

Groton Daily Independent

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JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

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Groton, SD 57445 Home: 605/397-8565



**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

Friday, December 5

State Festival Oral Interp at Huron

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken quesadilla, green beans, veggie cups, fruit.

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, rice pilaf, California blend veggies, peach crisp, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Ilse Cameron • Andy Jondahl • Angela Osterman • Corelea Wolter

Saturday, December 6

State Festival Oral Interp at Huron

Birthdays: Diane Paul Barwin • Maddie Howard • Nancy Sundstrom • Karen Wolter

9:00am: United Methodist Lay Ministry Effective Evangelism Course

10:00am: JHGBB Jamboree at Groton

10:00am: 7th Groton vs. Britton-Hecla

10:35am: 8th Groton vs. Britton-Hecla

11:10am: 7th Britton-Hecla vs. Webster

11:45am: 8th Britton-Hecla vs. Webster

12:20pm: 7th Groton vs. Webster

12:55pm: 8th Groton vs. Webster

10:00am: Wrestling at Clark

10:00am: United Methodist Pastor at Rosewood Court

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, December 7

Birthdays: Megan Weber • Morgan McNickle • Landon Marzahn

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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North Area Honor Band

The 24th Annual South Dakota North Area Honor Band will present their concert on Saturday, December 6, 2014 at 7:00PM at the Thomas F. Kelly Theatre on the campus of Aberdeen Central High School. Dr. Rolf Olson from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, South Dakota will be the guest conductor at this year's Honor Band.

The South Dakota North Area Honor Band was created when area band directors began expressing an interest in providing a regional opportunity for their experienced instrumental musicians. Upon nomination by their band director, students who auditioned for the 2014 South Dakota All-State Band are seated first in the ensemble, and additional students of high caliber complete the sections. It remains the goal of the directors to increase the interest in instrumental performance and to provide a top level learning experience for the more advanced high school band students of this area.

Representing twenty-one schools, approximately ninety students have been selected to participate in the Honor Band. Participating schools and their directors are Aberdeen Central – Jerome Letcher & Jeremy Schutter;

Aberdeen Roncalli – Kimberly Carda & John Patzlaff; Castlewood – Vicki Bjerke; Clark, Lola Bartels; Eureka – Dale Batie; Gettysburg – A.J. Roberts; Great Plains Lutheran – Eric Martens; Groton Area – Reid Johnson & Deb Jensen; Henry – Deanna Martens; Hoven – Elizabeth Bengs; Huron – Larry Petersen; Ipswich – Becky Nierman; Langford – Kelly Wieser; Leola – Nancy Kindelspire; Milbank – Susan Karels; Northwestern – Wendy Thorson; Redfield – Jamie Werner; Selby Area – Sam Glantzow; Sully Buttes – Erica Guthmiller; Webster Area – Patty Baule; and Wolsey-Wessington – Rachel Halsey.

Admission prices for the concert are \$4 for adults and \$2 for students.

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.

Correction to SD DOT Project

There will be sidewalk installed on the east side of SD37 (Not US12 as stated yesterday) from Railroad Avenue, north all the way to US 12, and then turn east for one block to tie into the existing sidewalk on the south side of US 12.

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KRISTI NOEM
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA



I hope you had a great Thanksgiving. Bryon, Kassidy, Kennedy, Booker and I had a wonderful time with the Noem side of the family, but it's time to get back to work. I went back out to Washington, D.C., on Monday and have been working on a number of items that we're looking to wrap up before the end of the year. One of those items is a bill that allows families to create tax-free savings accounts for those who live with disabilities. It's called the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act – or the ABLA Act – and I am proud to have co-sponsored it.

Already, many Americans save for college through tax-free 529 investment plans. The ABLA Act would allow those with disabilities or their families to open similar tax-free savings accounts for medical expenses, housing, transportation and higher-education. Many with disabilities face enormous financial struggles. Easing these strains through tax-free accounts could open new doors for them and their families.

I was proud to join both Republicans and Democrats in passing this legislation in the House today. I'm hopeful the Senate will act quickly so we can lessen the IRS's burden on families soon.

If you would like more information on what the ABLA Act does, please click [here](#) or contact my office nearest you.

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.

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.

School Board Agenda

Monday, Dec. 8, 7:00 p.m., GHS Conference Room

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of November 10, 2014 school board meeting as drafted or amended.
2. Approval of minutes of November 24, 2014 school board meeting as drafted or amended.
3. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...as school of record.
4. Approval of November District bills for payment.
5. Approval of November financial report, agency accounts, and investments.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. School Board Committee Reports:
 - a. Building, Grounds, & Transportation: Lars Hanson, Merle Harder, Marty Weismantel
 - b. Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum: Dorene Nelson, Grant Rix
 - c. Negotiations: Kelly Kjelden, Steve Smith
3. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Report; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Authorize business manager to establish account with Edward Jones to receive funds for the Dick and Gert Ruden Scholarship.
2. Consider transportation request for Robotics students.
3. Approve volunteer assistant wrestling coaches: Lance Hawkins, Randy Kurtz, Baker Harr, Corbin Surat.
4. Other items as deemed appropriate or necessary.

ADJOURN



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!



South Dakota business leaders join Dakota Resources Board

Representatives of the banking and manufacturing industries have been added to the 2015 Dakota Resources Board of Directors. The new Directors each bring to the organization a wealth of experience and dedication to rural economic development. Joining the board in January 1st are:

Kory Anderson, President of Anderson Industries, based in Aberdeen. Anderson is a native of Andover, SD where he began his first manufacturing company. He is now the owner of 3 manufacturing companies with 6 locations across North Dakota and South Dakota. Anderson was in the first Dakota Rising Fellowship class of 2009 and is now an active Alum of the program.

Justin Gray, Business Banking Manager for Wells Fargo Bank. Justin is responsible for Ag and Business Banking for Wells Fargo's Business and Ag Banking operations in Watertown, Brookings, Huron, Madison, Milbank, Dell Rapids, and Marshall, MN. With more than 17 years of experience in the financial services industry, Gray joined Wells Fargo in 1997 and assumed his current role in 2013 after holding leadership positions within Wells Fargo Community Banking since 2010. He has served on leadership boards for the Rapid City YMCA, United Way of the Black Hills, and United Way of Siouxland.

Mark Litton, Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer for BankWest, Inc. in Pierre. A Finance graduate of Moorhead State University, Litton has 35 years of experience in the banking industry, holding his current position since 2004. Mark oversees the lending, sales and branch functions of all 9 BankWest branches throughout South Dakota. In addition to his community involvement through BankWest, Litton has held positions with the Optimist Club, Habitat for Humanity, Elks Club Member, Huron Community Development Corporation, Huron Clinic, Huron Sertoma Club and Community Counseling.

Dakota Resources also expresses its appreciation to David Rozenboom, President of Premier Bank in Sioux Falls; Jim Scull, President of J. Scull Construction Services in Rapid City; and Daryl Ebach, Community Banking District President of Wells Fargo Bank in Aberdeen; all of whom will retire from the Dakota Resources Board of Directors at the end of 2014.

USD to Offer Occupational Therapy Doctorate; Expands Off-Campus Programs in Pierre and Sioux Falls

RAPID CITY, S.D. – A new doctorate degree in occupational therapy has been created at the University of South Dakota, responding to the profession's efforts to move the entry degree for occupational therapists from the master's to doctorate level. The South Dakota Board of Regents approved the new degree offering Thursday.

Plans also call for delivery of an online clinical doctorate for current practitioners and previous USD master's degree graduates who wish to transition to the doctorate-level degree. Regents' officials say occupational therapy programs across the country are moving quickly to doctorate degree programs.

There is high demand for USD's current M.S. degree in occupational therapy. About 150 students apply annually for 28 seats in the program. USD projects it will graduate 28 students each year from its doctorate program after full implementation.

In other action, the Board of Regents approved:

- USD's request to deliver the bachelor of science in nursing degree at Capital University Center in Pierre. USD currently offers a two-year associate degree at CUC, but that program will transition by fall 2016 into the bachelor's degree program. University officials say this change aligns with a growing demand for more highly-trained nurses, especially in healthcare leadership positions. USD expects to graduate 16 students annually after full implementation.

- A request from USD to offer the paramedic specialization within the B.S. degree in health sciences at the Health Sciences Center in Sioux Falls. Offering this specialization in Sioux Falls aligns with the location of most students and faculty and provides improved access to laboratory and simulation experiences for students. An estimated 40 students will graduate with the specialization after full implementation.

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Dorene Nelson with the St Johns, Groton Ladies Aid accepts a check for \$600 from Greg Heupel, Financial Representative for Thrivent Financial on behalf of the Brown County Chapter of Thrivent Financial. The Chapter provided supplemental funds for a Soup and Pie Luncheon held by the Ladies Aid group. The funds raised help support foreign missionaries, seminary students and other worthy causes.

Today in Weather History

1993: Winds gusting to 40 to 60 mph combined with snowcover along with new snow to cause blizzard conditions making travel hazardous across north central and northeast South Dakota. Several vehicles were stranded or slid into ditches. The strong winds toppled a private building under construction at Selby in Walworth County. New snowfall amounts were generally from one to three inches.

1995: Winds of 40 to 60 mph occurred across central and north central South Dakota from the late afternoon into the middle of the evening as a strong area of low pressure in southern Canada pushed a vigorous cold front across the area.

1953: A deadly F5 tornado struck western Mississippi. The tornado crossed the south side of Vicksburg. At least 26 businesses were destroyed, 38 people were killed, and 270 people were injured. Five children between the ages of 2 and 10 were killed when the theater they were in collapsed.

1999: Denmark saw its worst storm on record as 109 mph winds tore through the country and sea levels rose almost 17 feet above normal, ending in over \$134 million in damages. 6 people were killed.

1886 - A big snowstorm in the southeastern U.S. produced 11 inches at Montgomery AL, 18.5 inches at Rome GA, and 22.5 inches at Knoxville TN. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1941 - The temperature at Enosburg Falls soared to 72 degrees to establish a state record for Vermont for the month of December. (The Weather Channel)

1953 - A killer tornado hit Vicksburg, MS, killing 38 persons, injuring 270 others, and causing 25 million dollars damage, the most damage since the forty-seven days of continuous shelling the town received in the Civil War. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Heavy snow blanketed parts of the north central U.S., and freezing drizzle produced a coat of ice up to half an inch thick in northwestern Minnesota and eastern North Dakota. Snowfall totals ranged up to seven inches at Grand Rapids MN, and 12 inches at Seney MI. High winds in the north central U.S. gusted to 63 mph at Pellston MI, and reached 70 mph at Makinaw Bridge MI. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - There was only a "flurry" of activity, as for much of the nation winter remained on hold. The cold and snow of winter was primarily confined to the northeastern U.S. Five cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Norfolk NE with a reading of 65 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - A warm Pacific storm system brought high winds and heavy rain to western Washington and western Oregon. Up to ten inches of rain deluged the western slopes of the Cascade Mountain Range in Washington State over a three day period, and 500 persons had to be evacuated due to flooding along the Skagit River. Up to five inches of rain drenched northwest Oregon, and winds gusted to 71 mph at Netarts. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2003 - A major winter storm impacted parts of the Mid-Atlantic and northeastern United States during the 5th-7th. Snowfall accumulations of one to two feet were common across areas of Pennsylvania northward into New England. Boston, MA received 16.2 inches while Providence, RI had the greatest single snowstorm on record with 17 inches, beating the previous record of 12 inches set December 5-6, 1981. Boston's Logan International Airport was closed briefly on the 7th as heavy snowfall made regular airport operations impossible (AFP).

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TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY	SUNDAY NIGHT	MONDAY
						
Mostly Sunny High: 30 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 6 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 30 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 21 °F	Mostly Cloudy High: 41 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 22 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 29 °F



High Pressure Moves In Today

Follow us on *Social Media*

weather.gov/Aberdeen

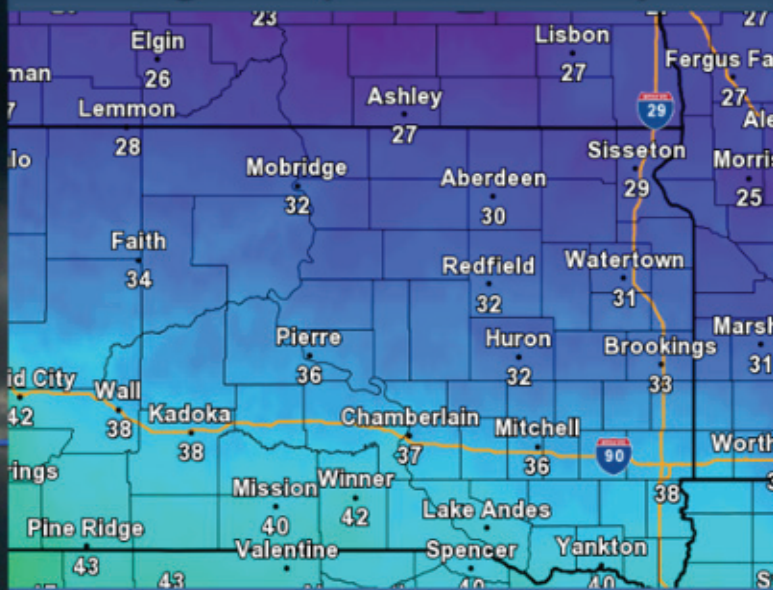


National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

High Temperatures Today



Weather Headlines



Saturday & Sunday:
Increasing Southerly Winds



Early Sunday: Brief Wintry Mix possible for NESD and west central MN



Next Week: Warm Temperatures Persist!

Light winds will gradually return from the north as high pressure slides south today. Overnight temperatures will be cool, dropping into the single digits and teens by early Saturday morning. However, winds return from the south Saturday afternoon, transporting warmer air into the region. There is a brief window for a wintry mix across far northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota early on Sunday, otherwise the forecast looks dry.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 36.0°F at 3:51 PM

Low: 22.1°F at Midnight

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 26 mph at 7:40 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 57° in 1939

Record Low: -25° in 2005

Average High: 29°F

Average Low: 9°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.07

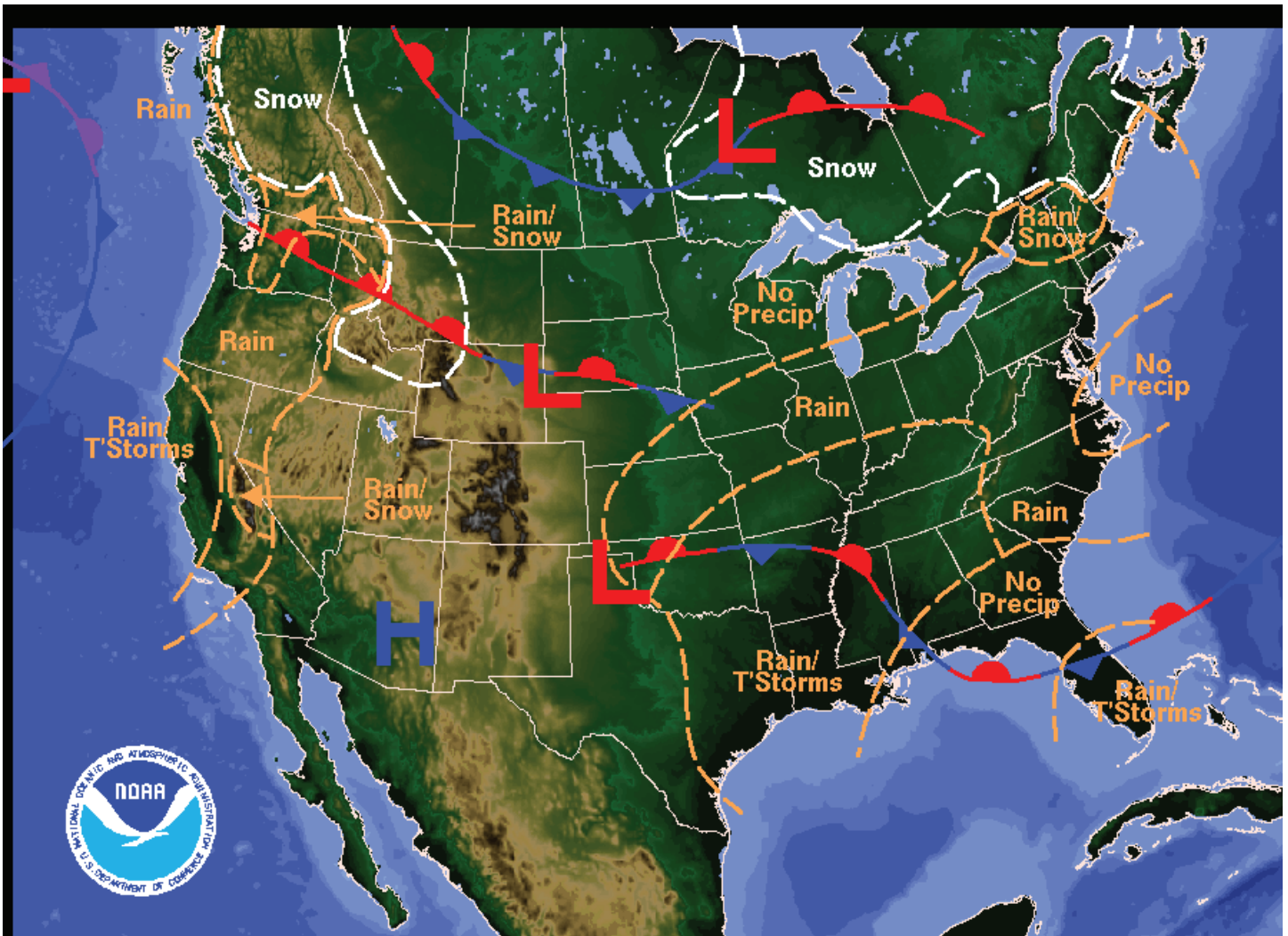
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.27

Precip Year to Date: 13.99

Sunset Tonight: 4:51 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:59 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Dec 05, 2014, issued 3:06 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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STRETCH!

Rubber bands appear worthless until they are stretched. They remain quiet but ready. They come in different sizes and shapes waiting for various types of assignments. Some are thick, some are thin, some are small and some are large. All are designed for specific uses. However, a rubber band is worthless until it is stretched to its limit. Then it will hold things together, keep things orderly and bring chaos under control.

We cannot accomplish God's purpose without stretching. When we bear one another's burden, help someone solve a problem that is beyond their capabilities, wipe away a tear from a saddened eye, give a cup of cold water to a thirsty traveler, we are showing the kindness and grace of God.

Each day we need to stretch our minds and learn something new about our Lord, His Word, His world and His ways. If we remain as we are, we fail to grow into His likeness and the future He has for us.

We also need to stretch our bodies and bring them under God's control. The stronger we are physically, the more we can do spiritually. An out-of-control body reflects an out-of-control life. God expects us to do the best we can with what He gives us.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to take what You have given us and stretch it to the limits of our potential. May we never be satisfied with who we are until we become who You have intended us to become in worship and service. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 2 Timothy 3:14-17 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,

UN peacekeeper in Liberia tests positive for Ebola

JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH, Associated Press

MIKE CORDER, Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — A U.N. peacekeeper who contracted Ebola in Liberia will be flown to the Netherlands for treatment, a Dutch Health Ministry spokeswoman said Friday.

The Nigerian soldier will go into isolation at a "calamity unit" at the University Medical Center Utrecht, according to Inge Freriksen. He is expected to arrive in Amsterdam over the weekend and be transferred by ambulance to nearby Utrecht.

Late Thursday, the U.N. mission announced that the soldier had tested positive for the dreaded disease a day earlier.

The Ebola outbreak has sickened nearly 17,300 people, mostly in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Of those, about 6,100 have died.

Liberia has recorded the highest number of cases and deaths, but with infection rates stabilizing there, the government decided to go ahead with a Senate election this month and police agreed to allow campaign rallies and gatherings. This week, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said demonstrations are impeding efforts to contain Ebola and banned all gatherings. The order, published Thursday, is in effect until 30 days after results of the Dec. 16 election are announced.

The infection of the U.N. peacekeeper is the third case among mission personnel, according to Karin Landgren, the top U.N. envoy in the country. The previous two died.

The mission has so far identified 16 people who came into contact with the soldier, and they have been quarantined, she said. Areas the peacekeeper visited while symptomatic have been decontaminated.

The man will be the first Ebola patient hospitalized in the Netherlands. He is being treated in a Dutch hospital at the request of the World Health Organization, Freriksen said.

The U.N. force, with about 7,700 troops and police, has been in Liberia since 2003 to bring stability after two civil wars.

NASA launches new Orion spacecraft and new era

MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA's new Orion spacecraft streaked into orbit Friday on a high-stakes test flight meant to usher in a new era of human exploration leading ultimately to Mars.

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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The unmanned orbital journey began with a sunrise liftoff witnessed by thousands of NASA guests. Parts of the spacecraft peeled away exactly as planned, falling back toward Earth as onboard cameras provided stunning views of our blue, cloud-covered planet.

"The star of the day is Orion," said NASA Administrator Charles Bolden Jr., back for the second morning in a row. He called it "Day One of the Mars era."

Orion's debut will be brief — just 4½ hours from launch to splashdown, with two orbits of Earth. But for the first time in 42 years, NASA is sending a spacecraft built for humans farther than a couple hundred miles from Earth. The previous time was the Apollo 17 moon shot.

And it's NASA's first new vehicle for space travel since the shuttle.

"Very exciting," NASA's Orion program manager, Mark Geyer, pleased by the successful jettison tests during the flight's early minutes. "We still have a bunch to go."

Friday's flight test brings NASA "one step closer" to putting humans aboard Orion, Bolden said just before liftoff.

Sluggish rocket valves and wind halted Thursday's launch attempt. Everything went NASA's way Friday as the Delta IV rocket carried Orion over the Atlantic on a route over South Africa as it zoomed into orbit.

NASA was aiming for a peak altitude of 3,600 miles on Orion's second lap around the planet, in order to give the capsule the necessary momentum for a scorchingly high-speed re-entry over the Pacific. Engineers want to see how the heat shield — the largest of its kind ever built — holds up when Orion comes back through the atmosphere traveling 20,000 mph and enduring 4,000 degrees.

The atmosphere at Kennedy Space Center was reminiscent of the shuttle-flying days. After more than three years since the last shuttle flight, NASA reveled in all the attention.

Roads appeared to be less jammed before dawn for try two, and NASA was uncertain how many of the estimated 27,000 invited guests returned. Nonetheless, the press site remained jammed, the hotels packed and the excitement level high. "It's a big day for the world, for people who know and like space," Bolden said, observing the crowds.

In Houston, NASA's Mission Control took over the entire operation once Orion was aloft. The flight program was loaded into Orion's computers well in advance, allowing the spacecraft to fly essentially on autopilot. Flight controllers — all shuttle veterans — could intervene in the event of an emergency breakdown.

And in the Pacific off the Mexican Baja coast, Navy ships waited for Orion's return.

The spacecraft is rigged with 1,200 sensors to gauge everything from heat to vibration to radiation. At 11 feet tall with a 16.5-foot base, Orion is bigger than the old-time Apollo capsules and, obviously, more advanced.

NASA deliberately kept astronauts off this first Orion.

Managers want to test the riskiest parts of the spacecraft — the heat shield, parachutes, various jettisoning components — before committing to a crew. In addition, on-board computers were going to endure the high-radiation Van Allen belts; engineers wondered whether they might falter.

Lockheed Martin Corp. already has begun work on a second Orion, and plans to eventually build a fleet of the capsules. The earliest that astronauts might fly on an Orion is 2021. An asteroid redirected to lunar orbit is intended for the first stop in the 2020s, followed by Mars in the 2030s.

The company handled the \$370 million test flight for NASA from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, opting for the Delta IV rocket this time given its heft. It's the most powerful unmanned rocket in the U.S. right now. The entire rocket and capsule, topped by a launch abort tower, stretched 242 feet and

weighed 1.6 million pounds — an “incredible monster,” according to Bolden.

To push Orion farther out on future flights, NASA is developing a megarocket known as Space Launch System or SLS. The first Orion-SLS combo will fly around 2018, again without a crew to shake out the rocket.

NASA’s last trip beyond low-Earth orbit in a vessel built for people was the three-man Apollo 17 in December 1972. Orion will be capable of carrying four astronauts on long hauls and as many as six on three-week hikes.

Dozens of astronauts, present and past, gathered at Kennedy for the historic send-off. One of them — Bolden — now leads NASA.

He called Mars “the ultimate destination of this generation,” but said his three young granddaughters think otherwise, telling him, “Don’t get hung up on Mars because there are other places to go once we get there.”

Occupational therapy doctorate approved for USD

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The University of South Dakota in Vermillion will offer a new doctorate degree in occupational therapy.

The South Dakota Board of Regents approved the addition Thursday at its meeting in Rapid City.

Regents say it’s in response to the profession’s efforts to move the entry degree for occupational therapists from the master’s to doctorate level, which is happening nationwide.

USD also plans to deliver an online clinical doctorate for current practitioners and previous USD master’s degree graduates who want to pursue a doctorate.

About 150 students apply annually for 28 seats in the masters of science program, and USD expects to graduate 28 students each year from its doctorate program after it’s in place.

Police: Sioux Fall woman dies in 2-car crash

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say a 64-year-old woman has died in a two-car collision on the city’s southwest side.

Lt. Troy Lubbers says the Sioux Falls woman was pronounced dead Thursday night at the scene of the crash after nurses couldn’t revive her with CPR. He says she was driving eastbound when she collided with an SUV driven by a 25-year-old woman. The other driver wasn’t hurt.

Lubbers says several witnesses tell officers the woman had been driving down the wrong side of the road at the time of the crash. Authorities are investigating.

Police haven’t released the woman’s name pending notification of her family.

Sheriff: SD man falls onto wires while roofing

PIEDMONT, S.D. (AP) — A man has is being treated at a burn center after falling onto live electrical lines while roofing a house in Piedmont.

The Meade County Sheriff’s Office reports the 30-year-old man was working on the house Thursday morning when he fell. The man was taken by ambulance to a Rapid City hospital where authorities say he was responding to treatment. It’s unclear how authorities were notified of the accident.

They say he was later transferred to an out-of-state burn center. His condition is unclear.

Authorities haven’t released the man’s name.

SD attorney's office collects \$3.6 million in 2014

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. attorney's office in South Dakota has collected over \$3.6 million in the 2014 budget year from civil and criminal actions.

U.S. Attorney Brendan V. Johnson announced Thursday the office collected more than \$2.3 million in criminal actions and roughly \$730,000 in civil actions. The office also worked with other U.S. attorney's offices and the U.S. Justice Department to collect \$625,000 in civil actions.

Johnson says the office collects money to help crime victims and recoup losses to taxpayers. The office is responsible for enforcing debts that convicted criminals owed to the U.S. and crime victims.

Heat stove project underway on Standing Rock

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A pilot project is underway to outfit homes on the Standing Rock Reservation with heat stoves.

Attorney and American Indian activist Chase Iron Eyes launched the "Heating the Rez" effort in February after a woman froze to death in an unheated home. The project raised about \$60,000 through crowdfunding.

The money is paying for the first 21 stoves, which burn pellets made of wood or other natural materials. Home installations began this week. The goal is to help reduce the reservation's dependence on propane, which can spike in price during cold winter months.

The stoves were purchased from Virginia-based England's Stove Works. The pellets are coming from South Dakota-based Deadwood Biofuels.

Iron Eyes said officials will monitor how well the stoves work and then decide whether to expand the project.

Deadwood rodeo wins 11th consecutive nod

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Deadwood's Days of '76 rodeo has won its 11th consecutive Medium Outdoor Rodeo of the Year award from the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

The rodeo announced the award on Thursday during the association's national conference in Las Vegas. The Deadwood rodeo has won the medium-size award every year since the category was created, and it has also won four Small Outdoor Rodeo of the Year nods.

More than 130 association rodeos operate in the medium category.

SD tax officials: Use tax due on online purchases

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota tax officials are reminding shoppers this holiday season that use tax is due on online purchases.

Doug Schinkel is director of the state's Business Tax Division. Schinkel says many consumers don't realize that most retailers are not collecting sales tax on online sales, so use tax would be due.

South Dakota's use tax rate is 4 percent, the same as the state's sales tax rate. Municipal tax may also be due based on where the purchaser receives the goods.

Schinkel says many people assume they are being charged sales tax by online retailers because they are used to automatically paying it on items they buy in storefront businesses.

Tax reporting forms and other information can be found on the state's Department of Revenue website.

South Dakota St. tops No. 25 Arkansas 80-75 in OT

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Macy Miller scored a career-high 20 points and South Dakota State upset No. 25 Arkansas 80-75 in overtime on Thursday night.

The victory, South Dakota State's first victory over a Top 25 team on the road since December 2008, ended Arkansas' 28-game winning streak in nonconference games and its 42-game streak in nonconference home games.

Chynna Stevens grabbed 10 rebounds and scored 17 points for South Dakota State (5-2), including a 3-pointer with .4 seconds left in regulation that sent the game into overtime. Megan Waytashek added 14 points and Mariah Clarin 11.

Arkansas (6-1) was led by Kelsey Brooks' 28 points with Jhasmin Bowen adding 20 and Calli Berna 13. Melissa Wolff had 16 rebounds.

Waytashek scored seven points in overtime, including a pair of free throws for a four-point lead with 29 seconds left. Miller added two more with 6 seconds left for the final score.

Homeless man in North Dakota charged with murder

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Bond has been set at \$1 million for a homeless man in North Dakota charged with felony murder in death of a 57-year-old Mississippi man.

Forty-five-year-old Mark Butts was charged Thursday in Bismarck. He was arrested after police found the body of Richard Everett Glover on a street next to a car about 1:30 a.m. Police were impounding the car, in which two people were seen by patrol officers late Wednesday.

Butts in court said he has no home and is out of a job. He said he was on his "way back to California."

Assistant State's Attorney Pamela Nesvig says Butts has several convictions in the Dakotas and California.

Court records show Butts is from Rapid City. Records do not list an attorney for Butts.

Avera, SD agree on state employee benefits changes

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — An Avera Health hospital in Pierre and South Dakota officials have reached an agreement over the pricing of some specialty services for state employees on the state health plan.

Recent changes to state benefits classify certain categories of health care as "Tier 1" with limited options for the most affordable treatment.

The new benefits mean that state employees, many of whom are based in Pierre, have to travel more than three hours to Sioux Falls and other cities to the east for the most affordable specialty health care.

The agreement announced Thursday between Avera St. Mary's Hospital in Pierre and the state applies to all orthopedic and gastroenterological procedures. The new pricing is effective immediately and will be retroactive to Nov. 1.

SD to receive \$50,000 from Sirius XM settlement

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota will receive slightly more than \$50,000 from Sirius XM radio to resolve complaints about misleading advertising and billing practices.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says the state's share is part of a \$3.8 million settlement that will be split among 45 states and the District of Columbia. The states alleged that Sirius XM engaged in misleading, unfair and deceptive practices that violated consumer protection laws.

In addition to the lump sum settlement, Sirius XM will make restitution to consumers who lost money

due to billing and contract disputes that occurred between July 2008 and August 2014. Eligible consumers should contact the attorney general's Consumer Protection Division. As part of the settlement, Sirius XM has agreed to clearly detail its billing and contract terms.

South Dakota Insurance Director resigning

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Insurance Director Merle Scheiber is resigning at the end of the month.

State Labor and Regulation Secretary Marcia Hultman announced Scheiber's resignation Thursday. Hultman says Scheiber is leaving for "personal reasons" and says she can't elaborate further.

Scheiber has served in this role since 2005. He will step down on Dec. 29. Larry Deiter has been named interim director. Deiter is currently the division's assistant director of property and casualty insurance.

Hultman says a permanent replacement will likely have to wait until after the 2015 legislative session, which ends in March.

Education advocates to pursue more state funding

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota teachers didn't get the break they were looking for in Gov. Dennis Dugaard's spending plan for the state's next budget cycle.

So, education advocates said Thursday, they plan to push for more funding and measures to hike teacher pay during the 2015 legislative session, which convenes in January.

Dugaard proposed about \$50 million in new general fund spending in his budget for fiscal year 2016, with a roughly 2 percent increase — about \$15.4 million — going to schools. School aid would make up about 30 percent of state spending. But lower-than-expected revenues kept the Republican governor from seeking larger spending hikes, and the budget contains no tax increases.

Democrats had hoped Dugaard would tackle the state's teacher shortage. Advocates say inadequate pay is a serious barrier to attracting teachers to the state, which ranks last in the nation for teacher compensation, according to the National Education Association.

"I continue to be disappointed that this governor refuses to recognize the crisis he continues to create for our local communities," Rep. Susan Wismer said. Teacher pay was a splitting point in the governor's race, which the Democrat lost in November. "He's just conducting a war of attrition particularly on our smallest schools in the state."

The average teacher in South Dakota makes \$39,018 — far below the national average of \$56,103, according to NEA statistics from the 2012-2013 school year.

Associated School Boards of South Dakota executive director Wade Pogany said the group will push for a 3 percent increase in state aid to schools and for a measure to increase teacher pay. Education groups put forward a plan earlier this year to do a small sales tax increase in the summer to pad teacher compensation, but a proposal during the session may look different, Pogany said.

A report released Wednesday by School Administrators of South Dakota said the number of potential retirees in 2015 dwarfs the number of seniors studying teaching at South Dakota colleges and universities by nearly 300 people. The number of juniors studying teaching is even grimmer.

Dan Schmidt, who is in a master's degree program for teaching at South Dakota State University, said he would prefer to get a teaching job in Minnesota. A large factor is the pay — averaging \$56,268 — but he also wants to work in a state that values education.

He said the governor hasn't made education a priority.

"Do you want to fly the coop and go cash in somewhere else, so to speak, or maybe stick around and try to change some things around here?" the 25-year-old Brookings resident said. "Is your voice going to be heard? The track record of South Dakota is no."

Daugaard has said the state can't spend money it doesn't have, calling his budget a conservative increase built on a modestly growing economy. He pushed back on some of Democrats' doomsday rhetoric, saying it's expedient to refer to chosen causes in the "most desperate terms possible" to make them a higher priority.

Daugaard aide Tony Venhuizen said Thursday that Daugaard is unlikely to support any tax increases — such as the one education groups have proposed — to fund additional teacher pay.

Republican Sen. Deb Soholt, who chaired the Senate Education Committee last session, said lawmakers would discuss how to "attract, recruit and retain" teachers in the upcoming session.

Crash in Sanborn County kills Woonsocket woman

LETCHER, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota woman is dead after a two-vehicle crash in Sanborn County.

The Highway Patrol says 83-year-old Shirley Ruml was driving a minivan that collided with a pickup truck on state Highway 37 shortly after 5 p.m. Wednesday. The crash happened about 7 miles north-east of Letcher.

Authorities say Ruml was entering the highway from a private driveway when she was struck. The driver of the pickup suffered minor injuries.

It was not immediately clear what community Ruml lived in.

Bird's fate shaping energy development in US West

MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press

MEAD GRUVER, Associated Press

SARATOGA, Wyo. (AP) — Efforts to conserve a struggling species of grouse that ranges across the Western U.S. are having far-reaching effects on the region's energy industry as the Obama administration decides whether the bird needs more protections.

Sales of leases on 8.1 million acres of federal oil and gas parcels — an area larger than Massachusetts and Rhode Island combined — are on hold because of worries that drilling could harm greater sage grouse, according to government data obtained by The Associated Press.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management's delay on the parcels underscores just how much is at stake for an industry that finds its future inextricably intertwined with a bird once known primarily for its elaborate mating display.

The grouse's huge range, covering portions of 11 states and an area more than four times as big as New England, includes vast oil, gas and coal reserves and the best type of windy, open country for developing wind power.

"We're not real happy about it. It's not even an endangered species," said Rick Bailey, who runs an oil and gas lease brokerage, Nevada Leasing Services. He said he's had hundreds of thousands of acres of potential leases put on hold.

Those parcels are among 5 million acres the BLM has deferred in Nevada. Since 2008, millions more acres have been put on hold across Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and the Dakotas, according to data compiled by the AP from BLM records and agency offices including in the West and Plains.

By comparison, about 26.6 million federal acres were under active oil and gas leases at the end of fiscal year 2013 in the seven states with deferrals. That figure is down more than 20 percent since 2008.

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While some in the industry are concerned that the BLM's deferrals are going to dampen or curtail energy development, other developers are launching their own efforts to preserve sage grouse. Whether that's enough to avoid protections remains to be seen.

Sage grouse receive frequent comparisons to the Northern spotted owl, another imperiled bird that stirred a fight over logging in the Pacific Northwest. The sage grouse is more a hapless wild chicken, ducking futilely behind fence-posts as political and economic forces bear down upon its sagebrush range.

Croplands, home development, wildfires and oil and gas drilling consumed more than half that expansive habitat over the past century. Grouse numbers are down at least 30 percent to no more than 500,000 since 1985.

In 2010, federal biologists said protections were warranted, but didn't impose them citing other priorities and a shortage of funds.

The September 2015 deadline to either offer protections or decide they're no longer needed resulted from settlements of lawsuits brought by environmentalists. Whether the sales of leases on the deferred parcels will proceed and drilling will occur could hinge on that decision.

Already the administration's timeline to craft conservation plans for the bird is slipping. Federal officials want the 11 sage-grouse states and multiple federal agencies to agree to long-term steps to protect the birds. The effort includes overhauling 99 federal land-use plans.

"It is a Rubik's Cube of conservation," said Deputy Assistant Interior Secretary Jim Lyons, referring to the vexing 3-D puzzle popular in the 1980s.

Just one of the 99 plans is complete, in a BLM field office in Wyoming, home to almost 40 percent of the birds. The BLM office for Montana and the Dakotas said it's unlikely to meet the end-of-year target to complete some key environmental studies.

Wildlife and energy development advocates expressed doubt whether the Interior Department can meet its timeline. But Kathleen Sgamma with the oil and gas advocacy group Western Energy Alliance suggested it's becoming a moot point for some in the energy industry.

"You've got an industry that just wants to put its head down and get oil. The BLM is putting in place very onerous restrictions that will be with us whether or not there's (an endangered species) listing," Sgamma said.

Federal officials contend there's plenty of drilling opportunities beyond the deferred parcels. "The BLM has approved 6,000 (permits to drill) that are ready for industry to act on," said BLM assistant director Celia Boddington.

Complicating the conservation effort is that nobody knows the approximate number of greater sage grouse. Estimates range from 100,000 to 500,000. One reason they are difficult to count is they're spread across an immense, sparsely populated territory. Also, sage grouse rarely live longer than a year or two.

A tough winter, drought, wildfires or disease can knock a local sage grouse population on its tail feathers. Or abundant rain and snow can green up sagebrush, offering fresh forbs to females as they rear their chicks amid the fragrant shrubs.

At the largest proposed wind power project in the U.S. in Saratoga, Wyoming, developers are drawing from four years of sage grouse research to decide where to put service roads and turbines.

Consultants for the 1,000-turbine Chokecherry-Sierra Madre wind farm have been using transmitters to track hundreds of sage grouse. They want to figure out the birds' patterns, including where they gather for mating rituals that could be disrupted if construction comes too close.

"Knowing what those are for the population is hugely important for us to try to minimize those im-

pacts," said Jon Kehmeier, an ecologist contracted for the research by the Power Company of Wyoming.

North Dakota power plant off line after fire

BEULAH, N.D. (AP) — No one was hurt in a fire at the Coyote Station power plant near Beulah in western North Dakota.

Minnesota-based Otter Tail Power Co. says in a statement that a mechanical failure about 5 a.m. Thursday led to the fire. The cause of the equipment failure was not immediately determined.

Vice president Jan Rudolf says Otter Tail is still assessing the damage. The plant is off line in the meantime. The company doesn't know for how long.

Coyote Station generates power for Otter Tail and for Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., Northern Municipal Power Agency and NorthWestern Energy.

Otter Tail provides electricity and energy services to more than a quarter million people in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

SDSU senior eyes FCS rushing record, win over NDSU

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — South Dakota State's Zach Zenner is one typical game away from setting the all-time Football Championship Subdivision record for rushing. He also has some unfinished business against rival North Dakota State.

The senior from Eagan, Minnesota, has averaged 6 yards per run in his career and is 145 yards away from breaking the 6,559 yard record set by Adrian Peterson of Georgia Southern — not the one who plays for the Minnesota Vikings — from 1998-2001.

But against NDSU, he has averaged less than 4 yards per run and the Jackrabbits have yet to beat the Bison in that span.

Zenner has one last chance Saturday when SDSU faces the three-time defending FCS national champion in a second-round playoff game at the Fargodome.

"We're certainly aware of it, but that's not really the focus," Zenner said of his winless mark against the Bison. "The focus is to win this time."

The Bison defense has made life difficult for most running backs, Zenner said, not just him. NDSU is allowing just 11.6 points per game and has the stingiest scoring defense in the FCS for the fourth straight season.

During the regular-season 37-17 loss to NDSU in Fargo, Zenner ran for 96 yards on 17 attempts, topping his previous best against the Bison by 50 yards. Before that, he averaged 11 carries for 32 yards against NDSU; the worst showing was 2013 with eight carries for four yards.

Bison end Kyle Emanuel, the defensive player of the year in the Missouri Valley Football Conference, said Zenner can break tackles and make defenders pay if they're out of position.

"I've said it 10 times. He'll beat you if you're not where you need to be. It can be as simple that," Emanuel said. "He's a great player and if you're where you need to be, if you hit your gap and you make a tackle, which is easier said than done, you'll be fine."

Zenner has rushed the ball a whopping 1,063 times in his career for a total of 6,415 yards. He has 31 games of at least 100 yards and eight games of at least 200. Plus, he has 8,075 multi-purpose yards, nearly 2,500 yards more than the previous conference record.

Zenner said he was surprised to learn he was close to an FCS rushing record.

"It's kind of like, that's cool ... but that's not why I do what I do," Zenner said. "That's not why I work

hard on the field and off. It's for my teammates, and trying to get wins and trying to go farther in the playoffs."

Bison linebacker Carlton Littlejohn, who also grew up in the Minneapolis area, said he's followed Zenner's career for a long time.

"Coming out of high school I knew him and knew he was a good athlete and a good kid," Littlejohn said. "I just have a lot of respect for him for what he's done throughout his college career."

Zenner would like to play pro football but calls medicine his true passion. He has a 3.86 grade point average in biology and has interviewed with three medical schools.

"The pro scouts have told us that he's got a chance and he wants to pursue that," SDSU coach John Stiegelmeier said. "But he'll be a doctor someday, either way you slice it. If he plays 15 years in the NFL, I guarantee you he'll go on because that's the type of guy he is."

Wild Card 2 tickets in Yankton, Herreid worth \$6K

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Wild Card 2 tickets sold in Yankton and Herreid each are worth \$6,000 in the latest drawing.

South Dakota lottery officials say the tickets matched all five white ball numbers but missed the Wild Card in Wednesday's drawing to win the game's second prize. The odds of winning it are 1 in about 127,000.

The ticket holders have about six months to claim their winnings.

Wild Card 2 is played in the Dakotas, Montana and Idaho. The jackpot is at \$295,000 for the next drawing, on Saturday.

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. POLICE CASES CONVERGE TO STIR NATIONAL DEBATE

Thousands of diverse demonstrators protest for a second night around the U.S. after a New York grand jury cleared a white police officer in the chokehold death of Eric Garner.

2. EXPERTS: CAMERAS WORN BY POLICE NO SURE THING

Police officers in one of every six departments around the country wear tiny cameras. Yet even with video evidence, experts say grand juries usually side with officers.

3. NASA LAUNCHES NEW SPACECRAFT

Orion streaks toward orbit on a high-stakes test flight meant to usher in a new era of human exploration leading ultimately to Mars.

4. IN KENYA, POLICE KILL SUSPECTS WITH NEAR-IMPUNITY

Evidence is mounting that many ordinary cops on the beat have turned into killers — doling out death to terror suspects, civilians, even children.

5. ARRESTS MADE IN BALKAN WAR MASSACRE

Police in Serbia and Bosnia detain 15 people in an atrocity that traumatized the region and came to symbolize a culture of impunity.

6. DEFENSE SECRETARY NOMINEE BRINGS DIFFERENT OUTLOOK

AP's Robert Burns says how Ashton Carter would pursue Obama's defense agenda — or use his influence to bend it in new directions — is not readily apparent.

7. ABUSED WOMEN FACE LONELY STRUGGLE IN PAKISTAN

Domestic violence in the Muslim-majority country is still widely seen as a private matter, with police and prosecutors showing little interest in pursuing perpetrators.

8. 'OBAMACARE' COSTS GOING UP, ADMINISTRATION WARNS

Premiums for the most popular type of plan will rise an average of 5 percent in many states this year — and another 5 percent in 2015.

9. BILL COSBY COUNTERS SEX-ASSAULT CLAIM

A California woman's lawsuit was filed only after her lawyer failed to extort \$250,000 from the TV icon, the entertainer's attorney says.

10. HOW 'BOUT THEM COWBOYS

DeMarco Murray runs for 179 yards and a touchdown, Tony Romo throws for three scores and Dallas beat the Chicago Bears 41-28.

AP News in Brief

Police cases unite diverse demonstrators; stir national debate and protests

NEW YORK (AP) — Grandparents brought their grandchildren. Experienced activists marched alongside newcomers. And black and brown protesters chanted slogans with whites.

In New York City and around the country thousands and thousands of diverse people united by anger over a grand jury clearing a white police officer in the chokehold death of an unarmed black man took to the streets for a second night.

"We're under siege and it has to stop," Harlem resident Judy Edwards said at a rally Thursday night in lower Manhattan's Foley Square, surrounded by courthouses and other official buildings.

The 61-year-old black woman was accompanied by her daughter and twin 10-year-old grandchildren, a boy and a girl. She said it was important to her that the children saw a crowd that was racially mixed and diverse in many other ways all insisting upon the same thing — that something must be done.

That was the message, too, in cities across America: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Minneapolis and Washington, D.C., among them. Sign-carrying, chanting demonstrators marched down heavily-traveled streets and shut down highways and bridges. Politicians talked about the need for better police training, body cameras and changes in the grand jury process to restore faith in the legal system.

Cameras worn by police don't account for state law and jury sentiments supporting police

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Police body cameras have become a rallying cry in the wake of racially charged decisions by grand juries in Ferguson, Missouri, and New York City, but experts caution that increased use of the devices may raise more questions than answers.

Often what is filmed may appear excessive to a person unfamiliar with police work, even though the conduct may be legal.

"There's this saying in policing: 'It's lawful, but awful.' It's technically legal to do that, but it's a terrible thing to do ... We have to work on the awful piece, that's what we need to focus on," said Jim Bueermann, who heads the nonprofit Police Foundation.

Officers in one of every six departments around the country now patrol with tiny cameras on their chests, lapels or sunglasses. And President Barack Obama wants to spend \$74 million to equip another 50,000 with them around the country.

A camera captured a white New York police officer applying a chokehold that led to the death of Eric Garner, an unarmed black man. In Ferguson, Missouri, there was no camera showing what happened when a white police officer fatally shot Michael Brown, a black man.

Kenya police brutality turns beat cops into killers; deaths spread fear and may fan terror

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — In Kenya, where the police have long been known to harbor death squads, evidence mounts that many ordinary cops on the beat have turned into killers — doling out death to terror suspects, civilians, even children.

And shakedown victims like three cable guys who, on one hot day on a dusty street corner of a sprawling Nairobi slum, pleaded with police for a break.

They earned their living installing pirated cable, giving locals an illegal discount on Latin American soap operas and British soccer. But earlier that day, two plainclothes officers had confiscated their equipment, demanding a bribe for its return.

The police wanted 50,000 Kenyan shillings, roughly \$550. When the cable guys said they only had \$230, the officers threatened them, said Mohammed Gulow, the oldest of the three.

"He told us we are going to see fire and returned to the car," said Gulow, 34. "We soon saw fire."

APNewsBreak: Arrests made in decades-old cold case from Balkan wars that traumatized region

PRIJEPOLJE, Serbia (AP) — Police in Serbia and Bosnia arrested 15 people Friday in a wartime massacre that traumatized the Balkans and came to symbolize a culture of impunity that still shields notorious wartime death squads and their masters.

Prosecutors from the two bitter wartime enemy countries told The Associated Press they worked together to crack the case of the Strpci massacre of Feb. 27, 1993, in which 19 men were snatched off a train at the height of the Balkan conflict.

Officers carried out a pre-dawn sweep that netted 10 suspects in Bosnia and five in Serbia, including the brother of a jailed warlord, ex-militia members and a former Bosnian Serb general who commanded the military in the area.

"We are now on the path to solve the murder that has been hidden for more than 20 years," said Serbian war crimes prosecutor Bruno Vekaric. "We have to do it for the innocent victims."

There was no comment from the jailed suspects or their lawyers.

Thousands flee as weakened typhoon nears east Philippines; erratic path puts Manila on alert

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A ferocious and dangerously erratic typhoon blew closer to the Philippines Friday, as differing forecasts about its path — one predicting it will graze the capital Manila — prompted a much wider swath of the country to prepare for a weekend of destructive winds and rain.

Typhoon Hagupit — Filipino for "Smash" — was expected to blast in from the Pacific Ocean into central

Philippines late Saturday, lashing parts of a region that was devastated by last year's Typhoon Haiyan and left more than 7,300 people dead and missing. Still, the good news was that the typhoon was weakening as it blew closer to the coast.

"I'm scared," said Haiyan survivor Jojo Moro. "I'm praying to God not to let another disaster strike us again. We haven't recovered from the first."

The 42-year-old businessman who lost his wife, daughter and mother last year in central Tacloban city, said he stocked up on sardines, instant noodles, eggs and water.

At least 47 of the country's 81 provinces are considered potentially at high risk from Hagupit, officials said. The first one in its path is the Eastern Samar province where it will make landfall. It is then expected to cut across central islands along a route north. But its path thereafter is debatable.

As academic, Carter would bring different outlook to Pentagon, but policy influence unclear

WASHINGTON (AP) — The experiences that Ashton Carter would bring to the job of defense secretary are vastly different from Chuck Hagel's in several important ways, starting with the fact that Carter is an academic and a policy wonk.

How Carter would pursue President Barack Obama's defense agenda — or use his influence to bend it in new directions — is less obvious.

Obama was to announce Friday that he will nominate Carter as Hagel's successor. Carter would, if confirmed by the Senate, be the fourth Pentagon chief of Obama's presidency, following Robert Gates, Leon Panetta and Hagel.

Carter has left an extensive paper trail from his many years in Washington, including three stints at the Pentagon, a trail that suggests a sometimes hard-nosed view of policy puzzles like North Korea and Russia.

In 1999 Carter and former Defense Secretary William Perry co-wrote a book, "Preventive Defense," spelling out dangers that, if mismanaged, could grow into "true A-list-scale threats" to the U.S.

To make dent in climate problem, action is needed by the countries with biggest emissions

WASHINGTON (AP) — Six countries produce nearly 60 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions. China and the United States combine for more than two-fifths. The planet's future will be shaped by what these top carbon polluters do about the heat-trapping gases blamed for global warming.

How they rank, what they're doing:

CHINA

It emits nearly twice the amount of greenhouse gases as the United States, which it surpassed in 2006 as the top emitter of carbon dioxide. China accounts for about 30 percent of global emissions. U.S. government estimates show China doubling its emissions by 2040, barring major changes. Hugely reliant on fossil fuels for electricity and steel production, China until recently was reluctant to set firm targets for emissions, which continue to rise, although at a slower rate. That changed when Beijing announced last month in a deal with Washington that it would stem greenhouse gas emission growth by 2030. About a week later, China's Cabinet announced a coal consumption cap by 2020 at about 62 percent of the energy mix. While politically significant, the U.S.-China deal alone is expected to have little effect on the global thermostat.

Russia sanctions hurt some German businesses, but support for Merkel's policies solid so far

MAGDEBURG, Germany (AP) — Huge machines hum smoothly at the Vakoma company's modern factory in eastern Germany, overseen by blue-suited workers. But politics are making the ride bumpy for the family-owned firm, which does a lot of business in Russia.

Germany is a political and business crossroads between eastern and western Europe, and some of its high-value exporters are suffering from the Western sanctions imposed on Russia. It's one of several reasons why German economic growth faded this year from among the highest in Europe to almost nothing.

Businesses may be holding on for now, avoiding layoffs in the hopes that things will get better. But with Chancellor Angela Merkel suggesting no end is in sight for the sanctions, the pressure on some companies is growing.

In the case of Vakoma, its industrial drives, vacuum pumps and compressors to order are often custom-made, a process that takes several years of planning. Around 90 percent of its goods are exported, and some 60 percent of those exports go to the former Soviet Union.

"A lot of our projects that we have developed over years are now on hold and simply aren't being decided on," managing director Gerhard Krossing said at his company's new factory, in which it invested 15 million euros (\$18.7 million).

NASA tries again to launch new Orion spacecraft, weather could thwart 2nd shot at test flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA took another shot at launching its new Orion spacecraft Friday, a day after gusty wind and sticky valves held up the critical test flight.

The unmanned rocket holding Orion was poised to blast off at sunrise, although weather was threatening again to interfere. This time, rain and clouds were in the forecast; the wind, while stiffer, was expected to blow in a more favorable direction. Forecasters put the odds of acceptable conditions at 50-50, as a nearly full moon glowed in the sky well before dawn.

Orion will orbit the world twice on this inaugural flight so NASA can wring out the riskiest systems before putting astronauts on board. Future missions will aim for asteroids and, ultimately, Mars. This time, the spacecraft will shoot for a high point of 3,600 miles, farther than any spacecraft built for humans has gone since the Apollo moon program.

The entire mission will last just 4½ hours, culminating with an old-style splashdown in the Pacific. NASA needs that extra-high altitude to gain enough momentum to re-enter at a speed of 20,000 mph and submit the capsule's massive heat shield to 4,000-degree temperatures.

Roads leading into the Kennedy Space Center were less congested for this second time around. Nonetheless, the hotels remained packed, the press site was jammed and NASA still anticipated a full house reminiscent of the shuttle-flying days. Many of the estimated 27,000 guests were expected to return.

US employers likely hired at strong pace in November for 10th straight month, analysts project

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers are thought to have hired at another robust pace in November in the latest sign that the United States is outshining struggling economies throughout the developed world.

Analysts have forecast that the economy generated 225,000 jobs last month and that the unemployment rate remained 5.8 percent, according to a survey by FactSet. If those predictions prove generally accurate, November would mark the 10th straight month of strong U.S. job gains above 200,000 and would put 2014 on track to be the best year for hiring since 1999.

The government will release the November employment report at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time Friday.

The improving U.S. job market contrasts with weakness elsewhere around the globe. Growth among the 18 European nations in the euro alliance is barely positive, and the eurozone's unemployment rate is 11.5 percent. Japan is in recession.

China's growth has slowed as it seeks to rein in excessive lending tied to real estate development. Other large developing countries, including Russia and Brazil, are also straining to grow.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 5, the 339th day of 2014. There are 26 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 5, 2013, Nelson Mandela, the anti-apartheid leader who became South Africa's first black president and was a global symbol of sacrifice and reconciliation, died at age 95.

On this date:

In 1776, the first scholastic fraternity in America, Phi Beta Kappa, was organized at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

In 1782, the eighth president of the United States, Martin Van Buren, was born in Kinderhook, New York; he was the first chief executive to be born after American independence.

In 1791, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died in Vienna, Austria, at age 35.

In 1831, former President John Quincy Adams took his seat as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1848, President James K. Polk triggered the Gold Rush of '49 by confirming that gold had been discovered in California.

In 1932, German physicist Albert Einstein was granted a visa, making it possible for him to travel to the United States.

In 1933, national Prohibition came to an end as Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, repealing the 18th Amendment.

In 1955, the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations merged to form the AFL-CIO under its first president, George Meany.

In 1962, the United States and the Soviet Union announced a bilateral space agreement on exchanging weather data from satellites, mapping Earth's geomagnetic field and cooperating in the experimental relay of communications.

In 1974, the final episode of "Monty Python's Flying Circus" aired on BBC Television.

In 1984, the action comedy "Beverly Hills Cop," starring Eddie Murphy, was released by Paramount

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Pictures.

In 1994, Republicans chose Newt Gingrich to be the first GOP speaker of the House in four decades.

Ten years ago: Gunmen ambushed a bus carrying unarmed Iraqis to work at a U.S. ammo dump near Tikrit, killing 17. Egypt freed an Israeli Arab man convicted of spying in exchange for Israel's release of six Egyptian students who were suspected of trying to kidnap Israeli soldiers. Carlos Moya beat Andy Roddick 6-2, 7-6 (1), 7-6 (5) to clinch Spain's second Davis Cup title.

Five years ago: A jury in Perugia, Italy convicted American student Amanda Knox and her former Italian boyfriend, Raffaele Sollecito, of murdering Knox's British roommate, Meredith Kercher, and sentenced them to long prison terms. (Knox has been in the United States since 2011 after an appeals court overturned her conviction, which was later reinstated; Sollecito continues to appeal his conviction; both maintain their innocence.) A nightclub blaze in Perm, Russia, killed more than 150 people. Spain won the Davis Cup for the second straight year. William A. Wilson, 95, the first American ambassador to the Vatican, died in Carmel, California.

One year ago: NBC-TV aired a live three-hour production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music" starring Carrie Underwood. A handwritten, working lyric sheet for Bruce Springsteen's 1975 hit "Born to Run" sold at Sotheby's for \$197,000, well exceeding pre-sale estimates of between \$70,000 and \$100,000.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Little Richard is 82. Author Joan Didion is 80. Author Calvin Trillin is 79. Actor Jeroen Krabbe (yeh-ROHN' krah-BAY') is 70. Opera singer Jose Carreras is 68. Pop singer Jim Messina is 67. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL quarterback Jim Plunkett is 67. World Golf Hall of Famer Lanny Wadkins is 65. Actress Morgan Brittany is 63. Actor Brian Backer is 58. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Art Monk is 57. Country singer Ty England is 51. Rock singer-musician John Rzeznik (REZ'-nihk) (The Goo Goo Dolls) is 49. Country singer Gary Allan is 47. Comedian-actress Margaret Cho is 46. Writer-director Morgan J. Freeman is 45. Actress Alex Kapp Horner is 45. Rock musician Regina Zernay (Cowboy Mouth) is 42. Actress Paula Patton is 39. Actress Amy Acker is 38. Actor Nick Stahl is 35. Rhythm-and-blues singer Keri Hilson is 32. Actor Frankie Muniz is 29. Actor Ross Bagley is 26.

Thought for Today: "I've never been poor, only broke. Being poor is a frame of mind. Being broke is only a temporary situation." - Mike Todd, American movie producer (1907-1958).