

# Groton Daily Independent

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## The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

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

**FOR RENT**

**Attached garage.**

**Major appliances included.**

**\$700 per month**

**Roger: 605/397-7118**

## Monday, March 2

**Birthdays:** Lisa Howard, Mandy Hansen, Megan McKiver, Rick Schelle

6:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

10:00 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study leaders meet

**School Breakfast:** Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

**School Lunch:** Chicken nuggets, baked potato, veggie cups, fruit.

Kindergarten Screening

4:30 p.m.: Boys Basketball Regional at Sisseton

7:00 p.m.: City Council Meeting (PP to Tuesday)

## Tuesday, March 3

**Birthdays:** Christine Zoellner, Josie LaMee, Tim Yeaton, Tristan Kampa

**Anniv:** David & Cheryl Krueger; Cal & Mary Hayenga

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

**School Lunch:** Hamburger, sweet tots, lettuce, fruit.

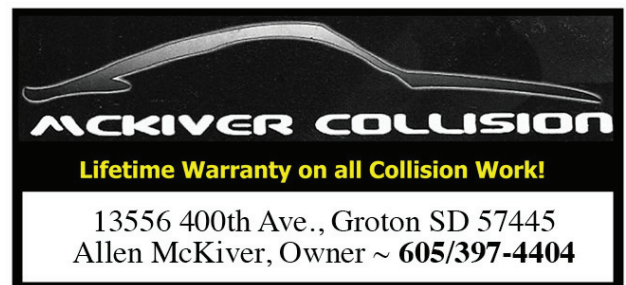
Kindergarten Screening

7 p.m.: Region GBB at Webster

7:00 p.m.: City Council Meeting

## Wednesday, March 4

**Birthdays:** Christina Zoellner, Kale Pharis, Kay



## OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is back at 10 East Railroad Ave. Don't forget, there is also a dumpster at the city shop for aluminum cans with the proceeds going to the pool.

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## Pray places second, Hawkins fourth at state

Trevor Pray had a hard fought match in the state championship match at 113 pounds, losing to Jordan Sehr of Canton, 1-0. Pray advanced to the title match with a 3-2 decision over Luke Hening, Stanley County.

Kelby Hawkins lost to John Lemer of Canton, 6-0. He then came back to decision Devon Sievers of Deuel, 1-0, to advance to the third place match. There, Hawkins was decided by Brody Schatz, Potter County, 7-4.

## 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](http://www.grotonarea.com).



Sun Dial Manor, Bristol, is hiring CNA's for FT, PT, PRN. Competitive wages/benefits. EOE, DFW. To apply call Connie at 605/492-3615 or go to [www.sundialmanor.com](http://www.sundialmanor.com).



Sun Dial Manor, Bristol, is seeking an RN or LPN for FT, PT, PRN. May be eligible for **\$10,000 Recruitment Bonus** along with competitive wages/benefits. EOE, DFW. To apply call Connie at 605/492-3615 or go to [www.sundialmanor.com](http://www.sundialmanor.com).

## 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.

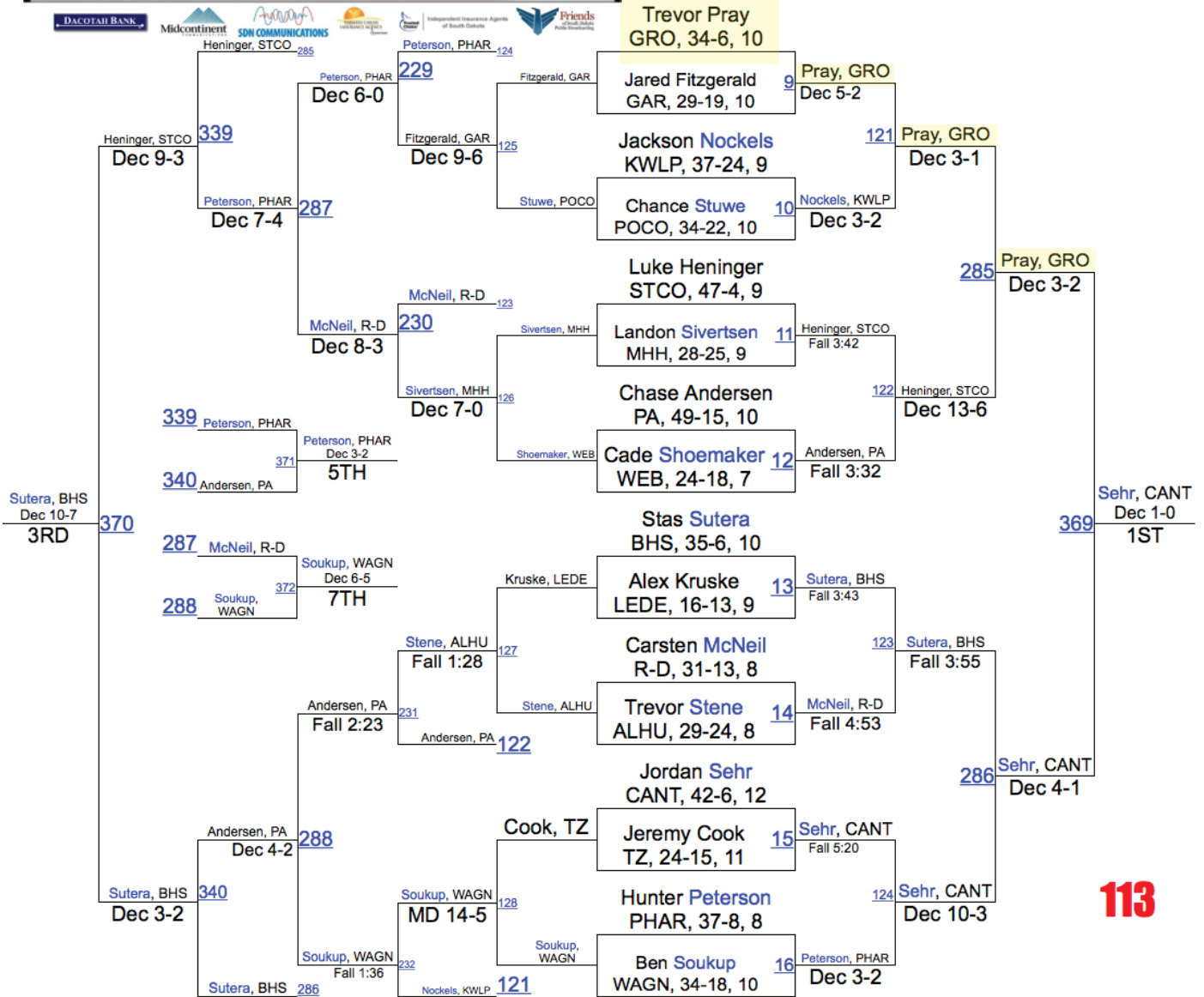
Kindergarten Screening will take place at the Groton Area High School Gymnasium. Please park and use the east entrance to the gym.

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## 2015 SDHSAA Class B Championships



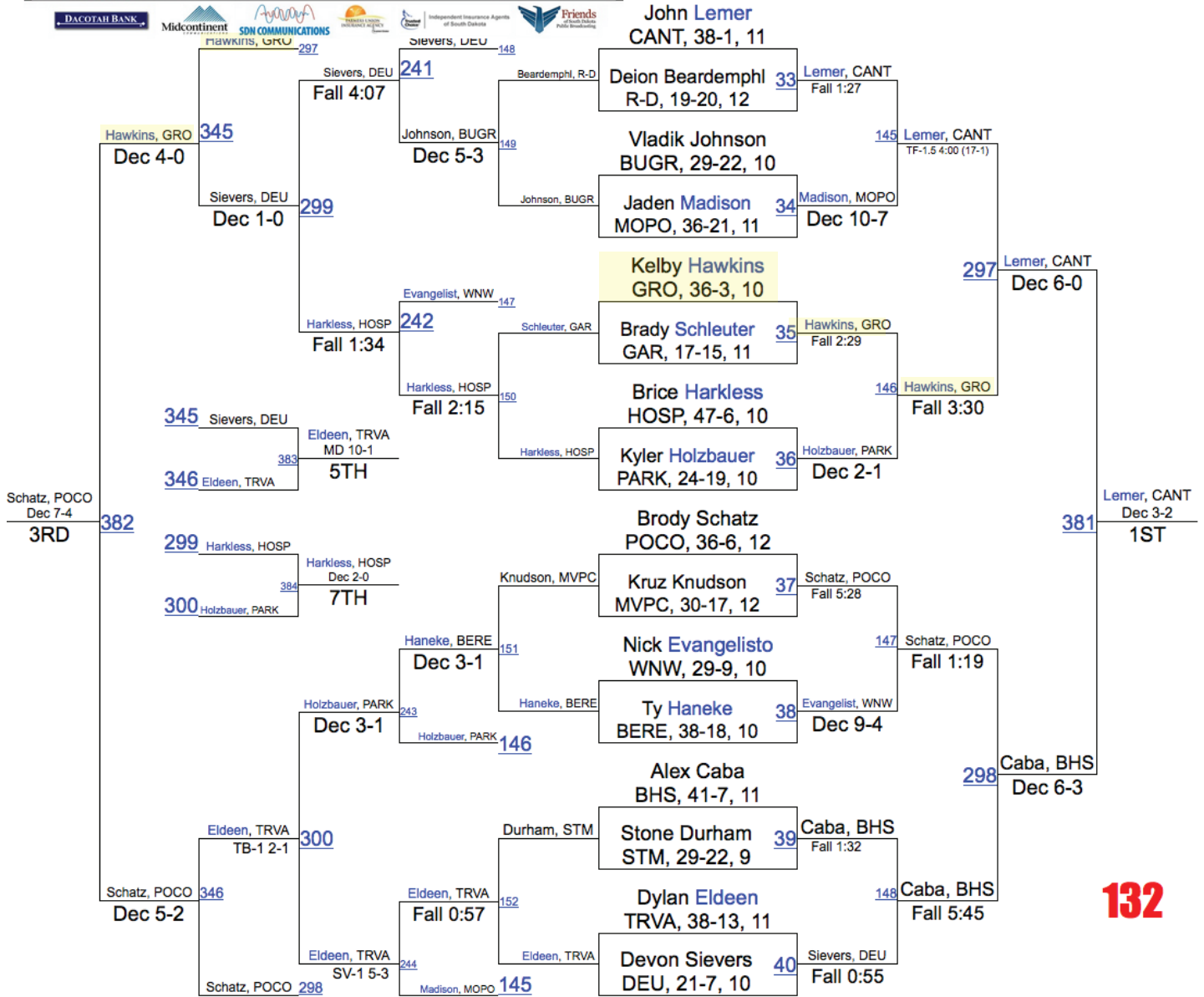
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## 2015 SDHSAA Class B Championships



**132**



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## Groton DI Presents Dessert Theater



Carol Smith, Peggy De-Hoet and Gail Kyar were among the workers in the kitchen for the DI Desert Theater presented Sunday at the Elementary School Gym.



Luke Smith, Katie Groebelinghoff and Breanna Marzahn presented their Improvisational Challenge: The Improv Games, on the senior level. The team managers for "Five Confused People" are Joni Groebelinghoff and Julie Milbrandt.



The Rising Stars team (Ocean Explorers) of Winston Clark (in orange), Corbin Weismantel (in back left), Nicholas Groebelinghoff and Alex Warrington perform Animal Mish Mash. Their team managers are Joni Groebelinghoff, Breanna Marzahn and Katie Groebelinghoff.



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The Rising Stars team, Azooba, of Garrett Schultz in back, Keira Weismantel, Natalia Warrington as the elephant and Jeran Hughes as the snake performed in the Rising Stars division, "Animal Mish Mash." Their team managers are Melissa Schultz and Kandi Weismantel.

The Arts Challenge: Feary Tales, featured a number of teams. In the middle school division, the Chocolate Enchiladas are managed by Laura Clark, Amanda Bisbee and Pam Barse. Pictured are Jackson Dinger, Ethan Clark, Cole Bisbee, Isaac Smith, Andrew Marzahn and Carter Barse.



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Also competing in the middle school division of the Fine Arts Challenge: Feary Tales, is the team, 5-Fearyly Odd People. They are Rylee Rosenau, KaSandra Pappas, Kayla Jensen, Madeline Schuelke and Katlyn Kyar. Their team managers are Bill Rosenau and Robin Jensen.

A third team competing in the middle school division of the Fine Arts Challenge: Feary Tales, is the team, Disfunctional Broad Squad. They are Sage Mortenson, Alyssa Fordham, Samantha Pappas, Julianna Kosel, Tira DeHoet and Hailey Monson. Their team managers are Tina Kosel and Yvonne Lorenz.





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Competing in the elementary school level of the Fine Arts Challenge: Feary Tales, is the team, Guys vs. Dolls. They are Jeslyn Kosel, Karsyn Jangula, Layne Hanson, Bryson Wambach and Ryan Groeblichhoff. Their team managers are Joni Groeblichhoff and Shawn Hanson.

The group, "Eye of the Monkey," performed in the senior level of the Fine Arts Challenge: Feary Tales. Pictured are Emma Donley, AnneMarie Smith, Erika Herr and Hattie Weismantel. Their manager is Joann Donley.





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In the Scientific: Making Waves category, the elementary division team of Benhenyolo is managed by Julie Milbrandt and Angela Gleason. Pictured are Jillian Hughes, Hannah Monson, Gace Gleason and Abby Jensen.



In the senior division of Scientific: Making Waves, the "Out of the Boxers" are managed by Tara and Clint Fjelstad. Pictured are Nathan Fjelstad, Keri Pappas, Jenifer Fjelstad, Trey Wright, Erin Smith and Lily Cutler.

## The Life of Jeanette Pigors

Services for Jeanette Pigors, 93, of Aberdeen will be 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 3 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney. The Rev. Lloyd Redhage will officiate. Burial will take place in the spring at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery.

Visitation will be held at the church on Monday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Jeanette died February 26, 2015 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital in Aberdeen.

Jeanette Margaret was born on October 13, 1921 in Bristol to John and Nancy (Nelson) Swenson. She attended and graduated from Bristol High School. In 1940, she was united in marriage with Elmer Pigors. Jeanette enjoyed her life on the farm, east of Ferney. She raised chickens and always had a large garden. Elmer passed away in January of 1967.

Jeanette was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ferney. In earlier years, she was active in the Women's Circle and also taught Vacation Bible School and Sunday School. She enjoyed baking, reading and embroidering.

Celebrating her life is her daughter, Diane of Aberdeen, two daughter-in-laws, Judith Pigors of Ferney and Debra Pigors of Aberdeen, her cousin, Lois Carlson of Webster and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband, three sons: Richard, Cory and Dennis, one sister and one brother.

Casketbearers will be Roger Krueger, Warren Pigors, Doug Krueger and Greg Pigors.



## The Life of Gordon Sieh



Gordon Francis Sieh was born on May 3, 1928 to Charles and Margaret (Wallace) Sieh in Aberdeen. He attended school in Groton, SD, graduating in 1946. Gordon continued his education at South Dakota State University before returning to the farm when his father became ill. On February 13, 1950 he united in marriage with Ardis Gulsvig in Aberdeen. To this union, five children were born. The family lived near Groton, where Gordon farmed until 1963. He then purchased land near Leola and began ranching.

Following their retirement, he and Ardis enjoyed traveling especially Norway, the Western U.S., and Canada. The couple then returned to the Groton area. Gordon devoted his time to caring for his wife, throughout her Alzheimer's disease. She died July 20, 2006. Gordon died February

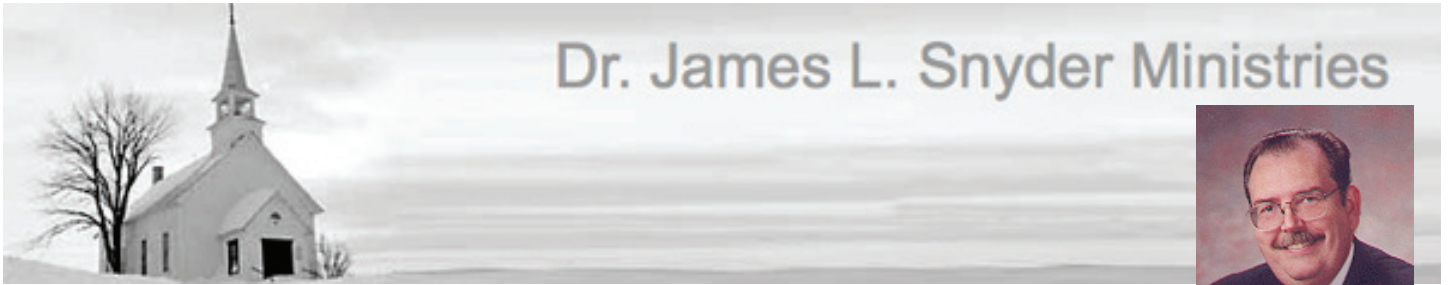
25, 2015.

Gordon was a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Groton. Gordon loved to read and follow politics. He was extremely proud that all of his children had obtained secondary education degrees. Gordon also cherished time spent with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include his children, Arden (Vicky) Sieh of Leola; Mary Kay Morrill of Loveland, Colorado; Dan (Sally) Sieh of Riddle, Oregon; Susan (Frank) Adams of Mason City, Iowa; Carolyn (Tad) Barnes of Bellbrook, Ohio, his sister-in-law, Lavohn Sieh of Aberdeen, 11 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and special friend, Dianne Koenig.

Preceding him in death were his parents, his wife Ardis and two brothers: Wallace Sieh and Roland Sieh.

A Celebration of Life will be held later this summer.



## Born with a Screwdriver in My Hand



Some people understand compliments and take them as they come. Other people, like myself, wouldn't know a compliment if it hit them in the face like a pie.

For a long time I had been under the impression my wife was giving me compliments. It takes a husband a long time to understand his wife and by the time he understands her, she has morphed into the next level of womanhood. The man who thinks he knows his wife needs a psychiatrist, preferably a woman psychiatrist.

For a number of years my wife said to me, which I thought was a compliment, "You must've been born with a screwdriver in your hand."

I never thought of myself as a handyman, but these kinds of compliments gave me a little bit of confidence in my incompetence. Nothing is more dangerous than confident incompetence.

I try to do a little bit of work around the house, like fixing things and improve things. However, every time I start to fix something, something happens to make it worse.

Last week, for instance, the front door latch came loose. Some screws had come loose and it was to the point that you could not shut the door. Well, being the bungling handyman that I am, I grabbed the nearest screwdriver I could find and tried to screw the screws back into the door and fix the problem. Usually, the first screwdriver I pick up does not fit the screw I am trying to screw in. I have come to discover that there is a screwdriver for every conceivable screw. Who knew?

I memorized a phrase to help me along that line; Lefty Loosey, Righty Tightly. Every time I use that phrase I need to think it through a little bit to understand or at least try to understand what it means. If I turn the screwdriver left, I am loosening it and if I turn it right, I am tightening it. What that means I have no idea.

I grabbed my screwdriver firmly in my right hand and used my left hand to guide it to the screw that needed to be tightened. However, the more I turned it to the right the looser it became. It is not supposed to work that way. Either, I do not know my right from my left or somebody has messed up this project. Thank goodness, there was no mirror handy.

Just as I was about ready to rip the door from its hinges and throw it across the street the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage appeared and said, "Another proof that you were born with a screwdriver in your hand."

At the time, I was not in any frame of mind whatsoever to receive a compliment.

She simply said to me, "May I have the screwdriver and would you go in and see if there's any coffee left in the coffee pot?"

Since I had come to the end of my rope, I handed her the screwdriver and headed for the kitchen mumbling incoherently. By the time I got to the kitchen, I turned around and there she was following me.



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"What about the door?" I said in a rather grumpy tone.

"Oh," she said rather cheerfully, "it's fixed."

Several other projects I started ended up the same way. My wife would cheerfully come to me and say, "You must've been born with a screwdriver in your hand." Then she would laugh most heartily and I would smile not quite getting what she was saying.

One Christmas the truth of this really hit home. I was opening a Christmas present from someone named "Guess Who" and discovered a brand-new screwdriver with my name engraved on the handle. The note inside the card said, "Here's a screwdriver to help you in all the things you screw up."

I must confess it took several days for me to process this Christmas gift. Then, just before New Year's, the whole thing unfolded for me.

Whenever my wife says, "You must've been born with a screwdriver in your hand," she is not complimenting me as I originally thought, but rather in that secret code that all wives know was saying that I was a major screwup.

At first, I was a little upset by this. To think that my wife thought I was a screwup was a very hard to swallow. She did not say I was a screwup, but she laid all the groundwork for me to come to that awesome conclusion.

To know what you can do is important, but to know what you cannot do is more important. Every time I look at the screwdriver, I realize there are a whole lot of things that I cannot do. I need to focus on what I can do. That is the message of the screwdriver.

We have now come to a basic understanding in our house that when there is ever a project that needs fixing I will always look at my wife and say, "Would you like to borrow my screwdriver?"

I think the apostle Paul understood this when he wrote, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12).

I think the biggest compliment I could ever receive or give, for that matter, is what Paul is implying here. Simply put; think before you fall.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail [jamesnyder2@att.net](mailto:jamesnyder2@att.net) or website [www.jamesnyderministries.com](http://www.jamesnyderministries.com).

## GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

**Tuesday, March 3, 2015 - 7pm**  
**Groton Community Center**

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Financial Report
- 3) Bills
- 4) Department Reports- Terry & Dwight
- 5) 2015 W 5TH Ave Reconstruction & C&G Bids
- 6) 2015 Chip/Seal Project Bids
- 7) Brown Bag Permit – Groton Fire & Rescue – April 18
- 8) Recreation projects
  - Pool slide
  - Baseball Complex Fence
  - Mowing
- 9) Hwy 37 approaches
- 10) Authorize Dave Hunter to attend Search & Seizure School – Mar 11- Watertown
- 11) Set Equalization Hearing Times
- 12) SDML District meeting Ipswich – Mar 18
- 13) Accept Election Petitions & Set Election & Name Election Board
- 14) 2014 Annual Report
- 15) Exec. Session – Personnel
  - a) Overtime
  - b) Summer Salaries
- 16) 1st Reading Ordinance 695 – Summer Salary Ordinance

AND any other business that may come before the Council



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## Region 1A Boys Basketball Tournament

### #1 Aberdeen Roncalli

Score:

Date: March 5, 2015

Time: 6:00

Site: Sisseton HS

Score:

Score:

### #4 Sisseton

Score:

Date: March 2, 2015

Time: 7:30

Site: Sisseton HS

Score:

### #5 Britton-Hecla

Date: March 10, 2015

Time: 7:00

Site: Sisseton HS

**CHAMPION**

State Qualifier

### #3 Groton Area

Score:

Date: March 2, 2015

Time: 6:00

Site: Sisseton HS

Score:

Score:

### #6 Milbank Area

Date: March 5, 2015

Time: 7:30

Site: Sisseton HS

Score:

Score:

### #2 Tiospa Zina

Score:

Date: March 2, 2015

Time: 4:30

Site: Sisseton HS

Score:

### #7 Webster Area

School	Seed Pts.
Aberdeen Roncalli	45.65
Tiospa Zina	43.15
Groton Area	43.00
Sisseton	39.80
Britton-Hecla	39.25
Milbank Area	38.60
Webster Area	37.15

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## Lana's Annals

**Lana  
Greenfield  
District 2  
State  
Representative**

Greetings from Pierre as we head toward the final stretch. The week proved to be a busy one as we finished up the debate with passage or defeat of House originated bills. Last Wednesday was crossover day whereas the passed bills from the House crossed over to the Senate side and vice versa. We now will begin to study the bills for final passage or defeat.

Educational issues continue to be talked about. We voted on and passed a bill which promoted keeping the K-8 school at Big Stone City open. The school population was pro-rated by considering 100 (number of students needed to remain open) and dividing by 9 instead of 13. It met the criteria,

passed both chambers, and is now headed to the Governor's desk.

A heated issue this week was the smoke out on Common Core federally-mandated course of study for schools. The smoke out failed, so Common Core does remain in place, like it or not.

Another rather emotional discussion centered around allowing roulette, craps, and keno in Deadwood. As it was approved by the voters (Constitutional Amendment Q) at 57 per cent. The bill passed the Senate 27-7 and the House 46-22.

Road funding talks continue. We are now down to one bill, SB1, that will be passed in some fashion. All is still fair game for coming up with ideas as to how to collect money for this project. Many of you have asked about taxing dyed diesel; the idea is not totally out of the picture as of yet, but we will know after March 5 as to ideas filed as viable options for road funding.

Our local government committee listened to a bill which wants to be able to record dead people as a part of the election vote. The question is if people do the early voting and then pass away before election day, can their votes be recorded? On first look, it sounds like a good idea. On closer inspection, one must consider possible ramifications as officials count votes. Is it going to be feasible to research any fraudulent activity which could be associated with this? If so, are election boards or county auditors going to be placed in precarious positions? We had a 6-6 vote with one member missing and will re-vote this week. I voted against it, by the way.

SB78 was passed by our committee and was placed on the consent calendar. It deals with allowing the counties or medical providers to be able to recover inmate medical costs from health insurers. SB81 also received unanimous support but was NOT placed on consent. This bill is an act to pay involved counties a 50 dollar fine if a person has been convicted of driving while on drugs or other intoxicants or alcohol. We felt debate would ensue on this, so it will now go to the House floor.

This week our Health and Human Services committee will be discussing establishing provisions regarding oral cancer treatment coverage by insurance companies. Personally, I think this makes common sense. As we are so rural, wouldn't it be a good idea to be able to procure a chemotherapy treatment in capsule form? It would save driving expense and transportation problems as well as time spent at the hospital. It just seems like a lot less pressure and inconvenience on the cancer patient and his/her family.

We will be voting on SB60 on the House floor, the "boy in a bubble" bill. This bill as I said last week, deals with mandating genetic testing for SCIDs, a genetic immuno-deficiency disorder that affects 1 out of every 40,000+ births. I do not see the need to spend insurance or medicaid money on requiring this test to be done to all babies. An amendment, which makes it optional, needs to be added.

We also will be acting on healthcare bills where people, doctors, physician's assistants, and nurses who

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have complied with rural program requirements are now eligible for tuition re-imbusement.

I will be once again testifying this week before the Senate taxation committee to allow teacher to be allotted a specified amount of money to cover out of pocket supplies used in their classroom. (SB189).

I hope that this bill continues to survive!

SB91 and 92 are need-based scholarship and Critical Needs Programs that have the endorsement of the Senate and now are passed on to the House. They have been approved for possible funding by the appropriations committee as possible candidates to be funded.

It was nice to see Jim Kopriva from Raymond at the state SDARL meeting and also to have some constituent e-mails on bills out here that are deemed as important. We will continue to watch SB173; hopefully, our Clark area will get financial help with our drainage project as long as it was a situation we did not create.

Please contact me with any feedback on upcoming bills. My e-mail is [ana.greenfield@gmail.com](mailto:ana.greenfield@gmail.com) or [rep.lanagreenfield@state.sd.us](mailto:rep.lanagreenfield@state.sd.us) or call 635-6932.

Until next week, take care!





Photo #2626 is the G-Force team. The team includes Landon Marzahn, Alex Morris, Chris Zarycki, Hunter Monson and Logan Lane. Garrett Stene is a member of their team. However, he was unable to participate that day because he was competing in Show Choir.

Two Groton Robotics teams were awarded the "Excellence Award (VRC/VEXU)" award at the South Dakota State VRC Championship Tournament.

This qualifies you to register this team at the following events:

- \* 2015 VEX Robotics World Championship Middle School Division Presented by The Northrop Grumman Foundation
- \* CREATE U.S. Open Robotics Championship - VEX MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION

The 2015 VEX Robotics World Championship Presented by The Northrop Grumman Foundation will be held April 15-18, 2015, at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

## Two Robotics Teams qualify for World Championship



Photo #2617 is the G.A.T. Wrenches team. The team includes Noah Poor, Dragr Monson, and Noah Tullis. Not in picture but competed that day is Thomas Cranford.



## Glimpse From Greenfield

**Brock Greenfield**  
**State Senator**  
**District 2**

It was great to get back to work last week! I returned to Pierre just five days after my surgery on my broken arm. I received a very warm greeting from so many people. It was quite humbling.

With Wednesday marking "crossover day"--the day in

which all bills have to be passed or killed in their house of origin, we saw a slightly heavier bill load on Tuesday and Wednesday. My first task at-hand was to pitch SB 161, which was up for reconsideration, on the Senate floor. I have discussed this bill in the past, so as a very brief reminder, this bill would exempt American Legion and VFW baseball coaches from a sales tax on their earnings. Back in 2013, by virtue of a new interpretation from the Department of Revenue, they began taxing the income of these people. It is unlike virtually any other tax on any coaches because most coaches are W2 employees. Those who serve tax-exempt service organizations, however, are 1099 employees, and the Revenue Department had ruled that this income should be subject to the same tax imposed on lawyers, mechanics, and any number of other service providers. Originally, the intention was to hold the bill over until I got back. However, I received a call while I was absent that they were going to go ahead and take up action on the bill because they didn't think it was going to have any problems passing. Well, they missed their guess, as the bill failed 17-15, with three people out with absences. (The threshold for passing any bill in the Senate that does not require a 2/3 majority is 18. Our rules do not allow for absences to be taken into account.) Thankfully, the person who pitched the bill gave notice of his intent to reconsider the bill, and the Senate capitulated. After I had pitched the bill and cleared up a few misunderstandings, the bill passed 22-13.

The Senate took up SB 53, which is the education bill that sets the per student allocation and the property tax levies for the upcoming year. This year, the Governor is calling for three pieces (technology, assessments, and sparsity) to be rolled into the formula, rather than remaining outside it. Since the inception of these three elements, they have always been funded 100% by the state. Should this bill pass, they would be part of the ongoing base and would be subject to the state/local match that formula dollars are subject to. In the first year, this would put an additional \$2.6 million on the backs of property taxpayers. However, because the state's fiscal year begins on July 1, while the tax levies are based upon a calendar year, going forward, the burden placed on local taxpayers would essentially double. I voted against the bill because of my concern that the state is using an accounting scheme to lessen its financial obligation, while imposing a greater one on property owners in all classes--ag, owner-occupied, and commercial. The bill did pass 25-10, but it will come back after the House finalizes the levies. I sincerely hope they take out the language that redesigns the formula.

SB 180 contemplates changing the wind industry tax rate in order to become more competitive with surrounding states. In the past, we have worked hard to diminish barriers to bringing in these large projects that provide jobs and expand the local property tax base. We have seen some development of our wind resource, but, of late, other states have been proactive in trying to attract new projects. In the past two years, South Dakota has missed out on every large-scale wind project. While this bill

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remains a work-in-progress, it passed the Senate 32-2. As it works its way through the process, it will be important to ensure that no schools or local units of government are hurt by a decrease in revenues because of a changing tax rate for existing structures. They need to be held harmless, as these revenues have become an integral part of their budgeting process as wind farms have sprung up within their jurisdictions.

Many of you have followed the past two-and-a-half years worth of work by the Regional Watershed Advisory Task Force. SB 3 is one product of that body's work. Very simply, it would put in place a process by which landowners involved in a dispute over water/drainage issues could enter into mediation as a step in solving disputes, rather than having to engage in lengthy and costly legal battles. This is a very basic, common sense step in the right direction. As most of us in this region of the state know, an over-abundance of water has led to any number of emotional disputes between friends and neighbors. While this bill does not magically solve anything, it does allow for a more cordial process by which to seek direction and/or remedy in the case that disagreements arise. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 32-2, and now heads to the House for their consideration.

Finally, SB 4, which emerged from the Agricultural Land Assessment Implementation Oversight Advisory Task Force, sought to secure an appropriation for the continued study of actual use versus productivity based upon soil types. Ever since the change in assessment processes in 2010, the topic of actual use as opposed to productivity has remained a hot-button issue. I supported the bill, but it failed 16-18. Most of the opponents feared that findings of the study might lead to shifts in property tax burdens from agricultural property to owner-occupied or commercial property. While that was a valid concern, I tend to place more trust that the results of the study would have been used to more accurately assess ag land, while keeping the Legislature could ensure that the only shifts in assessments/taxes payable would be within the Ag classification. This issue will undoubtedly be back in future years.

I would like to conclude by reiterating my appreciation for the outpouring of prayers and support for me as I recover from my fantastically graceful fall on the ice. The healing process has been much easier so far than I would have thought. It has been a blessing and an answered prayer. Than you!



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## **Burt's Summary**

**Burt Tulson  
District 2  
State  
Representative**

Greetings to you all! This session is moving fast as we have 9 legislative days left and then possibly veto day. We just finished crossover week, which means all bills from the House go to the Senate and vice versa. Wednesday, Feb. 25, was crossover day and the House of Representatives adjourned a little after 7pm.

The bill(Hb1223) to eliminate common core in our state was defeated 31-39. I voted to keep common core and will continue to listen to both sides of the issue. My num-

ber one goal on education issues is to do what's best for our children.

HB1201- which would allow a county to approve a conditional use permit with a majority vote rather than a 2/3 vote. I supported this bill and it passed 52-17. This is permissive legislation and each county commission may keep approval at 2/3 but now has the option to decide. As it is now on a 5 member board-2/3 approval would take 4 yes votes or 80%, 3 votes out of 5 would be 60%, which is not enough to approve a conditional permit as 66.6% is needed in current law.

SB57 passed out of the House 46-22. This bill passed the Senate 27-7. I did not support this bill which would allow Deadwood to have roulette, craps, and keno.

SB 3 – would allow the Dept. of Agriculture to provide mediation services for landowners who are in drainage disputes. This passed Senate 32-3 and now heads to the House. Drainage and its consequences is a difficult issue to come to agreement on when drafting legislation.

My speed to pass bill(Hb1124) passed Senate Transportation(6-0) and now has received 84 yes votes and 1 no vote. This heads to the Senate floor. Sen. Greenfield is the Senate sponsor on this bill. The Gov. office and public safety department are in much support of this bill(Hb1124).

On road funding issue-SB1 is the only highway funding bill as it heads to the House. My support on this bill will depend on how much the county and townships are supported. County commissioners and township officers know their needs. We must give them the tools to use to fix roads and bridges. I trust our local officials to make the decisions that best benefits their locality.

We had a cracker barrel in Bryant that Brock, Lana and I attended. We thank all that attend these cracker barrels, as we are representing you in Pierre.

7 weeks (7 innings) are done- we now are getting to the 8th and 9th inning (8th and 9th week) and those innings decide the end result of this session, unless we go to extra innings(veto day is March 30). Spring is just around the corner, as you can see I am referencing baseball terms.

Enjoy hearing from you-take care

Serving you with Joy, Kindness and Integrity

Rep. Burt Tulson Dist. 2

rep.tulson@state.sd.us

605-881-7809

## Today in Weather History

March 2, 1966: The blizzard began late on March 2nd in the west and moved very slowly across the state reaching the extreme east on the 4th continuing into the 5th. Snow depths ranged from 2 to 4 inches in south-east South Dakota to nearly 3 feet in north central South Dakota. Winds of 40 to 55 mph with gusts to 100 mph caused widespread blowing snow and near zero visibilities during the storm. Drifts up to 30 feet were reported in sheltered areas with open fields nearly bare. The storm caused heavy livestock losses. Estimated losses were 50,000 cattle, 46,000 sheep, and 1800 hogs. The largest losses were in the central and north central parts of the state. The heavy snow also collapsed a number of structures. Three deaths were directly caused by the storm due to exposure and 3 deaths were indirectly caused by the storm; 2 due to heart attacks and 1 by asphyxiation. The blizzard was rated as one of the most severe that has been experienced in South Dakota. Many roads were blocked for days along with many schools and businesses closed.

March 2, 1970: In an early season severe thunderstorm, hail 0.75 inches in diameter fell in Day County, 4 miles SSE of Webster. In addition, 1.75 inch hail fell 5 miles south of Huron in Beadle County.

March 2, 2007: A strong area of low pressure moved slowly northeast across the central and northern plains bringing widespread snowfall along with intense winds. The combination of the falling snow and the existing snow cover resulted in blizzard conditions with visibilities to zero at times. This blizzard event was part of the same upper level low pressure trough that brought the heavy snowfall to the area on February 28th. Additional snowfall occurred on March 1st and 2nd across the area as a large area of snowfall wrapped in from the east. Widespread blizzard conditions developed by noon on March 2nd and continued into the early morning hours of the 3rd. Snowfall amounts, including the snow on February 28th, ranged from 2 inches to as much as 22 inches across central and northeast South Dakota. The heaviest snowfall amounts were across northeast South Dakota where total snow depths were in the 25 to 30 inch range. Northwest winds of 30 to 45 mph with gusts to near 60 mph brought visibilities to zero at times across the area along with crating large snowdrifts. Schools, businesses, airports, roads, and interstates were closed for up to two days. Travel was not advised across the area. Also, many cars were ditched along with several accidents. Many travelers were stranded and several shelters were opened. The Emergency Operations Center was activated in Pierre and the Governor declared the blizzard area a disaster. Some of the most significant snowfall amounts over the 3 day period included, 11 inches at Andover, Hosmer, and Redfield, 12 inches at Webster, 13 inches at Miller, 14 inches at Victor, Groton, and Clark, 15 inches at Castlewood and Summit, 16 inches at Watertown and Roy Lake, 19 inches at Sisseton, 20 inches at Milbank, 21 inches at Bryant, and 22 inches at Clear Lake. 1846 - A great storm hit Virginia and the Carolinas. The storm caused half a million dollars damage, and in North Carolina drowned fifty families and a thousand cattle on Notts Island. (David Ludlum)

1927 - Raleigh, NC, was buried under 17.8 inches of snow in 24 hours, a record for that location. Nashville NC received 31 inches of snow. The average snow depth in the state of Carolina was fourteen inches. (The Weather Channel)

1975 - The governor's Tornado in Atlanta did considerable damage to the governor's mansion and surrounding areas resulting in three deaths and 56.5 million dollars damage. (The Weather Channel)

1985 - A massive winter storm struck the Northern Plains Region. The storm produced up to 33 inches of snow in northeastern South Dakota, at Summit and at Milbank, and also produced high winds which whipped the heavy snow into drifts twenty feet high. (Storm Data)

1987 - A storm in the northeastern U.S. produced heavy snow in Maine, with 16 inches reported at West Grand Lake and Guilford. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


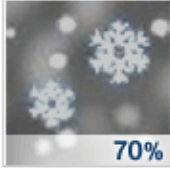



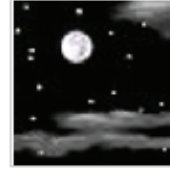

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the south central U.S. A tornado at Baton Rouge LA injured two persons, and another tornado caused five million dollars damage at the airport in Lafayette LA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Snow and high winds plagued the western U.S. Up to 16 inches of snow was reported south of Seattle WA, and more than two feet of snow blanketed the Sierra Nevada Range of California. Winds gusted to 89 mph at Hidden Peak UT, and reached 92 mph at Peavine CA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

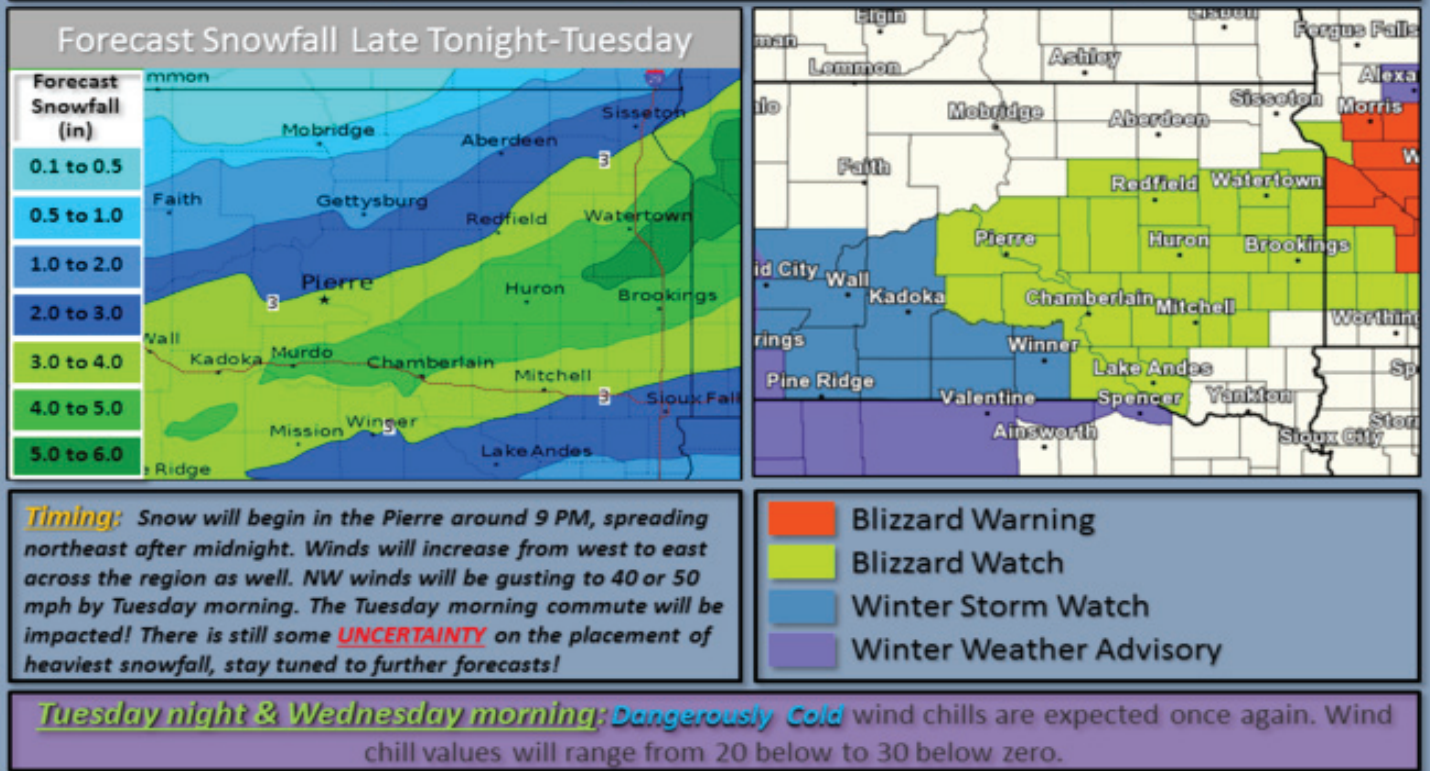
1990 - Mild weather continued across the northern tier of states. Highs of 52 degrees at Saint Johnsbury VT, 63 degrees at Olympia WA, and 64 degrees at Seattle WA were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

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TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	TUESDAY NIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	THURSDAY
						
Breezy	Snow Likely 70%	Snow Likely 60%	Partly Cloudy	Blustery	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 33 °F	Low: 16 °F	High: 18 °F ↓	Low: -9 °F	High: 6 °F	Low: -11 °F	High: 28 °F

A **Blizzard Watch** is in effect for parts of region late tonight through Tuesday morning.



 [weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)  Like  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen

Published on: 03/02/2015 at 5:28AM

A low pressure system will move into the region late tonight. The heaviest snowfall is expected between midnight and 6 AM Tuesday. There is still some uncertainty as to where the heaviest band sets up. What is not uncertain however, is strong and gusty northwest winds beginning overnight and persisting through the day Tuesday. Gusts up to 40 or 50 mph are possible. Periods of reduced visibility in falling and blowing snow can be expected for the Tuesday morning commute. Cold air then follows, and wind chill values of -20 to -30 are forecast late Tuesday through Wednesday.



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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 26.5 at 3:40 PM

**Low:** -1.1 at 6:12 AM

Wind Chill:

**High Gust:** 25 at 4:57 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 72° in 1905

**Record Low:** -21° in 1913

**Average High:** 33°F

**Average Low:** 13°F

**Average Precip in March.:** 0.03

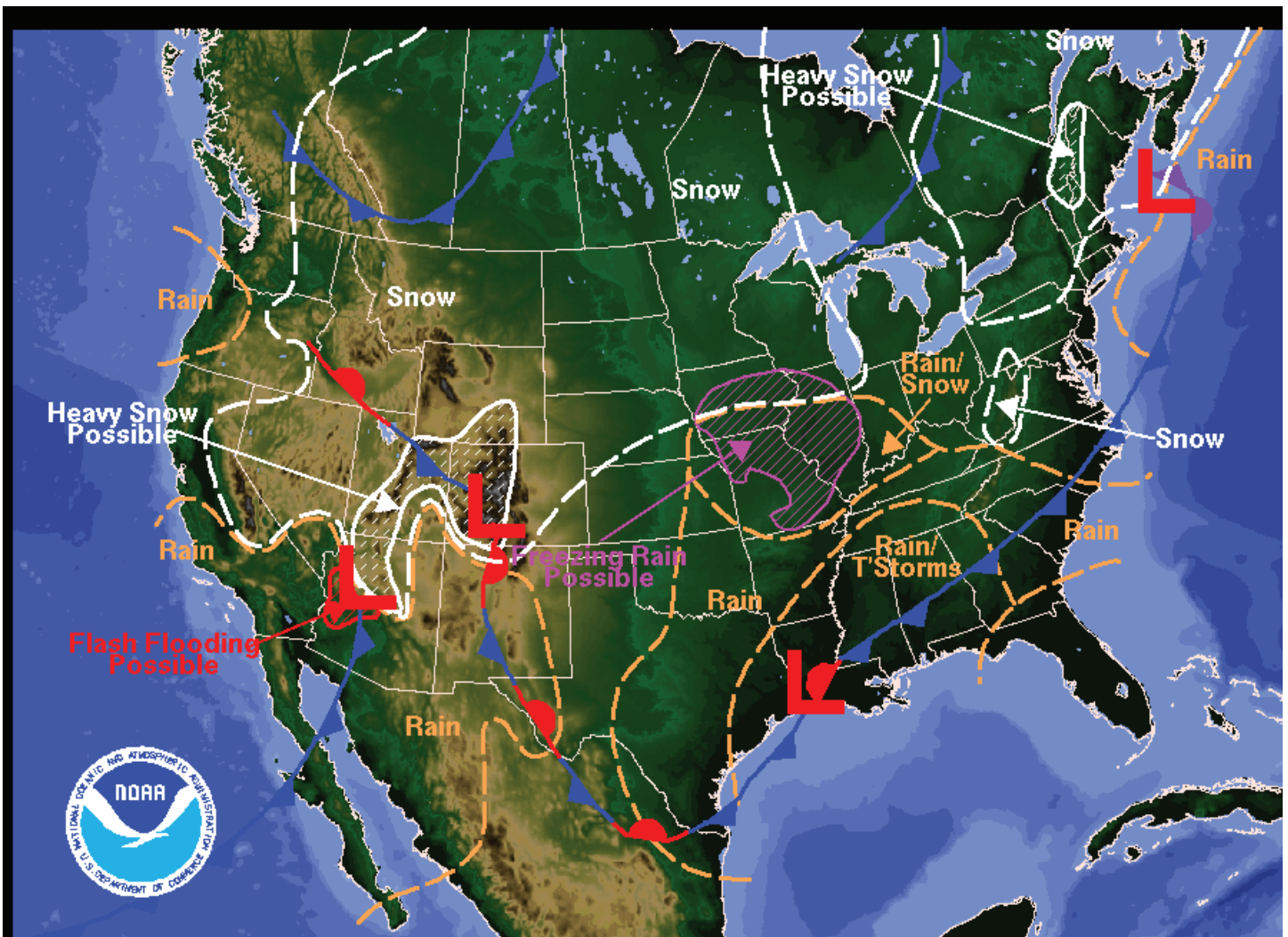
**Precip to date in March.:** 0.00

**Average Precip to date:** 1.05

**Precip Year to Date:** 0.40

**Sunset Tonight:** 6:22 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 7:09 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Mar 02, 2015, issued 3:52 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Fanning based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## “GET READIES”

At first it seemed as though it was an insult. But the longer I thought about it, the more sense it made and I finally accepted it as a compliment.

“One thing about you, Guido,” he said, “is that you go through several ‘get readies’ before you do anything. First you ‘get ready,’ then after you study your ‘get ready,’ you usually ‘get ready’ all over again to make sure your plans are complete. One thing is certain, your ‘get readies’ eliminate, not all, but many mistakes.”

Sometime later I realized that Solomon had something in mind that was similar to my “get readies.” Hear this important bit of wisdom: “It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way.” The important point in this Proverb, however, is not about worldly knowledge alone, but how and what does God’s Word says about what we may be planning to do.

To do something that may bring us notoriety or success in the eyes of the world may eventually cause our downfall. Perhaps our destruction or death. It is a great tragedy to be uninformed, if when we do something, it is contrary to God’s will or interests. If our plans are deceitful and our goals purely selfish, if we are only doing what we are doing to glorify ourselves and not God, we have a serious problem. We cannot expect God to bless us or what we want to do if it is not in agreement with His Word or ways.

Basic to honoring God is being open and honest in everything we do. If we use deceit to sell a product or idea or provide an item that does not meet God’s standards, we are dishonoring God and cannot expect His blessings. To profess to know Him and not honor Him is very dangerous and causes serious consequences.

Whatever we do must always be consistent with knowledge founded on God’s Word. Anything less than that misses His way.

**Prayer:** Lord, guard us from doing anything that is contrary to Your will. May our words and our ways glorify You in all things. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** Proverbs 19:2 Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth.

## **Gunman tries to hold up Sioux Falls casino; shot fired**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police are searching for a gunman who fired a shot while trying to rob a casino.

Police say the man entered the Recovery Room about 7 p.m. Saturday, displayed a handgun and demanded money from an employee. The suspect then fired one shot into the wall before running away without any money.

No one was hurt.

## **Andover man develops program to help farmers calculate costs**

ANDOVER, S.D. (AP) — An Andover man has developed a program to help farmers calculate the costs of each crop and compare them to marketing opportunities.

Farmer Scott Anderson worked for three months with formulas and algorithms to create CashCowFarmer. He wanted the software to be easy for farmers to use, while still providing them with beneficial information.

The cloud-based program tracks expenses and shows a continual picture of potential marketing options, the Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/1MXOGNe>) reports.

The program calculates the per-acre costs of crops after the user enters prices paid for inputs, including seed, fertilizer, insurance, interest and more. It also allows the user to review what the costs and yields have been for fields in the past.

"Before I go in to negotiate for 2015 prices, I know what the cost of potash has been," Anderson said. "I can say, 'I didn't pay that last year.'"

Farmers can get all of that information through the software, Anderson said, rather than looking through many sources.

Anderson came back to Andover five years ago after working on Wall Street. He spent three or four years working on spreadsheets that tracked expenses before developing CashCowFarmer.

"I want to treat each field as a business and to be able to calculate the costs that went into each bushel of corn," Anderson said.



The software currently works with corn and soybeans. Support for sunflowers, field pass and wheat was expected to be added by the end of February.

Swings in commodity prices are much greater than they used to be, Anderson said. That made farmers upset with their marketing of crops last year.

"We now see huge swings daily," he said. "It used to be to 'grow as many bushels as possible and minimize costs.' We now have to track those costs and plan how to market those crops as soon as the seed is purchased. Being prepared will outdo any other type of investment."

Farmers can access CashCowFarmer through a subscription or a free 30-day trial.

## **Brookings powerlifter raises money for sick children**

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — A weight training enthusiast from Brookings is using powerlifting to help kids with life-threatening medical conditions.

Jackie Geppert was recruited several weeks ago to join the Midwest-based Relentless powerlifting team, which raises money for a large charitable effort called HopeKids. The mission of the organization is to provide ongoing events, activities and a supportive community for families of children with serious diseases or disorders, such as cancer.

Geppert told The Brookings Register that Relentless helps HopeKids by offering strong people who raise money and lift weights for those who cannot.

She said her team will help kids in Minnesota and South Dakota by contributing money for their medical bills. Kids show up at powerlifting events.

"The show is about the kids, Geppert said. "Yeah, we're there and we get to do our fun stuff of powerlifting. But the kids and their families get to come and watch."

The first Relentless competition for Geppert is March 27 and 28 at a church in Rosemount, Minnesota. She's competing in honor of a 13-year-old who has muscular dystrophy.

"I get to meet him and lift in honor of him and form a special bond with him and his family and support them, not just this one time but throughout the entire year," Geppert said.

## **Deadline approaching for Rapid City native arts show**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Native artists have a few weeks to apply for space at this summer's art market and cultural celebration in downtown Rapid City.

The third annual event called A Gathering of People, Wind and Water will be Saturday, July 18, at Main Street Square.

The categories reflect the cultures of the Great Plains.

The 2015 event includes a Friday night artists' reception at the Journey Museum and awards with more than \$16,000 in prizes.

In accordance with the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, participation in the Gathering is open to enrolled members of federally recognized tribes only, with preference given to artists from Great Plains tribes.

The cost is \$80 per space and applications are due March 20 at [www.nativeartsgathering.org](http://www.nativeartsgathering.org).

## **Proposed ethanol plant in SD would push production westward**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Plans for South Dakota's westernmost ethanol plant are moving forward following the rezoning of land in Onida despite complaints from residents.

The Tri-State Neighbor (<http://bit.ly/1ALGWaN>) reports Onida residents don't want the proposed Ring-Neck Energy and Feed plant so close to the town. Investors hope that the plant on the edge of Onida will be running by fall 2016.

Corn for the \$65 million facility would come from a 100-mile radius including Sully, Potter, Walworth, Dewey and Stanley counties. Investors say the corn will be enough for the plant to reach its annual production capacity of 70 million gallons.

The nearest ethanol plant to Onida is about 100 miles away in Redfield.

South Dakota ranks fifth in the nation for its ethanol production, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

## **Lawmakers take up municipal sales taxes and autism coverage**

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers plan to consider measures on municipal sales taxes, insurance coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorder therapy and athletics policy for transgender students. Here's a look at some of the proposals they'll take up this week in Pierre:

### **TAX**

A measure to allow municipalities to collect up to an additional 1 percent sales tax for capital expenditures is expected to be heard in the House State Affairs Committee on Friday. House Majority Leader Brian Gosch said it would allow municipalities to raise significant revenue if passed.

Gosch said he wants to examine whether the hike is necessary before approving a tax increase.

### **AUTISM**

The House State Affairs Committee on Wednesday is expected to take up a measure that would help ensure insurance coverage for a type of Autism Spectrum Disorder therapy called applied behavior analysis. A similar measure failed last session, and legislators instead opted to commission a study on the issue.

Rep. Scott Munsterman, who is pushing the plan in the House, has said the legislative climate this year and he supports amendments to expand the proposal.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

The House State Affairs Committee could take up a proposal this week to raise revenue for road and bridge funding in South Dakota. The Senate approved its version of the plan, which is what the House will take up, Gosch said.

The House has already dispatched a separate version of the plan to focus on the Senate proposal. Gosch said he expects amendments to restrict the revenue raised in the measure, which will set up negotiations for what is likely the most serious issue lawmakers consider this session.

### **ATHLETICS POLICY ON TRANSGENDER STUDENTS**

A proposal that would void a South Dakota High School Activities Association policy on transgender students is set to be considered in the Senate Educa-



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tion Committee on Tuesday. The policy requires the association to review requests by transgender students or their guardians to decide on which team the student can participate.

Republican Rep. Jim Bolin, of Canton, is sponsoring the measure on the House side. He has said the policy changes the character of high school athletics.

The bill has passed through the House.

## Saturday's Scores The Associated Press

### BOYS' BASKETBALL

Mitchell Christian 55, Wessington Springs 45

District 2AA: Brandon Valley 57, Harrisburg 46

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

District 4AA: Sturgis 48, Douglas 37

District 5B Championship: DeSmet 59, Castlewood 37

District 7B Championship: Chester 51, Elkton-Lake Benton 43

District 8B Championship: Ethan 49, Hanson 31

## South Dakota beats South Dakota State 80-64

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Tre Burnette netted a double-double with 19 points and 13 rebounds as South Dakota beat Summit League leader South Dakota State 80-64 on Saturday.

Casey Kasperbauer added 17 points for the Coyotes (16-15, 9-7) and Brandon Bos had 12.

South Dakota had a 44-34 lead at the break and took it to 51-36 early in the second half on a 3-pointer by Tyler Larson and a pair of jumpers by James Hunter. South Dakota State closed to within nine points, 60-51, on a Reed Tellinghuisen 3 with 9:11 to play. But the Coyotes put it away on an 11-6 run capped by a Burnette 3-pointer to a 71-59 advantage with 4:20 remaining.

Cody Larson led the Jackrabbits (21-9, 12-4) with 25 points and 12 rebounds. South Dakota State will play No. 8 seed Omaha in the Summit tournament on March 7.

## **Meade County votes to allow Buffalo Chip election in May**

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A campground in western South Dakota that houses hordes of visitors during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally might soon be the state's newest town.

Meade County commissioners voted Friday to accept an incorporation petition for the Buffalo Chip Campground. The vote triggers a May 7 election where the area's 50 registered voters could choose to make the venue an official town.

Buffalo Chip attorney Kent Hagg filed the petition on behalf of the campground. Incorporating the area into a town would lead to economic development, he said.

"This is a positive step for our municipality," said Rod Woodruff, Buffalo Chip CEO and owner of all the land on which the town of Buffalo Chip would be established.

Meade County Commissioner Alan Aker said it is possible Sturgis town leaders could sue to try and block the incorporation. They contend the annexation of areas around the Buffalo Chip preclude its incorporation.

Sturgis City Manager Daniel Ainslie said the city still has concerns about jurisdiction. Officials have maintained that the campground is within the 3-mile jurisdiction of Sturgis.

"I think the council needs to discuss what transpired and figure out what the next course of action will be," Ainslie said.

He said there are still unresolved questions about jurisdiction and providing emergency services to the area.

"This goes beyond the rally," he said. "They would be a community year around."

## **Judge suspends 30-year prison sentence for Sioux Falls man**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man who pleaded guilty to his role in a botched drug robbery that left one man dead won't have to serve any prison time if he stays out of trouble.

Circuit Judge Brad Zell sentenced Douglas Scholten Friday to 30 years but suspended the entire sentence. He previously pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter for the 2013 shooting death of 19-year-old Jordan LeBeau.

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"I don't expect anything but good things from you, Mr. Scholten," Zell said. "I want you to work toward that one word I mentioned: redemption."

Brian Anderson, 19, of Watertown, was earlier sentenced to 50 years in prison for his role after pleading guilty to aggravated assault and manslaughter. Anderson acknowledged that he told 18-year-old Trevor Kruthoff, also of Watertown, to shoot LeBeau. Kruthoff was sentenced to 40 years in prison in December. Authorities said 21-year-old Kevin Rice, of Dells Rapids, planned the robbery and gave Anderson and Kruthoff the weapon. Rice was sentenced to 60 years in prison.

Zell said Scholten can have no criminal violations for 10 years and must fund a scholarship in the name of LeBeau worth at least \$10,000. He must also pay \$69,000 in restitution and perform 500 hours of community service annually.

Prosecutors say Scholten loaded the gun two men used to kill LeBeau, burned Anderson's and Kruthoff's bloody clothes and destroyed a cellphone that could have helped law enforcement with their investigation.

Scholten's lawyer argued her client was a minor participant in the robbery scheme and was cooperative when law enforcement called.

At one point during the hearing, Scholten turned to LeBeau's family and friends and apologized.

"I know no words can make up for what I did. There's not a day that goes by when I don't think about what I did," he said. "I want you guys to know that I'm sorry, and I beg you guys for forgiveness. I am sorry."

## **Jandreau dismisses allegations in Human Rights Watch report**

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Amid calls for more transparency, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Chairman Michael Jandreau is pushing back against allegations from a nonprofit group that leaders on the reservation misdirected millions of dollars in federal funding intended to help impoverished tribal members.

Shortly after speaking at an event in the state Capitol on Thursday, Jandreau told The Associated Press that he denies any wrongdoing related to the Human Rights Watch investigation, which accuses him and others of diverting money and concealing financial activity by withholding government documents from the public.



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It appears to be the first time Jandreau has spoken at length about the allegations in the mid-January report, apart from a statement that came shortly after the two-year probe was released.

Jandreau said the report is based on the views of his political opponents and that he's worked throughout his career to make life on the reservation better.

He offered a soft-spoken defense against the allegations.

"I believe in myself. I believe in what I've committed my life to, and so every day I talk to that guy first, and I go through my life," Jandreau said, pointing upward. "To me that's what it's all about. You know, I've lived my life with one thought in mind: that what I reach beyond this life is more important to me than becoming a wealthy man by skullduggery or wickedness."

Further, Jandreau said the tribe's operations have been conducted with the oversight of attorneys and include yearly audits.

But, according to the report, an estimated \$25 million in federal money that the tribe received between 2007 and 2013 for specific projects was redirected into its general fund and went toward "unexplained expenditures."

Human Rights Watch said the "most blatant example" of wrongdoing stems from the tribe's purchase of a New York-based brokerage firm, Westrock Advisors.

The report accuses tribal leaders and their business partners of setting up several shell companies and then securing a \$22.5 million federal loan guarantee from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Rather than putting the money toward its stated purpose of economic development, the money was used to buy Westrock, which went bankrupt two years later, the report said. The guarantee was ultimately sold for about \$20 million to another company, though the tribe hasn't disclosed the status of the loan, the report found.

Arvind Ganesan, the group's director of business and human rights, said Human Rights Watch has repeatedly sought information from Jandreau with no success. The investigation relied on documented evidence and had nothing to do with Jandreau's political opponents, he said.

"If the chairman or anybody doesn't like the report, the easiest way to counter it is to disclose what happened, and they've consistently refused to do that," Ganesan said.

Jandreau said he's dealing with the ongoing effects of the allegations but

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declined to comment on internal matters.

Marshall Matz, an attorney for the Lower Brule Sioux, called the report “baseless and motivated by local politics, not any impropriety.”

Jandreau, who said he’s gotten death threats, could face political challenges this week.

A tribal court judge in mid-February ordered the tribal council to gather in March following months of disagreements among council members and a lack of mandatory meetings, the Daily Republic in Mitchell reported.

Kevin Wright, one of three newly elected council members who want to overhaul the council, said Friday that he wants more transparency in the government.

Jandreau said he’s not sure what will happen at Wednesday’s meeting but said he hopes the opposition acts with respect. Wright declined to say whether he would try to have Jandreau removed, but he lamented that the tribe’s constitution makes it difficult to force out a member.

“What’s dangerous about this constitution is that it has the potential for somebody to set ... up an empire,” Wright said.

## **February report: Economic growth likely in Midwest, Plains**

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A new report suggests economic growth is ahead for nine Midwestern and Plains states.

The survey report issued Monday says the overall Mid-America Business Conditions Index climbed to 57.0 in February from 54.8 in January.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey, and he says the regional growth is likely although areas “linked closely to the energy sector, including ethanol, are experiencing pullbacks in economic activity.”

The survey results from supply managers are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests economic growth, while a score below that suggests decline.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

## **Ducks Unlimited opens Brookings office to expand habitat**

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Ducks Unlimited has opened an office in Brookings in its effort to expand the waterfowl habitat in South Dakota’s Prairie Pothole Region.

The group is located in the same research park building at South Dakota State University as Pheasants Forever, which opened a Brookings office last year.

Ducks Unlimited hired SDSU graduate Steve Donovan as manager of conservation programs for the state. He says he'll work with private landowners, conservation partners and other agencies to develop and build habitat projects statewide, especially in the pothole region.

Donovan says the creation of the office shows the group is committed to doing more to reverse the trend of declining waterfowl habitat.

Ducks Unlimited earlier pledged to spend \$1.8 million dollars on conservation programs in the state over the next five years.

## 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 Monday:

### 1. FEDS CLOSE TO PUBLISHING FINDINGS ON FERGUSON

Federal officials have already expressed reservations about how the police department in the Missouri town functions after the killing of Michael Brown.

### 2. IRAQI FORCES, SUNNI AND SHIITE ALLIED FIGHTERS LAUNCH OPERATION TO RETAKE TIKRIT

Saddam Hussein's strategic and symbolic hometown lies 80 miles north of Baghdad and was taken over by Islamic State extremists last summer.

### 3. WHY OBAMA AND NETANYAHU'S RELATIONS WERE NEVER COZY

Clashes over settlers and 1967 borders evolved into outright name-calling and backbiting over the past six years.

### 4. TOURISTS FLOCK TO MALAYSIA DESPITE AIR DISASTERS

The disappearance of MH370 and the explosion of MH17 put the global spotlight on the Asian nation which nonetheless saw its tourism grow at the fastest pace since 2008.

### 5. WHICH SECTOR IS MAKING A COMEBACK

Construction, which lost over 2 million jobs in the downturn, has become one of the fastest growing segments of the economy.

### 6. HOW MANY HAVE PERISHED IN UKRAINE'S VIOLENCE

The United Nations says over 6,000 people have died in the conflict in the eastern part of the country in less than a year.

### 7. WHERE SOME WANT TO RAISE ADULT CRIMINAL AGE TO 18

Since 1918, Texas has charged 17-year-olds as majors, even though they can't vote, join the military or serve on juries.

### 8. HIGH COURT RULING COULD ALTER ELECTORAL MAP DRAWING

Justices will hear arguments in an appeal by Republican lawmakers in Arizona against the state's voter-approved independent redistricting commission for creating the districts of U.S. House members.

### 9. NEW STORM MAY PUSH BOSTON OVER SNOWFALL RECORD

With 102 inches this season, the city needs just 5.7 more to break the 1995-1996 record of 107.6.

### 10. MINNIE MINOSO, BELOVED 'CUBAN COMET,' PASSES

The former Chicago White Sox slugger, who helped clear the way for generations of minority ballplayers, died Sunday.



## AP News in Brief

### **Different in style, world view, Obama-Netanyahu relations never promised happily-ever-after**

WASHINGTON (AP) — This was never happily-ever-after waiting to happen.

When President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took office early in 2009, there were plenty of reasons to expect their relationship would be difficult.

The cerebral president and the brash prime minister have stark differences in personality, politics and world view.

Still, few could have predicted the downward spiral of backbiting, lecturing and outright name-calling that has occurred.

Start with the differences between Obama and Netanyahu, add in disagreements over Iran's nuclear program, a Republican-led Congress trying to assert itself and the coming Israeli elections, and it becomes "the perfect storm of potential broken crockery in the U.S.-Israeli relationship," says the Wilson Center's Aaron Miller, who was a Mideast adviser and negotiator for Republican and Democratic administrations.

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### **Iraq state TV: Large-scale military operation to recapture Saddam Hussein's hometown begins**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Backed by allied Shiite and Sunni fighters, Iraqi security forces on Monday began a large-scale military operation to recapture Saddam Hussein's hometown from the Islamic State extremist group, state TV said, a major step in a campaign to reclaim a large swath of territory in northern Iraq controlled by the militants.

The city of Tikrit, 130 kilometers (80 miles) north of Baghdad, fell into the hands of the Islamic State group last summer along with the country's second-largest city of Mosul and other areas in the country's Sunni heartland after the collapse of national security forces. Tikrit is one of the largest cities held by the Islamic State group and sits on the road to Mosul.

Security forces have so far been unable to retake Tikrit, but momentum has begun to shift after soldiers, backed by airstrikes from a U.S.-led coalition, recently took back the nearby refinery town of Beiji. Any operation to take Mosul would require Iraq to seize Tikrit first because of its strategic location for military enforcements.

U.S. military officials have said a coordinated military mission to retake Mosul will likely begin in April or May and involve up to 25,000 Iraqi troops. But they have cautioned that if the Iraqis aren't ready, the timing could be delayed. Past attempts to retake Tikrit have failed, and Iraqi authorities say they have not set a date to launch a major operation to recapture Mosul. Heavy fighting between Islamic State and Kurdish forces is taking place only outside the city.

Al-Iraqiya television said that the forces were attacking Tikrit from different directions, backed by artillery and airstrikes by Iraqi fighter jets. It said the militants were dislodged from some areas outside the city. Several hours into the operation, it gave no details.

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## **Ferguson News Guide: Justice Department soon to announce decisions in Ferguson investigations**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Six months after 18-year-old Michael Brown died in the street in Ferguson, Missouri, the Justice Department is close to announcing its findings in the racially charged police shooting that launched “hands up, don’t shoot” protests across the nation.

The federal government has undertaken two separate investigations. One looks at whether criminal charges should be filed against the officer involved in the shooting, Darren Wilson. The other is a broader examination of the city’s police department, including a search for discriminatory practices by officers.

Attorney General Eric Holder, the nation’s first black official to hold that office, has made civil rights a cornerstone of his six-year tenure. He says he expects to announce results in both investigations before he leaves office, and announcements could be coming within days. \_\_\_\_

## **Tourism on the rise in Malaysia in 2014 despite aura of tragedy from double plane disasters**

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Two airplane catastrophes put Malaysia on the map in a bad way in 2014. But they didn’t hurt the country’s tourism, and the higher visibility may even have helped: visitor numbers had their strongest growth in years.

For the past decade, Malaysia has run an elaborate campaign to market itself abroad as an ideal Asian destination, touting a multiethnic culture, lush rainforests and pristine beaches. Despite the effort to internationalize, its tourism industry still relies heavily on tightly-packed neighboring Singapore and in a renewed push the government had designated 2014 as “Visit Malaysia Year.”

So when Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 went missing with 239 people on board en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, it put the global spotlight on Malaysia and seemingly dealt a blow to its tourism strategy. A double whammy came four months later when a Malaysia Airlines jet was shot down over rebel-held eastern Ukraine, killing all 298 people on board.

Tourism, however, grew at its fastest pace since 2008.

Figures for all of 2014 haven’t been released yet but the January-October data shows 22.9 million visitors, a jump of nearly 10 percent from a year earlier. That far outpaced 2.5 percent growth for the same period in 2013 and a 0.7 percent rise in 2012. The full year growth rates for those two years are close to the 10-month figures.

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## **Los Angeles police kill man in struggle on Skid Row sidewalk that was captured on video**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In a fatal encounter captured on video, three Los Angeles police officers shot and killed a man on the city’s Skid Row during a struggle over one of the officers’ guns, authorities said.

The graphic video widely circulated on social media within a few hours of the incident Sunday brought attention to the death of the man who wound up wrestling with police amid the tents, sleeping bags and trash of Skid Row, where many of the city’s homeless stay.

The three officers, one of whom is a sergeant, shot the man as they struggled on the ground for control of one of the police officer’s weapons, after a stun gun proved ineffective, LAPD Cmdr. Andrew Smith said. The officers had been responding to a report of a robbery.

Police said they planned to use the video in their investigation.

Smith said the department would attempt to amplify the video's sound and pictures to figure out exactly what happened.

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## **Driven away in droves during downturn, construction workers return to find jobs have changed**

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — As Florida's housing market tanked seven years ago, construction worker David Rager saw jobs dry up. So he left construction, along with 2.3 million others nationwide during the economic downturn, and got a job installing traffic signals and street lights.

"I couldn't afford to sit at home for a month here and a month there," said Rager, 53.

Now Rager is back in construction, working with a crew on a custom-built home in Orlando, framing walls "and doing a little bit of everything." In the past four years, hundreds of thousands of workers have returned to construction, making it among the nation's fastest growing job sectors.

In the busiest markets, there aren't enough construction workers to keep up with the pace of building. In a recent survey of more than 900 contractors by Associated General Contractors of America, 83 percent said they were having trouble filling craft positions. The most difficult positions to fill were carpenters, roofers and equipment operators.

Given the amount of building going on, "it's going to be interesting because we're going to have a labor shortage here in South Florida," said Scott Moss, president of Moss & Associates, a South Florida-based construction firm with offices in California, Texas, Georgia, South Carolina and Hawaii.

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## **Supreme Court case could upend efforts to take partisan politics out of electoral map drawing**

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a reversal of the usual worries about political influence on electoral map-making, the Supreme Court is being asked to let raw politics play an even bigger role in the drawing of congressional district boundaries.

The court hears argument Monday in an appeal by Republican lawmakers in Arizona against the state's voter-approved independent redistricting commission for creating the districts of U.S. House members. A decision striking down the commission probably would doom a similar system in neighboring California, and could affect districting commissions in 11 other states.

The court previously has closed the door to lawsuits challenging excessive partisanship in redistricting, or gerrymandering. A gerrymandered district is intentionally drawn, and sometimes oddly shaped, to favor one political party.

Independent commissions such as Arizona's "may be the only meaningful check" left to states that want to foster more competitive elections, reduce political polarization and bring fresh faces into the political process, the Obama administration said.

The court fight has one odd aspect: California Republicans are rooting against Arizona Republicans.

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## **Ukraine's leader pushes for intl peacekeeping mission to ensure cease-fire in war-torn east**

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's president has signed a decree opening the way to a formal request for international peacekeepers to be stationed in eastern regions where government forces are battling

Russian-backed separatists.

President Petro Poroshenko's office said Monday the appeal for a contingent of peacekeepers will be addressed to the United Nations and the European Union. His office gave no specific details on the mission's composition or any timetable for it but Russia is strongly against the idea.

Fighting has waned substantially in eastern Ukraine in recent days as a cease-fire deal forged last month increasingly takes effect, but both sides have complained of sporadic violations.

The U.N. human rights office on Monday raised its toll of the fighting, saying more than 6,000 people have died since the conflict began in April.

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## **Afghan army takes on Taliban in first major offensive without foreign combat troops**

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Afghan army is waging its largest-ever solo offensive against the Taliban, hoping to strike a decisive blow ahead of the spring fighting season and prove it can rout the insurgents without the aid of U.S. and NATO combat troops.

Afghan troops have been slowly pushing up through a fertile river valley in the southern Helmand province, with special forces mounting nighttime helicopter raids into mud brick compounds and ground troops gradually advancing across the poppy fields that in past years have furnished the insurgents' main cash crop.

U.S. and British troops suffered some of their biggest losses of the decade-long war here, seizing territory that was later lost by ill-equipped and poorly trained Afghan forces. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has vowed to break the grim cycle, and the latest offensive is widely seen as a test for his efforts to overhaul the army and police since taking office in September.

Ghani was personally involved in planning the operation, which is codenamed Zolfiqar — meaning double-edged sword — and which began on Feb. 10, according to Maj. Gen. Kurt Fuller, deputy chief of staff for U.S. and NATO operations in Afghanistan. Ghani heads to Washington later this month, where he is expected to seek enhanced U.S. military backup, particularly air support.

"This is an incredibly important operation," said a Western diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity in order to discuss the secret operation. "This is Ghani's attempt to demonstrate to the U.S. and the U.S. Congress that Afghan ground forces are able to take the lead and conduct offensive operations if they have the right enablers to support them."

## **Today in History** **The Associated Press**

Today is Monday, March 2, the 61st day of 2015. There are 304 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On March 2, 1965, the movie version of Rodgers and Hammerstein's Broadway musical "The Sound of Music," starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer, had its world premiere at New York's Rivoli Theater.

### **On this date:**

In 1793, the first president of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston, was born near Lexington, Virginia.

In 1836, the Republic of Texas formally declared its independence from Mexico.

In 1865, Congress established the position of Naval Judge Advocate General.

In 1877, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes was declared the winner of the 1876 presidential election over Democrat Samuel J. Tilden, even though Tilden had won the popular vote.



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In 1917, Puerto Ricans were granted U.S. citizenship as President Woodrow Wilson signed the Jones-Shafroth Act.

In 1939, Roman Catholic Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli (puh-CHEL'-ee) was elected pope on his 63rd birthday; he took the name Pius XII. The Massachusetts legislature voted to ratify the Bill of Rights, 147 years after the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution had gone into effect. (Georgia and Connecticut soon followed.)

In 1940, the cartoon character Elmer Fudd made his debut in the Warner Bros. animated short "Elmer's Candid Camera," in which the title character finds himself pitted against a rascally rabbit that was a precursor to Bugs Bunny.

In 1955, nine months before Rosa Parks' famous act of defiance, Claudette Colvin, a black high school student in Montgomery, Alabama, was arrested after refusing to give up her seat on a public bus to a white passenger.

In 1962, Wilt Chamberlain scored 100 points for the Philadelphia Warriors in a game against the New York Knicks, an NBA record that still stands. (Philadelphia won, 169-147.)

In 1972, the United States launched the Pioneer 10 space probe, which flew past Jupiter in late 1973, sending back images and scientific data.

In 1985, the government approved a screening test for AIDS that detected antibodies to the virus, allowing possibly contaminated blood to be excluded from the blood supply.

In 1990, more than 6,000 drivers went on strike against Greyhound Lines Inc. (The company, later declaring an impasse in negotiations, fired the strikers.)

**Ten years ago:** The number of U.S. military deaths in Iraq reached 1,500. The woman who'd accused NBA star Kobe Bryant of rape settled her lawsuit against him, ending the case.

**Five years ago:** Authorities in San Diego County found the body of 17-year-old Chelsea King, who'd been missing since Feb. 25, 2010. (John Albert Gardner III later pleaded guilty to raping and murdering King and another victim, 14-year-old Amber Dubois; he was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.)

**One year ago:** The historical drama "12 Years a Slave" won best picture at the 86th annual Academy Awards; one of its stars, Lupita Nyong'o, won best supporting actress. Matthew McConaughey was named best actor for "Dallas Buyers Club" while Cate Blanchett was honored as best actress for "Blue Jasmine"; Alfonso Cuarón received best director for "Gravity."

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor John Cullum is 85. Author Tom Wolfe is 85. Former Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev is 84. Actress Barbara Luna is 76. Author John Irving is 73. Actress Cassie Yates is 64. Actress Laraine Newman is 63. Former Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., is 62. Former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar is 60. Singer Jay Osmond is 60. Pop musician John Cowsill (The Cowsills) is 59. Tennis player Kevin Curren is 57. Country singer Larry Stewart (Restless Heart) is 56. Rock singer Jon Bon Jovi is 53. Blues singer-musician Alvin Youngblood Hart is 52. Actor Daniel Craig is 47. Actor Richard Ruccolo is 43. Rock musician Casey (Jimmie's Chicken Shack) is 39. Rock singer Chris Martin (Coldplay) is 38. Actress Heather McComb is 38. Actress Bryce Dallas Howard is 34. NFL quarterback Ben Roethlisberger is 33. Actor Robert Iler is 30. Actress Nathalie Emmanuel (TV: "Game of Thrones") is 26.

**Thought for Today:** "Nothing ever really sets human nature free, but self-control." - Phyllis Bottome, English writer (1884-1963).