

Groton Daily Independent

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Wednesday, Aug. 6

New Student Registration

Senior Menu: Baked Chicken Breast, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Calif. Blend Vegetables, Lemon Tart Bar, Whole Wheat Bread

Birthdays: Becky Hunter • Cheri Hein • Alexis Gustafson • David LaMee • Cheri Shabazz • Karen White • Damian Bahr

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

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

5:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Sarah Circle

6:00pm: Men's Golf League

6:30pm: C&MA VBS

7:00pm: UMC Education Meeting

Thursday, Aug. 7

HS Soccer Practice Begins

Senior Menu: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Peas and Carrots, Peach Cobbler, Whole Wheat Bread

Birthdays: Kelli Hanson • Sherwin Nyberg • Jessica Grams • Lynda Townsend • Tiffany Unzen • Ryan Kutter • Connor Blumhardt

9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran India Circle

2:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Nigeria Circle

6:30pm: C&MA VBS

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



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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.

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South Dakotans Enjoying Lowest August Gas Prices Since 2010 AAA's Weekly Fuel Price Report and Analysis

	Today	Last Week	Change	Jul. 8	Change	Last year
Aberdeen	\$3.428	\$3.570	(\$0.142)	\$3.565	(\$0.137)	\$3.736
Brookings	\$3.540	\$3.464	\$0.076	\$3.671	(\$0.131)	\$3.775
Huron	\$3.548	\$3.566	(\$0.018)	\$3.678	(\$0.130)	\$3.725
Mitchell	\$3.433	\$3.479	(\$0.046)	\$3.625	(\$0.192)	\$3.659
Pierre	\$3.417	\$3.462	(\$0.045)	\$3.620	(\$0.203)	\$3.723
Rapid City	\$3.605	\$3.604	\$0.001	\$3.555	\$0.050	\$3.777
Sioux Falls	\$3.307	\$3.324	(\$0.017)	\$3.513	(\$0.206)	\$3.577
Vermillion	\$3.309	\$3.409	(\$0.100)	\$3.526	(\$0.217)	\$3.557
Watertown	\$3.505	\$3.504	\$0.001	\$3.673	(\$0.168)	\$3.772
Yankton	\$3.457	\$3.477	(\$0.020)	\$3.604	(\$0.147)	\$3.631
South Dakota	\$3.480	\$3.497	(\$0.017)	\$3.594	(\$0.114)	\$3.702

AAA South Dakota, Aug. 5, 2014 – South Dakota's average retail price for a gallon of regular gasoline today – \$3.480 – is the lowest price for this date since 2010, when it stood at \$2.798. According to FuelGaugeReport.AAA.com, the state's average today is twenty two cents less than one year ago.

"It appears likely gas will cost less this month than in recent years as long as refinery production remains strong and crude oil prices don't rise due to wild-card issues," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "Right now, the biggest threat to prices would be a major hurricane creeping up to the Gulf Coast."

The national average has declined on 38 out of the last 39 days, and has dropped 19 cents per gallon during this time. Today's price of \$3.490 is 17 cents less than one month ago and 12 cents less than on the same date last year. Yesterday, for the first time since March 12, the national average price for gasoline dropped below \$3.50 per gallon (\$3.4997).

The U. S. and European nations last week announced coordinated sanctions targeting Russia's long-term ability to develop new oil resources, in response to the country's involvement in the insurgency in eastern Ukraine. These prohibitions could eventually impact the global supply of crude oil by denying exports of oil industry equipment and restricting Russian state-owned banks from accessing European capital markets. While West Texas Intermediate crude oil prices settled 41 cents higher yesterday at \$98.29 per barrel, this marks just a slight increase from Friday's nearly-six month low of \$97.88 per barrel and the first time that WTI has settled below \$100 per barrel on three straight days since the start of May.

Motorists in Hawaii (\$4.339), Alaska (\$4.101) and California (\$3.948) continue to pay the highest prices per gallon for regular fuel. One week ago (July 29) marked the first time since March 28 that Californians have paid an average of less than \$4.00 per gallon for gas. California was one of 12 states where week-over-week decreases of four cents or more were recorded – consumers in Minnesota are experiencing the largest week-over-week savings per gallon (six cents).

August and July are generally the busiest driving months of the year, according to data collected by the Federal Highway Administration. Last August, U.S. drivers drove an estimated 266.9 billion miles.

Athletics Student/Parent Meeting

Groton Area Fall Athletics Student/Parent meeting will be held on Monday, August 11 at 7:00 PM in the GHS Arena. All student-athletes, along with a parent, planning to participate in any fall athletics activity must plan to attend. We will complete paperwork requirements, discuss policies, procedures, and philosophies as a large group followed by team meetings conducted by the coaching staff.



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

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Today in Weather History

1962: Wind damaged farm buildings and hail damaged crops over a large area. The area affected was northern Faulk, portions of Spink, Northern Clark, Codington, and Grant, along with Day County.

1969: During the day and evening hours, two relatively large storms brought destructive weather to much of Minnesota. The northerly storm area moved in from North Dakota between Fargo and Grand Forks. The southern storm rapidly developed north of Wedena. These two storms combined to cause twelve tornadoes, two large areas of wind and hail damage, and one waterspout. The storms killed 15 people, injured 106, and caused 4.8 million dollars in property and public utility damage.

1986: A severe thunderstorm brought extensive damage in Winner in Tripp county. The storm packed 90 mile an hour winds and damaged over 200 houses in Winner. The Tripp County Historical Museum was completely destroyed. Extensive tree damage occurred in town and a plane was flipped over at the airport.

1999: The first report of high winds was southeast of Piedmont with gusts of 65 to 70 mph estimated by a National Weather Service employee. Damage in that area included several downed trees and leveled gardens. As the storm moved east, large hail was reported. The first wind gust at Ellsworth AFB was 89 mph at 1918 MST on the northwest end of the runway. By 1925 MST, sustained winds were over 50 mph for nearly 10 minutes and the peak gust was 114 mph. The sensor on the southeast end of the runway, 2.5 miles away, recorded a wind gust of 114 mph at 1929 MST. The damage on the base included several large trees blown over and snapped in half and roof damage to base housing units. A few tents set up on the taxiways for an air show were blown around, but not significantly damaged. A survey by base meteorologists indicated the main downburst winds hit over open prairie surrounding the runway, where there are no trees or structures. Also between 1920 and 1930 MST, a meteorology student estimated winds between 70 and 80 mph at Box Elder, where gardens were leveled and wooden fences and roofs were damaged.

1890 - Thunderstorms left four inches of hail covering the ground in Adair County and Union County

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in Iowa. The hail drifted into six foot mounds, and in some places remained on the ground for twenty-six days. (The Weather Channel)

1918 - Unusually hot weather began to overspread the Atlantic Coast States, from the Carolinas to southern New England. The temperature soared to an all-time record high of 106 degrees at Washington D.C., and Cumberland and Keedysville hit 109 degrees to establish a state record for Maryland. Temperatures were above normal east of the Rockies that month, with readings much above normal in the Lower Missouri Valley. Omaha NE reached 110 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1959 - A bucket survey showed that thunderstorms dropped 16.70 inches of rain on parts of Decatur County IA. The total was accepted as Iowa's 24 hour rainfall record. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - Evening thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 100 mph at Winner SD damaging two hundred homes. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1987 - Afternoon thunderstorms deluged Milwaukee, WI, with 6.84 inches of rain, including more than five inches in two hours, breaking all previous rainfall records for the city. Floodwaters were four feet deep at the Milwaukee County Stadium, and floodwaters filled the basement of the main terminal at the airport. Flooding caused 5.9 million dollars damage, and claimed the life of one person. Death Valley, CA, reported a morning low of 97 degrees. A midday thunderstorm deluged Birmingham AL with nearly six inches of rain in one hour. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Pennsylvania and New York State. A cold front crossing the northwestern U.S. produced wind gusts to 66 mph at Livingston MT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from northwestern Texas to the Southern Appalachians, and in the northeastern U.S. There were 136 reports of large hail or damaging winds during the day and evening. Thunderstorms in the Southern Plains Region produced tennis ball size hail northwest of Buffalo OK, and wind gusts to 100 mph at Pampa TX. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1977: Eighteen tornadoes, ten downbursts, and seventeen microbursts struck a three county area near Springfield, IL. One of the tornadoes grew to F3 strength.

2000: In addition to rain, fish also fell on Great Yarmouth, England, during a thunderstorm.

FOR RENT


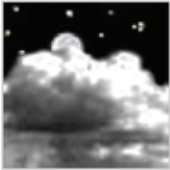

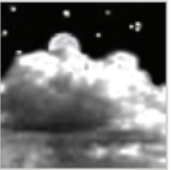



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TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY
						
Mostly Cloudy High: 75 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 59 °F	Slight Chc Thunderstorms High: 76 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 60 °F	Slight Chc Thunderstorms High: 79 °F	Chance Thunderstorms Low: 63 °F	Chance Thunderstorms High: 81 °F

Stormy Pattern Continues Through The Weekend

				
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
20-60% CHANCE FOR STORMS IN THE WEST Highs: 70s	20% CHANCE FOR STORMS IN THE EAST Highs: 70s	20-40% CHANCE FOR STORMS Highs: 76 to 82	25-35% CHANCE FOR STORMS Highs: 78 to 85	30% CHANCE FOR STORMS Highs: 80s
Lows: Near 60	Lows: Near 60	Lows: Lower 60s	Lows: Lower 60s	Lows: Lower 60s

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

 weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen | Updated: 8/6/2014 3:57 AM Central

A trough of low pressure will continue to bring showers and thunderstorms to southern South Dakota today. With dry air in place, most of the region east of the James River Valley is expected to remain precip free today. Additional upper level energy will help generate some showers across north central South Dakota through this afternoon. The stormy pattern will remain in place through the weekend as a series of upper level disturbances move through the region. Best chances for rain across the whole region appear to be on Friday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 78.8°F at 3:56 PM

Low: 53.8°F at 6:41 AM

High Gust: 14 mph at 12:01 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 108° in 1941

Record Low: 44° in 1902

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in Aug.: 0.39

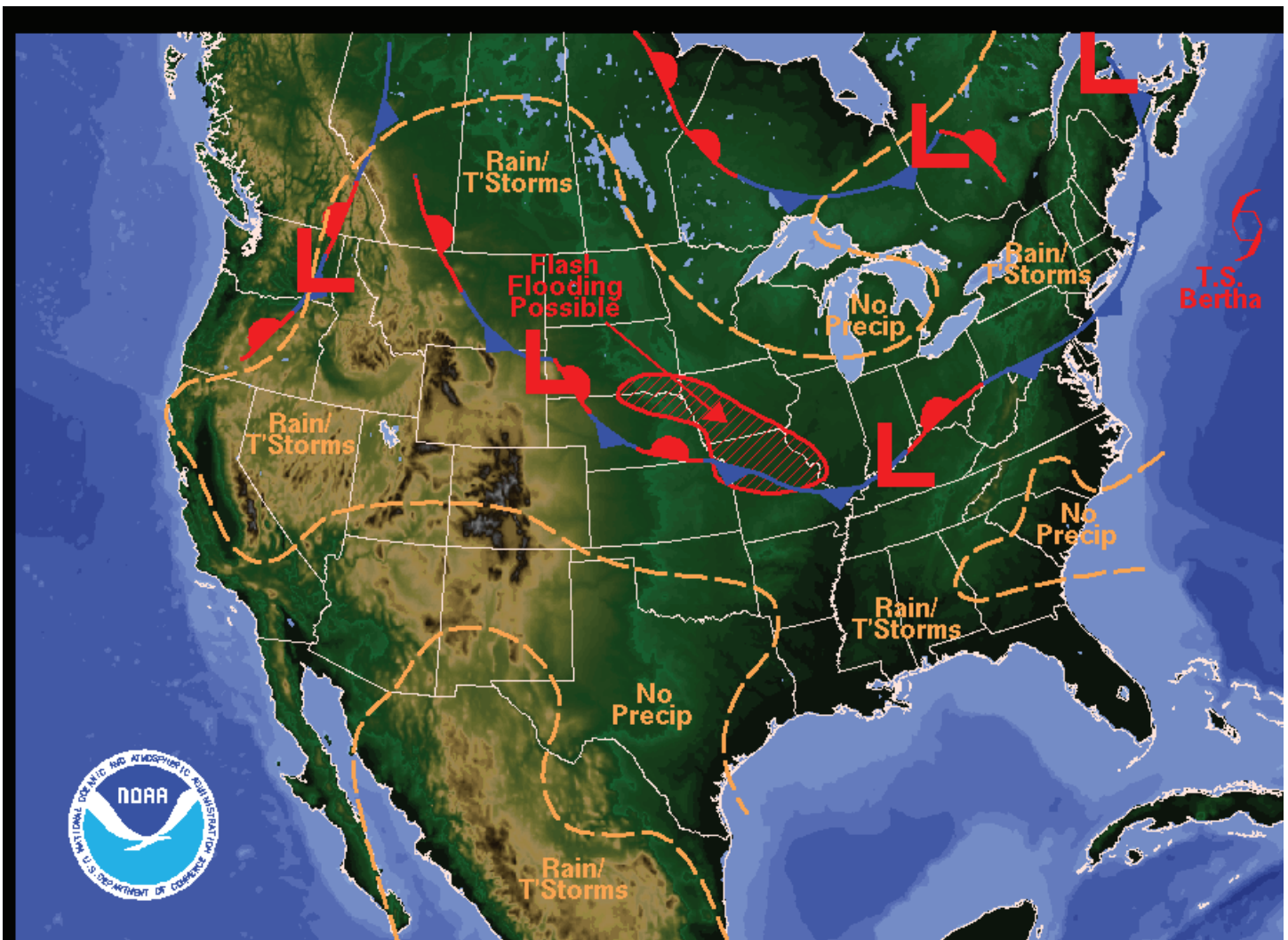
Precip to date in Aug.: 0.15

Average Precip to date: 14.25

Precip Year to Date: 9.43

Sunset Tonight: 8:55 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:25 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Aug 06, 2014, issued 3:15 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



MERCY WITHOUT MEASURE

Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were the first spies ever to be executed for conspiracy to commit espionage for giving information about the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union. As a result of their conviction, they were put to death in the electric chair in Sing Sing Prison, New York.

In his summation at the end of the grueling and bitter trial, the lawyer for the Rosenbergs said with deep emotion, "Your Honor, what my clients ask for is justice."

"The court has given what you have asked for - justice!" replied Judge Irving Kaufman. "What you really wanted is mercy. But that is something that this court has no right to give."

This response from the judge has scriptural bearing: no one is good - no one in all the world. Each and every one of us have sinned. If God gave us justice, each one of us would have our place in hell - separated from God forever.

We are reminded of this fact in Psalm 130:3 where we read, "If You, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?" He then answers it with a gracious promise that brings the peace of God: "But with You there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence serve You."

If God kept a record of our sins - or if He held a grudge against us - we could say that He purposefully built a barrier between Himself and us so that we would be separated from Him forever.

But He did not do that. He sent His one and only begotten Son to be our one and only Savior. Now, we have access to Him, when we repent, because of His mercy.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for Your willingness to forgive us of our sins and grant us Your love and salvation. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 130:3-4 If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

Governor, Sioux Falls leaders pitching city in NY

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's governor and economic development leaders are in New York City this week to pitch Sioux Falls to financial writers.

Sioux Falls Development Foundation president Slater Barr says the city ranks high on lists of best places to do business and live but in the middle of the pack on surveys of business executives.

He says the goal of the trip Wednesday and Thursday is to close that gap by meeting with national media outlets.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard says state leaders don't favor Sioux Falls but support all local economic development efforts.

He says the city does pull more than its own weight. It has about 29 percent of the state's population but produces roughly 38 percent of South Dakota's gross domestic product.

SD high school coach publicly announces he's gay

DELL RAPIDS, S.D. (AP) — A volleyball and baseball coach at St. Mary High School in Dell Rapids has publicly announced he's gay.

Twenty-five-year-old Nate Alfson made the announcement Tuesday in an online essay. Both he and local sportscaster Mike Henriksen say Alfson is believed to be the first openly gay high school coach in South Dakota.

Alfson is originally from Pipestone, Minnesota. He played baseball at Augustana College in Sioux Falls.

Alfson says he's prepared for criticism and strong reactions to his decision, including the possibility of it causing problems with his employment at a Catholic school. But he says he's also received support, and feels that a tremendous burden has been lifted from his shoulders.

Farm production expenses stable in Plains region

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Farm and ranch production expenses in the Plains region last year saw little change from 2012.

The Agriculture Department says 2013 expenditures totaled \$87.6 billion, down from \$89 billion. That's a drop of less than 2 percent.

The Plains region includes the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

94 DUI arrests reported in connection with rally

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol has reported 94 DUI arrests so far in connection with this week's Sturgis Rally.

The Patrol says that as of 6 a.m. Tuesday 104 people have been arrested for misdemeanor drug offenses and 34 for felony drug offenses. Authorities have seized more than \$7,300 in cash.

The 74th rally started Monday and runs through Sunday. Organizers expect attendance to top the estimated 466,000 who made the annual trek last year.

The Department of Public Safety says it has tallied 27 injury crashes so far this week compared to 31 during the same period last year.

Appeals court upholds forest management plan

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says a federal appeals court has upheld a management plan for the Black Hills National Forest.

Jackley says the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver has affirmed federal court decisions in Colorado and Wyoming denying challenges to the plan.

The plan was developed in 1990 and amended in 2005, taking into account a mountain pine beetle epidemic and providing for logging, prescribed burning and other control methods.

Critics who sued worry about damage to plants and wildlife habitat in the 8,125-square-mile forest in northeastern Wyoming and western South Dakota.

The environmental groups' challenge has been litigated in federal courts in South Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado. Jackley says the state has intervened in all litigations because of the importance placed in protecting the forest.

Committee hopes to raise child sex abuse awareness

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Members of a state committee tasked with examining child sexual abuse in South Dakota said Tuesday that they hope their work over the next five months will shed light on the issue.

Jolene's Task Force, which was created by the Legislature and is made up of legislators, child sexual abuse experts and other state officials, had its first meeting Tuesday.

"Child abuse exists and child sexual abuse is very much alive in South Dakota," said Dr. Nancy Free, a child abuse pediatrician and member of the committee.

The committee will meet several more times in the coming months and produce a report for the 2015 Legislature with its findings and any policy recommendations. The task force is named after Jolene Loetscher of Sioux Falls, who was a victim of sexual abuse as a teenager and has talked publicly about her story.

Special Agent Cam Corey, a general crimes investigator that specializes in sexual assault investigations, said he hopes the task force can raise awareness so the public understands the issue is just as common in South Dakota as it is nationwide. An estimated 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are victims of sexual abuse nationwide.

"People don't think we have an issue in small-town South Dakota," Corey said, adding that law enforcement officials are often unfamiliar with the issue as well.

Corey works for the Department of Criminal Investigation and runs a four-hour training session for officers on how to handle sexual assault cases. The 17-year law enforcement veteran said it's essential officers get more training to know how to handle these sensitive cases.

Corey said law enforcement departments may have only one or two officers who are comfortable with handling child sexual abuse cases. "And they don't work 24 hours a day," he added.

Tuesday's meeting was primarily an overview of how different state departments handle child sexual abuse cases.

In the coming months, the committee will address what policy changes they might recommend to the Legislature and compare South Dakota's laws on child sexual abuse to those in other states.

Free said addressing child sexual abuse head-on is imperative for South Dakota.

"If we don't protect our children, we will have chaos. We will have dysfunction breeding dysfunction," Free said.

Human remains found along Interstate 29

NORTH SIOUX CITY, S.D. (AP) — State archeologists are investigating some human remains that were found buried along Interstate 29 in Union County.

The South Dakota Attorney General's office says the remains were unearthed by a utility company crew digging in the right of way near Exit 2.

Spokeswoman Sara Rabern on Tuesday said the scene discovered Thursday appeared to be an "old, old grave."

Rabern says the Division of Criminal Investigation secured the area over the weekend, and investigators did not deem the remains to be evidence of a crime.

The scene has been turned over to the South Dakota State Historical Society.

Wyoming crash kills 2 South Dakotans, 1 Coloradan

LUSK, Wyo. (AP) — Two South Dakota women and a Colorado man have been killed in a rollover north of Lusk, Wyoming.

The Wyoming Highway Patrol says a fourth person was injured when a minivan drifted off U.S. 85, struck a driveway, became airborne and rolled early Monday.

Authorities identified the dead as 59-year-old Suzanne Schermerhorn and 86-year-old Nola Reber of Rapid City, South Dakota, and 34-year-old Robert Bentz of Westminster, Colorado.

Twenty-six-year-old Krystal Sandoval was taken to a hospital. Her condition and the nature of her injuries haven't been released. Her hometown wasn't available.

The patrol says Bentz was the driver. Investigators say none of the occupants was wearing a seat belt, and the three people killed were ejected.

Troopers are investigating whether speed, fatigue and prescription medication contributed to the crash.

Interstate project involves new surface coating

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Transportation Department is using a new road surface treatment for the first time on Interstate 229 in eastern Sioux Falls, hoping it will reduce mishaps on a crash-prone section of the road.

The "high-friction" surface coating is designed to give vehicles more traction on a curve where drivers often run off the road or hit guardrails, engineer Travis Dressen said. The area being treated had about 60 crashes in a five-year span ending in 2012, according to the Argus Leader newspaper.

"Our primary goal is to decrease the number of run-off-the road crashes," Dressen said. "This turn is more of an issue in the winter time when the water starts freezing and we run into problems like black ice and freezing rain."

About 33,000 people drive on I-229 in Sioux Falls each day, according to KELO-TV.

The \$423,000 project is scheduled to start Wednesday and be completed by Aug. 23.

"The first part of the project is preparing the roadway surface," Dressen said. "We'll be doing some grinding and cleaning of the roadway surface. After that, the next is to spread an epoxy resin, and then spread an aggregate that's very hard and angular and embeds itself into the epoxy. It improves the traction between the tire and the roadway."

SD winter wheat harvest passes halfway point

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The winter wheat harvest in South Dakota has surpassed the halfway point. The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that 55 percent of the crop is in the bin. That's ahead of 48 percent at the same time last year but well behind the long-term average of 76 percent.

The report says three-fourths of the state's winter wheat crop is rated good to excellent.

Topsoil moisture statewide is rated 64 percent adequate to surplus, and subsoil moisture is rated 74 percent in those categories.

IDs released in Rapid City murder-suicide

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police have identified two people who died in an apparent murder-suicide over the weekend.

Authorities say they believe 54-year-old Jean Wessel shot 57-year-old Anthony Hutchinson, then shot herself. The two were in a relationship at the time of their deaths.

Police say initial autopsy results indicate both died of a gunshot wound. Full autopsy results, including toxicology results, will take several weeks.

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska to host annual powwow

NIOBRARA, Neb. (AP) — The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is hosting its annual powwow near Niobrara to celebrate culture, heritage and traditions.

The powwow will run from Friday through Sunday at the Ponca Community Grounds, about five miles southwest of Niobrara. It will include dancers, drum groups and vendors.

Admission to all events is free, and the powwow is open to the public. It's a noncontest powwow, meant to serve as an annual gathering and celebration of family and friends.

The tribe's diabetes program will host a "Color Me Healthy" run at 5 p.m. on Friday. Participants will run two miles while being sprayed with colors.

The Ponca Tribe has a 15-county service area that includes parts of Nebraska, South Dakota and Iowa.

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. MIDEAST CEASE-FIRE HOLDS FOR SECOND DAY

As Gazans return home to loss and devastation, Egyptian mediators shuttle between Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Cairo to extend the truce and work out a long-lasting deal.

2. U.S. GENERAL SHOT DEAD IN AFGHAN ATTACK WAS ENGINEER

Harold J. Greene rose through the ranks as an expert in developing and fielding the Army's war materiel.

3. MISSOURI INMATE EXECUTED FOR KILLING NEIGHBOR

Michael Worthington is the first U.S. prisoner put to death since an Arizona lethal injection went awry last month.

4. DEATH TOLL IN SOUTHERN CHINA QUAKE NEARS 600

Search and rescue teams find many more bodies while pushing into isolated mountain communities to clear debris from collapsed homes.

5. WHAT BATTLES FROM FOUR STATES WILL GO BEFORE JUDGES

In the biggest session of its kind to date, a federal appeals court in Cincinnati will hear gay marriage arguments in fights from Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee.

6. WHO MIGHT SUFFER FROM SLOW INVESTMENT IN AFRICA

As Africa's economy rises, U.S. businesses are at risk of "missing the boat."

7. WHY FIRST LADIES FROM TWO DIFFERENT ERAS MEET

Michelle Obama and Laura Bush unite for the second time in just over a year to promote U.S. relations with Africa.

8. WAR OF THE WORLDS? NO. WAR OF THE WORDS? DEFINITELY.

Japan's recent mass naming of over 100 islands off its shores is just the latest volley in various global battles over place names.

9. KEEPING AN EYE PEELED FOR PUFFINS

The Audubon Society is asking bird lovers to observe Atlantic Puffins, whose population is dwindling in Maine due to starvation.

10. ROSETTA SPACE PROBE CATCHES UP WITH COMET

The goal of the mission is to orbit 67P from a distance of about 100 kilometers (60 miles) and observe the giant ball of dust and ice as it hurtles toward the sun.

AP News in Brief

Israel-Hamas cease-fire holds for second day ahead of Cairo talks on Gaza's future

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — A cease-fire between Israel and Hamas that ended a month of war was holding for a second day Wednesday, ahead of negotiations in Cairo on a long-term truce and a broader deal for the war-ravaged Gaza Strip.

In the coming days, Egyptian mediators are to shuttle between delegations from both sides to try to work out a deal. The Palestinian delegation is composed of negotiators from all major factions, including Hamas, the Islamic militant group that controls Gaza. Names of those in the Israeli team have not been disclosed.

Some details have emerged about the negotiating points of Hamas, including an internationally funded reconstruction of the coastal strip that would be overseen by a Palestinian unity government led by President Mahmoud Abbas.

Meanwhile, Norway is organizing a donor conference and the Western-backed Abbas is expected to take the lead in overseeing the rebuilding in the coastal territory, which his Fatah movement lost to Hamas in 2007. International Mideast envoy Tony Blair, who is also involved in arranging the conference, was in Cairo and was to meet with Egypt's foreign minister and Arab League officials on Wednesday.

The cease-fire is the longest lull in a war that has killed nearly 1,900 Palestinians. Israel has lost 67 people, including three civilians.

2-star general killed in Afghan attack was 34-year Army vet, trained as engineer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Harold J. Greene, the two-star Army general who became the highest-ranking U.S. military officer to be killed in either of America's post-9/11 wars, was an engineer who rose

through the ranks as an expert in developing and fielding the Army's war materiel. He was on his first deployment to a war zone.

Greene was killed Tuesday when a gunman believed to be an Afghan soldier opened fire at a military academy near Kabul. More than a dozen other coalition soldiers were wounded, including about eight Americans, according to early accounts of the attack. It was among the bloodiest insider attacks of the war in Afghanistan.

The Army's top soldier, Gen. Ray Odierno, issued a statement Tuesday evening saying the Army's thoughts and prayers were with Greene's family as well as the families of those injured in the attack.

In a 34-year career that began at Fort Polk, Louisiana, Greene, a native of upstate New York, earned a reputation as an inspiring leader with a sense of humility. He had been in Afghanistan since January, serving as deputy commander of a support command called the Combined Security Transition Command, in Kabul.

At the time of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks Greene was serving at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and when the U.S. invaded Iraq in March 2003 he was a student at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Afghan 'insider attack' kills US general, wounds German brigadier general, 14 other allies

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — An American major general was shot to death Tuesday in one of the bloodiest insider attacks of the long Afghanistan war when a gunman dressed as an Afghan soldier turned on allied troops, wounding about 15 including a German general and two Afghan generals.

The Army identified the American officer as Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene, a 34-year veteran. An engineer by training, Greene was on his first deployment to a war zone and was involved in preparing Afghan forces for the time when U.S.-coalition troops leave at the end of this year. He was the deputy commanding general, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

Greene was the highest-ranked American officer killed in combat in the nation's post-9/11 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the highest-ranked officer killed in combat since 1970 in the Vietnam War.

Five major generals were killed in Vietnam, the last Maj. Gen. John Albert Dillard, whose helicopter was shot down.

The attack at Marshal Fahim National Defense University underscored the tensions that persist as the U.S. combat role winds down in Afghanistan — and it wasn't the only assault by an Afghan ally on coalition forces on Tuesday. In eastern Paktia province, an Afghan police guard exchanged fire with NATO troops near the governor's office, provincial police said. The guard was killed in the gunfight.

Missouri inmate put to death for 1995 killing in 1st US execution since Arizona one went awry

BONNE TERRE, Mo. (AP) — A Missouri man was put to death Wednesday for raping and killing a college student in 1995, making him the first U.S. prisoner executed since a lethal injection in Arizona last month in which an inmate took nearly two hours to die.

The Missouri Department of Corrections said Michael Worthington was executed by lethal injection at the state prison south of St. Louis and was pronounced dead at 12:11 a.m., 10 minutes after the process began. He is the seventh Missouri inmate executed this year.

Worthington had been sentenced to death for the attack on 24-year-old Melinda "Mindy" Griffin during

a burglary of her Lake St. Louis condominium.

Before the execution began, while strapped to a gurney and covered with a sheet, Worthington spoke with his witnesses — some of them his relatives — through the glass, raising his shaved head.

When the drugs began flowing, his head lowered back to the pillow and he appeared to breathe heavily for about 15 seconds before closing his eyes for good. Some of his witnesses began crying after he fell unconscious. A Bible had been placed on his chest at his request.

Death toll in southern China quake rises to 589 as rescue teams dig out isolated communities

LUDIAN, China (AP) — The death toll in southern China's earthquake jumped from 410 to 589 on Wednesday as search and rescue teams found scores more bodies while pushing into isolated mountain communities to clear debris from collapsed homes.

The Yunnan provincial government said more than 2,400 people were injured in Sunday's 6.1 magnitude quake in the mountainous farming region of Ludian county — the country's deadliest temblor in four years and its biggest test of emergency response under leader Xi Jinping.

At a makeshift headquarters in the forecourt of a cracked middle school in the worst-hit town of Longtoushan, a senior colonel in the People's Liberation Army said there might still be hope to find survivors.

"There are a lot of people that we may never be able to dig out," said Senior Col. Feng, who declined to give his full name because he was not an officially designated spokesman. "But there is still hope."

Wednesday's jump in the toll — from 410 late Tuesday — was due to rescuers arriving in places where they had previously been unable to contact anybody, in small farming villages built into the mountains above the main towns, said Feng, who is based in neighboring Sichuan province. There were reports of additional communities buried but still unreached by rescuers.

Air strike injures 2 in key rebel stronghold in east Ukraine

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP) — Residents in the main rebel city of Donetsk in eastern Ukraine say their neighborhood was hit by a government air strike overnight, bringing the fighting between pro-Russian separatists and the Kiev's forces closer than ever to the city center.

Rescue worker Alexander Pivko told The Associated Press that two warehouse workers were injured in the bombing. There were eight craters at the scene that appeared to be the result of aerial bombing.

Residents say they heard two explosions at around midnight accompanied by the sound of an airplane overhead. The explosions damaged industrial buildings, but one bomb fell only 10 meters from a residential building nearby.

Ukrainian forces have surrounded the rebel city of Donetsk in a conflict that has claimed at least 1,000 civilian lives.

Federal court hearing arguments in gay marriage fights from 4 states in single session

CINCINNATI (AP) — A federal appeals court is set to hear arguments in six gay marriage fights from four states — Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee — in the biggest such session on the issue so far.

Three judges of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati will consider arguments Wednes-

day that pits states' rights and traditional, conservative values against what plaintiffs' attorneys say is a fundamental right to marry under the U.S. Constitution. Large demonstrations are expected outside the courthouse by both opponents and supporters.

Michigan's and Kentucky's cases stem from rulings striking down each state's gay marriage bans. Ohio's case deals only with the state's recognition of out-of-state gay marriages, while Tennessee's is narrowly focused on the rights of three same-sex couples.

Attorneys on both sides in the Michigan and Ohio cases will go first and get a half-hour each to make their cases. Kentucky and Tennessee will follow, with 15 minutes for each side from both states.

Hundreds of gay marriage supporters rallied Tuesday at a park near Cincinnati's riverfront on the eve of the court arguments.

Out of Africa: US companies have fallen behind China, Europe as region's economy expands

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Africa's economy rises, American businesses are at risk of being left behind. "We are missing the boat" was the sour warning former President Bill Clinton issued Tuesday at an otherwise upbeat U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit here.

Sub-Saharan Africa has enjoyed nearly 6 percent annual economic growth for the past decade. And the robust expansion is expected to endure through the decade. Ernst & Young calls Africa the world's second-most attractive market for investment behind North America.

Yet as Africa gains momentum, U.S. business activity there has all but stalled. U.S. direct investment in Africa essentially flat-lined between 2010 and 2012, according to United Nations numbers crunched by the Brookings Institution.

Over the same period, China (with investment up 68 percent) and the European Union (up 8 percent) poured money into a region they see as rich with natural resources and economic potential. U.S. corporate profits in Africa fell in 2013 for a second straight year.

Michelle Obama, Laura Bush deepen relationship while focusing on deepening US ties to Africa

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michelle Obama and Laura Bush, first ladies of different generations and opposing political parties, are uniting for the second time in just over a year to promote U.S. relations with Africa.

They are taking the stage at the Kennedy Center for a program Wednesday with spouses of the dozens of African heads of state and government who are participating in the third and final day of President Barack Obama's U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit.

The two women will share with their African counterparts their experiences in the high-profile role of first lady, reprising an event they held in Tanzania last summer. The joint appearance will also put on rare public display the warm relationship the two women have developed since the change of power at the White House.

During last summer's event, Mrs. Obama and Mrs. Bush showed flashes of humor as they joked about prison-like aspects of White House life and the scrutiny that women and girls, including first ladies, are subjected to over their looks, including the current first lady's now grown-out bangs. They sat side by side in separate chairs, listening intently and gazing and gesturing toward each other as they spoke.

"It's a really nice prison," Mrs. Obama quipped about her home since 2009.

Add Kansas, next up Tennessee: GOP Senate establishment on a roll over tea party challengers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Add Kansas to the list of states where tea partiers tried and failed to knock out Republican Senate incumbents. Next up, Tennessee, and the odds are getting tougher for the upstarts.

Three-term Sen. Pat Roberts dispatched tea party favorite Milton Wolf on Tuesday, edging out the radiologist and distant cousin of President Barack Obama in a bitter, closely fought primary. Roberts overcame questions about his Washington-area home, his Kansas rental for official residency and his quip that he goes home when he gets an opponent.

"Tonight, we reaffirmed what we all knew. We are Kansas-loving conservative Republicans, and we are in charge of our own future," Roberts told supporters. "My posse did not flinch, even though there were times when their candidate — me — stepped on our message."

The Senate GOP establishment, burned in 2010 and 2012 when tea partiers and outsiders cost them majority control, is now basking in a solid string of wins — Texas, Kentucky, South Carolina and Mississippi, though it took six-term Sen. Thad Cochran two tries there before defeating Chris McDaniel, who is challenging the outcome.

Establishment Republicans are upbeat about Thursday's primary in Tennessee, where they expect two-term Sen. Lamar Alexander to turn back a challenge from state Rep. Joe Carr.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, August 6, the 218th day of 2014. There are 147 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 6, 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war against Russia and Serbia declared war against Germany.

On this date:

In 1813, during the Venezuelan War of Independence, forces led by Simon Bolivar recaptured Caracas.

In 1825, Upper Peru became the autonomous republic of Bolivia.

In 1862, the Confederate ironclad CSS Arkansas was scuttled by its crew on the Mississippi River near Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to prevent capture by the Union.

In 1926, Gertrude Ederle became the first woman to swim the English Channel, arriving in Kingsdown, England, from France in 14 1/2 hours.

In 1930, New York State Supreme Court Justice Joseph Force Crater went missing after leaving a Manhattan restaurant; his disappearance remains a mystery.

In 1945, during World War II, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, resulting in an estimated 140,000 deaths.

In 1956, the DuMont television network went off the air after a decade of operations.

In 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Gherman Titov became the second man to orbit Earth as he flew aboard Vostok 2.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act.

In 1978, Pope Paul VI died at Castel Gandolfo at age 80.

In 1986, William J. Schroeder (SHRAY'-dur) died at at Humana Hospital-Audubon in Louisville, Kentucky, after living 620 days with the Jarvik 7 artificial heart.

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In 1993, Louis Freeh won Senate confirmation to be FBI director.

Ten years ago: A court found two former top East German officials guilty of failing to stop the killing of people trying to escape across the Berlin Wall and sentenced them to probation. Funk legend Rick James, whose life and career were marred by cocaine addiction and a prison term for assault, died in Los Angeles at age 56.

Five years ago: Sonia Sotomayor was confirmed as the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice by a Senate vote of 68-31. John Hughes, 59, Hollywood's youth movie director of the 1980s and '90s, died in New York City. Sam, the 4-year-old koala who'd gained worldwide fame and sympathy when she was rescued during devastating wildfires in Australia, was euthanized after a veterinarian found the cysts that threatened her life were inoperable.

One year ago: President Barack Obama said during an appearance on NBC's "The Tonight Show" that he was "disappointed" that Russia had granted temporary asylum to National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden, defying administration demands that the former government contractor be sent back to the U.S. to face espionage charges. U.S. Army Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan went on trial at Fort Hood, Texas, charged with killing 13 people and wounding 32 others in a 2009 attack. (Hasan, who admitted carrying out the attack, was convicted and sentenced to death.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor-director Peter Bonerz is 76. Actress Louise Sorel is 74. Actor Michael Anderson Jr. is 71. Actor Ray Buktenica is 71. Actor Dorian Harewood is 64. Actress Catherine Hicks is 63. Rock singer Pat MacDonald (Timbuk 3) is 62. Country musician Mark DuFresne (Confederate Railroad) is 61. Actress Stephanie Kramer is 58. Actress Faith Prince is 57. Rhythm-and-blues singer Randy DeBarge is 56. Actor Leland Orser is 54. Country singers Patsy and Peggy Lynn are 50. Basketball Hall of Famer David Robinson is 49. Actor Jeremy Ratchford is 49. Country singer Lisa Stewart is 46. Movie writer-director M. Night Shyamalan (SHAH'-mah-lahn) is 44. Actress Merrin Dungey is 43. Singer Geri Halliwell is 42. Actor Jason O'Mara is 42. Singer-actor David Campbell is 41. Actress Vera Farmiga is 41. Actress Ever (cq) Carradine is 40. Actress Soleil (soh-LAY') Moon Frye is 38. Actress Melissa George is 38. Rock singer Travis McCoy (Gym Class Heroes) is 33. Actor Leslie Odom Jr. is 33. Actress Romola Garai is 32. Rock musician Eric Roberts (Gym Class Heroes) is 30.

Thought for Today: "A successful lie is doubly a lie; an error which has to be corrected is a heavier burden than the truth." - Dag Hammarskjold, U.N. Secretary-General (1905-1961).