

# Groton Daily Independent

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

**FOR RENT**

**Attached garage.**

**Major appliances included.**

**\$700 per month**

**Roger: 605/397-7118**

## Monday, December 22

No School

**Senior Menu:** Baked chicken breast, noodles Romanoff, lemon buttered broccoli, pineapple strawberry Ambrosia, whole wheat bread.

**Birthdays:** • Don Raines • Kristen Winther • Cameron Howard

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

6:30pm: GBB hosts Roncalli

7:00pm: St. John's Lutheran Christmas Program practice

## Tuesday, December 23

No School

**Senior Menu:** Mashed potatoes and gravy, parsley buttered carrots, apple sauce, Molasses cookie, whole wheat bread.

**Anniversaries:** Jerry & Joan Johnson • Jerry & Ramona Rossow

6:30pm: BBB at Roncalli

## Wednesday, December 24

No School

**Senior Menu:** Meatloaf, baked potato with sour cream, creamed peas, fruited Jell-O, whole wheat bread.

**Birthdays:** Merry Jo Ball • Holly Carlson • Carmen Craig • Brian Townsend • Christine Young • Katie Bull • Aaron Cobb • Michael Erdmann

Christmas Eve

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

4:00pm: Bethlehem Lutheran, Pierpont, worship

5:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

5:00pm: St. John's Lutheran Christmas Eve Children's Service

5:00pm: United Methodist Christmas Eve Service

8:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

## 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.

KRISTI NOEM  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA



## Joy of Giving

I am the epitome of your last-minute shopper. Bryon and I usually know what we're getting the kids weeks in advance. But between going to school Christmas programs, decorating the house, addressing Christmas cards, and finishing up legislative work for the year, the purchases are typically made just in time to get the gifts wrapped. As parents know though, the joy of watching your kids (no matter how old they are) tear open those gifts on Christmas morning makes all the stresses of shopping worth it. It's perhaps the best reminder we have of the age-old adage: It is better to give than to receive.

For many in South Dakota, the joy of giving is shared not only during this season, but throughout the year. In fact, 35 percent of South Dakotans spent time volunteering in 2013, according to a study by the Corporation for National and Community Services that was released last week. When you add it all up, we spent 21.5 million hours serving others that year and what a powerful message that sends.

Of course, only a small portion of South Dakota's sense of giving can even be quantified by the hours we spend volunteering. I am still struck by the viral video of Carol Flynn purchasing diapers for the young mother ahead of her in line at Wal-Mart. And the story of the young girl from Mitchell who donated some of her toys to the kids in Wessington Springs after a tornado swept away all they knew. And the nine-year-old girl who heard that Rainbow Bible Camp near Sturgis had lost 90 horses in Winter Storm Atlas and sent the camp \$28.39 – mostly in coins – to help them recover. She said in her letter to them, "I thought you might need this. I'll try to get more. Every bit counts."

These actions by individuals are only enhanced by the generosity of the many, many organizations in South Dakota dedicated to serving their community.

This year, the Toy Industry Foundation donated 500 toys to three of these generous local charities – the Ronald McDonald House Charities in Sioux Falls, the Children's Home Society in Sioux Falls, and the Northeast South Dakota Head Start Program in Aberdeen – after I was named a "Champion of Play" for my work in Congress. The donation enables children who are victims of abuse, suffering from illnesses, or living in poverty to give and to receive. It shows them that there is a community surrounding them that wants them to succeed – that wants them to find joy. Truly, a special gift.

This holiday season, it is my hope that you experience the incredible joy of giving. From my family to yours, merry Christmas.

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## Christmas Comes Early In South Dakota

The Christmas season is a time of giving. We give of our time to volunteer for worthy causes. We give of our money through donations to charitable efforts. And of course, we give Christmas gifts to our loved ones.

This year, South Dakota has received two generous Christmas gifts that will have a lasting impact on our state.

One gift will look to the future, by creating new opportunities for young people. T. Denny Sanford is donating \$25 million to create the "Build Dakota" scholarship program. A state Future Fund grant will match the donation, creating a \$50 million scholarship fund.

T. Denny Sanford is one of the nation's leading philanthropists, and over the years he has shown a strong commitment to improving the lives of young people. I first met Denny because of his generosity to Children's Home Society, and since that time he has made transformational gifts in healthcare, underground research and education. This is yet another transformational gift that will benefit South Dakota and our young people.

Build Dakota will award approximately 300 full scholarships to students who enroll in a high-need workforce field at one of South Dakota's four technical institutes. The scholarships will cover tuition, fees, books and equipment costs. In return, students will be asked to stay in South Dakota and work in their field for three years after graduating.

South Dakota has the second lowest unemployment rate in the nation. While I am very proud of that, it can be a double-edged sword. I have heard many times from business owners that they struggle to find qualified workers, and this shortage makes it difficult for businesses to expand and accept new customers. The state has partnered with communities, businesses and educational institutions to address workforce needs, and Build Dakota is a major step toward addressing this challenge.

South Dakota received a second "Christmas gift" from Norm and Eunabel McKie and their family. The McKie's are donating \$1 million to erect a 45-foot stainless steel statue, overlooking the Missouri River at Chamberlain. The

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

## Groton Community Transit

Annual Christmas  
Open House and Bake  
Sale Monday, Dec. 22  
10am to 3pm.

Stop in at the transit office 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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sculpture, entitled "Dignity," will portray a Native American woman receiving a star quilt. Sculptor Dale Lamphere calls the monument "a tribute to the strong traditions of Native people."

Just as the Sanford donation is looking to the future, the McKie family is honoring South Dakota's past and the people who make this state great. The "Dignity" monument will honor our Native Americans and remind us of the pride and courage that they have shown throughout our history, often in difficult circumstances. It will also remind us of the McKie family, who came to South Dakota as pioneers and built a successful business over several generations.

The "Dignity" monument will be visible to millions of drivers who cross the Missouri River bridge on Interstate 90 each year, and for that reason I believe that South Dakota, already known as the state of Rushmore and Crazy Horse, will become known as well as the state of "Dignity."

This Christmas season, we can be thankful for the generosity of T. Denny Sanford and the McKie family, and for the impact that their gifts will have on our state. But we can also be thankful that they are not the exception – South Dakota has thousands and thousands of people who give of themselves to help their neighbors and to make our state a better place. It's a Christmas gift that we all can cherish.

## 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)



## 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)**

## Classifieds

**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.

## Cyber-Security Expert Offers 10 Tips to Safeguard Your Information

By: Gary S. Miliefsky

We've all lost our identity at least three times, with more than 930 million records breached, lost or stolen to hackers and cyber criminals, says consumer advocacy non-profit Privacy Rights Clearinghouse. Why don't we do all we can to stay safer online?

According to StaySafeOnline.org, more than a quarter of Americans say they lack the information necessary.

So, here it is – everything you need to know to enjoy the shopping experience without losing your privacy and identity or putting your children's safety at risk:

- Assume you've already been compromised. Whether it's your baby monitor, your SmartTV, the Webcam on your laptop or apps you installed on your smartphone or tablet, your antivirus is not enough protection. It's time to take those devices' and apps' privacy policies, and the permissions you grant them, much more seriously.

- Change your passwords – all of them. Now. And do it as frequently as you can tolerate. Also, if you don't want to change it often, then use any unique characters you can think of, such as a dollar sign (\$) or exclamation mark (!), or replace an "oh" with a "zero" (0). This goes a long way in preventing attacks against your password.

- Turn off wireless and geolocation services. Protect your smartphones and tablets by turning off WiFi, Bluetooth, NFC and GPS, except when you need them. That way, if you are at a local coffee shop or in a shopping mall, no one can spy on you using nearby (proximity) hacking attacks and they can't track where you were and where you are going on your GPS.

- Assume most of your apps are creepware. Do you really need them? Delete all of the apps you aren't using too often. Replace apps that ask for too many permissions and take advantage of too many of your privacy settings -- like GPS, phone and sms logs, personal identity information – with similar apps that don't.

- Opt out of sharing your information. Opt out of every advertising network that you can. Visit the National Do Not Call Registry and register your smartphone and home phone numbers at [www.donot-call.gov](http://www.donot-call.gov). If you use a Google email account and have an Android phone, even with your GPS off, it's tracking your every move. (Log in to [maps.google.com/locationhistory/b/0](http://maps.google.com/locationhistory/b/0) and see for yourself.) Go into your smartphone or tablet settings and turn this feature off. In your Android phone, go to Settings, then Location, select Google Location Reporting and set Location History to off. The same holds true for the Apple iPhone, iPad and iTunes. You need to find the location and privacy settings and turn off access under Settings, then Privacy then Location.

- Your browser is a double agent – keep it clean. It is spying on you for advertisers unless you block and remove cookies and delete the cache frequently. In your web browser settings, delete your history, all cookies and passwords and the cache. You should do this frequently so you don't leave personal information sitting around on your computer, smartphone or tablet.

- Remove third-party Facebook plugins. Third-party plugins are mini applications designed to eavesdrop on your behavior in Facebook and possibly grab information about your habits within that social network. Some websites you visit will require you to log in using Facebook, and then you have to trust them to connect to your Facebook account. This is very risky. Read their privacy policy and make sure they are a legitimate business before you risk doing this.

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- Only shop on the websites of companies you already trust. If you don't know where the merchant is located, don't shop online there. If they don't have a corporate address or are located in another country, it is risky for you and you may never see the goods you think you purchased. Also, if their shopping cart experience is not an HTTPS browser session, then everything you type in, your name, address and credit card information, is going over the internet unencrypted -- in plain view.

- Turn off geotagging – your photos are full of information. Twitter and Instagram as well as your iPhone will give away your location. Most people

don't realize Twitter and Instagram both use geotagging for everything you send out. Geotagging stores the latitude and longitude of your tweet or image. Pictures you take on an iPhone usually store geotagging information, as well. The less information you give out about where you are located, the safer you are.

- Don't use cash or debit cards – use credit cards, wisely. Credit cards allow you to travel with less cash, and if you're purchasing online, it's safer to give your credit card than your debit card information. The same holds true when you visit your local retail outlet. The reason? If you experience identity theft, credit card laws allow you to keep all of your credit, with no responsibility during an investigation. With a debit card, your bank can tie up your money in the amount equivalent to the fraudulent transactions for up to 30 days.

## **About Gary S. Miliefsky**

Gary S. Miliefsky is CEO of SnoopWall ([www.snoopwall.com](http://www.snoopwall.com)) and the inventor of SnoopWall spyware-blocking technology. He is a founding member of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and serves on the advisory board of MITRE on the CVE Program, and is a founding board member of the National Information Security Group. He's also the founder of NetClarity, Inc., an internal intrusion defense company, based on a patented technology he invented.

## Today in Weather History

1988: Moderate to heavy snow occurred across northeastern South Dakota on the 22nd. Some of the larger amounts measured were 7 inches at Columbia, 6.5 inches at Aberdeen, and 5 inches at Faulkton and Britton.

1990: Strong northwest winds, combined with air temperatures below zero, created wind chills from -40 to -65 degrees F over west central Minnesota early in the day on the 22nd. Air temperatures were generally in the -20 to -25 F range, with afternoon highs around 15 below zero.

1993: Strong northwest winds gusted to 35 miles per hour and caused near-whiteout conditions over a wide area of southwest and west central Minnesota during the late afternoon on the 21st into the early morning of the 22nd. Several car accidents ensued. A 30-year old man was killed when he lost control of his truck and slid into a ditch in the near-blizzard conditions.

1969: Several waterspouts moved inland on the southern coast of Cyprus near Nicosia. Four people were killed, one by a falling tree and others in collapsed buildings.

1989: A southeast Texas snowstorm brought Houston their 2nd snowiest day on record, with 1.7 inches. Even Galveston saw snow, with an inch of accumulation piling up on the island.

1839 - The second of triple December storms hit the northeastern U.S. The storm produced 25 inches of snow at Gettysburg, PA, and gales in New England, but only produced light snow along the coast. (David Ludlum)

1961 - Holiday travel was paralyzed over extreme northeastern Kansas, and adjacent parts of Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska. The storm produced 5 to 15 inches of snow, with drifts up to ten feet high. (22nd-23rd) (The Weather Channel)

1983 - On the first day of winter 75 cities reported record low temperatures for the date, with twelve of those cities reporting record low temperatures for the month as a whole. The mercury plunged to 51 degrees below zero at Wisdom MT, and Waco TX set an all-time record low a reading of 12 above zero. (The National Weather Summary)

1987 - The first day of winter was a relatively tranquil one for much of the nation, but heralded a winter storm in the Central Rockies. The storm produced 40 inches of snow at the top of the Pomerelle Ski Resort, south of Burley ID, the heaviest snow of record for that location. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Strong winds prevailed in the foothills of Wyoming and Colorado. Winds gusted to 123 mph southwest of Fort Collins CO, and reached 141 mph at the summit of Mount Evans. An ice

### 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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living

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(605) 397-2365



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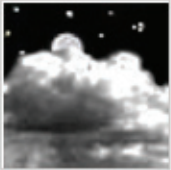

storm paralyzed parts of Upper Michigan during the day. The freezing rain left roads around Marquette MI blocked by cars and semi- trucks. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A total of 137 cities across the central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Thirty-five of those cities established record lows for the month of December. Morning lows of 23 degrees below zero at Kansas City MO, 26 degrees below zero at Concordia KS, and 27 degrees below zero at Goodland KS established all-time records for those three locations. Unofficial morning lows included 50 degrees below zero at Recluse WY and 60 degrees below zero at Rochford SD. Broadus MT and Hardin MT tied for honors as the official cold spot in the nation with morning lows of 47 degrees below zero. Chinook winds at Cutbank MT helped warm the temperature 74 degrees, from a morning low of 34 degrees below zero to an afternoon high of 40 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



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| TODAY  | TONIGHT  | TUESDAY  | TUESDAY NIGHT   | WEDNESDAY  | WEDNESDAY NIGHT   | CHRISTMAS DAY  |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| <br>60% | <br>80% | <br>70% |  |  |  | <br>20% |
| Snow/Sleet<br>High: 36 °F  | Snow<br>Low: 30 °F   | Snow Likely<br>High: 31 °F   | Cloudy<br>Low: 21 °F  | Mostly Cloudy<br>High: 28 °F   | Mostly Cloudy<br>Low: 20 °F   | Slight Chc Snow<br>High: 29 °F   |



## Wintry Mix Early – Snow Through Tuesday

2-5 Inches – Highest Total In Central SD

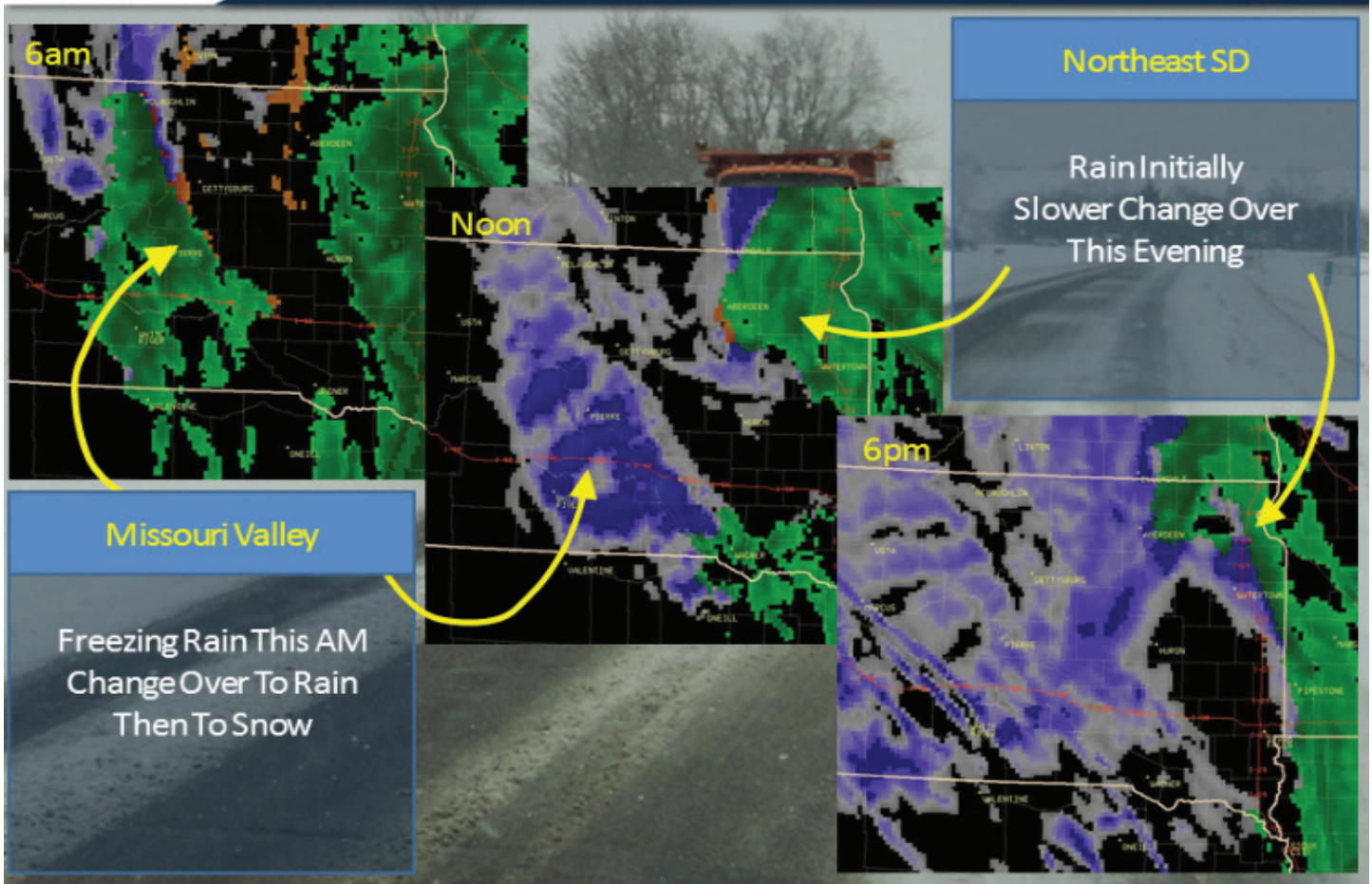
[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Low pressure developing overhead will bring a wintry mix to the region, including some freezing rain this morning. As temperatures are expected to warm above freezing...most of the area will transition to Rain or Snow. Then temperatures will cool, with a gradual transition over to snowfall. Snow overnight looks to be concentrated across Central and Western South Dakota with around 2 to 5 inches accumulation for the forecast area by the end mid-day Tuesday.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 36.1 at 3:55 PM

**Low:** 29.7 at 12:48 AM

**Wind Chill:**

**High Gust:** 20 at 12:04 AM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 59° in 1893

**Record Low:** -28° in 1990

**Average High:** 24°F

**Average Low:** 4°F

**Average Precip in Dec.:** 0.34

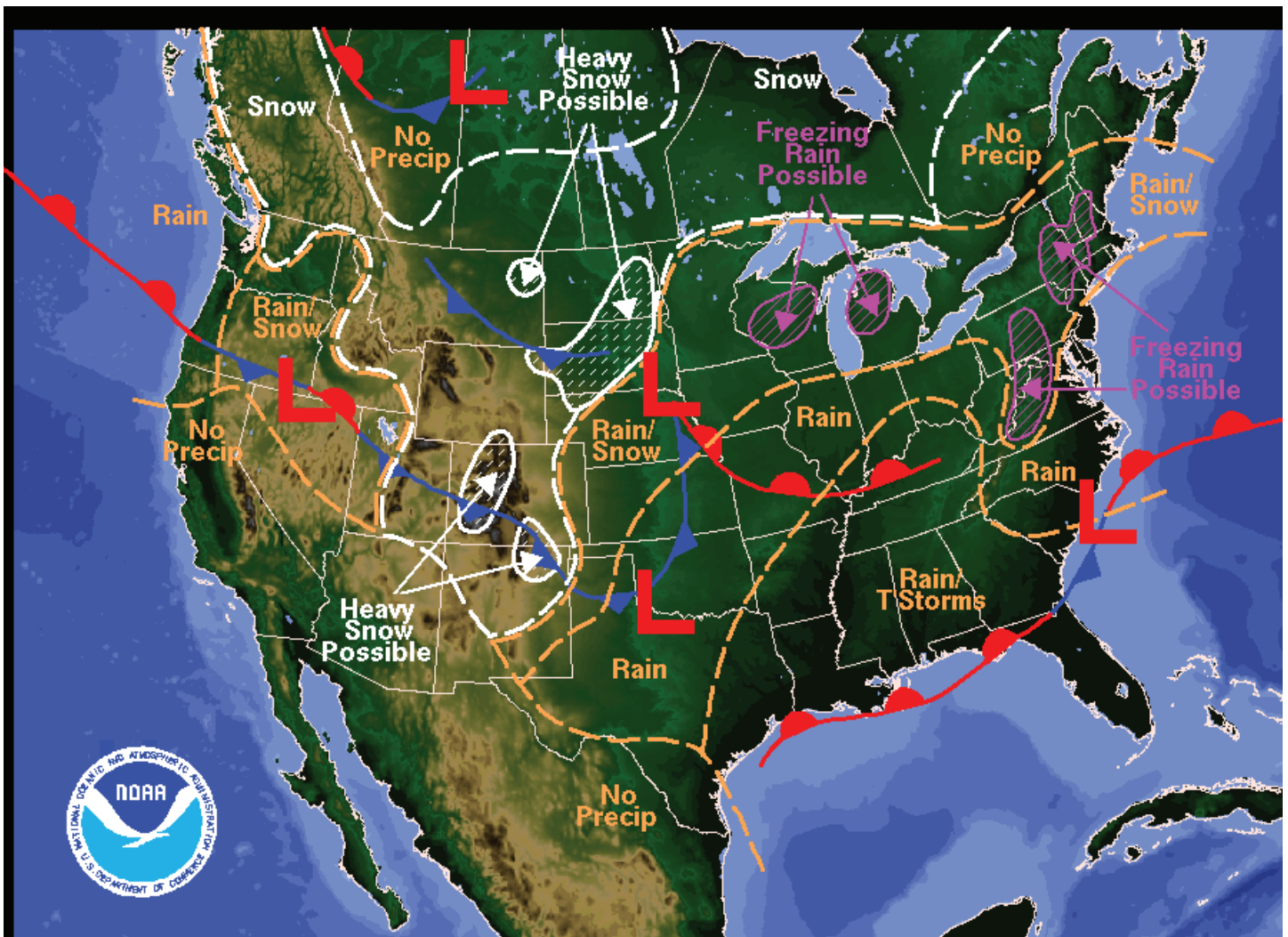
**Precip to date in Dec.:** 0.00

**Average Precip to date:** 21.54

**Precip Year to Date:** 13.99

**Sunset Tonight:** 4:54 p.m.

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



Weather Forecast for Mon, Dec 22, 2014, issued 2:58 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



## POLITICS AND PROMISES

A boy climbed into Santa's lap and asked, "Sir, aren't you really a politician?"

"No!" he protested. "Why do you ask?"

"Well," he said, "you make more promises than you can deliver."

Promises are a big part of everyone's life. People give us their word that we can count on what they have said, that their promise "can be taken to the bank," only to forget what they said or change their mind. Most people do intend to keep their word. But then again, intentions only last, for many, until something more convenient or better comes along.

That's not the way it is with God. We have His record of faithfulness, of keeping His word throughout all of Scripture. What He declares, He does. What He promises, He delivers. What He says comes to pass.

In creation we see the absolute power of God. How reassuring for the Christian. Beginning at the beginning, from the initiation of time until today, God has never wavered on His word. God's promises are anchored in His unchanging character and steadfast love. If this were not true what assurance would we have of our salvation or the hope we have for eternal life with our Lord?

There is nothing too big for Him to manage or too small to escape His attention. We have His Word that assures us of His promise: "I have said it, I will do it."

**Prayer:** Father, we are grateful for Your Word that reveals Your record made and kept. How reassuring to know we have Someone we can trust with our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** Isaiah 46:11 What I have said, that I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do.



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

### List of people being honored as Carnegie Heroes The Associated Press

Winners of Carnegie Hero medals announced Monday:

- Frederick J. Levesque Jr., 52, of Stafford Springs, Connecticut, who rescued a 7-year-old girl from a burning apartment in Somers, Connecticut, in December 2013.
- Brett Allen Thoele, 36, of Shorewood, Illinois, who helped save a man from drowning in Branson, Missouri, in June 2013.
- Pawel L. Kruszewski, 28, of Auburn, Maine, who saved three men from a burning vehicle that crashed in September 2013.
- Donald Schaus Sr., 52, of Katonah, New York, who saved an 82-year-old man from a burning apartment in Bedford Hills, New York, in February.
- Bernard Kozen, 56, of Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania, who saved others by subduing a gunman who killed three people at a municipal meeting in Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania, in August 2013.
- Richard Blessen, 45, of Crete, Nebraska, who saved two 14-year-old boys from drowning after they fell through ice in Duncan, Nebraska, in December 2013.
- Gregory D. Plancich, 58, and Daniel C. Hardwick, 53, both of Vashon, Washington; Jim O. Fultz, 48, of Siletz, Oregon; and Wayne Kitt, 35, of Loon Lake, Washington, who all helped save five members of another commercial fishing boat from drowning when it capsized near Kodiak Island, Alaska, in January 2012.
- Samuel Irick, 44, of Houston, Texas, who was fatally wounded rescuing a woman from an armed purse-snatching in November 2010.
- Clifford Faraci, 43, of Desert Hills, Arizona, who was burned trying to save a woman from a wrecked car in Phoenix, Arizona, in March 2013.
- Donald E. Thompson, 54, of West Hills, California, who rescued a 72-year-old man from a crashed,

burning car in Los Angeles in December 2013.

— Paul W. Mongiello, 57, of Overland Park, Kansas, who rescued two workers from a natural gas explosion at a Kansas City restaurant in February 2013.

— Jonathan A. Barthel, 21, of Lake Norden, South Dakota, who helped save a man and his 9-year-old son from drowning after their canoe capsized in April.

— James M. Kocker, 53, of Poulsbo, Washington, who helped save a man from drowning after his car crashed into a

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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



pond in Ellensburg, Washington, in October 2012.

— Ronnie Lee Moore Jr., 42, of Hortense, Georgia, and John Shannon Gibson, 45, of Woodbine, Georgia, who rescued a woman from a burning car that crashed in Waverly, Georgia, in October 2013.

— Jeffrey A. Johnson, 48, of North Freedom, Wisconsin, who helped saved a man from drowning while ice fishing in Briggsville, Wisconsin, in April.

## **South Dakota rallies to beat Montana 67-62**

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) — Tyler Larson scored 15 points including the go-ahead basket, Brandon Bos added 11 points, and South Dakota rallied to beat Montana 67-62 on Sunday.

Trey Norris scored 10 points and the Coyotes (5-8) converted 17 Montana fouls into 13 of 18 free throws.

South Dakota led for much of the first half, but the Grizzlies hit consecutive 3s in the final 1:20 and to take a 37-33 halftime lead.

Chris Kemp hit back-to-back layups amid a 12-6 run and the Grizzlies extended their lead to 49-39. The Coyotes rallied and led 58-57 after Norris hit a pair of free throws. Larson tied it at 62 with a layup, then put South Dakota ahead for good with the first of two free throws as part of an 8-0 run the Coyotes used to finish the game.

Jordan Gregory led Montana (3-7) with 18 and Kemp had 12.

## **SD November milk production up 7 percent over 2013**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture says South Dakota increased its milk production in November.

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service says milk production in the state totaled 176 million pounds last month, a 7 percent increase over November 2013.

The average number of milk cows in November was 97,000, up 2,000 during the same period last year. Milk production per cow averaged 1,810 pounds.

## **Winter storm warning issued for northern Black Hills**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Winter weather is expected to descend on western South Dakota in the next couple of days.

The National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning for the northern Black Hills of South Dakota and a winter weather advisory for the rest of western South Dakota through Tuesday.

The Weather Service has put out a high wind warning for the southwest part of the state for Monday. Blowing snow is expected to develop in the far west, with rain and snow likely in the northeast.

A chance of light snow is expected on Christmas Day.

## **AP News in Brief**

### **Police departments on alert after NYC cops killed by man who hated law enforcement, government**

NEW YORK (AP) — Big-city police departments and union leaders around the country are warning the rank and file to wear bulletproof vests and avoid making inflammatory posts on social media in the days

after a man ambushed two officers and shot them to death inside their patrol car.

The slayings of Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu on Saturday afternoon in Brooklyn heightened fears about the safety of law enforcement officials nationwide, though there is no evidence any threats are imminent. The gunman, 28-year-old Ismaaiyl Brinsley, had vowed in an Instagram post to put “wings on pigs” as retaliation for the slayings of black men at the hands of white police.

Brinsley was black; the slain New York Police Department officers were Hispanic and Asian.

Investigators are trying to determine if Brinsley had taken part in any protests over the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner, whose names he invoked in his online threat, or simply latched onto the cause for the final act in a violent rampage.

The slayings come at a tense time as police nationwide are being criticized following Garner’s death in a New York officer’s chokehold and Brown’s fatal shooting in Ferguson, Missouri. Protests erupted in recent weeks after grand juries declined to charge the officers involved.

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Events in the hours before and after 2 NYC officers were shot by man who vowed to kill cops

A timeline of events in the hours before and moments after two New York Police Department officers were killed in their cruiser Saturday by Ismaaiyl Brinsley, a 28-year-old man who vowed online to shoot two “pigs” in retaliation for the police chokehold death of Eric Garner.

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5:48 a.m. - Baltimore County police are dispatched to Brinsley’s ex-girlfriend’s home in the Baltimore suburb of Owings Mills, Maryland. Brinsley had shot the 29-year-old woman in the stomach and fled with her phone. She’s expected to survive.

6:05 a.m. - Brinsley calls his ex-girlfriend’s mother and tells her he shot her daughter by accident and hopes she will survive.

6:35 a.m. - Brinsley boards a bus to New York City.

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## **AP poll: Police killings of unarmed blacks, and ensuing protests, voted top news story of 2014**

NEW YORK (AP) — The police killings of unarmed blacks in Ferguson, Missouri, and elsewhere — and the investigations and tumultuous protests they inspired — was the top news story of 2014, according to The Associated Press’ annual poll of U.S. editors and news directors.

In a year crowded with dramatic and often wrenching news developments around the world, the No. 2 story was the devastating outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, followed by the conflict in Iraq and Syria fueled by the brutal actions of Islamic State militants.

Among the 85 voters casting ballots, first-place votes were spread among 15 different stories. The Ferguson entry received 22 first-place votes, Ebola 11 and the Islamic State story 12.

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## **History of North Korean cinema filled with kidnapped South Koreans, monsters, evil Americans**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea hates the currently scrapped Hollywood film that revolves around the assassination of its beloved leader, but the country has had a long love affair with cinema — of its own particular styling.

In the six decades since North Korea began to cultivate its own film industry, a South Korean director and his movie star wife have been kidnapped, a Godzilla-inspired monster movie has bombed at the

box office in the South, American defectors have hammed it up in anti-U.S. propaganda films — and there has even been a foray into “girl power” cinema with the more recent “Comrade Kim Goes Flying.”

The U.S. blames North Korea for the recent cyberattack on Sony Pictures, which produced “The Interview,” and also for threats of terror attacks against U.S. movie theaters. Sony canceled the movie’s release. North Korea has denied a role in the hacking, but also praised it as a “righteous deed.”

Pyongyang began building its cinema industry in the 1950s as a wing of a propaganda machine meant to glorify the country’s late founder, Kim Il Sung, the grandfather of current leader Kim Jong Un. The elder Kim once declared movies to be the most important tool to educate the masses, according to archive material maintained by the South Korean government.

North Korean moviemakers have since dabbled with science fiction, action and romantic comedy, but they’re mostly expected to stoke public animosity against rivals Washington and Seoul, and to portray the Kim family as a fearless bastion against evil foreign imperialists.

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## **Experts expect surge in Cuba tourism under Obama’s historic opening, easing of travel rules**

HAVANA (AP) — As the U.S. and Cuba begin to normalize relations for the first time in half a century, some Americans are already roaming the streets of Old Havana, attending dance exhibitions and talks on architecture as they take part in scripted cultural tours that can cost more than a decent used car back home.

The U.S. visitors are participants in the highly regulated “people-to-people” travel that President Barack Obama permitted in 2011 in one of his first moves toward detente with Cuba. The program aims to increase interaction with ordinary Cubans without creating uncomfortable images of Americans lounging on beaches in a single-party state. The tours tend to attract people sympathetic to improving ties with President Raul Castro’s government.

“It’s pre-selected for people who already want there to be change,” said Jonathan Anderson, a 33-year-old from Denver on an eight-day excursion that cost \$6,000 per person. “People aren’t coming here to see how evil Castro is. They are coming here to reinforce ties.”

Travel experts said Sunday that the new opening to Cuba that Obama announced four days earlier goes far beyond the 2011 reform and could sharply increase U.S. tourism in the coming years.

Among the changes, Obama directed the Treasury Department to expand the categories of travelers who can go to Cuba without requesting a license from the department first. Soon to be covered by a standing, blanket travel permit are participants in educational activities, the category that covers most people-to-people travel. Experts said that eliminating the licensing requirement could greatly reduce the costs of organized tours by cutting paperwork. It also could, perhaps more importantly, allow huge numbers of Americans to legally travel on their own to Cuba.

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## **Ascendant Senate Republicans confront tough election map in 2016 to retain majority**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans have the Senate majority now and are set to challenge President Barack Obama and the Democrats on Capitol Hill this January. But a much tougher election map two years from now could force the GOP back into the minority.

In November 2016, Republicans will defend 24 seats, Democrats 10. Seven of the GOP seats are in states President Barack Obama won with 50 percent or more of the vote in 2012.

It's a stark reversal from this past November, when Democrats were the ones contending with a brutal map, including candidates running in seven states Obama had lost. Democrats were crushed on Election Day, losing nine seats and their Senate majority.

It will be a tough climb for Democrats to make up those losses, and there's no guarantee they will. But coming off November's trouncing, Democrats sound eager about their chances in states such as Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Illinois, while Republicans are preparing more to defend past victories than try to score new ones.

"There's no doubt about it, it's going to be a bigger challenge than 2014," said Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, among the Republicans at the top of the Democrats' pickoff list. "But I think we have a really good opportunity here in the next couple years. We will reach out to the other side. I think Americans, Wisconsinites will find out that we're not the party of 'no.'"

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## **Iraqi reality TV show brings convicted IS militants face-to-face with victims**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Haider Ali Motar was convicted of terrorism charges about a month ago for helping to carry out a string of Baghdad car bombings on behalf of the Islamic State extremist group. Now, the 21-year old is a reluctant cast member in a popular reality TV show.

"In the Grip of the Law," brings convicted terrorists face-to-face with victims in surreal encounters and celebrates the country's beleaguered security forces. The show, produced by state-run Iraqiyya TV, is among dozens of programs, cartoons and musical public service announcements aimed at shoring up support for the troops after their humiliating defeat last summer at the hands of the Islamic State group, which now controls about a third of the country.

On a chilly, overcast day last week, the crew arrived at the scene of one of the attacks for which Motar was convicted, with a heavily armed escort in eight military pick-up trucks and Humvees. Passing cars clogged the road to watch the drama unfold, but were quickly shooed away by soldiers.

After being pulled from an armored vehicle, a shackled Motar found himself face-to-face with the seething relatives of the victims of the attack. "Give him to me — I'll tear him to pieces," one of the relatives roared from behind a barbed wire barrier.

A cameraman pinned a microphone on Motar's bright yellow prison jumpsuit as he stood alongside a busy Baghdad highway looking bewildered by his surroundings.

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## **Indian asbestos mines, abandoned decades ago, still sickening villagers and ignored by gov't**

RORO VILLAGE, India (AP) — Asbestos waste spills in a gray gash down the flank of a lush green hill above tribal villages in eastern India. Three decades after the mines were abandoned, nothing has been done to remove the enormous, hazardous piles of broken rocks and powdery dust left behind.

In Roro Village and other settlements below, people who never worked in the mines are dying of lung disease. Yet in a country that treats asbestos as a savior that provides cheap building materials for the poor, no one knows the true number and few care to ask.

"I feel weak, drained all the time," Baleman Sundi gasped, pushing the words out before she lost her breath. "But I must work." The 65-year-old paused, inhaled. "I don't have a choice." Another gasp. "I have to eat."

Sundi and 17 others from a clutch of impoverished villages near the abandoned hilltop mines were



diagnosed in 2012 with asbestosis, a fatal lung disease. One has since died. Tens of thousands more remain untested and at risk. Asbestos makes up as much as 14.3 percent of the soil around Roro Village, analysis of samples gathered by The Associated Press showed.

The 17 surviving patients are suing in the country's environmental court for cleanup, compensation and a fund for future victims. If they win, the case would set precedents for workplace safety and corporate liability, both often ignored in India.

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## The belly dancer who was once a man enthralls Morocco, yet yearns for official acceptance

CASABLANCA, Morocco (AP) — It was a slow night on the red carpet at the opening of the Marrakech film festival for the photographers and everyone was complaining over the lack of celebrities.

Then a car pulled up and out stepped Noor Talbi, Morocco's most famous belly dancer. The photographers went wild. Darling of the jet set and a fixture for any society party or hotel opening, Noor's statuesque six feet frame was clothed in a spangled, off-the-shoulder ballgown slit up the side to reveal her long legs.

Legs, that as a teenage athlete, won her a gold medal in the 440-meter hurdles at the national level — back when she was a boy who went by the name of Nourreddine.

In this conservative Muslim country where homosexuality is illegal and punishable by up to three years in jail, a transgender woman like Noor is not only accepted but is a celebrity. Her ability to seemingly transcend the restrictions of her culture speaks both to her star power and to a certain kind of tolerance toward sexual minorities in this North African nation — and even in the wider Middle East.

There are references to men affecting the clothes and attitudes of women in the Quran. In countries like Iran and Egypt, while homosexuality is illegal, gender change surgery is allowed, especially for those born hermaphrodites. Cross-dressing is also often found in the entertainment world and in Turkey one of the most famous singers of classical music was also once a man.

## 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. POLICE DEPARTMENTS ON ALERT AFTER COP KILLINGS

The rank and file is warned to wear bulletproof vests and avoid making inflammatory posts on social media after the fatal shooting of two NYPD officers.

#### 2. RELATIVES FINALLY ABLE TO SAY GOODBYE TO 2004 TSUNAMI VICTIMS

An Associated Press investigation helps track down two families in Myanmar who didn't know their loved ones were laid to rest at a cemetery in southern Thailand.

#### 3. WHO THREATENS TO STRIKE U.S.

"Our toughest counteraction will be boldly taken against the White House, the Pentagon and the whole U.S. mainland," — says North Korea in response to "reckless" rumors over a Sony cyberattack.

#### 4. EXPERTS EXPECT SURGE IN CUBA TOURISM

Obama's historic opening goes far beyond the highly regulated "people-to-people" travel and could sharply increase the number of U.S. visitors in the coming years.

#### 5. REPUBLICANS IN CHARGE OF SENATE — BUT 2016 AWAITS

A much tougher election map two years from now could force the GOP back into the minority.

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## 6. NEARLY 800 CHILDREN DIE OF ABUSE AS OFFICIALS FAIL TO PROTECT

Many of them were beaten, starved or left alone to drown, while authorities had good reason to know they were in danger, The AP has found.

## 7. HEARING SET FOR EX-PATRIOT FACING MURDER TRIAL

A court in Fall River will focus on jury issues in the case against Aaron Hernandez.

## 8. IRAQI REALITY SHOW'S UNUSUAL CAST MEMBERS

"In the Grip of the Law" brings convicted terrorists face-to-face with victims in surreal encounters and celebrates the country's beleaguered security forces.

## 9. ABANDONED ASBESTOS MINES A HAZARD IN INDIA

The waste spills in a gash down the flank of a lush hill above tribal villages in the country's east, still sickening their residents.

## 10. MOROCCO'S TRANSGENDER DANCER COURTS ACCEPTANCE

Noor's ability to transcend the restrictions of her culture speaks to a certain kind of tolerance toward sexual minorities in this North African nation.

## Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 22, the 356th day of 2014. There are nine days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 22, 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, U.S. Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe rejected a German demand for surrender, writing "Nuts!" in his official reply.

### On this date:

In 1775, Esek Hopkins was appointed the commander-in-chief of the Continental Navy.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman said in a message to President Abraham Lincoln: "I beg to present you as a Christmas-gift the city of Savannah."

In 1894, French army officer Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason in a court-martial that triggered worldwide charges of anti-Semitism. (Dreyfus was eventually vindicated.)

In 1910, a fire lasting more than 26 hours broke out at the Chicago Union Stock Yards; 21 firefighters were killed in the collapse of a burning building.

In 1937, the first, center tube of the Lincoln Tunnel connecting New York City and New Jersey beneath the Hudson River was opened to traffic. (The second tube opened in 1945, the third in 1957.)

In 1944, former silent film comedian Harry Langdon (once considered a rival to Charles Chaplin) died in Los Angeles at age 60.

In 1968, Julie Nixon married David Eisenhower in a private ceremony in New York.

In 1977, three dozen people were killed when a 250-foot-high grain elevator at the Continental Grain Company plant in Westwego, Louisiana, exploded.

In 1984, New York City resident Bernhard Goetz shot and wounded four youths on a Manhattan subway, claiming they were about to rob him.

In 1989, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHES'-koo), the last of Eastern Europe's hard-line Communist rulers, was toppled from power in a popular uprising. Playwright Samuel Beckett died in Paris at age 83.

In 1992, a Libyan Boeing 727 jetliner crashed after a midair collision with a MiG fighter, killing all 157 aboard the jetliner, and both crew members of the fighter jet.

In 2001, Richard C. Reid, a passenger on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami, tried to ignite

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explosives in his shoes, but was subdued by flight attendants and fellow passengers. (Reid is serving a life sentence in federal prison.)

**Ten years ago:** Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, stung by criticism that he'd been insensitive to the needs of troops and their families, offered an impassioned defense, saying when he would meet wounded soldiers or relatives of those killed in battle, "their grief is something I feel to my core." Vancouver Canucks forward Todd Bertuzzi received a conditional discharge after pleading guilty to assault, more than nine months after slugging Colorado forward Steve Moore from behind during a game.

**Five years ago:** Assailants gunned down the mother, aunt and siblings of a Mexican marine who was killed in a raid that took out one of Mexico's most powerful cartel leaders. Nebraska's Ndamukong Suh (ehn-DAHM'-uh-kehrn soo) became the first defensive player voted The Associated Press College Football Player of the Year.

**One year ago:** Mikhail Khodorkovsky (mih-hah-EEL' khoh-dohr-KAHV'-skee), the Russian oligarch who'd crossed President Vladimir Putin and ended up in jail for 10 years, told a press conference in Berlin that he planned to devote his life to securing the release of the country's political prisoners. President Barack Obama and the vacationing first family temporarily skipped the beach in Hawaii to attend the Oregon State-Akron game at the Diamond Head Classic tournament in Honolulu. (Oregon State, coached by first lady Michelle Obama's brother, Craig Robinson, lost to Akron, 83-71.)

**Today's Birthdays:** Former House Speaker Jim Wright is 92. Actor Hector Elizondo is 78. Country singer Red Steagall is 76. Former World Bank Group President Paul Wolfowitz is 71. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Steve Carlton is 70. Former ABC News anchor Diane Sawyer is 69. Rock singer-musician Rick Nielsen (Cheap Trick) is 66. Rock singer-musician Michael Bacon is 66. Baseball All-Star Steve Garvey is 66. Golfer Jan Stephenson is 63. Actress BernNadette Stanis is 61. Rapper Luther "Luke" Campbell is 54. Country singer-musician Chuck Mead is 54. Actor Ralph Fiennes is 52. Actress Lauralee Bell is 46. Country singer Lori McKenna is 46. Actress Dina Meyer is 46. Actress Heather Donahue is 41. Actor Chris Carmack is 34. Actor Logan Huffman is 25. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jordin Sparks is 25. Pop singer Meghan Trainor is 21.

**Thought for Today:** "My mistakes are my life." - Samuel Beckett (1906-1989).