

Groton Daily Independent

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Thursday, February 19

1994: Kara and Todd Anderson

Birthdays: Connor Hanson, Gaylene Voss, Heather Westby, Heidi Westby, Robert Sippel, Robin O'Neill, Terry Furman, Tyler Kampa

Senior Menu: Herbed roast pork, baked potato with sour cream, lemon buttered broccoli, cumin apple sauce, whole wheat bread.

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

School Lunch: Mini corndogs, baked beans, carrots and dip, fruit.

Boys Basketball at Redfield-Doland (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.)

Friday, Feb. 20

Anniv: Ken & Leslie Dinger

Birthdays: Gerald Osterman, Lori Giedt, Michael Wells, Shaun Wanner, Jerry Bjerke

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

School Lunch: Hamburger on bun, baked chips, lettuce salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Ham and bean soup, egg salad sandwich, tomato spoon salad, oatmeal raisin cookie.

Debate at Watertown

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

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



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.

Reich inducted into PC Pi Gamma Mu

Eight Presentation College students have been inducted as new members of the South Dakota Zeta Chapter of Pi Gamma Mu, an International Social Science Honor Society. The new inductees and their home towns are Danielle Bartelt of South Fargo, ND, JoLavae Gunville of Eagle Butte, SD, Casey Henry of Sterling, CO, Kirby Kragenbring of Alexandria, MN, Maggie McCallum of Mahtomedi, MN, Laura Nelson of Aberdeen, SD, Kelsey Oletzke of Fairmont, MN and Katherine Reich of Groton, SD.

Membership in Pi Gamma Mu is open to qualified undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty members involved in the social sciences.

To qualify for membership, a student must have junior, senior or graduate standing and have a "B" or better average in at least 20 semester hours of social science classes.

Pi Gamma Mu, founded in 1924, now has nearly 250,000 members at 150 chapters located at colleges and universities in the United States and abroad. The purpose of the Society is to encourage academic excellence in the social sciences.

Death Notice: Ralph Breitreutz

Ralph Breitreutz, 85, of Spearfish and formerly of Groton, died Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at the Spearfish Hospital. Services are pending for Monday with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Snap a picture, win \$1,000 scholarship

Picture yourself being eligible to win a \$1,000 scholarship by simply posting a photo, illustration or other image to social media. That's how easy it is to enter Picture Freedom, a national contest from Feb. 22 to 28 that calls on students 13 and older to celebrate the First Amendment and free speech in America.

The First Amendment and its five freedoms - speech, press, religion, assembly and petition - give us the right to be ourselves. Picture Freedom encourages you to tap into your individuality and creativity to make a visual statement about liberty.

All you have to do is post an original image - something you've photographed, drawn or designed - to Instagram, Twitter or Facebook with the hashtag #PictureFreedom. Posts should be public, and if a post is shared on Facebook, the account also needs to allow "everybody" to follow it.

It's that easy. We'll compile all of the entries, and a panel of educators and First Amendment experts will pick the top 25 posts based on originality, creativity and clarity in conveying the theme of freedom.

Picture Freedom is supported by the American Society of News Editors, the Journalism Education Association, the John Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence in First Amendment Studies at Middle Tennessee State University, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Newseum Institute's First Amendment Center, and hundreds of teachers and journalists.

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The GHS debate team placed third in Sweepstakes at the Rushmore Challenge at Harrisburg, February 13, 2015. Pictured left to right are Keri Pappas, Katie Miller, Kelsey Iverson, Lily Cutler, Caroline Graf, and coach Kristen Gonsoir.

Congratulations to the GHS debate team for placing 2nd in sweepstakes at the Yankton Invitational debate contest January 30-31, 2015. Pictured left to right are Keri Pappas, Kelsey Iverson, Coach Travis Kiefer, Lily Cutler, and Caroline Graf.



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.

Geist Thank You

We would like to thank our great neighbors and all the responders who assisted us last week.

Your concern and kindness was greatly appreciated.

Tim & Betty Geist

Applications for Baseball Coordinator, Coaches, Groundskeeper, Concession Stand Manager, Concessions Workers; Swimming Pool Lifeguards; Public Works Laborers; Cemetery Caretaker, Swimming Pool Manager will be accepted until 5pm March 16 for the City of Groton. Request application at City Hall, 209 N Main St, PO Box 587, Groton, SD 57445 or by calling 397-8422. Equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against disabled persons. (0210.0217.0310)

Sen. Rounds receives operational update on SD National Guard

RAPID CITY, S.D. - United States Sen. Mike Rounds met with leaders from the South Dakota National Guard on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at Camp Rapid to receive an operational overview of the state's nearly 4,200 member force.

As the former commander-in-chief of the SDNG, Rounds knows the state's Army and Air Guard missions well, but the visit brought him up to date on their current capabilities, operations and future challenges, since his time as governor.

Rounds met with the Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG, and other senior staff leaders.

"We appreciate Senator Rounds taking time out of his schedule to give us an opportunity to give him an operational summary on the current state of the South Dakota National

Guard," said Reisch. "There are a number of national issues that impact our organization such as future fighting strength, budget cuts and support for our service members and veterans."

Rounds, who serves on the Senate Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs committees, is in a key position to provide input on legislation that impacts the nation's military.

"Our goal for today's briefing is to provide Senator Rounds with some additional insight on how these national impacts are effecting, and could continue to affect, the National Guard here at the state level," said Reisch.

"The South Dakota National Guard continues to do incredible work and provide essential services to South Dakotans," said Rounds. "I thank Guard leaders for meeting with me in Rapid City and bringing me up to speed on current affairs. As a member of both the Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs committees, I will continue to seek ways to support our National Guard and all men and women in uniform who serve our country."

Topics covered were the National Defense Authorization Act - a national commission to assess the Army's active and reserve components' size and force mix; impacts of the Budget Control Act - across-the-board spending cuts effects on force structure size and operational readiness; and the Aviation Restructure Initiative.

"The SDNG is doing everything it can to maximize training opportunities and resources to remain relevant, ready and reliable in light of continuing DoD cuts, Army restructuring and the effects of sequestration," said Reisch. "The National Guard provides immense value to the taxpayer for domestic and overseas missions at a fraction of the cost to the active duty component."



United States Sen. Mike Rounds visits with Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, during a visit to Camp Rapid, Rapid City, S.D., Feb. 17, 2015. Rounds received an operational overview of the SDNG on their current capabilities, operations and future challenges. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Anthony Deiss/Released)

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South Dakota Gasoline Prices on Three-Week Climb

Ever since Jan. 27, South Dakota's pump prices have been on the march, jumping 19 cents during the three-week period.

"Gasoline prices have increased due to more expensive crude oil costs and the start of refinery maintenance season," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "It's fairly typical for pump prices to rise this time of year. Refinery maintenance limits fuel production. Plus, rising crude oil costs have made it more expensive for refineries to produce gasoline."

Barring any major disruptions in supply, AAA anticipates South Dakota drivers will pay prices below \$2.80 per gallon throughout 2015. Even with averages trending higher, ample gasoline supplies and lower crude oil costs than in recent years should prevent prices from rising as high as in recent memory. In addition, the recent cold, snowy weather has limited driving and gasoline demand.

	Today	Last Week	Change	Jan. 13	Change	Last year
Aberdeen	\$2.193	\$2.127	\$0.066	\$2.092	\$0.101	\$3.378
Brookings	\$2.199	\$2.216	(\$0.017)	\$2.129	\$0.070	\$3.474
Huron	\$2.199	\$2.121	\$0.078	\$2.017	\$0.182	\$3.355
Mitchell	\$2.143	\$2.137	\$0.006	\$2.006	\$0.137	\$3.374
Pierre	\$2.169	\$2.220	(\$0.051)	\$2.232	(\$0.063)	\$3.386
Rapid City	\$1.954	\$1.858	\$0.096	\$1.991	(\$0.037)	\$3.187
Sioux Falls	\$2.176	\$2.127	\$0.049	\$1.827	\$0.349	\$3.320
Vermillion	\$2.239	\$2.166	\$0.073	\$2.099	\$0.140	\$3.241
Watertown	\$2.249	\$2.245	\$0.004	\$2.078	\$0.171	\$3.418
Yankton	\$2.248	\$2.213	\$0.035	\$2.109	\$0.139	\$3.341
South Dakota	\$2.147	\$2.073	\$0.074	\$2.010	\$0.137	\$3.322

OPEC's decision not to cut production quotas is beginning to impact global energy development, as companies in the U.S. and other countries with high production costs have been curtailing investments and employment.

The global price of Brent crude rallied this past week and closed above the \$60 per barrel benchmark for the first time in 2015. This represents an increase of more than 30 percent since mid-January and is further proof of the global oil market's volatility.

At the close of formal trading on the NYMEX yesterday, West Texas Intermediate crude oil settled up 75 cents from Friday at \$53.53 per barrel. Markets were closed Monday for President's Day.

As in South Dakota, the national average price for regular gasoline has increased every day since Jan. 27, for a total of 24 cents per gallon. Today's nationwide average price of \$2.27 per gallon is 20 cents more than the price one month ago. Drivers are still paying an average of \$1.10 less at the pump in comparison to this date last year, a spread that has slowly started to narrow after widening to as much as \$1.25 per gallon on January 26.

"With prices increasing across the country, a shrinking number of states are registering an average below \$2.00 per gallon," said Buskohl. "Only Idaho and Utah at \$1.95 and Montana at \$1.99 remain below this threshold."

Hawaii (\$3.02) continues to lead the market and is the only state with an average above \$3 per gallon. California (\$2.82), Alaska (\$2.56), New York (\$2.47) and Nevada (\$2.46) round out the nation's top five most expensive markets for retail gasoline.

The price at the pump has inched higher in 48 states, with 33 of these states registering increases of a nickel or more per gallon today compared with one week ago.

Drivers in 42 states are paying higher prices today versus one month ago with the price up by a dime or more in 33 of these states. Twelve states are posting increases of a quarter or more, led by Missouri (+39 cents), Kansas (+36 cents), Illinois (+35 cents) and both Michigan and Oklahoma (+34 cents) according to FuelGaugeReport.AAA.com.

At the other end of the spectrum, gasoline prices are lower today than one month ago in eight states, headlined by Hawaii (-31 cents) and Alaska (-22 cents).

Despite recently higher prices, the nation's motorists overall are still paying less at the pump today than they were on this date in 2014. The average year-over-year price is down by \$1.00 or more in 46 states.

State Historical Society Lists Seven Properties on National Register

PIERRE, S.D. – Seven South Dakota properties were recently added to the National Register of Historic Places, according to the South Dakota State Historical Society.

The listed properties are the Anderson-Ridley Ranch, St. Onge vicinity; the Concrete Interstate Tipis of South Dakota located along Interstates 29 and 90; the Drake Claim House, Colman vicinity; the Kudrna Homestead and Ranch, Scenic vicinity; the Murdo State Bank, Murdo; the Norbeck-Nicholson Carriage House, Redfield; and the Quamman House, Lemmon.

The National Register is the official federal list of properties identified as important in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture. The State Historic Preservation Office of the State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre works in conjunction with the National Park Service, which oversees the National Register program, to list the properties.

"South Dakota's history is rich in American Indian culture, pioneer life and change," said Jay D. Vogt, state historic preservation officer and director of the State Historical Society. "Properties listed on the National Register are important for their role in South Dakota's culture and heritage. And when properties get listed, it shows that their owners take pride in their role in preserving that history."

Buildings, sites, structures and objects at least 50 years old possessing historical significance may qualify for the National Register, according to Vogt. Properties must also maintain their historic location, design, materials and association. Listing on the National Register does not place any limitations on private property owners by the federal government.

For more information on the National Register or other historic preservation programs, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at the Cultural Heritage Center, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2217; telephone (605) 773-3458 or website history.sd.gov/Preservation and click on "National Register of Historic Places" in the right column.

Summaries for each new listing follow.

Anderson-Ridley Ranch

The Rasmus and Elemine Anderson Homestead and Ranch has been listed on the National Register for its homesteading significance and the agricultural contribution it made to the region. Homesteaded in 1883, it is also significant under architecture for the variety of buildings constructed on the ranch over the years. It is located in the St. Onge vicinity of Lawrence County.

Concrete Interstate Tipis

Between 1968 and 1979, nine concrete tipis were constructed at rest areas in South Dakota. Seven were constructed on Interstate 90 and two on Interstate 29. The tipis are listed on the National Register as works of art. They are also significant under transportation for the contributions they made to the Interstate Highway System and under tourism for honoring South Dakota's American Indian heritage.

Drake Claim House

The Frank and Sarah Drake Claim House is a small frame house built around 1880 on the Drake's homestead claim in the Colman vicinity of Moody County. Their son moved the house to his property just south of his parents' claim in about 1907. While many claim houses in South Dakota were demolished, reused as agricultural outbuildings, or expanded into larger residences, the Drake Claim House is listed on the National Register for its ability to tell the story of homesteading in Moody County.

Kudrna Homestead and Ranch

The Joseph and Marie Kudrna Homestead and Ranch was claimed in 1910. Located in the Scenic vicinity of eastern Pennington County, it is listed on the National Register for its homesteading and agricultural significance. It is also listed for its vernacular architecture found in the collection of structures on the ranch. Joseph and Marie engaged in diverse and small-scale cultivation in the early years and continued to prove up on the land. The farm continued to expand and switched over to livestock production in the 1930s. The ranch continued to grow over the years as neighbors moved away and more land was acquired.

Murdo State Bank

The Murdo State Bank is located on Main Street in Murdo. It is listed on the National Register for its commercial style architecture with Classical embellishments. It is also significant for the role it played in commerce. The bank was organized in 1906, which preceded the founding of Murdo by two months. The original location of the bank is one block north of the current bank, which was constructed in 1920.

Norbeck-Nicholson Carriage House

The Norbeck-Nicholson Carriage House was built around 1907 for neighbors Peter Norbeck and Charles Nicholson, partners in an enormously successful artesian well business based in Redfield. It has been listed on the National Register for its significant association with early local trends in vehicular transportation and for its architectural significance as a rare intact local example of a masonry carriage house.

Quamman House

The Quamman House in Lemmon was built in 1910 and is listed on the National Register under architecture as an example of the Prairie Style. This style of architecture was popular from 1900 to 1920 in the United States. The acknowledged founder of the style was architect Frank Lloyd Wright. It was used on a variety of buildings such as schools, businesses, public buildings, institutions and residences. The Prairie style eventually filtered down into vernacular interpretations like the Quamman House.

U.S. Millennials Come Up Short in Global Skills Study

See this special report coming from DI headquarters about American Youth. Click on the following link or get access to the link on the GDI Publications page.

<http://397news.com/publications/14243256001185/US%20Millennials.pdf>

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Groton Prairie Mixed

Team Standings: Jackelopes 6, Shih Tzus 6, Pocket Gophers 4, Coyotes 4, Foxes 2, Chipmunks 2

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 233, 203, 202, Lance Frohling 205, Roger Spanier 193, 192

Women's High Games: Vicki Walter 186, Vicki Jorgensen 183, Darci Spanier 171

Men's High Series: Brad Waage 638, Roger Spanier 556, Randy Stanley 542

Women's High Series: Vicki Jorgensen 503, Darci Spanier 498, Vicki Walter 473, Dar Larson 473

Groton Coffee Cup

Team Standings: Golden Girls 28, Farm Girls 25, James Valley 18, Ten Pins 10, Jungle Lanes 8, Ken's 7.

High Games: Vickie Kramp 179, Alice Severson 170, Vicki Walter 167.

High Series: Vickie Kramp 500, Vicki Walter 479, Alice Severson 451.

Conde National League

Team Standings: Giants 17, Braves 16, Mets 15, Colts 12, Pirates 8, Cubs 4.

Men's High Games: Brandon Kakwitch 207, 204, 200; Larry Frohling 203, John Lowary 203, Chad Furney 193, Cliff Kuckelburg 193.

Women's High Games: Brianna Kuckelburg 203, 193; Vickie Kramp 200, Deb Fredrickson 163.

Men's High Series: Brandon Kakwitch 611, Cliff Kuckelburg 550, John Lowary 533.

Women's High Series: Brianna Kuckelburg 555, Vickie Kramp 501, Nancy Radke 428.

2015 Groton Area Elementary Kindergarten Screening

March 2 – March 6

Parents of children ages 3-6 not yet attending school are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to set up a screening time.

Kindergarten Screening will take place at the Groton Area High School Gymnasium. Please park and use the east entrance to the gym.

Today in Weather History

2000: Due to the extremely dry and windy conditions, a fire, believed to be started by a discarded cigarette, burned about 40 square miles of grassland between Kennebec and Lower Brule. The fire threatened a ranch but changed directions before anyone had to be evacuated.

2008: Arctic air along with blustery northwest winds brought extreme wind chills during the evening and early morning hours to northeast South Dakota. Wind chills ranged from 35 to 50 degrees below zero. The winds diminished in the early morning hours of the 20th allowing air temperatures to fall to record or near record lows across northeast South Dakota. Ten new record lows, ranging from 23 to 30 degrees below zero, were set for February 20th. Several water pipes were broken in Aberdeen and in Roslyn. In Roslyn, 225 people were without water for much of the day on the 20th as the water main broke during the night. Also, there were many vehicles that

1884 - Severe thunderstorms spawned sixty tornadoes in the southeastern U.S., killing more than 420 persons and causing three million dollars damage. Georgia and the Carolinas hardest were hit in the tornado outbreak. (David Ludlum)

1888 - Severe thunderstorms over southern Illinois spawned a violent tornado which touched down in Jefferson County and devastated the southeast half of Mount Vernon. The tornado killed 24 people, injured 80 others, and destroyed or damaged 300 homes and 50 businesses. Overturned wood stoves ignited many fires in the wreckage. This currently stands as the 9th deadliest Illinois tornado on record.

1888 - A tornado struck Mount Vernon IL. The tornado killed sixteen persons along its 62 mile path. (David Ludlum)

1954 - High winds across the southern half of the Great Plains, gusting to 85 mph, caused the worst duststorms since the 1930s. Graders were needed in places to clear fence high dirt drifts. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A winter storm over the southern and central Rockies produced 28 inches of snow at Echo Lake CO, and two feet of snow at Gascon NM and Los Alamos NM. Mora County NM was declared a disaster area following the storm. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Showers and thunderstorms in the southeastern U.S. drenched Valdosta GA with more than five inches of rain, and the 24 hour rainfall total of 7.10 inches at Apalachicola FL more than doubled their previous 24 hour record for February. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1989 - An upper level weather disturbance brought heavy snow to parts of Nebraska, with six inches reported at Loup City and Surprise. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - A moist Pacific storm worked its way into New Mexico and southern Colorado. Up to 36 inches of snow blanketed the Wolf Creek and Red Mountain passes of southwest Colorado, and up to 15 inches of snow was reported around Trinidad. In New Mexico, the eastern slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains were blanketed with 9 to 28 inches of snow, and 50 to 60 mph wind gusts were reported from Taos to Albuquerque. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2011 - Strong winds reaching as high as 40 mph with gusts to 53 mph topple the 48 year old National Christmas tree. The 42 foot tall Colorado blue spruce sat just south of the White House on the Ellipse. It was transplanted there from York, Pennsylvania in 1978. The Weather Doctor

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TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY
						
Chance Snow High: 17 °F	Snow Likely Low: 15 °F	Cloudy High: 38 °F	Slight Chc Snow Low: 8 °F	Blustery High: 12 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: -11 °F	Cold High: 3 °F



Light Snow Today... Much Warmer on Friday

Follow us on *Social Media*

Issued: February 19, 2015

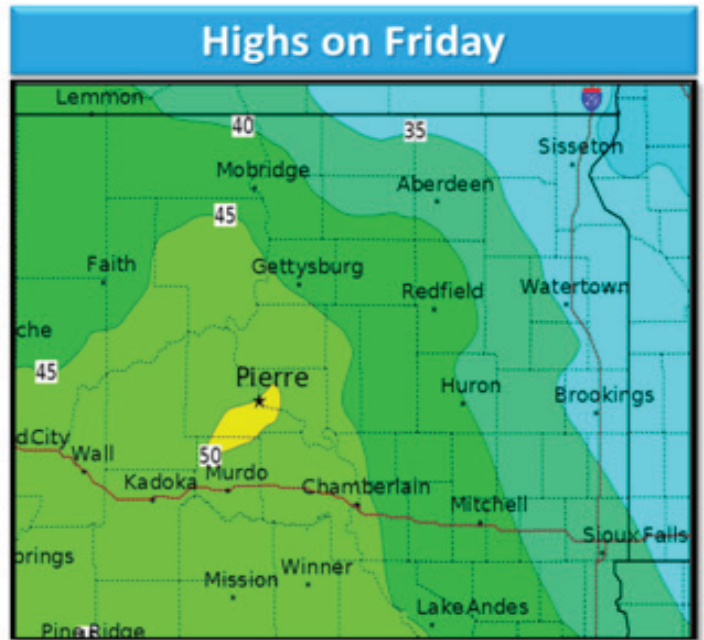
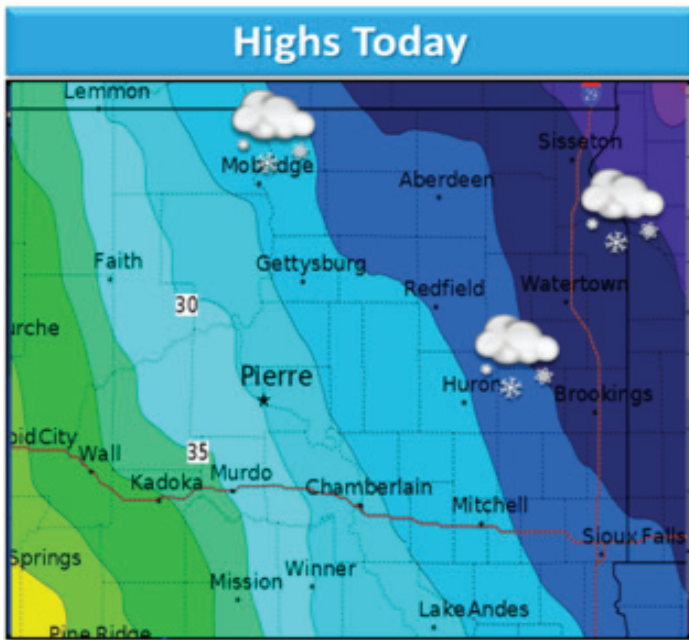
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 02/19/2015 at 5:40AM

An area of low pressure along with a warm front will move across the region today through tonight. Light snow will be possible along the frontal boundary as it moves from west to east. Snowfall amounts will range from a dusting to around an inch. Northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota will have the best potential of seeing accumulating snowfall. Much warmer temperatures are expected on Friday with highs in the 30s and 40s for most locations.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 5.2 at 4:10 PM

Low: -13.1 at 7:29 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 21 at 11:18 AM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 62° in 1930

Record Low: -34° in 1929

Average High: 29°F

Average Low: 9°F

Average Precip in Feb.: 0.31

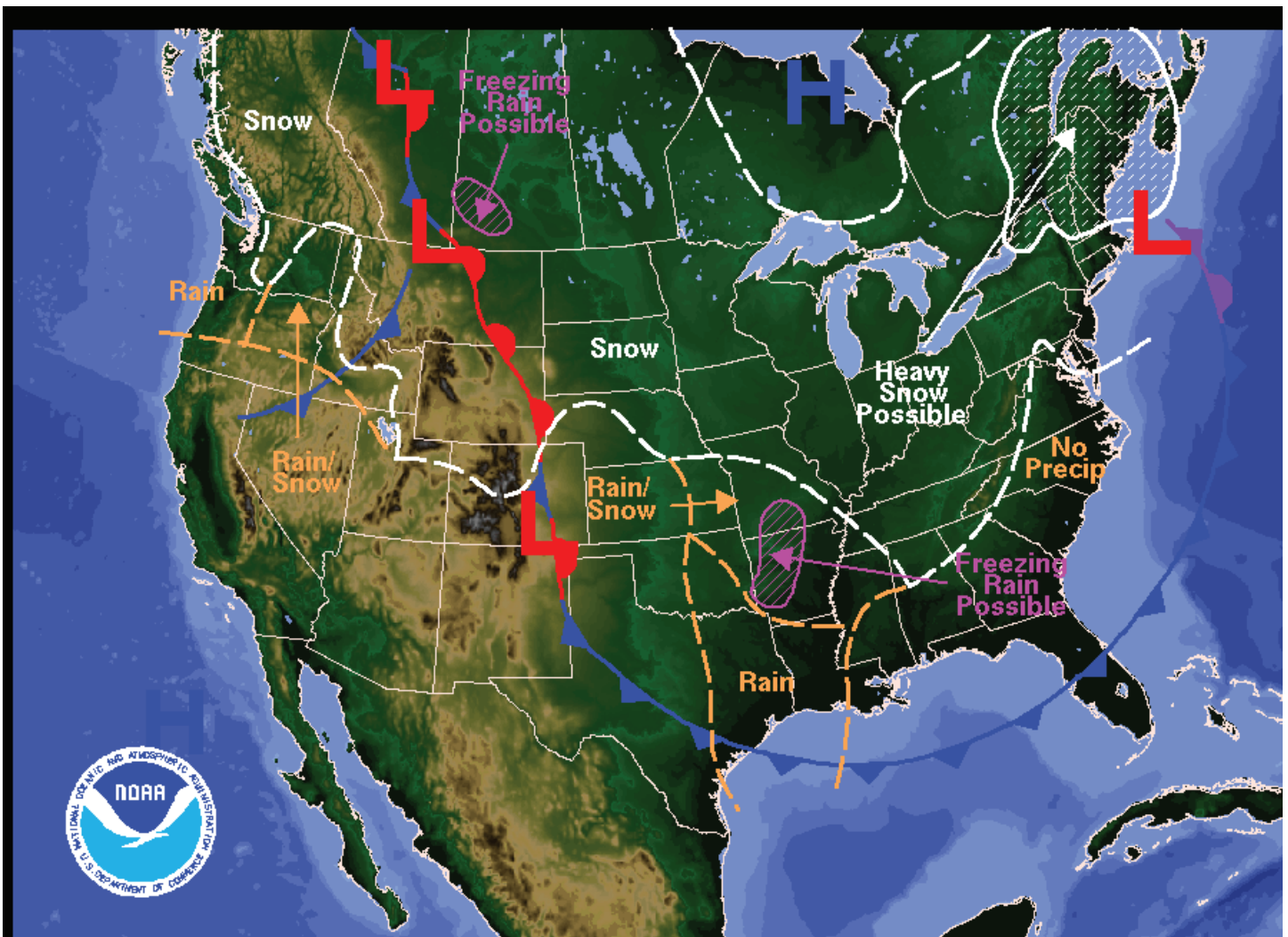
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.78

Precip Year to Date: 0.40

Sunset Tonight: 6:06 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:28 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Feb 19, 2015, issued 2:43 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



HEART DISEASE

Many live marginalized lives when all of us can be blest of God and have His favor. Many look for secrets to His blessings and gifts. Many become angry at those who are enjoying life more than they are and become resentful at two levels: at God for His blessings to others and those who may have more than they do.

God has no secrets and no favorites. All of us have equal access to Him and His word. It is our choice as to whether or not we will take advantage of what He has to offer us. And, furthermore, it is our responsibility - if we choose - to seek his grace and goodness.

But there certainly are conditions. For example: "A man of perverse heart does not prosper, he whose tongue is deceitful falls into trouble." Here is a good starting point: is my heart clean and pure or perverse and deceitful?

God gives one reminder that we must never forget. What is in the heart inevitably comes out of our mouths. There is no way around that God given admonition. Our hearts are the center of our universe and what is in our heart is what we build our lives around; it is what drives us. So, if we bow to and worship money we will do whatever it takes to get it - even if it is a deceitful or perverse mind. The same would go for fame or power or prestige.

If God is not at the center of our heart something else is and that is what we will live and die for. There are many who want to have it both ways: do whatever to get whatever I want and give God his due - whatever we think it might be. That's a perverse and deceitful mind.

Prayer: This day, Lord, is the day of the year when we focus on "hearts." May we look "inside" ours carefully. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 17:20 One whose heart is corrupt does not prosper; one whose tongue is perverse falls into trouble.

News from the Associated Press

Opponents of planned Turner County chicken farm file lawsuit

PARKER, S.D. (AP) — Landowners concerned about possible problems from a large egg-laying operation planned near Parker are suing its developers and the Turner County Commission.

Sioux Falls-based Sonstegard Foods hopes to put 6 million birds on a farm 2½ miles from Parker. Opponents believe that's too close, and will create problems such as odor. They also contend the County Commission improperly approved new zoning regulations to allow for the chicken operation.

County State's Attorney Matt Olson says the commission did nothing wrong. Officials with Sonstegard Foods say they're reviewing the lawsuit.

Opponents say about 1,200 people live within a 3-mile radius of the proposed site. Sonstegard officials have said they're designing a facility to minimize odor, and that it will create more than 150 jobs.

Noem to address SD Legislature at state Capitol in Pierre

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Republican U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem is expected to address the South Dakota Legislature at the state Capitol building in Pierre.

Noem is scheduled to speak to state lawmakers on Thursday afternoon.

South Dakota's lone U.S. representative has hosted a town hall event in Sioux Falls this week to give an update to constituents on her work in Congress and to take questions.

She serves with Republican U.S. Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds as part of South Dakota's federal delegation.

Mobridge Police to receive funds for in-car video system

MOBRIDGE, S.D. (AP) — The police department in Mobridge has been awarded nearly \$5,000 by the state to buy an in-car video recording system.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says the recording system is meant to be used during drug investigations.

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

Jackley says the funds will help the department in drug control operations and arrests.

College students to urge against concealed weapons on campus

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota college students plan to lobby lawmakers ahead of a potential state House vote on a measure that would allow people 21 years or older to carry a concealed weapon on the six public university's campuses.

South Dakota Student Federation Executive Director Jess Peterson said a group of students plans to urge lawmakers on Thursday to defeat the proposal before watching the expected vote from the House gallery.

Peterson says defeating the measure is important to college students in South Dakota because allowing concealed weapons on campus creates a sense of unease among students.

Supporters of the proposal say it was prompted by students who want to defend themselves on college campuses.

South Dakota State hangs on to beat Western Illinois 79-77

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Cody Larson converted a key three-point play and George Marshall hit the eventual game-winning shot with 59 seconds left as South Dakota State held on to beat Western Illinois 79-77 Wednesday night.

Larson's score broke a 74-all tie with 2:32 to play. Mohammed Conde split a pair of free throws to pull Western Illinois within 77-75 before Marshall hit his jumper. Garret Covington answered for the Leathernecks to make it 79-77 with 45 seconds remaining. South Dakota State's Deondre Parks missed a 3 with 11 seconds left, but Conde missed a layup at the buzzer to seal it for the Jackrabbits.

Marshall had 14 points and Larson 13 for South Dakota State (20-8, 11-3 Summit League), which has won three straight and has a half-game lead over North Dakota State (18-8, 10-3) atop the standings. Covington scored a career-high 31 points to lead Western Illinois (8-16, 3-10).

Man accused of spilling beer, using racial slurs at game

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

A South Dakota man was charged Wednesday with disorderly conducted for allegedly spilling beer on and using racial slurs toward a group of Native American students last month at a Rapid City Rush hockey game.

The misdemeanor charge against 41-year-old Trace O'Connell is the result of a nearly monthlong investigation into events at a Jan. 24 game. Chaperones for the students from the American Horse School in Allen have said the children and their chaperones left the game early because of the harassment.

O'Connell's attorney, Patrick Duffy, said Wednesday that his client disputes the charge and that he did not use racial slurs or spray beer on the students. Duffy wouldn't go into details about what happened during the game, saying O'Connell's side of the story would come out in court.

He said stories of what happened during the game at Rushmore Plaza Civic Arena have become "progressively unhinged" on social media.

"The story was told long before the facts had been revealed," he said.

Jodi Richards, the middle school principle at the American Horse School, said school officials and parents were "deflated" when they heard about the misdemeanor charge. In response, Richards said the school is looking at whether federal hate crime charges could be filed.

Rapid City and Pennington County officials went to the American Horse School on Wednesday to discuss the results of the investigation, but said the meeting grew tense and they decided to leave early for safety reasons. In a news release, Rapid City police spokesman Brendyn Medina described the meeting as "chaotic with frustration and high emotions."

Richards said the account from officials was a "definite over-exaggeration."

"People were asking a few questions," she said. "It did not get heated."

The alleged harassment has sparked an outcry from Native American and civil rights advocates in western South Dakota about underlying racism in the region. Earlier this month, Bryan Brewer, former president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, formed a group to confront racism in response to the events at the hockey game.

John Yellow Bird Steele, the tribe's current president, told the Argus Leader on Wednesday that he had hoped for stiffer charges.

"I believe the charges are watered down," Steele said.

House votes down plan to allow concealed weapons in Capitol

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota House has voted down a proposal that would allow people to carry concealed weapons in the state Capitol building.

The House voted 45 to 24 on Wednesday against a plan that would remove the prohibition from state law.

Republican Rep. Blaine Campbell of Rapid City says the present prohibition only “disarms the law-abiding.”

Campbell says the proposal isn’t meant to diminish the efforts of the South Dakota Highway Patrol, which is tasked with protecting the Capitol.

The Highway Patrol has opposed the measure because it could cause confusion for law enforcement entering a violent situation.

A measure to authorize lawmakers to have weapons in the Capitol building failed last week in a Senate committee.

Committee approves bill to overhaul conflict-of-interest law

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A proposal to overhaul conflict-of-interest laws for South Dakota public employees in response to the investment-for-visa scandal that dominated last year’s U.S. Senate race is headed to the full House chamber after breezing through a Wednesday committee hearing.

The House Judiciary Committee unanimously approved the measure, which blocks a state employee or officer who leaves the government from entering into most contracts with a state agency for a year after leaving office or employment, with some exceptions.

Republican Rep. Mark Mickelson said his proposal broadens state law to prohibit state employees from directly benefiting from contracts they approve and also extends that prohibition for a year after the employee leaves state government.

Under the proposal, the governing body of a state agency would be able to approve exceptions under certain circumstances and those approvals would be a public record subject to review.

Mickelson said his plan strengthens ethics laws in South Dakota and includes harsher penalties for violations. It also extends to contracts that don’t include the expenditure of public funds.

“I think that this will help us get the trust of the people in state government that I know that we all deserve,” Republican Rep. Lance Russell said. “It’s unfortunate we had one situation, but this will create I hope a great deal of confidence again in state government and in a lot of our economic development efforts.”

Mickelson said the new conflict-of-interest provisions came out of the Government Operations and Audit Committee, which looked into the EB-5 visa program last year. The program recruits wealthy immigrant investors for projects in exchange for green cards, and concerns about former Gov. Mike Rounds’ management of the program hounded him during his successful U.S. Senate campaign.

The audit committee found that a former state official who committed suicide was to blame for the scandal, including hundreds of thousands of dollars in misdirected funds, which spawned state and federal investigations.

Democratic Rep. Peggy Gibson said she voted for the proposal even though it isn’t as strong as she’d like. She said her constituents are concerned about the EB-5 issue.

“It doesn’t go far enough,” Gibson said of the bill. “It’s phony ... they had to do something because people out there are saying, ‘you’re all crooks.’”

Opponents push back against transportation funding taxes

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Members of the oil and gas industry during a House committee hearing Wednesday contested the size and longevity of tax increases included in a roughly \$50 million proposal to fund roads and bridges.

The House State Affairs Committee reviewed a measure similar to Gov. Dennis Daugaard's transportation plan, which raises road and bridge funding through increases in fuel taxes, fees and other assessments. Daugaard's original plan proposed ongoing increases in fuel taxes without a set end date, whereas the increases have been limited in duration in both the House and Senate proposals.

The governor's director of policy and operations, Nathan Sanderson, told the committee that South Dakota's fuel tax has remained flat for years, but costs haven't. The state and local governments have identified hundreds of millions of dollars in need for repairs.

"This is the year to take the steps to meet the need," Sanderson said. "We have a very clear need out there."

But South Dakota Petroleum and Propane Marketers Association Executive Director Dawna Leitzke said the annual fuel tax increases in the House proposal that stretch until 2030 would make South Dakota less competitive with surrounding states. The fuel tax increases proposed by the Senate would expire in 2023.

Leitzke said she understands the need for quality infrastructure but said tourists and customers will choose other states to shop in if South Dakota's tax rate veers up sharply compared to its neighbors.

"If a tax increase is to come, it has to be a lot smaller and it needs to be reviewed on a yearly basis," Leitzke said.

The proposal includes several other differences from Daugaard's original plan, including about \$1.5 million in revenue in its first year for local infrastructure through additional vehicle fee increases that would begin in 2016. The House plan also includes an expanded wheel tax that could raise \$400,000 if fully implemented at the local level and a registration fee for electric and hybrid vehicles, which met some opposition.

House Majority Leader Brian Gosch, who chairs the State Affairs Committee, said the 2030 tax end date could be further shortened. He said the committee could vote on the proposal on Friday.

Vikings claim former Packers tight end Bostick

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings have claimed tight end Brandon Bostick off waivers from the Green Bay Packers.

The move was made Wednesday, the day after the Packers dropped him. Bostick became best known for mishandling an onside kick in the NFC championship game last month that helped Seattle complete a big comeback.

From Darren Sharper to Ryan Longwell to Brett Favre to Greg Jennings, the Vikings have made a habit of signing former Packers.

Bostick made the practice squad with Green Bay in 2012 after going undrafted out of Division III Newberry College in South Carolina. He was on the active roster the past two seasons, appearing in 24 games and catching nine passes for 123 yards and two touchdowns with 13 special teams tackles.

About 21,000 in SD get health insurance through marketplace

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Federal officials say more than 21,000 South Dakotans have chosen health plans through the federal insurance marketplace during the latest enrollment period.

The second enrollment period for President Barack Obama's signature health care law began Nov. 15. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on Wednesday said that said 21,183 people selected plans or were automatically re-enrolled by the Feb. 15 deadline.

About 13,000 South Dakotans selected a plan in 2014 during the first enrollment period.

The White House estimates that more than 11 million people nationwide signed up for subsidized private health insurance this year.

About 88 percent of South Dakotans choosing plans were deemed eligible for financial assistance as of Jan. 30.

Federal prosecutor Randy Seiler to be acting US attorney

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A man with two decades of experience as a federal prosecutor will serve as acting U.S. attorney in South Dakota starting in March.

First Assistant United States Attorney Randy Seiler (SY'-ler) will take over the leadership of the U.S. attorney's office upon the departure of Brendan Johnson. Johnson on Wednesday announced he'll leave his job as U.S. attorney March 11 to open an office in Sioux Falls for a large law firm.

Seiler has worked at the federal office since 1995. He was a violent crime prosecutor until 2009, when he was named first assistant U.S. attorney.

He is a member of the Fort Pierre city council.

Seiler worked in private practice in Mobridge before becoming a prosecutor. He graduated from the University of South Dakota School of Law.

SD's US attorney to resign, join firm with ND's prosecutor

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

CARSON WALKER, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's top federal prosecutor is joining his North Dakota counterpart in leaving those posts and opening local offices for a large law firm known for winning big settlements in high-profile litigation.

Brendan Johnson, who has been U.S. attorney for South Dakota since 2009, announced his resignation Wednesday, a week after North Dakota's U.S. attorney, Tim Purdon, said he would be stepping down.

Department of Justice rules prevent Johnson or Purdon from saying yet where they are going, but a person with knowledge of the moves who was not authorized to discuss the situation publicly confirmed to The Associated Press that both will join Minneapolis-based Robins Kaplan LLP and open offices in Sioux Falls and Bismarck. Johnson, 39, leaves his job March 11 and Purdon, 46, on March 12.

"It's a job I've loved and has been a really important part of my life," Johnson said. "I think the work we've done has made a difference in people's lives and I'm really proud of that."

Robins Kaplan, which represents some of the biggest companies in the Upper Midwest, has more than 220 attorneys with offices in Minneapolis and five other cities. The firm won a \$7.1 billion settlement in 1998 on behalf of the state of Minnesota and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota in a lawsuit against the tobacco industry. It also helped forge a \$7.25 billion antitrust settlement in 2012 for merchants that accept Visa and MasterCard from the two payment card networks and major banks that issue the cards.

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The firm did not return a call seeking comment.

Purdon said Wednesday that he and Johnson used the same legal recruiting firm and their head hunter was Jane Roberts, wife of U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts. Her representative did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

"Working closely with Brendan over the past five years on Indian Country public safety issues has been the highlight of my professional life," Purdon told the AP. "As we discussed our futures, the possibility of continuing our partnership in the private sector was something we wanted to do and we worked hard to make it happen."

Some Democrats had hoped Johnson would run for the Senate seat left open when his father, U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson, retired in January. Johnson declined to say on Wednesday whether he eventually would run for public office.

"During my time as U.S. attorney, I haven't talked about politics and I haven't answered any questions about my political future," Johnson said. "Certainly, those questions will be asked by some after I'm done as U.S. attorney, but as long as I am the U.S. attorney, I do not want to engage in that kind of speculation."

President Barack Obama nominated Brendan Johnson to be South Dakota's U.S. attorney and the Senate unanimously confirmed him in October 2009. Prior to that, Johnson was a federal law clerk in Rapid City for U.S. District Court Judge Karen Schreier, a Minnehaha County deputy state's attorney in Sioux Falls and a partner in the Sioux Falls law firm now known as Johnson, Abdallah, Bollweg and Parsons LLP.

He graduated from the University of South Dakota and the University of Virginia School of Law.

Johnson said that when he took office the state had never prosecuted a commercial sex trafficking case at the federal level and now it has sent more people to prison for that crime than any other federal district in the country. The office also has had more people receive mandatory minimum sentences for trying to buy sex with a child over the Internet than any other district.

He said he's also proud of his work on Indian Country and the sharp increase in prosecutions, especially on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations. He was chairman of the Native American Issues Subcommittee from 2009-2013 at the request of Attorney General Eric Holder, who praised Johnson for his leadership, advocacy for people and public service.

"As a lawyer and as a leader, Brendan has set a standard of excellence that will not soon be surpassed," Holder said in a statement. "Particularly with regard to public safety challenges on tribal lands, he has served as a key adviser to senior Justice Department officials — including me."

First Assistant United States Attorney Randy Seiler will take over the office until the Senate appoints a new U.S. attorney. In North Dakota, assistant federal prosecutor Chris Myers will take over as acting U.S. attorney.

Summit League Basketball Championships tickets going on sale

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Single-session tickets for the 2015 Summit League Basketball Championships in Sioux Falls go on sale at 10 a.m. Monday.

The tournaments begin Saturday, March 7, and run through Tuesday, March 10, at the newly opened \$117 million Denny Sanford Premier Center in South Dakota's largest city.

Single-session tickets will be available at 1-800-745-3000, www.ticketmaster.com, and the Premier Center box office or other Ticketmaster outlets.

Non-championship single-session tickets will sell for \$19.50, \$22 and \$25.50. Championship game single-session tickets will sell for \$18, \$20 and \$23.50.

The 2014 Summit League Championships, held in the Sioux Falls Arena, had more than 37,000 spectators over four days.

Suspect in death of Adrian Peterson's son to remain in jail

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A man charged in the death of the 2-year-old son of Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson will remain in jail until his trial in September for violating conditions of his bond, although his family could still get back the \$2 million bond they posted.

Judge Bradley Zell on Tuesday said he does not think Joseph Patterson, 29, is a flight risk, but that he is a danger to the boy's mother, Patterson's ex-girlfriend. Zell ordered him held without bond and ordered the earlier bond money returned to Patterson's family.

Prosecutors Tom Wollman and Tom Hensley had filed motions to revoke Patterson's bond and have the money forfeited to the government. Zell gave the attorneys 30 days to file arguments, but the judge also said he doesn't think Patterson's bond violation warrants a forfeiture of the bond money.

"Money is not the issue; it's whether Mr. Patterson can follow the conditions of the court," Zell said.

Patterson is charged with second-degree murder, manslaughter and aggravated assault in Tyrese Ruffin's 2013 death. Prosecutors allege Patterson beat Tyrese. Patterson maintains Tyrese choked on a snack.

Patterson was released on \$2 million bond in September but surrendered to authorities in early January after they issued an arrest warrant, saying he had violated bond conditions by contacting the boy's mother. Patterson also faces aggravated assault and kidnapping charges in an alleged attack on Tyrese's mother last June.

Rapid City, Pennington County forming disaster response team

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City and Pennington County are forming a team to respond to emergencies such as natural disasters and terrorist attacks.

The All-Hazard Incident Management Team will involve nearly 40 agencies. There will be team members on call at all hours, able to form a disaster response within hours.

Rapid City Fire Chief Mike Maltaverne says that with Mount Rushmore National Memorial and Ellsworth Air Force Base nearby, the area would be a logical target for a terror attack. He says local emergency agencies by themselves wouldn't have the resources to respond to such an incident.

No spring Canada goose program in South Dakota this year

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Game, Fish and Parks department will not implement a spring Canada goose reduction program this year because it hasn't been effective in the past.

The experimental program in place the last two years involved authorized volunteers killing resident Canada geese during April through a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit.

The goal was to reduce numbers of the geese that damage crops. State Wildlife Damage Program Administrator Keith Fisk says "the desired outcome was not achieved," so the management approach won't be used this year.

Canada goose hunting still will occur in August and September. Game, Fish and Parks also will continue to help landowners who suffer crop damage from the birds.

Black Hills State suspends programs due to revenue shortfall

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Black Hills State University is suspending two academic programs and taking other steps to address a \$1.5 million budget deficit.

The revenue shortfall is due to students taking fewer credit hours, which is attributable to fewer high school graduates in South Dakota and an increase in the number of part-time students, the university said in a statement.

The Spearfish school is suspending its engineering technology program and a master's degree program in sustainability, which involves developing strategies to create a sustainable society. Both programs have low enrollment, the university said.

"Any time you make a modification to the course offerings, it is tough," university spokeswoman Corinne Hansen told the Daily Press & Dakotan newspaper in Yankton, where the engineering technology program was offered at a regional technical center. "We had to look at which course reductions would have the most minimal impact on our students, and these were the two programs identified."

The school also is putting more emphasis on attracting and keeping students, university President Tom Jackson Jr. said in a statement.

"I'm asking the campus to work together with a renewed focus on recruitment, retention and marketing," he said. "BHSU is an exceptional university that has a powerful, positive impact not only on our students and alumni but also for the entire state and region. As the only comprehensive public higher education institution in the west river region of the state, we have a unique role."

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 Thursday:

1. HOW OBAMA VIEWS TERROR FIGHT

He says the U.S. is not at war with Islam but with people who have perverted the religion.

2. KIEV: WITHDRAWAL FROM STRATEGIC TOWN ALMOST COMPLETE

Ukrainian forces retreated from Debaltseve, on the most direct route between eastern Ukraine's two biggest cities, after weeks of heavy fighting with pro-Russian militants.

3. SURVEY: AMERICANS SUPPORT RAISING MINIMUM WAGE, PAID SICK LEAVE

The AP-GfK poll finds that most favor the president's latest proposals on those issues but a majority doesn't think he is doing enough for the middle class.

4. RELUCTANT ALLIANCES REIGN OVER IRAQ'S FIGHT AGAINST ISLAMIC STATE

Shiites and Kurds are warily teaming up in long-disputed Kirkuk which has vast oil wealth, while Sunni leaders are trying to get over their mistrust of the central government.

5. WHAT THE HOROSCOPES SAY ABOUT THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

Astrologers are saying the Sheep carries with it an unstable economy, turbulent weather and transport accidents.

6. WHO'S PLEADING FOR WEAPONS

Libya asks the U.N. Security Council to lift an arms embargo so it can fight the Islamic State group as it moves closer to Europe.

7. HOW MUCH A GREEK EURO EXIT WOULD COST

A "Grexit" is not favored by Athens or the EU and could shave 10% off Greece's economy and mean

billions of euros in unrepaid debt to eurozone countries.

8. SUPERBUG INFECTION KILLS TWO IN CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL

Seven patients were exposed to the antibiotic-resistant CRE during procedures at a UCLA medical facility.

9. WHY SOME SAY THEY'LL BOYCOTT ACADEMY AWARDS

A year after a richly diverse Oscar crop, all 20 acting nominees in Sunday's show are white.

10. NBC'S 'NIGHTLY NEWS' KEEPS RATINGS LEAD

With Lester Holt filling in for the suspended Brian Williams, the show averaged 9.43 million viewers last week, again besting ABC and CBS.

AP News in Brief

Cossack fighters laugh, hug as they take control of Ukrainian town

DEBALTSEVE, Ukraine (AP) — Debaltseve appeared to be largely under the control of rebels Thursday, a day after Ukrainian forces began withdrawing from the besieged town.

Associated Press journalists who drove around about half the town found that all neighborhoods were under the control of rebel fighters, most of them appearing to be Cossacks.

Nikolai Kozitsyn, a Russian Cossack leader who has been a prominent warlord in separatist eastern Ukraine, was seen driving around in a Humvee-like vehicle that had been captured from Ukrainian troops.

Cossack fighters laughed, hugged each other and posed for photos.

But one car carrying Cossacks hit a land mine about 200 meters from the journalists, killing one Cossack and injuring one other.

In fight against violent extremism, Obama touts US tradition of embracing Muslim immigrants

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the fight against violent extremism, President Barack Obama has argued the U.S. has one thing going for it that Europe doesn't: a long tradition of warmly embracing its immigrants, including Muslims.

With the Islamic State group spreading and terrorists gaining strength in the Mideast and Africa, Obama has sought to use this week's White House summit on violent extremism to urge the world to broaden its response far beyond military interventions. U.S. airstrikes have managed to blunt some of the militants' gains in Iraq and Syria, but they don't address the extreme ideologies that underpin deadly groups such as IS, al-Shabab and Boko Haram.

"If we're going to prevent people from being susceptible to the false promises of extremism, then the international community has to offer something better — and the United States intends to do its part," Obama told the summit Wednesday. He planned to speak again Thursday when delegates from about 65 countries gather for the summit's closing session at the State Department.

But not all Muslim-Americans feel like full members of American society, and security experts warned against assuming that the U.S. is impervious to those who seek to recruit and radicalize.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the U.S. has largely been spared the terrorist assaults that have hit cities in Denmark, Belgium and France, growing out of radical interpretations of Islam. In the weeks

since the Charlie Hebdo newspaper shootings in Paris, Obama and other U.S. figures have portrayed the U.S. as being at a lower risk. After all, America is known as the "Great Melting Pot," where minorities of all stripes are made to feel at home.

War on Islamic State group makes for uneasy alliances in divided Iraq

KIRKUK, Iraq (AP) — Shiite Arab militias have flooded into northern Iraq's Kirkuk region to help Kurdish forces battle the Islamic State group, but their uneasy alliance threatens to reignite a much older conflict over the oil-rich area pitting the largely autonomous Kurds against the Arab-led government in Baghdad.

All across Iraq, the rapid advance by the Islamic State extremists over the past year has drawn long-time rivals into reluctant alliances. The shared struggle could with time help Iraqis forge a long-elusive sense of national unity. But it also risks papering over disputes that could burst into the open if the threat subsides.

Happy Ewe Year: Astrology points to accidents, unstable economy in Chinese Year of the Sheep

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese were seeing in the Year of the Sheep on Thursday, but with fortune-tellers predicting accidents and an unstable economy and some parents-to-be fretting over the year's reputation for docile kids, it wasn't exactly warming everyone's heart.

This animal sign, which comes once every dozen years, can be said to have an identity crisis. Known variably as the Year of the Goat, Sheep or Ram, the sign's confusion stems from its Chinese character, "yang," which broadly describes any of the ruminating mammals, with or without horns.

Many Chinese prefer to translate it as the "Year of the Sheep" because sheep are more cute and cuddly, and large sheep figures have appeared around the capital's shopping areas in recent weeks.

The goat, however, is more likely to be the original meaning because it was a popular farm animal among Han Chinese who started the zodiac tradition, Huang Yang, a researcher on the roles of sheep and goats in Chinese culture, was quoted by the official Xinhua News agency as saying.

Still, Xinhua is going with "Year of the Sheep" in its English-language reports rather than "Year of the Goat."

Greeks would see living standards plunge; other countries would be hit by billions in losses

So what would it cost if Greece left the euro?

As European policymakers struggle to reach a deal to keep the country from a bankruptcy, experts are making rough estimates of the potential costs of failure.

Neither side wants Greece to leave the single currency zone. It's all about the conditions for staying: Athens is sick of the budget cuts they're being asked to make in return for 240 billion euros in loans. Greece's new government says a six-year recession shows that the requirements to restrain spending are strangling the economy.

The eurozone creditor countries, however, are refusing to lend it any more money without tough conditions.

Without more money, Greece may default on debts due this spring and summer. Default, or fears of one, could trigger turmoil that would collapse Greece's banks. And that could force it to print its own currency to bail them out.

AP-GfK poll: Most Americans favor increasing the minimum wage, requiring paid sick leave

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans support increasing the minimum wage, as well as requiring employers to provide paid sick leave and parental leave, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll. All three were proposed by President Barack Obama during his recent State of the Union address as ways to increase protections for American workers. But the poll also found that most Americans don't approve of the job Obama is doing helping the middle class.

Candlelight memorial in hometown of Islamic State hostage Kayla Mueller honors life, work

PRESCOTT, Ariz. (AP) — Candles lit up the plaza of a central Arizona courthouse Wednesday as hundreds gathered to honor the American woman pictured before them who was taken hostage by Islamic State militants.

Kayla Mueller's death earlier this month was confirmed by her family and U.S. officials. The 26-year-old international aid worker from Prescott, Arizona, had been captured in Syria in August 2013.

Friends, family and strangers wore pink ribbons on their shirts as they listened to speakers reflect on Mueller's life and work. Strangers and friends dropped off cards and wrote messages for a scrapbook, calling Mueller an angel and saying she represented the best of humanity.

Mueller's brother, Eric Mueller, encouraged the crowd to live as his first friend, best friend and sister did by reaching out to those who are suffering and give them a hug. His father, Carl Mueller, stood up immediately after his son finished speaking and hugged him tightly at the bottom of the stage.

"May God keep you from any more harm, any more hurt," Eric Mueller said to his sister. "You are in his hands now. You do not have to suffer anymore. Only now will you be able to see how much you really did and truly did for this world by looking down on it from above."

7 infected, 2 dead, nearly 200 exposed after 'superbug' outbreak at Los Angeles hospital

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Contaminated medical instruments are to blame for infecting seven patients — including two who died — with an antibiotic-resistant and potentially deadly "superbug" at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, hospital officials said. A total of 179 patients may be infected.

They were exposed to Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae, or CRE, during endoscopic procedures between October and January when it was discovered during tests on a patient, said Dale Tate, a University of California, Los Angeles spokeswoman.

The potentially infected patients are being sent free home-testing kits that UCLA will analyze, the university said.

The bacteria may have been a "contributing factor" in the deaths of two patients, a university statement said.

Similar outbreaks of CRE have been reported around the nation. They are difficult to treat because

some varieties are resistant to most known antibiotics. By one estimate, CRE can contribute to death in up to half of seriously infected patients, according to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Vanilla Ice released from Florida jail after being charged with burglary, theft

LANTANA, Fla. (AP) — Vanilla Ice has been released from custody in Florida after being arrested and charged with breaking into and stealing from an abandoned home.

Police in Lantana say the recording artist and home-improvement-show host had been renovating a home next to the victim's. They said some of the stolen items were found at his property.

Vanilla Ice, whose real name is Robert Van Winkle, rose to fame with the hit "Ice Ice Baby." He also hosts DIY Network's "The Vanilla Ice Project."

The 47-year-old was charged Wednesday with burglary of a residence and grand theft and taken into custody. He was released from the Palm Beach County jail Wednesday night on a \$6,000 bond.

He told TV station WPTV as he left that the situation was a "misunderstanding" that's been "blown out of proportion."

Black man blocked from train by Chelsea fans calls for them to be 'punished and locked up'

PARIS (AP) — A black man who was blocked from boarding a Paris metro train by Chelsea soccer fans chanting racist slogans wants the group to be "found, punished and locked up."

In an interview with Le Parisien newspaper, the man — identified only as Souleymane S. — said he had lost his phone in the scuffle in the metro and didn't learn until Wednesday evening that the altercation was filmed. Because he doesn't speak English, he said he didn't fully grasp what the rowdy group was saying — they chanted "we're racist, we're racist, and that's the way we like it" — but their meaning was clear.

The incident happened Tuesday evening, a short time before Chelsea played Paris Saint-Germain at Parc des Princes in the Champions League.

"They were saying things to me in English and I didn't really understand the meaning of the words. I understood that it had to do with Chelsea fans and made the link with the PSG match that was happening that night. I also clearly understood that they were hassling me because of the color of my skin," he said.

In a video posted by the Guardian newspaper, the man pushes back and says in French "Can I get on or what?" before again being shoved away.

Today in History **The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, Feb. 19, the 50th day of 2015. There are 315 days left in the year. This is the Lunar New Year of the Goat.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 19, 1945, Operation Detachment began during World War II as some 30,000 U.S. Marines began landing on Iwo Jima, where they commenced a successful month-long battle to seize control of

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the island from Japanese forces.

On this date:

In 1473, astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus was born in Torun, Poland.

In 1881, Kansas prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.

In 1915, during World War I, British and French warships launched their initial attack on Ottoman forces in the Dardanelles, a strait in northwestern Turkey. (The Gallipoli Campaign that followed proved disastrous for the Allies.)

In 1934, a blizzard began inundating the northeastern United States, with the heaviest snowfall occurring in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, clearing the way for the U.S. military to relocate and intern Japanese-Americans during World War II.

In 1959, an agreement was signed by Britain, Turkey and Greece granting Cyprus its independence.

In 1963, "The Feminine Mystique" by Betty Friedan was first published by W.W. Norton & Co.

In 1976, calling the issuing of Executive Order 9066 "a sad day in American history," President Gerald R. Ford issued a proclamation confirming that the order had been terminated with the formal cessation of hostilities of World War II.

In 1984, the Winter Olympics closed in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

In 1985, the British soap opera "EastEnders" debuted on BBC Television.

In 1997, Deng Xiaoping, the last of China's major Communist revolutionaries, died at age 92.

In 2008, an ailing Fidel Castro resigned the Cuban presidency after nearly a half-century in power; his brother Raul was later named to succeed him.

Ten years ago: Eight suicide bombers struck in quick succession in Iraq in a wave of attacks that killed dozens. Former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton visited a Thai fishing village that had been devastated by the December 2004 tsunami. The USS Jimmy Carter, the last of the Seawolf class of attack subs, was commissioned at Groton (GRAH'-tun), Connecticut.

Five years ago: In a televised 13-minute statement, golfer Tiger Woods admitted infidelity and acknowledged receiving therapy. The FBI concluded that Army scientist Bruce Ivins acted alone in the 2001 anthrax mailings that killed five people, and formally closed the case. Pope Benedict XVI approved sainthood for Mother Mary MacKillop, who became Australia's first saint.

One year ago: President Barack Obama, in Mexico for a North American summit, urged Ukraine to avoid violence against peaceful protesters or face consequences; shortly after Obama's remarks, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich's office said he and opposition leaders had agreed on a truce. On Day 13 of the Sochi Games, Norway won the first Olympic mixed relay in biathlon and Ole Einar Bjoerndalen became the most decorated Winter Olympian ever with 13 medals. Ted Ligety won the giant slalom, becoming the first American man to win two Olympic gold medals in Alpine skiing.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Smokey Robinson is 75. Actress Carlin Glynn is 75. Former Sony Corp. Chairman Howard Stringer is 73. Singer Lou Christie is 72. Actor Michael Nader is 70. Rock musician Tony Iommi (Black Sabbath, Heaven and Hell) is 67. Actor Stephen Nichols is 64. Author Amy Tan is 63. Actor Jeff Daniels is 60. Rock singer-musician Dave Wakeling is 59. Talk show host Lorianne Crook is 58. Actor Ray Winstone is 58. Actor Leslie David Baker (TV: "The Office") is 57. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell is 56. Britain's Prince Andrew is 55. Tennis Hall-of-Famer Hana Mandlikova is 53. Singer Seal is 52. Actress Jessica Tuck is 52. Country musician Ralph McCauley (Wild Horses) is 51. Rock musician Jon Fishman (Phish) is 50. Actress Justine Bateman is 49. Actor Benicio Del Toro is 48. Actress Bellamy Young is 45. Rock musician Daniel Adair is 40. Pop singer-actress Haylie Duff is 30. Christian rock musician Seth Morrison (Skillet) is 27. Actress Victoria Justice is 22.

Thought for Today: "Look at everything as though you were seeing it for the first time or the last time. Then your time on earth will be filled with glory." - Betty Smith, American author (1896-1972).

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 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

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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

- ◆ Tax document

- ◆ Homeowners/renter's insurance policy

- ◆ Other items with your address can be reviewed by Driver Licensing personnel

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♦ 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.