

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 2, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 131 ♦ 1 of 22

- 1- Rix Apartments for Rent
- 1- Harrs Auto Body
- 1- Today's Information
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 2- City Council Story
- 3- Classifieds
- 4- Weber Landscaping Open House
- 5- Today in Weather History
- 6- Weather Page
- 7- Local Weather
- 7- National Weather Map
- 8- Daily Devotional
- 8- Groton Tour of Homes
- 9- News from the Associated Press
- 9- Andover Bar & Grill

Tuesday, December 2

Lisa Sippel Notice Debate at GHS

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

School Menu: Chicken wings, sweet tots, veggie cups, fruit.

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, au gratin potatoes, peas and carrots, iced honey cookie, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Leonard Garness • Liz Doeden • Cade Guthmiller • Meri Erickson

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

1:30pm: St. John's Lutheran Good Cheer and Topic Leaders

4:00pm: JHGBB at Clark/Willow Lake (7th at 4 pm, 8th at 5 pm)

Wednesday, December 3

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

School Lunch: Submarines, baked chips, baked beans, carrots and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, pineapple/Mandarin orange sauce, peanut butter cookie.

Birthdays: Brook Anderson • Jeff Merkel • Dennis K Larson • Anthony Sippel • Jamie Rossow

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

12:00pm: St. John's Lutheran Ladies Aid/LWML

3:45pm: UMC Confirmation

3:45pm: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation

5:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Sarah Circle

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Luther League

7:00pm: St. John's Lutheran Advent Service

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

Tree trimming practices, form curb and gutter letters challenged at council meeting

Groton's City Council members found themselves on the defensive on tree trimming practices and the form letter sent out for curb and gutter projects.

Kari Bartling, attorney for Marc and Fran Sippel (who were also present at the meeting) discussed the tree trimming practices that the city has been doing. Bartling said that the six trees around Sippel's place "have been butchered and will now all die." Marc said three of the trees have split all the way to the ground. Bartling questioned who authorized the trimming of the trees. "Had my client been notified, they would have hired an arborist to come in and to trim the trees properly," Bartling said. "Under whose authority was this done? I have read through the minutes of your council meetings and no where does it state anything about tree trimming." Bartling was referring to the city ordinance about tree trimming. She said that the landowners are suppose to be notified of trees that need trimming.

Fran said that she was heartbroken when she came home and saw what was done to their trees. "I did some research and you're not suppose cut big branches off the bottom. It affects the integrity of the tree. Obviously whoever trimmed them didn't know how to do it."

Mayor Scott Hanlon said, "Our intentions are not to butcher them. The city employees are doing what they thought needed to be done."

Marc added that the council needs to oversee what the employees are doing and be aware of what is happening ahead of time, not after the fact.

The tree trimming was done because the street sweeper was unable to get close to the curb because of the branches. Bartling disputed that and showed the council a picture of her car parked under one of the trees that was not trimmed. Bartling said that it may be a city boulevard and if the city wants to take over mowing the grass, spraying the weeds and planting and trimming the trees, that is fine. But if the property owner is suppose to take care of it, then they need to be notified. "We need notice and opportunity to be heard," Bartling said.

"We're sorry," Hanlon said. "We didn't want to damage your trees. We will be letting people know that we will be trimming trees."

Bartling said that they will have an expert come out to evaluate the trees.

Stan Monson, Jr., returned to the city council to talk about the price of the approaches. Once again he said that the letter he received stated that the PROJECT would cost no more than \$37 a linear foot. He said that even if he had no control over the price of the approaches, he should have been notified that there is an additional 30 percent increase for the price of the approaches.

Don Weigel, office manager of Clark Engineering in Aberdeen, talked about the history of curb and gutter in Groton and how the city council has shifted from making approaches optional under the curb and gutter project to mandatory. "It's been the practice of the city and Clark Engineering since the second or third curb and gutter project to include the approaches in the project," Weigel said. "It has not been the practice of Clark Engineering to talk to all property owners in the project about approaches. What took place at his property is not different than what took place on other properties in previous projects."

It was clarified that the price was \$60 per square yard and not per square foot for the approaches.

"We're sorry that Mr. Monson did not understand what was going to happen to this property," Weigel said.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 2, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 131 ♦ 3 of 22

City Finance Officer Anita Lowary said that a form letter is sent out to those in the project area. The form letter is a letter of necessity for curb and gutter and has nothing to do about the approaches. "In all reality," she said, "we should be spreading the payments of curb and gutter over 10 years and making the people pay for the approaches up front. The council has been generous in being a bank and allowing property owners to spread their approach payments over 10 years as well." Councilman David McGannon said that the wording of the letter needs to be changed. Monson added, "You mean for 15 years you have required people to put in approaches but you have never told anybody how much it was going to cost?" Lowary said the final cost of the project is not determined until after the project is completed.

After the discussion, the council approved the second reading of the 2014 special assessment role.

Lowary reported during the financial report that the city only received \$208,000 in property taxes as she was expecting \$250,000. She said that there may be more delinquents than usual and that's why the amount is lower. The city has borrowed \$300,000 and she said, "I'm not sure how we're going to pay that back by the end of the year."

During the bills, a question was asked about the price of the well that the city has been paying for at the golf course. So far, the city has spent \$7,800 on the well project, well below the budgeted amount of \$10,000.

The county has marked a three mile radius around the airport to notify the city whenever there are any building permits issued in this area. The city will send a letter to the state Department of Transportation to secure funds for new marking cones for the airport.

The DOT will be having meetings at the Groton Community Center December 3-4 to meet with individual property owners along the 2016 SD Highway 37 project going through Groton. It was mentioned that the school is facing to move the crows nest and the entire fence on the west side as it has infringed on the state's right-of-way.

There are several meetings and conferences that the council granted permission for city employees and councilmen to attend:

Midwest Assistant water school Dec. 16 in Sisseton. Terry Heron and Dwight Zerr were authorized to attend. Federal program through the EPA - first time program offered in South Dakota.

WEB Water annual meeting Dec. 6. There is a position for Brown and Dickey County for bulk rural users that no one has run for. Scott Hanlon and maybe Burt Glover.

Heartland Power Meeting December 16 at Flandreau. Shawn Lambertz and Anita Lowary.

JUTS 20-21-22 in Sioux Falls - Send Shawn Lambertz

Liquor License Hearing - All of the licenses were renewed for 2015. It was also announced that Duane McDonald will be selling Duane's

Classifieds

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.

Apartment For Rent

One bedroom apartment for rent. Main street ground level. Washer dryer and dishwasher big walk in closet 550 utilities included 400 if you pay your own

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.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 2, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 131 ♦ 4 of 22

Sinclair effective January 1, 2015. Matt Amdahl of Webster will be buying the business and naming it MJs Sinclair. That means there will be a transfer for the beverage license at the December 15 council meeting.

The council supplemented the 2014 budget with \$287,920 for the general fund, \$8,370 for Bed, Board and Booze tax expenditures, \$6,340 for Curb and Gutter Debt Service, and \$74,250 for Curb and Gutter Capitol Improvement Fund for a total of \$376,980. This is the authorizing the expenditures that have already been paid.

The 2015 street project was presented by Ken Heir of Clark Engineering. It would entail Fifth Avenue West from Broadway to a little bit west of Garfield. Bids are to be let in February. The council gave the mayor authority to sign a contract with Clark Engineering for \$45,000.

The battle between Jim Stearns and the City of Groton will now go to court. The council gave City Attorney Drew Johnson the authority to file a civil suit against Stearns for the trailer house located at Third Avenue West and Washington Street. "This is a four and a half year fight," said Councilman David Blackmun. "To me, this is the same argument he made when he was down here," referring to a documented conversation between Lowary and Stearns.

The council agreed to move \$200,000 from the electric fund and \$50,000 from the water fund to the general fund and then pay for curb and gutter construction balance of \$46,360.06 from the general fund.

After an executive session, the council hired the following for the skating rink: Justin Olson as the manager at \$8.25 an hour, and workers Logan Lane, Carter Jondahl, Joe Groeblichhoff, Haley Unzen and Jamie Krueger at \$7.50 an hour and Katie LaMee at \$7.25 an hour. After January 1, 2015, Olson's hourly rate will go to \$9 and hour while all of the workers will go to \$8.50 an hour - the new state minimum wage.



Weber Landscaping
is extending its Christmas Tree Open House
Saturday, Dec. 6, 1-4 p.m.
204 N. State St., Groton
Small ornaments- 25% off
Large ornaments- 50%off

Join Mr. and Mrs. Claus for activities from 2-4 p.m. with Smores over a campfire at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Claus and Santa's elves will also be teaching how to string cranberries!

Come get your trees, wreaths, garland and planters and have fun, too!

Today in Weather History

1978: A low pressure center moved northeast from Kansas, causing snow to fall over all of southern Minnesota south of a line from Alexandria to Duluth on the 2nd and 3rd, with the heaviest snow falling from west central and southwest Minnesota to west central Wisconsin. Snow depths of six inches or more fell in southwest Minnesota with 10 inches or more at Marshall, MN. Winds averaged near 20 mph, and temperatures ranged from 5 to 15 degrees above zero while the snow fell, but the snow did not cause extensive problems for the area. Wheaton had 2 inches, Artichoke Lake and Browns Valley had 3 inches.

1984: Snow fell in the central and northeast parts of South Dakota from the late afternoon of the 1st to the morning of the 2nd, with amounts ranging from 3 to 10 inches. The heaviest amounts were in the northeast part of the state with Day County reporting 8 to 10 inches. Five inches of snow fell at Clear Lake, six inches fell at Waubay, Clark, Miller, and 12 miles southwest of Harrold with 7 inches at Redfield.

2005: Heavy snow of 6 to 8 inches fell across much of Jones, Faulk, and Spink counties from the morning to the late evening of the 2nd. Redfield had 6 inches of snowfall with 8 inches at Murdo.

1896: Parts of the Deep South were covered by ice and snow. Six inches was reported in Atlanta and 11 inches in Charlotte. A swath of snow greater than 10 inches in accumulation extended from north central South Carolina to southeastern Virginia. Chester, SC, received 15 inches!

1962: Severe lakefront fog in Toronto halted the Grey Cup Canadian Championship football game between Hamilton Tiger-Cats and Winnipeg Blue Bombers with 9:22 left to play. Winnipeg won the Fog Bowl the following day by a score of 28-27.

1925 - A late season hurricane caused extensive damage across the Florida peninsula, then moved off the Georgia coast crossing Cape Hatteras as a tropical storm. The storm produced whole gales along the Middle Atlantic and Southern New England coast. Winds gusted to 60 mph at Block Island RI, and reached 64 mph at Atlantic City NJ. (David Ludlum)

1950 - A late season tornado killed four persons in Madison County and Bond County, east of St Louis MO. Three tornadoes touched down in Illinois that afternoon, compared to just half a dozen tornadoes in the month of December in 115 years of records up until that time. Thunderstorms also produced hail which caused more than four million dollars damage in the St Louis area, it was the most damaging hailstorm of record for Missouri. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1970 - A tornado, 400 yards in width, touched down about one mile below the summit of Timpanogos Divide. Trees up to 18 inches in diameter were snapped, and some of the 38 inch snow cover was carried 1000 feet above the ground as the tornado traveled one mile. (The Weather Channel)

1982 - A tornado destroyed a home four miles south of Eastwood MO. The owners were not injured in that tornado, but ironically one was killed Christmas Eve when another tornado hit the replacement mobile home on the same site. (The Weather Channel)








1987 - A powerful storm over the Gulf of Alaska continued to produced high winds and heavy rain along the northern and central Pacific coast. Winds gusted to 80 mph south of Port Orford OR, Stevens Pass WA was blanketed with sixteen inches of snow, and Blue Canyon CA was soaked with 1.63 inches of rain. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Squalls in the Great Lakes Region produced ten inches of snow at Union City, PA. Gale force winds gusted to 55 mph at Buffalo NY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Squalls produced heavy snow in the Great Lakes Region. Totals in Upper Michigan ranged up to 20 inches at Ironwood. Heavy snow and high winds caused 150 auto accidents in Michigan, resulting in sixteen deaths and 22 injuries. Strong northwesterly winds gusted to 73 mph at Johnstown PA, and Lowville PA received 20 inches of snow in 36 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 2, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 131 ♦ 6 of 22

TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY
						
Slight Chc Flurries High: 26 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 5 °F	Sunny High: 20 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 9 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 30 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 10 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 27 °F



Warmer, Flurries

Follow us on Social Media

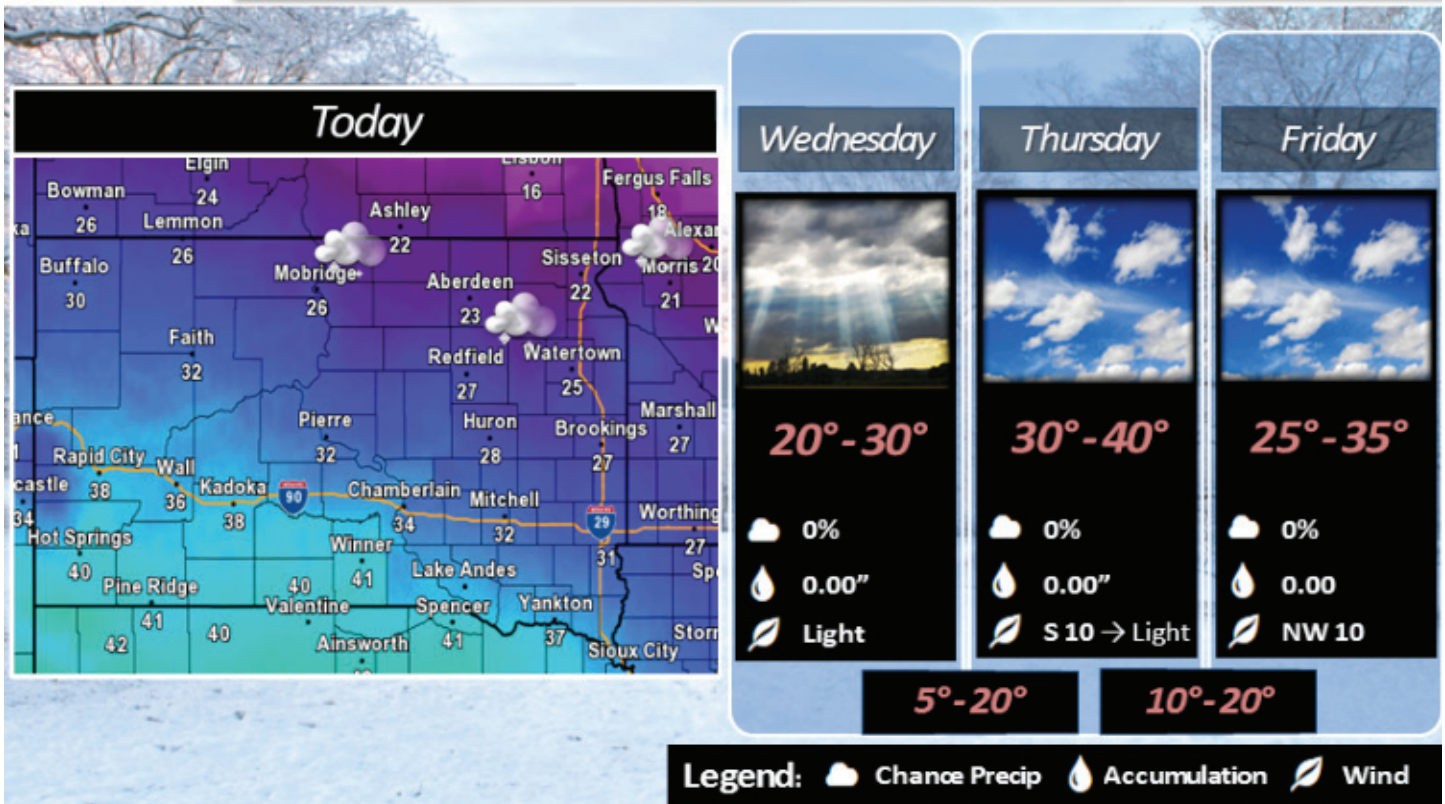
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Winds across northeast SD and west central MN will gradually decrease this morning, followed by the return of a northwest breeze later this afternoon. Flurries are possible across parts of the region, but should exit the area quickly. High pressure and slightly cooler temperatures settle in for Wednesday, but temperatures return to near normal by the end of the week.

Groton Daily Independent

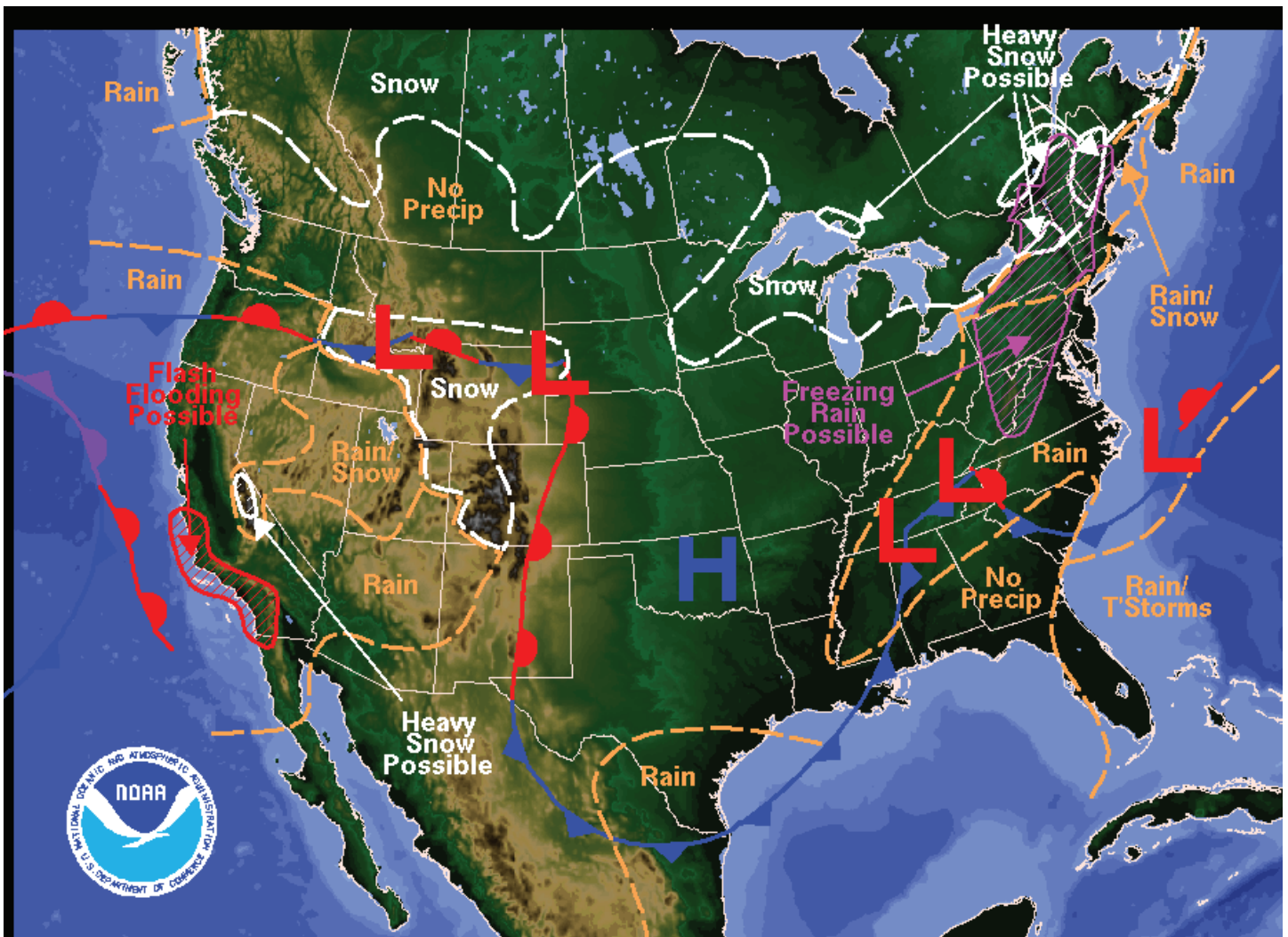
Tuesday, December 2, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 131 ♦ 7 of 22

Yesterday's Weather

High: 16.8°F at 10:44 PM
Low: -13.5°F at 7:04 AM
Wind Chill: -20 at 4:22 AM
High Gust: 40 mph at 11:03 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 56° in 2012
Record Low: -20° in 1896
Average High: 30°F
Average Low: 11°F
Average Precip in Dec.: 0.02
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 21.22
Precip Year to Date: 13.99
Sunset Tonight: 4:52 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:55 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Dec 02, 2014, issued 3:58 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 2, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 131 ♦ 8 of 22



WHAT TO LIVE WITHOUT

A young lady was bragging to her girlfriends about her good fortune. "I have two handsome men who want to marry me, and I can't decide which one to choose. I can live with either of them!"

One of her friends wisely said, "Your job is to determine which one of them you can't live without."

Everyone has a decision to make: Will we accept or reject Christ as our Savior.

When we choose to accept Him and the life He has to offer, we settle our eternal destiny. Once we have accepted Him as our Savior our life will be different. When we turn from our sin to the Savior, we are given the power to live an abundant life that is satisfying and fulfilling and one that pleases and honors God.

Sin is not a defect in our personality but a disease that destroys us. Sin is not an attitude or an accident, but a decision to turn against God. Sin is not a mistake but a willing rebellion against God's laws. God's Word says that "the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life."

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we are eternally grateful to You for giving us the opportunity to choose life through Your Son, Jesus Christ. We ask that You will become the Master in our lives and keep us from sin. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Groton Tour of Homes Sunday, December 7 1-5pm

featuring the beautiful homes of:

Dale & Sandy Carr
Glenn & Wendy Cooper
Jarod & Kristie Flihs
Nikki Kotzer

Refreshments served @GHS.

Tickets \$8 available from Show Choir students, Lori's Pharmacy, Olde Bank Floral 'N More, First State Bank and at the Groton HS Arena on the day of the event.



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 2, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 131 ♦ 9 of 22

News from the **AP** Associated Press

DSU gets grant to help students with disabilities

MADISON, S.D. (AP) — Dakota State University in Madison will use a \$750,000 grant to offer education for students with disabilities in areas related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM.

The five-year award is part of a \$20 million grant the South Dakota Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research was awarded earlier this year from the National Science Foundation.

DSU says faculty and graduate students will look for ways to create opportunities for students with disabilities, including developing fully-accessible STEM courses that can be completed using software.

To broaden the number of students who can benefit from such technology, DSU says it will also create programs to educate current and future K-12 teachers on how to use assistive software to help students with learning, mobility and sensory disabilities.

Packers' defense fends off Brady, Patriots

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Clinging to a five-point lead and facing one of the top quarterbacks in the NFL, the Green Bay Packers defense knew what most folks were expecting.

"You get Tom Brady with a couple minutes left in the game, not many people are going to put their money on us," veteran cornerback Tramon Williams said.

But the Packers' steadily-improving defense delivered in Sunday's 26-21 victory over Brady and the New England Patriots.

They got a third-down sack from Mike Neal and Mike Daniels with less than 3 minutes to play after the Patriots had driven to the Green Bay 20. The defense goes into the final quarter of the season complementing the team's potent offense.

"We've been playing very well this past four weeks," linebacker Clay Matthews said. "We finally seem to be carrying our own weight in light of how well the offense has been playing."

Quarterback Aaron Rodgers is stating a strong case for the MVP award while leading a team that has scored more touchdowns (46) than any team in the NFL.

The defense ranks 15th in the NFL in points allowed (22.3 per game) and 25th in yards allowed (366.8 per game).

In the four games since giving up 495 yards and 44 points in a pre-bye week loss at New Orleans on Oct. 26, the Packers' defense has allowed an average of 17.3 points and 342 yards per game — all victories.

On Sunday, the Packers held

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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 2, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 131 ♦ 10 of 22

the NFL's highest-scoring team to just 21 points — New England was averaging 39.6 points during the seven-game winning streak that ended at Lambeau Field — and 320 total yards.

"I'm hoping we can get as much better between now and the end of the season as you've seen us since the bye week (to) this point of time," sixth-year defensive coordinator Dom Capers said Monday.

"Your goal is always to be playing your best in the month of November and December, for obvious reasons.

"I think over the last five, six years, I think you've seen us play much better the second half of the season than we did the first half of the season — for a number of reasons. I think that guys start to get a little bit better feel of what you're doing, and you start to get a little bit better feel of what the capabilities are of your guys. That's why you see us try to use a lot of different personnel groups trying to take advantage of various players personnel sets."

Among those different personnel groupings Sunday was a mix that left veteran inside linebacker A.J. Hawk on the sideline any time the Packers weren't in their base defense.

Hawk ended up playing only 26 of the Packers' 56 defensive snaps, his lowest percentage since a Sept. 30, 2012, game against the Saints.

Hawk played alongside Matthews at inside linebacker in the base defense, then was replaced by Sam Barrington in the nickel group.

When the Packers went to their dime alignment, Matthews was the lone inside linebacker, a role that Hawk had handled most of the season.

Asked if Hawk, who came into the game having played the most snaps of any defensive player, would continue to have his playing time limited, Capers said that the decision Sunday was based in part on the Packers' plan to match up with Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski. But Capers also didn't say that Hawk would go back to his previous role.

"I would say it would vary from week to week," Capers said. "Again, based off what our opponent is doing, you'll see different personnel groups and different people involved in those. It could change from one week to the next based on your injury situation, who's available. The purpose is to try to get your best 11 people against who they put out there and the matchups."

Several weeks ago, coach Mike McCarthy cautioned that the defense needed to find a way to be successful without relying solely on takeaways.

The Packers lead the NFL in turnover differential at plus-15 — having forced 23 turnovers while only committing a league-low eight — and against the Patriots, the unit got the job done without an interception or fumble recovery.

The Patriots scored three touchdowns, but their other five full-fledged drives ended in four punts and a 47-yard missed field goal following the Neal-Daniels sack.

"I don't think anything breeds confidence like success," Capers said. "I think we've been able to make strides during the month of November. I like the progress that we've made. Now the challenge for us is, we know we want to be playing our best football in December. We've got to continue to press on and find a way to improve."

NOTES: With his team's next game set for next Monday night against the Atlanta Falcons at Lambeau Field, McCarthy gave his players not only a "Victory Monday" off but Tuesday and Wednesday off, too. The Packers will return to practice Thursday to prepare for their first Monday night appearance of the season. . McCarthy said cornerback Sam Shields, who left Sunday's game with a concussion, was going through the league-mandated concussion protocol. Linebacker Jamari Lattimore, who suffered an ankle injury against the Patriots, "felt a little bit better" on Monday, McCarthy said.

Daugaard to give budget address to lawmakers

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Monday that his spending plan for South Dakota's 2016 budget period will include modest growth based on relatively flat revenue gains so far this year.

The governor will release his budget proposal on Tuesday in an address to lawmakers at the state Capitol. The budget plan marks the beginning of the lead-up to the 2015 legislative session, which will start in mid-January.

"We continue to see revenue growth, albeit somewhat less than we had believed it would be when the budget was adopted last March," Daugaard said. "Still, we do have growth that will allow for some modest improvement."

But Daugaard doesn't have much freedom to spend on new programs such as the juvenile justice overhaul that was put forward on Monday because state revenue isn't growing quickly. State budget chief Jason Dilges said South Dakota has seen lower-than-expected sales tax revenue and unclaimed property receipts this year that have contributed to a revenue dip through the end of October.

South Dakota got help in last year's budget from a one-time windfall from unclaimed property, which comes from bank accounts and other financial holdings turned over to the state when owners cannot be found. Sales and use taxes through this October — about four months into the budget year — took in about \$2.7 million less than anticipated, while unclaimed property receipts were roughly \$3.8 million short of expectations. The sales tax is the state's largest general revenue source, but low inflation has held back gains in the state's receipts.

But Dilges said spending for Medicaid and other entitlement programs has been lower than anticipated, calling the situation "about a wash." He said the state's economy is seeing slow-but-steady growth. A tax on insurance companies outperformed expectations, bringing in nearly \$1.9 million more than expected by the end of October.

Lawmakers will review Daugaard's proposal in a Tuesday committee hearing after the budget address.

Committee concludes Benda responsible for EB-5

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A former state official who committed suicide last year was solely to blame for an investment-for-visa program scandal that spawned state and federal investigations, a legislative audit committee said in a report released Monday.

The state Government Operations and Audit Committee's final report said Richard Benda was alone responsible for the controversy surrounding the EB-5 visa program, including hundreds of thousands of dollars in "misdirected" funds. Missing from the report were others Democrats have accused of having a hand in the program's mismanagement, including former Republican Gov. Mike Rounds — now an incoming U.S. senator — and Joop Bollen, a former state administrator who oversaw the program as a public employee and as part of a private company.

Sen. Larry Tidemann, the Brookings Republican who serves as chairman, said the committee could still look into Rounds and Bollen if federal investigations produce additional information.

South Dakota was one of the pioneers in EB-5 financing under Bollen and Benda, a former Governor's Office of Economic Development secretary. The program recruits wealthy immigrant investors for projects in exchange for green cards. But for more than a year, South Dakota's EB-5 program has been investigated by state and federal authorities.

Benda's suicide came as state officials prepared felony theft charges against him in connection with

the financial misconduct, which left the state short of more than \$500,000.

The Legislature asked the audit committee to look into the controversial visa program during the 2014 session. Democrats want a more thorough accounting of Bollen's role in the program's troubles and have criticized Bollen for moving the program under a privately run company he created. Bollen headed the program for the state when he was in charge of the South Dakota International Business Institute at Northern State University. The program was privatized in 2009 and turned over to SDRC Inc., a company which Bollen had founded and served as president.

Bollen disputed in written testimony to the committee his ownership of the company and said that he didn't believe the document linking SDRC, Inc., and the university business institute was a contract.

Rounds was criticized during his campaign for U.S. Senate for his role in overseeing the program and his opponents accused him of being untrustworthy.

Tidemann said the committee will put forward legislation during the 2015 session to require a waiting period during which state officials who leave government employment can't enter into contracts with the state as members of the private sector. The measure is meant to discourage conflicts of interest during the contracting process.

It builds on already instituted measures to correct problems in state government exposed by the visa program. The executive branch has tightened oversight of officials' travel and lawmakers last session passed legislation that allows the governor's economic development office to perform background checks on upper-level staff.

Tidemann also said that chasing after Bollen was outside the committee's authority. He said lawmakers could return to the issue if the pending investigations yield new findings.

But Democrats are unsatisfied. Sen. Larry Lucas, D-Pickstown, said Democrats will prepare a companion "minority report" that will ask the Legislature to appoint a special prosecutor to continue reviewing the program and ask lawmakers to allow the audit committee to continue looking into the EB-5 controversy next year.

"I still think it's our due diligence as state officials to make sure we have covered all our bases in the matter," Lucas said. "Right now I'd say we're about on third base."

Jolene's task force proposes legislative plans

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota should change laws regarding the way child sexual abuse is reported and continue studying how to curtail such abuse, a state task force recommended on Monday.

The Jolene's Law Task Force voted to send policy recommendations to the Legislature that would fund the committee to continue its work in 2015 and to make changes to mandatory reporting laws that would help make abuse allegations clearer. The group's leader, Sen. Deb Soholt, R-Sioux Falls, said that the person who first hears an abuse allegation needs to be involved when it is reported so the account doesn't become jumbled as it is passed between people and on to authorities.

Casey Murschel, chapter coordinator for the Child Advocacy Centers of South Dakota, said that the law changes are necessary because child abuse is underreported and it has long-lasting negative consequences for victims.

The task force was created by the Legislature and is made up of legislators, child sexual abuse experts and other state officials. It is named after Jolene Loetscher, of Sioux Falls, who was a victim of sexual abuse as a teenager and has talked publicly about her story.

Soholt said that the task force needs to take a deeper look next year at how to increase education

about child abuse and to prepare a long-term plan to deal with it.

"This is a very serious public health issue," Soholt said. "It's our children. And for every child that's a victim of sexual abuse, what a tragedy."

Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who will put forward his budget proposal on Tuesday, said he hadn't yet seen the group's recommendations.

Diploma may require passing US naturalization test

JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — If you don't know how many voting members are in the U.S. House of Representatives, or answers to numerous other questions asked of immigrants trying to become American citizens, then you may not get through high school in North Dakota.

The state's first lady joined educators and lawmakers Monday to unveil legislation that would require high school students to pass a 100-question civics test starting in 2016. Immigrants applying to become citizens must correctly answer six of 10 questions that are chosen at random from the same exam, which is given verbally.

"Ninety percent of new Americans pass it on their first try," first lady Betsy Dalrymple said, but noted studies have shown that many students don't know that George Washington was the first U.S. president. "The goal is to know basic facts about our Republic."

Lawmakers will consider the bill when they reconvene in January, but similar efforts also are underway in South Dakota, Arizona, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Utah, according to Sam Stone, spokeswoman for the nonprofit pushing the effort, the Joe Foss Institute.

Stone said most teenagers can identify Lady Gaga or a judge on "American Idol," but only a disappointing few could name one of the nation's founding fathers or a justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Kids have an amazing knowledge of pop culture. We just wish some of this critical information also is what's being absorbed by students," Stone said.

"We want this test to be a first step in the rebirth of civics education," he added. "The more young people know, the more they vote, engage in government and take responsibility about their future," he said.

The questions on the citizenship test include simple civics: naming the current U.S. president (answer: Barack Obama), the number of voting members in the U.S. House (answer: 435) or the year the Constitution was written (answer: 1787).

There's also geography, such as naming the ocean bordering the nation's West Coast (the Pacific), and some history — why does the American flag have 13 stripes? (That's the number of original colonies) — and even tips for staying out of trouble with the Internal Revenue Service (the deadline for filing your federal income tax form is April 15).

The goal is to enact similar laws in all U.S. states by 2017, when the Constitution turns 230 years old, said Stone, whose Arizona-based organization is named after the late South Dakota governor who won the Congressional Medal of Honor during WWII.

The proposal wouldn't impose extra costs for schools because the questions are available on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security website, and individual schools would decide how to implement the test, North Dakota School Superintendent Kirsten Baesler said.

Dalrymple and Stone said the initiative has bipartisan support. Stone also noted that former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Carl Bernstein and actor Joe Mantegna serve on the initiative's board of directors.

"The people who favor this have widely differing political beliefs," Dalrymple said. "But they share the belief that it is important for all Americans to know about the first principals of our constitutional government."

Sioux Falls on track for record construction year

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls is on track to break last year's record for building construction. City officials say they issued building permits totaling nearly \$659 million through the end of November. That's \$8 million more than the same time a year ago.

The city has approved 1,610 new housing units, compared with 1,927 for the same time in 2013. Permits have totaled \$117 million for residential additions and remodeling, which includes roofing.

Sioux Falls saw a record \$588.2 million in building projects last year.

Xcel Energy to raise rates in SD on interim basis

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Xcel Energy is raising rates for its South Dakota customers on Jan. 1.

The Minneapolis-based company says the rate hike will remain in effect until the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission decides on whether to approve Xcel's request for an 8 percent increase.

Xcel says state law allows the company to increase rates on an interim basis because the commission is not expected to decide the case before the end of the year.

The change means the average residential customer will see an increase of about \$8.50 a month. If the commission approves rates that are less than the interim charges, customers will receive a refund of the difference, with interest.

South Dakota sunflower harvest 95 percent complete

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota farmers are wrapping up their sunflower harvest.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that the sunflower harvest is 95 percent complete, ahead of the 93 percent at this time a year ago but behind the five-year average of 97 percent.

The report says there were five days last week that were suitable for field work.

Pasture and range conditions in the state are rated 56 percent good to excellent. Stock water supplies are rated 78 percent adequate to surplus.

Task force: Reduce commitment of youth juveniles

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — State lawmakers should make changes to South Dakota's juvenile justice system to reduce the number of youth committed to residential programs in Department of Corrections, a task force said Monday.

The recommendations from the South Dakota Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Initiative Work Group aim to heighten public safety while reducing state spending, much like the broader criminal justice overhaul the state initiated in 2013.

The group, which included lawmakers, judges, and representatives from the governor's office and corrections department, found that South Dakota had a juvenile commitment rate in 2011 that nearly topped the nation and that 75 percent of juveniles are committed for misdemeanors and other minor violations. The overhaul would shift priorities toward committing only violent and more serious offend-

ers and using diversion options for others.

The task force recommended limiting the time juveniles can stay in out-of-home placement, capping the length of probation and increasing diversion options, such as community service or drug testing.

"The goal is to have fewer youth coming into our court system while at the same time providing more resources for our court services officers to hold juvenile probationers accountable and address their behaviors in the community, rather than expensive residential facilities," South Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice David Gilbertson said in a news release accompanying the report.

The state said that adopting the proposals could reduce the projected number of out-of-home juvenile commitments in South Dakota 64 percent by 2020 and could reduce the number of juveniles on probation by nearly 30 percent. For fiscal year 2014, the state had budgeted \$34 million for the committed juvenile population, spending between \$41,000 and \$144,000 per bed yearly.

The report did not give an estimated total savings for its recommendations.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard will outline his budget priorities — which could include funding for some of the recommendations — to lawmakers on Tuesday.

"Our job is to produce the best possible results for taxpayers at the lowest possible cost, and that's exactly what this plan does," Daugaard said in the release. "It will help get our troubled youth back on the right track while cutting the high cost of the system."

Report: Slow growth ahead in Midwest, Plains

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Slow economic growth is likely in nine Midwestern and Plains states in the months ahead because low crop and energy prices are hurting business in the region, according to a monthly report released Monday.

The survey of business leaders conducted by Creighton University showed an overall economic index for the region of 51.3 in November. That's down from October's 51.8 and barely above the neutral score of 50.

"While I still expect positive growth, it will be down from the same period for 2013. North Dakota and Oklahoma are experiencing the negative influence of sharply lower energy prices, while the remaining seven states are experiencing the negative impacts of much weaker crop prices," said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

The survey results from supply managers are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests economic growth, while a score below that suggests decline.

Business leaders remain optimistic about their prospects over the next six months. The confidence index improved to 61.5 in November from October's 61.2.

"Business optimism supported by improvements in the national labor market and cheaper fuel costs more than offset pessimism from weaker economic conditions in the regional energy and agriculture sectors," Goss said.

The employment index improved to 49.4 in November from 43.1, but it remained in negative territory.

The prices-paid index, which tracks the cost of raw materials and supplies, declined to its lowest level since July 2012 when it hit 56.4 in November. Goss said the stronger dollar combined with weaker global demand has kept inflation pressures down.

The inventory index climbed to 52.8 in November from 51.4 the previous month as supply managers added to their inventories of raw materials and supplies.

Other components of the November index were:

- Export orders improved to 57, from October's 48.8.
- Imports declined to 51, from 52.9.
- New orders fell to 50.7 from 53.6.
- The production or sales index declined to 52.2, from 55.
- Delivery speed of raw materials decreased to 51.4 from 56.

Sheriff: SD priest dies in Montana plane crash

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a South Dakota priest has died in a plane crash in southeastern Montana.

The Carter County Sheriff in Montana says the single-engine Cessna took off from Spearfish on Friday and was discovered Sunday. Authorities say 50-year-old Peter Kovarik died in the crash. He was the only one onboard.

Kovarik was the priest at St. Ambrose Parish in Deadwood and the St. Patrick Parish in Lead (lead).

The Civil Air Patrol was notified of the missing airplane Saturday evening. The patrol found the plane early Sunday by tracing its emergency beacon and alerted a ground search team.

A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman says the cause of the crash is unknown.

Carter County Sheriff Neil Kittleman says the plane might have crashed in heavy fog over uneven terrain.

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. RUSSIA'S TAKEOVER OF CRIMEA LEADS TO ILLEGAL PROPERTY GRAB

An AP investigation finds that pro-Moscow factions have expropriated thousands of assets belonging to Crimean citizens.

2. KURDISH FEMALE FIGHTERS PLAY KEY ROLE IN DEFENDING KOBANI AGAINST IS MILITANTS

"We won't allow the terrorist groups in until the last drop of our blood," Pervin Kobani, the 19-year-old daughter of a farmer who also took up arms, says.

3. OBAMA PROMOTES POLICE BODY CAMERAS

The devices could help resolve the type of disputes between police and witnesses that arose in the Ferguson shooting.

4. THIRTY SIX KILLED IN KENYA QUARRY ATTACK

The group al-Shabab, which has been battling for years to establish hard-line Islamic rule in Somalia, claims responsibility for the killings.

5. LEBANON DETAINS WIFE, SON OF ISLAMIC STATE LEADER

Authorities arrested the two members of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's family who were using fake identification documents.

6. CLIMATE TALKS BEGIN AMID PUSH FOR DEEP EMISSIONS CUTS

The U.S., EU and China have already announced targets for lower fossil fuel use. But other big polluters, like Russia, Japan and Australia, have yet to commit themselves.

7. HOW ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT MAY FALL

The country seems to be headed to early elections as two coalition members accuse Prime Minister

Netanyahu of veering too much to the right.

8. WHO IS NOT RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT

GOP Ohio Sen. Rob Portman says he wants to stay in the Senate to be part of the Republican majority and help break gridlock in Washington.

9. MORE FALLOUT FROM SEX-ASSAULT ACCUSATIONS AGAINST BILL COSBY

The entertainer resigns as a trustee at his beloved alma mater, Temple University.

10. MINDFULNESS EXERCISES HELP TEENS COPE WITH STRESS

Schools all over the country are introducing students to yoga, meditation and breathing techniques to reduce violence and depression.

AP News in Brief

In Crimea now under Russia, change of leaders, nationhood means large-scale grab for property

YALTA, Crimea (AP) — One day in October, a dozen armed men in masks drove up to the gates of Yalta Film Studios. They weren't actors, and this was no make-believe. It was a hostile takeover.

"They forced all the employees onto the ground, sealed off the premises and halted the work of the studio," said owner Sergei Arshinov.

The studio, nestled in the hills overlooking the Black Sea, is just one of thousands of businesses seized from their owners since Crimea was annexed by Russia eight months ago. Crimea's new pro-Moscow leaders say the takeovers, which they call nationalizations, are indispensable to reverse years of wholesale plunder by Ukrainian politicians and oligarchs.

But an Associated Press investigation throughout this peninsula the size of Massachusetts found many instances of less noble practices: legal owners strong-armed off their premises; buildings, farms and other prime real estate seized on dubious pretenses, or with no legal justification at all; non-payment of the compensation mandated by the Russian constitution; and targeting of assets belonging to or used by the Crimean Tatar ethnic minority and the pro-Kiev branch of the Orthodox Church.

In a preliminary estimate, Ukraine's Justice Ministry told AP that around 4,000 enterprises, organizations and agencies have had their property expropriated.

INSIDE KOBANI: Kurdish female fighters play major role in defending town against IS militants

KOBANI, Syria (AP) — On the front lines of the battle for Kobani, Kurdish female fighters have been playing a major role in helping defend the Syrian town from an onslaught by the Islamic State extremist group.

Pervin Kobani, the 19-year-old daughter of a farmer, is one of them.

She is part of a team holding an eastern front-line position that comes under regular attack from the extremist fighters, who have been trying to seize the town since mid-September.

The Islamic State group has declared a self-styled caliphate in areas under its control in Iraq and Syria, governing it according to its violent interpretation of Shariah law. The Kurdish men and women fighting in Kobani are determined not to lose the town to the extremists.

An exclusive report shot by videojournalist Jake Simkin inside Kobani late last month offered a rare, in-depth glimpse of the destruction that more than two months of fighting has inflicted on the Kurdish

town in northern Syria by the Turkish border.

Suspected Somali Islamist rebels kill 36 in northern Kenya; non-Muslims targeted, say police

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Islamic extremists from Somalia killed 36 quarry workers in northern Kenya early Tuesday, targeting non-Muslims just like an attack 10 days ago on bus passengers.

The killings happened in Mandera County near the border with Somalia and the attackers escaped, said Kenyan police chief David Kimaiyo.

The group al-Shabab, which has been battling for years to establish hard-line Islamic rule in Somalia, claimed responsibility for the killings.

Peter Nderitu, who works at the quarry, said a group of about 50 heavily armed people walked into their camp next to the quarry at 12:30 a.m. as the men were sleeping and fired warning shots.

Nderitu said when he heard the shooting he ran and hid in a trench from where he could hear his colleagues being asked to recite the Shahada, an Islamic creed declaring oneness with God. Then gunshots followed. He said he rose from hiding two hours later when he was sure there was no more movement. He said the bodies of his colleagues were in two rows and that nearly all had been shot in the back of the head.

Wife of IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi detained in Lebanon along with her son

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanese authorities detained a wife and suspected son of the leader of the Islamic State group several days ago, and she is being questioned, two senior Lebanese officials said Tuesday.

A military official said the woman and child were detained about 10 days ago while carrying fake identification cards.

Both officials refused to give further details about the woman who is believed to be one of the wives of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the group's reclusive leader. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

The military official said the woman is a Syrian citizen and is being questioned by authorities.

The announcement of the arrest comes amid attempts to reach a prisoner-exchange deal between Lebanese authorities and the Islamic State group and the Nusra Front, al-Qaida's Syria branch, who have been holding more than 20 Lebanese soldiers and policemen hostage since August. They have demanded the release of Islamist prisoners being held by Lebanese authorities.

Obama: Wants to avoid 'militarized' police culture in aftermath of Ferguson

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama said Monday he wants to ensure the U.S. isn't building a "militarized culture" within police departments, while maintaining federal programs that provide the type of military-style equipment that were used to dispel racially charged protests in Ferguson, Missouri.

Instead, the president is asking Congress for funding to buy 50,000 body cameras to record events like the shooting death of an unarmed 18-year-old Michael Brown and look for ways to build trust and confidence between police and minority communities nationwide. He announced the creation of a task

force to study success stories and recommend ways the government can support accountability, transparency and trust in police.

Attorney General Eric Holder announced on Monday new Justice Department plans aimed at ending racial profiling and ensuring fair and effective policing.

"In the coming days, I will announce updated Justice Department guidance regarding profiling by federal law enforcement, which will institute rigorous new standards — and robust safeguards — to help end racial profiling, once and for all," Holder said in Atlanta.

With protests ongoing in Ferguson and across the country, Obama spoke to reporters at the end of a White House meeting with police, civil rights activists and local leaders and acknowledged the participants told him that there have been task forces in the past and "nothing happens."

Carlos on protesting Rams: 'You have a right, as an athlete, to express who you are'

It wasn't so much that the five St. Louis Rams who gave the "Hands Up, Don't Shoot" signal during pregame introductions were using sports to make a statement — it was the sort of statement they made that set them apart.

American sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos set the standard for athletes hoping to take a political message to the highest level of sports — raising their gloved fists while atop the medals stand at the Mexico City Olympics in 1968.

Carlos applauded the gesture made Sunday by the Rams — Kenny Britt, Stedman Bailey, Tavon Austin, Chris Givens and Jared Cook — saying if an athlete "thinks something is unjust, he has the right to say something about it."

"You have a right, as an athlete, to express who you are," Carlos said in an interview with The Associated Press. "People can make their own determination as to whether you were right or wrong."

Carlos and Smith got booed out of the stadium and kicked out of the Olympics. During the racially charged 1960s, their Black Power gesture was deemed too political and divisive, both by a large segment of the public and the leader of the International Olympic Committee, Avery Brundage.

Earth's changes from 1992: 0.6 degrees hotter, 30 pct wilder weather, 5 trillion tons ice lost

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the more than two decades since world leaders first got together to try to solve global warming, life on Earth has changed, not just the climate. It's gotten hotter, more polluted with heat-trapping gases, more crowded and just downright wilder.

The numbers are stark. Carbon dioxide emissions: up 60 percent. Global temperature: up six-tenths of a degree. Population: up 1.7 billion people. Sea level: up 3 inches. U.S. extreme weather: up 30 percent. Ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica: down 4.9 trillion tons of ice.

"Simply put, we are rapidly remaking the planet and beginning to suffer the consequences," says Michael Oppenheimer, professor of geosciences and international affairs at Princeton University.

Diplomats from more than 190 nations opened talks Monday at a United Nations global warming conference in Lima, Peru, to pave the way for an international treaty they hope to forge next year.

To see how much the globe has changed since the first such international conference — the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 — The Associated Press scoured databases from around the world. The analysis, which looked at data since 1983, concentrated on 10-year intervals ending in 1992 and

2013. This is because scientists say single years can be misleading and longer trends are more telling.

Police: West Virginia man fatally shot 4, then himself; his body found in truck in woods

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP) — After fatally shooting four people, setting off an hourslong manhunt and putting schools and residents on alert for an armed man, the owner of a small towing business was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in his truck in the woods, state police said Monday.

The search for Jody Lee Hunt, 39, began about 10 a.m., when state and local authorities warned people to look out for his black 2011 Ford F-150. Hunt was wanted in three separate shootings — two in the Westover area, outside Morgantown, and another in the Cheat Lake area in Monongalia County, state police said.

Officials released the names of two of the victims but little other information until after 7 p.m., when he was found in his vehicle. The truck was in “a power line right of way,” state police spokesman Lt. Dennis Johnson said.

Medical officials will work to confirm the body’s identity, police said, but few other details about the man or the shootings were released. On Tuesday, investigators at each of the three crime scenes will “sit down and piece all those puzzle pieces together and find out how this all happened,” state police spokesman Lt. Michael Baylous said.

Hunt owned J&J Towing and Repair LLC of Westover, according to state documents. There was little activity there Monday, and the door was padlocked. Neighbor Frank Brown said business is usually brisk, especially in the early morning.

Cosby leaves Temple board; student leader says assault accusations ‘dragged down’ school

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Bill Cosby, the popular face of Temple University in advertisements, fundraising campaigns and commencement speeches, has resigned from the board of trustees following renewed accusations that he drugged and sexually assaulted more than a dozen women over many years.

Cosby, 77, resigned Monday from the seat he had held since 1982.

“I have always been proud of my association with Temple University. I have always wanted to do what would be in the best interests of the university and its students,” Cosby said in a statement issued by the school.

The sparse statement made no mention of claims from female acquaintances who say they were drugged and molested by the entertainer, best known as an easygoing TV dad. Instead, the board issued a one-line statement that thanked Cosby “for his service.”

At Temple, an online petition urging the university to cut ties with Cosby had garnered more than 1,000 signatures.

Homeland Security chief faces GOP critics on immigration as conservatives plot approach

WASHINGTON (AP) — Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson is defending President Barack Obama’s executive actions on immigration even as GOP lawmakers work to find the best way to stop them.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 2, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 131 ♦ 21 of 22

Johnson was to appear Tuesday before the House Homeland Security Committee in the administration's first testimony on the issue since Obama announced plans two weeks ago to shield some 4 million immigrants here illegally from deportation and offer them work permits. The action applies to people who've been in the country more than five years and have kids who are citizens or green card holders.

"The reality is that, given our limited resources, these people are not priorities for removal. It's time we acknowledge that and encourage them to be held accountable," Johnson said in prepared testimony. "This is simple common sense."

His testimony came as lawmakers returned to Capitol Hill from a weeklong Thanksgiving break still divided on how to stop Obama.

The issue is tied in with the need to pass a government funding bill by Dec. 11, or risk a shutdown. Conservatives have been agitating to use any government funding bill to block Obama's moves, but Republican party leaders fear that could result in a veto by Obama and a subsequent government shutdown, a scenario they are determined to avoid.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 2, the 336th day of 2014. There are 29 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 2, 1954, the U.S. Senate passed, 67-22, a resolution condemning Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., saying he had "acted contrary to senatorial ethics and tended to bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute."

On this date:

In 1804, Napoleon crowned himself Emperor of the French.

In 1814, French author Donatien-Alphonse-Francois, Comte de Sade, better known as the Marquis de Sade, died in an insane asylum at age 74 after a lifetime of notoriety for his sexual perversities and writings.

In 1823, President James Monroe outlined his doctrine opposing European expansion in the Western Hemisphere.

In 1859, militant abolitionist John Brown was hanged for his raid on Harpers Ferry the previous October. Artist Georges-Pierre Seurat was born in Paris.

In 1927, Ford Motor Co. unveiled its Model A automobile that replaced its Model T.

In 1939, New York Municipal Airport-LaGuardia Field (later LaGuardia Airport) went into operation as an airliner from Chicago landed at one minute past midnight.

In 1942, an artificially created, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was demonstrated for the first time at the University of Chicago.

In 1961, Cuban leader Fidel Castro declared himself a Marxist-Leninist who would eventually lead Cuba to Communism.

In 1970, the newly created Environmental Protection Agency opened its doors; its first director was William D. Ruckelshaus.

In 1982, in the first operation of its kind, doctors at the University of Utah Medical Center implanted a permanent artificial heart in the chest of retired dentist Dr. Barney Clark, who lived 112 days with the device.

In 1989, President George H.W. Bush and Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev held the first talks of

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 2, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 131 ♦ 22 of 22

their wind-tossed Malta summit aboard the Soviet cruise ship Maxim Gorky.

In 1991, American hostage Joseph Cicippio (sih-SIHP'-ee-oh), held captive in Lebanon for more than five years, was released.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush chose former New York police commissioner Bernard Kerik to run the Department of Homeland Security. (However, Kerik withdrew his name days later, citing immigration problems with a former nanny; he later pleaded guilty to eight felonies, including lying to the White House.) President Bush announced that Nebraska Gov. Mike Johanns was his choice as the next agriculture secretary, replacing Ann Veneman. U.N. ambassador John Danforth resigned after five months representing the U.S. at the world body. Dame Alicia Markova, one of the 20th century's greatest ballerinas, died in Bath, England, a day after turning 94. Pulitzer-winning poet Mona Van Duyn, the nation's first female poet laureate, died in University City, Missouri, at age 83.

Five years ago: A day after President Barack Obama announced plans to deploy 30,000 more troops in Afghanistan, leading congressional Democrats said they had serious misgivings but would not try to stop the deployments while Republicans said they supported the force increase even as they questioned Obama's July 2011 deadline to start bringing troops home. Tiger Woods issued a statement saying he'd let his family down with "transgressions" that he regretted "with all of my heart," and that he would deal with his personal life behind closed doors.

One year ago: On "Cyber Monday," perhaps the busiest online shopping day of the year, the Supreme Court refused to wade into a dispute over state sales taxes for purchases on websites like Amazon.com, paving the way for more states to attempt to collect taxes on Internet sales. Actor Christopher Evan Welch, 48, died in Santa Monica, California.

Today's Birthdays: Former Attorney General Edwin Meese III is 83. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., is 75. Actress Cathy Lee Crosby is 70. Movie director Penelope Spheeris is 69. Actor Ron Raines is 65. Country singer John Wesley Ryles is 64. Actor Keith Szarabajka is 62. Actor Dan Butler is 60. Broadcast journalist Stone Phillips is 60. Actor Dennis Christopher is 59. Actor Steven Bauer is 58. Country singer Joe Henry is 54. Rock musician Rick Savage (Def Leppard) is 54. Rock musician Nate Mendel (Foo Fighters) is 46. Actress Suzy Nakamura is 46. Actress Rena Sofer is 46. Rock singer Jimi (cq) HaHa (Jimmie's Chicken Shack) is 46. Actress Lucy Liu (loo) is 46. Rapper Treach (Naughty By Nature) is 44. Actor Joe Lo Truglio (TV: "Brooklyn Nine-Nine") is 44. Tennis player Monica Seles is 41. Singer Nelly Furtado is 36. Pop singer judge Britney Spears is 33. Actress-singer Jana Kramer is 31. Actress Daniela Ruah (roo-ah) is 31. Actor Alfred Enoch is 26. Actresses Daniella and Deanna Carterman are 22.

Thought for Today: "When we cannot find contentment in ourselves it is useless to seek it elsewhere." - Francois, Duc de la Rochefoucauld (frahn-SWAH', duhk doo lah rawsh-foo-KOH'), French author (1613-1680).