

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Saturday, March 28

**Anniv:** Gail & John Zeck

**Birthdays:** Craig Dunker, David Johnston, John Wheeting, Lana Jondahl, Neil Warrington, Riley Thurston, Bennett Suther  
State DI in Huron

## Sunday, March 29

**Birthdays:** Alexander Kern, Darcy Albrecht, Sharon Wheeting, Tyrel Telkamp  
9:00 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Sunday School  
9:15 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship  
10:00 a.m.: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Bethlehem Church, Pierpont.  
10:15 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship with Communion (SS Sings, Procession of Palms)  
3:30 p.m.: Fellowship at Golden Living Center (Confirmands Serve)

## Monday, March 30

**Birthdays:** Bonnie Cooper, Gordon Nelson, Jessica Osterman, Lori Seelye, Melenie Sombke, Sandy Tullis, Taylor Schmidt, Vickie Sippel  
6:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

## The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

## 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.

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

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## Friends . . . Near and Far

*Editor's Note: This is the third in a series featuring your friends, near and far.*

**Name:** Dulcy (Hamilton) Wipf

**Job** **Wise what are you doing today?** I am a kindergarten teacher in the Hitchcock-Tulare school district. I am currently in my second year there and previously I spent 10 years teaching preschool and pre-kindergarten at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Huron.

**What was your education?** I graduated from GHS in 1994 and then went to Northern State University to obtain a bachelors of science in education degree.

**What advice would you give the high school students today?** The advice I have to high school students is to set goals and live out your dreams.

**List your major accomplishments that you have had so far in life.** I received the Excellence in Education Award and HTCS Teacher of the Year.

**Are you married?** I am married to Larry and we have 2 children, Alex, 10 and Preston 7.

**Last question: do you feel that your high school and college education prepared you adequately for post education life?** GHS and the opportunities Groton had while I was growing up there, led me to become an educator.



Larry, Dulcy  
Alex, Preston

## Technical Issue Affecting Vehicle Registration System in Some Counties Fixed

PIERRE, S.D., -- Friday morning a technical issue surfaced, preventing some counties across the state from accessing a system that allows South Dakota drivers to renew their vehicle registration.

Several counties, Division of Motor Vehicle self-service terminals and an online customer portal were functioning properly.

"A software setting was altered, which created a technical barrier between some counties and the state's system," Jim Edman, Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Information and Telecommunication (BIT) said. "The solution involved restoring the necessary SDCars browser settings for users. We gathered all available staff to resolve the problem as quickly as possible in order to get the system running for county office use."

Peggy Laurenz, Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles said, "We understand the problems counties faced today with not being able to provide their usual high level of customer service, due to SDCars being down."

Andy Gerlach, Secretary, of the South Dakota Department of Revenue said, "This technical issue did not affect, nor was it related to, any of the Highway Funding Bill updates that are still on schedule to be implemented April 1."

### 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.

#### Lineman wanted

Electric lineman who will assist with miscellaneous City maintenance duties. Certified Journeyman mandatory. EOE. Send resume to City Finance Office, PO Box 587, 209 N Main, Groton, SD 57445 by April 17.

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## Expecting Another Busy Year For South Dakota's Parks

Spring has sprung and summer is around the corner. Now is a good time to plan a summer trip to one of our state parks. If not a week-long vacation, consider at least a weekend or weeknight stay.

State parks are great vacation spots for out-of-state tourists, but they are also great destinations for South Dakotans to spend some quality time with family and friends. We're fortunate to live in a state where beautiful outdoor opportunities are never too far away. We have an abundance of choices, too. We're home to 56 state parks and recreation areas including Angostura, Good Earth, North Point, Oko-bojo and Custer State Park. Hiking, biking, fishing, swimming, kayaking, boating – you can do all those things right here in South Dakota.

Last year, more people camped in South Dakota's state parks than ever before. Our parks hosted over 290,000 nights of camping for in- and out-of-state guests – up 3.8 percent from 2013. State park staff members expect this year to be just as busy.

Linda and I are already planning a trip to Custer State Park. We are reserving our spots early because a number of Linda's siblings and cousins will be joining us for a big family reunion.

Custer State Park takes reservations one year in advance. For other state parks, however, reservations open 90 days in advance. That means early summer dates are already available. And, starting the first week of April, you'll be able to make reservations for the Fourth of July weekend, which is the most popular camping weekend of the year.

Start planning your summer now so you don't miss out. Make reservations for your favorite campground as soon as possible. To reserve your spot, visit [campsd.com](http://campsd.com) or call 1-800-710-2267.

## Spending Responsibly By Senator Mike Rounds

The mindset in Washington for far too long has been “spend now, pay later,” leaving our children and grandchildren to pick up the tab. This has led to a national debt of more than \$18 trillion that threatens future economic growth. When Republicans took over the Senate this year, we promised to put an end to this kind of reckless spending. The budget we passed in the Senate offers a robust plan to not only rein in spending, but also grow the economy, repeal Obamacare and protect Americans from new tax burdens.

Balancing our budget is not new to South Dakotans. Our state leaders balance the budget every single year, which helps keep South Dakota’s economy strong and unemployment low. In addition, balancing the budget helps keep government accountable to taxpayers and makes sure their money is being spent wisely. The Senate budget resolution we passed would help accomplish all of these things. It would balance the budget over the course of ten years – without any additional taxes. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), which provides nonpartisan legislative analysis, estimates that by 2025 the spending reductions in the resolution alone will grow the economy 1.5 percent per person, providing them an additional \$1,200 dollars in income annually.

In addition to controlling spending, our budget offers the best path to repeal Obamacare, increases defense spending and encourages domestic energy production so we can become energy independent. It reforms welfare and Medicaid programs by providing states with the resources and flexibility necessary to care for their residents’ needs while protecting our most vulnerable citizens. This is a stark contrast to the policies promulgated by the President and Senate Democrats, and one we believe will get us on the right economic path.

I was pleased to offer a number of amendments to the budget resolution that were included in the final package. One of my amendments would open up mortgage options in rural areas to make it easier for families to purchase a home. Another amendment I offered seeks to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse within federal agencies. Overall, 53 amendments were voted on during debate, and dozens more adopted in the final budget resolution that was passed, giving all Senators a chance to offer their ideas.

Now that the budget resolution has passed, the Senate can begin to tackle chronic overspending and waste in government. We now have twelve opportunities in twelve separate appropriation bills in which we can impact how money at the federal level is being spent. When I was elected to the Senate, I promised South Dakotans that I would come to Washington to get things done. I intend to make good on that promise. Passing the budget resolution will give us the tools to start the real work of appropriating taxpayer’s hard earned dollars in a meaningful and responsible way.

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## Today in Weather History

March 28, 1977: A slow moving storm system affected South Dakota from March 28th through March 30th, 1977. The storm produced heavy snow in the west and thunderstorms in the east. Northerly winds gusting to 50 miles an hour in the west created blizzard conditions as the snow totals mounted. Some areas in western Butte, Pennington, northern Shannon, and Lawrence counties received over 20 inches of snow. With drifts exceeding 6 to 8 feet many people in the west thought it was the worst blizzard in a quarter century. A few locations in the northern Black Hills received over 4 feet of snow. Because of blocked roads westbound traffic was halted on I-90 and many schools and businesses were forced to close for several days. Across the eastern portion of the state rains of over 1" fell in many areas. Milbank even reported walnut size hail.

1917 - Thane Creek, AK, reported a snow cover of 190 inches. (The Weather Channel)

1920 - The worst tornado disaster of record occurred in Chicago IL as a tornado killed 28 persons and caused three million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1935 - On this date through March 31st, a great dust storm descended on Amarillo, Texas reducing visibility to zero for a six-hour period.

1984 - A violent outbreak of tornadoes hit the Carolinas. Thunderstorms spawned 22 tornadoes during the late afternoon and evening hours which killed 57 persons and injured 1248 others. Nearly half the deaths occurred in mobile homes. A tornado from near Tatum SC to southern Cumberland County NC was 2.5 miles in width at times. (The Weather Channel)

1963 - A decision was handed down in the case of Whitney Barbie vs. United States of America. Barbie sued the U.S. Weather Bureau for negligence in failing to provide warning about 1957's Hurricane Audrey. Barbie's wife and five children were killed after the 12 foot storm surge struck Cameron Parish, LA on the morning of June 27, 1957. It was ruled that the evidence presented did not establish negligence of the part of the Weather Bureau.

1987 - A blizzard raged from southern Nebraska to central Iowa. Snowfall totals ranged up to 17 inches at Blue Hill NE. Winds gusted to 68 mph at Carroll IA. High winds produced snow drifts twenty feet high in western Iowa, and produced wind chill readings as cold as 30 degrees below zero in Nebraska. The snowfall total of 9.4 inches at Omaha NE was a record for the date. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms in central Oklahoma produced hail up to four inches in diameter causing 35 million dollars in southern Oklahoma County. Baseball size hail and seven inches of rain caused another eighteen million dollars damage in Stephens County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed from the Southern and Central Plains to the Atlantic coast. Eighteen cities reported new record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 81 degrees at Beckley WV was a record for March, and the high of 90 degrees in downtown Baltimore MD tied their March record. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - A storm system brought heavy snow to the west central and southern mountains of Wyoming, and high winds to the Wasatch Mountains of northern Utah. Snowfall totals in Wyoming ranged up to ten inches at the Snowy Ski Range Area, and the storm pushed the snowfall total for the month at Cheyenne above 37 inches, surpassing their previous record for March of 35 inches. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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3rd Annual \* 5K WALK/RUN, BIKE, or RELAYS

GROTON AREA SCHOOL

Destination Imagination's

Race To Globals

\* SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH \*

Fund raising event for Groton Area School

Destination Imagination

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NEW!  
5K  
WALK OR RUN  
RELAYS!



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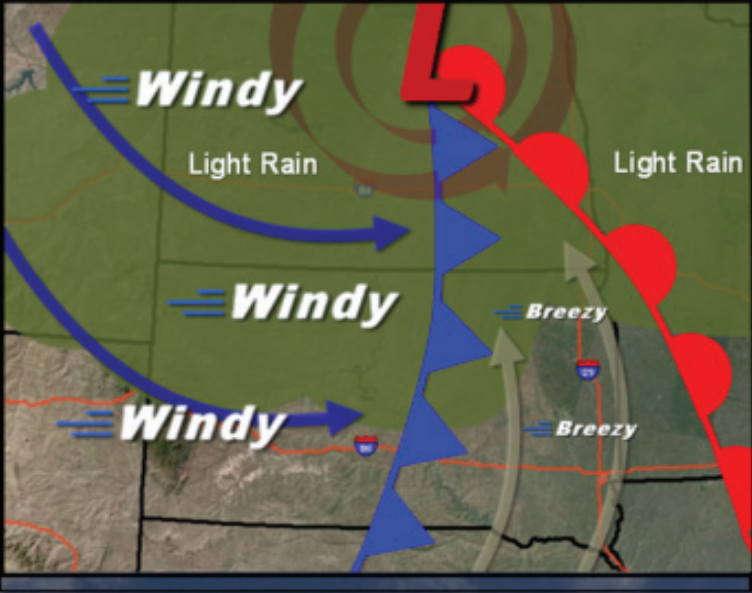
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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
	 70%					
Breezy	Rain Likely	Windy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 53 °F	Low: 39 °F	High: 56 °F	Low: 32 °F	High: 66 °F	Low: 36 °F	High: 67 °F



## Warm & Dry Will Turn Wet & Windy

Wet and Windy Tonight



**Windy**  
Light Rain

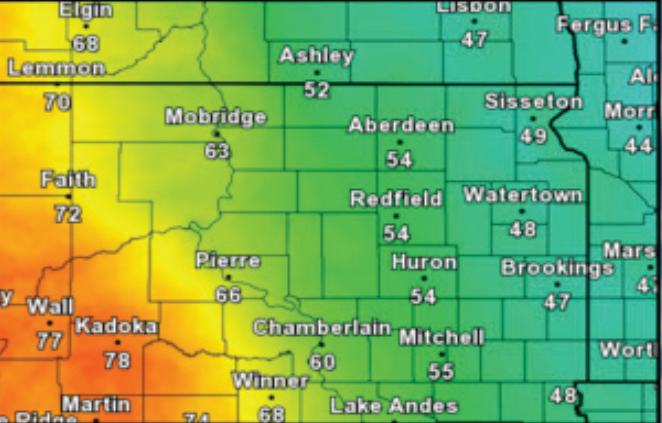
**Windy**  
Light Rain

**Windy**

Breezy




Breezy

Warm and Dry Afternoon



**Afternoon:** Breezy southerly winds and dry conditions are expected this afternoon.

**Tonight:** Light rain will spread across the region tonight, then very strong winds are expected behind a cold front overnight. Winds across western SD may gust in excess of 50 mph.

 [weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)
 Like
National Weather Service Aberdeen
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Published on: 03/28/2015 at 6:03AM

Warm and dry southerly winds are expected across the region this afternoon, ahead of an approaching low pressure system. Fire danger will be high. Tonight, the low pressure system and cold front track across the region. Light rain is possible. Of most concern is the strong and gusty northwest winds that will develop behind the cold front overnight. Gusts in excess of 50 mph are possible across the western Dakotas. Gusty winds will persist into Sunday.



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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 32.0 at 12:43 PM

**Low:** 13.2 at 6:33 AM

**High Gust:** 20 at 11:37 AM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 82° in 1946

**Record Low:** -10° in 1913

**Average High:** 46°F

**Average Low:** 25°F

**Average Precip in March.:** 0.97

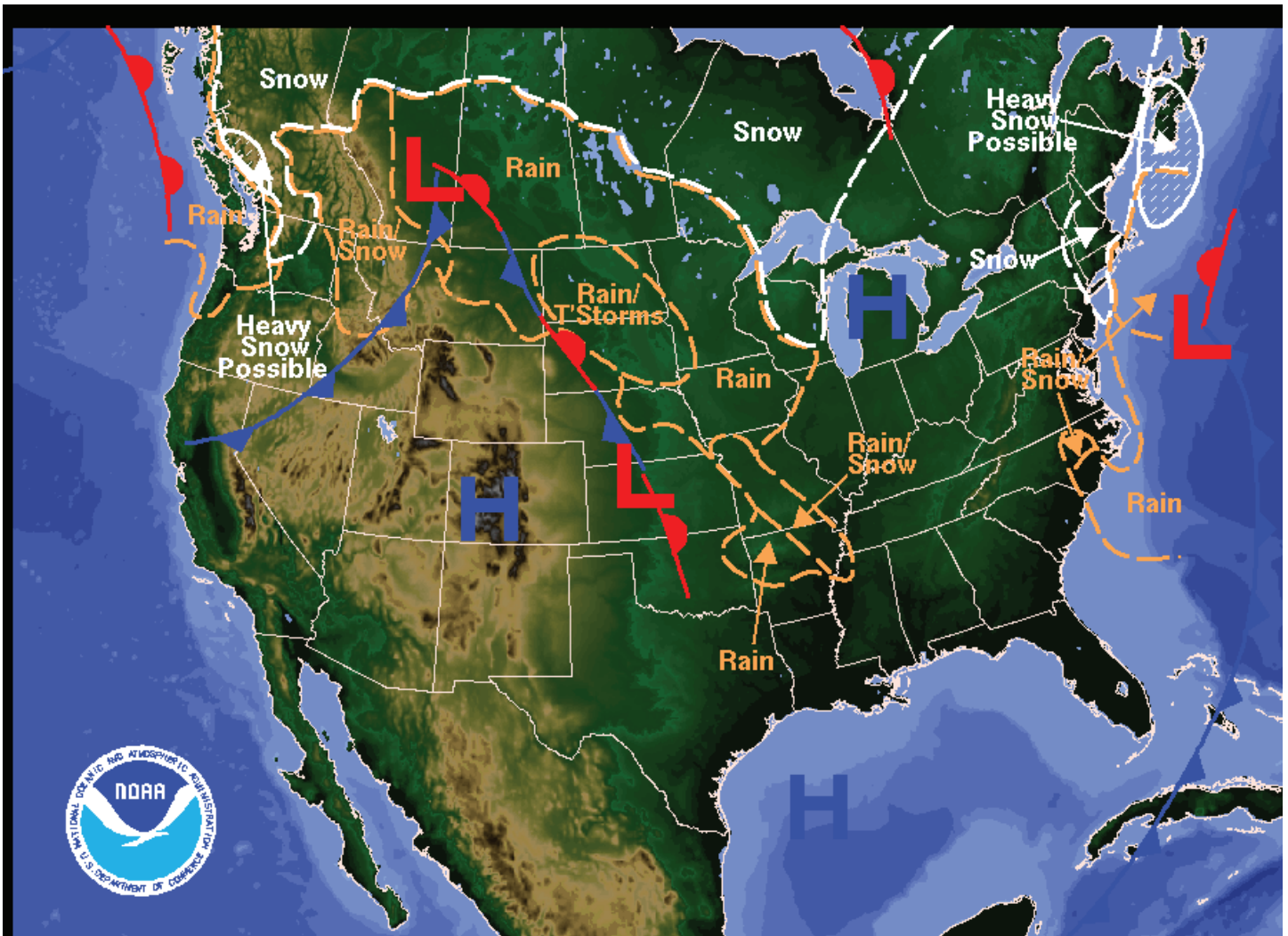
**Precip to date in March.:** 0.00

**Average Precip to date:** 1.99

**Precip Year to Date:** 0.40

**Sunset Tonight:** 7:56 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 7:20 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Mar 28, 2015, issued 4:20 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Santorelli based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



## WHAT GOD PROMISES TO REWARD

Most individuals want to be recognized and rewarded for doing good. Some dedicate their entire lives to work with the sick and oppressed. Others, who are wealthy, establish trusts or foundations and donate money to what they consider worthy causes. Many give generously to charitable organizations that serve the less fortunate or those overwhelmed by a disaster. Everyone seems to have a "touch point" in their heart that will trigger an urge to share.

But, there is no guarantee that our giving will bring us a reward, or in fact, benefit others. However, as sure as we are that our God is a faithful God and will keep His Word, Solomon, on behalf of God promises us that "Humility and fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life." Certainly, this verse will get the attention of "reward" seekers!

Yet, "seeking" a reward for the sake of a reward is not what this verse is all about. Notice the first word "humility" is followed by the familiar theme throughout Proverbs: "and fear of the Lord." One can be humble and not fear the Lord. Humility without fearing the Lord is self-serving and an end in itself. To be humble because we "fear the Lord" is rather different. This "fear" grows in the heart of a believer because God is recognized as being sovereign and worthy of worship and reverence, honor and praise.

Perhaps it is difficult to understand that "humility and fear of the Lord" will bring us "wealth and honor and life." So, can we really expect them as rewards? If we view God as He is and ourselves as we are, we have God's guarantee that He will bless us materially, socially and personally. How can this be? The "fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom!" Apply it!

**Prayer:** It's easy, Lord, to complicate life with grand schemes and false motives. Cleanse us and make us pure and humble. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** Proverbs 22:4 Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life.

## ATTENTION

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## South Dakotans trained on increasing native homeownership

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Thirty South Dakotans went through training this week in Pierre on how to help American Indians in the state buy their own homes.

The South Dakota Native Homeownership Coalition sponsored the financial education.

The 30 participants representing nonprofit organizations, tribal housing entities, tribal departments and community development financial institutions became certified to provide financial literacy training for natives.

The class focused on budgeting, savings, understanding credit and planning for the future.

The coalition is a collaboration of representatives from South Dakota's tribes, federal and state agencies, tribally designated housing entities, nonprofit organizations, housing developers, lenders and others.

## USDA says South Dakota's hog and pig numbers up 8 percent

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture says the number of hogs and pigs in the state is up 8 percent from the same time last year.

The South Dakota office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service says there were nearly 1.3 million head on March 1, an 8 percent increase over the same time last year and a 3 percent increase over Dec. 1, 2014.

The breeding hog inventory of 165,000 is a 3 percent decrease over the same time last year but the 1.12 million market hogs are a 9 percent jump.

The December 2014 to February 2015 pig crop of 918,000 head was up 5 percent from 2014. Sows farrowed during the period totaled 85,000 head, up 4 percent from last year.

## Airspace expansion a win for SD, could cost other states

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An enormous bomber training area over the northern Plains approved this week is likely an economic win for South Dakota, but the benefits could come with a cost for neighboring states.

Advocates of the plan to expand the Powder River Training Complex over the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming gathered Friday in Rapid City to celebrate its final approval by the Federal Aviation Administration. South Dakota officials praised the expanded airspace, which will be used by B-1 bombers from Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota and B-52 bombers from Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota, for improving training opportunities that will bolster the entire country's national security.

The move also will likely help shield Ellsworth from potential future closure and further cement its estimated \$350 million impact on South Dakota's economy as the state's second-largest employer. U.S. Sen. John Thune, who has been pushing for the expansion since 2006, has said the larger airspace could protect Ellsworth from the federal cost-cutting program that had targeted the base in 2005.

"Ellsworth is one of the key economic engines of the state," said Aaron Scheibe, deputy commissioner of the Governor's Office of Economic Development. "This is a great announcement for Ellsworth, for the Black Hills and really all of South Dakota."

The expansion roughly quadruples the training airspace, making it the largest over the continental

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U.S. The Air Force estimates that the expanded airspace could save Ellsworth up to \$23 million a year in fuel costs by reducing the number of training flights to states such as Utah and Nevada. Officials have said the expansion will significantly improve the training opportunities for aircrews at both bases.

Benjamin Snow, president of the Rapid City Economic Development Partnership, said the base's closure would leave a huge hole in region's economy and said the expansion is helpful for ensuring that doesn't happen.

"It's hard to imagine a world like that, so we tend not to go there," Snow said. "Some of the other states have concerns, but when you look at the big picture I think this a very shrewd move."

Elected leaders in Montana have said the bombers would disrupt rural communities. Gov. Steve Bullock wrote in a mid-March letter to the FAA that the expansion "would be at the expense of the livelihoods and economic prosperity of Montanans."

Bullock said rural airfields, such as eastern Montana's Baker Municipal Airport, would be significantly disrupted.

Under the Air Force plan, supersonic flights would be limited to 10 days a year during large-scale exercises involving roughly 20 aircraft. As many as 88 civilian flights a day could be delayed when the large-scale exercises are conducted.

Roger Meggers, who manages the Baker airport, said the expansion would harm the whole community by restricting access to transportation.

"It hurts our economy," Meggers said. "That's how people get to Baker, Montana."

Meggers said the plan would also disrupt the oil-and-gas-rich region. U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, a Democrat from North Dakota, said in a statement that she would continue pressuring the Air Force to honor its commitments and work "hand-in-hand with local aviators and businesses to protect our way of life."

Thune, speaking at the press conference Friday, said that the Air Force went to "unprecedented lengths" to accommodate concerns. He said the expansion is a long time coming.

"It's a dangerous world, folks," Thune said. "We're going to need those airmen at Ellsworth Air Force Base to be ready to go when the time comes."

## **Eagle Butte man says he considers 'KKK' scars case a victory**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — An Eagle Butte man whose claims of civil rights violations by Rapid City health care workers were rejected by jurors says he still considers his court battle a victory.

Federal jurors on Friday ruled that Rapid City Regional Hospital is not liable for the "KKK" scars that Vern Traversie says workers carved into his stomach during heart surgery in 2011. Traversie sued the hospital for alleged violations of civil rights, battery and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

The 71-year-old Traversie said in a statement that he shared his story only to make sure that no other American Indians are treated in an "uncaring" way.

He says powerful institutions in Rapid City have now learned that American Indians have a voice and are not afraid to call for justice.

## **2 men charged with robbery for holding up Aberdeen casino**

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Two men suspected of robbing a South Dakota casino have been formally charged.

Thirty-three-year-old Roger Kihega and 22-year-old Michael Washington have both been charged with first-degree robbery, a Class 2 felony. Kihega, of Cokato, Minnesota, has also been charged with pos-

sessing a firearm as a felon.

Authorities allege the two men robbed the Casino Korner in Aberdeen on Jan. 19. No one was hurt, though police say shots were fired in the holdup.

The American News reports Judge Mark Anderson set bail at \$100,000 for Kihega and \$50,000 for Washington. In court, Anderson said he considered both men flight risks.

The penalty for a Class 2 felony in South Dakota includes up to 25 years in prison, a \$50,000 fine or both.

## **North Sioux City student wins national geographic state bee**

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — An 8th grader from North Sioux City has won the South Dakota National Geographic State Bee.

Dakota Valley Middle School student Damian Herrera beat more than 70 of his fellow South Dakota students Friday.

For winning, Herrera will receive \$100 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to represent South Dakota in the national championship at National Geographic Society headquarters in May.

The first place national champion will receive a \$50,000 college scholarship, a lifetime membership in the Society and a trip to the Galápagos Islands.

National Geographic Channel and Nat Geo WILD will air the final round of the National Geographic Bee Championship at on May 15.

Herrera competed against students on Friday who ranged in age from 10 to 14.

## **Mexican national gets 80 years in 2009 slaying of SD teen**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A 20-year-old Mexican national convicted of murdering a teenager has been sentenced to 80 years in prison.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says Maricela Diaz was sentenced Friday to 80 years for first-degree murder and 50 years for felony murder kidnapping. Her sentences will run concurrently.

A jury found Diaz guilty in January for her role in the death of 16-year-old Jasmine Guevara.

Diaz was 15 at the time of the incident but was tried in adult court. Prosecutors say Diaz and then-boyfriend Alexander Salgado lured Guevara to a remote site near Mitchell, stabbed her and left her to die in the trunk of a burning car.

Salgado pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in August 2010. He is currently serving a life sentence at the state penitentiary.

## **2nd western Minnesota turkey farm hit by bird flu outbreak**

**STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A second Minnesota turkey farm has been struck by a form of bird flu that's deadly to poultry and will lose 66,000 birds, state and federal officials said Friday.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said the virus hit a flock of 22,000 turkeys at a commercial farm in Lac qui Parle County of western Minnesota. It was the state's second confirmation of the highly pathogenic H5N2 avian influenza strain, which was confirmed at a Pope County turkey farm about three weeks ago.

That was the first detection of H5N2 in the Mississippi Flyway, a major bird migration route, and the same strain also has been confirmed in commercial and backyard flocks in Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas in the past three weeks. The same strain also has turned up in several western states in the Pacific

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Flyway.

State Veterinarian Bill Hartmann said there's no apparent connection between the two Minnesota farms, which he said are far apart and owned by different companies. While officials don't know how either operation became infected, he said they don't think it spread farm-to-farm.

State Health Commissioner Ed Ehlinger said no humans are known to have been infected with H5N2 in the U.S. While people who handle infected birds can be at risk, he said none who had contact with the Pope County turkeys became sick. Ten workers at the Lac qui Parle County farm will be monitored for the next 10 days.

"Our food system is safe, food is safe, and there's no public health risk," Ehlinger said.

But state Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson said the new outbreak is another blow to poultry exports from Minnesota, the nation's top turkey producing state. More than 40 countries banned poultry imports from Minnesota after the first outbreak. Frederickson said Mexico had relaxed its controls in recent days but is now expected to fully re-impose them.

The new outbreak quickly killed all 22,000 of the 12-week-old turkeys in the affected barn, Hartman said. The 44,000 birds in the other two barns on the farm appear healthy but will be killed as a precaution and kept out of the food supply, he said.

Following standard protocols, the farm was quarantined and a surveillance zone was declared for a 10-kilometer radius around the farm. That zone extends into South Dakota, so Minnesota officials are working with their counterparts there on the response, Hartman said. He also said it's fortunate that there are no other commercial poultry operations within that zone, only backyard flocks.

Scientists consider wild migratory waterfowl to be a natural reservoir for avian influenza. While they don't generally get sick from flu viruses, they can spread them through their droppings. But there's disagreement over whether to blame them for the virus' arrival in Minnesota.

Lou Cornicelli, wildlife research manager for the state Department of Natural Resources, said that there was little open water near the Pope County farm and only a handful of resident wild ducks. He said his researchers took 148 environmental samples but found no H5N2.

"The direct waterfowl link in Minnesota doesn't add up," Cornicelli said.

But Hartman wasn't ready to discount waterfowl as the source.

"What we have agreed on is the source of this is unknown," he said.

## South Dakota jury finds hospital not liable for 'KKK' scars

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) A federal jury has found that a South Dakota hospital is not liable in a case in which a man claimed health care workers carved the letters "KKK" into his stomach during heart surgery in 2011.

Jurors ruled in favor of Rapid City Regional Hospital on Friday after five hours of deliberation.

The hospital maintained that the marks on Vern Traversie's abdomen were the result of a skin reaction to medical tape.

The Rapid City Journal reports that the 71-year-old sued the hospital for alleged violations of civil rights, battery and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Traversie is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

State and federal authorities earlier concluded there was no criminal wrongdoing.

## **State board approves more than \$83 million for projects**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Board of Water and Natural Resources has approved more than \$83 million for water and waste management projects.

The funding includes about \$14 million in grants and about \$69 million in low-interest loans. The board met Thursday and Friday in Pierre.

The city of Sioux Falls is receiving more than \$31 million that includes more than \$11 million to install a new 36-inch diameter water main and more than \$18 million for sewer replacement. The city of Brandon is also receiving more than \$15 million in loans for sewer and drinking water improvements.

All loans and grants will be administered through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

## **Daktronics to build 18 LED displays for new Vikings stadium**

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota-based Daktronics has been chosen to design and build 18 high-definition video displays for the new Minnesota Vikings stadium.

The Minneapolis Sports Facilities Authority told the Brookings-based company Friday it got the bid to manufacture a total of more than 25,000 square feet of LED displays. The main display will measure about 68 feet high by 120 feet wide.

Daktronics Inc. makes and services video display systems for customers around the world, including several professional sports teams in the U.S. Two stadiums used for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil were equipped with Daktronics-made displays.

In addition to plants in South Dakota and China, the company employs about 200 people in Redwood Falls, Minnesota.

The \$1 billion stadium is set to open in August 2016.

## **AP News in Brief**

### **Popular Nevada governor would be favorite for Reid seat in 2016, but shows little interest**

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid's decision to retire next year leaves no clear successor in his home state of Nevada, where a popular Republican governor appears reluctant to change jobs and the pending loss of Reid's clout in Washington is causing anxiety over who might replace him.

As of Friday, the list of potential candidates came down to Gov. Brian Sandoval and everyone else. The political centrist who was easily re-elected last year is likely to face intense pressure from national Republicans and business interests to pick up where Reid leaves off on Capitol Hill.

Sandoval didn't deliver an unequivocal "no" Friday but he made clear the 2016 contest wasn't on his current agenda.

"My focus is in on Nevada, period. Politics can take care of itself, but right now I am absolutely laser-focused on getting my budget through and improving education in Nevada," he said.

Beyond the governor, the race would be wide open.

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## **'Finished': Top Italian court finds Knox and ex-beau innocent of British roommate's murder**

ROME (AP) — Amanda Knox, who maintained that she and her former Italian boyfriend were innocent in her British roommate's murder through multiple trials and nearly four years in jail, was vindicated Friday when Italy's highest court threw out their convictions once and for all.

"Finished!" Knox's lawyer Carlo Dalla Vedova exulted after the decision was read out late Friday. "It couldn't be better than this."

The surprise decision definitively ends the 7½-year legal battle waged by Knox, 27, and co-defendant Raffaele Sollecito, 31, to clear their names in the gruesome 2007 murder and sexual assault of British student Meredith Kercher.

The supreme Court of Cassation panel deliberated for 10 hours before declaring that the two did not commit the crime, a stronger exoneration than merely finding insufficient evidence to convict. Instead, had the court-of-resort upheld the pair's convictions, Knox would have faced 28 ½ years in an Italian prison, assuming she would have been extradited, while Sollecito had faced 25 years.

"Right now I'm still absorbing what all this means and what comes to mind is my gratitude for the life that's been given to me," Knox said late Friday, speaking to reporters outside her mother's Seattle home.

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## **Marriage plans and writing occupy Amanda Knox in US**

SEATTLE (AP) — Despite the murder case hanging over her head, Amanda Knox tried to lead a normal life in the more than three years since she was freed from an Italian prison: She recently got engaged and has started writing theater reviews and other articles for a weekly paper in her hometown.

An appeals court in 2011 cleared Knox in the 2007 slaying of British roommate Meredith Kercher and ordered her released after she had spent four years in prison. But her acquittal was overturned and Knox's case has slowly wound its way through the country's judicial system. She was convicted in absentia in 2014. On Friday, Italy's highest court overturned that murder conviction, finally closing Knox's long legal saga.

Mostly left alone by the media in Seattle since her return from Italy, the 27-year-old former exchange student completed her studies at the University of Washington and spends time with family and friends.

Knox graduated from the University of Washington last year with a degree in creative writing. She recently started working as a freelance reporter for the West Seattle Herald.

Managing Editor Ken Robinson told The Associated Press that Knox has completed pieces on local theater productions and "the occasional feature story."

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## **Co-pilot appeared healthy, but may have hidden illness, torn-up sick notes for day of crash**

MONTABAUR, Germany (AP) — Germanwings co-pilot Andreas Lubitz appeared happy and healthy to acquaintances, but a picture emerged Friday of a man who hid evidence of an illness from his employers — including a torn-up doctor's note that would have kept him off work the day authorities say he crashed Flight 9525 into an Alpine mountainside.

As German prosecutors sought to piece together the puzzle of why Lubitz locked his captain out of the cockpit and crashed the Airbus A320, police in the French Alps toiled to retrieve the shattered remains of the 150 people killed in Tuesday's crash.

Searches conducted at Lubitz's homes in Duesseldorf and in the town of Montabaur turned up documents pointing to "an existing illness and appropriate medical treatment," but no suicide note was found, said Ralf Herrenbrueck, a spokesman for the Duesseldorf prosecutors' office.

They included ripped-up sick notes covering the day of the crash, which "support the current preliminary assessment that the deceased hid his illness from his employer and colleagues," Herrenbrueck said in a statement.

Doctors commonly issue employees in Germany with such notes excusing them from work, even for minor illnesses, and workers hand them to their employers. Doctors are obliged to abide by medical secrecy unless their patient explicitly tells them he or she plans to commit an act of violence.

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## **Arab leaders begin summit in Egypt as countries take part in airstrike campaign in Yemen**

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP) — Arab leaders are meeting in a key summit in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, days after a Saudi-led, 10-nation alliance began a campaign of airstrikes against Iranian-backed Shiite rebels and their allies in Yemen.

Saturday's summit was preceded by a meeting between Saudi Arabia's King Salman, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and Yemen's embattled leader Abed Raboo Mansour Hadi.

Hadi fled the Yemeni port city of Aden earlier this week in the face of a military push by the rebels, also known as the Houthis, and their allies, forces loyal to his ousted predecessor Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Of the Arab League's 22 heads of state, 14 were in attendance Saturday as the meeting began.

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## **Protests over Indiana's new religious objections law has local leaders trying to stem fallout**

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The heat over Indiana's new religious objections law spread Friday across social media and to the White House as many local officials and business groups around the state tried to jump in and stem the fallout.

Use of the hashtag (hash)boycottindiana spread across Twitter, spurred on by activists such as "Star Trek" actor George Takei, who argued that the measure opens the door to legalized discrimination against gay people. Apple CEO Tim Cook also tweeted his objections, saying he was "deeply disappointed" in the Indiana law.

Supporters of the bill that Republican Gov. Mike Pence signed Thursday say discrimination claims are overblown. They maintain courts haven't allowed that to happen under similar laws covering the federal government and in 19 other states. The measure, which takes effect in July, prohibits state and local laws that "substantially burden" the ability of people — including businesses and associations — to follow their religious beliefs.

Some national gay-rights groups say lawmakers in Indiana and about a dozen other states proposed such bills this year as a way to essentially grant a state-sanctioned waiver for discrimination as the nation's highest court prepares to mull the gay marriage question.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest on Friday noted the negative reaction to the Indiana law from many businesses and organizations around the country.

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## **Somalia police: Attack on hotel by al-Shabab extremists ended by troops; at least 17 dead**

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Somali troops on Saturday took full control of a hotel that extremist gunmen stormed and occupied for more than 12 hours following a suicide bombing. At least 17 people died and dozens were wounded.

The gunfire has stopped and security agents have accessed the whole building, said senior police officer Capt. Mohamed Hussein. He had earlier said the gunmen were believed to have occupied the third and fourth floors of the the Maka Al-Mukarramah hotel in the capital Mogadishu.

“The operation has ended. We have taken full control of the hotel,” Hussein said.

Hussein said security forces found four more bodies in the hotel Saturday, plus nine dead on Friday. Four more people died in the hospital, according to Duniya Mohamed, a doctor at Madina hospital in Mogadishu. Hussein Ali, an official of Mogadishu’s ambulance service, said there were 28 wounded.

There was no immediate indication of how many of the dead were attackers, all of whom were killed according to Hussein.

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## **2 Russians, 1 American board space station; 2 to spend a year away from Earth**

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan (AP) — Two Russians and an American floated into the International Space Station on Saturday, beginning what is to be a year away from Earth for two of them.

Mikhail Kornienko and Scott Kelly are to spend 342 days aboard the orbiting laboratory, about twice as long as a standard mission on the station. Russia’s Gennady Padalka is beginning a six-month stay.

The three astronauts entered the station about eight hours after launching from Russia’s manned space facility in Kazakhstan. They were embraced by American Terry Virts and Russia’s Anton Shkaplerov who along with Italian Samantha Cristoforetti have been aboard since late November.

The trip is NASA’s first attempt at a one-year spaceflight; four Russians have spent a year or more in space, all on the Soviet-built Mir space station.

The stay is aimed at measuring the effects of a prolonged period of weightlessness on the human body, a step toward possible missions to Mars or beyond.

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## **‘Why the hell are you asking this?’ Thailand’s mercurial junta leader known for sharp tongue**

BANGKOK (AP) — Ear tugs. A flying banana peel. Sarcastic remarks about getting smacked, or punched — or even executed. Such is life for the press corps covering Thailand’s notoriously testy military ruler.

Since leading a putsch that ousted Thailand’s elected government last May, general-turned-prime minister Prayuth Chan-ocha has been thrust from the relative privacy of army life into the public arena of the politician. He has pounded on the podium during news conferences, lambasted his questioners, and simply stomped away. In one case, he summoned two journalists for asking “inappropriate” questions about when and whether elections would be held. His government, meanwhile, has engaged in censorship and leaned on media outlets to censor themselves.

But the mercurial junta leader has also presided over light-hearted press briefings filled with humor — even song — in which journalists have joked back. The media found it less funny Wednesday when Prayuth sardonically suggested he might execute journalists deemed overly critical. Manop Thip-osod, a spokesman for the Thai Journalists Association, said earlier this month that the way Prayuth com-

municates “has to change.”

Some of Prayuth’s most memorable comments and interactions with the media since he seized power:

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## Not Cinderella’s dance: Saturday’s regional finals feature Kentucky and 3 other heavyweights

Saturday night’s games will decide half the Final Four, and the big boys have pushed the Cinderellas off the dance floor.

Arizona and Wisconsin are back in Southern California fighting for a Final Four berth again. In Cleveland, Notre Dame takes on the biggest heavyweight college basketball has seen in decades, and Kentucky is favored to keep its undefeated season going and deny the Fighting Irish their first Final Four trip since 1978.

The first game features Pac-12 champs (regular season and tournament) against the Big Ten champs (regular season and tournament) in a rematch of last year’s West Regional final. In that game, second-seeded Wisconsin beat top-seeded Arizona 64-63 in overtime. This year the seedings are reversed, and plenty of players are back from both teams.

“They made one more play in overtime than we did,” Arizona’s Gabe York said Friday. “That was a crazy, crazy scenario. There were only 2 seconds left and it took them about 15 minutes for those 2 seconds to end.”

The Badgers (34-3) advanced with a win over North Carolina, while Arizona (34-3) beat Xavier in the Sweet 16.

## Today in History

### The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, March 28, the 87th day of 2015. There are 278 days left in the year.

### Today’s Highlight in History:

On March 28, 1979, America’s worst commercial nuclear accident occurred with a partial meltdown inside the Unit 2 reactor at the Three Mile Island plant near Middletown, Pennsylvania.

### On this date:

In 1515, St. Teresa of Avila was born Teresa de Cepeda y Ahumada.

In 1834, the U.S. Senate voted to censure President Andrew Jackson for the removal of federal deposits from the Bank of the United States.

In 1854, during the Crimean War, Britain and France declared war on Russia.

In 1898, the Supreme Court, in *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, ruled that a child born in the United States to Chinese immigrants was a U.S. citizen.

In 1930, the names of the Turkish cities of Constantinople and Angora were changed to Istanbul and Ankara.

In 1935, the notorious Nazi propaganda film “Triumph des Willens” (Triumph of the Will), directed by Leni Riefenstahl, premiered in Berlin with Adolf Hitler present.

In 1941, novelist and critic Virginia Woolf, 59, drowned herself near her home in Lewes, East Sussex, England.

In 1955, John Marshall Harlan II was sworn in as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1965, an earthquake of magnitude 7.4 struck La Ligua, Chile, leaving about 400 people dead or

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missing, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1969, the 34th president of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, died in Washington D.C. at age 78.

In 1987, Maria von Trapp, whose life story inspired the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The Sound of Music," died in Morrisville, Vermont, at age 82.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush presented the Congressional Gold Medal to the widow of U.S. Olympic legend Jesse Owens.

**Ten years ago:** The Colorado Supreme Court threw out the death penalty in a rape-and-murder case because five of the trial jurors had consulted the Bible and quoted Scripture during deliberations. (The U.S. Supreme Court refused to consider reinstating the death sentence of Robert Harlan, who ended up being resentenced to life in prison for the murder of cocktail waitress Rhonda Maloney.) A major earthquake off the west coast of Indonesia killed some 1,300 people.

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama secretly visited Afghanistan near the front lines of the increasingly bloody 8-year-old war. Actress-writer June Havoc, 97, whose childhood in vaudeville was immortalized in the musical "Gypsy," died in Stamford, Connecticut. Jazz guitarist Herb Ellis died in Los Angeles at age 88.

**One year ago:** Russian President Vladimir Putin called President Barack Obama to discuss a solution to the crisis in Ukraine; the leaders agreed that top U.S. and Russian diplomats should work on the details. Yuzuru Hanyu of Japan became the first man in 12 years to win the Olympic and world figure skating titles in the same year. Jeremiah Denton, 89, a former U.S. senator who'd survived 7 1/2 years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, died in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Ray Rice married Janay Palmer a day after the Baltimore Ravens running back was indicted for aggravated assault for punching his fiancée in an Atlantic City, New Jersey, casino elevator. (Charges against Rice were dropped when he agreed to enter an intervention program.)

**Today's Birthdays:** Former White House national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski (ZBIG'-nyef breh-ZHIN'-skee) is 87. Author Mario Vargas Llosa is 79. Country musician Charlie McCoy is 74. Movie director Mike Newell is 73. Actress Conchata Ferrell is 72. Actor Ken Howard is 71. Actress Dianne Wiest (weest) is 69. Country singer Reba McEntire is 60. Olympic gold medal gymnast Bart Conner is 57. Rapper Salt (Salt-N-Pepa) is 49. Actress Tracey Needham is 48. Actor Max Perlich is 47. Movie director Brett Ratner is 46. Country singer Rodney Atkins is 46. Actor Vince Vaughn is 45. Rapper Mr. Cheeks (Lost Boyz) is 44. Actor Ken L. is 42. Singer/songwriter Matt Nathanson is 42. Rock musician Dave Keuning is 39. Actress Annie Wersching is 38. Actress Julia Stiles is 34. Singer Lady Gaga is 29.

**Thought for Today:** "Those who say they give the public what it wants begin by underestimating public taste and end by debauching it." - T.S. Eliot, American-Anglo poet and critic (1888-1965).