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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

Monday, February 9

Birthdays: Dale Ringgenberg, Kathy Kundsén, Lorin Flihs, Renee Marzahn

Senior Menu: Swiss steak with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, rice and raisins, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast bagel, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chili, corn bread, veg cups, fruit.

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

5:15pm: GBB at Roncalli (C game at 5:15, JV at 6:30, Varsity at 8:00)

7:00pm: School Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 10

Anniv: Alan and Jolene Townsend

Birthdays: Brenda Madsen, Dallas Sombke, Dick Flihs, Dion Bahr, Gabe Smith, Jay Waage, June Thompson, Katelyn Koehler.

Senior Menu: Lasagna rotini, tossed salad with dressing, ambrosia fruit salad, oatmeal spice cookie, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Submarine, French fries, carrots and dip, fruit.

6:30pm: Boys basketball host Britton-Hecla

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

Mark Malmberg, DDS
19 North 6th St.

Oakes, N.D.
701-742-3401



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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Brock Greenfield's Legislative Report

As I mentioned last week, a fireworks bill I introduced indeed "sparked" some interest! Back in December, I received a call from Sarah Gjerde, asking whether I could meet with her husband, Roy, and her daughter, Hadley. I told her that I was on my way home from a meeting, and I could meet with them later in the afternoon. Upon meeting Hadley, I learned that this was not just any 6-year-old. She was an exceedingly intelligent and determined young lady. Hadley presented me with a letter she had written all by herself. It expressed her desire to be able to shoot fireworks all year long. After delving further into the letter and a follow-up discussion, I came to understand that Hadley very much enjoyed chasing parachutes with her cousins, who are often not able to be with the family over the week of the 4th of July. Hadley asked me to bring a bill to the legislature to address her concern. In crafting SB 161, I attempted to bring a narrow exception to our existing statute that would allow certain small, and more importantly QUIET fireworks to be utilized throughout the year. As of Tuesday morning, I was optimistic that I hadn't heard any opposition to my bill, so I had a sense of optimism that the bill would be a slam-dunk. Just before the committee hearing, I learned that I was terribly mistaken in my assumption! I was approached by two bureaucrats who told me they would be speaking in opposition to the bill. As the hearing took place, representatives from the Departments of Agriculture, Public Safety, and Game, Fish & Parks all testified against our bill. However, little Hadley, armed with cue cards she had prepared, provided testimony that would rule the day. As she flipped from one card to the next, the committee members could see that she had drawn illustrations of her and her cousins at family events. She compelled the committee to see fit to amend the bill to allay the concerns that had been raised by the opponents. Ultimately, the bill passed out of committee by a vote of 7-0. When the bill reached the floor on Thursday, I further amended it to put it in better form to move forward. After my floor testimony, one other Senator spoke of his repeated efforts to restrict fireworks over his seven years of service. He concluded his remarks by saying that he was moved by Hadley's activism, and he was going to vote IN FAVOR of the bill, and he encouraged everybody else to do the same!

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.



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The bill prevailed 33-0, and will now move to the House for their consideration! Although this bill is not the most monumental one we will deal with this year in terms of scope, it is an example of how even the youngest among us can speak up and make a difference. Something tells me we haven't heard the last from Hadley!

I did bring another constituent bill that did not have the same good fortune. On separate occasions, two individuals had expressed their desire to see us extend the hours that headlights had to be on while traversing our SD roads. Currently, lights must be utilized from a half-hour after sundown to a half-hour before sunrise. I brought a bill that would have extended those hours to sundown to sunrise. That bill met with resistance from the Auto Dealers and the committee. Opposition testimony suggested that current technology has yielded automatic lights in newer vehicles that come on at certain levels of ambient light (daylight). On particularly dreary days and once nightfall sets in, lights come on to make vehicles visible. Passage of this bill would have caused a different standard for auto manufacturers who sell vehicles in SD. Moreover, committee members expressed their concern that this bill may lead to more people being pulled over even though people weren't breaking such laws as speeding, crossing over lines, etc. One committee member did offer a "Do Pass" motion, but that died when nobody seconded the motion. A subsequent motion to kill the bill by deferring it to the 41st day also died 3-2. In the end, the bill was effectively killed on a tabling motion. There was some good, level-headed discussion about the pros and cons of the bill, but the committee felt it wasn't an issue that warranted floor debate.

In education committee, there were two bills (SB's 104 and 117) that were polar opposites. Both dealt with provisions relating to data collection associated with Common Core. One attempted to pull back the reins on what information could be required, while the other attempted to require parents to opt-out rather than opt-in when their children are asked to submit to surveys. The debate on SB 117 was centered around whether we would add four more items to a list of pieces of information that students could not be asked for. Those included 1) social security numbers, 2) home internet protocol (IP) addresses, 3) biometric (physical) information, that may include such things as iris scans, and 4) external digital identity, including social network ID's. Last year, we passed a law that enumerated nine items, such as family gun ownership and income information, religious practices, sexual behavior, and political beliefs. This year's bill would have run the list to 13 items. I did vote in favor of the bill, but it died on a 4-3 vote. It would have appeared that SB 104, then, was primed for passage, but I suggested that in testimony against SB 117, the opponents said that last year's legislation was sufficient. If that was, in fact, the case, perhaps we should also kill SB 104 and revisit the issues in the future. That sentiment prevailed, and SB 104 was defeated by a vote of 6-1. Thus, on this highly emotional and hotly debated issue we did not swing the pendulum one way or the other.

Those of you who have read my articles in the past may recall an issue I touched on last year regarding our lessening of the penalties for students who engage in drug use. Over a decade ago, a bill was passed that allowed said students to enter diversion programs for a first offense, rather than being subject to an automatic one-year suspension from participation in extracurricular activities. That bill was very controversial, and I was one of the dissenting votes. Fast forward to last year when there was a successful attempt to further address the issue. Although proponents of last year's bill suggested that they were trying to strengthen our law regarding diversion programs versus suspensions, I contended that the legislation did the exact opposite. SB 125 this year was brought by the same Senator

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who brought last year's bill. This time around, the bill actually does fix one of the problems I foresaw with last year's legislation. I made the motion to pass the bill in committee and applauded the efforts of the bill's sponsor. It passed committee 7-0 and subsequently passed the floor 34-0. This bill does strengthen our policy and clarifies that drug use by our youth is dangerous and does need to be dealt with effectively and must be treated seriously. That was the stated objective last year, but the bill didn't do what it was intended to do. This time, we appear to be back on track.

As you may have heard, last Friday, the Governor and lawmakers announced that they will be assembling a "Blue Ribbon Task Force" of education stakeholders who will be working through some very important issues regarding education in the state of South Dakota. There is an ever-increasing emphasis on the dynamics at-play in our state regarding our funding formula and a host of other issues. The commission will be tasked with reporting back to the legislature in 2016 with their findings and their proposals for improving our state's involvement with our schools. Discussions so far this session, coupled with this announcement, make me optimistic that we are on the cusp of a new-and-improved way of proactively addressing the education debate. The key--and let me say it again--is that stakeholders will be brought to the table to provide a thorough and candid perspective concerning where we can improve, and they will be charged with offering positive solutions. When HB 1234--the so-called "education reform bill"--was passed in 2012, there were some perceived positives, but there were also many concerns. Ultimately, that bill was seen as a heavy-handed over-reach by the Governor and the legislature. Those most intimately affected by that bill had not been involved in shaping the change the bill called for. As you know, it was referred to a vote of the people and was rejected overwhelmingly. This time around, the focus is on putting (in no certain order) the needs of students, parents, teachers, and schools first. With the announcement of the Blue Ribbon Task Force, the proverbial horse is before the cart, rather than the other way around, and stakeholders will be driving the discussion, rather than being forced into a reactionary situation. I do not want to give the impression that we are going to just push off the education discussion until next year. We will continue to strive to address the issues we can this year, but we have a renewed sense of optimism for what is to come once the experts render their findings. I am reminded of the words of one of our area superintendents. When Lana and I visited him, he said very nicely that he just wished the politicians would remove their noses from the school's business and let them educate. Said another way, the experts are not in Washington, D.C., or Pierre, SD. They are in the schools and classrooms. It appears we are one step closer--hopefully a very significant step closer--to changing the paradigm back to the notion that the best decisions are those made closest to the people who are affected by them--rather than a top-down approach--in education. For the sake of the schools, teachers, parents, and all the little Hadley's let's hope we're back on the right track!

God bless you and yours!

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Lana Greenfield's Legislative Report

Greetings to all of you! Hearing more bills on the floor and in committee, we found week 4 at the capitol building busier than previous ones. Constituents, lobbyists, and high school senior governments classes are now frequenting the halls and galleries. We appreciated greeting students from Castlewood, Hamlin, Groton, and Willow Lake, their instructors, and chaperones. It is also wonderful to see the local people who come out to health, school, banking, insurance, and ag meetings. This gives us a chance to visit informally about issues that these entities may have. Lack of work force seems to be a common thread.

House health and human services committee heard testimony regarding licensing of massage therapists. (HB1102). The bill was revised so that the therapy board, at their discretion, can grant a license to someone who has been convicted of a felony as long as that person would not harm public safety. One example would be a person who has made judgment errors by writing a series bad checks which led to a felonious conviction. After passing committee, it was heard on the House floor and passed. Now it will be reviewed by a Senate panel.

We also listened to HB 1151, which is an act to improve public safety through confidential stress management services for emergency service providers. A law officer explained that personnel can become physically or emotionally ill after being traumatized while in the line of duty. The request was to have support offered by means of intervention closed to the public or to any person who was not involved in the critical incident. This would be similar to a de-briefing of a soldier who is suffering from trauma as a result of war. It unanimously passed and will be heard in the House later.

One disturbing bill brought forth was HB 1089. It levies a Class 4 felony on any person who victimizes any female under age 18 through genital mutilation. This may sound bizarre, but as we continue to be a societal melting pot, it is sometimes necessary to be pro-active. The panel's consensus was that we as South Dakotans want to send a message that it is not ok to harm a minor in the name of some religious, inhumane practice. (You may want to read about Sharia Law). It also passed the House, and the next stop is the Senate health committee.

This week we are slated to look at tanning bed legislation which bans a minor from using a commercial facility of this nature. (HB1166) This should prove to be an interesting battle. Another one forthcoming is SB60 requiring newborn screening for inherited and genetic disorders. I have many questions on this one when it is reviewed. Currently, newborns are tested for PKU, hypothyroidism, and galactosemia in order to correct the condition through meds or diet. What then can be done to correct genetic disorders? If nothing, then why the testing?

Our local government committee had several area people on township boards in attendance to listen to testimony presented on HB1122. This is an act to authorize township boards to designate certain roads as "minimum maintenance" and place signs to let travellers know that they are just that. We questioned as to whether this would just be a way to get roads barricaded and closed, but that did not appear to be the sentiment. It was explained that township boards have more liability involved when people travel unposted, unsafe roads. Therefore, if signage is constructed, liability is decreased. Most people in our area understand that townships have very limited resources to fix roads, so creating public awareness of possible danger is a must! Another bill, HB 1121, was passed out of committee to authorize township boards to establish speed zones on the roads. Law right now says that "no person may drive a vehicle in excess of 55 miles per hour." (as related to township roads). Conditions of the road may dictate that this rate of speed is just too fast.

This week we will hear testimony which would authorize counties to outlaw or restrict the use of

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fireworks. This will undoubtedly produce "fireworks" from several companies and individuals that have a "pony in this race." (HB1112).

Many other Senate and House bills will be forthcoming. Some will make it out of committee; others will not.

I want to thank those of you for e-mails, calls, and prayers. It is important to hear your views on a bill BEFORE a vote is cast.

A cracker barrel will be held at 10:30 in Lake Norden's Community Center Feb. 14 and Monday, Feb. 16, at the Depot in Redfield at 2:00. Have a great week!

Special Weather Statement

...FREEZING RAIN AND SNOW TONIGHT INTO TUESDAY WITH ICE ACCUMULATIONS LIKELY...

A STORM SYSTEM WILL MOVE ACROSS THE REGION TONIGHT AND THROUGH THE DAY TUESDAY. THIS SYSTEM WILL SPREAD FREEZING RAIN ACROSS THE AREA TONIGHT INTO TUESDAY MORNING...WITH SLEET AND SNOW LIKELY FOR EASTERN PORTIONS OF THE AREA. ICE ACCUMULATIONS OF UP TO A TENTH OF AN INCH ARE POSSIBLE. RIGHT NOW IT APPEARS THE BEST CHANCE FOR THE HIGHEST ICE ACCUMULATIONS WOULD BE ACROSS THE NORTHERN HALF OF SOUTH DAKOTA FROM THE CENTRAL PART OF THE STATE TO ABOUT I-29. FURTHER EAST ACROSS FAR NORTHEAST SOUTH DAKOTA AND WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA...SNOW AND SLEET ACCUMULATIONS COULD REACH 1 TO 2 INCHES. STAY TUNED TO THE FORECAST FOR POSSIBLE ADVISORIES CONCERNING THIS STORM SYSTEM...WHICH HAS THE POTENTIAL TO ADVERSELY AFFECT TRAVEL PLANS TONIGHT INTO TUESDAY.

Elementary School News

Elementary Principal ~ Dan Dalchow

This is the time of year where teachers get a lot accomplished. Students know the routines and expectations of the classroom. They are comfortable in their surroundings and they are solidly into their grade level academic work. Conferences are coming up on Feb. 13 and this is a great opportunity to visit with your child's teacher on what they are doing, what you should expect to see for homework and how much. Most times, if there is confusion regarding your child's schoolwork, a short conversation with his/her teacher is all it takes to clear it up. They welcome your calls, as they too want the very best for their students – your children.

The elementary PAC will be hosting the annual carnival on February 28 as well as the Children's Theater the week of March 22 with an evening performance on March 27th. Mark your calendars to attend these fun family outings. The PAC will be looking for volunteers. This is especially true with the carnival as it takes over 80 volunteers to make this fun night a reality. Watch for more information coming home with your child in the next month or two.

The school year is going fast and we are already making plans for our preschool/kindergarten screening for the 2015-2016 school year. Screenings will be taking place the week of March 2nd in the High School Arena. Mrs. Krueger will be sending out notices in the next couple of weeks. If you have not received a letter by the end of February, please contact the elementary school.

If you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns feel free to contact me during school hours at the contact information below.

Sincerely,

Mr. Dan Dalchow ~ Principal

Groton Area Elementary School

Elementary Phone # 397-2317

E-mail: dan.dalchow@k12.sd.us

Preschool – Paula Johnson

December was a busy month with fun themes like reindeer, mittens, and Christmas. We spent a lot of our time singing fun songs, acting out finger plays, eating yummy seasonal treats and playing holiday games. We were also busy making some special gifts for our parents.

After a nice long Christmas break, and some extra vacation time due to weather, we have spent the first part of January getting back into the routine of things and reviewing what we have learned so far. We are especially liking reading books and finding ways to act them out or do a fun activity to go along with the story. So far, "The Hat" has been our favorite. As you can see, we continue to have a lot of fun in preschool while learning at the same time.

Just a reminder that preschool screening will be held Monday March 2nd – Friday March 7th. If your child is 3 or will be eligible for Kindergarten next year, please call the office and set up a time to bring you child in that week.

Kindergarten - Ann Gibbs, Renee Swisher, Kayla Krause

We celebrated 2015 by blowing horns, playing musical chairs, eating treats and watching the movie, "Happy New Year, Charlie Brown!" What a fun way to come back to school after a long Christmas vacation!

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We are very fortunate to have high school seniors volunteer in our classrooms. This year Natalia Dohman is working with Mrs. Gibbs and Kennedy Clark is working with Mrs. Swisher for a class period each day. They are finding out what a busy place Kindergarten is! Thank you, girls, for your help!

In Science we are learning how animals live in the winter. We studied about hibernation and how bears get ready for their "long sleep". Did you know that mother bears have their babies in January-right in the middle of their hibernation? After such an ordeal, they go back to sleep for two more months! We are also learning about penguins. There are 18 different kinds of penguins and Kindergarten decided that they like the "macaroni" penguin the best! The king penguin is the size of an average Kindergartner.

In Math, we worked very hard learning the various coins. We know lots of information about pennies, nickels dimes and quarters! We can also recognize the coins and tell their value. In our current chapter, we are learning the numbers 11-40. These numbers are very tricky, so we have been doing many hands-on activities to reinforce our learning.

We are very excited in Kindergarten because we are learning to read! We have now started taking home The Little Red Storybook to read each night. "The more you practice, the better you get" is our Kindergarten slogan! We appreciate the continued help from our parents and grandparents-thank you!

In Literature, we read Chicken Soup with Rice. This is a wonderful story about the months of the year. We also learned a song called "Months of the Year". We have talked about the month we each celebrate our birthday. We even tasted chicken soup with rice and most of us loved it!! The warm soup helped warm us on these cold winter days.

Enjoy the winter weather-stay warm!

2nd Grade – Jane Kroll and Anne Zoellner

2015 came in with a blast! A very cold, wintery blast! Our students came back to school equipped with warm hats, thick mittens, snow pants and warm coats. All that and ready to get back into the swing of school.

Along with the New Year came a new reading book. Our Reading series is divided into 2 big books. The students finished the first book before Christmas break. When they returned to school in January they found their next new book waiting for them - what a great way to begin the New Year. The first two stories, "Head, Body, Legs: A Story From Liberia" and "Officer Buckle and Gloria", helped our students see how working together is much better than working by yourself. The illustrations were used to help tell the story. What great examples to spark the imagination of our young illustrators/authors.

Our second semester began January 5th. The students are learning to become more responsible for their work, staying on task and completing work on time. Plus working on their listening skills as well as when not to talk! All skills needed to move on to 3rd grade.

We began writing cursive! The students have been waiting "forever" to do this. The series we use begins with the easier letters, giving the students the feel of writing in cursive and then advances to the more complex. With practice and patience, they will develop into excellent writers.

In Math, the students have been working on double digit addition and subtraction, reading and using graphs, and telling time. Once again manipulatives are put to use, giving students a chance to do hands on studying, helping them review and master math skills. The Smart Boards are also used daily to demonstrate and practice these skills.

Our students have participated in one poster contest, the "Smokey Bear/ Woodsy Owl" poster contest. The students created their own poster during art time. The posters were then collected and handed in to the judges. The students are now just waiting to see how they did.

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The students are reading the way to their AR goal of 20 points. With each book comes a new adventure or information gained for the student. Many have already reached the 2nd grade goal and are reading on. Some have reached 100 AR points! Way to go!!

Whatever the subject or activity, our second semester 2nd graders are ready for 2015!

4th Grade – Sue Fjeldheim and Joel Guthmiller

Changes in the year mean changes in our schedule. We will be doing a unit on South Dakota. Starting with Lewis and Clark's trip to find a west passage, we will be looking at the great journey, exploration, and problems they came across as they traveled up the Missouri River. All students will be getting their own South Dakota book, complements of James Valley Telephone. We will also be making our own maps of South Dakota.

In English we will be working on our writing skills. Some of the writings we will be doing are a How*to* essay, persuasive writing, short reports, and personnel writings on our own experiences. We will also cover nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs to make our writing complete.

Please continue drilling on the multiplication and division facts with your child. The better we know them the easier our multiplication and division chapters will be. Thanks parents for your continued help and support. See you at conferences.

Title I - Lynette Grieve, Jill Helvig, & Bonnie Schimmel

As everyone has settled in to 2015, and your children are back at school and doing homework again, we came across an article about homework we would like to share with you. The article is from the 2014 'Elementary School Parents' newsletter.

Are you making homework time a good experience?

There aren't many children who love doing homework. But when parents find ways to make homework a positive experience, children will usually do it without a battle. How are you doing? Answer yes or no to each question below to find out:

Do you give your child choices – such as which subject to study first? Whether to study right after school or before supper?

Are you available and nearby to offer support when your child studies?

Is homework time a quiet time for your whole family? Do you turn off the TV and ask everyone to read, work or study?

Do you help your child study by calling out spelling words or holding up flash cards?

Do you praise your child for working hard? This gives her a sense of pride in her accomplishments.

How well are you doing?

Mostly yes answers indicate you are making homework a positive learning experience for your child. For no answers, try those ideas in the quiz.

Guidance – Ashley Seeklander

What's been going on in the Counselor's corner, you ask? Our elementary classroom guidance lessons have been focusing on our Character pillar of caring. In K-4, we have been focusing on caring about others in our words and actions. Plus, we have been learning how to take care of ourselves by not being our own biggest enemy. In 5th grade we just wrapped up our lesson on communication and teamwork skills using our makeshift maps. These skills were certainly put to the test because they weren't allowed to talk. Funny how so much more can be said when we don't say anything at all.

Our intern, Miss Sanford, is back to complete her last semester of internship. She will begin teaching

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more lessons and leading more Lunch Bunch groups as she progresses through her internship and prepares for graduation.

As we move into February we celebrate my favorite week, National School Counselor Week, February 2-6. This year's theme is "Spice Up Your School Counseling Program." It is definitely appropriate since our American School Counselor Association conference is being held in Phoenix, AZ, in June. I hope that over the course of this school year I have added a little spice to the lives of our students!

Groton MS/HS News

From the principal...

And here we are...suddenly over half way through the third quarter already. I have had the opportunity to write several letters of recommendation for seniors, and it always makes me nostalgic for that time when everything was just ready to happen. We really do have an amazing group of seniors and I'm so excited for them to go into the world and experience life. I look forward to reading about the brilliant undertakings they will accomplish in years to come.

Registration for our students is also just about upon us. We hope to offer the curriculum guide to students and online through my webpage (www.annaschwan.com) the beginning of next week. Mrs. Sternhagen will visit the students in the classroom and explain graduation requirements, elective choices, and answer any questions the students may have. I encourage you to read through the requirements with your child and help them plan an appropriate schedule to meet their needs.

The South Dakota Board of Regents will continue to offer reduced tuition for juniors and seniors to take college classes for both college and high school credit. Dozens of options are available for students, and a list as well as the requirements and the application can be found at <http://www.sdmylife.com/students/advanced-education-opportunities>. The tuition is \$40 per credit hour, and students are responsible for the tuition, books, and any other materials that may be required. I would encourage all students to take at least one on-line course as a high school student; so much is done in this fashion at the university level. Having an understanding of this technology will only be a benefit.

I attended an area Principals' meeting a few weeks ago, and I couldn't help but feel very proud of what we have to offer our young people at Groton School. We have a vast array of elective choices, offering more CTE choices (FACS, Industrial Technology, Agriculture, and Business) than essentially any other school our size. Our students have the necessary technology available to easily partake in this exceptional dual-credit opportunity offered by the state, and our extra-curricular options are unlimited. I listed to several principals convey their need for highly qualified teachers and desperately searching even at this point in the year. I have to say our students are provided quite an extraordinary education that is preparing them for whatever path they may choose.

The next few months look to be just as busy as usual. Conferences are scheduled for February 12th with teacher in-service following on February 13th. Our 8th graders will participate in NAEP testing on February 24th, and 3rd quarter ends already on March 6th.

Remember to attend the 2nd Family Night on Monday, March 9th from 5:00-7:00 pm. We will once again be serving a meal and you will have the opportunity to see what your children are currently working on in the classroom.

I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas break and had time to visit with family, rest, and catch up on your hobbies. Little time will exist for relaxation between now and May, but I'm sure the seniors are at least one group just about ready to get this show on the road.

Thanks for reading; here's to a less than freezing January!

Anna Schwan

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6th Grade Reading- Mary Johnson

Sixth grade reading begins in our textbooks that have fun and interesting short stories in them. We just finished a story about alternate forms of housing or "going green". The students learned that one of the methods discussed is currently being built in a housing development by the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. We finished the novels "The Hatchet" and "Al Capone Does My Shirts".

6th grade Social Studies – Mary Johnson

The sixth graders have travelled back in time to the start of the human race. They have learned that people long ago had the same basics that we enjoy now. They even had technology! But to the ancient civilizations, technology was the invention of a new weapon or tool. We are currently beginning a new chapter on Ancient Greece. Students will learn about the gods and goddesses, achievements of the Greeks that still exist in 2015, and the roots of the Olympic Games.

7th grade Social Studies – Mary Johnson

Geography students have learned about the physical features, culture, and economies of countries in Latin America and South America. Our current adventure is in the Western European countries. We are starting learning about the physical features. Anyone know what mountain chain is in these countries? If you answered the "Alps", you are correct! Just a reminder...if anyone has been anywhere exciting, please let me know if you would be willing to share your adventure with my students!

World History - Mr. Thorson

The freshman are currently learning about the discovery of the America's and early colonization. We will be covering a lot of events in the coming weeks where the kids will learn how quickly the world changed in such a short time. This course runs all year long and will cover many important world events, such as Roman Empire, the building of the European nations, the beginnings of the American nation, world revolutions, both world wars and terrorism in our world today. The students will be asked to do projects, make creative posters complete tests and quizzes and partake in class discussions.

World Geography - Mr. Thorson

Geography is a semester course so it gives me very little time to cover the important information required. While we do study cultural differences in both the Americas and Western Europe, I do think it is more important to learn about physical regions of the world. When this subject ends in May, all my students will become familiar with where each country is located on the globe. My hope for these students is that when they hear about a place in the news they will be able to recognize where in the world this region is located. Too many kids across the world and even our country still believe South Dakota is located somewhere in the Deep South!

U.S. Government - Mr. Thorson

For the first time in a few years the senior government students will be traveling to Pierre to witness the South Dakota Legislature in action. We will meet with government leaders including spending a few minutes with the Governor. My goal for each senior is to help them understand what their role is in a community. To get out there and make a difference and develop a passion to help make that change. I do this in a number of ways like class discussions, current events and community service projects. We are also busy in the classroom talking about the Legislative, executive and legislative branches of our

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governments. We will end the semester talking about civil rights and how minorities had to overcome huge obstacles in American history to achieve equality. It's hard to believe these students are finally seniors. It will be hard to see them leave the nest.

Middle School Counselor – Ashley Seeklander

Curious about what has been going on in the Middle School counselor's office? Hang on to your hat because like a South Dakota blizzard here we go! In 6th- 8th grade we have been focusing on teamwork and doing our very best. I have been testing my student's ability to work with others with using everyday things like spoons and cotton balls. Eighth graders have also been working on career exploration using SDMyLife. They will be registering for their 9th grade classes with the help of Mrs. Sternhagen during February. We have a little bit more work to do with SDMyLife in order to meet the state's 8th grade completion standards so we will finish out the year getting that done. As the school year progresses our NSU intern, Ms. Sanford, will be doing more classroom lessons. It's so exciting to see her grow as a professional! Looking ahead our classroom guidance times will be interrupted by Smarter Balanced and DSTEP-Science testing. Once all our state mandated testing is completed we can get back to our typical schedule. Thanks for making my sixth year as a school counselor and my second year at Groton so memorable. I truly can't say enough great things about the students and staff here. Thank you!

ART I - Janene Harry

They began the second semester with a Pottery unit. Their project was made by using Pinch, Coil or Slab Construction. They were to focus on the texture of the project after it is finished. We are finally able to fire the greenware, after several weather interruptions. They will start the glazing process next. During the Pottery unit they will also be working on a Watercolor unit. The class voted on the drawing theme to be used for the painting. They had to first draw the picture and then stretch it onto a board before painting could begin. Each week they have a sketchbook assignment due that may be a choice or a chosen theme.

ART II - Janene Harry

These students will be working on an Acrylic unit this quarter. The first assignment was to do a close up study of an artist's work on a canvas that is 2"x4" or 3"x3". Some thought holding on to it was the hardest part of the assignment! They will have two more paintings to do for the remainder of the quarter. They will have a sketchbook assignment due each week and it may be a choice one or an assigned one.

ART III - Janene Harry

During their time in Art III the students will do advanced projects using the same media previously used and they are to also come up with new and different things that they would like to try to challenge their ability. They also have weekly sketchbook assignments that are due.

6th Grade ART - Janene Harry

The 6th graders have finally arrived and what a big group! After going over class expectations and rules we got started. The first project was a Multicultural Mask. They could use markers, colored pencils and any anything they could find at home to embellish it. Be looking for a group picture of them. They just finished an Ebony Landscape Drawing. This drawing concentrated on making it look three

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dimensional, creating texture of trees, leaves, grass etc. and learning how to apply values. The next project dealt with the Color Wheel, how they are made and the different groups.

Computer Classes – Cara Dennert

The Junior High have started computer classes 2nd semester. Students who are not currently in computer class will begin 4th quarter. The 6th grade class has Keyboarding for nine weeks. In class we are using a free online typing instruction program – typing.com (formerly known as typingweb.com). Students have been told that good grades will not just be based on how fast they can type – but their grade will also reflect their attitude, typing habits, and progression made during the quarter. The 8th grade class - Computer Skills. reviews basic skills using Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Publisher. The 8th grade students will also have a few days working on their typing skills at typing.com In the High School, the last group of sophomores have started Computer Applications class working with the Office 2013 programs. The Advanced Computer class is working on webpage building and will start some basic programming soon! They will also be developing the senior slide show to be shown at graduation. One project that the Advanced Computer class is currently working on is called "Project Outreach." They are supposed to seek out individuals (neighbors, family members, or friends) that need some technology support. The class then keeps a journal of the time spent along with skills taught. It's always good to apply what has been learned and teach others! This quote says it all - "To teach is to learn twice." Joseph Joubert

Algebra I - Mrs. Johnson

The second semester has introduced the students to the world of exponential growth and decay situations such as compound interest, population change, and depreciation. Graphing calculators have been used to compare linear and exponential functions as well as obtain regression equations for them. Students have learned how to identify functions and use function notation.

Remaining chapters will cover simplifying complex algebraic expressions involving powers and roots, solving and graphing quadratic equations, using matrices to solve systems of equations, and working with polynomials.

Informal Geometry - Mrs. Johnson

January has brought the opportunity of setting up proportions to determine missing lengths of similar triangles. The next chapter will focus on polygons and area. Students will name types of polygons according to their number of sides. They will find interior and exterior angle measurements and identify figures with line or rotational symmetry.

This informal geometry course will then offer the study of circles, surface area and volume, right triangles, an introduction to trigonometry, transformations, and a return to coordinate graphing. At semester's end, the students will be ready to take Algebra I in the fall.

Pre-Algebra - Mrs. Johnson

This class has been building their skills in solving algebraic equations and inequalities involving integers, fractions and decimals, using more than one operation, and dealing with parentheses. They continue with graphing solution sets on number lines. Most days find them displaying their work on the board. The chapter closes with the study of simple and compound interest.

Students will soon be graphing linear functions on the coordinate plane and using graphing calculators

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to see and compare the results. An introduction to geometry as well as studying area and volume, right triangles, data analysis, probability, and polynomials await them this semester.

Transition Mathematics - Mrs. Johnson

The new year began with a geometry chapter involving areas of polygons and circles. Yet another type of transformation will soon be explored—the size-change model involving expansion and contraction. Students are also learning how to combine like algebraic terms and use the distributive property to simplify algebraic expressions. They will be prepared to soon solve more complex algebraic equations and inequalities. Students will also be graphing solution sets on the graphing calculator.

The fourth quarter will bring a return to studying geometry—this time in space. They will determine volume and apply size-change factors. The year ends with the study of statistics.

MathCounts - Mrs. Johnson

Groton Area Middle School teams earned third and fourth places at the Simmons Invitational MathCounts Competition on Wednesday, January 14, 2015. Third place team members were Jennie Doeden, Micah Poor, AnneMarie Smith, and Cassandra Townsend. Fourth place team members were Tylan Glover, Kayla Jensen, Alexis Simon, and Isaac Smith. Milbank won the team competition, and Simmons placed second.

Three Groton students also received individual recognition. AnneMarie Smith, Micah Poor, and Jennie Doeden were awarded the second, eighth, and ninth place medals, respectively, in the individual/countdown portion of the competition.

Ten Groton students participated in the Northeastern South Dakota Chapter MathCounts Competition on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at Presentation College in Aberdeen. The results will determine which teams and individuals advance to the state competition in Pierre in March.

MathCounts is a nationwide coaching and competition program that promotes academic excellence and provides challenging enrichment for middle school mathematics students. It encourages good problem solving skills and provides opportunity for learning additional math concepts.

Our school district is indeed grateful for the support of 3M Aberdeen for their continued support for the MathCounts program in our school and in the Aberdeen area. Besides administering the tests at competitions and providing the trophies, medals, and prizes, they also give a t-shirt to each participant and shirts to the area teams that attend the chapter competition.

3RD/4TH/5TH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION - BRIAN SCHURING

The physical education classes are actively participating in their games unit, plus getting in shape with muscular and cardiovascular workouts. The games we have been playing are: Flag Tag, Capture the Flag, Capture the Pig, Pin Guard, Kickball, Relay Races, and Scooter Races. As far as getting into shape, we have done various warm-ups to help us increase our muscular and cardiovascular endurance. We have an activity that really stresses our physical endurance, that day we call "Arnold Day", which is exercises done at certain stations.

7th/9th GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION - BRIAN SCHURING

These students are enjoying the activity of bowling. We have the opportunity to bowl at the Jungle Lanes during the class period. In the bowling unit, students are taught everything from type of balls used, approach and follow-through and the most difficult-SCORING! Bowling is a good lifetime activity that can be enjoyed by anyone at any age.

Today in Weather History

1899: Extreme cold blanketed most locations east of the Rocky Mountains during the first half of February. For South Dakota, the minimum temperature was the lowest that has been experienced for many years, at least, and probably since its settlement. The week ending the 13th of February, the Weather Bureau stated: "With respect to temperature, this week is probably the most remarkable in the history of the Weather Bureau, over the greater part of the country east of the Rocky Mountains a large number of stations reporting the lowest temperatures recorded since their establishment. Over the whole region, extending from the eastern Rocky Mountain slope to the Atlantic coast and from the Gulf to the Great Lakes, the average daily deficiency exceeded 20 degrees and ranged from 30 degrees to 35 degrees over an extensive area embracing the central valleys and portions of the Lake Region."

The cold weather that culminated in the extremes, in South Dakota, began on January 26th and continued with little abatement over most of the state, until February 12th. During the first twelve days of February the daily average temperatures, at the Weather Bureau stations ranged from zero to 27 degrees below zero.

Some low temperature readings from February 8th through the 12th include:

- 29 in Spearfish on the 11th
- 30 in Yankton on the 11th
- 34 in Milbank on the 9th
- 34 in Rapid City on the 11th
- 35 in Aberdeen on the 8th and 12th
- 36 in Chamberlain on the 9th
- 36 in Waubay on the 8th
- 37 in Ipswich on the 8th
- 38 in Watertown on the 11th
- 39 in Mellette on the 11th
- 39 in Mitchell on the 11th
- 39 in Pierre on the 12th
- 39 in Wessington Springs on the 9th
- 40 in DeSmet on the 10th
- 40 in Highmore on the 12th
- 42 in Gann Valley on the 8th
- 40 in Redfield on the 9th
- 42 Sioux Falls on the 9th

1994: Widespread record cold occurred across central, north central, and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. Record lows were set at Aberdeen, Mobridge, Pierre, Sisseton, Timber Lake, and Wheaton. Overnight lows were in the 30s to 40s below zero across the entire area. Aberdeen fell to 45 degrees below zero which was just one degree off the all-time record low of 46 degrees below zero. Mobridge fell to 38 degrees below zero and Pierre fell to 35 degrees below zero. Watertown came just one degree short of their daytime record with 35 degrees below zero.

1870 – The U.S. Congress authorized the War Department to take weather observations at key marine ports, assigning this function to the Army Signal Service. The intention was to provide advanced warning of storm systems that could adversely affect marine interests. This service was the forerunner to the current National Weather Service.

1899 – One of the most significant cold outbreaks to ever affect the United States occurred in early to mid-February. From the 8th-11th the statewide average temperature across Iowa was 14.6 degrees below zero making it the coldest four day stretch on record in the state. On the 8th Sioux City experi-

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enced their coldest day on record with a daily average temperature of 24 degrees below zero, then on the 11th they reached their second-coldest temperature on record with a low of minus 31. Overall the coldest readings were obtained on the morning of the 9th when reported low temperatures included -21 at Keokuk, -23 at Des Moines, -33 at New Hampton, -35 at Le Mars, -38 at Estherville, and -40 at Sibley. The cold across the middle of the country was so extreme and persistent that ice flowed down the Mississippi River all the way into the deep-south, emerging into the Gulf of Mexico near New Orleans on February 17th. This has happened only one other time: February 13, 1784. The temperature dropped to 63 degrees below zero at Norway House, Manitoba Canada setting the province's low temperature record.

1933 - The temperature at Moran, WY, located next to Teton National Park, plunged to 63 degrees below zero to establish a state record. The temperature at the Riverside Ranger Station in Montana dipped to 66 below zero to establish a record for the state, and a record for the nation which stood until 1954. (David Ludlum)

1934 - The mercury dipped to 51 degrees below zero at Vanderbilt to establish a record for the state of Michigan. The temperature at Stillwater plunged to 52 degrees below zero to establish a record for the state of New York. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A storm off the Atlantic coast produced high winds and heavy snow in the northeastern U.S., with blizzard conditions in eastern Massachusetts. Wind gusted to 80 mph and 23.4 inches of snow produced drifts eight feet high at Cape Cod MA. It was the worst blizzard in thirty years for the Cape Cod area. Winds in some of the mountains and ridges of the Appalachian Region gusted to 100 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Arctic cold invaded the north central U.S. Alliance NE plunged from 44 degrees to 12 above in just two hours, and Mobridge SD reported a wind chill of 64 degrees below zero. Winds along the eastern slopes of the Rockies gusted to 90 mph at Cheyenne WY, and reached 96 mph at Boulder CO. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A winter storm continued to bring rain and snow to southern California. Snowfall totals ranged up to 18 inches at Olancho, with three inches at Palmdale. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front erupted over eastern Texas late in the morning, and produced severe weather as they swept across the southeastern states. Early evening thunderstorms spawned a tornado which injured one person at Nat TX, and produced tennis balls size hail which caused more than half a million dollars damage around Shreveport LA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	TUESDAY NIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	THURSDAY
						
Chance Freezing Drizzle High: 29 °F	Wintry Mix Low: 26 °F	Wintry Mix High: 37 °F	Blustery Low: 12 °F	Blustery High: 16 °F	Blustery Low: -7 °F	Partly Sunny High: 14 °F



Freezing Rain Tonight, Ice Accumulations

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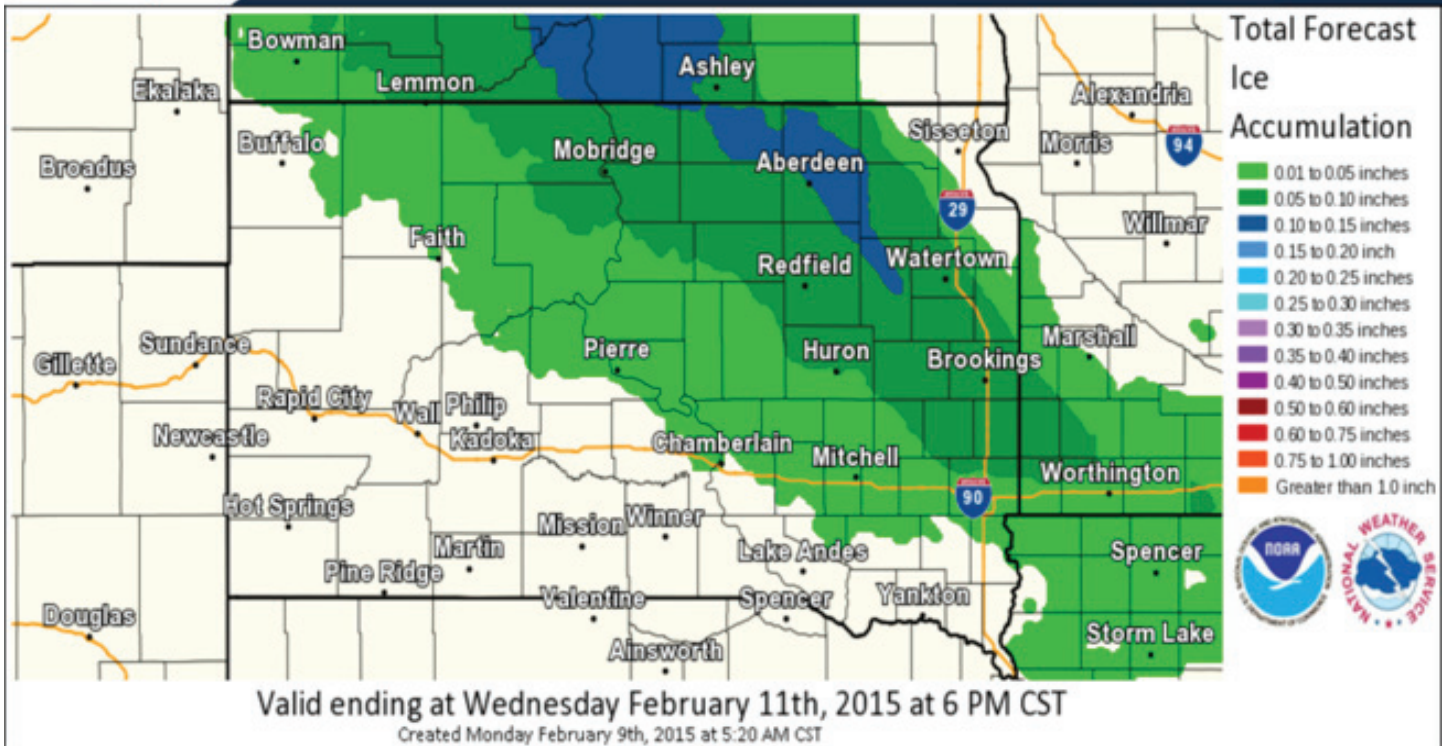
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



A storm system will move across the region tonight into Tuesday, spreading freezing rain, sleet and snow across the forecast area. The graphic shows the current forecast ice accumulations, which will range from a couple hundredths to perhaps as much as a tenth of an inch or more in some areas. Travel may be adversely affected overnight into Tuesday morning, so stay tuned to the latest forecasts for possible advisories and updates to ice accumulations.

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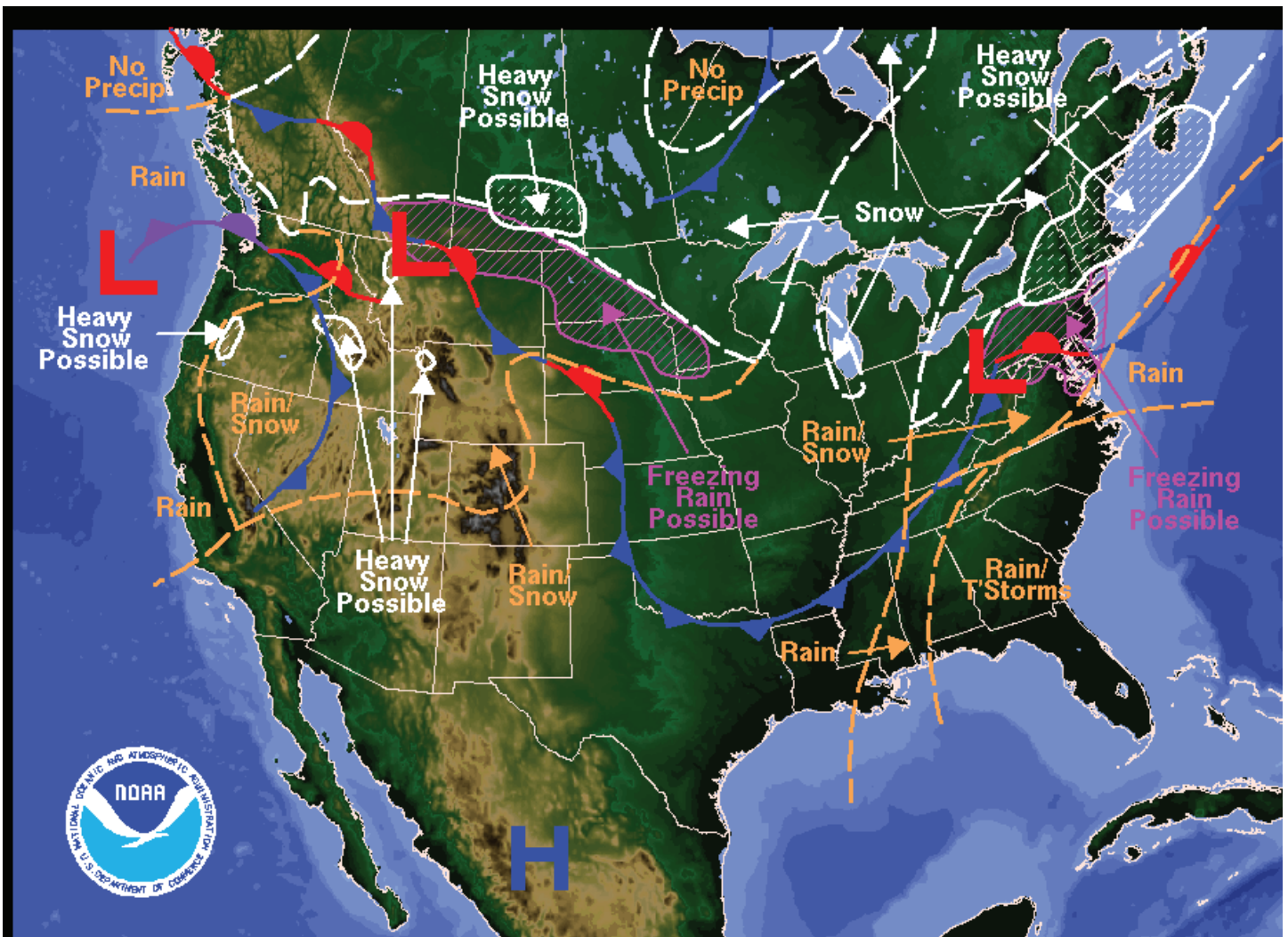
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Yesterday's Weather

High: 35.8 at 12:10 AM
Low: 19.8 at 9:28 AM
Wind Chill:
High Gust: 18 at 5:12 AM
Snow: 0.00
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 53° in 1987, 1977
Record Low: -45° in 1994
Average High: 26°F
Average Low: 5°F
Average Precip in Feb.: 0.12
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.59
Precip Year to Date: 0.40
Sunset Tonight: 5:52 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:43 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Feb 09, 2015, issued 3:49 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



"Why A Rope, Son?"

After saying his nightly prayer, little Johnny said to his Dad, "I'll be right back."

"Where are you going?" asked his Dad.

"To get a rope," he quickly replied.

"Why a rope, Son?" he wondered.

"Well, Dad, you promised me that Jesus would answer my prayers. I asked him for a pony tonight and the rope's to tie the pony to my bed when it comes."

Now that's faith. Asking God for a pony and then running to get a rope. But that is what happens when we take God at His Word. Jesus said, "You can pray for anything, and if you believe, you will have it."

Contained in the word "anything" is the word "everything." And when Jesus made that statement He would have us to understand that our prayers are to be motivated by asking for things that have God's best interest at heart. Certainly when we pray we are to ask for the desires of our hearts, but we must always place His will above our wants, His good above our greed and ask for His wisdom so that we can recognize the needs of His Kingdom first and foremost.

Is it wrong to ask God for a pony? Of course not. He created the little ponies and He wants us to enjoy all of His creation. But if spending time enjoying the pony causes us to stop reading the Bible, praying, worshiping, serving and obeying Him, we have the wrong priorities.

Prayer: Give us the boldness, Father, to pray sincerely, confidently, expectantly and with determination for those things that will honor You and enrich our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Mark 11:17-27 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses." Then they came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to Him.

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News from the  Associated Press

3 circuit judge spots open in SD; lawmakers look to add 2

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's state court system is looking for three new circuit judges and could add two more spots if state lawmakers go along with it.

A Seventh Circuit judgeship in Rapid City is open because Judge Janine Kern was appointed to the state Supreme Court.

Two positions in the Third Circuit will open in June with the planned retirements of Judge Robert Timm, of Watertown, and Judge Tim Tucker, of Madison.

Court administrator Greg Sattizahn says the Judicial Qualifications Commission advertises the positions, interviews the applicants and recommends at least two candidates to the governor and he appoints them. Candidates must have a law degree.

Lawmakers are considering a proposal to add a circuit judgeship in Sioux Falls and another in Rapid City.

There are currently 41 circuit judges statewide.

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. OBAMA AND MERKEL HOLD TALKS OVER UKRAINE

Ahead of Russian-Ukrainian talks in Minsk on Wednesday, the U.S. and its NATO allies want to show unity over their support for Kiev.

2. EGYPT SOCCER RIOT KILLS MORE THAN 20

The turmoil, only three years after similar violence killed 74 people, began ahead of a match east of Cairo and raises further questions about security forces' policing of crowds and protesters.

3. NEW ENGLAND FACES THIRD SNOW STORM IN TWO WEEKS

Winter-weary northeast braces for another round of snow, with Boston in the crosshairs for up to two feet.

4. DEMOCRATS TIE JEB BUSH TO ROMNEY

Comparisons between the former Florida governor and the 2012 GOP candidate are meant to prevent him from defining himself as a reformer.

5. SAM SMITH, BECK WIN BIG AT GRAMMYS

The 22-year-old British soul singer sweeps the music awards with three big wins for song and record of the year as well as best new artist. Beck's "Morning Phase" is crowned best album.

6. WHICH STATE IS SET TO ALLOW GAYS TO MARRY

Alabama will become the 37th to allow same-sex couples to wed as a federal judge's order overturning its ban on gay marriage goes into effect.

7. FAMILY AWAITS WORD ON HOSTAGE HELD BY THE ISLAMIC STATE

The parents of American aid worker Kayla Jean Mueller cling to hope that she is alive, days after the militant group said she died in a Jordanian airstrike.

8. WHO IS SPENDING A LOT OF MONEY ON CAMPAIGNS

Some of the candidates running for office themselves are putting up millions of their own money to fund their quest for a political post.

9. MALAYSIA'S OPPOSITION LEADER AWAITS SODOMY SENTENCE

The U.S. and international human rights groups says the charges against Anwar Ibrahim, who had already been imprisoned once in the past decade, are politically motivated.

10. WHY HOMELAND SECURITY SPENDING HANGS IN THE BALANCE

The department's budget will freeze by Feb. 27 if Congress doesn't come to an agreement over immigration matters in its annual funding bill.

AP News in Brief

Merkel to brief Obama on four-party Ukraine crisis talks, show no split on arms for Kiev

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel are trying for a public display of unity despite a potential split over arming Ukrainian fighters to wage a more effective battle against Russian-backed separatists.

That was the unstated point of Monday's meeting at the White House, where Merkel was to brief Obama on upcoming talks aimed at reviving a peace plan for besieged Ukraine.

At issue is not only Russian President Vladimir Putin's support for the separatists but the revival of the Soviet Cold War strategy of trying to create a critical division between the United States and its NATO allies, Germany in particular.

Merkel and French President Francois Hollande met with Ukrainian leaders and Putin last week and have announced a new summit meeting for Wednesday in Minsk. French and German leaders are to sit down with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and Putin in an attempt to breathe life into a much-violated September peace plan. The United States will not be at the table.

That meeting in the Belarusian capital takes place with Merkel and Hollande deeply opposed to arming Ukraine in its bid to push back the separatists that NATO and the United States insist are being armed by Russia, which also has troops fighting in the eastern Ukraine. The White House has let it be known that Obama, who had resisted calls to send arms, was now considering doing just that. Opponents of arming Kiev believe that could open a proxy war between Washington and Moscow. Merkel and Hollande insist the only way to end the conflict is through diplomacy.

Egypt suspends soccer league after 22 fans killed in clashes with police, stampede

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's Cabinet has indefinitely suspended the national soccer league after at least 22 fans were killed in a stampede and clashes with police outside a Cairo stadium, three years after Egypt witnessed one of the deadliest soccer riots in the sport's history.

The Cabinet announced the suspension late Sunday after riot police clashed with hundreds of soccer fans and fired tear gas to clear a narrow corridor leading to the Air Defense stadium in an eastern Cairo suburb, setting off a deadly stampede.

Egypt last suspended the league in 2012 after 74 fans were killed in rioting at a match in the Suez Canal city of Port Said. That violence sparked widespread outrage at the police and the then-ruling transitional military council for not doing enough to stop the killings.

Fans have only recently been allowed back in stadiums, but authorities continue to limit the number who can attend.

Egypt's public prosecutor has ordered an investigation of the violence. The largely militarized police force is already facing heightened scrutiny following the shooting death of an unarmed female protester last month in downtown Cairo.

FACT CHECK: Limited impact on national security if Homeland Security budget is shut off

WASHINGTON (AP) — Spending for the Department of Homeland Security hangs in the balance as Congress fights over immigration matters in the agency's annual funding bill. Without action by Feb. 27, the department's budget will shut off.

To hear Democrats and many Republicans tell it, the result would be unacceptable risks to U.S. security at a time of grave threats worldwide. In reality, though, most people will see little change if the department's money flow is halted, and some of the warnings of doom are as exaggerated as they are striking.

"There are ghoulish, grim predators out there who would love to kill us or do us harm," said Sen. Barbara Mikulski of Maryland, top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee. "We should not be dillydallying and playing parliamentary pingpong with national security."

In the view of some House conservatives, though, shutting off the agency's \$40 billion budget for a time "is obviously not the end of the world," as Rep. Matt Salmon, R-Ariz., put it, because many agency employees would stay at work through a shutdown.

Who's right, and what would the impact be if Congress were to let money for the department lapse?

Three of the four top Grammys now staying with Sam Smith; he thanks his muse for big haul

Somewhere in England sits a man who was the unwitting inspiration for the biggest winner at the Grammy Awards.

He's the man who loved, and dumped, 22-year-old British soul singer Sam Smith. Smith's yearning hit, "Stay With Me," won Grammys for song and record of the year and he was named best new artist — three of the four biggest awards the Grammys present each year. His album, "In the Lonely Hour," won best pop vocal album but lost to Beck for album of the year.

Still, not a bad haul.

While accepting his record of the year award, Smith said he wanted to thank the man he's been in love with for the past year "for breaking my heart, 'cause you got me four Grammys."

Backstage later, Smith said that "I'll be seeing him soon, so I can let him touch the Grammys — once."

Another storm begins to batter New England, parts of New York; Boston braces for up to 2 feet

BOSTON (AP) — Snow is falling yet again on New England and portions of New York state, threatening to bring up to 1 to 2 feet to some areas and making the first commutes of the workweek potentially hazardous.

The National Weather Service issued winter storm warnings for central New York, the western Catskills and much of New England through early Tuesday.

Government officials Sunday announced that schools and municipal offices in many communities

would be closed and that parking bans would be in effect. As accidents began to accumulate, drivers were warned to stay off the slick roads.

"This storm marks our third major snow storm we have experienced in nearly two weeks," as parts of Massachusetts have already seen over 60 inches of snowfall, said Gov. Charlie Baker. He said it would cause "many challenges" for the state.

The Boston area was expected to receive 1 to 2 feet of snow through Tuesday while Hartford, Connecticut, and Providence, Rhode Island, could each get up to a foot.

As gay marriage comes to Alabama, chief justice tells judges to refuse gay marriage licenses

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Tori Sisson and Shante Wolfe camped in a blue and white tent outside the Montgomery County Courthouse during the early hours Monday, hugging and talking excitedly of getting married soon.

They hoped to be the first couple to get a marriage license Monday morning as a federal judge's order overturning the state's ban on gay marriage goes into effect, making Alabama the 37th state to allow gays and lesbians to wed.

"It's about time," Wolfe, 21, said of gay marriage being allowed in the Deep South state.

Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore, in an 11th hour move to keep the weddings on hold, sent an order to state probate judges Sunday night telling them to refuse to issue the marriage licenses to gay couples. Moore argued that judges are not bound by the ruling of a federal judge that the gay marriage ban is unconstitutional.

It was a dramatic return to defiance for Moore who was removed as chief justice in 2003 for refusing to obey a federal court order to remove a washing machine-sized Ten Commandments from the state judicial building. Critics lashed out that Moore had no authority to tell county probate judges to enforce a law that a federal judge already ruled unconstitutional.

Rising star or flash in pan? Yair Lapid seeks 2nd chance to be fresh face of Israel's future

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — After bursting onto the political scene with a surprisingly strong showing in Israel's last election, Yair Lapid said he was bound for the prime minister's office. But today the telegenic ex-anchorman, actor and novelist hopes to avoid becoming another flash in the pan.

His fledgling party, Yesh Atid or "There's a Future," came from nowhere in the 2013 election to capture 19 of the Knesset's 120 seats, second only to the party headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. But instead of leading his largely secular and middle-class supporters into opposition to battle Netanyahu, he cut a deal to join the prime minister's government as finance minister — but also wilted his own grass roots support in the process.

On the campaign trail ahead of the March 17 election, Lapid has dumped his previous brash talk of replacing Netanyahu as Israel's leader and emphasizes he simply wants his party to retain enough votes to be a force in parliament, either back in the Cabinet or in the opposition. He's hoping that voters forgive him for propping up Netanyahu, and instead credit him as the man whose bitter breakup with Netanyahu's Likud triggered this early election.

"It's not about who I want to be, it's about what I want to do," Lapid told The Associated Press last week at a late-night Super Bowl party with supporters in a Tel Aviv bar.

Whether there's a future for Lapid's barely three-year-old party may seem like a local issue for Israelis alone. But Yesh Atid's tepid performance in opinion polls is dispiriting for the legions worldwide who want Israel to dump the internationally unpopular Netanyahu. Many still see in Lapid the most charismatic face in a field cluttered with less-than-electrifying leadership candidates.

Lawyers for Concordia shipwreck survivors demand cruise company, not just captain, pay a price

GROSSETO, Italy (AP) — Whatever verdict is delivered in the trial of the Italian sea captain for the shipwreck of the Costa Concordia cruise liner and for the deaths of 32 people, survivors and victims' families already are wondering if justice will be done.

The trial, expected to bring a verdict this week, has a sole defendant. Francesco Schettino is accused of causing the shipwreck on the night of Jan. 13, 2012, when he steered too close to a tiny Tuscan island, smashing into a granite reef that sliced open the hull, sending seawater rushing in.

Schettino is also charged with multiple manslaughter and injury, and of abandoning the luxury liner when many of the 4,200 passengers and crew were still aboard and desperately trying to save themselves — some by leaping into the sea — as the Concordia was capsizing.

Survivors, shivering as they staggered ashore on Giglio Island, were startled to see the captain, already safe on land, "without even getting his feet wet," noted Prosecutor Alessandro Leopizzi in closing arguments.

The cruise company, Costa Crociere SpA, has put the blame squarely on Schettino.

Publicist: Bruce Jenner wasn't texting when he got into fatal, chain-reaction crash in Malibu

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bruce Jenner was not texting while driving when he got into a chain-reaction crash in Malibu that left a woman dead, and he will provide cellphone records if requested by investigators looking into the cause of the weekend accident, a publicist for the Olympic gold medalist said.

"The evidence will show that Bruce was not texting at the time of the accident," Alan Nierob said.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's officials said Sunday that investigators will likely seek cellphone records for all the drivers to determine if distracted driving played a role in the four-vehicle crash on Pacific Coast Highway.

Jenner was driving a black Cadillac Escalade when he rear-ended a Lexus sedan that slammed into a Toyota Prius that had slowed down or stopped on the highway, sheriff's Sgt. Philip Brooks said.

The Lexus veered into oncoming traffic and collided head-on with a black Hummer.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 9, the 40th day of 2015. There are 325 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 9, 1870, the U.S. Weather Bureau was established.

On this date:

In 1773, the ninth president of the United States, William Henry Harrison, was born in Charles City County, Virginia.

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In 1825, the House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams president after no candidate received a majority of electoral votes.

In 1861, Jefferson Davis was elected provisional president of the Confederate States of America at a congress held in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1942, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff held its first formal meeting to coordinate military strategy during World War II. Daylight-saving "War Time" went into effect in the United States, with clocks turned one hour forward.

In 1943, the World War II battle of Guadalcanal in the southwest Pacific ended with an Allied victory over Japanese forces.

In 1950, in a speech in Wheeling, West Virginia, Sen. Joseph McCarthy, R-Wis., charged the State Department was riddled with Communists.

In 1960, Adolph Coors Co. chairman Adolph Coors III, 44, was shot to death in suburban Denver during a botched kidnapping attempt. (The man who killed him, Joseph Corbett, Jr., served 19 years in prison.)

In 1964, The Beatles made their first live American television appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show," broadcast from New York by CBS.

In 1971, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake in California's San Fernando Valley claimed 65 lives. The crew of Apollo 14 returned to Earth after man's third landing on the moon.

In 1984, Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov, 69, died 15 months after succeeding Leonid Brezhnev; he was followed by Konstantin U. Chernenko (chehr-NYEN'-koh).

In 1995, former Sen. J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., died in Washington at age 89.

In 2002, Britain's Princess Margaret, sister of Queen Elizabeth II, died in London at age 71.

Ten years ago: Hewlett-Packard Co. chief executive Carly Fiorina was forced out by board members, ending her nearly six-year reign. A new postage stamp honoring President Ronald Reagan was issued in ceremonies across the country.

Five years ago: Appealing for bipartisanship, President Barack Obama sat down with Democrats and Republicans to spur cooperation on job creation, deficit reduction and health care overhaul. First lady Michelle Obama launched her "Let's Move!" campaign against childhood obesity. Iran began enriching uranium to a higher level over the vociferous objections of the U.S. and its allies. Fred Morrison, credited with inventing the Frisbee, died in Monroe, Utah, at age 90.

One year ago: Despite a wave of online protests, Copenhagen Zoo in Denmark killed a healthy male giraffe named "Marius" because of rules imposed by a European zoo association to deter inbreeding. Host country Russia won its first gold medal of the Sochi Olympics, winning the team figure skating event; Matthias Mayer of Austria won the men's downhill. Missouri All-American Michael Sam came out to the nation as an openly gay player in published interviews with ESPN, The New York Times and Outsports. Danish movie director Gabriel Axel ("Babette's Feast") died in Copenhagen at age 95.

Today's Birthdays: Television journalist Roger Mudd is 87. Actress Janet Suzman is 76. Nobel Prize-winning author J.M. Coetzee is 75. Actress-politician Sheila James Kuehl (kyool) ("The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis") is 74. Singer-songwriter Carole King is 73. Actor Joe Pesci is 72. Singer Barbara Lewis is 72. Author Alice Walker is 71. Actress Mia Farrow is 70. Former Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., is 69. Singer Joe Ely is 68. Actress Judith Light is 66. Rhythm-and-blues musician Dennis "DT" Thomas (Kool & the Gang) is 64. Actor Charles Shaughnessy is 60. Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe is 58. Jazz musician Steve Wilson is 54. Country singer Travis Tritt is 52. Actress Julie Warner is 50. Country singer Danni Leigh is 45. Actress Sharon Case (TV: "The Young and the Restless") is 44. Actor Jason George is 43. Actor-producer Charlie Day is 39. Rock singer Chad Wolf (Carolina Liar) is 39. Actor A.J. Buckley is 38. Rock musician

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Richard On (O.A.R.) is 36. Actress Ziyi Zhang is 36. Olympic silver and bronze medal figure skater Irina Slutskaya is 36. Actor David Gallagher is 30. Actor Michael B. Jordan is 28. Actress Rose Leslie is 28. Actress Marina Malota is 27. Actress Camille Winbush is 25. Actor Jimmy Bennett is 19.

Thought for Today: "The man who has eaten enough will never believe a hungry one." - Albanian proverb.

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)

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

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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.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

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- ◆ 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 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.