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Happy Holidays



Nov. 30
25 shopping days to Christmas
* * *

Change In Thanksgiving Spending Stumps Retailers

BY ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

U.S. shoppers no longer blow the bulk of their holiday budgets on the day after Thanksgiving known as Black Friday.

It's a major shift that has made it difficult for stores to track and learn from shoppers' spending habits during the traditional start to the busy holiday shopping season.

Take Pia Tracy, who bought some items at Pier 1 home furnishings store over the weekend. But Tracy, who lives in Queens, N.Y., plans to spread out the majority of her \$4,000 holiday budget throughout the season.

"Black Friday weekend doesn't matter to me anymore," Tracy said. "There's always some kind of deal in-store or online."

Like Tracy, many U.S. shoppers like to make purchases on their desktops and smartphones nowadays, they insist on getting big discounts whenever they shop, and they don't feel pressured to shop on particular days.

That shift has caused the National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, to overhaul the way it tracks shopper spending and visits during the four-day Thanksgiving weekend — something it's been doing for more than a decade.

The group said the changes are aimed at getting a fuller picture of shoppers' habits, including their growing affinity for online buying.

The group, which has long been criticized for its estimates of total spending over the extended weekend because they're based on shopper surveys and not actual sales data, said it will no longer track total spending for the weekend. It also said it's

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County Set To Talk Road Issues

Five-Year Plan To Be Discussed This Week

BY ROB NIELSEN
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As the initial fallout of the vote on a levy to help fund road and bridges in Yankton County settles, officials will spend part of the next four days looking at the county's five-year plan.

The County Commission will oversee two special meetings this week with county townships on the highway 5-year road plan.

Commission chairman Todd Woods told the *Press & Dakotan* that these meetings are being held due to recent legislative changes.

"We're going to have meetings with the townships," Woods said. "There are changes (because of) Senate Bill 1 that we had to make some additions to our five-year plan. We're having our meeting with the townships which makes them eligible for dollars from the Highway Department from Senate Bill 1 which was passed in March."

Woods said it will be an opportunity for townships to voice their opinions on what they would like to see done with area roads.

"We're going to talk about which roads need to be repaired and how to prioritize which roads need to be repaired, what's going to happen to the roads," he said. "It's just going to be gathering input from townships on some things that they would like done and defining the issues for the next five years."

The first meeting is set for 3 p.m. Tuesday and will precede the regular Yankton County Commission meeting. A second special meeting with the townships is set for 7 p.m. on Thursday. Both meetings, which are at the County Government Center, are open to the public.

Woods said this comes at a time when it's critical for the county to consider all of its options for dealing with roads.

"The money is very sparse," he said. "We're trying to figure out ways we can get things done, but we can only be able to fix what we can afford. Otherwise, there's going to be a point in time where we're

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D
The Yankton County Commission will hold two special meetings this week with local townships to discuss funding issues for roads and bridges. The meetings are set for 3 p.m. Tuesday and 7 p.m. Thursday at the County Government Center.

Climate Summit Countries, Investors Pledge Billions For Clean Energy

BY SYLVIE CORBET, KARL RITTER AND SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press

Government and business leaders are banking on clean energy technology to fight global warming, kicking off this week's high-stakes climate change negotiations by pledging billions of dollars to research and develop a technical fix to the planet's climate woes.

Microsoft founder and philanthropist Bill Gates, President Barack Obama and French President Francois Hollande will launch a joint initiative on Monday after a diplomatic push in recent weeks ahead of the Paris climate conference.

A key goal is to bring down the cost of cleaner energy. At least 19 governments and 28 leading world investors, including Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, billionaires George Soros and Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, and Jack Ma of China's Alibaba, have signed on so far.

"It's quite a big deal," said Jennifer Morgan, global climate director for the World Resources Institute. "It brings a new kind of burst of energy into the conference right at the beginning on something very important."

The U.N. climate summit formally opened Sunday afternoon with a minute of silence for the victims of this month's Paris attacks and

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Area Braces For Winter Weather

From P&D and AP Reports

Portions of the Yankton area are under a winter storm warning for today (Monday) into Tuesday as a slow-moving system trudges across the Upper Plains.

At press time, Yankton County and areas to the north and west were under a winter weather advisory, with 4-8 inches of snowfall possible from the system. Meanwhile, the I-29 corridor to the east — including Clay, Turner and Union counties — and Cedar and Knox counties in northeastern Nebraska were under a winter storm warning, with 6-10 inches of snow possible.

According to the National Weather Service in Sioux Falls, the storm warning for eastern South Dakota and northeast Nebraska runs from midnight today through late Tuesday night. Meanwhile, the winter weather advisory was posted from 3 a.m. today through 6 p.m. Tuesday.

The heaviest snow from this storm is expected to fall in southwestern Minnesota and northwestern Iowa.

The weather service says it'll be a "significant weather event" and that travel conditions will be difficult.

Tuesday is expected to bring light snow but stronger winds, ranging up to 25 miles per hour, which will prolong the hazardous travel conditions.

MMC Education Students Participate In National Contest

BY REILLY BIEL
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Mount Marty College (MMC) education students are looking to make a nationwide difference.

Teacher Education instructor Dr. Candice Climer is leading her Integrated Technology class through the XQ Super School Project competition, which calls on teams across the country to create a new model for high school education. The winning ideas will be awarded \$50 million to make their model a reality.

The challenge opened in September and the MMC team submitted its idea Nov. 9, making

it one of 1,600 teams nationwide participating. The students are now seeking feedback from area communities and schools to take information for their final design due in February 2016.

After the final ideas and designs are submitted in February, semifinalists will be announced in March. Finalists will be chosen in April and the winners will be announced next August.

MMC's team, called Eximius Quest (XQ), has five components to its plan:

1) Community being developed through the intra-personal relationships of students, staff, and administration;



COURTESY PHOTO
Mount Marty College's Integrated Technology class, led by Dr. Candice Climer, is participating in the XQ Super School Project competition. The competition involves creating a new design model for high school education.

2) Experiences in a diverse range of fields being gained through exploratory and prerequisite logos;

3) Ownership being created through an investment of pride in school, education and community;

4) innovation gained through modern concepts of technology and hands on learning with access to the latest devices;

5) and commitment,

MMC | PAGE 2

Arrests Made In Lincoln's First Homicide Of 2015

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Police have arrested two Lincoln men in connection with the city's first homicide of 2015.

Authorities say 21-year-old Brandon Ray Benson was arrested Sunday and charged with first-degree murder and use of a firearm to commit a felony. Twenty-year-old Joseph L. Bratt was arrested on suspicion of aiding and abetting in a first-degree murder.

Both men were booked into jail around 11:30 a.m.

Police say officers were called to a residence shortly after 3 a.m. Sunday, and that one person was pronounced dead at the scene. A second person was injured, but details about the person's condition were not immediately available.

An incident report says police found bullet holes in the front of the house and in the front door.

