

Groton Daily Independent

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Tuesday, July 29

Legion State at Tabor (Madison vs. Tabor)

Senior Menu: Beef Stroganoff, Noodles, Mixed Vegetables, Cake w/Strawberries, Whole Wheat Bread.

Birthdays: Amber Falk Odde • Jarod Fliehs • Mike Imre • Desiree Giedt • Brenda Waage
10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study
12:00pm: Olive Grove Bridge
2:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Pastor @ Primrose Cottages, Aberdeen
6:15pm: Olive Grove Ladies Golf Night (Potluck)

Wednesday, July 30

Olive Grove Kid's Lessons

Teener Region 6:00 pm: Groton vs. Milbank

Senior Menu: Hot Pork Combination, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Green and Gold Beans, Carrot-Raisin Salad, Pear Halves.

Birthdays: Christopher Sippel • Brandyn Anderson • Carlyle Mortenson • Krista Tunby • Gloria Leidholt • Trista Jean Keith • Travis McKiver
7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study
12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center
6:00pm: Olive Grove Men's League

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

FOR RENT

Attached garage.

Major appliances included.

\$700 per month

Roger: 605/397-7118

"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild . . . we can do it all"

NOW OPEN

Harris
Auto Body ABDN

225 Brown County Hwy 19 South
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900

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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Tabor eliminates Groton

Tabor jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first inning forcing Groton to come from behind in the loser's bracket of the State B American Legion baseball tournament.

Two Groton errors allowed Tabor runners on base. A hit by pitch loaded the bases and a single scored two runs. A fielder's choice allowed a third run to score with two outs in the bottom of the first inning.

In the top of the second inning, Mason Madsen was hit by the pitch and later scored when Kasey Kurtz hit one to right center as it was a 3-1 game in the second inning.

Groton rallied in the top of the fourth inning as Groton scored three runs on three hits with one Tabor error and Groton leaves one stranded on base. Groton took a 4-3 lead after four innings.

Groton added an extra run in the top of the fifth with four hits and two Tabor errors. Groton led, 5-3, after five innings.

Groton made a pitching change in the top of the sixth inning, but Tabor scored three runs on three hits and left to on base to take the lead, 6-5. Groton left a runner stranded on base in the top of the eighth inning and was unable to score in the top of the ninth as Tabor handed Groton its second tournament loss, 6-5.

GAME 12 - July 28th 5PM	GROTON	5
Leonard Cimpl Park - Tabor, SD	TABOR	6

TEAMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	LOB
GROTON	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	5	10	2	9
TABOR	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	X	6	8	5	8

TABOR
Chase Kortan - 2 singles
Cole Uecker - 2 singles
Scott Wieseler - 2 singles

GROTON
Spencer Kneht - double
Dane Campbell - double, single
Adam Herman - triple

Winning Pitcher
Chase Kortan

Losing Pitcher
Mason Madson

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Today in Weather History

July 29, 1896: A destructive hailstorm originated in the central part of Edmunds County near Ipswich, passing southeast. This storm destroyed crops and broke glass in many windows along a path to the eastern portions of Spink County.

July 29, 2003: Winds of 70 mph, to over 100 mph caused a lot of damage in and around Redfield east to Frankfort and south to Tulare. The winds and hail damaged many roofs, crops, outbuildings, downed power lines and poles, and also downed many branches and trees. In Redfield, a trailer home with two occupants, were rolled three to four times over 75 feet. The trailer home rolled over a pickup truck and damaged it. Much of the contents in the trailer home were damaged and the trailer home itself was a total loss. The people inside the home received minor injuries. A garage was also blown apart in

Redfield with the car damaged inside. At the grain elevator in Redfield, several vehicle windows were broke out by airborne sand and rocks. A street light was ripped from the concrete in Redfield. East of Redfield, a 70 foot silo of over 70 tons was crumbled to the ground and a large tractor shed was blown apart with damage to the contents. Wind equipment by Redfield measured winds at 106 mph before the power went out.

July 29, 2004: A record setting flash flood occurred over part of the Greenville, South Carolina, during the morning hours. Six to eight inches of rain fell just east of Berea, a northwestern suburb, which caused the Reedy River through downtown Greenville crested 9 feet above flood stage. This was the highest level since 1908.

Water Restrictions
Groton City Residents
Please
No Outdoor Watering
between
10am and 6pm
Effective immediately
and until further notice

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



403 E. 15th Ave.

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.

JOHNSON
AGENCY

Jay Johnson, Broker

www.johnsonagencygroton.com

102 N Main, Groton

Office: 605/397-2424

Home: 605/397-8565



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July 29, 2006: Record heat and high humidity affected central, north central, and northeast South Dakota for the end of July. Heat indices rose to 105 to 115 degrees across the area. Record high temperatures were set at Pierre, Mobridge, Kennebec, Timber Lake, and Aberdeen. Pierre rose to 111 degrees on each of the three days. Mobridge rose to 111 degrees on the 28th and to 112 degrees on the 30th. Several record highs of 108 and 109 degrees were set at Timber Lake and Kennebec in the three day period. Aberdeen set a record high of 106 on the 30th.

1898 - The temperature at Prineville, OR, soared to 119 degrees to establish a state record, which was tied on the 10th of August at Pendleton. (The Weather Channel)

1905 - Heavy rain in southwestern Connecticut caused a dam break, and the resulting flood caused a quarter of a million dollars damage at Bridgeport. As much as eleven inches of rain fell prior to the flood. (David Ludlum)

1981 - Fifty cattle, each weighing 800 pounds, were killed by lightning near Vance, AL. The lightning struck a tree and then spread along the ground killing the cattle. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Minnesota to Indiana and Illinois. A thunderstorm at Janesville, WI, produced wind gusts to 104 mph which flipped over two airplanes, and blew another plane 300 feet down the runway. The northeastern U.S. experienced some relief from the heat. Nine cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Saint Johnsbury, VT, with a reading of 42 degrees. Barnet, VT, reported a morning low of 33 degrees, with frost reported on vegetation. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Hail three inches in diameter was reported south of Saint Cloud, MN. Hot weather prevailed in the western U.S. Fresno, CA reported a record thirteen straight days of 100 degree heat. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms in the Upper Midwest produced more than five inches of rain west of Virgil, SD. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms deluged the foothills and adjacent plains of Colorado with heavy rain. Rains of six to seven and a half inches fell in eight hours north of Greeley. Hail and heavy rain caused several million dollars damage in Weld County. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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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.

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.

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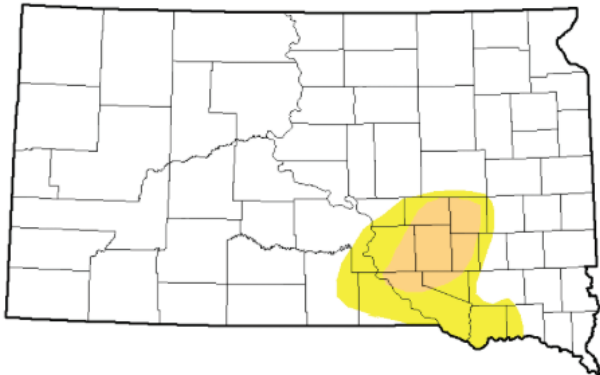
Mitchell Technical Institute President's List

A total of 344 students at Mitchell Technical Institute have been placed on the Spring Semester 2014 President's List, according to MTI President Greg Von Wald. To be named to the list, students must earn a term GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and complete at least 12 credits during the semester.

Included on the Spring 2014 President's List are: Clay Wattier, Conde, Wind Turbine Technology; Dustin Koepke, Bristol, Culinary Academy; Nickolas Johnson, Groton, Electrical Construction & Maintenance; Tiffany Lerew, Groton, Speech-Language Pathology Assistant; and Amanda Swanson, Langford, Speech-Language Pathology Assistant.

U.S. Drought Monitor

South Dakota



July 22, 2014

(Released Thursday July 24, 2014)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Statistics type: Traditional (D0-D4, D1-D4, etc.) Categorical (D0, D1, etc.)

Drought Condition (Percent Area):

Week	Date	Nothing	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	7/22/2014	89.83	10.17	3.52	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week	7/15/2014	95.01	4.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago	4/22/2014	52.04	47.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year	12/31/2013	95.77	4.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year	10/1/2013	32.12	67.88	25.34	0.97	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago	7/23/2013	41.62	58.38	32.31	7.37	0.23	0.00

[View More Statistics](#)








Intensity:

D0 - Abnormally Dry
 D1 - Moderate Drought
 D2 - Severe Drought

D3 - Extreme Drought
 D4 - Exceptional Drought

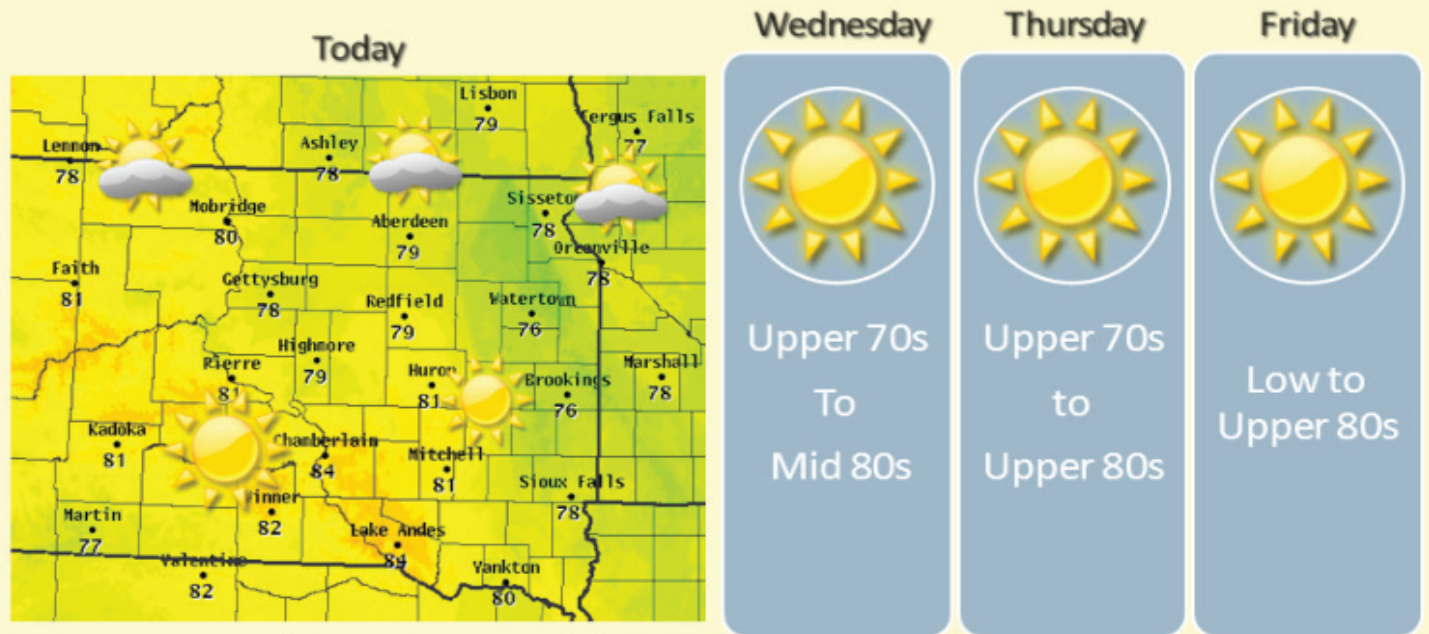
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TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY
						
Patched Fog High: 77 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 49 °F	Sunny High: 80 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 55 °F	Sunny High: 82 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 58 °F	Sunny High: 84 °F



Mild Temperatures Continue



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD


weather.gov/Aberdeen

[National Weather Service Aberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/NWSAberdeen)

[@NWSAberdeen](https://twitter.com/NWSAberdeen)
Updated: 7/29/2014 4:31 AM Central

Seasonally mild temperatures will continue over the next several days. We may see an odd sprinkle out there today, but most of the region will remain dry.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 73.7°F at 5:33 PM

Heat Index:

Low: 53.2°F at 1:03 AM

High Gust: 15 mph at 4:59 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 109° in 1933

Record Low: 42° in 1899

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in July.: 2.77

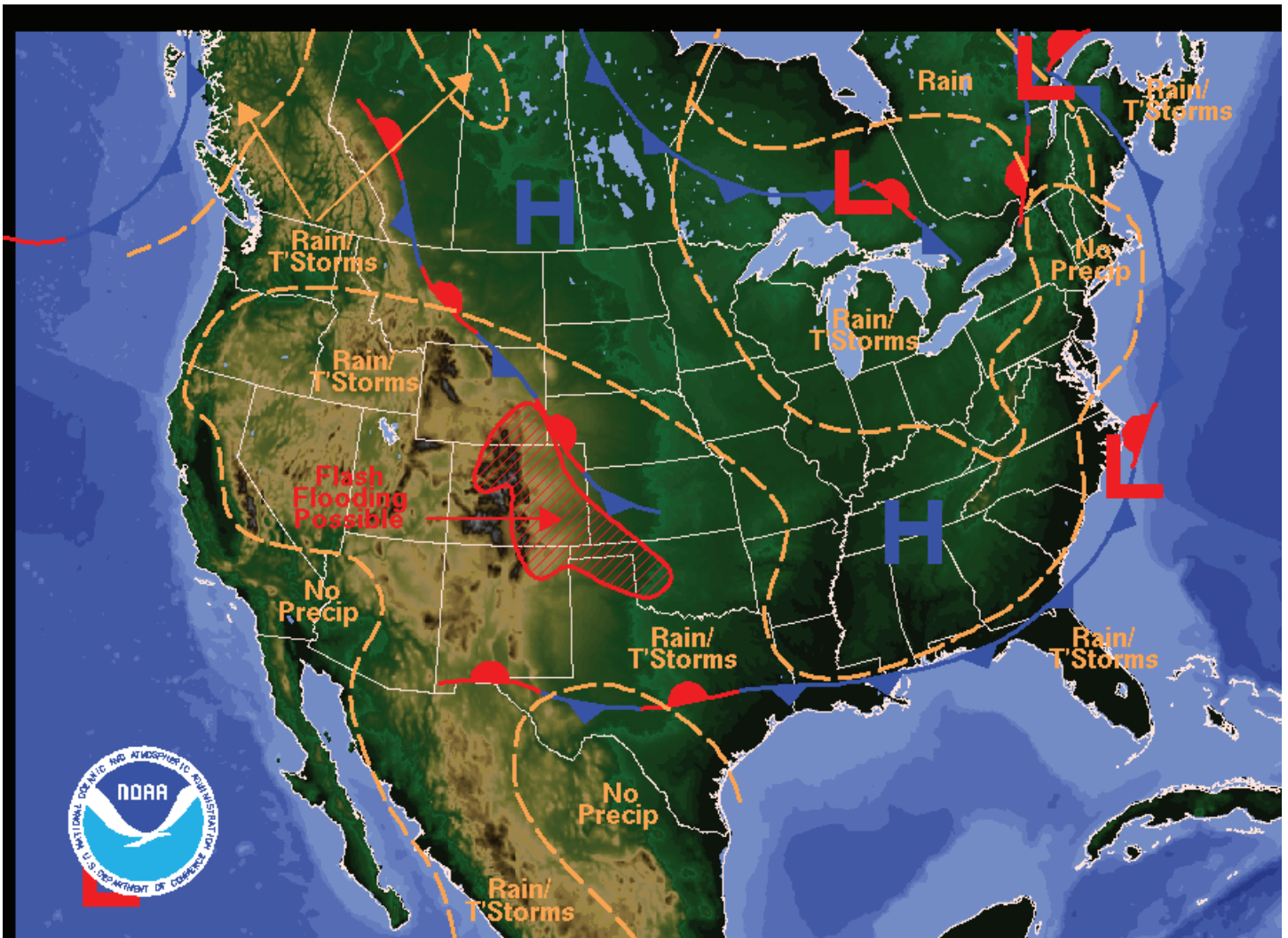
Precip to date in July.: 0.15

Average Precip to date: 13.61

Precip Year to Date: 9.28

Sunset Tonight: 9:05 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:16 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Jul 29, 2014, issued 3:15 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mc Reynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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JUMPING HURDLES

Normally, when Ben came home from work, his teen age daughter would run up to him and give him a hug and kiss. One afternoon, however, he came home and she was not there to greet him.

Frightened, he called her name. Unfortunately she did not respond. He went to the phone to call the police and noticed that a note was taped to the desk beneath it. Hurriedly, he read the note: "Dad, I went back to the school to practice jumping hurdles. Love ya! Karen."

Everyone has their share of hurdles. Some are taller than others and there may be a longer distance between them. But they are there. Every day and everywhere. We have problems to solve, temptations to overcome, burdens to bear - for ourselves and others - and battles to fight. We can face and fight them or flee from them. However, they will never go away unless and until we work with the Lord to overcome them.

Faith and trust in God can turn our obstacles into opportunities, sadness into smiles and tragedies into triumphs - depending on what and how we choose to deal with them.

David faced many of the same situations that we do. Yet, we find no record that he spent time on self-pity or self-resignation. He prayed and believed that God could and would take care of every one of them. And He did!

Hear his praise report: "Praise be to the Lord, for He has heard my cry for mercy!"

Hurdles come from God. We get over them with God.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to fill our lives with faith to overcome each hurdle we face and give You all the praise. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today:
Psalm 28:6 Blessed be the Lord, Because He has heard the voice of my supplications!

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 black 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

Man pleads guilty to killing pregnant girlfriend

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man accused of killing his ex-girlfriend and her unborn child has pleaded guilty in a deal with prosecutors.

Thirty-two-year-old Michael Young on Monday pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the April 2012 stabbing death in a Wal-Mart parking lot of Morgan Myers, who was pregnant with his child.

Prosecutors will drop other charges including first-degree murder and fetal homicide. But the second-degree murder charge still carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole.

Last December, prosecutors announced they would not seek the death penalty in the case.

Young's attorney said in court on Monday that Young has no memory of the stabbing.

Sunflower crop progressing in the Dakotas

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The sunflower crop is progressing in the Dakotas.

The National Sunflower Association says South Dakota's blooms are above average, while North Dakota's are a little behind average.

The group says 18 percent of South Dakota's crop is blooming. That's ahead of last year's 10 percent average and a five-year average of 14 percent.

Meanwhile, only 1 percent of North Dakota's crop is blooming. The average for the state last year is 5 percent, while the five-year average is 10 percent. Still, the association says, crop conditions there are rated 79 percent good to excellent.

Sunflowers are used to make cooking oil, snacks and bird seed. North Dakota produces about half of the nation's crop, and South Dakota's production is not far behind.

Jackley to brief lawmakers on economic probe

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley plans to brief lawmakers Tuesday on his investigation into potential financial misconduct at the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

He'll address the South Dakota Government Operations and Audit Committee of the Legislature in Pierre. It's not clear if the meeting will be open to the public.

A state audit found that just before Richard Benda left his job as head of the economic development office in December 2010, he tacked on an extra \$550,000 to a grant agreement to help the struggling Northern Beef Packers plant in Aberdeen.

An earlier report from Jackley said that same amount was improperly diverted to SDRC Inc., Benda's new employer.

Benda was found dead in October near Lake Andes with a fatal shotgun wound. His death was ruled a suicide.

Obama authorizes federal disaster aid for SD

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — President Barack Obama has signed a disaster declaration for South Dakota ordering federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area affected by severe storms, tornadoes and flooding from June 13 to June 20.

Federal funding is available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations in 12 counties including Lincoln, Minnehaha, Ziebach and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe within Corson County.

The federal money may be used for emergency work and for repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe storms and flooding. Federal funding is also available for statewide hazard mitigation measures.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency says additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

1st revenue estimate puts SD state budget in black

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two agencies say state government is expected to end the new fiscal year in the black.

South Dakota lawmakers passed a law earlier this year requiring the Bureau of Finance and Management and Legislative Research Council to provide revenue estimates for each budget year by July 30.

The agencies told lawmakers and the governor's office Monday that revenue is on track to exceed expenses through next June.

If either agency projects a budget shortfall of more than 2.5 percent, the new law requires them to propose ways to eliminate the gap. Any expected shortfall of 5 percent or more requires the governor to propose a solution.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard will provide the next revenue estimate in December and there will be another at the end of next year's legislative session.

Colorado man dies in crash in western South Dakota

NEW UNDERWOOD, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a Colorado man died in a rollover crash in western South Dakota over the weekend.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol on Monday said 60-year-old Stevan Bruce died Sunday after his pickup truck rolled. The incident occurred in New Underwood, about 14 miles south of Highway 34.

Authorities say Bruce was traveling southbound when the vehicle left the west side of the road on a left-hand curve, entered the ditch and rolled.

The Patrol says the man from Fountain, Colorado, was not wearing a seatbelt and died at the scene.

Man reported fake robbery at SD Verizon store

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Police in Rapid City say the robbery at a cellphone store that was reported in June never happened.

Tarah Heupel is the spokeswoman for the Rapid City Police Department. She says 40-year-old Jason Knox lied to police when he reported that he handed \$600 to an armed man who entered through the store's front door and demanded money from the register.

Knox reported the incident June 20.

Heupel says detectives found that money was missing from the register, but surveillance video from neighboring Wal-Mart confirmed that the robbery didn't occur.

Knox turned himself in last week after a warrant was issued for his arrest. The Rapid City man is facing initial charges of false reporting and petty theft.

Education students in SD get state scholarship

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Nineteen South Dakota college students who have committed to work in critical teaching areas after graduation have been awarded a state scholarship.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard on Monday announced the first recipients of the Critical Teaching Needs Scholarship Program.

The winners have agreed to remain in the state and work in a critical-need teaching area for five years upon graduation. If a recipient breaches the agreement, the scholarship converts into an interest-bearing loan.

The state's Department of Education uses data collected from school districts to determine the subject areas of critical teaching need.

A student can receive the teaching scholarship for up to two years, but the maximum annual award can't exceed the cost of tuition and general fees for 30 credit hours at a South Dakota public university.

LA County coroner's official killed in crash

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles County officials say coroner's Lt. Joe Bale was killed in a motorcycle crash in Wyoming over the weekend.

Coroner's Assistant Chief Ed Winter says Bale was fatally injured Sunday afternoon near Jackson Hole. City News Service reports the 52-year-old was riding with a group of motorcycle officers from various law enforcement jurisdictions. The group was heading to the annual Sturgis rally in South Dakota when the accident occurred.

Bale is survived by his mother, brothers and sisters, and nieces and nephews.

Services are pending.

Ferley nabs back-to-back Frontier Days bronc wins

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — A cowboy from South Dakota is the first saddle bronc rider in 78 years to win back-to-back titles in that event at Cheyenne Frontier Days.

Chad Ferley, of Oelrichs, South Dakota, scored an 83 on a bucking bronc named Sweatin' Bullets in Sunday's final round at the Frontier Days rodeo.

Ferley collected \$12,026 in winnings — just shy of the \$12,037 he won last year.

Rodeo superstar Trevor Brazile of Decatur, Texas, won his first tie-down roping title in Cheyenne. Brazile collected \$22,573, boosting him into the top five in the tie-down roping world standings.

Brazile also has won three times at Frontier Days in steer roping.

Trell Etbauer, of Goodwell, Oklahoma, placed in steer wrestling and tie-down roping to win the all-around cowboy title and collect \$12,053.

SBA disaster centers closing in 3 SD cities

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Small Business Administration outreach centers set up in three South Dakota cities to help victims of severe storms last month are closing this week.

The SBA issued a disaster declaration earlier this month for South Dakota homes and businesses impacted by flooding and a tornado in mid-June. The declaration made SBA low-interest loans available in several counties.

The state Department of Public Safety says the center in Elk Point will close Tuesday afternoon. The

centers in Wessington Springs and Canton will close Thursday afternoon.

Backpack Program looks to feed 3,600 students

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's largest charitable hunger relief organization says it will provide food to a record 3,600 children this fall through its Backpack Program.

The program gives backpacks of food to children in need to eat over the weekends, when they don't have access to school lunch programs.

It's in its eighth year. It helped about 3,500 children in the Sioux Falls region last year. That was up from 200 children in 2007.

Program coordinator Allison Struck says it costs more than \$500,000 to operate the program. Feeding South Dakota is looking for people to contribute \$150 to sponsor one child for the school year.

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. ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR ENTERS FOURTH WEEK — DURATION, DEATHS MATCH FIRST CONFLICT

Heaviest bombardment in Gaza yet as Israeli aircraft, tanks and navy gunboats hit symbols of Hamas control and a power plant.

2. 'A VERY SERIOUS MATTER'

In an escalation of tensions, the Obama administration accuses Russia of conducting tests in violation of a 1987 nuclear missile treaty.

3. WHAT IS BECOMING A KEY ISSUE IN MAINE

In the whitest U.S. state, thousands of miles from Mexico, the debate over immigration is becoming a focal point in a closely watched governor's race.

4. HOW EXPENSIVE HEPATITIS C TREATMENT HAS BECOME

A \$1,000-per-pill drug from Sovaldi has become a popular prescription for a liver-wasting viral disease that affects more than 3 million Americans.

5. JUDGE CLEARS WAY FOR SALE OF LA CLIPPERS

The ruling is a defeat for Donald Sterling, who sought to block his estranged wife from selling the team to former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer for \$2 billion.

6. LONDONERS INVITED TO CHANGE INSULAR WAYS

A new campaign called "Talk To Me" wants to change London's image as one of the loneliest places in Britain.

7. WHOSE BOTTOM LINE LOOKS BRIGHTER

Medicare should be solvent until 2034, four years later than had been projected, the U.S. government says.

8. SCHOOL'S OUT, BUT MEALS PROGRAM ROLLS ON

A food truck delivers meals to New York City kids to make sure those that qualify for free or reduced-price fare during the academic year don't lose out.

9. WHERE CAN YOU NOW SEND YOUR KIDS TO SUMMER CAMP

North Korea's International Children's camp welcomes some 300 foreign children this year with giant water slides, a private beach, video games and volleyball courts.

10. WHY 'SHARKNADO 2' IS MUST-SEE TV

The sequel shifts to Gotham and is wiser than the original and unabashedly awash with fun, the AP's Frazier Moore reports.

AP News in Brief at 5:58 a.m. EDT

Israel hits symbols of Hamas power, Gaza's only power plant, in heaviest bombardment of war

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel struck symbols of Hamas' control of Gaza and the strip's only power plant on Tuesday, escalating its military campaign against the Islamic militant group with the heaviest bombardment in the fighting so far.

Flares turned the sky over Gaza City orange overnight and by daybreak, as the conflict entered its fourth week, heavy clouds of dust hovered over the territory.

The pounding came after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday warned of a "prolonged" campaign against Hamas.

Israeli warplanes carried out dozens of attacks, leveling the home of the top Hamas leader in Gaza, Ismail Haniyeh, and damaging the offices of the movement's Al-Aqsa satellite TV station, a central mosque in Gaza City and government offices.

Gaza's power plant was forced to shut down after two tank shells hit one of three fuel tanks, said Jamal Dardasawi, a spokesman for Gaza's electricity distribution company. The shelling sparked a large fire and a huge column of smoke was seen rising from the site. Dardasawi said 15 workers were trapped inside by the fire and that the damage would take months to repair. There was no immediate word on casualties.

With war raging, US lawmakers offer full support for Israel, criticism of Obama administration

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of Congress are falling over one another to show their support for Israel.

While much of the rest of the world watches the Gaza war in horror and scrambles for a cease-fire, U.S. lawmakers are pressing the Obama administration to take no action that puts pressure on Israel to halt its military operations.

Many even have criticized the administration's effort to stop violence that has killed more than 1,100 Palestinians, mostly civilians, and more than 40 Israeli soldiers and three civilians this month.

"At times like this, people try to isolate Israel," House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said Monday. "We are here to stand with Israel, not just as a broker or observer but as a strong partner and a trusted ally."

"What does that mean? Well, it doesn't mean issuing vague, on-the-one-hand, on-the-other-hand statements. No, it means backing up our words and showing solidarity with our friend."

Immigration fight makes political waves in Maine, other states far from southern border

LEWISTON, Maine (AP) — In the whitest U.S. state, thousands of miles from the Mexican border, the debate over immigration is quickly becoming a central issue in one of the nation's most closely watched governor's races.

With its close-knit communities and a practice of labeling non-natives as "from away," Mainers have a

reputation for being insular. But they have also embraced the need for immigrants as the state's population ages and declines.

So Republican Gov. Paul LePage roiled the cultural waters when he criticized the federal government's placement of eight immigrant children in Maine without advising him.

He said Monday that the federal government was ducking its responsibility by leaving the border unprotected and pushing the burden onto states. He said he worries about the financial impact if more children are placed in the state.

"If we have eight kids in the state right now and if there are any state dollars going there, there are eight Mainers not getting services," he said during a visit to a homeless shelter in Lewiston. "There's not an endless pot of money up there."

US says Russia violated 1987 nuclear missile treaty, calls breach 'a very serious matter'

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an escalation of tensions, the Obama administration accused Russia on Monday of conducting tests in violation of a 1987 nuclear missile treaty, calling the breach "a very serious matter" and going public with allegations that have simmered for some time.

The treaty confrontation comes at a highly strained time between President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin over Russia's intervention in Ukraine and Putin's grant of asylum to National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden.

An administration official said Obama notified Putin of the U.S. determination in a letter Monday. The finding will be included in a State Department annual report on compliance with arms control treaties that will be released Tuesday.

The U.S. says Russia tested a new ground-launched cruise missile, breaking the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty that President Ronald Reagan signed with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Russian officials say they have looked into the allegations and consider the matter closed.

The Obama administration has expressed its concern over possible violations before, but this is the first time that the administration has formally accused Russia of violating the treaty. It comes in the wake of the downed Malaysian airliner in Ukraine and as the U.S. and the European Union seek to ramp up sanctions against Russia, offering the administration a convenient time to release the report which had been due to come out in April.

More than a third of Americans reported to collection agencies for unpaid bills and debts

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 35 percent of Americans have debts and unpaid bills that have been reported to collection agencies, according to a study released Tuesday by the Urban Institute.

These consumers fall behind on credit cards or hospital bills. Their mortgages, auto loans or student debt pile up, unpaid. Even past-due gym membership fees or cellphone contracts can end up with a collection agency, potentially hurting credit scores and job prospects, said Caroline Ratcliffe, a senior fellow at the Washington-based think tank.

"Roughly, every third person you pass on the street is going to have debt in collections," Ratcliffe said. "It can tip employers' hiring decisions, or whether or not you get that apartment."

The study found that 35.1 percent of people with credit records had been reported to collections for debt that averaged \$5,178, based on September 2013 records. The study points to a disturbing trend:

The share of Americans in collections has remained relatively constant, even as the country as a whole has whittled down the size of its credit card debt since the official end of the Great Recession in the middle of 2009.

As a share of people's income, credit card debt has reached its lowest level in more than a decade, according to the American Bankers Association. People increasingly pay off balances each month. Just 2.44 percent of card accounts are overdue by 30 days or more, versus the 15-year average of 3.82 percent.

Despite outcry over cost, breakthrough drug becomes treatment of choice for hepatitis C

WASHINGTON (AP) — A \$1,000-per-pill drug that insurers are reluctant to pay for has quickly become the treatment of choice for a liver-wasting viral disease that affects more than 3 million Americans.

In less than six months, prescriptions for Sovaldi have eclipsed all other hepatitis C pills combined, according to new data from IMS Health. The prospect of a real cure, with fewer nasty side effects, is enticing thousands of patients to get treated for the first time.

But clinical and commercial successes have triggered scrutiny for the drug's manufacturer, California-based Gilead Sciences Inc., which just reported second-quarter profits of \$3.66 billion, a net margin of 56 percent.

Two senior senators are raising questions about documents that suggest the initial developers of Sovaldi considered pricing treatment at less than half as much. The health insurance industry is publicly scolding Gilead, and state Medicaid programs are pushing back.

The repercussions for patients could go beyond one drug and one disease.

AP PHOTOS: Undecided on where to send the kids for summer camp? Try North Korea

WONSAN, North Korea (AP) — Summer camp in North Korea? It's got one — and it's got everything from giant water slides and a private beach to video games and volleyball courts. Oh, and, of course, a big bronze statue of the late leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il surrounded by adoring children.

After some on-the-spot guidance from North Korea's new leader, Kim Jong Un, and a major face-lift, the Songdowon International Children's Camp reopened Tuesday for this year's flock of foreign campers — more than 300 young children and teenagers from Russia, China, Vietnam, Ireland and Tanzania.

The campers spend the eight days cooking, swimming, boating and mingling with their North Korean peers. Though heavily subsidized by the government, the camp — plus a tour of Pyongyang — costs about \$270 per foreign child.

The camp, which has been operating for nearly 30 years, was originally intended mainly to deepen relations with friendly countries in the Communist or non-aligned world. But officials say they are willing to accept youth from anywhere — even the United States.

The camp gives the participants an opportunity to see a country that remains a mystery to most outsiders, and North Korea a chance to show off the best it can offer — sleeping in air-conditioned rooms with TVs and video games is a luxury most North Korean children can't normally experience.

13-year-old boy separated from group, goes missing while hiking in California national park

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP) — A 13-year-old boy has gone missing while hiking at Kings Canyon National Park in Central California.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks said in a statement that staffers were searching Monday night for Austin Shedd, who disappeared after getting separated from a group of hikers.

Parks officials say Shedd's group was hiking from Arrow Peak to Bench Lake when he disappeared. The hikers had planned to end their trip Monday and exit through the park's Taboose Pass.

They did not say how long he's been missing or with whom he was hiking.

Shedd is 5-foot-3 and weighs 110 pounds with light brown hair and blue eyes. He has braces and was wearing a green hat when he went missing.

NBA, Clippers eager to move on from Sterling to Ballmer after court ruling

The NBA and the Los Angeles Clippers are ready to move on, even if Donald Sterling wants to keep fighting.

Move on to Steve Ballmer, who paid a record price for the team and is now a step closer to finally owning it.

The Clippers are a potential powerhouse team next season, with two All-Star players and one of the league's best coaches. The only thing that could've messed it up was ownership.

That no longer appears to be a concern after Monday's ruling in Los Angeles, where Superior Court Judge Michael Levanas sided with Sterling's estranged wife, Shelly Sterling, who negotiated the sale to Ballmer for a record-breaking \$2 billion. Donald Sterling was trying to block the sale.

Now it could all be completed within two weeks.

Sexual-assault suspect killed in New York shootout; 2 federal marshals, policeman wounded

NEW YORK (AP) — A California man who skipped town after being accused of molesting a boy was killed and three law enforcement officers trying to arrest him were wounded in a daytime shootout inside a small smoke shop in one of New York's most bustling neighborhoods, officials said.

The man, Charles Richard Mozdir, was recently featured on a CNN show about fugitives. He was wanted in a San Diego case and was charged with lewd acts upon a child younger than 14, a criminal complaint said.

The shootout Monday between Mozdir and members of the New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force happened just after 1 p.m. in Greenwich Village not far from New York University in a highly trafficked tourist area bounded by jazz clubs, restaurants, a subway station and a basketball court.

Mozdir's handgun was recovered at the scene, and 20 extra rounds of ammunition were found in his pocket, Police Commissioner William Bratton said.

A police detective first entered the narrow smoke shop and identified Mozdir, who apparently was alone, Police Commissioner Bratton said, before leaving and returning with the U.S. marshals.

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Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 29, the 210th day of 2014. There are 155 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On July 29, 1914, transcontinental telephone service in the U.S. became operational with the first test conversation between New York and San Francisco. Massachusetts' Cape Cod Canal, offering a shortcut across the base of the peninsula, was officially opened to shipping traffic.

On this date:

In 1030, the patron saint of Norway, King Olaf II, was killed in battle.

In 1588, the English attacked the Spanish Armada in the Battle of Gravelines, resulting in an English victory.

In 1890, artist Vincent van Gogh, 37, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in Auvers-sur-Oise, France.

In 1900, Italian King Humbert I was assassinated by an anarchist; he was succeeded by his son, Victor Emmanuel III.

In 1921, Adolf Hitler became the leader ("fuehrer") of the National Socialist German Workers Party.

In 1948, Britain's King George VI opened the Olympic Games in London.

In 1957, the International Atomic Energy Agency was established. Jack Paar made his debut as host of NBC's "Tonight Show."

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, creating NASA.

In 1967, an accidental rocket launch aboard the supercarrier USS Forrestal in the Gulf of Tonkin resulted in a fire and explosions that killed 134 servicemen.

In 1974, singer Cass Elliot died in a London hotel room at age 32.

In 1981, Britain's Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. (However, the couple divorced in 1996.)

In 1994, abortion opponent Paul Hill shot and killed Dr. John Bayard Britton and Britton's bodyguard, James H. Barrett, outside the Ladies Center clinic in Pensacola, Florida. (Hill was executed in September 2003.)

Ten years ago: Sen. John Kerry accepted the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Boston with a military salute and the declaration: "I'm John Kerry and I'm reporting for duty."

Five years ago: Microsoft and Yahoo announced a 10-year Internet search partnership under which Bing would replace Yahoo Search, as the companies agreed to take on the overwhelming dominance of Google in the online advertising market. Federal authorities arrested more than 30 suspects, including doctors, in a major Medicare fraud bust in New York.

One year ago: The U.S. launched a fresh bid to pull Israel and the Palestinians into substantial negotiations with a dinner meeting in Washington hosted by Secretary of State John Kerry. The FBI said authorities had rescued 105 young people and arrested 150 alleged pimps and others in a three-day sweep in 76 cities.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian "Professor" Irwin Corey is 100. Actor Robert Horton is 90. Former Sen. Nancy Kassebaum-Baker is 82. Actor Robert Fuller is 81. Former Sen. Elizabeth H. Dole is 78. Actor David Warner is 73. Rock musician Neal Doughty (REO Speedwagon) is 68. Marilyn Tucker Quayle, wife of former Vice President Dan Quayle, is 65. Actor Mike Starr is 64. Documentary maker Ken Burns is 61. Style guru Tim Gunn (TV: "Project Runway") is 61. Rock singer-musician Geddy Lee (Rush) is 61. Rock singer Patti Scialfa (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 61. Olympic gold medal gymnast Nellie Kim is 57. Actor Kevin Chapman is 52. Actress Alexandra Paul is 51. Country singer Martina Mc-

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Bride is 48. Rock musician Chris Gorman is 47. Actor Rodney Allen Rippey is 46. Actor Tim Omundson is 45. Actor Ato Essandoh is 42. Actor Wil Wheaton is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Wanya Morris (Boyz II Men) is 41. Country singer-songwriter James Otto is 41. Actor Stephen Dorff is 41. Actor Josh Radnor is 40. Hip-hop DJ/music producer Danger Mouse is 37. Actress Rachel Miner is 34. Actress Allison Mack is 32. Actor Matt Prokop is 24.

Thought for Today: "A country can be judged by the quality of its proverbs." - German proverb.