

Groton Daily Independent

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Thursday, March 12

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

School Lunch: Submarine, French fries, lettuce with tomato, fruit.

Senior Menu: Ham, sweet potatoes, peas, Acini DePepi fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

State Girls Tourney in Watertown

Friday, March 13

Birthdays: Angie Peterson, Ron Anderson, Sandy Hjermsstad

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

School Lunch: Cheese pizza, green beans, romaine salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato with sour cream, creamed peas, fruited Jell-O, whole wheat bread.

State Girls Tourney in Watertown

Saturday, March 14

Birthdays: Beatrice Schauer, Katie Lyren, Erin Sternhagen, Kalen Kjellsen, Mendy Jones, Sydney Erickson, Ulrich Ulvog

State Girls Tourney in Watertown

South Dakota State Mathcounts at Kings Inn, Pierre

Best of Show Show Choir at SF Washington HS

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



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.

Last Remaining Private Applicator Certification/Recertification Trainings Begin March 19, 2015

BROOKINGS, S.D. - SDSU Extension 2015 Private Pesticide Applicator Certification/Recertification Training is wrapping up in South Dakota with four training sessions remaining across the state. March 19 in Pierre; March 24 in Watertown; and March 30 in Sioux Falls.

Who needs to be certified or recertified as a Private Pesticide Applicator? "If you plan to apply any pesticides to an agriculture commodity worth \$ 1,000 or more, you need to be certified," said Connie L. Strunk, SDSU Extension Plant Pathology Field Specialist. "It does not matter what pesticide you apply (herbicide, insecticide, or fungicide, etc.) you need to be certified as a Private Applicator."

Individuals have three options to get certified or recertified.

They may attend a 3-hour recertification class at any certification site or they may stop by at their local SDSU Extension Office or SDSU Extension Regional Center and pick-up the materials to complete the open-book home-study exam, or they may take the Private Applicator exam on-line at the South Dakota Department of Agriculture's website: <http://apps.sd.gov/doa/pwt/>.

Why do you need to become certified? "First and foremost, it's the law," Strunk said. "In addition to that, certification gives you the tools to apply pesticides more properly, safely and profitably."

Applicators must be competent to read and follow a label, calibrate their sprayer, and apply pesticides.

The certification is good for five years and allows applicators to buy and apply general and restricted use pesticides.

A private applicator cannot accept cash for spraying applications but can trade agricultural services; for example, they can spray their neighbor's field if the neighbor were to bale the applicator's hay.

A private applicator is required to keep records for two years of all restricted use pesticides that they apply.

"Record keeping is a requirement for restricted-use pesticides but consider keeping records of all pesticide applications as part of a good farm management plan," Strunk said.

Record keeping books and information are available at the local extension offices or Regional Extension Centers. Each year a certain percentage of individuals are spot checked by the State Department of Agriculture.

For individuals who are coming to training we hope you will find the program very useful and practical.

During the trainings, Extension personnel will cover the South Dakota rules and regulations about applying pesticides. Depending on location, we will also discuss drift management, how to read a pesticide label, how to calibrate a sprayer, weed resistance issues, crop disease management and a regional pest management update.

There is no charge for attending the private applicator class or taking the open-book home-study exam to become certified or recertified as a private pesticide applicator.

Private applicator training dates, times & locations:

March 19 in Pierre at the SDSU Extension Pierre Regional Center (412 W. Missouri Ave.). Training begins at 1 p.m. CST

March 24 in Watertown at the SDSU Extension Watertown Regional Center (1910 West Kemp Ave.). Training begins at 6 p.m. CST

March 27 in Mitchell at the Mitchell Tech Nordby Trade Center (1800 E. Spruce St). Training begins at 9 a.m. CST

March 30 in Sioux Falls at the SDSU Extension Sioux Falls Regional Center (2001 E. 8th St.). Training begins at 6 p.m. CST

Individuals needing to become certified or recertified are encouraged to attend one of the 3-hour private applicator sessions listed above.

For more information please feel free to contact the nearest Extension Regional Center or visit igrow.org/about/.



New Backstop being installed at Locke-Karst Field



The city crew took advantage of a nice day to install the west side of the new backstop at Locke-Karst Field on Wednesday. It is a concrete set of blocks and a net will eventually be hung to finish it off. All of the concrete blocks and caps were donated by Wright & Sudlow of Aberdeen.

Gov. Daugaard Signs Bills Into Law

SB 24 – An Act to authorize the Board of Regents to demolish buildings on the campus of South Dakota State University and to make an appropriation therefor.

SB 30 – An Act to revise the review process for rate and policy form filing denials for insurers.

SB 37 – An Act to adopt the 2008 Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, to repeal the 1996 Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, and to revise certain provisions relating thereto.

SB 41 – An Act to revise certain provisions pertaining to commercial driver licensing.

SB 45 – An Act to revise certain provisions relating to the sale of unpasteurized raw milk.

SB 47 – An Act to make an appropriation from the coordinated natural resources conservation fund to the State Conservation Commission and to declare an emergency.

SB 49 – An Act to authorize the Department of Game, Fish and Parks to sell a portion of railway right-of-way to the City of Deadwood.

SB 63 – An Act to adopt the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

SB 81 – An Act to require persons convicted of driving a vehicle while under influence of alcohol, drugs, or intoxicants to pay certain costs to the county.

SB 94 – An Act to establish a license fee for electric-powered motorcycles.

SB 113 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the fiscal impact statements prepared for legislation that impacts state prison or county jail populations.

SB 118 – An Act to provide additional transparency for prescription drug plans.

SB 128 – An Act to revise certain provisions concerning the general requirements that vehicle owners must satisfy before applying for military plates.

HB 1013 – An Act to revise certain provisions related to social work licensure.

HB 1027 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the regulation of certain money lending activities.

HB 1030 – An Act to provide certain restrictions regarding the passing of a bicycle.

HB 1031 – An Act to repeal certain provisions regarding former state-owned rail lines.

HB 1042 – An Act to authorize the Department of Public Safety to construct offices in Butte County and Roberts County, to make an appropriation therefor, and to declare an emergency.

HB 1048 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding state hosting and employee reimbursement policies.

HB 1058 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding contagious disease control quarantine measures.

HB 1064 – An Act to prohibit unlawful self-dealing by state officers and employees.

HB 1072 – An Act to provide that certain information regarding postsecondary technical institutes be given to parents and guardians of students in middle schools and high schools.

HB 1073 – An Act to require a sex offender to report a change in vehicle status to law enforcement.

HB 1079 – An Act to revise the deadline for the Department of Health's annual report regarding abortions.

HB 1124 – An Act to authorize motor vehicles to exceed the posted speed limit under certain conditions.

HB 1130 – An Act to prohibit an abortion provider from accepting payment for an abortion prior to the end of the required informed consent period.

HB 1139 – An Act to revise certain procedures for competitive sealed bids by public purchasing agencies.

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HB 1144 – An Act to repeal and revise certain unnecessary and outdated provisions related to state affairs and government.

HB 1146 – An Act to limit who may request to see a person's hunting or fishing license.

HB 1148 – An Act to require that the annual report of a school district contain certain information regarding school district fund balances.

HB 1165 – An Act to revise the composition requirement of the Historic Preservation Commission.

HB 1177 – An Act to remove certain exceptions to campaign finance report filings.

HB 1236 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding commissions received by insurance producers.

Groton Prairie Mixed

Team Standings: Shih Tzus 14, Pocket Gophers 12, Jackelopes 11, Foxes 10, Coyotes 7, Chipmunks 6

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 279, 217, Roger Spanier 214, Brad Larson 202, Ron Belden 201, Ryan Sperry 200

Women's High Games: Sue Stanley 179, 168, Vicki Walter 169, Nicole Kassube 166

Men's High Series: Brad Waage 668, Brad Larson 582, Roger Spanier 574

Women's High Series: Sue Stanley 494, Vicki Walter 479, Karen Spanier 446

Notice of Garbage Pickup!

Effective Immediately Your cooperation

Groton residents are asked to bring their garbage to the following locations until further notice:

Railroad Avenue
Main Street
Sixth Street
Highway 37

Residents of Cottonwood Trailer Park need to take their garbage to

Highway 37

Residents north of 13th Avenue (Olson and Jacobson Development) need to bring their garbage to the Bus Barns.

is greatly appreciated during the spring thaw.



Booking Days Specials on all Inventories



Oil, grease, filters and tires

March 18-19, 2015

Cash and Carry on certain items

Lunch will be provided

Farmers Union Co-op Assn.

605/395-6461 - Ferney

**Shop at your locally owned Co-op where the
patron still owns the company since 1943**

We will build for your needs not ours

Today in Weather History

1888 - A blizzard paralyzed southeastern New York State and western New England. The storm produced 58 inches of snow at Saratoga NY, and 50 inches at Middletown CT. The blizzard was followed by record cold temperatures, and the cold and snow claimed 400 lives. New York City received 20.9 inches of snow, Albany NY reported 46.7 inches. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1954 - A blizzard raged from eastern Wyoming into the Black Hills of western South Dakota, while a severe ice storm was in progress from northeastern Nebraska to central Iowa. The ice storm isolated 153 towns in Iowa. Dust from the Great Plains caused brown snow, and hail and muddy rain over parts of Wisconsin and Michigan. (11th-13th) (The Weather Channel)

1967 - A tremendous four day storm raged across California. Winds of 90 mph closed mountain passes, heavy rains flooded the lowlands, and in sixty hours Squaw Valley CA was buried under 96 inches (eight feet) of snow. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Unseasonably cold weather prevailed in the southeastern U.S., with gale force winds along the Middle Atlantic Coast. A storm in the Pacific Northwest produced rain and gale force winds. Crescent City CA received 2.27 inches of rain in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A powerful storm produced high winds and heavy snow in the Upper Mississippi Valley and the Upper Great Lakes Region. Winds gusting to 70 mph produced snow drifts six feet high in Minnesota, and sent twelve foot waves on Lake Superior over the breakwalls of the ship canal at Duluth MN. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1989 - An early season heat wave continued in the southwestern and central U.S. Nineteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date. Wichita Falls TX, which six days earlier reported a record low of 8 above, reported a record high of 95 degrees. Childress TX was the first spot in the country in 1989 to hit the century mark. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed from the Southern and Central Plains to the Southern and Middle Atlantic Coast, with afternoon highs in the 70s and 80s. Seventy-six cities reported record high temperatures for the date. Downtown Baltimore MD was the hot spot in the nation with a record high of 95 degrees, which smashed their previous record for the date by nineteen degrees. Other record highs included 89 degrees at Washington D.C. and 90 degrees at Raleigh NC. (The National Weather Summary)

2006 - High school senior Matt Suter survives being blown 1,307 feet by a tornado. (The exact distance is determined by NWS GPS.) The twister rips open his grandmother's mobile home and tosses Suter into the night, launching him over a barbed wire fence and eventually depositing him on the soft grass in an open field. He suffers only a head wound from being hit by a lamp. The Weather Doctor's Diary

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Breezy	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 68 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 58 °F	Low: 31 °F	High: 63 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 72 °F



Above Normal Temps Into Next Week

Follow us on Social Media


























































weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

<p>5 Day Outlook - Mobridge, SD</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Today</th> <th>Fri</th> <th>Sat</th> <th>Sun</th> <th>Mon</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>70° 38° 0% NW 19</td> <td>62° 33° 0% NW 22</td> <td>66° 41° 0% S 21</td> <td>74° 38° 10% W 12</td> <td>51° 28° 10% N 17</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Today	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon						70° 38° 0% NW 19	62° 33° 0% NW 22	66° 41° 0% S 21	74° 38° 10% W 12	51° 28° 10% N 17	<p>5 Day Outlook - Aberdeen, SD</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Today</th> <th>Fri</th> <th>Sat</th> <th>Sun</th> <th>Mon</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>69° 37° 0% S 20</td> <td>59° 32° 0% NW 25</td> <td>64° 41° 0% S 18</td> <td>72° 39° 10% W 13</td> <td>52° 28° 15% N 17</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Today	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon						69° 37° 0% S 20	59° 32° 0% NW 25	64° 41° 0% S 18	72° 39° 10% W 13	52° 28° 15% N 17
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Published on: 03/12/2015 at 4:53AM

We will have another shot at records today, as well as on Sunday. This string of above normal temperatures will persist into next week.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 60.9 at 5:00 PM

Low: 26.4 at 7:28 AM

High Gust: 32 at 4:12 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 72° in 1934

Record Low: -20° in 1897

Average High: 38°F

Average Low: 18°F

Average Precip in March.: 0.33

Precip to date in March.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 1.35

Precip Year to Date: 0.40

Sunset Tonight: 7:35 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:50 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Mar 12, 2015, issued 3:15 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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ONE FACT REMAINS...

Is it wrong for Christians to drink? Does the Bible forbid drinking? Was the alcohol content of wine any different in Biblical times than it is today? Was it really wine at the Lord's Supper or unfermented grape juice? What is the correct position for church members to take when it comes to attending functions where alcoholic beverages are served?

There never has been a time or place in my life when alcohol was not part of someone's agenda. In fact, the thesis I wrote for my Master of Theology degree addressed this topic. The program took two years and I visited some of the greatest libraries in the world looking for a definitive answer. Libraries in such predominant universities as Stanford and University of California in Berkeley were near the seminary I attended.

However, Solomon, who no doubt hosted many events that included alcohol, presents his observations about the consequences of drinking. It seems to eliminate any reason to look any further for an answer: "Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise." The consequences are obvious.

Alcohol is a depressant. It allows what we have hidden or buried deep within us an opportunity to "escape" and harm ourselves and others. A "mocker" is someone who becomes arrogant and ridicules God by word and deed. The "mocker" has no need for anyone - including God and can "do it all by myself." And the "brawler" is one who is indiscreet, obnoxious and has no shame.

So, the first part of the verse leads to the second: Alcohol leads people to act independently of God's wisdom. Anyone who allows their behavior to be altered - one way or another - by any depressant is unwise - hence, ungodly. One "wise" person said, "A wise person will not get drunk and a drunk person is not wise."

Prayer: Help us, Father, to realize the dangers that await us if we compromise Your wisdom. May we avoid the effects of alcohol. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 20:1 Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.

News from the Associated Press

SD Senate, House to work on compromise for autism bill

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A group of lawmakers from the state House and Senate are scheduled to meet to work out a compromise on a bill that would help ensure coverage of a costly but effective treatment for children with autism.

The conference committee on the measure that would mandate certain insurance plans to cover applied behavioral analysis therapy is slated to meet at 10:30 a.m.

Senators rejected approving a House version on Wednesday that would increase the amount covered for younger children by thousands of dollars and expand coverage to include more providers.

The Senate version would only requires insurance companies to pay for treatment performed by specialists with doctoral or master's degrees. Proponents of the House bill argue much of hands-on care is performed by providers who don't have such degrees.

Lawmakers to meet to negotiate road and bridge funding hike

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Lawmakers are scheduled to meet to hash out differences between the South Dakota House and Senate on a proposal to hike road and bridge funding.

Legislators are expected to meet to negotiate on Thursday about the proposal, which House lawmakers changed before passing it.

The proposal the House took up is a modified version of the transportation plan that Gov. Dennis Daugaard originally proposed and that the Senate had passed. It raises road and bridge funding through increases in fuel taxes, fees and other assessments.

A House committee on Monday amended the bill to further raise vehicle license plate fees and limited future revenue by reducing the number of years that the gas tax would increase from eight to three.

Fire danger likely to stay elevated until grass turns green

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Dry grass, high winds and warmer temperatures mean the fire danger across much of South Dakota will likely stay higher until the grass turns green.

Meteorologist Scott Rudge with the National Weather Service in Rapid City says this is the so-called shoulder season after the dry winter months and before the heavier precipitation that's typical of late March and April.

He says grass is generally more compacted because of decent snowfall this winter, so it doesn't burn quite as easily. But it's still very dry and flames can be whipped by higher winds that accompany changing weather patterns this time of year.

The outlook for the next week to 10 days is mild and dry.

Giffords shooting victim who held down attacker dies

ASTRID GALVAN, Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Bill Badger was a hero even before he helped save people's lives during the Jan. 8, 2011, shooting in a grocery store parking lot that killed six people and injured 13, including former U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords.

The Army veteran died Wednesday morning of pneumonia, according to his wife, Sallie Badger. He

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was 78.

Badger was shot in the head at a constituent event for Giffords, who was the target of gunman Jared Loughner. But Badger managed to tackle Loughner, helping others hold him down and disarm him before police arrived. Loughner is serving seven consecutive life terms in prison.

Giffords, who lives in Tucson, said she was sad to learn of Badger's passing.

"Bill was not only a great man and a proud Army veteran, he was a hero," she said in a statement. "I believe that Bill helped save lives that morning. And I will always be grateful to him for his selfless, brave actions."

Sallie Badger said it came as no surprise that her husband had risked his life to help others. The retired Army colonel had spent his entire life doing just that, she said.

"Bill was a hero to many, many people long before he became a hero on Jan. 8. He was very influential in many, many young lives in many ways," Sallie Badger said.

She said Badger was highly involved in the life of their 25-year-old son, Christian Badger. Badger also guided young men into the military and other careers, she said.

Bill Badger hailed from South Dakota. He joined the National Guard as a high school junior and went on to have a long, distinguished career as an Army pilot for 37 years.

The couple moved to Arizona in 1985 when Bill Badger established the Western Army Aviation Training Site in Marana, just outside of Tucson.

Badger was not permanently injured from the bullet that grazed the back of his head, but he showed signs of post-traumatic stress disorder, his wife said.

The couple embarked on a three-year journey across the country to push for stricter gun laws.

"We wanted desperately to have background checks on every gun that was sold," Sallie Badger said. "And Bill just made that his mission."

Pipeline foes appeal to Nebraska lawmakers in testy hearing

GRANT SCHULTE, Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Opponents of the Keystone XL pipeline appealed to Nebraska lawmakers on Wednesday in their latest effort to overturn the state law that allowed former Gov. Dave Heineman to approve a route through the state.

About 60 landowners and activists rallied at the state Capitol in Lincoln as pipeline developer TransCanada Corp. defended its use of eminent domain to gain access to property owned by holdouts.

Their arguments in a nearly five-hour hearing included several testy exchanges with senators who support the pipeline. Opponents asked lawmakers to pass a bill that would reverse the 2012 pipeline-siting law.

The law allowed TransCanada to bypass Nebraska's Public Service Commission, which reviews most pipeline proposals, and seek approval instead through a state agency overseen by the governor. Heineman, a Republican, supported the project.

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha said he introduced the bill as a "shot across the bow" to TransCanada, and to give voice to landowners who oppose the pipeline.

"Until now, the public — the people who have been affected directly by this pipeline activity — have never had a seat at the table," Chambers said. "The ones at the table were politicians who ... were in TransCanada's pocket."

The pipeline would go from Canada through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska, where it would connect with existing pipelines to carry more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day to refineries along

the Texas Gulf Coast.

In January, the Nebraska Supreme Court allowed the pipeline-siting law to stand by default. Four judges on the seven-member court ruled in favor of landowners who challenged the law, but a super-majority of five was needed.

The remaining three judges refused to rule on the law, arguing they couldn't because the plaintiffs in the lawsuit didn't have legal standing. Opponents responded by filing a nearly identical lawsuit with landowners who were directly affected.

TransCanada has said 90 percent of Nebraska landowners along the Keystone XL route — and 100 percent of those in Montana and South Dakota — have agreed to easements so the company can build the pipeline.

TransCanada land manager Andrew Craig said eminent domain is a tool of last resort that's needed to develop pipelines, railroads and other infrastructure. Without that power, "a single landowner or small group of landowners could block projects that deliver those public benefits to Nebraskans," Craig said.

Some opponents accused lawmakers of ignoring their pleas for help.

"We feel like we're just being left out to dry," said Randy Thompson, a rancher and longtime opponent who owned land along the first proposed route before it was moved in 2013. "You don't listen to what our concerns are."

But Sen. Bob Krist of Omaha railed against the opponents, saying he's spent hours past listening to anti-pipeline groups to try to address their concerns.

The pipeline, first proposed in 2008, still requires presidential approval because it crosses an international border.

SD legislative budget committee adopts revenue estimates

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Expressing concerns that South Dakota's agricultural industry will continue to falter over the next budget year, the Legislature's budget-writing committee decided Wednesday that the state will have less money to spend than projected when Gov. Dennis Daugaard proposed his state budget in December.

The Joint Appropriations Committee voted 13-4 along party lines to adopt revenue projection recommendations from a budget sub-panel. That means lawmakers are looking at about \$10.4 million less revenue than projected in December for the upcoming 2016 budget cycle that begins on July 1 and about \$7 million less for the current cycle.

Rep. Jean Hunhoff, R-Yankton, said the panel adopted "conservative" revenue numbers. Sen. Larry Tidemann, R-Brookings, said he doesn't soon anticipate a major surge in the state's agricultural economy, which helps drive sales tax revenue. Tidemann said last year he was optimistic during the budget process.

"I thought the ag economy was going to carry us through, and the bottom fell out on those crop prices," he said. "That had a real negative impact on our sales and use tax."

Sales tax collected on farm equipment alone is estimated to have dropped roughly \$10 million between 2013 and 2014, and farm income has sunk from record levels, according to a presentation from the administration's Bureau of Finance and Management.

Joint Appropriations Committee Chairman Justin Cronin, R-Gettysburg, pointed to layoffs at North Dakota-based Titan Machinery, which is reducing its workforce by 14 percent and closing some stores, including one in Bowdle, South Dakota, after a drop in revenue. The move tells Cronin that the outlook

is "not optimistic" for the agricultural economy, he said.

"We're just trying to take it as cautiously optimistic as we can," Cronin said.

But Democrats on the committee, who voted against adopting the estimates, said that Republicans were being too cautious and that the lawmakers should choose a rosier number. Rep. Ray Ring, D-Vermillion, said the committee was too focused on bad news over the last few months. He told Republicans to expect more future growth.

Rep. Dan Dryden, R-Rapid City, downplayed reservations about being too cautious.

"If we're too conservative in our projection, that money will be available a year from now," he said.

Brendan Johnson plans to work with tribes in law firm job

CARSON WALKER, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Brendan Johnson returns to private practice in a job he says will build on what he did during his 5 1/2 years as U.S. attorney for South Dakota.

He left that position Wednesday to open a Sioux Falls office for the Minneapolis-based law firm Robins Kaplan LLP. He said he'll spend about 40 percent of his time in South Dakota and the rest in Minneapolis and other places the firm does business.

"We'll really be focused on fewer numbers but really quality cases where we believe the firm can make a significant difference in the litigation," said Johnson, who was previously precluded from talking about his plans because of Department of Justice rules.

He said much of his work will be representing Native Americans and tribes and on internal investigations like those the firm did for the Minnesota Vikings over the release of a player and for the Fiesta Bowl in Arizona after allegations of wrongdoing surfaced. He said the presence of an office in the state will allow clients to tap the expertise and resources of a large law firm known nationally for its work in the courtroom.

"There are times when we represent corporations when they have commercial litigation. But there are times when we represent regular individuals who've been harmed or injured," Johnson said. "With this law firm, it is on both sides of the 'V,' if you will."

Some South Dakota Democrats had hoped Johnson would run for the Senate seat left open when his father, U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson, retired in January, but he said he has no political plans.

First Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy Seiler will serve as acting U.S. attorney. On Wednesday, he said he plans to formally seek the nomination, which requires Senate confirmation. He said he and Johnson already have reached out to the state's congressional delegation.

Seiler has worked at the federal office in Pierre since 1995 and is also a member of the Fort Pierre City Council. He graduated from the University of South Dakota School of Law and worked in private practice in Mobridge before becoming a prosecutor.

Seiler said criminal and civil rights cases will be a priority for him, but otherwise he'll maintain Johnson's commitment to prosecuting Indian Country crimes and human trafficking.

"His impact is going to last a long time and endure his absence," Seiler said.

Opportunity Scholarship increases to be ironed out this week

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota House and Senate are trying to figure out whether current college students should receive increases in the amount of their Opportunity Scholarships.

The House voted Wednesday to not sign off on an altered version of a measure that would increase

the per-student amounts of the scholarship only for incoming students.

Under the Senate version, incoming students would receive up to \$1,300 for their first three years of college and up to \$2,600 for their fourth year. Current students would not see increases.

Republican Sen. Deb Peters says the increase for current students had to be removed after state economists predicted that revenue collections next budget year will fall short of previous projections.

Members from each chamber will now meet to try and work out a compromise.

Federal prosecutor Randy Seiler to seek US attorney's job

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's new acting U.S. attorney says he's going to apply for the permanent job.

First Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy Seiler (SY'-ler) takes over leadership of the office on Wednesday from Brendan Johnson, who stepped down for a job in private practice.

Seiler will be in charge of the office until the Senate appoints a new U.S. attorney and says he plans to formally apply and seek the nomination.

He says he and Johnson already have reached out to the state's congressional delegation.

Seiler has worked at the federal office in Pierre since 1995 and is also a member of the Fort Pierre City Council.

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

Man catches SD record yellow perch weighing over 2 pounds

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A man fishing on Bitter Lake has caught the largest yellow perch ever recorded in South Dakota.

Aurora resident Chase Jensen iced the monster perch on Saturday. The fish weighed 2 pounds 13 ounces, that's two ounces heavier than the previous yellow perch record.

State wildlife officials say yellow perch is one of the most sought after fish in South Dakota. They say late ice conditions often send large, pre-spawn panfish on a feeding frenzy.

The previous record was established in 2004 and the fish was also caught on Bitter Lake.

Inmate at SD county jail dies after found hanging in cell

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in southeast South Dakota say an inmate at a county jail died at a hospital Wednesday after he was found hanging in his cell.

Minnehaha County Chief Deputy Sheriff Michelle Boyd says inmate Phillip Sean Bland was found hanging from his bedsheets shortly after midnight. Boyd says Bland still had a pulse when he was found and medical staff performed CPR on him.

He was pronounced death less than an hour later at a local hospital.

Bland was scheduled to face trial later this month for various charges including first-degree robbery, possession of marijuana and discharge of a firearm. He was in custody on a \$200,000 cash bond.

The Sioux Falls resident was arrested in December in connection with a 31-pound marijuana theft and a subsequent gun battle.

Longtime Pierre journalist returning to state government

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Longtime Pierre journalist Tony Mangan is leaving the profession to return to state government.

Mangan worked four years at the Capital Journal newspaper and has spent the past 17 years at KCCR radio. He tells the Capital Journal (<http://bit.ly/1EzHzIF>) that he has taken a job as public information officer for the Department of Public Safety.

Mangan has previously worked for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and he was assistant press secretary to Gov. Walter D. Miller in the mid-1990s.

Mangan has lived in Pierre for nearly three decades. KCCR General Manager Steve White says Mangan is “an institution in this community.”

Wednesday was Mangan’s last day at KCCR. Mayor Laurie Gill proclaimed the day “Tony Mangan Day” in Pierre.

Mega Millions ticket sold in Chester worth \$25,000

CHESTER, S.D. (AP) — A Mega Millions ticket sold in Chester is worth \$25,000 in Wednesday’s drawing.

South Dakota lottery officials say the ticket matched four of five white ball numbers and the Mega Ball to win the game’s \$5,000 third prize. An option purchased for an additional dollar multiplied the prize fivefold.

The odds of winning \$5,000 playing Mega Millions are 1 in about 740,000.

Mega Millions is played in 44 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The jackpot sits at \$33 million for Friday’s drawing.

Rapid City residents reject \$180M Civic Center expansion

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City residents have rejected a proposed \$180 million expansion of the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, and attention will now turn toward making the facility’s arena compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Unofficial returns from Tuesday’s election showed 61 percent of the 12,902 voters were against the proposal that would have been the costliest project in city history.

“The people have spoken,” Mayor Sam Kooiker said.

The project would have replaced the facility’s 9,400-seat arena with one that could seat up to 19,000 people. The City Council approved the expansion in December, but an opposition group submitted petitions to force the public vote.

Opponents including five former mayors questioned whether the project that ultimately could cost \$420 million over 30 years with interest would be a wise investment.

Supporters of the proposal considered it preferable to spending money to upgrade the existing facility. Studies have estimated it will cost up to \$38 million to make it accessible to the handicapped, and \$73 million to do that and also address building code violations.

“There is no plan B,” City Councilman Ritchie Nordstrom told the Rapid City Journal. “Now we’ll have to go back and figure out a plan B. We have to do the ADA (compliance projects). We have to do that, and how we’re going to do that, that has to all be worked out.”

Rapid City and the federal government earlier this month announced agreement on a plan to make the Civic Center ADA-compliant within 2 ½ years.

“I think our first responsibility is to live up to the agreement with the Department of Justice,” Civic

Center board chairman Jeff Bailie told the Journal.

Titan Machinery laying off workers and closing stores

WEST FARGO, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota-based Titan Machinery is reducing its workforce by 14 percent and closing some stores after a drop in revenue.

The West Fargo-based dealer of agricultural and construction equipment projects its revenue in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2015 at \$491 million, a drop of about 31 percent from the previous year. Chairman and CEO David Meyer in a statement blamed the cutbacks on tough times in the industry.

“Consolidating stores and impacting people’s lives is a very difficult decision that we do not take lightly,” he said. “We have a responsibility to stay ahead of the challenging business climate, operate efficiently and effectively and position our company for long-term growth. We made a decision based on market conditions.”

Before the announced cutbacks, Titan had 92 dealerships in 11 U.S. states, as well as 16 dealerships in four European countries.

Employees in Bowdle, South Dakota, said that store was closed Monday afternoon. Scott Weiszhaar, who had worked there for 33 years, told the American News that employees got no advance notice — and even had everything ready for an open house scheduled for Tuesday. They were told Monday afternoon that they were out of jobs.

“Nobody knew anything before the meeting,” Weiszhaar said. “We were told to gather our things and leave. They locked the doors, and that was that.”

Workers who lost their jobs received a severance package, according to Meyer.

“We have a track record of taking care of our employees,” he told the newspaper. “There’s a lot of compassion to those employees. We are providing the severance package, which includes benefits and resources to find new employment.”

Weather breaking records, sparking fire fears in Dakotas

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Unseasonably warm and dry weather is breaking temperature records and sparking fears of wildfires in the Dakotas.

In North Dakota, Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown and Williston all have tied or broken temperature records this week. National Weather Service reports show high temperatures in those cities approaching 60 degrees, tying or breaking records that date back in some instances more than a century.

In South Dakota, Yankton County has issued a burn ban through Monday because of a high wildfire danger. To the west, a fire on private land and U.S. Forest Service land near Custer burned about 60 acres Tuesday.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

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

1. TWO OFFICERS SHOT IN FERGUSON

Hours after the city’s police chief resigned, one policeman is shot in the face and another in the shoulder at a protest outside the city’s police station.

2. FOUR YEARS ON, SYRIA WAR LEAVES FAMILIES UPROOTED, SEPARATED

The AP profiles one family whose members fled the conflict to Jordan and Lebanon. Like millions of Syrian refugees, they fear they will never see each other again.

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3. CLINTON'S EMAIL CONTROVERSY BRINGS BENGHAZI BACK IN SPOTLIGHT

The committee investigating the deadly attack on the U.S. mission is seeking more answers from the State Department and the former secretary herself following revelations about her use of a private account for government electronic communications.

4. WHY OBAMA CAN'T SHAKE 2016

The president, who claimed he has run his last campaign in 2014, is the Democrats' top fundraising draw even as he has less than two years in office.

5. WHO IS CELEBRATING A SECOND ANNIVERSARY

Pope Francis, who has been leading the Catholic Church since March 2013, is riding a wave of popularity among the faithful. But dissent has been looming from within the Vatican over issues from financial reform to climate church.

6. SIGNS POINT TO BAD WEATHER AS CAUSE OF BLACK HAWK CRASH IN FLORIDA

A second military helicopter, encountering the same heavy fog, turned back safely before the wreck that killed 11.

7. HOW THE SECRET SERVICE IS FACING FRESH EMBARRASSMENT

Two senior agents are accused of crashing a car into a White House security barrier, reportedly after a night of drinking.

8. WHERE YOU CAN GET AN APPLE WATCH LOOKALIKE NOW

A month before the new gadget is available in the U.S., China's copycat manufacturers are already offering their counterfeit versions on websites like Alibaba.

9. WRITER-DIRECTOR OF 'STILL ALICE' DIES AT 63

Richard Glatzer battled ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, while making the acclaimed film. For playing the leading role, Julianne Moore won a best actress Oscar.

10. NOW BATTING (AND MORE): WILL FERRELL

The comedian plans to play every position while appearing in five Arizona spring training games on Thursday.

AP News in Brief

St. Louis county police: 2 officers shot outside Ferguson police station; both conscious

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) — Two officers were shot in front of the Ferguson Police Department early Thursday, authorities said, as demonstrators gathered after the resignation of the city's police chief in the wake of a scathing Justice Department report alleging bias in the police department and court.

A 32-year-old officer from nearby Webster Groves was shot in the face and a 41-year-old officer from St. Louis County was shot in the shoulder, St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar said at a news conference. Both were taken to a hospital, where Belmar said they were conscious. He said he did not have further details about their conditions but described their injuries as "serious."

"I don't know who did the shooting, to be honest with you," Belmar said, adding that he could not provide a description of the suspect or gun.

He said his "assumption" was that, based on where the officers were standing and the trajectory of the bullets, "these shots were directed exactly at my officers."

The shots were fired shortly after midnight as protesters were gathered following the resignation of embattled Ferguson Police Chief Thomas Jackson on Wednesday. Before the shooting, some at the

protest were chanting to show they weren't satisfied with the resignations of Jackson and City Manager John Shaw earlier in the week, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. Authorities from multiple agencies had gathered outside of the department.

After 4 years, Syria war uproots and separates families with little hope of reuniting

AL-RAMA, Lebanon (AP) — Mohammed Bakkar spends his days with his father and son in a small classroom in Lebanon near the Syrian border, where they cook, eat, wash and sleep, waiting for the day they can reunite with the rest of their family.

Bakkar's mother, wife and four other children are hundreds of miles away in Jordan's Azraq refugee camp, squeezed into a white prefab trailer of corrugated metal. When they fled to Jordan after government attacks in their village in Syria in 2013, they thought it would be just a few weeks until they were reunited. It has been more than two years.

The family's story offers a snapshot of the enormous human tragedy caused by the Syrian civil war. Marking its fourth anniversary this month, the war has claimed the lives of more than 220,000 people and has driven more than 11 million of the prewar population of 23 million from their homes.

Of those, more than 3.8 million have fled to neighboring nations. They now make up what many fear will be a new semi-permanent diaspora, scattered around the region. Some languish in organized camps or shelters. Some scrounge on their own for housing in cities and towns. Others wash up in impromptu tent camps with little aid or support. They live hemmed in by lack of money or documents or by state restrictions.

"My suffering is strong. I haven't seen my family for two years and sometimes I fear that I will never see them again," said the 44-year-old Bakkar, tearing up as he sat on the floor of his room before a metal bench lined with cooking pots, a jar of olives and other food. The school where he is living in the border village of al-Rama houses 22 Syrian families, who share toilets and one room with running water where they can wash pots and dishes.

AP PHOTOS: Makeshift camps in Jordan have become a home for thousands of Syrian refugees

AL-AGHWAR, Jordan (AP) — Dozens of small, makeshift tent settlements have sprung up across Jordan, home to thousands of Syrian refugees who don't want to live in large, government-supervised refugee camps but can't afford to live in towns and cities.

Aid officials say those in the makeshift camps are among the most vulnerable of close to 625,000 Syrians who fled to Jordan and have registered with the U.N. refugee agency.

Overall, nearly 3.8 million Syrians have fled their country and are now registered as refugees, according to the agency. Most face increasingly desperate circumstances as the conflict back home enters its fifth year this week.

In Jordan, most refugees settle in urban areas. Just over 100,000 live in the three main authorized refugee camps in northern Jordan.

The U.N. refugee agency says about 16,000 refugees live in tents outside the three main camps.

Benghazi panel back in spotlight amid Clinton revelations on use of personal emails

WASHINGTON (AP) — The photo that became an Internet meme — Hillary Rodham Clinton, wearing sunglasses, staring at her BlackBerry — troubles Republicans on the House committee investigating the deadly attacks in Benghazi, Libya, for what they say is an incomprehensible omission.

Chairman Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., wants to know why the panel has no emails from Oct. 18, 2011, the day the photo was taken as Clinton, then the secretary of state, was en route to Tripoli. In fact, the committee says it has no emails at all from Clinton's trip to Libya, which occurred just days before longtime Libyan ruler Moammar Gadhafi was killed.

Eleven months later, in September 2012, terrorist attacks on the U.S. mission in Benghazi killed U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

Gowdy said in an interview that it "strains credulity" to believe that while on a trip to Libya to discuss Libyan policy "there's not a single document that has been turned over to Congress."

The recent disclosure that Clinton, a likely Democratic candidate for president in 2016, relied on personal emails to conduct government business has breathed new life into the Benghazi panel's investigation, which had threatened to stall amid accusations of partisanship on both sides.

In the politics of 2016, White House intends to choose the time to engage — when it can

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama used to say 2012 was his last election. Then, in 2014, he hit the road for some Democrats in friendly states and called it his last campaign. Now, like it or not, he can't shake 2016.

Whether it's Hillary Rodham Clinton's emails, Gov. Scott Walker's union fight in Wisconsin, Jeb Bush and immigration or Sens. Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal on Iran, Obama is one way or another connected to the presidential aspirations of others.

What's more, he remains his party's top fundraising draw, collecting cash for the Democratic National Committee in Atlanta on Tuesday and flying for California on Thursday to dip his card into Los Angeles' political ATM.

It all highlights that period in a presidency when the White House occupant, no longer running for anything, still looms large as commander in chief, as a party stalwart and as the primary target for the opposition.

Yet even as the president casts his shadow over the next presidential election, the jostling potential candidates hang over him as well.

Secret Service agents under investigation after car crash near White House

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Homeland Security Department is investigating two senior Secret Service agents accused of crashing a car into a White House security barrier, an agency spokesman says.

Secret Service spokesman Robert Hoback said Wednesday that recently appointed Director Joseph Clancy has been briefed on the March 4 incident. Clancy has asked the Homeland Security Department's Inspector General's Office to investigate the incident.

Hoback did not provide additional details.

The agency said the two agents have been reassigned to non-supervisory, non-operational jobs.

The Washington Post first reported the investigation Wednesday afternoon. The newspaper reported that the agents drove a government car into a security barrier near the White House after a night of

drinking.

Egypt's workers worried new drive for investment will benefit business over labor

CAIRO (AP) — Just days before Egypt holds a major economic conference to attract foreign investors, scores of workers held the latest in a string of protests outside government offices in Cairo, complaining that they had not been paid for months and accusing officials of siding with the company's investors. With some pushing and shoving, police broke up the gathering.

"This is only going to escalate," said Tarek Tabl, a 52-year-old engineer who has led negotiations with the government trying to resolve the dispute. He and his wife, who also works for the construction company, have not gotten their salaries for five months. "I'd rather kill myself than go home and face my kids," he said.

The company was among the first wave of state-owned enterprises privatized in the 1990s, when Egypt embarked on major economic reforms aimed at attracting foreign investors. Since then, the company's workforce has been cut from 8,000 to 2,000. The investors are trying to sell off assets and have idled remaining workers. "This is the kind of investment that is producing only unemployment and chaos. We are turning into ticking time bombs," Tabl said.

For many Egyptians, that experience casts a daunting shadow as the government of President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi makes the most ambitious reforms in decades to lure foreign investors, with the conference opening Friday as a centerpiece.

In the partial or full sell-offs of some 380 state-owned companies in the 1990s and 2000s, some private investors dismantled firms, sold off their land assets or used them as collateral to secure large loans, while letting workers go or leaving them idle. Other investors milked tax breaks, then dumped the companies once the incentives ended. The process was plagued by bad deals that undervalued state enterprises. Courts have ordered at least a half dozen companies renationalized because of undervalued deals, and workers have raised court cases over 60 others.

National monument rebounds after being partially closed for years because of border smuggling

ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT, Ariz. (AP) — For over a decade, armed drug traffickers were so prevalent in this vast desert monument that visitors were barred from entering more than half of it.

One law enforcement group dubbed it America's most dangerous park for two years straight after drug smugglers gunned down a ranger.

But a series of crackdowns and decreased traffic on Arizona's border with Mexico have turned things around at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. For the first time since 2003, visitors can access all 516 square miles of the park named for a unique cactus breed that resembles a pipe organ with its long, narrow arms and short trunk.

The picturesque monument epitomizes the challenge of protecting visitors and government workers from the dangers of smuggling in southern Arizona, where large swaths of the border with Mexico are public land. Along the border and very near to it are four wildlife refuges, three national parks, two state parks and two wildlife conservation areas.

The 2003 closure of nearly 70 percent of Organ Pipe marked the first time in recent history that a

national monument was largely closed because of threats posed by humans. It followed several incidents involving drug and human smugglers, including the 2002 death of Kris Eggle, a 28-year-old law enforcement park ranger killed while pursuing a group of smugglers.

Deadly training: Black Hawk crashed, killing 11, after another turned back due to bad weather

NAVARRE, Fla. (AP) — This tranquil beachside enclave normally provides a respite for soldiers, airmen and Marines who come here to relax or to train between dangerous deployments.

But the hotels and bars where military families share laughs in good times became places of shared grief Wednesday as boats and helicopters searched the waters and beachfront for seven marines and four soldiers presumed to have died after a Black Hawk helicopter crashed in dense fog during a routine training exercise.

"My heart is really hurt right now knowing these people were here just on training — knowing they went and left their family members and did not give that goodbye, you know, because they weren't going off to war," a tearful Dolly Edwards said. The 35-year-old wife of a Marine was among hundreds who attended a vigil held at the end of a pier jutting into the Gulf of Mexico on Wednesday night.

The same thick fog that plagued the Black Hawk on Tuesday night engulfed the pier. Combined with the crashing of the Gulf's waves, it created a somber backdrop to the songs, tears and prayers of the large gathering, which included many with strong ties to the military in a part of Florida that is home to the sprawling Eglin Air Force Base.

"We just need to be here to pay respects," said Norman Caron, a retired airman, as he held a candle.

Today in History **The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, March 12, the 71st day of 2015. There are 294 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 12, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered the first of his 30 radio addresses that came to be known as "fireside chats," telling Americans what was being done to deal with the nation's economic crisis.

On this date:

In 1664, England's King Charles II granted an area of land on the East Coast of present-day North America known as New Netherland to his brother James, the Duke of York.

In 1857, the original version of "Simon Boccanegra," an opera by Giuseppe Verdi, was poorly received at its premiere in Venice, Italy. (Verdi offered a revised version in 1881.)

In 1912, the Girl Scouts of the USA had its beginnings as Juliette Gordon Low of Savannah, Georgia, founded the first American troop of the Girl Guides.

In 1925, Chinese revolutionary leader Sun Yat-sen died.

In 1938, the Anschluss merging Austria with Nazi Germany took place as German forces crossed the border between the two countries.

In 1940, Finland and the Soviet Union concluded an armistice during World War II. (Fighting between the two countries flared again the following year.)

In 1955, legendary jazz musician Charlie "Bird" Parker died in New York at age 34.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson won the New Hampshire Democratic primary, but Sen. Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota placed a strong second.

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In 1971, Hafez Assad was confirmed as president of Syria in a referendum.

In 1985, conductor Eugene Ormandy, director of the Philadelphia Orchestra for more than four decades, died at age 85.

In 1994, the Church of England ordained its first women priests.

In 2003, Elizabeth Smart, the 15-year-old girl who'd vanished from her bedroom nine months earlier, was found alive in a Salt Lake City suburb with two drifters, Brian David Mitchell and Wanda Barzee, who are serving prison terms for kidnapping her.

Ten years ago: Brian Nichols, who had slain a judge and three other people, surrendered to authorities in suburban Atlanta after holding Ashley Smith hostage in her apartment. (Nichols was later sentenced to life in prison.) A gunman opened fire at a church meeting being held at a suburban Milwaukee hotel, killing seven people before taking his own life. Bode (BOH'-dee) Miller became the first American in 22 years to win skiing's overall World Cup title, in Lenzerheide, Switzerland.

Five years ago: Two suicide bombers killed 55 people in near simultaneous blasts in Lahore, Pakistan, the fourth attack in a week. Lindsey Vonn capped a historic season with her third straight overall World Cup title in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

One year ago: With Ukraine's interim prime minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk (ahr-SEHN'-ee yaht-sehn-YOOK'), at his side, President Barack Obama said the United States would "completely reject" a referendum in Crimea opening the door for the Ukrainian peninsula to join Russia. In New York City, a gas explosion destroyed two five-story East Harlem apartment buildings, killing eight people and injuring more than 60.

Today's Birthdays: Playwright Edward Albee is 87. Politician, diplomat and civil rights activist Andrew Young is 83. Actress Barbara Feldon is 82. Broadcast journalist Lloyd Dobyns is 79. Singer Al Jarreau is 75. Actress-singer Liza Minnelli is 69. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney is 68. Singer-songwriter James Taylor is 67. Former Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., is 67. Rock singer-musician Bill Payne (Little Feat) is 66. Actor Jon Provost (TV: "Lassie") is 65. Author Carl Hiaasen (HY'-ah-sihn) is 62. Rock musician Steve Harris (Iron Maiden) is 59. Actor Jerry Levine is 58. Singer Marlon Jackson (The Jackson Five) is 58. Actor Jason Beghe is 55. Actor Courtney B. Vance is 55. Actor Titus Welliver is 54. Former MLB All-Star Darryl Strawberry is 53. Actress Julia Campbell is 52. Actor Aaron Eckhart is 47. CNN reporter Jake Tapper is 46. Rock musician Graham Coxon is 46. Country musician Tommy Bales (Flynnville Train) is 42. Actor Rhys Coiro is 36. Country singer Holly Williams is 34. Actor Samm (cq) Levine is 33. Actor Jaimie Alexander is 31. Actor Tyler Patrick Jones is 21. Actress Kendall Applegate is 16.

Thought for Today: "If power corrupts, being out of power corrupts absolutely." - Douglass (cq) Cater, American author and educator (1923-1995).