

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Wednesday, December 10

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

**School Lunch:** Hamburger on bun, baked chips, lettuce salad, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas, tomato spoon salad, carrot bar, whole wheat bread.

**Birthdays:** Lincoln Lane • Jerrica Loeschke • Steve Schaller • Miranda Blumhardt

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

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

12:00pm: UMW Christmas Luncheon

12:30pm: MathCounts at Roncalli Middle School

3:45pm: UMC Confirmation

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

6:00pm: JH UMYF Caroling with potluck


7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation with youth and parents

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Luther League

7:00pm: Sr High UMYF

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

7:30pm: NOOMA DVD Study at UMC



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## Thursday, December 11

**School Breakfast:** Breakfast bagel, fruit, juice, milk.

**School Lunch:** Mini corn dogs, baked beans, carrots and dip, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Chili, cornbread, coleslaw, lime pear Jell-O

**Anniversary:** Dave & Connie Nilsson

4:00pm: JHGBB at Ipswich (7th at 4 pm, 8th at 5 pm)

6:30pm: GBB at Ipswich

6:30pm: Groton Lions Club meet at Dakota Brush

**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**

## 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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## South Dakota's Streak of Daily Gas Price Declines Continues

AAA's Weekly Fuel Price Report and Analysis

Today's South Dakota pump price average – \$2.61

Highest 2014 South Dakota pump price (July 3) – \$3.61

Last date South Dakota average was below today's – June 3, 2010

Driven by crude oil's price free fall, retail gasoline prices in South Dakota and across the nation continue to plummet. South Dakota's average for a gallon of self-serve regular has fallen for 44 cents over the last month and now stands \$1.00 below the 2014 high of \$3.61 reached in early July.

"Global oil markets are still struggling to find a bottom since OPEC decided not to reduce production. Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate are at their lowest levels in more than five years," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "Saudi Arabia is offering oil at prices not seen in at least 14 years, which is putting pressure on U.S. crude production, now at its highest level in 30 years."

At the close of formal trading yesterday, WTI settled down \$2.79 at \$63.05 per barrel, the lowest close since July 16, 2009.

## 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.

### Apartment for Rent

One bedroom apartment for rent. Main Street. Ground level. Washer, dryer and dishwasher. Big walk-in closet. \$550 includes utilities. \$400 if you pay your own utilities. Call Chris Kassube at 605-395-7111.



### Santa is Coming to Groton

Saturday, Dec. 13

Noon to 2 p.m.

Groton Community Center

## Help Wanted

**Wheatcrest Hills - New Wage Scale - is hiring for PT and FT CNA positions. We are looking for caring compassionate individuals to join our team. CNA certification training class to start in December and January, benefit packages available. Please stop in for application or contact Kristin at 605/448-2251. (1209.1216)**

## Keep Food Safety In Mind At Holiday Gatherings

PIERRE, S.D. – Keep food safety in mind to prevent food-borne illness and keep holiday gatherings from turning merriment to misery, says a state health official.

“It’s all too easy for holiday parties to result in food-borne illness if you don’t pay attention to good food safety practices,” said Bill Chalcraft, health protection administrator for the South Dakota Department of Health. “It’s so important to wash your hands thoroughly, cook and store foods at proper temperatures, and avoid preparing food when you’re sick.”

Symptoms of food-borne illness include mild or severe diarrhea, fever, vomiting and abdominal pain. Most people recover on their own without medication but some need fluids to prevent dehydration.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that each year food-borne illness sickens roughly one in six Americans, or 48 million people, 128,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 die. For South Dakota this extrapolates to approximately 125,000 illnesses, 340 hospitalizations and eight deaths annually.

Through the end of November, South Dakota had reported 471 cases of the food-borne illnesses Salmonella (152), Campylobacter (281) and E. coli (38) for the year.

Chalcraft recommends the following safety tips for preparing holiday foods:

**Clean.** Wash hands, cutting boards, utensils and countertops.

**Separate.** Keep raw meat and poultry separate from ready-to-eat foods.

**Cook.** Cook foods to a safe temperature and use a food thermometer to check (145°F for whole meats, 160°F for ground meats, 165°F for poultry and stuffing).

**Chill.** Keep your refrigerator below 40°F and refrigerate leftovers right away.

When cooking food ahead of time cool it quickly and reheat properly.

Don’t lick the bowl if raw eggs are in the batter; don’t use raw eggs in eggnog.

Never use raw milk in eggnog or homemade ice cream, or for drinking.

Learn more about food safety at [www.foodsafety.gov/keep/basics/](http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/basics/) or [www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm092815.htm](http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm092815.htm).

## Why Educational Reform Cannot Work

By Charles M. Reigeluth, Ph.D.

Think of our schools as a horse and buggy – it worked well in a different time, but times have changed. Educational needs have changed as much as transportation needs. Retrofitting a horse and buggy will not give us an airplane, and yet we seem to expect that reforms to our schools will meet our new educational needs. And why shouldn't we?

We've never experienced a paradigm change in American education. All we know is piecemeal reforms. But there has been a paradigm change. In the mid 1800s, as our communities transformed from agrarian to industrial societies, the one-room schoolhouse no longer met our educational needs and was gradually replaced by the current, factory model of schools. This was a paradigm change because the fundamental structure of the one-room schoolhouse was different – it had no grade levels, no courses, no standardized norm-referenced tests.

Could it be that once again our educational needs have changed so dramatically that only paradigm change will be effective? To answer this question, we should first determine whether our current educational systems are meeting our needs. Consider the following:

- More than half of America's high school seniors are not proficient in reading, and 75 percent can't do math, according to the recently released National Assessment of Educational Progress.
- The PISA test administered by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in 2012 found that the United States ranked 17th in reading, 27th in math, and 20th in science among the 34 OECD countries (<http://www.oecd.org/pisa/keyfindings/PISA-2012-results-US.pdf>).
- The hidden curriculum – compliance and tolerance for boring, repetitive tasks – was very important for manual labor during the Industrial Age but is counterproductive for the initia-



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tive and problem-solving skills needed for knowledge work in the Information Age.

- Our communities are increasingly segregated by socio-economic status, resulting in greater disadvantages for many students.

Clearly, our schools are not performing as well as we would like and need them to in an increasingly competitive global economy.

This poor performance is not due to lack of effort. Since "A Nation at Risk" was published in 1987, billions of dollars have been spent on educational reforms. So why have they failed, and why are they destined to continue to fail no matter how much money we spend on them?

The primary reasons have to do with fundamental changes in society – its educational needs and tools. To understand this, it is helpful to consider a truth about learning: Students learn at different rates. Yet our current paradigm of education tries to teach a fixed amount of content in a fixed amount of time. So the current structure, by basing student progress on time rather than learning,

- forces slower students to move on before they have mastered the material (thus accumulating gaps in knowledge that make future learning of related material more difficult and virtually condemn those students to flunking out), and

- holds back faster learners, demotivating them and squandering their sorely needed talents.

As described in my recent book, *Reinventing Schools: It's Time to Break the Mold* (<http://www.reinventingschools.net>), a system designed to not leave children behind would have each student move on only when s/he has learned the current material, and as soon as s/he has learned the current material. Until schools make this fundamental structural change, they will continue to leave children behind, no matter what educational reforms we make – be it more high-stakes testing, more teacher professional development, smaller class sizes, more focus on basic skills, longer school day or year, or whatever the latest fad.

So what does this have to do with changes in society? Alvin Toffler has convincingly described how societies undergo massive waves of change, from the Hunting-and-Gathering Age, to the Agrarian Age, the Industrial Age, and the Information Age. Each wave has brought about paradigm change in all of society's systems:

- the family (extended family in the Agrarian Age, followed by the nuclear family, and now the working-parent family – dual-income and single-parent);
- transportation (horse and sailboat in the Agrarian Age, followed by a combination of the railroad and steamboat, and now the automobile and airplane);
- lighting systems (flame, incandescent bulb, LED);
- health-care systems;
- legal systems;
- communication systems;
- and, of course, education systems.

The one-room schoolhouse was the predominant paradigm of education in the Agrarian Age, the current factory model of schools in the Industrial Age, and the learner-centered paradigm (which exists only in about 1 percent of U.S. schools so far) in the Information Age.

The reason for these paradigm changes is that each wave of change creates different ends and means – different purposes for education and different tools for education. Regarding purposes, during the Industrial Age, manual labor was the predominant form of work. We did not need to educate many people to high levels; rather we needed to separate the future laborers from the future managers and professionals by flunking them out. We needed a system that could sort the students – that would leave the slower students behind. So we invented time-based student progress, norm-referenced test-

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ing, and letter (or number) grades.

But in the Information Age, knowledge work is becoming predominant. We need a system that is focused on maximizing every student's learning, which is evidenced by our talk about "no child left behind." This requires a system in which student progress is based on learning, not time. Furthermore, the hidden curriculum in the Industrial Age paradigm was training students to be compliant and tolerant of boring tasks, important preparation for the assembly line. That curriculum is counter-productive for knowledge work. Now we need a hidden curriculum of initiative, problem-solving, collaboration, and lifelong learning, which can perhaps best be achieved through self-directed, project-based learning.

As for education tools, information technologies make it much easier and less expensive to customize student progress and other aspects of instruction, enhance intrinsic motivation, integrate criterion-referenced testing with teaching (as is done in the Khan Academy – <http://www.khanacademy.org/about>), and keep track of what each individual student has learned.

There are many schools in which paradigm change has already been happening – more than 140 are listed in Reinventing Schools. But in contrast to piecemeal reforms, paradigm change entails fundamental changes throughout the entire system:

- the instructional subsystem (from teacher-centered to learner-centered and self-directed, from standardized to customized, from extrinsic to intrinsic motivation),
- the assessment subsystem (from norm-referenced to criterion-referenced, from separate from instruction to integrated with instruction, from artificial to performance-based),
- the record-keeping subsystem (from comparative grades to an inventory of attainments),
- the roles of teachers (from "sage on the stage" to "guide on the side"),
- the roles of students (from passive, teacher-directed to active, self-directed),
- the roles of parents (from cookie bakers to partners in their children's learning),
- the roles of technology (from tool for the teacher to tool for the learner),
- and much more.

Where piecemeal educational reforms are destined to fail, paradigm change will eventually succeed. This is a point that policy-makers fatally overlook, with devastating consequences for our children and consequently our communities and economy.

The recognition that students learn at different rates also requires rethinking the definition of "achievement gap." It is traditionally defined as the gap in achievement between groups of students of the same age – typically by racial or socioeconomic groups. This definition arose out of Industrial Age thinking, expecting all students to be the same, and results in a misplaced emphasis for improving education.

The achievement gap that we should be most concerned about is the gap between what an individual student has learned and what that student could have learned. The goal should be for all children to reach their potential, not for all to have learned the same things by the same age. The only way for all to learn the same things by the same age would be to hold back the faster learners.

The United States espouses the goal of leaving no child behind, but it is clear that our Industrial Age system with time-based student progress is designed to leave children behind, and no educational reforms within that paradigm can change that dismal fact.

Toffler's insights show us why paradigm change is needed at this point in history – indeed, why it is inevitable, just as the transformation from the one-room schoolhouse to the factory model was inevitable. The major concern is how long this paradigm change will take, and how much damage will be done to our children, their communities, and our economy before it happens.

Toffler's insights also help us to see what the new paradigm should be like and how it will greatly improve student learning, equity and cost-effectiveness while simultaneously professionalizing the

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teaching occupation. The book *Reinventing Schools* elaborates on that vision, describes three school systems that fit the new paradigm, along with evidence of their effectiveness, and offers guidance for what school systems and policymakers can do to engage in this transformation.

Until educators, policymakers, and the public understand that the paradigm must change from one in which student progress is based on time to one in which it is based on learning, we will continue to leave children behind, regardless of what piecemeal reforms we make.

## **About Charles M. Reigeluth**

Charles M. Reigeluth, [www.reigeluth.net](http://www.reigeluth.net), has a B.A. in Economics from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in Instructional Psychology from Brigham Young University. He taught high school science for three years, was a professor at Indiana University for 25 years, including department chairman for three years. His research, conducted in schools, focuses on paradigm change in educational systems, the design of high-quality instruction, and the design of technology systems for the learner-centered paradigm of education. He is the author of *Reinventing Schools: It's Time to Break the Mold* (<http://www.reinventionschools.net>).

## Today in Weather History

2000: Heavy snow of 6 to 8 inches fell across parts of Lyman and Jones counties on the 10th and 11th. Some amounts included 6 inches at Kennebec and Okaton and 8 inches at Murdo.

1995: Intense lake effect snow squalls buried Buffalo, NY under 37.9 inches in 24 hours. Watertown, NY recorded 39 inches in just 12 hours and had 4 inches of snow an hour each hour for 6 consecutive hours.

2002: An inch of snow fell on Mauna Kea on the Big Island of Hawaii.

1699 - A severe ice storm hit Boston, MA, causing much damage to orchards. (The Weather Channel)

1946 - The temperature at New York City soared to 70 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1949 - The barometric pressure at Las Vegas, NV, reached a record low reading of 29.17 inches (987.8 millibars). (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A cold front brought high winds to the eastern slopes of the Northern and Central Rockies. Winds gusted to 97 mph at Mines Peak CO. In Wyoming, up to a foot of snow blanketed the Teton Village Ski Resort, northwest of Jackson. Strong chinook winds in the Central High Plains Region, gusting to 61 mph at Scottsbluff NE, warmed temperatures to near 70 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Squalls produced heavy snow in the Lower Great Lakes Region. Totals in northeastern Ohio ranged up to 14 inches at Harpersfield, and totals in western New York State ranged up to 14 inches at Sodus. In the snowbelt of Upper Michigan, the Ontonogon area reported two feet of snow in two days. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Heavy snow fell across the northern and central mountains of Colorado, with 24 inches reported at Steamboat Springs. Six to twelve inches of snow fell in the Denver and Boulder area delaying plane flights and snarling traffic. Heavy snow also spread across the Central Plains into the Mississippi Valley. Winner SD received 11 inches of snow, and more than ten inches of snow was reported north of Sioux City IA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1992 - A slow-moving Nor'easter storm batters the northeast U.S. coast killing 19 people.

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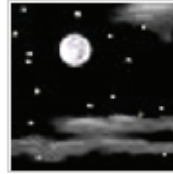



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TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY
						
Mostly Sunny High: 33 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 20 °F	Sunny High: 40 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 28 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 46 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 31 °F	Partly Sunny High: 46 °F



## Gradual Warming Trend Begins

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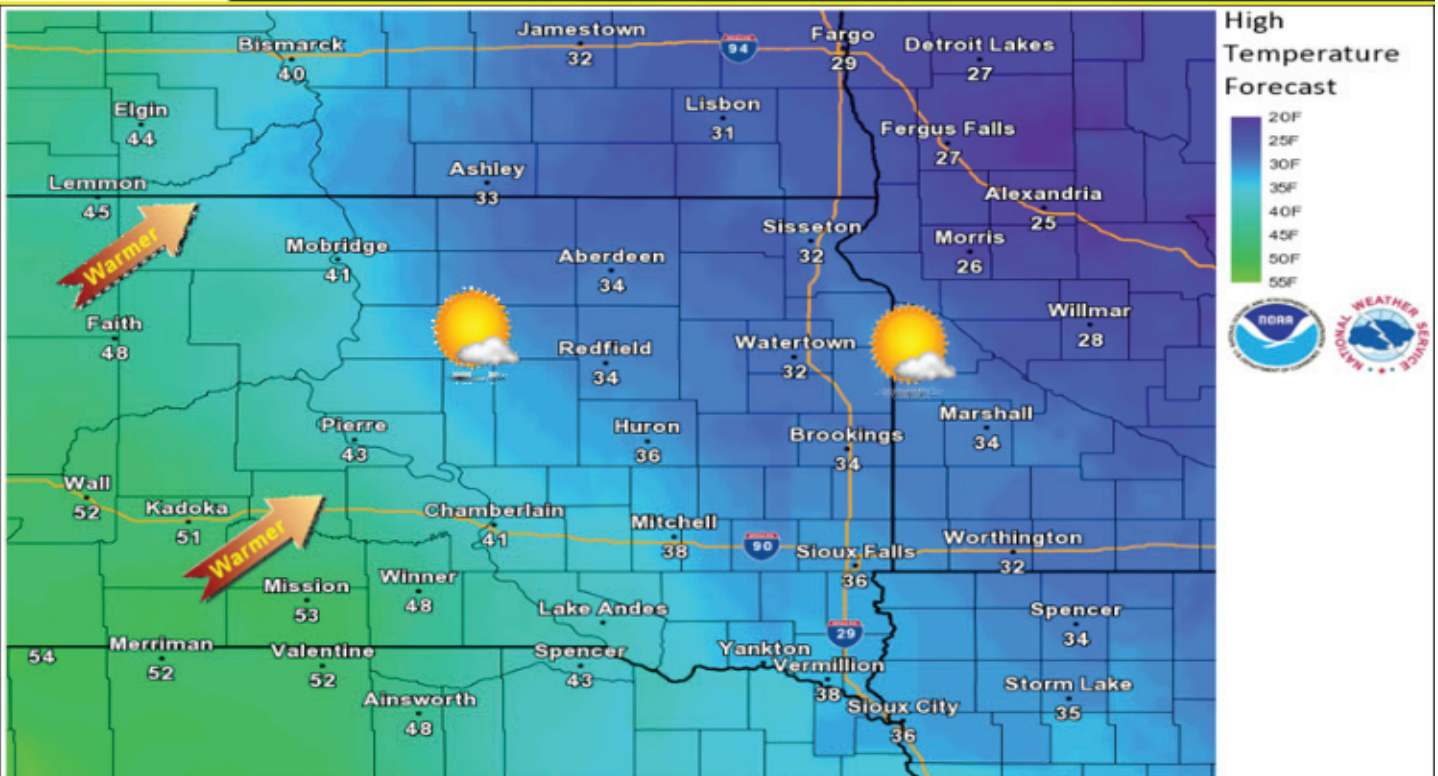
[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Valid ending Wednesday December 10th, 2014 at 6 PM CST

Created Wednesday December 10th, 2014 at 5:17 AM CST

The much anticipated warming trend will begin today as highs reach the 30s and 40s for most locations. The warmest readings will be located across central and western South Dakota where 40s and 50s will be found. Temperatures will warm through the end of the week, with widespread 40s and 50s expected by Friday.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 25.9 at 4:37 PM

**Low:** 10.2 at 12:10 AM

**Wind Chill:**

**High Gust:** 18 at 2:50 PM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 58° in 1979

**Record Low:** -29° in 1972

**Average High:** 27°F

**Average Low:** 7°F

**Average Precip in Dec.:** 0.16

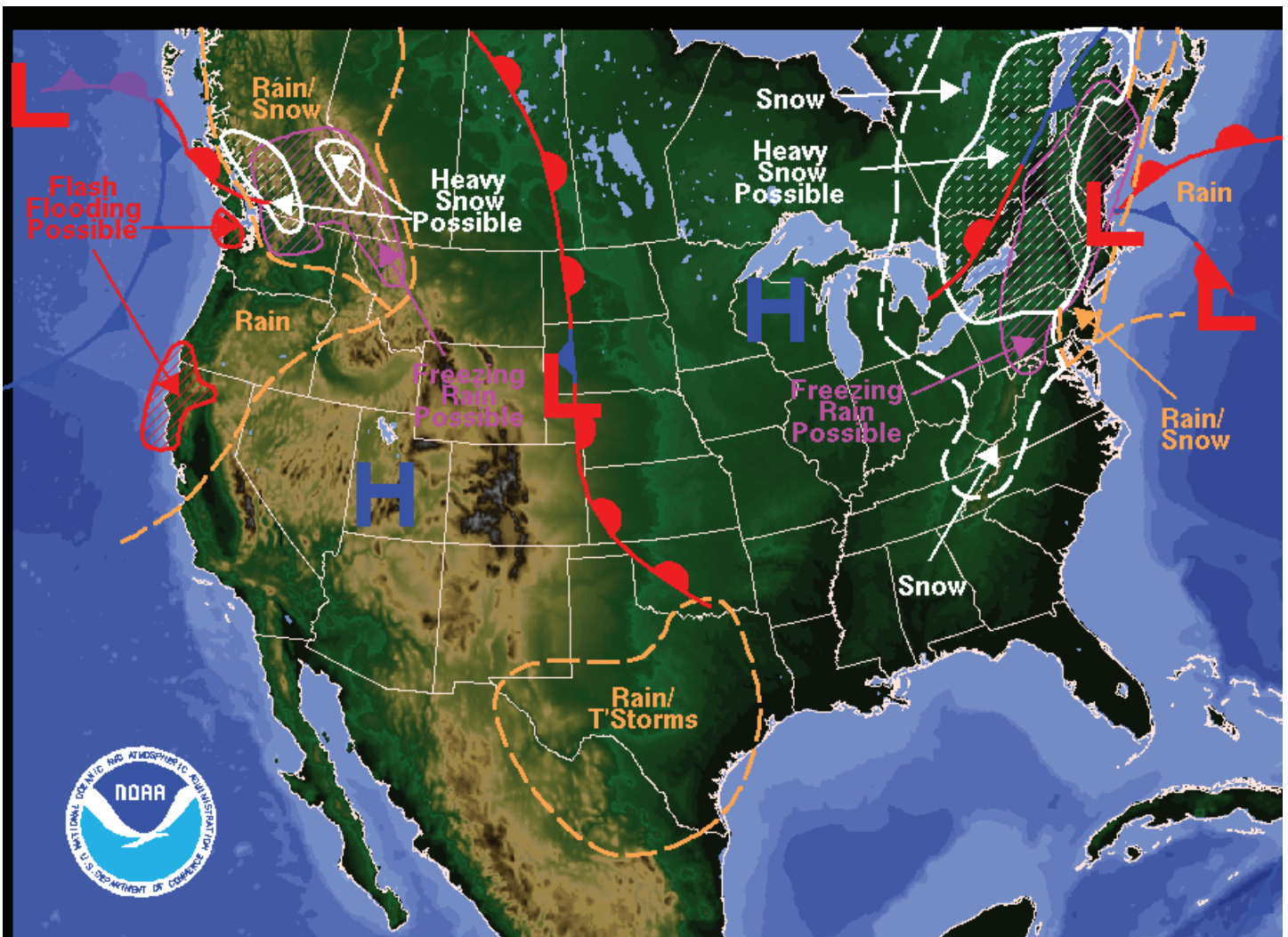
**Precip to date in Dec.:** 0.00

**Average Precip to date:** 21.36

**Precip Year to Date:** 13.99

**Sunset Tonight:** 4:50 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 8:04 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Dec 10, 2014, issued 4:18 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



## I'VE SHOT MYSELF

In Texas a man got tired of thieves breaking into his store. So he rigged a shotgun to shoot anyone who entered when it was closed. One morning he came to work and forgot to dismantle the trap. He opened the door and the gun went off. As he fell to the floor he cried, "I've shot myself!"

Sometimes our great ideas can get us "killed." We are attracted by the things of this world and become influenced by its many "traps." We begin to believe that our plans are better than what God has planned for us. Scripture teaches us that sin leads to death. We mindlessly walk in paths that lead to our destruction and death. Instead, we need to surrender our lives to God and to ask Him to make His way known to us as we read and trust His Word. We need to look to God for His purpose in our lives. As we accept His precious gift of salvation and eternal life, we must realize that we are citizens of His kingdom and obligated to live lives that honor Him.

**Prayer:** Father, help me recognize the sin in my life that keeps me from growing into the likeness of Your Son. I pray that Your Holy Spirit will convict me and cleanse me and make me pleasing in Your sight. 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.



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News from the **AP** Associated Press

## South Dakota woman getting award for WWII service

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls woman is among four South Dakotans to be honored for her service in the Civil Air Patrol during World War II.

Sylvia Henkin will receive the organization's Congressional Gold Medal on Wednesday in Washington. The 93-year-old is the only living recipient from South Dakota. The others are Earl Wilkinson and Vernon Jeffries, both of Rapid City, and Luverne Kraemer, of Deadwood.

Henkin earned her private pilot's license in 1940, joined the Civil Air Patrol and patrolled the Floyd River in Iowa during the war.

She moved to Sioux Falls in 1944 and became active in the media, business and community activities, and local philanthropy.

The South Dakota Wing of the CAP has squadrons in Sioux Falls, Brookings, Rapid City, Pierre, Custer and Spearfish.

## Lonely Planet lists western SD among best to visit

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The travel media company Lonely Planet has listed western South Dakota as one of its "Best in the US" destinations for 2015.

The company announced its fifth annual "best of" list Wednesday, which is determined by Lonely Planet's authors and their U.S.-based editorial team. It consists of 10 places that it recommends travelers should add to their wish lists for the coming year.

Western South Dakota is ranked second. The full list can be found at <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/best-in-the-us-2015>.

In addition to the area's national and state parks and memorials, family attractions and unique events, Lonely Planet points out the 50th anniversary of the Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup and the 75th anniversary of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

## Sioux Falls teen gets 4 years in armed robbery

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A 19-year-old South Dakota woman has been sentenced to four years in prison for robbing a convenience store while armed with a semi-automatic handgun.

Kelli Schlotterback was sentenced Tuesday in Sioux Falls. She and a 17-year-old turned themselves in to police in April.

Schlotterback was one of two

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people who robbed a Cubby's store in April while wearing hooded sweatshirts and bandanas over their faces and brandishing semi-automatic guns. A third person waited by the door and another acted as a getaway car driver. The group fled the scene with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Schlotterback's attorney says she has worked to change her life since her arrest and is close to getting a GED certificate.

The judge says 22-year-old Allison Armentrout was sentenced to eight years for the robbery.

## **SD snowmobile trails scheduled to open Monday**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota snowmobile trails are scheduled to open Monday, but officials are still waiting for snow.

Black Hills trails district supervisor Shannon Percy says the Black Hills has seen minimal snowfall so far this season. She adds that grooming operations will be limited until the snowfall accumulation increases.

Eastern South Dakota trails are also experiencing a snow shortage. Officials say snow conditions have deteriorated since trails in the area saw significant accumulations in November. State trails program specialist Tony Schmitt says higher temperatures have left many areas along the trail systems without snow, and trails won't be groomed until four or five inches of snow accumulate.

Snowmobile clubs in eastern South Dakota groom and maintain more than 1,200 miles of trails through an agreement with the state.

## **Community groups holding Pine Ridge gift drive**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A coalition of organizations wants to make sure a group of teenagers on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation have a bright holiday season.

The American Advertising Federation of the Black Hills, the Lakota Voice Project and Circle K called for donations on Tuesday to help provide 10 teenagers on the reservation with stockings, a gift and a hot meal.

The group is looking for donations of body wash, cologne and perfume, facial cleanser, headphones, gift cards and sunglasses, among other items. Those interested in contributing can also make out checks to the American Advertising Federation of the Black Hills. The groups are also looking for volunteers to assist in serving the meal.

## **Officials warn SD consumers who want to invest**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota officials are warning consumers to be careful when examining an investment offer.

The state Division of Securities put out a reminder Tuesday that high-yield investment programs commonly listed in Internet advertisements and social media messages can be too good to be true. The investment programs are advertised as yielding high returns with little risk to the consumer.

The North American Securities Administrators Association says that some key tip offs of potentially problematic investments can include: a company offering to pay fees to consumers for referring other investors, firms using social media to advertise the opportunity or sketchy details on who runs the company offering the investment.



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## Tuesday's Scores The Associated Press

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Beresford 48, Centerville 42  
Bon Homme 59, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 30  
Burke/South Central 39, Lyman 26  
Canton 59, Flandreau Indian 29  
Castlewood 91, Lake Preston 30  
Dakota Christian 72, Colome 31  
Dakota Valley 67, Tea Area 62  
Dell Rapids 61, Sioux Falls Christian 57  
Douglas 52, Belle Fourche 50  
Dupree 42, Bison 38  
Edmunds Central 50, Aberdeen Christian 26  
Elk Point-Jefferson 50, Vermillion 47  
Elkton-Lake Benton 55, Deuel 30  
Ethan 57, Hanson 44  
Flandreau 38, Chester 28  
Freeman 43, Parkston 41  
Garretson 52, Dell Rapids St. Mary 40  
Gayville-Volin 53, Menno 30  
Great Plains Lutheran 68, Waubay 43  
Gregory 35, Andes Central 26  
Hamlin 64, Redfield/Doland 55  
Jones County 39, New Underwood 33  
Kimball/White Lake 58, James Valley Christian 40  
Lemmon 74, Harding County 48  
McCook Central/Montrose 82, Marion 31  
McLaughlin 70, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 65  
Milbank 54, Tiospa Zina Tribal 47, OT  
Mitchell Christian 40, Wolsey-Wessington 26  
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 49, Chamberlain 26  
Northwestern 63, Aberdeen Roncalli 54  
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 59, Canistota 41  
Pine Ridge 90, St. Francis Indian 45  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 74, Brandon Valley 28  
Sioux Valley 56, DeSmet 46  
St. Thomas More 86, Hot Springs 7  
Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D. 44, Eureka/Bowdle 31  
Sully Buttes 70, Stanley County 12  
Sunshine Bible Academy 66, Iroquois 21  
Todd County 71, Bennett County 38  
Tri-Valley 38, Lennox 24  
Viborg-Hurley 69, Scotland 61

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Waverly-South Shore 45, Florence/Henry 33  
Wheaton/Herman-Norcross, Minn. 40, Sisseton 32  
Winner 67, Wagner 60  
Yankton 48, Watertown 47  
Eastern Coteau Conference Tournament  
Summit 86, Grant-Deuel 21  
Wilmot 62, Rosholt 17

## Creighton outlasts South Dakota 91-88 in 2OT

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — James Milliken came off the bench to score a career-high 23 points to lead Creighton to a 91-88 double overtime victory over South Dakota on Tuesday night.

Milliken nailed a 3-pointer, drove the baseline for a layup and hit another trey to give Creighton an 85-80 lead with 1:09 remaining in the second overtime. Austin Chatman, who was scoreless in the first half but finished with 24 points, made five free throws to seal the win for Creighton (8-2).

South Dakota was trailing 65-62 with three seconds left in regulation when Tyler Larson made a 3 to force overtime.

Chatman made a 3 to start the first overtime. South Dakota's Trey Norris nailed a 3-pointer to tie at 76 and go into the second overtime.

Larson had 25 points, Tre Burnette had a career-high 24 and Brandon Bos chipped in 23 for the Coyotes (3-7).

## South Dakota State beats Saint Louis, 62-55

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Reed Tellinghuisen scored 15 points off the bench of 5 of 7 shooting from the field, Deondre Parks finished 14 points six rebounds, and six assists, and South Dakota State beat Saint Louis 62-55 on Saturday night.

Trailing 51-45 with just over five minutes left, South Dakota State (5-3) went on a 17-4 run to end the game in which Parks scored 12 of his total 14 points and the Jackrabbits held Saint Louis scoreless over the final 1:36.

Zach Hortsman added 12 points and five boards for South Dakota State, who shot 51.2 percent from the field and held the Billikens to 33.3 percent and 2 of 19 from 3-point range.

Milik Yarbrough scored 15 off the bench to lead Saint Louis (5-4), and was the only Billikens player to finish in double figures. Austin Gillmann added seven points for Saint Louis.

## Both sides appeased by limits on SD Keystone case

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota regulators agreed Tuesday to limit the scope of information opponents could receive in a case about the Keystone XL oil pipeline from the company trying to build it, but not as strictly as TransCanada Corp. requested.

The state Public Utilities Commission also decided Tuesday to hear final arguments in early May as part of its decision on whether to re-approve the portion of the Keystone XL pipeline that would run through South Dakota. The commission partially approved TransCanada's request to limit the discovery — or information disclosure — process in the case, but the decision is broad enough to appease opponents who are seeking as much evidence as possible. The discovery process will inform the com-

mission's decision on the pipeline.

Commissioners must confirm that the conditions for construction of the pipeline haven't changed since the permits were first issued in 2010. Opponents point out, for example, that there could be newer technologies than those included in the original permit for detecting oil spills.

Discovery is a key tool for opponents of the pipeline, who are looking for evidence of discrepancies — and other information — regarding the project. State rules dictate permits must be reapproved if the construction of the project does not start within four years of their issuance.

Extracting now-private information from TransCanada will help opponents "learn the facts from the fiction," said Tracey Zephier, an attorney representing the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, which opposes the pipeline.

William Taylor, an attorney for TransCanada, said the firm is satisfied with the results of Tuesday's commission meeting.

The pipeline would transport oil from Canadian tar sands through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska, where it would connect with existing pipelines to carry more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day to refineries along the Gulf Coast. It could also transport some crude from the Bakken oil field in Montana and North Dakota.

Supporters of the pipeline say it will create thousands of jobs and aid energy independence, but environmentalists warn of possible spills and say transporting oil will eventually contribute to global warming.

The commission scheduled a hearing in early May for final arguments — if they don't decide to reject TransCanada's request before then. Commissioners could decide in January on the Yankton Sioux Tribe's motion to dismiss the re-approval request from TransCanada.

## **SD man accused of selling \$100,000 in stolen goods**

CANTON, S.D. (AP) — Federal authorities are accusing a South Dakota man of selling more than \$100,000 worth of stolen goods.

The 49-year-old Kenneth Hunsucker has pleaded not guilty to charges of interstate transportation of stolen property, wire fraud and money laundering. His Canton home and businesses were raided by the FBI in September.

Authorities say that Hunsucker between May 2013 and September 2014 bought stolen goods and then sold them online. They say Hunsucker collected more than \$100,000 in a PayPal account during the scheme.

Among the stolen items were digital cameras, GPS devices, laptops and cellphones. Authorities say Hunsucker knew that the items he was selling had been stolen, but none of his clients did.

Hunsucker is free on bond. A trial date has not been scheduled.

## **SD soldier honored for help provided in car crash**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota National Guard soldier has been honored for the help he provided to a victim of a car crash on Interstate 90.

Sgt. Nathan Darrach, of Sturgis, has received the Guard's Medal for Valor. Darrach witnessed the three-vehicle collision near Summerset in February and immediately stopped to help out.

Darrach rushed to check on 59-year-old Darrol Birk, of Rapid City, whose right foot was badly injured and couldn't get out of his truck, which had caught on fire. Darrach and another person forced open the vehicle's door and took Birk to safety.

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Birk is a retired U.S. Army first sergeant. He says Darrach "is the kind of soldier" he would want with him in combat.

Darrach says "it feels great" to have had the chance to help Birk.

## Sioux Falls to host big softball tourney in June

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls has been chosen to host an International Senior Softball Association tournament late next spring.

The city's Convention and Visitors Bureau says the Heart of America Senior Classic tournament June 12-14 will field about 30 teams.

The CVB hosted two representatives from the softball association for a site visit in October. CVB officials also met with the tournament planners at the National Association of Sports Commissions Annual Conference in Oklahoma City.

The Sioux Falls tournament will be at the Harmodon Park Softball Complex. It will be the first time the International Senior Softball Association will hold an event in South Dakota.

## Justices reject claim of juror dishonesty

WASHINGTON (AP) — A unanimous Supreme Court has ruled that a juror's comments during trial deliberations cannot be used to show dishonesty during jury selection.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote for the court on Tuesday that rules written by Congress that govern federal trials are intended to preserve the sanctity of jury deliberations. The court ruled in a case concerning injuries suffered in a traffic accident near Mount Rushmore in South Dakota.

A motorcycle rider who had his left leg amputated as a result of the accident lost his negligence lawsuit, but sought a new trial based on one juror's report of what another said during deliberations. The motorcyclist said the comments suggested that the second juror lied when she promised to be impartial during jury selection.

The case is Warger v. Shauers, 13-517.

## Sioux Falls parade routes could be debated

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Not everyone in Sioux Falls loves a parade.

City Councilmen Greg Jamison and Kenny Anderson Jr. say they've heard enough complaints from constituents about streets being blocked during downtown parades and other events that it's probably time to have a discussion about it. They say perhaps routes could be moved or made shorter.

Officials with the Downtown Sioux Falls group say they understand the frustrations and try to strike a balance between planning fun events and keeping motorists happy.

Jamison says he plans to talk to downtown business owners to find out how they would be impacted if parade routes were to change.

## 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. ART DIDN'T IMITATE LIFE - SENATE REPORT SAYS TORTURE DIDN'T HELP BIN LADEN HUNT

Investigators discredit long-held CIA assertion, which was also depicted in the film "Zero Dark Thirty," that so-called enhanced interrogation techniques helped locate the al-Qaida leader.

## 2. OBAMA STRUGGLES TO DISTANCE HIMSELF FROM BUSH LEGACY

The Senate CIA report brings the brutal practices under the former president back into the public domain, overshadowing the current administration's moves to curb torture.

## 3. WHOSE VERDICT CAN BE APPEALED

A South African judge gives the go-ahead for prosecutors to appeal the acquittal of double-amputee athlete Oscar Pistorius on murder charges.

## 4. EBOLA PATIENT ZERO BRINGS STIGMA TO GUINEAN VILLAGE

A two-year-old boy was the first victim of the current outbreak in West Africa. His hometown is struggling with the grief, poverty and desertion that the disease has brought.

## 5. FINAL HOURS FOR HONG KONG DEMOCRACY PROTEST CAMP

Demonstrators vow to stay until the last minute before authorities clear them from their encampment in a busy business district.

## 6. CONGRESS TESTS SPENDING BILL

A massive \$1.1 trillion proposal would avert a government shutdown. But both Democrats and Republicans have misgivings about its details.

## 7. WHERE JOB CREATION IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE

France's Socialist-led government is struggling to stem the rise of unemployment, which has crossed the 10% threshold.

## 8. HUMPBACKS FLOCKING TO NYC WATERS

Naturalists are marveling at the frequent sightings of one of the biggest species ever to live on the planet within miles of the Empire State Building.

## 9. HOW PRINCE WILLIAM REACTED TO BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF NYC

"Wow, this is great!" the monarch says after stepping out of the 86th-floor observation deck of the Empire State Building.

## 10. NFL'S CAM NEWTON INJURED

The Panthers quarterback suffers fractures to his lower back in a two-vehicle crash near the team's stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina.

## AP News in Brief

### Key clues that helped find bin Laden didn't come from harsh interrogations, investigators say

WASHINGTON (AP) — After Navy SEALs killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan in May 2011, top CIA officials secretly told lawmakers that information gleaned from brutal interrogations played a key role in what was one of the spy agency's greatest successes.

Then-CIA Director Leon Panetta repeated that assertion in public, and it found its way into a critically acclaimed movie about the operation, "Zero Dark Thirty," which depicts a detainee offering up the identity of bin Laden's courier, Abu Ahmad al-Kuwaiti, after being tortured at a secret CIA interrogation site. As it turned out, bin Laden was living in al-Kuwaiti's walled family compound, so tracking the courier was the key to finding the al-Qaida leader.

But the CIA's story, like the Hollywood one, is just not true, the Senate report on CIA interrogations concludes in a 14,000-word section of the report's public summary.

"A review of CIA records found that the initial intelligence obtained, as well as the information the CIA identified as the most critical or the most valuable on Abu Ahmad al-Kuwaiti, was not related to the use of the CIA's enhanced interrogation techniques," the Senate investigation found.



CIA officials disagree, and maintain that detainees subjected to coercive tactics provided crucial details.

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## With torture report's release, Obama again confronts long legacy of Bush-era policies

WASHINGTON (AP) — For President Barack Obama, the long-delayed release of a scathing Senate report on harsh CIA interrogations underscores the degree to which the legacy of George W. Bush's national security policies has shadowed the man elected to change or end them.

While Obama banned waterboarding and other tactics upon taking office, his administration struggled for years with how to publicly reveal the scope of the program. Even as Obama claims closure in the torture debate, big chunks of Bush's national security apparatus remain in place, including the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and sweeping government surveillance programs. Obama has also thrust the U.S. back into a military conflict in Iraq and faces questions about his ability to end the Afghanistan war by the time he leaves office.

"It's been a lot harder to move certain things than they anticipated," said Ken Gude, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a White House-aligned think tank. "There have been other areas in which they intentionally have not made much progress."

To some former Bush administration officials, Obama's mixed record in dismantling his predecessor's national security apparatus has vindicated the necessity of the steps they took in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

"When you say things in campaigns and then you actually get into office and you're confronted by the breadth and scope of what the national security infrastructure is all about, it's a totally different perspective," said Michael Allen, who worked at the White House and State Department during the Bush administration.

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## South African judge rules prosecutors can appeal verdict in Oscar Pistorius case

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South African prosecutors can appeal double-amputee Olympian Oscar Pistorius' acquittal on murder charges for killing girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp, a judge ruled Wednesday.

Judge Thokozile Masipa announced the ruling in a Pretoria court, saying she was satisfied that chief prosecutor Gerrie Nel had raised "questions of law" that should be reviewed by the Supreme Court of Appeal.

"This might have a practical effect on the conviction," Masipa said.

Nathi Mncube, the prosecution spokesman, said he hopes the appeal will be "expedited," but acknowledged that the process can take a long time.

In arguing for an appeal, the prosecution said the judge — who in October found the Paralympic champion guilty of culpable homicide and gave him a five-year prison term — incorrectly interpreted a legal principle. Under that principle, a person should be found guilty of murder if he foresaw the possibility of a person dying because of his actions, and went ahead with those actions anyway.

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## **Hundreds in Northern California protest against police killings; more protests planned**

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — Hundreds of protesters angered at the killing of unarmed black men by white police officers marched through downtown Berkeley streets, briefly blocking traffic on a state highway, and delaying metro and train services in the area as protests continued in Northern California.

Organizers of a protest planned for Wednesday morning in Oakland said they expect hundreds of white people to come out and help shut down a federal building.

"As white people, we are outraged by the constant and ongoing violations against black people's lives from Ferguson to Oakland to San Francisco to Cleveland to Staten Island," said Jason Wallach of Showing Up for Racial Justice, one of the organizations involved in the demonstration expected to be replicated in 27 cities.

In Berkeley, protesters stopped at City Hall late Tuesday, where a city councilman addressed the crowd and said he will ask for an investigation into police response to the protest on Saturday, when the latest wave of demonstrations began.

The Bay Area Rapid Transit downtown Berkeley and McArthur stations were closed as a precaution, and Amtrak train service was suspended between the Oakland Coliseum station stop and Richmond because of the protest. A Berkeley City Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday night was canceled after threats to disrupt it, said Mayor Tom Bates.

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## **Nut rage spat in first class cabin is the latest stumble for Korean Air family**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — When South Koreans heard that a Korean Air Lines executive delayed a flight because she was angry at being served macadamia nuts in a bag there was outrage but no surprise.

For many it was only the latest example of the high and mighty behavior they'd come to expect from the families who make up Korea's dynastic business elite and dominate the economy.

In the headline hogging incident now dubbed "nut rage," Cho Hyun-ah, the airline's head of cabin service and daughter of its chairman, ordered a senior crew member off the plane, forcing it to return to the gate at John F. Kennedy airport in New York City.

Cho had quarreled with flight attendants in first class after one of them offered her bagged nuts instead of nuts served on a plate. Amid the storm of criticism, Cho resigned Tuesday as head of cabin service but remained an executive at the airline. That sparked another furor and Cho on Wednesday submitted a letter of resignation quitting all her roles.

Korean Air had defended her actions as a "natural" attempt to improve customer service. Yet for a public that has lost patience with impunity and double standards, it was an ugly display of entitlement. The local media labeled her "princess."

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## **Big \$1.1 trillion spending bill faces first test Thursday in House; many unhappy with it**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A huge, \$1.1 trillion spending bill funding every corner of government faces its first test in the House, where conservatives are unhappy because it fails to challenge President Barack Obama's immigration policy and many Democrats are displeased because it weakens the 2010 Dodd-

Frank regulation of risky financial instruments.

Another provision drawing fire would allow pensions to be cut for current retirees covered by some economically-distressed multiemployer plans, part of a package agreed to unexpectedly Tuesday after secretive talks.

The 1,603-page measure was unveiled late Tuesday and will be scrutinized in advance of a House vote Thursday. But support from the top leaders in both the House and the Senate appears to cement its passage and prevent a government shutdown Thursday midnight, despite the presence of items in the legislation for lawmakers of all persuasions to dislike.

Rep. Hal Rogers, R-Ky., the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said the measure "will allow us to fulfill our constitutional duty to responsibly fund the federal government and avoid a shutdown."

The measure adheres to tight budget caps negotiated previously between the White House and Republicans, freezing agency budgets, on average. It also includes several provisions to fulfill Republican policy objectives, including significantly weakening new regulations that require banks to set up separate affiliates to deal in the more exotic and riskier forms of complex financial instruments called swaps. But some top Democrats, including Appropriations Committee member Nita Lowey of New York, supported the provision, and party leaders didn't appear to try too hard to knock it out.

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## **Congress relaxes whole grain standards for schools in big year-end spending bill**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress is taking some whole grains off the school lunch line.

A massive year-end spending bill released Tuesday doesn't allow schools to opt out of healthier school meal standards championed by first lady Michelle Obama, as House Republicans had sought. But it would ease standards that require more whole grains in school foods.

The bill also would put off rules to lower sodium in school meals. Those rules were supposed to kick in by 2017.

Some school nutrition directors have lobbied for a break from the standards, which have been phased in since 2012, saying the rules have proven to be costly and restrictive. Some kids don't like the meals, either. House Republicans have said the rules are an overreach, and have fought to ease them.

As the debate escalated this summer, Michelle Obama said she would fight "to the bitter end" to make sure kids have good nutrition in schools. The White House did not have immediate comment on the language in the spending bill.

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## **As unemployment keeps rising, French government to unveil new plan to encourage hiring**

PARIS (AP) — Creating jobs in France is proving harder than expected.

The embattled Socialist-led government is making its second push this year to energize the labor market in Europe's second-largest economy, after a top economic official called the previous plan "a failure."

Although President Francois Hollande has made cutting unemployment the cornerstone of his tenure, the jobs market is in fact getting worse. Unemployment climbed to 10.4 percent in the third quarter from 10.1 percent in the previous three months despite a package of payroll tax cuts for businesses earlier this year that was meant to encourage hiring.

Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron will on Wednesday present a new bundle of policies — a “growth and activity” bill. It has sharply divided Hollande’s own Socialist Party but drawn praise from France’s powerful business lobby, Medef, which argues that previous efforts did not go far enough.

Macron is a former Rothschild investment banker who Hollande chose to replace Socialist firebrand Arnaud Montebourg last August. Four months into the job, Macron has been thrust onto the front lines of France’s effort to create jobs — and save Hollande’s.

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## **Prince William, Kate wrap up NYC visit with tour of Sept. 11 museum, black-tie affair**

NEW YORK (AP) — Britain’s Prince William and his wife, Kate, wrapped up their first visit to New York in a three-day whirlwind that included a black-tie reception, a meeting with the other king, LeBron James, and a solemn, rain-drenched visit to the National Sept. 11 Memorial and Museum.

At the museum Tuesday, their last day, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge paid their respects with a handwritten note and told its leaders they were struck by the enormity of the loss in the 2001 terror attacks.

“In sorrowful memory of those who died on 11th September and in admiration of the courage shown to rebuild. William and Catherine,” she wrote in a note the couple left with flowers on the memorial pools lined with the names of the nearly 3,000 victims.

As the royals toured the museum devoted to the attacks, they examined such artifacts as preserved trident columns from one of the fallen twin towers’ facades and viewed rows upon rows of victims’ portraits. Like other visitors, they left virtual signatures to be projected on a crucial underground wall that survived the attacks and held back the Hudson River, with Kate looking on with a smile as hers appeared. And they asked questions about the memorial pools’ design, about how victims’ families had responded to the museum, and about the attacks themselves, National Sept. 11 Memorial and Museum President Joe Daniels said.

Curious museumgoers stood by to get a look at the royals — including the pregnant Kate’s hot-pink Mulberry coat, black tights, and black stiletto-heeled pumps, over a black dress from maternity designer Seraphine. Other fans braved heavy, cold rain outside.

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## **Hounded by conservatives, Iran’s dogs find peace at country’s only licensed animal shelter**

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Man’s best friend is seen as anything but in Iran, where city workers gun down strays and conservatives view pet dogs as a corrupting Western influence. But in a rare animal shelter in the countryside west of Tehran, hundreds of lucky pups have found mercy, and a growing number of Iranians are learning to love them.

Islamic tradition holds cats in high esteem, and in much of the Muslim world people leave food out for feral felines. Stray dogs, on the other hand, are often seen as a public nuisance — overgrown rats with wagging tails.

In Iran’s Islamic republic, dog ownership is seen as a pernicious Western import, and conservative lawmakers have called for it to be banned or at least heavily restricted, in line with other regulations governing Western music and fashion.

But outside Tehran, more than 500 dogs find care and affection at the Vafa Animal Shelter, which was established through an endowment in 2004 and is the country’s only licensed animal refuge.

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"In our society, dogs are the most vulnerable animals," said Ali Sani, the shelter's manager. "The dogs that are brought here used to be in urban environments and were struggling with problems and needed help."

## Today in History

### The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 10, the 344th day of 2014. There are 21 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 10, 1964, Martin Luther King Jr. received his Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, saying he accepted it "with an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind."

#### On this date:

In 1520, Martin Luther publicly burned the papal edict demanding that he recant, or face excommunication.

In 1787, Thomas H. Gallaudet, a pioneer of educating the deaf, was born in Philadelphia.

In 1817, Mississippi was admitted as the 20th state of the Union.

In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt became the first American to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, for helping mediate an end to the Russo-Japanese War.

In 1931, Jane Addams became the first American woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize; the co-recipient was Nicholas Murray Butler.

In 1948, the U.N. General Assembly adopted its Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

In 1950, Ralph J. Bunche was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the first black American to receive the award.

In 1962, "Lawrence of Arabia," David Lean's epic film starring Peter O'Toole as British military officer T.E. Lawrence, had its royal gala premiere in London.

In 1967, singer Otis Redding, 26, and six others were killed when their plane crashed into Wisconsin's Lake Monona.

In 1972, baseball's American League adopted the designated hitter rule on an experimental basis for three years.

In 1984, South African Bishop Desmond Tutu received the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1994, Yasser Arafat, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin received the Nobel Peace Prize, pledging to pursue their mission of healing the anguished Middle East.

**Ten years ago:** President George W. Bush picked Samuel Bodman to be the new energy secretary. Bernard Kerik withdrew his name from consideration to be President Bush's homeland security secretary. Sprinter Michelle Collins was suspended for eight years for a doping violation linked to the BALCO scandal. (Collins was reinstated in May 2008.)

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama accepted the Nobel Peace Prize with a humble acknowledgment of his scant accomplishments and a robust defense of the U.S. at war. James Cameron's 3-D film epic "Avatar" had its world premiere in London.

**One year ago:** South Africa held a memorial service for Nelson Mandela, during which U.S. President Barack Obama energized tens of thousands of spectators and nearly 100 visiting heads of state with a plea for the world to emulate "the last great liberator of the 20th century." (The ceremony was marred by the presence of a sign-language interpreter who deaf advocates said was an imposter waving his arms around meaninglessly.) General Motors named product chief Mary Barra its new CEO, making her the first woman to run a U.S. car company.



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**Today's Birthdays:** Soap opera creator Agnes Nixon is 87. Former Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter (YEYE'-tur) is 84. Actor Tommy Kirk is 73. Actress Fionnula Flanagan is 73. Pop singer Chad Stuart (Chad and Jeremy) is 73. Actress-singer Gloria Loring is 68. Pop-funk musician Walter "Clyde" Orange (The Commodores) is 68. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ralph Tavares is 66. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jessica Cleaves (Friends of Distinction) is 66. Country singer Johnny Rodriguez is 63. Actress Susan Dey is 62. Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich is 58. Jazz musician Paul Hardcastle is 57. Actor-director Kenneth Branagh (BRAH'-nah) is 54. Actress Nia Peeples is 53. TV chef Bobby Flay is 50. Rock singer-musician J Mascis is 49. Rock musician Scot (cq) Alexander (Dishwalla) is 43. Actress-comedian Arden Myrin is 41. Rock musician Meg White (The White Stripes) is 40. Rapper Kuniva (D12) is 39. Actor Gavin Houston is 37. Violinist Sarah Chang is 34. Rock musician Noah Harmon (Airborne Toxic Event) is 33. Actor Patrick John Flueger is 31. Actress Raven-Symone is 29.

**Thought for Today:** "Beauty is not caused. It is." - Emily Dickinson, American poet (born this date in 1830, died in 1886).