

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, January 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 169 ♦ 1 of 34

- 1- Rix Apartments for Rent
- 1- Hanlon Brothers
- 1- Today's Information
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 2- Milbank girls beat Groton
- 3- Classified
- 4- The Farmer's Wife Boutique Grand Opening Ad
- 5- Noem, Thune comment on Keystone
- 5- Dietitian to discuss 'good' fats at Walk for Wellness event
- 6- Sen. Round's Weekly Column
- 7- Thune officially designated as Commerce Chairman
- 8- Gov. Daugaard's Weekly Column
- 9- Today in Weather History
- 11- Weather Forecast Page
- 12- Local Weather
- 12- National Weather Map
- 13- Daily Devotional
- 13- Andover Bar & Grill
- 14- News from the Associated Press

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

Saturday, January 10

Birthdays: Dave Hunter, Edwin Tietz, Maycee Albrecht, Michelle Flihs, Neil Gilbert
10:00am to 10:00pm: Skating Rink Open
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
5:30 p.m.: Girls Basketball at Langford. JV begins at 5:30 p.m. followed by the varsity game. Note earlier start time.

Sunday, January 11

1 p.m. to 9 p.m.: Skating Rink open
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



**Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling**
New & Cleaning of
Stockdams with our
60' reach trackhoe
605/395-6531

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.

Milbank girls edge Groton in NEC game

Milbank led at the quarterstops at 17-16, 27-22 and 36-30 en route to a 48-40 Northeast Conference win over Groton.

Kaley Wilhers came off the bench to lead the Bulldogs with 13 points followed by Coeyssa Mielitz with 12, Brittany Ackerman had 10, MiKayla Wendland eight, McKease Masters had three and Gretchen Biersbach added two.

Audrey Wanner led the Lady Tigers with 13 points followed by Courtney Kurtz and Carly Wheeting with 10, Ashley Gibbs had three and Katie Koehler and Marlee Jones each had two points.

Milbank made 20 of 39 field goals for 50 percent, two of four free throws off of Groton's 10 team fouls, had 12 turnovers, four steals, nine assists and 28 rebounds



Katie Koehler goes up for a shot with two Milbank girls defending her.



Ashley Gibbs dribbles around the Milbank defense.

with Wendland and Mielitz each having six.

Milbank is now 5-3 on the season while Groton is 3-3. Groton will be at Langford today.

Milbank won the junior varsity game, 20-7. Harleigh Stange, Emily Locke and Madison Sippel each had two points and Gia Gengerke added one.

Milbank made it a clean sweep with a 25-20 C game win. Taylor Holm led Groton with six points followed by Madison Sippel with four, Gia Gengerke and Miranda Hanson each had three and Alex Stange and Sam Menzia each added two.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, January 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 169 ♦ 3 of 34



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.

Below: **Audrey Wanner dribbles** around Milbank's McKenzie Mertens.

Carly Wheeting shoots over Milbank's Caryssa Mielitz.



Courtney Kurtz is double teamed as she drives to the basket.



Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, January 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 169 ♦ 4 of 34

*The Farmer's Wife Boutique
Grand Opening!*

*Friday January 9th
3 pm - 8 pm
Saturday January 10th
10 am - 6 pm*

*Join us for giveaways, discounts,
and refreshments!*

*23 N Main Street
Groton, SD 57449*

*Visit us online anytime at
www.thefarmerswifeboutique.com*

Noem, Thune comment on Keystone

Earlier this afternoon (Friday afternoon) , I joined Republicans and Democrats in passing legislation that would approve the long-awaited Keystone Pipeline's construction and operation. This vote came in the wake of a Nebraska Supreme Court decision this morning that lifted one of the final state-based barriers on the project (read that story here).

The Senate is expected to also pass this bill in the coming weeks. Now, the only thing standing in the way of Keystone is the President and his political agenda. I believe that's flat-out wrong.

Delaying Keystone is depriving South Dakota of good jobs, millions of dollars in revenue for cash-strapped counties, and relief for the roads and rails that are currently crowded with oil transit. Moreover, the White House has released more than 20,000 pages of reviews showing Keystone is in the best interest of our environment and our national economy – even admitting in a State Department report that the pipeline would support approximately 42,100 jobs.

In the time that it's taken to approve Keystone, 10,000 miles of pipeline have been laid in the U.S. – that's equal to eight Keystone XL Pipelines. We've debated Keystone long enough; now is the time to build it.

U.S. Senator John Thune (R-S.D.) issued the following statement on the Nebraska Supreme Court decision on the Keystone XL pipeline:

"The president's litany of excuses for delaying the Keystone XL pipeline has hit yet another dead end. This court decision further erodes the president's obstruction of the bipartisan, job-creating Keystone XL. Soon the president will have a clear opportunity to sign a bipartisan bill into law approving the construction of this common-sense infrastructure project. The president is out of excuses, and it is time for him to act. Will he stand for the American people, or will he continue to stand for his far-left liberal allies?"

Dietitian to discuss 'good' fats at Walk for Wellness event

The monthly "Walk for Wellness" program will be held at 7 p.m. on Jan. 15 and will feature registered dietitian and nutritionist, Beth Coats, from Avera St. Luke's Hospital speaking on the topic of "Healthy Fats You SHOULD Eat". The public is invited to this free presentation in Aberdeen at the Lakewood Mall Community Room.

"Walk for Wellness" invites participants to use the controlled environment of Lakewood Mall for a regular walking regimen. A one-mile course has been measured out at the mall. Avera St. Luke's Hospital and Lakewood Mall co-sponsor this program. Free monthly educational programs by health care professionals from Avera St. Luke's are offered at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month.

People interested in participating in "Walk for Wellness" can pick up a brochure at the Lakewood Mall office or Avera St. Luke's Hospital. Those who participate will receive starter packets from the Cardiac Rehab program at Avera St. Luke's that contain information on walking, diet, stress, cardiac risk factors and stretching exercises. Packets are also available at Bur Mar's Shoes at the mall. Before beginning a walking program, it is wise to consult your physician, especially when special medical problems exist.

Lakewood Mall is open to walkers from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Walkers are asked to log their miles, since special recognition will be given to participants at the Spring Fling celebration in May. For more information, call 605- 622-5533.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, January 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 169 ♦ 6 of 34



Last week, I was sworn in as the 27th Senator from South Dakota. I am grateful for those who helped get me here and look forward to working together to solve the problems facing our state and nation.

At my swearing in, I was joined by approximately 20 family members from South Dakota, including my wife, Jean, our four kids and their spouses, my

father, Don, and my stepmother Rosemary. Having them with me made the day particularly special, and I thank them for their overwhelming support on this journey. But now that the pomp and circumstance is over, I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get started on the important issues before us.

We already had a busy first week. The first piece of legislation we voted on was the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA), which I supported, and it passed overwhelmingly. TRIA, which expired last Congress, protects the commercial property/casualty market and the economy overall, in case of a major terrorism attack, similar to the situation after 9/11. Next, we're looking to bring Keystone XL pipeline legislation to the floor for debate. The bill, which I cosponsored with 59 other colleagues, would finally authorize construction of the pipeline project. I have been a proponent of Keystone for a number of years. Its construction could clear up our nation's railways, making it easier to bring South Dakota grain to market. Unfortunately, the President has already threatened to veto Keystone XL legislation, but we'll keep trying new avenues to get it across the finish line.

We've also been busy at the committee level. I've already participated in a number of committee meetings to establish our agendas for this session, and all the chairmen have indicated that they plan to keep us active and engaged. Most of the Senate's work actually gets done at the committee level, and I'm fortunate to be a member of four committees that are important to South Dakotans: Senate Armed Services; Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; Veterans' Affairs and Environment and Public Works. I am looking forward to sharing our work with you back home in the coming months.

To help me along, I've brought on an exceptional staff who have been working hard to make sure we hit the ground running. In D.C., we have a seasoned group of policy experts. My state staff will act as liaisons with constituents when I'm called to session in Washington. As you know, part of our job as a Congressional office is to provide assistance should you encounter problems with a federal agency. Whether you're having trouble with a farm program, a VA claim is being held up in paperwork or there is an issue obtaining social security benefits, my state staff will be available to help sort the issue out. They are situated across the state.

We're still busy setting them up, but eventually we'll have offices in Sioux Falls, Pierre, Rapid City and satellite offices in Huron and Aberdeen, in addition to Washington, D.C. We'll send out contact information for each office as they become available. Until then, I encourage you to contact my Washington office at (202) 224-5842 with any inquiries. Thanks again for your support. I look forward to staying in touch throughout my time in the Senate.

Thune Officially Designated as Commerce Chairman

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The U.S. Senate yesterday officially ratified U.S. Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) as chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee for the 114th Congress. Sen. Thune issued the following statement on taking the gavel for the committee:

“It is an honor to serve as chairman of the Commerce Committee at the forefront of the new Congress as we work to create jobs and grow our economy. I am eager to begin work with the new ranking member, Sen. Bill Nelson, and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on pressing business before the committee. Continuing to serve South Dakota in the United States Senate is the highest public service opportunity afforded to me, and I look forward to addressing several issues important to our state during this session of Congress including, rural broadband, rail service, aviation, cybersecurity, and an overhaul of our telecommunications policy.”

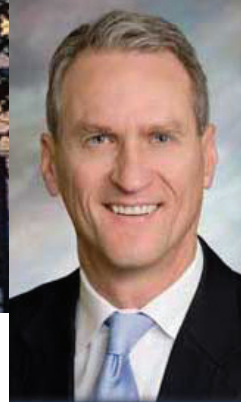


Broton Daily Independent

Saturday, January 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 169 ♦ 8 of 34



South Dakota Governor
Dennis Daugaard



Launch of the Boards and Commissions Portal

State government should be open and accessible to the people of South Dakota. Throughout my time in office, I have made government transparency a priority. The Governor's Office has released invitation lists, opened both the Governor's Mansion and Valhalla to tours, and has made more information available online.

Open government is about more than availability; it is about accessibility. For example, in 2013, we launched the administrative rules website, rules.sd.gov, making it easier for South Dakotans to read and give input on proposed rules. The success of the site taught us that there is a lot of value in putting information in one location.

As Governor, I have the privilege of making appointments to our state boards and commissions. Through serving on more than 100 boards and commissions, over 1,000 South Dakotans generously lend their time and expertise to aid our state. One day as I was having difficulty finding minutes from a state board meeting, I was reminded of the administrative rules website we launched last year. While most of the boards and commissions post their information online, having to visit a number of different agency websites to find those things could be time consuming and inconvenient.

That is why we created a boards and commissions portal at boardsandcommissions.sd.gov to serve as a central hub for this information. At this website South Dakotans will be able to more easily find minutes, public documents, information on members and dates, and agendas for scheduled meetings.

In our state constitution, the South Dakota Bill of Rights states, "All political power is inherent in the people, and all free government is founded on their authority, and is instituted for their equal protection and benefit."

As South Dakota citizens, you deserve the opportunity to know about and participate in your government.

Today in Weather History

January 10, 1911: The temperature at Rapid City, South Dakota plunged 47 degrees in just fifteen minutes.

January 10, 1975: An intense area of low pressure moved from eastern Iowa through eastern Minnesota. The storm center set many low pressure records as it moved across eastern Minnesota. New snow of 3 to 6 inches across much of Minnesota began to blow and drift on the morning of the 10th and then developed into a full blown blizzard with heavy snowfall developing. The blizzard continued over all of the state through the 11th with winds of 30 to 50 mph with gusts of 60 to 80 mph. Drifts up to 20 foot high developed in west central Minnesota paralyzing activity. Snowfall amounts from 1 to 2 feet occurred. Numerous roads were closed due to drifting and low visibility. Numerous sustained power outages occurred, particularly in rural sections. Thousands of people were stranded with 168 people trapped in a train in Willmar. Wind chills ranged from 50 below to 80 below behind the storm. Extensive losses to life and property occurred. There were 35 deaths during the storm and many injuries. Tens of thousands of livestock and poultry losses also occurred with 140 farm buildings damaged or destroyed. Losses to livestock and property were over 20 million. It took 11 days to clear some areas. Shelter was provided for nearly 17,000 people.

In South Dakota, snow began to fall on the 10th in the afternoon and then the winds increased and reached blizzard conditions by evening. These severe blizzard conditions continued on through the 11th and through the morning of the 12th. Wind chills fell to 50 below to 70 below zero. Many cars stalled on roads due to poor visibility, icy roads, and blowing and drifting snow. Eight people lost their lives. Thousands of livestock and poultry were lost. During the blizzard, a 2000 foot radio and TV antenna just east of Sioux Falls, collapsed.

2000: High winds gusting to over 60 mph caused some spotty damage across central and north central South Dakota. Near Mobridge, the high winds blew a semi-tractor-trailer off the road and tipped it over while it was heading westbound on Highway 12. The semi tractor-trailer sustained quite a bit of damage as a result. The high winds also damaged the windmill at the museum in Mobridge breaking off the tail and bending several of the blades. Some high wind reports included; 56 mph at McLaughlin, 58 mph at Onida and Mobridge, and 63 mph at Pierre.

1982 – Bitterly cold weather was found across Illinois. Of the 109 weather reporting stations in the state, 48 of those reported lows of 20 degrees below zero or colder. Some of the coldest temperatures included 27 below zero at Rockford, 26 below zero at Chicago, and 25 below zero at Kankakee and Peoria.

1800 - Savannah, GA, received a foot and a half of snow, and ten inches blanketed Charleston SC. It was the heaviest snowfall of record for the immediate Coastal Plain of the southeastern U.S. (David Ludlum)

1911 - The temperature at Rapid City, SD, plunged 47 degrees in just fifteen minutes. (The Weather Channel)

1949 - Snow was reported at San Diego, CA, for the first and only time since 1882. Snow was noted even on some of the beaches in parts of the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Burbank reported 4.7 inches, and Long Beach and Laguna Beach received one inch of snow. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1975 - The "Storm of the Century" hit Minnesota. A severe blizzard moved northward across the state producing up to two feet of snow. High winds drove wind chill readings to 80 degrees below zero, and at Duluth MN the barometric pressure dipped to 28.55 inches. The storm, which claimed 35 lives, oc-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, January 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 169 ♦ 10 of 34

curred on the 102nd anniversary of the infamous "Pioneer Blizzard" in Minnesota. (David Ludlum)

1982 - The temperature at O'Hare Airport in Chicago, IL, plunged to an all-time record of 26 degrees below zero, and high winds drove the wind chill reading to 77 degrees below zero. The temperature in Downtown Chicago reached 23 degrees below zero. A week later a second arctic surge sent the temperature plunging back down to 25 degrees below zero. (Weather Channel) (National Weather Summary)

1987 - Bitter cold air invaded the Rocky Mountain Region, with subzero readings reported as far south as Gallop NM. Pocatello ID reported a record low reading of 14 degrees below zero. (National Weather Summary)

1988 - A storm in the northwestern U.S. produced wind gusts to 97 mph at Netarts OR, and up to two feet of snow in the mountains of Oregon. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


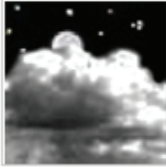





1989 - The first documented January tornado of record in Utah struck the south part of Sandy. Asphalt shingles were driven one half inch into a fence. (The Weather Channel) Clear skies, light winds, and up to 24 inches of snow cover, allowed the temperature to plunge to 45 degrees below zero at Roseau MN, and to -43 degrees at Warroad MN. The afternoon high at Grand Forks ND was 16 degrees below zero. (National Weather Summary)

1990 - Strong southerly winds ahead of a Pacific cold front helped temperatures in the central U.S. soar as much as 50 degrees during the day. A total of fifty cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, with afternoon highs in the 70s reported as far north as Nebraska and eastern Colorado. Highs of 53 at Devils Lake ND, 76 at Grand Island NE, 73 at Lincoln NE, and 73 at North Platte NE, established records for the month of January. (National Weather Summary)

2001 - Storms dumped more than seven inches of rain on parts of southern California, including Los Angeles, where nearly four inches of rain fell. The heavy rains caused mudslides and road closures along much of California's central coast and up to three feet of snow was deposited in some coastal mountain areas. (NCDC)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, January 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 169 ♦ 11 of 34

TODAY	TONIGHT	SUNDAY	SUNDAY NIGHT	MONDAY	MONDAY NIGHT	TUESDAY
						
Partly Sunny High: 11 °F	Increasing Clouds Low: -4 °F	Decreasing Clouds High: 11 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: -10 °F	Cold High: 5 °F	Mostly Clear Low: -8 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 17 °F



Cold Weekend, Warming Ahead

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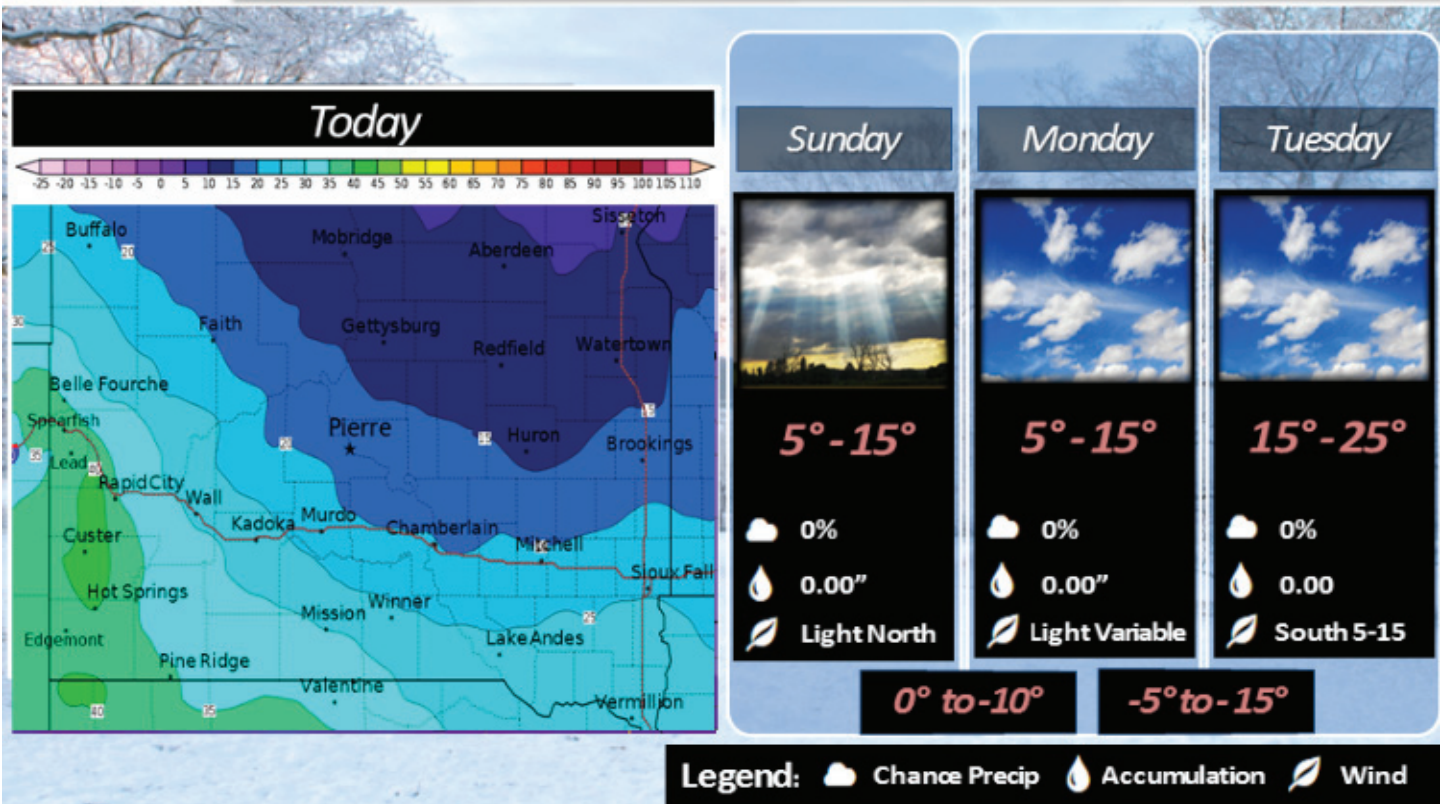
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



A cold front will pass south through the region today, reinforcing the cold air already in place. Arctic high pressure will once again take up residence over the plains through the weekend keeping temperatures well below normal. A quick moving upper air disturbance will slide through on Sunday. There is a small chance of light snow across the western part of South Dakota, with only an increase in cloud cover expected across the east.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, January 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 169 ♦ 12 of 34

Yesterday's Weather

High: 7.4 at 3:32 PM

Low: -9.2 at 10:31 PM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 22 at 12:21 AM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 56° in 2012

Record Low: -30° in 1978

Average High: 22°F

Average Low: 1°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.16

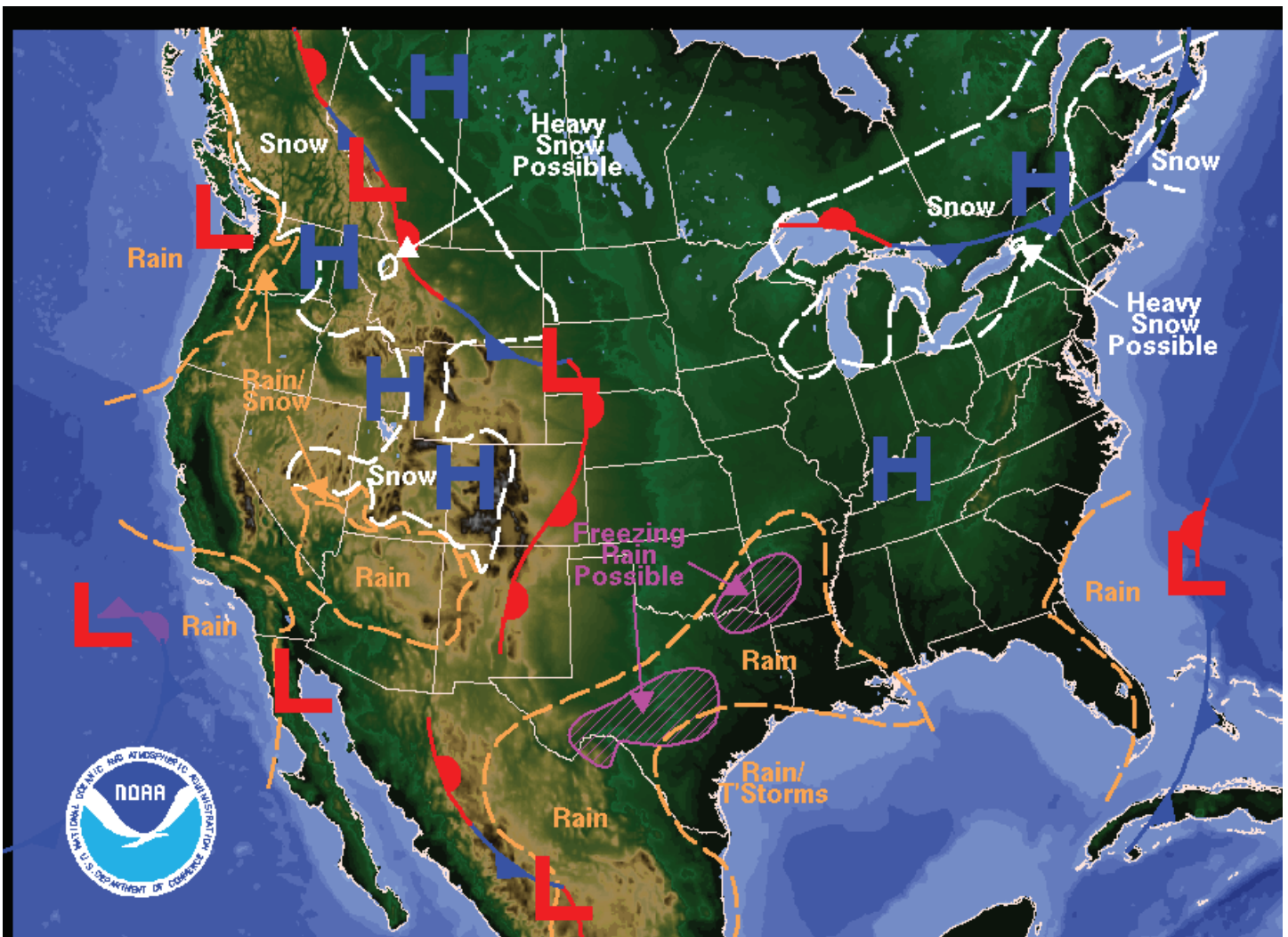
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.40

Average Precip to date: 0.16

Precip Year to Date: 0.40

Sunset Tonight: 5:12 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:12 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Jan 10, 2015, issued 3:30 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kong based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, January 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 169 ♦ 13 of 34



INCONCEIVABLE

During the rule of the Roman Empire, each penny was stamped with the image of the Roman Emperor. Anyone who used that coin was expected to obey his laws.

When God created Adam, He implanted His image in and on him. God did not use a penny to remind people whom they were to obey, but a Person. And beginning with Adam, each of us has had His image on us and in us. We are expected to enjoy Him and glorify Him and honor Him at all times and in all circumstances.

In Psalm 8:6 we are reminded of the power of that stamp. "You," wrote the Psalmist, "made him ruler over the works of Your hands; You put everything under his feet." The simplicity and majesty of that single, simple verse is staggering!

The word "ruler" means "lordship." As the "crown" of God's creation, we are the "lords" of His creation and are to use the gifts and talents He has given us to be masters of everything He created - everything that we see or ever will be found in the environment.

But, unfortunately, Adam chose not to follow God's directions. As a result of Adam's choice, man and God's entire creation became corrupted by sin. Fortunately, the story does not end there!

When we repent of our sins, and turn our lives over to the Lord, this "Lordship" returns. Once again, we become His subjects and are responsible to bear His image in our behavior and leave His "stamp"

on everything we do. "Behold, all things are made new" in all we do!

Prayer: Help us, Father, to live as You planned for us to live - as lords of Your creation and glorify Your name! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 8:6 You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:

A promotional advertisement for "Friday is Fried Chicken Day" at Andover Bar & Grill. The ad features a large, stylized chicken drumstick in the center. The text "FRIDAY IS FRIED CHICKEN DAY" is written in large, bold, brown letters. Below this, it says "Served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy". A red starburst graphic contains the text "Serving 5-9 p.m.". At the bottom left, there's a graphic of chicken wings with the text "WE'VE GOT WINGS! Every Wednesday!". On the right, there's a logo for "ANDOVER BAR & GRILL" featuring a beer glass and a grill. The address "120 S Main St. • 298-5252" is at the bottom right.

College athletes ran tax-refund fraud scheme, netted \$400K

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — He wore a hoodie and a stocking cap as he made multiple trips to an ATM on a warm day in April 2012, cutting a suspicious enough figure that a concerned citizen tipped off police in the college town. Using surveillance video, they discovered a cornerback for the University of South Dakota's football team was using a preloaded debit card that had been issued for a tax refund.

The card, however, did not belong to Alphonso "Rico" Valdez. A scheme to defraud the IRS of \$1.1 million began to unravel. After a months-long investigation, authorities busted up the fraud ring, which netted about \$400,000 over nearly a year.

Six people involved in the complicated scheme were USD football players at the time, and another had once been on the track and field team and impeached as USD's student government president over allegations of misused funds. But for the hundreds of thousands of dollars the group collected, the school's athletic officials were never suspicious of any extracurricular activity.

All 11 involved have pleaded guilty to federal fraud charges in Sioux Falls. Valdez, the 23-year-old ringleader, and a co-conspirator are to be sentenced Monday. Those already sentenced received prison times ranging from 2 years to more than 5 years and all but three were ordered to pay \$422,000 in joint restitution.

Valdez recruited students, his girlfriend and others he knew in his hometown of Tampa, Florida, to gather names, addresses, Social Security numbers and other identifying information, federal authorities said of the scheme, which went on between June 2011 and May 2012. They used the data to file fraudulent tax returns, using addresses that weren't associated with the identity theft victims so that members of the scheme could retrieve the refunds.

The group coordinated the scheme through text messages, which contained much of the information needed to file the bogus returns, court records show. Through texts, Valdez ordered some of his accomplices, including then-defensive back Marquis Butler, to make deposits to Valdez's bank account and check addresses for incoming tax refunds.

"Mr. Valdez had a contact saved in his phone under 'Quis,' and I was able to verify that it belonged to Marquis Butler," IRS special agent Corey Vickery testified in September. Prosecutors allege Butler, 24, netted the group \$85,500.

Valdez's now ex-girlfriend, Tampa resident Melissa Dinataly, was employed by an insurance company and managed to collect more than 30 Social Security numbers. Twelve false returns connected to her were filed in 2011 claiming over \$110,000 worth of refunds, and authorities caught all but one of the fakes before the defendants got the money.

"They had to get these (returns) submitted before the real person could submit it," assistant U.S. attorney John Haak told the court during Dinataly's sentencing hearing in June. "If successful, this thing would have gotten much bigger than it did."

It's unclear where the bulk of the money is or how it was spent, other than the airplane ticket that former USD cornerback Dametrius Turner bought and the money that remained on the preloaded cards. There was no Louis Vuitton, no Mercedes Benz, no Tiffany and Co. jewelry.

"I'm not even sure that any of them had a car while they were here, and if they did, it probably wasn't a nice one," USD athletic director David Herbster said. "They didn't exhibit anything that you would be

overly suspicious of as far as somehow coming into an excess amount of money. There were no really nice cars, there was not a lot of fancy clothes, fancy jewelry things like that that would lead you to believe, 'How did you get that?'"

Valdez's public defender has declined to comment previously on the case and didn't immediately return a message left by The Associated Press.

Some of the defendants — Valdez included — have expressed remorse.

Valdez's goal is to become a high school football coach and show children that they can "further their education" despite mistakes they may have made, he said during an October hearing. His ex-girlfriend told a federal judge that "nobody deserved" to be defrauded.

"The world is corrupt enough the way it is," Dinataly, 24, said. "I shouldn't have done this."

Man accused of causing woman to drive recklessly sentenced

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man accused of assaulting a woman and causing her to drive recklessly has been sentenced.

U.S. District Court Judge Roberto Lange has ordered 36-year-old Joe Scott to 27 months in prison and two years of supervised release. The Okreek man earlier pleaded guilty to assault by strangulation and suffocation in connection with the March incident.

Prosecutors say Scott struck and put his hands around the throat of a woman while she was driving from Mission to Okreek. Scott, who was intoxicated, then reached over from the passenger seat, grabbed the steering wheel and directed the vehicle toward incoming vehicles.

The woman managed to retain control of the vehicle, but Scott assaulted her again when they reached their destination.

Scott is under the custody of the U.S. Marshals.

Historical Society awards 6 grants for restoration projects

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota State Historical Society has awarded six grants to fund large-scale restoration and rehabilitation projects of historic properties.

The Historical Society says six projects received nearly \$59,000 combined. The Deadwood Fund Grants are funded through the historic town's gaming revenue and must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis from nonfederal and nonstate sources.

The projects that were given a grant include the 1881 Custer Courthouse in Custer, which received \$13,000 to repair parts of the fascia, brackets, columns and other elements original to the building for protection against water infiltration.

The most generous grant went to the Milwaukee Road Depot in Yankton. The \$15,000 grant is meant to be used to replace the roof materials and repair stepped wood fascia.

GFP commission to consider dog hunting on mountain lions

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Game, Fish and Parks commissioners will take input next week on a proposal to allow the use of hounds for mountain lion hunting outside of the Black Hills.

The commission will hold its monthly meeting Thursday and Friday in Pierre at the RedRossa Convention Center.

The proposal is the result of an outside petition. Written comments on the measure must be submitted by Thursday. The public hearing starts that afternoon.

The South Dakota Legislature last year rejected a bill to allow dogs in mountain lion hunts outside of

the Black Hills.

Current law leaves it up to the state Game, Fish and Parks Commission, which only allows dogs at specific times in Custer State Park.

Lawmakers, governor, other state leaders sworn in Saturday

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — It's inauguration day in Pierre, with South Dakota's newly elected state leaders taking the oath of office ahead of Tuesday's start of the legislative session.

The 70 members of the House of Representatives and 35 senators will be sworn in from their respective chambers at 11 a.m. Saturday. Then Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Lt. Gov. Matt Michels and the other constitutional and elected officials will take the oath of office at noon in the Capitol rotunda.

Both events and a receiving line on the first floor are free and open to the public.

The evening's entertainment includes two balls, one at the Capitol featuring the Over Forte band and another at the Ramkota River Centre with the South Dakota National Guard's 147th Army Band.

Keystone XL pipeline decision back in Obama's lap

JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans in Congress and a state supreme court have thrown the political hot potato known as Keystone XL straight back onto President Barack Obama's lap.

So loath is Obama to making a decision about the proposed oil pipeline that deliberations have entered their sixth year — a period nearly as long as Obama's time in office. He's blamed the seemingly endless delays on bureaucratic formalities and parochial issues in Nebraska, even when skeptics claimed that the politics of the next election were giving the president cold feet.

Now the election is over, the Nebraska issue is resolved, and a bipartisan bill forcing the pipeline's approval may soon be heading to Obama's desk. Forces on all sides of the debate, for once, have the same demand for Obama: Just make the call.

"It's time for the State Department and the president to make a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline — however they decide — because six years is beyond long enough," said Sen. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, part of the minority of Democrats supporting the pipeline.

In April, just as the State Department's review of the pipeline was nearing an end, Obama indefinitely suspended it. Facing a difficult political climate, many Democrats had been anxious about Obama making a decision before the November midterm elections. Still, the White House said it was uncertainty about the pipeline's route, spurred by a Nebraska court challenge, that prompted the delay.

That rationale expired Friday. The Nebraska Supreme Court tossed out the lawsuit, clearing the way for the pipeline to snake through Nebraska as previously envisioned. The State Department, which has jurisdiction because the pipeline would start in Canada, said it would pick up its review where it left off, but it was unclear how long that review will take to finish.

Republicans and some Democrats don't want to wait for that review to play out. Wielding their new-found control of both chambers of Congress, Republicans are speeding a bill through Congress authorizing construction of the 1,179-mile pipeline, which would carry more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day from Canada to refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast.

The House approved the bill Friday — one of the first bills taken up by Congress in 2015. The Senate planned a test vote on an identical bill Monday, with plans to deliver the final bill to Obama in short order.

Obama has threatened repeatedly to veto that bill, arguing that Congress must not circumvent the ex-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, January 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 169 ♦ 17 of 34

ecutive branch's authority. So far, Republicans haven't shown they have the votes to override Obama's veto. On Saturday, a group of Keystone opponents, organized by the advocacy group 350.org, planned to rally outside the White House to insist Obama make good on his veto threat.

Obama has long bemoaned that the proposed pipeline has taken on a political life of its own, becoming a proxy battle for the broader debate over global warming.

"A vote against Keystone sends the signal that our government is taking the science of climate change and risk analysis seriously," said Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-N.M.

Environmental groups have waged protests and acts of civil disobedience, arguing the project would unravel U.S. progress in combatting climate change. The energy industry and business groups have say Obama is jeopardizing an \$8 billion project that could create thousands of jobs.

In his public comments, Obama has said he'll only allow the pipeline if it won't lead to increased carbon dioxide emissions. Yet he has also voiced skepticism about claims by supporters that the pipeline will create jobs or lessen U.S. dependence on foreign oil, in what environmentalists hope is an attempt by Obama to lay the groundwork for an eventual denial of the pipeline's permit.

"I think that there's been this tendency to really hype this thing as some magic formula to what ails the U.S. economy," Obama said in his end-of-2014 news conference.

Even after the Nebraska court ruled Friday, the White House said little to suggest a decision was imminent. But White House officials warned that Obama's veto threat was still good.

For Obama, the GOP's attempt to force his hand on Keystone is just one example of his diminished leverage over Congress in his final two years. Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., who is sponsoring the Keystone bill in the Senate, said approving the pipeline would be a good-faith measure that would make it easier for Obama and Republicans to compromise on other fronts.

"That would show some willingness on his part to start working together," Hoeven said, citing tax reform and support for the military areas for potential cooperation. "He's got to start working with Congress."

Friday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Christian 71, Edmunds Central 43
Arlington 66, Deubrook 57
Avon 51, Dakota Christian 35
Colman-Egan 47, Estelline 21
Dell Rapids 70, Chamberlain 31
DeSmet 46, Elkton-Lake Benton 43
Ethan 61, Wessington Springs 50
Freeman 74, Bridgewater-Emery 47
Hamlin 70, Britton-Hecla 49
Harding County 71, Bowman County, N.D. 28
Hill City 72, Edgemont 47
Irene-Wakonda 61, Gayville-Volin 46
Lake Preston 50, Dell Rapids St. Mary 39
Lead-Deadwood 45, Belle Fourche 30

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, January 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 169 ♦ 18 of 34

Lemmon 33, Newell 32
Little Wound 67, Todd County 41
Madison 86, Tea Area 75
Menno 53, Alcester-Hudson 52
Morris Area/Chokia-Alberta, Minn. 72, Sisseton 44
Northwestern 47, Florence/Henry 44
Omaha Nation, Neb. 67, Marty Indian 41
Parkston 51, Vermillion 47
Philip 68, Jones County 61
Pierre 76, Aberdeen Central 52
Rapid City Christian 72, Wall 32
Rosholt 76, Great Plains Lutheran 35
Scotland 51, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 31
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 61, Rapid City Stevens 52
Spearfish 65, Hot Springs 46
St. Francis Indian 79, White River 70
Summit 43, Waverly-South Shore 33
Viborg-Hurley 74, Elk Point-Jefferson 72, OT
Wagner 68, Bon Homme 35
Wakpala 73, Tiospaye Topa 62
Warner 45, Eureka/Bowdle 15
Watertown 69, Huron 66, OT
Wilmot 66, Waubay 31
Winner 75, Bennett County 41
Yankton 69, Harrisburg 52
Big East Conference Tournament
First Round
Chester 62, Garretson 50
McCook Central/Montrose 64, Baltic 28
Parker 51, Flandreau 37
Sioux Valley 81, Howard 40
CNOS Classic
Sioux Falls Washington 66, Sioux City, North, Iowa 60

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 64, Pierre 52
Aberdeen Roncalli 63, Leola/Frederick 36
Belle Fourche 39, Lead-Deadwood 35, OT
Clark/Willow Lake 55, Sisseton 28
Colman-Egan 39, Estelline 29
DeSmet 41, Elkton-Lake Benton 23
Deubrook 68, Arlington 33
Edmunds Central 35, Aberdeen Christian 15
Ethan 70, Wessington Springs 30
Hamlin 74, Britton-Hecla 27
Harrisburg 46, Yankton 32

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, January 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 169 ♦ 19 of 34

Herreid/Selby Area 56, Faulkton 23
Hill City 69, Edgemont 35
Howard 44, Flandreau 43
Ipswich 76, Langford 33
Irene-Wakonda 57, Gayville-Volin 41
Lake Preston 58, Dell Rapids St. Mary 50
Lemmon 50, Newell 35
Lyman 48, Gregory 31
McCook Central/Montrose 62, Sioux Falls Christian 30
McIntosh 54, Dupree 36
McLaughlin 80, Crow Creek 44
Menno 43, Alcester-Hudson 34
Milbank 48, Groton Area 40
Omaha Nation, Neb. 67, Marty Indian 41
Pine Ridge 65, Custer 41
Rosholt 39, Great Plains Lutheran 36
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 61, Rapid City Stevens 52
Spearfish 60, Hot Springs 27
St. Thomas More 60, Redfield/Doland 21
Sturgis 45, Douglas 36
Sully Buttes 62, Highmore-Harrold 54
Vermillion 38, Parkston 37
Viborg-Hurley 54, Elk Point-Jefferson 47
Wagner 64, Bon Homme 42
Wakpala 52, Tiospaye Topa 50
Wall 62, Rapid City Christian 45
Warner 73, Eureka/Bowdle 40
Webster 64, Deuel 15
West Central 67, Madison 51
Wilmot 83, Waubay 32
CNOS Classic
Hinton, Iowa 45, Dakota Valley 38
Sioux Falls Washington 42, Sioux City, East, Iowa 27

In court and Congress, Obama's resistance to pipeline tested

DINA CAPPIELLO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a double blow, the newly empowered Republican-led Congress and the Nebraska Supreme Court on Friday undercut President Barack Obama's opposition to the long Keystone XL oil pipeline.

But the White House, which issued a veto threat earlier in the week, said its "position and posture" remained unchanged, and environmentalists said Obama should kill what would amount to "a global warming disaster."

The House voted 266-153 to approve a bill authorizing construction of the Canada-to-Texas pipeline, with 28 Democrats joining majority Republicans in support. It was one of the first pieces of legislation considered by the new, GOP-controlled Congress, which has made approval of the pipeline a top prior-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, January 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 169 ♦ 20 of 34

ity and has long been headed for a confrontation with Obama on the issue.

The Republican cause was emboldened Friday, when Nebraska's highest court tossed out a lawsuit challenging the pipeline's route, an obstacle the White House said must be removed before it could decide whether the huge cross-border project was in the national interest and the administration could proceed with its own review.

"We shouldn't be debating it, we should be building it," said House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California. On the House floor, he read aloud a passage of the administration's veto threat that objected to authorizing the project "despite uncertainty due to ongoing litigation in Nebraska."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, following the court's decision, renewed his call for Obama to reconsider his promise to veto the measure.

"Today's ruling provides the perfect opportunity for the president to change his unproductive posture on this jobs project and reverse his veto threat," McConnell said. "The president now has every reason to sign it."

But a White House spokesman said the court's decision changed nothing.

"Regardless of the Nebraska ruling today, the House bill still conflicts with longstanding executive branch procedures regarding the authority of the president and prevents the thorough consideration of complex issues that could bear on U.S. national interests, and if presented to the president, he will veto the bill," said deputy press secretary Eric Schultz.

The House vote marked the 10th time the chamber has voted on legislation to advance the Keystone XL pipeline, an \$8 billion project that would carry tar sands oil from Canada to Gulf Coast refineries along a proposed 1,179-mile route through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Strong as the vote was, it fell short of the two-thirds majority that would be needed to override a presidential veto. And the Senate, though newly controlled by the Republicans, is also likely to fall short of that threshold. The Senate is expected to clear a test vote on an identical bill on Monday.

The proposed pipeline is at the center of a major political fight. Environmental groups have waged protests, including arrests, in an effort to halt what they view as an environmentally destructive project that would unravel the progress the administration has made to combat climate change. They called on the White House to reject TransCanada Corp.'s permit request outright on Friday after the Nebraska court decision didn't go their way.

The Nebraska Supreme Court let stand a 2012 state law that allows the governor to empower Calgary-based TransCanada to force eastern Nebraska landowners to sell their property for the project.

If the decision had gone the other way, the State Department, which is in charge of evaluating the pipeline's environmental risks, may have had to do additional analysis. A State Department spokeswoman said Friday it would now move forward with its review by seeking comment from eight federal agencies about whether the pipeline is in the national interest.

"No matter the route, as long as the pipeline is carrying tar sands oil it is a global warming disaster and fails the president's climate test," said May Boeve, executive director of 350.org, an advocacy group that has orchestrated many of the protests against the project. "It's time for President Obama to build on his veto threat and reject Keystone XL outright."

Republicans argued on Friday that the pipeline was a jobs creator and critical infrastructure that could further wean the U.S. off Middle East oil. Pointing to a State Department review that found the pipeline would not exacerbate global warming because the oil would otherwise be transported by other means, they said it was a safer and more environmentally sound way to transport oil.

"The president has been hiding behind the Nebraska court case to block this critical jobs project," said Rep. Fred Upton of Michigan, the top Republican on the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

"With that contrived roadblock cleared, the White House is now out of excuses and out of time."

Democrats, meanwhile, kept up their criticism of the project.

Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., the top Democrat on the Energy committee, said building the pipeline would increase reliance on Canadian tar sands oil and reverse the strides Obama has made to reduce pollution blamed for global warming.

"We get all the risk," he said, "while the oil companies will reap all the rewards."

Kimball standoff suspect charged with attempted murder

CARSON WALKER, Associated Press

KIMBALL, S.D. (AP) — A father and son were charged Friday with several felonies for a standoff near Kimball in which one South Dakota Highway Patrol trooper suffered gunshot wounds and another was fired upon.

The Brule County prosecutor charged Donald London, 42, of Kimball, with two counts of attempted murder of a law enforcement officer and two counts of aggravated assault of a law enforcement officer, according to the complaint. His father, Michael London, 66, of Chamberlain, is charged with two counts of aiding and abetting aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer. Each count carries a maximum punishment of 25 years in prison.

Both men made their initial appearance Friday and are being held in the Chamberlain jail on high bond: \$1 million for Donald London and \$500,000 for Michael London. It wasn't immediately clear Friday if either man had a lawyer.

The standoff began Wednesday afternoon. The two men were at Donald London's house north of Kimball when they threatened Brule County sheriff's officers, said Col. Craig Price, superintendent of the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

"Law enforcement was told that Donald London was loading guns into his vehicle and was going to Chamberlain to kill law enforcement officers," Chris Konrad, an agent with the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation wrote in an affidavit.

When law enforcement went to Donald London's house, Michael London saw the officers and told his son, who fired multiple shots, striking one of the troopers, another officer wrote in a separate affidavit.

Konrad wrote that while trying to drive away, Donald London saw two South Dakota Highway Patrol troopers across the road, got out of his pickup and shot several rifle rounds at the troopers and then at two metal buildings they hid behind "in an attempt to hit the troopers."

Trooper Adam Woxland was not hit, but patrol Sgt. John Koenig was hit in the arm and side.

Koenig is in stable condition and got a call from Gov. Dennis Daugaard Thursday thanking him for his bravery.

Michael London walked out Wednesday evening and was arrested; Donald London didn't surrender until Thursday afternoon, Price said.

Russ Ehlers, who owns Club Vega in Kimball, told KDLT-TV that Donald London was in the bar Monday night making threats. "He was threatening law officers. He knew them by name. He said if they walked in the bar he would shoot them on site," said Ehlers, who threw London out of the bar and called police.

KELO-TV reported that Donald London previously lived in Gillette, Wyoming, where there's a protection order on file against him filed by the daughters of his deceased wife, Ruth Martinson, whom he married weeks before she died. Her body was found in March 2012, three days after she disappeared. It was ruled a suicide, but the family questions that, said Gillette lawyer Nick Carter, who represents two of the daughters.

SD man accused of assaulting 3 police officers found guilty

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man accused of assaulting three police officers after holding a family hostage in February has been found guilty.

Minnehaha County state's attorney Aaron McGowan says 32-year-old Rocky Traversie was convicted after a four-day trial of kidnapping, aggravated assault against law enforcement and other charges.

Authorities have said Traversie hit two relatives with a brick and threatened to not let them leave a Sioux Falls home. More people were at the home during the incident. Police say a teenager escaped through a window and called police.

Three officers were injured during Traversie's arrest. McGowan says an officer's injuries resulted in his early retirement from the force and another officer was off duty for several weeks following the incident.

It wasn't immediately clear if Traversie has an attorney.

Debates to watch over the 2015 legislative session

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota state lawmakers gather Tuesday in Pierre to begin the 2015 legislative session. Here's a look at some of the most significant initiatives they'll likely debate:

TRANSPORTATION

If South Dakota Republicans agree to raise taxes this session, the most likely area to see the hikes is funding for transportation infrastructure. A bill put forward this year after interim deliberations would raise more than \$100 million annually in new revenue through a variety of fuel tax increases, vehicle fees and other assessments. Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office has said he will address transportation at Tuesday's State of the State address. Incoming Senate Majority Leader Tim Rave, R-Baltic, said the most contentious provision in the proposal is a tax hike on dyed diesel fuel often used by farm equipment. Agricultural groups have pushed back significantly against that plan.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Daugaard wants to build on a previous criminal justice system overhaul by bringing reforms to South Dakota's juvenile justice system. He included about \$3.2 million in his proposal for the upcoming budget cycle that would attempt to shift juvenile offenders toward community-based treatments. The overhaul is expected to avert state costs in the future and significantly decrease the number of juveniles committed to the care of the state Department of Corrections. Incoming Senate Minority Leader Billie Sutton, D-Burke, said he supports the overhaul and that "a lot of us applaud the governor" for his efforts.

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST BILLS

South Dakota's investment-for-visas scandal spawned a piece of legislation to require a waiting period during which state officials who leave government employment can't enter into contracts with the state as members of the private sector. The measure is meant to discourage conflicts of interest during the contract-awarding process that were highlighted during a controversy surrounding the EB-5 visa program. Republican Sen. Larry Tidemann, who is sponsoring the proposal, said it was crafted with Democrats and believes it has a significant chance of passage.

AMENDMENT Q

Deadwood's boosters won a victory on Nov. 4 when voters approved a ballot measure allowing lawmakers to authorize three new games — craps, keno and roulette — in the historic mining town. But

a social advocacy group plans to lobby against that proposal in the Legislature, where gambling measures have previously faced setbacks. Rave has said he expects the legislation to draw one of the more interesting debates lawmakers have this session.

MEDICAID EXPANSION

Democrats will renew their effort to expand the state's Medicaid program under the Affordable Care Act. The federal government rejected a plan Daugaard's administration put forward last year for a more limited expansion of the program. Sen. Bernie Hunhoff, D-Yankton, said in an email that he has been in contact with lawmakers from both parties and with Daugaard's staff. He said he anticipates a bipartisan expansion bill will be introduced during the 2015 session, and Democrats argue such a measure would increase the number of insured South Dakotans while decreasing how much care never gets paid for. Republicans have pushed back against the state costs associated with the proposal.

EDUCATION AND TEACHER PAY

Advocates say inadequate pay is a serious barrier to attracting teachers to the state, which ranks last in the nation for teacher compensation, according to the National Education Association. Education groups have put forward a plan for a small sales tax increase in the summer to raise teacher compensation. Sutton said Democrats would likely support the tax increase to boost teacher salaries and said he hopes to put more state money toward schools. Rave said the summer sales tax hike "intrigued" him, but said it would likely face difficulty this session because of the consideration given to raising taxes for roads and bridges.

Woman charged with murder in Rapid City stabbing death

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police have arrested a suspect in a death at a Pennington County public housing complex.

Forty-three-year-old Corinne Vermillion is charged with second-degree murder in the stabbing death of the man early Thursday. It wasn't immediately clear if she had an attorney.

Police have identified the victim as 37-year-old Donny Ladeaux. Police say emergency personnel responded to an apartment to initiate CPR on Ladeaux, who then was placed in an ambulance and pronounced dead a short time later.

Preliminary autopsy results show Ladeaux died from a single stab wound to the chest.

Police say Ladeaux and Vermillion lived together at the address.

Nebraska high court tosses suit over Keystone pipeline route

GRANT SCHULTE, Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska's highest court threw out a challenge Friday to a proposed route for the Keystone XL oil pipeline, even though a majority of judges agreed the landowners who sued should have won their case.

The decision removes a major roadblock for the \$8 billion cross-continental project that Republicans have vowed to make a key part of their 2015 agenda in Congress.

Four judges on the seven-member Nebraska Supreme Court said the landowners should have won the case. Their lawsuit challenged a 2012 state law that allowed the governor to empower Canada-based TransCanada to force them to sell their property for the project.

But because the lawsuit raised a constitutional question, a supermajority of five judges was needed to rule on the law, meaning "the legislation must stand by default," the court said in its opinion.

The proposed 1,179-mile pipeline would carry more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day from

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, January 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 169 ♦ 24 of 34

Canada to refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast, passing through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma along the way.

"I guess the disappointing thing to me is the way the judges abstained from voting on this," said Randy Thompson, one of the landowners who sued. "It's kind of like having a huge Olympic sporting event where you have seven judges, and you have three of them who decided they didn't want to score a contestant."

But the legal wrangling may not be over. Brian Jorde, an attorney for the landowners, declined to answer questions Friday, saying he would release a detailed legal briefing next week on other legal options in the case.

The newly empowered Republican-led Congress is moving ahead on approving the project. Shortly after the Nebraska court ruling, the House overwhelmingly passed a bill Friday authorizing the pipeline. The Senate is expected to finish the bill by the end of the month, setting up a showdown with President Barack Obama — who has threatened a veto.

Obama has said he was waiting for the Nebraska court ruling before deciding whether to approve the project. The pipeline needs presidential approval because it would cross the U.S.-Canada border.

Republican House Speaker John Boehner said Friday that Obama was now out of excuses and it was time to start construction.

White House spokesman Eric Schultz said the State Department was reviewing the ruling. But he said that regardless of the Nebraska ruling, the House legislation conflicts with the president's power "and prevents the thorough consideration of complex issues that could bear on U.S. national interests."

TransCanada CEO Russ Girling said he believed the ruling removed any barriers in the presidential review process. He also said lower oil prices increase the need for the pipeline, and that customers want "more efficient and cost-effective" ways to transport oil in the U.S. and Canada.

Environmentalists and other opponents argue that any leaks could contaminate water supplies, and that the project would increase air pollution around refineries and harm wildlife. But the GOP, oil industry and other backers say those fears are exaggerated, and that the pipeline would create jobs and ease American dependence on oil from the Middle East. They note a U.S. State Department report raised no major environmental objections.

Former Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman opposed pipeline developer TransCanada's original proposed route that crossed the environmentally sensitive Sandhills region, but he approved the project in 2012 after the company altered the pipeline's path.

Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts, a Republican who took office Thursday, said he believes the pipeline will be the safest ever built. He urged Congress and Obama to quickly approve the project.

AP News in Brief

France works to avert new terror attacks, hunts woman at large after days of violence

PARIS (AP) — France's government urged the nation to remain vigilant Saturday, as thousands of security forces try to thwart new attacks and hunt down a suspected accomplice in a rampage by terrorists linked to al-Qaida in Yemen that scarred the nation and left 20 dead.

Three attackers were among those killed after three days of bloodshed at the offices of a satirical newspaper, a kosher supermarket and other sites around Paris. But the sense of relief Saturday was tinged with worry and sorrow, as the nation mourned slain hostages and cartoonists.

Security forces are deployed around the capital, guarding places of worship and tourist sites, and preparing for what's likely to be a huge demonstration Sunday to show unity against extremists. World leaders including Germany's Angela Merkel and Britain's David Cameron are among the many expected to join.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve insisted Saturday that authorities will do everything to ensure security at the event. Speaking after an emergency security meeting called by French President Francois Hollande on Saturday morning, he called for "extreme vigilance," saying that "given the context, we are exposed to risks."

Cazeneuve said the government is deploying hundreds of troops in addition to thousands of police and other security forces and maintaining its terror alert system at the highest level in the Paris region.

Paris newspaper attack rallies Islamic extremists, is likely to boost militant recruitment

BEIRUT (AP) — The militant chatter spread like wildfire. Within minutes of news breaking about the deadly terror attack on a Paris newspaper this week, supporters of extremist Islamic groups extolled the suspects in the massacre as "lions of the caliphate" and praised the killings on social media.

Loyalists of al-Qaida and the Islamic State group alike described the assault on Charlie Hebdo's offices that killed 12 people as revenge for the French satirical publication's mockery of Islam's Prophet Muhammad and France's military involvement in Muslim countries.

Brothers Cherif and Said Kouachi became icons in the terror-sphere.

Many militant supporters organized under the Arabic hashtag (hash)Parisattack and (hash)Parisiburning, with some calling the newspaper assault a holy attack by the "lions of the Khalifa," or caliphate.

Over and over, Twitter users who identified with the Islamic State group or al-Qaida posted pictures and videos of a black-clad gunman — presumably one of the brothers — shooting a French policeman in the head as he lay on a Paris sidewalk before fleeing the scene in a getaway car.

Decision on Keystone XL pipeline back in Obama's lap after House vote, Nebraska court ruling

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans in Congress and a state supreme court have thrown the political hot potato known as Keystone XL straight back onto President Barack Obama's lap.

So loath is Obama to making a decision about the proposed oil pipeline that deliberations have entered their sixth year — a period nearly as long as Obama's time in office. He's blamed the seemingly endless delays on bureaucratic formalities and parochial issues in Nebraska, even when skeptics claimed that the politics of the next election were giving the president cold feet.

Now the election is over, the Nebraska issue is resolved, and a bipartisan bill forcing the pipeline's approval may soon be heading to Obama's desk. Forces on all sides of the debate, for once, have the same demand for Obama: Just make the call.

"It's time for the State Department and the president to make a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline — however they decide — because six years is beyond long enough," said Sen. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, part of the minority of Democrats supporting the pipeline.

In April, just as the State Department's review of the pipeline was nearing an end, Obama indefinitely suspended it. Facing a difficult political climate, many Democrats had been anxious about Obama making a decision before the November midterm elections. Still, the White House said it was uncertainty

about the pipeline's route, spurred by a Nebraska court challenge, that prompted the delay.

Tail of crashed AirAsia plane lifted from seabed; officials unsure if black boxes are inside

PANGKALAN BUN, Indonesia (AP) — A tail section from the crashed AirAsia plane became the first major wreckage lifted off the seabed Saturday, two weeks after Flight 8501 went down, killing all 162 people on board.

The red metal chunk, with the word "Asia" written across it, was brought to the surface using inflatable balloons. It was not immediately clear whether the cockpit voice and flight data recorders — located in the plane's rear — were inside this piece or had detached when the Airbus A320 plummeted into the sea Dec. 28. Their recovery is essential to finding out why it crashed.

The debris was hoisted from a depth of about 30 meters (100 feet), and local TV footage showed it resting on a ship.

Intermittent underwater ping-like sounds were picked up Friday about a kilometer (half a mile) from where the tail section was located, but it was unclear whether they were coming from the recorders. It was possible the signals were coming from another source.

No metal was detected at the ping location, and Nurcahyo Utomo, a National Commission for Transportation Safety investigator, said the sounds could not be confirmed.

SpaceX launches station supplies for NASA, 'close but no cigar' with rocket landing at sea

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — SpaceX pulled off another launch of supplies to the International Space Station on Saturday, but its revolutionary attempt to land the leftover booster on an ocean barge fared less well.

The company's billionaire founder Elon Musk said the first-stage of the unmanned Falcon rocket made it to the platform floating a couple hundred miles off Florida's northeastern coast. But the booster came down too hard and broke apart, he said.

"Close, but no cigar this time," Musk said via Twitter. He said it bodes well for the future, though.

It was the first time anyone tried anything like this. Musk maintains that recovering and reusing rockets is essential for bringing down launch costs and speeding up operations.

The primary mission for SpaceX was delivering more than 5,000 pounds of supplies ordered up by NASA, including hasty replacements for experiments and equipment lost in the destruction of another company's cargo ship last fall, as well as extra groceries.

Pope's trip to Sri Lanka and Philippines: An election upset and crowds that may break records

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis embarks on his second Asian pilgrimage this coming week, visiting Sri Lanka and the Philippines exactly 20 years after St. John Paul II's record-making visit to two countries with wildly disparate Catholic populations. Francis will make headlines of his own, drawing millions of faithful in the Philippines and treading uncharted political waters following Sri Lanka's remarkable electoral upset this past week.

New Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, who capitalized on former President Mahinda Rajapak-

sa's unpopularity among the island nation's ethnic and religious minorities, will be on hand to welcome Francis when he arrives in the capital, Colombo, on Tuesday.

Francis will be bringing a message of reconciliation between the Sinhalese majority and Tamil minority and interfaith harmony after Sri Lanka's quarter-century civil war ended in 2009 with the army's violent crushing of the Tamil Tiger rebels.

It isn't known whether Francis will weigh in on Sri Lanka's refusal to cooperate with a U.N. investigation into alleged war crimes in the final stages of the war. A 2011 U.N. report said up to 40,000 ethnic Tamil civilians may have been killed during the offensive, and accused both sides of committing serious human rights violations.

Here are five things to look for during Francis' trip, split between two days in Sri Lanka and three in the Philippines.

AP source: Justice Department weighing criminal charges for ex-CIA Director David Petraeus

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department is weighing bringing criminal charges against former CIA Director David Petraeus over the handling of classified information, a U.S. official said Friday night. Investigators have presented senior-level Justice Department officials such as Attorney General Eric Holder with information on the case to help inform a decision on charging the former four-star general, the official said.

The official was not authorized to discuss the investigation by name and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Robert Barnett, a lawyer for Petraeus, declined to comment Friday night, as did Marc Raimondi, a spokesman for the Justice Department.

Federal investigators have been looking into whether Petraeus improperly shared classified materials with his biographer, Paula Broadwell, with whom he admitted having an affair when he resigned from his position in November 2012. Agents found a substantial number of classified documents on Broadwell's computer and at her home, a law enforcement official has previously said.

Both have publicly apologized for the relationship. They have said their romantic relationship began only after he retired from the military and started at the CIA.

5 years after earthquake, Haiti still faces a grueling, uncertain future with uneven recovery

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Before the earth shook and turned their lives upside down, Rosena Dordor was like millions of poor Haitians, living with her family in a cramped home with no running water or sanitation, struggling to get by and fearing the next rent increase would force them out.

Today, nearly five years after the devastating 7.0 earthquake, Dordor has a new place to live with her husband and five children: a one-room shack with a plastic tarp for a roof and walls made of scrap metal and salvaged wood. It's perched on a cactus- and scrub-covered hillside, a long walk from the nearest source of water, and meals are cooked over fire pits.

Life is still a struggle in Haiti, the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, but Dordor's new settlement does offer a measure of freedom because there is no landlord for her family or for the tens of thousands of other homesteaders who rushed to stake a claim in arid hills after the government expropriated a barren zone of 18,500 acres (7,500 hectares) just north of Port-au-Prince following the Jan.

12, 2010, earthquake.

"We love this place because we have made it our home with our own hands and hearts," Dordor said on a recent morning while shucking castor beans for a hair product she sells to neighbors. The area was initially only meant to house those stuck in tent shelters considered most at risk for floods or landslides, but it is growing so fast that U.S. State Department officials say the settlement could soon be considered Haiti's second largest city.

The country's complicated housing problems are perhaps the biggest drag on an uneven recovery that has nonetheless improved the lives of many poor Haitians, who say they prefer their living situations now compared to before the quake.

A look at the Haiti earthquake on the 5-year anniversary
A look at the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and its aftermath:

THE DISASTER: A magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck just before 5 p.m. on Jan. 12, 2010, in southern Haiti, destroying more than 100,000 buildings and damaging 200,000 in densely packed Port-au-Prince and surrounding towns. Haiti's government put the death toll at 316,000, while some estimates were lower. An exact accounting was impossible given the widespread devastation. Many Haitian officials and police officers died in the quake, leaving the government paralyzed. The United Nations, which has had peacekeepers in the country since 2004, lost 102 staffers in the disaster, the largest single loss of life in its history. In the immediate aftermath, more than 1.5 million Haitians were living in crowded camps, often sheltered by little more than plastic tarps.

THE RECOVERY: More than \$12.4 billion in humanitarian and development aid and debt relief was pledged by more than 50 countries and international agencies, with at least 80 percent of that disbursed, according to the United Nations. Much of the aid was channeled through contractors and humanitarian groups rather than directly to Haiti's government. The U.S., the biggest donor, has largely sought to rebuild infrastructure and improve the health system and economy, hoping to improve conditions that made Haiti particularly vulnerable to disaster. Venezuela, another major donor, also funded numerous infrastructure projects. Shantytowns and tent camps have gradually dwindled as people moved back to old homes or found new ones, often with rent subsidies provided by international donors. Some landowners and public agencies also evicted people by force.

1 Yosemite climber just 1,000 feet from summit on free climb

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — One of the men making a grueling ascent of a half-mile of exposed granite in California's Yosemite National Park is just 1,000 feet from finishing the groundbreaking climb and the other had climbed one of the hardest sections as of Friday.

Tommy Caldwell, 36, climbed to a ledge 2,000 feet up on Thursday, said Tom Evans, a photographer and climber who has been chronicling the journey.

Caldwell and Kevin Jorgeson are relying completely on their physical strength and dexterity to make their way up the Dawn Wall, a vertical face on one side of El Capitan. Caldwell could become the first to accomplish the feat.

After struggling, Jorgeson completed Friday a particularly difficult section lower down the wall. The men have been climbing toward the 3,000-foot summit for two weeks.

Stocks slide on falling wages, oil slump

ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writer

A turbulent week of trading ended Friday with U.S. stocks finishing lower for the third time in five days.

The decline followed two days of big gains and nudged major indexes lower for the year.

A slide in oil prices deepened, stoking concerns about global economic growth. Energy stocks tumbled, extending their losses for the year.

Investors also were discouraged by a report showing that average U.S. hourly pay declined in December, despite another strong increase in hiring.

"We finally got the jobs growing," said Erik Davidson, chief investment officer of Wells Fargo Private Bank. "Now people are looking through that at the actual wage growth numbers and they want to see improvement on wages, which obviously would spur demand and consumer confidence."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index shed 17.33 points, or 0.8 percent, to 2,044.81. The index is now down 0.7 percent for the year.

The Dow Jones industrial average slid 170.50 points, or about 1 percent, to 17,737.37. The Dow has fallen 0.5 percent this year.

The Nasdaq composite lost 32.12 points, or 0.7 percent, to 4,704.07. It's down 0.7 percent this year.

After a long period of relative calm, stock markets have become more volatile as investors grapple with slowing global growth and slumping oil prices. A gauge of investor anxiety, the Chicago Board Options Exchange's volatility index, or VIX, rose 3 percent to 17.5 on Friday, up from 12 a month ago.

"It's going to be a volatile year, but I think if you remain a long-term investor ... and you push out this volatility and you focus on the trends, I think (the stock market) is going to have a pretty good year," said Robert Pavlik, chief market strategist at Banyan Partners.

A combination of positive U.S. economic news, hopes for stimulus from Europe's central bank and renewed confidence that the Federal Reserve will keep supporting the economy helped push stocks higher in the middle of the week after a tough start to the year.

But by Friday, the jobs data and a renewed decline in oil prices put traders in a selling mood once again.

U.S. crude fell 43 cents, or 0.9 percent, to close at \$48.36 a barrel in New York on further evidence that OPEC will not cut production in an effort to support prices. In London, Brent crude fell 85 cents, or 1.7 percent, to \$50.11 a barrel, setting a new five and a half-year low.

The price of oil has fallen by more than half since June as traders anticipate a glut of supply caused by increased production. The slide also has stoked concern about the already troubled state of economies overseas.

"Is it a canary in the coal mine for bigger global economic concerns?" Davidson said. "Is oil telling us something about the future of the global economy?"

The latest U.S. jobs data also gave some investors reason for concern.

The government reported that employers added 252,000 jobs in December, slightly more than economists expected. The government also noted that more jobs were added in October and November than it had previously estimated.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, January 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 169 ♦ 30 of 34

Still, average hourly pay slipped 5 cents in December. And the unemployment rate fell to 5.6 percent from 5.8 percent in part because many of the jobless gave up looking for work and were no longer counted as unemployed.

Among individual stocks, Avon Products declined the most among companies in the S&P 500. The stock shed 66 cents, or 7.5 percent, to \$8.17. It's down 13 percent this year.

All 10 sectors in the S&P 500 fell. Financial stocks were the biggest losers on the day. The sector is down 2.4 percent this year.

In government bond trading, prices rose. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury fell to 1.95 percent from 2.02 percent on Thursday.

The euro edged up to \$1.1841 from \$1.1792 the previous day. The dollar fell to 118.51 yen from 119.80 yen.

In metals trading, gold edged up \$7.60 to \$1,216.10 an ounce, silver rose three cents to \$16.42 an ounce and copper fell two cents to \$2.75 an ounce.

In other futures trading on the NYMEX:

- Wholesale gasoline fell 1.8 cents to close at \$1.323 a gallon.
- Heating oil fell 0.8 cent to close at \$1.703 a gallon.
- Natural gas rose 1.9 cents to close at \$2.946 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Among other stocks making big moves Friday:

- Star Bulk Carriers sank 23.1 percent after the global shipping company priced a public offering of stock below the previous day's closing price. The stock slid \$1.51 to \$5.02.
- Ruby Tuesday's latest quarterly revenue fell short of expectations as sales at restaurants open at least a year declined. Shares in the chain-restaurant operator shed 83 cents, or 11.7 percent, to \$6.27.
- Agenus jumped 28.7 percent on news that the biotechnology company signed a licensing, development and commercialization deal with Incyte for immuno-therapeutics. Agenus rose \$1.18 to \$5.29. Incyte fell \$1.18, or 1.6 percent, to \$72.03.

Obama proposes publicly funded community colleges for all

NEDRA PICKLER, Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — President Barack Obama on Friday proposed to bring the cost of two years of community college "down to zero" for all Americans, an ambitious nationwide plan based on a popular Tennessee program signed into law by that state's Republican governor.

However, the idea and its \$60 billion federal price tag over 10 years would have to make the grade with a Republican Congress that is showing little appetite for big new spending programs. Obama, who plans to push the issue in his Jan. 20 State of the Union address, argued that providing educational opportunity and creating a more skilled U.S. workforce shouldn't be a partisan issue.

"Community college should be free for those willing to work for it because, in America, a quality education should not be a privilege that is reserved for a few," he said in a speech at Pellissippi State Community College. He said a high school diploma is no longer enough for American workers to compete in the global economy and that a college degree is "the surest ticket to the middle class."

The White House estimated that 9 million students could eventually participate and save an average of \$3,800 in tuition per year if they attend fulltime. Students would qualify if they attend at least half-time, maintain a 2.5 grade point average and make progress toward completing a degree or certificate program. Participating schools would have to meet certain academic requirements.

At North Lake College, part of the Dallas County Community College system, student Courtney Banks

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, January 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 169 ♦ 31 of 34

said such a program would help her and also allow others to enroll in classes.

"Other people, other young adults would be willing to get into school because it wouldn't be so far out of reach," she said. She added she's still trying to pay back loans from a previous school. "It costs a lot of money," she said.

The White House said the federal government would pick up 75 percent of the cost and the final quarter would come from states that opt into the program — a cost of \$20 billion over 10 years. Spokesman Eric Schultz said Obama will propose new programs to pay for the federal portion in his budget next month.

Obama is calling the idea America's College Promise, modeled after Tennessee Promise, which Republican Gov. Bill Haslam signed into law last year to provide free community and technical college tuition for two years. It has drawn 58,000 applicants, almost 90 percent of the state's high school seniors. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Obama's former White House chief of staff, has a similar program for students in his city.

"If a state with Republican leadership is doing this and a city with Democratic leadership is doing this, how about we all do it," Obama said.

Obama brought Tennessee's two Republican senators, Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander, with him on Air Force One for the event. But both said they thought states, not the federal government, should follow Tennessee's lead.

"Creating a federal program to me is not the way to get good things to happen in education," Corker told reporters from his seat in the third row of the speech. "You're always better off letting states mimic each other."

Alexander, a former education secretary who is set to take over the Senate committee that oversees education, said Washington's role should be to reduce paperwork for student aid applications. Obama said he agrees and wants to see that happen this year.

Obama also was joined on the trip by Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill Biden, who drew applause when she told the audience she's been teaching English at community college for 20 years and still does as second lady. "This is the moment for community colleges to shine," she said.

The president and vice president also visited a manufacturing facility, Techmer PM in nearby Clinton, Tennessee, to promote a second proposal to create a fund to help low-wage workers with high potential get training in growing fields such as energy, information technology and advanced manufacturing.

"If the last decade was characterized by outsourcing, I wanted to define this decade for insourcing," Obama said.

He also named the Institute at Knoxville his fifth manufacturing hub, along with Youngstown, Ohio; Raleigh, North Carolina; Detroit and Chicago. Tennessee's hub will include 122 public and private partners teaming to make lighter and stronger manufacturing materials for things like fuel-efficient cars or wind turbine blades.

Obama and Biden checked out a 3D printed carbon fiber replica of a Shelby Cobra, which weighs half as much as the 1960s original but is just as strong. The seats were blocked off so they couldn't climb in.

"Biden wants to put on his aviator glasses," Obama joked, in reference to a spoof video the vice president once did giving "Veep" actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus a ride in a Corvette.

"It ain't my Corvette, but it's OK," Biden responded.

Pope's trip to Sri Lanka and Philippines: 5 things to know

NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis embarks on his second Asian pilgrimage this coming week, visiting Sri Lanka and the Philippines exactly 20 years after St. John Paul II's record-making visit to two countries with wildly disparate Catholic populations. Francis will make headlines of his own, drawing millions of faithful in the Philippines and treading uncharted political waters following Sri Lanka's remarkable electoral upset this past week.

New Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, who capitalized on former President Mahinda Rajapaksa's unpopularity among the island nation's ethnic and religious minorities, will be on hand to welcome Francis when he arrives in the capital, Colombo, on Tuesday.

Francis will be bringing a message of reconciliation between the Sinhalese majority and Tamil minority and interfaith harmony after Sri Lanka's quarter-century civil war ended in 2009 with the army's violent crushing of the Tamil Tiger rebels.

It isn't known whether Francis will weigh in on Sri Lanka's refusal to cooperate with a U.N. investigation into alleged war crimes in the final stages of the war. A 2011 U.N. report said up to 40,000 ethnic Tamil civilians may have been killed during the offensive, and accused both sides of committing serious human rights violations.

Here are five things to look for during Francis' trip, split between two days in Sri Lanka and three in the Philippines.

TAMIL TRAVELS

Significantly, Francis will travel to the Tamil region of northern Sri Lanka to pray at a Christian shrine and meet with Tamil faithful. The Our Lady of Madhu shrine is revered by both Sinhalese and Tamil Catholics, providing the perfect backdrop for the pope to encourage reconciliation in a part of Sri Lanka that was devastated by the war.

"It's a very strong gesture," said the Rev. Bernardo Cervellera, whose Vatican-affiliated missionary news agency AsiaNews covers the Catholic Church in Asia closely. "He is going to this area where John Paul couldn't go because of the war."

The Catholic Church considers itself uniquely poised to be a force for unity in Sri Lanka because it counts both Sinhalese and Tamils as members. They worship together, with liturgies often alternating between the two languages, said the Rev. Prasad Harshan, a Sri Lankan doctoral student at Rome's Pontifical Holy Cross University.

"He's making an extra effort to go to these areas, and to see these victims," he said. "That will be a wonderful sign of solidarity."

Francis' canonization Wednesday of Sri Lanka's first saint, the Rev. Giuseppe Vaz, is another sign of unity: The 17th century missionary is credited with having revived the Catholic faith in the country amid persecution by Dutch colonial rulers, ministering to both Sinhalese and Tamil faithful.

BUDDHIST FUNDAMENTALISM

When John Paul visited Sri Lanka in 1995, he too tried to bring a message of tolerance, but was met with a boycott by the island nation's Buddhist leaders, who constitute 70 percent of the population. (Hindus represent some 13 percent, Muslims 10 percent and Catholics about 7 percent, according to Vatican figures).

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, January 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 169 ♦ 33 of 34

Buddhist representatives had been expected to attend an interfaith meeting, but none showed up to protest John Paul's criticism of the Buddhist doctrine of salvation.

Buddhist fundamentalism has only grown in the ensuing 20 years, with hard-line Buddhists waging a violent campaign against Muslims.

But two moderate Buddhist representatives are scheduled to greet Francis during an interfaith meeting on the first day of his visit.

"I don't know if during other occasions or places there might be discordant voices from fundamentalists," said the Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi. "We'll have to see."

Francis has denounced the rise of religious fundamentalism in Sri Lanka and the extremists who promote a "false sense of national unity based on a single religious identity."

During a meeting with visiting Sri Lankan bishops last May, Francis said the local church must continue to seek "partners in peace and interlocutors in dialogue" despite violence and intimidation from religious extremists.

SECURITY CONCERNS

As with any papal trip, security will be tight in both Sri Lanka and the Philippines, even for a pope who relishes plunging into crowds and driving around in open-topped cars rather than bullet-proof popemobiles.

But the concerns on the Philippine leg of the trip are not without merit, given current tensions with Islam and the rather checkered history of papal visits to Asia's largest Roman Catholic country.

When Pope Paul VI arrived in Manila in 1970 for the first-ever papal visit, he was immediately rushed by a would-be assassin dressed as a priest who stabbed him in the gut and neck. The wounds were superficial and the attacker wrestled to the ground, but blood was drawn.

This past October, the two blood-stained vests Paul wore that day were selected as the relics used during his Vatican beatification ceremony.

A week before St. John Paul II visited the Philippines in January 1995, Filipino authorities said they discovered a plot by Muslim extremists to kill the pontiff after they were led by an accidental fire to a terrorist hideout in a Manila apartment building, where they found bomb-making chemicals, his picture, maps showing routes where he would pass and a tailor's receipt for a priest cassock.

Authorities later blamed the plot on Ramzi Yousef, who was convicted of masterminding the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

CROWD CONTROL

That said, John Paul's 1995 visit was perhaps more noteworthy for having set a papal milestone that no pope has since met: An estimated 5 million people turned out for John Paul's final Mass, filling Manila's Rizal Park and spreading out for miles in every direction.

The boulevards were so jammed that John Paul was forced to arrive at the Mass by helicopter — over an hour late — because his motorcade simply couldn't reach the altar.

The Philippines, with a population of 100 million, is about 81 percent Catholic.

The Rev. Gregory Gaston, rector of the Pontifical Filipino College, said he expected that the wildly popular Francis might surpass John Paul's record, noting that local leaders have given workers time off so they can attend his key events, which include a Mass on Jan. 18 in the same Rizal Park as John Paul's historic finale.

"Now the concern isn't from terrorists, but from the people — because the people love the pope so much, there's the chance they might mob him!" Gaston said, laughing.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, January 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 169 ♦ 34 of 34

ENVIRONMENT

Francis is expected to focus his remarks in the Philippines on issues related to families: Each day he'll meet with families young and old, including ones separated by members who have left home to find work overseas. But another issue he's expected to raise, at least fleetingly, is the environment.

Filipino bishops have made environmental concerns a top priority, and Francis will visit survivors of Typhoon Haiyan, which the government has held up as an example of the extreme weather patterns that may be the result of climate change.

Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, said Francis doesn't have a dedicated speech to the environment, but that "we can expect some references."

Ever since he was installed as the first pope named for the nature-loving St. Francis of Assisi, Francis has called for greater attention to caring for God's creation.

Speculation has been mounting about how far Francis will take that call in his forthcoming encyclical on ecology: Environmentalists hope that the document, expected sometime this spring, will help jump-start stalled international efforts to curb climate change.

But those who reject scientific findings that climate change is man-made are already condemning the pope for taking up the issue at all.

Maureen Mullarkey of First Things, a conservative U.S. Catholic journal, wrote in a recent blog post that Francis is "imprudent" and "sullies his office by using demagogic formulations to bully the populace into reflexive climate action with no more substantive guide than theologized propaganda."

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Jan. 10, the 10th day of 2015. There are 355 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 10, 1776, Thomas Paine anonymously published his influential pamphlet, "Common Sense," which argued for American independence from British rule.

On this date:

In 1861, Florida became the third state to secede from the Union.

In 1863, the London Underground had its beginnings as the Metropolitan, the world's first underground passenger railway, opened to the public with service between Paddington and Farringdon Street.

In 1870, John D. Rockefeller incorporated Standard Oil.

In 1901, the Spindletop oil field in Beaumont, Texas, produced the Lucas Gusher, heralding the start of the Texas oil boom.

In 1914, a Utah grocer and his son were shot to death in their Salt Lake City store; police arrested labor activist Joe Hill, who was later convicted and executed, becoming a martyr to America's organized labor movement.

In 1920, the League of Nations was established as the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') went into effect.

In 1946, the first General Assembly of the United Nations convened in London.

In 1957, Harold Macmillan became prime minister of Britain, following the resignation of Anthony Eden.

In 1964, Vee-Jay Records released "Introducing... The Beatles," an album which ran into immediate legal opposition from Capitol Records, which was about to come out with its own album, "Meet the