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#C Doors
Aberdeen 225-3631

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Russell D Holtey - Owner

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

#### 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 Luthean 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.

Birthday: Ben Peterson

#### Saturday, December 27

GBB at Parkston Classic

**Birthdays:** Rayne Baker • Raymond Alberts

1:00pm: James lowery birthday

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

Mass

Sunday, December 28

#### 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.

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Brodey Lord, son of Randy and Alyssa Lord, Groton. Christmas means Christmas carols and family.



Addison Hoffman, daughter of Josie Hoffman, Groton. Christmas means family and Jesus' birthday.

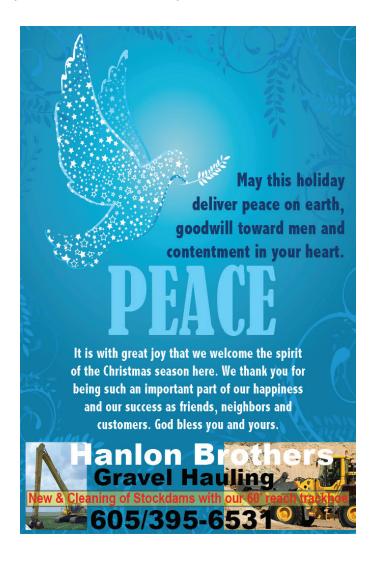


Aiden Strom, son of Dwight and Eugenia of Judy and Gene Strom, Groton. Christmas means Santa, presents and elves.



Colt Williamson, son Williamson, Bristol. Christmas means presents.





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Evan Jacobson, son of Clint and Marga- son of Travis McGanret Jacobson, Groton. Christmas is about estad, Bristol, Christ-Jesus. The baby Jesus mas means family and was born on Christ- friends. mas.



Dylan McGannon, non and Sarah Sigd-



Jayden Helvig, son of Aaron and Jill Helvig, Aberdeen. Christmas is about being thankful.



Carlee Johnson, daughter of Reid and Nicole Johnson, Groton. Christmas is when Jesus was born.





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Claire Schuelke, daughter of Austin and Deb Schuelke, Groton. Christmas is about family, friends and the baby Jesus.



Ryder Jangula, son of Carla Jangula and Jerrald Jangula, Groton. Christmas is about presents and elves.

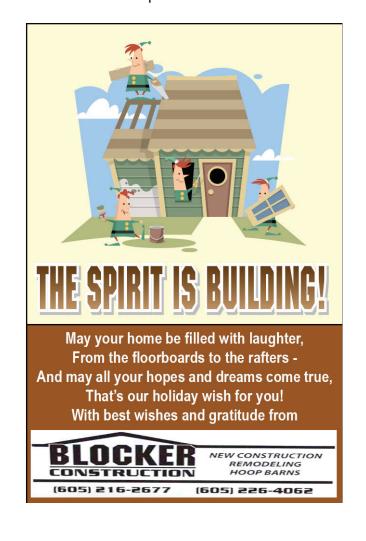


Keira Weismantel, Kandi Weismantel, Jesus' birthday.



Oliver Anderson, son daughter of Carl and of Meredith Anderson and Ron Gubin, Groton. We celebrate Groton. Christmas is about ornaments, presents and opening presents.





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Blake Lord, son of Christmas!



Cassidy Guthmill-Lord, Groton. Santa and Tina Guthmiller, brings presents. I love Groton. Christmas is about opening presents.

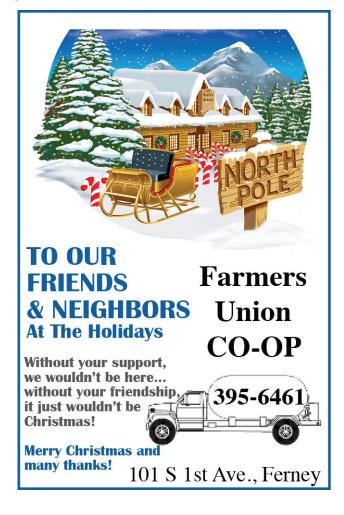


Gavin Kroll, son of Randy and Alyssa er, daughter of Joel John and Katie Kroll, daughter of Jim and Bath. Christmas is Mendy Jones, Groton. about staying home Christmas is about with my family and family - we light the go to my grandma's tree. house. I play with cousins.



Emerlee Jones,





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Jeran Hughes, son when Jesus was born presents and Santa. and I get presents.



Ingland Paggett, of Jeremy and Ja- daughter of Amannae Hughes, Groton. da Paggett, Groton. Christmas is about Christmas is about



Caroline Bahr, Rachel Bahr, Bristol. Santa gives me pres-



Brenna Imrie, daughter of Brian and daughter of Mike and Dawn Imrie, Groton. Christmas is about family - we get to be together. Jesus has a birthday.



With Bright Wishes at Yuletide May your holiday be as bright, As the Yuletide log in the fire's light, And when at last the fire's gone May our best wishes linger on!



Lance Frohling Groton Location Manager 605/397-2671 frohlingl@fullcircleag.com



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Liza Krueger, daugh-Amy Krueger, Gro-Santa gives us presents. I decorate my tree.



Kira Clocksens, ter of Jeremy and daughter of Alicia and Brandon Clocksene, ton. Christmas is when Groton. It is Jesus' birthday. We get together with our fami-



Kella Tracy, daughter of Ryan and Carla Tracy, Groton. Christmas is about my family Jesus' birthday.



Teagan Hanten, daughter of Cody and Sarah Hanten, Groton. Christmas is about and Mrs. Swisher. It is Jesus and God. It's about our family and friends.



With Bright Wishes at Yuletide May your holiday be as bright, As the Yuletide log in the fire's light, And when at last the fire's gone May our best wishes linger on!



Lance Frohling Groton Location Manager 605/397-2671 frohlingl@fullcircleag.com



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McKenna Tietz, Avery Crank, daugh-



Ashlynn Warrington, daughter of Jason and of Michelle Kramer Robyn Warrington, and Dale Kramer. Groton. Christmas is Christmas is a bout my a bout playing in the family and presents. snow and decorating the tree.



Skyler Kramer, son





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ReAnn Dennert, is when we open presents and watch movies.



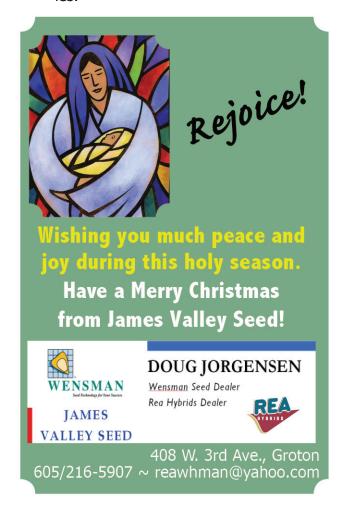
Zander Harry, son daughter of Corey of Steve and Zenaida and Carrie Dennert, Harry, Ferney. Christ-Jesus' birthday.



Walker Zoellner, son of Darin and Anne daughter of Evan Zoellner, Groton. Columbia. Christmas mas is jolly. It is about Christmas is about presents and opening them.



Addison Crosby, Crosby, Groton. Santa comes and he gives you presents.





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Halee Harder daughter of TJ and Marcy Harder, Groton. We have a big party at my house and the next day, we have a big party at my friend's house. We get together with all the Kroll family.



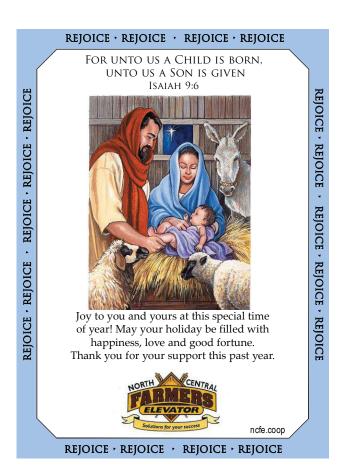
Hayden Zoellner, son of Joel and Lynn Zoellner, Groton. Christmas means presents.

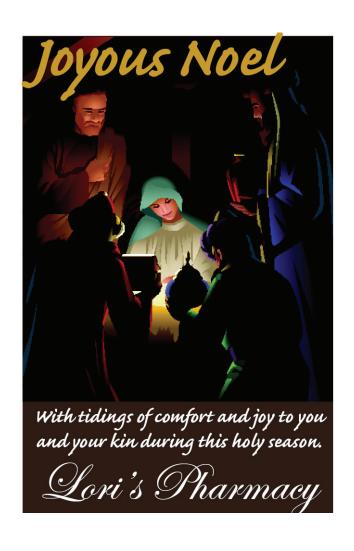


Jackson Hopfinger, son of Amanda son of BJ and Alicia presents, Christmas presents and Santa. trees, toys and Santa.



Logan Clocksene, Schwartz, Conde. Clocksene, Groton. Christmas is about Christmas is about





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of Brad and Michelle Pauli, Columbia. We want an Xbox 360. celebrate about Jesus' birthday. We gather around the Christmas tree and sing songs about Christmas.

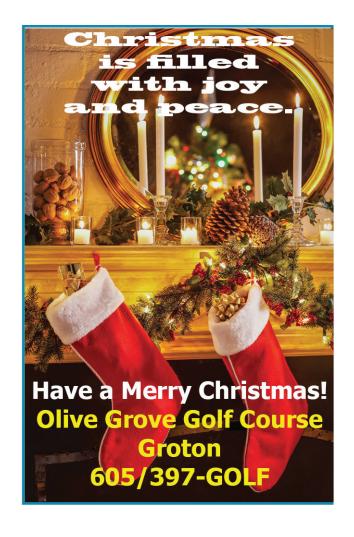


Toby Dobbins, son Hailey Pauli, daughter of Perryn and Angela Dobbins, Groton. I



Maggie Cleveland, daughter of Justin and Gretchen Cleveland, Groton. Christmas is about my family. There are presents.





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#### **Christmas Lighting Winners**

1st Place- Rick & Sherry Koehler (801 N 3rd St)

2nd Place- Roger & Marjorie Overacker (603 E 5th Ave)

3rd Place- Brett & Anna Schwan (237 E 2nd Ave) Honorable Mention- City of Groton (Main St)

**Coffee Cup** 

Team Standings: Golden Girls 4, James Valley 3, Farm Girls 3, Ten Pins 1, Jungle Lanes 1, Ken's 0.

High Games: Vicki Walter 205, Joyce Walter 171 and 166, Penny Stolle 164.

High Series: Joyce Walter 487, Vicki Walter 475, Penny Stolle 436.

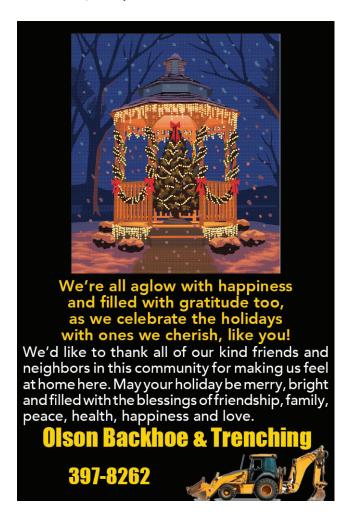
#### **Conde National**

Team Standings: Giants 26.5, Mets 22.5, Cubs 22, Pirates 21.5, Colts 21.5, Braves 18.

Men's High Games: Cliff Kuckelburg 255, 228 and 187; Lance Frohling 213 and 190; Chad Furney 182. Men's High Series: Cliff Kuckelburg 670, Lance Frohling 544, Chad Furney 479, Bryce Dargatz 479. Women's High Games: Breanna Kuckelburg 246 and 198, Mary Larson 202, Michelle Johnson 194.

Women's High Series: Breanna Kuckelburg 615, Joyce Walter 513, Mary Larson 512.





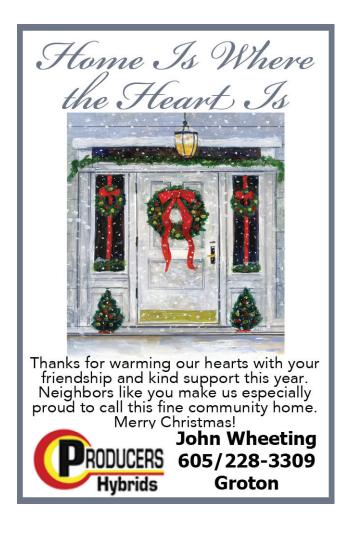
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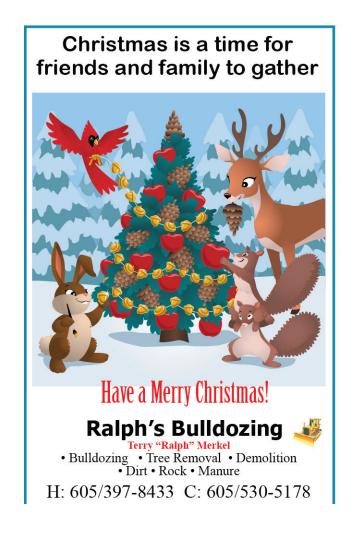


South Dakota has long recognized rail as a significant component of our state's transportation system. South Dakota exports most of the grain we produce, and our farmers, ranchers and processing facilities rely almost entirely on railroads to move agricultural products out of state.

It's no secret that the state's railroads have struggled to keep up with the volume of commodities our farmers need to move to market. The problem is a result of many factors: cold weather, back-to-back record harvests, the sale of the former DM&E line, increased shipping of oil by rail, and others.

Faced with significant shipping challenges, South Dakotans are stepping up. The Dakota & Iowa, Da-





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kota Missouri Valley & Western, RCP&E, and Dakota Southern railroads have committed a total of \$10.3 million for improvements on South Dakota rail lines. Farmers and other private citizens have donated \$1 million of their own money for rail projects. South Dakota also recently received a federal grant of \$12.7 million for rail improvements.

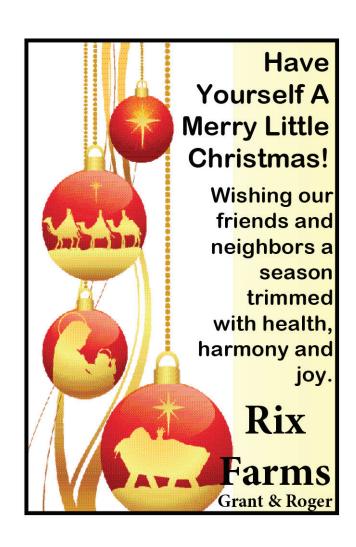
All these contributions, combined with \$23.2 million in state loans and grants, have allowed us to improve our rail infrastructure across the state. These upgrades have resulted in at least \$80 million in additional private investments in grain handling facilities.

Every one of these projects is a partnership between state government and private investors, and we need more projects like this to improve our state's rail infrastructure.

On Dec. 16 I announced that I have set aside \$4 million of Future Funds to incent additional rail investments by private entities. Since then, we have already been contacted by several interested parties. Still, we are interested in finding additional partners to invest in South Dakota rail, so send us your ideas. Those interested in applying can submit proposals to the state Department of Transportation at 700 E. Broadway Ave. in Pierre.

Thanks to all our partners working to improve rail in South Dakota. The investments we make today will have a positive impact for decades to come and give our farmers better access to worldwide markets.





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#### **Sidebar**

(A weekly column on legal matters for South Dakota citizens) By: Roger Baron, Professor of Law, and Sarah Baron Houy, Esq.

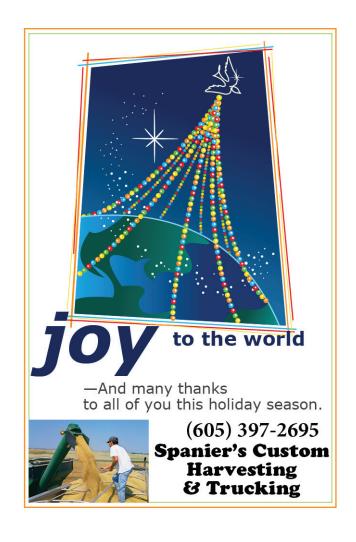
#### **Division of Property**

One of the functions of the divorce court is to "divide property" owned by the parties. This is not always an easy function, especially when the parties have a fair amount of debt. There is no requirement that the property be divided equally or fifty-fifty, but an equal division is typically the most "equitable" division of property.

South Dakota is considered to be an "all property" jurisdiction which, as explained by the South Dakota Supreme Court, means "all property of either or both divorcing spouses is subject to equitable division by the court, regardless of title or origin." This unique aspect of South Dakota law is dictated by statute. The prevailing view (followed elsewhere than in South Dakota) protects each party's ownership of separate non-marital items of property – typically described as property owned by the party before marriage, property acquired by gift, devise or descent, and compensation for personal injuries sustained during the marriage.

There is little statutory guidance regarding how property is to be divided in South Dakota. The statute simply states, "In making such division of property the court shall have regard for the equity and





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circumstances of the parties." The South Dakota Supreme Court, however, has established several common law factors that must be considered by trial courts in making the alimony determination. These factors, now well-entrenched in South Dakota law, are: 1) duration of the marriage; 2) value of the property; 3) age and health of the parties; 4) the parties' competency to earn a living; 5) the contribution of each party to accumulation of the property; and 6) the income-producing capacity of the parties' assets.

Many issues regarding "division of property" have been addressed by the South Dakota Supreme Court. It isn't possible to present them all in a column of this nature, but a few principles are worth mentioning. The trial court is required to itemize and place a value on all property owned by the parties. Furthermore, the trial court is required to determine the status of all items of property as either separate or marital (even though the trial court is granted authority to award separate property owned by one party to the other spouse). Failure to make these findings is reversible error. If there are minor children, the courts will make an effort to award the marital home to the custodial parent, if feasible. Retirement plans are typically the most valuable assets of the parties and special procedures have been developed for dividing them.

NOTE: Statements and opinions set forth by Prof. Baron are his views as an individual and do not reflect the views of the University of South Dakota.

TOPICS: Readers may suggest topics by emailing to Roger.Baron@usd.edu.

Authorities: SDCL 25-4-44; Saint-Pierre v. Saint-Pierre, 357 N.W.2d 250 (S.D. 1984); Radigan v Radigan, 465 N.W.2d 483 (S.D. 1991); Grode v. Grode, 543 N.W.2d 795 (S.D. 1996); Midzak v. Midzak, 2005 SD 58.



In warm appreciation during the past year, we extend our very best wishes for a happy holiday season.



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# THINKING ABOUT OR PLANNING TO BUILD A HOME IN THE COUNTRY? YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS EVENT.

Join Farm Credit Services of America at BuildingOn® on Monday, January 5 in Watertown from 5:30-7:30 p.m. or Tuesday, January 6 in Aberdeen from 5:30-7:30 p.m. We'll share information and resources to help you make informed, confident decisions. Some of the topics to be discussed are considerations for country home construction, the construction loan and funding process, requirements and timing – from pre-application to final disbursement and explanations of commonly heard home financing terms.

Call or email Matt or Kathy to register.



Matt Lindgren Country Home Loan Officer NMLS #614225 605-882-4030



Kathy Holm Country Home Loan Specialist NMLS # 1174536 605-225-1030 kathy holm@fcsamerica.com





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## Roncalli boys beat Groton Area

It was a close first quarter, but then Roncalli powered in 31 points in the second quarter to take command of the game as the Cavaliers defeated Groton, 74-43.

Roncalli held an 18-15 first quarter lead, but then upped it to 49-26 at half time and 62-34 at the end of the third quarter.

Kyler Ell led the Tigers with 14 points followed by Lucas Sternhagen with nine, Hunter Lerew had seven, Spencer Knecht six, Chance Strom three and Gabe Dohman and Sean Schuring each had two points.

Five players hit double figures for Roncalli with Brayden McNeary leading the way with 16 points followed by Sam Reynen and Guss Reede with 13 each, Landon Hoellein had 11, Zach Hammrich had 10, Daniel Holmstrom six, Jayden Everson four and Sam Van Orman added a free throw.

Roncalli made 47 percent of its field goals while Groton made 32 percent. The Cavaliers were 14 of 19 from the line for 74 percent off of Groton's 17 team fouls. Groton was five of 10 from the line off of Roncalli's 13 team fouls.

Roncalli had more assists, 14-8, with Sternhagen having three for Groton and Holstrom and McNeary each had five for Roncalli. Roncalli controlled the boards, 31-20, with Ell having four for Groton and Hammrich having eight for Roncalli.

Groton had 19 turnovers, 15 of which were steals. Roncalli had nine turnovers, four of which were steals. Roncalli had four blocks with Hammirch having two and Groton had one block by Lerew.

Roncalli won the junior varsity game, 52-28. Seric Shabazz led Groton with 13 points followed by Adam Herman with six, Bennett Shabazz had five, Sean Schuring and Luke Thorson each had two and Frankie Wuestewald added one free throw. Connor Fiedler led Roncalli with 18 points.



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GROTON AREA	TO	r-FG	3-	PΤ	PT REBOUNDS											
NO PLAYER		FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	А	ТО	ВК	S	MIN
4 Sternhagen, Lucas	* 3	6	3	4	0	0	0	1	1	3	9	3	6	0	0	8
10 Knecht, Spencer	* 3	7	0	2	0	0	1	3	4	1	6	2	4	0	2	8
12 Ell, Kyler	* 6	15	2	6	0	0	0	4	4	4	14	1	1	0	2	8
32 Dohman, Gabe	* 0	3	0	0	2	4	0	3	3	2	2	0	3	0	0	8
40 Lerew, Hunter	* 2	7	0	0	3	4	0	3	3	2	7	0	0	1	0	16
3 Schuring, Sean	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	24
5 Shabazz, Seric	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
14 Herman, Adam	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
22 Shabazz, Bennett	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	2	3	0	0	32
24 Strom, Chance	1	6	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	8
30 Larson, Landon	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	8
	-	_	•	-	Ŭ	-	-	0	0	1	0	-	-	-	-	16
42 Larson, Wyatt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			Τ	U	0	0	0	0	Τ 0
TEAM REBOUNDS	1.0	4.0	_	1.0	_	1.0	0	0	0	1 -	4.0	0	0	-1	4	1.60
Team Totals	16	49	6	18	5	10	1	20	21	17	43	8	19	1	4	160
Total FG% - 1st: 9/22	0.40	) 9 2	2nd:	7/	27	0.2	259	Game	e: (	0.32	27			D∈	eadl	oall
3-PT FG% - 1st: 5/11	0.4		2nd:		./7	0.1		Game		33						unds
Total FT% - 1st: 3/4	0.7		2nd:		2/6	0.333		Game: 0.500							, 4)	
10041 110 100: 0,1	<b>.</b> , ,		-11·G•	_	., 0	0.0	, , ,	oame	•		5 0				(0)	, -,
NO PLAYER	P FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	А	TO	ВK	S	MIN
3 Reynen, Sam	* 5	8	1	2	2	2	0	5	5	0	13	1	0	0	0	8
5 Holmstrom, Daniel	* 2	5	1	3	1	2	0	4	4	3	6	5	2	1	6	16
23 McNeary, Brayden	* 7	12	1	5	1	2	1	4	5	1	16	5	1	0	4	8
34 Hoellein, Landon	* 4	6	0	0	3	3	1	3	4	3	11	2	0	1	1	8
50 Hammrich, Zach	* 4	8	0	0	2	4	3	5	8	2	10	1	1	2	0	0
4 Reede, Gus	3	9	3	8	4	4	0	2	2	0	13	0	0	0	1	24
10 Everson, Jayden	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	4	0	3	0	2	16
13 Fiedler, Conner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	8
20 Karst, Logan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
21 Van Orman, Sam	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
22 Holzer, Eric	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
24 Cox, Colton	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	24
32 Hauge, Bailey	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33 Heier, Bronson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
42 Schaefbauer, Spencer	-	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	16
44 Deutsch, Conner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
TEAM REBOUNDS	O	U	O	O	O	O	0	0	0	O	O	O	0	O	O	0
Team Totals	27	57	6	21	1 /	19	6	31		1 2	74	1 /	9	1	1 5	160
Team Totals	27	57	ю	Z I	14	19	О	31	3 /	13	/4	14	9	4	13	100
Total FG% - 1st: 17/32	0.53	31 2	2nd:	10	/25	0.4	100	Game	e: (	.47	7 4			De	eadl	oall
3-PT FG% - 1st: 5/14			2nd:		./7		43	Game		.28				Re	eboi	ınds
Total FT% - 1st: 10/12			2nd:		1/7	0.5		Game		.73						,1)
					,										, - 1	
SCORE BY PERIODS		1st	t	2nd	ł.	3rc	d	4th	TO	OTAI	L					
G	roton	15	5	11		8		9		43						
Ron	calli	18	3	31		13	3	12		74						

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GROTON AREA JV	TOT	3-PT														
NO PLAYER	P FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	ΤP	Α	TO	BK	S	MIN
3 Schuring, Sean	* 1	6	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	3	1	1	24
5 Shabazz, Seric	* 4	9	0	1	4	6	1	2	3	1	12	0	4	0	4	24
14 Herman, Adam	* 3	7	0	0	0	0	4	2	6	2	6	0	1	0	0	24
22 Shabazz, Bennett	* 2	7	0	3	1	4	0	1	1	3	5	0	5	0	5	8
42 Thorson, Luke	* 1	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	0	3	0	1	8
4 Sippel, Anthony	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	8
10 Lane, Marshall	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
12 Wuestewald, Frankie	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	16
30 Oliver, Jackson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32 Webb, Turner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
34 Thurston, Mitchell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
40 Rogers, Truitt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
50 Dobbins, Doug	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
TEAM REBOUNDS							0	0	0				0			
Team Totals	11	35	0	7	6	14	6	11	17	11	28	1	19	1	11	160
Total FG% - 1st: 5/15	0.33	33 3	2nd:	6/	20	0.3	200	Game	. (	.31	1 /1			De	a dl	oall
3-PT FG% - 1st: 0/3	0.00		2nd:		/4		000			0.00						unds
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4 Reede, Gus	* 2	8	2	6	0	0	0	1	1	0	6	2	2	0	1	16
13 Fiedler, Connor	* 9	10	0	0	0	3	4	2	6	4	18	0	2	1	1	8
20 Karst, Logan	* 1	2	1	2	0	2	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	1	6	8
21 Van Orman, Sam	* 0	3	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	3	0	4	0	0	1	16
33 Heier, Bronson	* 4	5	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	8	0	3	0	0	0
3 Traphagen, Tyler	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	1	8
4 Morgan, Brady	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	16
22 Holzer, Eric	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	16
24 Cox, Colton	1	2	0	0	3	5	1	5	6	2	5	0	4	0	0	16
32 Hauge, Bailey	0	5	0	3	0	0	2	1	3	2	0	3	0	0	0	32
44 Deutsch, Connor	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	4	5	3	4	0	0	0	0	24
TEAM REBOUNDS							0	0	0				0			
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	HS JV							8		28						
Roncal								13								

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#### **Academic All-State Volleyball**

The 2014 Academic All-State Volleyteam has been annouced.

Groton placed four on the team: Courtney Kurtz, Kasey Waage, Sydney Thorson and Taylor Gustafosn.

Others in the are on the team are:

Deuel: Jenny Mueller

Redfield-Doland: Danielle Levtzow, Jordanne Howe and Marlee Mack. Milbank: Kaley Withers, McKenzie Mertens and Mikayla Wendland.

Webster: Kayla Paszek, Madison Koslowski, Taylor Sinner and Whitney Keller.

Sisseton: Abby Drew and Savannah McDaniel.

Aberdeen Roncalli: Hailey Kline, Mackenzie Martin and Nicole Outka.

Clark-Willow Lake: Jill Warkenthien, Mackenzie Huber, Mikayla Prouty and Morgan Nelson.

Warner: Ashley Rozell and Kaitlyn Boesl.

Northwestern: Christine Morgan, Haley Grandpre, Jordon Peterson and Julia Sparling.

Kari Jung of Warner was named the Region 1 Coach of the Year. Nancy Paulson of Milbank was named the Class A JV Coach of the Year and Doug Duncan of Northwestern was named the Class B Coach of the Year. Tylor Rozell of Warner was named the JH/MS Coach of the Year.

**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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**Today in Weather History** 

1973: Snow ranging from four to nine inches fell over most of the eastern third of South Dakota into west central Minnesota on the 14th, causing hazardous driving conditions.

1985: Snow fell over western South Dakota on December 23, with the greatest amounts in the northern Black Hills. Strong winds gusting to 50-60 mph developed over the western part of the state on the evening of December 23rd and continued into the morning of the 24th, with gusts to above 40 mph in the east. The winds caused ground blizzard conditions in the northern and central sections of South Dakota, and many vehicles were reported in ditches. Many people were stranded for a time in Martin in Bennett County. Several roads were completely blocked during this time, such as Highway 248 near Murdo in Jones County.

1992: A deep area of low pressure traveled across the United States/Canada border, dragging a cold front southward across South Dakota and Minnesota by Christmas Day. Southerly winds gusted up to 50 mph over western Minnesota on the 23rd in advance of the storm, causing ground blizzard conditions. As the arctic cold front swept across the area, temperatures tumbled from the 20s and 30s to well below zero by Christmas morning. Wind gusts were up to 50 mph behind the front, causing ground blizzard conditions and wind chill readings from 40 to 60 degrees below zero. A church that was un-

der construction in Litchfield in Meeker County, Minnesota was destroyed by strong winds. Many motorists were stranded on Christmas Eve and spent the night at area homes and motels. Interstate 94 from Alexandria to Moorhead, MN was closed for nearly eight hours. High winds gusted up to 55 mph in the Watertown, SD area, causing a steel frame building under construction to collapse sometime between 9 and 10 pm CST.

2009: A broad upper level low pressure area over the Upper Midwest associated with an intense surface low pressure area brought widespread heavy snow along with blizzard conditions to central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. The storm was a slow mover and produced several rounds of snow over a three-day period. Total snowfall amounts were from 7 to as much as 25 inches. The heavy snow combined with winds of 25 to 40 mph with gusts to 50 mph brought widespread blowing and drifting snow with visibilities frequently less than a quarter of a mile. This blizzard ranked in the top three for South Dakota snowfall with a state average of 15.4 inches. Most of the state received 10 inches of snowfall or more with many locations with 20 inches or more. Pollock in north central South Dakota set an all time high threeday snowfall total with 17 inches. Prior to the

### 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



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

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onset of the storm, the Governor declared a state of emergency for South Dakota. Large portions of both Interstates 29 and 90 across South Dakota were closed late on Thursday, December 24th. Both Interstates were closed through Christmas Day and into Saturday, December 26th. There were some stranded holiday travelers due to the road closings along with a few rescues. Most roads were reopened by Sunday morning, December 27th. There were also several vehicle accidents with nothing serious. Several airports were also closed throughout the storm along with a few spotty power outages occurring in Lyman county in central South Dakota. Total snowfall amounts over the three-day period predominantly ranged from 1 to 2 feet. Snowfall amounts with a foot or more included; 12 inches at Mobridge, Eureka, Waubay, and Eagle Butte; 13 inches at Highmore and Miller; 14 inches at Castlewood, Summit, Watertown, Pierre, and Ree Heights; 15 inches at Groton, Gettysburg, Webster, Wilmot, Hayti, and McLaughlin; 16 inches at McIntosh, east of Hayes and east of Hosmer; 17 inches at Timber Lake, Britton, and Pollock; 18 inches near Victor; 20 inches near Keldron; 22 inches at Murdo; 23 inches at Sisseton and 25 inches at Kennebec. In west central Minnesota Wheaton received 11 inches, Browns Valley received 15 inches with 16 inches at Ortonville and Artichoke Lake.

1962: A band of precipitation over northern Scotland turned to snow, giving Glasgow its first white Christmas since 1938.

1982: A four day long tornado outbreak peaked on this date in the Ozarks. A pair of F3 tornadoes followed parallel paths for 50 miles from Arkansas into Missouri, one of which was a mile wide and killed a man who was living in a trailer because his house had been destroyed by a tornado three weeks earlier.

1872 - Extreme cold gripped the Upper Midwest on Christmas Eve. Downtown Chicago reported an alltime record low of 23 degrees below zero, which stood until January 1982, and Minneapolis MN reached 38 below. The afternoon high at Minneapolis was 17 degrees below zero. (David Ludlum)

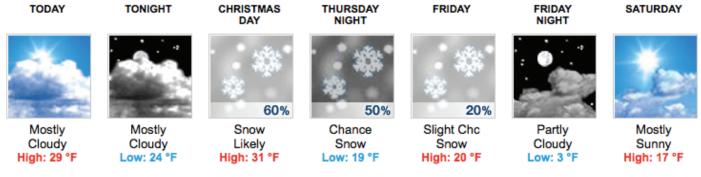
1983 - The barometric pressure reached 31.42 inches at Miles City, MT, to establish a record for the U.S. It was the coldest Christmas Eve of modern record. More than 125 cities reported record low temperatures for the date, and all-time record lows for December were reported at seventeen cities, including Chicago with a low of 25 degrees below zero, and Havre MT with a reading of 50 below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

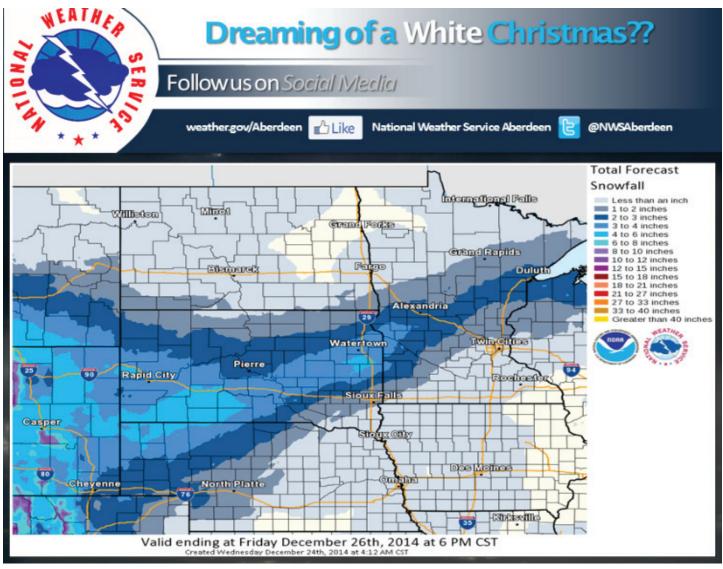
1987 - A four day seige of heavy rain began in the south central U.S. Flooding claimed four lives and caused millions of dollars property damage. Western Tennessee was drenched with up to fourteen inches of rain in two days. Total rainfall exceeded twelve inches around Memphis TN, and the heavy rain and subsequent flooding added insult to injury to victims of the West Memphis tornado on the 14th of the month. Little Rock AR experienced their wettest December day of record with 5.01 inches of rain. West Little Rock reported 10.20 inches of rain in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Early morning thunderstorms developing along a cold front spawned a powerful tornado at Franklin, TN, which killed one person, injured seven others, and caused eight million dollars damage. Another in a series of winter storms in the western U.S. produced 20 inches of snow at Blue Canyon CA in 24 hours. Bishop CA received 14 inches of snow in just six hours, and Redding CA, which averages three inches of snow per year, was blanketed with ten inches. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Fifty-seven cities in the south central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Elkins, WV, with a reading of 22 degrees below zero. Key West FL equalled their record for December with a morning low of 44 degrees. The high of just 45 degrees at Miami FL was an all-time record for that location. It smashed their previous record for the date by twenty degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Are you dreaming of a white Christmas? Well, that dream may well come true! A storm system will move out across the plains Christmas Day and Christmas Night, spreading a swath of light snow from southwest to northeast across the Central and Northern Plains. Another storm may affect areas further south early in the weekend. If you are traveling across the region this holiday weekend, please keep up-to-date with the latest forecast.

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#### **Yesterday's Weather**

**High:** 32.9 at 12:07 AM **Low:** 27.8 at 11:15 PM

**Wind Chill:** 

**High Gust:** 28 at 12:00 PM

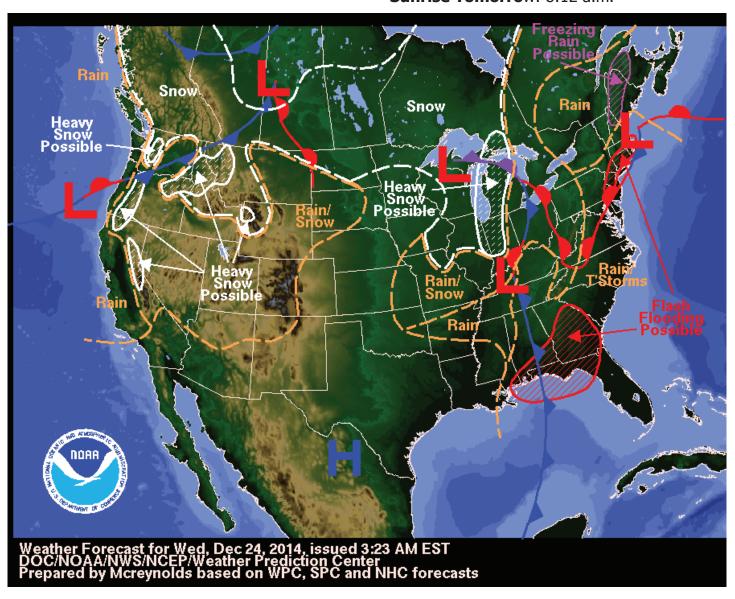
Precip: 0.00

#### Today's Info Record High: 56° in 1907

Record High: 56° in 1907 Record Low: -24° in 1996

**Average High:** 23°F **Average Low:** 4°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.38
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 21.58
Precip Year to Date: 13.99
Sunset Tonight: 4:55 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:12 a.m.



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#### JOSEPH'S DREAM

...Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

"Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.

Matthew 1:18-24

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

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### News from the App Associated Press

#### **Antierless deer season scheduled to reopen in South Dakota**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The hunting season is set to reopen for antlerless deer tags in the East River and West River areas of South Dakota.

The state Game, Fish and Parks Department says the season will not reopen in many deer hunting units where no antlerless tags were issued.

The season resumes Dec. 27 and runs through Jan. 4.

#### SD Farm Bureau announces funds for new fair building

HURON, S.D. (AP) — Another donation for a new 4-H exhibit hall at the South Dakota State Fair-grounds.

The South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation and county Farm Bureau chapters have combined to raise \$35,000 for the new building. In addition, several of the county Farm Bureau chapters have pledged to raise more money for the facility.

The proposed 49,000-square-foot hall will feature multiple classrooms, a large kitchen for 4-H special food competitions, year-round concessions and a performance stage.

Fair officials expect construction to begin in the spring of 2015. The project should be finished by the end of the summer.

#### Sioux Falls police investigating robbery at casino

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police are investigating a robbery at a casino west of downtown. Authorities say the suspect entered the Lucky Lady Casino about 8:30 p.m. Tuesday and demanded money. The suspect did not show a weapon.

Police say the suspect fled with an undetermined amount of money.



# Mount Rushmore receives lighting system donation

KEYSTONE, S.D. (AP) — An Iowa-based company has donated a new lighting system to illuminate Mount Rushmore.

The new system donated by Musco Lighting consists of 39 fixtures with 20 light emitting diodes, or LEDs, per fixture and 10 fixtures with 84 LEDs for a total of over 1,600 directional LEDs.

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The National Park Service says the new lights use fewer kilowatts per hour, which will result in an anticipated energy savings of 90 percent.

Park Superintendent Cheryl Schreier says the donation will result in an "enhanced visitor experience and protection of cultural resources."

The sculpture is currently illuminated from sunset until approximately 8 p.m.

#### **State Capitol Christmas tree display ends Saturday**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office says the Christmas trees that decorate the South Dakota state Capitol will only be available for public viewing through Saturday.

Organizations that decorated the trees will begin taking them down on Sunday. The governor's office invites groups who are celebrating an anniversary in 2015, or simply those who want to decorate trees next year to get in contact.

The display includes nearly 100 trees this year provided by volunteers. The governor, first lady and mayor of Pierre performed a grand lighting ceremony on Nov. 25.

### Chapman helps No. 14 Utah cruise past South Dakota St 80-66 MATTHEW COLES, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Coaches don't often beg freshmen to shoot more.

But Utah first-year player Brekkott Chapman can't seem to fire up enough shots for Coach Larry Kryst-kowiak.

"Brekkott was really big. He made some shots and he probably passes up some shots," Krystkowiak said. "You don't often have to convince a young man to shoot more but he has a nice stroke."

Chapman scored a career-best 22 points to help No. 14 Utah cruise past South Dakota State 80-66 on Tuesday night.

"Coach has been telling me to stop passing up open looks and take advantage of them," Chapman said.

"It's easy when you play with someone like this guy," Chapman said, pointing to senior point guard Delon Wright.

Wright added 17 points, 10 assists and six rebounds for the Utes, who used a four-minute first-half run to take command and never looked back.

"We made a couple 3s, rebounded well, made some stops. We got out in transition and got some easy baskets so it didn't take long to extend the lead," Wright said.

Dakarai Tucker added 11 points for Utah (9-2).

Cody Larson scored 13 points, Reed Tellinghuisen added 12 points and Zach Horstman had 10 for the Jackrabbits (9-4), who shot 39 percent and saw their seven-game winning streak snapped.

"Our effort wasn't very good. Our guys just looked gassed from the start," SDSU coach Scott Nagy said.

Chapman displayed a savvy inside-out floor game and seemed to be in the right place at the right time, whether it be by the basket for a rebound and a put-back or flying to the rim to receive a Wrightled fast break pass.

"Whenever I'm open and in the correct position, I'm going to shoot it. When the ball goes in, everything seems easier," Chapman said.

The smooth 6-foot-8 forward made 9 of 13 shots, including a pair of 3-pointers. Chapman's previous high was 11 points against UC-Riverside on Nov. 21.

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Isaiah Wright stole the ball and hit a 3-pointer on the other end to cap a 19-4 run over a four-minute span and make it 45-26 for the Utes just before halftime.

"Our defense clamped down and that always gets our offense going and executing better," Chapman said.

The Jackrabbits stayed close in the early stages and closed the gap to 26-22 after a three-point play by Horstman with 5:19 left in the first half.

But the Jackrabbits' string of four games decided by four points or fewer would not continue. In fact, the closest they got to the Utes in the second half was the final score, playing against Utah's seldom-used reserves.

"I was proud of how the kids didn't quit," Nagy said. "I thought that they fought really hard. This game could have easily got out of hand into the 30s, but it didn't and our kids never stopped playing."

Wright, who made seven of his eight attempts, is averaging 19 points on 60 percent shooting over a seven-game stretch.

Utah's largest lead was 66-40 with 11:38 to play after the Utes made three straight layups and a free throw.

**TIP-INS** 

South Dakota State: Larson got a flagrant foul for elbowing Kyle Kuzma with 10:08 left in the game ... SDSU is 1-9 against Top 25 foes since moving to Division I in 2004-05. ... SDSU grabbed 10 offensive rebounds and had 14 second-chance points (Utah had just seven).

Utah: Jordan Loveridge missed his seventh game after knee surgery but is nearing a return and starting forward Chris Reyes played just three minutes because of an undisclosed injury. ... The Utes have won 26 straight against unranked opponents at home by an average of 24 points. ... Utah is fifth in the nation at defending 2-point shots (37.

**UP NEXT** 

SDSU visits No. 23 Northern Iowa on Sunday.

Utah hosts Carroll College next Tuesday.

TIME FOR A BREAK

"Bodies are beat up. We've played some tough teams and we've been going for three straight months now. Everybody needs a break right now," Krystkowiak said of the upcoming time off before Pac-12 play begins. "Plus, I'll bet they'll all say they're really sick of me."

INVOLVE THE BIG MEN

Wright knows they can't win every game from the backcourt. Against SDSU, Wright only took eight shots and the other starting guard Brandon Taylor went scoreless. "We've been trying to do a better job getting the bigs some touches because the guards have been shooting it more. So we gotthem post touches and open jumpers when we drove and collapsed the defense," Wright said.

### Tuesday's Scores The Associated Press

#### **BOYS BASKETBALL**

Aberdeen Roncalli 74, Groton Area 43 Arlington 81, Estelline 53 DeSmet 42, Colman-Egan 31 Parkston 51, Avon 24 Scotland 42, Dakota Christian 41

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#### **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Freeman 50, Centerville 37
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS
Aberdeen Central vs. Rapid City Central, ppd.

### AG wish list appears 'reasonable' to key lawmaker JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley's legislative wish list for 2015 — which includes adding human traffickers to the state sex offender registry and allowing trained first responders to carry an antidote for opiate overdoses — likely won't face much resistance when lawmakers arrive in Pierre in January.

Incoming Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Craig Tieszen said Tuesday that Jackley's proposed 2015 legislation appears "reasonable," but says he has to review the specifics of the measures. Jackley outlined eight proposals this week that would allow the spouses of military personnel living in the state to get concealed weapons permits, authorize citizens to use police scanners if they're not committing a felony and update South Dakota's "lemon" car sale laws, to name a few.

"I'll need to study the specifics of the proposals, but they all seem reasonable on the surface at least," said Tieszen, whose traditionally would introduce the attorney general's proposed bills for the session because of his committee chairmanship.

Allowing trained first responders and police officers to carry an opiate overdose antidote would help fight drug fatalities, Jackley said. The state had 32 accidental overdose deaths in 2013. Another measure would target charitable raffle, lottery and bingo scams, which Jackley said his office has been hearing about from South Dakotans.

Jackley said the measures are mostly smaller, "common-sense" changes to state law. He said much of the proposed legislation is intended to fix problems his office encountered throughout the year, such as the case of a law enforcement enthusiast who had a police scanner confiscated because it is currently against South Dakota law to have one in most cases.

"The law was not allowing us to do what I see as the right thing," Jackley said.

As the proposals move through the legislative process, it's not uncommon to see a few friendly changes to the bills, he said. Many of the proposals would tweak the law to make it more permissive, which could cut down current enforcement costs.

In addition to reviewing Jackley's measures, Tieszen said he wants to look at people who register to vote in South Dakota using a post office box as an address, which he said raises concerns.

#### SD Gov. Daugaard names new game, fish secretary

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard says a native South Dakotan who works as a hunting and fishing administrator in Alaska will be the state's next secretary of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

Daugaard on Tuesday announced that Deadwood-born Kelly Hepler will replace Jeff Vonk, who will retire in January after serving as the agency's secretary since 2007. Hepler has worked as an assistant commissioner in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game since 2010.

Daugaard says he's "thrilled" to bring Hepler back to South Dakota.

Hepler has worked in the Alaska department since 1979.

The governor's office anticipates Hepler will begin by March 2015, and Parks Division Director Doug

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Hofer will manage the department in the interim.

#### South Dakota to receive nearly \$200,000 from T-Mobile

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says the state will receive more than \$194,000 as part of a settlement between T-Mobile USA and federal regulators.

The Federal Trade Commission last week announced that T-Mobile will pay at least \$90 million, mostly in refunds, for billing customers throughout the country for cellphone text services they didn't order. The practice is known as "cramming."

The FTC sued T-Mobile in July, accusing it of billing customers for subscriptions to services like \$9.99-per-month horoscopes, ringtones, trivia, sports scores or celebrity gossip updates that they didn't want or authorize.

Jackley says any South Dakota consumers who were victims of the scam should file a claim immediately. Claim forms are available at www.t-mobilerefund.com .

#### Tensions mount in aftermath of shooting by police officer

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Some Rapid City Native American leaders are upset they were left out of a meeting Monday with Mayor Sam Kooiker over the death of a tribal member who was shot and killed by a Rapid City police officer because he allegedly charged at the officer with a knife.

Allen Locke, 30, was shot several times by Officer Anthony Meirose on Saturday after the officer responded to a call of an unwanted person in the Lakota Community Homes addition. The South Dakota Department of Criminal Investigation is investigating the shooting.

Rapid City Mayor Sam Kooiker met with some American Indian leaders Monday to discuss race relations and show his support for Meirose and the Rapid City Police Department. Some members of the Native American community are unhappy with Kooiker's message and say more people should have been included in the discussion.

Kooiker and Rapid City Police Chief Karl Jegeris met with form Oglala Sioux Tribe President Bryan Brewer, Lakota Community Homes manager Fred Eisenbraun, Locke family representative Chase Iron Eyes, and activist Cody Hall. Brewer, Iron Eyes and Hall are not from Rapid City.

Local Native American leaders were wrongly excluded and Kooiker "just made it worse," said Tad Montgomery, chairman of the Sioux addition that sits next to the Lakota Community Homes addition, where the shooting occurred.

"We came here with an open heart and good intentions," Montgomery told the Rapid City Journal.

Kooiker said he's open to more discussion on race relations, but that he wanted to send a firm message Monday that he stands behind the Rapid City Police Department and Meirose. He said it would be wrong to assume that race was a factor in this case.

"I think to do so, hurts the credibility of the overall conversation on race relations in Rapid City," Kooiker told KEVN-TV. "If I came at a police officer with a knife, I would expect the use of lethal force on me."

Karin Eagle told reporters there's confusion and apprehension within the Native American community. "I don't think that people fully comprehend how scary it is for us right now," Eagle said. "There's a feeling of fear even calling for the simplest matter anymore."

Eagle said her community will ask tribal leaders and others to work toward meaningful dialogue to change attitudes in the city.

Kooiker issued a press release thanking the Locke family for their request for peace during a time of grieving.

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#### 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. SUICIDE BOMBER NEAR BAGHDAD KILLS 22

At least 15 of the dead were Sunni militiamen and the rest were soldiers, while 55 others were wounded, police say.

2. OFFICER IN MISSOURI SHOOTS, KILLS MAN WHO PULLS GUN, POLICE SAY

The officer fired several shots, striking and fatally wounding the man a few miles from Ferguson, Mo., where Michael Brown was shot and killed in August.

3. WHAT COULD SNARL HOLIDAY TRAVEL

Forecasters expect thunderstorms in the Gulf Coast to travel north and drop rain and snow across the Midwest, East Coast and South.

4. SONY ATTEMPTS TO CHART THE RIGHT COURSE WITH 'INTERVIEW' RELEASE

The studio's flip-flop on putting the film in theaters shows it is working furiously to try to navigate through political and public-opinion minefields.

5. FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE HW BUSH IN HOSPITAL

Bush, 90, was taken by ambulance to Houston Methodist Hospital as a "precaution" after experiencing shortness of breath.

6. FATAL STORMS SLAM SOUTHERN US

Severe storms in Mississippi kill four people and injure several more, with some trapped in the rubble of damaged homes in one county.

7. COLD WAR-ERA FUGITIVES COULD BE POINT OF CONTENTION BETWEEN US-CUBA

Legal experts say that without a functioning extradition treaty, the U.S. has to depend on Cuba to kick them out or deny them entry.

8. WHY SOME ACTIVISTS SAY EASING OF BLOOD DONATIONS BAN BY GAY, BISEXUAL MEN ISN'T ENOUGH

The new policy would require men who have sex to be celibate for a year before donating, something advocates say creates a stigma.

9. CALIFORNIA JUDGE JUST SAYS NO TO WEED ON WHEELS

The judge issued an injunction against a mobile phone app that facilitated medical marijuana delivery in Los Angeles.

10. WHO'S TRACKING SANTA AS HE'S COMIN' TO TOWN

Volunteers at the North American Aerospace Defense Command, also known as NORAD, are all set to track St. Nick's sleigh and notify watchful kiddies via social media of his current location.

#### **AP News in Brief**

### St. Louis County police: City officer shot, killed man who pulled gun at gas station

BERKELEY, Mo. (AP) — A suburban St. Louis police officer shot and killed a man who pointed a gun at him at a gas station late Tuesday, police said.

A crowd of about 100 people were gathered early Wednesday at the scene in Berkeley, Missouri, a few miles from Ferguson, where a white police officer fatally shot black 18-year-old Michael Brown in August.

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According to a statement from St. Louis County police spokesman Sgt. Brian Schellman, a Berkeley police officer was conducting a routine business check at a gas station around 11:15 p.m. Tuesday when he saw two men and approached them.

One of the men pulled a handgun and pointed it at the officer, Schellman said. The officer fired several shots, striking and fatally wounding the man.

The second man fled, and the dead man's handgun has been recovered, according to Schellman.

#### Iraqi officials: Suicide bomber attacks pro-government Sunni militias, kills 22 people

BAGHDAD (AP) — A suicide bomber blew up himself on Wednesday among a group of pro-government, anti-Islamic State group Sunni militias near Baghdad, killing at least 22 people, a latest bold attack by militants seeking to undermine government efforts to fight extremists.

The attacker managed to mingle with the militiamen who gathered at a military base in the town of Madain to receive their monthly payment, two police officers said. At least 15 of the dead were Sunni militiamen and the rest were soldiers, while 55 others were wounded, they said.

The town is located about 20 kilometers (14 miles) south of Baghdad.

The group, known as Sahwa or the Awakening Councils, is made up of Sunni militiamen who joined U.S. troops in the fight against al-Qaida during the height of Iraq's insurgency in 2007 and 2008. They are viewed as traitors by the Sunni militants.

Three medical officials confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to release information to the media.

### Sony tries again: Limited 'Interview' release gives moviegoers chance to send protest message

ATLANTA (AP) — Sony's flip-flop on releasing "The Interview" shows the studio is working furiously to try to chart the right course through political and public-opinion minefields.

Although analysts don't believe the decision will have any effect on Sony's image, it will at least give the movie-going public a chance to vote with their wallets and send North Korea a protest message.

Last week, Sony canceled the Christmas Day release of "The Interview" in the wake of an extensive hacking attack and release of confidential emails by a group linked with North Korea. The movie stars Seth Rogen and James Franco as journalists tasked by the CIA with killing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The hackers threatened violence if Sony didn't pull the movie. Sony did so after major theater chains decided not to screen it.

But the company then wavered in the face of public outcry and criticism from President Barack Obama. On Tuesday, Sony Entertainment CEO Michael Lynton said Seth Rogen's North Korea farce "will be in a number of theaters on Christmas Day."

The film is set to open in over 200 theaters, down from an original release planned in 3,000. Atlanta's Plaza Theater and 16 theaters that are part of the Alamo Drafthouse chain in Texas are among those that plan to show it.

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#### Former-President George H.W. Bush taken to hospital as 'precaution' after shortness of breath

HOUSTON (AP) — Former President George H.W. Bush was admitted to a Houston hospital Tuesday evening after experiencing a shortness of breath, a family spokesman said.

Bush, 90, was taken by ambulance to Houston Methodist Hospital as a "precaution," according to spokesman Jim McGrath. He "will be held for observation, again as a precaution," McGrath said in a statement.

Bush spent nearly two months in the same hospital and was discharged in January 2013 after treatment for a bronchitis-related cough and other issues.

The White House said President Barack Obama, who is vacationing in Hawaii, has been notified about Bush's hospital admission.

"President Obama and the first lady send their good wishes to the former president and the entire Bush family during this holiday season," said White House spokesman Eric Schultz.

### Dismissing doubts, Indonesian mom reassembles a family, 10 years after tsunami swept kids away

MEULABOH, Indonesia (AP) — It all started with a dream that led to a chance meeting: A girl who had been swept away by the Indian Ocean tsunami a decade ago.

For three nights, the child's uncle said she visited him in his sleep. When he told the girl's mother, Jamaliah, it was hard to believe. The daughter was only 4 when a towering wave ripped her away with her 7-year-old brother, clinging to a board.

But the mother had always been convinced both children were still out there and that the family would be reunited.

Soon after the dream, the uncle ran into a 14-year-old orphan girl who had survived the disaster and washed up on a remote island with her older brother. They had stayed alive by riding a slab of wood.

The odds were impossible, but after the uncle sent a photo of girl, the mother became convinced God was giving their family a second chance.

#### Travel headaches for some across the US from Christmas Eve through to Christmas Day

CHICAGO (AP) — Travelers setting out for the holidays could face trouble, with anticipated Christmas Eve snow around the Great Lakes states and heavy rain expected along the East Coast.

National Weather Service meteorologists predicted rain that would turn into snow for some parts of Missouri to Michigan, with several inches expected Wednesday in portions of Illinois. Officials at both airport hubs in Chicago readied for the potential of holiday delays and cancellations, particularly with more people expected to fly this year.

"I would definitely make plans about possibly staying put or doing something else," said Chicago-area meteorologist Charles Mott. "Same for the roads. If you're not going to fly, the roads are not going to be getting any better."

About 4.2 million passengers are expected through O'Hare and Midway international airports during an 18-day holiday travel period ending Jan. 6, said Chicago Aviation Department spokeswoman Karen Pride. That would be a 3 percent increase at O'Hare and a 9 percent jump at Midway compared with

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last year. Pride urged travelers to allow plenty of time and monitor airlines closely.

On Tuesday, a storm system developed in the Gulf States, generating tornadoes that left four people dead, damaging some buildings and leaving thousands without power. It was expected to drop rain along the East Coast.

### Denver area shelters cite legal marijuana as a reason for rise in homeless population

DENVER (AP) — Chris Easterling was sick of relying on drug dealers in Minneapolis when he needed marijuana to help ease the pain of multiple sclerosis. They were flaky, often leaving the homeless man without the drug when he needed relief the most.

So he moved to Denver, where legal pot dispensaries are plentiful and accessible.

Easterling is among a growing number of homeless people who have recently come to Colorado seeking its legal marijuana, and who now remain in the state and occupy beds in shelters, according to service providers.

While no state agency records how many homeless people were drawn by legal weed, officials at homeless centers say the influx they are seeing is straining their ability to meet the needs of the increasing population.

"The older ones are coming for medical (marijuana), the younger ones are coming just because it's legal," said Brett Van Sickle, director of Denver's Salvation Army Crossroads Shelter, which has more than doubled its staff to accommodate the increase.

### Activists say move to ease ban on blood donations from gay men doesn't go far enough

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal officials have moved closer to overturning a decades-old ban on blood donations from gay and bisexual men, but activists say the proposed alternative would continue to stigmatize men who have sex with men.

The Food and Drug Administration said Tuesday it will recommend lifting the lifetime ban early next year, replacing it with a policy barring donations from men who have had sex with another man in the previous 12 months. The change would overturn a 31-year-old policy that many medical groups and gay activists say is no longer justified, given advances in HIV testing.

But activists questioned whether requiring a year of celibacy from gay men amounted to a significant policy shift.

"Some may believe this is a step forward, but in reality, requiring celibacy for a year is a de facto lifetime ban," Gay Men's Health Crisis, a New York-based nonprofit that supports AIDS prevention and care, said after the announcement.

The blanket ban dates from the early years of the AIDS crisis and was intended to protect the blood supply from what was a then little-understood disease. But many medical groups, including the American Medical Association, say the policy is no longer supported by science. Australia, Japan, the U.K. and many other countries previously moved to a one-year period.

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### Yazidis return to Iraqi villages after militants routed, searching for lost loved ones

HARDAN, Iraq (AP) — After he fled from this tiny northern Iraqi hamlet four months ago, Hayder Khalef got panicked phone calls from his relatives who had remained behind. They were at that moment being led by Islamic State group gunmen toward a checkpoint on the edge of town.

"If you don't hear from us, you'll find our bodies near the checkpoint," Khalef said they told him in the calls.

He is back in his hometown for the first time since, after Iraqi Kurdish fighters last week drove out the extremists holding the village. Khalef and a few other residents who escaped followed the Kurds in, hoping to discover what happened to hundreds of their relatives and neighbors who vanished after the jihadis overran Hardan in early August.

They fear they know where they are: four mounds of recently dug-up earth. The sites have not yet been excavated, but Khalef and others are convinced they are mass graves, possibly holding dozens of dead. From the loose top soil, they and Kurdish fighters pulled out pieces of clothing as an Associated Press reporter watched.

At one point, they tugged on the elastic waistband of pants visible in the dirt — and it seemed a body was still wearing them. The ground bulged with the weight of a body being pulled up with the waistband. They stopped pulling, fearing booby traps, before a body could be clearly seen. But an ID card and some prayer beads fell out of the pants pocket — the ID of a 44-year-old man named Khero Khudeda Rufo. One returning resident, Khaled Wase, recognized the name as a neighbor who is among the missing.

### A surge of support, gratitude for police across US after NYC deaths, nationwide protests

NEW YORK (AP) — Rocker Jon Bon Jovi donned a New York Police Department T-shirt on stage. Well-wishers delivered home-baked cookies by the hundreds to police in Cincinnati. In Mooresville, North Carolina, police and sheriff's officers were treated by residents to a chili dinner.

At a time when many in the nation's police community feel embattled, Americans in cities and towns across the country are making an effort to express support and gratitude.

"I'm showing a little solidarity for my brothers in the NYPD and all of those who protect and serve us every day," Bon Jovi told a cheering crowd at his concert Monday in Red Bank, New Jersey.

The surge of support is linked to two distinct but overlapping developments.

The immediate catalyst was the execution-style killings of two New York City police officers as they sat in their patrol car in Brooklyn on Saturday. For many of those making appreciative gestures, there also was a desire to counter the widespread protests — steeped with criticism of police — that followed grand jury decisions not to charge white officers for their roles in the deaths of black men Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Eric Garner in New York.