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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 salad, seasoned cabbage, Waldorf Salad.

School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

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

Harry Implement

"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



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Ferney

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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!

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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"

Sanford
Underground
Research
Facility



Subscribe at: Sanfordlab.org/newsletters

Deep Thoughts

Notes from the underground by Communications Director Constance Walter

Monday, November 21, 2016

Neutrinos: Spies of the sun

As a young man, Frank Strieder was fascinated with astrophysics, reading every book he could find and taking high-level courses in math and physics while in high school in Germany. One day in particular stands out.

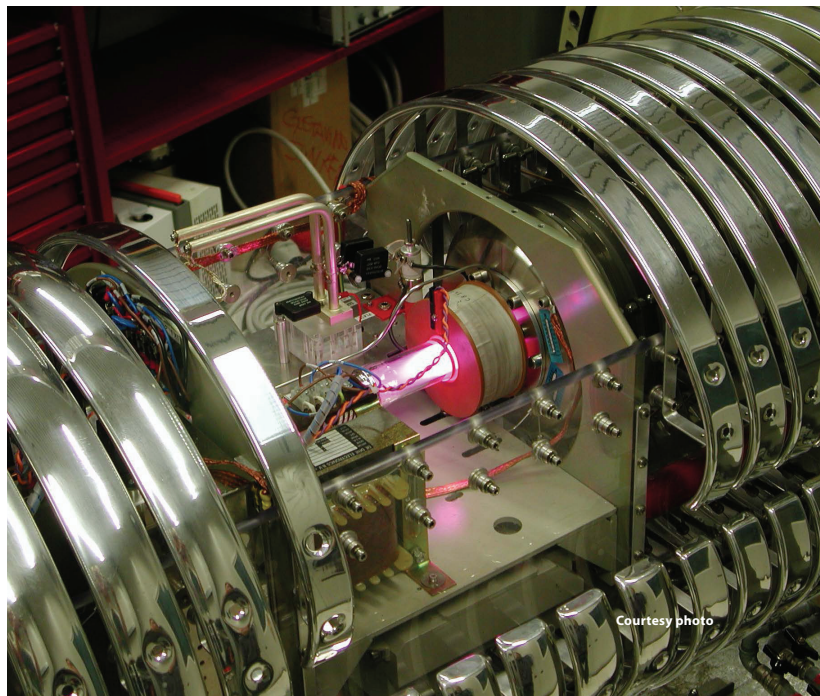
“My teacher said, ‘Ah, but neutrinos have never been measured from the sun.’ I said, ‘No, no, no. There’s an experiment by Ray Davis somewhere in the United States at an underground gold mine.’ And the teacher said, ‘No, that is not the case,’” said Strieder, a professor of physics at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SD Mines).

“Now, almost 30 years later, I’m at that same place doing my own experiment in the same environment,” said Strieder, who is also the principal investigator for CASPAR (Compact Accelerator System for Performing Astrophysical Research) at Sanford Lab.

For nearly three decades, Davis counted solar neutrinos on the 4850 Level of the former Homestake Mine. But there was a problem. Davis consistently counted only one-third the number of neutrinos predicted by theorists, creating what came to be called the “solar neutrino problem.”

Initially, the scientific community thought the experiment must be wrong, but Davis insisted he was right. He was vindicated when two underground experiments in Canada and Japan showed that neutrinos oscillate, or change among three types, as they travel through space at nearly the speed of light. In 2002, Davis earned a share of the Nobel Prize in Physics.

But even before the Nobel, Davis’s work inspired experiments around the world, including the Laboratory for Underground Nuclear Astrophysics (LUNA) at Gran Sasso National Laboratory in Italy. The first underground accelerator for astrophysics,



Hydrogen plasma glows at the ion source of the LUNA accelerator. The plasma is needed to extract and accelerate protons.

LUNA has been looking at stellar nuclear burning in the sun for 25 years.

“Ray Davis used neutrinos as spies of the sun, to try to prove what was happening in the sun,” said Matthias Junker, a scientist with the LUNA collaboration. “As we have fixed our idea of what is a neutrino, we can use it to probe what is going on inside the sun.”

Strieder worked with Junker on the LUNA experiment for 22 years before moving to CASPAR two years ago. Although both experiments are studying stellar burning and evolutionary phases in stars, their work is different. CASPAR is interested in understanding the production of elements heavier than iron, while LUNA concentrates on the production of elements up to magnesium,

aluminum and others in that area.

“This nuclear burning produces all the isotopes that make up life,” Junker said. “Where does carbon come from? Oxygen? Nitrogen? Lead? Gold? It’s all produced within stars. If you have a better understanding of the stars, you can use them to probe the universe.”

LUNA and CASPAR are the only experiments doing this type of research, Junker said. “Of course, there is competition but there is also sharing knowledge and experience.”

And it all started with neutrinos and the pioneering work done by Ray Davis.

On a recent visit to Sanford Lab, Junker said, “For me, this moment is extremely thrilling. This is the root of neutrino research.”

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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

Connecting Agriculture

By Mike Jaspers, South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture



The weather this fall across much of South Dakota has been unseasonably warm and dry. The mild weather, though, has caused an extended fire season in the state. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture has five divisions, one of which is the Wildland Fire Division. This division helps fight fires across the state as well as provides many other services and resources to local communities to ensure our firefighters have the tools and skills to fight fires safely and successfully. Below, Wildland Fire's division director, Jay Esperance, shares a glimpse into what our firefighters do and the kind of fire season we have had this year.

"This year, South Dakota experienced one of the longest lasting wildfire seasons on record. Large fire activity started statewide in April with the warm spring weather. The active fire season, particularly in western South Dakota, prompted Governor Dugaard's Drought Task Force to declare a 13 county area 'Red Zone' in western South Dakota. This designation allowed the state to assist counties that fought large, expensive fires.

"During July the 18,000 acre Freeman fire in Oglala Lakota County and the 14,000 acre Indian Canyon Fire in Fall River County kept state resources busy. The fire season then slowed in August and early September with

timely rains, but an extended drying period brought drought conditions back to the western half of the state. These conditions created optimal fire conditions when the 41,000 acre Cottonwood Fire in Jackson County was ignited. This fire is the largest fire in state history for the month of October since 1949. Unseasonable warm conditions have extended the fire season into November with large fire activity still occurring in portions of the state.

"It's been a busy season across the country too. When needed, our team travels across the country to assist in fighting fires in other states. This year our team has been assigned to fires in Colorado, Wyoming and North Carolina. These fires are complex and require team members to be completely engaged in activities in order to be safe and successful. I am passionate and committed to being an advocate of the safety of wildland firefighters and am proud of our team for taking safety seriously.

"Although our firefighting efforts tend to claim most of the glory, I am very proud of all aspects of the division. Our training program is currently in the planning process for three academies across the state. These academies offer training for state, federal and volunteer firefighters so they have the knowledge and skills to fight fire safely. The fuels mitigation program continues to accomplish thinning projects in the Black Hills in between responding to fires. The prescribed fire program is active in providing assistance with the planning and implementation of prescribed burn projects across the state to make sure they are done safely and only burn what has been targeted to burn. The fire prevention program continues to grow through cooperatively working with our interagency partners on projects to communicate and teach safety around fire. Finally, none of this work would be possible without the dedication and diligence of our administrative staff who make sure the phones get answered and the bills get paid.

"Our Wildland Fire Division is committed to protecting South Dakota's forests, homes, farms and ranches from fire and to bringing everyone home safely. I am proud of the work we've done this year extinguishing over 550 fires."

As we take time to celebrate Thanksgiving with our friends and families, I would like to thank all the volunteers, state employees and federal partners who have worked tirelessly this year to protect our homes and communities. I would also ask that as you gather with family, you keep in your thoughts and prayers those firefighters and their families who are unable to be together during this holiday season.

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From The Groton Area Junior Kindergarten Students. . .

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Madison Fischbach, daughter of Justin Fischbach. She is thankful for swimming and going to the park



Sophia Flihs, daughter of Jeff and Bridget Flihs. She is thankful for playing with her dad



Keegan Kucker, son of Chris and Amy Kucker. He is thankful for getting a hot tub from Grandpa



Kyson Kucker, son of Chris and Amy Kucker. He is thankful for going to his grandmas



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.



Eh Dah Ler, son of Eh Hsee and Mu-Dah. He is thankful for mom, dad, and food



Lifetime Warranty on all Collision Work!



Ryder Schwan, son of Dr. Anna and Brett Schwan. He is thankful for getting a new toy

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

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Today in Weather History



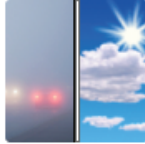




November 25, 1896: A major blizzard occurred throughout South Dakota, beginning on the 25th and continuing until the 27th. The storm began in most locations as rain and sleet, which turned to snow, accompanied by strong northerly winds. The 26th was the peak of the storm, and the heaviest snow and strongest wind occurred throughout the north, northeast, west and southwest portions of the state. In eastern and southeastern South Dakota, sleet was extraordinarily heavy on the 26th. There were many reports received of large quantities of trees stripped of smaller branches and limbs due to the weight of the sleet. Across the state, telegraph lines were flattened in all directions, and the poles were broken off in many places. Although there was very little loss of livestock in areas with available shelter, there were heavy individual losses on the ranges of South Dakota. Several people also perished on the ranges west of the Missouri River when they became lost in the storm without livestock. Reports of snowfall totals from the storm are very limited but included 17 inches at Aberdeen and 12 inches at Mellette. This blizzard was the most prominent individual feature in a November that was overall frigid, with a state mean temperature of 16.5 degrees, which was 17.2 degrees below normal at the time. The month still stands as the coldest November on record in Aberdeen, with an average temperature nearly 7 degrees Fahrenheit colder than the next coldest November (1985). The lowest reported temperature during the month was -29 F at Webster. Aberdeen recorded a low of -25 F on the 29th with a high temperature of -8 F that same day. The month currently stands as the snowiest November on record and second snowiest overall month on record for Aberdeen, with 32.8 inches, behind 38.5 inches recorded in February 1915.

November 25, 1703: The greatest windstorm ever recorded in the southern part of Great Britain reaches its peak intensity which it maintains through November 27. Winds gust up to 120 mph, and 9,000 people perish in the mighty gale, most of them sailors of the British fleet. The storm continued through December 2nd. It was reported that 4,000 oaks died in the New Forest and an attempt to count the toll of trees in Kent gave up at 17,000. At sea, the Eddystone Lighthouse was washed away, killing six people. Daniel Defoe wrote a journal called *The Storm* (1704) about this event. The storm has been called the first substantial work of modern journalism.

1950: Called the "storm of the century" this storm impacted the eastern part of the US, killing hundreds and causing millions of dollars in damages. New York City recorded a 94 mph wind gust and Bear Mountain, just north of the city recorded a 140 mph gust. Record low temperatures were reported on the southern end of this storm in Tennessee and North Carolina. This storm was unique as Pittsburgh saw 30 inches of snow, while Buffalo saw 50 degrees with 50 mph wind gusts.

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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Sunny	Partly Cloudy then Patchy Fog	Patchy Fog then Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy then Patchy Fog	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance Rain	Rain/Snow Likely	Chance Rain/Snow
High: 45 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 46 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 42 °F	Low: 33 °F	High: 39 °F



Mostly Clear through Sunday Morning



Above Normal Temperatures Expected

**Highs ranging from the lower 40s
to middle 50s, warmest in
central South Dakota**

**Rain Arrives
on
Sunday Afternoon**

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 11/25/2016 3:02 AM Central

Published on: 11/25/2016 at 3:08AM

A mostly clear sky will cover the region through much of the weekend and help produce above normal temperatures. The warmest highs will occur on Saturday before rain quickly moves into the area on Sunday afternoon.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 33.5 F at 10:30 AM

Low Outside Temp: 26.7 F at 9:00 PM

High Gust: 7.0 Mph at 9:30 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 64° in 1960

Record Low: -22° in 1996

Average High: 34°F

Average Low: 14°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.64

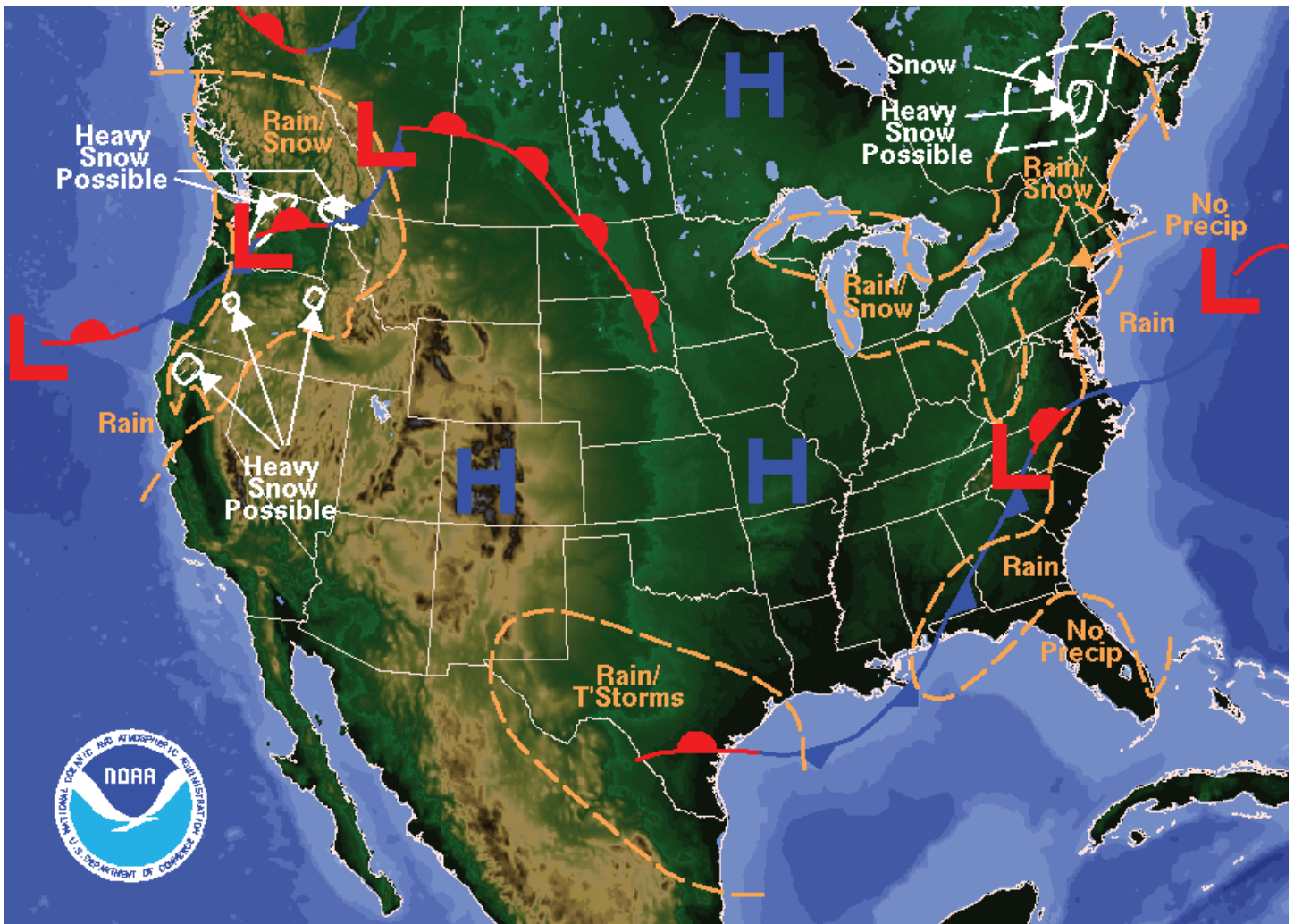
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.20

Average Precip to date: 21.11

Precip Year to Date: 15.20

Sunset Tonight: 4:54 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:47 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Nov 25, 2016, issued 4:36 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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WHAT'S IN YOUR MIND?

A group of visitors was watching a potter fashion an object from shapeless clay. Intrigued, one of them asked, "What are you making?"

"Something very beautiful," he answered.

"How do you know it's going to be beautiful?" asked the visitor.

"Because I can see it in my mind," he replied.

Isaiah made a profound statement about the potter and his clay. "Lord," he began, "you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We are all formed by your hand."

Whenever and wherever pottery is mentioned in Scripture the story is the same: the potter has power over the clay. He can do with the clay what he will and shape objects that have a wide variety of uses. One may be used as a vessel to carry water or store grain. Another may be used to contain oil for a lamp that will shed light in dark places. Again, the potter may make a bowl for soup or a plate for a feast. The clay has no power or influence over the outcome of the process. The potter has control over the clay and will shape the clay carefully according to his will to fulfill its purpose.

Likewise for the Christian. God has a specific plan in His mind for each of our lives. For us to fulfill His purpose, He must shape us and mold us as a potter does with his clay until we are ready for His use.

Prayer: We thank You, Heavenly Father, that You have a plan and a purpose for each of us. May we be patient and willing to be made into Your likeness. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Isaiah 64:8 Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.



We now accept



for out patient therapy.

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

News from the Associated Press

\$35 million condo-hotel project in Deadwood put on hold

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — A \$35 million condominium-hotel project planned in the Old West gambling town of Deadwood is on hold.

The Rapid City Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/2fvnyZl>) the decision by the group that owns the Deadwood Mountain Grand comes in the wake of highly critical reports issued by the city and the state historic preservation office.

DMG Managing Partner Marc Oswald says the consortium will reassess its plans and return to the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission later with a revised application.

The Chalets at Deadwood Mountain Grand proposal called for 103 one- and two-bedroom units on a steep hillside. Developers said the condos could attract a high-profile clientele not currently seen in Deadwood.

Some residents worried the project would mar the hillside view, and that absentee condo-owners wouldn't contribute anything to the community.

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

State prison inmate in Rapid City placed on escape status

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A state prison inmate who failed to return from his work release job has been placed on escape status.

Corrections officials say 38-year-old David Bujarski was to return to the Rapid City Community Work Center on Thursday but failed to show up.

Bujarski is serving multiple sentences on Pennington County drug convictions.

Fall fieldwork in South Dakota not impacted by first storm

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota farmers had completed most of their fall fieldwork before the state saw its first winter storm of the season, but some corn and sunflowers remain unharvested.

The Agriculture Department in its latest weekly crop report says 3 percent of both the corn and sunflower crops remain in the field.

The report says about half of the state's winter wheat crop is in good to excellent condition. Only 9 percent is rated poor or very poor.

Pasture and range conditions statewide are rated 35 percent good to excellent. Stock water supplies are 68 percent adequate to surplus.

Trump's stock in oil pipeline company raises concern

By **MATTHEW DALY**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump holds stock in the company building the disputed Dakota Access oil pipeline, and pipeline opponents warn that Trump's investments could affect any decision he makes on the \$3.8 billion project as president.

Trump's 2016 federal disclosure forms show he owned between \$15,000 and \$50,000 in stock in Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners. That's down from between \$500,000 and \$1 million a year earlier.

Trump also owns between \$100,000 and \$250,000 in Phillips 66, which has a one-quarter share of Dakota Access.

While Trump's stake in the pipeline company is modest compared with his other assets, ethics experts say it's among dozens of potential conflicts that could be resolved by placing his investments in a blind trust, a step Trump has resisted.

The Obama administration said this month it wants more study and tribal input before deciding whether to allow the partially built pipeline to cross under a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota.

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The 1,200-mile pipeline would carry oil across four states to a shipping point in Illinois. The project has been held up while the Army Corps of Engineers consults with the Standing Rock Sioux, who believe the project could harm the tribe's drinking water and Native American cultural sites.

The delay, which comes as protests unfold daily along the proposed route, raises the likelihood that a final decision will be made by Trump, a pipeline supporter who has vowed to "unleash" unfettered production of oil and gas. He takes office in January.

"Trump's investments in the pipeline business threaten to undercut faith in this process — which was already frayed — by interjecting his own financial well-being into a much bigger decision," said Sharon Buccino, director of the land and wildlife program at the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group.

"This should be about the interests of the many, rather than giving the appearance of looking at the interests of a few — including Trump," Buccino said.

Trump, a billionaire who has never held public office, holds ownership stakes in more than 500 companies worldwide. He has said he plans to transfer control of his company to three of his adult children, but ethics experts have said conflicts could engulf the new administration if Trump does not liquidate his business holdings.

Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., senior Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, called Trump's investment in the pipeline company "disturbing" and said it fits a pattern evident in Trump's transition team.

"You have climate (change) deniers, industry lobbyists and energy conglomerates involved in that process," Grijalva said. "The pipeline companies are gleeful. This is pay-to-play at its rawest."

Besides Trump, at least two possible candidates for energy secretary also could benefit from the pipeline. Oil billionaire Harold Hamm could ship oil from his company, Continental Resources, through the pipeline, while former Texas Gov. Rick Perry serves on the board of directors of Energy Transfer Partners.

Concern about Trump's possible conflicts comes as protests over the pipeline have intensified in recent weeks, with total arrests since August rising to 528. A clash this past week near the main protest camp in North Dakota left a police officer and several protesters injured.

North Dakota Republican Gov. Jack Dalrymple, along with GOP Sen. John Hoeven and Rep. Kevin Cramer, called on President Barack Obama to authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to approve the pipeline crossing, the last large segment of the nearly completed pipeline.

Kelcy Warren, CEO of Dallas-based Energy Transfer, told The Associated Press that he expects Trump to make it easier for his company and others to complete infrastructure projects.

"Do I think it's going to get easier? Of course," said Warren, who donated \$3,000 to Trump's campaign, plus \$100,000 to a committee supporting Trump's candidacy and \$66,800 to the Republican National Committee.

"If you're in the infrastructure business," he said, "you need consistency. That's where this process has gotten off track."

The Army Corps of Engineers granted Warren's company the permits needed for the crossing in July, but the agency decided in September that further analysis was warranted, given the tribe's concerns. On Nov. 14, the corps called for even more study.

The company has asked a federal judge to declare it has the right to lay pipe under Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota. The judge isn't likely to issue a decision until January at the earliest.

Follow Matthew Daly: <https://twitter.com/MatthewDalyWDC>

Anti-pipeline protesters demonstrate on Thanksgiving Day

MANDAN, N.D. (AP) — About 300 opponents of the Dakota Access pipeline demonstrated in a North Dakota city on Thanksgiving Day, while protesters near the construction site where hundreds of demonstrators have camped out for months attempted to build a wooden bridge to reach what they say are tribal burial sites.

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The protesters blocked traffic at an intersection and other streets in Mandan shouting "Shame on you, North Dakota!" and carrying a banner that read "No pilgrims, no pipeline," the Bismarck Tribune reported. About 50 officers stood across from the protesters, and the crowd eventually dispersed.

Morton County sheriff's office spokesman Rob Keller said officers near the campsites about 50 miles south of Mandan observed protesters attempting to build a wooden bridge over a body of water Thursday morning in an effort to reach Turtle Island, a hill where protesters claim burial sites are located. Keller said between 350 and 400 protesters eventually gathered at Turtle Island.

Keller said one protester told officers they were "ready to die today." Another said, "Remember '73?" referring to Wounded Knee.

In Portland, Oregon, hundreds of people rallied in the rain Thursday to show their solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and others who have spent months protesting the pipeline's construction.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports (<https://goo.gl/X4DGdy>) that more than 350 people took part in the demonstration at the city's Pioneer Courthouse Square. Attendees chanted, "Stop the pipeline" and "Water rights are human rights."

Shannon Berger-Hammond co-founded a group called Families for Peaceful Protest, which organized the Portland rally. She said Thanksgiving is "meant to highlight peace and thanks and community and to celebrate indigenous nations, and the indigenous nations are suffering right now."

The Standing Rock Sioux and others oppose the 1,200-mile, four-state pipeline being built to carry oil from western North Dakota to a shipping point in Illinois because they say it threatens drinking water on the nearby reservation and cultural sites. Pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners has said no sites have been disturbed and that the \$3.8 billion pipeline will be safe.

The pipeline is largely complete except for the section under a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota, and ETP Chief Executive Kelcy Warren has said the company is unwilling to reroute the project.

Protests against the pipeline have intensified in recent weeks, with arrests since August totaling more than 520.

Actress Shailene Woodley, who was among 27 activists arrested Oct. 10, was at one of the campsites Thursday. She live-streamed activities and was expected to help serve Thanksgiving dinner to protesters later in the day.

At least one person was arrested during Thursday's demonstration in Mandan, a community adjacent to the capital city of Bismarck. When protesters blocked the intersection, they set up several folding tables with pumpkins and a pig head. They also passed out food.

"They come at us with violence, we come back with prayer," Jamey Reil, of Virginia, said referring to a clash between police and protesters Sunday night near the campsites that sent at least 17 demonstrators to the hospital.

Law enforcement authorities in Burleigh County and Bismarck issued a phone alert Thursday morning warning residents about the presence of protesters. The recording urged people traveling to Burleigh and Morton counties during the Thanksgiving weekend to be on "alert to their surroundings."

Authorities also urged people to report any "suspicious activity." Authorities say "rioters" in the area intend "to create an unsafe environment for the public."

Crash reports no longer public after voters OK Marsy's Law

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota law enforcement authorities are no longer releasing vehicle crash information because doing so could violate a constitutional amendment approved by voters this month.

The state's Department of Public Safety suspended access to an online crash report database after the ballot measure known as Marsy's Law went into effect following the Nov. 8 election. The Sioux Falls Police Department is also not releasing crash reports and is considering whether to continue posting online a 30-day log of calls for service.

Constitutional Amendment S gives victims the right to privacy, protection from harassment or abuse, and timely notice of trial, sentencing and post-judgment proceedings. The law is named for California college student Marsalee "Marsy" Nicholas, who was stalked and killed in 1983 by an ex-boyfriend. Her brother,

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Henry Nicholas, bankrolled the effort to expand it to South Dakota.

The amendment includes a provision that gives victims "the right to prevent disclosure of information or records that could be used to locate or harass the victim or the victim's family." Crash reports typically include the addresses of the parties involved.

Scott Hoy, a Sioux Falls attorney who represents clients in personal injury lawsuits, told the Argus Leader that he expects attorneys will be able to acquire the reports, but at a much slower pace. He said people filing damage or medical claims could face delays in medical payments leading to personal debts being sent to collections agencies and the need for an attorney to step in.

Attempts to obtain a crash report from the South Dakota Department of Public Safety's accident records website are met with a notification stating that "due to the passage and enactment of Amendment 'S' to the South Dakota constitution, also known as 'Marsy's Law,' the sale of South Dakota motor vehicle crash reports to all parties has been suspended until further notice."

Sioux Falls Police spokesman Sam Clemens says the department is evaluating whether its online log of calls, which lists addresses where incidents have taken place, can continue to be made available.

Minnehaha County Sheriff Mike Milstead told KELO-TV that law enforcement authorities still don't know whether they are allowed to release the location of crimes or any details at all.

"How can we inform the public on these areas, if now it appears that this is prohibited?" Milstead said.

Mount Rushmore float part of Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota once again was present at the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Singer-songwriter Ben Rector appeared on the "Mount Rushmore's American Pride" float Thursday. The float features the iconic faces at Mount Rushmore National Memorial in western South Dakota.

This is the South Dakota Department of Tourism's seventh year appearing in the New York City parade. Neil Diamond appeared on the float in 2011, and Don McLean, singer of "American Pie," appeared in 2012.

The following year, rocker Joan Jett had was pulled to another float after complaints from some South Dakota farmers and ranchers who questioned why the vegetarian and animal-rights ally was representing their beef-loving state.

The float's appearance in this year's parade comes as the National Park Service celebrates the 75th anniversary of Mount Rushmore's completion.

Murder charge filed in shooting of Detroit college cop

By JEFF KAROUB, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — An ex-convict was charged with murder and other crimes Friday in the death of a Detroit college police officer who was shot in the head while trying to arrest the man.

"This case strongly illustrates the dangers that police officers face every minute of every day," Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said.

DeAngelo Davis, 31, is accused of shooting Wayne State University Officer Collin Rose on Tuesday. He's charged with first-degree murder, murder of a police officer and gun crimes.

Wayne State, which has more than 27,000 students, employs about 65 officers. Rose died a day after the shooting, and is the only Wayne State officer killed in the line of duty.

In a statement, Worthy said Davis was riding a bicycle when Rose stopped him. The officer was shot shortly after requesting help from other officers.

Detroit Police Chief James Craig said Rose was investigating possible thefts of navigation systems from vehicles.

It won't be known if Davis has a lawyer who could speak on his behalf until he appears in court Friday.

"Officer Rose was respected, admired, and one that had an excellent work ethic," Worthy said. "Our hearts go out to the family and friends."

32 bodies found in clandestine graves in southern Mexico

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP) — Investigators searching clandestine graves have found 32 bodies and nine human heads in the southern Mexico state of Guerrero, where authorities say they are battling a wave of drug gang violence.

The grisly discoveries came in the municipality of Zitlala, where a drug gang had set up a rural camp where it held kidnap victims and disposed of its victims' bodies.

When a joint military-police patrol happened on the camp earlier this week, it found a kidnapped man and what appeared to be clandestine burial pits. Initially investigators reported finding a dozen bodies, but after days of digging, they discovered a total of 32 bodies in 17 pits.

The camp is near the area where nine decapitated bodies were found dumped on a roadside last week. The nine heads found in coolers at the camp may belong to those bodies, investigators said.

The area has been the scene of turf battles between two rival drug gangs — the Rojos and the Arillos — who engage in extortion, kidnappings and killings. But in recent weeks the violence has spread to other areas, apparently as a result of turf battles between two or three other gangs, including the La Familia and Guerreros Unidos gangs, and a group known as the Tequileros.

Gov. Hector Astudillo condemned what he has called the wave of "barbarism and savagery," and his office said called the situation "a public disturbance caused by organized crime."

Roberto Alvarez Heredia, spokesman for the Guerrero Coordinating Group, said soldiers were combing the area to see if there are any more clandestine graves. Investigators were working to identify the bodies and the killers.

Guerrero has seen an upsurge in gang-related violence. The government announced on Monday that it is stepping up the use of joint police-army patrols in areas known to be particularly violent.

But many towns have formed their own vigilante "community police" forces to fight the gangs.

Residents of the town of Ajuchitlan, where about a dozen residents were kidnapped last week, had pledged to fight the gangs on their own.

But Astudillo announced that 200 Guerrero state police, with reinforcements from the neighboring state of Michoacan, had been assigned to the remote mountain area to try to find the missing men.

And in Tierra Colorada, nearer to the resort of Acapulco, rival vigilante groups have been engaged in a series of battles for control of the town, leading to fears the vigilantes may be taking sides in the gang wars.

The largely rural, impoverished state had 1,832 reported homicides in the first 10 months of 2016. If that rate continues unabated, Guerrero would be on track to have a homicide rate of about 60 per 100,000. That would rival the recent peak year of violence in the state, in 2012, when there were about 68 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants.

Shoppers hunt for deals, hit the shops for entertainment

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Shoppers were on the hunt for deals and were at the stores for entertainment Friday as malls opened for what is still one of the busiest days of the year, even as the start of the holiday season edges ever earlier.

Julie Singewald's Black Friday started at 4 a.m. at a Twin Cities outlet mall. By 6 a.m., she and her two teenage daughters made it to the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota. Singewald said she was merely the vehicle — "and sometimes the credit card" — as her daughters hunted for deals and worked on their shopping lists. Increasingly, the 44-year-old is doing more of her shopping online.

"I'm a point-and-click person," she said. "If it were up to me, I would be in my pajamas and on my computer at home."

Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, used to launch the holiday season, but the competition to grab customers first is keen. Stores like Macy's, Walmart, Target and more were open Thursday evening in what they hope will be a new holiday tradition as they try to fight off competition from online juggernaut Amazon.

After what appeared to be a strong turnout for Thanksgiving sales, some early morning reports indicate that traffic to malls may be slower on Black Friday than last year as retailers spread the deals out

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throughout the week.

"It was a really good start. But I have never seen Black Friday morning so calm," said Marshal Cohen, chief industry analyst at NPD Group, a market research firm, who visited malls on Long Island on Friday. He still believes the weekend's sales will likely be up over last year because shoppers did lots of buying, including pricey flat-screen TVs.

In Rhode Island, shoppers who arrived after sunrise at the Garden City outdoor shopping mall in Cranston said they were glad their state — along with Massachusetts and Maine — doesn't let retailers open on Thanksgiving Day.

"I don't like the idea of it," said Lauren Glynn. "I feel bad for the people who have to work."

She and her husband, who are restaurateurs, came to the Cranston mall for fun, to soak up the experience and maybe find a few deals, but they said they plan to do most of their gift shopping online and at locally owned shops where they live in Bristol, Rhode Island.

Sam Glynn said it's at local shops where they will look for "cool knives and glassware, things that have meaning."

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which started its Black Friday sales on Thursday at 6 p.m., said shoppers were embracing technology products. Steve Bratspies, chief merchandising officer at Wal-Mart's U.S. division, said in addition to Black Friday favorites like televisions and toys, they were looking for drones, virtual reality products and hoverboards. Wal-Mart started its online sale just after midnight on Thanksgiving, three hours earlier than last year. It reported on Friday that 70 percent of the traffic to its website came from mobile devices.

Leah Olson was at Mall of America Friday morning, following some Thanksgiving night trips to Target and a local mall. Olsen said she had done some online shopping, but preferred making in-person stops.

"I always like to walk, go to the mall," said the Chanhassen, Minnesota resident. "I just like shopping."

This weekend is crucial to set the tone for the holiday season. Around 137 million people plan to or are considering doing their shopping during the Thanksgiving weekend, according to a survey conducted for the National Retail Federation. That includes online and store shopping. Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, vies with the Saturday before Christmas as the busiest shopping day of the year.

The NRF, the nation's largest retail group, expects holiday sales to rise 3.6 percent for November and December, better than the 3 percent growth seen for those months last year. That excludes car sales, gas and restaurant receipts. But it includes online spending and other non-store sales such as catalog spending.

Associated Press writers Kyle Potter in Bloomington, Minnesota, and Matt O'Brien in Cranston, Rhode Island, contributed to this report.

Death toll in Iraq bombing claimed by IS rises to 73

By **BRIAN ROHAN and MURTADA FARAJ, Associated Press**

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — The death toll from a car bombing south of Baghdad claimed by the Islamic State group rose to 73 on Friday, including about 40 Iranian pilgrims, as Iraqi forces continued to inch closer to the center of the northern city of Mosul in street-to-street fighting east of the Tigris River.

Iraqi police and hospital officials said 65 other people were wounded in the Thursday night attack at a gas station on a major highway near the city of Hilla, about 95 kilometers (60 miles) south of the Iraqi capital.

It was the deadliest IS attack in Iraq since July, when a car bomb killed about 300 in a commercial district in Baghdad.

IS claimed the attack in a brief statement on its Aamaq media arm, saying it was a suicide truck bomb. Earlier, Iraqi officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media, had put the death toll at 56.

The attack appears to have targeted a bus with Iranian pilgrims heading home after a major Shiite religious observance in the holy city of Karbala.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Hassan Qashqavi was quoted by the semi-official Tasnim news agency

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on Thursday night as saying that 80 people were killed, including 40 Iranians. Conflicting death tolls are common in the aftermath of large attacks.

The attack came a day after some dozen small-scale bombings in and around Baghdad killed 31 people and wounded more than a 100 — a particularly bloody day even by the standards of the Iraqi capital, which has for more than a decade endured near-daily violence blamed on IS or its forerunner, al-Qaida in Iraq, and which mostly targeted members of Iraq's Shiite majority.

The gas station bombing underlined the continuing ability of IS to stage high-profile terror attacks even as a massive Iraqi military operation is underway to dislodge its fighters from Mosul, its last major urban stronghold in Iraq. The offensive is aided by volunteer militiamen and the U.S.-led coalition, which has mostly been pounding IS targets in Mosul with airstrikes.

Moreover, Thursday's IS bombing took place in Iraq's Shiite hinterland south of Baghdad, a region that has largely been spared the near-daily violence that has for years engulfed the capital and Sunni regions.

Earlier this week, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi visited Karbala, where he lavishly praised the country's security forces for protecting the pilgrims against attacks by IS.

Extremist Sunni militants, including the Islamic State group, view Shiites as heretics and routinely target Iranian pilgrims who visit Iraq by the hundreds of thousands to pay homage to major Shiite shrines in Baghdad, and also the Shiite holy cities of Karbala and Najaf, south of Baghdad, and Samarra, to the north of the capital.

Shiite Iran is a major backer of the governments in Iraq and neighboring Syria in their fight against IS, providing military advisers and weapons.

"Let the vile Rafidha (Shiites) know that what awaits them in the near future, God willing, will be more painful and bitter and that the flames of the battles in Nineveh will reach them in Baghdad, Karbala and Najaf," IS said in its statement. Nineveh is the northern Iraqi province where Mosul is the capital.

The Shiite observance in Karbala, called the al-Arbaeen, routinely attracts hundreds of thousands of pilgrims, including many Iranians who travel overland into Iraq for the occasion. Several members of Iranian civil defense staff who had been in Karbala to offer assistance to Iranian pilgrims rushed to the gas station following the bombing, helping their Iraqi counterparts collect victims' bodies and aiding the wounded. Iranian civil defense personnel typically accompany pilgrims on such trips to Iraq.

The Iraqi government's campaign to retake Mosul began last month, but stiff IS resistance and concerns over the safety of civilians who remain inside the city have slowed the Iraqi forces' progress.

Fighting continued in the eastern sector of Mosul on Friday, with Iraqi special forces seizing another neighborhood, Masaref, and advancing in the densely populated Zohour district, according to Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil. The offensive to capture Zohour began earlier this week, but troops are facing stiff IS resistance, he added.

On the ground in Mosul, the sound of automatic fire and the thud of mortar shells and artillery shook the city's eastern sector, east of the Tigris River, on Friday.

An Associated Press team in the area said civilians fleeing the fighting continued to flow out of the inner parts of the city toward the lines of the Iraqi military. Off the back of a truck, soldiers offered them rice, potatoes and tomato sauce. In the Bakr neighborhood, civilians lined the streets. Old and young men looked on silently, while children smiled and waved to the troops.

Faraj reported from Baghdad. Associated Press writers Maamoun Youssef in Cairo and Qassim Abdul-Zahra in Baghdad contributed to this report.

'The Brady Bunch' matriarch Florence Henderson dies at 82

By LYNN ELBER, AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Florence Henderson, who went from Broadway star to become one of America's most beloved television moms in "The Brady Bunch," has died. She was 82.

Henderson died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles on Thursday night, a day after she was

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hospitalized, said her publicist, David Brokaw. Henderson had suffered heart failure, her manager Kayla Pressman said in a statement.

Family and friends had surrounded Henderson's hospital bedside, Pressman said.

On the surface, "The Brady Bunch" with Henderson as its ever-cheerful matriarch Carol Brady resembled just another TV sitcom about a family living in suburban America and getting into a different wacky situation each week.

But well after it ended its initial run in 1974, the show resonated with audiences, and it returned to television in various forms again and again, including "The Brady Bunch Hour" in 1977, "The Brady Brides" in 1981 and "The Bradys" in 1990. It was also seen endlessly in reruns.

"It represents what people always wanted: a loving family. It's such a gentle, innocent, sweet show, and I guess it proved there's always an audience for that," Henderson said in 1999.

Premiering in 1969, it also was among the first shows to introduce to television the blended family. As its theme song reminded viewers each week, Henderson's Carol was a single mother raising three daughters when she met her TV husband, Robert Reed's Mike Brady, a single father who was raising three boys.

The eight of them became "The Brady Bunch," with a quirky housekeeper, played by Ann B. Davis, thrown into the mix.

Mourners flooded social media with memories of Henderson.

Maureen McCormick, who played the eldest Brady daughter, Marcia, tweeted, "You are in my heart forever Florence." "Dancing With the Stars" host Tom Bergeron tweeted, "Heartbroken. I'll miss you, my friend." Henderson's last public appearance was Monday at the "Dancing With The Stars" taping where she was in the audience to support McCormick, who competed this season.

The blond, ever-smiling Henderson was already a Broadway star when the show began, having originated the title role in the musical "Fanny." But after "The Brady Bunch," she would always be known to fans as Carol Brady.

"We had to have security guards with us. Fans were hanging on our doors. We couldn't go out by ourselves. We were like the Beatles!" she said of the attention the show brought the cast.

Like the Beatles, there was even a Saturday morning cartoon version called "Brady Kids," though Henderson was not in that show.

She and Reed did return, however, for "The Brady Bunch Hour," "The Brady Brides" and "The Bradys." So did most of the original cast.

She was also back again in 1995 when a new cast was assembled for "The Brady Bunch Movie," a playful spoof of the original show. This time she was Grandma Brady opposite Shelley Long's Carol. Numerous memoirs also kept interest in the show alive as cast members revealed they were more than just siblings off camera. Barry Williams, who played eldest son Greg Brady, would confess to having a crush on his TV stepmom. Henderson, in her own book, denied having any relationship with Williams but did acknowledge a fling with former New York City mayor John Lindsay.

Henderson was a 19-year-old drama student in New York when she landed a one-line role in the play "Wish You Were Here."

Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II were so impressed they made her the female lead in a 1952 road tour of "Oklahoma!" When the show returned to Broadway for a revival in 1954, she continued in the role and won rave reviews.

"She is the real thing," wrote Walter Kerr of the New York Herald Tribune.

To broaden her career, Henderson took acting, dancing, singing and guitar lessons, even studying French and Italian.

She went on to play Maria in a road production of "The Sound of Music," was Nellie Forbush in a revival of "South Pacific" and was back on Broadway with Jose Ferrer in "The Girl Who Came to Supper" in 1963.

She made her movie debut in 1970 in "Song of Norway," based on the 1944 operetta with music by Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg.

Her career nearly came to an end in 1965 when she suddenly lost her hearing while appearing in "The King and I" in Los Angeles. She was diagnosed with a condition linked to heredity.

"Corrective surgery in both ears restored my hearing," she said in 2007.

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As her TV career blossomed with "The Brady Bunch," Henderson also began to make frequent TV guest appearances. She was the first woman to host "The Tonight Show" for the vacationing Johnny Carson.

For eight years she also commuted to Nashville to conduct a cooking and talk series, "Country Kitchen," on The Nashville Network. The show resulted in a book, "Florence Henderson's Short Cut Cooking."

After "The Brady Bunch" ended its first run, Henderson alternated her appearances in revivals of the show with guest appearances on other programs, including "Hart to Hart," "Fantasy Island" and "The Love Boat."

In later years she also made guest appearances on such shows as "Roseanne," "Ally McBeal" and "The King of Queens."

She also became a commercial spokeswoman and co-produced "Country Kitchen," a Nashville Network series, The Los Angeles Times reported.

Florence Agnes Henderson was born Feb. 14, 1934, in the small town of Dale in southern Indiana. She was the 10th child of a tobacco sharecropper of Irish descent.

In grade school, she joined the choir at a Catholic church in Rockport, Indiana.

After high school she moved to New York, where she enrolled in a two-year program at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, her studies financed by a theatrical couple who had been impressed by her singing when they saw her perform in high school.

She dropped out of the program after one year, however, to take the role in "Wish You Were There."

Henderson married theater executive Ira Bernstein and the couple had four children before the union ended in divorce after 29 years.

Her second husband, John Kappas, died in 2002.

Pressman said she is survived by her children, Barbara, Joseph, Robert and Lizzie, their spouses and five grandchildren.

Late Associated Press writer Bob Thomas contributed to this report.

Trump says he's trying to save jobs in US

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump didn't take off all of Thanksgiving Day while enjoying a long holiday weekend with his family at his Mar-a-Lago estate, saying he was working to keep the makers of Carrier air conditioners from relocating from Indianapolis to Mexico.

Meanwhile, his transition team was stepping up its effort to raise money for inaugural festivities and Trump offered a holiday prayer for a politically divided nation, even as a controversy swirled around his consideration of onetime fierce critic Mitt Romney for his Cabinet.

After Thanksgiving Day, Trump and his transition team are expected to turn their attention back to building his administration. Two possible appointments loom: retired neurosurgeon and former presidential candidate Ben Carson as secretary of housing and urban development and billionaire investor Wilbur Ross Jr. as commerce secretary. But a top aide was thinking aloud about this on Thursday, seeming to highlight opposition among some Trump supporters to Romney's selection as secretary of state.

In a pair of posts on her verified Twitter account @kellyannePolls Thursday, Trump spokeswoman Kellyanne Conway noted that she had been "receiving a deluge of social media & private concerns re Romney. Some Trump loyalists war against Romney as sec of state."

The former Massachusetts governor and 2012 GOP presidential nominee had vehemently opposed Trump's nomination during the primary season, assailing the billionaire as a "phony."

In a second Twitter post, Conway referred to former secretaries of state Henry Kissinger and George Schultz, both Cabinet officers in previous Republican administrations, as men who "flew around the world less, counseled POTUS (president of the United States) close to home more. And were loyal. Good checklist."

The most recent Trump Cabinet-level picks to be announced were South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley to serve as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and charter school advocate Betsy DeVos to lead the Education Department.

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Trump talked of saving jobs on Thanksgiving in his own tweet.

During the presidential campaign he often cited Carrier's decision last February to relocate some 1,400 jobs to its plant in Mexico as an example of jobs leaving the country — and how he as president would slap a tax on any units manufactured in Mexico and sold in the U.S.

"I am working hard, even on Thanksgiving, trying to get Carrier A.C. Company to stay in the U.S.," Trump tweeted on Thursday. "MAKING PROGRESS - Will know soon!"

The company confirmed Thursday that it had discussed the move with the incoming administration but that there was nothing to announce.

Putting on inaugural balls and other festivities surrounding the Jan. 20 event will cost millions, and incoming presidents turn to supporters to foot the bill but try not to begin their administrations appearing beholden to donors.

In Trump's case, he has set \$1 million donation limits for corporations and no limits for individual donors, according to an official on the Presidential Inaugural Committee with direct knowledge of tentative fundraising plans. The official was not authorized to disclose private deliberations by name and requested anonymity.

At the same time, Trump's inaugural committee will not accept money from registered lobbyists, in line with his ban on hiring lobbyists for his nascent administration.

Barack Obama set stricter limits on donations for his first inauguration, in 2009, holding individual donors to \$50,000 each and taking no money from corporations or labor unions, as well as none from lobbyists and some other groups. Plenty of corporate executives, though, gave individually and often at the maximum amount. And he opened the spigots for his 2013 inauguration, setting no limits on corporate or individual donations.

On the eve of the Thanksgiving holiday, the president-elect offered a prayer for unity after "a long and bruising" campaign season.

"Emotions are raw and tensions just don't heal overnight," Trump said in a video message on social media. 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."

The Latest: Trump aide notes opposition to Romney in Cabinet

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on President-elect Donald Trump's transition. (All times EST)

6:30 a.m.

A top adviser to President-elect Donald Trump has gone on Twitter to note opposition among some of his supporters to selection of former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney as secretary of state.

In a pair of posts on her verified Twitter account @kellyannePolls on Thursday, Trump spokeswoman Kellyanne Conway seemed to be stating an argument against the placement of Romney in Trump's Cabinet. Romney vehemently opposed Trump's nomination early in the campaign, assailing the billionaire as a "phony."

In one tweet, Conway notes that she has been "receiving a deluge of social media & private concerns re: Romney. Some Trump loyalists warn against Romney as sec of state."

In another, she makes references to former secretaries of state Henry Kissinger and George Schultz, both Cabinet secretaries in Republican administrations, as men who "flew around the world less, counseled POTUS (president of the United States) close to home more. And were loyal. Good checklist."

6:20 a.m.

Hillary Clinton has tweeted a thank you to supporters who left homemade signs near her house with warm wishes on Thanksgiving.

Clinton posted a picture of about a dozen signs on Twitter Thursday along with a message: "I was greeted by this heartwarming display on the corner of my street today. Thank you to all of you who did this. Happy Thanksgiving."

Some of the messages on the signs included, "Thank you, Hillary!" and "We Are Thankful for Hillary, An American Hero."

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Clinton and Former President Bill Clinton live in Chappaqua, New York.

She has for the most part remained out of public view since conceding the presidential election to Donald Trump on Nov. 9, except for a speech at an event held in Washington by the Children's Defense Fund.

3:25 a.m.

President-elect Donald Trump didn't take off all of Thanksgiving Day while enjoying a long holiday weekend with his family at his Mar-a-Lago estate.

Trump said he was trying to stop the makers of Carrier air conditioners from relocating its Indianapolis manufacturing operations to a company facility in Mexico.

Meanwhile, his transition team was stepping up its effort to raise money for inaugural festivities. And Trump offered a holiday prayer for a politically divided nation.

After Thanksgiving Day, Trump and his transition team are expected to turn their attention back to building his administration. Two possible appointments loom: retired neurosurgeon and former presidential candidate Ben Carson as secretary of housing and urban development and billionaire investor Wilbur Ross Jr. as commerce secretary.

The most recent Cabinet-level picks to be announced were South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley to serve as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and charter school advocate Betsy DeVos to lead the Education Department.

This story has been corrected to change the time element to Thursday in the initial item regarding Conway Twitter posts.

Manhunt in France after killing at religious residence

By PHILIPPE SOTTO, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French police searched Friday for a masked gunman suspected of stabbing an elderly woman to death in a retirement home for Catholic missionaries in southern France, authorities said.

An unusually large police operation was launched to search for the suspected attacker, believed to be armed with a shotgun and a knife. The identity of the assailant and motive for the killing were unclear.

The press service for the gendarmes, or military police, couldn't say whether the incident was linked to a terrorist act. Security at religious and other sites has been increased after a string of Islamic extremist attacks on France.

A gendarme service spokesman said early Friday that more than 100 members of the security forces were dispatched to the village of Montferrier-sur-Lez, near the city of Montpellier in the southern tip of France. The spokesman was not authorized to be publicly named.

Prosecutor Christophe Barret told reporters that a woman who works at the retirement home called police Thursday night to say she had been attacked.

When the officers arrived, they found the body of another woman, gagged and tied up outside the building with three stab wounds, the gendarme spokesman said.

The worker who alerted police did not suffer serious injuries but was deeply rattled, and no one else at the residence was harmed, the prosecutor said in televised remarks carried on the website of Midi Libre newspaper.

Security forces searched the complex but did not find the assailant. The spokesman said the about 60 residents of the facility are out of danger, and the search is continuing in a larger perimeter with help from a helicopter and police dogs.

The residence, called "Green Oaks," is operated by the African Missions Society, and takes in retired priests, nuns and others who have worked on missions in Africa.

Olivier Ribadeau Dumas, spokesman for the French Catholic bishops' conference, tweeted condolences for the woman killed and added, "our prayers reach out also to the missionaries attacked in their retirement home in the Herault (region). God give them all peace."

France has been under a state of emergency for a year since Islamic State group attacks on Paris killed

130 people. Another Islamic State attack in July targeted a Catholic church in Normandy, where two attackers slit a priest's throat and held elderly parishioners hostage.

Angela Charlton in Paris contributed.

Rookies lead Cowboys to 10th straight, 31-26 over Redskins

By SCHUYLER DIXON, AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Rookies Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott keep winning for the Dallas Cowboys, even with Kirk Cousins setting records for the Washington Redskins.

Prescott accounted for two touchdowns, Elliott ran for a pair of scores and the Cowboys extended their franchise regular-season record with a 10th straight victory, beating the Redskins 31-26 on Thursday.

Prescott tied Don Meredith's club quarterback record from 50 years ago with his fifth rushing TD and the NFL-leading Cowboys (10-1) won despite 449 yards passing and three touchdowns from Cousins, the first Redskins quarterback with two 400-yard games in a season.

"You know you're talking to someone who knows how hard this is to win 10 games in a row, and I do," Cowboys owner and general manager Jerry Jones said. "I know how we're getting it done, and we're getting done by hard work and Dak's a great example."

The Redskins (6-4-1) got swept by their NFC East rival, and the defending division champions fell 3 1/2 games behind Dallas with five games left. It was their seventh loss in eight tries on Thanksgiving against Cowboys, who had never won more than eight straight in the regular season.

"We've been in third place for a while, so we have to understand where we are what it's going to take to get an opportunity to come back here in the future," Washington coach Jay Gruden said. "The last five games of the year are critical."

Elliott, the NFL rushing leader, had the fourth score on five straight second-half touchdown drives between the two teams with a 1-yard run for a 31-19 lead midway through the fourth quarter. The 21-year-old had 97 yards to give him 1,199 for the season.

After getting 43 yards on the first Dallas possession, Elliott had just 13 yards before a 21-yarder to start Dallas' last TD drive. It was the second straight week he finished with 97 yards after some difficulty in the first half.

"Over time, you keep running the football, you're going to wear them down," Dallas coach Jason Garrett said. "He made some big runs late that were critical. It really broke their back."

The Cowboys had an eight-game streak with at least 400 yards snapped, finishing with 353. But Dallas answered with touchdowns each time the Redskins got within a score on Cousins' passes of 5 yards to Jordan Reed and 67 yards to DeSean Jackson, who had 118 yards receiving.

After Cousins' second scoring toss to Reed, an 8-yarder with 1:53 remaining, Dustin Hopkins' onside kick went out of bounds. The Cowboys ran out the clock.

"The way Dallas was able to come back and put points on the board in those situations is part of the reason why they are such a good football team," said Cousins, who was 41 of 53 and finished 8 yards shy of his career high.

"As an offense, whenever we got the football, it was pretty much the same. Move the football, put points on the board, make good decisions and manage it well."

Cousins took the Washington career lead with his third 400-yard game and became the first Redskins quarterback with consecutive 350-yard games since Jay Schroeder in 1986. He had 375 last week against Green Bay.

Reed had 10 catches for 95 yards after missing most of the first half when he injured his left shoulder leaping for a pass over his head in the end zone.

Prescott was 17 of 24 for a season-low 195 yards and one touchdown, a toe-tapper to Terrance Williams. He had eight carries for 39 yards, including a career-long 18-yarder. Dez Bryant led Dallas with 72

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yards on five catches.

BACK TO THE PACK

Undrafted rookie running back Robert Kelley of the Redskins was held to 37 yards on 14 carries a week after getting a career-high 137 yards with three touchdowns against the Packers. He was averaging more than 100 yards per game the previous three.

SUN FIELD

The late-afternoon sun shining through the glass doors on the west side of the stadium was an issue in the opener when Dallas tight end Jason Witten admitted that the glare contributed to a pass he dropped in the New York Giants' 20-19 win.

Cousins had to battle it during a second-quarter drive that ended in the second of Dustin Hopkins' two missed field goals: a 55-yarder.

Prescott threw away from the sun to Williams for the touchdown on the subsequent possession, and the glare wasn't a factor after that.

UP NEXT

Redskins: Washington gets the 10-day break before the second of three straight road games in Arizona on Dec. 4. The trip ends with another crucial NFC East game at Philadelphia on Dec. 11.

Cowboys: It'll be a "regular" seven-day week with a visit to Minnesota next Thursday. Then Dallas gets the longer break before a Dec. 11 visit to the New York Giants that is likely to be a battle of the top two teams in the division.

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Follow Schuyler Dixon on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/apschuyler>

After the turkey, some hit the shops to start holiday season

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After enjoying the Thanksgiving turkey, some Americans hit the stores for what retailers hope will be a new tradition to start the holiday shopping season.

Throngs of shoppers lined up at Macy's Herald Square in Manhattan for its evening opening, looking for deals, and Target estimated hundreds were waiting outside a store in Jersey City, New Jersey. The competition to grab customers first is keen.

"It's manic. It's crazy, but it is fun," said Maria Elfes of Sydney, Australia, who was at Macy's. It was her seventh visit to New York but her first time shopping on Thanksgiving.

Lots of stores are offering the same deals as in previous years, like \$19.99 boots that remain a big attraction, cashmere sweaters, and sheets. For some shoppers, electronics at a big discount was the draw.

"Televisions, man, televisions. Beautiful big screens so I can watch sports," said William Junkin, a recently retired longshoreman shopping at Best Buy in Howell, New Jersey. "I'm hoping to buy two of them, and I saw they had some real good prices, so maybe I'll splurge on some other stuff as well."

Martin McDuffie, 34, came to a Walmart in suburban Columbia, South Carolina, for just one thing — a 60-inch television for \$398. He's been saving to replace his 32-inch TV.

"This is going to be a big upgrade," McDuffie said.

Other items that drew crowds at the store were cellphones, bargain DVDs and video games and Hatchimals — eggs with a small, animated animal inside that hatch when given attention.

As the beginning of the holiday season creeps ever earlier, retailers have been offering discounts on holiday merchandise since late October. The start used to be the day after Thanksgiving, but many mall operators and the big stores that anchor them are sticking with going earlier.

"Most of the time Black Friday deals start the day of: Thanksgiving," said Ashley Shelton of Columbia, Missouri, who was at Kohl's with her boyfriend after dinner with family and then going to Walmart for a Roku and security cameras. "So tomorrow we're not really going to do as much shopping. Shopping starts

on Thursday.”

Target CEO Brian Cornell, who was at the store in Jersey City, told The Associated Press he’s encouraged by early reports from stores around the country, and cited lower food and fuel prices and a solid job market as reasons to be optimistic. “It’s really a good time to be a consumer,” said Cornell.

Hot items online and in the stores were sleepwear, Apple products and board games. Shoppers also filled their carts with items besides doorbusters, like holiday trees and high-end chocolates.

“They were up and down the aisles,” Cornell said. “They took time to shop.”

Leslie Lopez, a project coordinator from Jersey City, was pushing a cart of “Star Wars” and “Frozen” toys. Her friend Bariah Watt bought a Samsung TV for \$247, slashed from about \$400, but had no luck finding the white-hot Nintendo NES Classic system, originally priced at \$60.

Watt says she would have paid several hundred dollars on eBay or other sites to get her hands on it. “I’m a Nintendo kid,” she said. “It takes me back to my childhood.”

But many workers complain that stores are putting profits over workers’ time to be with their families, and some shoppers vow never to shop on the holiday.

At the Walmart in suburban Columbia, Tonjua Calhoun had studied the 36-page ad carefully and planned to buy a pressure cooker, some sheets, and a portable DVD player. Calhoun, 52, also planned to go to J.C. Penney and maybe Target. But she wishes they were after-Thanksgiving sales.

“I think they ought to give everyone a whole day with their families,” Calhoun said. “It was a lot more fun when you woke up Friday, grabbed an early breakfast and went all day.”

Some stores believe it’s not worth opening on Thanksgiving since the sales are spread out. Consumer electronics chain hhgregg Inc. and the Mall of America in Minnesota are closed on Thanksgiving after opening on the holiday in the past.

The National Retail Federation, the nation’s largest retail group, expects holiday sales to rise 3.6 percent for November and December, better than the 3 percent growth seen for those months last year. That excludes car sales, gas and restaurant receipts but includes online spending and other non-store sales like catalog spending.

This weekend is crucial to set the tone for the season. Around 137 million people plan to or are considering doing their shopping during the Thanksgiving weekend, according to a survey conducted for the NRF. That includes online and store shopping. Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, vies with the Saturday before Christmas as the busiest shopping day of the year.

Associated Press writers Bruce Shipkowski in Howell, New Jersey, Jeffrey Collins in Columbia, South Carolina, and Summer Ballentine in Columbia, Missouri, contributed to this report.

Death toll in construction accident in China rises to 74

By GERRY SHIH, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The death toll from the collapse of scaffolding at a construction site in eastern China rose to 74, state media said Friday, in the country’s worst work-safety accident in over two years.

Two others were injured after the work platform at a power plant cooling tower that was under construction collapsed Thursday, sending iron pipes, steel bars and wooden planks tumbling down on the workers, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

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

About 500 rescue workers, including paramilitary police officers, dug 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.

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.

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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.

The scaffolding accident happened the same day that 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 given 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.

Trump's team to raise millions for Jan. 20 events

By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The scramble to shape his administration underway, President-elect Donald Trump's team has simultaneously begun turning its attention to raising tens of millions of dollars for festivities related to his Washington inauguration.

Trump, who vowed during the campaign to "drain the swamp" of special interests corrupting Washington, has set \$1 million donation limits for corporations and no limits for individual donors, according to an official on the Presidential Inaugural Committee with direct knowledge of tentative fundraising plans. At the same time, Trump's inaugural committee will not accept money from registered lobbyists, in line with his ban on hiring lobbyists for his nascent administration.

Barack Obama set stricter limits on donations for his first inauguration, in 2009, holding individual donors to \$50,000 each and taking no money from corporations or labor unions, as well as none from lobbyists and some other groups. Plenty of corporate executives, though, gave individually and often at the maximum amount. And he opened the spigots for his 2013 inauguration, setting no limits on corporate or individual donations.

The new details, confirmed Thursday on the condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to disclose private deliberations, came as Trump gathered with family at his Palm Beach estate Mar-a-Lago on Thanksgiving.

Trump's team would not say exactly which family members joined him for dinner, although he arrived in Florida earlier in the week with his wife, Melania, and youngest son, 10-year-old Barron.

They dined with other Mar-a-Lago members from a Thanksgiving menu that featured "Mr. Trump's wedge salad" and main course offerings like oven-roasted turkey, leg of lamb, Chilean sea bass, and braised short

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ribs, according to a menu provided by a spokeswoman. The dessert options included pumpkin pie, toasted coconut cake, warm brownie pockets and hot apple crisp.

It was a working holiday of sorts for Trump, who suggested on Twitter that he was engaged in trying to prevent an Indiana air conditioning company from moving jobs to Mexico.

"I am working hard, even on Thanksgiving, trying to get Carrier A.C. Company to stay in the U.S.," Trump tweeted. "MAKING PROGRESS - Will know soon!"

The company, which has announced plans to move 1,400 jobs to Mexico from Indiana in the coming years, confirmed Thursday it "has had discussions with the incoming administration," but said there was "nothing to announce at this time."

On the eve of the national holiday, the president-elect offered a prayer for unity after "a long and bruising" campaign season.

"Emotions are raw and tensions just don't heal overnight," Trump said in a video message on social media. 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."

Unity has emerged as a common theme during Trump's limited public appearances in the days since his stunning general election victory, which followed a campaign season in which he rained extraordinary personal attacks on his opponents in both parties, the media and his many Republican critics.

Unity would also be a theme for the incoming president's Jan. 20 inauguration, the official said.

While Trump's fundraising plans have not been completed, he is expected to raise significantly more than the \$43 million Obama raised for his 2013 inauguration. Taxpayers cover the cost of official activities such as the swearing-in, but outside donations pay for the many related balls and parties.

Trump has focused most of his attention in the two weeks since his victory on building a White House team from scratch.

He injected the first signs of diversity into his Cabinet-to-be on Wednesday, 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. And Haley, the daughter of Indian immigrants, would be his first minority selection after a string of announcements of white men.

Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson on Wednesday said "an announcement is forthcoming" on his position, 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.

Trump is also expected to select billionaire investor Wilbur Ross Jr. to lead the Commerce Department, a senior Trump adviser said 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.

Trump is spending the Thanksgiving holiday at Mar-a-Lago after a week of interviewing potential appointees in New York, punctuated by announcements of members of his national security team.

He is expected to stay in Florida through the weekend.

No holiday for political talk, social media posts suggest

By JEFF KAROUB, Associated Press

As Americans feasted on turkey Thursday during the nation's first major post-election holiday, some took to social media to describe the political gloating, loathing and subject avoiding they experienced around the Thanksgiving table.

Facebook and Twitter posts, many even before dinner was served, revealed some people still struggling to come to grips with Donald Trump's victory and others expressing relief that his rival, Hillary Clinton, didn't win.

Some explained through posts and interviews that celebrating a holiday centered on gratitude and sustenance provided some healing of divisions, even if just temporarily.

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CRISIS AVERTED

Sarah Littlefield feared the worst as she processed the election results and looked ahead to Thanksgiving dinner.

"If Trump wins b/c of Michigan, thanksgiving with my Marxist Michigander grandparents is going to be so painful," she posted on Twitter earlier this month.

But on Thursday, Littlefield said things were going more smoothly than feared when her liberal grandmother and partner visited the home of her independent but conservative parents in Alexandria, Virginia.

"There is a lot of common ground — no one here found a perfect candidate," said Littlefield, a 21-year-old who is studying American government and global studies as a senior at the University of Virginia.

Littlefield said she voted for Clinton but doesn't know how her parents voted "because I don't want to open that can of worms." Her grandmother and partner said they opted for Clinton, but Littlefield said they don't seem "most enthusiastic."

Littlefield said the real concerns have involved dinner itself. Her family discovered Wednesday that the oven was broken, so they bought a turkey roaster. This is also Littlefield's first Thanksgiving as a vegetarian, so, she said, "I'm making rice for myself."

TURNING THE TABLES

Mike Mower considered setting up three tables at the Thanksgiving lunch he and his wife were hosting for a large group in Salt Lake City, Utah: one for Trump supporters, one for Clinton supporters and one for backers of independent candidate Evan McMullin.

But Mower, a longtime Republican and deputy chief of staff for Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, tweeted that there were too many Clinton supporters to go forward with that plan.

His wife overruled the plans for separate seating anyway, declaring that people would mix despite political affiliations. They did, however, intentionally put their eldest daughter, a 23-year-old liberal who lives in Brooklyn, far from her grandfather, an 86-year-old Trump supporter.

One son, a political science major and Clinton supporter, wanted to make the pie a representative chart showing Clinton won more of the popular vote.

"I told him 'We're not using dessert for political posturing,'" said Mower, laughing.

THE KIDS ARE LISTENING

In the run-up to the holiday, Bernadeia Johnson took to Twitter with some advice: "Thanksgiving is the first holiday after the election. children may not be at the adult table but they hear your convo. Model civility"

On Thanksgiving Day, the Minneapolis grandmother and educator acknowledged there still could be some "talking smack" around the dinner table at her cousin's house.

"It'll be loud and lively at our table," said Johnson, former Minneapolis schools' administrator who is now an assistant professor of education leadership at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

"We will argue and there will be conflict — in good fun," she said. "Even if there wasn't something going on, we'd have to find something for people to get riled up about."

Johnson said she believes everyone at the gathering generally agree on political topics, and "we will make Trump the turkey." However, if one cousin who predicted a Trump victory attempts to underscore that point, "We'll just look at each other and roll our eyes," she said.

She said it's important for children to see people coming together — even in disagreement.

HOLD THE ANGER

With relatives scattered across the country, photographer Meri Bond was celebrating Thanksgiving with like-minded friends at a home on the Massachusetts coast outside Boston.

The political conversation among the Clinton supporters was largely an election post-mortem, not angry condemnation of the other side, she said.

That morning, Bond took to Facebook to encourage both sides to listen to each other, writing "Let's

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celebrate our shared humanity. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.”

At her recent 50th high school reunion, she was struck by how difficult it can be for people with differing ideologies to do that.

“Even though I tried really hard to be upbeat on my posts, it’s pretty bruising try to communicate with people who don’t watch the same news, they don’t hear things the same way, they see Hillary in a completely different way than I do,” she said.

Still, she remains optimistic.

“Part of me is really curious to give (Trump) a shot and see where it goes,” she said.

IN HOT WATER? HERE’S A HOTLINE

White people who want to talk race issues at Thanksgiving can lean on a text hotline set up by an organization that wants people to seek out such conversations, not steer clear of them. The group, called Showing up for Racial Justice, says the idea was spurred after hearing from “newly politicized” people from around the country nervous about the holiday.

The hotline is designed to help people who get stuck in tough spots during racial conversations. They can text “SOS” and choose from a menu of options to get helpful facts or talking points so they can have respectful conversations without alienating family members, said Heather Cronk, co-founder of a group formed in 2009 amid backlash to election of President Barack Obama.

“I would liken it to the Butterball hotline, but it’s not about turkeys, it’s about your racist uncle,” said Cronk from her home in Washington, D.C.

Associated Press writer Brady McCombs contributed from Salt Lake City, Utah, and Alina Hartounian in Phoenix contributed to this report.

Follow Jeff Karoub on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jeffkaroub> . His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/author/jeff-karoub>.

Colombia government, rebels sign revised peace agreement

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and ALBA TOBELLA, Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos signed a revised peace agreement with the country’s largest rebel movement on Thursday, making a second attempt within months to end a half century of hostilities.

Santos and Rodrigo Londoño, leader of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, signed the 310-page accord at Bogota’s historic Colon Theater — nearly two months after the original deal was surprisingly rejected in a referendum.

After signing with a pen crafted from the shell of an assault rifle bullet, they clasped hands to shouts of “Yes we could!”

Thursday’s hastily organized ceremony was a far more modest and somber event than the one in September, in the colonial city of Cartagena, where the two men signed an accord in front of an audience of foreign leaders and United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, all of whom were dressed in white to symbolize peace.

Santos looked and sounded tired after a two-month political roller coaster that saw him rise from the humiliating defeat to win this year’s Nobel Peace Prize. This time the deal will be sent directly to Congress without a public referendum.

He tried to inject a dose of optimism about the hobbled accord whose outlook for implementation is shrouded in uncertainty.

“In 150 days — only 150 days — all of the FARC’s weapons will be in the hands of the United Nations,” he said during the only part of his speech that drew applause from the audience of a few hundred local politicians and officials.

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FARC leader Londono used his address to call for a transitional government to ensure the accord is effectively implemented, a suggestion immediately denounced by the opposition as a veiled attempt to extend Santos' tenure past elections in 2018, when he'll be constitutionally banned from competing. The rebel leader also congratulated Donald Trump on his victory and called on the president-elect to continue strong U.S. support for Colombia on its path to peace.

"Our only weapons as Colombians should be our words," said Londono, better known by his alias Timochenko, in a 15-minute speech. "We are putting a definitive end to war to confront in a civilized manner our contradictions."

The new accord introduces some 50 changes intended to assuage critics led by still-powerful former President Alvaro Uribe. They range from a prohibition on foreign magistrates judging crimes by the FARC or government to a commitment from the insurgents to forfeit assets, some of them amassed through drug trafficking, to help compensate their victims.

But the FARC wouldn't go along with the opposition's strongest demands — jail sentences for rebel leaders who committed atrocities and stricter limits on their future participation in politics.

Members of Uribe's political party are threatening protests against what they consider a "blow to democracy." They also are demanding another referendum, which they are confident they'll win. Shortly after Thursday's ceremony, Santos delivered the accord to congress, where a solid pro-peace majority is expected to ratify it in as early as next week.

"I ask public opinion to reflect on what this means for the future of the country," Uribe said on the Senate floor Thursday, drawing attention to the fact that FARC leaders will be allowed to fill specially-reserved seats in congress before completing any sentences handed down by special peace tribunals.

The lack of broad support for the accord will make the already-steep challenge of implementing it even tougher.

Colombians overwhelmingly loathe the FARC for crimes such as kidnappings and drug-trafficking. Ensuring that the 8,000-plus fighters don't wind up joining criminal gangs rampant throughout the country, or the much-smaller National Liberation Army, will also test the state's ability to make its presence felt in traditionally neglected rural areas at a time of financial stress triggered by low oil prices.

There's also a risk that peace could trigger more bloodshed, as it did following a previous peace process with the FARC in the 1980s when thousands of former guerrillas, labor activists and communist militants were gunned down by right-wing militias, sometimes in collaboration with state agents.

That fear, although less prevalent than in the darker days of Colombia's half-century conflict, has become more urgent with more than a dozen human rights defenders and land activists in areas dominated by the FARC being killed by unknown assailants since the initial signing ceremony in September.

Santos this week held an emergency meeting with his Cabinet and U.N. officials to discuss the murders, taking an opportunity to reinforce his message that peace can't wait. So far this year, 70 have been killed, according to Bogota-based We Are Defenders, more than in all of 2015 and 2014.

"We couldn't delay implementation a single minute longer," Santos said in his speech, alluding to the risk of a ceasefire falling apart if negotiations were allowed to stretch on.

Once signed, Santos will introduce the accord to Congress, where a solid majority in support of peace is expected to ratify it as early as next week. Lawmakers will then embark on the nettlesome task of passing legislation so the guerrillas can begin concentrating in some 20-plus demobilization areas where they will begin turning over their weapons to United Nations-sponsored monitors.

Joshua Goodman is on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/apjoshgoodman> His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/journalist/joshua-goodman>

Revelers cheer amid police at Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade
By MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

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NEW YORK (AP) — Santa Claus, giant cartoon balloons and whimsical floats were protected by sand-filled dump trucks and bomb-sniffing dogs as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade wound its way through the streets of Manhattan under heavy security.

The annual spectacle went off without a hitch Thursday, with thousands of spectators and more than 3,000 police officers lining the streets amid an air of uncertainty about the possibility of an extremist attack.

"There are so many police officers out here you can't help but feel safe," said Sarah Bender, who brought her two young sons to watch the parade. "It's a day to have fun, watch the balloons and celebrate with your family. You can't spend your life worrying about what could happen."

While authorities had said there was no confirmation of any credible threat, they stepped up safety measures in the wake of the July cargo truck attack on a holiday crowd in Nice, France, and a recent posting in an English-language Islamic State group magazine that called the Thanksgiving parade "an excellent target."

Revelers cheered and yelled, "Thank you!" to officers along the route Thursday, giving special attention to the New York Police Department marching band.

Spectators sometimes stood 10 deep to see the parade and its signature giant balloons, including Ronald McDonald, SpongeBob SquarePants, Charlie Brown and other characters. Marching bands from across the country entertained revelers, as did such celebrity singers as Tony Bennett and Sarah McLachlan.

Annie Quinn traveled more than three hours from Albany to attend the parade with her cousin and two sisters — all three dressed in turkey costumes — scoring prime front-row seats along the route.

"We sat here for hours, but it was worth it," she said. "This was the best parade I've seen in a while."

But amid the fun and high-fives, there was intensive security.

Officers with assault weapons and portable radiation detectors walked among the crowds, and more than 80 sanitation trucks filled with sand were parked at intersections and other places, acting as barriers against any kind of attack.

Police have used sanitation trucks as barricades before. But the NYPD had said the trucks would play a bigger role at this year's parade after the Nice attack, which killed more than 80 people.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Nov. 25, the 330th day of 2016. There are 36 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 25, 1920, radio station WTAW of College Station, Texas, broadcast the first play-by-play description of a football game, between Texas University and the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. (Texas won, 7-3.)

On this date:

In 1783, the British evacuated New York, their last military position in the United States during the Revolutionary War.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Confederate agents set a series of arson fires in New York; the blazes were quickly extinguished.

In 1915, a new version of the Ku Klux Klan, targeting blacks, Jews, Catholics and immigrants, was founded by William Joseph Simmons, who proclaimed himself Imperial Wizard as he staged a cross-burning on Stone Mountain outside Atlanta.

In 1940, the cartoon character Woody Woodpecker made his debut in the animated short "Knock Knock" produced by Walter Lantz.

In 1947, movie studio executives meeting in New York agreed to blacklist the "Hollywood Ten" who'd been cited for contempt of Congress the day before.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower suffered a slight stroke.

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In 1963, the body of President John F. Kennedy was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery; his widow, Jacqueline, lighted an "eternal flame" at the gravesite.

In 1974, former U.N. Secretary-General U Thant (oo thahnt) died in New York at age 65.

In 1986, the Iran-Contra affair erupted as President Ronald Reagan and Attorney General Edwin Meese revealed that profits from secret arms sales to Iran had been diverted to Nicaraguan rebels.

In 1999, 5-year-old Elian Gonzalez was rescued by a pair of sport fishermen off the coast of Florida, setting off an international custody battle.

In 2001, as the war in Afghanistan entered its eighth week, CIA officer Johnny "Mike" Spann was killed during a prison uprising in Mazar-e-Sharif, becoming America's first combat casualty of the conflict.

In 2002, President George W. Bush signed legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security, and appointed Tom Ridge to be its head.

Ten years ago: A police shooting outside a strip club in Queens, New York, resulted in the death of Sean Bell hours before his wedding. (Two officers were later indicted for manslaughter while a third faced lesser charges; all three were acquitted at trial.) Israel and the Palestinians agreed to a cease-fire to end a five-month Israeli military offensive in the Gaza Strip and the firing of rockets by Palestinian militants into the Jewish state.

Five years ago: The U.S. increased pressure Friday on Egypt's military rulers to hand over power to civilian leaders, and the generals turned to Kamal el-Ganzouri, a Mubarak-era politician to head a new government in a move that failed to satisfy more than 100,000 protesters jamming Tahrir Square. Former New York Times political reporter and columnist Tom Wicker, 85, died in Rochester, Vermont.

One year ago: Vice President Joe Biden attended an urgent summit of southeast European leaders in Zagreb, Croatia, focusing on tensions and security concerns over a surge of asylum-seekers and migrants crossing the region. Pope Francis arrived in Kenya on his first-ever trip to Africa and urged Kenyans to work for peace and forgiveness amid a wave of extremist violence on the continent that threatened to disrupt his trip.

Today's Birthdays: Playwright Murray Schisgal is 90. Actress Kathryn Crosby is 83. Actor Christopher Riordan is 79. Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Joe Gibbs is 76. Singer Bob Lind is 74. Author, actor and economist Ben Stein is 72. Actor John Larroquette is 69. Actor Tracey Walter is 69. Movie director Jonathan Kaplan is 69. Author Charlaine Harris is 65. Retired MLB All-Star Bucky Dent is 65. Dance judge Bruno Tonioli (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 61. Singer Amy Grant is 56. Former NFL quarterback Bernie Kosar is 53. Rock musician Eric Grossman (K's Choice) is 52. Rock singer Mark Lanegan is 52. Rock singer-musician Tim Armstrong is 51. Actor Steve Harris is 51. Actor Billy Burke is 50. Singer Stacy Lattisaw is 50. Rock musician Rodney Sheppard (Sugar Ray) is 50. Rapper-producer Erick Sermon is 48. Actress Jill Hennessy is 47. Actress Christina Applegate is 45. Actor Eddie Steeples is 43. Actress Kristian Nairn is 41. Former NFL quarterback Donovan McNabb is 40. Actress Jill Flint is 39. Actor Jerry Ferrara is 37. Actor Joel Kinnaman is 37. Actress Valerie Azlynn is 36. Former first daughter Jenna Bush Hager is 35. Former first daughter Barbara Pierce Bush is 35. Actress Katie Cassidy is 30. Neo-soul musician Ben Griner (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 26. Contemporary Christian singer Jamie Grace is 25.

Thought for Today: "To know things as they are is better than to believe things as they seem." — Tom Wicker (1926-2011).