

# Groton Daily Independent

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## 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

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Luther League

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

7:00pm: UMC Ad Council

## Thursday, December 18

**School Breakfast:** Cinnamon roll, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

**School Lunch:** Chili, corn bread, veggie cups, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Oven fried chicken, sweet potatoes, green beans, glorified rice, whole wheat bread.

**Birthdays:** Jean Harrison • Pastor Craig Grams

• Jasper Pray

7:00pm: MS/HS Christmas Concert

## Friday, December 19

Debate at Brookings

End of Second Quarter

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

**School Lunch:** Hot dogs, baked beans, Romaine salad, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Roast beef, mashed potatoes and

## The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

## OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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



**Two bedroom apartment in the Rix Apartments (former city apartments) at 407 N Garfield**

**FOR RENT**

**Attached garage.**

**Major appliances included.**

**\$700 per month**

**Roger: 605/397-7118**

## Thune Comments on 2014 Tax Extenders

**-Tax Provisions Important to South Dakota Included in  
Legislation-**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator John Thune (R-S.D.), a member of the tax-writing Senate Finance Committee, today commented on the passage of legislation to extend a host of expired tax measures, several of which are important to South Dakota:

“While I’m disappointed the president stymied the bipartisan good-faith negotiations to make a number of important tax provisions permanent, I’m pleased the Senate acted to ensure individuals and businesses can utilize these tax deductions and incentives on their 2014 taxes. From the deduction for state and local sales taxes, to the higher business deduction limits relied upon by small businesses, extending these expired tax provisions is important to South Dakota families and businesses.”

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. The proposed deal was supported by Senate leadership of both parties as well as House Republicans, but fell apart when the president issued a veto threat in the midst of negotiations, effectively killing the chances this year for permanent tax relief.

Thune believes that South Dakotans deserve permanent tax relief and a predictable and stable tax system, and he intends to keep working toward this goal in the next Congress. He supported the one-year tax extender package as a stopgap measure in order to prevent a tax hike on millions of Americans. The following provisions, which expired at the end of 2013, were extended for one year through December 31, 2014:

**State and Local Sales Tax Deduction:** The tax deal extends the local and state sales tax deduction. 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.

**Small Business Expensing:** The tax deal extends the Section 179 \$500,000 small business expensing limit, which is critical for small business owners and family farmers as they plan future investments. If this provision had not been extended, the limit would have dropped to \$25,000.

**Charitable Giving:** The tax deal extends three charitable tax incentives to encourage private acts of charity and compassion. The measure included provisions to: allow individuals 70 and a half years of age and older to donate up to \$100,000 of their individual retirement accounts to charity without incurring a tax penalty; the enhanced deduction for food donations, which encourages businesses to donate food to food pantries and other organizations that serve the hungry; and the tax rules that make it easier for farmers and other landowners to donate

## 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)**

land for conservation purposes, helping preserve America's natural habitat.

ABLE Act: The tax deal included the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, of which Thune is a cosponsor. The provision will allow individuals with disabilities to create tax-preferred personal savings accounts while ensuring they maintain eligibility for important federal programs that assist with day-to-day needs. Creation of these accounts, which are similar to 529 college savings plans, will help individuals with disabilities attain financial independence and plan for the future.

## 5 Tips for New Year's Resolutions in 2015

### Doctor Tells You How to Beat the Odds

If you're one of the millions of Americans who will make a promise to improve yourself this New Year, there's bad news: You're 92 percent likely to fail in sticking to your resolutions, says a recent study from the University of Scranton's Journal of Clinical Psychology.

About 45 percent of Americans make resolutions. Ranking at the top is losing weight, and staying fit and healthy ranks No. 5.

"Of course, those statistics represent the average – you don't have to be average!" says Dr. Virender Sodhi, founder of the Ayurvedic and Naturopathic Medical Clinic, ([ayurvedicscience.com](http://ayurvedicscience.com)), which provides complementary and alternative medicine.

"There are plenty of things individuals can do to improve their odds of success if they resolve to become healthier and fitter."

Dr. Sodhi, author of the new guide, "Ayurvedic Herbs: The Comprehensive Resource for Ayurvedic Healing Solutions," ([www.ayush.com](http://www.ayush.com)) believes we can move much closer to a world of disease-free societies by following the laws of Mother Nature. Individual commitment to health via New Year's resolutions is one path to take us there. Dr. Sodhi offers five tips for staying true to your goals.

- **Get away from the instant-gratification mentality and avoid unrealistic goals.** Don't expect to go from zero to 60 – 60 being your ideal body image – in just a few months, especially if you have little background in training. Unfortunately, most who have resolutions like losing plenty of weight and quitting smoking are used to easy snack foods and quick rewards. Health is a long-term labor of love; commit to the love and wait for results.

- **Establish good habits!** People make resolutions because they know they're important, but they're hard. With each passing week, more people drop their promises for self-improvement. You'll want to set the right goals; if you want to lose 100 pounds, focus on the first 10, and then the next. Make sure to establish new and good habits – it takes about 28 days to stick. Once you train your mind with good habits, achieving your goals becomes much easier.

- **What you should expect from your "labor of love."** Frequency, intensity and time – these are the three investments you'll need for losing weight or gaining muscle. As a general rule, exercise at least 30 minutes three to four times a week. Make sure to start with the appropriate intensity for your health; too little intensity and you'll see little if any results, but too much and you'll be prone to quit. Don't think that it's always better to exercise for a longer duration. What matters is quality. Increase time and intensity once you comfortably meet goals.

- **Solidify the gains with persistent positive reinforcement.** Learn to reward yourself in a new way by paying attention to the gains in your body. Notice the improvement in stress levels, breathing, energy, sex life, mood and overall strength. While these improvements are wide-ranging and palpable,

they increase over time and can be subtle. Don't let these improvements occur without a personal recognition of your accomplishments.

- **Embrace supplemental support.** Of course, all health efforts are connected to your overall well-being. When you make the investment to eat more vegetables, you're reinforcing your commitment to exercise. Consider practices such as yoga and meditation, which will feed your health kick and provide unexpected benefits. Additionally, supplements such as kelp, green tea extract, Commiphora mukul (Guggul) and Bauhinia variegata (Kachnar) can yield even more health benefits. And, spices such as garlic, onion, black pepper, ginger, cinnamon, long pepper, and cayenne pepper all have important thermogenic properties, which stimulates metabolism.

### **About Virender Sodhi, M.D., N.D.**

Dr. Virender Sodhi was the first Ayurvedic and Naturopathic physician in the United States. He is the author of "Ayurvedic Herbs: The Comprehensive Resource for Ayurvedic Healing Solutions," ([www.ayush.com](http://www.ayush.com)) and founder of the Ayurvedic and Naturopathic Medical Clinic, ([ayurvedicscience.com](http://ayurvedicscience.com)). Dr. Sodhi earned his M.D. (Ayurved) in 1980 from the Dayanand Ayurvedic Medical College in Jalandar, India. He served as a college professor in India until 1986, when the Indian government selected him to share Ayurveda with Western society as part of a cultural exchange program. He finished his fellowship in Integrative Oncology with Dr. Mark Rosenberg in 2012. Dr. Sodhi is a visiting professor at Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine in Scottsdale, Ariz., at the University of Washington School of Pharmacy, and at Des Moines University in Iowa.

## **\$11.5 Million Britton Line Upgrade Results In New \$40 Million Grain Facility**

PIERRE, S.D. –Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced today that the state Department of Transportation will upgrade the Britton Line in northeast South Dakota through a public-private partnership. The \$11.5 million project includes constructing the south leg of a wye at Jarrett Junction and replacing 29 miles of light rail with heavy rail to enable the railroad to handle heavy modern traffic.

The funding package includes \$5.25 million from the Dakota Missouri Valley & Western Railroad; a \$5.25 million Railroad Trust Fund loan; and \$1 million in Future Funds.

"I want to thank Dakota Missouri Valley & Western for making this project a possibility," said Gov. Daugaard. "Their investment and ongoing commitment will go a long way in giving South Dakota farmers better access to the market."

Because of this investment, a new \$40 million grain handling facility, the Britton Grain Terminal, will be constructed.

"This new grain elevator in Britton will allow head-to-head competition between two Class I railroads for the first time," said Gov. Daugaard.

Also at today's Rail Board meeting in Sioux Falls, the Governor announced that a total of \$56 million in public and private funds will go toward improving the RCP&E, Sioux Valley Line and the MRC.

The Governor also announced today that \$4 million in Future Funds will be available to match other South Dakota rail investments made by private entities. Interested parties should prepare proposals and submit them to the state Department of Transportation.

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## Plunging Gas Prices Producing Glee AAA's Weekly Fuel Price Report and Analysis

Holiday cheer has come early for the motoring public as pump prices continue to follow falling crude oil prices.

South Dakota's average for regular gasoline has dropped for 64 cents from one year ago and now clocks in at \$2.47 per gallon, according to FuelGaugeReport.AAA.com, and the least expensive South Dakota price since Oct.1, 2009. The national average, now at \$2.53, has been plummeting for 82 consecutive days.

"It's basic economics," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "Worldwide, crude oil is in good supply and demand is down. This is welcome news for motorists but sustained low prices could cause U.S. oil companies to cut production."

South Dakota's average price at the pump has fallen 27 percent since the start of the year, and if the global price of crude continues to register new multi-year lows, these lower prices are likely to persist. Barring any unexpected spikes in global prices or declines in domestic production, the price at the pump should remain relatively low approaching the New Year and into 2015.

When the average gas price today across the country is compared with the higher prices paid earlier this year, AAA estimates U.S. drivers are saving more than \$400 million dollars daily. Today's national average for regular, \$2.53, is the lowest in more than five years. The price is 13 cents less than one week ago, 36 cents below the price a month ago and down 70 cents from the price on Dec. 16, 2013.

West Texas Intermediate crude oil is now about 40 percent cheaper than at the start of the year and nearly 50 percent below the high in June (\$107.26). WTI closed down \$1.90 yesterday to settle at \$55.91 per barrel in formal trading on the NYMEX.

"OPEC continues to maintain production levels. In fact, the cartel's three biggest members are reportedly ramping up exports to Asia in an effort to sustain market share in that region," said Buskohl. "Market watchers are also beginning to consider the potential for geopolitical instability in countries that are heavily dependent on oil exports to balance their budgets, including Venezuela and Nigeria."

Today, every state in the continental United States is posting an average price below the \$3.00 per gallon benchmark. Hawaii (\$3.69) and Alaska (\$3.36), as is often the case, are the nation's most expensive markets for retail gasoline and of the lower 48 states, drivers in the northeast are paying the most per gallon: New York (\$2.97) and Connecticut, Washington, D.C. and Vermont all at \$2.89 today. Gasoline is least expensive in Missouri (\$2.22), Oklahoma (\$2.27), Texas (\$2.31) and Mississippi (\$2.32).

	Today	Last Week	Change	Nov.18	Change	Last year
Aberdeen	\$2.537	\$2.648	(\$0.111)	\$2.970	(\$0.433)	\$3.070
Brookings	\$2.437	\$2.632	(\$0.195)	\$2.969	(\$0.532)	\$3.163
Huron	\$2.559	\$2.646	(\$0.087)	\$2.850	(\$0.291)	\$3.159
Mitchell	\$2.468	\$2.524	(\$0.056)	\$2.842	(\$0.374)	\$3.087
Pierre	\$2.550	\$2.668	(\$0.118)	\$3.051	(\$0.501)	\$3.320
Rapid City	\$2.607	\$2.852	(\$0.245)	\$3.083	(\$0.476)	\$2.961
Sioux Falls	\$2.237	\$2.315	(\$0.078)	\$2.689	(\$0.452)	\$3.032
Vermillion	\$2.342	\$2.549	(\$0.207)	\$2.861	(\$0.519)	\$3.069
Watertown	\$2.468	\$2.750	(\$0.282)	\$2.915	(\$0.447)	\$3.163
Yankton	\$2.470	\$2.591	(\$0.121)	\$2.948	(\$0.478)	\$3.196
South Dakota	\$2.470	\$2.614	(\$0.144)	\$2.925	(\$0.455)	\$3.113

## Today in Weather History

1989: Subzero temperatures and bitterly cold wind chill values engulfed the region for an extended period of time, generally from December 14th through December 23rd. Wind chills were occasionally in the -50 to -70 F range, and several locations recorded subzero temperatures for four to five consecutive days. Most locations recorded several lows below -15 F during this stretch, with the coldest lows bottoming out near -30 F and high temperatures as low as -20 F.

1993: A prolonged period of snow occurred from December 15th through the 19th over the western half of South Dakota. Several accidents leading to injuries occurred due to ice on the 15th and many vehicles slid into ditches. Snowfall amounts were generally 4 to 10 inches. McIntosh received three inches of snow; Timber Lake, Murdo, and Selby received five inches of snow; and six inches accumulated at McLaughlin. Eagle Butte recorded seven inches of new snow.

1903: Orville and Wilbur Wright successfully tested their homemade glider at Kitty Hawk on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. They had selected Kitty Hawk as their test site on advice from the Weather Bureau due to good, consistent northerly winds.

1924: A severe ice storm covered central Illinois in ice two inches thick. \$21 million damage.

1983: The temperature at Oklahoma City dropped below freezing. It did not rise above 32 degrees again until New Year's Eve, setting a record length of sub-freezing weather in the city.

1884 - A three week blockade of snow began at Portland, OR. A record December total of 34 inches was received. (David Ludlum)

1924 - A severe icestorm struck central Illinois. It coated the ground with nearly two inches of glaze at Springfield. The storm caused 21 million dollars damage along with much hardship. Ice was on the trees until the 4th of January, and electricity was not restored until January 10th. (David Ludlum)

1929 - An icestorm in western New York State resulted in much damage and hardship. A Buffalo report stated, "one was kept awake by the breaking limbs, which snapped off with a report much louder than a rifle shot." (17th-18th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A storm in the southwestern U.S. brought heavy rain and heavy snow to parts of California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. Charleston NV was blanketed with 12 inches of snow. Lake Havasu City AZ was drenched with 2.26 inches of rain. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Squalls brought locally heavy snow to the southeastern shores of Lake Michigan. Totals in Michigan ranged up to 14 inches at Harvey.

### Golden LivingCenter-Groton is accepting applications for

Full-Time night RN/LPN  
Full-Time CNA  
Part-Time/Casual CNA

**SIGN-ON BONUS  
AVAILABLE!**

#### The Rewards of Working at Golden Living:

★ Golden Living offers a competitive and comprehensive benefits package. Our benefits for full-time and part-time team members include access to the following programs:

- ★ 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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Totals in Ohio ranged up to 16 inches at Chardon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)




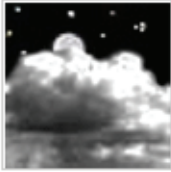



1989 - Twenty-one cities from Kentucky to Pennsylvania reported record low temperatures for the date, including Columbus OH with a reading of 12 degrees below zero. Heavy snow continued in the Colorado Rockies. Vail received 65 inches of snow between the 14th and the 18th of December. Steamboat Springs was buried under 74 inches, and reported a total of 108 inches of snow between the 10th and the 18th of the month. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2002 - Thunderstorms preceding a strong cold front pushed into the U.S. Mississippi Valley, producing severe weather and tornadoes. Three people were killed in Missouri and Arkansas with more than 40 injuries (Associated Press).

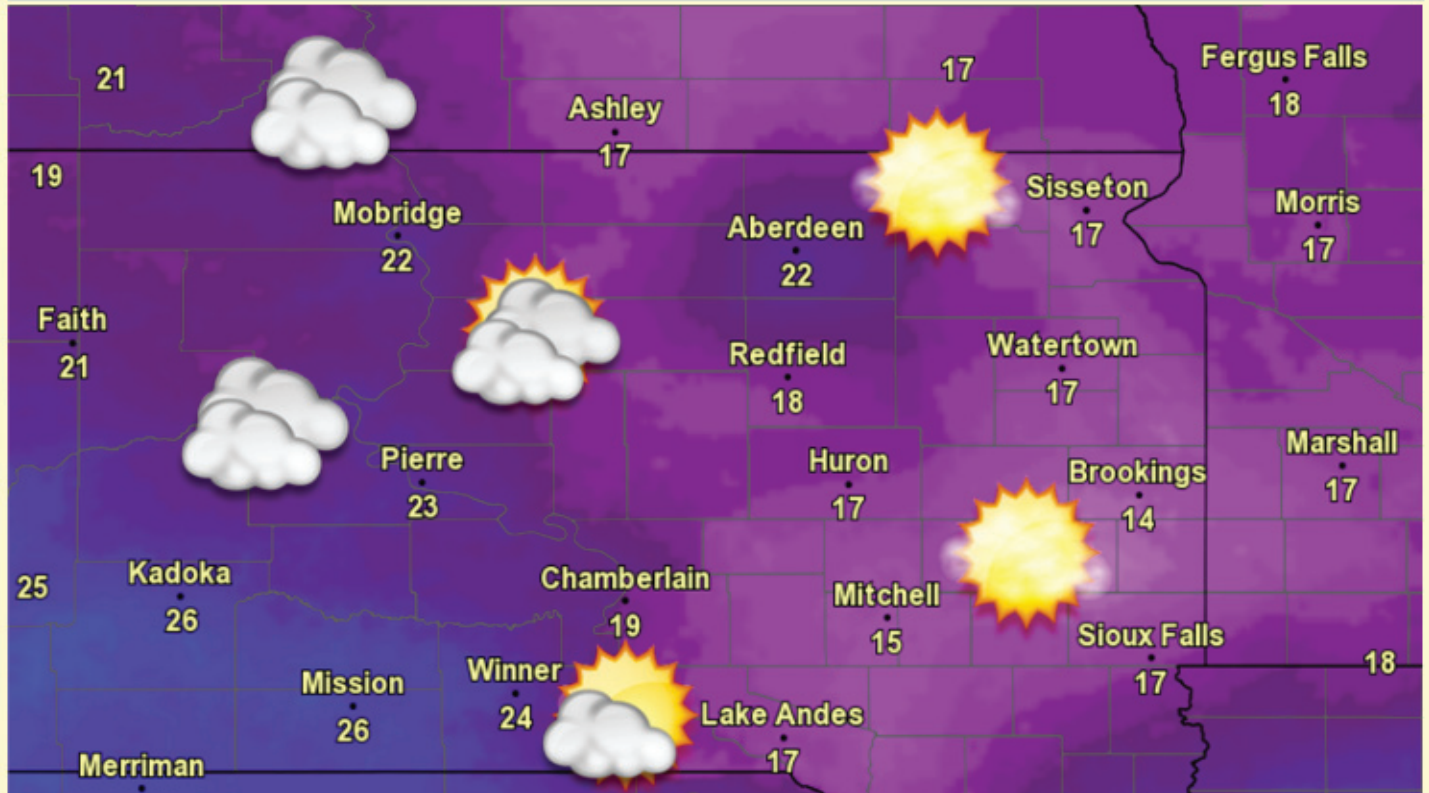
2008 - A winter storm dumped as much as 3.6 inches of snow across Las Vegas, Nevada, prompting the closure of schools and highways. This was the largest December snowfall on record and the heaviest snowfall since January 1979 when a total of 7.5 inches fell (Associated Press).

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TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY
						
Sunny High: 22 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 5 °F	Chance Flurries High: 25 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 17 °F	Partly Sunny High: 29 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 18 °F	Partly Sunny High: 32 °F

## Clouds West – Sun East Today Flurries Tonight – Thursday



## National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

 [weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 12/17/2014 4:18 AM Central

Cold high pressure continues to dominate conditions today, with clouds staying put out west. A weak weather system will drift overhead Tonight & Thursday, but with little more than a few flurries.



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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 19.4 at 12:12 AM

**Low:** 4.4 at 10:46 PM

**Wind Chill:**

**High Gust:** 27 at 2:12 AM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 53° in 1939

**Record Low:** -24° in 1951

**Average High:** 25°F

**Average Low:** 5°F

**Average Precip in Dec.:** 0.27

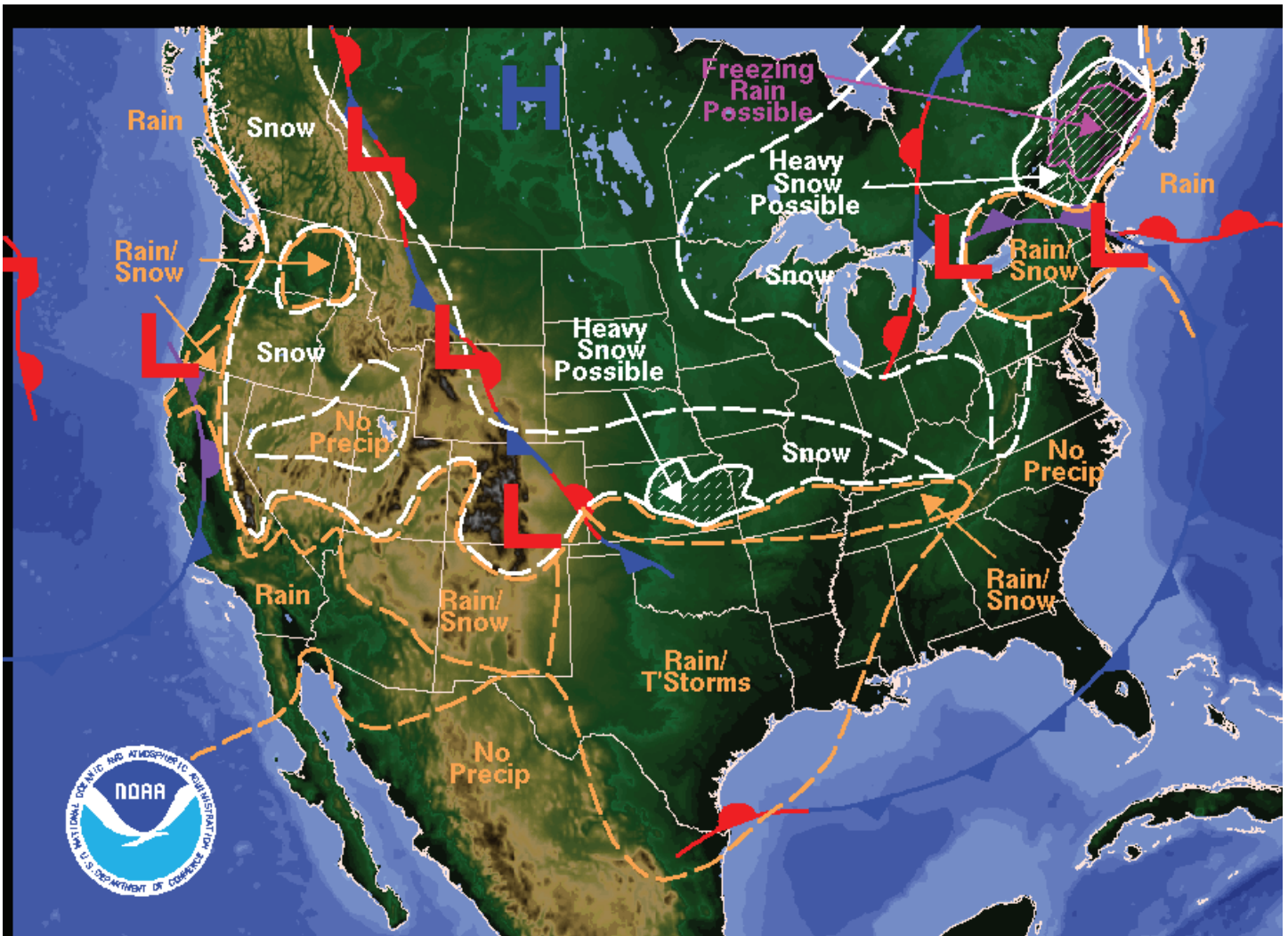
**Precip to date in Dec.:** 0.00

**Average Precip to date:** 21.47

**Precip Year to Date:** 13.99

**Sunset Tonight:** 4:52 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 8:09 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Dec 17, 2014, issued 3:15 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



## GIVING OTHERS A CHOICE

A mother gave her son two beautiful apples, but one was larger and shinier than the other. Placing them in his hands, and wishing to teach him about sharing, she instructed him to "Give your little sister her choice."

A short time later, she noticed that he had kept the bigger one for himself. So, she asked, "Why didn't you give your sister her choice?"

"I did," came the reply. "I gave her the choice of the little one or none at all. And she took the little one."

There is a lot of selfishness even in the smallest of us. Size has little to do with whether or not we are self-centered or God-centered. It is easy to save rather than to share, to get rather than to give, to hoard rather than to help, to protect rather than to promote.

Paul reminds us that "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

**Prayer:** Help me, Heavenly Father, to realize that the needs of others are an opportunity for me to give to them as You have given to me. May I be sensitive to others who are without the necessities of life, and share with them out of the abundance You have given me—especially Your salvation. In Your Name, Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** Philippians 2:1-8 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

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## News from the **AP** Associated Press

### SD ranks seventh among states for volunteering

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Corporation for National and Community Service says South Dakota ranks seventh in the nation when it comes to volunteering.

The federal entity released a report on Tuesday that said nearly 35 percent of South Dakotans volunteered in 2013. That translates to about 21.5 million hours of service over the course of the year with an estimated financial footprint of about \$410 million.

The same study says that about 25 percent of Americans volunteered in 2013.

### Tuesday's Scores The Associated Press

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

Canistota 54, Irene-Wakonda 50  
Centerville 74, Dell Rapids St. Mary 53  
Chadron, Neb. 49, Hot Springs 42  
Chester 96, Howard 25  
Clark/Willow Lake 58, DeSmet 48  
Dakota Valley 75, Beresford 66  
Deubrook 65, Deuel 44  
Elkton-Lake Benton 55, Flandreau 48  
Eureka/Bowdle 56, Ipswich 28  
Garretson 54, Canton 50  
Lead-Deadwood 68, Newell 42  
Lennox 64, Vermillion 58  
Mitchell 100, Harrisburg 84

Northwestern 57, Edmunds  
Central 23  
Parker 73, Baltic 36  
Parkston 42, Tripp-Delmont/  
Armour 23  
Potter County 61, Miller 47  
Sioux Falls Washington 54,  
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 39  
Sisseton 54, Milbank Area 30  
Sturgis 69, Belle Fourche 30  
Sully Buttes 55, Lyman 49  
Sunshine Bible Academy 60,  
Faulkton 51  
Tea Area 68, McCook Central/  
Montrose 54  
Tri-Valley 57, Madison 54  
Winner 58, Kimball/White Lake  
29  
Wolsey-Wessington 90, Lake  
Preston 42  
Yankton 52, Huron 42  
POSTPONEMENTS AND CAN-  
CELLATIONS  
North Central, Neb. vs. Burke/  
South Central, ppd. to Jan 13.  
Santee, Neb. vs. Freeman  
Academy, ppd.  
Wausa, Neb. vs. Gayville-Volin,  
ppd. to Dec 22.

**FRIDAY IS**  
**FRIED CHICKEN DAY**  
Served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
Serving 5-9 p.m.  
**WE'VE GOT WINGS!**  
Every Wednesday!  
**ANDOVER BAR & GRILL**  
120 S Main St. • 298-5252

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## GIRLS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 49, Mobridge-Pollock 36  
Belle Fourche 50, Sturgis 45, OT  
Beresford 54, Dakota Valley 53  
Canistota 51, Colman-Egan 44  
Centerville 64, Dell Rapids St. Mary 43  
Chadron, Neb. 67, Hot Springs 20  
Chester 49, Howard 47  
Corsica/Stickney 35, Avon 34  
Deubrook 54, Deuel 20  
Faith 44, Bison 20  
Flandreau 50, Elkton-Lake Benton 38  
Garretson 45, Canton 44  
Hanson 64, Chamberlain 42  
Highmore-Harrold 43, James Valley Christian 34  
Ipswich 64, Eureka/Bowdle 26  
Lead-Deadwood 46, Newell 26  
Milbank 42, Sisseton 31  
Mitchell 56, Harrisburg 48  
Parker 51, Baltic 45  
Scotland 49, Menno 32  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 60, Brookings 49  
St. Thomas More 66, Douglas 27  
Stanley County 36, Lyman 33  
Sunshine Bible Academy 46, Faulkton 42  
Wilmot 65, Waverly-South Shore 21  
Yankton 54, Huron 52

## POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Dakota Christian vs. Gregory, ppd. to Jan 2.  
North Central, Neb. vs. Burke/South Central, ppd. to Jan 13.  
Wausa, Neb. vs. Gayville-Volin, ppd. to Dec 22.

## Daugaard: \$56M to be invested in SD railway system

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A partnership between the state and private groups will allow for a \$56 million investment in four rail projects across South Dakota.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard on Tuesday announced that the projects include the reconstruction of more than 40 miles of rail line between Chamberlain and Presho, construction of railroad sidings in Aurora and Huron, and upgrades to the Sioux Valley Line in southeast South Dakota and the Britton Line in the northeast part of the state.

Daugaard said the investments will spur economic development in the state.

"The state has long recognized the importance of rail transportation as part of an integrated component of South Dakota's intermodal transportation plan," Daugaard said. "The investments we make in rail today will have a positive impact for decades to come."

A breakdown of the projects:

— \$29.9 million will be used in the reconstruction of the rail line from Mitchell to Rapid City. The project between Chamberlain and Presho will upgrade 42.6 miles of rail line to handle modern rail traffic.

— \$7.5 million will be spent in constructing two new railroad sidings along the old DM&E line. The project includes a 10,000-foot siding in the Huron area and a 7,500-foot siding near Aurora.

— \$7.3 million will be invested in improvements of the Sioux Valley Line in southeast South Dakota. The project includes upgrades to nine bridges on the line, which will allow the line to handle 286,000-pound rail cars. A section of track that is currently in an area subject to landslides will be moved also as part of the project.

— \$11.5 million will go toward the improvement of the Britton Line in northeast South Dakota. The funds will pay for the construction of the south leg of a triangular junction at Jarrett Junction and replacing 29 miles of light rail with heavy rail to enable the railroad to handle heavy modern traffic.

Daugaard says the upgrades will also lead to the construction of a new grain-handling facility in Britton and a grain shuttle loading facility in Kennebec. Each facility's price tag was estimated at \$40 million.

## **Pierre teenager convicted of murder is sentenced**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Pierre teenager convicted of killing a classmate following what authorities said was an argument over a paintball game was sentenced Tuesday to 25 years in prison with 15 suspended.

Braiden McCahren, 18, also received 10 years in prison for an aggravated assault charge. The sentences are to be served at the same time.

Sixth Circuit Judge John Brown gave McCahren credit for the more than 450 days that he has already been in custody, meaning he will be eligible for parole after nine years.

Jurors in adult court in September convicted McCahren of second-degree murder in the December 2012 death of 16-year-old Dalton Williams in McCahren's home. McCahren was 16 at the time but was tried as an adult.

Authorities said the shooting happened after an argument about a paintball incident. McCahren also was convicted of aggravated assault for pointing a shotgun at another classmate and pulling the trigger. The gun did not fire.

Defense attorney Mike Butler reiterated that he will appeal the conviction to the South Dakota Supreme Court. The defense maintains that Williams' death was a tragic accident.

Brown last month rejected a defense motion to set aside the jury verdict.

McCahren was found not guilty of first-degree murder in the shooting of Williams and not guilty of attempted murder in the threat against the second classmate. The second-degree murder conviction required that the jury find McCahren acted without regard for human life. Unlike a first-degree murder conviction, it did not require prosecutors to prove premeditation.

McCahren's attorneys have said their client didn't have the opportunity to present a defense to the lesser charge, violating his rights, and that will be the basis for the appeal.

The mandatory sentence for second-degree murder is life in prison, but because he was a juvenile at the time, McCahren was able to receive a lesser sentence and was made eligible for parole.

## Daugaard to push for more drug courts in session

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

LEAD, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard will push lawmakers to fund two new drug courts and a new DUI court in the upcoming legislative session.

Daugaard wants \$600,000 in state aid to increase the number of specialty courts to 13 and switch funding for one from federal to state.

Non-violent offenders who go through the courts are sentenced to treatment and supervision instead of prison. Advocates say drug courts help offenders by keeping them in the community while treating their addictions but still holding them accountable for their crimes.

"They give people another chance," said Julie Schoolmeester, executive director of Face it Together Sioux Falls, an addiction-focused community group. "It's another great route to try to help people get well."

Rather than removing offenders from society, the courts focus on treatment options and encourage participants to remain employed and in touch with their families, Schoolmeester said.

Daugaard's office also backs the specialty courts because reducing the state prison population saves taxpayer money, said administration General Counsel Jim Seward, who led a state panel tasked with reviewing how a 2013 criminal justice overhaul that included a focus on drug courts has been working. The November results are too preliminary to declare the overhaul a blanket success, but Seward has said it looks like the efforts are making progress.

The 2013 legislation changed how the state handles nonviolent drug offenders and authorized the South Dakota Supreme Court to set up drug courts anywhere in the state.

The overhaul was aimed at boosting rehabilitation rates and reducing corrections spending. Curbing growth in the state's prison population removes the need to construct more facilities, which officials estimated would cost the state more than \$200 million.

The legislation aimed to build on the drug court's successes. The number of new clients nearly tripled between 2012 and 2013.

Under the governor's proposed budget, new drug courts would be located in Beadle and Brown counties. A group of counties in western South Dakota would see a new DUI court.

## Keystone pipeline to top Senate agenda next year

**STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell declared Tuesday that approving the Keystone XL pipeline will top the Senate agenda in January, potentially setting up an early veto confrontation with President Barack Obama.

Congressional Republicans have been pushing for approval of the pipeline for years. Obama has resisted because of environmental concerns.

"People want jobs and this project will create well-paying high-wage jobs for our people," McConnell told reporters. "We're optimistic we can pass it and put it on the president's desk."

The \$8 billion pipeline would carry oil from Canada into the United States and eventually to the Texas Gulf Coast. It has become a symbol for divisions over the country's energy and environmental policy.

Environmentalists say the issue is a significant test of Obama's commitment to address climate change. Republicans and other supporters say the project would create jobs and promote energy security, reducing U.S. reliance on oil from the Middle East.

The 1,179-mile project is proposed to go from Canada through Montana and South Dakota to Ne-

braska, where it would connect with existing pipelines to carry more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day to refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast.

The Republican-led House has repeatedly passed legislation approving the pipeline. But the bills have died in the Democratic-controlled Senate. Last month, a bill fell one vote short of advancing in the Senate.

Republicans will take control of the Senate in January, and McConnell is to become the new majority leader. The Kentucky Republican said the pipeline will be "the first item up in the new Senate."

It could be a lively debate. McConnell promised to allow unlimited amendments, meaning senators could try to force votes on all kinds of unrelated issues.

Such debates have become rare in the Senate in recent years. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., often uses parliamentary procedures preventing amendments on most bills.

## **USGS: High Plains Aquifer groundwater declining**

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Groundwater levels are declining in an aquifer that serves parts of Oklahoma and seven other states, according to a new report by the U.S. Geological Survey.

The report documents changes in groundwater levels in the High Plains Aquifer, also known as the Ogallala Aquifer, from 1950 — before significant groundwater irrigation was developed in the area — to 2013, and from 2011 to 2013.

Measurements between 2011 and 2013 represent a large decline in groundwater levels, said USGS scientist Virginia McGuire, lead author of the study.

"This amount of aquifer depletion over a two-year period is substantial and likely related to increased groundwater pumping," McGuire said. The USGS study used water-level measurements from 3,349 wells from 1950 to 2013 and 7,460 wells for the 2011 to 2013 period.

In 2011, water stored in the aquifer totaled about 2.92 billion acre-feet, an overall decline of about 267 million acre-feet, or 8 percent, since pre-development of groundwater irrigation. Change in water levels between 2011 and 2013 was a decline of 36 million acre-feet.

The overall average water-level decline in the aquifer was 15.4 feet from 1950 to 2013, and 2.1 feet from 2011 to 2013.

The High Plains Aquifer underlies about 175,000 square miles in Oklahoma and Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming. The USGS has published reports on water-level changes in the High Plains Aquifer since 1988. Congress requested the reports in response to substantial water-level declines in large areas of the aquifer.

"This multi-state, groundwater-level monitoring activity tracks water-level changes in all eight states through time and has provided data critical to evaluating different options for groundwater management," McGuire said.

## South Dakota girls basketball poll

### Class AA

Record	Pts	Prv		
1. Sioux Falls O'Gorman (9)	1-0	45	1	
2. Sioux Falls Lincoln	1-0	29	4	
3. Sioux Falls Roosevelt	0-1	18	2	
4. Aberdeen Central	1-0	17	3	
(tie)Pierre	1-0	17	5	

Others receiving votes: Rapid City Stevens 5, Brookings 3, Harrisburg 1.

### Class A

Record	Pts	Prv		
1. St. Thomas More (9)	3-0	45	1	
2. Sioux Valley	3-0	33	2	
3. West Central	2-0	17	NR	
4. Winner	1-0	14	5	
5. Mt. Vernon-Plankinton	1-1	12	3	

Others receiving votes: Clark-Willow Lake 8, Pine Ridge 5, Hamlin 1.

### Class B

Record	Pts	Prv			
1. Warner (8)	1-0	42	1		
2. Sanborn Central-Woonsocket (1)	1-0	36	2	(tie)	
3. Sully Buttes	1-0	23	2	(tie)	
4. Ethan	1-0	12	NR		
5. Summit	3-0	9	NR		

Others receiving votes: Gayville-Volin 6, Castlewood 4, Hanson 3, Highmore-Harrold 3, De Smet 1. <

## South Dakota boys basketball poll

### Class AA

Record	Pts	Prv		
1. Sioux Falls Lincoln (7)	1-0	47	1	
2. Sioux Falls Washington	2-0	34	2	
3. Sioux Falls O'Gorman	1-0	20	4	
4. Yankton	1-0	18	3	
5. Sioux Falls Roosevelt (1)	1-0	10	NR	

Others receiving votes: Huron 5, Aberdeen Central 4, Mitchell 2, Brookings 1.

### Class A

Record	Pts	Prv		
1. Sioux Falls Christian (5)	2-0	37	2	
2. St. Thomas More (2)	1-1	33	1	
3. Madison (1)	1-0	27	3	
4. Dell Rapids (1)	1-0	19	4	
5. Clark-Willow Lake	1-0	13	5	

Others receiving votes: Aberdeen Roncolli 3, Tea Area 3.



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## Class B

Record	Pts	Prv		
1. Platte-Geddes (8)	1-0	44	1	
2. White River (1)	1-0	36	2	
3. Sanborn Central-Woonsocket	1-0	22	3	
4. Wosley-Wessington	1-0	14	4	
5. Hanson	1-0	7	5	

Others receiving votes: Langford 4, James Valley Christian 3, Potter County 2, Warner 2, Harding County 1. <

## Dakota State's Woods named an NAIA All-American

MADISON, S.D. (AP) — Dakota State University offensive lineman Zac Woods has been named to the NAIA Coaches' All-America Team.

The American Football Coaches Association announced the honor on Tuesday.

Woods is a 6-foot-4, 302-pound lineman from Cherokee, Iowa. The senior helped the Trojans compile a school team record of 4,313 offensive yards last season.

## More All-America honors for SDSU's Zach Zenner

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

The team is chosen by head coaches and sports information directors at FCS schools.

It's the second All-America honor for Zenner this season. He was named to the American Football Coaches Association FCS All-America team on Monday. It was also the third straight season he was named to that team.

The Eagan, 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.

## 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 SCENE OF HEART-WRENCHING LOSS

Images of blood-soaked floors, torn notebooks and blown up children's clothes show horrors of the attack that killed nearly 150 people in Peshawar.

### 2. SYDNEY GUNMAN DROPPED OFF SURVEILLANCE

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott says the 50-year-old man who took 17 people hostage at a cafe on Monday was on a terror watch list till 2009.

### 3. WHICH MEMBER OF POLITICAL DYNASTY IS POISED TO RUN IN 2016

Jeb Bush all but declares his candidacy for president more than a year before the first primaries.

### 4. WHY RUSSIA'S CURRENCY IS REGAINING SOME LOST VALUE

Moscow's announcement that it will bolster its sagging ruble by selling foreign reserves is causing a moderate rise in its value, but consumers are still scrambling as prices rocket.

### 5. NY PREMIERE FOR 'THE INTERVIEW' CANCELED AMID THREATS

A group calling itself the Guardians of Peace makes ominous threats against movie theaters showing

the movie that depicts a terror plot to kill the North Korean leader.

## 6. WHERE YOU CAN'T 'SUPERSIZE' FRIES

Japan is facing a drastic shortfall in potato supplies forcing local McDonald's outlets to limit orders of fried potatoes to small size only.

## 7. HOW QATAR IS FAKING IT WHEN IT COMES TO SPORTS

In the rich but thinly populated Gulf nation, migrant workers are paid to attend sporting events to give the impression Qataris are obsessed with all things athletic.

## 8. EX-MARINE'S BODY FOUND AFTER MANHUNT

An Iraq war vet suspected of killing his ex-wife and five of her relatives is discovered dead with self-inflicted stab wounds near his suburban Philadelphia home.

## 9. AP FINDS POLITICIANS GOT QUESTIONABLE STOCK PAYOUTS

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory and U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford of South Carolina deny they did anything improper by accepting the payouts, which were not fully described in their ethics statements.

## 10. BILL COSBY WON'T FACE CHARGES IN PLAYBOY MANSION CASE

Los Angeles prosecutors decline to file charges against the TV icon after a woman recently claimed the comedian molested her at the mansion around 1974.

## Pharmacy owners arrested in '12 meningitis outbreak

**DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press**

BOSTON (AP) — Two co-founders and 12 other former employees of a Massachusetts compounding pharmacy blamed for a fungal meningitis outbreak that killed 64 people were arrested early Wednesday, a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office in Boston said.

Gregory Conigliaro and Barry Cadden, co-founders of the New England Compounding Center in Framingham, were among 14 people arrested at their homes around the state, attorney's office spokeswoman Christina DiIorio-Sterling said.

One of those arrested was Glenn Adam Chin, a former supervisory pharmacist, who had been charged with mail fraud in September.

Tainted steroids manufactured by the pharmacy were blamed for a 2012 outbreak. About 750 people in 20 states developed meningitis or other infections after receiving the contaminated steroids. Michigan, Tennessee and Indiana were the hardest-hit states.

The exact charges are expected to be disclosed at a news conference later Wednesday, and all expected to make an initial court appearance later in the day.

The pharmacy gave up its license and filed for bankruptcy protection after it was flooded with hundreds of lawsuits filed by victims and their families.

NECC was founded in 1998 by brothers-in-law Cadden and Conigliaro. Cadden, who is married to Conigliaro's sister, Lisa, earned a pharmacy degree from the University of Rhode Island. Conigliaro is an engineer.

## AP News in Brief

### **Taliban school massacre leaves scene of devastation as Pakistan mourns for 148 slain**

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — The Taliban massacre that killed 148 people — mostly children — at a military-run school in northwestern Pakistan left a scene of devastation and carnage as the nation mourned and mass funerals for the victims got underway Wednesday.

The attack Tuesday at the Army Public School and College in the city of Peshawar was the deadliest slaughter of innocents in the country and horrified a nation already weary of unending terrorist assaults.

Blood was pooled on the floor and the stairs as media were allowed inside the school a day after the attack. Broken window glass, door frames, torn notebooks, pieces of clothing and children's shoes were scattered about. A pair of child's eyeglasses lay broken on the ground.

Prayer vigils were held across the nation and in other schools, students spoke of their shock at the brutal slaying in Peshawar, where seven Taliban gunmen, explosives strapped to their bodies, scaled a back wall using a ladder to get into the in the morning hours on Tuesday.

Students were gunned down and some of the female teachers were burned alive. Army commandos fought the Taliban in a day-long battle until the school was cleared and the attackers dead.

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### **Jeb Bush sets stage for Republican presidential race, his ambitions no longer in question**

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's suddenly become crystal clear that Jeb Bush has his eye on the presidency. With just a few words, the former Florida governor stepped further into the 2016 Republican presidential contest than potential rivals, declaring via Facebook on Tuesday that he will "actively explore the possibility of running." Some of those rivals, as well as veterans of presidential politics generally, saw his statement as a de facto announcement that ends months of speculation about his intentions.

The son and brother of presidents, Bush is the early favorite of the Republican establishment wing, and his move puts immediate pressure on other establishment-minded GOP contenders to start competing with him for donors, campaign staff and national attention in a crowded field of potential contenders.

"I didn't expect to see this happen this quickly," said Gov. Terry Branstad of Iowa, where the first votes will be cast in January 2016 caucuses. For months, while other GOP prospects were in motion around the country, Bush largely avoided prominent political gatherings, instead pitching his education ideas to policy audiences and showing "a little self-restraint" about his ambitions. That began to change recently, and is destined to change more now.

His announcement increases the chance of a dynastic presidential contest pitting him against Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton, though a long and unpredictable Republican contest looms. The former first lady will be her party's overwhelming front-runner should she decide to run.

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## **Australian leader says siege gunman was dropped off nation's security watch list years ago**

SYDNEY (AP) — A gunman responsible for a deadly siege in a Sydney cafe was once on the national security agency's watch list — but was dropped off it years ago for reasons that remain unclear, Australia's prime minister said Wednesday.

Man Haron Monis, a 50-year-old Iranian-born, self-styled cleric described by Prime Minister Tony Abbott as deeply disturbed, took 17 people hostage inside a downtown Sydney cafe on Monday. Sixteen hours later, the siege ended in a barrage of gunfire when police rushed in to free the captives. Two hostages were killed along with Monis.

Abbott said that Monis was on the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation's watch list in 2008 and 2009, but was later dropped from it. The agency was watching Monis because he had sent a series of offensive letters to the families of dead Australian soldiers, Abbott said.

"I don't know why he dropped off the watch list in those days, I really don't," Abbott told reporters.

Monis was convicted and sentenced last year to 300 hours of community service for sending what a judge called "grossly offensive" letters to families of soldiers killed in Afghanistan between 2007 and 2009. He later was charged with being an accessory to the murder of his ex-wife. Earlier this year, he was charged with the 2002 sexual assault of a woman. He had been out on bail on all the charges.

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## **Russia ruble recovers some of its losses after Tuesday's collapse**

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's embattled ruble appeared to be regaining some of its catastrophic losses in early trading on Wednesday, boosted by the finance ministry's announcement that it is about to intervene to support the currency.

Deputy Finance Minister Alexei Moiseyev was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying that it is going to sell foreign currency from its treasury accounts "as much as necessary and as long as necessary."

The ruble lost over 15 percent of its value this week despite Tuesday's massive interest rate hike by the Russian central bank and was at some point more than 20 percent down on Tuesday.

The world's worst-performing currency along with the Ukrainian hryvnia, the ruble has lost more than 50 percent of its value this year. After posting some fresh losses at the opening, the ruble reversed its fall an hour into the trading and was up 5 percent at 64 rubles at 11.15 a.m. Moscow time (0815 GMT).

The moderate rise in the ruble was further spurred by the finance ministry's announcement that it believes the ruble to be "undervalued" and is about to begin selling currency on the market.

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## **AP Exclusive: NC Gov McCrory and SC Congressman Sanford get payout from lender while in office**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Soon after taking office, North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory and U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford of South Carolina accepted six-figure stock payouts from an online mortgage broker accused by regulators of deceiving its customers.

The two Republicans served as directors at Tree.com, the Charlotte-based corporate parent of the website LendingTree. As board members, they were entitled to large chunks of restricted company stock if they held their positions long enough. Both resigned after their election victories, which would

have rendered their unvested stock worthless had the board not taken special action to provide them early payouts.

McCrary and Sanford deny they did anything improper by accepting the stock payouts, which were not fully described in their ethics statements. Their timing and total value are only being revealed now, as the result of an Associated Press investigation into the company's financial records and interviews with Tree.com officials.

Early vesting of restricted shares for departing directors is not unheard of in the corporate world.

However, more than a dozen securities lawyers and ethics experts told the AP that such stock payouts are uncommon for elected officials, and raise significant concerns. These experts gave differing opinions about whether laws were broken.

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## **Japan McDonald's limits orders of fries as US labor strife leads to shortfall of spuds**

TOKYO (AP) — Only small fries with that? McDonald's in Japan is limiting the serving size of fries as stocks run short due to labor disruptions on the U.S. West Coast.

McDonald's began rationing its fries Wednesday morning. It said prolonged labor negotiations with port workers on the West Coast have made it difficult to meet demand despite an emergency airlift of 1,000 tons of processed spuds and an extra shipment from the U.S. East Coast by sea.

Frozen french fries — ready for the deep-fryer — are a leading U.S. export. The spuds are partially cooked and cut before shipping.

Japanese consume more than 300,000 tons of french fries a year, mostly at fast-food restaurants, and largely sourced from imports of frozen, processed potatoes from America, according to U.S. figures. Shipments in December are expected to be just over half the normal level, Japanese newspapers reported.

But demand is rising as convenience stores are increasingly also selling fries.

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## **Sony barraged by more leaks, lawsuits, theaters pulling Rogen film after hackers' 9/11 threats**

NEW YORK (AP) — Threats of violence against movie theaters. The New York premiere of "The Interview" canceled. Leaks of thousands more private emails. Lawsuits by former employees that could cost tens of millions in damages.

The fallout from the Sony Pictures Entertainment hack that began four weeks ago exploded Tuesday after the shadowy group calling themselves Guardians of Peace escalated their attack beyond corporate espionage and threatened moviegoers with violence reminiscent of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

The Department of Homeland Security said there was "no credible intelligence to indicate an active plot against movie theaters," but noted it was still analyzing messages from the group, dubbed GOP. The warning did prompt law enforcement in New York and Los Angeles to address measures to ramp up security.

Those security fears spurred Sony to allow theater chains to cancel showings of the Seth Rogen and James Franco comedy "The Interview," that has been a focus of the hackers' mission to bring down Sony.

A spokesperson for Landmark Sunshine cinemas said the New York premiere of "The Interview,"

scheduled for Thursday night, has been canceled. Carmike Cinemas, which operates 247 theaters across the country, was the first to cancel its planned showings of the film, according to The Hollywood Reporter. It remains to be seen if other chains will follow suit.

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## **Under Abbas, most Palestinians say they can't speak freely, critics cite curbs on expression**

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Two-thirds of Palestinians say they are afraid to criticize Mahmoud Abbas, according to a poll, and some of the Palestinian president's recent actions only seem to confirm claims that dissent comes at a price.

Last month, Abbas outlawed the West Bank's largest labor union and briefly jailed its two leaders for organizing strikes. Security agents routinely monitor social media and send threats or complaints to some of those criticizing Abbas. Meanwhile, the Palestinian leader's Fatah movement continues to purge supporters of an exiled rival.

Critics say that after a decade in power, Abbas is overseeing a largely authoritarian system with shrinking room for dissent — a claim denied by Abbas supporters who say Palestinians enjoy more political freedoms than most in the Arab world.

Complaints of heavy-handedness come at a time of paralysis on all fronts. Abbas' strategy of setting up a Palestinian state through negotiations with Israel has hit a dead end, while the bitter rivalry between Fatah and the Islamic militant group Hamas continues to fester.

With his approval rate down to 35 percent, Abbas lashes out against those he views as a political threat, such as former aide Mohammed Dahlan, now based in the United Arab Emirates, and ex-Prime Minister Salam Fayyad.

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## **For migrant workers in 2022 World Cup host Qatar, it pays — literally — to be a sports 'fan'**

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — The men grappled with each other to board the quickly filling bus. Others wriggled in through the windows, scaling the outside, using the large wheels as footholds and leaving scuff-marks on the white exterior with their shoes.

These weren't refugees fleeing disaster. They were migrant workers in 2022 World Cup host Qatar, fighting to earn a few dollars. The job: Pretend to be a sports fan.

Qataris boast they're mad for sports. The ruling emir of the oil-and-gas rich Gulf nation is so fond of football he bought Paris Saint-Germain, now France's powerhouse team. Lobbying World Cup organizer FIFA in 2010, his royal mother said: "For us, football is not just a mere game or a sport among many. It is THE sport."

Pitching successfully in November to track and field's governing body to host its world championships in 2019, Qatar bid presenter Aphrodite Moschoudi said: "Qatar has a true passion for sports. Everything in our country revolves around sport."

Or, when passion is lacking, around money.

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## Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 17, the 351st day of 2014. There are 14 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright of Dayton, Ohio, conducted the first successful manned powered-airplane flights near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, using their experimental craft, the Wright Flyer.

### On this date:

In 1777, France recognized American independence.

In 1865, Franz Schubert's Symphony No. 8, known as the "Unfinished" (because only two movements had been completed) was first performed publicly in Vienna, 37 years after the composer's death.

In 1914, during World War I, Britain declared Egypt an official protectorate.

In 1925, Col. William "Billy" Mitchell was convicted at his court-martial in Washington of insubordination for accusing senior military officials of incompetence and criminal negligence; he was suspended from active duty.

In 1939, the German pocket battleship Admiral Graf Spee was scuttled by its crew, ending the World War II Battle of the River Plate off Uruguay.

In 1944, the U.S. War Department announced it was ending its policy of excluding people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast.

In 1957, the United States successfully test-fired the Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time.

In 1964, the film "Zorba the Greek," starring Anthony Quinn, opened in New York and Los Angeles.

In 1979, Arthur McDuffie, a black insurance executive, was fatally injured after leading police on a chase with his motorcycle in Miami. (Four white police officers accused of beating McDuffie were later acquitted, sparking riots.)

In 1989, the animated TV series "The Simpsons" premiered on Fox with a Christmas-themed episode.

In 1994, North Korea shot down a U.S. Army helicopter which had strayed north of the demilitarized zone. The co-pilot, Chief Warrant Officer David Hilemon, was killed; the pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall, was captured and held for nearly two weeks.

In 2011, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il died after more than a decade of iron rule; he was 69, according to official records, but some reports indicated he was 70.

**Ten years ago:** President George W. Bush signed into law the largest overhaul of U.S. intelligence-gathering in 50 years, creating a national intelligence center and a powerful new position of national intelligence director. Pfizer Inc. said it had found that Celebrex, an arthritis painkiller, raised the risk of heart attack when taken at very high doses.

**Five years ago:** Large pieces of a climate deal fell into place on the next-to-last day of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. Cincinnati Bengals receiver Chris Henry, 26, died a day after falling out of the back of a pickup truck in Charlotte, North Carolina. Academy Award-winning actress Jennifer Jones, 90, died in Malibu, California.

**One year ago:** Germany's Parliament elected Chancellor Angela Merkel (AHN'-geh-lah MEHR'-kuhl) to a third term as the leader of Europe's biggest economic power, nearly three months after an awkward election result forced her to put together a new governing coalition. A suicidal gunman opened fire at a Reno, Nevada, hospital campus, killing one person and critically wounding two others before ending his own life.

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**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Armin Mueller-Stahl is 84. Pope Francis is 78. Singer-actor Tommy Steele is 78. Rock singer-musician Art Neville is 77. Actor Bernard Hill is 70. Actor Ernie Hudson is 69. Political commentator Chris Matthews is 69. Comedian-actor Eugene Levy is 68. Actress Marilyn Hassett is 67. Actor Wes Studi is 67. Pop musician Jim Bonfanti (The Raspberries) is 66. Actor Joel Brooks is 65. Rock singer Paul Rodgers is 65. Rhythm-and-blues singer Wanda Hutchinson (The Emotions) is 63. Actor Bill Pullman is 61. Actor Barry Livingston is 61. Country singer Sharon White is 61. Producer-director-writer Peter Farrelly is 58. Rock musician Mike Mills (R.E.M.) is 56. Pop singer Sarah Dallin (Bananarama) is 53. Country musician Tim Chewning is 52. Country singer Tracy Byrd is 48. Country musician Duane Propes is 48. Actress Laurie Holden is 45. DJ Homicide (Sugar Ray) is 44. Actor Sean Patrick Thomas is 44. Actress Claire Forlani is 43. Pop-rock musician Eddie Fisher (OneRepublic) is 41. Actress Sarah Paulson is 40. Actress Marissa Ribisi is 40. Actor Giovanni Ribisi is 40. Actress Milla Jovovich (YO'-vuh-vich) is 39. Singer Bree Sharp is 39. Actress Jennifer Carpenter is 35. Singer-songwriter Ben Goldwasser (MGMT) is 32. Rock singer Mikky Ekko is 31. Actress Shannon Woodward is 30. Actress Emma Bell is 28. Actress Vanessa Zima is 28. Rock musician Taylor York (Paramore) is 25. Actor-singer Nat Wolff is 20.

**Thought for Today:** "The man who has done his level best, and who is conscious that he has done his best, is a success, even though the world may write him down a failure." - B.C. Forbes, Scottish journalist (1880-1954).