net in place."

Farm-state lawmakers and agricultural groups were angered by the budget deal, saying the cut to crop insurance would hurt farmers and possibly increase the need for emergency disaster aid. They also said it would undermine improvements in the 2014 farm bill to crop insurance, which costs more than \$9 billion annually.

Sen. Mike Rounds, R-S.D., said late last month that "producers need certainty from Washington, D.C. This includes the important crop insurance safety net."

The Dakotas lead the nation in the production of wheat, sunflowers, oats, canola, honey, flaxseed, dry beans and bison.

The transportation bill also eases licensing requirements for people hauling smaller amounts of diesel fuel for agriculture-related uses, according to Sen. John Thune, R-S.D.

## Educational co-op releases audit for GEAR UP program

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — An educational cooperative that oversaw a federal college-readiness grant under investigation in South Dakota is touting what it calls positive findings from an audit of its involvement in the program.

Mid-Central Educational Cooperative released the examination of its use of GEAR UP funds on Thursday. An audit firm the cooperative hired said that it had accounted for both reimbursements paid to the organization and spending for the program over the roughly two year period reviewed.

Mid-Central board Chairwoman Pamela Haukaas said in a statement that the cooperative is pleased with what she called "positive findings" and said the organization is "committed to doing everything possible to earn and keep the trust of those school districts."

But Mid-Central did say the audit found a "limited number" of issues with some spending items submitted for reimbursement. Eide Bailly LLP, the firm that conducted the audit, said there were about 140 expenditures totaling more than \$90,000 that were potentially "problematic" because of issues such as missing documentation or signatures.

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An attorney for Mid-Central referred comment to Eide Bailly, which declined to comment. The company is set to brief the cooperative's governing board on the inquiry next week.

A spokeswoman for the state Department of Education said the agency was reviewing the audit.

Mid-Central commissioned the examination in September after a murder-suicide involving two employees raised questions about the cooperative and the program.

Hours after the state Department of Education informed Mid-Central that it was losing its contract, Mid-Central's business manager Scott Westerhuis shot his wife and four children and then set the family home near Platte ablaze before shooting himself. His wife Nicole Westerhuis was assistant business manager.

Attorney General Marty Jackley has said there's an ongoing state-federal financial investigation surrounding GEAR UP.

Eide Bailly said in the report that auditors reviewed thousands of documents including bank records, credit card statements and other information over the course of the examination.

## **SD National Guard, Suriname military reinforce partnership**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Senior leaders from the South Dakota National Guard visited the Republic of Suriname recently to reinforce a security partnership established in 2006.

The Guard and the Suriname military enjoy a cooperation relationship under the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. The two have shared experiences and best practices in a variety of military training and topics.

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the South Dakota National Guard's adjutant general, says he likes bringing soldiers and airmen serving as carpenters, plumbers and electricians to work side by side with the Suriname defense forces on community projects.

A total of 26 National Guard members went to Suriname on exchanges in 2015, while six members from the Suriname Defense Forces visited South Dakota.

## **Human cases of 'rabbit fever' have jumped up this year**

**MIKE STOBBE, AP Medical Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Health officials are seeing an increase of a rare illness called rabbit fever that was beaten back decades ago.

In the last two decades, health officials saw an average of only about 125 cases each year of the illness — known to doctors as tularemia. But there have already been 235 cases this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Thursday. That's the most since 1984.

Officials aren't sure why cases are up, but speculate that it may have to do with weather conditions that likely helped rodents — and the bacteria — thrive in certain states.

At least 100 of this year's cases have been in four states — Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. Among those cases was an elderly man who died.

Ticks and deer flies pick up the bacteria from rabbits and other small mammals and then spread it when they bite humans. People can also get it from handling dead animals or breathing in the bacteria.

Symptoms include sudden fever, headaches, muscle aches, joint pain and weakness. It is treatable with antibiotics.

The government still looks for cases because officials worry it potentially could be used as an airborne bioterrorism weapon.

Before 1940, there were as many as 2,200 cases each year.

## **Sisseton man claims \$215K Wild Card 2 jackpot**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Sisseton man has claimed a \$215,000 Wild Card 2 jackpot from the South Dakota Lottery office.

Everett "Butch" Felix Sr. is the sole jackpot winner in the Nov. 24 drawing,

Felix says his wife already has a list put together for some things she'd like to do, and he has his own bucket list of things he's wanted to do all his life. He says some of the money will also be going to his

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church, and he'll be paying it forward in other ways.

Wild Card 2 is played in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. The odds of winning the jackpot are 1 in just under 1.9 million.

The jackpot is at \$215,000 for the next drawing on Saturday.

## Mayor forms task force to chart future of Rapid City arena

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender has formed a task force to study the future of the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center.

The facility needs \$73 million in upgrades to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards. Residents in March rejected a \$180 million proposal to expand and upgrade the facility.

Allender in October assembled a 17-member advisory committee, and on Wednesday he announced the formation of a task force "to develop and sift through options."

The group will meet throughout next year to develop a plan.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

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

### 1. CALIFORNIA SHOOTER SHOWED PIOUS, PEACEFUL SIDE IN PUBLIC PERSONA

Friends are mystified how Syed Farook, a young family man with a government job, could be responsible for the commando-style assault that killed 14 people during a holiday party attended by co-workers.

### 2. EGYPTIAN NIGHT SPOT ATTACKED

A firebomb assault on a nightclub in Cairo kills 16 people and wounds three others, authorities say, reportedly by two young men who were refused entry.

### 3. 'IT'S TIME THEY OPEN'

The trendy cafe La Bonne Biere, where five people were killed by gunmen in the Paris carnage, reopens for business.

### 4. WHO IS HOLDING KEY SYRIAN MEETING

Saudi Arabia is hosting opposition groups and rebel factions next week to build unity ahead of peace talks with Damascus officials early next year.

### 5. WHY CHICAGO SHOOTING AUDIO WAS DECEPTIVE

Hours after Chicago officials released audio-free dashcam video of a white officer fatally shooting a black teen, a 35-second excerpt with sound appeared online, but experts, police and the AP conclude it was bogus.

### 6. TRUMP PICKED STOCK FRAUD FELON AS AIDE

The real estate mogul tapped Felix Sater to be a senior business adviser to his empire even after Sater's past involvement in a mafia-linked stock fraud scheme had become public, AP's Jeff Horwitz finds.

### 7. WHAT ECONOMIC QUESTIONED REMAINS UNANSWERED

As the government prepares to issue the November jobs report, will the U.S. job market finally be healthy enough to lift Americans' long-stagnant pay?

### 8. GRUNGE ROCKER DIES WHILE ON TOUR

Scott Weiland, former frontman for the Stone Temple Pilots, battled substance abuse and died in his sleep on his tour bus in Minnesota. He was 48.

### 9. CHARLIE SHEEN'S EX SUES

The "Two and a Half Men" star's ex-fiancee Brett Rossi sues the actor over HIV exposure and other alleged abuse.

### 10. PACKERS WIN ON DESPERATION HEAVE

Aaron Rodgers throws a 61-yard touchdown pass to Richard Rodgers with no time left to give Green Bay a stunning 27-23 victory over the Detroit Lions.

## California shooting doesn't fit Washington's gun debate

KATHLEEN HENNESSEY, Associated Press

Bullets were still flying in San Bernardino when President Barack Obama, sitting for a scheduled television interview, issued a now-familiar call for more gun control. Around the same time Wednesday night, in an interview at his golf course in Northern Virginia, Donald Trump labeled such shootings a mental health problem.

By Thursday, both politicians were changing their tone and their takeaways from another mass shooting in America. The details of the California massacre at a holiday party — pointing at a possible link to Islamic militants and raising questions about domestic extremism — quickly knocked both Republicans and Democrats off their talking points, upending what has become a grim and predictable ritual in American politics.

Revelations that the suspects may have communicated with extremists and stockpiled weapons awkwardly shifted the conversation from familiar arguments about gun laws to what, if anything, could be done to block radicalized, homegrown attackers from striking targets at home?

That is a far more complex debate with fewer clear-cut policy prescriptions. The president has said he worries about the difficulties of preventing a homegrown or 'lone-wolf' attacker on U.S. soil — and the limits of security measures to prevent them. For Republicans, the issue could become quick campaign fodder — although they risk politicizing a national security threat, without offering a clear alternative.

On Thursday, the president walked a fine line in the discussion, mindful of an ongoing investigation and shifting circumstances. He asked for patience, assured Americans they were safe and, notably, toned down his typically full-throated call for congressional action on gun control.

After a briefing from his national security team, Obama asked the American people and "legislatures" to find a way to make "it a little harder" for people to get guns.

"And we're going to have to, I think, search ourselves as a society to make sure that we can take basic steps that would make it harder — not impossible, but harder — for individuals to get access to weapons," he said.

For his part, Trump initially cast such shootings "a mental health issue, to a large extent," in an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday night. He offered another explanation Thursday.

"Our president doesn't want to use the term," he said. "But it turns out it probably was related — radical Islamic terrorism."

Obama's comments were a far cry from the frustrated rants he has unleashed in the wake of other mass murders. Last week, the president decried the shooting and hostage taking at a Colorado Springs Planned Parenthood facility with a statement that declared "enough is enough."

In October, after 9 people were killed by a gunman at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Ore., Obama promised to come out and speak every time such incidents occurred and said he wasn't afraid of politicizing the debate.

"I'm going to talk about this on a regular basis. And I will politicize this. Because our inaction is a political decision that we're making," Obama said at a news conference. "Unless we change that political dynamic, we're not going to be able to make a big dent in this problem."

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Thursday that Obama was not backing off his push to drive a conversation about gun measures. White House lawyers are continuing to search for ways Obama can expand required background checks without congressional approval. Earnest argued that the shooters in San Bernardino, regardless of their motives, could have been stopped if the gun laws were changed.

But Earnest conceded the proposals Obama has pushed — expanding background checks or barring people on a federal no-fly from buying guns — would not necessarily have prevented this massacre.

"This discussion is about what we can do to keep guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them," Earnest said.

Searching for a rebuttal to the Democrats' case on guns, Republicans have zeroed in on mental health.

"All the themes we see underneath these events, that's one thing that really has to get addressed," House Speaker Paul Ryan, (R-Wis.) said Thursday morning on MSNBC's "Morning Joe." Ryan was cautious not to label the shooting, before the facts were known.

But some his fellow Republicans vying for the White House were not.

Along with Trump, Sen. Ted Cruz, (R-Texas) evoked the Paris attacks and said the shooting was a reminder the U.S. is at war. Cruz told a crowd of Jewish activists that "all of us are deeply concerned that this is yet another manifestation of terrorism, radical Islamic terrorism here at home."

## Conferences protect bowl teams from taking big financial hit

**ERIC OLSON, AP College Football Writer**

Five years after Connecticut lost a reported \$1.8 million from playing in the Fiesta Bowl, college sports conferences have cut better deals with bowls and put mechanisms in place to protect schools from taking big financial hits from playing in the postseason.

When the record 80 bowl teams are announced Sunday, about 40 percent will be from the so-called Group of Five conferences whose members must be cost conscious to make ends meet. But the days of a bowl team losing money are largely over.

Mid-American Conference Commissioner Jon Steinbrecher, whose league has seven bowl-eligible teams, said he has negotiated contracts with bowl partners the last five years that have allowed him to provide schools an increasing amount of money to cover expenses.

"We didn't want to see a situation where you have what should be a celebratory thing for the institution," Steinbrecher said, "and all of a sudden you're dealing with a multimillion-dollar loss."

In general, here's the way bowl finances work: A bowl pays a guarantee amount directly to the conference for each participating team. Guarantees range from several hundred thousand dollars for lower-tier bowls, which draw most of their teams from the Group of Five, to \$4.25 million for the Citrus Bowl involving teams from power conferences. The College Football Playoff games and New Year's Six games are a different beast, paying many millions more to the conferences.

A conference puts the money it collects from bowls into a pool and draws from it to give each participating school a pre-determined amount to cover transportation, lodging, meals and entertainment. Cost overruns are covered by the schools, though conferences sometimes reimburse those that must overspend because of unforeseen circumstances. Any money left over in the pool is distributed to all schools in the league.

Connecticut's horror story centered on ticket sales, or lack of sales. UConn was allotted 17,500 tickets for the 2011 Fiesta but sold only 2,771, largely because of the distance from the East Coast to Arizona. The Big East Conference, whose last season playing football was 2012, did not have a policy to help schools absorb the cost of unsold tickets. With UConn on the hook for the leftover tickets, its bowl expenses ballooned to \$4.3 million, far over its \$2.5 million Big East stipend.

The American Athletic Conference, the football spinoff of the old Big East, is on track to have eight bowl teams this year. Spokesman Chuck Dunlap said each of those schools will have a ticket commitment — it varies by game — deducted from its allowance. Every ticket the school sells can go to paying expenses, but unsold tickets aren't an albatross.

"The setup is designed so that a school would not lose money by playing in a bowl game," Dunlap said.

Some conferences have negotiated a reduction in the number of tickets its bowl teams are required to sell. This change helps protect schools, and acknowledges that many fans choose to buy less expensive tickets on the secondary market rather than go through the school.

Also, some leagues agree to take the ticket issue out of the schools' hands altogether and absorb the total cost of those that go unsold. Of course, doing so reduces the bowl revenue distributed to conference members, but it allows individual schools to avoid extreme financial hardship.

The Sun Belt Conference, the weakest of the 10 FBS leagues, three years ago put in place a policy that gives each bowl team \$250,000 for expenses in addition to the cost of transportation to and from the bowl site. Teams have no ticket obligation and receive 50 percent of the revenue from tickets they sell. The other half goes to the conference.

"All revenue generated from all bowls will be put toward all bowl expenses," Sun Belt spokesman John McElwain wrote in an email. "Any 'out of pocket' ticket purchase requirement absorbed by the conference



is included in the bowl expenses.”

Even without being hamstrung by ticket commitments, schools sometimes do have to tap into their own resources.

The MAC gave Central Michigan a \$450,000 allowance for last year’s Popeyes Bahamas Bowl, with \$372,000 going for travel. The school reported expenses of \$595,000, with meals and lodging for the travel party of 119 causing most of a \$145,000 cost overrun the school had to cover.

“You hope to break even or get close to break even,” the MAC’s Steinbrecher said, “but with the exception of a handful of upper-tier bowls, bowls are not money-making operations. You know that going in.”

Central Michigan provided its bowl expense report but did not make athletic administrators available for comment. Steinbrecher said some schools go into bowls planning to spend their own money to enhance the experience for the team and staff or to entertain potential donors.

“What a school may do,” Steinbrecher said, “is build into its budget 50, 100 or 200 thousand dollars (for the bowl), knowing they’re going to get it back through the distribution” that conference schools receive each year.

“It’s all in how you do the accounting,” he said.

## Michigan students ascend 5-story Singing Christmas Tree

**MIKE HOUSEHOLDER, Associated Press**

MUSKEGON, Mich. (AP) — It’s not that an oversized tree adorned with ornaments is uncommon as a student choir sings carols in the days leading up to Christmas. It’s more that the towering steel tree is decorated with garland, twinkling lights . and hundreds of teenagers.

The Mona Shores Singing Christmas Tree combines the usual elements into an unusual show that will draw thousands of spectators this weekend. The 67-foot-tall tree features 25,000 lights, 5,000 linear feet of greenery, and 15 tiers on which about 220 choir members stand. About 50 other students sing from positions near the base of the tree.

“It’s basically ... a bunch of choir students standing in a tree singing Christmas music,” said Brynne Wilcox, a Mona Shores High School senior who is taking part in her fourth and final set of shows, which run through Saturday at the Frauenthal Center in Muskegon.

Freshmen are relegated to the bottom of the five-story tree, while sophomores and juniors populate the middle. Seniors set up shop in the upper levels. The very top is the domain of the “Tree Angel,” a senior selected by Shawn Lawton, the director of the Mona Shores High School Choir.

“It’s not that kid who’s the greatest singer, necessarily,” Lawton said. “But instead just someone with a lot of heart and maybe has lived through a lot and still smiles.”

Lawton picked two Tree Angels this year, marking only the second time that’s been done in the 31-year history of the show. They are alternating shows atop the tree.

Wilcox is positioned just below the angel. “It’s definitely a little scarier when you’re 14 rows up than when you’re standing on the ground,” she said.

But Wilcox needn’t worry, because Darcy Welsh and her fellow “tree monkeys” are never too far away. Welsh is one of the two dozen or so choir moms and dads who climb into the innards of the tree and stand watch on platforms located behind the singers, ready to assist those who are overcome by the height and heat from the lights shining on them.

“If we have to bring them out of the tree, we have an area with nurses, and there is food and drink,” said Welsh, herself a Mona Shores High graduate and a former Singing Christmas Tree participant.

All of the 275 student singers made it safely through a free dress rehearsal Wednesday night for members of the community with special needs, the elderly, and others who might not otherwise be able to come to the show.

Audience members roared in approval when the Singing Christmas Tree — shrouded in darkness at the start of the show — burst into light as the choir belted out “Gloria.”

“It means the world to me to carry on the tradition,” Lawton said.

## Dream of being a bird? Flight simulator can bring you close

**COLLIN BINKLEY, Associated Press**

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — With a few flaps of his arms, Kip Fenton soared into the New York City skyline, veering around a sea of skyscrapers as the wind whistled in his ears.

Then, all too soon, the goggles came off and he was back in a bright white room near Boston, no longer a bird but a 59-year-old software developer in blue jeans and a green plaid shirt. Outside a tall window, a man with a cellphone stopped to snap a photo of Fenton and the odd contraption that had given him the sense of flight.

"I've always wanted to fly," said Fenton, of Holliston, Massachusetts. "It's sort of one of those fantasy things where, if I could be an animal, I would be a bird."

The human fascination with flight is what inspired Max Rheiner, a Swiss artist and scholar, to invent the flight simulator that Fenton tested on Thursday. Called Birdly, the prototype is being exhibited through Saturday at Le Laboratoire, a small art and design center tucked in Cambridge's sprawling technology hub.

"Birdly is actually the dream of flying come true," said Rheiner, who has been taking his invention around the world since the summer of 2014.

It looks like a futuristic examination table with wings. Users climb on, belly down, and stretch their arms out to either side, resting their palms flat against tilting boards that act as the flight feathers. After they slip on a set of headphones and virtual reality goggles, the machine tilts forward to bring their legs farther off the ground.

Suddenly, the goggles fill up with a bird's eye view of Manhattan and everything is moving. During his test run, Fenton rotated his palms upward to climb toward the sky, the whole machine tilting his body upward, and then he reversed the motion to take a downward dive. To speed up, he flapped his long arms over and over.

The whole time, a nearby fan rustled his hair, and the sound of wind whirred in the headphones. When he turned his head, he had a sweeping view of the entire horizon.

"That was great. I loved it," he said afterward. "The turning and the diving was all pretty straightforward."

Because there's no way to know how a bird feels in flight, Rheiner and his team tried to replicate human dreams of flying.

"People who have dreams about flying, they can just fly without training and they have great feelings," he said. "We tried to model this experience like those dreams."

They aimed to make the maneuvers as intuitive as possible. After a couple minutes, most people pick it up naturally, Rheiner said.

On Wednesday, the exhibit's opening day, more than 100 visitors lined up to spend a few minutes trying the simulator. Since then, organizers have had to take appointments. Many give rave reviews, but some found it jarring. Carrie Fitzsimmons, the art center's executive director, hopped off the simulator when it gave her vertigo.

After more than a year, the Birdly team is winding down its tour and ramping up its company, Somniacs, which plans to manufacture and sell the simulator soon. It won't be cheap to buy, Rheiner said, but they haven't set a price yet. He's also exploring whether the technology can be used in therapy, especially for people who use wheelchairs.

Before Fenton headed home, he had only one complaint about his flight: He wishes it would have lasted a little longer.

"I might have been more adventurous if I had known it was going to be that quick," he said. "I would pay a hundred bucks to do this for a half-hour."

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## Today in History The Associated Press

### Today in History

Today is Friday, Dec. 4, the 338th day of 2015. There are 27 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 4, 1965, the United States launched Gemini 7 with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James A. Lovell aboard on a two-week mission. (While Gemini 7 was in orbit, its sister ship, Gemini 6A, was launched on Dec. 15 on a one-day mission; the two spacecraft were able to rendezvous within a foot of each other.)

### On this date:

In 1214, Alexander II became King of Scots at age 16 upon the death of his father, William the Lion.

In 1619, a group of settlers from Bristol, England, arrived at Berkeley Hundred in present-day Charles City County, Virginia, where they held a service thanking God for their safe arrival.

In 1783, Gen. George Washington bade farewell to his Continental Army officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York.

In 1816, James Monroe of Virginia was elected the fifth president of the United States.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson left Washington on a trip to France to attend the Versailles (vehr-SY') Peace Conference.

In 1945, the Senate approved U.S. participation in the United Nations by a vote of 65-7.

In 1954, the first Burger King stand was opened in Miami by James McLamore and David Edgerton.

In 1977, Jean-Bedel Bokassa, ruler of the Central African Empire, crowned himself emperor in a lavish ceremony. (Bokassa was deposed in 1979; he died in 1996 at age 75.)

In 1978, San Francisco got its first female mayor as City Supervisor Dianne Feinstein (FYN'-styn) was named to replace the assassinated George Moscone (mahs-KOH'-nee).

In 1984, a five-day hijack drama began as four armed men seized a Kuwaiti airliner en route to Pakistan and forced it to land in Tehran, where the hijackers killed American passenger Charles Hegna. (A second American, William Stanford, also was killed during the siege.)

In 1991, Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson, the longest held of the Western hostages in Lebanon, was released after nearly seven years in captivity.

In 1996, the Mars Pathfinder lifted off from Cape Canaveral and began speeding toward the red planet on a 310 million-mile odyssey. (It arrived on Mars in July 1997.)

**Ten years ago:** Members of the former Sept. 11 commission, appearing on the Sunday talk shows, said the U.S. was at great risk for more terrorist attacks because Congress and the White House had failed to enact several strong security measures. Show business legends Robert Redford, Tina Turner, Tony Bennett, Julie Harris and ballerina Suzanne Farrell headlined the annual Kennedy Center Honors in Washington, D.C. Croatia won its first Davis Cup title.

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama praised a newly sealed trade deal with South Korea as a landmark agreement that promised to boost the domestic auto industry and support tens of thousands of American jobs.

**One year ago:** The Obama administration acknowledged that many people covered under the Affordable Care Act would face higher premiums the next year. Police waged hours-long gun battles with Islamic militants who attacked Chechnya's capital of Grozny, leaving at least 20 people dead. Jeremy Thorpe, an influential British politician who'd helped revive the Liberal Party before his career was cut short by scandal, died in London at age 85.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor-comedian Ronnie Corbett (TV: "The Two Ronnies") is 85. Game show host Wink Martindale is 82. Pop singer Freddy Cannon is 79. Actor-producer Max Baer Jr. is 78. Actress Gemma Jones is 73. Rock musician Bob Mosley (Moby Grape) is 73. Singer-musician Chris Hillman is 71. Musician Terry Woods (The Pogues) is 68. Rock singer Southside Johnny Lyon is 67. Actor Jeff Bridges is 66. Rock musician Gary Rossington (Lynyrd Skynyrd; the Rossington Collins Band) is 64. Actress Patricia Wettig is

64. Actor Tony Todd is 61. Jazz singer Cassandra Wilson is 60. Country musician Brian Prout (Diamond Rio) is 60. Rock musician Bob Griffin (The BoDeans) is 56. Rock singer Vinnie Dombroski (Sponge) is 53. Actress Marisa Tomei is 51. Actress Chelsea Noble is 51. Actor-comedian Fred Armisen is 49. Rapper Jay-Z is 46. Actor Kevin Sussman is 45. Actress-model Tyra Banks is 42. Country singer Lila McCann is 34. Actress Lindsay Felton is 31. Actor Orlando Brown is 28.

**Thought for Today:** "People who have what they want are fond of telling people who haven't what they want that they really don't want it." — Ogden Nash, American humorist and poet (1902-1972).

## 8 arrested as police tear down protest camp in Minneapolis

**STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Officers on Thursday cleared away a protest encampment that sprang up in front of a Minneapolis precinct following the fatal police shooting of a black man last month, arresting eight demonstrators and erecting a fence to dissuade others from trying to return.

Police ordered around 50 chanting demonstrators to disperse at about 4 a.m. and soon began removing tents and equipment while firefighters extinguished campfires. Dump trucks carried away tents and supplies while crews removed makeshift barricades that had been blocking the street in front of the station and erected a high fence to keep people off the lawn and sidewalk.

"It was time," Mayor Betsy Hodges said at a news conference. "We have been balancing the safety needs of the precinct with the right for people to protest and have their voices be heard."

Demonstrators, led by the local Black Lives Matter group, had gathered outside the 4th Precinct station since shortly after the Nov. 15 shooting of 24-year-old Jamar Clark. He died the following day.

Police officers responding to a report of an assault in which Clark was a suspect said they arrived to find him interfering with paramedics who were trying to treat the victim. Police say a struggle followed and Clark was shot. Some community members have alleged that Clark was handcuffed when he was shot, but police dispute this.

State and federal investigations are underway.

Protesters have demanded the release of any videos showing the shooting and called for a special prosecutor to be appointed instead of leaving it up to a grand jury to decide whether the officers should face charges.

Seven people were arrested during the eviction for obstructing the legal process and another was arrested for trespassing, Police Chief Janee Harteau said. Nobody was injured, she said.

"I do want to make notice to future protests that we will continue to support and facilitate your First Amendment rights and freedom of speech. But, we will also support and enforce the ordinances of the city of Minneapolis and the laws of the state of Minnesota," Harteau said.

Protesters won't be allowed to set up similar encampments or block streets for extended periods, the police chief said.

It wasn't immediately clear when operations would return to normal at the station. The new temporary fence blocked the sidewalk along the entire block and public access to the front door. A new fence across the street left the sidewalk open, a potential place for protesters to gather.

About 200 protesters and their supporters regrouped at 4 p.m. inside Minneapolis' City Hall, and speakers continued to press their demands for the release of videotapes and racial equity. The protesters then took to the streets, chanting and disrupting traffic in downtown Minneapolis.

Nekima Levy-Pounds, president of the Minneapolis NAACP and a protest leader, said before the rally that the raid would have "a chilling effect on free speech" but vowed that the city hadn't heard the last from protesters.

Levy-Pounds, a law professor at the University of St. Thomas, said the protesters have a list of demands in addition to release of the videos and justice for Clark. They plan to push for a comprehensive criminal justice task force to look at racial disparities in law enforcement. They want the police station turned back into the community center it once was. They want better police training to eliminate the use of deadly

force against unarmed citizens. And they want more paramedics of color because they might have handled the situation that led to Clark's shooting differently, she said.

Asked whether more demonstrations or civil disobedience might be part of their strategy for achieving those goals, Levy-Pounds wouldn't rule them out.

"We're not going to take anything off the table. It's going to take all those things to get some semblance of justice for African-Americans and all vulnerable citizens," she said.

## **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 Thursday.

In response to the crash and another helicopter crash that killed four soldiers early last week at Fort Hood, Texas, the Army on Thursday grounded all aircraft in active-duty units for the next five days to review safety and training procedures.

The two crew members in Tennessee were flying a two-seat AH-64D Apache during a routine training mission when the helicopter went down around 7 p.m. Wednesday, according to a news release from the Army's 101st Airborne Division. The copter crashed in a rural field near the Cumberland River, said Fort Campbell spokesman Maj. Allen Hill. He said the helicopter was on fire when found.

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.

Hill said it could take six months to determine the cause of the crash. He said the Army Combat Readiness Center is reviewing information to determine whether there were any communications from the pilots before the crash.

Weather conditions in the area were good at the time — a clear night with good visibility and light wind, meteorologist Brittney Whitehead with the National Weather Service in Nashville said.

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

## **Bad weather delays US space station shipment, 1st in months**

**MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Wet and cloudy weather prevented NASA from resuming commercial space station deliveries Thursday.

The space agency was looking to get back on track with the first U.S. shipment to the International Space station in nearly eight months, but thick clouds and rain prevented an unmanned Atlas rocket from lifting off at dusk with 7,400 pounds of critical supplies.

With 14 minutes left, and no better weather in sight, launch director Bill Cullen halted the countdown, praising his team for "great discipline."

The next launch opportunity is Friday, but the forecast isn't much better.

Two of the last four commercial supply runs, contracted by NASA, have failed. The first launch accident occurred in Virginia in October 2014, the second at Cape Canaveral in June. Add in a lost Russian cargo ship in April, and the cupboards in orbit have suffered.

NASA's space station program manager, Kirk Shireman, said earlier this week that without another delivery, the six astronauts' food would run out in April. A Russian supply run planned for later this month, if successful, would buy more time. Even with the resumption of American shipments, it will take a year for the 250-mile-high pantry to be as full as it was before the string of accidents, he told reporters.

Orbital ATK is using another company's rocket to launch this shipment because its own rocket, the Antares, remains grounded. The last time Orbital launched, its rocket exploded seconds after liftoff from Wallops Island, Virginia, destroying the Cygnus cargo carrier and damaging the pad.

The other private company hired by NASA to deliver supplies, SpaceX, also remains stuck on Earth, at least until next month. The company's Falcon rocket ended up in the Atlantic at the end of June, along

with a new docking port and everything else destined for the space station. It was the company's first failure since making the first commercial space station shipment in 2012.

The United Launch Alliance's Atlas V — a mighty successor of the rocket used to put John Glenn in orbit in 1962 — has never been used before on a space station mission. A second Atlas will make a supply run for Orbital in March, before the Antares is back in business.

The Antares carried out three station shipments before trouble with the old Russian-built rocket engines doomed the fourth flight. SpaceX stumbled on its eighth trip.

Orbital's newest Cygnus capsule — named after the swan constellation — holds food, clothes, Christmas presents, spacewalking gear, high-pressure nitrogen and oxygen tanks for the air supply, and science experiments.

The station-bound research includes mini satellites to be released in the weeks ahead by the astronauts. One was designed, tested and built by students at St. Thomas More Cathedral School in Arlington, Virginia — the first such effort by elementary-age children.

The 4-inch cube houses a camera for Earth picture-taking, as well as a crucifix and religious medal blessed by Pope Francis.

Also accompanying the flight: "Lots of prayers," said Principal Eleanor McCormack.

## Markets slide in US and Europe after stimulus falls short

**KEN SWEET, AP Business Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Global markets sank Thursday after the European Central Bank announced stimulus plans that came up short of what investors had forecast. The bond market was especially roiled by the ECB's move. Bond prices in the U.S. and Europe fell sharply, and yields jumped.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 252.01 points, or 1.4 percent, to 17,477.67. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 29.89 points, or 1.4 percent, to 2,049.62 and the Nasdaq composite fell 85.70 points, or 1.7 percent, to 5,037.53. The selling pushed the S&P 500 back into the red for 2015.

The ECB's stimulus plans, long awaited, came in with a thud on Thursday. The ECB announced a slight cut in one of its key interest rates in an attempt to stimulate lending and help a modest economic recovery. Investors had expected to see the ECB step up its monthly purchases of bonds as well.

"Financial markets were expecting the ECB to do 'whatever it takes' to stimulate inflation, and instead the ECB did 'maybe what it'll take' to stimulate inflation," said Guy LeBas, head of fixed income at Janney Montgomery Scott.

Europe's economy has lagged behind the U.S. since the financial crisis, and policymakers have struggled to keep the 19 countries that use the euro from falling into deflation or an economic contraction. But the President of the ECB, Mario Draghi, has been far more aggressive than his predecessors in trying new ways to boost the economy, including its current program of negative interest rates and bond buying. Expectations were high for this week's meeting.

"In the last couple of years, Mario Draghi and the ECB would typically over-deliver on what they indicated they would do to help stimulate the economy. So a lot of investors overbought bonds on expectations that Draghi would over-deliver. This time, he didn't, and he disappointed the market quite a bit," said Bob Michele, head of global fixed income at JPMorgan Asset Management.

The ECB's announcement caused the euro to jump 3 percent against the dollar, a large move for currencies, to \$1.0975. Investors had been betting against the euro ahead of the announcement, expecting that more central bank stimulus would put pressure on the currency. Investors had to unwind those positions, causing Thursday's oversized move in the currency market.

"People aren't sure where to put their money so everyone just went to cash," said J.J. Kinahan, chief strategist at TD Ameritrade.

European stocks also had one of their worst days in months. Germany's DAX plunged 3.6 percent, its biggest drop since September. France's CAC-40 index lost 3.6 percent and the U.K.'s FTSE lost 2.3 percent.

With the ECB not expanding stimulus as much as expected, European bond prices fell sharply, sending

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yields higher. If the ECB had announced more stimulus, it would have had the effect of putting downward pressure on interest rates. The yield on the 10-year German government bond soared 0.20 percentage points to 0.67 percent, a massive move in the bond market. The yield on the 10-year French government bond rose 0.20 percentage points to 0.99 percent, also a substantial move.

The sell-off in the dollar also impacted U.S. Treasuries. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note jumped to 2.32 percent, up sharply from 2.18 percent the day before.

Investors now turn to back to the U.S. While the ECB is easing policy, the Federal Reserve looks set to raise interest rates later this month for the first time in nine years. In comments Wednesday, Fed Chair Janet Yellen gave an upbeat assessment of the economy's progress since the Fed's last meeting in October, describing it as in line with its expectations for the labor market and inflation. She also was careful to point out the need to review upcoming data, including the U.S. jobs report Friday.

Economists forecast that U.S. employers created 200,000 jobs in November, and the unemployment rate remained steady at 5 percent.

In other markets, benchmark U.S. crude jumped \$1.14, or 2.9 percent, to close at \$41.08 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, which is used to set prices for international oils, climbed \$1.35, or 3.2 percent, to \$43.84 a barrel in London.

Heating oil rose 5.4 cents to \$1.359 a gallon, wholesale gasoline rose 0.3 cent to \$1.296 a gallon and natural gas rose 1.6 cents to \$2.181 per thousand cubic feet.

In metals, gold rose \$7.40, or 0.7 percent, to \$1,061.20 an ounce, silver rose seven cents to \$14.08 an ounce and copper rose three cents to \$2.06 a pound.

## After California attack, Clinton urges gun control

By **HOLLY RAMER, Associated Press**

Hillary Clinton is issuing a fresh plea for stricter gun control after a mass shooting at a social service facility in southern California, saying that no parent should have to worry about being killed at a holiday party.

Clinton spoke in New Hampshire a day after authorities say a couple killed 14 people at a banquet in San Bernardino. With officials treating the attack as a counterterrorism investigation, Clinton notes that the vast majority of Muslim Americans are also "concerned and heartbroken" over the deaths.

Clinton says instead of being intimidated by the gun lobby, Congress should at least make sure people on the nation's terrorist watch list can't buy weapons. "If you are too dangerous to fly in America, you are too dangerous to buy a gun," she says.

## AP Conversation: Trump says Mideast peace rests with Israel

**JULIE PACE, Associated Press**

**JILL COLVIN, Associated Press**

**STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press**

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

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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 stuck by his comments Thursday while speaking in Washington before the Republican Jewish Coalition, reiterating that he doesn't know "if Israel has the commitment" to reach a peace deal. He was loudly booed when he refused to say whether he supports Israel's position that Jerusalem is its undivided capital.

One of Trump's rivals for the GOP nomination, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, said at the same forum that those calling for more sacrifices from Israel "are dead wrong, and they don't understand the enduring bond between Israel and America."

In his interview with AP, 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 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."



## North Korea hunkers down for harsh winter

**ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press**

HYANGSAN COUNTY, North Korea (AP) — North Koreans are hunkering down for a harsh winter that some fear could be made worse by a poor harvest following summer floods.

In rural areas like Hyangsan County, in North Pyongan Province, about 130 kilometers (80 miles) from Pyongyang, people are out each day on snow-covered roads pulling cartloads of firewood and cabbage and stockpiling whatever else they can for the months ahead. Most have just finished preparing their kimchi — the pickled and spiced cabbage that is a staple of the Korean diet.

To get through the winter, many rural North Koreans will be using charcoal braziers or burning wood or corn husks for heat, which can lead to asphyxiation if homes shut tight against the sub-zero temperatures are not ventilated properly.

They will also be stretching out their supply of kimchi, government rations and whatever they can grow from their own “kitchen gardens” — small plots of land that families are allowed to maintain to grow food for their own needs. If they are lucky enough to have a chicken, they may have an egg or two. In some regions they might have access to a very small amount of meat and fish.

The combination of the limited variety of foods that are available and the stresses on the body from enduring the frigid weather is a major hardship for most North Koreans.

But while it has the added burden of being bitterly cold, winter is generally not the toughest time of year as far as the food supply goes. North Korea’s “lean season” is actually from March to August, when leftover supplies are depleted and the next harvest is still growing.

Conditions have also improved dramatically since the widespread famine in the 1990s, when a combination of bad weather, a dysfunctional distribution system and the fall of the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc benefactors led to a massive calamity euphemistically referred to here as the “Arduous March.” North Korea is now closer to food self-sufficiency than it has been in decades.

Even so, with a limited and often unreliable power grid, rural homes, hospitals, schools and other public places often have little or no functioning electrical heating.

And if the main crops of rice, potatoes and corn are thin and the winter crop, mainly wheat, is poor, that could make the coming lean season even leaner in a country where it is estimated that roughly 80 percent of the population still do not have an adequately varied and nutritious diet. According to the World Food Program, North Koreans consume 25 percent less protein and 30 percent less fat than the amount required for a healthy life.

Darlene Tymo, the WFP’s country director in North Korea, said that although official statistics from the North Korean government are not out yet, the main harvest of the year is believed to have been worse than last year and that could mean especially remote and impoverished areas — particularly the mountainous provinces of Chagang and Ryanggang along the border with China — could be looking at a harsher than usual winter ahead.

“All indications are that it will be down from last year and the question is what percentage down,” Tymo told The Associated Press in an interview at the WFP’s office in Pyongyang.

“The big problem that remains, and I think it’s particularly difficult in the winter, is the lack of diversity in the diet. Outside of the capital it is a population that very seriously lacks in proteins and fats, and certainly in vitamins and minerals,” Tymo said.

## Germany passes anti-IS mission; Hollande visits carrier

**By DAVID RISING, Associated Press**

German lawmakers on Friday overwhelmingly approved a broad non-combat mission to aid the coalition fight against the so-called Islamic State, including reconnaissance jets and a frigate, following a call from France for support following last month’s attacks in Paris.

The 134 million euro (\$145 million) mission will see two Tornado reconnaissance planes sent to Turkey’s Incirlik base as early as next week as part of a plan crafted by Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Cabinet earlier

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this week. The frigate is already en route to join French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle.

"The goal... is to fight and contain IS, and destroy their safe havens and their ability to lead worldwide terror operations," Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen told reporters in Berlin on Thursday before heading to Ankara for talks with her Turkish counterpart to talk over logistics and other details.

She also met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to talk about the stationing of German troops there and other aspects of the deployment, the Defense Ministry said Friday.

The mission comes after Merkel agreed to honor a request from France in the wake of the attacks in Paris to provide support for its operations against IS in Syria.

Parliament voted 445 in support of the plan and 146 against with seven abstentions.

In total, Germany plans to send up to six Tornado reconnaissance planes, a tanker aircraft and a frigate to help protect the French aircraft carrier, but won't actively engage in combat.

A maximum contingent of 1,200 soldiers was also approved, who will serve as support troops in Turkey and elsewhere, including at headquarters operations in Qatar and Kuwait.

French President Francois Hollande on Friday visited the Charles de Gaulle, France's only aircraft carrier, which was dispatched to the region a week before the Nov. 13 attacks that killed 130 in Paris.

It's been launching raids against Islamic State bases as part of the U.S.-led coalition's strikes against the group.

The French carrier had previously been deployed in the Persian Gulf from February to April this year, conducting between 15 and 20 flights per day, according to the French military.

British jets flew their first missions as part of the coalition's efforts on Thursday, striking oil fields in eastern Syria that help finance IS.

Meantime, an effort to create a united front on Syria ahead of peace talks early next year, Saudi Arabia will host Syrian opposition groups and many of the main rebel factions seeking to oust President Bashar Assad.

Saudi Arabia is a main backer of the opposition groups and next week's three-day meeting is the first it has hosted since the outbreak of the nearly five-year civil war.

Their participation is indicative of the evolution of the conflict as many groups rejected any negotiations with Damascus as long as Assad was in power. Now they will attempt to join a process that the United States and its allies say must eventually lead to Syrian President Bashar Assad's removal \_ but with no timetable for it.

A peace plan agreed to last month by 17 nations meeting in Vienna sets a Jan. 1 deadline for the start of negotiations between Assad's government and opposition groups. The plan says nothing about Assad's future, but states that "free and fair elections would be held pursuant to the new constitution within 18 months."

Among the nations that took part in the Vienna meeting were the United States, Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey. Russia and Iran have been Assad's strongest supporters since the crisis began in March 2011 while Saudi Arabia and Turkey have backed factions trying to remove the Syrian president from power.

Iran has denounced the meeting saying it will add new obstacles to a solution instead of helping to solve it.

## Japan moves up launch of anti-terrorism unit

**MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press**

TOKYO (AP) — Japan has moved up the launch of an anti-terrorism intelligence unit following the deadly attacks in Paris, the government said Friday.

The specialized unit will be set up within the Foreign Ministry next week, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said.

It will involve staff from the foreign and defense ministries, the National Police Agency and the Cabinet Intelligence and Research Office, Japan's current equivalent of the U.S. CIA.

Intelligence-gathering staff will be sent to areas susceptible to terrorist activities, including parts of Southeast Asia, the Middle East and northwestern Africa, Suga said.

He cited a "severe safety situation" in the world.

The push to improve anti-terrorism intelligence capabilities has gained urgency as Japan prepares to host a Group of Seven summit next year, and the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2020.

The office, called the Counterterrorism Unit-Japan, originally was to be launched in April, but was moved up because of the Paris attacks, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Intelligence gathering for use in counterterrorism is a new area that Japan needs to concentrate on and add more resources, said Keiichi Ono, director of the Foreign Ministry's management and coordination division.

"There is a growing need to gather intelligence that could affect Japan. Japan cannot remain unrelated to any threat of terrorism, even if it's outside the country or not directly affecting us," he said.

About 20 experts will join the unit in Tokyo at the launch, while 20 others will be assigned to Japanese embassies and other overseas posts as intelligence officers, Ono said.

Japan earlier set up an anti-terrorism panel to discuss ways to boost public safety and intelligence after two Japanese were kidnapped and killed by the Islamic State group this year in Syria.

Until then, Japan seldom had been a target of such attacks. But concerns are rising as Japan, a top U.S. ally, seeks a larger international military role under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Ono said the intelligence-gathering staff will not be like those in spy movies.

"We do not plan any activity deemed illegal," he said.

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## **Egypt: 16 killed in firebomb attack at small nightclub**

CAIRO (AP) — A firebomb attack on a small nightclub in Cairo early Friday killed 16 people and wounded three others, authorities said.

Police were looking for two young men who carried out the attack in the Agouza district because they were previously not allowed to enter, state news agency MENA reported.

The attack happened at the El Sayad restaurant, which is not officially a nightclub but is among Egypt's small local eateries that skirt taboos around drinking in this predominantly Muslim country by serving food and alcohol throughout the day, then turning into a bar until the early morning hours.

While alcohol is legal in Egypt, most restaurants and clubs don't have liquor licenses.

The Ministry of Interior, in a statement posted on its Facebook page, cited an unnamed official with its Security Information Center who said a preliminary investigation showed the attack happened after a dispute between the nightclub staff and some other people, who then threw Molotov cocktails at the entrance.

Online video posted by newspaper Youm 7 showed thick black smoke pouring through the doorway of El Sayad as onlookers milled outside unable to help. Flames were burning the inside of the building and charring the facade of the restaurant, located on the ground floor of an apartment building.