

Groton Daily Independent

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Teeners drop two to Chancellor

Groton's Teener team went to Chancellor where they lost the first game, 11-10, and the second game, 11-0.

Today they will play Tea and Beresford. Both games are at Beresford.

Saturday, July 19

Legion Region at Redfield
Teeners at Beresford
Birthdays: Carol Strom • Arlis Doeden • Alexis Harder • Hunter Monson • Isaiah Cutler
1:00 pm: Mud Drag Races east of Groton
4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, July 20

Legion Region at Redfield
Birthday: Joel Guthmiller
9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship with Communion
9:00am: Presbyterian Bible Study
9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass
9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship with Communion
10:00am: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont (LCMC) worship
10:00am: Presbyterian Worship
11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship
3:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship @ Nursing Home (India Circle Serves)
5:00pm: Worship at Historic Church in Groton

Monday, July 21

Senior Menu: Chicken Rice Casserole, Green Beans, Spinach Salad, Chocolate Pudding w/Bananas.
Birthday: Carson Bunn
6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible study
5:30 pm: Groton Garden Club Meeting at Janice Fliehs' home.
7:00 pm: City Council meeting

Tuesday, July 22

Senior Menu: Roast Beef, Potatoes/Carrots/Onions, Gravy, Honey Dew Melon or Peaches, Dinner Roll.
Birthday: Bill Podoll • Jean Lowary • Allison We-

Saturday mail still intact

The ping-pong match over 6-day mail continues on Capitol Hill. On Wednesday, the full House of Representatives voted to preserve 6-day mail in the Fiscal Year 2015 appropriation for USPS. In fact, the Postal Service gets no money for delivering Saturday mail in this bill. The appropriation is simply the vehicle Congress has used for the past 20 years to annually require 6-day mail. This vote was a victory for our side because the bill, HR 5016, was originally introduced without the 6-day requirement. The requirement was added back in at the full committee level by Reps. Latham (R-IA) and Serrano,(D-NY). We had expected Congressman Darrell Issa to make one more run to eliminate it last Wednesday, but evidently the force of opposition was sufficient to persuade him to hold off. We were glad we did not have to muster the CAT team for a floor fight.

The appropriations bill now moves the Senate where the 6-day requirement is in no real danger. The Senate may not actually pass it, but elect instead to vote for another continuing resolution to fund the agencies covered by the bill. Either way, it appears we are going to be safe for another year. The one caveat is that Congress *could* still pass a sweeping postal reform bill that would trump all previous actions. But the versions we oppose are stalled in both Houses while a deal that we would support is struggling to come together in time for the 113th Congress to act.

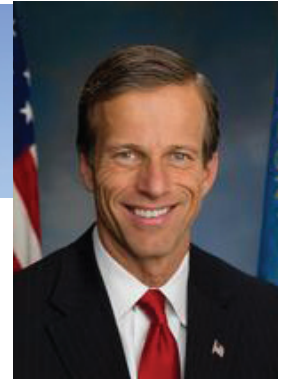
Next year, Issa will no longer be chairman of the oversight committee. If the Senate switches to Republican majority, Sen. Tom Carper, who also wants to eliminate Saturday mail, will no longer be chairman of the Senate oversight committee.

Unless we succeed in getting a more streamlined (and acceptable) postal reform bill passed in the 20-some days left in this session, postal reform will begin anew in 2015.

The Postal Service announced in 2009 that it would end Saturday mail within six months. That we have now passed the five year mark with service intact is a testament to your advocacy and that of NNA's Congressional Action Team.

Tonda Rush
NNA CEO and General Counsel

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



EPA Power Grab Evidence of Out of Touch Administration

As stewards of the land, our state's agriculture producers and property owners take seriously the responsibility of caring for our wide open spaces. Agriculture, hunting, and travel are all big business in South Dakota and greatly depend on well-maintained cropland, forestlands, and wetlands. For these reasons, more than anyone, our state's residents have a vested interest in ensuring South Dakota remains a clean and beautiful place where people can take advantage of its natural splendor.

But the Obama Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has decided that bureaucrats in Washington know more about how to take care of our state than our residents. The EPA has been busy trying to expand its authority over the lives of Americans by arbitrarily imposing a multitude of new and expensive regulations that are leading to higher costs for middle-class families. Just this month the EPA took it to a new level, planning to bypass our judicial system and our constitutionally-protected right to due process by granting itself authority to confiscate the wages of Americans to recover non-tax related fines.

The EPA circumvented the traditional rulemaking process by assuming authority to garnish wages through a "direct final rule" that was quietly published just two days before the July 4th holiday. The EPA reportedly did so because it assumed the new authority to garnish wages would not be controversial. However, with ambiguous new rules, such as the EPA's proposed definition of 'waters of the United States,' which seeks to dramatically expand the EPA's regulatory reach to backyards and farms across America, allowing the EPA to garnish wages of hardworking Americans is not only controversial, it is unconscionable.

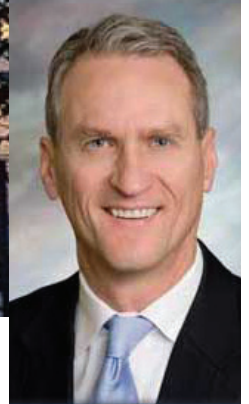
One example is from a private landowner in Wyoming who received a compliance order from the EPA threatening fines up to \$187,500 per day for building a pond on his property. More and more landowners will be subject to fines and penalties under the EPA's expanded authority, and if the EPA wage garnishing rule is allowed to move forward, private landowners could be economically crushed by the fines garnished from their wages without a court order.

On July 16th the EPA pulled the direct final rule due to the public backlash from Congress and the American public. However, EPA officials have said they will continue to pursue this authority through traditional rulemaking, and I plan to fight this proposal at every opportunity.

The Obama EPA continues to pander to the extremist environmental groups by imposing costly, job-killing regulations on American families and businesses. As middle-class families struggle to make ends meet under higher energy costs and fewer jobs, the EPA's agenda and its pursuit to garnish wages from individuals is yet another example of how this administration is out of touch with South Dakota.



South Dakota Governor
Dennis Daugaard



Successes In The County Site Analysis Program

South Dakota has long been a state that values local control. From cities, townships and counties to fire protection, rural ambulance and soil districts, local government officials serve their neighbors quickly and efficiently.

In fact, South Dakota has more local units of government per capita than any other state except North Dakota.

Using local control as the starting point, the state has created the County Site Analysis Program (CSAP), a proactive planning tool that uses data to help counties identify sites conducive to agriculture-related development. The CSAP was developed and implemented by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, in partnership with the First District Association of Local Governments and Development District III.

The CSAP combines local permitting requirements, infrastructure availability and local zoning ordinance information to rate locations on their ability to host a variety of economic development projects, including manufacturing, commodity processing and livestock-related enterprises. County commissions, planning and zoning boards, and landowners then use this data to make well-informed decisions.

Investments in agriculture are vital to the long-term sustainability of our communities, but development must be done responsibly. Not every new project is a good fit in every location, so the CSAP also helps county commissioners and landowners determine where they feel projects fit most appropriately.

Since its launch a year ago, 30 county commissions have passed resolutions requesting the CSAP in their counties. In counties where the analysis is performed, local leaders use its data in their comprehensive planning efforts; landowners have concrete information outlining options for their land; and agribusinesses learn where their investments will be welcomed.

I am proud of this program and am pleased that the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) recently awarded the CSAP an "Innovation Award" for its novel approach to rural economic development. Todd Kays with the First District Association of Local Governments will be accepting this award at the NADO annual conference in Denver this August.

The success of the County Site Analysis Program is just beginning. Our dedicated local officials are using data-driven resources to make the best possible decisions for their friends and neighbors, and I look forward to continuing this partnership. It truly represents the best in state and local governments working together.

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Groton Legion advances in Regions

The Groton American Legion baseball team defeated Redfield yesterday, 14-3, in five innings. Mason Madsen was the winning pitcher and Kasey Kurtz was the catcher. Groton plays Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern at 11 a.m. and at 2 p.m., Clark-Willow Lake plays Gettysburg. The 5 p.m. game features the winner of the 2 p.m. game playing the loser of the Groton-WIN game.

The championship game is set for 4 p.m. Sunday. If a second game is needed, it will be played at 7 p.m.

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

July 21, 2014 - 7pm

City Council Meeting - City of Groton

- 1) Minutes
 - 2) Bills
 - 3) Department Reports
 - 4) Project Updates
 - 5) Pool Slide
 - 6) BB Complex Repairs
 - 7) 2nd Reading Ordinance #691 - Cemetery Regulations
 - 8) 2nd Reading Ordinance #692 - Nuisance Vehicle
 - 9) Cleanup Responses
Groton Sign
 - 10) Grass in Gutters
 - 11) Auth Paul to Cannon LM & Metering School
 - 12) Meeting Reports
 - 13) Exe Session – Personnel & Legal
- AND any other business that may come before the Council

One of Groton's finest homes looking for a new family



403 E. 15th Ave.

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Tacoma Park history to be presented at Groton historic church

The Brown County Historical Society will host their summer program on Saturday, July 26th at the Historic Groton Episcopal Church, starting at 2 pm and Mike McAfferty, part time resident of Tacoma Park will be the speaker.








Mike will talk about the very early history of eastern Brown County and Tacoma Park...up until the 1870's, just before the first settlers came to this area. Topics will include the Native American Chiefs Wanata and Drifting Goose. He will also be sharing more information on a series of lectures he will be giving later this summer and early fall about the Tacoma Park area, that will be held at the Granary Rural Cultural Center. Currently there is an exhibit in Putney hall on Tacoma Park which Mike will include with these lectures.

This meeting is open to the public and there is no cost to attend.






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TODAY	TONIGHT	SUNDAY	SUNDAY NIGHT	MONDAY	MONDAY NIGHT	TUESDAY
						
Mostly Sunny High: 84 °F	Slight Chc Thunderstorms Low: 68 °F	Hot High: 92 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 69 °F	Slight Chc Thunderstorms High: 95 °F	Chance Thunderstorms Low: 70 °F	Slight Chc Thunderstorms High: 86 °F

Heat & Humidity

Sat	Sun	Mon
		
Highs: 80° to 90° Feels Like: 80° to 90°	Highs: 90° to 100° Feels Like: 95° to 100°	Highs: 90° to 100° Feels Like: 95° to 105°

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

 weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 7/19/2014 5:33 AM Central

Heat and humidity really ramp up through early next week. The hottest day appears to be Monday, with actual temperatures expected in the 90s and 100s across the region. However, due to the high humidity, heat index values, or the "feels-like" temperatures, have the potential to rise above 100 degrees both Sunday and Monday. A small chance for showers and thunderstorms exists overnight tonight into Sunday morning. Otherwise the next best chances for precipitation will be late Monday night.

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Dennert Household Sale

ELINOR DENNERT HOUSEHOLD SALE: Moved to apartment and not enough room for everything. Everything is for sale and must go. Sale to be held at Steve & Betty Dunker's, 709 N. Harrison St. Groton, SD (1 Mile West of Groton on Hwy 12 & ¼ Mile South), Friday, July 18th 12:00-4:00 & Saturday, July 19th 8:00-2:00. QUALITY ANTIQUES AND VINTAGE ITEMS, FURNITURE, Variety of Kitchen Items, Tupperware, Picture Frames, Home Décor, Seasonal Items, Sewing and Crafting Items, Women's Clothes (sz. 16-18), Books, Fishing Items, Misc. Tools (shop & yard), and TOO MANY ITEMS TO MENTION!!! No Early Sales.

Worship Resumes at Historic Church

Worship service will resume at the Trinity Historic Church in Groton at Third Ave. and Third Street. Service will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday. The service usually lasts about half an hour. You are invited to the service in the historic setting. Offering will be used to help maintain the church and to pay for insurance.

Woods Bridal Shower

Open House Bridal Shower For Mariah Woods, Future wife of Jayde Graves, Saturday, July 19, 1-3:00 PM, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Bring your favorite recipe or words of wisdom to share with Mariah. (0708.0715)

For Rent

ONE AND TWO bedroom apartment for rent. HDS subsidized. Rent includes utilities and heat. No smoking. Pets okay. Contact Kendra at 605/215-4000.

Townhouse for Sale

Beautiful and spacious townhouse for sale by owners. Three bedrooms, three baths, finished basement with a custom wet bar. Heated 2 car attached garage. Low monthly rural utilities and low rural taxes. Priced to sell. If interested, please call Lisa @ 605 290 2404 or Dennis @ 605 880 4821.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is back and is open!

Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 80.4°F at 3:27 PM

Low: 62.3°F at 6:14 AM

High Gust: 34 mph at 1:49 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 106° in 1932

Record Low: 42° in 1900

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 60°F

Average Precip in July.: 1.87

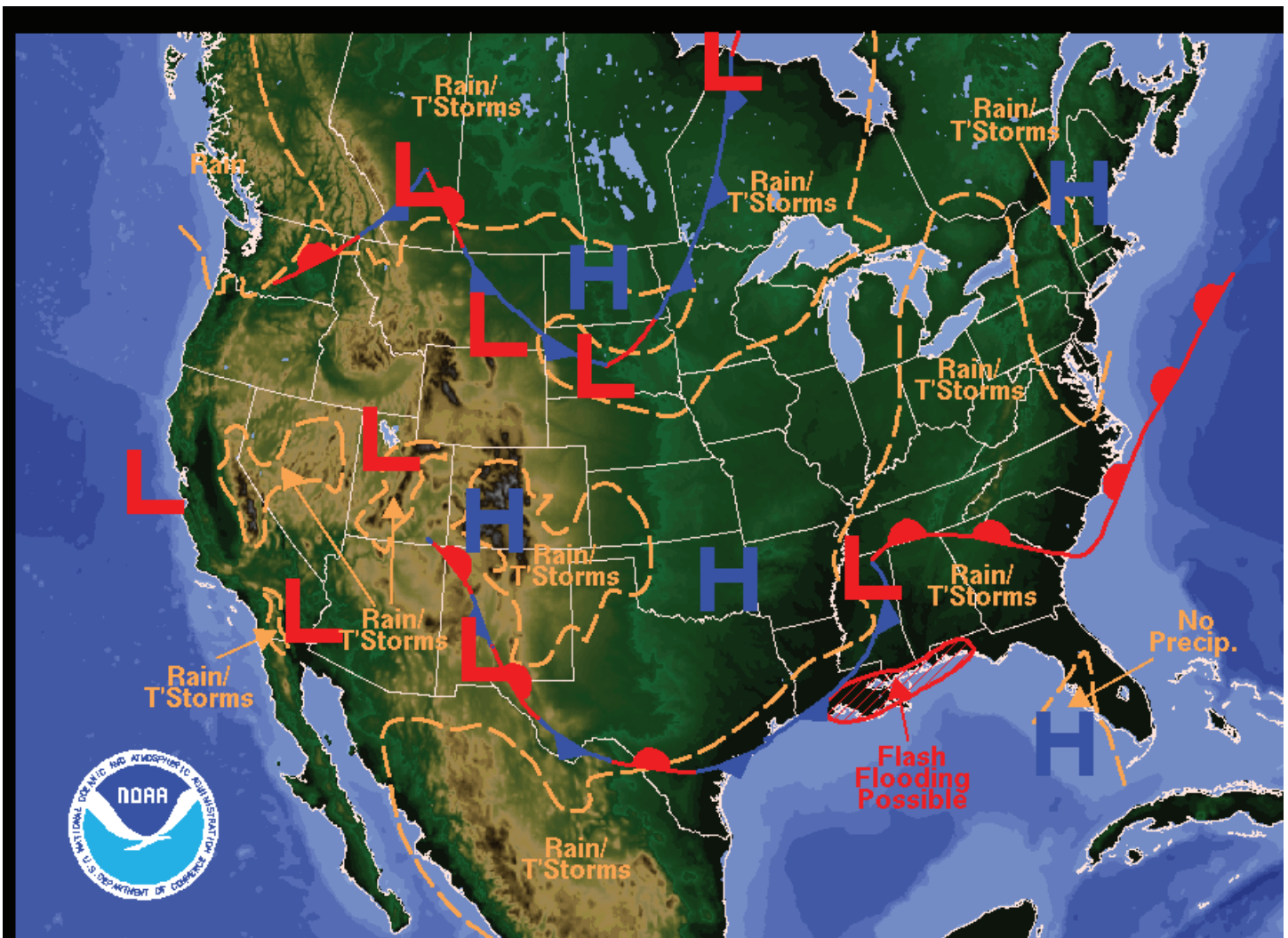
Precip to date in July.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 12.71

Precip Year to Date: 9.13

Sunset Tonight: 9:16 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:05 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Jul 19, 2014, issued 4:30 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kong based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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Today in Weather History

July 19, 1933: A significant F2 tornado moved ESE from west of Tulare to 3 miles ENE of Hitchcock. About 10 farms were damaged, and several barns were destroyed. Estimated property loss was set at \$50,000.

July 19, 1962: High winds caused considerable damage to buildings in Aberdeen and on nearby farms. A brick chimney toppled and killed a man. The storm moved eastward and caused damage to North-eastern South Dakota. Some storm total precipitations amounts include 2.40 inches in Waubay, 2.36 inches 4NNE of Victor, 2.27 in Webster, 1.87 in Andover, and 1.62 inches in Wheaton, Minnesota.

July 19, 2010: Severe storms moved from Montana southeastward across western South Dakota into south central South Dakota, merging with another area of storms over west central South Dakota. The storms produced a wide swath of hail and strong winds from northern Butte County, through southern Meade, eastern Pennington, Jackson, and Bennett Counties. Millions of dollars in crop damage was reported, along with some damage to homes and automobiles.

19 July 1977: Thunderstorms produced torrential rains over parts of southwestern Pennsylvania. Some places received more than 12 inches in a 7 hour period. Johnstown flooded with up to 10 feet of water. The flooding in Johnstown resulted in 78 deaths. This was the second major Johnstown flood, with the first occurring in 1889.

19 July 1986: The 115th British Open at Turnberry was the site of some truly terrible weather. During the 3rd round, only one player broke par 70 with a day of strong winds and pelting rain.



IT DEPENDS ON THE NAME

Albert's Dad thought it was time he understood how to write checks. So, he took him to the bank, withdrew his check book from his coat pocket and said, "Son, I want you to learn how to cash checks today."

He then filled out the "blank" check and explained every step to Albert. When he finished, he said, "Now, I'm going to go to the cashier and give her this check and she will give me the amount of money I am going to withdraw. There's a rather long line waiting for the cashier so you stay here and wait for me."

Albert watched others do the same thing: give the cashier a piece of paper and get money in return. Amazed, he decided to do the same with a check from his father's check book.

Very carefully, he completed a check the way his father had taught him. However, when it was his turn at the "window," the cashier said, "I'm sorry, but your check is no good."

"But," Albert protested, "it's the same as my Dad's."

"Not quite," she responded. "His check has value because his name is on it and he has money in the bank that we can give him for the check."

When you think about it, prayer is like going to the bank and exchanging our need for God's "rewards." But, unlike a bank, the "rewards" are in God's name, and He is waiting for us to ask Him to present them to us.

Jesus said, "Ask anything in My Name, and I will do it." The Psalmist said, "Remember the Name of the Lord."

Prayer: Heavenly Father, whatever we need is in Your hands. May we "remember" what we have in Your Name. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

A colorful advertisement for a taco bar and soup night. The background features a red, white, and green zigzag pattern. On the left, there is a large illustration of a taco. The text "Come 'n' Get It!" is written in a large, bold, red font with a white outline. Below that, "Friday is Taco Bar and Soup Night" is written in a smaller red font. The name "Andover Bar & Grill" is in a large, bold, black font. To the right, "Serving 5-9 p.m." is written in a green font. At the bottom, the address "120 S Main St. • 298-5252" is written in a smaller black font. On the right side, there is another illustration of a taco.

News from the Associated Press

Sioux Falls hosting international tour operators

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls will host a regional gathering of tour operators next spring that come from several countries.

The Rocky Mountain International Roundup will be held next April 12-16.

Tour operators and suppliers from around the U.S. and overseas markets are expected.

Gov. asking for presidential disaster declaration

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has requested a presidential disaster declaration to help South Dakota repair infrastructure that was damaged by flooding and tornadoes in June.

The governor says the request is for public assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. His request for individual assistance at the beginning of the month was denied.

In a letter to President Barack Obama, Daugaard said he's seeking help repairing bridges, roads and public buildings. The state says they need help with repairs in 12 counties and a portion of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

Daugaard says the June storms damaged roads, culverts and bridges and produced at least 12 tornadoes.

If the president grants the declaration, the state says up to 75 percent of eligible costs could be reimbursed by the federal government.

Milk production for June up 5 percent over 2013

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture says South Dakota increased its milk production in June.

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service says milk production in the state totaled 177 million pounds, a 5 percent increase over June 2013.

The average number of milk cows in June was 97,000. Milk production per cow averaged 1,825 pounds.

Sioux Falls gets \$30,000 mosquito grant

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Sioux Falls Health Department is using state grant money to boost mosquito control efforts in South Dakota's most populous city.

The state Department of Health recently gave Sioux Falls \$30,000 to enhance its surveillance and treatment of mosquitoes in and around the Sioux Falls area.

The city's Vector Control Program is using the funding to expand its efforts to include a two-mile perimeter surrounding the city limits. The program hopes to collect more information on mosquito activity near the city.

Body of rape victim was found 1 month after report

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — The body of a woman who was raped and murdered on the Standing Rock Indian

Reservation was not discovered until more than a month after police were told it was in tall grass west of Fort Yates, new federal court documents show.

Lance Summers, 29, of Fort Yates is charged with murder and sexual abuse in the slaying of 38-year-old Natalie White Lightning of Cannon Ball. White Lightning was last seen by friends on March 17, and her body was discovered on April 22 by two people walking through the heavily vegetated area.

A recently unsealed affidavit shows that Fort Yates police received a call on the night of March 18 believed to be from Summers that there was an unresponsive woman lying in the field where White Lightning's body was later found. Summers and a 17-year-old boy, both of whom had been drinking, were arrested at the scene that night after a brief foot chase.

The affidavit said the boy was crying and told police "there is a woman out there" and "Natalie's still out there." Officers searched the field in darkness and were unable to find anyone.

U.S. Attorney Timothy Purdon declined to comment because it's an open case.

Mario Red Legs, special agent in charge for the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs office that supervises Standing Rock tribal police, and federal public defender Neil Fulton did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

Court documents show that White Lightning had been drinking heavily and was unconscious when Summers allegedly raped her. Summers began choking White Lightning with one hand on her throat, according to the affidavit.

When Summers and the boy realized White Lightning was not breathing, Summers allegedly took the cellphone from the boy and placed a call, according to the documents. After they'd been arrested and placed in the back of a squad car, Summers allegedly told the boy not to "say anything about this," documents say.

Summers' trial is scheduled for Dec. 2.

The Standing Rock reservation straddles the North and South Dakota border.

No charges filed in death of Sioux Falls bicyclist

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The driver of a sport utility vehicle in Sioux Falls that ran over and killed a bicyclist Wednesday is not facing any charges.

Twenty-six-year-old Terra Zahn says she never saw Natasha Adams coming down the sidewalk.

Adams was riding on the sidewalk to her job at the Dollar Tree on 41st Street and Minnesota Avenue. Zahn's white Ford Explorer pulled out of the parking lot of the South Dakota Medical Association and pinned her under the vehicle.

Adams was pronounced dead at the scene. Zahn was not hurt.

Sioux Falls Police Capt. Greg VandeKamp says police consider the crash a tragic accident.

AP News in Brief

Ukraine says Russia is helping separatists destroy evidence at Malaysia Airlines crash site

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine is accusing Russia of assisting separatist rebels in destroying evidence at the crash site of a Malaysia Airlines plane shot down with 298 people onboard.

The government said Saturday that militiamen have removed 38 bodies from the crash site and have taken them to the rebel-held city of Donetsk. It says the bodies were transported with the assistance

of specialists with distinct Russian accents.

Ukraine called on Moscow to insist that the pro-Russia rebels grant international experts the ability to conduct a thorough investigation into the downing of the plane — a demand that President Barack Obama issued Friday.

An international delegation visited the crash site Friday evening but was only allowed to view one small portion. Militiamen behaved aggressively and eventually ordered the team to leave.

2 disasters, 2 moods: Malaysia's 2nd airline tragedy brings some closure in found wreckage

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Less than five months ago, they had rushed to Kuala Lumpur International Airport — anxious relatives with a hope in their hearts, however faint, that a missing jumbo jet with their loved ones had not crashed, and would eventually be found.

This week, throngs of relatives came again with no hope, just a chilling certainty that everyone on board another Malaysia Airlines had perished.

They shed tears, sobbed and looked for comfort to ease the all-too-familiar pain of loss that's visited a nation dealing with the second air disaster this year.

But the crash of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 that was downed over rebel-controlled eastern Ukraine is playing out in starkly different mood compared to the anguish surrounding Flight 370 that disappeared March 8.

The love affair between countrymen and their airline is often marred by a crash

NEW YORK (AP) — The jetliner is much more than a machine used to get from one spot to another. It often carries deep symbolism, especially when flying for a national airline.

It can represent hope, modernity and a country's power. And when things go wrong it, that once mighty plane can bring about deep national disgrace.

Malaysia now finds itself grappling with the horrific — and extremely unusual — loss of two of its airplanes, just four months apart. It's a sad coincidence that also stings.

"It is unbelievable misfortune that struck (Malaysia Airlines) in such a short span of time. It will not affect Malaysia's name, but it will damage MAS' reputation," said James Chin, political analyst at Monash University in Malaysia. He said it would be tough for the loss-making airline to survive the twin catastrophes.

The shooting down of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 on Thursday over Ukraine comes just 131 days after the disappearance of Flight 370. That Boeing 777 is presumed to be on the floor of the Indian Ocean but, without any scrap of wreckage found, it remains the key to one of the biggest aviation mysteries.

Israel troops battle Hamas in 2nd day of ground offensive, as Palestinian death toll tops 300

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel pounded Hamas rocket launchers, uncovered more than a dozen cross-border tunnels and engaged in gunbattles with Palestinian militants Saturday on the second day of its open-ended ground operation in Gaza, as the Palestinian death toll there topped 300.

The Israeli military said that during its first 24 hours on the ground troops were mostly staying close

to the border area and had discovered 13 tunnels into Israel — some as deep as 30 meters (yards) — that could be used to carry out attacks.

The military also said that in 12 days of fighting it has hit 2,350 targets in Gaza, including 1,100 rocket launchers, and severely diminished the arsenal of Hamas, the Islamic militant group that controls the coastal territory.

Militants have meanwhile fired more than 1,600 rockets since the latest round of fighting began on July 8. Rocket fire continued overnight, including one that landed in a residential neighborhood in the southern Israeli city of Ashdod, causing no injuries.

“We have struck hard on the two main strategic assets of Hamas: the rockets and these tunnels,” said Israeli military spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner.

On the run from international military effort, Kony’s rebels change tactics to survive

OBO, Central African Republic (AP) — Knives, ropes, tarpaulins, AK-47s, and gun lubricant. These are some of the items handed over to the Ugandan army by three fighters who defected last month from Joseph Kony’s rebels, the Lord’s Resistance Army, in Central African Republic.

In the bush, where the men had lived for years, these prized possessions were essential for survival and now provide insight into how members of the brutal group are able to evade U.S.-backed African troops chasing them.

Kony and his rebels have terrorized Uganda and other parts of Central Africa for years, carrying out brutal killings and kidnappings. Kony has been indicted by the International Criminal Court, but it was not until 2012 that he shot to international notoriety after the advocacy group Invisible Children highlighted his crimes in a video that was seen by millions online.

Ugandan military commanders, who head an African Union-mandated mission to catch or kill Kony, say the challenge is locating the enemy in sparsely populated, lawless territory where threats range from wild animals to other dangerous militias.

“The biggest problem is not how to fight but finding the rebels,” said Ugandan Col. Michael Kabango, the top commander of Ugandan troops in Central African Republic.

Lawmakers still questioning Obama’s Afghan withdrawal plan; White House says it’s a done deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Afghan election crisis and unraveling of Iraq have lawmakers and regional allies thinking President Barack Obama should rethink his decision to withdraw virtually all U.S. troops from Afghanistan by the close of 2016.

The White House says Afghanistan is a different situation from Iraq, which has been mired in sectarian violence since shortly after U.S. troops left, and the drawdown decision a done deal.

Some lawmakers, however, say they are uncomfortable with Obama’s plan, which responds to the American public’s war fatigue and his desire to be credited with getting the U.S. out of two conflicts. Ten senators, Republicans and Democrats, raised the drawdown issue at a congressional hearing Thursday.

They argued that it’s too risky to pull American troops out so quickly, especially with the Afghan presidential election in the balance. They don’t want to see Afghanistan go the way of Iraq, and they fear that the Afghan security force, while making substantial gains, won’t be ready for solo duty by the end of 2016.

Under Obama's plan, announced in May before Sunni militants seized control of much of Iraq, some 20,200 American troops will leave Afghanistan during the next five months, dropping the U.S. force to 9,800 by year's end. That number would be cut in half by the end of 2015, with only about 1,000 remaining in Kabul after the end of 2016.

Mexico's elite backs woman who ran child shelter for 6 decades despite charges of abuse, filth

ZAMORA, Mexico (AP) — For more than six decades, poor parents struggling to support their children or raise troubled youths sent them to a group home in western Mexico run by a woman who gained a reputation as a secular saint.

Rosa del Carmen Verduzco raised thousands of children in The Great Family home. She cultivated patrons among Mexico's political and intellectual elites, and was visited by presidents and renowned writers.

Then, last year, parents began complaining to authorities that they couldn't visit their children at the home. Residents told investigators of Dickensian horrors — rapes, beatings and children held against their will for years in trash-strewn rooms with filthy toilets.

On Tuesday, heavily armed federal police and soldiers raided the home and arrested nine caretakers, including the 79-year-old woman known as Mama Rosa.

The revelations spawned disgust and horror, but also a rush to Mama Rosa's defense by supporters who include some of Mexico's most respected intellectuals and some of the very children who say they were mistreated at her facility.

Obama administration approves using sonic cannons to explore for oil along US Eastern Seaboard

ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The Obama administration has sided with energy developers over environmentalists, approving the use of underwater blasts of sound to pinpoint oil and gas deposits in federal Atlantic Ocean waters.

The regulatory decision is the first real step toward what could be an economic transformation in East Coast states, potentially creating a new energy infrastructure, thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in tax revenue. But it dismayed people who owe their livelihoods to fisheries and tourism, and activists said it stains President Barack Obama's environmental legacy.

"Opening vast stretches off the East Coast to oil and gas has no place in an otherwise historic agenda to combat climate change," said Michael Jasny, a marine mammal expert with the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The cannons will substantially increase the noise pollution in Gulf Stream waters shared by whales, dolphins and turtles, sending powerful sound waves reverberating through the deep every ten seconds, for weeks at a time.

The U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management acknowledged that thousands of sea creatures will be harmed, but ultimately decided to approve this exploration in the outer continental shelf from Delaware to Florida. Energy companies need the data as they prepare to apply for drilling leases in 2018, when current congressional limits expire.

'Mother Nature is winning here': Wildfire destroys about 100 homes in central Washington

PATEROS, Wash. (AP) — Residents strolled through the smoldering rubble of their neighborhoods, some wearing surgical masks to protect their lungs from the smoke and ash lingering in the air of the riverside community they call "Paterodise."

"Paterodise is hurting right now," said one, Stephanie Brown, as she surveyed what was left of a friend's home.

A wind-driven, lightning-caused wildfire racing through rural north-central Washington destroyed about 100 homes Thursday and Friday, leaving behind solitary brick chimneys and burned-out automobiles as it blackened hundreds of square miles in the scenic Methow Valley northeast of Seattle.

The Okanogan County town of Pateros, home to 650 people, was hit especially hard. Most residents evacuated in advance of the flames, and some returned Friday to see what, if anything, was left of their houses.

Residents of the small town of Malott, north of Pateros, were told to leave their homes Friday as the fire advanced, as were some living in outlying areas of nearby Brewster.

Safely through Black Friday, McIlroy starts focusing on silver at British Open — claret jug

HOYLAKE, England (AP) — Now that he's gotten past Black Friday, Rory McIlroy can start focusing on silver.

The claret jug.

After a bogey on his opening hole stirred memories of another second-round debacle, McIlroy looked more like the Boy Wonder who won two majors in a runaway. With three birdies in his last four holes, he posted a second straight 6-under 66 Friday to build a four-shot lead at the British Open.

McIlroy spoke of an "inner peace" and two secret words that triggered his powerful swing and set up birdie chances on just about every hole.

"People call it the zone, people call it whatever," he said. "It's just a state of mind where you think clearly. Everything seems to be on the right track."

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, July 19, the 200th day of 2014. There are 165 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 19, 1989, 111 people were killed when United Air Lines Flight 232, a DC-10 which suffered the uncontained failure of its tail engine and the loss of hydraulic systems, crashed while making an emergency landing at Sioux City, Iowa; 185 other people survived.

On this date:

In 1553, King Henry VIII's daughter Mary was proclaimed Queen of England after pretender Lady Jane Grey was deposed.

In 1814, Samuel Colt, inventor of the Colt revolver, was born in Hartford, Connecticut.

In 1848, a pioneer women's rights convention convened in Seneca Falls, New York.

In 1903, the first Tour de France was won by Maurice Garin.

In 1944, the Democratic national convention convened in Chicago with the renomination of President Franklin D. Roosevelt considered a certainty.

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In 1952, the Summer Olympics opened in Helsinki, Finland.

In 1961, TWA became the first airline to begin showing regularly scheduled in-flight movies as it presented "By Love Possessed" to first-class passengers on a flight from New York to Los Angeles.

In 1979, the Nicaraguan capital of Managua fell to Sandinista guerrillas, two days after President Anastasio Somoza fled the country.

In 1980, the Moscow Summer Olympics began, minus dozens of nations that were boycotting the games because of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

In 1984, U.S. Rep. Geraldine A. Ferraro of New York won the Democratic nomination for vice president by acclamation at the party's convention in San Francisco.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush joined former presidents Ronald Reagan, Gerald R. Ford and Richard M. Nixon at ceremonies dedicating the Nixon Library and Birthplace (since redesignated the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum) in Yorba Linda, California.

In 1994, a bomb ripped apart a Panama commuter plane, killing 21, including 12 Jews, a day after a car bomb destroyed a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 85 people. A secrecy-shrouded funeral ceremony was held for North Korean dictator Kim Il Sung, who had died July 8 at age 82.

Ten years ago: Mark Hacking of Salt Lake City shot and killed his 27-year-old wife, Lori, disposed of her remains, then reported her missing; he was later sentenced to six years to life in prison after pleading guilty to first-degree murder. A fuel tanker rigged as a massive bomb exploded near the Baghdad police station, killing nine people. A methane gas explosion in a Ukrainian mine killed at least 34 miners. Former Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki died at age 93.

Five years ago: A Russian-owned civilian helicopter crashed shortly after takeoff from southern Afghanistan's largest NATO base, killing 16 civilians. Israel rejected a U.S. demand to suspend a planned housing project in east Jerusalem. Stewart Cink won the British Open in a four-hole playoff with Tom Watson. Eighty-one-year-old Hershel McGriff became the oldest driver to take part in a national NASCAR series race, finishing 13th in a Camping World West Series event at Portland International Raceway. Author Frank McCourt, who'd won the Pulitzer Prize for his memoir "Angela's Ashes," died in New York at 78.

One year ago: In a rare and public reflection on race, President Barack Obama called on the nation to do some soul searching over the death of Trayvon Martin and the acquittal of his shooter, George Zimmerman, saying the slain black teenager "could have been me 35 years ago." A Dallas woman plunged 75 feet to her death from a Six Flags Over Texas roller coaster when her safety restraint apparently failed.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Helen Gallagher is 88. Country singer Sue Thompson is 88. Country singer George Hamilton IV is 77. Singer Vikki Carr is 74. Country singer-musician Commander Cody is 70. Actor George Dzundza is 69. Rock singer-musician Alan Gorrie (Average White Band) is 68. Tennis player Ilie Nastase is 68. Rock musician Brian May is 67. Rock musician Bernie Leadon is 67. Actress Beverly Archer is 66. Movie director Abel Ferrara is 63. Actor Peter Barton is 58. Rock musician Kevin Haskins (Love and Rockets; Bauhaus) is 54. Movie director Atom Egoyan is 54. Actor Campbell Scott is 53. Actor Anthony Edwards is 52. Country singer Kelly Shiver is 51. Actress Clea Lewis is 49. Percussionist Evelyn Glennie is 49. Country musician Jeremy Patterson is 44. Classical singer Urs Buhler (Il Divo) is 43. Actor Andrew Kavovit is 43. Rock musician Jason McGerr (Death Cab for Cutie) is 40. Actor Benedict Cumberbatch is 38. Actor Jared Padalecki is 32. Actor Steven Anthony Lawrence is 24.

Thought for Today: "No written law has ever been more binding than unwritten custom supported by popular opinion." - Carrie Chapman Catt, American feminist (1859-1947).