

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 1 of 33

- 1- Rix Apartments for Rent
- 1- Titan Machinery
- 1- Transit Thank You
- 1- Doeden Thank You
- 1- Today's Information
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 2- World of Experience
- 3- Classifieds
- 3- Noem's Weekly Column
- 4- State Banking Division offers information on short-term loans
- 5- Veteran's Affairs Office Column
- 6- Driver's Exam Stations Information
- 9- January Community Calendar
- 16- Andover Bar & Grill
- 17- Today in Weather History
- 19- Weather Page
- 20- Local Weather
- 20- National Weather Map
- 21- Daily Devotional
- 22- News from the Associated Press

Thursday, January 1

No School
New Year's Day

Anniv: Kevin & Sharolyn Jondahl

Birthdays: Lauren Harrison, Patricia Larson, Stephen Duncan, Tyler Kolb.

Transit Thank You

The Groton Transit would like to thank everyone for making the Transit Christmas Open House and Bake Sale such a success. The bake sale and Open House were great!

Thank You, Groton Transit

Doeden Thank You

A big thank you to Olde Bank Floral n' More for the beautiful Christmas floral arrangement.

Arlis Doeden

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

TITAN 

MACHINERY

Justin Hanson, Field Marketer
justin.hanson@titanmachinery.com
605-380-1120

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.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 2 of 33



Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe that just 15 years ago, the world was in turmoil about whether or not the computers were going to shut down with Y2K. It was as a scare that left people and corporations up in arms. But everything went smoothly and here we are, 15 years later, now worrying about cyber attacks and attacks on the nation's electric grid system. Last year was a challenge for Sony as it had a major hack attack. In addition, some major retail stores had breaches in their system and credit card numbers were stolen.

That was then. What will 2015 bring? Perhaps some new challenges in our lives. One thing we can start getting used to again is the run for the President of the United States. The campaigns will start to get into full gear.

In amongst the hussle of every day life, we must not neglect our own well being. I know people will be making New Year's Resolutions to lose weight, only to fall off the scale after a few weeks. Losing weight is not a short-term solution - it's a life-long solution that will bring slow, but rewarding results. Setting goals means writing them down and reviewing them every day. It takes a commitment to achieve a goal, whether it's small or large.

One thing that our family will be facing in 2015 is a huge task of a church. Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where I have been serving as pastor since 2003. It was a given that the church would be closed at the end of 2014. Then I came up with the brain storm idea of taking over the church. Owning a church is a no small task, but that is something we are gearing up for in 2015. Somehow, the Spirit moved me in that direction out of the darkness, so we hope the Light will shine upon our ministry. You may have noticed a New Year's Ad or our new Facebook Page - Heaven Bound Ministries. That is us, as we start the journey.

It is going to take some creative efforts to keep the church going, but at least, it will keep on going longer. We're looking for a name change for the church to try and erase the past and look to the future. For some reason, I can't seem to get "St. John the Baptist Church" as a name for the church out of my mind. I have always been fascinated by John the Baptist.

We updated our webpage to reflect the new logo which is shown below and at HBM.Church. The logo represents the stairway to heaven with the star at the end reflecting God as the source of the Light. I didn't even know there was a web extension of .Church and was surprised when I randomly put it in for a seach of available domain names.

So my life has changed much over the past several decades. In 1986, I bought the Groton Independent. In 2001, Tina and I got married. We bought the house we live in today in 2002. We had Julianna in 2003, Jeslyn in 2006 and now in 2015, we'll have our own ministry. All I can say is "Thank You" to Tina and the girls for being a big part of my life, but above all, "Thank You God" for the journey You have put me on.

And don't forget to thank God for the blessings He has bestowed on you and your family. Remember, life is like a rose. It is a beautiful flower, but the thorns can prick you from time to time.

And now I'll close with a saying from Casey Kasem: "Keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars."





I almost can't believe how fast 2014 has gone. As we look to wrap up the year, I wanted to share some of the successes I've had in Congress during the last twelve months:

- ♦ The year kicked off with passage of the Farm Bill, which maintained a strong crop insurance program, revived the livestock indemnity program, and built support for pine beetle mitigation efforts.
- ♦ The House passed a provision I wrote this spring that would allocate a total of \$31 million to a rural water project fund that the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System is eligible to draw from. This provision was included in the final funding bill.
- ♦ The Black Hills Cemetery Act, a bill I wrote after many conversations with West River communities, was signed into law.
- ♦ The House passed a bill I wrote that would help address human trafficking by opening an existing grant program to shelters looking to house survivors of human trafficking. I was disappointed the Senate did not take up the bill, but I'll continue the fight.
- ♦ In August, I welcomed the Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs (VA) Committee to Hot Springs to hold a congressional hearing. The community's impassioned showing earned the Committee's support, which is critical.
- ♦ In December, the House passed the ABLE Act, which would allow those with disabilities or their families to open tax-free savings accounts.

Perhaps my office's most important accomplishment, however, is found in the hundreds of South Dakotans we've helped receive veterans' benefits, navigate Social Security, adopt a child, or guide through countless other federal bureaucratic processes. We are always here to help. Feel free to contact my office if you need anything.

It's truly been an honor to serve you this year and I am looking forward to tackling new challenges in the year to come. Have a blessed New Year!

Classifieds

Apartments For Rent

ONE AND TWO bedroom apartment for rent. HDS subsidized. Rent includes utilities and heat. No smoking. Pets okay. Contact Darlene Daly at 605/397-8131.

State Banking Division Offers Information on Short-term Loans

PIERRE, S.D. – After the holidays, many people may be in need of a little extra cash to catch up on bills. If you are considering taking out a short-term loan, make sure you understand who you are doing business with and what kind of loan you are getting.

The Department of Labor and Regulation's Division of Banking stresses the importance of making sure the lender you are doing business with is licensed in South Dakota and understanding the types of loans available, the repayment terms and the general terms of the loan contract.

Moneylenders licensed in South Dakota provide installment loans, payday loans, short-term consumer loans and title loans.

- Installment loans are loans made to be repaid in specified amounts over a certain number of months.
- Payday loans are short-maturity loans on the security of a check, any assignment of an interest in the account of a person at a depository institution, or any authorization to debit the person's deposit account, any assignment of salary or wages payable to a person.
- Short-term consumer loans are loans to individual borrowers lasting six months or less.
- Title loans are loans secured by a nonpurchase money security interest in a motor vehicle and are scheduled to be repaid in a single installment.

"Single pay loans, such as a payday loans or title loans, may result in additional charges to renew or extend the loan if you are unable to pay the balance in full at the due date," said Division of Banking Director Bret Afdahl. "Do not assume you are taking out an installment loan that can be repaid in several payments over a period of time unless it is stated in the contract."

If you have questions about the different types of loans available, or whether the lender you are dealing with is licensed in South Dakota, you may call the South Dakota Division of Banking at 605-773-3421 for additional information.

For a list of South Dakota licensed lenders or to review money lending laws visit <http://dlr.sd.gov/banking/default.aspx>.

Broton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 5 of 33



**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**Larry Zimmerman
Secretary**

Paying it forward

In a 1784 letter authored by Benjamin Franklin to Benjamin Webb he states, "I do not pretend to give such a deed; I only lend it to you. When you meet with another honest man in similar distress, you must pay me by lending this sum to him; enjoining him to discharge the debt by a like operation, when he shall be able, and shall meet with another opportunity. I hope it may thus go thro' many hands, before it meets with a Knave that will stop its Progress. This is a trick of mine for doing a deal of good with a little money."

We are fortunate to live in a country where Americans really care about the men and women who defended our freedom with their life. You might say these Americans are "paying it forward."

Each month, I am overwhelmed by the generosity bestowed upon our veterans. Business leaders, service organizations, fraternal organizations, non-profits, schools, and citizens in every corner of this state renew their commitment to support our veterans and their families.

New programs are launched every month to benefit the lives of our veterans. These acts of kindness change the lives of our veterans and help them build a brighter future.

This past year, the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and our partners, the County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers, ventured out on a year-long campaign to Reach All Veterans. Our veterans deserve our support and Operation RAV afforded us the opportunity to express our gratitude to our veterans and increase awareness of the programs and services available to them. There are many resources available to our veterans and we need to continue to reach out to veterans and enlighten them and their families.

We will be wrapping up Phase I of Operation RAV within the coming months and will venture on to Phase II – Operation Ketchup. The goal of Operation Ketchup (OK) is to try to reach those veterans that we could not reach by phone. Please help us meet our goal with Operation Ketchup by encouraging your veteran to stop in at their local county or tribal veterans service office and update their contact information.

We encourage all veterans that have not been contacted to contact the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (605-773-3269), Help us to continue to pay it forward!

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

Driver's Exam Stations

Important: Application must be submitted at least 1 hour in advance of scheduled closing time. No drive tests will be given from 11:30 to 1:30. For more information see our website at www.dps.sd.gov call 1-800-952-3696.

Aberdeen: 2729 W Highway 12

Open 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday

Redfield: Dept. of Transportation - N Hwy 281.

Open 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

Webster: Courthouse Basement (711 W 1st St. - Ste. 107

Open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays

DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO OBTAIN A SOUTH DAKOTA DRIVER LICENSE OR ID CARD (photo copies cannot be accepted)

Federal requirements have changed the documents required to obtain or renew your South Dakota driver license or identification card. We want to make the process as quick and easy as possible for you.

Look over the documents on the list below, and if you have any questions at all, anything you don't understand or any documents you aren't sure you can find, please contact the Driver Licensing Program. You may email DPSLicensingInfo@state.sd.us (please include your first and last name) or call toll-free at 1-800-952-3696 or directly at 605-773-6883.

If you think you will have difficulty obtaining any of the documents please contact us. We may be able to arrange for an extension or a temporary permit while you gather the documents needed to obtain your federally compliant South Dakota driver license or identification card. If you find that you simply can't produce one of the required documents, we can work with you in those situations. Again, please use the contact information for the Driver Licensing Program if you have any questions or concerns.

The need to show the additional documents is a one-time requirement. That means once you have your federally compliant driver license or identification card in hand, you will only need that card and two documents to show your current address the next time you renew your driver license or identification card. If your driver license or identification card has a gold star in the upper right corner, then it is federally compliant.

Our staff is committed to providing the best service possible, so don't hesitate to contact us by telephone or email. We will help you in any way we can.

Federal regulations require anyone applying for a new, renewal, or duplicate driver license or identification card to provide the documents listed below and on page 2 (photo copies are not acceptable):

I. You will need one Identity Document. NOTE: If your name is different than the name on your identity document, you will need to bring additional proof of your legal name. Acceptable documents for proof of a legal name change are a certified marriage certificate (issued by a state vital records agency), a certified adoption document, or a certified court order authorizing a name change (such as a divorce decree). If you have had multiple marriages, you will need to bring similar documents providing legal proof of each name change (presenting a valid passport with your current name eliminates this requirement).

An Identity Document to prove identity, date of birth, and lawful status is considered to be one of the following:

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 7 of 33

◆ Certified U.S. birth certificate issued by state or county (hospital birth certificates are not acceptable)

- ◆ Valid unexpired U.S. passport
- ◆ Certificate of Naturalization
- ◆ Certificate of Citizenship

Non-Citizens may bring:

- ◆ Valid unexpired permanent resident card
- ◆ Valid unexpired employment authorization document
- ◆ Foreign passport with valid unexpired U.S. Visa with I-94

South Dakota birth and marriage certificate information is available on the state of South Dakota web site at <http://www.doh.sd.gov/vitalrecords/order.aspx> and through your local County Register of Deeds office. Marriage certificates before 1950 may not be available for same day issuance. For telephone numbers and addresses to write for out-of-state vital records, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm>.

II. You will need one document to prove Social Security number. Only the documents listed below can serve as proof of Social Security number (the document must include your name and full social security number):

- ◆ Social Security card
- ◆ W-2 Form
- ◆ SSA 1099 Form
- ◆ Non-SSA 1099 Form
- ◆ Pay stub

(For information on how to apply for a social security number or replacement card, please visit <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber/>.)

III. You will need two documents to prove your residential address. A parent's proof of address is acceptable for a minor child. Proof of address documents may **not be more than one year old**. Please bring two of the documents listed below (each must contain your current physical address):

- ◆ Utility bill
- ◆ Pay stub or earnings statement
- ◆ Rent receipt
- ◆ Phone bill
- ◆ Transcript or report card from an accredited school
- ◆ Bank statement
- ◆ Mortgage document
- ◆ Tax document
- ◆ Homeowners/renter's insurance policy
- ◆ Other items with your address can be reviewed by Driver Licensing personnel
- ◆ If you are unable to provide proof of residency, please call 1-800-952-3696 or 605-773-6883 for exceptions.
- ◆ Post Office Box addresses are acceptable in areas not assigned a street or 911 address

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 8 of 33

Address Exceptions:

Minors - If a minor does not have two documents proving residency, the parent may provide two forms for them.

Living with someone else - An individual residing with another person may have the other person sign a "Consent for Use of South Dakota Address" form and present two residency documents belonging to the person with whom they reside. The Consent for Use of Address form may be obtained at the exam station or printed off our website.

Living within an organization or at a facility - Applicants may provide a letter from the organization or facility (on their letterhead) stating the individual resides there.

People who travel full-time - If you are using a mail forwarding address, you must complete the Residency Affidavit. You will also need to provide one document no more than one year old proving your temporary South Dakota address (campground or RV park receipt) and one document no more than one year old proving your personal mailbox (PMB) service address (receipt from the PMB business or a piece of mail with your PMB address on it). If you have friends or family in South Dakota and plan to use their address, you can complete and follow the instructions on the Consent for Use of Address form.

Military and Military Dependents - Applicants can use an out-of-state address on their license and provide two documents proving residency showing the out-of-state address.

Before your license or ID card is issued, our examiners will review your documents to make sure they comply with the federal requirements. We will work with you to resolve any problems with your documents and to identify any additional documents or other information that may be necessary to complete the process. The additional requirements are designed to establish a more secure driver license, which will address our shared concern about national security, identity theft and highway safety.

Veterans

Veterans who have been honorably discharged from the military have the option of adding the word "Veteran" to the front of their South Dakota driver license or identification card. In addition to the documents listed above, they will need to present:

- ◆ DD-214 form which shows their honorable discharge status from active duty or
- ◆ Present a certificate signed by a county or tribal veteran's service officer verifying their status.
- ◆ DD Form 2 (Retired)
- ◆ DD Form 2A (Reserve Retired)

Note to CDL holders: If you are required to carry a medical examiners certificate (aka DOT medical card) you must show a valid card at the driver exam station.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 9 of 33

January Community Calendar

If you find any mistakes or items that need to be added to the January Community Calendar, please e-mail paperpaul@grotonsd.net before Monday so the changes can be made before it's published in the weekly paper.

Thursday, January 1

No School

New Year's Day

Anniv: Kevin & Sharolyn Jondahl

Birthdays: Lauren Harrison, Patricia Larson, Stephen Duncan, Tyler Kolb.

Friday, January 2

No School

Senior Menu: Hearty vegetable beef soup, chicken salad sandwich, Mandarin oranges, oatmeal raisin cookie.

Anniv: Jeff & Lisa Howard

Birthdays: Briana Nordine, Holly Walter, Kara Anderson.

Saturday, January 3

No School

Birthdays: Bob Walter, Caroline Graf, Jolene Siders, Tanner Waage, Vicki Podoll

10:00am: United Methodist Worship at Rosewood Court

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

Sunday, January 4

No School

Anniv: Jay and Jean Peterson

Birthdays: Hannah Swanson, Heath Giedt, Val Fliehs.

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

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

9:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

9:30am: First Presbyterian Bible Study Time

10:00am: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont (LCMC) worship

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship with Communion

11:00am: First Presbyterian Worship

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 10 of 33

Monday, January 5

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, French fries, carrots and dip, breadstick, fruit.

Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage roll hot dish, mixed vegetables, pears, cornmeal muffin.

Birthdays: Austin Luecke, Brett Anderson, James Torguson

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study Leaders Meet

6:30pm: GBB at Langford Area

7:00pm: City Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 6

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Hot dogs, baked beans, lettuce salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, pumpkin bar with topping, whole wheat bread.

Anniv: Bill and Vicki Podoll

Birthdays: Alfred Tastad, Carla Ronning, Samantha Bunke, Zachary Townsend, Stephanie Luvaaas-Jung

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

1:30pm: St. John's Lutheran Good Cheer Topic Leader

5:15pm: BBB at Milbank (C game at 5:15, JV at 6:30, V at 8:00)

Wednesday, January 7

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

School Lunch: Soft shell tacos, sweet tots, veg cups, fruit.

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken, boiled potato, green beans, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Eugene Brolin, Mary Finnesand, Rodney Kappes, Terry Herron

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

1:00pm: St. John's Lutheran LWML Ladies Aid

3:45pm: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation

3:45pm: United Methodist Confirmation

5:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Sarah Circle

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran League

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 11 of 33

Thursday, January 8

School Breakfast: French toast sticks, links, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Pizza, rice, green beans, tossed salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Herbed roast pork, baked potato with sour cream, lemon buttered broccoli, cinnamon apple sauce, whole wheat bread.

Anniv: Steve & Audrey McKiver

Birthdays: Andrew Kappes, Dragr PJ Monson, Taylor Anderson, Wayne Hein.

9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran India Circle

2:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Nigeria Circle

5:00pm: Wrestling at Milbank (Sioux Valley, Ortonville, Milbank, Groton)

5:15pm: GBB hosts Milbank Area (C at 5:15, JV at 6:30, V at 8:00)

6:30pm: Groton Lions Club meet at Dakota Brush, Downtown Groton

Friday, January 9

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

School Lunch: Chili, corn bread, fruit, carrots and dip.

Senior Menu: Ham and bean soup, egg salad sandwich, tomato spoon salad, oatmeal raisin cookie.

Birthdays: Charlie Cooper, JoAnn Krueger, Koni Sims, Vickie Weifenbach, Kelly Cutler Clark, Jeremy Wieseler

3:00pm: Grand Opening of the Farmer's Wife Boutique at 23 N Main, Groton.

6:30pm: Northern Plains Pastors meet in Aberdeen

Saturday, January 10

Birthdays: Dave Hunter, Edwin Tietz, Maycee Albrecht, Michelle Fliehs, Neil Gilbert

10:00am: 7th/8th BBB Jamboree in Groton (Britton-Hecla, Leola-Frederick, Webster, Groton)

10:00am: Wrestling at Miller Tourney

10:00am: St. John's Lutheran Becky Lutz Bridal Shower

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

Sunday, January 11

Birthdays: Kayla Jensen, LaVonne Raap, Randy Padfield

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

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

9:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

9:30am: First Presbyterian Bible Study Time

10:00am: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont (LCMC) worship

10:00am: St. John's Lutheran School

10:00am: United Methodist School

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship / Milestones

11:00am: First Presbyterian Worship

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

3:00pm: United Methodist Worship at Golden Living Center

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 12 of 33

Monday, January 12

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken tenders, sweet tots, veg cups, fruit.

Senior Menu: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, parsley buttered carrots, banana cake with icing, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Allyssa Locke, Derrick Halsey, Renee Swisher

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

1:30pm: St. John's Lutheran Nursery Circle

5:15pm: BBB at Tiospa Zina (C at 5:15, JV at 6:30, V at 8:00)

7:00pm: School Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 13

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Submarines, baked chips, carrots and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, Au Gratin potatoes, peas and carrots, iced honey cookie, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Adam Franken, Ben Schaller, Chuck Johnson, Elizabeth Abernathy, Ellen Leonhardt, Lance Hawkins, Monte McNickle.

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

6:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Council (Potluck meal followed by meeting)

6:30pm: GBB hosts Webster Area

Wednesday, January 14

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Lasagna hot dish, corn, tossed salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, pineapple/mandarin orange sauce, peanut butter cookie.

Anniv: Jay & Linda Johnson

Birthdays: Austin Anderson, Jesse Howard, Margaret Padfield, Jennifer Thompson.

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

8:30am: MathCounts at Aberdeen Simmons

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

3:45pm: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation

3:45pm: United Methodist Confirmation

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation with youth and parents

Thursday, January 15

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken quesadilla, green beans, veg cups, fruit.

Senior Menu: Ham, sweet potatoes, peas, acini DePepi fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Alissia Gelhaus, Tonya Reich, Mark Abeln.

6:00pm: Wrestling in Groton (Sisseton, Webster, Groton)

6:30pm: GBB at Clark-Willow Lake

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 13 of 33

Friday, January 16

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

School Lunch: Italian dunkers, sweet tots, veg cups, fruit.

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, rice pilaf, California blend vegetables, peach crisp, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Glenna Remington, Hunter Bahr, Nicole Marzahn, Rachel Larson.

4:00pm: BBB hosts Clark-Willow Lake (7th at 4:00, 8th at 5:00, JV at 6:30, Varsity at 8:00)

Saturday, January 17

Anniv: Steve and Julie Schaller

Birthdays: Brina Chriss, Michael Patton.

10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Pastor at Rosewood Court

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

Sunday, January 18

Birthdays: Aaron Nyberg, Kelly Flemming, Natalie Cassanova.

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

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

9:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

9:30am: First Presbyterian Bible Study Time

10:00am: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont (LCMC) worship

10:00am: St. John's Lutheran School

10:00am: United Methodist School

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship with Communion (SS Sings, Bless WELCA Leaders, Brief SS Teachers Meeting)

11:00am: First Presbyterian Worship

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

3:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship at Golden Living Center

Monday, January 19

School Breakfast: French toast sticks, links, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken patty on bun, French fries, Romaine salad, fruit.

Martin Luther King Day

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, mixed fruit, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Gail Zeck, Ryder Smith.

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

5:30pm: Groton Garden Club Meeting

6:00pm: JH BBB at Frederick (7th at 6:00, 8th at 7:00)

6:00pm: JH Wrestling at Redfield

7:00pm: City Council Meeting

7:30pm: St. John's Lutheran Christian Literature

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 14 of 33

Tuesday, January 20

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

School Lunch: Mini corn dog, baked beans, carrots, fruit.

Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato with sour cream, stewed tomatoes, cookie, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: David Nilsson, Todd Anderson.

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

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

4:00pm: JH Wrestling at Aberdeen Central

6:30pm: BBB hosts Ipswich

Wednesday, January 21

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Hamburger on bun, baked chips, lettuce salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas, tomato spoon salad, carrot bar, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Ella Johnson, Landon Larson, Rachel Zoellner, Steve Young, Valerie Kavanaugh

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

3:45pm: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation

3:45pm: United Methodist Confirmation

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran League

Thursday, January 22

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Taco salad, tater tots, fruit, bread stick.

Senior Menu: Chili, corn bread, coleslaw, lime pear Jell-O

Birthdays: Mickie Locke Claeys, Trevor Larson.

6:00pm: Wrestling at Britton (Britton, Groton, Clark-WL)

6:30pm: GBB at Webster Area

Friday, January 23

NO SCHOOL - Faculty Inservice

Senior Menu: Hot turkey combination, mashed potatoes and gravy, 7 layer salad, peach sauce.

Birthdays: Andre Bonn, Bruce Sippel, Collin Townsend, Jeff Flihs, Laura Schuster, Lori Westby, Mick Sippel, Monte Sippel

5:15pm: BBB hosts Webster Area (C at 5:15, JV at 6:30, V at 8:00)

Saturday, January 24

Debate at Watertown

Robotics Tourney at GHS

Anniv: Ron & Doris Anderson

Birthdays: Curtis Furman, Jami Larson, Meta Pray

9:30am: Wrestling at Arlington

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

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 15 of 33

Sunday, January 25

Birthdays: Debra Olson, Marc Hanson

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

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

9:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

9:30am: First Presbyterian Bible Study Time

10:00am: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont (LCMC) worship

10:00am: St. John's Lutheran School and Annual Meeting

10:00am: United Methodist School

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

11:00am: First Presbyterian Worship

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

2:00pm: Carnival of Silver Skates

6:30pm: Carnival of Silver Skates

Monday, January 26

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Nachos, refried beans, romaine salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Scalloped potato with ham, peas, sunset salad, oatmeal raisin cookie, whole wheat bread.

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

4:00pm: JH BBB hosts Warner (7th at 4:00, 8th at 5:00)

6:30pm: GBB hosts Britton-Hecla

7:00pm: School Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 27

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, fruit, tea bun.

Senior Menu: Spanish rice with hamburger, green beans, Mandarin oranges, chocolate pudding, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Jennifer Podoll, Kristie Hawkins, Marcia Blumhardt, Rhonda Millim, Wendy Cooper

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

4:00pm: BBB at Britton (7th at 4:00, 8th at 5:00, JV at 6:30, V at 8:00)

Wednesday, January 28

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

School Lunch: BBQ, French fries, veggie cup, fruit.

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, baked potato, squash, pineapple strawberry ambrosia, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Audrey Miller, Deanna Hendrickson, Loren Locken, Ruby Luce

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

3:45pm: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation

3:45pm: United Methodist Confirmation

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 16 of 33

Thursday, January 29

School Breakfast: French toast sticks, links, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: BBQ Chicken on flat bread, lettuce salad, fruit.

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

Birthdays: Dorene Nelson, Glenda LaMee, Loren Wheeler

5:15pm: BBB at Sisseton (C at 5:15, JV at 6:30, V at 8:00)

6:00pm: Wrestling at Deuel (Redfield, Groton, Deuel)

Friday, January 30

Debate at Yankton

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

School Lunch: Spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans, garlic toast, fruit.

Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Mary Kay Houdek, Patty Baule, Trevor Harry

5:15pm: GBB hosts Sisseton (C at 5:15, JV at 6:30, V at 8:00)

Saturday, January 31

Debate at Yankton

Birthdays: Ann Sheridan, Emma Jo Larson

10:00am: Groton Lions Wrestling Tourney

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

FRIDAY IS
FRIED CHICKEN DAY
Served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Serving 5-9 p.m.

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Every Wednesday!

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Today in Weather History

1960: The winter storm began on New Year's Eve as a low pressure center moved from Colorado northeast to the Great Lakes. Snowfall ranged from 5 to 10 inches across central and northeast South Dakota. Strong winds on the 1st and 2nd caused low visibilities and drifted highways over affecting holiday travel. There were scattered power and telephone outages due to breakage from wind and ice. The storm winded down in the afternoon of the 2nd.

2014: The coldest air in recent history moved into the region during the early morning hours of the 5th and continued into the afternoon hours of the 6th. The combination of sub-zero temperatures with north winds produced dangerously cold wind chills from 40 below to around 55 degrees below zero. Winds gusted to over 40 mph at times. Several area activities were cancelled, as well as many schools on Monday the 6th. Some of the coldest wind chills include; 56 below in Summit; 55 below near Hill-head; 54 below in Brandt and Webster; 53 below in Clear Lake; 52 below in Herreid; 51 below in Leola; 50 below in Watertown, Sisseton, Bowdle, and McIntosh.

1934: Heavy rain, which began on December 30, led to flooding in the Los Angeles Basin of California. Walls of water and debris up to ten feet high were noted in some canyon areas. Up to 16 inches of rain fell during the event, including more than 8 inches in downtown L.A.

1964: Heavy snow fell from last night into today across much of the southeast United States. More than half a foot of snow piled up from southern Mississippi to central Kentucky. Sixteen inches of accumulation was reported near the Tennessee/Alabama border.

1965: A seven-day long snowstorm finally came to an end at Wolf Creek Pass, CO, setting the state's single-storm snowfall record of 143 inches.

1970: Australia's most powerful tornado, of at least F4 strength, felled a million trees in Bulahdelah State Forest north of Sydney. Its 14 mile long path was up to a mile wide.

1979: Freezing temperatures and icy conditions in Dallas resulted in very unpleasant playing conditions for the Cotton Bowl Classic between the University of Houston and Notre Dame. Notre Dame quarterback Joe Montana was suffering from the flu, and was given a hot bowl of chicken soup at half-time. Revived, Joe returned to the field and led the Fighting Irish to a 35-34 victory in the Chicken Soup Game.

1993: Rainfall throughout the second half of the Orange Bowl in Miami, FL was so heavy that it has been called the Monsoon Bowl ever since. Florida State beat Nebraska 27-14.

1864 - Snow, gales and severe cold hit the Midwest. It was the most bitter cold New Year's day of record with afternoon highs of 16 below zero at Chicago IL and 25 below at Minneapolis MN. (David Ludlum)

1934 - Heavy rain which began on December 30th led to flooding in the Los Angeles Basin area of California. Flooding claimed the lives of at least 45 persons. Walls of water and debris up to ten feet high were noted in some canyon areas. Rainfall totals ranged up to 16.29 inches at Azusa, with 8.26 inches reported in Downtown Los Angeles. (The Weather Channel)

1949 - A six day blizzard began over the Northern Rockies and the Great Plains. The storm produced the most adverse weather conditions in the history of the west. (David Ludlum)

1979 - The temperature at Maybell CO plunged to 60 degrees below zero to tie the state record set back in 1951 at Taylor Park. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A winter storm brought rain and snow and high winds to the Southern and Middle Atlantic Coast Region. The storm, which occurred in a period of unusually high astronomical tides, produced a tide of 9.4 feet at Myrtle Beach SC (their highest since Hurricane Hazel in 1954) which caused a total

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 18 of 33

of 25 million dollars damage in South Carolina. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Arctic cold gripped the north central U.S. The morning low of 31 degrees below zero at Alamosa CO was a record for the date. Squalls in the Great Lakes Region produced 17 inches of snow at Elmira NY. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Those who woke up New Year's morning unable to see much farther than the end of their nose had a good excuse, at least in the central U.S., as dense fog prevailed from Texas to Wisconsin. (National Weather Summary)

1990 - The new year and decade began on a rather peaceful note. Snow was primarily confined to the Great Lakes Region, the Upper Ohio Valley, and the Sierra Nevada Range of California. Subzero temperature readings were confined to Minnesota and North Dakota. (National Weather Summary)




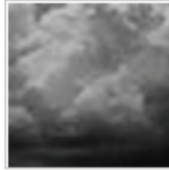



1994 - Strong winds along the eastern slopes of the Central Rockies gusted to 70 mph at Arlington WY, and gusted to 80 mph near Estes Park CO. Heavy snow in the northeast mountains of Oregon produced 14 inches at Tollgate. A series of storms the first three days of the year produced 20 inches of snow at Lowman, in the west central mountains of Idaho. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1997 - Heavy precipitation fell from December 26, 1996 to January 3, 1997 in much of the west. In the California Sierra Nevadas the Truckee River reached its highest level on record. Lake Tahoe reached its highest level since 1917. Sacramento was spared the worst of the flooding by a system of levees, although many nearby towns were not so fortunate. Numerous levee breaches and breaks occurred across the state. Approximately 16,000 residences were damaged or destroyed. State officials estimated at least \$1.6 billion in damages to private and public property.

1999 - A major blizzard struck portions of the Midwest on January 1-3, 1999. The storm produced 22 inches of snow in Chicago and was rated by the NWS as the second worst blizzard of the 20th century, ranking behind the blizzard in January 1967. Estimates of losses and recovery costs are between \$0.3 and \$0.4 billion with 73 dead as a result of the blizzard. (NCDC)

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 19 of 33

NEW YEAR'S DAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY
						
Mostly Cloudy High: 27 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 12 °F	Partly Sunny High: 25 °F	Cloudy Low: 17 °F	Chance Snow High: 20 °F	Blustery Low: -11 °F	Cold High: 0 °F

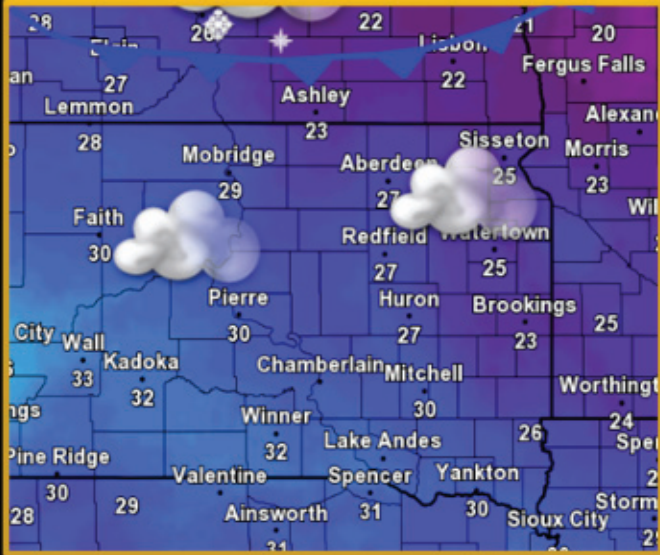


Mild Start

To 2015



Today



Weather Headlines



Today & Fri: Overall Quiet & Mild



Saturday: Light Snow & Strong NW Winds With Clipper System



Next Week: Colder Once Again

weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

A weak front will slide south today, however any associated snowfall is expected to stay north of the region. Overall quiet conditions will persist Friday as well, but be aware of a clipper system moving into the region Saturday. Snow associated with this system is expected to be light, however, very strong and gusty northwest winds could combine with light snow to result in a hazardous travel day. Colder temperatures follow Sunday and will persist through next week.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 20 of 33

Yesterday's Weather

High: 20.1 at 4:13 PM

Low: -7.0 at 1:22 AM

High Gust: 23 at 1:59 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 53° in 1998

Record Low: -30° in 1919

Average High: 22°F

Average Low: 2°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.52

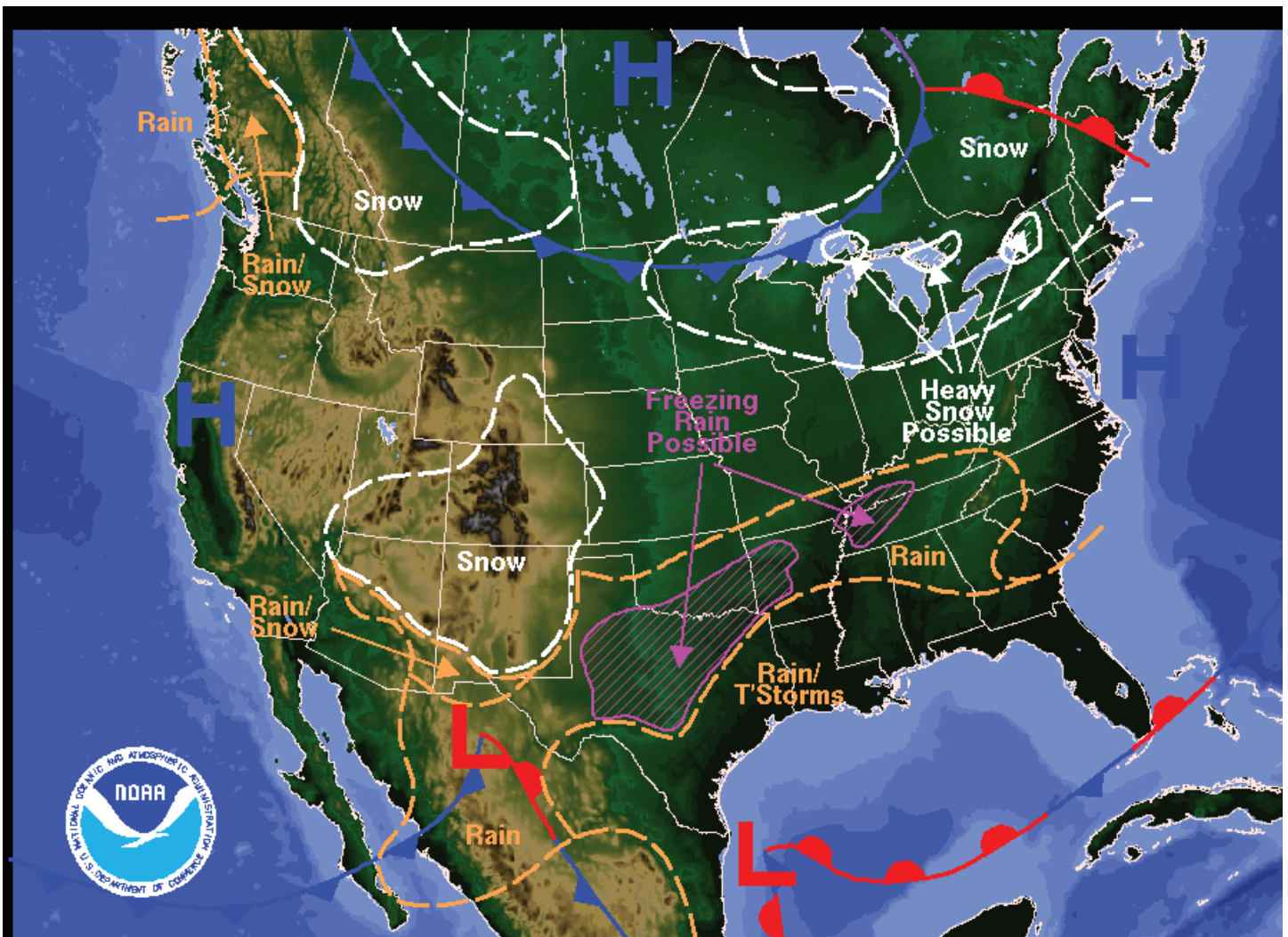
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.72

Precip Year to Date: 13.99

Sunset Tonight: 5:02 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:14 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Jan 01, 2015, issued 4:13 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



A GOAL FOR 2016

What? A goal for 2016 before completing the first day of 2015?

Why not?

Most of our "Resolutions for 2015" are, in fact, goals of one sort or another. Some resolutions will challenge us to "aim high" while others are "recycled" because they were "trashed" due to "lack of interest or difficulty." Some will bring laughter because they are so ridiculous while others will encourage us to stretch and grow and develop the gifts, skills and talents that God has given us.

Perhaps the best part of a resolution is the fact that it forces us to focus on the future - whether we want to or not. Tomorrow will soon become today and 2015 will be 2016 leaving us with some memories that we did not plan, want or feel we deserved. We have no power over time or some events - nor the ability to stop, start or delay them.

But we all have "attitudes" about things that we can alter or even change completely. If we willingly seek God's knowledge, we can change any attitude that could keep us from accomplishing the plan He has for our lives.

"Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge - but - he who hates correction is stupid." Being willing to allow God to discipline or correct us proves to Him that we love Him and want Him to guide us even though it may be painful or uncomfortable. He knows what we need!

Otherwise, Solomon would classify us as "stupid" or not having "rational thoughts." When God disciplines us it is for our good and His glory because He loves us!

Prayer: We are blest, Father, to know that You want Your very best for each of us. Guide and guard us always! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but those who hate to be rebuked are stupid.

North Dakota, Alaska locked in rivalry for oil, population

JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Forget South Dakota. North Dakota's most similar sister state these days is some 2,000 miles away.

Alaska and North Dakota — which once had little more in common than wintry weather and elbow room — have for the past several years been locked in a state sibling rivalry over population numbers and crude oil output.

"It shocks me how much we have in common with Alaska, and it's not just the cold," said Kevin Iverson, manager of the census office at the North Dakota Commerce Department in Bismarck.

North Dakota is bettering Alaska on crude production and the number of residents now, thanks to the Lower 48 state's economic miracle led by its oil bonanza. The United States' unlikely economic darling that is North Dakota comes in contrast to slipping crude production on The Last Frontier.

Recent U.S. Census Bureau data show North Dakota recaptured the 47th most populous state from Alaska, which had held the ranking for the past decade. North Dakota had an estimated 739,482 residents in 2014, up more 15,600 residents from the prior count and a record level. The 2.2 percent increase was the biggest in the nation.

Alaska lost more than 500 residents between 2013 and 2014, ending the year with a population pegged at about 736,700. It was among only six states to lose population, data show.

North Dakota's fortunes have swung radically in recent years with advanced drilling technology in the rich Bakken shale and Three Forks formations that have thrust the state to the nation's No. 2 oil producer behind Texas. North Dakota, which was barely a top-10 oil producer a decade ago, passed Alaska in 2012 to become the second-leading oil-producing state in the U.S.

Oil output in North Dakota is pegged at more than 1.1 million barrels daily, or more than double Alaska's oil production, which peaked in 1988 at 2 million barrels daily but has dropped to less than one-fourth of that at present.

Two of North Dakota's 17 oil-producing counties in the western part of the state — McKenzie and Mountrail — are now producing more than all of Alaska.

North Dakota's present day position seemed inconceivable in 2003 when it was the only state to lose population and Alaska vaulted past. Only Vermont and Wyoming had fewer residents than North Dakota then, and both of those states had population increases, the Census Bureau said.

Demographers projected at that time that Vermont and Wyoming would leapfrog over North Dakota by decade's end, leaving North Dakota with the dubious distinction of being the least-populated state in the nation.

The Census Bureau later estimated that about 21,000 North Dakotans left between 2000 and 2007, the year the state's oil boom began in earnest. North Dakota has since added nearly 84,000 residents and has about 25,000 more jobs than takers, giving it the lowest unemployment rate in the nation, less than 3 percent.

Iverson, North Dakota's demographer, said the explosion of oil development has made population estimates difficult, if not impossible.

"There is a real danger of doing population projections based on oil," he said. "The problem for small rural states like North Dakota and Alaska is that population is driven by migration change and that

change is driven by economics.”

Alaska demographer David Howell, based in Juneau, said most residents there are aware of North Dakota’s newfound oil wealth.

“We know what’s going on with oil in North Dakota and it’s something people here are always keeping track of,” he said. “People are talking about the boom down there.”

The recent population estimates, however, do not paint a gloom-and-doom picture for Alaska, Howell said. The state’s overall economy remains strong, he said.

“Certainly the statewide (population) estimates show a slight decrease, but it is not a huge drop by any means,” Howell said.

Livestock group warns ranchers to get tax advice

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association is warning cattle ranchers to seek professional tax advice for the payments they received after a blizzard in October 2013 that devastated cattle herds.

Association President Bob Fortune said on Wednesday that disaster recovery programs for ranchers would likely need to be reported as taxable income. He says it’s important for ranchers with questions to seek out a professional evaluation.

Donations and U.S. Department of Agriculture relief helped ranchers begin to replenish herds and rebuild barns and fences.

SD man convicted of drug charge sentenced

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man has been sentenced to one year in federal prison after pleading guilty to a drug charge.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says 49-year-old Rodney Hickey has also been sentenced to one year of supervised release. The Chamberlain man pleaded guilty to a possession of a controlled substance charge on Dec. 16.

Authorities say a South Dakota Highway Patrol trooper searched Hickey’s vehicle after a traffic stop in January 2013 and found a pill bottle with 48 pills of various kinds, as well as two bags with a white powder that authorities later determined was methamphetamine.

Prosecutors say firearms, a scale, a glass pipe and several other items were also found in the car.

Hickey is under the custody of the U.S. Marshal’s Service.

Herreid school football field getting lights again

HERREID, S.D. (AP) — Friday night lights are returning to the north-central South Dakota town of Herreid (HAYR’-ee-uhn) near the North Dakota border.

The district has approved new lights for the football field at a cost of about \$35,000. They’ll be installed in the spring.

Superintendent Jeff Koters told the Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/1y6Lxph>) the previous lights were taken down years ago because vandals kept shooting them out, so games have typically been played at 3 o’clock in the afternoon.

He says the improvements to the field also include a new scoreboard, sponsored by Campbell County Bank, possibly an irrigation system and a new crowd’s nest and concession stand combination.

The school co-ops with Selby for sports, so the two teams split their home football games.

Wednesday's Scores

The Associated Press

Boys Basketball

Swiftel Classic

Pipestone, Minn. 74, Waverly-South Shore 45

St. Francis Indian 70, Gayville-Volin 57

Summit 48, Potter County 47

Girls Basketball

Energy Classic Tournament

Championship: Campbell County, Wyo. 54, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 47

Swiftel Classic

Gayville-Volin 65, Hitchcock-Tulare 36

Pipestone, Minn. 56, Waverly-South Shore 42

Summit 54, Potter County 38

Ex-college football player charged with stalking mogul

BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A former North Dakota college football player who was kicked off his team after kissing an older man is facing a charge of stalking billionaire David Geffen.

Jamie Ralph Kuntz, 21, was ordered Wednesday to return to Los Angeles Superior Court on charges that he repeatedly violated an order to stay away from the entertainment mogul.

Kuntz pleaded not guilty earlier this month and is being held on \$150,000 bail.

Kuntz was kicked off the North Dakota State College of Sciences football team two years ago after kissing a 65-year-old boyfriend in the press box.

Kuntz says he lost his place as linebacker because he was gay, though the coach says he was removed for lying about the kiss.

Defense lawyer David Wohl said his client had a short-term physical relationship with Geffen that became a case of unrequited love. He disputed that Kuntz threatened Geffen or put him in fear for his safety, which is required to support a felony stalking charge.

The charges were filed after Kuntz pleaded guilty this fall to misdemeanor trespassing on Geffen's property and was sentenced to four months in jail and three years of probation.

"He was on the wrong side of celebrity justice," Wohl said. "That's 120 more days than your average person gets for trespass. Consider who the alleged victim is."

Geffen is one of the most powerful and wealthy men in Hollywood. He made his fortune as a record producer and co-founded DreamWorks Pictures with Steven Spielberg and Jeffrey Katzenberg.

After Kuntz served a fraction of the jail sentence, he was accused of violating a restraining order by going to Geffen's homes in Beverly Hills, California, and Malibu, California, in early November, Wohl said.

Kuntz is due back in court Jan. 23 on a single felony stalking charge and five misdemeanor counts of violating a court order. Wohl expects him to either plead guilty to a lesser charge or have the charges dismissed at that time.

He could face up to four years in state prison if convicted of a felony for stalking.

Wohl described his client as a "good kid" and a "gentle soul" who had no desire to harm Geffen.

Lawmakers want to open up loans to tribal members

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — State lawmakers want to make it easier for tribal members on South Dakota's reservations to purchase homes and start businesses by opening up access to credit.

Sen.-elect Troy Heinert, a member of the Rosebud Sioux tribe, said he wants to work with tribal leaders and state banks during the upcoming legislative session as a means of spurring economic development on reservations.

Two state panels aimed at repairing the relationship between the tribes and the state and increasing development opportunities don't have specific proposals to put forward this session, but a handful of lawmakers have measures they're considering to introduce on their own.

South Dakota's reservations are among the poorest areas in the state, with often-elevated unemployment rates, and the tribes have long endured a strained relationship with state government.

Pine Ridge Area Chamber of Commerce President Arlin Whirlwind Horse said banks are slow to issue loans because they're concerned they won't be able to foreclose on properties built on trust lands that were used as loan collateral, which restricts the ability of tribal members to access credit.

Tribal Economic Development Task Force Chairman Don Haggar said he wants to see access to credit improve for tribal members, which is also complicated by jurisdictional issues when problems with a loan arise. For example, if a bank has to litigate to collect money on an unpaid loan, banks and tribal members could disagree on whether the dispute should be heard in a civil court or a tribal court.

"The reality is banks are reluctant to do business within the boundaries of the reservations, and that's ... one of the major obstacles we want to overcome here," Haggar said.

Haggar said if his work group proposes legislation, it will likely be prepared for the 2016 session.

Heinert said he's seen more communication between the tribes and the state.

"I hope there's a steady building process, and I've seen it in the last couple years," Heinert said. "There's a lot of ground to be made up as far as building that relationship."

Hartford to honor school counselor, firefighter

HARTFORD, S.D. (AP) — Flags east of Sioux Falls in Hartford will fly at half-staff on Friday when family and friends lay to rest a school counselor and firefighter.

Kier Murphy died Saturday from complications of Influenza A.

He was a member of the Hartford Area Fire and Rescue Department and a West Central School District guidance counselor.

Mayor Paul Zimmer asked that all businesses, homes and schools in Hartford fly their flags at half-staff on Friday, the day of Murphy's funeral. Gov. Dennis Daugaard approved the request Wednesday.

5 more measles cases reported in South Dakota

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Five more people have been diagnosed with measles in South Dakota, bringing the total number of cases to six.

The three adults and three minors are part of a large extended family and none of them had been vaccinated against the virus, state epidemiologist Lon Kightlinger said Wednesday. The six cases — the first in the state since 1997 — have been reported in Davison County.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that can cause permanent brain damage or even death. It is spread by direct contact with nasal or throat secretions of infected people or, less frequently, by

airborne transmission.

Kightlinger said health officials are in the process of tracking down other people who have been in contact with the six individuals, one of whom does not live in South Dakota resident but traveled there for the holidays. He said the state is not limiting the travels of the ill nonresident.

"We do expect to have more cases because measles is a highly contagious disease," Kightlinger said. "However, the greater population is not at risk, the people who are not vaccinated are the ones who are at risk, especially in Davison County."

Kightlinger said vaccination rates in the state are "quite high." He said records in the affected county show nearly 94 percent of children in the 2-year-old range are vaccinated against the virus. Statewide, 93 percent of children in that age range have been vaccinated.

Kightlinger said that statistic goes up to 97 percent for kindergarteners and 94 percent for teenagers, as the vaccine is required to be admitted into schools.

New Year forecast warmer before return of cold

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota will start the new year off with some warmer temperatures before it turns cold again.

Overnight lows should stay above freezing and the state forecast calls for highs in the lower 20s in the far east to mid-30s in the southwest on Thursday and Friday.

Saturday is expected to be mostly cloudy, windy and becoming colder with a chance for light snow and highs in the upper teens in the north to 20s in the south.

The National Weather Service says single-digit highs are expected again on Sunday across much of the state.

Secretary of State to take oath of office Friday

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Secretary of State-elect Shantel Krebs wants to get a jump on the job so her staff is ready for the legislative session that starts Jan. 13.

KCCR-AM reports the Republican plans to take the oath of office Friday in Pierre. Other statewide officials and lawmakers will be sworn in during the inauguration on Saturday, Jan. 10.

Outgoing Secretary of State Jason Gant, who did not run for re-election, also took office early four years ago.

Krebs and deputies Tom Deadrick, Kea Warne and Teresa Bray will be sworn in at 8 a.m. Friday by Chief Justice David Gilbertson in the Supreme Court chambers.

Krebs says several of Gant's current staff will then spend the day working with the new staff on the transition.

Basin Electric buying power from 2 new wind farms

BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Basin Electric Power Cooperative has signed deals to buy power from two new wind farms in western North Dakota, the Bismarck-based utility announced Wednesday. Terms have not been disclosed.

Florida-based NextEra Energy Resources is developing the Dickinson Wind Energy Center near Richardton, and Kansas-based Tradewind Energy will be developing the Lindahl Wind Project near Tioga. The Richardton project is expected to be complete by the end of next year and the Tioga project by

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 27 of 33

the end of 2016. The combined generating capacity is 300 megawatts, enough to power about 300,000 homes.

Basin Electric supplies electricity to 137 rural electric systems in Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. Those member systems distribute electricity to about 2.8 million consumers.

Basin last year signed contracts to buy power from wind farms near Hebron and Golden Valley in North Dakota and from a farm in South Dakota's Campbell County. Those contracts and the ones entered into this year will bring the renewable energy portion of Basin's generating portfolio to more than 1,400 megawatts, CEO and General Manager Paul Sukut said.

Basin has the capacity to have 13 percent of its power generated through renewable means, including wind. By the end of 2016, the number will jump to nearly 22 percent, according to spokeswoman Mary Miller. Most of Basin's capacity comes from coal.

"As we develop plans to meet our members' energy needs, we have not discounted any options that will help keep our member rates low," Sukut said in a statement. "These additional wind purchase opportunities fit nicely into our existing generation portfolio."

Incoming GF&P head cleared in ethics complaint

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The incoming secretary of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks has been cleared of ethics allegations in Alaska, although critics say it was due to a technicality.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard last week announced that South Dakota native Kelly Hepler will replace Jeff Vonk, who is retiring in January after serving as Game and Fish secretary since 2007.

Hepler, who has worked with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game since 1979, was among several public officials in that state accused in August of not reporting gifts from a lobbying organization known as the Kenai River Sportfishing Association, the Argus Leader newspaper reported.

The Alaska Public Offices Commission determined last month that Hepler did nothing wrong because his job title did not fall under a category that requires disclosure.

Hepler's title is listed in state directories as "assistant commissioner," and the resume that he used to apply for the South Dakota job also lists him as "assistant commissioner." The Public Offices Commission, however, determined that the title was not official and that Hepler was officially known as a special project coordinator, a title not required to report gifts from lobbyists.

"It's either black or white — it's not a technicality," Hepler told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Hepler said "assistant commissioner" was one of several "working titles" he has held but that "special project coordinator" is his official state title.

Tony Venhuizen, Daugaard's chief of staff, said the governor's office was aware of the complaint made against Hepler when it approached him about the job.

"He was upfront about this whole matter," Venhuizen said.

Hepler said he mentioned the allegations to South Dakota officials because "I believe in being honest with people and forthright."

Hepler is expected to start his duties in South Dakota in March.

"I'm looking forward to my time as secretary," he said.

Float decorators, fans prep for chilly Rose Parade

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — As Danelle Jacobs and a crew of volunteers decorated their Rose Parade float, strong winds from a blustery winter storm blew flowers into the air. The scaffolding bounced.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 28 of 33

Then the power went out.

For the first time in 30 years, the team decided to suspend decorating for the night.

"This was the worst we had seen," she said.

A cold air mass moving into Southern California could make Thursday's Rose Parade one of the coldest on record. Jacobs and other volunteers rushed to put the final roses and carnations in place Wednesday after halting operations the night before. And officials advised the thousands expected to line the streets to dress in layers and drink plenty of warm liquids as temperatures hover around freezing in the early morning hours.

The frigid weather did not stop dozens of people from lining up early Wednesday to claim spots along the parade route.

"We're going to have a clear day and it'll be cool and brisk, but I think people are just going to really enjoy the excitement of the Rose Parade," said Richard Chinen, president of the 2015 Tournament of Roses.

The New Year's Day parade will feature 39 floats highlighting historic figures, celebrities and popular culture around the theme "Inspiring Stories." Cast members from "The Love Boat" will ride on a Princess Cruises float while stars from "The Bachelor" will appear on another.

World War II hero and former Olympian Louis Zamperini was named grand marshal of the parade last year. Zamperini is the subject of a best-selling book and the movie "Unbroken," directed by Angelina Jolie and now in theaters.

Zamperini died in July, but his son and daughter will marshal the parade in his place.

"He really is the embodiment of inspiring stories, and there was no way we were going to change that," Chinen said.

The parade will be followed by the College Football Playoff at the Rose Bowl game, where second-seeded Oregon will face third-seeded Florida State.

AP News in Brief

Shanghai stampede kills dozens as glittery fireworks, parties elsewhere mark 2015

Revelers converged on the beaches of Brazil, the skyscrapers of Dubai and New York's Times Square to say good riddance to a turbulent 2014 marred by terror woes, Ebola outbreaks and a horrific series of airline disasters.

But tragedy struck in Shanghai, Baghdad was on edge and protesters in the United States planned a sobering reminder of one of the year's biggest stories.

A look around the world:
STAMPEDE IN SHANGHAI

AP PHOTOS: A selection of our favorite New Year's images from around the world

Millions of revelers converged on the beaches of Brazil, the streets of Seoul, South Korea, and New York's Times Square to say good riddance to a turbulent 2014 marred by terror woes and Ebola outbreaks.

Worldwide people gathered to remember those lost in 2014 and offer blessings for the new year. But

as always, the common thread for the major celebrations in congested downtowns and public squares was fireworks — and tons of them.

In Dubai, fireworks surrounded the world's tallest building, the 2,722-foot Burj Khalifa, which flashed with colored lights and images of the country's leaders as organizers went for a Guinness World Record for the largest LED-illuminated facade.

Sydney's famed Opera House provided a stunning background for a trademark glittery celebration replete with a tropical-style fireworks display featuring gold and silver palm tree pyrotechnic effects.

And in New York partiers eager to claim spots to ring in 2015 in Times Square arrived hours early, enduring freezing temperatures and a scarcity of restrooms before the glittering ball drop at midnight at the Crossroads of the World.

36 killed, 47 injured in stampede at New Year's event on historic Shanghai waterfront

SHANGHAI (AP) — People unable to contact friends and relatives streamed into hospitals Thursday, anxious for information after a stampede during New Year's celebrations in Shanghai's historic waterfront area killed 36 people in the worst disaster to hit one of China's showcase cities in recent years.

The Shanghai government said 47 others received hospital treatment, including 13 who were seriously injured, after the chaos about a half-hour before midnight. Seven of the injured people had left hospitals by Thursday afternoon.

The Shanghai government information office said one Taiwanese was among the dead, and two Taiwanese and one Malaysian were among the injured.

The deaths and injuries occurred at Chen Yi Square in Shanghai's popular riverfront Bund area, an avenue lined with art deco buildings from the 1920s and 1930s when Shanghai was home to international banks and trading houses. The area is often jammed with people during major events.

At one of the hospitals where the injured were being treated, police brought out photos of unidentified dead victims, causing dozens of waiting relatives to crowd around. Not everyone could see, and young women who looked at the photos broke into tears when they recognized someone.

Appeals court in Egypt orders retrial in case of imprisoned 3 Al-Jazeera English journalists.

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian appeals court ordered a retrial Thursday in the case of three Al-Jazeera English journalists held for over a year, overturning the ruling in a case that ensnared the reporters in a wider conflict between Egypt and Qatar.

The decision by Egypt's Court of Cassation came after a hearing that lasted less than half an hour. However, Canadian-Egyptian Mohammed Fahmy, Australian journalist Peter Greste and Egyptian Baher Mohammed, who have been held their arrest in December 2013, were not released on bail.

The three journalists did not attend the brief hearing that began around 9 a.m. local time (0700 GMT, 2 a.m. EST) in Cairo. Reporters gathered to report on the hearing were not allowed in for those arguments, but later entered the court.

Defense lawyers said they believed a retrial for the three men would be held within a month and that they hoped for speedy trial given a changing political climate between Egypt and Qatar — believed to be underpinning the whole case. The Al-Jazeera satellite news network is based in Qatar, a country which recently promised to ease tensions in the greater Middle East by dropping its support for Islamist

groups throughout the region, like Egypt's outlawed Muslim Brotherhood.

Defense lawyers expressed relief over the retrial, though family members of those imprisoned said they hoped for their loved ones' immediate release. Legal experts said releasing the men was outside of power of the Court of Cassation.

Family buries AirAsia flight attendant, 1st victim ID'd from Indonesia crash; 8th body found

SURABAYA, Indonesia (AP) — An AirAsia flight attendant identified by the name tag on her red uniform became the first victim of AirAsia Flight 8501 to be returned to her family Thursday, one of many painful reunions to come, as search crews struggled against wind and heavy rain to find more than 150 people still missing.

Hayati Lutfiah Hamid's identity was confirmed by fingerprints and other means, said Col. Budiyo of East Java's Disaster Victim Identification Unit.

Her body, in a dark polished casket topped with flowers, was handed over to her family at a brief ceremony at a police hospital in Surabaya, the Indonesian city where the plane had taken off. A family member cried as she put both hands on the coffin.

After a Muslim cleric said a prayer for the deceased, the casket was immediately taken to a village and lowered into a muddy grave, following Muslim obligations requiring bodies to be buried quickly. An imam said a simple prayer as about 150 people gathered in the drizzling rain, and red flowers were sprinkled over the mound of wet dirt with a small white tombstone.

Flight 8501 crashed into the Java Sea on Sunday with 162 people aboard. Eight bodies have been recovered, including one brought Thursday to Pangkalan Bun, the nearest town to where the wreckage was spotted Tuesday.

Palestinians join International Criminal Court to press war-crimes case against Israel

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Turning up the pressure on Israel, the Palestinians announced Wednesday that they are joining the International Criminal Court to pursue war-crimes charges against the Jewish state — a risky, high-stakes move that brought threats of retaliation from Israel and criticism from the U.S.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas acted a day after suffering a defeat in the U.N. Security Council, which voted down a resolution setting a three-year deadline for the establishment of a Palestinian state on lands occupied by Israel.

"We want to complain. There's aggression against us, against our land. The Security Council disappointed us," Abbas said.

Turning to the international court at The Hague marks a major policy shift, transforming Abbas' relations with Israel from tense to openly hostile. The ultimate goal is to pressure Israel into withdrawing from the territories and agreeing to Palestinian statehood.

The strategy carries risks, including the possibility the Palestinians themselves could be accused of war crimes over rocket attacks by the extremist group Hamas on Israeli population centers and other violence against Jewish targets.

Arab-Israeli Muslim woman runs for parliament with party opposing Palestinian independence

KIBBUTZ YEHIAM, Israel (AP) — An Arab-Israeli Muslim woman is running for a parliament seat as a member of a hard-line religious Jewish party aligned with the West Bank settler movement and that opposes Palestinian independence.

The bid by iconoclast Anett Haskia, a 45-year-old hairdresser and mother of three, comes after she gave a series of bombastic television interviews in support of Israel's military this summer during its war against Hamas in Gaza. Now she is the lone Arab vying for a spot on the Jewish Home party's list ahead of its January primary.

Arab citizens of Israel, who make up 20 percent of the country's population, strongly identify with Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. They generally oppose Israeli military actions, do not serve in the Israeli army and complain of deep-seated discrimination.

Haskia's children, however, voluntarily enlisted in the Israeli army — including one son who served in an elite unit in Gaza during the summer war.

"Just because I was born in the Jewish state doesn't mean a Jew is better than me," Haskia recently told The Associated Press in Hebrew. "I sent the children to war, and nobody can tell me that I, Anett, the Arab, am second class."

Maryland governor says he will commute sentences of state's last 4 death-row inmates to life

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — In one of his final acts as governor, Democrat Martin O'Malley announced Wednesday that he will commute the sentences of four death-row inmates to life in prison without parole.

Two years ago, the General Assembly abolished the death penalty, leaving five inmates on death row. One of them, John Booth-El, died in prison this year.

The governor said he had met or spoken with many of the relatives of the people killed by the inmates. Some victim family members and prosecutors were upset with O'Malley's decision.

O'Malley said that if he didn't commute the sentences the legal process would "needlessly and callously subject survivors, and the people of Maryland, to the ordeal of an endless appeals process, with unpredictable twists and turns, and without any hope of finality or closure."

None of the executions was imminent because the state didn't have a procedure to carry one out.

GOP legislators opposed to all parts of 'Obamacare' block governors' bids to expand Medicaid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Governors across the political spectrum are hitting a roadblock in their bids to expand Medicaid with federal funds: Republican legislators who adamantly oppose "Obamacare."

While some of these governors themselves have criticized the president's health care law in general, they've come to see one component — Medicaid expansion — as too generous to reject. But they're battling conservative lawmakers who say it's better to turn down billions of federal dollars than to expand Medicaid under the 2010 law.

Partisan politics have driven states' Medicaid decisions ever since the Supreme Court ruled in 2012 that expansion was optional, not mandatory, under the new law. Within months, every Democratic

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 32 of 33

governor agreed to expand Medicaid (although Republican legislatures blocked a few of those efforts).

Only nine states with Republican governors accepted the offer.

Medicaid, the health insurance program for low-income and disabled people, covers about 65 million Americans, more than one in five. The federal government will pay the full expansion cost for the first three years, and gradually reduce the subsidy to 90 percent. That's more than the traditional Medicaid federal match to states.

North Korea's Kim Jong Un, in New Year's speech, says he is open to summit with South

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said in a New Year's speech Thursday that he is open to more talks or even a summit with his South Korean counterpart, a statement welcomed by Seoul, which in turn urged the North to take concrete steps toward normalization of relations.

Kim's call for improving inter-Korea relations comes as Pyongyang is facing heightened criticism over its human rights record and souring ties with Washington over allegations it was involved in the massive hacking attack on Sony Pictures linked to "The Interview," a dark comedy that portrayed an assassination attempt on Kim.

North Korea has denied involvement, but said the hack was a "righteous deed" and suggested it might have been carried out by sympathizers or supporters abroad.

"We believe we can resume suspended senior-level talks and hold other talks on specific issues if South Korea sincerely has a position that it wants to improve North-South relations through a dialogue," Kim said in the nationally televised address. "And there is no reason not to hold the highest-level talks if the atmosphere and conditions are met."

Meeting such conditions has proven to be virtually impossible in the past. The two countries have not held a summit since 2007 and, despite Kim's remarks, the likelihood of one happening again soon is very low given the deep distrust that remains between the two countries.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 1, the first day of 2015. There are 364 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 1, 1975, a jury in Washington found Nixon administration officials John N. Mitchell, H.R. Haldean, John D. Ehrlichman and Robert C. Mardian guilty of charges related to the Watergate cover-up; a fifth defendant, Kenneth Parkinson, was acquitted, and Mardian's conviction for conspiracy was later overturned on appeal.

On this date:

In 1515, Louis XII, King of France, died; he was succeeded by Francis I.

In 1660, Englishman Samuel Pepys (peeps) began keeping his famous diary.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that slaves in rebel states shall be "forever free."

In 1913, the U.S. Parcel Post system went into operation.

In 1935, The Associated Press inaugurated Wirephoto, the first successful service for transmitting photographs by wire to member newspapers.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, January 01, 2015 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 161 ♦ 33 of 33

In 1945, France was admitted to the United Nations.

In 1953, country singer Hank Williams Sr., 29, was discovered dead in the back seat of his car during a stop in Oak Hill, West Virginia, while he was being driven to a concert date in Canton, Ohio.

In 1959, Fidel Castro and his revolutionaries overthrew Cuban leader Fulgencio Batista, who fled to the Dominican Republic.

In 1979, the United States and China held celebrations in Washington and Beijing to mark the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In 1984, the breakup of AT&T took place as the telecommunications giant was divested of its 22 Bell System companies under terms of an antitrust agreement.

In 1985, the music cable channel VH-1 made its debut with a video of Marvin Gaye performing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

In 1995, the World Trade Organization (WTO) came into being, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Sweden, Finland and Austria joined the European Union. Fernando Henrique Cardoso took office as Brazil's president.

Ten years ago: Desperate, homeless villagers on the tsunami-ravaged island of Sumatra mobbed American helicopters carrying aid as the U.S. military launched its largest operation in the region since the Vietnam War. Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to the U.S. Congress, died near Daytona Beach, Florida, at age 80. California Congressman Robert T. Matsui (mat-SOO'-ee) died in Bethesda, Maryland, at age 63. No. 6 Texas managed a wild 38-37 win over No. 13 Michigan in the Rose Bowl. Fifth-ranked Utah dominated 19th-ranked Pittsburgh 35-7 in the Fiesta Bowl.

Five years ago: A suicide bomber detonated a truckload of explosives on a volleyball field in north-west Pakistan, killing at least 97 people. Fifth-ranked Florida overwhelmed No. 4 Cincinnati 51-24 in the Sugar Bowl. In the Rose Bowl, No. 8 Ohio State defeated No. 7 Oregon 26-17.

One year ago: The nation's first legal recreational pot shops opened in Colorado at 8 a.m. Mountain Standard Time. Actress Juanita Moore, 99, died in Los Angeles. No. 4 Michigan State romped to a 24-20 victory over No. 5 Stanford in the 100th Rose Bowl. No. 15 Central Florida pulled off one of the biggest upsets of the bowl season by outlasting No. 6 Baylor 52-42 in the Fiesta Bowl.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., is 93. Actor Ty Hardin is 85. Documentary maker Frederick Wiseman is 85. Actor Frank Langella is 77. Rock singer-musician Country Joe McDonald is 73. Writer-comedian Don Novello is 72. Actor Rick Hurst is 69. Country singer Steve Ripley (The Tractors) is 65. Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., is 61. The head of the International Monetary Fund, Christine Lagarde, is 59. Rapper Grandmaster Flash is 57. Actress Ren Woods is 57. Actress Dedee Pfeiffer is 51. Actress Embeth Davidtz is 49. Country singer Brian Flynn (Flynnville Train) is 49. Actor Morris Chestnut is 46. Actor Verne Troyer is 46. Elin Nordegren is 35. Actor Jonas Armstrong (Film: "Walking With the Enemy"; "Edge of Tomorrow"; TV: "Robin Hood") is 34. Actress Eden Riegel is 34. Olympic gold medal ice dancer Meryl Davis is 28.

Thought for Today: "Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right." - Oprah Winfrey.