

# Groton Daily Independent

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**Harry Implement**  
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421  
Ferney

**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**

## Tuesday, December 23

No School

**Birthday:** Diane Lewandowski

**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

## Thursday, December 25

No School

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

**Birthdays:** Angela Carlson • Scott Fordham:  
Christmas Day

## Friday, December 26

No School

**Senior Menu:** Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, coleslaw, frosted brownie.

## 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.

## Girls Basketball is a quick team



**In back, left to right, are Katie Koehler, Hannah Lewandowski, Hattie Weismantel, Gia Gengerke; Coach Shaun Wanner; Madison Sippel, Alex Stange, Jasmine Schinkel and Audrey Wanner; in the chairs are Ashley Gibbs, Carly Wheeting and Courtney Kurtz; in front, left to right, are Alexis Gustafson, Jessica Bjerke, Harleigh Stange, Marlee Jones and Emily Locke.**

Groton's girls return two starters and six letterwinners to this year's squad as the Lady Tigers embark on a new journey.

Returning starters are senior Courtney Kurtz, 5-5 guard; and junior Carly Wheeting, a 5-9 center.

Coach Shaun Wanner said, "We have two starters back from last season along with some that saw time off the bench. Our conference along with our non-conference schedule will be very good. This group of young girls will continue to get better as the season goes on. We should be a competitive basketball team by the end of the year."

Other returning letterwinners are Senior Ashley Gibbs, a 5-9 forward; and sophomores Audrey Wanner, a 5-8 guard; Katie Koehler, a 5-9 guard; and Emily Locke, a 5-8 forward.

The remaining roster are junior Marlee Jones, a 5-7 forward; and freshmen Harleigh Stange, a 5-6 guard; Hannah Lewandowski, a 5-8 guard; Gia Gengerke, a 5-10 forward; Alexis Fustafson, a 5-6 guard; Jasmine Schinkel, a 5-6 guard; Alex Stange, a 5-9 forward; Jessica Bjerke, a 5-8 forward; Madison Sippel, a 5-10 center; and Hattie Weismantel, a 5-9 center.

Wanner talked about the strengths of this year's team: "Our strength should be our quickness and

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desire to compete hard every game. We have a good group of girls that can run the floor and put pressure on the ball. We also play good defense and rebound fairly well. Another strength will be our work ethic, this group of girls work hard and we will become better as the season goes on."

Wanner said that this is the first time that Kurtz has played with this group of girls. "She has always moved up on the team, all the way since fourth grade," Wanner said. "Courtney and Ashley our two Seniors are going to have to be good leaders for our young team. This is the first time in Courtney's career that she is playing with a different group of girls on the basketball court. I think this young group adapts better to Courtney's style of play and that will benefit us as the season progresses."

Wanner said that Kurtz and Wheeting have to be consistent in scoring this year, and that the rest have to step up to add points. "We have to become better offensively, as a coaching staff we have to find ways for our girls to score. Our offense has to come from our defensive pressure. We have to keep the turnovers down and get better perimeter shooting. We lost three three-year starters (Camille Sippel, Halle Dohman and Kylie Hawkins) so were lacking varsity experience. If we understand our roles by midseason we should be fairly competitive."

Joel Guthmiller and Maddy Gonsoir are assistant coaches. Alyssa Sippel is the student manager and Jasmine Schaller and Maggie Simon are the statisticians.

## 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.**

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## Basketball Cheerleaders

In back, left to right, are Emily Raap, Aubray Harry, Breanna Marzahn, Sydney Thorson and Kari Hanson; in front, left to right, are Jenifer Fjelstad, Kellyn Fluke and Macy Knecht. All are boys basketball cheerleaders, Marzahn and Fjelstad are only girls basketball cheerleaders, the rest do both boys and girls games. Kelsey Hunt is the cheer coach.

## 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.

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## Basketball

		Boys	Girls	C Game
Tues., Dec. 23	at Aberdeen Roncalli	6:30		5:15
Sat., Dec. 27	at Parkston Classic		TBA	
Mon., Jan. 5	at Langford Area		6:30	
Tues., Jan. 6	at Milbank Area	6:30		5:15
Thurs., Jan. 8	Milbank Area		6:30	5:15
Mon., Jan. 12	at Tiospa Zina	6:30		5:15
Tues., Jan. 13	Webster		6:30	
Thurs., Jan. 15	at Clark-Willow Lake		6:30	
Fri., Jan. 16	Clark-Willow Lake	6:30		
Sat., Jan. 17	at Redfield Classic	TBA		
Tues., Jan. 20	Ipswich	6:30		
Thurs., Jan. 22	at Webster Area		6:30	
Fri., Jan. 23	Webster Area	6:30		5:15
Mon., Jan. 26	Britton-Hecla		6:30	
Tues., Jan. 27	at Britton-Hecla	6:30		
Thurs., Jan. 29	at Sisseton	6:30		5:15
Fri., Jan. 30	Sisseton		6:30	5:15
Monday, Feb. 2	Warner			5:15
Monday, Feb. 2	Warner			7:00
Tues., Feb. 3	at Langford Area	6:30		
Fri. Feb. 6	at Hamlin			4:00
Fri. Feb. 6	at Hamlin			4:00
Fri., Feb. 6	at Hamlin	8:00	6:30	
Sat., Feb. 7	Warner	6:00	4:30	
Mon. Feb. 9	at Roncalli		6:30	5:15
Tues., Feb. 10	Britton-Hecla	6:30		
Fri., Feb. 13	at Britton-Hecla		6:30	5:15
Sat., Feb. 14	at Mobridge-Pollock	6:00	4:30	
Mon., Feb. 16	Aberdeen Roncalli	6:30		5:15
Thurs., Feb. 19	at Redfield-Doland	6:30		5:15
Fri., Feb. 20	Redfield-Doland		6:30	
Mon., Feb. 23	at Webster Area	6:30		5:15
Tues., Feb. 24	Region at Webster		4:30	
Thurs., Feb. 26	Region at Webster		6:00	
Mon., Mar. 2	Region at Sisseton	4:30		
Tues., Mar. 3	Region at Webster		7:00	
Thurs., Mar. 5	Region at Sisseton	6:00		
Tues., Mar. 10	Region at Sisseton	7:00		
Mar. 12-14	State at Watertown			
Mar. 19-21	State at Rapid City			

## Groton boys could pose a a double threat



### Boys Varsity Basketball

**In back, left to right, are Lucas Sternhagen, Chance Strom, Wyatt Larson, Hunter Lerew, Landon Larson, Gabe Dohman and Kyler Ell; in front, left to right, are Adam Herman, Sean Schuring, Bennett Shabazz, Seric Shabazz, Brady Keith and Spencer Knecht.**

The Groton boys basketball team return one starter and five lettermen as the Tigers face a rebuilding year.

Spencer Knecht, a 6-0 senior guard, is the lone returning starter. Other returning lettermen are seniors Lucas Sternhagen, a 6-0 guard; Kyler Ell, a 6-2 guard; Chance Strom, a 6-2 forward; and Wyatt Larson, a 6-2 forward. The remaining varsity roster are seniors Landon Larson, a 6-4 center; and Gabe Dohman, a 6-2 forward; juniors Hunter Lerew, a 6-8 forward; and Adam Herman, 5-10 guard; and sophomores Sean Schuring, a 6-1 guard; and Bennett Shabazz, a 5-10 guard.

Coach Greg Kjellsen said, "We have good depth, size, and some quickness. We need to work together and play solid team defense. We should be an uptempo team. If we can learn to play together we should be successful and fun to watch."

Players lost from last year are Reilly Ell, Kasey Kurtz, Mason Madsen and Wyatt Lone.

Hunter Lerew is a new player to Groton Area this year. He comes from Northwestern. Kjellsen said, "He didn't play last year and he needs to get confidence playing with these kids." He is one of Groton's starter.

Kjellsen is hoping for a double attack this year. "Hopefully we can play inside out. If our bigs become a threat inside, that will open up our perimeter game."

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Kjellsen predicts that Clark and Roncalli will probably be the top two teams. His assistants are Joel McNeely and Justin Hanson. The statisticians are Haley Unzen, Kasey Waage and Jodi Sternhagen.



## Junior Varsity Boys Basketball

In back, left to right, are Truitt Rogers, Frankie Wuestewald, Doug Dobbins, Luke Thorson, Mitchel Thurston and Turner Webb; in front, left to right, are Marshall Lane, Jackson Oliver, Brandon Keith, Wyatt Kurtz, Anthony Sippel and Stevie Fey.

## 7th/8th Boys Basketball Schedule

Sat., Jan. 10: Jamboree at Groton, 10 a.m. (Leola-Frederick, Webster MS, Britton-Hecla JH, Groton Area MS)

Fri., Jan. 16: Host Clark/Willow Lake (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.)

Mon., Jan. 19: at Frederick (7th at 6 p.m., 8th at 7 p.m.)

Mon., Jan. 26: Host Warner (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.)

Tues., Jan. 27: at Britton (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.)

Tues., Feb. 3: at Langford (8th only at 5 p.m.)

Mon., Feb. 16: host Aberdeen Roncalli (7th at 3 p.m., 8th at 4 p.m.)

Thurs., Feb. 19: at Redfield (7th at 3 p.m., 8th at 4 p.m.)

Mon., Feb. 23: at Webster (3 p.m.)

Sat., Feb. 28: at Britton Jamboree, 9 p.m. (Clark/Willow Lake, Sisseton, Tiospa Zina, Warner, Groton Area Middle, Webster MS, Leola-Frederick)

## Wrestling numbers are low



**In back, left to right, are Wyatt Locke, Trevor Pray, Brandyn Anderson, Tyler Scott, Kelby Hawkins, statistician Heather Lone and Coach Dana Dargatz; in front, left to right, are Thomas Cranford, Dylan Krueger, Dragr Monson and Garret Schroeder; not pictured is Mclain Lone.**

Scott is the lone senior, wrestling at 160 pounds. Sophomores are Kelby Hawkins at 138, Trevor Pray at 113 and Mclaine Lone. Freshman are Brandyn Anderson at 220. Wyatt Locke is an eighth grader at 132 pounds, Thomas Cranford and Garrett Schroeder are seventh graders at 106 pounds, and sixth graders are Dylan Krueger and Dragr Monson.

The returning lettermen are Anderson, Hawkins, Locke, Pray and Scott.

The assistant coach is Lance Hawkins. Statisticians are Heather Lone and Emily Locke.

If you have questions feel free to call me

Second year Coach Dana Dargatz said, "I see a desire to work hard and see results, I've noticed a lot of maturity in the kids from last year and that's nice to see."

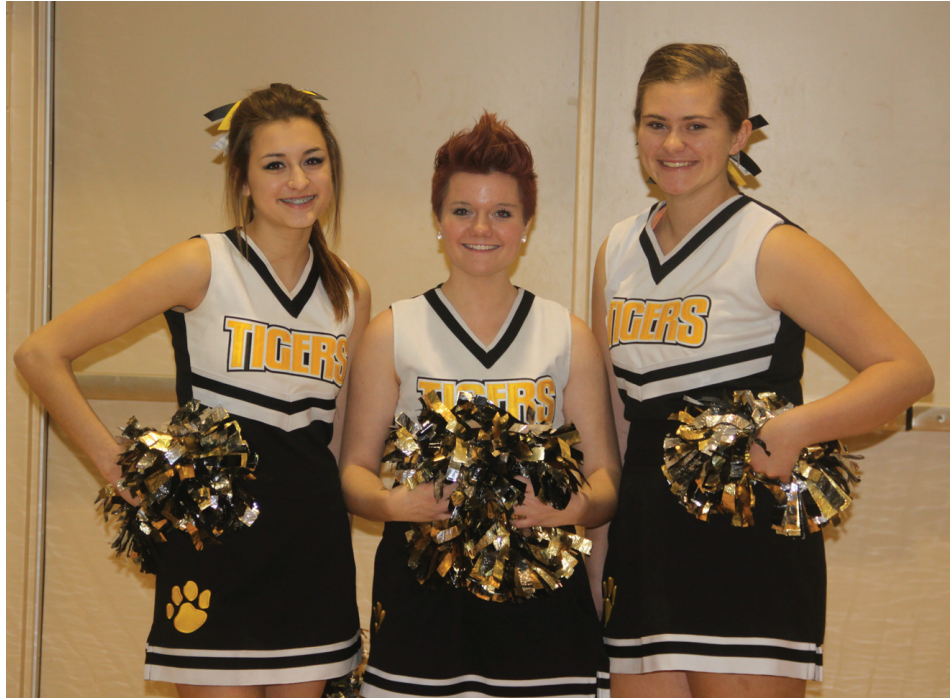
Lower number presents challenges for wrestling. "Technique is a challenge with lower numbers in the room," Dargatz said. "It's easy to adapt to your partners tendencies, and create bad habits, but the guys know this and do their best to try new things so there's no monotony."

The fans can see some excitement with the Groton wrestlers. "Competitiveness," he said. "The guys know they can compete with anyone they step on the mat with."

Dargatz said that lost from last year are two state qualifiers who showed the younger guys how to train and that hard work pays off: Jeric Albrecht and Parker Kroll.

Dargatz said, "As a whole the guys are always willing to work hard. "They know what it takes to be in better shape than their opponents; I'm really happy with how they support one another. This is a tough grueling sport and they push each other to get better everyday. They all set goals and push hard to reach them."





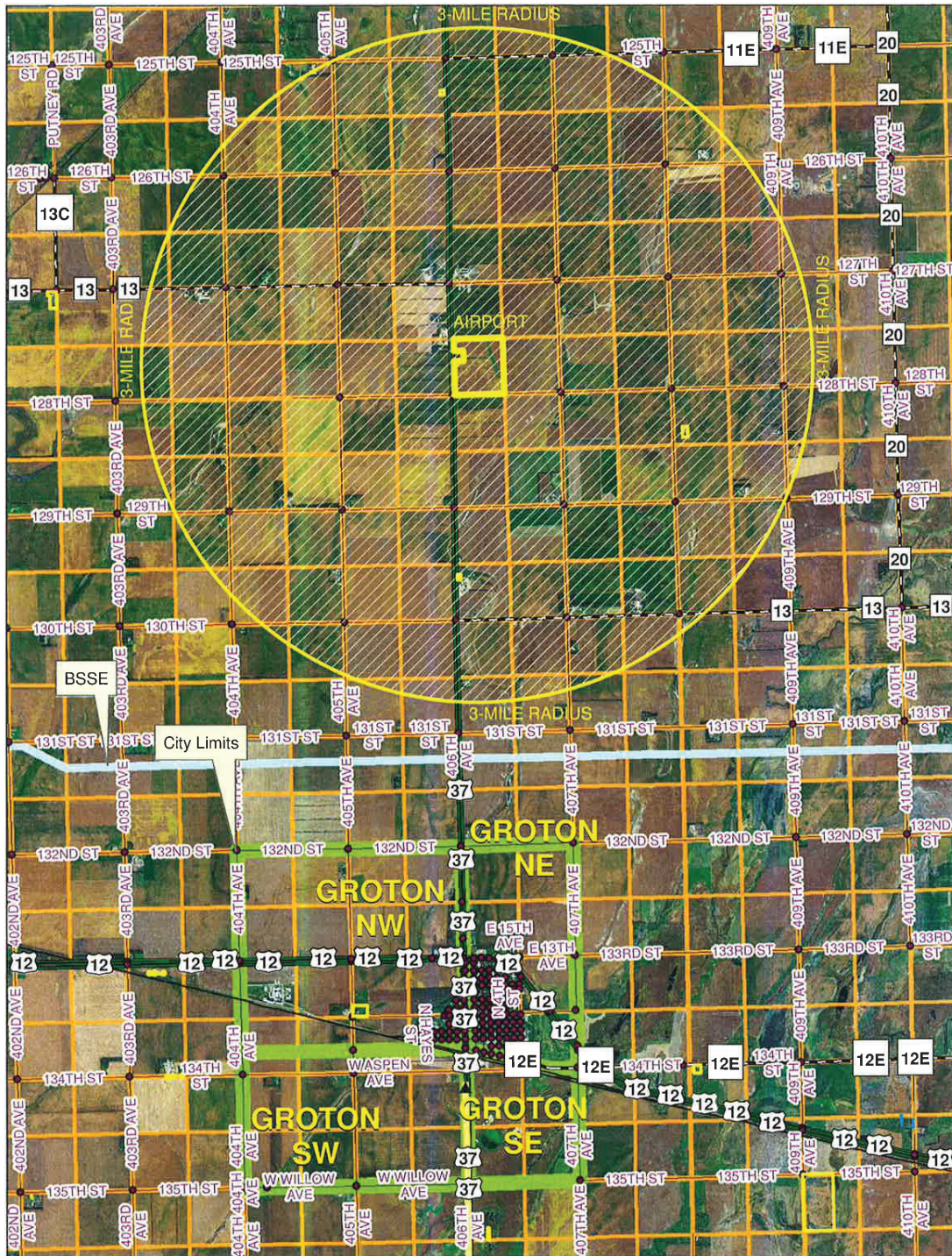
The wrestling cheerleaders are Christine Herr, Latasha Mehlhaff and Madison Sippel.

## Wrestling Schedule

Thurs., Jan. 8	Sioux Valley/ Ortonville at Milbank	5:00
Sat., Jan. 10	at Miller	10:00
Thurs., Jan. 15	w/Sisseton, Webster in Groton	6:00
Thurs., Jan. 22	at Britton w/Clark	6:00
Sat., Jan. 24	at Kingsbury Co.	9:30
Thurs., Jan. 29	at Deuel w/Redfield	6:00
Sat., Jan. 31	Groton Lions Tourney	10:00
Sat., Feb. 7	at Stanley County	10:00
Sat., Feb. 14	at Howard	10:00
Sat., Feb. 21	Region at Groton	10:00
Feb. 27-28	State at Rapid City	

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The big circle in the image above represents the three-mile radius around the Groton Airport. Brown County will be notifying the City of Groton if any construction is done in that area. The blue line just below the circle represents the proposed transmission line. The Big Stone South to Ellendale (BSSE) transmission line will span approximately 160 miles from the Big Stone South substation near Big Stone City, South Dakota, to the Ellendale 345 kV substation near Ellendale, North Dakota. Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.(MDU) and Otter Tail Power Company jointly own this project; MDU is the project lead. The line will span just north of Groton and south of the Groton Airport airspace.



## New additions

**This past year, the South Dakota High School Activities Association implemented a new rule, mandating a 35-second clock for basketball games. The cost to the Groton Area district was around \$7,000. In addition, there needs to be an additional person at the score desk to run just the shot clock. A lighted box has also been added to the backstop which goes off at the end of the quarters.**

## Lady Tigers beat Roncalli

Courtney Kurtz and Carly Wheeting teamed for 38 points as the Lady Tigers defeated Aberdeen Roncalli in girls basketball action played in Groton Monday night, 55-44.

Groton held a 19-16 lead after the first quarter and a 35-25 lead at half time.

Kurtz led the Tigers with 22 points followed by Wheeting with 16, Audrey Wanner had six, Katie Koehler and Ashley Gibbs each had five and Jessica Bjerke added one free throw.

Groton was seven of 11 from the field for 64 percent, was 18 of 25 from the line, had 26 rebounds with Wanner having nine and Wheeting seven, four assists with Kurtz having four, 15 steals with Kurtz having five and Wanner four, 18 turnovers and 14 fouls.

Kurtz, Koehler and Gibbs each made a three-pointer.

No stats were available for Roncalli.

No junior varsity stats were available.

## Today in Weather History

1984: Snow fell over the western third of South Dakota on the 23rd, with amounts ranging from 2-16 inches. The northwest received the most snow, with amounts generally 4-8 inches, though Buffalo (Harding County) reported 16 inches, and Custer (Custer County) 11 inches. Several accidents were reported as a result. The heaviest snow reported in the current Aberdeen forecast area was 3 inches at Eagle Butte.

1987: Five to sixteen inches of snow fell in 24 hours in east central and southeast South Dakota from the morning of the 23rd through the morning of the 24th. Some of the larger amounts measured were 9 inches at Huron, 10 inches at Mitchell, Platte and Brookings, twelve inches at Chamberlain, and sixteen inches at Alpena. Heavy snow also fell in southwestern Minnesota, with Big Stone and Traverse Counties in the west central portion of the state missing out on the heaviest snow. Considerable blowing and drifting snow hampered removal, particularly in South Dakota, due to reduced visibilities. Snowfall amounts also included three inches at Castlewood, five inches at Clear Lake, and six inches at Bryant.

1996: Blizzard conditions developed across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota in the late afternoon of the 23rd and continued into the late evening. Visibilities were frequently below one quarter of a mile. Two to six inches of new snowfall combined with the already significant snow cover and north winds of 20 to 40 mph to cause widespread blizzard conditions and heavy drifting on area roads. Travel was significantly impacted if not impossible, and one fatality resulted from a head-on collision. Some snowfall amounts in Minnesota included 5 inches at Artichoke Lake and 6 inches at Wheaton and Browns Valley. In South Dakota, 7 inches fell at Britton, Webster, and Clear Lake, with 6 inches at Sisseton and 5 inches at Summit.

1884: At Regina, Saskatchewan the overnight temperature plummeted to -55F, the coldest December night on record there.

1983: Butte, MT fell to their all-time low temperature of -52 degrees (tying the record first set February 9, 1933).

1989: An epic cold wave was responsible for 122 record low temperatures across the central and eastern United States, including the coldest temperatures ever seen in southeast Texas in December: College Station 2 (also their coldest all-time), Houston 7 (#3 all-time), and Galveston 14 (#5 all-time). December 1989 ended up being the coldest month ever recorded at all three of those locations. Topeka, KS plunged to their all-time record low of -26 and Charleston, SC

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reached their all-time record low of 21. Also, a massive winter storm gave people along the east coast stretching from northern Florida to North Carolina a rare white Christmas. A foot and a half of snow fell near Wilmington, NC.

1811 - A cold storm hit Long Island sound with a foot of snow, gale force winds, and temperatures near zero. During the storm many ships were wrecked, and in some cases entire crews perished. (David Ludlum)

1955 - The barometric pressure dipped to 28.97 inches (981 millibars) at Boise ID, an all-time record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1982 - A major winter storm struck Colorado producing heavy snow and blizzard conditions. A record two feet of snow was reported at Stapleton Airport in Denver, which was shut down for 33 hours. Up to 44 inches of snow fell in the foothills surrounding Denver. The storm hurt the ski industry as skiers were unable to make it out of Denver to the slopes, and the closed airport became a campground for vacationers. (23rd-25th) (The Weather Channel) (Storm Data)

1983 - The temperature plunged to 50 degrees below zero at Williston ND to equal their all-time record. Minneapolis MN reported an afternoon high of 17 degrees below zero, and that evening strong northerly winds produced wind chill readings of 100 degrees below zero in North Dakota. (The National Weather Summary)

1987 - A winter storm brought heavy snow to the Central Rockies, and also spread a blanket of snow across the Middle Missouri Valley in time for Christmas. Snow and high winds created near blizzard conditions in Wyoming. Snowfall totals in Wyoming ranged up to 25 inches at Casper, with four feet of snow reported at the Hogadon Ski Resort on Casper Mountain. The Wolf Creek Ski Resort in Colorado received 26 inches of snow. Totals in the Middle Missouri Valley ranged up to 16 inches at Alpena SD, with 14 inches at Harrison NE. Strong winds ushered unseasonably cold air into the southwestern U.S. Canyon winds gusting to 100 mph created ground blizzards in Utah. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Low pressure in the Upper Midwest produced strong and gusty winds across the Great Lakes Region and the Ohio Valley. Winds in Ohio gusted to 47 mph at Cincinnati, and reached 51 mph at Cleveland. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - An historic arctic outbreak spread to the Gulf Coast Region, and a total of 122 cities across the central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Forty-one of those cities reported record lows for the month of December, with some cities breaking December records established the previous morning. Morning lows of 11 degrees at New Orleans LA and Lake Charles LA, 4 degrees below zero at San Angelo TX, and 26 degrees below zero at Topeka KS, established all-time records for those four locations. Yankton SD was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 31 degrees below zero. A storm system moving across the Florida peninsula and along the Southern Atlantic Coast produced high winds and record snows along the Carolina coast. Snowfall totals of 15 inches at Wilmington NC and 13.3 inches at Cape Hatteras NC were all-time records for those two locations.

2009 - Severe storms and heavy rainfall were associated with the same storm that brought blizzard conditions to the central parts of the U.S. on December 23rd and 24th. At least one death in Louisiana was blamed on the heavy rainfall and storms. There were 35 preliminary tornado reports and 34 hail and wind reports along the Gulf Coast over the 2-day period. The 10-year average number of tornadoes across the country in December is 36. (NCDC)

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TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	CHRISTMAS DAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY
						
70%				30%	40%	30%
Snow Likely High: 33 °F	Blustery Low: 19 °F	Partly Sunny High: 28 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 22 °F	Chance Snow High: 30 °F	Chance Snow Low: 16 °F	Chance Snow High: 20 °F

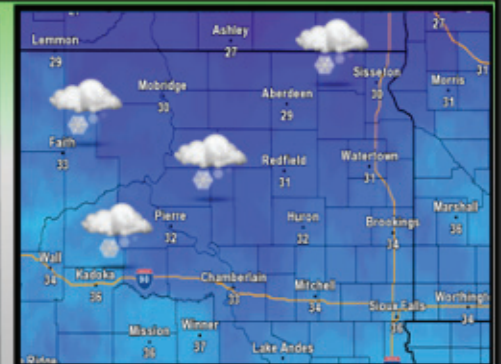
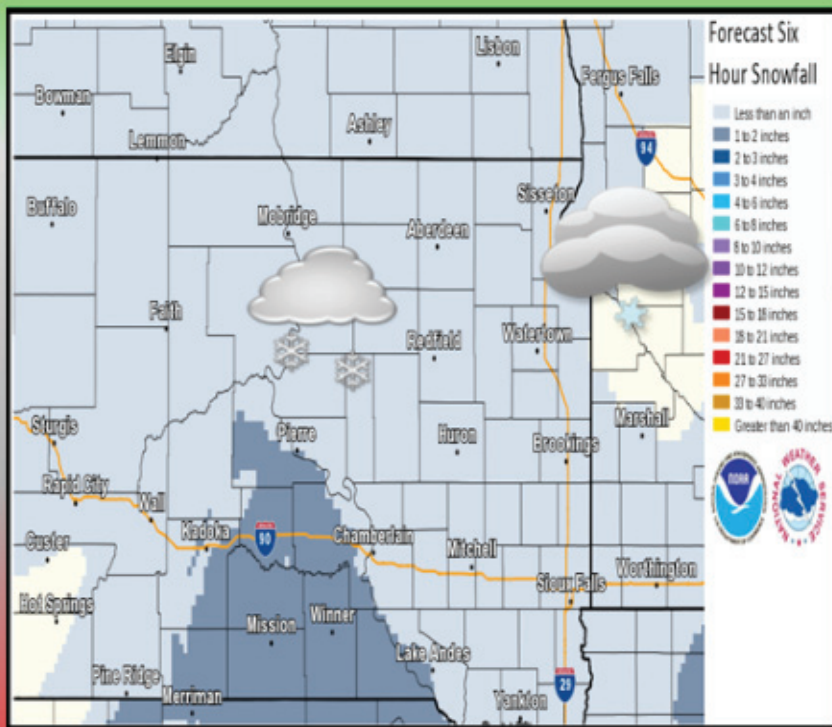


## Light Snow Possible on Christmas



### Additional Snowfall Today

### Christmas Day



- Another system brings light snow to the area on Thursday and Friday
- Turning colder for the rest of the Holiday Weekend

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



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



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen | Updated 12/23/2014 4:57 AM Central

Light snow will continue across parts of the region through the afternoon hours before diminishing by this evening. An additional one to two inches are possible. Another system is expected to bring light snow to the area Thursday and Friday.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 37.6 at 2:36 PM

**Low:** 31.7 at 8:07 AM

**Wind Chill:**

**High Gust:** 12 at 10:14 PM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 54° in 1893

**Record Low:** -34° in 1983

**Average High:** 24°F

**Average Low:** 4°F

**Average Precip in Dec.:** 0.36

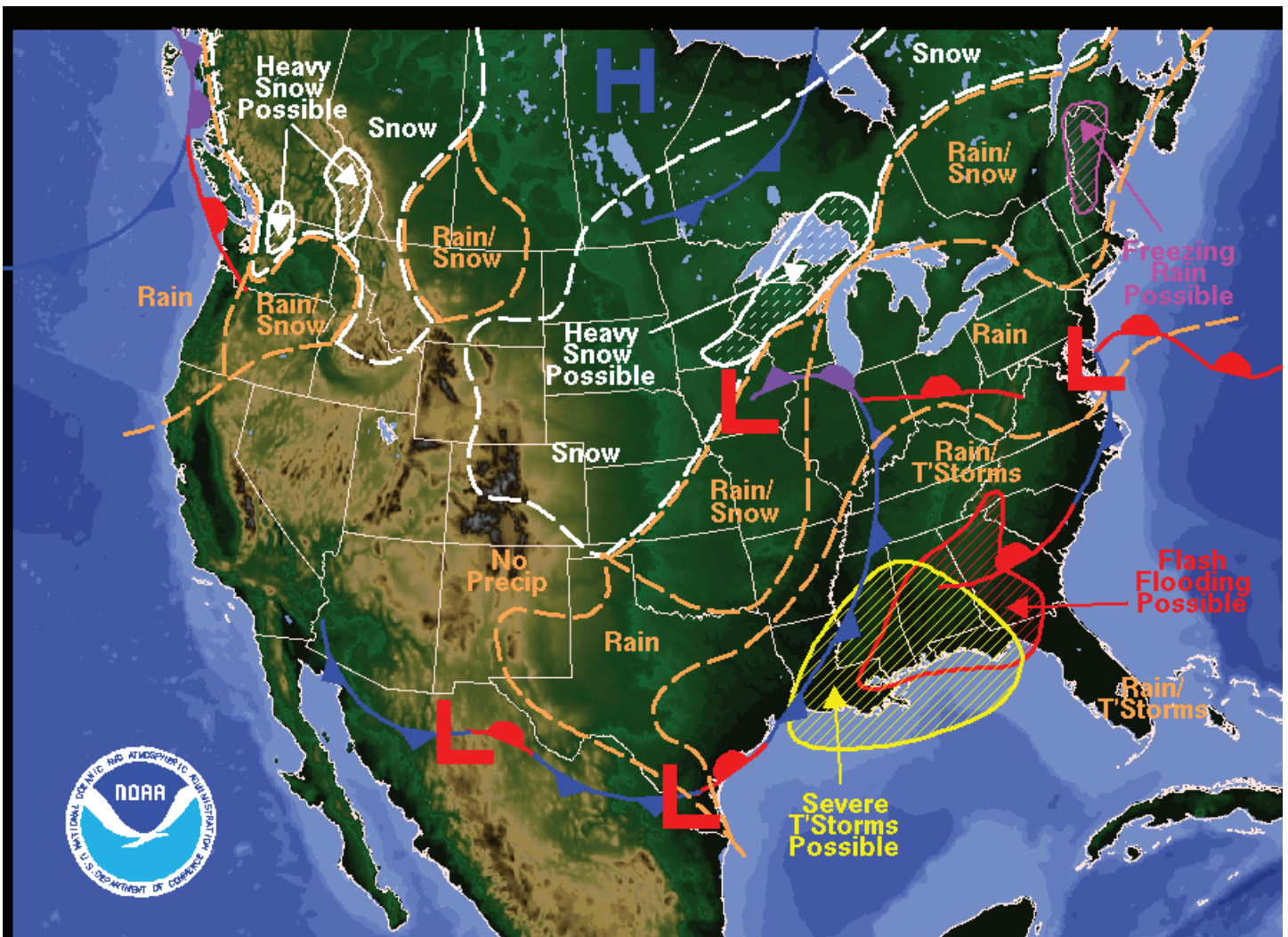
**Precip to date in Dec.:** 0.00

**Average Precip to date:** 21.56

**Precip Year to Date:** 13.99

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

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 8:12 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Dec 23, 2014, issued 3:00 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



## THE ANGEL'S VISIT TO MARY

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think of what the angel could mean. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen! I am a virgin."

The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she's now in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And the angel left her.

### **Luke 1:26-38: The Birth of Jesus Foretold**

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, 27 to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. 28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

29 Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. 30 "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 And he will reign over Israel[b] forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

34 Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. 36 What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. 37 For the word of God will never fail.[c]"

38 Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.



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News from the **AP** Associated Press

## Montana gov wants changes in bomber zone

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Montana Gov. Steve Bullock says he remains opposed to an Air Force proposal to establish a bomber training area over the Northern Plains that would cover an area larger than West Virginia.

An Air Force decision is due possibly by the end of the month on the plan to expand the Powder River Training Complex over Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas. Approval also is needed from federal aviation regulators.

Bullock said in a Monday letter to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx that the proposal should be dropped. If it moves forward, the Democratic governor asked for changes including more measures to protect civilian aircraft from harm.

The proposed expansion would quadruple the training airspace and make it the largest over the continental United States.

## Mountain lion hunting set to begin in Black Hills district

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The mountain lion hunting season is set to open within the Black Hills Fire Protection District in South Dakota.

Unlimited licenses for the season can be obtained on the state Game, Fish and Parks website at [www.gfp.sd.gov](http://www.gfp.sd.gov). All harvested lions must be inspected within 24 hours.

The season begins Friday and will conclude on March 31, unless the harvest limit of 75 total mountain lions, or 50 female lions, is reached prior to that date.

The mountain lion season outside of the Black Hills district runs year-round.

## Monday's Scores

The Associated Press

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Alcester-Hudson 65, Elk Point-Jefferson 59

Andes Central 40, Freeman Academy 34

Corsica/Stickney 59, Wessington Springs 38

Deubrook 71, Dell Rapids St. Mary 25

Elkton-Lake Benton 72, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 36

Groton Area 55, Aberdeen Roncalli 44

Irene-Wakonda 68, Bon Homme 53

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**FRIED CHICKEN DAY**  
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James Valley Christian 66, Ethan 61  
Jones County 59, Stanley County 33  
Lennox 61, Canton 34  
Madison 79, Beresford 42  
Menno 67, Iroquois 15  
Philip 70, Kadoka Area 37  
Redfield/Doland 48, Chamberlain 43  
Scotland 69, Viborg-Hurley 48  
Sioux Valley 63, Parker 56  
Wausa, Neb. 56, Gayville-Volin 49

## **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Castlewood 46, Hamlin 43  
Clark/Willow Lake 68, Milbank 39  
Corsica/Stickney 46, Wessington Springs 35  
DeSmet 74, Colman-Egan 16  
Deubrook 52, Dell Rapids St. Mary 40  
Elk Point-Jefferson 56, Alcester-Hudson 31  
Elkton-Lake Benton 54, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 38  
Ethan 68, James Valley Christian 26  
Freeman Academy 43, Andes Central 22  
Gayville-Volin 57, Wausa, Neb. 38  
Groton Area 55, Aberdeen Roncalli 44  
Hendricks, Minn. 39, Aberdeen Christian 17  
Irene-Wakonda 63, Bon Homme 40  
Jones County 58, Stanley County 37  
Madison 52, Lennox 40  
McCook Central/Montrose 55, Tea Area 27  
Menno 59, Iroquois 14  
Parkston 51, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 24  
Philip 52, Kadoka Area 17  
Sioux Valley 88, Parker 47  
Sisseton 65, Ortonville, Minn. 33  
Timber Lake 34, Faith 33, OT  
Warner 67, Potter County 38

## **Family of SD girl makes progress on animal shelter**

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — An 8-year-old girl's death from a dog attack on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation a month ago has left her mother drained and too heartbroken to stay in the home they shared. One of the few bright spots for the Griffith family is the steady progress they're making on Jayla's Dream, an effort to improve animal control and start a shelter in her memory on the southern South Dakota reservation.

Jayla Rodriguez's maternal family learned on Friday that the state officially approved Jayla's Dream as a nonprofit. Danielle Griffith, Jayla's mother, said her loved ones have come together to see the process

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through since Jayla's death. A fundraising campaign started by Jayla's aunt, Camille Griffith, has raised nearly \$5,700 — more than half of the family's initial goal.

"I don't want it to be one of those things where it slowly simmers and doesn't happen and we're ... regretting it later," said Camille Griffith, 25. "I feel like (Jayla's) helping us, too, because normally things don't go this smoothly."

"This is the only good thing that's actually going on," Danielle Griffith, 26, added.

Tribal police have said that Jayla was killed by a pack of dogs while sledding on Nov. 18. FBI Spokesman Kyle Loven said Monday that an investigation into her death remains ongoing.

Her death renewed concerns among tribal leaders about the longstanding problem of packs of roaming dogs. Oglala Sioux officials captured and killed an unknown number of dogs on the reservation shortly after Jayla died. But Danielle Griffith says that's not what her daughter would have wanted.

About two weeks before she died, Jayla said she wanted to help animals on the reservation after seeing an injured dog, a wish that inspired Jayla's Dream. Jayla especially loved her own dog, Buppy, a Chihuahua\_dachshund mix.

Now, an uncle is interested in donating land a few miles from the city of Pine Ridge to house the shelter; her mother is designing a logo; her father wrote the articles of incorporation for the nonprofit; and a cousin helped build a website. Camille Griffith has put off getting her master's degree to stay close to her family and ensure the organization gets off the ground.

Jayla's Dream had a booth on Friday at the Lakota Nation Invitational in Rapid City, where the Griffiths got some help from the community — including a number of children — in brainstorming ideas for the shelter. Among the suggestions: "Train pets to dance," "Dinosaur wallpaper," and, "Cuddle all the puppies."

Tribal Councilwoman Ellen Fillspipe said she would like to hear from the Griffiths about Jayla's Dream as part of her efforts to improve animal control on Pine Ridge. Fillspipe's son, a friend of Jayla's, was the impetus behind Braedon's Law, an ordinance that in part bans certain types of dogs, after he was attacked by two pit bulls. Fillspipe, now chairwoman of the council's Law and Order Committee, said the directive hasn't been adequately enforced.

"It is so bad that we've had to have this happen — we've had to lose a life in order to become aware again. ... This shouldn't have happened. This shouldn't have happened at all," she said.

## Experts say Great Lakes wolves aren't endangered

**STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A group of wolf experts disputed Monday that gray wolves in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan are endangered or that a judge's ruling will help the region's population spread to other states.

A federal judge on Friday threw out the Obama administration's decision to remove wolves in the three states from the endangered list. The move banned sport hunting and trapping of wolves in the region, where the combined population is around 3,700.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dropped federal protections in the three states in 2012 and returned management to the states. U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell in Washington, D.C., ruled that the decision violated the Endangered Species Act. She said state regulation was inadequate, and that the animals still inhabit only a fraction of their former range.

The federal government could appeal. Service spokesman Gavin Shire said Monday that the agency is still determining its next steps.

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In a conference call organized by the International Wolf Center in Ely, regional wolf experts including David Mech of the U.S. Geological Survey in Minnesota, who's vice chair of the center, said hunting and trapping as it was regulated by the three states did not threaten the species' survival.

The ruling means the wolf population probably will grow some in Wisconsin, said Dick Thiel, a retired wolf biologist formerly with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He predicted less expansion in Michigan's Upper Peninsula because there isn't room for many more wolves there.

Wolves might migrate from Minnesota and repopulate parts of North Dakota and South Dakota if the protections remain in place, but not other states, Mech said.

"I don't think for a minute that wolves are going to repopulate Iowa or Indiana or Illinois because people just won't let them," Mech said. While an occasional wolf from the region has been spotted as far away as New York state or Kentucky, he said, they get hit by cars or people shoot them.

The Humane Society of the United States, which filed the lawsuit, says the judge got the decision right. Wayne Pacelle, its president and CEO, said the researchers on the call were all proponents of wolf hunting and trapping. And he pointed out that this was the fourth time a federal judge had rebuffed the federal government's efforts to take the region's wolves off the endangered list.

"These were not people who've been on the sidelines for a while. These are people who've always been proponents of the trophy hunting and trapping of wolves," Pacelle said. "And they were undoubtedly on the other side of the three prior federal court cases. So this is 0-for-4 for them."

Gray wolves have been a flash point like no other animal that the government has tried to take off the endangered list, said Mike Phillips, executive director of the Turner Endangered Species Fund, who was project leader for wolf restoration in Yellowstone National Park.

"Because the law is a bit ambiguous, and because gray wolves are a very romanticized species, the whole thing is caught in a great deal of controversy and divisiveness that manifests itself in all these political theaters around the country," Phillips said.

Mech noted that Congress stepped in to take wolves in Idaho and Montana off the endangered list after the courts ruled that they should stay on. He said Congress might do the same thing for the Upper Midwest.

Pacelle acknowledged that that's a possibility. But he pointed out that Michigan voters decided last month to stop wolf hunting and trapping, and predicted that Minnesota and Wisconsin voters would do so if given the chance.

"The Congress is fully capable of engaging in unwarranted political interference in endangered species cases, but that should not be driving decision-making now," Pacelle said.

## Federal wildlife managers seek data on sage grouse

DENVER (AP) — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is asking Indian tribes, government agencies and others to submit information about conservation efforts for the greater sage grouse.

The service said Monday it needs the best data possible to make a decision on whether the bird warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Congress has barred the federal government from spending money on rules to protect the bird, but the Fish and Wildlife Service says it is still bound by a court order to reach a decision by September on whether a listing is warranted.

If wildlife managers determine the bird is heading toward possible extinction, they would be unable to intervene because of the spending restriction.

Greater sage grouse range across 11 Western states and two Canadian provinces.

## **SD 'jail garden' brings in bountiful harvest**

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) — Officials at the Pennington County Jail say their unique "jail garden" produced about 14,000 pounds of fruit and vegetables this year.

The garden is a plot of land in Box Elder that's tended to by inmates from the Pennington County Jail. The produce is donated to area charities. Some of it is sold to offset food expenses for jail inmates. Officials say the produce harvested this year was about four times as much as last year.

## **South Dakota inmate elves make toys for needy kids**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Some South Dakota prison inmates are working to bring cheer to needy children across the state.

Corrections officials say inmates crafted more than 1,950 wooden toys from scrap lumber in prison shops in Sioux Falls and Springfield. The toys are given to law enforcement agencies and various charitable organizations for distribution to underprivileged children.

Sioux Falls inmates also knitted more than 1,500 stocking caps that will go to children. And Springfield inmates refurbished more than 400 bicycles, which law enforcement agencies will deliver to kids.

## **Tribes tread carefully into marijuana discussions**

**FELICIA FONSECA, Associated Press**

**MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press**

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — The Navajo Nation had bitter debates when it was deciding whether to allow casinos on the reservation and if alcohol should be sold in them. The arguments focused on the revenue and jobs casinos and liquor could bring to a reservation where half the workforce is unemployed and most arrests and pervasive social ills are linked to alcohol abuse.

When the federal government announced this month that it would allow American Indian tribes to grow and sell marijuana, the same divisive discussions resurfaced. The tribal president's office talked of expanding crops to include pot for medicinal but not recreational use, while a tribal lawmaker quickly declared his opposition.

"Criminal activity is just going to go up more, and drug addiction is going to go up more, and everyone is going to be affected," said Edmund Yazzie, head of the Navajo Nation Council's Law and Order Committee.

The split reaction among Navajo leaders reflects divisions on reservations around the country. While the Navajo and a number of other tribes ultimately ventured into the casino business, many say they're inclined to avoid marijuana as a potential revenue booster amid deep sensitivity over rampant alcoholism, poverty, crime and joblessness on tribal lands.

Marijuana isn't tied to tribal culture, like tobacco commonly used in religious ceremonies, and any pot growing operation would run counter to the message that tribes have preached for decades that drugs and alcohol ruin lives, said Carl Artman, former U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs assistant secretary and member of the Oneida Tribe in Wisconsin.

"When you look at what tribes have to offer — from gaming to ecotourism to looking out over the Grand Canyon, just bringing people out on the reservation for art or culture — this is not one of the things they would normally want," Artman said. "It harkens back to something that's archaic and stereotypical as opposed to what the modern day Indian is about."

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But it has piqued the interest of some of the country's 566 federally recognized tribes, including tribes in Washington, the Dakotas, Connecticut and Colorado, as well as the Navajo Nation, which stretches into New Mexico, Utah and Arizona.

Lance Morgan, a member of the Winnebago Tribe who manages an Indian law firm in Nebraska, said he's had about a dozen requests from tribes looking for a legal framework for getting into the marijuana business. The overall poverty rate for American Indian and Alaska Natives in 2010 was 28 percent, according to Census data, but it can be much greater in individual tribal communities.

"It's something everyone is talking about," he said.

But he said tribes are treading carefully and believes most of them will decide against getting into the marijuana business.

Dave Archambault II, chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux in North Dakota and South Dakota, said his tribe might consider cultivating marijuana's non-intoxicating cousin, hemp, but the federal government would have to allow interstate transport for it to be a profitable venture. Hemp is used to make clothing, lotion and other products, but growing it is illegal under federal law.

"We've always thought we had the sovereign right" to grow marijuana, Archambault said. "But once you try to transport it interstate, federal law discourages it."

In Colorado and Washington state, which legalized recreational pot in 2012, some tribes got a head start on talks about marijuana sales.

The 1,100-member Suquamish Tribe near Seattle began considering the potential business opportunities in April. But Washington's liquor board, which regulates pot sales, initially said it wouldn't grant the tribe a license until federal officials clarified their position regarding pot on reservations.

Liquor board spokesman Brian Smith said the state will revisit the issue in light of the U.S. Justice Department's new policy.

North of Seattle, the Tulalip Tribe has voted to pursue discussions on allowing medical marijuana, tribal spokeswoman Niki Cleary said. The tribe's values have been evolving, she said, noting even a vote on medical pot would have resulted in an automatic "no" in the past.

The owner of one of the country's largest resort casinos, the Mohegan Tribe in Connecticut, didn't rule it out either. Spokesman Chuck Bunnell said the tribe is looking at opportunities to expand into new markets that would not jeopardize any current investments.

While the Justice Department provided a path for tribes to grow and sell marijuana, federal officials cautioned that they won't allow all tribal members to start pot businesses. Montana U.S. Attorney Mike Cotter, who helped craft the agency's policy, said federal law enforcement would respond if a tribal pot industry became linked with organized criminal elements, firearms, sales to minors or similar abuses — the same federal conditions laid out for states that have legalized the drug.

Among the questions tribes still have regarding the industry is whether limits would be placed on how much marijuana could be grown and sold, whether it can be transported off reservations and if taxes apply.

Yazzie, of the Navajo Nation law enforcement panel, said he would push his colleagues to say no to any marijuana sales or growth on the vast reservation.

He was among the most vocal lawmakers when the Tribal Council was deciding whether to allow alcohol at the tribe's first casino in New Mexico. He questioned his colleagues on whether money was more important than human life, considering most arrests for major incidents on the reservation involve alcohol.

The bill was decided by two votes in 2008 making casinos and a lake marina the only exceptions for alcohol sales and consumption on the otherwise dry reservation. Navajos twice voted against gambling

on the reservation before approving it in 2004.

"What is going on?" Yazzie said. "We're having bad issue problems with alcohol, and now if we legalize marijuana, it's just another fight."

## Avon woman dies in 2-vehicle crash near Tyndall

TYNDALL, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a South Dakota woman died in a two vehicle crash south of Tyndall, in Bon Homme County.

The Highway Patrol says 27-year-old Jimmi Van Gerpen, of Avon, died in the accident, which happened about 7:30 a.m. Sunday.

The patrol says Van Gerpen ran a stop sign and was struck by a Ford Ranger driven by 44-year-old Oscar Torres, of Tripp. Torres received minor injuries in the crash.

Authorities say Van Gerpen was not wearing a seatbelt.

## Native community mourns police shooting victim

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Members of Rapid City's Native American community are mourning the death of a man who was shot and killed by a police officer after allegedly attacking the officer with a knife.

A few dozen people gathered Sunday for prayer and song in front of a north side home where Allen Locke, 30, was killed. The state Department of Criminal Investigation is investigating the shooting.

Robin Page, a board member of Lakota Community Homes, where the shooting took place, was among the mourners. She told the group she hopes the incident sparks change in the community.

"We must find positive solutions to make sure this doesn't happen again," Page said.

Police said the incident occurred after Officer Anthony Meirose was called to the house Saturday evening because of a report of an unwanted person. Meirose shot Locke several times.

Rapid City Police Capt. Dan Rud said Locke was known to local law enforcement "through previous criminal contacts," but he wouldn't elaborate. He said those who believe race was a factor are wrong.

"The officer is white. The suspect is Native American, but it's not a race deal," Rud said. "This is based on criminal behavior and has nothing to do with race. If the police officer was Native American and the suspect was white, the result would have been the same thing."

The shooting happened about 24 hours after an anti-police brutality march, organized by American Indian Movement Grassroots, was held in Rapid City. The march was organized to draw attention to the often strained relationship between Native Americans and law enforcement.

It is the second fatal police shooting in Rapid City this year. Police in June shot and killed Harold Murphy, 35, who allegedly pulled a gun on a police officer as they wrestled in the parking lot of an apartment complex.

## South Dakota deputy among 19 Carnegie Heroes

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Hamlin County deputy who helped save a man and his 9-year-old son from drowning after their canoe capsized is among 19 people being honored by the Carnegie Heroes Fund Commission.

The hero awards were announced Monday and honor those who risk their lives for others.

Deputy Jon Barthel came to the rescue when a father and son fell into Lake Poinsett while trying to retrieve a football in April.

Dan Overbo and his son fell into the freezing water when their canoe tipped about 60 yards from

shore.

A neighbor heard their calls for help and alerted Barthel, who lives near the Overbos' lake home. Barthel ran to the scene, jumped into the water and pulled the father and son to shore.

## 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. N KOREA INTERNET SERVICE RETURNS AFTER OUTAGE

Key North Korean websites are back online after an hours-long shutdown that followed a U.S. vow to respond to a cyberattack on Sony Pictures that Washington blames on Pyongyang.

### 2. NYC MAYOR CALLS FOR PAUSE IN PROTESTS

Bill de Blasio, accused of creating mistrust that contributed to the execution of two officers, said it's time to support grieving families.

### 3. WHAT NEUROSCIENTISTS SAY ABOUT TORTURE'S EFFECTS

The harsh techniques the CIA used to interrogate terrorism suspects can leave long-term psychological scars, the scientists say.

### 4. DESPITE CHILD LABOR LAWS, SOME 500,000 HONDURAN KIDS WORK

About 15 percent of the youth population can be seen around Tegucigalpa filling bags of sand to sell, unloading trucks in the central market, peddling gum and cigarettes — or drugs.

### 5. THE BIG ISSUES OBAMA TACKLED IN 2014

The president made major moves on immigration, climate change and U.S.-Cuba relations, but also angered the GOP and suffered a crushing midterm election defeat.

### 6. WHY FORMER COP WASN'T CHARGED IN SHOOTING

A white Milwaukee police officer who was fired after the fatal shooting of a mentally ill black man in April won't face criminal charges, as prosecutors say he shot in self-defense.

### 7. WHO THE POPE ACCUSED OF 'SPIRITUAL ALZHEIMER'S'

Francis issues a blistering critique of Vatican bureaucracy, saying some lust for power while living hypocritical lives.

### 8. AT 89, NO CONFESSION TO 50-YEAR-OLD KILLINGS

Edgar Ray Killen, convicted in 2005 of the slayings of three civil rights workers, tells the AP he's a segregationist but bears no ill will toward blacks.

### 9. SANDRA THE ORANGUTAN GRANTED BASIC RIGHTS

The ape's attorney says the unprecedented ruling paves the way for the animal to be moved into a sanctuary after spending 20 years at the Buenos Aires Zoo.

### 10. WHICH SPORTS STORY TOPS AP'S YEAR-END LIST

The NFL's domestic violence trouble is selected the sports story of the year Tuesday in an annual vote conducted by The Associated Press.

## Jesus' birthplace grapples with modern traffic challenges

TIA GOLDENBERG, Associated Press

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP) — It's Christmas season and the little town of Bethlehem is jammed with a big-city problem: Traffic snarling streets everywhere, including around the church marking the spot where tradition says Jesus was born. The city is considering a dramatic solution to the problem — digging a tunnel under Manger Square.



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Traffic is a mess year-round. It may be the biblical town of grottos and shepherds' fields in the minds of many around the world, but Bethlehem is a modern densely populated town of 28,000 with a dizzying weave of small streets that practically guarantee traffic jams.

"Bethlehem is going through a crisis," said Anton Salman, a city councilor. "We think that the solution to this traffic is to build an underground passage between the two sides of the square."

Bethlehem's municipality hopes to eventually build several tunnels around the Palestinian city, where the urban development problems are myriad. Bethlehem is sandwiched on three sides by other towns. From the north and southeast, it is hemmed in by Israel's separation barrier and Jewish settlements, leaving it little choice but to build vertically.

It is also a main transit point for drivers between the northern and southern parts of the West Bank, compounding its congestion.

The area around the Nativity Church, built atop the site where Christians believe Jesus was born, is particularly busy, with a mix of tourists swarming the area and cars squeezing across the central Manger Square. Streets all around face a constant backlog because of traffic in the square, where beeping horns are heard as much as clanging church bells.

Even worse, during the holidays, the square is closed for annual events like the Christmas tree lighting and Christmas Eve celebrations, when it is thronged with revelers. That plunges traffic nearby deeper into chaos.

The plan proposes an 80-meter-long (260-foot long) tunnel passing under a narrow two-lane street that crosses Manger Square in front of the Nativity Church. The project would take about two years to complete and would cost \$4 million to \$5 million, with the Palestinian Authority pledging to foot the bill. If the plan is approved, construction could start next fall.

With the tunnel ensuring the flow of traffic, Manger Square would be closed to cars entirely under the plan and turned into a pedestrian expanse.

But the tunnel project could run aground before even breaking ground. The municipality would need to get a stamp of approval from the U.N.'s cultural agency UNESCO, which has listed the Nativity Church as a world heritage site and would want to ensure its protection. Junaid Sorosh-Wali, an official at UNESCO's Ramallah office, said the agency would study the plan once approached by Palestinian officials and then determine its position.

Also, because the tunnel would pass near church grounds, church officials from each of the three denominations that administer the site would need to be involved. Officials at the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Armenian churches did not return messages requesting comment.

And, as is always the case when excavating in the Holy Land, any significant archaeological finds could hamper progress on the project. To circumvent that, the study proposes digging a tunnel no deeper than 11 meters (33 feet). Anything of importance is usually buried further down, according to Mazen Karam, the director of the Bethlehem Development Foundation, a group that helped draft the tunnel study.

The city will also need to carve out a compensation plan for the businesses whose trade is disrupted by the tunnel construction.

For Karam, the tunnel is part of a series of projects meant to spruce up Bethlehem. His foundation has carried out work on cleaning up buildings in Manger Square and improving waste management in the city.

"If Joseph and Mary came back to Bethlehem, they would be shocked," he said. "Bethlehem doesn't deserve to be crowded with people and heavy traffic. It should be more open with wide spaces so people can go and enjoy the home of Jesus."

## AP News in Brief

### **Key North Korean websites back online after earlier shutdown amid tension over Sony hack**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Key North Korean websites were back online Tuesday after an hours-long shutdown that followed a U.S. vow to respond to a crippling cyberattack on Sony Pictures that Washington blames on Pyongyang.

The White House and the State Department declined to say whether the U.S. government was responsible for the Internet shutdown in one of the least-wired and poorest countries in the world.

Although North Korea is equipped for broadband Internet, only a small, approved segment of the population has any access to the World Wide Web. Few North Koreans have access to computers; those who do are typically able to connect only to a domestic Intranet.

Though it denies responsibility for the Sony hack, Pyongyang has called it a “righteous deed” and made clear its fury over “The Interview,” a comedy that depicts the assassination of the North’s authoritarian leader, Kim Jong Un, the head of a 1.2 million-man army and the focus of an intense cult of personality.

South Korean officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because of office rules, said the North’s official Korean Central News Agency and the Rodong Sinmun newspaper, which are the main channels for official North Korea news, had earlier been down. But the websites were back up later Tuesday. Among the posts glorifying the ruling Kim family was one about Kim Jong Un visiting a catfish farm.

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### **Women excised from public life, abused by Islamic State militants in Syria and Iraq**

BEIRUT (AP) — The gunmen came to the all-girls’ elementary school in the Iraqi city of Fallujah at midday with a special delivery: piles of long black robes with gloves and face veils, now required dress code for females in areas ruled by the Islamic State group.

“These are the winter version. Make sure every student gets one,” one of the men told a supervisor at the school earlier this month.

Extremists are working to excise women from public life across the territory controlled by the Islamic State group, stretching hundreds of kilometers (miles) from the outskirts of the Syrian city of Aleppo in the west to the edges of the Iraqi capital in the east.

The group has been most notorious for its atrocities, including the horrors it inflicted on women and girls from Iraq’s minority Yazidi community when its fighters overran their towns this year. Hundreds of Yazidi women and girls were abducted and given to extremists as slaves. A report by Amnesty International released Tuesday said the captives — including girls as young as 10-12 — endured torture, rape and sexual slavery, and that several abducted girls committed suicide.

In day-to-day life, the group has also dramatically hemmed in women’s lives across the Sunni Muslim heartland that makes up the bulk of Islamic State group territory, activists and residents say. Their movements are restricted and their opportunity for work has shrunk.

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## **New York police union leader ratchets up rhetoric to defend police after shooting deaths**

NEW YORK (AP) — Patrick Lynch was hollering.

Standing outside a Brooklyn hospital after the bodies of two slain police officers were taken away, the head of the nation's largest police union railed against Mayor Bill de Blasio for failing to support the rank-and-file, enabling protesters and creating a climate of mistrust that allowed the tragedy to happen.

"That blood on the hands starts at the steps of City Hall, in the office of the mayor," Lynch said. "After the funerals, those responsible will be called on the carpet and held accountable."

Such theatrics aren't new for the excitable, amped-up Lynch. But his ongoing war of words with the mayor in recent weeks is a notch up even for him.

Just days before Officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos were shot to death in their car, Lynch had suggested officers sign a petition barring the mayor from attending their funerals should they die on the job.

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## **NYC mayor, battered by criticism, calls for temporary halt to protests after officers killed**

NEW YORK (AP) — As the New York Police Department mourns two of its own, Mayor Bill de Blasio pleaded for a pause in protests and rancor amid a widening rift with those in a grieving force who accuse him of creating a climate of mistrust that contributed to the killings of two officers.

De Blasio called on Monday for a halt of political statements until after the funerals of the slain officers, an appeal to both sides in a roiling dispute centered on the deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of white police officers.

"We are in a very difficult moment. Our focus has to be on these families," de Blasio said at police headquarters. "I think it's a time for everyone to put aside political debates, put aside protests, put aside all of the things that we will talk about in all due time."

De Blasio's relations with the city's police unions have tumbled to an extraordinary new low following Saturday's shooting, an ambush the gunman claimed was retaliation for the police-involved deaths of Eric Garner in New York and Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

In a display of defiance, dozens of police officers turned their backs to de Blasio at the hospital where the officers died, and union leaders said the mayor had "blood on his hands" for enabling the protesters who have swept the streets of New York this month since a grand jury declined to indict an officer in Garner's chokehold death.

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## **Neuroscientists say torture leaves long-term psychological scars**

WASHINGTON (AP) — At times, waterboarding rendered al-Qaida terror suspect Abu Zubaydah hysterical. But later, a message to CIA headquarters described an interrogator merely lifting his eyebrow and snapping his fingers, leading Zubaydah to "slowly (walk) on his own to the water table" to lie down.

The Senate torture report released earlier this month describes how the CIA's harsh interrogation program sought to make detainees passive and powerless to resist, using techniques from sleep deprivation to stress positions to waterboarding to induce a state that psychologists call "learned helplessness." "Compliant" was the interrogators' description of Zubaydah.

Whatever it's labeled, specialists say the brain clearly can become conditioned by extreme fear and stress, notwithstanding CIA assertions that what was done would not cause any permanent mental or physical harm.

In that Senate report are "dramatic examples that clearly indicate that people are going to be damaged psychologically for a very long time," said Dr. Vincent Iacopino, an adviser to the nonprofit Physicians for Human Rights who has long treated survivors of torture from around the world.

He ticked off a list: post-traumatic stress disorder, other anxiety disorders, depression, enduring personality changes.

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## **Cuba says anything up for discussion with Washington, except asylum for US fugitives**

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba's point person on U.S. relations says anything is up for discussion as the two countries move to re-establish diplomatic ties, from anti-drug cooperation to joint environmental agreements.

But there's at least one area where Cuba appears unwilling to budge: Asylum for fugitives whom the U.S. has long sought to extradite from the communist-run country.

"Every nation has sovereign and legitimate rights to grant political asylum to people it considers to have been persecuted," the Cuban Foreign Ministry's head of North American affairs, Josefina Vidal, told The Associated Press.

"We've explained to the U.S. government in the past that there are some people living in Cuba to whom Cuba has legitimately granted political asylum," Vidal said, noting also that the two countries have no extradition treaty in effect.

Vidal's comments in a Monday interview were the clearest sign yet that Cuba has no intention of extraditing America's most-wanted woman, Joanne Chesimard, following a historic detente announced by last week by President Barack Obama and Raul Castro of Cuba.

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## **Balancing homework with grown up jobs: about 15 percent of Honduran children are employed**

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Roberto Castellanos has the hands of a construction worker and the homework of a 6th grader.

Roberto, who just turned 12, spends eight hours a day at a repair shop, sanding and painting ice cream carts for the daily pay of \$2.50 in Honduran lempiras. When classes resume after the Christmas holidays, he says, he will cut back to five hours at the shop so that he can go to school in the afternoon and, hopefully, still have time to play soccer on the weekend.

"My life is organized. I work in the day and study at night," Roberto says.

Wise beyond his years, Roberto says he knows that many people consider child labor to be exploitation, but he sees it as opportunity — a means to survive the gang-controlled capital of a country with the world's highest homicide rate.

"Here, every day that passes is another day I am alive," Roberto says.

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## **Family looks to federal investigation after Milwaukee prosecutor declines charges in shooting**

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Family members of a Milwaukee man shot and killed by a city police officer say they aren't giving up hope that the officer will be charged.

Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm announced Monday that former Officer Christopher Manney, who is white, acted in self-defense when he shot Dontre Hamilton, who is black, 14 times in April. But later in the day, U.S. Attorney James Santelle announced that the Department of Justice, his office and the FBI will review whether Manney violated federal civil rights laws.

Nate Hamilton, Dontre Hamilton's brother, said the family hopes federal investigators can take a more objective look at the case than Milwaukee authorities.

The Hamilton family led about 100 protesters through downtown intersections Monday. The march was peaceful, and the family says more actions are planned Tuesday.

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## **A look at North Korea's Internet in wake of temporary shutdown amid Sony hacking tensions**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — An hours-long Internet outage Tuesday in one of the world's least-wired countries was probably more inconvenient to foreigners than to North Korean residents, most of whom have never gone online. Even for wired Koreans south of the heavily armed border separating the rivals, the temporary outage made little difference — southerners are banned by law from accessing North Korean websites.

While North Korea tightly controls its citizens' activities, especially their access to information on the outside world, it does have a cyberspace. Here's a look at North Korea's unique broadband and mobile Internet, the country's use of email and its tightly controlled use of a domestic Intranet.

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## **Proposed Manger Square tunnel looks to tame Bethlehem's snarling traffic**

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP) — It's Christmas season and the little town of Bethlehem is jammed with a big-city problem: Traffic snarling streets everywhere, including around the church marking the spot where tradition says Jesus was born. The city is considering a dramatic solution to the problem — digging a tunnel under Manger Square.

Traffic is a mess year-round. It may be the biblical town of grottos and shepherds' fields in the minds of many around the world, but Bethlehem is a modern densely populated town of 28,000 with a dizzying weave of small streets that practically guarantee traffic jams.

"Bethlehem is going through a crisis," said Anton Salman, a city councilor. "We think that the solution to this traffic is to build an underground passage between the two sides of the square."

Bethlehem's municipality hopes to eventually build several tunnels around the Palestinian city, where the urban development problems are myriad. Bethlehem is sandwiched on three sides by other towns. From the north and southeast, it is hemmed in by Israel's separation barrier and Jewish settlements, leaving it little choice but to build vertically.

It is also a main transit point for drivers between the northern and southern parts of the West Bank, compounding its congestion.

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## Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 23, the 357th day of 2014. There are eight days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 23, 1954, the first successful human kidney transplant took place at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston as a surgical team led by Dr. Joseph Murray removed a kidney from 23-year-old Ronald Herrick and implanted it in Herrick's twin brother, Richard, who was dying of chronic nephritis. (Because the donor and recipient were identical twins, tissue rejection was not an issue. Richard Herrick lived until 1962; Ronald Herrick died in 2010.)

### On this date:

In 1788, Maryland passed an act to cede an area "not exceeding ten miles square" for the seat of the national government; about 2/3 of the area became the District of Columbia.

In 1823, the poem "Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas" was published anonymously in the Troy (N.Y.) Sentinel; the verse, more popularly known as "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," was later attributed to Clement C. Moore.

In 1893, the Engelbert Humperdinck opera "Haensel und Gretel" was first performed, in Weimar, Germany.

In 1913, the Federal Reserve System was created as President Woodrow Wilson signed the Federal Reserve Act.

In 1928, the National Broadcasting Company set up a permanent, coast-to-coast network.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt restored the civil rights of about 1,500 people who'd been jailed for opposing the (First) World War.

In 1941, during World War II, American forces on Wake Island surrendered to the Japanese.

In 1948, former Japanese premier Hideki Tojo and six other Japanese war leaders were executed in Tokyo.

In 1953, the Soviet Union announced the execution of Lavrentiy Beria, former head of the secret police, for treason.

In 1968, 82 crew members of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo were released by North Korea, 11 months after they had been captured.

In 1972, in football's "Immaculate Reception," Franco Harris of the Pittsburgh Steelers caught a pass thrown by Terry Bradshaw and scored a touchdown after the ball was deflected during a collision between Jack Tatum of the Oakland Raiders and the Steelers' John Fuqua; the Steelers won, 13-7.

In 1986, the experimental airplane Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, completed the first non-stop, non-refueled round-the-world flight as it returned safely to Edwards Air Force Base in California.

**Ten years ago:** Democrat Christine Gregoire won the Washington governor's race over Republican Dino Rossi by 130 votes out of 2.9 million ballots cast, according to final recount results announced from Seattle's King County. Former Connecticut Gov. John G. Rowland pleaded guilty to a corruption charge (he was later sentenced to a year and a day in federal prison; he served 10 months). Assaultants claiming to be members of a revolutionary group opposed to the death penalty ambushed a bus in Honduras, killing 28 people, including six children. Two men were convicted in Houston for their role in a smuggling attempt that resulted in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants crammed in a tractor-trailer. (Fredy Giovanni Garcia-Tobar was later sentenced to 15 years in prison; Victor Jesus Rodriguez, to 20 years and seven months.)

**Five years ago:** Richard and Mayumi Heene (HEE'-nee), the parents who'd pulled the "balloon boy"

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hoax in hopes of landing a reality TV show, were sentenced by a judge in Fort Collins, Colorado, to jail (90 days for him, 20 days for her). Gary Patterson, who'd guided TCU to its best season in 70 years, became the first Associated Press Coach of the Year from outside the six conferences with automatic BCS bids. Yitzhak Ahronovitch, captain of the Exodus during a 1947 attempt to take Holocaust survivors to Palestine, died in northern Israel at age 86.

**One year ago:** The last two imprisoned members of the Russian punk band Pussy Riot (Maria Alekhina and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova) were given amnesty and set free after spending nearly two years in prison for a protest at Moscow's main cathedral. Auburn's Gus Malzahn was honored as The Associated Press national coach of the year. Mikhail Kalashnikov, 94, designer of the AK-47 assault rifle, died in Izhevsk, Russia.

**Today's Birthdays:** Former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is 96. Actor Gerald S. O'Loughlin is 93. Actor Ronnie Schell is 83. Emperor Akihito of Japan is 81. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Paul Hornung is 79. Actor Frederic Forrest is 78. Actor James Stacy is 78. Rock musician Jorma Kaukonen is 74. Rock musician Ron Bushy is 73. Actor-comedian Harry Shearer is 71. U.S. Army Gen. Wesley K. Clark (ret.) is 70. Actress Susan Lucci is 68. Singer-musician Adrian Belew is 65. Rock musician Dave Murray (Iron Maiden) is 58. Actress Joan Severance is 56. Singer Terry Weeks is 51. Rock singer Eddie Vedder (Pearl Jam) is 50. The former first lady of France, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, is 47. Rock musician Jamie Murphy is 39. Jazz musician Irvin Mayfield is 37. Actress Estella Warren is 36. Actress Anna Maria Perez de Tagle (TAG'-lee) is 24. Actor Spencer Daniels (TV: "Mom") is 22.

**Thought for Today:** "If you want to do things, do things." - Grace Paley, American writer (1922-2007).