

# Groton Daily Independent

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## 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

## Thursday, July 31

Teener Region  
Senior Menu: Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Corn, Brownie

Birthdays: Amanda Swenson • Lynette Furman • Keith Baker

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

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## 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.

## County not writing checks

Brown County has experienced a fraud issue with the county bank account, the Independent was notified on Tuesday. As a result, no checks will be issued for two to three weeks because of all of the software changes that need to be done.

## The Ins and Outs of 529 College Savings Plans

By Jason Alderman

For many people, their biggest expenses in life are funding retirement, buying a home and paying for their children's college education – or a portion of it, anyway. Setting aside money for these and other financial goals is difficult, especially when you're trying to save for them all simultaneously and from a young age.

One of the more popular college savings vehicles is the 529 College Savings Plan. Every state and Washington, D.C. offers at least one 529 plan option, although most offer several. Key features include: You make contributions using after-tax dollars; their investment earnings grow tax-free.

Withdrawals aren't taxed if they're used to pay for qualified higher-education expenses (e.g., tuition, room and board, fees, books, supplies and equipment).

If you withdraw the money for non-qualified expenses, you'll have to pay income tax and a 10 percent penalty tax on the earnings portion of the withdrawal – plus possible state penalties, depending on where you live.

Many states that have a state income tax give accountholders a full or partial tax deduction for contributions made to their own state's plan. Three states (Indiana, Utah and Vermont) also offer tax credits for contributions.

Contributions to other state's plans generally are not tax-deductible in your home state; however, five states do offer tax breaks for investing in any state's plan (Arizona, Kansas, Maine, Missouri and Pennsylvania).

Each state's plan offers different investment options, both in investment style (age-based, risk-based, principal protection, managed or indexed funds, etc.) and in actual investment performance.

You can choose anyone as beneficiary – your child, other relative or friend.

If the original beneficiary decides not to attend college or gets a scholarship, you can reallocate the account to another of his or her family members at any time.

You can rollover funds to a different 529 plan or change investment strategies once a year. If you want to do more than one rollover within a 12-month period, you'll need to change the beneficiary in order to avoid taxes and penalties. (You can always change it back later.)

Contributions up to \$14,000 a year, per recipient, are exempt from gift taxes (\$28,000 for married couples).

You can also make a lump-sum contribution of up to \$70,000 (\$140,000/married couples) per beneficiary and then average the contribution over a five-year period without triggering the gift tax – provided you make no other gifts to that beneficiary for the next five years.

These plans are treated as an asset of the account owner (vs. the student) when calculating the expected family contribution toward college costs, so they have a comparatively low impact on financial aid eligibility.

Most financial experts recommend looking first at your own state's plan to see what tax advantages, if any, are offered to residents. They may be significant enough to offset lower fees or better fund

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performance in other states' plans.

Carefully examine the fee structure. Common fees include those for opening an account, annual maintenance, administration costs, and most importantly, sales commissions if you're buying from a brokerage – which could be up to 5.75 percent of your contribution. Buying directly from the plan eliminates sales fees but puts the onus on you to research the best option for your needs.

And finally, examine the investment performance of the funds, both when you enroll and periodically thereafter. Morningstar ([www.morningstar.com](http://www.morningstar.com)), College Savings Plans Network ([www.collegesavings.org](http://www.collegesavings.org)) and FinAid ([www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)) all have helpful comparison tools.

Bottom line: The sooner you can start saving for college, the less your kids will have to rely on expensive loans.

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

## Today in Weather History

July 30, 1981: Operation Skywarn organized by the National Weather Service in Bismarck four years ago had a perfect opportunity to put the training into operation on this day. A spotter 20 miles west of Bismarck identified a rotating wall cloud 10 minutes before a tornado touchdown. The strong tornado was rated as having F3 strength, leaving behind an 18 mile long path of destruction. The force of the storm drove a stick between a tire and rim. A 6 inch steel beam was twisted and found near the high tension tower which had been toppled.

July 30, 2001: High winds of 81 mph blew much of the roof off of the bowling alley in Mobridge. A trailer home was also damaged by some flying debris. Many trees were snapped in two or uprooted and many power lines were downed. High winds brought down tree branches and also knocked the power out for several hours in Pollock.

July 30, 2001: Very heavy rains of 5 to 10 inches caused the Rosehill Dam to break in the early morning hours in southeast Hand County. Flash flooding began around 1 am CDT with two campers being swept up around 130 am CDT. The two campers clung to a tree until they could be rescued around

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6 am CDT. They were both injured with one camper being treated for hypothermia and other airlifted to Sioux Falls to be treated for broken ribs and head trauma. The dam broke at 330 am CDT with the spillway breaking at 420 am CDT. There was a 100 to 150 foot hole left by the dam break. The flash flooding continued downstream on Sand Creek causing damage to area farms, filling basements, and flooding many roads.

1949 - The state record for Connecticut was established when the town of Greenville registered an afternoon high of 102 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1965 - The temperature at Portland, OR, reached 107 degrees to equal their all-time record high. (The Weather Channel)

1979 - A forty-minute hailstorm bombed Fort Collins, CO, with baseball to softball size hail. Two thousand homes and 2500 automobiles were damaged, and about 25 persons were injured, mainly when hit on the head by the huge stones. A three month old baby died later of injuries. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Afternoon highs of 105 degrees at Aberdeen SD, 102 degrees at Bismarck, ND, and 102 degrees at Pueblo, CO, were records for the date. Pueblo, CO, reported just .09 inch of rain for the first thirty days of the month. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A dozen cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Downtown Baltimore, MD, hit 103 degrees, marking a record eight days of 100 degree heat for the month, and ten for the year. The high of 101 degrees at Billings, MT, marked a record seventeen

days of 100 degree heat for the year. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the northeast, with nearly fifty reports of large hail or damaging winds in Pennsylvania and New York State. A tree fell on a car at Erie, PA, injuring four persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms over central Missouri deluged Columbia with 5.98 inches of rain causing flash flooding. Daytime thunderstorms in Kentucky drenched Paducah with 1.73 inches of rain in less than half an hour. Evening thunderstorms in the north central U.S. produced wind gusts to 78 mph east of Moccasin, MT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

## 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](mailto: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.**

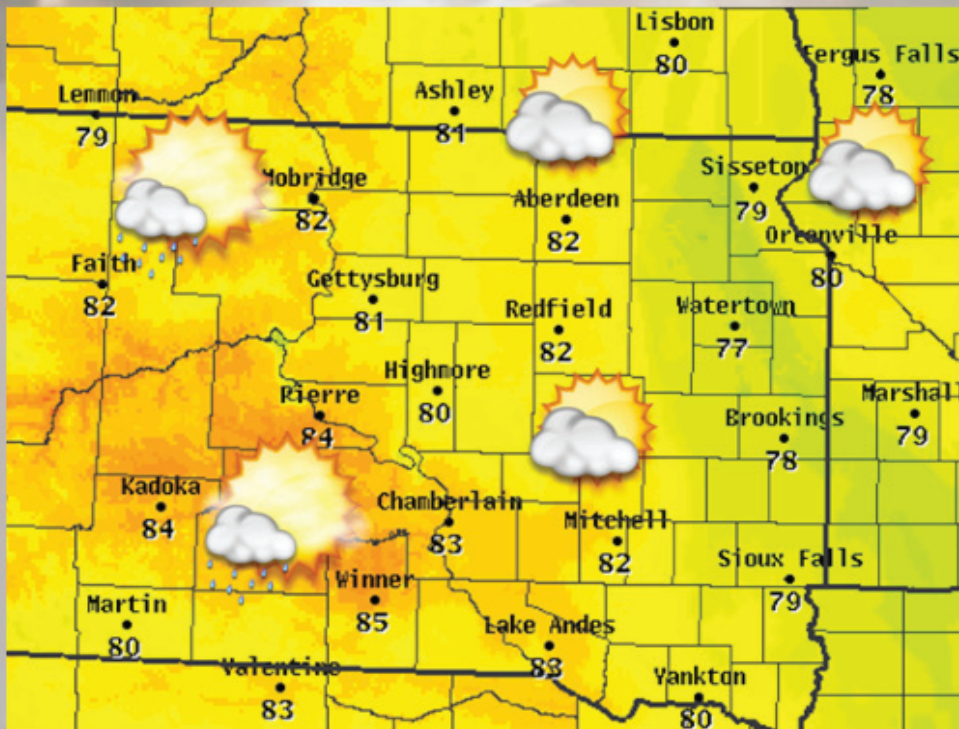
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TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY
						
Mostly Sunny High: 81 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 53 °F	Sunny High: 81 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 56 °F	Sunny High: 82 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 58 °F	Sunny High: 86 °F



## Mild Temperatures Continue An Isolated Shower or Storm Possible



### National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 7/30/2014 4:07 AM Central

We may see an odd sprinkle out there today, but most of the region will remain dry. Temperatures will continue to be mild for this time of the year.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 76.6°F at 5:24 PM

Heat Index:

**Low:** 46.9°F at 6:18 AM

**High Gust:** 14 mph at 3:40 PM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 106° in 2006

**Record Low:** 39° in 1971

**Average High:** 84°F

**Average Low:** 59°F

**Average Precip in July.:** 2.86

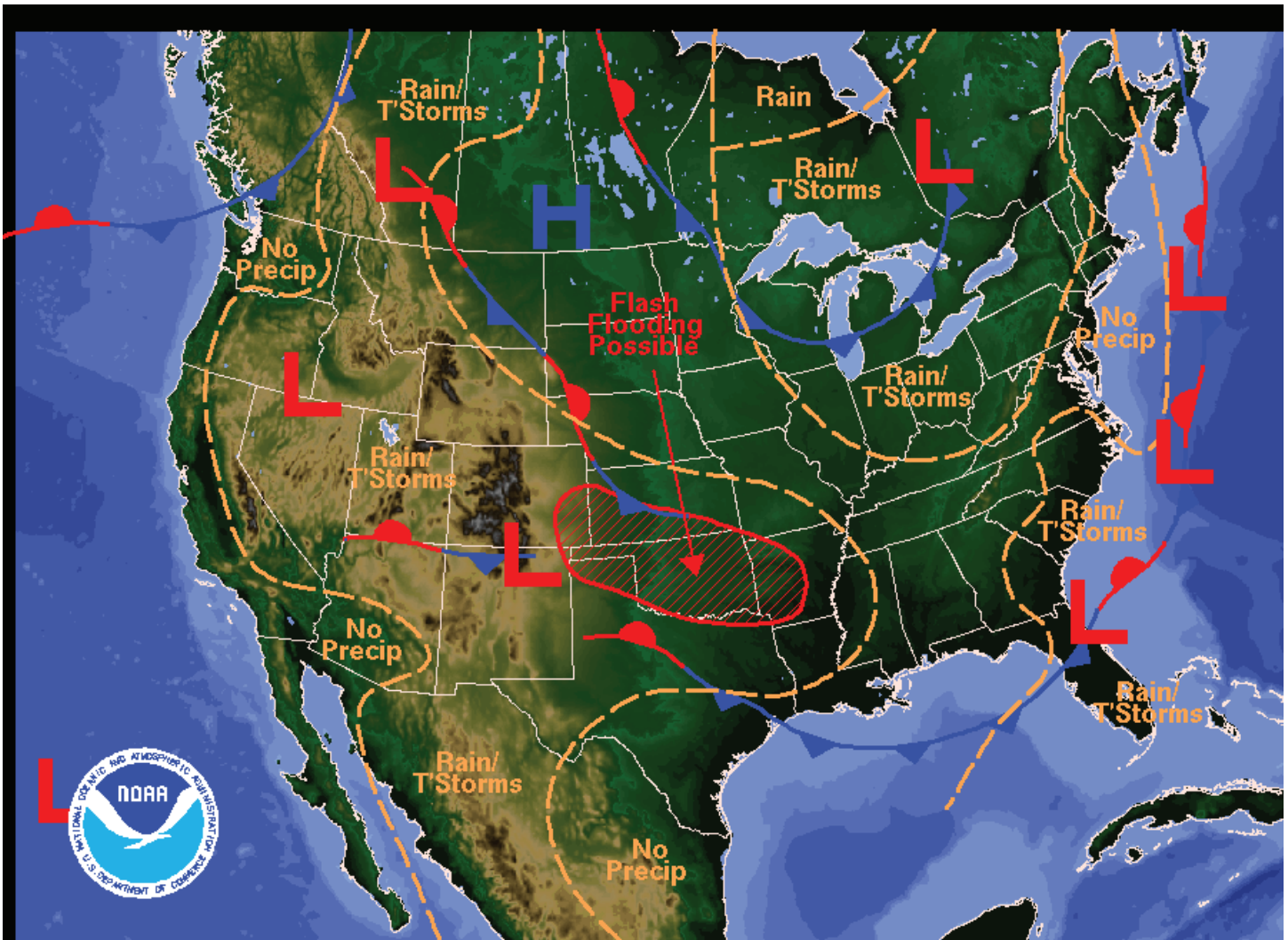
**Precip to date in July.:** 0.15

**Average Precip to date:** 13.70

**Precip Year to Date:** 9.28

**Sunset Tonight:** 9:04 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 6:17 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Jul 30, 2014, issued 3:11 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Mc Reynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## REAL POWER - REAL PROTECTION

War includes offense and defense, strategies and tactics, weapons and warriors. But, in the final analysis, warriors and their weapons make the difference. Warriors who are fit for battle and weapons that match or exceed those of the enemy.

David was a warrior who had been in many battles. He knew what it took to be victorious or how easy it was to go down in defeat. And he summarized his "battle plan" in Psalm 28:7: "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him and I am helped."

God is our resource for whatever strength we may ever need. Isaiah said, "He gives strength to the weary...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength." His strength never diminishes nor will His power ever be less than it was when He created the universe. He will never be too tired to reach out to us nor is His ear ever closed to our voice when we call upon Him to renew us. We can put all of our trust in Him because He was, is and always will be faithful to keep His promises and fulfill our every need.

In Genesis 15:1 we read that God spoke to Abram and said, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield, your very great reward." Abram had rescued Lot from the kings of the east and was afraid of some type of reprisal. But God put his heart at ease and assured him of His reward and protection. It was not God nor was it Abram. It was God working through Abram and assuring him that He was his shield, that He would honor him, and go before him and lead him from one victory to another.

**Prayer:** Father, we are blest to know that every battle is Yours and that YOU alone are our strength and shield. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture for Today:**  
Psalm 28:7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him.

A colorful advertisement for a taco bar and soup night. The background features a red, white, and green zigzag pattern. At the top left is a large illustration of a taco. The text "Come 'n' Get It!" is written in a large, bold, red font with a white outline. Below that, "Friday is Taco Bar and Soup Night" is written in a smaller red font. The name "Andover Bar &amp; 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. At the bottom right is another illustration of a taco.

## News from the Associated Press

### **3 suspects in custody in Watertown casino burglary**

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — Police have made three arrests in the burglary and vandalism of a Watertown casino.

Two Sioux Falls men and a Watertown man were taken into custody on Monday. All three suspects are in their late 20s.

Authorities allege that the men forced open a door at the Mint Casino, took an undisclosed amount of cash and damaged a video lottery machine.

The suspects were arrested later during a traffic stop.

### **South Dakota task force to study child sex abuse**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota task force will study the sexual abuse of children and recommend ways to address the issue.

Jolene's Law Task Force will meet starting Aug. 5 and will file a report to the Legislature in January. The task force plans to suggest ways the state could increase awareness and improve its policies for dealing with child sex abuse. The task force was created by state legislation earlier this year.

The August meeting will be open to the public.

The group is named after Jolene Loetscher of Sioux Falls, a victim of sexual abuse as a teenager who has talked publicly about her story. The Associated Press generally does not name victims of sexual abuse but is naming Loetscher because she has come forward and spoken publicly.

### **Sioux Falls picks talent for events center opening**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls is selecting local musicians and entertainers to perform during the opening of the Denny Sanford Premier Center.

Mayor Mike Huether says the public will first get to see the center at two free open houses during a soft opening in September. Local bands, musicians and comedians will perform on multiple stages throughout the center.

A committee will choose acts to perform during the two days. Performers will submit applications by Aug. 15 and won't need to try out.

The open houses are scheduled for Sept. 19-20. The center will have its grand opening Oct. 3 with performances by Jason Aldean and Florida Georgia Line.

### **Former economic development head was to be charged**

**CARSON WALKER, Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's attorney general told lawmakers Tuesday he was ready to file felony theft charges and seek an indictment against the state's former economic development director days before he committed suicide last fall.

The state's top prosecutor, Marty Jackley, briefed members of the Government Operations and Audit Committee of the Legislature in Pierre on his investigation into potential financial misconduct at the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

That probe stemmed from allegations that former GOED commissioner Richard Benda double-billed



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the state \$5,559.80 for three flights and redirected \$550,000 in economic development money for his own use.

Lawmakers on the committee rejected a motion by member Democratic Rep. Susan Wismer to subpoena Joop Bollen, who had been handling the state's role in the federal EB-5 program, which allows people to seek U.S. residency if they invest at least \$500,000 in approved projects. The failed Northern Beef Packers plant in Aberdeen was funded in part through that program and was also the project through which Benda arranged the transfer.

GOED in September ended its contract with Bollen's private corporation, SDRC Inc., and now administers the EB-5 program.

Jackley said the state investigation began when he received an April 8, 2013, letter from the governor's office seeking an investigation in response to a federal grand jury subpoena over the alleged financial misconduct in GOED.

Jackley said investigators probed thousands of bank records, emails and other documents, and interviewed numerous witnesses. His office drafted a criminal complaint against Benda on Oct. 8 and scheduled a grand jury to meet Oct. 28.

Benda's body was found Oct. 22 near Lake Andes with a fatal shotgun wound. Investigators concluded it was suicide.

The draft complaint, which Jackley provided to reporters, would have charged Benda with three alternate felony counts alleging he illegally obtained \$550,000 in economic development money intended for the Northern Beef Packers plant: aggravated grand theft by embezzlement, aggravated theft by deception and aggravated theft by threat. The second felony count would have charged him with grand theft for double-billing the state \$5,559.80 for three flights to China and Las Vegas.

A state audit found that just before Benda left the economic development office in December 2010, he tacked on the extra \$550,000 to a grant agreement to help the struggling plant. Benda also hand-delivered a \$1 million check to the Aberdeen plant, and \$550,000 of that was improperly diverted to SDRC Inc. — Benda's new employer as of January 2011 — to pay loan monitoring fees for the EB-5 program, Jackley determined.

Bollen could not be reached for comment. Benda's attorney at the time of his death had not seen the draft complaint and was not immediately available for comment.

Jackley told lawmakers their subpoena power would be limited because EB-5 is a federal program. He also pointed out an earlier audit concluded that no state money was lost and that it was an issue between private parties.

Wismer, a Democrat from Britton and the party's nominee for governor, was the only member of the committee to oppose going into executive session for a discussion and the only one to call for a subpoena of Bollen.

"I wanted to get them on the record for refusing to ask the one person who is still alive how this program was administered," she said afterward.

Wismer said she's also unsatisfied that lawmakers won't seek records from Northern State University, where the state's EB-5 projects were administered until GOED began contracting with SDRC in 2009.

The committee's chairman, Sen. Larry Tidemann, R-Brookings, said the state has put in place several mechanisms to avoid future misconduct. Those include criminal background checks of senior GOED staff, new whistleblower rules that make it easier to report misconduct and better oversight of travel reimbursement.

"We have done our due diligence," he said after the hearing. "We can go searching for something

that's missing, but tell me what it is."

Tidemann said the one remaining element to put in place is a conflict of interest rule being drafted for the next legislative session that would prevent state employees from seeking employment at a business they deal with in their state position.

## **South Dakota official says prison reform working**

**BY KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A state law aimed at reducing South Dakota's prison population and save money is working, South Dakota's general counsel said Tuesday, saying that the number of offenders in drug courts has dramatically increased, leaving nonviolent offenders out of prison.

Jim Seward told the Government Operations and Audit Committee Tuesday that the Public Safety Improvement Act has tripled the number of nonviolent offenders in the state's DUI and drug courts, increased the number of offenders on probation and decreased the number serving parole.

The legislation passed in 2013 brought about sweeping reforms that changed the state's focus on nonviolent drug offenders and authorized the state Supreme Court to set up drug courts. Drug and DUI courts allow people with nonviolent drug offences to opt for treatment and supervision rather than time in prison.

The legislation also allows cooperative parolees to reduce their time on parole. If they're compliant for a month, they can earn a month off the back end of their parole.

As of June 30, South Dakota had 3,624 inmates in its state prisons, an increase over the 3,576 from the year before, according to the Michael Winder, a spokesman for the Department of Corrections.

Seward said the increase is better than projections from Pew Charitable Trust, which the state had worked with when looking at prison reform.

In 2012, Pew estimated that South Dakota would have 3,760 prisoners by 2014 if it didn't reform its practices and 3,636 if it did.

"We're hopeful that's a good sign," Seward said.

In the program's first year, Seward said the parole population is down 10 percent, which allows parole agents to focus on those more likely to reoffend. In 2012, the state's prison population was made up of 25 percent of parole violators. That is down to 20 percent.

An oversight council created with the legislation and led by Seward is currently compiling its official report, which it will release in November. Seward updated lawmakers Tuesday for an annual report as required by the new law.

## **5 food writers subpoenaed in 'pink slime' lawsuit**

**REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Several food writers, including a New York Times reporter, have been subpoenaed by a meat producer as part of its \$1.2 billion defamation lawsuit against ABC in regards to the network's coverage of a beef product dubbed "pink slime" by critics.

The subpoenas were issued to five writers — three reporters for the online Food Safety News, Times reporter Michael Moss and noted food writer Michele Simon — asking each to supply copies of any communications they had with ABC in 2012.

Beef Products Inc. sued the network in 2012 seeking \$1.2 billion in damages for the coverage of the meat product the industry calls "lean, finely textured beef," which critics dubbed "pink slime." BPI said ABC's coverage misled consumers into believing the product was unsafe and led to the closure of three

plants and roughly 700 layoffs.

ABC's attorneys say that in each of its broadcasts about the product, the network stated that the U.S. Department of Agriculture deemed the product safe to eat. They say BPI might not like the phrase pink slime, but like all ground beef, it's pink and has a slimy texture.

A spokesman for ABC on Tuesday declined to comment on the lawsuit and the subpoenas. Attorneys for the network and BPI have proposed a February 2017 trial date.

Attorney Bruce Johnson in Seattle is representing the editor of Food Safety News, Dan Flynn, reporter James Andrews, and former reporter Gretchen Goetz. Johnson on Tuesday said the subpoenas were "overreaching" and that the publication would fight the requests.

BPI attorney Erik Connolly said the subpoenas are "appropriate and would be enforced."

A spokeswoman for the New York Times said Moss's subpoena had been stayed.

Simon said she has responded to the request, but did not provide any documents because she doesn't keep emails dating back to 2012.

"BPI's lawyers are engaging in a fishing expedition by spreading the subpoenas so far to every journalist and food blogger that has ever said anything about pink slime," Simon said.

The plaintiffs have also sought subpoenas for two food-safety research labs and a blogger who has written about the meat product.

The product is made using a process in which butchered cow trimmings are heated, lean meat is separated from fat, and ammonia gas is applied to the meat to kill bacteria.

A social media-fueled outcry about the product in 2012 prompted the U.S. Department of Agriculture to offer school districts that get food through the government's school lunch program choices in ground beef purchases.

Manufacturers of the product say sales of the meat have risen since the height of the controversy two years ago.

In addition to ABC, the lawsuit names ABC news anchor Diane Sawyer, correspondents Jim Avila and David Kerley; Gerald Zirnstein, the U.S. Department of Agriculture microbiologist who named the product pink slime; former federal food scientist Carl Custer; and Kit Foshee, a former BPI quality assurance manager who was interviewed by ABC.

Attorneys for Zirnstein, Custer and Foshee could not be reached Tuesday.

## **NDSU picked to win Missouri Valley football crown**

**DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press**

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Three-time defending national champion North Dakota State has a new coach and a new quarterback, but Missouri Valley Football Conference followers said Tuesday they don't expect a change in fortunes for the Bison.

A poll of league coaches, media and sports information directors picks the Bison to finish first despite losing their head coach to Wyoming and the all-time winningest quarterback in the Football Championship Subdivision to graduation.

"It doesn't matter who the head football coach is here at North Dakota State. There's always going to be high expectations," said Chris Klieman, last year's defensive coordinator who took over the program from Craig Bohl. "That's a good thing."

The Bison, who have won 24 in a row and 43 of their last 45 games, received 24 out of a possible 39 first-place votes and 370 points. South Dakota State, the only other league team to make the playoffs last season, was the second choice with eight first-place votes and 330 points.

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SDSU head coach John Stiegelmeier said the lofty prediction is a reflection of the program's recent success.

"I think we're a mature enough team to understand that it doesn't matter at the start, it matters at the end," Stiegelmeier said. "That's what we've always preached."

Northern Iowa, with seven first-place votes and 324 points, is picked to finish third, followed by Youngstown State (240 points), Southern Illinois (237), Illinois State (197), Missouri State (180), South Dakota (121), Western Illinois (96) and Indiana State (50).

The Bison had eight players named to the preseason all-conference team that was released Tuesday. Those players will be called upon to help the team overcome a lack of experience in the offensive line, defensive line and quarterback. Junior Carson Wentz will take over at quarterback for Brock Jensen, who won 48 games in his career.

"He has all the physical tools. He just doesn't have the snaps; he doesn't have the experience," Klieman said of the 6-foot-6, 230-pound Wentz. "We have to get him some experience quickly."

The Jackrabbits have an experienced quarterback in senior Austin Sumner, the school's career leader in completions, yards and attempts. He's flanked by fellow preseason all-conference selections in running back Zach Zenner, already the league leader in all-purpose yards, and wide receiver Jason Schneider, who last year set a school record with 78 catches.

"I think it puts pressure on a whole defense," Stiegelmeier said of the trio.

The conference is on a mission this season to bump up the number of qualifiers for the FCS playoffs. South Dakota head coach Joe Glenn, who coached in the Big Sky Conference, said he didn't want to get in a squabble with his former league, but believes Youngtown State deserved to get into the playoffs ahead of two Big Sky teams.

"I feel really strong about that," Glenn said. "I flat tell you right now that this league is strong."

Patty Viverito, the league commissioner, said coaches are understandably frustrated with what they view as a lack of respect from the playoff committee. She thinks any team finishing in the top half of the league should be considered after the FCS last year bumped up the number of playoff qualifiers from 20 to 24.

"Having only two teams in an expanded bracket is not OK. We have playoff-caliber teams that aren't being selected. That's not OK," Viverito said. "We need to do everything we can to have the committee understand and respect strength of schedule."

## **Avera addresses changes to SD employees benefits**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Avera Health says state employees can still access some of its specialty services without being charged higher out-of-pocket costs due to recent changes to benefits.

Recent changes to state benefits classify certain categories of health care as "Tier 1" with limited options for the most affordable treatment.

Avera says state employees can still access its cardiology, orthopedics, bariatric surgery and gastrointestinal services without being charged higher out-of-pocket costs.

The changes went into effect July 1. They put more of the burden on the insured and relieve pressure on the state.

The new benefits also mean that state employees, many of whom are based Pierre, will have to travel more than three hours to Sioux Falls and other cities to the east for the most affordable specialty health care.

## Man gets 11 years in prison for role in drug death

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — A Mandan man who provided the methamphetamine that led to his girlfriend's fatal overdose aims to spend his time in prison turning his life around, his lawyer said Tuesday.

Joseph Senger was sentenced Monday to more than 11 years in prison after he pleaded guilty in April to conspiracy to distribute drugs resulting in serious bodily injury or death. He is one of 13 people charged in the case that originated with drugs from California and Arizona and resulted in the overdose deaths of two people.

Senger and Brock Fish are accused of providing methamphetamine that killed Senger's girlfriend, 59-year-old Cheri Bettis, of Mandan, in February 2013. Stormy Vickers, Senger's lawyer, called the sentence for his client a fair resolution.

"It's just a really sad case. This is drugs gone bad," Vickers said. "Joseph says he's taking this opportunity to change his life and I hope he does."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Chris Myers declined to comment because it's an open case involving 13 defendants, some of whom have not been sentenced.

Fish, who is scheduled for sentencing on Oct. 20, testified at a plea hearing earlier this month that he obtained the meth in California on trips there to drive trucks back to North Dakota for a truck dealer. He later bought meth from a second source in Arizona.

"I'd give it to Joe, and he's sell it," Fish said of Senger.

Fish and Billie Jo Kirkpatrick also are charged in the December 2012 overdose death of 39-year-old Douglas Peterson, of Pollock, South Dakota. Kirkpatrick has agreed to plead guilty to the same charge as Senger and is scheduled for sentencing in December.

Fish, who grew up on a farm north of Pollock, said during his plea hearing that he was mainly a recreational drug user.

"I just ... a lot of bad luck, I guess," he said when asked by a judge how he wound up in court.

The government and Vickers filed a joint recommendation asking for a 12-year sentence for Senger. U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland gave Senger credit for serving five months in a halfway house and sentenced him to 11 years and seven months in prison.

## ND hospital, national nonprofit talk affiliation

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — St. Alexius Medical Center in Bismarck is pursuing an affiliation with the Catholic Health Initiatives nonprofit.

The hospital and nonprofit say the goal would be to enhance services and improve care. Officials say that if a final agreement is reached, the affiliation could occur by the end of the year.

Catholic Health Initiatives is based in Colorado, with a division based in Fargo. It has several facilities in North Dakota, but none in Bismarck.

St. Alexius serves residents of central and western North Dakota, eastern Montana and northern South Dakota through its Bismarck hospital and facilities in several other cities. It is associated with the Benedictine Sisters of the Annunciation Monastery in Bismarck.

## 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. ISRAELI TANK SHELLS SLAM INTO UN SCHOOL IN GAZA, KILLING 15

The strike that hit the crowded compound sheltering the war displaced comes amid Israel's heaviest air and artillery assault in more than three weeks of conflict with Hamas.

### 2. ABOUT 150 MAY BE TRAPPED IN LANDSLIDE IN WESTERN INDIA

Federal rescue workers are hampered by continuing rains and poor roads leading to the village of Ambe in the Maharashtra state where the disaster buried about 40 houses.

### 3. SHELLS HIT APARTMENT BUILDINGS IN EASTERN UKRAINE

Officials in the city of Donetsk say 19 people are dead in fighting between the government forces and pro-Russian separatists.

### 4. EU, U.S. HIT RUSSIA WITH ECONOMIC PENALTIES

Stocks take a tumble in Moscow after coordinated sanctions are aimed at increasing pressure on Putin to end his support for separatists in eastern Ukraine.

### 5. HOUSE IS SET TO TAKE UP \$17B VA OVERHAUL BILL

The measure is intended to help veterans avoid long waits for health care, hire more doctors and nurses to treat them, and make it easier to fire senior executives at the Veterans Affairs Department.

### 6. AS WEALTHY CATALONIA EYES INDEPENDENCE, A NEEDY SPAIN HOLDS ON

The region's secession campaign promises profound consequences for the country as it emerges from its worst economic crisis in a generation, with the moneymaker as a major driver of growth.

### 7. IN STING, KIDS ARE FOUND WHO WERE NEVER REPORTED LOST

In a weeklong effort by the FBI to rescue child sex trafficking victims last month, 168 juveniles recovered, some as young as 11. Among them was a group that particularly troubles child welfare advocates: those whose disappearance was never made known to authorities.

### 8. WHAT TARNISHES POWERFUL PORTUGUESE FAMILY

The country's Espirito Santo family business survived wars, dictatorship, revolution and family feuds for almost 150 years. Now, it is being stripped of its wealth and influence amid accounting irregularities, huge unreported debts and a police investigation.

### 9. WHY NYC MULLS LAW FOR IMPERSONATORS

The city officials are turning up the heat on Times Square costumed characters in a bid to rein in a summertime spike in badly behaving characters, such as the Spider-Man accused of punching a police officer recently.

### 10. WHO IS STAYING IN THE BOOTH FOR THE LOS ANGELES DODGERS

Vin Scully, the 86-year-old Hall of Fame announcer will return for his record 66th season with the team in 2015.

## AP News in Brief

### **Israeli tank shells slam into UN school in Gaza, kill 15; elsewhere, 27 die as war rages**

JEBALIYA REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli tank shells slammed into a crowded U.N. school Wednesday sheltering Gazans displaced by fighting, killing 15 and wounding 90 after tearing through the walls of two classrooms, a spokesman for a U.N. aid agency and a health official said.

The relentless bombardment also killed 27 Palestinians elsewhere in the coastal territory Wednesday, further dimming hopes of a sustainable cease-fire.

The strike at the U.N. school in the Jebaliya refugee camp came amid Israel's heaviest air and artillery assault in more than three weeks of Israel-Hamas fighting.

The Israeli military said it is looking into the incident. Its campaign escalated on Tuesday, with air-strikes destroying key symbols of Hamas power, including the home of the top Hamas leader. Gaza's only power plant was shut down after shells set its fuel tank on fire.

On Wednesday, Israeli aircraft struck dozens of Gaza sites, including five mosques it said were being used by militants, while several other areas came under tank fire.

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### **AP ANALYSIS: Even as Gaza war rages, exit scenarios for Israel are starting to take shape**

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — The savage fighting between Israel and Hamas is escalating in Gaza, cease-fire efforts take on elements of farce, and bravado rules the public discourse. But even through the fog of war, a few endgame scenarios can nonetheless be glimpsed.

For the moment, the deadlock is well-entrenched: As long as the crippling blockade of Gaza remains in place, Hamas says it will continue firing rockets at Israel — terrifying but mostly ineffectual, thanks to the "Iron Dome" defense system. Israel says the blockade must stay to stop a terrorist government from importing yet more weapons.

There is not much pressure on either side to stop — even in Gaza, where more than 1,200 people, mainly civilians, have been killed, amid widespread devastation. An Egyptian-led cease-fire plan more than two weeks ago, which Israel accepted and was a straight return to the status quo before this current round — was rejected by Hamas, and there was little criticism of that decision in Gaza. Such is the hatred of the air, land and sea blockade in the strip — in addition, perhaps, to the fear of Hamas.

Last week's mediation effort led by John Kerry fizzled amid a most undiplomatic frenzy of criticism in Israel of the U.S. secretary of state. He had dared suggest Hamas' blockade-ending demands be on the table. He also had ignored Israel's new demands — probably long-term at best — that the militant group be disarmed.

While it is too early to say how all this will end, quiet diplomacy continues. There also is a growing sense that it can't go on much longer — but then again, it might.

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### **Russia's central bank promises support for targets of new sanctions**

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's central bank promised to support financial institutions hit by U.S. sanctions as stocks took a tumble in Moscow on Wednesday.

In an online statement, the bank promised to "take adequate measures" to support targeted institu-

tions. Russia's state-owned VTB bank — Russia's second-largest — was down 0.5 percent on Wednesday morning.

Other major banks that were left unscathed by sanctions — such as the country's largest, Sberbank — were trading higher. Russia's MICEX benchmark index added 2.3 percent from its previous closing.

U.S. officials said Tuesday that roughly 30 percent of Russia's banking sector assets are now constrained by sanctions.

The move comes after Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down over eastern Ukraine. Western officials accuse pro-Russian separatists of bringing down the plane with a missile supplied by Moscow.

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## **Landslide triggered by rains hits village in western India, possibly trapping over 150 people**

NEW DELHI (AP) — A landslide hit a village in western India following torrential rains Wednesday, sweeping away scores of houses and raising fears that more than 150 people could be trapped, officials said.

Federal rescue workers were being hampered by continuing rains and poor roads leading to the village of Ambe in Pune district in Maharashtra state, where the landslide buried about 40 houses, said local commissioner Prabhakar Deshmukh.

"Reaching the exact space is taking time because there is a lot of damage to the road," Sandeep Rai Rathore, a top official of the federal National Disaster Response Force, told NDTV news channel.

Police and medical teams arrived in the area but had difficulty communicating because of poor telephone and cellphone connectivity, local legislator Dilip Walse Patil told CNN-IBN TV network.

"It is a small village and this happened very suddenly," he added.

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## **Senators face do-nothing taunts as partisan gridlock robs them of popular bills to campaign on**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The "Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014" seemed ideal for Sen. Kay Hagan's re-election bid in politically divided North Carolina, where many people like to hunt and fish. Her bill would open more federal lands to hunters, and conservation groups liked it too.

The first-term Democrat lined up dozens of co-sponsors from both parties and appeared ready to claim a feel-good accomplishment. And yet the proposal still collapsed, one of many uncontroversial measures to die as members of Congress, consumed by midterm election politics, deny each other achievements — then complain about their do-nothing colleagues.

The dilemma may boost Republicans' hopes of winning the six new seats they need this fall to gain the Senate majority. The closest races involve Hagan and other Democrats from states that President Barack Obama lost.

With the president relatively unpopular, these senators are desperate to cite personal achievements that set them apart from generic Democrats. Their opponents, meanwhile, suggest they are deadbeats.

"Look at the folks running for re-election. What have they done?" said Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., who supports Hagan's GOP challenger, Thom Tillis. "She's got nothing," he said of Hagan. Burr added, however, "She's not alone in that."

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## **Poll: Americans cool to border-crossing Latino children, wary of granting refugee status**

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Americans are wary of granting refugee status to children crossing the U.S. border to flee strife-torn countries in Central America, and most in an Associated Press-GfK poll say the U.S. does not have a moral obligation to accept asylum seekers generally.

The new poll found 53 percent of Americans believe the United States has no moral obligation to offer asylum to people who escape violence or political persecution, while 44 percent believe it has that responsibility.

And more than half, 52 percent, say children who say they are fleeing gang violence in Central America should not be treated as refugees, while 46 percent say they should.

The responses expose a partisan rift, with 70 percent of Republicans saying Central American children should not be treated as refugees compared with 62 percent of Democrats who believe they should. On whether the United States has an obligation to accept people fleeing violence or political persecution, 66 percent of Republicans say it does not and 57 percent of Democrats say it does.

Jerry Benzie, a 27-year-old Republican from Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, 90 miles east of Pittsburgh, was initially sympathetic to the plight of children seeking shelter in the U.S. from violence at home. But his views changed as he grew convinced Central American governments could do more to slow the tide of northbound immigrants, and thought Mexico wasn't doing enough to prevent them from passing through that country on their way to the U.S.

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## **Border bill likely to come up short in Senate as crisis sets off maneuvering on Capitol Hill**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bill to deal with the immigration surge at the border appears headed for procedural defeat in the Senate as lawmakers trade blame over their inaction on the crisis.

Days ahead of Congress' five-week summer recess, Senate Democrats' \$3.5 billion emergency spending bill designed to help deal with tens of thousands of young migrants crossing the border illegally has yet to draw the necessary support to move forward. A vote in the Senate was expected Wednesday.

The inclusion of hundreds of millions of dollars to fight Western wildfires and provide aid for Israel's defense hasn't been enough to win over Republicans, who demand legal changes rejected by Democrats to return the young migrants more quickly to Central America.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said it was Republicans' fault that the Senate looked set to adjourn for August without addressing what both parties have called a humanitarian crisis. Republicans "oppose everything the president wanted. Here is an example of that," he said.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., disputed that, saying, "The problem is the Democratic Senate."

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## **Mississippi to decide whether to challenge ruling that keeps sole abortion clinic in business**

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Mississippi's governor and attorney general will have to decide whether to challenge a federal appeals court ruling that is keeping the state's only abortion clinic in business.

A panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals voted 2-1 Tuesday to block a 2012 Mississippi law that requires abortion doctors to obtain admitting privileges at nearby hospitals.

When Republican Gov. Phil Bryant signed the law, he said he hoped it would end abortion in the state. In defending the law, state attorneys said women with unwanted pregnancies could always travel to other states. But the appellate judges ruled that every state must guarantee constitutional rights, including abortion.

Bryant, in a statement late Tuesday, said he was disappointed by the court's ruling.

"This measure is designed to protect the health and safety of women who undergo this potentially dangerous procedure, and physicians who provide abortions should be held to the same standards as physicians who perform other outpatient procedures," Bryant said.

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## **FBI sex trafficking bust reveals need for better reporting of missing children, advocates say**

WASHINGTON (AP) — When FBI agents and police officers fanned out across the country last month in a weeklong effort to rescue child sex trafficking victims, they pulled minors as young as 11 from hotel rooms, truck stops and homes.

Among the 168 juveniles recovered was a population that child welfare advocates say especially concerns them: children who were never reported missing in the first place.

Advocates say the roundup reinforces the need for a standardized, nationwide approach to report children as missing, especially those absent from state foster care systems who are seen as most vulnerable to abuse. Concerns over unaccounted-for children aren't new, but they're receiving fresh attention amid heightened awareness of child sex trafficking. State and federal efforts are underway to streamline how police are alerted when kids go missing.

"This has been a movement that I would say over the last year has really galvanized," said John Ryan, president of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Legislation pending in Congress would require child welfare agencies to alert police and the center, which has specialized response teams and other resources, within 24 hours of a child's disappearance.

The current patchwork of state and federal policies has yielded what advocates describe as a fractured safety net with little accountability.

## **Today in History**

**The Associated Press**

Today is Wednesday, July 30, the 211th day of 2014. There are 154 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On July 30, 1864, during the Civil War, Union forces tried to take Petersburg, Virginia, by exploding a gunpowder-laden mine shaft that had been dug out beneath Confederate defense lines; the attack failed.

### **On this date:**

In 1729, Baltimore, Maryland, was founded.

In 1918, poet Joyce Kilmer, a sergeant in the 165th U.S. Infantry Regiment, was killed during the Second Battle of the Marne in World War I. (Kilmer is perhaps best remembered for his poem "Trees.")

In 1932, the Summer Olympic Games opened in Los Angeles.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill creating a women's auxiliary agency in the Navy known as "Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service" - WAVES for short.

In 1945, the Portland class heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine

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during World War II; only 316 out of some 1,200 men survived.

In 1953, the Small Business Administration was founded.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure making "In God We Trust" the national motto, replacing "E Pluribus Unum" ("Out of many, one").

In 1963, the Soviet Union announced it had granted political asylum to Harold "Kim" Philby, the "third man" of a British spy ring.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Medicare bill, which went into effect the following year.

In 1975, former Teamsters union president Jimmy Hoffa disappeared in suburban Detroit; although presumed dead, his remains have never been found.

In 1980, Israel's Knesset passed a law reaffirming all of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

In 1990, British Conservative Party lawmaker Ian Gow was killed in a bombing claimed by the Irish Republican Army.

**Ten years ago:** Leaders of the September 11 commission urged senators to embrace their proposals for massive changes to the nation's intelligence structure, warning that failure to act would leave America vulnerable to another devastating terrorist attack. Mike Tyson was knocked out in the fourth round of a fight in Louisville, Kentucky, by British heavyweight Danny Williams.

**Five years ago:** Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Sgt. James Crowley, the Cambridge, Massachusetts, police officer who'd arrested him for disorderly conduct at his home, had beers with President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden at the White House to discuss the dispute that unleashed a furor over racial profiling in America.

**One year ago:** U.S. Army Pfc. Bradley Manning was acquitted of aiding the enemy - the most serious charge he faced - but was convicted of espionage, theft and other charges at Fort Meade, Maryland, more than three years after he'd spilled secrets to WikiLeaks. (The former intelligence analyst, now known as Chelsea Manning, was later sentenced to up to 35 years in prison.) Former Sen. Harry F. Byrd Jr., 98, died in Winchester, Virginia.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Richard Johnson is 87. Actor Edd (correct) "Kookie" Byrnes is 81. Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig is 80. Blues musician Buddy Guy is 78. Movie director Peter Bogdanovich is 75. Feminist activist Eleanor Smeal is 75. Former U.S. Rep. Patricia Schroeder is 74. Singer Paul Anka is 73. Jazz musician David Sanborn is 69. Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is 67. Actor William Atherton is 67. Actor Jean Reno (zhahn rih-NOH') is 66. Blues singer-musician Otis Taylor is 66. Actor Frank Stallone is 64. Actor Ken Olin is 60. Actress Delta Burke is 58. Law professor Anita Hill is 58. Singer-songwriter Kate Bush is 56. Country singer Neal McCoy is 56. Actor Richard Burgi is 56. Movie director Richard Linklater is 54. Actor Laurence Fishburne is 53. Actress Lisa Kudrow is 51. Bluegrass musician Danny Roberts (The Grascals) is 51. Country musician Dwayne O'Brien is 50. Actress Vivica A. Fox is 50. Actor Terry Crews is 46. Actor Simon Baker is 45. Movie director Christopher Nolan is 44. Actor Tom Green is 43. Rock musician Brad Hargreaves (Third Eye Blind) is 43. Actress Christine Taylor is 43. Actor-comedian Dean Edwards is 41. Actress Hilary Swank is 40. Olympic gold medal beach volleyball player Misty May-Treanor is 37. Actress Jaime Pressly is 37. Alt-country singer-musician Seth Avett (AY'-veht) is 34. Actress April Bowlby is 34. Actress Yvonne Strahovski is 32. Actress Joey King is 15.

**Thought for Today:** "An efficient bureaucracy is the greatest threat to liberty." - Sen. Eugene McCarthy (1916-2005).