

Groton Daily Independent

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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

Saturday, December 13

Robotics at Rapid City Stevens Tourney

UDFL Debate at Watertown

Birthdays: Jon Vedvei • Jessica Adler • Blake Flihs • Gabriella Merkel • Melissa Gilbert

10:00am: Wrestling at LaMoure

12:00pm: Santa Day at Groton Community Center

2:00pm: BB Doubleheader at Frederick (JVGBB at 2 pm, JVBBB at 3 pm, Varsity girls at 4:30, Varsity boys at 6:00)

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

Sunday, December 14

Anniversary: Bob & Mary Ann Wehde

Birthdays: Sue Patton • Elda Stange • Carroll Dean

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

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

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship

10:00am: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont (LCMC) worship

10:00am: St. John's Lutheran Christmas Practice

10:00am: UMC School

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship (SS Sings)

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship with SS Christmas Program: 3:30pm: All School Play at GHS Gym

5:00pm: St. John's Lutheran Christian Lit.

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Choir

Monday, December 15

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Nachos, refried beans, lettuce, fruit.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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City Council Meeting Agenda

December 15, 2014- 7pm

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Bills
- 3) Department Reports
- 4) Holiday Lighting Contest
- 5) No grant for BB Play Equipment
- 6) NECOG Joint Powers Agreement 2015
- 7) Basin Power Line Update
- 8) 7:15pm – Duane’s Malt Beverage Transfer Hearing
- 9) Thirsty’s Malt Beverage License
- 10) Land Values for Jail property
- 11) Hwy 37 Project Update
- 12) Finances & Street Projects
- 13) 2nd Reading Ordinance 701-2014 Supp Approp Ord
- 14) 7:30pm Gravel Bids
- 15) Skating Hours & Policies
- 16) Nuisance Property Update
- 17) Legislative/Municipal Lobbying Day – Pierre – Feb 3-4
- 18) Exe Session – Legal

And Any Other Business that may come before the Council



Santa is Coming to Groton

Saturday, Dec. 13

Noon to 2 p.m.

Groton Community Center

Classifieds

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.

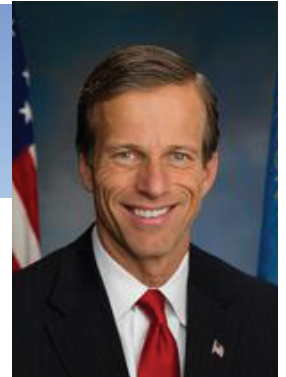
Apartment for Rent

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.

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)

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Tax Uncertainty a Raw Deal for South Dakotans

With a new year upon us, small businesses and families will soon begin reviewing their finances in anticipation of filing their 2014 taxes. The federal tax code is a maze of complicated provisions made worse by the uncertainty businesses and individuals face as they wait for Congress to act each year on a host of tax measures. From the deduction for state and local sales taxes used by those who itemize, to the higher business deduction limits relied upon by small businesses, temporary tax relief does not provide the certainty individuals and businesses need to make long-term planning decisions. Instead, South Dakotans find themselves expending time and money complying with a tax code that would be better spent on new business investments or in their local community.

Earlier this month, Congress came very close to a bipartisan deal to make permanent a number of tax relief measures for individuals and businesses that have recently expired. This proposed deal was supported by Senate leadership of both parties as well as House Republicans, but unfortunately President Obama and a few of his liberal allies in Congress decided to scuttle the deal before it was finalized. Rather than work with Congress to make tax relief permanent for families and businesses, the president chose to issue a veto threat while good-faith negotiations were still under way, effectively killing the chances for a deal.

The administration's actions are especially disappointing because the bipartisan deal included a provision to finally make permanent the deduction for state and local sales taxes that expired at the end of 2013. South Dakota is one of only seven states without an income tax, and South Dakota taxpayers deserve the same treatment as taxpayers in states with an income tax, where the deduction for state income taxes is a permanent part of our tax code. The proposed deal also would have made permanent the \$500,000 small business expensing limit that expired at the end of 2013, which is critical for small business owners and family farmers as they plan future investments. Additionally, the deal would have made permanent measures that promote charitable giving, such as allowing individuals above the age of 70 and a half to give Individual Retirement Account savings to charities without incurring a tax hit.

The president's ill-advised veto threat demonstrates how difficult it has been to work with this administration on common-sense tax relief measures to give individuals, including small business owners, the certainty they need to make investment decisions to help grow our economy. Unfortunately, rather than enacting permanent relief for individuals and small businesses, Congress did the bare minimum – a one-year extension of expired tax relief, once again kicking the can to the next year for Congress to take up yet again. South Dakota taxpayers deserve much better than this. They deserve permanent tax relief that they can rely upon and a tax code that treats them fairly.

I intend to do whatever I can next Congress to make comprehensive tax reform a reality. I hope that next time the president will choose to work with us.

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Service Notice: Robert Johnson

A Celebration of life for Robert Johnson, 93, of Groton will be 11:00 a.m., Monday, December 15th at the United Methodist Church, Groton. Rev. Matt Richards will officiate. Private inurnment will be held in Union Cemetery, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the funeral chapel on Sunday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. Bob died December 11, 2014 at Golden Living Center, Groton.



It's A Wonderful Life

A column by Gov. Dennis Daugaard:

It's a busy week in South Dakota. There are Christmas gatherings to attend, cards to be sent and presents yet to be purchased. In schedules more hectic than usual, many of us will make time to honor our own Christmas traditions – from decorating the Christmas tree, to watching a particular Christmas movie, to singing carols or baking treats. In many families, one tradition is watching "It's a Wonderful Life."

"It's a Wonderful Life" is the story of George Bailey who repeatedly chooses to sacrifice his own dreams, so that he can help others. When his father dies, George surrenders his plans to travel the world, instead taking his late father's job at a small bank. The town scrooge, Mr. Potter, wants to shut down the bank and ultimately frames George for funds lost by George's inept Uncle Billy.

The circumstances lead George to wish he had never been born. A guardian angel grants that wish, and then shows George what life in Bedford Falls would have been if George had never existed. All the people he had helped were worse off and two died prematurely because George had never been born. His wife never married nor had children. And the villain, Mr. Potter, ruled the entire town because no one kept him in check.

Sometimes we fall into the trap of thinking that the work of changing the world is solely the realm of elected officials. But I think it's the every-day kind of people like George Bailey who make the real difference.

The things that South Dakotans do best, like lending a helping hand to a neighbor and putting others first, are the things that effect positive change. The man that shovels his neighbor's driveway, the little girl who gives her allowance to the bell ringer and the church that opens its doors to someone without shelter – they're the ones with the real power.

We're all busy, especially during this time of year. But find time this Christmas, if only in a small way, to be a George Bailey to someone in need. I'm sure you won't regret it. Don't underestimate the immense value of your life and the difference you can make. It truly is a wonderful life.

Merry Christmas.

Today in Weather History

1973: Snow with winds as high as 40 mph created near-blizzard conditions across northeastern South Dakota on the 13th. Traffic was halted and schools closed, but overall damage was minimal. Snowfall was as high as 7 inches at Clear Lake.

1975: A winter storm moved across South Dakota on Saturday and Sunday the 13th and 14th. Snows ranged in depth from three to eight inches for portions of the northwest and central sections of the state. Strong winds in the southeast parts of the state created near-blizzard conditions. No lives were lost and stock losses were minimal. Pierre and Faulkton recorded 2 inches of snow, with 3 inches near Highmore and 4 inches at Eagle Butte.

1992: A wintry mix of precipitation occurred over western portions of Minnesota from the 13th to the 14th, causing numerous traffic accidents. The heaviest snow occurred to the north, across mostly northern Minnesota.

2008: An intense low pressure area moved out of the Rockies and across the Central Plains bringing widespread snow, blizzard conditions, and extreme winds chills to central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota into the early morning hours of the 15th. Snowfall amounts of 1 to as much as 12 inches along with winds gusting over 50 mph caused widespread near zero visibilities and dangerous travel conditions. Winds chills fell into the 35 below to 45 below zero range. Many vehicles became stuck or stranded along several highways and along Interstates 29 and 90. Interstate 90 was closed from the Wyoming line to Murdo from late on the 13th until the morning of the 14th. Interstate 29 was also closed for much of the 14th. The Onida, Agar, and Gettysburg Volunteer Fire Department found it difficult to respond to a structure fire south of Gettysburg in a timely manner. Due to whiteout conditions, the structure was lost to the fire by the time the fire departments arrived. Most area schools were closed on Monday due to the road conditions along with the bitter cold wind chills. Some of the heaviest snowfall amounts included: 6 inches at Watertown, Browns Valley, Sisseton, Waubay, and Castlewood; 7 inches at Ortonville, Webster, Clear Lake, Faulkton, and Aberdeen; 8 inches at Milbank, 9 inches at Britton and Wheaton; 10 inches at Clear Lake, and 12 inches at Roscoe. Mobridge received 2 inches and Pierre received 4 inches of snowfall with this storm

1915 - A heavy snowstorm kicked off the snowiest winter in modern records for western New England. (The Weather Channel)

1962 - A severe Florida freeze occurred. Morning lows reached 35 degrees at Miami, 18 de-

Golden LivingCenter-Groton is accepting applications for

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Full-Time CNA
Part-Time/Casual CNA

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- ★ Competitive Health and Wellness Insurance Plans to include Medical, Dental and Vision
- ★ 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan
- ★ Life, Accidental Death and Disability Insurance
- ★ Tuition Reimbursement Program
- ★ Flexible Spending Accounts
- ★ Community Meal Discount Program
- ★ Paid Time Off and other Leave Programs
- ★ Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

To inquire stop in 1106 N 2nd St. Groton, SD or call Michele Herr, DNS (605) 397-2365. EOE/M/F/D/V

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greens at Tampa, and 12 degrees at Jacksonville. It was the coldest December weather of the 20th century and caused millions of dollars damage to crops and foliage. In Georgia, the morning low of 9 degrees below zero at Blairsville established a state record for the month of December. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1969: In Hoberg, on the northern coast of Vancouver Island, winds were clocked from the south at 80 mph, with accompanying gusts to 99 mph. In the remarks column of their observation form, a weather observer had written, "blowing rocks."

1987 - A major winter storm produced high winds and heavy snow in the Southern Rockies and the Southern High Plains. Snowfall totals in New Mexico ranged up to 25 inches at Cedar Crest, with up to three feet of snow reported in the higher elevations. Winds of 75 mph, with gusts to 124 mph, were reported northeast of Albuquerque NM. El Paso TX was buried under 22.4 inches of snow, including a single storm record of 16.8 inches in 24 hours. The snowfall total surpassed their previous record for an entire winter season of 18.4 inches. Record cold was experienced the next three nights as readings dipped into the single numbers. High winds ushering unseasonably cold air into the southwestern U.S. gusted to 100 mph at Grapevine CA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Low pressure off the Atlantic coast produced up to a foot of snow in eastern Nassau County and western Suffolk County of southeastern New York State. Mild weather prevailed across the western half of the country. Nine cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Goodland KS with a reading of 74 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


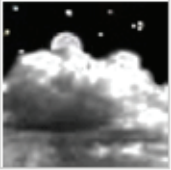





1989 - Strong northwesterly winds, ushering bitterly cold arctic air into the central U.S., produced squalls with heavy snow in the Great Lakes Region. Snowfall totals in Upper Michigan ranged up to 24 inches at Manistique. Nine cities in Arkansas and Texas reported record low temperatures for the date, including Calico Rock AR with a reading of 4 degrees above zero. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1997: A rare cold snap and snowstorm struck northern Mexico, leaving 12 people dead. Guadalajara reported snow for the first time since 1881. Chihuahua residents saw temperatures plunge to 5 degrees Fahrenheit.

2002 - A powerful Pacific storm system plowed into the western United States during the 13th-16th, producing high winds, heavy rains, significant mountain snowfall and causing 9 deaths (Associated Press). Rainfall amounts exceeding 10 inches occurred in parts of California, and wind gusts over 45 mph produced up to 1.9 million power outages during the period (Pacific Gas & Electric).

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TODAY	TONIGHT	SUNDAY	SUNDAY NIGHT	MONDAY	MONDAY NIGHT	TUESDAY
						
Decreasing Clouds High: 47 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 34 °F	Mostly Cloudy High: 37 °F ↓	Chance Snow Low: 24 °F	Chance Snow High: 28 °F	Slight Chc Snow Low: 15 °F	Partly Sunny High: 22 °F



Much Above Normal Temps Continue

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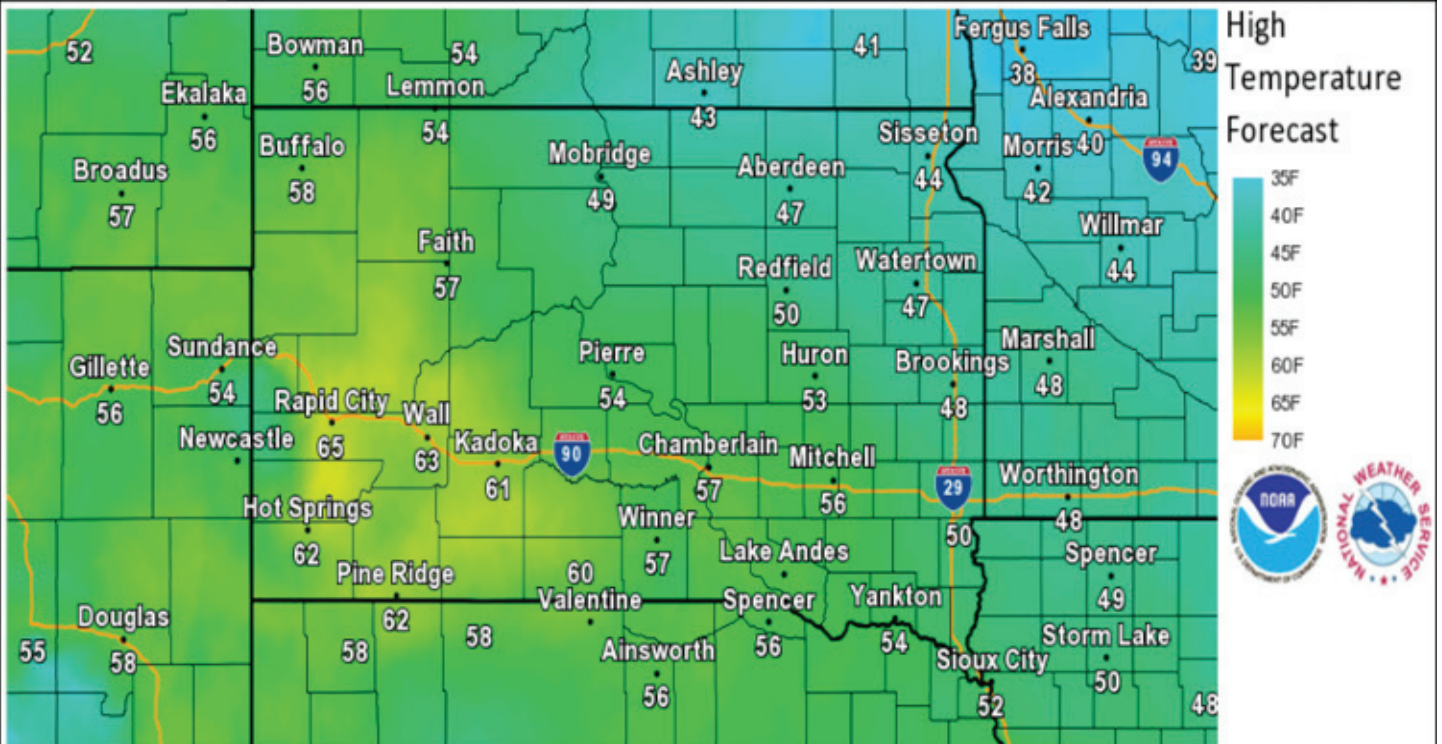
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Valid ending Saturday December 13th, 2014 at 6 PM CST

Created Saturday December 13th, 2014 at 5:34 AM CST

Southerly winds will continue to bring very mild air into the region today, with widespread 40s and 50s once again for high temperatures.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 42.7 at 3:31 PM

Low: 31.4 at 1:17 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 30 at 2:33 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 57° in 1921

Record Low: -34° in 1917

Average High: 26°F

Average Low: 6°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.21

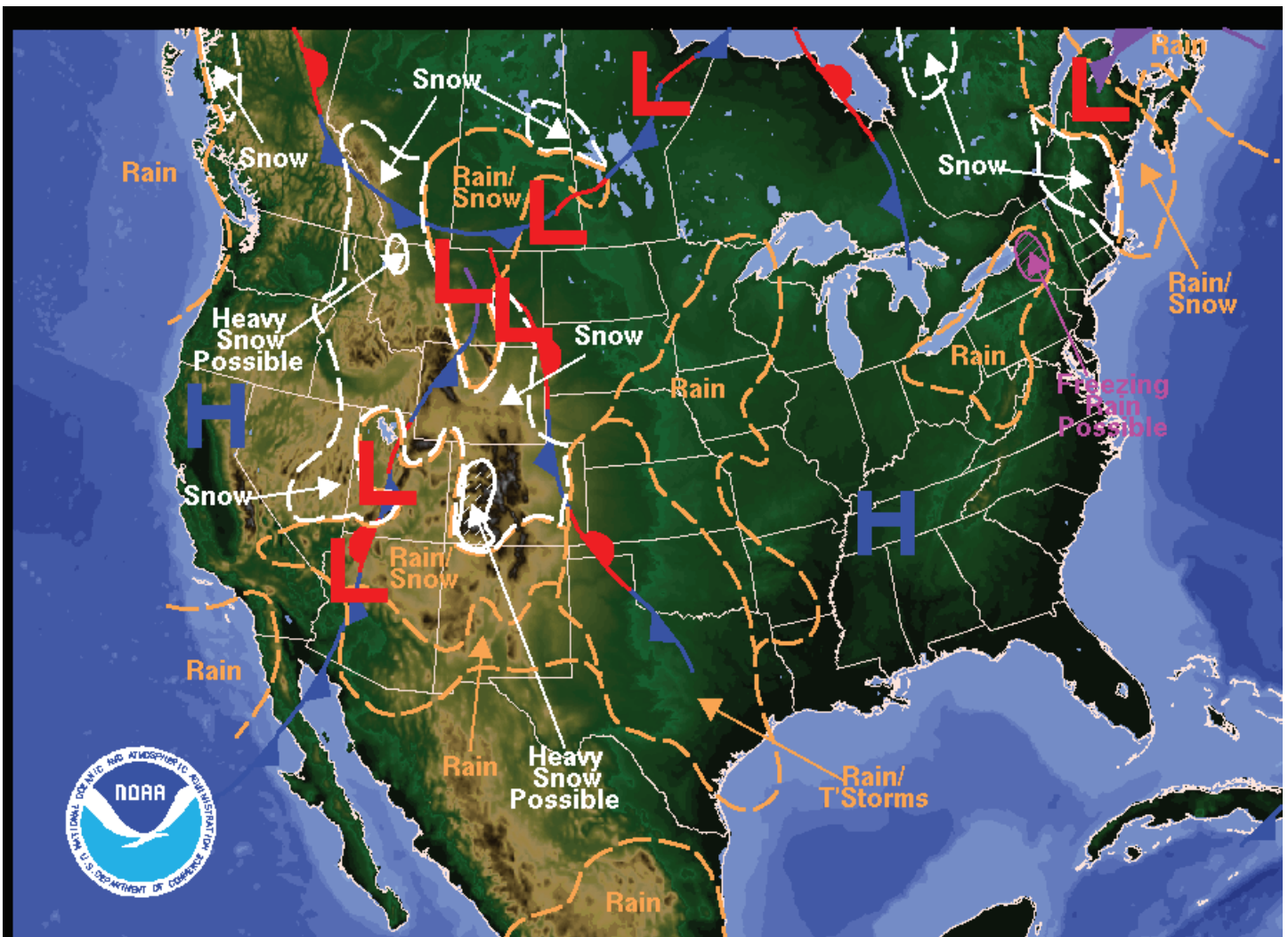
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.41

Precip Year to Date: 13.99

Sunset Tonight: 4:51 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:06 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Dec 13, 2014, issued 3:58 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



I HAVE TO GIVE IT UP!

It was the worst game of golf he had ever played. As he missed his putt on the final green, he flew into a terrible tantrum, screaming and swearing and flailing his arms. Beating his putter on the grass, he cried, "I have to give it up!"

"Give up golf?" asked the caddy in disbelief.

"No," snapped the golfer, "my ministry. The church is taking up too much of my time. Those people expect too much of me and always expect me to take care of them."

Pure and simple, time is a special gift. It is a commodity that, once used in one way or another, can never be retrieved. Once gone, it is forever lost.

One expert on time put it this way: "Time is life. It is irreversible and irreplaceable. To waste your time is to waste your life. To master your time is to master your life and make the most of it."

We must always begin each day with God in a time of worship – prayer, Scripture reading, meditating on His Word and recognizing His role in leading us. If we make Him our first priority and focus on Him throughout the day, we can trust Him to direct our paths.

Prayer: Help me, Lord, to not only do things right, but to do the right things in the right way, at the right time. I surrender my time to You and ask that You help me to use it wisely, for Jesus' sake, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Romans 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

Nonprofit to lobby lawmakers against new Deadwood gambling

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A social advocacy group plans to lobby against a measure in the upcoming legislative session to authorize three new games in Deadwood and at tribal casinos that voters approved in November.

Family Heritage Alliance Action executive director Dale Bartscher said on Friday the nonprofit's board unanimously agreed this month to oppose the legislation. He said the organization will be urging lawmakers in January not to authorize the new games, which 57 percent of voters supported Nov. 4 as part of Amendment Q.

Casinos and residents of Deadwood hope the proposed games — keno, craps and roulette — will attract a new breed of gambler to the city: a younger audience, or at least one that may have traveled to Colorado or Iowa before to play the games. Opponents argue gambling expansions provoke addictions and cause social and financial problems for families in the state.

"This is nothing more, nothing more than addiction by design," Bartscher said. "The Legislature has the opportunity to say, 'No more.'"

The new, voter-backed games are expected to hit the town in July if lawmakers agree to approve them, and they're aimed at making Deadwood more competitive with the glut of gambling destinations available across the country. Deadwood Mayor Chuck Turbiville and Deadwood Gaming Association executive director Mike Rodman, who championed the voter initiative, said Friday that they always anticipated Family Heritage Alliance Action would lobby lawmakers against the enabling legislation.

"We're onward and upward, as they say," Turbiville said.

The new games represent "the will of the people," he said, and they would be good for South Dakota.

But Bartscher said plenty of lawmakers represent the 43 percent of voters who cast their ballot against Amendment Q, and that other legislators should take a second look at the facts when it comes to

the consequences of gambling, which is one of many issues that the group focuses on.

"I don't think you should take the legislators for granted, that they're going to simply pass it," he said.

Incoming Senate Majority Leader Tim Rave, R-Baltic, said the legislation would be one of the more interesting debates lawmakers have this session. It's too early to say what will happen over the course of the session, he said, but he called voter approval of the ballot measure less of a mandate and more "di-

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Served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Serving 5-9 p.m.

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rection on the will of the people.”

Incoming House Speaker Dean Wink, R-Howes, declined to comment on the measure until he saw the language of the bill.

Montana lawmakers push back on expanded bomber zone

MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Montana’s Congressional delegation is pushing the U.S. Air Force for modifications to a proposed bomber training area over the Northern Plains that would cover an area larger than West Virginia.

A decision is due in coming weeks on the Air Force plan. It would expand the Powder River Training Complex over Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas.

Approval also is needed from federal aviation regulators.

U.S. Senators Jon Tester and John Walsh and Rep. Steve Daines said the proposal would stifle economic development and threaten safety.

The training area would be used by B-1 bombers from South Dakota’s Ellsworth Air Force Base and B-52 bombers from Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota.

South Dakota lawmakers say the proposal would stabilize the future of Ellsworth and stave off its possible closure.

School of Mines grad to work at Mission Control

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A graduating South Dakota School of Mines and Technology student has landed a job in a room that any space buff will quickly recognize.

Ryan Brown, of Rapid City, starts work in February at NASA’s Mission Control in Houston, where he’ll help with the operation of the International Space Station.

The 32-year-old says that after 18 months of training, his role will be to oversee the communication system, set up video conferences with the astronauts and troubleshoot computer problems.

Brown says he’ll be advising the flight director and have to make quick decisions about major issues. He says his eight years serving with special forces units in the U.S. Army prepared him for the fast pace of Mission Control.

He graduates next Saturday with a degree in computer engineering.

Field closing in on 4th straight world, NFR titles

KEITH FREEMAN, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Bareback rider Kaycee Feild put himself in a strong position to win the PRCA world and National Finals Rodeo aggregate standings titles after finishing first with an 85.5 on Dirty Rags during round nine on Friday.

The three-time world champion from Spanish Fork, Utah, remained in first place in the world standings with \$231,230. While trying to win his fourth world standings title in a row, Feild also is trying to clinch his fourth consecutive NFR aggregate standings championship. He now has 732.5 points for nine rides after moving up from third to first place.

Feild would join team roping header Leo Camarillo (1968-71) as the only NFR contestants to win four consecutive aggregate titles if he remains in first after Saturday’s final round.

“That (securing the aggregate crown) was the deal that fired me up,” Feild said. “They were saying that Austin (Foss) and Winn (Ratliff) were ahead of me. I was mad. That fired me up.”

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"I'm usually bouncing around behind the chutes and encouraging everybody. Tonight I was focused and quiet."

Austin Foss of Terrebonne, Oregon, didn't place among the top six with a 77.5 on Hell's Canyon but remained in second place in the world standings with \$184,475. He also is third in the NFR aggregate standings with 729 points for nine rides. Richmond Champion of The Woodlands, Texas, is second in the aggregate race with 729.5 points for nine rides.

In steer wrestling, four-time world champion Luke Branquinho put himself in position for a gold buckle by placing second in 3.9 seconds and holding onto first place in both the world and NFR standings. He tops the world standings with \$153,648 and leads the aggregate with a time of 36.60 over nine head.

Branquinho, sidelined from July 18 until the opening round due to a right arm injury, is now only \$1,050 from becoming the eighth individual to win \$1 million in career earnings at the NFR. Branquinho also stands to claim a \$48,732 bonus if he holds on to first after all 10 rounds.

Trevor Knowles of Mount Vernon, Oregon, is second in the world standings with \$134,406 after placing third in 3.8. Dakota Eldridge of Elko, Nevada, won round nine in a time of 3.30.

Other winners included Sage Kimzey (bull riding), Trevor Brazile and Cade Swor (tie-down roping), Nick Sartain and Rich Skelton (team roping), Wade Sundell (saddle bronc riding), and Trula Churchill (barrel racing).

Kimzey of Strong City, Oklahoma, who clinched his first world championship in round eight, secured the NFR aggregate crown with a first-place 87.5 on Foolish Man in round nine. He is the lone rider to cover eight of his nine bulls and the only one of seven bull riders ever to win four rounds at one NFR.

Kimzey leads the world standings with \$269,899, just over \$110,000 ahead of second-place Trey Benton III of Rock Island, Texas, with \$159,874. Kimzey's total also shatters Steve Woolsey's rookie earnings record of \$197,646 for a single event.

Kimzey also is first in the aggregate standings with 671 points for eight rides and leads all NFR competitors with \$126,734 earned over nine rounds here. He became just the second bull rider to win the world championship during his rookie season. The only other first-year rider to win a gold buckle was Bill Kornell in 1963.

Brazile of Decatur, Texas, tied for first with Swor of Winnie, Texas, in a time of 7.6. The win put Brazile in second in the world standings with \$170,778 and third in the aggregate race with a time of 82.80 over nine rounds. He is now first in NFR earnings with \$76,929.

Two-time world champion Tuf Cooper of Decatur, Texas, remained atop the world standings with \$193,002 and also is second in the aggregate race with a time of 80.30 over nine rounds after finishing third with a time of 7.70.

Matt Shiozawa of Chubbuck, Idaho, remained in first place in the aggregate standings with a time of 80.10 for nine rounds following a sixth-place time of 9.20.

Sartain of Dover, Oklahoma, and Skelton of Llano, Texas, won round nine in team roping in a time of 3.9.

Header Clay Tryan of Billings, Montana, and heeler Jade Corkill, of Fallon, Nevada., placed sixth in 5.20 and remained first in the world standings with \$163,357 each and the NFR aggregate standings with a time of 64.10 for eight rounds.

Defending world champions Tryan and Corkill are the only pair to have nine successful rounds.

Heith DeMoss of Heflin, Louisiana, held on to first in the world standings in saddle bronc riding with \$163,830 despite getting bucked off of Crash Gate. Spencer Wright of Milford, Utah, remained first in the NFR aggregate standings with 728.5 points over eight rides after finishing third with an 81.5 on Pony Man.

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Sundell of Boxholm, Iowa, won round nine with an 82.5 on Broken Camp.

In barrel racing, Lisa Lockhart of Oelrichs, South Dakota, remained first in the NFR aggregate standings with a time of 130.91 over nine rounds following her fourth-place tying ride of 13.96.

But Lockhart remained second behind Fallon Taylor of Whitesboro, Texas, who has earned \$221,885 in the world standings after finishing sixth in 14.04.

Churchill of Valentine, Nebraska, won round nine in 13.67.

In all-around, if Brazile, who secured the steer roping world title on Nov. 8 and a record-setting ninth straight all-around crown and 21st gold buckle following the third round, can win the tie-down roping title he will equal Jim Shoulders' record of three triple crowns (1956-58). Brazile previously won his triple crowns in 2007 and 2010.

Brazile has now earned \$438,281 this season.

Friday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 60, Sturgis 57
Aberdeen Christian 59, Great Plains Lutheran 35
Alcester-Hudson 61, Freeman Academy 21
Brookings 58, Brandon Valley 46
Burke/South Central 56, Scotland 48
Castlewood 41, Deuel 32
Colman-Egan 47, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 34
Crow Creek 77, Flandreau Indian 68
Dell Rapids 60, West Central 46
Deubrook 71, Lake Preston 41
Douglas 63, Lead-Deadwood 37
Edmunds Central 60, Wakpala 51
Elk Point-Jefferson 68, Canton 48
Estelline 55, Dell Rapids St. Mary 41
Flandreau 63, Chester 56
Florence/Henry 60, Waubay 30
Freeman 56, Viborg-Hurley 43
Gayville-Volin 62, Baltic 56, OT
Hamlin 37, Redfield/Doland 26
Hanson 70, Ethan 64
Harding County 48, Newell 39
Herreid/Selby Area 75, McLaughlin 74
Hill City 37, Belle Fourche 22
Huron 57, Harrisburg 47
Mitchell 90, Pierre 83
Mitchell Christian 74, Iroquois 30
New Underwood 51, Edgemont 27
Philip 74, Wall 31
Rosholt 69, Hankinson, N.D. 56

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Sioux Falls Christian 65, Lennox 51
Sioux Falls Lincoln 65, Rapid City Stevens 53
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 57, Vermillion 42
Sioux Falls Washington 54, St. Thomas More 44
Sioux Valley 93, Howard 16
St. Francis Indian 81, Little Wound 61
Stanley County 56, Bennett County 41
Tea Area 70, Dakota Valley 53
Tri-Valley 65, Garretson 58
Valentine, Neb. 57, Todd County 56
Waverly-South Shore 55, Wilmot 38
White River 88, Jones County 45
Wolsey-Wessington 58, Faulkton 33
Yankton 49, Watertown 46
Gillette Tournament (Camel)
Casper Natrona, Wyo. 50, Rapid City Central 49

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Avon 68, Gregory 20
Britton-Hecla 52, Langford 33
Crow Creek 51, Flandreau Indian 42
Edmunds Central 42, Wakpala 35
Elk Point-Jefferson 45, Canton 24
Faith 80, Takini 24
Faulkton 54, Wolsey-Wessington 25
Freeman Academy 35, Alcester-Hudson 28
Gayville-Volin 61, Baltic 45
Hill City 47, Belle Fourche 44
Huron 44, Harrisburg 41
Lead-Deadwood 51, Douglas 34
Lennox 47, Sioux Falls Christian 22
New Underwood 66, Edgemont 31
Parkston 62, Tea Area 53
Pierre 63, Mitchell 56
Sioux Falls Lincoln 75, Rapid City Stevens 65
St. Thomas More 58, Sioux Falls Washington 56
Todd County 75, Valentine, Neb. 28
Gillette Tournament (Camel)
Rapid City Central 60, Casper Natrona, Wyo. 55

US OKs renaming offensive South Dakota creek

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A federal board has approved a new name for a South Dakota creek because the old name was offensive.

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names has approved renaming a creek in Moody County to "Isanti Creek." It was originally named "Squaw Creek."

The board also approved naming a previously unnamed creek in Minnehaha County "Annie Anderson Creek."

The names were recommended by the state Board on Geographic Names as a result of public input.

The state board was established in 2009 to remove offensive nomenclature, including the word "squaw," from geographic features in the state.

The state originally planned to also replace the word "Negro" from features. But black leaders argued the term is not offensive and removing it from names would harm the legacy of African-Americans in the state.

Dakotas tribes react to fed marijuana decision

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Native Americans in the Dakotas appeared skeptical Friday of growing and selling marijuana in Indian Country, citing concerns over health and public safety on reservations that outweighed a potential financial windfall for tribes.

The U.S. Justice Department outlined a new policy Thursday allowing Indian tribes, which are considered sovereign nations, to grow and sell marijuana on tribal lands as long as they follow the same federal conditions laid out for states that have legalized the drug. Timothy Purdon, the U.S. attorney for North Dakota, said he is not aware of any tribes in North Dakota or South Dakota actively considering a marijuana industry. He said the issue is more acute in states such as Washington and Colorado that have legalized the drug.

South Dakota U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson was unavailable for comment Friday.

Some tribes view marijuana as an economic opportunity, while others fear legalized marijuana could lead to negative public safety and health consequences. Many tribal leaders in the Dakotas were still digesting the news.

"I'm kind of dumfounded right now," Cheyenne River Sioux Chairman Harold Frazier said, though he believes the South Dakota tribe would oppose allowing marijuana.

Rosebud Sioux President Cyril Scott said he needed more time to review the policy before weighing in on it regarding the Rosebud reservation in southern South Dakota.

The Oglala Sioux Tribal Council this year rejected a proposal to allow marijuana on the Pine Ridge Reservation in southwestern South Dakota. Law and Order Committee Chairwoman Ellen Fills the Pipe said she opposes legalizing the drug because of her background in law enforcement. Her gut feeling is that the tribe won't allow its cultivation, she said.

Lower Brule Sioux Chairman Michael Jandreau said he was undecided on the issue and acknowledged the tension between a new method for the central South Dakota tribe to make money and the destructive effects of alcohol and drugs.

Standing Rock Chairman Dave Archambault II said that tribe might consider marijuana's cousin, hemp, but the federal government would have to allow interstate transport for it to be a profitable venture. Hemp is used to make a variety of products, including ropes, clothing and lotion.

"We've always thought we had the sovereign right" to grow marijuana, Archambault said. "But once you try to transport it interstate, federal law discourages it. If it makes sense economically, then it might be something tribes would consider."

The 3,600-square-mile reservation that straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border has few industries outside of a casino. It's home to about 10,000 people, and the unemployment rate runs as high

as 20 percent. But Archambault said the growing and selling of any type of marijuana — recreational, medicinal or industrial — would take a lot of study and discussion.

“It’s not something we’re going to just jump on and do right now,” he said.

Leaders of the Three Affiliated Tribes, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and Spirit Lake Sioux in North Dakota did not respond to The Associated Press’ requests for comment. In South Dakota, officials in the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe and the Yankton Sioux Tribe were unavailable or didn’t return requests for comment.

SD officials reject year-round fishing proposal

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota wildlife officials have rejected a proposal to allow statewide spearfishing and bow fishing of most game fish year-round.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission has voted against the measure that would have allowed the use of legal spear and bow fishing equipment on all game fish species, with the exception of paddlefish and sturgeon, in all inland waters starting next year.

The proposal was in response to a petition submitted by spearfishermen.

The game fish spearfishing and bow fishing season currently runs from June 15 through March 15 in established open waters such as Lake Oahe, portions of Lakes Sharpe and Francis Case, and Angostura and Belle Fourche reservoirs.

Auto dealer chain to pay fine for deceptive ads

RYAN J. FOLEY, Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — A family-owned chain of automobile dealerships located in Iowa, Montana and South Dakota will pay a \$360,000 civil penalty for running misleading ads, federal regulators announced Friday.

The Federal Trade Commission alleged in a complaint that 20 Billion Auto dealerships and their advertising company violated a 2012 order that prohibited them from deceptively advertising the cost of buying or leasing cars.

The commission’s complaint says Billion Auto’s television, radio, print and online ads routinely focus on a few attractive terms such as low monthly payments and interest rates. But the ads use fine print, distracting visuals and rapid-fire audio delivery to conceal other material terms of the deals, including that the low payments are for leases, limits on who can qualify and added costs, the commission said.

“If auto dealers make advertising claims in headlines, they can’t take them away in fine print,” Jessica Rich, director of the FTC’s Bureau of Consumer Protection, said in a statement.

The complaint named Billion dealerships in Iowa City, Clive and Sioux City, Iowa; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and Billings, Montana. Their ads routinely reach consumers in those states plus Minnesota, Nebraska and Wyoming, regulators said.

Billion Auto, which is owned by father and son David H. and David R. Billion and claims to sell 25,000 new and used cars per year, agreed to pay the penalty to settle the allegations. Nichols Media, a Sioux Falls, South Dakota-based advertising firm also controlled by the Billions, was part of the settlement.

Sioux Falls attorney James McMahan, who represented both companies, said that Billion “wasn’t doing it differently than anybody else did,” arguing that such ads are prevalent in the auto industry. He said the FTC does not have specific guidelines for how large the print has to be and how fast announcers can talk, which makes compliance difficult.

“My advice to companies is, slow down and use big print or they are going to be knocking on your

door," McMahon said, adding that Billion has since revised its ads.

The complaint referenced one television ad that ran in Sioux Falls in 2012 promoting vehicles for lease for \$179 a month. But fine print that was tiny and flashed on the screen for three seconds specified that customers had to put \$2,000 down and be a military member or veteran and returning customer to get the deal.

A radio spot that ran 280 times on Sioux City radio stations advertised "the 2013 Nissan Altima for just 99 dollars a month." Then in the final seconds of the ad, the announcer says with a rapid-fire delivery that the deal is for a 36-month, 36,000 mile lease that requires a \$5,000 down payment. Other ads hid in the fine print the requirements to qualify for financing deals such as a five-year loan with zero percent interest, the complaint said.

The FTC's 2012 order prohibits the company from misrepresenting material costs and terms of vehicle finance and lease offers and requires specific disclosures. Friday's settlement reiterates the 2012 order and requires Billion Auto to submit to additional compliance monitoring and record-keeping requirements for years.

Rich said the enforcement action shows "there is a financial cost for violating FTC orders."

The Billion Auto Group, a separate company that has locations in Bozeman and Livingston, Montana, is not affiliated with the penalty.

SD officials finalize bighorn sheep 2015 season

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota wildlife officials have finalized the 2015 bighorn sheep hunting season.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission has determined that the season will run from Sept. 1 through Dec. 31. Three licenses will be available.

Officials say one of the three licenses will be an auctioned "ram bighorn sheep" license valid in Unit 2, which encompasses Custer County west of Highway 79, excluding Custer State Park.

Farm Rescue hires full-time development director

BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A nonprofit that helps farmers in need in five Northern Plains states is bringing a full-time development director on board.

Dennis Wiese, 54, of Flandreau, South Dakota, has decades of experience working the land and on agricultural issues. He is a former longtime president of the South Dakota Farmers Union and a former secretary and treasurer of the National Farmers Union. He currently farms with family members and runs a consulting business.

"Dennis has a wide array of experiences in rural America and in non-agricultural areas of the United States," Farm Rescue founder and President Bill Gross said. "He has worked on projects in the environmental, food, energy and transportation industries while maintaining his roots in farming and serving the public."

Wiese was one of about three dozen applicants for the Farm Rescue job. He becomes the fifth full-time staffer for the nonprofit that Gross started in 2006 with just a handful of volunteers to help farmers in North Dakota struck by illness, injury or disaster. The nonprofit has since expanded to South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana and Iowa, helping farmers in need plant and harvest crops and hay. It helped its 300th farm family this fall.

Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson said in a statement that he's pleased with

Wiese's selection.

"Dennis' network of friends and colleagues across the country know him to be a passionate servant of rural America," Frederickson said.

Wiese said his role will largely be outreach and public relations, to strengthen fundraising and support for Farm Rescue, which relies on donations, grants, business sponsors and a network of about 1,000 volunteers around the country who travel to farms to do the actual physical labor.

"It's an endeavor to sustain the organization decades-out," Wiese said of his hiring.

Farm Rescue is not looking to expand its geographical area for at least another year or two.

"Expanding the number of people we serve within the states we're already in, I think that's something we can do a little sooner," Wiese said.

Farm Rescue has been helping about 50 farmers per year, with an annual cash budget approaching half a million dollars.

Wiese, who served as president of the South Dakota Farmers Union from 1993 to 2005, plans to continue living and farming in eastern South Dakota while working full time for Farm Rescue, which is based in Jamestown, North Dakota.

"We know farms are growing, and oftentimes farmers themselves, as much as they'd like to stop everything and go help a farmer in need with acres to do, it's impossible," he said. "The demand is significantly growing for Farm Rescue."

That demand has put increasing strain on Gross, who flies cargo planes around the world for UPS. Gross said he will continue to be actively involved in Farm Rescue but not to the extent he has been in the past.

"It's hard to maintain my full-time job in addition to maintaining sponsorships and bringing in new funding for Farm Rescue," he said. "I definitely needed help in that area."

South Dakota pulls controversial driving campaign

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — State officials in South Dakota have decided that a public safety campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of jerking the steering wheel on icy roads is too risqué.

The Department of Public Safety has pulled the "Don't Jerk and Drive" ads, which played on the double-meaning of the word "jerk." Highway Safety Director Lee Axdahl told the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/1zYqlyN>) earlier this week that the double meaning was intentional, to grab people's attention.

"The message is that we'd prefer drivers keep their cars out of the ditch and their minds out of the gutter," he told the newspaper.

Public Safety Director Trevor Jones — Axdahl's boss — said in a statement Wednesday that he was pulling the ads.

"This is an important safety message and I don't want this innuendo to distract from our goal to save lives on the road," he said.

The television ad featured an animated graphic of a driver spinning into other vehicles after jerking the wheel. The proper way to handle the situation of drifting off the road is to slowly pull back onto the road, a narrator explains.

"Overcorrecting only results in chaos. And besides — nobody likes a jerker," the narrator says.

The part of the campaign that garnered the most attention is the #DontJerkAndDrive hashtag in Twitter that was seen by more than 16,000 Twitter users in its first week. Page views at the Department of

Public Safety's Facebook page jumped to almost 30,000 after the campaign launched, outperforming previous public safety campaigns 25 to 1.

Before Jones' decision to stop the campaign, state Rep. Mike Verchio, R-Hill City, was planning to call Axdahl before the Transportation Committee to explain the \$100,000 campaign.

"I think the intent clearly was ... when you start to go off the road, you should take your foot off the gas and gently go back on," Verchio said. "But it wasn't defended very well that way. When they say 'Yeah, there's some double-meaning there,' I think that was a terrible error in judgment."

AP News in Brief

First House Dems, now Senate GOP object to passage of \$1.1T spending bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — First it was objections by House Democrats that stood in the way of passage of a \$1.1 trillion catchall spending bill. Now it's the Senate Republicans' turn, specifically Ted Cruz of Texas and Mike Lee of Utah.

The two lawmakers demanded a vote Friday night on a proposal to cut funds from the bill that could be used to implement President Barack Obama's new immigration policy, ending any chance the measure could clear the Senate and be sent to the White House with a minimum of fuss.

Officials in both parties said the bill remains on track for clearance by early next week. Even so, the move led Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., to abandon plans to adjourn the Senate for the weekend, and raised the possibility of a test vote on the spending bill shortly after midnight on Saturday.

Senate Republican leaders have pledged to challenge Obama's immigration policy early in the new year, after the GOP takes control of the Senate. But Cruz suggested they shouldn't be entirely trusted to keep their pledge.

"We will learn soon enough if those statements are genuine and sincere," he said, in a clear reference to Senate GOP Leader Mitch McConnell and Speaker John Boehner.

UN struggles to move aid into Syria despite cross-border aid resolution that's up for renewal

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.N.'s decision in July to begin moving aid into war-torn Syria without the consent of President Bashar Assad was heralded as unprecedented. It was the first time that humanitarian need trumped a nation's sovereignty.

Five months later, aid workers are dismayed that more trucks loaded with U.N. aid aren't moving into Syria, where civilians are dodging bullets and barrel bombs in the crossfire of a war that has killed 200,000. Despite their disappointment, they still want the U.N. Security Council next week to renew a resolution that permits the U.N. aid to move through four border crossings — two in Turkey, one in Jordan and one in Iraq — without Assad's blessing.

The U.N. humanitarian office has said that if security allowed, U.N. aid trucked through the four crossings could reach 2.9 million people, complementing the much higher levels of cross-border aid that non-governmental organizations have been moving into the country for years. So far, the number of people who have benefited from aid delivered under terms of the resolution is in the hundreds of thousands, not millions.

"While some progress has been made, over 12 million people still urgently need help," U.N. Secretary-

General Ban Ki-moon wrote late last month. "Nearly 5 million of them live in areas that remain hard to reach despite the additional access granted through Resolution 2165, and only a portion are receiving humanitarian assistance."

He said the resolution had enabled U.N. agencies and partners to reach more places where assistance is urgently needed. But "needs continue to rise and the situation on the ground continues to deteriorate."

Marchers to rally in Washington to decry deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of police

WASHINGTON (AP) — Protesters plan to converge on the nation's capital on Saturday to help bring attention to the deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of police.

Civil rights organizations plan to hold a national march in Washington with the families of Michael Brown and Eric Garner, two unarmed black men who died in incidents with white police officers, to help bring attention to the issue of police brutality.

Protests — some violent — have occurred around the nation since grand juries last month declined to indict the officers involved in the deaths of 18-year-old Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Garner, 43, who gasped "I can't breathe" while being arrested for allegedly selling loose, untaxed cigarettes in New York. Politicians and others talked about the need for better police training, body cameras and changes in the grand jury process to restore faith in the legal system.

Saturday's march against police violence — sponsored in part by the National Action Network, the Urban League, the NAACP — is scheduled to go down Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and the Capitol.

While protesters rally in Washington, other groups including Ferguson Action will be conducting similar "Day of Resistance" movements all around the country, including a large march in New York City.

Afghan police official says Taliban kill at least 12 workers clearing mines in country's south

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Taliban fighters shot dead at least 12 workers clearing mines Saturday in southern Afghanistan, authorities said, part of a series of attacks that saw two U.S. troops killed and a top Afghan court official gunned down.

Security in the capital, Kabul, has been stepped up as the Taliban have warned that attacks will continue as most foreign troops prepare to withdraw at the end of the month, 13 years after the Sept. 11 terror attacks sparked the U.S.-led invasion.

The attack targeting the mine-clearing operation struck southern Helmand province between its Nadali and Washir districts, police spokesman Farid Ahmad Obaid said. He said Taliban militants killed at least 12 workers and wounded another 12. Afghan soldiers later began a firefight with the insurgents, he said.

Obaid identified the company working on the project as Star Link.

Afghanistan, which has suffered decades of continuous war, is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world. Those working on projects to clear mines often find themselves targeted by the Taliban and other insurgents in the country. In April, Taliban fighters killed 12 people working on a mine-clearing project in Logar province.

Officials say Islamic State group shoots down Iraqi helicopter near Samarra, killing 2 pilots

BAGHDAD (AP) — Islamic State group militants shot down an Iraqi military helicopter Saturday, officials said, killing the two pilots onboard and raising fresh concerns about the extremists' ability to attack aircraft amid ongoing U.S.-led coalition airstrikes.

The attack happened in the Shiite holy city of Samarra, about 95 kilometers (60 miles) north of Baghdad. A senior Defense Ministry official told The Associated Press the Sunni militants used a shoulder-fired rocket launcher to shoot down the EC635 helicopter on the outskirts of the city.

An army official corroborated the information. Both spoke on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorized to speak to journalists.

The EC635, built by Airbus Helicopters, is used for transportation, surveillance and combat.

The militants shot down at least two other Iraqi military helicopters near the city of Beiji in October. Some fear the militants may have captured ground-to-air missiles capable of shooting down airplanes when they overran Iraqi and Syrian army bases this summer.

Russia reaches out to Europe's far-right parties in campaign for wider influence in West

VIENNA (AP) — A Russian loan to France's National Front. Invitations to Moscow for leaders of Austria's Freedom Party. Praise for Vladimir Putin from the head of Britain's anti-European Union party.

As the diplomatic chill over Ukraine deepens, the Kremlin seems keener than ever to enlist Europe's far-right parties in its campaign for influence in the West, seeking new relationships based largely on shared concern over the growing clout of the EU.

Russia fears that the EU and NATO could spread to countries it considers part of its sphere of influence. And it has repeatedly served notice that it will not tolerate that scenario, most recently with its Ukraine campaign.

Europe's right-wing and populist parties, meanwhile, see a robust EU as contrary to their vision of Europe as a loose union of strong national states. And some regard the EU as a toady to America.

The fact that many of Moscow's allies are right to far-right reflects the Kremlin's full turn. Under communism, xenophobic nationalist parties were shunned.

In Japan's election, anemic political opposition has voters choosing Abe's party as default

TOKYO (AP) — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is counting on a landslide victory in parliamentary elections Sunday that will likely return his ruling coalition to power with an even bigger majority, empowering him to pursue an ambitious agenda of political and economic reforms.

"This is the only way!" is the slogan Abe is driving home in his campaign speeches. For Japanese voters, that is probably the case.

The economy is back in recession, the government's popularity ratings have slid and messy campaign finance scandals have roiled Abe's Cabinet. Normally, that would be bad news for the incumbent. Yet Abe is virtually the only game in town thanks to Japan's tendency toward a one-party political system, voter apathy and a lack of viable alternatives.

Polls show that many voters, fed up with or indifferent to the choices on offer, support no party in

particular, so Abe's Liberal Democratic Party may win by default.

"The problem of this election is there is actually no choice for voters," said Yu Uchiyama, a professor of political science at Tokyo University. "Many people will choose Abe as a kind of negative choice. There are no alternatives."

Police say shooting outside Oregon high school that injured 3 appears to be gang related

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Police are searching for a gunman who left three young people hospitalized in what investigators say appears to be a gang-related shooting outside an alternative high school.

Witnesses told police there may have been a dispute outside Rosemary Anderson High School on Friday, just before the shooting occurred at a street corner.

The assailant and two other people fled, and the wounded students went to the school for help, a police spokesman said. A 16-year-old girl was critically wounded while two males were hospitalized in fair condition. Another girl was grazed by a bullet.

"Based on the investigation thus far, the shooting appears to be gang-related," Sgt. Pete Simpson said Friday night in a statement.

Police gang investigators "feel comfortable saying this is a gang-related shooting based on some of the people involved," Simpson added in an interview. Police said they believe the shooter has gang ties. Simpson declined to say which victims might be linked to gangs.

Calendar aligns on 12-13-14 for lottery players and those feeling lucky in love

LAS VEGAS (AP) — It's rare. It's orderly. And when it comes to remembering an anniversary date, it's as easy as 12/13/14.

Saturday's Dec. 13, 2014, represents the last sequential calendar date for at least 20 years (Jan. 2, 2034) and another 89 years if waiting for Jan. 2, 2103.

If a person has a heart set on commemorating the next 12/13/14, make sure that heart can stand another 100 years on earth to make it to Dec. 13, 2114.

For cryogenic fans, it's 1,000 years until 3014.

A sequence comes sooner for math nerds with pi. The day is mere months away on March, 14 (Get it? 3.1415)

Sam Smith, Taylor Swift own the night at star-studded Jingle Ball extravaganza

NEW YORK (AP) — If you wanted to make a time capsule of what happened in pop music this year, Friday night's Jingle Ball — the annual extravaganza held in Madison Square Garden put on by pop station Z100 — would most likely provide the most accurate account.

There was Pharrell — with the hat— crooning his hit "Happy"; Iggy Azalea rapping and posturing as she breezed through "Fancy"; Jessie J and Ariana Grande playfully one-upping each other in the power-vocal showcase smash "Bang Bang"; and Meghan Trainor serving sass on what was arguably the song of the year, "All About That Bass."

But the king and queen of the night (and perhaps the year) were Sam Smith and Taylor Swift. Their

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separate performances couldn't have been less alike: Smith was all about stately R&B while Swift brought her perky pop. But they were the emotional highlights, capturing the hearts of fans who expressed their approval with ear-piercing shrieks and screams.

"I am the only person who asks you to scream loudly tonight who is about to turn 25 in 10 minutes," Swift told the crowd shortly before she celebrated her birthday after the stroke of midnight.

Smith, the newcomer who last week was nominated for six Grammys including record, song and album of the year, was the most unlikely pop star of the bunch; he sings traditional, downtempo soul songs and doesn't dance; his signature look is a drab suit and his wide, doleful eyes.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Dec. 13, the 347th day of 2014. There are 18 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 13, 1944, during World War II, the light cruiser USS Nashville was badly damaged in a Japanese kamikaze attack off Negros Island in the Philippines that claimed 133 lives.

On this date:

In 1642, Dutch navigator Abel Tasman sighted present-day New Zealand.

In 1769, Dartmouth College in New Hampshire received its charter.

In 1862, Union forces led by Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside launched futile attacks against entrenched Confederate soldiers during the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg; the soundly defeated Northern troops withdrew two days later.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson arrived in France, becoming the first chief executive to visit Europe while in office.

In 1928, George Gershwin's "An American in Paris" had its premiere at Carnegie Hall in New York.

In 1937, the Chinese city of Nanjing fell to Japanese forces; what followed was a massacre of war prisoners, soldiers and citizens. (China maintains as many as 300,000 people died; Japan says the toll was far less.)

In 1962, the United States launched Relay 1, a communications satellite which retransmitted television, telephone and digital signals.

In 1974, Malta became a republic. George Harrison visited the White House, where he met President Gerald Ford.

In 1981, authorities in Poland imposed martial law in a crackdown on the Solidarity labor movement. (Martial law formally ended in 1983.)

In 1989, the film "Driving Miss Daisy," starring Morgan Freeman and Jessica Tandy, was put into limited release by Warner Bros.

In 1994, an American Eagle commuter plane crashed short of Raleigh-Durham International Airport in North Carolina, killing 15 of the 20 people on board.

In 2003, Saddam Hussein was captured by U.S. forces while hiding in a hole under a farmhouse in Adwar, Iraq, near his hometown of Tikrit.

Ten years ago: A jury in Redwood City, California, recommended the death penalty for Scott Peterson for the murder of his pregnant wife, Laci. NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe resigned. A Chilean judge indicted former dictator General Augusto Pinochet (pee-noh-CHET') on charges of kidnapping nine political dissidents and killing one of them during his 17-year military regime. (However, Pinochet never faced trial, and died in 2006 at age 91.)

Five years ago: The Senate passed, 57-35, a \$1.1 trillion spending bill with increased budgets for

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vast areas of the federal government, including health, education, law enforcement and veterans' programs. An attacker hurled a statuette at Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi, striking him in the face and leaving the stunned 73-year-old leader with a broken nose and two broken teeth. (The attacker, Massimo Tartaglia, was later found unfit to stand trial.) Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Samuelson died in Belmont, Massachusetts, at age 94.

One year ago: North Korea's state-run media announced the execution the day before of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's uncle, portraying Jang Song Thaek as a morally corrupt traitor. Reality TV star Khloe Kardashian filed for divorce from Lamar Odom after four years of marriage.

Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz is 94. Actor-comedian Dick Van Dyke is 89. Actor Christopher Plummer is 85. Country singer Buck White is 84. Music/film producer Lou Adler is 81. Singer John Davidson is 73. Actress Kathy Garver (TV: "Family Affair") is 69. Singer Ted Nugent is 66. Rock musician Jeff "Skunk" Baxter is 66. Country musician Ron Getman is 66. Actor Robert Lindsay is 65. Country singer-musician Randy Owen is 65. Actress Wendie Malick is 64. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is 64. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is 61. Country singer John Anderson is 60. Singer-songwriter Steve Forbert is 60. Singer-actor Morris Day is 58. Actor Steve Buscemi (boo-SEH'-mee) is 57. Actor Johnny Whitaker is 55. Rock musician John Munson (Semisonic; Twilight Hours) is 52. Actress-reality TV star NeNe Leakes is 48. Actor-comedian Jamie Foxx is 47. Actor Bart Johnson is 44. TV personality Debbie Matenopoulos is 40. Rock singer-musician Thomas Delonge is 39. Actor James Kyson Lee is 39. Actress Chelsea Hertford is 33. Rock singer Amy Lee (Evanescence) is 33. Actor Michael Socha is 27. Country singer Taylor Swift is 25. Actress Maisey Stella is 11.

Thought for Today: "To know how to say what others only know how to think is what makes men poets or sages; and to dare to say what others only dare to think makes men martyrs or reformers - or both." - Elizabeth Charles, British writer (1828-1896).