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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

#### Sunday, January 18

**Birthdays:** Aaron Nyberg, Kelly Flemming, Natalie Cassanova.

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

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

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

#### Monday, January 19

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

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



### OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is back at 10 East Railroad Ave. Don't forget, there is also a dumpster at the city shop for aluminum cans with the proceeds going to the pool.

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### **Tigers run past Wildcats**

Groton Area defeated Custer at the boys basketball classic held in Redfield on Saturday, 53-23. Groton led at the quarterstops at 14-7, 29-10 and 45-13.

Coach Greg Kjellsen said, "We played very solid defense, holding them to 13 points through three quarters. Offensively, we shot the ball better, 16 of 39."

Kyler Ell led the Tigers with 12 points followed by Bennett Shabazz with 11, Hunter Lerew had nine, Lucas Sternhagen seven, Gabe Dohman six, and adding two points each were Sean Schuring, Seric Shabazz, Spencer Knecht and Adam Herman.

Sternhagen had three of the team's 11 assists. On the boards, Dohman had nine and Lerew seven of the team's 33 rebounds. Groton had 10 turnovers.

Sternhagen made one three-pointer, Ell made two and Bennett Shabazz made three. Groton had 11 assists with Sternhagen, Ell and Dohman each having three. Custer had more turnovers, 11-10.

Blake Martinz led Custer with nine points followed by Patrick Witt and Ryan Jorgenson with three each and adding two points each were Sloan Shorb, Noah Zacher, Sam Mertz and Joel Thomsen.

Both teams had 12 team fouls with Groton making three of six free throws and Custer making six of 16.

Groton is now 5-2 on the season and Custer falls to 3-7.



### **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.

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A Penny for Your Thoughts
The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were going into a store to do some shopping. Her idea, not mine. Halfway to the door, I noticed a penny on the ground so, being who I am, I bent over to pick up the penny. It is a habit I picked up the day I was born.

"What are you doing?" My wife gasped, thinking something was wrong.

"I found a penny and I picked it up. Finder's keepers, loser's weepers." And I threw a smile in her direction.

She looked at me and said, "What in the world did you do that for?"

"You know what they say, a penny saved is a penny earned."

"It's just a penny. What in the world can you do with a penny?"

As I stuffed the penny in my pocket, I looked at her and said, "I can stuff this penny in my pocket." Then I gave her a sarcastic smile as wide as the Grand Canyon, but not quite as deep.

She sadly shook her head as we went into the store together. I, one penny richer and smiling all the way. Pennies usually have that effect on me.

I know a penny is not worth that much. I just cannot resist picking up a penny I find on the ground. I guess it is that Pennsylvania Dutch attitude I was born with. I never saw a penny I did not want to

I can remember many a time at a checkout counter I was one or two pennies short and had to break a \$20 bill. You know what it is like to break a \$20 bill? So, I try to have a little backlog of pennies for just such emergencies, hoping I will never need them.

Do not let this get around, but on my dresser in my bedroom is a jar full of pennies. I found them here and there. One time I remember finding 17 pennies on the ground in one spot. What a great day that was.

My wife is always kidding me about this and when I am in some kind of meditative mood, or so I want her to think I am, she will direct this to me, "A penny for your thoughts!" I only look at her and smile, the temptation is there because I can always use another penny and how many thoughts are really worth a penny? Especially mine.

Then a strange thing happened. We were home watching the news when the story of the day was somebody auctioned off a penny for 2 ½ million dollars. If you do not think that got my attention! Just one penny brought all that money.

I know right here I would sell all of my pennies for half that amount. Anybody looking for a bargain? After all, I am not really greedy.

I looked at my wife, smiled broadly, and said, "A penny for your thoughts!"

"Who," she finally said in a disgusting sort of tone, "would pay 2 ½ million dollars for one penny?"

"I don't know," I retorted, "but I know who would sell one for 2 ½ million dollars."

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She glanced towards the bedroom where my pennies were at I said, "Don't even think it." Then we both had a good laugh together.

As much as I appreciate pennies, I am not going to go crazy about their value. I know a 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  million dollar penny is old and has quite a bit of history behind it, but it will be a long afternoon in the shower when I'm going to believe it's worth that much money. Who in the world put such a value on a thing like that?

I remember my father taking me to auctions and it always amazed me how much people would pay for some things. They get so excited in the bidding and trying to outbid somebody else that oftentimes they would pay twice as much as the object was really worth.

I remember my father would always say after some outlandish bid, "I sure would've loved to have sold that to that guy." Then he would stare out into space a little bit thinking about that whole idea. He always wanted to be the seller and not the buyer.

Then my wife hit me with a difficult question. "Is there something you would never sell for 2 ½ million dollars?"

What a loaded question. I am not even sure what 2 ½ million dollars is worth! I have never seen that much money in my whole life and probably never will. But some people have put value on certain things and are willing to part with something if someone comes up with the right price.

People put value on things that really are not that important. An old penny worth 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  million dollars cannot be used for anything practical. What can you buy with that penny? What is that man going to use that 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  million dollar penny for? Just look at it?

I think Solomon had the right idea when he wrote, "For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it" (Proverbs 8:11).

Some things in life you cannot put a price on, it is a joy to discover those things and sometimes those things are people.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamessnyder2@att.net or website www.jamessnyderministries.com.

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Hitting the Ground Running

Over the last few years, thousands of South Dakotans have reached out to me about the Affordable Care Act – or as most people refer to it, "Obamacare." Undoubtedly, there are a handful of people who have talked about the new access they've received, but the vast majority have contacted me about the problems they've faced – whether that's significantly higher costs for their family, new restraints on their small business, or concerns about losing the healthcare coverage they trust, as it's already gotten their family through some pretty serious medical situations.

By this time, most people reading this column understand that I want to fully repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and replace it with a patient-centered plan that gives you more control over your healthcare while simultaneously targeting the elements of healthcare that are driving insurance costs up, such as frivolous lawsuits and a lack of competition. I've voted numerous times to repeal the legislation and have put forward an alternate plan, but I remain convinced that repeal is not possible under this President. To him, this is his legacy and so he will veto any full repeal. And while we have hopes to overcome some presidential vetoes with the new Republican majority in the Senate, there is not enough support from Democrats to override a veto on the repeal of ACA.

While I remain committed to ultimately replacing the President's healthcare law, I will do what I can today to lessen its impact on South Dakotans. With just two weeks under our belt in 2015, I've already helped the U.S. House of Representatives pass three reforms this year that specifically benefit veterans, volunteer firefighters, and small businesses.

The first, the Save American Workers Act, updates ACA's definition of "full-time" – something I've talked to many South Dakota small businesses about in the last few years. Under ACA, full-time was defined as 30 hours per week – rather than the traditional 40 hours per week. The 30-hour definition is almost unheard of. Even France defines full-time as 35 hours per week.

As a result, some hourly workers – including many in the services industry – saw their time being cut from 40 hours per week to 29. Fewer hours means less pay. Through the Save American Workers Act, we aim to save workers from having their hours cut. This legislation passed with bipartisan support, 252-172.

We also passed the Hire More Heroes Act. Under ACA, employers with more than 50 full-time workers must help employees pay for insurance through an employer-sponsored plan or face a penalty. But many veterans receive healthcare through Tricare or the VA. The Hire More Heroes Act says that veterans don't count toward ACA's 50-employee threshold. I'm hopeful it will encourage folks to hire more of our heroes, while also allowing small businesses to grow without being held back by ACA's red tape. This legislation passed the House unanimously.

Finally, we made similar exceptions for volunteer firefighters and emergency personnel, as most receive healthcare through other means. I'm hopeful this legislation, which also passed the House unanimously, will help preserve precious emergency response dollars.

These three reforms are expected to be considered in the Senate soon, but they continue to face an uphill climb in the White House. Nonetheless, I remain hopeful that we'll be able to get some reforms enacted.

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This week, I delivered my State of the State address on the opening day of the South Dakota State Legislature. I used a major portion of that address to discuss South Dakota's roads and bridges.

In a rural state like South Dakota, good quality roads are our lifeline. And right now, our roads are underfunded. In all corners of the state, we have road funding needs. State highways, municipal streets, county oil, township gravel, and hundreds of rural bridges are in need of additional maintenance.

Sixteen years ago, when I was a state senator and Bill Janklow was governor, the Legislature implemented the current 22-cent-a-gallon fuel tax. Since then, construction costs have doubled, but our gas tax hasn't. It is still 22 cents per gallon.

We have 82,000 miles of roadway in South Dakota, many of which are in disrepair. Between local roads and state highways, we could easily spend another \$150 million per year. We have nearly 1,400 bridges that are still safe, but structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. The replacement cost for those structures is about \$240 million.

In 2003, \$1 million would buy 7.8 miles of asphalt overlay, 1.5 miles of rural roadway reconstruction, and about 0.4 miles of urban concrete roadway reconstruction. In 2013, just 10 years later, that same \$1 million could only overlay or reconstruct about half as many miles of roadway.

Our state highway system is South Dakota's most valuable physical asset, and if we want to maintain it, we must act now. That is why I am proposing a road and bridge funding bill that meets the need at both state and local levels. My proposal generates about \$50 million more this year, and in the long run it will permanently fix the current imbalance between road construction needs and funding.

When President Ronald Reagan proposed a gas tax increase in 1982, he said this: "America can't afford throwaway roads or disposable transit systems. The bridges and highways we fail to repair today will have to be rebuilt tomorrow at many times the cost."

President Reagan was exactly right. This year we need to fix this problem, for good.

Maintaining our roads and bridges is one of the most fundamental functions of government, and it is vital for this year and for decades to come. I don't want to leave this problem to future generations.

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### **Today in Weather History**

1979: A strong area of low pressure moving across the region brought widespread heavy snow of 5 to 10 inches to much of Minnesota from the 18th through the 20th. Travel was difficult if not impossible in many areas where there was near blizzard conditions. Schools and businesses closed along with many flights cancelled.

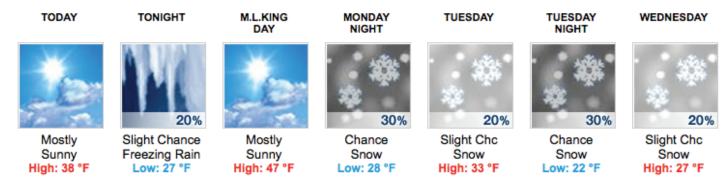
1999: One to 4 inches of snowfall combined with winds of 30 to 45 miles an hour brought blizzard conditions to part of northeast South Dakota. Highway 12 and Interstate 29 were most affected by the low visibilities. There was a seven car pileup on Highway 12 near Andover with minor injuries. As a result, traffic was shut off in the westbound lanes for a few hours. Over 200 people were stranded overnight at a restaurant near Summit. There was also a rollover north of Summit which resulted in minor injuries. One traveler said the visibility was frequently near zero.

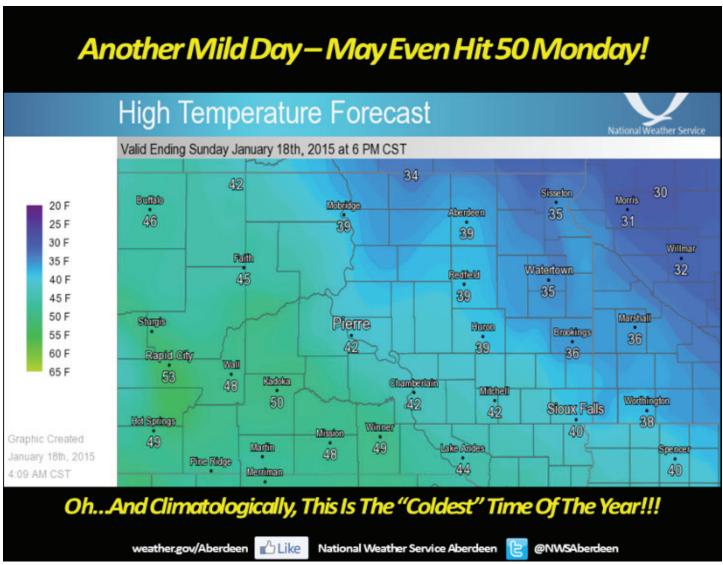
2014: A strong Alberta Clipper low pressure system moved over the northern plains Friday night and Saturday morning. Anywhere from a trace to just near 3 inches of fresh snowfall accompanied this low pressure system. Over this area, strong northwest winds of 25 to 40 mph developed by late Friday night with gusts of 45 to 55 mph. A few areas even experienced gusts to 58 mph or greater again. This system packed such a wallop that a couple instances of thunder-snow occurred as evidenced by cloud to ground lightning strikes showing up in southwestern Day County and northwestern Clark County early Saturday morning. Numerous reports of visibility reduced to one quarter mile or less across northeast South Dakota, specifically on or just to the east of the Glacial Lakes region, were received.

1971 – A warm Santa Ana condition brought a 95 degrees reading to L.A., the highest January temperature on record. It was 95 degrees also in Palm Springs, the highest temperature on record for January.

1979 – A tornado hit Midway, Mission Hills, Encanto and Tierrasanta in San Diego, California. It is not known if this was one tornado or more. Extensive damage occurred in all these neighborhoods.

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Fantastic weather conditions will continue today, with sun and mild temperatures. A quick shot of some light rain for the northern tier of South Dakota could result in a few slick spots early Monday morning, but by mid-day temperatures will be well into the 40s.

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### Yesterday's Weather High: 41.9 at 3:12 PM

**High:** 41.9 at 3:12 PM **Low:** 26.6 at 12:02 AM

Wind Chill:

**High Gust:** 35 at 10:50 AM

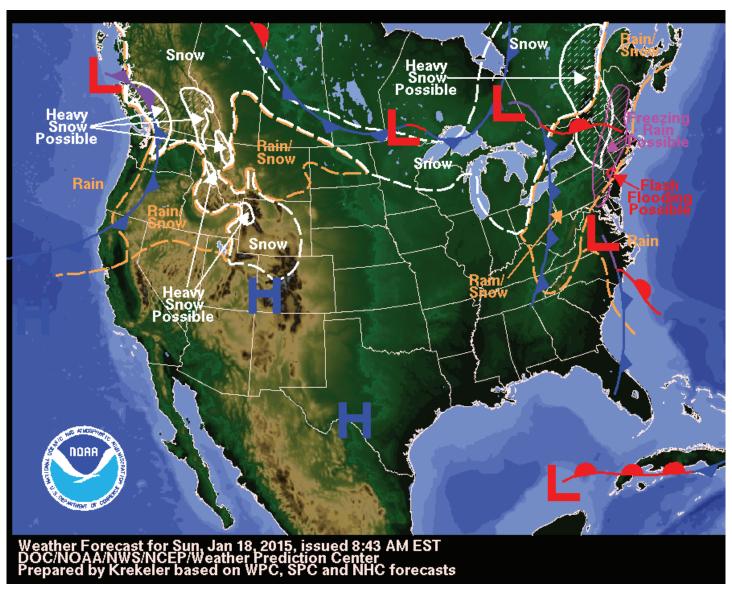
Snow: 0.00 Precip: 0.00

### Today's Info Record High: 51° in 1944

Record High: 51° in 1944 Record Low: -34° in 1970

Average High: 22°F Average Low: 1°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.28
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.40
Average Precip to date: 0.28
Precip Year to Date: 0.40
Sunset Tonight: 5:21 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:07 a.m.



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### Through it All – Trust!

Everyone seems to have a need to be safe and secure. We see warnings everywhere we look and watch for them everywhere we go. They alert us to potential dangers and advise of impending problems. They are an important part of life. There were several times in the life of David when he was forced to flee for his life.

Even though he was God's anointed king, he was not immune to the injustice and hatred of others. Even Saul had a desire to destroy him. Once when he was in danger he stood his ground and said, "I trust in the Lord for protection, so why do you say to me, Fly like a bird to the mountain?" During this time of outward trouble he looked inside himself and found what he needed: His Lord!

Our society has become heavily involved in seeking temporary solutions to eternal problems. More than we want to admit are addicted to drugs – whether legal or illegal, prescribed or purchased without proper authority. But those solutions are temporary and only last for a short time and ultimately end in disaster.

But that is not true if we trust in the Lord. He is more than a stimulus; He will become our Savior and remain so throughout eternity. He does not destroy — He delivers. He does not control us, He transforms us to that which is good, pure, wholesome and life giving. No prayer is too hard for Him to answer and there is no problem too complex from Him to solve.

**Prayer:** We trust in Your power, Lord, to deliver us from sin and protect us from whatever would destroy us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** Psalm 11:1 In the Lord I put my trust; How can you say to my soul, "Flee as a bird to your mountain"?



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### News from the App Associated Press

### Lawmakers to mull disease outbreaks, elections and overdoses JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Lawmakers are entering their second week of a 39-day legislative session in Pierre with measures on election law, disease response and drug overdose prevention before them.

Last week, they heard Gov. Dennis Daugaard's proposal for roughly \$50 million in new taxes to support transportation infrastructure and an outline of his plan to overhaul the juvenile justice system in South Dakota. House Speaker Dean Wink, R-Howes, said Friday that about 60 bills had been introduced and roughly 460 were in the drafting process.

The Legislature is not in session on Monday. Here are a few of the key issues to watch this week: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

House Speaker Pro Tempore Mark Mickelson is sponsoring a proposal spawned by South Dakota's investment-for-visas scandal. The measure is meant to discourage conflicts of interest during the contract-awarding process that were highlighted during a controversy surrounding the state-run EB-5 visa program. In part, it requires a supervisor's approval during contracting if there's even a perceived conflict of interest. The House Judiciary could take up the measure on Friday, Mickelson said.

#### DISEASE RESPONSE

A state response to nationwide anxiety over the Ebola virus' early-fall peak is scheduled to be heard in the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday. Gov. Dennis Daugaard said the measure would streamline laws regarding disease outbreaks in response to concerns about Ebola and the recent Measles cases in South Dakota. The bill also clarifies the state's quarantine abilities, Daugaard said.

#### **BALLOT PETITION SIGNATURES**

At least two key pieces of Secretary of State Shantel Krebs' election law agenda are scheduled to be considered in the Senate State Affairs Committee on Wednesday. One measure would make it easier to challenge nominating petition signatures in court. Krebs, who recently took office, said the other would give a "drop dead" date to begin a court challenge of a nominating petition in a primary election.

Both were spawned by controversies during the U.S. Senate race in the fall. Authorities say candidates Annette Bosworth fraudulently attested to gathering voter signatures in the Republican primary. Independent candidate Clayton Walker was also indicted for elections law violations during that election cycle.

Krebs is also scheduled to have a bill in the Senate Local Government Committee on Wednesday that would allow the Secretary of State's office to audit a random sample of voter signatures from statewide candidates.

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL'S PRIORITIES

Attorney General Marty Jackley's office has a bill up on Tuesday in the Senate Judiciary Committee that would allow the spouses of military personnel living in the state to get concealed weapons permits. He also is scheduled to have a measure debated in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on Wednesday that would allow trained first responders and police officers to carry an opiate overdose antidote.

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### State looking for input on aquatic invasive species rules

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — New rules are in the works to try to slow the spread of invasive species in South Dakota's waterways.

The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission proposed several regulations to prevent their introduction and slow the spread of existing populations.

One proposal would allow conservation officers to require the removal of vegetation and all aquatic invasive species from a boat and trailer, and to require all drain plugs and related devices be opened or removed from boats when being transported.

Another part of the plan would give the department secretary the authority to place restrictions on a body of water when an invasive species is found.

The GFP commission will finalize the proposal March 5-6 at its meeting in Pierre after taking comments.

### Saturday's Scores The Associated Press

#### **Boys Basketball**

Aberdeen Central 76, Harrisburg 47

Belle Fourche 54, Wright, Wyo. 49

Brookings 60, Watertown 56

Chamberlain 35, Bon Homme 31

Eureka/Bowdle 61, Edmunds Central 21

Flandreau 70, Flandreau Indian 40

Harding County 69, Timber Lake 51

Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn. 49, Garretson 40

Ipswich 74, Waubay 58

Langford 86, Great Plains Lutheran 17

Lemmon 66, Tiospaye Topa 42

Miller 83, Northwestern 55

Pine Ridge 89, Lower Brule 52

Rapid City Stevens 83, Campbell County, Wyo. 71

Red Cloud 72, Alliance, Neb. 64

Tiospa Zina Tribal 62, Britton-Hecla 61

Vermillion 52, Luverne, Minn. 40

Winner 60, Murray County Central, Minn. 57

281 Conference Tournament

First Round

Hitchcock-Tulare 57, Highmore-Harrold 42

James Valley Christian 75, Sunshine Bible Academy 60

Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 59, Wessington Springs 40

Wolsey-Wessington 77, Iroquois 8

Jones County Tournament

Seventh Place

Stanley County 59, Bennett County 41

Fifth Place

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Colome 64, Kadoka Area 44

Third Place

Lyman 56, Jones County 43

Championship

White River 82, Philip 55

**Pheasant Shootout** 

Aberdeen Roncalli 56, Little Wound 42

Groton Area 53, Custer 23

Redfield/Doland 54, Aberdeen Christian 42

Tea Area 79, Hamlin 57

Waverly-South Shore 51, Leola/Frederick 50

Sanford Classic

Dakota Valley 74, Webster 53

Madison 65, Unity Christian, Orange City, Iowa 55

Mobridge-Pollock 43, Sisseton 40

Tri-Valley Classic

Alcester-Hudson 57, Burke/South Central 51

Ethan 53, Centerville 49

Gayville-Volin 51, Dell Rapids St. Mary 46, OT

Irene-Wakonda 61, Dakota Christian 38

Scotland 53, Freeman Academy 26

Viborg-Hurley 57, Marty Indian 41

West River Tournament

Seventh Place

Moorcroft, Wyo. 64, Edgemont 42

Fifth Place

Upton, Wyo. 46, Wall 37

Third Place

Hot Springs 60, Newell 52

Championship

Faith 66, New Underwood 36

#### **Girls Basketball**

Belle Fourche 63, Wright, Wyo. 38

Bison 41, Hettinger/Scranton, N.D. 39

Brookings 53, Watertown 48

Campbell County, Wyo. 87, Rapid City Stevens 61

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 53, Mobridge-Pollock 47

Freeman 49, Howard 43

Garretson 44, Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn. 39

Gregory 66, Marty Indian 48

Harding County 43, Timber Lake 39

Herreid/Selby Area 42, Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D. 31

Parker 45, Canistota 40

Pine Ridge 112, Lower Brule 22

Red Cloud 60, Alliance, Neb. 28

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Tiospa Zina Tribal 44, Britton-Hecla 42

Todd County 91, St. Francis Indian 32

Vermillion 58, Murray County Central, Minn. 38

Winner 55, Edgerton, Minn. 26

Hanson Classic

Crofton, Neb. 64, St. Thomas More 53

Deubrook 60, Dell Rapids 46

Ethan 51, Castlewood 33

Jones County 47, Summit 34

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 37, Tri-Valley 30

Sully Buttes 38, Hanson 34

Viborg-Hurley 41, DeSmet 38

Warner 50, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 38

Sanford Classic

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 58, Clark 53

Sisseton 26, Sioux Falls Christian 22

Webster 59, Dakota Valley 50

West River Tournament

Seventh Place

Edgemont 50, Moorcroft, Wyo. 33

Fifth Place

Upton, Wyo. 52, Hot Springs 25

Third Place

Faith 53, Rapid City Christian 35

Championship

Oelrichs 46, Newell 44

#### South Dakota St beats South Dakota 71-57

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Reed Tellinghuisen and Deondre Parks each scored 15 points as South Dakota State rallied back from a 20-0 deficit to beat South Dakota 71-57 on Saturday.

South Dakota State (13-7, 4-2 Summit) missed its first 12 shot attempts and didn't score until Cody Larson's basket with 12:24 left in the first half. The Jackrabbits then went on a 31-9 run to lead by two points at the break.

The first 10 minutes of the second half saw seven lead changes and two ties. George Marshall made a 3 with 10:11 left on the clock to put South Dakota State back in front. Trailing by two with 7:45 left to play, the Coyotes scored just three points over the next 5:45, allowing South Dakota State into a double-digit lead.

Brandon Bos scored 18 points to lead the Coyotes (9-10, 3-2), and Tyler Larson added 12 with 12 boards.

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### POPE WATCH: Getting wet well worth it for record crowd The Associated Press

Pope Francis was in the Philippines on Sunday, the final full day of a weeklong trip that also took him to Sri Lanka. Here are some glimpses of his visit as it unfolds:

#### SOAKED BUT HAPPY

It was a wet day. And it was worth it.

A record 6 million people turned out for Pope Francis' outdoor Mass in Manila's Rizal Park, including those who lined the streets for his motorcade to the site, a city official said. It was the culminating event of his weeklong trip to Asia, which began in Sri Lanka.

"Our wait and getting soaked in the rain was all worth it because we saw him," said Ria de Jesus, 43, who left her home north of Manila with her daughter at 2 a.m. to get to the park at 4 a.m. "We have no regrets."

The pope won praise for the vehicle he used to travel to the Mass — a popemobile modeled on a "jeepney," an inexpensive public transport option widely used in the Philippines.

"He loves us in his heart, that's why he used that," said Joel Cuellar, a 42-year-old vendor from Bataan, a province about a four-hour drive north of Manila. "Because if he didn't, he could have used a limousine."

— By Teresa Cerojano and Yves Dam Van, AP journalists, Manila, Philippines.

#### SANTO NINO FESTIVAL

Pope Francis celebrated his final Mass on his visit to the Philippines on the same day devotees celebrate the feast of the Child Jesus, or Santo Nino (Holy Child).

Many who had gathered for the Mass carried images of the Santo Nino in colorful garb, hoping they would be blessed by the pope.

Francis said the Santo Nino's message is "We are all God's children, members of God's family."

The biggest Santo Nino festival, which falls on the third Sunday of January, is held in Cebu, a city about 575 kilometers (350 miles) south of Manila where an image of the Child Jesus brought by the explorer Ferdinand Magellan was found. More than 450 years old, the image is the oldest Christian icon in the country.

Spain colonized the archipelago and imposed Catholicism.

Devotees believe the Santo Nino is miraculous and display replicas in various sizes and different garments in homes, cars, public vehicles and offices. Many hospitals and schools around the country are named after it.

— By Oliver Teves, AP writer, Manila, Philippines — Twitter: twitter.com/seveto

#### QUICKQUOTE:

"We squander our God-given gifts by tinkering with gadgets. We squander our money on gambling and drink. We turn in on ourselves. We forget to remain focused on the things that really matter."

— Pope Francis in his homily at the Rizal Park Mass.

#### **CROWD ESTIMATE**

Francis Tolentino, chairman of Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, said that as of 1 p.m. there were 3 million people in Rizal Park and surrounding streets, and he expected the number to swell further.

— By Teresa Cerojano, AP writer, Manila, Philippines — Twitter: twitter.com/mtmanila

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#### VOICES FROM THE CROWD (II)

"I'm really, really happy, never mind that I get wet until the ceremonies finish, as long as I'm here, I'll be present." — Genie Mutya, 35, resident of Valenzuela town.

"I feel very excited. It's very beautiful and meaningful for me. It's the first time for me to come here. And I do believe that all the people here, it's really the work of the Holy Spirit." — John Hai, 36, theologian from Myanmar.

— By Johnson Lai, AP videojournalist, Manila, Philippines

#### ROCKING PHILIPPINE WELCOME

The pope arrived at Rizal Park to a rocking welcome as he circulated around the crowd in a popemobile.

Led by an emcee, the rain-drenched crowd greeted the pope's arrival with chants of "Papa Francisco, mahal ng Pilipino" (Pope Francis, loved by Filipinos) to a rhythmic beat.

Many who carried images of the Infant Jesus raised them up toward him. The pope waved back, sometimes responding with a double thumbs-up sign.

#### FRANCIS EN ROUTE

In steady rain, the pope left the Vatican diplomatic mission and traveled past huge crowds on his way to Rizal Park, where he was to celebrate the outdoor Mass.

He rode in a popemobile loosely based on the design of a jeepney, a modified U.S. Army World War II jeep with an extended end that is a common means of public transport in the Philippines.

#### POPE'S PERSONAL CONDOLENCES

Francis offered his personal condolences to the father of a young Catholic volunteer who was killed Saturday while helping organize his Mass in typhoon-hit Tacloban.

The Vatican said Francis met Sunday for about 20 minutes with the girl's father at the Vatican Embassy in Manila. Spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi described the meeting as moving. The father, Lombardi said, was overwhelmed by the loss but was "consoled thinking that she had helped prepare the meeting of the people with the pope."

Police said Kristel Padasas, a volunteer with Catholic Relief Services, died when scaffolding fell on her. Witnesses said a sudden gust of wind toppled the structure, which served as platform for a large loudspeaker during the Mass.

Francis opened his appearance at Manila's main Catholic university on Sunday with a moment of silence to pray for the girl.

— By Nicole Winfield, AP Writer, Manila, Philippines — Twitter: twitter.com/@nwinfield

#### ANSWERS IN TEARS

A 12-year-old girl tearfully asked Pope Francis why God allowed suffering by children. Listening to her intently and visibly moved, Francis couldn't offer a direct reply.

Glyzelle Palomar, a former street child and one of four young people who spoke during his encounter with Filipino youth, told the pope that many children abandoned by their parents fall victim to drugs and prostitution.

"Why is God allowing something like this to happen, even to innocent children? And why are there so few who are helping us?" the girl said, breaking down in tears, unable to finish reading what she had

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prepared to say to the pope.

"Only when we are able to cry are we able to come close to responding to your question," Francis said. "There are some realities that you can only see through eyes that are cleansed by tears."

He said the marginalized, those who fall on the wayside and people who are "discarded" cry.

"But those who are living a life that is more or less without need, we don't know how to cry," the pope said.

— By Oliver Teves, AP writer, Manila, Philippines — Twitter: twitter.com/seveto

#### VOICES FROM THE CROWD

"I am not satisfied just seeing him on TV. This is a once in a lifetime chance to see him in the flesh, even from afar."

— Rosalinda Kho, 68, with her 44-year-old daughter.

"He doesn't want to be treated as someone special. Look at his vehicles, they are not bullet-proof, he wanted them to be open so that he can feel he is close to the people. How will you be able to protect your followers if you are not with them, if you are afraid to show yourself, to stand behind them or stand before them?"

— Rommel Monton, 28, a call center agent with his niece and 4-year-old daughter.

#### QUICKQUOTE: 'WOMEN HAVE MUCH TO TELL US'

Francis drew applause with these comments to a student audience at the University of Santo Tomas: "Women have much to tell us in today's society (applause). Sometimes we're too macho, and we don't leave enough room for women. Women are able to see things with different eyes than us (applause). Women are able to ask questions that men can't understand. ... When the next pope comes, please have more women and girls among your numbers."

#### SAD NEWS, SOMBER POPE

Pope Francis opened his meeting with the Filipino youth on a somber note, reporting to thousands gathered at the centuries-old University of Santo Tomas the sad news that a female church volunteer had died during his visit to central Tacloban city on Saturday, and led prayers for the woman.

"She was 27 years old, young like yourselves," he said. "She was an only daughter."

He said the woman's mother works in Hong Kong and was returning home awaited by her father.

The woman helped organize the Mass in Tacloban. It was celebrated in a rain- and wind-swept field close to the Tacloban airport.

Police said Kristel Padasas, a volunteer with the Catholic Relief Services, died when scaffolding fell on her. Witnesses said a sudden gust of wind toppled the structure, which served as platform for a large loudspeaker.

Francis cut short his Tacloban visit because of an approaching storm that caused foul weather.

— By Oliver Teves, AP writer, Manila, Philippines — Twitter: twitter.com/seveto

#### DOS AND DON'TS

With millions expected to descend on Manila's Rizal Park for the final Mass on Pope Francis' trip to the Philippines, the government has put out a public service announcement on what people should do — and not do — to avoid getting hurt.

Presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda unveiled a virtual laundry list of rules:

— Don't bring the elderly, pregnant women and children.

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- No bomb jokes that may cause panic. No weapons of any kind.
- Don't wear jewelry or bring excessive money that can attract pickpockets.
- Bring food, water, personal medicines, raincoats, an ID but NO umbrellas.
- Avoid bringing bags that will take a long time to inspect; best to use transparent plastic ones.

Public Service Announcement: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJBo\_Bw5cw4

— By Oliver Teves, AP writer, Manila, Philippines — Twitter: twitter.com/seveto

#### THE CROWD GATHERS

A nonstop stream of people headed toward Rizal Park in downtown Manila on Sunday morning, hours before Pope Francis was to celebrate an outdoor Mass expected to draw several million.

Some camped outside the park overnight to be the first ones in when the gates opened around 6 a.m. Many walked a good distance up Roxas Boulevard, a main street along Manila Bay that has been closed. Others took positions behind barricades in hopes of seeing the pope when his motorcade passes later in the day.

Those going to the park carried snacks in clear plastic bags to sustain them through the wait ahead. A few had statues of the infant Jesus, one of the most important icons in the Philippines, as Sunday also marked the feast of Santo Nino.

### Highlights of Obama plan to tax wealthy

#### **The Associated Press**

The White House says President Barack Obama will propose in his State of the Union address a plan to impose higher taxes on the wealthy and use the revenue to help middle-class families. Congress would have to agree, and lawmakers have rebuffed Obama's earlier proposals to eliminate certain tax provisions and spend the money on road and bridge repair, for example.

#### **OBAMA'S TAX PROPOSALS**

- —Eliminate a tax break on inheritances. The White House says the provision costs the government hundreds of billions of dollars in annual tax revenue.
- —Increase the total top capital gains rate on couples with incomes above \$500,000 to 28 percent, what it was under President Ronald Reagan. The top capital gains rate has already been raised from 15 percent to 23.8 percent during Obama's presidency.
- —Impose a fee on big financial firms, those with assets of more than \$50 billion. The White House said the idea is in line with a proposal that was in a comprehensive tax overhaul plan unveiled during the previous session of Congress by then-Rep. David Camp, R-Mich., at the time the chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

Raising the capital gains rate, ending the break on inheritances and imposing a fee on financial firms would generate \$320 billion in revenue over a decade, according to administration estimates.

#### HOW OBAMA WOULD SPEND THE MONEY

- —A new \$500 "second earner" tax credit for families where both spouses work. An estimated 24 million couples would benefit; the credit would apply to families with annual income up to \$210,000.
- —Expand the child care tax credit to up to \$3,000 per child under age 5. The administration says the proposal would help more than 5 million families pay for child care.
- —Consolidate six overlapping education tax breaks into two. Republicans have been open to the idea of streamlining education tax breaks.
- —Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit to workers without children and to noncustodial parents.

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—Boost retirement savings by automatically enrolling in an Individual Retirement Account people who don't have access to a workplace retirement plan, and expand access to employer retirement plans for certain part-time workers.

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

## Pope ends Asia trip by urging Filipinos to protect children from sin, give hope for future

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Pope Francis ended his Asian pilgrimage Sunday with an appeal for the future of the Catholic Church, urging an estimated 3 million rain-soaked Filipinos to protect their young from sin and vice so they can instead become missionaries of the faith.

He made the appeal personal by embracing a 12-year-old rescued street child who wept in his arms over the plight of children abandoned by their families and forced into prostitution and drug use.

Francis marked an important feast day honoring the infant Jesus by dedicating the final homily of his weeklong Asian trip, which began in Sri Lanka, to children. It was a reflection of the importance that the Vatican places on Asia as the future of the church since it's one of the few places where Catholic numbers are growing — and on the Philippines as the largest Catholic nation in the region.

"We need to see each child as a gift to be welcomed, cherished and protected," Francis said in his homily. "And we need to care for our young people, not allowing them to be robbed of hope and condemned to a life on the streets."

Francis made a triumphant entry into Manila's Rizal Park riding on a popemobile based on the design of a jeepney, the modified U.S. Army World War II jeep that is a common means of public transport here. He wore the same cheap, plastic yellow rain poncho handed out to the masses during his visit to the typhoon-hit city of Tacloban a day earlier.

### Islamic State group releases 200 Yazidis in Iraq who had been held captive for 5 months

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Islamic State group released at least 200 Yazidis after five months of captivity in Iraq, Kurdish military officials said Sunday, mostly elderly, infirmed prisoners who likely slowed the extremists down.

Peshmerga Gen. Shirko Fatih, commander of Kurdish forces in the northern city of Kirkuk, told The Associated Press that almost all of the freed prisoners are in poor health and bore signs of abuse and neglect. Three were young children, he said.

The militants transported the captives from the northern town of Tal Afar, where they were being held for the past five months after the militants raided their towns last summer. The militants dropped them off Saturday at the Khazer Bridge, near the Kurdish regional capital of Irbil. Fatih said. They were being held Sunday by Kurdish authorities for questioning, he said.

Fatih said that it appears the militants released the prisoners because they were too much of a burden.

"It probably became too expensive to feed them and care for them," he said.

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### Police: 2 Kentucky teen sweethearts who blazed trail of crime across South captured in Florida

PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Two teenage sweethearts suspected in a crime spree of stolen vehicles and pilfered checks across the South have been taken into custody in Florida, Kentucky authorities said Sunday.

Grayson County Sheriff officials say in a statement that 18-year-old Dalton Hayes and his 13-year-old girlfriend, Cheyenne Phillips, were arrested without incident about 12:10 a.m. Sunday in Panama City Beach. The two had eluded police in multiple states while raising concern about their increasingly bold behavior.

Authorities say U.S. Marshal's Service and local law enforcement in Panama City Beach discovered Hayes and Phillips asleep in a 2001 Toyota Tundra that was stolen in Henry County, Ga. The vehicle was surrounded by law enforcement and both Hayes and Phillips were taken into custody. Authorities plan to extradite Hayes and Phillips back to Kentucky where they are expected to face felony charges.

Hayes and Phillips began their run from the law and their families earlier this month when they vanished from their small hometown in western Kentucky. Authorities believe their travels took them to South Carolina and Georgia.

Hayes' mother, Tammy Martin, had urged her son and his companion to surrender and "face the consequences."

## As seen on TV: Obama to use State of Union address to pitch tax proposals to help middle class

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is turning to his biggest television audience of the year to pitch tax increases on the wealthiest Americans and put the new Republican Congress in the position of defending top income earners over the middle class.

As Obama continues to signal what he will propose during Tuesday's State of the Union address, senior administration officials said Saturday that he will call for raising the capital gains rate on top income earners and eliminating a tax break on inheritances. The revenue generated by those changes would fund new tax credits and other cost-saving measures for middle-class taxpayers, officials said.

Tax increases are rarely welcomed by congressional Republicans, who now hold majorities in the House and the Senate for the first time in Obama's presidency. Obama's tax proposals will likely be dismissed, if not outright ignored, by lawmakers outside the Democratic Party's liberal base.

Obama also is expected to call for lawmakers to make community college free for many students, increase paid leave for workers and enact broad cybersecurity rules. Administration officials disclosed details on the tax proposals on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the proposals by name ahead of the president.

The centerpiece of the president's tax proposal is an increase in the capital gains rate on couples making more than \$500,000 per year to 28 percent, the same level as under President Ronald Reagan. The top capital gains rate has already been raised from 15 percent to 23.8 percent during Obama's presidency.

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### Kidney killer baffles scientists, breeds fear among Sri Lanka farmers as cause remains mystery

RAJANGANAYA, Sri Lanka (AP) — It's midmorning and hundreds of people are squeezed under a banyan tree's shady canopy to have blood drawn by just three nurses, working assembly-line fast. Others wait outside this dusty rural health center to get their vitals taken and give urine samples.

Most of the 1,000 villagers have come here on foot and have stood for hours under the hot sun — not because they feel sick, but out of fear. They want to know if they will be the next victims of a mysterious kidney disease that has killed thousands of farmers in Sri Lanka's rice basket.

Many have watched neighbors and loved ones — some only in their 30s — quickly succumb to deaths after their kidneys gave out. In the worst-hit villages, it kills as many as 10 people every month. No one knows why.

"In some cases, you only know if a certain person died of kidney disease after the autopsy," says Kalyani Samarasinghe, 47, standing outside the health center with a handful of medical papers and a cotton ball taped to her arm. "If you get a pain in the stomach or something, then you think: Is it the kidney?"

The disease has killed up to 20,000 people over the past 20 years and sickened another 70,000 to 400,000. It has expanded from two districts to seven in the North Central province's dry zone, where farming was transformed after the introduction of modern techniques in the 1960s and '70s. No cases have been detected elsewhere in the country, and research has failed to determine the cause.

### French police release 3 suspects, extend questioning of 9 rounded up after terror attacks

PARIS (AP) — French police have released three of the 12 suspects arrested Friday in an anti-terror sweep following the attacks in Paris by Islamic extremists that killed 17 people and put Europe on high alert.

Paris prosecutor spokesman Denis Fauriat said nine other suspects detained Friday will have their interrogations prolonged by 48 hours, a step allowed under France's tough anti-terror laws.

Police in France, Germany and Belgium have arrested dozens of suspects in recent days as part of the anti-terror sweep sparked by last week's bloody spree in and around Paris, in which brothers Said and Cherif Kouachi and their friend Amedy Coulibaly killed 17 people at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, a kosher grocery, and elsewhere.

## Palestinians protest Canadian foreign minister's visit by hurling eggs and shoes at his convoy

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Dozens of Palestinian protesters have hurled eggs and shoes at the convoy of the visiting Canadian foreign minister.

John Baird was in Ramallah on Sunday to meet Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki.

Protesters also held signs reading: "Baird you are not welcome in Palestine." Activists from Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party earlier called for a boycott of Baird because of Canada's perceived pro-Israel stance.

Baird is in the region for five days of meetings with Israeli and Palestinian officials.

In a statement, Baird described his meeting with Malki as "cordial and constructive" and included "candid and frank exchanges on areas where we differ in opinion."

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### Despite outside protests over sex assault claims, Cosby welcomed by Denver audience

DENVER (AP) — Bill Cosby performed to a welcoming Denver audience, despite a protest by some 100 people chanting "Rape is not a joke!" and "No means no!" outside the theater.

The first of Cosby's two performances Saturday came after a woman held an afternoon news conference at a nearby hotel to accuse him of sexually assaulting her in 1986.

Beth Ferrier said during the gathering called by Los Angeles attorney Gloria Allred that Cosby put drugs in her coffee when she went to see one of his shows in Denver.

"I cannot tell you how horrific of a feeling that is," she said, adding that the next thing she remembered was waking up hours later in the back of her car "practically naked."

Ferrier, 55, has said previously she was assaulted by Cosby. She went public on June 23, 2005, alleging that as a model visiting New York in the early 1980s, she met Cosby and they had a brief affair.

### Aussie golfer Robert Allenby says he was robbed, beaten after missing cut in Sony Open

HONOLULU (AP) — Australian golfer Robert Allenby says he was robbed, beaten and dumped in a park after missing the cut in the Sony Open, leaving him with cuts and a deep scrape on his forehead. "I should be OK, just in a lot of pain," Allenby said in a text message to The Associated Press.

He said he was still meeting with the FBI on Saturday evening.

Golf Channel reported during the Sony Open telecast that Allenby was in a wine bar Friday night when he became separated from his caddie and a friend from Australia. The caddie told the network that Allenby was beaten, robbed of his cellphone, cash and credit cards and driven some six miles away and dumped in a park.

He was found by a retired military man, who helped him back to his hotel at Waialae Country Club.

### **Today in History**

**The Associated Press** 

Today is Sunday, Jan. 18, the 18th day of 2015. There are 347 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlights in History:

On Jan. 18, 1943, during World War II, Jewish insurgents in the Warsaw Ghetto launched their initial armed resistance against Nazi troops, who eventually succeeded in crushing the rebellion. A U.S. ban on the sale of pre-sliced bread - aimed at reducing bakeries' demand for metal replacement parts - went into effect.

#### On this date:

In 1778, English navigator Captain James Cook reached the present-day Hawaiian Islands, which he named the "Sandwich Islands."

In 1862, the tenth president of the United States, John Tyler, died in Richmond, Virginia, at age 71, shortly before he could take his seat as an elected member of the Confederate Congress.

In 1911, the first landing of an aircraft on a ship took place as pilot Eugene B. Ely brought his Curtiss biplane in for a safe landing on the deck of the armored cruiser USS Pennsylvania in San Francisco Harbor.

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In 1919, the Paris Peace Conference, held to negotiate peace treaties ending the First World War, opened in Versailles (vehr-SY'), France.

In 1936, Nobel Prize-winning author Rudyard Kipling, 70, died in London.

In 1949, Charles Ponzi, engineer of one of the most spectacular mass swindles in history, died destitute at a hospital in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at age 66.

In 1957, a trio of B-52's completed the first non-stop, round-the-world flight by jet planes, landing at March Air Force Base in California after more than 45 hours aloft.

In 1967, Albert DeSalvo, who claimed to be the "Boston Strangler," was convicted in Cambridge, Massachusetts, of armed robbery, assault and sex offenses. (Sentenced to life, DeSalvo was killed in prison in 1973.)

In 1975, the situation comedy "The Jeffersons," a spin-off from "All in the Family," premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1988, a China Southwest Airlines Ilyushin 18 crashed while on approach to Chongqing Airport, killing all 108 people on board.

In 1990, a jury in Los Angeles acquitted former preschool operators Raymond Buckey and his mother, Peggy McMartin Buckey, of 52 child molestation charges. Washington D.C. Mayor Marion Barry was arrested in an FBI sting on drug-possession charges (he was later convicted of a misdemeanor).

In 1993, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday was observed in all 50 states for the first time.

**Ten years ago:** Secretary of State nominee Condoleezza Rice, at her Senate confirmation hearing, insisted the United States was fully prepared for the Iraq war and its aftermath and refused to give a timetable for U.S. troops to come home. The world's largest commercial jet, an Airbus A380 "superjumbo" capable of flying up to 800 passengers, was unveiled in Toulouse, France.

**Five years ago:** Taliban militants wearing explosive vests launched a brazen daylight assault on the center of Kabul with suicide bombings and gunbattles that paralyzed the Afghan capital for hours. Mehmet Ali Agca (MEH'-met AH'-lee AH'-juh), the man who shot and seriously wounded Pope John Paul II in 1981, emerged from a prison on the outskirts of Ankara, Turkey, after more than 29 years behind bars. Crime novelist Robert B. Parker died in Cambridge, Massachusetts, at age 77.

**One year ago:** Results showed that nearly 20 million Egyptian voters backed the country's new constitution, almost double the number of those who'd voted for one drafted in 2012 under the government of toppled Islamist President Mohammed Morsi. "American Hustle" took the Screen Actors Guild Awards' top honor for outstanding cast; Matthew McConaughey was recognized for his lead performance in "Dallas Buyers Club" while Cate Blanchett won the actress award for "Blue Jasmine."

**Today's Birthdays:** Movie director John Boorman is 82. Former Sen. Paul Kirk, D-Mass., is 77. Singer-songwriter Bobby Goldsboro is 74. Comedian-singer-musician Brett Hudson is 62. Actor-director Kevin Costner is 60. Country singer Mark Collie is 59. Actress Alison Arngrim (TV: "Little House on the Prairie") is 53. Actress Jane Horrocks is 51. Comedian Dave Attell (uh-TEHL') is 50. Actor Jesse L. Martin is 46. Rapper DJ Quik is 45. Rock singer Jonathan Davis (Korn) is 44. Singer Christian Burns (BBMak) is 42. Former NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous is 42. Actor Derek Richardson is 39. Actor Jason Segel is 35. Actress Samantha Mumba is 32. Country singer Kristy Lee Cook (TV: "American Idol") is 31. Actress Devin Kelley (TV: "Resurrection") is 29.

**Thought for Today:** "Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind." - Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936).