

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 145 ♦ 1 of 26

- 1- Rix Apartments for Rent
- 1- Dairy Queen
- 1- Today's Information
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 2- Christmas Week at Groton C&MA
- 2- Classifieds
- 3- City Council Story
- 5- Groton Area presents musical, "Honk"
- 10- Golden Living Help Wanted Ad
- 10- Today in Weather History
- 12- Weather Page
- 13- Local Weather
- 13- National Weather Map
- 14- Daily Devotional
- 15- News from the Associated Press
- 15- Andover Bar & Grill

Tuesday, December 16

After a school bus ended up in the ditch Monday afternoon near Ferney from icy roads, Groton Area Superintendent Joe Schwan announced last night that Groton Area will be starting two hours late this morning.

The girls basketball game with Tiospa Zina scheduled for last night has been rescheduled for February 17th.

St. John's Lutheran Quilting

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

School Lunch: Christmas nuggets, baked potato, corn, fruit, Tea buns.

Senior Menu: Spanish rice with hamburger, green beans, Mandarin oranges, chocolate pudding, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: John Sippel • Layne Howard • Sage Mortenson • Dan Schinkel

5:00pm: Wrestling Quad at GHS with Oakes, Waretown JV and EEK

Wednesday, December 17

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Pizza, green beans, carrots and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, baked potato, squash, pineapple strawberry Ambrosia, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Tammy Locke • Breanna Marzahn

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

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

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

3:45pm: UMC Confirmation

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

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.



\$5 BUCK LUNCH

Y
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- 2 Crispy Chicken Wraps
- Bacon Cheeseburger
- Chili Cheese Dog
- 3-Piece Chicken Strip
- + Fries + Drink + Dessert

US 12, Groton ~ 605-397-8627

DQ

Grill & Chill

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

Christmas week at Groton C&MA

"Celebrating Heaven's Child" is coming to the Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church on Sunday, December 21 at 5:00 pm with a musical program presented by members of the congregation.

The congregation invites the community and the area to their seventeenth Christmas celebration at their church, 706 N. Main Street across from the city park. The 'Celebration' is being presented by

children, youth, and adult members of the congregation. Music to be shared by these talented persons include traditional Christmas carols as well as 'Mary, Did you Know?', 'My Heart Is Bethlehem',

'Heaven's Child', and 'While You Were Sleeping' while the children will sing selections like 'The Gospel Song', 'It's About the Cross' and the Christmas Carol 'Silent Night'. The children will also be presenting the Nativity scene as a part of the celebration of Heaven's child. The program has been arranged by Carrie Olson with the Children's portion being a co-effort of Krista Tunby and Larry Remington.

Narrators are Nancy Cutler, Larry Remington, and Ryan Olson. Families and individuals have prepared to share their gifts in music in celebration of the real meaning of Christmas, which is the Birth of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ. These include the Doug Duncan and Lars Tunby families, Pastor Bill and Jana Duncan, Moira & Darby Duncan, Matt Knecht, Reed Litch, Adam Franken, Glenna Remington, JoAnne Ehresmann, Debbie Jacobs, Linda Bahr, Candace Carlson, Rick Buhler, Paul Perkins, the Kids' Club, and Carrie Olson.

Following the 5:00 pm celebration from Heaven. All the attendees are invited to join in a feast of turkey, ham, and all the trimmings as the congregation shares a Christmas dinner in the church social hall to all who attend. There is no charge, and you are encouraged to bring a friend and join us in "Celebrating Heaven's Child" with the congregational family of Groton C&MA Church this Sunday, Dec. 21st.

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)

City revenue is down

The city is in dire straights, not just because of some items being over budget, but because of a shortfall of revenue. The city's revenue are down by \$265,424 from last year. City Finance Officer Anita Lowary reported to the council Monday night that:

Property taxes are short by \$60,000.

Sales tax revenue is \$50,000 behind of what it was last year at this time.

The wheel tax revenue is short by \$1,338.

Pool admissions is short by \$2,186

Baseball admissions is short by \$4,600

Burial fees is down by \$400

Liquor revenue is down by \$900 between to the two major bars.

Water sales are down by \$21,000

Collection for special assessments from 2005-2007 are short by \$5,000

Electric sales are down by \$120,000.

"It's not the fact that we ran over," Lowary said, "but we also ran short. It's a tight year and it's going to get tighter, yet."

The council then talked about the west side street project. Councilman David McGannon talked about bonding the city to finish up the project, but he did not like the idea of making \$300,000 a year payment for the next 10 years. Lowary pointed out that Groton is one of the few communities in South Dakota that is addressing the street issues from the years of the flooding in town. McGannon said, "It's something we should discuss before we go to bid in March. Councilman Eddy Opp said that it is bad business, "if we keep spending money we don't have." McGannon said, "I agree, but we should have some sort of a plan."

Apparently the handicap accessible sidewalks at First Street and Fourth Avenue and First Street and Fifth Avenue are not to code and the state wants them redone with the Safe Route to School project. Clark Engineering is trying to get something figured out.

Several things were brought up during the department reports.

It was reported that the trees at the pool were removed. They are the locust trees with big seed packets that created a mess around the pool area.

Councilman Burt Glover then said that he would like to see what is going to be happening in the public works department for the next two weeks. "I'd like to see what is going to happen instead of what happened - to get a front-side report. That is my request." Councilman Michelle Muilenberg said, "They have to have a schedule of things that are happening." She also requested that the department heads meet at the first part of the second monthly meetings. That would be Stacy Mayou from the Police Department, Terry Herron from the water department, Dwight Zerr from the waste water department, and Ward Gilchrist from the electric department. This would begin in January.

The holiday lighting contest was approved with prizes again this year.

The Dept. of Game, Fish and Parks denied funding for new playground equipment at the baseball complex.

The council approved the Northeast Council of Government Joint Powers Agreement for 2015 in the amount of \$1,508.99.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 145 ♦ 4 of 26



Jeff Amdahl will be operating MJ's Sinclair and the Fuel Stop starting January 2, 2015.

Jeff Amdahl and his brother, Matt, will be taking over Duane's Sinclair on January 2, 2015. The council granted the approval of the transfer of the malt beverage license. Jeff works at RDO in Aberdeen and he will be on-site nearly every day. They bought both the Sinclair station and the Fuel Stop. Jeff appeared at the meeting and said that they are excited about their new venture.

The city will not be selling the property south of the community center. Councilman David McGannon said, "I don't think we should sell the property," he said. "I think selling the land is wrong. Some day, we may want to build a new city hall and attach it to the community center." Clint Jacobson submitted the only valuation of \$8,500. McGannon said that the jail building could be removed at minimal expense. The council will put no money into repairs in the jail building. On a 5-1 vote with Councilman Opp voting no, the council decided not to sell the property.

Lowary gave a report on the cost of the new well for the Olive Grove Golf Course. So far the city has spent \$15,975.94 on the well. Originally, \$20,000 was budgeted for the project. There are still two outstanding bills.

The Jim Stearns property at Washington Street and Third Avenue West update was given by City Attorney Drew Johnson. He had a findings and conclusions document that was served to the Stearns on Monday by the Groton Police Department. Johnson said that after talking with Mayor Scott Hanlon and Finance Officer Anita Lowary, it would be better to try and resolve this locally instead of going to state court where costs would be much higher. Stearns will have 30 days to respond to the findings.

There was discussion on the malt beverage license for the Red Dragon Salon in downtown Groton. It was reported that Tim Thurston has been charged with a felony and the councilmen wanted to revoke his license. City Attorney Drew Johnson said he is still innocent until proven guilty and that the council should not act on it at the Monday night meeting. "We need to give him notice and give him the opportunity to confront his allegations at a meeting," Johnson said. "He has a right to show cause as to why his license shouldn't be suspended." The council set the next meeting for a hearing date.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 145 ♦ 5 of 26

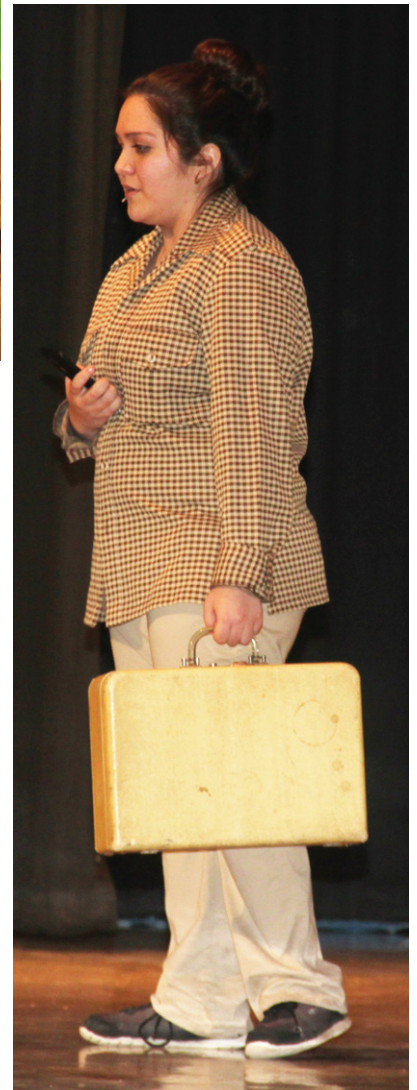
Groton Area presents musical "Honk"



The drama continues with the musical, "Honk." Here Hannah Fischbach is the camera man as Katie Groeblichhoff is the Jay Bird announcer. They interviewed Henrietta after Ugly had disappeared.



The military folks are ready to take off on an airplane as they stand at attention. Pictured are Alec Voss as Greylag, Adam Herman as Ugly, Taylor Gustafson as Dot, Luke Smith as Barnacles, Tylan Glover as Pinkfoot and Jasmine Schinkel as Snowy.



Henrietta is packed, ready to go and look for her lost son, Ugly. Henrietta is played by Gabbie Kramer.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 145 ♦ 6 of 26



Sarah Honerman was the director of the play. She, along with Cody Swanson and Barb Bunk, we given gifts by the cast members.



Ugly ends up in someone's house where there is a chicken (Sydney Thorson) and a cat (Kaitlin O'Neill). Then the cat (Jerick Hanson) came on the scene. The Cat was then distracted as it was love at first site with the house cat.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 145 ♦ 7 of 26



The frog, played by Luke Smith, tells Ugly (Mark Herman) that life is not that bad and that one day, ugly will be "in."

Ugly (Adam Herman) untangles a swan (Kari Hanson) as she got tangled up in a fishing line.

Below: Ugly and the Cat are lost in a blizzard; as is Henrietta who is looking for Ugly.



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 145 ♦ 8 of 26



Some swans came flying by as Henrietta (Gabbie Kramer) cries as the loss of her son, Ugly. Pictured are Katie Groeblinghoff, Kari Hanson and Devon Poppen in back and Jasmine Schinkel in front.

As the swans and Henrietta cry over the loss, Ugly emerged from the snowbank as a Swan.



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 145 ♦ 9 of 26



Mother and son are reunited.



The cat is bewildered by the transformation of Ugly into a swan.



The whole family is reunited as the pair of swans decided to return to the duck pond.

Today in Weather History

1967: With temperatures in the upper 20s, heavy freezing rain fell in west central and southwest Minnesota at night on the 16th, causing widespread ice accumulations on all exposed surfaces, and power and telephone poles and lines went down over a wide region. Some places were without power and phone service for three to four days. This storm was classified as the most severe ice storm in the past 20 years in some areas. Reports were received of turkeys and other poultry dying due to the cold in rural areas. 20 to 30 cars were in the ditch on one slick stretch of road in Rock County. Further west, throughout eastern South Dakota, freezing rain for most of the day formed ice from 3/8 to 3/4 inch on exposed surfaces. Extensive damage was caused to utility lines. All roads became dangerous for traveling, and one death was directly linked to the ice storm. The ice cut off a regular water supply, causing one person to attempt to get water from a cistern. She slipped on the ice into the cistern. Three deaths were indirectly related to the ice storm; two due to automobile accidents, and one due to a heart attack.

1985: Two to six inches of snow fell in a band from Mobridge in Walworth County to south of Sioux Falls. Six inches fell five miles south of the Sioux Falls airport, at Beresford in Union County, and at Miller in Hand County. Mobridge received two inches and Timber Lake and Faulkton received three inches, while five inches accumulated in northern Hyde County and in Gettysburg.

2000: Northwest winds of 30 to 50 mph, with gusts to 60 mph, combined with newly fallen snow and arctic air to bring widespread blizzard conditions and extreme wind chills as low as 70 below zero to west central Minnesota and much of South Dakota from late on the 15th through the 16th. Events were canceled, travel was shut down, and some motorists were stranded. Both US Highway 12 and Interstate 29 in South Dakota were closed throughout the day. As an indirect result of the low visibility, a semi truck hit and totaled a pickup truck in the snow just west of Clark. The semi truck received nine thousand dollars worth of damage.

1835: In New York City hundreds of blocks burned during a fire. The frozen fire hydrants and gale-force winds only made the fire worse when the mercury dropped to 0.

1869: A bill was introduced in the House of Representatives, 41st Congress, calling for "the taking [of] meteorological observations...and for giving notice on the northern lakes and Atlantic seaboard of the approach and force of storms." This would be signed into law February 9, 1870, by President Grant, establishing what would come to be called the National Weather Service.

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Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 145 ♦ 11 of 26

You can see the actual bill on-line.

1979: In Tampa Bay the Buccaneers prepared to play the Kansas City Chiefs as rain began to pour on what was about to become the 1979 Monsoon Game. The Bucs picked up a win with the score of 3 to 0.

1997: Super Typhoon Paka deluged Guam with nearly 21 inches of rain at Tiyan before instrumentation failed. The equipment failed 2 hours before the eye of Paka passed to the north. Damage estimates were in the range of \$400 million.

1997: It was dark and the airport was shrouded in fog when an Air Canada flight from Toronto to Fredericton approached the runway. After the crew disconnected the autopilot shortly before touchdown, they attempted to abort the landing. The aircraft stalled and crashed during the attempted go-around. The aircraft contacted the ground to the left of the runway, crossed the runway, became briefly airborne after striking a ditch, and came to rest in deep snow after striking some trees. The aircraft was destroyed, but none of the three crew or 39 passengers were killed.

1835 - New England experienced one of their coldest days of record. At noon on that bitterly cold Wednesday the mercury stood at four degrees below at Boston, 15 degrees below at Norfolk CT, and 17 degrees below at Hanover NH. The temperature at Boston was 12 degrees below zero by sunset. Gale force winds accompanied the severe cold, and that night a great New York City fire destroyed much of the financial district. (David Ludlum)

1917 - An ice jam closed the Ohio River between Warsaw, KY, and Rising Sun, IN. The thirty foot high ice jam held for 58 days, and backed up the river a distance of 100 miles. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A Pacific storm battered the coast of California with rain and high winds, and dumped heavy snow on the mountains of California. Winds along the coast gusted to 70 mph at Point Arguello, and winds in the Tehachapi Mountains of southern California gusted to 100 mph at Wheeler Ridge. Snowfall totals ranged up to 24 inches at Mammoth Mountain. Snow fell for two minutes at Malibu Beach, and Disneyland was closed due to the weather for only the second time in twenty-four years. A winter storm which began in the Southern Rockies four days earlier finished its course producing snow and high winds in New England. Snowfall totals ranged up to 19 inches at Blanchard ME. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)






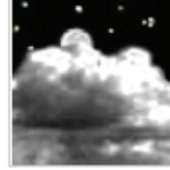

1988 - Fairbanks, AK, reported freezing rain and record warm temperatures. The afternoon high of 41 degrees was 43 degrees above normal. Snow and high winds continued to plague the mountains of southern California. Mount Wilson CA reported two inches of rain in six hours during the early morning, and a storm total of more than 3.50 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Fifty-seven cities from the Southern and Central Plains to the Appalachians reported record low temperatures for the date, including North Platte NE with a reading of 17 degrees below zero. Squalls in the Great Lakes Region produced 18 inches of snow at Syracuse NY, and 30 inches at Carlisle IND. Low pressure brought heavy snow to northern New England, with 18 inches reported at Derby VT and Saint Johnsbury VT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2000 - An F4 tornado hits communities near Tuscaloosa, AL, killing 11 people and injuring 125 others. It was the strongest December tornado in Alabama since 1950.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 145 ♦ 12 of 26

TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY
						
Chance Flurries High: 19 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 3 °F	Sunny High: 19 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 6 °F	Mostly Cloudy High: 23 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 16 °F	Mostly Cloudy High: 29 °F



Snow Ends Late This Evening

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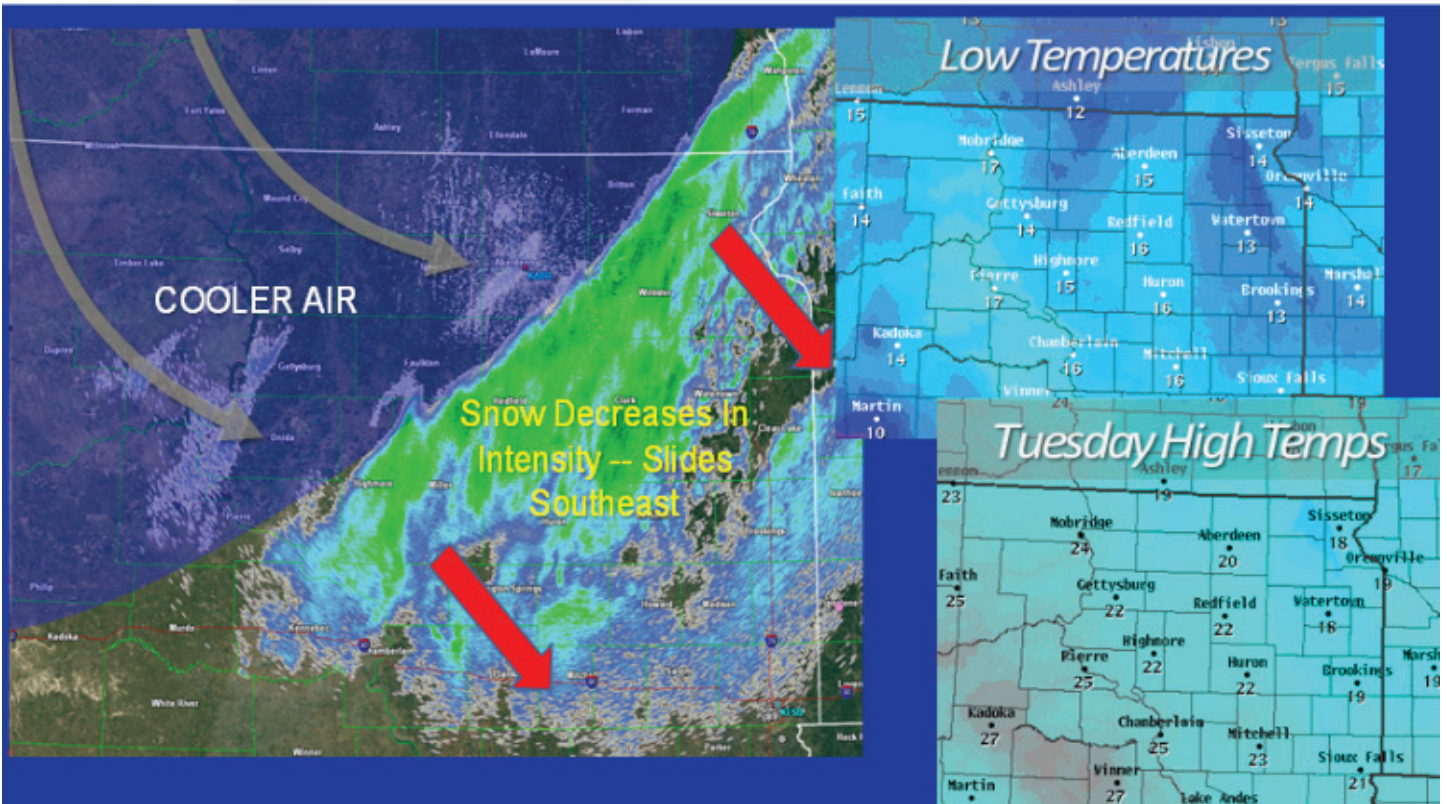
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



The precipitation will gradually end over the eastern Dakotas and western Minnesota this evening. Until the precipitation ends, roads will be slick and visibility occasionally low where the heavier snow is falling. The gusty winds will also contribute to areas of lowered visibility, especially over the Glacial Lakes and Sisseton Hills. The rest of the week looks mostly dry, but chilly, with temperature near or below normal.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 145 ♦ 13 of 26

Yesterday's Weather

High: 31.4 at 1:40 AM

Low: 19.4 at 8:40 PM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 37 at 12:53 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 62° in 1962

Record Low: -28° in 1951

Average High: 25°F

Average Low: 5°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.25

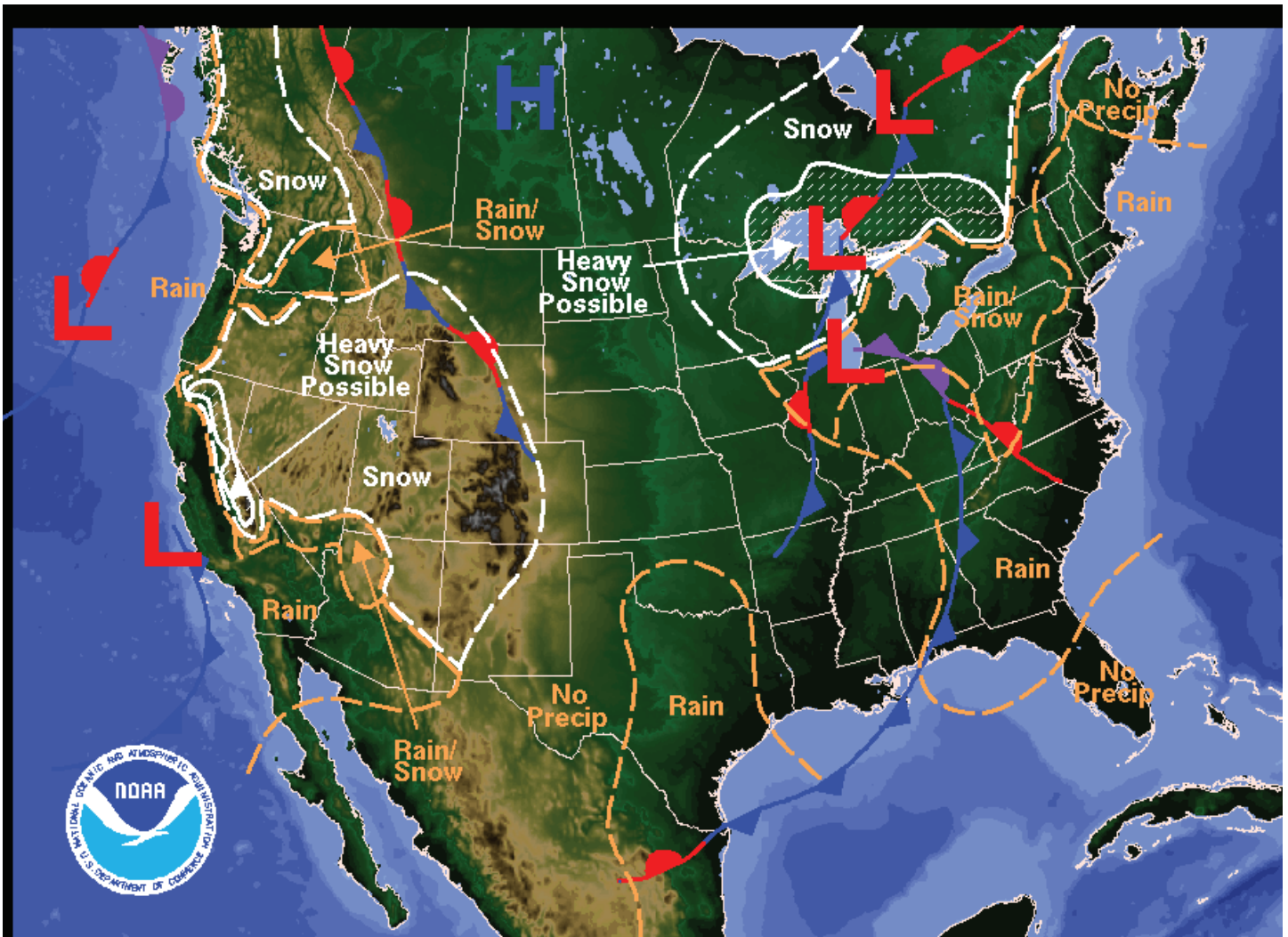
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.45

Precip Year to Date: 13.99

Sunset Tonight: 4:51 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:08 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Dec 16, 2014, issued 3:16 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



BACKACHE OR HEARTACHE

It had been a particularly difficult day at work. But when Jim got home, he invited his son into the yard to play catch. Looking over the fence, a neighbor called out, "Jim, aren't you tired from the day's work?" "Yes, I am," he replied.

"Then why don't you rest?" continued the neighbor.

"I'd rather have a backache tomorrow," said the dad, "than heartache later on."

As parents we focus on the present, forgetting that what we do today affects all of our children's tomorrows. We are concerned with daily events and forget about eternity. We have homework on the refrigerator, photos on every table and clothes for every occasion. Yet what we do is far more important than how things look.

In The Message the words of Paul are translated this way: "Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master." (Ephesians 6:4)

If our children do not get attention from us, they will get it from someone else. If we are not available for them, someone else will be. If we are too busy, someone else will make time available for them.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me to be the kind of parent You want me to be. May I love my children as You love me, guard them as You guard me, protect them as You protect me and lead them into life everlasting. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Ephesians 6:1-10 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 145 ♦ 15 of 26

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Monday's Scores The Associated Press

Boys Basketball

Aberdeen Roncalli 71, Mobridge-Pollock 34

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Takini vs. Bison, ppd.

Freeman vs. Bon Homme, ppd. to Jan 3.

Elkton-Lake Benton vs. Castlewood, ppd. to Jan 5.

Tiospaye Topa vs. Crazy Horse, ppd.

Chamberlain vs. Gregory, ppd. to Jan 20.

Chadron, Neb. vs. Hot Springs, ppd. to Dec 16.

Rapid City Christian vs. Kadoka Area, ppd.

Andes Central vs. Platte-Geddes, ppd.

McIntosh vs. Tiospaye Topa, ppd.

Redfield/Doland vs. Wessington Springs, ppd. to Jan 2.

Kimball/White Lake vs. Winner, ppd.

Canistota vs. Irene-Wakonda, ppd. to Dec 16.

Langford vs. Leola/Frederick, ppd. to Feb 9.

Scotland vs. Viborg-Hurley, ppd.

Dell Rapids St. Mary vs. Bridgewater-Emery, ppd.

Girls Basketball

Herreid/Selby Area 53, Linton-HMB, N.D. 34

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

McCook Central/Montrose vs. Dell Rapids, ppd.

Castlewood vs. Elkton-Lake Benton, ppd. to Jan 5.

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton vs. Ethan, ppd.

Chadron, Neb. vs. Hot Springs, ppd. to Dec 16.

Clark/Willow Lake vs. Lake Preston, ppd.

Baltic vs. Parker, ppd. to Dec 16.

Wessington Springs vs. Redfield/Doland, ppd.

Watertown vs. Sioux Falls O'Gorman, ppd. to Jan 10.

Lennox vs. West Central, ppd. to Dec 22.

Groton Area vs. Tiospa Zina

FRIDAY IS
FRIED CHICKEN DAY
Served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Serving 5-9 p.m.

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Tribal, ppd.

DeSmet vs. Wolsey-Wessington, ppd.

Grant-Deuel vs. Hendricks, Minn., ppd.

Longtime South Dakota college basketball coach Martin dies

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — University of South Dakota officials say longtime college men's basketball coach Doug Martin has died. He was 78.

Martin's 31-year career in South Dakota including head coaching stints at Mount Marty, the University of South Dakota and Dakota Wesleyan. His overall record was 371-418.

Martin spent the majority of his career at Dakota Wesleyan, where he coached from 1988 to 2005. He compiled a 252-256 record and won four conference titles with the Tigers. He was inducted into the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame in 2011.

Martin was the head coach at Mount Marty from 1978-82 and at USD from 1982-86.

USD officials say Martin died Sunday in his hometown of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Freezing rain coats roads in the Dakotas, hampering travel

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Freezing rain coated roads throughout the Dakotas Monday, causing headaches for motorists and delaying or shutting down schools.

The National Weather Service posted a freezing rain advisory in much of North Dakota and in northern South Dakota, with much of the rest of South Dakota under either a winter weather advisory or a winter storm warning. Up to half a foot of snow was expected in southeastern South Dakota by the end of the storm, according to forecasters.

Freezing rain was also making roads icy in western Minnesota, and snow was expected across the state and into western Wisconsin later.

The storm with both rain and snow was unusual for the time of year, said Todd Heitkamp, a weather service meteorologist in Sioux Falls.

"We've been in a warm weather pattern, and when you get a pattern like that, any system you see is going to be like a late-fall or early spring storm," he said.

Dan Grider, general manager of the Great Bear Recreation Park ski area, near Sioux Falls, said the snow was welcome, but not enough to change the park's plans to close for the week. The park needs to make artificial snow to replenish the 12-to-18-inch base depleted by last week's unseasonably warm weather and the rain on Sunday and early Monday.

"Never have we opened (in November) and then had to shut down for an extended period of time to make more snow because we lost what we had," said Grider, who has been at the park for 22 years.

Freezing rain began hitting North Dakota late Sunday, causing problems for the Monday morning commute.

"It's super icy," said Kendra McMillen, who works at Love's Travel Stop in Williston. "There's no snow on the ground, but it's cold and icy."

Some rural schools in the Williston area closed for the day. North Dakota's Transportation Department advised no travel in the region for a time early Monday. Motorists in other areas were told to be cautious, with slippery conditions on almost all highways.

A Missouri man was injured Sunday night when the semitrailer he was driving went out of control on an icy Interstate 94 west of Jamestown and overturned, according to the Highway Patrol. The man's

injuries were not considered life-threatening.

Ice buildup on power lines caused outages for Sioux Valley Energy customers from Madison to Brookings, in eastern South Dakota. The number of people without power varied throughout the day but stood at about 400 people late Monday afternoon.

The icy conditions in southeastern South Dakota were compounded later in the day by snow — something the region hadn't seen since before Thanksgiving.

"It's going to take people a little bit of time to get their winter driving (abilities) in order, since it's been so long since we last had a snowfall," Heitkamp said.

Man gets 80 years in teacher's oil-patch killing

MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A Colorado man was sentenced Monday to 80 years in prison for killing a Montana teacher in a case that emerged as a chilling example of the social changes brought by the Northern Plains' oil boom.

Lester Van Waters Jr., 50, will not be eligible for parole for at least 20 years under the sentence from Montana District Judge Richard Simonton in Sidney, said Richland County Attorney Mike Weber.

Waters pleaded guilty last year to deliberate homicide by accountability in the January 2012 death of Sherry Arnold. An additional 20 years in prison was suspended.

Authorities said Waters and accomplice Michael Keith Spell killed the 43-year-old Sidney High School math teacher during an attempted abduction while she was jogging just blocks from her house.

Her body was found more than two months later buried in a rural area of North Dakota.

Weber, who prosecuted the case, said he was satisfied with the sentence, the terms of which were outlined in a plea deal reached last year. The deal with prosecutors called for him to testify against Spell if the case went to trial. In exchange, Waters was spared the death penalty.

Sending Waters to prison will help people in Sidney deal with the loss of Arnold, a much-loved teacher in the community, Weber said. But he noted that the case is not fully resolved as Spell still is awaiting sentencing.

"It's one step in the process," Weber said.

Waters defense attorneys could not be reached immediately for comment.

Spell and Waters had traveled to Sidney from Colorado, using crack cocaine throughout their journey, according to authorities and previous testimony from the men.

They had told friends and family they were searching for work in the Bakken oil fields along the Montana-North Dakota border, where an oil boom has boosted agricultural communities but brought a spike in crime.

During their journey from Colorado, Waters allegedly told Spell that using crack "brought the devil out in him" and began talking about kidnapping and killing a woman, according to an affidavit filed by prosecutors.

Arnold was choked or otherwise asphyxiated after Spell tried to grab her. Spell said during a change-of-plea hearing in October that he was unsure if he or Waters had killed Arnold.

Prosecutors called two people to testify during Monday's hearing: FBI agent Craig Overby and state probation officer Wally Peter. Private investigator Richard Wood testified on behalf of the defense.

Waters had a lengthy criminal background in Florida, where he lived until after his most recent release from prison in August 2010.

Beginning in the late 1980s, he had several stints in jail in Florida's Indian River County and served

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 145 ♦ 18 of 26

three state prison sentences between 2002 and 2010.

Spell has pleaded guilty to deliberate homicide. His sentencing has not been scheduled.

SD's Rounds selected to serve on 4 committees in Congress

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Sen.-Elect Mike Rounds from South Dakota will serve on four committees in the upcoming Congress.

Rounds says he has been selected to the Armed Services Committee; Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee; Environment and Public Works Committee; and Veterans Affairs Committee.

Rounds says all four committees focus on issues that are important to South Dakota.

The new senator is scheduled to be sworn in on Jan. 6.

\$1 million donation to fund sculpture for SD anniversary

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The state of South Dakota got a \$1 million birthday present from a Rapid City family on Monday — money that will pay for a 45-foot statue of a Native American woman receiving a star quilt.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced the statue to help mark South Dakota's 125th anniversary of statehood. The monument, titled "Dignity," will be completed sometime next year and placed in Chamberlain on bluffs overlooking the Missouri River.

Norm McKie, who donated the money along with his wife, Eunabel, said he envisions the statue being a reminder to people driving past it on Interstate 90 to live up to their full potential.

"The last time I spent a million dollars, I was sweating," McKie said after the announcement. "This time, I'm smiling. That's the difference."

Daugaard said the state is grateful for the McKies' generosity and pleased that "the heritage of our Native people is going to be highlighted in such a prominent fashion."

It's not the only donation Daugaard is set to announce this week. He'll be in Sioux Falls on Wednesday to reveal a "major" gift from T. Denny Sanford.

Artist Dale Lamphere — who is known for sculptures on display in the state Capitol rotunda — will design and build the stainless steel sculpture of the Native American woman. Landscape architect Pat Wyss will handle placement and lighting.

David Claymore, a Lakota silversmith, is designing the star quilt, which will be lit at night as a beacon. Claymore said after the announcement that it's key to include Native Americans in the project.

Claymore, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, said he hopes the statue leads to more generosity toward Native Americans in South Dakota. He said future projects could include building an Indian center in Rapid City and addressing poverty and public health on reservations.

"We're all living together now," Claymore said. "South Dakota is recognizing the beauty that we are."

Thune to reprise committee assignments in 2015

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Sen. John Thune of South Dakota says he'll continue his current committee assignments in the upcoming Congress.

Thune's office announced on Monday the committee assignments for South Dakota's incoming senior U.S. senator. He'll serve on the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and the Committee on Finance.

Republicans will vote in early January who will lead the committees. Thune is expected to move up to chairman of commerce, where he currently serves as the ranking Republican member.

Thune will also continue his No. 3 leadership position in the Senate Republican conference.

Thune says he's pleased to continue representing South Dakotans on issues ranging from agriculture to rural telecommunications.

SD woman pleads not guilty on charges related to killing

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The girlfriend of a marijuana dealer from Sioux Falls who was killed in a botched robbery attempt has pleaded not guilty on state charges related to his death.

Twenty-one-year-old Faith Rasmussen is charged with burglary, attempted robbery and solicitation to commit a felony. The indictment accuses her of helping to plan the robbery that led to December 2013 shooting death of Jordan LeBeau.

Court documents show that Rasmussen was dating LeBeau and supplying him with drugs at the time she two South Dakota men to rob him. Authorities say the shooting occurred after LeBeau's father walked in on two teens beating his son during the attempted robbery.

Rasmussen was sentenced last week to nearly seven years in prison on federal charges of drug trafficking and money laundering.

Oklahoma men plead guilty in South Dakota contractor scam

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two people from Oklahoma have pleaded guilty in a scheme to entice South Dakota consumers to buy their asphalt laying services.

Sixty-four-year-old Sylvester Cooper Sr. and 41-year-old Leonard Cooper, of Spiro, Oklahoma, are charged with failing to inform buyers of their right to cancel and failure to furnish cancellation forms.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says the two men told consumers they had extra materials they needed to sell at a good price. However, no nearby job had been performed, the product was not applied as agreed to by the consumer, and it did not perform as promised by contractor.

Jackley says the men failed to provide the three-day-right to cancel or the notice of cancellation form, which violated state consumer law.

The men agreed to pay back \$70,000 to victims.

\$328,000 Wild Card 2 jackpot won in Minot, North Dakota

MINOT, N.D. (AP) — A Wild Card 2 ticket sold in North Dakota has won a jackpot worth nearly \$328,000.

North Dakota lottery officials say the ticket sold in Minot matched all five white balls and the Wild Card in Saturday's drawing. The winning numbers were 9, 11, 12, 24 and 26, and the Wild Card was the ace of diamonds.

The odds of winning the Wild Card 2 jackpot are 1 in about 1.9 million. The winner has about six months to claim the prize.

Wild Card 2 is played in the Dakotas, Montana and Idaho. The jackpot starts over at \$200,000 for the next drawing, on Wednesday.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 145 ♦ 20 of 26

SDSU's Zenner an All-American for third consecutive season

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota State University running back Zach Zenner has been named to the AFCA Football Championship Subdivision All-America Team for the third consecutive season.

The Egan, Minnesota, native posted his third consecutive 2,000-yard season during his senior year, becoming the first player in FCS history to accomplish the feat. He finished the 2014 season with 2,019 yards on 337 carries and 22 touchdowns, while adding 28 receptions for 331 yards and four more scores.

Separately, SDSU wide receiver Jake Wieneke, of Maple Grove, Minnesota, was runner-up in the voting for the 2014 Jerry Rice Award, given to the top freshman in the FCS. He had 73 catches for 1,404 yards and 16 touchdowns. Fordham running back Chase Edmonds won the award.

NDSU's Emanuel named top defensive player in the FCS

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota State University defensive end Kyle Emanuel has been named the top defensive player in the Football Championship Subdivision.

The All-American senior on Monday was named winner of the 2014 Buck Buchanan Award.

Emanuel leads the FCS in tackles for loss (28.5) and is second in sacks (17). In eight games against Top 25 opponents, he has 47 tackles, 16.5 tackles for loss, 10 sacks and nine quarterback hurries. Emanuel ranks ninth in FCS history with 33 career sacks, and is three sacks from tying the NDSU career record.

The three-time defending FCS champion Bison host Sam Houston State on Friday in this year's semi-finals.

Emanuel's teammate, All-America strong safety Colten Heagle, was a finalist for the Buck Buchanan Award.

Regents CEO part of meeting with US education secretary

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Board of Regents Executive Director and CEO Jack Warner is traveling to Washington, D.C., this week to meet with federal Education Secretary Arne Duncan and other education leaders.

The officials will discuss state-level efforts to raise K-12 education standards and assessments. Warner says the goal is to better prepare students to succeed in college and in their careers.

Warner will join education leaders from Illinois, Massachusetts, Wyoming, Idaho, Louisiana and California at Friday's meeting with Duncan.

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. PAKISTAN SCHOOL ATTACK KILLS MORE THAN 125

The Taliban claim responsibility for storming a military-run school in the troubled region of Peshawar in one of its bloodiest operations in recent times. Most of the dead are children who were attending class.

2. AUSTRALIA MOURNS SYDNEY VICTIMS

The nation's prime minister joins mourners at the city's business district where two people died after an Iranian-born gunman took 17 hostage in a cafe for 16 hours.

3. SYDNEY GUNMAN SAW HIMSELF AS A MARTYR

The self-styled Muslim cleric who sought asylum in Australia two decades ago likened the country's military contingent in Afghanistan to "Hitler's soldiers."

4. RUSSIAN CURRENCY SLIDES TO HISTORIC LOWS DESPITE RATE HIKE

Moscow's Central Bank has so far failed in stemming the ruble's decline even after boosting the country's interest rate by 6.5% overnight.

5. SUSPECT NOT APPREHENDED YET AFTER SHOOTING RAMPAGE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Authorities say Bradley William Stone, 35, was in a custody fight with his ex-wife before he killed her and 5 members of her family.

6. HOW AP COVERED ROMANIA'S REVOLUTION 25 YEARS AGO

Associated Press correspondent John Daniszewski reported on the chaos of the overthrow of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and escaped death after being shot three times.

7. WHY OBAMA MAY BE SETTING A JUDICIAL RECORD

The Democrats are no longer facing GOP blocking tactics. They are now on track to confirm up to 88 federal judges--the highest annual tally for any president in the past 20 years.

8. CHICAGO POLICE STUMPED BY 'CRASH-AND-GRAB' BURGLARIES

At least a dozen times since September, thieves have slammed vehicles into stores and taken whatever they could with the speed of a NASCAR pit crew.

9. BILL COSBY'S WIFE DEFENDS HIM AS 'KIND,' 'GENEROUS'

Camille Cosby also suggests that the embattled comedian rather than his female accusers is the real victim.

10. WHO'S THE NEW GLOBAL PLAYER IN SPORTS ARENAS

Qatar, a rich yet tiny Gulf emirate, is investing its massive wealth to host the 2022 World Cup, buy world-class teams and put its national airline on Barcelona's jerseys.

AP News in Brief

Taliban storm Pakistani school, killing at least 84 people in worst attack in over a year

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — Taliban gunmen stormed a military-run school in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar on Tuesday, killing at least 84 people, officials said, in the worst attack to hit the country in over a year.

The overwhelming majority of the victims were students at the army public school, which has children and teenagers in grades 1-10.

The horrific violence, carried out by a relatively small number of militants from the Tehreek-e-Taliban group, a Pakistani militant group trying to overthrow the government, also sent dozens of wounded flooding into local hospitals as terrified parents searched for their children.

The attack began in the morning hours, with about half a dozen gunmen entering the school — and shooting at random, said police officer Javed Khan. Army commandos quickly arrived at the scene and exchanged fire with the gunmen, he said.

Outside the school, shooting was initially heard along with one loud bang of unknown origin. Details were sketchy in the face of the overwhelming tragedy. Pakistani television showed soldiers surrounding the area and pushing people back.

Australian prime minister lays flowers at memorial for victims of Sydney hostage siege

SYDNEY (AP) — Tearful Australians laid mounds of flowers at the site where two of 17 hostages were killed Tuesday when police swooped into a cafe to rescue them from a gunman — an Iranian-born self-styled cleric described by the prime minister as a deeply disturbed person carrying out a “sick fantasy.”

The 16-hour siege that ended in a barrage of gunfire early Tuesday left the gunman, 50-year-old Man Haron Monis, dead, and a nation that has long prided itself on its peace rocked to its core.

At a news conference later in the day, Prime Minister Tony Abbott called the siege Australia’s first brush with terrorism in more than 35 years and addressed the most glaring question that has emerged from the crisis: How did Monis — a man with a lengthy criminal record — slip through the cracks?

“How can someone who has had such a long and checkered history not be on the appropriate watch list? And how can someone like that be entirely at large in the community?” Abbott asked. “These are questions we need to look at carefully and calmly and methodically. That’s what we’ll be doing in the days and weeks ahead.”

After a day of intense drama, many questions remained: Why was the gunman, who had a sordid criminal history, out on bail? Why was he not on a terror watch list? How did he get a shotgun in a country with tough gun ownership laws?

‘Deluded’ hostage-taker who saw himself as a martyr was not on Australian terror list

SYDNEY (AP) — He wrote letters to grieving families of Australian troops killed in Afghanistan that likened them to “Hitler’s soldiers.” He was accused of assisting a woman kill his ex-wife, whose body was found stabbed and set on fire.

But the social media postings of 50-year-old Man Haron Monis, the man who was killed Tuesday in a police operation to rescue the people he had held hostage in a Sydney cafe, indicate he thought of himself as something of a martyr. The self-styled Muslim cleric, who came to Australia as a refugee from Iran, complained of being tortured in prison for his political beliefs and said he was fighting for Islam and for peace.

“The more you fight with crime, the more peaceful you are,” he wrote recently on his website, according to the SITE Intelligence Group. In another post he wrote: “I am one of the witnesses for the barbarism of the Australian government.”

Monis was free on bail when he used a shotgun to take 17 hostages at the Lindt Chocolat Cafe Monday morning. He and two hostages died early Tuesday in a barrage of gunfire when police stormed the cafe.

Australian authorities are now facing questions about why he was allowed out of jail given the seriousness of the charges against him, which included being an accessory to the murder of his ex-wife and the sexual assault of a woman in 2002.

Neighbors: Woman feared ex-husband before rampage that killed her, 5 relatives in Pennsylvania

PENNSBURG, Pa. (AP) — A woman who told neighbors she feared her ex-husband would kill her was among six people found fatally shot in three suburban Philadelphia homes, and her Marine veteran former husband was on the run.

Suspect Bradley Michael Stone, 35, remained at large early Tuesday, causing one local school district to close schools as a precaution. Residents of nearby communities had been asked to shelter in place temporarily late Monday as an intense manhunt spread to their areas.

His former wife, 33-year-old Nicole Stone, was found dead after a neighbor saw Stone fleeing just before 5 a.m. Monday with their two young daughters.

Police then made the grim discovery of five people killed in two other houses: Stone's sister, brother-in-law and 14-year-old niece were dead. A 17-year-old nephew was left clinging to life. And her mother and grandmother had been fatally shot.

Brad Stone and his ex-wife had been locked in a court fight over their children's custody since she filed for divorce in 2009. He filed an emergency motion early this month, although the resulting Dec. 9 ruling remains sealed in court files.

Ruble declines 3 pct despite brief boost from Central Bank's sharp rate hike overnight

MOSCOW (AP) — After a massive overnight rate hike by Russia's Central Bank, the ruble staged a two-hour rally Tuesday morning before rolling back to new historic lows.

The surprise Central Bank decision to raise the rate to 17 percent from 10.5 percent came in the early hours on Tuesday in a desperate attempt to prop up the troubled currency. It's the biggest interest rate hike since 1998, the year when Russia defaulted on its sovereign bonds.

The move was meant to make it expensive for currency traders to buy rubles and sell them on the market.

The ruble in the morning regained almost all of its losses from Monday's 10 percent decline, the biggest fall since the 1998 economic meltdown. But it rolled back and was down 3 percent at 66 to the dollar by noon in Moscow (0900GMT).

Central Bank chairwoman Elvira Nabiullina said in televised comments on Tuesday that the decision should stem inflation and encourage Russians to open ruble-denominated deposits.

GOP lawmakers show little appetite for taking on states regarding recreational marijuana

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's easy for Congress to meddle with the District of Columbia's decision to legalize recreational use of marijuana, but taking on the states is a different matter.

A massive, catch-all spending bill Congress passed last week contains a provision preventing the District from using federal money to implement any law or regulation that repeals or reduces marijuana-related penalties. The action is in direct response to a voter initiative passed last month that allows possession of up to 2 ounces of pot or up to three mature plants for personal use.

The Constitution gives Congress the power to review and possibly reject all legislation approved by the District's elected officials or its citizens.

Congress has less leverage with the states, and thwarting efforts supported by a plurality of voters back home could prove politically risky at election time.

"That's sort of asking for a head-on collision with states' rights," said Philip Wallach of the Brookings Institution, a Washington-based think tank.

Survey finds e-cigarettes surpass regular smoking for US teens

WASHINGTON (AP) — Electronic cigarettes have surpassed traditional smoking in popularity among teens, the government's annual drug use survey finds.

Even as tobacco smoking by teens dropped to new lows, use of e-cigarettes reached levels that surprised researchers. The findings marked the survey's first attempt to measure the use of e-cigarettes by people that young.

Nearly 9 percent of eighth-graders said they'd used an e-cigarette in the previous month, while just 4 percent reported smoking a traditional cigarette, said the report being released Tuesday by the National Institutes of Health.

Use increased with age: Some 16 percent of 10th-graders had tried an e-cigarette in the past month, and 17 percent of high school seniors. Regular smoking continued inching down, to 7 percent of 10th-graders and 14 percent of 12th-graders.

"I worry that the tremendous progress that we've made over the last almost two decades in smoking could be reversed on us by the introduction of e-cigarettes," said University of Michigan professor Lloyd Johnston, who leads the annual Monitoring the Future survey of more than 41,000 students.

Camille Cosby breaks her silence to defend husband Bill Cosby as 'kind, generous'

NEW YORK (AP) — Bill Cosby's wife rejected sex assault allegations against her husband of a half-century on Monday, saying the man being accused by at least 15 women of drugging and having sex with them is "a man I do not know."

In a statement issued Monday, Camille Cosby dismissed accusations that date back as far as the late 1960s.

She suggested that her husband, not the women, is the party being harmed.

"None of us will ever want to be in the position of attacking a victim," she said. "But the question should be asked __ who is the victim?"

Cosby is being sued for defamation by one alleged victim and for sexual battery by another woman who says he forced her to perform a sex act when she was 15. He has never been charged in connection with any of the accusations, and his lawyers deny many of the allegations. He settled with a Pennsylvania woman who in a 2005 lawsuit said Cosby drugged and molested her in 2004.

The chaos of Romania's Revolution as reported by The Associated Press in 1989

EDITOR'S NOTE: Twenty-five years ago the people rose up against Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, executed him and set the country on a path to democracy. One of the near victims of the revolt that toppled Ceausescu and communism in Romania was AP correspondent John Daniszewski — now a senior managing editor at the news agency — who, on Dec. 23, 1989, was shot three times while covering the momentous events in the western city of Timisoara. On this anniversary, the AP is making again available Daniszewski's first-hand account filed from his hospital bed in Belgrade, Serbia, that describes the hellish situation in Romania and his brush with death. It was first published on Dec. 26, 1989.

AP Correspondent Shot 3 Times in Early Throes of Romanian Revolt

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — The uprising against dictator Nicolae Ceausescu gave rise to fierce resistance by his secret police, turning Romania into a land of fear, suspicion and retribution. I became a victim of that chaos Saturday night.

I was shot three times, narrowly escaping death. One bullet grazed my skull, and two more lodged in my left arm.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 16, the 350th day of 2014. There are 15 days left in the year. The Jewish Festival of Lights, Hanukkah, begins at sunset.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 16, 1944, the World War II Battle of the Bulge began as German forces launched a surprise attack against Allied forces through the Ardennes Forest in Belgium and Luxembourg (the Allies were eventually able to turn the Germans back).

On this date:

In 1653, Oliver Cromwell became lord protector of England, Scotland and Ireland.

In 1773, the Boston Tea Party took place as American colonists boarded a British ship and dumped more than 300 chests of tea into Boston Harbor to protest tea taxes.

In 1809, the French Senate granted a divorce decree to Emperor Napoleon I and Empress Josephine (the dissolution was made final the following month).

In 1811, the first of the powerful New Madrid earthquakes struck the central Mississippi Valley with an estimated magnitude of 7.7.

In 1907, 16 U.S. Navy battleships, which came to be known as the "Great White Fleet," set sail on a 14-month round-the-world voyage to demonstrate American sea power.

In 1930, golfer Bobby Jones became the first recipient of the James E. Sullivan Award honoring outstanding amateur athletes.

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman proclaimed a national state of emergency in order to fight "world conquest by Communist imperialism."

In 1956, Francis Cardinal Spellman, the Archbishop of New York, personally denounced the about-to-be released movie "Baby Doll" starring Carroll Baker, saying Catholics would be committing a sin if they saw it.

In 1960, 134 people were killed when a United Air Lines DC-8 and a TWA Super Constellation collided over New York City.

In 1976, the government halted its swine flu vaccination program following reports of paralysis apparently linked to the vaccine.

In 1982, Environmental Protection Agency head Anne M. Gorsuch became the first Cabinet-level officer to be cited for contempt of Congress for refusing to submit documents requested by a congressional committee.

In 1991, the U.N. General Assembly rescinded its 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism by a vote of 111-25.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, December 16, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 145 ♦ 26 of 26

Ten years ago: Bobbie Jo Stinnett, 23, of Skidmore, Missouri, was found dying in her home, her unborn baby cut from her womb. (The baby was recovered by authorities in Melvern, Kansas; Stinnett's killer, Lisa Montgomery, was later sentenced to death). Britain's highest court dealt a huge blow to the government's anti-terrorism policy by ruling that it could not detain foreign suspects indefinitely without trial. Former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein met with a lawyer for the first time since his capture a year earlier. Agnes Martin, one of the world's foremost abstract artists, died in Taos, New Mexico, at age 92.

Five years ago: Two hundred Mexican Marines raided an upscale apartment complex and killed drug cartel chief Arturo Beltran Leyva in a two-hour gunbattle. Iran test-fired a missile capable of hitting Israel and parts of Europe. Police fired pepper spray and beat protesters with batons outside the U.N. climate conference in Copenhagen. Tiger Woods was voted Athlete of the Decade by members of The Associated Press. Yegor Gaidar, 53, who oversaw Russia's painful transition from communism to a free market economy, died in Moscow. Roy E. Disney, 79, the son and nephew of the Walt Disney Co. founders, died in Newport Beach, California.

One year ago: In the first ruling of its kind, U.S. District Court Judge Richard Leon declared that the National Security Agency's bulk collection of Americans' telephone records likely violated the Constitution's ban on unreasonable search. Ray Price, 87, one of country music's most popular and influential singers and bandleaders, died in Mount Pleasant, Texas.

Today's Birthdays: Civil rights attorney Morris Dees is 78. Actress Joyce Bulifant is 77. Actress Liv Ullmann is 76. CBS news correspondent Lesley Stahl is 73. TV producer Steven Bochco is 71. Former Nevada Gov. Jim Gibbons is 70. Pop musician Tony Hicks (The Hollies) is 69. Pop singer Benny Andersson (ABBA) is 68. Actor Ben Cross is 67. Rock singer-musician Billy Gibbons (ZZ Top) is 65. Rock musician Bill Bateman (The Blasters) is 63. Actor Xander Berkeley is 59. Actress Alison LaPlaca is 55. Actor Sam Robards is 53. Actor Jon Tenney is 53. Actor Benjamin Bratt is 51. Country singer-songwriter Jeff Carson is 51. Actor-comedian JB Smoove is 49. Actor Daniel Cosgrove is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Michael McCary is 43. Actor Jonathan Scarfe is 39. Actress Krysten Ritter is 33. Actress Zoe Jarman (TV: "The Mindy Project") is 32. Country musician Chris Scruggs is 32. Actress Amanda Setton is 29. Rock musician Dave Rublin (American Authors) is 28. Actress Hallee Hirsh is 27. Actress Anna Popplewell is 26.

Thought for Today: "There is no king who has not had a slave among his ancestors, and no slave who has not had a king among his." - Helen Keller, American author and lecturer (1880-1968).