

Groton Daily Independent

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Breck to play fiddle at Trinity on Sunday

Betty Breck will be playing hymns with her fiddle at Sunday's (July 27) worship service at the Trinity Historic Church in Groton at Third Ave. and Third Street. Service will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday. You are invited to the service in the historic setting. Offering will be used to help maintain the church and to pay for insurance.



Wednesday, July 23

Olive Grove Kid's Lessons

Senior Menu: BBQ Chicken, Rosemary Red Potatoes, Old Fashioned Slaw, Strawberry Jello Dessert, Whole Wheat Bread.

Anniversary: Dwight & Kim Zerr

Birthdays: Joyce Walter • Dylan Young • Chantel Tunby • Matt Locke

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

6:00pm: Olive Grove Men's League

Thursday, July 24

SD Wheat Growers Golfing at Olive Grove

Senior Menu: Herbed Roast Pork, Baked Potato/S.Cream, Lemon Buttered Broccoli, Cinnamon Applesauce, Whole Wheat Bread.

Anniversary: Roger and Pam Rix

Birthdays: Christi Swenson • Nathan Loutsch • Nicole Foote • Karen Lane • Harvey Fliehs II • Macine McGannon

25

10U & 12U NESD League Tourney

Legion State at Tabor

SD Wheat Growers Golfing at Olive Grove

Senior Menu: Turkey Sub Sandwich, Creamy Potato Salad, Fruited Jello, Ice Cream Sundae.

Anniversary: Steve and Lori Giedt

Birthdays: April Woodward • Stan Knudsen • Taylor Holm • Hannah Webb

5:30pm: Teeners host Mellette

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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CARDS OF THANKS

Thank you family and friends for helping me celebrate my 80th birthday.
Yvonne Gibbs

I would like to extend a thank you to my family for hosting a surprise birthday party. This was very much appreciated. Thank you to all who came, for the cards and phone calls. Thanks again and God bless you!

Norman Townsend

EMPLOYMENT

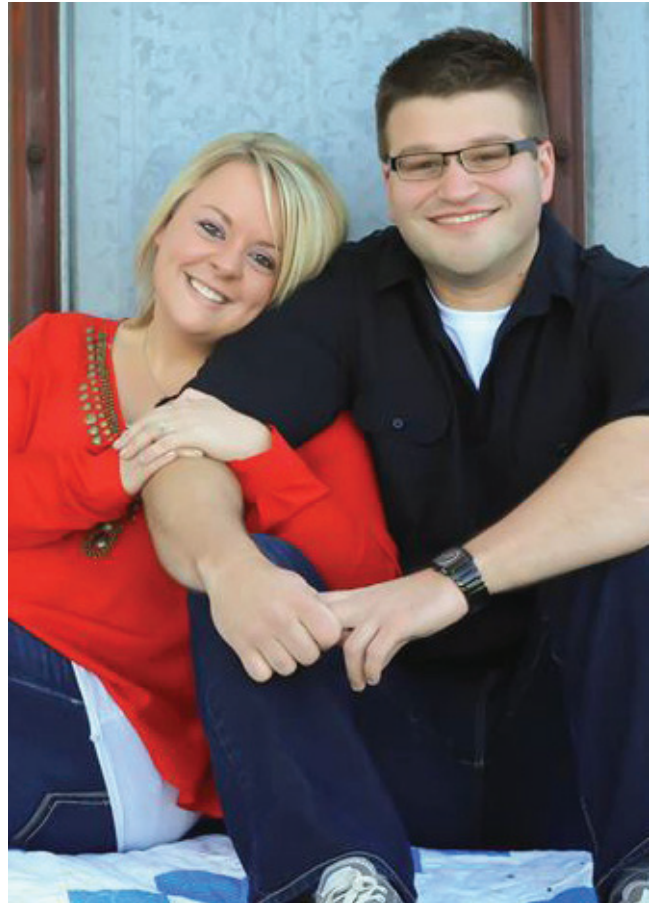
Looking for a rewarding opportunity? Sun Dial Manor in Bristol is accepting applications for CAN's and a Restorative Aide to assist residents in the Restorative Therapy Department, and a Cook. Small, drug free facility with new upgrades and recently remodeled. We offer competitive wages and benefits. For questions, please call Connie Brown RN, DON, at 605/492-3615. (0702.0730)

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.

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.



Woods/Graves Engaged

Jayde Graves of Aberdeen and Mariah Woods of Groton are engaged and plan to get married on August 9, 2014 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Groton.

Parents of the couple are Gaylan and Shirley Graves of Aberdeen and Patti and Tom Woods of Groton.

The groom-to-be is employed by QQP in Aberdeen and the bride-to-be is employed by North Central Education Cooperative as a Special Education Teacher.

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EMPLOYMENT

MAINTENANCE WORKER: The City of Conde, SD, is now accepting applications for a full-time Maintenance Worker. Work areas include, but are not limited to water, sewer, streets, snow removal, and rubble site. The following certifications/licenses must be possessed or be able to obtain: Commercial Applicator's License, Class I Water Distribution, Class I Wastewater Treatment and Distribution, and a valid SD driver's license. Mechanical ability and knowledge and experience with all types of equipment are desired. Individual must also be dependable, reliable, friendly, and able to work with others. Salary/wage is depending upon qualifications and experience. Applications and/or additional information may be obtained from the City Finance Office, PO Box 113, Conde, SD 57434. Telephone: 605-382-5258 or email ctyconde@nvc.net. The City Office is located in the north side of the former school on Broadway St. SW, Conde, SD. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Pump prices fall in SD

South Dakota's pump price average for regular gasoline has continued to decrease since hitting \$3.60 on June 27, according to FuelGaugeReport.AAA.com. The state average has declined for 14 straight days and is now \$3.53 per gallon. One year ago today, South Dakota's gas price average was sixteen cents higher at \$3.69. Nationally, the average price of gas has fallen for 24 consecutive days. Today's price, \$3.565 per gallon, is the lowest since April 2.

AAA reports these price drops are due to abundant refinery production, even as geopolitical tensions gain global attention. Russia and Ukraine returned to the forefront this past week when Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 crashed in eastern Ukraine in an area controlled by pro-Russian separatists. Additionally, intensifying violence between Israeli and Hamas forces in Gaza has drawn headlines and concerns that the conflict could have a broader regional impact.

Despite these events, oil markets have shrugged off global concerns, although West Texas Intermediate rose yesterday \$1.46 per barrel to close at \$104.59 after falling to a multi-month low below \$100 a week ago. Meanwhile, domestic refinery utilization reached its highest level of the year last week, which has helped to push gas prices lower.

Prior to the crash of Flight 17, the Obama Administration announced a new round of sanctions against Russia's energy and financial sectors. Members of NATO and the European Union are also debating stronger

sanctions against Russia, which could potentially impact global markets.

The four states with the lowest gas price averages are: South Carolina, \$3.296 per gallon; Alabama, \$3.314; Missouri, \$3.339; and Tennessee, \$3.346. Pacific states continue to lead the nation with the highest prices, led by Hawaii, \$4.34; Alaska, \$4.15; and California, \$4.04.

\$5 BUCK LUNCH - Lunch will never be the same



3-pc Chicken Strips



Chili Cheese Dog



1/4 lb. Grill Burger w/ch



US 12, Groton
605-397-8627

Text "GrotonDQ" to 411247
to receive hot specials

Don't Let Back-to-School Tasks Sneak up on You

By Jason Alderman

Parents, if this is your first time at the back-to-school rodeo, let me share a few lessons my wife and I have learned the hard way. Chances are you'll be spending the next few weeks filling out piles of pre-enrollment paperwork, lining up carpools and, of course, taking the dreaded shopping excursions for clothes and school supplies.

If you're a first-timer or simply need a back-to-school refresher course, here are a few suggestions that can help you save time, money and sanity:

Get organized. Maintain a correspondence file from your kid's school for things like registration requirements, report cards, permission slips, required vaccinations, school policies, teacher and parent contact information, etc. Ask whether the school has a website, online calendar or email list you can join. Also, create a family master calendar.

Back-to-school shopping. Between new clothes, classroom supplies and extracurricular activity fees and equipment, many parents end up spending hundreds of dollars per child. Ideally, you've been setting money aside all year. If not, you'll need to determine what you can afford to spend without blowing your overall budget.

Here are a few organizational and money-saving tips:

Before you shop, make a comprehensive list for each child. Use previous years' expenses as a guide and compare notes with other parents and school officials.

Engage your kids in the budgeting process. Share how much money is available to spend and get them involved in prioritizing expenses between "needs" and "wants."

Go through your kids' closets and have them try on everything. Make an inventory of items that fit and are in good shape, and take it when shopping so you don't accidentally buy duplicates. (While you're at it, share, sell or donate unneeded items.)

Spread clothing purchases throughout the year so your kids don't outgrow everything at once. Many stores hold fall clearance sales to make room for holiday merchandise.

Review the school's dress code so you don't waste money on inappropriate clothing.

Although shopping online can save money, time and gas, don't forget to factor in shipping and return costs, which could undo any net savings. If your kids are old enough, put them in charge of online comparison shopping and coupon clipping.

Ask which school supplies you're expected to buy. Go in with other families to take advantage of volume discounts and sales.

Find out how much extracurricular activities (athletics, music, art, etc.) cost. Account for uniforms, membership dues, private lessons, field trips, snacks, etc.

Rent or buy used sporting equipment or musical instruments until you're sure they'll stick with an activity.

Know when to spend more for higher quality. Cheaper notebook paper shouldn't matter, but don't buy poorly made shoes that might hamper proper physical development.

Before buying new clothing or accessories, look for "gently used" items in the closets of your older kids and friends, at garage sales, thrift and consignment stores and online.

Clip newspaper and online coupons. Many stores will match competitors' prices even if their own items aren't on sale. Plus, many consolidation websites post downloadable coupons and sale codes for online retailers, including: CouponCabin.com, CouponCode.com, CouponCraze.com, DealHunting.com and Dealnews.com.

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Mobile shopping apps let in-store smartphone and mobile browser users scan product barcodes and make on-the-spot price comparisons, read reviews, download coupons, buy products and more.

Follow your favorite retailers on Facebook and Twitter, where many post special savings for their followers.

Bottom line: If you get organized before setting out on back-to-school shopping, you can save money, time and aggravation.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney.

Death Notice: Rose Kutter

Rose Kutter, 69, of Groton died July 22, 2014 at Sanford Select Specialty Hospital in Sioux Falls. Services are pending for Saturday with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Service Notice: Mary Ann Sippel

Services for Mary Ann Sippel, 67, of Aberdeen and formerly of Groton will be 2:00 p.m., Thursday, July 24th at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Lloyd Redhage will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the church from 11-2 p.m. on Thursday.

Mary Ann died July 21, 2014 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen.

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Over 7,000 sq. ft. of living area. Six bedrooms, six baths, two kitchens, living room, dining room, study room, two family rooms, theater room, oversized three-stall garage, irrigation system.

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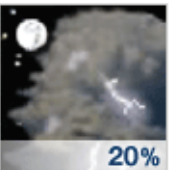



Office: 605/397-2424

Home: 605/397-8565



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TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY
						
30%	30%	40%	20%	20%		20%
Scattered Thunderstorms High: 81 °F	Chance Thunderstorms Low: 60 °F	Chance Thunderstorms High: 82 °F	Slight Chc Thunderstorms Low: 66 °F	Slight Chc Thunderstorms High: 85 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 60 °F	Slight Chc Thunderstorms High: 84 °F

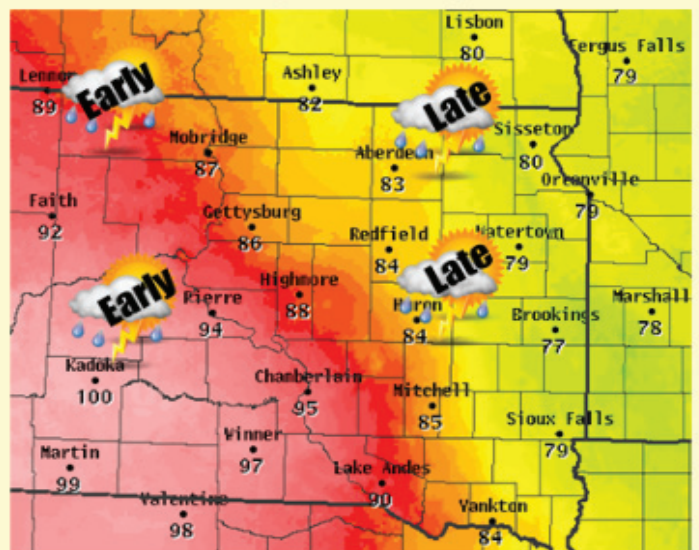
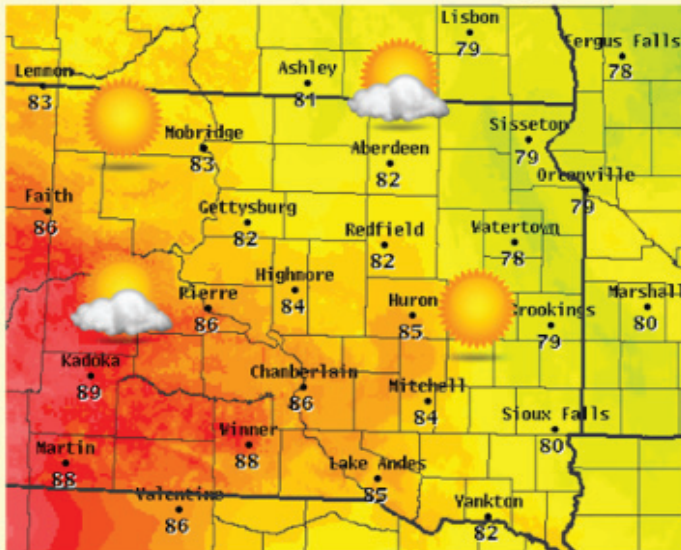


Seasonally Mild With Low Humidity Today
Hot West River Thursday



High Temperatures Today

Highs Thursday



Elevated Storms Develop Tonight – A Few Could Be Strong
Weak Storms Persist Into Early Friday

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 7/23/2014 5:04 AM Central

Canadian high pressure remains overhead today, with seasonally mild temperatures and low humidity. A weak system will pass through the area tonight and into early Friday, with about a 20 to 40 percent chance of storms. A few strong storms could develop this evening, but for the most part severe weather is unlikely.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 81.2°F at 6:00 PM

Heat Index:

Low: 62.5°F at 3:28 AM

High Gust: 21 mph at 8:37 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 109° in 1941

Record Low: 41° in 1904

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 60°F

Average Precip in July.: 2.25

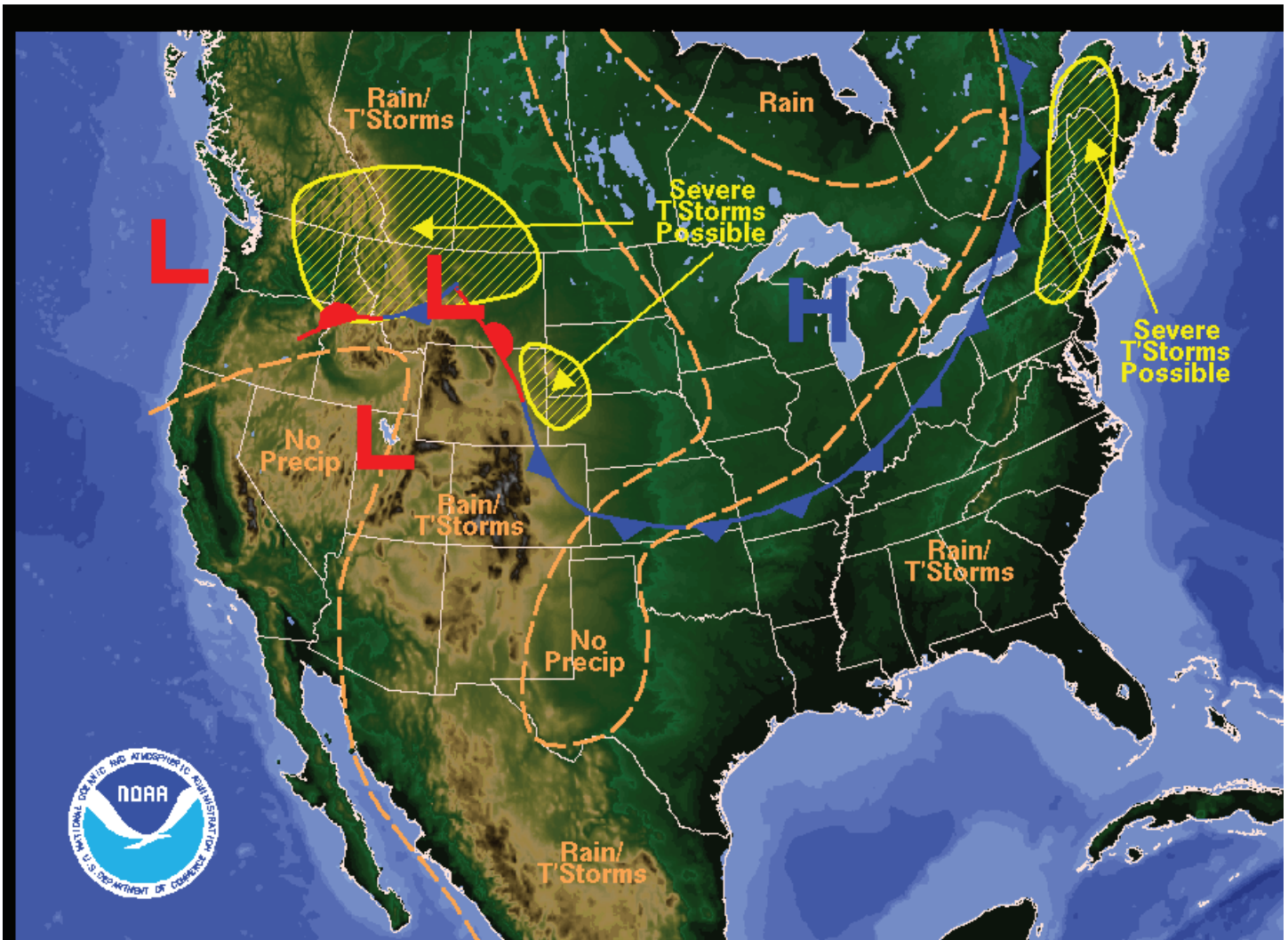
Precip to date in July.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 13.09

Precip Year to Date: 9.13

Sunset Tonight: 9:12 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:09 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Jul 23, 2014, issued 2:26 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mc Reynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Today in Weather History

July 23, 1985: In a half hour, 1.42 inches of rain fell in Pierre, resulting in flash flooding. Streets were awash and some businesses had water damage.

July 23, 1986: Thunderstorm winds gusted to 60 mph on the Roberts and Marshall County line, southeast of Veblen. The central portion of Roberts County had up to 1.75 inches in diameter hail fall. Heavy rain of up to seven inches fell at Sica Hollow State Park, causing extensive lowland flooding in the area. Highway 10, west of Sisseton was under water for several miles. The Sisseton city park was also completely under water.

July 23, 2007: High heat indices along with very little wind contributed to the deaths of over 2800 cattle in Brown, Spink, Day, and Marshall Counties. Most of the cattle deaths occurred on July 23rd. The high heat indices continued through the 25th with some more cattle deaths but protective measures kept the death count down. Most of the cattle that died were on feedlots. The total loss was around 3 million dollars.

July 23, 2010: A United States record setting hailstone fell from a very strong supercell thunderstorm moving southeast across central South Dakota. The record setting hailstone fell near Vivian, South Dakota and measured 8 inches in diameter, 18.625 inches in circumference, and weighed 1.9375 pounds. This hailstone broke the previous United States record for diameter (7.0 inches - 22 June 2003 in Aurora, NE) and weight (1.67 pounds - 3 September 1970 in Coffeyville, KS). The Aurora, Nebraska hailstone will retain the record for circumference (18.75 inches). Several other stones of 6 inches or more in diameter were measured during the storm survey. Along with the very large hail, damaging winds in excess of 70 mph along with an isolated tornado occurred. The large hail and high winds caused extensive damage to homes, outbuildings, and vehicles as it moved southeast across the region. Some of the hail went completely through car windshields, roofs, garages, and campers. The hail caused five minor injuries to motorists on Interstate 90 as it went through their windshields. A minor was severely injured when the glass in the mini-van he was traveling was completely shattered by the large hail. The child suffered numerous cuts, many requiring stitches.

23 July 1946: Eight homes were damaged when an F1 tornado hit the northwest edge of Concord, NH. A boy was killed when a shed collapsed.

23 July 2003: Betsy the Giraffe was killed when struck by lightning at the Disney Animal Kingdom. The animals are usually brought into shelter during severe weather, but this storm came with too little warning.

23 July 2010: The U.S.'s largest (by diameter) and heaviest hailstone on record fell on Vivian, SD. The stone was 8 inches in diameter and weighed 1.9 pounds. The person who found the stone reported that some melting had occurred before the official measurement was taken.

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CLEAN - IT MEANS WHAT IT MEANS

"Son," said Fred's mother, "dinner is ready and you haven't washed your hands. They are dirty!"

"They're not dirty," he protested, "just a little bit soiled."

According to Psalm 24, there's no difference between dirty and soiled. Only those who have clean hands and a pure heart are invited to worship God. So, what does the Psalmist mean when he talks about "clean hands?"

"Clean hands" literally means "clean habits." Habits are formed over time and are rarely noticed until they draw attention to themselves in one way or another. A habit may be good or bad, depending on its outcome. If it leads to a self-nourishing behavior, or something that leads to wellness or well-being, it is a good habit. But if it is a toxic behavior, and leads to self-destruction or death, it is certainly a bad habit.

"Clean habits" would, of course, begin with a "clean heart." The Bible is unapologetic when it reminds us "what comes out of us has a home within us." In other words, God in - God out. If God is not dwelling within us, His "ways" certainly cannot come out of us.

We also need "clean hopes" or we do not worship the "idols" of this world. If God is not in first place, He may as well be considered as being in last place. Why? Whatever is in first place is what we are indeed worshiping.

And we also need a "clean history" - not making any promises we do not intend to keep. If we say it, we must do it or make restitution - make up - what it costs the other.

Prayer: Lord, we're careful not to touch unclean things or allow them touch us. May we be that way toward sin. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 24:4a He who has clean hands and a pure heart.

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. 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.

Panel problem won't affect events center opening

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls' public works director says bulging metal panels on the outside of the \$117 million Denny Sanford Premier Center won't affect its opening in the fall.

Mark Cotter says the problem with the panels is not related to structural issues. But a consultant's report on the matter isn't being released to the public or even the City Council.

The city paid \$5,000 for the consultant to examine the panels last month. The city attorney's office says the report is not a public record under state law.

City Attorney Dave Pfiefler (FYF'-lee) says officials aren't trying to be secretive. He says the report is preliminary, and that contractors should have a chance to address the problem with the panels.

Wood named softball coach at South Dakota State

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Krista Wood is the new softball coach at South Dakota State University.

Wood joins the Jackrabbits after eight years at Wayne State, Nebraska, where she posted an overall record of 270-154. She took over an NCAA Division II program that won 10 games in 2006 and built a team that set a school record with 43 victories and made the D-II Super Regional in 2010.

A native of Missouri Valley, Iowa, Wood was a standout pitcher at Nebraska-Omaha from 1999 to 2003. She helped the Mavericks to the NCAA Division II national championship in 2001.

The Jackrabbits were 11-36 last season with a 2-16 record in the Summit League.

Attorney general sues 2 colleges

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson filed a lawsuit Tuesday against two colleges, accusing the schools of misleading criminal justice students about their ability to land a job in their field and transferring credits to other institutions.

Swanson contends the Minnesota School of Business and Globe University try to attract prospective students who want to become police officers, but don't offer the educational requirements to become a licensed police officer under Minnesota law. The schools, which are under common ownership, aren't regionally accredited and don't offer a program approved by a state standards board.

"Going to college has long been a way for people to try to make a better life for themselves. The schools exploited this dream for some students, who are now saddled with debt," Swanson said in a statement.

The schools called the lawsuit "an unnecessary enforcement action" that only serves to hurt the interests of the schools' students and graduates. The schools said in a statement that they have fully cooperated with the attorney general's investigation.

"The claims that our admissions practices and credit transfer policies are deceptive could not be further from the truth," the schools said. "Our admissions training practices are designed to provide prospective students with all of the information needed to make an informed decision prior to enrolling."

The lawsuit, filed in Hennepin County, seeks a court order blocking the schools from continuing the alleged behavior, civil penalties and restitution.

Among the allegations, Swanson's suit contends the schools recommend their criminal justice program to prospective students who tell the schools they want to become police officers, even though a

student who graduates from the schools would need to obtain a degree from another certified institution to become a police officer in Minnesota.

"It isn't right for students whose goal is to protect and defend the public as police officers to be sold a degree that doesn't even allow them to become a police officer in Minnesota," Swanson said.

The schools said before any students enroll in the criminal justice program, admissions representatives tell them that the program does not fulfill Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training requirements needed to become a police officer.

According to the lawsuit, the schools have a sales-oriented culture that place a premium on enrolling students by "admissions representatives" who are trained to "master the art of selling."

Swanson also alleges the schools have told some students that their credits will transfer to other institutions, even though the schools know that "little to none" of their credits will transfer to most other schools.

In response, the schools said: "The purpose of our degree, diploma and certificate offerings is to provide career-specific education and general education credits that will lead toward rewarding employment. While it is unlikely that credits will transfer to state colleges or universities, some institutions accept Globe University and Minnesota School of Business credits." Students interested in transferring credits to another school are advised to check with that institution before enrolling, the schools said.

With corporate headquarters in Woodbury, the schools have 11 campuses in Minnesota, seven in Wisconsin and one in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

ND ed supe wants Indian culture taught in schools

JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — American Indian culture should be taught in North Dakota classrooms to have "a common understanding of where we came from in order to have vision for the future," the state's top education official said Tuesday.

State School Superintendent Kirsten Baesler said she wants to replicate curriculum similar to Montana's "Indian Education for All" program that mandates Montana schools teach all students about its American Indian tribes and reservations.

"Teachers are excited about this," Baesler said at an Indian Education Summit attended by about 60 educators at the state Capitol in Bismarck.

Baesler and Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau said the idea is to integrate Indian education throughout the day into existing curriculums such as math, reading, music, history, physical education and other subjects. Special time would not be set aside to focus on the topic, the women said.

"It's not Indian education for Indians," said Juneau, who is a member of North Dakota's Three Affiliated Tribes. "It's Indian education for all."

Baesler did not know how much a program would cost to implement in North Dakota or when it could be achieved.

Juneau is a member of the North Dakota's Three Affiliated Tribes, a former teacher on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and the first American Indian elected to statewide office in Montana.

Montana's mandate was written into the state Constitution in 1972, but substantial funding wasn't included until about seven years ago when \$3.7 million was allocated, Juneau said.

"Our approach is not to blame, shame or guilt," Juneau said. "We just want to present the facts."

The Montana Department of Public Instruction provides information about the state's 12 tribal nations

and suggests instructional materials that can be used in classrooms. The agency has a list of “essential understandings” of native culture and tradition, including tribes’ traditional beliefs and spiritual practices. Some of the material was gleaned from tribal elders, Juneau said.

About 11 percent of North Dakota’s 112,408 students in grades pre-kindergarten through grade 12 last school year were Native American. About 3 percent of North Dakota’s 9,574 teachers were Native American, education officials said.

The ratio of Montana’s Native American students and teachers is similar, Juneau said.

Baesler and Juneau said South Dakota educators also have expressed interest in developing an Indian education curriculum, and both Dakotas could share some resources since two tribes have reservations that straddle both states, Baesler said.

ND wants specifics on backlogged grain shipments

JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota’s congressional delegation is pressing Canadian Pacific Railway to provide details of its backlog of grain shipments, saying farmers need detailed information with fall harvest fast approaching.

The U.S. Surface Transportation Board told Canadian Pacific and BNSF Railway in June to submit plans to address backlogs in northern Plains states and begin filing weekly updates.

But Sen John Hoeven, R-N.D., Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., and Rep. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., said Canadian Pacific’s weekly report does not include a specific number of past-due rail cars or average lateness, leaving farmers in the dark.

“Canadian Pacific has not indicated any meaningful reductions in their backlog since these reports began,” Cramer said in a statement.

Grain bins across the state are full and harvests from prior years are being stored on the ground while awaiting rail cars.

Heitkamp, in a letter to the railroad’s chief executive, Hunter Harrison, said detailed information on grain shipments “will provide Canadian Pacific the opportunity to restore weakened confidence among its customers in my state.”

Canadian Pacific spokesman Ed Greenberg said Tuesday that the railroad will provide detailed information on past-due rail shipments to the North Dakota lawmakers “as quickly as possible.”

“We take their concerns very seriously,” Greenberg said.

North Dakota is Canadian Pacific’s biggest customer for farm commodity shipments but the railroad also moves grain in Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Wyoming and Missouri, Greenberg said. The railroad has been moving more than 2,000 grain cars weekly in the states since June, Greenberg said. He did not immediately know the number of delayed rail cars.

Many farmers and some North Dakota officials believe the increased crude oil and freight shipments from the state’s booming oil patch are largely the cause of shipping delays, which have created big backlogs at grain elevators and added costs for agriculture shippers.

But BNSF and Canadian Pacific have said that brutal winter weather and bottlenecks in Chicago are to blame.

The lack of railcars has delayed shipping of agricultural products by as much as 40 days in recent months though Sen. Hoeven said BNSF, the biggest grain shipper in North Dakota, at least appears to be making progress.

“The first priority is for the railroads to get caught up,” Hoeven said.

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BNSF reported 3,908 past due rail cars in North Dakota averaging 26 days late in its latest report to federal officials. That's down about 14 percent from the previous week.

BNSF said North Dakota had the most past-due rail cars followed by Montana, South Dakota and Minnesota. The railroad said in its report only two of the 19 states it serves have no past-due rail cars.

Hoeven said BNSF accounts for two-thirds of the grain shipments in North Dakota, while Canadian Pacific has the remaining third of the business.

Hoeven said the North Dakota delegation have invited officials from both railroads to come to Bismarck next month to personally update farm groups on the status of grain shipments.

"We want to find out exactly where they're at and their plan for harvest," Hoeven said.

Man pleads guilty in fatal New Year's Day crash

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man accused of driving drunk and killing a woman in a New Year's Day crash has pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter and second-offense driving under the influence.

The deal between 21-year-old Oscar Madrigal and prosecutors caps his prison time at 20 years and sees vehicular homicide, vehicular battery and reckless driving charges dropped.

A judge must agree. A sentencing date was not immediately scheduled Tuesday.

Police say Madrigal ran a flashing red light early on Jan. 1 in a Jeep and collided with a minivan, killing 38-year-old Tanya Sanchez and injuring her husband. Authorities say Madrigal's blood-alcohol level was more than twice the legal limit for driving.

Shannon County name change proposal OK'd for vote

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — Residents of Shannon County will vote later this year on whether to change the name to Oglala Lakota County.

Auditor Sue Ganje said supporters have gathered enough petition signatures and the state's attorney's office has approved the matter for the November general election ballot, KCSR radio reported (<http://bit.ly/1n9IDK2>).

The southwestern South Dakota county holds the majority of the land on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. It is named after Peter Shannon, a chief justice of the Dakota Territory Supreme Court who later helped negotiate land deals with the Lakota. Shannon isn't well thought of among many American Indians.

"We live here in a county that's named after a white federal judge whose intention was to take the land away from the Native Americans," said County Commissioner Anna Takes The Shield, who helped lead the petition drive. "We believe that people living here within the borders of Shannon County should be able to identify with their background and who they are as a people."

The question on the November ballot will be: "Shall the name of this county be changed to Oglala Lakota County?" A simple majority is needed for approval.

' Fargo ' gets 2nd season on FX with new cast, crime

ALICIA RANCILIO, Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — FX is taking another trip to "Fargo," where the cast is changing but some of the characters are not.

The network announced Monday that it has renewed the series for a second season with new actors,

time period and crime.

Executive Producer Noah Hawley told a TV Critics' panel that season two will be set primarily in North Dakota in 1979 with a younger version of the Lou Solverson character (played by Keith Carradine in season one.) His daughter, Molly, who Allison Tolman portrayed, is just 4 years old.

Hawley said he's open to changing the weather and is toying with starting the story in the winter and transitioning to spring and summer. Part of the season will be set in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Luverne, Minnesota.

The earliest the series will air is fall 2015.

Hawley said it would be easier to tap the same actors to return, but he's committed to making " Fargo " an anthology.

FX CEO John Landgraf said that while he thinks casting an Oscar-winning actor like Billy Bob Thornton helped attract viewers, he's not sure that it's necessary for season two.

Landgraf noted that Tolman, who began the series as an unknown actress, now has an Emmy nomination.

"We needed Billy Bob Thornton, but now the show, the title, the tone, the writing ... are the star of that show," Landgraf said.

Landgraf compared " Fargo ," which also starred Martin Freeman, to HBO's " True Detective ," saying the latter "is gonna have to prove that it's more than just a vehicle for movie stars." Hawley has "already proven he can write something really great," Landgraf said.

" Fargo " has earned 18 Emmy nominations. It was based on the 1996 Coen brothers' movie.

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. THE FINAL DAYS AND HOURS OF FLIGHT 17'S PASSENGERS

The Boeing 777 traveling from Amsterdam to Malaysia held the promise of beginnings and endings for many on board: the thrill of a new adventure or dream vacation for some, and the comfort of going back home for others.

2. BODIES OF SOME VICTIMS OF DOWNED JET LEAVE UKRAINE

The Netherlands declares a national day of mourning to receive the remains of 60 of the 298 people who perished in the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17.

3. WHERE SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY HAS TAKEN JOHN KERRY

The secretary of state is in Jerusalem and Ramallah to hold meetings with its top leaders in an effort to broker a Middle East cease-fire.

4. IN MIDEAST, A BATTLE TO CONTROL THE MESSAGE

Using videos, Twitter, text messages, leaflets and phone calls, both sides have attempted to direct the tone of the fighting in the latest Israeli-Palestinian war.

5. GETTING A ROOMMATE: IT'S NOT JUST FOR THE YOUNG AND BROKE

Home-sharing programs around the country allow seniors to stay in their homes and save money while getting some much-needed companionship.

6. WHY NYPD'S 'BROKEN WINDOW' POLICY IS FACING CRITICISM

The chokehold custody death of one person who was suspected of selling loose cigarettes is dealing a blow to the police's attempt to go after smaller crimes in order to prevent bigger ones.

7. HOUSE, SENATE TAKING SEPARATE COURSES ON IMMIGRATION

Lawmakers from both parties are slashing President Obama's request for \$3.7 bln to deal with the issue of unaccompanied minors--but a compromise plan may not emerge from that.

8. HOW 'OBAMACARE' IS FACING A FRESH CHALLENGE

Financial aid for millions of health care enrollees can be provided only in states that have set up their own insurance exchanges, a court declares.

9. CHRISTIANS PAINT DIRE PICTURE OF LIFE UNDER ISLAMISTS

They say they left their belongings behind and fled the Iraqi city of Mosul rather than convert to Islam under a deadline imposed by the extremists.

10. MICHAEL SAM TAKES THE FIELD

The NFL's first openly gay draftee — participating in the first practice for Rams' rookies — says his focus is on making the team.

AP News in Brief

A last kiss, a prayer, a haunting premonition: How did the people on Flight 17 end up there?

In a bedroom in a townhouse near Amsterdam, Miguel Panduwinata reached out for his mother. "Mama, may I hug you?"

Samira Calehr wrapped her arms around her 11-year-old son, who'd been oddly agitated for days, peppering her with questions about death, about his soul, about God. The next morning, she would drop Miguel and his big brother Shaka at the airport so they could catch Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, the first leg of their journey to Bali to visit their grandmother.

Her normally cheerful, well-traveled boy should have been excited. His silver suitcase sat in the living room, ready to go. Jetskiing and surfing in paradise awaited. But something was off. A day earlier, while playing soccer, Miguel had burst out: "How would you choose to die? What would happen to my body if I was buried? Would I not feel anything because our souls go back to God?"

And now, the night before his big trip, Miguel refused to release his mother from his grasp.

He's just going to miss me, Calehr told herself. So she stretched out beside him and held him all night.

As battle rages, dozens of Gaza families plead for evacuation; 2 more Israeli troops killed

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli troops battled Hamas militants on Wednesday near a southern Gaza Strip town as dozens of Palestinian families trapped by the fighting scrambled to flee the area. The U.S. secretary of state meanwhile presses ahead with top-gear efforts to end the conflict that has killed at least 650 Palestinians and 31 Israelis.

John Kerry, who is on a Mideast trip to push for a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas, landed in Tel Aviv despite a Federal Aviation Administration ban following a Hamas rocket near the airport the day before.

Kerry was to meet Wednesday with Israel's prime minister, the Palestinian Authority's president and the United Nations chief in a daylong visit to Jerusalem and Ramallah.

Israel reported that two more of its soldiers have died in the conflict, bringing the military's death toll to 29, but did not elaborate on the circumstances of the latest casualties. Two Israeli civilians have also died in the 15-day fighting.

A Palestinian health official said eight Hamas fighters died in the ferocious battle near Khan Younis, from where the Palestinian Red Crescent was trying to evacuate about 250. Khan Younis was under Israeli tank shelling and drones strikes since early Wednesday.

Israel, Palestinians wage war online over conflict's message, public opinion

JERUSALEM (AP) — Beyond the boom of Israeli airstrikes and the stream of rockets fired from Gaza, Israel and Hamas are also battling to control the message emanating from this latest Israeli-Palestinian conflagration.

Using videos, Twitter, text messages, leaflets and phone calls, both sides have attempted to direct the tone of the fighting — for their own public, their opponent's population and for a global audience. Propaganda and psychological warfare are nothing new in battle, but technology and social media have exponentially increased the ability of each side to penetrate their intended audiences.

Each side has sought to tip the moral scale in its favor with an international audience. Israel has tried to make its case that it is defending its citizens from unprovoked attacks but taking steps to avoid killing civilians on the other side. Hamas has appealed to the world by pointing to the high civilian death toll from Israel's onslaught on Gaza.

Israel and Hamas are each addressing the other's populations as well.

Israel has pushed the message to Palestinians in Gaza that the territory's Hamas rulers are to blame for the bloodshed that's being wreaked. In phone calls that the military makes to Gazans to tell them to evacuate their homes before a strike, the recorded script in Arabic also tells them that Hamas is using them as human shields.

Bodies of Malaysia jet disaster victims leave Ukraine on Dutch, Australian transport planes

KHARKIV, Ukraine (AP) — Two military aircraft carrying the first bodies of victims of the Malaysia Airlines crash left the embattled plains of eastern Ukraine Wednesday, bringing some consolation to grieving relatives who still must wait for positive identifications and answers about who caused the disaster.

The Dutch government declared a day of national mourning as the country prepared for the arrival of the first bodies in the afternoon. The crash on Thursday killed all 298 people — most of them Dutch citizens — aboard Malaysia Airlines Flight 17.

Ukraine and western nations are pressing the pro-Russian rebels who control the crash site to allow an unfettered investigation, something Russian President Vladimir Putin said he would use his influence to achieve. Though confident that a missile brought down the aircraft, U.S. officials say Russia's role remains unclear.

Two military transport planes, one Dutch and one Australian, departed at midday, heading for Eindhoven air base, to be met by Dutch King Willem-Alexander, Queen Maxima, Prime Minister Mark Rutte and hundreds of relatives.

For one grieving mother, the arrival of the bodies marked a new stage of mourning and brought to an end the pain of seeing television images of victims lying in the undulating fields or in body bags being loaded into a train.

Senate Democrats, House Republicans chart separate courses on border money; no deal in sight

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats and House Republicans are moving separately to slash President Barack Obama's \$3.7 billion emergency spending request for the border, but they're unlikely to end up with a deal that could pass both chambers.

Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski planned to unveil legislation Wednesday allocating \$2.7 billion for more immigration judges, detention facilities and other resources on the South Texas border, where tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors have been arriving from Central America.

That amounts to a \$1 billion reduction from Obama's request. But House Republicans were expected to go even further, with more limited spending that would be focused more heavily on enforcement provisions, including National Guard troops, than on caring for the youths. House Republicans were to discuss their legislation Wednesday and hear from a border task force appointed by Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

Most problematically, Mikulski, D-Md., said she was omitting from her legislation any changes to a 2008 trafficking victims law that critics say has contributed to the crisis by allowing Central American youths to stay in this country indefinitely while awaiting far-off court dates. Republicans are demanding changes in that law as the price for approving any money for the crisis and have said that will be an important part of their legislation in the House.

"I don't believe the American people will support sending more money to the border unless both parties work together to address these policies and actually solve this problem," Boehner said.

New challenge to Obama health law: Split rulings by appeals courts but subsidies keep flowing

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's health care law is snarled in another big legal battle, with two federal appeals courts issuing contradictory rulings on a key financing issue within hours of each other Tuesday.

But the split rulings don't necessarily mean another trip to the Supreme Court for the Affordable Care Act.

And White House spokesman Josh Earnest immediately announced that millions of consumers will keep getting financial aid for their premiums — billions of dollars in all — as the administration appeals the one adverse decision.

In that first ruling, a divided three-judge panel in Washington called into question the subsidies that help millions of low- and middle-income people afford their premiums, saying financial aid can be provided only in states that have set up their own insurance markets, or exchanges.

About 100 miles to the south in Richmond, Virginia, another appeals court panel unanimously came to the opposite conclusion, ruling that the Internal Revenue Service correctly interpreted the will of Congress when it issued regulations allowing health insurance tax credits for consumers in all 50 states.

Not exactly 'Golden Girls,' but seniors use home-share agencies to find roommates, save money

NEW YORK (AP) — It's not exactly "The Golden Girls," but for Marcia Rosenfeld, it'll do.

Rosenfeld is among thousands of aging Americans taking part in home-sharing programs around the

country that allow seniors to stay in their homes and save money while getting some much-needed companionship.

"It's a wonderful arrangement," said the white-haired Rosenfeld, who when asked her age will only say she's a senior citizen. "The way the rents are these days, I couldn't stay here without it."

She shares her two-bedroom, \$1,000-a-month Brooklyn apartment with Carolyn Allen, a 69-year-old widow who has suffered two strokes and no longer wants to live alone.

Agencies who put such seniors together say the need appears to be growing as baby boomers age and struggle to deal with foreclosures, property taxes and rising rents. The typical situation involves an elderly woman, widowed or divorced, who has a house or an apartment with extra room and needs help with the upkeep.

Malaysian jet, canceled Tel Aviv flights illustrate dangers of flying over unstable territory

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — In Libya, militias armed with shoulder-launched missiles are battling for control of the country's main airport. In Africa, the entire Sahel region is awash with weapons that include portable air defense systems leftover from the ouster of Moammar Gadhafi.

Then there's Syria's civil war, in which thousands of soldiers have defected and set up new battalions that have shot down military helicopters and jets. And in Iraq, the al-Qaida breakaway group that has taken huge swaths of territory seized weapons depots all along the way.

The world is pockmarked with volatile hot spots stretching from West Africa to Central Asia — a wide arc where commercial flights and airline passengers could potentially be at risk from ground-based weapons. Although counter-terrorism and weapons experts say the skies are largely safe, the downing of Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 illustrates the dangers inherent in any flight over unstable territory where sophisticated weapons might be available to militants.

On Tuesday, those risks were underscored by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, which told American airlines they were prohibited from flying to the Tel Aviv airport in Israel for at least 24 hours following the explosion of a rocket fired from Hamas-ruled Gaza in the latest war between Palestinians and the Jewish state.

The FAA has also prohibited flights in Libya, northern Ethiopia, North Korea and the eastern Ukraine Crimea region, and prohibited flights below a certain altitude in Iraq and Somalia.

National survey finds sharp increase in use of synthetic human growth hormones by teens

NEW YORK (AP) — Experimentation with human growth hormones by America's teens more than doubled in the past year, as more young people looked to drugs to boost their athletic performance and improve their looks, according to a new, large-scale national survey.

In a confidential 2013 survey of 3,705 high school students, being released Wednesday by the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids, 11 percent reported using synthetic HGH at least once — up from about 5 percent in the four preceding annual surveys. Teen use of steroids increased from 5 percent to 7 percent over the same period, the survey found.

Travis Tygart, CEO of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, depicted the numbers as alarming but not surprising, given the extensive online marketing of performance-enhancing substances and near-total lack of any drug testing for high school athletes.

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"It's what you get when you combine aggressive promotion from for-profit companies with a vulnerable target — kids who want a quick fix and don't care about health risk," Tygart said in an interview. "It's a very easy sell, unfortunately."

Nine percent of teen girls reported trying synthetic HGH and 12 percent of boys.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, July 23, the 204th day of 2014. There are 161 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 23, 1914, Austria-Hungary presented a list of demands to Serbia following the killing of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by a Serb assassin; Serbia's refusal to agree to the entire ultimatum led to World War I.

On this date:

In 1885, Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th president of the United States, died in Mount McGregor, New York, at age 63.

In 1886, a legend was born as Steve Brodie claimed to have made a daredevil plunge from the Brooklyn Bridge into New York's East River. (However, there are doubts about whether the dive actually took place.)

In 1945, French Marshal Henri Petain (ahn-REE' pay-TAN'), who had headed the Vichy (vee-shee) government during World War II, went on trial, charged with treason. (He was convicted and condemned to death, but the sentence was commuted.)

In 1951, Henri Petain died in prison.

In 1952, Egyptian military officers led by Gamal Abdel Nasser launched a successful coup against King Farouk I.

In 1967, a week of deadly race-related rioting that claimed 43 lives erupted in Detroit.

In 1977, a jury in Washington, D.C., convicted 12 Hanafi (hah-NAH'-fee) Muslims of charges stemming from the hostage siege at three buildings the previous March.

In 1982, actor Vic Morrow and two child actors, 7-year-old Myca Dinh Le and 6-year-old Renee Shin-Yi Chen, were killed when a helicopter crashed on top of them during filming of a Vietnam War scene for "Twilight Zone: The Movie." (Director John Landis and four associates were later acquitted of manslaughter charges.)

In 1984, Vanessa Williams became the first Miss America to resign her title, after nude photographs of her taken in 1982 were published in Penthouse magazine.

In 1986, Britain's Prince Andrew married Sarah Ferguson at Westminster Abbey in London. (The couple divorced in 1996.)

In 1997, the search for Andrew Cunanan, the suspected killer of designer Gianni Versace (JAH'-nee vur-SAH'-chee) and others, ended as police found his body on a houseboat in Miami Beach, an apparent suicide.

In 2011, singer Amy Winehouse, 27, was found dead in her London home from accidental alcohol poisoning.

Ten years ago: Militants in Iraq took hostage an Egyptian diplomat (Mohammed Mamdouh Helmi Qutb), demanding his country abandon any plans it had to send security experts to Iraq. (He was freed after three days of diplomatic efforts.) The Pentagon released newly discovered payroll records from

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President George W. Bush's 1972 service in the Alabama National Guard, though the records shed no new light on the future president's activities during that summer. Joe Cahill, a founding father of the modern Irish Republican Army, died in Belfast, Northern Ireland, at age 84.

Five years ago: Michael Jackson's personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, was named in a search warrant as the target of a manslaughter probe into the singer's death. (Murray was later convicted of involuntary manslaughter.) Authorities arrested 44 people in New Jersey in a corruption probe. Mark Buehrle of the Chicago White Sox pitched the 18th perfect game in major league history, a 5-0 win over Tampa Bay.

One year ago: With a high-stakes showdown vote looming in the House, the White House and congressional backers of the National Security Agency's surveillance program warned that ending the massive collection of phone records from millions of Americans would put the nation at risk from another terrorist attack. (The next day, the House narrowly voted against halting the NSA program.)

Today's Birthdays: Actress Gloria DeHaven is 89. Concert pianist Leon Fleisher (FLY'-shur) is 86. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy is 78. Actor Ronny Cox is 76. Radio personality Don Imus is 74. Country singer Tony Joe White is 71. Rock singer David Essex is 67. Actor Larry Manetti is 67. Singer-songwriter John Hall is 66. Actress Belinda Montgomery is 64. Rock musician Blair Thornton (Bachman Turner Overdrive) is 64. Actress Edie McClurg is 63. Actress-writer Lydia Cornell is 61. Actor Woody Harrelson is 53. Rock musician Martin Gore (Depeche Mode) is 53. Actor Eriq La Salle is 52. Rock musician Yuval Gabay is 51. Rock musician Slash is 49. Rock musician Nick Menza is 46. Model-actress Stephanie Seymour is 46. Actress Charisma Carpenter is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sam Watters is 44. Country singer Alison Krauss is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Dalvin DeGrate is 43. Rock musician Chad Gracey (Live) is 43. Actor-comedian Marlon Wayans is 42. Country singer Shannon Brown is 41. Actress Kathryn Hahn is 41. Retired MLB All-Star Nomar Garciaparra is 41. Former White House intern Monica Lewinsky is 41. Actress Stephanie March is 40. Country musician David Pichette (Emerson Drive) is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer Michelle Williams is 34. Actor Paul Wesley is 32. Actor Daniel Radcliffe is 25. Country musician Neil Perry is 24. Country singer Danielle Bradbery (TV: "The Voice") is 18.

Thought for Today: "To be proud and inaccessible is to be timid and weak." - Jean Baptiste Massillon (zhahn bah-TEEST' mah-see-YOHN'), French clergyman (1663-1742).