

Groton Daily Independent

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Thursday, July 31

Teener Region

4:00 pm: Groton vs. Moberg

6:00 pm: Milbank vs. 4 p.m. game loser

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

Birthdays: Amanda Swenson • Lynette Furman

• Keith Baker

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.

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



HC Doors

Aberdeen 225-3631

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Commercial & Residential Overhead Doors

Openers Remotes Parts Repairs

Emergency Service Sales Installation

Russell D Holtey - Owner

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.

Teeners advance in region play



Jake McKiver and Bob Wegner carried the flags for the Groton American Legion to open the Teener Region 1A Baseball tournament at Locke/Karst Field in Groton on Wednesday.

(Photo #8596 by Char Telkamp)



Trevor Pray pitched for most of the game in the Groton win over Milbank in the Region 1A Teener Tournament on Wednesday.

(Photo #8603 by Char Telkamp)

at the end of the inning. Milbank leads by two. Milbank would add a run in the third inning, but two spectacular catches by right fielder Jackson Oliver would put a stop to any further RBI's. Groton had two hits, a single by Adam Herman and one by Sippel. Both Bennett Shabazz and Hawkins were walked. Groton was unable to bring home a run and Milbank advanced their lead to 3-0.

A leadoff single by Milbank was the only hit of the fourth inning by the Bulldogs. Groton had three hits. Jackson Oliver and Brandon Keith each had a single. They were brought home on a single by Herman. Herman would come home a single by Shabazz. The fourth inning ended with Milbank having no runs, one hit and two errors. Groton had three runs, two hits and no errors. The score was tied at 3.

The fifth inning was scoreless for both teams, as they each

had quick outs. There were no runs, hits or errors for either team. The score remained 3-3.

Milbank had one hit, a single, in the sixth inning, but no runs and no errors. Groton would advance their lead with a single by Brandon Keith and a double by

Groton got off to a slow start Wednesday evening in the first game of the Region 1A Teener Tournament, but came back to defeat Milbank 5-4. The tournament opened with the Groton Legion Post #39 providing the Color Guard and Camille Sippel singing the National Anthem.

The first inning ended scoreless with Trevor Pray getting the lone hit, but was left on base.

Milbank would score two runs in the second inning to take the early lead. Groton had two hits, a double by Kelby Hawkins and a single by Brandon Keith. Anthony Sippel was walked. All three players were left on base

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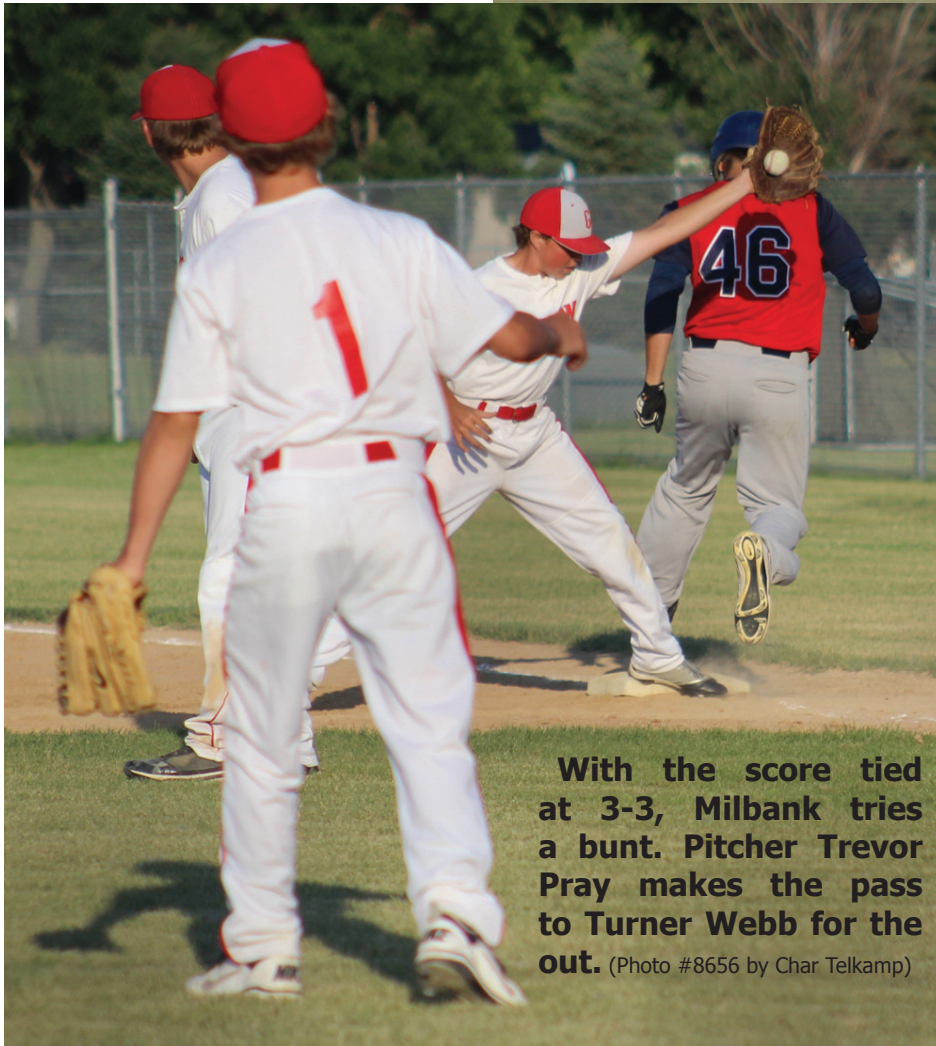
Sean Schuring, bringing home Keith and Shabazz, who was walked. Groton had two runs, two hits and no errors to take the lead 5-3.

Milbank added a run in the final inning to close the Groton lead. Groton brought in Shabazz to pitch the final outs of the game. With one out, he walked the first player to load the bases. He struck out the second player. The final pitch was a pop fly to centerfield which was caught by Herman to end the game. The final score was Groton up by one, 5-4.



Jackson Oliver makes the first of two spectacular catches in the right field during the third inning of the Region 1A Teener Baseball

Tournament on Wednesday.
(Photo #8624 by Char Telkamp)



With the score tied at 3-3, Milbank tries a bunt. Pitcher Trevor Pray makes the pass to Turner Webb for the out. (Photo #8656 by Char Telkamp)



Sean Schuring hits a double to bring in Brandon Keith and Bennett Shabazz in the bottom of the sixth to give Groton a 5-3 lead. (Photo #8683 by Char Telkamp)

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Groton held on for the victory and will advance to the second game against Mobridge Thursday afternoon at 4 at Locke/Karst Field. The loser will play Milbank following that game and the winner advances to the Championship Game on Friday. The tournament is a double elimination tournament.

-Char Telkamp



The Groton Teeners celebrate their win over Milbank in the first game of the Region 1A Teener Baseball Tournament on Wednesday. (Photo #8711 by Char Telkamp)



Bennett Shabazz pitched the last three outs of the game to clinch the Groton victory over Milbank in the Teener Region 1A Tournament on Wednesday. (Photo

#8706 by Char Telkamp)

Come 'n' Get It!
Friday is Taco Bar and Soup Night
Andover Bar & Grill Serving 5-9 p.m.
120 S Main St. • 298-5252

Today in Weather History

July 31, 1966: A deadly, estimated F3 tornado moved southeast, passing south of Ashley, North Dakota, destroying buildings on five farms with near F4 damage to one farm house. Another tornado with F2 strength occurred north of Long Lake where two adults were killed and three children were injured as a car was thrown 500 feet from Highway 101. A second estimated F2 tornado moved ENE just south of Aberdeen. A trailer was demolished, killing a man and injuring his wife. Seven airplanes were also had damage. Property damage was estimated at a quarter million dollars. An estimated 90 mph winds gust was also reported northeast of Aberdeen.

July 31, 1987: The second deadliest tornado in Canadian history occurred in Edmonton, Alberta. An F4 tornado killed 27 people, injured over 300, and caused a quarter of a billion dollars in damage.

July 31, 2008: In the early morning hours of the 31st, a line of storms originating in North Dakota began to expand and surge southeast into northeast South Dakota. As the storms moved southeast, they began to tap into warmer, more humid air and rapidly evolve into a line of severe thunderstorms. Widespread damage occurred in a wide swath extending from Long Lake in McPherson County all the way into eastern Grant County and southern Big Stone County in Minnesota. The most extensive damage was generally found along and near US Highway 12 from Aberdeen to Milbank. Several observing stations in the path of this system measured wind speeds ranging from 70 mph to over 115 mph. Estimated wind speeds from damage surveys indicated even stronger winds with peak speeds of 120 mph. Over fifty communities in northeast South Dakota and the surrounding rural areas received minor to major tree and structural damage as straight line winds from 70 to 120 mph raced across the area. Webster and Waubay received the most extensive damage from the storms. Thousands of trees were snapped or uprooted, hundreds of grain bins were damaged or destroyed, hundreds of homes, businesses, and outbuildings were damaged or destroyed along with many power poles and miles of power lines downed. Many mobile homes, campers, and boats were damaged or destroyed along with many road and business signs. Countless homes, vehicles, and campers were also damaged by fallen trees. Thousands of acres of crops were also damaged or completely destroyed by the winds and hail. The greatest crop damage occurred in the Roslyn, Grenville, Eden, and Pickeral Lake areas in Marshall and Day counties. Many acres of corn were blown down and not able to come back. The large hail combined with the strong winds also broke out countless windows in homes and vehicles along with

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

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AGENCY**

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102 N Main, Groton

Office: 605/397-2424

Home: 605/397-8565



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damaging the siding on homes. Thousands of people were left without power for up to several days. Large hay bales were moved up to 700 yards by the high winds. A semi was overturned on Highway 12 near Webster, injuring the driver. Near Milbank on Highway 12, two other semis were blown off the road resulting in injuries to both drivers. A State Forestry Specialist said it was one of the worst tree damage events he has ever seen in the Webster area. A fifty-eight year old man died two miles north of Waubay during the cleanup after the storms when he was pinned between a backhoe and a tree.

1976 - A stationary thunderstorm produced more than ten inches of rain which funneled into the narrow Thompson River Canyon of northeastern Colorado. A wall of water six to eight feet high wreaked a twenty-five mile path of destruction from Estes Park to Loveland killing 156 persons. The flash flood caught campers, and caused extensive structural and highway damage. Ten miles of U.S. Highway 34 were totally destroyed as the river was twenty feet higher than normal at times. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1986 - The temperature at Little Rock, AR, soared to 112 degrees to establish an all-time record high for that location. Morrilton, AR, hit 115 degrees, and daily highs for the month at that location averaged 102 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - The deadliest tornado in 75 years struck Edmonton, Alberta, killing 26 persons and injuring 200 others. The twister caused more than 75 million dollars damage along its nineteen mile path, leaving 400 families homeless. At the Evergreen Mobile Home Park, up to 200 of the 720 homes were flattened by the tornado. (The National Severe Storms Forecast Center)

1987 - Afternoon highs of 106 degrees at Aberdeen, SD, and 102 degrees at Ottumwa, IA, and Rapid City, SD, established records for the date. It marked the seventh straight day of 100 degree heat for Rapid City. Baltimore, MD, reported a record twenty-two days of 90 degree weather in July. Evening thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail at Lemmon, SD, and wind gusts to 80 mph at Beulah, ND. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Twenty-one cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Sioux City, IA, with a reading of 107 degrees. The reading of 105 degrees at Minneapolis, MN, was their hottest since 1936. Pierre and Chamberlain, SD, with highs of 108 degrees, were just one degree shy of the hot spot in the nation, Palm Springs, CA. (The National Weather Summary)








1989 - Overnight thunderstorms soaked eastern Kansas and western Missouri with heavy rain. Four and a half inches of rain was reported at Nevada, MO. Evening thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Covington. Six cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Williston, ND, with a reading of 105 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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.

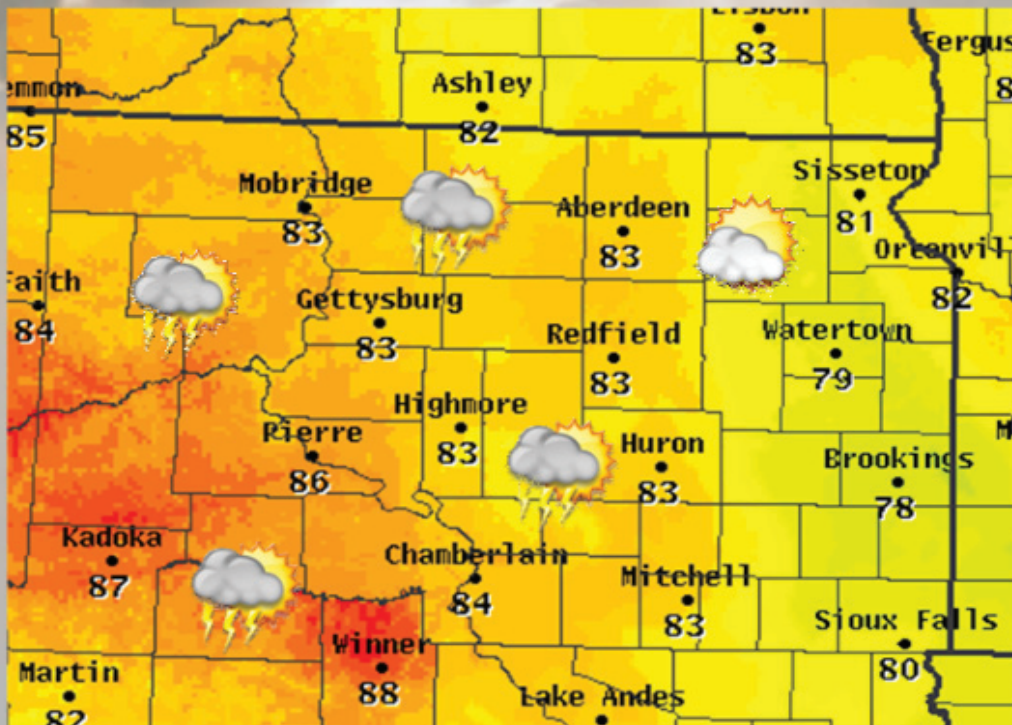
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TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY
						
Mostly Sunny High: 83 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 56 °F	Slight Chc Thunderstorms High: 84 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 57 °F	Sunny High: 88 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 62 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 87 °F



Warm Temperatures Today An Isolated Shower or Storm Possible



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD


weather.gov/Aberdeen

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

[@NWSAberdeen](https://twitter.com/NWSAberdeen)
 Updated: 7/31/2014 5:19 AM Central

High temperatures today will rise into the 80s for most areas under partly cloudy skies. A few isolated showers or thunderstorms are expected across parts of the area today as well. Temperatures will warm a few more degrees yet as we head into Friday and Saturday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 80.7°F at 4:54 PM

Heat Index:

Low: 51.2°F at 6:16 AM

High Gust: 14 mph at 1:41 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 106° in 1987

Record Low: 42° in 1903

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in July.: 2.94

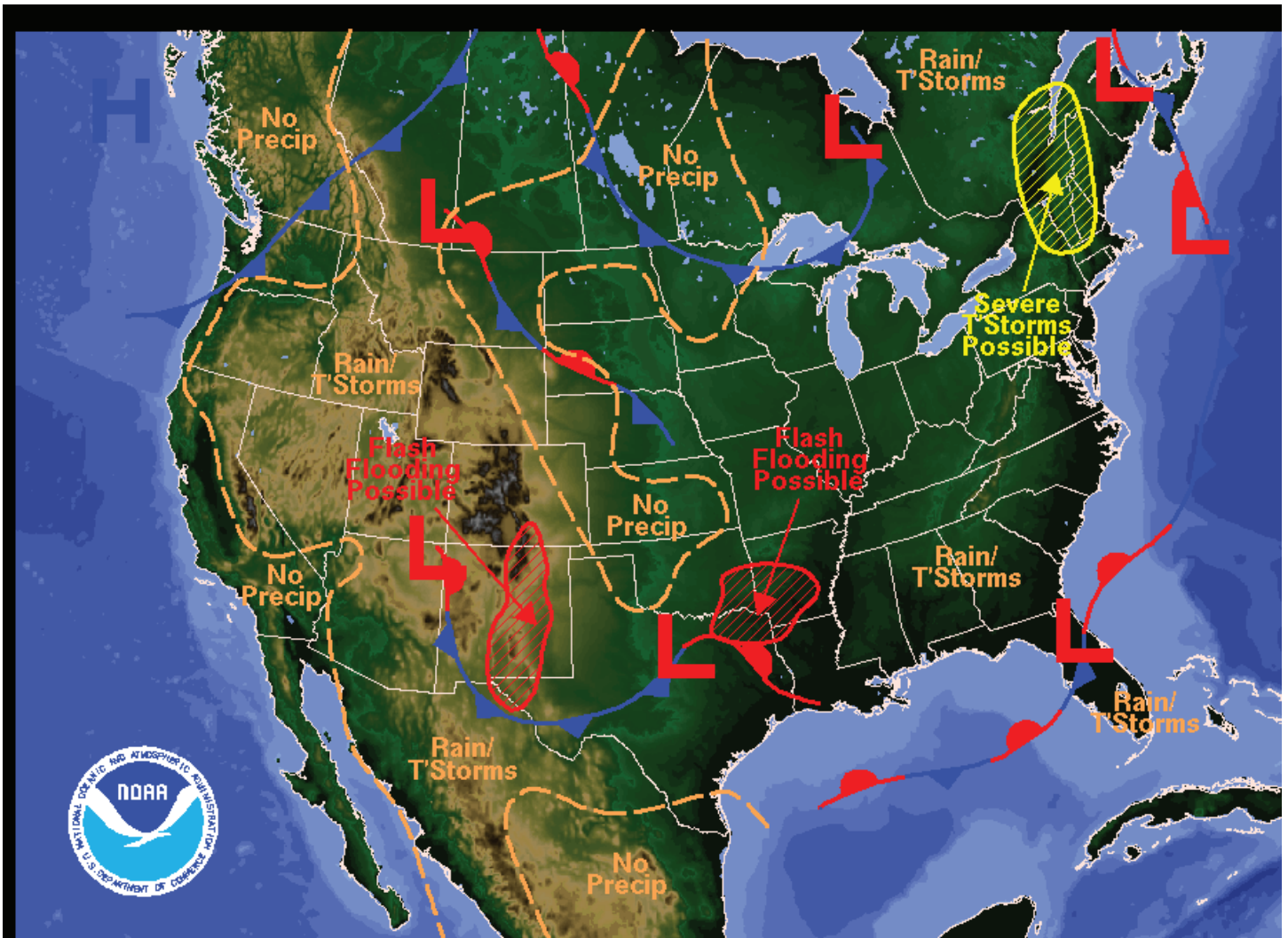
Precip to date in July.: 0.15

Average Precip to date: 13.78

Precip Year to Date: 9.28

Sunset Tonight: 9:03 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:18 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Jul 31, 2014, issued 3:42 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mc Reynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



PRAISE THE LORD

The Psalms begins with the requirements that we must have as our goals as Christians. It ends with our responsibility to praise Him for Who He is: a God Who is above us yet with us and concerned for us; a God Whose acts of power protect us and provide for us; and surpasses all others because of His greatness. What a glorious God!

The Hebrew word for "praise" in this Psalm contains a significantly different meaning than the other words used for "praise." It is yadah and means that we are "to confess publicly" God's greatness. This is not something we often do. But it is something we must do. So, please ask yourself and then answer the two questions below:

First: What God has done for me:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Second: What God is doing to me:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Now comes the hard part: Find someone to share your responses with. Let them know how important your God is to you, the difference He makes in your life and how He can help them.

This Psalm talks of using noisy instruments to get the attention of others. However, the way we live should speak so loudly we won't need noise makers. Perhaps a final question is: How do others see God in my life?

Prayer: I pray, Father, that my life will be what You want it to be and that others will see You in the way I live. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 150:6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!

News from the Associated Press

First plea agreements signed in lottery scam case

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Three people have agreed to plead guilty in a Jamaican Lottery Scam targeting elderly victims in the Dakotas and elsewhere.

More two-dozen people have been indicted in the federal case being tried in North Dakota. The defendants induced people throughout the United States to send millions of dollars to them to cover fees for lottery winnings.

Shannon O'Connor, James Simpson and Mikael Gillette all signed plea agreements this week to conspiracy charges. They each face a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison.

Court documents show that O'Connor cashed three checks written by an 83-year-old Harvey, North Dakota, widow worth \$65,000.

One of the defendants in the case is prominent Jamaican disc jockey Deon-ville O'Hara, also known as ZJ Wah Wa. He has pleaded not guilty.

Orchestra plans statehood performance in Capitol

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Classical music lovers can mark South Dakota's 125th anniversary of statehood and see what the state says will be the first full orchestra performance in the Capitol with more than 50 members.

The South Dakota Symphony Orchestra will perform the free concert on Saturday, Nov. 1, in Pierre on the eve of the date President Benjamin Harrison signed the proclamation admitting South Dakota to the Union.

The event will also include the rededication and lighting ceremony for the newly restored stained glass in the Capitol.

Ticketing information and the availability date for reserving seats will be made in the future. Standing room only will be available on the marble grand staircase and in the balconies above the rotunda floor.

Pheasant Forever office opens in Brookings

BY KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — National conservation group Pheasants Forever has opened up shop in South Dakota to help combat a state pheasant population that has declined in recent years as more of the bird's habitats are converted to cropland.

Dave Nomsen, who long has served as vice president of government affairs for the nonprofit, officially opened the group's first office in the state this week in Brookings at South Dakota State University. Nomsen said seeing the significant decline in the pheasant population last season was a wake-up call for the group.

"There are some threats right here, in the heart of pheasant country, that we need to address," he said.

Pheasants Forever will work with landowners along with the state to help conserve pheasant habitats, Nomsen said.

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Pheasant numbers have fallen in recent years as fallow grasslands have been converted to farmland. Travis Runia, a senior upland game biologist with the Department of Game, Fish and Parks, said seven or eight years ago the state had nearly twice as many pheasants. That correlates with the loss of land in the Conservation Reserve Program, which pays landowners to idle land to prevent erosion and create wildlife habitat.

"Over the long term we're losing habitat; over the long term our pheasant population is declining," Runia said.

Compared with the 10-year average, the number of pheasants per mile in 2013 was down 76 percent. But there could be some good news this year, said Runia, noting that the lack of snow on the ground this winter and relatively dry spring could help.

"What we don't like to see is a lot of heavy rain when the pheasants are nesting," Runia said. "It can flood out nests; it can make the predators better able to smell where the nests are."

The department started its annual pheasant survey this weekend and will release its official report around Labor Day.

A good pheasant forecast could mean a return of hunters to the state this season.

In 2013, about 132,000 licensed pheasant hunters were in the state, the lowest since 1997, according to data from Game, Fish and Parks.

"If this year we have some good news to share, hopefully some of those hunter numbers will rebound," Runia said, "and I think they will rebound to some extent if our population is up."

Smith tabbed as director of SD ag dept. division

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Agriculture Department says William Smith has been named director of the agency's resource conservation and forestry division.

Smith has worked for the agency since 2009 as a conservation program manager.

The agency says agriculture is South Dakota's No. 1 industry, generating \$25.6 billion in annual economic activity and employing 115,651 South Dakotans.

Sioux Falls population grows to 166,700 people

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The population of South Dakota's largest city is growing.

Sioux Falls officials estimate the city's current population at 166,700.

Mike Cooper, the city's director of Planning and Building Services, says officials based the estimate on average population growth rates and building permit data.

Officials say Sioux Falls has increased by an average of 2,300 people each year over the past decade.

Driver flees after crashing into Sioux Falls house

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police have arrested the driver of a sport utility vehicle they say slammed into a house, nearly hitting a woman inside.

Authorities say the 31-year-old driver lost control shortly before 2 a.m. Wednesday and drove through the front window of a neighbor's home. The SUV went through the living room and hit the wall of a bedroom occupied by a 77-year-old woman.

The woman was not hurt, and the Red Cross was helping her find temporary housing.

The driver of the SUV fled after the crash but was later arrested at his home. Investigators say the crash left an 80-square-foot hole in the front of the home, causing as much as \$15,000 in damage.

Largest goldeye caught in ND may be world record

BLAKE NICHOLSON

Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A state-record goldeye caught by a 9-year-old North Dakota boy might qualify as a world record.

Brayden Selzler, of Velva, reeled in a 4-pound, 12-ounce goldeye from Lake Audubon on Friday, while fishing in a canoe with his 6-year-old cousin. It shattered the 1998 state record by nearly a pound and might eclipse a nearly three-decade world record for a kept goldeye.

Brayden, who said he has fished "since I could hold a rod," was fishing for bass at the time and said his catch initially didn't impress him much. Goldeye, which are commonly called skipjack in North Dakota, are not a game fish and not actively sought by anglers.

But when Brayden's father, Justin, saw the size of the fish, "we hopped in the pickup and went to Garrison to have it weighed," Brayden said. "We found out right at the spot" that it was a state record.

The recognized overall all-tackle world record for a kept goldeye is a 3-pound, 13-ounce fish that Gary Heuer, of Aberdeen, South Dakota, caught in Lake Oahe in 1987, according to the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward, Wisconsin, which keeps world records.

Selzler would have to apply for a world record and meet all of the qualifications to take Heuer's record, hall spokeswoman Vicki Musiala said. Brayden's mother, Dorothy Jo, said he plans to apply.

Heuer, 72, said he will not be disappointed if he loses the record because "that would mean somebody else had some good luck."

Greg Power, fisheries chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, said it is no surprise that the state record and possible world record goldeye came from Lake Audubon. There are not many of the fish in the lake, and thus not a lot of competition for the bugs they like to eat.

"There's not a lot of them, but what's in there are big," he said.

Power said he thinks it is exciting that a young boy is the holder of a state record.

"Over time I will undoubtedly forget how big the fish was, but I will not forget the boy's smile," he said.

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 VOWS TO DESTROY HAMAS TUNNELS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says the network of underground passages in the Gaza Strip will be dismantled "with or without a cease-fire." His statement follows new call-up orders for 16,000 more reservists that will allow the Israeli military to substantially widen its 23-day campaign against Palestinian militants.

2. RUSSIA DISPATCHES INVESTIGATORS TO EASTERN UKRAINE

A delegation of specialists from Rosaviatsiya will attempt to reach the crash site of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 if it is safe to do so. They are expected to hand over all relevant materials to Dutch experts.

3. STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS 'NO AMERICAN IS PROUD' OF CIA TACTICS

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The White House document endorses the broad conclusions of a harshly critical Senate report on the agency's interrogation and detention practices after the 9/11 attacks.

4. COURTS SPEED UP HEARINGS FOR CHILDREN CAUGHT AT U.S. BORDER

The change follows criticism that the backlogged system lets immigrants stay in the country for years while waiting for their cases to be heard.

5. WHAT IS FUELING GOP CLAIMS OF IRS BIAS AGAINST CONSERVATIVES

Newly released emails show the agency's former official at the center of the tea party controversy referring to some right-wing Republicans as "crazies" and more.

6. ARGENTINA SAYS IT CANNOT ACCEPT DEAL WITH U.S. "VULTURES"

As talks with American hedge fund creditors collapse, the Latin American country goes into default a second time in 13 years.

7. PORTLAND'S SETTLEMENT WITH OFFICER UNSETTLES COMMUNITY

A deal with a police captain who threatened to sue over texts characterizing him as a Nazi sympathizer helped the city avoid costly litigation. But wiping the record clean for the law-enforcer who also put up plaques honoring WWII German soldiers was too much, some say.

8. TRIUMPHING OVER DONALD TRUMP

Vera Coking, 91, who became a folk hero for resisting attempts by big-name developers to buy her Atlantic City boardinghouse, puts it on the block and moves to California to be near her family.

9. WHO IS ON A MISSION TO EXPAND AFRICA'S ONLINE HORIZONS

Facebook's Internet.org app will give subscribers of the Airtel phone company in Zambia access to a set of basic Web services for free.

10. AS PANTHER REBOUNDS, RANCHERS HAVE A REASON TO WORRY

A study finds that as the population of predators is recovering from near-extinction, some Florida farmers complain the protected 6-to-7-foot long species are once again killing their calves.

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

Israel PM says military will dismantle Hamas tunnels 'with or without a cease-fire'

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says the military will dismantle the Hamas tunnel network in the Gaza Strip "with or without a cease-fire."

Netanyahu said Thursday he will not accept any truce that won't allow Israel to complete its mission of destroying the sophisticated tunnel network, which has been used to carry out deadly attacks inside Israel.

Israel launched its air campaign on July 8 to stop unrelenting rocket fire from Gaza toward Israel. It expanded the operation with a ground offensive on July 17 with the primary purpose of blocking Hamas infiltration attempts through the tunnels.

Document says State embraces harsh Senate report about post-9/11 CIA interrogation practices

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department has endorsed the broad conclusions of a harshly critical Senate report on the CIA's interrogation and detention practices after the 9/11 attacks, a report that

accuses the agency of brutally treating terror suspects and misleading Congress, according to a White House document.

"This report tells a story of which no American is proud," says the four-page White House document, which contains the State Department's preliminary proposed talking points in response to the classified Senate report, a summary of which is expected to be released in the coming weeks.

"But it is also part of another story of which we can be proud," adds the document, which was circulating this week among White House officials and which the White House accidentally emailed to an Associated Press reporter. "America's democratic system worked just as it was designed to work in bringing an end to actions inconsistent with our democratic values."

It's not clear who wrote the document or how influential it will be in tailoring the Obama administration's ultimate response to an investigation that has been the subject of bitter disputes. It is common practice for the White House to solicit talking points from key agencies involved in responding to a major news event, which the release of the Senate report will be.

The Senate report concludes that CIA's techniques on al-Qaida detainees captured after the 2001 attacks were far more brutal than previously understood. The tactics failed to produce life-saving intelligence, the report asserts, and the CIA misled Congress and the Justice Department about the interrogation program.

Summer break ahead, Congress races to finish veterans, highway bills as border issue remains

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress is racing to wrap up legislation addressing chronic problems at the Veterans Affairs Department and a shortfall in highway money ahead of its five-week summer break. Deep divisions cast doubt on any resolution to the surge of immigrants at the border.

The institutional split of a Republican-led House and Democratic-controlled Senate has added up to inaction, especially in a midterm election year with control of the Senate at stake. In the final days before leaving Washington, lawmakers have struggled to compromise on a handful of bills to deal with the nation's pressing problems amid overwhelming partisanship.

Congress is poised to send President Barack Obama legislation revamping the VA, with a Senate vote expected Thursday. Lawmakers also are working on a path forward for highway and transit projects.

The legislative effort came against the backdrop of a partisan House vote to sue Obama for unilateral changes in his signature health care law. Republicans accused him of shredding the Constitution, while Democrats described the vote as a veiled attempt at impeachment.

The near party-line vote on Wednesday was 225-201.

Rescuers in remote Indian village dig through mud after massive landslide kills at least 30

MALIN, India (AP) — Rescuers using earth-moving equipment and their bare hands dug through heavy mud and debris Thursday after a landslide engulfed an entire village in western India, killing at least 30 people and leaving about 100 missing and feared dead.

More than 24 hours after the Wednesday morning landslide, authorities said the chances of survival were slim for anyone still trapped under the mud in Malin, a village of some 700 people in Pune district of Maharashtra state.

Suresh Jadhav, a district official, said around 40 homes were wiped out.

Two days of torrential rains triggered the landslide, which continued to pound the area as rescuers brought bodies covered in soaked white sheets to waiting ambulances while relatives stood by, weeping. Bad communications, dangerous roads and debris delayed national rescue personnel from the stricken area for several hours Wednesday.

The disaster only came to light when a bus driver passed by and saw that the village had disappeared under masses of mud and earth.

Ex-IRS official called some in GOP 'crazies' in email, fueling claims of conspiracy at agency

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional investigators say this is why they want all of Lois Lerner's emails. Newly released emails show the former IRS official referring to some right-wing Republicans as "crazies" and more, a revelation that is fueling GOP claims of a political conspiracy at the tax agency to target conservative groups.

Lerner headed the IRS division that handles applications for tax-exempt status. In a series of emails with an associate in November 2012, Lerner made two disparaging remarks about some members of the GOP, including one remark that was vulgar.

Rep. Dave Camp, who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, released the emails Wednesday as part of his committee's investigation. The Michigan Republican says the emails show Lerner's "disgust with conservatives."

In one email, Lerner called some conservatives crazies. In the other, she called them "assholes." The committee redacted the wording to "_holes" in the material it released publicly, but a committee spokeswoman confirmed to The Associated Press that the email said "assholes."

Suing the president: Divided House OKs GOP plan for lawsuit claiming Obama exceeded powers

WASHINGTON (AP) — A sharply divided House approved a Republican plan Wednesday to launch a campaign-season lawsuit against President Barack Obama, accusing him of exceeding the bounds of his constitutional authority. Obama and other Democrats derided the effort as a stunt aimed at tossing political red meat to conservative voters.

Just a day before lawmakers were to begin a five-week summer recess, debate over the proposed lawsuit underscored the harshly partisan tone that has dominated the current Congress almost from its start in January 2013.

The vote to sue Obama was 225 to 201. Five conservative Republicans voted with Democrats in opposing the lawsuit. No Democrats voted for it.

Republicans said the legal action, focusing on Obama's implementation of his prized health care overhaul, was designed to prevent a further presidential power grab and his deciding unilaterally how to enforce laws.

"Are you willing to let any president choose what laws to execute and what laws to change?" asked House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio.

AP Exclusive: As Florida panther rebounds, study blames missing livestock on the predators

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IMMOKALEE, Fla. (AP) — Since Florida's frontier days when cattlemen drove their herds through the state's vast fields and forests, ranchers and native panthers have been natural enemies.

The ranchers seek to nurture and protect their calves, while the panthers see them as prey.

Human development won the battle, driving the large, tawny, cats to the brink of extinction before successful efforts to restore them began decades ago.

But with Florida's panther population recovering, some farmers complain the protected 6-to-7-foot long predators are once again killing their calves.

Now, university research supports that claim, at least in one part of southwest Florida.

Argentina enters default for second time in 13 years after talks with US creditors break down

NEW YORK (AP) — The collapse of talks with U.S. creditors sent Argentina into its second debt default in 13 years and raised questions about what comes next for financial markets and the South American nation's staggering economy.

A midnight Wednesday deadline to reach a deal with holdout bondholders came and went with Argentine Economy Minister Axel Kicillof holding firm to his government's position that it could not accept a deal with U.S. hedge fund creditors it dismisses as "vultures." Kicillof said the funds refused a compromise offer in talks that ended several hours earlier, although he gave no details of that proposal.

"We're not going to sign an agreement that jeopardizes the future of all Argentines," Kicillof said after he emerged from the meeting with creditors and a mediator in New York City. "Argentines can remain calm because tomorrow will just be another day and the world will keep on spinning."

But court-appointed mediator Daniel Pollack said a default could hurt bondholders who were not part of the dispute as well as the Argentine economy, which is suffering through a recession, a shortage of dollars and one of the world's highest inflation rates.

"The full consequences of default are not predictable, but they are certainly not positive," Pollack said.

Haunting memories stir former fighter as Poles mark 70th anniversary of Warsaw Uprising

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Kazimierz Mikos ran down a Warsaw street, zig-zagging to avoid the bullets that whizzed past him. As the 14-year-old ran for his life, he was struck with terror at the sight of a dead body in the street. Even after the scrape with death, the teen volunteered for a heroic Polish struggle against the Nazis — becoming a messenger and a guard.

On Friday, Mikos will be among a shrinking group of insurgents to be honored in state ceremonies marking the 70th anniversary of the start of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. In this uneven struggle, poorly armed young city residents rose up against the German forces that had brutally occupied Poland for five years, battling them in the streets of the capital for over two months.

Mikos, now 84, still vividly recalls the white-and-red Polish flags that appeared in windows on the day the revolt began, a patriotic sign of support for the fighters that inspired him to join them.

"People waited for this moment for five long years," Mikos said, tears welling as he shared his story with The Associated Press. "They believed they would be free now, they were enthusiastic."

The hopes ended tragically.

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Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 31, the 212th day of 2014. There are 153 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 31, 1964, the American space probe Ranger 7 reached the moon, transmitting pictures back to Earth before impacting the lunar surface.

On this date:

In 1777, the Marquis de Lafayette, a 19-year-old French nobleman, was made a major-general in the American Continental Army.

In 1875, the 17th president of the United States, Andrew Johnson, died in Carter County, Tennessee, at age 66.

In 1919, Germany's Weimar (VY'-mahr) Constitution was adopted by the republic's National Assembly.

In 1930, the radio character "The Shadow" made his debut as narrator of the "Detective Story Hour" on CBS Radio.

In 1933, the radio series "Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy," made its debut on CBS radio station WBBM in Chicago.

In 1942, Oxfam International had its beginnings as the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief was founded in England.

In 1954, Pakistan's K2 was conquered as two members of an Italian expedition, Achille Compagnoni and Lino Lacedelli, reached the summit.

In 1964, country singer-songwriter Jim Reeves, 40, and his manager, Dean Manuel, were killed when their private plane crashed in bad weather near Nashville.

In 1972, Democratic vice-presidential candidate Thomas Eagleton withdrew from the ticket with George McGovern following disclosures that Eagleton had once undergone psychiatric treatment.

In 1973, Delta Air Lines Flight 723, a DC-9, crashed while trying to land at Boston's Logan International Airport, killing all 89 people on board.

In 1989, a pro-Iranian group in Lebanon released a grisly videotape showing the body of American hostage William R. Higgins, a Marine lieutenant-colonel, dangling from a rope.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush and Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty in Moscow.

Ten years ago: The Vatican issued a document denouncing feminism for trying to blur differences between men and women and threatening the institution of families based on a mother and a father. Actress Virginia Grey died in Woodland Hills, California, at age 87.

Five years ago: Three American tourists were arrested by Iran on suspicion of espionage while hiking along the Iraq-Iran border. (Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal were sentenced to eight years after being convicted on spy-related charges, but were released after more than two years; Sarah Shourd was released on health grounds after 14 months.) Space shuttle Endeavour and its seven astronauts returned to Earth, completing a long but successful construction job that boosted the size and power of the international space station.

One year ago: President Barack Obama's national security team acknowledged for the first time that, when investigating one suspected terrorist, it could read and store the phone records of millions of Americans. Voters in Zimbabwe went to the polls in national elections that were won by President Robert Mugabe amid opponents' allegations of fraud.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Don Murray is 85. Jazz composer-musician Kenny Burrell is 83. Actor Geoffrey Lewis is 79. Actress France Nuyen is 75. Actress Susan Flannery is 75. Singer Lobo is 71. Actress

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Geraldine Chaplin is 70. Former movie studio executive Sherry Lansing is 70. Singer Gary Lewis is 69. Actor Lane Davies is 64. International Tennis Hall of Famer Evonne Goolagong Cawley is 63. Actor Barry Van Dyke is 63. Actor Alan Autry is 62. Jazz composer-musician Michael Wolff is 62. Actor James Read is 61. Actor Michael Biehn is 58. Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick is 58. Rock singer-musician Daniel Ash (Love and Rockets) is 57. Entrepreneur Mark Cuban is 56. Rock musician Bill Berry is 56. Actor Wesley Snipes is 52. Country singer Chad Brock is 51. Musician Fatboy Slim is 51. Rock musician Jim Corr is 50. Author J.K. Rowling (ROHL'-ing) is 49. Actor Dean Cain is 48. Actor Ben Chaplin is 45. Actor Loren Dean is 45. Actress Eve Best is 43. Retired NFL quarterback Gus Frerotte is 43. Actress Annie Parisse (pah-REES') is 39. Actor Robert Telfer is 37. Country singer-musician Zac Brown is 36. Actor-producer-writer B.J. Novak is 35. Actor Eric Lively is 33. Country singer Blaire Stroud (3 of Hearts) is 31. Singer Shannon Curfman is 29. Actor Rico Rodriguez is 16.

Thought for Today: "The art of life is to show your hand. There is no diplomacy like candor. You may lose by it now and then, but it will be a loss well gained if you do. Nothing is so boring as having to keep up a deception." - E.V. Lucas, English author and critic (1868-1938).