

Groton Daily Independent

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Birthdays: Jim Gerdes • Boyd Barwin • Delores Krueger • Tevin Abeln • Nick Johnson • Grayson McCranie

Debate and Oral Interp at Mitchell Robotics at Harrisburg
JH GBB Jamboree at Britton-Hecla

Sunday, Nov. 23

Birthdays: Kristine Barger • Charlene Telkamp • Francine Sippel • Jace Craig • Sarah Finnesand • Kandi Weismantel

Monday, Nov. 24

7:00 pm: School Board Meeting

Birthdays: Douglas Dobbins • Cory Rath

Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage roll hotdish, mixed vegetables, pears, cornmeal muffin.

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

School Lunch: BBQ Chicken, flat bread, sweet tots, veg cups, fresh and canned fruit.

Tuesday, Nov. 25

5:00 pm: JH Wrestling at Milbank Tourney

Birthdays: Emery Sippel • Kari Hanson • Angela Falk • Penny Herther • Devan Howard • Arielle Schaller

Senior Menu: Turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, pumpkin bar with topping, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Long john, yogurt, juice, milk.

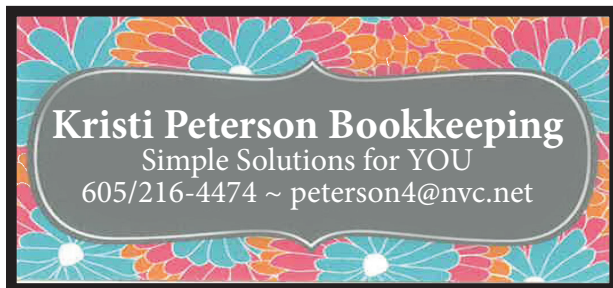
School Lunch: Pizza, green beans, tossed salad, fresh and canned fruit.

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.



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

Open meetings panel issues two reprimands

by S.D. Newspaper Association

Two public reprimands for violation of the state's open meetings laws were issued by the South Dakota Open Meetings Commission in Sioux Falls Nov. 21.

The commission agreed that the Freeman public school board failed to properly post a meeting agenda to its website in July. Commissioners also agreed that the board of supervisors for Lincoln Township in Lincoln County failed to post a meeting agenda at least 24 hours in advance of a March 4 meeting.

In the same complaint against the Freeman public school, commissioners voted 3-2 to decide the school did not violate the law in terms of how the school posted the July 14 board meeting agenda inside the school building.

Commissioners also found no violation of open meetings laws earlier this year by the Plankinton school board in a complaint brought by John Paul Studeny Jr. of Plankinton.

The complaint against the Freeman school board was brought by Chris Eisenbeis, a Freeman resident. He charged the school failed to properly post a meeting agenda to the school website as well as at the school building.

State law requires that public boards must post a meeting agenda in a place accessible to the public for at least 24 hours prior to a regularly scheduled meeting. The agenda must also be posted to the public board's website if the entity has a website.

The Freeman school attorney did not dispute that it failed to post the agenda to the website. However, the school's attorney contested the charge that it failed to post the agenda at least 24 hours prior in the school building.

Eisenbeis said the agenda in the building was not publicly available for an entire 24 hours prior to the meeting because it was posted in a place where it could not be viewed after normal business hours.

The commission has dealt with similar complaints in the past. As a result, the Legislature in 2012 amended the agenda-posting law to try to clarify that agendas must be available to the public for an entire 24 hours prior to a meeting.

Still, commissioners were not in agreement that the law is clear enough.

"There is ambiguity here," said commissioner Mark Reedstrom, Grant County state's attorney, in referring to the 2012 amended statute.

Commission Chairman John Steele of Aurora County disagreed. "I don't really think the statute is that ambiguous. I don't think you can post for a few hours here and a few hours there and count them up to 24 hours. Notice should be been posted on



Olde Bank Floral
"N More"

**HOLIDAY
OPEN
HOUSE**

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

Thursday, Nov. 20, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Wine Tasting Day

Friday, Nov. 21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

10% discount
on regular priced merchandise
(some exclusions apply)

40% off
all kitchen merchandise
Door prize drawing daily
Food samples

Extended Holiday Hours
Thursdays: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Serving Wine Every Thursday
Sundays: Noon to 4 p.m.

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the front door or somewhere in the vicinity so anyone could see it promptly.”

After the hearing, Eisenbeis of Freeman said he was disappointed with the commission’s split decision. “They definitely sent a mixed message,” he said.

In his complaint against the Plankinton school board, Studeny alleged that board members met illegally in May when the school’s school superintendent was fired. He said the board took an informal vote to fire the superintendent through a series of phone calls without calling a special meeting.

Rodney Freeman, attorney for the Plankinton school, said the board did not vote by phone and that the board chairman was simply informing fellow board members that he was immediately suspending the superintendent under authority permitted to him in state law.

The complaint against the Lincoln Township Board was brought by Paul Tuntland of Brookings. Tuntland farms family-owned land in the township.

The attorney for the township board said the board was not fully aware of the law requiring the posting of meeting agendas 24 hours prior. “There’s nothing evil. There is nothing conspiratorial. They did the best they could, said Sioux Falls attorney Douglas Deibert.

In other business, the commission elected Sully County State’s Attorney Emily Sovell to

be the panel’s chairwoman for the coming year.

The Open Meetings Commission, comprised of five states attorneys from across South Dakota, has heard more than 40 cases involving complaints about violations of the open meetings laws since it was formed in 2004.

If the commission determines a violation of the law has occurred, the only penalty it can impose is a public reprimand.

Cases heard by the commission are forwarded to it by states attorneys, who field complaints about alleged violations brought by citizens.

More information about the commission can be found at the South Dakota attorney general’s website.

Holiday Open House
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Nov. 20-21-22
Door Prizes
Refreshments
Draw for your
own discount on
gift items

 *Lori's Pharmacy*
Lori Giedt, RPh 

1205 N 1st St., Groton • 397-2363

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

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Groton students excel at MathCounts

The Roncalli Invitational MathCounts Competition was held on Wednesday, November 5, 2014. Over 180 students from nine Aberdeen area schools (Britton-Hecla, Eureka, Frederick, Holgate, Northwestern, Roncalli, Simmons, Warner, and Groton) participated in the event, which was sponsored by 3M of Aberdeen.

Kaycie Hawkins, Kayla Jensen, Noah Poor, and Madeline Schuelke were awarded the first place trophies in the seventh grade team competition. Two Groton students earned medals in the seventh grade individual/countdown round: Kayla Jensen (first place) and Isaac Smith (fourth place).



7th Grade Individuals:

Front row from left: Kayla Jensen, Groton, 1st place; Abe Wieland, Simmons, 2nd place; Logan Snell, Holgate, 3rd place

Back row from left: Issac Smith, Groton, 4th place; Ian Pharris, Roncalli, 5th place; Travis Sharp, Holgate, 6th place



7th Grade Teams:

Front row from left: Groton, 1st place, Kaycie Hawkins, Kayla Jensen, Noah Poor, Madeline Schuelke

Middle row from left: Roncalli, 2nd place, Erica Carda, Ian Pharris, Riley Weinmeister, Madison Wetz

Back row from left: Holgate, 3rd place, Jennifer Appl, Luke Jacobs, Travis Sharp, Logen Snell

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Jennie Doeden, Tylan Glover, Micah Poor, and AnneMarie Smith were awarded the first place trophies in the eighth grade team competition. Three Groton students earned medals in the eighth grade individual/countdown round: AnneMarie Smith (first place), Micah Poor (fifth place), and Cassandra Townsend (sixth place).

MathCounts is a nationwide coaching and competition program for middle school students that promotes excellence in mathematics. Area competitions consisting of several types of tests are held monthly. The next junior high competition will be the Roncalli Invitational MathCounts Countdown Competition on Wednesday, December 10.



8th Grade Individuals:

Front row from left: AnneMarie Smith, Groton, 1st place; Jessica Hertel, Frederick, 2nd place; Laurie Rogers, Warner, 3rd place

Back row from left: Joseph Goetz, Roncalli, 4th place; Micah Poor, Groton, 5th place; Cassandra Townsend, Groton, 6th place



8th Grade Teams:

Front row from left: Groton, 1st place, Jennie Doeden, Tylan Glover, Micah Poor, AnneMarie Smith

Middle row from left: Simmons, 2nd place, Taryn Fergel, Culver Lewis, Layne Nieber, Abe Wieland

Back row from left: Roncalli, 3rd place, Allison Dix, Joseph Goetz, Mary Gutenkauf, Connor Hansen

7 New Year's Resolution 'Secrets' to Weight

Training from a Bodybuilding Neurosurgeon Overtraining Can Be as Bad as Not Training at All, He Says

Losing weight was the No. 1 New Year's resolution for 2014, according to a University of Scranton study, which also found that only 8 percent of people succeed in achieving their resolutions.

So it stands to reason, losing weight will again top the resolution charts in 2015.

"You're much more apt to be successful, and keep the weight off, if you don't focus on simply shedding pounds by reducing your caloric intake," says Dr. Brett Osborn, author of "Get Serious, A Neurosurgeon's Guide to Optimal Health and Fitness," www.drbrertosborn.com.

"As a general rule, the best thing you can do for yourself is start doing weight training and keep it simple," Dr. Osborn says.

He shares seven tips for burning up the fat and building muscle through weight training:

- Make workouts intense. Any exercise or group of exercises must provide sufficient stimulus to trigger the body's adaptive response. A requisite of this is intensity. We are reactive organisms at a base level. Resistance training of sufficient intensity stimulates an increase in testosterone production, and the anabolic, muscle-building process ensues.

- Always err on the side of training less. So, how do you know just how much is enough? Are you training too often or just the opposite? In both cases, there will be failed gains. That's right – overtraining can stall progress! The answer? Pay meticulous attention to your progress, or lack thereof.

- Chart your progress. Set training goals, both short-term and long-term, and accomplish them. Buy a log book or download an app (there are many available for free) and make a habit of recording every workout. You don't know where you're going unless you know where you've been.

- Nutrition is as important as training. You must provide your body with adequate nutrition to rebuild itself. If your fitness goal is muscular hypertrophy and strength, you'll make few if any gains in the context of poor nutrition.

- You must get adequate sleep. "I have a hard time with this one because of my occupation, so I make it a priority as much as possible," Dr. Osborn says. Without adequate rest, your body won't recover from training. Remember, your muscles are growing while you sleep, provided there is adequate stimulus for growth and sound nutrition.

- Educate yourself. Learn as much as possible about training and, more specifically, how your body responds to various training modalities. Forget about fitness or fashion magazines – the endorsed regimens there bear little resemblance to those actually utilized by bodybuilders. Don't lose weight for its own sake. Building muscle is the best way to burn fat, so don't pay attention to gimmicky and faddish celebrity fitness articles.

- Never quit! A well-timed hiatus from training is very different than quitting. In fact, we need intermittent breaks as the majority of us are actually overtraining. Terminating all exercise is akin to quitting health. Push yourself through periods of stalled progress. Don't expect to look like a professional bodybuilder after six to 12 months of training. Unless you're using anabolic agents, you won't look like that. But that's okay! The point is slow and steady progress, which inevitably yields a more muscular physique and, ultimately, better health.

About Dr. Brett Osborn

Brett Osborn is a New York University-trained, board-certified neurological surgeon with a secondary certification in anti-aging and regenerative medicine. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Neurological Surgery and of the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine. He holds a CSCS honorarium from the National Strength and Conditioning Association. Dr. Osborn specializes in scientifically based nutrition and exercise as a means to achieve optimal health and preventing disease. He is the author "Get Serious, A Neurosurgeon's Guide to Optimal Health and Fitness," www.drbrertosborn.com.

Christmas Trees Soon To Adorn Capitol Hallways

PIERRE, S.D. – Christmas trees have begun to fill South Dakota Capitol hallways for the annual Christmas at the Capitol holiday display.

More than 90 Christmas trees will be decorated Nov. 22 – 23 by members of schools, churches, communities and civic groups from across the state.

The display will officially begin with a grand lighting ceremony on Tuesday evening, Nov. 25, and continue through Saturday, Dec. 27. Display hours for the public will be from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. CST each day.

Thousands of guests visit the South Dakota State Capitol each year to view the decorated trees.

This year's theme is "125 Years of Christmas in South Dakota."

The two-story South Dakota tree specially featured this year in the Capitol rotunda was donated by Gus and Joan Rysavy of Brandon. The tree, a 37-foot blue spruce, with decorations made and provided by South Dakota Fourth Grade Classrooms and Statehood Celebration Committees.

In addition to the trees, many other areas of the Capitol will be decorated for the holiday season, including the grand marble staircase and the Capitol grounds.

Commercial Pesticide Applicator Testing Available Electronically

PIERRE, S.D.-The South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) announces Commercial Pesticide Applicator testing is now available on electronic tablets at Regional South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension Centers across the state.

"Instant exam results create convenience for those wanting to apply pesticides," said Valerie Mitchell, SDDA ag program specialist. "The exam's reference materials are displayed on the tablet screen, along with the test, making the tablet an all-in-one platform."

Exams are still open book and focus mainly on reading comprehension. Multiple tablets are available at each Regional SDSU Extension Center to handle multiple testers at once. Previously, testing was administered by paper and results were mailed out three to five days later.

Results are instantly sent to SDDA for review and approval. The electronic processing will expedite the applicator's license issuance. An e-mail is sent to the tester confirming the exam has been processed and gives instruction on how to apply and pay for a commercial applicator license once certification is complete. Following payment, the applicator's license is mailed to their home address.

Please call your Regional SDSU Extension Center to schedule an appointment to take the exam. Contact information for these centers can be found at <http://sdda.sd.gov> and search "Commercial and Private Applicator Testing Sites." Local SDSU Extension offices will have access to the new testing format in the near future.

Agriculture is South Dakota's No. 1 industry, generating \$25.6 billion in annual economic activity and employing 115,651 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture's mission is to promote, protect, preserve and improve this industry for today and tomorrow. Visit us online at <http://sdda.sd.gov> or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Governor Urges Thanksgiving Holiday Travelers to Play It Safe

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard is asking Thanksgiving holiday travelers to make safe, smart choices on the highways.

Thanksgiving weekend marks the beginning of a long holiday season. Gov. Daugaard says the holidays are a time to be with family and friends, but that means more places to be and traffic that is heavier than normal. Combined with South Dakota's uncertain and quickly changing weather, that means people need to be even more safety-conscious than ever.

"We all love the holiday season, and I encourage every South Dakotan to travel safely and avoid a tragedy," the Governor said. "The fast-moving snowstorm earlier this month is a reminder of how quickly travel conditions can deteriorate. Please be alert to changing weather, put down the phone and any other distractions, buckle up and, of course, never drink and drive."

Two people died on South Dakota highways last Thanksgiving, and 39 others were injured in crashes. South Dakota has recorded an average of nearly 210 highway crashes in each of the last four Thanksgiving holiday travel periods. About 15 of those crashes each year involved alcohol.

"Every alcohol-related highway crash is avoidable," Gov. Daugaard said. "Please, have a sober driver behind the wheel every trip. Don't drink and drive."

The national Thanksgiving Day holiday fatality-reporting period this year runs from 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 26, through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 30.

Sanford USD Medical Center SD's Designated Ebola Hospital

PIERRE, S.D. – The Department of Health announced today that Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls will serve as the state's designated facility to receive and potentially treat a suspect Ebola patient.

"In a state the size of South Dakota, it makes sense to designate a single facility to be ready to care for an Ebola patient," said Doneen Hollingsworth, Secretary of Health. "We're very appreciative that Sanford has volunteered to fill that critical role and they should be commended for their leadership."

"Sanford USD Medical Center, along with the entire Sanford Health system, began preparing to handle a potential Ebola patient months ago, and we are confident in our preparations and expertise," said Paul Hanson, president of Sanford USD Medical Center. "Our efforts are led by highly trained physicians including Wendell Hoffman, MD and Allison Suttle, MD. Our skilled health care providers will safely manage any potential Ebola patient in accordance with CDC protocols to ensure we are protecting our staff and other patients while caring for an individual in need."

Hollingsworth said designation of Sanford USD Medical Center as an Ebola treatment facility is just one of many steps in a much larger effort to prepare for the possibility of the disease in South Dakota. The first component of that response is the front line health care providers – every hospital and clinic across the state.

"Every clinic and hospital in the state needs to be prepared to identify a possible case based on travel history and symptoms, appropriately isolate the individual and contact the state Department of Health for further evaluation," said Hollingsworth. "We know providers are taking this responsibility seriously and working hard to prepare and drill for how to handle such patients."

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For any such individual, the department will consult with CDC. If the individual is determined to be a potential case, the department will contact Sanford so it can prepare to receive the individual. Two ambulance services, Rural Metro in Sioux Falls and Rapid City Fire in Rapid City, have received specialized training and equipment from the department and agreed to transport patients to Sanford.

Hollingsworth said the department's public health laboratory is also working to add the capability to test for Ebola. In the meantime, it has an agreement in place with the University of Nebraska Medical Center to handle testing.

The department also continues to monitor travelers coming into South Dakota from the West African countries at the center of the outbreak. That monitoring includes twice-daily contact with the individuals for the 21-day incubation period of the disease to check temperatures and any symptoms. The department is currently monitoring one such low-risk individual and two more have completed their 21-day monitoring period without developing symptoms.

"From front line health care facilities to patient transport, from designating a receiving hospital to setting up a lab testing protocol, South Dakota is working hard to put a system in place to deal with Ebola," said Hollingsworth. "Even if we never have an Ebola case these partnerships and the work we've done will leave us better prepared to deal with other infectious diseases in our state."

For more information about Ebola virus disease see the department's website at <http://doh.sd.gov/diseases/ebola.aspx>.

Christmas at the Capitol Tree-Lighting Ceremony

PIERRE, S.D. – The 2014 Grand Lighting Ceremony for Christmas at the South Dakota Capitol will take place in the rotunda on Tuesday, Nov. 25, at 7 p.m. CST.

The public is invited to join Gov. Dennis Daugaard, First Lady Linda Daugaard and Pierre Mayor Laurie Gill as they welcome guests and light the Capitol trees.

The Capitol Christmas display includes nearly 100 trees that are decorated by volunteers from communities, schools, churches, nonprofit organizations and state government offices.

The decorations for the largest of the trees in the rotunda were made and provided by South Dakota fourth-grade classrooms and Statehood Celebration Communities. The 37-foot blue spruce was donated by Brandon residents Gus and Joan Rysavy. It was trimmed to fit in the Capitol.

Pre-event music for the tree-lighting ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m., featuring Marla Mosiman.

The 2014 Grand Lighting Ceremony will feature musical performances by Capital City Children's Chorus, the Potter Family and South Dakota Chorale.

Immediately after the ceremony, kids of all ages can pose for pictures with Santa Claus in front of the South Dakota Christmas tree. Parents are reminded to bring their cameras. Refreshments, donated by Lynn's Dakotamart in Pierre, will be served on the first floor of the Capitol.

The holiday display will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily from Nov. 26 through Dec. 27.

Today in Weather History

1979: Snow began falling during the morning hours on the 21st and continued until the evening hours on the 22nd. Snowfall totals were in the 6 to 13 inch range with thirteen inches at Sioux Falls being the largest amount reported. Moderate winds of 20 to 35 mph made travel very difficult. Approximately 50 percent of the corn remained in the fields. The snow did not harm the corn so most of it was still harvested.

1985: Extreme cold temperatures occurred over South Dakota from November 22nd through the 28th, with low temperatures dropping well below zero. Record low temperatures were set in most areas and Aberdeen set a record low for five of the seven days. Three of those five record lows still stand today: -17 on the 23rd, -18 on the 27th, and -21 on the 28th. The other records set at the time (-16 on both the 24th and 26th), were both broken in November 1996.

2003: Heavy snow of 6 to 10 inches fell across Big Stone and Traverse counties in Minnesota, as well as northeastern South Dakota, from the evening of the 22nd to the afternoon of the 23rd. Dumont received 6 inches of snow, with 10 inches reported in Ortonville. Six inches of snow was also reported in Wilmot, White Rock, Estelline, and near Stone Bridge; 7 inches was reported Toronto; 8 inches in Big Stone City; and 9 inches at Clear Lake. Heavy snow of 6 to 9 inches also fell in Corson and Lyman counties in South Dakota. Some other snowfall amounts included 8 inches northwest of Presho, Kennebec, and near Iona; and 9 inches southwest of Keldron.

1992: Indiana was struck by 15 tornadoes. One, an F4 multiple vortex twister, cut a 22 mile path through extreme southeastern Indiana and northern Kentucky. From Indiana to Alabama and Texas to North Carolina the storm system produced 94 tornadoes, 26 deaths, and 640 injuries.

1993: Thanksgiving in South Dakota was hampered when a massive storm dumped between two and three feet of snow just three days before the holiday.

2012: 100 vehicles were involved in a massive chain-reaction accident during extremely foggy conditions on I-10 southwest of Beaumont, TX. Two people were killed and 80 injured.

1641: An observer at Boston, MA, recorded a great tempest of wind and rain from the southeast all night, as fierce as a hurricane, and thereupon followed the highest tide which we have seen since our arrival here . (David Ludlum)

1957: Extremely destructive Santa Ana winds blew from Oxnard to San Diego and inland parts of southern California. The high winds produced a 28,000 acre brush fire on a 40-mile front west of Crystal Lake. People were ordered off streets in some areas due to flying debris. (21st-22nd) (The Weather Channel)




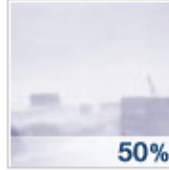



1987: Eight cities in the eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Elkins, WV, reported a low of 5 degrees above zero. Gale force winds continued along the Northern Atlantic Coast. (The National Weather Summary)

1988: Wet and windy weather prevailed across the western U.S., with heavy snow in some of the higher elevations. Winds gusted to 62 mph at Vedauwo WY, and reached 75 mph at Tillamook OR. Shelter Cove CA was drenched with 4.37 inches of rain in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989: Strong northerly winds produced squalls along the shore of Lake Michigan, with heavy snow in extreme southeastern Wisconsin. Milwaukee WI received nine inches of snow, and in Racine County there were more than one hundred automobile accidents. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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TODAY	TONIGHT	SUNDAY	SUNDAY NIGHT	MONDAY	MONDAY NIGHT	TUESDAY
						
Mostly Sunny High: 40 °F	Slight Chc Snow Low: 26 °F	Chance Rain/Snow High: 38 °F	Blowing Snow Low: 13 °F	Blowing Snow High: 19 °F	Blustery Low: 9 °F	Slight Chc Snow High: 29 °F



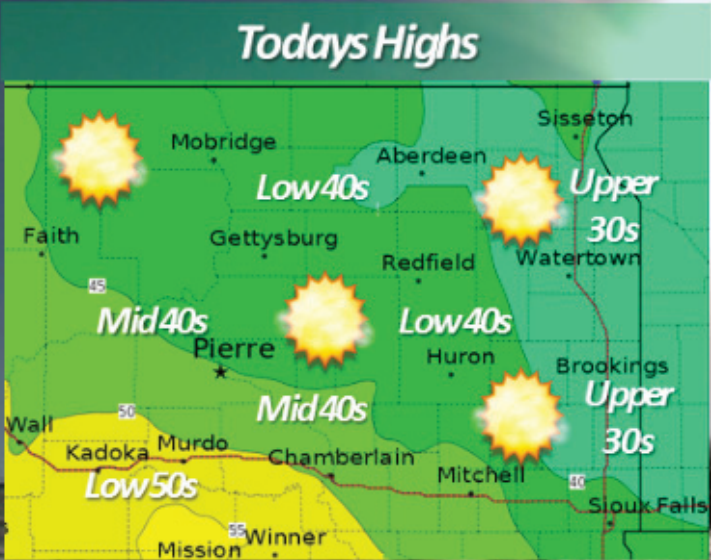
Mild Today

Another Arctic Blast Sunday & Monday




weather.gov/Aberdeen

[National Weather Service Aberdeen](#)

[@NWSAberdeen](#)



Today's Highs

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		
Mid & Upper 30s*	Teens & 20s	20s and 30s
*Falling Daytime Temperatures		

Mild air will hang around into tonight before an arctic blast brings in snow showers and much colder air for Sunday. While we are not anticipating much snowfall with this system, strong winds and snow showers will result in reduced visibility for area travelers. wind and light snow will continue into Monday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 33.2°F at 3:36 PM

Low: 10.9°F at Midnight

High Gust: 33 mph at 3:51 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 65° in 2006

Record Low: -14° in 1895

Average High: 35°F

Average Low: 16°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.55

Precip to date in Nov.: 0.56

Average Precip to date: 21.02

Precip Year to Date: 13.79

Sunset Tonight: 4:57 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:43 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Nov 22, 2014, issued 3:50 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Ryan based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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KNOWLEDGE AND DISCIPLINE

It was obvious to Solomon.

People who want wisdom are willing to pay the price to get it - because they "love" it. There is even a willingness to be disciplined, if necessary, to obtain wisdom.

People who "hate correction" or discipline, on the other hand, are considered "stupid."

"Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid," wrote Solomon. There is a price to be paid for everything: even knowledge. In this verse, the author uses two interesting words to describe the attitude of one who wants "knowledge" or one who is content to be "stupid" - love and hate. Here, however, they are not connected to an emotional state. They focus on the priorities of an individual. If a person wants knowledge, it must be a libeling priority. If a person wants to be stupid, the only requirement is to refuse to learn or be corrected.

Knowledge and wisdom have very similar meanings in the Bible. In fact, they are almost synonymous, are life-giving, life-sustaining, life-enhancing and require one thing in common: the person who wants them, must at all costs, embrace "discipline." To "get" one, wisdom, we must endure the other, discipline.

Interestingly, the word stupid is found five times in the Old Testament. It is used to portray a dense, dumb animal as well as a man who is unkind and runs roughshod over people.

To refuse discipline, then, lowers the status of a person. To accept it opens the door to successful living.

Prayer: How blest we are, Father, for the opportunities You give us to achieve great things. Help us to persevere. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid.

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News from the Associated Press

4 killed and 1 wounded in northeast South Dakota

SISSETON, S.D. (AP) — Law enforcement officers in northeast South Dakota are looking for a 22-year-old man in connection with the killing of four people and wounding of a fifth.

The attorney general's office says the shooting happened early Saturday morning in Sisseton.

The agency says state and local law officers are looking for Colter Richard Arbach, of Sisseton.

A news release says Arbach is armed and dangerous and should not be approached. Anyone who has seen him or knows where he might be is asked to contact the Sisseton Police Department at 605-698-7667.

Arbach is 6 feet tall, weighs 200 pounds and has brown eyes.

The names of the victims have not been released.

Sisseton is on the Lake Traverse Indian Reservation, home to the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate tribe.

SD Gov. Dugaard urging safe Thanksgiving travels

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Dugaard is urging holiday travelers to play it safe on Thanksgiving.

Dugaard says people need to be move "safety-conscious" during this time of the year as traffic is heavier than usual and South Dakota's weather can change quickly.

Two people died on South Dakota highways last Thanksgiving and 39 others were injured in crashes. The state has recorded an average of nearly 210 highway crashes in each of the last four Thanksgiving holiday travel periods.

Dugaard is encouraging travelers to make sure they have a sober driver behind the wheel during every trip.

Hunters in wheelchairs can take part in Oahe Hunt

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The Oahe Downstream Recreation Area near Pierre will be off limits this weekend for a good cause.

The area will be closed Saturday and Sunday so hunters whose mobility is by means of a wheelchair can take part in the annual Oahe Hunt.

It's sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

The event is the only time hunting is allowed within Oahe Downstream Recreation Area.

Entrance into the area is limited to one access road to ensure safety.

Health facilities office to hold Pierre event

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — The Department of Health Office of Health Facilities Licensure and Certification will hold a public hearing on Monday in Pierre to consider rules to provide more assistance to assisted living centers.

The new rules would allow the centers to admit residents who need dining assistance up to needing complete assistance. Public input may be taken into consideration in the drafting of the final rules. The comments can be presented in person or mailed to the state Department of Health.

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Sam Houston slips by South Dakota 93-85 in 3OTs

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (AP) — DeMarcus Gatlin scored five points in the third overtime to lift Sam Houston State to a 93-85 victory over South Dakota at the Coaches Versus Cancer Tournament on Friday night.

Gatlin, who finished with 18 points, nailed a 3-point jumper with two seconds remaining in the first overtime to tie the game at 74 and send it into a second overtime.

Tyler Larson scored South Dakota's last six points of regulation, and made a three-point play with 9 seconds remaining to tie the game at 65. Larson finished with 17 points and 13 rebounds. The Bearkats had a 64-59 lead with 54 seconds left in regulation but they could not stop Larson.

Marcus Burwell had 14 points and Jamal Williams added 13 for Sam Houston State (2-1).

Brandon Bos scored 21 points and Tre Burnette had 13 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Coyotes (0-3).

Friday's Scores

The Associated Press

Volleyball

Class AA

Consolation Semifinal

Aberdeen Central def. Harrisburg, 25-7, 25-11, 25-18

Rapid City Stevens def. Pierre, 25-22, 25-23, 25-18

Semifinal

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Huron, 25-18, 25-23, 25-20

Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Watertown, 25-14, 16-25, 25-21, 25-22

Class A

Consolation Semifinal

Lead-Deadwood def. Pine Ridge, 25-17, 24-26, 21-25, 25-14, 15-10

Redfield/Doland def. Sisseton, 25-19, 25-14, 22-25, 25-20

Semifinal

Miller def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 24-26, 25-22, 25-23, 25-16

Sioux Falls Christian def. Dakota Valley, 14-25, 25-21, 30-28, 25-14

Class B

Consolation Semifinal

Arlington def. Jones County, 25-14, 25-17, 25-22

Kimball/White Lake def. Harding County, 25-19, 25-20, 25-21

Semifinal

Chester def. Sully Buttes, 26-28, 25-11, 25-20, 25-12

Warner def. Parker, 25-23, 25-20, 25-10

South Dakota State edges North Dakota 74-72

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Jake Bittle converted a three-point play with five seconds left and South Dakota State held on to beat North Dakota 74-72 on Friday night.

Bittle was fouled on the shot, and made the ensuing free throw to give the Jackrabbits a 3-point lead. Anders Broman immediately fouled North Dakota's Estan Tyler, who made one of two free throws.

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South Dakota State grabbed the rebound with 4 seconds left and ran out the clock.

North Dakota led 64-54 with 4:57 to play. The Jackrabbits answered with an 11-1 run, capped by Bittle's 3-pointer, to tie it at 65 with 2:48 remaining.

Deondre Parks scored 19 points on 7-of-10 shooting. Cody Larson had 15 points and Bittle finished with 12 to lead South Dakota State (1-2).

Jaron Nash scored 18 points, Estan Tyler had 17 and Chad Calcaterra chipped in 13 for North Dakota (1-2).

Report: Grouse needs 3-mile buffer from drilling

MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A government report with significant implications for the U.S. energy industry says a struggling bird species needs a 3-mile buffer between its breeding grounds and oil and gas drilling, wind farms and solar projects.

The study comes as the Obama administration weighs new protections for the greater sage grouse. The ground-dwelling, chicken-sized birds range across 11 western states and two Canadian provinces.

A 3-mile buffer for the birds represents a much larger area than the no-occupancy zones where drilling and other activity is prohibited under some state and federal land management plans.

However, those plans also contain more nuanced provisions, which backers say will protect sage grouse, such as seasonal restrictions on drilling or other activity and limits on the number of oil and gas wells within key sage grouse habitat.

Some wildlife advocates say too much energy development is being allowed, undermining efforts to help grouse. Such opposition could be bolstered by Friday's U.S. Geological Survey report.

The USGS made no management recommendations, and agency scientists said the buffer distances were for guidance only.

Greater sage grouse populations dropped sharply in recent decades due to disease, pressure from the energy industry, wildfires and other factors.

Now state and federal officials are scrambling to come up with conservation measures to protect the grouse ahead of a court-ordered September 2015 decision on protections.

A related bird, the Gunnison sage grouse of Utah and Colorado, received federal protection as a threatened species on Nov. 12. An adviser for Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper said Friday that the state plans to challenge the decision in court.

The USGS report on the more-common greater sage grouse represents a compilation of scientific studies aimed at seeing what it takes to protect the bird.

It was requested by the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management, which oversees millions of acres of sage grouse habitat and regulates the energy industry across much of the West.

BLM spokesman Jeff Krauss said the agency will use the new information as it works on changes to land use plans that include new sage grouse conservation measures.

The report said a minimum buffer extending to a 3.1-mile radius around sage grouse breeding sites would provide considerable protections for the bird. That radius would equal a circle around the leks covering 30 square miles.

The report suggests a maximum buffer of 5 miles.

By comparison, Montana and Wyoming have adopted management plans for the bird that call for a no-surface occupancy zone of six-tenths of a mile around breeding sites, or leks, in key sage grouse habitat. That's an area of slightly more than one square mile.

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The state plans also limit human activity within a larger area around breeding and nesting seasons. And they take into account cumulative impacts, such as a restriction in Wyoming that limits oil companies to one well pad per square mile in key habitat. That keeps sage grouse habitat intact, Wyoming Petroleum Association Vice President Esther Wagner said.

"That reduces (habitat) fragmentation, which is what it all comes down to," Wagner said. "It's working here."

But Steve Holmer, a senior policy adviser for the American Bird Conservancy, said larger no occupancy areas around leks are needed if sage grouse populations are to survive.

"There really needs to be a hard and fast rule about no occupancy," he said. "When it comes to oil and gas, those have been found to immediately drive out leks if they're too close."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife has determined that Wyoming's sage grouse plan — used as a template for Montana's — is protective of the bird, agency spokesman Theodore Stein said.

Krauss, the BLM spokesman, pointed out that the report offered a range of buffer distances. "There is no single number for an appropriate buffer distance for any particular type of disturbance," he said.

Land managers also need to take into consideration local conditions across the grouse's sprawling, 257,000-square-mile habitat, USGS senior science adviser Carol Schuler said. Friday's buffer recommendation was meant to offer a reference point as more localized decisions are made, she said.

With Rodgers rolling, Vikings aim to slow Packers

DAVE CAMPBELL, AP Pro Football Writer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings have thrown seven touchdown passes this season.

Aaron Rodgers had six by halftime a few games ago for Green Bay.

That's the disparity these days between the NFC North rivals. Rodgers and the Packers have reached a level that most offenses in the league could never attain as they're currently supplied, structured and coached.

"We've been hitting our stride obviously the last couple weeks," Rodgers said. "But it's getting cold now, and we're going to have to have more balance moving forward if we're wanting to make the kind of run we're hoping to make."

Nit-picking, sure, but the weather could be more of a factor for them down the stretch. Traveling to Minnesota in late November used to mean a noisy disadvantage for the Packers at the Metrodome, but for two years the Vikings have become an outdoor northern team just like their familiar opponent across the border.

The forecast for Sunday isn't all that wintry with a high temperature predicted above 40 degrees, so Rodgers probably won't have much trouble rolling to his right and zipping those passes down the field to Randall Cobb and Jordy Nelson.

The Packers (7-3), though, have averaged 32.8 pass attempts compared to 25.1 running plays per game, the uneven ratio Rodgers was referring to.

Coach Mike McCarthy, for his part, wasn't worried about the disproportion.

"At the end of the day, it's about scoring points," he said.

That's a minor issue the Vikings wouldn't mind dealing with. Though they've turned the ball over only once in the past three games, they've been unable to generate any kind of deep passing attack behind rookie quarterback Teddy Bridgewater. Rodgers already has five completions of 65 yards or more. Bridgewater's two longest are 52 and 41, his only connections of 40-plus.

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"I just need to let loose and play football. When I watch Aaron Rodgers play, he's just out there spinning it," Bridgewater said this week. "If he throws an incomplection or a bad pass, he forgets it and moves on to the next play. It's all about having short-term memory. That's something I'm continuing to work on."

The Vikings have been vastly improved on defense this season under coach Mike Zimmer, but they were vulnerable again last week in a 21-13 loss at Chicago.

Jay Cutler passed for 330 yards, by far the most they've allowed all year. Not a good time to be facing Green Bay, considering the 108 points the Packers have totaled the past two games.

"We have a ton of respect for these guys, but at the same time we can't crown them," safety Harrison Smith said. "We're going to go out and try to win."

Here are some key points to know about the 109th edition of the Packers-Vikings game:

DIVISIONAL DOMINANCE: McCarthy is 13-4-1 against Minnesota since taking the job in 2006, including 8-1-1 in the past 10 matchups. Rodgers has 30 touchdown passes and only four interceptions in 13 games facing the Vikings, and his 118.5 passer rating is the highest by any opposing quarterback against Minnesota.

REMEMBER ME? The leading pass catcher last week for the Vikings was none other than Charles Johnson, with six for 87 yards. He was signed off Cleveland's practice squad on Sept. 20 after troubled wide receiver Jerome Simpson was released.

Johnson's first appearance was on Oct. 2 against the Packers, who drafted him in the seventh round out of NCAA Division II Grand Valley State last year. Johnson was signed that season off the practice squad by the Browns, who then discovered he needed reconstructive knee surgery for a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

Healthy now, Johnson was eager this week to face his original team. He believed at the time he could blossom into Green Bay's next standout among many at that position over the years.

"I knew my ability, and I just want to be great and I'm willing to work to be great," Johnson said.

NEVER SATISFIED: The Packers have been so dominant this month that questions have come up about possibly peaking too early, but players sharply dismissed the notion of complacency. Their half-time scores the past two weeks? 30-6 and 42-0.

"You want to keep that going," left guard Josh Sitton said. "It's just the competitive drive that we have."

QUIET JENNINGS: Greg Jennings leads the Vikings with 463 yards receiving, but in three games facing his old team he's hardly been a factor. Against the Packers, Jennings has a total of five catches for 69 yards and no scores. He has been targeted 12 times.

DEFENSIVE PRODUCTION: The defense has been just as active the past two games for the Packers. They have seven sacks, seven forced turnovers and three touchdowns. They lead the NFL with a plus-22 turnover margin.

Noem receives award from SD Farm Bureau

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem has been recognized by the South Dakota Farm Bureau.

The group awarded Noem its "Friend of Farm Bureau" honor.

Scott VanderWal is the group's president. He says Noem's relentless efforts to get the 2014 farm bill approved by Congress have given producers "a strong safety net for the always risky agriculture industry."

The award is given to members of Congress who have a record of voting in support of Farm Bureau issues.

Packers LB Matthews probable against Vikings

TODD MCMAHON, Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Well into his 13th NFL season and with his third team, Julius Peppers is enjoying life as a first-time Green Bay Packer.

"I haven't really had very much to complain about," Peppers said in the Packers' Lambeau Field locker room Friday. "I wake up, I'm happy to come to work every day. So that's a good thing. So far, so good."

What has stimulated Peppers' enthusiasm and also allowed the eight-time Pro Bowl selection to still be highly productive at age 34 is being part of a deep and reliable group at outside linebacker.

The Packers expect Clay Matthews, their young star at the position, to play Sunday against the rival Minnesota Vikings. Matthews is probable for the game, Green Bay's first on the road in nearly a month.

The Packers had their customary day off from practice Friday, but they estimated Matthews would have been a limited participant, as he was the previous two days.

Matthews, whose switch to inside linebacker the last two games has been a boon for a previously struggling defense, has been dealing with a recurring groin injury. Matthews said Thursday he was a little sore after Green Bay's 53-20 rout of Philadelphia last Sunday.

"Obviously we don't work on Friday, that's our rehab day," Matthews said. "(But) I feel good. So I don't think there will be any limitations going into this weekend."

Matthews had to drop out of the Packers' Week 3 loss at Detroit and had a limited role the following week in a decisive road win over Chicago.

Green Bay (7-3), tied for the NFC North lead with Detroit, might need to get more out of Matthews at his natural position in Sunday's game. After starting the last two games at outside linebacker in conjunction with the position change for Matthews, Nick Perry is questionable to play. Perry has a shoulder injury and hasn't practiced this week.

"He's improving," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said Friday. "Just probably get (him) out there tomorrow and get through the practice. It'd be a limited participation if we get to that."

McCarthy added Green Bay's plan going into the game against the Vikings and rookie quarterback Teddy Bridgewater would need some tweaking if Perry can't play.

Defensive coordinator Dom Capers has been using a steady rotation of Matthews, Peppers, Perry and converted defensive end Mike Neal at the two outside linebacker spots since early in the season.

Depending on Perry's status, Jayrone Elliott could work into the mix. Elliott, who made the team out of training camp as an undrafted rookie, missed Green Bay's last game with a hamstring injury.

"It's been great to have a group of guys that can rotate and a group of guys that you can trust to come in and get the job done," said Peppers, who has a team-high five sacks and returned both of his interceptions for touchdowns, including a 52-yard runback in the lopsided win over the Eagles.

"I don't have one doubt or one problem coming off the field," Peppers added. "If I need a blow, all I have to do is run to the sideline and know the next person that's coming in is capable and can get the job done when he goes in."

NOTES: The Packers added DE Datone Jones to the injury report as questionable for the game. McCarthy said Jones turned a previously injured ankle in practice Thursday. Starting guards T.J. Lang (ankle) and Josh Sitton (toe) are probable for Sunday. CB Jarrett Bush (groin), who ranks second on the team with 10 special-teams tackles, is questionable. TE Brandon Bostick (hip) is out for the second

straight game.

AP NFL website: www.pro32.ap.org and www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Asiata out with concussion for Vikings vs. Packers

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — Minnesota Vikings running back Matt Asiata will miss Sunday's game against Green Bay because of a concussion.

Asiata has not yet been cleared to practice. Running back Jerick McKinnon was listed as probable to play the Packers after participating in Friday's practice on a limited basis. Recently signed veteran Ben Tate could get some time at running back.

Wide receiver Greg Jennings took part in practice for the first time this week due to a rib injury and was listed as questionable to face his former team. Also designated as questionable were defensive tackle Sharrif Floyd (knee), left tackle Matt Kalil (knee) and wide receiver Jarius Wright (hamstring).

Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said he expects Jennings and Kalil to play Sunday. Kalil suffered a "minor aggravation" in practice this week of an old knee injury.

"It's been something that's been bothering him a little bit, and I just thought we'd give him a day off," Zimmer said. "He's had good work all week this week, and so we just figured it would be best if we just give him a little extra day of rest before the game."

Zimmer sounded less certain about Floyd, who suffered a knee-on-knee collision in Wednesday's practice. But Floyd was optimistic about playing the Packers.

"It feels good," Floyd said. "I know there's nothing wrong. MRI said everything is good."

Thirteen players were listed Friday by the Vikings on the injury report, compared to only five a week ago.

Patient choice won't affect ACA rates this year

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota residents purchasing insurance during the Affordable Care Act's current open enrollment period won't see additional costs as a result of the so-called patient choice measure voters approved in November, but it's unclear how rates could be affected when consumers start shopping a year from now.

The new policy, which took effect this month, allows doctors to join an insurer's preferred providers list if they agree to conditions set forth by the insurance companies. Supporters said it will give residents more freedom when choosing doctors.

Opponents said the change will increase health care costs, but experts say that won't happen at least this year because insurance companies filed their rates with the state in June — months before Election Day.

That means residents who sign up for insurance through the Affordable Care Act by Feb. 15 — the end of the open enrollment period — will have locked in rates until next year, even as doctors begin taking advantage of the South Dakota policy change and insurer networks begin shifting.

The process for doctors applying to join an insurer's network can take up to 90 days, said Jon Crow, director of operations at the Sioux Falls Specialty Hospital. Crow, who supported the measure, said that means consumers may not start seeing an increased selection of doctors until January.

Under the Affordable Care Act, the federal law championed by President Barack Obama, residents can compare and sign up for insurance policies through an online marketplace called an exchange.

Debra Muller, chief administrative officer of Avera Health Plans, one of three insurers selling products in the exchange, said provider network changes are nothing new. Before the patient choice measure, they shifted as physicians left the state or moved in and set up a practice.

Muller said insurance companies had made their decisions on the price of their plans long before the ballot measure passed last month.

The ballot question split the medical community. The South Dakota State Medical Association — dominated by doctors and specialty hospitals — supported the measure, saying it would help keep intact the doctor-patient relationship regardless of insurance networks.

But health insurers and large hospital networks opposed the policy. They said it would drive up costs because limited networks allow insurance companies to guarantee a certain volume of patients to doctors in exchange for lower fees.

South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry President David Owen, who led the fight against the measure, said prices for people who get insurance through small- or medium-sized companies would likely start to increase as consumers start renewing insurance policies over the next year.

He said that without guaranteeing provider groups a certain volume of business, there are no longer incentives to offer lower fees.

He also acknowledged the confusion surrounding the new state policy, saying: "Prices aren't going to jump up next week, for crying out loud."

Hit-and-run driver in Sioux Falls turns himself in

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A hit-and-run driver who caused an estimated \$10,000 in damage to a home in Sioux Falls has turned himself in.

Police say 24-year-old Jared Klaassen is being charged with hit-and-run and reckless driving. Police say Klaassen was driving a minivan when he lost control on a city street early Thursday, went through a yard and struck the front door area of the home.

Klaassen drove away from the scene. No one was hurt in the incident.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says Klaassen told authorities he had been drinking prior to the crash. But, Clemens says, police do not know what Klaassen's blood alcohol level was at the time of the incident, which is why he is being charged with reckless driving.

It's unclear whether Klaassen has an attorney.

Sioux Falls hospital would handle Ebola patients

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — State health officials have designated a Sioux Falls hospital to "receive and potentially treat" suspected Ebola patients.

South Dakota Secretary of Health Doneen Hollingsworth says her department has selected Sanford USD Medical Center. Hollingsworth says that if an individual is determined to be a potential case, the department will contact Sanford to prepare to receive the patient.

Ambulance services Rural Metro in Sioux Falls and Rapid City Fire in Rapid City have agreed to transport patients to the hospital. These ambulance services have received specialized training and equipment from the department.

Hollingsworth says the department is continuing to monitor travelers coming into South Dakota from West Africa nations affected by the outbreak.

The World Health Organization has estimated the Ebola epidemic in West Africa has caused more than 5,400 deaths.

Cher concerts in Fargo, Sioux Falls canceled

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Cher concerts in the Dakotas have been canceled along with other remaining dates on the singer's Dress to Kill tour.

The 68-year-old singer is continuing to recover from a viral infection.

Cher had been scheduled to perform in late October at the Fargodome in Fargo and at the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls. Those performances initially were rescheduled for early next year, and the venues say the shows now have been canceled.

Ticket holders will be able to get refunds.

AP News in Brief

Analysis: GOP likely left with lawsuit and 2016 election to overturn Obama on immigration

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama has the upper hand in the fierce struggle over immigration now taking shape, with a veto pen ready to kill any Republican move to reverse his executive order, Democrats united behind him and GOP congressional leaders desperate to squelch talk of a government shutdown or even impeachment.

With the public favoring changes in the current immigration system, the Republicans' best short-term response appears to be purely rhetorical: that the president is granting amnesty to millions, and exceeding his constitutional authority in the process. Beyond that, their hopes of reversing his policies appear to be either a years-long lawsuit or the 2016 presidential election.

Neither of those is likely to satisfy the tea party adherents in Congress — or the Republican presidential contenders vying for support among party activists who will play an outsized role in early primaries and caucuses just over a year away.

"We alone, I say it openly, we the Senate are waiting in our duty to stop this lawless administration and its unconstitutional amnesty," said one of them, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas. In remarks on the Senate floor, according to his office, he was channeling Cicero, the ancient Roman orator.

In a portion of the oration that Cruz did not mention, Cicero referred to a Roman Senate decree calling for a conspirator against the Roman republic "to be put to death this instant."

AP sources: Obama broadening military plans in Afghanistan, allowing Taliban to be targeted

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama has quietly approved guidelines in recent weeks to allow the Pentagon to target Taliban fighters in Afghanistan, broadening previous plans that had limited the military to counterterrorism missions against al-Qaida after this year, U.S. officials said late Friday.

The president's decisions also allow the military to conduct air support for Afghan operations when needed. Obama issued the guidelines in recent weeks, as the American combat mission in Afghanistan draws to a close, thousands of troops return home, and the military prepares for narrower counterterrorism and training mission for the next two years.

Obama's moves expand on what had been previously planned for next year. One U.S. official said the military could only go after the Taliban if it posed a threat to American forces or provided direct support to al-Qaida, while the latter could be targeted more indiscriminately.

"To the extent that Taliban members directly threaten the United States and coalition forces in Afghanistan or provide direct support to al-Qaida, however, we will take appropriate measures to keep Americans safe," the official said.

The Taliban's presence in Afghanistan far exceeds that of al-Qaida, adding significance to Obama's authorization. The president's decision came in response to requests from military commanders who wanted troops to be allowed to continue to battle the Taliban, the U.S. officials said.

Officials: Iraqi forces battling Islamic State group after extremist push in city of Ramadi

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi soldiers backed by Sunni fighters launched a major operation Saturday to retake a section of the city of Ramadi seized by Islamic State group militants, an official and residents said.

The fighting focused on Ramadi's eastern Sijariya neighborhood, which the extremist group said it captured the area Friday. An official with the Anbar provincial council described intense fighting there Saturday morning that included both sides firing mortars. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief journalists.

Eyewitnesses there, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, corroborated his account.

The Islamic State group has been trying to seize Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province, for months now. Sunni militants including the group's fighters seized parts of it last January.

The Anbar official also said Islamic State fighters lined up and shot several men Friday from the al-Bu Fahd tribe, which is taking part in the fight against the militant group.

For 1 night on Florida stage, Bill Cosby regains revered status as beloved comedian

MELBOURNE, Fla. (AP) — The protesters didn't show, the would-be hecklers didn't take the bait, the weeks of headlines about sexual assaults disappeared and Bill Cosby, for 90 minutes at least, regained the revered status he long enjoyed.

The show Friday night in Melbourne, Florida, might have seemed destined for disaster for the comedian, enveloped in growing accusations of rape and sexual assault that have derailed his career comeback and crumbled his tour schedule. What he got, though, was an adoring audience that laughed so hard they slapped their knees, shouted love at the stage and rose to their feet as he came and went.

"I think people went in there with him as Bill Cosby from the TV show," said Travis Weberling, 40, of Melbourne, "not the guy they heard about on the news."

The 2,000-seat theater beefed up security and announcements before Cosby took the stage warned a disturbance was possible — radio hosts had even offered cash and prizes to anyone who made it happen. Reporters swarmed the venue. But, in the end, just one protester stood outside, holding a sign that read, "Rape is no joke."

What remained to be seen was whether the evening marked a turning point for a beloved television father, or simply a momentary reprieve. It did nothing to immediately change the fact that Cosby's projects have been nixed and stalled, performances have been canceled across the country and women continue to come forward accusing him of serious crimes.

Kenya police: Al-Shabab militants hijack bus in country's north, kill 28 non-Muslims

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Suspected Islamic extremists from Somalia hijacked a bus in Kenya's north and killed 28 non-Muslims on board after they had been singled out from the rest of the passengers, police officials said Saturday.

The bus traveling to the capital Nairobi with 60 passengers was hijacked at dawn Saturday about 50 kilometers (31 miles) from the town Mandera near Kenya's border with Somalia, said two police officers.

The police insisted on anonymity because Kenya's police chief ordered that officers should not speak to the media.

Some of the dead were public servants who were heading to Nairobi for the Christmas vacation, the officers said. About 20 gunmen ordered all the passengers out of the bus and separated those who appeared to be non-Muslims from the rest and shot them at close range, the officers said.

A shortage of personnel and lack of equipment led to a slow response by police when the information was received, the officers said. They said the attackers have more sophisticated weaponry than the police who waited for military reinforcements before responding.

Flooding becomes new threat in Buffalo area as snow ends; Cuomo says roads remain dangerous

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — After a three-day onslaught that dumped a historic 7 feet of snow on the Buffalo area and killed at least 12 people, the sun came out, but so did predictions of flooding caused by rain and temperatures of up to 60 degrees.

Weather Service meteorologist Jon Hitchcock said there might be trouble with drainage as snow and the uncollected autumn leaves underneath blocked catch basins.

"The biggest flood threat would be on Monday when temperatures are at their warmest," he said. "There could be general urban flooding."

"There's roughly the equivalent of six inches of rain in the snowpack that will essentially be released over two days," Tobe said. "If it was released as rain it would be a monumental storm."

He said flooding would likely affect mostly basements and creeks.

Family, authorities urge calm as Ferguson grand jury nears decision about officer's fate

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) — Activists, authorities and the family of Michael Brown called for calm as a grand jury drew closer to an announcement in the Ferguson police shooting. But it was unclear whether the panel was still at work or when it would render a decision.

Earlier Friday, a spokesman for St. Louis County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch told reporters that jurors were reviewing evidence as they weigh whether to indict officer Darren Wilson.

Five hours later, Ed Magee declined to say whether the panel was still meeting.

The time, date and place for a news conference announcing the decision has not been decided, Magee said.

Wilson, 28, reportedly told the grand jury that he feared for his life on Aug. 9 as Brown, who was 6-foot-4 and nearly 300 pounds, came at him. Witnesses said Brown was trying to surrender and had

his hands up.

Bahrain holds its first major election since Arab Spring-protests erupted here 4 years ago

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Voters in Bahrain cast ballots Saturday in the island kingdom's first full parliamentary election since Arab Spring-inspired protests erupted four years ago, but a boycott called by the country's opposition threatens to overshadow the poll.

A collection of opposition groups including al-Wefaq, the country's most organized and popular Shiite group, is urging supporters to stay away from the polls. Al-Wefaq accuses the government of not taking seriously enough reform efforts and improving reconciliation between supporters of Bahrain's Sunni monarchy and an opposition movement dominated by the country's Shiite majority.

A total of 419 candidates are running for municipal and parliamentary seats Saturday. Any candidates that do not secure more than 50 percent of the vote will head to a runoff a week later.

The elections will determine the makeup of the lower house of parliament, which has limited direct powers but carries important symbolism as part of political reforms begun more than a decade ago. Members of the upper house are appointed by King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, whose family controls most senior government posts, including that of the unelected prime minister.

A number of candidates have faced intimidation, with several having their cars and campaign facilities torched before the vote.

Agency: Schools helped Adam Lanza's mom 'appease' him, mental health issues not well treated

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — A new report asks whether the race and affluence of Adam Lanza's family influenced decisions about how to care for his mental health problems in the years before he committed the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre.

Among the findings in the report, which was released Friday by the state office of Child Advocate, is that Lanza's his parents and educators contributed to his social isolation by accommodating — and not confronting — his difficulties engaging with the world.

The report said recommendations from Yale psychologists that he be medicated and undergo rigorous treatment as a child for anxiety and other conditions were rejected by his mother, who eventually took him out of school.

"Is the community more reluctant to intervene and more likely to provide deference to the parental judgment and decision-making of white, affluent parents than those caregivers who are poor or minority?" the report asks. "Would (Adam Lanza's) caregivers' reluctance to maintain him in school or a treatment program have gone under the radar if he were a child of color?"

Lanza's father is a financial services executive. The son and his mother lived in an exclusive neighborhood in the wealthy bedroom community, 70 miles north of Manhattan.

No stand down order or military missteps in Benghazi attack, GOP-controlled intel panel finds

WASHINGTON (AP) — A two-year investigation by the Republican-controlled House Intelligence Committee has found that the CIA and the military acted properly in responding to the 2012 attack on a

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U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, and asserted no wrongdoing by Obama administration appointees.

Debunking a series of persistent allegations hinting at dark conspiracies, the investigation of the politically charged incident determined that there was no intelligence failure, no delay in sending a CIA rescue team, no missed opportunity for a military rescue, and no evidence the CIA was covertly shipping arms from Libya to Syria.

In the immediate aftermath of the attack, intelligence about who carried it out and why was contradictory, the report found. That led Susan Rice, then U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, to inaccurately assert that the attack had evolved from a protest, when in fact there had been no protest. But it was intelligence analysts, not political appointees, who made the wrong call, the committee found. The report did not conclude that Rice or any other government official acted in bad faith or intentionally misled the American people.

The House Intelligence Committee report was released with little fanfare on the Friday before Thanksgiving week. Many of its findings echo those of six previous investigations by various congressional committees and a State Department panel. The eighth Benghazi investigation is being carried out by a House Select Committee appointed in May.

The attacks in Benghazi killed U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens, foreign service officer Sean Smith, and two CIA contractors, Tyrone S. Woods and Glen Doherty. A Libyan extremist, Ahmed Abu Khatalla, is facing trial on murder charges after he was captured in Libya and taken to the U.S.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Nov. 22, the 326th day of 2014. There are 39 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated while riding in a motorcade in Dallas; Texas Gov. John B. Connally, in the same open car as the president, was seriously wounded. Suspected gunman Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested.

On this date:

In 1718, English pirate Edward Teach - better known as "Blackbeard" - was killed during a battle off present-day North Carolina.

In 1862, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "La Forza del Destino" had its world premiere in St. Petersburg, Russia.

In 1914, the First Battle of Ypres during World War I ended with an Allied victory against Germany.

In 1928, "Bolero" by Maurice Ravel (rah-VEL') had its premiere at the Paris Opera.

In 1935, a flying boat, the China Clipper, took off from Alameda, California, carrying more than 100,000 pieces of mail on the first trans-Pacific airmail flight.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek (chang ky-shehk) met in Cairo to discuss measures for defeating Japan. Lyricist Lorenz Hart died in New York at age 48.

In 1954, the Humane Society of the United States was incorporated as the National Humane Society.

In 1965, the musical "Man of La Mancha" opened on Broadway.

In 1967, the U.N. Security Council approved Resolution 242, which called for Israel to withdraw from territories it had captured the previous June, and implicitly called on adversaries to recognize Israel's right to exist.

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In 1975, Juan Carlos was proclaimed King of Spain.

In 1989, Rene Mouawad was killed by a bomb after only 17 days as president of Lebanon.

In 1990, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, having failed to win re-election of the Conservative Party leadership on the first ballot, announced her resignation.

Ten years ago: Tens of thousands of demonstrators jammed downtown Kiev, denouncing Ukraine's presidential runoff election as fraudulent and chanting the name of their reformist candidate, Viktor Yushchenko, who ended up winning a revote the following month. Iran said it had frozen all uranium enrichment programs; President George W. Bush said he hoped the statement was true but added, "there must be verification."

Five years ago: Iran said it had begun large-scale air defense war games aimed at protecting its nuclear facilities from attack. Michael Jackson posthumously won four American Music Awards; Taylor Swift was named artist of the year; Adam Lambert's sexually provocative performance drew complaints.

One year ago: On the 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the city of Dallas paused to honor the fallen leader.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Arthur Hiller is 91. Actor Robert Vaughn is 82. Actor Michael Callan is 79. Actor Allen Garfield is 75. Animator and movie director Terry Gilliam is 74. Actor Tom Conti is 73. Singer Jesse Colin Young is 73. Astronaut Guion Bluford is 72. International Tennis Hall of Famer Billie Jean King is 71. Rock musician-actor Steve Van Zandt (a.k.a. Little Steven) is 64. Rock musician Tina Weymouth (The Heads; Talking Heads; The Tom Tom Club) is 64. Retired MLB All-Star Greg Luzinski is 64. Rock musician Lawrence Gowan is 58. Actor Richard Kind is 58. Actress Jamie Lee Curtis is 56. Alt-country singer Jason Ringenberg (Jason & the Scorchers) is 56. Actress Mariel Hemingway is 53. Actor Winsor Harmon is 51. Actor-turned-producer Brian Robbins is 51. Actor Stephen Geoffreys is 50. Rock musician Charlie Colin is 48. Actor Nicholas Rowe is 48. Actor Michael K. Williams is 48. Actor Mark Ruffalo is 47. International Tennis Hall of Famer Boris Becker is 47. Country musician Chris Fryar (Zac Brown Band) is 44. Actor Josh Cooke is 35. Actor-singer Tyler Hilton is 31. Actress Scarlett Johansson is 30. Actor Jamie Campbell Bower is 26. Singer Candice Glover is 25. Actor Alden Ehrenreich is 25.

Thought for Today: "Greatness is not measured by what a man or woman accomplishes, but by the opposition he or she has overcome to reach his goals." - Dorothy Height, American civil rights activist (1912-2010).