

Groton Daily Independent

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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 17

Anniv: Steve and Julie Schaller

Birthdays: Brina Chriss, Michael Patton.

10:00am to 10:00pm: Skating Rink Open

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

Sunday, January 18

Birthdays: Aaron Nyberg, Kelly Flemming, Natalie Cassanova.

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

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

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

9:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

9:30am: First Presbyterian Bible Study Time

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

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

10:00am: United Methodist School

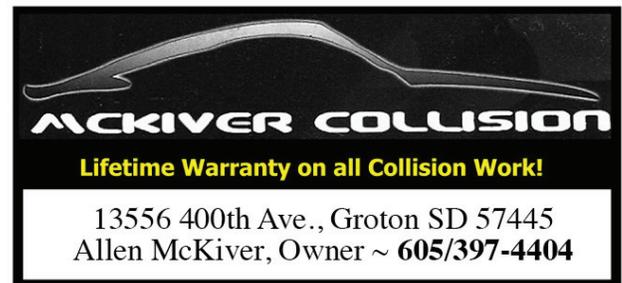
10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship with
Communion (SS Sings, Bless WELCA Leaders,
Brief SS Teachers Meeting)

11:00am: First Presbyterian Worship

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

1:00pm -9:00pm: Skating Rink Open

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



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.

SDHSAA Football Classifications for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 seasons

The new football alignments for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 seasons have been released by the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

A couple of notes referring to the alignments:

- * This is the first cycle where male-only student average daily membership totals are being used
- * Regions are not set as of yet and will be determined at the March SDHSAA Board of Directors meeting
- * 40% of Nine-Man teams will change classifications from the last cycle to the next, including:
 - ** Defending 9A Champion Howard (to 9B)
 - ** Defending 9A Runner-Up Wolsey-Wessington (to 9AA)
- * Two new programs will join the Eleven-Man ranks: Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan and new co-operative Jones County/White River
- * Two programs are moving to nine-man after previously competing in eleven-man: Bon Homme & Tiospa Zina (TZ will be ineligible for the post-season due to their enrollment figure still classifying them as an eleven-man school)

With Tiospa-Zina dropping down to nine-man, Groton will have to pick up another long-distance team to play - perhaps Parkston again, or Flandreau.

11AAA

Aberdeen Central
Brandon Valley
Rapid City Central
Rapid City Stevens
Sioux Falls Lincoln
Sioux Falls O'Gorman
Sioux Falls Roosevelt
Sioux Falls Washington
Watertown

11AA

Brookings
Douglas
Harrisburg
Huron
Mitchell
Pierre T.F. Riggs
Spearfish
Sturgis Brown
Yankton

11A

Belle Fourche
Canton
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte
Dakota Valley
Dell Rapids
Hot Springs
Lennox
Madison
Milbank Area
Pine Ridge
Sioux Falls Chrisitan
St. Francis Indian
St. Thomas More
Tea Area
Todd County
Vermillion
West Central

11B

Aberdeen Roncalli
Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan
Bennett County
Beresford
Chamberlain
Crow Creek
Custer
Elk Point-Jefferson
Flandreau
Groton Area
Jones County/White River
Lead-Deadwood
Little Wound
McCook Central/Montrose
Mobridge-Pollock
Parkston
Red Cloud
Redfield/Doland
Sioux Valley
Sisseton
Tri-Valley
Wagner
Winner

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9AA

Arlington/Lake Preston
Baltic
Bon Homme
Britton-Hecla
Chester Area
Clark/Willow Lake
Deubrook Area
Deuel
Florence-Henry
Garretson
Great Plains Lutheran
Gregory
Herreid/Selby Area
Hill City
Ipswich/Edmunds Central
Kimball/White Lake
Lyman
McLaughlin
Miller
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton
Rapid City Christian
Stanley County
Tiospa Zina
Webster
Wilmot/Waubay/Summit
Wolsey-Wessington
Woonskt/WessSpr/SanCentral

9A

Andes Central/Dakota Chr.
Canistota
Castlewood/Estelline
Colman-Egan
Elkton-Lake Benton
Eureka/Bowdle
Gayville-Volin
Hanson
Highmore-Harrold
Irene-Wakonda
Kadoka
Lemmon
Marty Indian
Menno/Marion
New Underwood
Newell
Parker
Philip
Platte-Geddes
Potter County
Scotland
Sully Buttes
Tripp-Delmont/Armour
Tri-State
Viborg-Hurley
Warner
Waverly-South Shore

9B

Alcester-Hudson
Avon
Bison
Burke/South Central
Centerville
Colome
Corsica-Stickney
Crazy Horse
De Smet
Dell Rapids St. Mary
Dupree
Edgemont
Faith
Faulkton
Freeman
Hamlin
Harding County
Hitchcock-Tulare
Howard
Langford
Leola/Frederick
Lower Brule
Northwestern
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland
Sunshine Bible
Timber Lake
Wall

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.

Report from Pierre from Rep. Dennis Feickert, District 1

The first week of the 90th Legislative Session of the South Dakota Legislature has quickly come to a close. I am proud and humbled to serve you in District 1 which includes parts of northern Brown County, Marshall, Roberts, and Day County. This is my fourth term in the House of Representatives. As all first weeks of the Session, it is an especially hectic time. Most committee work was confined to state agencies' presentations. I serve on the House Agriculture and House Transportation committees.

Earlier this week, I spent time in two important briefings. The SD Department of Transportation provided an overview of the state of infrastructure in SD. Sen. Mike Vehle of Mitchell also spoke. He chaired a legislative Interim Committee on Highway Needs and Funding. This bipartisan committee spent the last 9 months traveling the state and holding hearings as they tried to determine the needs and the potential solutions. While the briefing didn't get into any specific legislative proposals, it looks like all are in agreement that we must work now to fix our crumbling roads and bridges. I look forward to discussing the actual proposals in the upcoming weeks.

I also attended an informational briefing from Andy Gerlach and his staff from the SD Department of Revenue. In addition, it was my pleasure to participate in a Legislative Panel Discussion at the annual Rural Water Association meeting held in Pierre. As rural communities they too have concerns about school funding, acknowledging that especially in small towns, the schools are the lifeblood of their community. We also discussed the proposed pipelines and what can be done to protect our acquirers.

The Governor's State of the State speech on the opening day of the Session also emphasized infrastructure, especially roads and bridges. Costs of repairs escalate as time goes on. Counties and townships are cash strapped. There is much to do. Both the total amount which will be devoted to repairs as well as the taxes and fees which will finance the efforts will be a significant part of our deliberations this Session.

This annual State of the State speech should in my opinion, missed the mark on a couple of topics. I was disappointed that the Governor omitted two of the most critical issues in our state: education and health care. We have put off a clear focus on teacher recruitment and retention in our state to the detriment of our future. You don't get results by ignoring the questions that have to be faced.

No other topic dominates the agenda of Democratic legislators more than providing adequate funding to our public schools. We believe that education is the key to economic opportunity in the state of South Dakota. State Government must meet its critical obligations and education tops that list. Teacher recruitment and retention is at a critical stage. There are now 1,004 teachers in SD who are eligible for retirement. Right now, there are only 726 in-state college seniors who will teach and there is no guarantee that even half of them will stay in SD. Some teaching majors (like upper level Calculus or Tech Ed) are in even shorter supply. It may be true that you go into teaching because you love the kids and not for the money, but it might be a bit easier to love the job in North Dakota for \$8,500 more. More "love" yet in Minnesota where average teacher salary is \$17,250 higher than SD. A multitude of studies have proven that even adjusting for cost of living factors, the pay gap is widening between SD and neighboring states. According to a survey of SD school administrators, even when the current school year started, we had a wide variety of unfilled teaching positions or positions being filled with teachers who are not fully certified.

How can we ignore this crisis? Our students should be our primary natural resource. An educated and capable workforce is the key ingredient to economic development and protecting the quality of life we cherish in this great state.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve you, the residents of District 1. Please feel free to contact me at rep.feickert@state.sd.us or call me at 605-216-3451 with any questions, concerns or comments. If you plan to travel to Pierre during the legislative session, please let me know as I would be honored to meet with everyone from back home in District 1.

Free File Launches Today; Helps Taxpayers with New Health Care Law

WASHINGTON – The Internal Revenue Service and the Free File Alliance today announced the launch of Free File, which makes brand-name tax software products and electronic filing available to most taxpayers for free.

Free File software can help taxpayers with tax preparation, including the health care law that will affect almost everyone. People can use Free File software immediately but e-filed returns will not be transmitted to the IRS until Tuesday, January 20, when the filing season officially begins.

Free File is available only at IRS.gov/FreeFile, thanks to a partnership between the IRS and the Free File Alliance, a consortium of 14 leading tax software companies that make their branded products available for free. Since 2003, more than 43 million people have used Free File, saving \$1.3 billion based on a conservative \$30-fee estimate.

"You don't have to be an expert on taxes or the new health care law. Free File software can help walk you through the rules and help you get it right," said John A. Koskinen, IRS Commissioner. "For 12 years, this partnership between the IRS and the Free File Alliance has helped taxpayers save both money and time. The real winner in this partnership has been the nation's taxpayers."

Tim Hugo, executive director of the Free File Alliance, said, "We are proud to once again offer the industry's most innovative and secure tax software at no cost to 70 percent of American taxpayers. Tax time can be stressful, but Free File makes step-by-step help accessible to everyone making \$60,000 or less. IRS.gov/FreeFile is the one place where taxpayers can choose from a variety of industry-leading tax software options in order to prepare and e-file their federal tax returns at absolutely no cost."

If you earned \$60,000 or less last year, you are eligible to choose from among 14 software products. If you earned more, you are still eligible for Free File Fillable Forms, the electronic version of IRS paper forms. This more basic Free File option, which is best for people comfortable preparing their own tax return, will be available January 20.

More than 70 percent of all taxpayers – 100 million people - are eligible for the software products. Each of the 14 companies has its own special offers, generally based on age, income or state residency. Taxpayers can review each company offer or they can use a "Help Me" tool that will find the software for which they are eligible.

Free File offers easy-to-use products that ask questions and you supply the answers. The software will find the right forms, find the right tax credits and deductions and even do the math for you.

Some companies also offer free state tax return preparation as well.

Free File also can help taxpayers with the new health care requirements. Almost everyone will need to do something new when filing a tax return this year. For each month in 2014, you and everyone on your return must:

- ♦ Report health care coverage, or
- ♦ Claim an exemption from coverage or
- ♦ Make a shared responsibility payment with your tax return.

Most people will simply have to check a box to report health care coverage for the entire year.

If you or anyone on your return purchased coverage from the Health Insurance Marketplace, you may be allowed to take the Premium Tax Credit. If you opted for any advance payments of the Premium Tax Credit to help with your monthly insurance premium payments, you must file a tax return, even if you were not required to file. You must reconcile your advance payments with the amount you were due.

Learn more at IRS.gov/aca.

Free File will be available through October 2015. Taxpayers have the option to prepare their return at any time and schedule a tax payment as late as the April 15 deadline. Taxpayers who cannot meet the April 15 tax filing deadline can also use Free File to file a six-month extension.

Here are some common tax-related documents you will need to complete your tax return. Remember, you must also have documentation of any credit or deduction you are claiming as well.

- ♦ A copy of last year's tax return;
- ♦ Valid Social Security numbers for yourself, spouse and children;
- ♦ All income statements, i.e. W-2 forms, from all employers;
- ♦ Interest/dividend statements, i.e. 1099 forms;
- ♦ Form 1099-G showing any state refunds;
- ♦ Unemployment compensation amount, if any;
- ♦ Form 1095-A if you purchased coverage from a Health Insurance Marketplace;
- ♦ Proof of health care insurance coverage for you and everyone on your return.

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda **January 19, 2015 - 7pm**

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Bills
- 3) Move Funds From General to Debt Service
- 4) Police Tire Quotations
- 5) Dog License Update
- 6) DOT Hwy 37 Proposed Detour
- 7) FAA Community Service project
- 8) Baseball Concessions
- 9) Set Meeting Date Feb 16 or 17
- 10) Election Petitions from January 30 to February 27 at 5pm
- 11) Stearns Property Complaint Results
- 12) Exec Session – Legal Issues

AND any other business that may come before the Council

Are Republicans Punishing Democrats for EB-5 Inquiry?

PIERRE, SD (January 16th, 2015) — Republican leaders have fired a legislative secretary in the State House of Representatives, leaving Democrats wondering whether the incident is related to the EB-5 inquiry.

Republican and Democrat leaders are allowed to employ staff secretaries during the legislative session. Both Republicans and Democrats have Caucus secretaries. Because of their minority status the Democrats only have two — a secretary to the House Minority Leader and a secretary to the Senate Minority Leader.

House Minority Leader Spencer Hawley interviewed applicants and selected former legislator Kathy Tyler as the House secretary, but she received notice that she was terminated on Friday (Jan. 16). Republican leaders pointed to a constitutional provision (Article 3, Sec. 12) that says legislators may not have an interest in a state contract while in office or for a year after leaving office. The provision has proved controversial in the past because of its vagueness.

"Employing Kathy as a secretary hardly qualifies as a contract," said Rep. Hawley. "If it does, then half of our legislators could have conflicts of interest which we don't think they do." He said anyone working for a hospital, nursing, non-profit or school that receives Medicaid monies, school aid or other government assistance would have a bigger conflict than a legislative secretary who receives reimbursement of about \$4,000 for the eight-week legislative session.

Hawley said Democratic legislators feel that the firing is retaliation for former Rep. Tyler's lead role in exposing the EB-5 scandal last year. "I can't say what's behind this, but that's certainly how my caucus feels," he said.

The firing of Tyler is the second time this year that Republican leaders refused to hire a Democrat. Ann Tornberg of Beresford was chosen by Senate Minority Leader Billie Sutton as his secretary, but Republican leadership in the Senate refused to make the appointment when Tornberg was chosen as chair of the South Dakota Democratic Party.

Sutton said her dismissal was surprising because two Republican state senators have served in the legislature while also doing double duty as state party chairs for the Republican Party.

Sutton and Hawley said it is always a challenge to staff the two secretary positions allotted the Democrats. "This is a company town," said Hawley, "and let's face it, the company is the Republican Party establishment. There just aren't many working age Democrats living in the Pierre/Fort Pierre area so we always have a difficult time finding applicants. In this case, we have two excellent individuals who would have been an asset to the legislature. We made it very clear to both ladies that their job was to provide administrative assistance to the lawmakers and to not advocate or address policy."

The Democratic leaders did find a substitute for Tornberg in the senate, and now they say they have no choice but to do the same in the House. However, Tornberg has agreed to also serve Democratic lawmakers as an unpaid legislative aide. Tyler may do the same, they said.

Sutton said the Democratic legislators may seek a legislative remedy to avoid such situations in the future. "This is an unfortunate way to start such an important legislative session," he said. "I know both parties pride themselves out here for working in a bi-partisan manner, so this came as somewhat of a surprise to us. The legislature works best when we have a strong two-party system."



Time to Pass Keystone XL Legislation

One of the first items the 114th Congress is taking up is a bill that would authorize construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. A long-time supporter of the project, it was the first bill I signed onto when I took office. The pipeline would bring new sources of energy, create tens of thousands of jobs in the U.S. and free up rail space for South Dakota crops to be sold.

Unfortunately, this project has been politicized by this Administration. By refusing to approve the project – despite having studied it for seven years and undeniable evidence showing that it should be built – the President gives Congress little choice but to take matters into our own hands. With a new Republican majority in both chambers of Congress, we now have an opportunity to put a Keystone bill on the President's desk. The House of Representatives wasted no time passing Keystone XL pipeline legislation, just as they have in past sessions of Congress. Shortly afterward, the Senate voted 63-32 to bring the legislation to the floor for an open amendment process. I expect the Senate to pass it soon and get it to the President's desk within weeks.

Unfortunately, the President has already threatened to veto the bill, despite widespread bipartisan support in Congress and the overwhelming support of the American public. A recent CNN poll shows a majority of Americans— 57 percent —support the Keystone XL pipeline. But the President is more concerned with using the pipeline as a political football.

The proposed pipeline will run more than 1,000 miles and carry 830,000 barrels of crude oil to refineries on the gulf coast. It will enter the United States in Montana, then run through South Dakota to connect with an existing pipeline in Nebraska. Separate from Keystone, which has been politicized, thousands of miles of pipeline have already been built and are in use in South Dakota. Over the past seven years, the federal government has run a number of environmental impact studies along the route, coming to the conclusion that construction of the pipeline would not cause any significant environmental risks. Yet the Administration continues to delay its approval, showing us that American jobs and energy independence are not their top priorities. Earlier this month, a lawsuit holding up approval of the route through Nebraska was overturned by the Nebraska Supreme Court, removing another excuse the President has used to delay the project.

Since the pipeline will pass through our state, this would bring job opportunities for South Dakotans. It would also play a significant role in an "all of the above" approach to our nation's growing energy needs and free up rail space for South Dakota grains. I'm pleased my colleagues have agreed to take matters into our own hands on this important issue. I look forward to debating amendments on the Keystone bill in the Senate. Doing so brings us one step closer to finally building the pipeline, bringing along an economic boost to our country.

NSU library launches online exhibit about Oahe irrigation project

ABERDEEN, S.D. – Northern State University's Beulah Williams Library has launched an online exhibit about South Dakota's Oahe irrigation project.

The exhibit focuses on the bitter controversy in the 1970s and early 1980s surrounding the effort to bring water from the Oahe reservoir near Pierre to northeast South Dakota for irrigation. The plan was ultimately withdrawn, and the process led to the creation of the WEB water system. The controversy has been called South Dakota's first and most hotly debated environmental issue.

The exhibit, which can be viewed at <http://nsudigital.org/exhibits/show/oahe>, traces the history of the Oahe irrigation project along with the history of the Missouri River. A key aspect of the story is the growth of grassroots opposition to the irrigation project. The exhibit is set up chronologically, and users can follow a basic timeline of activities or select to read more, which will open links to additional images, text and background materials. The exhibit contains images, newspaper articles, documents and oral history interviews with prominent figures in the Oahe irrigation project. Among those interviewed are former United States Sens. George McGovern, Tom Daschle and James Abourezk; former Gov. William Janklow; and John Sieh, Curt Hohn, Ken Holum and others directly involved in the dispute over the Oahe project.

The exhibit was created using items from the Harriet Montgomery Water Resources Collection, which is held at Beulah Williams Library. This collection contains an exhaustive look at the Oahe irrigation project, and also contains substantial material pertaining to water issues throughout South Dakota and the Great Plains. This collection is open and available to members of the public who might view the online exhibit and want additional information on these topics.

Author of the exhibit is Peter Carrels, an Aberdeen native who has been writing about environmental issues for 30 years. Carrels is also the author of "Uphill Against Water," which tells the full story of the Oahe struggle, and was published in 1999. Carrels works as communications coordinator and writer for the University of South Dakota, including the School of Health Sciences and School of Medicine.

"Our hope is that both the general public and our state's teachers will find the exhibit of interest. It tells an important South Dakota story, and touches on the history and politics of the region, grass roots activism, agricultural issues, and environmental history," said Robert Russell, director of NSU's Beulah Williams Library.

The exhibit was partially funded through a generous grant from the South Dakota Humanities Council.

For more information, visit <http://nsudigital.org/exhibits/show/oahe> or contact Russell at 605-626-7770.

Groton boys hold off second half Cylcone rally

Groton Area held off a second half rally by Clark-Willow Lake as the Tigers hung on to win, 41-37.

Five different players scored in the first quarter as Groton took a 10-4 first quarter lead. Then Groton scored nine straight points early in the second quarter to take a 19-6 lead. Chance Strom hit a three-pointer with three seconds left in the half as the Tigers took a 23-9 lead at half time.

Kyler Ell opened the third quarter with a three-pointer as Groton took a 26-9 lead. Then the tide changed and things got more interesting. "We didn't want to make it interesting," said Coach Greg Kjellsen, "but they're a good team and they picked up the defense in the second half. We didn't take the best shots."

A pair of three-pointers, a pair of two-pointers and a 10-second call on Groton allowed the Cyclones to score 12 unanswered points as Groton's lead was sliced to five, 26-21, with 3:16 left in the third quarter. The five-minute drought on the Tigers finally cleared when Lucas Sternhagen made two free throws. Spencer Knecht converted a three-point play and Groton was back on top by 10, 31-21. The Cyclones ended the third quarter with five points as Groton took a 31-26 lead into the fourth quarter.

It took the Cyclones five possessions before they finally scored, causing Coach Greg Kjellsen to call time-out as Groton's lead was now three, 31-28. "We were making offensive and defensive switches," Kjellsen said. "I was very proud of our defensive effort."

Cooper Hartley hit a three-pointer with 67 seconds left to make it a one-point game, 33-32. Clark-Willow Lake called time-out. The Cyclones fouled Lucas Sternhagen twice and he was four for four from the line as Groton led a 37-34 lead with 33 seconds left. The Cyclones missed two free throws



Landon Larson dribbles past Tyson Jenkins as he drives to the basket.



Hunter Lerew and Tyson Jenkins battle for the ball in the opening tip off.

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Lucas Sternhagen scored on a steal to give Groton a 17-6 lead with 4:42 left in the first half.



Bennett Shabazz tries a shot in front of Tyson Jenkins.

with 18 seconds and Groton also missed two free throws with 18 seconds left. Hunter Lerew made two free throws with eight seconds left on the clock. Bradyn Rusher hit a three-pointer for the Cyclones with 1.4 seconds left to make it 39-37. Lucas Sternhagen was fouled and made two free throws with less than a second left on the clock as Groton went on to win, 41-37.

Kyler Ell led the Tigers with 10 points followed by Lucas Sternhagen with nine, Chance Strom had six, Spencer Knecht and Hunter Lerew each had five and Wyatt Larson added two.

Both teams made 26 percent of their field goals, but Clark-Willow Lake put up 12 more shots than Groton. Clark-Willow Lake had 21 team fouls which



Wyatt Larson dribbles his way closer to the basket.

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allowed the Tigers to make 19 of 24 free throws for 79 percent. Groton had 15 team fouls as Clark-Willow Lake made seven of 12 free throws for 58 percent. The Cyclones had 18 turnovers as Groton stole the ball eight times with Sternhagen having three steals. Groton had 14 turnovers as Clark-Willow Lake stole the ball five times, twice by Cooper Hartley.

Groton had three blocks, one each by Sternhagen, Ell and Lerew. Five different players had one assist for Groton. The Cyclones outrebounded the Tigers, 33-24, with Sternhagen having five for Groton and Tyson Jenkins having nine for Clark-Willow Lake.

Ell and Sternhagen each made two three-pointers for Groton. The Cyclones made six three-pointers. Groton will be hosting Ipswich on Tuesday and Webster Area on Friday. Kjellsen said, "This season, so far, our offense has been a work in progress. We're getting better, but still need to shoot the ball better. The second half of the season, we're looking to get better each game and will try to find some better rhythm offensively."

Sean Schuring powered in six three-pointers as he scored 30 points to lead Groton Area to a 57-42 junior varsity win. Seric Shabazz added 11 points followed by Brady Keith had seven points, Adam Heramn six, Aaron Severson two and Jackson Oliver added one. Bennett Shabazz had seven rebounds and six assists and Adam Herman had two steals.



The Sugar Babes performed at half time of the varsity Groton Area and Clark-Willow Lake basketball game Friday night.

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CLARK-WILLOW LAKE		TOT-FG		3-PT		REBOUNDS											
NO PLAYER	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
3 Hartley, Cooper	*	3	10	3	9	0	0	1	1	2	5	9	0	3	0	2	24
11 Hartley, Braxton	*	0	5	0	0	0	2	1	2	3	3	0	4	2	0	1	16
15 Nelson, Cody	*	2	8	1	4	0	0	2	3	5	4	5	1	3	0	0	16
23 Jenkins, Tyson	*	4	9	0	0	3	4	2	7	9	4	11	0	5	1	1	32
34 Forest, Rory	*	1	4	0	0	1	2	2	1	3	2	3	0	0	0	1	16
10 Rusher, Bradyn		2	5	2	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	24
13 Edleman, Jake		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 Prouty, Jacob		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32 Miles, Dylan		0	3	0	2	0	0	2	3	5	1	0	2	2	0	0	24
45 Huber, Noah		0	1	0	0	2	2	2	4	6	2	2	0	3	0	0	8
TEAM REBOUNDS								0	0	0				0			
Team Totals		12	46	6	20	7	12	12	21	33	21	37	7	18	1	5	160

Total FG%	- 1st:	2/23	0.087	2nd:	10/23	0.435	Game:	0.261	Deadball
3-PT FG%	- 1st:	1/8	0.125	2nd:	5/12	0.417	Game:	0.300	Rebounds
Total FT%	- 1st:	4/6	0.667	2nd:	3/6	0.500	Game:	0.583	(5, 3)

GROTON AREA		TOT-FG		3-PT		REBOUNDS											
NO PLAYER	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
4 Sternhagen, Lucas	*	1	6	0	3	7	9	1	4	5	4	9	1	1	1	3	32
10 Knecht, Spencer	*	2	4	0	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	5	1	2	0	1	16
12 Ell, Kyler	*	3	11	2	7	2	2	0	1	1	2	10	1	1	1	1	32
32 Dohman, Gabe	*	0	1	0	0	2	4	1	1	2	0	2	1	2	0	1	16
40 Lerew, Hunter	*	0	1	0	0	5	6	0	3	3	3	5	1	3	1	1	16
3 Schuring, Sean		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
22 Shabazz, Bennett		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
24 Strom, Chance		2	4	2	4	0	0	0	2	2	1	6	0	1	0	0	16
30 Larson, Landon		0	3	0	1	0	0	1	3	4	1	0	0	2	0	0	8
42 Larson, Wyatt		1	3	0	0	2	2	1	1	2	2	4	0	1	0	1	8
TEAM REBOUNDS								0	2	2				1			
Team Totals		9	34	4	16	19	24	5	19	24	15	41	5	14	3	8	160

Total FG%	- 1st:	6/15	0.400	2nd:	3/19	0.158	Game:	0.265	Deadball
3-PT FG%	- 1st:	3/7	0.429	2nd:	1/9	0.111	Game:	0.250	Rebounds
Total FT%	- 1st:	8/10	0.800	2nd:	11/14	0.786	Game:	0.792	(1, 3)

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Clark-Willow Lake	4	5	17	11	37
Groton	10	13	8	10	41

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CLARK-WILLOW LAKE JV		TOT-FG 3-PT					REBOUNDS										
NO PLAYER	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
10 Rusher, Bradyn	*	6	11	1	4	0	5	0	2	2	1	13	1	0	0	1	32
21 Prouty, Jacob	*	1	8	0	1	0	0	2	4	6	0	2	0	4	0	3	24
24 Streff, Joe	*	2	3	0	0	2	2	4	0	4	1	6	0	4	0	0	16
40 Stevens, Ntai	*	4	10	0	3	0	0	2	1	3	3	8	0	4	0	0	24
42 Uecker, Haeden	*	3	3	2	2	2	5	1	0	1	2	10	1	1	1	0	24
4 Paulson, Jeffrey		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 Florey, Grayson		0	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	8
14 Harms, Alex		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
20 Reidburn, Justus		1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
33 Burke, Micah		0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	16
TEAM REBOUNDS								0	0	0				0			
Team Totals		17	40	4	11	4	13	11	10	21	9	42	3	15	1	5	160

Total FG% - 1st: 9/22 0.409 2nd: 8/18 0.444 Game: 0.425 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 1/5 0.200 2nd: 3/6 0.500 Game: 0.364 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 2/5 0.400 2nd: 2/8 0.250 Game: 0.308 (3,2)

GROTON AREA JV		TOT-FG 3-PT					REBOUNDS										
NO PLAYER	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
3 Schuring, Sean	*	12	18	6	10	0	0	2	1	3	1	30	0	1	1	1	16
5 Shabazz, Seric	*	4	9	1	3	2	2	3	2	5	1	11	1	1	0	1	16
14 Herman, Adam	*	3	5	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	4	6	0	2	0	2	8
22 Shabazz, Bennett	*	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	7	7	4	0	6	1	0	0	16
34 Keith, Brady	*	3	5	1	2	0	0	3	1	4	1	7	1	0	0	1	8
4 Sippel, Anthony		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	16
10 Lane, Marshall		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	24
12 Wuestewald, Frankie		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
20 Keith, Brandon		0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	8
30 Oliver, Jackson		0	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	8
40 Rogers, Truitt		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8
42 Thorson, Luke		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
44 Fey, Stevie		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
52 Severson, Aaron		1	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	16
TEAM REBOUNDS								0	0	0				0			
Team Totals		23	47	8	20	3	5	10	14	24	13	57	11	11	1	7	160

Total FG% - 1st: 14/25 0.560 2nd: 9/22 0.409 Game: 0.489 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 5/12 0.417 2nd: 3/8 0.375 Game: 0.400 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 2/2 1.000 2nd: 1/3 0.333 Game: 0.600 (4,4)

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Clark-Willow Lake	12	9	7	14	42
GHS JV	11	24	13	9	57

Today in Weather History

1996: Two to as much as fifteen inches of snow, high winds from 40 to 60 mph, and cold arctic air resulted in blizzard conditions and extreme wind chills from 40 below to 70 below for central, north central, and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota from the middle morning of the 17th to the early evening of the 18th. Most schools, federal, state, and county offices were closed. Also, various activities were canceled. Travel was extremely difficult due to the near zero visibility with some vehicles stranded. Highway 12 from Webster to the Minnesota border and Interstate-29 was closed on the 18th. Hundreds of people were stranded with some people stranded in their vehicles. Some pheasants and wildlife were lost due to the snow packed so hard they could not dig out. Some snowfall amounts included, 2 inches at Highmore, 3 inches at Pierre and 9NE Reliance, 5 inches at Mobridge, Presho, Roscoe, 10SE Stephan, and Ree Heights, 6 inches at Tulare, 7 inches 12W Tulare and 5E 3S Faulkton, 8 inches 11E 2S Hosmer and at Doland, 9 inches at Mellette, Aberdeen, and Redfield, and 10 inches at Eureka and Britton, and 12 inches at Wilmot, Rosholt, and Ortonville, Minnesota. Fifteen inches occurred at Wheaton, Clinton, and Graceville. The extreme wind chills along with some blowing snow continued across central and north central South Dakota into the early evening of the 18th.

1916 – Reno Nevada received 22.5 inches of snow – its greatest 1-day snowfall total ever.

1817 - A luminous snowstorm occurred in Vermont and New Hampshire. Saint Elmo's fire appeared as static discharges on roof peaks, fence posts, and the hats and fingers of people. Thunderstorms prevailed over central New England. (David Ludlum)

1893 - The mercury dipped to 17 degrees below zero at Millsboro, DE, to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1972 - A single storm unloaded 77.5 inches of snow at Summit, MT, to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1982 - Strong chinook winds caused severe wind damage in Boulder, CO. Wind gusts to 118 mph was recorded on the roof of the Environmental Research Laboratories (ERL), and a wind gust to 137 mph was measured atop the roof of the NCAR building (in the southwest part of the city, 600 feet above ground level). The high winds uprooted trees and damaged roofs. (Storm Data)

1987 - A winter storm spread snow from the Southern Rockies into the Middle Mississippi Valley and southwestern sections of the Great Lakes Region, and freezing rain across Texas and Oklahoma. Snowfall totals ranged up to 16 inches at Tulia TX, with 12 inches at Wellington KS. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A Pacific storm battered the southern coast of California. Winds gusting to 65 mph uprooted trees in San Diego. Los Angeles reported an all-time record low barometric pressure reading of 29.25 inches. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Strong chinook winds along the eastern slopes of the Rockies gusted to 90 mph near Rollinsville CO, and reached 94 mph near Big Timber MT. Heavy snow blanketed parts of the Upper Mississippi Valley, with eight inches reported in Douglas County WI. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Twenty cities across the southeastern half of the country reported record high temperatures for the date. Record highs included 61 degrees at Williamstown PA and 85 degrees at Brownsville TX. Evening thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds from eastern Texas to Mississippi. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2010 - A series of strong Pacific storms impacted Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah from January 17th through 23rd, leaving behind several feet of snow across the higher terrain and breaking numerous lowest barometric pressure records across the region. Sunrise Mountain, Arizona received 77 inches of snow, while Mammoth Lakes, California received 90 inches. (NCDC)

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THIS AFTERNOON	TONIGHT	SUNDAY	SUNDAY NIGHT	M.L.KING DAY	MONDAY NIGHT	TUESDAY
						
Breezy	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Slight Chc Snow 20%	Partly Sunny
High: 40 °F	Low: 19 °F	High: 37 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 42 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 33 °F



Gusty Winds Today

Follow us on Social Media

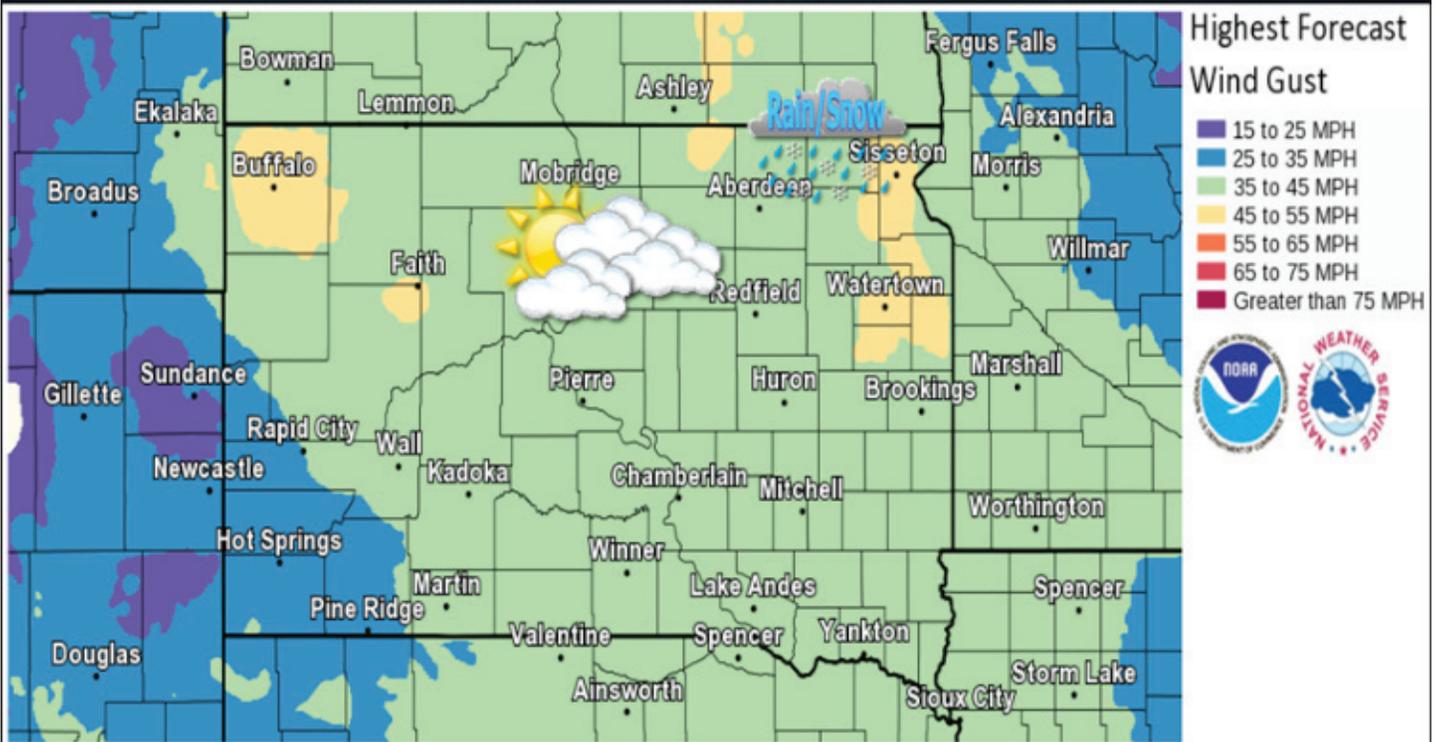
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Low pressure moving east along the Canadian border today will bring gusty winds to the region. Expect northwest winds of 20 to 30 mph, with gusts around 45 mph. Temperatures will be mild though, with readings right around 40 degrees.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 35.0 at 2:56 PM

Low: 16.8 at 4:50 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 15 at 1:50 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 48° in 1947

Record Low: -32° in 1997

Average High: 22°F

Average Low: 1°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.27

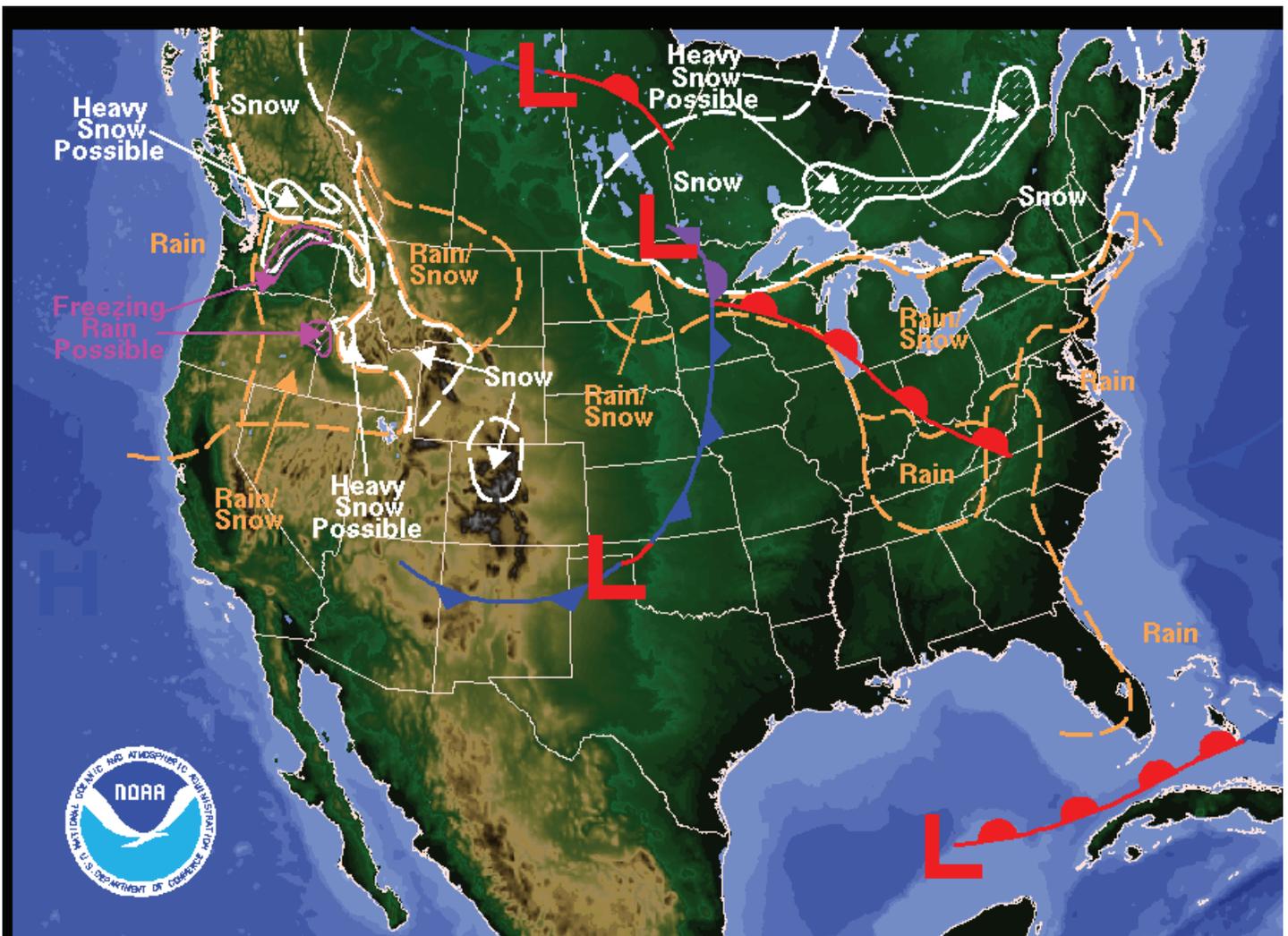
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.40

Average Precip to date: 0.27

Precip Year to Date: 0.40

Sunset Tonight: 5:19 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:08 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Jan 17, 2015, issued 3:32 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



There Is An Answer

"I do not know why God ever made me," he cried in deep despair. "God has not made you yet," said his friend. "He is making you and you do not like what is going on." That story neatly summarizes the tenth Psalm.

Whoever wrote this psalm was asking the same question. "O Lord, why do you stand so far away? Why do you hide from me when I need you the most?" But is this a question or an accusation? If God is distant or hiding, could there be a reason? What is going on here? Is it God's doing or the Psalmists? Who is responsible for the feelings of isolation or separation? Is it doubt or is it distrust? Or is it neither?

This psalm does not end where it begins. It concludes with a bold proclamation, "The Lord is King forever and ever!" And a short time later we read, "Lord You know the hopes of the helpless. Surely You will hear their cries and help them."

Is God ever absent from the lives of those who look to Him for salvation? It surely seems so. When the ones who claim they do not need God seem to prosper and we who worship Him are forced to go without, where is He?

The author does not speculate about what God is doing nor why He does not respond to our cries immediately. He simply reminds us of the grace of God and that in His time and in His way He will hear us and comfort us. Our faith only grows through adversity.

Prayer: Give us courage, Father, to be patient while You work within us to shape us into Your likeness. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 10:17 Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear,

An advertisement for "Fried Chicken Day" at Andover Bar & Grill. The ad features a large fried chicken drumstick in the center. Text includes "FRIDAY IS FRIED CHICKEN DAY", "Served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy", "Serving 5-9 p.m.", "WE'VE GOT WINGS! Every Wednesday!", and "ANDOVER BAR & GRILL". The address "120 S Main St. • 298-5252" is at the bottom. There are also illustrations of wings and a beer.

Judge bars Rapid City man from selling medical laser devices

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge has barred a Rapid City man and his company from manufacturing and distributing laser devices that were marketed as being able to treat more than 200 different diseases and medical disorders.

U.S. District Chief Court Judge Jeffrey Viken filed a preliminary injunction this week against Dr. Robert “Larry” Lytle, QLasers PMA and several associated companies.

In October, the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney’s Office in South Dakota filed a civil complaint against Lytle and his businesses, alleging that they’d violated the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act by nationally marketing their lasers and their effects without approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

In the complaint, the agencies allege Lytle and his companies have been distributing approximately 12 devices that are marketed as low-level laser devices for home use. The Department of Justice said the devices have “labeling that contains false and misleading claims, touting their use in treating such serious conditions as cancer, HIV/AIDS, venereal disease and diabetes.”

Lytle, who is representing himself, could not be reached at a number listed at his home in Rapid City. A message left at the QLaser offices in Rapid City was not immediately returned on Saturday.

Lytle, 80, has previously told the Rapid City Journal that his companies are private membership associations and do not do business with the public. He said the FDA refuses to recognize that it doesn’t have the authority to regulate such associations.

“That is the crux of (the) argument between myself and the FDA,” Lytle told the newspaper. “We don’t do business with the general public.”

But Viken said, “Hiding behind a curtain of private membership associations ... does not shield Mr. Lytle from the authority of the FDCA or the jurisdiction of the court.”

“The injunction bars the defendants from continuing to market and distribute any medical devices until they receive written permission from the FDA to do so,” Viken added.

Game commission adopts buck licenses for this year’s season

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Members of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission have set the number of special buck licenses for this year’s deer season.

The commission decided this week at its meeting in Pierre that 500 resident buck licenses will be available for the West River season. There are also 500 nonresident licenses available for West River. The number of resident-only licenses for the East River buck season is 556.

More information on the hunting season is available at <http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/big-game/deer/special-buck.aspx> .

Jackley: Dangerous synthetic drug has come to South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says a dangerous synthetic drug that’s become popular with young people is surfacing on the state’s college campuses.

Jackley confirmed this week that the drug known as 25i or NBOMe is being sold in South Dakota.

The drug has been used nationwide for a few years and has been blamed for the death of several young people since 2012. It’s among a series of synthetics made to mimic the effects of illegal drugs.

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Jackley says the drug comes in many forms, including as a powder or liquid. It has similar effects to LSD and can cause hallucinations, disorientation and violent behavior.

Jackley says under South Dakota law it's a felony to possess, distribute, or manufacture synthetic drugs that have similar characteristics and properties as controlled substances.

Friday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 61, Deuel 32
Arlington 77, Lake Preston 38
Brandon Valley 70, Harrisburg 51
Bridgewater-Emery 67, Menno 52
Canistota 49, Ethan 46
Corsica/Stickney 57, Kimball/White Lake 48
Dell Rapids 61, Beresford 45
DeSmet 48, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 40
Deubrook 48, Colman-Egan 22
Douglas 60, Belle Fourche 39
Elkton-Lake Benton 61, Castlewood 57
Gregory 60, Burke/South Central 33
Groton Area 41, Clark/Willow Lake 37
Hamlin 58, Sisseton 48
Hanson 63, Parker 50
Ipswich 78, Northwestern 58
Lead-Deadwood 63, Hill City 30
Lemmon 64, Dupree 46
Madison 67, Flandreau 50
Mobridge-Pollock 59, Crow Creek 56
Ortonville, Minn. 77, Milbank Area 50
Platte-Geddes 65, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 37
Potter County JV 68, Edmunds Central 35
Rapid City Central 62, Campbell County, Wyo. 61
Rapid City Central 62, Gillette Sophs, Wyo. 61
Rapid City Stevens 42, Sturgis 40
Redfield/Doland 64, Webster 28
Rosholt 55, Wilmot 39
Sioux Valley 58, McCook Central/Montrose 51
Spearfish 60, Pine Ridge 35
St. Thomas More 64, Custer 30
Standing Rock, N.D. 50, McIntosh 47
Takini 75, Wakpala 48
Warner 61, Britton-Hecla 37
Watertown 75, Mitchell 69
Waverly-South Shore 60, Florence/Henry 42

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Wayne, Neb. 76, Dakota Valley 75, OT

Yankton 39, Pierre 37

Jones County Tournament

Consolation Semifinal

Colome 58, Stanley County 47

Kadoka Area 45, Bennett County 30

Semifinal

Philip 56, Jones County 45

White River 71, Lyman 49

West River Tournament

Consolation Semifinal

Wall 58, Edgemont 46

Semifinal

Faith 44, Newell 32

New Underwood 52, Hot Springs 50

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Aberdeen Central vs. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, ppd. to Feb 12.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 51, Deuel 21

Campbell County, Wyo. 87, Rapid City Central 61

Castlewood JV 44, Great Plains Lutheran 12

Dakota Christian 54, Freeman Academy 20

Dell Rapids 46, Beresford 38

Elk Point-Jefferson 56, Ponca, Neb. 47

Garretson 43, Baltic 32

Gillette Sophs, Wyo. 87, Rapid City Central 61

Hamlin 41, Sisseton 32

Irene-Wakonda 43, Avon 30

Lead-Deadwood 47, Hill City 41

Lemmon 58, Bowman County, N.D. 40

Marshall, Minn. 41, Sioux Falls Washington 40, OT

Milbank 64, Ortonville, Minn. 36

Mobridge-Pollock 70, Crow Creek 26

Northwestern 61, Ipswich 37

Pierre 52, Yankton 41

Rapid City Stevens 46, Sturgis 29

Redfield/Doland 50, Webster 49, OT

Scotland 57, Andes Central 19

Spearfish 54, Pine Ridge 53

Tripp-Delmont/Armour 34, Platte-Geddes 30

Wakpala 48, Takini 44, OT

Warner 65, Britton-Hecla 39

Waubay 66, Grant-Deuel 46

281 Conference Tournament

Highmore-Harrold 75, Wolsey-Wessington 30

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Hitchcock-Tulare 51, James Valley Christian 38
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 77, Iroquois 9
Wessington Springs 53, Sunshine Bible Academy 41
West River Tournament
Consolation Semifinal
Hot Springs 37, Edgemont 36
Semifinal
Newell 35, Faith 34
Oelrichs 54, Rapid City Christian 44
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS
Sioux Falls Roosevelt vs. Aberdeen Central, ppd. to Feb 13.

State Dept. gives agencies 2 weeks to comment on Keystone

BRADLEY KLAPPER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal agencies have been given a Feb. 2 deadline to provide advice on whether to move forward with the hotly debated Keystone XL pipeline.

A State Department official said in an emailed statement that other federal agencies dealing with environment, commerce and other matters were notified Friday that they have a little over two weeks left to weigh in.

The department didn't set a timeline for when it would make its long-awaited judgment on whether the pipeline from Canada was in the U.S. national interest.

The official said that review continues. Once all information is received, the department will analyze the matter and make a determination. The official wasn't authorized to be quoted by name and demanded anonymity.

The State Department request comes a week after the House approved a bill authorizing construction of the pipeline. The bill is now under consideration in the Senate, where Republican and Democratic supporters have said they hope the legislation could win final approval and be sent to the White House by the end of next week.

President Barack Obama has promised to veto that legislation as long as the State Department is still conducting its formal review.

Late last week, the Nebraska Supreme Court eliminated another obstacle, tossing out a lawsuit challenging the pipeline's route. Pipeline opponents in Nebraska filed two new suits Friday over the proposed route.

The 1,179-mile pipeline would carry an estimated 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day from Canada to Nebraska, where it would connect with existing pipelines on its way to Gulf Coast refineries. Since the pipeline was proposed six years ago, it has sparked intense debate over its potential impact on employment and the environment.

Gay marriage: High court sets stage for historic ruling

MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Setting the stage for a potentially historic ruling, the Supreme Court announced Friday it will decide whether same-sex couples have a right to marry everywhere in America under the Constitution.

The justices will take up gay-rights cases that ask them to overturn bans in four states and declare for

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the entire nation that people can marry the partners of their choice, regardless of gender. The cases will be argued in April, and a decision is expected by late June.

Proponents of same-sex marriage said they expect the court to settle the matter once and for all with a decision that invalidates state provisions that define marriage as between a man and a woman.

"We are now that much closer to being fully recognized as a family, and we are thrilled," said April DeBoer, a hospital nurse from Hazel Park, Michigan, after the justices said they would hear an appeal from DeBoer and partner Jayne Rowse. "This opportunity for our case to be heard by the Supreme Court gives us and families like ours so much reason to be hopeful."

Attorney General Eric Holder said the Obama administration would urge the court "to make marriage equality a reality for all Americans."

On the other side, advocates for traditional marriage want the court to let the political process play out, rather than have judges order states to allow same-sex couples to marry.

"The people of every state should remain free to affirm marriage as the union of a man and a woman in their laws," said Austin R. Nimocks, senior counsel for the anti-gay marriage group Alliance Defending Freedom.

Same-sex couples can marry in 36 states and the District of Columbia.

That number is nearly double what it was just three months ago, when the justices initially declined to hear gay marriage appeals from five states seeking to preserve their bans on same-sex marriage. The effect of the court's action in October was to make final several pro-gay rights rulings in the lower courts.

Now there are just 14 states in which same-sex couples cannot wed. The court's decision to get involved is another marker of the rapid change that has redefined societal norms in the space of a generation.

The court will be weighing in on major gay rights issues for the fourth time in 27 years. In the first of those, in 1986, the court upheld Georgia's anti-sodomy law in a devastating defeat for gay rights advocates.

But the three subsequent rulings, all written by Justice Anthony Kennedy, were major victories for gay men and lesbians. In its most recent case in 2013, the court struck down part of a federal anti-gay marriage law in a decision that has paved the way for a wave of lower court rulings across the country in favor of same-sex marriage rights.

James Esseks, leader of the American Civil Liberties Union's same-sex marriage efforts, recalled the first same-sex marriage that came to the court more than 40 years ago from Minnesota. There, the justices dismissed a gay couple's appeal in a single sentence.

"It did not go well because the country wasn't ready yet. But the country is ready for the freedom to marry today," Esseks said.

The court is extending the time it usually allots for argument from an hour to two-and-a-half hours. The justices will consider two related questions. The first is whether the Constitution requires states to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The other is whether states must recognize same-sex marriages performed elsewhere.

A group that favors greater transparency at the court has called for opening the courtroom to television cameras for the first time. Another group is suggesting the court allow live audio of the arguments over the Internet, which also has never been done.

The appeals before the court come from gay and lesbian plaintiffs in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee. The federal appeals court that oversees those four states upheld their same-sex marriage bans in November, reversing pro-gay rights rulings of federal judges in all four states. It was the first,

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and so far only, appellate court to rule against same-sex marriage since the high court's 2013 decision.

One of the plaintiffs from Ohio, James Obergefell, said he was crying "tears of joy and sadness" after the court accepted his appeal. In 2013, Obergefell flew to Maryland with his dying partner, John Arthur, so they could marry before Arthur's death. The couple sued to force Ohio to list Arthur as married on his death certificate, which would allow the men to be buried next to each other. Arthur died 15 months ago.

"I can't wait to walk up those steps and have the Supreme Court understand that we're just like everyone else," Obergefell said.

Gregory Bourke and Michael Deleon have been together for 32 years, were married in Canada in 2004 and live in Louisville, Kentucky. "Our family is like any other family. We have children, we have jobs, we have lives, we are very much engaged in our community and yet we don't feel like we are being treated yet as equal citizens," Bourke said.

Ten other states also prohibit such unions. In Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, South Dakota and Texas, judges have struck down anti-gay marriage laws, but they remain in effect pending appeals. In Missouri, same-sex couples can marry in St. Louis and Kansas City only.

Louisiana is the only other state that has seen its gay marriage ban upheld by a federal judge. There have been no rulings on lawsuits in Alabama, Georgia, Nebraska and North Dakota.

New budget projections predict 2018 budget year deficit

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota could have a \$12.8 million budget deficit in fiscal year 2018, according to new long-range budget forecasts released Friday by Gov. Dennis Daugaard's administration.

The projections are part of Daugaard's quest to improve the state's rating among credit rating agencies and aimed at giving lawmakers a look past the budget cycle at hand when making financial decisions.

"It'll be a very good tool I think to create policy discussion," Daugaard said.

Under the projections, tax receipts are expected to grow from \$1.476 billion in fiscal year 2014 to \$1.548 billion in fiscal year 2018. But spending is expected to grow from \$1.466 billion to \$1.561 billion in the same period. Daugaard said the projected deficit is "something we're going to have to adjust to."

The estimates are based on historical information, financial data and modeling.

Joint Appropriations Committee Chairman Justin Cronin said the projections will help lawmakers plan better. He said looking years ahead is prudent and will allow lawmakers to make necessary changes in the appropriations process.

"I think we need to take the positive steps involved to make sure we're not there," Cronin said of the projected shortfall.

South Dakota officials recently met with credit rating agencies in New York. Bureau of Finance and Management Commissioner Jason Dilges told lawmakers at a Friday hearing that the agencies praised South Dakota's debt level, which is lower than the state limit and is projected to remain that way through fiscal year 2018. House Speaker Dean Wink said he is "proud of the financial situation we're in."

But he said the agencies are looking for a commitment from the state to continue longer-range financial forecasting into the future. South Dakota's credit rating with the three main agencies is a step away from the highest level.

Daugaard said his goal of the highest bond rating will bring down interest costs for borrowing.

Gay advocates aim to use SD summit to organize, find allies

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Before the first gay rights conference they organized, Nancy Rosenbrahn and a few others told friends by word of mouth and sent out veiled newsletters — they even made the manager of the Rapid City civic center promise to keep the event off the marquee.

Four decades later, Rosenbrahn and LGBT-rights activists are gathering in Rapid City again — this time for the first Dakotas Equality Summit. While now they advertise and convene in public, Rosenbrahn says gay South Dakotans still face social barriers. So organizers hope to use the summit to energize their political base and address ways they can reach potential supporters outside of the state's metro areas.

"We're trying to give our community of LGBT-plus people and our allies an environment to learn something new in," Rosenbrahn said.

The weekend summit comes shortly after U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier struck down South Dakota's ban on same-sex marriages, ruling that it and the state's refusal to recognize marriage performed elsewhere were unconstitutional. Though Schreier put her decision on hold while the state appeals, Rosenbrahn says the victory gives the conference more weight.

On Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court also announced that it will decide this spring whether same-sex couples have a right to marry everywhere in America under the Constitution.

The summit will feature sessions on topics ranging from what rights are available to couples that wed in other states and return to South Dakota to how to become more politically active at the Legislature.

Political consultant Bajun Mavalwalla, who managed Democrat Corinna Robinson's unsuccessful challenge to Republican U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, plans to speak about the basics of becoming a candidate and how to run a campaign. He said gay and lesbian South Dakotans interested in running for office should focus on the "nuts and bolts" of a campaign, and not fret about how their sexual orientation might be perceived by the public.

"It shouldn't be an issue at all," Mavalwalla said. "If it's made an issue, then they should answer it directly."

Other speakers include Judy Shepard, the mother of Matthew Shepard, a gay University of Wyoming student who was robbed and beaten to death in 1998, and Josh Newville, a Minneapolis attorney who is representing Rosenbrahn and her partner Jennie, as well as other couples who are challenging the state's gay marriage ban.

Newville will be introducing Shepard, a charge that hits close to home. Newville said he realized he was gay in 8th grade after becoming very distressed about Matthew Shepard's death. Now, he says, Matthew Shepard's story still pushes forward the conversation about gay rights.

"We're not only talking about it, but we're fighting for our rights and we're winning," he said.

The summit will also serve as a launching point for Rosenbrahn and her group's efforts to find allies around the state. The Black Hills Center For Equality recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Minneapolis-based PFund Foundation to travel around the state and meet rural South Dakotans.

By meeting and talking with other South Dakotans, Rosenbrahn said she hopes some of the differences people think exist will disappear.

"Once you get to that point, it is hard for that person to hate a gay person," she said. "Because how can you hate someone who does dishes and vacuums?"

Air Force approves airspace expansion over northern Plains

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The Air Force on Friday approved a proposal to expand a bomber training area over the northern Plains, a move that helps keep a South Dakota base open but has raised concerns over loud, low-flying aircraft disrupting civilian flights and damaging rural economies.

The Federal Aviation Administration will now examine the plan to expand the Powder River Training Complex over the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming. If the FAA approves the proposal it would more than triple the training airspace, making it the largest over the continental United States.

"The expanded training airspace ... is critical to ensuring our airmen and women receive the training they need to protect and defend our nation abroad," U.S. Sen. John Thune, of South Dakota, said in a statement Friday. "The Air Force has made the safety and security of those living within this training airspace its highest priority."

The airspace would be used by B-1 bombers from Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota and B-52 bombers from Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. Thune said the expansion could shield Ellsworth from being shut down under Base Realignment and Closure, a federal cost-cutting program. Ellsworth is a significant economic driver for the Rapid City area and was under consideration for closure in 2005.

The Air Force estimates that the expanded training airspace could save Ellsworth up to \$23 million a year in fuel costs by reducing the number of training flights to Utah and Nevada.

An FAA spokeswoman said in an email that the agency didn't have a firm time frame for its evaluation of the expansion.

The Air Force has provided no information on costs associated with the expansion, including potential damages to affected landowners and farmers.

Montana elected leaders and state aviation officials say the bombers would disrupt rural communities and scare livestock as they roar overhead on maneuvers, dropping flares and chaff — fiber clusters intended to disturb radar waves.

The Air Force acknowledged in a study released Nov. 28 that the low-altitude flights and loud sonic booms could startle livestock and residents, including those living on four reservations in the region.

Under the Air Force plan, any given location across the training area could experience up to nine low-altitude overflights annually. Supersonic flights would be limited to 10 days a year during large-scale exercises involving roughly 20 aircraft.

U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, of Montana, said Friday that the Air Force plan doesn't address concerns about low-level flights disrupting civilian and commercial flights, including emergency medical flights and others connected to the oil industry.

Daines and Democratic Montana Sen. Jon Tester introduced an amendment Friday to restrict Air Force training over an area of eastern Montana and western North Dakota that includes a proposed loading terminal for the Keystone XL oil pipeline at Baker, Montana.

The amendment would impose low-level flight prohibitions over about 13 percent of the training area, according to Tester's office.

"Political representatives, that's what they do: They respond to the concerns that are raised by their constituents," Thune said. "We have some of those here in South Dakota, as well, but ... I can't imagine really anything else the Air Force could have done."

As many as 78 civilian flights a day could be impacted when the large-scale exercises are conducted, the Air Force said. But delays in civilian flights could be avoided if pilots are willing to use "see-and-avoid" rules that would allow some flights when the training area is active.

Roger Meggers, who manages eastern Montana's Baker Municipal Airport, said even when civilian flights aren't barred, many pilots will avoid the area because of the potential for accidents with the fast, hard-to-spot military aircraft.

"The Air Force has spent millions of dollars on them, developing paint schemes so you can't see them," Meggers said.

"Montana doesn't get anything out of this," he said.

States consider requiring US citizenship test for graduation

CHRISTINE ARMARIO, Associated Press

BOB CHRISTIE, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Arizona's new law requiring high school students to pass the U.S. citizenship test in order to graduate appears likely to be adopted in a handful of other states this year, though educators warn it's not a fix-all solution to the nation's dire knowledge of civics.

Fewer than a dozen states currently require students to take a civics exam, and passing it isn't necessary to graduate in all of them. In most states, civic education instead revolves around a one-semester U.S. history course.

Arizona on Thursday became the first to specifically require the U.S. citizenship test, a 100-question exam that tests knowledge of facts on subjects like the Founding Fathers, the Bill of Rights and U.S. presidents.

"This has been building for a long time," said Ted McConnell, executive director of the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, a civic learning coalition co-chaired by former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. McConnell said he and others are wary that legislators are only skimming the surface of what students need to know.

"The folks who are civic educators and experts by and large are pushing for a much, much more well-rounded approach," said Paul Baumann, director of the National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement at the Education Commission of the States, a state-led research organization.

For years, education leaders have sounded the alarm on the state of civic education.

Just 13 percent of high school seniors scored as "proficient" or higher in American history on the 2010 National Assessment of Educational Progress. Voter participation in the most recent midterm elections was the lowest in decades, and even entertainers like Jay Leno have tapped into the country's weak civic knowledge with laughable pop quiz history tests.

The Arizona-based Joe Foss Institute has set a goal of having all 50 states adopt the U.S. citizenship requirement for high school students by 2017, the 230th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution. The institute says legislatures in 15 states are expected to consider it this year. The North Dakota House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the same measure Thursday, but Arizona's proposal was the first to become law.

The Foss Institute promotes the test to state legislatures as a way to increase knowledge of basic government by students. The leader of the organization is former California U.S. Rep. Frank Riggs, who came in last in Arizona's Republican primary for governor after running a hard-right campaign focused on immigration and rhetoric against President Barack Obama.

The Arizona law requires high school students to correctly answer 60 of 100 questions on the civics portion of the test for those aspiring to become U.S. citizens. Passing is required to earn a high school or GED diploma starting in the 2016-17 school year.

Utah, South Dakota, Tennessee and other states have bills already presented or about to be intro-

duced.

McConnell said he believes the Foss institute's projection that more than a dozen states will pass the requirement this year is accurate. Yet he and others who have been pushing for improved civic education sum up the effort like this: "Right problem, wrong solution."

"The leaders in the civics education field I've spoken about this with are generally concerned that this exam does not capture the full breadth and scope of the competencies and outcomes we're looking for students to develop," Baumann said.

Baumann said states that do have a civics exam — other than Arizona — test knowledge that the U.S. citizenship exam does not: Valuing equality before the law, the purpose of democratic government, and good citizenship practices.

The citizenship exam, by contrast, only requires "very basic knowledge of U.S. government," he said. "We fear this test would take away the precious little time awarded for civic education now and drive instruction toward dry, rote memorization of facts that would quickly be forgotten," McConnell said.

O'Connor, the co-chair of McConnell's group, initially supported the Foss Institute's work but did not back the U.S. citizenship test requirement bill; judicial work precluded her from being involved in any legislative initiative. It was unclear whether she favored the test as a component of civic education.

The U.S. citizenship test requirement also comes amid a larger debate over concerns that testing required under No Child Left Behind and other laws has resulted in a narrowing of the curriculum — taking away time from instruction in topics like civics. One Center for Education Policy study found that 27 percent of districts surveyed reported reducing time on social studies either somewhat or to a great extent.

Associated Press reporters Michelle Price in Salt Lake City, Alan Suderman in Richmond, Va., Erik Schelzig in Nashville, and Kevin Burbach in Sioux Falls, S.D. contributed to this report. Armario reported from Los Angeles.

Man shot by police officer in Beresford expected to live

BERESFORD, S.D. (AP) — The Attorney General's office has identified the officer involved in Thursday's shooting in Beresford.

The Argus Leader reports that Sgt. Dave Steckelberg arrived at a home Thursday after a suicidal person was reported to the Beresford Police Department.

Authorities allege that 21-year-old Christopher Heuer, of Sioux Falls, was suicidal and was shot after he pointed a rifle at Steckelberg.

Union County Sheriff Dan Limoges says Heuer was taken to a Sioux Falls hospital with injuries that are not considered life-threatening.

The state Division of Criminal Investigation is looking into the shooting. That is standard procedure for such incidents.

Probe concludes officer who fired at man broke no policies

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Professional Standards Unit of the Sioux Falls Police Department has concluded that an officer did not violate any department policies when he fired his gun at a man in a city park.

The department said Officer Anthony Davis confronted a man while patrolling in the closed park on Jan. 1, and the man pointed a handgun at him. Davis then fired eight shots at the man, who fled and

has not been caught.

The department says Davis fired the shots from about 30 feet away in low light, while he was moving on an uneven snow-packed surface.

Probe clears Rapid City officer who shot and killed suspect

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says a state investigation has concluded that a Rapid City police officer who shot and killed a suspect late last year was justified in using lethal force.

Officer Anthony Meirose on Dec. 20 shot 30-year-old Allen Locke, who died as a result of his injuries. Jackley says Meirose responded to a call about a drunk and unwanted person in a home, and Locke threatened him with a kitchen steak knife.

Jackley says the Department of Criminal Investigation probe determined that Meirose shot Locke five times after Locke ignored his commands to drop the knife and advanced on the officer.

Jackley says an autopsy concluded that Locke was legally drunk and also had illegal drugs in his system.

Meade County voters to decide fate of Sturgis bypass plan

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Supporters of a 1 ½-mile highway bypass around the motorcycle mecca of Sturgis say they believe it could stimulate growth in the area, but opponents worry it could take business away from downtown.

Meade County voters will decide the fate of the "Fort Meade Way" plan March 3, according to KBHB radio.

The city hosts the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, which draws hundreds of thousands of people to the region each summer.

A bypass "would cut down traffic through town," resident Roland Enninga told the Black Hills Pioneer. "A lot of them go right by our house, and it's very disturbing."

Supporters of the bypass say it would help traffic circulation, boost emergency services and provide quicker visitor access to tourism sites. They also believe it would spur economic development.

County Commissioner Galen Nederwerder told KOTA-TV that infrastructure developments generally stimulate growth.

"We've already had some interest that I can't really go into detail about, some business interested in putting in some money and investing along this bypass," Nederwerder said.

Opponents worry about harm to existing Sturgis businesses.

"It makes no sense to me why we want to take everyone and put them five miles away from Main Street and local business," business owner Max Fjelstad told KOTA. "It doesn't make sense at all."

There is no cost estimate yet for the project. It would be paid for through tax increment financing — basically through tax revenue generated by business and residential development along the bypass.

AP News in Brief

Supreme Court returns to gay marriage issue as same-sex couples seek nationwide right

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is getting back in the marriage business.

The justices agreed Friday to decide a major civil rights question: whether same-sex couples have a

right to marry everywhere in America under the Constitution.

The court will take up gay-rights cases that ask it to overturn bans in four states and declare for the entire nation that people can marry the partners of their choice, regardless of gender. The cases will be argued in April, and a decision is expected by late June.

The court chose not to decide this issue in 2013, even as it struck down part of a federal anti-gay marriage law that paved the way for a wave of lower court rulings across the country in favor of same-sex marriage rights.

At that time, just 12 states and the District of Columbia permitted gay and lesbian couples to wed. That number has jumped to 36, almost all because of lower court rulings.

Belgium sends troops to guard key sites for first time in 30 years in bid to stop new attacks

BRUSSELS (AP) — Armed soldiers fanned out to guard possible terror targets across Belgium as authorities rushed to thwart more attacks by people with links to Mideast Islamic extremists, a day after anti-terror raids netted dozens of suspects across Western Europe.

It was the first time in 30 years that troops were used to reinforce police in Belgium's cities.

In an interview broadcast Saturday on Belgium's VRT network, Defense Minister Steven Vandeput said soldiers could be deployed to protect certain embassies and some buildings within Antwerp's Jewish quarter. Belgium has increased its terror warning to 3, the second-highest, following the anti-terror raids of Thursday which left two suspects dead.

Afghan officials say 5 arrested over Pakistan military school massacre that killed 150 people

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghan security services have arrested five men in connection with the massacre at a Pakistan military school last month that killed 150 people, most of them children, officials said Saturday.

The men, all foreigners, helped support the Dec. 16 assault by the Taliban at the Army Public School and College in the city of Peshawar, the three Afghan officials told The Associated Press. They said the men were arrested in recent weeks near Afghanistan's eastern border with Pakistan.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorized to brief journalists about the arrests. Officials in Pakistan declined to immediately comment.

The attack in Peshawar, which saw seven Taliban gunmen in suicide bomb vests slaughter children gathered in the school's auditorium and hallways, shocked and enraged citizens across Pakistan.

Though the two countries long have been rivals, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has pledged to have closer relations with Pakistan. Within 24 hours of the school attack, Pakistan's chief of army staff, Gen. Raheel Sharif, flew to Kabul to meet with Ghani to discuss closer cooperation on combating cross-border terrorism.

Pope Francis comforts Philippine typhoon survivors, then cuts short visit due to storm

TACLOBAN, Philippines (AP) — Pope Francis traveled to the far eastern Philippines to comfort survivors of devastating Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, then cut his own trip short because of another approach-

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ing storm.

In a windy and rainy morning Mass with a crowd that included Haiyan survivors, he conceded it was hard to find the right words when surrounded by so much pain.

"So many of you have lost everything," Francis told 150,000 Catholic faithful gathered in an open field near the airport in Tacloban, the city hit hardest by Typhoon Haiyan. "I don't know what to say to you, but the Lord does know what to say to you. Some of you lost part of your families. All I can do is keep silent. And I walk with you all with my silent heart."

Many in the crowd wept as Francis spoke, overcome by the memory of the Nov. 8, 2013, storm that leveled entire villages with ferocious winds and 7-meter (21-foot) waves and left more than 7,300 people dead or missing. Francis joined them in solidarity, even donning the same yellow rain poncho over his vestments that Mass-goers were given because of the rain.

Tropical Storm Mekkhala was expected to make landfall on nearby Samar Island in the late afternoon or early evening with winds of 100-130 kilometers (60-80 miles) per hour, the weather bureau said.

POPE WATCH

The Associated Press

Pope Francis on Saturday visited the Philippine city devastated by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, continuing a two-country Asia tour that also took him to Sri Lanka. Here are some glimpses of his trip as it unfolds:

STOPPING FOR A FRIEND

One of the events that got cut from Pope Francis' schedule in the central Philippines as he rushed to catch a plane back to Manila was the inauguration of a Vatican-funded shelter for orphans and the elderly.

He couldn't totally skip it, though, in part because a friend, the Rev. John Oh Woong-Jin, is in charge of the project.

So the pope's convoy pulled up in front of the shelter. He blessed it, and had a brief reunion in the driveway with the South Korean Catholic missionary.

In a traditional South Korean gesture of friendship, Oh arched his hands to form the shape of a heart above his head and told the pontiff, "Saranghamnida," or "We love you" in Korean.

Francis gamely returned the gesture, blurting, "Saranghamnida." Then he vanished into the stormy weather.

FATAL ACCIDENT MARS TACLOBAN VISIT

Tragedy struck Pope Francis' visit to the central Philippine city of Tacloban, where he was comforting victims of Typhoon Haiyan, a devastating storm that left more than 7,300 people dead or missing just over a year ago.

Police said a 27-year-old volunteer with Catholic Relief Services who was among about 150,000 people who attended a rain-drenched Mass celebrated by the pope near Tacloban's seaside airport was killed after she was hit by scaffolding.

Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi said the pope inquired about how he could show "his own suffering and solidarity" with the woman's family. Police reports said the woman, who suffered a skull fracture, was an only child.

Francis cut short his visit because of an approaching storm, which brought rains and strong winds to Tacloban.

PLANE SKIDS OFF RUNWAY; NO INJURIES

Shortly after Pope Francis' plane left Tacloban early to avoid a coming storm, strong crosswinds blew a smaller executive jet off the runway at the same airport.

The 16 people on board included several Philippine Cabinet members who had accompanied Francis to the typhoon-hit region. Everyone on board was safe, said spokesman Eric Apolonio of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines.

The plane was left stuck in muddy ground after it swerved off a runway while taxiing.

GROANS OVER AN ABBREVIATED VISIT

The priests and nuns waiting for Pope Francis at a cathedral in the central Philippines must have been a bit surprised when he breezed in without the usual singing and ceremony.

The bigger surprise was yet to come.

Francis took the microphone and, after lightening up the mood with a few words, said, "I'd like to tell you something that displeases me."

He then explained that his plane's pilots insisted he would have to return to Manila almost immediately because of an approaching storm, canceling the rest of Saturday's visit.

"Nohhhhhh," some of the gathered clergy groaned, though in a good-natured way, some smiling despite the unfortunate turn of events.

Francis apologized, and led them in prayer before zipping to the airport.

Russia's peace initiative for Syria falters as opposition shuns proposed talks in Moscow

BEIRUT (AP) — A Russian initiative to host peace talks this month between the Syrian government and its opponents appears to be unraveling as prominent Syrian opposition figures shun the prospective negotiations amid deep distrust of Moscow and concerns the talks hold no chance of success.

The faltering effort suggests that even after four years and at least 220,000 people killed, the antagonists in Syria's civil war are far from burning themselves out and will likely keep fighting for a more decisive battlefield advantage before any real talks can take place.

The planned meetings in Moscow, scheduled to start Jan. 26, would be the first on Syria since a U.N.-sponsored conference in Geneva collapsed early last year after making no headway.

But the Syrian tableau has changed dramatically since then.

President Bashar Assad faces growing resentment among his supporters in the wake of bloody defeats, while his main patrons, Russia and Iran, are feeling the pinch from the global plunge in oil prices. Syria's mainstream opposition — political and armed — teeters on the brink of irrelevance, and the extremist Islamic State group has seized control of large chunk of northeastern Syria and neighboring Iraq.

Congress, states, schools districts debating quality and quantity of standardized tests

WASHINGTON (AP) — Do students take too many tests?

Given the complaints about a high-stakes testing culture in classrooms, some states are reviewing the quality and quantity of the tests their students take. Congress is getting into the act, too.

On Wednesday, the Senate's education committee is set to take up the issue of whether federally mandated annual testing should remain a requirement under the No Child Left Behind law. Lawmakers are considering the reauthorization of the bipartisan education measure that President George W. Bush signed into law in 2002.

"Of course we should be asking the question: Are there too many tests?" says the committee chairman, Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee.

Five things to know about testing in U.S. schools:

AP Exclusive: Academy president responds to Oscar firestorm; says diversity 'matters a lot'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Responding for the first time to the firestorm of criticism over the lack of diversity in this year's Oscar nominations, film academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs says the all-white acting slate inspires her to accelerate the academy's push to be more inclusive. She also hopes the film industry as a whole will continue to strive for greater diversity.

The first black president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences spoke out Friday night in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press about the Oscar nominations and the widespread criticism that followed.

All 20 of this year's acting contenders are white and there are no women in the directing or writing categories. After the nominations were announced Thursday morning, the hashtag (hash)OscarsSoWhite started trending on Twitter.

The Asian Pacific American Media Coalition issued a statement Friday saying the nominations balloting "obviously reflects a lack of diversity in Oscar voters as well as in films generally."

Yet Boone Isaacs insisted the academy is "committed to seeking out diversity of voice and opinion" and that outreach to women and artists of color is a major focus.

An asterisk unseen: 409 is small part of Paterno's complicated Penn State legacy

Joe Paterno is the winningest coach in the history of major college football — again. There will be no asterisk next to his record 409 victories in the NCAA record book. At least not one that can be seen.

The late Penn State coach's record was restored by the NCAA on Friday as part of a settlement with the school, which was challenging the legality of the consent decree used to sanction the Nittany Lions for the Jerry Sandusky child-molestation scandal.

Whether the NCAA's latest giveback to Penn State is viewed as another step toward Paterno's vindication or a failure by the one organization that had the ability to hold the coach accountable for his failure to do more to stop Sandusky is in the eyes of the beholder. One thing is for certain: The number 409, like Paterno's legacy, will never be looked at quite the same way again.

"Assessing Joe Paterno's legacy is something that is well-suited for documentary film or other long form journalism because there are no tidy answers," said director Amir Bar-Lev, whose film "Happy Valley" was released in December. "Closing the book on Joe Paterno on having been a phony all of his life or being completely without any blame in this matter or this kind of third way, this sort of Jekyll and Hyde hypothesis that we heard variations on, are all too simple."

For more than four decades, Paterno was not only the embodiment of Penn State football, he was the face of college football. He was revered in State College, Pennsylvania, and widely respected as

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a coach who won 'the right way.' Penn State was a football powerhouse that played by the rules with players who were both top-notch students and athletes. That was the story told over and over and there were facts to back it up: high graduation rates, national championships and a clean bill of health from the NCAA.

Cosby set to take stage in Denver despite planned protest

THOMAS PEIPERT, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Embattled comedian Bill Cosby is set to take the stage in Denver on Saturday, despite a protest planned over sexual assault claims directed against him.

Cosby, 77, performed at a packed show in Pueblo without disruption on Friday and is slated for two shows in Denver, where protesters are expected outside the downtown venue. About 25 demonstrators gathered outside the Pueblo show, chanting "no means no" and "Colorado believes the women."

But inside the venue, the crowd warmly welcomed Cosby.

Making his first appearance in Pueblo since a 1996 show at the Colorado State Fair, the 77-year-old was embraced by a mostly middle-aged and older crowd.

The comedian is facing sexual assault allegations from more than 15 women, with some claims dating back decades. He has denied the allegations through his lawyer and has never been charged.

Los Angeles attorney Gloria Allred is planning a news conference with one of Cosby's alleged victims before the Denver shows. The gathering is billed as a "teach in" to explain why women are accusing Cosby and what the comedian's response has been.

On Thursday, Cosby released a statement thanking his fans and saying he's ready to perform in Colorado.

"I have thousands of loyal, patient and courageous fans that are going to leave their homes to enjoy an evening of laughter and return home feeling wonderful," he said. "I'm ready!"

He finished his statement with references to his "Fat Albert" character's trademark line and to his 2013 television special — "Hey, Hey, Hey — I'm Far From Finished."

Cosby's persistence comes after protesters interrupted a handful of his recent shows.

Hecklers stood up and chanted repeatedly "we believe the women" at Cosby's third and final performance of a Canadian tour Jan. 9. The protesters then marched out of the theater as Cosby asked his audience not to react.

The day before, a man at Cosby's performance in London, Ontario, called the comedian a rapist. The shows in Canada were the comedian's first since November when a string of performances were canceled over the accusations.

More recently, a model who claims Cosby drugged and sexually abused her at the Playboy Mansion in 2008 met with Los Angeles police on Wednesday to pursue criminal charges. Chloe Goins' attorney said that his client is the first woman accusing Cosby of sexual misconduct whose case may fall within the statute of limitations.

Cosby's attorney, Martin D. Singer, said Friday the comedian was in New York the night Goins claims she was accosted.

Cosby is scheduled to continue his tour in Turlock, California on Sunday.

Man delivers 1 pizza in Michigan _ gets \$2,084 tip

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Now that's a special delivery!

A group of real estate agents meeting in Ann Arbor surprised a man by giving him a \$2,084 tip for

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delivering one pizza Thursday.

The man, identified only as Rob, was stunned and said on video, "All I did was deliver pizza."

Agents from Keller Williams Realty all pitched in while attending the company's regional conference. Stacey McVey says they wanted to show their appreciation to someone from the service industry.

Besides cash, the man received a Visa gift card, lottery tickets and letters of encouragement.

Brian LeFevre, delivery manager at Pizza House in Ann Arbor, says the lucky delivery man was "ecstatic." He says "that's a pretty good day's work" for just one pizza.

The heat is on; NOAA, NASA say 2014 warmest year on record

SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the third time in a decade, the globe sizzled to the hottest year on record, federal scientists announced Friday.

Both the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and NASA calculated that in 2014 the world had its hottest year in 135 years of record-keeping. Earlier, the Japanese weather agency and an independent group out of University of California Berkeley also measured 2014 as the hottest on record.

NOAA said 2014 averaged 58.24 degrees Fahrenheit (14.58 degrees Celsius), 1.24 degrees (0.69 degrees Celsius) above the 20th-century average.

But NASA, which calculates temperatures slightly differently, put 2014's average temperature at 58.42 degrees Fahrenheit (14.68 degrees Celsius) which is 1.22 degrees (0.68 degrees Celsius) above the average of the years 1951-1980.

Earth broke NOAA records set in 2010 and 2005. The last time the Earth set an annual NOAA record for cold was in 1911.

NOAA also said last month was the hottest December on record. Six months in 2014 set marks for heat. The last time Earth set a monthly cold record was in December 1916.

"The globe is warmer now than it has been in the last 100 years and more likely in at least 5,000 years," said climate scientist Jennifer Francis of Rutgers University, who wasn't part of either research team. "Any wisps of doubt that human activities are at fault are now gone with the wind."

Texas A&M University climate scientist Andrew Dessler and other experts said the latest statistics should end claims by non-scientists that warming has stopped. It didn't, as climate denial sites still touted claims that the world has not warmed in 18 years.

2014's heat was driven by record warmth in the world's oceans that didn't just break old marks: It shattered them. Record warmth spread across far eastern Russia, the western part of the United States, interior South America, much of Europe, northern Africa and parts of Australia. One of the few cooler spots was in the central and eastern United States.

"Every continent had some aspect of record high temperatures" in 2014, said Tom Karl, director of NOAA's National Climatic Data Center.

Nine of the 10 hottest years in NOAA global records have occurred since 2000. The odds of this happening at random are about 650 million to 1, according to University of South Carolina statistician John Grego. Two other statisticians confirmed his calculations.

Climate scientists say one of the most significant parts of 2014's record is that it happened during a year where there was no El Nino weather oscillation. During an El Nino, when a specific area of the central Pacific warms unusually and influences weather worldwide, global temperatures tend to spike. Previous records, especially in 1998, happened during El Nino years.

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Every year in the 21st century has been in the top 20 warmest years on record, according to NOAA. Temperatures have risen by about 1.6 degrees Fahrenheit (0.9 degrees Celsius) since the mid-19th century and pre-industrial times, said Gavin Schmidt, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, where the space agency tracks warming temperatures.

"We are witnessing, before our eyes, the effect of human-caused climate change," said Pennsylvania State University professor Michael Mann.

Some non-scientists who deny man-made global warming have pointed to satellite temperature records — which only go back to 1979 — which show a warming world, but no record this year and less of a recent increase than the longer-term ground thermometers. But Mann, Dessler, Francis and others say there have been quality and trustworthy issues with some satellite measurements and they only show what's happening far above the ground. They said ground measurements are also more important because it is where we live.

University of Alabama Huntsville scientist John Christy, who measures temperature via satellite, puts 2014 in a cluster of warm years behind 2010 and 1998. He said he is "puzzled that this difference between surface and deep atmosphere continues to occur as it has now for 36 years. Our theories can't explain it. I don't know what is going on."

Georgia Tech professor Judith Curry, who is not in the mainstream of climate scientists, wrote that talk about the record implies that temperatures will get warmer, something she says won't happen for at least another decade. But she added in a blog post in response to the NOAA announcement: "I'm not willing to place much \$\$ on that bet, since I suspect Mother Nature will manage to surprise us."

NASA's Schmidt says temperatures will continue to rise with year-to-year variations and he wouldn't be surprised if 2015 breaks 2014's record: "The increase in greenhouse gases is unrelenting and that in the end is going to dominate most things going on."

This was the 38th year in a row that the world was warmer than the 20th century average, according to NOAA data. Most people in the world and the United States were born after 1976 and have never lived in a cooler than normal year.

"You want to understand what that (cooler) world is like and you wonder are you ever to going to experience that," said Victor Gensini, a 28-year-old meteorology professor at the College of DuPage in Illinois.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Jan. 17, the 17th day of 2015. There are 348 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Jan. 17, 1945, Soviet and Polish forces liberated Warsaw during World War II; Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, credited with saving tens of thousands of Jews, disappeared in Hungary while in Soviet custody.

On this date:

In 1562, French Protestants were recognized under the Edict of St. Germain.

In 1893, the 19th president of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes, died in Fremont, Ohio, at age 70. Hawaii's monarchy was overthrown as a group of businessmen and sugar planters forced Queen Lili'uokalani (lee-LEE'-oo-oh-kah-LAH'-nee) to abdicate.

In 1929, the cartoon character Popeye the Sailor made his debut in the "Thimble Theatre" comic strip.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces launched the first of four battles for Monte Cassino in Italy;

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the Allies were ultimately successful.

In 1950, the Great Brink's Robbery took place as seven masked men held up a Brink's garage in Boston, stealing \$1.2 million in cash and \$1.5 million in checks and money orders. (Although the entire gang was caught, only part of the loot was recovered.)

In 1955, the submarine USS Nautilus made its first nuclear-powered test run from its berth in Groton (GRAH'-tuhn), Connecticut.

In 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered his farewell address in which he warned against "the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex."

In 1975, the undercover cop drama "Baretta," starring Robert Blake, premiered on ABC-TV.

In 1977, convicted murderer Gary Gilmore, 36, was shot by a firing squad at Utah State Prison in the first U.S. execution in a decade.

In 1984, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Sony Corp. of America v. Universal City Studios, Inc., ruled 5-4 that the use of home video cassette recorders to tape television programs for private viewing did not violate federal copyright laws.

In 1994, the 6.7 magnitude Northridge earthquake struck Southern California, killing at least 60 people, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1995, more than 6,000 people were killed when an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 devastated the city of Kobe (koh-bay), Japan.

Ten years ago: Iraqi expatriates in 14 countries began registering to vote in Iraq's Jan. 30 elections. Zhao Ziyang (zhov tzee-yahng), who was ousted as China's Communist Party leader after sympathizing with the 1989 pro-democracy protests, died in Beijing at age 85 after 15 years under house arrest. Actress Virginia Mayo died in Thousand Oaks, California, at age 84.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama appeared at a rally in Boston for Democratic senatorial candidate Martha Coakley, who was running in a special election. (Coakley ended up losing to Republican Scott Brown.) Pope Benedict XVI paid a visit to a Rome synagogue, where he and Jewish leaders sparred over the World War II-era record of Pope Pius XII. Erich Segal, author of the best-selling novel "Love Story," died in London at age 72. At the Golden Globes, top honors went to James Cameron's "Avatar" as well as the TV series "Glee" and "Mad Men."

One year ago: President Barack Obama ordered new limits on the way intelligence officials accessed phone records from hundreds of millions of Americans; the president also signed a \$1.1 trillion spending bill to fund the federal government through the end of September 2014. Acting Surgeon General Boris Lushniak marked the 50th anniversary of the Surgeon General's report on smoking and health by saying one in 13 children could see their lives shortened by smoking unless the nation took more aggressive action to end the tobacco epidemic. A Vatican document obtained by The Associated Press showed that in his last two years as pope, Benedict XVI defrocked nearly 400 priests for raping and molesting children.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Betty White is 93. Former FCC chairman Newton N. Minow is 89. Actor James Earl Jones is 84. Talk show host Maury Povich is 76. International Boxing Hall of Famer Muhammad Ali is 73. Pop singer Chris Montez is 73. Rhythm-and-blues singer William Hart (The Delfonics) is 70. Actress Joanna David is 68. Rock musician Mick Taylor is 67. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sheila Hutchinson (The Emotions) is 62. Singer Steve Earle is 60. Singer Paul Young is 59. Actor-comedian Steve Harvey is 58. Singer Susanna Hoffs (The Bangles) is 56. Movie director/screenwriter Brian Helgeland is 54. Actor-comedian Jim Carrey is 53. Actor Denis O'Hare is 53. First lady Michelle Obama is 51.

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Actor Joshua Malina is 49. Singer Shabba Ranks is 49. Rock musician Jon Wysocki is 47. Actor Naveen Andrews is 46. Electronic music DJ Tiesto is 46. Rapper Kid Rock is 44. Actor Freddy Rodriguez is 40. Actor-writer Leigh Whannel is 38. Actress-singer Zooey Deschanel is 35. Professional dancer Maksim Chmerkovskiy (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 34. Singer Ray J is 34. Actor Diogo Morgado is 34. Country singer Amanda Wilkinson is 33. DJ/singer Calvin Harris is 31. Folk-rock musician Jeremiah Fraites is 29. Actor Jonathan Keltz is 27.

Thought for Today: "If there is one basic element in our Constitution, it is civilian control of the military." — President Harry S. Truman (1884-1972).