

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 1 of 38

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Harry Implement Ad
- 2- Sippel to celebrate 95th birthday
- 2- Dog Licenses Available
- 2- Santa is coming to Groton
- 3- Doug Sippel Benefit
- 4- City Council Nov. 21 Minutes
- 5- Part 2 - JK Students featured
- 6- 70th Annual Snow Queen
- 6- Sign up for Groton Bucks
- 7- Governor Daugaard's Weekly Column
- 8- McKiver Collision Thanksgiving Ad
- 9- Blocker Construction Thanksgiving Ad
- 10- Today in Weather History
- 11 - Local Weather Forecast
- 12- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 12- Today's Weather Climate
- 12- National Weather map
- 13- Golden Living Ad
- 13- Daily Devotional
- 14 - AP News

Apts for Rent

1 bedroom and HUGE 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments available NOW! All utilities included except A/C, 1 bedroom \$504 and HUGE 2 bedroom 2 bath \$674 Please call or text 239-849-7674

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**

© 2016 Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Friday, Nov. 25

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

Sunday, Nov. 27

9 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship (No Sunday School)

9 a.m.: St. John's Lutheran Worship

10 a.m.: St. John's Lutheran Sunday School

10 a.m.: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church

7 p.m.: Snow Queen Contest at GHS Gym

Monday, Nov. 28

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: French toast sticks, links, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: BBQ, sweet potato tots, broccoli and dip, fruit.

6:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

Tuesday, Nov. 29

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, Mandarin Oranges.

School Breakfast: Egg sandwich, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken strips, smiley potatoes, carrots and dip, fruit, muffin.

5 p.m.: JH GBB at Clark (7th grade at 5 p.m., 8th grade at 6 p.m.)

Wednesday, Nov. 30

Senior Menu: French dip sandwich, macaroni

Harry Implement

"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421

Ferney

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 2 of 38



Sippel to celebrate 95th Birthday!

Emery Sippel of Groton will celebrate his 95th birthday on November 25. Greetings may be sent to 402 E. 15th Ave., Groton, SD 57445-2290.

2017 DOG LICENSES AVAILABLE NOW!!

Licenses due by Dec. 30, 2016

Fines start after Dec. 30, 2016

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

Hey Kids! Come see Santa!



Saturday, Dec. 10, 9-11 a.m.
**Professional Management
Services**

Downtown Groton
Cookies & Juice for the kids
Photographer Available

GROTON

Chamber Of Commerce

Made it possible for Santa to come to Groton!

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 3 of 38

DOUG SIPPEL BENEFIT

Event sponsored by Friends and Family of Doug Sippel

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER

26

- > Consignment Auction 4:00 p.m.
- > Live Auction to follow
- > Silent Auction 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- > Split Pot
- > Raffles
- > Fresh Lefsa
- > Lunch Served - Free Will Donation

Partial List of Live Auction Items

- >Registered Angus Bull
- >1/4 Beef
- >Muzzle Loader
- >Weber Q Grill
- >Popcorn Popper
- >Piano
- >Computer Desk
- >Little Tikes KitchenSet

Partial List of Consignment Auction Items

- >1993 Dodge Dakota Pickup
 - >1994 Prowler 5th Wheel Camper
 - >Wood Chipper
- Benefit receives 10% of sale price on Consignment - consignee 90%. Please call Topper at 397-7337 with items.

DOUG HAS
ENCOUNTERED
HEALTH
ISSUES AND IS
UNABLE TO
WORK.
PLEASE COME
SHOW YOUR
SUPPORT!

Groton Legion at 4:00 P.M.
Saturday November 26th

Smaller donation items may be dropped off at the city office. For larger items, please call Topper at 397-7337 or Cheri at 380-2197.

Fund set up at First State Bank in Groton in the name of "Doug Sippel Benefit"

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 4 of 38

Groton City November 21 Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2016

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at the Groton Community Center for their regular second monthly meeting with the following members present: Flihs, Opp, McGannon, Glover, Peterson, Blackmun, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Finance Officer Lowary, Attorney Johnson, Paul Kosel, and Kathy Sundermeier.

The minutes were approved as read on a motion by Opp and seconded by Glover. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Peterson and seconded by McGannon to authorize the following bills for payment. All members present voted aye.

First State Bank 7,328.12 ss & wh; Consolidated Fed Cr Union 1,125.00 emp savings; April Abeln 982.35 med flex, dep flex; AFLAC 749.62 emp ins; Car Quest 417.16 repairs; Cole Paper 122.53 bags; Colonial Research Co 168.51 digester; Dakota Fluid Power 1,415.59 cylinders; Dearborn National Life 88.00 life ins; Groton Independent 17.53 publishing; Guardian Ins 245.30 emp ins; Harry Implement 71.00 hose; Heartland Cons Power District 32,721.41 power; Paul Kosel 254.32 mileage, meals, med flex; Macs 26.61 ratchet; Matheson Tri-Gas 73.91 welding wire; Mike N Jos 159.10 fender liner; Nelson Sales & Service 178.77 fuel pump, filter; Ramkota Hotel-Pierre 99.99 safety school motel; SD Supplement Retirement 1,260.00 emp retirement; Sperry Stump Removal 975.00 stump grinding; Dan Sunne 131.00 med flex; Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield 13,666.66 health ins

Discussion on the regulation of fire pits was held. No action was taken.

Groton has received a grant of \$24,900 for playground equipment for the baseball complex which will be matched with the memorial funds previously donated. A committee will be formed to choose the exact equipment.

The skating rink operation will remain the same as last year and employees will be hired Dec 5.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Opp to authorize PayGov.US as the credit and debit card processing company for the City of Groton. All expenses for the program will be passed onto the card users. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Glover and seconded by Opp to give each employee \$50 of Groton bucks for a holiday gift. All members present voted aye.

Lowary reported on health insurance renewal options. Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Opp to take Alternate B with \$2,500/\$7,500 deductible, 70/30 copay and 6.67% rate increase to the City for the 2017 group health insurance for employees and their families. Also a \$500 matching med flex plan will be available for each employee to help with the increased deductible. All members present voted aye.

A request from the Olive Grove Golf Course to be rezoned commercial will be explored.

At 8:03pm the Council adjourned into executive session on a motion by Glover and seconded by Flihs to discuss personnel matters SDCL 1-25-2 (1). All members present voted aye. Council reconvened at 9:05pm.

Moved by Glover and seconded by Flihs to give 1st Reading to Ordinance 707, The 2017 Salary Ordinance. All members present voted aye.

Meeting adjourned.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Anita Lowary, Finance Officer

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 5 of 38

From The Groton Area Junior Kindergarten Students. . .

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Isabella Daly
daughter of Adrian
and Amber Daly.
Isabella is Thankful
for her family and
cat and her Lego's



Hudson Eichler,
son of Collin and
Emily Eichler. He is
thankful for staying
home



Dawson Feist,
son of Michael and
Ashley Feist. He I
thankful for getting
a new toy



Liam Johnson,
son of Reid and Ni-
cole Johnson. He is
thankful for going
to the park with his
mom

More students to be featured in tomorrow's GDI

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 6 of 38

70th Annual Kiwanis Snow Queen Contest Sunday, Nov. 27, 7 p.m., GHS Gym

Sr./Jr. Snow Queens
Prince/Princesses
Junior Talent
Senior Talent
Guess Frosty



Ice Cream
Social will be
held during
the
intermission



GROTON

Chamber Of Commerce

**Sign Up for Groton Chamber
Bucks at the Holiday Boxes
Located This week at the
Groton Dairy Queen
and S & S Lumber**

Week of Nov. 28: Groton Vet Clinic & Ken's Food Fair

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 7 of 38



Christmas At The Capitol

When she was in the third grade, Linda Krutzfeldt received a Colorado blue spruce seedling. It was 1986 and a South Dakota Department of Agriculture forester was giving an Arbor Day presentation at Linda's school in Huron. To go along with his presentation, the forester brought little trees for the children.

Linda took her tree home and planted it outside of her bedroom window so she could look at it each day and watch it grow. She even put a chicken wire fence around the tree to protect it. She called it "the little tree that could." Under Linda's care, the tree grew to 40 feet tall.

Thirty years later, that tree will be enjoyed by all who visit the Capitol this holiday season. Linda's Colorado blue spruce is the tallest tree of this year's Christmas at the Capitol display.

This season marks the 36th year of Christmas at the Capitol. The idea was spearheaded by Dottie Howe of Pierre in 1981. That first year there were 12 decorated trees. In 1988, Christmas at the Capitol organizers started inviting groups and organizations from throughout the state to send decorations for 30 Capitol trees. The popularity of the Christmas tree display kept growing and growing, and by 1997 groups were decorating 50 trees.

This year we have over 90 trees in our display. The largest tree donated by Linda and her family has been decorated by the Mt. Rushmore Society and the theme of the display is "A Monumental Christmas."

Many volunteers have devoted precious hours to decorate the Capitol building for the holidays. As always, they have done an excellent job.

I hope you will find time this holiday season to come to Pierre to see Linda's tree and experience Christmas at the Capitol. The display is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days each week through Monday, Dec. 26.

I hope to see you there!



A Message of Thanks

We're counting our blessings this Thanksgiving, and we couldn't have asked for a better bunch of neighbors than you!

Have a wonderful holiday and please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your most generous support this past year.



Lifetime Warranty on all Collision Work!

Construction is a lot like Thanksgiving!

It takes time to plan and make the Thanksgiving meal, but when you're done, it sure is good. It takes time to plan and build a house, but when Blocker Construction is done with it, it sure is great! We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and thanks for all your support this past year.



BLOCKER
CONSTRUCTION

NEW CONSTRUCTION
REMODELING
HOOP BARNs

(605) 216-2677

(605) 226-4062

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 10 of 38

Today in Weather History

November 24, 1993: A major slow-moving storm system traveled across the upper Midwest during the Thanksgiving holiday, dumping heavy snow across most of South Dakota and Minnesota from November 24 through the 27th. The highest snowfall amounts of two to three feet occurred in northeast South Dakota. Over a foot of snow accumulated in west central Minnesota, and needless to say, travel became tough across the entire area. Storm total snowfall amounts included 31.8 inches at Westport, 29.5 inches at Leola, 28 inches at Britton, 25.3 inches at Aberdeen, 24.3 inches at Mellette, 24.0 inches at McLaughlin, and 22.0 inches near Victor. The snowfall of 25.3 inches at Aberdeen was a single storm record (that still stands today), and it made November 1993 one of the snowiest months on record in Aberdeen with a total of 30.1 inches of snowfall. Only three months have recorded more snow: November 1898, February 1915, and November 2000. The storm closed numerous schools and offices on November 24th across the area, resulting in an early start to the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Some freezing rain and freezing drizzle preceded the snowstorm in southeast South Dakota from late on the 23rd to the 24th, causing at least 60 vehicle accidents. The heavy snow also clogged roads, causing vehicles to become stuck and resulting in numerous accidents. As a consequence of the heavy snow, low wind chills, and low visibilities, a 23-year old man was stranded in his pickup truck in a snow bank north of Aberdeen for 18 hours on the 23rd and 24th. The weight of snow collapsed many structures in northeast South Dakota from the 25th to the 26th. The roof of a metal barn collapsed two miles northwest of Aberdeen, killing one dairy cow in the barn. In Castlewood, a 100-foot by 40-foot metal pole shed fell in, causing damage to a grain truck inside. A machine shed also caved in on a farm east of Bowdle. During the afternoon of the 26th, part of the roof and wall of the Roscoe Senior Center collapsed, causing a near-total loss to the building. Strong northwest winds followed the snowstorm in western and central South Dakota, causing considerable blowing and drifting snow and wind chills as low as 50 degrees below zero. In North Dakota, over two feet of snow fell over a large part of central and southeastern portions of the state. Most of North Dakota had over a foot of snow from this storm. The greatest snowfall amount was reported at Oakes, in Dickey County where 31 inches fell. At the National Weather Service office in Bismarck, 28.3 inches of snow were measured during the 108-hour snow event. This amount set a new single storm record for snow in Bismarck. The snow began the evening on the 22nd and did not end until the morning of the 27th. Except for about six hours during the day on the 26th, the snow was continuous through this period. Fortunately, the wind was only 10 to 25 mph during this storm, so it was well below blizzard conditions and blowing and drifting of snow was not a problem.

1863: The "battle above the clouds" was fought on Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga. Pre-frontal clouds obscured the upper battlefield aiding a Union victory.

1982: Hurricane Iwa, a Category 1 hurricane, impacted the Hawaii Islands of Ni'ihau, Kaua'i, and O'ahu with gusts exceeding 100 mph and a storm surge of 30 feet. The first significant hurricane to hit the Hawaiian Islands since statehood in 1959, Iwa severely damaged or destroyed 2,345 buildings, including 1,927 houses, leaving 500 people homeless. Damage throughout the state totaled \$312 (\$765 million 2015 USD). One person was killed from the high seas, and three deaths were indirectly related to the hurricane's aftermath.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 11 of 38

Thanksgiving Day



Chance Snow and Patchy Fog

High: 35 °F

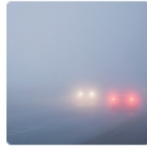
Tonight



Mostly Cloudy then Patchy Fog

Low: 24 °F

Friday



Patchy Fog

High: 42 °F

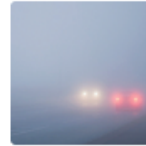
Friday Night



Patchy Fog

Low: 23 °F

Saturday



Patchy Fog

High: 44 °F

Saturday Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 23 °F

Sunday



Mostly Sunny then Chance Rain

High: 42 °F



Forecast Snowfall For Today



Follow us on *Social Media*

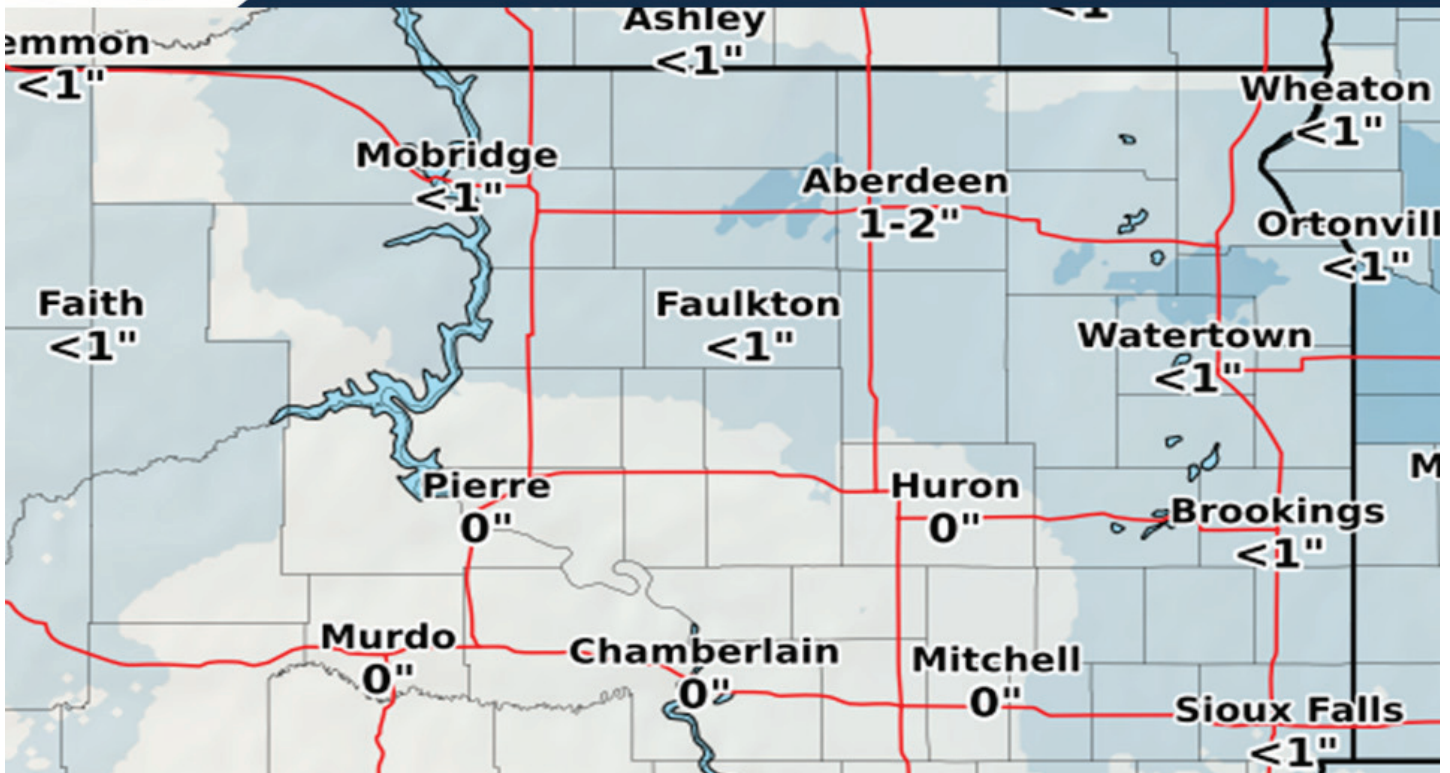
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 11/24/2016 at 3:48AM

A fast moving system will slide across the region today, bringing a quick shot of light snow with it. In general, amounts will be up to or around one inch, though a few spots could receive a bit more. The precipitation will exit the region this evening, with dry and warmer air moving in Friday and Saturday.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 12 of 38

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 35.2 F at 12:22 AM

Low Outside Temp: 33.3 F at 8:16 AM

High Gust: 17.0 Mph at 5:49 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 57° in 1905

Record Low: -17° in 1985

Average High: 35°F

Average Low: 15°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.59

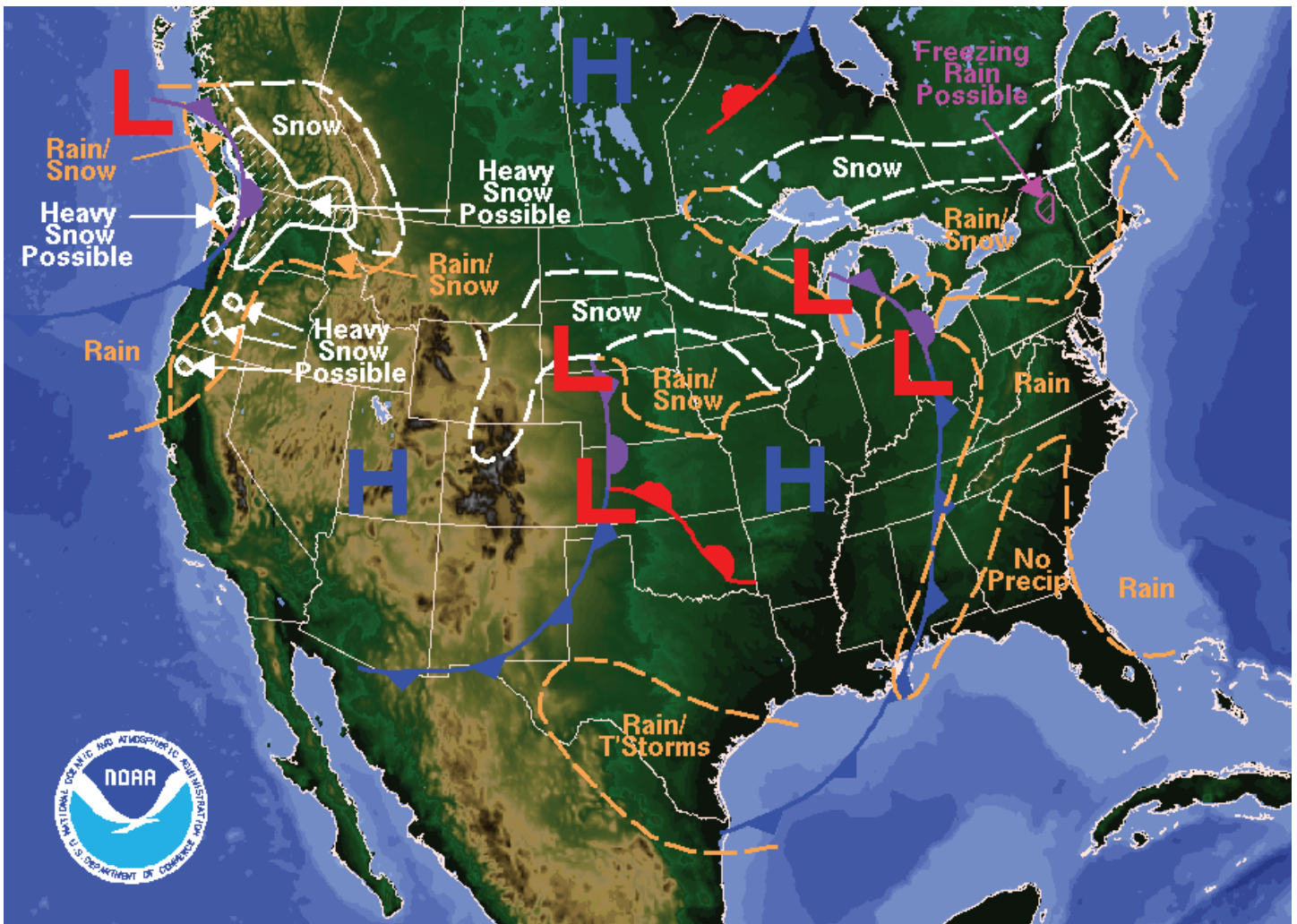
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.20

Average Precip to date: 21.06

Precip Year to Date: 15.20

Sunset Tonight: 4:56 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:45 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Nov 24, 2016, issued 4:43 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 13 of 38



"WE REALLY NEED YOU, GOD!"

Little Jeanie and her Mom were saying their "Good Night Prayers" together. Suddenly, she said in a bold voice, "God, please take care of Yourself. If anything happens to You, we're in a mess. We really need You, God."

Thankfully, Isaiah had some comforting words for Little Jeanie. Knowing others would have the same concern, God inspired him to write, "Don't you know that the Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the earth? He never grows faint or weary!"

What encouraging words from the Lord Himself! Here we see Isaiah describing our God's power to create, His power to sustain what He creates and His presence to help when we call upon Him. Our God is almighty and all powerful. Yet, with all of His greatness, He cares for each of us individually and our concerns and cares are not beneath Him or beyond Him.

Our God is beyond description and when we try to describe Him with our limited vocabulary, we only limit our understanding of Him. But this we know:

There is no limit to His love and no end to His forgiveness. No problem is too large for Him to solve nor any person too small for Him to recognize. He is not kind one moment and hateful the next. He is not strong one hour and weak the next. He does not want what is best for us one moment and then forgetful of us the next.

Prayer: Thank You God, for being our God. Thank You for being present today and every day and for Your promise of never leaving us nor forsaking us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Isaiah 40:27-31 ...The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom...

The logo for Golden Living, featuring the words "golden" in orange and "living" in blue, with a stylized orange and blue wave graphic below.

We now accept

The logo for Avera Health Plans, featuring the word "Avera" in white on a blue background, with a white cross symbol to the right, and "Health Plans" in white below.

for out patient therapy.

**1106 N 2nd St., Groton
605/397-2365**

News from the Associated Press

Little scores 17; No. 13 Oklahoma women beat S. Dakota St.

Peyton Little scored 17 points to lead No. 13 Oklahoma to a 74-60 victory over South Dakota State on Wednesday night. Little has scored in double figures in three straight games, and needs just 13 points to reach 1,000 during her career between Oklahoma and Texas A&M.

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Peyton Little scored 17 points to lead No. 13 Oklahoma to a 74-60 victory over South Dakota State on Wednesday night.

Little has scored in double figures in three straight games, and needs 13 points to reach 1,000 during her career between Oklahoma and Texas A&M.

Maddie Manning had 15 points for Oklahoma (4-0). Vionise Pierre-Louis added 13 points and 14 rebounds for her second double-double of the season and third of her career.

Macy Miller scored 17 points and Madison Guebert had 16 to lead South Dakota State (4-1).

The game was tied 12-12 before the Sooners used a 10-0 run between the first and second quarters. The Jackrabbits pulled to 27-23 with four minutes left in the second quarter but didn't get closer.

It was the second game between the schools. The Sooners beat South Dakota State 68-57 in the first round of the 2010 NCAA Tournament.

Foes file lawsuit challenging voter-approved ethics measure

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Over two dozen Republican lawmakers and others are going to court to block a government ethics overhaul just approved by voters this month.

Their lawsuit filed in state court Wednesday challenges the constitutionality of the ballot measure that took effect last week.

Foes of the measure argue that provisions including an ethics commission, public campaign funding and limitations on lobbyist gifts to lawmakers run afoul of the state or federal constitutions — or both.

Voters narrowly approved the measure after backers billed it as an anti-corruption package that would improve transparency.

A measure supporter said he hadn't yet seen the lawsuit and couldn't comment.

Governor predicts 'lean' state budget for upcoming cycle

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard says his upcoming budget proposal will have no major new spending because of dipping tax collections.

The Republican governor wants to use one-time money this year to plug an expected budget shortfall. Daugaard is set to make his budget address next month, and lawmakers will make revisions to the current budget and shape the next one during the legislative session.

State revenues are about 3.6 percent below lawmakers' projections — about \$20 million from July through October. Nearly all of that is from lower-than-expected sales tax collections. Cautious consumer spending, low commodity prices and e-commerce transactions that avoid state sales taxes have hindered growth in the state's main revenue source, State Economist Jim Terwilliger said.

Some state expenses are also coming in under budget this year, but not enough to fully offset the short revenues, Daugaard said. Current collections help set the base for spending next fiscal year, which spells a "pretty lean" budget in budget year 2018, the governor said.

"We're still seeing revenue growth, it's just not as robust as we had projected," Daugaard said.

It will likely mean small funding increases for public schools, state employees and health care providers including nursing homes, community mental health centers and other facilities that rely heavily on the Medicaid program.

It also signals not enough money to freeze tuition at the state's public universities or create expansive

new programs.

Collections aren't coming in at levels necessary to pay for substantial increases in government, said Republican Sen. Deb Peters, who has served as chairwoman of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Appropriations.

"We really have a lack of resources to do a lot of the fun stuff," Peters said. "The fun stuff is going to have to go away."

Incoming Senate Majority Leader Blake Curd, a Republican, said balancing the state budget is "top of the ticket" for the upcoming session, which is set to start in January and close in late March.

North Dakota leaders urge Obama for pipeline completion

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON**, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota's governor and congressional delegation are pressuring President Barack Obama to pave the way for completion of the disputed Dakota Access oil pipeline, protests over which they say are taxing law enforcement and are costing millions of dollars.

Republicans Gov. Jack Dalrymple, U.S. Sen. John Hoeven and U.S. Rep. Kevin Cramer implored the Democrat in a letter Wednesday to authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to approve the pipeline's crossing under a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota.

It is the final large segment of the \$3.8 billion, 1,200-mile pipeline to carry North Dakota oil to a shipping point in Illinois that's been held up while the Corps consults with the Standing Rock Sioux, who believe the project could harm the tribe's drinking water and Native American cultural sites. Months of protests have taken place near Lake Oahe.

Obama raised the possibility of rerouting the pipeline earlier this month, which Kelcy Warren, CEO of pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners, told The Associated Press is not an option from the company's standpoint. Obama said his administration is monitoring the "challenging situation" but would "let it play out for several more weeks."

"Your inaction on the pending easement has created undue hardship and uncertainty for area residents, private landowners, tribal members, construction workers and law enforcement personnel," Dalrymple, Hoeven and Cramer told Obama.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp said Wednesday she also pressed the White House to make a decision, saying inaction "has put lives at risk."

Protests have intensified in recent weeks, with total arrests since August rising to 528, and a clash earlier in the week near the main protest camp left a police officer and several protesters injured. One of them, Sophia Wilansky, 21, of New York, suffered an arm injury in an explosion during the skirmish and is hospitalized in Minneapolis. Protesters say she was injured by a grenade thrown by police, while police say she was hurt by a small propane tank that protesters rigged to explode.

The protests have garnered the attention of several celebrities, two of which — Jane Fonda and Shailene Woodley — will be at the Standing Rock reservation Thursday to help serve Thanksgiving dinner to about 2,000 protesters.

The North Dakota lawmakers also asked for federal law enforcement help to police the protests. Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier said Monday that U.S. Customs and Border Protection will be providing some Border Patrol agents to help his department, the state Highway Patrol and officers from other states, though he didn't say how many.

Another issue for the state is the cost of policing the protests, which is up to more than \$11.8 million, state Emergency Services spokeswoman Cecily Fong said Wednesday. The department will seek another \$7 million in emergency borrowing on Nov. 30 on top of the \$10 million borrowed earlier this year, Fong said. Morton County also has spent more than \$8 million policing protests, and county officials have said they may apply for state reimbursement.

7-year-old homicide victim was South Dakota suspect's nephew

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say the 7-year-old boy killed in a double homicide in Sioux Falls last weekend was the suspect's nephew.

At the request of his mother, the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday identified the boy as Brayden Robert-Emil Otto.

The boy was being temporarily cared for by his grandmother, 48-year-old Carol Simon, when the two were killed in a mobile home on Sunday.

Twenty-four-year-old Heath Otto is accused of strangling both Simon, who was his mother, and his nephew. Prosecutors allege Otto then slit the victims' throats to make sure they were dead.

Heath Otto is charged with two counts of first-degree murder. He remains in jail, with bond set at \$5 million cash only.

The Latest: Thanksgiving meal set for pipeline protesters

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Latest on the dispute over the Dakota Access oil pipeline. (all times local): 11:45 a.m.

About 75 people from around the country are planning to serve Thanksgiving dinner to about 2,000 protesters who are demonstrating against the Dakota Access oil pipeline in North Dakota.

The group is to include actress-activists Jane Fonda and Shailene Woodley. The meal is set for late Thursday afternoon at a school in Fort Yates, which is near a camp where hundreds of protesters have gathered for months.

Fort Yates is on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. The tribe opposes the \$3.8 billion pipeline that will skirt its reservation as it carries North Dakota oil to a shipping point in Illinois.

Opponents fear the pipeline will harm drinking water and Native American cultural sites. Pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners disputes that and says the pipeline will be safe.

11:15 a.m.

North Dakota's Emergency Services department will be seeking another \$7 million in emergency borrowing to fund law enforcement costs related to ongoing protests of the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

Emergency Services spokeswoman Cecily Fong says officials will request the additional funding from the state Emergency Commission on Nov. 30.

The commission is a panel of state officials and lawmakers headed by the governor that handles emergency funding requests when the Legislature isn't in session. The group earlier approved \$10 million in emergency spending.

The money is being borrowed from the state-owned Bank of North Dakota.

Fong says state costs have reached more than \$11.8 million. Morton County also has spent more than \$8 million policing protests, and county officials have said they might apply for reimbursement from the state.

10:50 a.m.

A New York woman who suffered a serious arm injury while protesting the Dakota Access oil pipeline is improving in a Minneapolis hospital.

A spokeswoman for Hennepin County Medical Center says 21-year-old Sophia Wilansky has been upgraded from serious to satisfactory condition.

Wilansky was injured when something exploded during a violent clash between protesters and police late Sunday and early Monday near the main protest camp along the pipeline route in southern North Dakota.

Protesters and Wilansky's father say she was injured by a concussion grenade thrown by police. Authorities say she was hurt by a small propane tank that protesters had rigged to explode.

North Dakota's state crime bureau and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are investigating.

10:30 a.m.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 17 of 38

North Dakota's governor and congressional delegation are pressuring President Barack Obama to pave the way for completion of the disputed Dakota Access oil pipeline.

Republican Gov. Jack Dalrymple, U.S. Sen. John Hoeven and U.S. Rep. Kevin Cramer sent a letter Wednesday to Obama imploring him to authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to approve the pipeline's crossing under the Missouri River in North Dakota.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp says she also pressed the White House this week to intervene.

The crossing is the final large segment of the \$3.8 billion pipeline, which will carry North Dakota oil to Illinois. The work is delayed while the Corps consults with the Standing Rock Sioux, who oppose the project. Obama raised the possibility of rerouting the pipeline earlier this month.

This item has been corrected to correct Heitkamp to U.S. senator instead of U.S. representative.

APNewsBreak: Daugaard favors repeal of new ethics law

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard says he supports repeal or major changes to a government ethics overhaul just approved by voters this month, criticizing the campaign for the ballot measure as deceptive.

Daugaard told The Associated Press that he doesn't plan to include millions of dollars of funding in his December budget proposal for a public campaign finance system established under the new law. Backers pursued the initiative even though nonpartisan South Dakota officials raised constitutional concerns, Daugaard said.

More than two dozen Republican lawmakers and others filed a lawsuit Wednesday in state court challenging the constitutionality of the ballot measure. Daugaard said he'd support rolling back the measure if it isn't struck down in court.

"I think it's very possible the entire measure will be held unconstitutional," he said. "If not, I'll be very surprised if the Legislature doesn't support wholesale changes — if not outright repeal."

Roughly 51.6 percent of voters supported the initiative. It allows people to tap a state fund to send two \$50 credits to participating political candidates, tightens campaign finance and lobbying laws and creates an ethics commission.

Supporters billed it as an anti-corruption package, arguing the overhaul is meant to improve transparency and empower regular people.

Daugaard said he believes voters were deceived by advertising for the measure that implied lobbyists were bribing legislators while ignoring the public campaign finance provisions. That funding could go to other priorities such as education or public safety, he said.

Daugaard said voters expressed their interest in campaign finance reform and an examination of state ethics laws. He said it would be a "suitable effort" to be undertaken through the Legislature.

Daugaard's criticisms add to other officials' concerns over the law that have mounted since its passage. One of its provisions, a \$100 annual limit on lobbyist gifts, was creating uncertainty among some lawmakers over events for lawmakers.

Last year, the director of the Legislative Research Council said provisions devoting money to a fund for the public campaign finance program could violate the state constitution.

"It just offends me that out-of-staters will craft policy for our state and then fund that change ... and disregard the fact that it violates our constitution or that the language is so sloppily written that it causes many unintended consequences," Daugaard said.

Supporters took those concerns seriously but have a good team of lawyers who are confident that the measure adheres to constitutional requirements, said Don Frankenfeld, a former GOP senator who helped pass the measure. He didn't immediately comment on the lawsuit.

Frankenfeld said he's open to working with the governor's office to make changes to the measure, but wants to keep the core of the law intact.

"I think it's just bad policy to ignore the will of the people, and I would have expected the Legislature

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 18 of 38

to have learned that by now," Frankenfeld said. "If we have to fight, we'll fight, and if we have to take it again to the people that's what we'll do."

Commissioner agrees to comply with ordinance; trial canceled

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A trial has been canceled for a Pennington County Commissioner who has been fighting government oversight of septic systems.

George Ferebee is accused of violating a county zoning ordinance. Ferebee was scheduled to go on trial Wednesday, but the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2fGqT8V>) reports the trial was canceled at the last minute after Ferebee agreed to comply with the ordinance.

The prosecutor told the court that Pennington County has agreed to dismiss Ferebee's charge if he complies with its septic system ordinance within 90 days.

Ferebee was accused of violating county law by failing to obtain a \$20, six-year permit for his system.

Judge Eric Strawn says that if Ferebee fails to comply with the agreement, his trial will proceed as soon as one can be scheduled.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

The Daily Republic, Mitchell, Nov. 21, 2016

Thankful Mitchell is a giving, caring community

Was there any surprise on Friday when the Mitchell United Way exceeded its annual fundraising goal again?

For the 36th consecutive year, an unfurled banner revealed the Mitchell United Way hit its goal and raised \$439,115, with the funds supporting 29 local and area agencies to support the community in various areas.

Organizations like Abbott House, Mitchell Area Safehouse, among others, benefit from the Mitchell United Way's efforts and that in turn makes Mitchell a better place to live.

But, again, we ask, is there any surprise the fundraising goal was exceeded?

In recent years, those who live in Mitchell certainly have seen the caring community that we live in.

Here are a few of the many examples:

—Thousands of dollars have been pooled together to fund a veterans park project to honor our area heroes who have served our country. The project will be funded completely through private donations with so many wanting to give.

— Mitchell High School student body felt it was appropriate to give two people who have disabilities great recognition as the homecoming king and queen.

— The Avera Foundation has been active in Mitchell to ensure free health screenings for hundreds of people annually.

— During a time across the nation when law enforcement officers are being scrutinized, the Mitchell Police Division has continuously been regarded as professional and caring. Because of this, community members have thanked officers through cards, baked goods and other warm-hearted gifts.

— Our community holds an annual cancer walk and raises about \$50,000 to \$60,000 each year for cancer patients.

Like any community, Mitchell has its rash of crimes and head-scratching moments. Nothing is perfect. But during a time of year to be thankful, we remind our readers how great it is to live in Mitchell.

Too often, many giving and caring efforts here are taken for granted.

But last week, when we weren't overly surprised with the Mitchell United Way exceeding its fundraising goal, again, it made us realize the generosity of so many residents.

American News, Aberdeen, Nov. 20, 2016

Time running out for pipeline protesters

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 19 of 38

Two years ago, most of the country had not heard of the Dakota Access Pipeline project.

Today, it appears to be a passion point for thousands — and maybe millions — of Americans who earnestly want to protect the water in the Missouri River and keep sacred Native American grounds.

Pipeline protesters and Standing Rock Sioux tribal members can take some comfort in the fact that their issue has become one of national importance, all the way to the president's office.

But now, time is ticking down, and the protesters' window of opportunity is closing.

The pipeline project first came to prominence in the summer of 2014 as a means to deliver oil from the Bakken oil fields of North Dakota to an oil tank farm near Patoka, Illinois.

The project was born in the shadow of the controversial TransCanada Keystone XL oil pipeline, an international oil pipeline from western Canada through several routes in the U.S.

At the time Dakota Access was being discussed in this region — the pipeline route is scheduled through several of our area counties — six years of review.

Within the last six months, attention turned to the smaller Dakota Access project.

Through diligent protest, the pipeline finally caught the attention of the New York Times, the Washington Post, social media and celebrities such as actress Shailene Woodley and actor Mark Ruffalo, and Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein.

But by the time those eyeballs were on the project, all approvals had been granted and work was legally allowed to begin, other than court rulings that caused some delays.

As of this writing, the Dakota Access in North Dakota is again on hold as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers again looks into concerns raised by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

Protesters had hoped that the Obama administration would step in, but Obama today has only 61 days left in office. His administration is lame-duck, and he is not expected to make a decision that would immediately be overturned by President Trump in January.

And with the first blizzard warnings of the season this weekend, it will not be long until the protest camps get smaller, and the TV crews and celebrities decide to pack up and head to warmer climates.

And though that will likely spell the end for Dakota Access opposition, it could signal a new beginning for other concerns.

A network of people and support services has been put together during this protest. Protesters know how to get coverage, and how to get their message out.

Today, the fates of other projects are being decided, this time quietly under the shadow of the Dakota Access battle.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is consulting on engineering projects around the country, as it has for years and years.

Its projects are listed online at usace.army.mil.

That would be a great place for those caring, committed folks to go to learn where the next battle for clean water and air will be fought. A place where a difference can be made, before it is too late.

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, Nov. 21, 2016

CAFOs: Issues For Everyone

To understand the contentiousness of the concentrated animal feedlot operation (CAFO) issue, look at Yankton County.

Or look at Clay County to the east or at Bon Homme County to the west.

Or look at probably every county across these plains where the issue has been confronted and debated.

The specifics in each county are slightly different, but the general arguments — and the emotions — are essentially the same.

Should your county have regulations in place that don't hinder rural economic development? Or should the regulations be tight enough to regulate the overall quality of life within the county and protect its resources?

Hopefully, these two issues are not mutually exclusive, but you sometimes get the feeling that they are seen that way.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 20 of 38

Yankton County is wrestling with its CAFO regulations, which have not been updated in several years — and, by the way, took years to get enacted in the first place — in an effort to expand its agricultural base. There are new methods for such operations being used, and perhaps they could find a home in this relatively small county. Also, there is a fear that the current CAFO regulations are inhibiting growth and discouraging operations from even looing to this county for any opportunity.

But fears about how these CAFO operations might impact the local quality of life, the small family farmers and the environment are being raised.

A story in Saturday's Press & Dakotan — part of a series of stories about area CAFO issues — offered a general snapshot of the matters that are simmering (and sometimes boiling) in Yankton County.

Part of the current conflict hails from an idea to implement a dairy overlay in the northern part of the county in an effort to attract some of the dairy operations that are springing up along the I-29 corridor. This discussion led to the formation of a Dairy Overlay District Committee last summer to gather information, report to the public and advise the Planning Commission on its conclusions. However, the group last month changed its name to broaden its focus to include all concentrated animal feeding operations. That led to the County Commission dissolving the committee last week. This has produced some hard feelings and accusations that county officials were trying to steer the project in one direction and were unhappy when it veered toward another.

How this will play out is unknown, but it represents another twist in this county's CAFO saga.

As we've said before in this space, this is an important issue for this county — and for every county, each of which has its own twists, turns and debate flash points. It's not an easy issue. Unquestionably, agriculture is the No. 1 component of the Yankton County economy and can't afford to fall behind the curve and lose its competitive standing. But we also must not compromise the living standards, the water, the air and the soil, and non-CAFO operations cannot be forgotten. So, it is a complex web to untangle.

The dairy overlay proposal is really only part of the issue, at least if you gauge it by the pro-CAFO perspective. It's a matter of changing with the times and the newest technologies; in that sense, a zoning ordinance must be a living document. And that's what we have to determine now.

It's going to be an emotional episode here, just as it has been (or is or will be) in other counties. That's nothing new. Hopefully, Yankton County's residents can work together to craft a reasonable solution going forward. We all have a stake in the outcome.

At least 67 killed in east China scaffolding collapse

By GERRY SHIH, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Scaffolding at a construction site in eastern China collapsed into a deadly heap on Thursday, sending iron pipes, steel bars and wooden planks tumbling down on about 70 workers in the country's worst work-safety accident in over two years.

At least 67 people were killed by the collapse of the work platform at a power plant cooling tower that was under construction, state media reported. Two others were injured and one worker was missing.

The cooling tower was being built in the city of Fengcheng in Jiangxi province when the scaffolding tumbled down at about 7:30 a.m., an official with the local Work Safety Administration who would only give his surname, Yuan, said by telephone.

The reported death toll suggested that nearly all the construction workers at the cooling tower perished. Close to 70 people were working at the site when the scaffolding gave out, according to local media reports.

About 500 rescue workers, including paramilitary police officers, were digging through the debris with their hands, according to state broadcaster CCTV. It showed debris strewn across the floor of the cavernous, 165-meter (545-foot) -high concrete cooling tower, in the middle of which stood an unfinished structure.

Rescue dogs were seeking to locate survivors or the bodies of victims, while backhoes shifted wreckage to the margins of the massive round tower.

Chinese President Xi Jinping urged local governments to learn from the accident and hold those responsible accountable. He said that in the wake of recent work accidents, the State Council, China's Cabinet, should carry out thorough inspections of work sites to reduce risks.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 21 of 38

China has suffered several major work-safety accidents in recent years blamed on weak regulatory oversight, systemic corruption and pressure to boost production amid a slowing economy.

Also Thursday, Yang Dongliang, a former head of the State Administration of Work Safety, stood trial in a Beijing court for allegedly accepting \$4.3 million in bribes between 2002 and last year, as he rose through the ranks as an official in Tianjin before joining the regulatory agency.

Yang was sacked in August 2015 in connection with a massive explosion at an illegal chemical warehouse in the northern port of Tianjin that killed 173 people, most of them firefighters and police officers. The head of a logistics company was also handed a suspended death sentence over the case.

Earlier this month, 33 miners were killed in a gas explosion at a coal mine in Chongqing in China's southwest. In 2014, a dust explosion at a metal production workshop killed 146 people.

Other accidents blamed on lax safety standards in recent years have also caused significant fatalities.

In June 2015, 442 people were killed in the capsizing on the Yangtze River of a modified cruise ship blamed on poor decisions made by the captain and crew, while 81 people were killed in December when an enormous, man-made mountain of soil and waste collapsed on nearly three dozen buildings in the southern manufacturing center of Shenzhen.

Construction of the 1,000-megawatt coal-fired power plant at the center of Thursday's accident began in Fengcheng in late 2015 and was expected to be finished in November 2017. Provincial officials held a televised news conference late Thursday at which they bowed to express condolences to the workers' families.

The cause of the collapse is under investigation.

Hundreds of coal-fired power plants are under construction in China.

Beijing has vowed to solve a looming problem of power oversupply and cap greenhouse gas emissions in the medium term, but economic planners said earlier in November they intend to boost coal power generation capacity by a fifth over the next five years, or the equivalent output of hundreds of new coal-fired plants.

Duterte's anti-US rhetoric not enough for communist rebels

By JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

SIERRA MADRE MOUNTAINS, Philippines (AP) — Communist guerrillas warned that a peace deal with President Rodrigo Duterte's government is unlikely to be reached if he won't end the Philippines' treaty alliance with the United States and resist foreign control by other countries he's trying to befriend, like China and Russia.

In a clandestine news conference in a New People's Army guerrilla encampment tucked in the harsh wilderness of the Sierra Madre mountains southeast of Manila, regional rebel commander and spokesman Jaime Padilla outlined the advantages and downside of talking with Duterte to end one of the world's longest-running Marxist insurgencies.

The dozens of mostly young guerrillas in muddy boots in their rain-soaked encampment on a wooded plateau reflected their resiliency but also showed the tough conditions that have long hampered their insurgency. Young rebels cooked rice, pork and chicken in soot-covered pots over wood fire while others gingerly puffed cigarettes while watching the peripheries. The nearest army camp lies just 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) away. When an air force Huey helicopter flew overhead, rebels at the news conference briefly paused and watched the passing aircraft.

Founded in 1968, the rebels' communist party has held peace talks with six Philippine presidents, including Duterte, whose rise to power in June sparked rebel optimism due to his searing anti-U.S. rhetoric, populist pro-poor stance and appointments of at least two left-wing Cabinet members.

But the guerrillas have also found themselves in a dilemma due to Duterte's moves they find reprehensible, including the killings of large number of poor drug users that sparked accusations of massive human rights violations against him, a recent decision to allow dictator Ferdinand Marcos to be buried in a heroes' cemetery and threats to shift to dictatorial rule if rival politicians derail his anti-drug crackdown and try to impeach him.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 22 of 38

While the president has gotten attention with his angry threats to end the presence of American forces in the country, stop joint combat exercises with U.S. troops and terminate a defense accord with Washington, Padilla said Duterte has, so far, not formalized these utterances and instead has walked back on many publicly-stated policies.

"While the Duterte government hasn't abrogated all these treaties, the New People's Army will have no reason to enter into a friendship or alliance with him," Padilla, 69, told a small group of journalists escorted into an encampment ringed by mostly young rifle-wielding guerrillas.

"That's not negotiable because as long as the U.S. military has a presence, the imperialist influence on Duterte's government will remain," said the bespectacled Padilla, who wore a Mao cap with his 9mm pistol within reach on a wooden table.

Other rebels echoed Padilla's remarks. "We support Duterte but not 100 percent," said a 24-year-old rebel who identified himself as Guiller. "He's projecting himself as anti-U.S. and pro-poor but that's still mostly rhetoric. If the problems persist, the revolution will go on."

Duterte's reaching out to China and Russia also disturbs the communists. "They hide behind what we call a communist (facade) or socialism but essentially, and in their core, they are imperialist nations, which control parts of the world," Padilla said. "Even if it's China that controls us, we're not free, and we should fight their control on us."

Coinciding with the rebel warning, the Philippine armed forces chief, Gen. Ricardo Visaya announced Wednesday that most joint exercises with the U.S. military would proceed next year, including the large-scale Balikatan maneuvers. Most would be refocused, though, on disaster-response, humanitarian missions and counterterrorism from previous maneuvers centered on territorial defense that Duterte worries may offend China.

Visaya's statement came after he met U.S. Pacific Command in an annual defense meeting on Tuesday.

Despite thorny issues, Padilla said Maoist guerrillas remain committed to pursue talks with Duterte while criticizing his wrong moves, like allowing Marcos's heroes' burial and carrying out the bloody anti-drugs crackdown.

Philippine police should target drug lords and syndicate leaders and not poor addicts, who the rebels consider victims and not criminals," he said, adding they have targeted big drug dealers in the past.

"We are sincere with the peace talks, we are honest and we want to end 47 years of armed struggle," Padilla said when asked if the rebels were just trying to extract concessions from a president with whom they may not likely forge a peace deal.

The guerrillas, he said, would not simply surrender their firearms unless their major demands are not met, including social and economic reforms, land reform and an industrialization program that favor the poor, who make up about a fourth of more than 100 million Filipinos.

"If he remains in the right direction, he will be with us," Padilla said. "But if he veers off from the direction that we seek, we will break away from him."

Battle setbacks, surrenders and infighting have weakened the rebel group, which is blacklisted as a terrorist organization by the United States. A confidential government assessment obtained by The Associated Press says the guerrillas have declined to 3,800 fighters with more than 4,500 firearms in the first half of the year, with about 700 of the country's 42,000 villages affected by the insurgency.

The insurgent group "remains as a threat to national security due to its stance of not abandoning the armed struggle," the report said. "Although the communist movement had been weakened ... it continues to pursue recovery efforts nationwide."

In Thanksgiving pause, Trump calls for national healing

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — His Cabinet beginning to take shape, President-elect Donald Trump is offering a Thanksgiving prayer for unity after "a long and bruising" campaign season.

"Emotions are raw and tensions just don't heal overnight," the incoming president said in a video mes-

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 23 of 38

sage released on the eve of the national holiday. He continued, "It's my prayer that on this Thanksgiving we begin to heal our divisions and move forward as one country strengthened by shared purpose and very, very common resolve."

Trump, who was gathered with family on Thursday at his Palm Beach estate, was expected to pause for a day after a two-week scramble to shape his nascent administration from scratch.

He injected the first signs of diversity into his Cabinet-to-be the day before, tapping South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley to serve as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and charter school advocate Betsy DeVos to lead the Department of Education. They are the first women selected for top-level administration posts. Haley is the daughter of Indian immigrants, so she also would be his first minority selection after a string of announcements of white men.

The South Carolina governor has little foreign policy experience, yet Trump praised her as "a proven dealmaker." DeVos, like Trump, is new to government but has spent decades working to change America's system of public education.

Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson on Wednesday said "an announcement is forthcoming" on his role, which would make him the first black choice — possibly as secretary of Housing and Urban Development — but he also suggested he'd be thinking about it over the Thanksgiving holiday.

"I feel that I can make a significant contribution particularly to making our inner cities great for everyone," Carson wrote on his Facebook page.

Trump is also expected to select billionaire investor Wilbur Ross Jr. to lead the Commerce Department, a senior Trump adviser said Wednesday, speaking only on condition of anonymity because the adviser was not authorized to disclose internal deliberations. The 78-year-old Ross, who is white, is chairman and chief strategy officer of private-equity firm W.L. Ross & Co., which has specialized in buying failing companies.

Wednesday's picks came as Trump worked to distance himself from the "alt-right," a movement of white supremacists who continue to cheer his election. His first appointments included chief counselor Steve Bannon, who previously led a website popular among the alt-right.

Trump on Thursday was with his family behind closed doors at Mar-a-Lago, his Palm Beach estate. He's spending the Thanksgiving holiday there after a week of interviewing potential appointees in New York, punctuated by announcements of members of his national security team.

"It's time to restore the bonds of trust between citizens, because when America is unified there is nothing beyond our reach," the president-elect said in his Thanksgiving message, which was posted on social media.

The nasty campaign season included clashes between Trump and his new Cabinet selections.

"The people of South Carolina are embarrassed by Nikki Haley!" Trump wrote in March. Haley denounced several of his campaign comments and urged voters to "reject the siren call of the angriest voices."

DeVos, who is from Michigan, told The Associated Press in July, "A lot of the things he has said are very off-putting and concerning."

On Wednesday, however, Trump and his colleagues had nothing but kind words for each other. And while other Republicans largely praised the Haley pick, DeVos faced immediate criticism from left and right.

The president of the National Education Association, Lily Eskelsen Garcia, said in a statement that for years DeVos "has lobbied for failed schemes, like vouchers — which take away funding and local control from our public schools — to fund private schools at taxpayers' expense."

And Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, tweeted, "Trump has chosen the most ideological, anti-public ed nominee since the creation of the Dept of Education."

At the same time, some conservatives warned that the longtime Republican donor, who along with her husband has spent millions of dollars to promote candidates who favor charter schools and school vouchers, also supports the Common Core education standards that Trump railed against during the campaign.

DeVos addressed criticism head-on, posting a "Q&A" statement that said directly about Common Core: "I am not a supporter — period."

Trump will be sworn into office in less than 60 days. Beyond his Cabinet, he must fill hundreds of high-level administration posts.

He is expected to stay in Florida through the weekend.

Trump's parade of retired generals raises questions

By **ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The military parade for Donald Trump has come early. Two months before Inauguration Day festivities, an extraordinary number of recently retired generals, including some who clashed with President Barack Obama's administration, are marching to the president-elect's doorstep for job interviews.

It's not unusual for an incoming administration to consider a retired general for a top position like CIA director. But Trump has turned to retired officers so publicly and in such large numbers that it raises questions about the proper balance of military and civilian advice in a White House led by a commander in chief with no defense or foreign policy experience.

The tilt toward military officials may reflect a limited pool of civilian options. Many officials from previous Republican administrations politically disowned Trump during the campaign, calling him unqualified. And Trump suggested he wouldn't want many of them, as he vowed to "drain the swamp" by running establishment figures out of town.

Robert Goldich, a retired government defense analyst who has watched administrations for 44 years, says Trump's focus on retired generals might be unprecedented.

The only one announced for a top job thus far is Michael Flynn, a retired three-star Army general. Trump appointed Flynn as his national security adviser, a post that does not require Senate confirmation but is central to a president's decision-making process. Flynn was forced out as Defense Intelligence Agency director in 2014. Afterward, he strongly criticized the Obama administration's approach to fighting the Islamic State group and threw his support to Trump.

Among others under consideration are two retired four-star Marine generals — James Mattis for defense secretary and John Kelly for homeland security secretary. Other names surfacing include retired Army Gen. Jack Keane and David Petraeus, the retired four-star general who was Obama's CIA director in 2011-12 before resigning amid disclosure that he had an affair with his biographer and shared highly classified information with her.

In remarks to the New York Times on Tuesday, Trump spoke about the Pentagon post in ways that offer insight into why he is attracted to former generals like Mattis.

"I think it's time maybe, it's time for a general," Trump said, suggesting he favors a military mindset. "Look what's going on. We don't win, we can't beat anybody."

Kelly retired this year after a storied career capped by commanding the U.S. Southern Command, where he differed with the White House over closing the Guantanamo Bay prison and expressed doubts about the administration's moves to open all combat jobs to women.

Bing West, a Vietnam War veteran and former assistant secretary of defense, said Trump's outreach to retired generals is wise.

"Our country is fighting a long war. It's common sense to seek the experience of those who have proven they know how to fight," he said in an email exchange.

The concern about undue military influence derives from a long U.S. tradition of civilian control of the military, which is the basis for a ban on active-duty officers running the Pentagon. The Constitution affirms civilian control by making the president the commander in chief and giving Congress the authority to declare war and fund the military.

The appointment of too many generals to high civilian positions could prompt fears that Trump is on a path to militarizing U.S. foreign policy or giving the military too much sway in decisions about war and peace.

But that view was rejected by Richard Fontaine, president of the Center for a New American Security, a Washington think tank. In an interview, he noted that it was President George W. Bush's civilian advisers who pushed hardest to launch the 2003 Iraq invasion.

"In my experience, veterans have been less likely than the civilians to advocate for military intervention abroad," said Fontaine, who was among dozens of Republican national security figures who signed a letter during the campaign warning that Trump would be a dangerous president.

Still, some retired generals are leery of Trump stacking his national security team with warriors.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 25 of 38

"The biggest fear is too many generals in politics. That's not a good thing," said Mark Hertling, a retired three-star Army general who opposed Trump. "But given the lack of knowledge of a president who knows nothing about diplomacy or the military, they might provide some very good advice."

Hertling credits Mattis with an unusual knack for leadership and strategic thinking. Trump met with Mattis last weekend but has not said if he will nominate him. If he does, Trump would need Congress to provide an exception to a law requiring a military officer to have been out of uniform for at least seven years before becoming defense secretary.

That exception has been sought only once since the position of defense secretary was created in 1947. George C. Marshall, who retired as a five-star Army general and then served as secretary of state after World War II, was tapped to be defense secretary in 1950 by President Harry Truman.

The law Congress passed allowing Marshall to lead the Pentagon was meant to be a one-time exception. It said it was "not to be construed as approval by Congress of continuing appointments of military men to the office of Secretary of Defense in the future." It said that after Marshall's term ended, "no additional appointments of military men to that office shall be approved."

During Thanksgiving feast, some Americans hold the politics

By TAMMY WEBBER, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — As Americans prepared to gather Thursday for Thanksgiving turkey, football and togetherness, many planned to avoid talk of the rancorous election between Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Sitting on their suitcases at a departure lounge at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Sharyn Ioffe and her brother Saul Ioffe said there's a good chance politics will intervene this Thanksgiving when they arrive home in New York.

"I'm pretty anxious about it," said Sharyn Ioffe, 27, who supported Clinton, while others in her family sided with Trump. "I'm still very emotional about the election. I know you have to try and understand the other side. But I'm not there yet."

She said her strategy would be simple: change the subject.

"I won't bring it up. But if someone else does, I'll say I don't want to discuss it," she said.

Americans took to the roads, air and railways Wednesday for what is expected to be the busiest Thanksgiving travel period in almost a decade. Almost 49 million people are expected to travel 50 miles or more between Wednesday and Sunday, the most since 2007, because of lower gas prices and an improving economy, according to AAA.

The weather appeared to be cooperating for the most part, with no significant issues in the majority of the country, the National Weather Service said.

The National Weather Service issued winter weather advisories for parts of northern Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan as well as western and central Montana and central Idaho, New York and Pennsylvania for Wednesday night. A winter storm warning was in effect for parts of northwest Washington state, with heavy snow expected through Thanksgiving Day.

Lines of cars, taxi cabs and buses dropping travelers off and picking others up at O'Hare terminals grew longer by early evening. Crowds grew steadily inside, too, as travelers pulled suitcases into departure terminals decked out with giant wreaths. A light, cold rain fell outside, but most flights as of evening were listed on big boards as "on time."

Elizabeth Thompson said she couldn't wait to leave the big city behind and decompress over the Thanksgiving holiday at her grandmother's house in rural south-central Indiana. But first she had to get there.

On Wednesday, Thompson, 23, missed her Amtrak train from Chicago to Galesburg, Illinois, where she'd planned to catch a ride with a family member the rest of the way to Edinburgh, Indiana.

"It's just where we go to unplug and escape," said Thompson, who was deciding whether to wait several hours for the next train or hop on a bus and get going.

And a big part of the plan is banning election talk.

"My mother specifically said, 'We're not going to talk about it,'" for her grandmother's sake, Thompson said. Although nobody in her family supported President-elect Trump, "my grandmother is sick of hearing about it."

AP reporters Michael Tarm in Chicago, Karen Matthews in New York, Matthew Brown in Billings, Montana, and Maryclaire Dale in Philadelphia contributed to this report.

Branca, pitcher who gave up 'Shot Heard 'Round World,' dies

By BEN WALKER, AP Baseball Writer

Ralph Branca's career was defined by that one high-and-inside fastball.

The Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher who gave up Bobby Thomson's famed "Shot Heard 'Round the World" still echoing more than six decades later among the most hallowed home runs in baseball history, died Wednesday. He was 90.

His son-in-law, former big league manager Bobby Valentine, said Branca died at a nursing home in Rye Brook, New York.

Branca was a three-time All-Star and spent 12 seasons in the majors. Brought in from the bullpen in the bottom of the ninth inning during the deciding Game 3 of the National League pennant playoff on Oct. 3, 1951, he gave up a three-run homer to Thomson that gave the rival New York Giants a stunning 5-4 victory.

The one-out line drive into the left field lower deck at the Polo Grounds prompted the frenetic call from announcer Russ Hodges, "The Giants win the pennant! The Giants win the pennant!" The team and its fans celebrated wildly as Thomson breezed around the bases while Branca, wearing his unlucky No. 13 jersey, trudged off the mound.

"You know," Branca told The Associated Press in 1990, "If you kill somebody, they sentence you to life, you serve 20 years and you get paroled. ... I've never been paroled."

Thomson, who also homered off Branca in Game 1, capped a sensational comeback for the Giants, who trailed the Dodgers by more than a dozen games heading toward mid-August.

For the next 50 years, Branca and Thomson often appeared together at card shows, corporate events and baseball functions, re-telling the story of the home run that grew into a sports legend. They always were friendly at the affairs, sometimes even teaming up to sing about the big moment.

"I was closer to Ralph than to any other Dodger," Dodgers broadcaster Vin Scully said in a statement. "He carried the cross of the Thomson home run with dignity and grace."

It wasn't until many years later that it was revealed that the Giants had a little extra help.

That's when it came to light that the Giants employed a telescope-and-buzzer system that season to steal signs from opposing catchers. With that advantage, Giants hitters got a boost in their swings.

And for years, the question remained: Did Thomson know the high-and-inside fastball from Branca was coming?

Thomson firmly asserted that, no, he didn't get a sign in advance. A three-time All-Star himself, Thomson stuck to that claim until he died in 2010 at age 86.

Branca, however, wasn't so sure about that.

In 2001, the Giants' sign-stealing operation was detailed in a story in The Wall Street Journal.

A few days after that, Branca and Thomson saw each other for the first time at an event in Edison, New Jersey. They talked in private for five minutes, about a secret they'd both known about but never shared.

Later, they spoke about their discussion.

"It's been a cleansing for both of us," Branca said then. "He knew that I knew. It's better this way."

"To me, it was a forbidden subject," the right-hander said. "And I didn't want to demean Bobby or seem like I was a crybaby."

Said Thomson: "It was like getting something off my chest after all those years. I'm not a criminal, although I may have felt like one at first."

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 27 of 38

And then, hours later, Thomson and Branca appeared together in Manhattan at the New York baseball writers' dinner. In front of a ballroom full of fans, they took turns singing about the fateful pitch and swing, to lyrics written to the old standard "Because of You" — a reprise of the act they performed when the same dinner was held in January 1952.

His matchup with Thomson was recounted by Don Delillo in a 1992 Harper's Magazine story "Pafko at the Wall," included five years later in the novel "Underworld."

"Yes. It is Branca coming through the dampish glow. Branca who is tall and stalwart but seems to carry his own hill and dale, he has the aura of a man encumbered. The drooping lids, clodhopper feet, the thick ridge across the brow. His face is set behind a somber nose, broad-bridged and looming."

One of the last remaining Boys of Summer, Branca was 88-68 with a 3.79 ERA in his big league career. He spent the first 11 years with the Dodgers, then played for Detroit and the Yankees before returning to Brooklyn for a final game in 1956.

Branca made his debut as a teen in 1944 and went 21-12 with 15 complete games during Jackie Robinson's first season in 1947. Branca added another win that year at Yankee Stadium in the World Series.

"Branca to me was a hero," former Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda said in a statement. "Ralph and I became very close, my family and his family. I always enjoyed being around him. He was a tough one in every way and I really admired him."

Branca co-founded the Baseball Assistance Team, which aids members of the baseball family in need of financial, medical or psychological assistance, and served as its president for 17 years. He was a pallbearer at Robinson's funeral in 1972.

"Ralph's participation in the 'Shot Heard 'Round the World' was eclipsed by the grace and sportsmanship he demonstrated following one of the game's signature moments," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement. "He is better remembered for his dedication to the members of the baseball community. He was an inspiration to so many of us."

Branca is survived by wife Ann and daughters Patti and Mary — the latter the wife of Valentine. A funeral is scheduled for Tuesday at the Church of the Resurrection in Rye.

Wayne State University officer dies from gunshot wound

By JEFF KAROUB and COREY WILLIAMS, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — A Wayne State University police officer died Wednesday, a day after he was shot in the head while on patrol near the Detroit campus.

Officer Collin Rose, 29, died about 5:45 p.m. at a hospital, Detroit police Sgt. Michael Woody said.

"This is a tragedy felt by all of us," Wayne State President M. Roy Wilson said in a statement. "Collin served Wayne State with distinction, and we owe those he left behind our deepest sympathies and our strong support."

Wilson said Rose, a five-year veteran of the university's police force, is the only Wayne State officer killed in the line of duty.

Police said a suspect in the shooting was arrested late Tuesday night a few blocks from where Rose was shot, but no charges have been filed. The Detroit man in custody has had several run-ins with police.

Detroit Police Chief James Craig had said Rose was on duty around 6:30 p.m. Tuesday when he radioed to say he was investigating possible thefts of navigation systems from vehicles and that he was about to speak to someone on a bike. Officers who arrived on the scene found Rose injured on the ground.

Wayne State, which has more than 27,000 students, employs about 65 officers.

Authorities say ambush-style shootings on Sunday left one police officer dead in San Antonio, Texas, and another wounded in St. Louis, underscoring fears in the law enforcement community that the uniform is increasingly becoming a target.

But Wayne State Police Chief Anthony Holt said that wasn't the case in Detroit on Tuesday.

"I don't believe it was an ambush," Holt said at a news conference Wednesday. "I don't believe he was specifically targeted."

Holt said no weapon has been recovered and that the investigation is ongoing.

"We're trying to put the pieces together," he said.

University spokesman Matt Lockwood said Wednesday morning that Rose had undergone surgery and that his parents and fiancée were by his side.

Rose was a cadet with the New Baltimore Police Department and had his first job as an officer with the village of Richland, Lockwood said. Rose, a cyclist interested in dog training, graduated from Ferris State University in 2010 and was president of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and state Attorney General Bill Schuette offered condolences Wednesday night to Rose's family and fellow officers.

"Officer Rose was doing his job, serving his community and protecting all of us, when he was tragically gunned down," Schuette said in a statement. "Officer Rose was too young to have his life taken, and he leaves behind a family that will never be the same."

Michael Tarm and Caryn Rousseau reported from Chicago. Roger Schneider contributed from Detroit.

This story has been corrected to show Rose's name is spelled Collin, not Colin.

Women for Trump Cabinet: Haley picked for UN, DeVos for Ed

By **JULIE BYKOWICZ** and **STEVE PEOPLES**, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Injecting the first diversity into his Cabinet-to-be, Donald Trump selected two Republican women on Wednesday who had unflattering things to say about him during the presidential campaign: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley to serve as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and charter school advocate Betsy DeVos to lead the Department of Education.

Gov. Haley has little foreign policy experience, yet Trump praised her as "a proven dealmaker." DeVos, like Trump, is new to government but has spent decades working to change America's system of public education.

DeVos and Haley are the first women selected for top-level administration posts as the president-elect works to shape a White House team from scratch. Haley is the daughter of Indian immigrants, so she also would be his first minority selection after a string of announcements of white men.

Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson said "an announcement is forthcoming" on his role, which would make him the first black choice — possibly as secretary of Housing and Urban Development — but he also suggested he'd be thinking about it over the Thanksgiving holiday.

"I feel that I can make a significant contribution particularly to making our inner cities great for everyone," Carson wrote on his Facebook page.

Trump is also expected to select billionaire investor Wilbur Ross Jr. to lead the Commerce Department, a senior Trump adviser said Wednesday, speaking only on condition of anonymity because the adviser was not authorized to disclose internal deliberations. The 78-year-old Ross, who is white, is chairman and chief strategy officer of private-equity firm W.L. Ross & Co., which has specialized in buying failing companies.

Wednesday's picks came as Trump worked to distance himself from the "alt-right," a movement of white supremacists who continue to cheer his election.

He announced his two new choices in a statement released as he gathered with family behind closed doors at his Palm Beach estate for Thanksgiving. He's spending the holiday there after a week of interviews of potential appointees in New York, punctuated by announcements of members of his national security team.

In a Thanksgiving message posted on social media, Trump acknowledged that the nation "just finished a long and bruising political campaign."

"Emotions are raw and tensions just don't heal overnight," he added. "It's my prayer that on this Thanksgiving we begin to heal our divisions and move forward as one country strengthened by shared purpose and very, very common resolve."

Bad blood between Trump and his new Cabinet selections had been evident through much of this year's

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 29 of 38

campaign.

"The people of South Carolina are embarrassed by Nikki Haley!" Trump wrote in March. Haley denounced several of his campaign comments and urged voters to "reject the siren call of the angriest voices."

DeVos, from Michigan, told The Associated Press in July, "A lot of the things he has said are very off-putting and concerning."

On Wednesday, Trump said of his UN selection: "Gov. Haley has a proven track record of bringing people together regardless of background or party affiliation to move critical policies forward for the betterment of her state and our country."

She said she loved her South Carolina post but "when the president believes you have a major contribution to make to the welfare of our nation, and to our nation's standing in the world, that is a calling that is important to heed."

While Republicans praised Haley's selection, DeVos faced criticism from left and right.

The president of the National Education Association, Lily Eskelsen Garcia, said in a statement that for years DeVos "has lobbied for failed schemes, like vouchers — which take away funding and local control from our public schools — to fund private schools at taxpayers' expense."

And Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, tweeted, "Trump has chosen the most ideological, anti-public ed nominee since the creation of the Dept of Education."

At the same time, some conservatives warned that the longtime Republican donor, who has spent millions of dollars — along with her husband — to promote candidates who favor charter schools and school vouchers, also supports the Common Core education standards that Trump railed against during the campaign.

Conservatives already were grappling with Trump's Tuesday concession that climate change may be connected to human activity and his reversal of a campaign vow to pursue a criminal investigation into Democratic rival Hillary Clinton.

DeVos addressed criticism head-on, posting a "Q&A" statement that said directly about Common Core: "I am not a supporter — period."

"I do support high standards," she said. But along the way Common Core "got turned into a federal boondoggle."

Just two weeks ago, Trump shocked the political world — including many in his own party — by winning the presidential contest. The billionaire New Yorker has yet to take any formal steps to separate from his international business empire as experts in both parties warn of potential conflicts of interest.

Trump will be sworn into office in less than 60 days. Beyond his Cabinet, he must fill hundreds of high-level administration posts.

Spokesman Jason Miller said Trump now is focusing on his choice for secretary of state in particular. Among those under consideration: former New York Mayor and Trump loyalist Rudy Giuliani and 2012 GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney, formerly an outspoken Trump critic.

After secretary of state, the UN ambassador is the highest-profile diplomatic position, often serving as the voice for U.S. positions on the international stage.

As for DeVos, her family has been active in Republican politics for decades, especially as donors. Her husband, Dick, is an heir to the Amway fortune and a former president of the company.

The American Federation for Children Action Fund, which DeVos chairs, and its state-affiliated PACs invested in 121 races in 12 states in the general election, spending spent \$210,000 to support "pro-school choice" candidates in Oklahoma alone.

"Under her leadership we will reform the U.S. education system and break the bureaucracy that is holding our children back so that we can deliver world-class education and school choice to all families," Trump said.

DeVos said in her own statement, "The status quo in education is not acceptable."

Associated Press writers Jonathan Lemire in New York, Gary Fineout in Tallahassee and Mark Sherman in Washington contributed to this report

Man who killed abortion doctor gets more lenient sentence

By ROXANA HEGEMAN, Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — The man who seven years ago ambushed and fatally shot one of the few U.S. doctors performing late-term abortions was given a more lenient sentence Wednesday of at least 25 years in prison before becoming eligible for parole.

At a surprise resentencing hearing, prosecutors withdrew their request that Scott Roeder serve at least 50 years before parole eligibility. Roeder also was sentenced to an additional two years for aggravated assault for threatening two church ushers as he fled.

Sedgwick County District Attorney Marc Bennett said that the decision not to seek the added time was reached by prosecutors after examining Roeder's health, his expected life span and the likelihood of whether he would ever be released from prison alive. The family of victim Dr. George Tiller also was consulted, he said.

Roeder was convicted in January 2010 of premeditated first-degree murder for the shooting death of Tiller as he was serving as an usher in the foyer of the doctor's church in Wichita on May 31, 2009.

Tiller's murder was among the most notorious acts of violence since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized the procedure nationwide in 1973. It alarmed the abortion rights community and came as numerous conservative states, including Kansas, passed restrictions making it harder for women to obtain abortions.

The hearing Wednesday came just days before Roeder was set to go before a jury on Monday for what had been anticipated to be a two-week sentencing hearing. Roeder's original life sentence with no chance of parole for 50 years was among many vacated after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2013 that juries, not judges, must decide whether to increase punishment.

"I was really shocked about today," Roeder said in a prison phone call to The Associated Press after the hearing. "I was glad obviously to hear the sentence reduced, but I was looking forward to being another voice for the unborn — so I was disappointed in that respect."

He said he knew the consequences of his actions going in and has "no regrets" because children have been saved because of him.

Roeder, who suffers from prostate problems, looked much thinner than at his initial sentencing in 2010 and was subdued throughout the proceeding. He chose not to make a courtroom statement before the judge pronounced his sentence.

That was in contrast to the previous sentencing hearing that Roeder used as a forum to espouse at length his anti-abortion views in an effort to justify his killing the doctor to save unborn babies.

Bennett told reporters after the hearing that "rather than putting the community and the victim's family and witnesses through another contested hearing" in order to extend a 58-year-old inmate's parole eligibility from 25 to 50 years, the state decided to withdraw the request.

He cited Roeder's declining health and doubts he would live long enough to ever get out of prison. Bennett said the decision was made "in the best interest" of the community and Tiller's family.

Bennett also read a statement from Tiller's family saying nothing will change the fact Tiller was assassinated, and the family continues to grieve his loss. The family cited the "very difficult and emotionally draining trial" in which Roeder was found guilty, and thanked those involved for ensuring it was a fair trial.

Tiller's family said they had decided to support the sentence of a minimum 25 years in prison without parole.

"With this legal closure, the Dr. George Tiller family will continue to heal and thrive and live fully in our communities," their statement said.

The abortion rights group Trust Women, which opened a clinic in 2013 in the same facility where Tiller once practiced, said in a statement its staff is grateful the doctor's family has some measure of closure and healing. Its founder, Julie Burkhart, said Roeder deserves the maximum sentence allowed by law.

"Dr. Tiller's assassination most certainly left a hole in the reproductive rights movement, but we remain committed to this critical work in his honor and memory," Burkhart said.

Defense attorney Mark Rudy said after the hearing that he thinks his client is relieved it is over, and no appeal is planned. The defense has already lost on every other appeal issue and this is the minimum

sentence Roeder could hope to receive, he said.
"We are glad we can put this to rest," Rudy said.

Thanksgiving travel expected to be heaviest since 2007

By TAMMY WEBBER, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Elizabeth Thompson can't wait to leave the big city behind and decompress over the Thanksgiving holiday at her grandmother's house in rural south-central Indiana. But first she has to get there.

On Wednesday, Thompson, 23, missed her Amtrak train from Chicago to Galesburg, Illinois, where she'd planned to catch a ride with a family member the rest of the way to Edinburgh, Indiana.

"It's just where we go to unplug and escape," said Thompson, who had to decide whether to wait several hours for the next train or hop on a bus and get going.

Americans took to the roads, air and railways Wednesday for what is expected to be the busiest Thanksgiving travel period in almost a decade. Almost 49 million people are expected to travel 50 miles or more between Wednesday and Sunday, the most since 2007, because of lower gas prices and an improving economy, according to AAA.

And while they look forward to eating turkey and watching football, many are ready to abandon another, more recent, American pastime: rehashing the rancorous election between Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton.

"My mother specifically said, 'We're not going to talk about it,'" for her grandmother's sake, Thompson said. Although nobody in her family supported President-elect Trump, "my grandmother is sick of hearing about it."

Sitting on their suitcases at a departure lounge at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, a major travel hub, Sharyn Ioffe and her brother Saul Ioffe said there's a good chance politics will intervene this Thanksgiving when they arrive home in New York.

"I'm pretty anxious about it," said Sharyn Ioffe, 27, who supported Clinton, though others in her family sided with Trump. "I'm still very emotional about the election. I know you have to try and understand the other side. But I'm not there yet."

Saul Ioffe, 20, said he is expecting some heated exchanges.

"I'm battenning down the hatches," he said.

Lines of cars, taxi cabs and buses dropping travelers off and picking others up at O'Hare terminals grew longer by early evening. Crowds grew steadily inside, too, as travelers pulled suitcases into departure terminals decked out with giant wreaths. A light, cold rain fell outside, but most flights as of evening were listed on big boards as "on time."

The Chicago Department of Aviation said on its website that delays were averaging 15 minutes.

The weather appeared to be cooperating for the most part, with no significant issues in the majority of the country, the National Weather Service said.

The National Weather Service issued winter weather advisories for parts of northern Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan as well as western and central Montana and central Idaho, New York and Pennsylvania for Wednesday night. A winter storm warning was in effect for parts of northwest Washington state, with heavy snow expected through Thanksgiving Day.

AP reporters Michael Tarm in Chicago, Karen Matthews in New York, Matthew Brown in Billings, Montana, and Maryclaire Dale in Philadelphia contributed to this report.

A look at 5 Trump business ties that pose conflicts

By BERNARD CONDON, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After Ivanka Trump appeared on CBS's "60 Minutes" wearing a \$10,800 bracelet from her jewelry line, someone at her company sent photos from the interview to fashion writers to drum up free publicity. A firestorm of criticism erupted over the impropriety of profiting off the presidency, and the company apologized.

If only the bracelet brouhaha was the end of it.

Experts on government ethics are warning President-elect Donald Trump that he'll never shake suspicions of a clash between his private interests and the public good if he doesn't sell off his vast holdings, which include roughly 500 companies in more than a dozen countries. They say just the appearance of conflicts is likely to tie up the new administration in investigations, lawsuits and squabbles, stoked perhaps by angry Oval Office tweets.

"People are itching to sue Donald Trump and stick him under oath," said Richard Painter, chief White House ethics lawyer for George W. Bush.

In an interview with The New York Times on Tuesday, Trump insisted that the "law's totally on my side," and ethics experts agree that federal conflicts of interest rules don't apply to the president so he can run his business pretty much the way he pleases while in office. His company, The Trump Organization, had no comment on the conflicts issue, other than a statement reiterating its plans to transfer control of the company to three of the president-elect's adult children.

Painter doesn't think that goes far enough. In a letter to Trump last week, he joined watchdog groups and ethics lawyers from both Democratic and Republican administrations in predicting "rampant, inescapable" conflicts that will engulf the new administration if the president-elect does not liquidate his business holdings.

A look at five areas where conflicts may arise:

NEW HOTEL

For use of the government-owned Old Post Office for his new Washington hotel, Trump agreed on annual rent to the government in a contract that was signed more than three years ago.

So what possibly could be the problem now?

Plenty, according to Steven Schooner, a professor of government procurement law at George Washington University who has studied the contract. In addition to base rent, the president-elect agreed to additional annual payments based on various financial measures of how well the hotel is doing. Schooner says such payments typically require drawn out negotiations each year.

"How can anyone expect a government employee to negotiate with the Trump family at arm's length and treat the Trump family like any other contractor?" Schooner asks.

Schooner thinks Trump should terminate the contract because, even if the Trump family acts honorably, the appearance a conflict will spread doubt throughout the contracting system. Federal rules prohibit government employees and elected officials from striking contracting deals with the government for just this reason, though the president is exempted.

"The U.S. government pays over \$400 billion in contracts a year," Schooner says. "Why should other contractors have to follow the rule if the President of the United States doesn't have to?"

As president, Trump will have the authority to appoint a new head to the General Services Administration, the federal agency that signed the lease with Trump and will negotiate the rent each year.

Business at the hotel could get a lift if foreign dignitaries decide to stay at the new hotel to curry favor with the new president.

In addition to the Washington hotel, Trump Organization leases land from some local governments, including for a golf course in New York City and one in Florida.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Trump's extensive operations abroad raise the possibility that his foreign policy could be shaped by his business interests, and vice versa. Trump has struck real estate deals in South Korea, the Philippines,

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 33 of 38

Indonesia, Uruguay, Panama, India and Turkey, among other countries.

In June, Turkish media reported that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called for Trump's name to be removed from the Trump Towers in Istanbul because of what Erdogan characterized as anti-Muslim comments by the candidate. A NATO member, Turkey is a key ally in fighting the Islamic State group in Syria.

In India, the newspaper Economic Times reported that Trump held a meeting in New York a week after his election with business partners who put up the Trump Towers Pune in the western part of the country. The president-elect also has a Trump-branded residential tower in nearly Mumbai with another company.

Kenneth Gross, head of political law at the firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, says Trump's business ties will raise suspicions that he is getting special deals abroad because he is president, and that this runs the risk of violating the Emolument Clause. That is a section of the U.S. Constitution that forbids public officials from receiving gifts from foreign governments and foreign-controlled companies without the consent of Congress.

"He can't avoid conflicts," said Gross, "unless he sells his assets."

TRUMP LENDER

One of Trump's biggest lenders is Deutsche Bank, a German giant in settlement negotiations with the Department of Justice on its role in the mortgage blowup that triggered the 2008 financial crisis. The hit to Deutsche could be substantial, with the government reportedly demanding \$14 billion.

Will a Justice Department under Trump go easy on the bank? It's not clear anyone will know. Trump will nominate the head of that agency, too.

One possible response is for Trump to make sure the Deutsche case is handled by career civil servants at Justice, and any appointee like the Attorney General is recused. A career civil servant doesn't have to worry about being fired if he goes against Trump's wishes, but may still worry about displeasing bosses connected to the president.

More than 300 positions at Justice are currently held by presidential appointees.

TAX AUDIT

The odds that the IRS will rule against Trump may be no different than before he was elected, but it's difficult to know for sure.

Trump has cited a long running audit by the Internal Revenue Service in refusing to release his tax returns. If he is under scrutiny, it's not surprising. In his Oct. 9 debate with Hillary Clinton, Trump confirmed he used a \$916 million loss in 1995 to avoid paying federal taxes for years.

The president nominates the commissioner of the IRS who, assuming the Senate approves, serves for five years.

Trump will also get to make appointments to the National Labor Relations Board, which rules on labor disputes. In July, the board ruled against Trump in a case involving workers trying to unionize at the Trump Hotel Las Vegas. The Trump Organization lists six other hotels in the U.S. on its website.

FLURRY OF LAWSUITS

Trump said Friday that he agreed to pay \$25 million to settle three lawsuits alleging fraud at his Trump University so he could focus on preparing for his presidency. But this could also bring problems, as Trump himself has acknowledged previously.

"When you start settling cases, you know what happens?" the president-elect said earlier this year. "Everybody sues you because you get known as a settler."

Painter, the ethics lawyer for George W. Bush, predicts the political divide in Washington is going to make things worse.

"The plaintiff's lawyers are going to get in there because they can get a good settlement, and Trump's political enemies are going to egg it on," says Painter. "You put that all together and you're going to have a lot of potential for litigation."

Painter says Trump should sell his ownership stakes to minimize the danger the new president gets distracted by lawsuits. He adds, though, that this is just a partial fix. The famously litigious Trump already is facing numerous lawsuits.

Asked to sum up his view on Trump's situation, Painter replies, "A mess, a mess."

Bernard Condon can be reached at <http://twitter.com/BernardFCondon>.

Scenes of panic as hundreds of Iraqis flee Mosul

By BRIAN ROHAN and QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — They came by the hundreds — men, women and children fleeing the battle for Mosul, some bloodied and crying out for help. So large was the crowd on the road that Iraqi troops initially ordered them back, worried that an Islamic State suicide bomber could be hiding among them.

Mosul's residents are fleeing in growing numbers as Iraqi forces push deeper into the country's second largest city, and the battle-hardened extremists are fighting for every block, exploiting the dense urban terrain and using civilians as human shields.

On Wednesday the tide of displaced people reached the Samah district, where Iraqi medics treated dozens of wounded, including at least six soldiers.

At one point, four children and a man from the same family were rushed into the station, bleeding heavily as their relatives wailed in grief. A mortar round had slammed into the inner courtyard of their home. A few minutes after being brought to the aid station, a 16-month-old girl with a head wound was pronounced dead.

Then the main rush came — hundreds of civilians racing forward on a dirt road. The troops ordered them to halt, saying they had intelligence that IS might send suicide bombers disguised as civilians. One of the men raised his shirt to show that he wasn't armed, saying he was desperate for food.

Mosul, which fell to IS in the summer of 2014, is still home to more than 1 million people. Fearing a mass exodus, authorities have urged residents to stay inside their homes. But the presence of civilians has prevented the U.S.-backed Iraqi forces from using overwhelming force, slowing their advance and prolonging the city's agony.

The U.N. says at least 68,000 people have fled the fighting in Mosul, including 8,300 over the past four days.

Later on Wednesday, Iraqi soldiers arrived from the front lines with a man who was bound and hooded. They said they had caught him burning tires to help the militants hide from airstrikes and the drones that buzzed overhead. Trembling, the man said he had been forced to aid the extremists.

Black Humvees carried wounded soldiers back from the front. The body of a special forces soldier killed in combat was wrapped in a blanket on the hood of a vehicle. The Iraqi military does not release official casualty figures, but field medics say dozens of troops have been killed and wounded since the Mosul operation began last month.

Mortar rounds, artillery and gunfire rang out throughout the day, punctuated by occasional booms from airstrikes that sent plumes of smoke into the air.

A pre-dawn airstrike by the U.S.-led coalition struck a bridge across the Tigris River, which divides the city in two, leaving only one crossing intact and disrupting IS supply lines. It was the second bridge to be struck this week, and two other bridges were destroyed by airstrikes last month.

Until now, most of the fighting has been on the eastern bank of the Tigris. Iraqi forces are expected to use pontoon bridges when they reach the river.

A spokesman for one of several state-sanctioned Shiite militias meanwhile said they had seized a road to the northwest of Mosul linking the city to Raqqa, the de facto capital of the IS group's self-styled caliphate. The militias have been converging on Tal Afar, an IS-held town west of Mosul that had a Shiite majority before falling to the extremists in 2014.

"We have cut off Tal Afar from Mosul and we cut off Mosul from Syria," Jaafar al-Husseini, a spokesman for the Hezbollah Brigades, told The Associated Press.

Elsewhere in Iraq, more than a dozen small-scale attacks in and around Baghdad killed at least 31 people and wounded 103, according to police and health officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because

they were not authorized to brief reporters.

IS still regularly targets the capital despite suffering a series of battlefield losses elsewhere in the country over the past year.

Abdul-Zahra reported from Baghdad. Associated Press writers Bassem Mroue in Beirut and Sinan Salaheddin in Baghdad contributed to this report.

Trump's illegal immigration stance may boost private prisons

By REBECCA BOONE, Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — The population of American prisons is likely to rise for the first time in nearly a decade with President-elect Donald Trump's promise to detain and deport millions of immigrants who are in the country illegally and his selection of tough-on-crime Sen. Jeff Sessions to the nation's highest law enforcement post.

If so, one of the prime beneficiaries would be the private companies that operate many of the nation's prisons. The stock market seems to agree.

A day after the election, CoreCivic Co., formerly Corrections Corporation of America, saw the biggest percentage gain on the New York Stock Exchange with shares climbing 43 percent.

Shares of Geo Group, another private prison company, also jumped 21 percent.

The federal prison population had been trending down for nearly a decade when the Obama administration announced in August that it would phase out its use of some private facilities.

The announcement followed a Justice Department audit saying private facilities have more safety and security problems than government-run lockups.

The policy change did not cover private prisons used by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, though federal officials have said they are considering phasing out private contractor immigration facilities.

Trump, however, said during his campaign that the nation's prison system was a mess and voiced support for private prisons.

"I do think we can do a lot of privatizations and private prisons. It seems to work a lot better," Trump told MSNBC in March, though he didn't offer any details on what that might mean for the federal prison system.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement holds up to 34,000 immigrants awaiting deportation. Forty-six of the roughly 180 facilities in which ICE holds those immigrants are privately run, with about 73 percent of detainees held in the private facilities, the agency says.

"Trump was saying during his 100-day plan that mandatory minimums for people re-entering the country would be set at two years — that's going to require a longer-term need for beds," said Michael Kodesch, a senior associate with financial services firm Canaccord Genuity Inc.

Immigration detention centers are particularly profitable for private prison companies because they command a higher rate for each inmate bed, he said.

Yet what's good for investors isn't good for the country, said Bob Libal, executive director of Grassroots Leadership, a national nonprofit group that works to reduce incarceration and detention rates.

"They're handing the keys to a deportation machine over to the Trump administration," Libal said. "And I think there's no reason to believe that the Trump administration won't drive that machine forward through human rights protections or due process protections people in the detention system."

Sessions, Trump's pick for attorney general, was among a handful of Republican senators blocking a bipartisan bill that would reduce lengthy sentences for low-level drug offenders.

McLaurine Klingler, a spokeswoman for Sessions, said no one on Sessions' staff was immediately available to talk about his feelings on the DOJ's use on private prisons.

CoreCivic spokesman Jonathan Burns said the company doesn't take positions on proposals, legislation or policies that would determine the basis of an individual's incarceration or detention.

He said the company instead works to "educate lawmakers on the benefits of public-private partnership

generally and the solutions CoreCivic provides.”

Associated Press writers Sadie Gurman in Denver and Astrid Galvan in Phoenix contributed to this report.

Trump Justice Dept. could shift drug prosecution policies

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Obama administration Justice Department that emphasized the need to be “smart on crime” is being replaced with a Trump presidency that campaigned on being “tough on crime.”

The difference between those two philosophies remains to be seen, but one area where the divide is likely to be felt most acutely is in the thousands of drug cases the Justice Department prosecutes annually.

If confirmed as attorney general, Sen. Jeff Sessions, an Alabama Republican and former prosecutor, would inherit a Justice Department that’s pursued dramatic changes in the treatment of nonviolent drug criminals. Department leaders, most prominently former Attorney General Eric Holder, have directed prosecutors to limit their use of mandatory minimum punishments, sought to roll back a sentencing structure they see as overly harsh and encouraged the early release of hundreds of inmates.

Sessions is expected to bring a different perspective, given President-elect Donald Trump’s dire campaign warnings about crime in America and his posturing as a law-and-order candidate. Since Sessions opposed legislation this year to revamp the criminal justice system, his selection as attorney general also represents a probable setback for broader overhaul efforts that have stalled in Congress even with the support of the Justice Department.

“I think it slows down reform efforts a little bit nationally,” said Inimai Chettiar, justice program director at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law. “Even though the president doesn’t necessarily have the power to change all of the state and local laws, having a national champion was really important.”

Sessions “adamantly opposed very moderate efforts to reform sentencing laws,” Chettiar added. “He’s definitely not a mainstream conservative when it comes to the criminal justice system.”

The Justice Department’s drug policy is important given the sheer volume of defendants moved through the federal system. Nearly half the Bureau of Prisons population is in custody for drug offenses, which in fiscal year 2015 was the most common type of federal crime, with 22,631 cases, according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

There’s been bipartisan support in recent years for proposals aimed at cutting the prison population, but little agreement on how to do it.

The Obama administration, which two years ago unveiled a new clemency initiative, has commuted the sentences of 1,023 federal prisoners, including 79 on Tuesday — a total the White House says is more than the last 11 presidents combined. That effort, which relies on the Justice Department for recommendations of good clemency candidates, could fall by the wayside in a new administration.

Under Holder, the Justice Department in 2013 began a policy initiative known as “Smart on Crime” that directed prosecutors to avoid seeking mandatory minimum prison terms — punishments that limit a judge’s discretion and are typically dictated by the quantity of drugs involved in a crime — for low-level, nonviolent offenders.

Justice Department officials say prosecutors appear to be following the directive: The number of federal drug prosecutions dropped in the last year. The cases that were pursued involved more serious crimes, and officials said fewer than half of all drug cases in fiscal year 2015 involved charges with a mandatory minimum sentence.

As attorney general, Sessions would be in a position to undo the “Smart on Crime” memo and replace it with a new one encouraging harsher charging decisions for drug offenders.

Yet as a senator, Sessions has sometimes expressed support for a more flexible criminal justice system, including telling former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales at his 2005 confirmation hearing that drug sentencing guidelines that inform judges’ decisions were “tougher than we need them to be.”

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 37 of 38

In 2010, Sessions co-sponsored the Fair Sentencing Act, which increased the quantity of crack cocaine needed to trigger a mandatory minimum punishment and aimed to reduce the disparate penalties for crack and powder cocaine. And Trump's running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, said at the vice presidential debate that "we need criminal justice reform."

At other moments, though, Sessions has struck a different tone.

During hearings this year, he's said "good people don't smoke marijuana" and also criticized as risky Justice Department policies that he said raise too high the standard to prosecute drug cases.

Though fiscally minded Republicans have endorsed criminal justice changes, Sessions was among a group of GOP lawmakers this year who opposed legislation that would have allowed judges to reduce prison time for some drug offenders. He warned that the bill would release thousands of violent felons and endanger lives, at a time when crime in some large cities was rising.

That hard-line stance makes some advocates pessimistic about the prospect for a system overhaul under a Sessions administration.

"It was pretty modest reform, and you would have thought that it was a jailbreak the way he talked about that bill," said Kevin Ring, vice president of Families Against Mandatory Minimums. "That was pretty bland, and he was so opposed to it."

Follow Eric Tucker at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Nov. 24, the 329th day of 2016. There are 37 days left in the year. This is Thanksgiving Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 24, 1941, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Edwards v. California*, unanimously struck down a California law prohibiting people from bringing indigent non-residents into the state.

On this date:

In 1784, Zachary Taylor, the 12th President of the United States, was born in Orange County, Virginia.

In 1859, British naturalist Charles Darwin published "On the Origin of Species," which explained his theory of evolution by means of natural selection.

In 1865, Mississippi became the first Southern state to enact laws which came to be known as "Black Codes" aimed at limiting the rights of newly freed blacks; other states of the former Confederacy soon followed.

In 1939, British Overseas Airways Corp. (BOAC) was formally established.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. bombers based on Saipan attacked Tokyo in the first raid against the Japanese capital by land-based planes.

In 1950, the musical "Guys and Dolls," based on the writings of Damon Runyon and featuring songs by Frank Loesser (LEH'-suh), opened on Broadway.

In 1963, Jack Ruby shot and mortally wounded Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, in a scene captured on live television.

In 1969, Apollo 12 splashed down safely in the Pacific.

In 1971, a hijacker calling himself "Dan Cooper" (but who became popularly known as "D.B. Cooper") parachuted from a Northwest Orient Airlines 727 over the Pacific Northwest after receiving \$200,000 dollars in ransom; his fate remains unknown.

In 1974, the bone fragments of a 3.2 million-year-old hominid were discovered by scientists in Ethiopia; the skeletal remains were nicknamed "Lucy."

In 1985, the hijacking of an Egyptair jetliner parked on the ground in Malta ended violently as Egyptian commandos stormed the plane. Fifty-eight people died in the raid, in addition to two others killed by the

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 143 ~ 38 of 38

hijackers.

In 1991, rock singer Freddie Mercury died in London at age 45 of AIDS-related pneumonia.

Ten years ago: Shiite militiamen in Iraq doused six Sunni Arabs with kerosene and burned them alive and killed 19 other Sunnis, taking revenge for the slaughter of 215 Shiites in Baghdad's Sadr City the day before. Belfast's most infamous Protestant militant, Michael Stone, stormed into the Northern Ireland Assembly headquarters with a bagful of pipe bombs; he was quickly subdued. (Stone was sentenced to 16 years in prison in 2008.) Opera singer Robert McFerrin Sr., the father of Grammy-winning conductor-vocalist Bobby McFerrin, died in suburban St. Louis at age 85.

Five years ago: After a meeting in Strasbourg, France, German Chancellor Angela Merkel deflected calls for the European Central Bank to play a bigger role in solving Europe's debt crisis but won the backing of French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Italy's new premier, Mario Monti, to unite the troubled 17-nation eurozone more closely. In the first NFL game featuring brothers as opposing head coaches, the Baltimore Ravens, led by John Harbaugh, beat the San Francisco 49ers, 16-6, under rookie coach Jim Harbaugh.

One year ago: In a show of Western solidarity, President Barack Obama and French President Francois Hollande (frahn-SWAH' oh-LAWND') met at the White House, where they vowed to escalate airstrikes against the Islamic State and bolster intelligence sharing following the deadly attacks in Paris. A suicide bomber struck a bus carrying members of Tunisia's presidential guard in the country's capital, killing 12 victims. Turkey shot down a Russian warplane that it said ignored repeated warnings after crossing into its airspace from Syria, killing one of the two pilots. (Turkey later formally apologized for the shootdown.)

Today's Birthdays: Basketball Hall of Famer Oscar Robertson is 78. Country singer Johnny Carver is 76. Former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue (TAG'-lee-uh-boo) is 76. Rock drummer Pete Best is 75. Actor-comedian Billy Connolly is 74. Former White House news secretary Marlin Fitzwater is 74. Former Motion Picture Association of America Chairman Dan Glickman is 72. Singer Lee Michaels is 71. Actor Dwight Schultz is 69. Actor Stanley Livingston is 66. Rock musician Clem Burke (Blondie; The Romantics) is 62. Record producer Terry Lewis is 60. Actor/director Ruben Santiago-Hudson is 60. Actress Denise Crosby is 59. Actress Shae D'Lyn is 54. Rock musician John Squire (The Stone Roses) is 54. Rock musician Gary Stonadge (Big Audio) is 54. Actor Conleth Hill is 52. Actor-comedian Brad Sherwood is 52. Actor Garret Dillahunt is 52. Actor-comedian Scott Krinsky is 48. Rock musician Chad Taylor (Live) is 46. Actress Lola Glaudini is 45. Actress Danielle Nicolet is 43. Actor/writer/director/producer Stephen Merchant is 42. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Chen Lu is 40. Actor Colin Hanks is 39. Actress Katherine Heigl (HY'-guh) is 38. Actress Sarah Hyland is 26.

Thought for Today: "Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings." — William Arthur Ward, American writer (1921-1994).