

Groton Daily Independent

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Monday, February 16

President's Day - No School

6:30 am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study
Boys Basketball hosts Roncalli (7th at 3 p.m., 8th at 4 p.m., C game at 5:15 p.m., JV at 6:30 p.m., Varsity at 8 p.m.)

7:30pm: Groton Fire and Rescue Annual meeting at the Fire Hall.

Tuesday, February 17

Senior Menu: Turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, pumpkin bar with topping, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Italian dunker, sweet tots, veg cups, fruit.

6:30pm: GBB hosts Tiospa-Zina

7:00pm: City Council meeting

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken, boiled potatoes, green beans, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, fruit, yogurt, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Fish nuggets, French Fries, roman salad, fruit.

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



Sperry Stump Removal Tyler: 605/216-8431
Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!
TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**

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.

Girls beat Britton-Hecla, lose to Mobridge-Pollock

The Groton Area girls basketball team played back-to-back games Friday and Saturday, beating Britton-Hecla at Britton on Friday, 55-26, and then losing to Mobridge-Pollock at Mobridge on Saturday, 53-43.

In the Britton-Hecla game, the Tigers held an 11-8 first quarter lead and upped it to 28-13 at half time and 44-20 at the end of the third quarter.

Audrey Wanner led the Tigers with 17 points followed by Carly Wheeting with 16, Courtney Kurtz 15, Katie Koehler three and Ashley Gibbs and Jessica Bjerke with two each.

Groton Area made 45 percent of its field goals, was 12 of 19 from the line, had 33 rebounds with Wanner and Kurtz each having seven, 11 assists with Kurtz having five, 11 steals with Kurtz having six, 13 turnovers and Koehler and Emily Locke each having one block.

The Braves were led by Toni Symens with 11, Shyla Henricks and Brianna Beck each had five, Laken Olson four and Sydney Fosness added one.

The Braves made 38 percent of its field goals, was seven of 10 from the line off of Groton's 10 team fouls, had 25 rebounds with Symens having eight, 13 turnovers, four steals and nine assists.

Groton Area could not overcome a bad second quarter in the game at Mobridge-Pollock. Groton Area held a 14-10 first quarter lead, but fell behind at half time, 25-19, and trailed, 39-33, at the end of the third quarter.

Audrey Wanner had a hat hand for Groton Area with five three-pointers and having 23 points. Courtney Kurtz had seven, Ashley Gibbs five, Carly Wheeting four and Katie Koehler and Jessica Bjerke each had two points.

Groton Area made 32 percent of its field goals, was three of 14 from the line, had 24 rebounds with Wheeting having nine, 10 assists with Kurtz having seven, 10 steals with Wheeting having three, and seven turnovers.

Mobridge-Pollock was led by Chelsy Hoffman with 14 points followed by Kaitlin Good Shield and Alexa Schaeftbauer with 10 each, Grace Wallman had seven, Naomi Stroeder with six, Aundra Kramer four and Sam Good Shield with two points.

The girls junior varsity teams dropped a pair of games. Britton-Hecla pulled out a one-point, 20-19 win, Friday night. Emily Locke led Groton Area with six points followed by Jessica Bjerke and Marlee Jones with three each, Hannah Lewandowski, Gia Gengerke and Miranda Hanson each had two and Lexi Gustafson added one point. Maggie Dahme led Mobridge-Pollock with eight points.

Mobridge-Pollock defeated Groton Area, 42-23. Emily Locke had six points, Gia Gengerke five, Hattie Weismantel four, Hannah Lewandowski three, Alexis Stange and Hattie Weismantel each had two and Jessica Bjerke added one point.

Lauren Henderson led Mobridge-Pollock with 12 points.

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.

The Life of Dennis A. Larson



Services for Dennis A. Larson, 71, of Groton will be 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 17th at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Pastor Elizabeth Johnson will officiate. Burial with military honors will follow in Groton Union Cemetery.

Visitation will be held at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel on Monday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at p.m.

Dennis lost his hard fought battle with cancer on Friday, February 13, 2015 at his home, surrounded by his family.

Dennis Arthur was born on August 16, 1943 to Clarence and Mae (Wickre) Larson in Britton. He was baptized and confirmed at the United Methodist Church in Britton. In 1961, he graduated from Britton High School and entered the military. He served in the US Army until 1970, which included tours in Korea and Vietnam.

Dennis married Patricia Holland on October 29, 1965. They started their family and moved among several army bases before they returned to Aberdeen in 1970. In 1973, he moved his family to Groton. Dennis worked over two decades at the Groton Farmers Elevator and twelve years at Hub City Manufacturing before retiring in 2006.

Over the years, Dennis was active in the volunteer fire department and American Legion. In his retirement, Dennis enjoyed making fishing tackle, playing cards and telling stories to his grandkids.

Celebrating his life are his brothers, Clarence "Skip" (Linda) Larson, Tim (Marcia) Larson and Marvin (June) Larson, brother-in-law, Ron Hanson, his children: Tonicia (Rob) Gibbs, Tricia Larson, Troy (Margaret) Larson, his wife, Patricia, six grandchildren and four step-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his parents, an infant sister, Phyllis, his sister, Mary Lou Hanson, his daughter, Rhonda and two sons, Todd and Travis.

Honorary Casketbearers will be his grandchildren: Ashley, Emma, Jacob, Raevin, Gage, Korben, Jason, Jeremy, Mackenzie and Jordan.

Casketbearers will be Richard Holland, Michael Holland, Roger Holland, John Holland, Trent Anderson and Alex Holland.

Three place at Howard Tourney



Trevor Pray grapples with Luke Heninger of Stanley County in the championship match.



Brody Schatz of Potter County tries to escape the clutches of Kelby Hawkins in the championship match.

Brandyn Anderson and Kelby Hawkins took first and Trevor Pray took second at the Holland Invitational Wrestling Tourney held Saturday in Howard. There were 12 teams participating in the tournament.

At 113 pounds, Trevor Pray pinned Chance Godwin of Marion-Freeman in 1:08. Then Pray decisioned Chase Andeson of Parker, 5-3, after scoring three points in the third period to overcome a 3-2 deficit. In the championship match, Pray was decisioned by Luke Heninger of Stanley County, 6-2.

Wyatt Locke wrestled at 126 pounds, first getting pinned by Lucas Smith of Potter County in 1:25. He then decisioned Ryan Habeck of Stanley County, 3-2, in double overtime. In that match, Habeck took a 2-0 lead after two periods. Locke got a penalty point and an escape to tie the match at two. Locke scored an escape in the second overtime to come out with the win. Locke then was pinned by Hayden Haak of Mt. Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica in 50 seconds.

Kelby Hawkins pinned Logan Kenedy of Stanley County at 132 pounds in 1:18. He then pinned Jayden Even of Parker in 40 seconds, and in the championship match, he scored a 6-4 decision over Brody Schatz of Potter County.

At 160 pounds, Tyler Scott had a 6-3 lead after the first period,

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but ended up getting pinned by Tanner Risseuw of Mt. Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica in 3:17. Scott pinned Alex Martinez of Potter County in 2:14, and in his third match, he was decided by Jordan Lovre of Deuel, 9-3.

Brandyn Anderson pinned Hunter Curtis of Stanley County in 1:50 at 220 pounds. In the championship match, Anderson pinned Ray Edgar of Faulkton, 1:12.



Brandyn Anderson and Ray Edgar of Faulkton have grappled three times this year. Edgar won the first two, but Anderson won the last two, including the championship title at the Howard Tournament.

Time to say "Uncle!" So the saying goes as Tyler Scott pinned Alex Martinez of Potter County.



Wyatt Locke came from behind to decision Ryan Habeck of Stanley County, 3-2, in double overtime.

Lerew has double-double night at Mobridge

Hunter Lerew had a double-double night for Groton Area in a tough loss to Mobridge-Pollock Saturday in Mobridge. Lerew led the Tigers with 25 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks.

Groton rallied in the fourth quarter to try and overcome a big deficit, but fell short by four points, 63-59.

Others scoring were Kyler Ell with 16, Bennett Shabazz had six, Spencer Knecht five, Gabe Dohman three and Lucas Sternhagen and Adam Herman each had two points.

Groton made 42 percent of its field goals compared to 55 percent for Mobridge-Pollock. The rebounds were close with Mobridge-Pollock having one more, 25-24. Sternhagen had six of the team's 13 assists and Sternhagen and Ell each had three of the team's 11 steals.

Mobridge-Pollock was led by Preston Frederick with 27 points followed by Noah Chase with 14, Mason Keller nine, Danti Fischer eight, Gary Wollman three and Reece Wientjes with two.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 40-27. Scoring for Groton were Sean Schuring and Adam Herman with nine each, Bennett Shabazz eight, Aaron Severson seven, Seric Shabazz four, Luke Thorson two and Brandon Keith one.

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VISITOR: Groton ()

GROTON AREA NO PLAYER	TOT-FG				3-PT			REBOUNDS										MIN
	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S		
4 Sternhagen, Lucas	*	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	6	2	0	3	16:00	
10 Knecht, Spencer	*	2	3	0	0	1	2	0	2	2	1	5	2	2	0	1	0:00	
12 Ell, Kyler	*	5	13	4	8	2	3	0	3	3	0	16	1	0	0	3	16:00	
32 Dohman, Gabe	*	1	1	0	0	1	2	1	2	3	1	3	0	0	0	1	8:00	
40 Lerew, Hunter	*	10	19	0	1	5	6	5	6	11	4	25	0	1	3	0	24:00	
3 Schuring, Sean		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	16:00	
5 Shabazz, Seric		0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	16:00	
14 Herman, Adam		1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0:00	
22 Shabazz, Bennett		2	7	1	4	1	2	1	2	3	3	6	2	0	0	2	24:00	
24 Strom, Chance		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	16:00	
30 Larson, Landon		0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	8:00	
42 Larson, Wyatt		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16:00	
Team Totals		22	52	5	15	10	18	8	16	24	16	59	13	10	3	11	160	

Total FG% - 1st: 8/22 0.364 2nd: 14/30 0.467 Game: 0.423 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 0/6 0.000 2nd: 5/9 0.556 Game: 0.333 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 3/5 0.600 2nd: 7/13 0.538 Game: 0.556 (6,2)

HOME: Mobridge ()

NO PLAYER	TOT-FG				3-PT			REBOUNDS										MIN
	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S		
3 Keller, Mason	*	4	9	1	3	0	1	0	5	5	3	9	1	2	0	1	16:00	
5 Frederich, Preston	*	10	16	3	7	4	7	0	8	8	3	27	3	7	0	3	32:00	
15 Wollman, Gary	*	1	5	0	0	1	4	2	0	2	2	3	1	0	0	2	24:00	
21 Chase, Noah	*	5	5	4	4	0	0	1	1	2	2	14	1	0	1	1	24:00	
32 Wientjes, Reece	*	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	2	2	1	2	1	0	24:00	
25 Fischer, Danti		3	6	0	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	8	2	4	0	1	32:00	
30 Lepke, Matt		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	8:00	
Team Totals		24	44	8	16	7	14	5	20	25	16	63	9	15	2	8	160	

Total FG% - 1st: 10/22 0.455 2nd: 14/22 0.636 Game: 0.545 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 5/11 0.455 2nd: 3/5 0.600 Game: 0.500 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 2/5 0.400 2nd: 5/9 0.556 Game: 0.500 (4,4)

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Groton	11	8	14	26	59
Mobridge	19	8	18	18	63

Last FG: Groton 4th-08:00, Mobridge 4th-08:00

Largest lead: Groton by 6 1st-08:00, Mobridge by 13 4th-08:00

Score tied: 1 times, Lead changed: 1 times

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GROTON AREA JV		TOT-FG						3-PT		REBOUNDS								
NO	PLAYER	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
3	Schuring, Sean	*	3	12	3	10	0	1	2	5	7	1	9	2	2	1	1	16:00
5	Shabazz, Seric	*	1	11	1	6	1	2	5	5	10	0	4	2	1	0	5	16:00
14	Herman, Adam	*	4	11	0	2	1	4	2	2	4	3	9	0	2	0	0	24:00
22	Shabazz, Bennett	*	3	7	0	3	2	3	1	1	2	0	8	6	1	1	2	16:00
52	Severson, Aaron	*	3	4	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	7	0	1	0	1	8:00
4	Sippel, Anthony		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
10	Lane, Marshall		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	16:00
12	Wuestewald, Frankie		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
20	Keith, Brandon		0	4	0	3	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	16:00
30	Oliver, Jackson		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
34	l.Keith, Brady		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0:00
42	Thorson, Luke		1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	24:00
Team Totals			15	50	4	24	6	13	12	17	29	6	40	10	10	4	10	160

Total FG% - 1st: 9/29 0.310 2nd: 6/21 0.286 Game: 0.300 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 3/17 0.176 2nd: 1/7 0.143 Game: 0.167 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 1/2 0.500 2nd: 5/11 0.455 Game: 0.462 (9,5)

MOBRIDGE-POLLOCK JV		TOT-FG						3-PT		REBOUNDS								
NO	PLAYER	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
10	Ulmer, Lucas	*	7	11	3	5	0	0	1	4	5	2	17	0	2	0	1	32:00
12	Dockter, Caleb	*	1	6	0	2	0	2	0	3	3	1	2	1	2	1	4	24:00
23	Sjomeling, Jaidon	*	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	8:00
30	Lepke, Matt	*	0	5	0	1	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
40	Bachmeier, Jordan	*	2	6	0	0	0	2	1	3	4	0	4	0	1	0	0	16:00
34	Sehett, Riley		1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	16:00
35	Kemnitz, Jeff		1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	1	2	0	4	0	1	32:00
45	Baker, Cecil		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00
50	Keller, Carson		0	2	0	2	0	2	2	1	3	1	0	1	3	0	0	24:00
Team Totals			12	38	3	11	0	6	6	20	26	9	27	3	15	1	6	160

Total FG% - 1st: 5/18 0.278 2nd: 7/20 0.350 Game: 0.316 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 1/4 0.250 2nd: 2/7 0.286 Game: 0.273 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 0/6 0.000 2nd: 0/0 0.000 Game: 0.000 (4,1)

Technical Fouls: GRO (0)
 : MOB (1) 4th 08:00 34 Riley Sehett

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Groton JV	16	6	7	11	40
Mobridge JV	3	8	6	10	27

Last FG: Groton JV 4th-08:00, Mobridge JV 4th-08:00
 Largest lead: Groton JV by 18 3rd-08:00, Mobridge JV NONE

Score tied: 0 times, Lead changed: 0 times

Today in Weather History

1969: Heavy snow along with winds to 15 to 25 mph caused blowing and drifting snow which closed many roads. The heaviest snow fell in the southeast part of the state where up to one and half feet of snow was reported.

1990: Heavy snow developed across southwest South Dakota early on the 15th and moved slowly across the state before ending early on the 16th. A narrow band of 10 to 12 inches accumulated in central South Dakota from Pierre to near Huron. Lesser amounts of 3 to 6 inches fell north and south of the heavy snow band. Some of the heavier snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Aberdeen and Sioux Falls, 10 inches Pierre, and 12 inches at Huron.

1895 - A big Gulf snowstorm produced six inches at Brownsville TX and Mobile AL, 15 inches at Galveston TX, and 24 inches of snow at Rayne LA in 24 hours. Snow fell at the very mouth of the Mississippi River. Houston TX received 22 inches of snow, and nine inches blanketed New Orleans LA. (David Ludlum)

1936 - The temperature at Parshall ND plunged to 60 degrees below zero to establish a state record. On the 6th of July that same year the temperature at Steele ND hit 121 degrees, also a state record. (David Ludlum)

1982 - An intense cyclone off the Atlantic coast capsized a drilling rig killing 84 persons, and sank a Soviet freighter resulting in 33 more deaths. The cyclone produced 80 mph winds which whipped the water into waves fifty feet high. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A storm crossing the central U.S. produced severe thunderstorms which spawned tornadoes in Louisiana and Mississippi. Tornadoes injured four persons at Pierre Pass LA, three persons at Tangipahoa LA, two persons at Lexie MS and two persons at Nicholson MS. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 100 mph killed one person south of Sulphur LA. Jackson MS was drenched with 1.5 inches of rain in ten minutes. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Low pressure brought heavy snow to parts of Michigan, with eleven inches reported at Rogers City. A cold front crossing the Northern Rockies produced wind gusts to 74 mph at Livingston MT, and created blizzard conditions in Idaho. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thirty-seven cities in the southeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 80 degrees at Atlanta GA was a February record. Highs of 79 degrees at Chattanooga TN, 84 degrees at Columbia SC and 85 degrees at New Orleans LA equalled February records. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Snow, sleet and freezing rain along an arctic cold front prevailed from the north central U.S. to the Northern Atlantic Coast Region. High winds created near blizzard conditions in southern Wyoming, closing Interstate 80, while up to eleven inches of snow fell across central Minnesota.



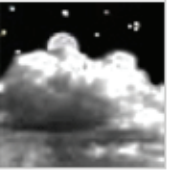

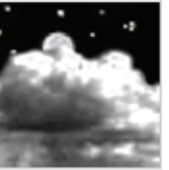


1990 - Heavy snow also blanketed the Northern Atlantic Coast States, with ten inches reported at Buffalo NY and Mount Washington NH. Freezing rain over southern New England knocked out electricity to more than 10,000 homes in the western suburbs of Boston MA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2000 - Amarillo, Texas set unusual temperature records today. The high of 82 degrees smashed the old daily high of 76 degrees set in 1921. The morning low of 41 degrees broke the old high low record for the date of 40 degrees, which was also set in 1921.

2004 - Up to 11 inches of snow fell in areas south of Nashville, TN, causing power outages and producing hazardous driving conditions. The Weather Doctor

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TONIGHT	SUNDAY	SUNDAY NIGHT	WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY	MONDAY NIGHT	TUESDAY	TUESDAY NIGHT
						
80%	30%		20%			
Snow	Chance Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Slight Chc Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Blustery	Blustery
Low: -1 °F ↑	High: 23 °F	Low: 10 °F	High: 25 °F	Low: -2 °F	High: 9 °F	Low: -11 °F



Arctic Air Returns Monday Night and Tuesday

Follow us on Social Media

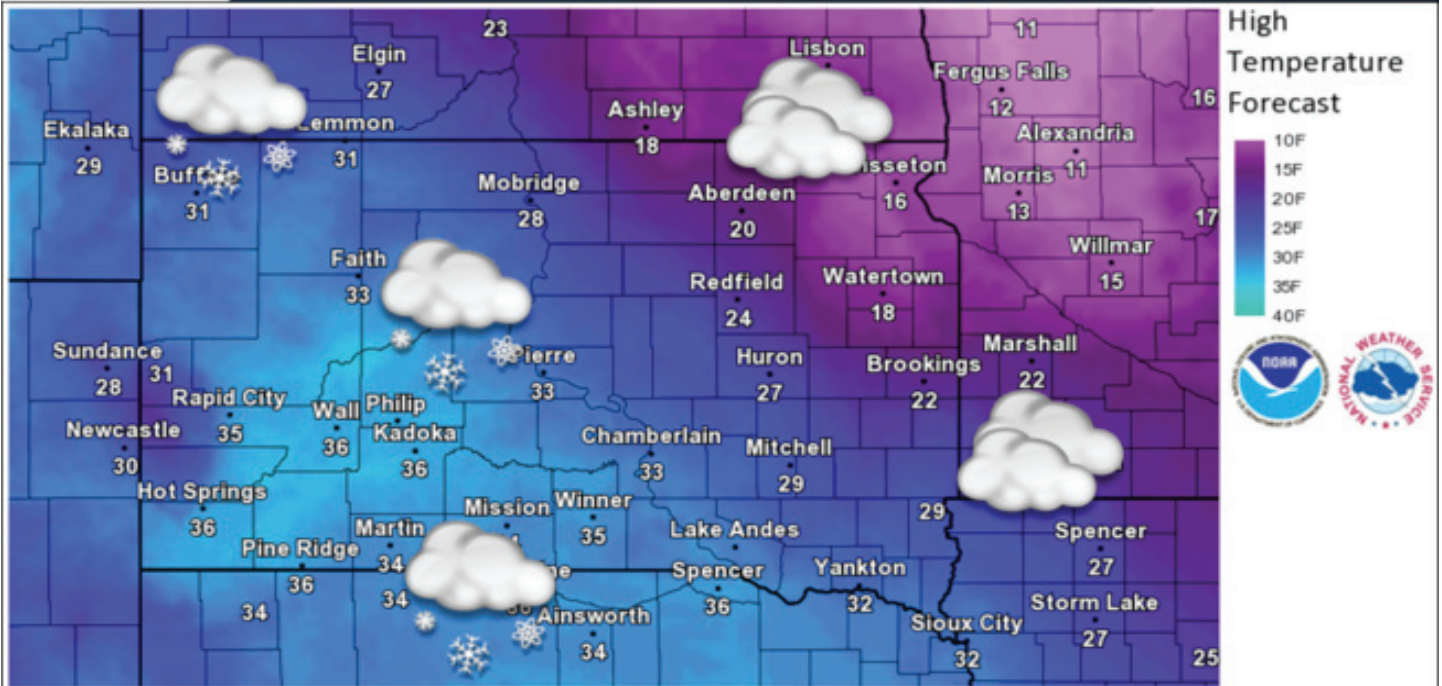
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Valid ending Monday February 16th, 2015 at 6 PM CST

Created Sunday February 15th, 2015 at 3:23 PM CST

Published on: 02/15/2015 at 3:46PM

Monday will feature another near to below normal temperature day before much colder Arctic air pushes back in for Monday night and Tuesday. An upper level low pressure trough will bring some light snow west and southwest in the region on Monday and Monday evening.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 17.3 at Midnight

Low: -6.5 at 7:57 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 29 at 2:07 AM

Snow: 0.50

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 56° in 1981

Record Low: -40° in 1936

Average High: 28°F

Average Low: 8°F

Average Precip in Feb.: 0.25

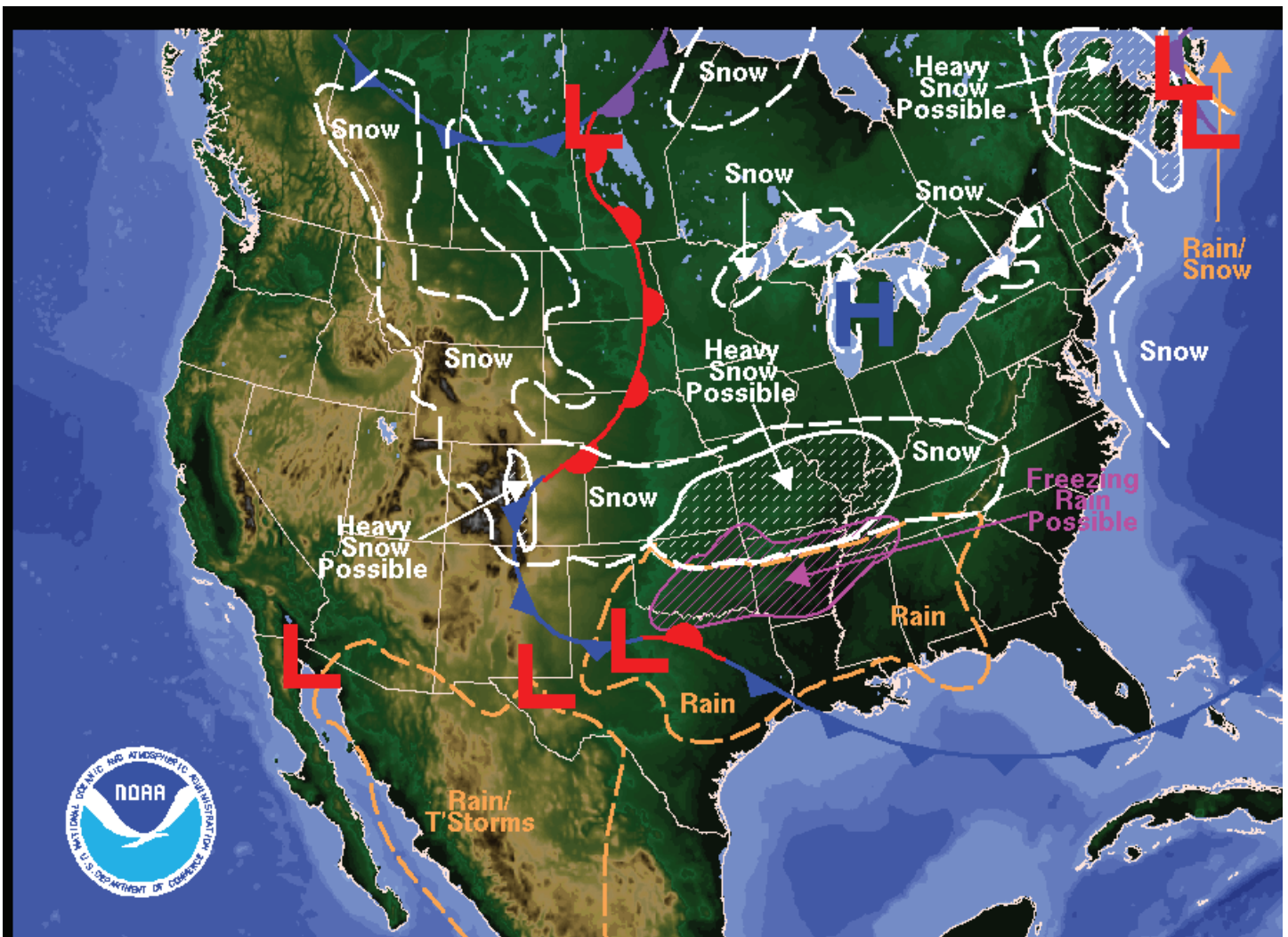
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.72

Precip Year to Date: 0.40

Sunset Tonight: 6:01 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:34 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Feb 15, 2015, issued 3:47 PM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Ryan based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



More Than A Shepherd

"Life is not fair," some claim. When they try to place the events of life on a balance sheet, the total seems to be much larger on the negative side of the ledger. They prove their point: Life is indeed unfair.

And if we stop reading this psalm at the end of verse four, it seems that the struggles of life end in victory with no celebration. The battle is over and we sit silently in comfort and security – but alone. Not so! Our Shepherd becomes a Host and we are seated at a lavishly set table with an abundance of food.

After a successful battle in the days of David, the victor would be seated in a banquet hall as the ones he defeated stood and watched as he dined before them. They would watch but not enjoy. They were the losers and could not enter into the joy of victory.

So our Lord will one day seat us in the presence of those who would have destroyed us. Not only is there the celebration of a feast that signifies victory, but the honor of being anointed with "oil" – the sign of a true celebration. Then we read that our "cup" will be overflowing – a picture of the goodness and grace of God – that demonstrates Him giving the very best to His child whom He bought at a great price.

In the New Testament, the banquet table is a sign of salvation. We conclude this psalm with a vision of being seated at a banquet with our Savior and Shepherd. A banquet where we will celebrate the joy of our salvation and being with Him forever.

Prayer: We look forward, Lord, to that day when we will rejoice in Your presence forever as our King! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

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News from the  Associated Press

Lawmakers to mull minimum wage, nonstop Deadwood drinking

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Lawmakers are set to consider measures on transportation, abortion, a youth minimum wage and all-hours drinking in Deadwood.

Here's a look at some of the proposals they'll take up this week in Pierre:

TRANSPORTATION

The House State Affairs Committee takes up a proposal on Wednesday to raise roughly \$50 million for road and bridge funding in South Dakota. A separate House committee has also reviewed the proposal. The Senate approved its version of the plan last week, and the House's passage will set up negotiations for what is likely the most serious issue lawmakers consider this session.

YOUTH MINIMUM WAGE

A proposal to carve out a \$7.50 youth minimum wage from the measure that voters passed in November to establish an \$8.50 minimum wage is to be considered in the Senate Commerce and Energy Committee on Tuesday.

Sen. David Novstrup, a Republican from Aberdeen, said the evidence he's seen shows that states with higher minimum wage also have higher youth unemployment. His proposal would affect people under age 18, and the \$7.50 youth wage wouldn't be subject to future cost of living increases.

Novstrup said he doesn't believe businesses will simply reduce wages for young workers if the bill is passed. He said competition would cause those employees to seek different jobs.

South Dakota residents voted 55 percent to 45 percent in November to raise the state's minimum hourly wage from \$7.25 to \$8.50 an hour. The measure increased the \$2.13 hourly tip wage to half the minimum wage and tied future increases to the cost of living.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

Senate Majority Leader Tim Rave said that supporters will take another shot on Tuesday at passing a proposal that calls for a convention to amend the U.S. Constitution to require a balanced federal budget on the Senate floor. The measure passed the House and a Senate committee but failed on the chamber's floor.

If it's approved, South Dakota would join 24 other states calling for a constitutional convention. Supporters argue an amendment is necessary because federal lawmakers have been unable to address the country's growing debt.

Opponents argue the convention could backfire and be used to rewrite many parts of the Constitution.

CONCEALED WEAPONS AT THE CAPITOL

A proposal to allow people to carry concealed weapons in the Capitol is to be considered in the House Local Government Committee on Tuesday. Rep. Blaine Campbell, a Republican from Rapid City, said his proposal is about freedom.

A measure to authorize lawmakers to have weapons in the Capitol building if they undergo training was defeated last week in a Senate committee, which approved a similar measure for sergeants-at-arms.

DESTINATION DEADWOOD

The House Commerce and Energy Committee on Wednesday is set to hear a plan that would authorize the city of Deadwood to allow liquor to be served all the time except for Christmas Day. Sen. Bob Ewing,

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a Republican from Spearfish who is the Senate sponsor, said he likes the bill because it gives Deadwood the option to approve the extra hours and said it will make the city more attractive.

"It just gives them another tool," Ewing said. "They're competing with other states with gambling."

ABORTION MEASURE

The House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday is expected to take up a proposal that would prohibit physicians from beheading unborn infants. Rep. Isaac Latterell, a Republican from Tea, said it is a step during some surgical abortions and should be stopped.

"These children can feel pain, and they have every right to not be abused and beheaded," he said.

School of Mines prof helping Mongolia increase water supply

CARSON WALKER, Associated Press

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota professor is taking what he has learned about Missouri River management to Mongolia, where he's working with the government and other organizations to increase water supplies.

Scott Kenner, an engineer and professor in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City, is helping to design dams for power, irrigation and drinking water.

Mongolia, a country of 3 million people slightly smaller than Alaska located between China and Russia, is booming because of its copper, coal and gold mining industry.

"Mongolia has started to develop since the 1990s and has expanded in mining industries, natural resources. And urbanized growth has increased. And that's put a lot of pressure on their infrastructure: water, sewer, power and drainage," Kenner said.

The goal is to increase that infrastructure without disrupting the natural ecosystem, he said. That includes having minimum flows during dryer times that support fisheries and natural biology but also allows for increased flows during wet years, Kenner said.

"Let's try to keep that seasonal variability and relative frequency of high-low events as close to a natural system as possible," which contrasts with the Missouri River dam system that has a constant flow year-round, he said.

"It's hard to go backwards when we become dependent on a certain flow. The Corps (of Engineers) has pursued opportunities and ways to bring ecological management into the management of the system," Kenner said. "It's not easy."

Soninkhishig Nergui, chairwoman of the Department of Biology at the National University of Mongolia, said Kenner's work has been invaluable to her, college students he has worked with and the entire effort.

"In my opinion, his participation in this project started (the) whole research work on the river systems of Mongolia which will run in the nearest years," she said in an email.

Oglala, Armour schools get federal funding to replace buses

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two South Dakota school districts are among those receiving federal funding toward new less-polluting buses.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded more than \$3 million in rebates to replace 210 older diesel school buses with vehicles that are more than 90 percent cleaner.

Seventy-six school bus fleets in 30 states will receive rebates through EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act. Among them are the Armour School District in southeast South Dakota and Loneman School

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in Oglala on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Applicants were randomly selected and placed in order on a list until the \$3 million was allocated.

The EPA says the diesel emissions program has funded more than 600 clean diesel projects across the country since 2008.

Hunters must remove tree stands from public lands by Sunday

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota wildlife officials are reminding hunters and ice anglers of looming deadlines to remove tree stands and fish houses.

Officials say all tree stands and climbing devices must be removed by Sunday from lands owned, leased or controlled by the state's Game, Fish and Parks Department.

Fish houses, shelters and other structures must be removed from the ice by Feb. 28. They may be used after that date, but they must be removed from the ice on a daily basis.

Deadline to enroll for health insurance is Sunday

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota residents who don't have health insurance have until Sunday to sign up before the end of the Affordable Care Act's second enrollment period.

Those who sign up by Sunday will avoid a penalty on their taxes when they file in early 2016.

The second enrollment season for President Barack Obama's signature health care law began Nov. 15. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services says more than 19,000 people in South Dakota have selected plans or have been automatically re-enrolled.

About 88 percent of those choosing plans were deemed eligible for financial assistance.

Nationwide, more than 7.7 million people have signed up for the first time or re-enrolled in coverage since the second enrollment period began.

2 USD students to present research at the state Capitol

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Two University of South Dakota students will be among a number of undergraduates from South Dakota colleges and universities who will present their research work during an annual event at the state Capitol.

Breanna Helland, a senior from Frederick and Nate Vinzant, a junior from Sioux Falls, were selected by USD faculty to display their outstanding research during the 2015 Student Research Poster Session.

2015 marks the 18th year for the poster session, which features students from public, private and tribal colleges pursuing research in a variety of disciplines.

Helland's poster proposes a policy recommendation for South Dakota addressing human trafficking. Vinzant's poster describes the anxiety that individuals experience when attempting to stop drug abuse.

The event is scheduled for March 5. Last year, 13 undergraduate students presented their work.

Saturday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 66, Yankton 44

Burke/South Central 45, Jones County 33

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 74, St. Francis Indian 66

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Clark/Willow Lake 61, Flandreau 43
Flandreau Indian 79, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 64
Freeman 68, Ethan 67
Hamlin 50, Tiospa Zina Tribal 31
Herreid/Selby Area 67, McIntosh 54
Lennox 76, Tea Area 32
Madison 55, Canton 51
Miller 58, Todd County 51
Mobridge-Pollock 63, Groton Area 59
New Underwood 67, Bison 31
Pierre 76, Harrisburg 56
Sioux Falls Washington 63, Rapid City Stevens 49
Sturgis 62, Chadron, Neb. 47
Warner 52, Summit 39
Waverly-South Shore 62, Waubay 20
DWU Classic
Aberdeen Roncalli 73, Dell Rapids 61
Canistota 53, Corsica 43
Chester 52, Parkston 36
Langford 70, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 65, 2OT
McCook Central/Montrose 43, Gregory 32
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 63, Hitchcock-Tulare 57
Sully Buttes 59, Bridgewater-Emery 43
White River 65, Hanson 61

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 53, Yankton 43
Chadron, Neb. 43, Sturgis 36
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 63, St. Francis Indian 57
Estelline 47, James Valley Christian 44
Hamlin 64, Tiospa Zina Tribal 22
Herreid/Selby Area 50, McIntosh 39
Ipswich 47, Wilmot 42
Lead-Deadwood 74, Bennett County 46
Lemmon 61, Faith 46
Lennox 48, Tea Area 44
Lyman 41, Wessington Springs 38
Madison 41, Canton 32
New Underwood 52, Bison 26
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 53, Flandreau Indian 35
Parkston 57, Bridgewater-Emery 47
Pierre 46, Harrisburg 45
Rapid City Stevens 55, Sioux Falls Washington 46
St. Thomas More 65, Hill City 19
Warner 49, Summit 44
Waverly-South Shore 80, Waubay 62

South Dakota tops Oral Roberts 83-70

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — Casey Kasperbauer scored 20 points and South Dakota topped Oral Roberts 83-70 on Saturday night.

Kasperbauer was 6 of 9 from the field with four 3-pointers and perfect on four free throws. Tyler Larson added 19 points, Brandon Bos had 14 and guard Tre Brunette contributed 10 points and a career-high 16 rebounds. The Coyotes shot 56 percent, were 6 of 11 on 3-pointers and outrebounded Oral Roberts 41-27.

South Dakota (13-14, 7-6 Summit) used a 12-point run midway through the first half — including back-to-back 3-pointers by Kasperbauer — to build a 41-33 lead at the break.

Oral Roberts cut the deficit to seven a couple of times in the second half, but no closer. South Dakota made 11 of 12 free throws inside of 2:17 to seal the victory.

Obi Emegano paced Oral Roberts (14-12, 7-5 Summit) with 19 points. Korey Billbury added 11 points, eight rebounds and five assists.

South Dakota St. holds off North Dakota St. 68-58

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — George Marshall scored 20 points, Cody Larson added 11 more to go with 12 rebounds and South Dakota State pulled into a first place tie atop the Summit League with a 68-58 win over North Dakota State on Saturday.

Deondre Parks also finished with 11 points and Reed Tellinghuisen had 10 for SDSU (19-8, 10-3), which controlled the boards 41-27 to extend its series advantage over the Bison to 12-6.

North Dakota State (18-8, 10-3) took its first lead of the second half with a 3-pointer from A.J. Jacobson to make it 50-47 with 7:53 to go. Parks sank a 3-pointer at the other end and followed it up with two more to spark a 15-4 run that gave South Dakota State the lead for good.

Lawrence Alexander led NDSU with 24 points, Jacobson finished with 14 and Carlin Dupree had 10.

Man indicted for rebranding dubious dietary supplement

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The owner of a South Dakota-based dietary supplement business has been charged with rebranding and selling Mexico-manufactured pills that were the subject of a U.S. recall because they were linked to cases of bleeding, stroke and even death.

Stanley Brower is accused of tearing off the labels on bottles of the recalled Mexican pain-relieving supplement, Reumofan Plus, and selling them under a different brand name, WOW.

Over the years, the pills were sold online and in stores in the U.S. and Mexico under the name Reumofan Plus and were marketed as “100 percent natural” remedies for arthritis and muscle pain. The Food and Drug Administration, however, in 2012 warned consumers against using the supplement after it was discovered that the products actually contained several prescription drugs.

The FDA found that Reumofan Plus contained three drugs, including the muscle relaxant methocarbamol and the anti-inflammatory drug dexamethasone. These drugs can interact with other medications, causing life-threatening side effects including death.

Mexican authorities issued a health alert about the product in May 2012 and the FDA followed with its own warning the next month. Prosecutors allege that Brower sold the relabeled pills through at least two websites between July and December 2012.

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Authorities accuse Brower of shipping more than 220 bottles of WOW with 30 pills each from the Canton-based business to seven states and Canada.

Brower is the president of Brower Enterprises Inc., according to records filed with the office of the South Dakota secretary of state. The company's website is still operating. Court records show Brower also managed the company, Health Enterprises, which he used to market the re-labeled pills.

Brower, 68, has pleaded not guilty to nine counts of causing introduction of misbranded drug into interstate commerce with intent to defraud and five counts of receipt and offered delivery of a misbranded drug. He is scheduled to face trial in April. He declined to comment on the charges and his lawyer, Jason Tupman, did not respond to a phone call seeking comment.

The pills were manufactured by Riger Naturals, S.A., and at least three companies that sold them in the U.S. have recalled them. Riger Naturals has not issued a recall, but FDA field agents have been ordered to seize shipments of the supplement that arrive at a port of entry into the U.S.

Unlike prescription drugs, dietary supplements don't need FDA approval before they are marketed. Still, their labels must list all ingredients and manufacturers are not allowed to sell products that are "adulterated or misbranded."

Brittney Meyer, an assistant professor of pharmacy practice at South Dakota State University, said individuals can contact the state's Board of Pharmacy to verify that the website through which they intend to buy a medication is a licensed pharmacy.

"If it's not, then (the medication) could be fake, it could be labeled or stored incorrectly, or it could have dangerous ingredients like that supplement," Meyer said.

About 65,000 dietary supplements are on the market, consumed by more than 150 million Americans, according to a 2013 Canadian government study.

Earlier this month, the attorney general in New York ordered Wal-Mart, Walgreen's, Target and GNC to stop selling store-brand herbal supplements that tests found questionable. Clarkson University researchers tested hundreds of bottles of store-brand herbal supplements sold as treatments for everything from memory loss to prostate trouble, and found 4 out of 5 contained none of the herbs listed on the labels.

Canada goose season ends in SD, light goose season begins

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The Canada goose hunting season in South Dakota is coming to an end, while the light goose season is kicking off.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department is reminding waterfowl hunters that the Unit 2 Canada goose season ends Sunday.

Meanwhile, the state's 2015 Light Goose Conservation Order began Saturday and runs through May 3. The order is issued every year to control an overabundance of light geese.

The department says light geese generally migrate into the eastern third of South Dakota in late February to early March.

AP News in Brief

Police say slain 22-year-old Copenhagen gunman had criminal record, links to gangs

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — The slain gunman suspected in the deadly Copenhagen attacks was a 22-year-old with a history of violence and may have been inspired by Islamic terrorists — and possibly the Charlie Hebdo massacre in Paris, Danish authorities said Sunday.

Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt mourned the two people killed and vowed to protect freedom of speech and Denmark's Jewish community.

The suspect was killed in a gunbattle with a SWAT team early Sunday. He had opened fire Saturday at a cultural center hosting a seminar on free speech with an artist who had caricatured the Prophet Muhammad and then later at security forces outside a synagogue, police said.

A Danish filmmaker was killed in the first attack. Nine hours later, a security guard protecting a bat mitzvah near a synagogue was slain. Five police officers were wounded in the shootings.

Jens Madsen, head of the Danish intelligence agency PET, said investigators believe the gunman "could have been inspired by the events in Paris." Last month Islamic militants carried out a massacre at the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo followed by an attack on Jews at a kosher grocery, killing 17 people.

Victims of Copenhagen shootings: Security guard for Jewish community, documentary filmmaker

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — One was a security guard, gunned down while protecting a bat mitzvah near Copenhagen's main synagogue. The other was a documentary filmmaker slain at a seminar on art and freedom of expression.

This is how friends and colleagues remembered the two men killed this weekend by a gunman who opened fire in Copenhagen.

Denmark's chief rabbi called Dan Uzan an "irreplaceable" man whose longtime calling was to protect Copenhagen's Jewish community.

"He was a person who was always willing to help. An amazing, amazing guy," said Rabbi Jair Melchior, speaking from Israel's international airport before boarding a return flight to Denmark.

Video purports to show Islamic State militants in Libya beheading Coptic hostages

CAIRO (AP) — A video purporting to show the mass beheading of Coptic Christian hostages has been released by militants in Libya claiming loyalty to the Islamic State group.

The killings raise the possibility that the Islamic militant group — which controls about a third of Syria and Iraq in a self-declared caliphate — has established a direct affiliate less than 500 miles from the southern tip of Italy. One of the militants in the video, speaking English, makes direct reference to that possibility, saying the group now plans to "conquer Rome."

The Associated Press could not immediately independently verify the video. But the Egyptian government and the Coptic Church, which is based in Egypt, both declared it authentic.

The Egyptian government declared a seven-day mourning period and President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi addressed the nation late Sunday night, pledging resilience in the fight against terrorism.

"These cowardly actions will not undermine our determination" said el-Sissi, who also banned all travel to Libya by Egyptian citizens. "Egypt and the whole world are in a fierce battle with extremist groups carrying extremist ideology and sharing the same goals."

Ukraine cease-fire largely holding, but sounds of shelling heard from railway hub Debaltseve

LUHANSKE, Ukraine (AP) — A cease-fire that went into effect Sunday in eastern Ukraine appeared largely to be holding, although continued fighting over a bitterly contested railway hub is threatening to upend the delicate settlement.

The leaders of Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany, who last week brokered a deal to try to end the conflict that has raged since April, agreed in a conference call Sunday that hostilities should also cease around the government-held town of Debaltseve, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's office said. Undeterred, armed separatists appeared intent to pursue their claim to the town.

Heavy fog shrouding sodden fields muffled the sound of artillery, but regular shelling could still be heard from Luhanske, a town about 15 kilometers (9 miles) to northwest of Debaltseve and over 80 kilometers west of the city Luhansk. Associated Press journalists were blocked from moving closer by Ukrainian troops, who said it was not safe to travel ahead.

The cease-fire has kindled slender hopes of a reprieve from a conflict that has claimed more than 5,300 lives. Withdrawal of heavy armor from the front line by both sides is scheduled to begin Monday.

Attention will be focused in the coming days on Debaltseve, where Ukrainian forces have been fending off severe onslaughts from the rebels for weeks. The town is a railway link between the main separatist-held cities of Donetsk and Luhansk.

Accused triple killer slams religion, religiously defends gun rights as portrait takes shape

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) — If his Facebook page is any indication, Craig Hicks doesn't hate Muslims. An avowed atheist, his online posts instead depict a man who despises religion itself, but nevertheless seems to support an individual's right to his own beliefs.

"I hate Islam just as much as christianity, but they have the right to worship in this country just as much as any others do," the man now accused of killing three Muslim college students stated in one 2012 post over the proposed construction of a mosque near the World Trade Center site in New York.

Days after the shooting deaths of Deah Shaddy Barakat, 23; his wife, Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, 21; and her sister, Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha, 19, a nuanced and sometimes contradictory portrait is emerging of the man charged in their slayings.

Police in Chapel Hill said they have yet to uncover any evidence that Hicks, 46, allegedly acted out of religious animus, though they are investigating the possibility. As a potential motive, they cited a dispute over parking spaces at the condo community where Hicks and two of the victims lived.

Hicks' court-appointed lawyer, Stephen Freedman, said he could not comment on the case. Hicks was being held without bond.

Deadline day brings push for health law enrollment after technical glitch on website fixed

WASHINGTON (AP) — After a computer glitch got patched up, supporters of President Barack Obama's health care law were out in force Sunday trying to get uninsured people signed up by the official deadline for 2015 coverage.

The effort had the trappings of a get-out-the-vote drive, with email reminders, telephone calls and squads of community-level volunteers.

"You can't avoid it: TV, radio, church, wife, kids, co-workers," said Ramiro Hernandez, a previously uninsured truck repair shop owner who enrolled himself and his family in Joliet, Illinois, on Saturday.

Technicians anxiously monitored the federal HealthCare.gov website for any new bugs. The administration provided no statistics on weekend sign-ups, instead releasing numbers that showed tens of thousands of consumers were trying to connect, online and by phone.

Winter weather interfered in parts of the country. Rhode Island's state-run insurance marketplace extended its deadline until Feb. 23. Blowing snow and bitter cold affected not only walk-in enrollment sites, but the state's call center as well. Online enrollment was still available.

Drone on: US proposes rules to let the era of commercial drones begin in coming years

WASHINGTON (AP) — Drone on, the government says.

Just not through the night sky. Or close to an airport. Or out of the operator's sight. And probably not winging its way with a pizza or package, any time soon.

Long-anticipated rules proposed Sunday will open an era in which small (under 55 pounds) commercial unmanned aircraft perform routine tasks — crop monitoring, aerial photography, inspections of bridges and cell towers, and much more. But not right away. Final rules are probably two to three years away.

And when they are in place, they may include a separate category with fewer restrictions for very small drones, likely to be defined as less than 4.4 pounds.

The Federal Aviation Administration released a variety of proposed requirements for commercial operators to meet, such as passing a knowledge test administered by the agency as well as a federal security check. The small drones could travel as fast as 100 mph, at altitudes of 500 feet or lower. Flights over crowds would be prohibited.

Alabama gay marriage fight echoes old states' rights battles in civil rights, slavery

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore's judicial building office overlooks Montgomery's Dexter Avenue, a history-soaked thoroughfare topped by the Alabama Capitol where Jefferson Davis was inaugurated president of the Confederacy and where the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. ended the 1965 march for voting rights.

As gay and lesbian couples left a nearby courthouse clutching marriage licenses last week, Moore, an outspoken critic of gay marriage, was fighting to stop the weddings using a states' rights argument that conjured up those historical ghosts of slavery, the Civil War and the battle against desegregation.

There has been resistance in other states to the tide of rulings allowing gay marriage. Some Florida

clerks' offices scrapped all marriage ceremonies rather than perform same-sex unions. In South Carolina and Georgia, legislation is being developed to let individual employees opt out of issuing marriage licenses to gay couples out of sincere religious belief.

No state, however, went as far as Alabama, where the 68-year-old Moore instructed the state's probate judges not to issue marriage licenses to gay couples.

"It's my duty to speak up when I see the jurisdiction of our courts being intruded by unlawful federal authority," Moore said.

The latest in a 'biblical' string of snowstorms brings brutal conditions to hearty New England

BOSTON (AP) — Another weekend, another major snow storm: The latest system to sweep the Northeast brought another foot to Boston — on top of 6 feet that has fallen over the last month — and tested New Englanders who say the winter is beginning to feel like one without end.

Even after the storm, forecasters warned of exceptionally cold air, perhaps the coldest yet of the season. Strong winds expected to continue into Monday reduced visibility, created drifts and complicated an ongoing cleanup effort. Forecasters were talking about another storm on the horizon for midweek.

"It's historic. It's biblical," attorney Frank Libby said he walked down a deserted street in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood. "I think we're in uncharted territory. People just don't know how to deal with the logistics of it."

He had one message for Mother Nature: "Give us a break."

'Selma's best picture nod caps banner year for black female directors; 'not enough,' they say

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Three black women released movies in 2014, more than ever before in a single year. And one of them is a contender for the motion picture academy's top prize.

But just three films in one year — out of the 373 movies that came out in theaters.

Black female filmmakers are one of Hollywood's greatest rarities. In the past seven years, only three were connected to the top 700 movies, according to recent research by the University of Southern California's Media, Diversity & Social Change Initiative.

"The ecosystem of filmmaking is problematic for women and people of color," said initiative director Stacy L. Smith. More than 95 percent of the directors of top-grossing films during the past decade have been male, she said. Looking at the top 700 films over a recent seven-year period, almost 90 percent of them were white.

So while there's been a lot of talk about the lack of diversity among this year's Oscar acting nominees, the larger issue may be the overwhelming lack of diversity among those telling the stories on the big screen.

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Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Feb. 15, the 46th day of 2015. There are 319 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 15, 1965, Canada's new maple-leaf flag, which replaced the "Red Ensign" design, was unfurled in ceremonies in Ottawa.

On this date:

In 1764, the site of present-day St. Louis was established by Pierre Laclède and Auguste Chouteau.

In 1898, the U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain.

In 1933, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt escaped an assassination attempt in Miami that mortally wounded Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak; gunman Giuseppe Zangara was executed more than four weeks later.

In 1944, Allied bombers destroyed the monastery atop Monte Cassino (MAWN'-tay kah-SEE'-noh) in Italy.

In 1952, a funeral was held at Windsor Castle for Britain's King George VI, who had died nine days earlier.

In 1961, 73 people, including an 18-member U.S. figure skating team en route to the World Championships in Czechoslovakia, were killed in the crash of a Sabena Airlines Boeing 707 in Belgium.

In 1965, singer Nat King Cole, 45, died in Santa Monica, California.

In 1971, Britain and Ireland "decimalised" their currencies, making one pound equal to 100 new pence instead of 240 pence.

In 1982, 84 men were killed when a huge oil-drilling rig, the Ocean Ranger, sank off the coast of Newfoundland during a fierce storm.

In 1989, the Soviet Union announced that the last of its troops had left Afghanistan, after more than nine years of military intervention.

In 1995, the FBI arrested Kevin Mitnick, its "most wanted hacker," and charged him with cracking security for some of the nation's most protected computers. (Mitnick ended up serving five years behind bars.)

In 2002, a private funeral was held at Windsor Castle for Britain's Princess Margaret, who had died six days earlier at age 71.

Ten years ago: Defrocked priest Paul Shanley was sentenced in Boston to 12 to 15 years in prison on child rape charges. Christopher Pittman, a teen who claimed the antidepressant Zoloft had driven him to kill his grandparents at age 12, was found guilty in Charleston, South Carolina, of murder. (After winning a new trial, Pittman accepted a plea deal shortening his 30-year prison term for murder to 25 years for voluntary manslaughter.)

Five years ago: Eighteen people were killed when two trains collided south of Brussels, Belgium. At the Vancouver Winter Olympics, Didier Defago of Switzerland won the gold in the Olympic downhill and American Bode Miller took the bronze. American Seth Wescott defended his Olympic title, overtaking Canada's Mike Robertson to win the gold medal in men's snowboardcross.

One year ago: President Barack Obama signed measures lifting the federal debt limit and restoring benefits that had been cut for younger military retirees. Michael Dunn was convicted in Jacksonville, Florida, of attempted murder for shooting into a carful of teenagers after an argument over loud music, but jurors deadlocked on the charge of first-degree murder in the death of 17-year-old Jordan Davis.

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(Dunn was found guilty of first-degree murder in a second trial and sentenced to life in prison without parole.) Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice was caught on security video punching his then-fiancee (now wife) Janay Palmer inside a casino elevator in Atlantic City, New Jersey. (Rice was charged with assault; he entered an intervention program to have the charges dropped.) At the Sochi Olympics, Zbigniew Brodka won the men's 1,500 meters, capturing Poland's first gold medal in speedskating. The U.S. hockey team won a shootout to defeat Russia 3-2 in the marquee game of the preliminary round.

Today's Birthdays: Former Illinois Congressman John Anderson is 93. Actress Claire Bloom is 84. Author Susan Brownmiller is 80. Songwriter Brian Holland is 74. Rock musician Mick Avory (The Kinks) is 71. Jazz musician Henry Threadgill is 71. Actress-model Marisa Berenson is 68. Actress Jane Seymour is 64. Singer Melissa Manchester is 64. Actress Lynn Whitfield is 62. "Simpsons" creator Matt Groening (GREE'-ning) is 61. Model Janice Dickinson is 60. Actor Christopher McDonald is 60. Reggae singer Ali Campbell is 56. Actor Joseph R. Gannascoli is 56. Musician Mikey Craig (Culture Club) is 55. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Darrell Green is 55. Country singer Michael Reynolds (Pinmonkey) is 51. Actor Michael Easton is 48. Rock musician Stevie Benton (Drowning Pool) is 44. Actress Renee O'Connor is 44. Actress Sarah Wynter is 42. Olympic gold medal swimmer Amy Van Dyken-Rouen is 42. Actress-director Miranda July is 41. Rock singer Brandon Boyd (Incubus) is 39. Rock musician Ronnie Vannucci (The Killers) is 39. Singer-songwriter-musician Conor Oberst (Bright Eyes) is 35. Actress Ashley Lyn Cafagna is 32. Blues-rock musician Gary Clark Jr. is 31. Actress Natalie Morales is 30. Actress Amber Riley is 29.

Thought for Today: "Fools act on imagination without knowledge, pedants act on knowledge without imagination." - Alfred North Whitehead, English philosopher (born this date in 1861, died 1947).