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Saturday, Aug. 9

State Teener Tourney at Volga

Birthdays: Loel Schott • Bradley Clocksene • Kim Yarborough • Lee Thompson • Laurie LaMee 4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, Aug. 10

State Teener Tourney at Volga

Birthdays: Drew Hjermstad • Peyton Jondahl • Ron Westby • Jess Bunn

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship

9:15am: Christian Missionary & Alliance School 10:00am: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont (LCMC) worship

10:45am: Christian Missionary & Alliance Worship 11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship 2:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran pastor at Bethesda 5:00pm: Worship at Trinity Historic Church

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



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 dump-ster at the city shop for aluminum cans with the proceeds going to the pool.

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Teeners drop heartbreaker

Groton's Teener team jumped out to a 6-0 first inning lead, but slowly, the host team of Volga chipped away at the lead and eventually won, 7-6. Groton plays Chancellor at 2:30 p.m. today. The winner advances to the fifth place game and the loser goes home.

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.

Tennessee Football!

According to Snopes.com, borrowing heavily from the Rev. Joe Wright, Principal Jody McLoud delivered this speech before a Roane County High School football game on September 1, 2000. Mr. McLoud, who had been principal of the 740-student school for 11 years at the time, was protesting the prohibition against leading prayers "on school property, at school-sponsored events, over the school's public address system, by a speaker representing the student body, under the supervision of school faculty," which was brought about when the United States Supreme Court upheld the ruling in Santa Fe Independent School District vs. Doe that such activity violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. Principal McLoud's speech was also ready into the Congressional Record on September 20, 2000 by Rep. Zach Wamp of Tennessee.

This is a statement that was read over the PA system at the football game at Roane County High School, Kingston, Tennessee, by school Principal, Jody McLeod.

"It has always been the custom at Roane County High School football games, to say a prayer and play the National Anthem, to honor God and Country."

Due to a recent ruling by the Supreme Court, I am told that saying a prayer is a violation of Federal Case Law. As I understand the law at this time, I can use this public facility to approve of sexual perversion and call it "an alternate life style," and if someone is offended, that's OK.

I can use it to condone sexual promiscuity, by dispensing condoms and calling it, "safe sex." If someone is offended, that's OK.

I can even use this public facility to present the merits of killing an unborn baby as a "viable! means of birth control." If someone is offended, no problem...

I can designate a school day as "Earth Day" and involve students in activities to worship religiously and praise the goddess "Mother Earth" and call it "ecology."

I can use literature, videos and presentations in the classroom that depicts people with strong, traditional Christian convictions as "simple minded" and "ignorant" and call it "enlightenment."

However, if anyone uses this facility to honor GOD and to ask Him to Bless this event with safety and good sportsmanship, then Federal Case Law is violated.

This appears to be inconsistent at best, and at worst, diabolical.

Apparently, we are to be tolerant of everything and anyone, except GOD and His Commandments.

Nevertheless, as a school principal, I frequently ask staff and students to abide by rules with which they do not necessarily agree. For me to do otherwise would be inconsistent at best, and at worst, hypocritical... I suffer from that affliction enough unintentionally. I certainly do not need to add an in-

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tentional transgression.

For this reason, I shall "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's," and refrain from praying at this time.

"However, if you feel inspired to honor, praise and thank GOD and ask Him, in the name of Jesus, to Bless this event, please feel free to do so. As far as I know, that's not against the law... yet."

One by one, the people in the stands bowed their heads, held hands with one another and began to pray.

They prayed in the stands.. They prayed in the team huddles. They prayed at the concession stand and they prayed in the Announcer's Box!

The only place they didn't pray was in the Supreme Court of the United States of America— the Seat of "Justice" in the "one nation, under GOD."

Somehow, Kingston, Tennessee, remembered what so many have forgotten. We are given the Freedom OF Religion, not the Freedom FROM Religion. Praise GOD that His remnant remains!

Jesus said, "If you are ashamed of Me before men, then I will be ashamed of you before my Father..." In 1995, about 10 years before he died, Pope John Paul II, wrote an encyclical letter on abortion, euthanasia, and the death penalty in today's world.

It was entitled The Gospel of Life {Evangelium Vitae}.

The Gospel of Life grappled with what the Pope called the dramatic struggle now taking place at the close of the twentieth century between the "culture of life" and the "culture of death."

The values of Christianity, the Pope argues, are unalterably opposed to the modern secular culture of choice.

Rooting his many arguments in the original precepts of the Gospel, Pope John Paul, urged us to honor the sacred value and the inviolability of human life, and refuse forms of permissiveness that trample human rights, and which if left unopposed, would destroy values that are fundamental not only for the lives of individuals and families, but for the society itself.

This high school principal in Tennessee made a simple plea to the football fans that day to do what was on their hearts, many of them did it.

We as Christian Lay People need to come together and support our pastors, bishops, and church leadership to let them know that the faithful of the church are ready to defend our Constitution, our freedoms and the sanctity of life, just as Pope Paul II wrote about in 1995 and spoke about at Saint Peter's in Rome, the seventeenth year of his pontificate.

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Achieving the Pream

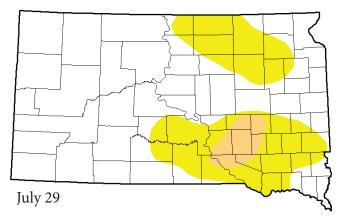
Lots for Sale in a family oriented neighborhood

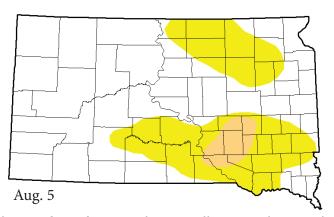




Olson Development - North Groton ~ 605/397-8262

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National Drought Summary for August 5, 2014

A vigorous monsoon circulation led to heavy rain (locally 2 inches or more) in parts of Arizona and the central and southern Rockies. The rain provided some drought relief, benefited rangeland and pastures, and eased irrigation demands. At times, showers spread as far west as California, resulting in some rare, locally heavy summer rainfall but having little overall impact on the state's 3-year drought. Moisture also spilled across portions of the central and southern Plains, where interaction with a cold front led to copious rainfall (2 to 6 inches) in Oklahoma and environs. Rainfall totals were much lighter, however, across the majority of Texas. Farther north, however, only isolated showers interrupted an otherwise dry pattern from the Pacific Coast to the northern Plains and western Corn Belt. Despite a July drying trend, many Midwestern crops continued to thrive due to moderate temperatures and adequate subsoil moisture reserves. On August 3, USDA rated nearly three-quarters of the U.S. corn (73%) and soy-

beans (71%) in good to excellent condition—the highest such ratings this late in the season since 2004. In stark contrast, the return of extremely hot weather to the interior Northwest maintained stress on rangeland, pastures, and rain-fed crops. Elsewhere, locally heavy showers peppered the East, although amounts were highly variable. Some of the heaviest rain fell in the southern Mid-Atlantic States, helping to ease the effects of short-term dryness.

Northern Plains and Midwest

Spotty showers accompanied below-normal temperatures across the northern Plains and Midwest. Due to persistently cool weather and a lack of heat stress, impacts from short-term dryness have been slow to emerge. Nevertheless, there was some minor expansion of abnormal dryness (D0) and moderate drought (D1) in the southwestern Corn Belt, while a new region of D0 was introduced in northeastern Wisconsin and northwestern Michigan. From June 1 – August 5, rainfall in Traverse City, Michigan, totaled 4.77 inches (71% of normal). Similarly, Green Bay, Wisconsin, netted a June 1 – August 5 total of just 5.29 inches (67% of normal). In Wisconsin, USDA reports indicated that "dry soil conditions and a lack of heat units were keeping corn development behind normal, especially for late-planted fields." Reports from Michigan echoed those comments: "cool, dry weather in most regions has been a challenge [with respect] to crop development." In Nebraska, "another week of only scattered rainfall stressed dryland crops and pastures, [while] irrigation continued non-stop in many areas." North Platte, Nebraska, completed its driest July on record, with rainfall totaling just 0.14 inch (5% of normal). Previously, North Platte's driest July had occurred in 1901, when 0.34 inch fell. By August 3, topsoil moisture was rated at least one-third very short to short in Missouri (52%), Montana (52%), Nebraska (49%), South Dakota (36%), and Wisconsin (33%). On the same date, nearly one-fifth of the rangeland and pastures were rated very poor to poor in Montana and Nebraska—both at 18%.

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Today in Weather History

1918: An estimated F2 tornado touched down east of Bristol and moved NNE. The tornado was quoted as looking like a long snake like spiral, smashing barns into kindling.

1992: A tornado packing winds estimated between 113 and 157 mph caused major damage to the town of Chester, in Lake County. Shortly after 7 pm CDT a tornado tore right through the heart of Chester causing considerable damage. Four businesses were destroyed, three others had major damage, and five had minor damage. An elevator and new grain bin were leveled and another bin was heavily damaged. Most of the building housing the fire department was demolished. Also many houses and vehicles sustained damage and large trees were uprooted or broken off. In one instance a steel beam was thrust through a garage and into the car inside. One mile north of Chester, an entire house was moved off the foundation. The town had to be evacuated for 19 hours after the tornado because the tornado damaged a 12,000 gallon ammonia tank releasing 4,000 gallons of the liquid gas into the air. The ammonia was a health hazard forcing residents out. To the south of Chester the storm destroyed a new convenience store and blew two fuel tanks over 100 yards.

1930: Perryville, TN reached 113 degrees, setting the record high for the state.

1945: An American B-29 dropped a nuclear bomb on Nagasaki, Japan. The second choice of targets was Kokura, which was the location of a large munitions plant. However, the cloud cover over Kokura that day prevented the dropping of the bomb, even after 3 attempts.

2003: Europe sweltered in a deadly heat wave as Britain and Germany both recorded their hottest temperatures since records had been kept. The temperature soared to 105 degrees at Roth in Bavaria and 100.2 degrees in London.

1878 - The second most deadly tornado in New England history struck Wallingford CT killing 34 persons, injuring 100 others, and completely destroying thirty homes. The tornado started as a waterspout over a dam on the Quinnipiac River. It was 400 to 600 feet wide, and had a short path length of two miles. (The Weather Channel)

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



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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1969 - A tornado hit Cincinnati OH killing four persons and causing fifteen million dollars property damage. The tornado moved in a southeasterly direction at 40 to 50 mph. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Florida baked in the summer heat. Nine cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Jacksonville with a reading of 101 degrees. Miami FL reported a record high of 98 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Tropical Storm Beryl deluged Biloxi with 6.32 inches of rain in 24 hours, and in three days drenched Pascagoula MS with 15.85 inches of rain. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Southern Plains Region and over the Central High Plains Region. Thunderstorms in Oklahoma producedwind gusts to 92 mph at Harrah. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data) 1989 - Evening thunderstorms in Arizona deluged Yuma with record torrential rains for the second time in two weeks. The rainfall total of 5.25 inches at the Yuma Quartermaster Depot established a

time in two weeks. The rainfall total of 5.25 inches at the Yuma Quartermaster Depot established a state 24 hour record, and was nearly double the normal annual rainfall. Some of the homes were left with four feet of water in them. Seventy-six cities in the south central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Lake Charles LA equalled their record for August with a low of 61 degrees. Canaan Valley WV was the cold spot in the nation with a low of 32 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

FOR RENT

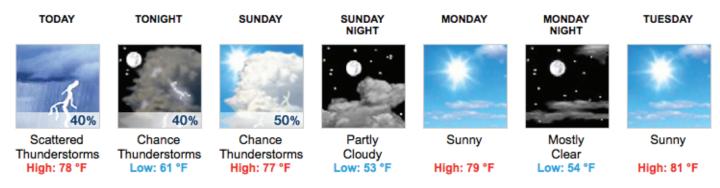
ONE AND TWO bedroom apartment for rent. HDS subsidized. Rent includes utilities and heat. No smoking. Pets okay. Contact Kendra at 605/215-4000.

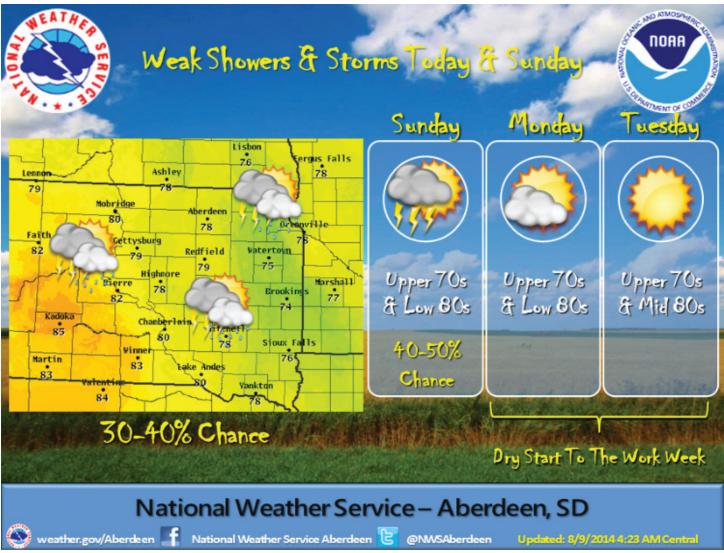
FOR SALE

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.



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Slow moving low pressure will result in scattered showers and weak storms today. A front pushing across the area will continue the chances for weather, with dry conditions setting up for the first half of the work week thanks to high pressure.

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Yesterday's Weather High: 73.7°F at 11:37 AM

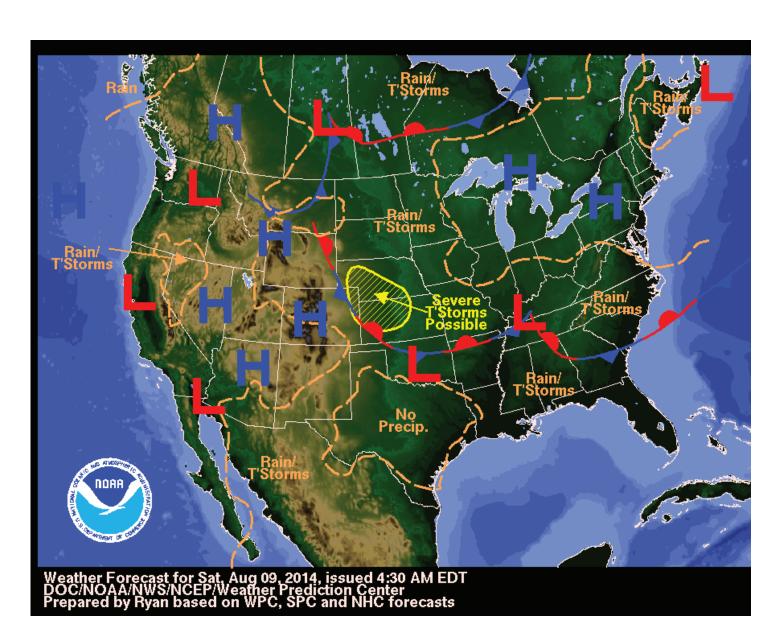
High: 73.7°F at 11:37 AM Low: 62.5°F at 5:59 AM High Gust: 14 mph 3:24 PM

Precip: 0.29

Today's Info

Record High: 105° in 1947 Record Low: 41° in 1927 Average High: 83°F Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in Aug.: 0.63 Precip to date in Aug.: 0.49 Average Precip to date: 14.49 Precip Year to Date: 9.77 Sunset Tonight: 8:50 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:28 a.m.



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FINDING SATISFACTION

Satisfaction is an elusive goal. Although it is high on most people's agendas, few ever find it without a struggle. Perhaps it is because most people overlook their spiritual needs as a source of satisfaction and try to find it in the material things of life.

But satisfaction cannot be found in material things. Those who seek the material world never have "enough" of anything - whether it is money, education, property or power. "More" does not fill any need. It simply generates the desire for "more."

David addressed this issue in Psalm 131. "Lord," he began, "my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty. I don't concern myself with matters that are too great or too awesome for me to grasp." What a remarkable statement: he had the wisdom and insight to "think small."

It is interesting to note that David willingly took a step backward to take a step forward - "my heart is not proud." To move to the "higher ground" in life, we must begin with an attitude of humility. A proud heart comes from thinking of ourselves "more highly than we ought to." But humility, on the other hand, puts us in a place where God can reach us and bless us with the good things He has to offer us.

And notice what he said about being too ambitious: "I'm not going to get involved with matters that are too great or too awesome." He made a conscious decision to focus on what was within his power and potential to achieve. He was willing to be content with the gifts God had for him.

Prayer: Lord, help us to take our eyes off of the "things" of this world and find all that we need in honoring You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 131:1 My heart is not proud, Lord, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me.

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News from the App Associated Press

5 things to know about Congress and South Dakota HENRY C. JACKSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress adjourned last week for its summer recess and, with elections scheduled in November, isn't expected to take any action until after voters weigh in. A look back at five key moments for South Dakota during Congress' work in 2014.

FARM BILL AT LAST

After months of delays, near-misses and extensions, Congress approved a massive, \$100 billion-a-year farm bill in early February. Crucial for many South Dakota ranchers, the bill restored expired disaster programs that could provide relief after an early-season blizzard in October killed more than 20,000 cattle, sheep, horses and bison in South Dakota and parts of North Dakota and Nebraska. The bill includes dozens of other provisions that will guide farm policy until 2017, including locking in conservation policies and tying subsidies for farmers to compliance with conservation initiatives. The bill also gives more flexibility to the Forest Service when dealing with the health of forests and allows them to treat some areas before they are affected by pine beetles — a big issue in the Black Hills.

EXPEDITED RELEIF

The farm bill gave retroactive coverage to farmers and ranchers who took heavy losses in the October blizzard. But it didn't automatically mean the money would flow quickly. After a push from South Dakota lawmakers and President Barack Obama to get disaster relief programs up and running quickly a top priority, the Department of Agriculture was able to accept applications within 60 days of the farm bill's passage. Under the last farm bill, which was enacted in 2008, it took more than a year to restore expired programs and begin taking applications.

SMALL FARM SAFETY

Lawmakers pushed back aggressively when they thought the Obama administration was considering increasing its regulations on small farm operations. After fierce pushback, they received assurances in February that the Occupation Safety and Health Administration had no such plans. Since 1976, Congress has categorically forbidden OSHA from regulating small farms. But Department of Labor action in 2011 appeared to open the door to doing just that. The U.S. Department of Labor announced that it was withdrawing the memo to avoid any confusion and clarified that the memo was never meant to change longstanding policy.

WATER FIGHT

South Dakotans can continue to use Missouri River water free of charge after all. The Army Corps of Engineers had floated a proposal that would have levied a fee for use of water from the river and its reservoirs. But South Dakota lawmakers joined with others from neighboring states to push back against the proposal. When Congress approved a massive water projects bill in May, it included language that expressly forbids the Corps from any proposal that charges for river water for at least 10 years.

END OF AN ERA

Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson will return to Washington after the summer break and again after November's elections. But the man first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1986 has just about wrapped up his work in Congress. South Dakotans will elect a new senator in November — choosing between Republican Mike Rounds, a former governor, Democrat Rick Weiland, a businessman and former staffer for Sen. Tom Daschle, and independent candidate Larry Pressler, who served South

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Dakota in Congress as a Republican representative and senator. Johnson, who will finish his Senate term while serving as chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, announced in March 2013 that he wouldn't seek another term. Rounds is favored to win the seat.

SD mountain lion and bobcat seasons unchanged

FORT PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The upcoming South Dakota mountain lion hunting and bobcat hunting and trapping seasons will operate the same as they did last year.

Game, Fish and Parks commissioners left both seasons unchanged.

The Black Hills mountain lion hunting season begins Dec. 26 and ends March 31, with a harvest limit of 75 total lions or 50 female lions, whichever comes first. The statewide season runs year round with no harvest limits.

The bobcat trapping and hunting season also starts Dec. 26. It ends Feb. 15 for all West River counties and Jan. 18 for Buffalo, Brule, Charles Mix, Bon Homme and Yankton counties.

Board of Regents to adopt budget request

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Board of Regents will meet next week in Pierre for three days for its August meeting where the regents will adopt their budget request for the 2016 fiscal year.

The regents will begin their annual planning session at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the RedRossa Italian Grille. The business meeting will follow on Thursday morning.

The Legislature will review the budget request during its 2015 session and decide how much to allocate to the state's universities.

US attorneys holding human trafficking conference DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — The top federal prosecutors in the Dakotas say too few people are getting the message that human trafficking and related crimes often involve local victims and are happening in the two states.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson from South Dakota and U.S. Attorney Timothy Purdon from North Dakota are sponsoring a three-day conference next week with first responders, prosecutors and others in hopes of raising awareness of the issue and helping to identify victims. Among the features speakers in Elizabeth Smart-Gilmour, who was abducted and held for nine months as a child in 2002.

Johnson said many people believe that human trafficking originates overseas, but many cases involve homegrown victims. He noted that 20 people have been indicted by his office on such charges in the last four years, including three who received life sentences. Those included Brandon Thompson, who authorities say lured underage girls into prostitution with promises of money and security, then used threats of violence when they attempted to flee.

"So often people think of it as international human trafficking and people being shipped here from Bangkok," Johnson said. "The trafficking that we see in the Dakotas works different. ... The victims are our own kids. They come from our communities."

Purdon noted that 11 men who believed they were going to meet a 14-year-old girl for sex were arrested during a recent sting operation in Dickinson.

"That speaks to a level of demand for the trafficking of underage girls," Purdon said. "If you see that level of demand and don't think there's a supply out there to meet that demand, you're living in a dream world."

Also in North Dakota, Dustin Morsette was sentenced to 45 years in prison in a 2012 sex trafficking case. He was accused of recruiting minors and young adults to be part of a gang, and forcing members

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to engage in sex acts with him and others, and distribute drugs.

The conference will be held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, starting Tuesday. The opening day will focus on medical professionals talking about how to identify victims and how to talk to them, and working with hospitals, doctors and other medical providers. The seminar includes sessions on human trafficking in western North Dakota's oil patch and a group of truckers who are helping to fight the problem.

"This a real growing threat in the Dakotas," Purdon said. "Some people still don't believe that. There's still a lot of education that needs to be done with the public, and with law enforcement, and with prosecutors."

Man sentenced to 7 years in prison for assault

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man has been sentenced to seven years in prison on an assault charge.

Rigoberto Ortiz, of Mission, pleaded guilty in May to assault with a dangerous weapon. He was also charged with first degree burglary, use of firearm during a crime of violence, and possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance.

Authorities say the incident happened in December 2013. The 45-year-old Ortiz allegedly fired two shots into the door of a residence before forcing the door open. Authorities say he held a gun to one victim's neck and another victim's forehead.

Regents work to trim costs of university project KEVIN BURBACH

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The best way to get construction of an over-budget fine arts center moving forward at Northern State University is to hire a cost-saving construction manager and trim the project, a group of state regents decided Friday.

The building committee of the South Dakota Board of Regents approved an \$11.3 million budget in June to renovate the Johnson Fine Arts Center, with changes including new seating and acoustic improvements in the theatre, lobby improvements, a new black box theatre and new office spaces in which faculty can also teach their lessons. The regents recently found out the project came in \$4.5 million over budget. The architects have been able to trim that to \$2.8 million, and the regents met by teleconference Friday to figure out how to close the remaining gap.

After much discussion, the committee agreed to hire a construction manager at risk to shave an additional \$2.8 million off the project. A construction manager at risk means the regents can agree upon a guaranteed maximum price.

Jeff Nelson, of Sioux Falls-based Baldridge and Nelson Architects and Engineers, said he was confident a construction manager would help.

Northern State University President James Smith said the space is critical for classes and noted that school has already stripped two auditoriums of their seats to prepare for the remodeling.

The school has remodeled one auditorium to relieve space issues, but "there's an urgency — not only the school of fine arts for this facility to be done, but we have everything from beginning accounting to sociology to beginning psych that meet in those larger lecture halls and we really have to get those back on board and in use as soon as possible."

To reduce their budget, the architects cut the addition of a black box performance theater.

Smith said new traditional classrooms hadn't been built by the university in almost 40 years.

"We kind of have to get this right, not just for fine arts, but for the whole academic program at Northern," said Regent Terry Baloun. "We can't shrink this project down so that it doesn't give it what we need for the next 50 years."

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The full Board of Regents will meet next week in Pierre to discuss the operating budget for fiscal year 2016. The building committee has not set a date to meet to pick a construction manager.

Cool summer sets expectations for a record harvest DAVID PITT, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A mild summer across much of the nation's heartland has provided optimum growing conditions for the nation's corn and soybean crops. Pair that with high-yield seeds and other new farming technologies, and the U.S. is looking at busting records come harvest time.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture already has predicted a record soybean crop of 3.8 billion bushels. And the corn crop, it said in July, would be large but not bigger than last year's record of 13.9 billion bushels. However, many market analysts and some farmers expect the USDA to revise expectations upward in a report based on field surveys that's due out Tuesday.

"Conditions look just fantastic across most of the country," Texas A&M University grain marketing economist Mark Welch said.

In a typical growing season, at least some corn-growing states would have experienced drought or other production problems. But the 18 states that grow 91 percent of the nation's corn have experienced nearly ideal conditions this year, as adequate rain fell when plants emerged and cooler summer temperatures minimized heat stress.

That's the case in Illinois, one of the nation's top corn and soybean states.

"Illinois has largely been dealt to date pretty close to a royal flush on weather and I'm sure that the yields are going to be very high here," said Scott Irwin, a University of Illinois professor of agricultural and consumer economics.

The expected large harvest has driven corn and soybean prices significantly lower, but it isn't expected to make much of a short-time difference in consumer food prices. However, since the grains are staples in livestock feed, lower prices could eventually lead to a decline in the cost of beef, pork, chicken and milk.

"Eventually the economics will feed through but I wouldn't expect much relief in 2015 yet. It just takes time to go through the systems," Irwin said.

Weather doesn't deserve all the credit for the amount of grain farmers are getting from each acre this year.

Agriculture companies have developed genetic characteristics in seeds that allow plants to be packed more densely per acre and arm them with resistance to drought, disease, and pests. In addition, larger planters and tractors equipped with GPS programs can run at night if needed, helping farmers adjust planting when weather delays field work.

"When conditions are right we have the ability to get in and get that crop established so much more quickly than we could in the past ..." Welch said. "We're just creating an environment that when the weather cooperates we're capturing more of the potential and the possibilities genetically that are within that corn plant."

During the lifetime of the average U.S. farmer, who's 58, corn yields have more than tripled from a national average of 44 bushels per acre in the 1950s to nearly 150 bushels per acre in recent years.

Average corn yields set a record in 2009 with 164.7 bushels per acre. The USDA previously estimated 165.3 bushels per acre this year, and some analysts are speculating about exceeding 170 bushels per acre.

The record soybean yield also came in 2009, an average of 44 bushels per acre for a 3.36 billion-bushel harvest. The USDA expects a national average of 45.2 bushels per acre and a crop of 3.8 billion

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bushels this fall.

Wayne Humphries, who farms about 1,000 acres in southeast Iowa, recently attended a National Corn Growers conference in Washington. What's unusual about this year, he learned, is that farmers who irrigate dry areas of Nebraska and Texas didn't turn on the water until late last month — weeks later than normal.

"People were there from all over in corn-producing states and they said it just looks really good," he said.

The downside of a bumper crop is depressed prices for the farmers' haul, meaning they could break even or lose money.

The price for corn scheduled for December delivery, widely considered a benchmark, was \$3.66 per bushel Friday. That's at least 50 cents a bushel below what most farmers spent on seed, fertilizer, pest-and weed-control chemicals and fuel. Some farmers will store grain and sell when prices improve, while others may use a portion of their federal crop insurance that kicks in when prices fall below certain thresholds.

Use of stun gun on 8-year-old girl prompts lawsuit

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A mother is suing the city of Pierre, it's former police chief and members of its police department, saying an officer used excessive force and violated her 8-year-old daughter's rights when he shot her in the chest with a stun gun.

Dawn Stenstrom is seeking unspecified damages in the suit filed in federal court in late July.

Authorities say the officer shot the girl with the stun gun from 5 to 6 feet away because she was suicidal and brandished a knife.

"The force of the electricity shot through her body, lifted her and threw her against the wall," the lawsuit says.

The state Division of Criminal Investigation later concluded that the officer was justified in using his Taser on the girl because it was the safest method to defuse the situation.

Dana Hanna, an attorney for Stenstrom, told the Rapid City Journal that the girl suffered physical, psychological and emotional injuries.

"There is no excuse for cops to use a Taser on an eight-year-old child," Hanna said.

Attorney Rob Anderson, who is representing the defendants in the lawsuit, told The Associated Press on Friday that he does not comment on pending litigation.

The mother and child now live on the Rosebud Indian Reservation, according to Hanna.

Presentation College launching Winter Dome project

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Presentation College is preparing to begin construction on a \$2.4 million inflatable dome to cover and expand an athletic practice field.

The school's Board of Trustees approved the project Wednesday. Construction is to start by the end of next week, with an estimated completion date of mid-November.

The Winter Dome will provide an additional 108,000 square feet of space for intramurals, team practices and other college events during the winter months. The Dome will go up in November and come down in May

AP News in Brief

After first airstrikes, US drops new aid to thousands of Iraqis fleeing militant advance

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IRBIL, Iraq (AP) — The U.S. launched a new airdrop Saturday to aid thousands of members of an Iraqi minority group who fled the advance of the Islamic State group, trying to stem a worsening humanitarian crisis in a country reeling from the extremist offensive.

The extremists have captured hundreds of women from the Yazidi religious minority, according to an Iraqi official, while thousands of other civilians fled in fear.

Many of America's allies backed the U.S. intervention, pledging urgent steps to assist the legions of refugees and displaced people. Those in jeopardy included thousands of members of the Yazidi whose plight — trapped on a mountaintop by the militants — prompted the U.S. to airdrop crates of food and water to them.

Yazidis belong to ancient religion seen by the Islamic State group as heretical. The group also sees Shiite Muslims as apostates, and has demanded Christians either convert to Islam or pay a special tax. American planes conducted a second airdrop of food and water early Saturday for those trapped in the Sinjar mountains, said Pentagon chief spokesman Rear Adm. John Kirby. Escorted by two Navy fighter jets, three planes dropped 72 bundles of supplies for the refugees, including more than 28,000 meals and more than 1,500 gallons of water, said Kirby, who spoke from New Delhi during a trip with U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel.

Kurdish fighters, routed by better-armed extremists, may get US weapons after years of pleas

WASHINGTON (AP) — For years, Kurdish officials have beseeched the Obama administration to let them buy U.S. weapons. And for just as long, the administration has rebuffed the Kurds, America's closest allies in Iraq.

U.S. officials insisted they could only sell arms to the government in Baghdad, even after Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki broke a written promise to deliver some of them to the Kurds, whose peaceful, semi-autonomous northern region had been the lone success story to come out of the 2003 U.S. invasion.

Now, the administration is confronting the consequences of that policy. The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, which some American officials have dubbed "a terrorist army," overpowered lightly armed Kurdish units in a blitzkrieg that has threatened the Kurdish region and the American personnel stationed there.

In June, the Pentagon dispatched 300 military advisers to Iraq. Dozens of them are operating out of Irbil, the capital of the Kurdish region, which is now under threat from the Islamic State.

In a bitter irony, the extremists used American armored vehicles and weapons they had seized from the hapless Iraqi military to defeat Kurdish fighters who were blocked from acquiring just such equipment, U.S. and Kurdish officials said.

Israeli airstrikes hit Gaza as rockets fired toward Israel after truce in war collapses

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli airstrikes struck more than 20 targets Saturday in the Gaza Strip and killed a senior Hamas member, as militant rocket fire continued following the collapse of a three-day truce aimed at ending the war between Israel and Hamas.

Hamas officials said Israel airstrikes hit houses, mosques, its warehouses and training sites. Three bodies were found under the ruins of the al-Qassam mosque in Gaza, including that of senior Hamas official Moaaz Zaid, said Palestinian health official Ashraf al-Kidra.

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The Israeli military said militants in Gaza fired five rockets Saturday toward Israel, for a total of 70 since the truce expired. In response, Israel has targeted more than 30 sites in Gaza since Friday, it said.

The Islamic militants resumed their rocket attacks Friday shortly before the 72-hour truce expired, injuring two Israelis and drawing a wave of retaliatory airstrikes. The fighting shattered a brief calm in the monthlong war and dealt a blow to Egyptian-led efforts to secure a long-term cease-fire between the bitter enemies.

More than 1,900 Gazans have been killed in the war, roughly three-quarters of them civilians, according to Palestinian and United Nations officials. Israel disputes that breakdown, saying more militants have been killed. Sixty-seven people have been killed on the Israeli side, including three civilians from rocket fire.

Dems battle for Hawaii governor and Senate in primary; incumbents face strong challenges

HONOLULU (AP) — As the final days of campaigning drew to a close in Hawaii's dramatic primary races, a pair of hurricanes thrashed toward the islands.

The storms posed considerable risk, but for Gov. Neil Abercrombie, they also represented an opportunity to cast himself as a steady leader with a strong emotional connection to people in the state.

He hugged military response personnel, emphasized his national network of contacts and, even as forecasters predicted the storms would weaken and veer away, Abercrombie reminded everyone to remain vigilant. "The full brunt of the storm is still to come," he said Friday morning.

Whether this final image will be decisive for voters casting ballots Saturday remains to be seen. The incumbent governor faces a surprisingly strong challenge from a fellow Democrat and early voting was heavily encouraged.

It's not the only race splitting the Democratic Party establishment. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa is challenging U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz to determine who will fill the shoes of the beloved Sen. Daniel Inouye.

Hagel says the US and India must seize opportunities for defense cooperation, avoid red tape

NEW DELHI (AP) — The United States and India must seize opportunities to collaborate more on defense development and not let government red tape and other problems stymie progress between the two nations, U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Saturday.

Capping two days of meetings here, Hagel's speech to New Delhi business leaders and scholars reflected the hopes and frustrations of America's struggles to forge weapons development agreements with India.

Hagel leaves India with few concrete agreements, acknowledging the two countries — the world's oldest democracy and the world's largest — must be "results oriented" and do more to "transform our nations' defense cooperation from simply buying and selling to co-production, co-development, and freer exchange of technology."

In meetings with top Indian government leaders he pressed for broader coordination in new weapons production, including a pilot plan for the two nations to jointly develop a next-generation anti-tank missile. The U.S. is hoping to partner with India as it modernizes its military, but Indian leaders are more interested in co-development opportunities than in simply buying American-made weapons.

"For both our nations, the challenge is to seize the opportunities, those opportunities that are before

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us today," Hagel said in remarks to the Observer Research Foundation, a New Delhi think tank. "Bureaucratic red tape — within either of our governments — must not bound the limits of our partnership and initiatives."

Hailed as anti-AIDS example, Brazil's increase in HIV infections shows prevention flaws

SAO PAULO (AP) — The devastating news didn't make sense to Brazilian Pierre Freitaz. How was it possible that, at age 17, he was infected with HIV if his only boyfriend seemed fit and healthy?

Freitaz confesses he knew little about the virus when he was diagnosed in 2004. He didn't understand the difference between the infection and the disease it caused: AIDS. He was confused by the lack of obvious symptoms.

"It's like I was living in a different part of the world, and I felt immune."

While Brazil has long been seen as a global model in the fight against AIDS, activists and officials say more and more youths share Freitaz's unawareness of HIV risks, or are unconcerned about them. Even as HIV infection rates have begun declining in many other places, cases have been slowly rising in Brazil — with the sharpest jump among youths 15 to 24.

"The numbers are going up. It's a paradox, a shame. After all the money spent on treatment and implementing a policy for everyone to receive it, we have these disastrous results," said Dr. Caio Rosenthal, a Sao Paulo-based specialist at the Emilio Ribas Institute of Infectious Diseases.

Erdogan victory could shift Turkish president's role from figurehead to more powerful rule

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the front-runner in Turkey's first direct presidential election on Sunday, says that if elected he will be an active head of state who "sweats, runs and rushes around" — not just a ceremonial figurehead as presidents have been in the past.

It's the kind of talk that leaves detractors, already alarmed at how much power Erdogan has concentrated in his hands, in a cold sweat.

Until now, Turkey's presidents have played a largely symbolic role although they can call general elections, approve or reject laws passed by Parliament and appoint prime ministers, the Council of Ministers and some high court judges.

The position also has some dormant powers, including the power to call Parliament, summon Cabinet meetings and preside over them. Those powers are a legacy of Turkey's 1980 military coup and have seldom been used.

Erdogan, who has dominated Turkish politics for more than a decade, says he intends to use these constitutional prerogatives to the full, effectively shaping the presidency into a more powerful position. He is widely expected to appoint an amenable prime minister, which would allow him to continue to rule Turkey pretty much in the same way as he did while premier.

Spiral-bound history: Rare Cambodia diary offers haunting account of life under Khmer Rouge

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — It was an extraordinary act of defiance, and it was extraordinarily risky. But all he did was take out a pen, and write.

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Nearly 40 years ago, hunched on the floor of the wood-and-leaf hut he was forced to live in away from his children, Cambodian school inspector Poch Younly kept a secret diary vividly recounting the horrors of life under the Khmer Rouge, the radical communist regime whose extreme experiment in social engineering took the lives of 1.7 million Cambodians from overwork, medical neglect, starvation and execution.

Acutely aware that he could be killed if discovered, Younly hid the diary inside a clay vase. In those dark days, when religion and schools were banned and anyone deemed educated was a threat, he had no right to own so much as a pen and paper.

"Why is it that I have to die here like a cat or a dog ... without any reason, without any meaning?" he wrote in the spiral-bound notebook's last pages.

Four decades later, that question still haunts Cambodia.

World War I and the arts: Carnage, tragedy produced new art conveyed in a jarring, new way

NEW YORK (AP) — In the summer of 1914, with the war in Europe just two weeks old, Henry James knew that something had been lost forever.

"Black and hideous to me is the tragedy that gathers, and I'm sick beyond cure to have lived on to see it," the American author, an expatriate in London at the time, wrote to a friend. "You and I, the ornaments of our generation, should have been spared this wreck of our belief that through the long years we had seen civilization grow and the worst become impossible. ... It seems to me to undo everything, everything that was ours, in the most horrible retroactive way."

James died in 1916, two years before the armistice was declared between the allies and the Germans, and the wreckage of World War I was beyond even his imagination. Millions were dead, empires dissolved, centuries-old beliefs upended. Many survivors wondered how the world had been caught up in a war fought not for any identifiable cause, but because no one knew how to stop it.

Prolonged conflicts destroy the worlds they were born in, and few did so as thoroughly and as terribly as World War I, which began 100 years ago this month. Among writers, World War I changed both the stories they told and how they told them. Artists in general left behind an extraordinary legacy of painting, music, literature and film and many of the defining achievements of a movement, Modernism, that challenged our very identities and raised questions still being asked today.

"If you look at the 19th century, you have this whole notion of progress through technology — the notion of science, the increasing organization of society," says Jan Schall, an art historian and curator of modern and contemporary art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Mo.

What to know about landmark NCAA ruling in O'Bannon case

A federal judge has ruled that some college athletes can receive payments when they leave school for the rights to their names, images and likenesses, opening the door for them to get a fraction of the billions of dollars generated by collegiate athletics. The decision comes after a lawsuit launched by former UCLA basketball star Ed O'Bannon, who was upset because his image was used in a video game, but he wasn't paid.

What does this ruling mean?

It opens the door for football and men's basketball players to get money once they leave school. But they likely won't be in for huge windfalls, at least the way U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken envisions it. She said the NCAA can cap payments made to players for their names, images and likenesses, as

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long as that cap isn't less than \$5,000 a year. That would mean players on a roster for four years could potentially expect some \$20,000 when they leave school.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, August 9, the 221st day of 2013. There are 144 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 9, 1974, Vice President Gerald R. Ford became the nation's 38th chief executive as President Richard Nixon's resignation took effect.

On this date:

In 1814, the Treaty of Fort Jackson, which ended the Creek War, was signed in Alabama.

In 1842, the United States and Canada resolved a border dispute by signing the Webster-Ashburton Treaty.

In 1854, Henry David Thoreau's "Walden," which described Thoreau's experiences while living near Walden Pond in Massachusetts, was first published.

In 1902, Edward VII was crowned king of Britain following the death of his mother, Queen Victoria.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order nationalizing silver.

In 1936, Jesse Owens won his fourth gold medal at the Berlin Olympics as the United States took first place in the 400-meter relay.

In 1944, 258 African-American sailors based at Port Chicago, California, refused to load a munitions ship following a cargo vessel explosion that killed 320 men, many of them black. (Fifty of the sailors were convicted of mutiny, fined and imprisoned.)

In 1945, three days after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, the United States exploded a nuclear device over Nagasaki, killing an estimated 74,000 people.

In 1969, actress Sharon Tate and four other people were found brutally slain at Tate's Los Angeles home; cult leader Charles Manson and a group of his followers were later convicted of the crime.

In 1982, a federal judge in Washington ordered John W. Hinckley Jr., who'd been acquitted of shooting President Ronald Reagan and three others by reason of insanity, committed to a mental hospital.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan nominated Lauro Cavazos (kah-VAH'-zohs) to be secretary of education; Cavazos became the first Hispanic to serve in the Cabinet.

In 1995, Jerry Garcia, lead singer of the Grateful Dead, died in Forest Knolls, California, of a heart attack at age 53.

Ten years ago: Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Terry Nichols, addressing a court for the first time, asked victims of the blast for forgiveness as a judge sentenced him to 161 consecutive life sentences. A corroded cooling pipe burst at a Japanese nuclear power plant, killing five workers. Oscarnominated movie and TV composer David Raksin died in Van Nuys, California, at age 92.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama flew to Guadalajara, Mexico, for a two-day speed summit with Mexican President Felipe Calderon (fay-LEE'-pay kahl-duh-ROHN') and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Iraqi authorities arrested British contractor Danny Fitzsimons in the shooting deaths of two co-workers in Baghdad's protected Green Zone. (Fitzsimons was convicted by an Iraqi court in 2011 and sentenced to 20 years in prison.) Jennifer Song became the second woman to win two U.S. Golf Association championships in the same year, beating Jennifer Johnson 3 and 1 in the U.S. Women's Amateur final. (The 19-year-old Song had won the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links in June 2009.)

One year ago: President Barack Obama promised to work with Congress on "appropriate reforms"

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for the domestic surveillance programs that stirred criticism at home and abroad. President Obama signed into law a measure restoring lower interest rates for student loans. Infamous drug lord Rafael Caro Quintero walked free after 28 years in prison when a Mexican court overturned his 40-year sentence for the 1985 kidnap and killing of U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency agent Enrique Camarena.

Today's Birthdays: Basketball Hall of Famer Bob Cousy is 86. Actress Cynthia Harris is 80. Tennis Hall of Famer Rod Laver is 76. Jazz musician Jack DeJohnette is 72. Comedian-director David Steinberg is 72. Actor Sam Elliott is 70. Singer Barbara Mason is 67. Former MLB All-Star pitcher Bill Campbell is 66. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player John Cappelletti is 62. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Doug Williams is 59. Actress Melanie Griffith is 57. Actress Amanda Bearse is 56. Rapper Kurtis Blow is 55. Hockey Hall of Famer Brett Hull is 50. TV host Hoda Kotb (HOH'-duh KAHT'-bee) is 50. Actor Pat Petersen is 48. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Deion Sanders is 47. Actress Gillian Anderson is 46. Actor Eric Bana is 46. Producer-director McG (aka Joseph McGinty Nichol) is 46. NHL player-turned-assistant coach Rod Brind'Amour is 44. TV anchor Chris Cuomo is 44. Actor Thomas Lennon is 44. Rock musician Arion Salazar is 44. Rapper Mack 10 is 43. Actress Nikki Schieler Ziering is 43. Latin rock singer Juanes is 42. Actress Liz Vassey is 42. Actor Kevin McKidd is 41. Actress Rhona Mitra (ROH'-nuh MEE'-truh) is 39. Actor Texas Battle is 38. Actress Jessica Capshaw is 38. Actress Ashley Johnson is 31. Actress Anna Kendrick is 29.

Thought for Today: "Hope is a waking dream." — Aristotle, Greek philosopher (384 B.C.-322 B.C.).