

Groton Daily Independent

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Christmas Lighting Contest Winners

- 1) Rick & Sherri Koehler – \$75
- 2) Paul & Tina Kosel – \$50
- 3) Bob & Shirley Meister – \$25
- 4) Randy & Sue Stanley – \$10

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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Saturday, December 19

Debate at Brookings

Birthdays: Jeff Howard, Tim Thurston, Brad Waage, Gretchen Dinger, Quenton Severson
10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship at Rosewood Court
11:00am: NEC Wrestling at Milbank
4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, December 20

Anniversary: Lon & Marva Gellhaus

Birthdays: • Virginia Spencer • Lisa Adler • Jim Pray • Harvey Fliehs III • Lexi Osterman
9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School
9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass
9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship with Communion
10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church
10:00am: St. John's Lutheran Christmas Program practice
10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Christmas Program: 11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship
3:00pm: 3:00 pm: Open Gym (JK-8th grade 6th grade - 12th grade 5=7 pm)
3:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran fellowship at Golden Living Center (confirmands serve)

Monday, December 21

No School

Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff noodles, mixed vegetables, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Kent Webb, Kayla Townsend, Ashley Fliehs, Steve Giedt, Eva Ellis, Gavin Englund, McKenna Tietz, Noella Graf

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

Fresh flowers, silks, home decor



Olde Bank @ Floral 

& so much more

 101 N. Main St., Groton ~ 397-8650
www.oldebankfloral.com

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GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

****Wednesday, December 23, 2015 - 7pm****

Groton Community Center

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Bills
- 3) 1st Reading Ordinance No. 703 – Snow Removal Ordinance
- 4) 2nd Reading Ordinance No. 702- 2015 Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance
- 5) Electric Rates
- 6) Request from Perry Huber
- 7) Lighting Contest Results
- 8) Exe Session – Legal or Personnel

SD Ag in the Classroom Looking for Vegetable Seed Donations

PIERRE, S.D. – If you have vegetable seed packets laying around that you won't use, South Dakota's Ag in the Classroom program would like to have them. The seed packets can be opened or new. Any kind of vegetable—peas, corn, radish, carrot, squash, pumpkin, tomatoes, etc.—are needed.

AITC will use the seeds in Ag Week kits with the book "Who Grew My Soup" by Tom Darbyshire. Seed donations can be mailed to: SD Ag in the Classroom, PO Box 402, Miller, SD 57362. Seeds are needed by Jan. 15, 2016.

For donations received before end of year, the value of the seeds can be used as a tax deduction.

For more information about South Dakota Ag in the Classroom go to www.agclassroom.org/sd or call executive director Ann Price at 605-853-6040.

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

DENR Reduces the Amount of Fluoride Required in Drinking Water

PIERRE, S.D. – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has revised a state rule to reduce the levels of fluoride required in drinking water. The new rule stipulates a recommended range of 0.5 to 0.9 parts per million (ppm) of fluoride with an optimal level of 0.7 ppm.

The rule revisions were based on a federal Health and Human Services recommendation to reduce the fluoride standard from a range of 0.7 to 1.2 ppm to an optimal level of 0.7 ppm. This is the first time the federal standard has changed since 1962.

Fluoride is a naturally occurring element in all South Dakota water supplies. Drinking fluoridated water keeps teeth strong and reduces tooth decay.

"This new lower fluoride level in drinking water is good news for people in South Dakota," said DENR Secretary Steve Pirner. "The new lower fluoride level still protects oral health, but at the same time cuts chemical costs for drinking water systems by more than \$400,000 per year."

The rules requiring fluoridation of water apply to public water systems that serve populations of 500 or more people.

Under the old rule, 77 public drinking water systems in South Dakota have been required to add fluoride to their water to bring the levels up to the recommended range. Under the new rule, approximately 25 of those systems will be able to stop adding fluoride because the natural levels in their raw water will meet the new lower range. The remaining 52 systems will have to continue to add fluoride, but they will not have to add as much to meet the new lower level.

During the rules adoption process, two commenters were opposed to adding any fluoride to drinking water. But the new rule was supported by the SD Dental Association, Delta Dental, American Dental Hygienists' Association – SD, and Community Healthcare of the Dakotas due to the benefits of fluoridation in preventing tooth decay.

Varsity teams come up with wins at Deuel

Three players hit double figures as the Groton boys defeated Deuel in varsity action, 63-54 in overtime.

Groton Area held a 16-15 lead after the first quarter and a 32-31 lead at half time. The Cardinals took a 48-40 lead into the fourth quarter and Groton rallied to come back and tie the game at the end of regulations at 53. Deuel scored only one free throw in the overtime while the Tigers racked up 10 points for the win. Seric Shabazz led the Tigers with 16 points followed by Sean Schuring with 12, Bennett Shabazz had 11, Brandon Keith eight, Aaron Serverson six, Adam Herman four and Hunter Lerew three. Groton Area had 12 team fouls with Lerew fouling out. Groton Area made 31 of 63 field goals for 49 percent, and made eight of 23 three-pointers. The Tigers had 33 rebounds with Lerew having 10 and Bennett Shabazz eight, three blocks with Lerew having two and Herman one, 12 steals with Bennett Shabazz having five and Seric Shabazz three, and 14 assists with Bennett Shabazz having five and Seric Shabazz three.

Groton Area made 15 of 20 free throws. Those making three-pointers were Sean Schuring with three, Bennett Shabazz and Brandon Keith with two each and Seric Shabazz added one.

Deuel made one of four free throws and had 11 three-pointers with Sayer Fritz having four, Brandon Longstreet and Preston Homan with three each and Ben Witte adding one. Deuel had 20 team fouls. Scoring for the Cardinals were Sayer Fritz with 18, Preston Homan with 12, Brandon Longstreet had 11, Ben Witte seven and Levi Schmahl added six. Deuel only had 10 on the varsity roster and only the starters scored. The Cardinals made 22 of 43 field goals for 33 percent, 11 of 18 three-pointers, had 32 rebounds, 10 turnovers, nine assists and three blocked shots. Deuel is 0-2 on the season, losing previously to Castlewood, 58-48.

Groton won the junior varsity game, 42-23. Scoring for the Tigers were Anthony Sippel with 16, Truitt Rogers 12, Brandon Keith 10, Johnny Doeden and Tylan Glover with two each.

The girls also won, 52-41. Carly Wheeting led the Tigers with 28 points followed by Audrey Wanner with 10, Katie Koehler had seven, Miranda Hanson three and Jessica Bjerke and Emily Locke each had two points. Wanner, Koehler and Hanson each made one three-pointer. The Tigers were 20 of 44 from the field for 45 percent, three of nine with three-pointers and nine of 20 from the line for 45 percent. Groton Area had 35 rebounds with Koehler having 10, 10 steals with Wanner having three, 15 team fouls and 15 turnovers.

No stats were available for Deuel and no results were available for the junior varsity game.



Taking Time This Christmas

According to a national study, Americans project they will spend an average of \$882 on Christmas gifts this year. That's just gifts. The figure doesn't include the decorations, the Christmas cards or Christmas dinner. And it's only an estimate.

A few years ago, Katie Hunhoff wrote a piece in South Dakota Magazine about a Christmas in South Dakota during the Great Depression. Hunhoff told the story of Hilda McKnight and her husband who ran the Home for the Poor in Charles Mix County at the time.

Hilda did all she could to provide clothing for the residents in need. One girl who lived at the home expressed appreciation for the great effort Hilda expended to provide clothes for the children, but then the girl said, "It doesn't really matter, I guess. I have this lovely skirt and they still call us 'poor house kids' at school."

Hilda turned to a pile of clothes just delivered and said, "Let's see what treasures we can find." The two dug through the donations which seemed full of useless items, until the girl found a chiffon scarf which Hilda told her to keep.

That scarf became the girl's most prized possession. She would sit on her bed and stroke the soft scarf and when she put the scarf away, it was always neatly folded. It made her feel special and as if, when she wore it, she was somewhere else.

As you can imagine, those who resided at the Home for the Poor didn't expect to receive much for Christmas. Neither did Hilda. But when Christmas came, the girl insisted that she had a present she wanted to give Hilda. So Hilda opened the box wrapped in paper and found the girl's chiffon scarf. "It's all I have, Mrs. Mac," the girl said.

Today, in a time of greater abundance, when we spend so much on gifts, it might seem odd that something as simple as a scarf could mean so much. But it reminds us that giving is not measured by the size or value of the gift, but by the love with which it is given. Gifts made with a true and sincere heart, to those we love, are tokens of our deeper feelings. Christmas is a time to be thoughtful toward the people in our lives and show our loved ones how much they mean to us. It's also a time to be charitable toward those in need.

The man who shovels his neighbor's driveway, the little girl who gives her allowance to the bell ringer and the church that opens its doors to someone without shelter – they're expressing the true spirit of Christmas.

This Christmas, take time to add sincere appreciation and love to the tangible gifts you give. Find the means, if only in a small way, to be a blessing to someone in need. Don't underestimate the immense value of your life and the difference you can make in the lives of those you touch.

Merry Christmas.



Sombke, Jones nominated for Wendy's High School Heisman

Brody Sombke and Marlee Jones, both seniors at Groton High School, were nominated for the annual Wendy's High School Heisman Award and were named school winners. The national awards program, created by Wendy's, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and the Downtown Athletic Club in New York City, recognizes academic achievement, community service and athletic accomplishments.

Marlee Jones is the daughter of Jim and Mendy Jones, Groton. Her top five awards were most valuable for soccer, most valuable thrower for track, most improved for track, National Honor Society and Hardest Worker for Swimming. Marlee is involved in the swim team, volleyball, soccer, track and FBLA. Her top five volunteer activities are youth soccer coach, youth volleyball coach, BAGS program, Kids Against Hunger and junior high basketball referee. Marlee is a lifeguard, swimming instructor and a waitress. She plans to attend the University of South Dakota and major in medical biology.

Brody Sombke is the son of Clint and Kiersten Sombke, Conde. His top five awards were distinguished scholar scholarship at the University of Minnesota - Crookston, Prudential Spirit of Community Award for 2015, Supreme champion dairy goat at open class and 4-H Brown County Fair in 2015, grand champion breeding ram in 4-H at Brown County Fair in 2015, and grand champion Nigerian dairy goat and best udder of show in 4-H and open class in 2015. His top five activities are golf, FFA, Lazy Farmers 4-H, fishing and hunting pheasants. His volunteer activities are volunteer for FFA by participating in elementary farm safety, Ag Day in Aberdeen and the Petty Zoo during the Brown County Fair; volunteering for 4-H by mowing cemeteries and cleaning at the Brown County Fairgrounds, he volunteers at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Aberdeen; he washed dishes for Thanksgiving at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Aberdeen; and he packed up meals at the "Kids Against Hunger" event. He was the caretaker of St. Paul's Cemetery and Church yard in 2013, caretaker of West Hanson Cemetery in 2013, caretaker of Verdon Cemetery from 2011 to present and is a farm laborer on the Sombke Farm. He plans to attend the University of Minnesota, Crookston, and major in water resource management.

Swisher is one of state's top corn yield winners

Travis Swisher, Groton, was one of the top corn yield winners in South Dakota, as entered in the National Corn Yield Contest. Winning entries came from a wide geographic area, stretching from Elk Point to Chamberlain to Groton.

In non-irrigated land, Scott McKee of Hawarden, Iowa (farms in South Dakota), planted Pioneer Seed and yielded 288.31 bushels per acre. Dean Bosee of Elk Point planted Pioneer and yielded 276.99 bushels per acre, and Ronald Johnson, Alcester, planted Pioneer and yielded 269.21 bushels per acre.

In no-till/strip-till non-irrigated land, Scott Biskeborn, Chamberlain, took first and second with Dekalb seed and 276.29 and 270.71 bushels per acre. Travis Swisher, Groton, planted Dekalb and had 242.39 bushels per acre.

On irrigated land, KOry Standy, Platte, planted Dekalb netted 281.50 bushels per acre, Steve Breeding, Chamberlain, with Dekalb netted 280.34 bushels per acre, and Bob Creasey, Geddes, planted Pioneer and netted 266.59 bushels per acre.

On no-till/strip till irrigated land, Joey Waldner, Huron, planted Pioneer and netted 288.62 bushels per acre, Bennett Waldner, Huron, planted Pioneer and netted 284.96 bushels per acre, and Randy Svendsen, Yankton, planted Dekalb and netted 280.06 bushels per acre.

Highway Patrol Trooper Receives Life-Saving Award

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota Highway Patrol trooper James Tedder Friday received a life-saving award for his efforts to rescue two people who were trying to swim to shore in Day County.

Trooper Tedder was honored at a ceremony in the Highway Patrol's Aberdeen office. Col. Craig Price, superintendent of the South Dakota Highway Patrol, presented the award to the trooper.

"Receiving this award is an extremely high honor," says Col. Price. "This distinction exemplifies the courage and decisive action Trooper Tedder took in this situation."

Trooper Tedder was part of a vehicle pursuit on Oct. 15, 2015, six miles north of Roslyn. The vehicle that was being pursued traveled down a road that was under water and the vehicle became submerged.

The two occupants, a male and a female, exited the vehicle and started swimming away. Trooper Tedder followed the two along the shore line, commanding them to come to shore.

Eventually, the two became fatigued in the cold water. The female attempted to make her way toward shore. The male went under water, resurfaced and started to call for help.

Trooper Tedder took off his duty belt and shoes and went into the water. He helped the female to shore; then made it out to the male and safely pulled him to shore. The two were eventually taken to a local hospital for treatment of hypothermia.

"This situation combined two major aspects that all troopers deal with – law enforcement and public safety," says Col. Price. "Regardless of whether the two occupants were suspects in a pursuit, Trooper Tedder made sure they were safe as well. He put himself in harm's way to help others."

Trooper Tedder is a 10-year veteran of the Highway Patrol. He is stationed at Webster.

The Highway Patrol is part of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.



Anticipation for Tomorrow

In our family, Christmas morning begins with the ring of a bell. No one could leave their rooms and see what Santa had delivered until that bell was rung. I remember our kids waiting in eager anticipation, hoping and trusting that they'd been good enough all year for Santa to leave them the toys they had asked for.

I've been thinking a lot about the excitement of those mornings recently – probably because it isn't quite the same now that the kids have grown up a bit. But it's made me think: what would our world be like if we all carried the hope and anticipation of Christmas morning with us every day?

I admit it would be very hard to do. The world so easily weighs us down. Whether we're talking about a struggling economy, the threat of terrorism, or challenges at home, it is natural to become cynical, frustrated, and even angry. I know I've felt that way a time or two. In fact, it's why I ran for Congress in the first place. I was so frustrated with all the administration was doing and desperately wanted to change the direction of this country. I still do and I still believe we can.

We live in the greatest country on earth. We believe that family is the cornerstone of a society and that freedom is not a privilege, but a right. We believe opportunity is all that is needed to build a healthy economy. And we remain committed to the American Dream, doing everything we can so our children and grandchildren can have a better life. Nowhere else in the world are those beliefs so ingrained into an entire country's way of life.

When the bell rings at the Noem house this Christmas, I will be saying a prayer of thanks. While America's anticipation for tomorrow may not be the same as a child's on Christmas morning, we continue to believe there is hope for a better tomorrow in this country. Of course not everything is happening as we'd like it to in this country, but we fundamentally trust that we are empowered to change it. I pray we never lose that hope.

From my entire family to yours, I hope you have a very blessed Christmas and I pray that in all the busyness of this day, you take the time to celebrate the root of all hope, Jesus Christ.



Groton Chamber Holiday Boxes are out & about in Groton!

This Week (thru 12/18) – Professional
Management Supply

\$25 Chamber Bucks OR Mystery Gift!

Next Week (thru 12/23) – Olde Bank
Floral 'N More

**\$25 Chamber Bucks or a Fresh Floral Christmas Bouquet

Stop by each participating business and register for \$25
Groton Chamber Bucks – or a prize supplied by the business.



Merry
Christmas

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Counting our Blessings this Christmas

The Christmas season is a special time that allows us to reflect upon the blessings in our lives and spend quality time with our loved ones. Jean and I are blessed to call South Dakota home, and we are especially grateful for our continued health and the health of our family. This year, we welcomed two new grandchildren – eight in all! We look forward to spending additional time with them and the rest of our family in the coming weeks.

It is well-known that the Rounds extended family is quite large. This year, just like years past, we expect at least 80 family members at our house on Christmas Eve. After attending 5 o'clock church service, we all gather to enjoy a meal of homemade chicken noodle soup and open presents. Grandpa Don reads the young ones the story of Christmas, reminding us all of the birth of our Lord – the greatest gift of all.

Despite the many challenges facing our nation today, all of us have many gifts to be grateful for. We are all fortunate to call ourselves Americans and South Dakotans, living in the greatest country in the world where we are free to celebrate Christmas without fear of persecution. Our God-given freedoms as written in the Constitution must never be taken for granted.

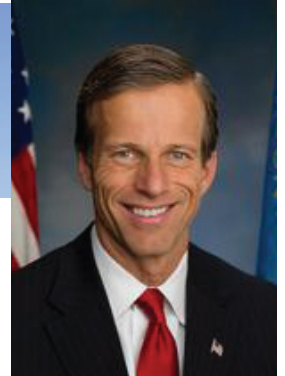
We are also thankful for the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States of America and their families who make incredible sacrifices to protect and defend our freedoms. They are the reason we are able to celebrate this season safely here at home with our loved ones. During these uncertain times, they should be enormously proud of their contributions to our national defense and security.

This season, more than 160 South Dakotans are currently deployed. The South Dakota National Guard's 155th Engineer Company is stationed in Kuwait, and several other South Dakota soldiers are also stationed away from home. We would like to express our gratitude to the men and women who are deployed and their loved ones who are unable to spend the holiday together. The holiday season can be particularly tough for them. May they continue to find the strength to persevere, knowing they will soon be reconnected.

I also want to take this time to express my gratitude for all South Dakotans who took time to write, call or meet with me as I traveled across the state this year. Your views and opinions are important to me as I work to make the best decisions for South Dakota. It is truly an honor to represent you in the United States Senate.

While there are tough challenges ahead, I believe we are strong enough to tackle them head on. I look forward to working with my colleagues in 2016 to address them. Jean and I hope you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thanks for all you do to make South Dakota great.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Ending the Flawed Common Core Mandate

Parents around the country will tell you that for their children's success, it's important to have an effective educational system with teachers and administrators who are accountable to the local community. It's local control, not big government mandates, that hold the key to efficiently implementing educational plans that work best for kids, because what works for students in New York City might not work well for students in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and vice versa.

For too many years, though, that had been the case: a big-government, one-size-fits-all approach to education. This wasn't good for teachers, and it wasn't good for students. With the sweeping education reform bill that was recently signed into law, we will thankfully reverse that trend and return control to the people who know students the best, like their parents, teachers, and local school boards.

We've all heard the phrase "teaching to the test," which was born from the nearly 15-year-old No Child Left Behind (NCLB) policy that was intended to boost teacher accountability. After hearing from school districts around the country, it became clear that while accountability has a role in our school systems, it's also important for school boards to have the flexibility to set and administer standards that meet their own local needs. Ending the NCLB policy was long overdue – after all, more than 40 states were operating under NCLB waivers, which will no longer be necessary under the new law.

Perhaps most importantly, the Every Student Succeeds Act puts an end to the U.S. Department of Education's bureaucratic Common Core mandate that has been a hotly debated topic for South Dakota teachers and families. Gone are the days of an over-reliance on standardized testing that consumed teachers' time and frustrated parents and students alike. The long-standing education policy received a failing grade, and I'm glad that states will now be able to determine their own academic standards and assessments without the heavy hand of the national school board that is the U.S. Department of Education getting in the way.

The education reform bill and the changes it will make have been endorsed by teachers, superintendents, school boards, state legislatures, and governors, and according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, it "strikes a balance between accountability for the taxpayers' investment on the one hand, and state and local control on the other." This is a win for everyone involved and will put students in a better position to succeed.

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Here is how the Schwan's fundraiser works.

Customers phone in the order or order online
They use the code. 25179

If they regularly order online they are asked if they want to contribute to a fundraiser

That is when they put the code in.

Between Dec 2 and Jan 16,

we will earn 20% of sales
If a customer orders an ecertificate-and online gift card we get \$10 for the \$25 ecertificate.

When you get an ecertificate, you can go in and purchase right away or you can print it out
if you want to give it as a gift or save it for later.

Customers are limited to one ecertificate...BUT if you use an alternate email address you can purchase more than one

If you are not a regular Schwan's customer, when you place your order they will tell you what day
And approximate (2 hour) time they plan to deliver.

You can be a one time customer and support us.

If you order online you must give them a credit card number, however you can switch payment at the door.

It took me a few fundraisers to realize that if I purchase during the first 45 days I contribute 20% and save my ecertificates for after the Jan 16 date, duh! Before that I was purchasing ecertificates and using them right away.

Our greatest income will be during this 45 day period.
After that we will earn 5% until April 16.

Schwan's
Cares™
A Fundraising Network



Support Us

*Giving back to your community
never tasted so delicious.*

Schwan's Home Delivery offers over 350 delicious foods, flash-frozen at the peak of freshness and conveniently delivered to your door. Through Schwans-Cares.com, you can order from Schwan's Home Delivery and help our organization meet its fundraising goals. When you order by **January 16th, 2016**, 20% of product and 40% of eGift Card sales will go back to the organization.

Here are two ways to support us!

Order Online:

1. Visit Schwans-Cares.com
2. Enter Campaign ID: **25179** into the search box located in the upper right hand corner then click to open campaign.
3. Click "Shop to Give" and then select either the "Buy Now" or "Shop Now" option.
4. Select team member, if applicable
5. Start shopping!

Order by Phone:

Call 1-855-870-7208 and provide Campaign ID: **25179**

Thank you for your support!

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Shop online at Schwans-Cares.com
or call 1-855-870-7208



Our greatest income will be during this 45 day period.
After that we will earn 5% until April 16.

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Today in Weather History

December 19, 1777: George Washington led his hungry and weary from long marches men to Valley Forge on this day. The winds greeted the 12,000 Continentals as they prepared for the winter. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

December 19, 2009: Snowfall totals from 1 to 2 feet were common place in what will go down as one of the biggest snowstorms in history on the East Coast and the first of four snowstorms for the Mid-Atlantic during the winter of 2009-10. The 15 inches of snow measured at Reagan International Airport on Dec. 19th was the third highest daily snowfall on any calendar day at Washington, DC since snowfall records began in 1884. The storm total snowfall of 16.4 inches on Dec 18-19 2009 marks the 6th highest two-day snowfall record for Washington, DC putting it just below the second President's Day storm in 2003 and ahead of the Jan 1996 storm. Baltimore Washington Airport saw 20.5 inches of snow and went down as the fifth highest daily snowfall on any calendar day at Baltimore since snowfall records began in 1893. The storm total snowfall of 21.0 inches on Dec 18-19 2009 marks the 6th highest two-day snowfall record for Baltimore. The daily snowfall records for Dec 19 were smashed for the most snowfall for any calendar day during the month of December at the following stations. Reagan National Airport's new record was 15.0 inches, old record 11.5 in 1932. Baltimore Washington Airport's new record was 20.5 inches, old record 11.5 in 1932. This was the biggest December snowstorm on record and setting a record for the snowiest December for Baltimore, MD. Dulles Airport's new record was 16.0 inches, old record 10.6 in 1982. Richmond International Airport had a total of 6.4 inches. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania reported its second greatest daily snowfall total on record with 22.9 inches. It also was the single biggest December snowfall for the city of Philadelphia, PA. Roanoke, Virginia recorded 17.8 inches setting a record for the greatest 24-hour snowfall in December. Washington, DC reported 16.4 inches of snow making 2009 the snowiest December on record, all in one storm. In New York, Upton on Long Island recorded 26.3 inches, the biggest snowstorm on record.

1777 - The Continental Army moved into encampment at Valley Forge amidst stormy winds and piercing cold. A relatively moderate winter followed. (David Ludlum)

1924 - The Riverside Ranger Station in Yellowstone Park, WY, reported a low of 59 degrees below zero, a December record for the U.S. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1957 - A tornado, 200 yards in width, killed two persons along its 15-mile path from near Waldo to near Bueana Vista in southwestern Arkansas. People from one house were carried 250 yards, and cars were said to have been carried 600 yards. (The Weather Channel)

1967 - A record 83 inches of snow covered the ground at Flagstaff, AZ. The heavy snows inflicted great hardships on reservations. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in eastern Texas and the Lower Mississippi Valley. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 90 mph at Venus TX and Providence LA. Rain prevailed from the Southern Plains to the Middle Mississippi Valley. Small stream flooding was reported around Columbia MO. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Low pressure and a trailing cold front in the central U.S. brought snow and high winds to parts of the Rocky Mountain Region. Winds in Colorado gusted to 67 mph at La Junta. Thunderstorms along the same cold

front produced wind gusts to 65 mph at Kansas City MO. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - High winds and heavy snow plagued the northern and central Rockies. Snowfall totals in Montana ranged up to 12 inches at Lincoln, and wind gusts in Colorado reached 97 mph at Squaw Mountain. Twelve cities in the north central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Dickinson ND with a reading of 26 degrees below zero. Bismarck ND was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 35 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2008 - A snow and ice storm on December 19 affected parts of the U.S. Midwest. Over 220,000 homes and businesses across Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio were left without electric services. No fatalities were reported (Reuters).

2016 DOG LICENSES

AVAILABLE NOW!!

Licenses due by Dec. 31, 2015

Fines start after Dec. 31, 2015



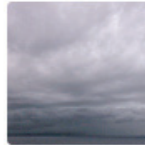




Dogs CAN NOT be licensed without providing updated rabies shot information, please bring records for each dog to City Hall

Please contact City Hall as soon as possible if you no longer have any dogs

Spayed or neutered dogs are \$5 per dog, otherwise \$10 per dog

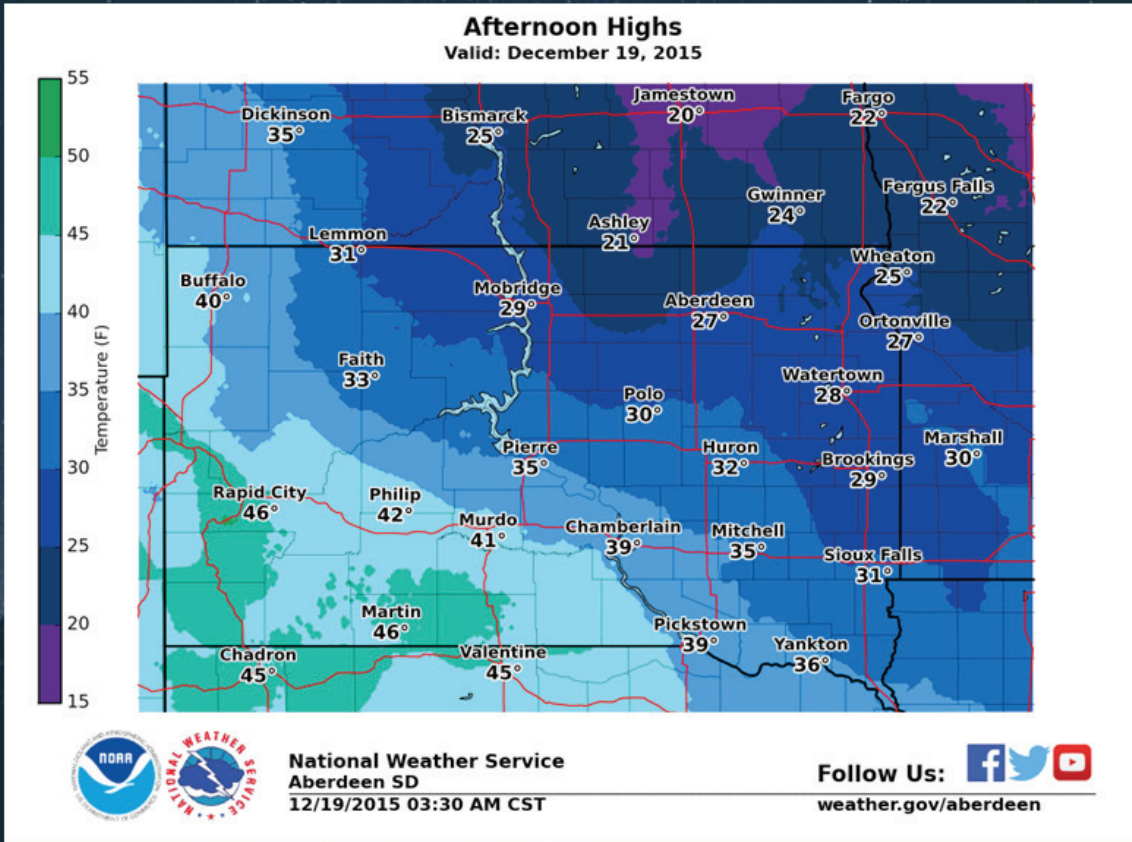
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This Afternoon	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Scattered Flurries	Decreasing Clouds	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Slight Chance Snow
High: 27 °F	Low: 19 °F	High: 26 °F	Low: 9 °F	High: 27 °F	Low: 17 °F	High: 35 °F



A Cold Start – But Temps Will Recover



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 12/19/2015 at 3:41AM

Much more winter like temperatures are in the forecast for today and tonight with the coldest readings of the season - and wind chill values down to as low as 20 below tonight. Temperatures will moderate for the weekend with readings back above average.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 20.1 at 4:27 AM

Low: -2.0 at 11:59 PM

High Gust: 29 at 10:00 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 57° in 1893

Record Low: -29° in 1916

Average High: 24°F

Average Low: 5°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.31

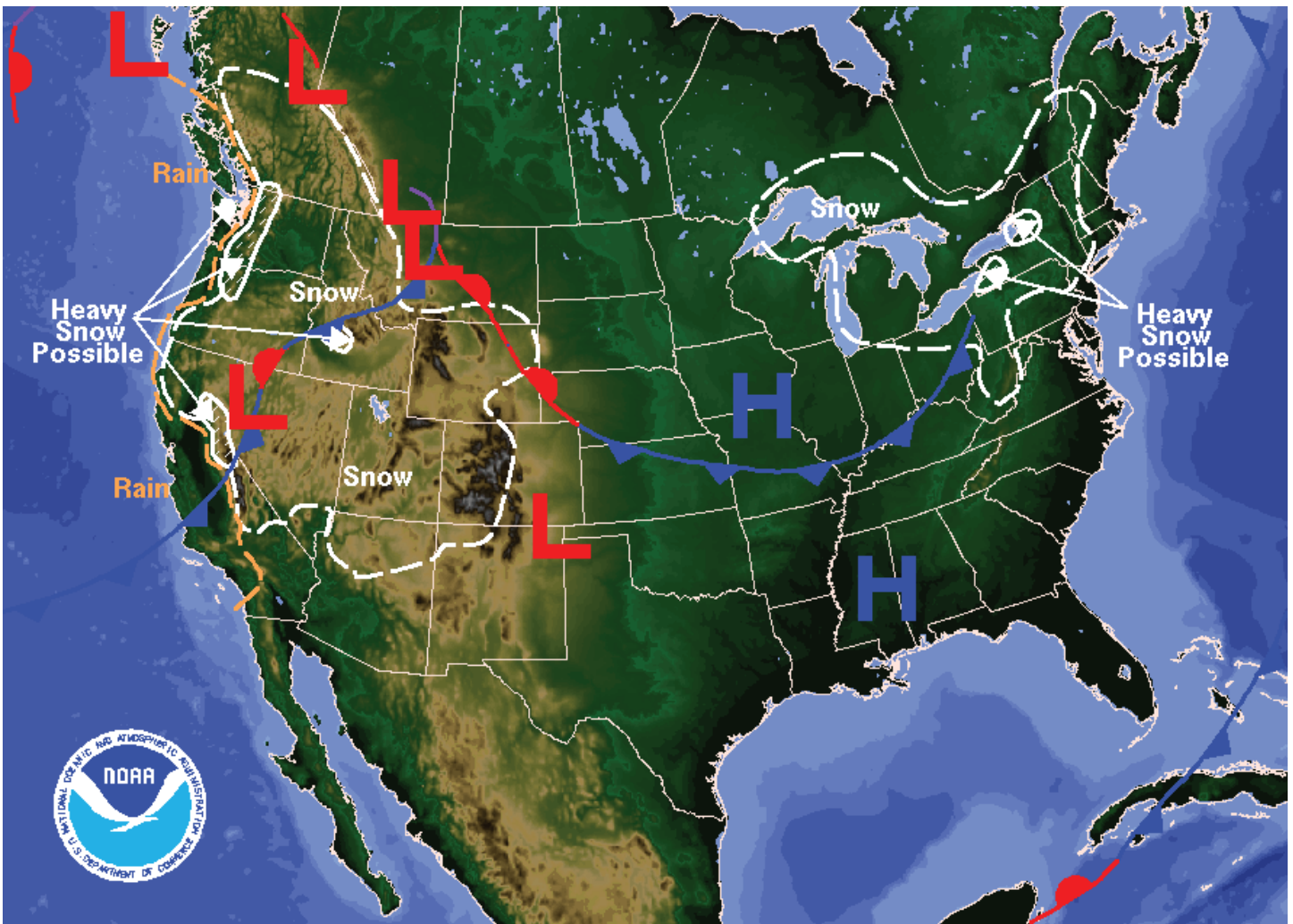
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.55

Average Precip to date: 21.51

Precip Year to Date: 20.37

Sunset Tonight: 4:52 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:09 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Dec 19, 2015, issued 3:44 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Krekeler based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



GOD'S LOVE AND OUR FAMILY

Speaking to a Sunday school class, a pastor asked, "Why do you love God?"

"Because," answered a young boy, "loving God runs in our family."

What a wonderful statement to make about his family. What an important goal for every family. But God only "runs" in and with families at the invitation of the family.

Each member of the family must first ask Jesus to be their Savior. Then His Word must be read and remembered, honored and obeyed, followed faithfully and carefully if He is to have His rightful place in the family. Reminders of His presence in the lives of the family will be on display. He will be present at every meal, part of every conversation and readily recognized in the way family members treat one another.

Children learn how they are to behave from their parents. Parents must show love and understanding, care and compassion, patience and thoughtfulness, respect and honor toward each other first and then to each child.

If we expect God's love to run in our families, we must first "run" with God and become obedient to His Word.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to realize the importance of You always being present in our families. May we recognize our need to depend on You, to honor You and to follow the example of Jesus as we show love for each other: in His name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Ephesians 6:1-4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

News from the Associated Press

Nevada counties cry foul over Sandoval-Jewell grouse deal

SCOTT SONNER, Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — It sounded like one of those win-win situations that are so hard to find when divvying up public lands in the West.

A rural Nevada town near the Utah line would get to build their new water storage tank, and federal land managers would make sure it was done in a way that didn't harm sage grouse in the high desert nearby.

But now county officials are crying foul.

They say they were snookered by a deal — privately brokered by Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval and U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell — that is impossible to carry out given a tiny four-month window for construction otherwise prohibited during breeding and nesting seasons.

Lawyers for White Pine, Elko, Eureka and six other Nevada counties say it proves that the Bureau of Land Management planning amendments the Obama administration insists are necessary to continue to keep the bird off the list of endangered species are both illegal and impractical.

"The one size-fits-all seasonal constraints ... mean that in situations like this where BLM must balance sage-grouse protection with public health and safety, the agency's hands are tied," they said in federal court filings in Reno this week.

The counties suing to void the protections lost a bid earlier this month for a temporary restraining order blocking their implementation. But the case continues before U.S. District Judge Miranda Du — who since her appointment in 2012 has inherited several cases involving similar conflicts.

Sandoval, a former U.S. judge who sat on the Reno bench before he was elected governor in 2010, knows how long such litigation can drag out.

Since 1999, Elko County has been waging a legal battle with the Forest Service over protection of a threatened fish and ownership of a road in a national forest near the Idaho line. And for more than a decade, the government, ranchers and wild horse protection advocates have locked horns over roundups of mustangs in Nevada.

Sandoval has urged a more cooperative approach in trying to work with the administration since Jewell announced in September she was denying the greater sage grouse protection under the Endangered Species Act. He criticized his own attorney general, Republican Adam Laxalt, for backing the counties' lawsuit.

Sandoval met privately with Jewell for more than an hour at the Western Governors' Association annual meeting in Las Vegas on Dec. 4, then told reporters during a hastily called news conference that night they had reached agreement on a number of fronts, including the water tank in Baker.

Laura Granier, lead attorney for the counties, said Baker and White Pine County officials were kept in the dark until the two politicians announced to the media they had "negotiated a resolution."

"Secretary Jewell and Governor Sandoval have orchestrated what at first appeared to be the ... happy ending to a vexing situation for BLM," she wrote in a brief filed Wednesday. "However, upon closer examination, BLM's fast-tracked ... amendment contains rigid and unworkable seasonal constraints that impose several months of delay and only give Baker four months to complete a 12-month project."

Officials in neighboring Eureka County say the side deal on the water tank does nothing to address concerns about the impact of grouse protections on their own water development plans. They urged Sandoval join the lawsuit intended to force the government to develop a protection scheme based on plans developed in the 11 individual states where the grouse lives from California to the Dakotas.

"It is simply impossible, as well as counter to a legally acceptable process, for the governor to address the legion of outstanding concerns and issues through a post-process private and unilateral dialogue," the Eureka County Resources Advisory Commission said in a statement. "How many individual closed-door meetings addressing problems piecemeal, rather than getting to the heart of the flawed process, can we expect?"

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Sandoval said late Thursday he has not ruled out joining the suit "if we do not achieve our desired outcomes."

Deer Mountain opens Saturday, Great Bear on Sunday

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Lead (LEED) ski resort is opening the front side of its mountain on Saturday. Deer Mountain says two feet of fresh snow fell on Dec. 15, giving skiers and snowboarders plenty of base. The park's Zero Gravity Tube Park is already open.

Over on the east side of the state, Great Bear Recreation Park in Sioux Falls is reopening its ski and snowboarding hill on Sunday.

Great Bear says it is reopening limited runs for skiing and snowboarding at 9 a.m. Sunday. The facility plans to open the Kirby Family Tubing Park at a later date.

Friday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Alcester-Hudson 70, Gayville-Volin 50
Baltic 69, Centerville 59
Bon Homme 64, Scotland 49
Chamberlain 59, Parkston 54
Clark/Willow Lake 63, Hamlin 46
Dakota Valley 81, Canton 55
Dell Rapids 80, Tea Area 71
DeSmet 64, Dell Rapids St. Mary 30
Edgemont 52, Morrill, Neb. 44
Elkton-Lake Benton 62, Colman-Egan 54
Gordon/Rushville, Neb. 53, Bennett County 37
Groton Area 63, Deuel 54, OT
Huron 52, Rapid City Stevens 38
Irene-Wakonda 72, Viborg-Hurley 29
James Valley Christian 61, Sunshine Bible Academy 19
Jones County 67, Wall 56
Lake Preston 55, Estelline 47
Lemmon 64, Beach, N.D. 42
Madison 64, Lennox 54
McCook Central/Montrose 53, Howard 34
Milbank Area 52, Redfield/Doland 50
Mitchell 79, Rapid City Central 66
Pierre 76, Aberdeen Central 68
Rapid City Christian 57, Lyman 50
Sioux Falls Christian 81, Elk Point-Jefferson 36
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 57, Sioux Falls Lincoln 49
Sisseton 69, Webster 50
St. Thomas More 52, Alliance, Neb. 40
Tri-Valley 66, Chester 49
West Central 76, Wagner 67
Wilmot 65, Great Plains Lutheran 50
Winner 57, Miller 47
Lakota Nation Tournament (Makosica Bracket)
Semifinal
White River 63, Little Wound 54

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Winnebago, Neb. 73, Pine Ridge 43
Lakota Nation Tournament (Paha Sapa Bracket)
Semifinal

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 80, McLaughlin 39
Todd County 75, Tiospa Zina Tribal 72

Lusk Tournament

Lusk, Wyo. 57, Hill City 54

Pine Bluffs, Wyo. 68, Hill City 29

Stateline Shootout

Lead-Deadwood 54, Sundance, Wyo. 43

Newcastle, Wyo. 60, Belle Fourche 54

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 55, Pierre 41

Aberdeen Roncalli 40, Britton-Hecla 29

Beach, N.D. 59, Lemmon 50

Canistota 45, Iroquois 21

Centerville 49, Baltic 38

Chamberlain 49, Parkston 47

Dakota Valley 62, Canton 27

Florence/Henry 57, Rosholt 41

Freeman 85, Marion 32

Gordon/Rushville, Neb. 71, Bennett County 29

Groton Area 52, Deuel 41

Herreid/Selby Area 53, Eureka/Bowdle 37

Hettinger/Scranton, N.D. 42, Harding County 37

James Valley Christian 35, Sunshine Bible Academy 23

Lyman 70, Rapid City Christian 38

McCook Central/Montrose 63, Howard 35

Morrill, Neb. 68, Edgemont 38

Platte-Geddes 44, Gregory 27

Potter County 53, Faulkton 34

Rapid City Central 53, Mitchell 27

Rapid City Stevens 62, Huron 50

Sioux Falls Christian 66, Elk Point-Jefferson 32

Sioux Falls Washington 51, Moorhead, Minn. 38

Tea Area 48, Dell Rapids 45

Tri-Valley 48, Chester 33

Viborg-Hurley 61, Irene-Wakonda 53

Wall 28, Jones County 27

Waubay/Summit 66, Langford 13

West Central 47, Wagner 44

Lakota Nation Tournament (Paha Sapa Bracket)

Semifinal

Custer 56, Oelrichs 38

Lusk Tournament

Hill City 56, Burns, Wyo. 49

Stateline Shootout

Belle Fourche 58, Newcastle, Wyo. 57, OT

Lead-Deadwood 67, Sundance, Wyo. 23

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Mount Rushmore National Memorial hosting Rose Parade viewing

KEYSTONE, S.D. (AP) — Mount Rushmore National Memorial is hosting a viewing party of the annual Rose Parade on New Year's Day.

The parade will be shown at the park's cafe. The company that manages the park's gift shop and restaurant will give out free scoops of the famous Thomas Jefferson ice cream, which is from the original recipe that the Founding Father served at the White House.

The theme of the parade in Pasadena, California, is "Find Your Adventure." The parade plans to shine light on the centennial celebration of the National Park Service. Coincidentally, 2016 is also the 75th anniversary of the completion of Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

Park superintendent Cheryl Schreier says rangers will be ready to photograph visitors who'd like to get their picture posted on the park's Facebook page.

Ceremony to be held for man awarded Civil Air Patrol medal

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota U.S. Sen. John Thune is leading a ceremony to honor a Sioux Falls resident who was posthumously awarded a Civil Air Patrol Congressional Gold Medal.

The event to honor Walter Wilson is on Monday, and his widow will accept the award in his place.

Wilson was a cadet and in training when World War II ended. He was trained in recognizing aircraft, the dynamics of flight and Morse code, in addition to other skills.

State's agriculture community cheers rail watchdog overhaul

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's agricultural industry is cheering the first major overhaul in about two decades of the federal agency that serves as economic watchdog of the country's freight rail network.

President Barack Obama signed legislation on Friday to revamp the Surface Transportation Board. The measure is intended to boost the board's effectiveness, give it more investigative authority and head off potentially lengthy and expensive disputes over shipping prices, said U.S. Sen. John Thune, who sponsored the measure.

"Hopefully it'll put the board in the position where it could be more effective in responding to both the railroads and the shipper community," Thune said.

The Republican said the legislation will hopefully address the "crisis" of railway backups and delayed grain shipments that peaked last year thanks to trains transporting oil. The new law gives the board the ability to start investigations into issues other than rate cases and also requires the agency to create a database of complaints.

It also increases the board's membership to allow communication among members without requiring public notice and expands voluntary arbitration for rate cases, among other changes.

Keith Alverson, president of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association's board, said he hopes the measure helps spur better shipping rates. He said that could help South Dakota's agricultural industry compete with neighboring states that have more transportation options.

"Something like this is pretty historic," he said. "If we pick up a nickel on corn price, that's money that stays than in the state rather than going ... to a rail a company or somebody else."

Jerry Cope, vice president of marketing at Dakota Mill and Grain, said there aren't many shipping problems right now. He views the measure as a way to avert future problems.

"It's more of a framework to operate under going forward to ensure when we do have problems, we have a better way, a quicker way to solve them," he said.

Thune also said he's pleased that the railroad industry was able to see some value in the measure. Ed Greenberg, a spokesman for the Association of American Railroads, said the industry trade group welcomes the legislation.

"We felt it strikes the balance of preserving market-based structures for shippers and railroads while also providing common sense process improvements to help the (board) work more efficiently," he said.

UW trustees select Laurie Nichols as university president

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — University of Wyoming trustees on Friday announced their choice of South Dakota State University administrator Laurie Nichols to serve as the next president of UW.

The trustees voted unanimously to select Nichols from among three finalists for the job. She's set to take office by July 1 and will be the first woman president of the Wyoming university.

Nichols is provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at South Dakota State. She succeeds Dick McGinity, who has been UW president for almost two years.

"This is just an incredible opportunity for me, and I am beside myself with excitement at being able to come to Wyoming," Nichols said in a statement released by UW. "It's a great university and a wonderful state, and I don't think I could have found a better place and a better fit."

Dave Palmerlee, president of the UW Board of Trustees, said the panel is delighted to have someone with Nichols' experience and enthusiasm take the job.

"We're confident she will work well with the trustees and UW's many stakeholders to lift the university to new heights of excellence," Palmerlee said in a statement from UW.

Nichols three-year contract includes annual base salary of \$350,000, a \$48,000 housing allowance, \$25,000 retention payment and \$35,000 contribution to a deferred compensation plan, the university stated.

UW said Nichols has held her current post at South Dakota State since 2009. She was dean of the SDSU College of Education and Human Sciences from 1994 to 2008.

In 2008 and 2009, Nichols served for nearly a year as interim president of Northern State University in Aberdeen.

Nichols earned a bachelor's degree in education from South Dakota State in 1978 then got a master's degree in vocational and adult education from Colorado State University in 1984 and a Ph.D. in family and consumer sciences education from Ohio State University in 1988.

She and her husband, Tim Nichols, have two college-age daughters.

McGinity was appointed to the job of administering the university with about 13,400 students in January 2014. He replaced Bob Sternberg, who resigned in November 2013.

The other finalists for UW president were Jeremy Haefner, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York, and Duane Nellis, the president of Texas Tech University.

Oregon Warm Springs tribe approves marijuana sales project

GOSIA WOZNIACKA, Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have approved a plan to build a facility to grow marijuana on their reservation in central Oregon and sell it at tribe-owned stores outside the reservation.

The vote comes a year after a U.S. Department of Justice policy indicated tribes could grow and sell pot under the same guidelines as states that opt to legalize. The tribe is one of the first in the country to enter the pot business.

Tribal officials said more than 80 percent of tribal voters favored the proposal. 1,450 of the 3,300 eligible voters turned out for the referendum Thursday.

Warm Springs' plan is to build a 36,000-square-foot greenhouse to grow and process the cannabis. Officials expect the project will create more than 80 jobs. Net revenue from the three proposed tribal-owned retail would top \$26 million annually.

The tribes say they will enter into an agreement with state agencies to ensure testing and other regulations are consistent with state law. Sales are slated to start in winter 2016.

"Our main purpose is to create jobs on the reservation and produce revenue for the tribes," said Don Sampson, of the tribes' economic development corporation. "We think we will have a model other tribes will look to as they investigate this business and industry."

The proposal doesn't change the law that bans marijuana possession on the reservation, about 90 miles

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southeast of Portland.

Many tribes have opposed legalization and marijuana sales, due to the potential to compound alcohol and drug problems already present on reservations. Some tribes, like the Yakama Nation in Washington state, outright banned marijuana.

But at least a half dozen tribes this year have legalized marijuana on their reservations or have pursued marijuana projects, hoping to bolster their tribal economies with the revenue.

Last month, the Squaxin Island Tribe in Washington state opened what is believed to be the first retail marijuana store on a reservation. The tribe isn't growing the marijuana but is buying it wholesale from the state-regulated system used by the recreational pot industry.

Washington allows for medical and recreational marijuana use, and the Squaxin entered into a compact with the state that sets guidelines for taxing pot sales. Another Washington tribe, the Suquamish, has also signed a tribal compact with the state for a marijuana store. That store is still under construction.

Other tribes are also considering the move. The Passamaquoddy Tribe in Maine signed a letter of intent in September with a medical marijuana management and consulting company to build a cultivation facility on tribal land. The tribe wants to use the facility to make industrial hemp, not marijuana, though officials said they might consider expanding operations when laws around marijuana change.

And leaders of the Omaha Tribe in Nebraska are considering land in western Iowa for growing marijuana. That's after tribal members approved three referendums last month giving the Tribal Council the authority to legalize marijuana for medicinal and recreational use and to grow plants for industrial hemp. The tribe will launch a study will examine whether the business would make financial sense.

Some tribes have faced challenges in the pot business — especially those within states where marijuana isn't legal.

The Flandreau Santee Sioux in South Dakota — a state where both medical and recreational marijuana is prohibited — decided in November to burn its cannabis crop amid fears it could face a federal raid. The tribe was the first tribal nation to legalize recreational marijuana and had big plans to open the country's first marijuana resort — complete with smoking lounge, nightclub, bar and private rooms for medical marijuana patients — on its reservation north of Sioux Falls.

Tribal officials said the main challenges centered on whether the tribe could sell marijuana to non-Indians, along with issues over where the seed used for planting originated. The tribe vowed to move forward with its operation in the future.

In October, federal agents raided the Menominee Nation's reservation in Wisconsin, a state where marijuana is illegal, eradicating 30,000 cannabis plants. Tribal leaders said the plants were intended for research into growing hemp, but authorities believed the tribe was growing pot. The Menominee Nation has since sued two federal agencies over the raid.

And this summer in northern California, where medical marijuana is legal, federal authorities raided the tribal cannabis operations of the Alturas and Pit River Indian rancherias, with agents seizing 12,000 marijuana plants and some process marijuana.

The regional U.S. attorney's office said in a statement that the two neighboring tribes planned to distribute the pot off tribal lands and the large-scale operations may have been financed by a foreign third-party.

South Dakota cattle on feed up 4 percent

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more animals reported 245,000 cattle on feed on December 1, up 4 percent from last year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says in its latest report that placements in feedlots during November totaled 45,000 head, down 15 percent from 2014.

Marketings of fed cattle during in November totaled 38,000 head, up 12 percent from last year.

Other disappearance during November totaled 2,000 head, down 2,000 head from last year.

Use of word 'victim' barred from upcoming murder trial

STIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A judge has ruled that a teenager shot and killed after a car chase in Sioux Falls should not be referred to as a victim during the upcoming trial of the teen accused of pulling the trigger.

Conner Hanson is charged with murder in the January death of 18-year-old Anthony Gabriel. Hanson was 17 at the time but he's charged in adult court, where he's pleaded not guilty.

Hanson's attorney argued in court Thursday that Gabriel instigated the incident and that Hanson killed Gabriel in self-defense. He said calling Gabriel a victim would prevent a fair trial.

Judge Robin Houwman told prosecutors to avoid the term "victim" and instruct witnesses to refer to Gabriel by his name or as "the deceased."

Unemployment rates fall in 27 US states amid broad hiring

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unemployment rates fell in more than half of U.S. states in November as employers stepped up hiring.

The Labor Department said Friday that jobless rates fell in 27 states, rose in 11, and were unchanged in 12 states. Employers added jobs in 35 states, while employment fell in 14. Montana's job total was flat last month.

The widespread improvement suggests employers in most parts of the country are confident enough to hire more. Nationwide, the economy generated a robust 211,000 jobs last month and the U.S. unemployment rate remained 5 percent, a 7-year low.

New Mexico had the nation's highest unemployment rate in November, at 6.8 percent, though it was unchanged from the previous month. West Virginia's unemployment rate, which had been the highest, fell to 6.5 percent from 6.9 percent. That's the second-highest, along with Nevada's, which is also at 6.5 percent.

North Dakota had the lowest unemployment rate, at 2.7 percent, even though it has lost more than 13,000 jobs, or nearly 3 percent of its total, in the past year. Falling oil and gas prices have caused widespread job cuts in the state's drilling industry.

Nebraska's unemployment rate was the second-lowest, at 2.9 percent, followed by South Dakota, at 3 percent.

Florida reported the largest job gain in November, with 35,200, followed by Texas with 16,300. Big gains in construction jobs boosted hiring in both states.

Virginia added the third-largest number, with 14,400, led by greater hiring for hotels and restaurants.

Georgia man run over by own vehicle in South Dakota, killed

WHITE LAKE, S.D. (AP) — A Georgia man died when he was run over by his own vehicle in southeastern South Dakota.

The Highway Patrol says 54-year-old William Valentine, of Plainville, Georgia, was pulling a flatbed trailer with a pickup truck on Wednesday.

Authorities say Valentine got out of the truck on an Interstate 90 exit near White Lake, and the vehicle remained in gear and struck him.

The patrol is continuing to investigate the circumstances.

Spain's Mireia Lalaguna Royo wins Miss World title in China

SANYA, China (AP) — Spain's Mireia Lalaguna Royo was named the winner of the Miss World 2015 competition Saturday night in the southern Chinese island resort of Sanya, an event dogged by controversy over China's refusal to allow Canada's entrant to attend.

Sofia Nikitchuk of Russia was the runner-up and Indonesia's Maria Harfanti took third place in the final following a lengthy competition featuring 114 women.

Each had won the right to represent their country in a series of local and regional competitions.

The victory marked the first-ever win for a Spanish contestant.

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Lalaguna is a 23-year-old model from Barcelona with a degree in pharmacology who plans to pursue a master's degree in nutrition. She placed first in the competition's top model contest and appeared to impress the judges with her public speaking.

Not present was Miss Canada, Chinese-born Anastasia Lin, who had been prevented from boarding her connecting flight to Sanya from Hong Kong last month after China refused her a visa.

Lin is an outspoken critic of Chinese religious policy and a follower of the Falun Gong meditation practice, which was outlawed by China in 1999.

She said that after she won the Canadian title, Chinese security agents visited her father, who still lives in China, in an apparent attempt to intimidate her into silence.

China has hosted the competition seven times, starting in 2003, part of its attempts to project a more modern, outgoing image. However, the controversy over Lin's attendance illustrates the authoritarian communist government's determination to do so on its own terms, regardless of the cost to the country's reputation.

Neither Beijing nor the London-based Miss World Organization has commented on the controversy.

It was the second consecutive year that outside events intruded on the competition. Last year's contest in London was marred by the murder the month before of Miss Honduras and her sister in that country.

The first Miss World contest was held 64 years ago in Britain.

Viewers' Guide: Sanders faces tough questions at 3rd debate

LISA LERER, Associated Press

KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — What timing: Just before the final Democratic presidential debate of the year, tensions suddenly are boiling between front-runner Hillary Clinton and chief rival Bernie Sanders.

Revelations that campaign workers for Sanders improperly accessed voter data compiled by the Clinton campaign have thrown a wild card into the primary season's third debate, set for 8 p.m. EST from Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire, and broadcast on ABC.

Until the Friday dust-up, the debate was seen as focusing on national security.

Sanders had been struggling to get airtime for his economic-focused message when others are talking about keeping the country safe after attacks in Paris and California. Now, he also must answer charges about his campaign.

In a jarring departure from what had been a genteel contest, the Clinton team is accusing the Sanders campaign of stealing information about potential voters worth millions of dollars.

The Sanders camp accuses the Democratic National Committee of heavy-handed hijinks to smooth Clinton's path to the nomination. The DNC removed the Sanders team's access to the voter files as part of its investigation into the data breach. Sanders' campaign said its access was restored Saturday morning.

For Clinton, who has a commanding lead of 20 points or more in most national polls, the question was whether she would try to capitalize on the incident. She might see greater value in taking a pass and not alienating Sanders' backers. Clinton would need his grassroots support if she were the nominee.

There may be an opening for former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who's running out of opportunities to have a break-out moment.

What to watch for in the debate:

DATA DUST-UP

Clinton and Sanders have remained silent since news of the data breach spread Friday — an issue certain to arise in the debate. The Sanders campaign sued the DNC in an effort to regain access to its own voter data, but the two sides came to an agreement and the DNC agreed to restore access Saturday.

Sanders' campaign has tried to turn a misdeed into a strength, saying his underdog campaign was being held "hostage" by a party leadership that's in the tank for Clinton. He was likely to make the same argument in the debate despite his insistence in past debates on sticking to public policy.

In the first debate, Sanders avoided exploiting a Clinton vulnerability, her past email practices, saying

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the matter was irrelevant. Will Clinton reciprocate?

SANDERS SEEKS AIRTIME

Sanders is fighting to stay relevant in a race that has moved away from his message.

He wants to talk about income inequality. He wants to talk about college affordability. He wants to talk about money in politics. But the country wants to talk about terrorism, and former Secretary of State Clinton is happy to oblige.

Recent days have brought signs that he may take a tougher line. Last weekend, his campaign pulled down a digital ad portraying Clinton as a candidate backed by "big money interests," an apparent violation of his pledge to avoid attack ads.

CLINTON'S FOREIGN POLICY RECORD

Republicans are eager to tie Clinton to the unpopular foreign policy agenda of her former boss, President Barack Obama. While she's shied away from directly criticizing the White House, Clinton has proposed a more aggressive strategy to defeat the Islamic State group.

Look for her to play up her experience as America's top diplomat, casting herself as a strong leader in a turbulent world. Her opponents can be expected to highlight her 2002 Senate vote authorizing military action in Iraq — legislation that Vermont Sen. Sanders opposed — in an attempt to appeal to anti-war Democrats.

CLINTON ON OFFENSE, BUT AGAINST WHOM?

Even as her aides say they expect tight primary contests in Iowa and New Hampshire, Clinton has intensified her focus on her would-be Republican challengers, including front-runner Donald Trump. Clinton aides believe that reminding Democrats of their potential general election opponent helps motivate her supporters and bolsters their argument that Clinton would be the most electable choice in November.

Does she spend more time going after Republicans or Democrats on the debate stage.

O'MALLEY'S LAST CHANCE?

O'Malley is surging! Unfortunately for him, it's from 2 percent to 4 percent.

Since entering the race in the spring, O'Malley has struggled to break 5 percent in polls. In November, he accepted public funding to bolster his flagging campaign, a move that could constrain his ability to compete down the road by imposing strict spending limits.

With the first round of voting just six weeks away, this debate was one of his last chances to make his case to a broad audience.

WILL ANYONE WATCH?

Debates have turned into big business for cable news networks this year, breaking viewership records. Twenty-five million people watched the first Republican debate and 15.3 million watched the first Democratic debate in October.

Don't expect those kinds of numbers this time. The last Democratic debate of 2015 is on a Saturday night less than a week before Christmas, just as one of the two previous debates was on a Saturday night. Viewership is expected to be low — a fact that's infuriated O'Malley, Sanders and other Democratic advocates, who argue that party leaders are rigging the process to benefit Clinton.

Police: Palestinian stabs 3 in central Israeli city

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli police say a Palestinian stabbed three Israelis in the central city of Raanana, seriously wounding one of them, before being shot and then arrested by Israeli security forces.

Police spokeswoman Luba Samri says a 20-year-old Palestinian man stabbed the Israelis on Saturday, in a rare attack on the Jewish Sabbath. An Israeli man was stabbed in the stomach and seriously wounded. Two women were lightly wounded.

It's the latest incident in a three-month spree of near-daily Palestinian attacks on Israelis that have killed 20. At least 116 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire, of which Israel says 79 were assailants. The rest were killed in clashes with Israeli forces.

Israel blames incitement by political and religious leaders. Palestinians say the attacks stem from despair at achieving statehood.

Security is focus at churches, mosques amid heightened fears

JAY REEVES, Associated Press

RACHEL ZOLL, Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — In Alabama, a Presbyterian church wanted to be able to hire its own police for protection. Mosque leaders around the country are meeting with law enforcement officials as an anti-Muslim furor fuels arson attacks and vandalism. And the Federal Emergency Management Agency has been holding specialized training for congregations for "all hazards, including active shooter incidents."

Religious congregations across the United States are concentrating on safety like never before following a season of violence, from the slaughter unleashed in June by a white shooter at a historically black church in Charleston, South Carolina, to the killings this month in San Bernardino, California.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations said 2015 is shaping up as the worst year ever for U.S. mosques, amid the backlash to the Islamic-extremist attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, and the intensifying anti-Muslim rhetoric from Donald Trump and others seeking the GOP presidential nomination. Preliminary 2015 data collected by the civil rights organization found 71 reported cases of vandalism, harassment and threats, with 29 of those incidents occurring since the Nov. 13 assaults in France.

The Anti-Defamation League, which works to secure Jewish sites, has been organizing safety training around the country with other faith groups, including an Austin, Texas, event with local police and the African Methodist Episcopal Churches of Greater Austin that drew participants from 35 churches and three mosques. The Charleston church attacked in June, Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, is part of the national African Methodist Episcopal denomination.

Christian churches have been refining their security plans ahead of receiving some of their largest crowds of the year for Christmas. On a FEMA webinar last Wednesday on protecting houses of worship, the chief security executive at The Potter's House, the Rev. T.D. Jakes' megachurch in Dallas, gave tips about behavior that should raise concern, such as a congregant arriving in a long coat in hot weather. If needed, church greeters could give a hug and feel for weapons, said the executive, Sean Smith.

"I call it the Holy Ghost pat-down," Smith said.

Congregations and other religious sites have long been targets of violence and vandalism, especially African-American churches going back at least to the civil rights movement. In 2007, a young man on a shooting spree killed two people at an evangelical ministry and two more at New Life Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In 2012, a white supremacist killed six people at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. And last year, a white supremacist killed three people at a Jewish Community Center and retirement home in suburban Kansas City.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Jewish groups led an effort that persuaded Congress to provide grants through the Department of Homeland Security to improve protection of congregations. Even so, a 2013 poll by the Barna Group for Brotherhood Mutual Insurance found nearly 60 percent of Protestant churches nationwide did not have a formal security plan for worship services.

Now anxieties over security are reaching a new level with national attention focused on mass shootings

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and terror threats, renewing debate about how far congregations should go to protect themselves given the religious imperative to be open to newcomers.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, St. Matthew Roman Catholic Church, which draws about 30,000 worshippers to its weekend Masses, this month alerted parishioners to beefed-up security, such as uniformed and plain-clothes police officers at services, and a ban on backpacks, baby strollers and diaper bags in worship areas.

"People feel that is almost like a weight lifted, in light of what is happening in the world today," said Antoinette Usher, the facilities and operations director at St. Matthew, which has held three security training sessions for staff, including active-shooter training. "They were feeling a little concerned about being a house of worship. You're facing forward. Someone could come in from behind."

Rod Pires, who runs a church security ministry in the Atlanta area, said he is getting more and more requests for help, including several calls daily from churches asking whether they should arm their members or develop a security plan. Several states allow concealed weapons in churches, including Arkansas, Illinois and North Dakota.

A bill the Alabama Legislature passed in August would have let Briarwood Presbyterian Church in metro Birmingham hire at least one police officer and perhaps more, giving them the same authority as city or county enforcement on properties that include the church and a large private school. Gov. Robert Bentley refused to sign the legislation, which died on his desk as some lawmakers and administration officials worried the bill could open the door to private police forces statewide.

"As soon as there's a mass shooting the phone just starts ringing off the hook, and everyone wants a quick solution," said Pires, CEO of Church Security 360 Degrees and former security chief at First Baptist Church of Atlanta. But guns in worship? Pires rejects the idea without a full security assessment and competent people trained to handle firearms.

Most recently, concern has been focused on mosques. Last Monday, the White House convened meetings of Muslim and Sikh leaders to discuss the uptick in hate crimes against their houses of worship and individual members of their faiths. Sikhs, who wear turbans, are often mistaken for Muslims.

The alarming cases of harassment include a November anti-Muslim rally with some armed demonstrators outside of an Irving, Texas, mosque, and an arson attack at the Islamic Society of Coachella Valley in California, about 75 miles from San Bernardino. Last weekend, two mosques in the Los Angeles suburb of Hawthorne were vandalized with paint and a fake grenade was left. And the Anti-Defamation League, which also tracks hate crimes, said three California houses run by the Chabad-Lubavitch Hasidic movement received hand-written letters saying Jews should get out of "our white country" and "take the Muslims with you."

At ADAMS in Sterling, Virginia, one of the largest Muslim congregations in the country, the security guards resigned, saying they felt they could no longer protect the mosque amid the anti-Muslim uproar, ADAMS board chairman Rizwan Jaka said. The guards have been replaced with a more experienced team and the center's leaders are trying to reassure Muslims worried about the risks of attending Friday prayers.

"Mosques are targets, so it's a natural fear they might have," Jaka said. "We're probably back to normal from a congregational attendance perspective since we got the upgraded security."

On the FEMA webinar, officials emphasized the need for heightened security for all houses of worship. Katherine Schweit, chief of the active-shooter section in the FBI's Office of Partner Engagement, explained how congregants could create confusion to distract shooters.

"You can fight by everyone throwing a Bible at them," Schweit said, "and I mean that in a very respectful way because I am a Bible-fearing person."

Felix training to run 200, 400 at Olympics on same day

PAT GRAHAM, AP Sports Writer

American sprinter Allyson Felix's training is all geared toward the finish line in the 200 and 400 meters at the Rio Olympics. Schedule allowing, she hopes to be in the starting blocks for both races.

Problem is, those events are scheduled to happen 75 minutes apart.

To facilitate Felix's pursuit, USA Track and Field recently petitioned the governing body of the sport to amend the Olympic track program, which currently has the 200 preliminaries taking place just over an hour before the 400 final in Rio on Aug. 15.

That would leave little opportunity for the six-time Olympic medalist to recover.

She won't be deterred, though, should the rescheduling not happen. She still plans on attempting to make the U.S. squad in both events at the Olympic Trials in July and go from there.

"I think she can make the team in both. I think she's capable of medaling in both. I think she has a great opportunity to win gold medals in both," her longtime coach, Bobby Kersee said in a phone interview. "She's very dedicated to it. She's committed to the challenge."

A change to the schedule is not without precedent, even at this late date. Michael Johnson campaigned for a rearrangement of the 200 and 400 events leading up to the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta. The program was altered, and he became the first male to win both at the Olympics.

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach said four months ago that the Olympic track program remains flexible.

USATF CEO Max Siegel went to bat for the 30-year-old Felix by contacting the International Association of Athletics Federations to set the wheels in motion for a switch.

"Such an achievement would elevate the sport at the Games, and as a federation we owe it to her and to the sport as a whole to make the request," Siegel said in a statement.

They're currently in a holding pattern. An email was sent to the IAAF to determine the next step.

Sebastian Coe, the head of IAAF, said over the summer that the organization would be willing investigate such a schedule change.

Kersee has Felix working as though this kind of double could take place. They started training in October, and Felix will run a limited indoor schedule this winter to stay race sharp. She may also compete at the world indoor championships in Portland, Oregon, in March.

"I don't want her to sit around," Kersee said. "So we're treating indoors more like spring training. We're going to perform a couple of times and shut it down and get ready for outdoor."

Asked what his ideal timetable would be for her to reasonably compete in Rio — two hours? Six hours? A day? — Kersee didn't commit.

"I'm just going through our major channels — asking the powers that be to talk to the other powers that be," he said. "I'm a better track coach than politician."

"It's been done before. It's nothing new. If you look at the history and look at the schedule, you know what's fair and you go from there."

This 200-400 undertaking by Felix has been in the works for the last five years. Felix tackled the sprint-distance double at the 2011 world championships in South Korea, winning silver in the 400. A few days later, she lacked her customary kick and was clearly exhausted in the 200, her signature event. She wound up with bronze.

Felix didn't attempt that endeavor at the 2012 London Games. Instead, she ran the 100 and the 200, winning gold in the latter. She also won gold in both relays.

She's much stronger now, Kersee said, pointing to her performance at worlds last summer in Beijing. Focusing on the 400, Felix won the event and then helped the relay teams to silver medals. Her leg of the 4x400 relay was particularly strong.

"Last season, she was (in her best shape ever)," Kersee said. "Barring injury, we can build off of that. We know we have a task ahead of us. We're committed to it."

"If we have an athlete that's capable of maybe wanting to try that, why not give them the opportunity? That's my Perry Mason argument."

Trump's mix of business, politics makes for unorthodox bid

JULIE BYKOWICZ, Associated Press

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It can be hard to see where Donald Trump the business ends and Donald Trump the presidential candidate begins.

When Trump is confronted by his political rivals, the Republican front-runner's company attorney threatens lawsuits on corporate letterhead.

When Trump's campaign needs event space, private businesses sometimes provide it free.

The political novice's use of corporate resources — his own and others — is just one more campaign tool. But it has drawn the attention of federal regulators, as well as campaign-law experts who say some of what he's doing could be illegal.

"The entanglements with his business and his campaign are certainly unusual, and maybe unprecedented," said Kenneth Gross, a lawyer who previously led the Federal Election Commission's enforcement division. "Use of a candidate's own corporate resources is highly, highly regulated activity."

At the FEC's demand, Trump's campaign on Thursday provided regulators with the names of employees at his real estate and entertainment company who are doing work for his campaign — mostly security and communications aides.

Trump's personal brand is fused with his business, making his campaign's navigation of election law a particular challenge. He's not the first candidate in this position. Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and past presidential contender Steve Forbes both run companies bearing their name.

"From day one, there was no use of any corporate assets in any way, shape or form," said Bill Dal Col, who ran Forbes' unsuccessful 1996 and 2000 White House campaigns. "That way you don't have to walk the maze of campaign law, and you don't expose business or campaign to any liability."

Bloomberg also took "enormous care" not to commingle his business and campaign, said Gross, who was his campaign attorney.

Trump is taking a different path, testing an area of election law as no other candidate has before.

Reports filed by Trump's campaign covering its activities through Sept. 30 show hundreds of thousands of dollars in payments to cover reimbursements for campaign space at Trump's Manhattan office tower, political use of the corporate jet and the salaries of Trump Organization employees.

Trump himself appears to be personally paying for the jet and salaries, and candidates are allowed to spend as much of their own money seeking election as they wish.

But none of the Trump Organization lawyers, including general counsel Alan Garten, is being paid through the campaign. Garten has sent angry letters when a rival candidate or group attacks Trump.

This month, Mike Fernandez, a billionaire Miami donor backing Jeb Bush's White House bid, called Trump "a destroyer" in newspaper ads.

Garten warned him and the treasurer of an unrelated pro-Bush group that if the "ads contain any false, misleading, defamatory, inaccurate or otherwise tortious statements or representations concerning Mr. Trump, his business or his brand, we will not hesitate to seek immediate legal action to prevent such distribution and hold you jointly and severally liable to the fullest extent of the law for any damages resulting therefrom ... and will look forward to doing it."

Recipients of similar letters from Garten include a group backing the candidacy of Ohio Gov. John Kasich and the conservative group Club for Growth, which spent about \$1 million on TV ads calling Trump "the worst kind of politician."

Political candidates rarely respond to attacks by threatening legal action, because the law gives wide protection to speech made against political figures, a group that now includes Trump. The Trump Organization argues it has a right to protect its brand, which means protecting Trump.

"Those rights are not forfeited by virtue of Mr. Trump's candidacy," said Hope Hicks, a Trump campaign spokeswoman (and Trump Organization employee). The defense of his brand, she said, "is in no way any form of campaign activity and does not run afoul of federal election laws."

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Bob Biersack, who worked for the FEC for 30 years and is now a senior fellow at the Center for Responsive Politics, called such reasoning "kind of silly." He said he had never heard of a business person invoking brand protection as a guard against public policy arguments.

Some of those who have received Trump Organization warnings have in turn slammed him for what they contend is his illegal use of corporate resources.

"Trump and his agents have explicitly directed his corporate attorneys at the Organization to do the dirty work for the campaign," wrote Charlie Spies, the attorney for groups backing Bush, in a reply to Garten. "Just as your client is attempting to quickly learn the basics of foreign policy, we wish you personally the best in your attempts to learn election law."

Spies has filed an FEC complaint along those lines.

Gross said Trump's use of his own company resources, if properly documented and reimbursed at a fair market rate, could be permissible, if unusual. What's murkier is his campaign's use of the resources of other companies.

On Wednesday, Trump held a rally held at an airport hangar owned by International Air Response, a specialty aerial services provider run by Travis and Bill Grantham in Arizona.

"They gave us a very good deal," Trump bragged at the event. "You know what it is? Nothing. Thank you, fellas."

That might come as a disappointment to former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, whose campaign in June paid \$40,000 to lease an aircraft from the same company to use as a dramatic backdrop as he launched his ill-fated presidential bid.

Bill Grantham said fees for the 67,000-square-foot space that Trump used run from "free to tens of thousands of dollars," depending upon the circumstance. He declined to give more details or discuss his arrangement with the Trump campaign.

The free space for Trump appears to be an illegal corporate contribution, said Larry Noble, a former FEC commissioner and senior counsel for the Campaign Legal Center, a nonprofit that supports strong enforcement of election law.

That's because corporations are barred from giving anything — whether it is a cash donation or a valuable gift such as an arena space — to a candidate's official campaign.

Asked about the legality of his company's arrangement with Trump, Grantham declined to comment. Hicks, the Trump campaign spokeswoman, responded by saying the campaign's next financial report will be filed with the FEC in January.

For bears and hares, the mild weather is a mixed bag

LISA RATHKE, Associated Press

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — For now, the El Niño-driven mild weather is a boon to some wildlife, which are able to forage for more food and are using less energy surviving, experts say. But for some species — like snowshoe hares, whose white fur makes them conspicuous to predators — the lack of snow isn't good news.

Access to food, such as nuts and apples, which have been abundant but are now getting scarce, has kept some black bears active and out of their winter dens. The bear activity has prompted officials in Vermont and Massachusetts to urge residents to wait for snow before putting up bird feeders to avoid attracting bears.

"We suggest waiting for 6 or more inches of snow that lasts before putting out your bird feeders, especially if you have been visited in the past by bears or if there are sightings of bears in your neighborhood," Forrest Hammond, Vermont Fish and Wildlife's bear biologist, said this week. "Due to lack of snow and frozen ground, birds are able to forage in fields and forests for their natural foods."

Female bears typically go into their dens before males, he said. A lack of available food rather than cold weather tends to drive males into their dens, he said.

In Maine, the bears stayed out later than normal this year, but most seem to be denning up now, said

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Judy Camuso, director of wildlife for the Maine Department of Inland, Fisheries and Wildlife. In Colorado, which this week was blanketed with snow, bears started to hibernate on schedule this fall, according to Mat Robbins, spokesman for Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

The amount of snow also can affect how comfortable the bears are and likely the rate that they use up their accumulated fat while they hibernate, Hammond said.

"A lot of their den sites are laying there exposed to the elements now," he said. "If we get a couple feet of good snow depth, then their dens are covered over completely. You wouldn't know there was a bear ever there."

Predators don't know they are there, they are not exposed to the elements and they sleep much more soundly so they're not using up as much of their fat reserves, he said.

The mild fall also has delayed the annual migration of some geese and other waterfowl, according to Geoff LeBaron, director of the Christmas Bird Count for the National Audubon Society. Some species that winter in the U.S. move with the weather, or just in advance of it, so geese and waterfowl, especially in the East, stay north for as long as they can in mild winters, he said. Once things start to freeze up and there's snow cover, they'll head south, he said.

Virginia, where the temperature is expected to hit 70 on Christmas, is not seeing as many migratory waterfowl — Canada geese, swans — as it normally does this time of year.

"Without that colder weather up north to push those birds down, the word is that it's been slow," said Lee Walker, spokesman for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

A lack of snow also makes some animals more vulnerable to prey. Snowshoe hares and long- and short-tailed weasels have already molted and grown in their winter white coats, a process driven by length of daylight.

"If you're a barred owl or a great horned owl or a hawk — you know, a red-tailed hawk — or a fox or a coyote or a fisher, everything that's hooked in as a predator would love to have a snowshoe hare for dinner," said Mark Scott, director of wildlife for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Debate unknown: How will Clinton handle data breach dust-up?

LISA LERER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the first debate of the Democratic presidential campaign, Bernie Sanders dismissed concerns about Hillary Clinton's use of a private email account and server while she was secretary of state. Americans, he said, were tired of talking about her "damn emails."

Will Clinton return the favor in Saturday night's debate in New Hampshire?

The disclosure on Friday that four members of Sanders' team improperly accessed voter information compiled by Clinton's campaign shook up what had been a relatively civil race. The development has the potential to transform the debate — the third of the race and the last of the year — into something far livelier.

For Clinton, the question was how forcefully to confront the Vermont senator about the matter and whether to defend the reaction of the Democratic National Committee, which cut off Sanders' access to the party's voter database after learning of the breach. Sanders' campaign said its access was restored Saturday morning.

The DNC maintains a trove of voter information. The campaigns can add to that database — information they use to target voters and anticipate what issues might motivate them.

In Clinton's case, campaign manager Robby Mook said that information included "fundamental parts of our strategy." Experts said the Sanders campaign employees who accessed it without authorization appear to have broken the law.

"Our data was stolen," Mook said. "The data that they reached in and took from our campaign is effectively the strategic road map in those states."

Sanders' campaign rejected that allegation and sued to DNC to regain access to the voter records. The suit contended the DNC's actions caused Sanders' campaign "injury and financial losses."

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"It's outrageous to suggest that our campaign 'stole' any data," said Sanders spokesman Michael Briggs. "What is true is the data we collected and need to run a winning campaign is now being stolen from us by a DNC dominated by Clinton people."

Early Saturday, the DNC said Sanders' campaign had complied with its request for information about the incident.

"Based on this information, we are restoring the Sanders campaign's access to the voter file, but will continue to investigate to ensure that the data that was inappropriately accessed has been deleted and is no longer in possession of the Sanders campaign," DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, a Florida congresswoman, said in a statement.

Even before the suit, Sanders' campaign was trying for a political edge, sending a fundraising email to supporters that said the DNC had placed "its thumb on the scales in support of Hillary Clinton's campaign."

The email made no mention of the campaign's decision to fire a worker involved in the data breach or the admission from campaign manager Jeff Weaver that the worker's actions were "unacceptable."

The controversy came as Sanders struggled to draw attention to his economically focused campaign message after the attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, California, shifted the focus of the 2016 campaign to national security.

"He's got to refocus Democrats onto his issue ground," said Paul Maslin, a Democratic pollster unaffiliated with either campaign. "It's been usurped by events."

Sanders has tried to cast himself as being above politics as usual. An independent running as a Democrat, Sanders has pledged to avoid personal attacks and dirty tricks.

Clinton aides contended that Sanders' message was undermined by the newly revealed actions of his staff. They said the information that the four Sanders workers reviewed in 25 separate searches included details on voter turnout and candidate preferences, revealing the Clinton campaign's approach in early voting states such as Iowa and New Hampshire.

During the debate, Clinton could choose to play down the issue in the way that Sanders did with his dismissal of questions about Clinton's email use.

If Clinton did that, she probably would avoid alienating Sanders supporters — the passionate liberal voters she will need to win the general election should she capture the Democratic nomination.

Beijing's 2nd smog red alert of the month goes into effect

BEIJING (AP) — Beijing was enveloped in eye-watering, throat-irritating smog on Saturday as the second red alert of the month went into effect in the Chinese capital, forcing many cars off the roads and restricting factory production.

A wave of smog settled over the notoriously polluted city of 22.5 million overnight and is forecast to last into Tuesday because of a lack of strong winds.

Smog red alerts, the most serious in a four-tier warning system, are triggered when high pollution levels are forecast to last more than 72 hours.

Levels of PM2.5, the tiniest and deadliest airborne particles, rose to as high as 331 in some parts of Beijing on Saturday and are predicted to top 500 in the coming days — more than 20 times the level considered safe by the World Health Organization.

As a result of the red alert, schools were ordered closed and half the city's cars forced off the roads each day. Barbecue grills and other outdoor smoke sources have been banned and factory production restricted.

While some balked at the inconveniences, most Beijingers appeared to support the measures after a lengthy stretch when the government was seen as largely ignoring the smog problem.

"I think (the government) is doing a better job than before," Beijing resident Ma Yunan said. "In previous times, the government would not issue red alerts even when the haze was very serious. Now they are publishing alerts beforehand for us to get ourselves prepared and the alerts are accompanied with some measures."

Although the smog warning system was launched two years ago, Beijing had not issued a red alert until Dec. 7, drawing accusations that it was ignoring serious bouts of smog to avoid the economic costs.

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The smog in Beijing is largely blamed on coal burning power plants, industrial pollution and the booming number of vehicles. The city's geography worsens the problem because mountains on three sides trap smog, and cold winter air presses down on it to keep it from clearing.

While waiting for promised plans to cut coal pollution to take effect, residents of Beijing and other polluted cities in northern China adapt by wearing face masks and equipping their homes with air filters.

China, the world's biggest carbon emitter, plans to reduce hazardous emissions from coal-fired power plants by 50 percent over the next five years, and says its overall emissions will peak by about 2030 before starting to decline.

Scientific studies attribute 1.4 million premature deaths per year to China's smog, or almost 4,000 per day.

Pentagon chief: Iraqi strike may be 'mistake' by 2 sides

LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

ABOARD THE USS KEARSARGE (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter says an American airstrike that may have killed a number of Iraqi soldiers seems to be "a mistake that involved both sides."

Carter has called Iraq's prime minister, Haider al-Abadi, to express condolences.

Carter spoke to reporters during a visit Saturday to the USS Kearsarge in the Persian Gulf.

The U.S. military says an airstrike Friday against Islamic State targets may have resulted in the death of Iraqi soldiers near the city of Fallujah. The military didn't say how many may have been killed. Other officials said the Iraqis initially reported that about 10 may have died.

The U.S. military says the strikes came in response to requests and information provided by Iraqi security forces on the ground near Fallujah, which IS controls.

South Koreans hold new rally against conservative president

TONG-HYUNG KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Blowing horns and banging on tambourines, thousands of South Koreans marched in Seoul on Saturday to protest the arrest of a labor union leader who may face a rarely used sedition charge over the eruption of violence at an earlier anti-government protest.

The demonstration was the latest in a series of mass protests in recent months of conservative President Park Geun-hye. She has been criticized for her increasingly harsh treatment of union members and dissidents resisting her drive to make labor markets more flexible.

The demonstrators, also carrying banners and handheld signs and shouting for Park to step down, marched through downtown streets as large groups of police officers moved along and kept them at close watch. The walk brought the demonstrators to an area near a hospital where a 69-year-old protester remains in a coma after being injured during a huge rally on Nov. 14, when dozens were hurt in clashes with police.

Police said about 2,500 people participated in Saturday's rally. The crowd was significantly smaller than the protest in November and a peaceful follow-up demonstration on Dec. 5, which drew a combined total of more than 80,000 people.

Park's government has clamped down on labor and civic groups involved in organizing last month's rally, holding them responsible for the violence.

Prosecutors are considering indicting arrested Korean Confederation of Trade Unions President Han Sang-gyun for sedition, a charge unseen in South Korean courts since the 1980s, when the country was under military dictatorship. Under South Korean law, sedition is punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

The government's tough stance on protesters has added concerns about what critics see as Park's unwillingness to tolerate dissent. Prosecutors in recent months have pushed several criminal defamation cases against journalists and activists, who have been outspoken in their disapproval of Park.

There is also widespread resistance to the government's decision to require middle and high schools to use only state-issued history textbooks starting in 2017, which critics say is an attempt to whitewash the dictatorships that preceded South Korea's bloody transition toward democracy in the 1980s.

Park is the daughter of slain military dictator Park Chung-hee, who ruled South Korea in the 1960s and '70s, and whose legacy as a successful economic strategist is marred by a brutal record of civilian oppression.

'Force Awakens' on track for record \$215M-plus weekend

JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Star Wars" fever has spread through movie theaters around the globe, even reaching the White House, as the franchise yet again began toppling box-office records with waves of lightsaber-wielding fans.

Following a record \$57 million from Thursday night showings in North America, and packed matinees on Friday, the Walt Disney Co. projected that "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" will surpass \$215 million on the weekend, besting the record domestic opening of "Jurassic World," which debuted with \$208.8 million in June.

Such an outcome would surprise few analysts, but the numbers were nevertheless eye-popping. "The Force Awakens" was heading toward a Thursday night-Friday total of more than \$120 million domestically, said Dave Hollis, head of distribution for Disney. The previous one-day high was \$91.1 million set by "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 2" in 2011.

In such rarified territory, Disney has been cautious about overestimating the box-office force of J.J. Abrams' seventh chapter in George Lucas' space saga. Based on the early response, many analysts have the film pegged for a weekend total closer to \$250 million — far above "Jurassic World."

Disney's biggest worry has been that moviegoers will be too daunted by sold-out shows and long lines. More than \$100 million advance tickets (also a record) were sold ahead of the opening of "The Force Awakens," much of those going toward Thursday and Friday shows. Saturday and Sunday will depend more on traditional walk-up business. Hollis said exhibitors are continually adding more screenings to satisfy demand.

The international rollout for the film, made for about \$200 million, has already brought in an estimated total of \$72.7 million since opening in a handful of countries Wednesday. "The Force Awakens" is simultaneously opening around the world just about everywhere but China, where it debuts in January.

It's setting records overseas, too, including the biggest single day ever in the United Kingdom with an estimated \$14.4 million on Thursday.

While "Star Wars" helped create the summer blockbuster, "The Force Awakens" is debuting in the holiday season of December, where the previous top opening was the \$84.6 million debut of 2012's "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey." By Disney's estimates, "The Force Awakens" — the widest December opening ever with 4,134 theaters — blew past that number by Friday afternoon.

Imax and 3-D screenings are helping to propel the record gross. Disney said that 47 percent of the Thursday box office came from 3-D showings and \$5.7 million from Imax screens.

A lot is riding on the film for Disney, which paid \$4.06 billion for Lucasfilm in 2012. Sequels and spinoffs are already in development for years to come, not to mention an entire corner of Disneyland devoted to the franchise.

Strong reviews for the film, which is set 30 years after "Return of the Jedi," have added to the fervor for "The Force Awakens." Critics have hailed it as a fan-friendly return to form for the franchise; the American Film Institute listed it among its top 10 films of the year.

Such a positive reaction for "The Force Awakens" may attract the kind of repeat viewings that made James Cameron's "Avatar" and "Titanic" the highest grossing films of all time. Whether "The Force Awakens" can come close to the global hauls of those films (\$2.8 billion for "Avatar" and \$2.2 billion for "Titanic") won't be clear for weeks.

But so far, "The Force Awakens" is attracting the interest of seemingly everyone. President Barack Obama began a year-end news conference Friday noting, "Clearly, this is not the most important event that's taking place in the White House today." Soon to begin was a screening of the film for families who have lost a relative to combat or service-related injuries.

After fielding questions, Obama concluded the press conference: "OK everybody, I got to get to 'Star Wars.'"

US stocks tumble on global worries; financial stocks skid

MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks plunged across all sectors in the heaviest trading of the year Friday as enthusiasm over a long-awaited increase in U.S. interest rates faded.

Several other negative factors combined to give the market its second big loss in a row, bringing the indexes lower for the week.

Bank stocks, which investors had bid up in hopes they would become more profitable as loan rates climbed, fell the most. Technology shares suffered more declines as a bad December got worse for Apple. The world's most valuable publicly traded company sank again, bringing its monthly loss to 10 percent.

Overseas, Japan's market sank after that country's central bank made changes to a stimulus program that fell short of what investors were hoping for. Another drop in energy prices sent oil stocks lower again, and worries about weak global growth weighed on shipping and other transportation companies.

The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 367.29 points, or 2.1 percent, to 17,128.55. The S&P 500 index fell 36.34 points, or 1.8 percent, to 2,005.55. The Nasdaq composite sank 79.47 points, or 1.6 percent, to 4,923.08. All 10 Standard & Poor's 500 sectors fell.

U.S. stock trading was even more volatile than usual Friday because of the simultaneous expiration of several kinds of futures and other contracts that investors use to place bets on indexes and individual stocks. As a result Friday was the busiest trading day of the year for stocks.

The market ended a tumultuous week slightly lower. Stocks had rallied over the first three days and jumped Wednesday after the Federal Reserve raised interest rates for the first time in almost a decade. The move was a vote of confidence in the U.S. economy. But over the next two days stocks were hit by some of the worries that have dogged them all year, like weakness in the Chinese economy, slowing global growth, and skidding prices for energy and metals.

While the Bank of Japan plans to spend a bit more on exchange-traded funds for companies that increase hiring and investment, investors were hoping for more, according to Ryan Larson, head of U.S. equity trading for RBC Global Asset Management.

"They were looking for more, and when the market's disappointed, this is what you get," he said.

The global market went into a similar slide two weeks ago, when the European Central Bank ramped up its stimulus efforts but didn't do nearly as much as expected. Stocks rallied after ECB President Mario Draghi said the bank is ready to expand its stimulus program further if needed.

Those slumps show that investors will continue keeping an eye on the words and deeds of central banks in struggling Europe and Japan as well as the U.S. for the foreseeable future.

The Federal Reserve had kept interest rates near zero for seven years. Fed Chair Janet Yellen emphasized that despite the boost, interest rates will remain low for some time. That pleased investors overall, but it eventually put pressure on bank stocks. Banks will benefit from higher interest rates and have and have rallied over the last few months, but the initial benefits won't be great.

Goldman Sachs dropped \$7.12, or 3.9 percent, to \$175.49 and ETrade Financial lost \$1.13, or 3.8 percent, to \$28.82. Citigroup gave up \$1.63, or 3.1 percent, to \$51.21.

Tech stocks also slumped. Apple fell \$2.95, or 2.7 percent, to \$106.03. The stock has fallen 10 percent in December and has risen only three days this month. Microsoft fell \$1.57, or 2.8 percent, to \$54.13.

Transportation stocks also fell. Shares of J.B. Hunt Transportation surrendered \$1.96, or 2.7 percent, to \$70.62 and Ryder System lost \$2.59, or 4.6 percent, to \$54.08.

Used car dealership chain CarMax disclosed disappointing quarterly results, as its profit and sales both fell short of analyst projections. Its stock lost \$3.66, or 6.4 percent, to \$53.49.

The news wasn't all bad. Darden Restaurants, the owner of Olive Garden and other chains, climbed after the company raised its outlook for the year. Olive Garden sales rose and the company's profit was better than analysts were expecting. The stock added \$4.11, or 7 percent, to \$62.50.

U.S. crude fell 22 cents to \$34.73 a barrel in New York. Oil is trading at its lowest level in almost seven years and has slumped over the last two days. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, slipped 18

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cents to \$36.88 a barrel in London. Natural gas, which has sunk to 16-year lows as demand fell, picked up 1.2 cents to \$1.767 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Offshore oil drilling companies skidded. Transocean gave up 74 cents, or 5.7 percent, to \$12.26 while EnSCO lost \$1.08, or 7 percent, to \$14.31 and Diamond Offshore Drilling dipped 70 cents, or 3.3 percent, to \$20.47.

Wholesale gasoline rose 1.3 cents to \$1.275 a gallon and heating oil inched up to \$1.107 a gallon.

Metals prices also rose Friday. The price of gold edged up \$15.40, or 1.5 percent, to \$1,065 per ounce and silver added 39.3 cents, or 2.9 percent, to \$14.096 an ounce. Copper rose 6.9 cents, or 3.4 percent, to \$2.113 a pound.

U.S. government bond prices rose. The yield on 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.21 percent from 2.23 percent. The euro rose to \$1.0863 from \$1.0805. The dollar dipped to 121.25 yen from 122.85 yen. The dollar had climbed Thursday and is expected to gain strength as the Fed raises interest rates while central banks in Europe and Japan reduce interest rates.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Dec. 19, the 353rd day of 2015. There are 12 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Dec. 19, 1915, legendary French chanteuse Edith Piaf was born in Paris. German psychiatrist Alois Alzheimer, who discovered the pathological condition of dementia, died in Breslau (now Wroclaw), Poland, at age 51.

On this date:

In 1777, Gen. George Washington led his army of about 11,000 men to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, to camp for the winter.

In 1813, British forces captured Fort Niagara during the War of 1812.

In 1843, "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, was first published in England.

In 1907, 239 workers died in a coal mine explosion in Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania.

In 1932, the British Broadcasting Corp. began transmitting overseas with its Empire Service to Australia.

In 1946, war broke out in Indochina as troops under Ho Chi Minh launched widespread attacks against the French.

In 1957, Meredith Willson's musical play "The Music Man" opened on Broadway.

In 1961, former U.S. Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy Sr., 73, suffered a debilitating stroke while in Palm Beach, Florida.

In 1974, Nelson A. Rockefeller was sworn in as the 41st vice president of the United States in the U.S. Senate chamber by Chief Justice Warren Burger with President Gerald R. Ford looking on.

In 1975, John Paul Stevens was sworn in as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1985, in Minneapolis, Mary Lund became the first woman to receive a Jarvik VII artificial heart. (Lund received a human heart transplant 45 days later; she died in October 1986.)

In 1998, President Bill Clinton was impeached by the Republican-controlled House for perjury and obstruction of justice (he was subsequently acquitted by the Senate).

Ten years ago: A Chalk's Ocean Airways seaplane crashed off Miami Beach, Florida, killing all 18 passengers and both pilots. President George W. Bush forcefully defended a domestic spying program as an effective tool in disrupting terrorists and insisted it was not an abuse of Americans' civil liberties. A video posted online by an extremist group, the Islamic Army of Iraq, purportedly showed the killing of American contractor Ronald Allen Schulz. Afghanistan's first democratically elected parliament in more than three decades convened. Southern California running back Reggie Bush was named Associated Press Player of the Year. Mob boss Vincent "The Chin" Gigante died in federal prison in Springfield, Missouri, at age 77.

Five years ago: The body of an American tourist, Kristine Luken, 44, was found near a road outside

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Jerusalem. (A Palestinian man was later sentenced by an Israeli court to life in prison for stabbing Luken.) Belarus' President Alexander Lukashenko won re-election. In a game that came to be known as the "Miracle at the New Meadowlands," Philadelphia's DeSean Jackson returned a punt 65 yards for a touchdown as time expired in the Eagles' 38-31 comeback win over the New York Giants.

One year ago: President Barack Obama said Sony Pictures Entertainment "made a mistake" in shelving "The Interview," a satirical film about a plot to assassinate North Korea's leader; Sony defended its decision, saying it had no choice but to cancel the film's Christmas Day theatrical release because the country's top theater chains had pulled out in the face of threats.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Cicely Tyson is 91. Former game show contestant Herb Stempel is 89. Rhythm-and-blues singer-musician Maurice White (Earth, Wind and Fire) is 74. Former South Korean President Lee Myung-bak is 74. Actress Elaine Joyce is 72. Actor Tim Reid is 71. Paleontologist Richard E. Leakey is 71. Musician John McEuen is 70. Singer Janie Fricke is 68. Jazz musician Lenny White is 66. Actor Mike Lookinland is 55. Actress Jennifer Beals is 52. Actor Scott Cohen is 51. Actor Robert MacNaughton is 49. Magician Criss Angel is 48. Rock musician Klaus Eichstadt (Ugly Kid Joe) is 48. Actor Ken Marino is 47. Actor Elvis Nolasco is 47. Rock musician Kevin Shepard is 47. Actor Derek Webster is 47. Actress Kristy Swanson is 46. Model Tyson Beckford is 45. Actress Amy Locane is 44. Pro Football Hall of Famer Warren Sapp is 43. Actress Rosa Blasi is 43. Actress Alyssa Milano is 43. Actor Jake Gyllenhaal (JIH'-lihn-hahl) is 35. Actress Marla Sokoloff is 35. Rapper Lady Sovereign is 30. Actor Iain de Caestecker is 28.

Thought for Today: "He that jokes confesses." - Italian proverb.