

# Groton Daily Independent

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**Hanlon Brothers**  
**Gravel Hauling**

New & Cleaning of  
Stockdams with our  
60' reach trackhoe

**605/395-6531**

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

**FOR RENT**

**Attached garage.**

**Major appliances included.**

**\$700 per month**

**Roger: 605/397-7118**

## Saturday, December 20

Debate at Brookings

**Birthdays:** • Virginia Spencer • Lisa Adler • Jim Pray • Harvey Flihs III • Lexi Osterman  
10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Pastor at Rosewood Court  
11:00am: NEC Wrestling at Sisseton  
4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

## Sunday, December 21

FIRST DAY OF WINTER

**Birthdays:** Kent Webb • Kayla Townsend • Ashley Flihs • Steve Giedt • Eva Ellis  
9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School  
9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass  
9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship with Communion  
10:00am: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont (LCMC) worship  
10:00am: St. John's Lutheran Christmas program practice  
10:00am: UMC School  
10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship (SS Program, League Spuds 'N Berries)  
11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship  
3:00pm: Bethlehem Lutheran pastor at Golden Living Center  
3:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran fellowship at Golden Living Center  
7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Choir

## Monday, December 22

No School

**Senior Menu:** Baked chicken breast, noodles

## 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.

## State Historical Society to host Smithsonian Sunday Program on Jan. 11

PIERRE, S.D. – The Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society will host a special webcast of the Smithsonian Institution's National Air & Space Museum program entitled, "NASA's Flying Saucer: Learning to Land on Mars" at 2 p.m. CST on Sunday, Jan. 11, at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

The program, in the Cultural Heritage Center's education room, is offered in collaboration with the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum and the Smithsonian Affiliations program.

In this "What's New in Aerospace?" program, Ian Clark, principal investigator for the Low Density Supersonic Decelerator project at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, discusses the Mars Science Laboratory landing and describes the process and technologies used to land the Curiosity Rover on Mars. He provides historical context for the development of those technologies and talks about the need for improvements as we move to larger and larger payloads, and then briefly introduces the Low Density Supersonic Decelerator technology and discusses tests that are being conducted to mature the technologies.

"This is a fascinating program," commented Jay Smith, museum director for the State Historical Society. "We feature experimental balloon technology that took place in South Dakota in our 20th Century section of 'The South Dakota Experience,' so it is very interesting to see NASA's 21st century technology in that context."

There is no fee to view the program, but standard admission fees apply for visitors wanting to go into the museum galleries. The program was originally broadcast Nov. 5 in the Smithsonian's "Moving Beyond Earth" gallery as part of the "What's New in Aerospace?" programming.

The State Historical Society became a Smithsonian Affiliate in January 2013, and it is the only affiliate in South Dakota. Since 2013, the museum has hosted a "Smithsonian Sunday" program on the second Sunday of each month.

## Classifieds

### 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)**

**SUN DIAL MANOR in Bristol is accepting applications for an RN or LPN. PRN, part time or full time. Small town, home-like facility with new renovations. We offer competitive wages and benefits. We are an equal Employment Opportunity employer and offer a drug free workplace. If interested, please call Connie at 605/492-3615. (121614)**

**SUNDIAL MANOR in Bristol is accepting applications for a Social Services Coordinator. For more information, please contact Peggy Pearson, Administrator, at 605/492-3615. (121614)**

### 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.

## Groton girls beat Deuel



**Audrey Wanner goes up for a shot as she is defended by Rachel Baer.**

Groton's girls jumped out to a 16-0 first quarter lead en route to a 43-19 Northeast Conference win over Deuel Friday night in Groton. Groton led at halftime, 28-13, and at the end of the third quarter, 36-16.

Courtney Kurtz led the Tigers with 20 points, including being 11 of 12 from the charity stripe. Carly Wheeting had 10 points followed by Audrey Wanner with seven, Katie Koehler three, Marlee Jones two and Ashley Gibbs added one free throw.

The Cardinals were led in scoring by Aavrie Kielty with five points followed by Micah Miller with four, Tara Rowcliffe three, adding two points each were Hailey Benson, Rachel Baer and Shiann Spilde and Becca Bauman added one free throw.

Groton made 11 of 36 field goals for 31 percent, was 20 of 29 from the line for 69 percent off of Deuel's 19 team fouls, Kurtz made one three-pointer, Koehler had seven of the team's 32 rebounds, Kurtz had three of the team's five assists and Groton had 15 turnovers, four of

each were steals.

Deuel made seven of 34 field goals for 21 percent, was three of eight from the line for 38 percent off of Groton's 13 team fouls, had 11 rebounds, one assist and 13 turnovers, nine of which were steals with Harleigh Stange, Koehler and Wheeting each having two steals.

Coach Shaun Wanner said, "We're continuing to get better. We need to get some continuity on offense and once we get effective there, we should be a tough team by the end of the season. Our two all-conference players, Carly and Courtney, have to stay consistent throughout the season and others will need to fill in with the scoring."

Groton will host Aberdeen Roncalli Monday night.

Groton won the junior varsity game, 21-18. The Tigers led, 6-0, after the first quarter, 8-2 at halftime, and trailed, 13-12, after three quarters.

Gia Gengerke led the Tigers with six points followed by Emily Locke with five, Alex Stange and Harleigh Stange each had four points and Madison Sippel added two points.

Saycia Sime led Deuel with seven points.

**CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**  
**Groton**  
**Community**  
**Transit**  
**Annual Christmas**  
**Open House and Bake**  
**Sale Monday, Dec. 22**  
**10am to 3pm.**  
**Stop in at the transit of-**  
**ice down town (across**  
**from City Hall) and enjoy**  
**piano Christmas Carols**  
**by elementary and high**  
**school youth, Door Prizes**  
**and refreshments.**  
**Check out the fresh**  
**baked goods on the bake**  
**sale for your Christmas**  
**Holiday!**

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**Pictured above is Carly Wheeting.  
Top right is Ashley Gibbs.  
Bottom right: Courtney Kurtz.**

## Groton explodes for 22 straight points in win over Deuel

Groton Area found itself falling behind early in the boys basketball game, but then exploded with three-pointers and turned a deficit into a 61-29 Northeast Conference win.

Deuel jumped ahead, 7-0, and took a 9-6 lead at the end of the first quarter. Trailing, 11-8, Groton then made three straight three-pointers as part of a 22 straight point run to take a 30-11 lead. Groton led, 32-15, at half time, and 45-25 at the end of the third quarter. "We're still figuring out how to play together," said Coach Greg Kjellsen. "With four new starters, it will take a while to figure things out. We're trying to find our identity - are we going to be a perimeter oriented team or an inside team - or are we going to get out in transition or work the ball in the half court. It's things we have to determine."

Three players hit double figures for Groton Area with Kyler Ell, who made five three-pointers, making 21 points. Hunter Lerew had 12, Spencer Knecht 10, Lucas Sternhagen six, Bennett Shabazz three, Gabe Dohman, Sean Schuring, Chance Strom and Wyatt Larson each made two points and Seric Shabazz made a free throw.

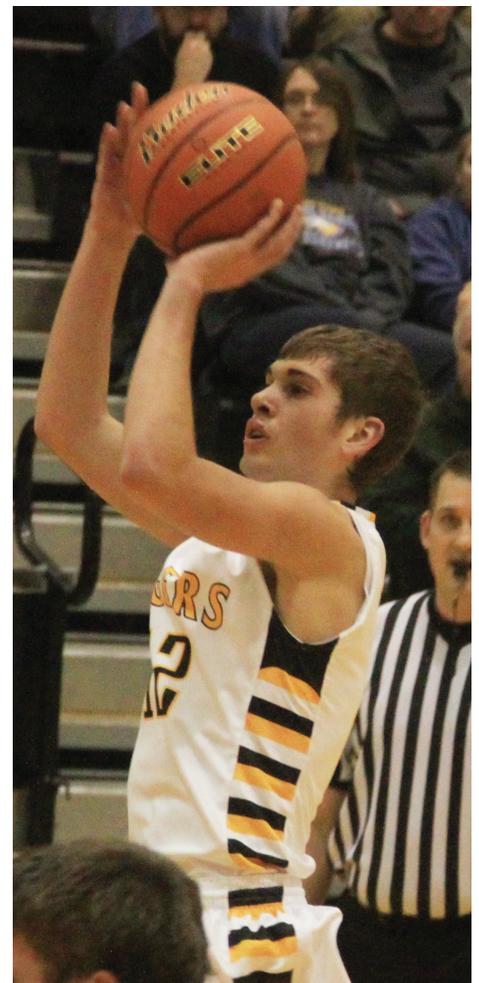
Groton made 26 of 61 field goals for 43 percent, was three of four from the line off of Deuel's 11 team fouls, had 16 assists Knecht having five, three blocks with Landon Larson having two, and had eight turnovers, with two of them being steals.

Deuel was led in scoring by Lance Eide with 12 followed by Levi Schmahl with eight, Matt Cassels had three and Colin Magedanz, Preston Homan and Ben Witte with two each.

The Cardinals made 10 of 38 field goals for 26 percent, was eight of 15 from the line off of Groton's 16 team fouls, had eight assists,



Lucas Sternhagen looks for an open player after receiving the ball.



Kyler Ell made five of six three-pointers to fire Groton with 21 points.

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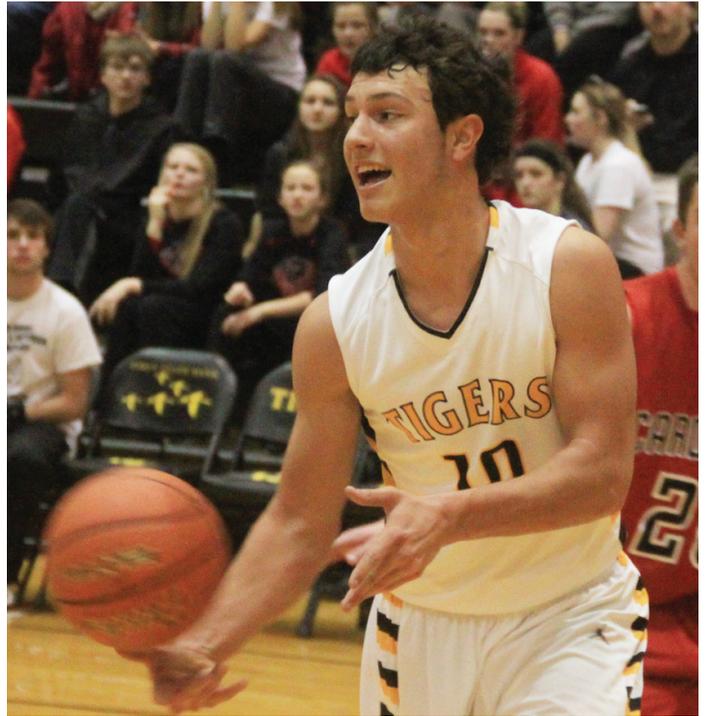
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two blocks and 22 turnovers with 10 of them being steals with Knecht having three and Ell and Larson each having two.

Groton will travel to Roncalli on Tuesday. Kjellsen said, "Roncalli is very tough. They've got good size and can really get up and down the floor. We're not going to be able to start slow and expect to stay in the game. We've got to come out focused and execute both offensively and defensively."

Groton won the junior varsity game, 48-34. Sean Schuring led Groton with 22 points followed by Adam Herman with 10, Seric Shabazz four, Bennett Shabazz and Truitt Rogers each had three points and Brandon Keight, Anthony Sippel and Luke Thorson each had two points.

Deuel was led by Witte with 12 points.



Above: Spencer Knecht  
Below: Hunter Lerew

## We Wish You A Merry Christmas!

Open Sunday, Dec. 21  
Noon to 4 p.m.  
Open Christmas Eve  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Closed Christmas Day!

**coffee and wine gift baskets along with holiday boxed Truffles are available.**

Watch Facebook for additional sale notifications!



**Holiday centerpieces are still available**

**30% Off Christmas Decor**



*Fresh flowers, silks, home decor & so much more*  
101 N. Main St., Groton ~ 397-8650  
[www.oldebankfloral.com](http://www.oldebankfloral.com)



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## Groton Boys Varsity Stat Sheet

DEUEL		TOT-FG		3-PT		REBOUNDS												
NO	PLAYER	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
1	Magedanz, Colin	*	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	1	0	0
2	Cassels, Matt	*	1	3	0	1	1	4	0	4	4	3	3	4	6	0	0	24
4	Fritz, Sayer	*	0	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	2	3	0	0	24
20	Eide, Lance	*	3	13	1	5	5	6	0	2	2	2	12	1	3	0	0	16
23	Schmahl, Levi	*	3	6	0	1	2	3	2	3	5	1	8	0	2	1	2	32
12	Unzen, Hunter		0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	8
30	Homan, Preston		1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	24
35	TeGantvoort, Brexton		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
45	Witte, Ben		1	5	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	1	2	1	4	0	0	24
TEAM REBOUNDS									0	0	0							
Team Totals			10	38	1	7	8	15	6	14	20	11	29	8	22	2	2	160

Total FG%	- 1st: 5/19	0.263	2nd: 5/19	0.263	Game: 0.263	Deadball
3-PT FG%	- 1st: 1/4	0.250	2nd: 0/3	0.000	Game: 0.143	Rebounds
Total FT%	- 1st: 4/4	1.000	2nd: 4/11	0.364	Game: 0.533	(5,7)

GROTON AREA		TOT-FG		3-PT		REBOUNDS												
NO	PLAYER	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
4	Sternhagen, Lucas	*	3	7	0	3	0	0	0	2	2	1	6	4	0	0	1	16
10	Knecht, Spencer	*	5	10	0	3	0	0	3	1	4	2	10	5	1	1	3	16
12	Ell, Kyler	*	8	11	5	6	0	0	1	0	1	1	21	1	1	0	2	8
32	Dohman, Gabe	*	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	2	1	2	0	0	8
40	Lerew, Hunter	*	5	10	0	0	2	2	3	1	4	3	12	1	0	0	1	8
3	Schuring, Sean		1	3	0	2	0	0	0	4	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	16
5	Shabazz, Seric		0	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	8
14	Herman, Adam		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	16
22	Shabazz, Bennett		1	2	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	3	3	1	0	0	8
24	Strom, Chance		1	7	0	5	0	0	1	4	5	3	2	1	1	0	0	16
30	Larson, Landon		0	4	0	0	0	0	3	3	6	2	0	0	2	2	2	16
42	Larson, Wyatt		1	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	1	24
Team Totals			26	61	6	22	3	4	14	21	35	16	61	16	8	3	10	160

Total FG%	- 1st: 14/33	0.424	2nd: 12/28	0.429	Game: 0.426	Deadball
3-PT FG%	- 1st: 4/12	0.333	2nd: 2/10	0.200	Game: 0.273	Rebounds
Total FT%	- 1st: 0/0	0.000	2nd: 3/4	0.750	Game: 0.750	(1,3)

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Deuel	9	6	10	4	29
Groton	6	26	13	16	61

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## Groton Boys Junior Varsity Stat Sheet

DEUEL JV	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT		FTA		REBOUNDS							S	MIN
NO PLAYER	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
5 Longstreet,	*	1	5	0	0	1	2	0	2	2	2	3	1	2	0	1	16
12 Unzen,	*	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	2	4	1	0	1	0	16
31 Knight,	*	1	5	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	0	1	0	0	0
35 TeGantvoort,	*	2	5	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	4	0	0	1	0	16
45 Witte,	*	5	7	0	0	2	2	1	4	5	2	12	1	1	0	0	16
1 Palmquist,		0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	1	16
3 Reichling,		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
15 Ronne,		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
21 Reichling,		0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
25 Kwasnieski,		1	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	3	0	0	24
30 Homan,		2	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	5	4	0	4	1	0	16
35 Stoltenburg,		0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	16
TEAM REBOUNDS								0	0	0				0			
Team Totals		14	33	1	3	5	8	5	15	20	16	34	7	13	3	3	160

Total FG% - 1st: 6/16 0.375 2nd: 8/17 0.471 Game: 0.424 Deadball  
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 0/2 0.000 2nd: 1/1 1.000 Game: 0.333 Rebounds  
 Total FT% - 1st: 1/2 0.500 2nd: 4/6 0.667 Game: 0.625 (0,5)

GROTON AREA JV	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT		FTA		REBOUNDS							S	MIN
NO PLAYER	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
3 Schuring, Sean	*	8	17	3	5	3	5	2	1	3	3	22	1	0	1	1	16
5 Shabazz, Seric	*	1	5	1	3	1	2	3	6	9	1	4	2	3	0	1	16
14 Herman, Adam	*	4	11	2	4	0	0	1	1	2	2	10	1	1	0	2	16
20 Keith, Brandon	*	1	6	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	2	0	1	0	2	8
22 Shabazz, Bennett	*	1	4	0	1	1	1	7	3	10	4	3	3	2	0	0	16
4 Sippel, Anthony		1	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	8
10 Lane, Marshall		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	8
12 Wuestewald, Frankie		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
14 Kurtz, Wyatt		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
30 Oliver, Jackson		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	8
40 Rogers, Truitt		1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	16
42 Thorson, Luke		1	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	24
44 Fey, Stevie		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEAM REBOUNDS								0	0	0				0			
Team Totals		18	50	7	18	5	11	16	15	31	15	48	12	10	1	7	160

Total FG% - 1st: 8/24 0.333 2nd: 10/26 0.385 Game: 0.360 Deadball  
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 2/6 0.333 2nd: 5/12 0.417 Game: 0.389 Rebounds  
 Total FT% - 1st: 3/7 0.429 2nd: 2/4 0.500 Game: 0.455 (2,2)

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Deuel	5	8	11	10	34
GHS JV	11	10	15	12	48

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## Elementary Christmas Concert

The elementary concert was held Friday afternoon in the GHS Gym. Above, the second through fifth graders sang several selections. Below, starting from the top, are the junior kindergarten students, kindergarten students and first grade students.



## Today in Weather History

1967: Freezing drizzle added a thin coating of ice over a previous ice coating that had been created on the 16th of the month over eastern South Dakota and still existed in most areas. An ice coating remained over many areas in eastern South Dakota through the end of the month.

1991: Light freezing drizzle and freezing rain developed over northern South Dakota from Timber Lake to Webster. Numerous car accidents were attributed to slippery conditions. The Aberdeen Police Department reported 24 accidents in Aberdeen, but only one resulted in an injury. Numerous businesses closed and schools were canceled.

1993: Strong winds, accompanied by existing snow cover and one to five inches of new snow, caused blizzard conditions in parts of north central and eastern South Dakota from the 20th to 22nd. A man died in a weather-related crash of a small plane near Isabel on the night of the 20th. The heaviest new snowfall of four to five inches was located in the Sisseton Hills in northeast South Dakota, while the north central part of the state generally received only an inch or two of new snow.

2008: Arctic air combined with blustery northwest winds brought extreme wind chills to central and northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota from the late afternoon of the 20th until the afternoon of the 21st. Wind chills of 35 below to 45 below zero were common across the area.

1986: An "Alberta Clipper" intensified explosively south of New England bringing high winds, torrential rains, and heavy snows to the region. Up to 4 inches of rain fell in southern areas and winds gusted frequently to 70 mph. 30 inches of snow fell in southern Vermont, 24 inches on the higher elevations of western Massachusetts, and 20 inches in New Hampshire.

1990: Snow fell at Santa Maria, CA for the first time since records were kept.

1836 - A famous cold wave occurred in central Illinois. A cold front with 70 mph winds swept through at Noon dropping the temperature from 40 degrees to near zero in a matter of minutes. Many settlers froze to death. Folklore told of chickens frozen in their tracks and men frozen to saddles. Ice in streams reportedly froze to six inches in a few hours. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1942 - An early cold wave sent the temperature plunging to 3 degrees below zero at Nantucket, MA, and to 11 degrees below zero at Boston MA. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Heavy snow fell in the northern mountains of Colorado, with 15 inches reported in the Mary Jane ski area. Strong and gusty winds prevailed from the Northern High Plains to the Great Lakes. Winds gusted to 54 mph at Buffalo NY,

### 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

golden  
living

1106 N 2nd St.  
(605) 397-2365

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and reached 66 mph at Livingston MT. Rain, freezing rain, sleet and snow fell across New England, with up to seven inches of snow in Maine. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Strong southerly winds ahead of a cold front in the central U.S. gusted to 70 mph at Indianapolis IN. The high winds toppled a masonry wall killing a construction worker. Low pressure and a trailing cold front brought rain and snow and high winds to the western U.S. Winds gusted to 90 mph at the Callahan Ranch south of Reno NV. Soda Springs, in the Sierra Nevada Range of California, received 17 inches of snow in less than 24 hours. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Brutal northwest winds ushered bitter cold arctic air into the north central U.S. International Falls, MN, and Warroad, MN, tied for honors as the cold spot in the nation with morning lows of 34 degrees below zero. Minot ND reported a wind chill reading of 81 degrees below zero. Squalls produced more heavy snow in the Great Lakes Region. Erie PA received 21 inches of snow, including four inches in one hour, to bring their total snow cover to 39 inches, an all-time record for that location. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2006 - A major winter storm affected Colorado, dumping several feet of snow on areas of the Rocky Mountains. The snowstorm temporarily closed the Denver International Airport.

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TODAY	TONIGHT	SUNDAY	SUNDAY NIGHT	MONDAY	MONDAY NIGHT	TUESDAY
						
30%	30%		50%	50%	50%	20%
Chance Rain/Sleet High: 33 °F	Wintry Mix Low: 25 °F	Patchy Fog High: 34 °F	Wintry Mix Low: 28 °F	Chance Snow High: 34 °F	Chance Snow Low: 24 °F	Slight Chc Snow High: 28 °F

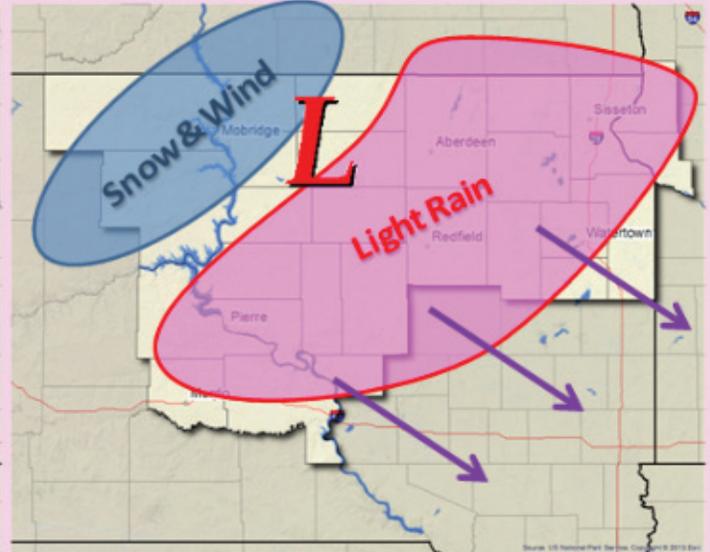
## Two Systems Affecting The Region: Today/Tonight & Late Sunday/Monday

### Today/Tonight

Light Rain & Sprinkles w/ Temps near Freezing  
Localized Ice – Slick Roads Possible

### Late Sunday/Monday

Widespread Light Rain w/ Temps near Freezing  
Change Over To Snow ... 1-3" Possible Monday



## National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



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



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 12/20/2014 5:15 AM Central

A weather system will move across North Dakota today, and with temperatures around freezing, there is the potential for a light coat of ice. There remains quite a bit of uncertainty however. This system is rather weak and precipitation may not extend far enough south to impact South Dakota. A second system will bring a better chance for measurable moisture, with a greater risk for seeing ice. The main issue is that it remains uncertain over the exact track and the intensity of this storm. This uncertainty extends into Monday as the system moves into Minnesota with some wrap around snow. Accumulations could range from a dusting to as much as 4 inches under the most favorable scenario.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 29.9 at 3:38 PM

**Low:** 26.2 at Midnight

**Wind Chill:**

**High Gust:** 25 at 1:37 PM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 60° in 1893

**Record Low:** -29° in 1916

**Average High:** 24°F

**Average Low:** 4°F

**Average Precip in Dec.:** 0.31

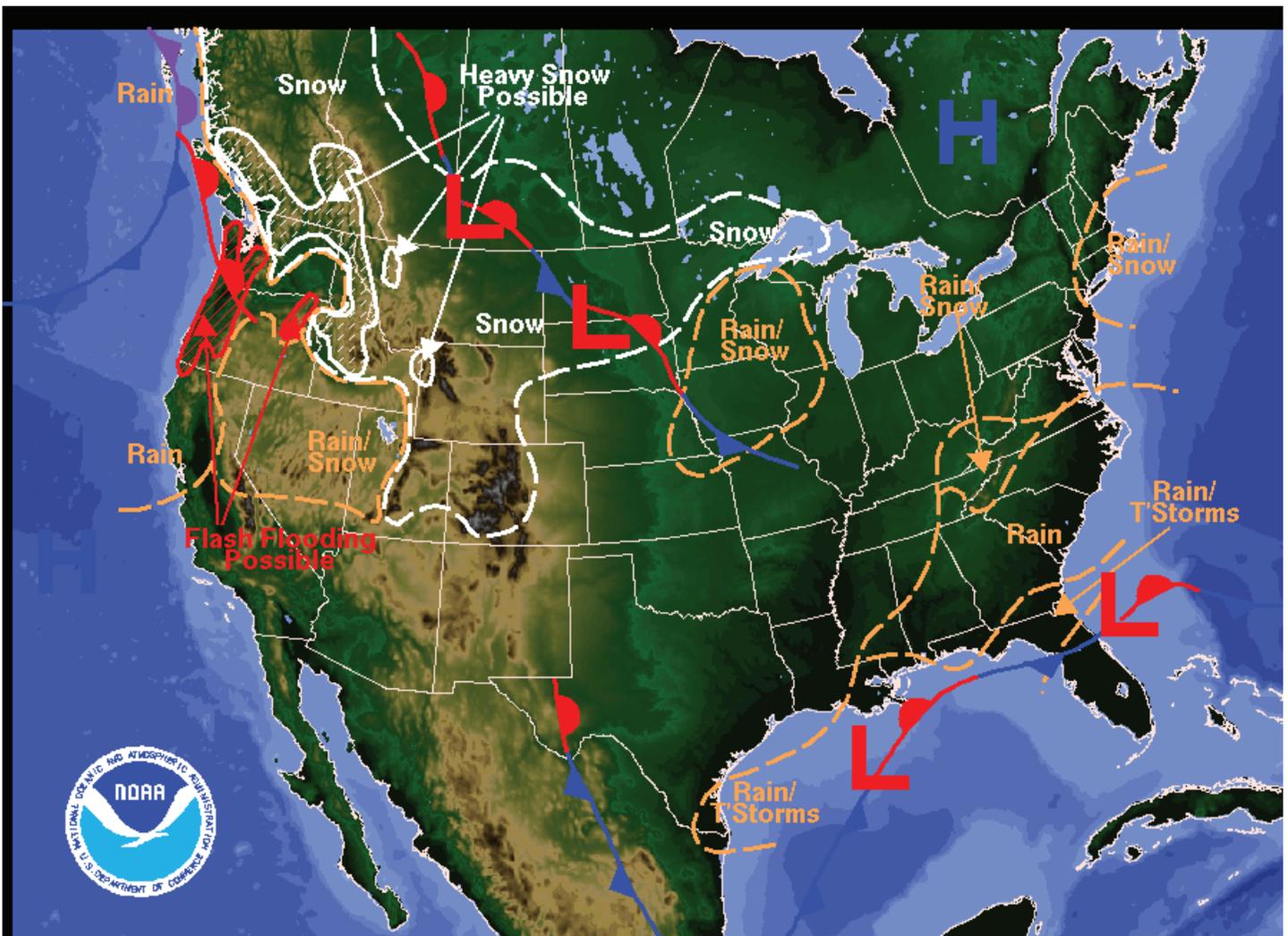
**Precip to date in Dec.:** 0.00

**Average Precip to date:** 21.51

**Precip Year to Date:** 13.99

**Sunset Tonight:** 4:53 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 8:11 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Dec 20, 2014, issued 3:37 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Fanning based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



## A CHEERFUL GIVER

A lady said to a beggar, "Here's a quarter. You don't deserve it, but it will make me happy to give it to you!"

"Thanks, ma'am," he said. "Why not make it few dollars and really enjoy yourself?"

Giving is an important theme in the Bible. It begins in the heart of God. We read about the abundant gifts He gave His people. It continues in the work of Jesus as He went about healing the sick and feeding the hungry. We see His supreme gift when He gave His life on the cross: the gift of love, life and eternity with Him. The gifts of God and His Son are priceless – life giving and life sustaining.

Paul reminds us that we are not to "give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully. And God will generously provide all you need and plenty left over to share with others."

The Lord has given us two hands: one for receiving and one for giving. The question is not "What can I spare?" but, "What can I share?"

**Prayer:** Father, without Your love, grace and mercy, we would have nothing. Often we focus on what we have rather than what You have given us. May we realize that we receive to give. When we give, we show Your love: in Christ's Name. Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** 2 Corinthians 9:7-9 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

# Groton Daily Independent

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

## South Dakota State comeback tops CS Bakersfield, 53-49

LOGAN, Utah (AP) — George Marshall scored 18 points and South Dakota State rallied for a 53-46 win over Cal State Bakersfield in the World Vision Classic Friday night.

Kevin Mays converted two free throws to give the Roadrunners (1-10) a 46-41 lead with 6:26 left in the game, but Marshall erased the deficit with a 3-pointer and a jumper to tie the score with 5:03 remaining.

Cody Larson and Deondre Parks both had layups down the stretch and Jake Bittle converted 3 of 4 from the line to seal the win.

Zach Horstman scored 12 points for South Dakota State (8-3), which shot 10 of 28 from distance pick up its sixth straight win.

Aly Ahmed tossed in 15 points and grabbed seven boards to lead the Roadrunners, who lost their fifth straight.

## Man gets 2 years for unregistered firearm charge

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A California man has been sentenced in South Dakota to two years in prison for having an unregistered firearm.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says 26-year-old Gregorio Aguirre has also been ordered to serve three years of supervised release. Aguirre earlier pleaded guilty to possession of an unregistered firearm.

Authorities say the charge stems from Aguirre knowingly having an unregistered, saw-off Remington .22 caliber rifle when he has pulled over by the South Dakota Highway Patrol in April.

Aguirre is under the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

## Friday's Scores

**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

### The Associated Press

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 62, Brookings 51

Alcester-Hudson 60, Gayville-Volin 37

Arlington 75, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 30

Beach, N.D. 61, Lemmon 57, OT

Centerville 70, Baltic 32

Clark/Willow Lake 58, Hamlin 51

Dakota Valley 74, Canton 61

Dell Rapids 57, Tea Area 44

DeSmet 67, Dell Rapids St. Mary 22

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Elkton-Lake Benton 55, Colman-Egan 35  
Estelline 55, Lake Preston 46  
Faith 66, Timber Lake 19  
Gordon/Rushville, Neb. 67, Bennett County 51  
Groton Area 61, Deuel 29  
Huron 57, Rapid City Stevens 49  
Irene-Wakonda 73, Viborg-Hurley 61  
James Valley Christian 79, Sunshine Bible Academy 39  
Jones County 57, Wall 32  
Kadoka Area 60, Dupree 58  
McCook Central/Montrose 66, Howard 18  
Mitchell 90, Rapid City Central 83  
Mitchell Christian 57, Andes Central 29  
Morrill, Neb. 55, Edgemont 46  
Newell 37, Tiospaye Topa 36  
Parkston 56, Chamberlain 35  
Rapid City Christian 59, Lyman 37  
Scotland 45, Bon Homme 36  
Sioux Falls Christian 80, Elk Point-Jefferson 50  
Sioux Falls Lincoln 72, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 61  
Sioux Falls Washington 49, Yankton 39  
Sisseton 52, Ortonville, Minn. 45  
Sturgis 58, St. Thomas More 56  
Tri-Valley 47, Chester 42  
Watertown 65, Harrisburg 50  
West Central 72, Wagner 39  
Winner 59, Miller 52  
Wolsey-Wessington 80, Highmore-Harrold 52  
**Eastern Coteau Conference Tournament**  
Waverly-South Shore 57, Rosholt 56  
Wilmot 71, Waubay 37  
**Stateline Shootout**  
Belle Fourche 53, Sundance, Wyo. 31  
Lead-Deadwood 61, Newcastle, Wyo. 55  
**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Aberdeen Roncalli 40, Britton-Hecla 28  
Avon 54, Marty Indian 39  
Brookings 49, Aberdeen Central 42  
Centerville 55, Baltic 41  
Dakota Valley 53, Canton 46  
Dell Rapids 53, Tea Area 38  
Elk Point-Jefferson 45, Sioux Falls Christian 33  
Faulkton 53, Potter County 30  
Freeman 53, Canistota 43

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Gayville-Volin 42, Alcester-Hudson 27  
Gordon/Rushville, Neb. 68, Bennett County 59  
Groton Area 43, Deuel 19  
Herreid/Selby Area 74, Eureka/Bowdle 21  
Hettinger/Scranton, N.D. 46, Harding County 40  
Ipswich 72, Edmunds Central 16  
Irene-Wakonda 60, Viborg-Hurley 56  
James Valley Christian 44, Sunshine Bible Academy 38  
Jones County 48, Wall 23  
Lemmon 63, Beach, N.D. 61  
Lennox 59, Madison 58, OT  
Lyman 51, Rapid City Christian 47  
McCook Central/Montrose 48, Howard 33  
Milbank 43, Redfield/Doland 42  
Mitchell Christian 42, Andes Central 20  
Morrill, Neb. 43, Edgemont 26  
Parkston 61, Chamberlain 36  
Platte-Geddes 41, Gregory 26  
Rapid City Central 57, Mitchell 46  
Rapid City Stevens 46, Huron 38  
Sioux City, North, Iowa 57, Beresford 42  
Sioux Falls Lincoln 96, Moorhead, Minn. 34  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 65, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 31  
Sioux Falls Washington 54, Yankton 33  
St. Thomas More 60, Sturgis 23  
Tri-Valley 52, Chester 31  
Webster 39, Sisseton 33  
West Central 61, Wagner 57  
**Lakota Nation Tournament**  
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 62, Hill City 53  
Crow Creek 60, Lower Brule 51  
Custer 48, St. Francis Indian 19  
McLaughlin 75, Oelrichs 49  
Omaha Nation, Neb. 69, White River 33  
Red Cloud 67, Little Wound 55  
Tiospa Zina Tribal 51, Flandreau Indian 32  
Todd County 64, Pine Ridge 50  
**Stateline Shootout**  
Belle Fourche 40, Sundance, Wyo. 16  
Lead-Deadwood 46, Newcastle, Wyo. 26  
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS  
Waubay vs. Waverly-South Shore, ppd. to Feb 14.

## Judge: Progress on mediation, including SD tribe

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — There has been “major progress” in settlement negotiations between the government and a group of Indian tribes over inadequate federal payments for support costs on public programs the tribes took over administering, a federal judge wrote this week.

Federal Magistrate Judge Karen Molzen wrote in a Tuesday filing in U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico that negotiations in the settlement process are ongoing. The negotiations are the result of a 2012 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in favor of the tribes, including the Oglala Sioux in South Dakota, that is potentially worth millions of dollars.

Oglala Sioux Tribal Councilman Mike Her Many Horses and Tribal President John Yellow Bird Steele were in Albuquerque, New Mexico, this week for negotiations with the U.S. Department of Justice, which is representing the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Michael Gross, an attorney for the tribes, declined to say how much money his clients are seeking to reclaim. But the litigation has already spawned two partial settlements for the tribes, one for about \$80 million and one for \$29 million.

The high court ruled that the government shorted the tribes by not adequately covering contract support costs on programs the tribes took over as far back as 1975, when Congress enacted changes to give Native Americans more control over local program operations. The negotiations are part of a legal “odyssey” that stretches back to 1990, when the tribes began contending the feds weren’t meeting their obligations, Gross said.

The Oglala Sioux joined the litigation in 1999. Her Many Horses said tribal health administration is one area that has suffered from the underfunding.

“We service less people than we normally could have,” he said.

He also said the federal shortfall forced the Oglala Sioux to borrow money for payroll expenses, which cost the tribe even more money in interest payments.

Gross, Yellow Bird Steele and Her Many Horses declined to comment on the specifics of the settlement headway.

“We made a lot of progress,” Gross said, adding that he hopes the negotiations are wrapped up within a few months.

## AG: Sisseton killings result of domestic violence

**DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press**

A shooting on the Lake Traverse Indian Reservation that left four people dead and one injured was the result of domestic violence, South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said Friday during a news conference attended by family members of the victims.

Jackley said Colter Arbach, 22, was responsible for the deaths in the Nov. 22 attack in Sisseton, located in the northeast corner of the state. Arbach shot and killed Vernon Renville Jr., 31, Candace Labelle, 29, and Angela Adams, 25. Karissa DogEagle, 22, was injured. Authorities say Arbach shot and killed himself.

“All five families involved, the community of Sisseton and South Dakota have suffered a tremendous loss,” said Jackley, who travelled to Sisseton to release results of the investigation.

Autopsies confirmed that all victims died of gunshot wounds. DogEagle suffered multiple gunshot wounds to her back.

Jackley told The Associated Press on Friday that DogEagle and Arbach were involved in an “on-again,

off-again" relationship, and that DogEagle had asked him to move out of a house in Sisseton. Arbach then punched DogEagle three times, Jackley said. Later, DogEagle indicated that someone had called police and Arbach "indicated he may have to fight them off," Jackley said.

DogEagle followed Arbach out the door and saw him shoot several of the victims.

"She turned and ran away and was shot in the back several times," Jackley said.

Jackley said he met with about 50 family members of the victims before the news conference and talked with Arbach's family afterward. He said he wanted to dispel rumors that the killings were related to gangs or drugs. Jackley said Arbach had a blood-alcohol content of .123, but that was not a contributing factor.

The attorney general's report says a Sisseton police officer on routine patrol noticed a vehicle idling in a driveway with doors open and a person lying on the ground near the driver's door. The officer discovered four unresponsive people and DogEagle, who told the officer Arbach was responsible for the shootings.

The investigation determined that two guns were used. There were 18 casings fired from a .223-caliber rifle and three expended shells from a 12-gauge shotgun. There was other ammunition found at the scene.

DogEagle said in a statement that she is healing from serious wounds, but she will require further procedures and physical therapy.

## **SD Democrats looking for new executive director**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Democratic Party is looking for a new executive director. Zach Crago currently holds the position, but he says he's stepping down and taking on a new advisory role at the end of the year. Crago has been with the South Dakota Democratic Party for four years.

The Democrats are accepting applications for the position, which they hope to fill no later than Jan. 31.

Crago says he will continue to work with the party in a limited role to help chair-elect Ann Tornberg and vice chair-elect Joe Lowe with the transition.

## **Warm weather leads to closure of SD outdoor ice rinks**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Parks and recreation officials in Sioux Falls have closed the city's outdoor ice rinks and cancelled sleigh rides at a local park due to the recent warm temperatures.

Jean Pearson with the Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation says rink and warming house hours are subject to weather. Pearson says openings will be announced at a later date as ice conditions improve.

Sleigh rides planned for Saturday at Tuthill Park have been cancelled because of the lack of snow. Weather permitting, rides have been scheduled for Jan. 11 at Memorial Park.

## **Obama: Keystone offers little benefit to consumers**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama downplayed the benefits of building the Keystone XL pipeline from Canada. He said it would not lower gasoline prices and argued more jobs would be created by repairing America's infrastructure.

He said the pipeline would mainly benefit Canadian oil companies that need to get Canadian oil to the Gulf of Mexico.

He said the pipeline is "not even a nominal benefit for U.S. consumers."

Obama spoke Friday during his year-end news conference, shortly before he was leaving the White House for a Hawaii vacation.

Obama has resisted efforts by Republicans to authorize the pipeline's construction. Incoming Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said it would be the first bill taken up in the new GOP-controlled Senate.

Environmentalists have made opposition to its approval a priority.

## **NorthWestern Energy seeking to raise rates in 2015**

HURON, S.D. (AP) — NorthWestern Corp. is asking the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for permission to increase electric rates.

The company doing business as NorthWestern Energy wants to increase revenues by about \$26.5 million. CEO Bob Rowe says NorthWestern needs to cover the cost of investments made to meet federal mandates and maintain service reliability.

The requested rate hike would result in an increase of about \$16.76 per month for a typical residential electric customer. It would impact only South Dakota customers.

Regulators will have the final say on any increase, and on when it would go into effect. NorthWestern says rates aren't expected to change before next July.

NorthWestern Energy serves about 678,200 customers in South Dakota, Montana and Nebraska. The company says its last general rate increase was in 1980.

## **Sioux Falls police probe motel robbery report**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police are investigating a reported robbery at a motel.

An employee at Motel 6 reported that a male with a bandanna over his face entered the lobby shortly before 10 p.m. Thursday, indicated he had a weapon and demanded cash.

The employee says the man fled on foot with an undetermined amount of money.

## **VA secretary won't immediately visit SD facility**

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald says he won't visit the VA hospital in Hot Springs until after a study is complete on the potential ramifications of closing the facility.

South Dakota's congressional delegation in July invited McDonald to the state, as part of efforts to stop the VA from closing the century-old hospital as part of plans to restructure services in western South Dakota.

KCSR radio reports that McDonald says in a letter to the local Save the VA Committee that he doesn't want to be seen as influencing the process of the study. It's looking at the potential environmental, cultural, historical, social and economic effects of the proposed changes.

The study isn't scheduled to be done until late next year.

## AP News in Brief

### **Obama: Sony made mistake in shelving film under pressure by North Korea hackers; vows response**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama declared that Sony “made a mistake” in shelving a satirical film about a plot to assassinate North Korea’s leader, and he pledged the U.S. would respond “in a place and manner and time that we choose” to the hacking attack on Sony that led to the withdrawal. The FBI blamed the hack on the communist government.

Speaking of executives at Sony Pictures Entertainment, Obama said Friday at a year-end news conference, “I wish they had spoken to me first. ... We cannot have a society in which some dictator someplace can start imposing censorship.”

Obama said he imagined situations in which dictators “start seeing a documentary that they don’t like or news reports that they don’t like.”

Sony said it had had no choice but to cancel distribution of the movie since theaters were refusing to show it. North Korea denied anew that it had hacked the studio.

“There is not any connection,” U.N. diplomat Kim Song told The Associated Press. Song criticized the film but disputed his government hacked Sony and orchestrated the movie’s shutdown: “It defamed the image of our country. It made a mockery of our sovereignty. We reject it. But there is no relation” to the hacking.

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### **US-Cuba deal to restore ties puts spotlight on island’s human rights record**

HAVANA (AP) — To many exiles and their allies, President Raul Castro is a brutal dictator who locks up dissenters in gulag-like jails, snuffs out political discourse and condemns his people to socialist poverty.

Cuba’s supporters see the government as heroic, its sins justified by the behavior of its giant enemy to the north, and offset by the fact it provides health care and education that most developing countries could only dream of.

As often is the case, the truth lies somewhere in between.

President Barack Obama said on Friday that he began his historic call with Castro earlier in the week by delivering a 15-minute lecture on human rights and political freedom, adding: “This is still a regime that oppresses its people.”

Even so, he said that US policy had failed to change Cuba for more than a half century and it was time to try something new.

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### **Former Cuban leader Fidel Castro silent amid historic thaw in Cuba-US relations**

HAVANA (AP) — Everyone in Cuba is talking about the startling turn in relations with the United States, with one notable exception: Fidel Castro.

So far, the larger-than-life retired Cuban leader has made no public comment on the biggest news in years — that the U.S. and his island nation will restore diplomatic relations after more than 50 years of hostility.

His brother, President Raul Castro, announced the historic shift in a surprise television appearance

Wednesday and there was speculation he could address it again during the Cuban National Assembly, which started one of its twice-annual sessions Friday.

Among those speaking out on the topic was Raul Castro's daughter, Mariela Castro. She said moves by President Barack Obama to ease some travel and trade restrictions with the island are welcome but won't lead to the downfall of the communist system.

"If the U.S. thinks these changes will bring Cuba back to capitalism and return it to being a servile country to hegemonic interests of the most powerful financial groups in the U.S., they must be dreaming," she told The Associated Press.

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## **As turbulent 2014 comes to an end, Obama arrives in Hawaii hoping for quiet family getaway**

KAILUA, Hawaii (AP) — A tumultuous year all but behind him, President Barack Obama set off for his annual winter getaway in Hawaii hoping for one thing: Quiet.

Air Force One touched down late in the evening at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, with the president, first lady Michelle Obama, their daughters and two dogs on board. On Saturday, the family was to begin their roughly two-week retreat from the hubbub in Washington on the lush island of Oahu.

Vacationing in Hawaii, where the president was born and spent much of his childhood, has been a tradition every year that Obama has been in the White House. This year, the trip comes as Obama closes out a chaotic sixth year in office on something of a high note.

Lofty aspirations to overhaul immigration laws, early childhood education and U.S. wages were scuttled by stubborn opposition to Obama's agenda in Congress, and on his watch, Democrats took a drubbing in the midterm elections that will relegate them to the minority in Congress for Obama's last two years. Crises erupted in Ukraine, the Middle East and West Africa, diverting Obama's attention time and again.

Yet as Obama packed his bags for Hawaii, he appeared buoyed by what he had managed to accomplish on other fronts, including the resumption of relations with Cuba last week after a half-century of antagonism. In his year-end news conference Friday, Obama said he felt energized, citing signs of major progress in the economic recovery and his recent executive actions on immigration and climate change.

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## **Visiting Israel, GOP presidential hopeful Ben Carson promises strong support for Jewish state**

JERUSALEM (AP) — In his first visit to Israel, prospective Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson said he is in awe of the Jewish state, inspired by its ancient holy sites, impressed by the resilience of people living in a perpetual conflict zone — and deeply disappointed in President Barack Obama.

"I do not believe that Obama has been one to cultivate the relationship," said Carson, a retired neurosurgeon who has emerged as a favorite of some conservatives in the early field of possible GOP candidates.

"I would make it very clear that Israel and the United States have a long, cordial relationship, and I don't think we should ever leave the Israelis in a position of wondering whether we support them," Carson said in an hourlong interview with The Associated Press in Jerusalem. "And that certainly is a question now."

Carson, 63, perhaps best known for his groundbreaking work in separating conjoined twins, is largely unknown to most Americans. But he's earned hero status among conservative activists thanks to his

outspoken criticism of Obama's health care law.

His rags-to-riches story — he had a hardscrabble childhood in inner-city Detroit — and his deep Christian faith also appeal to potential voters. While Carson has said he is "strongly considering" a bid, supporters have already opened offices in the early voting states of Iowa and New Hampshire.

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## **Iraqi Shiites battling IS group appeal for aid as shortages force desertions**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Abu Murtada al-Moussawi answered the call last summer from Iraq's top Shiite cleric to help save the country from the Islamic State group, but after less than three months on the front lines he and several friends returned home because they had run out of food.

"Sometimes, we didn't have enough money to buy mobile scratch cards to call our families," al-Moussawi, a Shiite from the southern city of Basra, said. "Everybody felt like we were being forgotten by the government."

Now Iraq's Shiite religious establishment is urging the faithful to donate food, money and supplies. The clerics hope to prevent a repeat of last summer's collapse of Iraq's demoralized army in the face of the Islamic State group's lightning advance, which saw the extremists capture the country's second largest city Mosul and sweep south toward the capital.

Shortly after the June blitz across northern Iraq, tens of thousands of Shiite men answered a nationwide call-to-arms by the top Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. Many volunteers came from the country's most impoverished areas and were barely able to make ends meet even before taking up arms.

The Shiite fighters are credited with helping to stall the militants' advance outside Baghdad, breaking the siege of the northern Shiite-majority town of Amirli in August, and later driving the militants out of Jurf al-Sakher south of the capital.

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## **Just in time for ski season? Tour agencies say North Korea may soon lift Ebola restrictions**

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea, never a country to take the threat of foreign invasion lightly, has been under virtual lockdown since October to keep the Ebola virus from crossing its borders. But two leading travel agencies that specialize in the small but growing North Korea market say they have confirmed that the North may be ready to open up its doors again soon.

The country has taken some of the strictest Ebola measures outside of West Africa despite having very little contact with any of the countries that have been impacted and being — by any reasonable standard — at a very low risk. Some reports by state media have insinuated Ebola was created by the U.S. military.

But Uri Tours, based in New Jersey, recently announced on its website that it has received a strong indication that tours will be allowed to resume in January, "just in time" for foreign skiers to hit the slopes of Masik Pass, which it calls the "most exotic ski destination on earth."

It added that the annual Pyongyang Marathon in April is "a definite go."

Koryo Tours, another major agency, says it has also confirmed that the travel restrictions will be lifted sometime between January and April. Beijing-based Koryo Tours is promoting travel packages from late January for the ski resort — though with a little less fanfare than Uri Tours — and is taking applications for the marathon.

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## Falling oil prices force Algeria to confront heavy spending and subsidies

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — With oil prices at their lowest in five years and showing few signs of hitting bottom, Algeria is feeling the pinch.

Though its problems are dwarfed by the impact on Russia for example, Algeria may have to rein back many of the policies it has held dear over many years. Generous subsidies, for one, may have to be scaled back despite the potential risk of social unrest in the North African country.

Oil revenues make up 97 percent of the country's hard currency earnings and 60 percent of the government's budget. Like Russia, which has seen a full-scale run on its currency, there have been few efforts to diversify the economy away from oil and gas.

Central Bank governor Mohammed Laksaci has warned that the oil and gas dividend won't last forever though nearly \$200 billion of foreign reserves can help cushion the blow in the short-term.

"This capacity to resist such shocks will disappear quickly if the price of oil stays at a low level for a long time," he told parliament recently, deploring the economy's continued dependence on oil.

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## Federal court finds protesters in contempt for ignoring order to halt anti-whaling campaign

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Radical environmentalists who threw acid and smoke bombs at Japanese whalers were found in contempt of court for continuing their relentless campaign to disrupt the annual whale hunt off the waters of Antarctica.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Friday ordered a commissioner to determine how much Paul Watson and members of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society he founded owe Japanese whalers for lawyer fees, damage to their ships and for violating the court order to stop their dangerous protests.

The Japanese whalers are demanding \$2 million in addition to their attorney fees and damage and cost to their ships for warding off the protests.

The environmentalists' exploits have been documented on the long-running Animal Planet reality TV series "Whale Wars."

Sea Shepherd said in a statement it is disappointed with the ruling and considering its legal options.

## Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Dec. 20, the 354th day of 2014. There are 11 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 20, 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union as all 169 delegates to a special convention in Charleston voted in favor of separation.

### On this date:

In 1790, the first successful cotton mill in the United States began operating at Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the United States.

In 1812, German authors Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm published the first volume of the first edition of

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their collection of folk stories, "Children's and Household Tales."

In 1864, Confederate forces evacuated Savannah, Georgia, as Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman nearly completed his "March to the Sea."

In 1924, Adolf Hitler was released from prison after serving nine months for his role in the Beer Hall Putsch; during his time behind bars, he'd written his autobiographical screed, "Mein Kampf."

In 1945, the Office of Price Administration announced the end of tire rationing, effective Jan. 1, 1946.

In 1963, the Berlin Wall was opened for the first time to West Berliners, who were allowed one-day visits to relatives in the Eastern sector for the holidays.

In 1973, singer-songwriter Bobby Darin died in Los Angeles following open-heart surgery; he was 37.

In 1987, more than 4,300 people were killed when the Dona Paz, a Philippine passenger ship, collided with the tanker Vector off Mindoro island.

In 1989, the United States launched Operation Just Cause, sending troops into Panama to topple the government of Gen. Manuel Noriega.

In 1994, former U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk, 85, died in Athens, Georgia.

In 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that homosexual couples were entitled to the same benefits and protections as wedded couples of the opposite sex. Country music legend Hank Snow died in Nashville at age 85.

**Ten years ago:** In a sobering assessment of the Iraq war, President George W. Bush acknowledged during a news conference that Americans' resolve had been shaken by grisly scenes of death and destruction, and he pointedly criticized the performance of U.S.-trained Iraqi troops. Attorneys presented opening statements in the Robert Blake murder trial in Los Angeles. (Blake was later acquitted of killing his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley, but was found liable in a wrongful-death lawsuit brought by Bakley's family.)

**Five years ago:** Relatives reported the death of Grand Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, 87, the spiritual father of Iran's reform movement. Actress Brittany Murphy, who'd starred in "Clueless" and "8 Mile," died at age 32. Character actor Arnold Stang died in Newton, Massachusetts, at age 91.

**One year ago:** Russian President Vladimir Putin pardoned jailed tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky (mih-hah-EEL' khoh-dohr-KAHV'-skee), who had spent 10 years in prison on charges of tax evasion and embezzlement. A federal judge struck down Utah's ban on same-sex marriage.

**Today's Birthdays:** Former South Korean President Kim Young-sam is 87. Actor John Hillerman is 82. Original Mouseketeer Tommy Cole (TV: "The Mickey Mouse Club") is 73. Rock musician-music producer Bobby Colomby is 70. Rock musician Peter Criss is 69. Psychic/illusionist Uri Geller is 68. Producer Dick Wolf ("Law & Order") is 68. Rock musician Alan Parsons is 66. Actress Jenny Agutter is 62. Actor Michael Badalucco is 60. Actress Blanche Baker is 58. Rock singer Billy Bragg is 57. Rock singer-musician Mike Watt (The Secondmen, Minutemen, FIREHOSE) is 57. Actor Joel Gretsch is 51. Country singer Kris Tyler is 50. Rock singer Chris Robinson is 48. Actress Nicole deBoer is 44. Movie director Todd Phillips is 44. Singer David Cook ("American Idol") is 32. Actor Jonah Hill is 31. Singer JoJo is 24.

**Thought for Today:** "Experience teaches you that the man who looks you straight in the eye, particularly if he adds a firm handshake, is hiding something." - Clifton Fadiman, American author, editor and radio personality (1904-1999).