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Wednesday, December 23

No School

Senior Menu: Turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, carrot bar.

Anniversaries: Jerry & Joan Johnson, Jerry & Ramona Rossow, Marc & Fran Sippel

Birthday: Diane Lewandowski, John Padfield
6:30pm: St. John's Lutheran Christmas Program practice

Thursday, December 24

No School

Christmas Eve

Senior Menu: Baked chicken, rice pilaf, cauliflower/pea salad, tapioca pudding, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Merry Jo Ball, Holly Carlson, Carmen Craig, Brian Townsend, Christine Young, Katie Bull, Aaron Cobb, Michael Erdmann, Kenley Johnson

5:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

5:00pm: St. John's Lutheran Christmas Eve Service

8:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

Friday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY!

No School

Birthdays: Angela Carlson • Scott Fordham
9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship

Saturday, December 26

Birthday: Ben Peterson

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, December 27

Birthdays: Rayne Baker, Raymond Alberts, Jane Johnson, Emily Overacker, Karla Pasteur

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Some Kindergarten Students . . .

What Christmas means to them . . .



Brayden Barrera, son of Tasha and Beltran Barrera, Groton, it is about toys and clothes and games

Merry Christmas!

Fire Safety First

413 N Congress St, Aberdeen ~ 229-2270

Merry Christmas!



Jaxon Khali, son of Djamel and Kristen Khali, Groton, it means friends and family

John Bisbee, son of Tony and Amanda Bisbee, Columbia, is Jesus' birthday

Shaydon Wood, son of Shad and Darcy Wood, Stratford, friends and family and getting presents

T.C. Schuster, son of Tom and Sarah Schuster, Bath, Jesus' getting born

Troy Nickeson, son of Lee and Sharla Nickeson, Groton, having fun, nice and getting presents

Allen McKiver, Owner
605-397-4747



MCKIVER COLLISION

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TITAN
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CASE II
AGRICULTURE

Justin Hanson, Field Marketer
justin.hanson@titanmachinery.com

Bjerke rebounds and put up game winning shot in overtime as Lady Tigers beat Roncalli

Jessica Bjerke scored all four of her points in overtime as the Lady Tigers rallied to beat Aberdeen Roncalli in girls basketball action Tuesday night in Aberdeen, 43-42.

"We wore them down in the end," said Coach Shaun Wanner. "I thought we were the better conditioned team. The girls never gave up. When you're on a winning cycle, they will keep battling to the end." Groton Area is now 5-0 on the season.

Groton controlled the tip and scored first, but Roncalli's Grace Imberi hit a pair of three-pointers to start the Cavalier rally and soon Roncalli took a 10-3 lead. The Cavaliers led, 12-6, at the end of the first quarter. In the first quarter, the Tigers made eight percent of its field goals and was four of six from the line and had two turnovers. Roncalli made 35 percent of its field goals and had two turnovers.

Roncalli had a pair of turnovers to start out the second quarter and the Tigers took advantage of them as Audrey Wanner hit a two-pointer and Harleigh Stange hit a three-pointer to cut the lead to one. Wanner made a pair of free throws and Groton took its first lead, 13-12. The lead went back to Roncalli after the Cavaliers made a pair of field goals, but Groton returned the favor when Carly Wheeting made a field goal and a three-pointer to give the Tigers a 20-16 lead. Roncalli went on a run to finish the first half, scoring the last six points to take a 26-20 lead into the locker room. Both teams made 60 percent of their field goals. The Tigers made three of four free throws and the Cavaliers made one of two free throws and had two turnovers.



Katie Koehler runs the offense. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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GROTON
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Wheeting led the Tigers in scoring for the first half with 10 points while Wanner had seven and Stange three. Imberi led the Cavaliers with nine points followed by Taylor Morgan with six, Jami Ewart had four and Megan Streier with three.

Both team struggled to find the net in the third quarter. Wanner made two free throws and the first basket of the quarter was scored by Wanner with 5:23 left in the third quarter. Wheeting added a field goal and the Tigers tied the game at 26. Imberi made Roncalli's first field goal of the quarter with 3:17 left and Morgan made one of two free throws with 27 seconds left. Roncalli took a 29-26 lead into the fourth quarter. In the third quarter, Groton made 25 percent of its field goals and Roncalli made 10 percent. The Tigers were two of four from the line and had three turnovers. Roncalli made one of two free throws and had one turnover.

No scoring was done for the first half of the fourth quarter, but once it started, the intensity level in-



Coach Shaun Wanner goes over a play during a time out. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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creased. Wanner hit a three-pointer and Stange followed with a three-pointer as Groton took a 34-31 lead. The Cavaliers made their first field goal with 1:15 left in regulation. Groton still had a 37-33 lead with 65 seconds left as Wanner drove to the basket. Streier answered for the Cavaliers and Cassie Kulm made her first field goal of the game with 15 seconds left to tie the game at 37. The Tigers had two shots and missed and ended up fouling Ewart with 3.2 seconds left. She went to the line, but missed the front end of the bonus free throw and the game went into overtime. Both teams made 33 percent of their field goals. The Tigers were one of two from the line and had one turnover, that with 40 seconds left which set up the game tying shot. Roncalli made two of three free throws



Audrey Wanner goes for the layup. (Photo

by Julianna Kosel)



Carly Wheeting battles to get to the basket.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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BLOCKER
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NEW CONSTRUCTION
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HOOP BARNs

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Miranda Hanson looks for an open teammate. (Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

and had three turnovers.

It was Jessica Bjerke sparking the Tigers in the overtime as she gave Groton a 39-37 lead. The Cavaliers took the lead, 40-39 with 50 seconds left. Wanner put Groton back on top, 41-40 with 28 seconds left. Ewart answered for Roncalli with 18 seconds left to give the Cavaliers the lead, 42-41. Time out was called with 12 seconds left and Groton had the ball near mid court. Katie Koehler tried a three-pointer from the top of the key which did not go in, but in a battle for the rebound, Bjerke grabbed the ball, put it up and in to give the Tigers the lead, 43-42. Roncalli still had a chance with two seconds left, but the inbound pass was intercepted by Wanner and the Tigers keep their perfect record going.

Wanner led the Tigers with 19 points followed by Wheeting with 14, Stange had six and Bjerke four. The Tigers made 31 percent of its field goals. Groton was four of 15 from three-point country with Stange making two shots and Wanner and Wheeting each making one. Groton was nine of 18 from the line for 50 percent, had 35 rebounds with Wheeting have 11 and Bjerke 10, four assists, seven steals with Emily Locke and Wheeting each having two, 12 turnovers and 15 foul with Wheeting fouling out.

Roncalli was led by Ewart with 12 followed by Imberi with 11, Morgan 10, STreiner five and Kulm and Mariah Winegar with two each. The Cavaliers were three of six from the line and had 16 team fouls.

Roncalli won the junior varsity game, 37-14. Payton Maine and Miranda Hanson each had three points and adding two points apiece were Taylor Holm, Madison Sippel, Portia Kettering and Hattie Weismantel.

Groton will host Langford on Monday, Jan. 4.

Changes in Argentinian Government to Affect U.S. Wheat Prices Column by Alvaro Garcia, SDSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Director & Professor

Today's agriculture operates in a globalized world where something that happens in one region or country affects another. Communications have acted as a catalyst for this globalization; what took days or even weeks to be known in the past, take seconds today. There is a commitment by the World Trade Organization (WTO) to remove all "barriers" to international trade and lead to "free trade" among countries. There will be Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats for every country, the SWOT analysis performed on any project or endeavor.

One example is that of Argentina and its impending impacts on U.S. grain prices. According to the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates from the USDA released Dec. 9, 2015, global wheat supplies for the 2015-2016 year have increased 2.3 million tons. This is primarily due to increased production but also higher beginning stocks. For this next year wheat trade is expected to increase 1.3 million tons because of larger supplies. A significant player in this market will be Argentina whose wheat exports are expected to grow by 1 million tons.

This is not just explained by a great harvest in this South American country. The previous Argentinian government, which ended its mandate Dec. 9, 2015, had established what were called "retentions" to several of their exportable agricultural products. In essence, it was a pre-established percentage or tax, effective at the time of the sale that each farmer had to pay. The funds "retained" were incorporated to the national budget. Soybeans for example had 35 percent retention, just imagine how much money 35 percent of the Argentinian soybean crop represented!

Farmers who sold grain in the international market did so at the world price minus these "government retentions." Not only was Argentina heavily taxing agriculture crops but also China and Russia. Russia, a world leader in wheat exports, has implemented a 40 percent retention.

On Dec. 10, 2015, Argentina had national government elections and radically changed the direction of its economy.

One change announced by the new president was zero retentions for several agricultural exports. Government retentions up to this moment had been as follows: wheat 23 percent, corn 20 percent, sunflowers 32 percent, and beef 15 percent. From now on there will be zero retentions for all of them. The only exception are soybeans for which retentions will now be 30 percent down from

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ALL Silk Florals
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the previous 35 percent.

A record soybean harvest is announced for 2016.

If this new incentive to production is combined with the predicted \$30-\$40 dollar a barrel of crude oil for 2016 and beyond, it's not difficult to imagine what will happen to world agricultural production and prices. To make matters even worse, the Argentinian government has announced a devaluation of its currency soon. This will further strengthen the U.S. dollar and make Argentina even more globally competitive.

Now, more than ever, U.S. farmers need to be extremely cautious with their cost of production.

Significantly decreasing costs per acre during 2016 and beyond is going to be key to remain competitive and sustainable in this global market. In an article published this past year in iGrow.org the key components of wheat cost of production and how much they weighed on the total were analyzed (Table 1).

Fertilizer and chemicals constitute half of the operating costs of production. These are two areas to focus on which have significant impact on profitable wheat production.

Knowing exactly how much fertilizer your land needs, through soil testing and correcting accordingly, is going to be critical during 2016 to remain competitive. With the expansion of livestock operations, it also makes economic sense to look for partnerships and make use of livestock manure when feasible. Soil experts can help producers with guidelines to obtain an adequate, representative sample of the soil in which wheat is going to be planted.

Department of Public Safety Officials Urge Holiday Safety

PIERRE, S.D. – With both the Christmas and New Year's holidays occurring in the next week, officials of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety are encouraging people to be safe with their celebrations.

Many people will travel during the next week. Col. Craig Price, superintendent of the South Dakota Highway Patrol, says drivers need to be patient and watch for others.

"We know many people will be traveling not only on the holidays themselves, but also on the days before and after each holiday," says Price. "As always, Highway Patrol troopers will be out there, helping remind motorists to be safe."

In 2014, five people died in fatal crashes during the Christmas reporting period but none during the New Year's period. Lee Axdahl, director of the Office of Highway Safety, says with all of the activities surrounding the holidays, people need to still practice road safety.

"There are few things worse than having a holiday end in sadness after a loved one dies in a fatal crash," Axdahl says. "Our reminders to the motorists are the same: Slow down, be mindful of changing road conditions in case of bad weather, always wear your seatbelts and put the cell phone out of reach to eliminate the temptation to text while driving."

The need to be safe goes beyond just traveling. State Fire Marshal Paul Merriman says the holiday season brings increased fire risks to the home as well.

"With so many lights, decorations and special meals that are part of the holidays, it is important to be aware of additional fire hazards that are present in the home," Merriman says. "Be careful with fires of any kind and make sure they are not unattended. And of course, having a working smoke alarm on each floor of your home is essential."

All three DPS officials say despite all of the activities that come with the holidays, people still need to make sure they and their families remain safe.

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Here is how the Schwan's fundraiser works.

Customers phone in the order or order online
They use the code. 25179

If they regularly order online they are asked if they want to contribute to a fundraiser

That is when they put the code in.

Between Dec 2 and Jan 16, we will earn 20% of sales

If a customer orders an ecertificate-and online gift card we get \$10 for the \$25 ecertificate.

When you get an ecertificate, you can go in and purchase right away or you can print it out if you want to give it as a gift or save it for later.

Customers are limited to one ecertificate...BUT if you use an alternate email address you can purchase more than one

If you are not a regular Schwan's customer, when you place your order they will tell you what day
And approximate (2 hour) time they plan to deliver.

You can be a one time customer and support us.

If you order online you must give them a credit card number, however you can switch payment at the door.

It took me a few fundraisers to realize that if I purchase during the first 45 days I contribute 20% and save my ecertificates for after the Jan 16 date, duh! Before that I was purchasing ecertificates and using them right away.

Our greatest income will be during this 45 day period.
After that we will earn 5% until April 16.

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*Giving back to your community
never tasted so delicious.*

Schwan's Home Delivery offers over 350 delicious foods, flash-frozen at the peak of freshness and conveniently delivered to your door. Through Schwans-Cares.com, you can order from Schwan's Home Delivery and help our organization meet its fundraising goals. When you order by **January 16th, 2016**, 20% of product and 40% of eGift Card sales will go back to the organization.

Here are two ways to support us!

Order Online:

1. Visit Schwans-Cares.com
2. Enter Campaign ID: **25179** into the search box located in the upper right hand corner then click to open campaign.
3. Click "Shop to Give" and then select either the "Buy Now" or "Shop Now" option.
4. Select team member, if applicable
5. Start shopping!

Order by Phone:

Call 1-855-870-7208 and provide Campaign ID: **25179**

Thank you for your support!

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Shop online at Schwans-Cares.com
or call 1-855-870-7208



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Today in Weather History

December 23, 1987: Five to sixteen inches of snow fell in 24 hours in east central and southeast South Dakota from the morning of the 23rd through the morning of the 24th. Some of the larger amounts measured were 9 inches at Huron, 10 inches at Mitchell, Platte and Brookings, twelve inches at Chamberlain, and sixteen inches at Alpena. Heavy snow also fell in southwestern Minnesota, with Big Stone and Traverse Counties in the west central portion of the state missing out on the heaviest snow. Considerable blowing and drifting snow hampered removal, particularly in South Dakota, due to reduced visibilities. Snowfall amounts also included three inches at Castlewood, five inches at Clear Lake, and six inches at Bryant.

December 23, 1996: Blizzard conditions developed across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota in the late afternoon of the 23rd and continued into the late evening. Visibilities were frequently below one quarter of a mile. Two to six inches of new snowfall combined with the already significant snow cover and north winds of 20 to 40 mph to cause widespread blizzard conditions and heavy drifting on area roads. Travel was significantly impacted if not impossible, and one fatality resulted from a head-on collision. Some snowfall amounts in Minnesota included 5 inches at Artichoke Lake and 6 inches at Wheaton and Browns Valley. In South Dakota, 7 inches fell at Britton, Webster, and Clear Lake, with 6 inches at Sisseton and 5 inches at Summit.

December 23, 1921: An estimated F3 tornado struck the town of Clarkedale, Arkansas, killing 6 and injuring 60 others. Four people died in the destruction of the Banks and Danner store, where 50 people were doing their Christmas shopping.

December 23, 1924: A storm producing winds of 70 mph cause extensive damage to Sydney, Australia during the evening hours.

December 23, 1998: A major ice storm struck central and southeast Virginia and much of North Carolina beginning on Wednesday, December 23 and lasting until Christmas Day morning. Icy conditions caused injuries from slips and falls and numerous vehicle accidents. Ice accumulations of up to an inch brought down trees and power lines. Outages were so widespread with 400,000 customers were without power on Christmas Eve. Some people were without power for up to ten days.

2016 DOG LICENSES

AVAILABLE NOW!!

Licenses due by Dec. 31, 2015

Fines start after Dec. 31, 2015

Dogs CAN NOT be licensed without providing updated rabies shot information, please bring records for each dog to City Hall

Please contact City Hall as soon as possible if you no longer have any dogs

Spayed or neutered dogs are \$5 per dog, otherwise \$10 per dog

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This Afternoon	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Christmas Day	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Scattered Flurries	Scattered Flurries	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Chance Snow	Chance Snow and Blustery
High: 29 °F	Low: 10 °F	High: 24 °F	Low: 12 °F	High: 27 °F	Low: 15 °F	High: 17 °F



A Couple Flurries Today, Mostly Dry Through Christmas

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National Weather Service Aberdeen



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Valid ending at Friday December 25th, 2015 at 6 PM CST

Created Wednesday December 23rd, 2015 at 3:19 AM CST

Published on: 12/23/2015 at 4:05AM

Some snow flurries may pass over the region today. Otherwise, dry and cold is the forecast through Christmas.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 37.2 at 3:40 PM

Low: 18.6 at 12:07 AM

High Gust: 38 at 1:35 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 54° in 1893

Record Low: -34° in 1983

Average High: 24°F

Average Low: 4°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.38

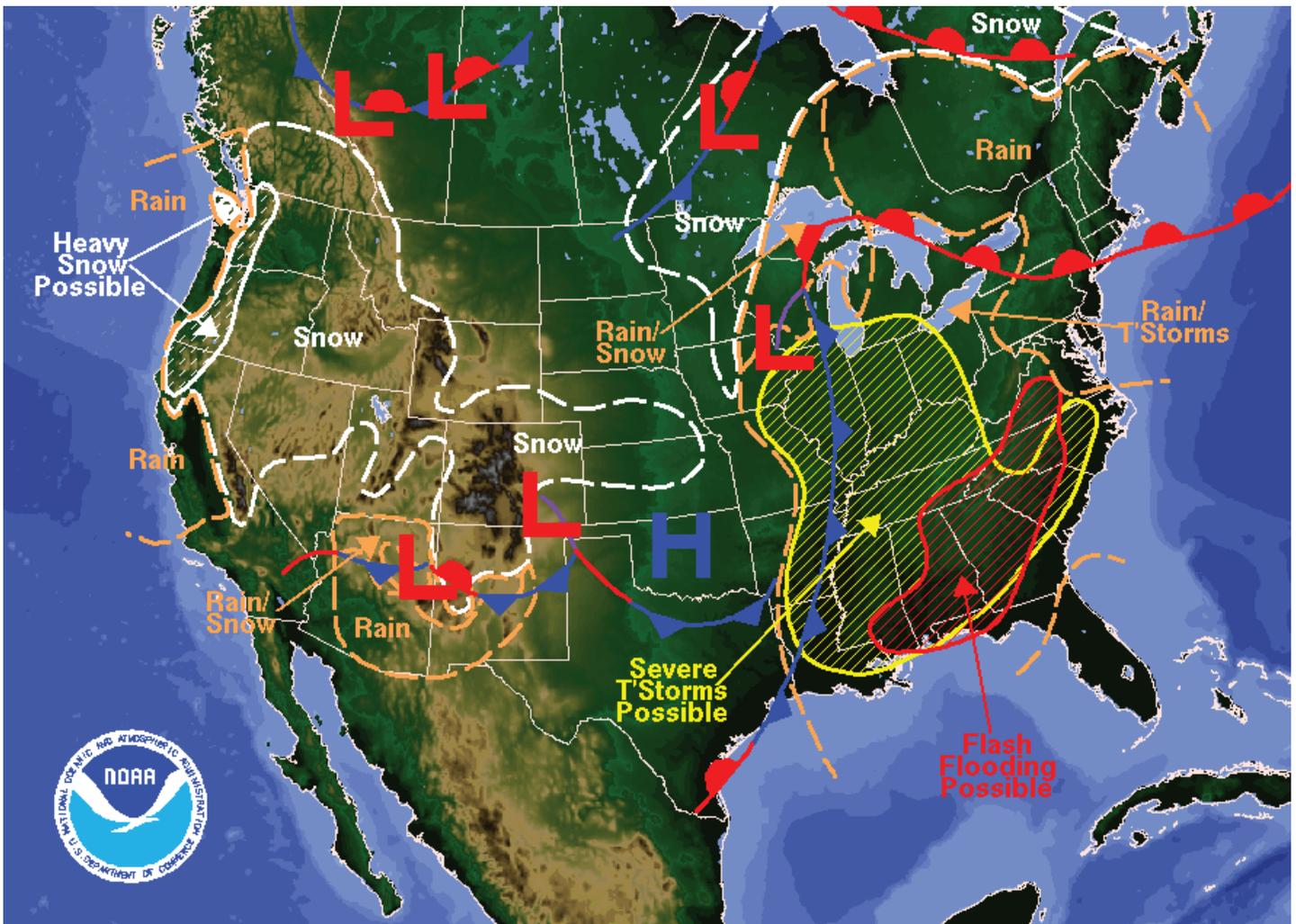
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.55

Average Precip to date: 21.58

Precip Year to Date: 20.37

Sunset Tonight: 4:54 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:11 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Dec 23, 2015, issued 3:41 PM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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THE HIGHWAY TO HAPPINESS

Have you ever caught "lightning bugs" and placed them in a jar with vents in the lids so they could breathe? It was a favorite activity for children in our neighborhood. The bugs would be "captured" and then placed in a glass jar where their tiny bright "lights" would glow in the darkness of the night. After watching them go "on and off" for a while, they would be "freed" and fly off into the night.

Had they remained in the jar, they would have died. God intended for them to be free and happy and live the life He planned for them.

It's like that with us. God planned a special life for each of us: a life of happiness. But happiness only comes from being free. Some think that happiness and pleasure are synonymous. They are not. Happiness is not derived from possessions nor destroyed by poverty. There is a story of a king who wanted the shirt off of the back of the happiest man in his kingdom. They found the man but he did not have a shirt. He only had a ragged cloak.

Happiness is not what happens to us. Happiness is what happens within us. It is the by-product of what is lived in agreement with the will of God. Life in His will brings us freedom from being "contained" by the things of the world. Happiness fills lives that are regulated by the Word of God. Following His Word and His way will bring pleasure and productivity to His children.

Psalm 1:1 promises "a blessed - or - a happy life" to those who delight in and obey His law. His law will set us free from being contained and controlled by worldly things.

Prayer: Father, may we set our eyes on things above, not the things of this world, and find Your happiness. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,

In South Dakota, musicians lend color to retirees' stories

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Floyd Beukelman's 87 years of life have been full of crescendos, diminuendos and legatos — so how better to set his story to music than with a five-piece orchestra?

He survived a ruptured appendix as a boy in the 1930s, married the love of his life and had four children in the 1950s and lived through a fiery crash in the 1990s — ups and downs that he got through, he says, thanks to faith and family.

Beukelman was the first of several seniors at a Sioux Falls retirement community to share his memories as the Dakota Wind Quintet provided a musical complement following each set of stories by performing a piece similar in mood. The "Memoirs in Music" program, organized by the state's symphony orchestra and an area health care system, gives seniors a welcome distraction from everyday life but organizers say it can also use music therapy to help them create social connections and relieve stress.

On a cold December afternoon, about four dozen residents of the Avera Prince of Peace Retirement Community gathered to hear from Beukelman. Because he has difficulty speaking for extended periods, he was interviewed ahead of time. A narrator read his memories and played audio clips of his interview throughout the presentation.

Among the stories was one of his earliest memories: the day he felt sick at school and ended up hospitalized.

"In those days, if you had a broken appendix, more than likely you would die. I was there for 24 days ... but God saw fit to get me through that. That was the first miracle in my life," the narrator read from Beukelman's memories before the musicians began to play the first movement of Beethoven's "Octet in E-Flat Major" for winds, arranged for a quintet.

The musicians played a clarinet, flute, bassoon, oboe and horn. The event featured six arrangements, including pieces by composers Haydn and Beethoven.

Music as therapy has a tradition that includes use after both world wars, when amateur and professional players would visit veterans hospitals to perform for soldiers suffering from physical and mental illnesses. It's been shown to help alleviate pain, enhance memory and soothe stress, and is used in neonatal intensive care units, behavioral health hospitals, correctional centers, nursing homes and other facilities.

Musicians with the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, five of whom make up the Dakota Wind Quintet, have performed for cancer and pediatric patients, people under hospice care and others at medical facilities in Sioux Falls. Beukelman's presentation will be followed by at least two more over the next few months.

"What a neat opportunity to allow these people who have such a tremendous amount to share to be able to do that, and you add the musical element to it, and it provides an opportunity for reflection on some really powerful things that they have to say," said Jennifer Boomgaarden, executive director of the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra.

During the presentation, photos of Beukelman as a child, of his wife and their wedding portrait were also projected on a screen.

In one story, he described meeting his wife.

"In those days — when I tell you this you'll think, 'Oh, my' — on Sunday evenings, girls would walk streets," the narrator, Darrel Fickbohm, read from the stories Beukelman told him. "There'd be from four to eight girls in a group. And they would walk together down the street."

He was at a church event when he first spotted Elda.

"I saw her in the back, and I asked somebody, 'Who is that?' And he told me."

They married the next year, on June 20, 1950. The quintet followed the story with "Nearer, My God to Thee" from Gwyneth Walker's "Braintree Quintet."

Mark Vande Braak, a music therapist for three decades, said programs like "Memoirs in Music" can help

residents in the facility identify with each other and create a sense of community.

"It activates the neurons in our brain going, 'Oh, yeah. We did this, too,' and it generates conversation," said Vande Braak, who practices in Sioux Falls with Avera Health. "It's beneficial for everybody. You get a familiarity or similarity. We don't sometimes have the family that visit, but we have a family within our setting."

Authorities: SD man talked about blowing up VA hospitals

DALLAS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a South Dakota man indicted for having improvised explosives at his home routinely discussed with a friend blowing up Veterans Affairs hospitals.

The state attorney general's office says 59-year-old Martin Rezac of Dallas, South Dakota, was arrested Tuesday in Denver. He has been indicted on three explosives-related felonies.

Police responded to Rezac's home Thanksgiving Day after a reported explosion, which blew out several windows and sent him to the hospital. Authorities say they found chemicals and a recipe to make a volatile homemade explosive in the residence.

Officials say they also found a pipe bomb and another explosive device housed in a peanut butter jar. A friend of Rezac's told law enforcement Rezac "frequently" discussed blowing up VA hospitals.

It wasn't immediately clear if Rezac has legal representation.

22K South Dakotans enroll for coverage under health care law

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — More than 22,350 people in South Dakota have signed up for 2016 coverage through health insurance markets under the federal health care law.

Health and Human Services officials say they are among 8.2 million people in the United States to do so since the start of the Nov. 1 open enrollment period.

The numbers reflect only the 38 states using the HealthCare.gov website and call center.

Coverage starts Jan. 1 under plans selected by Dec. 17 or for people who were automatically reenrolled. Open enrollment ends Jan. 31, 2016.

People who remain uninsured after that risk rising fines.

South Dakota State Parks to host First Day Hikes on Jan. 1

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Parks officials are once again inviting South Dakotans to kick off the new year with an invigorating hike at a state park.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department says 11 state parks will offer free guided hikes Jan. 1. The guided hikes will range from journeys shorter than one mile to longer, more intense workouts.

The annual First Day Hike program is a national effort encouraging everyone to celebrate the new year with a guided outdoor exploration. Last year, more than 41,000 people covered over 79,000 miles on 997 hikes across the country.

Parks offering hikes include Newton Hills State Park near Canton, Custer State Park and Lewis and Clark Recreation Area near Yankton.

Participants are encouraged to share their adventures on social media with the hashtag FirstDayHikes.

Southeast Tech's auto program earns national accreditation

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls technical school's automotive training program has received national accreditation for the Master Automotive Technology credential.

Southeast Tech received the accreditation from the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) and The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence. To achieve the recognition, the school's automotive training program underwent a rigorous evaluation process on nationally accepted standards of excellence in areas such as instruction, facilities and equipment.

NATEF Chair Donald Seyfer says that the program increases cooperation between local education and industry leaders. He says it gives added assurance that Southeast Tech's graduates will be employable

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entry-level technicians.

The school's enrollment exceeds 3,000.

Department of Labor office in Vermillion moving to new space

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The Department of Labor and Regulation's office in Vermillion is shifting into a new location that's within walking distance of the University of South Dakota.

The department said Tuesday that the office will be closed on Jan. 4 for the move. It will re-open at the new location on Jan. 5.

Located in the strip mall that contains the Vermillion alternative school, the new address is 904 E. Cherry St.

The agency offers services for job seekers. They include resume and cover letter help and mock interviews, among other services.

UNLV hits 18 3-pointers to beat South Dakota 103-68

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Jalen Poyser scored 18 points, Ike Nwamu added 16 points, and UNLV made 18 3-pointers in a 103-68 victory over South Dakota Tuesday night.

It's the second most single-game makes from 3-point range in Mountain West Conference history — and the most since 2011.

Jerome Seagears hit three 3-pointers in the first four minutes of the game to put UNLV (9-4) up 15-2. Seagears finished with 12 points on four 3-pointers.

Back-to-back 3s by Nwamu made it 23-10 and he closed out the end of the half with a 3 at the buzzer to give the Rebels a 51-34 lead. Nwamu finished 4 for 7 from 3-range.

Poyser's 3 with 6:14 remaining extended UNLV's lead to 90-60.

UNLV shot 36 for 62 (58.1 percent) from the field, including 18 for 32 from 3-point range.

Casey Kasperbauer led the Coyotes (7-6) with 16 points.

Tuesday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Christian 63, Northwestern 61

Andes Central/Dakota Christian 53, Scotland 33

Arlington 61, Estelline 43

Britton-Hecla 65, Timber Lake 33

Canistota 70, Bridgewater-Emery 58

Chester 50, McCook Central 40

Clark/Willow Lake 53, Milbank 43

Dakota Valley 58, West Central 51

Dell Rapids 75, Baltic 27

DeSmet 45, Colman-Egan 39

Deubrook 67, Dell Rapids St. Mary 35

Freeman Academy 55, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 45

Groton Area 61, Eureka/Bowdle 41

Highmore-Harrold 65, Kimball/White Lake 45

Hitchcock-Tulare 53, Ipswich 45

Huron 46, Brookings 39

James Valley Christian 63, Ethan 52

Parkston 63, Avon 37

Potter County 43, Langford 30

Rapid City Central 64, Douglas 42

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Sioux Falls Roosevelt 49, Brandon Valley 46
Spearfish 80, Sturgis Brown 71, OT
Stanley County 69, Jones County 50
Sully Buttes 73, Lyman 42
Vermillion 56, Tri-Valley 55
Watertown 61, Aberdeen Central 53
Waverly-South Shore 84, Lake Preston 57
Yankton 75, Sioux Falls Washington 70
Harrison Tournament
Consolation

Edgemont 45, Morrill, Neb. 40
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS
Tea Area vs. Deuel, ppd.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 65, Watertown 39
Brandon Valley 59, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 41
Brookings 55, Huron 49
Dakota Valley 58, West Central 56
Dell Rapids 80, Baltic 29
Ethan 70, James Valley Christian 25
Faith 30, Timber Lake 29
Freeman 71, Centerville 40
Groton Area 43, Aberdeen Roncalli 42
Hanson 67, Canistota 27
Ipswich 64, Hitchcock-Tulare 38
Jones County 55, Stanley County 24
Mobridge-Pollock 46, Lemmon 43
Rapid City Central 72, Douglas 31
Scotland 37, Andes Central/Dakota Christian 35
Sioux Falls Lincoln 64, Marshall, Minn. 55
Sioux Falls Washington 57, Yankton 48
Southwest Minnesota Christian, Minn. 80, Sioux Falls Christian 50
Spearfish 63, Sturgis Brown 49
Tripp-Delmont/Armour 31, Freeman Academy 17
Vermillion 46, Tri-Valley 36
Wall 37, Newell 15

Bolomboy, Senglin lead Weber St. past South Dakota St. 99-95

OGDEN, Utah (AP) — Joel Bolomboy and Jeremy Senglin scored 22 points apiece to lead Weber State to a 99-95 win over South Dakota State on Tuesday night.

Bolomboy made 7 of 11 field goals and grabbed 14 rebounds while Senglin hit seven 3-pointers and had six assists for Weber State (7-5). Kyndahl Hill added a career-high 21 points and Dusty Baker scored 10.

Bolomboy hit a 3 to put the Wildcats up 92-81 with 2:09 to play but Reed Tellinghuisen hit a pair of 3-pointers during a 12-3 run that pulled South Dakota State (10-3) within two with 28 seconds left.

Hill made two free throws and, after Tevin King scored for the Jackrabbits, Bolomboy hit two more with five seconds left to seal it.

Deondre Parks tied a season high with 23 points and Tellinghuisen added 22 for South Dakota State. Weber State shot a season-high 58.8 percent from the field, including 12 of 24 from 3-point range.

Wedding ring with note dropped in SD Salvation Army kettle

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Some anonymous donors dropped a note and their late mother's wedding ring into a Salvation Army kettle in southeast South Dakota.

The donors wrote in the note that their mom, who passed away in October, taught them to be charitable and they believe donating the ring is the "the best way to honor her."

The Salvation Army says the envelope with the ring and the note was dropped into the kettle outside a HyVee store in Sioux Falls on Monday.

The donors wrote that they removed the small stones from the ring so that each could "have a small part and left the center stone in the setting to be used to help some who are less fortunate."

Jackley: Attorneys General form group to look into charities

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The National Association of Attorneys General has formed a committee that will look into charities in an effort to keep consumers and businesses from becoming victims of a scam or theft.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley is the association's president. He says the committee "will address the many challenges facing citizens and businesses every day when solicited for charitable giving."

Attorneys General George Jepsen and Doug Peterson, from Connecticut and Nebraska respectively, will co-chair the committee. Other committee members include Attorneys General Edward Manibusan, of Northern Mariana Islands; Sean Reyes, of Utah; Derek Schmidt, of Kansas; and Bill Sorrell, of Vermont.

The association is made up of attorneys general from the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

American killed in Afghanistan was Air Force investigator

BEN NUCKOLS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — One of the American troops killed in a suicide attack in Afghanistan was a 30-year-old Air Force investigator who hoped to join his family in the restaurant business after leaving the military, his mother said Tuesday.

Arlene Wagner told The Associated Press that her son, Staff Sgt. Peter Taub, was one of six Americans killed in the attack near Bagram Airfield on Monday. She said she was informed of his death on Monday night.

Taub worked for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and was stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota, his mother said. He leaves behind his pregnant wife and a 3-year-old daughter.

Wagner and Taub's brother, Jonathan, a chef, run a popular sandwich shop, Bub and Pops, in downtown Washington. The shop posted messages saying it would be closed this week because of Taub's death.

Taub was deployed to Afghanistan in October. He grew up in Wyncote, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia.

"He and his brother had plans for a farm and raising herbs and different things for expanding the restaurant or new concepts — lots of things that are not going to happen," Wagner said in a brief interview.

She said she was heartbroken for the other five families who lost loved ones in the attack, which was the deadliest on international forces since August.

"I'm pretty devastated," she added. "It's really hard to talk about."

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, in which a suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden motorcycle into a joint NATO-Afghan patrol.

Also among those killed was a New York City police detective, Joseph Lemm.

In a statement, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter called the attack "a painful reminder of the dangers our troops face every day in Afghanistan."

South Dakota regulators won't toss Keystone XL application

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JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — State regulators a dismissed request Tuesday to throw out an application for the South Dakota portion of the Keystone XL pipeline, setting up a decision as early as next month from the Public Utilities Commission on whether to re-approve the embattled project.

Pipeline opponents argued before the panel that President Barack Obama killed the project in November, which should put an end to the proceedings in South Dakota. But an attorney for TransCanada Corp., the company behind the proposed pipeline, said the company remains committed to the project, which could be revived under the next president.

TransCanada's proposed 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 Gulf Coast. It would move about 100,000 barrels of oil daily from the western North Dakota oil patch.

The PUC held hearings during the summer in its review of whether to approve — for the second time in more than five years — the construction of the pipeline through South Dakota. A decision is still forthcoming.

The project had prompted opposition from Native American tribes, some landowners and environmental groups that were concerned the pipeline would contaminate water supplies and contribute to pollution.

Opponents, who have lauded Obama's decision, put forward the legal argument that the company would have to start from the beginning with a new application for a new project.

"What I find remarkable about the position that TransCanada is taking is that it seems to embody a lack of recognition of reality, that this project is, for all practical purposes, dead," said Robin Martinez, an attorney with opposition group Dakota Rural Action.

Supporters argue that the pipeline would be a boon for the country and will create construction jobs and boost tax collections in South Dakota. Despite Obama's rejection, TransCanada CEO Russ Girling has said the company still wants to build the pipeline, attorney William Taylor said.

"The project has not been abandoned," Taylor said. "TransCanada has not said this party is over. Rather, TransCanada has said, speaking with the voice of its chief executive officer, the company is absolutely committed to the project."

The state initially authorized TransCanada's project in 2010, but permits must be revisited if construction doesn't start within four years. The commission is now considering the company's guarantee that it can complete the project while meeting the conditions of the 2010 approval.

After dismissing opponents' requests to block re-approval and revoke the underlying construction permit, Commission Chairman Chris Nelson said the panel could decide on the project at its January meeting.

"This has been an uphill battle for many years now for a lot of our Native communities and non-Native landowners," said Dallas Goldtooth, an organizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network. "We're not surprised by this decision, but we're not dissuaded or discouraged about our next steps forward."

Police: Mall parking lot drug deal became robbery

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls Police say a drug deal in the parking lot of a mall became a robbery when the would-be buyer pulled a handgun on the dealer.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says a man contacted police around 8:30 p.m. Monday to report that he and his friend had been robbed. Clemens says the man kept changing his story until it came out that his friend had been trying to sell pot.

Clemens says the would-be buyer took the seller's cellphone, credit cards and marijuana. Clemens says the cellphone was then tracked down to a car, and 24-year-old Sioux Falls resident Mohamed Diomande was arrested on various charges, including first-degree robbery.

Clemens says the handgun was reported stolen in Watertown.

The 23-year-old seller is not facing charges. It wasn't immediately clear if Diomande has an attorney who could comment on his behalf.

Firefighters in SD to give toys to hospitalized children

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Firefighters in Sioux Falls are hoping to bring a little cheer this holiday season to children who have to spend time at area hospitals.

Sioux Falls Fire Rescue staff and members of the Sioux Falls Firefighters Association will spend part of Wednesday shopping for toys at a local store. They will then deliver them on Christmas Eve to children at Avera, Sanford, LifeScape and Avera Behavioral Health Center.

The money that firefighters will use to buy the toys was raised through the previous Step Up for Heroes event.

The firefighters on Wednesday will be shopping starting at 9 a.m. at Lewis Drug on 41st Street and Minnesota Avenue.

State penitentiary inmates producing new SD license plates

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Inmates at the South Dakota Penitentiary have been busy cranking out tens of thousands of 2016 license plates each day in preparation for the new design's Jan. 1 debut.

The Sioux Falls prison has been producing the state's license plates since 1929, and the 18 inmates working inside the Pheasantland Industries license plate shop can print, punch and bag about 23,000 plates a day, said foreman Pat Gacke.

The current plates, which have been in rotation since 2006, are being retired due to aging and reflectivity and readability concerns.

The new design once again features Mount Rushmore, but the presidential faces are angled differently and tinted shades of beige and brown. The tag number sports a darker shade of blue, and that same color is used for the state script and "Great Faces. Great Places" slogan, replacing the bright red from the previous incarnation.

"The Highway Patrol has a say in the design for readability," said Pat Gacke, License plate shop foreman. "Ultimately it's up to the governor to pass the design."

The Department of Revenue estimates that nearly 1.5 million non-commercial vehicle and motorcycle plates will be run for the 2016 reissue. The prison shop began printing the new plates in October.

The process involves printing the designs onto rolls of transfer ribbon, which are then pressed onto rolls of aluminum. A press machine punches the aluminum rolls into individual license plates with holes and feeds them onto a conveyor, so inmates can pair them together for packing.

Like all of the 120 or so workers inside Pheasantland Industries, the license plate shop inmates earn just 25 cents per hour, but Gacke said many enjoy the regularity of leaving their cells from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with an 11 a.m. lunch break.

"We get a good crew that takes a lot of pride in their work," Gacke said.