

Groton Daily Independent

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Sperry Stump Removal Tyler: 605/216-8431
Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!
TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**

The cardboard/paper recycling trailer at the school is OPEN

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

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

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

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

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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Death Notice: Duane Dobberpuhl

Duane Dobberpuhl, 60, of Groton passed away January 1, 2015 at Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Skating Clinic is Today

The skating clinic is scheduled for Friday, January 2nd. Remember, your child is able to attend more than one of the classes if so desired. We have guidelines as to where your child might be at based upon age and grade level, but they are not set in stone. You will have a better idea as to how well your child can skate than we do. Please use the following guidelines to determine which class or classes you want your child to attend.

Beginner skaters include 4-6 year olds/pre-school - 1st grade students. Advanced beginner skaters include 7 - 9 year olds/2nd - 4th grade students. Intermediate skaters include 10 - 13 year olds/5th - 8th grade students. The skater level includes 14 - 18 year olds/9th - 12 grade students.

The times for the classes are as follows:

- 1:15 PM - 2:00 PM Beginner Skaters
- 2:15 PM - 3:00 PM Advanced Beginner Skaters
- 3:15 PM - 4:00 PM Intermediate Skaters
- 4:15 PM - 5:00 PM Skaters

Skating Rink Hours

- Today: 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Sunday: 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Monday through Thursday: 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Friday: 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Moisture short in 2014

The average moisture for the Groton area is 21.72 inches. The area only received 13.99 inches, which is 64 percent of the annual average.

FRIDAY IS
FRIED CHICKEN DAY
Served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Serving 5-9 p.m.

WE'VE GOT WINGS!
Every Wednesday!

ANDOVER BAR & GRILL
120 S Main St. • 298-5252

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.

Today in Weather History

1999: Heavy snow of 6 to 8 inches fell across part of northeast South Dakota from the late afternoon hours of the 1st to the early morning hours of the 2nd. Strong north winds of 15 to 30 mph combined with temperatures in the single digits generated wind chills from 25 to 40 below and visibilities below 1/4 of a mile at times. Holiday travel along Interstate-29 and Highway 12 was most affected by this winter storm. There were some travel delays and some stranded motorists as a result. Some snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Kidder, Victor, Sisseton, Webster, Waubay, Wilmot, and 8 inches at Britton and near Peever.

1870 – One unofficial source reported the heaviest snowfall ever known in Louisville, Kentucky, piled up to about four feet. That would be more than twice as much as the accepted official record of 22.4 inches set February 4 through 6.

1897 – Spring made an unusually early appearance in central Illinois. Peoria saw its warmest January night on record, when the low temperature was only 59 degrees. Springfield also had a record warm January night, with a low of 56 degrees.

1910 - A great flood in Utah and Nevada washed out 100 miles of railroad between Salt Lake City UT and Los Angeles CA causing seven million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1955 – The 1955 hurricane season began exceptionally early as the first hurricane of the season formed in the Atlantic Ocean but never made landfall.

1961 - The coldest temperature of record for the state of Hawaii was established with a reading of 14 degrees atop Haleakela Summit. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A winter storm moving up the Atlantic coast brought heavy snow and high winds to the northeastern U.S. Wind gusts reached 82 mph at Trenton NJ and Southwest Harbor in Maine. Snowfall totals ranged up to two feet at Salem NH and Waterboro ME. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - "Old Man Winter" took a siesta, with snow a scarcity across the nation. For the second day in a row Alamosa CO reported a record low of 31 degrees below zero. (National Weather Summary)

1989 - Strong and gusty winds prevailed along the eastern slopes of the northern and central Rockies. Winds gusted to 71 mph at Colorado Springs CO and Livingston MT. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - The first winter storm of the new year and decade developed in the southwestern U.S., and blanketed the northern mountains of Utah with 12 to 23 inches of snow. Up to 22 inches of snow was reported in the Alta-Snowbird area. The storm brought Las Vegas NV their first measurable precipitation in four and a half months, since the 17th of August. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1994 - High winds buffeted the Northern Front Range of Colorado during the morning hours. Peak wind gusts included 105 mph atop Squaw Mountain near Idaho Springs and 89 mph at Fort Collins. A fast moving "Alberta Clipper" brought up to six inches of snow to Iowa. Up to a foot of snow blanketed the Snowy Range Mountains in southeastern Wyoming. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2008 - The second day of 2008 brought snow to areas of Indiana, Ohio and the Appalachians through the Northeastern United States. Parts of New England received the heaviest amounts, with some areas receiving storm totals of over 15 inches (38 cm) in several areas of central and eastern Maine. (NCDC)

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TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY	SUNDAY NIGHT	MONDAY
						
Partly Sunny High: 30 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 21 °F	Chance Snow High: 21 °F ↓	Blustery Low: -12 °F	Cold High: 1 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: -12 °F	Slight Chc Snow High: 8 °F



Mild Today, Then Changing Conditions

Follow us on Social Media

weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Clipper System Saturday

COLD

Heavy Snow

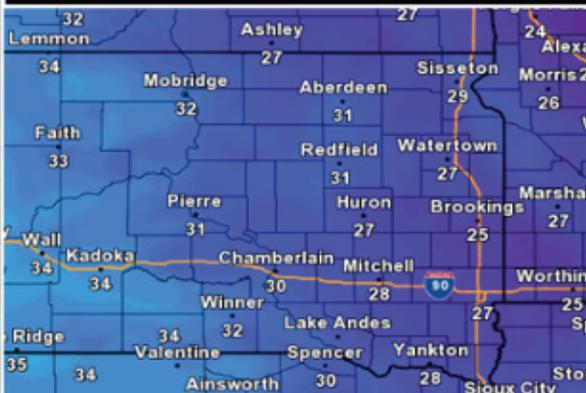
Windy

Light Snow

< 1"

Windy

Today's Temps



Another mild day is expected across the region today. However, conditions will change Saturday. A clipper system moving across the northern plains will bring light snow and very strong northwest winds to the area. Snow accumulations are generally expected to be under one inch, however, falling snow combined with gusty northwest winds may reduce visibility and make for hazardous travel. Additionally, strong winds, plus rapidly falling temperatures through the day Saturday will translate to wind chill values between 25 below zero and 40 below zero by Saturday night.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 31.1 at 2:28 PM

Low: 10.3 at 1:11 AM

High Gust: 26 at 11:14 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 50° in 1963

Record Low: -30° in 2010

Average High: 22°F

Average Low: 2°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.02

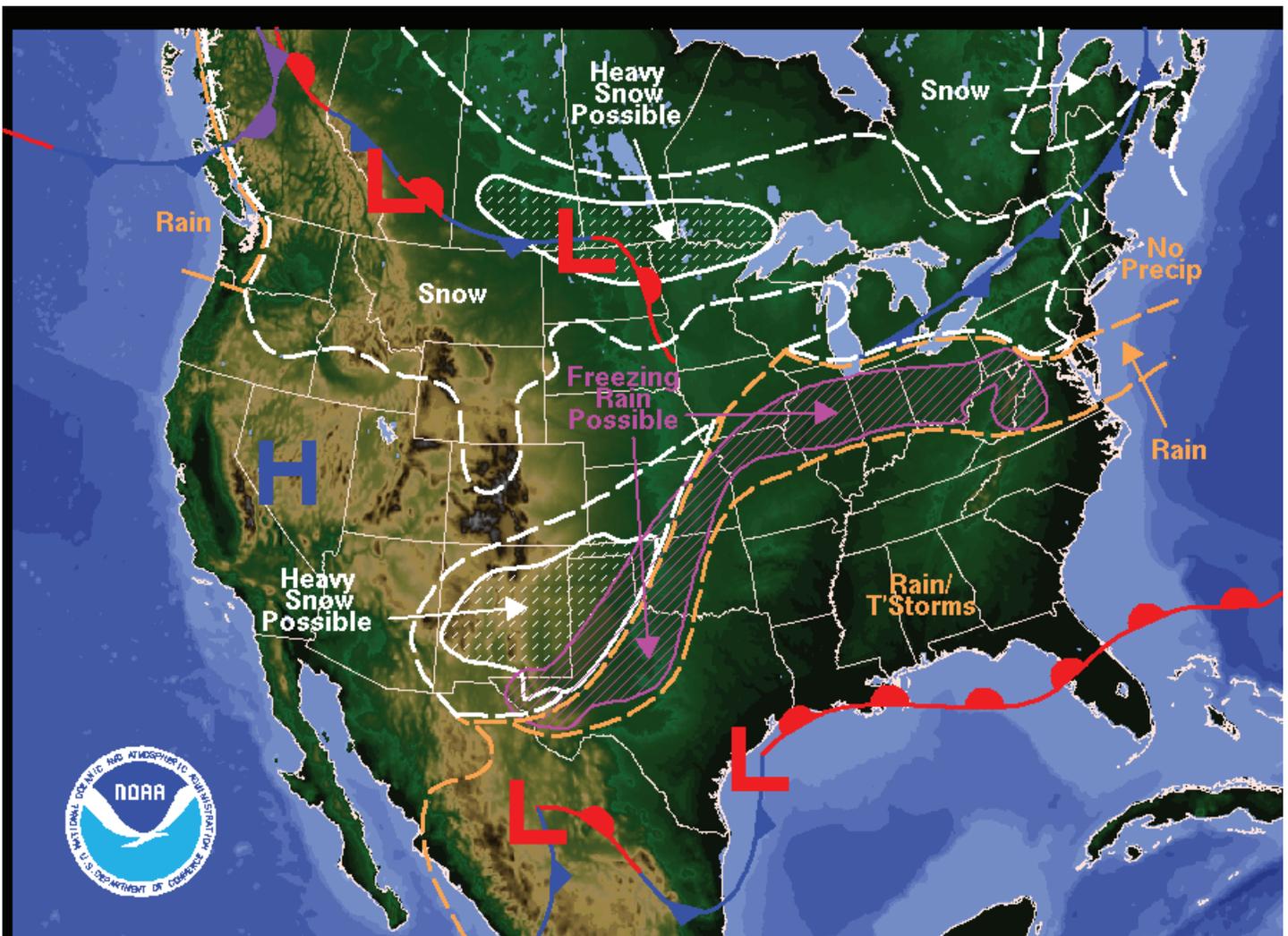
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.02

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:03 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:14 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Jan 02, 2015, issued 4:00 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



WHERE DO YOU STAND?

There's not much "middle ground" when it comes to feelings about "teachers' pets" in the classroom or those who are "the bosses most trusted friends." If a student has found "special favor" with a teacher or an employee has gained "special recognition" by someone in authority at work, the rest of the class or work force often resent the attention they receive. And why not?

Often there appear to be "secret" or "hidden" paths to such status. How they got there or what they did is not always obvious. At one time it was an "apple" or "box of candy" for the teacher. Perhaps it was a "cup of coffee" to begin the day or a "special gift" on a holiday. But the way to gain this status is not published in a student handbook or organization policy manual.

With God it's different. He has no favorites. There are no hidden secrets if anyone wants Him to recognize them. He is always there waiting for us to call upon Him. His ears are always open. His eyes are constantly looking for those who need Him. His heart is full of love for each of us.

But, Solomon made a statement that stands out: "A good man obtains favor from the Lord; but the Lord condemns a crafty man." A "good man" in the eyes of the Lord is one who lives a self-sacrificing life; one who does what he does because he is motivated by God to serve Him and help others. A man who is "crafty" is one who "devises evil" or hides the facts, is not open and honest nor truthful in his dealings with or service to others.

Want God's favor? Follow Solomon's advice!

Prayer: Lord, Your instructions are always clear and easy to understand. Give me Your strength to be obedient. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 12:2 The good obtain favor from the Lord, but those who devise evil he condemns.

News from the Associated Press

Suspect shot at by officer sought in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police are searching for a man who confronted an officer with what they believe was a gun.

Authorities say the officer was on a routine patrol in the Tuthill Park area shortly before 11 p.m. Thursday when a man pointed what appeared to be a handgun at the officer. Police say the man did not comply with the officer's commands, and the officer fired several shots at him.

The man fled on foot, and police don't know if he was hit. The officer was not injured.

Report shows improved Midwest economic outlook

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A monthly report shows an improved economic outlook over the next three to six months for nine Midwestern and Plains states.

A survey report issued Friday says the overall Mid-America Business Conditions Index jumped to 54.4 in December from 51.3 in November.

The survey results from supply managers are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests economic growth, while a score below that suggests decline. The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey, and he says drops in grain and fuel prices have helped companies with close ties to consumers.

Harper and Mason most popular Sanford baby names

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Look for a lot of Harpers and Masons on youth ball fields in the region in the coming years.

Sanford Health has released the most popular names given to babies born at its hospitals in 2014.

After Harper, the most popular girl names were Olivia, Emma, Ava and Nora. Besides Mason, the boy names topping the list were Liam, Oliver, Jackson and Lincoln.

Colder temps allow ice rinks and ski hills to open

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Some eastern South Dakota winter sports sites are opening or reopening because of the colder weather.

After a brief closure last week due to the warmer temperatures, skating is allowed again at the outdoor ice rinks in Aberdeen at Manor Park and Lincoln Park. Indoor skating is also available at the Odde Ice Arena.

Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation says its six outdoor ice rinks and two hockey rinks opened for the season on Thursday. And Great Bear Recreation Park east of Sioux Falls has also reopened after the warm spell and rain.

Cougar expert: Cats could return to Northeast US

WILSON RING, Associated Press

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — A Vermont animal tracker known nationally for her expertise in tracking cougars believes the big cats will eventually return to the Northeastern United States and neighboring parts of Canada, but she says the region won't see large numbers of them anytime soon.

The forests of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and upstate New York have ideal cougar habitat, meaning plentiful forest cover and large animals to sustain a cougar population, said Sue Morse of Jericho, the science director and founder of the organization Keeping Track.

"Back in the '80s, I just looked at that huge expanse of country between the Rockies, the western slope of the Rockies and here, and I thought to myself 'how can this happen?'" said Morse.

Since then, scientists have tracked the animals moving out of South Dakota into Midwestern states. Cougars also are moving north into Manitoba, the Canadian province to the west of Ontario, which Morse considers their most likely route back to the Northeast.

"We need our apex carnivores in a big way," Morse said. "We need them for the health of our forests. Our forests are being ravaged by too many deer in some places."

The animals are known by a variety of names: mountain lion, puma, panther, catamount. Vermont's last known cougar was killed in 1881 in Barnard. The animal, now stuffed, is on display at the Vermont Historical Society in Montpelier.

"It's a known fact that dispersing tom cougars will go hundreds, if not thousands of miles as they search for a habitat in which they can settle down in the company of females and call home," said Morse, who is planning a lecture on the topic Jan. 7 in Richmond.

The challenge is the females are more likely to stay near their home range, but they too will sometimes move into new territory, she said.

Scientists say sightings of individual cougars are possible, but they're skeptical that breeding populations of cougars will return to the region on their own.

Mary Parkin, endangered species recovery coordinator for the Northeast Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, agrees the region has suitable habitat for cougars and male cougars do pass through.

"The trick is getting that female there, they would have to be brought in," she said, adding that was unaware of any effort to bring cougars back to the Northeast.

Mark Scott, director of wildlife for the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, said his agency regularly receives reports of cougar sightings and it's possible that individual cougars could be spotted in Vermont, but he calls the possibility of a breeding population returning to the state "a long shot."

"It used to be if someone saw a mountain lion they'd say 'I'm not going to tell anybody because they're going to think I'm crazy,'" Scott said. "But people shouldn't feel that way today. There really is a possibility that if they see a large cat, obviously it needs to have a long tail ... they could be seeing the real thing."

Other scientists say there's no question the animals are moving far from what is considered their current range. In 2011, a cougar was hit by a car and killed on a Connecticut highway. Subsequent DNA testing found that the animal was from South Dakota.

Morse said the animals regularly confound scientists by doing the unexpected. It could take 30 years (Morse hopes less) for a breeding population to return.

"I am looking forward to seeing how these animals pull it off because I'm convinced they will," she said.

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. MARIO CUOMO DIES AT 82

Obama praises the former New York governor as “an unflinching voice for tolerance, inclusiveness, fairness, dignity, and opportunity.”

2. SEARCHERS RECOVER 21 MORE BODIES FROM AIRASIA CRASH SITE

Rescue teams battling monsoon rains have their most successful day yet, more than tripling the number of bodies pulled from the Java Sea, including some still strapped to their seats.

3. 'LIVING HELL' FOR SLAVES IN REMOTE SOUTH KOREA

The disabled and homeless are forced to work on islands off the country's southwest coast, but no local officials who know about slavery will face punishment.

4. WHAT POSES CHALLENGE FOR LEGAL POT STATES

Washington and Colorado wrestle with competition from medical marijuana or even outright black market sales.

5. IRAQ'S BIRDS OF MERCY TAKE FLIGHT FROM DIN OF WAR

Trappers sell captured European starlings at the market in Irbil, with most buyers purchasing their freedom to bring good luck — but the campaign against the Islamic State group appears to have scared many of the birds away.

6. FAMILIES OF SHANGHAI VICTIMS SEEK ANSWERS

Authorities are still investigating the cause of the stampede that killed 36 people during New Year's celebrations.

7. IF NOT HILLARY, THEN WHO?

If the former secretary of state decides not to run for president, Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren are among the other possible top candidates.

8. PIANO STORES CLOSING AS FEWER CHILDREN TAKING UP INSTRUMENT

Some blame computers and others opt for a less expensive electronic keyboard, but what's clear is that a long-term decline in sales has accelerated.

9. WHAT RESOLUTIONS FAST-FOOD CHAINS ARE MAKING

McDonald's, Taco Bell and other restaurants are trying to shed their reputation for serving reheated meals that are loaded with chemicals.

10. BUCKEYES BEAT 'BAMA, TO FACE DUCKS

Sugar Bowl champion Ohio State will meet Rose Bowl champ Oregon in Arlington, Texas, on Jan. 12 in the first College Football Playoff championship game.

AP News in Brief

Former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, 82, dies on day his son Andrew begins 2nd term

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Mario Cuomo, a leading liberal voice who served three terms as governor of New York, died just hours after his son Andrew began his second term as the state's chief executive. He was 82.

The son of Italian immigrants, Mario Cuomo played minor league baseball before embarking on a legal and political career. His oratory and his dedication to progressive policies made him a political star, but

despite calls to seek the White House, he never made a run for president.

Cuomo died Thursday of natural causes due to heart failure at his home, according to a statement released by the governor's office. He was surrounded by his family. Hours earlier, the younger Cuomo delivered an inaugural address in which he honored his father.

"He is in the heart and mind of every person who is here," Andrew Cuomo said. "He is here and he is here, and his inspiration and his legacy and his experience is what has brought this state to this point. So let's give him a round of applause."

President Barack Obama telephoned Cuomo Thursday and offered his condolences. In a statement, the president called Mario Cuomo "a determined champion of progressive values, and an unflinching voice for tolerance, inclusiveness, fairness, dignity, and opportunity."

What's being said about the death of former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo

Reaction to the death of former three-term Gov. Mario Cuomo, who died Thursday hours after his son, Andrew, was sworn in for his second term as governor.

"An Italian Catholic kid from Queens, born to immigrant parents, Mario paired his faith in God and faith in America to live a life of public service — and we are all better for it. He rose to be chief executive of the state he loved, a determined champion of progressive values, and an unflinching voice for tolerance, inclusiveness, fairness, dignity, and opportunity." — President Barack Obama.

"I was deeply inspired by Mario Cuomo's 'Tale of Two Cities' speech at the 1984 Democratic National Convention. His words ring as true today as they did more than 30 years ago ... So often the voice of conscience, Mario Cuomo was one of the great leaders in the history of the Empire State and perhaps our greatest communicator." — New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver

'Living hell' for disabled, homeless forced to work on isolated South Korean 'Slave Islands'

SINUI ISLAND, South Korea (AP) — He ran the first chance he got.

The sun beat down on the shallow, sea-fed fields where Kim Seong-baek was forced to work without pay, day after 18-hour day mining the big salt crystals that blossomed in the mud around him. Half-blind and in rags, Kim grabbed another slave, and the two disabled men headed for the coast.

Far from the glittering steel-and-glass capital of Seoul, they were now hunted men on this remote island where the enslavement of disabled salt farm workers is an open secret.

"It was a living hell," Kim said in a recent series of interviews with The Associated Press whose details are corroborated by court records and by lawyers, police and government officials.

Lost, they wandered past asphalt-black salt fields sparkling with a patina of thin white crust. They could feel the islanders inspecting them. Everyone knew who belonged and who didn't.

Medical marijuana a challenge for legal pot states: how to get customers into taxed system?

SEATTLE (AP) — A year into the nation's experiment with legal, taxed marijuana sales, Washington and Colorado find themselves wrestling not with the federal interference many feared, but with competition from medical marijuana or even outright black market sales.

In Washington, the black market has exploded since voters legalized marijuana in 2012, with scores of

legally dubious medical dispensaries opening and some pot delivery services brazenly advertising that they sell outside the legal system.

Licensed shops say taxes are so onerous that they can't compete.

Colorado, which launched legal pot sales last New Year's Day, is facing a lawsuit from Nebraska and Oklahoma alleging that they're being overrun with pot from the state.

And the number of patients on Colorado's medical marijuana registry went up, not down, since 2012, meaning more marijuana users there can avoid paying the higher taxes that recreational pot carries.

Searchers recover 7 more bodies from AirAsia crash site in Java Sea; 16 found so far

PANGKALAN BUN, Indonesia (AP) — The investigation into the AirAsia crash has turned to the ocean floor, with more sonar equipment and metal detectors deployed Friday to scour the seabed for wreckage, including the plane's black boxes.

Sixteen bodies have been recovered, including seven Friday, most found by a U.S. Navy ship. Four have been identified and returned to their families.

A helicopter from the USS Sampson brought the corpses to Pangkalan Bun, the town nearest to the site. They were unloaded and driven off in ambulances.

Rescuers hope the fuselage — if intact — will contain the remains of many of the nearly 150 passengers and crew still missing. The wreckage will be key to explaining what might have caused Flight 8501 to go down.

The Airbus A320 smashed into the Java Sea on Sunday, halfway into a flight from Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, to Singapore. Minutes earlier, the pilot told air-traffic control he was approaching threatening clouds, but was denied permission to climb to a higher altitude because of heavy air traffic.

Scene of AirAsia victim's burial reveals family's deep loss: Close relatives were also aboard

SURABAYA, Indonesia (AP) — At the muddy gravesite where Hayati Lutfiah Hamid was buried, something was missing. Though around 150 villagers had gathered to lay the first identified victim of AirAsia Flight 8501 to rest, the people who would mourn her most were not there.

Her husband, Djoko Suseno, 9-year-old daughter, Naura Kanita Rosada Suseno, and mother-in-law, Soemanik Saeran, are all still missing in the Java Sea after their plane went down Sunday, killing all 162 people on board.

Hayati's body was handed over to her family in a dark casket Thursday evening, and in accordance with Islam buried immediately.

All week, in Soemanik's simple village house on the outskirts of Surabaya, relatives and friends have sat on prayer mats laid at the porch for their nightly intercession. Prayers that their loved ones would be found alive have given away to prayers that their bodies will be recovered quickly.

The plane crashed about halfway between Surabaya and Singapore, its intended destination. Hayati, 39, had planned the year-end excursion to Singapore and Malaysia for months as a treat for her daughter and mother-in-law. It was their first trip abroad.

Migratory starlings, caught and released in Iraq as a symbol of mercy, take flight from war

SAEBERAN, Iraq (AP) — Khalil Ibrahim watches from his tent as the orange light of dusk is darkened by a flock of European starlings arriving on their annual migration to northern Iraq. He prepares to trigger his nets as they circle the field, but at the last minute a child throws a stone in the distance and the birds vanish over the dimly lit horizon.

He and other trappers capture the starlings during their two-month migration and sell them in the bazaar of nearby Irbil. Some will buy the birds to eat them as a delicacy, but most will pay for their freedom as an act of mercy believed to bring good luck. This year, however, the trappers say war has driven many of the skittish birds away.

"The sound you heard now, compared to gunfire, was quiet, but what about bombs or explosions?" fellow trapper Khalas Tasin says after he and Ibrahim gather up their empty nets. "They will flee from the entire area. They are scared of noise and explosions so if they hear anything they will fly away."

The front line in the war between the Islamic State extremist group and the Kurdish forces defending northern Iraq is less than 30 miles (50 kilometers) away, and warplanes from the U.S.-led coalition circle overhead. There are no firm statistics on the number of birds here, but trappers whose families have been catching them for generations say the flocks have thinned.

"Every year at least 3,000 to 4,000, sometimes up to 7,000 or 8,000 birds can be caught if you are in a good spot in the two-month season" Ibrahim says. "This year, in my opinion, if I can catch 2,000 to 3,000 I'll be lucky" he said.

Families of stampede victims in Shanghai grieve for loved one, seek answers

SHANGHAI (AP) — Like tens of thousands of other revelers, 24-year-old Pan Haiqin decided to ring in the New Year on Shanghai's famed waterfront, as the skyscrapers across the Huangpu River flashed and sparkled. But as the crowd grew and then turned into an out-of-control crush of bodies, the real estate professional never made it up the steps to see the lights.

Nearly 20 hours later, her parents and friends identified her trampled body in a city morgue, one of 36 people killed in one of the deadliest accidents to hit this showcase Chinese city. With another 49 people injured, hundreds of family members mourned the dead, who were predominantly young and female. And on social media and TV airwaves, many Chinese were asking how such a tragedy could have taken place in one of the country's most high-profile urban areas.

"I blame myself for it. I did not protect her," said Pan's boyfriend, Zhao Weiwei, his eyes welling up with tears. "She was a cheerful woman who worked so hard in this city."

As China's financial hub, Shanghai is known for a better-oiled municipal government than most other Chinese cities, with its leaders supposedly savvier in managing traffic and crowds.

Authorities were still investigating the cause of the stampede. Street vendors, residents in the waterfront area, taxi drivers and witnesses say the city failed to prepare for the massive turnout Wednesday night despite canceling a much-hyped midnight light show on the Bund waterfront.

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Piano stores closing across US as fewer children taking up instrument, some deterred by cost

BETTENDORF, Iowa (AP) — When Jim Foster opened his piano store 30 years ago, he had 10 competitors selling just pianos.

When he closed Foster Family Music in late December, not one was still selling pianos in the Quad-Cities area of Iowa and Illinois.

"We did try hard to find a buyer," Foster said. There were no takers.

Stores dedicated to selling pianos like Foster's are dwindling across the country as fewer people take up the instrument and those who do often opt for a less expensive electronic keyboard or a used piano. Some blame computers and others note the high cost of new pianos, but what's clear is that a long-term decline in sales has accelerated.

The best year for new piano sales in the U.S. was 1909, when more than 364,500 were sold. But after gently falling over the years, piano sales have plunged more recently to between 30,000 and 40,000 annually.

US stock indexes open 2015 on a strong note

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks are opening the year on a strong note, but energy stocks slipped as the price of crude oil resumed its slide.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 111 points, or 0.6 percent, to 17,934 as of 9:35 a.m. Eastern time Friday.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 12 points, or 0.6 percent, to 2,070. The Nasdaq composite rose 38 points, or 0.8 percent, to 4,774.

Energy stocks lagged as crude oil prices fell again. Energy was the only one of the 10 sectors in the S&P 500 index that fell in early trading.

Crude oil fell 21 cents to \$53.06 a barrel. Oil 45 percent last year, its biggest yearly loss since 2008.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.16 percent.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 2, the second day of 2015. There are 363 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 2, 1965, New York Jets owner Sonny Werblin signed University of Alabama quarterback Joe Namath to a contract reportedly worth \$427,000.

On this date:

In 1788, Georgia became the fourth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1893, the U.S. Postal Service issued its first commemorative stamp to honor the World's Columbian Expedition and the quadricentennial of Christopher Columbus' voyage.

In 1900, Secretary of State John Hay announced the "Open Door Policy" to facilitate trade with China.

In 1921, religious services were broadcast on radio for the first time as KDKA in Pittsburgh aired the regular Sunday service of the city's Calvary Episcopal Church.

In 1935, Bruno Hauptmann went on trial in Flemington, New Jersey, on charges of kidnapping and murdering the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was found guilty, and executed.)

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In 1942, the Philippine capital of Manila was captured by Japanese forces during World War II.

In 1955, the president of Panama, Jose Antonio Remon Cantera, was assassinated.

In 1960, Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts launched his successful bid for the presidency.

In 1971, 66 people were killed in a pileup of spectators leaving a soccer match at Ibrox (EYE'-brox) Stadium in Glasgow, Scotland.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon signed legislation requiring states to limit highway speeds to 55 miles an hour as a way of conserving gasoline in the face of an OPEC oil embargo. (The 55 mph limit was effectively phased out in 1987; federal speed limits were abolished in 1995.) "Singing cowboy" star Tex Ritter died in Nashville at age 68.

In 1981, police in Sheffield, England, arrested Peter Sutcliffe, who confessed to being the "Yorkshire Ripper," the serial killer of 13 women.

In 2006, 12 miners died in a methane gas explosion at the Sago (SAY'-goh) Mine in West Virginia, but one miner, Randal McCloy Jr., was eventually rescued.

Ten years ago: NFL teams joined Venus Williams, Maria Sharapova and other sports figures around the world in assisting the relief mission for the tsunami-earthquake catastrophe in southern Asia.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, in his weekly Internet and radio address, said an al-Qaida affiliate in Yemen apparently ordered the failed Christmas Day bombing plot against a U.S. airliner. Texas Tech rallied to beat Michigan State 41-31 in a shootout at the Alamo Bowl.

One year ago: Fifty-two passengers trapped for more than a week on an icebound Russian research ship in the Antarctic were rescued when a Chinese helicopter swooped in and plucked them from the ice a dozen at a time. In the Sugar Bowl, No. 11 Oklahoma took down third-ranked Alabama 45-31.

Today's Birthdays: Country musician Harold Bradley is 89. Singer Julius La Rosa is 85. Former House Speaker Dennis Hastert is 73. TV host Jack Hanna is 68. Actress Wendy Phillips is 63. Actress Gabrielle Carteris is 54. Movie director Todd Haynes is 54. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher David Cone is 52. Actress Tia Carrere is 48. Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. is 47. Model Christy Turlington is 46. Actor Taye Diggs is 44. Rock musician Scott Underwood (Train) is 44. Rock singer Doug Robb (Hoobastank) is 40. Actor Dax Shepard is 40. Actress Paz Vega is 39. Country musician Chris Hartman is 37. Ballroom dancer Karina Smirnoff (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 37. Rock musician Jerry DePizzo Jr. (O.A.R.) is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kelton Kessee (IMX) is 34. Actress Kate Bosworth is 32. Actor Peter Gadiot (TV: "Once Upon a Time in Wonderland") is 30. Jazz singer-musician Trombone Shorty is 29.

Thought for Today: "You are not very good if you are not better than your best friends imagine you to be." - Johann Kaspar Lavater (LAH'-vah-tur), Swiss theologian (1741-1801).

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:

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◆ 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

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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.