

# Groton Daily Independent

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1:30pm- 8:30pm Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Birthday: Lindsey Tietz



**HC Doors**  
Aberdeen 225-3631  
[www.holtey.com](http://www.holtey.com)  
Commercial & Residential Overhead Doors  
Openers Remotes Parts Repairs  
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**FRIDAY IS**  
**FRIED CHICKEN DAY**  
Served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

**Serving 5-9 p.m.**

**WE'VE GOT WINGS!**  
Every Wednesday!

**ANDOVER BAR & GRILL**  
120 S Main St. • 298-5252

## The cardboard/ paper

recycling trailer at the school

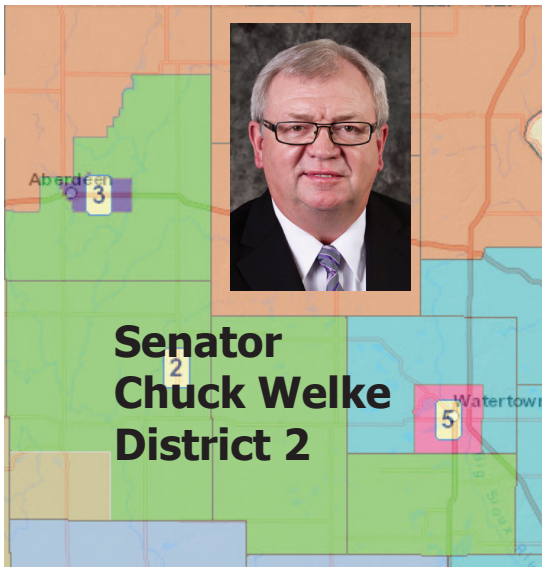
is **OPEN**

## **OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton**

The recycling trailer is back at 10 East Railroad Ave. Don't forget, there is also a dumpster at the city shop for aluminum cans with the proceeds going to the pool.

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This will be my final newsletter as your District 2 State Senator. It was a disappointing Tuesday night as the election results came in. I knew it would be a tough race but the realization that I was going to have to give up a job that I loved to do was a difficult thing to accept. I worked hard to get to know District 2. It was great to meet so many wonderful people and to listen to your concerns. I am not sure what my future holds but I know that it will include spending more time with my seven grandchildren and my elderly parents. I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve the past two years.

My last official business as your State Senator was to travel to Pierre to finish my work as a member of the roads and bridges financing needs interim study. It has been a very good process as we have travelled the state listening to the concerns of our citizens about infrastructure needs. Senator Mike Vehle has been very motivated to come up with solutions. We have

heard from so many people and a few things stand out as we look for solutions. Any solution must be a broad based one that all groups participate and contribute. It must be balanced and the burden should be evenly shared. With those ideas in mind a number of proposals have been put together. Some seem to have broad based support while others seem to be more controversial.

We finished the work of the Roads and Bridges Financing Committee on Friday with an all-inclusive bill. There are a lot of good concepts and ideas in the bill. Senator Vehle and the staff of the LRC worked very hard and I commend them on the process. Our goal is to stop the decline of our roads and bridges and begin to repair them. We have waited too long and we have a lot of work to do.

One of the most controversial parts to the bill will put a new tax on red dyed diesel fuel at the rate of 7 cents a gallon. . The agriculture groups that testified said that this is a deal breaker so some of us tried to remove it from the bill but our attempt to do so did not succeed. I then made a motion to lower the rate from 7 cents to 2 cents a gallon. We lost by one vote. The bill is a work in progress and will be introduced in January. There will many opportunities for input and change. I did vote to move it forward for discussion purposes despite my opposition to the new tax. The bottom line is that a lot of money is needed to accomplish what we need to do.

The process will continue into the session. I urge you to follow it closely and let your feelings be known. This is an extremely important issue as we need a plan that will take us long into the future so that we have safe and reliable roads to serve our public. I do want to thank everyone that has contacted me and those that have come to our public meetings to voice their concerns and to let us know about the scope of the problem.

I was disappointed by the negativity of the campaign. A lot of money was spent in many of the races to bash good people that have served the public well. It is not the way our candidates should be selected. Campaign finance reform is needed as is a hard look at the way campaigns are conducted. We need honest discussion of the issues and a good debate about what direction our state should be headed in terms of education, healthcare, economic growth, and so many other issues. We didn't have that. We have an unhealthy situation in our state as we have one party that controls everything. This creates a dangerous situation without much accountability. We have tried to bring light on many issues and those that have "rocked the boat" became targets and were taken out of office with negative campaigns that distort and mislead. I urge you to keep your eyes on what is happening in Pierre and hold our leaders accountable.

Again I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve and I wish you well.

Chuck Welke  
Warner, SD



## Practical Money Skills

for Life™

By Jason Alderman



### 6 Must-Know Facts About Obamacare Open Enrollment

By Jason Alderman

If you buy your own health insurance, add this important date to your year 2015.

That's the date open enrollment is available for individual healthcare plans offered through the Healthcare.gov site, your respective health insurance marketplace (<https://www.healthcare.gov/medicaid-chip/eligibility/>) or independent agents in your community.

If you're working for a company that provides your health insurance, chances are your open enrollment period has already begun. The SHOP insurance marketplace, open to small businesses and non-profits with 50 or fewer full-time employees, also begins taking online applications November 15.

If you buy your own personal or family coverage, don't wait until November 15 to start planning your 2015 coverage decisions – do it now.

Here are six things you should know to get started:

1. Timing is tight. Last year's health insurance enrollment process lasted six months. This year, it's only three – November 15 to February 15. You may be able to enroll outside of those dates if you're facing a major life change like a divorce, birth of a child or marriage; otherwise, that's your window.

2. Sticker shock is a possibility. Obamacare didn't guarantee cheap healthcare coverage; it guaranteed available healthcare coverage. Keep in mind that if you bought health coverage last year, your insurer will automatically re-enroll you on December 15 for new coverage effective January 1. However, that's no guarantee that your monthly premium will stay the same. Some experts are predicting only modest

## Classifieds

### Togel Bridal Shower

Come and Go Bridal Shower for Megan Togel, bride-to-be of Logan Clemensen, November 15, 2014, 10:00-11:30 A.M. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney, SD. The couple is registered at Target and Inspire.

### House for Rent

Two-bedroom house in Groton. Full basement, breezeway, attached garage, large yard. Wheelchair accessible. Furnished, appliances included. \$700/month. Less with lease. (941) 525-4515.

### Apartments For Rent

ONE AND TWO bedroom apartment for rent. HDS subsidized. Rent includes utilities and heat. No smoking. Pets okay. Contact Darlene Daly at 605/397-8131.

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increases (<http://www.cnbc.com/id/102055144#>.), but depending on where you live, your premiums might go up or down. And if your 2013 carrier grandfathered your 2014 coverage, those changes may go well beyond price.

3. Your doctors and hospitals might change. Hospitals and physician practices scrutinize the state of the health insurance market very closely. Their income depends on it. In 2013, some medical practices made news by dropping insurance plans altogether and accepting only cash or credit; others changed the insurance plans they would honor. Something to keep in mind: the best way to confirm that you'll still have access to your favorite doctor and hospital choice is to pick up the phone. Your doctor's website may list the particular insurance plans his or her practice may accept, but don't expect the list to be current. Call your practitioner or their business office to confirm they're sticking with your plan or any you've chosen to use instead. You don't want to be surprised with enormous out-of-network costs later.

4. Planning future health needs is important. If in the next year you're planning to expand your family, undergo elective surgery or other factors that could affect how you'll use the healthcare system, query the plans about specialists, prescriptions and other specific services before you sign up. It could save you thousands in potential out-of-pocket costs.

5. Coverage isn't immediate. Depending on when you enroll during the open enrollment period, your actual coverage may not start until two to six weeks later. Check effective dates of coverage for every plan you're evaluating to make sure the timing addresses your particular needs.

6. You can get help. Personal referrals from friends and fellow professionals to particular plans and agents are always a good way to start your enrollment search. There may also be nonprofit assistance within your community or state to help you evaluate individual plans. On the national level, nonprofit Enroll America runs a nationwide site (<http://www.enrollamerica.org/resources/in-person-assistance/>) with specific tools and resources for help in your search.

Start now to build a good toolbox full of online and personal resources to help you with your 2015 health insurance search.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney](http://www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney).

## Dare to Live Without Limits

- Rocket Fuel for Your Mind -

*Bryan Golden*



### Thanksgiving: So Much to be Thankful For

Thanksgiving is much more than a big meal with family and friends. It's a time to reflect on, and be thankful for, all of the good things you have. Even with all of the uncertainty and turmoil in the world, you have so much to be thankful for. It's important to be grateful, not just on Thanksgiving, but each and every day. Rather than lamenting what you feel is lacking in your life, begin each new day by developing an attitude of gratitude. Take inventory of your blessings and you will be surprised at just how much you have to be thankful for.

If you have enough to eat, a place to live, a way to get around, people who care about you, or people you care about, then you are wealthy. If you lack any of these elements, you must still be grateful for what you do have, while striving to obtain whatever is absent.

Focus on all positive aspects of your life. Take nothing for granted. Every morning, recharge your appreciation. Be happy for everything there is, not upset over what you feel is missing.

Dreams of the future shouldn't diminish appreciation for the present. If all you do is concentrate on what you want, you won't enjoy today. Don't be jealous of others; what they do or have has no bearing on you.

You can feel bitter or resentful for a variety of reasons. Perhaps you feel something is missing from your life, things aren't going your way, or you have been treated unfairly. You may wonder, "Why do these things always happen to me?"

Life's problems tend to dominate your thoughts, turning your focus to what you feel is wrong. You may start to resent those who appear to be better off. You're apt to dwell on things you think would make your life better if you had them. If only you had more money, more time, a bigger house, a different car, a different job, a different boss, had picked a different career, etc.

Once your attitude becomes one of deficiency instead of abundance and appreciation, you can become overwhelmed by feelings of frustration and feel like a victim. As this happens, a consuming vicious cycle starts.

Being bitter or resentful blows situations out of proportion. People who are bitter frequently find that their situations deteriorate and their mental and physical health decays.

It's difficult, if not impossible, to achieve your goals while you are bitter or resentful. Regardless of what challenges might befall you, bitterness makes finding solutions much more elusive.

There is no point to feeling bitter since it accomplishes nothing, harms you and makes things worse. Filling yourself with gratitude on a daily basis makes you feel good, while driving out negative feelings.

Begin your practice of gratitude each morning as soon as you wake. Every day is a great day. If you have any doubts, try missing one. Take inventory of everything, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, that is good in your life.

If it helps, make a written list of all things you are grateful for. Read your list every day. As you do this, you will build and reinforce your attitude of gratitude. Don't waste any time with what you feel you don't have.

Keep things in perspective. Consider all the people who have overcome difficulties far worse than yours. Don't be consumed by your problems, there is always a solution. Maintaining an attitude of gratitude allows your mind to devise a resolution for your circumstances.

Make everyday a day of Thanksgiving and you will be amazed how much better your life will become.

*Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at [Bryan@columnist.com](mailto:Bryan@columnist.com) or visit [www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com](http://www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com) Ó 2014 Bryan Golden*

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## Looking Back and Looking Ahead

A week ago Tuesday, millions of Americans went to the polls and exercised their right to vote. As the election season heats up and the television ads run non-stop, it's easy to become disillusioned by politics or to wish that the election was over. But we should never forget that there are people in many other countries who can only dream about enjoying the privilege that we take for granted.

I am very honored that South Dakotans placed their trust in me to continue to serve as governor for another four years. Elections are opportunities to discuss issues and offer contrasts, and that is an important part of the process. Now that the election is over, however, we can look back and consider all that South Dakota has achieved in the past four years.

Together, we overcame the Great Recession. We returned our budget to structural balance, and we added all the jobs we had lost – and more. South Dakota is widely recognized as one of the best states in America for business. Today, South Dakota is faced with unemployment so low that our major challenge is expanding and training our workforce to fill all of the jobs that are open.

We came together – both parties and all three branches of government – to reform our criminal justice system so that we can improve public safety, hold offenders more accountable and save money. The plan is already paying dividends.

We are preserving our natural resources, by waging a winning battle against the Mountain Pine Beetle in the Black Hills, creating the new Good Earth State Park at Blood Run in Lincoln County, and taking steps to preserve our pheasant hunting heritage.

We are investing in education. We have expanded the Medical School and frozen tuition at the state universities. We have seen new programs, new equipment, and new opportunities at the technical institutes. And at our high schools, we are expanding career and technical programs and offering a state-funded dual credit program that students are using at far greater numbers than we had hoped.

I know there is more to do, and I am looking forward to the next four years. We will make sure that South Dakota has the highways and rail systems to support our growing economy. We will apply the lessons of criminal justice reform to the juvenile justice system. We will continue to strengthen our schools and expand technical education offerings. And of course, we will continue to expand our economy and bring new jobs and new opportunities to our state.

South Dakota's history is one of perseverance. In overcoming obstacles, we don't merely survive – we prosper and achieve beyond anyone's expectations. It is with that same spirit that I commit to serve you over the next four years.

KRISTI NOEM  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA



## A Veteran's Story

I first heard Arthur Hiland's story from his daughters. Born in Aberdeen, he was drafted to serve in the European Theatre during World War II. He helped defeat the Nazis, earning him a Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart, and then returned home to South Dakota. He rarely, if ever, spoke of his time in the military, but his account of wartime America was never lost.

After he and his wife passed, his daughters found a scrapbook. It weighed maybe 20 pounds and contained much of his wartime story: His draft notice. Mementos from the places he was stationed. Pictures. Newspaper clippings. His discharge papers.

To his daughters, this book has been a peek into their father's past. To you and me, it is a snapshot of our nation's history from a man on the front line.

This week, we celebrate the women and men who, like Arthur, have served our nation and earned the title of "veteran." We remember their stories and formally recognize their contributions to the moments that have defined the American spirit and our nation's resilience.

We can never repay our veterans for these contributions, but I encourage you to take the opportunity this Veterans Day to actively demonstrate your appreciation for their service. Participate in your hometown's Veterans Day celebration. Volunteer at a VA medical facility, the VFW, or a local charity that helps veterans or military families. There are countless ways to show your gratitude and respect.

Of course, there have been many instances where our nation has fallen short of giving veterans the admiration they deserve. Widespread mismanagement, data manipulation and subpar care within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) became a topic of national debate this year – and rightfully so. I was proud to help Congress pass a bill that the president signed to help address the VA's most significant problems, but we must continue to implement this legislation and identify other areas where remedies are necessary.

We also have work yet to do to protect the VA hospital in Hot Springs. This facility has provided critical care to thousands of South Dakota veterans, including Arthur Hiland. Like many of his comrades, he suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. He received treatment in Hot Springs and spent his career giving back to the facility, working as a switchboard operator and in the accounting department.

While they'll never know for sure, his family believes the scrapbook was perhaps a therapeutic exercise to cope with what he'd seen in battle. Earlier this year, they donated the scrapbook to the Library of Congress as part of the Veterans History Project – an effort to collect, preserve, and make personal accounts of American veterans accessible so we too could benefit from the story of a man on the front line.



Noem meets with two of Arthur Hiland's daughters, Anna Merrill and Linda McMurtrie

## Today in Weather History

1985: Snowfall of 4 to 8 inches spread from the southwest part of South Dakota on the morning of the 13th to the northeast part of the state by early morning on the 14th. Winds gusted to 35 mph in the western half of the state and produced considerable blowing and drifting snow, which greatly reduced visibilities. The snowfall caused many accidents, including a four vehicle pileup that occurred three miles east of De Smet in Kingsbury County, during the afternoon of the 13th. Some snowfall amounts include; 7.0 inches in Britton; 5.5 inches in Timber Lake and 5.0 inches in Leola.

1946: GE scientist Vincent Schaefer unloaded dry ice into a cloud over western Massachusetts, which subsequently produced snowfall. This experiment served as a basis for further studies to modify weather.

1933 - The first dust storm of the great dust bowl era of the 1930s occurred. The dust storm, which had spread from Montana to the Ohio Valley the day before, prevailed from Georgia to Maine resulting in a black rain over New York and a brown snow in Vermont. Parts of South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa reported zero visibility on the 12th. On the 13th, dust reduced the visibility to half a mile in Tennessee. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1946 - General Electric scientists produced snow in the Massachusetts Berkshires in the first modern day cloud seeding experiment. (The Weather Channel)

1953 - Strong southeasterly winds associated with a Pacific cold front reached 70 mph at Sacramento CA to equal their all-time record. The previous record had been established in a similar weather pattern on December 12th of the previous year. (The Weather Channel)

1976: An F3 tornado struck Sandon, Australia, on the Pacific coast. The tornado lifted a car 20 feet off the ground and threw it 300 feet into a ditch, killing the two occupants.

1981 - A powerful cyclone brought high winds to Washington State and Oregon. The cyclone, which formed about 1000 miles west of San Francisco, intensified rapidly as it approached the Oregon coast with the central pressure reaching 28.22 inches (956 millibars). A wind trace from the Whiskey Run Turbine Site, about 12 miles south of Coos Bay in Oregon, showed peak gusts to 97 mph fifty feet above ground level. The wind caused widespread damage in Washington and Oregon, with 12 deaths reported. As much as four feet of snow fell in the Sierra Nevada Range of northern California. (Storm Data)

1987 - A storm moving off the Pacific Ocean produced rain and gale force winds along the northern and central Pacific coast, and heavy snow in the Cascade Mountains. Cold weather prevailed in the southeastern U.S. Five cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Asheville NC with a reading of 21 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)




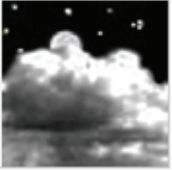



1988 - Low pressure brought rain and snow and gusty winds to the northeastern U.S. A thunderstorm drenched Agawam MA with 1.25 inches of rain in fifteen minutes. Winds gusted to 58 mph at Nantucket MA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thirty-two cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 70s as far north as Michigan and Pennsylvania. Afternoon highs in the 80s were reported from the Southern Plains to the southern Atlantic coast. Columbia SC reported a record high of 86 degrees, and the high of 71 degrees at Flint MI was their warmest of record for so late in the season. (The National Weather Summary)



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TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY
						
Decreasing Clouds High: 17 °F	Mostly Clear Low: -12 °F	Sunny High: 15 °F	Increasing Clouds Low: 2 °F	Slight Chc Snow High: 18 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 0 °F	Partly Sunny High: 21 °F



## Coldest Temps Expected Tonight

Follow us on Social Media

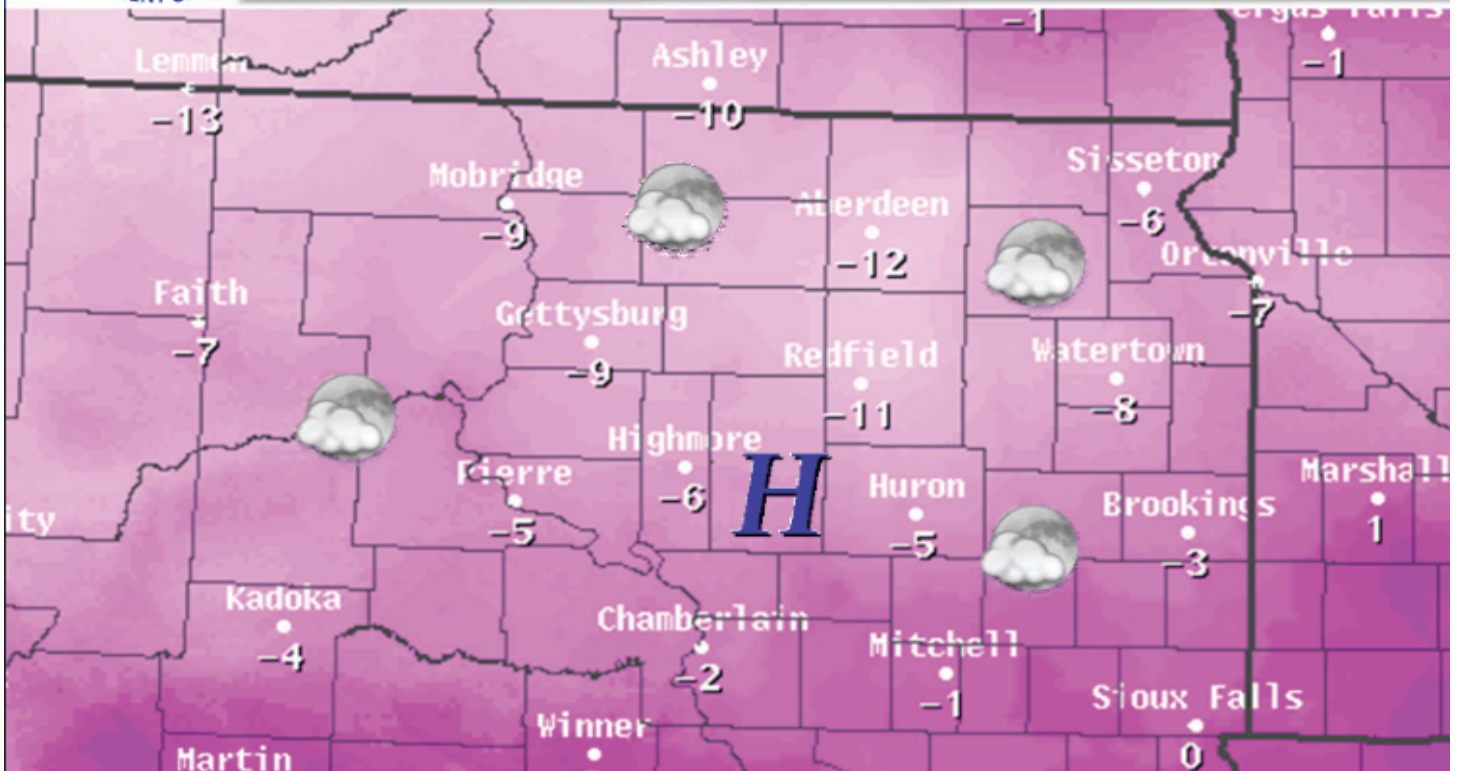
[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



The core of the cold air will move across the region tonight as surface high pressure moves east. Less cloud cover overnight and light winds will provide for ideal conditions to promote sharp drops in temperatures. Lows are expected to be in the single digits below and teens below zero, which would be the coldest readings during this cold snap. If any clouds happen to linger overnight, lows will be several degrees higher than these numbers. Although, current indications suggest mostly clear/partly cloudy skies.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 21.2°F at 1:37 PM

**Low:** 8.7°F at 1: 37 PM

**High Gust:** 30 mph at 11:55 AM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 69° in 1999

**Record Low:** -11° in 1919

**Average High:** 41°F

**Average Low:** 20°F

**Average Precip in Nov.:** 0.34

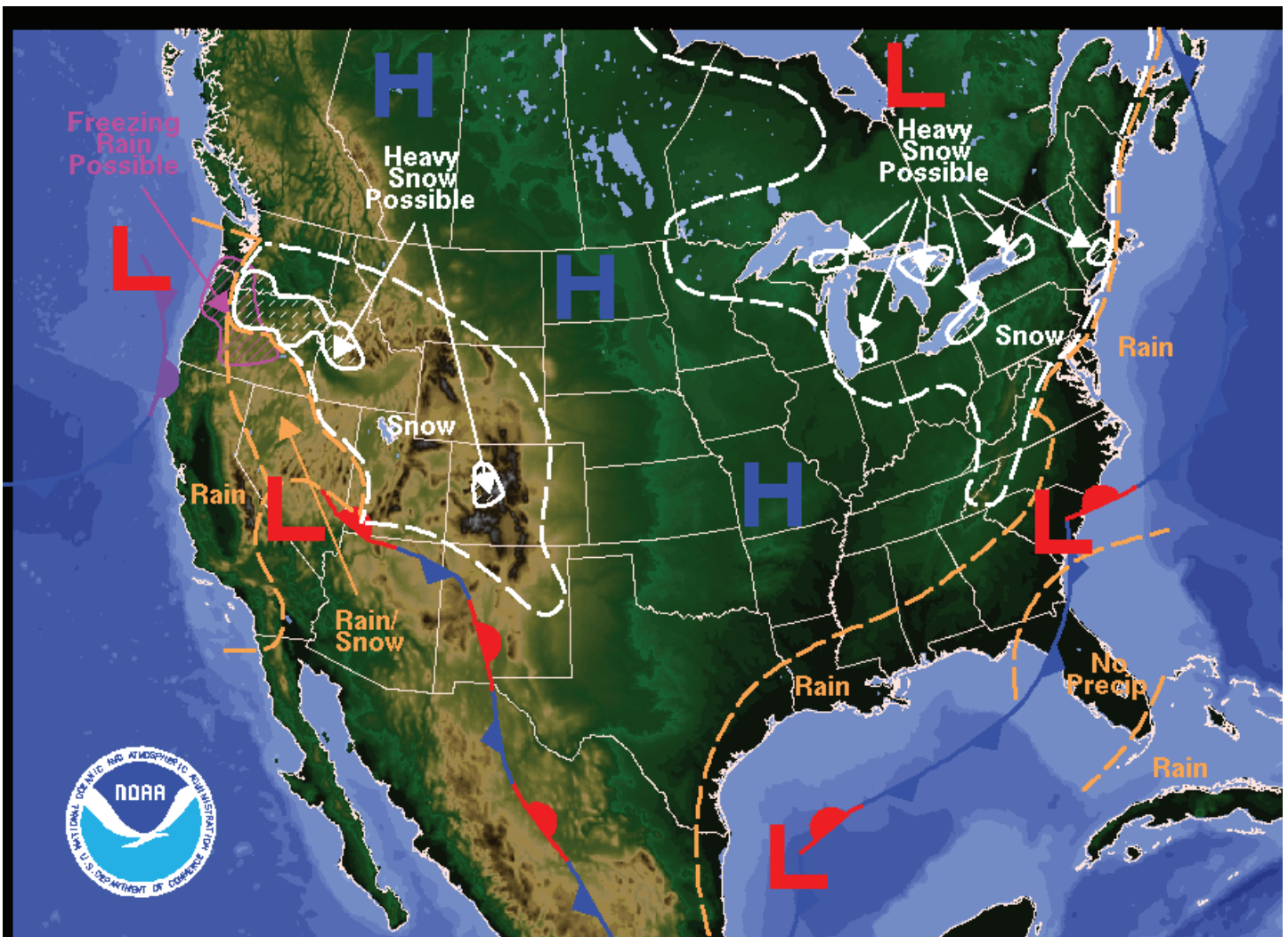
**Precip to date in Nov.:** 0.56

**Average Precip to date:** 20.81

**Precip Year to Date:** 13.79

**Sunset Tonight:** 5:06 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 7:31 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Nov 13, 2014, issued 3:39 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## ONE FALSE TURN...

It was a new car with a new navigation system and we were living near the top of a mountain. We were told that our home was well over 5,000 feet above sea level. To reach our front door was a major driving project. The road twisted and turned and included several "switch backs" - instant "U" turns. At times it seemed as though the turns were much tighter than a paper clip.

As we sat and programmed our "nav system" before beginning our journey, our hearts beat with excitement. It was a new experiment and we were anxious to learn how it worked. After many attempts and several minutes a voice "came from the clouds" and said: "Proceed to the nearest major highway." It was almost frightening.

As we started down the mountain, the little arrow that was intended to point us in the direction we were to travel started to go around in circles. It was spinning as though it could not determine where we were to go. This was certainly not a "confidence builder." But we started down the mountain and when we arrived at the highway that same voice said, "Turn right and proceed 7.4 miles to Highway 16." We did, it was correct and our faith grew.

Trust and confidence are the most critical factors when looking for directions - especially directions for life. Solomon assured us that "the integrity of the upright guides them." Integrity, then, is our compass.

Consider Joseph: He was a man of great integrity and suffered greatly for his faith. Yet, in the end he was able to say: "God meant it for good! Look at these results!"

**Prayer:** Guide us and guard us, Lord, as we seek Your way. Fill us with Your Spirit who will protect us from evil. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** Proverbs 11:3 The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.

**Two bedroom apartment in the Rix Apartments (former city apartments) at 407 N Garfield**

**FOR RENT**

**Attached garage.**

**Major appliances included.**

**\$700 per month**

**Roger: 605/397-7118**

## News from the Associated Press

### **GOAC committee to discuss Bollen's responses**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) Lawmakers on a legislative committee in Pierre plan to review information from the man who formerly administered the federal EB-5 investment-for-green-card program in South Dakota.

The Government Operations and Audit Committee will review written testimony from Joop (yohp) Bollen Thursday. Last month, legislators sent Bollen 75 questions and a request for a timeline on the EB-5 program in South Dakota.

South Dakota was one of the pioneers in EB-5 financing under Bollen and former Governor's Office of Economic Development secretary Richard Benda. The program recruits wealthy immigrant investors for projects in exchange for green cards.

Bollen's responses became public Monday night and are the first time he has made extensive public statements about EB-5. Bollen refused to testify in person and for months has declined to comment to the media.

### **Crazy Horse and Falls in Sioux Falls to glow blue**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills and the Falls in Sioux Falls will glow blue on Thursday evening.

The South Dakota Diabetes Coalition says the purpose is to raise awareness about diabetes, which affects more than 7 percent of South Dakotans, 1 in 10 people nationwide and 1 in 4 Native Americans.

November is Diabetes Awareness Month and Friday is World Diabetes Day.

The Sioux Falls event will also include a meal and speaker at the Falls Overlook Cafe.

### **SD political culture essays to be released**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A book on South Dakota's political culture is set to be released Thursday at a conference hosted by the University of South Dakota at Vermillion.

The collection of essays, titled, "The Plains Political Tradition: Essays on South Dakota Political Culture, Volume 2," is being published by the South Dakota Historical Society. The work examines the state's political landscape and the changes in its political culture through history.

The essays' authors will speak at the conference, which also includes a keynote address from North Dakota State University history professor Tom Isern.

### **Firefighters extinguish flames at Pierre motel**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Firefighters on Wednesday fully extinguished a fire that destroyed a motel in Pierre and investigators were waiting for the structure to be declared safe so they could determine the cause of the blaze.

No one was hurt in the fire.

Police Chief Dave Panzer said the death of a person whose body was recovered from a room in the Capitol Inn and Suites was unrelated to the fire and has been classified an "unattended death."

The fire at the hotel, about two blocks from the state Capitol, was first reported Tuesday evening. Under single-digit temperatures, firefighters brought it under control by midnight, but battled flare-ups throughout the morning.

The fire at the 80-unit facility displaced dozens of tenants.

Pierre Fire Chief Ian Paul said the cause of the fire was unclear, but that investigators know it started in a room on the west side of the building and spread aggressively through the motel's attic.

An investigative team will look into the cause of the fire as soon as fire crews deem the area safe. The group will include law enforcement and the state Fire Marshal's office.

Cold temperatures and high winds helped the fire to rapidly spread through the building.

"This was a difficult fire," Paul said. "This was a wind-driven fire."

Robin Waln, who lives at the motel with her family and until two weeks ago had been the housekeeper, told the Capital Journal in Pierre that she knew the woman whose body was found.

"She was elderly and had health problems," said Waln.

The motel had housed short- and long-term tenants. The Red Cross provided shelter to 14 residents and has organized an event at the First United Methodist Church to provide victims with information about assistance from local, state and nonprofit agencies.

## College Board: College prices continue to go up

**KIMBERLY HEFLING, AP Education Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Time to stock up on the ramen noodles. The average cost of attending college crept up again this year, the College Board said Thursday.

The average sticker price, with room and board included, for undergraduate students attending a four-year college or university in their home state was \$18,943. Out-of-state students at those schools paid, on average, \$32,762. At two-year public schools, in-state students paid an average \$11,052.

The cost to attend a private, four-year nonprofit college: \$42,419, on average, including housing and meal plan.

For-profit schools cost about \$15,230, but housing figures weren't available.

Books and transportation costs can add more than \$2,000 to the cost of attending college, and that rises even more for commuters.

The highest rate of increase of 3.7 percent was among private, nonprofit colleges. And even though the increases across higher education outpaced inflation, the rates of increase were lower than those students saw five, 10 or 30 years ago, the College Board said.

When adjusted for inflation, students are paying more than triple what students paid 30 years ago to attend a public, four-year institution and about 2.5 times more to attend a private nonprofit or two-year public one.

"The price increases are actually quite moderate this year but still what people are paying, and this is before financial aid, is the accumulation of many years of price increases," said Sandy Baum, a co-author of the nonprofit College Board's annual college pricing report. "So, if the price goes up just a little bit this year, people aren't really going to breathe a sigh of relief because the price is already high from their perspective."

Baum said during tough economic times, college costs tend to go up because public institutions receive less in state dollars and private ones see a decrease in endowments and in giving. Other contributing factors are wide ranging from the increasing costs of technology to health insurance for university employees.

Only the wealthiest of Americans are seeing their incomes rise, so most students feel the tuition up-ticks more, Baum said.

The number of fulltime undergraduate students increased by 16 percent in the three years leading up

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to fall 2010 to 13.7 million, but then declined to 13 million in fall 2013. The number of students taking out student loans and the amount taken out, on average, by students has been declining, the College Board said. It said about 60 percent of students who earned a bachelor's degree in 2012-2013 from public or private, nonprofit schools from which they began their studies graduated with debt, borrowing an average of \$27,300.

Here's the breakdown in pricing:

— Sticker prices, on average, for in-state tuition and fees at public four-year schools increased to \$9,139 this school year — a 2.9 percent increase over the 2013-2014 school year. The average out-of-state price tag was \$22,958, an increase of 3.3 percent increase. Room and board was \$9,804.

—Public two-year schools had a \$3,347 published price on average for tuition and fees— an increase of 3.3 percent. Room and board was \$7,705.

—Tuition and fees at private, nonprofit schools rose 3.7 percent to an average of \$31,231. Room and board was \$11,188.

—For-profit schools saw an increase of \$190 — a 1.3 percent increase.

The published prices don't necessarily reflect what students actually pay because they don't include grant dollars provided by institutions or government aid such as Pell Grants, the GI Bill and tax credits. This school year, full-time students received an average of about \$6,110 in aid at public four-year schools, \$5,090 at public two-year ones, and \$18,870 at private colleges.

The average in-state prices at four-year schools ranged from \$4,646 in Wyoming to \$14,712 in New Hampshire.

For out-of-state students, the most affordable tuition of \$9,910 was in South Dakota. On the other end, the most expensive was \$34,331 in Vermont.

## House, Senate to vote on Keystone

**DONNA CASSATA, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Long-stalled legislation to build the Keystone XL pipeline got new life on Wednesday after Senate Democrats suddenly abandoned efforts to block the measure in hopes of helping endangered Sen. Mary Landrieu keep her seat in energy-rich Louisiana.

Republicans responded swiftly to Landrieu's maneuvering, scheduling a vote in the House on Thursday on an identical bill sponsored by Rep. Bill Cassidy, Landrieu's Republican rival in a Dec. 6 runoff.

While the White House stopped short of directly threatening a veto, spokesman Josh Earnest said President Barack Obama takes a "dim view" of legislative efforts to force action on the project. Earnest reiterated Obama's preference for evaluating the pipeline through a long-stalled State Department review.

Republicans and several moderate Democrats insist that construction of the Canada-to-Texas pipeline would create tens of thousands of jobs. Environmentalists maintain that the project would have a negative impact and contribute to climate change.

"I believe that we should take the new majority leader at his word and stop blocking legislation that is broadly supported by the American public and has been for quite some time," Landrieu said in a speech on the Senate floor. "I want to say yes to majority leader — new majority leader Mitch McConnell. The time to start is now."

Landrieu cast herself as an independent willing to challenge Democrats and Republicans, hoping to shake up her Senate race.

"I've stood against my leadership," she told reporters, and added, "And I've stood up to the Republi-

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cans.”

The back-and-forth came against the backdrop of a new political landscape and fresh calls for an end to Washington gridlock. Republicans rolled in midterm elections, seizing majority control of the Senate with a net gain of eight seats. A GOP victory in Louisiana would make it nine and Cassidy is heavily favored.

Come January, Republicans could have a 54-46 majority in the Senate if Cassidy wins, controlling the chamber and legislation for the first time in eight years.

McConnell said the election of a Republican Senate majority has already changed the dynamic.

“I hope this post-election conversion on Keystone signals Democrat cooperation on a whole host of other energy bills they have blocked, and whose passage would help to make America more energy-independent,” he said in a statement.

Echoing Landrieu’s plea for a vote were moderate Democrats from Republican states, who argued that the project that would carry oil from Canada south to the Gulf Coast. The southern leg of the pipeline between Oklahoma and Texas is already operational.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., has moved in the past to prevent the Keystone measure from passing, giving credence to Republican claims that Landrieu is ineffective as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

The Republican sponsor of the bill, Sen. John Hoeven of North Dakota, said the measure has the support of all 45 Republicans and 11 Democrats. It will be incumbent upon Landrieu to persuade four more Democrats to back the measure to reach the 60-vote threshold.

One senior Senate Democratic aide said Reid would not attempt to defeat Landrieu’s effort.

Asked if Obama would sign it, Landrieu told reporters: “I do not know.”

Energy has been a central issue in the Senate race, and Keystone a frequent flashpoint with both Landrieu and Cassidy supporting the project. Cassidy has said Landrieu has been unable to deliver because of her party’s leadership.

Landrieu has a strong alliance with the oil and gas industry and has pushed for an expansion of drilling in the U.S.

If elected, Cassidy would get a seat on the Energy panel. As a new senator, he would be low in the pecking order of panel members, and in the final two years of Obama’s presidency, Cassidy and Louisiana’s all-GOP congressional delegation would likely have little sway with the Democratic administration.

As Louisiana’s last Democratic statewide elected official, Landrieu has a difficult path to victory in a state that overwhelmingly backed Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney in 2012. Fifty-eight percent of voters supported someone other than Landrieu in the primary last week.

Republican leaders are uniting behind Cassidy, a three-term congressman, while the national Democratic Party has decided against providing advertising support for Landrieu in the runoff.

Asked if she was a lost cause, Landrieu told reporters, “No, I don’t believe that I am.”

In a statement, Cassidy said it “is easy to wonder if the Senate is only considering this because of politics, even so, I hope the Senate and the president do the right thing and pass this legislation creating thousands of jobs.”

## South Dakota parole completion rates jump

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota prison population remained nearly flat this year and more offenders are completing their parole thanks to a landmark public safety law passed in 2013, state of-

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officials said Tuesday.

A public safety panel charged with examining the effects of the state Public Safety Improvement Act released its findings Tuesday. The legislation changed how the state handles nonviolent drug offenders and authorized the South Dakota Supreme Court to set up drug courts in any jurisdiction in the state.

The overhaul was aimed at boosting rehabilitation rates and reducing corrections spending, with an increased focus on violent and career criminals. Curbing growth in the state's prison population removes the need to construct more facilities to house more inmates, which officials estimated when the bill passed would cost the state more than \$200 million.

Jim Seward, general counsel for Gov. Dennis Daugaard and head of the panel, said it's too early to declare the overhaul a blanket success, but said it looks like the efforts are making progress.

Fiscal year 2014 saw 60 percent of offenders successfully completed parole supervision, a 15 percentage point jump over fiscal year 2013. Cooperative parolees or probationers who got time off their supervision because of good behavior also reduced burdens on the state.

"We're keeping them in the community and holding them accountable," Seward said, so that officials can focus on violent and recurring offenders.

The legislation aimed to build on the drug court's existing successes in saving state funds and improving rehabilitation rates, and those courts saw their number of new clients nearly triple between 2012 and 2013.

Alex Christopulos is set to graduate from the Sioux Falls drug court in January. Christopulos, a 28-year-old recovering Heroin addict, has been clean for about 1 ½ years and credits drug court with keeping him from spending eight years in prison. Although simultaneously afraid of serving his prison sentence and the prospect of again succumbing to drugs when he entered into drug court, Christopulos chose the program and considers it a success. He said he's seen it help fellow participants significantly.

"I've been given another chance at life," Christopulos said. "That's not even a cliché; that's a fact. ... If I hadn't gotten in, I wouldn't have made it out alive."

## **NDSU basketball team inks pair in early signing**

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — The defending Summit League men's basketball champions have added two high school seniors to next year's roster.

Forward Deng Geu (goo), of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and forward Dylan Miller, of Hillsboro, Illinois, committed to North Dakota State on Wednesday, the first day of the one-week early signing period.

The 6-foot-8 Geu moved to Sioux Falls from Fargo midway through his sophomore year of high school. He helped Sioux Falls Washington to a third-place finish last year in the South Dakota Class AA tournament.

The 6-foot-9 Miller averaged 17 points, nine rebounds and four blocks a game last season.

## **Missing minimum-security inmates back in custody**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say the two inmates who went missing from the South Dakota State Penitentiary's minimum-security unit over the weekend are back in custody.

Corrections officials say 33-year-old Thomas Strutz and 45-year-old Joseph Leroi were arrested without incident Wednesday near Waubay. They are currently being held at the Day County Jail.

Strutz is serving a five-year sentence for fourth-offense driving under the influence in Codington County. Leroi is serving 10 years on a Day County grand theft conviction.

The men walked away from the penitentiary in Sioux Falls on Sunday.



## New GOP senators show moderated, cooperative tone

**CHARLES BABINGTON, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — New Republican senators who sometimes breathed tea-party fire as candidates are adopting a more moderate tone as they enter Congress.

A few of the 11 incoming GOP senators — the number could reach 12 — may still opt to battle party leaders, as some tea party-backed House Republicans have done. Thus far, however, they seem willing to cool their earlier rhetoric and work with senior colleagues to push a conservative mainstream agenda while confronting President Barack Obama.

Some who took hard-right positions on reproductive rights, for instance, have de-emphasized or abandoned those stands. Some who picked early fights with party leaders have made peace as the GOP prepares to take control of the Senate in January.

They are “a great new bunch” who will help “make the place function again,” a beaming Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell said Wednesday as he welcomed the senators-elect to his Capitol office.

Few of the newcomers are drawing more attention than Joni Ernst, who won an open Iowa seat long held by Democrat Tom Harkin. Democrats say Ernst’s highly publicized TV ad, about castrating hogs, distracted voters from more troubling comments she made about guns, the United Nations and other topics. During the campaign, Ernst:

—Spoke of using her gun to defend herself “from a government, should they decide that my rights are no longer important.”

—Showed interest in “Agenda 21,” a conspiracy theory that, as she put it, involves the United Nations and the U.S. government “moving people off of their agricultural land and consolidating them into city centers, and then telling them that ‘You don’t have property rights anymore.’”

—Backed a “personhood amendment” that says full human and legal rights apply to a fertilized egg. Opponents say it would outlaw in vitro fertilization and some popular birth control methods.

Democrats complained Ernst used such stands to help secure the GOP nomination, and then turned the focus elsewhere during the general election. She downplayed some of the issues after the election. “I don’t think that the U.N. Agenda 21 is a threat to Iowa farmers,” she told Yahoo News.

Several new GOP senators managed to bridge their states’ gap between tea party conservatives and more mainstream, Chamber of Commerce Republicans. They include Rep. Tom Cotton of Arkansas, who ousted two-term Democratic Sen. Mark Pryor, and North Carolina House Speaker Thom Tillis, who defeated first-term Sen. Kay Hagan.

Tillis is popular with business groups but had to fend off a tea party leader and a prominent Christian conservative to win the Republican nomination. He did so largely by minimizing his differences with his primary opponents, boasting, “I led a conservative revolution in Raleigh.”

Democrats portrayed Cotton and Tillis as being too far right for their states. Those arguments failed. Because of how they campaigned, these new senators can plausibly and credibly lean hard right when it suits them, and toward the center at other times, depending on the issue.

The newcomers were tight-lipped during their orientation Wednesday, posing for photos like a wedding party in McConnell’s office, then scurrying to other meetings.

“No comment,” Cotton said when a reporter asked how Congress might oppose Obama’s forthcoming changes to immigration policy.

“I’m just happy to be with the new caucus,” was Tillis’ take on the day.

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Three new senators will replace retiring Republicans: Ben Sasse of Nebraska, Rep. James Lankford of Oklahoma, and David Perdue of Georgia.

The eight replacing Democrats are Ernst, Tillis and Cotton; Reps. Cory Gardner of Colorado, Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia, and Steve Daines of Montana; former Gov. Mike Rounds of South Dakota; and former state official Dan Sullivan of Alaska.

A Dec. 6 runoff will decide Louisiana's seat.

The new Republicans will clearly make the 100-member Senate more conservative, and put the GOP in control. But their arrival is unlikely to replicate the turmoil and rightward jolt that the 2010 tea party class of new Republicans brought to the House.

Several freshmen senators moderated their views during or after their campaigns. Gardner, for instance, dropped his support of a personhood amendment when he challenged Democratic Sen. Mark Udall.

Sasse, who briefly sparred with McConnell during the campaign, told The Associated Press that he and Ernst are "conservative in philosophy but prudent in temperament."

"I'm not a bomb thrower," Sasse said.

Meanwhile, the Democrats' only new senator, Rep. Gary Peters of Michigan, got an early taste of life in the minority. As a crush of journalists jostled to see the new Republicans in McConnell's ornate office, Peters wandered by, barely noticed.

A reporter helped him find his destination: the office of the Senate's top Democrat, Harry Reid of Nevada, whose doorway sign soon will read "minority leader."

## Police department in Huron has new police chief

HURON, S.D. (AP) — City officials in Huron have named a new police chief.

Long-time Deputy Chief Denny Meyer has been appointed to the top position at the Huron Police Department. Meyer has been with the department for 36 years.

Meyer had been serving as interim director of public safety since former director Gary Will Jr. resigned to take on a new position in Savannah, Tennessee. Will had served as chief since 2011, when his predecessor Doug Schmitt stepped down after making controversial comments about immigration to a state legislative committee.

Huron City Commission acted as the hiring board.

## 2 South Dakota cabinet secretaries to retire

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two South Dakota cabinet secretaries will retire over the next two months.

Secretary of Health Doneen Hollingsworth and Secretary of Game, Fish and Parks Jeff Vonk have announced their scheduled departures from the cabinet of Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

Hollingsworth plans to leave her position Dec. 12. She's led the Department of Health since 1995 and is among the longest-serving cabinet secretaries in state history.

Daugaard's office praised Hollingsworth's efforts to provide critical support to rural health care facilities.

Vonk has headed the Game, Fish and Parks department since 2007 and will retire Jan. 8. Under Vonk's watch, the state established Good Earth State Park at Blood Run, South Dakota's first new state park in 40 years.

These are the only anticipated cabinet changes as Daugaard moves into his second term.

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## MTV's 'Rebel Music' highlights Native Americans

LYNN ELBER, AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When MTV's "Rebel Music" debuted last year, the globe-trotting documentary series searched out passionate young artists driving change in hotspots including Egypt and Afghanistan.

This time around, it stays close to home with Native American activists. There's Frank Waln, a hip-hop artist seeking to protect the environment and his heritage, and pop musician Inez Jasper, demanding attention for women's rights and safe harbor from violence.

Musicians Nataanii Means, son of American Indian Movement activist Russell Means, and Mike Clifford, working together to foster hope and fight suicide among Native American youngsters, also are featured in the series, debuting 4 p.m. EST Thursday on MTV's Facebook page.

"The music is my shield and my weapon," Waln, a Sioux Indian from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, says with touching determination in the film.

"Rebel Music: Native America" will air later this week and next on channels including MTV2 and mtvU, and will be made available free for downloading or streaming on iTunes, Hulu and other platforms. It's the first long-form MTV program to debut on Facebook, the network said.

The episode — premiering well before season two begins next year in order to coincide with Native American Heritage Month — surprised even the executive behind it.

"I have never been so moved and inspired as I was by this production," said Nusrat Durrani, general manager of MTV World and creator of the "Rebel Music" series. "As soon as we started the research, we knew we have a very compelling story right here in our own backyard."

The film does not shrink from touching on the harsh realities Native Americans face, including suicide and poverty rates greater than the general U.S. population, he said. But that is "baseline," as Durrani put it.

"What we're trying to tell here is, 'Look at these young people and how they're overcoming their own circumstances and how they're empowering themselves to (bring) change,'" he said.

Native American filmmaker Billy Luther, the documentary's co-director, found the young artists to be as intrepid as they are impressive: One started making beats on an old Casio, he said, and others searched out in the community what they lacked at home.

"These kids aren't necessarily victimized or complaining about what they don't have. They're using all their resources to make the change and create the art they want to," Luther said.

The scope of their artistry also proves an eye-opener.

"Usually when you think of native music, you think of drums and flutes," the filmmaker said. "You don't necessarily think of native artists or musicians doing hip-hop, punk or country, but they're out there. ... I think this is going to change what people think of in native music."

The response to a preview posted online has been heartening, Durrani and Luther said, with more than 1.5 million views.

"Rebel Music" will return in March, featuring stories from Iran, Myanmar, Senegal, Turkey and Venezuela, and Durrani is eager for viewers to discover it and, he said, be heartened.

"Here's another way of looking at the world," he said. "The world is not only steeped in negativity and conflict. ... There are beautiful stories, too, stories that will inspire us and give us hope."

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## Arctic chill settles across Upper Midwest, Rockies

DAVID N. GOODMAN, Associated Press

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The Arctic chill is gripping the Rockies and Upper Midwest — and it's crawling east. Sharp drops in temperature are expected in other parts of the U.S. in the coming days, thanks to a powerful weather system that hit Alaska with hurricane-force winds over the weekend before blanketing several state ins snow.

A look at the system and its effects:

### THE LINGERING COLD

Dangerously cold weather was expected to linger until Thursday in eastern Montana, where temperatures could reach as low as negative 30 degrees. Denver's high was only was 5 degrees on Wednesday, a day after the snow-covered city broke a nearly century-old record for the lowest temperature ever recorded on a Nov. 11.

The frigid air was expected to crawl into the Appalachians, mid-South and the East Coast by Thursday. Forecasters have issued freeze and cold-weather warnings across parts of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

In Billings, Montana, where temperatures fell from the high 60s into the single digits on Tuesday, Patsy Kimmel said she was warned about the weather before arriving from Oklahoma to celebrate her 70th birthday with family.

"Yesterday I was wearing sandals and a short-sleeve shirt, and today I'm wearing a coat and scarf and turtleneck and sweatshirt and gloves," she said.

Temperatures fell more than 30 degrees overnight in northern Illinois, from a high of 58 on Tuesday to 26 degrees on Wednesday. Similar swings hit Oklahoma City, where temperatures went from 80 degrees Monday to a low of 30 on Tuesday.

In the Dakotas, wind chills made it feel like 20 below in some places. But that was good news for Action Mechanical Inc. of Rapid City, South Dakota, a heating and ventilation business that was doing booming trade.

"Bang! We get this arctic blast, and it just opens the floodgates," said John Hammond Jr., a department head. "We're behind right now as we're sitting here talking."

### SNOW, SNOW AND MORE SNOW

Parts of Michigan's Upper Peninsula were buried in more than 3 feet of snow on Wednesday, with more snow forecast through the weekend, along with temperatures that dipped in the 20s and 30s. Up to 18 inches fell in northern Wisconsin, while parts of central Minnesota saw more than 16 inches of snow.

Many roads were snow-covered and slippery Wednesday in the Upper Peninsula, where residents are accustomed to snowy conditions. Of his drive into work, National Weather Service meteorologist Justin Titus said that roads were "just rutted out and kind of felt like you were driving over a washboard."

### DON'T BLAME THE POLAR VORTEX

Meteorologists are adamant the weather isn't because of the polar vortex, a giant upper air pattern that normally pens in cold air in the Arctic in the winter. Instead, they say it's being pushed in by a different weather phenomenon more related to the remnants of a powerful typhoon.

"The polar vortex itself has not moved south. It's still in the Arctic where it always is," said National

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Weather Service spokeswoman Susan Buchanan.

Whatever the case, the cold is expected to linger. Some regions will go from record warm to record cold in just two days, with temperatures dropping 15 to 20 degrees below normal on the East Coast Friday and Saturday. Freezing temperatures will likely dip as far south as Atlanta on Friday, said Jeff Masters, meteorology director of the Weather Underground.

## SNOW DAY DREAMS DASHED

The early wintry weather in the Midwest gave Principal Lynn Grewing an opportunity to test a virtual classroom: She asked students of St. Cloud Cathedral high school in central Minnesota to work from home using laptops or iPads.

Grewing said her students' cherished snow days are now a thing of the past.

"This is what we will be doing every single snow day going forward," she said. "I'll be honest. There has been some grumbling."

Private schools such as Cathedral, as well as some public school districts nationwide, are starting to use the flexibility that technology provides to meet school mandates without needing makeup days when bad weather keeps students at home.

Cathedral senior Tommy Auger said doing classwork at home using his school-provided MacBook Air didn't feel very different to a day in class. Once they got over the initial disappointment of missing a snow day off, Auger said he and his classmates agreed they would rather skip a day of sledding than make up the missed school days in the summer.

"It's hard to think ahead, but it's definitely better," he said.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

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

### 1. HOW THE GOVERNMENT IS PATROLLING HALF THE MEXICAN BORDER

An AP Exclusive report finds that the U.S. uses drones solely to monitor desolate ranges of the frontier with Mexico where there are no agents or fences.

### 2. OBAMA CARRIES HARSH MESSAGE TO MYANMAR

Two years after his historic visit to the reborn nation, the president will warn of a backslide in its march toward achieving freedoms and equality.

### 3. WHERE G-20 LEADERS AREN'T POPULAR

While the summit of industrialized and developing economies is putting Brisbane on the global political map, the Australian city's locals aren't too excited about hosting it.

### 4. SOCCER CORRUPTION PROBE CLEARS QATAR, RUSSIA

A FIFA judge exonerates the hosts of the next two World Cup tournaments four years after a scandal-plagued committee voted on their bids.

### 5. VOLUNTEERS PATROL TURKISH-SYRIAN BORDER

Hundreds of Turkish Kurds are monitoring the area to prevent Islamic State fighters from crossing to fight in the besieged town of Kobani in Syria.

### 6. CONGRESS POISED FOR VOTES ON KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

The House is virtually certain to approve the project Thursday. And a Louisiana senator says she has the votes to pass it in the Senate next week.

### 7. INVESTIGATORS PROBE WTC SCAFFOLDING COLLAPSE

It is unclear if the design of the tallest skyscraper in America complicates window-washing work which may have led to the flipping of the scaffold.

## 8. UBER RUNS INTO OPPOSITION IN PHILADELPHIA

The city's authorities are calling the ride sharing company a "hack" taxi service, and have impounded 15 vehicles belonging to its drivers.

## 9. WHO'S PREDICTING CHEAPER GAS IN US

The Energy Department says in a forecast that drivers will pay \$2.94 a gallon on average in 2015, 45 cents lower than this year.

## 10. BASEBALL'S TOP PITCHERS NAMED

Cleveland's Corey Kluber wins the AL Cy Young Award, while the Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw is a unanimous winner in the NL voting.

## AP News in Brief

### AP Exclusive: Drones patrol nearly half of US-Mexico border in shift targeting remote areas

SIERRA VISTA, Ariz. (AP) — The U.S. government now patrols nearly half the Mexican border by drones alone in a largely unheralded shift to control desolate stretches where there are no agents, camera towers, ground sensors or fences, and it plans to expand the strategy to the Canadian border.

It represents a significant departure from a decades-old approach that emphasizes boots on the ground and fences. Since 2000, the number of Border Patrol agents on the 1,954-mile border more than doubled to surpass 18,000 and fencing multiplied nine times to 700 miles.

Under the new approach, Predator Bs sweep remote mountains, canyons and rivers with a high-resolution video camera and return within three days for another video in the same spot, according to two officials with direct knowledge of the effort on condition of anonymity because details have not been made public.

The two videos are then overlaid for analysts who use sophisticated software to identify tiny changes — perhaps the tracks of a farmer or cows, perhaps those of immigrants who entered the country illegally or a drug-laden Hummer, they said.

About 92 percent of drone missions have shown no change in terrain, but the others raised enough questions to dispatch agents to determine if someone got away, sometimes by helicopter because the area is so remote. The agents look for any sign of human activity — footprints, broken twigs, trash.

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### Immigration, Landrieu gambit on Keystone pipeline top first day of Congress' lame duck session

WASHINGTON (AP) — A political gambit by an endangered Senate Democrat broke loose long-stalled legislation to force approval of the Keystone XL pipeline as the lame-duck Congress returned to a Capitol where results of last week's GOP blowout are still sinking in.

The move by Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu came as some conservatives were spoiling to drag must-pass spending bills into their battle with President Barack Obama over his planned executive action on immigration, raising at least the possibility of a government shutdown next month or next year.

Landrieu is an underdog to win a fourth term in a runoff next month with GOP Rep. Bill Cassidy. She's a supporter of the Canada-to-Texas pipeline but was unable to win a vote on it, which has been a flash

point in her race. Cassidy's version recently passed the House and GOP leaders immediately scheduled another vote on it for Thursday.

The Keystone XL issue was an unexpected addition to a lame-duck agenda focused on keeping the government running past a Dec. 11 deadline.

Preventing a government shutdown is a top priority of GOP leaders like House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. McConnell said the other big items for the lame-duck Congress are renewing expired tax breaks for businesses and individuals, more money to fight Ebola and renewing Obama's authority to arm and train opposition to Islamic State militants in Syria, which expires next month.

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## European Space Agency releases 1st picture from comet surface; lander 'very healthy'

BERLIN (AP) — The European Space Agency has released the first picture taken by its Philae probe on the surface of a comet.

Philae became the first spacecraft to land on a comet when it touched down Wednesday on the comet, 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. The photo released Thursday shows a rocky surface with one of the lander's three feet.

Harpoons meant to anchor the lander to the surface failed to work properly, causing Philae to bounce twice.

But ESA says the lander is stable. Gerhard Schwehm, a scientist on the Rosetta mission, told The Associated Press on Thursday that it may still be possible to fire the harpoons but in any case the lander is "very healthy."

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## For Obama, Myanmar's stalled reforms jeopardize a potential major foreign policy achievement

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP) — For President Barack Obama, Myanmar's stalled progress on promised political and economic reforms is jeopardizing what was to be a crowning achievement for his foreign policy legacy.

Obama arrived in Myanmar's capital of Naypyitaw on Wednesday amid persistent questions about whether the government would follow through on its pledges — and whether the U.S. had made too many overtures to the long-isolated country too soon. Myanmar won wide sanctions relief from Obama after its sudden and unexpected shift from a half-century of military rule, but there's little certainty about the country's future.

"Progress has not come as fast as many had hoped when the transition began," Obama said in an interview with Myanmar's "The Irrawaddy" magazine. "In some areas there has been a slowdown in reforms, and even some steps backward."

White House officials say Obama has always been realistic about the challenges ahead for Myanmar, a country that in many cases lacks the infrastructure and capacity to enact the reforms its leaders have outlined. But critics of the administration's policy say the U.S. gave up its leverage too quickly by rewarding the government for promises rather than results.

"With so many avenues for pressure lost, it can indeed seem like the U.S. doesn't have a lot of cards left to play," said John Sifton, the Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

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## **Informal border patrols on Turkish-Syrian border highlight complex Turkish stance on IS, Kurds**

CAYKARA, Turkey (AP) — Their collars pulled up against the evening cold, a group of men and women peer through binoculars, scanning the fields along a barbed wire fence. A few kilometers (miles) away across the Turkish border, black smoke rises from the besieged Kurdish Syrian town of Kobani, the dull thud of mortars carrying across on the breeze.

They are some of the hundreds of volunteers, predominantly Kurdish Turks, who have traveled from villages, towns and cities across southeastern Turkey and even from Istanbul, to keep watch on the border. They are on the lookout for potential fighters of the extremist Islamic State group attempting to cross into Kobani, besieged since mid-September by IS and defended by Kurdish Syrian fighters known as the People's Protection Units.

"To be honest, we don't trust (the Turkish border guards), because we have seen many occasions that the Turkish government has loosened its borders for ISIS fighters, weapons and logistical support to cross," said Ibrahim Binici, a Kurdish lawmaker for the left-wing HDP party, which put out a call in September for the volunteers.

It's a claim Turkey vehemently rejects. But the deep distrust of Turkish authorities in the border area reflects Turkey's complicated attitude toward the Islamic extremists who captured swaths of Iraq and Syria, and its strained relations with its own Kurdish population.

The country's reluctance to join a U.S.-led international coalition action against IS in Syria and Iraq, mainly through airstrikes, has frustrated Turkey's American and European allies. Ankara, however, insists the priority should be the unseating of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, whose 2011 crackdown on protesters sparked an uprising that soon spun into a vicious civil war.

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## **US banking giant backed, underwrote, promoted Chinese company dogged by financial questions**

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. banking giant Morgan Stanley helped a Chinese company, Tianhe Chemicals, sell \$654 million in stock in a June public offering. But The Associated Press identified significant discrepancies in publicly accessible financial records and statements Tianhe made to investors.

Such discrepancies highlight Morgan Stanley's roles shepherding then promoting then defending Tianhe — which one of its investment funds partially owns — before and after the chemical company became a major international stock offering. If Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC and its fellow underwriters, Bank of America Merrill Lynch and UBS AG, failed adequately to vet Tianhe, the banks could be subject to reputational and legal concerns.

The controversy surrounding Tianhe (pronounced TYEN'-huh) carries special significance as China's financial markets are opening to the world and increasingly becoming part of U.S. stock portfolios largely through pension and mutual funds. Investors unable to conduct their own, on-the-ground research of Chinese companies rely on investment banks like Morgan Stanley to act as gatekeepers, preventing problematic companies from listing.

Tianhe Chemicals Group Ltd. manufactures lubricants and sophisticated chemicals used to fight fires and toughen touchscreens. The AP began its review of the company after allegations arose about the firm from a shadowy investment research group tied to people betting against Tianhe's stock. The group said the company had vastly overstated the size and profitability of its business.

Tianhe rejected the claims, and Morgan Stanley said it stands "resolutely behind Tianhe's world-class



management team," but Tianhe's shares have fallen 39 percent since then.

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## How nation's health care overhaul affected 4 people in first year of marketplace changes

CHICAGO (AP) — More than 7 million people have signed up for private health insurance under the system introduced last year for those who were uninsured or had policies considered substandard.

What happened to them since has varied greatly.

Many have been happy with their new insurance, according to polls. Others are encountering a variety of snags — high premiums, telephone runarounds or difficulty getting care. Together their experiences provide a glimpse of how the largest social program launched since Medicare has worked out for the people involved.

With lessons learned, the program enters its second year with enrollment beginning Saturday.

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## California provides example on climate change programs, cost of reducing global warming

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — As the U.S. and China — the world's top two polluting nations — turn to implementing new rules aimed at curbing climate change, the countries can look to the most populous U.S. state as an example of the costs and challenges of fighting global warming.

California already has imposed some of the world's toughest air quality standards as it moves aggressively to lower emissions.

The state's cap-and-trade program, launched nearly three years ago, offers one of the few real-world laboratories on how to reduce carbon emissions. The state has opted to impose extra costs on businesses that emit pollutants.

Next year, the program will be expanded to include companies that produce gasoline and other fuels, prompting predictions that consumers will see a spike in prices to cover the costs.

Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrat, has been unapologetic about the program, saying there needs to be a completely new way of thinking if the world is going to curb carbon emissions.

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## G-20 leaders converge on Australian city once derided as seedy over-sized county town

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — The annual G-20 summit is descending on the capital of Australia's sunshine state with a promise to anoint it as a truly global city. But some inhabitants of Brisbane, once pilloried by Australians as a faintly seedy oversized country town, would prefer if world leaders had continued to pass them by.

For the boosters of Queensland state, playing host to top officials from the 20 biggest industrialized and developing economies is a long overdue acknowledgement they don't live in subtropical backwater. Small businesses, however, are struggling against the disruptions of road closures and an over-the-top security response.

"I have not heard one local person in favor of it. Not one," said Ron Wedlake who owns a kiosk across the street from the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Center which is at the heart of the biggest gathering of world leaders that Australia has hosted.

The first of the steel and acrylic glass barriers began appearing in the streets surrounding the con-

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vention center and some hotels a week before the summit, which starts Saturday. While the barriers did not block access to Wedlake's business, the shutting of the local train station had deprived him of his commuting customers by Monday. He wondered if he would bother staying open for the rest of the week.

"They talk about the long term benefits, but I can't see a long term benefit for the likes of a small business like me," he said.

## FIFA corruption probe clears Russia, Qatar as World Cup hosts 4 years after long-tainted vote

GENEVA (AP) — Russia and Qatar were cleared Thursday by a FIFA judge of corruption in their winning bids for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

FIFA ethics judge Joachim Eckert formally ended a probe into the bidding contests, almost four years after the vote by the governing body's scandal-tainted executive committee. No proof was found of bribes or voting pacts.

"The evaluation of the 2018/2022 FIFA World Cups bidding process is closed for the FIFA Ethics Committee," the German judge wrote in a statement released by FIFA.

The 2022 World Cup will finally, it seems, be played in Qatar — though exactly when is still unclear as FIFA seeks an alternative to the desert heat in June and July.

"FIFA welcomes the fact that a degree of closure has been reached," the governing body said Thursday in a statement. "As such, FIFA looks forward to continuing the preparations for Russia 2018 and Qatar 2022, which are already well underway."

## Today in History

### The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Nov. 13, the 317th day of 2014. There are 48 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlights in History:

On Nov. 13, 1974, Karen Silkwood, a 28-year-old technician and union activist at the Kerr-McGee Cimarron plutonium plant near Crescent, Oklahoma, died in a car crash while on her way to meet a reporter. In Amityville on Long Island, New York, six members of the DeFeo family were shot and killed in their home by eldest son Ronald DeFeo, Jr. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat addressed the U.N. General Assembly, the first representative of a non-governmental entity to do so. Italian film director and actor Vittorio De Sica, 73, died in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.

### On this date:

In 1789, Benjamin Franklin wrote in a letter to a friend, Jean-Baptiste Leroy: "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

In 1849, voters in California ratified the state's original constitution.

In 1909, 259 men and boys were killed when fire erupted inside a coal mine in Cherry, Illinois.

In 1927, the Holland Tunnel opened to the public, providing access between lower Manhattan and New Jersey beneath the Hudson River.

In 1937, the NBC Symphony Orchestra, formed exclusively for radio broadcasting, made its debut.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure lowering the minimum draft age from 21 to 18.

In 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down laws calling for racial segregation on public city and state buses.

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In 1969, speaking in Des Moines, Iowa, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew accused network television news departments of bias and distortion, and urged viewers to lodge complaints.

In 1971, the U.S. space probe Mariner 9 went into orbit around Mars.

In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, designed by Maya Lin, was dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

In 1989, Polish labor leader Lech Walesa (lek vah-WEN'-sah) received the Medal of Freedom from President George H.W. Bush during a White House ceremony.

In 1994, Sweden voted in a non-binding referendum to join the European Union, which it did the following year.

**Ten years ago:** U.S. military officials said American troops had occupied the entire Iraqi city of Fal-lujah. Vice President Dick Cheney went to a hospital after experiencing shortness of breath; tests found nothing wrong. Rapper O.D.B. (real name: Russell Jones), a founding member of the Wu-Tang Clan, collapsed and died inside a recording studio in New York City two days before his 36th birthday. Harry Lampert, the illustrator who helped create the DC Comics superhero The Flash, died in Boca Raton, Florida, at age 88.

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama, in Tokyo at the start of a weeklong trip to Asia, said his decision about how many troops to send to Afghanistan would come soon and that he was bent on "getting this right." U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced a decision to bring professed 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four others detained at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to trial in lower Manhattan (this plan was later dropped). Scientists said analysis of data from two NASA spacecraft that were intentionally crashed into the moon showed ample water near the lunar south pole.

**One year ago:** The Obama administration revealed that just 26,794 people had enrolled for health insurance during the first, flawed month of operations for the federal "Obamacare" website. (More than 79,000 others had signed up in the 14 states with their own websites.) Toronto Mayor Rob Ford admitted during a heated City Council meeting that he'd bought illegal drugs while in office, but he adamantly refused calls from councilors to step down and seek help. Clayton Kershaw of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Max Scherzer of the Detroit Tigers won baseball's Cy Young Awards. Former Raiders tight end Todd Christensen died during liver transplant surgery in Utah; he was 57.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Madeleine Sherwood is 92. Journalist-author Peter Arnett is 80. Producer-director Garry Marshall is 80. Actor Jimmy Hawkins is 73. Country singer-songwriter Ray Wylie Hubbard is 68. Actor Joe Mantegna is 67. Actress Sheila Frazier is 66. Actress Frances Conroy is 61. Musician Andrew Ranken (The Pogues) is 61. Actress Tracy Scoggins is 61. Actor Chris Noth (noth) is 60. Actress-comedian Whoopi Goldberg is 59. Actor Rex Linn is 58. Actress Caroline Goodall is 55. Actor Neil Flynn is 54. Former NFL quarterback Vinny Testaverde is 51. Rock musician Walter Kibby (Fishbone) is 50. Comedian Jimmy Kimmel is 47. Actor Steve Zahn is 47. Actor Gerard Butler is 45. Writer-activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali is 45. Actor Jordan Bridges is 41. Actress Aisha Hinds is 39. Rock musician Nikolai Fraiture is 36. NBA All-Star Metta World Peace (formerly Ron Artest) is 35. Actress Monique Coleman is 34.

**Thought for Today:** "If we like a man's dream, we call him a reformer; if we don't like his dream, we call him a crank." - William Dean Howells, American author (1837-1920).