

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Silver Skates Postponed

**After skating on the ice, although the surface looks good, we found that it is not frozen solid. We want to keep the skaters safe, so we are moving to our established contingency plan of holding the carnival next Sunday, February 7th. We will hold one performance at 1:00. With cooler temps next week, we will be able to significantly improve the skating rink for the safety of the skaters. If you are unable to attend next week due to prior plans, please contact your instructor.**

### Thursday, February 4

Senior trip to Pierre

**School Breakfast:** Breakfast bagel, fruit, juice, milk.

**School Lunch:** Cheese stick, tater tots, romaine salad, fruit.

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

**Birthdays:** Betty Sue Felkey, Craig Jondahl, James Lane, KayLynn Overacker, Nora Bunn

## Groton Prairie Mixed

**Team Standings:** Coyotes 16, Chipmunks 16, Pocket Gophers 16, Jackelopes 12 1/2, Shih Tzus 12, Foxes 11 1/2

**Men's High Games:** Ron Belden 226, Rick Carlson 224, Brad Larson 213, 201, Ryan Sperry 202

**Women's High Games:** Dar Larson 188, Vicki Walter 180, Vicki Jorgensen 174

**Men's High Series:** Brad Larson 576, Ron Belden 560, Roger Spanier 528

**Women's High Series:** Dar Larson 511, Vicki Walter 494, Vicki Jorgensen 459

**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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### Dr. Geoffrey Rath - Optometrist

Eye Exams Glaucoma Tests Rx's Filled  
- All Types Contact Lenses -

Doctor here Mondays Only - Office open Thursdays.  
701-349-3223 to make appointments & adjustments

Hours at Ellendale, N.D. are:  
Monday 9 - 12 & 1 - 5 Thursday 1:00 - 4:00

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Follow The Groton  
Activities On-Line



# gdilive.com

**Coming up this week at [gdilive.com](http://gdilive.com)**

Friday, Feb. 5: Boys (JV & V) and Girls Basketball (V) host Hamlin

Saturday, Feb. 6: Boys (JV & V) and Girls Basketball (V) at Warner

Sunday, Feb. 7th: 1 p.m. Performance of the Carnival of Silver Skates

Ready to bring your heart and expertise to a team that feels more like a family? Bring your passion for patient care to the Golden LivingCenter in Groton. The Groton facility is now hiring for CNAs and Nurses. They have new wages with an excellent benefits package. All shifts are open. Join the team today by calling Jessica at 397-2365. The Golden LivingCenter of Groton is looking for you!

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## Groton City Feb. 1, 2016 Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2016

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7pm at City Hall for their regular first monthly meeting with the following members present: Fliehs, Opp, Peterson, Glover, Blackmun, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. McGannon was absent. Also present were: Attorney Johnson, Finance Officer Lowary, Kathy Sundermeier, Shawn Lambertz, and Terry Herron.

The minutes were approved as read on a motion by Glover and seconded by Blackmun. All members present voted aye.

The financial report was approved on a motion by Blackmun and seconded by Opp. All members present voted aye.

The following bills were approved for payment on a motion by Peterson and seconded by Opp. All members present voted aye.

Executive Payroll 369.40 salaries; Administrative Payroll 6,291.25 salaries; Public Safety Payroll 12,855.34 salaries; Public Works Payroll 17,003.06 salaries; Cultural & Recr Payroll 1,021.06 salaries; First State Bank 7,406.19 ss & wh; Consol Fed Cr Union 1,125.00 emp savings; Office of Child Support 344.31 child support; City of Groton 307.55 dep ref, post, emp sav, util; HRH Rentals 250.00 deposit refund; Shannon Hjermstad 163.20 deposit refund; US Post Office 207.27 postage; Branden Abeln 11.00 meal; Jim Gerdes 11.00 meal; Terry Herron 11.00 meal; Paul Kosel 11.00 meal; Shawn Lambertz 11.00 meal; Dan Sunne 275.75 mileage, meals; Dwight Zerr 11.00 meal; Farmers Union Coop 835.00 dsl; First State Bank 35.25 bank fees; April Abeln 150.00 dep flex; Chase Visa 869.38 post, paper, ink, program, cards; Groton Independent 68.11 publishing; Harry Implement 33.65 hose, ends; Heartland Waste 6,150.64 garbage hauling;

J Gross Equipment 190.02 hose, fitting; James Valley Tele 562.17 phones, internet; Drew Johnson 600.00 legal services; Locke Electric 2,479.50 repairs; NW Energy 10.62 nat gas; Olde Bank Floral 35.00 plant; Runnings 25.98 oil; S&S Lumber 425.61 supplies; SD Dept of Health 30.00 testing; SD Retirement 7,864.61 retirement; Share Corp 717.40 degreaser; Specialty Mfg 45.36 channel, tube; Taser International 285.01 batteries; Ultramax Ammunition 37.76 ammunition; Verizon 41.61 gate comm.; WEB Water 9,653.59 water; Western Hotel Supply 95.87 tickets

Department reports were given by Terry Herron, Public Works Supt.; and Shawn Lambertz, Electric Supt. Topics included were skating rink, new LED street lights, transformer change outs, flushing sewers, sidewalk sweeping, water tower inspection, and safety inspections. Only one additional employee for public works will be needed this summer. Enterprise fund financial statements were given. A letter to Congress for Heartland was discussed. Heartland Customer meeting was discussed and Lowary and Lambertz were authorized to attend on a motion by Glover and seconded by Fliehs. All members present voted aye. Herron and Lambertz left meeting at this point.

Members were reminded of the District SDML meeting on Mar 29 in Faulkton and Code Enforcement School in Pierre on May 4-5.

A request for a car show on Main Street on June 19 was discussed and tabled for more information.

Use of the auto call system was discussed and the One Call System will continue to be used.

Options for auditor for 2014 and 2015 audits were discussed. Moved by Glover and seconded by Opp to hire Eide Bailly for the audit. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Glover and seconded by Peterson to adjourn into executive session for personnel matters at 8:07pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:44pm.

Meeting adjourned.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Anita Lowary, Finance Officer

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## National Gasoline Price Remains below \$2 for 33rd Straight Day

Feb. 2, 2016 – U.S. drivers are saving more than \$1 per gallon (\$1.01) from the 2015 peak price reached this past June. The national average has spent 33 consecutive days below the \$2 per gallon benchmark, according to FuelGaugeReport.AAA.com. Today's average price of \$1.79 per gallon is the lowest nationwide price for gasoline since January 2009. Gas prices have fallen for 25 of the past 27 days, and AAA believes the combination of seasonal reductions in gasoline demand and the relatively lower price of crude oil are likely to help keep prices in check for the immediate future.

"South Dakota's pump prices are mimicking the national downward trend," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "The statewide average has been below \$2.00 per gallon since December 21st of 2015."

	Today	Last Week	Change	Jan. 5	Change	Last year
Aberdeen	\$1.819	\$1.819	\$0.000	\$2.018	-\$0.199	\$2.007
Brookings	\$1.768	\$1.802	-\$0.034	\$1.955	-\$0.187	\$2.139
Huron	\$1.774	\$2.013	-\$0.239	\$1.972	-\$0.198	\$2.032
Mitchell	\$1.856	\$1.872	-\$0.016	\$1.938	-\$0.082	\$1.986
Pierre	\$1.758	\$1.844	-\$0.086	\$2.038	-\$0.280	\$2.056
Rapid City	\$1.958	\$2.034	-\$0.076	\$2.073	-\$0.115	\$1.850
Sioux Falls	\$1.540	\$1.619	-\$0.079	\$1.759	-\$0.219	\$1.929
Vermillion	\$1.689	\$1.732	-\$0.043	\$1.804	-\$0.115	\$1.919
Watertown	\$1.816	\$1.828	-\$0.012	\$1.895	-\$0.079	\$2.036
Yankton	\$1.863	\$1.922	-\$0.059	\$1.935	-\$0.072	\$2.027
South Dakota	\$1.770	\$1.834	-\$0.064	\$1.962	-\$0.192	\$1.956

The imbalance between supply and demand and the resolution of distribution and refinery issues is contributing to falling prices at the pump. Supply in the Midwest is reportedly at comfortable levels and although prices in the region can be volatile, any upward swings may be offset by falling prices in other regional markets. Barring any major supply or distribution issues, and if the price of crude remains depressed, the national average remains poised to continue declining approaching the spring maintenance season, AAA says.

Market fundamentals continue to point to supply outpacing demand; however, crude oil prices have been subject to some speculation about when and if prices have reached their bottom. Both Brent and West Texas Intermediate rallied to close out last week, movement that was largely attributed to reports that Russia and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries member Saudi Arabia may meet to discuss potential production cuts. The feasibility of both countries agreeing to these cuts remains in question, and the global oil market will also have to contend with Iranian oil returning to the global market following the removal of sanctions.

At the close of yesterday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI dropped \$2, settling at \$31.62 per barrel.

U.S. production also remains a key variable in the global equation, and despite lower prices, domestic crude oil inventories continue to test record levels. The impact of the removal of the decades old crude oil export ban is also a question in regard to production and global oil supply and has been cited as the central reason the gap between WTI and Brent prices has closed.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at [AAA.com/mobile](http://AAA.com/mobile).

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*Valentine's Day and Olde Bank Floral*



Order your loved one a Valentine Bouquet of \$50 or more BEFORE Feb 10th and receive a FREE \$10 Gift Certificate! Will be delivered with the bouquet any time through the 13th! Call us now at 397-8650

Also available -

- ♡ Wine & Gift Baskets
- ♡ Sweet Treats
- ♡ Lotions & Perfumes
- ♡ Jewellery
- ♡ Purses
- ♡ Balloons
- ♡ Gift
- ♡ Certificates



Call us at  
397-8650

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Text us at  
380-5402

Or stop in the  
store!

**Valentine's Day is Sunday, February 14th!**

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## Today in Weather History

February 4, 1984: A fast moving blizzard pounded the northeast and east central with light snow and raging winds. Snow amounts were generally less than 2 inches region wide. As the storm progressed, temperatures dropped thirty degrees in three hours as winds gusted to 70 mph. Fierce winds struck quickly, plummeting visibilities to zero and making travel difficult in a matter of minutes. No travel was advised across much of the area. Hundreds of travelers became stranded in the white-out and the highway crews were pulled of the road to wait for decreasing winds. There were also some spotty power outages. 1990 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather over the central Gulf coast states during the afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms spawned seven tornadoes in Alabama, including one which touched down north of Birmingham injuring fifteen people and causing nearly three million dollars damage. A tornado at Margaret injured eleven persons and caused a million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1924: In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 20.3 inches of snow fell in a 24 hour period. This ranks as the most snowfall in a 24 hour period since 1884. This storm caused over \$1 million damage. Communication with the outside world was said at the time to be back to the days of the "Indian signal fire". Street car and train service crippled. Snowdrifts of 8 to 10 feet high were common along with considerable ice on trees and wires. Car ferries remained in port. Schools were closed and several plate glass windows broken.

1982: Barrow, Alaska reached 36 degrees on this date. This is their warmest temperature ever recorded in February. In fact, this is the second time they climbed above freezing in the month of February. The only date was February 14, 2006 when the temperature reached 35 degrees.

1995: A huge nor'easter pounded areas from the southern Mid-Atlantic to northern New England. It would be the only significant storm in the 94-95 winter season. Over 20 inches of snow buried parts of upstate New York. Wind chills dropped as cold as 40 degrees below zero. Behind the storm, arctic air crossing the relatively warm waters of the Great Lakes produced intense lake effect squalls for nearly two weeks from the 4th through the 14th. Downwind of Lake Ontario, storm totals included: Oswego County: Palermo: 85 inches, Fulton: 60 inches, and Oswego: 46 inches.



# Think of it!

## Livestream your wedding!








## How cool would that be?!

## And with that, you get an HD DVD of the wedding.

## Call Paper Paul at 605/397-7460 for details.

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Snow	Chance Snow then Slight Chance Rain/Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Slight Chance Snow and Blustery	Breezy. Chance Rain/Snow then Chance Rain
High: 31 °F	Low: 20 °F	High: 35 °F	Low: 18 °F	High: 46 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 38 °F



## Light Snow Early This Morning

Follow us on *Social Media*

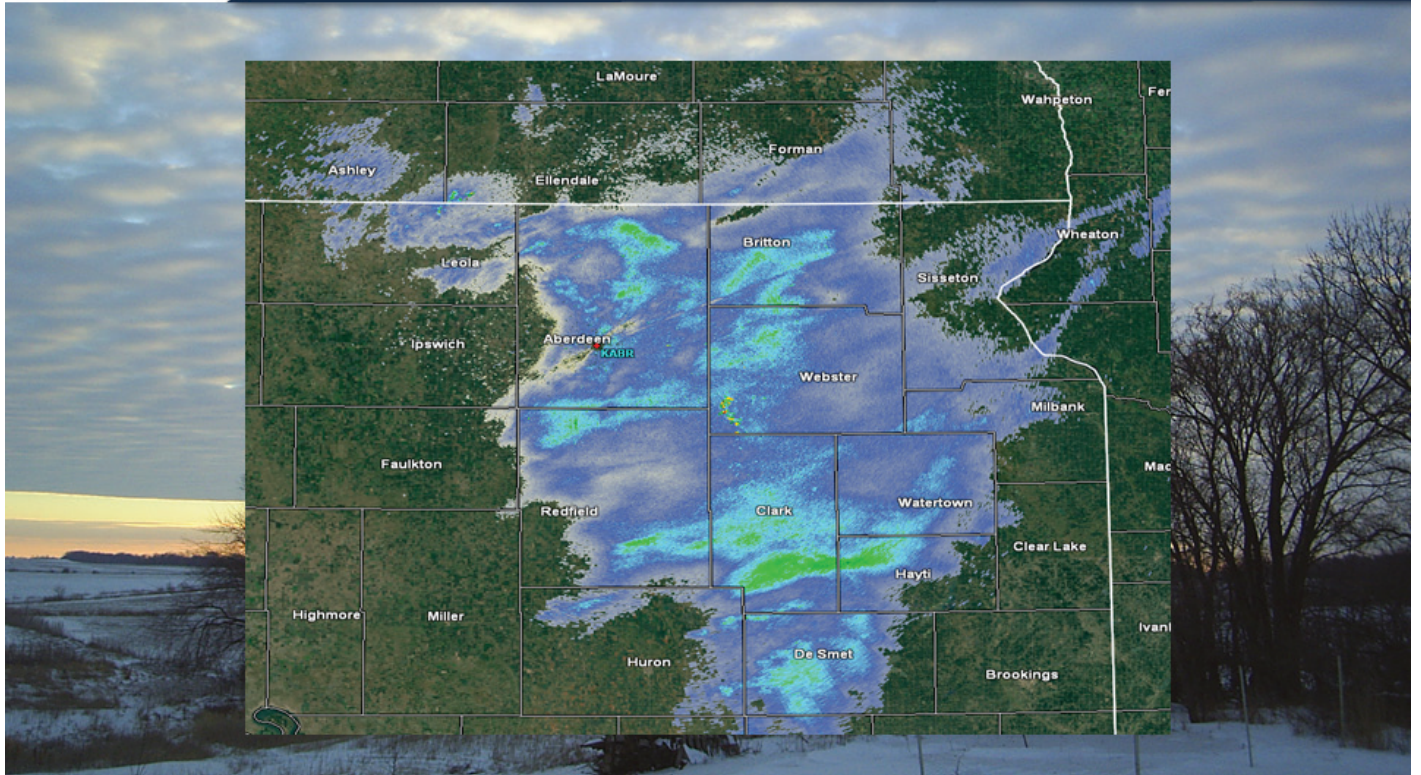
[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 02/04/2016 at 5:17AM

The current radar as of 5am this morning shows light snow all across northeast South Dakota. The snow is moving east and will be out of the area later this morning. Although, some places may pick up as much as an inch of snow before sunrise, especially in the glacial lakes region. Be prepared for slick roads early this morning over parts of northeast South Dakota.

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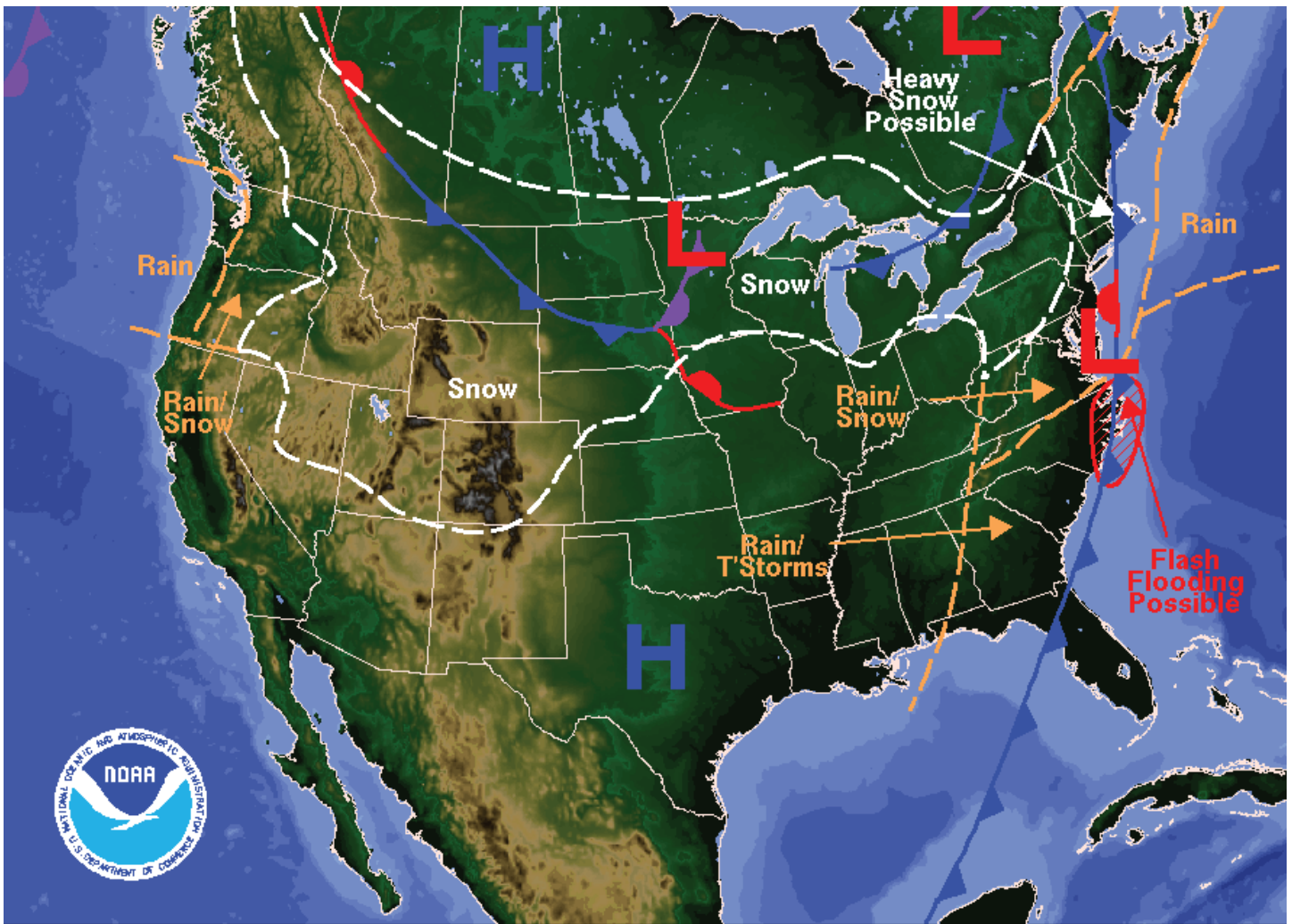
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 32.3  
**Low:** 10.6  
**High Gust:** 20  
**Precip:** 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 55° in 2005  
**Record Low:** -30° in 1905  
**Average High:** 25°F  
**Average Low:** 3°F  
**Average Precip in Feb.:** 0.06  
**Precip to date in Feb.:** 0.00  
**Average Precip to date:** 0.53  
**Precip Year to Date:** 0.00  
**Sunset Tonight:** 5:44 p.m.  
**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 7:50 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Feb 04, 2016, issued 3:49 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts





## WHEN DOUBT DESTROYS

Admiral Samuel DuPont played a significant role in the United States Navy. He was victorious in many battles at sea and is also credited with improving the curriculum at the Naval Academy and his forward thinking to make navy ships more effective.

However, on one of his missions he suffered a humiliating defeat. He went to his commanding officer and presented his reasons as to why he was defeated. After listening carefully, his superior said to him, "There's one more reason. You did not believe you could win."

Our doubts defeat and destroy us. When we pray and doubt, doubt cancels our prayers and makes them ineffective. Why? Faith and doubt cannot exist together in the same prayer. It's "either/or."

On one occasion Jesus said to His disciples, "Have faith in God...All that's required is that you really believe and do not doubt in your heart...You can pray for anything and have it." That's a great beginning for believers.

God will answer the prayers of believers. However, for God to hear our prayers we must first forgive others, have no grudges, pray unselfishly for things that benefit God's Kingdom, and seek His will in our lives.

**Prayer:** Lord, we know the rules of prayer are quite simple – but not easy to fulfill. Help us to live right, do right, and pray right. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** Mark 11:24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

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## News from the Associated Press

### **South Dakota State football team adds players from 10 states**

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota State University football team added 28 players during national signing day.

Head coach John Stiegelmeier says this year's class includes recruits at every position. They include high school players from 10 states, including South Dakota.

SDSU made its fourth consecutive appearance in the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs this past season. The Jackrabbits finished No. 16 in the final coaches poll and No. 15 in the media poll.

### **Campus beer, wine sales measure to go before committee**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A state legislative committee is set to consider a bill that would allow beer and wine sales on South Dakota public university campuses at special events such as sports games.

The Senate Commerce and Energy committee is scheduled to consider the plan on Thursday.

Republican Sen. Larry Tidemann of Brookings is the proposal's main Senate sponsor. He says the plan could help generate income for the universities, but he says the intent is to have a private vendor manage the sales.

Current state law doesn't ban serving alcohol, but on-campus sales are prohibited.

The South Dakota Board of Regents would also have to authorize alcohol sales at the events. It would apply to events involving sports, performing arts and fundraising, among other things.

Tidemann says the measure "opens the door."

### **Snowmobiler killed in avalanche in Colorado**

PAGOSA SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — Authorities say a 23-year-old snowmobiler was killed in an avalanche near Wolf Creek Pass in southern Colorado.

The Colorado Avalanche Information Center says the snowmobiler was with three other people when he became stuck in a gully and triggered the slide east of the pass Tuesday afternoon.

He was completely buried, and another snowmobiler was partially buried but managed to dig out.

Rio Grande County Coroner Rusty Strohmayer identified the man who died as David Smith of Kimball, South Dakota.

Local riders and authorities joined in a rescue attempt.

### **Tornadoes in the South; snow in Plains and Upper Midwest**

**EMILY WAGSTER, Associated Press**

**JOSH FUNK, Associated Press**

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A trail of damage was left at an Army post, schools and businesses were closed for a second day, and a damaged women's prison was running partly on backup power Wednesday after two days of storms unleashed tornadoes and flooding in the South and dumped heavy snow in the Midwest.

The most recent apparent twister knocked down some trees and damaged vehicles and buildings at Fort Stewart in southeast Georgia on Wednesday evening, spokesman Kevin Larson said. He said the extent of the damage was not immediately known, but there were no reports of injuries. Fort Stewart is the largest Army post east of the Mississippi River. Much of its land area is uninhabited forestland.

The National Weather Service had reports of a tornado moving northeast at about 35 mph, and tornado warnings had been issued for Chatham, Bryan and Effingham counties west of Savannah.

In western Alabama, the administration building at the Federal Correctional Institution Aliceville was running on a generator Wednesday, a day after a tornado struck the low-security lockup housing about

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1,850 inmates, the U.S. Department of Justice said in a statement. No employees or inmates were hurt, the statement said.

The National Weather Service in Birmingham reported a "confirmed large and destructive tornado" on the ground in the same general area as the women's prison, about 45 miles west of Tuscaloosa. Minor injuries were reported. More than a dozen homes were destroyed by a tornado that touched down in the town of McMullen on Tuesday evening, the National Weather Service said.

In Mississippi, a confirmed tornado was reported just before 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in eastern Newton and Lauderdale counties, largely rural areas in the eastern part of the state, said Greg Flynn, spokesman for the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. The storm damaged homes, toppled trees and knocked out power, said Lauderdale County Sheriff Billy Sollie.

In west Tennessee, high winds damaged several homes and several buildings at Crockett County High School, the National Weather Service said. Public schools were closed Wednesday to survey damage from the weather.

The storms also produced flooding. In Georgia, an apartment building was evacuated due to flooding before dawn Wednesday near the town of Fort Oglethorpe, just south of Chattanooga, Tennessee, the weather service said, citing a report from an emergency manager in Catoosa County, Georgia. No serious injuries were reported. In Cheatham County, near Nashville, Tennessee, officials said a driver had to be rescued Wednesday when his sport utility vehicle was swept into a flooded creek.

Farther west, a powerful snowstorm buried parts of Colorado and Nebraska in more than a foot of snow on Tuesday before crawling into the Upper Midwest. The storm knocked out power and triggered flight cancellations across a large swath of states from Colorado to northern Michigan.

Several Nebraska schools and businesses remained closed a second day Wednesday as workers tried to reopen snow-covered roads. Interstate 80 was reopened after a 275-mile stretch was closed from Ogallala east to Lincoln, though other highways remained closed as snowplows pushed aside ice, slush and snow.

In south-central Nebraska, more than 18 inches of snow were recorded in Grand Island and nearly 16 inches in nearby Hastings, according to the National Weather Service. The northeastern Nebraska communities of Verdigre and Wayne had 16 inches of snow, while 14 inches was reported in Norfolk. Utilities reported that electricity has been restored to almost all of the more than 20,000 customers who'd lost power.

The combination of snow in one part of the country and severe thunderstorms in another isn't unusual when a powerful system moves across the country, said Greg Carbin with the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center.

"February can feature some exciting dynamics in the atmosphere," Carbin said. "This system we've had our eye on since it was in the Pacific."

Funk reported from Omaha, Nebraska. Associated Press writers also contributing to this report were Colleen Slevin in Denver; Dirk Lammers in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Heather Hollingsworth in Kansas City, Missouri; Nelson Lampe and Margery Beck in Omaha, Nebraska; Phillip Lucas in Birmingham, Alabama; and Jeff Martin in Atlanta.

## Ranchers ask for more Air Force flight information

**KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press**

A South Dakota livestock organization is petitioning U.S. Air Force officials to provide more information to ranchers who monitor their herds and land by air in a newly expanded training zone.

The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association's request to officials at Ellsworth Air Force Base this week addresses the expansion of the Powder River Training Complex, which roughly quadrupled the training airspace to nearly 35,000 square miles in the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming — the largest over the continental U.S.

Stockgrowers President Bill Kluck said Air Force officials committed to making flight information available

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to ranchers who fly small aircraft to survey their herds and hunt coyotes, but said they have not effectively followed through. Kluck said a website set up to inform pilots about training missions is not updated regularly and that it's difficult to call the base directly for information.

"All of that has to be kept very current, or somebody's going to get hurt because of it," he said. "They have to know if they're up there or not."

Officials at Ellsworth didn't respond to questions from The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The Air Force has said any given location across the training area could experience up to nine low-altitude overflights annually. Supersonic flights would be limited to 10 days a year during large-scale exercises, which could cause up to as many as 88 civilian flights a day to be delayed, though the Air Force said that number would likely be smaller.

Kluc said there haven't been any incidents so far, but that some pilots have told him they voluntarily grounded themselves after realizing missions were taking place nearby.

Larry Nelson, who surveys his cattle and sheep operation in northwestern South Dakota in his single-engine airplane, said he hasn't received any information from Ellsworth about how to check whether it's safe to fly. While he uses a Federal Aviation Administration website to monitor training activity, he said it's not very intuitive and the Air Force should be better at working with civilian pilots in the region.

"If I was a recreational flier, I would be happy to wait until I knew the Air Force was not in the area, but I am not a recreational pilot," he said. "This has to do with me being able to keep track of my business here in a cost-effective way."

Kluck said the Stockgrowers Association has been criticized in the past from people who think it's opposed to the base and its training operations.

"We're very pro-military as a whole and do not want to see it shut down," he said. "We just want to make sure that we're protected."

## **FBI: 1 dead in officer-involved shooting on reservation**

ROSEBUD, S.D. (AP) — The FBI says one person is dead and a tribal police officer is injured following a shooting on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in south central South Dakota.

FBI spokesman Kyle Loven confirmed the death, but declined to release more details, including names.

Loven tells the Argus Leader the officer was shot in the course of a struggle, but would not elaborate on the seriousness of his or her injuries.

Loven says it's an active investigation.

## **Feds outline reforms for hospitals on reservations**

**REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Federal officials outlined a plan Wednesday to improve care at hospitals that treat Native Americans in four Great Plains states, including creating a multi-agency group to focus on quality and patient safety and developing a single credentialing process for doctors working at Indian Health Service hospitals.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services detailed the steps to The Associated Press hours ahead of a U.S. Senate committee hearing in Washington that discussed the quality of care at IHS hospitals in the region. The hearing and promised reforms came weeks after federal inspections highlighted serious problems on a pair of hospitals on South Dakota reservations and months after inspectors uncovered inadequate care for a man who died of kidney failure two days after seeking care from a hospital in Nebraska.

HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell is establishing a group that will include leaders from IHS — which administers the hospitals that provide free care for Native Americans — the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other agencies. The group will address persistent staffing shortages and develop policy and training proposals to "bolster the safety culture," HHS said, as well as provide immediate assistance to hospitals in need, focusing first on the region comprising the Dakotas, Iowa and Nebraska.

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This group of executive-level employees will “augment IHS’s efforts to ensure that sustained, quality care is delivered across IHS facilities,” HHS acting deputy secretary Mary Wakefield said during the hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. The initiatives given to the AP said that council will be charged with executing “a rapid-response process, including deploying resources from across the Department when a facility needs immediate, systematic improvement.”

Federal officials also plan to implement a single, standardized credentialing process within IHS that they said would ensure that facilities can accurately track not only the licenses of medical staff, but also other certifications required based on their specialty.

Lawmakers at the hearing questioned whether the proposed reforms will lead to actual changes, and repeatedly referred to a 2010 Senate report that concluded that the Great Plains Area IHS office was in a “chronic state of crisis.”

“What’s really frustrating is that it seems like it’s déjà vu all over again. We continue to go down the same path,” U.S. Sen. John Thune, who attended the hearing, told the AP in an interview. “There’s got to be accountability, there’s got to be oversight, there’s got to be someplace where the buck stops to ensure that these types of conditions are kept out of IHS facilities in South Dakota and other places around the country.”

Earlier this week, federal authorities assigned a new acting director to the Great Plains Area office and said they’ll deploy a four-member team to address problems at the hospitals in the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota and the Winnebago Reservation in Nebraska.

In October, inspectors visiting the hospital in Pine Ridge in western South Dakota cited safety deficiencies including unlocked cupboards with syringes, needles and other equipment; unsecured drugs and medical records; an isolation room without gowns and masks; and doctors without proper credentials.

An inspection of the Rosebud hospital in November found conditions so alarming the emergency room was shut down. A patient having a heart attack wasn’t treated until 90 minutes after she arrived. Serious staffing shortages in the emergency room included vacancies for the supervising medical officer, a medical officer, two physician assistants and three clinical nurses.

Months earlier, an inspection report of the hospital in Winnebago cited the case of a patient who told hospital staffers about extreme back pain on Dec. 30, 2014. He was sent home. A hospital staff member then left him a voicemail telling him his kidneys were failing, but the staffer did not attempt to make additional contact. The patient died Jan. 1 at his sister’s house.

“It’s had a horrible impact on the trust,” Victoria Kitcheyan, treasurer of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, during the hearing said of the effects that the inadequate care has had in her community. “Our people don’t want to go to the facility ... They look at it as a death trap.”

IHS provides services to about 130,000 people through seven hospitals, 15 health centers and several smaller satellite clinics in the four-state area. At the emergency room in Rosebud alone, 6,595 patients were seen between May and October.

## House committee sends religious protection measure to floor

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Government agencies couldn’t revoke a group’s public funding or tax exempt status for acting upon its opposition to gay marriage, premarital sex or transgender rights under a South Dakota bill that passed its first legislative test Wednesday.

The House State Affairs committee sent the measure, which would also protect individuals, to the full chamber. Republican Rep. Scott Craig, who sponsored the plan, said people and organizations are facing repercussions from the government for actions based on religious beliefs or moral convictions.

Under the bill, government entities couldn’t take “discriminatory action” against people, companies and organizations, among others, for actions, speech or beliefs based on certain religious or moral convictions.

The measure’s protections deal with the beliefs that marriage should only be recognized as between a man and a woman, that sex is reserved for marriage and that the terms male and female refer to

biological sex that is determined by anatomy at birth.

"This is narrowly targeted to protect a small group of organizations and individuals that are particularly vulnerable in light of the same-sex marriage decision by the Supreme Court," said Matt Sharp, an attorney with the non-profit legal organization Alliance Defending Freedom.

Sharp's group put forward in support of the bill the example of Catholic charities in Illinois, whose contracts with the state weren't renewed because they didn't want to place children with couples who were in civil unions.

The American Civil Liberties Union of South Dakota opposes the measure, in part because of situations such as the one in Illinois. The plan would open the door to taxpayer-funded discrimination against LGBT people, unwed mothers and unmarried couples, Policy Director Libby Skarin said.

Skarin said she's concerned the bill would allow state contractors or grant recipients such as homeless shelters or drug treatment programs to turn away LGBT people or anyone who has a sexual relationship outside of marriage.

"This bill purports to provide protections to a certain set of beliefs and to afford special privileges to those beliefs, and those beliefs only," she said.

The bill protects against "discriminatory" governmental acts ranging from revoking an organization's tax exempt status to denying access to a state grant, contract or public property. But the proposal would not protect government employees while they are working.

If the bill is passed, it would also allow people to bring violations to the courts.

## Measure voiding transgender athlete policy passes committee

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A measure that would void a high school activities association policy allowing transgender students to request to play on the athletic team of their choice is headed to the House floor after passing through a committee on Wednesday.

The bill would require the Legislature's consent for any future South Dakota High School Activities Association policy on transgender student athletes. The policy, originally adopted in 2014, stirred up concerns among some Republican lawmakers, who tried but failed to reverse it last year.

Dale Bartscher, who lobbies for the conservative group Family Heritage Alliance Action, said there was "quite a firestorm unleashed on the state of South Dakota" after the association adopted the "ill-advised" policy.

Efforts to block it during the 2015 session stalled in the Senate after easily passing through the House.

It's time to void the policy and start over, Bartscher said. The House State Affairs committee voted 10-3 to send the measure to the full chamber.

Republican Rep. Roger Hunt, who sponsored the measure, said it would allow more time to revisit the issue. No transgender students have submitted requests to the association under the policy, association Executive Director Wayne Carney said.

But opponents contend that the bill would create more barriers for transgender children.

Terri Bruce, a transgender man who testified against the legislation, said people don't transition to another gender to gain access to certain locker rooms or to play on different sports teams.

The 52-year-old from Custer County said he's concerned with lawmakers' attacks on transgender people. "To be singled out, to have lawmakers of the state target you and to draw attention that you might not want because you're different, these are children. They're children," Bruce said. "I don't understand why they can't be left alone to decide who they are."

Bob Riter, a lobbyist for the activities association, said the policy was thoughtfully created through significant effort from local school districts and their representatives. He asked the committee to vote down the bill and let the policy work.

The policy was revised in November. It aims to provide a way for transgender students to participate on the sports teams that reflect their gender identities rather than the sex listed on their birth certificates.

The policy requires a student and parent to notify the school that a student wants to play on the sports

team that matches their gender identity.

The school submits the application and documentation to the association for review by an independent hearing officer who must be a licensed attorney and a member of the State Bar of South Dakota.

A separate measure that would have regulated the activities association's policymaking abilities failed in a different committee on Wednesday.

## Leaders seek funds for Syria, elusive stability for region

**JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press**

**BRADLEY KLAPPER, Associated Press**

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister David Cameron urged world leaders on Thursday to dig deep to help millions of victims of Syria's civil war — even as diplomatic efforts to end the conflict stuttered and stalled.

Pledges of aid at an international donors' conference in London came as military bombardments in Syria intensified and tentative peace talks in Geneva were on hold.

"After almost five years of fighting, it's pretty incredible that as we come here in London in 2016 the situation on the ground is actually worse," U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry told delegates from some 70 countries.

The one-day meeting, held under tight security near the British Parliament, is aimed at gathering donations and agreeing on plans for economic and educational projects to help the 4.6 million Syrians who have sought refuge in neighboring countries including Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

Jordan's King Abdullah said his country could not sustain unaided the burden of what he said was almost 1.3 million Syrian refugees, a fifth of Jordan's population. The Jordanian figure includes all Syrians in the country, even those who came before 2011; the U.N. refugee agency says it has registered 630,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan.

"We are doing our best against very difficult odds," the king said, but added: "We have reached our limit.

"Our country will continue to do what we can do to help those in need, but it cannot be at the expense of our own people's welfare."

The meeting opened hours after the latest U.N.-led bid to start peace talks in Geneva was suspended for three weeks — a sign of major difficulties. The faltering peace process increases pressure on donor countries to commit long-term aid to the victims of the five-year civil war.

The U.N. and regional countries say they need \$9 billion in assistance for 2016 alone, as the situation in the region deteriorates,

Conference co-host Britain has pledged 1.2 billion pounds (\$1.75 billion) in new aid between now and 2020, and the U.S. committed \$900 million to bring total U.S. humanitarian spending on the five-year war to \$5.1 billion.

Previous aid conferences for Syria have repeatedly fallen short. Last year's, in Kuwait, raised just half its \$7 billion target, forcing cuts to programs such as refugee food aid.

But this year's organizers — which include Britain, Germany and the U.N. — hope that finding jobs and schools for refugees can foster stability and keep displaced Syrians in the Middle East, slowing the chaotic migration of refugees to Europe.

"If ever there was a moment to take a new approach to the humanitarian crisis in Syria surely it is now," Cameron told delegates.

"After years of conflict we are witnessing a desperate movement of humanity as hundreds of thousands of Syrians fear they have no alternative than to put their lives in the hands of evil people-smugglers in search of a future."

Aid workers warn of a "lost generation" of Syrians if the 700,000 children living in refugee camps but not going to school are not given an education.

Education campaigner Malala Yusafzai and 17-year-old Syrian refugee Mezon al-Melihan met with Cameron and other leaders to press for \$1.4 billion for education for children in Syria and refugee camps.

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"Without education, who will bring peace?" al-Melihan said.

The conference also will discuss plans to create economic incentives for countries that are under the strain of housing millions of newcomers.

The politicians, diplomats and aid groups also will seek ways of getting more humanitarian aid to suffering civilians inside Syria.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told an audience at Cambridge University on Wednesday that the U.N. has been able to deliver aid to "much less than 5 percent" of the 400,000 Syrians living in besieged villages, many of them in areas controlled by the Islamic State group.

Neither the Syrian government nor rebel groups were due to attend the conference.

Syrian government forces, backed by Russian airstrikes, have increased the pace of attacks on opposition forces in recent days, as the Geneva peace talks faltered.

The U.N.'s Ban told the conference it was "deeply disturbing that the initial steps of the talks have been undermined by the continuous lack of sufficient humanitarian access, and by a sudden increase of aerial bombing and military activities within Syria."

He said that "the coming days should be used to get back to the table not to secure more gains on the battlefield."

Russia is represented at the conference by Ambassador Alexander Yakovenko. He tweeted Wednesday that it was hard to discuss aid to Syria without its government present.

Kerry blamed Syria's government and Russia for the peace talks stalling.

Kerry said he spoke by telephone with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov Thursday, and the two agreed to continue discussing "how to implement the cease-fire."

Russia's foreign ministry said Kerry and Lavrov also agreed to try to ensure the pause in the Geneva talks was as short as possible.

## Va. Tech murder suspects left few clues to possible motives

**TOM FOREMAN Jr., Associated Press**

**BEN NUCKOLS, Associated Press**

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — Less than a year ago, David Eisenhower smiled confidently into a television news camera, discussing his athletic and academic aspirations for a weekly feature on high school athletes in the Baltimore area.

"I make my personal goals achievable or just out of reach of achievable," Eisenhower said. "That way I'm always constantly striving to better myself."

Now the subject of murder charges that have shocked those who know him, his university campus and the nation, Eisenhower — blonde-haired, square-jawed and gangly — remains an enigma, the mystery compounded by his brash statement to police after his arrest: "I believe the truth can set me free."

According to police, Eisenhower, an 18-year-old freshman engineering student and a distance runner on the track team at Virginia Tech, kidnapped and fatally stabbed a 13-year-old girl. Another freshman, 19-year-old Natalie Keepers, is charged with being an accessory before and after the crime, and accused of helping to hide Nicole Lovell's body off a state highway in North Carolina, two hours south of campus.

According to neighbor Stacy Snider, Nicole showed off Kik messages from her "boyfriend" along with a photo of an 18-year-old named David, and said she would sneak out that night to meet him.

If Eisenhower or Keepers had a dark side, they kept it hidden, according to those who knew them, who reacted to the allegations with a uniform sense of shock.

"When I saw her (mug shot) photo, I didn't know who it was. I thought that was the victim, because it didn't look anything like I knew her," said Stan Arnold, Keepers' high school math teacher in Columbia, Maryland. "She always came across as being bubbly and happy and excited about her future."

Some of the most pointed comments came from a Facebook post attributed to Gaige Kern, a friend of Eisenhower and a fellow distance runner at Virginia Tech.

"The David I knew had his faults, but this is beyond the scope of imagination," said the note, which was



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addressed to Eisenhower. "Did something happen to you that would cause a complete change, or was this newly surfaced personality always there, lurking in the shadows, hiding amidst lies? And if it was, how did you hide it so well?"

The post also mentioned that Eisenhower had a goal of working for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, which develops technology for the military. Kern told The Associated Press he wasn't ready to discuss the post or his friendship with Eisenhower.

Eisenhower and Keepers went to high schools five miles apart in Columbia, a planned community between Baltimore and Washington that's known for highly rated public schools and competitive athletics. It's not clear when they met.

Eisenhower, however, spent much of his childhood in Washington state, where he attended a small Christian school. His father was transferred to Maryland after his sophomore year, and his parents bought their \$620,000 home in Columbia in 2013, property records show.

He started running competitively in middle school at Riverside Christian School in Yakima, Washington, which has just 320 students in preschool through 12th grade. Excelling in the classroom and on the track, he had an apparently seamless transition to Wilde Lake High School, which has 1,200 students.

His coach at Wilde Lake, Whitty Bass, raved about him in the feature for WMAR-TV, which aired last March. "These are the ones you take a deep breath when you realize what you've got and say, 'Don't mess this up,'" Bass said.

The coach was less effusive this week at an indoor track meet in Hyattsville, Maryland, declining to comment on Eisenhower or the allegations.

Eisenhower was redshirted for his freshman year in track at Virginia Tech, according to a sophomore teammate, Andrew Eason. In the WMAR feature, Eisenhower said he hoped to redshirt so he could run in college for five years.

Keepers played junior varsity soccer at Hammond High School but wasn't a standout athlete like Eisenhower. Her interests seemed more diverse as she joined the math team and Model United Nations and became a member of the National Honor Society and the National Science Honor Society, according to her LinkedIn profile. She acted in plays, helped direct the musical "Seussical" and taught science at a summer Bible camp.

In 2014, she interned at a NASA facility in Maryland, and she planned to double-major in aerospace and ocean engineering and naval engineering.

"My field of study is due to my fascination in the foundations of aircrafts, boats, and submarines. After college, I plan to hopefully get a job with the government or an aerospace or ocean company," she wrote on LinkedIn.

At Virginia Tech, she joined a program for freshmen called the Hypatia Women in Engineering Learning Community. According to the school's website, participants live in the same dorm and are required to enroll in a semester-long seminar class where they talk about professional and personal development, academic success strategies and issues related to being women in male-dominated fields.

Those who knew her said she seemed like a normal teenager in every way.

"She was talkative, she had a lot of energy," said Mindy Niland, a 21-year-old student at Howard Community College. She said they were close in middle school, and that Keepers had slept over at her house. "We went shopping. She was really interested in guys. I don't remember her having any violent behavior."

## Global stocks in narrow ranges as US payrolls loom

The Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Global stock markets traded in narrow ranges Thursday, a day after big gains that were prompted by a sharp rebound in the price of oil. Investors are preparing for Friday's U.S. monthly payrolls report, which could go a long way to determining whether the Federal Reserve raises interest rates again next month.

KEEPING SCORE: In Europe, the CAC-40 in France was down 0.2 percent at 4,219 while Germany's DAX fell 0.1 percent to 9,430. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares outperformed its counterparts,

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trading 0.8 percent higher at 5,882. Wall Street was poised for a soft opening, with Dow futures and the broader S&P 500 futures down 0.1 percent.

**RATE RETHINK:** Investors are positioning themselves for Friday's payroll numbers. Over the past couple of weeks, they have scaled back expectations that the Fed will continue gradually raising interest rates amid signs that the global slowdown in growth is beginning to hurt the U.S. economy. On Wednesday, for example, the private ISM survey found U.S. services companies grew in January at the slowest rate in nearly two years.

**ANALYST TAKE:** "The Fed has ended up being boxed in and is finding itself at the mercy of external economic developments, such as the slowing Chinese economy," said Neil MacKinnon, global macro strategist at VTB Capital.

**CURRENCIES:** Diminished expectations of a March Fed rate hike have hit the dollar. The euro was up 0.8 percent at a three-month high of \$1.12 while the dollar fell 0.4 percent to 117.30 yen.

**ENERGY:** The dollar's retreat on Wednesday in particular helped oil prices spike as the weaker currency makes oil cheaper for international investors buying with other currencies. On Thursday, benchmark U.S. crude fell 12 cents to \$32.16 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract jumped \$2.40, or 8 percent, to close at \$32.28 a barrel on Wednesday in New York. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oil prices, dipped 47 cents to \$34.57.

**ASIAN SCORECARD:** Most Asian markets rallied Thursday. South Korea's Kospi added 1.4 percent to 1,916.26 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng advancing 1 percent to 19,183.09. The Shanghai Composite Index in mainland China climbed 1.5 percent to 2,791.02. Japan's Nikkei 225 lost 0.9 percent to close at 17,044.99 after the yen strengthened sharply against the dollar, hurting share prices of the country's export manufacturers.

## Israeli court sentences 2 over Palestinian teenager's murder

**TIA GOLDENBERG, Associated Press**

JERUSALEM (AP) — An Israeli court on Thursday sentenced two Israelis in the 2014 murder of a 16-year-old Palestinian, sending one to life in prison for a crime that sparked deep soul-searching in Israel and was part of a series of events that led to the Gaza war later that year.

The court sentenced a second Israeli, believed to have had a lesser role in the crime, to 21 years in prison. Another Israeli is awaiting a verdict following a psychological examination.

"The sentence imposed on the defendants reflects what we asked for and the barbaric and atrocious act," said Ori Korb, the state prosecutor. He said the murder marked a "moral nadir."

The Israelis sentenced Thursday snatched Palestinian teen Mohammed Abu Khdeir from an east Jerusalem neighborhood in July 2014, driving him to a Jerusalem forest where he was burned to death. The murder was carried out in revenge for the abduction and killing earlier that summer of three Israeli teens by Palestinians said by Israel to have been Hamas operatives.

In response to the abduction, Israel rounded up Hamas members in the West Bank, sparking a barrage of rocket fire from the Gaza Strip. Days after the Abu Khdeir murder, Israel began airstrikes in Gaza in an attempt to quell the rockets, resulting in a 50-day war that killed more than 2,200 Palestinians and 73 Israelis.

Hussein Abu Khdeir, Mohammed's father, told Israeli Radio that the family planned to appeal the shorter sentence to the Israeli Supreme Court.

Abu Khdeir's murder was roundly condemned across the Israeli political spectrum and shocked Israelis. A year later, suspected Jewish extremists torched the West Bank home of a Palestinian family, killing three of its members, including a toddler, and wounding a 4-year-old boy, who is still receiving treatment in an Israeli hospital.

Tensions between Israelis and Palestinians have continued to rise since, with a nearly five-month long wave of violence now roiling the region. The violence has killed 27 Israelis and 154 Palestinians; of those Israel says 109 were attackers and the rest killed in clashes with security forces.

Israel says the violence has been fueled by a Palestinian campaign of lies and incitement. The Palestin-

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ians say it is rooted in frustrations stemming from nearly 50 years of Israeli occupation.

The Israeli military on Thursday sealed off the home village of the three Palestinian men who staged a deadly attack in Jerusalem and carried out a number of arrests there.

Citing "situation assessments," the military said no one can exit or enter the village of Kabatiya in the northern West Bank until further notice. Minor clashes broke out in the area between Israeli troops and rock-throwing Palestinian youth.

Such internal closures were common during the second Palestinian uprising a decade ago but have been rarely used in recent years.

Wednesday's attack with automatic weapons, knives and explosive devices killed a 19-year-old police officer and wounded another in one of the most brazen attacks of the current round of violence roiling the region. The three Palestinians, in their early 20s, were shot and killed by police.

"This is a prolonged battle. Islamic terror is sweeping across the whole world and inciting millions," said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a visit to a Jerusalem hospital with troops wounded in the attacks. "We are in this turmoil. It doesn't skip us but we battle it fiercely and will continue to do so."

In the latest violence, police said two 13-year-old Arab girls stabbed and lightly wounded a security guard at a bus station in the mixed Jewish-Arab Israeli city of Ramle on Thursday. A photo from the scene shared by police showed two kitchen knives on the ground beside a calculator, pens and other school supplies. The girls, who are Israeli citizens, were arrested at the scene, police said.

Israel has deployed a series of measures in a bid to crack down on the violence, including sending troops to secure its cities, expanding police powers and toughening punishments for attackers.

Israel's Interior Minister Aryeh Deri said on Thursday he would not extend the residency rights of the father of an Arab citizen of Israel who carried out an attack in October, annulling his access to social security. Deri said the step was meant to "cause terrorists to understand that their actions will have tough implications also on their family members."

The Interior Ministry said its decision was also based on the father violating an agreement to not communicate with family members of his whom Israel says are militants.

## **40,000 protest pension reform as general strike grips Greece**

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Sporadic clashes broke out in central Athens Thursday as tens of thousands marched to the Greek Parliament during a general strike called to protest planned pension reforms that are part of the country's third international bailout.

Dozens of hooded anarchists threw petrol bombs and stones at riot police, who responded with tear gas and stun grenades. Police said a journalist was attacked by rioters and taken to hospital but was not in serious condition.

Overall, police said about 40,000 people took part in two separate, consecutive demonstrations through central Athens. Smaller protests were held in other major cities.

Unions are angry at pension reforms that are part of Greece's third international bailout. The left-led government is trying to overhaul the country's ailing pension system by increasing social security contributions to avoid pension cuts, but critics say the reforms will lead many to lose two-thirds of their income.

Opposition to the reform has been vociferous, uniting a disparate group of professions, including farmers, artists, taxi drivers, lawyers, doctors, engineers and seamen among others.

Thursday's general strike is the most significant the coalition government of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has faced since he initially came to power a little more than a year ago. As an opposition party, Tsipras' radical left Syriza party had led opposition to pension reforms, but he was forced to ditch his earlier stance when faced with the stark choice of signing up to a third bailout or the country having to leave the euro currency.

Syriza's difficulties with the pension reform plan were evident in the party's statement that it was backing Thursday's strike.

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Athens pensioner Yannis Kouvalakis said Tsipras' government "fooled" Greeks by promising to reverse austerity cuts.

"Because they are from the left, what happened? Was the situation saved? Things got worse. They'd said they'd give some money to pensioners or the unemployed, increase the minimum wage to 750 euros (per month)," he said. "They cut five euros from my pension ... What can they give? Forget it."

The strike comes as the government negotiates with Greece's international debt inspectors, who returned to Athens this week to review progress on the country's bailout obligations. The central Athens hotel where the inspectors were staying was heavily guarded by police.

Ferries between Greece's islands and the mainland remained tied up in port as part of the strike, while only limited public transport was operating in Athens for a few hours in the day and taxis also stayed off the streets. More than a dozen domestic flights were canceled, while farmers maintained their blockades of highways that have forced motorists into lengthy detours.

State-run hospitals were functioning on emergency staff, while state schools, many shops and gas stations were shut.

## Rubio looks to NH to peg himself as a Republican for all

**THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press**

LACONIA, N.H. (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio is using every bit of momentum his campaign received from the Iowa caucuses to show New Hampshire voters that he — not his competition — is the Republican for all Americans.

Rubio describes caucus winner Ted Cruz as chronically "calculating" and points to the failure of others to pull in higher numbers as testament to their inability to lead. He calls New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie a sore loser after Christie accused him of being the "boy in the bubble" who won't take questions.

Rubio's attacks on his opponents come with one glaring exception: billionaire Donald Trump, who edged him for a second-place finish in Monday's caucuses. Rubio has reasoned that Trump has unveiled insufficient policy, and therefore, hasn't given him reason enough to criticize him, even though they disagree on several fundamental issues.

Instead, Rubio appears to be biding his time, quietly courting his rivals' potential voters. By doing so, he's pursuing a course of consolidation.

"He needs to coalesce the vote before he can challenge Trump," said Republican pollster Greg Strimple, who is unaligned with any of the campaigns. He said he has been impressed with what he calls the Rubio team's "message and strategic discipline."

Rubio captured headlines with his strong third-place finish in the leadoff contest Monday, finishing behind Cruz — the heavy favorite among Iowa's disproportionately influential evangelical conservatives — and less than a percentage point behind Trump, who had seesawed with Cruz between first and second place in most preference polls in Iowa.

If Rubio tops Cruz in New Hampshire's primary on Tuesday and finishes ahead of candidates such as former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, he will have more evidence to support a point he's been hammering for weeks: He is the candidate to unite the party.

"When I am our nominee I can bring this party together," Rubio told more than 300 people at a campaign event Wednesday in Bow, New Hampshire. "We cannot win if we are divided against each other."

While Republican voters in Iowa skew more toward the evangelical conservative, the New Hampshire Republican primary often draws independents and more fiscally conservative voters. Rubio's campaign is hoping he can show support in two states with very different electorates as evidence of a campaign with longevity and fortitude.

With his wife and four children in tow, Rubio maintained a dizzying schedule in New Hampshire this week, squeezing every drop of energy out of his better-than-expected finish in Iowa.

By Tuesday, a sleep-deprived Rubio kicked off the day in New Hampshire doing 15 television and radio interviews to local stations.

Rubio's bus was rolling up to the lakes region north of Concord on Wednesday on a schedule of a dozen public appearances between Tuesday and Saturday's last pre-primary debate at St. Anselm's college in

Manchester.

While Rubio was criticizing various rival candidates at times during the interviews, Trump's name never came up. When asked about it, he said Trump has laid out few plans, and that he had no public policy quarrel with Trump.

"So when the time comes and it's appropriate, we'll do so," he said.

Still, Trump differs sharply from Rubio on immigration policy by supporting the deportation of all people in the U.S. illegally. Rubio supports deporting "criminal aliens" but is open to a process by which people in the country illegally may stay after immigration security is addressed.

On Tuesday, a woman asked Rubio his opinion of Trump's public mockery of a New York Times reporter who is disabled.

"I think we all, obviously, not just disagree with it, but find it distasteful," Rubio answered quietly. "I think he's been called out for that repeatedly and I think people see it for what it is."

It's part of a pattern of careful treatment of Trump by Rubio. By contrast, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush released a full-page newspaper ad attacking Trump and was airing a two-minute campaign ad in New Hampshire featuring clips of Trump's on-air insults.

## **Sri Lanka lifts unofficial ban on Tamil national anthem**

**BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI, Associated Press**

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — A Tamil-language version of Sri Lanka's national anthem was performed at the country's independence ceremony on Thursday, lifting an unofficial ban in another step toward post-civil war ethnic reconciliation.

Schoolchildren sang the anthem in Sinhalese, from the ethnic majority group, and the minority Tamil language at the ceremony marking the 68th anniversary of independence from Britain.

The move, despite opposition from Sinhalese nationalists, is an effort to reach out to Tamils after rebels from the ethnic minority fought a nearly 26-year war for a separate homeland until their crushing defeat in 2009.

President Maithripala Sirisena says he will unite the nation, a process which has not been given prominence since independence. Sirisena's hard-line predecessor Mahinda Rajapaksa was accused of further alienating the Tamil community by his post-war triumphalism. He had imposed an unofficial ban on the Tamil version of the national anthem.

In his speech Thursday, Sirisena said his political opponents were trying to create fear among the armed forces that fought the war that they will be penalized for rights abuses. He pledged to promote ethnic reconciliation while safeguarding the country's sovereignty and respect of the military.

"Our aim is to turn the armed forces into a world recognized one," he said.

The government was accused of indiscriminate shelling, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, torture and sexual violence, while Tamil Tiger rebels were accused of child recruitment and killing civilians.

Last year's report from U.N. human rights chief Zeid Raad al-Hussein said that the patterns of violations strongly indicated war crimes and crimes against humanity were likely committed by both sides. Zeid is scheduled to visit Saturday.

Sirisena said his government would face U.N. recommendations, which are opposed by some opposition parties and nationalist Sinhala Buddhist groups.

## **Western retirees at Thai resort busted for playing bridge**

BANGKOK (AP) — Add aging Western bridge players to the list of desperadoes in Thailand's seaside resort of Pattaya, a sin city rife with prostitution, corruption and foreign and home-grown gangsters.

The bridge players, mostly British but also from Scandinavia, the Netherlands and elsewhere, were busted by a task force of soldiers, police and local officials as they played cards at eight tables in an apartment above a restaurant, police Col. Sukathat Pumpanmuang, superintendent of the Pattaya Police Station, said Thursday. He said the law enforcement agents were acting on a tip that illegal gambling was taking

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place there.

Those arrested Wednesday afternoon — including an 84-year-old Dutch woman, according to the Pattaya One news website — were released on bail of 5,000 baht (\$140) each in the wee hours of Thursday morning. Sukathat said they would not be charged with gambling, but might be charged under a law limiting individuals to possession of 120 unregistered playing cards.

The officer said police didn't see money changing hands, but seized as evidence computers, decks of cards and a book with results of the bridge games. He said most of the players were in their 60s or older.

The card players' plight was eased after the president of the Contract Bridge League of Thailand, Chodchoy Sophonpanich — a civic activist who is a member of Thailand's most prominent banking family — went to Pattaya on Thursday morning to advise police that bridge was treated under the law as a sport rather than gambling.

"Police know that bridge is a sport because a similar case happened before, but this time it was military and district officials who initiated the raid and they probably didn't know," said Chaiyut Assanaiyarat, the bridge league's manager.

The chief of Thailand's junta, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, began a crackdown on gambling, especially at illegal casinos, soon after taking power as part of a broader anti-corruption campaign.

## Campus beer, wine sales measure to go before committee

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A state legislative committee is set to consider a bill that would allow beer and wine sales on South Dakota public university campuses at special events such as sports games.

The Senate Commerce and Energy committee is scheduled to consider the plan on Thursday.

Republican Sen. Larry Tidemann of Brookings is the proposal's main Senate sponsor. He says the plan could help generate income for the universities, but he says the intent is to have a private vendor manage the sales.

Current state law doesn't ban serving alcohol, but on-campus sales are prohibited.

The South Dakota Board of Regents would also have to authorize alcohol sales at the events. It would apply to events involving sports, performing arts and fundraising, among other things.

Tidemann says the measure "opens the door."

## 10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

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

### 1. LEADERS SEEK RECORD \$9 BILLION IN FUNDS FOR SYRIA

They are meeting in London to pledge financial assistance for millions of Syrians displaced by war — and try to slow the chaotic exodus of refugees to Europe.

### 2. SYRIAN REFUGEES STRUGGLE TO BUY FOOD

In a camp in northern Iraq, where jobs are scarce, a family of four gets by on one meal a day as aid dwindles.

### 3. DEMOCRATIC RACE SHAKEN, STIRRED

Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders are in a tug-of-war over who's the best standard-bearer for progressive values.

### 4. SCIENTISTS WANT MORE ZIKA SAMPLES FROM BRAZIL

Four officials at the World Health Organization tell The AP that the Brazilians are starving international partners of up-to-date information.

### 5. WHERE 'GAY CONVERSION' THERAPISTS FIND SAFE HAVEN

In Israel, practitioners say their services are in demand, mostly by Orthodox Jewish men trying to reduce their same-sex attractions.

### 6. HOW SOME VIEW NORTH KOREA'S ROCKET PLANS

In diplomatic terms, the announced launch is yet another sign of disrespect for Pyongyang's chief ally China.

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## 7. CASE AGAINST BILL COSBY WILL CONTINUE

A key battle will be waged over explicit testimony the actor gave in a deposition more than a decade ago.

## 8. WHO MAY BE READY TO ACCEPT ARREST

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange says if the U.N. finds he has lost his case against the United Kingdom and Sweden then he will turn himself into police at noon on Friday.

## 9. JOHNSON & JOHNSON, VIACYTE TESTING POSSIBLE DIABETES CURE

If it works as well in patients as it has in animals, it would end the need for frequent insulin injections and blood sugar testing.

## 10. RECRUITING CONTINUES, SEVERAL TOP 2017 QBS ALREADY COMMITTED

Any program that didn't get its quarterback during national signing day better act soon because many of the top candidates in the class of 2017 have already made their college decisions.

## Dem race shaken, stirred as Sanders, Clinton meet in debate

**NANCY BENAC, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders are in a tug-of-war over who's the best standard-bearer for progressive values as they road test lines of argument for the first one-on-one debate of the Democratic campaign.

The race for the Democratic nomination, once seen as a sure thing for Clinton, took on new vigor this week after Sanders held the former secretary of state to a whisper-thin margin of victory in Iowa's leadoff caucuses. The tone of their back-and-forth has become increasingly sharp this week, and the candidates agreed to add four more debates to the primary season schedule, including Thursday's faceoff in Durham, New Hampshire.

In a tussle over their very political identities, the two candidates are engaged in an ongoing argument over who is more committed to — and capable of — carrying out a liberal agenda on health care, income inequality, worker rights and more.

Sanders, favored in New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary, said Wednesday that Clinton's record is "just not progressive" on any number of issues, including her vote as a senator to authorize the war in Iraq.

Clinton called that a "low blow" and pressed her counterpoint that she's the candidate with the ability to actually implement progressive changes.

"Good ideas on paper are important, but you've got to be able to translate them into action," she said.

The two made their rival cases in interviews and appearances around New Hampshire and in back-to-back appearances at a town-hall style forum on CNN on Wednesday night.

Polls find Sanders holding a commanding lead over Clinton in New Hampshire, and he was eager to lower expectations for how he would finish. He cast himself as an underdog going up against "the most powerful political organization in the country."

Clinton, for her part, has signaled her determination at least to narrow the gap before Tuesday's vote. And her prospects are much stronger after Iowa, as the race moves on to states with more diverse electorates that are to her advantage.

The two campaigns even skirmished over why Sanders was doing so well in New Hampshire polls. Sanders' campaign accused Clinton's of insulting New Hampshire voters by suggesting that they only support the Vermont senator because he's from a neighboring state. That was after Clinton's campaign manager referred to New Hampshire as Sanders' "backyard."

On the broader issue, Clinton offers herself to voters as "a progressive who gets things done," part of her pitch that she's the one with the practical skills to implement a progressive agenda.

Sanders counter-argument is that it will take a "political revolution" to achieve goals such as universal health care, a fairer tax system and an incorruptible campaign finance system.

Asked earlier in the week if Clinton was a progressive, he said: "Some days, yes. Except when she announces that she is a proud moderate. Then I guess she is not a progressive."

Sanders added that it was hard to take on the establishment "when you become as dependent as she has through her super PAC and in other ways on Wall Street or drug company money."

Clinton said she found it amusing that the senator thinks he can be the “gatekeeper” of who’s progressive. The Durham debate will be the first faceoff for Clinton and Sanders since former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley dropped out of the race after a poor showing in Iowa.

The candidates next meet on Feb. 11, then on March 9 for a debate that has long been on the schedule. Under an agreement announced Wednesday, there will also be a March debate in Flint, Michigan, where the city’s water contamination crisis has been attracting national attention, and two debates in April and May on dates still to be determined.

## Colombia leader to ask Obama for dollars, terror list change

**JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the verge of an historic truce, the leader of Colombia will ask President Barack Obama for more money and tweaks to U.S. policy to help Colombia rebuild after half a century of guerrilla fighting.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos arrives at the White House amid peace talks between his government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. With a final deal expected as early as next month, the government is looking ahead to a decade-plus effort to recover parts of the country it had lost to the guerrillas during Latin America’s longest-running armed conflict.

Ahead of the meeting, White House officials said Obama planned to ask Congress for increased aid for Colombia in his budget proposal next week. The Obama administration hasn’t put a number on the request, but Colombia’s government has said spending will have to surge after a deal so that roads, schools and health care facilities can be rebuilt in blighted areas that had been ceded to the FARC.

“We recognize in the event of a peace agreement, one of the biggest challenges will be to demobilize the FARC and ensure their reintegration into society as constructive members,” said Mark Feierstein, the Western Hemisphere director at the White House’s National Security Council. “We intend to put a lot of support into that effort.”

Santos brings another request with him to the Oval Office: the removal of the FARC from the U.S. list of terrorist groups, if and when a deal is struck. Just before departing Colombia, Santos told The Associated Press he also wants the Obama administration to suspend drug warrants against guerrilla commanders, many of whom are at the negotiating table in Cuba.

“Any effort by the United States to allow us to apply transitional justice, for example by suspending the arrest warrants, would help us tremendously,” Santos said.

Bernard Aronson, the U.S. special envoy to the Colombia peace process, said the U.S. would review the FARC’s terrorist designation for possible removal once the group has renounced violence, given up its weapons and ceased hostile actions toward American citizens and interests — but not before.

“How it will end or what the timetable would be would be based on the conditions inside of Colombia,” Aronson said.

As part of the peace talks, the FARC has renounced kidnapping and declared a unilateral truce while demanding its removal from the terror list, which includes al-Qaida and the Islamic State.

The occasion for Santos’ visit is the 15th anniversary of Plan Colombia, the \$10 billion U.S. effort to fight insurgency and the narcotics trade in Colombia, the staunchest U.S. ally in the region. Although the initiative is credited with helping fight the cocaine trafficking that fueled political unrest in Colombia, it’s been criticized for also giving way to human rights abuses. Obama administration officials said the U.S. remained concerned about attacks against human rights advocates in Colombia.

Following an afternoon meeting in the Oval Office, the two leaders planned to attend a reception marking the Plan Colombia anniversary. A key question as Santos headed to Washington was whether he’d be joined there by former Presidents Alvaro Uribe and Andres Pastrana, who laid the groundwork for ending the conflict but have accused Santos of going too easy on the FARC. The White House said Pastrana planned to attend but that Uribe did not.



## Roberts sold more than \$250,000 in Microsoft stock

MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court's recent decision to step into a relatively unimportant case involving Microsoft's Xbox 360 gaming system revealed that Chief Justice John Roberts has sold between \$250,000 and \$500,000 in Microsoft stock in the past year.

Federal judges violate the law if they take part in a case involving a company they own shares in, although Roberts declined through a court spokeswoman to comment on his situation.

His decision, though, raises this question: If the chief justice can unload one of his two largest stock holdings (Time-Warner is the other), why does any justice continue to own individual companies' stock, knowing that doing so sometimes will force him out of a case?

"We're not talking about grandpa's stock in the family business where a justice might have some sentimental reason for holding onto the shares. These are major corporations who regularly come before the court," said Arthur Hellman, who specializes in judicial ethics at the University of Pittsburgh.

Roberts himself backed a change in federal law to make decisions to sell more palatable financially. In 2006, Congress changed the law to prevent judges from getting socked with a big tax hit if they sell a stock to avoid a conflict of interest, then reinvest the money in government securities or certain kinds of mutual funds.

Only three justices — Samuel Alito, Stephen Breyer and Roberts — even own individual stocks. Yet in the past few months, Alito has had to sit out a Supreme Court case and Breyer and Roberts acknowledged they overlooked stock ownership that should have precluded their participation in cases.

Alito's ownership of up to \$15,000 worth of shares in Wisconsin-based Johnson Controls Inc. caused him to miss the court's consideration of federal policy on electricity pricing. Johnson Controls owns a subsidiary that was involved in the high-profile energy case. Breyer took part in that case despite his wife's ownership of the very same stock.

The routine check Breyer's office did to avoid conflicts failed to flag the Johnson Controls stock as a problem, Supreme Court clerk Scott Harris said in a letter to the parties after the argument. Breyer's wife, Joanna, quickly sold 750 shares worth about \$33,000 after Breyer was alerted to the conflict. Breyer voted with the majority to uphold the policy that was being challenged by industry groups.

In early October, Roberts took part in the denial of an appeal by Texas Instruments among 20 parties that appealed their share of the costs to clean up a hazardous waste site in Arizona. Roberts owns between \$100,001 and \$250,000 in Texas Instruments stock, and court spokeswoman Kathy Arberg acknowledged Roberts should not have been involved. Alito sat it out, without explanation.

Fix the Court, a judicial ethics watchdog, first spotted Roberts' Texas Instruments conflict.

The chief justice's sale of his Microsoft stock was the largest single stock sale by anyone on the court in at least the 10-plus years he has been there.

In 2014, Alito got rid of shares in five companies worth at least \$330,000, and perhaps as much as \$900,000. The justices report their financial holdings in ranges, rather than exact values. Alito's investment portfolio has grown in recent years through inheritance and he has sought to reduce some individual stock investments. He still held stock in nearly three dozen companies as of the end of 2014, according to his most recent financial disclosure.

Breyer and Roberts also have reduced some holdings. Breyer's largest single investment, worth from \$1 million to \$5 million, is his wife's stock in the Pearson media empire that her family started and built.

Roberts holds roughly a dozen individual stocks, the largest of which is \$250,000 to \$500,000 in Time Warner Inc.

## Johnson & Johnson, ViaCyte testing possible diabetes cure

LINDA A. JOHNSON, AP Business Writer

Johnson & Johnson, continuing its long quest for a Type 1 diabetes cure, is joining forces with biotech company ViaCyte to speed development of the first stem cell treatment that could fix the life-threatening hormonal disorder.

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They've already begun testing it in a small number of diabetic patients. If it works as well in patients as it has in animals, it would amount to a cure, ending the need for frequent insulin injections and blood sugar testing.

ViaCyte and Johnson & Johnson's Janssen BetaLogics group said Thursday they've agreed to combine their knowledge and hundreds of patents on their research under ViaCyte, a longtime J&J partner focused on regenerative medicine.

The therapy involves inducing embryonic stem cells in a lab dish to turn into insulin-producing cells, then putting them inside a small capsule that is implanted under the skin. The capsule protects the cells from the immune system, which otherwise would attack them as invaders — a roadblock that has stymied other research projects.

Researchers at universities and other drug companies also are working toward a diabetes cure, using various strategies. But according to ViaCyte and others, this treatment is the first tested in patients.

If the project succeeds, the product could be available in several years for Type 1 diabetes patients and down the road could also treat insulin-using Type 2 diabetics.

"This one is potentially the real deal," said Dr. Tom Donner, director of the diabetes center at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. "It's like making a new pancreas that makes all the hormones" needed to control blood sugar.

Donner, who is not involved in the research, said if the device gives patients normal insulin levels, "it's going to prevent millions of diabetics from getting dangerous complications."

People with Type 1 diabetes no longer produce insulin, the hormone that converts sugar in the blood into energy, because their immune system has killed off the beta cells in the pancreas. Those cells make insulin in response to rising blood sugar levels after a meal.

Over years, excess sugar in the bloodstream damages blood vessels and organs. Without effective treatment, diabetics suffer severe complications: blindness, kidney failure, heart disease, amputations, even premature death. On the other hand, too much insulin can cause very low blood sugar, which can kill patients, particularly young children.

According to the American Diabetes Association, about 29.1 million Americans have diabetes, including 1.25 million with type 1 diabetes. The number with Type 1, or insulin-dependent, diabetes is growing steadily. Meanwhile, the number with Type 2 diabetes, whose bodies make some insulin but don't use it efficiently, is increasing exponentially due to the global epidemic of obesity and sedentary lifestyles.

Many patients can't control it well because treatment is exhausting, requiring a strict diet, frequent exercise, multiple daily insulin injections or other medicines and several finger pricks a day to test blood sugar. Also, some patients can't afford the expensive medicines.

ViaCyte Inc., based in San Diego, has been researching its treatment for a decade, partly with funding from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund and the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

Johnson & Johnson, based in New Brunswick, New Jersey, is a major ViaCyte investor and has been conducting parallel research for about 13 years, said Diego Miralles, J&J's head of global innovation.

"We wanted to hedge our bets to make sure we would win in this space ... that is so transformational," Miralles said.

He wouldn't disclose financial terms of the deal with ViaCyte.

The privately held company began the first round of patient testing a year ago, implanting its product, dubbed VC-01, in a dozen people with Type 1 diabetes, said Paul Laikind, ViaCyte's CEO and president. They received a small dose of insulin-producing cells inside their devices and are being closely monitored for two years to see insulin production and other effects.

After 12 weeks, the device had properly attached to nearby blood vessels, their new insulin-producing cells were still multiplying and no side effects were seen. Another dozen planned patients will soon get the same cell dose in capsules to be implanted in them.

If that goes well, in the next round of testing a few dozen patients will get devices holding a full dose of the cells implanted, likely in the second half of this year. Further testing may be needed before the product can be approved by regulators.

"We do believe that it will need to be replaced periodically," Laikind said.

Earlier testing in thousands of mice over years showed the lab-created insulin-producing cells matured and produced the needed hormone inside the mice for as long as they lived, about a year, noted Laikind.

Because of the protective capsule, which is flattish and smaller than a business card, if something goes awry, the capsule can be removed immediately to prevent patient harm.

Dr. Betul Hatipoglu, an endocrinologist at Cleveland Clinic, wrote in an email that preliminary results on the device are promising.

"More research is needed to continue to understand its impact," she wrote, adding that researchers must fine tune the device and determine whether there are any unforeseen safety issues.

## **Cosby case moves forward; deposition a key trial question**

**MARYCLAIRE DALE, Associated Press**

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — As a sexual assault case against actor Bill Cosby moves forward, a key battle will be waged over explicit testimony he gave in a deposition more than a decade ago.

Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill on Wednesday rejected the testimony of a former suburban Philadelphia prosecutor who said he promised Cosby would never be prosecuted. The decision allows the case to move to a preliminary hearing on March 8.

Cosby, 78, was arrested in December and charged with drugging and violating former Temple University athletic department employee Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. The TV star could get up to 10 years in prison if convicted. He has not yet entered a plea.

At issue will be whether a civil deposition Cosby gave can be used in the criminal case. In his deposition, Cosby admitted that he had affairs with young models and actresses, that he obtained quaaludes to give to women he wanted to have sex with and that he gave Constand three pills at his home. He said he reached into her pants but insisted it was consensual.

In 2005, then-Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce Castor decided the case was too flawed to prosecute. But Castor's successors reopened the investigation last year after Cosby's lurid, decade-old testimony was unsealed at the request of The Associated Press. Dozens of other women also came forward with similar accusations that destroyed Cosby's nice-guy image as America's Dad. This is the only case in which he has been charged.

O'Neill issued his ruling after a hard-fought two-day hearing. He said witness credibility was a factor but he did not elaborate.

In another setback for the defense, the judge also denied a request to disqualify newly elected Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele from the case. Cosby's lawyers had accused Steele of making a "political football" out of Cosby during his political campaign.

Cosby, who in his deposition called himself "one of the greatest storytellers in the world," remained silent in court this week.

His lawyers tried to get the case thrown out with help from Castor, who testified at the hearing that he intended to forever close the door on prosecuting the comedian. He said he considered his decision binding on his successors.

The promise was made to Cosby's now-deceased lawyer.

"In this case, the prosecution should be stopped in its tracks," Cosby lawyer Chris Tayback argued. "Really what we're talking about here is honoring a commitment."

Steele challenged Castor's credibility and questioned whether the former DA ever made such an agreement, since it was never put in writing on a legal document. He argued that in any case, Castor had no legal authority to make such a deal.

"A secret agreement that allows a wealthy defendant to buy his way out of a criminal case isn't right," Steele told the judge.

"There's no other witness to the promise," O'Neill said. "The rabbit is in the hat and you want me at this point to assume, 'Hey, the promise was made, judge. Accept that.'"

On the witness stand, Castor defended his decision not to bring charges, citing among other things

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Constand's yearlong delay in going to police, her continued contact with Cosby, and suggestions that she and her mother might have tried to extort the comic.

Most of the back-and-forth in court hinged on the wording and interpretation of a 2005 press release in which Castor announced he would not prosecute Cosby. Castor found himself sparring with prosecutors over many seemingly inconsistent statements he made over the years on whether Cosby could still be charged.

Castor tried to make a comeback as DA last fall but lost to Steele in a hotly contested race, during which Steele ran ads criticizing Castor for not prosecuting Cosby when he had the chance.

More than 50 women have accused Cosby of drugging and sexually assaulting them since the 1960s, but the statute of limitations for prosecuting the comic has run out in nearly every instance.

## Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 4, the 35th day of 2016. There are 331 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 4, 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin began a wartime conference at Yalta.

### On this date:

In 1783, Britain's King George III proclaimed a formal cessation of hostilities in the American Revolutionary War.

In 1789, electors chose George Washington to be the first president of the United States.

In 1861, delegates from six southern states that had recently seceded from the Union met in Montgomery, Alabama, to form the Confederate States of America.

In 1919, Congress established the U.S. Navy Distinguished Service Medal and the Navy Cross.

In 1932, New York Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt opened the Winter Olympic Games at Lake Placid.

In 1941, the United Service Organizations (USO) came into existence.

In 1962, a rare conjunction of the sun, the moon, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn occurred.

In 1974, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst, 19, was kidnapped in Berkeley, California, by the radical Symbionese Liberation Army.

In 1976, more than 23,000 people died when a severe earthquake struck Guatemala with a magnitude of 7.5, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1983, pop singer-musician Karen Carpenter died in Downey, California, at age 32.

In 1987, pianist Liberace died at his Palm Springs, California, home at age 67.

In 1997, a civil jury in Santa Monica, California, found O.J. Simpson liable for the deaths of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

In 2004, the Massachusetts high court declared that gay couples were entitled to nothing less than marriage, and that Vermont-style civil unions would not suffice. The social networking website Facebook had its beginnings as Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg launched "Thefacebook."

In 2005, Actor and civil rights activist Ossie Davis died in Miami Beach, Florida, at age 87.

In 2010, the first National Tea Party Convention opened in Nashville.

**Ten years ago:** Thousands of Syrians enraged by caricatures of the prophet Muhammad torched the Danish and Norwegian embassies in Damascus. In Gaza, Palestinians marched through the streets, storming European buildings and burning German and Danish flags. A stampede at a Manila stadium resulted in 74 deaths. Thousands of mourners poured into the Georgia Capitol rotunda to pay tribute to civil rights activist Coretta Scott King. Feminist author Betty Friedan died on her 85th birthday in Washington, D.C. Troy Aikman, Reggie White, Warren Moon, Harry Carson, John Madden and Rayfield Wright were elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama appealed to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to focus on

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his legacy and begin an orderly process to relinquish the power he'd held for 30 years; however, Obama stopped short of calling for Mubarak's immediate resignation. Iraq's prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, said he would return half of his annual salary to the public treasury in a symbolic gesture that appeared calculated to insulate him against anti-government unrest spreading across the Middle East.

**One year ago:** As Boston continued to dig out from more than 3 feet of snow in the past week, the New England Patriots were finally honored with a parade celebrating their fourth Super Bowl win. Some fans defied police warnings and watched the parade from atop giant piles of snow.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor William Phipps is 94. Former Argentinian President Isabel Peron is 85. Actor Gary Conway is 80. Movie director George A. Romero is 76. Actor John Schuck is 76. Rock musician John Steel (The Animals) is 75. Singer Florence LaRue (The Fifth Dimension) is 74. Former Vice President Dan Quayle is 69. Rock singer Alice Cooper is 68. Actor Michael Beck is 67. Actress Lisa Eichhorn is 64. Football Hall-of-Famer Lawrence Taylor is 57. Actress Pamelyn Ferdin is 57. Rock singer Tim Booth is 56. Rock musician Henry Bogdan is 55. Country singer Clint Black is 54. Rock musician Noodles (The Offspring) is 53. Country musician Dave Buchanan (Yankee Grey) is 50. Actress Gabrielle Anwar is 46. Actor Rob Corddry is 45. Singer David (dah-VEED') Garza is 45. Actor Michael Goorjian is 45. TV personality Nicolle Wallace (TV: formerly co-host "The View") is 44. Olympic gold medal boxer Oscar De La Hoya is 43. Rock musician Rick Burch (Jimmy Eat World) is 41. Singer Natalie Imbruglia (em-BROO'-lee-ah) is 41. Rapper Cam'ron is 40. Rock singer Gavin DeGraw is 39. Olympic gold medal gymnast-turned-singer Carly Patterson is 28.

**Thought for Today:** "Habit is necessary; it is the habit of having habits, of turning a trail into a rut, that must be incessantly fought against if one is to remain alive." — Edith Wharton, American author (1862-1937).