

Groton Daily Independent

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Thursday, Aug. 14

HS Football Practice Starts
HS Volleyball Practice Starts

Senior Menu: Meatloaf, Baked Potato/S.Cream,
Creamed Peas, Fruited Jello, Whole Wheat Bread

Birthdays: Doug Bahr • Tammy Voss • Jean
Peterson • Annette Helm

6:00pm: Groton Lions Club meeting at Lisa Harry's

Friday, Aug. 15

Senior Menu: Lemon Baked Fish, Rice Pilaf,
California Blend Veggies, Peach Crisp, Whole Wheat
Bread

Anniv: Craig & Jodi Sternhagen • Wayne & Mar-
sha Wienk

Birthdays: Mary Flihs • Margie Washnok • Becky
Morris • Elizabeth Gustafson • Nichol Townsend

6:30am: Christian Missionary & Alliance Men's
Bible Study at Dairy Queen

Saturday, Aug. 16

Birthdays: • Jim Jones • Nate Gellhaus • Rose
Tewksbury • Jennie Doeden • Merle Harder • Marc
Rossow

10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Pastor at Rose-
wood Court

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
Mass



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.

**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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Slide arrives in pieces



It took two days to disassemble, load and transport the water slide from Huron to Groton as the trucks arrived in Groton yesterday afternoon.

Top photo features Councilman Michelle Muilenberg talking with Ward Gilchrist from the city and Dennis Johnson from Johnson Trucking of Clark.

The middle photo features the slide pieces from the truck all laid out in the pool parking lot.



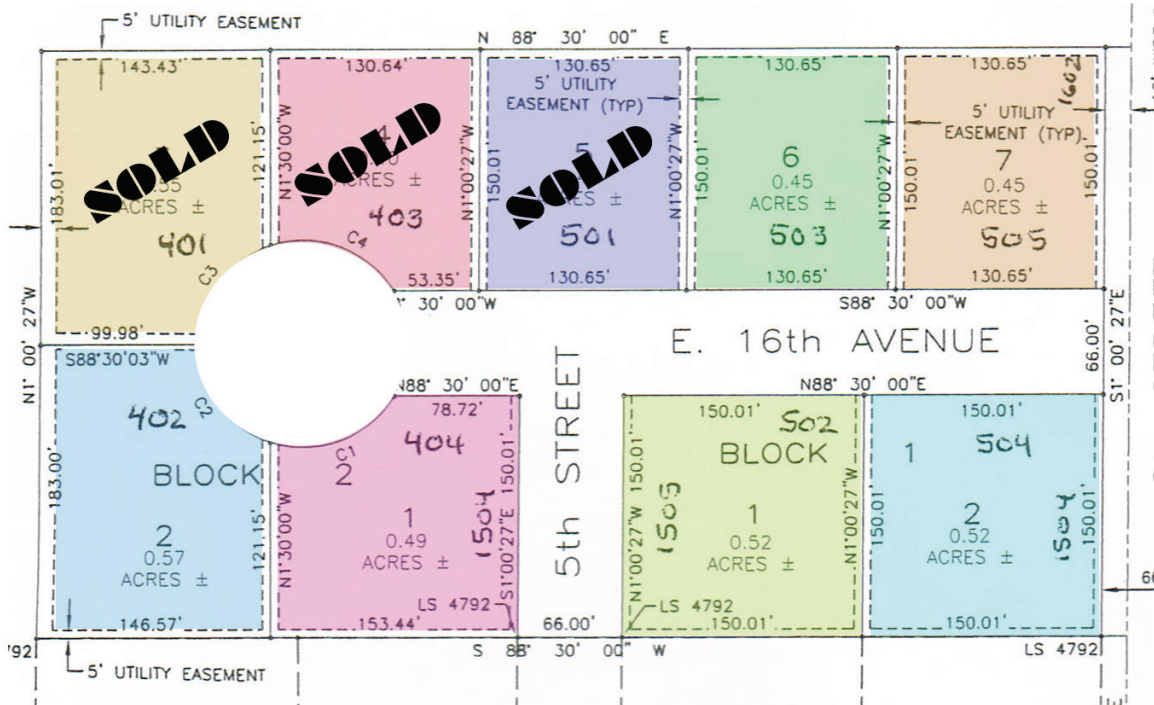
The bottom photo features the rest of the slide nestled in west of the city warehouse.

Shawn Lambertz, David McGannon, Dwight Zerr, Mayor Scott Hanlon and Joe Foertsch all helped with the disassemble of the slide in Huron.



Achieving the Dream

**Lots for Sale
in a
family
oriented
neighborhood**



Olson Development - North Groton ~ 605/397-8262

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Today in Weather History

1898: A deadly, estimated F4 tornado moved southeast from 12 miles northwest of Clear Lake, passing 7 miles north of town and ending about 4 miles west of Gary. Deaths occurred on two farms. One man was killed when the kitchen of his farm house was torn off. Five members of one family were killed along with two labors on another farm as every building was swept away. Buildings suffered heavy damage on eight farms. This was one of the earliest, estimated F4 tornadoes on record for South Dakota.

2008: Several severe thunderstorms developed along a cold front across parts of central and north-east South Dakota. Large hail, some flash flooding, and a couple of weak tornadoes occurred with these storms. An EF0 tornado touched down briefly at the Brown County fairgrounds, blowing over several tents and awnings. Another EF0 tornado touched down briefly in an open field causing no damage north of Stephan in Hyde County.

2009: A warm front brought severe thunderstorms with large hail up to the size of golf balls along with sixty mph winds to parts of north central and northeast South Dakota. In addition, very heavy rain fell across western Brown County with 2 to 4 inches of rain reported. This heavy rain brought flash flooding conditions. Numerous county roads and area fields were overrun with flowing water. The water level on Richmond Lake rose nearly a foot a day after the event from high inflows. This rapid rise in the lake level resulted in numerous boat and fishing docks being submerged. Several boats were also trapped under lift canopies due to the high water. There were reports of several boats breaking free of their mooring and floating toward the spillway.

1968: Relatively few tornadoes occur in Utah, but on this day an F2 struck West Weber, destroying a house and carrying its roof 220 feet.

1971: Australia's deadliest tornado killed three people at Kin Kin in Queensland.

2004: A large amount of hail flowed into a dry wash near Clayton, NM and piled up to a height of 15 feet. Some of the ice was still there a month later.

1936 - Temperatures across much of eastern Kansas soared above 110 degrees. Kansas City MO hit an all-time record high of 113 degrees. It was one of sixteen consecutive days of 100 degree heat for

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



403 E. 15th Ave.

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

**JOHNSON
AGENCY**

Jay Johnson, Broker

www.johnsonagencygroton.com

102 N Main, Groton

Office: 605/397-2424

Home: 605/397-8565



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Kansas City. During that summer there were a record 53 days of 100 degree heat, and during the three summer months Kansas City received just 1.12 inches of rain. (The Kansas City Weather Almanac)

1987 - Slow moving thunderstorms deluged northern and western suburbs of Chicago IL with torrential rains. O'Hare Airport reported 9.35 inches in 18 hours, easily exceeding the previous 24 hour record of 6.24 inches. Flooding over a five day period resulted in 221 million dollars damage. It was Chicago's worst flash flood event, particularly for northern and western sections of the city. Kennedy Expressway became a footpath for thousands of travelers to O'Hare Airport as roads were closed. The heavy rains swelled the Des Plaines River above flood stage, and many persons had to be rescued from stalled vehicles on flooded roads. (13th- 14th) (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data) (The Weather Channel)

1988 - Eighteen cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, and the water temperature at Lake Erie reached a record 80 degrees. Portland ME reported a record fourteen straight days of 80 degree weather. Milwaukee WI reported a record 34 days of 90 degree heat for the year. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms resulted in about fifty reports of severe weather in the northeastern U.S. One person was killed at Stockbridge MI when a tornado knocked a tree onto their camper. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Afternoon thunderstorms in Illinois soaked the town of Battendorf with 2.10 inches of rain in thirty minutes. Evening thunderstorms in Montana produced wind gusts to 66 mph at Hobson. (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.



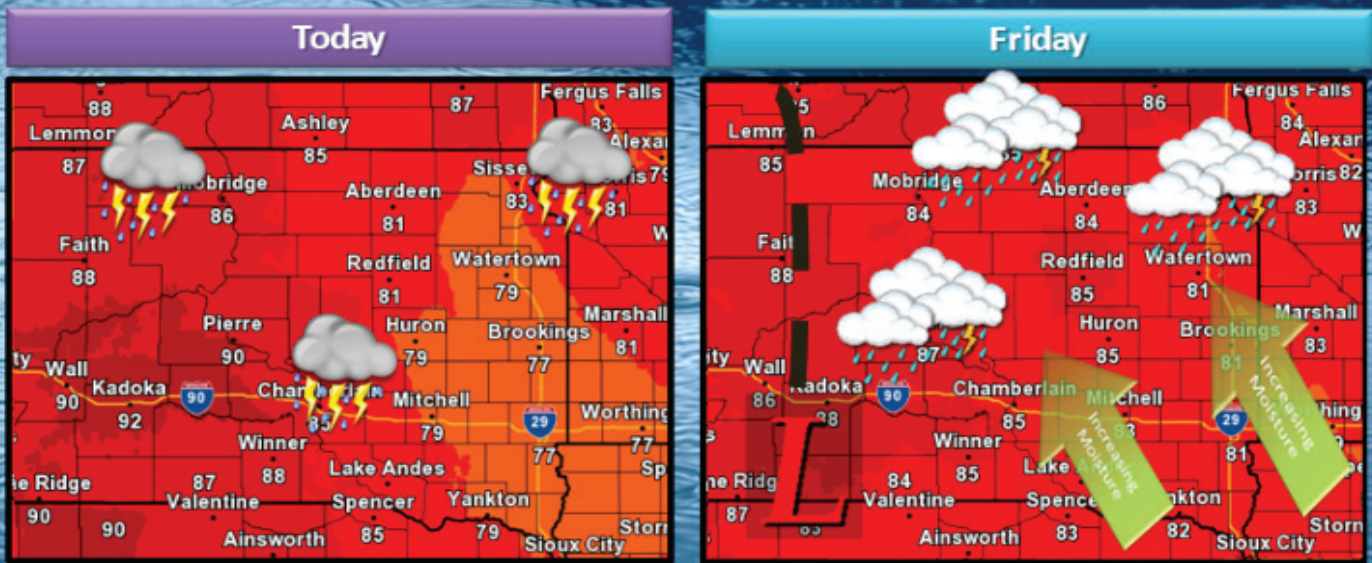
Come 'n' Get It!
Friday is Taco Bar and Soup Night
Andover Bar & Grill Serving 5-9 p.m.
120 S Main St. • 298-5252

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TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY
						
Sunny High: 84 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 60 °F	Slight Chc Thunderstorms High: 84 °F	Slight Chc Thunderstorms Low: 63 °F	Chance Thunderstorms High: 85 °F	Chance Thunderstorms Low: 66 °F	Slight Chc Thunderstorms High: 86 °F


Heavy Rain Possible Friday



 Issued: August 14, 2014
weather.gov/Aberdeen

 National Weather Service Aberdeen

 @NWSAberdeen

Saturday	Highs: 80° to 90°	
Sunday	Highs: 80° to 85°	
Monday	Highs: 80° to 90°	

Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected across the region today. Brief heavy rain is possible with any storms. A more significant low pressure system will move into the region on Friday. This system will bring more widespread rain chances to the area. Storms that do develop Friday will be very slow moving, and persistent heavy rain is a major concern.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 85.5°F at 5:16 PM

Low: 56.2°F at 6:44 AM

High Gust: 17 mph 4:10 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 104° in 1952, 1935

Record Low: 38° in 1968

Average High: 83°F

Average Low: 57°F

Average Precip in Aug.: 1.02

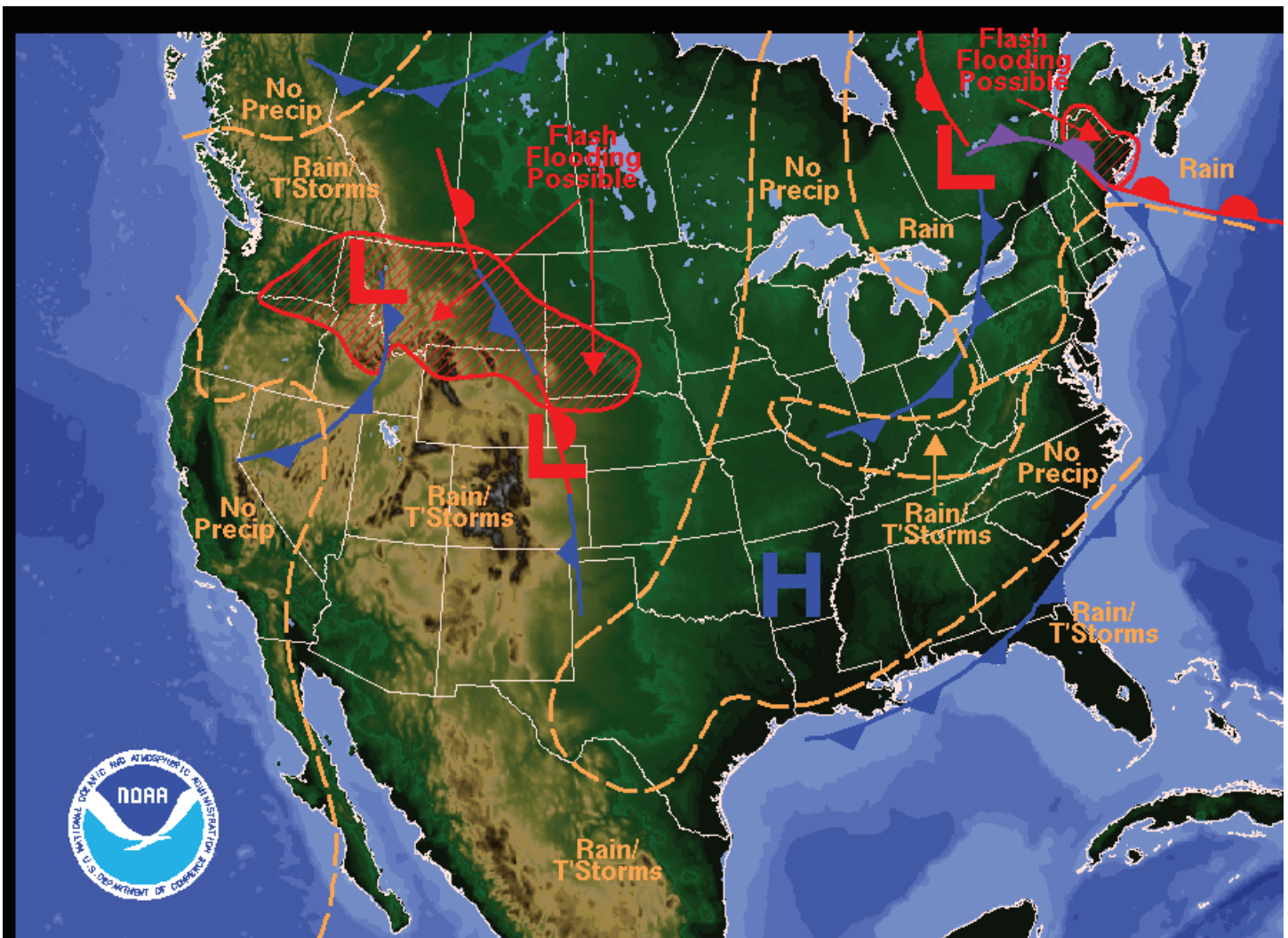
Precip to date in Aug.: 0.79

Average Precip to date: 14.88

Precip Year to Date: 9.77

Sunset Tonight: 8:43 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:35 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Aug 14, 2014, issued 2:54 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mc Reynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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"GOD IS NOW HERE!"

A professor of biology, who was an atheist, wrote on the dry erase board, "God is no where!" A student raised his hand and asked, "Sir, may I try something?"

"Of course," said the professor.

Walking to the front of the class he moved the "w" from "where" to the end of the word "no" and the sentence read, "God is now here!"

Wherever anyone is, God is! There is no place, nor can there be any place, where He is not. He is the Creator, Sustainer and Governor of the universe.

There are approximately seven billion people on our planet occupying seven billion different places. Each of them could, if they would, say with equal certainty, "God is now here." No one is closer to or further from God at any time in any place. Again, wherever anyone is, God is.

Do you remember the story of Jonah? God had a plan for him. It was to travel east - to Nineveh. But Jonah had his own plan and he decided to go west - to Tarshish. He crossed half of the world trying to get away from God and when he got there he found God waiting for him.

There was a king who made the same discovery. He said, "If I go up to the heavens, You are there. If I make my bed in the depths, You are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast."

We may be above the clouds in an aircraft or on the floor of the ocean in a submarine, He will be there waiting.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for Your presence in our lives knowing that "You will never leave us." Never! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 139:8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

Upper Missouri River basin runoff remains high

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Runoff continues to be above normal in the upper Missouri River basin, but it isn't leading to any flooding concerns.

The Army Corps of Engineers says runoff above Sioux City, Iowa, in July was 33 percent above normal. Water management chief Jody Farhat says July precipitation in the region was below normal but high runoff persists in some areas because of heavy rains in June.

The reservoir system still has three-fourths of its flood storage capacity available. Farhat says water in flood control zones will be released during the rest of the year to serve water supply needs and downstream navigation. The corps earlier announced a full-service eight-month navigation season downstream.

Sioux Falls casino robbed at gunpoint by 2 males

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police in Sioux Falls are investigating the armed robbery of a casino.

Authorities say two males with their faces covered entered a Crown Casino armed with handguns shortly before 11:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The suspects demanded money and fled on foot with an undetermined amount of cash.

Noem hosting VA committee hearing in Hot Springs

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's U.S. representative is hosting a House Veterans Affairs Committee hearing on the issues faced by the VA hospital in Hot Springs.

U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem says the hearing in Hot Springs on Thursday will examine the VA's proposed restructuring of its Black Hills Health Care System.

The VA has served veterans in Hot Springs for more than a century but now wants to move some services to Rapid City. The Hot Springs VA hospital is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and would be shuttered. An outpatient clinic would be opened.

South Dakota's congressional delegation opposes the plan.

Attendees at the hearing will include U.S. House VA Committee Chairman Jeff Miller and Larry Zimmerman, the state's secretary of veterans affairs.

Health coverage of about 300 in SD in jeopardy

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — About 300 South Dakota residents who bought insurance through the Affordable Care Act marketplace could lose their coverage if they don't submit citizenship and immigration documents to confirm their eligibility.

Consumers have until Sept. 5 to provide the paperwork or their coverage will be canceled on Sept. 30.

People living in the country illegally aren't allowed to get coverage. The federal government this week sent letters to those who still haven't submitted their documents to warn them of the deadlines.

Officials say the letters tell consumers that they can upload their documents to www.HealthCare.gov or mail them in.

Nationwide, letters were sent to more than 310,000 people whose citizenship or immigration details don't match what the government has on file. Officials say most people haven't responded to previous

outreach efforts.

ND working on resources for trafficking survivors

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in North Dakota are starting to build a network of resources to make available for victims of human trafficking and sexual assault in the Bakken oil fields.

North Dakota's U.S. Attorney Timothy Purdon on Wednesday explained the situation in his state's oil country during the second day of a conference in Sioux Falls meant to raise awareness of the incidence and prevention of those crimes in the Dakotas.

While the Bakken's oil boom has gifted North Dakota with prosperity and population growth in recent years, it has also led to prostitution and human trafficking.

"There's no question that more people equals more crime," Purdon said.

Purdon said that although his office is not responsible for providing long-term services to victims of these crimes, it is trying to lead the way in bringing together social services agencies and organizations in hopes of building an infrastructure that can help survivors.

The founder of Survivor Services in Williston, Windie Lazenko, who was part of a panel discussion on Wednesday, has called for the establishment of a shelter for victims of human trafficking. Victims nowadays can be housed in domestic violence shelters, but these facilities are already strained by an increase in domestic violence that has also come with the population growth in North Dakota's north-west corner.

The increase in crimes is not limited to Williston. Purdon told the audience that 11 men who believed they were going to meet a 14-year-old girl for sex were arrested during a sting operation in Dickinson in November. The operation was meant to last four days but had to be halted two days in because of a lack of space to hold any additional men.

Assistant U.S. Attorney in North Dakota Gary Delorme said those men offered cash and one even a video game console in exchange for having sex with the girl. Delorme, who was present during the sting, said only one man contacted law enforcement to report the trafficker that was being played by an agent.

The audience on Wednesday also heard from Elizabeth Smart-Gilmour, who was kidnapped from her Utah bedroom at 14 and held captive for nine months. Smart, now 26, described how she was captured, repeatedly sexually assaulted, moved from Utah and California and threatened by her captors.

The event is being hosted by Purdon's office and U.S. Attorney General Brendan Johnson from North Dakota. It's sponsored by Avera Health and will run through Thursday.

Regents talk keeping students, boosting grad rates

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The governing body of South Dakota's six public universities is looking into ways it can increase the number of degrees it awards, retain more students and make its tuition rates more competitive in the region.

The South Dakota Board of Regents met Tuesday in Pierre for its annual planning session, discussing potential goals they want the higher education system to meet in the next six years in addition to its annual legislative budget request and other issues facing the higher education system.

Jack Warner, the executive director of the board, presented it with proposed goals for the state's uni-

versity system to meet that he and others have been working on for more than year.

The strategic plan calls for increasing the number of undergraduate degrees awarded each year from 4,800 to more than 5,600. It also says the system should award almost 300 more graduate degrees more than the 1,550 it gave out in 2014.

The college-age population in South Dakota is not expected to grow rapidly over the next several years, so Warner said meeting goals for more degrees will have to come from within.

"Most of this growth is going to have to come from doing a better job with the students we have," he said. "Improving retention rates, improving graduation rates and moving more students successfully through the system."

Under the proposed plan, the system would aim to retain 83 percent of students after their first year. Currently, the university retains 77 percent of first-year students for at least a second year.

About 24 percent of students graduate in four years and almost 52 percent graduate in six years. The goal under the strategic plan would be to get those rates to 27 percent and 54 percent, respectively.

The regents were generally receptive of the proposed goals, but wanted some time to review them.

"I don't want us to get signed up for stuff that is just totally beyond our control," said Regent Harvey Jewett, the representative from Aberdeen.

If approved, the plan would also set a goal for the university system to become the fourth-best in terms of tuition and fees in the region, it would call for increasing degrees awarded to Native American students to 220 from the current 130 and it would increase the total spending on grant and contract research to \$150 million from \$97 million.

Ultimately, the regents voted to push deciding on their 2020 plan until at least their October meeting to give the board time to digest the goals.

The regents also discussed the details of their 2014 budget request Wednesday, which they will prioritize and approve on Thursday before sending it along to the governor's office.

Police investigating death of Rapid City woman

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities are investigating the death of 18-year-old Rapid City woman.

Rapid City police say they were called to a residence at 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, where Erika Weisz was found unresponsive. She was taken to a hospital, where she later died.

A 19-year-old Rapid City man told police he accidentally ran over Weisz with his pickup. Preliminary autopsy results show that Weisz sustained injuries consistent with being run over by a vehicle. Full autopsy results will take several weeks.

Police say alcohol was not involved in the incident. No arrests have been made.

Dakota State University president resigns

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — David Borofsky, president of Dakota State University for the past 2½ years, resigned unexpectedly Wednesday, citing the need for an immediate change in leadership at the Madison university.

The South Dakota Board of Regents announced and accepted Borofsky's resignation Wednesday at the board's annual planning meeting. Borofsky was not at the meeting, but in a phone interview with The Associated Press said it was his decision to step down.

Borofsky will be replaced by Marysz Rames as interim while the regents search for a new leader. Rames will leave her position as the vice president for student affairs at South Dakota State University and

is expected to be working full-time in Madison by the middle of September.

Borofsky said the time was right for new leadership after the school had replaced many administrators since he took office. Two of three vice presidents and three of four college deans are new since he started in January 2012, he said. The school's athletic director is also new. Not all of the changes have been "met with joy and happiness," he said.

"For us to go to the next level, there needs to be some healing," he said.

Jack Warner, the executive director of the Board of Regents, said some of Borofsky's recent decisions had bothered students and got to be "pretty controversial." He cited a decision by the president to move a dean and assistant dean back to teaching positions.

"He made a number of changes; not everyone agreed with those. So, there were voices of discontent with some recent decisions and I think those led him to conclude that probably the best leadership for the institution going forward was someone else," Warner said.

University presidents often announce their resignation months in advance to give the governing bodies time to find an interim or replacement president. Borofsky said Dakota State University needed to make changes immediately.

"I don't think we have that kind of time," he said. He said he was not asked to resign.

Rames said she wasn't aware of the specifics of Borofsky's decisions and couldn't comment on any dissatisfaction with the former president. She said she's going to focus on building upon the university's academic success.

"(The regents) have the confidence in me to provide leadership to the campus and Dakota State University is a great university," she said. "I'm excited to get over there and work with the faculty, staff and students."

Although Barofsky's departure was sudden — the Board of Regents modified its agenda Wednesday afternoon to accept his resignation and Borofsky said he would be gone by the end of the day Wednesday — he said he has nothing to hide.

"There are no hidden agendas. I didn't steal any money, I didn't break any laws, I didn't change any policies," he said. "I've been in (higher education) long enough to know when a change is necessary."

6 people arrested for sex crimes at Sturgis Rally

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Investigations into sex trafficking at this year's Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in western South Dakota's Black Hills resulted in six people being arrested for alleged sex crimes.

State Attorney General Marty Jackley, U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson and local officials on Wednesday announced the arrests at the weeklong rally that wrapped up Sunday. The annual event draws hundreds of thousands of people.

Charges have been filed against people from Nebraska, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, California and Canada. The suspects range in age from 23 to 65. Charges are pending against the sixth person arrested.

Dakotas producing good-size soybean, wheat crops

BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Farmers in the Dakotas are expected to produce sizable wheat crops and record soybean crops this year, thanks largely to a growing season free of major problems.

The latest report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, released this week, estimates South Dakota's soybean crop will be up 7 percent from last year to 196 million bushels and North Dakota's soy-

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bean crop up 37 percent to 190 million bushels. The increase comes at the expense of corn production, which is expected to drop 5 percent in South Dakota and 9 percent in North Dakota.

"Beans did take over a few of the corn acres," said John Horter, who farms near the northeastern South Dakota town of Andover and serves as president of the state Soybean Association. "Prices of some commodities have dropped and corn is not as profitable."

Most areas of South Dakota have rebounded from a devastating drought two years ago, and Horter said this year's growing season has been devoid of damaging weather.

"We've had pretty good rainfall, we've gotten away from really hot temperatures this summer," he said. "It's been really cool, and that's advantageous to soybeans. And we've pretty much stayed away from hail."

The cool summer also has been a boon for the spring wheat and winter wheat crops in the Dakotas.

"Wheat being a cool-season grass, it kind of liked the conditions," said Neal Fisher, administrator of the North Dakota Wheat Commission. "We only had a few days where we hit 90 degrees. And we had fairly decent moisture."

USDA is projecting a record average spring wheat yield in North Dakota of 47 bushels per acre, up half a bushel from last year. Some of the higher yield can be attributed to advances in crop research, Fisher said, "but it still takes the favorable (growing) conditions to trigger that."

The higher yield along with additional planted acres are expected to push production up 16 percent over the year to 273 million bushels. North Dakota annually grows about half of the nation's spring wheat crop.

Spring wheat production is forecast to be up 14 percent in South Dakota, to about 58 million bushels.

Both states' winter wheat crops are forecast to be more than double the size of last year's.

"Corn has been the No. 1 producer here the last few years, but with a drop in price, people are just going away from corn more, putting acres into other crops," Horter said.

With a widespread backlog in railcars that many attribute to increased crude oil and freight shipments from North Dakota's booming oil patch, farmers are worried about getting their bountiful crops to market, Horter and Fisher said.

"I worry about rail capacity, and plugging the (grain) elevators, and things like that," Fisher said. "There's a lot of concern about capacity and the ability to move the crop."

Both BNSF Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway have said they have made progress on easing the backlog.

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. UNREST ESCALATES IN FERGUSON

Police and people protesting the fatal shooting by an officer of an unarmed black teen exchange smoke bombs, tear gas and Molotov cocktails. POLICE SHOOTING-MISSOURI

2. U.S. GRAPPLING WITH IRAQ OPTIONS

The White House is weighing its strategy against the Islamic State's threat which could come to dominate the remaining years in Obama's second term. UNITED STATES-IRAQ-THREAT

3. POPE RECEIVES CONTRASTING WELCOME ON KOREAN PENINSULA

Pope Francis is officially greeted in Seoul - the first pontiff to visit in 25 years - as Pyongyang fires test projectiles off its coast around the time of his arrival. SKOREA-POPE

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4. HINTS OF PROGRESS IN TALKS TO END GAZA WAR

Israel and Hamas are considering an Egyptian proposal that at least partly addresses both sides' demands with the truce extended another five days. ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS

5. CALIFORNIANS TO VOTE ON \$7.5 BILLION WATER PLAN

The drought-stricken state wants to make the largest investment in infrastructure in decades to build reservoirs and clean up ground supplies. CALIFORNIA WATER-BALLOT MEASURE

6. DEATH OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE COULD UPEND BRAZIL ELECTIONS

Incumbent Dilma Rousseff may have a tougher time winning re-election if Eduardo Campos' running mate enters the race.

7. IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE: ANIMALS STAR IN CAMPAIGN ADS

Parroting Obama? Cutting pork? Pigs, dogs and hogs are a fixture in this year's election season advertising.

8. WHO MIGHT BE GETTING LIGHTER SENTENCES

The federal panel that sets sentencing policy turns its attention to reducing penalties for some business crimes after easing them for nonviolent drug offenders.

9. WHY IT MIGHT BE OK TO SAY 'PASS THE SALT'

A large international study suggests that the amount of sodium most folks consume is all right for heart health — and too little may be as bad as too much.

10. WHICH GOLFER WON'T PLAY IN RYDER CUP

Tiger Woods says his back problems will prevent him from joining the U.S. team at the competition next month in Scotland.

AP News in Brief

Protesters lob Molotov cocktails and police use tear gas, smoke bombs to disperse crowd

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) — Police used tear gas and smoke bombs to repel crowds who threw Molotov cocktails during another violent night on the streets of a St. Louis suburb in the wake of the shooting of the unarmed 18-year old Michael Brown.

Hours earlier, the police chief had said race relations were the top priority in the town, where a white police officer fatally shot the black teen. Authorities have vowed to reach across the racial, economic and generational divide in a community in search of answers.

In the streets of Ferguson, though, the polite dialogue heard at community forums and news conferences is nowhere to be found.

Instead, officers from multiple departments in riot gear and in military equipment have clashed nightly with protesters, who chant, "Hands up, don't shoot." Wednesday saw more tense confrontations and further volleys of tear gas from police — this time paired with smoke bombs in response to flaming projectiles and other objects lobbed from the crowd. Protesters faced heavily armed police who at times trained weapons on them from armored trucks.

Two reporters said they were detained by police for not clearing out quickly enough from a McDonald's where they were working, near the protests but away from the more volatile areas. The two, who work for The Washington Post and The Huffington Post, were released without any charges. Both say they were assaulted but not seriously hurt.

Iraqi army, militants clash west of Baghdad as UN declares Iraq's crisis at highest level

BAGHDAD (AP) — Clashes between Iraqi troops and Sunni militants west of Baghdad killed at least four children on Thursday as the United Nations announced its highest level of emergency for the Arab country's humanitarian crisis in the wake of the onslaught by the extremist Islamic State group.

Since their blitz offensive in June, the al-Qaida-breakaway group has overrun much of Iraq's north and west and driven out hundreds of thousands from their homes. The push has displaced members of the minority Christian and Yazidi religious communities and threatened Iraqi Kurds in the Kurdish autonomous region in the north.

The U.N. on Wednesday declared the situation in Iraq a "Level 3 Emergency" — a development that will trigger additional goods, funds and assets to respond to the needs of the displaced, said U.N. special representative Nickolay Mladenov, pointing to the "scale and complexity of the current humanitarian catastrophe."

The Security Council also said it was backing a newly nominated premier-designate in the hope that he can swiftly form an "inclusive government" that could counter the insurgent threat, which has plunged Iraq into its worst crisis since the U.S. troop withdrawal in 2011.

Tens of thousands of Yazidis fled the Islamic State group's advance to take refuge in the remote desert Sinjar mountain range.

Amid increasing concerns about Islamic State threat, administration mulls wider campaign

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is grappling with how to bridge the gap between its increasingly dire assessment of the threat posed by the Islamic State group and the limited, defensive air campaign it has so far undertaken, which military officials acknowledge will not blunt the group's momentum.

For months, administration officials have been divided about the threat posed by the Islamic State as it seized parts of Syria and advanced on towns in Iraq. Now, amid new intelligence about its growing strength, a consensus is forming that the group presents an unacceptable terrorism risk to the United States and its allies.

At issue is whether President Barack Obama, elected on a platform of ending the Iraq war, will heed calls for a campaign to contain or destroy the Islamic State, an undertaking that could dominate U.S. foreign policy for the remainder of his term.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said the group poses "a threat to the civilized world," while Senate Intelligence Committee Chairwoman Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., called the Islamic State a "terrorist army" that must be defeated. But Obama has not used similar language. He has authorized a limited campaign of targeted airstrikes designed to protect refugees and American personnel in the Kurdish region — but not take out the group's leadership or logistical hubs.

A strategy to destroy the Islamic State would not require large numbers of American ground troops, but it would amount to a significant escalation from the recent air operations, analysts say. It might also require military action in western Syria, where the group has its headquarters in the city of Ar-Raqqah.

Pope urges Koreans to seek peace, avoid 'fruitless' shows of force, as North fires projectiles

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Pope Francis called Thursday for renewed efforts to forge peace on the war-divided Korean Peninsula and for both sides to avoid "fruitless" criticisms and shows of force, opening a five-day visit to South Korea with a message of reconciliation as Seoul's rival, North Korea, fired five projectiles into the sea.

North Korea has a long history of making sure it is not forgotten during high-profile events in the South, and Thursday's apparent test firing off its eastern coast made its presence felt.

In the first speech of his first trip to Asia, Francis told South Korean President Park Geun-hye and government officials that peace required forgiveness, cooperation and mutual respect. He said diplomacy must be encouraged so that listening and dialogue replace "mutual recriminations, fruitless criticisms and displays of force."

The Argentine pope spoke in English, the first English speech of his pontificate. Usually he speaks in Italian or his native Spanish, but the Vatican said he would deliver at least four speeches in English on the trip to accommodate his Asian audiences.

North Korea's apparent test firing was conducted from Wonsan on its east coast and the initial three short-range projectiles flew about 220 kilometers (135 miles), according to a South Korean Defense Ministry official who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing office rules. It wasn't immediately clear what the projectiles were. After an initial three firings an hour before Francis arrived, North Korea followed up with two others a short time after he landed.

Extension of truce in Gaza fans hope of progress in Israel-Hamas talks in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — A five-day extension of a Gaza truce appeared to be holding despite a rocky start on Thursday, fanning cautious optimism of progress in the negotiations underway in Cairo between Israel and major Palestinian factions, including Hamas.

It's the longest cease-fire yet since the war broke out last month in the Gaza Strip. The fighting has so far killed more than 1,900 Palestinians, the majority of them civilians, according to Palestinian and U.N. officials. Israel has lost 67 people, all but three of them soldiers.

Violence briefly spiked as the extension of a previous, 72-hour truce was announced shortly before midnight on Wednesday. The extension is to last until midnight on Monday.

Israel's military said eight Hamas rockets were launched at Israel but that the firing stopped in the early hours of Thursday morning. Israel retaliated with airstrikes on rockets and rocket-launching sites in Gaza, the military said.

Gaza police said it recorded 17 Israeli strikes but that no casualties were reported.

Couple together for 48 years at center of fight over North Carolina ban on same-sex marriage

HIGH POINT, N.C. (AP) — On the summer night Ellen Gerber and Pearl Berlin committed to spending their lives together, the No. 1 song was "When A Man Loves A Woman."

Lyndon B. Johnson was president. NASA had just landed the first unmanned probe on the moon.

"We're still in love, after 48 years," Gerber, better known as Lennie, said recently. "We still can't begin

the day without a good cuddle.”

June 2, 1966, is engraved in Roman numerals on the identical gold bands the women exchanged during a religious wedding at their Greensboro synagogue last year on the anniversary of that long-ago night. They followed three months later with a civil ceremony in Maine.

But under North Carolina law, they might as well be strangers.

Russian aid convoy resumes travel toward Ukraine, taking road leading south to rebel-held area

VORONEZH, Russia (AP) — A large Russian aid convoy resumed its journey toward Ukraine Thursday, taking a road leading directly toward a border crossing controlled by pro-Russian rebels in the Luhansk region.

The convoy of more than 200 vehicles had been parked at a military depot in the southern Russian city of Voronezh since late Tuesday amid disagreement over how and where the aid could be delivered to Ukraine, where government troops are battling pro-Russia separatists.

On Thursday the white trucks, some flying the red flag of Moscow city and accompanied by green military vehicles, traveled down a winding highway through sunflower fields and rolling green hills. They turned off that road near the city of Kamensk-Shakhtinsky, driving west toward the Ukraine border crossing of Izvaryne, which is currently under rebel control.

By taking such a route, Russia appeared to be intent on not abiding by a tentative agreement to deliver aid to a government-controlled border checkpoint in the Kharkiv region, where it could more easily be inspected by Ukraine and the Red Cross. Moscow has insisted it coordinated the dispatch of the goods, which it says range from baby food and canned meat to portable generators and sleeping bags, with the international Red Cross.

ICRC spokeswoman Anastasia Isyuk stressed Thursday that talks between the organization, Ukraine and Russia were continuing, but that she could not confirm where the Russian convoy was headed.

It's a jungle out there: Parrot, chick, hogs and dogs have spots in political ads

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's a jungle out there in political television advertising, what with parrots, chicks, dogs and pigs taking turns in commercials that bite and scratch in a way no nonpartisan pet ever would.

“You can keep it,” squawked a parrot in a Club for Growth Action ad that ran earlier in the year in Arkansas. It was meant to ridicule President Barack Obama and Sen. Mark Pryor's now-abandoned claims that state residents could keep their health insurance if they liked it.

In Georgia, Democratic Rep. John Barrow unleashed a golden retriever in the first television ad of his campaign for a new term. “Somebody once said if you want a friend in Washington, get a dog,” he says.

“Well, I wouldn't wish Washington on a dog,” Barrow adds, throwing a tennis ball to be fetched. By the time he has finished touting his own record and criticizing other lawmakers, the dog and ball are back. “She works harder than most of them do,” he says, comparing the pet favorably to the men and women he has known in Congress for a decade.

Whether peddling candidates or commercial products, the goal of commercials is to gain as wide and attentive a viewership as possible. Anything that gets a longer look is prized.

Gunmen kill patients, demand medical miracles as street crime spills into Venezuelan hospitals

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — At first, the operating room doctors thought the quiet man in jeans was a distressed family member. One shouted at him to leave as another fought to save the gunshot patient unconscious on the table.

The anesthesiologist was the first to see the man's gun. He dove to the ground, and then listened as dozens of shots rang out, thinking, "So this is how I die."

For years, hospitals were one of the few safe havens in this mind-bogglingly violent Latin American country.

No longer. The emergency room murder of a 27-year-old patient by the very gang member who allegedly put him there in the first place is one of a string of recent attacks and ugly confrontations that have shattered physicians' sense of security.

"It's a scandal, to kill someone inside a hospital. It's complete social deterioration," said Jose Manuel Olivares, an oncology resident at the University Hospital of Caracas, where Edinson Balsa was slain in June along with his brother, who was waiting in the hallway. "It was never perfect, but they used to respect some boundaries."

Funeral services set for Kevin Ward, New York driver hit by Tony Stewart's car in upstate race

TURIN, N.Y. (AP) — Kevin Ward Jr.'s father and fellow racers want him remembered as a talented and aggressive driver who had a bright future in the sport rather than as a victim in an accident involving NASCAR champion Tony Stewart that sparked controversy among racing fans and recriminations from Ward's family.

Funeral services for the 20-year-old were set for 11 a.m. Thursday at South Lewis Senior High School in Turin, 55 miles northeast of Syracuse. Ward, a 2012 graduate of the school, lived in nearby Port Leyden.

Ward was killed Saturday night 140 miles away at a dirt track in Canandaigua, where NASCAR champion Stewart was racing while he was in the area for a Sprint Cup event at Watkins Glen the next day. After a bump from Stewart sent Ward's winged car spinning into the wall, the young driver climbed out and stalked onto the track in his black firesuit, gesturing angrily. Stewart's No. 14 car seemed to fishtail, and Ward was thrown through the air as fans watched in horror.

The accident touched off angry debates as video of the crash circulated online, with fans questioning whether Stewart, known for his hot temper, tried to send his own message by buzzing Ward, or whether Ward recklessly took his life into his hands by stepping onto a dark track clad in black.

Kevin Ward Sr., who was at the track with his wife Pamela when their son was killed, told The Syracuse Post-Standard this week that Stewart was the best driver on the track that night, and there was no reason for him to hit the young driver after other cars avoided him.

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Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, August 14, the 226th day of 2014. There are 139 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 14, 1944, the federal government allowed the manufacture of certain domestic appliances, such as electric ranges and vacuum cleaners, to resume on a limited basis.

On this date:

In 1848, the Oregon Territory was created.

In 1900, international forces, including U.S. Marines, entered Beijing to put down the Boxer Rebellion, which was aimed at purging China of foreign influence.

In 1909, the newly opened Indianapolis Motor Speedway held its first event, a series of motorcycle races.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally, ending World War II.

In 1947, Pakistan became independent of British rule.

In 1951, newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst, 88, died in Beverly Hills, California.

In 1969, British troops went to Northern Ireland to intervene in sectarian violence between Protestants and Roman Catholics.

In 1973, U.S. bombing of Cambodia came to a halt.

In 1980, workers went on strike at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk (guh-DANSK'), Poland, in a job action that resulted in creation of the Solidarity labor movement. Actress-model Dorothy Stratten, 20, was shot to death by her estranged husband and manager, Paul Snider, who then killed himself.

In 1989, South African President P.W. Botha announced his resignation after losing a bitter power struggle within his National Party.

In 1994, Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, the terrorist known as "Carlos the Jackal," was captured by French agents in Sudan.

Ten years ago: A visibly weak Pope John Paul II joined thousands of other ailing pilgrims at a cliff-side shrine in Lourdes, France, telling them he shared in their physical suffering and assuring them the burden was part of God's "wondrous plan." Nobel Prize-winning poet Czeslaw Milosz died in Krakow, Poland, at age 93. Fifteen-term congressman William D. Ford died in Ypsilanti Township, Michigan, at age 77.

Five years ago: Kicking off a four-state push for his health care overhaul plan, President Barack Obama denounced what he suggested was news media overemphasis on scenes of angry protesters at town-hall meetings, telling his own gathering in Belgrade, Montana, that "TV loves a ruckus." Charles Manson follower Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, 60, convicted of trying to assassinate President Gerald Ford in 1975, was released from a Texas prison hospital after more than three decades behind bars.

One year ago: Israeli and Palestinian negotiators kicked off their first substantive round of peace talks in nearly five years, meeting at an undisclosed location in Jerusalem. Riot police swept away two encampments of supporters of ousted Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi in Cairo, sparking running street battles. Former Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., D-Ill., was sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison for illegally spending \$750,000 in campaign funds on personal items.

Today's Birthdays: Broadway lyricist Lee Adams ("Bye Bye Birdie") is 90. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Russell Baker is 89. Singer Buddy Greco is 88. College Football Hall of Famer John Brodie is 79.

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Singer Dash Crofts is 76. Rock singer David Crosby is 73. Country singer Connie Smith is 73. Comedian-actor Steve Martin is 69. Actor Antonio Fargas is 68. Singer-musician Larry Graham is 68. Actress Susan Saint James is 68. Actor David Schramm is 68. Author Danielle Steel is 67. Rock singer-musician Terry Adams (NRBQ) is 64. "Far Side" cartoonist Gary Larson is 64. Actor Carl Lumbly is 63. Olympic gold medal swimmer Debbie Meyer is 62. Film composer James Horner is 61. Actress Jackee Harry is 58. Actress Marcia Gay Harden is 55. Basketball Hall of Famer Earvin "Magic" Johnson is 55. Singer Sarah Brightman is 54. Actress Susan Olsen is 53. Actress-turned-fashion/interior designer Cristi Conaway is 50. Rock musician Keith Howland (Chicago) is 50. Actress Halle Berry is 48. Actress Catherine Bell is 46. Country musician Cody McCarver (Confederate Railroad) is 46. Rock musician Kevin Cadogan is 44. Actor Scott Michael Campbell is 43. Actress Lalanya Masters is 42. Actor Christopher Gorham is 40. Actress Mila Kunis is 31. TV personality Spencer Pratt is 31. NFL quarterback Tim Tebow is 27.

Thought for Today: "Freedom of speech and freedom of action are meaningless without freedom to think. And there is no freedom of thought without doubt." - Bergen Baldwin Evans, American author (1904-1978).