

Groton Daily Independent

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The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

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

FOR RENT

Attached garage.

Major appliances included.

\$700 per month

Roger: 605/397-7118

Today

Birthdays: Emilie Thurston, Emily Thompson, Madison Thurston, Rayelle Ulvog, Todd Thurston

Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, 3-bean salad, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Cheese omlet, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Meatballs, oven potato, California blend vegetables, fruit, bread sticks.

9:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran India Circle

2:00 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Nigeria Circle

Friday

Birthdays: Jacob Tewksbury, Jake Unzen, Shawna Tunby

Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, coleslaw, frosted brownie.

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

School Lunch: Soft shell taco, sweet tots, fruit.

Double header at Hamlin (4 p.m. Girls JV and C games, 5 p.m. Boys JV and C games, Girls Varsity at 6:30, Boys Varsity at 8:00)

Saturday

Birthdays: Bailey Ronning, Cassie Ackman, Gary Voss

Robotics at Mitchell

Double Header hosts Warner (Girls JV at 2 p.m., Boys JV at 3 p.m., Girls Varsity at 4:30 p.m., Boys Varsity at 6:00 p.m.)



www.harrmotors.com

605-225-3078 ~ 1-800-658-3463

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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GO SOLAR

and Eliminate
your Electric Bills!



CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY

For billing and service inquiries, call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Date of Bill Prepared February 21

Old Bill: \$225

New Bill: -\$3.84

TOTAL SAVINGS: \$228.84

Your Account Summary	
Amount of your last level pay plan (LLP) bill	\$225.00
Payment received on Feb 04 12 - thank you	-\$225.00
Balance	
Your LLP	
Total amount	

CITY ELECTRIC COMPANY

For billing and service inquiries, call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Date of Bill Prepared April 21

Your Account Summary	
Amount owed from previous billing	-\$28.90
Credit balance	-\$28.90
	\$3.84
Your new charges	
Do not pay. Your account has a credit balance	\$11.84
Total Savings	\$228.84

HOMEOWNERS!
IF YOU PAY \$100+/mo. YOU CAN SAVE BIG!

ASK ABOUT THE 1-YEAR NO PAYMENT OPTION!

Sample savings only.
Actual rates and savings will vary by customer.



FREE EVALUATION! **800-513-0369**



*Offer valid for qualified customers upon credit approval. Restrictions may apply. Offer details may vary by location. Call for details.

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Groton Kiwanis Club

Mike Ehresmann was program leader for Kiwanis Club on February 4. Mike introduced Dale and Joyce Grenz, who showed slides and spoke of their recent trip to India. Their daughter, Julia, is a missionary there, where she lives and works in a childrens school. The president announced that May 4 is the annual GHS athletic banquet. Next week's program leader is Jim Ackman, followed Steve Giedt and Lee Schinkel.

Groton Prairie Mixed

Team Standings: Jackelopes 16, Coyotes 15, Foxes 15, Killer Chihuahuas 13 ½, Pocket Gophers 13, Chipmunks 11 ½

Men's High Games: Roger Spanier 234, Mike Siegler 212, Brad Larson 209, Doug Jorgensen 206, Brad Waage 205

Women's High Games: Dar Larson 182, Vicki Jorgensen 177, Vicki Walter 174

Men's High Series: Brad Waage 560, Roger Spanier 554, Doug Jorgensen 546

Women's High Series: Dar Larson 493, Vicki Walter 463, Vicki Jorgensen 442

Governor Signs First Bill Of Legislative Session Into Law

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard today signed the first bill of the 2015 Legislative Session into law. The piece of legislation, Senate Bill 28, authorizes the Board of Regents to sell a parcel of property on the South Dakota State University campus to the City of Brookings.

The piece of property referenced in the bill was given to the university to provide rail access to the heating plant and has not been used for 35 years.

The bill contains an emergency clause to allow the Board of Regents to sell property in Fiscal Year 2015. Once the land has been sold, the proceeds from the sale will be credited to the university.

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.

Concessions

Manager Wanted

The Groton Area School District is seeking qualified applicants for a concessions manager for the 2015-2016 school year. Salary is \$50/event plus commission. Information and applications are available at www.grotonarea.com.



FREE

truffle with all Valentines Day orders placed before Feb 7th - truffle will be delivered with order.

- *Custom fresh flower arrangements
- *Chocolates
- *Wine, snack, coffee gift baskets
- *Balloons & stuffed animals
- *Jewelry
- *Luxury Lotions, perfumes, and soaps

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Groton, Aberdeen and
surrounding communities.

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www.oldebankfloral.com



5 Tax-Saving Strategies To Help Your Family This Tax Season

Overlooked Deductions May Cost You Thousands

Millions of Americans face a challenge in meeting their budgets every month – not just financially, but also in their time budgets, says investment advisor Reid Abedeen.

“Knowledge is power and time is often money, but what if you don’t have the time to empower yourself with knowledge? For many households, that often means losing out on thousands of dollars through tax deductions,” says Abedeen, a partner at Safeguard Investment Advisory Group, LLC (www.safeguardinvestment.com).

“As a family man myself, I understand what it means to work hard to provide the best possible for my wife and children. Had I not worked in the financial sector for almost two decades, I might not have understood how to best troubleshoot my tax return, I sympathize.”

Abedeen offers the following strategies that may be relevant for your family this tax season.

- Take tax deductions for capital loss. If your capital losses exceed your capital gains, the excess can be deducted on your tax return and used to reduce other income, such as wages, up to an annual limit of \$3,000, or \$1,500 if you are married filing separately. However, you may deduct capital losses only on investment property, not on property held for personal use.

- Fund your retirement to the max. You can contribute up to \$5,500 to an IRA in tax-year 2014, or \$6,500 if you are age 50 or older. Workers in the 25 percent tax bracket who contributed \$5,500 to an IRA would save \$1,375 on their 2014 tax bills. You’ll want to check your eligibility and understand the deadline for the 2014 deduction. If you make a deposit between Jan. 1 and April 15, you need to tell the financial institution which year the contribution is for.

- Advisory fees are tax-deductible. Don’t feel like spending money to save and make money? There’s a workaround. Before closing the door on the possibility, inquire with a financial expert. Most are happy to give a free initial consultation, and you don’t have to be a millionaire to make it worth your while.

- Gift assets to children. You don’t even have to file a gift tax return on an asset that’s valued less than \$12,000, which is not taxable. If the fair market value of the gifted asset is more than \$12,000 per person per year, but less than \$1 million, there is the requirement of filing a gift tax return, but you won’t be taxed. The gift still is not income taxable to the recipient.

- Deduct a home-based office when used for your employer. If space in your home is used exclusively and regularly for a trade, you can count that as a deductible. Calculate the square footage of your home office and divide the area of your office by the area of your house. If the percentage is 14 percent, for example, that represents the percentage of your total home expenses that can be allocated toward the home office deduction. For further questions, consult a professional.

“You’ll want to be very vigilant regarding these details of these deductions,” Abedeen says. “For any questions, I seriously recommend consulting a professional.”

About Reid Abedeen

Reid Abedeen is a partner at Safeguard Investment Advisory Group, LLC (www.safeguardinvestment.com). As an investment advisor, Abedeen has helped retirees for nearly two decades with issues such as insurance, long-term care planning, financial services, asset protection and many other areas. He holds California Life-Only and Accident and Health licenses (#0C78700), and holds a Series 65 license, and is registered through the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Abedeen is a family man who owes much of his fulfillment in life to his wife, Smyrna, and his three children, Yusef, Leena and Adam.

2014 South Dakota Miss Volleyball

Class B - Ashley Rozell, Warner

Class A - Lindsey Smith, Dakota Valley

Class AA - Taryn Kloth, SF O'Gorman

These exceptional athletes will receive their awards at the All-Star volleyball match in Aberdeen in July.

Local Angus Breeder Recognized for Sustained Efforts to Improve Cow Productivity

Michael Erdmann, Groton, South Dakota, recently re-enrolled in the American Angus Association®'s MaternalPlus® program as a commitment to making genetic improvements in lifetime cow herd productivity. Breeders participating in MaternalPlus are keenly focused to better evaluate herd reproductive performance, the number one profit driver in the cow-calf industry.

MaternalPlus is a voluntary, inventory-based reporting system that collects additional reproductive trait data to provide Angus breeders and their customers the information they need to make effective selection decisions. To date, more than 50 breeders have completed MaternalPlus enrollment.

The program allows producers to capture cow herd and reproductive performance data; gain faster access to preweaning EPDs as a selection tool; characterize females through heifer pregnancy EPDs tied directly to herd genetics; expand new trait development for Angus reproductive and longevity measures; and streamline their ability to track heifer and cow reproductive records through AAA Login.

In addition, MaternalPlus lays the groundwork for selection tools related to cow longevity in the herd. Gathering these records will allow the Association to cultivate research related to cow herd productivity and make improvements similar to what the Angus breed has witnessed in other economically relevant traits.

Lawson Angus joins membership of American Angus Association

Lawson Angus, Groton, South Dakota, is a new member of the American Angus Association®, reports Bryce Schumann, CEO of the national breed organization headquartered in Saint Joseph, Mo.

The American Angus Association, with nearly 24,000 active adult and junior members, is the largest beef breed association in the world. Its computerized records include detailed information on more than 17 million registered Angus.

The Association records ancestral information, keeps production records on individual animals, and develops industry-leading selection tools for its members. These programs and services help members select and mate the best animals in their herds to produce quality genetics for the beef cattle industry and quality beef for consumers.

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90th Birthday

Doraine Green of Groton will celebrate her 90th Birthday on February 14 from 2 – 4 pm at the Groton Community Center. Greetings may be sent to 41048 124th St. Groton, SD 57445. The honoree requests no gifts



90th Birthday

Marie Gengerke of Groton will celebrate her 90th birthday on Tuesday, Feb. 17th. A card shower is requested. Greetings may be sent to 705 N. Sixth St. #3, Groton SD 57445.

BOWLING

Coffee Cup

Team Standings: Golden Girls 22, Farm Girls 17, James Valley 13, Ten Pins 9, Ken's 7, Jungle Lanes 4.
High Games: Mary Jane Jark 170, Joyce Sanderson 164, Vickie Kramp 164, Joyce Walter 164 and 162, Vicki Walter 160.
High Series: Joyce Sanderson 451, Joyce Walter 439, Alice Severson 437.

Conde National

Team Standings: Braves 12, Giants 11, Mets 10, Colts 7, Pirates 5, Cubs 3.
Men's High Games: Cliff Kuckelburg 253, 228 and 220; John Gellhaus 189, Lance Frohling 184.
Men's High Series: Cliff Kuckelburg 701, Lance Frohling 519, Larry Frohling 478.
Women's High Games: Brianna Kuckelburg 188, Joyce Walter 179, Vickie Kramp 174.
High Series: Joyce Walter 465, Mary Larson 463, Alice Severson 447.

Prairie Mixed

Team Standings: Jackelopes 15, Coyotes 13, Foxes 12, Pocket Gophers 11, Killer Chihuahuas 10½, Chipmunks 10½
Men's High Games: Lance Frohling 211, John Sippel 211, 204, Brad Waage 205, 203
Women's High Games: Darci Spanier 185, Vicki Jorgensen 169, Sue Stanley 168
Men's High Series: Brad Waage 572, John Sippel 572, Lance Frohling 565
Women's High Series: Darci Spanier 489, Dar Larson 484, Sue Stanley 475

Wear Purple to Support South Dakota's Military Families

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Operation Military Kids (OMK) is encouraging South Dakotans to wear something purple on April 15, 2015 in observance of Purple Up! for Military Kids Day! as part of celebrating Month of the Military Child. To make this easy, Purple Up! T-shirts are now available for \$12 at www.iGrow.org/Store.

Why purple you ask? "Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military. Purple is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue" explained Sheila Snyder, SDSU Extension Operation: Military Kids State Coordinator. "OMK's goal is to have a sea of purple all across our state on April 15th, as a tangible salute to these remarkable kids."

Snyder explained that Month of the Military Child is a month long celebration of our brave military kids that began in the early 1980's as a way to thank, honor, and recognize their contributions to our country as a member of a military family.

Governor Dugaard will be asked to sign the Executive Proclamation again this year, making April the Month of the Military Child in South Dakota in 2015.

In addition, OMK will be sending a letter of request to all Mayors' Offices across the state to declare a city-wide proclamation pronouncing April 15th, 2015 "Purple Up! For Military Kids Day."

"This is a great way for communities to demonstrate support for the many military kids in our own communities who have courageously shouldered additional responsibilities and have faced many challenges and struggles while their parent has been deployed," Snyder said.

South Dakota has a tremendous presence of Air Force, Air Guard, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, and even active component Service Members from each of the Armed Forces Components. "With Service Members also come their families - spouse and children, moms and dads, brothers and sisters - that make up our community. In fact, there are approximately 7,500 military kids in our state," Snyder said

Today in Weather History

1978: Another winter blizzard plagued the northern half of the state beginning on February 5th and continuing until the 9th. The unusual aspect of this blizzard was that the wind came from the southeast between 25 to 45 mph. Only one to three inches of new snow accumulation fell during the five-day period but was piled high on the existing large snow drifts. Most of the northern half of the state was paralyzed due to blocked roads. Eighteen counties across the northern part of the state were declared a disaster by the governor. There were also numerous livestock losses.

1887 – San Francisco experienced its greatest snowstorm of record. Nearly four inches was reported in downtown San Francisco, and the western hills of the city received seven inches. Excited crowds went on a snowball throwing rampage.

1887 - San Francisco experienced its greatest snowstorm of record. Nearly four inches was reported in downtown San Francisco, and the western hills of the city received seven inches. Excited crowds went on a snowball throwing rampage. (David Ludlum)

1980 – Lake Placid New York is just a little over one week away from hosting the Winter Olympics and there is only 5 inches of snow on the ground.

1987 - Thunderstorms in the Southern Plains Region caused flooding in parts of south central Texas. Del Rio TX was soaked with two inches of rain in two hours prior to sunrise. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Cold and snow invaded the southern U.S. Roswell NM was buried under 16.5 inches of snow in 24 hours, an all-time record for that location. Parts of the Central Gulf Coast Region reported their first significant snow in fifteen years. Strong winds in Minnesota and the Dakotas produced wind chill readings as cold as 75 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Severe cold gripped much of the nation. Thirty cities reported new record low temperatures for the date. Morning lows of 9 above at Astoria OR and 27 below zero at Ely NV were records for February. In Alaska, Point Barrow warmed to 24 degrees above zero, and Nome reached 30 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - For the second time in two days, and the third time in a week, high winds plagued the northwestern U.S. Winds in Oregon gusted to 60 mph at Cape Disappointment, and wind gusts in Washington State reached 67 mph at Bellingham. The first in a series of cold fronts began to produce heavy snow in the mountains of Washington and Oregon. Ten inches of snow fell at Timberline OR. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


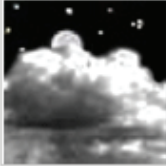





2006 - Mount Washington Observatory in New Hampshire reaches a high of 41°F, the warmest February 5th on record at the summit and two degrees off the monthly mark, where records have been kept since 1932. The Weather Doctor

2008 – The Super Tuesday 2008 Tornado Outbreak has been one of the deadliest tornado outbreaks in the US — with 59 fatalities reported so far, it ranks in the top 15 deadly tornado outbreaks (and the highest number of tornado deaths since 1985). According to the SPC Storm Reports, there were over 300 reports of tornadoes, large hail (up to 4.25 inches in diameter in Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri), and damaging wind gusts from Texas to Ohio and West Virginia. The outbreak produced at least 64 tornadoes, some producing EF-3 and EF-4 damage. [Click HERE](#) for Satellite information.

2010 - A mega-snowstorm, which President Obama dubbed Snowmageddon, buried the Washington D.C. area with more than 30 inches of snow in some areas. At American University in Washington the official snowfall was 27.5 inches. Snowfall totals in the Washington DC area range from a low of 17.9 inches at Ronald Reagan National Airport to 40 inches in the northern suburb of Colesville, MD. Dulles Airport reported 32.4 inches, which established a new two-day snowfall record. The Baltimore-Washington International Airport, MD, measured 24.8 inches from the storm breaking the record for the largest two day snowfall there. It is one of the worst blizzards in the city's history.

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TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY
						
Mostly Sunny High: 27 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 15 °F	Partly Sunny High: 29 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 18 °F	Mostly Cloudy High: 36 °F	Slight Chc Freezing Rain Low: 26 °F	Partly Sunny High: 36 °F



Turning Warmer Today

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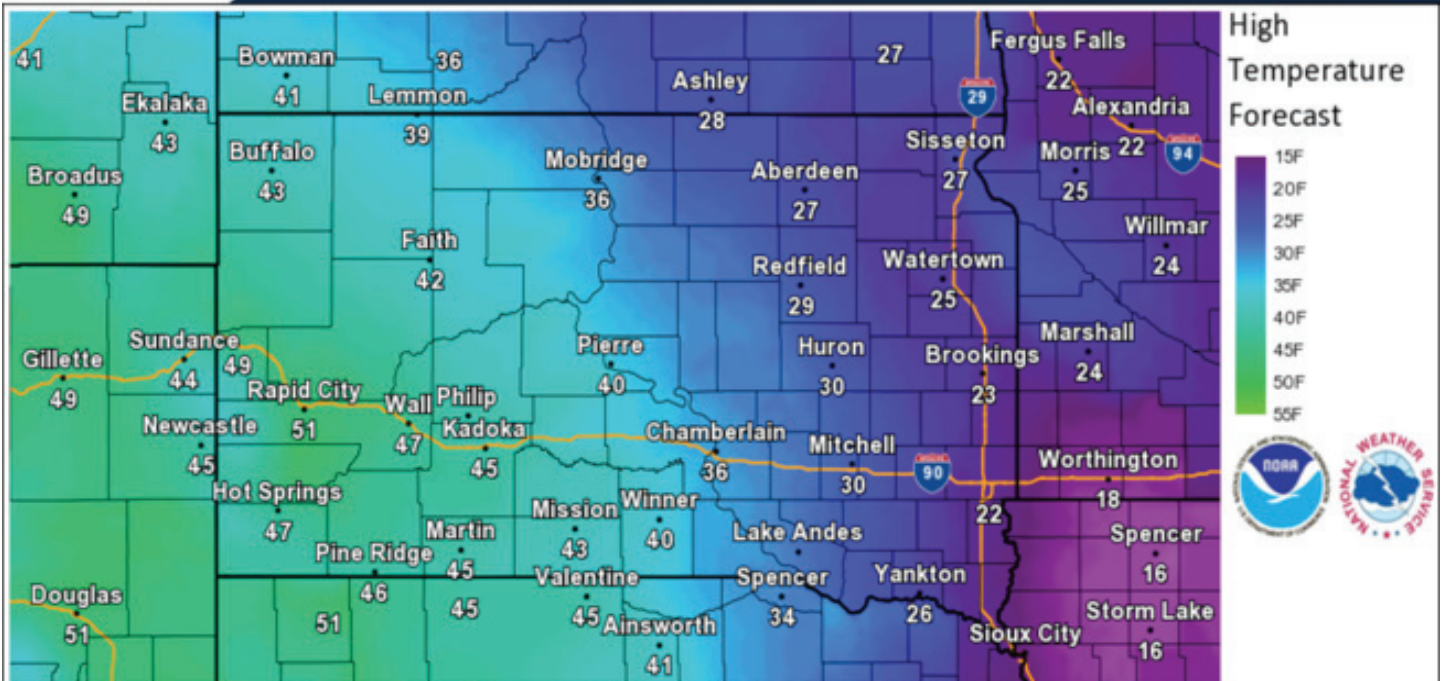
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Valid ending Thursday February 5th, 2015 at 6 PM CST

Created Thursday February 5th, 2015 at 5:15 AM CST

Published on: 02/05/2015 at 5:20AM

Warmer air has arrived and will continue spreading across the region through the end of the week. Central and western South Dakota will benefit the most from the warm up, with highs in the 40s today, and even warmer for Friday and Saturday as readings top out in the 50s and 60s. Across eastern counties, only 20s and 30s are forecast through the end of the week.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 9.3 at 12:02 AM

Low: -8.5 at 9:40 PM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 21 at 10:43 AM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 57° in 1991

Record Low: -36° in 1907

Average High: 25°F

Average Low: 4°F

Average Precip in Feb.: 0.06

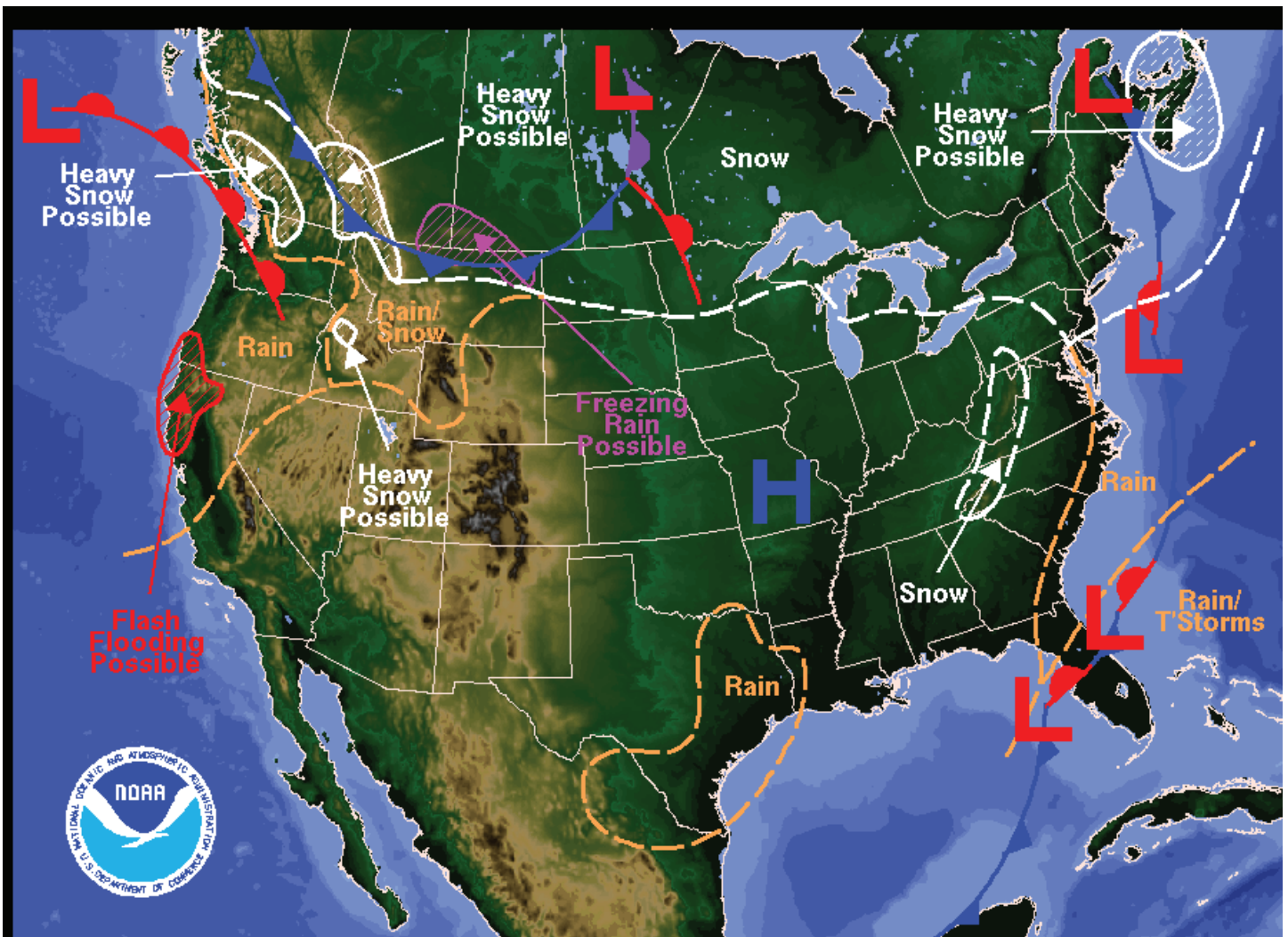
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.53

Precip Year to Date: 0.40

Sunset Tonight: 5:46 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:49 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Feb 05, 2015, issued 2:55 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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FOR GOD'S GLORY

Nearly everyone in our organization had a difficult time working with Gustav. He was born and educated in Germany and continually challenged everyone about any and everything. It was not so much that he thought he was smarter or superior to us, but he relentlessly made everyone think about what they were doing. For him, everything had to have a purpose.

"Why are you doing that?" he would ask. Or "What good will that do?" And, if those questions were not answered to his satisfaction he would ask the ultimate and most difficult question of all, "What's the purpose of what you are doing?" It was like working with small children who asked endless questions because they did not understand what was going on.

Eventually we came to respect "Gus." He forced us to be certain that everything we did had a purpose. If not, we were wasting time that would be lost forever.

"The Lord works out everything for His own ends – even the wicked for a day of disaster," wrote Solomon. Whatever we do and wherever we are is an important part of the plan that God has personally designed for each of us. We must always remember that everything is under God's control. Whatever is is because God allows it. Even evil things done by evil men fit into His plan and purpose. Their deeds are a result of their choices and God will not allow them to escape His judgment or wrath.

Paul explained it well: "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever."

Prayer: Lord, may we be ever mindful that this is Your world. You indeed are Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 16:4 The Lord works out everything to its proper end— even the wicked for a day of disaster.

Mitchell town leaders contemplate allowing chickens in town

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Mitchell's City Council will weigh whether to allow residents to raise chickens in backyards — an issue that has been debated in several South Dakota cities in recent years.

Resident Peggy Miiller asked council members this week to consider the idea, and they agreed to discuss it at their next meeting, on Feb. 16, The Daily Republic reported (<http://bit.ly/1zfPgzW>).

A city ordinance bans ducks, geese, chickens and other domestic fowl from within 100 feet of occupied buildings and all residential areas of the city.

"There are several communities that already allow this opportunity, such as Sioux Falls and Spearfish," Miiller said. "Part of the positives of raising chickens is it can be an educational opportunity for the family, and they provide a food source."

Miiller suggested allowing chickens under certain rules, such as limiting the number to six hens and not allowing roosters, which crow. City leaders in Pierre and Rapid City last year rejected similar proposals over concerns that the birds could be a nuisance for neighbors.

"It's somewhat of a hot issue throughout the state," Mitchell Mayor Ken Tracy said. "About every six months, the mayors of the 16 largest cities in South Dakota get together, and one of the topics that came up during those meetings was the controversy in several cities of chickens within city limits. I guess this doesn't surprise me that we're going to address the issue."

Committee to hear bill to require paid employee sick leave

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A legislative panel is set to consider a measure to require South Dakota businesses to offer employees paid sick leave.

The Senate Commerce and Energy Committee on Thursday is expected to review the proposal.

It would allow employees to accrue an hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours they work once they've been at the company for three months.

Sen. Angie Buhl O'Donnell, a Democrat from Sioux Falls, says paid sick leave is an important public health issue. She says allowing employees to stay home if they are sick is especially important in the face of this year's flu and measles outbreaks.

She says South Dakotans don't want to eat at a restaurant and be confronted with the possibility that a server is at work with the flu.

Panel to mull plan to prohibit female genital mutilation

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A state House committee is expected to review a proposal that would ban female genital mutilation in South Dakota.

The House Health and Human Services on Thursday is scheduled to review the measure to make it a felony to perform such procedures in the state.

Republican Rep. Lynne DiSanto says she's offering the proposal because a group that works with women informed her there's no state law prohibiting genital mutilation.

She says lawmakers need to stand up for vulnerable women and girls and speak out against it. Her bill would also make it a felony for a parent to consent for an underage girl to undergo such procedures even if they occur outside the state.

The proposal says genital mutilation can't be defended as a religious, customary or ritual requirement.

Bill to create elder abuse task force passes House committee

BY KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota officials could better understand the scope of elder abuse in the state by creating a new task force, lawmakers said Wednesday.

The Senate Retirement Laws committee unanimously passed a bill that would create an interim committee dedicated to studying the prevalence of financial, physical and emotional abuse.

The bill was spurred by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court David Gilbertson, who urged lawmakers to focus on the issue in his State of the Judiciary speech this year.

Gilbertson said Wednesday that this is the second time he's pushed for action on the issue, having talked about in his annual address three years ago. Since then, he said, he has continued to hear of cases of financial elder abuse — like fraud, coercion and scams — and the state needs to study the problem to so it can start correcting it.

"And then when you know how big the problem is, you can say, 'OK, what are we going to do about it?'"

At Wednesday's committee hearing, lawmakers and various state agencies and organizations backed the bill, from the attorney general's office to the South Dakota branch of the AARP.

"The more we talk about it, the more we're going to find out we do have this problem in the state," said Sen. David Novstrup, a Republican from Aberdeen who's sponsoring the bill.

Gilbertson said while emotional and physical abuse are serious issues, he has primarily heard anecdotally about financial abuse. Three years ago, he polled circuit judges and found that half had seen financial abuse cases in their courts.

Gilbertson also estimated that the vast majority of financial abuse cases involve relatives, not phone or internet scams — although he noted those do happen.

"The bulk of the problem is misguided or nefarious family members ripping off mom or grandma," he said.

In states like Washington, he said, the government more closely scrutinizes when citizens become legal guardians of the elderly. He said South Dakota needs better regulation to protect vulnerable adults.

"If you're on a joint account with a senior citizen and an adult child, the adult child can simply cash out the joint account and clean it out," he said. "And there's no regulation of that whatsoever in this state."

Prosecutor describes commune leader's reign at murder trial

ROXANA HEGEMAN, Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — A self-proclaimed seer convinced young mothers to leave their families and join him in a communal lifestyle where they lived off the insurance payouts from its dead members, a prosecutor told jurors Wednesday.

Opening statements in the trial of Daniel U. Perez outlined the group's wanderings over a 15-year span that crossed several states and even Mexico, marked by sexual violence and the deaths of six people.

Perez, 55, is charged with first-degree premeditated murder in the 2003 drowning death of 26-year-old Patricia Hughes at Angels' Landing, the group's compound in the Wichita suburb of Valley Center. He also is charged with rape, sodomy, criminal threat, lying on life insurance applications, making false statements on credit applications and sexual exploitation of a child.

Deputy District Attorney Kim Parker told jurors Perez convinced young mothers that he could see the

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future. He claimed he was 100 years old and had survived because of sexual relations with young girls.

"These girls feared him and believed his stories about his age, his seer capabilities," Parker said. "Because when in fact he said to them, 'If I want somebody dead, they will be,' — in their observations that is exactly what happened."

Perez is charged only in Hughes' death, but prosecutors laid out a pattern of seemingly accidental deaths whenever the group — which lived a lavish communal lifestyle — was running low on funds. The dead members left large insurance policies naming others in the group as beneficiaries; Hughes had a \$1.25 million policy.

Among the other deaths was a 2001 plane crash that killed a group member, her boyfriend and her 12-year-old daughter. Hughes' husband was killed in 2006 when a carjack failed and he was crushed. A 2008 traffic accident killed another group member who had legal custody of Hughes' orphaned daughter.

Defense attorney Alice Osburn told jurors Perez did not kill Hughes and that the other deaths of commune members were coincidental and thoroughly investigated. She noted the group shared as a family the \$4 million in insurance payments, and Perez did "not get a dime" as beneficiary.

She portrayed the commune as an "open home" where people had the freedom to do what they wanted to do.

Hughes and Perez were best friends who had known each other since they were little, Osburn said. Hughes moved in with him in 1996 and helped him after Perez fled before sentencing in a child sex case in Beesville, Texas, which his attorney contends he did not commit.

"Patricia was the matriarch of this group, she got it started," Osburn said. "She befriended the women. She is the catalyst for everything."

Investigators initially believed Hughes drowned while trying to rescue her 2-year-old daughter from a swimming pool.

But in 2011, a woman who had been 12 years old at the time of Hughes' death told investigators the drowning had been staged. She said during a pretrial hearing that Hughes kissed her daughter goodbye and reassured another child that she would return from the dead.

The woman, whom The Associated Press isn't identifying because she says she is a victim of sexual assault, has said Perez and Hughes told her to wait with Hughes' daughter. She said she heard a splash and a scream, and that Perez's forearms were wet and he was out of breath. He told her to wait 20 minutes before going to the pool and getting into it with the toddler.

The woman also said he told her to then call the police and tell investigators Hughes fell and hit her head while trying to rescue her daughter.

Osburn tried to cast doubt on the claims of group members, saying they didn't come forward with accusations until authorities began investigating the group.

Sioux Falls Police: Only 1 unsolved murder in last 10 years

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Sioux Falls police department has investigated and solved all but one homicide over the last decade.

The department released its crime statistics for 2014 on Wednesday. Sioux Falls Police solved all six of the homicides committed last year. Nationally, only 64 percent of murder cases are solved.

There have been 48 homicides in the city over the last 10 years.

Captain Blaine Larsen says the death of Daniel Eastman is the only homicide since 2004 to go unsolved. Eastman was a homeless man who was found stabbed in the stomach in August of 2011. He

died three months later.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens also says the department's clearance rate of serious crimes — like rape, robbery and aggravated assault — also beat the national average.

Senate committee passes plan authorizing new Deadwood games

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Supporters of allowing three new voter-approved games in Deadwood were successful in convincing a Senate panel that authorizing keno, craps and roulette in the historic mountain town is the will of South Dakota voters.

The Senate State Affairs Committee on Wednesday approved 7-1 a proposal to allow the games in Deadwood. It was the measure's first stop in the Legislature after 57 percent of voters in November approved constitutional Amendment Q, which gave the Legislature the authority to implement the new games.

Advocates say the games are crucial to prop up Deadwood's flat gambling revenue and keep it competitive with other nearby gambling hotspots such as Colorado and Iowa. They also argue that the majority of South Dakota residents support their efforts.

"We are losing business to those nearby states that already offer craps, roulette and keno," Deadwood Mayor Chuck Turbiville told the committee. "We certainly thank the citizens of South Dakota for their 25 years of support of Deadwood gaming (and) thank the voters for their overwhelming positive response to allow Deadwood to offer these additional gaming options."

Turbiville said the new games are part of the city's broader revitalization efforts for its visitor industry, and he highlighted Deadwood's contribution to state and local tax revenue.

Caleb Arceneaux, CEO of Liv Hospitality, which manages Cadillac Jack's Gaming Resort and Tin Lizzie Gaming Resort, said that Deadwood's casinos need to diversify their offerings to compete nationally.

He said consumers can easily hop on a cheap flight or take a short drive to access the games, which gamblers are increasingly asking for.

But opponents argued that new gambling provokes addictions and causes social and financial problems for families in South Dakota. Ron Walker, pastor at the Little White Church in Hill City, said gambling can lead to suicide, homelessness and domestic violence.

"Gambling has torn the fabric of the society of our state, and (this bill) will tear it further," Walker told the committee. "Protect the citizens of our state from this scourge."

Some members of the committee said they recognized opponents' concerns. But, Sen. Dan Lederman said South Dakota voters cast their ballots to approve the games for Deadwood.

"I think it would be out of line for this committee to reject that decision made by the people," he said.

Advocates were adamant that allowing the three games doesn't represent an expansion of gambling in Deadwood. The bill would tuck keno, craps and roulette into existing law, which imposes a 30-game cap per casino retail license. So if an operator was at that ceiling, they would have to sub out a different machine or game.

"This is not an expansion of gaming. One device goes in, one device has to come out," Arceneaux said in the hearing, adding afterward: "It's the will of the people."

Republicans reject Democrat-backed ethics commission plan

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The Republican-dominated state House of Representatives has rejected Democrats' calls to restore the South Dakota Ethics Commission in response to South Dakota's investment-for-visa scandal.

The House voted down 53-16 on Wednesday a measure requesting that the commission repealed in

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1979 be re-established. Democratic Rep. Shawn Bordeaux said the state has a "big black eye," referring to South Dakota's EB-5 scandal.

The EB-5 program recruits wealthy immigrant investors for projects in exchange for green cards, and concerns about former Gov. Mike Rounds' management of the program hounded him during his successful U.S. Senate campaign.

State House Republicans argue that establishing the commission would be unnecessary. Republican Rep. Justin Cronin says that exhaustive legislative hearings about the visa program prove that lawmakers acted swiftly to examine the allegations and found little wrongdoing.

Jackrabbits Football picks up 21 on National Signing Day

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota State University has signed 21 athletes to the Jackrabbits football program.

The Football Championship Subdivision school made the announcement Wednesday on national signing day. Five of the 21 signees are from South Dakota high schools.

In all, the recruits come from high schools in eight states: South Dakota, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Florida, Indiana, Nebraska and Colorado.

Panel passes plans to raise South Dakota legislator salaries

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers could be in line for their first pay raise in more than 15 years under measures that would also make legislators eligible for the same raises applied to other state workers' salaries.

The House State Affairs Committee on Wednesday unanimously approved several proposals related to legislator pay, which lawmakers noted is among the lowest in the country.

"It kind of calls attention to where we're at with our salary," said Republican Rep. Roger Solum of Watertown, who sits on the committee.

Legislators' pay was last raised in 1998, and lawmaker pay hadn't been increased for a decade before then. Current legislator salaries are set at \$6,000 per regular legislative session — or \$12,000 for a two-year term — plus \$129 per legislative day for living expenses in the 2015 session.

Two of the proposals work in tandem by saying lawmakers can be paid more than \$6,000-per-session and applying across-the-board pay increases for public workers to legislative salaries too.

Republican Rep. Jim Bolin of Canton, who sponsored the measures, said higher salaries would attract more diverse candidates to run for office. He said the types of candidates who typically campaign for the South Dakota Legislature are farmers who aren't as busy in the winter months, young people without family responsibilities, residents who are independently wealthy, retirees and those for whom salary isn't a consideration.

Officers such as the governor and the secretary of state, plus Supreme Court justices and circuit judges, get pay raises in line with the bumps approved by the Legislature for state employees during the appropriations process.

"South Dakota has one of the lowest paid Legislature's in the country," Bolin said. "It's just a situation where we're going to be treated like every other state employee."

The committee also passed a measure from House Majority Leader Brian Gosch to allow lawmakers to get salary and reimbursement for attending the inauguration of constitutional officers and the governor's budget address.

Bison sign on 26 athletes for football program

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Four-time defending Football Championship Subdivision champion North Dakota State has signed 26 athletes to the Bison program.

The school made the announcement Wednesday on national signing day. Half of the incoming players are on offense and half on defense.

The recruits come from high schools in nine states: North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, California and Florida. Minnesota and Wisconsin recruits account for nearly two-thirds of the new players.

Eagle Butte woman pleads guilty to murder in child's death

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — An Eagle Butte woman accused of killing a toddler by kicking him in the head has pleaded guilty to a second-degree murder charge.

Twenty-one-year-old Jordyn Blue Coat was accused of angrily kicking a 20-month-old child she was caring for last October, when the boy got ahold of a dirty diaper and made a mess.

Authorities say the kick pushed the child's head into a TV stand. The child lost consciousness and died in a Rapid City hospital the next day.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says Blue Coat also is known as Jordyn Swan. She could face up to life in prison when sentenced on April 27.

2nd South Dakota brother sentenced in child rape case

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The second of two western South Dakota brothers accused of raping a girl younger than 10 more than a decade ago has been sentenced.

Twenty-seven-year-old Blake Klynsmas, of Rapid City, pleaded guilty to third-degree rape last November and on Tuesday was given a 15-year suspended prison sentence, 10 years of probation and about six months on electronic monitoring.

Judge Robert Gusinsky said a plea for mercy from the victim in the case was an important factor in his decision.

Klynsmas's brother, 30-year-old David Klynsmas, of Spearfish, pleaded guilty last June to having sexual contact with a child and was sentenced to about six months in jail and 7 ½ years of probation.

Mom accused of leaving kids to die to get mental health exam

BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A judge has ordered a mental health examination for a woman accused of leaving her 2- and 4-year-old daughters to die in a remote area of northwestern North Dakota.

U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland said in his order dated Tuesday that there is reasonable cause to believe Michelle Wounded Face is "suffering from a mental disease or deficit." She will spend up to a month being examined — likely in a federal Bureau of Prisons medical facility in Rochester, Minnesota — after which Hovland will hold a hearing on her mental condition.

Wounded Face, 24, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, has been living on the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota. She is accused of abandoning her daughters in a car for more than three hours on Jan. 3, in bitterly cold weather. They survived.

Wounded Face acknowledged during an interview that she had left the children in the car to die, FBI

Special Agent Megan Bennett said in an affidavit. Both the prosecution and defense also have said in court documents that Wounded Face has exhibited odd behavior, from drinking toilet water to claiming to be the daughter of gods.

Wounded Face faces a child abuse charge that carries a maximum punishment of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Assistant Federal Public Defender Ryan Costello in late January said Wounded Face would rely on an insanity defense and asked the federal court to release her from custody so she could pursue an evaluation and treatment at the State Hospital in Jamestown. Costello requested a court-ordered exam less than a week later after the State Hospital refused to accept Wounded Face as a voluntary committal.

State Hospital officials did not immediately respond to an Associated Press request for comment Wednesday on the reason for their decision.

Prosecutors did not object to the court-ordered mental health exam. Hovland's order said it will help determine whether Wounded Face is mentally competent to stand trial, and whether she was insane at the time of the alleged crime.

1st director of vocational education in South Dakota dies

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Funeral services have been held for a man who helped launch South Dakota's four technical schools.

George Boom Funeral Home says Emmett "Ike" Oleson died Friday in Sioux Falls, at the age of 90. His funeral was Tuesday in Springfield.

Oleson's death came 50 years after he began work as South Dakota's first director of vocational education. He retired in 1989.

State Sen. Ried Holien tells the Rapid City Journal that Oleson was "a gentleman who never sought the spotlight."

Hackers infiltrate insurer Anthem, access customer details

TOM MURPHY, AP Business Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Health insurer Anthem said hackers infiltrated its computer network and gained access to a host of personal information for customers and employees, including CEO Joseph Swedish.

The nation's second-largest health insurer said it was contacting customers affected by the "very sophisticated" cyberattack and was working to figure out how many people were affected.

The company said information the hackers gained access to included names, birthdates, email address, employment details, Social Security numbers, incomes and street addresses of people who are currently covered or have had coverage in the past.

The Indianapolis-based insurer said credit card information wasn't compromised, and it has yet to find evidence that medical information such as insurance claims and test results was targeted or obtained.

Anthem Inc., which recently changed its name from WellPoint, runs Blue Cross Blue Shield plans in more than a dozen states, including California, New York and Ohio. It covers more than 37 million people.

The insurer said all of its product lines were affected. It sells mainly private individual and group health insurance, plans on the health care overhaul's public insurance exchanges and Medicare and Medicaid coverage. It also offers life insurance and dental and vision coverage.

Affected brands include Anthem Blue Cross, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Amerigroup.

Anthem said Wednesday evening that the FBI is investigating and the company has hired Internet security company Mandiant to improve its network defenses. The insurer will provide free credit monitoring and identity protection services.

The FBI urged Anthem customers contacted by the insurer to report suspected instances of identity theft.

In 2013, the insurer agreed to pay \$1.7 million to resolve allegations it left the information of more than 612,000 members available online because of inadequate safeguards. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said that security weaknesses in an online application database left names, birthdates, addresses, telephone numbers, Social Security numbers, and health data accessible to unauthorized users.

The Health and Human Services Department said then that the insurer didn't have adequate policies for authorizing access to the database, didn't perform a needed technical evaluation after a software upgrade, and did not have technical safeguards to verify that the people or entities seeking access were authorized to view the information in the database.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. FRENCH, GERMAN LEADERS TO PUSH UKRAINE PEACE INITIATIVE

Hollande and Merkel will travel to Kiev and then to Moscow with a proposal "based on the territorial integrity of Ukraine."

2. SOCHI'S COSTLY LEGACY A HEADACHE FOR PUTIN

The 2014 Winter Olympics' overrun costs are forcing Russian taxpayers to pick up the tab as oligarchs offload investments in facilities to recoup millions of dollars.

3. WHO IS VOWING TO PUNISH THE ISLAMIC STATE GROUP

King Abdullah of Jordan says he will launch a "harsh" war against the extremists who burned a Jordanian captive pilot to death.

4. TAIWAN CRASH DEATH TOLL RISES TO 32

A Taiwanese aviation official tells the Associated Press that the pilot issued a distress call moments before the ATR 72 plane crashed in Taipei.

5. FCC BACKS REGULATING INTERNET LIKE PHONE SERVICE

The proposal is a victory for "net neutrality," the idea that providers should allow data to move across networks without interference.

6. INVESTIGATORS SCRUTINIZING DRIVER'S BAFFLING BEHAVIOR BEFORE FIERY CRASH

The woman stopped her SUV between the crossing gates on the railroad track north of New York City before a commuter train slammed into it, killing six people.

7. HOW AMERICANS VIEW GAY MARRIAGE

An AP-GfK poll finds that Americans narrowly favor allowing same-sex couples to marry. But 57% of those polled said wedding-related businesses should be free to deny them services if they had religious objections.

8. WHOSE TWITTER JOKES ARE CAUSING AN UPROAR

The embattled Argentinian President Cristina Fernandez is causing an online stir with a tweet that mocked her Chinese hosts' accents in Beijing.

9. NBC'S BRIAN WILLIAMS ADMITS TALL TALE

The TV anchor apologizes on the air for spreading the false story that he was on a helicopter that came under enemy fire in Iraq in 2003.

10. SPECULATION SWIRLS OVER HARPER LEE'S WISHES

Some in her Alabama hometown aren't sure the author, who is in an assisted living facility, was fully involved in the decision to publish a sequel to "To Kill a Mockingbird."

AP News in Brief

A year after Sochi Olympics, Russian oligarchs unload some assets, recoup millions of dollars

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — The ski jump sits shrouded in mist, its coat of snow undisturbed by any athletes hurtling down the ramp to take off into the air.

A year ago, the jump bustled with activity at the Sochi Olympics as the world's best ski jumpers — including women, for the first time — competed for gold. But it made some unwanted history as well, becoming a stark symbol of how some of the plans for President Vladimir Putin's \$51 billion Winter Games went terribly wrong.

The cost of the facility soared during construction from \$40 million to nearly \$300 million. The overrun embarrassed the Kremlin, which publicly shamed the businessman involved, and he fled the country in the face of a corruption investigation.

Russia had vowed to pay for what became the most expensive Olympics of all time by getting super-rich private investors to take the cost from the state. Instead, as the first anniversary of those games approaches, at least two of those oligarchs are quietly dumping their increasingly toxic assets on the state — forcing Russian taxpayers to pick up the bill.

For the oligarchs, it's a way to recoup billions of dollars as they struggle in an economy battered by plunging oil prices and Western sanctions. For Putin's critics, it's evidence of the crony capitalism that shields Russia's rich and powerful businessmen from economic pain.

Jordan's king pledges to wage a 'harsh' war against Islamic State group after pilot's killing

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — Jordan's king vowed to wage a "harsh" war against the Islamic State group after the militants burned a captive Jordanian pilot in a cage and released a video of the killing.

The images have sent waves of revulsion across the region.

King Abdullah II consulted with military chiefs Wednesday, after cutting short a U.S. trip, to formulate a response. Jordan is part of a U.S.-led military alliance that has been bombing IS targets in Syria for nearly five months.

In a statement, the king said Jordan is waging a war of principles against the militants. He said that Jordan's response to the killing of the pilot "will be harsh because this terrorist organization is not only fighting us, but also fighting Islam and its pure values."

Abdullah pledged to hit the militants "hard in the very center of their strongholds."

French, German leaders heading to Ukraine with new peace initiative

PARIS (AP) — The leaders of France and Germany were carrying a new peace initiative to the Ukrainian and Russian capitals Thursday, amid a flurry of high-level diplomacy to end what French President Francois Hollande called a war on Europe's edge.

Hollande said he and German Chancellor Angela Merkel would travel to Kiev on Thursday and then to Moscow the following day, with a proposal "based on the territorial integrity of Ukraine." In a sign of the importance of the initiative and urgency of the situation, this will be Merkel's first trip to Moscow since Ukraine's conflict broke out a year ago.

"It will not be said that France and Germany together have not tried everything, undertaken everything to preserve the peace," Hollande said.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is also in Ukraine, to show support for the government amid a fast-moving flurry of international diplomacy.

"Given the escalation of violence in the past days, the chancellor and President Hollande are intensifying their months-long efforts for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in eastern Ukraine," Merkel's spokesman, Steffen Seibert, said in a statement.

How SUV ended up on the train tracks center of probe into New York crash that killed 6

VALHALLA, N.Y. (AP) — An investigation into what caused a fiery crash that killed a motorist and five rail riders is focusing on how a mother of three described by friends as safety conscious ended up between two crossing gates in her SUV as a commuter train barreled toward her.

"The big question everyone wants to know is: Why was this vehicle in the crossing?" Robert Sumwalt, a National Transportation Safety Board vice chairman, told reporters in suburban New York a day after the deadliest accident in the 32-year history of Metro-North Railroad, one of the nation's busiest commuter railroads.

NTSB investigators were working Thursday to examine the tracks, interview the crew and find out whether Ellen Brody's Mercedes SUV had a data recorder of its own.

Brody, 49, was driving home from her jewelry-store job Tuesday night when a witness said she got out of her vehicle to check after a guardrail came down on top of it. She then got back into the car, driving forward onto the tracks just before she was struck by the train, motorist Rick Hope told The Journal News.

"She wasn't in a hurry at all, but she had to have known that a train was coming," Hope told the newspaper, adding he backed up and motioned for her to do the same.

Jersey shore town raising money to get last 2 families displaced by Superstorm Sandy back home

BELMAR, N.J. (AP) — Just before the floodwaters of Superstorm Sandy inundated Krista Sperber's home, she had her two young children grab what they could from their rooms and hop in the car for a ride to a relative's home away from the coast. She figured they'd be gone for a few days.

That was nearly 2 ½ years ago.

Belmar saw about 2,000 families displaced by the Oct. 29, 2012 storm; all but two have been able to

return to their homes, Mayor Matt Doherty said.

Now the town is launching an "It's A Wonderful Life"-type effort to raise the \$200,000 needed to get them back in their homes by the start of the third summer after the storm.

"They didn't know when I took them out of the house that night that they wouldn't be back for years," Sperber said of her children, Jack Held, 14, and Maisie Held, 12. "We're out of time, out of money, and out of options. We did everything right: we went through all the proper channels, and the proper channels failed us."

Mayday call issued just moments before deadly Taiwan plane crash into river in the capital

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Moments before the TransAsia Airways propjet banked sharply and crashed into a river, one of its pilots said, "Mayday, mayday, engine flameout," according to a Taiwanese aviation official.

"Engine flameout" refers to flames being extinguished in the combustion chamber of the engine, so that it shuts down and no longer drives the propeller. Causes could include a lack of fuel or being struck by volcanic ash, a bird or some other object. "Mayday" is an international distress call.

At least 32 people on board the ATR 72 were killed and 15 survivors were injured in the crash in Taiwan's capital, the latest in a series of aircraft disasters befalling Asian airlines. Divers were searching in the river for the remaining 11 people on board, including the two pilots. The plane's black boxes were found overnight.

Video images of Flight 235's final moments in the air captured on car dashboard cameras appear to show the left engine's propeller at standstill as the aircraft turned sharply, its wings going vertical and clipping a highway bridge before plunging into the Keelung River in Taipei minutes after take-off Wednesday.

An audio recording of the pilot's communications with the control tower at takeoff and during the brief, minutes-long flight were widely broadcast. A Taiwan Civil Aeronautical Administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity confirmed the distress call and its wording Thursday, but did not say how it might relate to a cause for the crash.

As North Korea sidles up to anti-money-laundering watchdog, experts remain dubious

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea, long accused by the U.S. and others of engaging in counterfeiting, drug trafficking and even online gambling scams, is trying to repair its international image by courting a little-known but influential body that fights money laundering and terrorist financing.

Most mainstream financial institutions won't go near North Korea, which is isolated by U.N. sanctions over its nuclear weapons program and by accusations it uses illegal activities to prop up its anemic economy.

So many North Korea watchers have been surprised and puzzled to see it engaging with the Asian affiliate of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, a key body supported by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. North Korea remains one of just two countries on the task force's blacklist, the other being Iran.

In a rare interview this week in Pyongyang with an AP Television News crew, the deputy governor

of North Korea's central bank said the country has taken several measures to cooperate with the task force since July, when Pyongyang announced it had joined the 41-member Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering as an observer.

The official, Jang Sam Ryong, said the moves are aimed at countering attempts by Washington to "disgrace the image of our country by abusing this organization."

Annual prayer breakfast draws Obama and Dalai Lama but not word of an official meeting

WASHINGTON (AP) — How much will President Barack Obama and the Dalai Lama interact during the National Prayer Breakfast? Heaven only knows.

Obama is to sit at the head table Thursday with other speakers for the annual event, which brings together U.S. and international leaders from different parties and faiths for one spiritual hour. Event organizers say the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism will be in the audience of about 3,600, seated close to the dais and actor Richard Gere, a friend and follower.

With such close proximity, a chance encounter is possible between Obama and the Dalai Lama, who spoke Wednesday at a luncheon closed to the media. But the White House downplayed the prospect of any official engagement, saying there is no specific meeting between the fellow Nobel Peace Prize winners to announce.

Still, the event drew criticism from China, which considers the Dalai Lama an anti-Chinese separatist because of his quest for greater Tibetan autonomy.

China protested each of Obama's three meetings with the Dalai Lama, which were always held privately without any news coverage because of the sensitivity of the encounter. But President George W. Bush ignored furious Chinese objections when he presented the Dalai Lama with the Congressional Gold Medal at the Capitol Rotunda in 2007.

George P. Bush quickly seizes spotlight in Texas politics after just a month in new office

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — George P. Bush's new job as Texas land commissioner has nothing to do with abortion, and it lacks any authority to funnel public dollars to private schools. But after barely 30 days in office, he's already headlined high-profile rallies on both issues.

The 38-year-old has a political surname far better known than his obscure office, which administers Texas' vast public lands and mineral rights. Though he insists he's not yet eyeing any moves up Texas' political ladder, the newest Bush in politics has wasted no time becoming a leading voice for top conservative causes and seizing the spotlight in a state already full of powerful Republicans.

"He's a rising star in our state and nationally," said Matt Mackowiak, a Republican strategist based in Austin. "He's going to be in very high demand this year. They're going to have to get good at saying no."

His grandfather and an uncle are former presidents.

In the past, the land commissioner's post has led to loftier political heights in Texas. David Dewhurst served in it before his 12 years as lieutenant governor, which ended last month. Bush's more immediate goal might be to buoy his father, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, if he seeks the White House in 2016.

New king in town: Saudi Arabia's Salman reshapes policy team rapidly, but reform plans unclear

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia's new monarch isn't wasting time.

Since assuming the throne Jan. 23, King Salman has elevated some of his closest relatives and sidelined previous power-brokers, tightened decision-making and promised lavish payouts designed to win early goodwill.

While his new administration gives greater prominence to younger generations, it remains to be seen whether the swift housecleaning will lead to greater political rights and other reforms in the ultraconservative kingdom.

One clear winner in the shake-up is Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, who has been interior minister since 2012 and spearheads counterterrorism efforts.

King Salman named the 55-year-old as deputy crown prince in one of his first acts as king. That's a historic change, because for the first time it puts a grandson of Saudi Arabia's founder, King Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, on course to rule. He becomes second in line to the throne behind Salman's half brother Crown Prince Muqrin, who is 69.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 5, the 36th day of 2015. There are 329 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 5, 1940, Glenn Miller and His Orchestra recorded "Tuxedo Junction" for RCA Victor's Bluebird label.

On this date:

In 1783, Sweden recognized the independence of the United States.

In 1897, the Indiana House of Representatives passed, 67-0, a measure offering a new (as well as hopelessly flawed) method for determining the area of a circle, which would have effectively redefined the value of pi as 3.2. (The bill died in the Indiana Senate.)

In 1919, movie studio United Artists was incorporated by Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, D.W. Griffith and Charles Chaplin.

In 1922, the first edition of Reader's Digest was published.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed increasing the number of U.S. Supreme Court justices; the proposal, which failed in Congress, drew accusations that Roosevelt was attempting to "pack" the nation's highest court.

In 1953, Walt Disney's animated feature "Peter Pan" was first released.

In 1967, "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1971, Apollo 14 astronauts Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell stepped onto the surface of the moon in the first of two lunar excursions.

In 1973, services were held at Arlington National Cemetery for U.S. Army Col. William B. Nolde, the last official American combat casualty before the Vietnam cease-fire took effect.

In 1985, Ugo Vetere, the mayor of modern Rome, and Chedli Klibi, the mayor of modern Carthage, signed a treaty ending the Punic Wars after more than 20 centuries.

In 1989, the Soviet Union announced that all but a small rear-guard contingent of its troops had left Afghanistan.

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In 1994, white separatist Byron De La Beckwith was convicted in Jackson, Mississippi, of murdering civil rights leader Medgar Evers in 1963, and was immediately sentenced to life in prison. (Beckwith died Jan. 21, 2001 at age 80.) Sixty-eight people were killed when a mortar shell exploded in a marketplace in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Ten years ago: Togo President Gnassingbe Eyadema (nyah-SING'-bay ee-yah-DEE'-mah) died after 38 years in power; he was 69. Steve Young and Dan Marino were elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Five years ago: Toyota's president, Akio Toyoda, emerged from seclusion to apologize and address criticism that the automaker had mishandled a crisis over sticking gas pedals.

One year ago: A U.N. human rights committee denounced the Vatican for adopting policies that it said allowed priests to rape and molest tens of thousands of children over decades. CVS Caremark announced it would pull cigarettes and other tobacco products from its stores. The state of Texas executed Suzanne Basso for torturing and killing Louis "Buddy" Musso, a mentally impaired man she'd lured to suburban Houston with the promise of marriage.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall-of-Famer Hank Aaron is 81. Actor Stuart Damon is 78. Tony-winning playwright John Guare (gwayr) is 77. Financial writer Jane Bryant Quinn is 76. Actor David Selby is 74. Singer-songwriter Barrett Strong is 74. Football Hall-of-Famer Roger Staubach is 73. Singer Cory Wells (Three Dog Night) is 73. Movie director Michael Mann is 72. Rock singer Al Kooper is 71. Actress Charlotte Rampling is 69. Racing Hall-of-Famer Darrell Waltrip is 68. Actress Barbara Hershey is 67. Actor Christopher Guest is 67. Actor Tom Wilkinson is 67. Actor-comedian Tim Meadows is 54. Actress Jennifer Jason Leigh is 53. Actress Laura Linney is 51. Rock musician Duff McKagan (Velvet Revolver) is 51. World Golf Hall-of-Famer Jose Maria Olazabal is 49. Actor-comedian Chris Parnell is 48. Rock singer Chris Barron (Spin Doctors) is 47. Singer Bobby Brown is 46. Actor Michael Sheen is 46. Actor David Chisum (TV: "Black Box") is 45. Country singer Sara Evans is 44. Country singer Tyler Farr is 31. Actor-singer Darren Criss (TV: "Glee") is 28. Rock musician Kyle Simmons (Bastille) is 27. Actor Jeremy Sumpter is 26.

Thought for Today: "Many excellent words are ruined by too definite a knowledge of their meaning." — Aline Kilmer, American poet (1888-1941).

Driver's Exam Stations

Important: Application must be submitted at least 1 hour in advance of scheduled closing time. No drive tests will be given from 11:30 to 1:30. For more information see our website at www.dps.sd.gov call 1-800-952-3696.

Aberdeen: 2729 W Highway 12

Open 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday

Redfield: Dept. of Transportation - N Hwy 281.

Open 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

Webster: Courthouse Basement (711 W 1st St. - Ste. 107

Open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays

**DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO OBTAIN A
SOUTH DAKOTA DRIVER LICENSE OR ID CARD
(photo copies cannot be accepted)**

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Federal requirements have changed the documents required to obtain or renew your South Dakota driver license or identification card. We want to make the process as quick and easy as possible for you.

Look over the documents on the list below, and if you have any questions at all, anything you don't understand or any documents you aren't sure you can find, please contact the Driver Licensing Program. You may email DPSLicensingInfo@state.sd.us (please include your first and last name) or call toll-free at 1-800-952-3696 or directly at 605-773-6883.

If you think you will have difficulty obtaining any of the documents please contact us. We may be able to arrange for an extension or a temporary permit while you gather the documents needed to obtain your federally compliant South Dakota driver license or identification card. If you find that you simply can't produce one of the required documents, we can work with you in those situations. Again, please use the contact information for the Driver Licensing Program if you have any questions or concerns.

The need to show the additional documents is a one-time requirement. That means once you have your federally compliant driver license or identification card in hand, you will only need that card and two documents to show your current address the next time you renew your driver license or identification card. If your driver license or identification card has a gold star in the upper right corner, then it is federally compliant.

Our staff is committed to providing the best service possible, so don't hesitate to contact us by telephone or email. We will help you in any way we can.

Federal regulations require anyone applying for a new, renewal, or duplicate driver license or identification card to provide the documents listed below and on page 2 (photo copies are not acceptable):

I. You will need one Identity Document. NOTE: If your name is different than the name on your identity document, you will need to bring additional proof of your legal name. Acceptable documents for proof of a legal name change are a certified marriage certificate (issued by a state vital records agency), a certified adoption document, or a certified court order authorizing a name change (such as a divorce decree). If you have had multiple marriages, you will need to bring similar documents providing legal proof of each name change (presenting a valid passport with your current name eliminates this requirement).

An Identity Document to prove identity, date of birth, and lawful status is considered to be one of the following:

- ◆ Certified U.S. birth certificate issued by state or county (hospital birth certificates are not acceptable)

- ◆ Valid unexpired U.S. passport

- ◆ Certificate of Naturalization

- ◆ Certificate of Citizenship

Non-Citizens may bring:

- ◆ Valid unexpired permanent resident card

- ◆ Valid unexpired employment authorization document

- ◆ Foreign passport with valid unexpired U.S. Visa with I-94

South Dakota birth and marriage certificate information is available on the state of South Dakota web site at <http://www.doh.sd.gov/vitalrecords/order.aspx> and through your local County Register of Deeds office. Marriage certificates before 1950 may not be available for same day issuance. For telephone numbers and addresses to write for out-of-state vital records, please visit <http://www.cdc>.

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gov/nchs/w2w.htm.

II. You will need one document to prove Social Security number. Only the documents listed below can serve as proof of Social Security number (the document must include your name and full social security number):

- ◆ Social Security card
- ◆ W-2 Form
- ◆ SSA 1099 Form
- ◆ Non-SSA 1099 Form
- ◆ Pay stub

(For information on how to apply for a social security number or replacement card, please visit <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber/>.)

III. You will need two documents to prove your residential address. A parent's proof of address is acceptable for a minor child. Proof of address documents may **not be more than one year old**. Please bring two of the documents listed below (each must contain your current physical address):

- ◆ Utility bill
- ◆ Pay stub or earnings statement
- ◆ Rent receipt
- ◆ Phone bill
- ◆ Transcript or report card from an accredited school
- ◆ Bank statement
- ◆ Mortgage document
- ◆ Tax document
- ◆ Homeowners/renter's insurance policy
- ◆ Other items with your address can be reviewed by Driver Licensing personnel
- ◆ If you are unable to provide proof of residency, please call 1-800-952-3696 or 605-773-6883 for exceptions.
- ◆ Post Office Box addresses are acceptable in areas not assigned a street or 911 address

Address Exceptions:

Minors - If a minor does not have two documents proving residency, the parent may provide two forms for them.

Living with someone else - An individual residing with another person may have the other person sign a "Consent for Use of South Dakota Address" form and present two residency documents belonging to the person with whom they reside. The Consent for Use of Address form may be obtained at the exam station or printed off our website.

Living within an organization or at a facility - Applicants may provide a letter from the organization or facility (on their letterhead) stating the individual resides there.

People who travel full-time - If you are using a mail forwarding address, you must complete the Residency Affidavit. You will also need to provide one document no more than one year old proving your temporary South Dakota address (campground or RV park receipt) and one document no more than one year old proving your personal mailbox (PMB) service address (receipt from the PMB business or a piece of mail with your PMB address on it). If you have friends or family in South Dakota and plan to

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use their address, you can complete and follow the instructions on the Consent for Use of Address form. Military and Military Dependents - Applicants can use an out-of-state address on their license and provide two documents proving residency showing the out-of-state address.

Before your license or ID card is issued, our examiners will review your documents to make sure they comply with the federal requirements. We will work with you to resolve any problems with your documents and to identify any additional documents or other information that may be necessary to complete the process. The additional requirements are designed to establish a more secure driver license, which will address our shared concern about national security, identity theft and highway safety.

Veterans

Veterans who have been honorably discharged from the military have the option of adding the word "Veteran" to the front of their South Dakota driver license or identification card. In addition to the documents listed above, they will need to present:

- ◆ DD-214 form which shows their honorable discharge status from active duty or
- ◆ Present a certificate signed by a county or tribal veteran's service officer verifying their status.
- ◆ DD Form 2 (Retired)
- ◆ DD Form 2A (Reserve Retired)

Note to CDL holders: If you are required to carry a medical examiners certificate (aka DOT medical card) you must show a valid card at the driver exam station.