

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 184 ♦ 1 of 28

- 1- Rix Apartments for Rent
- 1- Schultz Construction
- 1- Kiwanis Pancake Brunch
- 1- Today's Information
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 2- A Place for Mom ad
- 3- Rev. Snyder's Column
- 4- Golden Living center Ad
- 4- Classified
- 5- Gov. Daugaard's Column
- 6- Feickert's Legislative Column
- 7- A closer look at births in South Dakota
- 8- Volunteers needed for DI Region in Groton
- 8- Annual Carnival of Silver Skates Meeting
- 8- Ice rink being cleaned today
- 9- Rep. Noem's Column
- 10- 5 Reasons Kids Should Play Organized sports
- 11- Tourism Industry saw solid growth in 2014
- 12- School Board Agenda
- 13- Today in Weather History
- 14- Weather Forecast Page
- 15- Local Weather
- 15- National Weather Map
- 16- Daily Devotional
- 16- Andover Bar & Grill
- 17- News from the Associated Press

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

**Two bedroom apartment in the
Rix Apartments (former city
apartments) at 407 N Garfield**

FOR RENT

Attached garage.

Major appliances included.

\$700 per month

Roger: 605/397-7118

Sunday, January 25

Birthdays: Debra Olson, Marc Hanson

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

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

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

9:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

9:30am: First Presbyterian Bible Study Time

10:00am: St. John's Lutheran School and An-
nual Meeting

10:00am: United Methodist School

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

11:00am: First Presbyterian Worship

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

2:00pm: Carnival of Silver Skates at Odde

6:30pm: Carnival of Silver Skates at Groton??

Annual Kiwanis Pancake Brunch

Sunday, Jan. 25

Groton Community Center

Serving 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Adults \$6.00 • Children \$3.00



*Check out our portfolio
on Facebook at
Schultz-Construction-LLC*

*~ New Construction and Remodeling-
renovations, additions, and carpentry
work*

*~ Concrete- foundations, flatwork,
decorative concrete surfaces.*

605-380-1717

www.shawnschultzconstruction.com

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.

Finding Senior Housing can be complex,
but it doesn't have to be.

"You can trust
A Place for Mom
to help you."

– Joan Lunden

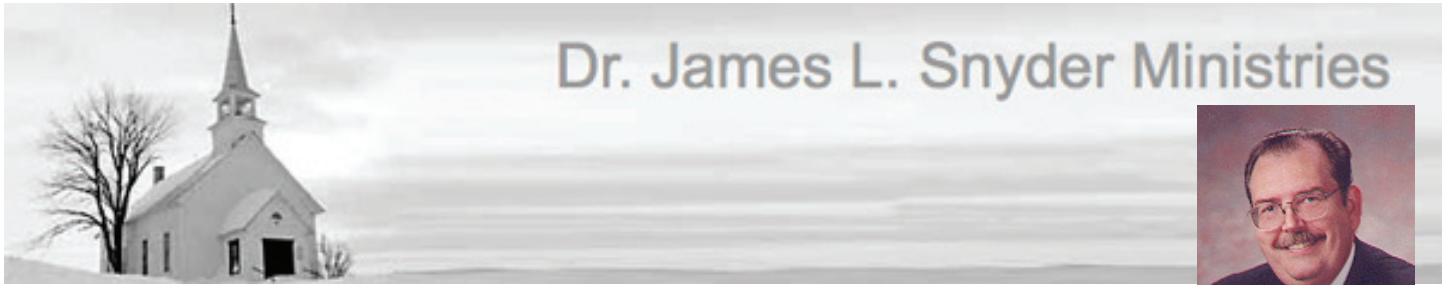


Call A Place for Mom. Our Advisors are trusted, local experts who can help you understand your options. Since 2000, we've helped over one million families find senior living solutions that meet their unique needs.



A Free Service for Families.

Call: (800) 538-0443



For Sale: One Lying Bathroom Mirror



Nobody enjoys privacy more than Yours Truly. I confess I am not a very happy camper when that privacy is compromised in any fashion. Recently, I endured a tremendous trespass on my privacy.

One day last week, I got up as usual and tottered off to the bathroom for my accustomed bathroom routine. It was then I got the shock of my life of which I am not over as of yet. I am sure this experience will be with me many years down the road. I am not sure I need counseling, but maybe a day or two at a rehab center just might do the trick.

I confess that I am not at my best early in the morning prior to my bathroom ritual. As far as I am concerned, the bathroom is a sacred place of refuge before facing the world. It is a place where I can prepare myself to meet the world as well as prepare for the world to meet me. It would be a great travesty for me to plunge myself out into the unsuspecting world before going into my bathroom and making certain preparations. I owe the world at least this.

Of course, with all the political nonsense the world has imposed upon me lately, I am tempted to thrust myself out into the world without any preparations whatsoever. That would teach the world to mess with me. On second thought, too many innocent bystanders would get hurt in the process.

On the day in question, not only was I unprepared to meet the world but I was unprepared to meet my bathroom. Looking back on the situation, I do vaguely remember the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage mentioning something to the fact that she made certain changes in my bathroom. Obviously, I was preoccupied with other things to be concerned about this wee bit of information she laid upon me at the time. I simply assumed she was talking about waxing the floor or changing the shower curtain. Never in my wildest dreams did I think she would do anything as drastic as she did.

This brings me to an important point; never underestimate the damage a wife can do to the sacred places of her husband.

When I walked into my bathroom and switched on the light, I had the shock of my life. I looked in the mirror, as normal and looking back at me was the most frightful thing I have ever seen. I thought for a moment Stephen King had sabotaged my bathroom.

The face looking back at me was old and haggard, desperately needing a shave. The bags under his eyes looked like sacks of potatoes and what little hair he had looked like the aftermath of a suicide bomber. I wanted to call the police, but I was too paralyzed with fear.

I must have yelled or something because my wife came running into the bathroom and asked, "What's wrong?"

Then she did something that infuriated me even more than I was at the time.

She laughed.

I do not mind people laughing when I tell a joke or a funny story. However, when I have just been frightened out of my mind, I do not appreciate the levity. Then she explained to me what had happened. My wife took it upon herself to replace the mirror in my bathroom.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 184 ♦ 4 of 28

For a fleeting moment, murderous thoughts stomped through my mind. Fortunately, for me they were still wearing their bedroom slippers and not their marching boots.

I do not look forward to very much in life, but I do look forward to my mirror in my bathroom. I have had that mirror for as long as I can remember, which may not be a very long time when I come to think of it. I vaguely remember hearing my wife mentioned the fact that the mirror in my bathroom needed to be replaced. I thought she was kidding.

When I get up in the morning, I look forward to going into my bathroom mirror. I have a little ritual I do upon first glance into my mirror. "Mirror, mirror on my wall; who needs a shave the worst of all?" Then we have a good laugh together.

I know that my mirror, my old mirror, that is, was rather old and flawed and the reflection back at me was rather blurry. That is what made it so endearing to me. No matter how hard you tried to clean it the reflection was still very cloudy at best. Then, several years ago an accident occurred producing a small crack in my mirror. I must say it was an improvement I gladly accepted. It accommodated my split personality: Sometimes I feel like a nut, and sometimes I don't feel anything. One morning I could shave on the left side of the crack and the next morning I could shave on the right side.

The thing I loved about my old mirror was how it clouded the truth. The new mirror, however, is very insistent upon the truth.

A verse of Scripture came to mind as I pondered my old mirror. "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." (1 Corinthians 13:12).

If someone would like a mirror that insists on telling the truth, I have one for sale.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

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.

Golden LivingCenter-Groton is accepting applications for

Full-Time night RN/LPN
Full-Time CNA
Part-Time/Casual CNA

**Paid CNA Classes
Starting Feb. 2, 2015**

The Rewards of Working at Golden Living:

- ★ Golden Living offers a competitive and comprehensive benefits package. Our benefits for full-time and part-time team members include access to the following programs:
- ★ Competitive Health and Wellness Insurance Plans to include Medical, Dental and Vision
- ★ 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan
- ★ Life, Accidental Death and Disability Insurance
- ★ Tuition Reimbursement Program
- ★ Flexible Spending Accounts
- ★ Community Meal Discount Program
- ★ Paid Time Off and other Leave Programs
- ★ Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

To inquire stop in 1106 N 2nd St. Groton, SD or call Michele Herr, DNS (605) 397-2365. EOE/M/F/D/V

golden
living

1106 N 2nd St.
(605) 397-2365

Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 184 ♦ 5 of 28



South Dakota Governor
Dennis Daugaard



Reforming Our Juvenile Corrections System

We have much to be proud of in South Dakota. Our state has the third lowest unemployment rate in the nation. We're among the states with the lowest cost of living. Just a few weeks ago Pew named South Dakota as the state with the least volatility in year-to-year tax revenues.

There is, however, one top ranking of which we shouldn't be proud: South Dakota has the second highest juvenile commitment rate in the nation. This high rate of commitment is not explained by a higher rate of juvenile arrests for violent crime. In fact, South Dakota's juvenile violent crime arrest rate is just one-third of the national average.

Seven of every 10 youth committed to the Department of Corrections in 2013 were committed for misdemeanor offenses, probation violations and "status offenses" –violations which, if committed as an adult, would not even be considered crimes.

Research shows that for many youth, commitment to residential placement fails to produce better outcomes than alternative sanctions. Commitment to residential placement also costs much more and can actually increase reoffending in certain circumstances.

Two years ago, we reformed our adult corrections system to improve public safety, hold offenders more accountable and control costs. Though it's only been a short time since those reforms took effect, early results are positive. The percentage of offenders who have successfully completed parole has increased, hundreds of probationers have earned early termination of their supervision by complying with the rules, and the prison population is slightly less than what was projected.

Because the criminal justice reforms of 2013 are showing positive early indications, I, along with a number of stakeholders across the state, wanted to offer similar reforms for the juvenile justice system.

This legislative session, I'm proposing that we reserve commitments to the Department of Corrections for only youth who commit the most serious offenses and pose a risk to the public. I'm also proposing that we develop an array of effective interventions for youth offenders, including community-based programs to address substance abuse, antisocial tendencies and challenges within the family. These types of programs would allow youth to get the help they need without being removed from their homes. They would also help judges as they perform the difficult task of weighing how best to set youth on a better path.

We have a choice to make. We can continue to place juveniles in expensive state-funded facilities that, for many, are less effective at reducing delinquency, or we can invest in proven interventions and treatment programs that keep our youth close to home and connected to their communities.

Though it would be easier to keep doing what we've been doing, that would be a disservice to South Dakota – to the taxpayers who fund the correctional system and to the young offenders who need to be rehabilitated.

I'm hopeful that lawmakers will continue to be engaged on this issue and that they will come to agree that now is the time to fix this problem. As we've proven in the past, we can do great things when we work together.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 184 ♦ 6 of 28

Week 2 Report from Pierre from Rep. Dennis Feickert, District 1

The second week of the 90th Legislative Session of the South Dakota Legislature has quickly come to a close. As I explained in my first column, I serve voters 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. Eight days of the 39 day Session are over. Next week is already the deadline for submitting bill drafts. Time moves quickly here with so much to do.

I serve on the House Agriculture and House Transportation committees. This week we heard from the Secretary of Agriculture, Lucas Lentsch and the Interim Secretary of Games, Fish and Parks, Doug Hofer. They gave their annual updates. We were told that there is a very high possibility that the Ag Committee may have a tour in the northeast part of SD this summer. I am looking forward to the opportunity to educate members on the committee about our area.

There are some discussions going on about the Drainage Bill that came out of the summer study on drainage. Some concern was expressed about the creation of new taxing authority to fund nine new Boards for nine different drainage districts. My main concern about this proposal is the removal of any authority the county commissioners would have over drainage issues that might come up on a very short notice. I will be watching this bill very carefully.

There is talk about proposed legislation which would place a limit on Capital Outlay for schools to 3% or the CPI. I also have a bill that would repeal the limit on counties and townships. I am also prime sponsor on a TIF bill (Tax Increment Financing) that would require county commissioners to approve or allow municipalities to use the county or township share of the property taxes generated on new values in a newly created TIF district.

In this column, I also want to focus on the Minimum Wage issue and attempts by some Republican legislators to change the law this Session.

When South Dakota voters raised the Minimum Wage last November, we joined 29 states and DC in securing a minimum wage above the federal minimum. There were four states (Alaska, Arkansas, Nebraska, and SD) that used ballot measures and voted for the increase last fall. There were actually 11 different state legislatures who enacted increases during their 2014 Sessions. Estimates done by the Budget Policy Institute suggested that 62,000 South Dakotans will see a wage benefit from the increase. 78% of those who benefit are over 20 years old. 55% are women.

55% of SD voters approved the Minimum Wage increase last November. It passed by an even larger margin in the counties I represent. Voters in Brown County passed it by over 56%. It also passed in Day, Marshall, and Roberts counties. Even though it just became law on Jan. 1, 2015, we have already seen attempts by certain legislators to bypass the will of the people. It should also be acknowledged that while the SD Democratic Party worked hard to get this issue on the ballot, it would never have passed without support from Republican and Independent voters. We strongly suggest to our Republican colleagues that they resist efforts to change the minimum wage and listen to the voters on this issue.

The people have spoken. Now it's up to the legislator to listen!

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.

A Closer Look at Births in South Dakota

BROOKINGS, S.D. - A study recently released by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) indicated that South Dakota is one of six states with an increasing birthrate.

"This is exciting news in an era when the average age of the population is projected to increase rapidly over the coming decades," said Leacey E. Brown, SDSU Extension Gerontology Field Specialist.

According to data found within the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) regions, nearly half the births in 2012 took place in the East Central NASS region of South Dakota which consists of Brookings, Davison, Hanson, Kingsbury, Lake, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody and Sanborn Counties (Please note this data shows us where the births took place and not necessarily where the family and infant reside).

The South West NASS region is home to the second largest group of births in 2012, which includes Bennett, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Jackson, Pennington, Shannon, and Stanley Counties. "These 18 counties host 49.6 percent of the population of South Dakota and account for 67.5 percent of the births in the state.

Brown explained that two other NASS regions in the state showed a striking difference between the percentage of the population housed in the area and the number of births that took place. "One out of every four people reside in the North West and the South East NASS regions, yet only one out of every 10 births took place in either of those regions," Brown said.

Counties in those regions include: Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Corson, Dewey, Douglas, Harding, Hutchinson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Meade, Perkins, Turner, Union, Yankton and Ziebach.

Brown said organizing the birth and population data by NASS regions provides valuable insight about the demographics of South Dakota. "There is considerable variation within each region. For example, the South West NASS region is home to the county with the oldest median age (Custer: 52.5) and one of the youngest (Shannon: 24.7)," she said.

Aging continues in rural areas

Even though the data presented here is just a snapshot in time, Brown said the demographic trends suggest the population in rural South Dakota will continue to age. "As this trend continues, the number of children born in rural communities is not likely to increase without community level intervention to retain and attract people," she said.

Brown said that while younger people are an essential part of rural vitality, the relative number of younger people available across the United States is projected to be smaller as the percentage of the population over age 65 increases. "With every rural community in America vying for younger people, it is essential for rural communities to develop innovative ways to retain and attract younger people," Brown said. "What is more, adults over the age of 65 provide valuable human capital to rural communities in the form of consumers, business owners, community leaders, mentors and caregivers for children and adults with disabilities."

She said that as a state, South Dakota is at a pivotal moment in history. "The Baby Boom generation will likely be healthy and active for the next two decades, possibly longer depending on medical advancements that take place. After that time, they may need additional assistance," she said. "Some rural communities may find it difficult to keep Baby Boomers who develop disabilities in their own homes without services such as home health, home maker, respite or meal delivery."

These services, Brown explained cannot be offered without frontline health professionals, including: nurses, certified nursing assistants, physicians, physician's assistants, physical therapists and etcetera. "In addition, volunteers are often relied upon for programs such as Meals-on-wheels or Senior Companions," she said.

In order for rural communities to be prepared to provide services to an increased population of adults with disabilities, Brown said they need to evaluate the assets which currently exist in their community. "From there, we can determine what, if any, features need to be developed within the community to help them attract and retain the teachers, business leaders, health care providers, community leaders and volunteers necessary to maintain the vibrancy of rural South Dakota," Brown said.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 184 ♦ 8 of 28



Terry Herron from the City of Groton took the payloader to the ice rink this morning to see if it could be salvaged. The scraping eliminated the boils from the thawing and the frozen slush that had accumulated through the night. The temperature got colder than predicted allowing the equipment on the ice. But after it was swept, it revealed just how rough the rink really is. The Carnival of Silver Skates committee will decide today if the 6:30 p.m. performance will go on as scheduled at the Groton Ice Rink.

Volunteers needed for DI Region in Groton

If you have ever wondered what Destination Imagination (DI) is all about or if it would be something your child would enjoy, in March you have a great opportunity to find out. Groton Area School will be hosting the Northeast Regional DI tournament on Saturday, March 7.

The tournament will be held at the High School and area teams will be presenting their solutions to one of several challenges. This year's challenges include: Creature Feature (technical challenge), Making Waves (scientific challenge), Lose to Win (structural challenge), Feary Tales (fine arts challenge), The Improv Games (improvisational challenge), Brand Aid (service learning challenge), and Animal Mish Mash (rising stars challenge).

To make this tournament successful, around 60 volunteers are needed. Positions include everything from appraisers, announcers, and timekeepers to concessions, door monitors, and souvenir sales. If you would be interested in helping, please contact tournament director Kristie Erickson at ericksong@nrctv.com or Julie Milbrandt at julie.milbrandt@k12.sd.us.

We are confident that our community will continue their support of DI and we look forward to seeing you on March 7.

Parents & other volunteers, we need you!

The Carnival of Silver Skates annual meeting will be Sunday, March 1st at 7 PM at the ice skating warming house in Groton. Parents of all skaters are encouraged to attend. An election of officers for the 2016 Carnival will be held. The Carnival of Silver Skates Executive Board includes: co-chairs, secretary, treasurer, costume chair, music/rink/instruction chair, communications coordinator and building committee chair. We need your input and help if the Carnival is to continue. Contact Janae Hughes (605-397-3010) with any questions. Please plan to attend the meeting and get involved this year.

KRISTI NOEM
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA



Why We Need an Opportunity Economy

During last week's State of the Union address, President Obama intended to make the argument that his economic approach was "middle-class economics." We ought to be investing in growing the size and strength of middle-class America – as well as its pay – but the President's policies have failed to do that.

On his watch, only top earners have seen their incomes rise, but middle-class Americans are earning less on average than they did in 2009 – by about two thousand dollars a year. While jobs have been added at the top and bottom of the wage scale, those positions sought by the middle class have been shed.

A house divided against itself cannot stand – and neither can an economy. This administration's policies have divided our nation by class and income. That's never been the American way – and it never should be. I believe we ought to seek opportunities for every citizen. We ought to be bringing folks out of poverty and making sure wages increase across the board. We ought to be fighting so that every South Dakotan has the opportunity to succeed – so long as they work hard and play by the rules. We ought to be aiming for an Opportunity Economy.

In many cases, opportunity is a product of education, whether that is a traditional university, community college or vocational school. I believe in the importance of receiving a higher education, but I also understand the obstacles life can throw in your way when you're trying to get that education. I worked multiple jobs after high school to support my own education.

When my dad passed away and I came home to help run the farm, I had to put that education on hold. I finally finished my degree almost 20 years later. Needless to say, I understand the challenges. That's one of the reasons why I've been so supportive of 529 savings plans, which hundreds of South Dakota families currently take advantage of. The President proposed increasing taxes on these savings accounts as part of his State of the Union pitch. But this is money hardworking Americans have earned and saved for their kids' education. The government doesn't deserve to take a bigger piece of that money than it already gets.

I've also been looking to increase opportunities for working moms. For many, finding the right work-life balance is a constant struggle. I'd like to see working families get a little more flexibility. If you work overtime, you should have a choice: take the overtime pay or get that time back by receiving an equal amount of extra time off. I helped pass a bill through the House to accomplish this last year, and I'll be working with the new Republican Senate to try to get it over the finish line this year.

Achieving an Opportunity Economy will also require some changes to the tax code and regulatory environment to make it more fair and affordable. We've done it in South Dakota and it's produced real results. Rosenbauer America, a company that manufactures fire rescue vehicles in Lyons, offered almost every employee a dollar-an-hour raise about a year ago, according to the Argus Leader. They also made it easier to earn vacation days. This wasn't something that was mandated by the federal government; it was a decision the company made. Why? Our unemployment rate in South Dakota is the third lowest in the nation. Tax rates are kept low. And smart regulatory policies have made us one of the nation's top states to do business. Now, companies have to compete for workers. That drives pay and benefits up. It works.

I am committed to securing more opportunities and freedoms for South Dakotans so you can seize every promise the American Dream has always provided. We can and must do better.

5 Reasons Kids Should Play Organized Sports

Entrepreneurs & Former Pro Athlete Explain

Life-long Lessons Learned in Youth Competition

In the past 30 years, obesity has more than doubled in young children and quadrupled in adolescents, potentially leading to a host of chronic diseases later in life, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Conversely, the CDC reports that regular physical activity provides a long list of physical benefits for children, but that's not all. Daily exercise also promotes mental and emotional well-being that includes self-esteem.

"By now, I don't think anyone is surprised that regular exercise is good for children and inactivity is places them at risk for illnesses later in life, but when you take a moment to consider the data in-depth for children who exercise and play organized sports, the details of a child's future come to life," says Danyel Surrency Jones, president of Power To Give and co-founder of Powerhandz Inc., (powerhandz.com), a company specializing in athletic training products to improve performance in baseball, basketball and football.

Danyel and her business partner and husband, Darnell Jones, a former professional basketball player who also co-founded Powerhandz, want kids in their community and beyond to benefit from the values learned from youth sports. That's why they created the Power To Give program, which promotes positive development.

"We believe in the power of sports to change a kid's life for the better," says Darnell, who lists five significant benefits of youth sports.

- **Cultivates a positive attitude:** Sports are demanding. Come game time, a young athlete wouldn't last long with a negative mindset. "Practice is no cakewalk either," Darnell says. "As adults, we understand the need to hype ourselves before hitting the gym. The rewarding feeling we get walking out from the gym is similar to what young people feel after a game or tough practice."

- **Offers a sense of accomplishment, confidence and self-esteem:** As the CDC noted, simply being physically active builds self-esteem. We are physical beings who are not meant to sit in front of a videogame for several consecutive hours. "Again, if you're a physically active adult, you feel that sense of accomplishment in outdoing your last performance at the gym," Danyel says. "Kids feel a similar way learning new skills and succeeding in a game, except more so."

- **Builds better peer relationships:** Kids want to fit in, but it's not always easy. Organized sports hurdles the high wall of social awkwardness so many children feel. Team sports such as baseball, basketball and football demand participants to work together for a common goal, which is a valuable lesson some adults still haven't learned while interacting at work.

- **More restraint in avoiding risky behavior:** Ideally, parents can get their children engaged – in anything that's productive, really. Bored or disengaged children have a way of getting into trouble. A student is less likely to misbehave in class or break the law if it means getting kicked off the team of a sport they love.

- **Greater family attachment and frequent interactions with parents:** Famous athletes say it all the time, "Thanks Mom. Thanks for driving me to and from practice, and thanks for showing up at the games." And that doesn't even count helping a child with actual practice – playing catch, squaring off one-on-one, etc.

About Danyel Surrency Jones and Darnell Jones

Danyel Surrency Jones is COO and Co-Founder of Powerhandz Inc., (powerhandz.com), which specializes in performance-enhancing training products for athletes. Danyel is a business leader who led sales and marketing departments for over 17 years, sat on non-for-profit boards and invested in early stage companies. Darnell Jones is an entrepreneur and investor, athlete and sales professional. Before cofounding Powerhandz, he was a team captain and academic all-conference basketball player at Mesa State College before he went on to play for the Utah Eagles of the former Continental Basketball Association. Danyel and Darnell created the Power To Give- Building Character Through Athletics, which help fund athletic programs in financially challenged communities.

Tourism Industry Saw Solid Growth in 2014

PIERRE, S.D. – The total economic impact of South Dakota’s visitor industry increased in 2014 by 2.64 percent* over 2013, translating to an overall economic impact of nearly \$2 billion. The 2014 figures are from a new report by econometrics firm IHS.

“In 2014, South Dakota faced chilly spring weather, the earliest snowfall since 1888 in September, and increasing marketing competition from neighboring state tourism departments,” Gov. Dennis Daugaard said. “Despite these challenges, the South Dakota visitor industry continues to shine.”

2014 Economic Impact Statistics:

2.64 percent – The increase in the economic impact of tourism on South Dakota’s economy last year.
\$1.99 billion – Tourism’s direct impact on South Dakota’s economy in 2014.

18.41 percent – The amount of state and local tax revenue generated by tourism-related activity in 2013. This totaled \$300 million.

27,477 – The number of jobs directly generated by the tourism industry in 2014. That’s 1-out-of-11 South Dakota jobs that depend on travel and tourism.

\$880 – The amount of additional taxes each household in the state would pay if South Dakota’s tourism industry did not exist.

9 percent - Percentage of visitor spending that came from international visitors.

1:5 – The ratio between dollars spent on tourism marketing and tax revenue received. For every dollar Tourism spends marketing the state as a vacation destination, South Dakota receives \$5 in tax revenue.

2014 Year-Over-Year Comparisons:

- Taxable sales were up 5.2 percent
- Inquiries to the SD Dept. of Tourism were down 13.1 percent
- Unique visitors to www.TravelSouthDakota.com, were down 2 percent
- Visitation was up .98 percent
- Hotel occupancy was up 1.1 percent
- Information Center stats
 - o Total cars were down .7 percent
 - o Total tour buses were down 5.9 percent
 - o Tour buses carrying foreign visitors were up 14.6 percent

The South Dakota Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council and the South Dakota State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary Jim Hagen.

Groton School Board Agenda

January 26, 2015 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Program Overview Presentations Science...L. Hawkins, T. Kurth, K. Gonsoir, J. Sternhagen
English Language Arts/Reading...S. Hanten, S. Honerman, D. Kurtz, J. Seibel, L. Tietz, M. Johnson
3. School Board Committee Reports:
 - a. Building, Grounds, & Transportation: Lars Hanson, Merle Harder, Marty Weismantel
 - b. Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum: Dorene Nelson, Grant Rix
 - c. Negotiations: Kelly Kjelden, Steve Smith
4. Review findings of of Eide Bailly FY'14 District Audit.
5. First Reading of Recommended Policy Revisions: AA School District Legal Status (Amend), BB School Board Legal Status (Amend), BBF School Board Member Ethics (Amend), BCA Board Organizational Meeting (Amend), BCD-E Board-Superintendent Relationship/Functions (Amend), BDDA Agenda Format (Amend), HB Negotiations Legal Status (Amend), LI Relations with Education Accreditation Agencies (Amend), KMB Title I Parent Involvement (Amend), KMI Relations with Political Organizations (Amend), JECB/JECC Open Enrollment (Amend), IGCA Summer School & Credit Recovery (Amend), IGCD Advanced College Placement (Amend), AFA Evaluation of School Board Operational Procedures (Delete), AFD Evaluation of Support Staff (Delete), AFE Evaluation of Instructional Programs (Delete), AFB-E Evaluation of the Superintendent (Delete), AFC Evaluation of Professional Staff (Delete), AFC-E(1) Evaluation of the Principal (Delete), AFC-E(2) Evaluation of Teaching Staff (Delete), AFC-E(3) Evaluation of K-12 Librarian (Delete), AFD Evaluation of Support Staff (Delete), AFE Evaluation of Instructional Programs (Delete)

*Note: All policies recommended for deletion exist verbatim elsewhere in the policy manual. The recommendation is to publish them as policy only one time. The effects of those policies will remain intact and unchanged.

6. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principals' Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve hiring Judy Wieker as full time custodian effective January 26, 2015 [\$11.00/hour].
2. Review South Dakota Department of Health routine Food Service Inspection of Groton Elementary.
3. Executive Session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) for personnel issues.
4. Other items, as may be appropriate or as deemed necessary.

ADJOURN

Today in Weather History

2010: A large upper level low pressure area combined with a cold surface high pressure area building in from the north brought light snow and very strong winds creating widespread blizzard conditions across north central and northeast South Dakota. Snowfall amounts of 1 to 4 inches combined with north winds of 25 to 40 mph gusting up to 55 mph created frequent whiteout conditions across the area. Travel was significantly affected or halted and several schools were closed. Interstate-29 was closed from the North Dakota border and south on the 25th until the morning of the 26th. The blizzard hampered efforts to restore power to the thousands of customers from the previous winter storm. The snowfall began in the morning hours from 6 to 10 am and ended around the time the blizzard conditions subsided.

1821 - The Hudson River was frozen solid during the midst of the coldest winter in forty-one years. Thousands of persons crossed the ice from New York City to New Jersey, and refreshment taverns were set up in the middle of the river to warm pedestrians. (David Ludlum)

1837 - At 7 PM a display of the Northern Lights danced above Burlington, VT. Its light was equal to the full moon. Snow and other objects reflecting the light were deeply tinged with a blood red hue. Blue, yellow and white streamers were also noted. (The Weather Channel)

1965 - Alta, UT, was in the midst of a storm that left the town buried under 105 inches of snow establishing a record for the state. (David Ludlum)

1987 - The second major storm in three days hit the Eastern Seaboard producing up to 15 inches of snow in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. Up to 30 inches of snow covered the ground in Virginia following the two storms. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - High winds created blizzard conditions in the mountains of Colorado. Winds gusted to 109 mph at Echo Lake, and a wind gust to 193 mph was reported atop Mount Evans. A "nor'easter" moving up the Atlantic Coast spread heavy snow from the Carolinas to New England, with as much as 16 inches reported in the Poconos of eastern Pennsylvania. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


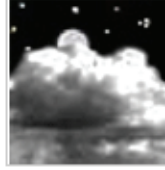

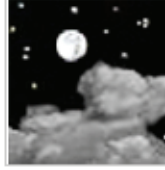



1989 - Bitter cold air, coming down from Alaska, settled over the Northern Rockies. Wilson WY reported a morning low of 48 degrees below zero. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the south central U.S. One thunderstorm in north central Texas spawned a tornado which injured three persons at Troy. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Low pressure developed explosively over east central Missouri and moved into Lower Michigan producing high winds and heavy snow across parts of Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. Wind gusts to 60 mph and up to a foot of snow created near blizzard conditions in southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Wind gusts in Indiana reached 76 mph at Wabash. Thunderstorms associated with the storm produced wind gusts to 54 mph at Fort Madison IA. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2000 - Heavy snow fell from the Carolinas to New England, with up to 20 inches of snow and five deaths reported. (NCDC)

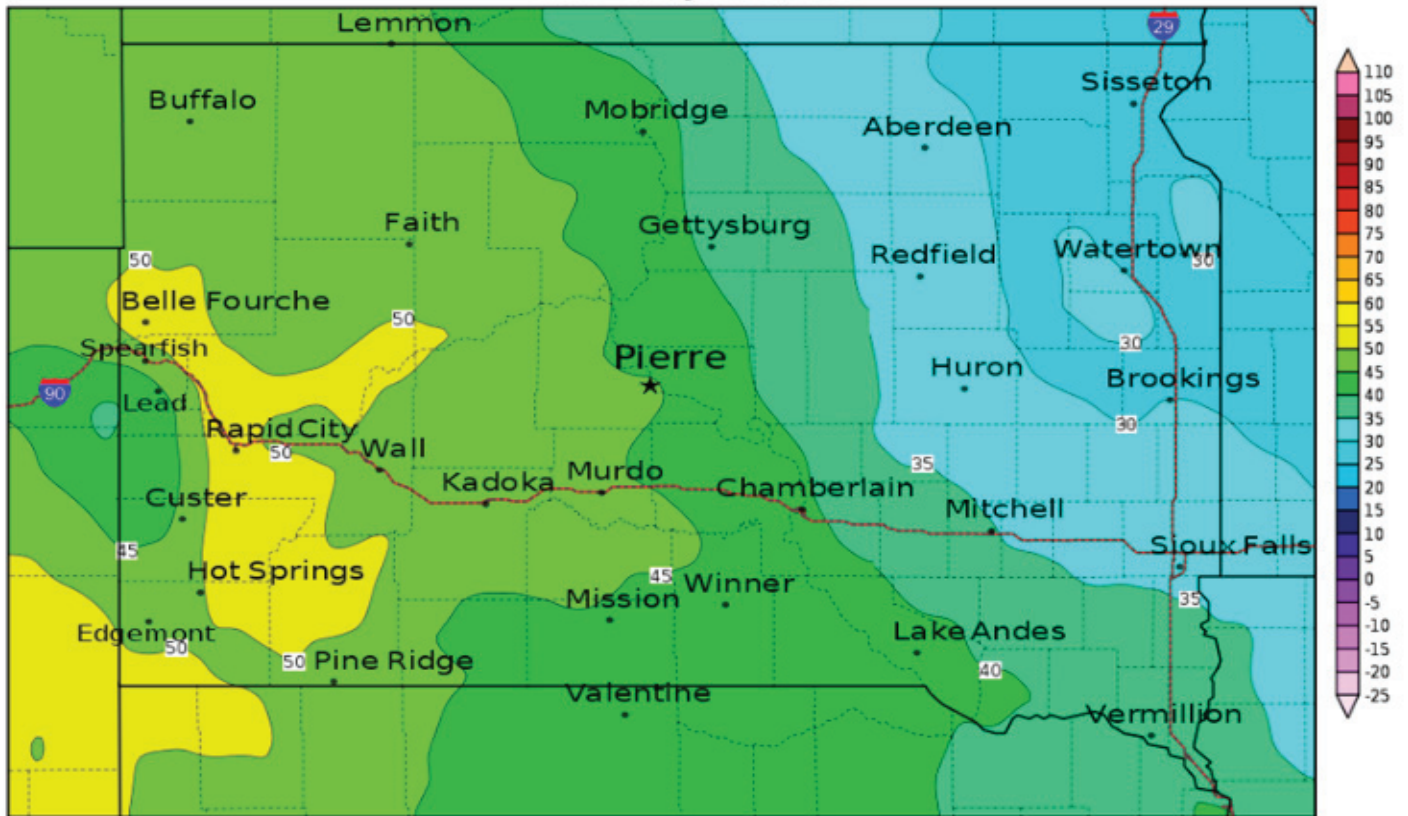
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 184 ♦ 14 of 28

TODAY	TONIGHT	MONDAY	MONDAY NIGHT	TUESDAY	TUESDAY NIGHT	WEDNESDAY
						
Cloudy High: 32 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 30 °F ↑	Mostly Sunny High: 46 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 21 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 44 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 28 °F	Partly Sunny High: 42 °F

Cooler Today...Then Warmer

Forecast Max Temp. (°F)
Valid: Sun, Jan. 25, 2015



National Weather Service
Aberdeen/Rapid City/Sioux Falls, SD
1/25/2015 2:35am CST

Follow Us: [f](#) [t](#) [v](#)
weather.gov

Surface high pressure along with a fair amount of cloudiness will promote a cooler day across the region. However, milder air is again expected to make its way back into the Northern Plains to begin the work week.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 184 ♦ 15 of 28

Yesterday's Weather

High: 38.8 at 3:54 PM

Low: 22.5 at 4:21 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 19 at 8:31 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 54° in 1942

Record Low: -33° in 1904

Average High: 23°F

Average Low: 2°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.38

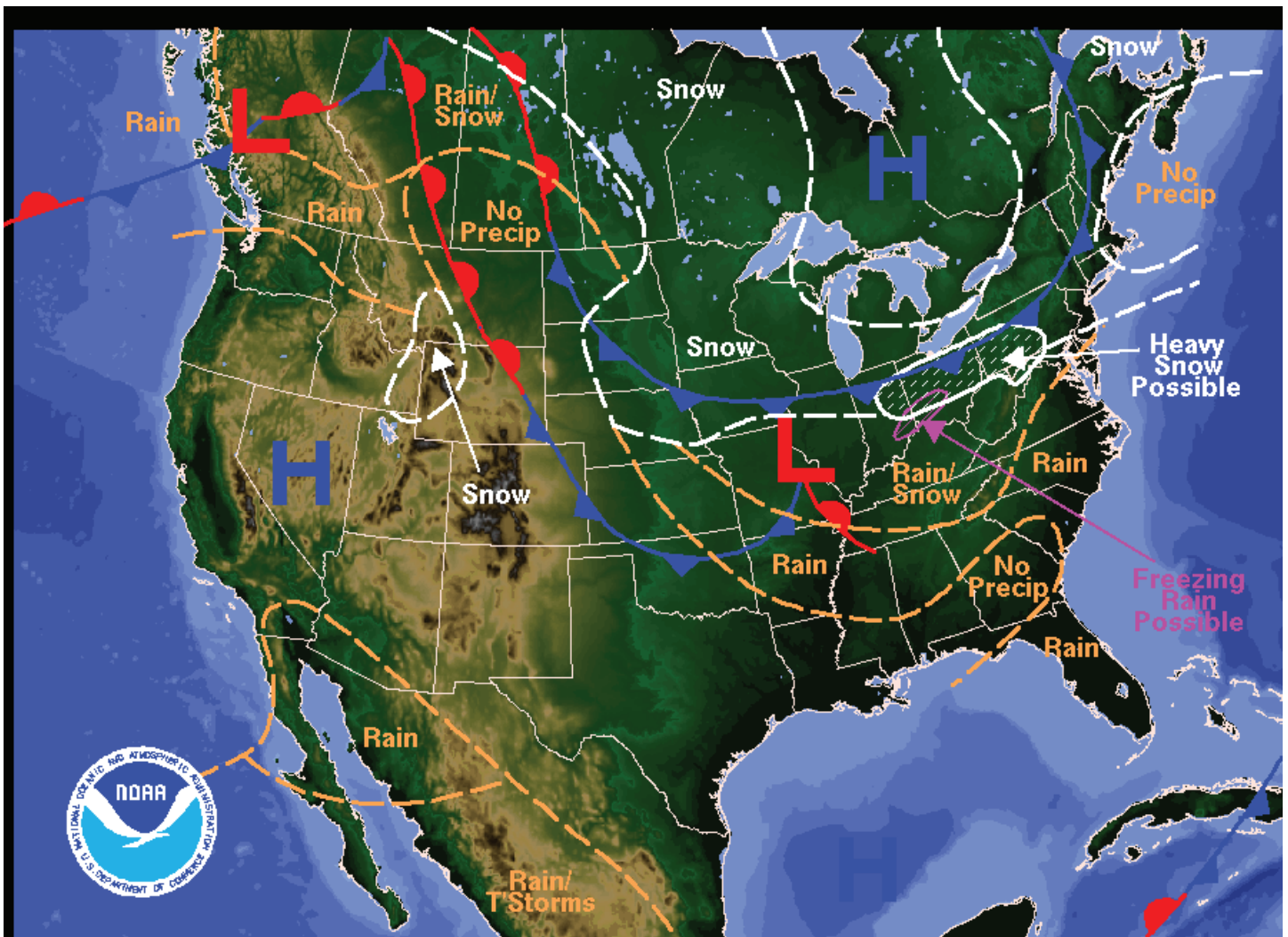
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.40

Average Precip to date: 0.38

Precip Year to Date: 0.40

Sunset Tonight: 5:30 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:01 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Jan 25, 2015, issued 3:20 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



Choice And Consequences

The Bible does not present any proof for the existence of God. It simply declares that God exists and that only a fool denies that fact.

The verse, "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'" is perhaps one of the best-known verses in the Bible. However, many people today would say, "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is a God.'" Atheism has become a religion and many individuals and countries base their way of life on the denial of any supernatural being.

To prove the existence of God some would ask us to consider "cause and effect" as a reason to believe in a God. Every effect, they argue, demands a cause – or if there is a creation there had to be a Creator.

Some offer the argument of "being." Man has the idea that a perfect being exists somewhere or some place. Where did that come from? Certainly not from ourselves because we know we are imperfect. So, it had to come from a Perfect Being – therefore, God is!

Others claim the moral argument. We have a voice inside of us that says, "Thou shalt" and at times, "Thou shalt not." Certainly these are not man-made, they say, but God-given. So, there must be a "Moral-Ruler" hence, God.

Is it wise to try to prove that "God is" with an argument? We can debate that issue forever.

Would it not be better to live a Christ-filled life that demonstrates the difference that only He can make?

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to live God-honoring lives and show others that You are alive and well by what we do. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 14:1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.

A colorful advertisement for "Fried Chicken Day" at Andover Bar & Grill. The text "FRIDAY IS FRIED CHICKEN DAY" is prominently displayed in large, bold, brown letters. A single fried chicken drumstick is shown in the center. Below it, a red starburst shape contains the text "Serving 5-9 p.m.". At the bottom, there's a banner that says "WE'VE GOT WINGS!" with wings, and another banner that says "Every Wednesday!". The Andover Bar & Grill logo is on the right, featuring a grill, a beer, and the text "ANDOVER BAR & GRILL". At the bottom right, the address "120 S Main St. • 298-5252" is listed. The background is white with a black border.

After dove debacle, Vatican makes balloons new peace symbol

FRANCES D'EMILIO, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Dove lovers, rejoice.

Balloons, not doves, were released as a gesture of peace Sunday in St. Peter's Square, a year after an attack by a seagull and a crow on the symbolic birds sparked protests by animal protection groups.

For years children, flanking the pope at a window of the papal studio overlooking the square, set free a pair of doves on the last Sunday in January. The Catholic Church traditionally dedicates January to peace themes.

Last year, the feel-good practice became a public relations disaster. After the children with Pope Francis tossed a pair of doves from the window, first a seagull and then a crow swept down and attacked the doves. Those doves' ultimate fate was unknown.

Advocates for animals demanding an end to dove releases swiftly appealed to Francis, the first pontiff to adopt the name of Francis of Assisi, the saint famed for his love for birds and other creatures of the wild.

"Here's the balloons that mean, 'peace,'" said Francis when children in the square let go of their balloons.

Gulls nest atop the colonnade of St. Peter's Square, not far from the Tiber River, and scavenge for garbage. One animal advocacy group likened freeing doves in Rome to issuing a death sentence.

Another saint, Pope John Paul II, began the dove release tradition to draw attention to the need to work for peace in the world. Since then, children have been invited to join pontiffs at the window to release a pair of doves.

Until this year.

The Vatican didn't mention last year's flap when it said in a statement Sunday that children would release balloons, including a hot-air balloon containing messages of peace. One of the children at the window read a speech about peace.

Lawmakers to mull child abuse, disease outbreaks and roads

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Lawmakers this week will consider measures to join states calling for a constitutional convention to require a balanced federal budget, make child abuse allegations clearer and strengthen the state's ability to react to deadly disease outbreaks. This is the third week in South Dakota's 39-day legislative session. Here are a few of the key issues to watch:

JOLENE'S LAW

The Senate State Affairs Committee on Wednesday is expected to hear proposals from Sen. Deb Soholt, R-Sioux Falls, to make changes to South Dakota's mandatory reporting laws that would help make child abuse allegations clearer. The measure came out of the pre-session Jolene's Law Task Force, which studied child sexual abuse in South Dakota.

Soholt said that the person who first hears an abuse allegation needs to be involved when it is reported so the account doesn't become jumbled as it is passed between people and on to authorities.

The same Senate panel will also consider a proposal to fund the task force to continue its work in 2015.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 184 ♦ 18 of 28

TRANSPORTATION

Senate Majority Leader Tim Rave, R-Baltic, said there will be an open forum on Wednesday after the Senate session about the state's transportation needs identified by an interim legislative panel studying the matter. That panel spawned a bill that would raise more than \$100 million in its first year for transportation projects, while Gov. Dennis Daugaard put forward a plan that would raise roughly \$50 million.

Rave said the purpose is informational, not to push either proposal. Funding for roads and bridges is perhaps the most significant debate facing lawmakers this session.

DISEASE RESPONSE

The South Dakota Department of Health is reworking a legislative proposal that would more easily allow the state to react to deadly disease outbreaks after some lawmakers raised concerns about the potential for government overreach.

The proposal that would modernize the state's authority to respond to serious communicable diseases is scheduled to make it to the House floor Tuesday. Health officials said the state's laws are antiquated and need to be updated to protect South Dakotans from modern diseases that are easily spread, like the Ebola virus.

"At the end of the day, it's about public health and really putting into play a good system that will help protect the people," said Republican Rep. Scott Munsterman, who supports the plan.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

Lawmakers are expected to mount a push on Monday to pass a resolution calling for a constitutional convention to require a balanced federal budget. The House State Affairs committee will hear two proposals on Monday: the resolution calling for the convention and a bill to limit what could be debated at the convention. The bill's author, Rep. Jim Stalzer, said the goal is to quash fears that the convention could be used to drastically re-write many parts of the U.S. Constitution.

Right now, 24 states — 10 short of the 34 necessary for a constitutional convention — have passed resolutions supporting a balanced budget amendment, according to the nonprofit advocacy group Balanced Budget Forever. Thirty-eight states would then have to approve the change for the amendment to become effective.

"Federal government spending is out of control," Stalzer said. "I really fear for the debt we're leaving for my grandchildren and children."

South Dakota Pork Producers to host culinary competition

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Chefs from around the state will compete in Sioux Falls in the South Dakota Pork Producers Council 27th annual Taste of Elegance.

At least 10 chefs will create original recipes using pork and compete for a \$1,000 grand prize and a trip to Napa Valley. Judging will take place Feb. 8 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center.

The judges for this year's event will be chef Charlie Torgerson, owner of Famous Dave's Franchises from St. Paul, Minnesota; Tim McCarty, executive chef at the Mayo Foundation in Rochester, Minnesota; and celebrated chef Michael Foley from Chicago.

The list of competing chefs includes Nic Laughlin from Skelly's Pub and Grill, Sioux Falls; Christoph Waldburger from The Deadwood Grille, Deadwood; and Chris Convdry from Sanford Health, Sioux Falls.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 184 ♦ 19 of 28

Moody County Sheriff's Office gets over \$6,000 for stun guns

FLANDREAU, S.D. (AP) — The state has awarded more than \$6,000 to the Moody County Sheriff's Office for the purchase of stun guns.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says the stun guns are meant to be used during drug investigations.

The award to the sheriff's office comes from the state's Drug Control Fund, which is funded with money seized in drug arrests.

Moody County Sheriff Troy Wellman says the stun guns are "a huge asset" in maintaining the safety of officers and offenders.

South Dakota cattle on feed down 2 percent from 2014

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more animals reported 245,000 cattle on feed on Jan. 1, down 2 percent from last year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says in its latest report that placements in feedlots during December totaled 32,000 head, down 26 percent from 2014.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 30,000 head, unchanged from last year.

Other disappearance during December totaled 2,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2014.

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

Boys Basketball

Aberdeen Central 34, Yankton 27

Aberdeen Christian 76, Rosholt 63

Crazy Horse 57, Wakpala 49

Dell Rapids 92, Elk Point-Jefferson 59

Flandreau Indian 92, Marty Indian 63

Gayville-Volin 42, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 40

Lawton-Bronson, Iowa 70, Dakota Valley 68

Miller 82, McLaughlin 33

New Underwood 66, Wall 49

Philip 74, Bennett County 34

Rapid City Christian 69, Newell 48

Red Cloud 59, Custer 58

Sioux Falls Lincoln 63, Sioux City, East, Iowa 44

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 45, Rapid City Stevens 30

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 53, Rapid City Central 45

Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D. 64, Potter County 53

Tea Area 71, Canton 57

Tiospa Zina Tribal 52, Redfield/Doland 36

Todd County 95, Crow Creek 63

Dakota Valley Conference Tournament

Fifth Place: Colman-Egan 65, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 39

Third Place: Deubrook 64, Estelline 47

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 184 ♦ 20 of 28

Championship: Arlington 54, Elkton-Lake Benton 49

DSU Seizing SD Classic

Bridgewater-Emery 60, Kimball/White Lake 58

DeSmet 54, Ellsworth, Minn. 41

Florence/Henry 49, Howard 42

Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn. 60, Freeman 36

Menno 74, Highmore-Harrold 64

Tri-Valley 70, St. Francis Indian 56

Viborg-Hurley 71, Lower Brule 57

Hanson Corn Palace Classic

Aberdeen Roncalli 64, Sioux Valley 39

Clark/Willow Lake 55, McCook Central/Montrose 40

Faith 54, Gregory 39

Hanson 60, Platte-Geddes 43

Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 68, White River 65, 2OT

St. Thomas More 55, Parkston 39

Sully Buttes 40, Alcester-Hudson 38

Warner 57, Canistota 42

Mobridge Big Bob Classic

Mobridge-Pollock 60, Pine Ridge 50

Panhandle Conference Tournament

Fifth Place: Morrill, Neb. 52, Edgemont 32

Girls Basketball

Bennett County 63, Philip 51

Canton 46, Tea Area 40

DeSmet 74, Wolsey-Wessington 19

Lawton-Bronson, Iowa 70, Dakota Valley 66

Lead-Deadwood 50, Hot Springs 19

Little Wound 55, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 51

McLaughlin 59, Miller 44

Oelrichs 55, Upton, Wyo. 50, OT

Red Cloud 63, Custer 59

Redfield/Doland 66, Tiospa Zina Tribal 51

Rosholt 59, Aberdeen Christian 26

Sioux Falls Christian 46, Mitchell Christian 29

Sioux Falls Lincoln 70, Sioux City, East, Iowa 56

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 57, Rapid City Stevens 52

Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D. 46, Potter County 35

Summit 56, Fulda, Minn. 43

Todd County 100, Crow Creek 32

Wagner 59, Avon 48

Wakpala 64, Crazy Horse 20

Wall 56, New Underwood 27

Webster 56, Britton-Hecla 18

Yankton 49, Aberdeen Central 47, 3OT

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 184 ♦ 21 of 28

Dakota Valley Conference Tournament

Seventh Place: Colman-Egan 52, Estelline 41

Fifth Place: Arlington 51, Dell Rapids St. Mary 45

Third Place: Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 41, Lake Preston 37

Little Moreau Conference Tournament

Seventh Place: Bison 48, Tiospaye Topa 35

Fifth Place: Harding County 58, Dupree 27

Third Place: McIntosh 42, Faith 38, OT

Championship: Lemmon 65, Timber Lake 52

Mobridge Big Bob Classic

Mobridge-Pollock 48, Linton-HMB, N.D. 25

Panhandle Conference Tournament

Fifth Place: Edgemont 39, Sioux County, Neb. 29

Southern Plains Conference Tournament

Seventh Place: Gregory 41, Kadoka Area 20

Fifth Place: White River 49, Colome 42

Third Place: Lyman 51, Stanley County 33

Championship: Jones County 59, Burke/South Central 56

South Dakota State hangs on to beat ORU 76-72

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Cody Larson scored a career-high 27 points and had 12 rebounds to lead South Dakota State to a 76-72 victory over Oral Roberts on Saturday night.

Korey Billbury hit back-to-back 3s to pull Oral Roberts within 73-72 with 13 seconds left. South Dakota State's George Marshall answered with a pair of free throws. Billbury missed a contested 3-pointer but Zach Horstman made a free throw to seal it for the Jackrabbits.

Larson shot 9 of 16 from the floor and made 9 of 12 free throws. Deondre Parks scored 18 points and Jake Bittle chipped in 13 for South Dakota State (15-7, 6-2 Summit League), which has won six straight.

Obi Emegano scored 19 points, Billbury finished with 15 and Brandon Conley grabbed 10 rebounds to lead Oral Roberts (10-10, 4-3). The Golden Eagles shot just 10 of 21 from the line.

AP News in Brief

In India, Obama seeks to turn personal bond with Modi into policy breakthroughs

NEW DELHI (AP) — President Barack Obama was greeted in India Sunday with an elaborate welcome at the country's sprawling presidential palace, then he solemnly laid a wreath at a memorial honoring the father of India's independence movement, Mahatma Gandhi.

The president arrived in New Delhi under hazy skies Sunday morning. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was waiting for Obama at the steps of Air Force One and the two men shared a hug, underscoring the warm relationship they have formed in the short time Modi has been in office.

The president and prime minister were to spend much of Sunday holding talks on climate change, defense and economic ties. On Monday, Obama was to be the guest of honor at India's Republic Day festivities, making him the first U.S. president to attend the anniversary of the enactment of country's democratic constitution.

"It is a great honor," Obama said after reviewing an Indian honor guard formation at Rashtrapati Bhawan, the presidential palace. "We are so grateful for the extraordinary hospitality."

Following their meetings, Obama and Modi were to issue statements and address reporters.

WHITE HOUSE NOTEBOOK: Obama does presidential 'namaste,' invokes MLK at Gandhi memorial

NEW DELHI (AP) — President Barack Obama was so honored to be invited to India's Republic Day celebration that he showed it.

After arriving at Rashtrapati Bhawan, the presidential palace, for an elaborate welcome ceremony, Obama clasped his hands in the traditional "namaste" greeting. During namaste, a person's head is slightly bowed and the hands are pressed together, palms touching, fingers pointed skyward and thumbs touching the chest.

Namaste often is performed at the end of yoga practice.

Asked about being the chief guest at Monday's celebration, Obama said: "It is a great honor. We are so grateful for the extraordinary hospitality."

Obama's wife, Michelle, accompanied him to India.

Greeks vote in election critical to country's financial future; radical left party favored

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece voted Sunday in an early general election that could alter the course of the country's struggle with crippling debts, with a radical left party poised to win by promising to rewrite the terms of its international bailout.

The Syriza party led by Alexis Tsipras has remained firmly ahead of conservative Prime Minister Antonis Samaras' New Democracy party in opinion polls throughout the election campaign, which was called two years ahead of schedule.

But those polls also have shown that a significant portion of voters remained undecided until the last minute, and suggest that Syriza might struggle to win enough parliamentary seats to form a government on its own.

"These elections are crucial for our future and for the future of our children," Samaras said after he cast his ballot in a southern Greek town. "Today we decide whether we will go forward with strength, with security, with assuredness, or whether we will head into adventures."

Samaras said he was optimistic of victory given what he called the "unprecedented large number" of undecided voters. He said they would determine the outcome.

Japan stunned after video purportedly shows 1 of 2 Islamic State hostages is killed

TOKYO (AP) — From prime minister to ordinary people, Japanese responded with shock Sunday at a video purportedly showing one of two Japanese hostages of the extremist Islamic State group had been killed.

With national attention focusing on efforts to save the other hostage, 47-year-old journalist Kenji Goto, some also criticized Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's drive for a more assertive Japan as responsible for the hostage crisis.

A somber Abe appeared on Japanese public broadcaster NHK early Sunday demanding the militants release Goto unharmed. He said that the latest video was likely authentic, although he added that the government was still reviewing it. He offered condolences to the family and friends of Haruna Yukawa, a 42-year-old adventurer taken hostage in Syria last year.

Abe declined to comment on the message in the video, which demanded a prisoner exchange for Goto. He said only that the government was still working on the situation, and reiterated that Japan condemns terrorism.

"I am left speechless," he said. "We strongly and totally criticize such acts."

Father of Japanese IS hostage reported killed in militant video still prays for son's life

TOKYO (AP) — The father of the Japanese hostage purportedly shown in a video as having been killed by Islamic State militants is hoping against hope his son could still be alive.

"My mind went totally blank," Shoichi Yukawa told reporters Sunday, a day after news broke of the video footage. "I am hoping deep in my heart that it is not true."

Haruna Yukawa, a 42-year-old adventurer, was taken hostage in Syria last year.

The Associated Press has not verified the contents of the video, which varied greatly from previous videos released by the Islamic State group. It holds a third of both Syria and Iraq. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the video was likely authentic and demanded the militants release the other hostage, reporter Kenji Goto, 47.

The Islamic State group had threatened to behead Yukawa and Goto unless it received a \$200 million ransom.

Blizzard-like conditions possible in Northeast's next storm on heels of weekend wallop

NEW YORK (AP) — A major snowstorm with blizzard-like conditions could drop a foot or more of snow across most parts of the Northeast as they gear up for the workweek right after the first real storm of the winter hit them with rain, several inches of snow and messy slush.

A storm system diving out of the Midwest has the potential to slowly coat from Philadelphia up to Massachusetts and Maine with snow beginning late Sunday night into Monday and intensifying greatly well into Tuesday, the National Weather Service said.

"There's the potential for a significant snowstorm to impact the entire Northeast U.S.," meteorologist Patrick Maloic said.

Areas east of New York City could receive in excess of a foot of snow if the storm develops as feared, he said, stressing that's still "a big if."

The storm, which brewed late Saturday around the Iowa-Minnesota line, is likely to track down into the central Appalachians and then very slowly traverse its way through the Northeast states and reach the Gulf of Maine late Tuesday night, he said. The slow movement of the storm, he said, could help produce quite a bit of snowfall and blizzard-like or blizzard conditions: at least three hours of wind gusts of 35 mph or greater and visibility of less than a quarter of a mile because of snow or blowing snow.

Rockets kill 30 in Ukrainian city of Mariupol; President calls the shelling a terrorist act

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Indiscriminate rocket fire slammed into a market, schools, homes and shops Saturday in Ukraine's southeastern city of Mariupol, killing at least 30 people, authorities said. The Ukrainian president called the blitz a terrorist attack and NATO and the U.S. demanded that Russia stop supporting the rebels.

Ukrainian officials rushed to defend the strategically important port on the Sea of Azov, beefing up military positions with more equipment and sending in more forces.

The separatists' top leader declared that an offensive against Mariupol had begun — then later toned down his threats as the scale of the civilian casualties became clear.

President Petro Poroshenko held an emergency meeting of his military officials and cut short a trip to Saudi Arabia to coordinate the government's response.

"The time has come to name their sponsors. The help given to militants, weapons deliveries, equipment and the training of manpower — is this not aiding terrorism?" Poroshenko said in a recorded statement.

In early pitch for Iowa caucus support, possible GOP candidates compete for attention at forum

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The robust Christian right in early-voting Iowa plays an outsize role in helping determine the Republican presidential nominee, a political reality not lost on the parade of would-be 2016 candidates trying to draw attention at a Saturday gathering of social conservatives.

Govs. Chris Christie of New Jersey and Scott Walker of Wisconsin, former Govs. Rick Perry of Texas and Mike Huckabee of Arkansas, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and many others turned the Iowa Freedom Forum into the unofficial launch of the next campaign for the Iowa caucuses. More than 1,000 religious conservatives met at a refurbished theater to hear them pitch their policies and their values.

Christie may have had the most to gain — or lose — from appearing at the forum. Considered a moderate in some GOP circles and a party establishment choice in others, the New Jersey governor tried to connect with grass-roots conservative activists by assuring them that trust is more important than total agreement.

"If you want a candidate who agrees with you 100 percent of the time, I'll give you a suggestion: Go home and look in the mirror. You are the only person you agree with 100 percent of the time," he said. "You'll always know who I am, you'll always know what I believe and you'll always know where I stand."

To back up his conservative credentials, Christie proclaimed his opposition to gay marriage and abortion rights. He also rejected the idea that Republicans could be competitive in traditionally Democratic states by abandoning opposition to abortion rights. "And I'm living proof," he said.

World Health Organization mulls reforms after bungling Ebola; experts say reputation at stake

GENEVA (AP) — The World Health Organization is debating how to reform itself after botching the response to the Ebola outbreak, a sluggish performance that experts say cost thousands of lives.

On Sunday, WHO's executive board planned to discuss proposals that could radically transform the United Nations health agency in response to sharp criticism over its handling of the West Africa epi-

demic.

"The Ebola outbreak points to the need for urgent change," said Dr. Margaret Chan, WHO's director-general. She acknowledged that WHO was too slow to grasp the significance of the Ebola outbreak, which is estimated to have killed more than 8,600 people, mainly in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Critics say the kinds of reform being debated are long overdue.

"The groundswell of dissatisfaction and lack of trust in WHO over Ebola has reached such a crescendo that unless there is fundamental reform, I think we might lose confidence in WHO for a generation," said Lawrence Gostin, director of the WHO Collaborating Center on Public Health Law and Human Rights at Georgetown University.

GOP pursues state legislation limiting gay rights before Supreme Court rules on gay marriage

ATLANTA (AP) — A Texas lawmaker would strip the salaries from government officials who honor same-sex marriage licenses.

Other states would protect government officials who opt out of performing gay nuptials.

In Georgia, where lawmakers are considering a bill that critics fear could allow businesses to discriminate against gay customers, the former head of the country's largest Protestant denomination recently urged lawmakers to rein in "erotic liberty."

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in April and could decide by June whether gay couples can marry, and national opinion polls show U.S. voters increasingly unopposed to gay rights. Yet lawmakers in a handful of states are backing longshot legislation targeting gay rights, doubling down on the culture wars. Most, if not all, of the efforts are led by Republicans.

The bills are more political theatre than serious policy. Few seem to have widespread support among lawmakers, and senior Republicans are not adopting these efforts as their own. In Georgia, well-funded business groups oppose them.

Possible GOP candidates pitch ideas at conservative forum **THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press**

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The robust Christian right in early-voting Iowa plays an outsized role in helping determine the Republican presidential nominee, a political reality not lost on the parade of would-be 2016 candidates trying to draw attention at a Saturday gathering of social conservatives.

Govs. Chris Christie of New Jersey and Scott Walker of Wisconsin, former Govs. Rick Perry of Texas and Mike Huckabee of Arkansas, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and many others turned the Iowa Freedom Forum into the unofficial launch of the next campaign for the Iowa caucuses. More than 1,000 religious conservatives met at a refurbished theater to hear them pitch their policies and their values.

Christie may have had the most to gain — or lose — from appearing at the forum. Considered a moderate in some GOP circles and a party establishment choice in others, the New Jersey governor tried to connect with grass-roots conservative activists by assuring them that trust is more important than total agreement.

"If you want a candidate who agrees with you 100 percent of the time, I'll give you a suggestion: Go home and look in the mirror. You are the only person you agree with 100 percent of the time," he said. "You'll always know who I am, you'll always know what I believe and you'll always know where I stand."

To back up his conservative credentials, Christie proclaimed his opposition to gay marriage and abor-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 184 ♦ 26 of 28

tion rights. He also rejected the idea that Republicans could be competitive in traditionally Democratic states by abandoning opposition to abortion rights. "And I'm living proof," he said.

In his remarks, Cruz cited the Bible as he challenged caucus participants to back only presidential candidates with a proven conservative track record. "You know what," he said, "talk is cheap. The word tells us you shall know them by their fruits ... Look every candidate in the eye and say 'Don't talk, show me.'"

While he criticized President Barack Obama's foreign policy and other actions, Huckabee warned about the dangers of intraparty fighting. "We don't need to spend the next two years beating each other up in the conservative tent. We need to tell America what's right with this country," he said.

Perry also pointed to the end of the Obama administration: "I got a feeling that after six years of disappointment, of mediocrity and decline, a slow course correction is not what voters are going to be looking for in 2016."

Walker promoted his administration's enactment of voter identification, concealed carry handgun and abortion restriction legislation — all red-meat issues to the conservative audience. For many Republicans, he is best known for beating back a recall effort and then winning re-election.

"You see, I think that sends a powerful message to Republicans in Washington and around the country that if you're not afraid to go big and go bold you can actually get results," Walker said.

Rick Santorum, the former senator from Pennsylvania who won the 2012 Iowa caucuses, said the GOP needs to do a better job convincing working Americans that Republicans are on their side.

"We don't win because too many people don't think we care about them. We have to show them not just by saying we do, but by having policies and a message where they can see it and feel it in us," Santorum said as he called for lower taxes, less regulation and stronger family values.

The forum's sponsor, Rep. Steve King of Iowa, opened the event by asking the crowd, "Do you believe that the next president of the United States is going to be speaking to you today?" The audience erupted in applause and King responded, "As do I."

Among others speaking at the forum were businesswoman Carly Fiorina, Dr. Ben Carson, former vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin and real estate mogul and reality TV star Donald Trump. Missing were two possible candidates considered leading contenders for the nomination: former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and the party's 2012 nominee, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

Trump let it be known that he didn't think much of the pair. "You can't have Romney. He choked," Trump said. "You can't have Bush. The last thing we need is another Bush."

In addition to Bush and Romney, also absent from the lineup were Sens. Rand Paul of Kentucky and Marco Rubio of Florida. A forum by King, a hardline conservative who has been particularly vocal about opposing immigration reform, could push some would-be candidates further to the right than they want to go on immigration, education, foreign policy and other issues.

King's record of harsh rhetoric toward immigrants in the U.S. illegally drew protesters to his event. Several were escorted out of the forum by police after chanting "If you become president, will you deport our families?" during speeches by Perry and Christie. Amid the interruption, Christie asked the audience, "Don't they know I'm from New Jersey?"

Few political observers would predict Christie, better known nationally for his union and budget battles, to emerge as the favorite among Iowa's evangelical voters. Yet his appearance Saturday could allow him to make inroads with a group focused as much on ideological purity as defeating the Democrat nominated to follow Obama.

Christie reached beyond many of the others who served up only popular partisan lines Saturday. He called for a second American century, where conservative economic principles and compassion meet.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 184 ♦ 27 of 28

"We're here to create that America," he said. "You don't do it by pandering. You don't do it by telling people what they want to hear. You do it by telling them the truth."

As an example, Christie said supporting life, the term conservatives use for opposing abortion, means caring for people who become drug-addicted or convicted of crimes.

"Those lives have value, too," he said, prompting a ripple of applause.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Jan. 25, the 25th day of 2015. There are 340 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 25, 1915, America's first official transcontinental telephone call took place as Alexander Graham Bell, who was in New York, spoke to his former assistant, Thomas Watson, who was in San Francisco, over a line set up by American Telephone & Telegraph.

On this date:

In 1533, England's King Henry VIII secretly married his second wife, Anne Boleyn, who later gave birth to Elizabeth I.

In 1890, reporter Nellie Bly (Elizabeth Cochrane) of the New York World completed a round-the-world journey in 72 days, 6 hours and 11 minutes. The United Mine Workers of America was founded in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1915, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Coppage v. Kansas*, upheld the right of employers to bar employees from belonging to labor unions by making them sign a "yellow dog contract."

In 1924, the first Winter Olympic Games opened in Chamonix (SHAH'-moh-nee), France.

In 1945, the World War II Battle of the Bulge ended as German forces were pushed back to their original positions. Grand Rapids, Michigan, became the first community to add fluoride to its public water supply.

In 1947, American gangster Al Capone died in Miami Beach, Florida, at age 48.

In 1955, the Soviet Union formally ended its state of war with Germany.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy held the first presidential news conference to be carried live on radio and television.

In 1971, Charles Manson and three women followers were convicted in Los Angeles of murder and conspiracy in the 1969 slayings of seven people, including actress Sharon Tate. Idi Amin seized power in Uganda by ousting President Milton Obote (oh-BOH'-tay) in a military coup.

In 1981, the 52 Americans held hostage by Iran for 444 days arrived in the United States.

In 1990, an Avianca Boeing 707 ran out of fuel and crashed in Cove Neck, Long Island, New York; 73 of the 158 people aboard were killed. Actress Ava Gardner died in London at age 67.

In 1995, the U.S. and Norway launched a Black Brant rocket carrying equipment to study the aurora borealis, startling Russian officials who wondered at first if the rocket was an incoming Trident missile. (Russian President Boris Yeltsin reportedly was given his "nuclear briefcase" for possible retaliation before realizing there was no threat.)

Ten years ago: A videotape showed Roy Hallums, an American kidnapped in Baghdad the previous November, pleading for his life. (Hallums was rescued by coalition troops on Sept. 7, 2005.) A stampede during a Hindu festival in western India killed some 300 people. Architect Philip Johnson died in New Canaan, Connecticut, at age 98.

Five years ago: Iraq hanged Ali Hassan al-Majid (ah-LEE' hah-SAHN' ahl mah-ZHEED'), known as

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, January 25, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 184 ♦ 28 of 28

"Chemical Ali" for his role in gassing 5,000 people in a Kurdish village. An Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 crashed into the Mediterranean after taking off from Beirut in a fierce thunderstorm; all 90 people aboard were killed. Director James Cameron's sci-fi spectacle "Avatar" overtook his shipwreck saga "Titanic" to become the world's highest-grossing film.

One year ago: Two brothers, 60-year-old Garrick Hopkins and 61-year-old Carl Hopkins, were shot to death south of Barboursville, West Virginia, as they toured land that Garrick Hopkins and his wife had purchased; Rodney Black faces two counts of first-degree murder. A gunman opened fire at a shopping mall in suburban Baltimore, killing two skate shop employees, 21-year-old Brianna Benlolo and 25-year-old Tyler Johnson; shooter Darion Aguilar then killed himself. On the third anniversary of Egypt's 2011 uprising, giant crowds danced at government-backed rallies and security forces crushed demonstrations by rival Islamists and some secular activists. Li Na beat Dominika Cibulkova 7-6 (3), 6-0 in the Australian Open final. The Anaheim Ducks beat the Los Angeles Kings 3-0 at Dodger Stadium in the NHL's first warm-weather outdoor game. Morris "Morrie" Turner, 90, creator of the "Wee Pals" comic strip and the first African-American cartoonist to be syndicated nationally, died in Sacramento, California.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Gregg Palmer is 88. Actor Dean Jones is 84. Country singer Claude Gray is 83. Movie director Tobe Hooper is 72. Actress Leigh Taylor-Young is 70. Actress Jenifer (cq) Lewis is 58. Actress Dinah Manoff is 57. Country musician Mike Burch (River Road) is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kina is 46. Actress China Kantner is 44. Actress Ana Ortiz is 44. Musician Matt Odmark (OHD'-mark) (Jars of Clay) is 41. Actress Mia Kirshner is 40. Actress Christine Lakin is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Alicia (ah-LEE'-shuh) Keys is 34. Actor Michael Trevino (TV: "The Vampire Diaries") is 30. Pop musician Calum Hood (5 Seconds to Summer) is 19.

Thought for Today: "The telephone, which interrupts the most serious conversations and cuts short the most weighty observations, has a romance of its own." - Virginia Woolf, English author (1882-1941).